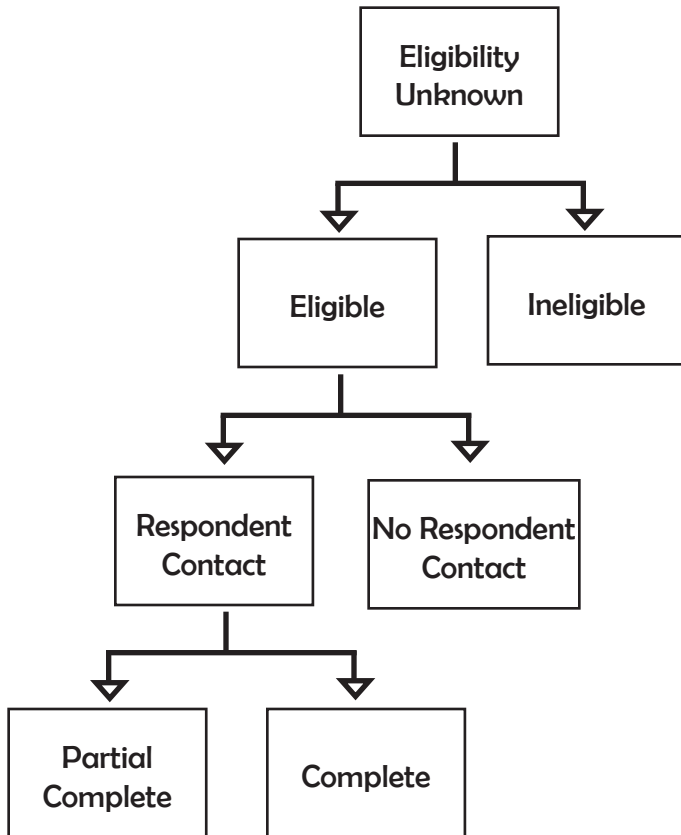


Stages of eligibility

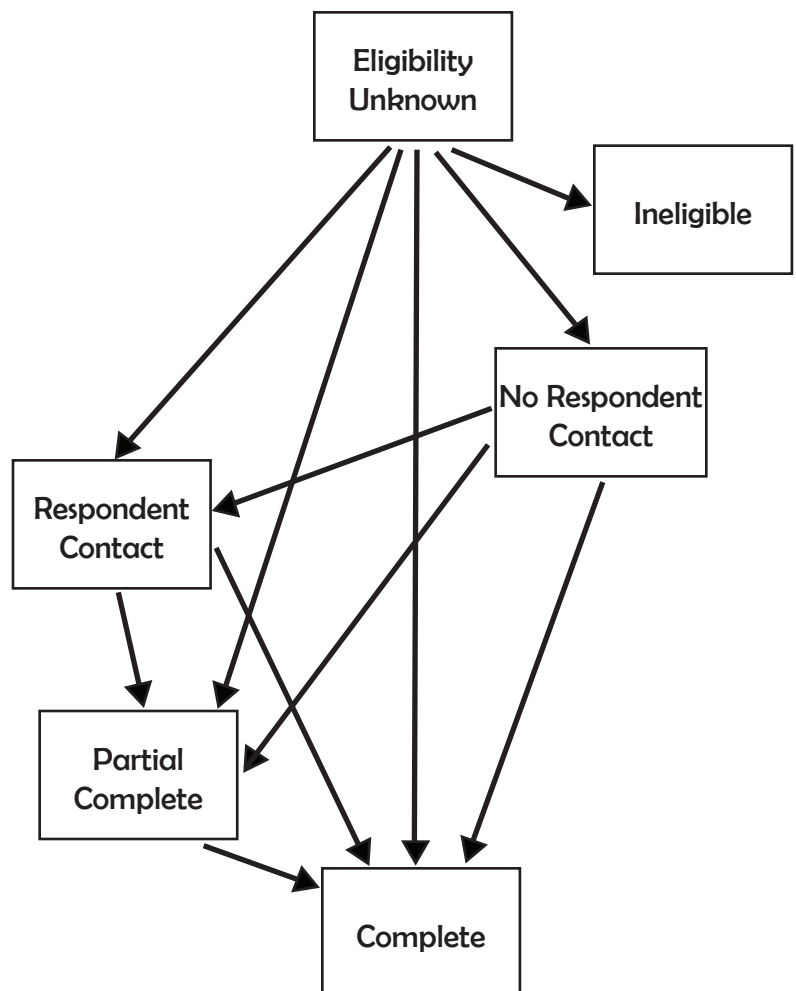
Traditional breakdown



The traditional breakdown of eligibility posits a number of “life stages” in the course of a case history and shows the ways in which a case can develop. Intermediate stages are necessary to go further, and each stage is a possible final status.

The diagram on the left gives an example, showing the logical order of steps through which cases must progress to become complete and places where a case can stop on the way.

Possible developments in a single attempt



The problem with the traditional breakdown is that it does not account for operational complexity in which a case can change status once or multiple times within any given attempt.

The diagram on the right provides a more complicated depiction of the possible developments, with each arrow representing one direction in which a case might develop. Of course, some research designs will allow only a subset of these possibilities.

Both perspectives are necessary in order to fully understand the mechanics of eligibility.