

Did Trump **Win** in 2016?

Introduction

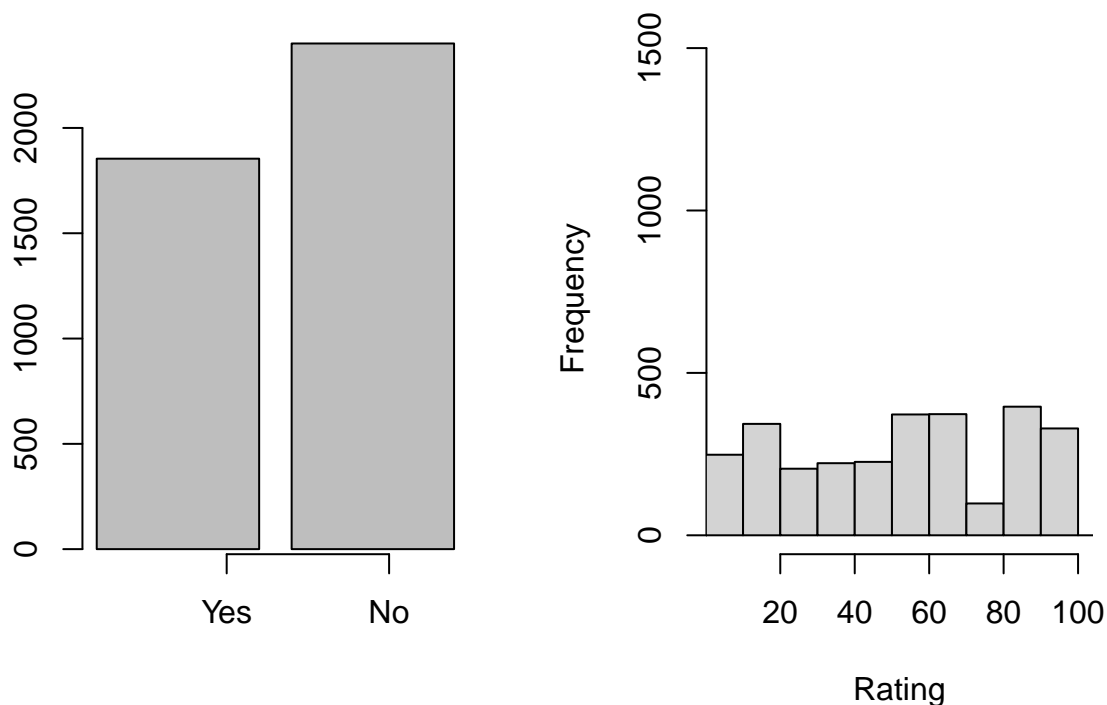
The presidential election in 2020 was and still remains controversial just like it was back in 2016 (though in different aspects), some people still believe that the Democratic party should have won four years ago. In this Exploratory Data Analysis, we will be examining the 2016 Time Series data from The *American National Election Studies* (ANES) and try to answer the question: did Trump really **win** the 2016 presidential election?

The answer to the question “did Trump win in 2016” is YES, but let’s take a moment and think in a deeper level, did he really? The motivation behind this question is that, in any game, if you ended up become the winner, just because you have won, it does not necessarily mean that you won because you beat your opponent, it could be that your opponent has **lost** the game. In other words, if your opponent did not perform well as expected or there are some external factors affecting their performance at the moment, you could have won because you were the person who just happened to be in the spot playing against your opponent.

Disclaimer: the following analysis is not to question or judge the outcome of the 2016 presidential election nor to discredit any work Trump has done, it is only a guide to consider some factors that might have led him become the president for the past four years. We will only look for patterns and trends that are present in the ANES survey data.

Why Trump?

