

Exhibit 5.3 Crosstabs Output for ABINDEX and SEX

abindex Index of Three Abortion Items * sex RESPONDENTS SEX Crosstabulation					
			RESPONDENTS SEX		
			MALE	FEMALE	Total
Index of Three Abortion Items	Strongly in Favor	Count	126	147	273
		% within RESPONDENTS SEX	45.7%	41.8%	43.5%
	Moderately in Favor	Count	85	115	200
		% within RESPONDENTS SEX	30.8%	32.7%	31.8%
	Moderately Opposed	Count	39	50	89
		% within RESPONDENTS SEX	14.1%	14.2%	14.2%
	Strongly Opposed	Count	26	40	66
		% within RESPONDENTS SEX	9.4%	11.4%	10.5%
	Total	Count	276	352	628
		% within RESPONDENTS SEX	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 1.27; $p > .05$; Cramer's $V = .05$.

NOTE: This output has been modified and shortened to conserve space.

It might seem like common sense to suppose that men and women will hold different opinions about abortion, but the bivariate table shows that this is not the case. If you compare the responses for men with those for women (compare the male column with the female column for each row of the table), you will see that the two sexes are nearly identical in their attitudes on this issue. That is, for each row (score on ABINDEX), there is little difference in the percentage of men and women who hold that position.

The value for the significance of chi-square (.747, which is much greater than .05) tells us that the small differences between men and women in the table are trivial and the results of random chance. The conclusion that there is no relationship between SEX and ABINDEX is further reinforced by the small value for Cramer's V (.05). Thus, sex and attitudes on abortion are not related, and sex is not an important cause of abortion attitudes. The reasons attitudes vary on this issue must be sought in an area other than simple biology.

EXERCISE 5.5 TESTING HYPOTHESES ABOUT SUPPORT FOR LEGAL ABORTION

What other factors might shape attitudes about abortion? Use your textbook or other course materials, if relevant, to help you select two potential independent variables and develop hypotheses about the causes of attitudes about abortion. Make sure that variables permitting you to test your ideas are available in the GSS-2006-tabular data set. Some variables you might consider include religious denomination (RELIG) and religiosity (RELITEN or ATTEND). Also, because abortion has been a prominent political issue for decades, difference in attitudes might exist among liberals, moderates, and conservatives (POLVIEWS). What about the effect of level of education (DEGREE) or social class (CLASS)?

After you have developed hypotheses and identified your independent variables, use Command Block 5.5 to produce bivariate tables. Substitute the names of your independent variables for SEX and transfer them both to the Column(s) box. Use the tables to complete Research Report 5.4.