UnderStandingAmericaStudy

UAS 640: SATISFACTION; SURVEYS; POLLS; LEADERS AND INSTITUTION; POPULISM

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Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

This UAS panel survey, titled "UAS 640: Satisfaction; Surveys; Polls; Leaders and Institution; Populism", focuses on how respondents feel about things going on in the country these days, and their opinions on different sources of information This survey is no longer in the field. Respondents were paid $7 to complete the survey.
Related surveys are UAS 645.

1.1 Topics

This survey contains questions (among others) on the following topics: Social Attitudes And Values, Survey Methodology. A complete survey topic categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.2 Experiments

This survey includes experiment(s) of the following type(s): Auxiliary Randomization, Question Wording Experiments. Please refer to explanatory comments in the Routing section for detailed information. A complete survey experiment categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.3 Citation

Each publication, press release or other document that cites results from this survey must include an acknowledgment of UAS as the data source and a disclaimer such as, 'The project described in this paper relies on data from survey(s) administered by the Understanding America Study, which is maintained by the Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) at the University of Southern California. The content of this paper is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of USC or UAS.' For any questions or more information about the UAS, contact Tania Gutsche, Project and Panel Manager, Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California, at tgutsche@usc.edu.

2 SURVEY RESPONSE AND DATA

2.1 Sample selection and response rate

The sample selection for this survey was:

Random selection of active respondents.

As such, this survey was made available to 2058 UAS participants. Of those 2058 participants, 1212 completed the survey and are counted as respondents. Of those who are not counted as respondents, 16 started the survey without completing and 830 did not start the survey. The overall response rate was 58.89%.

Note: We are unable to provide sample weights for a small number of UAS members (see the Sample and weighting section below for details). If they completed the survey, these members are included in the data set with a weight of zero, but accounted for in the computation of total sample size and survey response rate.%.

The detailed survey response rate is as follows:

UAS640 - Response Overview	
Size of selected sample	2058
Completed the survey	1212
Started but did not complete the survey	16
Did not start the survey	830
Response rate	58.89%

2.2 Timings

The survey took respondents an average of 10 minutes, and the full distribution of survey response times is available in the figure below. Times per question are available upon request.

Distribution of Respondents' Survey Response Times
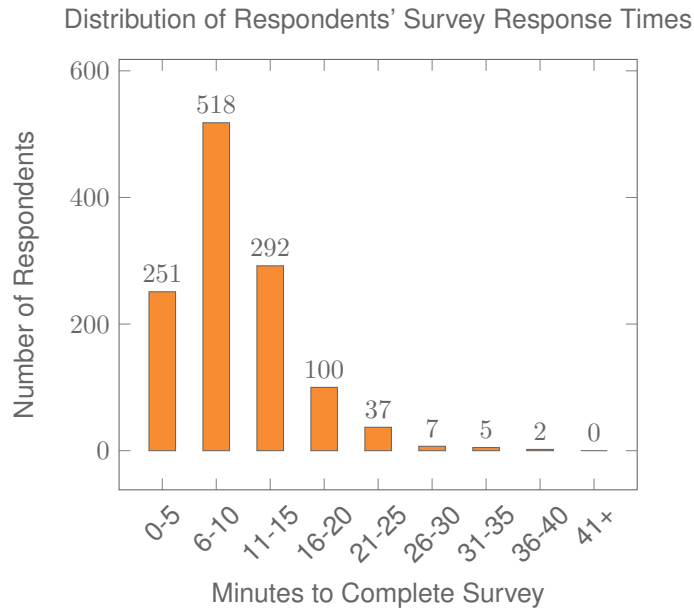
2.3 Sample & Weighting

Sample weights for this survey are computed following the general UAS Weighting Procedure. Specifically, we use a two-step process where we first compute base weights, which correct for unequal probabilities of sampling UAS members, and then generate final, post-stratification weights, which align the sample to the reference population along certain socio-economic dimensions. These are gender (male/female), race and ethnicity (White/Black/Other/Hispanic/Native American), age (18-39/40-49/50/59/60+), education (High school or less/Some college/Bachelor or more), Census regions (Northeast/Midwest//West, excl. CA/CA, excl. LAC, LAC). Benchmark distributions for these variables are derived from the 6 most recent available Current Population Survey (CPS) Basic Monthly Survey with respect to the survey's completion date. The reference population considered for the weights is the U.S. population of adults age 18 and older.

This survey dataset may contain respondents with a weight of zero. These respondents belong to a small group of UAS members for whom sample weights cannot be computed due to non-probability recruitment for special projects. Hence, while they are accounted for in the total number of survey respondents, they do not contribute to any statistics using sample weights. More information is available from the UAS Weighting Procedure. Please contact UAS staff with any questions.

3   STANDARD VARIABLES

Each Understanding America Study data contains a series of standard variables, consisting of individual, household and sample identifiers, language indicator, time stamps and a rating by the respondent of how much he or she liked the survey:

- ○ **uasid**: the identifier of the respondent. This identifier is assigned to a respondent at recruitment and stays with the respondent throughout each and every survey he/she participates in. When analyzing data from multiple surveys, the 'uasid' can be used to merge data sets.

