

ABC News Elian Gonzalez Poll, April 2000

**ABC News** 

**ICPSR 3055** 

# ABC NEWS ELIAN GONZALEZ POLL, APRIL 2000 (ICPSR 3055)

Principal Investigator

ABC News

First ICPSR Version November 2000

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#### DATA DISCLAIMER

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#### DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC NEWS ELIAN GONZALEZ POLL, APRIL 2000 (ICPSR 3055)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, fielded April 24, 2000, is part of a continuing series of monthly surveys that solicit public opinion on the presidency and on a range of other political and social issues. The focus of this data collection was the removal of Elian Gonzalez, the six-year-old Cuban boy whose mother drowned when they attempted to immigrate to Florida, from the home of his Miami relatives by federal officers in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 22, 2000. Respondents were asked whether they felt the federal action to remove Elian was appropriate, whether the United States government did all it could to avoid using force in this case, and whether permanent custody of Elian should be granted to his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, or to his relatives in Miami. Those queried were asked whether they saw the photograph of a federal agent holding a gun while he was seizing Elian, whether they saw the photograph of Elian smiling after being reunited with his father later the same day, and which of these images struck respondents as more powerful. A series of questions respondents whether they approved or disapproved of the handling of the case by Elian's father, Elian's relatives in Miami, Attorney General Janet Reno, President Bill Clinton, Texas governor George W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore, the Cuban-American community in Miami, the Cuban government, and congressional Republicans. A final question addressed whether respondents supported or opposed holding congressional hearings on the government's action to remove Elian from his relatives' home. Background information on respondents includes gender and political party.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) 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, documentation has been converted to Portable Document Format (PDF), data files have been converted to non-platform-specific formats, and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (3) The codebook is provided by ICPSR 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 on the ICPSR Web site.

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

(PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DATA/ REFORM.DOC

Cases: 505 Variables: 21

# ABC News/Washington Post State Code List (No Polling done in Alaska or Hawaii)

- 01. Maine
- 02. New Hampshire
- 03. Vermont
- 04. Massachusetts
- 05. Connecticut
- 06. Rhode Island
- 07. New York
- 08. New Jersey
- 09. Pennsylvania
- 10. Ohio
- 11. Indiana
- 12. Illinois
- 13. Michigan
- 14. Wisconsin
- 15. Minnesota
- 16. Iowa
- 17. Missouri
- 18. Kansas
- 19. Nebraska
- 20. South Dakota
- 21. North Dakota
- 22. Delaware
- 23. Maryland
- 24. District of Columbia

- 25. West Virginia
- 26. Virginia
- 27. North Carolina
- 28. South Caroline
- 29. Georgia
- 30. Florida
- 31. Mississippi
- 32. Alabama
- 33. Tennessee
- 34. Kentucky
- 35. Arkansas
- 36. Louisiana
- 37. Texas
- 38. Oklahoma
- 39. New Mexico
- 40. Arizona
- 41. Nevada
- 42. Utah
- 43. Colorado
- 44. Wyoming
- 45. Montana
- 46. Idaho
- 47. Washington
- 48. Oregon
- 49. California

# ABC News/Washington Post Region Codes

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

IowaNebraskaKansasNorth DakotaMinnesotaSouth 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

Wyoming

9 PACIFIC

Alaska Oregon
California Washington

Hawaii

Montana

# ABC News/Washington Post State Codes

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	80	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/Washington Post Region Codes

#### 1 EAST

Connecticut Delaware

District of Columbia

Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

#### 3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Lousiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas

Virginia

West Virginia

### 2 MIDWEST

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

Wisconsin

#### 4 WEST

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

TNS INTERSEARCH #DL-13988
Horsham, PA April 24, 2000
FINAL

(NATIONAL: Elian Gonzalez Poll, ABC#XXX)

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. I have a few questions about Elian Gonzalez, the six-year-old Cuban boy who was rescued off the coast of Florida in November. His mother drowned and relatives in Florida wanted to keep him, but his father from Cuba wanted him back.

As you may know, federal officers removed the boy from his relatives' home in Miami and returned him to his father on Saturday. Do you support or oppose the federal action to remove the boy from his relatives' home and return him to his father?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

# (IF OPPOSE IN Q.1)

- 2. Is that because you think he should not have been returned to his father at all, or because you think the authorities should have found another way to do it?
- 1 Should not have been returned to father
- 2 Authorities should have found another way
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

#### ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES

- 3. Who do you think should be granted permanent custody of Elian Gonzalez (his father) or (his relatives in Miami)?
- 1 His father
- 2 His relatives in Miami
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

- 4. Do you think the government did all it could to avoid using force in this case, or do you think it should have done more before sending in the officers?
- 1 Did all it could to avoid force
- 2 Should have done more
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused
- 5. Did you happen to see the photograph of a federal agent with a gun just as he was seizing the boy, or not?
- 1 Yes, saw photograph
- 2 No, did not see photo
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused
- 6. Did you happen to see the photograph of the boy smiling after being reunited with his father later Saturday, or not?
- 1 Yes, saw photograph
- 2 No, did not see photo
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

#### IF YES TO BOTH Q5 and Q6, ASK 7

- 7. Which of those pictures struck you as the more powerful one the photograph of the federal agent as he was seizing the boy, or the photograph of the boy smiling with his father later Saturday?
- 1 Federal agent seizing boy
- 2 Boy smiling with father
- 3 Neither (vol.)
- 4 Both equally (vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused
- 8. For each person or group I name, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way they've handled the Elian Gonzalez case. First is...

# (SCRAMBLE LIST)

- a. The boy's relatives in Miami
- b. The boy's father
- c. Attorney General Janet Reno
- d. Bill Clinton
- e. George W. Bush
- f. Al Gore
- g. The Cuban-American community in Miami

- h. The Cuban government
- i. The Republicans in Congress
- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused
- 9. Do you support or oppose holding congressional hearings on the government's action to remove the boy from his relatives' home?
- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

### \*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2\*\*

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)  $\,$ 

- 1 A Democrat
- 2 A Republican
- 3 An Independent
- 4 Or what?

# (DO NOT READ BELOW)

- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

921. RESPONDENT'S SEX:

Male 1 Female 2

\*\*\*END\*\*\*