



Description of Sample and Data Collection

I. Country: Switzerland

II. Type of Election (e.g. presidential; parliamentary; legislative): National Parliament (Lower and Upper House)

III. Date of Election: October 24, 1999

IV. Organization that Conducted the Survey Field Work: LINK Institute, Lucerne and Lausanne

V. Investigators Responsible for Data Collection

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VI. Study Design (check one)

Post-Election Study

Pre-/Post-Election Panel Study

VII. Dates of Interviewing

Date Post-Election Interviewing Began: October 25, 1999

Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended: November 17, 1999

(If Panel Study)

Date Pre-Election Interviewing Began:

Date Pre-Election Interviewing Ended:

VIII. Mode of interview (check one)

- In person, face-to-face
 Telephone
 Mail or self-completion supplement

IX. Sample Design and Sampling Procedures

1. Eligibility Requirements

- a) age: 18
 b) citizenship: Yes No
 c) other: phone line, language (if not german, french or italian)

2. Persons Excluded From the Sample Frame

- a) Were any regions of the country excluded from the sample frame?
 Yes No If yes, explain:
 b) Were institutionalized persons excluded from the sample?
 Yes No
 c) Were military personnel excluded from the sample?
 Yes No
 d) (If telephone interview) Estimated percentage of households without a phone: 2% (rough estimation, no figures available)
 e) (If telephone interview) Were unlisted telephone numbers included in the population sampled? Yes No
 f) Other persons excluded from the sample frame: none
 g) Estimated total (a+b+c+d+e+f) percentage of the eligible population excluded from the sample frame: 2-3. %

3.1 Sampling Method (if Face-to-Face)

- a) Describe how the primary sampling units were selected:

Were the primary sampling units randomly selected?

Yes No

- b) Was there a second stage selection? Yes No

- c) Describe the method by which the second stage sampling units were selected:

Transformation household sample to sample of persons:

Screening: Age of contacted person, structure of household (number of persons, number of persons with right to vote), structure of household (name, age, sex and nationality of each person), random sampling of person to be interviewed.

3.2 Sampling Method (if telephone)

- a) Describe how the sample was drawn
 Selection from the Swisscom directory (private lines: number and addresses), two stages, disproportional random sampling
 b) Was the sample
 a random digit dial sample? Yes No
 listed sample? Yes No
 dual frame? Yes No ;
 (if dual frame) % list frame: ; % random-digit dial:
 c) Was a selection table used to select the respondent within the household? Yes No If no, describe:
 d) Criteria for designating a sample line non-sample. (Check all that apply)
 Not eligible (neutral unit non-response):
 All members of household ineligibles
 Non-residential phone
 No answer (if so), after how many calls to number?
 see below: response rate
 Non-working number

Other, explain: not a housing unit

- e) Were non-sample replacement methods used? Yes No
If yes describe:

4. Compliance

- a) Pre-Study Strategies: Prior to the study was
a letter sent to respondent? Yes No
payment sent to respondent? Yes No
a token gift sent to respondent? Yes No
any other incentives used? Yes No
If yes, describe:
- b) During the Field Period
Maximum number of contacts with the household before declaring it non-sample: no hard criteria of number of contacts due to the short field period, actual contacts: 30-50
Maximum number of contacts with the household before declaring it non-interview: see above.
Maximum number of days over which a household was contacted:
Did interviewers vary the time of day at which they recontacted the household? Yes No
- c) Refusal Conversion
Was an effort made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed? Yes No If No (go to Section X)
Were respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed sent a letter persuading them to take part? Yes No
Was payment offered to respondents who were reluctant to take part? Yes No
Were respondents who were reluctant to take part turned over to a more experienced interviewer? Yes No
Maximum number of recontacts used to persuade respondent to be interviewed: 1(after contact)
Other methods used to persuade respondents reluctant to be interviewed to take part:

X. Response Rate (to first wave if a panel study)

- a) Total number of sample lines issued: 8870
b) Total number of completed interviews: 3257
c) Number of refusals: 1758
d) Number never contacted (no-contact): 898
e) Other non-response: 399
f) Number of lines of non-sample: 2558
g) Response Rate: $(b/(a-f))*100$: 51,6 %

The sample has been drawn disproportionately. For in depth comparative purposes, 3 cantons (ZH, GE, TI) are over represented. Cantonal proportionality in the national data requires this backlog to be deleted. Thus, the data set includes 2048, instead of 3257 cases.

XII. Sample Weight

- a) Are the data weighted? Yes No If yes:
b) Are the data weighted to compensate for disproportionate probability of selection at the person or household level?
Yes No
c) Are the data weighted to match known demographic characteristics

- of the population? Yes ___ No x
- d) Are the data weighted to correct for non-response? Yes ___ No x

XIII. Description of interviewers (age, level of education, and years of experience):

Ca. 400 CATI-interviewers; occupational status: house wives (with occupational training), university and high school students. Average experience at LINK: 2 1/4 years (with at least seven hours per week). For this study more than 50% of the interviewers have experience in highly demanding studies (i.e. federal bureau of statistics)

Description of interviewer training:

Interviewer training at the beginning of the study (head of project and research team), face to face training and written documentation, permanent supervision

XIV. Comparison of Sample to Population

Characteristic	Population Estimates	Sample Estimates	
		Unweighted n = 2048	Weighted n = 2047
Age			
18-24	9.7%	6.6%	8.8%
25-44	36.7%	41.2%	47.8%
45-64	31.6%	32.0%	30.2%
65 and over	22.0%	20.2%	13.2%
Education	not available		
None	___%	___%	___%
Primary completed	___%	68.5%	68.1%
Secondary completed	___%	7.5%	8.4%
Post-secondary trade / vocational school	___%	14.7%	14.3%
University degree	___%	9.3%	9.2%
Gender			
Male	46.8%	46.2%	47.6%
Female	53.2%	53.8%	52.4%

XV. Languages used in the interviews. List: German, French, Italian

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