



What Will Parents Vote For In New York?

National Parenting Association with the
Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy
at New School University – SEPTEMBER 2001

by Craig Charney, Jeffrey Gumbinner
Charney Research

with Sylvia Ann Hewlett, Norma Vite-León, Daniel J. Kramarsky
National Parenting Association

with support from
United Way of New York City and New York Community Trust

national
parenting
association

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARENTING ASSOCIATION

The National Parenting Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group. It works to make parenting a higher priority in Americans' private lives and on the public agenda through research, communications and nonpartisan advocacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Support for fieldwork for *What Will Parents Vote For In New York?* was provided by grants from United Way of New York City and the New York Community Trust. Additional support was provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

ONLINE

This report can be found on the National Parenting Association web site, www.parentsunite.org.

National Parenting Association

Old Chelsea Station
P.O. Box 77
New York, NY 10013-0077
tel: 212.229.5311 ext 1405
toll-free: 800.709.8795
npa@nationalparenting.org
www.parentsunite.org

Charney Research

5 West 102nd Street
New York, NY 10025
tel: 212.665.1120
CharneyResearch@compuserve.com

Milano Graduate School

of Management and Urban Policy
New School University
72 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011
tel: 212.229.5400
www.newschool.edu

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	3
PARENTS' CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES	4
Table 1. Parental concerns and worries	5
Table 2. Parents' priorities for elected officials	6
CHILDREN'S SAFETY	7
Table 3. Parental views on children's safety	7
KIDS AND COPS	8
Table 4. Relations between police and young people in New York City	9
PARENTS AND SCHOOLS	9
Table 5. Parents' satisfaction with the public schools.....	10
Table 6. Education priorities.....	13
PARENTS AND GOVERNMENT	13
Table 7. Government responsiveness to parental concerns	14
Table 8. Government responsiveness on issues	14
HOUSING AND HEALTH INSURANCE	15
THE TIME BIND	17
Table 9. Parental time issues	18
Table 10. Frequency of family dinners.....	18
HELP WITH PARENTING	19
PARENTS AND POLICIES	21
Table 11. Policies to help parents.....	22
THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS	23
Table 12. Support for top proposals	23
CONCLUSIONS	24
HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED	26
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS	27

What will parents vote for in New York?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parents in New York share a set of urgent concerns regarding their children and are united in their commitment to do the best for their kids. A new survey finds that, across a broad range of issues and policies, New York parents share a great deal of common ground regardless of gender, race, income and political party:

- New York parents do not think their children are safe in the streets or in the schools and do not think their children are getting a good education in the public schools. Fifty-three percent of parents are actively worried about crime and violence, and 47 percent are worried about education. These anxieties are particularly acute in New York City.
- Parents also realize that token programs will not reverse the deep deficits in these areas. They overwhelmingly identify higher salaries and smaller class sizes as key educational reforms, rejecting easier, less costly alternatives. In New York City, parents also identify police-community relations as an on-going problem for kids in their neighborhoods. The majority of black and Latino parents don't think that their kids would run to a cop if there were trouble on the street. But they also think that disrespectful kids are a problem, too.
- Parents confront difficult struggles in their daily lives. Problems range from the threat of homelessness to a time crunch created by the need to work long hours at badly paid jobs. Housing is a particularly heavy burden for New York's parents, most of whom pay a quarter to a half of their income for accommodation. In New York City, more than one family in six has faced homelessness. Despite challenges and struggles, parents focus on their kids and on policies that would make the greatest difference with respect to opportunities available to their kids.
- Parents retain their faith in the efficacy of government. Despite their critical take on public services, moms and dads remain convinced that, with the right leadership, government could deliver good schools, safe streets and decent housing. They feel that the top priority for a new governor or mayor should be education. New York's parents believe that their state and local governments can address their needs, but that they currently fail to do so.
- Parents in New York constitute a large bloc of potential voters. Nationally, parents are 39 percent of the electorate. This makes them larger than other closely watched groups such as seniors (who comprise 14 percent of the electorate), union households (26 percent), or African-Americans (10 percent). In New York City, they make up about 25 percent of the Democratic primary electorate.

These are the findings of a new poll conducted by Charney Research, a New York-based polling firm, for the National Parenting Association (NPA). In 1996 the NPA began regularly polling parents on their concerns and views. Based on our national surveys, many of the issues that most concern parents are addressed at the local and state level. Therefore our latest survey set out to discover what New York's parents think about a wide range of issues and policy options.

Our findings suggest that New York City and State may be ripe for the emergence of a new political force: parent power. Parents in New York share the same urgent concerns, have an agenda of their own which flows from these concerns, and want state and local elected officials to pay attention. As they grow more aware of their strength and coherence, parents may become a force capable of shaping the politics of New York State and City in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the National Parenting Association (NPA) began polling parents in 1996, one consistent finding has been that the issues of greatest concern to parents are often addressed at the local and state level. For this reason, the NPA asked Charney Research, a New York-based polling firm, to conduct a statewide survey. We asked parents in New York State about a wide range of issues affecting their families, and solicited their opinions about state and local government programs addressing these issues. The survey oversampled New York City parents in order to gauge their attitudes separately and measure their potential impact on this year's municipal elections.

The results show that parents in New York, a large bloc of potential voters, share the same urgent concerns across the divides of race, class, and gender: they do not think that their children are safe in their neighborhoods and schools, and are dissatisfied with their children's education in the public schools. These sentiments are particularly strong in New York City. Parents in New York City are particularly concerned about crime and violence, indeed, only 15 percent of parents in New York City feel that their children are very safe in their neighborhoods. They also have a hard time trusting the police. The majority of black and Latino parents don't think that their kids would run to a police officer if there were trouble on the street.

New York parents, city and state, are enormously concerned with the quality of their children's education. They also realize that a token program or two will not solve the deep deficits in this area. For example, although they agree on school reform issues, including support for charter schools and standardized testing, parents overwhelmingly identify higher teacher salaries and smaller class sizes as the key reforms. This concern colors parents' perception of how state and local officials are doing, the priorities they hope their next leaders will follow, and the specific issue agenda items they will rally behind.

Despite their critical take on public services, four in five mothers and fathers remain convinced that, with the right leadership, government could deliver good schools, safe streets and decent housing. New York parents believe that their state and local governments can address their needs, but that they currently fail to do so: only two out of five parents think public officials at state and local levels are doing much for them.

Like all parents, those in New York confront difficult struggles in their daily lives. The data on low-income parents in particular paints a portrait of lives under great strain. Housing is a heavy burden for New York parents, most of whom must set aside a third to a half of their income for rent. In New York City, one family in six has faced homelessness. Health insurance is another struggle: one-fifth of New York State parents currently lack health coverage for all their family members. Finally, long working hours make it hard to be a parent. New York parents are devoted to their children, but many have unable to spend as

much time with them as they would like. For example, the family dinner hour is increasingly squeezed out by the demands of work, particularly in single parent families.

Despite considerable struggles, parents remain focused on policies that would make the greatest difference with respect to opportunities available to their children. While they express deep concern about wage levels and housing, most New York parents point to their children's education and safety as their greatest concerns. As we have discovered in our national surveys, parents everywhere tend to speak with one voice in support of certain policy objectives, but New York parents are even more united. Their specific agenda focuses on a range of educational and safety issues (class size, gun control, etc.).

One particular New York City issue is improved access to certain facilities and amenities. The majority of New York City parents would like it to be a lot easier to do things together as a family. They support discounts for parents with children at zoos, museums and other cultural and educational institutions. Parents would also welcome priority seating on subways and buses for parents with babies and small children.

The following report elaborates the findings of the survey and, where applicable, compares it to the results of recent national surveys conducted by the NPA. A technical note at the end of this report explains how the survey was conducted.

PARENTS' CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES

- **Crime, drugs and education dominate the concerns of New York parents.**

To determine the top concerns on the minds of New York's parents, we asked them to express their biggest concerns as parents, allowing up to three responses. Responses were open-ended; no suggestions or choices were given. Child safety was the primary concern expressed: nearly two parents in five (38 percent) cited crime and violence as one of their top concerns, and more than one in four (28 percent) mentioned drugs. (See Table 1). Next on the list came the quality of available schooling, cited by nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of parents, followed by declining moral values (15 percent), and the related issues of having enough time for kids (10 percent) and coping with work and family (9 percent). The New York City figures were similar to those in the state as a whole.¹

¹ Separate tabulations of our data for New York State and New York City can be found at the end of this report.

Table 1. Parental Concerns and Worries

<i>Q. 1: Speaking as a parent, what are your biggest concerns and worries? (Concerns cited by more than 5 percent of parents.)</i>		
	New York State %	United States %
Crime/violence/safety/gangs	38	32
Drugs	25	13
Quality of schooling	19	33
Declining family/moral values	15	24
Having time for kids	10	18
Coping with work and family	9	14
Paying for college	9	14
Making ends meet	6	9
Paying for schooling	6	10
Health insurance/health care	5	20
All other mentions (less than 5 percent)	28	44

Parents were allowed to give up to three responses to this question. Hence answers total more than 100 percent. Source for national data: National Parenting Association, *The Parent Vote: Moms and Dads Up for Grabs* (N.Y.:NPA, Oct. 2000).

The level of worry about crime and drugs among New York parents is above the national average. Worries about drugs, ranked seventh nationally and cited by 13 percent of parents, were ranked second in New York, mentioned by 25 percent. Quality of schooling and moral values, though very important to many New York parents, ranked lower than they do nationally.

To gauge the intensity of parents' concerns, we asked how much they worried about several local issues. Crime and violence was their most frequent worry (53 percent said they worried a great deal about it), followed by education (47 percent). The second tier of issues involved time for the kids (36 percent worried a great deal), as well as family finances and health insurance (30 percent each). These were followed by child care (17 percent worried a great deal – single parents above all) and housing (11 percent). These results confirmed the findings of our open-ended questions.

- **Balancing work and family is the greatest daily challenge.**

Respondents were asked to name their biggest daily challenge as parents from a list of five family-related issues. While crime and education are long-term concerns, every day, across the state, balancing work and family responsibilities preoccupies parents. For nearly one-third of parents (31 percent), it is the biggest challenge they face each day, well ahead of any of the other four we tested. (Moreover, an additional 5 percent cite child care as their biggest daily challenge, making the different facets of this issue

the main concern of some 36 percent of New York’s parents). Behind it came education and instilling moral values (22 percent each) and making ends meet (18 percent). Parents in the suburbs around New York City, many of whom face long commutes into the city, have the most difficult time balancing work and family (38 percent of them say it is their biggest challenge).

- **Parents want New York’s elected state and local officials to make schools, guns, and crime their top priorities.**

To learn more about where parents stand in the political debate about family issues, we gave respondents a list of seven issues prominent in those discussions and asked which, as parents, they thought should be the priorities of the next mayor and governor. Again, schools, guns, and crime top their priorities. (See Table 2). Improving education is suggested as the top priority for the next governor by more than one-quarter (27 percent) of parents. It is also the top priority for approximately one-third of parents in New York City (35 percent) and the suburbs (31 percent), as well as approximately one-quarter for those upstate (24 percent). Gun control should be the next highest priority for the next governor, according to one in five parents (21 percent). These results differ from our national findings on political priorities: nationwide only one in ten parents thought gun control should be the top priority (according to our 2000 poll).

Table 2. Parents’ priorities for elected officials

<i>Q. 16/23. Please tell me which of the following should be the next Governor’s/Mayor’s or Supervisor’s top priority.</i>				
	Next Governor %	Next Mayor/Supervisor		
		NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %
Schools	27	35	31	24
Gun control/crime control*	21	18	14	15
Strengthening moral values	15	10	8	11
Health insurance for all	13	6	8	17
Tax cuts	13	14	19	26
Affordable housing	+	10	3	6
Family-friendly workplaces	4	3	13	0
Restricting abortion	3	+	+	+

*For Governor: gun control. For Mayor or Supervisor: crime control

+ Not asked for that official

Beyond these points of consensus, some differences emerge. The third-ranking priority for the next governor is strengthening moral values (mentioned by 15 percent), but it is a lower priority for local officials. At the local level, tax cuts are the top issue upstate (26 percent), ranking second among local priorities in the suburbs (19 percent) and third in New York City (14 percent). The fourth-ranked issue

for the next governor is health insurance (13 percent). At the local level it is particularly important for parents upstate, showing twice the proportion in the rest of the state. In New York City the fourth-ranked local issue among parents is housing, tied at 10 percent with moral values. In the suburbs, family-friendly workplaces ranked fourth as a priority for local government (13 percent), another sign that the commuter lifestyle makes work-family pressures particularly acute.²

CHILDREN’S SAFETY

- **Few parents in New York City are very confident about their children’s safety, either on the streets or in the schools.**

Because of the pivotal importance of safety to parents in New York, the survey included a number of questions intended to explore their perceptions of this issue as it relates to their children.

One of the most striking findings of the survey is that only 15 percent of parents in New York City feel that their children are very safe in their own neighborhoods. (See Table 3). Almost twice as many (29 percent) believe their neighborhoods are unsafe for their children. Unfortunately, the schools are no longer perceived as safe havens. Only three in ten New York City parents think their children are very safe at school, while one in five think the schools are unsafe for their kids. Around half of parents say they think their kids are only fairly safe in both situations – a response betraying a sizable element of fear despite the substantial decline in the city’s crime rate in recent years.

Table 3. Parental views on children’s safety

	<i>Q. 29: How safe do you feel your kids are in their neighborhood?</i>	<i>Q. 40: How safe do you feel your kids are at school?</i>		
	NYC %	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %
Very Safe	15	29	46	50
Fairly Safe	56	49	47	45
Not Very Safe	22	16	7	3
Not Safe At All	7	5	0	0
Don't Know	1	1	0	2

Parents in minority communities have the greatest concern for the safety of their neighborhoods and their schools. More than one out of three black and Hispanic parents think their kids are unsafe in their neighborhoods (37 percent and 33 percent respectively). Fewer than one out of four (24 percent) white

² The fact that family-friendly workplaces ranked low as a priority for the next governor (cited by 3%), both at the local level for New York City (3%) and upstate parents (0%) suggests that the issue has not been generally politicized yet, despite its importance in parents’ lives. This is in line with our national findings last year that policies to restore work-family balance were potential “sleepers” if the issue can be brought into the public arena.

parents express this concern. The racial disparity is no different when it comes to safety in the schools: 30 percent of black parents and 27 percent of Hispanic parents think their kids are unsafe at school. Only 13 percent of white parents think the same.

Parents outside of New York City feel their kids are much safer – but they are still not free of anxiety. Few suburban or upstate parents think their kids are unsafe at school. But while the proportion who consider their children very safe is much higher than in New York City – 46 percent in the suburbs and 50 percent upstate – a roughly equal proportion say their kids are only fairly safe (47 percent in the suburbs, 45 percent in upstate New York).

- **Parents' fear is no longer school bullies – it's young criminals who worry them.**

These concerns are no longer driven by old-fashioned concern among New York parents over school-yard bullies causing trouble for their children, cited by less than one-fifth (18 percent) of the parents who considered their children unsafe at school. Instead, parents worry most about a serious criminal presence in the schools and the potential for it to cause harm to their children. In particular, those parents cited gangs (32 percent), drugs (31 percent), guns (31 percent), and fights (29 percent) as the reasons why they worry about the safety of their children at school.

- **Parents want more after-school programs to keep their kids off the street, especially those with children in New York City public schools.**

When it comes to after-school programs that can help keep kids off the streets and out of trouble, there is considerable unmet demand among parents in New York State. Across the state, 22 percent of parents have children they want to get into after-school programs, and another 6 percent are unsatisfied with the program their kids are in, compared to 43 percent who say their kids are in programs that they like. The demand is particularly large among public school parents in New York City. Some 28 percent of them wish their kids were in after-school programs, and 7 percent are unhappy with those serving their kids – a group slightly larger than the 34 percent who report that their children attend programs with which they are pleased. However, even among upstate parents, there is a desire for greater after-school offerings: 28 percent of them wish their kids were in such programs and 5 percent want better ones.

KIDS AND COPS

- **Tension between cops and kids in New York City minority communities runs so high that the majority of black and Latino parents don't think their kids would run to a police officer if there were trouble on the street.**

Just as concerns over safety are highest for parents in New York City's minority communities, they report that relations between police and young people are most strained for blacks and Hispanics. (See

Table 4). Some 46 percent of black parents say that police treat young people in their neighborhoods disrespectfully, and 41 percent of Hispanics say the same, compared to just 24 percent of whites. The problem cuts both ways: some 48 percent of black parents also say that young people in their neighborhoods are disrespectful of police, as do 47 percent of Latino parents as compared to only 36 percent of white parents.

Against this backdrop, it is no surprise that fewer than half of black and Hispanic parents think their kids would run to the cops if there were trouble on the streets. Some 22 percent of black parents and 18 percent of Latino parents actually think their children would run away from cops if there were trouble, and 32 percent of black and 34 percent of Hispanic parents are not sure what their kids would do. By comparison a majority of white parents (59 percent) are confident their kids would go to the police if there were a problem. However, the fact that 41 percent of whites, too, are not sure or fear their children would run is testimony to the extent to which fear and uncertainty pervades police-community relations even among whites.

Table 4. Relations between police and young people in New York City

	Whites %	Blacks %	Hispanics %
<i>Q. 30: Police treat young people in my neighborhood ...</i>			
Respectfully	63	45	45
Not respectfully	24	46	41
<i>Q. 31: Young people in my neighborhood treat police...</i>			
Respectfully	50	42	40
Not respectfully	36	48	47
<i>Q. 32: If there was trouble on the streets, my kids would run...</i>			
To the police	59	47	48
Away from the police	10	22	18
Not sure	31	32	34

PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

- **Dissatisfaction with the public schools is rife among New York City parents – while those in the rest of the state or with children in private school are far more content.**

Discontent with public schools is very high among parents in New York City. (See Table 5). Only 12 percent are very satisfied with the public schools – while more than three times as many (42 percent) are not satisfied, and 38 percent give them a lukewarm “fairly satisfied” rating. The situation is little better if

we look at the views of the city’s public school parents on their own kids’ schools, where only 21 percent are very satisfied, while 36 percent are dissatisfied, and 43 percent are fairly satisfied. In contrast, the majority (53 percent) of parents with children in the city’s private and parochial schools were very satisfied, while only 10 percent were dissatisfied. The ratings for the city’s public schools are very low by any measure, as a glance at the results from other regions shows, particularly for the children’s own schools. Our findings indicate that the level of dissatisfaction with schools is consistent regardless of the child’s age or level of school.

