

HAMILTON COLLEGE NATIONAL YOUTH POLLS

HOT BUTTON ISSUES POLL: GUNS, GAYS AND ABORTION

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THE HAMILTON COLLEGE HOT BUTTON ISSUES POLL

The seventh in a series of national youth opinion polls conducted by Hamilton College students and faculty

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The Hamilton College Hot Button Issues Poll *Executive Summary*

Most high school seniors regard abortion as morally wrong and would severely limit a woman's right to choose, according to a just-completed national poll carried out by researchers at Hamilton College. Also, members of the high school class of 2006 are twice as likely as adults to support legal recognition of gay marriages. The poll on "hot button" political issues also found that support for strong handgun control measures is almost universal among high school seniors. Though liberal on gay and gun issues, this year's high school graduates are conservative on the issues surrounding abortion.

Hamilton Sociology Professor Dennis Gilbert and his students collaborated with the polling firm Zogby International to conduct the national Hot Button Issues Poll. High school seniors were selected for this seventh in the Hamilton Youth Poll series as representatives of a rising generation of Americans and potential voters in November 2006. One thousand high school seniors from across the U.S. were contacted by phone for the study. The poll was funded by Hamilton's Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percent.

Other significant findings from the poll include the following:

- * Three-quarters of this year's high school seniors favor legal recognition of same-sex relationships, either as marriage or civil union.
- * One in four seniors support a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.
- * Over 60 percent of seniors want the Supreme Court to preserve the Roe v. Wade abortion decision.
- * The majority of seniors do not believe that a woman who is poor and unable to afford another child should have a legal right to an abortion.
- * Two thirds of high school seniors would require parental consent before a woman under the age of 18 could legally obtain an abortion.
- * 70 percent of females in the class of 2006 say they would not consider abortion if they became pregnant while in high school.
- * 35 percent of seniors say they know of someone at their school who has been shot or threatened with a gun.
- * About 90 percent of high school seniors would impose a 5-day waiting period and mandatory registration on purchasers of handguns.

THE HAMILTON COLLEGE HOT BUTTON ISSUES POLL: AN ANALYSIS

By Dennis Gilbert
Professor of Sociology, Hamilton College

The Hamilton College Hot Button Issues Poll explored the opinions of this year's high school graduating class on guns, gays and abortion. We selected high school seniors for this seventh in the Hamilton Youth Poll series as representatives of a rising generation of Americans and potential voters in November 2006. One thousand seniors were contacted for the survey, designed by Hamilton researchers and conducted in collaboration with the polling firm Zogby International. (Additional methodological details are provided at the end of this analysis).

The Hamilton Hot Button Issues Poll revealed that members of the high school class of 2006 are twice as likely as adults to support legal recognition of gay marriage. Three quarters of this year's graduates favor recognition of same-sex marriages or civil unions. The poll also found that support for strong handgun control measures is almost universal among high school seniors. Though liberal on gay and gun issues, this year's high school graduates are remarkably conservative on the issues surrounding abortion. We found that most high school seniors regard abortion as morally wrong and would significantly limit a woman's right to choose.

ABORTION

The conservatism of the class of 2006 on abortion was the major surprise in the poll, since previous Hamilton Youth Polls had shown that high school students are typically liberal on public issues. When they answered our most general questions on the issue, high school seniors appeared supportive of abortion rights. Sixty-two percent of seniors told us that they want the Supreme Court to preserve the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision guaranteeing a woman's right to abortion. About half described themselves as "pro-choice" and said they believe that abortion should be legal in "all" or "most" cases. But their answers to more detailed questions reveal that the great majority of seniors would significantly restrict access to abortion. For example, two thirds of high school seniors would require parental permission before a woman under the age of 18 could legally obtain an abortion.

