

February 2012 Winthrop Poll

Results of Winthrop poll taken in South Carolina are in

- **Almost 60 percent think U.S. Headed in wrong direction**
- **Identical number say U.S. Economy getting better, U.S. Economy getting worse**
- **More than 1-in-5 worried about running out of food before they could afford to buy more during the past year**
- **Almost 3-in-4 believes humans contribute to global climate change -- at least to some extent**
- **But almost 50 percent feel stricter environment laws and regs cost too many jobs and hurt economy**
- **Almost 30 percent unable to identify Joe Biden as vice president**
- **Gov. Nikki Haley named most nationally famous living person from SC, beating out other SC pols—and Stephen Colbert**
- **Of those who are familiar with Colbert, almost 25% felt very, or somewhat, favorably towards him**
- **It's a great day in SC—vast majority say they hadn't experienced a great deal of stress or worry day before being polled**

Rock Hill SC... The results of the latest **Winthrop Poll**, of **878 adults living in South Carolina**, taken between **January 29-Feb. 6** are in (no calling was done on Feb. 5, 2012, Super Bowl Sunday). Results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of +/-3.31%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

For additional information on methodology, see conclusion of poll.

Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- When asked, respondents said by an almost 2-to-1 margin (59 to 32.1 percent), they believed the U.S. is headed in the wrong, rather than right, direction.
- Fewer (46 percent) believe that South Carolina is taking the wrong path.
- It's the economy. When asked the most important problem facing the country and SC, respondents primarily zeroed-in on the economy, jobs, and the budget, but politicians/government was named frequently enough to come in fourth—by 8.7 percent citing national problems, and 6.8 percent citing statewide problems.
- The identical number of all respondents (45.8 percent) felt that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse. Independents were almost evenly divided on the subject, as well (46.1 percent saying it is getting better, 45.1 percent saying it is getting worse).
- Of those polled, 83.3 percent say they have Internet access in their homes.
- 47.1 percent feel either very strongly, or somewhat strongly, that stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs.

- When asked to identify who the most nationally famous person from SC alive today, Governor Nikki Haley was named by 11.8 percent, followed by Jim DeMint with 5.8 percent, and Lindsey Graham just behind that with 5.4 percent. Former Governor Mark Sanford edged out Congressman Jim Clyburn, and comedian/actor Stephen Colbert (4.6 and 4.1 percent, respectively). 42.8 percent couldn't think of anyone.
- Of those familiar with Stephen Colbert—who was raised in SC, and frequently mentions the state on his program—and most recently was in the news talking about his Super PAC and forming an exploratory committee to decide whether to run for the President of the United States of South Carolina, 23.5 percent felt very, or somewhat, favorably disposed towards him.
- 21.3 percent worried often or sometimes in the past 12 months, that they would not be able to afford to buy food when it ran out.
- Despite the protracted economic downturn, 58 percent of respondents said they had spent more than two nights away from home on vacation in 2011. But 64.7 percent said they had taken their main vacation outside of South Carolina.
- Governor Haley has asked state employees to answer their phones by saying, "It's a great day in South Carolina." Well, apparently South Carolinians do feel that way. When asked, 66.4 percent say they had not experienced stress during much of the day before they were polled, and 73.7 percent say that during that same period, they hadn't been worrying a lot.
- In a state plagued by obesity and high rates of diabetes, 68.5 percent say they had engaged in somewhat strenuous physical activity during the past month.
- Almost 30 percent (29.3 percent) could not accurately identify who the current vice president—Joe Biden—is. Almost one-quarter (23 percent) couldn't remember who the vice president is; 3.3 percent supplied the incorrect name; and 3 percent named Dick Cheney.

NOTE: The target population of this survey is the adult population of South Carolina. Therefore, it would be an ERROR to compare these results to results from surveys where the target population was registered voters, likely voters, or any other target population.

