



University of California
San Francisco

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PersonID helps University of California, San Francisco, in conducting a health survey in Ghana

Situation

The Global Strategic Information Group, based in the University of California, San Francisco, is conducting a health survey in Ghana. To assure the validity of study results and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of research subjects, the school needed to ensure that participants were counted only once (i.e., that each participant was unique).

UCSF conducts its health studies anonymously, so the school was concerned that prospective participants would register multiple times to collect the incentive, a real possibility in that poor country.

The registration method also had to be easy to use and cost-effective.

The Approach

Typically the school assigns a unique study ID number to survey participants to assure that they are unique. However, participants may forget their study number, give it to others to use, or still try to enroll multiple times in the same study.

UCSF selected the [PersonID](#) fingerprint identification system from 360 Biometrics. The system virtually assures that each participant is unique, ensuring the validity of the survey sample.

Here's how it works. When a participant visits the study office, his identity is first verified in Person ID to ensure that it is truly his first visit to the study office. Upon verification of a unique identity, the participant is enrolled in PersonID,

and taken through some eligibility screening and registration steps before proceeding to the other steps of the study.

UCSF adapted the software to collect the following information:

- Unique Testing Code
- Coupon ID Number
- Study Site Name
- Date of First Visit
- Enrolled?
- Eligible?

The testing code is randomly generated, assuring anonymity, and linked to the individual fingerprint of each participant, ensuring accuracy.

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Results

Using PersonID, the school is able to enroll only unique participants, assuring the validity of their survey sample.