

17.871  
Spring 2004  
STATA data exercise

Find out whether Democrats and Republicans differed in their estimate of the number of casualties in the eve of the first Persian Gulf War.

ICPSR Study # 9563 consists of a series of polls done for ABC News and the Washington Post before and after the U.S. invaded Iraq in early 1991.

(1) Go to the Harvard-MIT Data Center, Virtual Data Center, and retrieve the ASCII codebook for this study. A shortcut is to go to the VDC home page and type the study number in the search bar at the top of the page. The URL is <http://vdc.hmdc.harvard.edu/VDC/index.jsp>. **Do not print out the codebook. Just leave it in your browser window or save it to disk.**

(2) Note that the codebook describes a number of different surveys related to the Gulf War. The one we will concentrate on is the pre-hostilities poll, taken January 13, whose description begins on “Page 1.” The codebook gives you a list of the questions, the response categories, and information about the location of the response in the data file. Here is the entry for the first question:

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling the situation caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?
- |               |   |        |
|---------------|---|--------|
| Approve       | 1 |        |
| Disapprove    | 2 | 1 (06) |
| DK/No opinion | 8 |        |
| NA/Refused    | 9 |        |

There are four response categories, coded as described. The location of this variable is in column 6 of the data file.

(3) Use the information from the codebook to read in the relevant data and then do a cross-tabulation between answers to the casualties question and party identification. If the names of the variables are **casualties** and **partyid**, then the command to issue is **tab casualties partyid**. The data file is located in the class's server locker.