Thinking about the current path that our nation is taking, do you think our country is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	country is on the right track			
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Right Track	32.1%	65.3%	9.3%	21.1%
Wrong Direction	59.0%	24.9%	85.7%	66.5%
Not Sure	8.1%	9.5%	3.9%	11.9%
Refused	.8%	.4%	1.1%	.5%

Thinking about the current path that South Carolina is taking, do you think our state is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

state is on the right track				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Right Track	35.7%	27.1%	47.1%	39.2%
Wrong Direction	46.0%	61.6%	32.9%	39.2%
Not Sure	18.0%	10.9%	20.0%	20.6%
Refused	.3%	.4%	0.0%	1.0%

What do you think is the most important problem facing the **United States of America** today?

Top four responses given.

problem facing the United States of America			
All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Economy/ Economic- financial crisis	Jobs or unemployment	Economy/ Economic- financial	Economy/ Economic- financial
31.4%	29.3%	34.6%	33.5%
Jobs or unemployment	Economy/ Economic- financial	Budget deficit or Debt	Jobs or unemployment
22.0%	27.9%	17.9%	20.4%
Budget deficit or Debt	Politicians/ government	Jobs or unemployment	Budget deficit or Debt
10.1%	7.5%	16.1%	12.6%
Politicians/ government	Education	Politicians/ government	Politicians/ government
8.7%	6.8%	6.4%	10.5%

What do you think is the most important problem facing the **state of South Carolina**?

Top four responses given.

most important problem facing the state of South Carolina			
All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Jobs or unemployment	Jobs or unemployment	Jobs or unemployment	Jobs or unemployment
36.5%	39.7%	35.4%	37.3%
Economy/ Economic-	Education	Economy/ Economic-	Economy/ Economic-

financial crisis 16.8%	18.8%	financial crisis 18.5%	financial crisis 20.2%
Education 14.1%	Economy/ Economic- financial crisis 12.8%	Education 13.7%	Education 9.8%
Politicians/ government 6.8%	Politicians/ government 7.1%	Budget deficit or Debt 5.9%	Politicians/ government 8.3%

How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

rate the condition of the national economy				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Good	1.6%	2.8%	.4%	.5%
Fairly Good	20.0%	34.4%	7.8%	12.0%
Fairly Bad	42.0%	37.9%	44.1%	51.0%
Very Bad	34.1%	21.4%	46.6%	34.9%
Not Sure	2.1%	3.5%	1.1%	1.6%
Refused	.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the **country as a whole** are getting better or getting worse?

economic conditions in the country as a whole				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Getting Better	45.8%	66.1%	26.8%	46.1%
Getting Worse	45.8%	25.2%	63.9%	45.1%
Not Sure	8.2%	8.7%	9.3%	8.8%
Refused	.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

How would you rate the condition of the economy of **South Carolina** these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

rate the condition of the economy of South Carolina				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Good	2.8%	3.5%	1.4%	2.1%
Fairly Good	35.2%	35.4%	39.3%	26.9%
Fairly Bad	41.5%	37.9%	41.1%	52.8%
Very Bad	15.7%	19.6%	13.9%	10.9%

Not Sure	4.8%	3.5%	4.3%	7.3%
Refused	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in **South Carolina** are getting better or getting worse?

economic conditions in South Carolina				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Getting Better	49.1%	47.0%	52.3%	52.8%
Getting Worse	35.9%	41.1%	33.7%	29.0%
Not Sure	14.6%	11.9%	13.3%	17.6%
Refused	.3%	0.0%	.7%	.5%

How would you rate **your** financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

rate your financial situation				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Excellent	8.1%	7.0%	7.8%	9.8%
Good	40.0%	37.7%	46.6%	35.6%
Only Fair	37.0%	40.8%	33.8%	39.7%
Poor	14.1%	14.4%	11.0%	12.9%
Not Sure	.6%	0.0%	.7%	1.5%
Refused	.2%	0.0%	0.0%	.5%

Right now, do you think that **your** financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

your financial situation as a whole				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Getting Better	51.0%	56.3%	48.4%	48.4%
Getting Worse	30.7%	28.7%	30.8%	29.7%
Not Sure	17.1%	14.7%	19.4%	19.8%
Refused	1.3%	.3%	1.4%	2.1%

OK, now I'd like to ask some different kinds of questions. First, do you have internet access in your home?

internet access in your home	
	All
Yes	83.3%
No	16.6%
Not Sure	0.0%
Refused	.1%

Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion?

Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy OR stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost [Answers Rotated]

[Caller: if they choose one of these options ask, "How strongly do you feel that way, VERY or SOMEWHAT?"]

environmental laws and regulations				
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Strong – Cost Too Many Jobs	26.2%	17.6%	36.6%	23.0%
Somewhat Strong – Cost Too Many Jobs	20.9%	21.8%	20.4%	19.9%
Neither [VOLUNTEERED]	4.4%	4.2%	3.9%	6.8%
Somewhat Strong – Worth the Cost	20.9%	27.8%	17.9%	17.3%
Very Strong – Worth the Cost	20.0%	20.4%	14.3%	25.1%
Don't Know	6.8%	7.7%	6.1%	6.3%
Refused	.7%	.4%	.7%	1.6%

I'd like you to take a moment to think about living South Carolinians who are well known **across the entire** country. Who would you say is the most **NATIONALLY** famous person from South Carolina who is **alive today**? Top responses shown.

environmental laws and regulations	
	All
Nikki Haley	11.8%
Jim DeMint	5.8%
Lindsey Graham	5.4%
Mark Sanford	4.8%
Jim Clyburn	4.6%
Stephen Colbert	4.1%
Don't Know/ Can't Think of Anyone	42.8%
Refused	.6%

I'd like to ask you about comedian, entertainer, and TV personality Stephen Colbert. Would you say that your opinion of Stephen Colbert is favorable, unfavorable, or are you not familiar enough with him to have an opinion?

[Caller: if they say, "favorable" or "unfavorable" ask "very or somewhat?"]

your opinion of Stephen Colbert					
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Under 40
Very Favorable	11.8%	14.1%	7.8%	14.9%	14.0%
Somewhat Favorable	11.7%	8.8%	12.1%	14.9%	13.3%
Somewhat Unfavorable	6.1%	3.2%	9.6%	5.7%	6.2%
Very Unfavorable	7.3%	1.4%	14.2%	8.8%	4.0%
Don't Know Well Enough to Have an Opinion	62.4%	72.5%	56.2%	53.6%	62.0%
Refused	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	.6%

All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your **personal life**?

way things are going in your personal life	
	All
Very Satisfied	53.9%
Somewhat Satisfied	31.0%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	2.2%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	6.1%
Very Dissatisfied	5.4%
Not Sure/ Don't Know	.6%
Refused	.9%

On a different subject, would you say you **ate healthy all day yesterday**?

ate healthy all day yesterday	
	All
Yes	56.0%
No	43.3%
Not Sure	.6%
Refused	.1%

You were worried that food would run out in your household before you were able to afford to buy more. Was that statement often, sometimes, or never true for your household during the past 12 months?

food would run out in your household			
	All	Households without children	Households with children
Often	7.6%	7.8%	7.5%
Sometimes	13.7%	9.9%	20.5%
Never	78.6%	82.1	72.1%
Not Sure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Refused	.1%	.2%	.1%

You felt that you couldn't afford to serve everyone balanced meals in your household because there wasn't enough money. Was that statement often, sometimes, or never true for your household during the past 12 months?

balanced meals in your household			
	All	Households without children	Households with children
Often	7.8%	8.0%	7.4%
Sometimes	15.6%	12.9%	20.6%
Never	76.0%	78.2%	71.9%
Not Sure	.3%	.5%	0.0%
Refused	.2%	.4%	0.0%

Other than visiting friends or relatives for holidays, did you take any vacations for which you spent **more than two nights** away from home in 2011?

more than two nights away from home in 2011	
	All
Yes	58.0%
No	41.6%
Not Sure	.3%
Refused	.1%

I'd like for you to think about what you consider to be your "main," or "big," vacation for 2011. Did you spend this vacation **in** South Carolina or **outside of** South Carolina? [only asked of those who took vacation]

vacation in South Carolina or outside of South Carolina	
	All

In South Carolina	33.7%
Outside South Carolina	64.7%
Not Sure	1.5%
Refused	.2%

Which of the following comes closest to your beliefs?

