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ABSTRACT

A telephone survey of a random sample of over 1,650 Pennsylvania citizens solicited opinions on proposals for improvements in the areas of: (1) welfare reform; (2) smoking reduction; (3) unintended pregnancies and unwanted births; (4) education reform; (5) children's health and safety; and (6) workmen's compensation. Each section of this report provides a bar graph showing the percentage of citizens supporting each proposal along with a narrative description of each proposal and results. In addition, tables list breakdowns of responses by rural and urban status, region, age, sex, marital status, educational level, political affiliation, religious preference, and age of children. Results of the education portion of the survey show that the majority of Pennsylvanians support: (1) funding additional Head Start classes; (2) lowering the age of required school attendance from 8 to 5 or 6; (3) requiring financially able parents to pay for college; (4) raising the legal dropout age from 16 to 18; (5) funding public education mostly through state income tax; (6) mandating full-day kindergarten; and (7) banning physical punishment in public schools. Only 40 percent support an increase in the number of school days in a school year. Appendices provide a map of regional and urban-rural classification, lists of urban and rural counties, and characteristics of the sample survey. (KS)

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ED 362 347

# Views of Pennsylvania Citizens

# THE PUBLIC MIND

EDUCATION  
 WELFARE REFORM  
 REDUCING SMOKING  
 WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION  
 CHILDREN'S HEALTH & SAFETY  
 UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES / BIRTHS

**MANSEFIELD UNIVERSITY**  
**RURAL SERVICES**

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Report No. 5  
 May 1993

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# THE RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE

## BACKGROUND

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

## PURPOSE

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

## MISSION

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

### How We Will Accomplish Our Mission

In carrying out our mission we will:

- \*strive for excellence in all our efforts;
- \*apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
- \*be committed to providing leadership for the economic revitalization and development of the region;
- \*be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
- \*work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
- \*assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
- \*act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
- \*do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
- \*strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
- \*seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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# 5th Annual RSI Survey

May, 1993

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## WELFARE REFORM

**Require Public Service Work of Welfare Recipients.** President Clinton has pledged to "end welfare as we know it." He has promised to "provide people with the education, training, job placement assistance and child care they need for two years—so that they can break the cycle of dependency. After two years, those who can work will be required to go to work, either in the private sector or in meaningful community service jobs."

Pennsylvanians strongly support the Clinton proposal. "Requiring people receiving public assistance to do public service work" has the backing of 89 percent of Pennsylvanians, including both Republicans and Democrats. Still, despite public sentiment, one skeptical respondent noted, "Workfare didn't work too well under Thornburgh. Big city public employee unions have to protect their jobs. They ain't goin' let workfare work." Another asked: "Will teenage welfare mothers work in community service centers instead of going to school?"

**Offer the Private Sector Incentives to Train and Hire Long-Term Welfare Recipients.** Despite the mixed results of such programs in the past, most Pennsylvanians (84%) still support the general idea of providing the private sector with incentives to train and hire long-term welfare recipients. Support for such incentives seems to stem from a distrust in the effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector. Yet, as one skeptic noted, there is a "great deal of devil in the detail." For example, if the incentive is an added opportunity to win the bid on a state contract, would the incentive simply displace current employees?

**Tighten Child Support Enforcement.** A solid majority (82%) of Pennsylvanians support further tightening of child support enforcement. Though not asked about specific proposals, it appears that there is strong public support for two bills under consideration: (1) that parents of newborns be expected to sign documents to establish paternity; and, (2) that parents who are three months or more delinquent in child support payments lose professional or trade licenses.

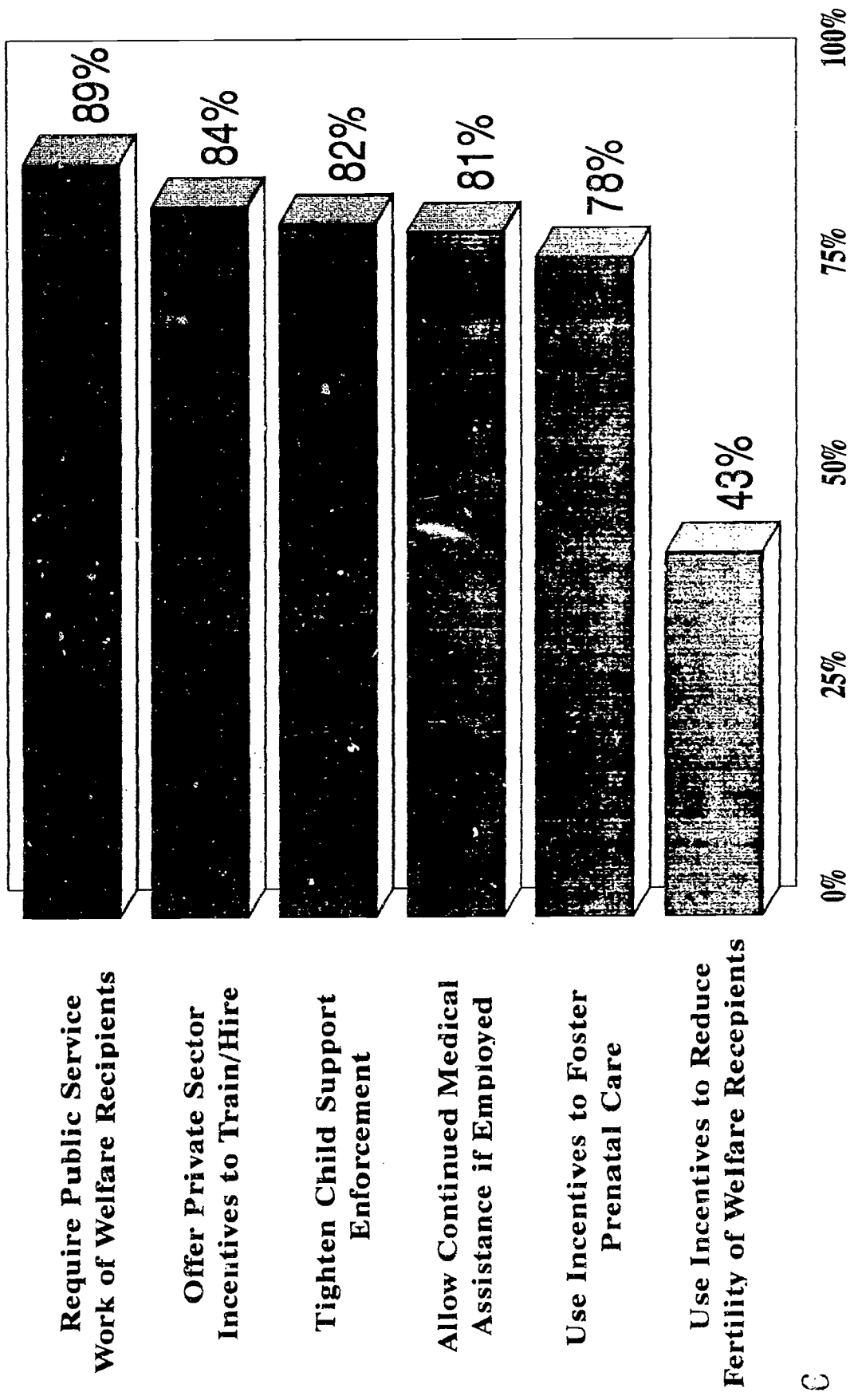
**Allow Continued Medical Assistance.** In April 1993, the Clinton Administration granted approval for an experimental welfare reform program in Vermont that will allow welfare recipients who gain employment to retain their Medicaid health coverage for three years if the job does not provide medical benefits. A strong majority (81%) of Pennsylvanians would support such a reform. As one respondent noted, "It's not good that some people have to go on and stay on welfare just to get their medical bills paid."

