NHES:96 Adult Civic Involvement Interview

Activities That Promote Civic Involvement

Information About Politics and National Issues

RINTRO. [Hello, this is (INTERVIEWER). I'm calling for the U. S. Department of Education. We are conducting a voluntary and confidential study about how people get information about their communities and government and about activities related to civic involvement. These questions take about 12 minutes./Now I'd like to talk to you about information and activities related to civic involvement.]

R1. First, I'd like to ask about what you read. How often do you read a newspaper (in English)? Would it be...

CARDPAPR

Almost every day, ... 1
At least once a week, ... 2
At least once a month, or 3
Hardly ever? 4

R2. About how many different magazines do you look at or read (in English) on a regular basis?

CARDMAGS

NUMBER . . . . . ☐☐

R3. Have you read any books (in English) in the past six months?

CARDBOOK

YES 1
NO 2

R4. Now I have some questions about the national news. This includes news about what is happening in Congress, what the President is doing, or what political candidates are saying. How often do you read about the national news in a newspaper or a newsmagazine like *Newsweek, Time*, or *U.S. News and World Report*? Would it be...

CARDNEWU

Almost every day, ... 1
At least once a week, ... 2
At least once a month, or 3
Hardly ever? 4

R5. How often do you watch the national news on television or listen to the national news on the radio?

Would it be...

CAWATCHU

Almost every day, ... 1
At least once a week, ... 2
At least once a month, or 3
Hardly ever? 4

NOTE: Response categories shown in mixed cases (upper and lower) are read to the respondent by the interviewer. Those shown in all upper case are not read.

Variables designated by /R appear on the restricted file only.

Participation in Community and Political Activity

RINTRO2. Next, I have some questions about activities you participate in and interests you may have.

R6. Are you a member of any organization, like a community group, church or synagogue, union, or professional organization?

	YES	1
CAOTHORG	NO	2

R7. How often did you attend religious services in the past year? Was it...

	Never,	1
CARELFRQ	About once or twice,	2
	Several times during the year,	3
	About once or twice a month, or	4
	Nearly every week or more?	5

R8. Do you participate in any ongoing community service activity, for example, volunteering at a school, coaching a sports team, or working with a church or neighborhood association?

	YES	1
CASERVC	NO	2

R9. Which of the following activities, if any, have you done in the past twelve months, that is, since (MONTH) 1995?

			YES	NO
CAMONEY	a.	Contributed money to a candidate, a political party, or some political cause?	1	2
CAVOLUNT	b.	Worked either for pay or as a volunteer for a candidate, a political party, or some political cause?	1	2
CATELISS	c.	Written or telephoned an editor or public official or signed a petition about issues that concern you?	1	2
CAPUBMTG	d.	Attended a public meeting, for example, a town meeting, a political rally, or a meeting of a neighborhood organization?	1	2
CABOYCOT	e.	Participated in a protest or boycott?	1	2

R10. Have you voted in a national or state election in the United States in the past 5 years, that is, since 1991?

	YES	1
CAVOTE5	NO/NOT A CITIZEN/NOT OLD ENOUGH	2

Political Attitudes and Knowledge

R11. Now I'd like your opinion on some things. There are no right or wrong answers.

			YES	NO
CACOMPLI	a.	People might say, "Politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on." Is this true for you?	1	2
CAFAMSAY	b.	Also, people might say, "My family doesn't have <u>any</u> say in what the federal government does." Is this true for your family?	1	2
CAAGNST	c.	If a person wanted to make a speech in your community against churches and religion, should he or she should be allowed to speak?	1	2
CABOOK	d.	Suppose a book that most people disapproved of was written, for example, saying that it was all right to take illegal drugs. Should a book like that be kept <u>out</u> of a public library?	1	2

R12. Suppose you wanted to write a letter to someone in the government about something that concerned you. Do you feel that you could write a letter that clearly gives your opinion?

CALETTER

YES 1
NO 2

R13. Imagine you went to a community meeting and people were making comments and statements. Do you think you could make a comment or a statement at a public meeting?

CAMTG

YES 1
NO 2
DEPENDS ON MEETING, ISSUE, ETC. 3
WOULD NEVER WANT TO MAKE STATEMENT 4

If telephone number ends with an even number, ask R14.
Else, ask R15.

R14. Here are a few questions about the government in Washington. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, so if there are some you don't know, just tell me and we will go on. [BEGIN WITH RANDOM START.]

a. What job or political office is now held by Al Gore?

CAVP

VICE PRESIDENT 1
OTHER ANSWER 2
DON'T KNOW 3
REFUSED TO ANSWER 4

b. Whose responsibility is it to determine if a law is constitutional or not... the President, the Congress, or the Supreme Court?

CALAW

SUPREME COURT	1
PRESIDENT	2
CONGRESS	3
OTHER ANSWER	4
DON'T KNOW	5
REFUSED TO ANSWER	6

c. Which party now has the most members in the House of Representatives in Washington?

CAHOUSE

REPUBLICAN	1
DEMOCRATIC	2
OTHER ANSWER	3
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED TO ANSWER	5

d. How much of a majority is needed for the U.S. Senate and House to override a presidential veto?

CAVETO

TWO-THIRDS/67 PERCENT/67 OR MORE SENATORS AND 291 OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE	1
OTHER ANSWER	2
DON'T KNOW	3
REFUSED TO ANSWER	4

e. Which of the two major parties is more conservative at the national level?

CACONSRV

REPUBLICAN	1	(GO TO RINTRO3)
DEMOCRATIC	2	(GO TO RINTRO3)
NEITHER ONE	3	(GO TO RINTRO3)
OTHER ANSWER	4	(GO TO RINTRO3)
DON'T KNOW	5	(GO TO RINTRO3)
REFUSED TO ANSWER	6	(GO TO RINTRO3)

R15. Here are a few questions about the government in Washington. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, so if there are some you don't know, just tell me and we will go on. [BEGIN WITH RANDOM START.]

a. What job or political office is now held by Newt Gingrich?

CASPKR

SPEAKER (HEAD) OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	1
CONGRESSMAN/REPRESENTATIVE (TO CONGRESS) (FROM GEORGIA)	2
OTHER ANSWER	3
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED TO ANSWER	5

b. Whose responsibility is it to nominate judges to the federal courts... the President, the Congress, or the Supreme Court?

CAJUDGE

PRESIDENT 1
CONGRESS 2
SUPREME COURT 3
OTHER ANSWER 4
DON'T KNOW 5
REFUSED TO ANSWER 6

c. Which party now has the most members in the U.S. Senate?

CASENATE

REPUBLICAN 1
DEMOCRATIC 2
OTHER ANSWER 3
DON'T KNOW 4
REFUSED TO ANSWER 5

d. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called?

CACONST

BILL OF RIGHTS 1
OTHER ANSWER 2
DON'T KNOW 3
REFUSED TO ANSWER 4

e. Which of the two major parties is in favor of the larger defense budget?

CADFENS

REPUBLICAN 1
DEMOCRATIC 2
OTHER ANSWER 3
DON'T KNOW 4
REFUSED TO ANSWER 5

R15CLOSE. Those are all the questions about communities and government.

[IF RESPONDENT ASKS HOW HE/SHE DID ON THE LAST SERIES OF QUESTIONS OR FOR THE RIGHT ANSWERS, SAY: I don't have those questions or your answers on the screen any longer, but if you give me your address at the end of the interview, I can mail the correct answers to you.]

Respondent Characteristics

RINTRO3. The next questions are about your background.

If there are other household members age 18 or younger and respondent is 12 or more years older than the other household members, ask R16. Else, go to box after R16.

R16. I have recorded that there [is one person/are (NUMBER) people] in your household age 18 or younger. Are you a parent, stepparent, or guardian of (this child/any of these children)?

CAPARENT

YES 1
NO 2

If respondent was screener respondent, copy SX20 to R17 and go to box after R17. Else, ask R17.

R17. What was the first language you learned to speak?

ALANG	ENGLISH	1	(GO TO R19)
	SPANISH	2	(GO TO R18)
	SPANISH AND ENGLISH EQUALLY	3	(GO TO R18)
	ANOTHER LANGUAGE	91	(GO TO R18)
ALANGOS/R	SPECIFY_____		

If SX20 for sampled adult NE 1 (first language was not English), ask R18. Else, go to R19.

R18. What language do you speak most at home now?

ASPEAK	ENGLISH	1
	SPANISH	2
	SPANISH AND ENGLISH EQUALLY	3
	ANOTHER LANGUAGE	91
ASPEAKOS/R	SPECIFY_____	

If respondent was screener respondent, copy SX13 and SX14 for respondent to R19 and R20 and go to R21.

