TAPS
The American Panel Survey

A project of the Weidenbaum Center of Washington University, The American Panel Survey (TAPS) provides one of the best survey research platforms in the social sciences. TAPS makes available a panel of about 2,000 respondents, selected as a national probability sample, for a wide range of social science research.

Design Features
- panel design (with repeated interviews over five years)
- monthly online surveys
- national probability sample
- address-based sample (ABS) frame
- stratified for ethnicity and age
- large set of background variables on panelists
- ability to measure individual-level change
- approximately 2,000 panelists
- streaming audio and video are possible
- graphics may incorporated
- annual schedule of recurring questions

Survey Schedule
- every month: questions in the core time series
- odd-numbered months: long research modules
- even-numbered months: available for funded research modules

Background Data
Demographics and basic economic and political characteristics have been collected on all panelists. These data are available to researchers who place research projects on TAPS.

Core Time Series Data
TAPS includes data on responses to a core set of questions that are asked on a regular basis—monthly, semi-annually, or annually. In some circumstances, these data can be made available to researchers who place research projects on TAPS.

Human Subjects Review
The central features of TAPS have received an exemption from Washington University’s Institutional Review Board for human subjects research. Investigators are responsible for the IRB review process at Washington University or their home institution in advance of gaining approval for their TAPS modules. Essential detail for IRB review is available online at taps.wustl.edu.

Knowledge Networks
Knowledge Networks, a nationally known survey research firm based in California, conducts the survey on behalf of the Weidenbaum Center. The panel is owned by the Weidenbaum Center. Knowledge Networks provides survey and panel maintenance services.

Placing Research Projects on TAPS
Researchers at Washington University and elsewhere may apply to the Center to place projects on TAPS. Guidelines and deadlines for application are available at: taps.wustl.edu. A price list is available upon request.
TAPS Director

Steven S. Smith is the Kate M. Gregg Distinguished Professor of Social Sciences, Professor of Political Science, and the Director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy at Washington University. He is the author or coauthor of several books on congressional politics; coauthors The American Congress, a Cambridge University Press textbook; and coedits a volume on American politics. He has served as a Congressional Fellow of the American Political Science Association and was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

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About the Weidenbaum Center

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, directed by Professor Steven S. Smith, supports cutting-edge social science research and sponsors a wide variety of public policy programs. The Center is named in honor of Murray Weidenbaum, a Washington University economist who served as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Its website is located at http://wc.wustl.edu.

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