

Appendix 3B: School Sampling Design Options to Accommodate Other Samples

TIMSS provides optional modifications to its sampling design for countries that want to maximize or minimize sampling overlap between schools sampled by TIMSS at the fourth and eighth grades as well as for countries that want to minimize overlap between schools sampled for TIMSS and schools sampled for other national or international assessments.

To provide options for countries in designing their school samples, Statistics Canada implements two special sampling procedures. Method A is applied when data collection occurs simultaneously for two or more populations (as is the case in 2019 with TIMSS at fourth grade and eighth grade) and the country wants to control the overlap between the schools. Method B is used primarily to ensure that the TIMSS samples avoid schools sampled for other studies, and also used when Method A is not appropriate.

Sampling Method A: Sampling Modifications for Simultaneous Data Collection

This procedure stratifies the school population according to whether schools contain students from both populations to be sampled (fourth and eighth grades, for example), or students from one population only (fourth grade only or eighth grade only) as a way of controlling sample overlap. Each school is assigned a measure of size (MOS) based on the number of students in the two populations combined (i.e., fourth grade and eighth grade combined). Schools are sampled according to the sampling design described in this chapter. When selecting schools from strata comprising students from both populations, a country can choose to maximize or minimize the number of schools to be sampled at each grade level.

The example below in Exhibit 3.7 shows a hypothetical country participating in TIMSS at both grades. For reasons of administrative efficiency, the country wants to maximize the overlap between the fourth and eighth grade school samples. The 8,805 schools from the combined school frames (fourth and eighth grades) were first split in three strata and then a school sample of 164 was drawn as shown in the exhibit.

Exhibit 3.7: Example of Method A - Allocation of School Samples in a Country Participating at Two Grade Levels

Overlap Strata	Total Sampled Schools	Allocation	
		To TIMSS Grade 4	To TIMSS Grade 8
Grade 4 only	14	14	0
Grade 8 only	14	0	14
Grade 4 & Grade 8	136	136	136
Total	164	150	150

Choosing as many schools as possible from the Grade 4 & Grade 8 stratum resulted in a sample of 150 schools (136+14) for each grade level, from a total of 164 sampled schools. In this case, both studies were administered in the 136 schools selected from the Grade 4 & Grade 8 stratum.

This sampling technique was most often used for TIMSS countries and benchmarking participants that had schools with students in both fourth and eighth grade populations, where there was a strong correlation between the measure of size at both grades across these schools, and when school samples could be drawn at the same time.

Sampling Method B: Sampling Modifications for Sequential Data Collection

Method B was used to minimize overlap with another study such as a national study that also samples schools, and was also used when Method A was not appropriate (e.g., low correlation between MOS for fourth grade and eighth grade, samples not drawn simultaneously). In Method B, schools were sampled using a technique described in Chowdhury, Chu, and Kaufman (2000). As explained by the authors, the method can be used to either minimize or maximize overlap amongst several samples. This method is illustrated below with an example where the aim was to minimize the overlap between a current sample of schools S_2 and a previously selected school sample S_1 . (For a complete description of the method, readers are referred to the original paper).

where $RL=0$, we have the following relation:

$$P_i(S_2) = P_i(S_2|S_1) \cdot P_i(S_1) + P_i(S_2|\bar{S}_1) \cdot P_i(\bar{S}_1) \quad (3.26)$$

where $P_i(S_j)$ gives the probability that school i