**Use Incentives to Foster Pre-natal Care.** In Maryland, to reduce the cost associated with preventable premature births and infant morbidity, a pregnant woman receiving public assistance is given an extra \$14/month incentive if she gets pre-natal check-ups and care. A clear majority (78%) support the adoption of such a reform.

**Use Incentives to Reduce Fertility of Welfare Recipients.** In 1992, New Jersey passed welfare reform legislation which denies the payment of additional AFDC benefits to a woman if she has an additional child while already receiving assistance. Opponents of the measure contend that it is unduly punitive and ultimately harmful to the children. As an alternative, in Ohio, welfare reformers have proposed to offer incentives to women on assistance if they avoid having additional children while receiving assistance. At this point, Pennsylvanians do not support such reform: 43 percent, favor; 49 percent, oppose; 8 percent, undecided.

**Fig. 1 WELFARE REFORM PROPOSALS**

*Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...*



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993



## WELFARE REFORM: Require Public Service Work

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: require people receiving public assistance to do public service work?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	89%	7%	4%	1686
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	91	6	3	367
Urban . . . . .	88	8	4	1317
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	86	10	4	170
Southwest . . . . .	90	6	3	401
Central . . . . .	89	7	4	364
Northeast . . . . .	90	6	5	124
Southeast . . . . .	88	8	5	625
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	84	12	4	421
35 - 49 . . . . .	90	7	3	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	91	5	4	361
65 or older . . . . .	89	4	6	325
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	88	8	3	698
Female . . . . .	89	7	5	970
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	90	6	4	1081
Divorced . . . . .	85	9	6	143
Separated . . . . .	79	10	12	43
Widowed . . . . .	89	7	4	170
Never Married . . . . .	84	13	3	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	85	8	7	201
High School Graduate . . . . .	89	7	3	929
College Graduate . . . . .	89	7	4	531
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	91	5	4	586
Democrat . . . . .	88	9	4	663
Independent/Other . . . . .	92	7	1	84
None . . . . .	87	7	6	300
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	91	5	4	811
Catholic . . . . .	88	9	3	557
Other/None . . . . .	83	11	6	305
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	92	4	5	561
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	87	9	4	680
No . . . . .	87	10	4	398

## WELFARE REFORM: Offer Private Sector Incentives To Train/Hire

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Reward private companies that train and hire long-term welfare recipients?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	84%	13%	3%	1689
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	81	16	3	368
Urban . . . . .	85	12	3	1319
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	81	16	3	171
Southwest . . . . .	84	11	5	400
Central . . . . .	83	14	3	365
Northeast . . . . .	85	13	2	124
Southeast . . . . .	86	12	2	627
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	82	14	3	421
35 - 49 . . . . .	85	13	2	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	87	10	3	364
65 or older . . . . .	82	14	5	324
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	86	12	2	699
Female . . . . .	82	13	4	972
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	84	13	3	1082
Divorced . . . . .	86	13	1	143
Separated . . . . .	89	9	2	44
Widowed . . . . .	82	12	6	170
Never Married . . . . .	85	12	4	226
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	81	14	5	201
High School Graduate . . . . .	83	14	4	931
College Graduate . . . . .	88	10	2	532
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	84	14	2	587
Democrat . . . . .	88	10	2	664
Independent/Other . . . . .	84	15	1	84
None . . . . .	78	16	6	301
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	84	12	4	814
Catholic . . . . .	85	13	1	556
Other/None . . . . .	84	13	4	306
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	86	11	3	561
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	83	14	3	680
No . . . . .	85	12	3	401



## WELFARE REFORM: Tighten Child Support Enforcement

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Make it easier to collect child support from an absentee father if the child is receiving public assistance?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	82%	12%	7%	1681
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	81	14	5	365
Urban . . . . .	82	11	7	1314
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	82	13	5	168
Southwest . . . . .	79	13	8	398
Central . . . . .	82	11	7	364
Northeast . . . . .	81	13	5	124
Southeast . . . . .	83	11	6	625
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	81	14	6	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	83	11	6	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	82	12	6	360
65 or older . . . . .	79	11	10	323
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	81	13	6	696
Female . . . . .	82	10	8	967
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	81	12	7	1078
Divorced . . . . .	84	9	6	141
Separated . . . . .	86	2	12	43
Widowed . . . . .	84	10	6	170
Never Married . . . . .	82	13	5	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	77	13	11	201
High School Graduate . . . . .	81	13	6	925
College Graduate . . . . .	85	9	6	530
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	82	12	6	584
Democrat . . . . .	82	11	7	661
Independent/Other . . . . .	81	11	8	84
None . . . . .	79	14	6	299
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	84	10	7	811
Catholic . . . . .	80	14	6	554
Other/None . . . . .	79	13	8	303
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	81	11	8	559
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	84	11	5	678
No . . . . .	78	14	7	399