Is there anything You like about Tru Feeling Thermometer about Trun

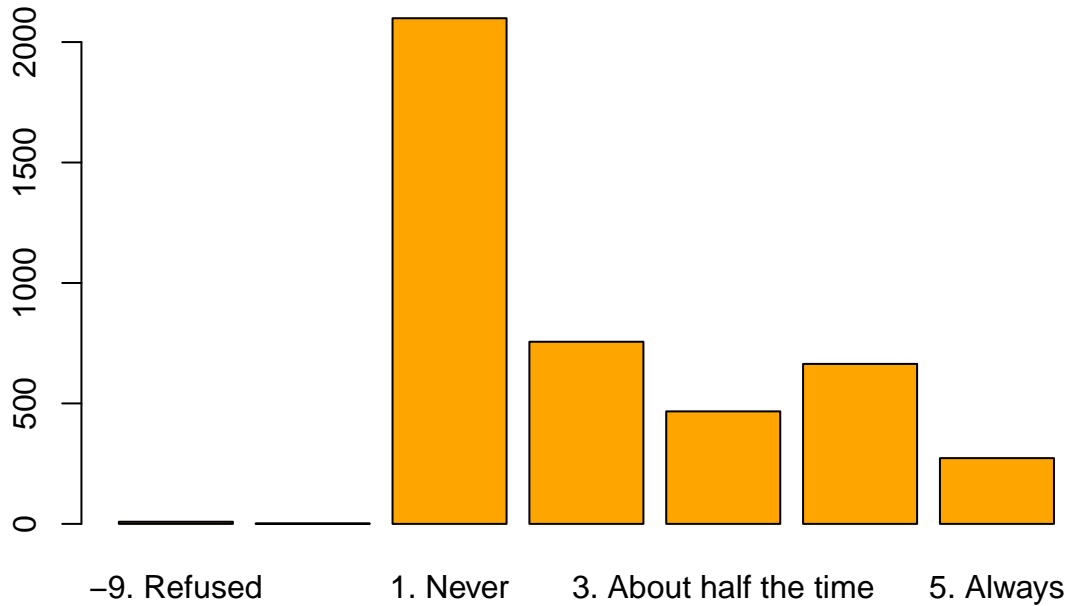


When people are asked if there is anything they like about Trump, it can be interpreted as a general “yes” or

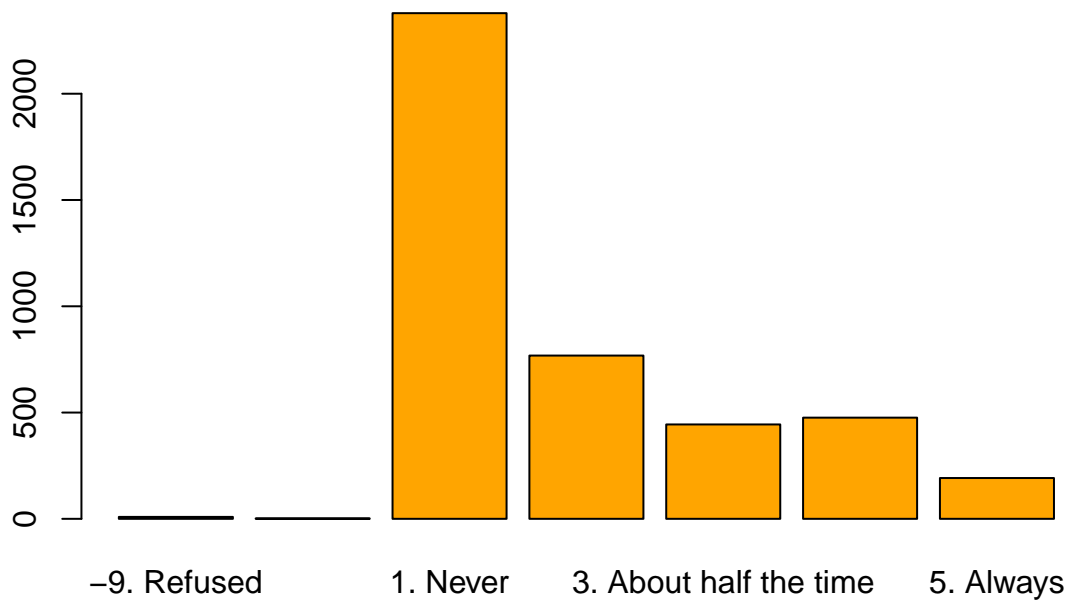
“no” question without concerning the degree of their likeliness. From the histogram on the left, although there are more responses of “no”, the difference between the two answers is not significantly large, i.e. difference exists but it does not show one answer overly populated the survey results. So it does not disapprove the assertion that more people like Trump, nor approve the assertion that more people dislike Trump. Along with the results from asking people to rate their feeling/likeness towards Trump, with quite uniform distribution shown on the histogram on the right, we cannot make any conclusion that people favor or dislike Trump.

