

## Oklahoma 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?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Almost all parents	17	20	15	18	16
Most parents	21	19	22	21	21
About half of parents	22	19	25	24	19
Fewer than half of parents	29	29	28	29	29
Not sure	11	13	10	8	15
Total Almost All/Most	38	39	37	39	37
Total Half Or Fewer	51	48	53	53	48

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)."

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	260	121	139	151	106
Many of these programs are too pensive	35	32	37	39	28
There are not enough good programs to se	21	19	22	22	17
The structure and schedule of many of thes	13	10	16	14	13
There is not enough information available to	28	29	27	32	22
Many parents cannot find programs that are	23	22	23	19	28
All (VOL)	5	5	4	5	5

None/other (VOL)	3	4	2	3	3
Not sure	4	5	3	4	5

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?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Doing too much	7	11	4	5	12
Doing about the right amount	28	26	29	26	29
Doing too little	52	49	55	59	40
Not sure	13	14	12	10	19

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127

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

69	59	79	73	64
----	----	----	----	----

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

70	63	76	76	61
----	----	----	----	----

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

62	57	65	63	59
----	----	----	----	----

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

46	41	50	52	38
----	----	----	----	----

Holding preschool programs accountable for the learning progress and skill development of young children by establishing evaluation standards

37	35	39	39	35
----	----	----	----	----

Q.5a. Now I'm going to describe an approach that some people have suggested for panding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in program 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?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Strongly agree	43	39	47	45	42
Somewhat agree	30	30	30	31	29
Feel neutral	11	12	10	14	7
Somewhat disagree	4	6	3	3	6
Strongly disagree	10	11	8	7	12
Not sure	2	2	2	-	4
Total Agree	73	69	77	75	70
Total Disagree	14	17	11	10	19

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?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Net Positive Aspects	-	-	-	-	-
Equal opportunity, for all children/incomes	-	-	-	-	-
Good for kids, prepares them for school/ki	-	-	-	-	-

Gives parents choices/options	-	-	-	-	-
Makes it affordable, it's pensive, most can	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them an early start on their educatic	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them a chance to learn, will learn be	-	-	-	-	-
Teaches social/communication skills, buik	-	-	-	-	-
Government should be involved/provide fu	-	-	-	-	-
Gets parents involved, aware of their child	-	-	-	-	-
Important to interact with others, spend tin	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits working/single parents, is conven	-	-	-	-	-
It's important, need to do more for educati	-	-	-	-	-
Agree with it, it's a good idea, like the prop	-	-	-	-	-
Good a, able to learn, kids nowadays are	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them the best start, makes a more p	-	-	-	-	-
It's needed, some kids come from bad hor	-	-	-	-	-
Parents choose based on needs of their o	-	-	-	-	-
More access, more programs available for	-	-	-	-	-
Develop good habits, learn discipline/resp	-	-	-	-	-
Good flexibility, choice of hours/days, part	-	-	-	-	-
It works, have seen the results, research s	-	-	-	-	-
Good for competition/quality, kids deserve	-	-	-	-	-
Supports both public and private, should b	-	-	-	-	-
All other positive aspects of this approach	-	-	-	-	-

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?

	Oklahoma Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Net Concerns	-	-	-	-	-
Against government involvement	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers need to be certified/qualified/car	-	-	-	-	-
Too young, not ready, need to be home, n	-	-	-	-	-
Where will money/funding come from, tax	-	-	-	-	-
Ensure standards/safety, needs to monito	-	-	-	-	-
Too costly, too pensive	-	-	-	-	-
Parents should educate/take care of youn	-	-	-	-	-
The schools/other programs will suffer, tal	-	-	-	-	-
Should be based on need, parents should	-	-	-	-	-
Used as babysitting/day care instead of e	-	-	-	-	-
Should be voluntary, not forced upon pare	-	-	-	-	-
Not fair, not equitable for all, favors certair	-	-	-	-	-

Should be for public only, not private	-	-	-	-	-
Don't have children, not fair for those with	-	-	-	-	-
Not needed, not necessary, enough progr	-	-	-	-	-
Most parents will choose private, can be d	-	-	-	-	-
Shouldn't pay for private education with ta	-	-	-	-	-
Will be taken advantage of, abused, too r	-	-	-	-	-
Every child has different needs, can't be a	-	-	-	-	-
Against evaluating/qualifying children that	-	-	-	-	-
Concerns about quality of education, what	-	-	-	-	-
Disagree with it, bad idea, disagree with p	-	-	-	-	-
Against vouchers, sounds like a voucher s	-	-	-	-	-
Local government/communities should ha	-	-	-	-	-
All other concerns about this approach	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know enough, would like more inform	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, no response	-	-	-	-	-

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.

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Statement A/These programs should be fre	67	67	67	70	61
Statement B/These programs should be fre	27	26	29	25	31
Neither/other (VOL)	4	5	2	4	3
Not sure	2	2	2	1	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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Statement A: I believe that these programs	41	40	41	44	38
Statement B: I support these programs if th	45	45	46	44	47
Statement C: I do not believe these prograr	11	11	11	11	10
Federal government should pay for progra	-	-	-	-	1
None/other (VOL)	2	3	2	-	4
Not sure	1	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).

