User's Guide to the
ANES 2008 Time Series Study

American National Election Studies
The University of Michigan and Stanford University
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Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation, the University of Michigan, or Stanford University.

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Contact

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1. Introduction

The User's Guide

This User's Guide describes the methods and procedures followed in the design and implementation of the study. It provides an overview of the study, describes the content of the questionnaires, and articulates the procedures followed for the sample design and data collection. Outcome rates, including response rates, cannot yet be provided.

Name of the Study

Studies in the ANES Time Series have traditionally been labeled solely by year, for example, "the 1980 ANES" (or, "the 1980 American National Election Study"). However, this convention has sometimes invited confusion, since ANES as an organization conducts studies other than Time Series studies, often during the same years as studies from the Time Series.

Beginning with this release, the Time Series naming convention for data releases will specifically include the label "Time Series" -- in this case, the "ANES 2008 Time Series Study" (rather than 'the 2008 ANES'). In the future, study documentation and files for past studies from the Time Series will be amended accordingly.

The Current Release

The ANES 2008 Time Series Study is the 28th study in a series of biennial election studies conducted since 1948 (the "ANES Time Series"). This User's Guide accompanies the current release of data from the ANES 2008 Time Series Study.

The 2008 ANES Time Series Study is entirely separate from the 2008-2009 ANES Panel Study, data collection for which is still in progress. The 2008-2009 ANES Panel Study has already produced an Advance Release of data representing the ANES Panel waves that were completed in 2008. A few questions are common to both studies, but the samples and data collection methods are different.

This release of the 2008 Time Series study differs from the Advance Release of March 2009 in several ways. Additional checks have been conducted on the responses to survey questions. Errata that were reported to us have been reviewed and corrected. Administrative and non-survey variables have been included.

In the coming months, we will continue to provide additional information and enhancements to the data and documentation. Such enhancements include, but are not limited to the continued review of the data, inclusion of additional administrative and derived variables, additional information on the weighting of the data, additional information on the use of the Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP), and enhanced coding of the open-ended responses.

Special Note on this Study's Coding of Open-ended Responses

Detailed coding of responses to open-ended questions has not yet been completed and will become available in a future release. Coding schemes for the open-ended questions are being revised for the 2008 Time Series Study.

The revision of the coding schemes is the consequence of a comprehensive review of ANES open-ended coding methods. The December 2008 ANES conference "Conference on Optimal Coding of Open-Ended Survey Data" (http://www.electionstudies.org/conferences/methods/MethodsConference.htm) solicited expert discussion and reports on the topic, which have suggested best practices to be followed in future handling of open-ended ANES data.

Data coded using newly revised coding methods and master codes will be included in a release that will follow at a later time in this year.

Study Overview

For the first time in the Time Series history, respondents were not told that they were being interviewed for the "National Election Study" in order to avoid self-selection into or out of the sample based on interest in politics.

As with all Time Series studies conducted during years of presidential elections, respondents were interviewed during the two months preceding the November election (Pre-election interview), and then re-interviewed during the two months following the election (Post-election interview).

Field operations were conducted by RTI International (*www.rti.org*). All interviews were administered face-to-face using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology, which also incorporated, for the first time in an ANES study, an interview segment in each wave that was self-administered. The self-administered module in the Pre-election survey was administered by Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI), for which respondents used headphones and looked directly at the laptop computer screen out of view of the interviewer so they could answer audio-played questions confidentially.

The ANES 2008 Time Series Study was designed with a target of 2,470 total pre-election interviews, including a base target of 1,810 interviews plus 350 supplemental Latino interviews ("Latino oversample") and 310 supplemental African-American interviews ("African-American oversample"). Completion of 507 total Latino interviews and 527 total African-American interviews in the pre-election wave, including both base and supplemental interviews, were additional sample objectives. Differential sampling rates among race/ethnicity groups were needed to achieve the target distribution of survey participants. See section 3, Sample Design, for additional information.

A total of 2,323 Pre-election and 2,102 Post-election interviews were successfully completed during the field period, including 512 Latino interviews and 577 interviews by African American respondents. These counts are computed from the racial/ethnicity identifications in the Household Screener, which was used to roster eligible household members and randomly select a survey respondent. In the Household Screener application, "Latino" can designate persons of any race, and "African American" designates those respondents not identified in the Household Screener as Latino who identified a single race of black/ African American in response to the Screener race question.

For more details about study administration, see section 4, Data Collection Procedures.

Special Note about the Latino and African American Oversamples

Unlike oversamples present in previous ANES Time Series studies (1964, 1968, and 1970), the oversamples in the ANES 2008 Time Series Study are integral to the cross-section, which can only be represented with the use of the weights provided in the dataset. The inclusion of the "oversample" cases when representing the 2008 Time Series cross-section provides improved estimates for the Latino and African American populations of eligible voters.

2008 Time Series Study at a glance

- TITLE: ANES 2008 Time Series Study
- DATA STATUS: May 2009 Release
- PURPOSE: The main goal of the ANES Time Series studies is to allow a broad cross-section of scholars and citizens analyze high quality survey data pertinent to important questions about vote choice, turnout and related matters in the context of the 2008 federal election.
- DESIGN: See section 3, Sample Design.
- MODE: Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).
- POPULATION: U.S. citizens age 18 or older as of October 31, 2008.
- No. CASES: 2,323 Pre-election interviews; 2102 re-interviewed in the Post

- FIELD PERIOD: Pre-election survey September 2 - November 3, 2008. Post-election survey November 5 - December 30, 2008.
- RESPONSE RATE: Not yet calculated (complete final dispositions in progress)
- IW LENGTH: Pre-election survey 73.2 minutes; Post-election survey 91.1 minutes.
- WEIGHT: All analyses that generalize to the population should employ weights. See sections 6 and 7.
- DATA: ANES data are available free of charge from the ANES website: http://www.electionstudies.org

2. Survey Content

Online Commons

The ANES Online Commons is a forum in which any interested scholar can contribute to the development of ANES surveys by submitting proposals for questionnaire content and by making comments on proposals. This forum is intended to improve the quality and scientific value of ANES data collections by promoting innovation, collaboration, and constructive dialogue about study design, and was central to the development of the Time Series Study questionnaires.

