
ABC News “Nightline” Iraq Poll, August 2002

ABC News

ICPSR 3562

ABC News "Nightline" Iraq Poll, August 2002

(ICPSR 3562)

Principal Investigator

ABC News

First ICPSR Version

December 2002

Inter-university Consortium for

Political and Social Research

P.O. Box 1248

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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ABC News. ABC News "Nightline" Iraq Poll, August 2002 [Computer file]. ICPSR version. Horsham, PA: Taylor Nelson Sofres Intersearch [producer], 2002. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2002.

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DATA DISCLAIMER

The original collector of the data, ICPSR, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC News "Nightline" Iraq Poll, August 2002 (ICPSR 3562)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted August 29, 2002, was undertaken to assess opinions about Iraq. Respondents were asked whether they approved of the way President George W. Bush was handling the situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein, whether they favored United States forces taking military action against Iraq to force Saddam Hussein from power, whether they would favor military action if United States allies opposed such action, whether they thought the United States was headed for war with Iraq, how important they thought it was for the United States to force Saddam Hussein from power, whether President Bush had a clear policy on Iraq, whether Bush should get authorization from Congress before launching an attack, and who should have the final decision if the President and Congress disagreed on attacking Iraq. Respondents were also asked which would create a greater risk of further terrorism to this country: taking or not taking military action. Background information on respondents includes political party affiliation and gender.

UNIVERSE: Persons aged 18 and over living in households with telephones in the contiguous 48 United States.

SAMPLING: Households were selected by random-digit dialing. Within households, the respondent selected was the adult living in the household who last had a birthday and who was at home at the time of interview.

NOTE: (1) Additional information about sampling, interviewing, weighting, and sampling error may be found in the codebook. (2) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

RESTRICTIONS: This data collection may not be used for any purpose other than statistical reporting and analysis. Use of these data to learn the identity of any person or establishment is prohibited.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF) + SPSS data definition statements

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC/ REFORM.DATA

DATA FORMAT: Logical Record Length with SPSS data definition statements and SPSS portable file

File Structure: rectangular

Cases: 504

Variables: 24

Record Length: 51

Records Per Case: 1

United States Census Division Codes [CENSDIV]

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1	NEW ENGLAND	
	Connecticut	New Hampshire
	Maine	Rhode Island
	Massachusetts	Vermont
2	MIDDLE ATLANTIC	
	New Jersey	
	New York	
	Pennsylvania	
3	EAST NORTH CENTRAL	
	Illinois	Ohio
	Indiana	Wisconsin
	Michigan	
4	WEST NORTH CENTRAL	
	Iowa	Nebraska
	Kansas	North Dakota
	Minnesota	South Dakota
	Missouri	
5	SOUTH ATLANTIC	
	Delaware	North Carolina
	District of Columbia	South Carolina
	Florida	Virginia
	Georgia	West Virginia
	Maryland	
6	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	
	Alabama	Mississippi
	Kentucky	Tennessee
7	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	
	Arkansas	Oklahoma
	Louisiana	Texas
8	MOUNTAIN	
	Arizona	Nevada
	Colorado	New Mexico
	Idaho	Utah
	Montana	Wyoming
9	PACIFIC	
	Alaska	Oregon
	California	Washington
	Hawaii	

United States Census Region Codes [REGION]

=====

1 EAST

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

2 MIDWEST

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

4 WEST

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

ABC News Polling Methodology

By Daniel M. Merkle

Assistant Director of Polling, ABC News

ABC News polls of the general population are conducted by telephone among a random national sample of adults age 18 and over. Sampling and data collection, for most of these polls, are conducted by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pennsylvania. TNSI and its predecessor, Chilton Research Services, have been ABC News' primary field work provider since 1979. ABC News closely oversees TNS sampling and field work procedures.

Sampling

A sample of households in the continental United States is selected via random digit dialing (RDD) procedures, to insure that all possible listed and unlisted phone numbers are included with equal probability of selection. RDD samples are produced using the Genesys Sampling System from a sampling frame that includes all active telephone area codes and exchanges.

Before sampling, exchanges are stratified into nine regions as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, Mountain, Pacific. Counties within each region are then classified as metropolitan or non-metropolitan, using definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Within each of the resulting 18 strata, exchanges are grouped by state and then sorted by median county income as reported by the Census. These steps help ensure representativeness.

Sampling then occurs in three stages. First, a systematic random sample of telephone exchanges is selected within each stratum, by taking every nth exchange.

Next, telephone banks (the first two digits of the four-digit suffix) with more than one residential listing assigned in white pages directories are classified as working banks. A sample of four-digit suffixes is randomly selected from among working banks in each exchange, resulting in a self-weighting sample of households. This sample is checked against a database of known business telephone numbers to reduce business listings in the sample. The sampled phone numbers are pre-dialed via a non-ringing auto-dialer to reduce dialing of non-working numbers.

The third stage of sampling is respondent selection within the household, accomplished by last-birthday selection. Interviewers ask to speak to the household member age 18 or over at home who's had the last birthday. To compensate for the fact that women tend to be easier to reach, in-house selection is stratified by sex, with interviewers asking to speak with the male household member 75 percent of the time and the female 25 percent of the time. If a person of the selected sex is unavailable, the interviewer asks to speak with the person of the other sex who had the last birthday.

Interviewing

Phone numbers are released for interviewing in replicates by region to allow for sample control. In multi-night polls, numbers are called multiple times during the field period. Interviews are conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The professional interviewers employed by TNSI, and their supervisors, are extensively trained in interviewing practices, including techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation.

Weighting

Final data are weighted using demographic information from the Census to adjust for sampling and nonsampling deviations from population values. Respondents customarily are classified into one of 48 cells based on age, race, sex and education. Weights are assigned so the proportion in each of these 48 cells matches the actual population proportion according to the Census Bureau's most recent Current Population Survey.

Sampling Error

Poll results may deviate from full population values because a sample, not a census, is interviewed. Sampling error can be calculated when probability sampling methods, such as those described here, are employed. The standard formula to calculate sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is: $(\text{SQRT}(.25/\text{sample size})) * 1.96$. There can be other sources of differences in polls, such as the wording and order of questions.

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-21652
August 29, 2002
FINAL

(AUGUST 2002 IRAQ POLL)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about some current events.

IF RELUCTANT RESPONDENT USE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

We're not selling anything; we're just interested in your opinions.

It's for a news poll that will be reported on ABC.

We need opinions of average Americans and it will only take a few minutes of your time.

IF RESPONDENT ASKS "WHO ARE YOU," "WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM": My name's _____ and I work for TNS Intersearch, which conducts these polls for ABC.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the (male/female) adults age 18 or over who live in your household and are at home right now, may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? **(IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the (female/male) who last had a birthday?)**

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. Would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq to force Saddam Hussein from power?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****IF "FAVOR" AT Q2*****

3. What if U.S. allies opposed such military action - in that case would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

4, Just your best guess, do you think the United States is headed for war with Iraq, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

5. CUT.

6. How important do you think it is for the United States to force Saddam Hussein from power -- very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not too important
- 4 Not important at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

7. Do you think George W. Bush has a clear policy on Iraq, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. If Bush decides to go to war with Iraq, do you think he should get authorization from Congress before launching an attack, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****IF YES AT Q8*****

9. If Bush and the Congress disagree on attacking Iraq, who should have the final decision - Bush, or the Congress?

- 1 Bush
- 2 Congress
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

10. What do you think would create a greater risk of further terrorism to this country - (if the United States DOES take military action) against Iraq, or (if the United States does NOT take military action)?

- 1 Does take action
- 2 Does not take action
- 3 (VOL) No difference
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2*****

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 A Democrat
- 2 A Republican
- 3 An Independent
- 4 Or what?
(DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

*****END*****