Affect

Hopeful

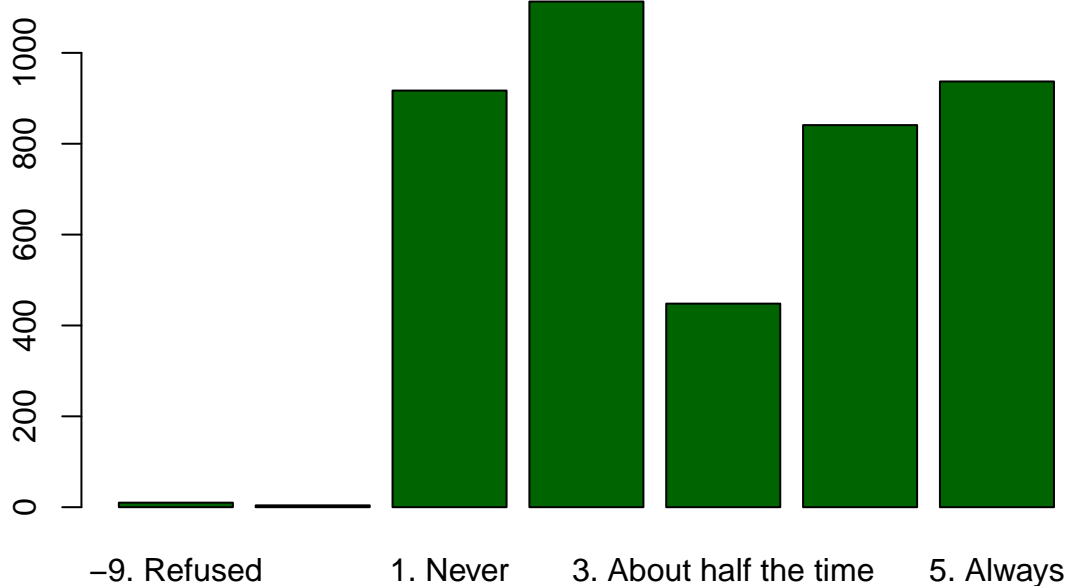


Proud

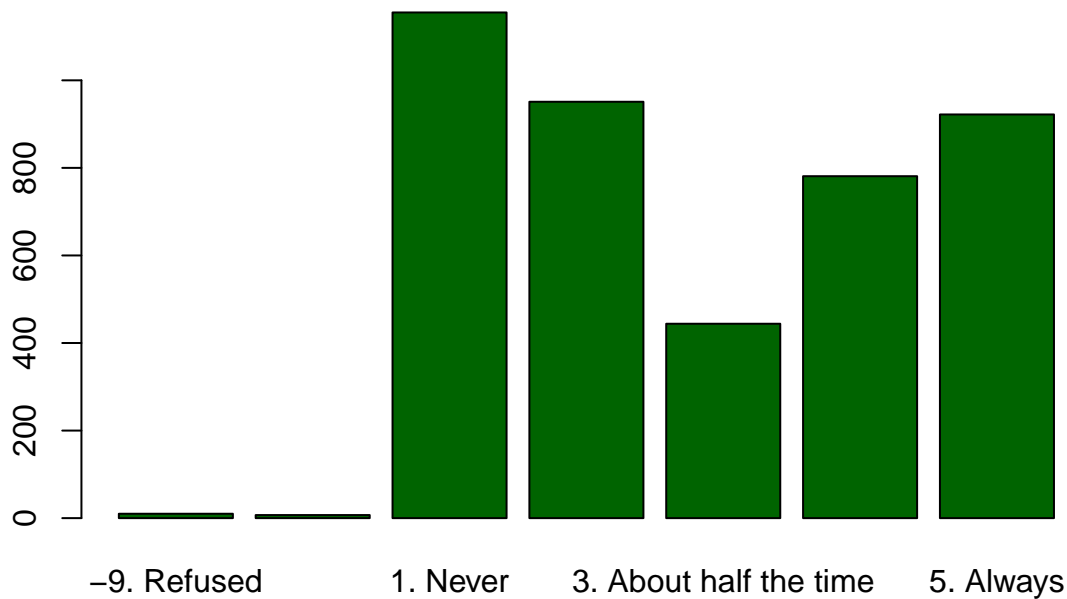


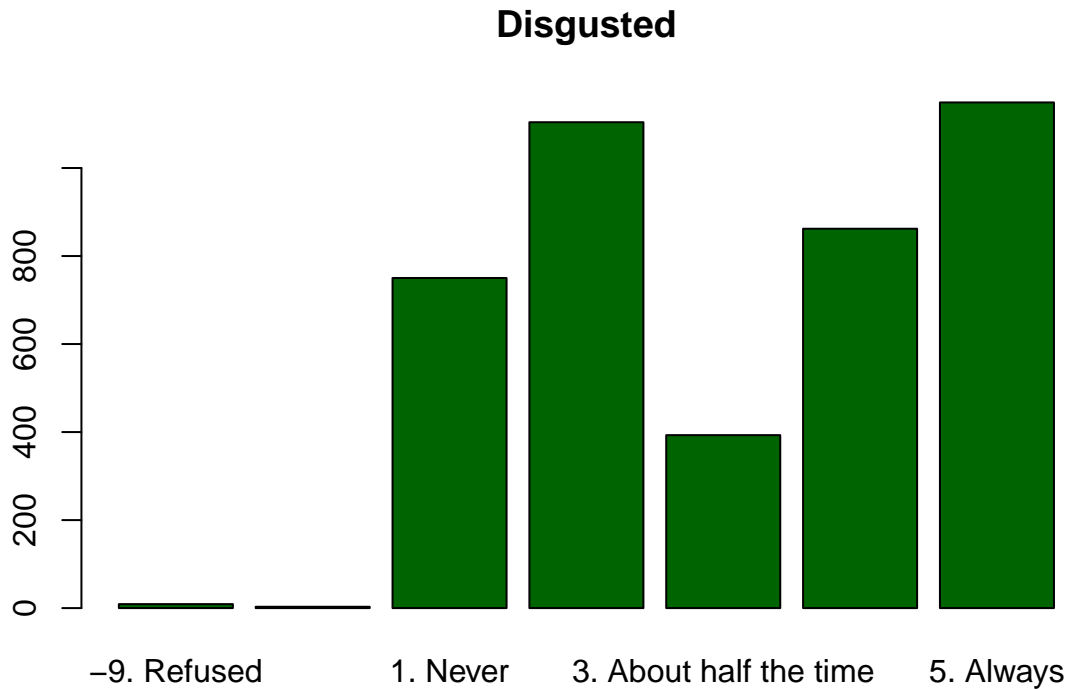
When being asked how they feel about Trump with the associated keywords “hopeful” and “proud”, which are both positive words used to describe impressions, the answer “never” seems to dominate both questions, meaning that the majority of people might have “never” felt hopeful or proud of Trump.

