

TABLE 1

FY 2016 NPRA Survey adherence to standards

(Value)

Standard	Standard value	NPRA Survey value	NPRA Survey adherence to standard value
CV	5%, top line estimates 30%, majority of key estimates	0.5%, mean expenses 12%, proportion performing 12%, proportion funding 8%, mean performance ^a 8%, mean funding ^a	Meets 5% standard Meets 30% standard, does not meet 5% standard Meets 30% standard, does not meet 5% standard Meets 30% standard, does not meet 5% standard Meets 30% standard, does not meet 5% standard
Unit response rate	60%	48%, unweighted 61%, weighted	Unweighted, does not meet standard Weighted, meets standard
Item response rate	70%	72%, performance status 83%, funding status 68%, performance amount ^b 74%, funding amount	Performance status, meets standard Funding status, meets standard Performance amount, just under standard Funding amount, meets standard
Coverage ratio	70%	88% (estimated), performers 85% (estimated), funders ^b	Performers, meets standard Funders, meets standard

CV = coefficient of variation; NPRA Survey = Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities.

^a Does not include imputation variance. Amount of performance and funding was imputed for organizations that confirmed that they fund or perform research but did not provide the amount. No imputation was conducted for total expenses, performance status, or funding status.

^b Includes imputations using substitutions based on auxiliary data.

Note(s):

For the CV, the total number of responding organizations is 3,254. When evaluating total expenses, the CV is 0.5%, well below the 5% CV standard. However, the sample was designed to optimize total expenses, so other estimates are expected to have higher variability. The CV for the proportion of performing organizations and proportion of funding organizations are 12%. The high CVs are largely due to the low proportions of nonprofits that reported performing and funding R&D, 6% (+/-1.4%) and 4% (+/-1.0%) respectively. However, the confidence intervals are small for both of these estimates. The CVs for the mean performance and mean funding are both 8%. These CVs, based on a subset of organizations that indicated they perform and fund research, meet the CV standard of 30% for the majority of key estimates but not the CV standard of 5% for the top line estimates. Since imputation is a separate criterion, these CV estimates are based only on sampling variance. Table 2 includes additional CVs for total performance and funding amounts by source, R&D type, and field as well as the mean number of full-time equivalents. All but nine of the estimates meet the standard of a 30% CV for key estimates.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities, FY 2016.