It's popular to criticize election polls.

The second biggest secret of this talk: election polls work great.

The reason we can criticize election polls is that the election provides validation data (most polls have no validation)

The second biggest secret of this talk: election polls work great.

- I just said we can't measure public opinion and/or that public opinion doesn't even exist.

- Yet election polls are hugely predictive. To a stunning degree.

  - Bias in presidential elections (i.e. error of poll average) is typically +/- 3%.

  - That's ~ sampling error for one poll.

  - *That's fucking crazy small.*

- Isn't this a contradiction?

3.1
3.3
2.3
2.2
3.9
6.4
4.6

2016's presidential polls were about as accurate as av

Weighted-average error in polls in final 21 days of the campaign

CYCLE	NATIONAL	STATE	COMB
2016	3.1	5.2	4.
2012	3.3	3.7	3.
2008	2.3	3.9	3.
2004	2.2	3.5	3.
2000	3.9	4.6	4.
1996	6.4	4.8	5.
1992	4.6	5.2	5.
1988	3.5	5.0	4.
1984	5.4	4.5	4.
1980	8.9	8.6	8.
1976	2.5	3.8	3.
1972	2.6	4.6	4.
Average	4.1	4.8	4.

Pollsters that are banned by FiveThirtyEight because we know or suspect that they faked their dat included in the averages. Averages are weighted based on the number of polls a particular firm co

"The Polls Are All Right" [sic] Nate Silver (2018)