

## New Jersey Results

PETER D. HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES / MARKET STRATEGIES, INC.

National Institute for Early Education Research

Study #6400

November 29 - December 13, 2001

Q.1. In your community, how many parents do you think have access to good preschool programs that they can afford for their three- and four-year-old children--would you say that almost all parents have access to these programs, most parents, about half of parents, or fewer than half of parents have access to these programs for their young children?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Almost all parents	25	26	24	27	22
Most parents	21	20	23	22	21
About half of parents	21	21	21	23	16
Fewer than half of parents	18	20	16	18	20
Not sure	15	13	16	10	21
Total Almost All/Most	47	46	47	49	44
Total Half Or Fewer	39	40	37	41	36

Q.2. And which one or two of the following do you think are the biggest obstacles facing parents in finding preschool programs for their three- and four-year-old children? (m) \*

\* Asked only of respondents who say most parents" or fewer (Q.1)."

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	240	115	125	142	90
Many of these programs are too expensive	43	36	51	45	42
There are not enough good preschool programs	16	16	15	14	18
The structure and schedule of preschool programs	17	19	15	20	13
There is not enough information about preschool programs	22	24	20	28	13

Many parents cannot find prog	21	25	18	18	24
All (VOL)	7	8	7	6	10
None/other (VOL)	2	3	1	3	2
Not sure	5	7	4	3	8

Q.3. Overall, do you think that state government is doing too much, about the right amount, or too little to make sure that all parents have access to affordable preschool programs for their young children?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Doing too much	4	5	3	4	4
Doing about the right amount	20	22	19	23	16
Doing too little	62	60	63	61	64
Not sure	14	13	15	12	16

Q.4. I'd like to read you a list of things that state government could be doing with regard to preschool programs. For each item that I mention, please tell me whether you support or oppose state government getting involved in that specific area.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT STATE GOVERNMENT GETTING INVOLVED IN SELECTED AREAS

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116

Ensuring the safety of preschool programs by establishing and enforcing licensing and inspection standards

71                      71                      71                      74                      66

Providing funding and financial support for preschool programs so that all parents who want to can afford to enroll their children

61                      54                      66                      64                      57

Ensuring the quality of preschool programs by setting standards for learning and for teacher training and education

61                      58                      65                      61                      63

Working with parents and local school systems to operate preschool programs similar to the way local school systems now run kindergarten through twelfth grade school programs

	50	52	49	49	54
Holding preschool programs accountable for the learning progress and skill development of young children by establishing evaluation standards					
	44	43	46	44	46

Q.5a. Now I'm going to describe an approach that some people have suggested for expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs and then get your reaction.

State government would provide funding and financial support so that all parents in the state who want to send their children to a high-quality preschool program can afford to do so. Parents would be able to choose which program to send their child to depending on their needs and preferences--for example, parents could select a public or a private program, and parents could select a program that is part-time or one that is full-time, as long as the program meets state standards for teacher qualifications, class size, and safety.

How do you feel about this approach--do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, feel neutral, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this approach?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Strongly agree	48	45	51	51	44
Somewhat agree	27	25	28	27	26
Feel neutral	10	10	10	9	12
Somewhat disagree	4	4	5	4	5
Strongly disagree	7	11	3	6	8
Not sure	4	5	3	3	5
Total Agree	75	71	79	78	70
Total Disagree	11	15	8	11	13

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) What do you think are the most positive aspects of this approach?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116

Net Positive Aspects	71	65	75	73	65
Equal opportunity, for all chil	11	9	13	11	11
Good for kids, prepares them	9	8	10	9	10
Gives parents choices/option	9	9	9	10	6
Makes it affordable, it's pensi	8	8	9	10	5
Gives them an early start on t	8	7	9	8	7
Gives them a chance to learn	7	6	9	7	9
Teaches social/communicatic	6	3	9	5	7
Government should be involv	5	6	3	6	3
Gets parents involved, aware	5	4	5	5	3
Important to interact with othe	4	3	5	3	7
Benefits working/single parer	4	5	3	5	3
It's important, need to do mor	4	4	3	4	3
Agree with it, it's a good idea,	3	4	3	4	2
Good age, able to learn, kids	3	3	2	3	3
Gives them the best start, ma	3	2	3	2	4
It's needed, some kids come	2	1	3	1	3
Parents choose based on nei	2	3	1	2	2
More access, more programs	1	2	1	2	1
Develop good habits, learn di	1	1	2	1	2
Good flexibility, choice of hou	1	1	1	1	1
It works, have seen the result	1	-	1	-	-
Good for competition/quality,	1	1	1	1	-
Supports both public and priv	-	-	-	-	-
All other positive aspects of tl	1	1	1	1	1

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) And what concerns do you have about this approach?