We asked the seniors whether they thought a woman should have a legal right to an abortion in the six specific circumstances listed in Table 1 – all of them constitutionally protected under current law. We found strong support for the right to abortion when a pregnancy represented a serious threat to the woman's health or resulted from rape. But the majority of high school seniors did not support the right to abortion in any of the other four, fairly common circumstances. Fewer than one in five seniors recognized the right to abortion in all six. (*See Appendix for question wording and more detailed statistics.*)

Table 1. Support for Right to Abortion

<i>Circumstance</i>	<i>Percent Supporting Right to Abortion</i>
Pregnancy serious threat to woman's health	88.9
Pregnancy result of rape	80.9
Woman under 18 and unmarried	49.2
Baby will probably have serious birth defect	48.2
Family poor, cannot afford more children	39.8
Woman married, doesn't want more children	28.5

Answers to other questions in the poll suggest that these opinions about the legal issues surrounding abortion are influenced by strong pro-life sentiments. Two thirds of the seniors told us they believe abortion is always or usually “morally wrong.” Asked whether a high school senior who becomes pregnant should keep the baby, give it up for adoption or have an abortion, 26 percent suggested the first and 54 percent the second alternative. Only 13 percent proposed abortion. An open-ended question on this same topic in a preliminary pilot poll elicited similar responses. In rejecting the abortion option, many students stressed the girl’s moral responsibility. “She took the chance of having sex,” noted one. “She made a decision and needs to live with it,” insisted another. But none of the students referred to her male partner’s moral responsibility.

Many high school students are not strangers to this issue. Half the females and 36 percent of the males polled say they know someone who has had an abortion. We asked females whether they would “consider” abortion if they became pregnant in high school and males whether they would want their partner to do so. The response from 70 percent of females and 67 percent of males was “No.” However, the relatively high proportions of seniors who know someone who has had an abortion suggests they might themselves be more open to it if faced with a real decision about their own lives and futures. But being compelled to consider abortion would obviously be painful for most high school seniors.

GAY ISSUES

In contrast to their views on abortion, the great majority of the high school class of 2006 holds liberal, pro-gay opinions. Eighty percent think the law should protect gays against job discrimination. Regarding the issue that has roiled courts and legislatures in recent years, three-quarters of seniors support some form of legal recognition for gay relationships (Table 2). More than half would recognize same-sex marriages. An additional 20 percent would permit gay couples to form “civil unions giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as inheritance, health insurance, pension coverage and hospital visiting privileges.” Nearly two-thirds of seniors told us that same-sex couples should be allowed to adopt children. Support for a

constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage is predictably thin among high school seniors. (*Question wording and more detailed statistics are presented in the Appendix*).

Members of the class of 2006 were similarly pro-gay in their responses to a series of items designed to measure positive and negative attitudes toward gay men and lesbians. Almost eighty percent thought gay people should be “accepted by society.” Seventy percent agreed with the statement, “Gay people contribute in unique and positive ways to society.” (See Table 3). Measured by an index of attitudes toward gays averaging responses to these items, 70 percent of high school seniors are “pro-gay,” including 22 percent who can be considered “very pro-gay.”

Table 2. Opinion on Gay Issues

	<i>Percent</i>
Support gay marriage	53.6
Support civil unions	20.1
Oppose both	24.6
Support amendment to constitution banning gay marriage.	25.8
Support adoption by same sex couples.	63.0

Table 3. Attitudes Toward Gays

*Percent
Pro-Gay*

- 70.9 Gay people contribute in unique and important ways to society
- 79.7 Lesbian women should be accepted by society.
- 77.7 Gay men should be accepted by society.
- 52.1 It would be better if gay people kept their sexual orientation hidden.
- 59.6 Gay lifestyles are morally wrong (% disagree)
- 71.9 Lesbians are disgusting (% disagree)
- 65.9 Gay men are disgusting (% disagree)

Approximately 20 percent of high school seniors are staunchly anti-gay – that is, they reject both gay marriage and civil unions and hold negative attitudes toward gays, as measured by our index. Over 80 percent of anti-gay seniors believe that “homosexual relations between consenting adults” should be illegal and regard gay people as “disgusting.” Both attitudes are rare among seniors, outside this anti-gay minority. Many of our respondents

thought the very notion of labeling gays “disgusting” was laughable. Anti-gay seniors are typically observant and born-again Christians, who view homosexuality as a moral or religious issue.

