

**The Arkansas Poll
Summary Report
November, 1999**

*Presented to
The City, County & Local Affairs Committee
House of Representatives, Arkansas General Assembly*

Supported by
The Center for the Study of Representation,
The Department of Political Science,
and
The Graduate School

University of Arkansas

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Poll Director

Dr. Will Miller, Director
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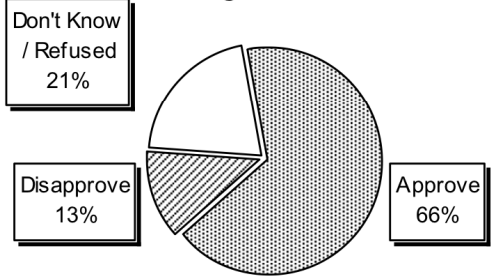
Dr. Todd Shields, Assistant Director
Fulbright Institute

Department of Political Science
Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

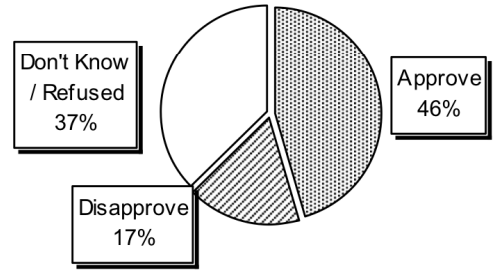
University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Public Officials Evaluations

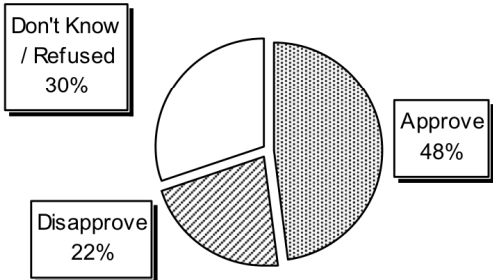
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Huckabee is handling his job as governor?



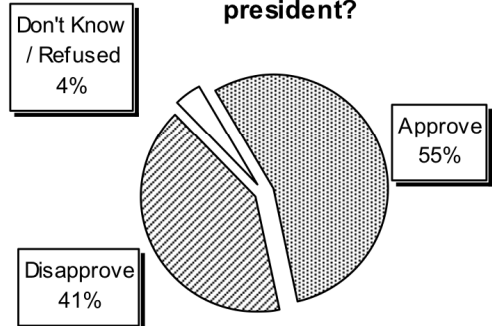
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Blanche Lincoln is handling her job as a U.S. Senator?



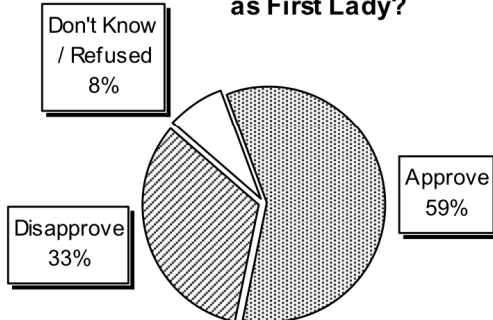
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Hutchinson is handling his job as a U.S. Senator?



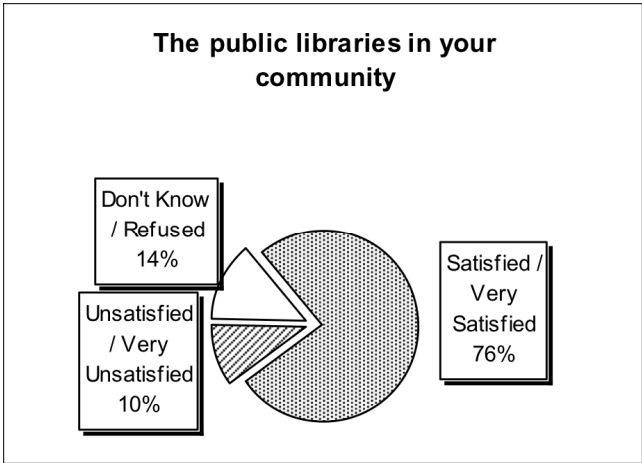
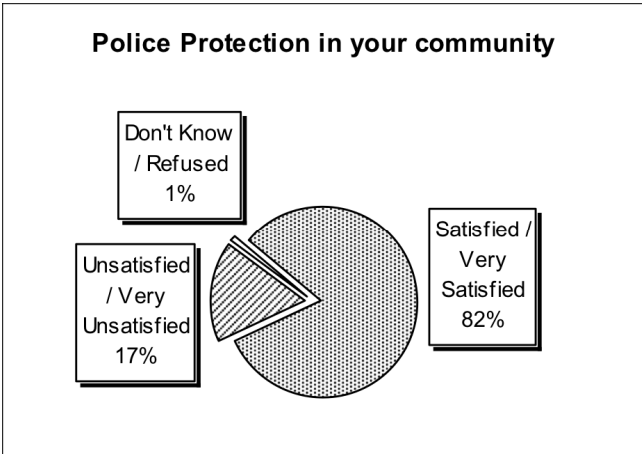
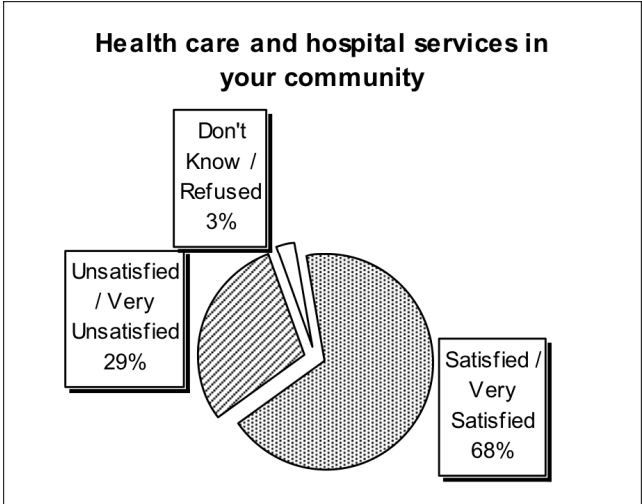
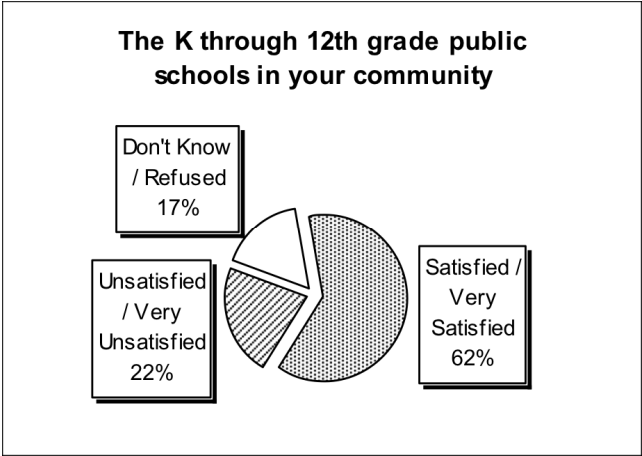
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

