

The US Collection

The Social Science research community relies greatly on quantitative analysis of survey data and the Roper Center's collection of polls of the general public are one critical component of these analyses. The collection's broad range of topics encourages scholars to conduct secondary analysis and investigate how different groups within society responded to questions on just about any policy matter.

Here are just some examples of the range of topics covered in these holdings—



Crime [justice system, danger assessments, punishment, gun control, ...]
Drugs and Alcohol [youth, regulation, related family problems, ...]
Family [raising children, non-traditional family structures, societal pressures ...]
Education [funding, rules, testing, classroom problems, courses, sports, ...]
Civil Liberties [what will Americans sacrifice for protection]
Minorities [equality, affirmative action, race relations, ...]
Democracy [government systems, free enterprise, freedom, patriotism, ...]
Environment [regulation, pollution, economics, sacrifice, recycling, ...]
Social Capital [participation in social and political groups]
Terrorism [international issues, 9-11, homeland security, ...]
Energy [alternative sources, prices, conservation, ...]
Abortion [who's decision, various circumstances, morality, ...]
Welfare & Poverty [hard work and getting ahead, opportunities, ...]
Women [work, family, politics, equality, ...]

These subject areas and many more are available using the iPOLL database of a half-million questions and answers from all of the major polling organizations in the United States, including, but not limited to these sources:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| CBS News | New York Times | ABC News |
| CNN | Pew Research Center | Gallup Organization |
| Newsweek | Los Angeles Times | Time magazine |
| USA Today | Wall Street Journal | Associated Press |
| Louis Harris & Assoc. | NBC News | Washington Post |
| Kaiser Family Fdn. | AARP | Ipsos-Public Affairs |
| Fox News | National Opinion Research Center | |

Exit Polls

The Center maintains the entire collection of National Election Day Exit Polls—surveys of US voters as they leave voting booths on Election Day. The collection of national general exit polls consists of 33 individual studies including all presidential elections since 1972 and all off-year congressional elections since 1978. Questionnaires and computer-readable datafiles are available for each study.

Typically, national exit polls consist of presidential and/or congressional vote questions in addition to questions on gubernatorial races, important issues affecting the vote decision, presidential approval, current national issues, and basic demographic variables such as gender, race, education, income, and age, among others. Sample sizes for these studies usually range from 8,000 to 20,000 voters, permitting extensive multivariate analysis.

International Holdings

The international collection of datafiles includes over 100 countries and spans 7 decades. Studies collected by the United States Information Agency from the 1950s to 1999 alone number over 1,000 and most have documentation in English. The Latin American collection of data is considered one of the largest and strongest in the world; with surveys from 16 different

countries, many containing questions about the trials and tribulations of being emerging democracies. To check out the international holdings, look to the Search For Datasets catalog available on the Center's web site:

www.RoperCenter.UConn.edu

Roper Center datasets are available in ASCII and some in SPSS format. The documentation is in PDF and/or MSWord.

Educational Resources on Polls

Visit the Roper Center site to access two tutorials on polling. **Polling101** provides an introduction or a refresher on the fundamentals of polling that includes sampling, error, how to read tables, etc. For more advanced training of interpretation of poll results, **Polling 201** offers tips on what to look for when analyzing survey data.

