

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
SURVEY OF PARENT REACTION TO SCANDAL
FINAL TOPLINE
Sept 19-23, 1998
N=597

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. [IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]

THE QUESTIONS IN THE REST OF THIS SURVEY ARE ABOUT YOUR (AGE) YEAR OLD (BOY/GIRL). PLEASE THINK ABOUT (HIM/HER) WHEN GIVING YOUR ANSWERS.

Q.22 In general, how often, if ever, do you discuss politics with your (AGE) year old (boy/girl)?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Regularly | 10 | 18 | 29 |
| Sometimes | 29 | 35 | 36 |
| Hardly ever | 33 | 31 | 24 |
| Never | 28 | 16 | 11 |
| DK/Refused | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Number of Interviews:</i> | <i>(201)</i> | <i>(168)</i> | <i>(221)</i> |

Q.23 I am going to read a list of things that have been in the news recently. For each, please tell me how much, if at all, you have talked about it with this child. First, how much have you talked about (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)... a lot, some, not too much, or not at all? What about...

| | | <u>A</u> | | Not too | Not at | DK/ |
|----|---|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | | <u>Lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Much</u> | <u>All</u> | <u>Ref</u> |
| a. | The Clinton-Lewinsky scandal | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 6 | 29 | 19 | 46 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 13 | 38 | 24 | 25 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 29 | 36 | 19 | 16 | 0=100 |
| b. | Campaigns and elections in your area | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 4 | 36 | 22 | 38 | *=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 9 | 26 | 26 | 38 | 1=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 10 | 33 | 29 | 28 | 0=100 |
| c. | Terrorist attacks against Americans at home and abroad | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 12 | 31 | 22 | 35 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 12 | 38 | 24 | 26 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 19 | 44 | 20 | 17 | 0=100 |
| d. | Problems in Russia | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 2 | 14 | 20 | 64 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 2 | 13 | 22 | 63 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 7 | 19 | 26 | 48 | 0=100 |
| e. | Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa breaking Roger Maris' home run record | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 29 | 25 | 10 | 36 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 33 | 23 | 17 | 27 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 28 | 26 | 20 | 26 | 0=100 |
| f. | The shootings that have occurred at school yards across the country | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 30 | 43 | 13 | 14 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 47 | 37 | 9 | 7 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 47 | 40 | 9 | 4 | 0=100 |
| g. | The cloning of sheep and other animals | | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 7 | 25 | 20 | 48 | *=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 6 | 23 | 26 | 45 | 0=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 10 | 25 | 24 | 41 | *=100 |

Q.24 How interested would you say your child is in the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal — very interested, fairly interested, not too interested, or not at all interested?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Very interested | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| Fairly interested | 16 | 19 | 38 |
| Not too interested | 24 | 39 | 30 |
| Not at all interested | 57 | 33 | 22 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

IF “1, 2 OR 3” IN QUESTION 23a, ASK; OTHERWISE, GO TO Q.26 [N=431]:

Q.25 In general, did your conversations about the scandal start because of something your CHILD asked or said, or did YOU usually bring up the subject yourself?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Child asked or said something | 70 | 65 | 45 |
| Respondent brought up subject | 24 | 25 | 47 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>8</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK ALL:

Q.26 I'd like you to think back to when you were your child's age. Thinking about who was President then, do you think you had MORE respect, LESS respect or the same amount of respect for that president than your child has for Bill Clinton?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| More | 50 | 53 | 60 |
| Less | 11 | 6 | 8 |
| Same amount | 33 | 34 | 26 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>6</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.27 Do you think your child has talked about the allegations against President Clinton with (his/her) friends and classmates, hasn't (he/she) talked about it, or don't you know?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Yes, has discussed | 29 | 50 | 65 |
| No, hasn't discussed | 30 | 10 | 6 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>41</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>29</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.28 As far as you know, has this subject been discussed (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>(VOL)</u> <u>Don't Attend</u> | <u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. By teachers at school | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 15 | 41 | 0 | 44=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 28 | 30 | 0 | 42=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 50 | 18 | 0 | 32=100 |
| b. When your child attended Sunday school or religious services | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 15 | 65 | 5 | 15=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 19 | 54 | 6 | 21=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 25 | 49 | 11 | 15=100 |