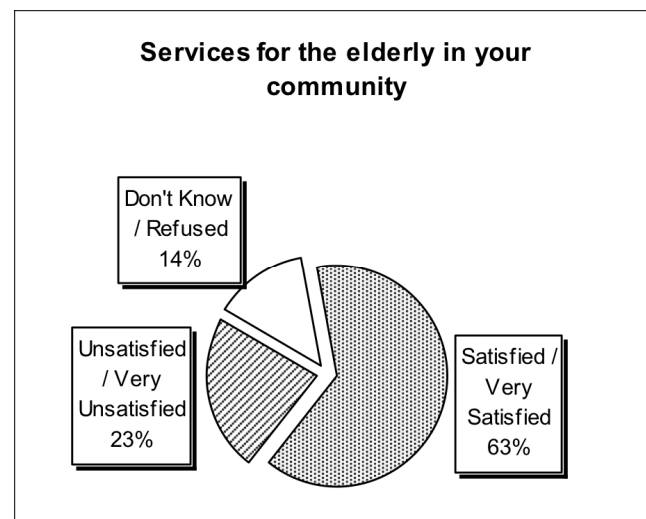
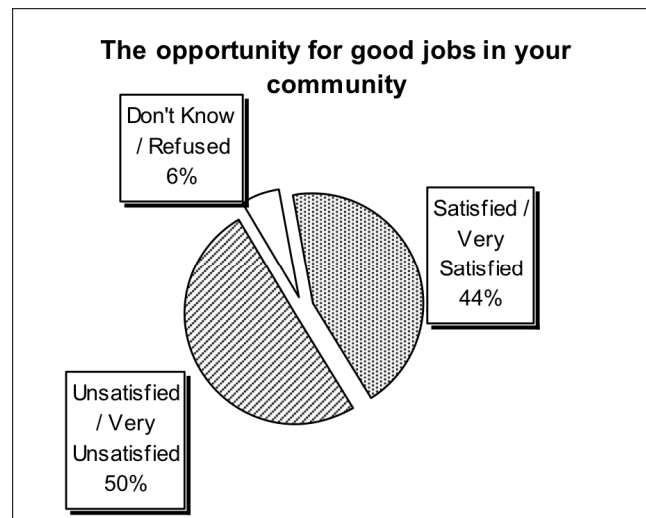
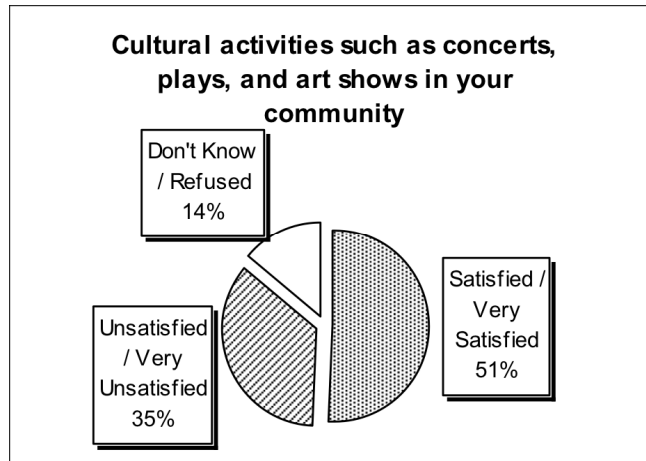


Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hillary Clinton is handling her job as First Lady?

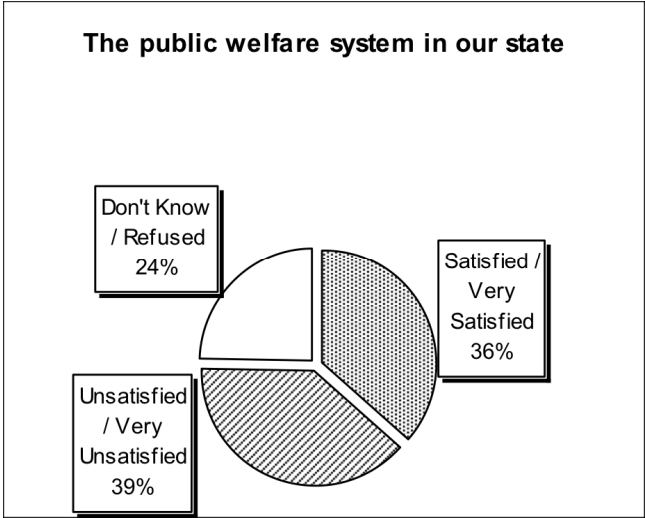
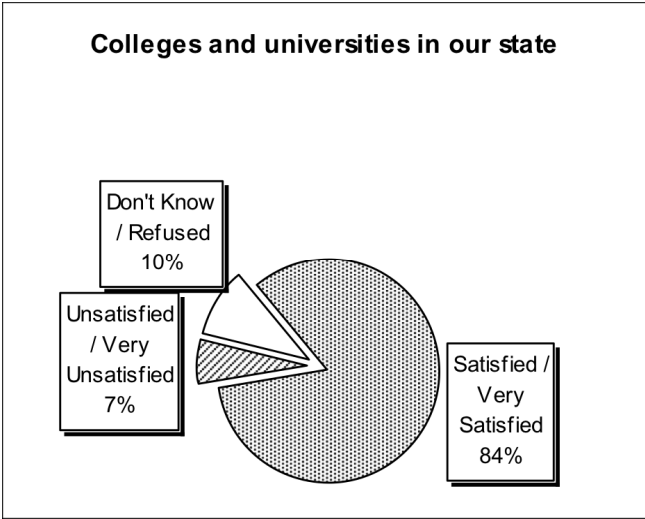
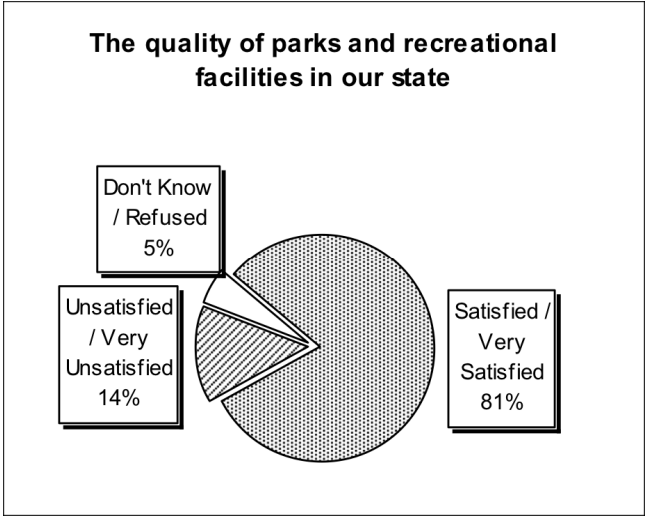
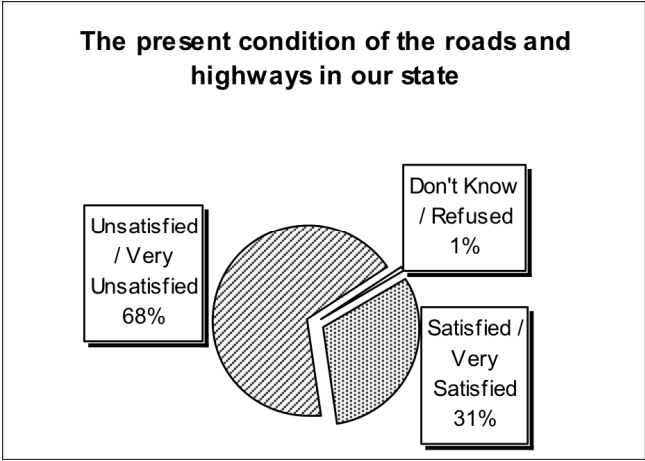


