

APPENDIX P:

EXPERIMENTAL FORMS

The GSS has used split samples in 1973, 1974, 1985, 1986, and 1988+ and three forms were used in 1980, 1984, and 1987. The different experimental forms are designated on FORM as Form 1 (the standard wordings), Form 2 (the "y" variant wordings), and Form 3 (the "z" variant wordings).

In 1994+ there were also two samples (A and B) employed. As a result there are Forms 1 and 2 on samples A and B, or four versions (A1, A2, B1, B2). In 2008 there was only one sample. See also discussion on BALLOT in Appendix Q.

Split samples on the GSS have been used for three broad purposes. First, to test differences in the structure and/or wording of questions or scales. Second, to test the impact of context on questions including both the order that different questions appear in and the order of sub-parts of a single question. Third, in order to accommodate additional questions, some questions have been asked of respondents on only one form.

All of the questions that have either appeared in different versions or orders on the experimental forms or which appeared as a supplement on one form only are listed in Table P.1. The table lists the form on which the items appear and the table notes indicate the form differences on the context variations.

In addition to the experiments using FORM, the GSS has employed factorial vignettes in several years. The first on welfare was done in 1986 and is not part of the cumulative file (see Appendix S). The second on mental health was in 1996 and had 90 versions (see VIGVERSN and following variables). The third on terminal illness was in 1998 and there were six versions (see TERMVIO and following variables). The fourth on doctors and patients was in 2002 and there were six versions (see DOCVIG and following variables). The fifth on the mental health of children was in 2002 and had 32 versions (see CHLDVIG and following variables). The sixth on genes and environment was in 2004 and had 24 versions (see GENEVIG1 and following variables). The seventh on mental health and stigma was in 2006 and had 24 versions (see M1VIG1 and following variables).

Because of problems with the form randomization procedure used on the 1978, 1980, 1982-1985 surveys, users should weight by FORMWT to adjust for incomplete randomization. In general, one should use FORMWT whenever analyzing form-related variables. This includes 1) when comparisons are being made between experimental variables (e.g. COURTS and COURTSY in 1982), 2) when variables are being compared across years involving an experiment (e.g. EQWLTH which appears only on form 1 in 1978 with EQWLTH that appears on both forms in 1980, 1983, 1984, etc.), and 3) when a variable appears on one form only (e.g. the ISSP variables in 1985).

For full details on the problem with form randomization and FORMWT see GSS Methodological Report No. 36.¹

¹Tom W. Smith and Bruce L. Peterson, "Problems in Form Randomization on the General Social Surveys," July, 1986.

Variables	Years																													
	73	74	76	78	80	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	96	98	00	02	04	06	08	10	12	14	16	18	
EQUALIZE									1																					
EQWLTH				1																										
EQWLTHY				2																										
ETH1																							C15							
ETH2																							C15							
ETH3																							C15							
ETHNIC																							C15							
ETHNUM																							C15							
ETHORGS																	1													
ETHSPKOK																	2													
EVBUYHME																			2											
EVOLVED																														C17
EVOLVED1																														C17
FATHER										3																				
FEBEAR																			2											
FECARE																														
FECOLOP											1																			
FEFIRM																														
FEGIVE																														
FEHIRE																														
FEHLPBUS											1																			
FEHLPCOL											1																			
FEHLPJOB											1																			
FEIMP																														
FEINFO																														
FEINC																														
FEJOB1																														
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Variables	Years																												
	73	74	76	78	80	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	96	98	00	02	04	06	08	10	12	14	16	18
NATAID	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATAIDY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATAIDZ							3																						
NATARMS	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATARMSY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATARMSZ							3																						
NATCHLD																													
NATCITY	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATCITYY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATCITYZ							3																						
NATCRIME	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATCRIMY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATCRIMZ							3																						
NATDRUG	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATDRUGY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATDRUGZ							3																						
NATEDUC	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATEDUCY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATEDUCZ							3																						
NATENVIR	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATENVIY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATENVIZ							3																						
NATFARE	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATFAREY	C10						2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATFAREZ							3																						
NATHEAL							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATHEALY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATHEALZ							3																						
NATMASS							1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
NATMASSZ							3																						
NATPARK							1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
NATPARKZ							3																						
NATRACE	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATRACEY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATRACEZ							3																						
NATROAD							1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
NATROADZ							3																						
NATSOC							1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
NATSOCZ							3																						
NATSPAC	C10						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATSPACY							2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NATSPACZ							3																						
NEWOWNED																													
NEWUSED																													
NEWS																													
NEWSPRNT																													
NEWSFROM																													
NEWSFRMY																													
NOEMOTE																													
NOSMOKE																													
NOTAM																													
NOTUPSET																													
NOTWORRY																													
NUMEMP																													