IF “1, 2 OR 3” IN QUESTION 23a, ASK; OTHERWISE, GO TO Q.30:

Q.29 I'm going to read to you a list of topics that sometimes come up when parents and children talk about the allegations against President Clinton. As I read each one, please tell me if you have talked about it with your (AGE) year old child, or not. First, have you talked about..., or haven't you discussed this? (READ LIST; ROTATE ITEMS a THRU h AS A BLOCK FIRST, then ROTATE ITEMS i thru k AS A BLOCK)

| | <u>Yes, talked</u> <u>About</u> | <u>No,</u> <u>Have not</u> | <u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u> | <u>Have Not</u> <u>Discussed</u> <u>Scandal</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| a. Whether Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 17 | 36 | 1 | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 40 | 34 | 0 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 58 | 26 | * | 16=100 |
| b. Whether Clinton lied | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 43 | 11 | 0 | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 57 | 17 | 0 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 71 | 13 | * | 16=100 |
| c. Clinton's apology | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 29 | 24 | 1 | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 44 | 27 | 3 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 58 | 24 | 2 | 16=100 |
| d. The way the impeachment process works | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 14 | 40 | 0 | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 23 | 51 | 0 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 30 | 54 | 0 | 16=100 |
| e. Morals and values in general | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 51 | 3 | 0 | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 68 | 6 | 0 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 79 | 5 | 0 | 16=100 |
| f. Whether Clinton should be punished | | | | |
| Child: 8-10 | 31 | 23 | * | 46=100 |
| Child: 11-13 | 44 | 30 | 0 | 26=100 |
| Child: 14-17 | 67 | 17 | 0 | 16=100 |

Q.29 CONTINUED ...

| | | Yes, talked <u>About</u> | No, <u>Have not</u> | DK/ <u>Ref</u> | Have Not Discussed <u>Scandal</u> |
|----|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| g. | Whether Clinton should be forgiven | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 31 | 23 | 0 | 46=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 43 | 31 | * | 26=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 56 | 28 | * | 16=100 |
| h. | Sex in general | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 33 | 21 | 0 | 46=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 58 | 16 | 0 | 26=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 72 | 12 | 0 | 16=100 |
| i. | Your own views about President Clinton | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 45 | 9 | 0 | 46=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 63 | 11 | 0 | 26=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 74 | 10 | 0 | 16=100 |
| j. | Your own views about Monica Lewinsky | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 22 | 32 | 0 | 46=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 38 | 35 | 1 | 26=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 55 | 29 | 0 | 16=100 |
| k. | Your own views about Kenneth Starr | | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 21 | 33 | 0 | 46=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 34 | 40 | 0 | 26=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 45 | 38 | 1 | 16=100 |

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Since the allegations against President Clinton first appeared in the news, are you having more conversations about politics with this child, fewer conversations about politics with this child, or about the same amount of conversations about politics with this child?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| More | 22 | 33 | 43 |
| Fewer | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Stayed the same | 70 | 64 | 53 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>3</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.31 Where do you think your child is getting MOST of her/his information about this issue — from talking to you, talking to friends, watching television news, reading the newspaper, or going online to the Internet?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Talking with parent | 25 | 22 | 17 |
| Talking with friends | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| Watching TV news | 55 | 65 | 58 |
| Reading the newspaper | 1 | * | 5 |
| Internet | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Other (VOL) | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.32 Do you happen to know if your child watched Clinton's televised address following his grand jury testimony on television, didn't (he/she) see it, or don't you know?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Yes, watched | 10 | 13 | 21 |
| No, didn't watch | 76 | 67 | 52 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>14</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>27</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.33 Do you happen to know if your child has read any part of the ACTUAL report by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr regarding President Clinton, hasn't (he/she) read any part, or don't you know?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Yes, read it | 3 | 6 | 21 |
| No, didn't read it | 87 | 74 | 48 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>10</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>31</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK QUESTION 34 AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 ONLY [N=331]:

