

Photic sneeze reflex survey: Light sensitivity and photophobia (2021) (#66575)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Some people sneeze when they enter bright light. In a previous survey, we found that people who report sneezing when entering bright light also report having higher light sensitivity and higher visual discomfort as measured with the Visual Discomfort Scale (VDS), Visual Light Sensitivity Questionnaire-8 (VLSQ-8) and the Photophobia Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ). In our previous (unpaid and unfunded) surveys, we specifically recruited photic sneezers. Consequently, we are missing a lot of information from people who do not identify as photic sneezers. We would therefore like to replicate our findings in an independent sample, recruiting from a wide and diverse range of people, including those who do not self-select into the survey.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

We will ask participants to complete the Visual Discomfort Scale (VDS), Visual Light Sensitivity Questionnaire-8 (VLSQ-8) and the Photophobia Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ), yielding a total of four outcome measurements (VDS score, VLSQ-8 score, PAQ photophobia sub-scale and PAQ photophilia sub-scale).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

There will be no conditions a priori and participants will simply complete the survey.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

We will rank-correlate the four outcome scores for light sensitivity with a pooled estimator of photic sneezing across various lighting questions, and also compare the four score values between photic sneezers and non-photic sneezers using a t-test.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude all participants who do not answer our 4 attention check questions correctly.

We will exclude all participants who complete the survey in 10 minutes or less.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will administer the questionnaire to 1000 individuals on the Prolific platform.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We are testing another hypothesis as part of this survey under the name "Photic sneeze reflex survey: Prevalence estimates".