	Oklahoma 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	60	51	68	59	61
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	51	67	56	64
Good preschool programs help motivate young children to become problem-solvers who are more successful in school, work, and in their communities	53	47	58	51	55
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	52	48	57	52	53
Good preschool programs cost a lot more than most working families can afford, leaving many parents with few alternatives	46	39	53	46	46
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 *					

42                      42                      41                      37                      48

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 \*\*

39                      33                      44                      38                      40

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 \*\*

34                      30                      37                      33                      35

Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested \*

28                      28                      27                      28                      29

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 \*\*

26                      20                      30                      23                      30

**FACTUALS**

Q.F1. How old are you?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
18-24	11	12	10	19	-
25-29	7	8	6	12	-
30-34	8	4	11	13	-
35-39	10	13	7	17	-
40-44	12	13	11	21	-
45-49	11	10	11	18	-
50-54	9	8	11	-	24
55-59	8	9	7	-	20
60-64	5	5	6	-	13
65-69	6	6	6	-	14
70-74	5	4	5	-	11
75 and over	7	7	8	-	18
Refused	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F2. Are you currently employed?

Oklahoma

50 and

	Voters	Men	Women	18-49	over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Professional, manor	-	-	-	-	-
White-collar worker	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-collar worker	-	-	-	-	-
Farmer, rancher	-	-	-	-	-
Student	2	1	3	4	-
Homemaker	11	-	21	15	5
Retired	24	22	26	2	54
Unemployed, looking for work	3	4	1	2	3
Other	60	73	49	77	38
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

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

	Oklahoma Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Grade school	2	2	1	1	3
Some high school	10	7	13	7	15
High school graduate	37	36	38	38	36
Some collie, no degree	16	14	18	19	12
Vocational training/2-year collie	9	10	8	12	3
4-year bachelor's/bachelor's degree	15	17	14	15	16
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2	4	1	2	3
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's de	8	8	7	5	10
Doctoral/law degree	1	2	-	1	2
Not sure/refused	-	-	-	-	-

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?

Oklahoma Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
--------------------	-----	-------	-------	----------------

	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Strong Republican	22	26	19	22	23
Weak Republican	16	16	15	17	14
Independent/lean Republican	8	9	7	11	4
Strictly independent	7	7	7	7	8
Independent/lean Democrat	7	9	6	9	4
Weak Democrat	19	17	22	18	21
Strong Democrat	18	13	22	15	23
Not sure/refused	2	3	2	1	3
Total Republicans	46	52	41	50	41
Total Democrats	44	39	50	42	48

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Liberal	18	16	21	21	15
Moderate	36	34	38	38	33
Conservative	41	46	36	39	43
Not sure	5	4	5	2	9

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Single	17	20	15	25	8
Married	65	65	64	68	59
Separated	1	2	1	-	3
Widowed	8	5	10	-	18
Divorced	8	7	9	6	11

Other (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
Not sure/refused	1	1	1	1	1

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Yes, kids under 18 in household	37	34	39	55	10
No, no kids under 18 in household	63	66	60	45	89
Not sure	-	-	1	-	1

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

Zero to five \*

	II Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	115	52	63	102	13
One	39	37	41	43	11
Two	12	15	10	14	-
Three	1	2	-	1	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	1	-	2	1	-
None	47	46	47	41	89
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

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

Six to nine \*

	Oklahoma Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
--	--------------------	-----	-------	-------	----------------

	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	115	52	63	102	13
One	32	26	37	33	30
Two	8	12	4	8	8
Three	2	5	-	2	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	58	57	59	57	62
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

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

Ten to fourteen \*

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	115	52	63	102	13
One	37	45	31	39	20
Two	9	7	10	6	33
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	54	48	59	55	47
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

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

Fifteen to eighteen \*

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	115	52	63	102	13
One	27	24	30	29	18

Two	5	2	8	3	17
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	68	74	62	68	65
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Yes, child is currently enrolled in a preschool program	9	9	8	11	5
Yes, child was enrolled in a preschool program	28	26	30	30	25
Yes, child enrolled in a preschool program	2	2	2	2	1
No, never had a child under a 5 in a preschool program	60	63	59	57	67
Not sure/refused	1	-	1	-	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In Program	39	37	40	43	32

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Yes, child is currently in a child care arrangement	7	7	7	9	3
Yes, child was in child care arrangement in the past	24	22	26	22	25
Yes, child was in child care arrangement in the past	3	2	3	3	3
No, never had a child under a 5 in a child care arrangement	65	68	63	66	67
Not sure/refused	1	1	1	-	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In Child Care	34	31	36	34	31

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).

	II Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Yes, have grandchildren under 12	37	33	41	18	65
No, do not have grandchildren under 12	26	29	24	21	34
Not sure	1	-	1	-	1

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

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Protestant	61	59	62	56	66
Catholic	11	14	9	13	10
Jewish	1	-	1	1	-
Other	24	23	24	25	21
None	2	2	3	4	1
Not sure/refused	1	2	1	1	2

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).

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Fundamentalist/evangelical	21	19	23	19	25
Neither fundamentalist nor evangelical	32	35	30	31	33

Not sure	7	5	9	6	8
Non-Protestants (Q.F8a)	40	41	38	44	34

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?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Less than \$10,000	3	4	3	1	6
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	13	11	14	12	14
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	16	13	18	19	11
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	14	15	12	15	12
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	9	11	8	9	10
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	13	13	14	14	13
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	7	9	5	8	6
More than \$100,000	6	7	5	6	6
Not sure/refused	19	17	21	16	22

Q.F10. What is your race?

	Oklahoma Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	314	152	162	184	127
Hispanic	3	5	1	4	2
White	81	81	81	78	85
Black	6	5	7	8	3
Asian	-	1	-	-	1
Other	9	8	9	10	7
Not sure/refused	1	-	2	-	2