

Further Review Exercises for Chapter 1

1. In 1993, *Metro* magazine defended the results of one of their mail-in surveys of reader's opinions by saying that they received far more responses than a well-known regular poll which selects people at random. Comment on this argument.
2. The Member of Parliament (cf. Congressional representative) for the area one of us lives in recently sent out a long questionnaire to everyone in her electoral district asking people to complete the form and mail it back to her. The questionnaire covered a wide variety of social, moral, environmental, economic and political issues.
3. In late 1991, many news stories followed the publication of research conducted by Simon LeVay of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego who investigated the brain tissue of 41 people who had died before the age of 60. Of these 19 were homosexual men who had died of Aids, 16 were thought to be heterosexual (of these 6 were intravenous drug users who had died of Aids) and 6 were women. LeVay studied an area of the brain known as INAH which influences male sexual behavior and found that the INAH-3 area in the homosexual men tended to be smaller than in the heterosexual men and more like that in women. This is one of several intriguing pieces of research of recent years that have sparked debate about whether sexual preference may in part be biologically determined.
 - (a) LeVay made no claims that his results established that sexual preference was partly biologically determined. What are some of the reasons why his research falls short of demonstrating biological determination?
 - (b) What value does the research have in furthering understanding of the issue? What would you want to look at next?