TWO AUTHORS REPLY

We thank Paul Sacco (1) for his interest in our study (2). We noted in the Discussion section of our paper that the two trials presented are limited because each was based on a sample of people who had participated in some way on one (not two) previous occasion, that this self-selection led to high response on the first mailing, and that our findings of an effect of a pen/pencil in the second mailing on response may not be generalizable to studies that have low response to a first mailing. We meant to imply by these statements, but did not state explicitly because we did not have comparison data on those not included in our sample, that our samples differed from the general population by demographic and other factors that are associated with participation, and that our findings might not be generalizable to a representative sample.

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REFERENCES


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