

Appendix A: Methods

Methods

The Belden Russonello & Stewart national survey of Catholics, conducted for Catholics for Free Choice, interviewed 2,239 self-described Catholic registered likely voters in the 2004 presidential election, with an oversample of 100 Hispanic Catholic likely voters for a total of 366 Hispanic interviews. The interviews took place from June 2 to 10, 2004, using the Knowledge Networks Web-enabled panel for the main study and telephone interviewing for the Hispanic oversample.

The Knowledge Networks sample is derived from a random digit dial (RDD) telephone methodology that represents all US households with telephones. The company employs a complex sample stratification design that incorporates the known probabilities of selection associated with geographical location, the number of phone lines, and whether or not the phone number is listed. Persons in selected households are invited by telephone to participate in the web-enabled panel. Those who agree to participate are sent an Internet appliance and receive an Internet service connection provided by Knowledge Networks. In some cases, people who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. These panelists receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online.

The oversample of Hispanic Catholic likely voters was obtained using a sample that was randomly drawn from telephone numbers across the country listed with Hispanic surnames. The interviews were conducted by telephone in both English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus ± 2.1 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence for the entire sample, and ± 5.2 percentage points for the oversample of Hispanics.

Data Analysis

The demographic characteristics of the sample, obtained via the selection methods described above, were matched to 2000 exit poll data. The data collected have been weighted statistically to bring age and race into their proper proportions for likely Catholic voters. The following table shows the demographic composition of the survey respondents.

Composition table of Survey Respondents

	Unweighted number	Unweighted percent	Weighted percent
Men	1083	48%	49%
Women	1156	52	51
18-29	179	8%	17%
30-44	330	15	22
45-49	477	21	25
50-59	500	22	14
60+	743	33	22
Refused	10	*	*
White	1768	79%	79%
Black	44	2	2
Hispanic	366	16	15
Asian	39	2	3
Other	11	*	1
Refused	11	*	*
<HS/HS	739	33%	28%
Some college	736	33	34
College graduate+	753	34	37
Refuse	11	*	*
<\$25K	447	20%	19%
\$25K-\$49K	537	24	22
\$50K-\$74K	507	23	23
\$75K+	573	26	28
Refused	175	8	7
Democrat	825	37%	36%
Republican	753	34	35
Independent	611	27	27
Other	25	1	1
Refused	25	1	1
Liberal	444	20%	21%
Conservative	837	37	37
Moderate	945	42	41
Refuse	13	1	1
Northeast	639	29%	29%
Midwest	605	27	27
South	528	24	24
West	467	21	20
Attend mass freq.	938	42%	39%
Occasionally	1014	45	50
Never	267	12	11
DK/Refused	20	1	1
Married	1474	66%	64%
Single	324	14	20
Other	428	19	15
Refuse	13	1	1