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Title: Revalidation of Self-Reported Vote

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Dataset(s): 1988 NES

Abstract

Because of concerns with the accuracy of the vote validation process itself, NES re-checked the records of the 1988 respondents during the time of the validation effort for the 1990 NES respondents (since the same election offices were involved in both studies). The results of the two validations were the same 87% of the time. The most discrepant results of the revalidation efforts are located in the conditions of discrepancy of the self-report and the original validation. Thus, of the 80 people in the revalidated group who are validated in 1989 as registered but not voting -- but who claimed to have voted -- only 57.5% were reconfirmed as not voting when the records were checked again in 1991. Some very preliminary analysis examines the impact of the relationship between turnout and several demographic and political involvement measures when the turnout measures take account of the results of the second validation. In general, the data show that the "likely voter" category, which is composed of respondents for whom an initial validation result indicated they were not voters but the second effort suggested that they are, is useful in distinguishing voting groups on the basis of their politically relevant attitudes.