Q.34 Do you happen to know if your child has seen any part of the videotapes of Clinton's grand jury testimony on television, hasn't (he/she) seen it, or don't you know?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Yes, watched | 16 | 17 | 30 |
| No, didn't watch | 69 | 58 | 37 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>15</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>33</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.35 In your opinion, who do you think is more upset by these allegations — you, your child, or don't you think that either one of you is very upset?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Myself | 65 | 58 | 53 |
| My child | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Both equally (VOL) | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| Neither | 32 | 36 | 31 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>*</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.36 Each child might react differently to the charges against President Clinton. As I read from a list of possible reactions, please tell me if, in your opinion, your child has reacted this way, or not. (First), do you think that hearing about this issue has made your child... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE) or not?

| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/ Ref</u> |
|----|---|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| a. | Curious to learn more about the story | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 33 | 66 | 1=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 44 | 51 | 5=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 41 | 53 | 6=100 |
| b. | Confused by the story | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 44 | 54 | 2=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 36 | 62 | 2=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 24 | 73 | 3=100 |
| c. | Disturbed | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 18 | 82 | *=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 13 | 84 | 3=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 21 | 74 | 5=100 |
| d. | Amused | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 11 | 87 | 2=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 29 | 69 | 2=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 34 | 61 | 5=100 |
| e. | Less respectful of politicians | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 29 | 65 | 6=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 42 | 53 | 5=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 51 | 42 | 7=100 |
| f. | Interested in what will happen to President Clinton | | | |
| | Child: 8-10 | 50 | 49 | 1=100 |
| | Child: 11-13 | 60 | 37 | 3=100 |
| | Child: 14-17 | 69 | 27 | 4=100 |

Q.37 Since the release of the Starr report, have you been any more careful about your child watching television news, or hasn't this affected what television news you let (him/her) see?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| More careful | 38 | 30 | 13 |
| No effect | 57 | 68 | 86 |
| Don't allow them to watch TV news (VOL) | 5 | 2 | * |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>*</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.38 Does your child have access to the World Wide Web or the Internet?

IF YES ("1") IN Q.38 ASK:

Q.39 Since the release of the Starr report, have you been any more careful about allowing your child to go on the Internet, OR hasn't this affected how much you let (him/her) go online?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Yes, child has access | 38 | 50 | 65 |
| More careful | 7 | 12 | 7 |
| No effect | 31 | 36 | 58 |
| Don't know/Refused | * | 2 | 0 |
| No access | 61 | 49 | 33 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK ALL:

Q.40 Do you think that learning about this issue will help or harm your child's interest in politics, or don't you think it will make much of a difference?

| | ----- Age of Child ----- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Help | 17 | 21 | 30 |
| Harm | 30 | 25 | 17 |
| Not much difference | 49 | 52 | 51 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>4</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.41 Do you think that learning about this issue will help or harm your child's view of government, or don't you think it will make much of a difference?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Help | 9 | 15 | 20 |
| Harm | 42 | 36 | 28 |
| Not much difference | 46 | 48 | 49 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.42 Do you think that learning about this issue will help or harm your child's moral development or don't you think it will make much of a difference?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Help | 17 | 20 | 22 |
| Harm | 20 | 14 | 5 |
| Not much difference | 61 | 64 | 70 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK FORM 1:

Q.43a If the investigation into the Clinton-Lewinsky matter continues, what do you think would be the best lesson for your child? — if Clinton is impeached and removed from office, if Clinton is formally reprimanded or censured, but not removed from office, OR if no formal action is taken against Clinton?

ASK FORM 2:

Q.43b If the investigation into the Clinton-Lewinsky matter continues, what do you think would be the best lesson for your child — if no formal action is taken against Clinton, if Clinton is formally reprimanded or censured, but not removed from office, OR if Clinton is impeached and removed from office?

| | ----- <i>Age of Child</i> ----- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>8-10</u> | <u>11-13</u> | <u>14-17</u> |
| Impeach | 37 | 35 | 38 |
| Reprimand/Censure | 39 | 45 | 34 |
| No formal action | 14 | 13 | 17 |
| Don't know/Refused | <u>10</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>11</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |