CARI That Weight: Obtaining Consent to Record SIPP Interviews

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The SIPP Mission

The mission of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is to provide a nationally representative sample for evaluating:

- Annual and sub-annual dynamics of income,
- Movements into and out of government transfer programs,
- Family and social context of individuals and households, and
- Interaction between these items

Goals for SIPP Reengineering

- Modernize the data collection instrument
- Reduce respondent burden
- Require fewer resources than the old SIPP program
- Improve processing efficiency
- Releasable to the public in a timely manner
- Integrate survey data and administrative records data
- Improve management through realigned structure and improved monitoring using all available tools (e.g., paradata)

CARI

- Computer-Assisted Recorded Interviewing (CARI) is a survey component that records the verbal interview process between the respondent and Field Representative (FR)
- The main purpose of CARI is to help improve data quality by analyzing interview techniques
- The use of CARI may also have the capability of lowering operating costs by reducing the need for field observations or reinterview
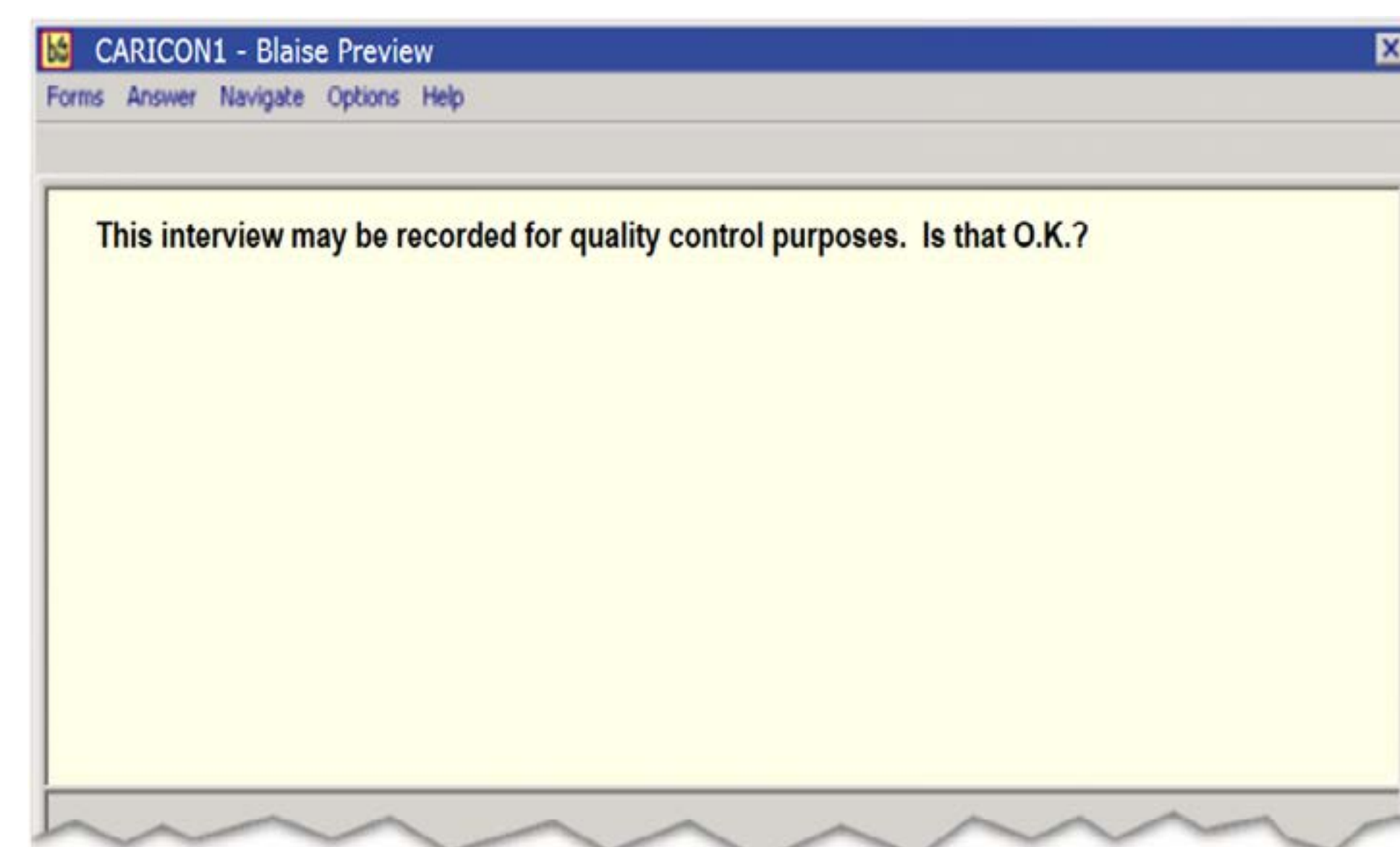
CARI Consent Question

