

From: LISTS.ASU.EDU LISTSERV Server (16.0) [LISTSERV@asu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2011 6:10 PM
To: Shapard Wolf
Subject: File: "AAPORNET LOG0606"

Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 09:34:49 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Watching the Pollsters - WSJ
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

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June 1, 2006=20
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THE NUMBERS GUY=20
By CARL BIALIK =20

http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB114910775055167791-HtZIN3FmBecKKQCojJ2bz1f7Cjw_20060630.html

or
<http://tinyurl.com/ole5e>

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Watching the Pollsters
June 1, 2006

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Sixty years after its founding, a key association of professional pollsters is dismayed with all the bad survey numbers in the press. In an overdue response, the group is seeking new ways to curtail coverage of faulty research.

A mix of factors, including the low price of online opinion research, corporate sponsorship of surveys and a press eager for numbers-driven stories and charts, has led to the publication of more polling numbers, good and bad. That's confused the public and lessened pollsters' credibility, in the view of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, which includes many of the leading pollsters from universities, the government and industry. "Our ability to conduct good public opinion and survey research is under attack from many sides," the group's long-range planning committee wrote in a May report. As part of its response, Aapor1, as the group is known, plans to hire a staffer to spot and quickly respond to faulty polls.

If Aapor does come down hard, and quickly, on bad research, it could drive pollsters to do better work and disclose their methods more fully,

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SNIP

"We are not keeping bad research out of the mainstream media as much as I would like," Cliff Zukin, past-president of Aapor, told me. Says Nancy Mathiowetz, president-elect of the group, "The more the public is bombarded by the reporting of poor, unscientific surveys, and then we see these retractions, the more we're harming ourselves."

The association hopes that by taking a more active and speedy role, it will disrupt the spread of questionable poll numbers before the news cycle has passed. The new staffer will look for articles carrying questionable numbers and contact the authors quickly. If necessary, the group will issue news releases about the survey data -- regardless of whether it came from Aapor members or non-members.

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Prof. Zukin saw the potential value of quick response to faulty poll numbers in March, when he was troubled to read an Associated Press article covering a survey about women's risky health behavior on spring-break trips. The AP article⁵ ran in many newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune and the San Jose Mercury News.

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Prof. Zukin was upset by the AMA poll's presentation in the media and emailed the medical group to register his complaint. When he says the group stopped responding to his emails, he forwarded his correspondence to Washington pollster Mark Blumenthal for posting on his blog, Mystery Pollster⁸.

Dr. Yoast says the AMA corrected the wording in its release quickly. However, the AMA didn't note that the text had been corrected, and the press had mostly moved on by then (with two notable exceptions: The New York Times did correct⁹ a Week in Review article to note that the survey wasn't a random sample, and the Washington Post's Howard Kurtz wrote¹⁰ about the faulty coverage of the AMA survey last week).

Within Aapor's executive council in March, "We used this as an example of how we need to respond better, we need to be more nimble," Prof. Zukin said. He added, "We should have called AMA that day and asked them to issue a clarification, and if they were unable or unwilling to do so, we should have put out a press release saying the survey is misleading."

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Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD 21209

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=====
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 09:12:44 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: Smarsh@mathematica-mpr.com
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., a national leader in social policy research, survey design, and data collection, is currently seeking two survey specialists to work on public policy research projects in our Princeton, NJ office. The successful candidate will work with senior survey researchers on the development and management of national projects that address significant policy issues in areas such as early childhood, health care, labor and education. Responsibilities include: developing survey instruments, preparing training materials, conducting pretests, and assisting with writing and budgeting proposals. Also, managing data collection efforts by training interviewers, supervising telephone and field staff, and assisting with project management. May also participate in qualitative research methods such as focus groups and cognitive interviews. =20

=20

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=20

Qualifications required:

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* A Master's Degree in the social sciences or a related field, or equivalent experience

=20

* Minimum of one year survey research work experience, preferably in social policy

=20

* Excellent oral and written communication skills

=20

* Familiarity with CATI and experience with spreadsheets or other PC programs preferred=20

=20

* Some travel required

=20

* Position available in Princeton, NJ

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=====
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 13:59:59 -0500
Reply-To: Robert Godfrey <holbein@CHARTER.NET>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Robert Godfrey <holbein@CHARTER.NET>
Subject: Robert Kennedy's Rolling Stone article online
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To:
<3248A9B21DD5574785FE5E2C8E5216844C17AC@exchange.local.artscience.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen
Robert Kennedy's Rolling Stone article on new evidence suggesting a
stolen 2004 presidential election just put online.

An excerpt:
Indeed, the extent of the GOP's effort to rig the vote shocked even
the most experienced observers of American elections. "Ohio was as
dirty an election as America has ever seen," Lou Harris, the father
of modern political polling, told me. "You look at the turnout and
votes in individual precincts, compared to the historic patterns in
those counties, and you can tell where the discrepancies are. They
stand out like a sore thumb."

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Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 15:41:03 -0400
Reply-To: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Subject: 2004 election
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v749.3)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delpsp=yes; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

On Jun 1, 2006, at 2:59 PM, Robert Godfrey wrote:

> [http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/
> was_the_2004_election_stolen](http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen)
> Robert Kennedy's Rolling Stone article on new evidence suggesting a
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>

Of particular interest to some listmembers:

> According to Steven F. Freeman, a visiting scholar at the
> University of Pennsylvania who specializes in research methodology,
> the odds against all three of those shifts occurring in concert are
> one in 660,000. "As much as we can say in sound science that
> something is impossible," he says, "it is impossible that the
> discrepancies between predicted and actual vote count in the three
> critical battleground states of the 2004 election could have been
> due to chance or random error." (See The Tale of the Exit Polls)
>
> Puzzled by the discrepancies, Freeman laboriously examined the raw
> polling data released by Edison/Mitofsky in January 2005. "I'm not
> even political -- I despise the Democrats," he says. "I'm a
> survey expert. I got into this because I was mystified about how
> the exit polls could have been so wrong." In his forthcoming book,
> Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen? Exit Polls, Election
> Fraud, and the Official Count, Freeman lays out a statistical
> analysis of the polls that is deeply troubling.
>
> In its official postmortem report issued two months after the
> election, Edison/Mitofsky was unable to identify any flaw in its
> methodology -- so the pollsters, in essence, invented one for the
> electorate. According to Mitofsky, Bush partisans were simply
> disinclined to talk to exit pollsters on November 2nd(34) --
> displaying a heretofore unknown and undocumented aversion that
> skewed the polls in Kerry's favor by a margin of 6.5 percent
> nationwide.(35)
>
> Industry peers didn't buy it. John Zogby, one of the nation's
> leading pollsters, told me that Mitofsky's "reluctant responder"
> hypothesis is "preposterous."(36) Even Mitofsky, in his official
> report, underscored the hollowness of his theory: "It is difficult
> to pinpoint precisely the reasons that, in general, Kerry voters
> were more likely to participate in the exit polls than Bush
> voters."(37)
>
> Now, thanks to careful examination of Mitofsky's own data by
> Freeman and a team of eight researchers, we can say conclusively
> that the theory is dead wrong. In fact it was Democrats, not

> Republicans, who were more disinclined to answer pollsters'
> questions on Election Day. In Bush strongholds, Freeman and the
> other researchers found that fifty-six percent of voters completed
> the exit survey -- compared to only fifty-three percent in Kerry
> strongholds.(38) "The data presented to support the claim not only
> fails to substantiate it," observes Freeman, "but actually
> contradicts it."

>
> What's more, Freeman found, the greatest disparities between exit
> polls and the official vote count came in Republican strongholds.
> In precincts where Bush received at least eighty percent of the
> vote, the exit polls were off by an average of ten percent. By
> contrast, in precincts where Kerry dominated by eighty percent or
> more, the exit polls were accurate to within three tenths of one
> percent -- a pattern that suggests Republican election officials
> stuffed the ballot box in Bush country.(39)
>

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 18:41:54 -0400

Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Jan Werner <jwerner@JWDP.COM>

Organization: Jan Werner Data Processing

Subject: Re: Watching the Pollsters - WSJ

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To:

<3248A9B21DD5574785FE5E2C8E5216844C17AC@exchange.local.artscience.com>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

The author of this WSJ article at least seems to understand what Howard Kurtz did not, namely that the problem is not the AMA survey per se, but rather the manner in which the results were reported, for which both the AMA and an ignorant press must seemingly share the blame.

The fact that the AMA survey was conducted from a sample drawn from a self-selected panel tells us only that one cannot determine the probability of the results being representative of the general population. In the absence of other information, we cannot make any other judgment about those results and certainly not that they are wrong or biased, although in this case, the AMA's lack of full disclosure certainly does not enhance its credibility.

The idea that only a survey obtained from a random sample is "scientific" is incorrect because it is based on two false assumptions:

1) that sampling error is the only error, and 2) that if one cannot compute the sampling error, the sample must be biased. There is no statistical justification for either.

There are many survey situations where it is not possible to obtain a proper probability sample, and others where the expense cannot be justified. That doesn't mean that the results of such surveys are incorrect, but rather that any important findings should be followed up rigorously in order to be confirmed or refuted. This is certainly true of a substantial proportion of surveys conducted in medical research, Economics and other fields that arguably have a greater claim to be called "scientific" than do social or political research.

The proper approach to non-probability surveys is explain that, because of the methodology used, further research may be required to verify the results. But refusal to report on non-probability surveys is just as deleterious as the use of a phony "margin of error" to justify reporting on them, and AAPOR will not enhance its reputation if it takes the easy route of providing simplistic litmus tests for the intellectually lazy.

Jan Werner

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> THE NUMBERS GUY
> By CARL BIALIK
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> [BecKKQCojJ2bz1f7Cjw_20060630.html](http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB114910775055167791-HtZIN3Fm)
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Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 21:11:17 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the Pollsters - WSJ
Comments: To: jwerner@jwdp.com, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <447F6D32.80201@jwdp.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

The trouble with Jan's argument about the proper reporting of statistically biased non-probability samples is that after the disclaimer all the discussion and analysis fails to take into account the substance of the disclaimer. I think this makes the disclaimer worthless. The only way to deal with such surveys is not to do any commentary about them. Or better yet, don't report them at all. And still better, don't bother doing them. Hiding behind a meaningless disclaimer is much worse than reporting a probability sample that has nonresponse which MAY introduce a bias.
warren mitofsky

At 06:41 PM 6/1/2006, Jan Werner wrote:

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>>BeckKKQCojJ2bz1f7Cjw_20060630.html

>>or
>><http://tinyurl.com/ole5e>

>>
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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

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Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 21:50:46 -0700
Reply-To: marc sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: marc sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Subject: Re: In Response to: Sex, Booze & Surveys: Journos Gone Wild
Comments: To: "Gilfeather, John" <John.Gilfeather@gfk.com>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset=iso-8859-1; reply-type=original
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

John,

Thanks for your link. The CASRO Ethics statement is excellent and contains the possibility of people doing what I advocated. As you may know I'm (and Retro Poll is) a bit of an outsider in survey research and I know little about CASRO. The problem, having read the pertinent sections of the Ethics statement is that it is not fully adhered to. How many organizations will tell you who paid for/sponsored a particular poll if you call up and ask them unless it is an academic source or you are a colleague? We've tried that (some years back) and were told it was proprietary information. Likewise I would be certainly surprised if the prior review of media presentations of poll results is commonly performed. The ethics statement wording--in my interpretation--suggests these follow through efforts are almost a requirement. So instead of my suggestion that AAPOR consider such a policy, I think I should amend that notion to the suggestion that a discussion be encouraged as to why this ethics statement is often not strictly adhered to; and what might be done to encourage a change in that situation.

Marc

----- Original Message -----

From: "Gilfeather, John" <John.Gilfeather@gfk.com>

To: "Marc Sapir" <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 2:16 PM

Subject: RE: In Response to: Sex, Booze & Surveys: Journos Gone Wild

> Mark,

>

> Please refer to the CASRO Code of Ethical Standards, which discusses in

> some

> detail the research firm's responsibilities to the public. Go to

> www.casro.org.

>

> John

>

>

> John Gilfeather

> Vice Chairman

> Roper Public Affairs, GfK NOP

> 75 Ninth Avenue

> New York, NY 10011

> T: (212) 240-5327

> F: (212) 240-5353

> john.gilfeather@gfk.com

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Marc Sapir [mailto:marcsapir@COMCAST.NET]

> Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 2:55 PM

> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

> Subject: Re: In Response to: Sex, Booze & Surveys: Journos Gone Wild

>

> I think Melissa Marcello makes an important point that ought to be taken

> up by AAPOR as a wider discussion hopefully followed by some action.

> What is the responsibility of the researcher for the way her/his/their

> research is used by the major media? Even if there is no direct

> fiduciary relationship with any medium or the media in general can it be

> said that opinion researchers stand independent of how their work is

> used? Since everyone holds press conferences and puts out releases and

> writes articles that we do want published and publicized, it seems to me

> there is not a simple answer to those questions. Might AAPOR and its

> members potentially agree as a whole to standardize some right of review

> and brief rejoinder comment for representations of their work (say

> articles where half or more is about a specific poll just for arguments

> sake)? There is, of course, the slippery slope of censorship. But

> right of review and comment is not censorial. No one is likely to

> impose such a burden unless everyone else did too, for fear of reducing

> their coverage. But maybe researchers do have a responsibility for how

> their work is used. Comments?

>

> Marc Sapir MD, MPH

> Executive Director

> Retro Poll

> www.retropoll.org

>

>

>

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Melissa Marcello
> Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 5:45 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: In Response to: Sex, Booze & Surveys: Journos Gone Wild

>
> Dear All:

>
> We recently conducted a national opinion poll that received considerable
> media attention, as did the AMA "survey." I was heartened that
> producers
> and reporters at ABC News and AP asked good, substantive questions about
> the
> methodology. In fact, ABC News wanted considerable written detail about
> the
> methodology before reporting the poll on its Website or during
> newscasts.

>
> That said, several news outlets seemed to misreport, or maybe even
> twist,
> the results to fit their own agendas. Some asked no questions about
> methodology whatsoever, nor did they report anything about it. Heck, a
> few
> did not even give us the credit for the survey which leads me to a
> question.

>
> Are journalists required to give credit to the polling organization for
> a
> poll they conducted, much like they must do to photographers for a
> picture
> that appears in the paper? For example, Time Magazine, used a stat from
> our
> poll in their "Numbers" column, but cited AP rather than our company.
> What
> are your experiences with these things?

>
>
> Melissa Marcello
> Pursuant, Inc.
> 2141 P Street NW
> Suite 105
> Washington, DC 20037
> p 202.887.0070
> f 800.567.1723
> c 202.352.7462

>
> Visit our website at www.pursuantresearch.com
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>
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Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 09:24:41 -0700
Reply-To: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>
Subject: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Something that has baffled me since leaving academia is how to present regression results to a non-statistical audience. Coefficients obviously don't work. Over the years I have experimented with various graphics, for example, a bar chart with the OLS beta coefficient values, but what I find to be clearest to these clients is simply writing out bullets of

significant results in every day language. Recently, the analyst I'm working with decided bullets weren't glitzy enough, and put together a chart of pretty bar graphs of the bivariate results. It made no sense whatsoever, and finally the client goes "huh?" (plus she altered the results).

Does anyone have any suggestions that I could use?

thanks
leora

Dr. Leora Lawton
TechSociety Research
"Custom Social Science and Consumer Behavior Research"
2342 Shattuck Avenue PMB 362, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 548-6174; fax (510) 548-6175; cell (510) 928-7572
www.techsociety.com

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=====
Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 10:58:10 -0600
Reply-To: Ron Riley <ron@CHANNELM2.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ron Riley <ron@CHANNELM2.COM>
Subject: Re: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <20060604085930.M73203@synergy.transbay.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hi Leora,

A pie chart, displaying the proportional impact of your selected independent variables upon the dependent variable will convey to a non-statistical audience what variables matter, and by roughly how much.

Step 1: Display the unexplained variance (e.g. if the final, stable, diagnostically validated model explains .70 (i.e. the SMR), then unexplained variance =.30, or 30%) in the FIRST pie slice.

Step 2: Next, to determine proportions/size for the REMAINING pie slices (this is easier than it may first appear):

a) sum the coefficients of the independent variables that survived in the final model (e.g. $VAR_1 = .40 + VAR_2 = .30 + VAR_3 = .25 + VAR_4 = .07$ sums to 1.02, right?)

b) Next, divide each coefficient into this sum (e.g. for VAR_4, $.07 / 1.02 = 7\%$, right?)

c) Lastly determine what proportion of the explained variance (in this example, .70, above, right?) is comprised by this amount (7%, right?). To stay with this example, VAR_4 explains about 10% of the impact upon the dependent variable.

Consider leaving off the percentage labels so as to avoid conveying precision that (given the vagaries of sampling error, non-sampling error, and the analyst's subjective judgment about which variables to include in/exclude from the final model) usually does not exist.

Hope this helps.

Best,
Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Leora Lawton
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2006 10:25 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: graphical presentation of regression results

Something that has baffled me since leaving academia is how to present regression results to a non-statistical audience. Coefficients obviously don't work. Over the years I have experimented with various graphics, for example, a bar chart with the OLS beta coefficient values, but what I find to be clearest to these clients is simply writing out bullets of significant results in every day language. Recently, the analyst I'm working with decided bullets weren't glitzy enough, and put together a chart of pretty bar graphs of the bivariate results. It made no sense whatsoever, and finally the client goes "huh?" (plus she altered the results).

Does anyone have any suggestions that I could use?

thanks
leora

Dr. Leora Lawton
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Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 11:11:47 -0600
Reply-To: Ron Riley <ron@CHANNELM2.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ron Riley <ron@CHANNELM2.COM>
Subject: Re: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Correction (I typed too fast and thought too slow):

To stay with this example, below, VAR_4 would comprise 5% (not 10%, as I wrongly calculated, below) of the impact upon the dependent variable. See why?

The coefficient (.07) divided into the sum total of all coefficients (1.02) does, indeed, equal about 7%. But 7% multiplied by 70% (that is explained by this model) = about 5% (4.9%, but, again, to avoid the impression of precision, it is rounded off).

Best,
Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Riley [<mailto:ron@channelm2.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2006 10:58 AM
To: 'Leora Lawton'; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: graphical presentation of regression results

Hi Leora,

A pie chart, displaying the proportional impact of your selected independent variables upon the dependent variable will convey to a non-statistical audience what variables matter, and by roughly how much.

Step 1: Display the unexplained variance (e.g. if the final, stable, diagnostically validated model explains .70 (i.e. the SMR), then unexplained variance =.30, or 30%) in the FIRST pie slice.

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to 1.02, right?)

b) Next, divide each coefficient into this sum (e.g. for VAR_4, $.07 / 1.02 = 7\%$, right?)

c) Lastly determine what proportion of the explained variance (in this example, .70, above, right?) is comprised by this amount (7%, right?). To stay with this example, VAR_4 explains about 10% of the impact upon the dependent variable.

Consider leaving off the percentage labels so as to avoid conveying precision that (given the vagaries of sampling error, non-sampling error, and the analyst's subjective judgment about which variables to include in/exclude from the final model) usually does not exist.

Hope this helps.

Best,
Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Leora Lawton

Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2006 10:25 AM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: graphical presentation of regression results

Something that has baffled me since leaving academia is how to present regression results to a non-statistical audience. Coefficients obviously don't work. Over the years I have experimented with various graphics, for example, a bar chart with the OLS beta coefficient values, but what I find to be clearest to these clients is simply writing out bullets of significant results in every day language. Recently, the analyst I'm working with decided bullets weren't glitzy enough, and put together a chart of pretty bar graphs of the bivariate results. It made no sense whatsoever, and finally the client goes "huh?" (plus she altered the results).

Does anyone have any suggestions that I could use?

thanks
leora

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Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 13:34:22 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Subject: FW: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Dear All:

I just want to point everyone to Edward Tufte's website and his moderated forum Ask E.T.

I am sure that many of this readers and posters would have some insight about this topic.

Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY Chair Elect, Queens
College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
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Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 13:36:06 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Subject: Re: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Sorry forgot to paste the weblink,

<http://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/>

If you have not been to one of Tufte's presentations, you could do it.

Andy Beveridge

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Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 15:49:04 -0400
Reply-To: Susan Carol Losh <slosh@GARNET.ACNS.FSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Susan Carol Losh <slosh@GARNET.ACNS.FSU.EDU>
Subject: graphical presentation of regression results
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed

I am a big fan of presenting adjusted mean scores on a dependent variable by a particular independent variable using Multiple Classification Analysis, a venerable but helpful presentation tool. You can find MCA under the standard ANOVA option in SPSS. (It's also available in the online DAS package.) MCA does require that (a) you transform your independent variables into a limited number of categories, which works for some with limited values but not as well as for others, such as age in years and (b) the program does not take interaction among factors into account. That said, most laypersons with a college degree find a graph presenting the adjusted effects of an independent variable upon a numeric mean score easy to understand, even if they don't know the stats that produce the graph.

Hope that's useful!

Susan

--

Susan Carol Losh, PhD
American Statistical Association-NSF Research Fellow
Program Leader, Learning and Cognition
Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems
Florida State University
Tallahassee FL 32306-4453

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visit the site:
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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 03:41:01 -0400
Reply-To: Angela Aidala <aaa1@COLUMBIA.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Angela Aidala <aaa1@COLUMBIA.EDU>
Subject: Housing and HIV/AIDS Call for Papers - Deadlines Extended
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Note: Papers on methodological challenges of survey based research among homeless, HIV positive and/or at risk populations welcome.

A. Aidala

AIDS and Behavior Special Supplement Issue on Housing and HIV/AIDS

AIDS and Behavior seeks submissions for a special supplement issue of the journal on the role of housing with regard to prevention, consequences, social impact, and response to HIV/AIDS. The goal of the special issue is to bring together state-of-the-art research on housing, homelessness, and HIV, and analyses of program and policy implications of research findings.

Extended deadline for manuscript submissions: August 1, 2006

Topics of interest:

Epidemiology of homelessness and HIV

Housing status and HIV drug and sex risk behaviors
Housing/homelessness and HIV treatment and care
Evaluation of housing based interventions
Systematic literature reviews
Policy-oriented papers

For questions about the issue please contact Special Editor, Angela Aidala, PhD, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, at 212.305.7023 or aaa1@columbia.edu <<mailto:aaa1@columbia.edu>>.

Further can be obtained by visiting:
Springer Publishing Call for Papers

<http://www.springer.com/cda/content/document/cda_downloaddocument/CFP_10461_310506.pdf?SGWID=0-0-45-284892-p35538888>

National AIDS Housing Coalition Call for Papers
<<http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/PDF/SummitIISavetheDate.pdf>>

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 09:42:14 -0400
Reply-To: JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM>
Subject: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I think the server was down Friday and over the weekend; glad it's up again.
My response to the posts about the utility of non-scientific polls:

You know, this seems a little troubling. This logic suggests I would conduct non-probability surveys for clients, but tell them if they wanted to be sure of the important findings, we should do more rigorous research to follow up? That means, we don't know whether or not to trust the findings of the non-probability research. Well, that's true before we ever did the study. What kinds of clients would pay for the first study if they knew they could not trust the findings, just in case anything "important" arose in the data? JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; otherwise, contact _JASelzer@SelzerCo.com (mailto:_JASelzer@SelzerCo.com) .

>In a message dated 6/1/2006 5:47:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time,
>jwerner@JWDP.COM writes:

>The author of this WSJ article at least seems to understand what Howard
>Kurtz did not, namely that the problem is not the AMA survey per se, but
>rather the manner in which the results were reported, for which both the
>AMA and an ignorant press must seemingly share the blame.

>
>The fact that the AMA survey was conducted from a sample drawn from a
>self-selected panel tells us only that one cannot determine the
>probability of the results being representative of the general
>population. In the absence of other information, we cannot make any
>other judgment about those results and certainly not that they are wrong
>or biased, although in this case, the AMA's lack of full disclosure
>certainly does not enhance its credibility.

>
>The idea that only a survey obtained from a random sample is
>"scientific" is incorrect because it is based on two false assumptions:
>1) that sampling error is the only error, and 2) that if one cannot
>compute the sampling error, the sample must be biased. There is no
>statistical justification for either.

>
>There are many survey situations where it is not possible to obtain a
>proper probability sample, and others where the expense cannot be
>justified. That doesn't mean that the results of such surveys are
>incorrect, but rather that any important findings should be followed up
>rigorously in order to be confirmed or refuted. This is certainly true
>of a substantial proportion of surveys conducted in medical research,
>Economics and other fields that arguably have a greater claim to be
>called "scientific" than do social or political research.

>
>The proper approach to non-probability surveys is explain that, because
>of the methodology used, further research may be required to verify the
>results. But refusal to report on non-probability surveys is just as
>deleterious as the use of a phony "margin of error" to justify reporting
>on them, and AAPOR will not enhance its reputation if it takes the easy
>route of providing simplistic litmus tests for the intellectually lazy.

>
>Jan Werner

>_____

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 09:43:53 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

It seems that we have been down this road before - the issue of self-selecting samples.

Fourteen years ago the issue was call-in polls. I wrote a column then describing both the extent and direction of the bias.

HOW ACCURATE ARE CALL-IN POLLS?

30/March 1992/Illinois Issues

By NICK PANAGAKIS

Broadcasters in increasing numbers are using call-in polls as a means of determining public opinion on current issues. By simply picking up their telephones, audiences register opinions about sending U.S. troops to the Middle East, whether abortion should be legal, even guilt or innocence in a murder trial.

Polling experts have registered their opinion about call-in polls, too. Branding call-in polls as "pseudo polls," they point to likely result bias due to station audience demographics and the cost associated with participation. But more importantly, because the "sample" selects itself, one side of an issue may be more motivated to respond to call-in polls than the other.

News directors have responded with a caveat when reporting call-in poll results: that they were based on "unscientific" samples. Pollsters say this disclaimer is insufficient because the public is likely to be deceived by the large number of call-in responses. Moreover, pollsters say stations would not air a news story when an unreliable source as the only attribution.

On the evening of January 28, results from a CBS News call-in poll helped to resolve the controversy. Immediately following the State of the Union address by President Bush, an hour-long special show invited viewers to call an 800 number to register their views about the economy. At the same time, a random sample of 1,241 adults who had previously been recruited to watch the show, called CBS to answer the same questions. This random sample was weighted (as many samples are) to correct for any bias due to selection, demographics and nonresponse.

A total of 317,500 viewers were successful in phoning the 800 number to register their views. The Chicago Tribune reported that 24.6 million

adults tried to call, which was the largest such response in history and caused one CBS news executive to be "very pleased." To broadcasters the level of audience participation — not reliability — appears to be the measure of success for call-in polls. Pollsters have always argued that on questions of sample and sample size, how is more important to poll reliability than how many.

Call-in poll results were compared on the air with the scientifically selected sample results. We use those results as experimental evidence to prove or disprove the reliability of call-in polls (see the box).

- To the question asking about their personal financial situation now versus four years ago, 54 percent of call-in poll callers said they were worse off, which was 22 percentage points higher than in the random sample. Understandably, people who are worse off are far more likely to reach for their phones to register a complaint about the economy than people with no change in their economic condition.
- When asked if they were worried about the possibility of a job loss in their family in the coming year, 64 percent of those responding to the call-in poll said "yes," which was 16 percentage points higher than in the random sample. Once again, people concerned about a family job loss were far more motivated to respond to the call-in poll about the economy than those who felt secure in their jobs.

Concern about the economy, the subject of the CBS show, is what prompted viewers to reach for their phones. If differences are not as great between the random poll and the call-in poll on questions unrelated to economic concerns, the case becomes even stronger that bias or distortion occurs in the call-in poll.

A question regarding media coverage of economic conditions provides this evidence from the CBS program. This unexpected question resulted in smaller differences between random sample and call-in results. If the subject of the call-in poll had been billed as media coverage, the difference would have been greater on the media question (with call-in respondents more negative), and economic question results would have become more similar.

News directors will probably continue to use call-in polls and to impress both their audiences and their managements with the large numbers who respond. The solution is clear. Broadcasters must now adopt a new caveat for call-in polls: Based on an experiment conducted by CBS News, results can be expected to differ from a scientific sample by as much as plus or minus 27 percentage points!•

Nick Panagakis is president of Market Shares Corporation, a marketing and public opinion research firm headquartered in Mount Prospect. Panagakis, a member of the National Council on Public Polls, is best known for preelection and exit polls conducted for the news media in Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

March 1992/Illinois Issues

Financial situation,
now v. four years ago
Random Call-in
sample poll Difference

Same 44% 17% - 27
Worse 32% 54% + 22
Better 24% 29% + 5

Worried about you/family
member losing a job
Random Call-in
sample poll Difference
Yes 48% 64% + 16
No 52% 36% - 16

Whether media exaggerates
economic conditions
Random Call-in
sample poll Difference
Yes 35% 39% + 4
No 65% 61% - 4
Source: CBS News.

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 11:22:45 -0400
Reply-To: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@EMAIL.UNC.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@EMAIL.UNC.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@aol.com>
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <474.2c8cb81.31b58eb6@aol.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed

Shades of Sam Lubell! Small samples and non-probability samples can have the same function as focus groups. We poke around and look for interesting possibilities. The problem is not doing them, it's overgeneralizing from them. As John Tukey once said, if we don't do exploratory research, confirmatory research will have nothing interesting to confirm.

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Voice: 919 962-4085 Fax: 919 962-1549
Cell: 919 906-3425 URL: www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 11:32:16 -0400
Reply-To: James Ellis <jmellis@VCU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: James Ellis <jmellis@VCU.EDU>
Subject: the current status of mailing labels on surveys
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

We had an interesting question come up the other day. My recollection is that, at one point in time and perhaps even still today, printing names and addresses directly onto envelopes for a mail survey indicated a higher degree of personalization than did using pre-printed mailing labels, and therefore would be more likely to get a better response rate.

The interesting question was: Given that so much junk mail now uses direct-printed addressing, would the use of mailing labels today actually indicate more of a "personalized" mailing because the addressee might think that someone took the time to stick the label onto the envelope? And therefore, would mailing labels actually get a better response rate today than direct-printed envelopes?

Jim Ellis

Virginia Commonwealth University

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 11:47:06 -0400
Reply-To: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Subject: Re: the current status of mailing labels on surveys
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

It's a good question, and I'd appreciate seeing any research as well.

We still strive for the "look" of a personalized letter by using a high-quality white envelope, doing the direct impression in a serif font that is more typical for personal mail than for bulk mail, and--this helps a lot I think--having any code numbers hidden under the return address in 4-point type, rather than on the first line of the mailing address as bulk mailers commonly do.

I think it's all those extra numbers and characters that make something look bulk-maily, whether it is printed directly or onto a label.

Colleen, pleased at having made a new adjective

Colleen K. Porter, M.A.
Research Program Manager (Pain Lab)
University of Florida College of Dentistry
Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science
US Mail: PO Box 103628
FedEx: 1329 SW 16th St. (1329 Bldg.), Ste. 5180
Gainesville, Florida 32610-3628
(352) 273-5979, phone
(352) 273-5985, fax
cporter@dental.ufl.edu

>>> James Ellis <jmellis@VCU.EDU> 06/05/06 11:32 AM >>>
We had an interesting question come up the other day. My recollection is that, at one point in time and perhaps even still today, printing names and addresses directly onto envelopes for a mail survey indicated a higher degree of personalization than did using pre-printed mailing labels, and therefore would be more likely to get a better response rate.

The interesting question was: Given that so much junk mail now uses direct-printed addressing, would the use of mailing labels today actually indicate more of a "personalized" mailing because the addressee might think that someone took the time to stick the label onto the envelope? And therefore, would mailing labels actually get a better response rate today than direct-printed envelopes?

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 12:25:11 -0400
Reply-To: JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM>
Subject: Re: the current status of mailing labels on surveys
Comments: To: jmellis@VCU.EDU, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="ISO-8859-1"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

From a study in 2003.

=20
=20
The response rate was 27% overall=20
=BE 34.9 for envelopes with incentives=20
=BE 19.6 for envelopes without incentives=20
=BE 30.6 for envelopes with names=20
=BE 22.3 for envelopes just addressed to the household=20
=BE 38.3 for envelopes with both a name and an incentive
=20

One demographic is worth noting: =20

A higher proportion of low-income earners respond when their envelopes do =20
not list their household name. This may be because they move more frequent=
ly=20
and so the envelope did not have the WRONG name on it.
=20

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; otherwise,=20
contact JASelzer@SelzerCo.com.

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 13:47:18 -0400

Reply-To: skull@pipa.org

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Steven Kull <skull@PIPA.ORG>

Subject: death penalty questions

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To: <474.2c8cb81.31b58eb6@aol.com>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline "Two in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have on their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting question about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about the death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole]?"

It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death penalty. It is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an acquiescent effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they favor it. Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative option.

Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 11:25:28 -0700

Reply-To: Steve Johnson <stevej@nsdssurvey.org>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Steve Johnson <stevej@NSDSSURVEY.ORG>
Organization: Northwest Survey & Data Services
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: skull@pipa.org, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset=iso-8859-1; reply-type=original
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Several years ago I asked people in Oregon if they favored the death penalty and a majority did. I then asked those who favored the penalty if they would change their position to support for life-in-prison without parole if they could be SURE the person would actually spend their life in prison. A large number changed their position, giving life-in-prison a majority. I also asked everyone how long they thought someone sentenced to life-in-prison would actually spend in prison and the average answer was around 10 years. I talked with the corrections dept. for the state of Oregon, and as you might guess no one sentenced to life-in-prison without parole had ever been released. In fact they were not under the authority of the Parole Board and had no mechanism for release.

Steve Johnson, PhD
President, Northwest Survey & Data Services
Eugene, OR

----- Original Message -----

From: "Steven Kull" <skull@PIPA.ORG>
To: <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 10:47 AM
Subject: death penalty questions

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 13:26:39 -0500
Reply-To: "Newport, Frank" <Frank_Newport@GALLUP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Newport, Frank" <Frank_Newport@GALLUP.COM>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: skull@pipa.org, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.=20

At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars can take them both into account.=20

We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on this important issue.=20

The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on as the most valid.=20

Frank Newport
Editor in Chief
Gallup Poll=20

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: death penalty questions

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Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 13:43:13 -0500

Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <01c701c688c8\$1a4bcd90\$7101a8c0@steve>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Steven

Question wording on the death penalty was pretty heavily discussed about 1999-2000. This same point was made regarding wording.

On AAPOR archives, search for subject "death penalty".

Nick

Steven Kull wrote:

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 12:38:41 -0700

Reply-To: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>

Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Comments: To: Steve Johnson <stevej@nsdssurvey.org>, AAPORNET@asu.edu

Comments: cc: Warren Gold <warren.gold@ucsf.edu>, mickeyhuff@mac.com

In-Reply-To: <004c01c688cd\$6c6bb8b0\$1afea8c0@D7WJHJ91>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

We've asked a question on the death penalty focusing on the issue of whether it can be applied fairly and equally. As you may know there are now over 120 exhonorees nationwide, released from death row after having been sentenced to death and later proven innocent. I think that avoiding that issue misses a big part of the picture, similar to the way that Steve Kull points out not providing a meaningful alternative to the death penalty does. Most Americans will not support the death penalty if they know that it is highly discriminatory and that some people-not so infrequently--are railroaded to the death penalty with little or no evidence they committed any crime at all.

From April 19, 04 and April 05 Retro Polls:

"18. A legal review in California showed 76 system problems in death penalty procedures (similar to 85 problems found in Illinois) that led to unjust convictions. Should other states do as Illinois has done and put a moratorium on executions until unfairness in the application of the death penalty has been addressed?"

55.9% and 56.5% supported a moratorium and thorough review of the death penalty procedures under these circumstances.

Critics often complain we are biasing with such selected information, but the opposite is true. This is the appalling real world situation, while the question about whether or not people abstractly support the death penalty is an overly general one and therefore misrepresents reality.

Marc Sapir MD, MPH

Executive Director

Retro Poll

www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steve Johnson
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 10:25 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Several years ago I asked people in Oregon if they favored the death penalty and a majority did. I then asked those who favored the penalty if they would change their position to support for life-in-prison without parole if they could be SURE the person would actually spend their life in prison.

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Steve Johnson, PhD
President, Northwest Survey & Data Services
Eugene, OR

----- Original Message -----

From: "Steven Kull" <skull@PIPA.ORG>
To: <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 10:47 AM
Subject: death penalty questions

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 15:58:27 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: "Newport, Frank" <Frank_Newport@GALLUP.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for seven
decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question that
provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing how responses

match up with your dichotomous questions.

Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

*Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed

*The death penalty should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders

*Life in prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death penalty

*No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for any reason

Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives

It might also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that

all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and

asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

Research Specialist

Michigan State University

Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

Office for Social Research

321 Berkey Hall

East Lansing, MI 48824

517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.

At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars can take them both into account.

We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on this important issue.

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Frank Newport

Editor in Chief

Gallup Poll

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: death penalty questions

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It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death penalty. It is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an acquiescent effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they favor it. Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative option.

Steven Kull

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 16:51:20 -0400
Reply-To: Sid Groeneman <sid@GROENEMAN.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Sid Groeneman <sid@GROENEMAN.COM>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: skull@PIPA.ORG, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <[01c701c688c8\\$1a4bcd90\\$7101a8c0@steve](mailto:01c701c688c8$1a4bcd90$7101a8c0@steve)>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I agree with Steven that the second question - the one with the two options - is superior to the first. But, am I the only reader who sees some possible ambiguity in this question as well: Better penalty for whom? (Better for society or better for the murderer?)

Sid Groeneman
sid@groeneman.com

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: death penalty questions

Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline "Two in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have on their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting question about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about the death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole]?"

