



behavior research center's

Latino Poll

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PARENTAL GUIDANCE ON SEXUALITY NEGLECTED
IN QUARTER OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
9 TO 17 YEAR OLDS AT HOME.

Phoenix, Arizona, December 19, 2002. Nearly all (97%) of Hispanic parents raising children between nine and 17 years of age have spent some time with their children discussing family responsibility issues and 91 percent say they have discussions with their youngsters about having tolerance for people of differing ethnic origins.

At the same time, parental willingness to speak with their nine- to 17-year-old children on more delicate, and perhaps difficult, subjects such as sexual responsibility, pregnancy avoidance and the realities of HIV and AIDS, drops sharply into the mid to low 70-percent range. Quite literally, this means that roughly a quarter of Hispanic parents with children in this age group may never discuss these issues with their children.

Fathers are also noticeably less likely than mothers to have sexuality-related discussions with their children. Additionally, there appears to be a significant difference between the willingness of Hispanics in Maricopa and Pima Counties to discuss sexuality issues: In Pima County, discussion with children on these issues is ten points greater than here in Maricopa County. Similarly, younger parents are less likely to talk with their pre-teen and teenage children about sexuality issues than are older parents. By comparison, 92 percent of older parents (age 45+) have discussed sexual responsibility with their pre-teen/teen, whereas only 63 percent of parents under the age of 35 have had such discussions with their children.

Both findings may signal a greater need in this area to help younger parents, and particularly those in Maricopa County, cope with these issues. The lower participation levels may trace to whether parents feel well enough informed to discuss these issues with their children. The sharp drop-off may also suggests a potential need to help arm parents with the information they may need to successfully enter into such discussions with their teens.

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Lifestyle preferences, beliefs and family ideals may also help explain some of the differences. For instance, fewer survey participants in larger families speak to their children about pregnancy avoidance than those in smaller families. Survey participants in larger families are more likely focus on family responsibility and tolerance for others.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 505 Hispanic heads of household across Maricopa and Pima Counties, conducted between October 16th and November 2nd, 2002, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll/Latino Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Latino Poll (2002-IV-18) is based on 505 telephone interviews with Hispanic heads of household across Maricopa and Pima Counties, conducted from October 16 through November 2, 2002 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.4 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Latino Poll is a part of the ongoing series of Rocky Mountain Polls conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

BELOW: Statistical data. For this and other polls. See www.brcpolls.com/results

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

"Have you or anyone in your home ever sat down with your children to discuss the following subjects?"

**ISSUES HISPANICS DISCUSS WITH CHILDREN
9 TO 17 YEARS OF AGE RESIDING IN THE HOME**

	<u>FAMILY RE- SPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>TOLERANCE FOR ETHNIC DIFFERENCES</u>	<u>SEXUAL RE- SPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>PREGNANCY AVOIDANCE</u>	<u>REALITIES OF AIDS / HIV</u>
Overall Percent Of Hispanic Households	97%	91%	76%	74%	71%
Role					
Father	96	89	72	69	65
Mother	98	94	78	78	77
Age					
Under 25	88	75	63	75	75
25 to 35	100	98	62	60	68
35 to 44	95	85	77	76	71
45 and older	98	96	92	86	75
Number of Children In The Household					
1 child	94	84	87	84	77
2 children	94	94	75	75	70
3 or more	100	92	73	70	70
Maricopa	97	93	71	68	66
Pima	97	90	81	80	77

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