

# My title\*

## My subtitle if needed

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### Abstract

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## 1 Introduction

## 2 Data

The survey data that is presented within this paper is obtained from the 2021 United States General Social Survey (GSS).

### 2.1 Survey methodology

The US GSS was created to collect long term public opinion and sentiment within the United States. The main component of the survey is the replicating core, a central set of questions repeated in each year the survey was conducted for the purpose of exploring trends in opinion over time (CITATION US GSS 2021). Additional modules present but not always consistently asked from year to year include topics relevant for the year. Examples of this for 2021 included but not limited to: attitudes towards policing, racial discrimination, and attitudes relating to trust in institutions and the government dealing with COVID-19. A major strength of the US GSS is in its long existence and replicating core, allowing tracking of contemporary sentiments over a significant period of time.

Prior to 2021, surveys were administered in person resulting in high response rates of around 50%. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 edition was primarily conducted through the web instead, with an alternative phone interview option. The target population of the GSS are adults over the age of 18 who lived in noninstitutional housing at the time of taking the survey. Since 2004, the GSS has used the sampling frame adapted from the list of postal addresses maintained by the United States Postal Service (USPS). Areas are denoted and categorised with respect to their population densities as either urban or rural. From this, a two stage cluster sampling approach is applied. Firstly, the entire sampling frame is grouped consisting of metropolitan areas and one or more of its surrounding rural areas, with around half being selected. Secondly, areas are divided into two segments according to whether they are part of a census tract or a block group.

The approach utilised intends to make the obtained sample an accurate representation of the national population of the United States, in relation to population density. While more important in prior years, it also allows for generating a high quality list of addresses for interviewers to efficiently conduct the survey. Despite

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\*Code and data are available at: [LINK](#).

this, a significant limitation as discussed in the GSS Cumulative Codebook (CITATION CUMULATIVE CODEBOOK) it is more often the case that urban and rural areas are interspersed.

As stated by the GSS Cumulative Codebook, as of 2004 non-response of the survey has been addressed through sub-sampling. For all of the households in the sample that were non-respondents, a proportion, typically 50%, of those who were labelled as temporary non-respondents were pursued again. As such, those responses were weighted at 2 for the sub-sample to represent the entirety of the temporary non-respondents.

### **3 Results**

The survey data, along with the corresponding codebook, was retrieved from the GSS web portal. All analysis was performed in R (R Core Team 2021), with the data being read and prepared using `haven` (Wickham and Miller 2021) and `dplyr` (Wickham et al. 2021) respectively. Graphs were generated using `ggplot2` (Wickham 2016).

### **4 Discussion**

#### **4.1 First discussion point**

#### **4.2 Second discussion point**

#### **4.3 Third discussion point**

#### **4.4 Weaknesses and next steps**

## A Supplementary survey

## References

- R Core Team. 2021. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. <https://www.R-project.org/>.
- Wickham, Hadley. 2016. *Ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis*. Springer-Verlag New York. <https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org>.
- Wickham, Hadley, Romain François, Lionel Henry, and Kirill Müller. 2021. *Dplyr: A Grammar of Data Manipulation*. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr>.
- Wickham, Hadley, and Evan Miller. 2021. *Haven: Import and Export 'SPSS', 'Stata' and 'SAS' Files*. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=haven>.