In 2007, the Online Commons was open to proposals for Time Series Study content from all members of the user community. Following the proposal period, an additional one-week comments period was open, during which opinions and remarks on the final set of submitted proposals continued to be accepted for consideration by the PIs and ANES Board as part of the decision-making process.

In addition to the proposal venue dedicated to the Time Series Study, from November 21, 2007 to January 15, 2008, the Online Commons was open to proposals submitted in response to a special Terrorism and Homeland Security competition. Proposals on this topic, together with user-community commentary, were posted to the ANES Online Commons in a dedicated forum. Questions were evaluated for inclusion in either the 2008 ANES Time Series (primarily within a supplemental module) or for inclusion in the June 2008 and May 2009 waves of the ANES 2008-2009 Panel. Questions selected from this competition and included as part of either ANES study are being funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation.

More than 40 proposals were received and considered as part of the study design process. Each proposal was reviewed by the ANES Board of Overseers, which provided feedback to the Principal Investigators (PIs). The PIs selected content for the study based on the Online Commons proposals, and in many cases the PIs and study director worked with proposal authors and outside experts to develop and refine content for the study.

The original proposals are available in the Online Commons section of the ANES website at http://www.electionstudies.org/onlinecommons.htm. Winning proposals shaped questionnaire content on numerous topics that shaped the Study Content.

Question Content

In addition to content on electoral participation, voting behavior, and public opinion, the 2008 ANES Time Series Study contains questions in other areas such as media exposure, cognitive style, and values and predispositions. Special-interest and topical content provided significant coverage of foreign policy, including the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq. In addition, the study carried expanded instrumentation on organizational membership, unemployment, the federal budget, modern sexism, and race and gender politics. The Post-election interview also included Module 3 from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES).

Special attention was also paid in the ANES 2008 Time Series Study to the design and administration of traditional/new Time Series questions. Split sampling was used to compare alternative question and coding

versions and a selection of appropriate questions were administered with random assignment to either forward or reverse ordering of response options.

Detailed information on all the questions that were asked can be found in our report Background Information on the 2008 ANES Time Series Questionnaires at http://www.electionstudies.org/studypages/2008prepost/2008anes_background.pdf

Bonus Minutes

For the first time, ANES allowed interested persons to purchase space on the face-to-face election survey. This "Bonus Minutes" opportunity allowed researchers to guarantee that topics and questions of their choosing would be covered on the 2008 ANES survey. The criteria for inclusion for Bonus Minutes questions were quite broad -- questions had to contribute to the core scientific mission of the ANES, be non-partisan, and of potential interest to many scholars. Additional information about the Bonus Minutes program can be found at http://www.electionstudies.org/announce/newsltr/ANES_BMCC_Announcement_20070813.pdf

Bonus Minutes items appeared in the Post-election wave, in questions specific to Hispanic respondents, questions on religion, and questions on winner and loser affects for the winning and losing Democratic Party Presidential nominee and for the winner and loser in the Presidential election.

Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP)

For the first time, ANES also allowed for a portion of both the Pre-election and Post-election questionnaires to be self-administered. As part of the self-administered module on the Post-election questionnaire, respondents completed the Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP), which is a means for measuring implicit attitudes. Here, we used the AMP method to measure implicit attitudes toward Blacks. During this module, respondents attributed a "pleasant" or "unpleasant" characteristic to Chinese-character graphic images, each of which was displayed to the respondent following a briefly flashed photo image of a young male. The AMP was proposed to the ANES by Keith Payne of the University of North Carolina. A presentation and audio file offering more information about the AMP and its potential relevance to ANES users can be found here: http://www.electionstudies.org/conferences/2006Duke/abstracts.html

3. Sample Design[1]

The target population for the ANES 2008 Time Series Study constitutes English-speaking or Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens of voting age residing in the 48 coterminous United States and the District of Columbia.

For the purposes of this study, voting age was defined to be 18 years or older as of October 31, 2008. Since the eligible-age cutoff date was necessarily conveyed to one or more household members as part of the roster/selection process, this October 31st date was used in place of the actual November election date in order to avoid the suggestion of overtly political or election-related survey content, so that potential respondents without strong interest in politics and elections might be more motivated to participate.

[1] Information in this section is largely based on the Sampling and Weighting Plan that was prepared by RTI for ANES.

Differential rates of citizenship were a major consideration in the development of the proposed sampling design, because citizenship status varies significantly by race/ethnicity.

Table 1. Citizenship Status of the U.S. Household Population[1] by Race/Ethnicity

	Household Population		Citizen Population[2]		
	18 Years and older		18 Years and older		Percent who are
Race/Ethnicity	# (000s)	Percentage	# (000s)	Percentage	Citizens
Latino (any race)[3]	29,297	13.0	17,892	8.7	61.1
African American (non-Latino)	26,120	11.6	24,758	12.0	94.8
Other race/Ethnicity	170,216	75.4	163,638	79.3	96.1
TOTAL	225,733	100.0	206,288	100.0	91.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (inc. Alaska and Hawaii)

[1] Household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.

[2] Includes native and naturalized citizens.

[3] Approximately 3.8 percent of Latinos were African American in 200 (U.S. Census Bureau 2008).

