

*Yell Violence -
Parents*



Facsimile

To: *Karin Kullman*
From: *Diana Scorsone*
Re:
CC:

Fax:
Phone:

Number of pages including cover: *12*

Message:

Kaiser Research - for your review

TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT LITTLETON SURVEY

PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES for
THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS

May 27, 1999

Job # 99032

N= 604 parents of children in grades K-12

Margin of error: plus or minus 5 percentage points

Square root of design effect: 1.16

Field Period: May 14-24, 1999

NOTE: Some results will not add to 100% because of rounding.

1. Recently there has been a lot of discussion about what should be done to reduce youth violence. How often, if ever, do you think parents should be held responsible for violent behavior by their children?

19	Always
43	In most cases
29	Only in some cases
3	Never
5	Don't know

- X
2. To help reduce youth violence, how important do you think it is to do more to limit the violence that children are exposed to on TV, in movies, video games, and other entertainment media?

61	Very important
29	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
4	Not at all important
1	Don't know

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all trends are from a Princeton Survey Research Associates poll of parents with children ages 18 and under, conducted for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 10-18 October, 1998.

3. Do you think the government should get involved in doing more to limit violence in entertainment media, or do you think this should be left up to parents and the media industry itself?

- X 37 Government should get involved
- 49 Better left up to parents/media industry
- 9 Not important to limit media violence
- 5 Don't know

4. In general, how much do think violence in TV, movies, video games and other entertainment media has influenced the way your own children think and behave? Do you think violence in entertainment media has had a lot of influence, some influence, only a little, or none?

- X 17 A lot
- 29 Some
- 34 Only a little
- 18 None
- 2 Don't know

5. Are your children aware of the recent violence at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado?

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/98</u>
92	Yes	60
7	No	39
1	Don't know	1

¹ Trend question asked "Are your children aware of the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal?"

6. As far as you know, where did your children first hear about the violence at Columbine High? Was it from ...²

Based on those whose children are aware of the violence in Littleton/n=553

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/98</u>
48	Television	73
1	Newspapers	3
2	Other media	5
1	The Internet	1
4	Their friends	2
20	A teacher or someone else at school	5
21	You or their other parent	9
*3	Other (VOL.)	1
3	Don't know	1

7. Have you had any conversations with any of your children as a result of news stories about what happened at Columbine High?⁴

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/98</u>
79	Yes	46
12	No	14
7	Child not aware	39
1	Don't know	1

8. Which ONE of the following statements best describes your own feelings about having these conversations?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

92	Overall, I felt it was good for me and my children to have these conversations
7	Overall, it was a negative experience and I wish these conversations had never happened
1	Don't know

⁴ Trend question asked "To the best of your knowledge, did your children FIRST hear about the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal from..."

² An asterisk indicates values less than .5%.

* Trend question asked "Have you had any conversations with any of your children AS A RESULT of news stories about Clinton and Lewinsky?"

9. Some parents tell us they felt unprepared to talk with their children about what happened at Columbine High because gun violence in schools was not much of an issue when they were schoolchildren. Did YOU personally feel unprepared to talk with your children about this subject, or not?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

23	Yes
75	No
1	Don't know

- 10/13. In what grades are the children with whom you've had conversations as a result of what happened at Columbine High?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

Grade levels of all children talked with

42	Grades 9 through 12
59	Grades 4 through 8
42	Grades kindergarten through 3

Grade level of oldest child talked with

42	Grades 9 through 12
41	Grades 4 through 8
17	Grade kindergarten through 3

- 11/14. Are the children you talked with boys, girls, or both boys and girls?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

35	Boys
32	Girls
35	Both boys and girls
-	Don't know

12/15. Do the children you talked with go to a public school OR do they go to a parochial or private school?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

88	Public school
8	Parochial or private school
3	Some in public school, some in parochial/private school
2	Home schooled (VOL.)
0	Don't know

16. The FIRST time you had a conversation with one of your children as a result of the news about Columbine High, did it start because of something YOUR CHILD asked or said, or did YOU bring up the subject yourself?⁵

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/98</u>
36	Child	62
49	Self	30
14	Don't know	8

17. What is the MAIN effect the news about Columbine High has had on your children? Are your children...⁶

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/98</u>
22	Disturbed or upset by it	24
58	Aware but not troubled by it	45
13	Confused by it	9
2	Ignoring it	19
4	Other main effect (VOL.)	1
1	Don't know	2

⁵ Trend question asked "The FIRST time you had such a conversation with one of your children, did it start because of something YOUR CHILD asked or said, or did YOU bring up the subject yourself?"

