

Mode Changes in the NLSY

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National Longitudinal Surveys

Survey Methods Symposium

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Presentation Overview

- Background on NLSY
- Mode Change Considerations in the NLSY97
- Outcomes of the NLSY97 Mode Change
- Conclusions



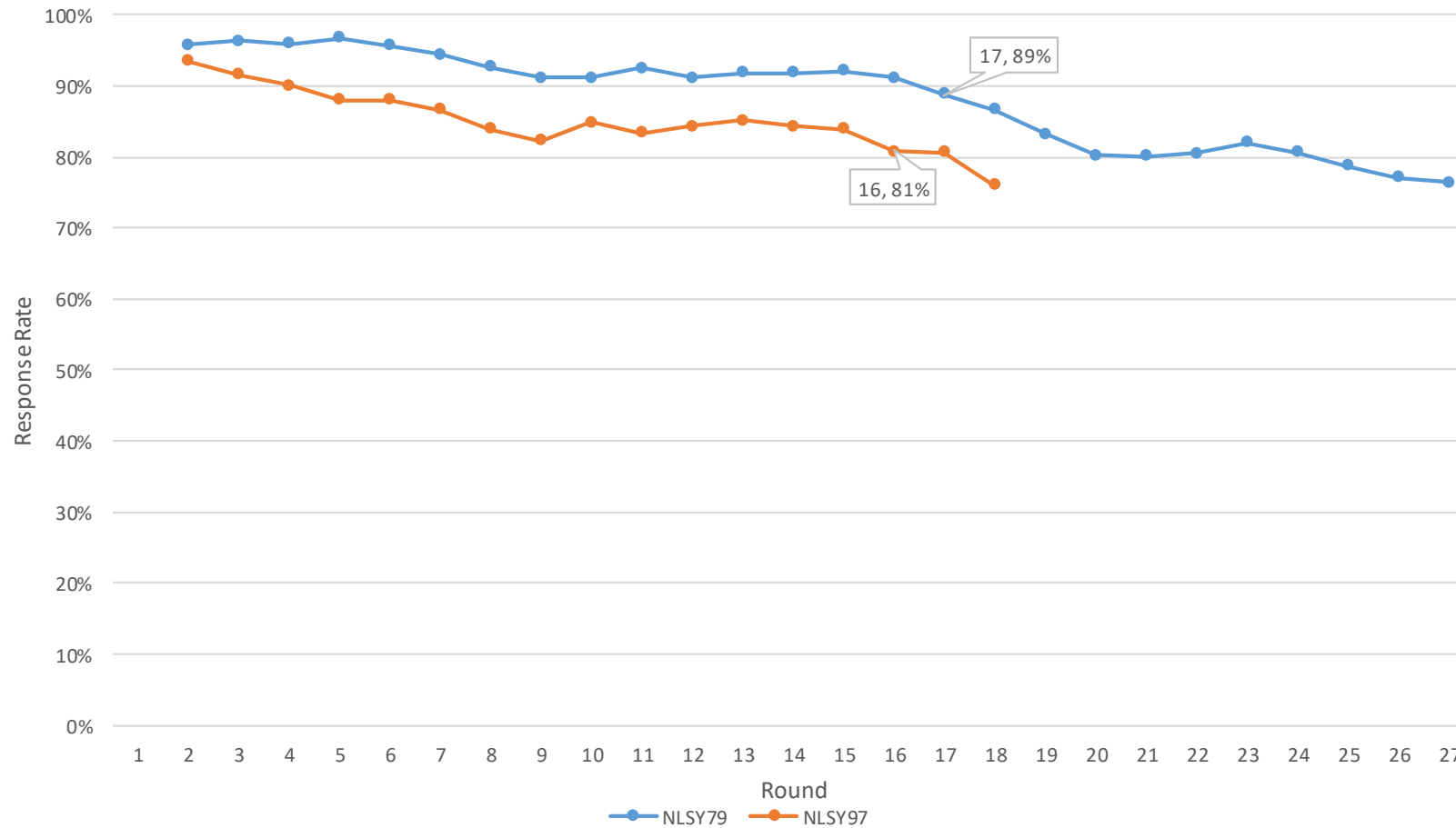
National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)