Global climate change is real and human activity contributes to it greatly

Global climate change is real and human activity contributes to it somewhat

Global climate change is real BUT human activity does NOT contribute to it

Global climate change is not really happening

[Direction in which items read (top to bottom v. bottom to top) rotated]

	closest to your beliefs			
	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Real – Humans Contribute Greatly	31.8%	43.7%	19.2%	30.1%
Real – Humans Contribute Somewhat	40.6%	38.7%	42.3%	46.1%
Real – Humans Do Not Contribute	11.1%	4.6%	16.4%	11.4%
Not Real	10.2%	6.0%	15.3%	9.3%
Don't Know	5.6%	6.0%	6.4%	3.1%
Refused	.7%	1.1%	.4%	0.0%

I'd like for you to imagine your life **today** as a "ladder" with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where "0" represents the worst possible life and "10" represents the best possible life. Which step on the ladder would you say you are presently standing on?

[NOTE: this is the Cantril Ladder Scale (used by Gallup/Healthways Polls) labeled scores are based on this scale]

step on the ladder	
	All
Thriving	67.0%
Struggling	23.6%

Suffering	8.7%
Don't Know	.7%
Refused	.1%

Now I'd like for you to imagine your life as you think it will be **5 years from now** as a "ladder" with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where "0" represents the worst possible life and "10" represents the best possible life. Which step on the ladder do you think you will be standing on **5 years from now**?

[NOTE: this is the Cantril Ladder Scale (used by Gallup/Healthways Polls) labeled scores are based on this scale]

5 years from now step on the ladder	
	All
Thriving	70.1%
Struggling	20.7%
Suffering	4.8%
Don't Know	4.0%
Refused	.5%

I'd like for you to think about yesterday. Would you say that you experienced **stress** during a lot of the day yesterday?

experienced stress during a lot of the day	
	All
Yes	33.3%
No	66.4%
Not Sure	.3%
Refused	.1%

Would you say that you experienced **worry** during a lot of the day yesterday?

experienced worry during a lot of the day	
	All
Yes	25.9%
No	73.7%
Not Sure	.4%
Refused	0.0%

Which comes closer to your opinion:

God made mankind steward and caretaker of the earth OR God gave mankind dominion over the earth [Answers Rotated] ...or do you not believe in God or a universal spirit? [Always Read Last]

God or a universal spirit				
	All	All Christians	Evangelicals	Bible Literal Word of God
Steward	63.3%	67.7%	66.5%	64.2%
Dominion	23.6%	24.9%	27.5%	30.7%
Don't Believe	3.7%	.6%	.2%	4.7%
Don't Know	7.2%	5.5%	5.4%	.4%
Refused	2.2%	1.3%	.4%	0.0%

During the past month, did you participate in any form of strenuous or somewhat strenuous physical exercise? Examples might include running, calisthenics, swimming, weight lifting, yoga for exercise, brisk walking for exercise, or something else.

physical exercise	
	All
Yes	68.5%
No	31.2%
Don't Know/ Can't Remember	.1%
Refused	.2%

Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?

smoked at least 100 cigarettes	
	All
Yes	44.2%
No	55.5%
Don't Know/ Not Sure	.1%
Refused	.2%

Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?

