

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

10<sup>th</sup> Annual HMO Research Network Conference

May 3-5, 2004 Dearborn, MI

### Lifestyle/Health Behavior 28

#### Assessing Potential Selection Bias in MCO and Community Survey Data

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**Background:** MCO member survey data may be subject to bias that affects the generalizability of observed effects to the MCO population or beyond. Selective response from members impacts generalization to the MCO population, while potential selection of individuals into the MCO population damages generalizability to the community. This study uses administrative and census tract data to assess potential sources of bias by comparing characteristics of respondents and non-respondents to a general health survey of adult MCO enrollees and community members.

**Methods:** Two age-stratified random samples of adult MCO enrollees and a simple random sample of adult community members were surveyed. Both sampling frames included age and sex, as well as address information which was used to generate a census-tract-based proxy measure of SES. For the MCO sampling frame, administrative data were also obtained to assess members' enrollment profiles, utilization, and diagnoses related to several chronic conditions over 3 years. The age-stratified MCO samples were weighted to the age distribution of the adult MCO membership and then pooled with the community sample. All sampling frame members were compared by response and MCO enrollee status to assess whether survey respondents were different from non-respondents in age, sex, or SES, and whether any observed effects are similar in the MCO and community samples. Analyses are underway to explore if and how enrollment history, utilization, or chronic disease status may be related to response status among MCO members.

**Results:** Preliminary results indicate that survey respondents were older and more likely female, and that these differences were similar in the MCO and community samples. Ongoing SES analyses have not yielded any significant effects, and analyses of administrative data for MCO sample are underway.

**Conclusions:** MCO enrollee surveys may be subject to biases (older, female) that are similar to those observed in many other survey settings. Ongoing analyses will describe other characteristics that may be related to response likelihood among MCO enrollees.