## WELFARE REFORM: Allow Medical Assistance To Continue If Employed

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Allow a welfare recipient to remain on medical assistance if they accept a job that does not provide medical insurance?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	81%	13%	6%	1685
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	78	17	5	367
Urban . . . . .	82	12	6	1316
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	81	15	4	170
Southwest . . . . .	80	12	8	401
Central . . . . .	81	13	6	364
Northeast . . . . .	77	15	7	124
Southeast . . . . .	82	13	5	624
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	80	16	4	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	84	12	5	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	83	11	6	363
65 or older . . . . .	73	15	12	323
Sex				
Male . . . . .	80	14	6	697
Female . . . . .	81	13	6	970
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	81	13	6	1081
Divorced . . . . .	84	11	4	142
Separated . . . . .	85	7	7	43
Widowed . . . . .	76	14	10	169
Never Married . . . . .	78	17	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	78	12	10	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	80	14	6	930
College Graduate . . . . .	83	12	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	78	15	7	586
Democrat . . . . .	84	12	4	663
Independent/Other . . . . .	85	10	6	84
None . . . . .	78	15	8	299
Religious Affiliation				
Protestant . . . . .	81	12	7	814
Catholic . . . . .	82	14	4	554
Other/None . . . . .	78	15	7	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	79	12	9	558
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	84	13	3	679
No . . . . .	77	15	7	401

## WELFARE REFORM: Use Incentives To Foster Prenatal Care

Question: In Maryland, to reduce the health problems of babies a pregnant woman on welfare is given an extra \$14 a month if she gets prenatal care. Would you favor or oppose having a similar program in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	78%	18%	4%	1678
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	76	21	3	367
Urban . . . . .	78	17	5	1310
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	78	20	2	171
Southwest . . . . .	79	18	4	398
Central . . . . .	75	19	6	363
Northeast . . . . .	77	18	6	124
Southeast . . . . .	78	18	4	621
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	84	13	3	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	79	17	4	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	77	19	4	364
65 or older . . . . .	66	26	8	320
Sex				
Male . . . . .	74	22	4	695
Female . . . . .	81	15	5	968
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	78	18	4	1078
Divorced . . . . .	80	14	6	143
Separated . . . . .	70	20	9	44
Widowed . . . . .	72	20	8	169
Never Married . . . . .	81	16	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	73	22	5	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	78	19	4	928
College Graduate . . . . .	80	15	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	73	22	5	585
Democrat . . . . .	82	15	3	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	75	20	5	84
None . . . . .	79	16	5	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	77	17	6	812
Catholic . . . . .	79	18	2	555
Other/None . . . . .	75	19	5	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	76	19	6	559
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	80	18	3	679
No . . . . .	78	17	5	399

## WELFARE REFORM: Use Incentives To Reduce Fertility

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Give additional assistance to a woman if she does not become pregnant while on welfare?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	43%	49%	8%	1684
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	44	49	8	366
Urban . . . . .	43	49	8	1316
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	50	47	3	171
Southwest . . . . .	40	50	10	400
Central . . . . .	42	49	9	364
Northeast . . . . .	50	43	7	123
Southeast . . . . .	42	50	8	624
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	42	53	6	420
35-49 . . . . .	46	47	7	566
50-64 . . . . .	43	48	9	360
65 or older . . . . .	40	48	12	325
Sex				
Male . . . . .	45	48	7	698
Female . . . . .	41	50	9	968
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	44	49	8	1080
Divorced . . . . .	40	46	15	142
Separated . . . . .	42	44	14	44
Widowed . . . . .	44	48	8	168
Never Married . . . . .	43	52	6	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	43	47	10	201
High School Graduate . . . . .	43	49	8	927
College Graduate . . . . .	44	48	7	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	43	50	8	584
Democrat . . . . .	46	47	7	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	56	36	8	84
None . . . . .	36	54	9	301
Religious Affiliation				
Protestant . . . . .	42	49	9	811
Catholic . . . . .	47	48	6	555
Other/None . . . . .	39	50	11	305
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	44	48	8	559
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	42	50	9	678
No . . . . .	45	49	6	400

## SMOKING

**Smoking Behavior.** About 25 percent of Pennsylvanians are self-reported smokers; 27 percent, former smokers; and 48 percent, never-smokers. Current smokers are disproportionately divorced (40%), non-registered as voters (36%), high school dropouts (32%), and young adults (29%). Former smokers are disproportionately the elderly (39%); and, never-smokers are more likely to be single (61%) and young adults (55%).

**Increase the Cigarette Tax.** According to a recent report in the *American Journal of Public Health* (January, 1992), for each 1-cent increase in cigarette taxes, sales fall by 0.48 packs per capita. The researchers concluded that "state tax increases are effective in reducing smoking and the larger the tax increase, the larger the drop in cigarette smoking." They estimated that a 10-cent increase would cut consumption by about 3 to 5 percent. At this point, a strong majority of Pennsylvanians (78%) support a 10-cent increase if the additional revenue is used to provide health insurance for uninsured children.

**Possession Law.** Currently, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors, but it is not illegal for minors to possess cigarettes. Anti-smoking advocates are split on whether or not a possession law would be appropriate and/or effective in reducing teenage smoking. In fact, the organization Smoker-Free Pennsylvania holds that such possession laws as that passed in Oregon is a ploy of the tobacco industry to criminalize young addicts to deflect attention from the real criminals—the producers and sellers. In any case, 78 percent of Pennsylvanians support having a possession law.

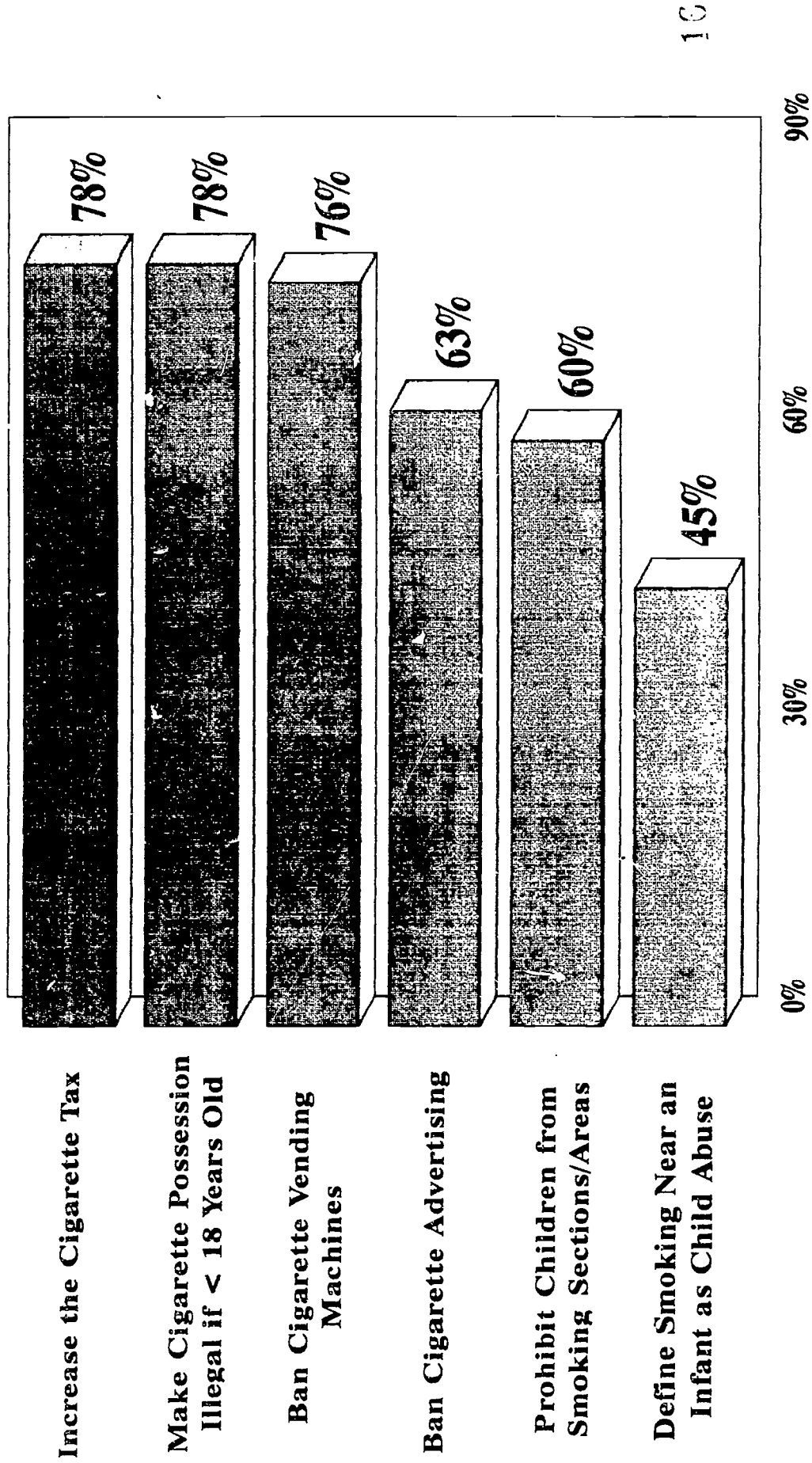
**Ban Cigarette Vending Machines.** Recognizing that minors often obtain cigarettes from vending machines, anti-smoking advocates have proposed to ban such machines in Pennsylvania. At this point, a clear majority (76%) support passage of a ban; females (81%) more so than males (71%).

**Ban Cigarette Advertising.** In 1977, a Gallup Poll found that only 36 percent of the public supported having a ban on cigarette advertising. However, since then, the anti-smoking movement has drawn a great deal of public attention to the "power of advertising," especially in convincing young people to start smoking. Currently, by a nearly 2-to-1 majority, Pennsylvanians favor a ban. Support for the ban is somewhat stronger among females (68%) than males (58%).

**Prohibit Children from the Smoking Section of a Restaurant.** In March 1993, Rep. Peter Daley proposed a ban on smoking in cars with children. The intent was to reduce the health risks faced by children when they inhale second-hand smoke. Relating to a setting of a similar nature, respondents were asked: "Do you think children should be prohibited from sitting in the smoking section of a restaurant?" Support for prohibition was strongest among the elderly (72%) and Democrats (65%). But perhaps most surprising, by a narrow margin, 48-44 percent, smokers themselves favor a ban.

**Define Smoking Near an Infant as Child Abuse.** Recognizing the health hazards posed to children exposed to smoking, various courts throughout the country have considered parental smoking behavior to be a deciding factor in custody disputes, and in some instances orders have been issued to prohibit parental smoking in the presence of a child. Furthermore, John Bانشaf, Executive Director of Actions on Smoking and Health, has recently argued that "smoking in the presence of a child (is) the most prevalent yet least reported form of child abuse." Further, he says that deliberately exposing minors to a substance which doubles their risk of contracting lung cancer—and may cause them to go into respiratory distress—is inexcusable, and that doctors can no longer stand by idly while their young patients are literally being poisoned by their parents. Despite the apparent radical nature of the idea, 45 percent of Pennsylvanians are willing to define smoking near an infant as child abuse. Among the elderly, the figure jumps to 56 percent, and even among smokers themselves 36 percent view smoking near an infant to be a form of child abuse.

**Fig. 2 PROPOSALS TO REDUCE SMOKING**  
*Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...*



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993



## REDUCE SMOKING: Increase The Cigarette Tax

Question: To provide health insurance for uninsured children, it has been proposed to increase the cigarette tax by ten cents. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	78%	20%	2%	1672
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	80	18	2	368
Urban . . . . .	78	20	2	1303
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	79	19	2	170
Southwest . . . . .	83	14	3	396
Central . . . . .	73	25	3	363
Northeast . . . . .	80	18	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	78	20	2	619
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	78	20	1	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	77	21	2	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	79	19	2	362
65 or older . . . . .	79	16	5	318
Sex				
Male . . . . .	76	22	2	693
Female . . . . .	80	17	3	964
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	79	19	2	1078
Divorced . . . . .	73	26	1	141
Separated . . . . .	78	22	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	78	16	5	168
Never Married . . . . .	78	20	2	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	74	22	4	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	77	21	2	925
College Graduate . . . . .	83	15	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	80	18	2	583
Democrat . . . . .	82	16	2	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	72	25	2	83
None . . . . .	70	27	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	80	19	0	808
Catholic . . . . .	79	18	3	554
None . . . . .	73	24	3	302
Children				
Yes - over 18 . . . . .	79	18	3	556
Yes - under 18 . . . . .	80	19	1	678
No . . . . .	76	23	2	399
Smoking Status				
Smoker . . . . .	60	38	2	414
Former . . . . .	81	17	2	446
Never . . . . .	86	12	2	811

## REDUCE SMOKING: Make Cigarette Possession Illegal If <18

Question: Recently, in Oregon, a law was passed making it illegal for anyone under eighteen to possess cigarettes or any tobacco product. Would you favor or oppose have a similar law in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	78%	20%	2%	1671
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	78	20	1	368
Urban . . . . .	78	20	2	1302
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	76	23	1	170
Southwest . . . . .	79	20	2	395
Central . . . . .	79	19	2	364
Northeast . . . . .	80	18	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	76	21	3	618
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	82	16	2	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	78	21	2	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	73	26	2	362
65 or older . . . . .	78	18	4	315
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	75	22	2	692
Female . . . . .	80	18	2	964
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	78	19	2	1078
Divorced . . . . .	73	26	1	142
Separated . . . . .	77	23	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	76	18	5	167
Never Married . . . . .	78	20	3	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	80	18	2	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	81	17	2	927
College Graduate . . . . .	72	25	3	530
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	74	23	3	581
Democrat . . . . .	80	18	2	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	77	22	1	84
None . . . . .	79	18	3	300
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	78	19	3	809
Catholic . . . . .	80	19	1	553
Other/None . . . . .	74	24	2	301
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	76	22	2	555
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	82	17	2	679
No . . . . .	74	22	3	398
<b>Smoking Status</b>				
Smoker . . . . .	74	24	2	415
Former . . . . .	77	21	2	446
Never . . . . .	80	18	3	809

## REDUCE SMOKING: Ban Cigarette Vending Machines

Question: Children under the age of 18 are often able to obtain cigarettes from vending machines. A proposal has been made to ban such machines in Pennsylvania. Would you favor such a ban?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	76%	22%	2%	1669
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	78	20	2	368
Urban . . . . .	76	22	2	1300
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	76	22	2	169
Southwest . . . . .	78	21	2	396
Central . . . . .	76	22	2	364
Northeast . . . . .	80	19	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	76	22	2	616
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	79	19	1	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	74	24	2	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	76	21	3	362
65 or older . . . . .	78	20	2	315
Sex				
Male . . . . .	71	26	2	691
Female . . . . .	81	17	2	963
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	75	23	2	1076
Divorced . . . . .	79	19	2	142
Separated . . . . .	84	14	2	44
Widowed . . . . .	78	20	3	166
Never Married . . . . .	77	19	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	80	18	2	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	77	21	2	926
College Graduate . . . . .	75	24	2	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	76	23	1	579
Democrat . . . . .	78	20	2	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	72	25	4	84
None . . . . .	77	20	2	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	78	20	2	808
Catholic . . . . .	77	22	1	553
Other/None . . . . .	72	25	4	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	76	22	2	554
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	76	22	2	678
No . . . . .	77	20	3	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker . . . . .	73	26	1	415
Former . . . . .	72	26	2	445
Never . . . . .	81	17	2	808

## REDUCE SMOKING: Ban Cigarette Advertising

Question: Would you favor a law to ban all advertising of cigarettes?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	63%	33%	3%	1675
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	64	33	3	368
Urban . . . . .	63	34	3	1306
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	61	35	4	170
Southwest . . . . .	65	30	5	397
Central . . . . .	60	37	3	364
Northeast . . . . .	67	31	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	64	34	2	620
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	60	38	2	421
35 - 49 . . . . .	66	32	2	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	64	32	4	362
65 or older . . . . .	63	31	6	318
Sex				
Male . . . . .	58	38	4	694
Female . . . . .	68	29	3	966
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	66	32	2	1079
Divorced . . . . .	54	41	5	143
Separated . . . . .	67	26	7	44
Widowed . . . . .	63	29	8	168
Never Married . . . . .	60	38	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	67	28	5	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	61	36	3	928
College Graduate . . . . .	66	31	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	64	33	3	583
Democrat . . . . .	66	31	3	633
Independent/Other . . . . .	56	39	5	84
None . . . . .	59	37	4	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	65	31	3	810
Catholic . . . . .	62	34	3	555
Other/None . . . . .	60	36	4	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	65	32	4	557
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	66	31	3	680
No . . . . .	57	39	4	399
Smoking Status				
Smoker . . . . .	55	42	4	417
Former . . . . .	66	30	4	446
Never . . . . .	66	31	3	811

