# 2011 Hamilton College Youth Poll on Poverty and Policy 

## Codebook

Designed and Analyzed by:<br>Paul Hagstrom, Professor of Economics<br>And students in Economics 350 (The Economics of Poverty)<br>Eamanon Anderson<br>Elizabeth Bilharz<br>Lukas Bridenbeck<br>Shelagh Browne<br>Tiago Correia<br>Chiranjeeva Dayananda<br>Philip DiDonato<br>Jonathan Fass<br>Sarah Flisnik<br>Rebekah Gibson<br>Camden Griffith<br>Katrina Keay<br>Alexander Lawson<br>Yazan Sehwail-Ramahi<br>Jacob Taylor<br>Pauline Wafula

## Survey Administered by:

Knowledge Networks

## Supported by Funding from:

## December 2011

Original Survey Questions
Q1 Considering the recent economic situation, would you say that poverty is...

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A serious problem in the United States | 1,370 | 82.93 | 83.13 |
| Not a serious problem | 278 | 16.83 | 16.87 |
| Total | 4 | 0.24 |  |

Q2 What percentage of the US population do you think lives in poverty?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $35 \%$. | 700 | 42.37 | 42.66 |
| $25 \%$. | 499 | 30.21 | 30.41 |
| $15 \%$. | 81 | 21.85 | 22.00 |
| $5 \%$. | 11 | 0.90 | 4.94 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q3 Below what annual income should a family of 4 be considered poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 12,000$ | 295 | 17.86 | 18.06 |
| $\$ 22,000$ | 576 | 34.87 | 35.27 |
| $\$ 32,000$ | 498 | 30.15 | 30.5 |


| $\$ 42,000$ | 264 | 15.98 | 16.17 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Total | 19 | 1.15 |  |

Q4. Do the growing incomes of the wealthiest people in the country negatively affect the quality of life of those with lower incomes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 502 | 30.39 | 30.80 |
| Yes | 1,128 | 68.28 | 69.20 |
| Total | 22 | 1.33 |  |

Q5. Is your financial situation better or worse than it was two years ago?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Better | 437 | 26.45 | 26.68 |
| Worse | 618 | 37.41 | 37.73 |
| The same | 583 | 35.29 | 35.59 |
| Total | 14 | 0.85 |  |

Q6. In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Racism | 326 | 19.73 | 19.99 |
| Poverty | 1,305 | 79.00 | 80.01 |
| Total | 21 | 1.27 |  |

Q6. In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Access to health care | 947 | 57.32 | 58.17 |
| Poverty | 681 | 41.22 | 41.83 |
| . | 24 | 1.45 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q6. In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The threat of terrorism | 522 | 31.60 | 32.24 |
| Poverty | 1,097 | 66.40 | 67.76 |
| Total | 33 | 66.40 |  |

Q6. In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Income inequality | 789 | 47.76 | 48.82 |
| Poverty | 827 | 50.06 | 51.18 |
| Total | 36 | 2.18 |  |
| To62 | 100.00 |  |  |

Q6. In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The budget deficit | 954 | 57.75 | 58.60 |
| Poverty | 674 | 40.80 | 41.40 |
| . | 24 | 1.45 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q7. Please indicate which of the following you consider to be major causes of poverty
a. Drug abuse

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,044 | 63.20 | 64.29 |
| No | 580 | 35.11 | 35.71 |
| Total | 28 | 1.69 |  |

b. Lack of health insurance/ medical bills

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,161 | 70.28 | 71.80 |
| No | 456 | 27.60 | 28.20 |
| Total | 35 | 2.12 |  |

c. Lack of skills

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,043 | 63.14 | 64.42 |
| No | 576 | 34.87 | 35.58 |
| Total | 33 | 2.00 |  |

d. Single-parent families

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,091 | 66.04 | 67.39 |


| No | 528 | 31.96 | 32.61 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\cdot$ | 33 | 2.00 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

e. Lack of available jobs

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,355 | 82.02 | 83.69 |
| No | 264 | 15.98 | 16.31 |
| Total | 33 | 2.00 |  |

