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Fall 2021

SCSU Annual Fall Statewide Survey [Fall 2021]

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Fall 2021 Statewide SCSU Survey Methodology

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT AND METHODS

The St. Cloud State University Survey Center is a multi-disciplinary research institute affiliated with the School of Public Affairs Research Institute. The Survey Center's mission is to serve the academic community and public and nonprofit sector community through its commitment to high quality survey research and to provide education and experiential learning opportunities to researchers and students. The SCSU Survey Center maintains the highest ethical standards in its procedures and methods, and follows the guidelines outlined by AAPOR, the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

a. SURVEY PERSONNEL

The Survey's faculty directors are Dr. Amanda Hemmesch (Professor of Psychology), Dr. Ann Finan (Professor of Sociology), Dr. Sandrine Zerbib (Professor of Sociology), and Dr. James Cottrill (Associate Professor of Political Science). The faculty directors subscribe to the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (MAPOR) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) code of ethics.

The team of student directors for Fall 2021 are as follows:

- **Margaret Oliver (Lead Student Director).** Senior, International Relations and Political Science double major with a minor in Sociology, Tucson, AZ.
- **Kyle Janssen (Lead Student Director).** Senior, Political Science and International Relations with a minor in Statistics, Bigelow, MN.
- **Andrea Rodriguez-Arzola (Assistant Lead Student Director).** Senior, Political Science and International Relations double major with a minor in Spanish, Ankeny, IA.
- **Ujala Chawla (Assistant Lead Student Director).** Senior, Biomedical Science major, Hyderabad, Pakistan.

- **Ezigbo Ugochukwu (Student Director).** Junior, Computer Science major with a minor in Applied Mathematics, Owerri, Nigeria.
- **Smita Khobragade (Student Director).** Graduate student, Psychology, Maharashtra, India.
- **Hunter Tholkes (Student Director).** Junior, major in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy, Redwood Falls, MN.
- **Hannah Warehime (Student Director).** Senior, major in Psychology, Minneapolis, MN.

b. METHODOLOGY

The October 2020 St. Cloud State University Survey findings are based on telephone interviews with a representative sample of 277 adult Minnesota residents. Interviews were conducted from October 11th to October 30th (excluding Friday) at the St. Cloud State University Survey Lab in Stewart Hall 101.

The interviewers/student callers for this survey are enrolled in the classes of Drs. Cottrill (Political Science), Finan (Sociology), and Hemmesch (Psychology), and their participation was part of their coursework. In addition, student callers were hired from previous the Spring semester during the last week of telephone survey calling. Student directors and faculty directors conducted a general training session providing students with instruction on using the CATI software, lab policies and procedures, and best practices for accurate, reliable, and ethical collection of public opinion data. Students were not allowed to participate in data collection until they completed the training and signed a Statement of Professional Ethics affirming that they would adhere to the highest ethical standards when interacting with respondents. Student directors supervised the calling over the survey period to ensure that the data collection was performed accurately, reliably, and in accordance with the norms of professional ethics as outlined by AAPOR.

The sample was obtained from Dynata (formerly Research Now SSI) of Shelton, CT. and was designed to represent all adults (age 18 and older) with a landline or cell phone in Minnesota. The final sample consisted of one land line sample and one cell sample, all of which were generated following a random-digit dialing (RDD) approach in which random phone

numbers are generated by computer in order to ensure that everyone in the population has a roughly equal chance of selection. The sample included both landline phones (4,000 random numbers estimated to be 1,400 working landline numbers) and cell phones (7,000 random phone numbers). In addition, this fall, we also obtained a random sample of Minnesotans of Color (3,000 African Americans, 3,000 Hispanic or Latino Americans, 1,000 Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Americans) in hope of using more statistical tools in our analysis of race/ethnicity in relation to political, health, social issues from our survey results. It should be noted that it helped with our final data set, which paralleled the race/ethnicity distribution from the U.S. Census estimates for 2020. We did have to weight on gender and age, however, in order to match our final completed survey data set more closely with the U.S. Census sex and age distributions (see further below for more details). Samples were compared for duplicates, and none was found. Our survey instrument screened out respondents who were ineligible due to age (i.e., under 18) or not residing in Minnesota.