Overview of the Sampling Design

The sampling design for the ANES 2008 Time Series Study had six objectives:

1. Select a probability sample of adult citizens that is representative of the target population (English-speaking or Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens 18 years or older.
2. Achieve approximately 2,470 pre-election interviews. This target reflects the sum total of 1,810 pre-election interviews specified in the original procurement, 350 in the Latino supplement, and 310 in the African American supplement.
3. Achieve approximately 507 pre-election interviews with Latino adult citizens. This target is based on 157 pre-election interviews expected from the original procurement[2] plus 350 additional pre-election interviews from the Latino supplement.
4. Achieve approximately 527 pre-election interviews with African American adult citizens. This target is based on 217 pre-election interviews expected from the original procurement[1] plus 310 additional pre-election interviews from the African American supplement.
5. Control travel costs associated with data collection by restricting the sample to the eight largest MSAs and approximately 64 counties nationwide. This size sample will yield a variety of local areas from across the country and will provide an adequate number of degrees of freedom for design-based variance estimation.
6. Control interview costs by minimizing the expected number of sample households needed to achieve the target race/ethnicity distribution without causing excessive design effects for survey estimates for each of the three race/ethnicity reporting domains.

Differential sampling rates among the three race/ethnicity groups was needed to achieve the target distribution of survey participants. For example, the target sampling rate for Latinos was approximately 3.4 times the target rate for persons in the 'Other Race/Ethnicity' category. If simple random sampling were used to select the sample, approximately 5,828 Pre-election interviews would have been needed to achieve the target of 507 (8.7%) Latino participants in the Pre-election wave.

To meet the time and resource requirements for the study, a five-stage sampling strategy that disproportionately allocated the sample to areas of the country with high concentrations of Latinos and/or

*[2] Using the entries from Table 1, it was expected that the original procurement of 1,810 pre-election interviews would yield 1810*0.087=157 interviews with Latinos and 1810*0.120=217 interviews with African Americans. Adding in the supplements, the targets become 157+350=507 pre-election interviews with Latinos and 217+310=527 with African Americans.*

African Americans was developed. As a result, the overall sampling rates assigned to persons living in those areas were larger than the overall sampling rates assigned to persons living in other areas.

These differential sampling rates inflate the variances of sample estimates above what would be obtained from a random sample of the same size. For this study, the design effect might be viewed as a “penalty” paid for extracting the desired sample distribution from less than half of the 5,828 pre-election interviews that would be required using random sampling. With this in mind, the focus of the sample design became the determination of the sample allocation that would achieve the desired sample distribution with the fewest number of households, while controlling the design effects associated with each race/ethnicity category.

To control travel costs associated with data collection, the first three stages of sample selection were hierarchically clustered into the following progressively smaller geographic areas.

1. Counties,
2. Census Tracts within selected Counties, and
3. Census Block Groups (CBGs) within selected Census Tracts.

At the fourth stage of sampling, a sample of residential mailing addresses was selected from each selected CBG. Prior Time Series studies relied on field enumeration to construct the household sampling frame, however, it was judged that a frame based on mailing lists offers compelling time and cost savings over field enumeration (*Iannacchione et al. 2007*). The high cost of field enumeration constrained the size of prior ANES enumeration areas ('segments') to one or more Census Blocks. These small segments can reduce statistical efficiency by introducing non-negligible intra-cluster correlation into survey estimates. In contrast, the segments for the 2008 Time Series study were CBGs, which average about 550 households and are well-suited for controlling data collection costs because they are small enough to be managed efficiently, while still being large enough to moderate the detrimental effects of intra-cluster correlation.

At the fifth and final stage of sampling, field interviewers randomly selected either zero or one eligible person from each household that was successfully screened and eligible for the survey.

The sampling frame for the ANES 2008 Time Series Study comprised residential mailing lists supplemented with a frame-linking procedure that added to the frame any households not included on the lists. It was estimated that this combined sampling frame would account for approximately 98% of the households in the U.S.

A summary table of the sample design plan appears below.

Summary Table

TABLE 2. Summary of the Sample Design Plan

I. First Stage: Counties

(A) SAMPLING FRAME

All Counties in the 48 conterminous states and DC

(B) STRATIFICATION

Eight Largest MSAs[3] and remaining Counties

(C) TYPE OF SELECTION

Eight largest MSAs: Counties selected with certainty

Other Counties: Probabilities proportional to size measures

(D) SAMPLE SIZE

Eight Largest MSAs: All Counties

Other Counties: Approximately 64 Counties

II. Second Stage: Census Tracts (CTs)

(A) SAMPLING FRAME

All CTs in selected counties

(B) STRATIFICATION

Eight Largest MSAs and remainder of the country

(C) TYPE OF SELECTION

Probabilities proportional to size measures

(D) SAMPLE SIZE

Eight Largest MSAs: Approximately 32 CTs (proportionally allocated to each MSA)

Other Counties: Approximately 128 CTs (2 per County)

III. Third Stage: Census Block Groups (CBGs)[4]

(A) SAMPLING FRAME

CBGs with locatable mailing addresses[5] in selected CTs

(B) STRATIFICATION

Implicitly sorted by CBG number

(C) TYPE OF SELECTION

Probabilities proportional to size measures

(D) SAMPLE SIZE

320 CBGs (2 per CT)

IV. Fourth Stage: Locatable Mailing Addresses

(A) SAMPLING FRAME

All locatable residential mailing addresses in selected CBGs

(B) STRATIFICATION

Implicitly sorted by delivery sequence number

(C) TYPE OF SELECTION

Systematic sampling within each CBG

(D) SAMPLE SIZE

4,598 locatable mailing addresses[6] (average of 14.4 per CBG)

(E) EXPECTED SCREENING RESULTS

Occupied HUs[7]: 4,230 HHs (92%)

Screened[e]: 3,723 HHs (88%)

Eligible[8]: 3,415 HHs (92%)

V. Fifth Stage: Eligible Persons

(A) SAMPLING FRAME

Roster of eligible persons in screened and eligible HHs

(B) STRATIFICATION

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[3] New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Miami, Houston, and Washington.

[4] The average Census Block Group contains about 550 households.

[5] The frame will exclude approximately two percent of HHs in CBGs with unlocatable addresses.

[6] Does not include addresses included with the CHUM procedure.

[7] Occupancy and screening rates based on prior survey experience.

[8] Percentage of U.S. population 18 and older who are U.S. citizens (2006 American Community Survey).