Angry



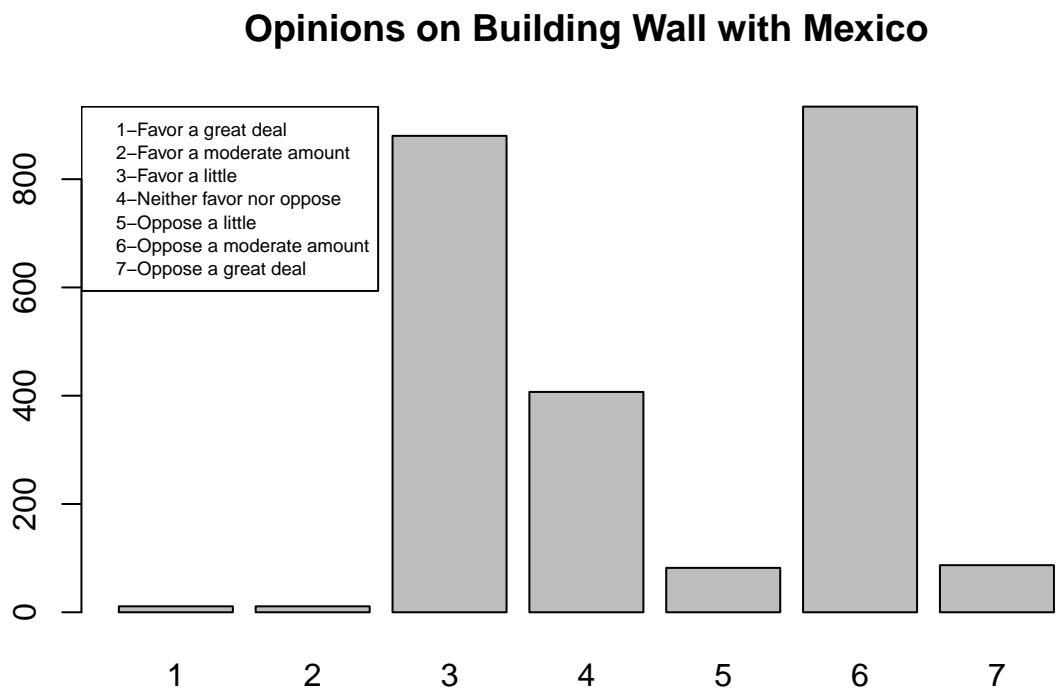
Afraid





While the answers to the keywords “angry”, “afraid”, and “disgusted”, people seem to have polarized answers—either they strongly agree with the affection, or they strongly disagree with it. So there is little conclusion we can make from the negative keywords based on the above histograms.