This interview may be recorded for quality control purposes. Is that O.K.?

Table 1. CARI Consent Rates Across Surveys

Survey (Year)	Consent Rate	Administer
SIPP SSA CATI (2014)	98.18%	Census
ACS CATI (2010 & 2011)	88.5%	Census
ACS CAPI (2010 & 2011)	64.8%	Census
HWS (2006)	90.2%	Census
SIPP-EHC (2012)	42.36%	Census
NSCAW (1999-2004)	83%	RTI
ECLS (2004-2005)	93%	RTI
SCFL (2007-2008)	93%	RTI
NHHCS (2007)	96%	Westat
CHMI (2007 & 2009)	93%	RTI
SCV (2011)	93%	RTI
MCBS (Round 63) (2012)	81%	Westat
MCBS (Round 64) (2012)	93%	Westat
MCBS (Round 65) (2013)	94%	Westat

Figure 1. Data Structure for a 3-Level Multilevel Model

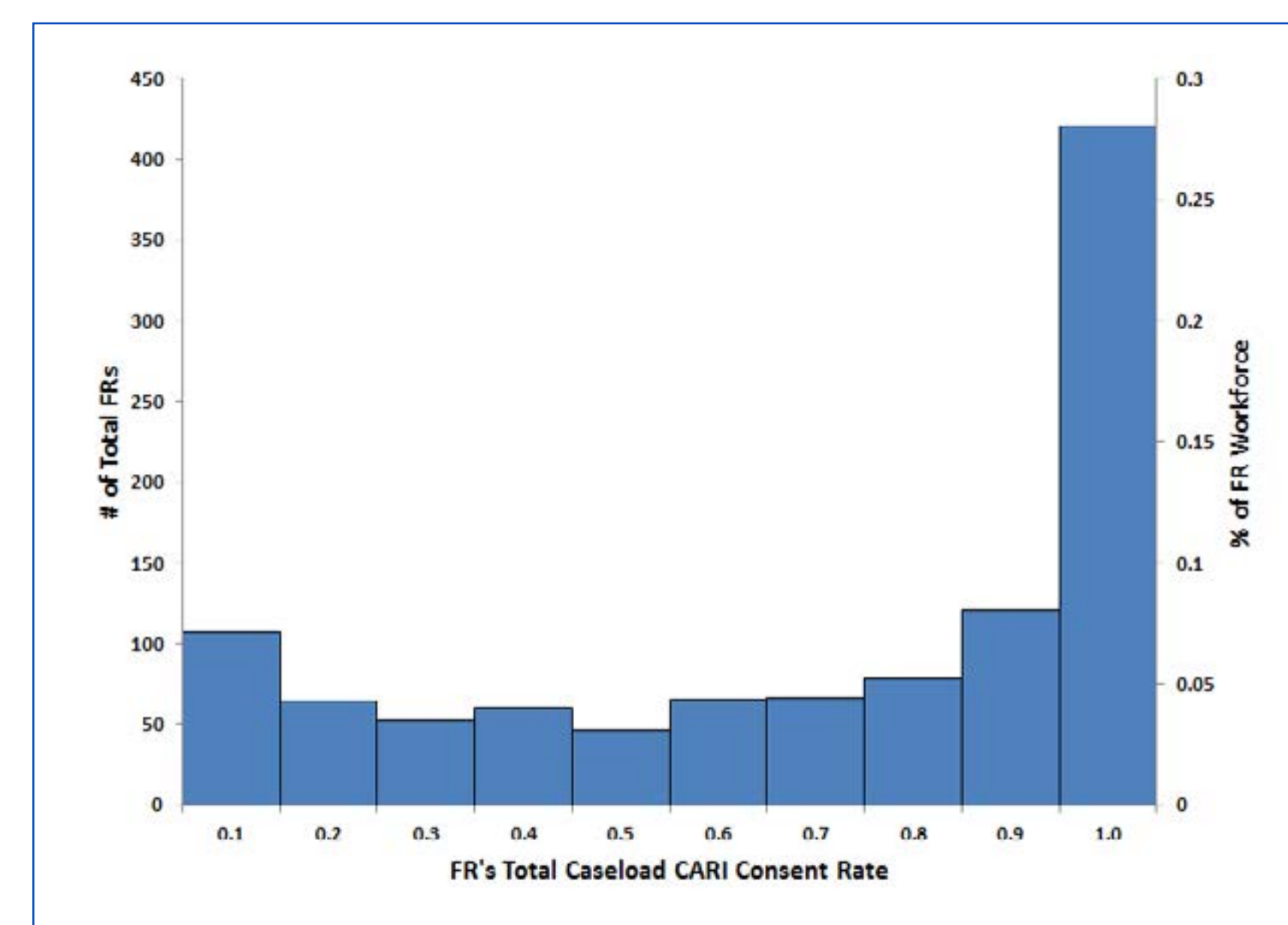### Figure 2. CARI Consent Rate by FR

