

Appendix



THERE ARE A TOTAL OF SIX DIFFERENT SURVEYS used in this book, a two-wave panel survey of Conservative party members covering the period 1992 to 1994 and two different two-way panels of Labour party members. The first Labour panel covers the period 1989–90 to 1992, and the second covers the period 1997 to 1999. All these surveys used a two-stage systematic random sampling procedure to select the samples from party lists of members. In the case of Labour the sampling frame was the list of party members held in party headquarters. Further details of the questionnaire used in the first Labour panel can be seen in Seyd and Whiteley 1992.

For the Conservatives, membership lists were held at the constituency level at the time of the survey, so a 5 percent random sample of constituency parties was chosen at the first stage, stratified by region. Party agents were then approached in each of these constituencies with the permission of the Conservative central office, and the membership lists were obtained. A one-in-ten sample of individual members was then selected from these lists. Further details of the questionnaire used appear in Whiteley, Seyd, and Richardson 1994.

For the 1989–90 to 1992 Labour panel 480 constituencies were chosen at the first stage, stratified by Labour party regions, and a systematic random sample of one in thirty party members was selected at the second stage. The same procedure was used for the 1997 to 1999 panel, except a random sample of 200 constituencies stratified by region was selected at the first stage.

The surveys were conducted by mail. Initial mailings were sent to sensitize respondents about the survey, which were followed by up to four different mailings of questionnaires and reminders to maximize the response rate. The response rate for the first wave of the 1989–90 to 1992 Labour survey was 62.5 percent, resulting in 5,071 respondents after weighting for nonresponse. The response rate for the second wave survey was 58 percent, giving 2,955 usable questionnaires. In the case of the 1992 to 1994 Conservative panel the response rate for the first wave was 63 percent, giving 2,467 respondents after weighting for nonresponse. The response rate for the second wave of the survey was 65 percent, giving 1,602 usable questionnaires. The 1997 to 1999 Labour panel survey obtained a response rate of 63 percent in the first wave, yielding 5,761 respondents after weighting. One-third of these respondents were selected at random and surveyed in 1999, with a response rate of 69 percent, producing 1,325 usable questionnaires. This procedure was used in the second wave survey purely for cost reasons.

All the surveys were funded by grants from the Economic and Social Research Council, which is not responsible for any of the analysis in this book. The data are logged with the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex (www.data-archive.ac.uk).