

Hamilton College Sustainability Youth Poll
Sustainability Program at the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

Survey Methodology

National Survey of High school students 11/05/06 thru 11/15/06

This is a telephone survey of high school students, classes of 2007, 2008, 2009 conducted by Zogby International. The target sample is 900 interviews with approximately 49 questions asked. Samples are randomly drawn from purchased telephone lists of high school students. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies[1] and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.[2] The margin of error is +/- 3.3 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Zogby International's sampling and weighting procedures also have been validated through its political polling: more than 95% of the firm's polls have come within 1% of actual election-day outcomes.

[1] See COOP4 (p.38) in Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys. The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2000).

[2] Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).

Variable Labels

q0 'Region'

/q1 "1. What year are you in school?"

/q2 "2. Is your high school public, private, or a religious school?"

/q3 "3. Approximately, how big is your high school?"

/q4 "4. These are some environmental issues and problems people talk about. Which of these problems do you think is the most serious?"

/q5 "5. How often do you discuss environmental issues and problems with your friends?"

/q6 "6. How often do you discuss environmental issues and problems with your family?"

/Q7 "7. How often do you discuss environmental issues and problems in school?"

/q8 "8. Level of agreement - Humans have the right to modify the natural environment"

/Q9 "9. Level of agreement - The earth is like a spaceship with only limited room and resources"

/Q10 "10. Level of agreement - Technology will ensure that we do NOT make the earth unlivable"

/q11 "11. Mankind is severely abusing the environment."

/q12 "12. Level of agreement - We must consider the impact that our actions will have for the welfare of future generations"

/q13 "13. We must consider the impact that our actions will have for the well-being of people living in other countries."

/Q14 "14. How much attention have you paid to the issue of global climate change?"

/q15 "15. How much do you feel you know about the issue of climate change? Would you say you know..."

/q16 "16. From which of these sources have you learned the most about global climate change?"

/q17 "17. Among the ways that you have learned about global climate change in school, which one way taught you the most?"

/q18 "18. Do most scientists expect the number of floods to..."

/q19 "19. Do most scientists expect temperatures to..."

/q20 "20. Do most scientists expect the number of droughts to..."

/q21 "21. Do most scientists expect ocean levels to..."

/q22 "22. Do scientists believe disposal of toxic chemicals in landfills cause global temperatures to rise?"

/q23 "23. Do scientists believe exhaust from cars and trucks cause global temperatures to rise?"

/q24 "24. Do scientists believe radiation from nuclear power plants cause global temperatures to rise?"

/q25 "25. Do scientists believe coal-powered electricity plants cause global temperatures to rise?"

/q26 "26. To the best of your knowledge, how much do scientists think the average global temperature will increase over the next 50 to 70 years? Is it..."

/q27 "27. In your opinion, how likely is it that climate change will affect you personally in the future? "

/q28 "28. Do you think the US should start reducing its production of greenhouse gasses now or do you think the US should wait until there is more scientific evidence about the future benefits of reducing greenhouse gasses?"

/q29 "29. How important is it that the United States reduces its production of greenhouse gasses even if this results in higher prices for energy and gasoline?"

/q30 "30. How likely is it that a candidate's position about climate change will strongly influence your vote the first time you vote?"

/q31 "31. In the last year, have you participated in community affairs or voluntary activities?"

/q32 "32. By any chance, have you yourself joined a group or club at school where people can work with each other to help do things for the environment?"

/q33 "33. How often do you, on your own, do the following? - Return bottles or cans to a store or recycling center"

/q34 "34. How often do you, on your own, do the following? - Sort trash to recycle things like newspapers, cans, glass bottles, etc."

/q35 "35. How often do you, on your own, do the following? - Don't waste water, for example, turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth"

/q36 "36. How often do you, on your own, do the following? - Cut down on the amount of trash and garbage you make"

/q37 "37. Zipcode"

/q904 "Ethnicity"

/q38 "38. Is English the language you and your family usually speak at home?"

/q39 "39. How many people live in your household, including yourself?"

/q40 "40. Do you live with..."

