

Survey Report

When studying sociological methods, the best way to learn specifics is to jump in hands on. By doing this, it helps the student better understand how things work and why. In the course of Sociological Methods 2211, the students were able to do just that. The students spent a long time putting together a survey to see just how people in the Baton Rouge area would respond when asked questions about political issues, social issues, crime issues, etc. They were split up into groups to decide exactly which questions were to be asked on this survey. After all the questions were decided on, they were then put into survey form and distributed to the students to conduct the survey.

The hypotheses that will be discussed throughout this report concerns how men and women respond to questions about crime. Hopefully, the results of the survey will show that women are more likely to say that courts are not harsh enough on criminals, that they are more likely to be afraid to walk alone at night, that they think laws on firearms should be more strict and that men favor the death penalty more than women. These hypotheses may or may not be proven correct but it will be interesting to find out exactly how men and women feel on these specific issues.

The way that the survey was conducted and how the results were polled were by random digit dialing. This means the survey was conducted over the phone to random residents of the Baton Rouge area. Each student was given a list of phone numbers that they were supposed to use to get in touch with each

person. This list was provided by a company that finds these random telephone numbers, puts them in a list format and then sells them to groups that want to conduct research by phone. When the students would call the people of Baton Rouge, they were given a script to start the interview. After the interviewee would agree to participate, the student or interviewer would then continue with the questions on the survey. With each question, the interviewee could stop the interview at anytime and refuse to answer any more questions. If this were to happen, the student would have to find a new participant and start the interview all over again. Each student was required to get ten completed surveys so as to add to the finished data that was to be collected after the four week time period that the students had to complete the surveys. After the students finished their surveys, they were to input the data into a dataset, which is where all the information from all the surveys was to be put together. The students were then able to look at the completed data and come to their own conclusions as to why they think the results came out the way they did; some by looking at other surveys and comparing them or by their own opinions.

A little more
needed about
sample

The first hypothesis that will be discussed is that women feel that criminals are not dealt harshly enough in the court systems. According to the survey results, out of 200 women asked, 135, which is 67.5%, of them said that the courts do not deal with criminals harshly enough. However, out of 119 men asked, 84, which is 70.6% said the same thing that criminals are not dealt with harshly enough. 6.5% of women responded that the courts are too harsh on criminals, as compared to the 5.9% of men that said the same thing. This

hypothesis was proven to be wrong because there was more that said that the courts are not harsh enough on criminals. This is a surprising result, because most of the crime that takes place in the world is done by men and often times, they commit crimes against women, so the expected result would be that women would have said that the courts are not harsh enough on criminals. Overall, out of the total that took the survey, the majority thought that the courts do not deal with criminals harsh enough.

No correlation.
Need
discussion of
stats.

The second hypothesis is one that deals with laws on firearms. Women are more likely to say that the laws on firearms should be more strict. According to the survey results, 161 women out of 225 surveyed this question, agreed that the laws on firearms should be more strict. 51 of the 125 men surveyed, said that the same thing that laws should be more strict. This is consistent with the hypothesis stated because 70.6% of women and only 40.8% men said that the laws should be more strict. This could be because men more likely to own guns for hunting purposes as well as for protection purposes. Women, on the other hand, may be a little concerned about guns in their home if they have small children at home. They may be afraid that the child might get a hold of the gun and hurt themselves or someone else.

The next hypothesis that will be discussed is the issue of being afraid to walk alone at night. The hypothesis reads that men will be less likely to be afraid to walk alone at night than women. According to the results of the survey, women were 23.9% more likely to say that they are afraid to walk alone at night. Out of 124 men surveyed, only 49 (39.5%) said that they were afraid to walk alone at

night, while 63.4% of women said that they are afraid to walk alone at night. This could have something to do with the macho attitude of the male species, thinking that they can handle any situation that comes their way. Men seem to think that they are strong and can handle themselves in confrontational situations and they express this side of themselves to the public but may be deep down inside they really are afraid but too scared to admit it for fear of being made fun of or looked down upon by the rest of the male community. Women were expected to respond to this question as most of them did. Women know that men are stronger than they are and probably would not be able to fight off an attacker as easy as a male could.