The SCSU Survey operates a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Lab on the St. Cloud State University campus. The CATI Lab is equipped with 19 interviewer stations; each includes a computer, a phone, and a headset. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, interviewer stations were reduced to 10 maximum stations, which made our number of completed surveys' productivity at half capacity. In addition to the interviewer stations, there is the Supervisor Station, which is used to monitor the survey while it is in progress. The SCSU Survey has its own server designated solely for the use of the SCSU Survey.

The SCSU Survey is licensed to use Sawtooth Software's WinCATI, a windows-based computer-assisted interviewing package. This program allows us to develop virtually any type of questionnaire while at the same time programming edit and consistency checks and other quality control measures to ensure the most valid data.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of adults in the state was representative of the larger adult state population. Respondents took about 16 minutes in average to complete the survey. Phone numbers with no initial contact were called up to 6 times over different days and times to increase the possibility of contact. On average, respondents were called approximately 3 times before their status was set as a "no answer" final disposition. We varied the days and times for calling to maximize the chances of enlisting respondent participation. Some

shifts during the last week of interviewing were specifically devoted to converting initial refusals as well as contacting hard to reach respondents, partial responses, and other dispositions.

Overall, the survey data collected are based on an 80% cooperation rate¹ (80% for cell phones and 82% for landline phones).

As is often the case with survey research, the initial findings were weighted to compensate for patterns of nonresponse that might bias results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis approximates the demographic characteristics of the sample with the demographic characteristics of the Minnesota population. Weighting was based on the 2020 population estimates (Minnesota Population Projections by Age and Gender, 2017-2065) from the office of the Minnesota State Demographic Center² and the US Census Bureau³.

These data allow us to apply a weighting procedure to ensure that our analyses are representative of the actual population and avoid any systematic bias from the over- or under-representation of certain population groups among our respondents. In this year's survey, women were underrepresented as well as older respondents. We, therefore, had to weight on both sex and age to ensure that our results more closely represented the actual population.

The margin of error reflects both the sample size of completed surveys as well as the power of design (weighting the sample). The margin of sampling error⁴ for the complete set of weighted data is ± 6.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

¹ See cooperation rate calculation based on AAPOR excel sheet in appendix. Cooperation rate is based on $(I+P)/((I+P)+R)$ where I = completed interviews, P = partial interviews and R = refusal and break off

² <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-projections/>

³ <https://factfinder.census.gov/> for sex (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MN,US/PST045219>)

⁴ Sampling of error is based on sampling error calculated multiplied by margin of error due to weighting. Calculation based on Estimated value $\pm \sqrt{Deff} * 1.96 * \sqrt{P_u(1-P_u)/n}$ or $\pm 1.037 * 1.96 * \sqrt{.5(1-.5)/277} \times 100$ (using .25 as P_u conservatively) was .5. Design effect was square root of $Deff$ (square root of 1.075=1.037). Final margin of error was .061 or 6.1%

The total survey data set consisted of 35 substantive variables and 10 demographic variables (see questionnaire). Findings, methodology and the questionnaire for the entire survey will be found by going to the SCSU Survey web site <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey>.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire – Script of Fall 2020 statewide survey

Fall 2021 Statewide SCSU center Survey

Q: Q1DIRMN -----

Let's begin by asking a general question about Minnesota. Do you think things in the state are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

1. RIGHT DIRECTION
2. NEUTRAL - [VOLUNTEERED]
3. WRONG TRACK
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q2PROBMN -----

What do you think is the single most important problem facing the State of Minnesota today?

Answer: _____

Q: Q3DIRUS -----

Regarding the United States as a whole: Do you think things in the nation are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

1. RIGHT DIRECTION
2. NEUTRAL - [VOLUNTEERED]
3. WRONG TRACK
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q4PROBUS -----

And what do you think is the single most important problem facing the United States as a nation right now?

Answer: _____

Q: Q5PARTY1 -----

Do you usually consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, a member of some other party, or are you an independent who is not a member of any party?

1. DEMOCRAT (DFL)
2. REPUBLICAN (GOP)
3. OTHER PARTY [VOLUNTEERED]
4. INDEPENDENT, NOT A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q5APARTY_LEAN -----

Although you are an independent, do you usually consider yourself to be closer to the Republicans, Democrats, or some other party?

1. DEMOCRAT (DFL)
2. REPUBLICAN (GOP)
3. OTHER PARTY [VOLUNTEERED]
4. INDEPENDENT, NOT A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q6IDEOL -----

Thinking about your own general approach to politics, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

1. VERY LIBERAL
2. SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
3. MODERATE
4. SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
5. VERY CONSERVATIVE
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q7A_2020VOTE

Did you vote in the November 2020 presidential election?