- ○ **uashhid**: the household identifier of the respondent. Every member is assigned a household identifier, stored in the variable 'uashhid'. For the primary respondent this identifier equals his or her 'uasid'. All other eligible members of the primary respondent's household (everyone who is 18 or older in the household) who become UAS respondents receive the 'uasid' of the primary respondent as their household identifier. The identifier 'uashhid' remains constant over time for all respondents. Thus it is always possible to find the original UAS household of an UAS panel member (even after they, for example, have moved out to form another household).

- ○ **survhhid**: uniquely identifies the household a UAS panel member belongs to in a given survey. For instance, if the primary respondent and his/her spouse are both UAS members at the time of a given survey, they both receive the same 'survhhid' identifier for that survey. If they subsequently split, they receive two different 'survhhid' in subsequent surveys. They, however, always share the same 'uashhid'. The identifier 'survhhid' is set to missing (.) if no other household members are UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Since individuals can answer the same survey at different points in time (which can be relatively far apart if the survey is kept in the field for a prolonged time), it may be possible that, within the same data set, household members have different 'survhhid' reflecting different household compositions at the time they answered the survey. For instance, suppose that the primary respondent and his/her spouse are both UAS members. If the primary respondent answers the survey when he/she is living with the spouse, but the spouse answers the survey when the couple has split, they receive different 'survhhid'. Hence, the variable 'survhhid' identifies household membership of UAS panel members, at the time the respondent answers the survey. Note: in the My Household survey 'survhhid' is set to unknown (.u) for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.

- ○ **uasmembers**: is the number of other household members who are also UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Since individuals can answer the same survey at different points in time (which can be relatively far apart is the survey is kept in the field for a prolonged time), it may be possible that, within the same data set, the primary respondent of a household has a value of '0', whereas the second UAS household respondent has a value of '1'. Therefore 'uasmembers' should be interpreted as the

number of household and UAS panel members at the time the respondent answers the survey. Note: in the My Household survey 'uasmembers' is set to unknown (.u) for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.

○ **sampleframe**: indicates the sampling frame from which the household of the respondent was recruited. All UAS recruitment is done through address based sampling (ABS) in which samples are acquired based on postal records. Currently, the variable 'sampleframe' takes on four values reflecting four distinct sample frames used by the UAS over the year (in future data sets the number of sample frames used for recruitment may increase if additional specific populations are targeted in future recruitment batches):

1. U.S. National Territory: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
2. Areas high concentration Nat Ame: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans in the zip-code. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
3. Los Angeles County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable was called sampletype and had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

1. Nationally Representative Sample: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
2. Native Americans: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
3. LA County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

○ **batch**: indicates the batch from which the respondent was recruited. Currently, this variable takes the following values (in future data sets the number of batches may increase as new recruitment batches are added to the UAS):

1. ASDE 2014/01
2. ASDE 2014/01
3. ASDE 2014/01
4. Public records 2015/05
5. MSG 2015/07
6. MSG 2016/01
7. MSG 2016/01
8. MSG 2016/01
9. MSG 2016/02

10. MSG 2016/03
11. MSG 2016/04
12. MSG 2016/05
13. MSG 2016/08
14. MSG 2017/03
15. MSG 2017/11
16. MSG 2018/02
17. MSG 2018/08
18. MSG 2019/04
19. MSG 2019/05
20. MSG 2019/11
21. MSG 2020/08
22. MSG 2020/10
23. MSG 2021/02
24. MSG 2021/08
25. MSG 2021/08
26. MSG 2022/02
27. MSG 2022/02
28. MSG 2022/08
29. MSG 2022/11
30. MSG 2022/11
31. MSG 2023/01
32. MSG 2023/06
33. MSG 2023/09
34. MSG 2023/10
35. MSG 2025/02

Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

1. ASDE 2014/01 Nat.Rep.
2. ASDE 2014/01 Native Am.
3. ASDE 2014/11 Native Am.
4. LA County 2015/05 List Sample
5. MSG 2015/07 Nat.Rep.
6. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 2

7. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 3
8. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 4
9. MSG 2016/02 Nat.Rep. Batch 5
10. MSG 2016/03 Nat.Rep. Batch 6
11. MSG 2016/04 Nat.Rep. Batch 7
12. MSG 2016/05 Nat.Rep. Batch 8
13. MSG 2016/08 LA County Batch 2
14. MSG 2017/03 LA County Batch 3
15. MSG 2017/11 California Batch 1
16. MSG 2018/02 California Batch 2
17. MSG 2018/08 Nat.Rep. Batch 9
18. MSG 2019/04 LA County Batch 4
19. MSG 2019/05 LA County Batch 5
20. MSG 2019/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 10
21. MSG 2020/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 11
22. MSG 2020/10 Nat. Rep. Batch 12
23. MSG 2021/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 13
24. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 15
25. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 16
26. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (priority)
27. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (regular)
28. MSG 2022/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 18
29. MSG 2022/11 LA County Batch 6
30. MSG 2022/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 20
31. MSG 2023/01 Nat. Rep. Batch 21
32. MSG 2023/06 Nat. Rep. Batch 22
33. MSG 2023-09 Native Am. Batch 3
34. MSG 2023-10 Nat. Rep. Batch 23

○ **primary_respondent**: indicates if the respondent was the first person within the household (i.e. to become a member or whether s/he was added as a subsequent member. A household in this regard is broadly defined as anyone living together with the primary respondent. That is, a household comprises individuals who live together, e.g. as part of a family relationship (like a spouse/child/parent) or in context of some other relationship (like a roommate or tenant).