	All New Jersey Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Net Concerns	51	51	52	51	56
Against government involvem	11	13	10	11	14
Teachers need to be certified	8	7	9	8	8
Too young, not ready, need t	6	8	5	6	8
Where will money/funding cor	6	7	5	7	4
Ensure standards/safety, nee	5	5	6	7	4
Too costly, too pensive	4	4	5	2	9
Parents should educate/take	3	3	3	3	2

The schools/other programs \	2	2	3	1	4
Should be based on need, pa	2	3	2	3	1
Used as babysitting/day care	2	2	2	2	2
Should be voluntary, not forc	2	2	2	1	2
Not fair, not equitable for all, f	2	2	1	1	2
Should be for public only, not	2	2	1	2	2
Don't have children, not fair f	1	2	1	1	2
Not needed, not necessary, e	1	-	2	2	-
Most parents will choose priv	1	1	2	1	2
Shouldn't pay for private educ	1	1	1	1	1
Will be taken advantage of, a	1	1	1	-	2
Every child has different neec	1	-	2	1	-
Against evaluating/qualifying	1	-	1	-	1
Concerns about quality of edi	1	-	1	1	-
Disagree with it, bad idea, dis	-	1	-	-	-
Against vouchers, sounds like	-	1	-	-	-
Local government/communiti	-	-	-	-	-
All other concerns about this	8	5	11	8	8
Don't know enough, would like	2	2	1	2	1
Don't know, no response	5	7	3	4	7

Q.6a. Now I'd like to read you two statements about how preschool programs could be made available. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: These programs should be free to all children, regardless of their family's income, OR

Statement B: These programs should be free ONLY to children from poor and low-income families, with the parents of other children paying based on the family's income and ability to pay.

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Statement A/These programs :	56	55	57	58	54
Statement B/These programs :	33	33	33	34	34
Neither/other (VOL)	6	8	4	4	7
Not sure	5	4	6	4	5

Q.6b. And now I'd like to read you three statements about paying for preschool programs. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: I believe that these programs are a top priority and I would be willing to pay additional state taxes to pay for them

Statement B: I support these programs, but only if they can be funded within the existing state budget and without raising state taxes

Statement C: I do not believe that these programs are an important priority given all the other issues that state government needs to address

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Statement A: I believe that the	27	29	25	26	30
Statement B: I support these p	56	51	61	59	52
Statement C: I do not believe t	13	15	10	11	15
Federal government should p	2	1	3	2	2
None/other (VOL)	1	2	-	1	1
Not sure	1	2	1	1	-

Q.7a. I'd like to list reasons that some people have given for why it is important to have preschool programs available for three- and four-year-old children.

For each statement, please tell me whether you think it is extremely convincing, very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not really convincing.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT SELECTED REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY OR VERY CONVINCING

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
--	--------------------------------------	--------------	----------------	----------------	-------------------------

Many children who participate in preschool programs do better when they enter elementary school and score higher on basic skills tests

63                      59                      66                      62                      65

Many children who participate in preschool programs are more self-confident, better adjusted, and less likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school \*

59                      59                      59                      58                      61

Good preschool programs help motivate young children to become problem-solvers who are more successful in school, work, and in their communities

61                      57                      66                      60                      63

Having children participate in preschool programs strengthens families by giving parents the resources and support they need to help their children get a good start

65                      62                      69                      66                      63  
 Good preschool programs cost a lot more than most working families can afford, leaving many parents with few alternatives

57                      54                      60                      56                      58  
 Children who participate in preschool programs are less likely to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older and more likely to grow up and become productive, contributing members of the community \*

53                      51                      56                      50                      61  
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested, because these programs prevent school failure and crime and produce a better educated, more productive workforce \*\*

43                      44                      41                      47                      35  
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are less self-confident, less adjusted, and more likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school \*\*

43                      47                      40                      46                      38  
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested \*

35                      33                      36                      36                      35  
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are more likely to have problems in school and to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older \*\*

35                      36                      34                      34                      35

**FACTUALS**

Q.F1. How old are you?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
18-24	7	11	4	12	-
25-29	9	11	7	15	-
30-34	6	4	8	9	-
35-39	16	15	16	26	-
40-44	13	13	14	22	-
45-49	10	11	9	16	-
50-54	12	11	12	-	32
55-59	5	5	6	-	15
60-64	6	5	7	-	18
65-69	5	5	5	-	13
70-74	4	5	3	-	10
75 and over	4	1	7	-	12
Refused	3	3	2	-	-

Q.F2. Are you currently employed?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Professional, manor	27	29	25	34	17
White-collar worker	20	20	21	24	16
Blue-collar worker	11	15	7	11	10
Farmer, rancher	-	-	-	-	-
Student	3	4	3	6	-
Homemaker	10	4	15	13	5
Retired	19	18	20	3	45
Unemployed, looking for work	4	2	5	3	3
Other	3	4	3	4	2
Not sure	3	4	1	2	2