⁶ Trend question asked "What is the MAIN effect the news about Clinton and Lewinsky has had on your children?"

18. Did any of your children ever tell you they were worried that the kind of violence that happened at Columbine High could happen in their own school?

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

- 41 Yes
- 58 No
- 1 Don't know

19. How difficult was it to put your child at ease about the threat of violence in their own school? Was it...

Based on those whose children expressed worry/n=198

- 19 Very difficult
- 38 Somewhat difficult
- 29 Not too difficult
- 12 Not at all difficult
- 2 Don't know

20. There are many different things that parents and children might have talked about as a result of the news about Columbine High. Please tell me which of the following kinds of conversations, if any, YOU have had with your children since you first heard the news.

As a result of the news about Columbine High, did you ever talk with a child about...

Based on those who have had conversations with their children/n=477

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. What to do if someone brings guns to school	69	30	*
b. How to handle a potentially violent situation	65	34	1
c. How children treat one another at school	87	13	1
d. Your child's feelings about fitting in at school	53	45	1
e. How to handle peer pressure	72	28	*
f. Death, grief, or how to deal with loss	53	47	0
g. What your child sees or does on the Internet	32	66	2
h. The importance of letting adults know if they think someone might be planning violence	83	16	*

21. As far as you know, have any teachers or counselors at your children's school talked with students about what happened at Columbine High?

- 50 Yes
- 30 No
- 20 Don't know

22 As far as you know, has your children's school made any plans to take additional security precautions because of what happened at Columbine High?

- 35 Yes
- 53 No
- 12 Don't know

23

Please tell me whether or not any of your children have ever experienced each of the following at their own school. Have any of your children ever ...

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Seen other students being teased	88	7	5
b.	Seen or heard students threaten other students with violence	48	43	9
c.	Been personally threatened with violence by another student	27	71	3
d.	Seen fistfights between students	57	34	8
e.	Personally been involved in a fistfight with another student	20	80	1
f.	Seen guns or other weapons at school	10	87	3
g.	Experienced a bomb threat at school	30	67	2
h.	Witnessed a shooting on school grounds	1	99	"

24. Which of the following things, if any, have you done as a parent because of what happened at Columbine High? Have you put any new restrictions on...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. A child's use of the Internet	10	87	2
b. The computer or video games a child is allowed to play	19	80	1
c. The TV shows a child is allowed to watch	23	76	1
d. The movies or videos a child is allowed to see	25	75	•
e. The music a child is allowed to listen to	16	84	1

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. Sex of parent:

44 Male
56 Female

D2. Now I have just a few questions so we can describe the parents who took part in our survey... Are you now married, LIVING as married, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

84 Married
2 Living as married
6 Divorced
2 Separated
1 Widowed
4 Never married/Single
* Refused

D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

3 None, or grade 1-8
9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
5 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
23 Some college, no 4-year degree
14 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)
17 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

14 Under 30
39 30-39
39 40-49
8 50+
1 Refused

D5. Last year, that is in 1998, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category...

- 4 Less than \$10,000
- 7 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 25 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 22 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 10 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 10 \$100,000 or more
- 11 Don't know/Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

- 6 Yes
- 93 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D7. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

- 84 White
- 11 Black/African-American
- 1 Asian
- 3 Other or mixed race
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Community Type:

- 24 Urban
- 52 Suburban
- 24 Rural

Region:

- 20 Northeast
- 23 Midwest
- 35 South
- 21 West