- ○ **hardware**: indicates whether the respondent ever received hardware or not. Note: this variable should not be used to determine whether a respondent received hardware at a given point in time and/or whether s/he used the hardware to participate in a survey. Rather, it indicates whether hardware was ever provided:

    1. None
    2. Tablet (includes Internet)

- ○ **language**: the language in which the survey was conducted. This variable takes a value of 1 for English and a value of 2 for Spanish.

- ○ **start_date (start_year, start_month, start_day, start_hour, start_min, start_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent started the survey.

- ○ **end_date (end_year, end_month, end_day, end_hour, end_min, end_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent completed the survey.

- ○ **cs_001**: indicates how interesting the respondent found the survey.

4 BACKGROUND DEMOGRAPHICS

Every UAS survey data set includes demographic variables, which provide background information about the respondent and his/her household. Demographic information such as age, ethnicity, education, marital status, work status, state of residence, family structure is elicited every quarter through the "My Household" survey. The demographic variables provided with each survey are taken from the most recent 'MyHousehold' survey answered by the respondent. If at the time of a survey, the information in "My Household" is more than three months old, a respondent is required to check and update his or her information before being able to take the survey.

The following variables are available in each survey data set:

○ **gender**: the gender of the respondent.

○ **dateofbirth_year**: the year of birth of the respondent.

○ **age**: the age of the respondent at the start of the survey.

○ **agerange**: if the respondent's age cannot be calculate due to missing information, 'agerange' indicates the approximate age. Should a value for both the 'age' and 'agerange' be present, then 'age' takes precedence over 'agerange'.

○ **citizenus**: indicates whether the respondent is a U.S. citizen.

○ **bornus**: indicates whether the respondent was born in the U.S.

○ **stateborn**: indicates the state in which the respondent was born. This is set to missing (.) if the respondent was not born in the U.S.

○ **countryborn**: indicates the country in which the respondent was born. This is set to missing (.) if the respondent was born in the U.S.

○ **countryborn_other**: indicates the country of birth if that country is not on the drop down list of countries shown to the respondent'.

○ **statereside**: the state in which the respondent is living.

○ **immigration_status**: indicates whether the respondent is an immigrant. It takes one of the following values: 0 Non-immigrant, 1 First generation immigrant (immigrant who migrated to the U.S), 2 Second generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least one foreign-born parent), 3 Third generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least one U.S.-born parent, where at least one grandparent is foreign-born), or 4 Unknown immigrant status.

○ **maritalstatus**: the marital status of the respondent.

○ **livewithpartner**: indicates whether the respondent lives with a partner.

- **education**: the highest level of education attained by the respondent.

- **hisplatino**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino. This variable is asked separately from race.

- **hisplatinogroup**: indicates which Hispanic or Latino group a respondent identifies him or herself with. This is set to missing (.) if the respondent does not identify him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino.

- **white**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as white (Caucasian).

- **black**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as black (African-American).

- **nativeamer**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native American (American Indian or Alaska Native).

- **asian**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Asian (Asian-American).

- **pacific**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

- **race**: indicates the race of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 White' or '2 Black') or as mixed (in case the respondent identifies with two or more races). The value '6 Mixed' that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single race categories. This variable is generated based on the values of the different race variables (white, black, nativeamer, asian, pacific). This composite measure is not conditional on hisplatino, so an individual may identify as Hispanic or Latino, and also as a member of one or more racial groups.

- **working**: indicates whether the respondent is working for pay.

- **sick_leave**: indicates whether the respondent is not working because sick or on leave.

- **unemp_layoff**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed or on lay off.

- **unemp_look**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed and looking for a job.

- **retired**: indicates whether the respondent is retired.

- **disabled**: indicates whether the respondent has a disability.

- **lf_other**: specifies other labor force status.

- **laborstatus**: indicates the labor force status of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 Working for pay' or '2 On sick or other leave') or as mixed (in case the respondent selects two or more labor statuses). The value '8 Mixed' indicates that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single labor force status variables. This variable is generated based on the values of the different labor status variables (working, sick_leave, unempl_layoff, unempl_look, retired, disabled, lf_other).

○ **employmenttype**: indicates the employment type of the respondent (employed by the government, by a private company, a nonprofit organization, or self-employed). This is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave.