Latino, African American, and Other R/E

(C) TYPE OF SELECTION

Stratified random sampling

(D) SAMPLE SIZE

3,088 eligible persons (zero or one per HH)

4. Data Collection Procedures[9]

Equipment

Field operations were conducted by RTI International utilizing (CAPI) laptop computers for survey data collection and iPAQ handheld computers to collect roster/selection data and other non-survey data.

The iPAQ handheld computers supported several different data collection activities and were also used to electronically create and manage the record of calls for both screening and interviewing activities. The iPAQ's Case Management System (CMS) stored all information and data for each case, with the exception of Blaise survey interview data. Each working day, field interviewers transmitted iPAQ data to a central database.

The survey instruments were programmed in Blaise, and were stored and accessed on the interviewer's laptop. Interview data collected via the Blaise instrument were stored on the laptop until transmitted to RTI with receipt confirmed. Data transmissions for both laptop and iPAQ data usually occurred via analog phone line (alternatively using high-speed Internet connection). The iPAQ was tethered to the laptop to transmit data to RTI through the laptop modem.

Data Collection Protocol for the Pre-Election Wave

- CHUM data (Check for Housing Units Missed) in the Pre-election wave

The first step for interviewers in the Pre-election wave was the CHUM procedure, which was loaded onto the handheld computer and was used to verify the accuracy of the sample.

- The field interviewer located the address of the selected dwelling unit (SDU) and verified that it was within the boundaries of the segment using a segment map.
- If the SDU was not within the segment, the CHUM was considered complete and the SDU was coded as ineligible.
- If the SDU was within the segment, the interviewer identified the "Next Residential Address" for that SDU from a preloaded list on the iPAQ. The "Next Residential Address" was defined as the first residential (non-business) structure to the left of the SDU. Identification of the "Next Residential Address" enabled conduct of quality control measures for the sampling frame, and ensured the interviewer's ability to locate the correct SDU when visiting the segment.
- If the "Next Residential Address" was not in the preloaded list, the interviewer keyed in its street address and would then locate the second "Next Residential Address." If the second address was not in the preloaded list, the process would be repeated as many as 3 times if none of the "Next Residential Addresses" were preloaded

- DU data (Dwelling Unit Observations) in the Pre-election wave

After completing the CHUM, the Dwelling Unit Observation instrument was completed by the interviewer on the handheld computer. The purpose of the DU Observation procedure was to capture information about characteristics of the contacted household and surrounding neighborhood. DU Observations were

[9] Information in this section is largely based on the Technical Report that was prepared by RTI for ANES.

completed on the first visit to the segment, before any contact was made with persons inside. (Following the initial completion of the Pre-election DU Observations, updates were made on subsequent visits solely for the purpose of recording the appearance of new political signs.)

- HS data (Household Screener) in the Pre-election wave

After completing the DU observations, the Household Screener was conducted on the handheld computer to determine the eligibility of persons in the household and select one eligible household member for the Pre-election survey. Only household members age 18 or older could provide the screener information.

The HS instrument was used to roster all persons age 17 or older who lived at the selected address, then to randomly select one eligible person from the roster. Household members who were eligible to be selected for the Pre-election survey were U.S. citizens age 18 or older as of October 31, 2008.

Rostering identified the age, gender, Hispanic status (yes/no), and racial identification for each person in the roster.

- AP data (Any Person Observations) in the Pre-election wave

The AP Observation instrument was completed on the handheld computer to capture information about contacts at the selected dwelling unit during the interviewer's efforts to obtain completions for the Household Screener and Pre-election survey.

The AP data provide information about comments made by persons contacted at the household which represented attitudes toward the proposed screener or interview, toward the study, or toward surveys in general. Interviewers' offers or mentions of the cash incentive for a completion of the survey interview were also documented for the contact in which the offer or mention was made.

- CT data (Consent) in the Pre-election wave

Once the Household Screener was completed the respondent for the survey was selected from the eligible household members, the informed consent CT instrument was completed on the handheld computer to ensure that the selected respondent understood his or her rights to participate in a voluntary interview. If the selected respondent was 17 years old at the time of selection, the CT form also obtained parental consent.

For selected respondents who were age 18 or older, the interviewer reviewed with the respondent the components of informed consent, and then recorded the respondent’s provision (or refusal) of consent. For selected respondents who were 17 years old, the interviewer first introduced the study to the parent or legal guardian and requested permission to speak with the child. If parent/guardian permission was granted, the study was introduced to the minor, and the minor's consent was obtained using the same procedures followed for adult selectees.

