
ABC News Manners Express Poll, May 1999

ABC News

ICPSR 2772

ABC NEWS MANNERS EXPRESS POLL, MAY 1999

(ICPSR 2772)

Principal Investigator

ABC News

First ICPSR Version

August 1999

Inter-university Consortium for
Political and Social Research

P.O. Box 1248

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The original collector of the data, ICPSR, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC NEWS MANNERS EXPRESS POLL, MAY 1999 (ICPSR 2772)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, fielded May 5-9, 1999, sought respondents' views on manners. Those queried were asked to assess whether most of the people they encountered possessed good or bad manners, how most people's manners compared to two and three decades ago, and whether it was better for people to have good manners, yet hide what they really think. Respondents were asked whether the following were minor or major sources of bad manners in this country: stress, parental failure to instill good manners, educational institutions' failure to teach good manners, and television/movie influences. Those queried were asked whether enforcing good manners or allowing people freedom of expression was a greater societal good. Respondents were asked which of the following activities they had engaged in over the last few months: holding a door open for a stranger, using a swear word in public, speaking rudely to someone in public, and making an obscene gesture at another person while driving a car. Additional questions covered the content of children's television programs, and whether saying "please" and "thank you" would make the world a better place. Background information on respondents includes age, race, sex, education, age of people in household, and income.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) The questions that appear within the survey instrument represent the ABC News "express" poll questions contained within a larger poll, comprised of questions from a variety of agencies. For information on the demographic variables, which do not appear within the documentation, consult the variable labels within the data file. (3) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, hardcopy documentation has been converted to machine-readable form and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (4) The codebook is provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC

Cases: 1,010
Variables: 76

CHILTON State Code List (No Polling done in Alaska or Hawaii)

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- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 01. Maine | 25. West Virginia |
| 02. New Hampshire | 26. Virginia |
| 03. Vermont | 27. North Carolina |
| 04. Massachusetts | 28. South Caroline |
| 05. Connecticut | 29. Georgia |
| 06. Rhode Island | 30. Florida |
| 07. New York | 31. Mississippi |
| 08. New Jersey | 32. Alabama |
| 09. Pennsylvania | 33. Tennessee |
| 10. Ohio | 34. Kentucky |
| 11. Indiana | 35. Arkansas |
| 12. Illinois | 36. Louisiana |
| 13. Michigan | 37. Texas |
| 14. Wisconsin | 38. Oklahoma |
| 15. Minnesota | 39. New Mexico |
| 16. Iowa | 40. Arizona |
| 17. Missouri | 41. Nevada |
| 18. Kansas | 42. Utah |
| 19. Nebraska | 43. Colorado |
| 20. South Dakota | 44. Wyoming |
| 21. North Dakota | 45. Montana |
| 22. Delaware | 46. Idaho |
| 23. Maryland | 47. Washington |
| 24. District of Columbia | 48. Oregon |
| | 49. California |

CHILTON Region Code

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- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | NEW ENGLAND | Connecticut | New Hampshire |
| | | Maine | Rhode Island |
| | | Massachusetts | Vermont |
| 2 | MIDDLE ATLANTIC | New Jersey | |
| | | New York | |
| | | Pennsylvania | |
| 3 | EAST NORTH CENTRAL | Illinois | Ohio |
| | | Indiana | Wisconsin |
| | | Michigan | |
| 4 | WEST NORTH CENTRAL | Iowa | Nebraska |
| | | Kansas | North Dakota |
| | | Minnesota | South Dakota |
| | | Missouri | |
| 5 | SOUTH ATLANTIC | Delaware | North Carolina |
| | | District of Columbia | South Carolina |
| | | Florida | Virginia |
| | | Georgia | West Virginia |
| | | Maryland | |
| 6 | EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | Alabama | Mississippi |
| | | Kentucky | Tennessee |
| 7 | WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | Arkansas | Oklahoma |
| | | Louisiana | Texas |
| 8 | MOUNTAIN | Arizona | Nevada |
| | | Colorado | New Mexico |
| | | Idaho | Utah |
| | | Montana | Wyoming |
| 9 | PACIFIC | Alaska | Oregon |
| | | California | Washington |
| | | Hawaii | |

