

CAN NON-FULL-PROBABILITY INTERNET SURVEYS YIELD USEFUL DATA? A COMPARISON WITH FULL-PROBABILITY FACE-TO-FACE SURVEYS IN THE DOMAIN OF RACE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY ATTITUDES

APPENDIX

1. GENERAL DATA NOTES

1.1. Current Population Survey (CPS)

The CPS data are restricted to white individuals aged 18 and older.

1.2. General Social Survey (GSS)

The GSS data are restricted to white individuals aged 18 and older who were interviewed in English. Respondents interviewed in Spanish were removed from the sample.

1.3. American National Election Study (ANES)

The ANES data are restricted to white individuals aged 18 and older who were interviewed in English. Respondents interviewed in Spanish were removed from the sample.

1.4. Race Cues, Attitudes, and Punitiveness Survey (RCAPS)

The RCAPS data are restricted to white individuals aged 18 and older who were interviewed in English.

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1. Education

This variable is coded such that greater values indicate higher educational attainment. In categorical form (Table 1), “Less than high school diploma” includes those completing 0-11 years. “High school graduate” includes those completing 12 years. “Some college” includes those completing 13-15 years. “Bachelor’s degree” includes those completing 16 years. “Graduate school” includes those completing 17 or more years. In continuous form (Tables 4-7), the ANES education variable encompasses 6 to 17-or-more years of schooling. As the RCAPS education variable was initially measured categorically, these values were converted into equivalent years, such that “Less than high school diploma” = 11, “High school graduate” = 12, “Some college” = 13, “Two-year degree” = 14, “Four-year degree” = 16, and “Post-grad” = 17.

Simmons, Alicia D. and Lawrence D. Bobo. 2015. “Can Non-Full-Probability Internet Surveys Yield Useful Data? A Comparison with Full-Probability Face-to-Face Surveys in the Domain of Race and Social Inequality Attitudes.” *Sociological Methodology*. 45: 1-31.

2.2. Household income

This variable is coded such that greater values indicate higher household income. The GSS data in 2008 contained quite blunt household income categories, (e.g., finely graded categories up to \$24,999 and then \$25,000 plus), therefore, data from 2006 is used instead. While the first three categories exactly match the coding shown in Table 1, “\$75-99,999” includes those making \$75-89,999, and “≥ \$100,000” includes those making \$90,000 or more. The coding of the RCAPS income variable is also slightly discrepant from the categories of Table 1. Specifically, while the first two and final categories exactly match the table, “\$50-74,999” includes those making \$50-79,999, and “\$75-99,999” includes those making \$80-99,999. The coding of the ANES income variable exactly matches the categories of Table 2. To create continuous measures, each category was recoded to its midpoint.

3. POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS

3.1. Interest in politics

Respondents were asked, “Some people seem to follow what’s going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there’s an election going on or not. Others aren’t that interested. Would you say you follow what’s going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?” This variable is coded such that greater values indicate more interest in politics.

3.2. Political ideology

Respondents were asked, “We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as extremely liberal, liberal, slightly liberal, moderate or middle of the road, slightly conservative, extremely conservative, or haven’t you thought much about this?” This variable is coded such that greater values indicate more support for Conservative ideology.

4. SOCIAL ATTITUDES

4.1. Affect score difference

Respondents were asked, “We’ll give you the name of a group and we’d like you to rate that group using something that we call a feeling thermometer. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the group. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don’t feel favorable toward the group and that you don’t care too much for that group. You would rate the group at the 50 degree mark if you don’t feel particularly warm or cold toward the group. How would you rate whites? How would you rate blacks?” The rating of blacks was subtracted from the ratings of whites, resulting in a variable where a value of 0 indicates rating both groups equally. The farther from 0 the value is, the greater the divergence in ratings of whites and blacks; positive values indicate rating whites more favorably, and negative values indicate rating blacks more favorably.

4.2. *Stereotyping difference*

Respondents were asked, “Now we’re going to provide you with a seven-point scale on which the characteristics of the people in a group can be rated. In the first statement a score of 1 means that you think almost all of the people in that group tend to be “hardworking.” A score of 7 means that you think most people in the group are “lazy.” A score of 4 means that you think that most people in the group are not closer to one end or the other, and of course, you may choose any number in between. Where would you rate whites in general on this scale? Where would you rate blacks in general on this scale?” In addition to being asked about a hardworking/lazy continuum, respondents also were asked about an intelligent/unintelligent continuum. The rating of blacks was subtracted from the ratings of whites, resulting in a variable where a value of 0 indicates rating both groups equally. The farther from 0 the value is, the greater the divergence in ratings of whites and blacks; positive values indicate rating whites more favorably, and negative values indicate rating blacks more favorably.

4.3. *Egalitarianism*

This index consisted of six items, and was coded such that higher values indicate greater egalitarianism. Respondents were asked to “Strongly agree,” “Somewhat agree,” “Neither agree nor disagree,” “Somewhat disagree,” or “Strongly disagree,” with the following items: “Our society should do whatever is necessary to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed” [Reverse coded]. “We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country.” “One of the big problems in this country is that we don’t give everyone an equal chance” [Reverse coded]. “This country would be better off if we worried less about how equal people are.” “It is not really that big a problem if some people have more of a chance in life than others.” “If people were treated more equally in this country we would have many fewer problems” [Reverse coded]

4.4. *Racial resentment*

This index consisted of four items and was coded such that higher values indicate more social conservatism. Respondents were asked to “Strongly agree,” “Somewhat agree,” “Neither agree nor disagree,” “Somewhat disagree,” or “Strongly disagree,” with the following items: “Irish, Italian, Jewish and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors” [Reverse coded]. “It’s really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder, they could be just as well off as whites” [Reverse coded]. “Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.” “Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve.