Box 10.1 Marginal Effects and Expected Changes in Probability

Although most political researchers like to get a handle on predicted probabilities, as we have just done, there is no agreed-upon format for succinctly summarizing logistic regression results in terms of probabilities. One commonly used approach is to report the so-called full effect of the independent variable on the probability of the dependent variable. The full effect is calculated by subtracting the probability associated with the lowest value of the independent variable from the probability associated with the highest value of the independent variable.

Another way of summarizing a relationship in terms of probabilities is to report the interval of the independent variable that has the biggest impact on the probability of the dependent variable. The largest marginal effect of the independent variable on the probability of the dependent variable is sometimes called the *instantaneous effect.* The effect of a one-unit change in the independent variable on the probability of the