

Partial Interval Recording - Description, Procedures, & Example

When the behavior that you are looking at is not easily counted, you can measure the behavior by counting the number of time-intervals in which the behavior occurred. A behavior is not easily counted when:

- It is difficult to tell exactly when the behavior begins or when it ends, or
- It occurs at such a high rate that it is difficult to keep a count on it.

If this behavior happens so quickly that it is hard to catch (the behavior itself does not last for a long time), you may use the Partial Interval method to measure this behavior: You can look to see whether or not the behavior occurs at some point in each time interval (the behavior does not need to occur throughout the entire interval). You should note that you will need some timing instrument such as a wall clock, wristwatch, or stopwatch in order to keep track of the time intervals.

Examples of behaviors that you can measure using Partial Interval include praising others, making a particular comment, making a certain gesture, walking by a particular place,

Procedures

- * Write down the behavior that you will be looking for and its definition
- * Write down how long you will be observing every time: Total Observation Time
- * Divide the total observation time into same length intervals (here we included 10 intervals); write down the length of each interval
 - All intervals need to be the same length: Intervals can be from a few seconds long to a few minutes long
- Note:** Total observation time and length of intervals need to be the same each time that you observe
- * Enter the date and time of your observation
- * Make sure that you have your timing instrument available prior to beginning your observation
- * Keep an eye on your timing instrument to keep track of the intervals
- * **During each time interval:**
 - Look to see if the behavior occurs
 - Once the behavior occurs, place a checkmark (✓) for that interval
 - If, at the end of the interval the behavior did not occur, place an X for that interval
- * At the end of your observation time, total the number of checkmarks (**This is what you graph**)

Example

Behavior: Saying something nice

Behavior Definition: Making a statement to a peer or a teacher during class time, in a pleasant tone, which includes either praise or politeness, for example saying "you did well" or "excuse me"

Total Observation Time: 20 minutes

Length of each interval: 2 minutes

Date: 11/5	Interval #										Total times behavior occurred (✓)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Time: 9:10 - 9:30 AM												
✓ or X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	3	