

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL, NOVEMBER 1993

(ICPSR 6292)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/Washington Post

First ICPSR Version  
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Inter-university Consortium for  
Political and Social Research  
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## DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL, NOVEMBER 1993 (ICPSR 6292)

SUMMARY: This poll is part of a continuing series of monthly surveys that solicit public opinion on the presidency and on a range of other political and social issues. Respondents were asked to identify the most important problem facing the United States and to comment on whether they approved of Bill Clinton's handling of his job as president, the nation's economy, foreign affairs, crime, the situation in Somalia, and the situation in Haiti. Other questions addressed issues such as health insurance and Clinton's health care plan. They were also asked whether the Democrats or the Republicans were doing a better job coping with the main problems the nation faces and whether First Lady Hillary Clinton had too much influence over Bill Clinton. Other topics covered in the poll include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), whether Puerto Rico should be admitted as the 51st state, and the role of the United States in United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Demographic background variables include political orientation, sex, age, race, income, and education.

UNIVERSE: Adults aged 18 and over living in households with telephones.

SAMPLING: Households were selected by random-digit dialing. Within households, the respondent selected was the adult living in the household who last had a birthday and who was at home at the time of interview.

NOTE: (1) A weight variable with two implied decimal places has been included and must be used in any analysis. (2) The codebook is provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet. The codebook is also available in hardcopy form upon request from ICPSR.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: SCAN

DATA FORMAT: Card Image

File Structure: rectangular  
Cases: 1,218  
Variables: 100  
Record Length: 80  
Records Per Case: 4

6292

FEB 16 1994

SR74

Chilton Research Services  
Radnor, Pennsylvania (11/93)

Study #5054  
ABC POLL #548

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST 11/93 POLL

Hello, I'm calling from Chilton Research Services. We are doing a survey for ABC News and the Washington Post on some current events.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the male/female adults 18 years of age and older, living in this household and who are currently at home . . . may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? (IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the female/male who last had a birthday?) (REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF NEEDED)

1. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

206

- Right direction 1
- Wrong track 2
- DK/No opinion 8
- NA/Refused 9

2. What do you think is the MOST important problem facing this country today? (ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE)

207-08

- Abortion 33
- AIDS 27
- Alcohol 26
- Bosnia/Serbia/Croatia 36
- Clinton 35
- Crime 07
- Dissatisfaction with government 21
- Drugs 09
- Energy 24
- Environment/pollution 23
- Federal Budget Deficit 02
- Health care/health care system 12
- High interest rates 06
- Illegal immigrants 22
- Inflation 05
- International problems/foreign policy/relations with other nations 15
- Iraq situation/Middle East situation/Persian Gulf situation 17
- Leadership 29
- Moral decline 08

Nuclear war/threat of war	14
Other economic reason	03
Other International problem	32
Other social/health problem	31
Poverty/hunger/homeless	20
Quality of education	11
Race relations/civil rights/ problems of blacks	10
Russia/C.I.S.	16
Taxes	04
Sexual Harassment	25
Terrorism	19
Trade deficit	28
Unemployment	01
U.S. Senate/House of Representatives	34
Other (specify FIRST NIGHT ONLY)	97
Don't know/No opinion	98
NA/Refused	99

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? (STOP GET ANSWER, THEN READ) Is that approve/disapprove strongly or approve/disapprove somewhat?

209

Approve strongly	1
Approve somewhat	2
Disapprove somewhat	3
Disapprove strongly	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the nation's economy?

210

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling foreign affairs?

211

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9



6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the issue of crime in this country?

212

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the situation in Somalia?

213

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the situation in Haiti?

214

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

9. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about health insurance and Clinton's health care plan. Do you have some form of health insurance or health care coverage?

215

Yes	1
No	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

10. How much do you feel you know about Clinton's health care plan - a lot, a little or do you feel you know almost nothing about it?