This poll is the second in the Hamilton Youth Poll series to measure the attitudes of high school seniors toward gays and gay issues. The more detailed Hamilton Gay Issues Poll was conducted in 2001. Comparison of the two polls does not suggest significant changes in attitudes.¹

GUN CONTROL ISSUES

The Hamilton Hot Button Issues Poll found strong support for handgun control measures among the high school Class of 2006. The majority of seniors believe that laws governing the sale of firearms should be stricter rather than less strict or the same. Two commonly proposed measures, a required waiting period for handgun purchases and mandatory registration of handguns, won almost universal support from the high school seniors we polled. Only a sweeping measure banning virtually all handgun ownership failed to win majority support. (*See Table 4. More detailed statistics and question wording are presented in the Appendix.*)

Table 4. Handgun Control Measures.

*Percent
favoring
measure*

- 53.4 Make laws governing the sale of firearms stricter
- 88.4 Require 5-day waiting period between purchase and delivery of handguns
- 95.7 Register all handguns at time of purchase
- 63.4 Raise age for legal purchase of handgun from 18 to 21.
- 30.9 Ban handgun possession except by police and other authorized personnel.

Our poll found that many high school seniors had direct or indirect experience with firearms. About half indicated that they had fired a gun. A disturbingly high proportion, 35 percent, told us that they knew of someone at their school who had been shot at or threatened with a gun. Surprisingly, neither condition had much influence on opinion about gun control. Those who had fired a gun were less supportive of the general notion of stricter gun control but, like others polled, overwhelmingly favored the key registration and waiting period measures. Those who reported threats or shootings at their school were statistically indistinguishable from their classmates.

¹In the current poll, high school seniors are equally likely to agree that “homosexual relations” should be legal; slightly more likely to favor protection for gays against job discrimination; and slightly less likely to accept adoption by same-sex couples. They are eight percent less supportive of gay marriage, but differences in the question used make this comparison problematic. The 2001 survey did not ask about civil unions.

A previous Hamilton survey, the Youth and Guns Poll conducted in 2000, took a more detailed look at high school students' experiences with guns and their opinions about gun control. The earlier study also found near universal support for the most commonly proposed control measures, including several not included in the current poll. Although the majority favoring stricter gun laws in their response to the generic question was about 10 percent higher in the first study, the percentages supporting the registration and waiting period measures were almost exactly the same. Because the Youth and Guns Poll surveyed high school sophomores and juniors in addition to seniors, the two studies are not strictly compatible.

GENDER, RACE, CHURCH, AND OTHER VARIATIONS

This section uses the three following questions to gauge demographic variation among high school seniors on the issues explored in our poll.²

Abortion --Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?

Gay Rights – Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same sex couples to get married?

Gun Control – In general, do you feel that laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now?

The responses of seniors in various demographic subgroups to these questions are compared in Table 5. The abortion column gives the percentage of seniors in each subgroup who think abortion should be *legal in all or most cases*; the gay rights column, the percentage who would *support* gay marriage and the gun control column, the percentage who feel gun laws should be *more strict*. (For the distribution of seniors across demographic categories see the Appendix).

As the table suggests, gender and race are generally weak predictors of student opinion on these three issues. It is, however, worth noting that males (especially white males) are more conservative on gun control, and blacks are significantly less supportive of gay marriage than whites or Hispanics.

The table shows that religion and reported church attendance are powerful influences on abortion and gay marriage opinions. Among high school seniors, born-again Christians and those who attend services four or more times a month are notably more conservative on these two issues. The nation's Catholic bishops will not be pleased to learn that this cohort of young Catholics is about average among their peers on the abortion issue. But they may find some consolation in the wide gap separating two groups

²Taken by themselves, these questions are, in an absolute sense, problematic measures of opinion, but they are useful here for the purpose of comparing population groups.

of Catholic students: the typically pro-life seniors who attend mass regularly and those who don't.³

As in previous Hamilton Youth Polls, in the current poll, the South and Central regions appear more conservative. But the distinctly conservative tilt of Southern students evident in the table, especially on the gay marriage issue, reflects the high proportion of born-again Christians in the region. Thirty-seven percent of our Southern respondents described themselves as born again. Without them, 59 percent of Southerners would recognize abortion rights in all/most cases and 54 percent would support gay marriage.

The political geography of opinion on our three issues was mapped by dividing the Class of 2006 into residents of Blue, Gray and Red states. Blue states are those in which the Democratic presidential candidate received more than 55 percent of the major party vote in 2004. Red states are the corresponding Republican strongholds. The more closely contested Gray states will presumably decide future elections. The cleavages separating Blue and Red state seniors on these three issues parallel the gaps between Democrats and Republicans shown at the end of the table. More interesting are the opinions of the 40 percent of high school seniors who live in the 19 Gray states. Republican leaders will be pleased to learn that these seniors are closest to their peers in the Republican-oriented Red states on all three issues.

³Sixty-two percent of those who attend services fewer than 4 times a month, but only 41 percent of those who attend more frequently, agreed that abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances. The two groups are respectively 55 and 45 percent of the Catholic students polled.

Table 5. Demographic Differences

	<i>Abortion Rights</i>	<i>Gay Marriage</i>	<i>Gun Control</i>
ALL	53	54	54
Males	54	49	46
Females	52	58	61
White	51	54	48
Black	57	39	71
Hispanic	52	61	72
Born Again	32	30	44
Other Protestant	52	46	54
Catholic	51	59	55
Other Religion	70	60	65
No Religion	80	88	61
<i>Attends Church</i>			
0 - 3x / mo.	68	71	55
Over 3x / mo.	38	36	52
Northeast	61	63	58
South	48	43	55
Central	48	53	46
West	58	58	59
Blue State	65	65	62
Gray State	50	50	49
Red State	44	47	52
Democrat	71	68	65
Republican	54	56	53
Other/Not Sure	30	34	40

COMPARISONS WITH ADULTS

Comparisons between our survey and recent adult polls indicate that the high school class of 2006 is conservative on abortion and liberal on gun control like older Americans, but far more liberal than adults on gay issues.

National polls conducted by media organizations and university researchers reveal that about 50 percent of adults would describe themselves as “pro-choice” and more than 60 percent say they would not want to see the Roe v. Wade decision overturned. But the majority also regards abortion as morally wrong and would not concede a woman’s legal right to abortion except in extreme circumstances, such as rape or significant threat to the health of the mother. This is precisely the inconsistent, conservative leaning pattern we have found in the Class of 2006.⁴

With respect to gun control, more than 50 percent of American adults, responding to the same generic question used in our poll, say gun control laws should be stricter. Support for specific gun control measures is substantially higher.⁵ Again the pattern is similar to what we found among current high school seniors.⁶

Because of the intense current political interest in the issue, there has been extensive polling on gay marriage in 2005. Several surveys conducted this year, employing language similar to our own, found that support for legal recognition of gay marriage was limited to 20 to 27 percent of adults. The higher figure is half what we recorded among high school seniors. On the other hand, adult support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage ranges from 45 to 54 percent in recent polls, compared to 26 percent of high school seniors.⁷

⁴The adult surveys were conducted by Gallup, Gallup for CNN/USA Today, Fox News, Time/CNN, CBS, and Pew, from 2003 to 2005.

⁵ Adult polling on gun control was done by Gallup, CBS, Harris, and the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (General Social Survey) from 2003 to 2005.

⁶Comparisons between the 2000 Hamilton Guns and Youth Poll and adult polls conducted about the same time, suggested that the high school students were somewhat more liberal than adults on gun issues. Neither our own data from the current poll nor the currently available adult statistics permit precise comparison today.

⁷The marriage and amendment comparisons were with adult polls conducted in 2005 by ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and Gallup for CNN/USA Today, and the Boston Globe.

CONDUCTING THE HAMILTON HOT BUTTON ISSUES POLL

The Hamilton College Hot Button Issues Poll is the seventh in a series of national youth surveys conducted by Hamilton faculty and students. These studies are intended to take advantage of the academic expertise of faculty and the life experience of Hamilton students. Most funding for these surveys is provided by Hamilton's Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center, which paid all costs for the survey analyzed here.

The Hot Button Issues Poll was designed and analyzed by Hamilton Sociology Professor Dennis Gilbert and the Hamilton students whose names are listed on the inside cover page of this report. The sampling and calling were administered by the polling firm Zogby International and done in two phases. The first was a 100-call pilot survey, conducted in October 2005. Calls for this phase were made by the Hamilton student researchers at Zogby International facilities. On the basis of the results from the pilot study, the questionnaire was rewritten by the Hamilton team. The redesigned questionnaire was administered to a national sample of 1,000 high school seniors in calls made from November 10 to 20, 2005, by Zogby International.

In theory, a random sample of 1,000 is accurate within plus or minus 3 percentage points. However, obtaining a random national sample of high school seniors is more difficult than drawing a national sample of adults or households. The demographics of the second stage data suggest that a trustworthy national sample was obtained. For the analysis presented here, the sample was reweighted for sex and region. Because the original sample was reasonably representative, these adjustments had little effect on the results. Non-sampling problems, such as unintended ambiguities in questionnaire language and less than candid responses, can also affect survey accuracy.

APPENDIX

This appendix includes the wording of and responses to all the substantive and demographic items used in the survey. The responses have been re-weighted for sex and geographic region. The not sure (NS) alternatives were not read.

ABORTION QUESTIONS

Q1. PRO Which side of the abortion debate do you sympathize with more: the Pro-life side that believes abortion is the taking of human life and should be outlawed, OR the Pro-choice side that believes that a woman has the right to choose what happens to her body, including the right to decide to have an abortion? Are you more pro-life or pro-choice? [IF HESITATES]. Would you like me to re-read that? (*Only first two responses were read*).

	Freq.	%
1) Pro-life	472	47.2
2) Pro-choice	475	47.5
3) MixNeithr	40	4.0
4) NoUnderst	1	0.1
5) NS	12	1.2
TOTAL 1000	1000	100.0

Q2. LEGAL Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, ILLEGAL in most cases, or illegal in all cases?

	Freq.	%
1) LegAll	121	12.1
2) LegMost	409	40.9
3) IllegMost	279	27.9
4) IllegAll	174	17.4
5) NS	17	1.7
TOTAL 1000	1000	100.0

Q3. ROEWADE The 1973 Supreme Court decision called Roe v. Wade guaranteed women the right to get an abortion in the first three months of pregnancy. Should the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade or let it stand?

	Freq.	%
1) Overt	352	35.2
2) Stand	624	62.4
3) NS	25	2.5
TOTAL 1000	1000	100.0

Q4. MORAL Whether you think that abortion should be legal or not, how do you feel about the morality of abortion? Is abortion always morally wrong, usually morally wrong, usually morally acceptable, or always morally acceptable?

	Freq.	%
1) AlwaysWr	226	22.6
2) UsualWr	442	44.2
3) UsualAc	278	27.8
4) AlwaysAc	41	4.1
5) NS	13	1.3
TOTAL 1000	1000	100.0

Two different statements, randomly assigned to respondents, were used to introduce the following block of questions (Q5 - 10). Since the two versions produced virtually identical results, the data were combined for analysis. They were introduced as follows: "Here are some specific situations in which a woman might have an abortion. Regardless of how you feel about the morality of abortion / [VERSION A] tell me whether the woman should have a legal right to an abortion or not have a legal right to an abortion, in each case / [VERSION B] tell me whether you think abortion should be legal or illegal in each case.

