

Appendix D: Sources and details for benchmarks

Topic: Civic engagement

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Talked with neighbors	CPS Civic Engagement Supplement (Nov 2013)	During a typical month in the past year, how often did you talk with any of your neighbors?	Basically every day	12.1	
			A few times a week	28.9	
			A few times a month	21.6	
			Once or less than once a month	19.5	
			Not at all	12.3	
Trusts neighbors	CPS Civic Engagement Supplement (Nov 2013)	How much do you trust the people in your neighborhood? In general, do you trust ...	All of the people in your neighborhood	13.7	
			Most of the people in your neighborhood	37.3	
			Some of the people in your neighborhood	33.2	
			None of the people in your neighborhood	8.6	
Participated in a school group, neighborhood, or community association	CPS Civic Engagement Supplement (Nov 2013)	In the last 12 months, that is since June 2015, have you participated in a school group, neighborhood, or community association such as PTA or neighborhood watch group?	Yes	13.7	
			No	82.1	
Volunteered	CPS Volunteer Supplement (Sep 2015)	In the last 12 months, that is since June of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?	Yes	24.8	The variable used to produce this estimate is a recode of two Yes/No questions from the CPS. The second question clarifies the definition of 'volunteer activities' and is asked if respondents skipped or answered no to the first question.
			No	75.0	
		Sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since June of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?			

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Topic: Financial

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Employment status	General Social Survey (2016)	Last week, were you working full time, part time, going to school, keeping house, or what?	Working full time	47.2	
			Working part time	13.2	
			With a job, but not at work because of temporary illness, vacation, strike	1.9	
			Unemployed, laid off, looking for work	4.2	
			Retired	17.0	
			In school	3.2	
			Keeping house	10.3	
Home ownership	American Community Survey (2015)	Is your house, apartment, or mobile home ...	Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan.	43.1	On the ACS, this question was not asked of people who lived in non-institutional group quarters (such as dormitories).
			Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear	22.2	
			Rented	31.4	
			Occupied without payment of rent	1.6	
Family income	CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Mar 2016)	Which category represents the total combined income of all members of your FAMILY during the past 12 months? This includes money from jobs, net income from business, farm or rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments and any other money income received by members of your family who are 15 years of age or older.	Less than \$5,000	2.6	
			\$5,000 to \$7,499	1.4	
			\$7,500 to \$9,999	1.9	
			\$10,000 to \$12,499	2.5	
			\$12,500 to \$14,999	2.5	
			\$15,000 to \$19,999	3.9	
			\$20,000 to \$24,999	5.1	
			\$25,000 to \$29,999	5.4	
			\$30,000 to \$34,999	5.5	
			\$35,000 to \$39,999	5.1	
			\$40,000 to \$49,999	8.6	
			\$50,000 to \$59,999	8.3	
			\$60,000 to \$74,999	10.4	
			\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.5	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.0				
\$150,000 to more	11.2				

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Topic: Financial (continued)

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Food stamps	CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Mar 2016)	Did anyone in your household get food stamps or use a food stamp benefit card at any time during 2015? <i>Do not include WIC benefits.</i>	Yes	10.6	
			No	89.4	
Health insurance	National Health Interview Survey (2015)	Are you covered by any kind of health insurance or some other kind of health care plan? Include health insurance obtained through employment or purchased directly as well as government programs like Medicare and Medicaid that provide medical care or help pay medical bills.	Yes	89.0	
			No	10.4	

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Topic: Family

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Marital status	American Community Survey (2015)	What is your marital status?	Now married	50.5	
			Widowed	5.9	
			Divorced	11.5	
			Separated	2.1	
			Never married	30.0	
Children in household	American Community Survey (2015)	And how many children younger than 18 years of age live in your household?	No children	65.0	This figure is calculated by counting the number of children under 18 in each ACS household.
			One or more children	35.0	
Household size	American Community Survey (2015)	N/A	1	15.2	This figure is calculated by adding the number of adults in each ACS household to the number of children under 18 in each ACS household.
			2	32.9	
			3+	51.9	

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Topic: Personal

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Lived in house or apartment one year ago	American Community Survey (2015)	Did you live in your house or apartment one year ago?	Same house	85.7	
			Different house in US	13.6	
			Different house outside US	0.7	
Active duty military service	American Community Survey (2015)	Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?	Have been on active duty	8.0	The variable used to produce this estimate is a recode that collapses people who are currently on active duty and people who were on active duty in the past, and does not consider Reserves or National Guard as active duty.
			Have never been on active duty	92.0	
U.S. citizenship	American Community Survey (2015)	Are you a citizen of the United States?	Yes, a U.S. citizen	91.6	
			No, not a U.S. citizen	8.4	
Gun ownership	General Social Survey (2016)	Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?	Yes	31.7	
			No	65.4	
Smoking	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2015)	Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your ENTIRE LIFE? Do you NOW smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?	Smoke every day	11.4	The variable used to produce this estimate collapses two questions from the NHIS.
			Smoke some days	3.7	
			No longer smoke	21.8	
Food allergies	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2007)	Do you have any food allergies?	Yes	10.0	The NHANES 2007 was used due to this question not having been asked in NHANES 2016.
			No	89.8	

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Topic: Political engagement

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Voted in 2012	CPS Voting and Registration Supplement (Nov 2012)	In the 2012 presidential election between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?	Voted	50.2	These estimates use the adjustment recommended in Hur and Achen (2013) to correct for bias resulting from the fact that item nonrespondents are treated as not having voted in the CPS. Adjustment factors for 2012 can be found at: http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/cps-methodology
			Did not vote (includes too young to vote)	49.8	
Voted in 2014	CPS Voting and Registration Supplement (Nov 2014)	In the 2014 midterm election, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?	Voted	32.7	These estimates are further adjusted to approximate the percentage of adults in 2016 who voted in 2012. The adjustment was done by using the ACS to break out the total adult population in 2016 by citizenship, age group and race. Each break was then multiplied by the probability that said group voted 4 years ago (in 2012), obtained from the CPS. Finally, the breaks were added together to get estimates of voting in 2012 for the total 2016 adult population.
			Did not vote (includes too young to vote)	67.3	
Contacted or visited a public official	CPS Civic Engagement Supplement (Nov 2013)	In the past 12 months, that is since June 2015, have you contacted or visited a public official— at any level of government—to express your opinion?	Yes	11.2	These estimates are adjusted to correct for item nonresponse bias and to approximate the percentage of adults in 2016 who voted in 2014, as described in the notes for the 'Voted in 2012' benchmark estimate.
			No	85.1	

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Topic: Technology

Benchmark item	Source	Question text	Response category	Benchmark estimate (%)	Notes
Tablet use	CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement (July 2015)	Do you use a tablet or e-book reader?	Yes	37.4	
			No	62.6	
Texting or instant messaging	CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement (July 2015)	What about texting or instant messaging? Do you use a texting or instant messaging service?	Yes	82.4	
			No	17.6	
Social networking	CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement (July 2015)	What about social networking? Do you use social networks such as Facebook or Twitter?	Yes	67.5	
			No	32.5	

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