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Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 17:03:28 -0400
Reply-To: Jonathan Schnyer <schnyer@VIRGINIA.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Schnyer <schnyer@VIRGINIA.EDU>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: Sid Groeneman <sid@GROENEMAN.COM>
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <200606052051.k55KpTF17788@groeneman.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I agree partially, with this exception: I think the word "absolutely" adds an element of bias in favor the second response. It is a strong word, and in my judgment may sway opinion in favor of life without parole.

Sid Groeneman wrote:

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> - is superior to the first. But, am I the only reader who sees some
> possible ambiguity in this question as well: Better penalty for whom?
> (Better for society or better for the murderer?)
>
> Sid Groeneman
> sid@groeneman.com
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: death penalty questions
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> Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have on their
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> Steven Kull

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 17:24:50 -0400
Reply-To: skull@pipa.org
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Steven Kull <skull@PIPA.ORG>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>,
AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E16@ssc.msu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein, if convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with or without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the death penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of the most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death penalty is the best characterization.

I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play in crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think we need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more balanced question is probably more appropriate.

For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other countries see:

http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra/197.php?mid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr

Steven Kull

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing how responses match up with your dichotomous questions.

Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

*Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed

*The death penalty should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders

*Life in prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death penalty

*No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for any reason

Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives

It might also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are

keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.

At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars can take them both into account.

We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on this important issue.

The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on as the most valid.

Frank Newport
Editor in Chief
Gallup Poll

-----Original Message-----

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Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: death penalty questions

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Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 20:48:25 -0400
Reply-To: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
Content-transfer-encoding: base64

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OTU2IDUzJQ0KMTk1NyA0NyUNCjE5NjAgNTMIDQoxOTY1IDQ1JQ0KMTk2NiA0MiUNCjE5NjcgNTQ1
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ICAiRmF2b3liIGdvdCBhYm91dCA3MCUtNzUIIG9mIHRoZSByZXN1bHRzLg0KIA0KVghpcyBpcyBu
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ZGUgYW4gaW52YWx1YWJsZSB0aW1lIHNlcmlscy4gIEtlZXAgXQgdXAsIEZyYW5rISAgDQogDQpB
bmQgaXQgZG9lcyBsb29rIHRvIG1lIHRoYXQgYWJvdXQgMi8zIG9mIHRoZSBwb3B1bGF0aW9uIGZh
dm9ycyB0aGUgZGVhdGgGeGVuYWx0eSBmb3IgcGVyc29ucyBjb252aWN0ZWQgb2YgbXVyZGVyLCBh
cyBmYXlIYmFjayBhcyAxOTc2LiAgQW4gaW50ZXJlc3RpbmcgcXVlc3Rpb24gaXMgd2hhdCBhY2Nv
dW50ZWQgZm9yIHRoZSBkb3dud2FyZCB0cmVucyZCBzZWVulGluIDE5NTMtMTk3NiwgZm9yIGFuIG9w
aW5pb24gbWVhc3VyZSB0aGF0IGhscyBzaW5jZSBiZWVulHJlbnRvYXN1bG90K

Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 21:21:34 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <D5E378A9E781D44482EFB50B5A836CFF67234F@EXCHANGE.B.mgmt.ad.uconn.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Richard,
I really like trend questions as I believe surveys are much better at measuring change than level. However, a bad trend question needs to be replaced by a better question as soon as possible to start a new series of trend measurements.

This is a generalization and not a reflection on the Gallup question. Also, there is nothing wrong with a new question being asked along with the old question for a few surveys. I just would not leave aaporneters with the idea of continuing a bad question even if it is part of a trend. That is the trouble with some of the NES trend questions. They are irrelevant, trend or no trend.
warren

At 08:48 PM 6/5/2006, you wrote:
>Philip Converse once remarked "It is better to ask a bad question 20
>times than to ask 20 different question," or something to that effect.
>

>Almost no polling question can easily be demonstrated to have
>superior external validity over another question on the same
>topic. The chief exception is pre-election polling, where we do
>have external validation.

>
>What usually matters more is not the absolute proportion of a
>population that responds in a category but instead the trend in that
>proportion. Without repeated questions, it is much harder or
>impossible to measure trends.

>
>According to the Roper Center's iPOLL database, the proportions
>answering "Yes" to the Gallup Poll question "ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE
>DEATH PENALTY FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF MURDER?" have been:

>:

>1953 64%
>1956 53%
>1957 47%
>1960 53%
>1965 45%
>1966 42%
>1967 54%
>1969 51%
>1971 49%
>1972 50%
>1972 57%
>1976 66%
>1978 62%
>1981 66%
>1985 72%
>1991 76%
>1994 80%
>1995 77%
>1999 71%
>2000 66%
>2000 66%
>2000 67%
>2001 67%
>2001 65%
>2001 68%
>2002 72%
>2002 70%
>2003 74%
>2003 70%
>2004 71%
>2005 74%
>2005 64%

>
>In addition to these 30-odd administrations of the same question,
>Gallup asked a variant "Do you favor or oppose", mostly during
>the 1980s. "Favor" got about 70%-75% of the results.

>
>This is not to say that the Gallup question is a "bad
>question." That was not Phil's point. What Gallup has done is
>provide an invaluable time series. Keep it up, Frank!

>
>And it does look to me that about 2/3 of the population favors the
>death penalty for persons convicted of murder, as far back as
>1976. An interesting question is what accounted for the downward
>trend seen in 1953-1976, for an opinion measure that has since been
>remarkably stable.

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Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 23:57:04 -0400
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@JWDP.COM>
Organization: Jan Werner Data Processing
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <474.2c8cb81.31b58eb6@aol.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

This is a specious argument.

What distinguishes a bad survey from a good one is not the nature of the sample, but the attention paid to avoiding bias, whether from sampling or from other sources. Given the choice, one would always prefer a probability sample over a non-probability sample because it eliminates one particular component of bias, but it is often not possible to do so or it would be too costly to allow for any research at all.

Selecting a probability sample requires defining a sampling frame, which means specifying and enumerating the target population. This in turn means that one cannot obtain true probability samples of, say, gay men, women with a BRCA1 gene mutation, or runaway teenagers, all of which are subjects of surveys that have a far greater claim on being "scientific" than do most media polls.

For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that CR says is a lemon?

Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it may be the least important error component. If you don't explain that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and discounting your own contribution.

Jan Werner

J. Ann Selzer wrote:

> I think the server was down Friday and over the weekend; glad it's up again.

> My response to the posts about the utility of non-scientific polls:

>

> You know, this seems a little troubling. This logic suggests I would
> conduct non-probability surveys for clients, but tell them if they wanted to be

> sure of the important findings, we should do more rigorous research to follow

> up? That means, we don't know whether or not to trust the findings of the
> non-probability research. Well, that's true before we ever did the study.

What

> kinds of clients

> would pay for the first study if they knew they could not trust the
> findings, just in case anything "important" arose in the data? JAS

>

>

> J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.

> Selzer & Company, Inc.

> Des Moines, Iowa 50312

> 515.271.5700

>

> visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

>

> E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; otherwise,
> contact _JASelzer@SelzerCo.com (mailto:_JASelzer@SelzerCo.com).

>

>> In a message dated 6/1/2006 5:47:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time,

>> jwerner@JWDP.COM writes:

>> The author of this WSJ article at least seems to understand what Howard
>> Kurtz did not, namely that the problem is not the AMA survey per se, but
>> rather the manner in which the results were reported, for which both the
>> AMA and an ignorant press must seemingly share the blame.

>>

>> The fact that the AMA survey was conducted from a sample drawn from a
>> self-selected panel tells us only that one cannot determine the
>> probability of the results being representative of the general
>> population. In the absence of other information, we cannot make any
>> other judgment about those results and certainly not that they are wrong
>> or biased, although in this case, the AMA's lack of full disclosure
>> certainly does not enhance its credibility.

>>

>> The idea that only a survey obtained from a random sample is
>> "scientific" is incorrect because it is based on two false assumptions:
>> 1) that sampling error is the only error, and 2) that if one cannot
>> compute the sampling error, the sample must be biased. There is no
>> statistical justification for either.

>>

>> There are many survey situations where it is not possible to obtain a
>> proper probability sample, and others where the expense cannot be

>> justified. That doesn't mean that the results of such surveys are
>> incorrect, but rather that any important findings should be followed up
>> rigorously in order to be confirmed or refuted. This is certainly true
>> of a substantial proportion of surveys conducted in medical research,
>> Economics and other fields that arguably have a greater claim to be
>> called "scientific" than do social or political research.

>>
>> The proper approach to non-probability surveys is explain that, because
>> of the methodology used, further research may be required to verify the
>> results. But refusal to report on non-probability surveys is just as
>> deleterious as the use of a phony "margin of error" to justify reporting
>> on them, and AAPOR will not enhance its reputation if it takes the easy
>> route of providing simplistic litmus tests for the intellectually lazy.

>>
>> Jan Werner

>> _____

>
> -----

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=====

Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 23:07:07 -0400
Reply-To: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@JPMURPHY.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@JPMURPHY.COM>
Subject: Capital Punishment Question
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

"Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of =
murder?"=20

I think it makes more sense to ask people if they are in favor of, or =
opposed to, capital punishment for the most serious types of crimes. Or =
for any type of crime. That places the focus on the prospect of the =
state taking a life, rather than on whether something is a "good" =
punishment. What type of murder? Premeditated first degree murder? =
Murder with aggravated circumstances (or whatever they call it). Second =
degree murder? Third degree murder? (Just because you always get an =
answer doesn't mean the question is good.) The issue is whether this =
extreme sanction should or should not be something our laws permit to =
happen. The Gallup question defines the issue as what should happen to a =

hypothetical murderer, and away from an opinion about capital =
punishment. Maybe one opposes the death penalty for "murder" but finds =
it acceptable for treason. S.G. raises a good point: Good for whom? And =
so does M.S. with reference to men falsely convicted but killed anyhow. =
Where do we learn what knowledge or assumptions respondents have about =
the validity of the conviction? Gallup's phrasing takes one in the =
direction of an eye for an eye (Hey, he killed somebody, so kill him) =
when a more mature inquiry would address the topic at a higher =
conceptual level.

I like Nat's Guttman scale. We need more stuff like that instead of =
lazy, almost meaningless "1 to 10's." (Not faulting Gallup on that, =
obviously.)

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(610) 408-8800
www.jpmmurphy.com
jpmmurphy@jpmmurphy.com

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 10:42:37 +0100
Reply-To: Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions - nit picking
Comments: To: Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

>-----Original=20Message-----

>From:=20AAPORNET=20[mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu]=20On=20Behalf=20Of=20Ehrlich=

,
Nathaniel

>Sent:=2005=20June=202006=2020:58

>To:=20AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject:=20Re:=20death=20penalty=20questions

>

>I=20can=20understand=20the=20desire=20to=20continue=20asking=20the=20same=
=20question=20for

seven

>It=20might=20also=20be=20worthwhile=20to=20mention,=20after=20asking=20th=

e=20first=20time,

that

>all=20of=20Europe=20and=20Great=20Britain=20have=20now=20abolished=20the=20=
death=20penalty,

and

>asking=20whether=20that=20fact=20would=20change=20the=20respondent's=20vi=
ew.

>

>Nat=20Ehrlich,=20Ph.D.

>Research=20Specialist

>Michigan=20State=20University

>Institute=20for=20Public=20Policy=20and=20Social=20Research

>Office=20for=20Social=20Research

>321=20Berkey=20Hall

>East=20Lansing,=20MI=2048824

>517-353-2639

>

Since=20when=20was=20the=20UK=20not=20part=20of=20Europe?=20And=20while=20=
this=20may=20be=20true=20of
all=20countries=20in=20the=20European=20Union,=20I'm=20not=20sure=20that=20=
it=20applies=20to=20all
countries=20west=20of=20the=20Urals=20(conventional=20definition=20of=20'E=
urope').

Actually=20addressing=20the=20substantive=20part=20of=20the=20post,=20I'd=20=
say=20that=20it
would=20be=20better=20to=20say=20'Many=20countries=20world=20wide,=20such=20=
as=20all=20of=20those
in=20the=20European=20Union,=20abolished=20the=20death=20penalty=20for=20a=
ny=20crimes=20more
than=2030=20years=20ago.=20In=20the=20light=20of=20this=20do=20you=20think=
=20the=20relevant
authorities=20in=20the=20United=20States=20should=20think=20about=20abolis=
hing=20the=20death
penalty?'=20Or=20some=20such.

Iain=20Noble

This=20email=20and=20any=20files=20transmitted=20with=20it=20are=20confide=
ntial=20and
intended=20solely=20for=20the=20use=20of=20the=20individual=20or=20entity=20=
to=20whom=20they
are=20addressed.=20If=20you=20have=20received=20this=20email=20in=20error=20=
please=20notify
the=20system=20manager.

This=20footnote=20also=20confirms=20that=20this=20email=20message=20has=20=
been=20swept=20by
MIMESweeper=20for=20the=20presence=20of=20computer=20viruses.

www.mimesweeper.com

The=20original=20of=20this=20email=20was=20scanned=20for=20viruses=20by=20=

Government=20Secure=20Intranet=20(GSi)=20=20virus=20scanning=20service=20s=
upplied=20exclusively=20by=20Cable=20&=20Wireless=20in=20partnership=20wit=
h=20MessageLabs.
On=20leaving=20the=20GSI=20this=20email=20was=20certified=20virus=20free.
The=20MessageLabs=20Anti=20Virus=20Service=20is=20the=20first=20managed=20=
service=20to=20achieve=20the=20CSIA=20Claims=20Tested=20Mark=20(CCTM=20Cer=
tificate=20Number=202006/04/0007),=20the=20UK=20Government=20quality=20mar=
k=20initiative=20for=20information=20security=20products=20and=20services.=
=20=20For=20more=20information=20about=20this=20please=20visit=20www.cctma=
rk.gov.uk

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 13:42:17 +0300
Reply-To: onur akay <onurshark@GMAIL.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: onur akay <onurshark@GMAIL.COM>
Subject: help
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

Is there anyone who can help me in writing my essay? My topic is to show evidences in the historical background of sexual references on poetry from Shakespeare to Marvell. What did affected their use of sexual innuendoes?

--
ONUR AKAY LOVES YOU ALL!

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 07:03:42 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: jwerner@jwdp.com, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <4484FD10.1030405@jwdp.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

The answer to Jan's first question is YES. I dismiss the Consumer Reports reliability survey and the Conference Board's survey as junk. The CR reliability survey diminishes its claim of valid research on products.

I think his dismissal of sampling error as an important component of survey error is a mistake. The underlying assumption in his statement is that bias is a much larger component of total error than random error. In any carefully done survey that is not necessarily true. Furthermore, the bias component due to nonsampling causes also is part of any of the non-probability samples that he seems to prefer.

So what is left. The only remaining component of error in the probability samples is nonresponse error. What we don't always know is how much of the nonresponse error is random error and how much is bias. It seems to me Jan is acting as though nonresponse is all bias. (Correct me if this is not your assumption.) The large random nature of nonresponse has been demonstrated many times. The pre-election polls have demonstrated this. The Pew studies on long and short time surveys have demonstrated this. The Census Bureau's Response Variance Studies have demonstrated this, as have other studies. These studies have identified rather small biases compared to the random components.

So I ask Jan and others why they prefer the bias of self selected samples as compared to the nonresponse of well done probability samples? The argument, for me, favors probability sampling. And that includes reporting the major component of error -- the sampling error.

warren mitofsky

At 11:57 PM 6/5/2006, Jan Werner wrote:

>For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor
>the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from
>probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their
>results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that
>CR says is a lemon?

>
>Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be
>computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey
>more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it
>may be the least important error component. If you don't explain
>that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and
>discounting your own contribution.

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=====

Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 06:58:43 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions
Comments: To: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

I'll plead ignorance as to who Philip Converse is, or was. But I'll paraphrase Gertrude Stein to answer "A bad question is a bad question is a bad question". Repeating it doesn't make it a good one. And I think we would all agree that some questions - the classic being the double-barrelled question, e.g. "is this post helpful and timely?" are bad in that no response gives us unequivocal information.

If the respondent answers "Yes" to the question "ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF MURDER?" there is room for equivocation in the interpretation: some persons convicted of murder? All persons so convicted? Yes, but I would also consider other penalties? Yes, and also for rape, incest, and lying to pollsters? A person who answers "No" might still favor the death penalty for treason, or terrorism.

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517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Rockwell, Richard
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 8:48 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Philip Converse once remarked "It is better to ask a bad question 20 times than to ask 20 different question," or something to that effect.

Almost no polling question can easily be demonstrated to have superior external validity over another question on the same topic. The chief exception is pre-election polling, where we do have external validation.

What usually matters more is not the absolute proportion of a population that responds in a category but instead the trend in that proportion. Without repeated questions, it is much harder or impossible to measure trends.

According to the Roper Center's iPOLL database, the proportions answering "Yes" to the Gallup Poll question "ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF MURDER?" have been:

:
1953 64%
1956 53%
1957 47%
1960 53%
1965 45%
1966 42%
1967 54%
1969 51%
1971 49%

1972 50%
1972 57%
1976 66%
1978 62%
1981 66%
1985 72%
1991 76%
1994 80%
1995 77%
1999 71%
2000 66%
2000 66%
2000 67%
2001 67%
2001 65%
2001 68%
2002 72%
2002 70%
2003 74%
2003 70%
2004 71%
2005 74%
2005 64%

In addition to these 30-odd administrations of the same question, Gallup asked a variant "Do you favor or oppose", mostly during the 1980s. "Favor" got about 70%-75% of the results.

This is not to say that the Gallup question is a "bad question." That was not Phil's point. What Gallup has done is provide an invaluable time series. Keep it up, Frank!

And it does look to me that about 2/3 of the population favors the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, as far back as 1976. An interesting question is what accounted for the downward trend seen in 1953-1976, for an opinion measure that has since been remarkably stable.

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 07:13:36 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions - nit picking
Comments: To: "Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk" <Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk>,
AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

If you intend to pick nits, then I think it behooves you to be accurate. The following definition is from Wikipedia:

"Great Britain is an island lying off the north-western coast of mainland Europe and to the east of Ireland, comprising the main territory of the United Kingdom. Great Britain is also used as a political term describing the combination of England, Scotland, and Wales, which together comprise the entire island and some outlying islands. Great Britain is also widely, though incorrectly, used as a synonym for the sovereign state properly known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

I used the term Great Britain as the political term, England, Scotland and Wales, not the UK, and distinct from continental Europe.

I used the term "Europe" when I should have said the EU. My error.

As to your wording, I would comment that, here in the former colonies, a finite proportion of our citizens might be ignorant of the fact that the EU includes the UK, so a bit of redundancy would be helpful.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
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East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 5:43 AM
To: Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: death penalty questions - nit picking

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
>Sent: 05 June 2006 20:58
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>
>I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for seven

>It might also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that

>all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and

>asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

>
>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>Research Specialist
>Michigan State University
>Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
>Office for Social Research
>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
>517-353-2639

>

Since when was the UK not part of Europe? And while this may be true of all countries in the European Union, I'm not sure that it applies to all countries west of the Urals (conventional definition of 'Europe').

Actually addressing the substantive part of the post, I'd say that it would be better to say 'Many countries world wide, such as all of those in the European Union, abolished the death penalty for any crimes more than 30 years ago. In the light of this do you think the relevant authorities in the United States should think about abolishing the death penalty?' Or some such.

Iain Noble

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 12:30:44 +0100
Reply-To: worc@MORI.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Robert Worcester <worc@MORI.COM>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions - nit picking
Comments: To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Most people in Britain do not understand the difference between the UK (which includes Northern Ireland) and Great Britain (England, Scotland

and Wales, but not Northern Ireland).

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: 06 June 2006 12:14
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions - nit picking

If you intend to pick nits, then I think it behooves you to be accurate. The following definition is from Wikipedia: "Great Britain is an island lying off the north-western coast of mainland Europe and to the east of Ireland, comprising the main territory of the United Kingdom. Great Britain is also used as a political term describing the combination of England, Scotland, and Wales, which together comprise the entire island and some outlying islands. Great Britain is also widely, though incorrectly, used as a synonym for the sovereign state properly known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland." I used the term Great Britain as the political term, England, Scotland and Wales, not the UK, and distinct from continental Europe. I used the term "Europe" when I should have said the EU. My error. As to your wording, I would comment that, here in the former colonies, a finite proportion of our citizens might be ignorant of the fact that the EU includes the UK, so a bit of redundancy would be helpful.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University=20
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:Iain.NOBLE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk]=20
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 5:43 AM
To: Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: death penalty questions - nit picking

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
Nathaniel
>Sent: 05 June 2006 20:58
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>
>I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
seven
>It might also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time,
that
>all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty,
and
>asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

>
>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
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>517-353-2639
>

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Iain Noble

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ntial=20and
intended=20solely=20for=20the=20use=20of=20the=20individual=20or=20entity=20=
to=20whom=20they
are=20addressed.=20If=20you=20have=20received=20this=20email=20in=20error=20=
please=20notify
the=20system=20manager.

This=20footnote=20also=20confirms=20that=20this=20email=20message=20has=20=
been=20swept=20by
MIMESweeper=20for=20the=20presence=20of=20computer=20viruses.

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Government=20Secure=20Intranet=20(GSi)=20=20virus=20scanning=20service=20s=
applied=20exclusively=20by=20Cable=20&=20Wireless=20in=20partnership=20wit=
h=20MessageLabs.
On=20leaving=20the=20GSI=20this=20email=20was=20certified=20virus=20free.
The=20MessageLabs=20Anti=20Virus=20Service=20is=20the=20first=20managed=20=
service=20to=20achieve=20the=20CSIA=20Claims=20Tested=20Mark=20(CCTM=20Cer=
tificate=20Number=202006/04/0007),=20the=20UK=20Government=20quality=20mar=
k=20initiative=20for=20information=20security=20products=20and=20services.=
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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 12:30:10 +0100
Reply-To: Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK>
Subject: Re: death penalty questions - nit picking
Comments: To: Nathaniel.Ehrlich@ssc.msu.edu, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

If=20you're=20going=20to=20call=20in=20authorities=20I=20think=20it=20'beh=
oooves'=20you=20to=20use
something=20a=20little=20more=20reliable=20than=20Wikipedia.=20You=20shoul=
d=20check=20their
entry=20on=20Europe.

But=20as=20you're=20going=20to=20get=20more=20than=20enough=20flak=20for=20=
not=20knowing=20who

Phillip=20Converse=20was=20I=20think=20I'll=20stop=20there.=20Wikipedia=20probably=20thinks
he=20was=20the=20guy=20who=20invented=20the=20basketball=20sneaker.

Iain=20Noble=20
Department=20for=20Education=20and=20Skills=20
Creating=20opportunity,=20releasing=20potential,=20achieving=20excellence=20=

Strategic=20Analysis:=20RM=201=20(YCS=20and=20Next=20Steps=20Study),=20
W606,=20Moorfoot,=20Sheffield,=20S1=204PQ.=20
0114=20259=201180=20
For=20information=20about=20the=20Next=20Steps=20Study=20go=20to
www.dfes.gov.uk/research=20

>-----Original=20Message-----

>From:=20Ehrlich,=20Nathaniel=20[mailto:Nathaniel.Ehrlich@ssc.msu.edu]

>Sent:=2006=20June=202006=2012:14

>To:=20NOBLE,=20Iain;=20Ehrlich,=20Nathaniel;=20AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject:=20RE:=20death=20penalty=20questions=20-=20nit=20picking

>

>If=20you=20intend=20to=20pick=20nits,=20then=20I=20think=20it=20behooves=20=
you=20to=20be
accurate.=20The

>following=20definition=20is=20from=20Wikipedia:

>"Great=20Britain=20is=20an=20island=20lying=20off=20the=20north-western=20=
coast=20of
mainland

>Europe=20and=20to=20the=20east=20of=20Ireland,=20comprising=20the=20main=20=
territory=20of=20the

>United=20Kingdom.=20Great=20Britain=20is=20also=20used=20as=20a=20politic=
al=20term
describing

>the=20combination=20of=20England,=20Scotland,=20and=20Wales,=20which=20to=
gether
comprise=20the

>entire=20island=20and=20some=20outlying=20islands.=20Great=20Britain=20is=
=20also=20widely,

>though=20incorrectly,=20used=20as=20a=20synonym=20for=20the=20sovereign=20=
state=20properly
known

>as=20the=20United=20Kingdom=20of=20Great=20Britain=20and=20Northern=20Ire=
land."

>I=20used=20the=20term=20Great=20Britain=20as=20the=20political=20term,=20=
England,=20Scotland
and

>Wales,=20not=20the=20UK,=20and=20distinct=20from=20continental=20Europe.

>I=20used=20the=20term=20"Europe"=20when=20I=20should=20have=20said=20the=20=
EU.=20My=20error.

>As=20to=20your=20wording,=20I=20would=20comment=20that,=20here=20in=20the=
=20former=20colonies,

a

>finite=20proportion=20of=20our=20citizens=20might=20be=20ignorant=20of=20=
the=20fact=20that

the=20EU
>includes=20the=20UK,=20so=20a=20bit=20of=20redundancy=20would=20be=20help=
ful.
>
>Nat=20Ehrlich,=20Ph.D.
>Research=20Specialist
>Michigan=20State=20University
>Institute=20for=20Public=20Policy=20and=20Social=20Research
>Office=20for=20Social=20Research
>321=20Berkey=20Hall
>East=20Lansing,=20MI=2048824
>517-353-2639
>

This=20email=20and=20any=20files=20transmitted=20with=20it=20are=20confide=
ntial=20and
intended=20solely=20for=20the=20use=20of=20the=20individual=20or=20entity=20=
to=20whom=20they
are=20addressed.=20If=20you=20have=20received=20this=20email=20in=20error=20=
please=20notify
the=20system=20manager.

This=20footnote=20also=20confirms=20that=20this=20email=20message=20has=20=
been=20swept=20by
MIMESweeper=20for=20the=20presence=20of=20computer=20viruses.

www.mimesweeper.com

The=20original=20of=20this=20email=20was=20scanned=20for=20viruses=20by=20=
Government=20Secure=20Intranet=20(GSi)=20=20virus=20scanning=20service=20s=
upplied=20exclusively=20by=20Cable=20&=20Wireless=20in=20partnership=20wit=
h=20MessageLabs.
On=20leaving=20the=20GSI=20this=20email=20was=20certified=20virus=20free.
The=20MessageLabs=20Anti=20Virus=20Service=20is=20the=20first=20managed=20=
service=20to=20achieve=20the=20CSIA=20Claims=20Tested=20Mark=20(CCTM=20Cer=
tificate=20Number=202006/04/0007),=20the=20UK=20Government=20quality=20mar=
k=20initiative=20for=20information=20security=20products=20and=20services.=
=20=20For=20more=20information=20about=20this=20please=20visit=20www.cctma=
rk.gov.uk

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 07:26:56 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>

Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

Warren,

I am in total agreement with all but one sentence of your statement. That sentence is "The ONLY [emphasis added] remaining component of error in the probability samples is nonresponse error."

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Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

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So I ask Jan and others why they prefer the bias of self selected samples as compared to the nonresponse of well done probability samples? The argument, for me, favors probability sampling. And that includes reporting the major component of error -- the sampling error.
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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:10:26 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@ssc.msu.edu>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E1E@ssc.msu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

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>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
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>

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>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:08:47 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew A Beveridge <andy@TROLL.SOC.QC.EDU>
Subject: FW: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew.Beveridge@qc.cuny.edu [mailto:Andrew.Beveridge@qc.cuny.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:33 AM
To: mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: Watching the pollsters

Dear All:

The assumption behind Consumer Reports surveys is that the experience of the products purchased by those who answer them are generally representative of all who purchased the product. One can presume that CR readers are more persnickity consumers than others.

Their reliability surveys do assume a certain number of responses, since they do not report them if they do not have enough valid responses.

But they are not attitude polls, they are more like Quality Assurance analyses, that pull off a line, for instance, some products to see how they are made. In a sense, it does not matter who bought a specific product, since they just want to know if it broke down.

Of course, they have some respondent bias, but it seems likely that it would not matter as much as attitude questions.

It seems to me that, there really is no alternative to reliability surveys,

if one wants that sort of information.

Andy

Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY Chair Elect, Queens
College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
www.socialexplorer.com

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:21:09 -0400
Reply-To: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollster
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

I also tried responding last Friday when the listserv was down.

>>> Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM> 06/01/06 9:11 PM >>>
> The trouble with Jan's argument about the proper reporting of
> statistically biased non-probability samples is that after the
> disclaimer all the discussion and analysis fails to take into account
> the substance of the disclaimer. I think this makes the disclaimer
> worthless. The only way to deal with such surveys is not to do any
> commentary about them. Or better yet, don't report them at all. And
> still better, don't bother doing them.

I think it is important that we not get hung up on the inherent superiority of probability samples to the point of taking on a religious fervor, nor declare every research problem to be a nail just because a hammer is the only tool that we are comfortable wielding.

While Warren has a point regarding political polls designed to predict election outcomes, I had thought Jan was trying to address the issue of survey findings in general. Jan had written,

>> There are many survey situations where it is not possible to obtain a
>> proper probability sample, and others where the expense cannot be
>> justified. That doesn't mean that the results of such surveys are
>> incorrect, but rather that any important findings should be followed
up
>> rigorously in order to be confirmed or refuted. This is certainly
true
>> of a substantial proportion of surveys conducted in medical research,
>> Economics and other fields that arguably have a greater claim to be
>> called "scientific" than do social or political research.

Since Jan introduced the subject of medical research, let me tell you about some work my team did, which found that among chronic pain patients, those with overly solicitous spouses experienced greater pain (reference below). Patients filled out surveys to rate the responsiveness of their spouses and the severity of their pain, disability, and depression. And patients also completed tests of physical function to clinically rate the severity of disability--such as timed walking, lift and carry tests, push and pull tests, and ischemic pain tolerance. (These last are important is that one of the weaknesses of survey research is the subjectivity.)

This sample consisted of patients from a multidisciplinary pain program, who volunteered to be included. A convenience sample, we would say (perhaps with a bit of a sniff).

I don't know if this study is the kind of thing Jan was thinking of when mentioning "medical research," but yeah, most of what we do is pretty nonrandom by the time people volunteer for studies that might involve pain and/or administration of narcotic drugs, and make it through a screening process that rules out common health conditions and medication use.

Surveys are an important component of what we do, because people's perceptions and information about their lives is important.

We still think it has value, and it's analyzed and reported with appropriate caveats. It helps move forward the understanding of pain and eventually helps people in pain get more effective treatment. I'm particularly proud of the work my team has done on highlighting the differences between men and women regarding pain, not just the psychosocial factors as explored in this study, but also differences in response to analgesia.

Should we just throw up our hands and not use the tools at hand, because we don't have the money to do a more probabalistic sample?

So I am just going to ignore the advice to, "don't bother doing them."

Reading some threads on AAPORNET, one might get the impression that the only surveys any of us do are general population probability samples. Going to the AAPOR conference, it's clear that public opinion research

is a much larger umbrella than that.

Getting back to the original topic here, I do think it is not coincidental that this incident involved the AMA. Physicians are accustomed to small convenience samples when doing studies with rare conditions. The difference is that in those cases, a probability sample is impractical if not impossible. However, a study regarding spring break behavior COULD and SHOULD have been done with a sample that could have been more generalizable.

So I don't think anyone is denying that probability samples are preferable. I just recognize that there are situations where a non-probability sample may be the best we can do, and still have value.

Colleen

Colleen K. Porter, M.A.
Research Program Manager (Pain Lab)
University of Florida College of Dentistry
Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science
US Mail: PO Box 103628
FedEx: 1329 SW 16th St. (1329 Bldg.), Ste. 5180
Gainesville, Florida 32610-3628
(352) 273-5979, phone
(352) 273-5985, fax
cporter@dental.ufl.edu

SOURCE: Clinical Journal of Pain. 2003 Jul-Aug;19(4):217-24.
TITLE: Spousal responses are differentially associated with clinical variables in women and men with chronic pain.
AUTHORS: Fillingim RB, Doleys DM, Edwards RR, Lowery D.

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:11:18 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

Warren,

I wasn't arguing, I was agreeing, and I agree with the statements you just made.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
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From: Warren Mitofsky [mailto:mitofsky@mindspring.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 9:10 AM
To: Ehrlich, Nathaniel; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: Watching the pollsters

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=====
Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:52:49 -0400
Reply-To: Allen Barton <allenbarton@mindspring.com>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Allen Barton <allenbarton@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: "Ehrlich,Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Going back to Warren's dismissal of the Consumer Union surveys as junk, isn't the universe which CU wants to represent that of all cars of a given make and model, rather than of all car buyers? Is it plausible that CU members somehow pick the best-made 2006 Taurus Model X's from all those the company manufactures, or do the CU members get a random sample of all those Tauruses? If the latter, why isn't their sample of Taurus Xs (and each other make and model) random?

It might be argued that the population actually sampled is a set of car-owner interactions which produce either higher or lower levels of breakdowns of this or that component. Then if CU members are more educated and more careful drivers and do better maintenance, they might experience better durability than a random sample of drivers for each given make and model, but this would not alone bias comparisons between makes and models.

To get biased comparisons, some makes and models would have to be more vulnerable to "bad owners" than others; this would produce a biased (more favorable) set of durability reports from CU members for those models compared to what a random sample of buyers would experience; their reports of "invulnerable" cars, for which CU members would have no different experience than a random sample of buyers, would be unbiased. As a result the ratings of the "owner-vulnerable" cars would be inflated because CU members are "better

owners" and don't damage them as much as the average slob.

To talk about sample bias we have to first be clear about the universe we are trying to represent. True random sampling of that universe eliminates the need to examine all kinds of plausible and implausible hypotheses about how the actual sample might be biased; but non-random samples may still be defended on the grounds that nobody has come up with a plausible hypothesis on how they may be biased. Given what CU is trying to generalize about (products, not people), is there a plausible hypothesis about how their sample might be biased?

Allen Barton

-----Original Message-----

>From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>

>Sent: Jun 6, 2006 7:26 AM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>

>Warren,

>

>I am in total agreement with all but one sentence of your statement. That
>sentence is "The ONLY [emphasis added] remaining component of error in the
>probability samples is nonresponse error."

>Last week, I sent an answer to Doug Henwood re the 2004 election results.

>Although I had chosen the "reply to all" option the MSU server did not

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>polls and the Ohio vote count, I have yet to see any consideration of the

>possibility that some portion of that discrepancy, which Freeman correctly

>states, could not have been due to chance or random error, could have been

>the result of deliberate misrepresentation of the vote, specifically that

>some respondents who had cast their vote for Bush told the interviewers that

>they had voted for Kerry. In a different Montreal presentation [Correcting

>for Survey Nonresponse], the author, Michael Peress, mentioned 'increasing

>distrust of the media by conservatives'.

>I believe it was Mike Royko who first urged his readers to lie to pollsters,

>and several other influential US and foreign columnists, talk show hosts,

>even political party spokespersons have urged that people lie, for various

>motives. A simple Google search of "lie to pollsters" provides ample

>evidence. In the recent past, I've seen reports of surprising 'turnarounds'

>in elections in Italy [Berlusconi's loss] and Palestine [Hamas' victory].

>Not all have been exit polls. Isn't it possible that some non-negligible

>proportion of voters resent being asked to reveal their secret ballot? And

>consider that lying to a pollster is a way to assert their independence,

>even superiority?

>So, I agree with Freeman's conclusion that the discrepancy was most likely

>due to something other than random error. Freeman postulated two sources of

>non-random error: flawed polling methodology, or a fraudulent vote count. I

>think we should include respondent misrepresentation as a third source, and

>we should also realize that all three sources could be operating

>simultaneously."

>

>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>Research Specialist
>Michigan State University
>Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
>Office for Social Research
>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
>517-353-2639

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
>Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>

>The answer to Jan's first question is YES. I dismiss the Consumer
>Reports reliability survey and the Conference Board's survey as
>junk. The CR reliability survey diminishes its claim of valid
>research on products.

>

>I think his dismissal of sampling error as an important component of
>survey error is a mistake. The underlying assumption in his statement
>is that bias is a much larger component of total error than random
>error. In any carefully done survey that is not necessarily true.
>Furthermore, the bias component due to nonsampling causes also is
>part of any of the non-probability samples that he seems to prefer.

>

>So what is left. The only remaining component of error in the
>probability samples is nonresponse error. What we don't always know
>is how much of the nonresponse error is random error and how much is
>bias. It seems to me Jan is acting as though nonresponse is all bias.
>(Correct me if this is not your assumption.) The large random nature
>of nonresponse has been demonstrated many times. The pre-election
>polls have demonstrated this. The Pew studies on long and short time
>surveys have demonstrated this. The Census Bureau's Response Variance
>Studies have demonstrated this, as have other studies. These studies
>have identified rather small biases compared to the random components.

>

>So I ask Jan and others why they prefer the bias of self selected
>samples as compared to the nonresponse of well done probability
>samples? The argument, for me, favors probability sampling. And that
>includes reporting the major component of error -- the sampling error.
>warren mitofsky

>

>

>At 11:57 PM 6/5/2006, Jan Werner wrote:

>>For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor
>>the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from
>>probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their
>>results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that
>>CR says is a lemon?

>>

>>Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be
>>computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey
>>more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it

>>may be the least important error component. If you don't explain
>>that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and
>>discounting your own contribution.

>
>

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Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 10:15:21 -0400
Reply-To: pd@kerr-downs.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>
Organization: Kerr & Downs Research
Subject: Probability samples vs. non probability samples
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I am always surprised at the emotional tone of some of the discussion about this issue. Is there any meta analysis of what the entire industry is doing these days? My suspicion is that large, government-funded studies are much more likely to use probability samples than commercial and other non-profit studies. Corporate decision makers have a lot at risk when using non probability samples, but often choose them anyway. Government decision makers are mostly not responsible for earning the money used to fund probability studies. Is there a message in this?
I still fumble with an answer to the man-on-the-street question about probability samples in RDD - "With 6%-10% of the population having cell only phones and at least half of the rest screening their calls through answering machines, how good is a probability sample operationalized through RDD?"
90% of my students at FSU (most aged 19-25) have cell only phones. When will we, as a profession, lead the transition to the new gold standard in survey research, and what should it be?