Q5) AbHealth

If the pregnancy seriously threatens the woman's health.

	Freq.	%
1) YES	884	88.4
2) NO	104	10.4
3) NS	12	1.2
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q6) AB18

If the woman is under 18 and unmarried.

	Freq.	%
1) YES	492	49.2
2) NO	493	49.3
3) NS	16	1.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q7) ABMore

If woman is married and does not want more children.

	Freq.	%
1) YES	285	28.5
2) NO	701	70.1
3) NS	14	1.4
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q8) ABRape

If the pregnancy is the result of rape.

	Freq.	%
1) YES	809	80.9
2) NO	180	18.0
3) NS	10	1.0
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q9. ABDef

If the baby will probably have a serious birth defect

	Freq.	%
1) YES	482	48.2
2) NO	484	48.4
3) NS	35	3.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q10 AB\$\$

If the family is poor and cannot afford another child.

	Freq.	%
1) YES	398	39.8
2) NO	583	58.3
3) NS	19	1.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q11. PREG12 Suppose a student in her senior year of high school became pregnant. Generally, what do you think would be the best thing for her to do?

	Freq.	%
1) Keep	263	26.3
2) Abort	131	13.1
3) Adopt	542	54.2
4) Other	25	2.5
5) NS	40	4.0
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q12. PARENTAL In your opinion, should a woman under 18 be required by law to get the permission of a parent before she can have an abortion?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	666	66.6
2) No	320	32.0
3) NS	13	1.3
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q13. KNOWAB Do you know anyone who has had an abortion?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	429	42.9
2) No	569	56.9
3) NS	2	0.2
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q14. CLOSEAB Have any of your close friends or family members had an abortion? (*Not asked of 571 respondents who answered No or Not Sure to the previous question*).

	Freq.	%
0)	571	57.1
1) Yes	236	23.6
2) No	192	19.3
3) NS	1	0.1
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q15 PREGF (*Asked of females*). Suppose, even if it is very unlikely, that you became pregnant while still in high school. Would you consider having an abortion? (*Responses 3-5 were not read*).

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	137	25.8
2) No	372	70.0
3) Never	10	1.8
4) Ref	3	0.5
5) NS	10	1.9
TOTAL	532	100.0

Q16. PREGM (*Asked of males*). Suppose, even if it is very unlikely, that someone you were involved with while in high school became pregnant, would you want her to consider having an abortion? (*Responses 3-5 were not read*).

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	126	26.9
2) No	313	66.9
3) Never	11	2.4
4) Ref	4	0.9
5) NS	14	3.0
TOTAL	468	100.0

GAY ISSUES

Q17. LEGAL Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?

	Freq.	%
1) Legal	650	65.0
2) NotLeg	314	31.4
3) NS	36	3.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q18. JOBDIS Would you support or oppose a law to protect gays against job discrimination.

	Freq.	%
1) Supp	797	79.7
2) Opp	177	17.7
3) NS	26	2.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q19. MARRIAGE Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same sex couples to get married?

	Freq.	%
1) Supp	536	53.6
2) Opp	429	42.9
3) NS	35	3.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q20. CIVIL Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same sex couples to form civil unions, giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as inheritance, health insurance, pension coverage and hospital visiting privileges (*Not asked of 536 respondents who supported gay marriage in previous question*).

	Freq.	%
0)	536	53.6
1) Supp	201	20.1
2) Opp	246	24.6
3) NS	17	1.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q21. AMEND Would you support or oppose amending the United States Constitution to ban same sex marriage? (Not asked of 536 respondents who supported gay marriage in earlier question).

	Freq.	%
0)	536	53.6
1) Supp	258	25.8
2) Opp	186	18.6
3) NS	20	2.0
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q22. ADOPT Do you think same-sex couples should or should not be allowed to adopt children?

