

Codebook:

American National Election Studies

2008 Pre-Election Survey

PS363: Quantitative Political Methodology

1 Introduction

The American National Election Studies is an organization that contributes to explaining electoral outcomes in the US through surveys. They design and implement surveys during election years with the goal of providing a great amount of data on citizens' attitudes and feelings about politics, policies and politicians for researchers in all disciplines. These surveys have been conducted for most of the post-War era (1948)

The dataset here contains the first wave of the 2008 ANES Time Series Study. A nationally representative sample of 2,322 people was interviewed September 2 through November 3, 2008. They were interviewed in person, with an average of 73 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Feeling thermometers are an important feature of this survey. Survey respondents are asked to rate politicians according to how they feel about them. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that the survey respondent feels favorable and warm toward the person. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that they don't feel favorable toward the person and don't care too much for that person. 50 degrees is considered a "neutral" evaluation of the politician. This dataset includes three such thermometers: one for then president George W Bush, one for the Republican candidate John McCain, and one for the Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

2 List of Variables

- **Age:** age of respondent

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VALID CODES:
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17. 17 years old (18 by Oct 30, 2008)
18. 18 years old
.
.
90. 90 years old or older
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- **Approval:** Does the respondent approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

VALID CODES:

- 0. Disapprove
- 1. Approve

- **Bush.th:** Feeling thermometer for George W. Bush

VALID CODES:

Range: 0-100

- **Income:** Household income

VALID CODES:

- 1. A. None or less than \$2,999
- 2. B. \$3,000 -\$4,999
- 3. C. \$5,000 -\$7,499
- 4. D. \$7,500 -\$9,999
- 5. E. \$10,000 -\$10,999
- 6. F. \$11,000-\$12,499
- 7. G. \$12,500-\$14,999
- 8. H. \$15,000-\$16,999
- 9. J. \$17,000-\$19,999
- 10. K. \$20,000-\$21,999
- 11. M. \$22,000-\$24,999
- 12. N. \$25,000-\$29,999
- 13. P. \$30,000-\$34,999
- 14. Q. \$35,000-\$39,999
- 15. R. \$40,000-\$44,999
- 16. S. \$45,000-\$49,999
- 17. T. \$50,000-\$59,999
- 18. U. \$60,000-\$74,999
- 19. V. \$75,000-\$89,999
- 20. W. \$90,000-\$99,999
- 21. X. \$100,000-\$109,999
- 22. Y. \$110,000-\$119,999
- 23. Z. \$120,000-\$134,999
- 24. AA. \$135,000-\$149,999
- 25. BB. \$150,000 and over

- **Internet:** Days in a typical week that the respondent reviewed news on the internet

VALID CODES:

- 0. None
- 1. One day
- 2. Two days
- 3. Three days

4. Four days
5. Five days
6. Six days
7. Seven days

- **Latino:** latino status

VALID CODES:

1. Latino
2. Not Latino

- **Mccain.th:** Feeling thermometer for the Republican presidential candidate

VALID CODES:

Range: 0-100

- **Newspaper:** Days in the past week that the respondent read a daily newspaper

VALID CODES:

0. None
1. One day
2. Two days
3. Three days
4. Four days
5. Five days
6. Six days
7. Seven days

- **Obama.th:** Feeling thermometer for the Democratic presidential candidate.

VALID CODES:

Range: 0-100

- **Partyid:** Party identification

VALID CODES:

1. Democrat
2. Republican
3. Independent
4. Other party
5. No preference

- **Race:** race of respondent

VALID CODES:

1. White
2. Black/African-American
3. White and black
4. Other race
5. White and another race
6. Black and another race
7. White, black and another race

- **RID:** Respondent Identification Number

- **Tvnews:** Days in the past week that the respondent watched national network news on TV

VALID CODES:

0. None
1. One day
2. Two days
3. Three days
4. Four days
5. Five days
6. Six days
7. Seven days

- **Vote04:** vote for President in 2004

VALID CODES:

0. No, didn't vote
1. Yes, voted

3 References

American National Election Studies, 2010. "Pre-election codebook variable documentation file".

http://www.electionstudies.org/studypages/2008prepost/anes2008TS_cbkpre.pdf

American National Election Studies website: <http://www.electionstudies.org>