[only asked of those who had smoked 100 cigarettes/ 5 packs in lifetime]

smoke cigarettes every day	
	All
Every Day	14.2
Some Days	6.2

Not at All	23.7
Don't Know/ Not Sure	.2
Never smoked	55.5
Refused	.2

Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

how often do you attend religious services	
	All
More than Once a Week	21.4%
Once a Week	33.9%
Once or Twice a Month	14.7%
Few Times a Year	12.7%
Seldom	8.4%
Never	7.7%
Don't Know/ Refused	1.2%

How important would you say religion is in your own life: Very important, Fairly important, or Not very important?

importance of religion in your own life	
	All
Very Important	70.8%
Fairly Important	18.5%
Not Very Important	9.9%
Don't Know/ Refused	.8%

Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

!!!! [ONLY asked of Protestant Christians] !!!! --So 65.5% of Protestant Christians are Evangelical NOT 65.5% of the entire adult SC population.

describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian	
	Among Protestant Christians

Yes	65.5%
No	29.9%
Not Sure	3.6%
Refused	1.1%

People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, do you pray several times a day, once a day, a few times a week, once a week, a few times a month, seldom, or never?

do you pray	
	All
Several Times a Day	51.5%
Once a Day	21.9%
Few Times a Week	10.8%
Once a Week	1.6%
Few Times a Month	3.2%
Seldom	5.6%
Never	4.0%
Refused	1.3%

We're interested in how well people remember news event for the past. For the next two questions, we want to know if you recall the information from the news. First, do you recall which **year** the September 11th terrorist attacks occurred in?

recall which year the September 11th terrorist attacks occurred	
	All
2001	71.1%
Any Other Year	11.9%
Can't Remember	16.8%
Refused	.2%

Next, can you recall the name of the current Vice President of the United States?

recall the name of the current Vice President	
	All
Joe Biden (or "Biden")	70.7%
Dick Cheney (or "Cheney")	3.0%

Any Other Name	3.3%
Can't Remember	23.0%
Refused	0.0%

How many times did you participate in strenuous or somewhat strenuous exercise in the last month?

[Data broken down by week]

strenuous or somewhat strenuous exercise	
	All
Zero	31.2%
Two or Fewer Times a Week	29.4%
Three to Five Times a Week	25.9%
More than Five Times a Week	11.6%
Don't Know	1.6%
Refused	.3%

Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare or Indian Health Services?

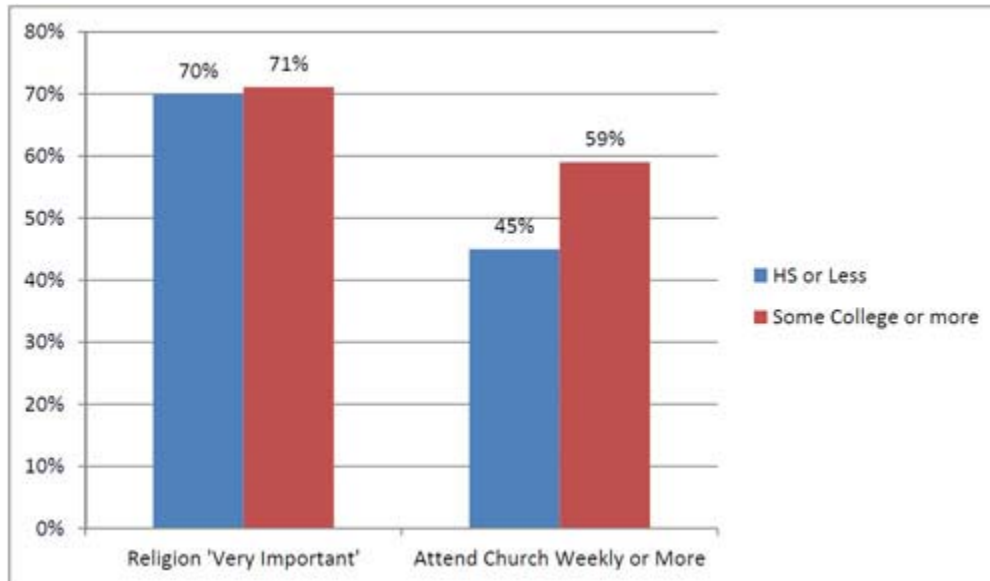
health care coverage	
	All
Yes	85.8%
No	13.2%
Don't Know / Not Sure	.9%
Refused	.1%

[NOTE: according to the 3 year average provided by the Census Bureau, the range of people in SC with insurance is between 81.1% and 83.7% -- within our margin of error]

Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor, but could not because of cost?

needed to see a doctor	
	All
	Under 40k Annual Household Income

Yes	16.6%	31.0%
No	82.9%	68.5%
Don't Know / Not Sure	.3%	.5%
Refused	.2%	0.0%



Methodology:

The survey used (1) Random Digit Dialing (RDD), and (2) wireless phone number sampling.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed five or more times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households.

Additionally, we:

1. Screen the wireless sample for wireless-only status since individuals who have a cell phone and a land line already have an established probability of appearing in the RDD and
2. Weight responses based on sex, age, and race according to the known population of adults in South Carolina.

Methodology Statement

Survey Methodology

February 2012 Winthrop Poll

The February 2012 Winthrop Poll interviewed 878 adults living in South Carolina. Results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of +/- 3.31%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

The survey was in the field from 1/29-2/6, 2012. No calling was done on Feb. 5, 2012 - Super Bowl Sunday. Phone calls were made during weekday evenings, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon and evening. Weekday daytime calls are generally not made to avoid oversampling those who are more likely to be at home during the day (e.g. retirees, stay-at-home-moms, etc.). Conducting weekend calls is important to avoid systematically excluding certain populations (such as those who may work 2nd or 3rd shift during the week).

The survey used (1) Random Digit Dialing (RDD), and (2) wireless phone number sampling. RDD and wireless samples are crucial to ensure no adult in the geographical area of interest is systematically excluded from the sample. Both the RDD sample and the wireless sample were purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI). A further explanation of RDD methodology, with descriptions taken from SSI's website, may be found below.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed five or more times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households.

Additionally, we:

1. Screen the wireless sample for **wireless-only** status since individuals who have a cell phone and a land line already have an established probability of appearing in the RDD. Data from the Centers for Disease Control estimate that between 24.1% and 27.5% of adults in South Carolina are wireless-only. 26.9% of respondents in this Feb. 2012 Winthrop Poll were wireless-only.
2. Weight responses based on sex, age, and race according to the known population of adults in South Carolina.

NOTE: The target population of this survey is the adult population of South Carolina. Therefore, it would be an ERROR to compare these results to results from surveys where the target population was registered voters, likely voters, or any other target population.

Computerized autodialers were not used in order to ensure the survey of wireless phones complied with the Telephone Consumers Protection Act and all FCC rules regarding contacting wireless telephones.

The Winthrop Poll is paid for by Winthrop University with additional support from The West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop University.

**Additional Explanation of RDD Methodology :
(with descriptions taken from SSI website)**

Samples are generated using a database of "working blocks." A block (also known as a 100-bank or a bank) is a set of 100 contiguous numbers identified by the first two digits of the last four digits of a telephone number. For example, in the telephone number 203-567-7200, "72" is the block. A block is termed to be working if some specified number of listed telephone numbers are found in that block.

Samples of random numbers distributed across all eligible blocks in proportion to their density of listed telephone households are selected. All blocks within a county are organized in ascending order by area code, exchange, and block number. Once the quota has been allocated to all counties in the frame, a sampling interval is calculated by summing the number of listed residential numbers in eligible blocks within the county and dividing that sum by the number of sampling points assigned to the county. From a random start between zero and the sampling interval, blocks are systematically selected in proportion to their density of listed households. Once a block has been selected, a two-digit number is systematically selected in the range 00-99 and is appended to the exchange and block to form a 10-digit telephone number.