## REDUCE SMOKING: Prohibit Children From Smoking Sections

Question: According to a recent government report, cigarette smoke inhaled by a non-smoker is a health hazard. Do you think children should be prohibited from sitting in the smoking section of a restaurant?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	60%	34%	6%	1671
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	61	34	5	367
Urban . . . . .	60	34	6	1303
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	59	35	6	169
Southwest . . . . .	65	30	5	397
Central . . . . .	55	40	5	364
Northeast . . . . .	68	28	3	123
Southeast . . . . .	59	34	7	617
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	55	42	3	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	58	37	5	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	61	31	8	359
65 or older . . . . .	72	21	7	319
Sex				
Male . . . . .	56	38	6	693
Female . . . . .	64	30	6	963
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	50	35	5	1076
Divorced . . . . .	61	32	6	142
Separated . . . . .	60	31	9	43
Widowed . . . . .	70	23	8	168
Never Married . . . . .	57	39	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	69	27	4	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	60	33	7	924
College Graduate . . . . .	58	38	4	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	57	38	5	581
Democrat . . . . .	65	29	6	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	58	38	5	84
None . . . . .	58	36	6	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	60	35	6	809
Catholic . . . . .	62	33	5	552
Other/None . . . . .	57	35	8	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	63	29	8	554
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	58	37	4	679
No . . . . .	60	36	4	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker . . . . .	48	44	8	416
Former . . . . .	61	32	6	444
Never . . . . .	66	30	4	809

## REDUCE SMOKING: Define Smoking Near Infant As Child Abuse

Question: Some health authorities consider smoking in the presence of an infant to be a form of child abuse. Do you agree or disagree?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	45%	50%	4%	1671
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	47	48	5	367
Urban . . . . .	45	51	4	1303
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	45	50	5	170
Southwest . . . . .	50	47	3	395
Central . . . . .	42	52	6	363
Northeast . . . . .	48	49	3	123
Southeast . . . . .	44	52	4	619
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	48	50	2	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	38	58	5	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	45	50	4	360
65 or older . . . . .	56	37	7	318
Sex				
Male . . . . .	44	52	4	693
Female . . . . .	47	48	5	963
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	44	52	4	1077
Divorced . . . . .	38	58	4	140
Separated . . . . .	48	45	7	44
Widowed . . . . .	53	40	8	168
Never Married . . . . .	52	45	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	52	42	7	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	44	51	5	926
College Graduate . . . . .	46	51	3	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	41	54	5	582
Democrat . . . . .	49	47	4	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	39	57	4	84
None . . . . .	47	49	3	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	45	50	4	810
Catholic . . . . .	48	49	3	552
Other/None . . . . .	41	53	7	301
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	47	47	6	555
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	40	55	4	678
No . . . . .	51	46	4	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker . . . . .	36	61	3	415
Former . . . . .	46	49	5	443
Never . . . . .	50	46	5	811



## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS

Based upon data reported by The National Center for Health Statistics (1990), it is estimated that 35 percent of births are "unintended." Of those, about 30 percent are "unwanted," while the other 70 percent are "mistimed"—wanted at a later time. Among the less fortunate of American society, the figures are even more dismal: it is estimated that among women whose income is below the poverty level, 21 percent of their children were unwanted at birth; and, among Black women living below poverty, the figure jumps to 35 percent.

Obviously, unintended pregnancies and unwanted births predispose millions of children to a troubled way of life: lowered self-esteem, higher rates of deviance, greater difficulty of social bonding and commitment. Thus, efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies and to alleviate the difficulties of unwanted births warrant serious deliberation by the Commonwealth.

**Make Adoption of Foster Children Easier.** Overwhelmingly (95%), Pennsylvanians favor legislation that would make it easier for children in foster care to be adopted and they express concern about children drifting in foster care— especially children who themselves want to be adopted. Insofar, as many children in foster care are racial minorities, the public also feels that steps should be taken to facilitate transracial adoptions. When asked: "Do you favor or oppose making it easier for a couple to adopt a child of another race?" nearly 86 percent of the respondents favored the proposal. In fact, among young adults the figure jumped to 92 percent.

**Increase Male Teen Awareness of Fatherhood Obligations.** Overwhelmingly (94%), Pennsylvanians support the proposal of offering special programs to educate high school boys about the legal and financial obligations they face if they get a girl pregnant. As one respondent noted: "I think it is time to shift the focus to the boys. Too many of them do not realize the full consequences they face. We have to stop simply blaming young girls and start creating a fear of pregnancy among young boys."

**Increase Public School Emphasis on Abstinence.** Many (79%) Pennsylvanians feel that public schools should emphasize abstinence; however, they do so for different reasons. Some feel that it is necessary in order to restore the moral fabric of the society, while others advocate it as a way to help delay the declining age at which youth are initiating sexual activity.

