

Survey Methodology

The Cato Institute 2017 Free Speech and Tolerance Survey was conducted by the Cato Institute in collaboration with YouGov. YouGov collected responses August 15 to 23, 2017, from 2,547 Americans 18 years of age and older who were matched down to a sample of 2,300 to produce the final dataset. The survey included oversamples of 769 current college and graduate students, 459 African Americans, and 461 Latinos. Results have been weighted to be representative of the national adult sample. The margin of error for the survey, which adjusts for the impact of weighting is +/- 3.00 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for current college and graduate students is +/- 5.17; for African Americans it is +/- 6.69; for Hispanics it is +/- 6.68; for whites it is +/- 4.13. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey.

Data on the moral acceptability of punching a Nazi come from a Cato Institute/YouGov survey conducted August 21 to 22, 2017, of 1,141 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points, which adjusts for the impact of weighting.

YouGov conducted the surveys online with its proprietary Web-enabled survey software, using a method called Active Sampling. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate.

The respondents in each survey were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, party identification, ideology, and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS), as well as the National Exit Poll. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, non-identification with a major political party, census region, and ideology. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified to match the election outcome of the National Exit Poll, as well as the full stratification of four-category age, four-category race, gender, and four-category education.