Cooperative Congressional Election Study

Weights for Subsample of CCES 2016 Common Content

Codebook

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Description

This supplementary data set for the 2016 CCES Common Content provides weights for a non-random subsample of respondents. This subsample is composed of early respondents to the initial questionnaire that was fielded; the questions asked only of this subsample were ultimately dropped due to time constraints for the full sample. As such, the composition of this subsample is biased by factors associated with an early response to the survey invitation, such as higher interest in politics or higher levels of education. A full list of the items asked only of this subsample is detailed in Table 1.

The subsample weights here adjust for these biases so that items asked of the subsample may be comparable to the representative population estimates produced by the standard weights. Subsample weights were created with a post-stratification technique using the `ipfweight` package in STATA.[1] Post-stratification weighting uses known population values to adjust the weights for a subsample such that estimates run within that subsample better reflect the population estimates of the full sample.

The post-stratification weighting procedure proceeded as follows. First, dichotomous indicator variables were created for each of the moment conditions used to produce weights for the entire sample.[2] Using the full sample weights, point estimates were produced for each of these variables.[3] These point estimates were then specified as the population targets for reweighting the subsample with `ipfweight`. The weights for the entire sample (`commonweight_vv`) were used as the starting point for reweighting, and the procedure was iterated 20 times. Final weights were then trimmed to a maximum value of 7.

The associated dataset includes two variables corresponding only to respondents in the subsample: a case ID for each respondent (`V101`), and a post-stratification weight (`subsample_weight`). To use these weights, conduct a 1:1 merge with the 2016 CCES Common Content, merging on `V101`. These weights may then be applied using the following command in STATA: `svyset [pw=subsample_weight]`. Please note that these weights may only be used for items asked only of the subsample, indicated by a yellow warning icon in the 2016 CCES Common Content Codebook. Again, these items are detailed in Table 1.

Table 2 details a comparison of: (1) weighted point estimates for demographic characteristics used to weight the entire sample, (2) biased point estimates for these characteristics among the subsample produced with the full sample weights, and (3) newly-weighted point estimates for these characteristics among the subsample produced with post-stratification weights.

[1] `ipfweight` is not included in base STATA, but must be downloaded and installed from the Statistical Software Components (SSC) archive with the following command: `ssc install ipfweight`

[2] The variables used as moment conditions for weighting are detailed on page 16 of the 2016 CCES Common Content Codebook. Indicators for states and interactions between characteristics were not employed in the post-stratification procedure.

[3] Note that the category of "Hispanic" here includes both those that reported their race as Hispanic in the item `race`, as well as those that reported their ethnicity as Hispanic in the item `hispanic`.

List of Items for Subsample

Table 1: CC16 Subsample-Exclusive Items

Variable	Label
CC16_301a	Most Important Problem – Gun Control
CC16_301b	Most Important Problem – Abortion
CC16_301c	Most Important Problem – Taxes
CC16_301d	Most Important Problem – Immigration
CC16_301e	Most Important Problem – Budget Deficit
CC16_301f	Most Important Problem – Defense Spending
CC16_301g	Most Important Problem – Social Security
CC16_301h	Most Important Problem – Environment
CC16_301i	Most Important Problem – Jobs
CC16_301j	Most Important Problem – Crime
CC16_301k	Most Important Problem – National Security
CC16_301l	Most Important Problem – Race Relations
CC16_301m	Most Important Problem – Health Care
CC16_301n	Most Important Problem – Gay Marriage
CC16_301o	Most Important Problem – Government Corruption
CC16_312_1	Syria & Iraq – Do not get involved
CC16_312_2	Syria & Iraq – Send food, medicine and other aid to countries affected
CC16_312_3	Syria & Iraq – Provide arms to those opposing ISIS
CC16_312_4	Syria & Iraq – Enforce a no-fly zone
CC16_312_5	Syria & Iraq – Use drones and aircraft to bomb ISIS troops
CC16_312_6	Syria & Iraq – Send military support staff (non-combat)
CC16_312_7	Syria & Iraq – Send significant force to fight ISIS
CC16_331_4	Immigration – Fine U.S. businesses that hire illegal immigrants
CC16_331_5	Immigration – Admit no refugees from Syria
CC16_331_6	Immigration – Increase the number of visas for overseas workers to work in the U.S.
CC16_331_8	Immigration – Ban Muslims from immigrating to the U.S.
CC16_340f	Ideology – Merrick Garland
CC16_350	SCOTUS Appointments
CC16_351A	For or Against – Congress: Approve Garland nomination
CC16_351C	For or Against – Congress: USA Freedom Act
CC16_351D	For or Against – Congress: Trade Adjustment Assistance Act

Comparison of Weights and Subsample Weights

Table 2: Summary of CC16 Subsample Reweighting

Variable	Weighted Full Sample	Weighted Subsample	Reweighted Subsample
Age, 18–29	21.6%	7.76%	18.83%
Age, 30–64	60.26%	63.07%	62.3%
Age, 65+	18.15%	29.17%	18.87%
White	72.94%	83.47%	75.69%
Black	12.38%	7.22%	10.97%
Hispanic	10.05%	5.05%	8.76%
Asian	3.02%	1.41%	2.86%
Male	48.22%	47.55%	47.29%
College	26.26%	39.77%	27.92%
Voter Registration	88.86%	94.4%	89.71%
Conservative	35.31%	38.25%	35.65%
Liberal	22.19%	22.39%	22.38%
Republican	36.15%	39.9%	37.23%
Democrat	21.82%	19.89%	21.26%
Political Interest	51.01%	71.39%	52.75%
Born Again	32.86%	30.58%	32.19%