NYT'S SAMPLE VERSUS EARLY VOTE

At this stage in the Presidential race should start to show some herding towards what we're seeing in the early vote. But NYT's last poll suggests NYT was inconsistent in doing so.

This table attempts to compare how many people in NYT's state-by-state samples said they had already voted, as compared to the demographics of those who've actually voted.

State	Reported Early	% of 2020	NYT already	NYT LV	NYT result	NYT 2020 exit	2020 total	Current EV
AZ	43		47	47	Trump 49	48	3333829	2218682
	48	66.55%	44	52	Harris 45	52		
	9							
GA	44		41	44	Trump 47	44	4935487	4013193
	56	81.31%	53	55	Harris 48	56		
MI	45		38	47	Trump 47	46	5453892	2983444
	55	54.70%	42	52	Harris 47	54		
NV	44		44	50	Trump 46	48	1373376	1077441
	45	78.45%	43	49	Harris 49	52		
	11							
NC	44		53	46	Trump 46	44	5443067	4439451
	55	81.56%	51	52	Harris 48	56		
PA	43		19	46	Trump 48	47	6838186	1739606
	56	25.44%	23	53	Harris 48	53		
	43		26	46	Trump 47	50	3241050	1338728
WI	51	41.31%	26	53	Harris 49	50		
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Given Ann Selzer's surprise and the known herding we're seeing from everyone else, I wanted to see how closely NYT's sample matched current voting trends.

The first thing this shows is that only in PA is NYT's sample close to capturing the current number of people who've already voted — but that's likely because it was in the field later than other states (save Michigan), just from October 29 to November 2. By comparison, the Georgia and Nevada polling started on October 24 and Arizona started October 25 — all before Trump's Madison Square Garden event.

Most of Georgians and North Carolinians have voted, but only half of those polled by NYT said they had.

In one state — Georgia — NYT had too few men who've already voted. That suggests their result, showing Harris winning by a point, may undercount Trump supporters.

But then there's MI. To come up with their tied result, NYT first found too few women who had

already voted, both in terms of the total who
have voted, but also in terms of the mix. And
then they said that the likely voter split would
be 52-47, when it'll probably be at least 53-47.

Nevada, which is one of the states I think Trump
is most likely to win, is what puzzles me most
of all. It's has a near-even split on known
gender, plus 11 percent where gender is not
known (likely due to their automatic
registration). From that, NYT comes up with a
near-even split on its already-voted sample, as
if those unknown voters split evenly. Its final
Likely Voter model says *more men* will vote than
women. That's not going to happen. Even still,
it shows Harris winning by 3.

Please let me know of any errors you catch, as
I'm sure I've made a number.

Update: I've added a column showing the NYT's
2020 exit poll on gender. It suggests NYT's
likely voter model for this year is
significantly undercounting women in MI, NV, and
NC (but could hypothetically be overcounting
them in WI).

Legend

In this table, blue is male, pink is female, and
grey is unknown.

Reported Early: The reported early gender split,
from NBC.

% of 2020: The known total early vote compared
to the total vote from 2020.

NYT already: The percentage of each gender in
NYT's sample who say they've already voted.

NYT LV: The gender split in NYT's likely voter
model.

NYT result: The topline results of NYT's poll.

NYT 2020 exit: The gender split in NYT's exit
polls.

2020 total: The total votes cast in 2020.

Current EV: The total early votes cast, from Election Lab's numbers.