Table 5. Parents’ satisfaction with the public schools

	<i>Q. 33/39: How satisfied are you with the quality of education...</i>					
	<i>... provided by your city or town’s public school?</i>			<i>... in the school your oldest child attends? (Public school parents only)*</i>		
	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %
Very satisfied	12	28	34	21	51	58
Fairly satisfied	38	44	42	43	33	37
Not very satisfied	27	15	14	23	15	6
Not at all satisfied	15	6	4	13	--	--

* The weighted total of public school parents was 226, the unweighted 359.

Parents’ views on public education in the rest of the state are much more positive. Majorities of suburban (51 percent) and upstate (58 percent) public school parents pronounce themselves very satisfied with their children’s schools. Outside New York City, parents’ views of public education in general, while less enthusiastic than their perspectives on the schools their children attend, are still positive. Upstate the numbers are better still, with 34 percent very satisfied and just 18 percent dissatisfied. These figures still point to room for improvement outside the city, but they also explain the predominant concern with education in New York City and its somewhat lower priority elsewhere.

- **New York’s parents take an active role in their children’s education.**

Across the state, 82 percent of parents say they normally attend parent-teacher meetings at their children’s school. Even allowing for some overstatement by parents reluctant to give the “wrong” response, this is an impressive figure.

The likelihood of a parent not attending parent-teacher meetings varies directly with their income. One in three parents (33 percent) in families with an income under \$20,000 per year says they miss parent-teacher meetings. This is almost three times the proportion (13 percent) of those who say they miss them among parents in families with an income over \$60,000.

Time pressure is the primary culprit keeping parents from parent-teacher meetings. Of those who miss them, slightly more than one in three parents (34 percent) say it's because they don't have time or can't get time off, while another 32 percent say the meeting times are too inconvenient. Time pressure is a more serious problem for lower income parents who are not typically able to control their work schedules.

- **Nearly one-third of mothers feel stress over helping their kids with homework.**

When we asked parents if they felt stressed about helping their children with homework, women were much more likely than men to say that they were (32 percent of women, 18 percent of men). This may reflect the fact that mothers are more likely to be the parents who help with homework. Lack of time (31 percent) and lack of skills (26 percent) are the main source of stress for many parents.

Non-college educated mothers (31 percent), lower income parents (37 percent) and immigrants (41 percent) have the most difficulty assisting with homework. These, of course, are just the groups most likely to be pressed for time and to lack the background needed to help their kids. (The age of a child, the level of school they are in or the type of school they attend does not affect the parent's stress level over helping with schoolwork). An additional impediment to assisting with homework that should be taken into consideration with immigrant families is the lack of ability to read, write, or speak English.

- **New York's parents are interested in charter schools.**

One important proposal for school reform, charter schools, arouses significant interest from parents in New York. Statewide, almost one in two (49 percent) parents say they are interested in sending their children to a charter school, with 16 percent very interested, while 41 percent are not interested.³ Interest in charter schools was highest in the suburbs (56 percent interested) and among minorities in New York City (53 percent of black parents and 56 percent of Hispanic parents were interested). Interest statewide was almost equal among public school parents (50 percent) and private school parents (52 percent), suggesting that many of the latter also would consider a high-quality public alternative school. Finally, interest was highest of all among the youngest parents (62 percent among those 18-34), suggesting that the concept may well gain in popularity in the years to come.

³ In the question, a charter school was defined for respondents as "a new public school set up and managed by parents and teachers." There was no reference to turning over public schools to be run as charter schools by for-profit private corporations, as was recently proposed by the New York City Schools Chancellor and the Edison Corporation, and rejected by parents at the affected schools.

Bilingual education gets a thumbs-down, standardized testing a thumbs-up.

The controversial policy of bilingual education was broadly rejected by parents around the state: Fifty-eight percent preferred intensive English instruction prior to regular classes in English, while 36 percent opted to teach students in both English and their native language. There was little difference between New York City residents and the rest of the state on this question. Hispanic New Yorkers split evenly on the question, 47 percent to 47 percent. However, bilingual instruction was preferred by immigrants (58 percent to 36 percent), parents in low-income families (50 percent to 44 percent), and those with less than high school education (51 percent to 41 percent). Thus, while a clear majority of the state's parents prefers teaching in English, there is support for bilingual education among the groups it is intended to benefit.

Parents were quite supportive of another widely-debated measure – standardized testing of students – which is a regular feature of schooling in New York State. There have been criticisms that the exams encourage teachers to teach the test rather than the subject and that they are inferior to evaluation techniques such as student portfolios. Nevertheless, three in five parents in the poll indicated that they did not think their kids take too many standardized tests, compared to one in three of them who believe the contrary.

- **Parents agree that more and better teachers should be the top priority in education.**

Our poll found that New York's parents statewide have a clear consensus about their agenda for education, and it focuses on teachers. (See Table 6). Their top priorities were more teachers and smaller classes (40 percent) and better-paid and trained teachers (22 percent). This was the case in every region of the state. New York City residents placed slightly greater emphasis on better teacher pay and training, probably reflecting low teacher salaries and an impending wave of teacher retirements in the city, but otherwise they share the same order of priorities as residents elsewhere in the state. The only other measure to gather significant support was higher standards and accountability, the top priority for 15 percent.

None of the other proposals tested – reading programs, universal pre-school, vouchers for students in failing schools, or reducing bureaucratic constraints on schools – received double-digit support. These results are similar to those in our national survey last year.⁴ (New York parents even more strongly support more teachers to cut class size and better paid and trained teachers, and are slightly less supportive of higher standards than parents nationally). They do not necessarily mean that parents reject these ideas. Rather, they indicate that New York parents want more and better teachers and the additional resources needed to get them into the state's classrooms.

⁴ *The Parent Vote, op. cit.*

Table 6. Education Priorities

<i>Q. 49: Here are some ideas that have been offered to improve our schools. Since funds are limited, tell me which one you think should be the top priority.</i>					
	All %	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %	United States %
More teachers to cut class sizes	40	35	49	39	33
Better paid and trained teachers	22	28	17	18	16
Higher standards to improve accountability	15	14	18	13	28
Ensuring students read by grade 3	7	6	6	9	6
Universal pre-school	6	6	8	5	6
Giving kids in failing public schools scholarships they can use in private schools	5	6	2	7	+
Reducing state rules and regulations	2	2	--	4	+

Source for national data: National Parenting Association, *The Parent Vote*, Oct. 2000.

+ Not applicable

PARENTS AND GOVERNMENT

- **New York’s parents believe in government’s capacity to address their concerns and worries, but they think it currently fails to do so.**

The state’s parents are not skeptical about government’s ability to respond to their priorities and concerns – but they give their current government officials low marks for their performance. (See Table 7). Roughly four-fifths of parents statewide believe that their state and local governments could do something about their concerns, but only about two-fifths think public officials at either level are actually doing much of anything for them. More than a half believe their state and local governments are doing nothing or not very much at all. New York City parents are even more discontented: only one-third think state or local government is helping them much.

These findings are consistent with the results of our national survey in May 2000. It found that 81 percent of parents nationally believed government could do something about their concerns, but only 46 percent believed it was doing so.

Why, then, the gap between potential and performance? Much of it can be explained by a perception on the part of parents that their elected officials are indifferent to their needs. Sixty-one percent of New York’s parents believe that their state officials don’t care much about what parents think, while 64 percent think the same about local officials.

Table 7. Government responsiveness to parental concerns

<i>Q. 11/12: How much do you think state government in New York is doing/could do about the concerns and worries of parents? Q. 18/19: How much do you think your local government is doing/could do about the concerns and worries of parents?</i>				
	Statewide		New York City	
<i>Public officials in ...</i>	A Great Deal/ Somewhat %	Not Much/ Nothing At All %	A Great Deal/ Somewhat %	Not Much/ Nothing At All %
State Government...				
Can do	81	13	80	13
Are doing	40	53	34	57
Local Government...				
Can do	80	15	78	14
Are doing	38	59	34	62

- **Suburban parents are the most dissatisfied with New York State’s gun controls.**

When we look at what parents think about government’s response to their major concerns, we find important regional differences within the state.

Suburban parents are the most discontented with state policies on gun control. (See Table 8). In the suburbs, only 37 percent of parents think state government has handled gun control well and 55 percent think it has not. New York City parents are almost as dissatisfied, with 42 percent believing government has responded well and 52 percent saying it has not. Upstate parents tell a different story, however, expressing support for government’s performance on gun control by 54 percent to 43 percent. (In contrast, majorities of parents in all three regions are satisfied with their local government’s efforts at crime control).

Table 8. Governmental responsiveness on issues

<i>Q. 13-15, 20-22</i>							
<i>Percent saying very or fairly well / percent saying not very well or not at all well.</i>							
State Government				Local Government			
Issue	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %	Issue	NYC %	Suburbs %	Upstate %
Gun control	42/52	37/55	54/43	Crime control	57/39	73/26	62/28
Schools	45/50	68/32	53/43	Schools	39/53	57/43	71/24
Taxes	41/54	43/53	38/57	Taxes	38/56	35/65	42/50

- **New York City parents were the most dissatisfied with government aid to schools.**

Parents in New York City gave the city's efforts in the public schools a failing grade: only 39 percent said local government handled them very or fairly well, and 53 percent not very or not at all well. They were almost as unhappy with the role played by the state government, which has been widely criticized (and sanctioned by the courts) for a funding formula that discriminates against the city (45 percent satisfied, 50 percent dissatisfied). In contrast, the suburban and upstate parents were upbeat about government's support for their schools. 68 percent of suburban parents are satisfied with state government's role in education; only 32 percent are not. Similarly 57 percent of suburban parents find local government's educational policies satisfactory; 43 percent do not. Upstate, 53 percent back the role of state government (43 percent do not), and 71 percent give the local government a thumbs-up (24 percent do not). (In the suburbs and rural upstate counties, where schools are run by local school boards, not local government, local ratings presumably refer to local school districts).

- **Discontent over taxes was greatest among parents upstate and over local taxes in the suburbs.**

The greatest ire of upstate parents was reserved for the issue of taxes: 57 percent were dissatisfied with the state government's handling of the issue, 50 percent with local government's. However, those in the suburbs were even more upset about local taxes (65 percent felt they not been handled well, while 53 percent said the same of state taxes). Discontent about taxes was widespread in New York City as well, where 54 percent were not happy with the state government's handling of the issue and 56 percent were unhappy with the city's management of the issue.

HOUSING AND HEALTH INSURANCE

- **New Yorkers with children carry a heavy burden paying for housing.**

Only 29 percent of New York families with children – and 22 percent of those in New York City – meet the traditional standard for affordable housing: paying 25 percent or less of their income for shelter. Some 41 percent statewide pay between 25 percent and 40 percent of their income, and 16 percent pay over 40 percent. The burdens are heaviest on low income parents (34 percent of those whose family income is under \$20,000 pay over 40 percent on housing); renters, who face annually escalating rents (24 percent pay over 40 percent); immigrants, who lack connections to cheaper housing (28 percent pay over 40 percent for housing); and New York City residents, prey to a massive housing shortage (20 percent pay over 40 percent).

- **More than one in six New York City families have faced homelessness – including almost half the city’s low-income families.**

Reflecting the difficulty of the New York City housing market, our survey found that 17 percent of city parents said their families had been homeless or at risk of losing their home. By contrast, just 10 percent of suburban parents and 7 percent of upstate parents ever have faced this problem. Among those whose income is under \$20,000 per year, the proportion of city families who have faced homelessness rises to fully 44 percent. Although the media have emphasized mental illness and other personal problems as a major cause of homelessness, our survey demonstrates that a large component of the problem is simple economics.

Even low-income parents who have kept a roof over their heads have had difficulty providing a stable home environment. Some 40 percent of the state’s low-income families have moved in the past two years, and 14 percent have done so twice or more, almost three times the statewide average. More than one-third (34 percent) report that their kids do not have a separate room to sleep in. Even in the poorest homes, however, some 79 percent of parents do report that their children do have a quiet place to study.

- **Home ownership provides a stable environment for kids.**

Not surprisingly, there is a large difference in the percentage of owners vs. renters statewide and in the city, a disparity that helps explain some of the problems. Statewide, 59 percent of parents own their homes and 39 percent rent, but in New York City, 36 percent own and 61 percent rent. As noted above, renters pay a higher share of their income in rent (24 percent pay more than two-fifths of their income toward rent, compared to only 11 percent of owners who pay the same portion of their income toward housing).

Home ownership affects children in other positive ways. Among homeowners, 94 percent say their kids have their own room and 95 percent say they have a quiet place to study. Only 83 percent of renters say their kids have their own room and just 80 percent say their kids have a quiet place to study. Upheaval can be even more pronounced for children whose parents don’t own their own homes, because more than four times as many renters as owners have moved twice or more in the past two years. Finally, just 7 percent of homeowners say they have ever been homeless or at risk of losing their homes, but 20 percent of renters have faced such problems.

Predictably, this instability is most prevalent among families headed by lower income parents. Only 14 percent of families with incomes under \$20,000 own their homes, compared to 87 percent of those in families with incomes over \$60,000.

- **More than one family in five in New York State has a family member who lacks health insurance.**

The proportion of New York's parents who lack insurance for either themselves or their children is alarming. Eight percent have no insurance either for themselves or their children, while 11 percent have children who are insured even though they themselves are without insurance, and 3 percent have insurance for themselves but not their kids. Overall, just 78 percent of parents have insurance for both themselves and their kids.

As one might expect, family income is a major determinant in whether family members lack insurance. Among those making under \$20,000 per year, only 24 percent have insurance for themselves and their kids, while 30 percent have uninsured children and 67 percent are themselves uninsured. Among middle-income parents, those making between \$20,000 and \$60,000, only 73 percent have insurance for both themselves and their kids, while 13 percent of middle income parents report that their children are uninsured.

Immigrant parents – who are not only poorer on average than native-born Americans, but who are excluded from Medicaid if they are illegal or are non-citizens who arrived after 1996 – are also more likely to have uninsured family members. Some 30 percent of immigrant parents report uninsured family members. They are almost twice as likely to have uninsured kids as native-born American parents (18 percent vs. 10 percent), and are also more likely to be uninsured themselves (25 percent vs. 18 percent).

New York City, where the highest concentrations of poor families and immigrants live, is populated by a particularly high number of uninsured families. More than one out of every four New York City families has members who face the health risks and daily uncertainties of life without insurance, including 43 percent of immigrant-headed families and 65 percent of low-income families.

THE TIME BIND

- **New York's parents want to make more time for their kids, but nearly one-third simply don't think they have enough time in the day.**

Parents make it clear that spending time with their kids is their top priority – yet almost one parent in three in New York State (32 percent) doesn't think they have enough time to do so. (See Table 9). The problem is particularly bad for full time working men, almost half of whom (49 percent) don't think they have enough time, but over one-third (36 percent) of mothers who work only part time don't think they have enough time for their kids, either.

Table 9. Parental time issues

<i>Q. 58: Do you feel you have enough time to spend with your kids?</i>						
	All Parents %	Working Full Time		Working Part Time		Non-Working Women %
		Men %	Women %	Men %	Women %	
Enough time for kids	66	49	62	65	62	86
Not enough time for kids	32	50	37	34	36	12

The poll also makes it clear that if they had more time, their children would benefit. If given an extra hour in the day, more than half of New York’s parents would spend it with their family: 47 percent with their kids, 8 percent with their spouse or their own parents. Some 21 percent would spend it for themselves and 8 percent would sleep an extra hour. A mere 3 percent would spend it on work.

- **The family dinner is an endangered ritual.**

Many of the families who wish they had more time for their children hold the dinner hour sacred. However, the survey findings suggest it has often become difficult for families to eat together.

Overall, fewer than two-thirds of New York State families (64 percent) eat together at least five times per week. (See Table 10). Three factors largely account for the differences in the number of times they are together: parental employment, single parent status, and the independence of their children.

Table 10. Frequency of family dinners

<i>Q. 60: Many parents tell us that they don’t have time to have dinner with their kids. On average, how many nights a week do you usually have dinner with your kids?</i>								
	All Parents %	Children’s Age			Working Status		Marital Status	
		< 5 %	5-17 %	18+ %	Working %	Non-Working %	Single %	Married %
0-4 times/wk	36	29	35	46	42	19	49	30
5-7 times/wk	64	71	65	54	58	81	46	69

Whether parents work or not helps explain the disparity between those who eat dinner with their children at least five nights a week and those who do not. Among all working parents, just 58 percent have dinner with their kids five-to-seven times a week, while 81 percent of non-working parents meet that threshold.

Another major factor that influences how often parents and their children join each other for dinner is marital status. Fewer than a half of single parents (46 percent) eat dinner with their children five or more times a week, compared to 69 percent of married parents.⁵

The age of the children is also a factor. When children are under five years of age, 71 percent of families dine together, but that number drops to 65 percent when the kids are between the ages of 5-17, and down to just 54 percent for families with a child living at home who is 18 or older.

The increase over time in the number of parents who work and the proportion of single parents probably combine to make the family dinner a less frequent ritual than it once was. Our data do not let us weigh whether adolescent children are also more independent of their families than in earlier generations. If these trends continue, however, the family dinner may become a thing of the past.

HELP WITH PARENTING

- **Parents would rather get advice from family members than “experts.”**

Three-quarters of parents rely on family members when they need help with parenting. Some 28 percent turn to their own parents, 27 percent to their spouses, and 20 percent to other members of the family. An additional 13 percent named friends and neighbors as a source of advice on parenting. Very few parents seek out help from doctors (3 percent), psychologists or social workers (2 percent), guidance counselors (2 percent), or even books (2 percent), suggesting that parents look for advice from those they know and trust, not from credentialed experts.

- **Institutional help for New York’s parents – child care, children’s mental health care, and special education – is often unsatisfactory or lacking altogether.**

Our survey findings suggest that, as they stand today, institutions to assist parents with caring for their children are not meeting their needs in many cases. This finding extends across services needed by many New Yorkers, like child care, to more specialized services such as mental health care and special education for children with disabilities.

⁵ Just over half of divorced or widowed parents (53%) eat dinner with their children five or more times each week. However, in part this may be because the other parent has dinner with the child some nights out of the week.

Child care is clearly in demand in New York: more than half (53 percent) of the state's parents have needed it. Of those, roughly two-fifths couldn't get it or found it to be unsatisfactory. Overall, 9 percent of the state's parents couldn't get child care when they needed it and 10 percent weren't satisfied with the care they received.

The demand for mental health services is lower, but the level of dissatisfaction is more pronounced. Only 11 percent of parents said they have needed mental health services for their children, but half of these said it either wasn't available when they needed it or that, although available, it failed to satisfy their needs.

Finally, one out of ten parents in New York reports having a child with a physical, mental or emotional disability. Of these, 34 percent say their kids are in special education. Among the small number of those with kids in special education, there appears to be some dissatisfaction, but the sub-sample size is too small to draw any significant conclusions. However, taken together with the general debate on the subject, these findings suggest that the quality of special education may merit further research.

- **When it comes to family and medical leave, parents speak as one: "Expand it!"**

Time, as we have seen, is the scarcest resource of New York's parents. Simply coping with daily family life produces a time bind. Special situations such as childbirth, adoption, or caring for seriously ill family members can pose serious problems. New York parents are united in their desire for help with such situations. Overwhelmingly, they favor expansion of New York State Temporary Disability Insurance (81 percent in favor, 10 percent opposed). Regardless of where they live, parents' top preference is adding six weeks' additional coverage for maternity leave to the existing six (41 percent). Many parents also support increasing the benefit from \$170 to \$400 per week (22 percent), allowing time off for adoption or care for an ill parent, spouse or child (19 percent), and letting fathers take paternity leave (12 percent).

Moreover, more than seven in ten supporters of TDI expansion would remain in favor even if they had to pay extra to receive such a benefit. Across the state, 22 percent would be willing to have \$1.50 per week deducted from their paycheck for this purpose, while 50 percent would be willing to have \$1 per week deducted from their check and 71 percent would accept 50 cents per week. Only 12 percent of those who favor expansion of Temporary Disability Insurance would not be willing to have any additional money deducted from their paycheck. New York's parents know they need help to meet special needs, and they are ready to pay the price.

PARENTS AND POLICIES

- **Parents speak in a loud and compelling voice in support of family-oriented policies on pocketbook, gun safety, and education issues.**

To get a more specific sense of the policy agenda on the minds of New York parents, we continued our practice of asking levels of support for specific policy proposals. In this survey we tested 13 proposals statewide, several of which were similar to some of the twenty proposals tested nationally in our May 2000 survey.⁶ (See Table 11).

Not only did a majority of parents support most of the policy items tested, but more than 50 percent of parents strongly favor eight policy proposals, a very high threshold indeed – almost a public outcry. Those proposals all fit into three broad categories, each of which matches the top concerns of parents:

- *Pocketbook issues:* Two pocketbook issues topped the survey and two others were among the eight proposals strongly favored by more than 50 percent. The single most broadly and intensely supported proposal we tested was raising the minimum wage. A full 94 percent of parents support this, including 78 percent who strongly support it. Only 5 percent opposed raising the minimum wage. Nearly as unanimous was support for eliminating the sales tax on children’s necessities like diapers, school materials, and car seats (92 percent in favor, 74 percent strongly). Not far behind were creating an Earned Income Tax Credit for working parents on their city and state income taxes (92 percent favor, 68 percent strongly) and giving a \$1,000 tax credit to stay-at-home parents of preschool kids (88 percent favor, 64 percent strongly). One pocketbook issue tested only in New York City also did very well: 95 percent favored parental discounts at zoos, museums, and other cultural institutions, 74 percent strongly.
- *Gun safety measures:* Two gun safety measures were strongly supported by more than 60 percent of parents: requiring locked storage of guns (89 percent in favor, 72 percent strongly) and providing more resources to enforce existing gun control laws (88 percent in favor, 66 percent strongly).
- *Education:* The other issues which drew an overwhelming majority of intensely favorable supporters dealt with education. Providing funding to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 20 students per classroom in grades K-3 ranked as the third most popular proposal in our study with 92 percent favoring the idea, 67 percent strongly. The suggestion of 16 hours unpaid leave for parents to engage in school-related activities or conferences was received favorably by 84 percent, with 56 percent strongly in favor.

⁶ National Parenting Association, *What Will Parents Vote For?* (N.Y.: NPA, May 2000).

Table 11. Policies to help parents (Q. 64-77)

	Strongly Favor %	Total Favor %	Total Oppose %
Raising the minimum wage so that all full-time workers are above the poverty level.	78	94	5
Eliminating state and local sales taxes on kids' necessities like diapers, school materials, and car seats.	74	92	7
A law requiring the locked storage of guns in the home.	72	89	8
Creating an Earned Income Tax Credit for working parents on their city and state income taxes.	68	92	5
Providing funding to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 20 children per classroom in grades K through 3.	68	92	7
Providing more resources to enforce existing gun control laws.	66	88	10
A tax credit of up to \$1,000 per year for each pre-school child whose parent stays home to care for them.	64	88	10
Granting employees 16 hours of unpaid leave annually for school conferences or classroom activities	56	84	15
Permitting judges in divorce cases to require parents to attend parental education programs to aid them in helping children cope with divorce or separation.	46	78	13
Making parents responsible for checking and signing their kids' homework daily.	43	82	14
Giving corporate tax breaks to encourage all private companies to have family-friendly policies such as flex time and telecommuting.	43	79	13
Expanding the state's universal pre-kindergarten program for 3 and 4 year-olds from half days to full days.	37	68	22
Establishing the presumption of joint custody or parenting in divorce cases involving minor children.	35	68	15

Some other initiatives in the poll, while receiving majority support, were not as intensely favored by parents. These included mandatory parental education programs for divorcees (78 percent in favor, 46 percent strongly), making parents sign homework (82 percent in favor, 43 percent strongly), corporate tax breaks for family-friendly policies (79 percent in favor, 43 percent strongly), lengthening pre-Kindergarten from a half-day to a full-day program (68 percent in favor, 37 percent strongly), and joint custody in divorce (68 percent in favor, 35 percent strongly). There was also one issue tested only in New York City with a comparable level of support: priority seating on buses and subways for parents, favored by 86 percent, strongly by 46 percent.

Our New York poll results thus show that the state’s parents agree on a specific agenda that focuses on family finances, education, and gun control, much as our previous national studies have suggested. New York parents are even more unified in support for their policy objectives than parents across the country. The findings of this survey confirm once more that parents from different backgrounds and philosophies generally think alike about policies that affect their families.

THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Regardless of their political party identification, parents know a family-friendly policy when they see it.**

Of course, New York’s parents are not just parents: they are also voters. Some 83 percent of those who responded to our poll said they were registered to vote. Of these, a total of 91 percent said they would probably vote in next year’s statewide election for Governor, and 64 percent said they were almost certain to vote. This is a potential voting bloc too large to ignore – and one which knows what it wants. (See Table 12).

Table 12. Support for top proposals (*Percent strongly in favor*)

	Democrats		Independents %	Republicans	
	Strong %	Weak %		Strong %	Weak %
Raising the minimum wage	90	79	72	64	72
Eliminate sales tax on kids’ needs	67	76	73	72	62
Require locked gun storage	78	81	70	55	40
Create City/State EITC	74	54	70	64	64
Maximum of 20 kids per K-3 class	77	58	62	59	56
More gun control resources	71	70	67	52	42
\$1,000 for at-home parent of pre-schooler	48	63	72	57	74
16 hours unpaid leave for school purposes	55	57	53	50	51

Parents favor policies that address their special needs and those of their children and, as such, they agree on the specifics of their agenda. Party affiliation does not define their reactions to policy proposals on family-related issues. Rather, the common bond of parenting unifies them in support of policies on education, gun safety and family finances. Any politician who wishes to capture the hearts and minds of the public should take note that parents shed their partisan ideology to speak with one voice about the issues that affect them. Even strong Democrats and strong Republicans agree for the most part in their

support of proposals as disparate as raising the minimum wage and eliminating the sales tax on kids' necessities.*

Indeed, the degree of intense support among parents of differing party outlooks for the most popular measures in the poll is striking. All but one of the eight measures is strongly supported by at least half the voters in every political party category, including strong partisans of both parties and the "swing voters" (weak Democrats, weak Republicans, and Independents). (The one exception is the preschooler tax credit, strongly supported by only 48 percent of strong Democratic parents despite more solid support in other constituencies). Clearly, parental concerns represent what political scientists have called "cross-cutting" issues, and define a potential voting bloc with the power to have a decisive impact on state and local elections in New York.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this survey suggest that New York State (and New York City) may be ripe for the emergence of a new political force: parent power. Parents in New York are unhappy with the way government has dealt with them and have clear concerns regarding their children's safety and education. They also have an agenda of their own, one that flows from these concerns and from the financial and time pressures impinging on their lives. Furthermore, they want state and local elected officials to pay attention.

To sum up our major findings:

- New York's parents believe that state and local governments can address their needs, but that they currently fail to do so.
- As they struggle to balance work and family, parents worry most about issues that directly affect their children's quality of life: crime and violence, education, and family finances. These issues dominate parents' worries and affect everything from their perception of how state and local officials are doing to the priorities they hope their next leaders will follow. These specific issues form the agenda parents will rally behind.
- Parents take an active role in their children's education. Those in New York City are widely dissatisfied with the quality of their local schools, while those elsewhere are more satisfied.
- Parents agree on school reform issues, including support for charter schools and standardized testing. But their top priorities are reducing class size and increasing teacher training and salaries.

