

2011 Hamilton College Youth Poll
On Poverty and Policy

Descriptive tables by Key Demographics

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Descriptives on Key Demographic Variables

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std.Dev.	Min	Max
NONWHITE	1652	34.56%	0.476	0	1
FEMALE	1652	49.21%	0.500	0	1
POOR	1652	22.82%	0.420	0	1
VOTER	1619	73.87%	0.439	0	1
BADCHOICES	1652	82.87%	0.377	0	1
LOSTJOB	1623	39.49%	0.489	0	1
EMPLOYED	1652	61.68%	0.486	0	1
HHHEAD	1652	48.55%	0.500	0	1
MARRIED	1652	25.54%	0.436	0	1
HIGHEDUC	1652	61.38%	0.487	0	1
HIGHEDUC_PAR	1609	69.48%	0.461	0	1
YOUNG	1652	48.18%	0.500	0	1
HISPANIC	1652	17.25%	0.378	0	1

Sense of the Problem

	Q1_poverty is serious problem	Q2_poverty is 35%	Q4_wealthy income grow hurts others	Q5_financially worse than 2 years ago	Q6A_racism bigger than poverty	Q6B_health care bigger than poverty	Q6C_terrorism bigger than poverty	Q6D_income inequality bigger than poverty	Q6E_budget deficit bigger than poverty
Overall	0.831	0.427	0.692	0.377	20.0%	58.2%	32.2%	48.8%	58.6%
White	0.816	0.375	0.656	0.356	13.5%	55.8%	31.4%	44.6%	61.8%
Nonwhite	0.86	0.524	0.761	0.418	32.4%	62.6%	33.8%	56.9%	52.4%
Male	0.8	0.379	0.647	0.355	19.8%	57.8%	33.8%	48.9%	61.4%
Female	0.863	0.475	0.738	0.4	20.1%	58.6%	30.6%	48.7%	55.7%
Not POOR	0.819	0.373	0.662	0.341	18.2%	57.5%	31.8%	47.0%	61.2%
POOR	0.873	0.608	0.793	0.499	26.1%	60.3%	33.9%	55.1%	49.9%
Nonvoter	0.812	0.464	0.718	0.427	26.6%	60.7%	31.7%	50.5%	53.5%
Voter	0.841	0.412	0.682	0.36	17.5%	57.2%	32.5%	48.2%	60.6%
Bad Luck	0.901	0.475	0.84	0.472	0.149	0.582	0.161	0.548	0.429
Bad Choice	0.814	0.416	0.661	0.358	0.21	0.582	0.356	0.476	0.619

Sense of the Problem, continued

	Q7A_drug abuse causes poverty	Q7B_medical bills/no insurance causes poverty	Q7C_lack of skills causes poverty	Q7D_single parent families cause poverty	Q7E_welfare system causes poverty	Q7F_welfare system causes poverty	Q7G_immigration causes poverty	Q7H_laziness causes poverty	Q7I_poor schools cause poverty	Q7J_racism causes poverty	(q7_k)
Overall	64.3%	71.8%	64.4%	67.4%	82.0%	63.8%	51.2%	65.8%	57.1%	56.8%	42.4%
White	64.9%	69.7%	65.0%	69.1%	80.9%	66.4%	55.8%	69.5%	59.0%	53.7%	31.8%
Nonwhite	63.1%	75.8%	63.3%	64.2%	88.9%	58.9%	42.5%	58.9%	53.3%	62.6%	62.2%
Male	62.6%	67.4%	67.2%	62.5%	80.6%	63.9%	50.0%	67.0%	58.9%	55.9%	38.2%
Female	66.0%	76.4%	61.6%	72.4%	86.9%	63.8%	52.4%	64.6%	55.2%	57.7%	46.6%
Not POOR	64.7%	68.8%	65.2%	67.3%	80.7%	64.5%	50.6%	66.9%	58.1%	56.0%	37.9%
POOR	63.0%	81.8%	61.7%	67.6%	93.8%	61.5%	53.0%	62.4%	53.7%	59.3%	57.3%
Nonvoter	60.5%	76.1%	58.6%	62.1%	86.8%	62.0%	52.8%	64.7%	58.0%	54.2%	50.2%
Voter	65.6%	70.2%	66.8%	69.4%	82.7%	64.4%	50.6%	66.4%	56.9%	57.6%	39.3%
Bad Luck	44.3%	84.2%	58.2%	63.2%	93.2%	49.6%	36.7%	38.2%	34.5%	67.7%	49.3%
Bad Choice	68.5%	69.2%	65.7%	68.3%	81.7%	66.8%	54.2%	71.6%	61.8%	54.5%	40.9%

