



## **THE 2005 BES SURVEY DATA RELEASE: DECEMBER 11, 2005**

This updated release of the 2005 BES survey data contains a preliminary version of the validated vote variable (VOTEVAL) and updated Heath-Goldthorpe five-category social class variables for respondent (RGOLDNEW) and partner (SGOLDNEW). It also contains the self-completion questionnaire data and various 'Natcen' filters and weights (including a new set of weights for the pre-campaign, post-election, self-completion panel respondents (N =2343)). These data were gathered by in-person CAPI interviews and a self-completion questionnaire administered to all respondents participating in the post-election face-to-face survey. Fieldwork was conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NATCEN) under the supervision of Research Director, Katarina Thomson.

**1. Data Files:** The data files are in SPSS and STATA formats. One file is a compressed SPSS (.sav) file called SPSS1211.ZIP, and the other is a compressed STATA (.dta) file called STAT1211.ZIP. Download one or both of these files and decompress them. Users requiring the data in other formats can contact Harold Clarke (hclarke@utdallas.edu) for assistance. Alternatively, they can use a program such as DBMS COPY or STAT TRANSFER to translate one of the present files into the format needed.

**2. Sample sizes:** The pre-campaign and post-election cross-sectional surveys use samples of people 18 years of age or older drawn from the British postcode address file. There are substantial booster samples for Scotland and Wales. The unweighted N for the entire post-election sample = 4161. The post-election sample contains a pre-campaign-post election panel with a sample size = 2959, as well as a post-election only "topup", N = 1202. The N for the pre-campaign survey is 3589. For the self-completion questionnaire, the N = 3226. The N for the pre-campaign, post-election, self-completion panel is 2343.

**3. Filter:** The data files contain a filter variable called WAVE2 which will enable users to select the pre-campaign cross-section sample, the post-election cross-section sample, the pre-campaign-post-election panel, the pre-campaign-post-election-self-completion panel, and the self-completion cross-section sample.

#### **4. Weights:**

(i) Pre-campaign cross-section: PREWTBR = weight for Great Britain; PREWTEN = weight for England; PREWTSC = weight for Scotland; PREWTWA = weight for Wales.

(ii) Post-election cross-section: POSTWTBR = weight for Great Britain; POSTWTEN = weight for England; POSTWTSC = weight for Scotland; POSTWTWA = weight for Wales.

(iii) Pre-Post election panel: PANWTBR = weight for Great Britain; PANWTEN = weight for England; PANWTSC = weight for Scotland; PANWTWA = weight for Wales.

(iv) Post-election self-completion cross-section: CSCWTBR = weight for Great Britain; CSCWTEN = weight for England; CSCWTSC = weight for Scotland; CSCWTWA = weight for Wales.

(v) Pre-campaign, post-election, self-completion panel: PSCWTBR = weight for Great Britain; PSCWTEN = weight for England; PSCWTSC = weight for Scotland; PSCWTWA = weight for Wales.

5. **Variable Names:** Except for miscellaneous technical variables, variable names reference question numbers in the pre-campaign, post-election and self-completion surveys. Pre-campaign variable names start with the letter "A," post-election variable names start with the letter "B," and self-completion variables start with the letter "C". For example, the variable name AQ1 refers to a variable based on responses to question 1 in the **pre-campaign** survey, BQ1 refers to a variable based on responses to question 1 in the **post-election** survey, and CQ1 refers to a variable based on responses to question 1 in the **self-completion** survey.

6. **Summary Variables:** These variables summarize information using basic variables in the data set. In the present release, summary variables for the pre-campaign survey include: (i) AMISTOT -- all responses for most important issue facing the country; (ii) APARTYID, ACLOSEID, ACLOSEW and ASPID -- variables for responses to the traditional BES party identification battery; (iii) APTYSUP and APTYSUPW -- variables for an alternative ("party supporter") measure of partisanship. Comparable most important issue (BQ2MISZ) and party identification variables (BPARTYID, BCLOSEID, BCLOSEW, and BSPID) have been constructed for the post-election data. There are also several variables starting with the letter "T" that combine demographic information from the pre-campaign and post-election surveys.

7. **Questionnaires:** The pre-campaign, post-election and self-completion questionnaires can be downloaded from the BES website.

8. **Comments, Questions, Problems?** Please contact a member of the BES team:

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