* Some 46 percent of the state's parents identify as Democrats, 24 percent as independents, and 27 percent as Republicans.

- Parents worry a great deal that their children are unsafe on the streets and in the schools. This is particularly true for black and Hispanic parents in New York City.
- Relations between the police and young people are so strained in New York City's black and Latino communities that more than half of these parents don't think their children would go to the police if there were trouble on the streets.
- Housing is a heavy burden for New York parents, most of whom pay well over a quarter of their income for it. In New York City, more than one family in six has faced homelessness.
- In one-fifth of New York State's families, not every member has health insurance.
- Parents are devoted to their children, but many are unable to spend as much time with them as they would like. The family dinner hour is getting lost in the shuffle between the demands of work, single parenthood, and adolescent independence.
- Parents need help. They rely on their family for advice, but they are looking to government to meet unsatisfied demand for child care and children's mental health services.
- By huge margins, parents want to see parental leave expanded through the Temporary Disability Insurance system, and most are willing to pay more for this benefit.
- Parents agree on a specific policy agenda to meet their needs. Large majorities rally in support of policies that address their concerns on education, gun safety and family finances.
- Raising the minimum wage, eliminating the sales tax on kids' necessities, and reducing class sizes are the top specific proposals. Each is strongly supported by more than two-thirds of parents who are registered to vote.
- Support for their policy agenda is consistent among parents no matter what their political ideology.

Our first survey of parental and family issues at the state and local levels thus reinforces the message of the NPA's previously published research. New York's parents are struggling to cope with the demands of work, family, and finances, even as they try to get their children through the maze of social and educational problems in their communities and their state. Like parents everywhere, they have to deal with a serious time crunch. But they also have specific local concerns with crime, drugs, schooling, housing, and health insurance. They know what they want – including help with pocketbook issues, better schools, curbs on guns, and time for family necessities – and they agree on these things across the old boundaries of party and region. As they grow more aware of their own views and numbers, the agenda of New York's parents may be a force which plays an increasing role in the shaping the politics of the its towns, cities, and state house in years to come.

HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

What Will Parents Vote For In New York? was conducted for the National Parenting Association from June 13 to 17, 2001 by Charney Research, a New York-based polling firm. It consisted of a total of 650 telephone interviews conducted on a random-digit dialing basis. The sample included 400 interviews from a statewide random sample and an oversample of 250 interviews in New York City, yielding a sub-sample for that city of 423. All respondents were New York residents 18 or older with children were living at home or as their dependents. The margin of sampling error for the statewide and New York City samples is +/-5 percent. To ensure greater inclusiveness, the survey was conducted in both English and Spanish.

The oversample was conducted in order to allow analysis of the results for New York State and City in equal depth. The results for New York City are weighted down to their correct proportions of the statewide population in the data on all parents in New York State.

The sample structure is similar to that of the 2000 national surveys of American parents conducted for the NPA, making the results for similarly worded questions comparable.

This analysis was prepared by Craig Charney and Jeffrey Gumbinner of Charney Research, with the assistance of Sylvia Ann Hewlett, Norma Vite-León, Daniel J. Kramarsky and Peggy Shiller of the National Parenting Association. Nancy Rankin and Ruth Wooden contributed to the development of the survey.

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS
650 Interviews:
400 Statewide, 250 New York City Oversample (423 total in NYC)
Interviewing Dates: June 13-17, 2001

PARENTS' CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES

1. Speaking as a parent, what are your biggest concerns or worries? (*Open-ended with pre-codes; do not read categories out; up to three responses allowed*).

	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NYC</u>
Crime / Violence / Gangs / Safety	38	41
Drugs	25	21
Quality of schooling	19	20
Declining family/moral values	15	14
Having time for my kids	10	12
Coping with work and family	9	11
Paying for college	9	10
Making ends meet	6	8
Paying for schooling	6	5
Health insurance / health care	5	6
Paying for child care/ preschool	4	4
TV/movie sex and violence	4	4
Teenage sex / childbearing	3	5
Teenage smoking	3	4
Problems of single parents	2	4
Keeping my job	2	2
Availability of child care / latchkey children	1	3
Abortion	1	1
Homosexuality	1	1
Welfare	1	1
Other	5	2
Don't know	3	2

2. And which of the following is the biggest daily challenge that you face as a parent? (*Read list, one response only, rotate start point*).

Balancing work and family	31	28
Your child's education	22	25
Instilling moral values	22	20
Making ends meet	18	18
Arranging child care	5	7
Don't know	4	2

Now I'd like to ask how much some things worry you as a parent.

3. Housing. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	11	19
Somewhat	25	32
Not very much	27	27
Not at all	37	21
Don't know	1	1

4. Arranging child care. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
A great deal	17	20
Somewhat	16	22
Not very much	16	20
Not at all	50	37
Don't know	1	1

5. Education. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	47	53
Somewhat	34	32
Not very much	8	9
Not at all	0	6
Don't know	0	1

6. Health Insurance. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	30	29
Somewhat	24	28
Not very much	16	20
Not at all	30	23
Don't know	0	0

7. Crime and violence. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	53	60
Somewhat	30	29
Not very much	9	6
Not at all	8	5
Don't know	0	0

8. Family finances. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	30	36
Somewhat	40	40
Not very much	16	16
Not at all	14	10
Don't know	0	0

9. Having enough time for your kids. As a parent, does this worry you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

A great deal	6	36
Somewhat	2	36
Not very much	4	16
Not at all	8	12
Don't know	0	0

RESPONSIVENESS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

SPLIT SAMPLE 1A: ASKED OF 324 STATEWIDE, 212 NYC (Questions 10-16)

10. I don't think New York State's public officials care much about what parents like me think. Would you say you agree completely with this statement, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Agree completely	20	23
Agree somewhat	41	40
Disagree somewhat	22	19
Disagree completely	8	7
Don't know	9	11

11. How much do you think state government in New York is doing about the concerns and worries of parents? A great deal, something, not very much, or nothing at all?

A great deal	4	4
Somewhat	36	30
Not very much	44	44
Nothing at all	9	13
Don't know	7	9

12. How much do you think state government in New York could do about the concerns and worries of parents? A great deal, something, not very much, or nothing at all?

A great deal	41	44
Somewhat	40	36
Not very much	11	11
Nothing at all	2	2
Don't know	6	7

Please tell me how well the state government has responded to some concerns of parents.

13. Gun control. The state government has responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

Very well	10	10
Fairly well	35	32
Not very well	30	32
Not at all well	20	20
Don't know	5	6

14. The schools. The state government has have responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

Very well	12	8
Fairly well	41	37
Not very well	29	33
Not at all well	15	17
Don't know	4	5

15. Taxes. The state government has have responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Very well	6	4
Fairly well	34	36
Not very well	33	34
Not at all well	21	20
Don't know	5	5

16. I'm going to read some priorities that the next Governor might have. Please tell me which one should be the next Governor's top priority. *(One response only).*

Improving public schools	27	36
Gun control	21	21
Strengthening moral values	15	13
Tax cuts	13	11
Health insurance for all	13	10
Family-friendly workplaces	4	5
Restricting abortion	3	1
Don't know	4	3

SPLIT SAMPLE 1B ASKED OF 326 STATEWIDE, 211 NYC (Questions 17-23)

17. I don't think public officials in our local government care much about what parents like me think. Would you say you agree completely with this statement, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely?

Agree completely	29	31
Agree somewhat	35	37
Disagree somewhat	19	16
Disagree completely	8	7
Don't know	8	9

18. How much do you think your local government is doing about the concerns and worries of parents? A great deal, something, not very much, or nothing at all?

A great deal	5	8
Something	33	26
Not very much	47	47
Nothing at all	12	15
Don't know	3	4

19. How much do you think your local government could do about the concerns and worries of parents? A great deal, something, not very much, or nothing at all?

A great deal	45	41
Something	35	37
Not very much	12	12
Nothing at all	3	2
Don't know	5	8

Please tell me how well your local government has responded to some concerns of parents.

20. Crime control. Our local government has responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Very well	17	15
Fairly well	45	41
Not very well	24	32
Not at all well	8	6
Don't know	5	5

21. The schools. Our local government has responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

Very well	15	7
Fairly well	39	32
Not very well	29	38
Not at all well	12	14
Don't know	5	8

22. Taxes. Our local government has responded very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all well to this issue?

Very well	5	7
Fairly well	3	31
Not very well	35	35
Not at all well	21	21
Don't know	5	6

23. Now I'm going to read some priorities that the next Mayor or Supervisor might have. Please tell me which one should be the next Mayor or Supervisor's top priority. *(One response only).*

Improving public schools	31	35
Tax cuts	19	14
Crime control	16	18
Strengthening moral values	10	10
Health insurance for all	10	6
Affordable housing	7	10
Family-friendly workplaces	5	3
Don't know	3	3

HEALTH INSURANCE

ASKED OF ALL

24. Do you have health insurance? Do all your children have health insurance?

I have insurance and all my kids do	78	71
I have insurance, not all my kids do	3	4
I don't have insurance, but all my kids do	11	14
I don't have insurance, not all my kids do	8	11
Don't know / no response	0	1

25. IF RESPONDENT HAS HEALTH INSURANCE: Through Medicaid, Medicare, or private health insurance from your employer, union, or family? [509 respondents statewide, 313 respondents NYC]

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
No Insurance	1	0
Medicaid	7	12
Medicare	2	4
Private	87	80
Other	2	2
Don't know / no response	1	2

INFORMATION SOURCES AND SOCIAL SERVICES

26. Where do you turn when you need help with parenting? (*Open ended with pre-codes, do not read out answers, code all mentioned*). [All respondents]

My parents	28	28
My spouse / partner	27	29
Other family members	20	22
Friends and neighbors	13	13
Never asked for help	11	11
Doctor / nurse / clinic	3	4
School / guidance counselor / teacher	2	3
Psychologist / social worker	2	3
Books	2	2
Parents' group	1	1
Magazines, newspapers	1	1
Other	6	4
Don't know	2	3

27. Have you ever needed daytime child care? IF YES: Was it usually available? IF USUALLY AVAILABLE: Were you satisfied with it?

Never needed child care	47	47
Wasn't usually available when I needed it	9	10
Was available, but I wasn't satisfied	10	13
Was available and I was satisfied	33	28
Don't know	1	1

28. Have you ever needed mental health services for your children? IF YES: Were they available? IF YES: Were you satisfied with them?

Never needed children's mental health services	89	89
Wasn't available when they needed it	3	3
Was available, but I wasn't satisfied	2	3
Was available and I was satisfied	5	5
Don't know	0	1

CRIME AND POLICING

NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS ONLY - 419 RESPONDENTS

29. How safe do you feel your kids are in your neighborhood: very safe, fairly safe, not very safe, or not safe at all?

	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NYC</u>
Very safe		15
Fairly safe		56
Not very safe		22
Not safe at all		7
Don't know		1

30. How do you feel the police treat young people in your neighborhood: very respectfully, fairly respectfully, not very respectfully, or not respectfully at all?

Very respectfully	10
Fairly respectfully	44
Not very respectfully	22
Not respectfully at all	11
Don't know	13

31. How do you feel young people treat the police in your neighborhood: very respectfully, fairly respectfully, not very respectfully, or not respectfully at all?

Very respectfully	10
Fairly respectfully	36
Not very respectfully	28
Not respectfully at all	14
Don't know	13

32. If there was trouble on the street, do you think your kids would run to or from a police officer?

To the police	53
From the police	15
Don't know	32

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

ASKED OF ALL

33. How satisfied are you with the quality of education provided by your city or town's public schools: very, fairly, not very, or not at all satisfied?

Very satisfied	23	12
Fairly satisfied	41	38
Not very satisfied	20	27
Not at all satisfied	9	15
Don't know	7	8

34. How old are your children? (Record numbers in correct categories).

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Under 2	15	19
2 – 4	21	21
5-11	46	44
12-17	42	38
18-22	14	14
22+	7	6
Don't know / refused	2	2

35. IF HAVE CHILDREN FROM 2 TO 4: Are all your kids between 2 and 4 in a pre-kindergarten or Headstart program? IF NO: Have you heard of a program called "universal pre-K"?
[135 respondents statewide, 90 respondents NYC]

All kids in pre-K or Headstart	41	40
Not all in pre-K, have heard of universal pre-K	29	34
Not all in pre-K, haven't heard of universal pre-K	25	21
Don't know	4	5

36. IF HAVE CHILDREN 5 OR OLDER: What level of school does your oldest child in school attend: elementary, middle or junior high, or high school? (Code all mentioned) [470 respondents statewide, 298 respondents NYC]

None in school	4	3
Elementary	29	34
Middle / Junior High	28	24
High School	38	38
Don't know / refused	1	1

37. Does this oldest child attend any after-school programs? IF YES: Are you satisfied with the program?
IF NO: Do you wish your child was in such a program? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Yes, in program and satisfied	43	37
Yes, in program but not satisfied	6	7
No, not in program but wish they were	22	24
No, not in program and don't wish they were	28	32
Don't know / refused	1	0

38. What type of school does your oldest child attend, public, private non-denominational, or parochial?
[450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Public	81	80
Private non-denominational	11	15
Parochial	8	6
Don't know / refused	1	0

39. How satisfied are you with the quality of education in the school your oldest child attends: very, fairly, not very, or not at all satisfied? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Very satisfied	44	27
Fairly satisfied	38	42
Not very satisfied	14	20
Not at all satisfied	4	11
Don't know		

40. How safe do you feel your oldest child is at their school: very, fairly, not very, or not at all safe? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Very safe	40	29
Fairly safe	47	49
Not very safe	9	16
Not safe at all	2	5
Don't know	1	1

41. Why do you say that? [70 respondents statewide, 16 respondents NYC] (*Open ended with pre-codes, do not read out, code all mentioned*).

Bullies	18	12
Gangs	32	32
Fights	29	31
Drugs	31	34
Weapons / Guns	31	37
Columbine / Danger of shooting	4	2
Other	9	12
Don't know	1	2

42. Is helping your oldest child with their homework a source of stress to you? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Yes	26	23
No	74	76
Don't know	1	1

43. Why is that? [111 respondents statewide, 65 respondents NYC] (*Open-ended with pre-codes; do not read categories out.*)

Don't have enough time	31	34
Need more training/ schooling skills	26	29
Kid doesn't do homework	12	10
Child refuses help	5	6
Don't have the proper books	2	4
Don't have access to a computer	1	2
Other	18	14
Don't know	5	0

44. Do you feel welcome at your oldest child's school? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]
(Open ended with pre-codes, do not read out, code all mentioned.)

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Yes	91	89
No	7	9
Don't know	2	2

45. Many parents don't attend parent-teacher meetings. How about you? Do you normally attend parent-teacher meetings at your children's school? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Yes	82	79
No	17	20
Don't know	1	1

46. Why is that? [89 respondents statewide, 61 respondents NYC] *(Open ended with pre-codes, do not read out, code all mentioned.)*

Not interested	7	7
Teachers not nice / not helpful. / upsetting	12	11
Have no time / can't get time off	34	41
Times are inconvenient	32	21
Never hear about them	9	11
Other	11	8
Don't know	3	2

47. Do you feel your kids take too many standardized tests? [450 respondents statewide, 286 respondents NYC]

Yes	33	31
No	60	59
Don't know	7	10

ASKED OF ALL

48. Do you think non-English speaking children should receive intensive instruction in English or should they be taught in English and their native language?

Intensive English instruction	58	58
Bilingual education	36	34
Don't know	7	9

49. Here are some ideas that have been offered to improve our schools. Since funds are limited, tell me which one you think should be the top priority.

More teachers to cut class sizes	40	35
Better paid and trained teachers	22	28
Higher standards and accountability	15	14
Ensuring students read by grade 3	7	6
Universal pre-school	6	6
Giving kids in failing public schools scholarships they can use in private schools	5	6
Reducing state rules and regulations	2	2
Don't know	2	2

50. How interested would you be in sending your children to a charter school in your community, that is , a new public school set up and managed by parents and teachers? Very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Very interested	16	16
Somewhat interested	33	35
Not very interested	20	17
Not interested at all	21	20
Don't know	9	12

51. Have you ever heard about the New York State College Savings Plan, which lets people save tax-free for their children's college education? IF YES: Have you opened such an account?

No, I haven't heard of it	51	61
Yes, but I haven't opened an account	33	27
Yes, and I have such an account	9	5
Don't know	7	6

HOUSING

52. On another subject: do you own or rent the home you now live in?

Own	59	36
Rent	39	61
Don't know / won't say	2	3

53. What proportion of your household income is spent on rent or mortgage payments: under 25, 25-40, over 40, or over 50?

Under 25	29	22
25-40	41	48
Over 40	10	12
Over 50	6	8
Don't know / not sure	13	9

54. How many times have you moved in the past two years?

0	77	73
1	17	19
2	4	6
3	1	1
Don't know / refused	0	0

55. Do your kids have a separate room to sleep in?

Yes	89	84
No	10	16
Don't know	0	1

56. Do your kids have a quiet place to study at home?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Yes	89	86
No	7	11
Don't know	4	3

57. Have you ever been homeless or at risk of losing your home?

Yes	13	17
No	87	87
Don't know	1	1

WORKPLACE ISSUES AND SLEEP DEPRIVATION

58. Do you feel you have enough time to spend with your kids?

Yes	66	61
No	32	37
Don't know	1	2

59. If you could have an extra hour in the day, how would you spend it? *(One response only, open ended with pre-codes, do not read responses out)*

With my kids	47	49
For myself	21	23
With other family members: spouse / parents, etc,	8	8
Sleeping	8	8
Working	3	4
Community activities	2	3
Shopping	1	2
Other	6	1
Don't know	4	4

60. Many parents tell us they don't have time to have dinner with their kids. On average, how many nights a week do you usually have dinner with your kids?

1	4	4
2	4	7
3	11	12
4	14	17
5	16	16
6	8	6
7	40	34
Never	2	4
Don't know	0	1

61. New York State Temporary Disability Insurance currently covers up to 6 weeks of paid maternity leave. Are you in favor of expanding this program to cover more weeks of paid leave after childbirth, adoption or to care for seriously ill children, parents or spouses? And would you say you strongly or somewhat favor/oppose expanding this program?