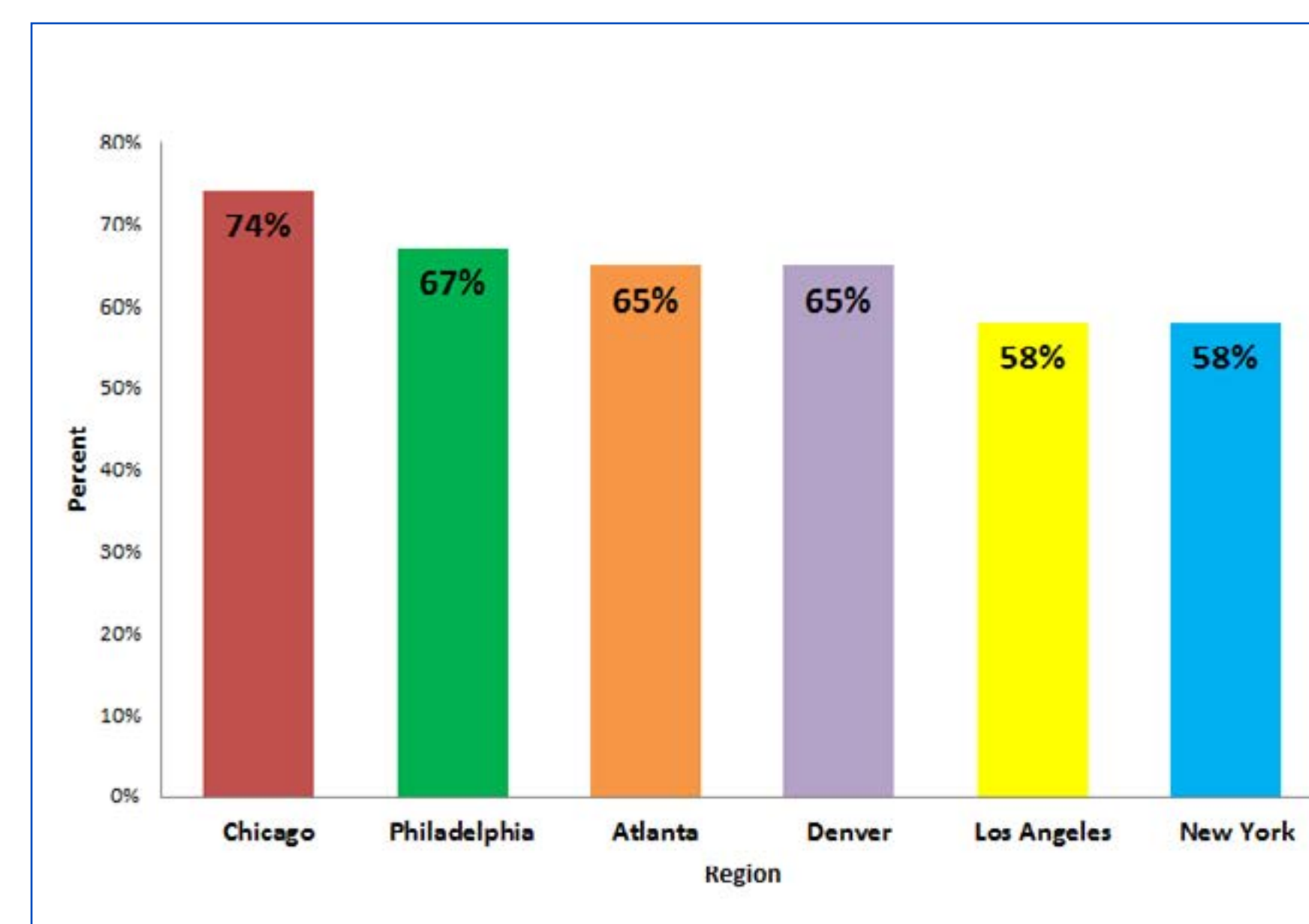
Figure 3. CARI Consent Rate by Region

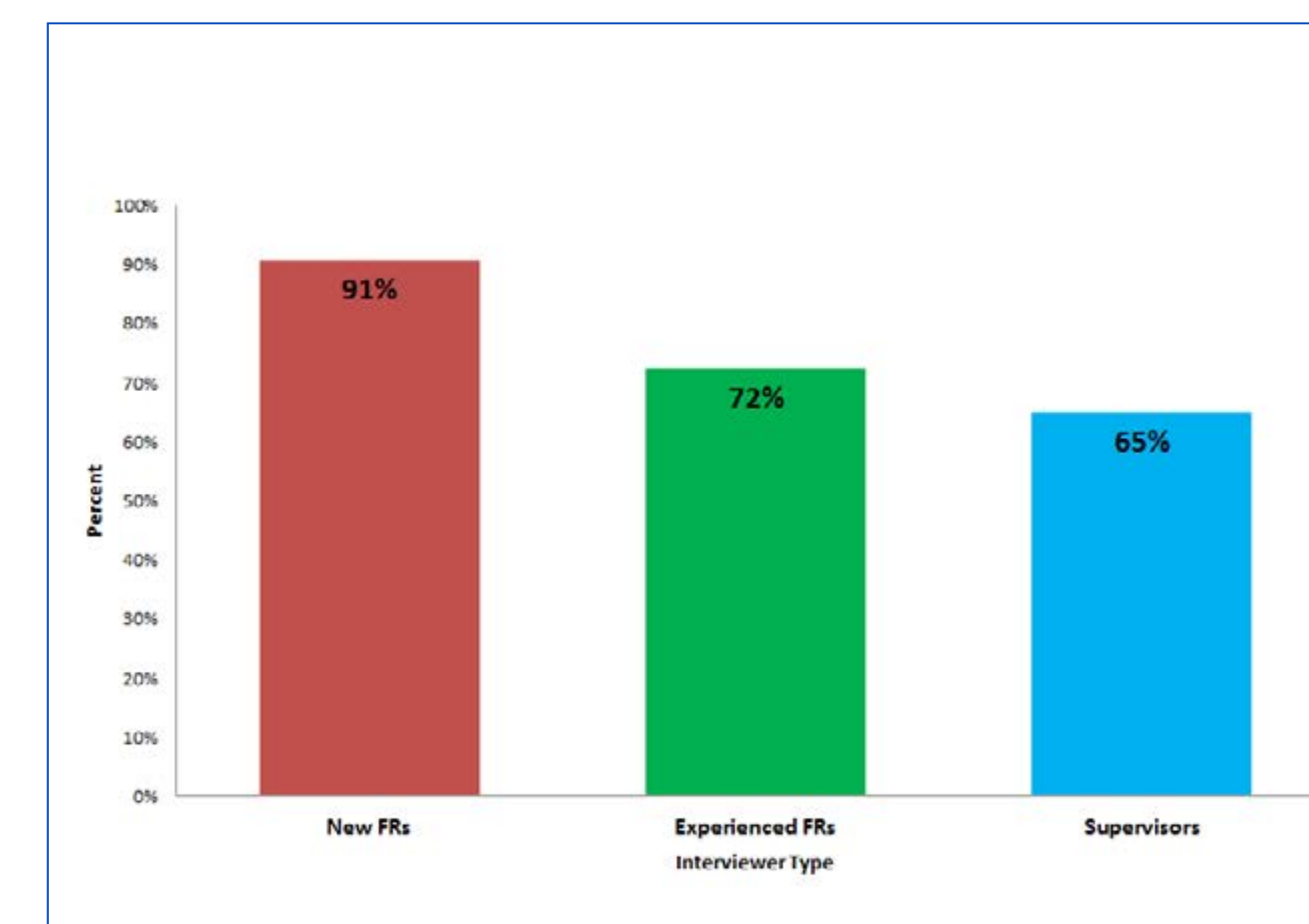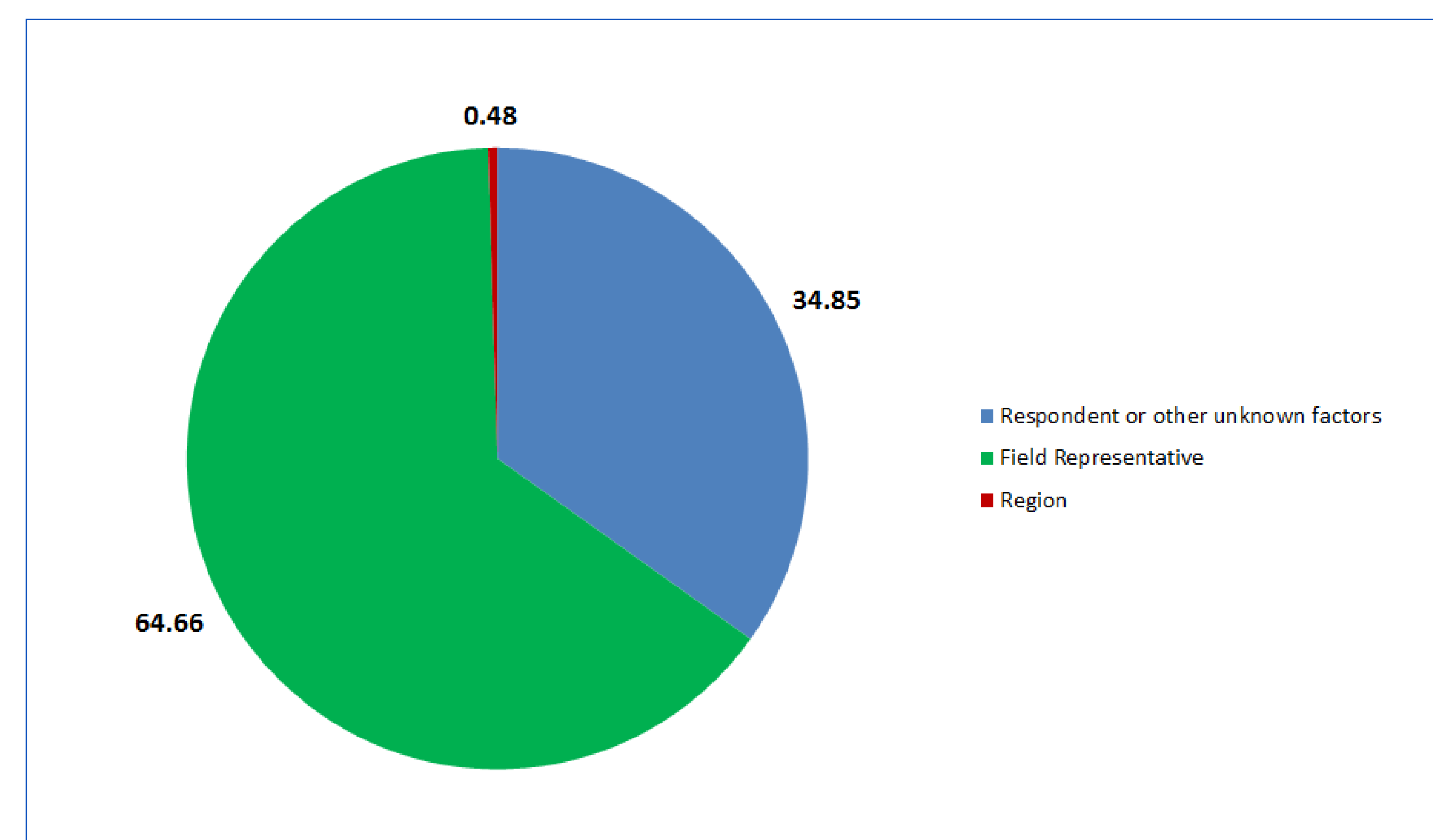### Figure 4. Predicted Probabilities of CARI Consent by Interviewer Type

