ABC News Afghanistan poll – Note on Methodology – 12/7/05

This survey was conducted for ABC News by Charney Research of New York with field work by the Afghan Center for Social and Opinion Research in Kabul. Interviews were conducted in person, in Dari or Pashto, among a random national sample of 1,039 Afghan adults from Oct. 8-18, 2005.

The survey was conducted in 31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, randomly selected with the exception of Zabul, which was excluded for security reasons. Nuristan and Nimroz were not selected in the random sampling procedure. (Zabul accounts for an estimated 1.2 percent of the country's population, Nimroz 0.7 percent and Nuristan 0.5 percent.)

A total of 104 sampling points were distributed proportional to population size in each province, stratified by urban/nonurban status. Sampling points were then distributed to randomly selected districts within provinces, also proportionate to population size; and lastly to randomly selected villages or neighborhoods within those districts, by simple random sampling. Sources for population parameters were United Nations population estimates and population projections from the Afghan Central Statistical Office.

Half the sampling points were designated for male interviews, half for female interviews. Male respondents were interviewed only by male interviewers, female respondents only by female interviewers. Residences were selected within each settlement by random route/random interval and respondents were selected within residence by Kish grid. Ten interviews were conducted in each sampling point.

Interviews were conducted by 102 interviewers in 31 supervised teams. All interviewers were trained and had experience on previous surveys. Twenty-eight percent of interviews were back-checked or monitored by supervisors, with further quality control at ACSOR offices in Kabul.

The survey had a contact rate of 95 percent and a co-operation rate of 96 percent for a total response rate of 91 percent. The impact of clustering on the sample produces an estimated design effect of 1.36, for a total margin of sampling error of 3.5 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.