

## InClassAssign2

null

Surveys are frequently used to measure political behavior such as voter turnout, but some researchers are concerned about the accuracy of self-reports. In particular, they worry about possible social desirability bias where, in postelection surveys, respondents who did not vote in an election lie about not having voted because they may feel that they should have voted. Is such a bias present in the American National Election Studies (ANES)? ANES is a nationwide survey that has been conducted for every election since 1948. ANES is based on face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of adults. Table 1.3 displays the names and descriptions of variables in the turnout.csv data file.

1. Load the data into R and check the dimensions of the data. Also, obtain a summary of the data. How many observations are there? What is the range of years covered in this data set?

```
turnout<- read.csv ("turnout.csv")
class(turnout)
```

```
## [1] "data.frame"
```

```
dim(turnout)
```

```
## [1] 14 9
```

2. Calculate the turnout rate based on the voting age population or VAP. Note that for this data set, we must add the total number of eligible overseas voters since the VAP variable does not include these individuals in the count. Next, calculate the turnout rate using the voting eligible population or VEP. What difference do you observe?
3. Compute the differences between the VAP and ANES estimates of turnout rate. How big is the difference on average? What is the range of the differences? Conduct the same comparison for the VEP and ANES estimates of voter turnout. Briefly comment on the results.
4. Compare the VEP turnout rate with the ANES turnout rate separately for presidential elections and midterm elections. Note that the data set exclude 5. Divide the data into half by election years such that you subset the data into two periods. Calculate the difference between the VEP turnout rate and the ANES turnout rate separately for each year within each period. Has the bias of ANES increased over time?
5. ANES does not interview prisoners and overseas voters. Calculate an adjustment to the 2008 VAP turnout rate. Begin by subtracting the total number of ineligible felons and noncitizens from the VAP to calculate an adjusted VAP. Next, calculate an adjusted VAP turnout rate, taking care to subtract the number of overseas ballots counted from the total ballots in 2008. Compare the adjusted VAP turnout with the unadjusted VAP, VEP, and the ANES turnout rate. Briefly discuss the results.