SURVEY OUTCOMES: SUMMARY OF REPORT TYPES

The primary goal of the Sigma Xi Postdoc Survey is to enable institutions to assess the postdoctoral experiences that they are providing and to benchmark these experiences against those at peer institutions. Survey reports will be valuable tools to open or continue dialogue among the relevant stakeholders. Within the basic requirement of maintaining respondent confidentiality, the contents of each report will balance the needs of survey participants, institutions, Sigma Xi and our partners.

The Basic Report Format
The basic report for institutional participants will consist of a summary of all responses to questions on the survey. In all of our reports, we will only display responses to questions for which there are sufficient numbers of responses to ensure respondent anonymity. We will display confidence limits for questions that are administered to randomly selected subsets of participants.

Segmented Reports for Institutions
In addition to a basic report summarizing survey responses, we will produce a set of reports in which responses are segmented by characteristics of the respondents. Some of the comparative reports we anticipate providing at the institutional level include looking at responses by gender, citizenship, ethnicity, family status, total time as a postdoc, job satisfaction, productivity, etc. We will also compare institutional divisions, e.g. Medical School vs. Engineering School, based on information provided during the institutional registration process.

Cross-Institutional Comparative Reports
We will create reports that compare results among institutions in various categories. This set of reports will include data from institutions that agree to share their results and will be available only to those institutions agreeing to share. The institutions will be listed by type, such as major research institution, rather than by name. Institutions will be permitted to select “peer institutions” by name, but results will be listed generically.

Public Reports
We will generate a set of public reports containing data aggregated at the national level. We will also generate public reports containing limited, non-sensitive data such as the demographics of the local postdoc population, basic information on salaries and availability of benefits, and cost of living information.

Additional Research
Some data will be made available to individual researchers studying the scientific workforce. These researchers will be required to submit written applications for using the data and to sign strict agreements that protect the privacy of individuals and institutions that participate in the project.

For more details on reporting formats, please see the document Sigma Xi Postdoc Survey Reports, available in print and online.