Do Policymakers Listen to Experts?   
Evidence from a National Survey of Local and State Policymakers

**Replication Codebook**

Correspondening Data: Public\_access\_datafile\_APSR\_Lee\_2021.csv

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Table of Contents

[familiarity 2](#_Toc75686957)

[decision\_factors\_decision\_X 2](#_Toc75686958)

[partisan\_diss 2](#_Toc75686959)

[bias 2](#_Toc75686960)

[treated 2](#_Toc75686961)

[accuracy 2](#_Toc75686962)

[preference 3](#_Toc75686963)

[accuracy\_response 3](#_Toc75686964)

[preference\_response 3](#_Toc75686965)

[issue 3](#_Toc75686966)

[pid\_3 3](#_Toc75686967)

[gov\_exp 3](#_Toc75686968)

[pid\_indep 3](#_Toc75686969)

[Staffer 4](#_Toc75686970)

[ideo5 4](#_Toc75686971)

[age 4](#_Toc75686972)

[Female 4](#_Toc75686973)

[area 4](#_Toc75686974)

[Level 4](#_Toc75686975)

[Weight 4](#_Toc75686976)

[Population\_bin 4](#_Toc75686977)

[Education\_bin 5](#_Toc75686978)

[Urban\_bin 5](#_Toc75686979)

[Voteshare\_bin 5](#_Toc75686980)

## familiarity

Have you heard about {needle exchange programs/genetically modified organisms (GMOs)/rent control} before? Answer Choices: Yes, I know a lot about them/them/it; Yes, I know a little about them/them/it; Yes, but I don’t remember what they are/they are/it is; No, I have not heard of them/them/it.

## decision\_factors\_decision\_X

Consider a situation where you had to choose whether to support or oppose the implementation of a needle exchange program/GMO ban/a rent control policy. How important would each of the following factors be to you? Rows: Preferences of my constituents, Evidence from public health experts/scientists/economists, My own values and experiences, The policy stance of my party. Columns: Not at all important, Slightly important, Moderately important, Very important, Extremely important

## partisan\_diss

If you were to guess, do you think Democrats or Republicans are more likely to support the use of needle exchange programs/a GMO ban/rent control? Answer choices: Democrats are more likely to support the use of needle exchanges/a GMO ban/rent control; Neither party is more likely than the other to support the use of needle exchanges/a GMO ban/rent control; Republicans are more likely to support the use of needle exchanges/a GMO ban/rent control

## bias

Which of the statements below is closest to your belief about public health experts/scientists/economists at universities who conduct research related to needle exchange programs/GMOs/rent control? Answer choices: They are biased in favor of Democrats; They try to be as accurate and objective as possible; They are biased in favor of Republicans

## treated

* ‘0’ if not treated
* ‘1’ if treated

## accuracy

If you were to guess, what percentage of public health experts/scientists/ economists who conduct research related toneedle exchanges/GMOs/rent control believe these programs do NOT increase drug use/GMO foods are safe to eat/rent control policies do NOT increase the overall availability of affordable housing? Answer Choices: Less than 20%, 20 - 40%, 40 - 60%, 60 - 80%, More than 80%.

## preference

Do you support or oppose the use of needle exchange programs/GMO bans/rent control? Answer Choices (for needle exchanges and rent control): Strongly support , Moderately support, Slightly support, Neither support nor oppose, Slightly oppose, Moderately oppose, Strongly oppose. Answer Choices (for GMOs): Moderately support a ban, Slightly support a ban, Neither support nor oppose a ban, Slightly oppose a ban, Moderately oppose a ban, Strongly oppose a ban.

## accuracy\_response

Respondents in the control group receive the identical treatment after being asked about their beliefs and preferences. They are thesubsequently asked the same two questions. This variable is the numeric difference between the first and second measures of the belief question. This variable is the pre-post difference in the 5-point belief, re-scaled to -1 to 1.

## preference\_response

Respondents in the control group receive the identical treatment after being asked about their beliefs and preferences. They are thesubsequently asked the same two questions. This variable is the pre-post difference in the 7-point preference question, re-scaled to -1 to 1.

## issue

* GMO
* NEP (Needle exchange programs)
* RC (Rent control)

## pid\_3

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a …

* Democrat
* Republican
* Independent
* Other party (please specify): \_\_\_

## gov\_exp

Over your career, how many years have you worked in government?

## pid\_indep

Asked if pid\_3 == “Other party (please specify):”

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

* Democratic Party
* Republican Party
* Neither

## Staffer

Whexther or not a respondent is a staffer of an elected official.

* 0 = Elected official
* 1 = Staffer

## ideo5

In general, do you think of yourself as:

* Very conservative
* Somewhat conservative
* Moderate, middle of the road
* Somewhat liberal
* Very liberal
* Not sure

## age

The age of the respodnent

## Female

Whether a respondent is female.

* 1 = Female
* 0 = Male

## area

* county
* local area (local government that is not county)
* district (state legislative district)
* state (state government but not district-specific)

## Level

A variable indicating the level of government that a respondent serves. The values can be county, municipality, township, state, or local.

Weight  
A probability weight created with a post-stratification raking procedure using the Census and presidential vote share variables. This procedure follows the methodology outlined in DeBell and Krosnick (2009) for the American National Elections Study (ANES). For local officials, weights are created using data at the county level. For state officials, they are created using district-level data.

## Population\_bin

A binned variable of the total number of residents living in the given geographic area that a respondent serves. This data is from the 2013-2017 Five Year Data from the US Census American Community Survey, as compiled by IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS).

## Education\_bin

A binned variable of the proportion of 25-years-or-older who have completed a 4-year, post-secondary degree residents in the given geographic area that a respondent serves. This data is from the 2013-2017 Five Year Data from the US Census American Community Survey, as compiled by IPUMS NHGIS.

## Urban\_bin

A binned variable of the proportion of residents who reside in an urban area in the given geographic area that a respondent serves. This data is taken from the 2010 Census, as compiled by IPUMS NHGIS.

## Voteshare\_bin

A binned variable of the proportion of the votes for Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential election. For local elected officials, this represents the county vote share. For state level officials, the vote share is for the state district that they serve.