- NLS surveys gather detailed information about labor market activity and other experiences in the lives of seven cohorts of men and women
- Three active cohorts
 - ▶ NLSY79
 - ▶ NLSY79 CYA (1986)
 - ▶ NSLY97

NLS Survey Structure

- Contractor Based System
 - ▶ CHRR – OSU, NORC – University of Chicago
- Each cohort is fielded biennially, alternating years
- Each fielding effort is referred to as a ‘Round’
- Round lasts approximately 4 years
 - ▶ Divided into 4 phases: design, survey preparations, data collection (fielding), data processing

NLSY79 & NLSY97 Response Rates



Interview Modes in the NLS

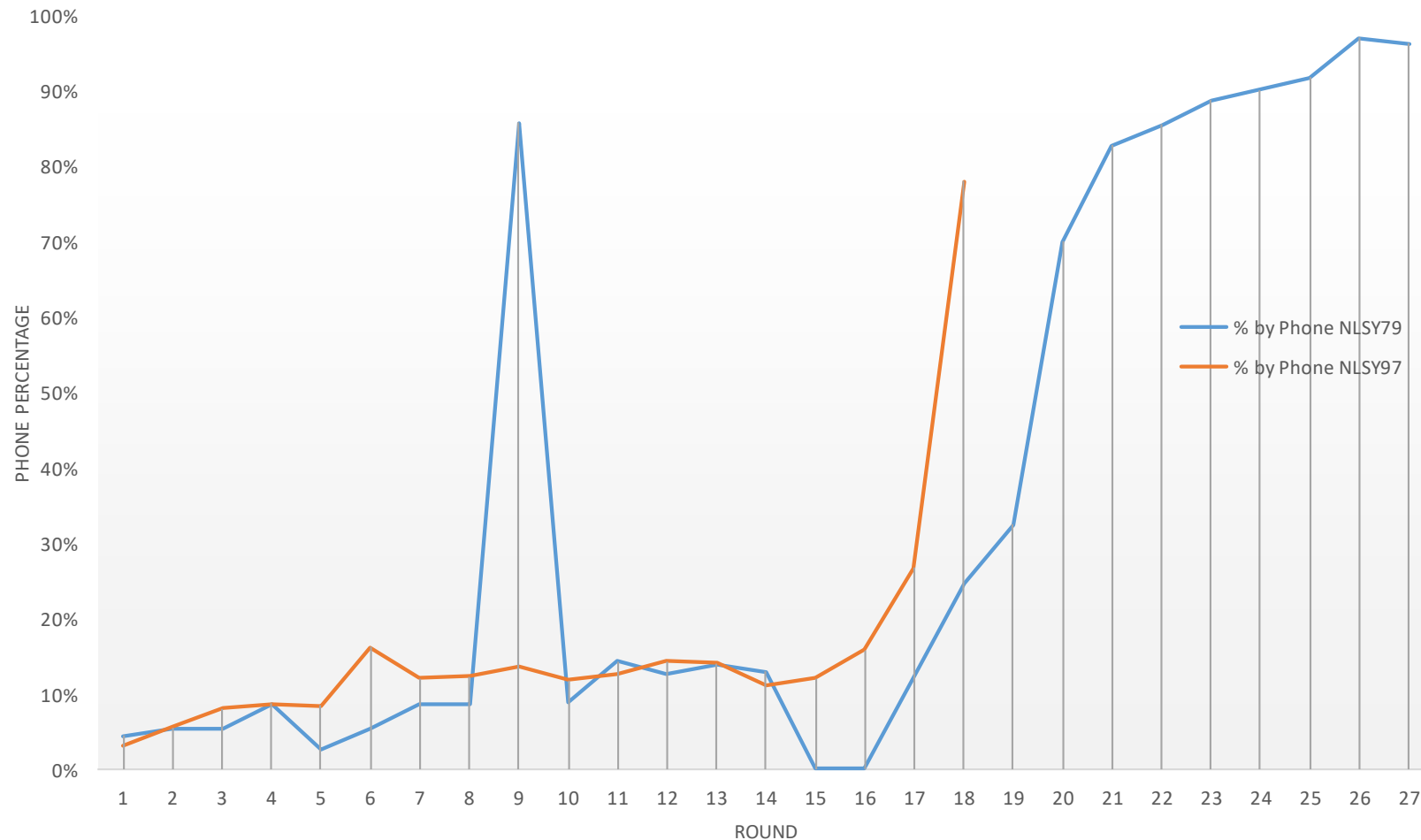
Interview Method

- Paper and Pencil Interview (PAPI)
- Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)
- Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)

Interview Mode

- In-person
- Phone
- Web— not yet

NLSY79 & NLSY97 Use of Phone by Round



Differences between NLSY79 & NLSY97

- Age of Respondents/Life Stages
- Proximity of mode change to shift in interview frequency (biennial)
- Technology
- Sample Stability
- Questionnaire Structure

NLS Priorities

- Total Response Rates
- Cost
- Sample Retention
- Sample Representation
- Data Quality

Reasons for mode change in NLSY97

- COST!!!
- Other options considered:
 - ▶ Reducing sample size by dropping oversamples
 - ▶ Moving to a triennial collection schedule
 - ▶ Not going after the hardest to reach cases
 - ▶ Adaptive design/focus on subsample response rates
 - ▶ Reducing overall interviewer hours

Design Considerations for Phone

- Respondent setting is unknown
- Respondent visual aids are removed
- Harder for respondent to retain long strings of information
- Respondent are more subject to primacy/recency effects
- Phone respondents less likely to report sensitive information than self-administering respondents, but more likely than in-person interviewer-administration respondents

Survey Changes to Adapt to Phone

- FIs instructed not to state private information
- Category questions changed to yes/no questions
- Streamline questionnaire
 - ▶ Shorten question response lists
- Some sensitive questions moved out of the SAQ section
- Additional materials informing respondents of mode change