1. YES
2. NO
3. WAS INELIGIBLE TO VOTE [e.g., NOT A CITIZEN, NOT REGISTERED]
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q7B_2020VOTETRUST

Do you trust that the results of the 2020 election were accurate?

1. YES
2. NO
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q8VOTE

What are the chances of your voting in next year's midterm congressional elections? Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or do you think you will not vote?

1. ALMOST CERTAIN
2. PROBABLY VOTE
3. 50-50
4. WON'T VOTE
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q9MIDTERM -----

If the 2022 midterm congressional elections were held today which parties' candidates would you be more likely to support?

1. DEMOCRATS
2. REPUBLICANS
3. NEITHER DEMOCRATS NOR REPUBLICANS
4. DO NOT PLAN TO VOTE
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q10JOB_BIDEN -----

Now we have some questions about the job performance of national and state elected officials. How would you rate the overall performance of Joe Biden as President? Would you rate his performance as excellent, pretty good, only fair, poor, or very poor?

1. EXCELLENT
2. PRETTY GOOD
3. ONLY FAIR
4. POOR
5. VERY POOR
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q12JOB_WALZ -----

And what about your opinion of Governor Tim Walz's job performance?

1. EXCELLENT
2. PRETTY GOOD

- 3. ONLY FAIR
- 4. POOR
- 5. VERY POOR
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q15COVID

Now, thinking specifically about the coronavirus pandemic, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Biden has handled COVID-19 this year?

- 1. APPROVE
- 2. DISAPPROVE
- 3. NEUTRAL/DON'T CARE [VOLUNTEERED]
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q18MEDIA -----

What specific news source would you say you rely on most?

Answer: _____

Q: Q19TRUTHMEDIA -----

Thinking about the news media as a whole, do you believe the news media, overall, is usually truthful or usually untruthful?

- 1. TRUTHFUL
- 2. UNTRUTHFUL
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q20CLIMCHANBELIEF -----

Thank you. Now we'll move on to a couple questions related to climate change. Which of the following three statements do you personally believe?

- 1. Climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities.
- 2. change is happening now, but caused mainly by natural forces.
- 3. Climate change is NOT happening now.
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q21CLIMCHANCONCERN -----

How concerned would you say you are, personally, about climate change?

- 1. A great deal
- 2. Some
- 3. NEUTRAL [VOLUNTEERED]
- 4. Not much
- 5. Not at all
- 88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q22CLIMCHANFIRE -----

Which of the following statements better matches your opinion?

"Climate change is NOT one of the main causes of the recent wildfires."

OR

"Climate change IS one of the main causes of recent wildfires."

1. Climate change is NOT one of the main causes of the recent wildfires.
2. Climate change IS one of the main causes of recent wildfires.
3. NEUTRAL [VOLUNTEERED]
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q28IMMIG1 -----

Would you describe the overall impact of immigrants on the United States as:

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. NEUTRAL [VOLUNTEERED]
4. Somewhat negative
5. Very negative
88. NO OPINION/DON'T KNOW [VOLUNTEERED]
99. REFUSED

Q: Q29AIMM_SOM -----

Do you support Minnesota welcoming Somali immigrants?

1. YES - SUPPORT
2. NO - OPPOSE
3. MAYBE
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q30BIMM_MEX -----

Do you support Minnesota welcoming Mexican immigrants?

1. YES - SUPPORT
2. NO - OPPOSE
3. MAYBE
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q40A_VACCINE1 -----

How much confidence, if any, do you have that the vaccines for COVID-19 in the United States are safe and effective?

1. A great deal of confidence

2. A fair amount of confidence
3. Not too much confidence
4. No confidence at all
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q40B_VACCINE2 -----

Have you received one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine?

1. YES
2. NO
88. DON'T KNOW.
99. REFUSED.

Q: Q43A_MASK_MANDATES -----

Do you agree or disagree with government mandates requiring face coverings during the pandemic?

1. Agree with face covering mandates
2. Disagree with face covering mandates
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q43B_VAXMANDATE -----

Do you agree or disagree with government mandates requiring people to either get vaccinated or get tested weekly for COVID?

