



## **THE 2005 BES SURVEY DATA RELEASE: AUGUST 21, 2006**

This updated release of the 2005 BES survey data contains all of the 2005 BES pre-campaign and post-election face-to-face survey data, the self-completion survey data, and the one-year-out internet follow-up survey data. The latter were gathered in conjunction with the 2005 BES survey mode-comparison experiment. Re: this experiment, note that the pure internet survey data are available from the BES website at "Four-Wave Panel: Internet Rolling Campaign Panel Data With One-Year Out Follow-Up Survey." Interested users may also wish to read the paper "Does Mode Matter for Modelling Political Choice? Evidence From the 2005 British Election Study" which may be downloaded from the 2005 BES website. Also included in the present data is the vote validation variable VOTEVAL3, aggregate-level constituency data from the British Parliamentary Constituency Database, and 2005 constituency-level campaign spending data.

Please note the following:

1. **Data Files:** The data files are available for downloading in SPSS and STATA formats. One file is a SPSS (.sav) file called NC060821.SAV, and the other is a STATA (.dta) file called NC060821.DTA. 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. For the one-year-out follow-up internet survey, the unweighted N is 929 (Great Britain).

3. **Filters:** 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. Also, weights (see below) for various survey components provide 'automatic filters' by weighting non-respondents for particular components to 0.

#### **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.

(vi) One-Year Out Internet Follow-Up Survey: INTWTBR = weight for Great Britain; INTWTEN = weight for England; INTWTSC = weight for Scotland; INTWTWA = weight for Wales. 'All-Wave' panel weights are: PINWTBR = weight for Great Britain; PINWTEN = weight for England; PINWTSC = weight for Scotland; PINWTWA = 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," self-completion variables start with the letter "C", and one-year-out internet survey variable names start with the letter "D". 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, CQ1 refers to a variable based on responses to question 1 in the **self-completion** survey, and DQ2 refers to a variables based on responses to the region of residence question in the **one-year-out internet** survey.

6. **Summary Variables:** These variables summarize information using basic variables in the data set. For example, 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. DQ3MISZ is summary most important issue variable for the one-year-out internet survey. VOTE05 is a summary 2005 general election voting behavior variable that incorporates the results of the vote validation exercise. Vote validation results are summarized in the variable VOTEVAL3.

**Note:** There are also several variables starting with the letter "T" that combine demographic information from the pre-campaign and post-election surveys. The presence of varying demographic information in the pre-campaign and post-election surveys reflects the panel design of the study with a post-election 'top-up' component.

7. **Questionnaires and Technical Information:** The pre-campaign, post-election, self-completion and one-year-out internet survey questionnaires and accompanying technical information are available on the BES website.

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

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