$f$. The welfare system

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,028 | 62.23 | 63.81 |
| No | 583 | 35.29 | 36.19 |
| Total | 41 | 2.48 |  |

g. Immigration and immigrants

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 827 | 50.06 | 51.18 |
| No | 789 | 47.76 | 48.82 |
| Total | 36 | 2.18 |  |

h. Lack of willingness to work

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,066 | 64.53 | 65.84 |
| No | 553 | 33.47 | 34.16 |
| . | 33 | 2.00 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

i. Decline in moral values

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 921 | 55.75 | 57.06 |
| No | 693 | 41.95 | 42.94 |
| . | 38 | 2.30 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

j. Poor quality of public schools

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 918 | 55.57 | 56.77 |
| No | 699 | 42.31 | 43.23 |
| Total | 35 | 2.12 |  |

## k. Racism and discrimination

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 684 | 41.40 | 42.35 |
| No | 931 | 56.36 | 57.65 |
| . | 37 | 2.24 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q8. In your opinion, are people more likely to be poor because of bad luck or because of bad choices?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bad luck | 283 | 17.13 | 17.36 |
| Bad choices | 1,347 | 81.54 | 82.64 |
| . | 22 | 1.33 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q9. With which of the following statements do you agree most?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The wealthy have a <br> responsibility to help <br> the poor | 969 | 58.66 | 59.74 |
| The wealthy do not have <br> a responsibility to help <br> the poor | 653 | 39.53 | 40.26 |
| Total | 30 | 1.82 |  |

Q10. In comparison to people with incomes above the poverty line, how much effort do you think that poor people put into their work?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Less effort | 354 | 21.43 | 21.78 |
| Same amount | 775 | 46.91 | 47.69 |
| More effort | 496 | 30.02 | 30.52 |
| Total | 27 | 1.63 |  |

Q11. How many of the poor do you believe have the ability to raise themselves out of poverty?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Most do | 457 | 27.66 | 28.12 |
| Some do | 951 | 57.57 | 58.52 |
| Most do not | 217 | 13.14 | 13.35 |
| Total | 27 | 1.63 |  |
|  | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q12. If the average person you know was to receive $\$ 5,000$ do you think he or she would use the money responsibly?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 702 | 42.49 | 42.23 |
| No | 922 | 55.81 | 56.77 |
| Total | 28 | 1.69 |  |

Q13. If an average poor person was to receive $\$ 5,000$ do you think he or she would use the money responsibly?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 778 | 47.09 | 48.14 |
| No | 838 | 50.73 | 51.86 |
| - | 36 | 2.18 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q14. Do you think poor households manage their money wisely?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 825 | 49.94 | 50.89 |
| No | 796 | 48.18 | 49.11 |
| . | 31 | 1.88 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q15. Current food assistance programs, such as the food stamp program, provide either vouchers or the equivalent of a debit card each month that can be used only to purchase food in grocery stores. Would you favor changing our government food assistance programs to cash transfer programs or would you favor keeping the current system?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Change to cash | 177 | 10.71 | 10.91 |
| Keep current system | 1,446 | 87.53 | 89.09 |
| Total | 29 | 1.76 |  |

Q16a. If you were president, how would you rank the following national issues?
Please select the most important issue from the following.

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Unemployment | 819 | 49.58 | 50.09 |
| Health care | 272 | 16.46 | 16.64 |
| The national debt | 437 | 26.45 | 26.73 |
| National security | 107 | 6.48 | 6.54 |
| Total | 17 | 1.03 |  |

Q16b. Please select the most important issue from the remaining.

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Poverty | 379 | 22.94 | 22.94 |
| Unemployment | 1,046 | 63.32 | 86.26 |
| Income inequality | 214 | 12.95 | 99.21 |
| . | 13 | 0.79 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q18. In your opinion, how effective are government anti-poverty programs?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Effective | 313 | 18.95 | 19.93 |
| Not effective | 1,306 | 79.06 | 80.67 |
| Total | 33 | 2.00 |  |

Q19. What effect do our current anti-poverty programs have on the overall economy?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The hurt the economy | 525 | 31.78 | 32.55 |
| They help the economy | 378 | 22.88 | 23.43 |
| They have no effect | 710 | 42.98 | 44.02 |
| Total | 39 | 2.36 |  |

Q20. Should the government spend more money, less money, or about the same amount of money on antipoverty programs?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| More | 539 | 32.63 | 33.54 |
| Less | 452 | 27.36 | 28.13 |
| About the same | 616 | 37.29 | 38.33 |
| Total | 45 | 2.72 |  |

Q21. In your opinion, which of the following anti-poverty programs is most effective?
Cash assistance for the poor such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
The Unemployment insurance program
Tax-based assistance such as the earned income tax credit
The food stamp program

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cash assistance for the <br> poor such as TANF | 240 | 14.53 | 14.94 |
| The unemployment <br> insurance program | 331 | 20.04 | 20.61 |
| Tax-based assistance <br> such as the earned <br> income tax credit | 319 | 19.31 | 19.86 |
| The food stamp <br> program | 716 | 43.34 | 44.58 |
| Total | 46 | 2.78 |  |

Q22. Do you believe that anti-poverty programs lower the poverty rate?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 588 | 35.59 | 36.50 |
| No | 1,023 | 61.92 | 63.50 |
| . | 41 | 2.48 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q23. Do you believe that most people who receive aid from anti-poverty programs actually need it?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 971 | 58.78 | 60.24 |
| No | 641 | 38.80 | 39.76 |
| Total | 40 | 2.42 |  |

Q24. Do you believe that anti-poverty programs discourage people from working?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,017 | 61.56 | 63.05 |
| No | 596 | 36.08 | 36.95 |
| Total | 39 | 2.36 |  |

Q25. Do you believe that the government is morally obligated to help the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,143 | 69.19 | 70.56 |
| No | 477 | 28.87 | 29.44 |
| Total | 32 | 1.94 |  |

Q26. Would you be in favor of or opposed to:
a. Increasing cash assistance to the poor

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| In favor of | 567 | 34.32 | 35.20 |
| Opposed to | 1,044 | 63.20 | 64.80 |
| . | 41 | 2.48 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

b. Increasing food and housing assistance

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| In favor of | 1,154 | 69.85 | 71.59 |
| Opposed to | 458 | 27.72 | 28.41 |
| Total | 40 | 2.42 |  |

c. Increasing the minimum wage

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| In favor of | 1,248 | 75.54 | 77.76 |
| Opposed to | 357 | 21.61 | 22.24 |
| Total | 47 | 2.85 |  |

d. Increasing tax-based assistance such as the earned income credit

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| In favor of | 1,125 | 68.10 | 70.01 |
| Opposed to | 482 | 29.18 | 29.99 |
| Total | 45 | 2.72 |  |

Q27. How do you believe the government could most help the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Increasing cash assistance | 105 | 6.36 | 6.50 |
| Increasing minimum wage | 516 | 31.23 | 31.93 |
| Increasing earned income | 111 | 6.72 | 6.87 |

credit

| Reducing unemployment | 884 | 53.51 | 54.70 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| . | 36 | 2.18 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q28. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
"Those with high incomes, say $\$ 200,000$ or more (roughly the top $4 \%$ of earners), have a responsibility to aid the poor more than they do now."

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Agree | 904 | 54.72 | 56.01 |
| Disagree | 710 | 42.98 | 43.99 |
| . | 38 | 2.30 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q29. Do you think those with incomes above \$200,000 (roughly the top 4\% of earners) should pay higher taxes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,015 | 61.44 | 62.93 |
| No, should pay about <br> the same as they do now | 506 | 30.63 | 31.37 |
| No, should pay less than <br> they do now | 92 | 5.57 | 5.70 |
| • Total | 39 | 2.36 |  |

Q30. In your opinion, who should pay more in taxes to aid the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The top 4\% of incomes | 564 | 34.14 | 34.97 |
| The top 25\% of incomes | 316 | 19.13 | 19.59 |
| The top 50\% of incomes | 173 | 10.47 | 10.93 |
| All households should <br> pay more | 92 | 5.57 | 5.70 |
| Nobody should pay <br> more | 468 | 28.33 | 29.01 |
| . Total | 39 | 2.36 |  |

Q31. Revenue for government assistance for the poor should come mostly from

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Taxes on wages or labor <br> income | 288 | 17.43 | 17.99 |


| Taxes on investment | 158 | 9.56 | 27.86 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| income |  |  |  |
| Taxes on inheritances | 71 | 4.30 | 32.29 |
| Taxes on corporations | 739 | 44.73 | 46.16 |
| Other | 345 | 20.88 | 21.55 |
| Total | 51 | 3.09 |  |

Q32. If the government decides to reduce its overall spending, what area should be reduced the most?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Defense spending <br> Infrastructure spending like | 886 | 53.63 | 55.24 |
| roads and bridges | 19.13 | 19.70 |  |
| Social security and <br> programs for the elderly | 120 | 7.26 | 7.48 |
| Programs that aid low <br> income families | 282 | 17.07 | 17.58 |
| Total | 48 | 2.91 |  |
| Tore | 1.652 | 100.00 |  |

Q33. Would you be willing to pay more in federal income tax if the purpose was to help the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 632 | 38.26 | 39.43 |
| No | 971 | 58.78 | 60.57 |
| Total | 49 | 2.97 |  |

Q34. What level of education does your most educated parent or guardian have?

|  | Frequency | Percentage | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Some high school | 145 | 8.78 | 9.01 |
| High school | 346 | 20.94 | 21.50 |
| Some college | 306 | 18.52 | 19.02 |
| Associates degree (2 <br> year college) | 180 | 10.90 | 11.19 |
| Bachelor's degree $(4$ <br> year college) | 351 | 21.25 | 21.81 |
| Beyond college <br> (masters, doctorate, etc) | 281 | 17.01 | 17.46 |
| Total | 43 | 2.60 |  |

Q35. Have you lost your job or been unemployed within the past two years?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 641 | 38.80 | 39.49 |
| No | 982 | 59.44 | 60.51 |
| Total | 29 | 1.76 |  |

Q36. How long did it take you to find a job?

|  | Frequency | Percentage | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Less than 3 months | 99 | 5.99 | 15.49 |
| 3-6 months | 99 | 5.99 | 15.49 |
| 6-12 months | 70 | 4.24 | 10.95 |
| Over one year | 66 | 4.00 | 10.33 |
| I'm still unemployed | 305 | 18.46 | 47.73 |
| D | 1,013 | 61.32 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q37. How would you classify your household income?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lower class | 413 | 25.00 | 25.57 |
| Lower middle class | 813 | 49.21 | 50.34 |
| Upper middle class | 378 | 22.88 | 23.41 |
| Upper class | 11 | 0.67 | 0.68 |
| Total | 37 | 2.24 |  |
|  | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q38. Do you intend to vote in the next year's presidential election?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | 1,196 | 72.40 | 73.87 |
| No | 423 | 25.61 | 26.13 |
| . | 33 | 2.00 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Constructed Demographic Variables
Lost Job

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lost job in past 2 years | 982 | 59.44 | 60.51 |
| Not lost job | 641 | 38.80 | 39.49 |
| Total | 29 | 1.76 |  |

Voter

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Nonvoter | 423 | 25.61 | 26.13 |
| Voter | 1,196 | 72.40 | 73.87 |
| Total | 33 | 2.00 |  |
| Tota | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Female

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Male | 839 | 50.79 | 50.79 |
| Female | 813 | 49.21 | 49.21 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Household Head

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Not Head | 850 | 51.45 | 51.45 |
| Head | 802 | 48.55 | 48.55 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Nonwhite

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| White | 1,081 | 65.44 | 65.44 |
| Nonwhite | 571 | 34.56 | 34.56 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Hispanic

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Not Hispanic | 1,367 | 82.75 | 82.75 |
| Hispanic | 285 | 17.25 | 17.25 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Married |  |  | Valid Percent |
|  | Frequency | Percent | 74.46 |
|  | 1,230 | 74.46 | 25.54 |
| Not Married | 422 | 25.54 |  |
| Married | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Education

| Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |


| HS or less | 638 | 38.62 | 38.62 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| College | 1,014 | 61.38 | 61.38 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Education of Parents

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| HS or less | 491 | 29.72 | 30.52 |
| College | 1,118 | 67.68 | 69.48 |
| . | 43 | 2.60 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Age |  |  | Valid Percent |
|  | Frequency | Percent | 51.82 |
| 24 or older | 856 | 51.82 | 48.18 |
| 23 or younger | 796 | 48.18 |  |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Poor

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Not Poor | 1,275 | 77.18 | 77.18 |
| Poor | 377 | 22.82 | 22.82 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Constructed from survey questions. Some are replicates of survey questions above.
Q1 Currently, would you say that poverty is...

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Not serious problem | 278 | 16.83 | 16.83 |
| Serious problem | 1,370 | 82.93 | 99.76 |
| Total | 4 | 0.24 | 100.00 |

Q2 What percentage of the US population do you think lives in poverty?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Less than $35 \%$ | 941 | 56.96 | 56.96 |
| $35 \%$ | 700 | 42.37 | 99.33 |
| Total | 11 | 0.67 | 100.00 |

Q4 Do the growing incomes of the wealthiest people in the country negatively affect the quality of life of those with lower incomes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 502 | 30.39 | 30.39 |
| Yes | 1,128 | 68.28 | 98.67 |
|  | 22 | 1.33 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q5 Is your financial situation better or worse than it was two years ago?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The same or better | 1,020 | 61.74 | 61.74 |
| Worse | 618 | 37.41 | 99.15 |
| Total | 14 | 0.85 | 100.00 |

Q6 In your opinion, which is a bigger problem in the United States?
a. Racism or poverty

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Poverty | 1,305 | 79.00 | 79.00 |
| Racism | 326 | 19.73 | 98.73 |
| Total | 21 | 1.27 | 100.00 |

b. Access to health care or poverty

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Poverty | 681 | 41.22 | 41.22 |
| Health Care | 947 | 57.32 | 98.55 |
| . | 24 | 1.45 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

c. Threat of terrorism or poverty

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Poverty | 1,097 | 66.40 | 66.40 |
| Terrorism | 522 | 31.60 | 98.00 |
| Total | 33 | 2.00 | 100.00 |

d. Income inequality or poverty

| Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |


| Poverty | 827 | 50.06 | 50.06 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Inequality | 789 | 47.76 | 97.82 |
| P | 36 | 2.18 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

e. The budget deficit or poverty

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Poverty | 674 | 40.80 | 40.80 |
| Deficit | 954 | 57.75 | 98.55 |
| - | 24 | 1.45 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q8 In your opinion, are people more likely to be poor because of bad luck or because of bad choices?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bad Choices | 1,347 | 81.54 | 81.54 |
| Bad Luck | 283 | 17.13 | 98.67 |
|  | 22 | 1.33 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q9 With which of the following statements do you agree most?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The wealthy have a <br> responsibility to help <br> the poor | 683 | 41.34 | 41.34 |
| The wealthy do not have <br> a responsibility to help <br> the poor | 969 | 58.66 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q10 In comparison to people with incomes above the poverty line, how much effort do you think that poor people put into their work?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Same or less effort | 1,129 | 68.34 | 68.34 |
| More effort | 496 | 30.02 | 98.37 |
| . | 27 | 1.63 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q11 How many of the poor do you believe have the ability to raise themselves out of poverty?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Most do not or some do | 1,168 | 70.70 | 70.70 |
| Most | 457 | 27.66 | 98.37 |


| . | 27 | 1.63 | 100.00 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q12 If the average person you know was to receive $\$ 5,000$ do you think he or she would use the money responsibly?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 922 | 55.81 | 55.81 |
| Yes | 702 | 42.49 | 98.31 |
|  | 28 | 1.69 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q13 If an average poor person was to receive $\$ 5,000$ do you think he or she would use the money responsibly?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 838 | 50.73 | 50.73 |
| Yes | 778 | 47.09 | 97.82 |
|  | 36 | 2.18 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q14 Do you think poor households manage their money wisely?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 796 | 48.18 | 48.18 |
| Yes | 825 | 49.94 | 98.12 |
| Total | 31 | 1.88 | 100.00 |

Q18 In your opinion, how effective are government anti-poverty programs?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Not effective | 1,306 | 79.06 | 79.06 |
| Effective | 313 | 18.95 | 98.00 |
| . | 33 | 2.00 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q19 What effect do our current anti-poverty programs have on the overall economy?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Don't hurt economy | 1,088 | 65.86 | 65.86 |
| Hurt economy | 525 | 31.78 | 97.64 |
| . | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q20 Should the government spend more money, less money, or about the same amount of money on antipoverty programs?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Spend same or less | 1,068 | 64.65 | 64.65 |
| Spend more | 539 | 32.63 | 97.28 |
| Total | 45 | 2.72 | 100.00 |

Q22 Do you believe that anti-poverty programs lower the poverty rate?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 1,023 | 61.92 | 61.92 |
| Yes | 588 | 35.59 | 97.52 |
|  | 41 | 2.48 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q23 Do you believe that most people who receive aid from anti-poverty programs actually need it?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Don't need | 641 | 38.80 | 38.80 |
| Need | 971 | 58.78 | 97.58 |
| Total | 40 | 2.42 | 100.00 |
|  | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q24 Do you believe that anti-poverty programs discourage people from working?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 596 | 36.08 | 36.08 |
| Yes | 1,017 | 61.56 | 97.64 |
| Total | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |

Q25 Do you believe that the government is morally obligated to help the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 509 | 30.81 | 30.81 |
| Yes | 1,143 | 69.19 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q26a Would you be in favor of increasing cash assistance to the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 1,044 | 63.20 | 63.20 |
| Yes | 567 | 34.32 | 97.52 |
| . | 41 | 2.48 | 100.00 |


| Total 1,652 | 100.00 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Q26b Would you be in favor of increasing food and housing assistance?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 458 | 27.72 | 27.72 |
| Yes | 1,154 | 69.85 | 97.58 |
| Total | 40 | 2.42 | 100.00 |

Q26c Would you be in favor of increasing the minimum wage?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 357 | 21.61 | 21.61 |
| Yes | 1,248 | 75.54 | 97.15 |
|  | 47 | 2.85 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q26d Would you be in favor of increasing tax-based assistance such as the earned income tax credit?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 482 | 29.18 | 29.18 |
| Yes | 1,125 | 68.10 | 97.28 |
|  | 45 | 2.72 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q28 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Those with high incomes, say \$200,000 or more (roughly the top 4\% of earners), have a responsibility to aid the poor more than they do now."

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Disagree | 710 | 42.98 | 42.98 |
| Agree | 904 | 54.72 | 97.70 |
| . | 38 | 2.30 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q29 Do you think those with incomes above \$200,000 (roughly the top 4\% of earners) should pay higher taxes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Should not | 598 | 36.20 | 36.20 |
| Should | 1,015 | 61.44 | 97.64 |
| . | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q30 In your opinion, who should pay more in taxes to aid the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Someone | 1,145 | 69.31 | 69.31 |
| Nobody | 468 | 28.33 | 97.64 |
| Total | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |

Q30 In your opinion, who should pay more in taxes to aid the poor?
The top 4\% of incomes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 1,049 | 63.50 | 63.50 |
| Yes | 564 | 34.14 | 97.64 |
|  | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q30 In your opinion, who should pay more in taxes to aid the poor?
The top $25 \%$ of incomes?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 733 | 44.37 | 44.37 |
| Yes | 880 | 53.27 | 97.64 |
| Total | 39 | 2.36 | 100.00 |

Q31 Revenue for government assistance for the poor should mostly come from
Taxes on corporations

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 913 | 55.27 | 55.27 |
| Yes | 739 | 44.73 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q32 If the government decides to reduce its overall spending, what area should be reduced the most?
Defense

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 766 | 46.37 | 46.37 |
| Yes | 886 | 53.63 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q32 If the government decides to reduce its overall spending, what area should be reduced the most?
Programs that aid low income families

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 1,370 | 82.93 | 82.93 |
| Yes | 282 | 17.07 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

Q33 Would you be willing to pay more in federal income tax if the purpose was to help the poor?

|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | 1,020 | 61.74 | 61.74 |
| Yes | 632 | 38.26 | 100.00 |
| Total | 1,652 | 100.00 |  |

