

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Robert P. Jones, CEO; Daniel Cox, Director of Research

RE: **Methodological Supplement to *Catholic Attitudes on Gay and Lesbian Issues: A Comprehensive Portrait from Recent Research***

This memo is a methodological supplement to PRRI's report, *Catholic Attitudes on Gay and Lesbian Issues: A Comprehensive Portrait from Recent Research*. The report itself contains full documentation for all sources cited, and the methodology contained in this supplement is already available on PRRI's website on the research page for each study. The purpose of this supplement is to gather the existing methodology for all PRRI surveys cited in the report in one place for ease of access. The surveys below are listed in reverse chronological order. The full report, *Catholic Attitudes on Gay and Lesbian Issues*, can be accessed here: <http://www.publicreligion.org/research/?id=509>.

Methodology for PRRI Surveys included in Report

PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey, December 2010

The PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey was designed, conducted, and funded by Public Religion Research Institute. Results of the survey were based on RDD telephone interviews conducted between December 9, 2010 and December 12, 2010 by professional interviewers under the direction of Opinion Research Corporation. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,015 adults 18 years of age or older living in private households in the continental United States.

The final sample was weighted to four different parameters—age, sex, geographic region and race—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the national sample is +/- 3.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=210), the margin of error is +/- 7.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

American Values Survey, Post-election, November 2010

The Post-Election American Values Survey (AVS) was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation, with additional support from the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Results of the Post-Election AVS were based on 1,494 callback interviews with respondents from the Pre-Election AVS telephone survey that was fielded in early September 2010 among a national random sample of 3,013 adults (age 18 and older). For the Post-Election survey, telephone interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish from November 3-7, 2010, by professional interviewers under the direction of Directions in Research.

The final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness. The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The original survey's final weight was used as a first-stage weight to correct for the dual-frame sample design and any disproportionate non-response associated with the original survey. In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2000 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2009 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the Census Bureau's 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample-weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error is +/- 3.0% for the general sample at the 95% confidence interval. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=335), the margin of error is +/- 5.5 points at the 95% level of confidence; for the white Catholic subsample (n=269), the margin of error is +/- 6.0 at the 9% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.

PRRI/RNS Religion News Survey, October 2010

The PRRI/RNS Religion News Survey and the PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey were designed, conducted, and funded by Public Religion Research Institute in collaboration with Religion News Service. Results of the survey were based on RDD telephone interviews conducted between October 14, 2011 and October 17, 2010 by professional interviewers under the direction of Opinion Research Corporation. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,010 adults 18 years of age or older living in private households in the continental United States.

The final sample was weighted to four different parameters—age, sex, geographic region and race—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=185), the margin of error is +/- 7.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

American Values Survey, Pre-election, September 2010

The Pre-election American Values Survey (AVS) was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation, with additional support from the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) telephone interviews conducted between September 1, 2010 and September 14, 2010, by professional interviewers under the direction of Directions in Research. Interviews were conducted by telephone among a random sample of 3,013 adults 18 years of age or older in the continental United States (600 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness.

The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.¹ In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived

¹ Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types.

from Census 2000 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2009 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the Census Bureau's 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample-weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error is +/- 2.0% for the general sample at the 95% confidence interval. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=663), the margin of error is +/- 4.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. For the white Catholic subsample (n=493), the margin of error is +/- 4.5 points at the 95% level of confidence. For the Latino Catholic subsample (n=111), the margin of error is +/- 9.5 points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.

PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey, September 2010

The PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey was designed, conducted, and funded by Public Religion Research Institute. Results of the survey were based on RDD telephone interviews conducted between September 9, 2010 and September 12, 2010 by professional interviewers under the direction of Opinion Research Corporation. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,007 adults age 18 years of age or older living in private households in the continental United States.

The final sample was weighted to four different parameters—age, sex, geographic region and race—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=193), the margin of error is +/- 7.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

California Proposition 8 Survey, July 2010

The California Proposition 8 Survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, with additional support from the Ford Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) telephone interviews conducted between June 14, 2010 and June 30, 2010 by professional interviewers under the direction of Directions in Research. Interviews were conducted by telephone among a random sample of 2,801 adults age 18 years of age or older in California, with additional oversamples of 350 African Americans and 200 Latino Protestants. The final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness.

The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The first stage corrected for the oversampling of the African Americans and Latino Protestants. In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region, and population density. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2000 data. The region parameter was derived from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program data. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the Census Bureau's 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error is +/- 2.0% for the general state sample at the 95% confidence interval. The margins of error for subgroups are larger than the margin of error for the national sample. For the Catholic subsample (n=753), the margin of error is +/- 3.5 points at the 95% level of confidence. For the Latino Catholic subsample (n=420), the margin of error is +/- 5.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. For the white Catholic subsample (n=271), the margin of error is +/- 6.0 points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.