1. Agree with vaccine/testing mandates
2. Disagree with vaccine/testing mandates
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q46OUTDOOR -----

The next questions are about your activities since the pandemic started to affect our region, since about March of last year. Would you say that during the pandemic you participated in outdoor recreation more, less, or about the same as in other years?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
4. Don't participate in outdoor recreation
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q47STATEPARKS -----

Did you use natural areas like state parks or nature preserves for recreation?

1. YES
2. NO

- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q49FOODSECURITY -----

During the past twelve months, how often did you worry that your food would run out before you had money to buy more?

- 1. Never
- 2. Rarely
- 3. Sometimes
- 4. Often
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q50STRESS -----

In general, how stressed have you felt during the past month?

- 1. Not at all
- 2. A Little
- 3. Somewhat
- 4. A Lot
- 5. Completely
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q51BURNOUT

Have you experienced more "burnout" than usual during COVID-19/pandemic?

- 1. Yes, a lot more burnout
- 2. Yes, a little more than usual
- 3. No difference
- 4. No, less burnout than usual
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q52SOCISOLATION -----

Now think about your relationships with others during the ongoing pandemic. How many friends and relatives do you feel close to such that you could call on them for help?

- 1. Zero
- 2. One
- 3. Two
- 4. Three to Four
- 5. Five to Eight
- 6. Nine or more
- 88. DON'T KNOW
- 99. REFUSED

Q: Q53CONTACT -----

How many friends and relatives do you see and hear from at least once a month?

1. Zero
2. One
3. Two
4. Three to Four
5. Five to Eight
6. Nine or more
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q54SOCIAL -----

How happy are you with your social relationships?

1. Not at all
2. A little
3. Somewhat
4. A lot
5. Completely
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q60AFTERLIFE1 -----

Do you believe in life after death?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Other/not sure [VOLUNTEERED]
88. Don't know
99. Refused

Q: Q60AAFTERLIFE2 -----

1. An afterlife
2. Reincarnation
3. Nirvana or transcendence
4. Something else
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q65MHDIAG -----

Regardless of whether you have received a clinical diagnosis, do you believe you have or have ever had a diagnosable mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, or something else?

1. YES
2. NO
88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q71AGE -----

What was your age at your last birthday?

98. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q72EDUCATION -----

What was the last grade or year in school you completed?

1. LESS THAN 12 YEARS

2. 12 YEARS/HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

3. POST HIGH SCHOOL TECHNICAL TRAINING [ex. Tech College or Beauty School]

4. SOME COLLEGE, BUT DIDN'T GRADUATE [ex. 13-15 YEARS OF SCHOOL]

5. BACHELOR'S DEGREE/COLLEGE GRADUATE [BA, BS]

6. SOME GRADUATE EDUCATION

7. COMPLETED GRADUATE PROGRAM (M.S., M.A., PH.D., J.D., M.D., ETC.)

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q73EMPLOYMENT

Are you . . .

1. Employed full-time [INCLUDE STUDENTS THAT ARE ALSO EMPLOYED FULL TIME]

2. Employed part-time [INCLUDE STUDENTS THAT ARE ALSO EMPLOYED PART TIME]

3. Retired

4. Not currently employed

5. NONE OF THE ABOVE [VOLUNTEERED]

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q74RACE -----

Which of the following categories would you say best describes you?

1. White

2. Hispanic, or Latino origin

3. Black or African American

4. Asian or Asian American

5. American Indian or Alaska Native

6. Middle Eastern or North African

7. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

8. Mixed [belongs to multiple categories]

9. OTHER

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

Q: Q75RELIGION -----

What, if any, is your religious preference?

1. Roman Catholic
2. Evangelical Protestant [e.g., BAPTIST, "BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN"]
3. Mainline Protestant [e.g., LUTHERAN, METHODIST, EPISCOPALIAN]
4. Some other religion [e.g., MUSLIM, JEWISH, BUDDHIST, HINDU, ETC.]
5. Not religious or unaffiliated [e.g., ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC]
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED

Q: Q76INCOME -----

Finally, would you please tell me the range which best represents the total yearly income, before taxes, of all immediate family living in your household?

1. under \$15,000
2. \$15,000 up to \$24,999
3. \$25,000 up to \$34,999
4. \$35,000 up to \$49,999
5. \$50,000 up to \$74,999
6. \$75,000 up to \$99,999
7. \$100,000 or more
88. DON'T KNOW
99. REFUSED