

2-94. In the 2004 presidential election, exit polls from the critical state of Ohio provided the following results:

total	Bush, 2004	Kerry, 2004
no college degree (62%)	50%	50%
college graduate (38%)	53%	46%

What is the probability a randomly selected respondent voted for Bush?

We are given a bunch of conditional probabilities of this given that, and we are asked to find the plain ol' probability of something (as opposed to being asked to find a conditional probability of something)

Let B = the event that the randomly selected person voted for Bush
we are looking for $P(B)$, let's use the law of total probability:

$$P(B) = \sum_{j=1}^n P(B|A_j)P(A_j)$$

The entire sample space is partitioned into 2 disjoint (mutually exclusive) groups (i.e., $n=2$):

A_1 = the event the respondent has no college degree

A_2 = the event the respondent has a college degree

$$\begin{aligned} P(B) &= P(B|A_1)P(A_1) + P(B|A_2)P(A_2) \\ &= (0.5)(0.62) + (0.53)(0.38) \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{= 0.5114}$$