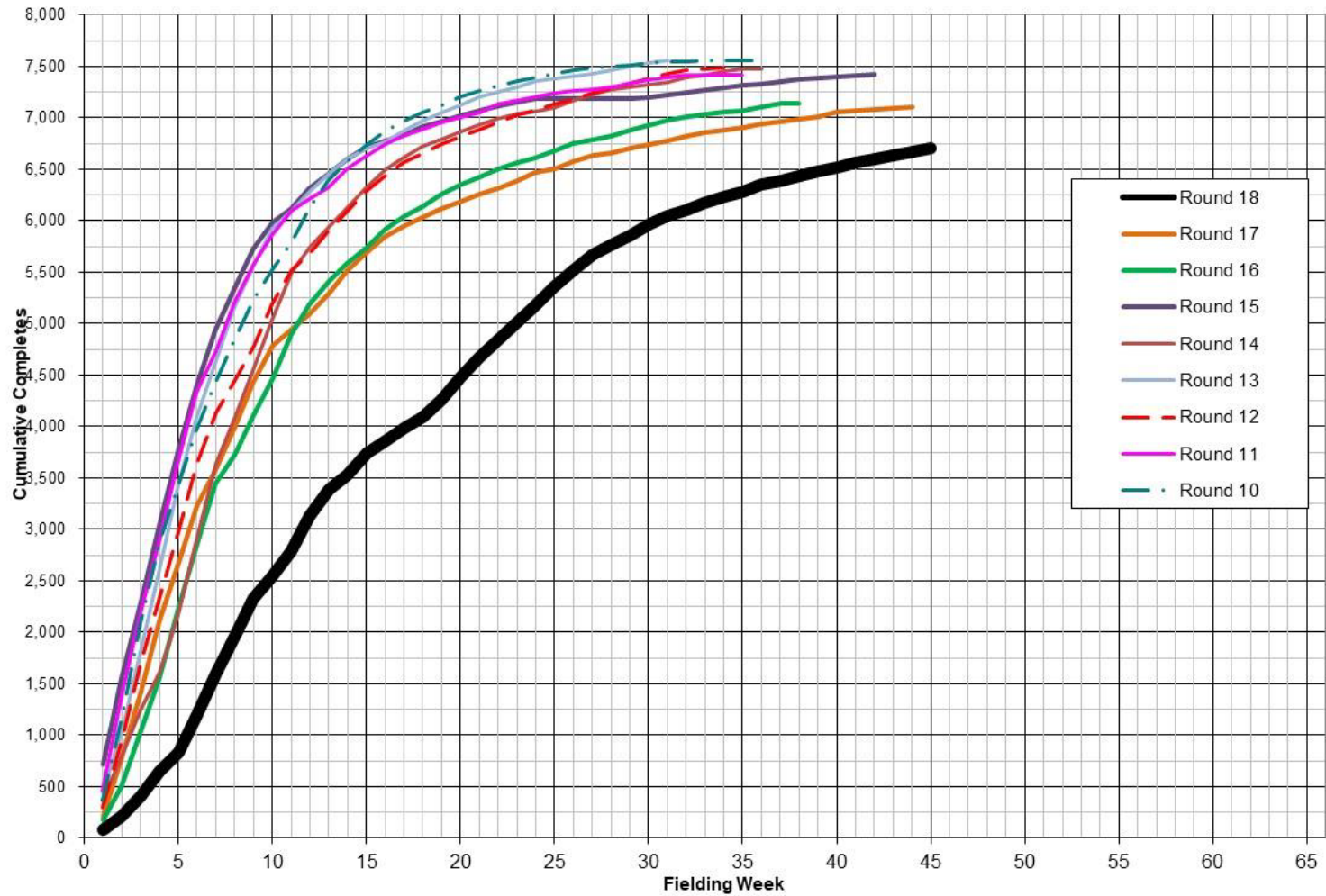
R18 Fielding Strategy

- Early Bird
 - ▶ Decentralized dialing system (D-CATI)
 - ▶ Use of replicates
- Outbound dialing
 - ▶ Expired replicates
- Case Managed
 - ▶ FI's 'own' cases

