

Procedures



Recruitment. Prior to any recruitment, University of Miami Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved the present study. Following approval, multiracial agencies were contacted to request the distribution of this study and the study recruitment email was posted on social media groups focused on being multiracial, mixed race or biracial. Due to the convenience of forwarding the study through email, previous research suggested that Internet surveys are just as representative if not more representative than other recruitment methods (Gosling et al., 2004). The link to the present study was distributed through multiracial listservs and social media groups. Specifically, multiracial organizations such as Swirl, Inc.

, the MAVIN Foundation, and multiracial groups on Twitter, Facebook, Google Groups, LinkedIn, as well as the websites that highlight mixed race studies research were contacted in order to post the study or send the study to potential participants. Recruitment emails described the study's inclusion criteria and the purpose of the study to understand more about the multiracial experience (See Appendix A). Recruitment followed a snowball sample procedure, such that the recruitment email or post asked those who received the email share the study link with anyone they know who meets the inclusion criteria. Participants were instructed to follow the Survey Monkey web-link within the email to access the study.

To reinforce the reliability of the results, empirical standards for Internet survey collection were utilized (Eysenbach, 2004). In order to participate in this study, individuals must self-identify as multiracial. Therefore, upon entering the web-based 61 survey, participants encountered a form asking them to confirm their eligibility by identifying that they were over the age of

18 and to respond how they identify racially whereby individuals could check all that apply. Participants were able to enter the survey regardless of number of boxes they checked as some individuals checked other and specified that they identified with multiple racial groups or as biracial. Since recruitment materials specified that in order to participate one must self-identify as multiracial, all individuals who completed the study were included. Participants who are 18 years of age or older and who identify with multiple races were then directed to view the informed consent page, which described the purpose and design of the study, a brief description of how to complete a web-based survey, as well as the potential benefits and risks associated with participating in the study (See Appendix B).

Participants who did not meet inclusion criteria were redirected to a webpage thanking them for their interest in the study, but notifying them that they did not meet inclusion criteria for the study. Participants who met inclusion criteria viewed the informed consent page whereby participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any time as well as the contact information for the primary investigator and the IRB and Office of Human Subjects at the University of Miami. Participants were reminded that their information will be kept confidential and their name will not be associated with their responses to the survey items. Individuals agreeing to participate in the study after reading the informed consent entered into the web-based survey created in Survey Monkey. Individuals who did not agree to participate in the study were redirected to the webpage thanking them for their interest in the study, but since they did not consent to 62 participate they may not complete the survey.

The survey included the measures outlined in Table 3. Study Materials. Participants required access to a computer that had Internet access. The survey was a web-based survey as the Internet provided a forum for multiracial individuals to connect across communities and serves as a resource as evidenced by the vast number of message boards and social groups dedicated to multiracial identity (Sanchez, Shih, & Garcia, 2009).

Data was collected through web survey using Survey Monkey, which has security procedures to keep participant information confidential and transmit the unidentified information to the researcher.