

ICPSR 2808

**International Social Survey  
Program: Role of Government III,  
1996**

Description

Inter-university Consortium for  
Political and Social Research  
P.O. Box 1248  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106  
[www.icpsr.umich.edu](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu)

# Terms of Use

**Bibliographic Citation:** Publications based on ICPSR data collections should acknowledge those sources by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in footnotes or in the reference section of publications. The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

International Social Survey Program (ISSP). INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SURVEY PROGRAM: ROLE OF GOVERNMENT III, 1996 [Computer file]. Cologne, Germany: Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung [producer], 1999. Cologne, Germany: Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung/Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributors], 1999.

**Request for Information on Use of ICPSR Resources:** To provide funding agencies with essential information about use of archival resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about ICPSR participants' research activities, users of ICPSR data are requested to send to ICPSR bibliographic citations for each completed manuscript or thesis abstract. Visit the ICPSR Web site for more information on submitting citations.

**Data Disclaimer:** The original collector of the data, ICPSR, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

**Responsible Use Statement:** In preparing data for public release, ICPSR performs a number of procedures to ensure that the identity of research subjects cannot be disclosed. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information. Therefore, users of data obtained from the ICPSR archive and/or any of its special topic archives agree:

- To use these datasets solely for statistical analysis and reporting of aggregated information, and not for investigation of specific individuals or organizations, except when identification is authorized in writing by ICPSR
- To make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently, and to advise ICPSR of any such discovery
- To produce no links among ICPSR datasets or among ICPSR data and other datasets that could identify individuals or organizations

**Redistribution:** ICPSR data may not be redistributed or sold to other individuals, institutions, or organizations without the written agreement of ICPSR.

## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 2808

Title: International Social Survey Program: Role of Government III, 1996

Principal Investigator(s): International Social Survey Program (ISSP)

Series: International Social Survey Program Series

Bibliographic Citation: International Social Survey Program (ISSP). INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SURVEY PROGRAM: ROLE OF GOVERNMENT III, 1996 [Computer file]. Cologne, Germany: Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung [producer], 1999. Cologne, Germany: Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung/Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributors], 1999.

## **Scope of Study**

Summary: 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. This survey is the third in a series exploring the "role of government" topic. The first survey on this topic was conducted in 1985-1986 (ICPSR 8909) and the second in 1990 (ICPSR 6010). Participating countries in the 1996 survey include Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. Citizens' opinions were elicited on the function of their national governments and on what governments should and should not be doing. Respondents were asked whether they approved of economic policies such as wage and price controls, job creation programs, including public work projects, support for ailing private industries, and the forced reduction in the industrial work week, as well as conservative measures, such as reductions in government spending and business regulations. Government spending was another topic, with respondents questioned as to their support for greater spending on the environment, health care, police and law enforcement, education, military and defense, culture and the arts, old age pensions, unemployment benefits, and housing for the poor. A number of questions dealt with respondents' attitudes regarding democracy, political power, and protest. Respondents were asked for their views on the rule of law when it is in conflict with private conscience, various forms of anti-government protest (public meetings, protest marches and demonstrations, nationwide strikes), whether the right to protest should

be afforded to those who advocate the overthrow of the government by revolution, and the conflict between security needs and privacy rights. Other questions focused on the role of elections in democracies, including whether voters understand political issues, whether elections force governments to confront pressing political issues, whether certain institutions (unions, government, business and industry) have too much power in affecting election results, whether politicians really try to keep their election promises, whether civil servants can be trusted to work in the public's interest, and whether various industries (power companies, hospitals, banks) are better off being run by the private sector or by the government. Opinions were also elicited as to whether government had a legitimate role in the redistribution of wealth in the country, by tax policy or otherwise. Demographic variables include age, sex, education, marital status, personal and family income, employment status, household size and composition, occupation, religion and church attendance, social class, union membership, political party, voting history, and ethnicity.

Subject Term(s): arts, attitudes, budget cuts, defense spending, education, government, government performance, government spending, gun control, health, law enforcement, national economy, public confidence, public opinion, social protest, taxes, unemployment

Geographic Coverage: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United States

Time Period: 1996

Date(s) of Collection: 1996 - 1997

Universe: Persons aged 18 years and older in the nations of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: (1) The data file is in SPSS export format. (2) The codebook is provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet. (3) The data dictionary, bivariate frequencies, and full question text portions of the PDF codebook are also provided in ASCII format. (4) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for

this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, hardcopy documentation has been converted to machine-readable form and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity.

## **Methodology**

Sample:	Varies by nation.
Data Source:	personal interviews, self-enumerated questionnaires, and mailback questionnaires
Extent of Processing:	FREQ.PR/ MDATA.PR

## **Access and Availability**

Extent of Collection:	1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF) + database dictionary
Restrictions:	The data were supplied by the Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung in Cologne, Germany. To provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of archival resources, and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities based on the Zentralarchiv's holdings, users are expected to send two copies of each completed manuscript to the Zentralarchiv. All manuscripts utilizing data made available through the Zentralarchiv should acknowledge that fact.
Data Format:	SPSS export file
Original ICPSR Release:	1999-10-07
Note:	Detailed file-level information (such as LRECL, case count, and variable count) may be found in the file manifest.