



UASTeen

Introducing the UAS' new teen panel

Amie Rapaport

University of Southern California, Center for Economic and Social Research
Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE)

This presentation represents the hard work of a large team of UAS and CARE staff, particularly Marco, Tania, Arie, Bart, Bas, Dan, Helpdesk, etc.

Welcome to UASTeen




- Teens recruited from UAS households – retains probability-based recruitment structure
- Household probability weights from UAS recruitment and CPS benchmarks for teen demographics
- Instant intergenerational linkage at national scale
 - Incorporate HH-level information and HH members' prior responses- covariates, predictors, nested models etc.
- Comparisons between adult and teen responses
- Developmental research questions beginning in childhood

Welcome to UASTeen

Leveraging UAS infrastructure:

- Built-in capacity for experiments, EMAs, wearables, and more
- Rapid fielding for time-sensitive questions
- Geolinks & restricted use enclave
- Cost-effective, flexible, inclusive UAS operation
- Open science data transparency (data files, methods documentation, codebooks)

Teen Panel Composition

- As of mid-February, 604 teens from 535 households
 - 82 have since turned 18, invited to become UAS participant
 - Goal to grow to 1,000 by end of 2026
 - UAS expansion
 - Recruitment improvements
 - Future growth beyond
- Nationally representative by:
 - Race/ethnicity 
 - Household income 
 - Household education 

	UASTeen* Unweighted	UASTeen* Weighted	Population estimates (ACS, 2023)
Race/Ethnicity			
White	46%	50%	49%
Black	12%	12%	12%
Asian	7%	6%	5%
Hispanic	23%	25%	26%
Other	12%	7%	8%
Household Income			
Less than \$25k	15%	18%	9%
Between \$25k-\$49k	12%	12%	13%
Between \$50k-\$74k	13%	13%	14%
Between \$75k-\$150k	35%	37%	33%
Greater than \$150k	25%	21%	31%
Highest household education			
High school or less	16%	19%	31%
Some college	36%	32%	30%
Bachelor's degree or more	48%	49%	39%

*only includes current 13-17 year olds, even if recruited at 17 but now 18 and in UAS

Data Collected So Far

- Fielded 6 teen surveys, covering range of topics
- Response rates ranged from 71% to 84%
- Content reflects funder interests

Topics	Fielded	Total Responses
Social media use and experiences, personality, anxiety/depression	Launch - ongoing	601/601 (100%)
Absenteeism, psychological well-being, mental health	June – Sept.	434/520 (84%)
Experiences with tech, use, peer and family support	Aug. – Oct.	425/528 (80%)
School cell phone policies, use, attitudes, perceived impacts	Sept. – Oct.	401/528 (76%)
AI school policies, use, attitudes, perceived impacts	Oct. – Dec.	385/533 (72%)
School engagement, financial literacy	Dec. – Jan.	412/584 (71%)

Results Informing Policy

- Cell phone policies in schools: *Both parents [and teens](#) support school cellphone bans; most don't perceive major downsides (Brookings)*
- Absenteeism crisis: Illness is universal, but less common reasons account for as many or more missed days. (*informing Attendance Works updated [Attendance Playbook](#)*)
- 27% of teens report using AI for schoolwork regularly (2-3x per week or more); 9% of parents report this much teen use. (*forthcoming*)
- Mixed methods paper in Survey Practice (conditionally accepted) – Interviews and surveys with teens and parents informing survey construction and analysis

