

out of 133 or 45%) was considerably higher than the response rate for the other inventions (137 out of 424 or 32%).

Data were collected for an additional 56 technologies as the result of targeted follow-up interviewing of nonrespondents. Most of these targeted interviews involved promising inventions (N=45); only 11 were from the random sample. All but 8 of the interviews took place by telephone; in 8 cases, the telephone call prompted a response by mail.²

The 28 nonrespondents from among the promising inventions included 2 deceased inventors, 1 refusal, and 25 inventors who either could not be located or would not return telephone calls. The 21 nonrespondents from among the random sample included 2 deceased inventors and 19 inventors who either could not be located or would not return calls.³

In total, data were collected in 1993 on 253 inventions, or 45% of the 557 ERIP inventions. Historic information from previous evaluations is also available for 189 additional inventions. To illustrate, an inventor who reported sales during the 1985 evaluation would still be included in the cumulative count of inventions that have experienced sales, even if further information were not obtained in subsequent evaluations. Altogether, some evaluation data are available for a total of 442 of the 557 inventions.

Table 2.1 Summary of Survey Responses

Samples of Inventors	Respondents to the Mail Survey	Targeted Follow-up of Non-respondents	Non-respondents	Total
Promising Inventions	60	45 ^a	28	133
Other Inventions (Excluding Random Sample)	137 ^b	0	255	392
Random Sample of Nonrespondents	0	11 ^c	21	32
Total	197	56	304	557

^a6 of these responded by mail as the result of a telephone follow-up.

^b6 of these inventors responded by telephone rather than by mail.

^c2 of these responded by mail as the result of a telephone follow-up.

² Because of the spacious layout of the questionnaire, the 16 pages typically required less than 20 minutes to complete. However, the telephone interviews ranged widely, from perhaps 10 minutes for participants who had been interviewed before and had little activity to report, to 45 minutes for those participants who wanted to elaborate on the status of their ERIP project.

³ In all four cases of deceased inventors, it was determined that the technology had not been passed on to another company or individual who was working on it.