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# DATA CRUNCH

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Issue 13

March 2003

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## World Values Survey

This article is based on a presentation by Elizabeth Hamilton, Data Librarian at the University of New Brunswick Libraries, 2001.

### *What is it?*

The World Values Survey (WVS) is a multi-national social survey on values and attitudes. It is now in its fourth wave. WVS evolved from work done originally in 1981 through the European Values Survey (EVS) involving 10 countries. In 1999-2000, the EVS covered more than 70 countries, fourteen of which participated for the first time.

### *Some Background information...*

As background, the project began with a Eurobarometer Survey in 1973 that looked at the process of value change. In 1981, the European Values Survey undertook an examination of ten countries and the results proved so intriguing that another twelve countries/societies were added to the study, one of which was Canada. Following an analysis of the 1981/84 and 1990/93 waves, a steering committee designed the 1995/97 wave, this time concentrating on bringing in lesser-developed countries. The EVS did not participate in the third wave of the study though both the EVS and WVS teams are involved in the fourth wave.

The project was expanded to lesser developed countries because the WVS team believed that obtaining the full range of economic, cultural and political variation was the only way to effectively analyze sources of difference in human belief systems and their impact on society. The second purpose in extending the survey into lesser developed countries was to expand empirical social science techniques into societies without a long history of social science research. With the latest wave of the WVS, for example, Vietnam experienced its first representative national survey.

### *Why Use the World Values Survey?*

Canada is one of the countries included in the survey. Studies on globalization beg for cross-national comparisons and change over time as technology and business conspire to bring the world into our backyards. With 246,000 questionnaires distributed through upwards of 60 countries, this is one of the significant surveys that allows an examination of changes in religiosity, democratic beliefs, and fundamental values. In addition, it has maintained a core set of questions that have been carried through twenty years. WVS is usually conducted by established survey teams working with a tried and tested questionnaire allowing for slight adjustments for national circumstances. In Canada,

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Gallup conducts the fieldwork and recognition is given, for example, to our two official languages. As well, models for studying the survey results abound.

## ***What is Available?***

As the fieldwork in each country is completed, the data is sent to the WVS coordinator in Ann Arbor, MI. In return, the principal investigator in each country receives data from the other participating countries. In the past, all of the national files were merged into one large data file before they were made available to ICPSR members. ICPSR has not yet received any public-use files from the fourth wave nor any additional surveys from the third wave. Currently available through [ICPSR](#):

### **2790 *World Values Survey and European Values Surveys, 1981-1984, 1990-1993, and 1995-1997***

A data file amalgamating all three waves, and including variables from the 1981 and 1990 survey that were included in the 1995 survey.

Approximately 60% of the questions in the 1990 questionnaire were replicated in the 1995 survey instrument. For variables from earlier surveys that were not included in the 1995 survey, use ICPSR 9309 and ICPSR 6160. Note that Canada is not included in the 1995 countries surveyed.

### **6160 *World Values Survey, 1981-1984 and 1990-1993***

This data file integrates the results of the first two waves of the survey and, in the ICPSR file, the value labels for nation-specific variables pertain to Canada.

### **9309 *World Values Survey, 1981-1983***

Not all the documentation was captured for this survey. At the time of file preparation for ICPSR, only the original codebook for Great Britain was available, which meant that nation-specific coding (such as the province) was not documented.

## ***What are the Limitations?***

Because the most recent data from ICPSR is the integrated three-wave data file, it is imperative that the user read the documentation to understand how variables are treated. Additionally, documentation for the 1981 data files is not available for some countries. Because of the variation in the sampling procedures used by

different countries, users are advised to use the weight variables for this reason.

**Geography:** the goal was for nationally representative sampling, although this has not been achieved consistently. For example, in 1990, the greater Moscow region was surveyed in addition to Russia; regional surveys were carried out in Spain in 1995 in addition to the national survey and in Chile, the 1995 survey covers the central portion of the country only. Again, it is imperative that the codebooks be used to identify the scope of the coverage.

**Literacy:** Caution should be considered particularly in areas with high illiteracy rates, since that group tends to be under-sampled in the survey. Again, use of the weight variable adjusts the representation somewhat.

## ***Research Based on WVS***

Both ICPSR and the World Values Survey web site <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/> maintain an impressive list of articles on analysis. Typical citations include:

Esmer, Yilmaz. 2002. Is there an Islamic Civilization? *Comparative Sociology*, 1, 3/4:265-298

Inglehart, Ronald, ed. *Culture and Social Change: Findings from the World Values Surveys*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2003

Nevitte, Neil. *The Decline of Deference: Canadian Value Change in Cross-National Perspective*. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 1996.

Moaddel, M. and Azadarmaki, T. 2002. The Worldviews of Islamic Publics: The cases of Egypt, Iran, and Jordan. *Comparative Sociology*, 1, 3/4:299-319

Nevitte, Neil and M. Wohlfeld. 1990. Postindustrial value change and support for native issues. *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, 22, 3:56-88.

