Case-based Social Statistics I  
CSSS 321  
Professor: Mark S. Handcock  

Solutions to Laboratory 2  
Due Friday, January 13, 2005  

Problems to be handed in:  

1) If you have not done so already, complete the class survey on the Laboratory home page and submit it electronically from the course webpage.  

Solution(5): There is no correct answer here - Just fill it out, and learn how to submit it!  

2) Submit electronically exercise 1 from Unit A4 of CyberStats. Note that this is just the first exercise (1.) on the Gallup Poll. If you have trouble accessing the Gallup Polls, you can try other agencies (e.g., Roper).  

Solution(5): The question asks you to visit the Gallup Organization’s web site (www.gallup.com) and find a poll of interest to you. You should describe the poll in the context of what you have learned in this Unit. For instance, specify the population of measurements, the sample, etc.  

Your answers will vary based on the poll chosen. Generally (but not always), the sample will be taken using random digit dialing (Unit A2) to get a representative sample of U.S. adults. The population of measurements will be the answers all adults would give to the questions asked, while the sample of measurements will be the responses given by those in the sample.  

Here is a sample answer to the poll:  

Many Americans Wary of War With Iraq, Just as in 1991  
But almost 8 out of 10 believe the United States would win such a war  

A Gallup Poll conducted as a telephone survey in early January (January 3 -5, 2005) asked several questions related to a possible war with Iraq.  

Gallup’s “conceptual” population of interest for this survey was the population of American adults. In reality, the population Gallup sampled from was the population of individuals aged 18 and over living in telephone households in the continental United States.  

Gallup used random digit dialing to sample 1,000 individuals. Based on the responses of these 1,000 sampled individuals, Gallup generated estimates about the opinions of the adult American population with respect to going to war with Iraq. For example, Gallup estimated the percentage of Americans who thought it was “worth going to war.”  

They compared the estimate from this sample to an estimate generated from a different survey conducted in 1991 that asked a similar question to a different sample of individuals. Gallup concluded that more Americans felt it “worth going to war” based on the situation in Iraq in January 1991 compared to January 2005 (71% vs. 53%) This survey compared estimates from a variety of other questions as well.