**Online supplementary information 3: Reporting of representation aims and outcomes – text-based examples**

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| **Type of representation** | **Representation aim**  Text example | **Representation outcome**  Text example | **Discussion of representation limitations**  Text example | **References**  (according to representation aim) |
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| **Quantitative representation** | “Participants completed a baseline questionnaire  […] and were then randomly assigned to receive one of four vignettes. […] Group members were recruited by a fieldwork agency to reflect the demographic profile of the populations in the various group locations.” [30]  “Three online focus groups from  a random US sample were conducted  through KN. […] KN is a company that conducts Internet-based surveys and online focus groups using a large, pre-established panel with a nationally representative probability  sample.” [46]  “Five hundred thirty-one community addresses were purchased from a bulk mailing list  company, and 400 addresses were randomly selected with the goal of screening 350  households.” [47] | “[…] This yielded a  nationally representative sample of approximately  2500 adults aged 18 and above.” [30]  „Diese Stichprobe wurde nach dem Random-Route-  Verfahren ausgewählt, sie war gemäß ADM-(Arbeitskreis  Deutsche Marktforschungsinstitute)-Stichproben repräsentativ  nach Alter, Geschlecht, Bildungsgrad und Stadt/  Land-Wohnort.” [48]  “Nevertheless, our study is important because it evaluated the attitudes  of a nationally representative sample of Jordanians who were interviewed in their homes.” [33] | “Second, the representativeness of our samples suggests that we use caution in generalizing our findings.” [49]  “While every effort was made to assemble a jury whose views represented those of the broader public, it was not possible to confirm the reliability or generalizability of the jury s findings within the project s parameters.” [2] | [49]  [30]  [33]  [2]  [38]  [50]  [4] |
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| **Qualitative representation** | “Our planned recruitment strategy ensured the inclusion of a wide range of socioeconomic statuses. […] We used a random process for the selection of  patients in each department to ensure age, gender and socioeconomic diversity.” [37]  “To ensure heterogeneity  of participants recruited from the general population, we requested the community centres to recruit participants from a wide range of age groups and occupations.” [39]  “A priori purposive sampling was based on exploring diversity, using criteria of role, gender and rural/  urban geographic residence, and all groups included participants of different ages, religion and educational status. ” [51] | “The strengths of our  study include the large sample size and the diverse representation of individuals from different socioeconomic strata in  a developing country.” [37]  “CAC members  felt these groups represented some of the most important  dimensions of diversity within New Rochelle, an approach  that allows researchers to best identify common themes and  discordant perspectives.“ [52]  “The representative samples of views, interests and values under each theme are provided for an in-depth and complete picture of the ethnocul¬tural community leaders’ views and interests […] [53] | “Our findings may be limited in generalizability, as  this qualitative study was not conducted on a statistically  representative sample of the population.” [39]  “Project participants clearly were not a representative crosssection of New Rochelle and, therefore, external validity is limited” [52]  “As is typical of qualitative  research, the number of study subjects was small and they were not intended to be representative, rendering  statistical analyses inappropriate.” [54] | [37]  [51]  [41]  [39]  [54]  [42]  [1]  [55]  [56]  [32]  [34]  [57]  [52] |
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| **Discursive representation** | “Then they were asked to nominate individuals not on the board  who would represent the breadth of perspectives in their  community.” [58]  “This is different from proportional representation in that the objective is not a statistically representative sample but a sample diverse in public perspectives about the policy issue. This includes minority and ⁄ or marginalized voices and those perspectives that previously were unarticulated in the sphere of public discourse. […]Our aim was discursive representation.” [43] | No text example available | “Our study can be criticised on a number of grounds. First, one might hold that we did not choose the “right” groups. The discussions took place in a single country (Austria), participants were few in number and the sample was not representative. However, we would argue that at this stage, small-scale studies addressing sense-making processes add more insight than further representative studies showing that the majority of people have not heard of synthetic biology. Patients’ groups, teachers or bio-hackers may hold differing views than those held by the sampled groups, but we expect the processes to be similar.” [29]  “Our deliberants lacked socio-demographic  diversity which is problematic, because this indicator was adopted as a proxy measure of  discursive representation.” [43] | [58]  [43]  [29] |
| **Elected representation** | “The study involved a non-probabilistic, purposive sample of ethnocultural community leaders (Guest et al., 2006). The size of the sample was established inductively and sampling was continued until data saturation occurred […].” [53] | The representative samples of views, interests and values under each theme are provided for an in-depth and complete picture of the ethnocul¬tural community leaders’ views and interests. [53] | “We caution the reader that our small sample that is characteristic of qualitative research is not intended to be representative of the views of all ethnocultural community leaders.” [53] | [53] |
| **Convenience sampling** | “Five hundred sixty seven adult individuals who were present in the outpatients’ clinics […] between May 2007 and January  2008 were invited to participate in the study. The sample size and sampling method were convenience-based. […]Potential participants  were individually and consequently approached;  and were enrolled if they were able to understand the  study and agreed to participate.” [45]  “The participants that were interviewed in this study had refused to participate in a number of different biomedical research projects before this study but agreed to be interviewed in this study.” [59]  “The survey questionnaire was attached to the  monthly magazine entitled, ‘‘Machi-apo’’ […]. The ‘‘Machi-apo’’ magazine was given by pharmacists to patients who visited pharmacies to  purchase their prescription medication.” [36] | No text example available | “There were several limitations to our project. The first was the small sample size,[…] // The second was the lack of generalisability of the qualitative data.” [35]  “Our findings require validation in a larger sample.” [59]  “This study has a number of limitations. Our sample was not representative of the US adult population, but was derived  from people who seek medical care at academic medical centers. As a group, the respondents were disproportionately  female, better educated, more affluent, and better informed about genetic issues than the general population. However,  because many of the currently proposed pediatric biobanks  are also based at academic medical centers, the views of this  sample are likely to be relevant.” [60] | [45]  [60]  [61]  [62]  [63]  [35]  [36]  [59] |
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| **Not specified** |  |  |  | [64]  [40]  [65]  [50] |