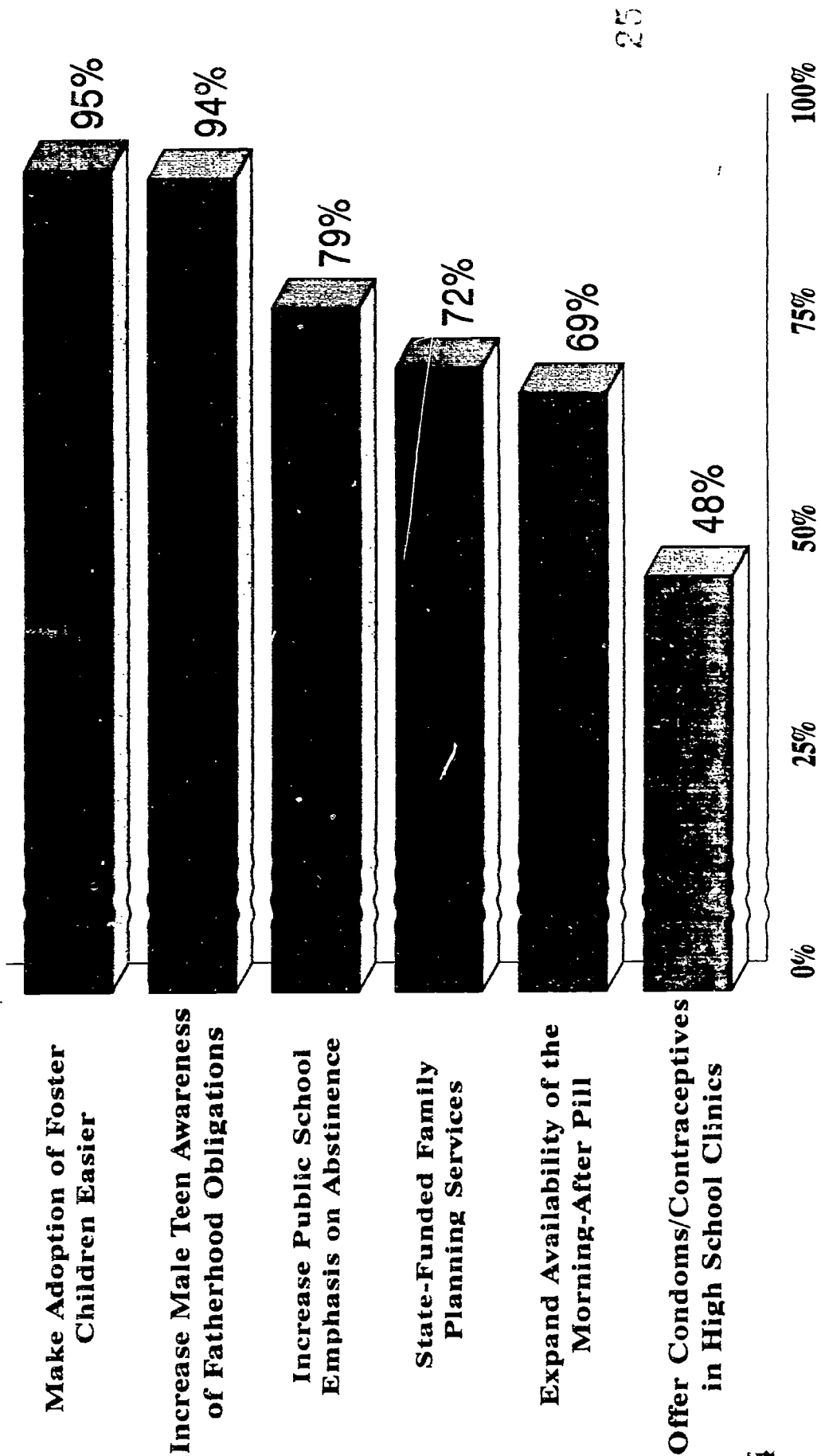
**State-Funded Family Planning Services.** A clear majority (72%) of Pennsylvanians support legislation proposed by Rep. Karen Ritter and others "to use state funds to provide family planning services for low income persons." Support is somewhat stronger among Democrats (76%) than among Republicans (64%); and, more so, among young adults (77%) than the elderly (62%).

**Expand Availability of the Morning-After Pill.** Over the past year, various family planning advocates have suggested that greater public awareness and availability of so-called "morning-after pills" would reduce the need for aborting unintended pregnancies. Thus, respondents were asked: "There is a morning-after pill that will prevent a woman from getting pregnant if it is taken within three days after intercourse. Do you think the pill should or should not be available in family planning clinics?" Overall, 69 percent feel that it should be available, while 24 percent say it should not be.

**Offer Condoms/Contraceptives in High School Clinics.** Pennsylvanians are split on whether or not condoms and other contraceptives should be available in public high school clinics. Overall, 48 percent favor the idea, while 48 percent oppose it. However, on this proposal there are identifiable generational and political differences: 64 percent of young adults contrasted with only 34 percent of the elderly favor the idea; and, while a slim majority (52%) of Democrats favor it, only 39 percent of Republicans do so.

# Fig. 3 REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCY/BIRTH PROPOSALS

*Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...*



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Easier Adoption Of Children In Foster Care

Question: Do you favor or oppose making it easier for an unwed teenage mother to give up a child for adoption?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	95%	3%	2%	1681
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	94	3	3	368
Urban . . . . .	95	3	2	1311
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	96	1	2	171
Southwest . . . . .	93	4	3	400
Central . . . . .	94	4	2	363
Northeast . . . . .	93	4	3	123
Southeast . . . . .	96	2	1	622
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	96	2	2	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	95	3	2	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	96	1	3	364
65 or older . . . . .	91	6	3	321
Sex				
Male . . . . .	94	4	2	697
Female . . . . .	95	2	3	968
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	95	3	2	1081
Divorced . . . . .	93	4	4	142
Separated . . . . .	93	5	2	44
Widowed . . . . .	94	3	4	168
Never Married . . . . .	96	3	1	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	92	4	4	201
High School Graduate . . . . .	96	3	2	927
College Graduate . . . . .	95	3	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	94	3	3	584
Democrat . . . . .	95	3	2	664
Independent/Other . . . . .	90	6	4	84
None . . . . .	96	2	2	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	94	3	3	811
Catholic . . . . .	96	3	1	558
Other/None . . . . .	94	3	3	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	93	4	3	561
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	96	2	2	678
No . . . . .	95	2	3	400

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Increase Male Awareness Of Fatherhood Obligations

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That public schools offer special programs to educate high school boys about the legal and financial obligations they face if they get a girl pregnant.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	94%	5%	1%	1663
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	94	4	1	367
Urban . . . . .	94	5	2	1295
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	93	5	2	170
Southwest . . . . .	92	6	2	394
Central . . . . .	96	3	2	360
Northeast . . . . .	96	4	0	123
Southeast . . . . .	94	5	1	615
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	94	5	0	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	95	4	1	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	95	4	1	360
65 or older . . . . .	89	7	4	310
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	93	6	2	687
Female . . . . .	95	4	2	961
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	94	4	2	1074
Divorced . . . . .	95	3	2	143
Separated . . . . .	88	12	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	95	4	1	165
Never Married . . . . .	93	7	0	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	92	5	4	197
High School Graduate . . . . .	94	4	1	923
College Graduate . . . . .	95	5	1	530
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	93	6	1	579
Democrat . . . . .	94	4	2	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	94	5	1	83
None . . . . .	95	3	1	299
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	94	5	1	807
Catholic . . . . .	95	4	1	552
Other/None . . . . .	91	6	3	296
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	92	6	2	553
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	94	4	1	678
No . . . . .	95	4	1	393

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Increase Emphasis On Abstinence

