

Review of Canadian survey data

Research Questions

We aim to assess whether the identified datasets cover the following three research questions:

1) Federal Voting Intention and Preferred Prime Minister

“If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for?”

“Who would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?”

2) Most Important Issue

“What is the most important issue facing Canada today?”

3) Immigration Levels

“Do you think Canada should admit more, fewer, or about the same number of immigrants?”

Data Search and Sources

we reviewed datasets available through the following websites:

- Consortium on Electoral Democracy (C-DEM)
<https://c-dem.ca/datasets/>
- Borealis Data (Dataverse – CORA collections)
<https://borealisdata.ca/dataverse/cora>
- Canadian Opinion Research Archive (CORA), Queen's University
<https://www.queensu.ca/cora/data-holdings>
- Elections Canada – Evaluation and Research Archive
<https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rec/eval&document=index&lang=e>
- Harvard Dataverse
<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/C-Dem?q=&types=dataverses%3Adatasets&sort=dateSort&order=desc&page=1>

During this process, we observed that **some of these platforms host overlapping or duplicated datasets**, often pointing to the same underlying surveys but distributed through different institutional repositories.

Identified Core Datasets and Question Coverage

After reviewing multiple Canadian data repositories and accounting for data duplication and accessibility, we identify **two core datasets** suitable for our analysis. Each dataset covers our research questions for distinct but complementary reasons:

- **Democracy Checkup (2019–2023):**
This dataset provides repeated annual measures of **federal vote preference**, **leader evaluations** (which can be used to assess preferred Prime Minister), and **attitudes toward immigration levels**, allowing consistent analysis of these questions across multiple years.
- **Canadian Election Study (2019 and 2021):**
This dataset offers detailed **vote choice and leader evaluation** measures during federal election campaigns, includes an explicit **open-ended “most important issue” question**, and contains multiple indicators of **attitudes toward immigration and refugees**, making it especially well suited for issue salience and election-specific analyses.