216

A lot	1
A little	2
Almost nothing	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

11. From what you know of it, do you approve or disapprove of Clinton's health care plan?

217

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

12. Do you think Clinton's health care plan is better or worse than the present system?

218

Better	1
Worse	2
(VOL) Same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

13. Would you support or oppose an increase in taxes to help pay for Clinton's health care plan?

219

Support	1
Oppose	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

14. Compared to what you pay now, do you think that under Clinton's plan you will pay more, less or about the same for health insurance?

220

More	1
Less	2
About the same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

15. Do you think that under Clinton's plan MOST AMERICANS will pay more, less or about the same for health insurance?

221

More	1
Less	2
About the same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

16. Under Clinton's plan, do you think the quality of the health care YOU receive will get better, get worse, or stay the same?

222

Get better	1
Get worse	2
Stay the same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

17. Under Clinton's plan, do you think the quality of health care for most Americans will get better, get worse, or stay the same?

223

Get better	1
Get worse	2
Stay the same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

18. What do you think Congress should do with Clinton's health care plan:  
(READ LIST)

224

Pass it without any changes	1
Pass it with minor changes	2
Pass it but with major changes	3
Or, not pass any of it	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

19. Do you think Clinton's plan creates too much government involvement in the nation's health care system, not enough government involvement or about the right amount?

225

Too much involvement	1
Not enough involvement	2
About the right amount	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE STATEMENTS\*\*\*

20. Which of these comes closest to your own view:

A. The more I hear about Clinton's health care plan, the more I like it.

-or-

B. The more I hear about Clinton's health care plan, the less I like it.

226

Statement A	1
Statement B	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

21. How likely do you think it is that the Clinton administration and Congress will end up making significant improvements in this country's health care system? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely?

227

Very likely	1
Somewhat likely	2
Somewhat unlikely	3
Very unlikely	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

22. On another subject, do you think Clinton is a strong and decisive leader, or not?

228

Yes	1
No	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Clinton administration has begun to break the gridlock in Washington.

229

Agree	1
Disagree	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

24. Do you think the changes Clinton is seeking are mainly the right changes for the country or mainly the wrong ones?

230

Right ones	1
Wrong ones	2
(VOL) Somewhere in between	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

25. Do you think Clinton does or does not understand the economic problems people in this country are having?

231

Yes, does understand	1
No, does NOT understand	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

26. Which of these statements comes closer to your view: (READ LIST)

A. Beneath it all, Clinton is an old-style, tax-and-spend Democrat.

-OR-

B. Clinton is a new-style Democrat who will be careful with the public's money.

232

Statement A	1
Statement B	2
(VOL) Neither	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

27. Overall, who do you trust to do a better job on the economy -- Clinton or the Republicans in Congress?

233

Clinton	1
Republicans	2
(VOL) Both equally	3
(VOL) Neither	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?

234

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

29. How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right: Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

235

Just about always	1
Most of the time	2
Some of the time	3
(VOL) Never	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

30. Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the years?

236

Democrats	1
Republicans	2
(VOL) Both	3
(VOL) Neither	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

31. Do you favor or oppose a limit on the number of years a person could serve as a U.S. representative in Congress?

237

Favor	1
Oppose	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE LIST\*\*\*

32. I am going to read you a few names. For each please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that person, or perhaps you don't know enough to say. How about... (READ LIST)

Favorable	1
Unfavorable	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

Bill Clinton.....	-> 238
Hillary Clinton.....	-> 239
Al Gore.....	-> 240
Bob Dole.....	-> 241
Ross Perot.....	-> 242
Colin Powell.....	-> 243

33. Just your best guess, would you say that Hillary Clinton has too much influence over Bill Clinton, not enough influence, or what?

244

Too much	1
Not enough	2
(VOL) About the right amount	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

NO Q. 34

NO Q. 35

No Q. 36

No Q. 37

38. On another subject, how closely have you been following the issue of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA - would you say you've been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not closely at all?

249

Very closely	1
Somewhat closely	2
Not too closely	3
Not closely at all	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

39. Do you think the United States will gain jobs as a result of NAFTA, lose jobs, or what?

250

Gain jobs	1
Lose jobs	2
(VOL) No effect	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

40. Do you think Congress should approve or reject NAFTA?

251

Approve	1
Reject	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

41. Clinton has negotiated side agreements to NAFTA. Have you heard or read about those side agreements?

252

Yes	1
No	2 (SKIP TO Q.43)
DK/No opinion	8 (SKIP TO Q.43)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO Q.43)

42. Do you think the NAFTA side agreements have made NAFTA better, worse, or do you think the side agreements have made no difference?

253

Better	1
Worse	2
No difference	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

43. If your representative in Congress votes in favor of NAFTA, will that make you more likely to support your representative for re-election, less likely, or won't it make much difference in your vote?

254

More likely	1
Less likely	2
Won't make much difference	3 (SKIP TO Q.45)
DK/No opinion	8 (SKIP TO Q.45)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO Q.45)



44. Is that much more/less likely or only somewhat more/less likely?

255

Much	1
Somewhat	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

45. As you may know, former presidential candidate Ross Perot has been opposing NAFTA. Has Perot's involvement in the debate made you more likely to oppose NAFTA, more likely to support NAFTA, or hasn't it made much difference in your opinion?

256

More likely to oppose	1
More likely to support	2
Hasn't made much difference	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

46. Whether you agree or disagree with him, do you think Perot's criticism of NAFTA has been basically responsible, or basically irresponsible?

257

Responsible	1
Irresponsible	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE LIST\*\*\*

47. For each group I name, please tell me if you think it will be helped or hurt by NAFTA:

Helped	1
Hurt	2
(VOL) Neither/ stay same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

a. American workers.....->	258
b. Mexican workers.....->	259
c. Canadian workers.....->	260
d. American companies.....->	261
e. American consumers.....->	262

\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE LIST\*\*\*

48. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each item I name:

Agree 1  
Disagree 2  
DK/No opinion 8  
NA/Refused 9

NAFTA will strengthen U.S. relations with Mexico and Canada.-->\_263  
NAFTA will damage Mexico's environment as more factories  
locate there.....->\_264  
NAFTA will make it easier for the United States to sell  
its products in Mexico and Canada.....->\_265  
NAFTA will make it easier for Mexico and Canada to sell  
their products in the United States.....->\_266  
NAFTA will hold down wages in the United States.....->\_267  
NAFTA will encourage U.S. companies to relocate to Mexico....>\_268

NO Q.49

No Q.50

51. On another subject, would you support or oppose a law requiring a five-day waiting period before a private citizen in this country can buy a handgun? (STOP, GET ANSWER THEN READ) Is that support/oppose strongly or support/oppose somewhat?

271

Support strongly 1  
Support somewhat 2  
Oppose somewhat 3  
Oppose strongly 4  
DK/No opinion 8  
NA/Refused 9

52. Do you favor or oppose stronger legislation controlling the distribution of assault weapons in the United States?

272

Favor 1  
Oppose 2  
DK/No opinion 8  
NA/Refused 9

53. On another subject, if the 1996 election were being held today, would you be inclined to vote for Clinton or for the Republican nominee for president?

273

Clinton	1
Republican	2
(VOL) Neither	3
(VOL) Other	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

54. Right now, are you inclined to vote to re-elect your representative in Congress in the next election or are you inclined to look around for someone else to vote for?

274

Vote to re-elect representative	1
Inclined to look for someone else	2
(VOL) Depends on who else runs	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

55. If Clinton came to your state to campaign for a candidate, would it make you more likely, or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference in your vote?

275

More likely	1
Less likely	2
No difference	3
(VOL) Depends on candidate	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE LIST\*\*\*

56. On another subject, which of these would you prefer: (READ LIST)

276

Puerto Rico becoming the fifty-first state  
Puerto Rico becoming an independent country  
-OR-  
Puerto Rico remaining a U.S. commonwealth as it is now

Fifty-first state	1
Independent country	2
U.S. commonwealth	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

57. Generally speaking, do you think the United States should or should not send U.S. troops to participate in United Nations peacekeeping efforts around the world?

277

Should	1
Should not	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

58. Do you think Congress should have the power to prevent a president from sending U.S. troops to participate in United Nations missions?

322

Should	1
Should not	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers.

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST) 106

A Democrat	1(SKIP TO Q.905)
A Republican	2(SKIP TO Q.905)
An Independent	3
Or what?	4
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

904. Do you lean more towards the: (READ LIST) 109

Democratic Party	1
Or, Republican Party	2
(VOL.)Neither	3
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

905. Can you tell me whether you are registered to vote at your present address? 110

Yes	1
No	2(SKIP TO Q.908)
DK/No opinion	8(SKIP TO Q.908)
NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.908)

906. In talking to people about elections, we often find out that a lot of people aren't able to vote because they were not registered, or they were sick, or they just didn't have time. How about you-do you remember for sure whether you voted in the November, 1992 presidential election when Bill Clinton ran against George Bush and Ross Perot? 111

Yes	1
No	2(SKIP TO Q.908)
DK/No opinion	8(SKIP TO Q.908)
NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.908)

907. Which candidate did you vote for? (DO NOT READ LIST)

112

Clinton	1
Bush	2
Perot	3
Other	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

908. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, liberal, moderate, conservative, or very conservative?

113

Very liberal	1
Liberal	2
Moderate	3
Conservative	4
Very conservative	5
(VOL.)Don't think in those terms	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

114

8th grade or less	1
Some high school	2
Graduated high school	3
Some college	4 (ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL IF IT WAS, CIRCLE CODE 3, FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
Graduated College	5
Post-graduate	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

910. In what year were you born? ----

115-18

DK/No opinion	8888
NA/Refused	9999

911. In what religion were you brought up? (READ LIST)

120

Protestant	1
Catholic	2
Another Christian religion	3
Jewish	4
Or, another non-Christian religion	5
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
None	6
NA/Refused	9

912. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or an evangelical Christian?

323

Yes	1
No	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

913. How often do you attend church or synagogue? (READ LIST)

324

At least once a week	1
Almost every week	2
About once a month	3
Less than once a month	4
Or, Never	5
---DO NOT READ---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

914. When asked, most people say that they belong to either the middle class or the working class. If you had to make a choice, would you call yourself: (READ LIST)

121

Middle class	1
Working class	2
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

915. Would you describe the area in which you live as a: (READ LIST)

122

Large city	1
Suburb of a large city	2
Small town	3
Or rural area	4
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

916. Are you: (READ LIST)

123

Married and living with your spouse	1
Separated	2
Divorced	3
Widowed	4
Or never married	5
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
NA/Refused	9

917. Do you or does anyone in your household belong to a labor union?

126

Only respondent belongs	1
Only other household member belongs	2
Both respondent and other household member belong	3
No union members	4
Not sure	8
NA/Refused	9

918. Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces or are you currently an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces or reserves?

325

Veteran	1
Current active duty member	2
In reserves	3
Never in U.S. armed forces	4
Other/in foreign military	5
NA/Refused	9



919. At present, are you yourself employed part-time or full-time or are you retired or something else?

127

Employed part-time	1
Employed full-time	2
Unemployed	3
Laid off	4
Retired	5
Full-time homemaker	6
Student	7
NA/Refused	9

920. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?  
(IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(IF "NO," ASK:) are you white, black, or some other race?

128

White	1
Black	2
White Hispanic	3
Black Hispanic	4
Hispanic(no race given)	5
Other Race	6
NA/Refused	9

921. If you added together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for last year, 1992, would the total be: (READ LIST)

129

Under \$8,000	1
\$8,000 but less than \$12,000	2
\$12,000 but less than \$20,000	3
\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	4
\$30,000 but less than \$50,000	5
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	6
Or more than \$75,000	7
(DO NOT READ)NA/Refused	9

922.1 May a reporter call you to talk about some of the things we've been discussing?

306

Yes	1
No	2 (SKIP TO Q.923)
DK/No opinion	8 (SKIP TO Q.923)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO Q.923)

922.2 May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know who to ask for:

307-21

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923. RESPONDENT'S SEX:

159

Male	1
Female	2