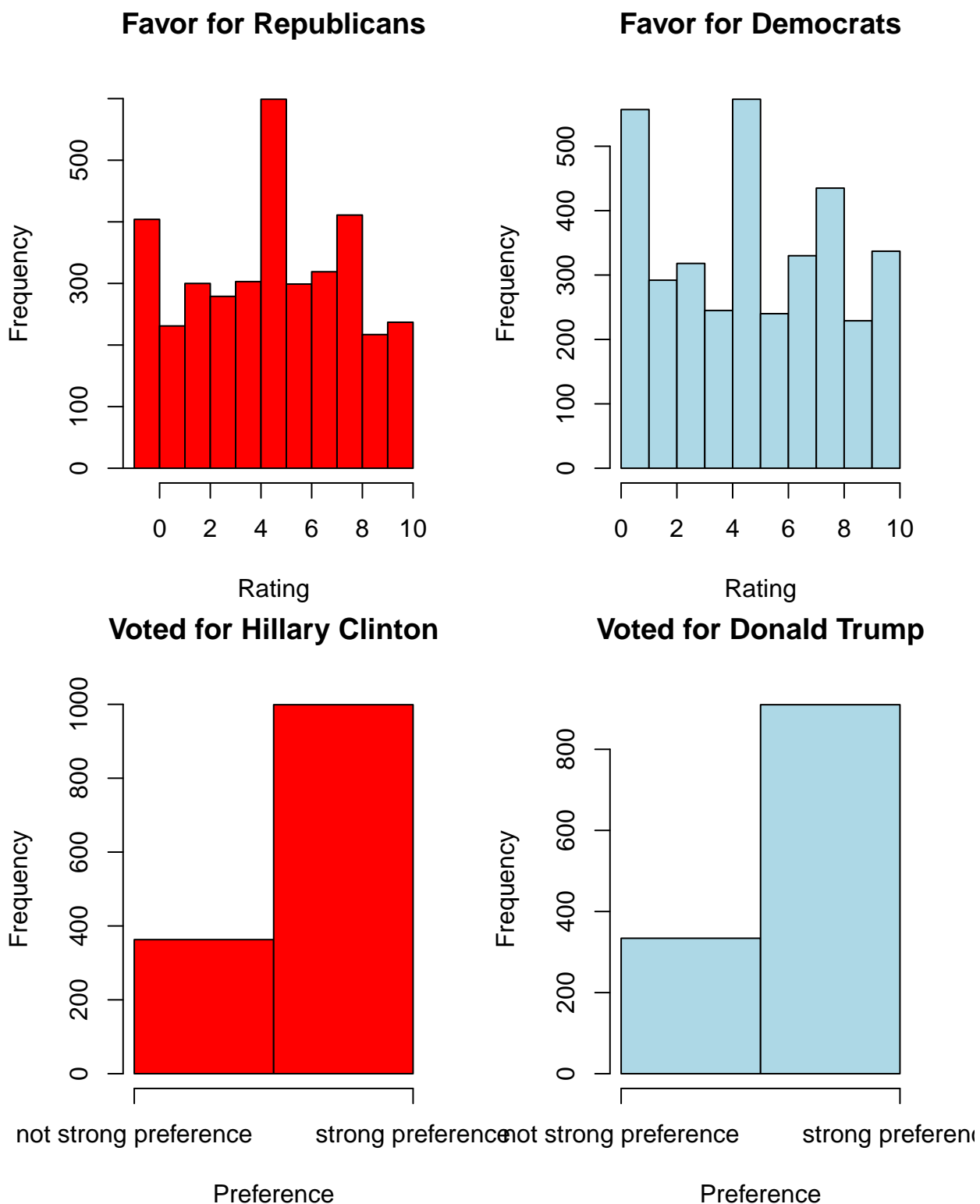
Opinions on Building Wall with Mexico



As part of Trump’s promise in 2016, building wall in border the Mexico was one of the biggest issue people were concerned or interested in. It seems like the majority of the respondents are not strongly favoring the proposal, with a decent amount even opposing it. This suggests that if the results are consistent with the

population in reality, building a wall might not be the leading reason that helped Trump win the election.

Against Democrats?



The survey results neither show favor or oppose for one party over another, as answers to likeliness of each

party is consistent and there is no apparent trend in concluding that one party has dominated. Similarly, based on the responses on which candidate people have voted for, it seems like the majority of people are voting on their own wills, meaning that they have preference on one candidate over another.

Conclusion

Based on the survey results of the 2016 ANES Time Series data, though responses of positive affection keywords—“hopeful” and “proud”—are not approved by the respondents when being asked how they think about Trump, and there is a slightly opposing opinion on building wall with Mexico. However, other factors such as how they would rate their feeling toward Trump along with results showing that there are no apparent trend of the Republican party or Trump dominated over the Democrats or Hillary Clinton.

Further investigation is needed to approve or disapprove the significance of the variables/factors from the survey, and conclusions might be biased due to the nature of survey results.