Phillip

Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Kerr & Downs Research

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Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 10:25:53 -0400
Reply-To: James Lee <JLee@FABMAC.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: James Lee <JLee@FABMAC.COM>
Subject: Account Executive Position - Washington, DC Area
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Account Executive:

Alexandria, Virginia based public affairs research firm looking to hire =
Account Executive to handle growing public affairs business. Candidates =
must have at least 5 years of experience in the field of political or =
public affairs opinion research and must be well-versed in all aspects =
of the quantitative and qualitative research process, including original =
client contact, proposal writing, developing discussion guides, =
questionnaires and other research instruments, and presenting finished =
analytical reports to clients. Experience moderating focus groups a =
plus. Must be able to travel frequently to observe focus groups and meet =
with clients. Commissioned sales opportunity possible, although no sales =
are required for position.

The successful candidate for this position will be ultimately =
responsible for project management, strategic counsel and client =
satisfaction. Must be highly organized, adept at managing multiple =
projects simultaneously and meeting project deadlines.

If interested, please contact:
accountexecopening@hotmail.com

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 09:47:27 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E22@ssc.msu.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Nat-

Re: "I believe it was Mike Royko who first urged his readers to lie to pollsters" and the consequences you state of Royko's statement.

The year was 1982. There had been some controversy over so-called early calls by the networks in 1980. As I recall, Carter conceded before the networks called Reagan the winner. Network exit polls showed Carter was doing badly in eastern time zone states.. In October, 1982, Royko called for voters to lie to exit pollsters in his column, the only time he called for such action..

So what were the consequences of Royko's statement at "ground zero"; i.e., Cook County.

None.

In November 1982, I did the Cook County exit poll for the CBS affiliate covering two County races and the Cook County vote for Governor. What was the error on the estimate for each of the three races? One percent. (Available on my web site.)

I admired Mike Royko. However, his call for lying to exit polls has now gained urban legend status. What I describe above was the beginning and end of the entire incident.

Nick

Ehrlich, Nathaniel wrote:

>

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>

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 10:03:58 -0500
Reply-To: Rob Santos <rsantos@NUSTATS.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Rob Santos <rsantos@NUSTATS.COM>
Subject: Re: Probability samples vs. non probability samples

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <005101c68973\$a52e30f0\$6600a8c0@kdr.local>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

The transition from prob. to nonprob. Is already occurring... steadily declining response rates are forcing even the diehard probability sampling statisticians into heavier reliance on models (eg, modeling nonresponse for weighting adjustments, for instance).

Many have heard this before, but probability sampling is founded in classical finite population sampling theory, and this robust, 'model-free' theory provides statistical estimates of population parameters with known expectation (e.g., unbiased or negligible bias) and known sampling error properties. There exists no similarly robust theory for nonprobability samples, which ultimately rely on a model based approach: contingent upon a model based 'guess', statistical estimates behave in predictable ways. There is plenty of theory surrounding the use of model based approaches, but they all require more stringent assumptions than probability sampling theory.

Having said this, the attractiveness of probability sampling is dwindling rapidly due to increasing nonresponse and a corresponding increasing reliance on modeling nonresponders. I'd say the direction we need to go is in developing topic-based empirical models that can be used to support *both* probability and nonprobability designs. This does *not* mean conducting a dual sample survey (with prob. and non-prob components) and comparing results, since that is tantamount to a clinical trial with n = 1 pair. It has to go beyond that with numerous repeated experiments and meta-analyses, in the spirit of the 'scientific method'. It will take time (years) to do this, in my opinion. Finally, I do think it is time to start talking about Bayesian approaches (use of subjective probability). That is where I think the real action will be over the next decade.

Crazy idea -- Development of empirically based models for say issue polling or health behaviors or <insert topic> could actually occur more quickly if some of us in the survey/polling community cooperated in developing the model -- eg, polls of a various prob & nonprob designs could consistently include a few standard Qs and the results could be culled across studies for meta-analyses & model development. Maybe this is a project for the AAPOR Endowment Fund? I know this pie in the sky & needs tons of development, but what the heck -- summer is almost here. It's time to act crazy...

Oops... maybe I should get back to work...

Rob Santos
NuStats
Austin, TX

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Phillip Downs
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 9:15 AM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Probability samples vs. non probability samples

I am always surprised at the emotional tone of some of the discussion about this issue. Is there any meta analysis of what the entire industry is doing these days? My suspicion is that large, government-funded studies are much more likely to use probability samples than commercial and other non-profit studies. Corporate decision makers have a lot at risk when using non probability samples, but often choose them anyway. Government decision makers are mostly not responsible for earning the money used to fund probability studies. Is there a message in this?

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Phillip

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Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

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Date: Tue, 6 Jun 2006 08:13:55 -0700
Reply-To: Trent Buskirk <tbuskirk@ASU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Trent Buskirk <tbuskirk@ASU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: jwerner@jwdp.com, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

There are other probabilistic sample designs for surveying populations =
for which initial frame enumeration is not possible such as adaptive =
sampling designs (see Thompson, Dryver, etc) from which estimates of =
sampling error can be obtained and for which unbiased or minimally =
biased estimators can be derived mathematically.

From: AAPORNET on behalf of Jan Werner
Sent: Mon 6/5/2006 8:57 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

This is a specious argument.

What distinguishes a bad survey from a good one is not the nature of the sample, but the attention paid to avoiding bias, whether from sampling or from other sources. Given the choice, one would always prefer a probability sample over a non-probability sample because it eliminates one particular component of bias, but it is often not possible to do so or it would be too costly to allow for any research at all.

Selecting a probability sample requires defining a sampling frame, which means specifying and enumerating the target population. This in turn means that one cannot obtain true probability samples of, say, gay men, women with a BRCA1 gene mutation, or runaway teenagers, all of which are subjects of surveys that have a far greater claim on being "scientific" than do most media polls.

For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that CR says is a lemon?

Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it may be the least important error component. If you don't explain that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and discounting your own contribution.

Jan Werner

J. Ann Selzer wrote:

> I think the server was down Friday and over the weekend; glad it's up =
again.
> My response to the posts about the utility of non-scientific polls:
>=20
> You know, this seems a little troubling. This logic suggests I would
> conduct non-probability surveys for clients, but tell them if they =
wanted to be
> sure of the important findings, we should do more rigorous research =
to follow
> up? That means, we don't know whether or not to trust the findings =
of the
> non-probability research. Well, that's true before we ever did the =
study. What
> kinds of clients

> would pay for the first study if they knew they could not trust the
> findings, just in case anything "important" arose in the data? JAS
>
>
> J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
> Selzer & Company, Inc.
> Des Moines, Iowa 50312
> 515.271.5700
>
> visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com
>
> E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; =
otherwise,
> contact _JASelzer@SelzerCo.com (mailto:_JASelzer@SelzerCo.com) .
>=20
>> In a message dated 6/1/2006 5:47:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time,
>> jwerner@JWDP.COM writes:
>> The author of this WSJ article at least seems to understand what =
Howard
>> Kurtz did not, namely that the problem is not the AMA survey per se, =
but
>> rather the manner in which the results were reported, for which both =
the
>> AMA and an ignorant press must seemingly share the blame.
>>
>> The fact that the AMA survey was conducted from a sample drawn from =
a
>> self-selected panel tells us only that one cannot determine the
>> probability of the results being representative of the general
>> population. In the absence of other information, we cannot make any
>> other judgment about those results and certainly not that they are =
wrong
>> or biased, although in this case, the AMA's lack of full disclosure
>> certainly does not enhance its credibility.
>>
>> The idea that only a survey obtained from a random sample is
>> "scientific" is incorrect because it is based on two false =
assumptions:
>> 1) that sampling error is the only error, and 2) that if one cannot
>> compute the sampling error, the sample must be biased. There is no
>> statistical justification for either.
>>
>> There are many survey situations where it is not possible to obtain =
a
>> proper probability sample, and others where the expense cannot be
>> justified. That doesn't mean that the results of such surveys are
>> incorrect, but rather that any important findings should be followed =
up
>> rigorously in order to be confirmed or refuted. This is certainly =
true
>> of a substantial proportion of surveys conducted in medical =
research,
>> Economics and other fields that arguably have a greater claim to be
>> called "scientific" than do social or political research.

>>
>> The proper approach to non-probability surveys is explain that, =
because
>> of the methodology used, further research may be required to verify =
the
>> results. But refusal to report on non-probability surveys is just as
>> deleterious as the use of a phony "margin of error" to justify =
reporting
>> on them, and AAPOR will not enhance its reputation if it takes the =
easy
>> route of providing simplistic litmus tests for the intellectually =
lazy.

>>
>> Jan Werner

>> _____
>

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=====

Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 08:44:29 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Reports Reveal Hurricanes' Impact on Human Landscape
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Reports Reveal Hurricanes' Impact on Human Landscape=20
By RICK LYMAN
New York Times
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/07/us/nationalspecial/07census.html>

After the twin barrages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, the City of New Orleans emerged nearly 64 percent smaller, having lost an estimated 278,833 residents, according to the Census Bureau's first study of the area since the storms.

Those who remained in the city were significantly more likely to be white, slightly older and a bit more well-off, the bureau concluded in two reports that were its first effort to measure the social, financial and demographic impact of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

The bureau found that while New Orleans lost about two-thirds of its population, adjacent St. Bernard Parish dropped a full 95 percent, falling to just 3,361 residents by Jan. 1. The surveys do not include the influx in both areas that has occurred this year as more residents begin to rebuild.=20
SNIP

Demographers in the affected states said yesterday that they were skeptical of some of the methodology in the studies, wary of the results and unsure how helpful the reports would be in measuring the human impact of the storms. Steve Murdock, the state demographer of Texas, said the studies underestimated the number of hurricane evacuees in Houston by limiting their measurements to individual households and failing to count people living in hotels, shelters and other group environments.

SNIP

The black population of the New Orleans metropolitan area fell to 21 percent from 36 percent, the bureau found.

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--=20

Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD 21209

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set aapornet nomail

On your return send this: set aapornet mail

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=====
Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 09:35:13 -0400

Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>

Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

Comments: To: Allen Barton <allenbarton@mindspring.com>, AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

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warren mitofsky

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>>From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>

>>Sent: Jun 6, 2006 7:26 AM

>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

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>>sentence is "The ONLY [emphasis added] remaining component of error in the
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>>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>>Research Specialist

>>Michigan State University
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>>321 Berkey Hall
>>East Lansing, MI 48824
>>517-353-2639

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>>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky

>>Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM

>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

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>Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

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Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@ssc.msu.edu>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E28@ssc.msu.edu>
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>>>bias. It seems to me Jan is acting as though nonresponse is all bias.

>>>(Correct me if this is not your assumption.) The large random nature

>>>of nonresponse has been demonstrated many times. The pre-election

>>>polls have demonstrated this. The Pew studies on long and short time

>>>surveys have demonstrated this. The Census Bureau's Response Variance

>>>Studies have demonstrated this, as have other studies. These studies

>>>have identified rather small biases compared to the random components.

>>>

>>>So I ask Jan and others why they prefer the bias of self selected

>>>samples as compared to the nonresponse of well done probability

>>>samples? The argument, for me, favors probability sampling. And that

>>>includes reporting the major component of error -- the sampling error.

>>>warren mitofsky

>>>

>>>

>>>At 11:57 PM 6/5/2006, Jan Werner wrote:

>>>>For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor

>>>>the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from

>>>>probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their

>>>>results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that

>>>>CR says is a lemon?

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>>>>Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be

>>>>computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey

>>>>more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it

>>>>may be the least important error component. If you don't explain

>>>>that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and

>>>>discounting your own contribution.

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>-----

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>>>>

>>>>

>>>Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

>>>Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

>>>>

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>>>>Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 10:24:33 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

Warren,

How is it bad information? Brand X owners and Brand Y owners can be assumed to have equal motivation for responding, regardless of the popularity of the vehicle. One group reports a consistent problem, the other doesn't. We're not talking about establishing an overall rating for the two vehicles. Do you mean to say that, in this situation, you would be just as likely to buy the vehicle with brake problems as the other with no brake problems, and all other rated items being equal for the two cars?

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: Warren Mitofsky [<mailto:mitofsky@mindspring.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 10:25 AM
To: Ehrlich, Nathaniel; AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: RE: Watching the pollsters

Nat,
So your view is that bad information is better than no information. Why not just guess if the quality or reliability of the information is unimportant?
warren mitofsky

At 10:02 AM 6/7/2006, Ehrlich, Nathaniel wrote:

Warren,

A prospective car buyer may not care about the value of the point estimate

of some attribute of the cars that could be developed with a probability sample. But there might be some utility in knowing that Brand X owners report much greater than average frequency of brake problems while the owners of a vehicle Brand Y with similar specs and price do not. All other things being equal, and in the absence of more valid data, that seems to me to be useful information. How could poor sampling account for such a result?

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu> mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 9:35 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

Allen's argument, while intriguing, moves us no closer to an unbiased sample of a universe of all cars (or cars of a particular make). Imagine a list of all cars. Let's assume all are sold. Now there is a one to one correspondence between cars and people in this oversimplified example.

To select an unbiased sample every car must have a non-zero chance of selection. It doesn't matter whether we sample people or cars as the sampling unit. All non-CU subscribers have a chance of selection and neither do their cars.

If non-CU subscribers differ either in their selections of cars or their evaluations then their opinions are not represented. Allen's approach misses all these interactions. Furthermore, he is assuming that the CU survey responders are a random sample of all CU subscribers, an assumption that would be difficult to justify.

Allen's example of better educated, more careful drivers, by definition introduce bias. If we are evaluating cars shouldn't we be doing that under all conditions and not just an elite class of drivers?

warren mitofsky

At 09:52 AM 6/6/2006, Allen Barton wrote:

>Going back to Warren's dismissal of the Consumer Union surveys as
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>might be biased?

>
> Allen Barton

>
>-----Original Message-----

>>From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>

>>Sent: Jun 6, 2006 7:26 AM

>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>>

>>Warren,

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>>I am in total agreement with all but one sentence of your statement. That
>>sentence is "The ONLY [emphasis added] remaining component of error in the
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>>probability samples is nonresponse error."

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>>321 Berkey Hall
>>East Lansing, MI 48824
>>517-353-2639
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>>-----Original Message-----
>>From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu> <mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
>>Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM
>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
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>>The answer to Jan's first question is YES. I dismiss the Consumer
>>Reports reliability survey and the Conference Board's survey as
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>

>

>Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

>Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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=====

Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 10:37:53 -0400

Reply-To: Melissa Riba <mriba@PSCINC.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Melissa Riba <mriba@PSCINC.COM>

Subject: advice sought...

Comments: To: AAPOR@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I am currently engaged in a project that involves surveying a group of licensed professionals to gather work force data. Because of the parameters of the project, we are required to send the survey to the entire universe rather than a sample. The methodology involves primarily a mail survey but respondents are also given the option to complete the survey on-line. Therefore, within this survey we have two different sets of respondents-paper and mail respondents.=20

=20

Here's the problem-we have learned that all of our mail surveys have been inadvertently destroyed before the data was entered. We do have

over 2,000 web responses but are well aware of the inherent bias in such samples. We have no information about the demographics or other characteristics of the universe so we cannot tell definitively how different the web responders may be. Since we have sent the survey to the entire universe, we do not have the option of re-drawing a sample to start over with a fresh group that has never seen the survey. We are considering re-mailing the survey but are concerned that our response rates would be insufficient since many in the sample may have already seen and tossed the survey or filled it out and returned it.=20

=20

Does anyone out there have any advice or experience with this issue (which I think is not hyperbole to call it a 'nightmare')? Any thoughts or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.=20

=20

=20

Melissa Riba

Senior Consultant=20

Evaluation and Survey Research

Public Sector Consultants

=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 09:45:25 -0500

Reply-To: Rob Santos <rsantos@NUSTATS.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Rob Santos <rsantos@NUSTATS.COM>

Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E28@ssc.msu.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1

Content-transfer-encoding: 8bit

I agree with Nate that the CU reports might be useful to shoppers, but it could be misleading too. For instance, if only those owners experiencing a problem are motivated enough to respond, then the results are biased. And then when the CU readers view the published

results, it may well establish an expectation for the subsequent year's round of evaluations... So even if the annual reports are 'consistent' you don't quite know whether it is a matter of saliency (ie, mostly those with a 'beef' are responding) and/or of norming (ie, future responses are tempered by the previous years' reports) or neither.

Having said all that, I remind readers that I remain a CU member and I do consult the reports when shopping. Indeed, that means I find value in the reports, but perhaps with less belief in the numbers than that posed by Nate's example. I take the CU reports with a grain of salt for the reasons stated above and I do not let their failure to 'recommend' stop me from buying something I really like. On the other hand, I stay away from the products they 'blacklist' (ie the ones they formally state 'not recommended')

Rob Santos
NuStats
Austin, TX

Quoting "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>:

> Warren,
>
> A prospective car buyer may not care about the value of the point
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> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
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> 321 Berkey Hall
> East Lansing, MI 48824
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren
> Mitofsky
> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 9:35 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

> Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
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>>>From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
>>>Sent: Jun 6, 2006 7:26 AM
>>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>>Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>>>
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>>>
>> >-----Original Message-----
>> >From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren
> Mitofsky
>> >Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM
>> >To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> >Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
>>>
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>>>>probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for
> their
>>>>results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a
> car that
>>>>CR says is a lemon?
>>>>
>>>>Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can
> be
>>>>computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any
> survey
>>>>more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many
> cases it
>>>>may be the least important error component. If you don't
> explain
>>>>that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and
>>>>discounting your own contribution.

>>>
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>>
>>
>>Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
>>Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 16:13:15 +0100

Reply-To: "Moon, Nick" <nick.moon@GFK.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Moon, Nick" <nick.moon@GFK.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

<<For instance, if only those owners experiencing a problem are motivated enough to respond, then the results are biased.>>

But isn't that the point Allen Barton was making - why should owners of one brand experiencing a problem be more motivated to respond than owners of another brand who are experiencing a problem?

This is classic case of horses for courses, where the CU survey won't tell us absolutely how many cars break down in a year, but it can tell us if some cars break down more often than others. If that's all we want to know, then it's a lot better than nothing

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 11:41:01 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: "Moon, Nick" <nick.moon@GFK.COM>
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

The answer to Nick's (Allen Barton's) question is "we don't know."
That's why we randomize. If we knew answers to circumstances like
this we could build it in to the design. If we don't know, we
randomize to keep from introducing unexplained consequences.

When there are no effects than catch-all samples give useful results.
The trouble with this approach is one never know whether there is or
is not an effect.
warren mitofsky

At 11:13 AM 6/7/2006, Moon, Nick wrote:
>why should owners of one
>brand experiencing a problem be more motivated to respond than owners of
>another brand who are experiencing a problem?

MITOFSKY INTERNATIONAL
1776 Broadway, Suite 1708
New York, NY 10019

212 980-3031
212 980-3107 Fax

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mitofsky@mindspring.com

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 08:47:31 -0700
Reply-To: "Pollack, Lance" <Lance.Pollack@UCSF.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Pollack, Lance" <Lance.Pollack@UCSF.EDU>
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I think we are getting a little far afield here. Why would anyone need to drop CU if they consider the rate of repair ratings invalid? Most of the quality ratings done by the magazine are based on their own testing of the products, including cars. They describe what tests they do. The reader decides for himself which ones are worth paying attention to and which ones are not, just as with the repair record data.

The obligation of the author is tell you what (s)he did. The reader decides its validity. It doesn't matter whether it is CU or NYT or POQ, the process is really the same, although the rules of disclosure about methodology vary widely across media.

One could argue that CU's disclosure statement about how repair record data is obtained and what the biases are should be more expansive or forthcoming. One could also argue that CU should attempt some validation of repair record data. Concerning cars, perhaps AAA would be willing to release data from the diagnostic service they offer to members. Another idea might be to survey auto repair shops unconnected to automobile manufacturers (i.e., not dealers). Independence might or might not make them more objective, but they at least wouldn't run afoul of proprietary information and "team player" issues. If CU data correlated with these independents data sources, then they could claim some validity for the numbers.

What has been interesting about this thread is the picking apart of the biases that may be inherent in the CU repair record data. This perhaps is the tack AAPOR should take when dealing with individual cases of "misuse" of data. You cannot prove the data are false (you can't prove a negative), but you can point out the possible biases inherent in the sampling approach and whether those biases may be large or small. Instead of saying "you suck", we would at least be saying "good try, but here's why we should try again". Being educational and instructive makes for better scientists and better consumers of scientific information. In my experience, a constructive peer review process is always more successful than a destructive one.

Lance M. Pollack, PhD
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Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
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50 Beale Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: 415-597-9302
fax: 415-597-9213
email: Lance.Pollack@ucsf.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Moon, Nick
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 8:13 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

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experiencing a problem are motivated enough to respond, then the=20
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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 11:45:22 -0500

Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>

Subject: Corrections And Clarifications

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed

Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

After thoroughly checking the Tribune's archives, I found that I was off by a couple of years on what were actually two Mike Royko columns urging voters to lie to exit pollsters. Conclusions remain the same.

The year was 1984. There had been some controversy over so-called early calls by the networks in 1980. As I recall, Carter conceded before the networks actually called Reagan the winner. I believe the issue was network exit polls showing Carter doing so badly in eastern time zone states called first that he couldn't possibly win.

Before both the 1984 March Illinois primary and November general elections, Royko wrote columns urging for voters to lie to exit pollsters. His first column focused on the Democratic presidential primary.

Any consequences of Royko's columns at "ground zero" (Cook County) were not detectible.

I did Cook County exit polls for both primary and general elections covering the Cook County vote for president and senate and one county race in 1984 for WBBM-TV (CBS, Chicago). Results were not weighted to reflect actual election outcomes. Poll results/election outcomes are available on my web site.

For president in both the primary and general, average error on the estimates were under one percent. Average error on the estimates for other races ranged from 0 to 1.5 percentage points in both primary and general elections.

Royko's call for lying to exit pollsters has gained urban legend status, so much so that some assume voters acted on his request. That didn't happen.

Sorry for the mix-up in my earlier post.

Nick Panagakis

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 12:52:54 -0400
Reply-To: "Richman, Alvin" <RichmanA@STATE.GOV>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Richman, Alvin" <RichmanA@STATE.GOV>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: skull@PIPA.ORG, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option question. However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value. Support for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction. =20
What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50 percent level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also, responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.

The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option questions may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are included in the question. In the single-option case, support for taking military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55% opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means fail to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than two-fifths still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that single-option situation. =20

=20
Al Richman
Office of Research
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20547
Telephone: 202-203-7931
Email: RichmanA@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein, if convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with or without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the death penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of the most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death penalty is the best characterization.=20

I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play in crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think we need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more balanced question is probably more appropriate. =20

For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other countries see:=20
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra/197.php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr

Steven Kull

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing how responses match up with your dichotomous questions. Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this: Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:
*Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death penalty should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death penalty *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for any reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It might also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research

321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: death penalty questions

Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.=20

At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars can take them both into account.=20

We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on this important issue.=20

The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on as the most valid.=20

Frank Newport
Editor in Chief
Gallup Poll=20

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: death penalty questions

Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline "Two in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have on their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting question about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about the death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole]?"

It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death penalty.

It is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an acquiescent effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they favor it.

Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative option.=20

Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 12:27:43 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To:

<68181DE3B587E940ADAF3F9C3130B8D00EA12D@mswashdcm05.washdc.state.sbu>

MIME-version: 1.0

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Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death penalty.

If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole" question as well.

Nick

Richman, Alvin wrote:

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>Al Richman
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>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

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>197.

>[php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra/197.php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr)

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>Steven Kull

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel

>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>Research Specialist

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>Research

>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
>517-353-2639

>

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>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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>Editor in Chief
>Gallup Poll

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>parole]?"

>

>It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question
>and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death
>penalty.
>It
>is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to
>deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an
>acquiescent
>effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty
>for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they favor
>it.
>Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple
>options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for
>the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative
>option.

>Steven Kull

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 12:38:28 -0500
Reply-To: Jesus Marquez <jmarquez@SERVICEMANAGEMENT.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jesus Marquez <jmarquez@SERVICEMANAGEMENT.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking the death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in the planet about this.
Jesus Marquez.

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death=20penalty.

If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there=20should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole" question as well.

Nick

Richman, Alvin wrote:

>Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question
>regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more
>deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
question.
>However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value. Support
>for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a
>deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by
>occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction. =20
>What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50 percent
>level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,
>responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to

>switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.
>
>The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option questions
>may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy
>toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>"military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
taking
>military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means fail
>to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
two-fifths
>still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>single-option situation. =20
> =20
>Al Richman
>Office of Research
>U.S. Department of State
>Washington, DC 20547
>Telephone: 202-203-7931
>Email: RichmanA@state.gov
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>
>Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
if
>convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with or
>without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the death
>penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of the
>most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of
>whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>penalty is the best characterization.=20
>
>I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I
>also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play in
>crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think
we
>need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more
>balanced question
>is probably more appropriate. =20
>
>For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
>countries see:=20
>http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
/
>197.
>http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra/197.php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr
>

>Steven Kull

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel

>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>

>I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
>seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question
>that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing how
>responses match up with your dichotomous questions.

>Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

>Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

>*Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death penalty

>should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in

>prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death penalty

>*No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
any

>reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
might

>also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all of

>Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and

>asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

>

>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>Research Specialist

>Michigan State University

>Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social

>Research

>321 Berkey Hall

>East Lansing, MI 48824

>517-353-2639

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank

>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>

>Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
>keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

>

>Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question

>since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since

>it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.=20

>

>At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question

>consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are

>careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars

>can take them both into account.=20

>

>We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty

>each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on
>this important issue.=20

>
>The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would
>address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion
>data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is
>the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on
as
>the most valid.=20

>
>Frank Newport
>Editor in Chief
>Gallup Poll=20

>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: death penalty questions

>
>Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline
"Two
>in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have
on
>their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life
>imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting question
>about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about the
>death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you
in
>favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The
>second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,
which
>do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death
>penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of
>parole]?"

>
>It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question
>and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death
>penalty.

>It
>is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to
>deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an
>acquiescent
>effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty
>for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they
favor
>it.

>Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple
>options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for
>the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative
>option.=20

>
>Steven Kull

>

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 15:52:53 -0400
Reply-To: Rick Seltzer <rseltzer@HOWARD.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Rick Seltzer <rseltzer@HOWARD.EDU>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To:
<68181DE3B587E940ADAF3F9C3130B8D00EA12D@mswashdcmb05.washdc.state.sbu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I find this thread on measuring death penalty attitudes to be fascinating.

I have probably fielded half-a-dozen surveys on the death penalty. These have usually been in conjunction with capital cases that I was working with on behalf of the defense. I find that the use of multiple indicators to measure an underlying attitude is crucial. A capital case is extraordinarily complex. A juror must decide not only guilt or innocence but may also have to decide upon life in prison or the death penalty. During the penalty phase of a capital trial jurors are supposed to weigh aggravating and mitigating circumstances. You cannot capture this complexity with one or two questions. I will often have 20 or so questions.

I published an article many years ago on this issue in Violence and Victims. For those who wish to find it go to my web site <http://rickseltz.googlepages.com>; Resume and Publications; and look for 1987 - The Impact of Crime Victimization and Fear of Crime on Attitudes Toward Death Penalty Defendants. This article (which I just looked at for the first time in 15 years) also discusses that how you measure "serious" crime is fraught with difficulty.

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=====
Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 16:13:39 -0400
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Jan Werner <jwerner@JWDP.COM>
Organization: Jan Werner Data Processing
Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <7.0.1.0.2.20060607092423.03fa50e0@mindspring.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
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The universe of interest is cars, not people, and unless the auto companies have some clever way of separating at the factory those cars offered for sale to CU subscribers from those sold to non-subscribers, the sample of cars is pretty close to random for each make and model.

Where bias exists, it comes not from whether one is a CU subscriber, but results from consistent differences between the types of individuals interested in one car vs. another. That may make it harder to compare the ratings across models, but is also makes it more likely that the ratings for any car you are interested in reflect the predilections of people like yourself. You lose some, you win some.

Where CU fails its readers most egregiously is in not publishing the base size for each car so that one can judge the reliability of those ratings.

Jan Werner

Warren Mitofsky wrote:

- > Allen's argument, while intriguing, moves us no closer to an unbiased
- > sample of a universe of all cars (or cars of a particular make). Imagine
- > a list of all cars. Let's assume all are sold. Now there is a one to one
- > correspondence between cars and people in this oversimplified example.
- >
- > To select an unbiased sample every car must have a non-zero chance of
- > selection. It doesn't matter whether we sample people or cars as the
- > sampling unit. All non-CU subscribers have a chance of selection and
- > neither do their cars.
- >
- > If non-CU subscribers differ either in their selections of cars or their
- > evaluations then their opinions are not represented. Allen's approach
- > misses all these interactions. Furthermore, he is assuming that the CU
- > survey responders are a random sample of all CU subscribers, an
- > assumption that would be difficult to justify.
- >
- > Allen's example of better educated, more careful drivers, by definition
- > introduce bias. If we are evaluating cars shouldn't we be doing that
- > under all conditions and not just an elite class of drivers?
- >
- > warren mitofsky
- >
- >
- >

> At 09:52 AM 6/6/2006, Allen Barton wrote:

>> Going back to Warren's dismissal of the Consumer Union surveys as
>> junk, isn't the universe which CU wants to represent that of all cars
>> of a given make and model, rather than of all car buyers? Is it
>> plausible that CU members somehow pick the best-made 2006 Taurus Model
>> X's from all those the company manufactures, or do the CU members get
>> a random sample of all those Tauruses? If the latter, why isn't their
>> sample of Taurus Xs (and each other make and model) random?

>>
>> It might be argued that the population actually sampled is a set of
>> car-owner interactions which produce either higher or lower levels of
>> breakdowns of this or that component. Then if CU members are more
>> educated and more careful drivers and do better maintenance, they
>> might experience better durability than a random sample of drivers for
>> each given make and model, but this would not alone bias comparisons
>> between makes and models.

>>
>> To get biased comparisons, some makes and models would have to be more
>> vulnerable to "bad owners" than others; this would produce a biased
>> (more favorable) set of durability reports from CU members for those
>> models compared to what a random sample of buyers would experience;
>> their reports of "invulnerable" cars, for which CU members would have
>> no different experience than a random sample of buyers, would be
>> unbiased. As a result the ratings of the "owner-vulnerable" cars would
>> be inflated because CU members are "better owners" and don't damage
>> them as much as the average slob.

>>
>> To talk about sample bias we have to first be clear about the universe
>> we are trying to represent. True random sampling of that universe
>> eliminates the need to examine all kinds of plausible and implausible
>> hypotheses about how the actual sample might be biased; but non-random
>> samples may still be defended on the grounds that nobody has come up
>> with a plausible hypothesis on how they may be biased. Given what CU
>> is trying to generalize about (products, not people), is there a
>> plausible hypothesis about how their sample might be biased?

>>
>> Allen Barton

>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> >From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
>> >Sent: Jun 6, 2006 7:26 AM
>> >To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> >Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>> >
>> >Warren,

>> >
>> >I am in total agreement with all but one sentence of your statement.
>> >That
>> >sentence is "The ONLY [emphasis added] remaining component of error
>> >in the
>> >probability samples is nonresponse error."
>> >Last week, I sent an answer to Doug Henwood re the 2004 election
>> >results.
>> >Although I had chosen the "reply to all" option the MSU server did not

>>> >recognize AAPORNET and it couldn't be delivered.
>>> >I wrote, "In all of the discussions of the discrepancy between the
>>> Ohio exit
>>> >polls and the Ohio vote count, I have yet to see any consideration of
>>> the
>>> >possibility that some portion of that discrepancy, which Freeman
>>> correctly
>>> >states, could not have been due to chance or random error, could have
>>> been
>>> >the result of deliberate misrepresentation of the vote, specifically
>>> that
>>> >some respondents who had cast their vote for Bush told the
>>> interviewers that
>>> >they had voted for Kerry. In a different Montreal presentation
>>> [Correcting
>>> >for Survey Nonresponse], the author, Michael Peress, mentioned
>>> 'increasing
>>> >distrust of the media by conservatives'.
>>> >I believe it was Mike Royko who first urged his readers to lie to
>>> pollsters,
>>> >and several other influential US and foreign columnists, talk show
>>> hosts,
>>> >even political party spokespersons have urged that people lie, for
>>> various
>>> >motives. A simple Google search of "lie to pollsters" provides ample
>>> >evidence. In the recent past, I've seen reports of surprising
>>> 'turnarounds'
>>> >in elections in Italy [Berlusconi's loss] and Palestine [Hamas'
>>> victory].
>>> >Not all have been exit polls. Isn't it possible that some non-negligible
>>> >proportion of voters resent being asked to reveal their secret
>>> ballot? And
>>> >consider that lying to a pollster is a way to assert their independence,
>>> >even superiority?
>>> >So, I agree with Freeman's conclusion that the discrepancy was most
>>> likely
>>> >due to something other than random error. Freeman postulated two
>>> sources of
>>> >non-random error: flawed polling methodology, or a fraudulent vote
>>> count. I
>>> >think we should include respondent misrepresentation as a third
>>> source, and
>>> >we should also realize that all three sources could be operating
>>> >simultaneously."
>>> >
>>> >Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>>> >Research Specialist
>>> >Michigan State University
>>> >Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
>>> >Office for Social Research
>>> >321 Berkey Hall
>>> >East Lansing, MI 48824
>>> >517-353-2639
>>> >

>> >-----Original Message-----

>> >From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky

>> >Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 7:04 AM

>> >To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> >Subject: Re: Watching the pollsters

>> >

>> >The answer to Jan's first question is YES. I dismiss the Consumer

>> >Reports reliability survey and the Conference Board's survey as

>> >junk. The CR reliability survey diminishes its claim of valid

>> >research on products.

>> >

>> >I think his dismissal of sampling error as an important component of

>> >survey error is a mistake. The underlying assumption in his statement

>> >is that bias is a much larger component of total error than random

>> >error. In any carefully done survey that is not necessarily true.

>> >Furthermore, the bias component due to nonsampling causes also is

>> >part of any of the non-probability samples that he seems to prefer.

>> >

>> >So what is left. The only remaining component of error in the

>> >probability samples is nonresponse error. What we don't always know

>> >is how much of the nonresponse error is random error and how much is

>> >bias. It seems to me Jan is acting as though nonresponse is all bias.

>> >(Correct me if this is not your assumption.) The large random nature

>> >of nonresponse has been demonstrated many times. The pre-election

>> >polls have demonstrated this. The Pew studies on long and short time

>> >surveys have demonstrated this. The Census Bureau's Response Variance

>> >Studies have demonstrated this, as have other studies. These studies

>> >have identified rather small biases compared to the random components.

>> >

>> >So I ask Jan and others why they prefer the bias of self selected

>> >samples as compared to the nonresponse of well done probability

>> >samples? The argument, for me, favors probability sampling. And that

>> >includes reporting the major component of error -- the sampling error.

>> >warren mitofsky

>> >

>> >

>> >At 11:57 PM 6/5/2006, Jan Werner wrote:

>> >>For that matter, neither Consumer Reports' reliability ratings nor

>> >>the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index derive from

>> >>probability samples and do not claim a "margin of error" for their

>> >>results. Should they be dismissed as junk? Would you buy a car that

>> >>CR says is a lemon?

>> >>

>> >>Sampling error is the only part of the total error that can be

>> >>computed mathematically but it is NOT the total error in any survey

>> >>more complex than picking marbles from a jar, and in many cases it

>> >>may be the least important error component. If you don't explain

>> >>that to your clients, you are doing them a disservice and

>> >>discounting your own contribution.

>> >

>> >

>> >-----

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>>

>> Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

>> Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

>>

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=====
Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 16:27:46 -0400

Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Jan Werner <jwerner@JWDP.COM>

Organization: Jan Werner Data Processing

Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Comments: To: Jesus Marquez <jmarquez@SERVICEMANAGEMENT.COM>

Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To:

<89D1C9030590E84685138821777D3281FBFD45@smg_exch01.servicemanagement.com>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking the
> death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in the
> planet about this.
> Jesus Marquez.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis

> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM

> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>

> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have

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> adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death
> penalty.

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> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there
> should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole"

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> question as well.

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> Nick

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> Richman, Alvin wrote:

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>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question
>> regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more
>> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
> question.

>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value. Support
>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a
>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by
>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.

>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50 percent
>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,
>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
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>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
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>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%

>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means fail

>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
> two-fifths
>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>> single-option situation.

>>
>> Al Richman
>> Office of Research
>> U.S. Department of State
>> Washington, DC 20547
>> Telephone: 202-203-7931
>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
> if
>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with or
>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the death
>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of the
>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of
>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>> penalty is the best characterization.

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>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I
>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play in
>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think
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>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more
>> balanced question
>> is probably more appropriate.

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>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
>> countries see:
>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
> /
>> 197.
>> php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr
>>
>> Steven Kull

>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
> Nathaniel
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>
>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question

>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing how
>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.
>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:
>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:
>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death penalty
>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in
>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death penalty
>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
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>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
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>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all of
>> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and
>> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.
>>

>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> Research Specialist
>> Michigan State University
>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>> Research
>> 321 Berkey Hall
>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> 517-353-2639
>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
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>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
>> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.
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>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question
>> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since
>> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.
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>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question
>> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are
>> careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars
>> can take them both into account.
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>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty
>> each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on
>> this important issue.
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>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would
>> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion
>> data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is
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>> Frank Newport

>> Editor in Chief
>> Gallup Poll
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>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: death penalty questions
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>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death
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=====

Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 15:32:17 -0500
Reply-To: Jesus Marquez <jmarquez@SERVICEMANAGEMENT.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jesus Marquez <jmarquez@SERVICEMANAGEMENT.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: jwerner@jwdp.com
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

My bad.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Werner [<mailto:jwerner@jwdp.com>]=20
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 3:28 PM
To: Jesus Marquez
Cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we
don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking
the
> death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in
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> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
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>> Office of Research
>> U.S. Department of State
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>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov
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http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra

> /

>> 197.