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Strongly favor	55	57
Somewhat favor	26	23
Somewhat oppose	6	5
Strongly oppose	4	3
Don't know	9	12

62. Which would you prefer?

Adding 6 weeks' coverage	41	41
Increasing the maximum benefit from \$170 to \$400 per week	22	27
Allowing time off to care for newly adopted child/ care for an ill child, parent or spouse	19	14
Extending coverage to let fathers take paternity leave	12	12
Don't know / no response	6	6

63. How much money would you be willing to have deducted from your paycheck to pay for this expansion, if it were matched by your employer: 50 cents per week? One dollar a week? One dollar fifty a week? (*Code all amounts respondent is willing to pay, stop when unwilling.*) [524 respondents statewide, 338 respondents NYC]

50 cents each week	21	27
1 dollar each week	29	33
One dollar and 50 cents each week	22	18
Nothing	12	8
Don't know / not sure	17	15

POLICY IDEAS

Now I'd like to ask what you think about some specific proposals people have offered to make things easier for parents. For each, tell me if you are strongly in favor, somewhat in favor, somewhat opposed, or strongly opposed.

SPLIT SAMPLE 2A: ASKED OF 326 STATEWIDE, 212 NYC

64. Granting employees 16 hours of unpaid leave annually for school conferences or classroom activities?

Strongly favor	56	55
Somewhat favor	28	31
Somewhat oppose	8	5
Strongly oppose	5	6
Don't know	2	4

65. Providing more resources to enforce existing gun control laws.

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Strongly favor	66	68
Somewhat favor	22	25
Somewhat oppose	6	4
Strongly oppose	5	1
Don't know	2	2

66. A tax credit of up to \$1,000 per year for each pre-school child whose parent stays home to care for them.

Strongly favor	64	62
Somewhat favor	24	26
Somewhat oppose	7	8
Strongly oppose	3	2
Don't know	2	3

67. A law requiring the locked storage of guns in the home.

Strongly favor	72	73
Somewhat favor	17	16
Somewhat oppose	3	4
Strongly oppose	5	4
Don't know	3	2

68. Eliminating state and local sales taxes on kids' necessities like diapers, school materials, and car seats.

Strongly favor	74	73
Somewhat favor	18	20
Somewhat oppose	4	3
Strongly oppose	3	3
Don't know	1	2

69. Providing funding to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 20 children per classroom in grades K through 3.

Strongly favor	67	70
Somewhat favor	25	22
Somewhat oppose	4	6
Strongly oppose	3	1
Don't know	1	1

70. Creating an Earned Income Tax Credit for working parents on their city and state income taxes.

Strongly favor	68	67
Somewhat favor	24	24
Somewhat oppose	4	3
Strongly oppose	1	1
Don't know	3	5

ASKED OF NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

71. Designating priority seating on subways and busses for parents with small children and strollers. [209 respondents]

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Strongly favor	46	46
Somewhat favor	40	40
Somewhat oppose	6	6
Strongly oppose	3	3
Don't know	5	5

SPLIT SAMPLE 2B: ASKED OF 324 STATEWIDE, 211 NYC

72. Making parents responsible for checking and signing their kids' homework daily.

Strongly favor	43	44
Somewhat favor	39	37
Somewhat oppose	11	10
Strongly oppose	3	3
Don't know	3	5

73. Expanding the state's universal pre-kindergarten program for 3 and 4 year-olds from half days to full days.

Strongly favor	37	39
Somewhat favor	31	39
Somewhat oppose	9	8
Strongly oppose	13	5
Don't know	11	9

74. Permitting judges in divorce cases to require parents to attend parental education programs to aid them in helping children cope with divorce or separation.

Strongly favor	46	37
Somewhat favor	32	38
Somewhat oppose	10	9
Strongly oppose	3	4
Don't know	9	12

75. Establishing the presumption of joint custody or parenting in divorce cases involving minor children.

Strongly favor	35	28
Somewhat favor	33	41
Somewhat oppose	12	12
Strongly oppose	3	4
Don't know	17	15

76. Giving corporate tax breaks to encourage all private companies to have family-friendly policies such as flex time and telecommuting.

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Strongly favor	43	40
Somewhat favor	36	38
Somewhat oppose	9	10
Strongly oppose	4	2
Don't know	9	9

77. Raising the minimum wage so that all full-time workers are above the poverty level.

Strongly favor	78	80
Somewhat favor	16	14
Somewhat oppose	3	4
Strongly oppose	2	1
Don't know	1	1

ASKED OF NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

78. Offering discounts for parents at zoos, museums, or other cultural or educational institutions? [210 respondents]

Strongly favor	74
Somewhat favor	21
Somewhat oppose	2
Strongly oppose	1
Don't know	1

DEMOGRAPHICS

ASKED OF ALL

The remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.

79. How many of your children live at home?

0	2	1
1	33	38
2	42	38
3	15	15
4	5	4
5	1	1
Don't know / refused	1	2

80. How old are you?

18 – 34	27	35
35 – 49	56	50
50 – 64	12	11
65 or older	5	5
Refused	0	0

81. What is the last grade in school you completed? *(Do not read categories)*

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Grade school	1	2
Some high school	6	11
High school graduate	34	35
Some college	20	20
College graduate	26	22
Graduate school	12	10
Technical school	1	1
Don't know / refused	0	0

82. What is your current marital status - are you married, single, widowed, or divorced?

Married	74	65
Single	13	19
Widowed	3	3
Divorced	9	10
Unmarried / living together	1	2
Don't know / refused	1	1

83. Are you currently working? IF YES: How many hours a week?

No	25	21
Yes, up to 20 hours a week	9	9
Yes, between 21 and 34 hours a week	10	10
Yes, 35 to 40 hours a week	34	36
Yes, between 41 and 49 hours a week	13	15
Yes, between 50 and 59 hours a week	6	5
Yes, 60 hours a week or more	3	3
Don't know	0	0

84. How many people are employed where you work: under 25, 25 to 49, or over 50?
[499 respondents statewide, 334 respondents NYC]

Under 25	29	25
25 to 49	25	26
Over 50	42	42
Don't know	4	6

85. IF MARRIED: Does your spouse work? [484 respondents statewide, 292 respondents NYC]

Yes	85	86
No	13	3
Don't know	2	1

ASKED OF ALL

86. Do you have a child with a physical, mental, or emotional disability?

Yes	10	7
No	90	93
Don't know	0	0

87. Is your child in special education? [55 respondents statewide, 30 respondents NYC]

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Yes	34	47
No	64	50
Don't know	1	3

88. IF YES: How satisfied with it are you – very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied? [21 respondents statewide, 14 respondents NYC]

Very satisfied	49	14
Fairly satisfied	41	65
Not very satisfied	6	14
Not at all satisfied	0	0
Don't know	3	7

ASKED OF ALL

89. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	83	79
No	17	21
Don't know	0	1

90. REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY: What are the chances that you will vote in next year's election for Governor and other offices – are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50 that you will vote or don't you think you will vote? [527 respondents statewide, 330 respondents NYC]

Almost certain	64	59
Probably	27	31
50-50	6	8
Will not vote	2	1
Don't know	1	1

91. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat, weak Democrat, weak Republican, strong Republican, or Independent? [527 respondents statewide, 330 respondents NYC]

Strong Democrat	29	32
Weak Democrat	17	23
Weak Republican	12	9
Strong Republican	15	12
Independent	24	20
Don't know	3	5

ASKED OF ALL

92. Were you born in the United States?

Yes	84	78
No	16	22
Don't know	0	0

93. What is your religion? (Do not read categories.)

	<u>%</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>NYC</u>
Protestant (INCLUDES BAPTIST, LUTHERAN, METHODIST, EPISCOPAL, PRESBYTERIAN, ETC)	33	34
Catholic	45	39
Other Christian (MORMON, CONGREGATIONALIST UNITARIAN, ETC)	6	7
Jewish	5	7
Moslem	1	2
Hindu	1	1
Buddhist	0	0
Other	1	1
None / Atheist	5	5
Don't know / refused	4	5

94. What is your race?

White	65	48
Black / African-American / Caribbean-American	15	25
Hispanic / Latino	15	25
Asian	4	1
Native American	0	0
Other (SPECIFY)	0	1
Don't know / refused	1	0

95. Hispanic Probe (see results combined into Q. 94 above) [559 respondents statewide, 336 respondents NYC]

ASKED OF ALL

96. Do you live in a city, a suburb, or a rural area?

City	50	88
Suburb	35	9
Rural area	14	2
Don't know / no response	1	1

97. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 2000. Please stop me when I read the category which includes your total family income. (Read choices)

Less than \$20,000	9	14
\$20,000-\$34,999	16	22
\$35,000-59,999	21	19
\$60,000-99,999	15	12
\$100,000 plus	11	6
Don't know / refused	27	27

98. As I said at the start, your answers to this survey are confidential. However, if researchers or the press want to follow up this poll after its release, are you willing to let someone interview you on the subjects we discussed? IF YES: What is your first name?

99. Gender

Male	44	48
Female	56	52

100. New York City Borough

	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NYC</u>
Bronx		17
Brooklyn		30
Manhattan		19
Queens		27
Staten Island		6