March 2021 Election - Appendix

This Appendix refers to the first release of the March 23, 2021, Israel National Election Study. It was conducted in two modes, over the phone and via the internet, in a two-wave pre- and post-election panel design. Most of the questions in the questionnaire were asked in both survey modes. Note 4 below lists the questions asked only in one of the modes.

The study includes 1,816 pre-election respondents, 1,210 of them were re-interviewed post-election: 797 respondents were interviewed over the phone and 1,019 respondents answered via the internet; out of them 501 were re-interviewed over the phone and 709 via the internet.

1. In general, with a few exceptions listed in the table below, pre-election interview variables are marked v (and the question number). Post-election interview variables are marked F or N (and the question number).

2. In specific instances the questions in the questionnaires and the variables in the dataset appear slightly differently or appear in one but not in the other. All of these are listed in the table below:

Variable in data file	Question # in the March pre-election questionnaire
resp_id	n/a
age	2
agegroup	3
gender	4
educ	136
citizen	5
v8c	8
n/a	86-90, 109-110, 613-615, 119-128, 619 (see note 7 below)
v143_code	143 (see note 8 below)
n/a	145 (see note 9 below)
data_collection_mode	See note 4 below
Variable in data file	**Question # in the March post-election questionnaire**
n/a	age, agegroup, sex
n/a	110 (see note 7 below)
Weighting variables in data file (see note 10 below)	**Question # in questionnaire**
weights_panel_1	n/a
weights_telephone_panel_1	
weights_internet_panel_1	
weights_panel_2	

weights_telephone_panel_2	
weights_internet_panel_2	
educ_jews_w (see note 10a below)	
religiosity_jews_w (see note 10b below)	
educ_arabs_w (see note 10a below)	
age_arabs_w (see note 10c below)	

3. Missing values are marked as 98 (don't know) or 99 (refuse), unless specified otherwise.

4. The "data_collection_mode" variable in the data file specifies for each respondent the interview mode (1 - telephone; 2 - internet) .

   In the internet questionnaire, there are two attention-check questions that do not appear in the data file, since interviews with respondents who failed them were terminated.

   Most of the questions in the questionnaire were addressed to the respondents in both modes, but some were asked only in one of the modes, as follows:

	Phone questionnaire	Internet questionnaire
Pre-election questionnaire	109-110, 613-618, 86-90, 115-128, 619	63, 620-621, 50-51, 622-623, 15, 12
Post-election questionnaire		49

5. The value labels for the open question v8 in the pre-election survey are listed as an Appendix at the end of the questionnaire.

6. Questions v601, v104, v106, v107, and v610 in the pre-election survey and questions F2 and F9 in the post-election survey have additional response categories that do not appear in the questionnaire, based on answers volunteered by respondents, when the available response categories did not suit them. These are also listed in the Appendix at the end of the questionnaire.

7. The data for these questions will be released for public use at a later date.

8. The responses to question v143_code in the data file are as follows: 1. Jewish; 2. Muslim; 5. Other (all other answers).

9. Out of concern for respondent anonymity, and in accordance with Israel's privacy law, we do not include the place of respondents' residence in the data file. Therefore question 145 appears in the questionnaire but not in the data file.

10. Weights

The use of two modes of data collection (telephone and internet) in this study resulted in different distributions of the sample on key demographics across the modes. Therefore, we provide three weights for the analysis of each respective wave, and in total six weights:

1. Weights for the **telephone** sample (with missing values for internet interviewees).

2. Weights for the **internet** sample (with missing values for telephone interviewees).

3. Weights for the **entire** wave (which combines weights 1 and 2 above).

Within each wave, for the Jewish sample the post-stratification factors are Education and Religiosity, and for the Arab sample - Education and Age. In addition, each of the respondent weights was multiplied by a weight for Sector, to match the Jewish and Arab population benchmarks of eligible voters (83% and 17%, respectively). (Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Press Release, March 15, 2021 https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/mediarelease/DocLib/2021/092/24_21_092b.pdf).