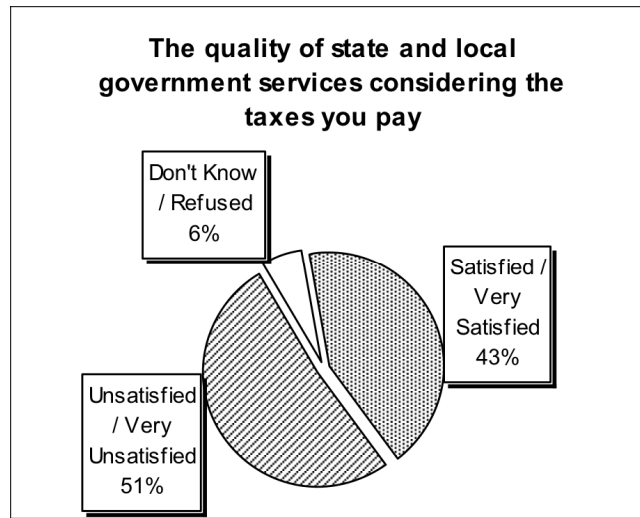
Schools and Community Services



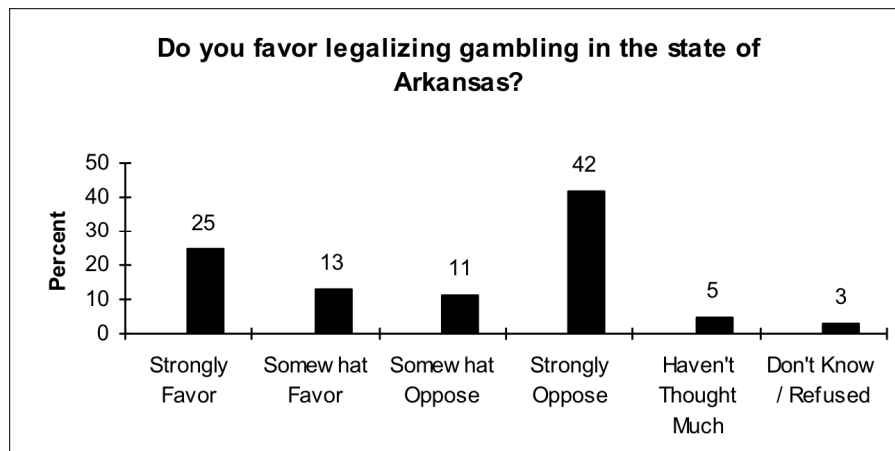
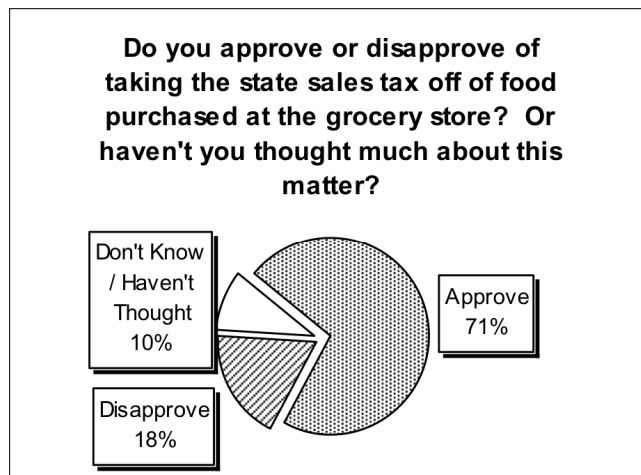


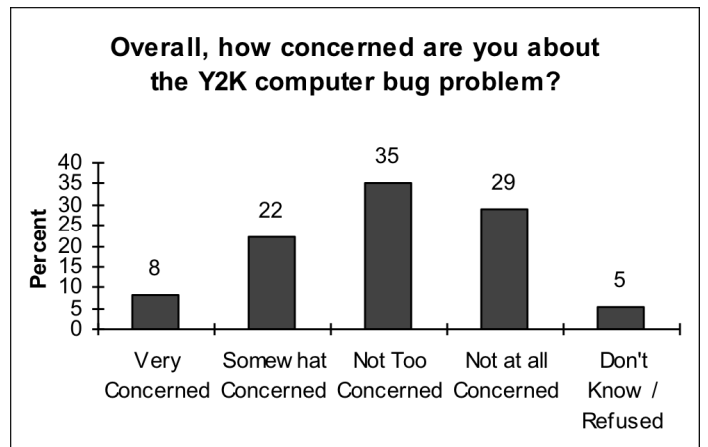
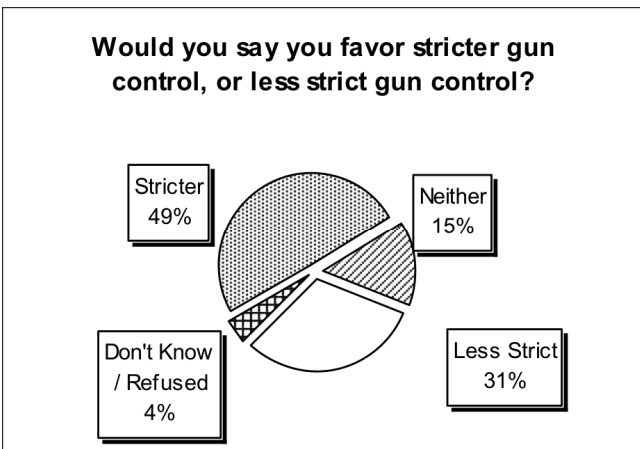
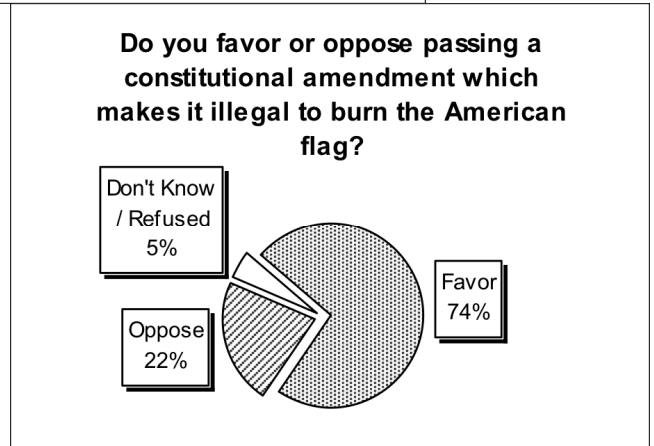
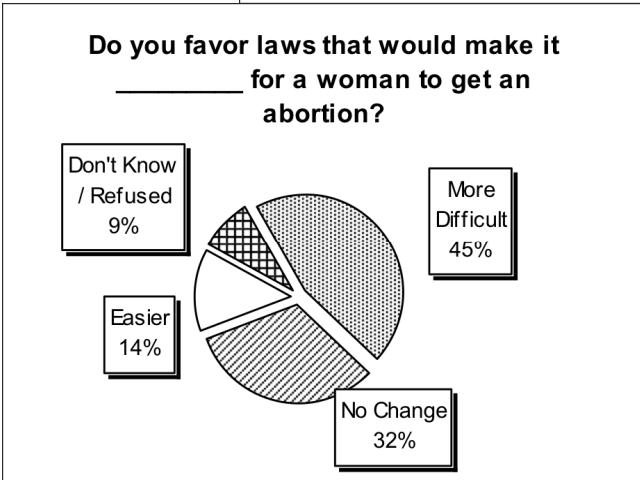
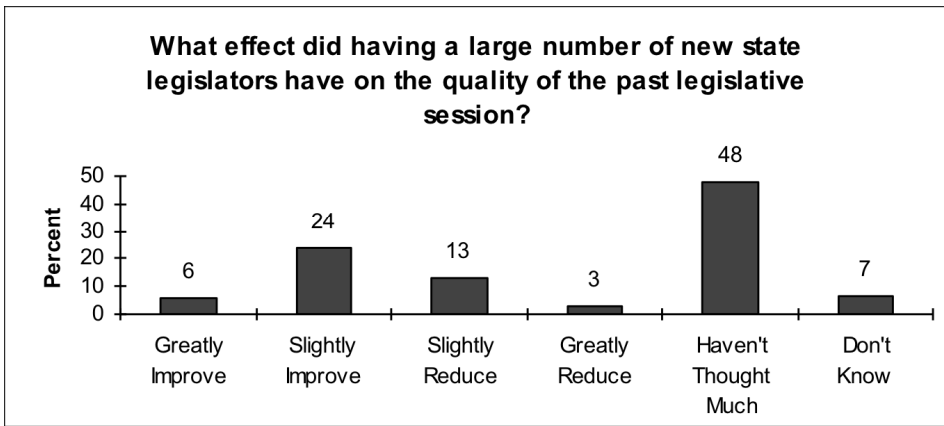
State Services