○ **workfullpart**: indicates whether the respondent works full or part-time. This is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave.

○ **hourswork**: indicates the number of hours the respondent works per week. This is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave.

○ **hhincome**: is the total combined income of all members of the respondent's household (living in their household) during the past 12 months.

○ **anyhhmember**: indicates whether there were any members in the respondent's household at the time he/she answered the survey as reported by the respondent.

○ **hhmembernumber**: indicates the number of household members in the respondent's household at the time of the survey as reported by the respondent. It may be that 'anyhhmember' is 'Yes', but 'hhmembernumber' is missing if the respondent did not provide the number of household members at the time of the survey.

○ **hhmemberin_#**: indicates whether a household member is currently in the household as reported by the respondent. Household members are never removed from the stored household roster and their information is always included in survey data sets. The order of the roster is the same order in which household members were specified by the respondent in the 'MyHousehold' survey. The order is identified by the suffix _# (e.g., _1 indicates the first household member, _2 the second household member, etc.).

As an example, if the first household member is in the household at the time of the survey, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '1 HH Member 1 is in the HH'; if he/she has moved out, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '0 HH member 1 is no longer in the HH'. Since information of other household members (stored in the variables listed below) is always included in survey data sets, information about 'hhmemberin_1' is available whether this person is still in the household or has moved out.

○ **hhmembergen_#**: indicates the gender of another household member as reported by the respondent.

○ **hhmemberage_#**: indicates the age of another household member. The age is derived from the month and year of birth of the household member as reported by the respondent.

○ **hhmemberrel_#**: indicates the relationship of the respondent to the other household member as reported by the respondent.

○ **hhmemberuasid_#**: is the 'uasid' of the other household member if this person is also a UAS panel member. It is set to missing (.) if this person is not a UAS panel member at the time of the survey. Since this identifier is directly reported by the respondent (chosen from a preloaded list), it may differ from the actual (correct) 'uasid' of the UAS member it refers to because of reporting error. Also, this variable should not be used to identify UAS members in a given household at the time of the survey. This is because the variables 'hhmemberuasid_#' are taken from the most recent 'My Household' and changes in household composition involving UAS members may have occurred between the time of the respondent answered 'My Household' and the time the respondent answers the survey. To follow UAS members of a given household, it is advised to use the identifiers 'uashhid' and 'survhhid'.

○ **lastmyhh_date**: the date on which the demographics variables were collected through the 'My Household' survey.

In addition, data sets created after May 8, 2025 include an urbanicity variable. It is based on panel members' current census tract of residence and the 2010 Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes released by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. To preserve confidentiality, the UAS collapses the 10 primary RUCA codes to 4 levels: Metropolitan, Micropolitan, Small/Rural, and Unknown. The Metropolitan level corresponds to primary RUCA codes 1-3, the Micropolitian level corresponds to RUCA codes 4-6, and the Small/Rural UAS classification corresponds to RUCA codes 7-10.

For detailed information and definitions of the 10 primary RUCA codes, please visit the USDA ERS Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes site. Surveys conducted completely prior to May 8, 2025 will have an urbanicity data set available on request.

5   MISSING DATA CONVENTIONS

Data files provide so-called clean data, that is, answers given to questions that are not applicable anymore at survey completion (for example because a respondent went back in the survey and skipped over a previously answered question) are treated as if the questions were never asked. In the data files all questions that were asked, but not answered by the respondent are marked with (.e). All questions never seen by the respondent (or any dirty data) are marked with (.a). The latter may mean that a respondent did not view the question because s/he skipped over it; or alternatively that s/he never reached that question due to a break off. If a respondent did not complete a survey, the variables representing survey end date and time are marked with (.c). Household member variables are marked with (.m) if the respondent has less household members (e.g. if the number of household members is 2, any variables for household member 3 and up are marked with (.m).

UAS provides data in STATA and CSV format. Stata data sets come with include variable labels that are not available in the CSV files. Value labels are provided for single-response answer option. In STATA these labels will include the labels 'Not asked' and 'Not answered' for (.a) and (.e), and will show in tabulations such as 'tab q1, missing'. For multiple-response questions a binary variable is created for each answer option indicating whether the option was selected or not. A summary variable is also provided in string format reflecting which options were selected and in which order. For example, if a question asked about favorite animals with options cat, dog, and horse, then if a respondent selected horse and then cat, the binary variables for horse and cat will be set to yes, while the overall variable would have a string value of '3-1'. If no answer was given, all binary variables and the summary variable will be marked with '.e'.

Questions that are asked multiple times are often implemented as so-called array questions. Supposing the name of such question was Q1 and it was asked in 6 different instances, your data set would contain the variables Q1_1_ to Q1_6_. To illustrate, if a survey asked the names of all children, then child_1_ would contain the name of the first child the respondent named and so on.

More information about the UAS data in general can be found on the UAS Data Pages web site.

6 ROUTING SYNTAX

The survey with routing presented in the next section includes all of the questions that make up this survey, the question answers when choices were provided, and the question routing. The routing includes descriptions of when questions are grouped, conditional logic that determines when questions are presented to the respondent, randomization of questions and answers, and fills of answers from one question to another.

If you are unfamiliar with conditional logic statements, they are typically formatted so that *if* the respondent fulfills some condition (e.g. they have a cellphone or a checking account), *then* they are presented with some other question or the value of some variable is changed. If the respondent does not fulfill the condition (e.g. they are not a cellphone adopter or they do not have a checking account), something *else* happens such as skipping the next question or changing the variable to some other value. Some of the logic involved in the randomization of questions or answers being presented to the respondent is quite complex, and in these instances there is documentation to clarify the process being represented by the routing.

Because logic syntax standards vary, here is a brief introduction to our syntax standards. The syntax used in the conditional statements is as follows: '=' is equal to, '$<$' is less than, '$>$' is greater than, and '!=' is used for does not equal. When a variable is set to some number N, the statement looks like 'variable := N'.

The formatting of the questions and routing are designed to make it easier to interpret what is occurring at any given point in the survey. Question ID is the bold text at the top of a question block, followed by the question text and the answer selections. When a question or variable has associated data, the name links to the appropriate data page, so you can easily get directly to the data. Text color is used to indicate the routing: red is conditional logic, gold is question grouping, green is looping, and orange is used to document randomization and other complex conditional logic processes. The routing is written for a computer to parse rather than a human to read, so when the routing diverges significantly from what is displayed to the respondent, a screenshot of what the respondent saw is included.

The name of the randomization variables are defined in proximity to where they are put into play, and like the question ID the names of the randomization variables can be used to link directly to the associated data page.

7 SURVEY WITH ROUTING

mainintro (Section Base)
This survey focuses on how you feel about things going on in the country these days, and your opinions on different sources of information. In one section of the survey you will see a chart with survey results. The chart may show simulated data, or data from real surveys. We will then ask a few follow-up questions about the data and let you know which type of data you saw.

surveyversion := '2'

Start of section **Satisfaction**

a001 (right or wrong track country in section Satisfaction)
Generally speaking, do you feel that the country is headed in the right direction, or is it off on the wrong track?
1 Right direction
2 Wrong track

a_intro (Section Satisfaction)
The next questions ask you to rate your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the state of the nation on each of several topics, or to say if you don't have enough information about a particular topic to rate it.

a002 (How satisfied or dissatisfied with state of nation's economy in section Satisfaction)
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the state of the nation's economy?
1 Very satisfied
2 Somewhat satisfied
3 Somewhat dissatisfied
4 Very dissatisfied
5 Don't know, not sure

a004 (How satisfied or dissatisfied with availability of affordable health care in section Satisfaction)
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the availability of affordable health care?
1 Very satisfied
2 Somewhat satisfied
3 Somewhat dissatisfied
4 Very dissatisfied
5 Don't know, not sure

a003 (How satisfied or dissatisfied with Social Security and Medicare systems in section Satisfaction)

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Social Security and Medicare systems?
1 Very satisfied
2 Somewhat satisfied
3 Somewhat dissatisfied
4 Very dissatisfied
5 Don't know, not sure

/* Respondents are asked question a005a or a005b depending on variable a005_randomizer with values:

- 1 a005a is asked (how satisfied with Social Security and Medicare)

- 2 a005b is asked (how dissatisfied with Social Security and Medicare)

*/

IF a005_randomizer = EMPTY THEN
  a005_randomizer := mt_rand(1,2)
END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

IF a005_randomizer = 1 THEN

a005a (guess what percentage of American adults are satisfied in section Satisfaction)
Just your best guess, what percentage of American adults do you think are satisfied with the Social Security and Medicare systems?
RANGE 0..100

ELSE

a005b (guess what percentage of American adults are dissatisfied in section Satisfaction)
Just your best guess, what percentage of American adults do you think are dissatisfied with the Social Security and Medicare systems?
RANGE 0..100

END OF IF

a005_script (Section Satisfaction)

IF a005_randomizer = 1 THEN

a005_messages (Section Satisfaction)
Please move the slider to choose a level of satisfaction.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the level of satisfaction.Please move the slider to choose

| a level of satisfaction.

a005_messages_dis (Section Satisfaction)
Please move the slider to choose a level of dissatisfaction.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the level of dissatisfaction.Please move the slider to choose a level of dissatisfaction.