Weights align the survey data to known population benchmarks to adjust for bias due to non-response, to respondents dropping out between waves, and to socio-demographic patterns of internet usage, causing the samples to differ from the population on certain parameters. The population parameters were taken from the Central Bureau of Statistics 2019 Social Survey (https://surveys.cbs.gov.il/Survey/survey.htm) and the Statistical Abstract of Israel 2020 - No.71 (https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/publications/Pages/2020/Statistical-Abstract-of-Israel-2020-No-71.aspx).

To produce the weights for the Jewish and Arab respondents, we used post-stratification raking. This is an iterative procedure which produces weights that align the survey's sample distributions to the population parameters when more than one factor is used for weighting. It adjusts sample weights repeatedly so that the adjusted weights add up to known population totals when those are only known marginally, and it stops once the weights stop changing. Thus, the resulting adjusted weights provide a closer match between the sample and the population across these characteristics than the original sample. All the weights sum up to the sample size and average around the value 1, where an observation with weight larger than 1 reflects sub-representation in comparison to the

population that requires inflation of weight, and a weight smaller than 1 reflects over-representation and requires shrinkage of weight in the sample.

We carried out multiple analyses on major variables in the study to identify which factor or combination of factors produces notable differences from unweighted results. The chosen benchmarks are the socio-demographic factors on which the differences between the samples and the population characteristics were noteworthy and produced notable differences in the political variables on which the INES focuses.

Sector weights were created using raking with one weighting factor, Sector (separately for each wave of the internet survey and for each wave of the telephone survey). The procedure calculated two weights, one for each category of sector, and those were multiplied by the weights produced from the raking procedure of education-religiosity for Jews and education-age for Arabs. The sector weights for each wave by mode are listed in the table below.

	Wave 1		Wave 2	
	telephone	internet	telephone	internet
Jews	1.033	0.988	0.926	0.970
Arabs	0.864	1.066	1.643	1.175

Please note: when analyzing data for only one sector, the weights should be divided by the sector weights (for example, if one is interested in analyzing only Arabs in the first wave, the weight "weights_panel_1" should be divided by 0.864 for telephone respondents and by 1.066 for internet respondents).

In the pre-election wave over 99.99% of the weights range between 0.06 and 3. Six observations with a weight higher than 5 were truncated to 5 (following the recommendation in DeBell and Krosnick, 2009). In the post-election wave over 99.99% of the observations were allocated weights that ranged between 0.1 and 3.8. Four observations with a weight higher than 5 were truncated to 5.

For the purpose of constructing the weights, the Education, Religiosity, and Age variables ('educ', 'v144' and 'agegroup') were recoded as detailed below. See variables educ_jews_w, religiosity_jews_w, educ_arabs_w, and age_arabs_w in the data files.

a. **Education (Jews and Arabs)** - 'educ_jews_w' and 'educ_arabs_w' respectively

Educ		educ_jews_w	educ_arabs_w
1.	No formal education	1	1
2.	Elementary school or less		
3.	Partial high school		
4.	Complete high school - without matriculation diploma		
5.	Complete high school with matriculation diploma	2	2
6.	Post high school, non-academic (teacher's seminar, nursing school, engineering school, yeshiva)	3	
7.	Partial academic degree		
8.	Full academic degree – BA	4	3
9.	Full academic degree - MA or higher		

b. **Religiosity (Jews)** - 'Religiosity_jews_w'

V144		Religiosity_jews_w
1.	Very religious, Haredi	1
2.	Religious	
3.	Traditional religious	2
4.	Traditional, not so religious	
5.	Non-religious, secular	3

c. **Age (Arabs)** - 'age_arabs_w'

Agegroup		age_arabs_w
1.	18-22	1
2.	23-29	
3.	30-39	2
4.	40-49	
5.	50-59	3
6.	60-69	4
7.	70-79	
8.	80+	

References:

DeBell, Matthew, and Jon A. Krosnick. (2009). "Computing weights for American National Election Study Survey Data". nes012427. Ann Arbor, MI, Palo Alto, CA: ANES Technical Report Series.