

Appendix A

Survey Method

Data for this survey were collected from 431 survey questionnaires mailed to 813 individuals in June and July of 1991. The sample was drawn from the membership list of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) and the mailing list of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG). Only full members (excluding student, associate, and foreign memberships) of the NSGC were surveyed. The initial mailing list provided by ISONG was screened to remove individuals who were not practicing nurses from the sample (e.g., journalists, vendors).

Questionnaires were not numerically or otherwise coded, and hence were completely anonymous. Respondents were asked to return their questionnaire in a post-paid envelope provided by OTA. Approximately 2 weeks after the initial mailing, a followup letter was sent

to all survey respondents. The second **wave** improved the response rate by about 15 percent.

The content of the instruments was identical for the two populations, but the questionnaires were reproduced on different colored stock for easier tracking. Preliminary analysis revealed no significant difference in question response between the NSGC and ISONG samples, and so all data were combined into one set for the final analyses.

Surveys returned after September 30, 1991 were not included in the final data analyses. A statistical software package was used to provide frequency distributions and cross-tabulations of the data. No weighting was done of the sample, as OTA believes that the sample closely represents the entire population.