Attitudes toward the Poor

	Q8_Poor due to bad luck	Q9_Wealthy responsible for poor	Q10_poor put it more effort	Q11_most can escape poverty	Q12_average will use responsibly	Q13_poor will use responsibly	Q14_poor manage money wisely	q15_keep food stamps in-kind
Overall	17.4%	58.7%	30.5%	28.1%	43.2%	48.1%	50.9%	89.1%
White	18.2%	58.2%	24.7%	28.6%	39.1%	42.8%	43.6%	92.8%
Nonwhite	15.8%	59.5%	41.5%	27.2%	51.0%	58.2%	64.7%	82.0%
Male	16.5%	56.1%	29.5%	30.6%	40.7%	44.1%	47.6%	88.1%
Female	18.2%	61.3%	31.5%	25.6%	45.9%	52.3%	54.3%	90.1%
Not	17.0%	59.1%	25.2%	28.4%	40.6%	43.5%	45.6%	91.5%
POOR	18.7%	57.3%	48.5%	27.0%	52.2%	64.0%	68.7%	80.9%
Nonvoter	18.6%	53.9%	38.4%	25.6%	48.0%	55.0%	63.3%	84.7%
Voter	16.9%	61.2%	27.9%	29.3%	41.6%	45.6%	46.8%	90.8%
Bad Luck	100.0%	78.8%	40.2%	9.4%	62.7%	62.7%	70.4%	85.8%
Bad Choice	0.0%	54.5%	28.5%	32.0%	45.1%	45.1%	46.8%	89.8%

The Role of Government

	Q18_programs are effective	Q19_programs hurt the economy	Q20_government should spend more	Q22_yes programs lower poverty	Q23_poor need government assistance	Q24_programs discourage work	Q25_morally obligated to help	Q26_increase cash assistance	Q26_increase inkind assistance	Q26_increase minimum wage	Q26_increase earned income credit
Overall	19.3%	32.5%	33.5%	36.5%	60.2%	63.1%	69.2%	35.2%	71.6%	77.8%	70.0%
White	15.2%	35.7%	29.5%	32.3%	57.7%	68.9%	66.1%	27.1%	67.7%	72.5%	67.7%
Nonwhite	27.1%	26.6%	41.2%	44.4%	65.1%	52.1%	75.0%	50.5%	79.0%	87.8%	74.3%
Male	18.8%	34.9%	30.0%	34.3%	60.2%	65.8%	66.2%	33.7%	67.7%	72.9%	68.9%
Female	19.8%	30.1%	37.3%	38.8%	60.2%	60.2%	72.3%	36.7%	75.6%	82.7%	71.2%
Not	17.7%	33.7%	29.6%	33.5%	58.8%	67.4%	67.1%	28.3%	68.3%	75.0%	68.1%
POOR	24.7%	28.8%	47.0%	46.4%	65.1%	48.4%	76.1%	58.4%	82.7%	87.0%	76.6%
Nonvoter	21.3%	29.3%	38.9%	41.9%	55.6%	57.2%	69.0%	44.8%	76.0%	83.3%	68.5%
Voter	18.7%	33.7%	31.8%	34.6%	62.0%	65.5%	70.5%	31.8%	70.1%	75.7%	70.8%
Bad Luck	24.0%	22.8%	52.5%	45.0%	78.4%	38.4%	84.8%	51.3%	88.9%	82.1%	78.5%
Bad Choice	18.4%	34.6%	29.6%	34.7%	56.4%	68.2%	66.0%	31.8%	68.0%	76.8%	68.2%

Who Should Pay?

	Q28_agree_higher taxes for poor	Q29_agree higher taxes	Q30_Nobody should pay more	Q30_top 4% should pay more	Q30_top 25% should pay more	Q31_mostly from corporations	Q32_reduce defense spending	Q32_reduce spending on the poor	Q33_willing to pay more tax for poor
Overall	56.0%	62.9%	29.0%	35.0%	54.6%	44.7%	53.6%	17.1%	38.3%
White	53.7%	60.6%	33.4%	34.3%	54.1%	44.0%	52.4%	19.5%	34.1%
Nonwhite	60.4%	67.3%	20.7%	36.2%	55.4%	46.1%	56.0%	12.4%	46.1%
Male	54.1%	62.2%	29.1%	34.1%	54.5%	42.7%	53.0%	17.5%	36.1%
Female	58.0%	63.7%	28.9%	35.8%	54.6%	46.9%	54.2%	16.6%	40.5%
Not	53.7%	62.3%	30.3%	36.7%	55.5%	45.5%	52.9%	18.3%	35.1%
POOR	64.0%	65.0%	24.8%	29.2%	51.5%	42.2%	56.2%	13.0%	48.8%
Nonvoter	55.0%	61.4%	27.3%	29.0%	48.0%	44.9%	55.1%	15.1%	38.3%
Voter	56.3%	63.4%	29.6%	37.3%	57.0%	45.5%	54.3%	18.1%	39.0%
Bad Luck	76.2%	79.0%	13.6%	40.5%	69.5%	49.8%	70.7%	5.7%	55.5%
Bad Choice	51.8%	59.5%	32.2%	33.8%	51.4%	43.7%	50.1%	19.4%	34.7%