END OF IF

END OF GROUP

End of section **Satisfaction**

Start of section **Polls**

b_intro (Section Polls)
News organizations often conduct polls to let readers or viewers know more about a topic or an election. For each of the following statements, please indicate which statement comes closest to how you feel about polls.

b001 (Polls are a good way to inform readers or viewers. in section Polls)
Polls are a good way to inform readers or viewers.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

b002 (Polls are a good way for me to learn what other people are thinking. in section Polls)
Polls are a good way for me to learn what other people are thinking.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

b003 (The predictions of pollsters add to the excitement of a political campaign. in section Polls)
The predictions of pollsters add to the excitement of a political campaign.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree

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4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

b004 (Public opinion polls make the country more democratic. in section Polls)
Public opinion polls make the country more democratic.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

b005 (A poll is an opportunity for the silent majority to express their opinions. in section Polls)
A poll is an opportunity for the silent majority to express their opinions.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

b006 (public opinion polls have too much or too little influence on Washington in section Polls)
Do public opinion polls have too much or too little influence on Washington?
1 Have too much influence on Washington
2 Have too little influence on Washington
3 Have about the right amount of influence on Washington

b007 (think people in government pay too much, or too little attention to opinion polls when making new policies in section Polls)
Do you think people in government pay too much, or too little attention to opinion polls when making new policies?
1 People in government pay too much attention to polls
2 People in government don't pay enough attention to polls
3 People in government pay about the right amount attention to polls

b008 (extent think opinion polls useful for you to understand how public feels about important issues in section Polls)
To what extent do you think opinion polls are useful for you to understand how the public feels about important issues?
1 Very useful
2 Somewhat useful
3 Not too useful
4 Not useful at all

b009 (how reliable are polls conducted in the United States in section Polls)

In general, how reliable are polls conducted in the United States?
1 Not reliable at all
2 Slightly reliable
3 Somewhat reliable
4 Very reliable
5 Extremely reliable

End of section **Polls**

Start of section **Understanding**

c_intro (Section Understanding)
In the next section, we are interested in what you think about polls and how different groups use them.

c001 (most accurate source of information for a Member of Congress to understand district opinion in section Understanding)
What is the most accurate source of information for a Member of Congress to use to understand their district's opinion on an issue?
1 The letters and emails written by the public to the member
2 The campaign contributions made to the member
3 A scientific opinion poll of the residents of their district
4 Town Hall meetings where the member meets with groups of residents in their district

c002 (most important for an accurate opinion poll in section Understanding)
Which of the following is most important for an accurate opinion poll?
1 A random sample
2 A very large number of respondents
3 A very short questionnaire

c003 (telephone survey response rates change in section Understanding)
Over the past two decades, telephone survey response rates have...
1 Increased
2 Stayed the same
3 Decreased

c004 (facts want to know to help evaluate quality of opinion poll in section Understanding)
Which of the following facts would you want to know to help you evaluate the quality of an opinion poll?
Check all that apply.
1 Which organization conducted the poll
2 The specific questions that were asked in the poll
3 What kind of sample was used for the poll
4 Don't know

c005 (timing conditions think give more accurate estimate of election outcome in section Understanding)
Which of the following timing conditions do you think would give a more accurate estimate of an election outcome, considering that all other factors are the same?
1 If the poll is conducted 2 days before the election
2 If the poll is conducted 2 weeks before the election
3 If the poll is conducted 2 months before the election
4 The timing of the poll would not make any difference under any circumstances as long as the sample is representative

End of section **Understanding**

Start of section **Feelings**

/* Respondents are asked about their feelings towards different groups in random order per variables d_order with values:

- ○ 1 The Republican Party (d001)

- ○ 2 The Democratic Party (d002)

- ○ 3 The U.S. Congress (d003)

- ○ 4 The U.S. Supreme Court (d004)

*/

IF sizeof(d_order) = 0 THEN
  d_order := shuffleArray(array(1 →1, 2 →2, 3 →3, 4 →4))
END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

d_intro (Section Feelings)
We would like to get your feelings toward some of the groups and institutions who are in the news these days. We will give you the name of one and we'd like you to rate it using something we call the 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 it.

22

LOOP FROM 1 TO 4

IF d_order(cnt) = 1 THEN

d001 (feelings The Republican Party in section Feelings)
The Republican Party
RANGE 0..100

d001_messages (Section Feelings)
Please move the slider to choose a rating for the Republican Party.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the Republican Party.Please move the slider to choose a rating for the Republican Party.

ELSEIF d_order(cnt) = 2 THEN

d002 (feelings The Democratic Party in section Feelings)
The Democratic Party
RANGE 0..100

d002_messages (Section Feelings)
Please move the slider to choose a rating for the Democratic Party.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the Democratic Party.Please move the slider to choose a rating for the Democratic Party.

ELSEIF d_order(cnt) = 3 THEN

d003 (feelings The U.S. Congress in section Feelings)
The U.S. Congress
RANGE 0..100

d003_messages (Section Feelings)
Please move the slider to choose a rating for the U.S. Congress.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the U.S. Congress.Please move the slider to choose a rating for the U.S. Congress.

ELSEIF d_order(cnt) = 4 THEN

d004 (feelings The U.S. Supreme Court in section Feelings)
The U.S. Supreme Court
RANGE 0..100

d004_messages (Section Feelings)
Please move the slider to choose a rating for the U.S. Supreme Court.Please use only whole numbers from 0 - 100 in the text box for the U.S. Supreme Court.Please

| move the slider to choose a rating for the U.S. Supreme Court.

