

Exercises for the polling/public opinion training session

(Please record the source you used to find the data)

What is the latest Marist College poll on Charles Schumer's chances of winning the 2004 New York Senatorial election? When was it conducted? How many voters were surveyed?

According to an April 2004 Harris Poll, do Americans think the Bush Administration was prepared for the September 11 attacks?

"Police should use whatever force is necessary to maintain law and order." What percentage of Americans agree with this statement? How has it changed from 1975 to 2000? Is there a gender gap? How can I update this with 2003 data?

Opinions on the same issue can vary significantly depending on how the question is worded. Use Public Agenda to find an example of how changes in question wording yields different results for two questions about "partial-birth abortion."

In June 2001, how comfortable were Americans giving out their Social Security Number over the Internet?

"In most provinces, women are not allowed to serve on juries. Do you think women should serve on juries in Canada?" This question was posed to both English- and French-speaking Canadians in 1943. Can you find the results? How did the two groups differ?