C14

and HAPMAR. On form 2 the order was reversed.

- C10- On form 1 TAX was asked immediately before the spending scale (NATARMS...NATSPAC).
On form 2 the order was reversed.
- C11- On form 1 SATCITY, SATFAM, SATFRND, SATHEALT, AND SATHOBBY came first followed by HAPMAR and then HAPPY. On form 2 HAPMAR came first followed by HAPPY and then SATCITY... SATHOBBY. On form 3 HAPPY came first followed by HAPMAR, and then SATCITY...SATHOBBY.
- C12- On form 1 the following introduction preceded PARTNERS, "Now we would like you to answer some additional questions. Your answers are confidential and will be used only for statistical reports."
On form 2 PARTNERS was preceded by "There is a great deal of concern today about the AIDS epidemic and how to deal with it. Because of the grave nature of this problem, we are going to ask you some personal questions and we need your frank and honest responses. Your answers are confidential and will be used only for statistical reports."
- C13- On form 1 SEXFREQ followed SEXSEX. On form 2 SEXFREQ preceded PARTNERS.
- C14- These were asked on form 1 on versions 1-3 and forms 1 and 2 on versions 4-6.
- C15- Two different way of programming these questions were used. On form 2 the program used in 2002 was used.
On form 1 an alternative program more similar to that used in pre-CAPI was employed.
- C16- BIGBANG and BIGBANG1 were asked on different random halves within BALLOT=2 or 3.
- C17- EVOLVED and EVOLVED1 were asked on different random halves within BALLOT=2 or 3.
- d Experiments were only on the C sample, version 7
- E1- LETDIE1 (Form X), LETDIE1Y (Form Y) "...doctors should OR SHOULD NOT be allowed..." Added text in CAPITALS
LETDIE1Y appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E2- PILLOK (Form X), PILLOKY (Form Y) Do strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree that methods of birth control should be available to teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 if their parents do not approve?
PILLOKY appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E3- POLHITOK (Form X), POLHITOKY (Form Y) added at end "or are there no situations you can image in which you would approve of this?
POLHITOKY appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E4- POPESPKS (Form X), POPESPKY (Form Y) Certainly false, Probably false, I am uncertain whether this is false or true, Probably true Note: This uses a card and there will be TWO versions of the card.
POPESPKY appears in 2008 cross-section only

Science Module Randomization (2008 data)

The Science Module was included in Ballot 1 and Ballot 2 of the questionnaire.

Among those who were assigned to Ballot 3, only 25% received the Science questions.

Within the Science module, some questions were randomly assigned according to the following three conditions:

- 1 SCIINTRO: long or short introduction
Long introduction: Now, let me ask you about your use of museums, zoos, and similar institutions. I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit any given place, just say none.
Short introduction: Now, I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit any given place, just say none.
- 2 SCIMODE: assigned to self-administered questionnaire or face-to-face interview mode
- 3 MABOYGRL or BOYORGRL were randomly assigned.
MABOYGRL: It is the mother's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.
BOYORGRL: It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.