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics for Select Variables in the Analysis by Agreement to CARI

Variables	Total Mean	Total SD	Yes Mean	Yes SD	No Mean	No SD
Dependent variable						
Agreement to CARI (1=Yes)	0.66		---		---	
Respondent-level (Level 1)						
Race/Ethnicity						
White (Reference group)	0.65		0.45		0.20	
Black	0.13		0.08		0.05	
Asian	0.04		0.02		0.02	
Other race	0.03		0.01		0.02	
Mexican (American)	0.06		0.03		0.03	
Other Hispanic	0.09		0.05		0.04	
Female (1=Yes)	0.53		0.53		0.53	
Non-English interview (1=Yes)	0.06		0.04		0.10	
Foreign-born (1=Yes)	0.15		0.12		0.20	
Proxy interview (1=Yes)	0.29		0.28		0.32	
FR-level (Level 2)						
Certification test scores (0-100)	86.00	8.41	86.37	8.41	85.29	8.37
Case load (1-115)	33.02	20.63	32.24	19.96	34.50	21.77
FR experience						
New	0.24		0.29		0.15	
Experienced (Reference group)	0.74		0.69		0.83	
Supervisor	0.02		0.02		0.02	
Regional-level (Level-3)						
Regional office						
Atlanta	0.23		0.23		0.23	
Chicago	0.20		0.23		0.15	
Denver	0.17		0.17		0.17	
Los Angeles	0.13		0.11		0.16	
New York	0.08		0.07		0.10	
Philadelphia	0.19		0.19		0.19	

Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2014, Wave 1.
Note: N=55,505. FR= Field Representative.

Figure 5. What Accounts for the Variability in the CARI Consent Rate?

- 0.48
- 34.85
- 64.66
- Respondent or other unknown factors
- Field Representative
- Region

Data

- Wave 1 of the 2014 panel of SIPP
  - Sample included approximately 52,000 households; roughly 30,000 households (75,000 individuals) were interviewed
- Analytic sample: n=55,505
  - Individuals who are younger than 15 years of age, Type Z interviews, not either a complete or partial interview, did not complete a self or proxy interview, and whose household line number is not consistent with other line number-dependent variables were dropped from the sample

Model

Dependent variable:

- An indicator variable was created denoting whether the respondent or proxy agreed to CARI (1=Yes; 0=No)

Independent variables:

- Respondent-level (Level 1):
  - Sex; Race/Ethnicity; Age; Marital Status; Household ≤ 200% Below Poverty; Employment Status; Education; Household Size; Self-Reported Health; Non-English Interview; Foreign-Born; Proxy Interview
- FR-level (Level 2):
  - Certification test scores; Level of experience; Caseload size
- RO-level (Level 3):
  - Regional office

Method

- Descriptive statistics for all variables in the analysis by agreement to CARI
- Three-level organizational model using multilevel modeling predicting the odds of agreement to CARI

Summary

- Approximately 35% of the variability in CARI rate is accounted for by the Respondent or other unknown factors; 65% of the variability of CARI rate is accounted for by the FR; less than 1% of the variability of CARI rate is accounted for by the Region
- Controlling for respondent-level and FR-level factors, model results revealed that the probability of agreeing to CARI for a typical FR in a region is 0.724. However, the probability of CARI varies considerably across FRs, but not necessarily across Regions