

International Health and Development 2009

INHL 713 HIV Biological and Behavioral Surveillance in Hard to Reach Populations Using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS)

Learning objectives:

At the end of the course students will be able to

- Recognize the difference between probability and non-probability based sampling and describe the different sampling techniques used to sample hard to reach populations
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological principles that make RDS a probability based sampling method
- Explain the assumptions and requirements necessary to conduct an RDS study
- Define important theoretical concepts related to RDS and social network sampling
- Demonstrate the process of RDS specific formative research and explain and justify under what circumstances RDS can and cannot be used in a particular population/country
- Describe the elements (coupons, coupon numbering system, seed selection, study site location, etc.) and management tools (forms for managing coupons and incentives, client checklist form, etc.) necessary to conduct an RDS study and design those elements and tools into a protocol to conduct an RDS study among a hard to reach population
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages in using RDS to sample hard to reach populations
- Demonstrate an understanding about the RDS software that is available now (RDSAT 6.0) and describe its capacity and limitations
- Format and code data files that can be used in RDSAT and analyze RDS data using the partition and breakpoint analysis functions of RDSAT