The final hypothesis concerns the issue of the death penalty. It was predicted that women would be less likely to favor the death penalty and more men would favor it. According to the results of the survey, out of 232 women surveyed, 135 (58.2%) of them were in favor of the death penalty whereas out of the 126 men surveyed, 89 (70.6%) of them were in favor of the death penalty. This proves that the hypothesis was correct. Men did favor the death penalty more than women. This could be because men have a little bit more of a violent tendency to them and do not mind inflicting pain on others. Unlike women, who are more sensitive to these issues and who do not like to inflict pain or see another person suffer or in pain. However, this is a sensitive issue and if someone has not been through something of this sort, their opinion could possibly change. Those who have someone taken from them by another person,

would probably like to see some sort of revenge done to that person, no matter what is.

In conclusion, the results show that women are more likely to favor laws that provide justice in the community. They think that there should harsher gun control and that the courts should deal more harshly with criminals so that they will not be able to commit another crime or so that cannot hurt another human being. This is not to say that men are just the opposite, but they are less likely to say that criminals should be treated with harsher punishment when it is the men who are most likely to be committing the crimes.

No. No
correlation.

Mostly good, well explained Hypotheses, but some problems with analysis. No discussion of statistics. Some incorrect inferences. Discussion of Methods needed expanding.

C+

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R) * V02 Gender	319	89.1%	39	10.9%	358	100.0%

V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R) * V02 Gender Crosstabulation

			V02 Gender		Total
			1 Male	2 Female	
V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R)	1 Not harshly enough	Count	84	135	219
		% within V02 Gender	70.6%	67.5%	68.7%
	2 About right (Vol.)	Count	28	52	80
		% within V02 Gender	23.5%	26.0%	25.1%
	3 Too harshly	Count	7	13	20
		% within V02 Gender	5.9%	6.5%	6.3%
Total		Count	119	200	319
		% within V02 Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.331 ^a	2	.848
Likelihood Ratio	.332	2	.847
Linear-by-Linear Association	.284	1	.594
N of Valid Cases	319		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.46.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.032			.848
	Cramer's V	.032			.848
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.067	.118	.573	.567
N of Valid Cases		319			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V16R Laws on firearms more strict (R) * V02 Gender	350	97.8%	8	2.2%	358	100.0%

V16R Laws on firearms more strict (R) * V02 Gender Crosstabulation

			V02 Gender		Total
			1 Male	2 Female	
V16R Laws on firearms more strict (R)	1 Less strict	Count	17	14	31
		% within V02 Gender	13.6%	6.2%	8.9%
	2 Kept as they are now	Count	57	50	107
		% within V02 Gender	45.6%	22.2%	30.6%
	3 More strict	Count	51	161	212
		% within V02 Gender	40.8%	71.6%	60.6%
Total		Count	125	225	350
		% within V02 Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	31.853 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	31.736	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	27.297	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	350		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.07.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.302			.000
	Cramer's V	.302			.000
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.517	.077	5.577	.000
N of Valid Cases		350			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V18R Afraid to walk alone at night (R) * V02 Gender	351	98.0%	7	2.0%	358	100.0%

V18R Afraid to walk alone at night (R) * V02 Gender Crosstabulation

			V02 Gender		Total
			1 Male	2 Female	
V18R Afraid to walk alone at night (R)	1 No	Count	75	83	158
		% within V02 Gender	60.5%	36.6%	45.0%
	2 Yes	Count	49	144	193
		% within V02 Gender	39.5%	63.4%	55.0%
Total		Count	124	227	351
		% within V02 Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.538 ^b	1	.000		
Continuity Correction ^a	17.584	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	18.592	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	18.485	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	351				

a. Computed only for a 2x2 table

b. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 55.82.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.230			.000
Nominal by Ordinal	Cramer's V	.230			.000
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.453	.091	4.359	.000
N of Valid Cases		351			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V19 Favor death penalty * V02 Gender	358	100.0%	0	.0%	358	100.0%

V19 Favor death penalty * V02 Gender Crosstabulation

			V02 Gender		Total
			1 Male	2 Female	
V19 Favor death penalty	1 Favor	Count	89	135	224
		% within V02 Gender	70.6%	58.2%	62.6%
	2 Oppose	Count	29	60	89
		% within V02 Gender	23.0%	25.9%	24.9%
	9 Don't know, No answer	Count	8	37	45
		% within V02 Gender	6.3%	15.9%	12.6%
Total		Count	126	232	358
		% within V02 Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.273 ^a	2	.016
Likelihood Ratio	8.943	2	.011
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.685	1	.006
N of Valid Cases	358		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 15.84.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.152			.016
	Cramer's V	.152			.016
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.279	.100	2.782	.005
N of Valid Cases		358			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.