>> php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr

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>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> Research Specialist
>> Michigan State University
>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
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>> 321 Berkey Hall
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>> 517-353-2639
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=====
Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 16:37:41 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: Corrections And Clarifications
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <448702A2.2000902@marketsharescorp.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Warren sent me this background on the 1980 election and the Carter concession.

- > Nick,
- > What you said is not quite what happened in 1980. In 1980 NBC called Reagan the winner at 8:15 eastern time by adding up 270 electoral votes in states that already had closed. ABC called Reagan the winner 10 minutes before Carter conceded. However, they had a mistake in the states they used to get to 270. CBS called Reagan the winner after Carter conceded. The states that closed their polls were in the eastern AND central time zones. That is where 80% of the U.S.

> population lives.
> warren

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Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2006 15:42:57 -0700
Reply-To: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: jwerner@jwdp.com, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <448736C2.5010000@jwdp.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both the most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth. We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show apparent high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what public opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

marc

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
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>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>> single-option situation.

>>

>> Al Richman

>> Office of Research

>> U.S. Department of State

>> Washington, DC 20547

>> Telephone: 202-203-7931

>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
> if

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>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think

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>> balanced question

>> is probably more appropriate.

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>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other

>> countries see:

>>

http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra

> /

>> 197.
>> php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr
>>
>> Steven Kull
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
> Nathaniel
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
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>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
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>> Research Specialist
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>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>> Research
>> 321 Berkey Hall
>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> 517-353-2639
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>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
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>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
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>> Frank Newport
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>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: death penalty questions
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>> Steven Kull

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=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 06:35:33 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>

Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death penalty. There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in one of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12 no-death-penalty states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to twice as high.

Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no geographical component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide rate: in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in having the death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide rate than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that, for a certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the murder is motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful because he knows he's risking his life.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both the most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth. We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show apparent high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what public opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

marc

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner

Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we

don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking the

> death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in the

> planet about this.

> Jesus Marquez.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis

> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM

> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>

> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have

>

> adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death > penalty.

>

> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there > should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole"

>

> question as well.

>

> Nick

>

> Richman, Alvin wrote:

>

>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question >> regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more >> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option > question.

>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.

Support

>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a

>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by

>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.
>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50
percent

>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,
>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.

>>
>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option
questions

>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy
>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
> taking

>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
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>> Al Richman

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>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

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Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 08:16:14 -0400
Reply-To: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E31@ssc.msu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty, could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing to do with the death penalty.

While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly when it is on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be best served somewhere else.

There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in shows to present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to bring your political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to have discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other outlets as well.

Thank you.

Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
Cohen Research Group
President
1401 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
202-558-6300 Phone
202-558-6301 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death penalty. There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in one of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12 no-death-penalty states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to twice as high.

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Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
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-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both the most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth. We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show apparent high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what public opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

marc

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
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Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

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Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

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> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis
> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>
> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death penalty.
>
> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole" question as well.

>
> Nick
>
> Richman, Alvin wrote:

>
>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option question.
>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.

Support
>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.
>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50 percent level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,

>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.
>>
>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option
questions
>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy
>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
> taking
>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
fail
>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
> two-fifths
>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>> single-option situation.
>>
>> Al Richman
>> Office of Research
>> U.S. Department of State
>> Washington, DC 20547
>> Telephone: 202-203-7931
>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>
>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
> if
>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with
or
>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the
death
>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of
the
>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of
>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>> penalty is the best characterization.
>>
>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I
>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play
in
>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think
> we
>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more
>> balanced question
>> is probably more appropriate.

>>
>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
>> countries see:
>>
>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
> /
>> 197.
>> [php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra.php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr)
>>
>> Steven Kull
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
> Nathaniel
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>

>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question
>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing
how
>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.
>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:
>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:
>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death
penalty
>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in
>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death
penalty
>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
> any
>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
> might
>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all
of
>> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and
>> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.
>>

>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> Research Specialist
>> Michigan State University
>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>> Research
>> 321 Berkey Hall
>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> 517-353-2639
>>

>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>

>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
>> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.
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>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty
question
>> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend
since
>> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.
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>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question
>> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are
>> careful to report both measures so that interested readers and
scholars
>> can take them both into account.
>>
>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty
>> each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on
>> this important issue.
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>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would
>> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion
>> data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue
is
>> the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on
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>> the most valid.
>>
>> Frank Newport
>> Editor in Chief
>> Gallup Poll
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: death penalty questions
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>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline
> "Two
>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have
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>> their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life
>> imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting
question
>> about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about
the
>> death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you
> in
>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The
>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,
> which
>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death
>> penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of
>> parole]?"

>>
>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior question
>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death penalty.
>> It
>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an acquiescent effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death penalty for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they favor it.
>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support for the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an alternative option.
>>
>> Steven Kull
>>
>> -----
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>> Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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> aapornet-request@asu.edu

>>

>>

>

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>

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signoff aapornet
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 08:56:30 -0400
Reply-To: Claire Durand <Claire.Durand@UMONTREAL.CA>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Claire Durand <Claire.Durand@UMONTREAL.CA>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <[000001c68af5\\$57627a10\\$6c01a8c0@CRGNOTEBOOK](mailto:000001c68af5$57627a10$6c01a8c0@CRGNOTEBOOK)>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

However, the discussion is important for survey methodology and POR. The question here is also whether the measurement of attitudes towards the death penalty is an informed opinion. Perhaps a survey on the topic should have multiple questions with known and even a bit "loaded" information like..

1) Do you favor or oppose death penalty and then to those who favor...
Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty does not reduce the crime rate.
Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty is sometimes applied to people who are later proved innocent, etc.
or
questions like:
Do you think the death penalty reduces the crime rate...

And then, questions like...
Cuba and the US are the only two countries in the Americas who still use the death penalty. Do you think these two countries should go on using the death penalty or do as the other countries and abolish the death penalty...

Etc. This is a quick brain storming.

In Canada, and in France also if I remember well, the death penalty was abolished after doubts that it was applied on innocent people. And in

Canada, at first, it was kept for the murder of law officers. It was very=20
=20 important to some to keep the death penalty in such cases in order for them=
=20 to approve the abolition of the death penalty for other types of murder.

So, the point here is that if we want to have a good measure of attitudes=20
towards the death penalty, we need to know more precisely the motivators of=
=20 attitudes.

Best,

Le 08:16 2006-06-08, vous avez =E9crit:

>Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty,
>could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many
>factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing to do
>with the death penalty.

>
>While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly when it=
is
>on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be best
>served somewhere else.

>
>There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in shows to
>present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to bring your
>political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to have
>discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other outlets
>as well.

>
>Thank you.

>
>Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
>Cohen Research Group
>President
>1401 New York Avenue, NW
>Suite 1010
>Washington, DC 20005
>202-558-6300 Phone
>202-558-6301 Fax

>
>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
>Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>
>One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death penalty.
>There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in one
>of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the
>national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12 no-death-penalty
>states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to twice as
>high.
>Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for

>Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no geographical
>component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide rate:
>in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in having the
>death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide rate
>than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that, for a
>certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the murder=
is
>motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful
>because he knows he's risking his life.

>
>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>Research Specialist
>Michigan State University
>Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
>517-353-2639

>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
>Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>
>What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have
>outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both the
>most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth.
>We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show apparent
>high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various
>legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public
>outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what public
>opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone
>know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

>
>marc
>
>Marc Sapir MD, MPH
>Executive Director
>Retro Poll
>www.retropoll.org

>
>
>
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
>Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>
>Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we
>
>don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

>

>Jan Werner

>

>

>Jesus Marquez wrote:

>> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking
>the

>> death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in
>the

>> planet about this.

>> Jesus Marquez.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis

>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

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>> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states
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>> penalty.

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>> should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of
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>> question as well.

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>> Nick

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>>> Washington, DC 20547
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>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
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>>>
>>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
>>> /
>>> 197.
>>> php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr

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>>> Steven Kull
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>>> 321 Berkey Hall
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>>> Gallup Poll
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Claire Durand

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D=E9partement de sociologie,
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C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
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=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 08:07:58 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <6.1.1.1.2.20060608084119.04539d50@exchange.umontreal.ca>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

The Polling Report has a summary of death penalty poll results. Quite a variety of questions have been asked.

<http://www.pollingreport.com/crime.htm>

Nick

Claire Durand wrote:

> However, the discussion is important for survey methodology and POR.
> The question here is also whether the measurement of attitudes towards
> the death penalty is an informed opinion. Perhaps a survey on the
> topic should have multiple questions with known and even a bit
> "loaded" information like..
>
> 1) Do you favor or oppose death penalty and then
> to those who favor...
> Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty
> does not reduce the crime rate.
> Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty is

> sometimes applied to people who are later proved innocent, etc.
> or
> questions like:
> Do you think the death penalty reduces the crime rate...
>
>
> And then, questions like...
> Cuba and the US are the only two countries in the Americas who still
> use the death penalty. Do you think these two countries should go on
> using the death penalty or do as the other countries and abolish the
> death penalty...
>
>
> Etc. This is a quick brain storming.
>
> In Canada, and in France also if I remember well, the death penalty
> was abolished after doubts that it was applied on innocent people. And
> in Canada, at first, it was kept for the murder of law officers. It
> was very important to some to keep the death penalty in such cases in
> order for them to approve the abolition of the death penalty for other
> types of murder.
>
> So, the point here is that if we want to have a good measure of
> attitudes towards the death penalty, we need to know more precisely
> the motivators of attitudes.
>
> Best,
>
> Le 08:16 2006-06-08, vous avez écrit:
>
>> Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty,
>> could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many
>> factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing
>> to do
>> with the death penalty.
>>
>> While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly
>> when it is
>> on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be best
>> served somewhere else.
>>
>> There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in
>> shows to
>> present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to
>> bring your
>> political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to
>> have
>> discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other
>> outlets
>> as well.
>>
>> Thank you.
>>
>> Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.

>> Cohen Research Group
>> President
>> 1401 New York Avenue, NW
>> Suite 1010
>> Washington, DC 20005
>> 202-558-6300 Phone
>> 202-558-6301 Fax

>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
>> Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>
>> One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death
>> penalty.
>> There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live
>> in one
>> of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the
>> national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12
>> no-death-penalty
>> states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to
>> twice as
>> high.
>> Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for
>> Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no geographical
>> component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide
>> rate:
>> in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in
>> having the
>> death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide
>> rate
>> than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that,
>> for a
>> certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the
>> murder is
>> motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful
>> because he knows he's risking his life.

>>
>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> Research Specialist
>> Michigan State University
>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>> Research
>> 321 Berkey Hall
>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> 517-353-2639

>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>

>> What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have
>> outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are
>> both the
>> most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth.
>> We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show
>> apparent
>> high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various
>> legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public
>> outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what
>> public
>> opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone
>> know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

>>
>> marc

>>
>> Marc Sapir MD, MPH
>> Executive Director
>> Retro Poll
>> www.retropoll.org

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>
>> Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we
>>
>> don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

>> Jan Werner

>> _____
>>
>> Jesus Marquez wrote:

>> > I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking
>> the
>> > death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in
>> the
>> > planet about this.
>> > Jesus Marquez.

>> > -----Original Message-----

>> > From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis
>> > Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
>> > To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> > Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>> >
>> > To me, the importance of the option question is that several states
>> have

>> >
>> > adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death

>>> penalty.

>>>

>>> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there
>>> should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of
>> parole"

>>>

>>> question as well.

>>>

>>> Nick

>>>

>>> Richman, Alvin wrote:

>>>

>>>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question
>>>> regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more
>>>> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
>>>> question.

>>>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.

>> Support

>>>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a
>>>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by
>>>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.

>>>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>>>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50
>>>> percent

>>>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,
>>>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>>>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
>>>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>>>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.

>>>>

>>>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option
>>>> questions

>>>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy
>>>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>>>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>>>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
>>>> taking

>>>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>>>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
>>>> fail

>>>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
>>>> two-fifths

>>>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>>>> single-option situation.

>>>>

>>>> Al Richman

>>>> Office of Research

>>>> U.S. Department of State

>>>> Washington, DC 20547

>>>> Telephone: 202-203-7931

>>>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>>>

>>>> -----Original Message-----

>>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
>>> if

>>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with

>>> or

>>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the

>>> death

>>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of

>>> the

>>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of

>>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death

>>> penalty is the best characterization.

>>>

>>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I

>>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play

>>> in

>>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to

>>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think

>>> we

>>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more

>>> balanced question

>>> is probably more appropriate.

>>>

>>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other

>>> countries see:

>>>

>>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra

>>> /

>>> 197.

>>> [php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra)

>>>

>>> Steven Kull

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,

>>> Nathaniel

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for

>>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question

>>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing

>>> how

>>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.

>>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

>>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

>>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death

>>> penalty

>>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in

>>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death

>> penalty
>> >> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
>> > any
>> >> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
>> > might
>> >> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all
>> of
>> >> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and
>> >> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.
>> >>
>> >> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> >> Research Specialist
>> >> Michigan State University
>> >> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>> >> Research
>> >> 321 Berkey Hall
>> >> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> >> 517-353-2639
>> >>
>> >> -----Original Message-----
>> >> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
>> >> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>> >> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> >> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>> >>
>> >> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
>> >> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.
>> >>
>> >> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty
>> question
>> >> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend
>> since
>> >> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.
>> >>
>> >> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question
>> >> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are
>> >> careful to report both measures so that interested readers and
>> scholars
>> >> can take them both into account.
>> >>
>> >> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty
>> >> each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on
>> >> this important issue.
>> >>
>> >> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would
>> >> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion
>> >> data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue
>> is
>> >> the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on
>> > as
>> >> the most valid.
>> >>
>> >> Frank Newport
>> >> Editor in Chief

>>> Gallup Poll

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline

>>> "Two

>>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have

>>> on

>>> their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life

>>> imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting

>>> question

>>> about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about

>>> the

>>> death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you

>>> in

>>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The

>>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,

>>> which

>>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death

>>> penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of

>>> parole]?"

>>>

>>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior

>>> question

>>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death

>>> penalty.

>>> It

>>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to

>>> deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an

>>> acquiescent

>>> effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death

>>> penalty

>>> for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they

>>> favor

>>> it.

>>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple

>>> options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support

>>> for

>>> the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an

>>> alternative

>>> option.

>>>

>>> Steven Kull

>>>

>>> -----

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>
>
> Claire Durand
>
> professeur titulaire et directrice des études supérieures
> <http://www.mapageweb.umontreal.ca/durandc>
> Département de sociologie,
> Université de Montréal
> C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
> Montréal, H3C 3J7

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=====

Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 09:32:17 -0400
Reply-To: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

Dr. Cohen,

I was simply responding to the repeated mentions of how the United States has the death penalty, and I thought it would be of interest to the listserve - and perhaps stimulate some survey work - if we realized that there we have a unique opportunity to do opinion research in one nation that has different laws regarding the death penalty. I don't think we are limited to questions of survey methodology, but in any case, I apologize for my offense.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Michael Cohen
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 8:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty, could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing to do with the death penalty.

While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly when it is on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be best served somewhere else.

There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in shows to

present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to bring your political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to have discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other outlets as well.

Thank you.

Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
Cohen Research Group
President
1401 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
202-558-6300 Phone
202-558-6301 Fax

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From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death penalty. There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in one of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12 no-death-penalty states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to twice as high.

Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no geographical component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide rate: in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in having the death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide rate than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that, for a certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the murder is motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful because he knows he's risking his life.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

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marc

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

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Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking the death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in the planet about this.
> Jesus Marquez.
>

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> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
>

> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have

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>

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>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.
>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50
percent
>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,
>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.
>>
>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option
questions
>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy
>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
> taking
>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
fail
>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
> two-fifths
>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>> single-option situation.
>>
>> Al Richman
>> Office of Research
>> U.S. Department of State
>> Washington, DC 20547
>> Telephone: 202-203-7931
>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>
>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,

> if
>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with
or
>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the
death
>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of
the
>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of
>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>> penalty is the best characterization.
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>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I
>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play
in
>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think
> we
>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more
>> balanced question
>> is probably more appropriate.
>>
>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
>> countries see:
>>
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
> /
>> 197.
>> [php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra.php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr)
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>> Steven Kull
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>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
> Nathaniel
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>
>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question
>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing
how
>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.
>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:
>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:
>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death
penalty
>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in
>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death
penalty
>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
> any
>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
> might

>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all of Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>> Research Specialist
>> Michigan State University
>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
>> 321 Berkey Hall
>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>> 517-353-2639

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty question since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend since it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.

>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and scholars can take them both into account.

>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on this important issue.

>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue is the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on > as the most valid.

>> Frank Newport
>> Editor in Chief
>> Gallup Poll

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>> Subject: death penalty questions
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>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline
> "Two
>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have
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> in
>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The
>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,
> which
>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death
>> penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of
>> parole]?"
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>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior
question
>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death
>> penalty.
>> It
>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to
>> deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an
>> acquiescent
>> effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death
penalty
>> for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they
> favor
>> it.
>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple
>> options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support
for
>> the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an
alternative
>> option.
>>
>> Steven Kull
>>
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Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 10:10:23 -0400

Reply-To: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>

Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

In-Reply-To: <35FCEB3EFC8BD911B31900805FF5603A1C9E32@ssc.msu.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

My comments were careful not to be directed at any one person and I stand by them. I will address the specific note from Dr. Ehrlich off-line.

This list is best served when we conduct ourselves as scientists rather than advocates.

Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
Cohen Research Group
President
1401 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
202-558-6300 Phone
202-558-6301 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 9:32 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Dr. Cohen,

I was simply responding to the repeated mentions of how the United States has the death penalty, and I thought it would be of interest to the listserve - and perhaps stimulate some survey work - if we realized that there we have a unique opportunity to do opinion research in one nation that has different laws regarding the death penalty. I don't think we are limited to questions of survey methodology, but in any case, I apologize for my offense.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Michael Cohen
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 8:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty, could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing to do with the death penalty.

While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly when it is on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be best served somewhere else.

There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in shows to present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to bring your political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to have discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other outlets

as well.

Thank you.

Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
Cohen Research Group
President
1401 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
202-558-6300 Phone
202-558-6301 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, Nathaniel
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death penalty. There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in one of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12 no-death-penalty states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to twice as high.

Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no geographical component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide rate: in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in having the death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide rate than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that, for a certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the murder is motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful because he knows he's risking his life.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both the most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth. We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show apparent high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various

legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced public outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what public opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). Anyone know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

marc

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that we don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do too.

Jan Werner

Jesus Marquez wrote:

> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking the death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people in the planet about this.
> Jesus Marquez.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis
> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>

> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states have

>

> adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the death penalty.

>

> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of parole"

>

> question as well.

>

> Nick

>

> Richman, Alvin wrote:

>

>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question
>> regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and more
>> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
> question.

>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.

Support

>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a
>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished by
>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.
>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support for
>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50

percent

>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? Also,

>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can be
>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend to
>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.

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>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option
questions

>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy

>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking

>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for

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fail

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>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that

>> single-option situation.

>>

>> Al Richman

>> Office of Research

>> U.S. Department of State

>> Washington, DC 20547

>> Telephone: 202-203-7931

>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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> if

>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with

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>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of the
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>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>> penalty is the best characterization.
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> we
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>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
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>>
>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
> /
>> 197.
>> php?nid=&id=&pnt=197&lb=bthr
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>> Steven Kull
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>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
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>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>> Research Specialist

>> Michigan State University

>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social

>> Research

>> 321 Berkey Hall

>> East Lansing, MI 48824

>> 517-353-2639

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank

>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

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>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are

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>> Frank Newport

>> Editor in Chief

>> Gallup Poll

>>

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>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

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Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 07:20:41 -0700
Reply-To: "Pollack, Lance" <Lance.Pollack@UCSF.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Pollack, Lance" <Lance.Pollack@UCSF.EDU>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

It seems to me that questions about the death penalty must also be =

contextualized by questions about what functions the justice system in =
general and punishment in particular are supposed to serve. My personal =
understanding is that the justice system is designed to support a nation =
of laws under which everyone is treated equally, that justice is sought =
for the polity and the people rather than for the individual, and that =
all sides of the issue are represented and presented presumably without =
the "emotion of the street" that pervades many cases. "Eye for an eye" =
justice appears to speak more to a "personal justice" function. The =
often used phrase by victims and families of victims that they seek =
"closure" from the trial and subsequent punishment speaks to an almost =
therapeutic or cathartic function. I think these themes also need to be =
addressed in order to more fully understand attitudes towards capital =
punishment.

Lance M. Pollack, PhD
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
Health Survey Research Unit (HSRU)
50 Beale Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: 415-597-9302
fax: 415-597-9213
email: Lance.Pollack@ucsf.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Nick Panagakis
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:08 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

The Polling Report has a summary of death penalty poll results. Quite a=20
variety of questions have been asked.

<http://www.pollingreport.com/crime.htm>

Nick

Claire Durand wrote:

- > However, the discussion is important for survey methodology and POR. =20
- > The question here is also whether the measurement of attitudes towards =
- > the death penalty is an informed opinion. Perhaps a survey on the=20
- > topic should have multiple questions with known and even a bit=20
- > "loaded" information like..
- >
- > 1) Do you favor or oppose death penalty and then
- > to those who favor...
- > Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty=20
- > does not reduce the crime rate.
- > Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty is =
- > sometimes applied to people who are later proved innocent, etc.

> or
> questions like:
> Do you think the death penalty reduces the crime rate...
>
>
> And then, questions like...
> Cuba and the US are the only two countries in the Americas who still=20
> use the death penalty. Do you think these two countries should go on=20
> using the death penalty or do as the other countries and abolish the=20
> death penalty...
>
>
> Etc. This is a quick brain storming.
>
> In Canada, and in France also if I remember well, the death penalty=20
> was abolished after doubts that it was applied on innocent people. And =

> in Canada, at first, it was kept for the murder of law officers. It=20
> was very important to some to keep the death penalty in such cases in=20
> order for them to approve the abolition of the death penalty for other =

> types of murder.
>
> So, the point here is that if we want to have a good measure of=20
> attitudes towards the death penalty, we need to know more precisely=20
> the motivators of attitudes.
>
> Best,
>
> Le 08:16 2006-06-08, vous avez =E9crit:
>
>> Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death =
penalty,
>> could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are =
many
>> factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing=20
>> to do
>> with the death penalty.
>>
>> While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly=20
>> when it is
>> on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would be =
best
>> served somewhere else.
>>
>> There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in=20
>> shows to
>> present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to=20
>> bring your
>> political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If you want to =

>> have
>> discussions about it from an academic perspective, there are other=20
>> outlets

>> as well.

>>

>> Thank you.

>>

>> Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.

>> Cohen Research Group

>> President

>> 1401 New York Avenue, NW

>> Suite 1010

>> Washington, DC 20005

>> 202-558-6300 Phone

>> 202-558-6301 Fax

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich, =
Nathaniel

>> Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>

>> One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death=20

>> penalty.

>> There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live=20

>> in one

>> of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below the

>> national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12=20

>> no-death-penalty

>> states, homicides in the other 38 states range from 48% higher to=20

>> twice as

>> high.

>> Thirty years ago, the Director of Research at the Michigan Center for

>> Forensic Psychiatry did research that showed there was no =

geographical

>> component to the relationship between the death penalty and homicide=20

>> rate:

>> in all cases where contiguous states differed from each other in=20

>> having the

>> death penalty, the state with the death penalty had a higher homicide =

>> rate

>> than its neighbor. He also presented the theoretical argument that,=20

>> for a

>> certain nontrivial percent of homicides, the person committing the=20

>> murder is

>> motivated to do so, in part, by counterphobia: he feels more powerful

>> because he knows he's risking his life.

>>

>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>> Research Specialist

>> Michigan State University

>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social=20

>> Research

>> 321 Berkey Hall

>> East Lansing, MI 48824

>> 517-353-2639

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir

>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>

>> What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet =
have

>> outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are=20

>> both the

>> most populace nation on earth and the most powerful nation on earth.

>> We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show=20

>> apparent

>> high support for the death penalty in the U.S. Or we can add various

>> legitimate nuances (multiple indicators) and find a more nuanced =

public

>> outlook. This kind of excellent discussion is at the heart of what=20

>> public

>> opinion research ought to be about (dumbing down or clarifying). =

Anyone

>> know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?

>>

>> marc

>>

>> Marc Sapir MD, MPH

>> Executive Director

>> Retro Poll

>> www.retropoll.org

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner

>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM

>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>>

>> Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that =
we

>>

>> don't know how to measure how many of the other 6 billion people do =
too.

>>

>> Jan Werner

>> _____

>>

>> Jesus Marquez wrote:

>>> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be =
lacking

>>> the

>>> death penalty. I just have to convince the other 6 billion people =

in
>> the
>>> planet about this.
>>> Jesus Marquez.
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Nick =
Panagakis
>>> Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
>>>
>>> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states
>> have
>>>
>>> adopted life in prison with no chance of parole in place of the =
death
>>> penalty.
>>>
>>> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there
>>> should also be a single option "life in prison with no chance of
>> parole"
>>>
>>> question as well.
>>>
>>> Nick
>>>
>>> Richman, Alvin wrote:
>>>
>>>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question
>>>> regarding the death penalty is likely to be more revealing and =
more
>>>> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
>>> question.
>>>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.
>> Support
>>>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a
>>>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished =
by
>>>> occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.
>>>> What else can explain the rebound and continuing majority support =
for
>>>> the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50
>> percent
>>>> level in the 1960's, when this issue was being widely debated? =
Also,
>>>> responses to the single-option and multiple-option questions can =
be
>>>> analyzed conjointly to determine, for example, which groups tend =
to
>>>> switch more often from the death penalty when a life imprisonment
>>>> alternative is presented and which remain relatively steadfast.
>>>>
>>>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option

>> questions
>>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. =
policy
>>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking
>>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are
>>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
>>> taking
>>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
>> fail
>>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
>>> two-fifths
>>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>>> single-option situation.
>>>
>>> Al Richman
>>> Office of Research
>>> U.S. Department of State
>>> Washington, DC 20547
>>> Telephone: 202-203-7931
>>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>>
>>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam =
Hussein,
>>> if
>>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison =
(with
>>> or
>>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the
>>> death
>>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one =
of
>>> the
>>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question =
of
>>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>>> penalty is the best characterization.
>>>
>>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. =
But I
>>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we =
play
>>> in
>>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I =
think
>>> we
>>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more

>>> balanced question
>>> is probably more appropriate.
>>>
>>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to =
other
>>> countries see:
>>>
>> =
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
>>> /
>>> 197.
>>> php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr
>>>
>>> Steven Kull
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,
>>> Nathaniel
>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>>
>>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question =
for
>>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a =
question
>>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing
>>> how
>>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.
>>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like =
this:
>>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:
>>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death
>>> penalty
>>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life =
in
>>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death
>>> penalty
>>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty =
for
>>> any
>>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
>>> might
>>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that =
all
>>> of
>>> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and
>>> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.
>>>
>>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>>> Research Specialist
>>> Michigan State University
>>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social
>>> Research

>>> 321 Berkey Hall
>>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>>> 517-353-2639

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, =
Frank

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup =
are

>>> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

>>>

>>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty
>> question

>>> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend

>> since

>>> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.

>>>

>>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question

>>> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, =
are

>>> careful to report both measures so that interested readers and

>> scholars

>>> can take them both into account.

>>>

>>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death =
penalty

>>> each year that provide still further insights into public opinion =
on

>>> this important issue.

>>>

>>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I =
would

>>> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public =
opinion

>>> data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an =
issue

>> is

>>> the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed =
on

>>> as

>>> the most valid.

>>>

>>> Frank Newport

>>> Editor in Chief

>>> Gallup Poll

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: death penalty questions
>>>
>>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline
>>> "Two
>>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also =
have
>>> on
>>> their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life
>>> imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting
>> question
>>> about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes =
about
>> the
>>> death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are =
you
>>> in
>>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The
>>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,
>>> which
>>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the =
death
>>> penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of
>>> parole]?"
>>>
>>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior
>> question
>>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death
>>> penalty.
>>> It
>>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how =
to
>>> deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an
>>> acquiescent
>>> effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death
>> penalty
>>> for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they
>>> favor
>>> it.
>>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of =
multiple
>>> options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's =
support
>> for
>>> the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an
>> alternative
>>> option.
>>>
>>> Steven Kull
>>>
>>> -----
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>>>

>>>

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>>>

>> =

#####

>> #####

>>>

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>> recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any
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>>

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>

>

> Claire Durand

>

> professeur titulaire et directrice des =E9tudes sup=E9rieures

> <http://www.mapageweb.umontreal.ca/durandc>
> D=E9partement de sociologie,
> Universit=E9 de Montr=E9al
> C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
> Montr=E9al, H3C 3J7=20

> -----
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=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 15:42:39 +0100
Reply-To: Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

>
>
>
>This=20list=20is=20best=20served=20when=20we=20conduct=20ourselves=20as=20=
scientists=20rather
than
>advocates.
>

Dear=20me,=20we'll=20be=20expected=20to=20stick=20to=20the=20subject=20lin=
e=20topic=20next.

Iain=20Noble

This=20email=20and=20any=20files=20transmitted=20with=20it=20are=20confide=
ntial=20and
intended=20solely=20for=20the=20use=20of=20the=20individual=20or=20entity=20=

to=20whom=20they
are=20addressed.=20If=20you=20have=20received=20this=20email=20in=20error=20=
please=20notify
the=20system=20manager.

This=20footnote=20also=20confirms=20that=20this=20email=20message=20has=20=
been=20swept=20by
MIMESweeper=20for=20the=20presence=20of=20computer=20viruses.

www.mimesweeper.com

The=20original=20of=20this=20email=20was=20scanned=20for=20viruses=20by=20=
Government=20Secure=20Intranet=20(GSi)=20=20virus=20scanning=20service=20s=
upplied=20exclusively=20by=20Cable=20&=20Wireless=20in=20partnership=20wit=
h=20MessageLabs.

On=20leaving=20the=20GSI=20this=20email=20was=20certified=20virus=20free.
The=20MessageLabs=20Anti=20Virus=20Service=20is=20the=20first=20managed=20=
service=20to=20achieve=20the=20CSIA=20Claims=20Tested=20Mark=20(CCTM=20Cer=
tificate=20Number=202006/04/0007),=20the=20UK=20Government=20quality=20mar=
k=20initiative=20for=20information=20security=20products=20and=20services.=
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=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 11:40:27 -0400
Reply-To: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Michael Cohen <mcohen@COHENRESEARCHGROUP.COM>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <6.1.1.1.2.20060608084119.04539d50@exchange.umontreal.ca>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Good points.

After an off-list discussion with Dr. Ehrlich I think there is also an opportunity for an enterprising researcher to consider (or report on) = these key questions:

1. Does support or opposition for the death penalty vary significantly = over time in by state and, if so, what are the most significant variables in = the equation?

2. What is the difference in support or opposition before and after =
major
changes in death penalty law or enforcement in each state? I'd love to =
know
if there is any data on minds changed one way or the other.

Do we have anything current on either question?

Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
Cohen Research Group
President
1401 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
202-558-6300 Phone
202-558-6301 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: Claire Durand [mailto:Claire.Durand@umontreal.ca]=20
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 8:57 AM
To: Michael Cohen; AAPORNET@ASU.edu
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

However, the discussion is important for survey methodology and POR. =
The
question here is also whether the measurement of attitudes towards the =
death
penalty is an informed opinion. Perhaps a survey on the topic should =
have
multiple questions with known and even a bit "loaded" information like..

1) Do you favor or oppose death penalty and then to those who favor...
Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty does =
not
reduce the crime rate.
Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty is
sometimes applied to people who are later proved innocent, etc.
or
questions like:
Do you think the death penalty reduces the crime rate...

And then, questions like...
Cuba and the US are the only two countries in the Americas who still use =
the
death penalty. Do you think these two countries should go on using the
death penalty or do as the other countries and abolish the death =
penalty...

Etc. This is a quick brain storming.

In Canada, and in France also if I remember well, the death penalty was

abolished after doubts that it was applied on innocent people. And in Canada, at first, it was kept for the murder of law officers. It was = very important to some to keep the death penalty in such cases in order for = them to approve the abolition of the death penalty for other types of murder.

So, the point here is that if we want to have a good measure of = attitudes towards the death penalty, we need to know more precisely the motivators = of attitudes.

Best,

Le 08:16 2006-06-08, vous avez =E9crit:

>Now that we are all aware of supporting data AGAINST the death penalty, =

>could we please return questions of survey methodology? There are many =

>factors that likely influence homicide rates more that have nothing to=20 >do with the death penalty.

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>While some of this discussion has been illuminating, particularly when=20

>it is on-point, I am beginning to see a pattern of politics that would=20

>be best served somewhere else.

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>There are plenty of other listserves, Blogs, websites and call-in shows =

>to present arguments FOR and AGAINST any issue. I encourage all to=20

>bring your political perspectives and supporting evidence there. If=20

>you want to have discussions about it from an academic perspective,=20

>there are other outlets as well.

>

>Thank you.

>

>Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.

>Cohen Research Group

>President

>1401 New York Avenue, NW

>Suite 1010

>Washington, DC 20005

>202-558-6300 Phone

>202-558-6301 Fax

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,=20

>Nathaniel

>Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:36 AM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>

>One final point...we are the disUnited States vis a vis the death = penalty.

>There are a dozen states that do not have the death penalty...I live in =

>one of them, Michigan. In those 12 states, the homicide rate is below=20
>the national average in 10; compared with the rate in the 12=20
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>
>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>Research Specialist
>Michigan State University
>Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social=20
>Research
>321 Berkey Hall
>East Lansing, MI 48824
>517-353-2639
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Marc Sapir
>Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:43 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
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>What we do know, though, is that most of the nations on the planet have =

>outlawed the death penalty. And that among those that haven't are both =

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>We can choose to use unidimensional questions and continue to show=20
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>
>marc
>
>Marc Sapir MD, MPH
>Executive Director
>Retro Poll
>www.retropoll.org

>
>
>
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jan Werner
>Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:28 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

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>Wrong. I may agree with you, but the point of this discussion is that=20
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>Jesus Marquez wrote:

>> I believe a civilized and more enlightened society should be lacking
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>> To me, the importance of the option question is that several states
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>> If a single option "death penalty" question is asked perhaps there=20
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>> Richman, Alvin wrote:

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>>> Most survey researchers may agree that a multiple-option question=20
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>>> deserving of a headline more often than Gallup's single-option
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>>> However, this does not mean that the latter lacks much value.

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>>> for the death penalty for those convicted of murder may reflect a=20

>>> deep-seated "eye for an eye" attitude that is not easily diminished=20

>>> by occasional reports of discrimination and wrongful conviction.

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>>> for the death penalty on the single-option question from its 40-50

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>>> imprisonment alternative is presented and which remain relatively

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>>> The case for examining both single-option and multiple-option

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>>> may be even more compelling in studying recent polls on U.S. policy =

>>> toward Iran. Only about 10 percent of Americans support taking=20

>>> "military action now" against Iran when non-military options are=20

>>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for

>> taking

>>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%=20

>>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means

>fail

>>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than

>> two-fifths

>>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that=20

>>> single-option situation.

>>>

>>> Al Richman

>>> Office of Research

>>> U.S. Department of State

>>> Washington, DC 20547

>>> Telephone: 202-203-7931

>>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam=20

>>> Hussein,

>> if

>>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison=20

>>> (with

>or

>>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the

>death

>>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of

>the

>>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question=20
>>> of whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the=20
>>> death penalty is the best characterization.

>>>

>>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But =

>>> I also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we=20

>>> play

>in

>>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to=20

>>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I=20

>>> think

>> we

>>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more=20

>>> balanced question is probably more appropriate.

>>>

>>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other =

>>> countries see:

>>>

>http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra

>>/

>>> 197.

>>> php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr

>>>

>>> Steven Kull

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,

>> Nathaniel

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question=20

>>> for seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a=20

>>> question that provides more information to a portion of your=20

>>> sample, seeing

>how

>>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.

>>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

>>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

>>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death

>penalty

>>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in =

>>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death

>penalty

>>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty=20

>>> for

>> any

>>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It

>> might

>>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that=20

>>> all
>of
>>> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and=20
>>> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.
>>>
>>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>>> Research Specialist
>>> Michigan State University
>>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social=20
>>> Research
>>> 321 Berkey Hall
>>> East Lansing, MI 48824
>>> 517-353-2639
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport,=20
>>> Frank
>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions
>>>
>>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup =
are
>>> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.
>>>
>>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty
>question
>>> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend
>since
>>> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.
>>>
>>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question=20
>>> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out,=20
>>> are careful to report both measures so that interested readers and
>scholars
>>> can take them both into account.
>>>
>>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death=20
>>> penalty each year that provide still further insights into public=20
>>> opinion on this important issue.
>>>
>>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would =

>>> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public=20
>>> opinion data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to=20
>>> an issue
>is
>>> the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed=20
>>> on
>> as
>>> the most valid.
>>>
>>> Frank Newport
>>> Editor in Chief

>>> Gallup Poll

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline

>> "Two

>>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also=20

>>> have

>> on

>>> their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life=20

>>> imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting

>question

>>> about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about

>the

>>> death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are=20

>>> you

>> in

>>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The=20

>>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,

>> which

>>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the=20

>>> death penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no=20

>>> possibility of parole]?"