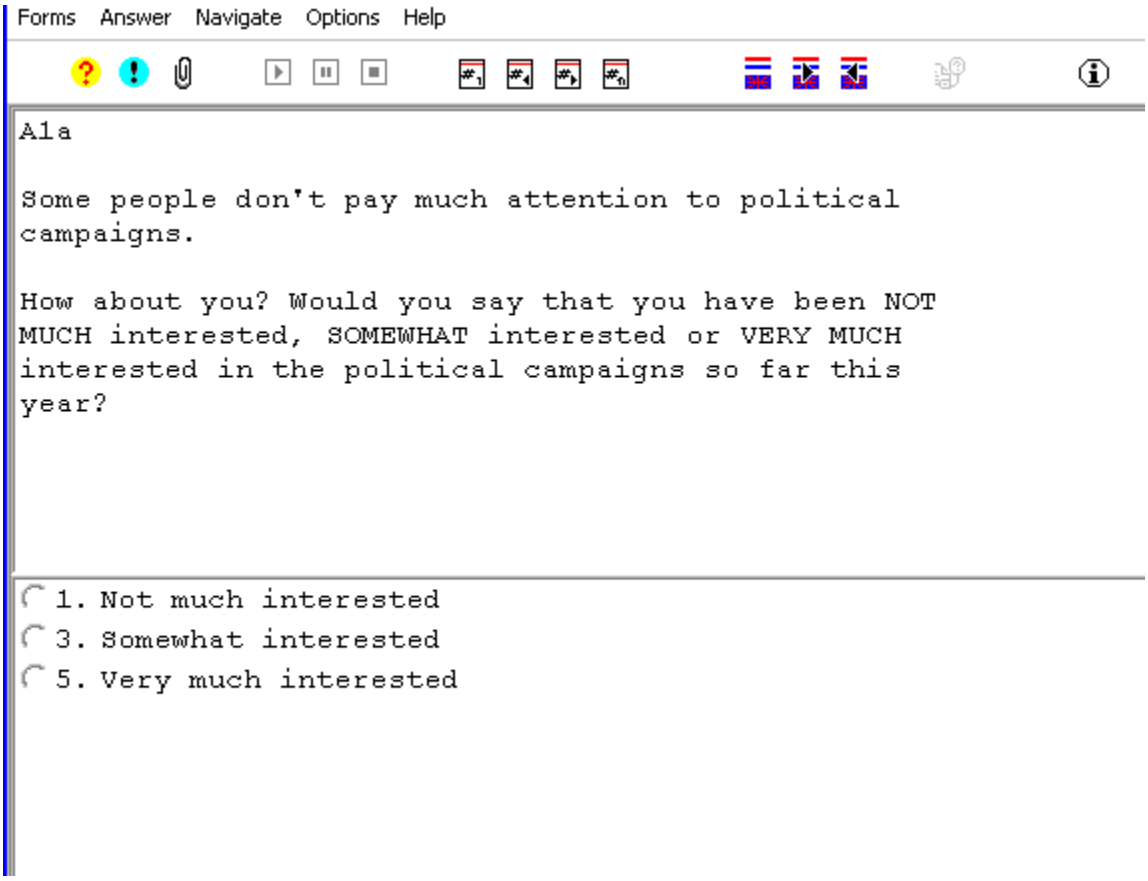
- Pre-Election Questionnaire Administration

After obtaining appropriate consent by administering the CT consent procedures, the Pre-election survey questionnaire was completed on the laptop with the respondent selected for the study. Call records were recorded on the handheld computer.

The questionnaire began with the interviewer's request for consent to record portions of the interview using Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI). If CARI consent was obtained, all responses to open-ended questions that were given by the respondent during the interview were audio-recorded. If CARI consent was not obtained, the interview would proceed without audio-recording any portions.

For one question interval during the Pre-election interview, Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI) was used for the administration of questions which were deemed especially private in nature, on the topics of religious beliefs, racial stereotypes, and sexual orientation/gay-lesbian issues. During this process, the laptop was turned away from the interviewer in the direction of the respondent, who completed the self-administered items on the laptop with audio presentation of the questions via headphones.

In all portions of the pre-election survey instrument, whether ACASI or administered by the interviewer, responses were recorded using a radio-button or drop-down-list selection of response categories, or by verbatim recording of open-ended responses. One or more questions could appear on a single screen, or a screen could provide to the respondent only introductory or explanatory material without requiring a response. An example screen for Pre-election question A1, listing numerically-coded response categories, appears below.



Open-ended responses were typed in an onscreen text field. Comments made by the respondent, for either open-ended or coded questions, were typed in a Remarks field. "Don't Know" and "Refused" responses were typed by the interviewer using special function keys which were assigned to keystrokes representing code values corresponding to those responses.

Non-ACASI questions with responses that included values represented by more than 1 digit were followed up with a confirmation question asking the respondent to verify the recorded value.

For some questions with complex response choices, and for questions that have been traditionally administered in the Time Series in this manner, a page from the Pre-election Respondent Booklet was presented to the respondent. The Respondent Booklet page showed the response options for the question.

Randomization was used extensively throughout the Pre-election instrument, to randomize the order of questions or question blocks, to randomize selection of forward or reverse ordering of response options for a predetermined subset of the questions, and for the application of split sampling (see 2. Study Content).

- EI Observations (End of Interview) in the Pre-election wave

EI Observations were captured on the handheld computer as soon as possible after the completion of the Pre-election survey interview.

These data recorded interviewer observations about the respondent and about the interview process of the Pre-election survey.

Data Collection Protocol for the Post-Election Wave

- DU data (Dwelling Unit Observations) in the Post-election wave

Protocol for the Post-election wave began with Dwelling Unit (DU) observations completed on the handheld computer at the time of the first Post-Election visit to the household, before any (Post-election) contact was made with persons inside.

For the Post-election survey, DU observations were completed once without any updates. The questions answered by the interviewer about the dwelling unit and neighborhood were the same as those used for the Pre-election wave.

- AP data (Any Person Observations) in the Post-election wave

After the interviewer's Post-election DU observations were complete, the interviewer completed Post-election AP Observations on the handheld computer as part of his or her effort to obtain the re-interview of the respondent. Questions answered by the interviewer for the AP Observations were the same as those used for the Pre-election wave.

- CT data (Consent) in the Post-election wave

Informed consent procedures for the Post-Election survey were identical to procedures used for the respondents of the pre-election survey who were age 18 or older. (Eligible household members who were 17 years old when selected as respondents in the Pre-election wave were, by the definition of eligibility for this study, 18 years old at the start of the Post-election field period).

- Post-Election Questionnaire Administration

As with the Pre-election survey, records of calls made to the household by the interviewer in the effort to obtain the Post-election survey interview were recorded on the handheld computer.

In general, the Post-election instrument was administered using the same processes applied in the administration of the Pre-election instrument, beginning with the consent for CARI recording.

For any questions that were part of a split-sample administration spanning both waves, randomized values assigned in the Pre-election instrument were preloaded into the Post-election instrument. In addition, for the Post-election survey, the instrument was preloaded with some values from the pre-election data for the respondent, and with the names of candidates who ran in the House and Senate races in the respondent's state and congressional district.

In addition to the Post-election Respondent Booklet, a "Ballot Card" was used during the Post-election interview as a visual display of response options for the House and Senate vote choice questions. The Ballot card presented the preloaded House and Senate candidate names, listed in party order (Democrats first or Republicans first according to a random assignment).

