

The Dutch national election study 1977.

The Dutch national election study 1977 was the third survey in a series of election studies held on the occasion of national elections. The first two studies were undertaken in 1971 and 1972/1973. The surveys are the product of collaboration of political science centers at the University of Leiden, the Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Catholic Economic University, Tilburg, the Free University, Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam, the Interuniversity Department for Management Sciences, Delft, and the Technical University, Twente. As the previous election studies, the 1977 project was funded by the Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (Z.W.O.). The project staff was composed of Galen A. Irwin, Jan Verhoef and Caspar J. Wiebrens.

The study was designed as a two wave panel study: the first wave was carried out during the campaign the two months preceding the election day, May 25, 1977. The second wave was conducted after the election. Fieldwork and initial data processing were done by Interact b.v.

The study explores extensively the respondent's political orientation. The respondent's party identification, party images, and voting history in national elections were focussed upon, with emphasis on the extent and quality of the respondent's support of political parties. The respondent was also asked for his evaluation of the labor government of Den Uyl (1973-1977), his degree of trust in various Dutch political institutions and his personal sense of political efficacy, and about his knowledge of national and international political issues, as well as about his ability to identify a number of Dutch politicians.

In the post-election study, the respondent was asked about actual and preferred centers of influence in Dutch politics. Other topics included reasons for obeying laws and possible reactions to an unjust law, evaluation of the degree of freedom and equality in the Netherlands, possible alternative uses of a budget increment, social tensions in the Netherlands and the presence or absence of advantaged and disadvantaged groups there, and patterns of decision-making in the family.

The respondent's own attention to politics in the media and possible activities during the campaign were also covered. National issues focussed upon were abortion, the building of nuclear power plants, defense expenditures, income differences, and codetermination by the workers in the firms. International issues included were NATO, the E.E.C., and aid to developing nations. The respondent's self-placement on a left-right scale was measured, and a battery of questions on broad social attitudes was also posed. Finally, the usual background and demographic items were also obtained.

The plan and design of the series of studies are described in: "Nationaal Verkiezingsonderzoek", Robert J.Mokken, R.de Hoog, F.M.Roschar, and F.N.Stokman, in *Acta Politica*, VI, 29-44 (1971).

The first results of previous studies in the series are reported in:

- De Nederlandse Kiezer '71, Robert J.Mokken, Leo P.J.de Bruyn, and Frans M.Roschar, editors (1972, Meppel: Boom), and published as a special issue of *Acta Politica*, VII, 1972.
- "De huidige betekenis van verkiezingsonderzoek", Robert J.Mokken, and Frans M.Roschar, in *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Zuiver-Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Jaarboek, 1971* (The Hague, 1972).
- De Nederlandse Kiezer '72, Werkgroep Nationaal Kiezersonderzoek 1972 (1973, Alphen aan den Rijn: Samsom).
- De Nederlandse Kiezer '73, Werkgroep Nationaal Kiezersonderzoek 1973 (1973, Alphen aan den Rijn: Samsom).

First results of the 1977 survey are reported in:

De Nederlandse Kiezer '77, G.A.Irwin, J.Verhoef, and C.J.Wiebrems, editors (1977, Voorschoten: VAM).

The sample interviewed in the Dutch election study 1977 was drawn by Interact b.v. in consultation with the staff of the Werkgroep Nationaal Kiezersonderzoek. The sampling procedure consisted of two stages. In the first stage a preliminary "mini-census" was carried out at 13,332 fixed addresses in 468 Dutch municipalities.

The municipalities fell into two groups: the self-selecting, or automatically included municipalities (those with more than 0.1% of the total number of Dutch households), and the non-self-selecting municipalities, which were chosen randomly from the remaining, smaller municipalities.

The 230 self-selecting municipalities yielded 76% of the chosen addresses, the sample of 238 of the 612 non-self-selecting municipalities yielded the other 24% of the addresses.

The sample of addresses for the mini-census was based upon the register of Dutch households published by the Central Bureau for Statistics (Woningvoorraad in Nederland, January 1, 1976). In order to reduce the costs of interviewing, clusters of eight addresses were taken in the self-selecting municipalities, and clusters of four addresses in the non-self-selecting municipalities. The mini-census was carried out between January 14 and April 1, 1977, by Attwood Statistics and Interact b.v and reached a total of 11,856 households, for a response rate of 92.4%. The mini-census determined the composition of the selected households in terms of the education and occupation of the head of household, whether other members of the household worked, and the number of eligible voters in the household. The mini-census yielded 24,741 eligible voters, of which 2,758 were chosen for inclusion in the 1977 sample, taking care that only one person from a single household was selected. The first wave of interviews was held between March 25 and May 11, 1977 with 1,770 of the respondents in the original sample augmented by 86 interviews with members of institutional households (such as old peoples' homes, army-bases, hospitals, and so on) which were not included in the original mini-census. The election was held on May 25, 1977, and the post-election wave followed between June 1, 1977 and August 10, 1977. The number of respondents re-interviewed in the post election wave was 1,434.

Further information on the sampling procedure, as well as a statistical comparison of the Attwood/Interact mini-census with the sample for the Dutch election study 1977 and with the respondents in the sample actually interviewed, is available in De Nederlandse Kieser '77 and in the codebooks attached to the datasets.

The data of the Dutch national election study 1977 are stored in three ways:

as SPSS system file, as OSIRIS standard file, and as BCD dataset.

A machine readable codebook is included in the SPSS and OSIRIS file.

The SPSS codebook is written in Dutch. A complete SPSS file can be obtained from the Steinmetz Archive, Kleine-Gartman plantsoen 10, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. From this archive a printed codebook, in Dutch, is also available. An English version of the codebook can be obtained from the ICPSR Data Archive, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, U.S.A. The English codebook can be obtained as a machine readable OSIRIS dictionary and/or as a printed codebook. Both archives have a BCD dataset available for the 1977 study.

Codebooks and data of the 1971 and 1972/1973 surveys are also deposited in the Steinmetz Archive in Amsterdam and the ICPSR Archive in Ann Arbor. There are no restrictions to the usage of the data.

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