APPENDIX 4. Descriptive statistics welfare state attitudes

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Mean | S.D. | Factor-loading | N |
| **Role of the state versus the market** |  |  |  |  |
| Society would be better off if the government intervenes less in the market | 2.87 | 0.88 | .811 | 1373 |
| Businesses should get more freedom. Therefore, regulations for businesses should be reduced | 2.82 | 0.91 | .469 | 1377 |
| **Principle of equality** |  |  |  |  |
| The differences between classes ought to be smaller than they are at present | 3.90 | 0.88 | .673 | 1400 |
| The differences between the high and the low incomes should stay as they are | 2.21 | 0.93 | -.617 | 1397 |
| The government should reduce income differentials | 3.60 | 1.03 | .651 | 1398 |
| **Range of government responsibility** |  |  |  |  |
| Making sure the elderly have a reasonable pension | 8.37 | 1.61 | .748 | 1402 |
| Making sure there is affordable health care for all | 8.78 | 1.38 | .699 | 1402 |
| Making sure that the unemployed have a reasonable standard of living | 6.59 | 2.22 | .459 | 1401 |
| **Distrust in social security** | **2.56** | **0.78** | **/** | **1400** |
| **Benefit overuse** |  |  |  |  |
| That people use their health insurance although they are not sicka | 3.44 | 0.88 | .663 | 1394 |
| That people receive unemployment benefits although they could have a job if they wanteda | 3.79 | 0.85 | .756 | 1387 |
| That people receive a living wage (minimum income) although they are not actually poora | 3.18 | 0.89 | 700 | 1385 |
| **Economic consequences of welfare state** |  |  |  |  |
| The welfare state costs too much money compared with what it yields | 3.03 | 0.95 | .642 | 1373 |
| The tasks of the welfare state are better left to the free market | 2.30 | 0.82 | .486 | 1381 |
| The welfare state costs companies too much and harms our economy | 2.85 | 0.90 | .681 | 1368 |

aAnswer categories of the item are reversed.