In the Post-election instrument, ACASI (Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing) administration was employed for the AMP module, in which respondents attributed a "pleasant" or "unpleasant" characteristic to Chinese-character graphic images, each of which was displayed to the respondent following a briefly flashed photo image of a young male.

- EI Observations (End of Interview)

With one or two exceptions for questions specific to the Pre-election wave only, questions completed by the interviewer for the Post-election EI Observations were the same as those used for the Pre-election EI Observations.

Incentives

The field and study staff implemented a number of strategies throughout the study to bolster response rates.

- Pre-election incentives

Households were sent advance mailings by first class mail in a stamped 9.5 by 13.5 inch padded manila envelope, with a signed letter and brochure enclosed. A respondent incentive of $25 per interview was initially offered to all cases, payable in cash immediately upon completion of the survey interview. The case incentive was increased to $50 beginning October 7, 2008. The incentive increase was announced in a letter sent to all respondents not yet interviewed or scheduled with an interview appointment.

Cases that showed resistance to interview were usually mailed a letter tailored to the reason for resistance. A refusal conversion attempt was then made.

Two interviewer incentive programs were also implemented during the Pre-Election data collection period.

1. September 7-20, 2008
    - $20 per completed Interview
2. October 7 to November 3, 2008
    - $5 per completed Household Screener
    - $20 per completed Interview
    - $30 for every case with a Household Screener and Interview completed in the same day.

- Post-election incentives

Respondents received an advance signed letter by first class mail in a stamped 9.5 by 13.5 inch padded manila envelope. As an incentive for their post-election interview, respondents were offered the same dollar amount that they received for the pre-election survey. Beginning December 4, 2008, all respondents who were not already offered a $50 Post-election incentive and who were still refusing to complete the survey were offered an increased incentive of $50. A letter was sent to these respondents, announced the increase.

As in the pre-election wave, cases that showed resistance to interview were mailed a letter tailored to their reason for resistance. A refusal conversion attempt was then made.

Interviewer incentive programs were implemented during two segments of the Post-Election data collection period.

1. November 5-19, 2008
    - $25 per completed interview.
2. December 2-21, 2008
    - $25 per completed interview.

Data Validation

- CARI verification

CARI (Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing) was used to verify that Pre-Election and Post-Election interviews had been completed.

The first stage of the CARI verification procedures occurred during the informed consent section of the interview. At this time, the interviewer asked respondents whether they agreed to audio recording of parts of the interview. If the respondent refused to allow audio recording, CARI was turned off; otherwise, CARI was left on to record small sections of the interview. The interviewers did not know which sections were being recorded.

The CARI files were delivered to the field organization (RTI) along with the other respondent data via the daily transmissions. Cases were reviewed using a process that focused on address validation, respondent self-identification, confirmation of both respondent and interviewer voices, and consistency of voice(s) across the recordings. Any concerns with one or more of these dimensions prompted further review, including in-person validation in the field if needed.

For the Pre-Election, reviews were conducted for 100% of the available CARI files for interviews completed during the interviewer incentive periods. The rate of selection for CARI files was then adjusted to at least 10% of completed Pre-Election cases per interviewer. When initial reviews suggested quality or validity concerns, reviews were undertaken for 100% of completions by the interviewer.

For the Post-Election, 100% of available CARI files from interviews completed during the first interviewer incentive period were reviewed. The rate of selection for CARI files was then adjusted to at least 10% of completed Post-Election cases per interviewer. If an initial review suggested quality or validity concerns, 100% of the completed cases for the interviewer were verified.

CARI refusal rates ([#Refuse CARI /#Completed Interviews] * 100) were monitored at the interviewer level. Any interviewer with a shorter-than-average interview length for CARI refusals was referred to in-person validation. For the Post-Election, CARI refusal rates decreased dramatically, in part due to coaching during the Pre-Election. When unacceptable refusal rates occurred, the field supervisor was instructed to retrain the interviewer.

- In-Person Validations

In-person validations were conducted on either cases that were suspected as falsified or were flagged by RTI staff. They were conducted by interviewers who were in close geographic proximity to the case(s) in question. For each case, worksheets were created which included general questions about the interview (e.g., the respondent's report of interview length, the types of questions asked, and a description of the interviewer) and respondent-specific questions (e.g., the respondent's address at the time of interview, confirmation of screening and roster information) to validate the interview.

- Validation Results

Using validation processes, five cases were determined to be falsified following completion of in-person validations. Interviewers responsible for the falsified cases were removed from the project.

Interviewers

Field supervisor regions and field interviewer assignments were defined on the basis of count and distribution of selected Census Block Groups in the sample. An average, 14 interviewers were in a supervisor region. A total of 130 interviewers were hired for the Pre-election survey.

Field supervisors sought to ensure an optimal number of interviewers, and to match the race/ethnicity characteristics of interviewers with those of individual CBGs. The optimal mix of interviewers and/or interviewer characteristics utilized data that provided the proportion of Latino, African American, and Other households within each of the supervisor's assigned CBGs.

Supervisors also sought to hire an appropriate number of bilingual interviewers for their assigned CBGs. If, for example, a CBG had a proportion of Latino households that was 30 percent or greater, then the supervisor was charged with recruiting at least one bilingual interviewer. Applying this approach to each CBG and supervisor region, a national target for 30 bilingual interviewers was set.

On August 26-29, 2008, Pre-Election training sessions were conducted for all but 1 of the 130 interviewers hired for the Pre-election survey. As part of the training sessions, the 30 interviewers who were bilingual interviewers attended and completed bilingual training.

A total of 116 interviewers (24 bilingual) were retained for the Post-election wave. To receive a Post-election wave assignment, continuing interviewers were required to complete home-study training on CD-ROM, followed by a certification quiz. After passing certification, an interviewer could be accepted for Post-

election fieldwork after participating in teleconferences with the field supervisor and team of regional interviewers.

5. Dispositions and Outcome Rates

Final dispositions of cases and outcome rates (include response rate) are not available for the current release of the ANES 2008 Time Series Study. This information will become available later this year.