	Freq.	%
1) Should	630	63.0
2) Not	345	34.5
3) NS	25	2.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q23. CONTRIB Gay people contribute in unique and positive ways to society.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAgr	184	18.4
2) Agree	525	52.5
3) Disagr	185	18.5
4) StrDisgr	87	8.7
5) NS	19	1.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q24. LESBACPT Lesbian women should be accepted by society.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAgr	278	27.8
2) Agree	519	51.9
3) Disagr	138	13.8
4) StrDisagr	59	5.9
5) NS	6	0.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q25. GAYACPT Gay men should be accepted by society.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAg	278	27.8
2) Agree	499	49.9
3) Disagr	141	14.1
4) StrDisag	75	7.5
5) NS	6	0.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q26. CLOSET It would be better if gay people kept their sexual orientation private and hidden.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAgr	182	18.2
2) Agree	276	27.6
3) Disagr	383	38.3
4) StrDisag	138	13.8
5) NS	22	2.2
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q27. WRONG Gay lifestyles are morally wrong.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAg	193	19.3
2) Agree	198	19.8
3) Disagr	335	33.5
4) StrDisag	261	26.1
5) NS	13	1.3
TOTAL	999	100.0

Q28. LESBDISG Lesbians are disgusting.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAgr	72	7.2
2) Agree	192	19.2
3) Disagr	409	40.9
4) StrDisag	310	31.0
5) NS	17	1.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q29. GAYDISG Gay men are disgusting.

	Freq.	%
1) StrAg	121	12.1
2) Agree	202	20.2
3) Disagr	371	37.1
4) StrDisag	289	28.9
5) NS	17	1.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q30 GayIndex

Index of attitudes toward gays. Based on average of the previous seven items, rounded to nearest whole number. Negative items were reverse coded.

	Freq.	%
1) AntiGay+	52	5.2
2) AntiGay	251	25.1
3) ProGay	477	47.7
4) ProGay+	219	21.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q31. YGAY? In your opinion, what causes someone to be gay? Is it something that people are born with, or is it something that develops because of the way people are brought up, or is it just the way that some people choose to live?

	Freq.	%
1) Born	225	22.5
2) Raised	154	15.4
3) Choose	467	46.7
4) Combin	136	13.6
5) NS	19	1.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q32. OPENGAY Thinking of all the people you know, either well or even only casually, do you know anyone who is gay?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	850	85.0
2) No	147	14.7
3) NS	3	0.3
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q33. CLOSEGAY As far as you know, are any of your friends, relatives or close acquaintances gay? (Not asked of 150 respondents who did not answer YES to previous question).

	Freq.	%
0)	150	15.0
1) Yes	74	57.4
2) No	275	27.5
3) NS	1	0.1
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q34. HOME If you brought a friend home who happened to be gay, how do you think your parents would react?

	Freq.	%
1) Accept	432	43.2
2) PartAc	403	40.3
3) NotAcc	148	14.8
4) NS	18	1.8
TOTAL	1000	100.0

GUN CONTROL

Q35. FIRED Have you ever fired a gun - whether for hunting, for target practice or for any purpose?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	465	46.5
2) No	535	53.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q36. OWN Do you or anyone else in your household own a gun?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	428	42.8
2) No	570	57.0
3) NS	3	0.3
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q37. GUNTHRET Do you know of anyone in your high school who has been shot at or threatened with a gun, either at school or anyplace else?

	Freq.	%
1) Yes	353	35.3
2) No	644	64.4
3) NS	3	0.3
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q38. GUNLAWS In general, do you feel that laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now?

	Freq.	%
1) MoreStr	539	53.9
2) LessStr	29	2.9
3) Same	406	40.6
4) NS	27	2.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q39. LAWCOOL Require a 5-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a handgun, to keep the buyer from acting on impulse against himself or others.

