CAPTURING THE VALUE OF DATA FROM RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Institution for Social and Policy Studies
Yale University

IDCC 2015 London
February 10, 2015
How to mobilize people to vote?

Turnout Rates for Eligible Voters, 1789-2008

- Presidential
- Midterm

GOTV
GET OUT THE VOTE

WENDY 2014 VOTER REPORT CARD

We have a record of you voting in four of the last four general elections, according to public records for your current address only. That's about average for people in your area.

Comparison

Rating: Excellent

Voter Information

1100 Connecticut Ave, NW
Suite 1134
Washington, DC 20036

AR1634

410-313-7771

Sarah Davis

Shelia Johnson

Sheila Johnson Lee

Prine

Hale

Baird

Kirk
An empirical question

Classic experimental design

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
R & O_1 & X & O_2 \\
R & O_1 & & O_2 \\
\end{array}
\]

Key:
R = randomization
O_1 = pretest
X = treatment
O_2 = posttest
Random Assignment

Condition
- Contact Information Only
- Biographical Information
- Issue Information
- All Information
# Data

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<th>D</th>
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- **Observations:** 894,792
- **Variables:** 32
- **Data source:** Public voter records; Author
- **Format:** Comma delimited
- **Size:** 57MB
Mobilizing the vote

Table 2: Treatment-on-Treated Effects, November 2006 SVREP Campaign

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<th>Turnout in Control Group</th>
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Note: For more details see Michelson, Garcia Bedolla and McConnell (2009) "Heeding the Call."

The ISPS Data Archive

Data

About Our Data
On this page you will find the ISPS Data Archive. The majority of digital content in the ISPS Data Archive currently consists of social science research data from experiments, program files with the code for analyzing these data, requisite documentation to use and understand the data, and associated files. Access to the ISPS Data Archive is provided at no cost and is granted for scholarship and research purposes only.

When possible, data is linked to Projects and Publications, via the ISPS KnowledgeBase.

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<td>Do Perceptions of Ballot Secrecy Influence Turnout? Results from a Field Experiment</td>
<td>Alan S. Gerber, Gregory A. Huber, David Donerty, Conner M. Dowling, Seth J. Hill</td>
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<td>Information and Self-Enforcing Democracy: The Role of International Election Observation</td>
<td>Susan D. Hyde and Nikolay Marinov</td>
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<td>Science Deserves Better: The Imperative to Share Complete Replication Files</td>
<td>Allan Dafoe</td>
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<td>Civil War's Consequences and Patterns</td>
<td>Alan S. Gerber, Gregory A. Huber, David Donerty</td>
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## Sample study

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Source: The Daily Planet
The value of these data

**Quality**
*Curate to enable re-use*

- **REVIEW FILES**
  - Ensure persistent (E) Create a citation for the study and a study-level metadata record
  - Ensure the title is clear
  - Include version history

- **REVIEW DATA**
  - Check for ungrammatical variable and value information or out of range codes
  - Review data for confidentiality issues

- **REVIEW DOCUMENTATION**
  - Confirm comprehensive and descriptive information for informed users including methodology and sampling information
  - Link to other research products

- **REVIEW CODE**
  - Check and verify code for data analysis and replication

**Transparency**
*Share to advance science*

**Content**
*Experiment to produce evidence*

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**SYMPOSIUM**

*Science Deserves Better: The Imperative to Share Complete Replication Files*

Allan Dafoe, Yale University

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$29
Estimated cost per vote mobilized by in-person canvassing
the most efficient vote-getting method.

$38
Estimated cost per vote mobilized by volunteer phone banks.

$67
Estimated cost per vote mobilized by direct mail.
Quality: Curate to enable re-use

The OAIS shall:

- Negotiate for and accept appropriate information from information Producers.
- Obtain sufficient control of the information provided to the level needed to ensure Long Term Preservation.
- Determine, either by itself or in conjunction with other parties, which communities should become the Designated Community and, therefore, should be able to understand the information provided, thereby defining its Knowledge Base.

Ensure that the information to be preserved is Independently Understandable to the Designated Community. In particular, the Designated Community should be able to understand the information without needing special resources such as the assistance of the experts who produced the information.

- Follow documented policies and procedures which ensure that the information is preserved against all reasonable contingencies, including the demise of the Archive, ensuring that it is never deleted unless allowed as part of an approved strategy. There should be no ad-hoc deletions.
- Make the preserved information available to the Designated Community and enable the information to be disseminated as copies of, or as traceable to, the original submitted Data Objects with evidence supporting its Authenticity.

Data Quality Review

**REVIEW FILES**
- Assign persistent IDs
- Create a citation to the study and a study level metadata record
- Record file details (size, format, checksums)
- Check that all files are present
- Verify that content of files matches expected format
- Create non-proprietary versions of the files
- Implement migration strategy for file formats
- Monitor bits

**REVIEW DATA**
- Check for undocumented variable and value information or out of range codes
- Review data for confidentiality issues

**REVIEW DOCUMENTATION**
- Confirm comprehensive descriptive information for informed reuse including methodology and sampling information
- Link to other research products

**REVIEW CODE**
- Check and verify code for data analysis and replication

Transparency: Share to advance science

- Availability of open data
- Complements design registries
- Re-use in research
  - Validate analysis; Re-analysis / meta-analysis; Uncover problems, e.g., missing data; Look for correlates of effect heterogeneity, e.g., location; Extrapolate effects to new target populations, e.g., youth
- Re-use in teaching & training
  - “Replication of surprising results is good for the discipline, replication of classic experiments is beneficial for students…builds programming, analysis, and experimenter skills in a [safe] environment…” John Rogers

Content: Experiment to produce evidence

- Value for designated community
  - Represents cumulative evidence that answers specific questions
  - Demonstrates the relevance of the method to key theoretical issues
  - Demonstrates wide range of experiments and cross-disciplinary appeal

- Re-use in “real world”
  - Evidence-based policy making
Thank you!

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@l_peer
http://isps.yale.edu/