



THE 2005 BES PRE-CAMPAIGN DATA INITIAL RELEASE: May 31, 2005

This is the initial release of the 2005 BES pre-campaign data. These data were gathered by in-person CAPI interviews carried out in February and March 2005. Survey fieldwork was conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NATCEN) under the supervision of Research Director, Katarina Thomson. This initial release data should be treated as a "beta" version. Further coding, cleaning and checking will take place over the next few months, and enhanced versions of these and other 2005 BES data will be posted on the website as soon as possible. Re: the present data, please note the following:

- 1. Data File:** The file you download is called NCMAY31.ZIP. This is a compressed file. Decompress it to produce NCMAY31.SAV -- a SPSS system (.sav) file. 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 the .sav file into the format they need.
- 2. Sample sizes:** The pre-campaign survey uses a sample 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 sample = 3589. N's for the three countries are: England = 2014, Scotland N = 933, Wales N = 642.
- 3. Weights:** Users should employ the weight variable AFINALWT to achieve a representative sample of Great Britain. For a representative sample of *England alone*, users should use the weight variable AENGWT. For a representative sample of *Scotland alone*, users should use the weight variable ASCOTWT. For a representative sample of *Wales alone*, users should use the weight AWALESWT.
- 4. Summary Variables:** These variables summarize information using basic variables in the data set. In the present release, summary variables 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.
- 5. Question Wording:** The wording of questions asked in the survey is available in documents that can be downloaded from the BES website. For technical details re: the CAPI program, please consult the "Draft Documentation of the Blaise Questionnaire" (PreCAPIMay31.doc).
- 6. Comments, Questions, Problems?** Please contact a member of the 2005 BES team:
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