

About the Dataset

Type of study: ANES Time Series Study

Fresh Cross-Sectional Sample

- Sample universe: U.S. eligible voters (cross-section)
- Sample composition: fresh cross-section cases
- Number of waves: 2 (pre-election, post-election)
- Number of interviews: 5,441 pre-election; 4,783 post-election
- Modes used: internet, phone, and video

ANES 2016-2020 Panel

- Sample universe: ANES 2016 web and face-to-face respondents
- Sample composition: ANES 2016 respondents
- Number of waves: 2 (pre-election, post-election)
- Number of interviews: 2,839 pre-election; 2,670 post-election
- Modes used: internet

Study Content Highlights

The new content for the 2020 pre-election survey includes coronavirus pandemic, election integrity, corruption, impeachment, immigration and Democratic norms. The pre-election survey also includes protests and unrest over policing and racism. The new content for the 2020 post-election survey includes voting experiences, anti-elitism, faith in experts or science, climate change, gun control, opioids, rural-urban identity, international trade, transgender military service, social media usage, misinformation, perceptions of foreign countries and group empathy.

Study Design Highlights

Data collection for the ANES 2020 Time Series Study pre-election interviews began in August 2020 and continued until Election Day, Tuesday (November 3). Post-election interviews began soon after the election and continued through the end of December. This field period began earlier than the traditional ANES field period, which typically starts the day after Labor Day and concludes the day before Election Day.

The ANES 2020 Time Series Study features a fresh cross-sectional sample, with respondents randomly assigned to one of three sequential mode groups: web only, mixed web (i.e., web and phone), and mixed video (i.e., video, web, and phone). The study also features re-interviews with 2016 ANES respondents (conducted by web), and post-election surveys with respondents from the General Social Survey (GSS). The current release of the dataset does not include GSS participants; data from GSS participants will be provided in a future release of the data.

Weights Summary

Several weight variables are available, each intended to be used with particular study components or aggregations of cases. Weights should be used in analyses to accurately represent the population. For correct standard errors, users should employ procedures that take into account the complex sampling design.