6. Weights

Unlike oversamples present in previous ANES Time Series studies (1964, 1968, and 1970), the oversamples in the ANES 2008 Time Series Study are integral to the cross-section, which can only be represented with the use of the sample weights provided in the dataset. The inclusion of the "oversample" cases when representing the 2008 Time Series cross-section provides improved estimates for the Latino and African American populations of eligible voters.

There are two sets of sample weights. The first set of weights is centered at a mean of 1.0; these are variable V080101 (pre-election) and V080102 (Post-election). The second set of weights represent population V080101a (pre-election) and V080102 (Post-election). The pre-election sample weights are the product of the household non-response adjustment factor by age and education. The post-election sample weights are adjusted for attrition.

Note: The household weight (V080103) used in creation of the sample weight is also available.

Additional information on the construction of the ANES 2008 Time Series weight variables will become available later this year.

7. Analyzing the Data with Weights and Correct Significance Testing

Analyses intended to generalize to the target population should be weighted. The unweighted data are not representative of the target population, so unweighted estimates of population percentages and means are wrong. Also, due to the complex sample design of the ANES, sampling errors and related statistics (including confidence intervals, p-values, t-tests, and all other tests of statistical significance) should not be calculated using methods intended for simple random samples.

8. Orientation to the Data File

There are 2,323 cases in the dataset. All respondents in the dataset completed the Pre-election survey, and 2,102 of the Pre-election respondents were re-interviewed for the Post-election survey.

File formats

The data are provided in a flat ASCII file. The ASCII data file is comma-delimited to facilitate quick reading into statistical and other software, and also uses a fixed-width format. SPSS, Stata, and SAS syntax files which read in the raw data by their fixed column locations are provided so that users can create datasets in the file formats of these applications. Each set of syntax files is accessed from a central 'run' file, which must be submitted (in SPSS, Stata, or SAS) according to directions provided in (comment) directions at the top of the 'run' file. See the 'run' files for instructions.

In additional, study data are also provided in an SPSS portable (.por) file. Because the traditional 8-character limit for Time Series variable names continues to be observed in the ANES 2008 Time Series data release, names for variables in the SPSS portable release file are not abbreviated to conform to the limitation for variable name length which is required in SPSS portable files.

Variables in the file

Variables are named according to the traditional Time Series naming convention: VYY*nnnn*a where "YY" corresponds to the 2-digit year of the Time Series study, "*nnnn*" represents a consecutive numbering of

variables using 4-digit number representation, and "a" represents a single optional alphabetic suffix character. For example: V080002, V08003a, V08003b, V08004 etc.

Variable labels are constructed beginning with identification of the survey question with which the variable is associated, for example: "A1. Interest in the election campaign." Variable 'numbering' (the sequential 'numbering' included as part of the variable names, as described above) follow recent Time Series numbering conventions:

4-digit number	***Beginning of number series for:***
0001	Study IDs
0101	Study Weights
1001	Study (Pre-Post) Non-survey data
2201	Sampling/geo-coded data
2001	Pre Non-survey data
3001	Pre Survey data
4001	Post Non-survey data
5001	Post Survey data

Missing Data

Missing data are assigned numeric codes between -1 and -9 to indicate the reason that valid data are missing for a variable. The missing data coding system applied for this release of the datafile reads as follows:

-1. INAP (inapplicable)
indicates a variable for a question that was not administered to a particular respondent because the question logic in the instrument did not call for the question to be asked.
For example, the follow-up question asking how conservative the respondent is would not be asked if the person said he or she was liberal.
-2. Missing, see documentation
is a category used for data that do not fit any of the other codes. No data in this release are coded -2.
-3. Restricted access
is assigned to variables which, in the interest of respondent anonymity, have valid data that are not made public.
-4. Error, data not ascertained (NA); see documentation
-5. Not asked, terminated
indicates that before reaching this point in the questionnaire, the respondent stopped the survey.
-6. Not asked, unit non-response
indicates that the respondent never began the survey for that wave of the study
-7. (not used for this study).
-8. Don't Know
-9. Refused

This system translates to the following missing data codes:

-1 INAP

-2 No Post-election interview

-3 Missing, restricted access (confidential data)

-4 NA

-5. Not completed; IW terminated (Post-election wave only)

-6 Don't recognize (thermometers: "don't know who this is")

-7 Haven't though much about it

-8 Don't know

-9 Refused

Note: For the Pre-election survey no interviews were terminated prior to completion. For the Post-election, no interviews were terminated prior to the final self-administered AMP module (see 2. Study Content above), however some cases did not complete the entire AMP module: these cases are coded -5 in the Post-election data.

An additional missing data code of -199 is used as a placeholder for variables planned for a future release but not yet available.

Restricted-use data

As with other ANES studies, most variables from the ANES 2008 Time Series Study are included in the public-use data file that is available free to the public, however access to some variables is restricted (blanked or recoded) to protect respondent privacy. Restricted data include open-ended text responses, and some geo-coded data, as well as any responses which (in combination with other available data) are too detailed to ensure anonymity, such as day of birth.

Data analysts interested in obtaining access to restricted access variables may do so by following the special access request procedures described on the ANES website at http://www.electionstudies.org/rda/anes_rda.htm

Errors and problems in administration

- Congressional district assignment

For 22 respondents in the Post-election survey, the congressional district identified for the case (respondent's address of residence) was incorrect. This identification error resulted in the preloading of incorrect candidate names for the House of Representatives race that took place in the respondent's (actual) district, and resulted in incorrect names appearing on the respondents' Ballot Cards.

Cases affected by this error are identified in the variable for congressional district number and, for questions specific to House candidates from the respondent's congressional district, are coded to Not Ascertained (NA). For questions about the respondent's vote choice or preference for the House of Representatives, however, some respondents with incorrect preloaded candidate names realized the error, notified the interviewer, and identified the actual candidate for whom he or she voted.) When this occurred, notes were recorded by the interviewer in the Remarks field.) Note: respondents who did not vote in the district of their residence were not presented with a Ballot Card and were unaffected by this error for the questions on House election vote choice or preference.

