DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Research Methods Posc 302

MANAGING AND ANALYZING DATA
(Continued)

I. TODAY'S SESSION:
- A. Alternative presentations
- B. Writing tips:
  1. Keys to a B or better paper:
     - i. Content of course
     - ii. Organization
     - iii. Style
     - iv. Thought, imagination, care
     - v. Freedom from errors
  2. Citing the data source:
     - i. Supposed the following is your second or third paragraph, the one that follows the introduction.
       1) *These ideas can be investigated empirically with the 1996 National Election Study, a semi-annual survey of voting and opinion conducted by the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan.*[1] *The introduction to the codebook reads in part "This study is part of a time-series collection of national surveys fielded continuously since 1952. The election studies are designed to present data on Americans' social backgrounds, enduring political predispositions, social and political values, perceptions and evaluations of groups and candidates, opinions on questions of public policy, and participation in political life. The 1996 National Election Study contains both pre- and post-election components."*[2]
     - ii. Note that the full title of the web site has been included in the note (see below) along with it's "url" or Internet address. I have clipped

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[1]Data made available by the Computer-assisted Survey Methods Program (CSM) at the University of California, Berkeley in its Survey Documentation and Analysis page. <http://csa.berkeley.edu:7502/>

[2]1996 American National Election Study. <http://sda.berkeley.edu:7502/D3/NES96new/Doc/ns96.htm>

a section from the introduction to the codebook to further explain to the read the survey's context.

iii. Note that by far the easiest way to include the titles and addresses is to cut and paste them into your document.

1) As you are exploring the data go to the codebook introductions and clip the necessary information.

3. Citations and descriptions of the General Social Survey should follow this pattern.

II. ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. From the last set of notes.

B. The cross-tabulation table that we have used extensively throughout the semester provides a nice way to summarize the statistical information.

C. But one can, if one chooses and **if one is careful**, use bar charts or line plots to show the same information

D. Example: suppose we were investigation the relationship between party identification and how well respondents thought the term "honest" applied to or fit President Clinton.

i. The results are:

Cells contain: -Column percent -N of cases *Note means*		v960420					
		1 Srong D	2 Dem	3 Ind	4 Rep	5 Strong R	*ROW TOTAL*
v960429	1 Extremely well	**26.5** 81	**5.2** 17	**3.6** 21	**2.0** 5	**1.6** 3	*7.6* *127*
	2 Quite well	**55.3** 170	**54.3** 177	**32.4** 190	**15.3** 39	**5.7** 11	*35.2* *587*
	3 Not too well	**15.5** 48	**35.8** 117	**41.9** 245	**43.6** 110	**25.0** 49	*34.1* *568*
	4 Not well at all	**2.7** 8	**4.7** 15	**22.1** 129	**39.1** 99	**67.6** 133	*23.1* *384*
	COL TOTAL	*100.0* *307*	*100.0* *326*	*100.0* *585*	*100.0* *252*	*100.0* *196*	*100.0* *1,667*
	Means	1.94	2.40	2.83	3.20	3.59	2.73

Figure 1: Perceptions of Clinton's Honesty By Partisanship

1) We could simply present the table–that's a perfectly satisfactory option–or we could plot either the means **or** one of the percentages such as percent who say the term honest applies "extremely well" to Clinton.

2) Here's what I produced using Excel.

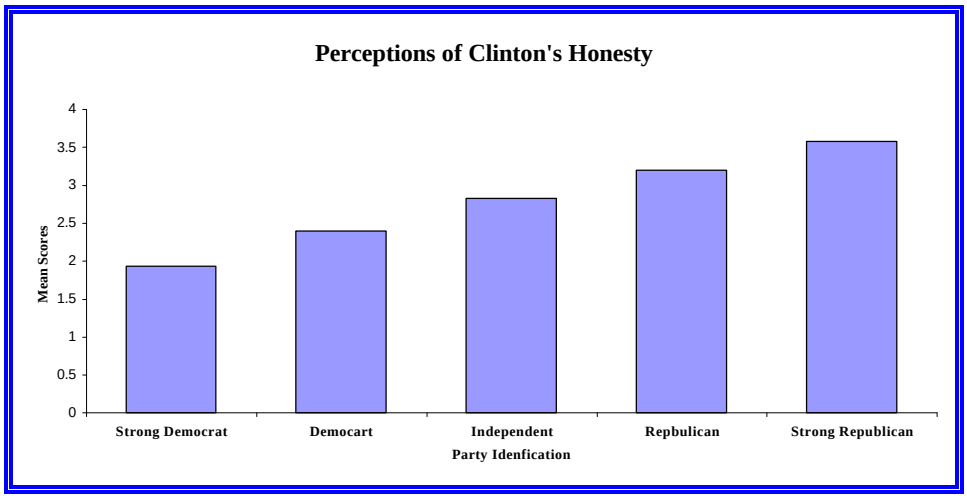
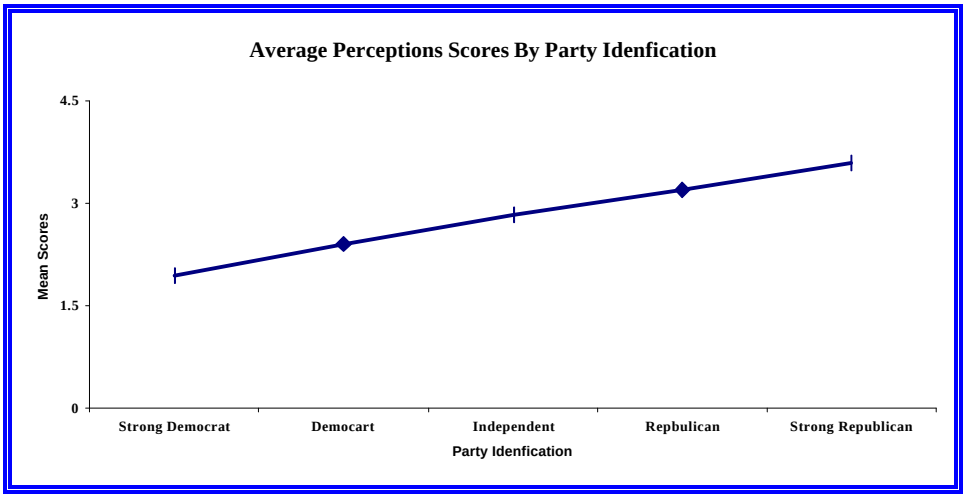


Figure 2: Means Perception Scores By Partisanship

2. Here's a different way to present the same information;



i. Again this was produced with Excel. This time I used the plot option on the Chart Wizard.

E. We'll see how to make these graphs in class with the help of the notes handed out last time.

III. NEXT TIME:

A. Measures of association and correlation