ABC NEWS STATE CODES

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ALA	01	Alabama	MON	27	Montana
LAS	02	Alaska	NEB	28	Nebraska
ARI	03	Arizona	NEV	29	Nevada
ARK	04	Arkansas	N/H	30	New hampshire
CAL	05	California	N/J	31	New Jersey
COL	06	Colorado	N/M	32	New Mexico
CON	07	Connecticut	N/Y	33	New York
DEL	08	Delaware	N/C	34	North Carolina
D/C	09	District of Columbia	N/D	35	North Dakota
FLO	10	Florida	OHI	36	Ohio
GEO	11	Georgia	OKL	37	Oklahoma
HAW	12	Hawaii	ORE	38	Oregon
IDA	13	Idaho	PEN	39	Pennsylvania
ILL	14	Illinois	R/I	40	Rhode Island
IND	15	Indiana	S/C	41	South Carolina
IOW	16	Iowa	S/D	42	South Dakota
KAN	17	Kansas	TEN	43	Tennessee
KEN	18	Kentucky	TEX	44	Texas
LOU	19	Louisiana	UTA	45	Utah
MAI	20	Maine	VER	46	Vermont
MAR	21	Maryland	VIR	47	Virginia
MAS	22	Massachusetts	WAS	48	Washington
MIC	23	Michigan	W/V	49	West Virginia
MIN	24	Minnesota	WIS	50	Wisconsin
MIS	25	Mississippi	WYO	51	Wyoming
ISS	26	Missouri			

ABC NEWS REGION CODES

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1 EAST

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

2 MIDWEST

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

4 WEST

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

may 5, 1999
Final for Express

ABC "Manners" On EXPRESS (791)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling from TNS Intersearch. We are doing a survey for ABC News on some current events.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the male/female adults 18 years of age and older, living in this household and who are currently at home . . . may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? (IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the female/male who last had a birthday?) (REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF NEEDED)

1. Would you say that most of the people you encounter have good manners or bad manners? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that Very/somewhat good/bad manners?)

- 1 Very Good Manners
- 2 Somewhat Good Manners
- 3 Somewhat Bad Manners
- 4 Very Bad Manners
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

2. Compared to 20 or 30 years ago, do you think most people's manners are better today, worse, or about the same?

- 1 Better Today
- 2 Worse
- 3 About the same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: Rotate Items In Parentheses****

3. For each item I name, please tell me if you think it's a major or a minor source of bad manners in this country. First is (read item).

- 1 Major source of bad manners
- 2 Minor source of bad manners
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Not a source
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

- a. Stress in today's society.
- b. Parents not teaching manners well enough.
- c. The schools not teaching manners well enough.
- d. Television and the movies setting a bad example.

****ROTATE PHRASES IN PARENTHESSES****

4. Do you think it's better (for people to have good manners, even if it means hiding what they really think); or better (for people to express what they really think, even if it's bad manners to do so)?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: REPEAT IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Better for people to have good manners
- 2 Better for people to express what they really think
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

5. Thinking specifically about children, do you think most of the television programs they watch encourage them to be more respectful of others, less respectful, or do children's TV programs have no real effect on their respect for others?

- 1 More respectful of others
- 2 Less respectful of others
- 3 TV programs have no real effect
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE PHRASES IN PARENTHESES

6. Which of these do you think is more important to society: (Allowing people freedom of expression, even if it means tolerating bad manners); or (enforcing good manners, even if it means limiting freedom of expression)?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: REPEAT IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Allowing people freedom of expression/tolerate bad manners
- 2 Enforcing good manners/limit freedom of expression
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

7. If people said "please" and "thank you" more often, do you think the world would be a better place, or wouldn't it make that much difference?

- 1 Would be a better place
- 2 Would not make a difference
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

AUTHOR NOTE: EXTRA VOLUNTEER RESPONSE CATEGORY FOR ITEM D

8. For each item I name, please tell me if that's something you've done in the last few months, or not. This is confidential and for statistical purposes only:

- 1 Something done in the last few months
- 2 Not done in the last few months
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

a. Held a door open for someone you didn't know.
b. Used a swear-word in public.
c. Gotten impatient with someone in public and spoken rudely to them.

d. Made an obscene gesture at another person while driving a car.

- 1 Something done in the last few months
- 2 Not done in the last few months
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Don't Drive
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

9. In the last few months has another driver made an obscene gesture at you, or not?

- 1 Something done in the last few months
- 2 Not done in the last few months
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Don't Drive
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused