



Policymaker Survey Methodology

What is a Policymaker Survey?

With funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York and their "Bridging the Gap" initiative, the Teaching, Research and International Policy (TRIP) Project at William & Mary's Global Research Institute has fielded two surveys of senior government officials. The first survey was fielded in 2011, and the second in late 2017 and early 2018.

Building a Sample

To construct our survey pool, we include national security policy officials, international trade officials, and international development policy officials¹. We have collected officials who served during the George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama administrations. We include positions tasked with making, analyzing, and implementing policy. As such, we exclude positions whose primary responsibilities included management, coordination, and/or legal counsel.

Not every department or agency existed for the entire period. We rely primarily on the U.S. Government Manual and the Federal Yellow Book to identify "policy-relevant positions" within each department and agency. We examine each year individually because administrations create, merge, and eliminate various positions from year to year. We include the top officials for each department and agency and then identify positions within lower-level policy-relevant offices.

¹ In 2011 the survey sample only included national security policy officials. The 2017 survey diversified the sample to include not just national security policy officials but also those officials working on international trade and international development policy