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Abstract

The 1986 Election Study response rate was 67.7%, substantially lower than past years. This memo looks at response rates by urbanicity of primary sampling area, for the years 1980-1986 and shows no evidence of a downward trend in response rate either overall or by whether the sampling area as self-representing, a non-self representing SMSA, or rural. 1986 appears to be something of an aberration. Interestingly, the response rate held up best in very urban areas, with big drops coming from both SMSA and rural Primary Areas.