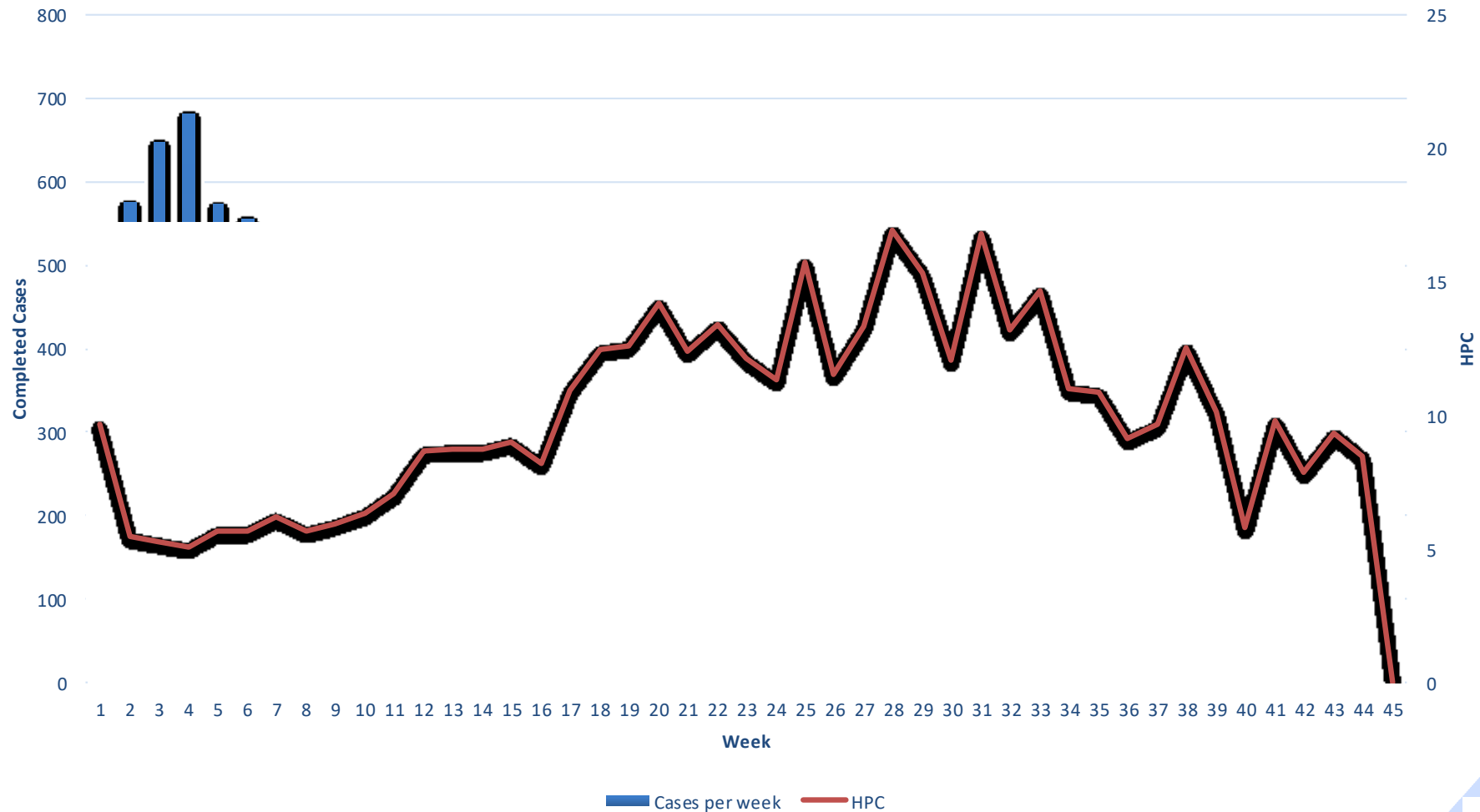
NLSY97 R18 Outcomes

- Production
- Phone vs In-person
- Interview Breakoffs
- Timings
- Additional Factors