Challenges: Two-Step Consent

Step 1: Adults

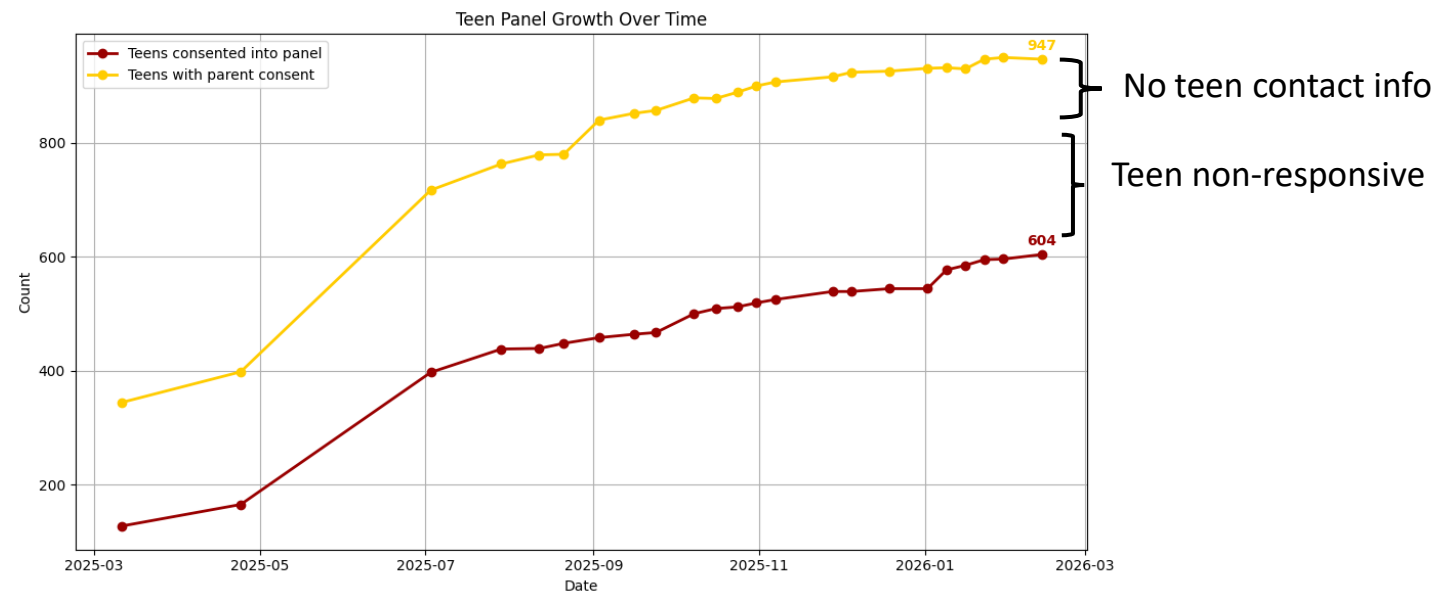
- 1,708 Rs asked for permission to invite a teen
 - 52% said yes to at least one teen == ~1,000 teens
 - 20% said no*
 - 20% want more info

Step 2: Teens

- Parents provide contact info, but 20% missing or duplicates
- Reach out to teens via phone and email
 - ~60% teens with parent permission have consented themselves
- Only 1 teen actively said 'no'

Challenges: Reaching/Engaging Teens

- Teens don't read email
- Teens don't answer phone calls
- Must log in to survey portal to say yes or no



Challenges: Potential Bias(es)

- Adults' response bias
 - Who responds to teen recruitment requests
 - Who allows/denies
- Teens' response bias
 - Which teens respond to UAS outreach
 - Which teens participate/do not participate

Next Steps

- Continued data quality assessment
 - Examine UASTeen sample composition
 - Responding to non-responding HHs
 - Resulting measures to national benchmarks
 - Resulting teen measures to parent-reported measures
- Qualitative work to understand barriers to recruitment and inform improvements

Next Steps

- Planned improvements to recruitment
 - Polished/attractive recruitment materials
 - Experimenting with incentives (e.g., swag)
 - External facing UASTeen website
 - Posting sample surveys for adults to review
 - Newsletter content to adults about findings

Next Steps

- Growth from existing households:
 - Nonresponsive teens ***with parent permission*** (~300)
 - Parents need more info (~240 – could have multiple teens)
 - Nonresponsive parents (~120 – could have multiple teens)
- Growth from new UAS households
 - UAS household growth –new HHs with teens
 - Target HHs with teens in recruitment batches
 - Improvements at each stage of two-stage consent process (materials, processes, outreach)

Next Steps

- UASTeen core survey structure
- Partnerships with researchers interested in using UASTeen

Discussion and Questions

Thank you!