

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Posc/Uapp 816

Assignment 2
IS THERE A GENDER GAP?

Name_____

(Printed)

Student Number_____

(Social Security Number)

E-mail_____

This assignment should be easy and fun. You only need access to the internet via a browser and knowledge of cross-classification analysis.

Let's explore an assertion commonly made in the press and elsewhere: a gender gap in American politics exists. That is, women tend to prefer Democratic candidates over Republicans. This is a claim frequently heard in regard to presidential voting, and especially in connection with the 1996 election, but one wonders if it extends to other levels of government as well.

We're going to use data from the American National Election Study for 1996. The data, documentation, and analysis program are available in a couple of places. Follow these steps to "access" this information.

1. Go to the course web page.
2. Select **Information, Data, and Software**
3. Select **Public Opinion Polls and Surveys**
4. Select **Survey Documentation Analysis (SDA)**
5. After connecting with this site select **SDA Archive**
6. Select **NES for 1996** (Do not click on the Abstract page unless you want to read it.)
7. Select **Browse codebook** and click **Start**
8. Select **Headings for Groups of Variables**

9. Find **Interviewer's observations of R**
10. Find and note the variable number for gender. The number will start with a "v," then a 96, and then the rest of the number.
 - A. You can click on the number to see the text of the question and the responses.
11. Go back to the **Headings...** page and find **Vote/Pres/House/Senate**
12. Find **Which presidential candidate did R vote for** and note the variable number.
13. Find **Post R's vote senate - party** and note the variable number.
14. Return to the NES home page.
15. Click **Run crosstabs** and press **Start**
16. Important: be careful and pay attention.
 - A. In the **Horizontal** variable box type the complete number of the presidential vote variable.
 - B. In the **Vertical** variable box type the complete number of the gender variable.
 - C. In the **Filter** box type the variable number and then in **parentheses** the valid (non-missing) codes, which in the case of presidential voting are 1-3.
 - i. Example **v961082(1-3)**
 - D. Click Vertical percentages and statistics.
 - E. Click question wording.
 - F. Click **Start**
17. You should obtain a simple cross tabulation that shows the relationship between gender and presidential vote. At the bottom of the table you will also find summary statistics such as the chi square and degrees of freedom. Use this information to answer the questions below.
18. Return to the cross-tabulation page and repeat step 16 for the senate vote.
 - A. In the filter box type in the valid (non-missing) codes for senate vote, which are 1-2.
19. Use the table to answer the questions below.

20. Is there a relationship between gender and political preferences?
- A. First provide the cross-tabulation table. (Include the column percentages and the frequencies.)

	Gender	
Vote in 1996	Male	Female
Clinton		
Dole		
Perot		
Totals		

21. Now test the hypothesis that gender and vote for president are statistically independent.

- A. Test statistic_____
- B. Degrees of freedom_____
- C. Probability of test statistic under the null hypothesis_____
- D. What is your decision regarding the hypothesis?

- E. What are the odds of a female voting for Clinton? _____ Of a male voting for Clinton?_____
- F. What are the odds ratio? _____

22. Now investigate the same question by looking at gender and senatorial voting.

	Gender	
Vote in 1996	Male	Female
Democratic candidate		
Republican candidate		
Totals		

23. Test the hypothesis that gender and vote for senate are statistically independent.

- A. Test statistic_____
- B. Degrees of freedom_____
- C. Probability of test statistic under the null hypothesis_____
- D. What is your decision regarding the hypothesis?

- E. What are the odds of a female voting for Democratic? _____ Of a male voting for Democratic?_____
- F. What are the odds ratio? _____

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