END OF IF

END OF LOOP

feelings_script (Section Feelings)

END OF GROUP

End of section **Feelings**

Start of section **Surveys**

s_intro (Section Surveys)
Next we have some questions about participating in surveys.

/* Respondents are asked question series e001 to e009 in random order per variables e_order with values:

  ○ 1 In general, I really enjoy responding to survey questionnaires through the mail or Internet (e001)

  ○ 2 I really enjoy being interviewed for a survey over the telephone or in person (e002)

  ○ 3 Surveys are interesting in themselves (e003)

  ○ 4 Surveys are important for society (e004)

  ○ 5 A lot can be learned from information collected through surveys (e005)

  ○ 6 Completing surveys is a waste of time (e006)

  ○ 7 In general, I receive far too many requests to participate in surveys (e007)

  ○ 8 Opinion polls are an invasion of privacy (e008)

  ○ 9 It is often exhausting to answer so many questions in a survey (e009)
*/

IF sizeof (e_order) = 0 THEN
  e_order := shuffleArray(array(1 →1, 2 →2, 3 →3, 4 →4, 5 →5, 6 →6, 7 →7, 8 →8, 9 →9))
END OF IF

LOOP FROM 1 TO 9

  IF e_order(cnt) = 1 THEN

e001 (In general, I really enjoy responding to survey questionnaires through the mail or Internet in section Surveys)
In general, I really enjoy responding to survey questionnaires through the mail or Internet.
1 Totally disagree
2
3
4
5
6
7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 2 THEN

e002 (I really enjoy being interviewed for a survey over the telephone or in person in section Surveys)
I really enjoy being interviewed for a survey over the telephone or in person.
1 Totally disagree
2
3
4
5
6
7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 3 THEN

e003 (Surveys are interesting in themselves in section Surveys)
Surveys are interesting in themselves.
1 Totally disagree
2
3
4
5
6
7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 4 THEN

e004 (Surveys are important for society in section Surveys)
Surveys are important for society.
1 Totally disagree
2
3

> 4
> 5
> 6
> 7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 5 THEN

> **e005** (A lot can be learned from information collected through surveys in section Surveys)
> A lot can be learned from information collected through surveys.
> 1 Totally disagree
> 2
> 3
> 4
> 5
> 6
> 7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 6 THEN

> **e006** (Completing surveys is a waste of time in section Surveys)
> Completing surveys is a waste of time.
> 1 Totally disagree
> 2
> 3
> 4
> 5
> 6
> 7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 7 THEN

> **e007** (In general, I receive far too many requests to participate in surveys in section Surveys)
> In general, I receive far too many requests to participate in surveys.
> 1 Totally disagree
> 2
> 3
> 4
> 5
> 6
> 7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 8 THEN

e008 (Opinion polls are an invasion of privacy in section Surveys)
Opinion polls are an invasion of privacy.
1 Totally disagree
2
3
4
5
6
7 Totally agree

ELSEIF e_order(cnt) = 9 THEN

e009 (It is often exhausting to answer so many questions in a survey in section Surveys)
It is often exhausting to answer so many questions in a survey.
1 Totally disagree
2
3
4
5
6
7 Totally agree

END OF IF

END OF LOOP

End of section **Surveys**

Start of section **Populism**

f_intro (Section Populism)
On the next screens are statements about how some people feel about their relationship to the government and politics. For each one, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement.

f001 (People like me do not have much say in what the government does in section Populism)
People like me do not have much say in what the government does.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat

5 Agree strongly

f002 (The system is stacked against people like me. in section Populism)
The system is stacked against people like me.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

f003 (It doesn't really matter who you vote for because the rich control both political parties.
in section Populism)
It doesn't really matter who you vote for because the rich control both political parties.
1 Disagree strongly
2 Disagree somewhat
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree somewhat
5 Agree strongly

f004 (R views extremely liberal to extremely conservative in section Populism)
We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a seven-point
scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?
1 Extremely liberal
2 Liberal
3 Slightly liberal
4 Moderate; middle of the road
5 Slightly conservative
6 Conservative
7 Extremely conservative

affiliation_source := '1'

f005 (party affiliation in section Populism)
Regardless of if or how you are registered to vote, are you more closely aligned with...
1 Democrats
2 Republicans
3 Independents (no political party)
4 Libertarians
5 Green party
6 Some other party
7 Not aligned with any political party

IF f005 IN (3,7) THEN

f006 (Party lean - asked of Independents and not aligned in section Populism)
Generally speaking, do you lean more toward affiliating with Democrats or with Republicans?
1 Lean toward affiliating with Democrats
2 Lean toward affiliating with Republicans
3 Do not lean toward either party

END OF IF

End of section **Populism**

Start of section **Stimuli**

/* Respondents are shown a random poll result asked per variable poll_randomizer with values:

  ○ 1 Majority of Americans are dissatisfied with Social Security and Medicare

  ○ 2 Majority of Americans are satisfied with Social Security and Medicare

*/

IF poll_randomizer = EMPTY THEN
  poll_randomizer := mt_rand(1,2)
END OF IF

IF poll_randomizer = 1 THEN
  poll1_intro (Section Stimuli)
  Here are some results from a recent national poll.