/q41 "Education of Father"

/q42 "Education of Mother"

/q43 "Importance of religion"

/q44 "Religion"

/q45 "Interest in politics"

/q46 "Party"

/q47 "Time watching TV"

/q48 "Time on Internet"

/q922 "Gender".

Coding

/q0

1 'Northeast'

2 'South'

3 'Central Gr Lakes'

4 'West'

/q1

1 'Sophomore'

2 'Junior'

3 'Senior'

4 'Other/NS/RF'

/q2

1 'Public'

2 'Private'

3 'Private, Religious'

4 'Other'

5 'NS'

/q3

1 'Under 500 students'

2 '500-1,000 students'

3 '1,000-2,000 students'

4 'Over 2,000 students'

5 'NS'

/q4

1 'Air pollution or smog'

2 'Pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams'

3 'Climate change'

4 'Pollution from toxic or hazardous dump site'

5 'Not enough energy, oil, electricity, etc.'

6 'Other/None/NS'

/q5 to q7 q33 to q36

1 'Frequently'

2 'Occasionally'

3 'Never'

4 'NS'

/q8 to q13

1 'Strongly Agree'

2 'Mildly Agree'

3 'Mildly Disagree'

4 'Strongly Disagree'

5 'NS'

/q14

1 '1. No attention'

2 '2'

3 '3'

4 '4'

5 '5'

6 '6'

7 '7'

8 '8'

9 '9'

10 '10. Close and constant attention'

11 'NS'

/q15

1 'A lot'

2 'A fair amount'

3 'A little'

4 'Practically nothing'

5 'NS'

/q16

1 'From your family'

2 'In school'

3 'From TV news'

4 'From other TV shows or movies'

5 'From radio, newspapers, or magazines'

6 'From the Internet'

7 'None/NS'

/q17

1 'Regular science class.'

2 'Geography class.'

3 'Special class on natural environment.'

4 'English or Social Studies.'

5 'Park or museum.'

6 'Expert or group talk about climate change.'

7 'None of these'

8 'NS'

/q18 to q21

1 'Stay the same'

2 'Increase'

3 'Decrease'

4 'NS'

/q22 to q25 q31 q32 q38

1 'Yes'

2 'No'

3 'NS'

/q26

1 'Zero to one degree F'

2 'Two to five degrees F'

3 'Six to nine degrees F'

4 'Ten or more degrees F'

5 'NS'

/q27 q30

1 'Very likely'

2 'Somewhat likely'

3 'Somewhat unlikely'

4 'Very unlikely'

5 'NS'

/q28

1 'The US should start now'

2 'The US should wait'

3 'NS'

/q29

1 '1. Not at all important'

2 '2'

3 '3'

4 '4'

5 '5'

6 '6'

7 '7'

8 '8'

9 '9'

10 '10. Extremely important'

11 'NS'

/q904

1 'White'

2 'Black'

3 'Hispanic'

4 'Asian'

5 'Other'

6 'NS/RF'

/q40

1 'Both parents'

2 'Mother'

3 'Mother/Stepfather'

4 'Father'

5 'Father/Stepmother'

6 'Neither parent'

7 'NS/RF'

/q41 q42

1 '<HS'

2 'High school'

3 'Some college'

4 'College graduate'

5 'Post-grad'

6 'NS/RF'

/q43

1 'Very important'

2 'Rather important'

3 'Not very important'

4 'Not at all important'

5 'NS/RF'

/q44

1 'Protestant'

2 'Catholic'

3 'Jewish'

4 'Muslim'

5 'Other'

6 'No religion'

7 'NS/RF'

/q45

1 'Very interested'

2 'Somewhat interested'

3 'Not very interested'

4 'Not at all interested'

5 'NS/RF'

/q46

1 'Democrats'

2 'Republicans'

3 'Neither'

4 'NS/RF'

/q47

1 '1-2 hrs'

2 '2-3 hrs'

3 '3-4 hrs'

4 '4-5 hrs'

5 '>5 hrs'

6 'NoTV'

7 'NS/RF'

/q48

1 '1-2 hrs'

2 '2-3 hrs'

3 '3-4 hrs'

4 '4-5 hrs'

5 '>5 hrs'

6 'No Internet'

7 'NS/RF'

/q922

1 'Male'

2 'Female'.