State and National Issues





In your opinion, what do you think is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today?

Educational Issues	106
Economic Issues	63
Morality and Family Breakdown	59
Unemployment and Lack of Jobs	56
Drugs	55
Low Wages	55
Taxes	42
Crime	39
Health Issues & Medical Insurance	32

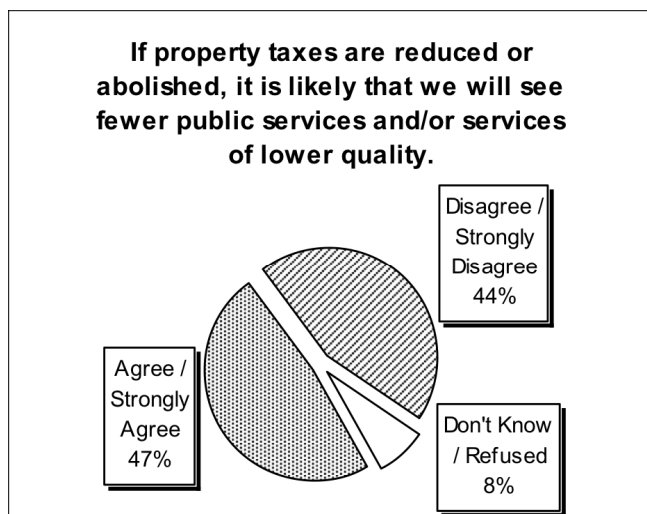
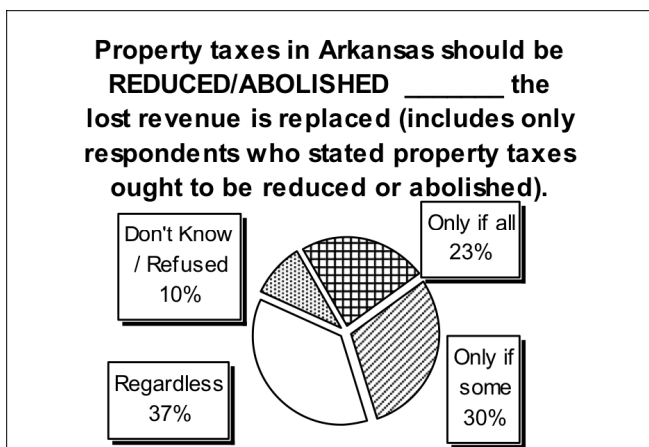
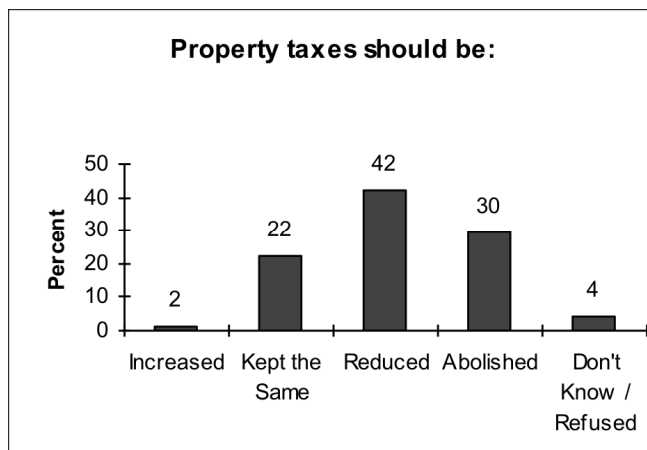
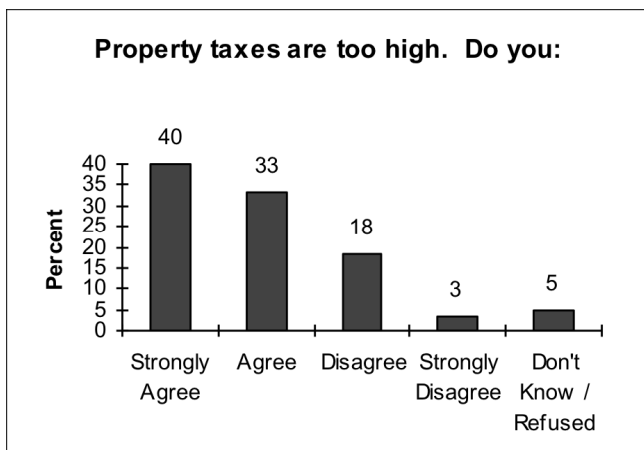
Corrupt or Inefficient Government	18
Roads	18
Poverty	17
Racism	11
Environmental Issues	10
School Violence	8
Immigration	7
Welfare	4
Gun Control	2
No Response	228
Other	55
Total	885

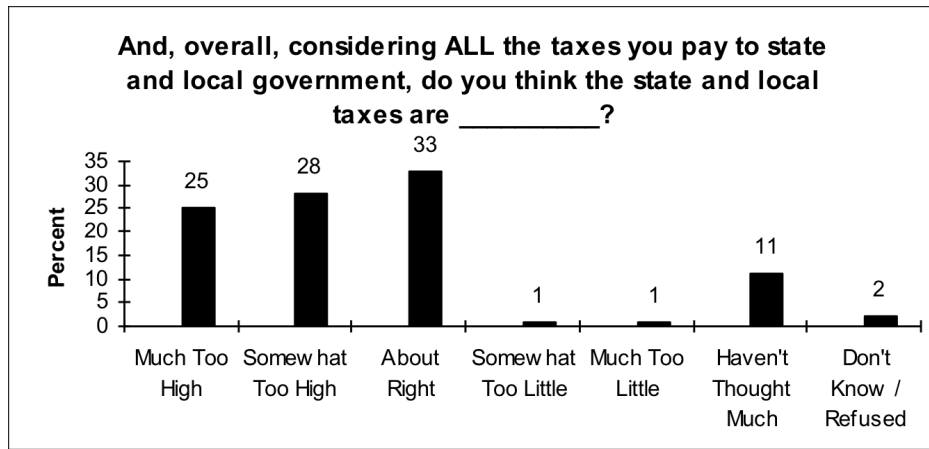
Taxes

Is there another problem or issue facing Arkansas today you would like to mention?

Educational Issues	50
Crime	32
Drugs	31
Health Issues & Medical Insurance	31
Other	27
Economic Issues	26
Roads	25
Taxes	25
Low Wages	20
Morality and Family Breakdown	18

and Lack of Jobs	16
Poverty	14
Corrupt or Inefficient Government	12
Welfare	10
School Violence	7
Immigration	5
Racism	5
No Response	502
Other	27
Total	885





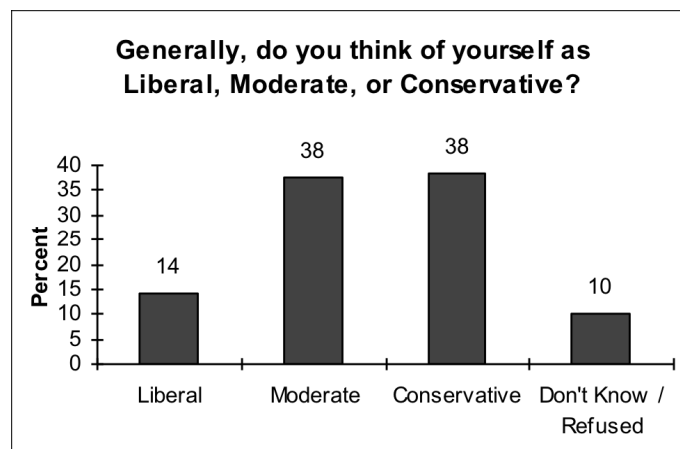
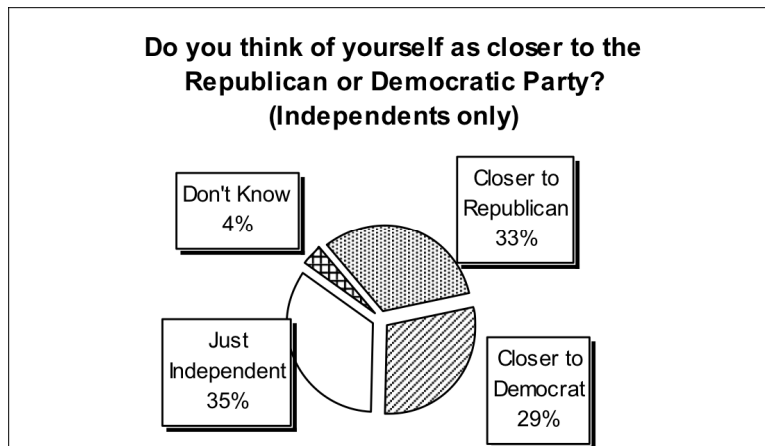
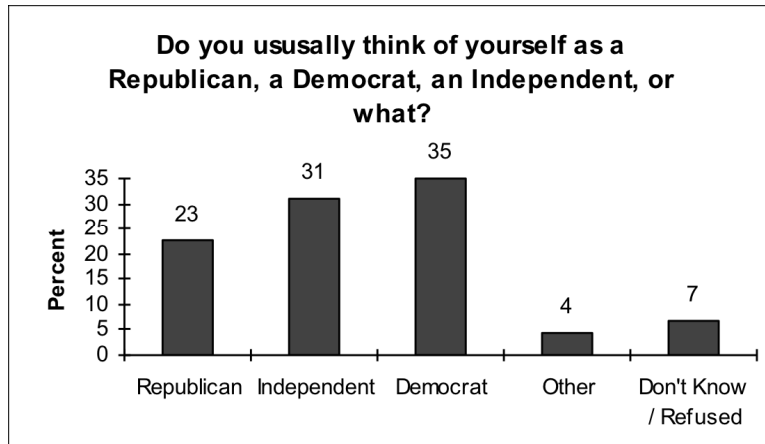
The Arkansas Poll and the Property Tax: Quick Facts

- Though nearly 3/4 (73%) of our respondents believe property taxes are too high, there was a strong preference for reduction (42%) over abolition (30%).
- There is a strong relationship between overall satisfaction with government services (“considering the taxes you pay”) and feelings about property taxes. People who support abolishing the property tax are more than twice as likely to be unsatisfied with services when compared to those who are satisfied with services.
- There is a moderate relationship between where people live and their preference on the property tax question. People living in congressional district three have a somewhat stronger aversion to property taxes, but perhaps not by as large a margin as commonly presumed.

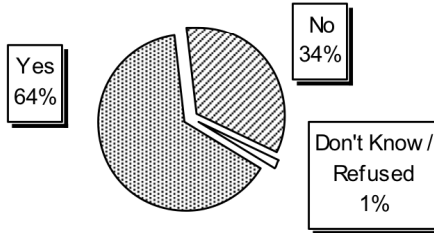
<i>District</i>	<i>Property Tax Too High?</i>		
	<i>Agree Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
CD 1	35%	37%	23%
CD 2	39%	33%	19%
CD 3	47%	29%	14%
CD 4	36%	37%	19%

- There are some differences between men and women on this issue of property taxes. Women tend to be a bit more likely to pick the policy option of reducing the property tax and less likely than men to support abolishing the property tax.
- Of the 72% of our respondents who said they think that property taxes should be reduced or abolished, more than half are comfortable with this only if all (23%) or some (30%) of the lost revenue is replaced. More than a third, however, would like to see the reduction or abolition of property taxes regardless of whether or not the lost revenue is replaced.
- Our respondents were split over whether reducing or abolishing property taxes would result in fewer services or services of lower quality: 48% agree and 44% disagree. Only those who believed property taxes should remain as they are (22% of our sample) believed strongly (78%) that if property taxes are reduced or abolished, service reduction will follow.

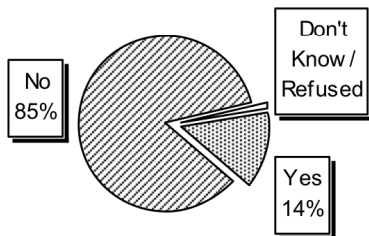
Political Ideology, Partisanship and Participation



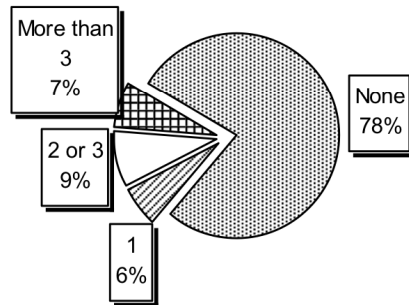
In talking to people about elections, we often find a lot of people were not able to vote because they were not registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have the time. How about you? Did you vote in the elections (in 1998)?



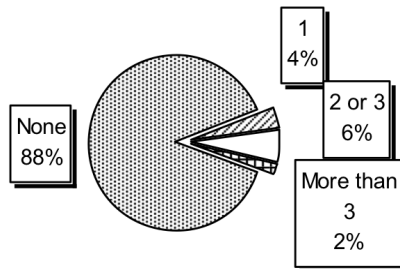
Did you give any money, or buy any tickets, to help a party or candidate pay campaign expenses in the past year?



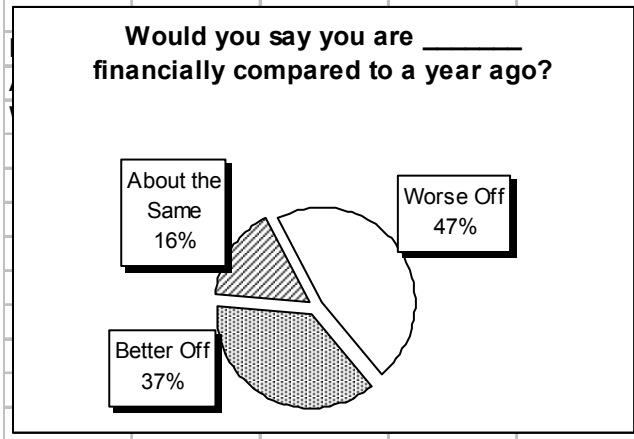
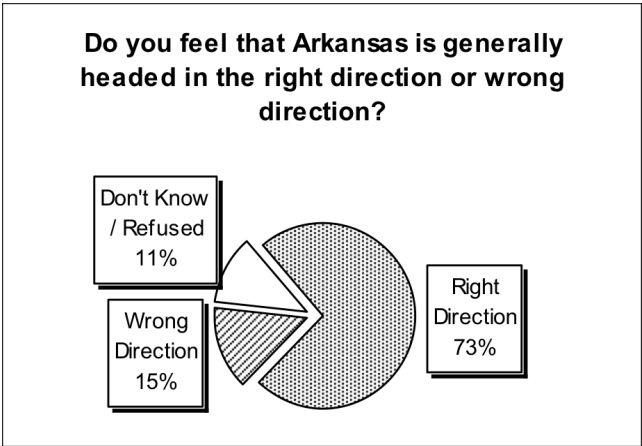
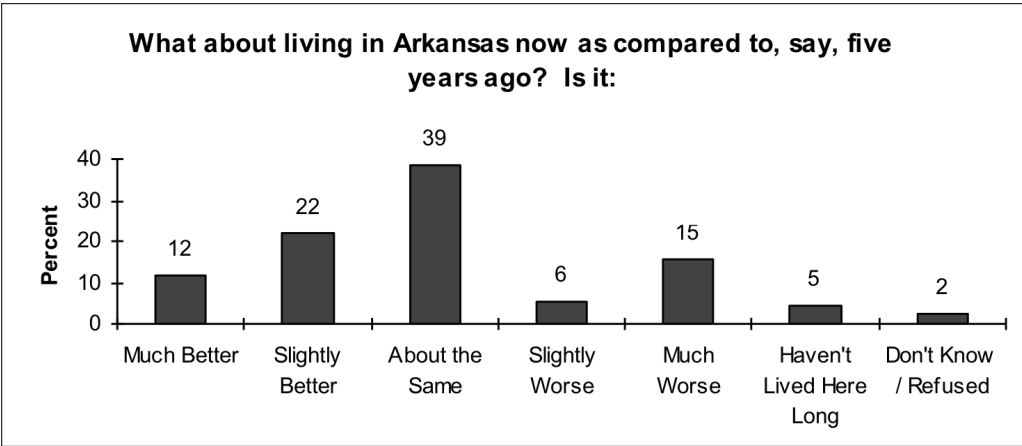
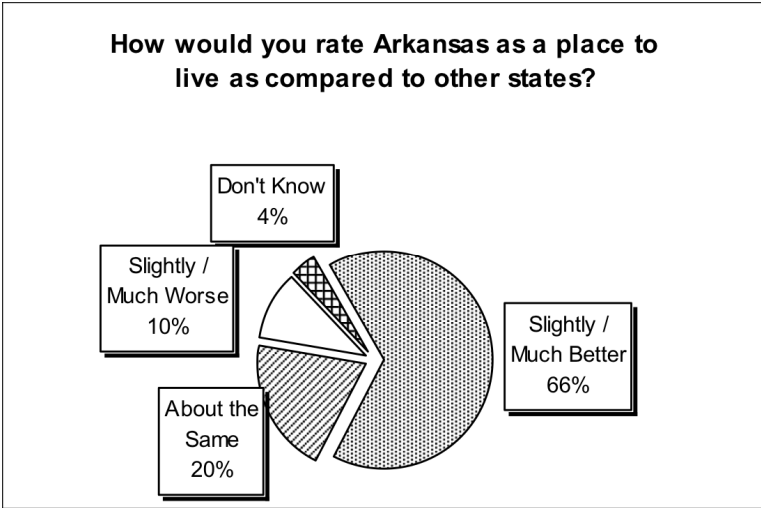
How many letters have you written to public officials in the past year?

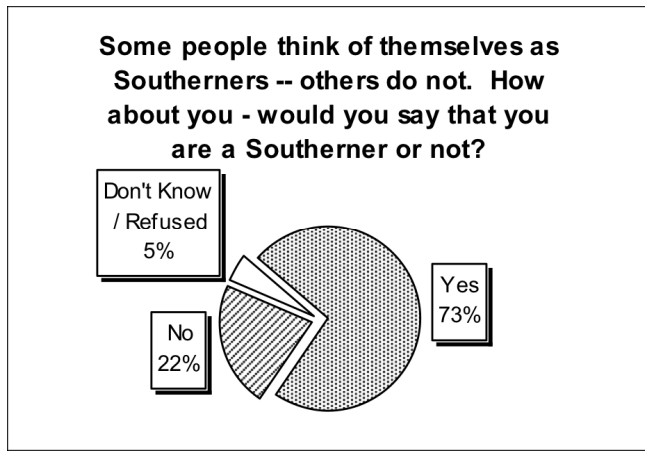
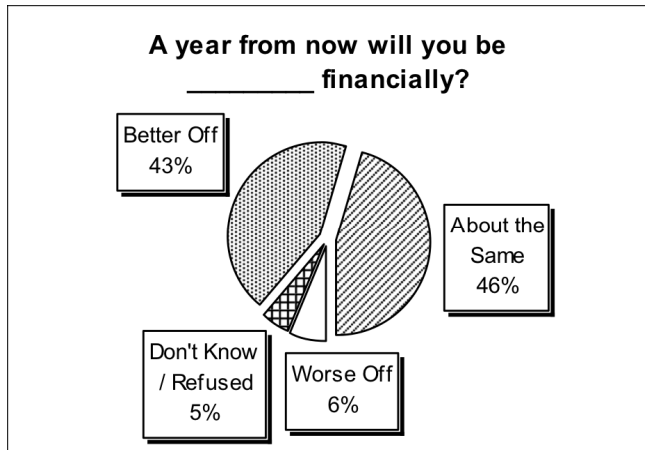


Did you attend any political meetings, rallies, or dinners, etc., in the past year?

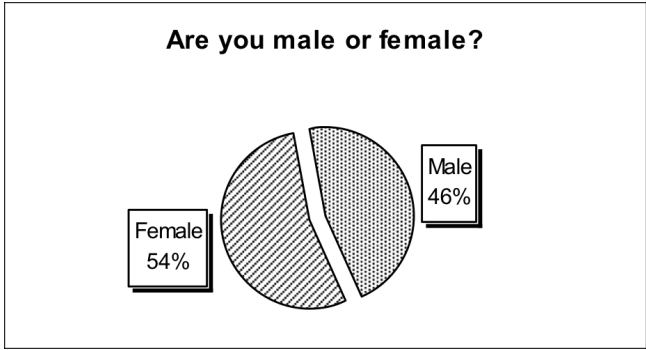


Life in Arkansas



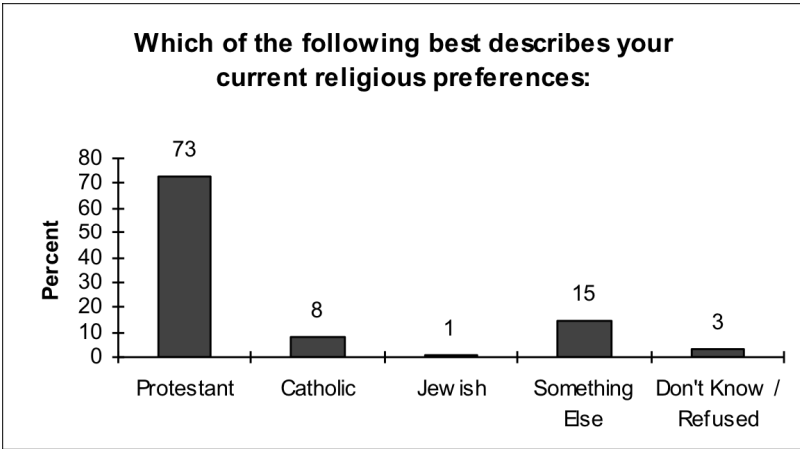


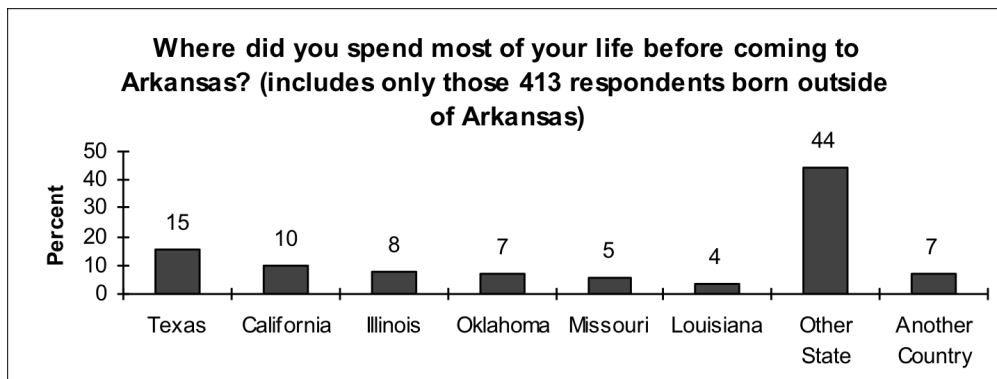
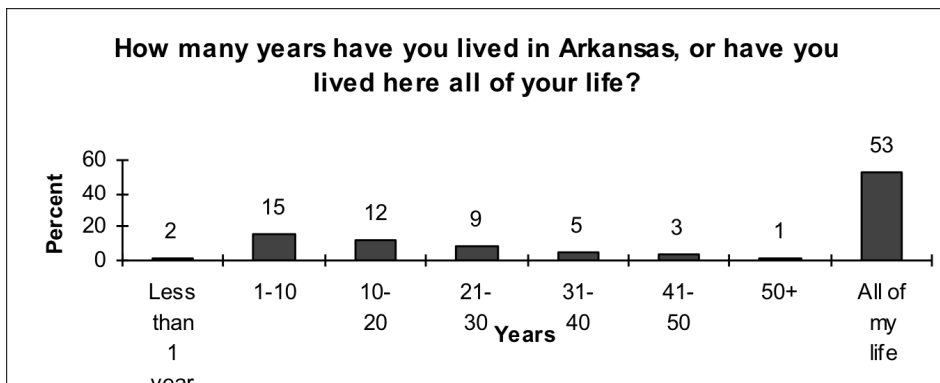
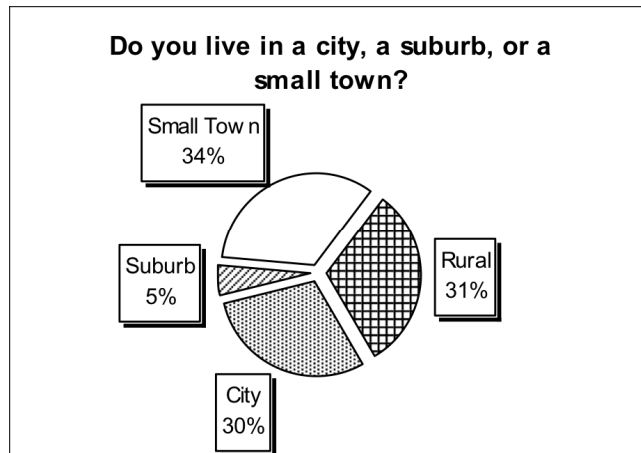
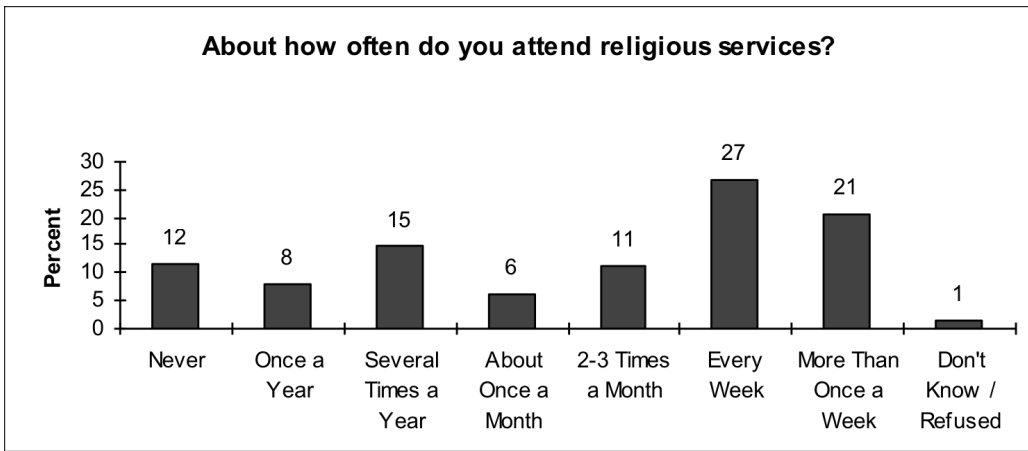
Demographics



Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic group:

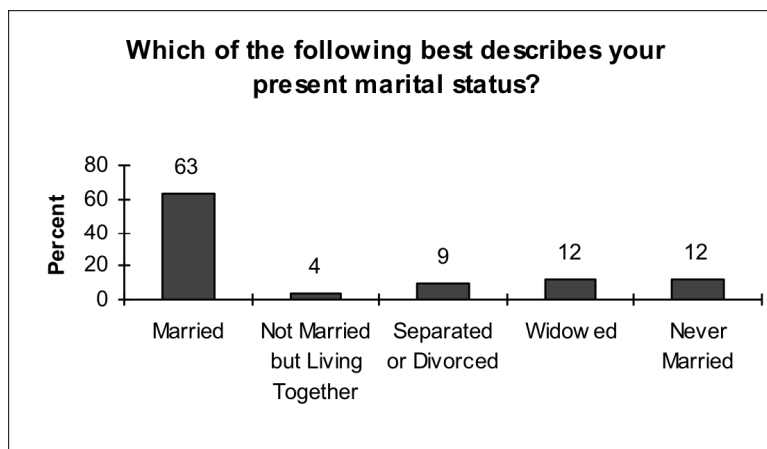
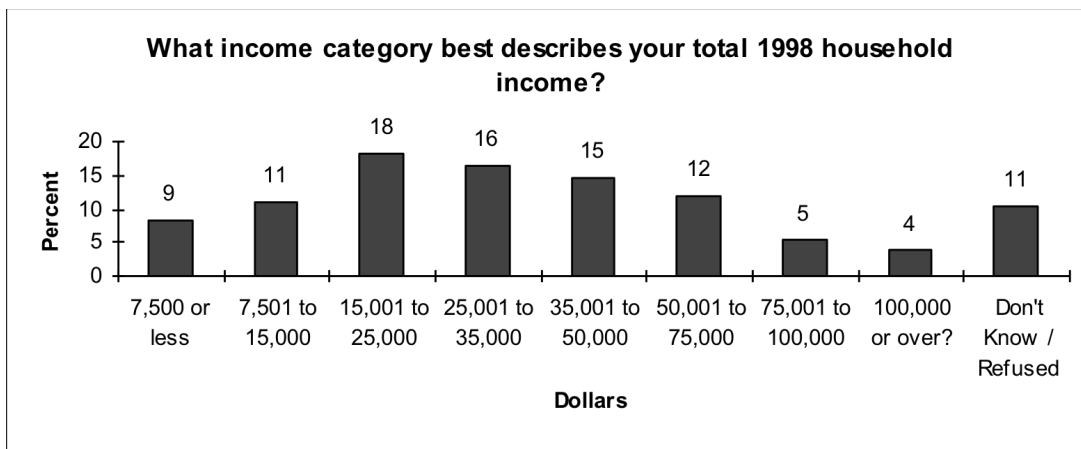
	Frequency	Percent
WHITE	722	81.6
BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN	100	11.3
HISPANIC	17	1.9
ASIAN	6	.7
NATIVE AMERICAN	15	1.7
MULTI ETHNIC	8	.9
SOMETHING ELSE	4	.5
DON'T KNOW	2	.2
REFUSED	11	1.2
Total	885	100.0

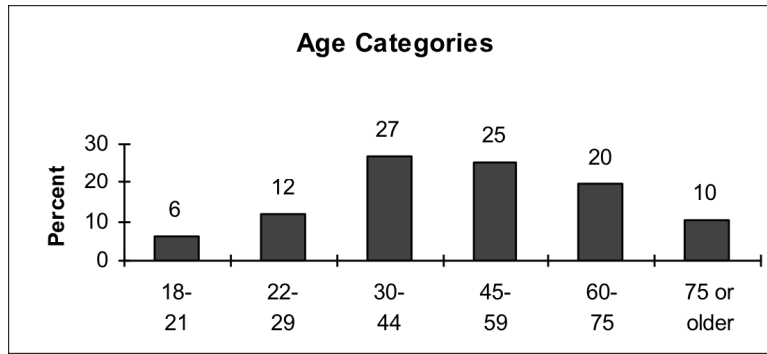




What is your level of schooling? I have a list here.....please feel free to stop me at any time.

	Frequency	Percent
NO HIGH SCHOOL	43	4.9
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	80	9.0
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT	232	26.2
SOME COLLEGE INCLUDING BUSINESS OR TRADE SCHOOLS	298	33.7
COLLEGE GRADUATE	132	14.9
SOME GRADUATE SCHOOL	36	4.1
GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	60	6.8
DON'T KNOW	2	.2
REFUSED	2	.2
Total	885	100.0





Sample Information

Between September 15th and October 2nd, the Survey Research Center at the University of Arkansas dialed 3,738 randomly selected Arkansas telephone numbers. These attempts yielded 885 completed surveys. The remainder of the surveys were not completed due to the resident’s absence, a refusal to participate, a busy line, a “no longer in service” message, or the resident being under the age of 18 years. Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll’s cooperation rate was 70.6%. This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted. The survey’s margin of error is ± 3 percent.

To ensure that the sample drawn for the survey was representative of the state’s residents, a comparison was made between the survey respondents’ demographic characteristics and those of the state as whole. The results are shown in the below table. As is apparent, the respondents in the sample are similar to the state in terms of income and racial background, yet survey respondents are somewhat older and better educated.

	Arkansas Poll Respondents	State Data
Median Age	48 years	40-45 years (Census, 1990; for those over 18 only)
Gender	46.0% male	48.2% male (Census 1990)
Education	85.7% high school graduates 25.8 % college graduates	66.3% high school graduates 13.3 % college graduates (Census USA Counties 1996)
Income	\$25,001 to \$35,000 (median income range)	\$27,117 (Census 1999)
Race / Ethnicity	81.6% White 11.3% Black 1.9% Hispanic 0.7 % Asian 1.7% Native American	82.7% White 15.9% Black 0.5% Asian 0.5% Native American (Census 1990)

A completed survey consisted of 68 questions. The text of the survey protocol is available on-line at <http://plsc.uark.edu/arkpoll>.