	Freq.	%
1) Appr	884	88.4
2) Disappr	101	10.1
3) NS	15	1.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q40. LAWREG Register all handguns, at the time of purchase, so that they could be traced by the police when necessary for criminal investigations.

	Freq.	%
1) Appr	957	95.7
2) Disappr	39	3.9
3) NS	4	0.4
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q41. LAWAGE Raise the age at which someone can legally purchase a handgun from 18 to 21.

	Freq.	%
1) Appr	634	63.4
2) Disappr	355	35.5
3) NS	11	1.1
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q42. LAWBAN Ban the possession of handguns except by police and other authorized personnel.

	Freq.	%
1) Appr	309	30.9
2) Disappr	666	66.6
3) NS	25	2.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q43. CAREER In the long run, what do you think will be more important to you: having a successful career OR having a rewarding family life with children?

	Freq.	%
1) Career	227	22.7
2) Family	626	62.6
3) Both	130	13.0
4) NS	17	1.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q44 KIDS Ideally, how many children would you like to have? Or, do you not expect to have children?

	Freq.	%
1) 1	70	7.0
2) 2	440	44.0
3) 3	277	27.7
4) 4+	132	13.2
5) None	57	5.7
6) NS	25	2.5
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q45. REGION

	Freq.	%
1) East	195	19.5
2) South	270	27.0
3) Centr	298	29.8
4) West	237	23.7
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q46. PLACE Which of the following best describes the place you live?

	Freq.	%
1) Rural	205	20.5
2) Suburb	261	26.1
3) SmCity	202	20.2
4) MedCity	201	20.1
5) LargCity	127	12.7
6) NS	4	0.4
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q47) PAED How much education did your father complete?

	Freq.	%
1) <HS	89	8.9
2) HS Grad	267	26.7
3) SomCol	161	16.1
4) ColGrad	318	31.8
5) PostGrad	135	13.5
6) NS	29	2.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q48) MAED What about your mother? How much education did she complete?

	Freq.	%
1) <HS	65	6.5
2) HS Grad	258	25.8
3) SomCol	207	20.7
4) ColGrad	335	33.5
5) PostGrad	125	12.5
6) NS	11	1.1
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q49 RACE/ETH Which category best describes your ethnic or racial background?

	Freq.	%
1) White	678	67.8
2) Black	100	10.0
3) Hisp	91	9.1
4) Asian	39	3.9
5) Other	89	8.9
6) NS	3	0.3
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q50 RELIGION Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, some other kind of Christian, Jewish, another religion or no religion at all?

	Freq.	%
1) Catholic	255	25.5
2) OtrChrist	470	47.0
3) Jewish	28	2.8
4) Other	75	7.5
5) None	167	16.7
6) NS	6	0.6
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q51. BORNAGN

Would you describe yourself as a born again Christian? *(Not asked of 530 Catholics, Jews and other respondents who did not classify themselves as "some other kind of Christian" in the previous item.)*

	Freq.	%
0)	530	53.0
1) Yes	253	25.3
2) No	196	19.6
3) NS	21	2.1
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q52 RELIGION2 *(Based on last two items).*

1) Prot-BornAgain	253	25.8
2) Prot-NotBornAg	196	20.0
3) Catholic	255	26.1
4) Other	102	10.4
5) None	167	17.1
6) NS	6	0.6
TOTAL	979	100.0

Q53 RELIGIOUS2

How many times, if any, did you attend a religious service during the last month?

	Freq.	%
0) Zero	357	36.2
1) 1 - 3	235	23.9
2) Four	194	19.6
3) 5 - 8	126	12.8
4) Nine+	73	7.5
TOTAL	986	100.0

Q54 PARTY

	Freq.	%
1) Dems	462	46.2
2) Reps	359	35.9
3) NS/RF	179	17.9
TOTAL	1000	100.0

Q55 REDBLUE

	Freq.	%
1) Blue	315	31.5
2) Gray	404	40.4
3) Red	280	28.0
TOTAL	1000	100.0

