**Vocabulary**

The following terms and phrases have specific meanings in relation to HUMAN Surveys. Here “survey” refers to a randomized sample of the adult population of a country and are thus designed to be nationally representative of the public. Some surveys are included if they focus on particular groups such as youth or the unemployed, but these are noted as special surveys. Surveys are usually conducted in person, but they may also be done over the phone, by mail, or online.

Individuals being surveyed or interviewed are often referred to as a “respondents” and their answers are often referred to as “responses”. Respondents are asked a set of questions, or “survey items”, and their responses measure public opinions, attitudes, behaviours, and many other details. For example, individual demographics, features of respondent communities, and details about the interview itself are usually also recorded.

A “survey source” refers to the organization of body that conducts or distributes surveys. It can be thought of as where the original survey data comes from, as HUMAN Surveys does not itself gather this data or undertake interviews. Examples of sources include the World Values Survey, AfroBarometer, Australian Election Study, and others on the Sources page.

A “survey round” refers to a single wave, module, or year of a survey from a source. Most sources are cross-national, so a single round includes multiple countries, but some sources include just one country, so a single round includes just that one country. For example, each round of the World Values Survey includes many countries while each round of the Australian Election Study includes only one country.

A “script” refers to computer code written using statistics software. HUMAN Surveys scripts perform multiple functions. Setup scripts format all survey rounds from a particular survey source, organizing variables in preparation for merging datasets together. Merge scripts then combine data from all sources to create the three types of HUMAN Surveys dataset: respondent, country-survey, and country-year.