>>>

>>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior

>question

>>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death=20

>>> penalty.

>>> It

>>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how=20

>>> to deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an=20

>>> acquiescent

>>> effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death

>penalty

>>> for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they

>> favor

>>> it.

>>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of=20

>>> multiple options it seems more accurate to characterize the=20

>>> public's support

>for

>>> the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an

>alternative

>>> option.

>>>

>>> Steven Kull

>>>

>>> -----

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>>> Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
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>confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended=20
>recipient. Any review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any=20
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>permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and any=20
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Claire Durand

professeur titulaire et directrice des =E9tudes sup=E9rieures
<http://www.mapageweb.umontreal.ca/durandc>
D=E9partement de sociologie,
Universit=E9 de Montr=E9al
C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
Montr=E9al, H3C 3J7 =20

341 Mansfield Rd. Room 242
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=20
(860) 486-0653 [Voice]
(860) 486-6655 [FAX]
=20
Chase.Harrison@UConn.edu
=20

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Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 09:14:54 -0700
Reply-To: Matt Berent <mkberent@earthlink.net>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Matt Berent <mkberent@EARTHLINK.NET>
Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Suggestions that political issue survey questions should be "nuanced" or perhaps "loaded" highlights a more general problem with some survey methodologies. The NES surveys often include questions that frame an issue within the dimensions popular among political elites and issue publics. Those dimensions may often not match those used by a majority of the mass public. Consequently, NES issue questions are frequently poor predictors of candidate preferences and other outcome variables. The basic problem is that the questions do not match the language of a majority of the mass public

People may come to their opinions about the death penalty from a variety of directions. The more nuances or factoids we include in a question (or series of questions), the more we risk moving away from what people actually think and feel, and instead obtain a construction of what they might think and feel if they tended to consider what the writer feels is important. If we want to gauge public sentiment then we must, as much as possible, let the public use its own language.

That being said, I do believe there would be better methods for gauging sentiment. One possibility would be asking respondents if they would vote for or against a proposition that would ban the death penalty as a punishment for a person convicted of any crime in their state. Another possibility would be to ask whether respondents believe the death penalty should be used more often or less often as a punishment for violent crimes. Such questions would assess opinions about the application of the death penalty rather than attitudes toward some abstract concept of the death penalty in general.

Matt Berent, PhD.
Staff Survey Researcher
Intuit Corporation

-----Original Message-----

>From: Claire Durand <Claire.Durand@UMONTREAL.CA>

>Sent: Jun 8, 2006 5:56 AM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Re: questions on the death penalty and other issues

>

>However, the discussion is important for survey methodology and POR. The=

>question here is also whether the measurement of attitudes towards the=20

>death penalty is an informed opinion. Perhaps a survey on the topic shoul=

>have multiple questions with known and even a bit "loaded" information lik=

e..

>1) Do you favor or oppose death penalty and then

>to those who favor...

>Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty does=

>not reduce the crime rate.

>Would you still be in favor if it was proven that the death penalty is=20

>sometimes applied to people who are later proved innocent, etc.

>or

>questions like:

>Do you think the death penalty reduces the crime rate...

>

>

>And then, questions like...

>Cuba and the US are the only two countries in the Americas who still use=

>the death penalty. Do you think these two countries should go on using th=

>death penalty or do as the other countries and abolish the death penalty..=

.

>

>

>Etc. This is a quick brain storming.

>

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>abolished after doubts that it was applied on innocent people. And in=20

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>>

>>Thank you.

>>

>>Michael D. Cohen, Ph.D.
>>Cohen Research Group
>>President
>>1401 New York Avenue, NW
>>Suite 1010
>>Washington, DC 20005
>>202-558-6300 Phone
>>202-558-6301 Fax

>>

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>>Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
>>Research Specialist
>>Michigan State University
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h
>>321 Berkey Hall
>>East Lansing, MI 48824
>>517-353-2639

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>>know how we might get polls going on the death penalty in China?
>>
>>marc

>>
>>Marc Sapir MD, MPH
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>>> Jesus Marquez.

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>>> included in the question. In the single-option case, support for
>>> taking
>>> military action is much higher (about 35 percent support vs. 55%
>>> opposed, with no time reference). And what if non-military means
>>> fail
>>> to dissuade Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons? No more than
>>> two-fifths
>>> still say the U.S. should take military action should we face that
>>> single-option situation.

>>>
>>> Al Richman
>>> Office of Research
>>> U.S. Department of State
>>> Washington, DC 20547
>>> Telephone: 202-203-7931
>>> Email: RichmanA@state.gov

>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:25 PM
>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>
>>> Interestingly when Americans were asked about whether Saddam Hussein,
>>> if
>>> convicted, should be given the death penalty or life in prison (with
>>> or
>>> without the possibility of parole was not specified) 57% said the
>>> death
>>> penalty. Given that Saddam Hussein is probably perceived as one of
>>> the
>>> most deserving people imaginable, this further raises the question of
>>> whether the 2/3's characterization of public support for the death
>>> penalty is the best characterization.

>>>
>>> I agree that it makes sense to maintain long term trend lines. But I
>>> also think that as pollsters we need to be aware of the role we play
>>> in
>>> crystallizing images of the public, and most quick references to
>>> American public on the death penalty cite this 2/3's number. I think
>>> we
>>> need to decide which finding to lead with and, in general, a more
>>> balanced question
>>> is probably more appropriate.

>>>
>>> For details on the Saddam Hussein question and comparisons to other
>>> countries see:
>>>
>>> http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btjusticehuman_rightsra
>>> /

>>> 197.

>>> php?nid=3D&id=3D&pnt=3D197&lb=3Dbthr

>>>

>>> Steven Kull

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ehrlich,

>>> Nathaniel

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 3:58 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> I can understand the desire to continue asking the same question for
>>> seven decades, but might it not be time to consider asking a question
>>> that provides more information to a portion of your sample, seeing
>>> how

>>> responses match up with your dichotomous questions.

>>> Just off the top of my head, you might present something like this:

>>> Which of the following statements best represents my viewpoint:

>>> *Everyone who is guilty of murder should be executed *The death
>>> penalty

>>> should be applied in certain cases, but not to all murders *Life in
>>> prison without possibility of parole is preferable to the death

>>> penalty

>>> *No government should have the power to impose the death penalty for
>>> any

>>> reason Or you might ask for a rank-ordering of the alternatives It
>>> might

>>> also be worthwhile to mention, after asking the first time, that all
>>> of

>>> Europe and Great Britain have now abolished the death penalty, and
>>> asking whether that fact would change the respondent's view.

>>>

>>> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.

>>> Research Specialist

>>> Michigan State University

>>> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Office for Social

>>> Research

>>> 321 Berkey Hall

>>> East Lansing, MI 48824

>>> 517-353-2639

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Newport, Frank

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:27 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: Re: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Steven has certainly raised an important point, one we at Gallup are
>>> keenly aware of. We welcome input on the issue.

>>>

>>> Gallup has been asking the traditional and basic death penalty
>>> question

>>> since 1936, and we believe it is important to continue that trend

>>> since

>>> it extends over seven decades and provides a rich source of data.

>>>

>>> At the same time, we have been asking the forced choice question
>>> consistently for a number of years now, and as Steven points out, are
>>> careful to report both measures so that interested readers and
>>scholars

>>> can take them both into account.

>>>

>>> We also ask a series of additional questions about the death penalty
>>> each year that provide still further insights into public opinion on
>>> this important issue.

>>>

>>> The question of which is the "proper" depiction is one that I would
>>> address by saying -- as is the case for a good deal of public opinion
>>> data -- that providing multiple measures and approaches to an issue
>>is

>>> the key. There may not be one and only one measure that is agreed on

>>> as

>>> the most valid.

>>>

>>> Frank Newport

>>> Editor in Chief

>>> Gallup Poll

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull

>>> Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 1:47 PM

>>> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>>> Subject: death penalty questions

>>>

>>> Gallup recently released one of their e-messages with the headline

>>> "Two

>>> in Three Favor Death Penalty for Convicted Murderers." They also have

>>> on

>>> their site a subheading "Public divided over death penalty or life

>>> imprisonment as better punishment." This raises an interesting

>>question

>>> about which is the proper depiction of the public's attitudes about

>>the

>>> death penalty. The first headline is based on the question: "Are you

>>> in

>>> favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?" The

>>> second, "If you could choose between the following two approaches,

>>> which

>>> do you think is the better penalty for murder -- [ROTATED: the death

>>> penalty (or) life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of

>>> parole]?"

>>>

>>> It seems to me that the second question is actually a superior

>>question

>>> and a better assessment of the public's attitudes about the death

>>> penalty.

>>> It

>>> is more balanced in that it presents more than one option for how to

>>> deal with a murderer. Without it there is the potential for an
>>> acquiescent
>>> effect: it may actually elicit people's feeling that the death
>>penalty
>>> for murder is acceptable or deserved, not necessarily whether they
>>> favor
>>> it.
>>> Since decisions about punishment are made in the context of multiple
>>> options it seems more accurate to characterize the public's support
>>for
>>> the death penalty primarily from the question that poses an
>>alternative
>>> option.

>>>
>>> Steven Kull

>>>
>>> -----
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>>#####
>>>
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>>>
>>>
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>>#####
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>
>Claire Durand
>
>professeur titulaire et directrice des =EF=BF=BDtudes sup=EF=BF=BDrieures
><http://www.mapageweb.umontreal.ca/durandc>
>D=EF=BF=BDpartement de sociologie,
>Universit=EF=BF=BD de Montr=EF=BF=BDal
>C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
>Montr=EF=BF=BDal, H3C 3J7 =20

>
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Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 11:46:57 -0600
Reply-To: Annette Totten <AnnetteTotten@BOISESTATE.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Annette Totten <AnnetteTotten@BOISESTATE.EDU>
Subject: grade level for reading compared to listen comprehension
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable
Content-disposition: inline

I am working on guidelines for the development of a phone survey for = patients and informal caregivers. There seems to be general agreement = among the investigators that the "grade level" of the wording can be = higher than if this was a survey/questionnaire that the subject had to = read to fill out. One statement was that people can understand questions = read to them at reading levels two grade levels higher than their silent = reading level.

Can anyone point to research that supports this? Does anyone disagree?

Thank you,
Annette Totten

Annette M. Totten, PhD
Center for the Study of Aging

Boise State University
208-426-5899
annettetotten@boisestate.edu
<http://aging.boisestate.edu>

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=====
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 14:36:14 -0400
Reply-To: "Wolf, James G" <jamwolf@IUPUI.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Wolf, James G" <jamwolf@IUPUI.EDU>
Subject: Brief Nutrition Battery
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I am working with a client interested in using a validated battery of questions measuring nutritional intake (servings by food group) that would be sensitive to changes over time (5 year study with follow-ups at six-month intervals).

=20

I would appreciate hearing from anyone with success using a succinct set of questions. Our current overall instrument is quite long. Please reply off-list and I will summarize for the group.

=20

Thanks,

=20

Jim

=20

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-=3D-=3D

Jim Wolf jamwolf@iupui.edu

Director, Survey Research Center at IUPUI

Clinical Associate Professor of Sociology

Indiana University School of Liberal Arts

719 Indiana Ave - Suite 260

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Voice: (317) 278-9230 Fax: (317) 278-2383

<http://src.iupui.edu>

=20

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Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 23:13:06 +0200
Reply-To: edithl@XS4ALL.NL
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Subject: Re: grade level for reading compared to listen comprehension
Comments: To: Annette Totten <AnnetteTotten@BOISESTATE.EDU>
Comments: cc: aapornet@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <s4880e4f.099@hermes.boisestate.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 8bit

Annette,

I would be very interested in the answers you get. We found when we studied CHILDREN that reading skills (measured with educational tests) and especially reading comprehension DID influence the data quality on an attitude survey that was AURALLY presented.

I can send you an attachment with a general article about children as respondents, that describes this study in more detail. There is unfortunately no English publication available of the study itself.

I do not know of any empirical studies with adults. Would be really interesting.

Warm regards and all the best of luck with your survey

Edith de Leeuw

> I am working on guidelines for the development of a phone survey for
> patients and informal caregivers. There seems to be general agreement
> among the investigators that the "grade level" of the wording can be
> higher than if this was a survey/questionnaire that the subject had to
> read to fill out. One statement was that people can understand questions
> read to them at reading levels two grade levels higher than their silent
> reading level.
>

> Can anyone point to research that supports this? Does anyone disagree?

>

> Thank you,
> Annette Totten

>

> Annette M. Totten, PhD
> Center for the Study of Aging
> Boise State University
> 208-426-5899
> annettetotten@boisestate.edu
> http://aging.boisestate.edu

>

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=====
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 09:36:36 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: "Esen, Semiha Evren" <EEsen@SHRM.org>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Survey Research Specialist Position at the Society for Human Resource
Management (SHRM)

=20

Interested parties should send their resume via email to Evren Esen at
eesen@shrm.org. =20

=20

Responsibilities include the following:

=20

* Produce and manage quantitative and qualitative research on HR
topics utilized by members and other customers in making business

decisions.=20

* Excellent research and project management skills required, including comfort with numbers and statistics.

* Manage survey research projects from start to finish; design survey instruments, manage data collection, analysis and produce written reports of the research.=20

* Produces written reports with HR content and conclusions drawn on sound empirical research from analysis of the survey results.=20

* Must possess exemplary organizational skills, ability to balance multiple projects with changing priorities, working independently and in a team environment with attention to detail, strict adherence to deadlines and minimal supervision.

* An understanding of HR functions, organizational/business processes and/or other relevant organizational/business systems is desirable.

=20

Qualifications:=20

=20

* Requires a strong academic background. A minimum of a bachelor's degree is required.=20

* A minimum of 5-7 years overall experience with at least 4-5 years in a setting that conducts quantitative survey research is required.=20

* Incumbents should have solid experience with survey research methodology, survey instrument design, data collection and conducting data analysis using statistical analysis software.=20

* Experience with SPSS and Excel required; familiarity with online survey tools, relational database applications (Access) including designing tables, queries, forms and reports is strongly preferred.=20

* Knowledge of SQL/Access/SQL Server is preferred. Programming experience (such as Visual Basic Applications) is preferred.

* Knowledge of the HR profession as well as current economic indicators is preferred but not required.=20

=20

=20

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Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 11:02:23 -0400
Reply-To: Joe Lenski <jlenski@EDISONRESEARCH.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Joe Lenski <jlenski@EDISONRESEARCH.COM>
Subject: NYAAPOR June 14th evening session
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

"End-of-the-Season Celebration"
Wednesday, June 14 =20
6:00 - 8:00 PM=20

(Refreshments from 5:30 - 6:00 PM) =20
Fordham University

60th Street and Columbus/9th Avenue

McMahon 109 (Follow Signs After Front Desk)

(Alternative entrance at 155 West 60th Street)=20

Join us for the last evening session of the season as we introduce the =
newly elected NYAAPOR Council for 2006-2007 and present the NYAAPOR 2006 =
Outstanding Achievement Award to The Roper Center for Public Opinion =
Research!

We are proud to honor The Roper Center with the prestigious NYAAPOR =
Outstanding Achievement Award on June 14th. As The Roper Center enters =
its 60th year, it continues to maintain the largest archive of survey =
research and public opinion data.

Please join us for a relaxed evening of fun and tribute to one of the =
most valuable institutions in the field of public opinion research.

The award will be accepted by Roper Center Officers, Lois Timms-Ferrara =
and Marc Maynard.=20

Warren Mitofsky, President of Mitofsky International and President of =
NYAAPOR will present the introductory remarks.=20
Founded in 1947 by Elmo Roper, the Roper Center for Public Opinion =
Research is the leading educational facility in the field of public =
opinion. The Center exists to promote the intelligent, responsible and =
imaginative use of public opinion in addressing the problems faced by =
Americans and citizens of other nations. In an increasingly complex =
and interdependent global environment, the Roper Center hopes to foster =
increased international understanding and to promote cross-national =

research. Through the maintenance of the world's largest archive of = survey data, and through its programs of publication, presentation and = advanced research, the Roper Center strives to improve the practice of = survey research and the use of survey data in the United States and = abroad. The roster of organizations now contributing data is a virtual = "who's who" of contemporary opinion research. Several thousand polls = taken in some 70 foreign countries are also housed in the Center's = library. By constantly adding to the domestic and international = collections of survey data, the Roper Center maintains what is by far = the most complete collection of public opinion information in existence.

ATTENDANCE IS BY ADVANCE RESERVATION ONLY.

This meeting is FREE to current, student, HLM (Honorary Lifetime), and = first-time NYAAPOR members who sign up for a new membership at the = event.

All other non-members: \$20.

RSVP: Rosemarie Sharpe by Tuesday, June 13 (MGMTOFFICE@aol.com, = 212-684-0542)

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Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 11:03:44 -0400
Reply-To: Joe Lenski <jlenski@EDISONRESEARCH.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Joe Lenski <jlenski@EDISONRESEARCH.COM>
Subject: NYAAPOR June 15th Meet the Masters session
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I encourage people to forward this announcement to those who have just = graduated or who have just joined the professional as a great = opportunity to learn about the industry.

"Meet The Masters"

Learning Survey Research From Top Practitioners
THURSDAY, June 15 =20
10:00 - 4:00 PM=20

(Lunch Break from 12:30 - 1:30 PM) =20
Columbia University

707 International Affairs Building

420 West 118th Street=20

(corner of Amsterdam & West 118th Street) =20

NYAAPOR is pleased again to offer one of our most popular workshops, = designed for beginning and experienced researchers alike. This all-day = seminar allows participants to learn about survey research straight from = some of its most eminent pioneers and practitioners.

Topics will include:=20

"Defining the Issues" - Harry O'Neill, former Vice Chairman, Roper = Public Affairs & Media, NOP World=20

"Sampling 101" - Warren Mitofsky, President, Mitofsky International=20

"Choosing a Method" - Barry Feinberg, Executive Director, GfK Custom = Research=20

"Asking Questions" - Maureen Michaels, President, Michaels Opinion = Research=20

"Fielding the Study" - Maureen Bonner, Northeast Regional Manager, = National Opinion Research Center=20

"Analyzing and Reporting the Findings" - Gary Langer, Director of = Polling, ABC News=20

This seminar offers an inspiring look at the survey research process for = students and beginning researchers. In addition, more experienced = researchers will have the opportunity to learn unique insights into the = process from our distinguished presenters. Comments and questions will = be welcomed during each session. A brownbag lunch will be served.

PREPAID FEES: Members (NYAAPOR individual) \$110; Non-members \$140; = Student members \$60; and Honorary Lifetime Members \$75.

Fees at the door are \$15 extra!

Sorry, no refunds - but you can send someone in your place!

Please forward a check (payable to NYAAPOR) by June 13th to:

Rosemarie Sharpe, NYAAPOR Secretariat=20

152 Madison Avenue - Suite 801, NY, NY 10016.

You may also register at (212) 684-0542, mgmtoffice@aol.com, or = <http://www.nyaapor.org>.

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=====
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 11:51:12 -0400

Reply-To: Andrew Beveridge <Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Andrew Beveridge <Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU>

Subject: Going Into Warren's Buzz Saw

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Dear All:

As one who completely agrees with Allen Barton on this, I think Warren's approach to this is completely wrong. There are two reasons for this. One, car reliability is really an issue of Quality Assurance. Such things do not follow the typical distributions that underlie what we are doing with survey sampling of political attitudes. Most everyone has a political attitude, many vote.

Only a very small fraction, sometimes well under one-percent of autos have problems of various sorts. Also there are literally hundreds of automobile models. Consumer reports actually only produces data on the most popular (at least with their member.)

So random sampling is impossible. Because of this, Consumer Reports has responses from over 1 million of its members on their experience with various car models. Even here they often do not have enough responses to have valid results.

Consumer report members are probably more sensitive to a number of things than the population at large, but it seems to me that the likely bias is such that it would pale into insignificance in comparison to any other method of getting automobile reliability that was actually feasible.

I grant that many in AAPOR are survey sampling experts. However, Survey Sampling is a very blunt instrument, sort of like a broad ax in many ways. If one want to find out the comparative reliability of a Honda Civic compared to a Toyota Corolla from some specific year, I don't think you can get their with a random sample telephone survey.

Various measurement methods have various advantages and disadvantages. I know I use Consumer Reports material when I consider buying a new or used car, and I know many others that do also.

To call it "worthless", as I think Warren did, seems to me to be wrong.

Andy

Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY
Chair Elect, Queens College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
www.socialexplorer.com

Reliability histories

Detailed Ratings for 1998 to 2005 models

How are cars holding up? The reliability history charts, included in each model's profile, give you the most comprehensive reliability information available to consumers. (To find our Ratings & reliability information go to our main Autos page and select a vehicle by make and model). These charts are based on more than 1,000,000 responses to our 2005 Annual Questionnaire. Consumer Reports subscribers reported on any serious problems they had with their vehicles during the previous year (April 1, 2004, through March 31, 2005) that they considered serious because of cost, failure, safety, or downtime, in any of the trouble spots included in the table below.

The scores in the charts are based on the percentage of respondents who reported problems in each of the 15 trouble spots. Because high-mileage cars tend to encounter more problems than low-mileage cars, problem rates are standardized to minimize differences due to mileage. The 2005 models were generally less than six months old at the time of the survey, with an average of about 3,000 miles.

HOW TO READ THE CHARTS

To check on the reliability history of a particular year's model, start with the Used Car Verdict. This score shows whether the model had more or fewer problems overall than the average model of that year, calculated from the total number of problems reported by subscribers in all trouble spots. Because problems with the engine, cooling system, transmission, and drive system can be serious and expensive to repair, our calculations give extra weight to problems in those areas.

To see how the model that's currently on sale is likely to hold up, look at the New Car Prediction at the bottom of each chart. For this rating, we averaged a model's Used Car Verdict for the newest three years, provided the vehicle did not change significantly in that time and hasn't been redesigned for 2006. We have found that several model years' data are a better predictor than the single most recent model year. One or two years' data may be used if the model was redesigned in 2005 or 2004, or if there were insufficient data for more years. Sometimes we include a prediction for a model that is new or has been redesigned, provided its reliability history or the manufacturer's track record has been consistently above average.

To see a model's individual strengths and weaknesses, look at the individual scores for each of the 15 Trouble Spots. The "Average Problem Rates" chart below shows the average problem rates for all models in the survey in each trouble spot. Scores are based on the percentage of survey respondents who reported problems for that trouble spot, compared with the average model of that year.

Models that score a

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_1.gif> are not necessarily unreliable, but have a higher rate of problems than the average model. Similarly, models that score

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_5.gif> are not

necessarily problem-free, but had relatively few problems compared with other models.

Because problem rates in some trouble spots are very low, we do not assign a http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_1.gif or a http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_2.gif unless the model's problem rate exceeds 3 percent. If a problem rate is below 2 or 1 percent it will be assigned a http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_4.gif or a http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_5.gif respectively. In the charts, a model year in red identifies the year of a major redesign.

What the trouble spots include

Engine: Pistons, rings, valves, block, heads, bearings, camshafts, gaskets, supercharger, turbocharger, cam belts and chains, accessory belts, oil pump.

Cooling: Radiator, heater core, water pump, thermostat, hoses, intercooler, plumbing.

Transmission: Transaxle, gear selector and linkage, coolers and lines.
(Note: We no longer provide separate data for manual transmissions and clutches since we usually receive an insufficient number of survey responses for these items.)

Drive system: (except transmission) Drive joints, drive axle(s), differential, wheel bearings, driveshaft, four-wheel-drive components, traction control, stability control.

Fuel: Fuel injection, computer and sensors, fuel pump, tank, emissions controls, "check engine" light.

Ignition: Spark plugs, coil, distributor, electronic ignition, sensors and modules, timing.

Electrical: Starter, alternator, battery, horn, gauges, wiper motor, wiring, lights.

Air conditioning: Compressor, condenser, evaporator, expansion valves, hoses, dryer, fans, electronics.

Suspension: Linkage, power-steering gear, pump, coolers and lines, alignment and balance, springs and torsion bars, ball joints, bushings, shocks and struts, electronic or air suspension.

Brakes: Hydraulic system, linings, rotors and drums, power boost, antilock system, parking brake and linkage.

Exhaust: Manifold, muffler, catalytic converter, pipes.

Paint/trim/rust: discoloring, chalking, peeling, cracking, loose trim, moldings, rust.

Body integrity: Seals, weather stripping, air and water leaks, wind noise, rattles and squeaks.

Power equipment: Power mirrors, sunroof, windows, doors and lift gates, central locks, cruise-control switches, power and memory for seat position, heated seats, keyless entry, audio system, navigational system, rear entertainment system.

Body hardware: Manual mirrors, sunroof, locks and latches, seat mechanisms, safety belts, glass defect.

Key for reliability ratings

From "better to worse"

Five blobs ranging from better to worse

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/bet-worse.gif>>

Average Problem Rates

Trouble spots 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05

Engine 8% 6% 5% 4% 3% 1% 1% 1%

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Cooling 7 6 4 3 2 1 1 <1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Transmission 5 6 5 4 3 3 2 1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Drive System 4 4 3 3 2 2 1 1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Fuel 7 7 7 6 4 3 2 1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Ignition 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 <1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Electrical 13 12 10 9 8 6 4 2

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

A/C 9 7 5 4 4 2 1 1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Suspension 7 6 6 5 4 3 2 1

<<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>>

Brakes 11 11 10 9 7 5 3 1
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Exhaust 3 3 2 2 1 1 <1 <1
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Paint/trim 6 5 4 3 3 2 2 1

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Body integrity 9 8 7 7 7 6 5 3

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Power equipment 9 9 8 7 7 5 4 2

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Body hardware 8 7 6 5 5 4 3 2

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/gray-dot.gif>
Reliability verdict 3
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_3.gif> 3
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_3.gif> 3
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_3.gif> 3
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<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_3.gif> 3
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/resources/images/blob_3.gif> 3

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=====
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 12:36:46 -0400
Reply-To: "Straw, Gretchen" <GStraw@AARP.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Straw, Gretchen" <GStraw@AARP.ORG>
Subject: Professional liability insurance for survey and qualitative
research vendors
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Does anyone have information on the general availability and cost for professional (as opposed to general) liability insurance for survey research firms and qualitative research firms? I've recently encountered a situation in which our legal counsel wants to require professional liability insurance (where previously the requirement was for general liability). I need some quick information to begin to determine how common it is for survey and qualitative research vendors to carry it and how much of a cost issue it is. Please respond to me directly.

Thanks!

Gretchen Straw
Interim Director
AARP Knowledge Management
202.434.6334
gstraw@aarp.org

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Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 14:08:29 -0400
Reply-To: pd@kerr-downs.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>
Organization: Kerr & Downs Research
Subject: Elderly respondents
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu<AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

When surveying elders by mail or internet, does anyone have street knowledge (other than using larger type fonts) they are willing to share that works better for elder respondents (e.g., different formatting, wording, scales, instructions, etc.)? Thanks, Phillip

Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Partner, Kerr & Downs Research
Professor of Marketing, FSU
Phone: 850.906.3111
www.kerr-downs.com

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Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2006 22:07:16 +0200
Reply-To: edithl@XS4ALL.NL
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Subject: Re: Elderly respondents
Comments: To: pd@kerr-downs.com
Comments: cc: aapornet@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <[016701c68bef5b675dce0\\$6600a8c0@kdr.local](mailto:016701c68bef5b675dce0$6600a8c0@kdr.local)>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 8bit

Contact Barbel Knauper at McGill University Canada.
She has done a lot of work into cognitive processing and the

Question-Answer process of the elderly

Best Edith

> When surveying elders by mail or internet, does anyone have street
> knowledge
> (other than using larger type fonts) they are willing to share that works
> better for elder respondents (e.g., different formatting, wording, scales,
> instructions, etc.)? Thanks, Phillip

>
> Phillip E. Downs, PhD
> Partner, Kerr & Downs Research
> Professor of Marketing, FSU
> Phone: 850.906.3111
> www.kerr-downs.com

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Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 08:22:00 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: June issue of Public Opinion Pros
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Dear AAPOR members -

The June issue of Public Opinion Pros is now available on our website at
www.PublicOpinionPros.edu

With midterm elections less than six months away, we have a comprehensive, combined feature and From the Field presentation by Larry Hugick and Stacy DiAngelo, comparing direction of the country and job approval questions as predictors of incumbent races. Also featured are an in-depth analysis of trends in social attitudes among religious fundamentalists, an excerpt from this year's winner of the AAPOR Book Award, and a commentary on what's wrong with public opinion research today (and how to fix it).

We are currently scheduling content for our next three issues.

Interested authors should send their manuscripts or proposals to=20

editor@PublicOpinionPros.com

Author guidelines and this month's "From the Editor" column are accessible to nonsubscribers from our homepage.

We appreciate your interest, and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes -

Lisa

Lisa Ferraro Parmelee, Ph.D.
Manager, LFP Editorial Enterprises, LLC
Editor, Public Opinion Pros
www.PublicOpinionPros.com=20

Sent via the WebMail system at publicopinionpros.com

=20

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Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 10:21:58 -0400
Reply-To: JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM>
Subject: 2008 Presidential
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="UTF-8"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

For those contemplating 2008--scroll down for full story

=20

=20

=20

John Edwards

30% of Iowans polled said they would vote for the former North Carolina=20
senator and =E2=80=9904 vice presidential candidate.

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Have an opinion?

We want to hear it. Who do you think has the best shot in the Iowa =20

caucuses? Should Vilsack run? [_Share your opinion on our discussion board_](http://blogs.dmregister.com/?p=3D1755)=

=20

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=20

Hillary Clinton

26% said they would vote for the former first lady and current U.S. senator=

=20

from New York if she ran.

=20

[_ZOOM_](http://www.dmregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=3D/misc/zoom.pbs&Site=3DD2&Date=3D20060611&Category=3DNEWS09&ArtNo=3D606110338&Ref=3DH2)=20

[_ZOOM_](http://www.dmregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=3D/misc/zoom.pbs&Site=3DD2&Date=3D20060611&Category=3DNEWS09&ArtNo=3D606110338&Ref=3DH2)=20

=20

John Kerry

12% said they would vote for the 2004 presidential candidate and current U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

=20

ZOOM

(javascript:NewWindow(600,520,'/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/misc/zoom.pbs&Site=3DD2&Date=20060611&Category=NEWS09&ArtNo=606110338&Ref=DV3');)=20

=20

Tom Vilsack

10% of Iowans polled said they would vote for the state's two-term

governor

if he ran for president in 2008.

=20

ZOOM

(javascript:NewWindow(600,520,'/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/misc/zoom.pbs&Site=3DD2&Date=20060611&Category=NEWS09&ArtNo=606110338&Ref=DH4');)=20

=20

=20

ZOOM

(javascript:NewWindow(600,520,'/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/misc/zoom.pbs&Site=3DD2&Date=20060611&Category=NEWS09&ArtNo=606110338&Ref=DV5');)=20

=20

About the poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted for The Des Moines Register by Selzer & Co. Inc. of Des Moines, is based on interviews with 399 Iowa registered voters who are

likely Democratic caucus participants. Interviewers contacted registered voters who had voted in the last general election, then screened for individuals

who said they would definitely or probably participate in the 2008 Democratic

caucuses. Percentages based on the full sample may have a maximum margin of

=20

error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. Republishing the copyright=20
Iowa Poll without credit to The Des Moines Register is prohibited.

The poll, conducted May 29-June 1, asked the following:

I'd like to ask your impression of some of the Democrats who have expressed=
=20

interest in running for the presidency in 2008. For each, please tell me if=
=20

your impression is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or=20
very unfavorable. Sen. Hillary Clinton. Former Sen. John Edwards. Gov. Tom=20
Vilsack. Sen. John Kerry. Sen. Evan Bayh. Sen. Russ Feingold. Former Gov.
=20=

Mark=20

Warner. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark. Former Sen. Tom Daschle.

If the Iowa caucuses were held today, for whom would you vote? Clinton.=20
Edwards. Vilsack. Kerry. Bayh. Feingold. Warner. Clark. Daschle.

How likely is it you will participate in the 2008 Democratic caucus? Will=20
you definitely participate, probably participate, might or might not=20
participate, or probably not participate?

Why not Republicans?

The Register did not ask poll respondents their choice for Republican=20
presidential candidates. There=E2=80=99s a reason: This Iowa Poll interview=
ed only =20

Democrats because it was part of a larger poll to gauge support for the par=
ty=E2=80=99s=20

gubernatorial candidates before the primary election

June 6. Those results were published June 4. The Republican candidate, Jim=20
Nussle, was unopposed.

Vilsack fourth in presidential poll
Edwards, Clinton top Democratic choices for president in 2008

JONATHAN ROOS AND THOMAS BEAUMONT
(mailto:jroos@dmreg.com;tbeaumont@dmreg.com?subject=3DVilsack fourth in presidential poll)

REGISTER STAFF WRITERS

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June 11, 2006

Former U.S. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina leads a list of potential Democratic presidential candidates while Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack holds fourth place, trailing Edwards by 20 points in an early test of support among likely Iowa caucus participants.

A new Iowa Poll conducted for The Des Moines Register shows that Edwards, the runner-up in the Iowa Democratic caucuses two years ago and a frequent visitor to the state since then, is the choice of 30 percent of Iowans who say they are likely to take part in the January 2008 caucuses.

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York follows on Edwards' heels with 26 percent in the Iowa Poll.

Experts say it's the first poll showing anyone besides Clinton as the preferred Democrat in the race for the White House.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, who used his victory in the 2004 caucuses as a springboard to the Democratic presidential nomination that ye-

ar, is=20
a distant third in the Iowa Poll with 12 percent.

Vilsack, despite getting good marks in previous polls for the job he's done=
=20
in two terms as governor, receives relatively tepid support from his home=20
state in the Register's new presidential poll, taken May 29 to June 1. Ten=20
percent of likely caucus participants say that if the caucuses were held to=
day,=20
they would vote for him.

Five other potential Democratic presidential candidates listed in the poll=20
bring up the rear with no more than 3 percent each.

The poll has a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.

Presidential material?

University of North Carolina political science professor James Stimson said=
=20
the poll results likely would cause short-term problems for Vilsack,=20
especially in raising money. News that Vilsack is not the favorite in his o=
wn state=20
will make potential donors think twice, Stimson said.

Vilsack, one of several people whom Kerry considered as his 2004 running=20
mate before deciding to put Edwards on the ticket, has taken several steps=20
toward a possible run for the White House. In 2005, Vilsack started a fundr=
aising=20
organization aimed at allowing him to help Democrats around the country thi=
s=20
year and sow goodwill with influential party activists in key states. In it=
s=20
first year, the organization raised \$2 million.

Stimson said the results suggest Iowa Democrats are more comfortable with=20
Vilsack as governor than as president.

Mickey Blackwell, a home remodeling contractor who backs Edwards, wonders=20
whether Vilsack is ready to compete on the national political stage.

"Can he hold his own? That's a question I can't answer," said Blackwell, 49=
=20
of Hiawatha. "I'm a Vilsack fan, but I've got to go with somebody that is=20
recognized nationally, and I don't know that he's recognized nationally."

Vilsack was scheduled this week to make his first visit to New Hampshire,=20
the traditional host of the first presidential primary in the nation. The I=
owa=20
caucuses kick off the nomination process for the Democratic and
Republican=20=
=20
parties.

Edwards was returning to Iowa today to campaign for Democratic congressional candidate Bruce Braley and Chet Culver, the party's newly chosen nominee for governor. It's Edwards' fifth visit of the year, following four Iowa trips in 2005 the most of any 2008 Democratic presidential prospect.

Blackwell, in backing Edwards at this early stage of the race, said he sees a candidate who "is a very personable, very nice guy that seems like he really cares what's going on in this country."

Blackwell also likes Clinton, "but I don't think this country is ready for female" in the White House. Kerry, he said, "is strong politically in the East, but I don't think he's strong enough across the rest of the country, and a lot of people think he's stuffy."

The poll shows 42 percent of likely caucus participants hold a very favorable opinion of Edwards. At the other extreme, 3 percent have a very unfavorable impression of him.

Vilsack isn't quite as popular, with 26 percent regarding him very favorably as a potential presidential candidate.

Vilsack supporter Kristin Hirst, an Iowa City Democrat, said he could follow the path that was taken in 1992 by another Democratic governor of a small state: Bill Clinton of Arkansas.

"I think he's been a good governor here. ... I like his policies. I think he has more national recognition, so I think he's a realistic candidate," said Hirst, 52, a part-time clerk. "He just needs to be visible."

Clinton "not a shoo-in"

Speculation about the 2008 race centers to a large degree on Hillary Clinton, who now casts a bigger political shadow than her husband and is considered a front-runner nationally for the Democratic nomination. While she hasn't put Iowa on her travel schedule since 2003, she recently altered her position on ethanol by calling for a major research effort to boost the fuel's use. She

has opposed ethanol mandates. Iowa is the nation's leading producer of the=20=
=20
corn-based fuel.

Leanne Kennard, a retired teacher from West Des Moines, is among the 34=20
percent of likely caucus participants who have a very favorable
impression=20=
of=20
Clinton.

"I think she's so smart. I think she's got her head in the right place, and=
=20
I think it's her time" to run for president, said Kennard, 71. "There's a l=
ot=20
of women that feel Hillary deserves a chance, and she might do a better job=
=20
than some of the stuffed shirts that are running around out there."

While Kennard is also impressed with Edwards, "I think he missed his moment=
"=20
in 2004, she said. As for Vilsack, she thinks he's very talented but
lacks=20=
=20
charisma.

The poll shows Clinton with a 14-point lead over Edwards in eastern Iowa's=20
2nd Congressional District. But Edwards holds double-digit leads over Clint=
on=20
in the 3rd District, which includes Polk and Jasper counties, and the 4th=20
District, which includes Dallas, Story and Warren counties.