Q.F3. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Grade school	1	1	1	-	1
Some high school	6	7	5	5	7
High school graduate	26	28	24	20	35
Some college, no degree	14	13	14	13	14
Vocational training/2-year colle	11	11	11	14	8
4-year bachelor's/bachelor's de	23	18	29	29	16
Some postgraduate work, no c	5	2	7	4	6
2 or 3 years' postgraduate wor	11	14	9	13	10
Doctoral/law degree	2	3	-	1	3
Not sure/refused	1	3	-	1	-

Q.F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or as something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF NOT REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or closer to the Democratic Party?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Strong Republican	15	17	12	14	17
Weak Republican	14	11	17	15	12
Independent/lean Republican	8	9	7	6	11
Strictly independent	16	16	16	16	15
Independent/lean Democrat	11	13	8	14	5
Weak Democrat	16	15	17	17	15
Strong Democrat	18	15	20	15	23
Not sure/refused	3	3	3	3	2
Total Republicans	36	37	36	35	40
Total Democrats	45	43	46	46	43

Q.F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Liberal	24	19	28	26	22
Moderate	44	44	43	43	44
Conservative	25	29	22	27	24
Not sure	7	8	7	4	10

Q.F6. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116

Single	20	23	17	27	8
Married	63	66	60	62	64
Separated	2	2	2	2	2
Widowed	6	3	10	-	18
Divorced	7	4	9	8	7
Other (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
Not sure/refused	2	2	2	1	1

Q.F7a. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

	All New Jersey Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Yes, kids under 18 in househo	38	38	38	55	13
No, no kids under 18 in househ	60	60	60	44	85
Not sure	2	2	2	1	2

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Zero to five \*

	All New Jersey Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	122	59	63	107	16
One	26	37	17	26	29
Two	17	11	23	19	-
Three	4	1	6	4	-
Four	1	1	-	1	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	52	50	54	50	71
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Six to nine \*

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	122	59	63	107	16
One	26	28	24	29	6
Two	10	9	12	11	6
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	64	63	64	60	88
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Ten to fourteen \*

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	122	59	63	107	16
One	33	30	36	32	41
Two	8	12	4	8	6
Three	1	-	1	1	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	58	58	59	59	53
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Fifteen to eighteen \*

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
--	--------------------------------------	--------------	----------------	----------------	-------------------------

Total	122	59	63	107	16
One	21	14	27	17	47
Two	4	4	4	4	6
Three	1	2	-	1	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	74	80	69	78	47
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7c. Have you yourself ever had a child under age five enrolled in a preschool program?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Yes, child is currently enrolled	12	11	13	16	5
Yes, child was enrolled in a pr	27	26	29	27	29
Yes, child enrolled in a prescl	3	3	4	4	2
No, never had a child under a	49	50	48	48	52
Not sure/refused	9	10	6	5	12
Total Have/Have Had Child In	43	40	46	47	36

Q.F7d. Have you ever had a child under age five in a child care arrangement outside the home--including with friends or relatives?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Yes, child is currently in a chilc	9	9	8	11	4
Yes, child was in child care arr	21	18	24	19	25
Yes, child was in child care a	4	1	6	5	4
No, never had a child under a	56	61	52	57	55
Not sure/refused	10	11	10	8	12
Total Have/Have Had Child In	33	28	39	35	33

Q.F7e. Do you have any grandchildren under age twelve? \*

\* Asked only of respondents who say that they are a 40 or over (Q.F1).

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Yes, have grandchildren under	20	16	23	5	44
No, do not have grandchildren	36	36	37	27	50
Not sure	6	8	5	5	6

Q.F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Protestant	23	23	24	20	32
Catholic	47	45	48	50	42
Jewish	5	5	4	3	7
Other	15	15	16	17	13
None	3	3	3	4	2
Not sure/refused	7	9	5	6	4

Q.F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way? \*

\* Asked only of Protestants (Q.F8a).

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Fundamentalist/evangelical	5	5	6	5	6
Neither fundamentalist nor eve	13	14	12	12	17
Not sure	5	4	6	3	9

Non-Protestants (Q.F8a)	77	77	76	80	68
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----

Q.F9. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Less than \$10,000	3	2	4	3	3
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	4	2	6	3	6
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	10	8	12	10	11
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	7	8	6	6	9
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	9	9	9	8	11
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	16	17	15	17	15
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	14	14	14	18	11
More than \$100,000	15	20	10	16	14
Not sure/refused	22	20	24	19	20

Q.F10. What is your race?

	All New Jersey Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	321	155	166	195	116
Hispanic	7	8	7	11	2
White	70	67	72	66	76
Black	11	13	10	12	11
Asian	2	3	2	3	2
Other	6	5	6	4	7
Not sure/refused	4	4	3	4	2