Making time to be informed: The child penalty on political news consumption

Readme file for the replication materials

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Software used

Analyses were conducted using computers with the latest version of Windows operation system available in January 2025. The dataset was compiled and the analyses estimated using Stata 17-MP.

File list:

Name of file	Type	Content
reuters2013-2022.dta	Dataset	The file contains the subset from the Reuters Digital News Report (2013-2022) used
reuters2023.dta	Dataset	The file contains the subset from the Reuters Digital News Report 2023 used
ESS10_ESS10SC_subset.dta	Dataset	File combining rounds 10 and 10SC of the European Social Survey
GENPOL-media_merger.dta	Do-file	Replication code used to build the pooled LISS dataset.
GENPOL-media_recodes.do	Do-file	Replication code for the recode of the relevant variables using the LISS dataset.
GENPOL_media_analyses.do	Do-file	Replication code for all the analyses reported in the article.

Datasets and codebooks

The authors used three different data sources to conduct the analyses described in the article: the Reuters Institute Digital News Report (2013-2023), the European Social Survey (wave 10) and the Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences Panel.

Digital News Report

The researchers contacted the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism to obtain access to the data they produced for their annual Digital News Report (2013-2023). Anyone wishing to obtain the original dataset can contact them. Two datasets are included in the replication package. The first includes the subset of the 2023 study used in the article. The second dataset uses the subsets used to explore evolution over time (2013 to 2022). Table 1 reports the variables included in the dataset uploaded for replication.

Table 1. Variables included in the uploaded dataset. Digital News Report dataset.

Variable	Question	Response categories
country	Country where data was gathered	
gender_int	Gender of respondent	1. Male 2. Female
age_int	Age of respondent	18-100
q301	Watch television news bulletins or programmes	0. No 1. Yes
q302	Watch 24 hour news television channels	0. No 1. Yes
q303	Listen to radio news programmes or bulletins	0. No 1. Yes
q304	Read printed newspapers	0. No 1. Yes
q306	Visit websites/apps of newspapers	0. No 1. Yes
q310	Social media	0. No 1. Yes
q4	You say you have used these sources of news in the last week, which would be your preferred source	1. Television news bulletins or program 2. 24 hour news television channels 3. Radio news programmes or bulletins 4. Printed Newspapers 5. Printed Magazines 6. Websites/apps of Newspapers 7. Websites/apps of news magazines 8. Websites/apps of TV and Radio companies 9. Websites/apps of other news outlets 10. Social media 11. Blogs 12. Other 95. Don't know 99. NA 995. Other
year	Year	2013-2022
q1b_new	Typically, how often do you access news? By news we mean national, international or local news	1. More than 10 times a day 2. Between 6 and 10 times a day 3. Between 2 and 5 times a day 4. Once a day

		5. 4-6 days a week 6. 2-3 days a week 7. Once a week 8. Less often than once a week 9. Less often than once a month 10. Never 998. Don't know
hh_income	Household income	1. Low 2. Medium 3. High

European Social Survey

The European Social Survey (ESS) is an academic-oriented survey conducted every two years. Data covers a variety of measurements of political and societal orientations, beliefs and behaviors. Data can be downloaded free of charge upon registration in their portal[1]. Figure A1 was estimated using the two parts of wave 10, wave 10 and wave 10SC. Table 2 reports the variables uploaded to this replication files for anyone willing to examine our analyses. The data can also be downloaded and ready to use from the ESS website: https://ess.sikt.no/en/datafile/f37d014a-6958-42d4-b03b-17c29e481d3d

Table 2. Variables uploaded in the dataset. ESS 10 & 10SC

Variable	Question	Response categories
cntry	Country	AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IL, IS, IT, LT, LV, ME, MK, NL, NO, PL, PT, RS, SE, SI, SK.
nwspol	How much time (in minutes) devoted to the consumption of news about politics and current affairs	0-1440
polintr	How interested in politics are you?	1. Very interested 2. Quite interested 3. Hardly interested 4. Not at all interested
gndr	Gender of respondent	1. Male 2. Female
agea	Age of respondent	15-90
eduyrs	Years of full-time education completed	0-76

Longitudinal Internet Studies for Social Sciences

[1] Detailed instructions for registration are available here: https://ess.sikt.no/en/

The Longitudinal Internet studies for the Social Sciences panel (LISS) which is conducted yearly on a true probability sample of Dutch households[2] is used for the main analyses in the manuscript. The dataset can be accessed free of charge for non-commercial and policy-relevant purposes. The only requirement is to sign a data user statement and submit it for approval[3]. Given that the data is easily available, users are not allowed to upload it to any repository.

To replicate the analyses, the first step is to construct the merged dataset by combining the necessary variables. Table 3 outlines the datasets used to create each wave. The merging process is detailed in the file "GENPOL-media_merger.do". Once the merged dataset is built, variable recoding necessary for the analyses is performed in "GENPOL-media_recodes.do". For details on the variables used, users can refer to this do-file and consult the codebooks provided by the LISS panel. Finally, the analyses presented in the article are implemented in "GENPOL-media_analyses.do".

Table 3. List of datasets used to create the merger

Wave	Family and household	Work and schooling	Politics and values
2007	*	*	cv08a_1.1p_EN.dta
2008	cf08a_2p_EN.dta	cw08a_EN_1.1p.dta	cv09b_2.1p_EN.dta
2009	cf09b_EN_2.2p.dta	cw09b_EN_3.0p.dta	cv10c_EN_1.0p.dta
2010	cf10c_EN_1.0p.dta	cw10c_EN_1.0p.dta	cv11d_EN_1.0p.dta
2011	cf11d_EN_1.1p.dta	cw11d_EN_1.0p.dta	cv12e_EN_1.0p.dta
2012	cf12e_EN_2.1p.dta	cw12e_EN_1.0p.dta	cv13f_EN_1.0p.dta
2013	cf13f_EN_1.1p.dta	cw13f_EN_1.0p.dta	cv14g_EN_1.0p.dta
2014	cf14g_EN_1.1p.dta	cw14g_EN_1.0p.dta	*
2015	cf15h_EN_1.0p.dta	cw15h_EN_2.0p.dta	cv16h_EN_1.0p.dta
2016	cf16i_EN_1.0p.dta	cw16i_EN_2.0p.dta	cv17i_EN_1.0p.dta
2017	cf17j_EN_1.0p.dta	cw17j_EN_2.0p.dta	cv18j_EN_1.0p.dta
2018	cf18k_EN_1.0p.dta	cw18k_EN_2.0p.dta	cv19k_EN_1.0p.dta
2019	cf19l_EN_1.0p.dta	cw19l_EN_3.0p.dta	cv20l_EN_1.0p.dta
2020	cf20m_EN_1.0p.dta	cw20m_EN_1.0p.dta	cv21m_EN_1.0p.dta
2021	cf21n_EN_1.0p.dta	cw21n_EN_1.0p.dta	cv22n_EN_1.0p.dta
2022	cf22o_EN_1.0p.dta	cw22o_EN_1.0p.dta	cv23o_EN_1.0p.dta

[2] Further information about the LISS panel can be found in their website: https://www.lissdata.nl/how-it-works [last accessed on the 3rd February 2025].
[3] Detailed instructions can be found here: https://www.lissdata.nl/use-the-data