R19. What is the highest grade or year of school that you completed?

	UP TO 8TH GRADE	1	(ENTER ACTUAL GRADE, GO TO R20)
AGRADE	9TH TO 11TH GRADE	2	(ENTER ACTUAL GRADE, GO TO R20)
AGRAD1	12TH GRADE BUT NO DIPLOMA	3	(GO TO R20)
AGRAD2	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/EQUIVALENT	4	(GO TO R21)
	VOC/TECH PROGRAM AFTER HIGH SCHOOL BUT NO VOC/TECH DIPLOMA	5	(GO TO R20)
	VOC/TECH DIPLOMA AFTER HIGH SCHOOL	6	(GO TO R20)
	SOME COLLEGE BUT NO DEGREE	7	(GO TO R20)
	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	8	(GO TO R21)
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	9	(GO TO R21)
	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL BUT NO DEGREE	10	(GO TO R21)
	MASTER'S DEGREE (MA, MS)	11	(GO TO R21)
	DOCTORATE DEGREE (PHD, EDD)	12	(GO TO R21)
	PROFESSIONAL DEGREE BEYOND BACHELOR'S DEGREE (MEDICINE/MD; DENTISTRY/DDS; LAW/JD/LLB; ETC.)	13	(GO TO R21)

R20. Do you have a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a GED?

	YES	1
ADIPL	NO	2

R21. During the past week, did you work at a job for pay?

	YES	1	(GO TO R23)
AWORK	NO	2	(GO TO R22)
	RETIRED	3	(GO TO R24)
	DISABLED/UNABLE TO WORK	4	(GO TO R24)

R22. Were you on leave or vacation from a job?

	YES	1	(GO TO R23)
ALEAVE	NO	2	(GO TO R24)

R23. About how many total hours per week do you usually work for pay, counting all jobs?
[IF HOURS VARY, PROBE FOR AVERAGE PER WEEK.]

AHOURS WEEKLY HOURS . . . . . ☐☐

R24. In the past 12 months, how many months (,if any,) have you worked for pay?

AMTHS MONTHS . . . . . ☐☐

If R21 or R22 = 1 (working or on leave/vacation), go to R28. If R21 = 3 (retired), autocode R27 = 3 and go to R28. If R21 = 4 (disabled/unable to work), autocode R27 = 4 and go to R28. Else, ask R25.

R25. Have you been actively looking for work in the past 4 weeks?

	YES	1	(GO TO R26)
ALOOK	NO	2	(GO TO R27)

R26. What have you been doing in the past 4 weeks to find work...

APUBL	CHECKED WITH A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AGENCY	1
APRIV	CHECKED WITH A PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY	2
AEMPL	CHECKED WITH AN EMPLOYER DIRECTLY OR SENT YOUR RESUME	3
AREL	CHECKED WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES	4
AANSAD	PLACED OR ANSWERED ADS/SENT RESUMES	5
AREAD	READ WANT-ADS	6
AOTHER	SOMETHING ELSE	91
AOTHOS/R	SPECIFY_____	

If R26 = 1 through 5 (looking for work), go to R28. Else, ask R27.

R27. What were you doing most of last week? Would you say...

	Keeping house or caring for children,	1
AACTY	Going to school,	2
AACTOS/R	Retired,	3
	Unable to work, or	4
	Something else?	91
	What was that?_____	

Opinions About Improving Public Education

R28. Now I'd like your opinion. People have suggested a number of ways of improving public education. For each of the following, please tell me how much you think it might improve public education. [RESPONSE CATEGORIES: A GREAT DEAL, SOMEWHAT, OR NOT MUCH.]

			GREAT DEAL	SOME-WHAT	NOT MUCH
ADISCIP	a.	Enforcing stricter discipline in school. Would that improve public education a great deal, somewhat, or not much?	1	2	3
ASTANDS	b.	Not promoting students to the next grade unless they meet strict standards for what children should learn in each grade?	1	2	3
AEVAL	c.	Evaluating teachers according to high performance standards?	1	2	3
ASCHLYR	d.	Making the school year longer?	1	2	3

Household Characteristics *(See Screener)*

CLOSE. Thank you. Those are all the questions I have.