

Version 01 Codebook

CODEBOOK INTRODUCTION FILE
1997 PILOT STUDY
(1997.PN)

AMERICAN NATIONAL ELECTION STUDIES:

1997 PILOT STUDY

CODEBOOK

Center for Political Studies
Institute for Social Research
The University of Michigan

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The American National Election studies are conducted by the Center for Political Studies of the Institute for Social

Research, under the general direction of Principal Investigator Steven J. Rosenstone and co-Principal Investigators Virginia Sapiro, Warren E. Miller, and Donald R. Kinder. Kathryn Cirksena is the Director of Studies for the National Election Study.

The 1996 Pre- and Post-Election Study was the twenty-fourth in the series of studies of American national elections produced by the Political Behavior Program of the Survey Research Center and the Center for Political Studies. Since 1978 these studies have been conducted under the auspices of National Science Foundation Grants (SBR-9317631, SES-9209410, SES-9009379, SES-8808361, SES-8341310, SES-8207580 and SOC77-08885). The election studies are designed by a National Board of Overseers, the members of which meet several times a year to plan content and administration of the studies.

A number of Pilot Studies have been conducted by the NES for the purpose of developing new instrumentation. The 1997 Pilot Study is part of this series, which also includes studies conducted in 1979, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995. Like the traditional time-series studies, the Pilot Studies are ultimately designed by the Board of Overseers, with assistance from the scholarly community in the form of solicitations for study content and planning committee participation. Like all of its predecessors (except the 1979 Pilot Study) the 1997 Study respondents are a subset of the previous year's traditional time-series respondents.

Members of the NES Board of Overseers during the planning for the 1997 Pilot Study included Prof. David Leege (Chair), Notre Dame University; Prof. Larry Bartels, Princeton University; Prof. Charles Franklin, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Prof. Wendy Rahn, University of Minnesota; Prof. Virginia Sapiro, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Prof. W. Phillips Shively, University of Minnesota; Prof. Laura Stoker, University of California at Berkeley; and Prof. John Zaller, University of California at Los Angeles.

Virginia Sapiro chaired the 1997 Pilot Study Planning Committee, which included Warren Miller, as well as Charles Franklin, Wendy Rahn, Laura Stoker and John Zaller from the Board. They were joined by Frank Baumgartner (Texas A & M University), Janet Box-Steffensmeier (Ohio State University), Kenneth Goldstein (Arizona State University), Kenneth Wald (University of Florida), and Chris Wlezien (University of Houston).

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>> 1997 PILOT STUDY DESCRIPTION

A. Study Design

The 1997 Pilot Study was conducted between September 5 and October 1, 1997. The study is a reinterview of a subset of respondents with telephones from the 1996 Post-Election Study. All fresh-cross section cases for 1996 that completed a post-election

interview and for which telephone numbers were available were included in the 1997 pilot. The balance of cases consisted of cases from the two previous waves, the 1994 'panel' cases and the 1992 'panel' cases for which telephone numbers were available and a post-election interview was conducted in 1996. Each of these panel components was represented proportionally in the initial sample for 1997. The initial sample consisted of 724 respondents from 1996; 551 of these respondents completed an interview in 1997.

The response rate is thus .76 (551/724). The number of refusals was 22. The remainder of the non-interviews are persons with whom contact was never made, or who were unavailable during the study period, for such reasons as illness or absence from home.

The study mode was Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI.) The average interview length was 45.3 minutes.

B. Study Content

The content of the study reflects the NES commitment to improve measures of group mobilization, interest articulation and representation, group-based political reasoning, race and racial attitudes and policy, issue attitudes, human and social capital, social choice, theories of the survey response, and other responses to a stimulus letter calling for ideas for content sent to the user community on November 11, 1996.

Specific topic areas in the study include:

MOBILIZATION AND NON-ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION:

A battery designed to improve NES instrumentation on non-electoral political participation and mobilization; specifically, respondents' efforts to contact public officials at different levels of government during the nonelectoral season and their reasons for contact.

GROUP-BASED POLITICS:

Elaborated testing of long-standing NES instrumentation on group closeness designed to evaluate both "traditional" NES instrumentation and investigate possible additions and improvements.

Group difference and group conflict as a basis of current mass politics: Perceptions of paired "opposing" social groups on issue, ideology, party placements and vote choice. The groups include black and white people, Christian fundamentalists and gays and lesbians, and men and women. There is an embedded experiment testing the effects of focusing on group difference and conflict on social trust and political trust and interest.

Group threat as a basis of group-based politics: A split-ballot of items involving an experimental manipulation of the level of threat in different domains and prejudices about Blacks and Christian Fundamentalists.

RESPONSE LATENCY:

Activated timings of response latencies on several questions to extend recent NES work on certainty.

EVALUATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT:

Exploration of a new battery of items to improve current NES instrumentation and extend parallel measurement across governmental institutions.

RELIGION AND POLITICS:

Further Pilot work on the role of religion in citizens' political thinking; attitudes toward the role of religion and religious institutions in American society and politics.

The use of CATI enabled a number of experimental treatments within the survey instrument. Random assignment to question wording, early-late placement and presentation order were applied to numerous question sequences. Rosters of items, such as the thermometer and placements of groups and individuals on scales, were randomized in administration, to minimize order effects. Indicator variables that document the use of split-ballot and randomization features are found in the codebook.

C. Data and Documentation

Because the 551 Pilot Study respondents had also been interviewed in the 1996 Pre- and Post Election Studies, their data from those studies has been merged onto the datafile. There are 551 cases in the dataset (in other words, it contains 1996 data only for those respondents who were reinterviewed in 1997).