  According to a recent national poll, a majority of Americans are dissatisfied with Social Security and Medicare.
ELSE
  poll2_intro (Section Stimuli)
  Here are some results from a recent national poll.

  According to a recent national poll, a majority of Americans are satisfied with Social Security and Medicare.
END OF IF

st001 (how informative did find poll result in section Stimuli)
How informative did you find this poll result?
1 Very informative
2 Somewhat informative
3 Not very informative
4 Not informative at all

st002 (how accurate poll result in section Stimuli)
How accurately do you think the results of this poll represent public opinion on this issue in the United States?
1 Very accurately
2 Somewhat accurately
3 Not very accurately
4 Not accurately at all

st003 (how trustworthy find poll result in section Stimuli)
How trustworthy do you think the results of this poll are?
1 Very trustworthy
2 Somewhat trustworthy
3 Not very trustworthy
4 Not trustworthy at all

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

IF debrief_version = 1 THEN

debrief (debrief in section Stimuli)
Please ignore the poll results that you just saw. The graphic and text do not represent data collected by a polling firm, so they may or may not reflect actual public opinion on the topic.

We appreciate your participation in our research. The results of this study will be used to help us understand what information people pay most attention to when reading news stories about public opinion poll results.

If you are interested in reading about how people evaluate the content of polls, you can check out the following articles:

Kuru, Pasek & Traugott. 2017. "Motivated reasoning in the perceived credibility of public opinion polls." Public Opinion Quarterly, 81(2), 422-446.
Madson & Hillygus. 2020. "All the Best Polls Agree with Me: Bias in Evaluations of Political Polling." Political Behavior, 42(4), 1055-1072.

ELSEIF debrief_version = 2 THEN

debrief2 (debrief version 2 in section Stimuli)
Please ignore the poll results that you just saw. In this survey, you are helping us learn about how people react to the kind of polling data that is commonly found in news reports. For that reason, we included a graphic and text that did not represent data collected by a polling firm. Instead, we showed a result where a majority of people

either agreed or disagreed with people's views.

We appreciate your participation in our research. The results of this study will be used to help us understand what information people pay most attention to when reading news stories about public opinion poll results.

If you are interested in reading about other research on how people evaluate the content of polls, you can check out the following articles:

Kuru, Pasek & Traugott. 2017. "Motivated reasoning in the perceived credibility of public opinion polls." Public Opinion Quarterly, 81(2), 422-446.
Madson & Hillygus. 2020. "All the Best Polls Agree with Me: Bias in Evaluations of Political Polling." Political Behavior, 42(4), 1055-1072.

ELSE

debrief3 (debrief version 3 in section Stimuli)
Please ignore the poll results that you just saw. As we mentioned could happen in the introduction to the survey, the survey graphic and text you saw were simulated data. That means this was not data collected by us or a polling firm. Instead we made a chart that shows a close division of opinion about Medicare and Social Security. We carefully picked this topic because public opinion on it is closely divided, so the chart makes sense. However, we want you to know that the chart may or may not depict the actual level of public opinion on the topic at this time.

Using a simulated chart like this lets us measure responses to that specific division of opinion. It was necessary to use simulated data without labeling it that way, so we could learn which information people pay attention to when reading news stories about public opinion poll results.

Thank you very much for helping us with our research on this topic.

If you are interested in reading about other research on how people evaluate the content of polls, you can check out the following articles:

Kuru, Pasek & Traugott. 2017. "Motivated reasoning in the perceived credibility of public opinion polls." Public Opinion Quarterly, 81(2), 422-446.
Madson & Hillygus. 2020. "All the Best Polls Agree with Me: Bias in Evaluations of Political Polling." Political Behavior, 42(4), 1055-1072.

END OF IF

IF debrief_version IN (1,2) THEN

debrief_open (debrief in section Stimuli)
We are testing this survey, and would appreciate your feedback. Please briefly tell us how you feel about being asked to answer questions about a poll result, then later finding out that it may or may not reflect actual public opinion on the topic. Thank you!
STRING

ELSE

debrief_open3 (debrief in section Stimuli)
We are testing this survey and would appreciate any feedback you may have about participating in this research that used simulated poll results. Thank you!
STRING

END OF IF

END OF GROUP

End of section **Stimuli**

Start of section **Closing**

CS_001 (HOW PLEASANT INTERVIEW in section Closing)
Could you tell us how interesting or uninteresting you found the questions in this survey?
1 Very interesting
2 Interesting
3 Neither interesting nor uninteresting
4 Uninteresting
5 Very uninteresting

CS_003 (comments in section Closing)
Do you have any other comments on the survey? Please type these in the box below. (If you have no comments, please click next to complete this survey.)
STRING

End of section **Closing**

/* Please note that although question CS_003 is listed in the routing, the answers are not included in the microdata in the event identifiable information is captured. Cleaned responses are available by request. */