

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Note on “A Catalog of Biases in Questionnaires”

Suggested citation for this article: Harrow JJ. A note on “A Catalog of Biases in Questionnaires” [letter to the editor]. *Prev Chronic Dis* [serial online] 2005 Apr [date cited]. Available from: URL: http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2005/apr/05_0014.htm.

References

1. Choi BCK, Pak AWP. A catalog of biases in questionnaires. *Prev Chronic Dis* [serial online] 2005 Jan [Accessed 2004 Dec 15].

To the Editor:

The authors of “A Catalog of Biases in Questionnaires” in the January issue (1) provide a useful catalog of questionnaire biases, but in one of their examples, their recommended response is guilty of the same bias. This error occurs in Overlapping Interval.

Example:

How many cigarettes do you smoke per day?

☐ None ☐ 5 or less ☐ 5–25 ☐ 25 or more

The authors’ recommended question was:

How many cigarettes do you smoke per day?

☐ None ☐ 4 or less ☐ 5–24 ☐ 25 or more

While this corrects the ambiguity of the first question for respondents who smoke exactly 5 or 25 cigarettes per day, it maintains the ambiguity for nonsmokers. The recommended question should be:

How many cigarettes do you smoke per day?

☐ None ☐ 1–4 ☐ 5–24 ☐ 25 or more

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