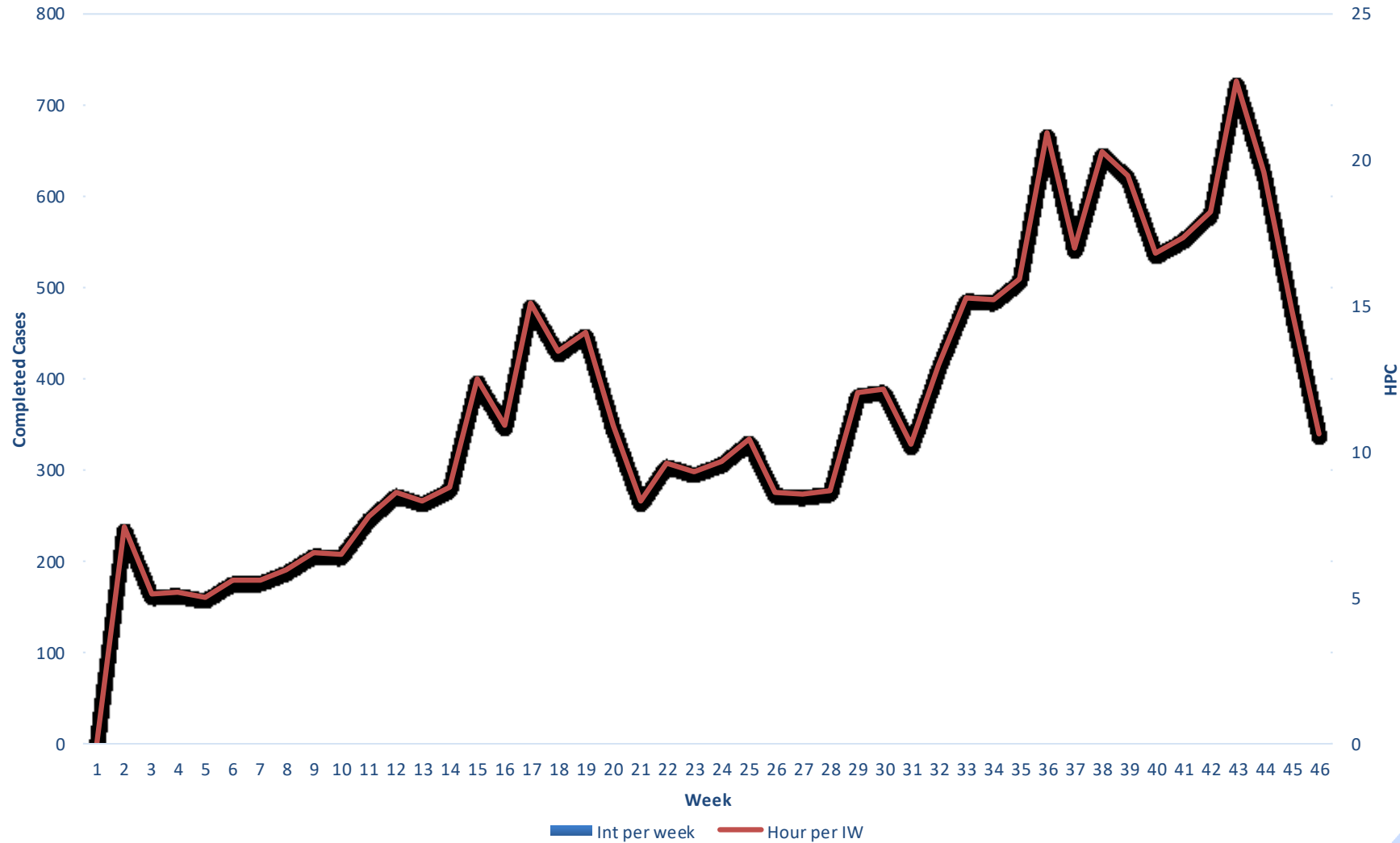
Cumulative Completes by Week, R10- R18



Round 17, Completed Cases x Average HPC



Round 18, Weekly Completed Cases x Average HPC



Completes by Respondent Types

Round	Respondent Type	Fielded	Completed	Percentage
Round 15	Perfect Responder	5290	5164	98%
	Out 1 Round	358	171	48%
Round 16*	Perfect Responder	5195	5076	98%
	Out 1 Round	328	180	55%
Round 17	Perfect Responder	4975	4816	97%
	Out 1 Round	596	268	45%
Round 18	Perfect Responder	4804	4542	95%
	Out 1 Round	436	166	38%

Comparison of Breakoffs b/w R17 and R18

Breakoff is defined as a time when the respondent needs to stop the interview at any point

	Round 17	Round 18
Total Number of Breakoffs	232	687
Mean Breakoffs per Case	1.21	1.27
Percent of Cases with at least one Breakoff	3.27%	10.53%

Mid-Fielding Changes

- Questionnaire modified to shorten administration time
- Earlier transition to case managed phase
- Additional monies added to FI hours for in-person R outreach
- Earlier implementation of 'Last Chance' bonus

Compounding Factors in 97 Mode Change

- Proximity of interview schedule (biennial) and mode change
- Early expenditures and outlays that may not have been cost effective
- Higher than average burn rate
- Difficulty contacting respondents

Lessons Learned

- Don't try to do too much at once
- Outreach is key
 - ▶ More in-person outreach is needed
 - ▶ Different types of outreach is needed
- Case management structure
- Mid-fielding flexibility

Contact Information

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