Stimson and Georgetown University professor Stephen Wayne say it's the firs=
t=20
poll they've seen with a Democrat other than Clinton topping the=20
presidential preference list.

"I think it's very interesting that Hillary comes in second, that she only=20
gets 26 percent of the vote," said Wayne. "That should be very
encouraging=20=
to =20
other Democrats, that she's not a shoo-in."

The handful of potential Democratic candidates with support in the low=20
single digits in the Iowa Poll are former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle of South Da=
kota, 3=20
percent; U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, 3 percent; former Virginia=20
Gov. Mark Warner, 3 percent; U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, 2 percent; and=
=20
retired general Wesley Clark, 2 percent. Nine percent are unsure or prefer=20
another person.

Every out-of-state Democrat listed in the poll except for Clinton has made=20
several trips to Iowa since 2004.

Home-state views

Wayne said that the poll reflects name recognition of people seen as presidential caliber, more than popularity, and that the results show Iowans largely do not see Vilsack in that class.

"If here is a person that makes no secret of the fact that he is thinking about this, and only gets 10 percent, that is not very good," said Wayne, a leading scholar on presidential campaigns and the presidency.

A previous Iowa Poll, taken in January 2005, found that just 29 percent of Iowa adults thought it was a good idea for Vilsack to seek his party's nomination. They were outnumbered by the 55 percent who felt it was a bad idea.

It's not uncommon, however, for people to downplay the national leadership potential of their state's leaders.

A September 2002 poll in North Carolina showed 35 percent of the state's adults thought Edwards, who was then their junior U.S. senator, should run for president in 2004.

A June 1991 poll in Arkansas found that seven in 10 registered voters opposed the idea of Bill Clinton seeking the presidency. On the other hand, Clinton topped a list of 10 potential Democratic candidates, including U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, drawing the support of 32 percent of Arkansas Democrats.

Also in June 1991, three months before Harkin entered the presidential race, the Register's Iowa Poll showed 39 percent of Iowans thought he should run, compared with 44 percent who opposed the idea.

Harkin, as an announced candidate in December of that year, was the dominant choice of Iowans planning to take part in the Democratic caucuses the following February, drawing support from 68 percent, according to an Iowa Poll then. Other Democratic contenders essentially conceded the race in Iowa to Harkin, the favorite-son candidate, and made only token appearances in the state.

With potential candidates such as Edwards making repeat appearances in Iowa

=20
since the 2004 presidential election, rivals for the Democratic presidential= nomination in 2008 are unlikely to step aside in Iowa should Vilsack decide= to enter the race. Just by exceeding expectations in the Iowa caucuses, the= could give their campaigns a boost.

Stimson, the national polling expert from North Carolina, cautioned against= reading too much into early measurements of a race that's likely to take ma= twists and turns.

"You are talking about people who have not thought about their presidential= choice recently at all," said Stimson, the former chairman of the Universit= of Iowa's political science department.

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; otherwise,=20 contact JASelzer@SelzerCo.com.

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 10:44:38 -0700
Reply-To: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Subject: FW: what it's all about
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

You can manufacture polling outcomes (and public opinion) even without biased questions and without misrepresenting results if you control the media inputs. Just passionately repeat your message.....and repeat and repeat and repeat.. <http://geekt.org/gopconstrm.mov> (They might have thrown in a few Democrats to round out the picture here).

Marc Sapir MD, MPH

Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 14:52:22 -0400
Reply-To: elena caudle <ecaudle@GMAIL.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: elena caudle <ecaudle@GMAIL.COM>
Subject: Event Follow-up Research Methodology
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

My organization does a number of paper-based surveys of event attendees, and we are looking for a way to streamline the process so that the data do not need to be entered by hand after the surveys are collected. Has anyone had any experience with optical scanning systems for paper surveys? Are there companies, systems, or strategies that you would recommend?

Also, does anyone have information (anecdotal or otherwise) about whether response rates are best when the respondent actually fills out a piece of paper while at the event versus collecting email addresses and sending an email-based survey after the fact? Anyone tried handing out paper cards at an event that direct a respondent to a survey link online? I have my suspicions about what would work best, but hearing your actual experiences with similar issues would be very helpful if you could reply to me off-list!

Thanks in advance,

Elena Caudle
Senior Research Analyst
Consumer Electronics Association
ecaudle@ce.org

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 18:56:29 -0400
Reply-To: "Guerino, Paul" <PGuerino@AIR.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Guerino, Paul" <PGuerino@AIR.ORG>
Subject: Rec for Small Business Mail House in the DC area

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Can anyone recommend a small business (preferably small disadvantaged)
mail house in the DC area? Specifically, I'm looking for a company to
put together a mailing to about 5000 people.=20

Thanks.=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 08:16:16 -0400
Reply-To: "Caplan, James R CIV DMDC" <James.Caplan@OSD.PENTAGON.MIL>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Caplan, James R CIV DMDC" <James.Caplan@OSD.PENTAGON.MIL>
Subject: Decline in response rates
Comments: To: "AAPORNET (aapornet@asu.edu)" <aapornet@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain

Dear Colleagues with Better Memories (almost all of you),

I need the reference to the oft-quoted finding (at the Montreal conference)
that Web-administered survey response rates have declined 2% per year since
2000.

A copy of the paper would be even better.

Thanks,

Jim Caplan

Ref:

James R. Caplan, Ph.D.

Chief, Survey Technology Branch

DMDC

Department of Defense

1600 Wilson Blvd.

Arlington, VA 22209

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Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 10:22:02 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: For those of you still interested in the 2004 election
"discussion"

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Illegitimate election

A key source for Robert F. Kennedy Jr. responds to criticism of his
analysis of the 2004 election

By Steven F. Freeman

<http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2006/06/12/freeman/>

--=20
Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD 21209

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
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On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 07:54:01 -0700
Reply-To: Trent Buskirk <tbuskirk@ASU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Trent Buskirk <tbuskirk@ASU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Conference in Atlanta in March of 07 for health surveys?
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Dear AAPOR colleagues,

=20
Does anyone have the listing for the conference in Atlanta co-sponsored =
by the CDC for health survey research topics that has an abstract =
deadline of August 15th and is planned for sometime in early spring of =
2007? I inadvertently deleted the posting?=
=20

Thanks for your help!

=20
Sincerely,

=20
Trent Buskirk
CRESMET, ASU

From: AAPORNET on behalf of Caplan, James R CIV DMDC
Sent: Tue 6/13/2006 5:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Decline in response rates

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Jim Caplan

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 11:28:20 -0400
Reply-To: Jennifer Berktoold <jberktold@GQRR.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jennifer Berktoold <jberktold@GQRR.COM>
Subject: job opportunity at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Greenberg Quinlan Rosner has an immediate opening for an ASSISTANT ANALYST in their Washington, DC office. GQR is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in polls and focus groups across the globe for political campaigns and parties, public interest organizations and foundations as well as corporate crisis management and positioning. You can learn more about GQR at www.gqrr.com.

=20

Responsibilities include: Assist senior associates and company Vice President in all aspects of survey research process, including candidate and issue research; proofing documents; writing memos and issue summaries; producing graphs and drafting questionnaires and focus group guidelines. Excellent opportunity to break into survey research field.

=20

Candidate profile: Problem solver with a career interest in public opinion research. Motivated, self starter. Detail oriented person with good communication, writing and management skills. Team player. Experience with quantitative or qualitative analysis required. Ideal candidate will have two years or more work experience in public opinion research and/or appropriate educational background (e.g., BA in Social Science program) including course work in survey research methods and statistics. =20

=20

Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Submit cover letter, resume and salary requirements to jobs@gqrr.com or fax to 202-478-8301

=20

=20

=20

=20

=20

=20

Jennifer Berktold

Senior Associate

=20

10 G Street NE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 202 478 8300 / Fax: 202 478 8301

=20

jberktold@gqrr.com

www.greenbergresearch.com <<http://www.greenbergresearch.com/>>=20

=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>

Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:

set aapornet nomail

On your return send this: set aapornet mail

Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 10:45:11 -0500

Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>

Subject: Corrected link to Public Opinion Pros

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Dear AAPOR members -

=20

The recent announcement of the June issue of Public Opinion Pros contained an incorrect link to our homepage. The URL should read

=20

www.PublicOpinionPros.com

=20

Unfortunately, this is what happens when one composes one's emails after midnight at the end of a hard week.

=20

I apologize for the confusion.

=20

Best wishes -

=20

Lisa=20

=20

Lisa Ferraro Parmelee, Ph.D.

Manager, LFP Editorial Enterprises, LLC

Editor, Public Opinion Pros

www.PublicOpinionPros.com

=20

=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 11:14:34 -0400

Reply-To: Amy Flowers <aflowers@MARKETDECISIONS.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Amy Flowers <aflowers@MARKETDECISIONS.COM>
Subject: Re: COnference in Atlanta in March of 07 for health surveys?
Comments: To: Trent Buskirk <tbuskirk@asu.edu>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <71C2EFE7EEA60D4487BF7697F309D9D6A872CD@EX05.asurite.ad.asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Is this what you mean? If so, the deadline is August 1...

<http://www.srl.uic.edu/hstrm.htm>

The Ninth Conference on Health Survey Research Methods (CHSRM) will continue the series that began in 1975 to discuss new, innovative survey research methods that improve the quality of health survey data. The CHSRM will bring together researchers from various disciplines who are at the forefront of survey methods research, who are responsible for major health surveys, and who use survey data to develop health policy. This call seeks abstracts for original empirical studies, innovative theoretical essays, and general overview papers that describe research beyond what is currently known about survey methods and their application to health-related issues using the following topics as general guidelines:

TOPIC 1: The Relationship between Survey Participants and Survey Researchers

TOPIC 2: Challenges of Collecting Survey-based Biomarker and Genetic Data

TOPIC 3: Emergency Preparedness and Surveillance

TOPIC 4: Tradeoffs in Health Survey Design

TOPIC 5: Measurement Error and Health Disparities

Amy

Amy Flowers, Ph.D.
Research Manager
Market Decisions, LLC
75 Washington Avenue, Suite 206
Portland, ME 04101
207-767-6440 ext. 103
Fax 207-767-8158
aflowers@marketdecisions.com
www.marketdecisions.com

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Trent Buskirk

Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 10:54 AM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: Conference in Atlanta in March of 07 for health surveys?

Dear AAPOR colleagues,

Does anyone have the listing for the conference in Atlanta co-sponsored by the CDC for health survey research topics that has an abstract deadline of August 15th and is planned for sometime in early spring of 2007? I inadvertently deleted the posting?

Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

Trent Buskirk
CRESMET, ASU

From: AAPORNET on behalf of Caplan, James R CIV DMDC

Sent: Tue 6/13/2006 5:16 AM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Decline in response rates

Dear Colleagues with Better Memories (almost all of you),

I need the reference to the oft-quoted finding (at the Montreal conference) that Web-administered survey response rates have declined 2% per year since 2000.

A copy of the paper would be even better.

Thanks,

Jim Caplan

Ref:

James R. Caplan, Ph.D.

Chief, Survey Technology Branch

DMDC

Department of Defense

1600 Wilson Blvd.

Arlington, VA 22209

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 13:11:09 -0500
Reply-To: hgordon@grfild.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Howard Gordon <hgordon@GRFILTD.COM>
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates
Comments: To: "Caplan, James R CIV DMDC" <James.Caplan@OSD.PENTAGON.MIL>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <B226B772F676F84ABD1E9307956E94F00255202E@ddsmttayz022>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Jim, thank you for asking this. This is a significant stat. When you smoke out the reference, would forwarding it on to me? Will appreciate it.

Thanks.

Howard Gordon

Howard Gordon
Principal
GRFI Ltd.
Survey Practice
400 East Randolph Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-856-1444

Fx: 312-856-0025
hgordon@grfiltd.com

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Caplan, James R CIV
DMDC
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Decline in response rates

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 14:57:17 -0400
Reply-To: Mark Pierzchala <MPierzchala@MATHEMATICA-MPR.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mark Pierzchala <MPierzchala@MATHEMATICA-MPR.COM>
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

June 13, 2006

I'd like to see it too if you don't mind.

Thanks,

Mark Pierzchala
Senior Fellow
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Howard Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 2:11 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

Jim, thank you for asking this. This is a significant stat. When you =
smoke
out the reference, would forwarding it on to me? Will appreciate it.

Thanks.

Howard Gordon

Howard Gordon
Principal
GRFI Ltd.
Survey Practice
400 East Randolph Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-856-1444
Fx: 312-856-0025
hgordon@grfiltd.com

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Caplan, James R CIV
DMDC
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 14:10:29 -0500

Reply-To: Eileen Harwood <harwood@EPI.UMN.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Eileen Harwood <harwood@EPI.UMN.EDU>

Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Me, too. Can this information be sent to the list?

E. M. Harwood

Data Collection and Support Services Center Director

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Mark Pierzchala

Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 1:57 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

June 13, 2006

I'd like to see it too if you don't mind.

Thanks,

Mark Pierzchala

Senior Fellow

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Howard Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 2:11 PM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

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Principal

GRFI Ltd.
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400 East Randolph Drive, Suite 700
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hgordon@grfiltd.com

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Ref:

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Chief, Survey Technology Branch

DMDC

Department of Defense

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 16:40:53 -0400
Reply-To: Jim Whaley <jwhaley@GAZELLEGLOBAL.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jim Whaley <jwhaley@GAZELLEGLOBAL.COM>
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates
Comments: To: Eileen Harwood <harwood@EPI.UMN.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Me to and may I also say.....

All I know is that I hope that this was an RDD representative telephone study that supports and confirms these findings otherwise we have to really question the validity, given the non-response bias.

JRW =20

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>] On Behalf Of Eileen Harwood
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 3:10 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

Me, too. Can this information be sent to the list?

E. M. Harwood
Data Collection and Support Services Center Director
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Mark Pierzchala
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 1:57 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

June 13, 2006

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Thanks,

Mark Pierzchala
Senior Fellow
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

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Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 2:11 PM
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Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

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Thanks.

Howard Gordon

Howard Gordon
Principal
GRFI Ltd.
Survey Practice
400 East Randolph Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-856-1444
Fx: 312-856-0025
hgordon@grfiltd.com

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Caplan, James R CIV DMDC
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Decline in response rates

Dear Colleagues with Better Memories (almost all of you),

I need the reference to the oft-quoted finding (at the Montreal conference) that Web-administered survey response rates have declined 2% per year

since
2000.

A copy of the paper would be even better.

Thanks,

Jim Caplan

Ref:

James R. Caplan, Ph.D.

Chief, Survey Technology Branch

DMDC

Department of Defense

1600 Wilson Blvd.

Arlington, VA 22209

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=====
Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 16:32:08 -0400
Reply-To: PATRICIA M WAMBOLDT <pmw101@PSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: PATRICIA M WAMBOLDT <pmw101@PSU.EDU>
Subject: Fwd: Re: Decline in response rates
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: multipart/mixed; boundary="Boundary_(ID_/idJ9TSSMSrB2/AzRmROpQ)"

--Boundary_(ID_/idJ9TSSMSrB2/AzRmROpQ)
Content-type: text/plain

This information might be interesting to quite a few people. I would like to know the reference as well!

Patricia M. Wamboldt
Assistant Director
The Survey Research Centre at PSU

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 14:10:29 +0000
From: Eileen Harwood <harwood@EPI.UMN.EDU>
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

Me, too. Can this information be sent to the list?

E. M. Harwood
Data Collection and Support Services Center Director
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>] On Behalf Of Mark Pierzchala
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 1:57 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

June 13, 2006

I'd like to see it too if you don't mind.

Thanks,

Mark Pierzchala
Senior Fellow
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu]On Behalf Of Howard Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 2:11 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Decline in response rates

Jim, thank you for asking this. This is a significant stat. When you smoke out the reference, would forwarding it on to me? Will appreciate it.

Thanks.

Howard Gordon

Howard Gordon
Principal
GRFI Ltd.
Survey Practice
400 East Randolph Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-856-1444
Fx: 312-856-0025
hgordon@grfiltd.com

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DMDC
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:16 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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A copy of the paper would be even better.

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Ref:

James R. Caplan, Ph.D.

Chief, Survey Technology Branch

DMDC

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--Boundary_(ID_/idJ9TSSMSrB2/AzRmROpQ)--

Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 08:49:21 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Subject: FW: Brian Lehrer Show Tommorrow 6-14-2006 on Upstate Population Loss
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Beveridge
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 9:35 PM
To: 'Jennifer Booher-Jennings'
Subject: FW: Brian Lehrer Show Today 6-14-2006 on Upstate Population Loss

Dear All:

I will be on the Brian Lehrer on WNYC 820 AM today, supposedly at 10:05 with Sam Roberts discussing the population loss in Upstate New York. It is based upon yesterday's article in the Times.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/13/nyregion/13census.html>

Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY Chair Elect, Queens College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
www.socialexplorer.com

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 11:44:19 -0400
Reply-To: WCARTER@MCIC.ORG
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Woody (Ellwood) Carter" <WCARTER@MCIC.ORG>

Subject: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

If you haven't seen it, check out the editorial in last week's issue of Science. The point is: by focusing on paperwork and procedures, the current approach by IRBs is undermining the whole point of the process.

Those of us who see how little the respondents truly engage with the contents of consent forms, and how the interviewers sometimes gloss over them, probably agree. Has anyone followed up with respondents post-interview to ask them what they thought they were being promised, guaranteed, or warned about? And whether they believed it? And whether they cared?

Woody Carter

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Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 12:50:38 -0400
Reply-To: Lawrence Luskin <lawrence.a.luskin@ORCMACRO.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Lawrence Luskin <lawrence.a.luskin@ORCMACRO.COM>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

This is off of memory, but I believe there was a relevant paper presented in Miami (2005) that split sampled a telephone survey. Some respondents were given the full language recommended by the IRB, while others were given a much shorter version of the IRB language. At the end of the survey, respondents were asked about their perceptions of anonymity, confidentiality, and other forms of human protection. Also, I believe they tested the obvious-- survey response rate, item non-response, etc.=20

Not sure who presented it, but I'm guessing a quick review of the 2005 Conference Materials may lead you in a direction. Or, maybe someone else remembers...

Larry Luskin
Dir. Of Customer and Employee Research
ORC Macro

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Woody (Ellwood) Carter
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:44 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

If you haven't seen it, check out the editorial in=20 last week's issue of Science. The point is: by=20 focusing on paperwork and procedures, the current=20 approach by IRBs is undermining the whole point of=20 the process.

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Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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=====
Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 11:04:09 -0700
Reply-To: "Lynn, Diana J" <dlynn@FHCR.C.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Lynn, Diana J" <dlynn@FHCR.C.ORG>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: Lawrence Luskin <lawrence.a.luskin@ORCMACRO.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I think you may be referring to the Informed Consent session and specifically "The Effect of Introductory Consent Information on Response Rates and Respondent Understanding in a Telephone Interview", Mary Losch, Shelly Campo and Gene Lutz, University of Northern Iowa.

Diana Lynn
Protocol/Operations Coordinator
Youth Smoking Studies

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
206-667-4980
dlynn@fhcrc.org=20

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Lawrence Luskin
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:51 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

This is off of memory, but I believe there was a relevant paper presented in Miami (2005) that split sampled a telephone survey. Some respondents were given the full language recommended by the IRB, while others were given a much shorter version of the IRB language. At the end of the survey, respondents were asked about their perceptions of anonymity, confidentiality, and other forms of human protection. Also, I believe they tested the obvious-- survey response rate, item non-response, etc.=20

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Larry Luskin
Dir. Of Customer and Employee Research
ORC Macro

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Woody (Ellwood) Carter
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:44 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

If you haven't seen it, check out the editorial in=20 last week's issue of Science. The point is: by=20 focusing on paperwork and procedures, the current=20 approach by IRBs is undermining the whole point of=20 the process.

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Woody Carter

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Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 15:03:52 -0400
Reply-To: Amy Flowers <aflowers@MARKETDECISIONS.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Amy Flowers <aflowers@MARKETDECISIONS.COM>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: WCARTER@MCIC.ORG, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <AA-1556FEA0D6D720CBA26E6CABB0452205-ZZ@www7.prodigy.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I did my dissertation on the phone sex industry, including both interviews with operators and others, as well as workplace observation and wrote about many of the bureaucratic idiosyncrasies referred to in the article in a subsequent book (The Fantasy Factory, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998).

I particularly remember promising not to take hair or fingernail samples from my respondents, an homage to the biomedical origin of the IRB process. Respondents were not made more comfortable by this promise, in fact they seemed rather alarmed by it!

In addition, the only time I ever asked for respondents full names was in the signing of the consent form. Previously, they had only been known to me by a first name or by their cryptic phone-names. A couple signed using their phone names, so I had consent forms signed in a way that would certainly be meaningless in a contractual document, making the value of the form questionable at best. The alternatives, either insisting on their real name or refusing to interview the person who had met me in-person on their own time, prepared for an interview and cash incentive, seemed far more ethically problematic.

For the workplace observation I was required to participate as a phone sex operator, and then "interview" myself rather than relate my own direct observations. This seemed to fulfill a bureaucratic need to direct my methodology and provided the university with a layer of protection from potential lawsuits, but fell short of protecting respondents from danger or harm posed by my presence, the ostensible purpose of the board.

Since the time of my dissertation I've had the opportunity to conduct some research on sensitive and difficult topics, and I appreciate the need for oversight. The quality of this oversight (IMO) varies greatly between individual boards. I'm very glad to hear that the IRB system is under examination and possibly being transformed to be more consistent with the methods and goals of social science research. There are real issues of respondent confidentiality, implications of raising sensitive topics and interviewer intrusion that are often underestimated by the current system, as the focus is misplaced on spurious or imagined issues that, while perfectly appropriate to biomedical research, are often unsuited to the ethical conduct of social science.

Amy Flowers

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Woody (Ellwood) Carter
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:44 AM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

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Those of us who see how little the respondents truly engage with the contents of consent forms, and how the interviewers sometimes gloss over them, probably agree. Has anyone followed up with respondents post-interview to ask them what they thought they were being promised, guaranteed, or warned about? And whether they believed it? And whether they cared?

Woody Carter

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=====
Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 11:59:37 -0700

Reply-To: ellis.godard@csun.edu
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ellis Godard <ellis.godard@CSUN.EDU>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: "Lynn, Diana J" <dlynn@FHCRC.ORG>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <5D196FD4695D2040B0A49703F9A2F06C0126CD26@groucho.fhrc.org>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Could be. Is it online? In print?

What were the conclusions? Did length of intro affect understanding (er, recall)? Did recall vary by demographics? Or perhaps by respondent-interviewer differences? Was length of call (whether by = length of answers, or # of questions given skip patterns) controlled?

Ellis Godard, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Sociology Department
Cal State Northridge=20
www.csun.edu/~egodard

> -----Original Message-----

> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Lynn, Diana J
> Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:04 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
>=20
>=20

> I think you may be referring to the Informed Consent session=20
> and specifically "The Effect of Introductory Consent=20
> Information on Response Rates and Respondent Understanding in=20
> a Telephone Interview", Mary Losch, Shelly Campo and Gene=20
> Lutz, University of Northern Iowa.
>=20

> Diana Lynn
> Protocol/Operations Coordinator
> Youth Smoking Studies
> Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
> 206-667-4980
> dlynn@fhrc.org=20
>=20

> -----Original Message-----

> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Lawrence Luskin
> Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:51 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
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>=20
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> Dir. Of Customer and Employee Research
> ORC Macro
>=20
>=20
>=20
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> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Woody=20
> (Ellwood) Carter
> Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:44 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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>=20
> Woody Carter
>=20
> -----
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> Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:=20
> signoff aapornet Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
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=====

Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 15:27:44 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Subject: FW: The Brian Lehrer Show: Upstate's Heading South (June 14, 2006)
Comments: To: qcsoclis@elf.soc.qc.cuny.edu, AAPORNET@asu.edu,
Jay.Hershenson@domino1.cuny.edu, Timothy.Stevens@mail.cuny.edu,
Marten.denBoer@qc.cuny.edu, Maria.Terrone@qc.cuny.edu,
Maria.Matteo@qc.cuny.edu, Elizabeth.Hendrey@qc.cuny.edu,
Selma.Botman@mail.cuny.edu, jcasterline@pop.psu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Dear All:

Bush's press conference pre-empted the WNYC schedule and we were moved to 11:30. Here is the link to the discussion on the loss of population up state.

Andy Beveridge
Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY
Chair Elect, Queens College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
www.socialexplorer.com

From: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu [<mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 3:22 PM
To: beveridg@optonline.net
Subject: The Brian Lehrer Show: Upstate's Heading South (June 14, 2006)

<<http://stats.clickability.com/t.gif?19=313&7=586>>
<<http://s.clickability.com/s?19=40004&7=586&38=740129660>>

<<http://images.clickability.com/eti/spacer.gif>>

<<http://images.clickability.com/eti/spacer.gif>>

<<http://www.wnyc.org>> WNYC.org
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* Please note, the sender's email address has not been verified.

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You have received the following link from andy@troll.soc.qc.edu:

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Click the following to access the sent link:

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Lehrer Show: Upstate's Heading South
<<http://www.emailthis.clickability.com/et/emailThis?clickMap=viewThis&etMailToID=740129660>> (June 14, 2006)*

<<http://www.savethis.clickability.com/st/saveThisPopupApp?clickMap=saveFromET&partnerID=586&etMailToID=740129660>> SAVE THIS link

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<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/bl/episodes/2006/06/14#segment61181>

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .

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Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 15:38:31 -0400
Reply-To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu, Ellis Godard <ellis.godard@csun.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

It is online at <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/312/5779/1441.pdf>

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator and General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm)
Associate Director, Database & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
Telephone (direct): 856.566-6727
Fax (research group): 856.566-6874
E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu

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>>> Ellis Godard <ellis.godard@CSUN.EDU> 06/14/06 2:59 PM >>>
Could be. Is it online? In print?

What were the conclusions? Did length of intro affect understanding (er, recall)? Did recall vary by demographics? Or perhaps by respondent-interviewer differences? Was length of call (whether by length of answers, or # of questions given skip patterns) controlled?

Ellis Godard, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Sociology Department
Cal State Northridge
www.csun.edu/~egodard

> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>] On Behalf Of Lynn, Diana J
> Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:04 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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> Diana Lynn
> Protocol/Operations Coordinator
> Youth Smoking Studies
> Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
> 206-667-4980
> dlynn@fhcrc.org

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Lawrence
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> Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:51 AM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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However, the Science Magazine editorial is just that, an editorial.
Yet, it is based on a study which can be found at
<http://www.law.uiuc.edu/conferences/whitepaper/papers/SSRN-id902995.pdf>

.

Interesting reading.

Regards,
Jonathan

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Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 16:29:27 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Subject: Re: The Brian Lehrer Show: Upstate's Heading South (June 14, 2006)
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Here is the direct link.

Apparently there are issues re: HTML versus non-html e-mail.

<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/bl/episodes/2006/06/14#segment61181>

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU [<mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>] On Behalf Of Andrew Beveridge
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 3:28 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: FW: The Brian Lehrer Show: Upstate's Heading South (June 14, 2006)

Dear All:

Bush's press conference pre-empted the WNYC schedule and we were moved to 11:30. Here is the link to the discussion on the loss of population up state.

Andy Beveridge
Andrew A. Beveridge
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY Chair Elect, Queens
College Sociology Dept
Office: 718-997-2837

Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu
Suite 233 Powdermaker Hall
65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
www.socialexplorer.com

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=====
Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 08:49:09 -0500
Reply-To: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
MIME-version: 1.0
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Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I am on a health science center IRB that serves the affiliated VA hospital and some other organizations in the community. This is the third time I have done so over a period of about 20 years, in three different locations.

I have found the material posted by AAPOR on IRBs and surveys to be quite helpful on several occasions.

Our consent forms are often long and complex, running 20 pages or more. As much as three pages of the form has become "boilerplate"--mandated language regarding protected health information. Other long sections are the adverse effects of multiple drugs or procedures. We ask for a sixth-grade reading level. (How would we know, with an average of more than one doctorate per person on the committee?)

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However, the discourse on an IRB seems to have become much more sensible and reasonable over time. In particular, it is critical that professional organizations, such as AAPOR, discuss and describe what are reasonable standards for conducting their own kind of research with

human subjects, particularly how to preserve the autonomy of subjects to make their own, informed decisions. If there are published industry standards, based on research where it is appropriate and needed, then most IRBs will defer, eventually, to those standards. They do so because they have to give credit to experts in other areas. As researchers and experts in their own areas, members usually, eventually, recognize the experience and skills of experts in other areas.

While I have heard many horror stories from others, my own experience is that IRB members, as researchers, understand that their job is not to stop research from happening. Their job is to see that research on human subjects meets standards of autonomy, beneficence, etc, that we, as a society, expect to be the norm. While this can take time, the time is, ultimately, brief and most research is approved in one way or another. During the past year, for example, my own IRB has eventually approved every research proposal. One was very close, approved by one vote, and several took more than one month. The latter doesn't seem like a lot of time in a five year project.

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In summary, write well, follow the rules, and get your colleagues and industry to back you up with published policies. =20

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H., C.Stat.
Associate Professor, Biostatistics
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Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu, David W Smith <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>
MIME-version: 1.0
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While Dr. Smith's experience on his organization's IRB is heartening and worthy of note, it is important to recognize that the Science Magazine editorial has been written largely in response to a study (<http://www.law.uiuc.edu/conferences/whitepaper/papers/SSRN-id902995.pdf>) conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Illinois. From

my reading of the study, the gist of the message is this:

1. IRB protections were built primarily to focus on biomedical research regulation because that is the domain of scientific study where there is typically real risk to human subjects.
2. Most research in the social/behavioral sciences present only minimal risk and, consequently, IRB processes and procedures are largely inappropriate for these types of research.
3. Failure to exempt minimal risk research from IRB review/oversight tends to create problems rather than solve them. These problems include, but are not limited to: systematic IRB failure to wrestle with real issues of ethics in proposed research because IRB members get bogged down in paperwork (because paperwork generates measurable performance metrics); long consent forms that are tuned out or not read or not understood by subjects; creation of scofflaw researchers who, while respecting the rights of human subjects, nevertheless choose to circumvent the IRB only to avoid the hassle of mountains of inapplicable paperwork designed for biomedical studies; and potentially lower cooperation rates in research that raise research costs to society.

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Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@umdnj.edu>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
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These points are all useful. 1 and 2 are the heart of the issue. Almost no one who is knowledgeable disagrees with these two points any more.

Changing the current system to recognize these activities will be difficult but not impossible. A lot of research does not clearly fall into the categories of medical or social. Medical researchers do interviews and anthropologists collect blood. Perhaps the Science editorial is the beginning of some kind of change. Send it to your representatives in congress.

IRBs should spend more time on real problems and less on non-problems.

Regarding number 3, federally sponsored or university research involving actual contact with humans is unlikely to ever be made exempt (in the usual sense of the term, that is, with no discussion with an IRB or its chair) from review again, no matter how minimal the risks involved. Many surveys can be reviewed as "expedited" which means they are reviewed and approved by the chair of the IRB alone or by one or two designated members. This is about as light a review as can ever be expected to occur again.=20

Everyone reading this should bear in mind that the terms "minimal risk" and "exempt" have specific definitions in the context of IRB review. No other personal views on these definitions apply in that context.

Minimal Risk is "the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests" (from 45 CFR 46.102(i)). (My source is the University of Minnesota web site.)

Also from the University of Minnesota web site:

"Remember that risks need not be 'physical' in order to be 'more than minimal'

Examples: A serious privacy risk, confidentiality risk, informational risk or risk of embarrassment may be enough to push a study into the "greater than minimal risk" category and thus to full committee review."

Many research surveys are more than minimal risk and, by federal regulation, require full committee review.=20

There are six kinds of "exempt" research. Again, among other good explanations, I have found the University of Minnesota web site to be useful documentation:

<http://www.research.umn.edu/irb/download/exempt.cfm>.=20

The determination of whether research is exempt under these definitions is made by the chair of an IRB, not by the individual conducting the research. Some surveys can be exempt. These would have to be minimal risk and have no identifiers, whatsoever, included. Not many researchers would want this kind of survey, since followup would be impossible.

Finally, I regard the following as now a contradiction in terms:

"scofflaw researchers who, while respecting the rights of human subjects, nevertheless choose to circumvent the IRB" =20

No one can claim to respect human subjects and choose to circumvent an IRB any more. Besides getting everyone into a lot of trouble.

None of this applies to organizations without Federal funding of their

research. They make their own decisions. Except for drug companies who have to do all this and more in order to apply for approval to the FDA.

Regards,

David Smith

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan Brill [mailto:brillje@umdnj.edu]=20

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 9:28 AM

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu; Smith, David W

Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

While Dr. Smith's experience on his organization's IRB is heartening and worthy of note, it is important to recognize that the Science Magazine editorial has been written largely in response to a study (<http://www.law.uiuc.edu/conferences/whitepaper/papers/SSRN-id902995.pdf>)

conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Illinois. From my reading of the study, the gist of the message is this: =20

1. IRB protections were built primarily to focus on biomedical research regulation because that is the domain of scientific study where there is typically real risk to human subjects.
2. Most research in the social/behavioral sciences present only minimal risk and, consequently, IRB processes and procedures are largely inappropriate for these types of research.
3. Failure to exempt minimal risk research from IRB review/oversight tends to create problems rather than solve them. These problems include, but are not limited to: systematic IRB failure to wrestle with real issues of ethics in proposed research because IRB members get bogged down in paperwork (because paperwork generates measurable performance metrics); long consent forms that are tuned out or not read or not understood by subjects; creation of scofflaw researchers who, while respecting the rights of human subjects, nevertheless choose to circumvent the IRB only to avoid the hassle of mountains of inapplicable paperwork designed for biomedical studies; and potentially lower cooperation rates in research that raise research costs to society.

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator and General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Associate Director, Database & Panel Research NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING School of Osteopathic Medicine University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300

Stratford, New Jersey 08084

Telephone (direct): 856.566-6727

Fax (research group): 856.566-6874

E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .

Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 12:20:06 -0400

Reply-To: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>

Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu, David W Smith <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Content-disposition: inline

I want to thank Dr. Smith for his thoughtful insights, to which I could relate most heartily as a social scientist within a health science center. I thought he raised some important issues, and I had a few comments.

- > In particular, it is critical that
- > professional organizations, such as AAPOR, discuss and describe what are
- > reasonable standards for conducting their own kind of research with
- > human subjects, particularly how to preserve the autonomy of subjects to
- > make their own, informed decisions.

AAPOR's efforts have certainly blessed our health science center. Conversations with AAPOR experts convinced our medical IRB to allow submission through the main campus IRB if a project is exclusively a social science, exempt study.

Personally, I think the biggest difference between surveys and clinical trials is that on surveys, a respondent can refuse to answer specific questions, essentially allowing the option to consent to each item on the questionnaire, independently of the others. This is a foreign concept to people accustomed to clinical trials or experiments, where a subject is more clearly IN or OUT.

- > If there are published industry
- > standards, based on research where it is appropriate and needed, then
- > most IRBs will defer, eventually, to those standards. They do so
- > because they have to give credit to experts in other areas. As
- > researchers and experts in their own areas, members usually, eventually,
- > recognize the experience and skills of experts in other areas.

I think this is exactly what is missing from many conversations regarding medical IRBs when dealing with social science projects. It is a very touchy subject, because personal ego and qualifications are at stake. Most clinical trials use surveys to collect some data, so the scientist may be offended at the idea that s/he is not an expert in surveys.

So when I was doing a list-based survey of Medicaid enrollee's satisfaction with their care in a pilot program, I was told that I couldn't use a list; I was advised to convince a local pharmacy to put flyers in the prescriptions, and people could call us if they wanted to participate. My survey of dental hygienists was initially disapproved because "it is not permitted to recruit subjects my telephone."

At our place, if we have a study that does not qualify for going to the other IRB, but is still exempt, then it gets sent to one vice chair, and we are at that person's mercy. My last focus groups were approved by an oncologist, who knew nothing about focus groups.

> While this can take time, the time
> is, ultimately, brief and most research is approved in one way or
> another. During the past year, for example, my own IRB has
eventually
> approved every research proposal. One was very close, approved by
one
> vote, and several took more than one month. The latter doesn't seem
> like a lot of time in a five year project.

The "time" issue may vary. At my IRB, we have to submit the paperwork (original and four copies) about three weeks before the meeting. June 12 was the deadline for the July 5 meeting for full board projects. If they want changes, those can't be approved until the next meeting on July 19. So it can drag on a good bit.

I think part of the burden of time depends on whether or not your institution will allow release of funds while IRB is pending. I did get that for one project, but it was a rare exception only because NIH was willing to release the funds to us, since development of instruments/protocol was within the scope of work of the grant. But generally my institution has a firm policy of not releasing funds until the IRB approval is obtained, even if questionnaire development is part of the task. This means that we are expected to submit the questionnaire before we have the funds for questionnaire development. I think this often adds to the workload of IRBs, because we will slop something together to get the money to do it properly, and then submit a revision. Had we been allowed the funds to do it right the first time, the IRB would have need only review one submission, not two.

It also is challenging in terms of hiring key personnel because of a multi-month IRB delay, and I know we are not the only team to lose an excellent prospect because they couldn't be out of work indefinitely, and took a job elsewhere. (Can you tell I've been on soft money for 8 years?)

Colleen

dGlvbiBvZiB3aGV0aGVyIHJlc2VhcmNoIGlZIGV4ZW1wdCB1bmRlciB0aGVzZSBkZWZpbml0aW9u
cyANCglpcyBtYWRIIGJ5IHRoZSBjaGFpciBvZiBhbiBJUkIsIG5vdCBieSB0aGUgaW5kaXZpZHVh
bCBjb25kdWN0aW5nIHRoZSANCglyZXNlYXJjaC4gU29tZSBzdXJ2ZXlzlGNhbiBiZSBleGVtcHQ
IFRoZSXIIdvdWxkIGhhdmUgdG8gYmUgbWluaW1hbCANCglyaXNlIGFuZCB0eYXZlIG5vIGlkZW50
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dWxkIHdhbnQgdGhpcyBraW5kIG9mIHN1cnZleSwgc2luY2UgZm9sbG93dXAga291bGQgYmUgDQoJ
aW1wb3NzaWJsZS4gDQoNCglGaW5hbGx5LCBJIHJlZ2FyZCB0aGUgZm9sbG93aW5nIGFzIG5vdyBh
IGNvbnRyYWRpY3Rpb24gaW4gdGVybXM6IA0KDQoJICAgICAic2NvZmZsYXcgcmVzZWZyY2hlcuMg
d2hvLCB3aGlsZSBYzXNwZWN0aW5nIHRoZSByaWdodHMgb2YgaHVtYW4gDQoJc3ViamVjdHMslIG5l
dmVydGhlbGVzcyBjaG9vc2UgdG8gY2lyY3VtdmVudCB0aGUgSVJCIiAgDQoNCglObyBvbUgY2Fu
IGNsYWtlIHRvIHJlc3BlY3QgaHVtYW4gc3ViamVjdHMgYW5kIGNob29zZSB0byBjaXJjdW12ZW50
IGFuIA0KCUIlSqiBhbnkgbW9yZS4gQmVzaWRlcyBnZXR0aW5nIGV2ZXJ5b25lIGludG8gYSBsb3Qg
b2YgdHJvdWJsZS4gDQoNCglOb25lIG9mIHRoaXMgYXBwbGlcyB0byBvcmdhbm16YXRpb25zIHdp
dGhvdXQgRmVkJXJhbCBmdW5kaW5nIG9mIHRoZWlyIA0KCXJlc2VhcmNoLiBUaGV5IG1ha2UgdGhl
aXIgb3duIGRIY2lzaW9ucy4gRXhjZXB0IGZvcjBkcnVnIGNvbXBhbmlleB3aG8gDQoJaGF2ZSB0
byBkbyBhbGwgDghpcyBhbmQgbW9yZSBpbiBvcmlciB0byBhcHBseSBmb3IgaXBwcm92YWwgDg8g
dGhIEZEQS4gDQoNCglSZWdhcmRzLCANCg0KCURhdmlkIFNtaXR0IA0KDQo=

Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 11:45:44 -0700
Reply-To: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
In-Reply-To:
<D5E378A9E781D44482EFB50B5A836CFF67239A@EXCHANGEb.mgmt.ad.uconn.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Very interesting and informative discussion. My two bits to add:

I think the mere asking of some questions may pose a risk to some respondents. For example, I've seen surveys asking about domestic violence and sexual abuse, and I think asking someone about past abuse could pose very troubling to the respondent, and potentially with significant repercussions that the survey researchers don't bear.

Leora

Dr. Leora Lawton
TechSociety Research
"Custom Social Science and Consumer Behavior Research"
2342 Shattuck Avenue PMB 362, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 548-6174; fax (510) 548-6175; cell (510) 928-7572
www.techsociety.com

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
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Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 15:30:14 -0400
Reply-To: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrew.Beveridge@QC.CUNY.EDU
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial
Comments: To: lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Dear All:

Leora is right about the potential "risk" to respondents of asking the embarrassing questions. However, assuming the respondents are adults, know that they can break off the interview, and that the responses are kept confidential, I don't think this rises to the risk of a simple medical procedure.

Beyond this, if one were not at an institution with an IRB there would be no bar on asking such questions.

Given this, I think it is exactly such concerns that have made the IRB review process so tortuous for many.

If one goes out in traffic, or calls out to someone to cross the street, someone could always get run down.

Do we need informed consent to do that?

Andy Beveridge

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:46 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

Very interesting and informative discussion. My two bits to add:

I think the mere asking of some questions may pose a risk to some respondents. For example, I've seen surveys asking about domestic violence and sexual abuse, and I think asking someone about past abuse could pose very troubling to the respondent, and potentially with significant repercussions that the survey researchers don't bear.

Leora

Dr. Leora Lawton
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=====
Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 09:20:51 -0500
Reply-To: alisu@email.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: =?iso-8859-1?Q?Alis=FA_Schoua-Glusberg?= <Alisu@EMAIL.COM>
Subject: Looking for a scanning company in the Chicago area
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <AA-1556FEA0D6D720CBA26E6CABB0452205-ZZ@www7.prodigy.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Can anyone recommend a vendor that scans questionnaires and is located =
in
the Chicago area?

Thanks!

Alis=FA

Alis=FA Schoua-Glusberg, Ph.D.
General Partner
Research Support Services
906 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL 60202
Alisu@email.com - office: 847.864.5677
cell: 847.971.9068 - fax: 847.556.6559
www.ResearchSupportServices.com

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Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
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=====
Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 12:35:53 -0400
Reply-To: "Sangster, Robie - BLS" <Sangster.Robie@BLS.GOV>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Sangster, Robie - BLS" <Sangster.Robie@BLS.GOV>
Subject: Research Psychologist Job Opening at the Bureau of Labor
Statistics

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

The Behavioral Science Research Center, within the Office of Survey Methods Research at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has an opening for a research psychologist. Basic duties will include cognitive testing, design and conduct of lab studies, survey methodological research, and a consulting role with major BLS survey areas to identify and reduce sources of survey error. Experience with usability testing would be an additional asset.

More detail can be found on USAJOBS.COM (search for "Research Psychologist" in DC Metro area). The link follows:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=3D44020=271&brd=3D3876&AVSDM=3D2006%2D06%2D12+21%3A49%3A05&q=3Dresearch+psychologi=st&so=3Drt=3Ddrv&vw=3Dd&Logo=3D0&FedPub=3DY&lid=3D17514&FedEmp=3DN&SUBMIT1.x=3D88&SUBMIT1.y=3D17&jbf571=3D2&paygrademin=3D12&ss=3D0&TabNum=3D2&rc=3Dhttp://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=3D44020271&brd=3D3876&AVSDM=3D2006%2D06%2D12+21%3A49%3A05&q=3Dresearch+psychologist&sort=3Drt=3Ddrv&vw=3Dd&Logo=3D0&FedPub=3DY&lid=3D17514&FedEmp=3DN&SUBMIT1.x=3D88&SUBMIT1.y=3D17&jbf571=3D2&paygrademin=3D12&ss=3D0&TabNum=3D2&rc=3D2>>=20

Please refer to the USAJOBS contact and please do not reply directly to me. Thanks, Robie=20

Robie Sangster=20
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Office of Survey Methods Research
2 Mass. Ave. NE, Rm 1950
Washington DC 20212
Phone 202-691-7517
FAX 202-691-7426

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=====
Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 15:22:37 -0400
Reply-To: Ward Kay <wkay@ADIRONDACK-INC.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ward Kay <wkay@ADIRONDACK-INC.COM>

Organization: Adirondack Communications
Subject: MAPOR Proposals and Student Paper Competition
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

The deadline for MAPOR abstracts is coming up on June 30th. The conference will be held on November 17-18 in Chicago.

A copy of the call for papers is at
http://www.mapor.org/map/2006_call.pdf

One of the highlights of the MAPOR conference in even number years is the immediate post-election reaction. If you are doing polls in an interesting race and would like to be a part of our Friday afternoon Election Results Panel please let me know.

Also don't forget to encourage students to enter the MAPOR Fellows Student Paper Competition. Details at
http://www.mapor.org/map/2006_studentcall.pdf

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=====
Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 16:34:20 -0400
Reply-To: "Info@PollingCompany" <info@POLLINGCOMPANY.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Info@PollingCompany" <info@POLLINGCOMPANY.COM>
Subject: Survey of Homosexual Men
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

We are looking to do a quantitative phone or web-based survey of homosexual men nationwide and are having considerable difficulty procuring a sample. If any one has any experience surveying this population (and has suggestions as to the best methodology) or knows of a vendor who can provide an accurate and representative list, I would appreciate the recommendation.

=20

Thank you.

=20

Shelley West

Research Analyst

=20

the polling company(tm), inc./WomanTrend

1220 Connecticut Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20036

202-667-6557

202-467-6551 (fax)

www.pollingcompany.com

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

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=====
Date: Fri, 16 Jun 2006 17:52:24 -0400

Reply-To: WCARTER@MCIC.ORG

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: "Woody (Ellwood) Carter" <WCARTER@MCIC.ORG>

Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

No question that "the mere asking of some questions may pose a [psychological] risk to some respondents." In the Michaels/Laumann study of sexual behavior this did happen as some respondents talked about sexual abuse. An unexpected result was that these topics also devastated one or two interviewers (who had had some childhood experiences they suddenly realized could well have been molestation).

But apart from these rare and relatively unpredictable harms, the main thrust of my original post was that the current consents do not alert respondents effectively to the (even low) risks of participation, by burying the message in words words words, some of which gloss over the truth.

For example, we promise confidentiality "within the limits of the law" or some such. I doubt if many respondents realize that this actually means there is no protection of confidentiality if their responses were the subject of a subpoena.

Maybe we like the pool to be a little muddy?

Woody

--- Original Message ---

From: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>

To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

Subject: Re: IRB woes subject of Science editorial

>Very interesting and informative discussion. My two bits to add:

>
>I think the mere asking of some questions may pose a risk to some
>respondents. For example, I've seen surveys asking about domestic
>violence and sexual abuse, and I think asking someone about past abuse
>could pose very troubling to the respondent, and potentially with
>significant repercussions that the survey researchers don't bear.

>
>
>Leora

>
>Dr. Leora Lawton
>TechSociety Research
>"Custom Social Science and Consumer Behavior Research"
>2342 Shattuck Avenue PMB 362, Berkeley, CA 94704
>(510) 548-6174; fax (510) 548-6175; cell (510) 928-7572
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Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 08:55:12 -0400
Reply-To: pd@kerr-downs.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>
Organization: Kerr & Downs Research

Subject: IRB review
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I'd appreciate seeing what others have used as the absolute minimal "consent form" in a RDD survey. Thanks Phillip

Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Kerr & Downs Research
2992 Habersham Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850.906.3111
Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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On your return send this: set aapornet mail
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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 10:11:10 -0400
Reply-To: Paul Braun <pbraun@BRAUNRESEARCH.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Paul Braun <pbraun@BRAUNRESEARCH.COM>
Subject: Quality Control Director
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: Phyllis Gearren <pgearren@braunresearch.com>, doshman@braunresearch.com
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Braun Research, a national survey research firm based in Princeton, NJ =
seeks
a person with project management experience to oversee our Quality =
Control
Department.

Requires a minimum of 2 years of experience in survey research =
overseeing
and fielding survey research studies. Requires strong analytic abilities
with experience monitoring, training and briefing interviewers in a
quantitative research setting. Must also have experience guiding
quantitative research projects. Must have good communication skills, the
ability to handle multiple projects, and be detail-oriented. Must have
ability to work independently and be flexible to changing priorities in =
a
fast-paced environment. Must display good interpersonal skills and the
ability to work effectively with a team. Experience with computers,

especially MSWord, Excel is required.=20

This position involves overseeing interviewer training, monitoring, =
checking
scripts and data. This position reports to the Vice President of
Operations. This position may be flexible in terms of location, but =
will
involve travel to various domestic destinations.

Please email any indication of interest to Phyllis Gearren at
<mailto:pgearren@braunresearch.com> pgearren@braunresearch.com
=20

Paul A. Braun
Braun Research Inc.
271 Wall Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

=20
Office: (609) 279-1600 x110

Fax: (609) 279-1318

Cell: (609) 658-1434

=20
pbraun@braunresearch.com
=20

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>

Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:

set aapornet nomail

On your return send this: set aapornet mail

Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 10:40:27 -0500

Reply-To: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>

Subject: An especially well-documented IRB story

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Earlier this year there was a report of one experience dealing with
multiple IRBs. I have put extracts from the abstract below. =20

Out of 43 VA clinics, nearly everything went wrong at some of them. It
took between 52 and 798 days to get approval of a project that was
designed to be classed as expedited.

In particular, "... most resubmissions were editorial changes to the
wording of the consent document."

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H., C.Stat.
Associate Professor, Biostatistics
Fellow, Institute for Health Policy
The University of Texas School of Public Health
San Antonio Branch Campus
voice: (210) 562-5512
e-mail: smithd2@uthscsa.edu

=20
Lee A. Green, Julie C. Lowery, Christine P. Kowalski, and Leon
Wyszewianski. Impact of Institutional Review Board Practice Variation on
Observational Health Services Research IRB and Methodological Issues.
Health Services Research, Volume 41, Issue 1, Page 214 - February 2006.

Objective. To describe, qualitatively and quantitatively, the impact of
a review by multiple institutional review boards (IRBs) on the conduct
of a multisite observational health services research study.

Data Source and Setting. Primary data collection during 2002, 2003, and
2004 at 43 United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary
care clinics.

Principal Findings: Approximately 4,680 hours of staff time over a
19-month period were devoted solely to the IRB process. Four categories
of phenomena impacting research were observed:

(1) Recruitment, retention, and communication issues with local site
principal investigators.=20

(2) Wide variation in standards applied to review and approval of IRB
applications. The study was designed to be qualified under U.S.
government regulations for expedited review. One site exempted it from
review (although it did not qualify for exemption), 10 granted expedited
review, 31 required full review, and one rejected it as being too risky
to be permitted.=20

(3) Multiple returns for revision of IRB applications, consent
documents, and ancillary forms. Seventy-six percent of sites required at
least one resubmission, and 15 percent of sites required three or more
(up to six) resubmissions. Only 12 percent of sites required any
procedural or substantive revision; most resubmissions were editorial
changes to the wording of the consent document.

(4) Process failures (long turnaround times, lost paperwork, difficulty
in obtaining necessary forms, unavailability of key personnel at IRBs).
The process required from 52 to 798 (median 286) days to obtain approval
at each site.

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 14:34:48 -0500

Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>

Subject: Job Opportunity

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Company: Phillip Morris

Location: Richmond, VA

Job Title: Senior Research Analyst

=20

=20

Job Description

=20

Philip Morris USA Inc., a global leader in the manufacturing and marketing of consumer products made for adults, seeks an experienced Senior Research Analyst to work in our Corporate Responsibility Department in Richmond, Virginia.

=20

Position Specific Duties:

Support company communications efforts by designing, implementing and analyzing research studies. Responsible for planning, designing, executing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative research on company communications - including the company website and corporate responsibility communications and advertisements. Provide research support to help develop further the company's corporate brand identity. Also required to commission issues-based exploratory research and general communications research to support the development of company messaging on important business topics. In many instances, research needs to be conducted within a very small window of time. Results have to be analyzed and presented in a timely manner to assist in strategic decision making. This requires the ability to manage a multitude of tasks simultaneously, including overseeing research vendors,

coordinating with advertising agencies and working with a variety of internal teams and departments.=20

Effectively engage in vendor management: maintain/cultivate relationships and collaborate with outside suppliers, consultants and vendors who conduct qualitative and quantitative research for the Corporate Responsibility Research Department in an effort to ensure timely, cost effective, high quality deliverables. Plan and manage multiple projects. For qualitative research, design research specifications, attend research and report on the findings/implications. For quantitative research, participate in and oversee questionnaire design, data tabulation plan development, data analysis, report writing, presentation creation and execution.

Work with communications teams to assess strategy and research needs. Execute important departmental infrastructure which can include contracts, budgets, and other organization development efforts.

=20

Experience/Skills:

College degree preferred (advance degree desirable), with focus on applied research design, communications research, public policy research or public opinion research preferred. A minimum of 3 years planning and conducting qualitative and quantitative research studies to support the development of corporate/company communications is strongly preferred. Experience conducting research in such areas as corporate brand development, corporate affairs, government affairs, public relations, public policy and/or public opinion is helpful.

Must have a strong understanding of communications research design and methodologies. Must be able to design, implement and analyze qualitative and quantitative studies that provide critical insights for the development and evaluation of company communications across a variety of vehicles including speeches, TV, print and web. Must have strong analytical skills, including a basic understanding of statistical applications. Must have survey/questionnaire design and analysis experience. Must be able to write and edit research-based reports and presentations.=20

Must possess strong PC skills. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment with shifting deadlines and priorities. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail are required. Must use sound, independent reasoning and judgment to establish work priorities, handle questions, and be flexible to respond to constantly changing priorities. Must be able to work in a team environment and be willing to work constructively with others to achieve team goals. Must have excellent client service and consultative skills. Must have solid vendor management/relationship skills.

=20

Philip Morris USA is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer (M/F/V/D). We support diversity in our workforce. Philip Morris USA is a drug-free workplace.=20

Interested? =20

Log on to: <http://www.philipmorrisusa.com>

<<http://www.philipmorrisusa.com>> and apply to job number 6651 .=20

=20

=20

=20

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 20 Jun 2006 12:44:50 -0400

Reply-To: pd@kerr-downs.com

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>

Organization: Kerr & Downs Research

Subject: Engineers lists

Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Can anyone recommend a company that supplies lists of engineers (especially heating, refrigerating and air-conditioning) for research purposes? Would prefer email addresses, but mailing address and/or phone numbers will also help. Thanks Phillip

Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Partner, Kerr & Downs Research
Professor of Marketing, FSU
2992 Habersham Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850.906.3111
Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .

Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

Date: Tue, 20 Jun 2006 13:53:27 -0400
Reply-To: Kelly Foster <kfoster@CUIOG.UGA.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Kelly Foster <kfoster@CUIOG.UGA.EDU>
Subject: SAPOR Call for Papers and Posters
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: "Helton, Melissa" <helton@rti.org>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Did AAPOR get you jazzed up? All excited about survey research? Need a challenging yet supportive environment to showcase your brilliant ideas?

If so, then the SAPOR conference is just the place for you (and I have attached the call for papers to prove it to you)!!! We are accepting abstracts for paper and poster presentations at our annual conference to be held in October in beautiful Raleigh, North Carolina. It's our 25th annual conference so you can bet that this is one you don't want to miss. We have a student paper competition, engaging panels, and great social activities! For more conference information, please contact Melissa Helton (helton@rti.org) or Kelly Foster (kfoster@cuiog.uga.edu) or visit the SAPOR website at <http://www.survey.uga.edu/sapor/> for info and pictures.

Thanks!
~Kelly

Kelly N. Foster, M.S.
Research Professional II, Survey Research Unit
Carl Vinson Institute of Government
The University of Georgia
201 North Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605-5482
Office: 706-542-2736
Fax: 706-542-9301
www.cuiog.uga.edu

/ /*/Southern Association for Public Opinion Research/*

/25^th Annual Conference///

October 5 & 6, 2006

University Club

North Carolina State University

Raleigh, North Carolina

*Proposals for papers or presentations are invited in all areas of opinion and survey research, including public opinion, international opinion research, electoral behavior, the media, political communication, market research and consumer behavior, group differences in attitudes, evaluation research, applied sampling, questionnaire design, survey methodology, focus groups, web-based surveys, computer-assisted interviewing, field-based studies, and alternative approaches to public opinion research. Graduate student participation is welcome. *

* *

Depending on the topics submitted there will be up to five sessions. Please contact the Conference Chair to indicate your willingness to serve as a discussant for one of these sessions. */We are also seeking topics of interest (as well as volunteers) for one or two roundtable discussions. Please contact the Conference Chair with your ideas and potential panelists. These roundtables offer a less formal venue in which to discuss current issues in public opinion research./*

/Also, please see the attached announcement regarding the PROTHRO Student Paper Competition./

* *

Please submit via e-mail or regular mail your proposal or abstract of no more than 300 words by _June 30, 2006_ to SAPOR Conference Committee Chair:

* *

Melissa Helton

RTI International

3040 Cornwallis Rd

*PO Box** 12194***

*Research Triangle Park**, NC 27709***

E-mail: helton@rti.org

Phone: 919-541-7168

* *

Make sure that proposal includes the name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the principal author.

We hope to see you in October.

Melissa Helton
Survey Director
RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Rd.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
919-541-7168

--

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Date: Tue, 20 Jun 2006 16:41:36 -0700
Reply-To: Jennifer Franz <jdf Franz@JDFRANZ.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jennifer Franz <jdf Franz@JDFRANZ.COM>
Subject: Youth Participation
Comments: To: "AAPORNET@asu.edu" <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="Windows-1252"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

We are looking for a brief and fairly straightforward "permission slip" to give parents to request inclusion of youth (ages 14 to 17) in an in-person intercept survey. We don't need a lot of legal language - this isn't an academic study with an IRB and it's not federally funded - just something parents can understand and knowingly respond to. Does anyone have a model we can use? Having a Spanish translation would be a big plus, too. Thank you!

Jennifer D. Franz, Ph.D.
President
JD Franz Research, Inc.

(916) 440-8777 Phone
(916) 440-8787 Fax
(916) 296-3400 Mobile

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=====
Date: Wed, 21 Jun 2006 04:22:59 -0700
Reply-To: Annette Jackle <aejack@ESSEX.AC.UK>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Annette Jackle <aejack@ESSEX.AC.UK>
Subject: REMINDER: Longitudinal Surveys Conference

There is still time to register for the Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys (MOLS) conference. If your work involves longitudinal or panel surveys, you can't afford to miss it!

MOLS is an international conference to be held at the University of Essex, Colchester UK on 12-14 July 2006. The scientific programme includes more than 70 presentations with presenters from more than 15 countries. Speakers include Jon Rao, Rod Little, Mick Couper, Peter Smith, Gad Nathan, Don Dillman and Ian Plewis. There are also two associated short courses on the day before the conference, and a varied social programme including a barbeque reception and a civic reception and conference dinner in Colchester's ancient Moot Hall.

Full details of the conference, the courses, and the registration form can be found on the conference website:
<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/>

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Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

=====
Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2006 11:56:06 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Valpak is the leading and most recognized direct mail advertising brand in North America. Established in 1968, Valpak has grown to include online and on-demand products sold in local and regional markets as well as nationwide. Nearly 200 Valpak franchises and their sales force of 1,200 represent the "blue envelope of savings", a product of Cox Target

Media, a subsidiary of Cox Newspapers, which is owned by Cox Enterprises Inc., the sixth largest media company by revenue in the U.S. We announced earlier this year that we will be building a 500,000-square-foot production facility in St. Petersburg, Fla. and is expected to be fully operational in early 2007. It will occupy an area equivalent to some 10 football fields, making it one of the largest building footprints in Pinellas County. So, Cox Target Media is a very exciting place to work.=20

=20

Position Title: Audience Research Supervisor

Location: Largo, Florida

Pay range: \$50,000 - \$55,000 base plus bonus opportunities and excellent benefits

=20

Job Summary:

Working with departmental leadership, develops primary research programs to assess product effectiveness. Oversees the execution of primary research and analysis for Valpak Network products. Conducts consumer research to assess effectiveness, awareness and brand relevance. Oversees use of business to business data in support of sales prospecting and strategic marketing initiatives related to client analysis.

=20

General Responsibilities:

1.Oversees daily departmental business, prioritizes and coordinates workflow and special projects assigned to the department. =20

2.Monitors the performance standards of staff, evaluates performance, helps develop staff and takes corrective action within established guidelines when necessary. =20

3.Directs and executes ongoing marketing research to generate timely, high-quality information necessary to ensuring that CTM marketing programs remain competitive and up-to-date =20

4.Participates in and supports long range marketing strategic plans and coordinates the marketing research programs. =20

5.Utilizes appropriate and optimal research methods for the collection, preparation and analysis of relevant primary and/or secondary data. Such methods include data collection via interviews, surveys, data mining, and data analysis. =20

6.Responsible for effectively communicating the results and implications

of marketing research projects - in verbal presentations, written reports, and in collateral materials - to internal CTM audiences and to external audiences. =20

7.Acquires, prepares and analyzes competitor market data in order to provide CTM with timely and high-quality competitive intelligence.=20

8.Oversees the effective use of Business-to-Business list data to provide analysis of potential and existing Valpak Clients

9.Travels on a regular basis to gather data, work with external suppliers, and for other research purposes.=20

10.Performs all other duties as assigned or directed.

=20

Skills: =20

- * Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills =20
- * Strong interpersonal and persuasive skills =20
- * Advanced training/experience in research methods =20
- * Ability to multi-task in fast-paced environment =20
- * Advanced PC and Internet skills =20
- * Ability to work with relative independence =20
- * Proficiency in business and statistics software =20
- * Self starter with strong work ethic =20
- * Regular travel required =20
- * Strategic perspective =20
- * Strong verbal, writing and presentation skills =20
- * Basic knowledge of HTML programming preferred

=20

Experience:

- * Bachelors degree in Marketing or related field required.=20
- * Prefer MBA or other postgraduate degree requiring advanced training in research methods. =20

* Minimum of 3-5 years of marketing research and analysis or related experience required. =20

* Minimum of 2 years Internet Marketing experience preferred.

=20

Contact:

Dana Ginsberg

Human Resources Generalist

Cox Target Media, Inc.

hr5@coxtarget.com

www.coxtarget.com

=20

=20

=20

=20

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=====
Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2006 17:01:28 -0400

Reply-To: Laura Burns <laura@EUREKAFACTS.COM>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Laura Burns <laura@EUREKAFACTS.COM>

Subject: Graphical representation of survey process

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hi,

I have a friend who is looking for a graphical representation of the survey process from the very beginning of deciding to do a survey through reporting. Does anyone have a good figure that you can direct me to?

Thanks,

Laura

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2006 16:17:04 -0500
Reply-To: hgordon@grfild.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Howard Gordon <hgordon@GRFILTD.COM>
Subject: Re: Graphical representation of survey process
Comments: To: Laura Burns <laura@EUREKAFACTS.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <[001501c6963f\\$09cc2e40\\$6901a8c0@Research](mailto:001501c6963f$09cc2e40$6901a8c0@Research)>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

You may want to look in Kinnear & Taylor Marketing Research: An Applied Approach, Chaps.3 and 4 or in Chap. 14, Fig. 1, Marketing Manager's Handbook, ed. Levy, Frerichs, Gordon.

Howard

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [<mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu>]On Behalf Of Laura Burns
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 4:01 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Graphical representation of survey process

Hi,

I have a friend who is looking for a graphical representation of the survey process from the very beginning of deciding to do a survey through reporting. Does anyone have a good figure that you can direct me to?

Thanks,

Laura

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2006 23:48:58 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Interviewer training manual
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed

I am looking for an interviewer training manual for telephone surveys. Can anyone either send me one or direct me to where I can find one?

warren mitofsky

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 10:56:56 +0200
Reply-To: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Subject: Re: Interviewer training manual
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <7.0.1.0.2.20060622234724.03e2a648@mindspring.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed

Contact John Tarnai and/or Danna Moore from WSU.
They presented an excellent talk on training at the TSMII conference

Edith de Leeuw

p.s. I will be interested in any other leads you get

At 11:48 PM 6/22/2006 -0400, you wrote:

>
>I am looking for an interviewer training manual for telephone surveys. Can
>anyone either send me one or direct me to where I can find one?
>
>warren mitofsky
>
>-----
>Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
>Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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>On your return send this: set aapornet mail
>Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
>Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
>
>

Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw
Lecturer Methods & Statistics, UCU
"Dare to be Excellent"

e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl

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Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 08:10:55 -0400
Reply-To: Richard Clark <clark@CVIOG.UGA.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Richard Clark <clark@CVIOG.UGA.EDU>
Subject: Re: Interviewer training manual
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
In-Reply-To: <5.1.0.14.2.20060623105044.01fe4ca8@pop.xs4all.nl>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Dr. Patricia Gwartney, from University of Oregon, is writing one to be published soon by Wiley & Sons. Her's is a comprehensive guide for phone interviewers.

Edith de Leeuw wrote:

> Contact John Tarnai and/or Danna Moore from WSU.
> They presented an excellent talk on training at the TSMII conference
>

> Edith de Leeuw
>
> p.s. I will be interested in any other leads you get
>
> At 11:48 PM 6/22/2006 -0400, you wrote:
>
>>
>> I am looking for an interviewer training manual for telephone
>> surveys. Can
>> anyone either send me one or direct me to where I can find one?
>>
>> warren mitofsky
>>
>> -----
>> Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
>> Vacation hold? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
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>> On your return send this: set aapornet mail
>> Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
>> Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to:
>> aapornet-request@asu.edu
>>
>>
>
> Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw
> Lecturer Methods & Statistics, UCU
> "Dare to be Excellent"
>
> e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl
>
> -----
> Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html> .
> Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
> signoff aapornet
> Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.

--

Richard L. Clark, Ph.D.
Director of Peach State Poll
Manager of Survey Research Unit
Carl Vinson Institute of Government
University of Georgia
201 N. Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30602
(706) 542-2736

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
=====

Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 08:55:39 -0400
Reply-To: Larry Brownell <larry.brownell@MRA-NET.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Larry Brownell <larry.brownell@MRA-NET.ORG>
Subject: Re: Interviewer training manual
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

CMOR just completed a very comprehensive training series that is available on CD-rom.

Contact Patrick Glazer at 860-657-1881

Larry Brownell=20

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 11:49 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Interviewer training manual

=09
I am looking for an interviewer training manual for telephone surveys.
Can anyone either send me one or direct me to where I can find one?

warren mitofsky

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Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 10:36:11 -0400
Reply-To: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Subject: Podhorhetz on polls
Comments: To: aapornet <aapornet@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v749.3)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delp=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

The lead of John Podhoretz's column in the NY Post today <http://www.nypost.com/postopinion/opedcolumnists/congress_again_votes_for_victory_opedcolumnists_john_podhoretz.htm>

> AT crucial moments over the past three-plus years, American
> politicians and American voters have been forced to pass judgment
> on the war in Iraq - not by pollsters asking a tiny fraction of
> them how they feel, but through actual votes, either in Congress or
> at the ballot box. And every time they are asked to pass judgment,
> they have chosen to wage it, to validate the politicians who
> supported it, to pay for it and to continue it.

Maybe a professional or two should explain to him
<podhoretz@gmail.com> how that sampling of "a tiny fraction" works.

Doug Henwood
Left Business Observer
38 Greene St - 4th fl.
New York NY 10013-2505 USA
<dhenwood@panix.com>
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<<http://www.leftbusinessobserver.com/Radio.html>>
podcast: <<http://shout.lbo-talk.org/lbo/RadioArchive/2005/dircaster.php>>

download my book Wall Street (for free!) at
<<http://www.wallstreetthebook.com>>

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=====
Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 11:02:37 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Polling during wartime
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Recently several politicians have noted that you don't fight a war based

on poll (and who could disagree with that) and several others have suggested that a poll after the Battle of the Bulge or D-Day in WW II would have indicated a desire to end the war swiftly. Yesterday I stumbled across a graph of private polling conducted for FDR with a WW II timeline.

According to this website the graph is taken from The Human Dimension: Experiences in Policy Research by Hadley Cantril, published by Rutgers University Press, 1967

<http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com/docs/wwii-polls/>

--=20

Leo G. Simonetta

Director of Research

Art & Science Group, LLC

As always opinions expressed are solely those of the author.

=20

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Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 10:59:57 -0400

Reply-To: Cara Wong <cjwong@UMICH.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Cara Wong <cjwong@UMICH.EDU>

Subject: Re: Polling during wartime

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed

Here's a link to a related post on mystery pollster (with a reference to a WPost story):

http://www.mysterypollster.com/main/2006/06/the_battle_of_t.html

> Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2006 11:02:37 -0400

> From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>

> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

> Subject: Polling during wartime

>

> Recently several politicians have noted that you don't fight a war based

> on poll (and who could disagree with that) and several others have

> suggested that a poll after the Battle of the Bulge or D-Day in WW II

> would have indicated a desire to end the war swiftly. Yesterday I

> stumbled across a graph of private polling conducted for FDR with a WW

> II timeline.

>

> According to this website the graph is taken from The Human Dimension:

> Experiences in Policy Research by Hadley Cantril, published by Rutgers

> University Press, 1967
>
> <http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com/docs/wwii-polls/>
>
> --
> Leo G. Simonetta
> Director of Research
> Art & Science Group, LLC
> As always opinions expressed are solely those of the author.
>
>
> -----
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=====
Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 10:10:01 -0700
Reply-To: Cathy Cirina <ccirina@MAIL.SDSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Cathy Cirina <ccirina@MAIL.SDSU.EDU>
Subject: online/multi-mode software
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I run a modest (20 station) university-based survey research center. We are looking for a software program that can handle both online and multi-mode projects, and I'd be grateful for any recommendations.

Thanks--

Cathy Cirina, MA, MPH
Coordinator, Research Services
Social Science Research Lab
San Diego State University

619.594.1363

ccirina@mail.sdsu.edu

<http://ssrl.sdsu.edu/>

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Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 14:44:09 -0700
Reply-To: Steve Johnson <stevej@nsdssurvey.org>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Steve Johnson <stevej@NSDSSURVEY.ORG>
Organization: Northwest Survey & Data Services
Subject: Re: quality of life
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset=iso-8859-1; reply-type=response
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Has anyone tried to measure how people define "quality of life?" I am interested in what attributes of society, the economy, the environment, or personal life people equate with the "quality of life."
Thanks in advance
Steve Johnson, PhD
President, Northwest Survey & Data Services

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Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 09:45:54 -0400
Reply-To: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Rockwell, Richard" <richard.rockwell@UCONN.EDU>
Subject: Re: quality of life
Comments: To: Steve Johnson <stevej@NSDSSURVEY.ORG>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8
Content-transfer-encoding: base64

VGhpcyBpcyBvbmUgcGxhY2Ugd2hlcmUgdGhlIFdpa2lwZWRpYSBhY3R1YWxseSBoYXNMgc29tZSBn
b29kIHJlc29lcmNlcy4gIFNlZSBodHRwOi8vZW4ud2lraXB1ZGllhLm9yZy93aWtpL1F1YWxpdHlf
b2ZfbGlmZS4NCiANCiRoZXJlIGlzIGEgcmljaCBsaXRlcmF0dXJlIG9uIGhvdyB0byBtZWZdXJl
ICJxdWFsaXR5IG9mIGxpZmUuLiAgU29tZSBvZiB0aGUgZWZyYbGllc3Qgd29yayB3YXNMgYXNzb2Np

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject: Re: quality of life
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu, Steve Johnson <stevej@nsdssurvey.org>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

I don't know about how people (the general population) defines QOL (Quality of Life), but scientists have been quite prolific on this topic as the construct is peppered throughout the extant social science literature. Although QOL is clearly outside my area of content expertise, I do recall from graduate school that this construct is generally viewed as context specific. That is, QOL is seen as being relative to some aspect of one's existence, such as relative to health or relative to financial capacity.

In my present field, when QOL is measured, it generally follows along lines pertaining to health. The standard measures of the three dimensional construct of Health-Related QOL can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/hrqol14_measure.htm

The three dimensions are operationalized as three measurement modules totaling 14 items: Healthy Days Core (4 items); Activities Limitations (5 items); and Healthy Days Symptoms (5 items).

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator and General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm)
Associate Director, Database & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
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Fax (research group): 856.566-6874
E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu

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>>> Steve Johnson <stevej@NSDSSURVEY.ORG> 06/26/06 5:44 PM >>>

Has anyone tried to measure how people define "quality of life?" I am

interested in what attributes of society, the economy, the environment,

or

personal life people equate with the "quality of life."

Thanks in advance

Steve Johnson, PhD

President, Northwest Survey & Data Services

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=====
Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 09:13:19 -0500

Reply-To: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>

Subject: Re: AAPORNET Digest - 23 Jun 2006 to 26 Jun 2006 (#2006-144)

Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

=20

This has expanded dramatically over the last 15 years wrt health status.

QOL is now commonly measured in clinical trials and there are several

large volumes in this area. Most of it is disease-specific. Much of it

is more suitable for those with a disability rather than a general

population.

The World Health Organization has sponsored a survey for multiple

cultures and languages called the WHOQOL-100 (100 questions) and this

has been done in several countries. There have been numerous papers on

this.

Frank Andrews edited a book on this topic wrt

international/cross-cultural surveys. He is probably a founding father

of international comparative QOL.

Andrews, Frank M., Research on the Quality of Life. Ann Arbor: Survey

Research Center, Institute for Social Research,1986.

Regards,

David Smith

Biostatistics
The University of Texas School of Public Health
San Antonio Branch Campus

Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 14:44:09 -0700
From: Steve Johnson <stevej@NSDSSURVEY.ORG>
Subject: Re: quality of life

Has anyone tried to measure how people define "quality of life?" I am interested in what attributes of society, the economy, the environment, or personal life people equate with the "quality of life."

Thanks in advance
Steve Johnson, PhD
President, Northwest Survey & Data Services=20

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=====
Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 08:00:24 -0700
Reply-To: Annette Jackle <aejack@ESSEX.AC.UK>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Annette Jackle <aejack@ESSEX.AC.UK>
Subject: REMINDER: Short Courses on multilevel modelling and handling
incomplete data in longitudinal surveys
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

There are still a few places left on two one-day courses taking place at the University of Essex on 11 July 2006.

The courses are:

Handling incomplete data in longitudinal surveys
<<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/programme/courses/course1.php>>.
Presented by Joop Hox <<http://www.geocities.com/joophox>> and Edith deLeeuw <<http://www.xs4all.nl/%7Eedith/>>, University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

Multilevel modelling for longitudinal survey data
<<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/programme/courses/course2.php>>.
Presented by Sophia Rabe-Hesketh
<<http://gse.berkeley.edu/faculty/SRabe-Hesketh/SRabe-Hesketh.html>>,
University of California, Berkeley and Anders Skrondal
<<http://www.gllamm.org/anders.html>>, London School of Economics.

Futher details of the courses are available here:

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/programme/courses/>

Attendance at a course, including one night's accommodation and meals, costs only =A390 (=A350 for UK-based academics and students; =A370 for non-UK-based students), or just =A340 without the accommodation and dinner (=A310 for UK academics and students; =A330 for non-UK students).

