



## EYPC E-DOCS

### TRUSTWORTHY DATA RESEARCH SCENARIOS

*Directions: Divide into three groups and read your assigned scenario. For your scenario, identify what the data collector did well and what they could change to collect more trustworthy data. Consider the source of collection, the type of data collected, which questions were asked, and the person's role in collecting the data.*

#### **Scenario 1:**

Johnny Appleseed is arguing that the municipal government of Dangerville should change the seatbelt laws because - 80% of Dangerville residents think that wearing a seatbelt should not be a mandatory law.

He said that he conducted a local survey and the results show overwhelming anger at being forced to wear seatbelts. After asking Johnny about his data collection methods, here is what was found out:

- 20 adults from around the county were asked the question, Don't you wish that you couldn't get punished for not wearing a seatbelt?
- 16 of the adults replied 'Yes' to the question.
- The setting where Johnny asked the question was a court-ordered driver safety class that took place on a Saturday from 8 AM to 3 PM.

#### **Scenario 2:**

Jackie Smith is arguing that the city government should send drug offenders to mandatory treatment instead of sending them to jail. She says that residents of the city are very concerned about this issue and overwhelmingly favor mandatory treatment. Here are Jackie's data collection methods:

- She went door to door in different areas of the city and asked 100 people the question, "What do you think is the biggest problem in our city?"
- 65 of the 100 people (or 65%) said that drug use was the biggest problem.
- At a later date, she asked the 65 people what should be done about the problem and provided four possible answers to choose from.

The choices were:

A) Tougher fines; B) Mandatory drug treatment; C) More jail time; D) Nothing should be done.

Of the 65 people she asked this question, 45 (or 69%) chose answer B.

#### **Scenario 3:**

Dolores Wilson is arguing that there should be a curfew of 10:00 PM for youth under 18 in her city of Pleasantville. She claims that the majority of her community is in favor of such a curfew and is citing a survey she conducted as proof. Here are her data collection techniques:

- She asked 50 people in her retirement home the question, "Don't you think hoodlums should not be able to roam the streets late at night?"
- Of those surveyed, 49 (or 98%) answered "Yes."