REVIEW QUESTIONS

Based on the first part of this exercise, answer True or False to the following items:

a. Most gun owners oppose gun-control legislation.  T F
b. Only a small minority of Americans belong to an affinity interest group.  T F
c. Organized interest groups exist in only a few countries.  T F
d. The stability of the American political system is aided by the fact that there are no permanent "sides" in political conflict—the coalition for or against something can shift with the particular issue involved.  T F
e. Democratic representatives received a larger proportion of their campaign funds from PACs than Republican representatives did.  T F
f. Representatives who have served more terms received a higher proportion of their campaign funds from PACs.  T F

EXPLORIT QUESTIONS

As indicated before, older people constitute an affinity group. During the 2000 election campaign, both major party candidates made appeals to the elderly on the basis of Social Security issues and medical care issues. However, in the first part of this exercise, we found that contrary to what we might assume, people over 65 were the least likely to think increases in Social Security were needed. Let's now see whether older people were more likely to want the government to help with medical costs.

- Data File: GSS
- Task: Cross-tabulation
- Row Variable: 77) GOV.MED.
- Column Variable: 9) AGE
- View: Table
- Display: Column %
Make sure to read the variable description for GCVMED, and then answer True or False to the following items:

a. People 65 and older were the ones who most favored government help with medical costs.  \[ \text{True (T)} \]

b. Generally, those under retirement age (65) favor government help with medical costs.  \[ \text{False (F)} \]

Let's examine some other affinity groups, starting with the residents of big cities.

**Data File:** GSS  
**Task:** Cross-tabulation  
➤ **Row Variable:** 25) BIG CITY¥  
➤ **Column Variable:** 19) URBAN?  
➤ **View:** Table  
➤ **Display:** Column %

a. The majority of big-city residents think the government is spending too little on the problems of big cities.  \[ \text{False (F)} \]

b. Pretty much everyone thinks too little is being spent on big-city problems, regardless of where they live.  \[ \text{False (F)} \]

3. **African Americans form an affinity group.**

**Data File:** GSS  
**Task:** Cross-tabulation  
➤ **Row Variable:** 27) BLACK$  
➤ **Column Variable:** 7) RACE  
➤ **View:** Table  
➤ **Display:** Column %

Most African Americans think too little is being spent on improving the conditions of Blacks.  \[ \text{True (T)} \]

4. There are various kinds of religious-political groups that constitute both affinity groups (e.g., those who believe in prayer in public schools versus those who don't) and organized groups (the Christian Coalition, People for the American Way, Bread for the World, American Jewish Committee, etc.). Let's see whether views on prayer and Bible reading in the public schools are affected by how religious people consider themselves to be.

**Data File:** GSS  
**Task:** Cross-tabulation  
➤ **Row Variable:** 45) SCH.PRAY  
➤ **Column Variable:** 15) RELPERSON  
➤ **View:** Table  
➤ **Display:** Column %

"Part III: Government and the Individual"
A. People who consider themselves to be very religious are the ones who most support prayer in public schools.  

B. A majority of those who are not at all religious oppose prayer in public schools.

5. Those elected to Congress often represent affinity groups within their district. Let’s look at the racial/ethnic composition of congressional districts.

- **Data File:** HOUSE107  
  - **Task:** Univariate  
  - **Primary Variable:** 16) DIS AFRAM%  
  - **View:** Pie

  a. In 6 percent of the congressional districts, half the population or more is African American.  

  b. In over 50 percent of the congressional districts, less than 6 percent of the population is African American.

- **Data File:** HOUSE107  
  - **Task:** Univariate  
  - **Primary Variable:** 17) DIST HISP%  
  - **View:** Pie

  c. In about 4 percent of the congressional districts, half the population or more is Hispanic.

6. Now let’s see to what extent congresspersons are from the same racial/ethnic groups as their constituents.

- **Data File:** HOUSE107  
  - **Task:** Cross-tabulation  
  - **Row Variable:** 5) RACE/ETHNI  
  - **Column Variable:** 16) DIS AFRAM%  
  - **View:** Table  
  - **Display:** Column %

Copy the second row of the percentaged table. (Just ignore the message about a potential significance problem: this is not actually a problem here since we are using all 435 representatives rather than a sample of representatives.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50 OR +</th>
<th>15%-49.9%</th>
<th>8%-14.9%</th>
<th>0%-5.9%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%AFRICAN-AM</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 11: Interest Groups and PACs
### WORKSHEET

**Data File:** HOUSE107  
**Task:** Cross-tabulation  
**Row Variable:** 5) RACE/ETHNI  
**Column Variable:** 17) DIST HISP%  
**View:** Table  
**Display:** Column %

Copy the third row of the percentaged table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>50% OR+</th>
<th>10%-49.9%</th>
<th>3%-9.9%</th>
<th>UNDER 3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. %HISPANIC</td>
<td>34.2 %</td>
<td>1.1 %</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Circle the number of the statement that best summarizes the results of these two tables.

1. Congresspersons are very likely to share the race or ethnicity of their constituents.
2. The racial and ethnic composition of a district appears to have little effect on the race or ethnicity of the person elected to Congress.
3. Race/ethnicity appears to have an effect in Hispanic districts, but not in African American districts, suggesting that language differences may be more important than racial differences.

In addition to affinity groups, there are organized groups who work to influence public opinion and public officials. Many groups track bills in Congress that affect their constituencies and rate members of Congress based on their support of or opposition to particular bills. Let’s look at one of these ratings. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) rated members of Congress on their votes on several different bills.

Let’s look at the effect of the person’s party on this rating.

**Data File:** HOUSE107  
**Task:** Cross-tabulation  
**Row Variable:** 28) ACLU RATE  
**Column Variable:** 11) PARTY  
**View:** Table  
**Display:** Column %

Copy the third row of the percentaged table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>REPUBLICAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. %HIGH</td>
<td>49.3 %</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. What is the value of V for this table?

\[ V = 2.192^* \]

Yes  No  

b. What is the value of V for this table?

c. Is V statistically significant?
d. Republican and Democratic members of Congress are equally likely to get high ratings from the ACLU.

8. While the ACLU focuses on one area (civil liberties issues), some organized interest groups concern themselves with a broad spectrum of political issues. For example, on the conservative end of the spectrum, the American Conservative Union (ACU) rates members of Congress in terms of a wide variety of issues. Let’s see how the political party affiliations of representatives relate to the ACU ratings.

   Data File: HOUSE107
   Task: Cross-tabulation
   ➤ Row Variable: 29) ACU RATE
   ➤ Column Variable: 11) PARTY
     ➤ View: Table
     ➤ Display: Column %

Make sure to read the variable description for ACU RATE and then answer the following questions.

   a. What is the value of Cramer’s V for this table?  \[ V = .865^{***} \]
     
     Yes  No

   b. Is V statistically significant?
     \[ V = .125^{**} \]
     
     Yes  No

   c. Republican members of Congress are overwhelmingly conservative by the ACU ratings, and Democratic members are overwhelmingly liberal.
     \[ V = .865^{***} \]
     
     T  F

   d. The ACU ratings of representatives tend to be high (conservative) or low (liberal) rather than in between.
     \[ V = .125^{**} \]
     
     T  F

9. Let’s see whether liberals or conservatives have the advantage in attracting PAC money.

   Data File: HOUSE107
   Task: Cross-tabulation
   ➤ Row Variable: 24) %PAC CONTR
   ➤ Column Variable: 29) ACU RATE
     ➤ View: Table
     ➤ Display: Column %

   a. What is the value of Cramer’s V for this table?

   b. Is V statistically significant?

   c. Which group received the highest percentage of its campaign funds from PACs? (Circle one.)

Liberals
Moderates
Conservatives

Exercise 11: Interest Groups and PACs