The courses immediately precede the Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys (MOLS) conference, which takes place at the same venue from 12-14 July 2006 (see <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/>)

Registration for both the courses and the conference is online at <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006/book/=20>

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Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 13:08:23 -0500
Reply-To: "Steen, Bob" <steenb@FLEISHMAN.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Steen, Bob" <steenb@FLEISHMAN.COM>
Subject: Phone restoration in Louisiana
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

A June 20, 2006 article from Newhouse News Service reported that:
=20

"Traditional BellSouth telephone service has been restored in 86.6 percent of Orleans Parish, 96.4 percent of Plaquemines Parish and 18.2 percent of St. Bernard Parish, said Merlin Villar, a spokesman for the company. Darrell Cooper, a senior network vice president, said in May that some 130,000 customer lines are still down. Katrina rebuilding is going to be a multiyear effort, but it will be an opportunity to provide higher-end services, he said."

I've been asked about the overall impact of outages on RDD sampling in the state of Louisiana. I suspect that the percent of HHs relying on cell service may have increased and perhaps a higher percentage than normal of households are still in hotels or other non-traditional housing, but that with the exception of St. Bernard Parish, phone service is back to a point where RDD samples are "legitimate." Anyone have insights or documentation about the current nature of RDD sampling in Louisiana?

=20
At one time this list made references to sources of information on the restoration of phone service throughout the region. Is that source still being maintained?

=20
Thanks.

=20

Bob Steen

Vice President
Fleishman-Hillard Research
200 North Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102

314-982-1752
steenb@fleishman.com

Fax: 314-982-9105

=20

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Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 14:43:24 -0400
Reply-To: "Myllyluoma, Jaana L" <mylly@BATTELLE.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Myllyluoma, Jaana L" <mylly@BATTELLE.ORG>
Subject: Interactive instantenous surveys
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I'm looking for a referral to a company that does interactive,
instantaneous surveys at conferences or meetings. Can anyone suggest a
vendor?

=20

Thanks,

=20

Jaana Myllyluoma, Ph.D

Site Director, Baltimore

Battelle CPHRE

6115 Falls Road, Suite 200

Baltimore, Maryland 21209

=20

Phone: 410-372-2720

Fax: 410-377-6802

email: mylly@battelle.org <mailto:mylly@battelle.org>=20

=20

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Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 15:50:55 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

False justification
<http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20060626-094414-6084r.htm>

The national media is a power-hungry institution. It maintains its power to determine what is important in American politics and government by making dupes of the American public. The "duping" occurs through media opinion polling.=20

To preserve their agenda power, the mainstream media have an ace in the hole: opinion polls. By asking the right questions of the public, the media can validate the legitimacy of their agenda focus by claiming the public has a similar view.=20

What is the mainstream media's favored agenda focus? They have long devoted disproportionate interest to political conflict, scandal, horse races and bad news. Media polls focus disproportionately on these topics.=20

The poll questions also reflect the media's favored framing of the news.=20

So when the public responses usually reliably echo the media frames, the media claim public support for its interpretations.=20

SNIP

--=20

Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC

6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD 21209

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Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 17:58:37 -0400
Reply-To: Allen Barton <allenbarton@mindspring.com>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Allen Barton <allenbarton@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

The complaint from the ultra-conservative, Moonie-owned Washington Times about the "mainstream media" polls being deliberately misleading and pushing their hidden agenda reminds me of Thomas Mahl's book "Desperate Deception." Mahl claimed that all those Gallup, Roper, and Cantril polls showing the shift of US public opinion toward aiding Britain against the Nazis in 1940-41 were fake. Gallup, Roper and Cantril were all British agents or controlled by British agents and an "Anglophile elite." See my review of Mahl in International Journal of Public Opinion Research, v. 15, no. 2, 2003. I might add that Mahl was photographed in 2002 shaking hands with the holocaust denier David Irving at a "Real History" meeting devoted to "revisionist history" of World War II.

Of course polls can be selected and slanted - see those done by interest groups and candidates trying to claim that the public supports their positions, rather than trying to find out where the public actually stands (or indeed has any opinion on an issue.) But the idea that our competing media and our most professional pollsters are all slanting their reporting of public opinion to advance a hidden political agenda is the usual fantasy of extremists who can't bear the truth that on some issues the public rejects their position.

Thanks, Leo, for alerting us to this latest outbreak of extremist paranoia.

-----Original Message-----

>From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
>Sent: Jun 27, 2006 3:50 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
>
>False justification
><http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20060626-094414-6084r.htm>
>
>The national media is a power-hungry institution. It maintains its power
>to determine what is important in American politics and government by

>making dupes of the American public. The "duping" occurs though media
>opinion polling.

>
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> What is the mainstream media's favored agenda focus? They have long
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>
> The poll questions also reflect the media's favored framing of the
>news.

>
> So when the public responses usually reliably echo the media frames,
>the media claim public support for its interpretations.

>
>SNIP

>
>--
>Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.

>Director of Research
>Art & Science Group, LLC
>6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
>Baltimore MD 21209

>
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Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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=====
Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 11:23:58 +0100
Reply-To: Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK>
Subject: 'Social integration' scale
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I'=20m=20looking=20for=20a=20set=20of=20attitude=20items=20that=20form=20e=
ither=20an=20additive

scale=20or=20factors=20=20ideally=20no=20more=20than=20ten=20preferably=20= less=20=20with=20a high=20alpha=20and=20good=20test-retest=20reliability.

What=20I=20want=20to=20measure=20is=20something=20I'm=20calling=20=20thro= ugh=20want=20of=20a better=20term=20=20'social=20integration'.=20By=20this=20I=20do=20*not*=20= mean=20what=20is usually=20described=20as=20social=20integration,=20that=20is:=20participat= ion=20in friendship=20networks,=20organisations,=20civil=20society=20etc.=20

What=20I=20do=20mean=20is=20the=20extent=20to=20which=20respondents=20perc= eive=20themselves=20to be=20integrated=20into=20society=20in=20terms=20of=20such=20thing=20as=20o= pportunities=20to get=20on=20or,=20at=20the=20opposite=20pole,=20to=20be=20(or=20likely=20to= =20be=20in=20the=20future) socially=20excluded=20and/or=20discriminated=20against.

This=20is=20for=20use=20on=20the=20fourth=20wave=20of=20a=20longitudinal=20= study=20of=20young people=20first=20interviewed=20at=20age=2014=20and=20who=20will=20be=2016=20= or=2017=20at=20time=20of this=20interview.=20It's=20a=20large=20sample=20(we'll=20be=20issuing=20c=20= 12,600=20cases=20at W4)=20which=20contains=20boosts=20for=20those=20at=20greater=20risk=20of=20= poverty=20and=20for the=20six=20major=20ethnic=20minorities=20in=20the=20UK=20(Black=20Caribbe= an,=20Black African,=20Bangladeshi,=20Pakistani,=20Indian=20and=20Mixed).

Because=20of=20the=20age=20of=20the=20sample=20it=20should=20ideally=20be=20= one=20that=20has=20been used=20with=20young=20people=20but,=20as=20we=20may=20be=20asking=20parent= s=20as=20well=20(c=2095% of=20our=20sample=20will=20still=20be=20in=20the=20parental=20home),=20one= =20that=20works=20with adults=20as=20well=20would=20be=20welcome.

Any=20ideas?

Iain=20Noble=20 Department=20for=20Education=20and=20Skills=20 Creating=20opportunity,=20releasing=20potential,=20achieving=20excellence=20=

Strategic=20Analysis:=20RM=201=20(YCS=20and=20Next=20Steps=20Study),=20 W606,=20Moorfoot,=20Sheffield,=20S1=204PQ.=20 0114=20259=201180=20

For=20information=20about=20the=20Next=20Steps=20Study=20go=20to www.dfes.gov.uk/research=20

This=20email=20and=20any=20files=20transmitted=20with=20it=20are=20confide=
ntial=20and
intended=20solely=20for=20the=20use=20of=20the=20individual=20or=20entity=20=
to=20whom=20they
are=20addressed.=20If=20you=20have=20received=20this=20email=20in=20error=20=
please=20notify
the=20system=20manager.

This=20footnote=20also=20confirms=20that=20this=20email=20message=20has=20=
been=20swept=20by
MIMESweeper=20for=20the=20presence=20of=20computer=20viruses.

www.mimesweeper.com

The=20original=20of=20this=20email=20was=20scanned=20for=20viruses=20by=20=
Government=20Secure=20Intranet=20(GSi)=20=20virus=20scanning=20service=20s=
applied=20exclusively=20by=20Cable=20&=20Wireless=20in=20partnership=20wit=
h=20MessageLabs.

On=20leaving=20the=20GSI=20this=20email=20was=20certified=20virus=20free.
The=20MessageLabs=20Anti=20Virus=20Service=20is=20the=20first=20managed=20=
service=20to=20achieve=20the=20CSIA=20Claims=20Tested=20Mark=20(CCTM=20Cer=
tificate=20Number=202006/04/0007),=20the=20UK=20Government=20quality=20mar=
k=20initiative=20for=20information=20security=20products=20and=20services.=
=20=20For=20more=20information=20about=20this=20please=20visit=20www.cctma=
rk.gov.uk

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 10:42:59 -0400

Reply-To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>

Subject: Re: 'Social integration' scale

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu, Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Content-disposition: inline

If I understand correctly, you want to measure perceived discrimination (likelihood of being socially excluded and/or experiencing unfairly negative treatment based on personal characteristics) and alienation (the degree to which a person feels emotionally isolated from and/or connected to society).

Kathryn Castle, Ph.D. is the Principal Investigator of a study called "Risk and Protective Factors in Black Adolescents." Among the many self-report measures in the study are perceived discrimination and alienation. The population is teenagers (specifically Black adolescents) so this study would seem to be closely related if not directly on target for your purposes.

I have knowledge of neither the specific measures used nor their psychometric characteristics. However, if you make contact with Dr. Castle, she might be able and willing to help. I am sorry that I do not know her personally and therefore cannot help you connect with her, but the last I heard is that she is at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide, Laboratory of Personality and Development. The main telephone number there is (585) 275-8990.

I hope this is helpful. Good luck.

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator and General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm)
Associate Director, Database & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
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Fax (research group): 856.566-6874
E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu

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>>> Iain Noble <Iain.NOBLE@DFES.GSI.GOV.UK> 06/28/06 6:23 AM >>>
I'm looking for a set of attitude items that form either an additive scale or factors - ideally no more than ten preferably less - with a high alpha and good test-retest reliability.

What I want to measure is something I'm calling - through want of a better term - 'social integration'. By this I do *not* mean what is usually described as social integration, that is: participation in friendship networks, organisations, civil society etc.

What I do mean is the extent to which respondents perceive themselves to be integrated into society in terms of such things as opportunities to get on or, at the opposite pole, to be (or likely to be in the future) socially excluded and/or discriminated against.

This is for use on the fourth wave of a longitudinal study of young people first interviewed at age 14 and who will be 16 or 17 at time of this interview. It's a large sample (we'll be issuing c 12,600 cases at W4) which contains boosts for those at greater risk of poverty and for the six major ethnic minorities in the UK (Black Caribbean, Black African, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian and Mixed).

Because of the age of the sample it should ideally be one that has been used with young people but, as we may be asking parents as well (c 95% of our sample will still be in the parental home), one that works with adults as well would be welcome.

Any ideas?

Iain Noble
Department for Education and Skills
Creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence
Strategic Analysis: RM 1 (YCS and Next Steps Study),
W606, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ.
0114 259 1180
For information about the Next Steps Study go to
www.dfes.gov.uk/research

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www.mimesweeper.com

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 12:12:17 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Political Consultant resigns over made-up poll results
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

It is over a month old but it just came to my attention . . .

Holtzman aide spinning out of control
by Jim Spencer=20
Denver Post Staff Columnist=20
http://www.denverpost.com/spencer/ci_3787149

Dick Leggitt admitted that making up poll numbers and giving them to a Denver Post reporter "probably wasn't the smartest thing I ever did."=20

"I think my credibility has taken a whack," he said.=20

Then, typically, the drawling Southerner who directs Marc Holtzman's bid for governor added: "If every campaign manager who stretched poll numbers was put in jail, there wouldn't be anyone left to run campaigns."=20

SNIP

<ANOTHER STORY>

Gilmore associate caught in Colorado political flap

By Bob Gibson / Daily Progress staff writer

=20

A political consultant close to former Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore is out of a job in Colorado for faking poll numbers based on an anti-tax campaign that had been backed by \$350,000 from Gilmore's Virginia-based political action committee.

Dick Leggitt, a Gilmore campaign consultant and former employee in the governor's office, lied to a Denver newspaper about poll numbers and resigned Friday as campaign manager for a Colorado candidate for governor, according to Denver newspapers.

http://www.dailyprogress.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=3DCDP/MGArticle/C=D_P_BasicArticle&c=3DMGArticle&cid=3D1137836007239&path=3D
or
<http://tinyurl.com/loasu>

--=20

Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD 21209

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=====
Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 12:37:29 -0400
Reply-To: Allan Rivlin <arivlin@HARTRESEARCH.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Allan Rivlin <arivlin@HARTRESEARCH.COM>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <5068262.1151445518166.JavaMail.root@mswamui-blood.atl.sa.earthlink.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I read anything in the Washington Times quite skeptically and with the two posts on this thread was expecting to disagree with the Op Ed writer. However, I was surprised to find that I agree with most of this.

I don't think he is accusing the media of a left wing bias, but a bias for "conflict, scandal, horse races, and bad news." Does anyone want to argue

the position that the media does not have a bias toward the negative? I believe most scholars of journalism would support the proposition that the media is biased toward conflict, scandal and bad news -- as they say, "If it bleeds, it leads" -- and I think most AAPOR members would join in criticizing the media for overemphasis on the horse race.

Without naming any names, I must say I have some experience conducting polls for major media where the media client had strong views about how the issue should be framed. I have certainly seen news analysis shows using poll statistics to justify a particular media framing of an issue on both the right and the left. In my column (when I had one) I cited numerous examples of poll statistics creating the appearance of public opinion on an issue when other questions revealed that the public had neither information nor interest in the topic. Opinions on attacking Bosnia taken before the war started comes to mind as one example among many.

I think the author goes too far in some of his points and rhetoric but just because the right wing is in attack-the-messenger mode right now, does not mean this critique of the media's use of polling is off target.

Allan Rivlin
a.k.a Poll Position

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Allen Barton
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 5:59 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media

The complaint from the ultra-conservative, Moonie-owned Washington Times about the "mainstream media" polls being deliberately misleading and pushing their hidden agenda reminds me of Thomas Mahl's book "Desperate Deception." Mahl claimed that all those Gallup, Roper, and Cantril polls showing the shift of US public opinion toward aiding Britain against the Nazis in 1940-41 were fake. Gallup, Roper and Cantril were all British agents or controlled by British agents and an "Anglophile elite." See my review of Mahl in International Journal of Public Opinion Research, v. 15, no. 2, 2003. I might add that Mahl was photographed in 2002 shaking hands with the holocaust denier David Irving at a "Real History" meeting devoted to "revisionist history" of World War II.

Of course polls can be selected and slanted - see those done by interest groups and candidates trying to claim that the public supports their positions, rather than trying to find out where the public actually stands (or indeed has any opinion on an issue.) But the idea that our competing media and our most professional pollsters are all slanting their reporting of public opinion to advance a hidden political agenda is the usual fantasy of extremists who can't bear the truth that on some issues the public rejects their position.

Thanks, Leo, for alerting us to this latest outbreak of extremist paranoia.

-----Original Message-----

>From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>

>Sent: Jun 27, 2006 3:50 PM

>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

>Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media

>

>False justification

><http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20060626-094414-6084r.htm>

>

>The national media is a power-hungry institution. It maintains its power

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>races and bad news. Media polls focus disproportionately on these

>topics.

>

> The poll questions also reflect the media's favored framing of the

>news.

>

> So when the public responses usually reliably echo the media frames,

>the media claim public support for its interpretations.

>

>SNIP

>

>--

>Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.

>Director of Research

>Art & Science Group, LLC

>6115 Falls Road, Suite 101

>Baltimore MD 21209

>

>-----

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Allen H. Barton, 118 Wolf's Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 15:04:05 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: Allan Rivlin <arivlin@HARTRESEARCH.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <[02a201c69ad1\\$261b6610\\$8400000a@allan](mailto:02a201c69ad1$261b6610$8400000a@allan)>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Allan,
Let me disagree with your reading of that article. It does say the things you cite about "conflict, scandal, horse races, and bad news." But it also says some other things, which are the main points of the article. The things you cite are not. They are merely a smoke-screen for the point of view offered in the article.

Here are a few lines from the first few grafs that do get at the author's focus:

"By asking the right questions of the public, the media can validate the legitimacy of their agenda focus by claiming the public has a similar view."

"The poll questions also reflect the media's favored framing of the news. So when the public responses usually reliably echo the media frames, the media claim public support for its interpretations."

This article is nothing more than a screed against opinion that is unpleasant for the tastes of the author. It echoes what Alan Barton described.
warren mitofsky

At 12:37 PM 6/28/2006, Allan Rivlin wrote:

>I read anything in the Washington Times quite skeptically and with the two
>posts on this thread was expecting to disagree with the Op Ed writer.
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>Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 5:59 PM
>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
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>
>
>
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>>From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>

>>Sent: Jun 27, 2006 3:50 PM
>>To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
>>Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media

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>>False justification
>><http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20060626-094414-6084r.htm>

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>>
>>SNIP

>>
>>--
>>Leo G. Simonetta, Ph.D.
>>Director of Research
>>Art & Science Group, LLC
>>6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
>>Baltimore MD 21209

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>>
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>>Phone/fax: 919 933 4003 allenbarton@mindspring.com

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 15:35:43 -0400
Reply-To: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: aapornet <aapornet@asu.edu>
In-Reply-To: <7.0.1.0.2.20060628145315.040be498@mindspring.com>
MIME-version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v749.3)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delpsp=yes; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

On Jun 28, 2006, at 3:04 PM, Warren Mitofsky wrote:

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> public has a similar view."
>
> "The poll questions also reflect the media's favored framing of the
> news.
> So when the public responses usually reliably echo the media
> frames, the media claim public support for its interpretations."

They guy is coming from the right, though not from its insane precincts, as a glance at his Carleton web page will show. But let's not miss an important point he sorta makes - polls play an important role in defining the limits of discourse. There are people whose politics don't fit into conventional multiple choice boxes, but for a poll, they barely exist. Some political candidates are considered too marginal to poll about; they don't exist either. And, a point that Slavoj Zizek makes, polls are a snapshot of existing opinion - but

strong political leadership can change the landscape. Who knew the effect that Murtha would have, for example?

Didn't some giant of public opinion say that "we" can't tell people what to think, but we can tell them what to think about?

Doug Henwood
Left Business Observer
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New York NY 10013-2505 USA
<dhenwood@panix.com>
<<http://www.leftbusinessobserver.com>>

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podcast: <<http://shout.lbo-talk.org/lbo/RadioArchive/2005/dircaster.php>>

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 13:12:02 -0700
Reply-To: ellis.godard@csun.edu
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ellis Godard <ellis.godard@CSUN.EDU>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
In-Reply-To: <7.0.1.0.2.20060628145315.040be498@mindspring.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Warren quoted a telling (about the authors) passage:
> ...the media claim public support for its interpretations."

No one here takes seriously the idea that a singular "media" has coherent "interpretations", right?

Just checking...

Regards,
Ellis Godard, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Sociology Department
Cal State Northridge
www.csun.edu/~egodard

Archives: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html>
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=====
Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 23:54:46 -0400
Reply-To: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

>>> Doug Henwood <dhenwood@PANIX.COM> 06/28/06 3:35 PM >>>
> They guy is coming from the right, though not from its insane
> precincts, as a glance at his Carleton web page will show.

Plus, anyone who quotes George Bishop deserves to be taken seriously.

> But let's
> not miss an important point he sorta makes - polls play an important
> role in defining the limits of discourse.

I would have agreed with that 10 years ago. But nowadays, bloggers have the ability to "daylight" issues that never get covered by mainstream media, so that the agenda setting function of media (telling us what issues to think about) may be diluted, and the "limits of discourse" perhaps expanded.

I also appreciated the author's point (for which he cites Bishop) that "Media polls often create the 'illusion' of public opinion by creating responses to topics about which the public may know little." I would also add "care little." In the past few days, in preparation for writing a 4th of July column for my local newspaper, I've read through a lot of polling data on Iraq-related topics, and I have to say that many of the specific issues that concern me were never asked (or at least reported).

Colleen

Colleen K. Porter, M.A.
Research Program Manager (Pain Lab)
University of Florida College of Dentistry
Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science
US Mail: PO Box 103628
FedEx: 1329 SW 16th St. (1329 Bldg.), Ste. 5180
Gainesville, Florida 32610-3628
(352) 273-5979, phone
(352) 273-5985, fax
cporter@dental.ufl.edu

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 00:27:04 -0400
Reply-To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>
Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <s4a316d8.004@mail.dental.ufl.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I don't understand why people disparage measuring the opinions of people who know little about a subject. Many people have opinions about things they know little about. I would guess it is more common than people with opinions based on knowledge of a subject. Knowledge is not a criterion for having an opinion.

Measuring the level of knowledge of people should be an added dimension to interpreting the opinions people hold.

I see nothing wrong with the media exploring opinions on lots of subjects that are in the news.

warren mitofsky

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2006 23:22:02 -0700
Reply-To: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET>
Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media
Comments: To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@MINDSPRING.COM>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <7.0.1.0.2.20060629001615.04086928@mindspring.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I agree with Mitofsky. Polls are often a measure of ignorance-based beliefs and viewpoints. And that's not a reason not to poll people's views. It is, however, why it's important to focus on correlating opinions with knowledge base. Any insightful person knew early-on that the reasons presented for why we had to invade Iraq were invented for marketing the war (and in case there are folks who are still behind the curve on that, the PBS documentary: "The Dark Side", should be on the to-do list). Those that knew it (initially about 30% if I recall) were 4:1 against the invasion from the get go (compared with 2:1 in favor of war among those who said Saddam had weapons of mass destruction or worked with Al Qaeda). What has changed in the intervening 3+ years is that progressively more people got better information about the farce of wmd, the non-existent Saddam-Al Qaeda connection, and the fact that the threat of terrorism never came from the particular dictator we overthrew (why the media eventually did get that real story out more widely has to do with the war's never ending failure to do anything at all useful for US dominance in the market economy, while destroying this country's prestige worldwide).

That said, however, it is not a big leap of faith to recognize that the publication of polls showing high percentages of such misguided (by lack of sufficient good information) opinions bolsters those who govern and, at the same time, strengthens the media's hold on opinion formation and relationships to government power.

The article cited by Leo is bogus not for taking the media to task in how it uses polls to bolster it's own presentation of reality, but for implying that the corporate media is only a mindless tabloid sensationalistic phenomenon or else a distinct ideological entity with a will of its own separate from the market economy. The former is partly true, the latter patently absurd. There are reasons why most of today's major media (as compared with 50-100 years ago) play voluptuously to feelings over fact, why journalists are sycophantic in their relationship to Washington news sources--i.e. don't bite the hand that feeds you, especially when it's a vindictive hand with a long memory and it makes reporting so easy. There are obvious reasons why GE, Westinghouse, Disney-Time Warner and so on do not want to see large contradictions open up between the media they own and the government with which they are deeply involved--as supporters, guiders, and providers. And so in social-Darwinist fashion, the best investigative reporters get suppressed or fired, time and again.

As far as Colleen's point: Sure, bloggers and the web have some ability to re-contextualize and bring in material that is being suppressed or diminished but I think that ability and power is overestimated. Fast is

not broad. We are a very populous nation and most people still get their information contextualized by the TV. I hope that changes. As PIPA appropriately corrected their interpretation of a poll on information sources a few years ago, it isn't Fox or the Right that has a monopoly on providing peoples' misinformation. It's all TV. (and not that infrequently all the print media as well--my edit). That Fox (or in this case Washington Times) has successfully cultivated a large audience has apparently helped drive the political agenda a bit further to the right than otherwise would be the case. However, as a viewing of the video documentary "Fear and Favor in the Newsroom" (narrated by Studs Terkel and available in many video stores) pretty well demonstrates, the differences in real news distortion and suppression are largely stylistic and contextual, because all the major media are subservient to the powerful forces in the economy. And truth is not infrequently unfriendly to the bottom lines of those powerful forces.

Marc Sapir MD, MPH
Executive Director
Retro Poll
www.retropoll.org

-----Original Message-----

From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Warren Mitofsky
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 8:27 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Polls as a tool of mainstream media

I don't understand why people disparage measuring the opinions of people who know little about a subject. Many people have opinions about things they know little about. I would guess it is more common than people with opinions based on knowledge of a subject. Knowledge is not a criterion for having an opinion.

Measuring the level of knowledge of people should be an added dimension to interpreting the opinions people hold.

I see nothing wrong with the media exploring opinions on lots of subjects that are in the news.
warren mitofsky

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
=====

Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 09:29:46 -0400
Reply-To: pd@kerr-downs.com
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>
Organization: Kerr & Downs Research
Subject: Report construction software
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

What desktop publishing software works best for designing reports? We just went through a software upgrade (Office 2003 & Adobe v7) that is not working well. We currently use PageMaker v7.02 for reports and PowerPoint for presentations. All graphs are rendered in Excel and text & objects are linked from Word. We PDF final versions electronically using Adobe.

We've done a cursory look into InDesign & Quark, but neither makes a compelling case. Has anyone had experience with InDesign or Quark's ability to link Excel & Word elements? Is there another solution that we're just not aware of?

Thanks, Phillip

Phillip E. Downs, PhD
Kerr & Downs Research
2992 Habersham Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Phone: 850.906.3111
Fax: 850.906.3112
www.kerr-downs.com

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=====

Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 09:02:18 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Harvard University invites applications for the position of Preceptor in Survey Research beginning September 1, 2006. The preceptor is expected to develop and teach courses in survey research, including Introduction to Survey Research and Survey Practicum (undergraduate and graduate level). Will work in collaboration with faculty to build infrastructure and support other survey research courses in the Government Department with the creation of resources for questionnaire design, sampling and analysis and the development, integration, and maintenance of innovative survey training materials. This position also entails significant administrative and management responsibilities such as designing and participating in pedagogical mentoring, advising on issues of survey design and implementation, and coordinating resources in survey research. =20

Applicants must have a strong background and experience in survey research, preferably including a Ph.D. in a relevant field, as well as sophistication about undergraduate teaching, learning, and curricular issues generally. Responsibility, initiative, good judgment, and the ability to work well on a team are required. =20

Letters of application (accompanied by CV and names and addresses of referees) should be sent to Survey Research Preceptor Search, Department of Government, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge MA 02138. Review of applications will begin on July 15, 2006 and will continue until position is filled. The position is renewable on a yearly basis for up to eight years, based on performance, enrollments, and curricular needs. =20
=20

Harvard University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women and members of minority groups.

=20

=20

=20

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=====
Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 11:39:37 -0400

Reply-To: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>

Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>

From: Colleen Porter <CPORTER@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>

Subject: Re: Polls as a tool of mainstream media

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

>>> Marc Sapir <marcsapir@COMCAST.NET> 06/29/06 2:22 AM >>>
> I agree with Mitofsky. Polls are often a measure of ignorance-based
> beliefs and viewpoints.

And so, of course, are actual elections.

> As far as Colleen's point: Sure, bloggers and the web have some
ability
> to re-contextualize and bring in material that is being suppressed
or
> diminished but I think that ability and power is overestimated. Fast
is
> not broad. We are a very populous nation and most people still get
> their information contextualized by the TV.

But has a blog already affected the information presented on TV?

I would argue that a major impact of blogs, and nowadays we must add
podcasts to that list of informal information outlets, is that they can
bring up issues that are then picked up by mainstream media. And it
isn't even that the mainstream media source references or credits the
blogger, perhaps they do an 'independent report.'

But the fact of that particular issue being on the public agenda may
well be a result of the blogging or podcasting or whatever. A blogger
doesn't need a zillion hits to have influence, if their readers happen
to be opinion leaders/journalists/etc. In the pre-internet era, it was
much harder for advocates to get access to those folks, and that is the
dynamic I see changing.

Colleen

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 12:20:53 -0400
Reply-To: JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM>
Subject: Polls on race
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Anyone have innovative ideas/proven questions to help define how the races experience the world? I have the polls posted on PollingReport.com. We're looking for ways of uncovering some of the more personal attitudes and experiences that shape race relations. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com; otherwise, contact JASelzer@SelzerCo.com.

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=====
Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 11:38:26 -0500
Reply-To: Dianne G Anderson <dganders@IASTATE.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Dianne G Anderson <dganders@IASTATE.EDU>
Subject: IASS Cochran-Hansen Prize for Young Survey Statisticians from
Developing and Transition Countries
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

Dear Colleagues,
I'm forwarding this posting for the International Association of Survey=20
Statisticians.

>PLEASE HELP US REACH COLLEAGUES IN DEVELOPING AND TRANSITION COUNTRIES by=
=20
>forwarding this message. Apologies for cross-postings.
>
>
>Cochran-Hansen Prize 2007: Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from=
=20
>Developing and Transition Countries
>
>In celebration of its 25th anniversary the International Association of=20
>Survey Statisticians established the Cochran-Hansen Prize to be awarded=20
>every two years to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by=
=20
>a young statistician from a developing or transition country.
>
>The winner of the prize will be invited to present his/her paper at the=20
>56th Session of the International Statistical Institute to be held in=20
>Lisbon, Portugal, August 22-29, 2007 and the name of the winner will be=20

>announced at the ISI General Assembly in Lisbon.
>The author of the winning paper will receive the Cochran-Hansen Prize in the
>form of books and journal subscriptions to the value of about 500
>Euros and will have reasonable travel and living expenses paid in order to
>present the paper at the ISI Session in Lisbon.
>
>Participation in the competition for the Prize is open to nationals of
>developing or transition countries who are living in such countries and
>who were born in 1967 or later.
>
>Papers submitted must be unpublished original works, They may include
>materials from the participant's university thesis. They should be
>either English or French. Papers for consideration should be submitted to
>the IASS Secretariat at the address below to arrive by December 29, 2006.
>
>Each submission should be accompanied by a cover letter that gives the
>participant's year of birth, nationality, and country of residence.
>
>The papers submitted will be examined by the Cochran-Hansen Prize
>Committee appointed by IASS. The decision of the Committee is final.
>
>For further information, please contact:
>
>Madame Claude OLIVIER
>IASS Secretariat
>International Association of Survey Statisticians
>CEFIL-INSEE, 3 rue de la Cit , 33500 Libourne, France
>Tel : +33 5 57 55 56 17
>Fax : +33 5 57 55 56 20
>E-mail : Claude.olivier@insee.fr

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 13:58:52 -0400
Reply-To: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Colleen Porter <cporter@DENTAL.UFL.EDU>
Subject: Re: Polls on race
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

My current team uses the The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) for much of what we do. This provides some detail to simple categorization by race. It is a 15-item measure that attempts to quantify ethnic identity, belonging and commitment.

It was developed by psychologist Jean Phinney at CalState, and has been through some reliability testing.

That might be a very good place to start, before exploring anything else around the issue of race/ethnicity. In our work, we have found it much more predictive than a single check item asking about race.

My gripe has been the length, and I wish someone would develop a reliable 6-item measure or something. But if a study is seriously focussed on race as a construct, using a tool like that seems essential.

Colleen

Colleen K. Porter, M.A.
Research Program Manager (Pain Lab)
University of Florida College of Dentistry
Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science
US Mail: PO Box 103628
FedEx: 1329 SW 16th St. (1329 Bldg.), Ste. 5180
Gainesville, Florida 32610-3628
(352) 273-5979, phone
(352) 273-5985, fax
cporter@dental.ufl.edu

>>> "J. Ann Selzer" <JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM> 06/29/06 12:20 PM >>>
Anyone have innovative ideas/proven questions to help define how the races experience the world? I have the polls posted on PollingReport.com. We're looking for ways of uncovering some of the more personal attitudes and experiences that shape race relations. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company, Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

visit our website: www.SelzerCo.com

E-mail address for purposes of this list: JAnnSelzer@aol.com;
otherwise,
contact JASelzer@SelzerCo.com.

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 14:01:09 -0400
Reply-To: Chintan Turakhia <C.TURAKHIA@SRBI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Chintan Turakhia <C.TURAKHIA@SRBI.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-disposition: inline

Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI), a market and opinion research firm in New York City has an immediate opening for a junior project manager position at it's New York City location.

Junior project manager will assist in questionnaire development and proposal writing, conduct desk-top research, coordinate project implementation from start to finish and manage day-to-day project operation. This position involves heavy client interaction. Research areas include public policy, health care, political and financial research.

Candidate must be detail oriented, have excellent verbal, analytic and database skills. Intermediate level knowledge of SPSS, Microsoft Access, Excel and PowerPoint a must.

Require a B.A. Relevant 1-2 years of experience preferable. Please email your resume to Chintan Turakhia at c.turakhia@srbi.com or fax at 212-779-7785. No phone calls please.

Visit www.srbi.com for further information on SRBI.

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Chintan R. Turakhia
Sr. Vice President
Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc.
275 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2700,
New York, NY 10001

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 18:04:49 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity

Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Comments: cc: Pamela.Hunter@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

The Institute for Social Science Research at Arizona State University in Tempe is hiring a Program Manager. This person will be responsible for managing survey research projects (telephone, mail, web and in-person) for faculty members and academic professionals as well as entities from outside of the university. =20

=20

The ISSR is new and small but growing rapidly. We have an in-house calling center and a focus group facility. This position offers an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of an expanding operation. =20

=20

ASU enrolls more than 61,000 students and includes nearly 2,500 faculty.

ASU is located on four campuses in the Greater Phoenix region. The ISSR is located on the Tempe campus.

=20

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to:

=20

Dr. Pamela Hunter

Arizona State University

PO Box 874602

Tempe, AZ 85287

=20

Or email a resume and cover letter to:

Pamela.hunter@asu.edu

=20

For more information about the job, go to

www.jobsatasu.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=3D52495

=20

For more information about the ISSR, go to <http://issrweb.asu.edu/>

=20

=20

=20

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Date: Fri, 30 Jun 2006 09:08:24 -0400
Reply-To: Ana Maria Arumi <amarumi@PUBLICAGENDA.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ana Maria Arumi <amarumi@PUBLICAGENDA.ORG>
Subject: Federal Security Checks?
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <200606161421.k5GELFub005406@post7.inre.asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hello,

I believe this is an extension on the recent IRB discussion. It would be very helpful to hear how others have handled this.

We are subcontracting for a Dept of Ed project. The contractor (who is also novice on such projects) says we need to be fingerprinted and have credit checks run in order to move forward because we're working on research.

Understandably, many on staff feel this is a privacy violation.

Does anyone have any experience with this kind of thing?

We're not interviewing any children and our data sets only have case IDs as identifiers.

Many thanks for any information and advice you might share!

Ana Maria

Ana Maria Arumi
Sr. VP, Director of Research
Public Agenda
6 E. 39th St., New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-686-6610 (ext. 37)
Fax: 212-889-3461
amarumi@publicagenda.org
www.publicagenda.org

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Date: Fri, 30 Jun 2006 10:27:40 -0400
Reply-To: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Leo Simonetta <Simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Political telemarketing in the guise of a survey
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

http://www.ecnnews.com/cgi-bin/15/etstory.pl?-sec-News+fn-fn-fn-autocall.bh-20060630-fn+page_0

or
<http://tinyurl.com/pjayz>

Political 'survey' raises legal questions =20
Eagle Tribune Andover MA
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By Brad Haynes=20
Staff writer=20

NORTH ANDOVER - An automatic, prerecorded message system has been calling around town with questions about trash fees, but some angry residents are responding with a question of their own: Is this legal?

The 'robo-calling' is just the latest issue in the heated debate leading up to the July 10 Special Town Meeting, when voters will decide whether to implement trash fees in order to cover a \$1.6 million deficit in the municipal budget.

"It's at least disingenuous," said Mark DiSalvo of the prerecorded message system. "And it's certainly unfair if not illegal."

The auto-dialing system, financed by the North Andover Taxpayers Association, may violate federal guidelines which require organizations to disclose their names at the beginning of automated phone calls. The association's message only reveals the organization's name at the end of the call, after particular answers to a series of touch-tone prompts.

Ted Tripp, president of the association and opponent of the potential trash fee, defended what he called a simple "survey."

"It does at the end say, 'Presented by the North Andover Taxpayer Association,'" said Tripp, "if people stay on the line that long."

SNIP

According to the Worcester County district attorney's Web site, "Even

when autodialer use for telemarketing is allowed ... autodialed calls using an artificial or recorded message must give the identity of the entity making the call and, at some point during the call, the actual telephone number of the entity must be given."

"I find that unbelievable," said Tripp, expressing doubts that such laws applied to his group's political calls.

"I'll talk to my polling organization," he continued, "because, as far as I know, I'm doing everything according to the law."

Tripp would not provide a phone number for the organization, Trendability, which has no phone listing in the state. Its Web site says only, "Political polling, analysis, and quantitative strategy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

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"I won't tell you it's scientific," he said. "I wouldn't know how to do a totally scientific study. With a scientific poll you've got to go through all sorts of statistics and you've got to watch the wording."

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Date: Fri, 30 Jun 2006 14:45:00 -0400
Reply-To: Eugene Kritski <eugene.kritski@GLOBESCAN.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Eugene Kritski <eugene.kritski@GLOBESCAN.COM>
Subject: Re: upcoding factor scores.
Comments: To: Dianne G Anderson <dganders@IASTATE.EDU>, AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <6.2.1.2.20060629113120.0271bec0@dganders.mail.iastate.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

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Does anybody have experience in upcoding factor scores (PCA) into meaningful scales?
Many thanks,
Eugene Kritski

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