Class Activities

# Chapter #6: Sampling

1. You are a member of a research team seeking to collect data from drug users in households across the United States. You need to determine how you will draw this sample. You determine a *multistage cluster sampling strategy* will be suitable for this project. Draw out your sampling strategy on a board or a sheet of paper. What will be your first stage of sampling, your second, and so on? What are potential limitations and strengths of your sampling strategy?
2. Divide the classroom into three groups and ask each group to read the scenario below.

*Scenario*: A researcher is interested in studying gang violence in Chicago and proposes to use a snowball sampling strategy to access gang members to conduct interviews. The researcher has convened a meeting of her team, the university Institutional Review Board (IRB) and community members from urban Chicago to discuss this project. The roles are as follows:

* *Group A*: A researcher interested in studying gang violence in Chicago.
* *Group B*: Members of a university IRB.
* *Group C*: Community members from urban Chicago.

**Each group is trying to advocate for the following:**

* *Group A*: Your task is to convince Group B and Group C that you have thought through this project and will conduct it safely and ethically.
* *Group B*: Your task is to ensure that the researcher is following ethical guidelines and protecting the rights of participants.
* *Group C*: Your task is to advocate for the rights of your community.

Put yourself into your respective role and discuss this project. Your professor will serve as the meeting convener.

1. This activity requires students to create a short academic satisfaction survey that could be distributed to other students at their school or university. Ask students to work in small groups and devise the following:
   * A draft of a short academic satisfaction survey
   * A plan for sampling students to complete this survey. Ask students to write out their plan in a form that would be appropriate for an academic journal. This would include:
     1. A description of the population
     2. A description of the sample
     3. A plan for how the sample will be selected and justification for why this sampling strategy was chosen
     4. Limitations of the sampling strategy including a discussion about the generalizability of the findings obtained from this sample