- Preload failure

In addition, in the Post-election wave, there were 3 cases of failed preload, where values set for CAPI preloading did not preload during the actual interview, including candidate names, county name, and coded data from the Pre-election wave. These cases are coded NA in the variables for the affected questions.

- Other issues

In the R-S module (R1-S6s), a split sample was intended for placement of the question on threat from the federal government, at either R1 or R8. Due to a programming error, the same half sample was administered the question at both R1 and R8; the remaining half sample was not asked the question.

References

Iannacchione, V.G., K. Morton, J. McMichael, D. Cunningham, J. Cajka, and J. Chromy (2007). Comparing the Coverage of a Household Sampling Frame Based on Mailing Addresses to a Frame Based on Field Enumeration. *Proceedings of the American Statistical Association, Section on Survey Research Methods.*

Appendix A – Photographs used in the Post-election Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP) module

As previously mentioned, the AMP is a means for computer-based measuring of implicit attitudes. In the ANES 2008 Time Series AMP module, we used this method to measure implicit racial attitudes.

Respondents were asked to attribute a "pleasant" or "unpleasant" characteristic to Chinese-character graphic images, which were each displayed to the respondent following a briefly flashed photo image of a young male. The photos used have been used in other AMP experiments. (Please note that the photos, displayed below, render somewhat differently on a computer screen than in this printed or viewed document.) Both the photos and the Chinese-character images are included below.

Image A

Image B

Image C

Image D

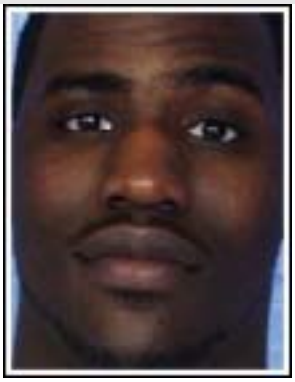


Image E

Image F

Image G

Image H

Image J

Image K

Image L

Image M

Image N

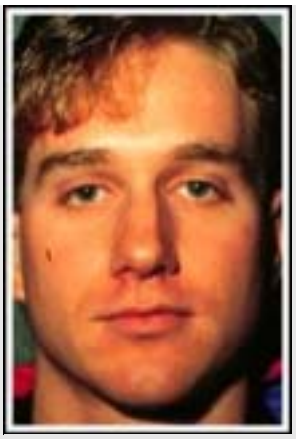


Image P

Image Q

Image R

Image S

Image T

Image U

Image V

Image W

Image X

Image Y

Image Z

Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Image 4

Image 5

Image 6

Image 7

Image 8

Image 9

Image 10

Image 11

Image 12

Image 13

Image 14

Image 15

Image 16

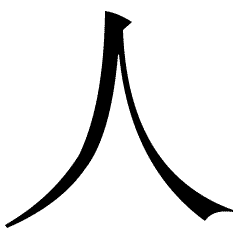

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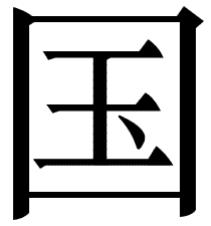
Image 19

Image 20

Image 21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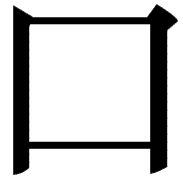
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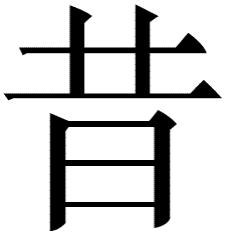
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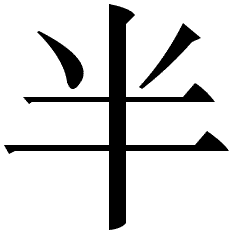
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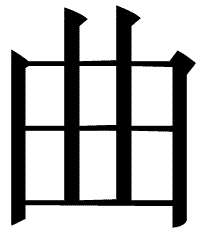
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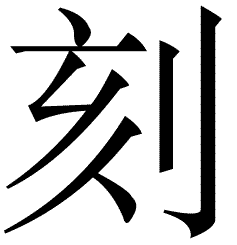
Image 41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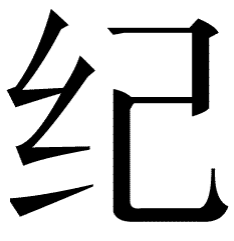
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Image 47

Image 48

Image 49

Image 50

Image 51

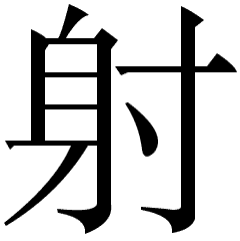
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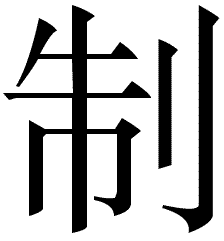
Image 54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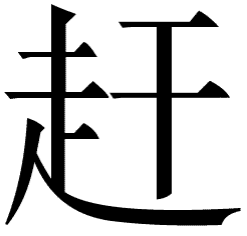
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Image 58

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Image 64

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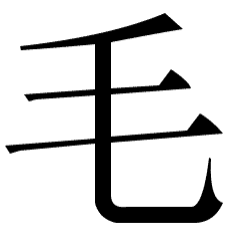
Image 66

Image 67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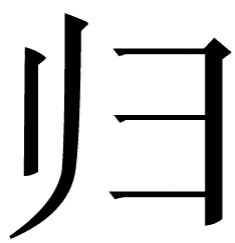
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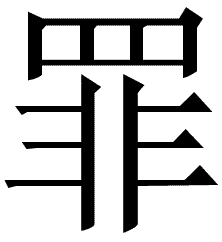
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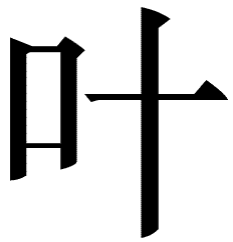
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Image 75

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