Norris, P. and Inglehart, R. 2002. Islamic Culture and Democracy: Testing the 'Clash of Civilization' Thesis. *Comparative Sociology*, 1, 3/4:235-263

## ***When will the next World Values Survey Be Available?***

The anticipated release date for the World Values Survey, Fourth Cycle 2001, public-use microdata file is April 1, 2004.



## Are There Other Cross-National Comparative Surveys?

Yes. Two such endeavours included in the ICPSR collection are the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) and Eurobarometers. Canada is included in the first study, but not in the second.

### *International Social Survey Program*

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) is an ongoing program of cross-national collaboration. Formed in 1983, the group develops topical modules dealing with important areas of social science as supplements to regular national surveys. The 1992 survey dealt with social inequality and included Australia, German (East and West), Great Britain, the United States, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia, New Zealand, Canada and the Philippines.

### *Eurobarometer Series*

In 1974, the Commission of the European Community launched the Eurobarometer series, designed to provide a regular monitoring of the social and political attitudes of the publics of the member nations of the European Communities: France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Greece, Spain, the Former German Democratic Republic, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Austria. Eurobarometer variables can be searched through the Central Archives for Empirical Social Research at the University of Cologne  
<http://www.social-science-geis.de/en/za/index.htm>

## SPSS in the Archer Library

Access to SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software is loaded on the twenty-five machines located in Archer Library, Room 114.1.

For hours of opening, consult the Library web page:  
[http://www.uregina.ca/library/info/lib\\_hours.html](http://www.uregina.ca/library/info/lib_hours.html)

The University of Indiana web site is one source of useful SPSS information:  
<http://www.iub.edu/~statmath/stat/spss/win/index.html>

## ICPSR Summer Program

The Summer Program offers a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in research design, statistics, data analysis, and social methodology. Basic methodological and technical training is offered, along with opportunities for advanced work in specialized areas. The Program also provides active participatory data analytic experiences that complement formal lectures and discussions.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/training/summer/index.html>

For more information or to apply for a bursary, contact Marilyn Andrews.

## Summer Programme in Data Analysis, York University

is a two-week series of intensive courses designed to train social researchers to analyze complex surveys, especially longitudinal and multi-level data.. While the techniques are applicable widely, SPIDA aims to encourage analysis of Statistics Canada's longitudinal surveys. The courses provide the necessary statistical background, but they are strongly oriented to the development of working skills in data analysis. **The deadline for applications is April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

<http://www.math.yorku.ca/SCS/spida/>

## From the University of Wisconsin-Madison...

### **American Catholic Priesthood Survey, 1971.**

The American bishops commissioned the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to conduct this comprehensive study of the Catholic priesthood in the United States and of American priests living abroad. The purpose of this study was to determine what priests at this time saw as the past, present, and future role of the priesthood and the Catholic Church in the United States. 5,000 active priests completed the survey, of whom 1,000 who had recently resigned from their positions, or taken a leave of absence were sent a slightly amended version of the questionnaire. Some of these former priests and priests on leave were also invited to complete a 'Personal Orientation Inventory'.  
<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/catholic/index.html>



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## RECENTLY RELEASED

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**2001 CENSUS DICTIONARY (REVISED)**

**2001 CENSUS TOPICS:**

**CANADA'S WORKFORCE: PAID WORK**  
**CANADA'S WORKFORCE: UNPAID WORK**  
**PLACE OF WORK**  
**COMMUTING TO WORK**  
**LANGUAGE USE AT WORK**

**CANADIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY, CYCLE 1.1**  
**2000-01**

**CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 2002**

**CANADIAN TOBACCO USE MONITORING SURVEY 2002 –**  
**CYCLE 1**

**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY, 2002**

**POSTAL CODE CONVERSION FILE – SEPTEMBER 2002**

**RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE SURVEY, NOV. 2002**

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## COMING SOON

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**EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE SURVEY (EICS)**  
**1997, 1998 & 1999 (WINTER 2003)**

**GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY, CYCLE 15 (SPRING 2003)**

**SURVEY OF FINANCIAL SECURITY (SUMMER 2003)**

**SURVEY OF LABOUR & INCOME DYNAMICS, 1999 & 2000**  
**(MAY 2003, TENTATIVE)**

**SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLD ENERGY USE, 1998 (SPRING 2003)**

**TRAVEL ACTIVITIES & MOTIVATION SURVEY (SPRING '03)**

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## LOST DATA RELEASES

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**YOUTH IN TRANSITION SURVEY 2000 – RDCs**

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Tel: 585-5420

Data Services is located in:

Education/Fine Arts Library, ED208.2

University of Regina.

Hours: Monday to Friday

Appointments recommended.

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