

## The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research

The Roper Center is one of the world's leading archives of social science data, specializing in data from surveys of public opinion. The data held by the Roper Center range from the 1930s, when survey research was in its infancy, to the present. Most of the data are from the United States, but over 50 nations are represented.

<http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research was founded in 1947 to preserve data from surveys of public opinion. Elmo Roper and others in the emerging field of survey research recognized that the information they were gathering should be preserved for future generations of scholars, students, and journalists. Since that time, the Roper Center has continued to acquire and archive public opinion data. Its collection now includes **17,000 datasets** and continues to grow by hundreds of datasets per year. In total, it includes responses from millions of individuals on a **vast range of topics**. Since its beginning, the Roper Center has focused on surveys conducted by the news media and commercial polling firms. However, it also holds many academic surveys, including important historical collections from the [National Opinion Research Corporation](#) and Princeton University's Office of Public Opinion Research.

Most of the surveys in the Roper Center are national samples, but there are also some state and local surveys, as well as a number of surveys of special populations of interest. Nearly all of the surveys are based on representative samples drawn according to the best practices of the time. The Roper Center now focuses on data from the United States, but continues to acquire some surveys from other parts of the world, particularly Latin America.

CIDE and Roper Center signed an agreement to establish a partnership to create a shared catalog of Latin American data holdings from both the CIDE and the Roper Center collections, specifically through the exchange of technical and archival expertise, development of standards for metadata development, and coordination of data acquisition efforts.

The Roper Center has a strong presence in the public opinion community and maintains cooperative relationships with other archives around the world. Its [Board of Directors](#) contains representatives from both academic and commercial public opinion research. Data from the Roper Center provide a valuable resource for academic researchers, journalists, students, and the general public. The Roper Center also contributes to education at the [University of Connecticut](#). Although the Roper Center does not offer any degree programs, it works with a wide range of programs—including the departments of Political Science, Sociology, and Statistics and the [Masters in Survey Research Program](#)—in giving employment and research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students.