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That public schools emphasize sexual abstinence before marriage.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	79%	18%	3%	1661
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	79	17	4	366
Urban . . . . .	79	19	3	1294
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	80	15	5	169
Southwest . . . . .	80	17	3	394
Central . . . . .	80	18	2	359
Northeast . . . . .	79	18	3	123
Southeast . . . . .	78	20	3	615
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	75	24	2	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	83	14	3	564
50 - 64 . . . . .	79	17	4	359
65 or older . . . . .	77	19	4	310
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	77	20	3	687
Female . . . . .	80	17	3	959
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	80	17	3	1073
Divorced . . . . .	78	20	2	142
Separated . . . . .	79	16	5	44
Widowed . . . . .	78	16	6	165
Never Married . . . . .	73	26	2	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	73	21	7	195
High School Graduate . . . . .	81	17	2	923
College Graduate . . . . .	79	19	3	530
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	82	16	2	579
Democrat . . . . .	78	19	3	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	78	18	4	83
None . . . . .	77	21	2	297
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	80	18	2	806
Catholic . . . . .	82	16	2	551
Other/None . . . . .	70	25	6	296
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	77	19	4	551
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	82	16	2	677
No . . . . .	77	21	2	394

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: State-funded Family Planning Services

Question: Do you favor or oppose using state funds to provide family planning services for low income persons?\*

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	72%	25%	3%	1686
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	70	28	2	368
Urban . . . . .	72	24	4	1316
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	74	23	3	171
Southwest . . . . .	74	23	2	402
Central . . . . .	67	30	3	364
Northeast . . . . .	72	26	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	72	23	5	624
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	77	21	2	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	73	24	3	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	72	24	4	36
65 or older . . . . .	62	32	7	325
Sex				
Male . . . . .	70	28	2	699
Female . . . . .	74	22	4	971
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	71	26	3	1082
Divorced . . . . .	78	20	1	143
Separated . . . . .	72	20	8	44
Widowed . . . . .	66	28	5	170
Never Married . . . . .	76	20	4	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	70	25	5	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	71	26	4	931
College Graduate . . . . .	75	23	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	64	32	4	585
Democrat . . . . .	76	21	2	665
Independent/Other . . . . .	73	23	3	84
None . . . . .	76	20	4	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	72	24	4	814
Catholic . . . . .	70	28	3	557
Other/None . . . . .	75	22	3	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	71	26	3	562
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	74	24	2	679
No . . . . .	72	24	5	400

\* Question was paid for by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Pennsylvania.



## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Expand Availability Of Morning After Pill

Question: There is a morning-after pill that will prevent a woman from getting pregnant if taken within three days after intercourse. Do you think the pill should or should not be available in family planning clinics?

RESPONSES:	Should	Shouldn't	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	69%	24%	6%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	68	24	9	366
Urban . . . . .	70	25	6	1311
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	72	20	7	170
Southwest . . . . .	66	27	7	398
Central . . . . .	68	24	8	364
Northeast . . . . .	73	23	4	123
Southeast . . . . .	70	24	5	622
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	66	27	6	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	68	26	6	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	74	20	6	363
65 or older . . . . .	70	24	6	320
Sex				
Male . . . . .	71	24	6	697
Female . . . . .	68	25	7	966
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	67	27	6	1078
Divorced . . . . .	78	14	8	143
Separated . . . . .	73	16	11	43
Widowed . . . . .	69	23	8	169
Never Married . . . . .	73	21	6	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	71	20	8	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	68	25	7	927
College Graduate . . . . .	71	25	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	65	29	6	585
Democrat . . . . .	73	20	7	660
Independent/Other . . . . .	68	28	3	84
None . . . . .	72	23	6	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	70	23	7	810
Catholic . . . . .	66	28	6	555
Other/None . . . . .	74	21	4	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	72	22	6	559
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	65	28	7	678
No . . . . .	73	22	6	398

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Offer Contraceptives In High School Clinics

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That condoms and other contraceptives be provided in the public high school.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	48%	48%	4%	1660
<b>Rural/Urban</b>				
Rural . . . . .	46	50	4	368
Urban . . . . .	48	48	4	1291
<b>Region</b>				
Northwest . . . . .	48	47	5	170
Southwest . . . . .	46	50	4	392
Central . . . . .	43	52	5	361
Northeast . . . . .	55	43	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	50	46	4	613
<b>Age</b>				
18 - 34 . . . . .	64	34	2	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	50	47	3	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	39	55	6	360
65 or older . . . . .	34	61	6	308
<b>Sex</b>				
Male . . . . .	45	52	3	686
Female . . . . .	51	44	5	959
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married . . . . .	45	52	4	1072
Divorced . . . . .	59	37	3	143
Separated . . . . .	41	51	7	44
Widowed . . . . .	38	54	8	165
Never Married . . . . .	65	32	2	225
<b>Educational Level</b>				
< High School . . . . .	43	52	5	197
High School Graduate . . . . .	48	49	4	923
College Graduate . . . . .	51	45	4	528
<b>Political Affiliation</b>				
Republican . . . . .	39	57	4	579
Democrat . . . . .	52	44	4	661
Independent/Other . . . . .	49	48	4	83
None . . . . .	58	38	4	299
<b>Religious Preference</b>				
Protestant . . . . .	46	50	4	807
Catholic . . . . .	48	49	3	551
Other/None . . . . .	54	40	6	294
<b>Children</b>				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	41	54	5	551
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	48	49	3	678
No . . . . .	59	37	4	392

## EDUCATION

**Fund Additional Head Start Classes.** President Clinton's strong support for expansion of Head Start has been met with recent criticism that its effectiveness has been exaggerated. Nonetheless, a strong majority (76%) of Pennsylvanians favor the use of state funding to provide more Head Start classes. Support is strong across all groups, but more so among young adults (84%) and Democrats (81%).

**Raise the Legal Drop-Out Age.** Currently, in Pennsylvania, students can drop out of school with parental permission at age sixteen. However, with the increasing need for an educated workforce, some advocates feel that the age should be raised. Two thirds of Pennsylvanians agree; 61 percent feel that the drop-out age should be at least 18. Support for the idea is stronger among females (74%) than males (60%); and, interestingly, it is much stronger among high school dropouts (73%) than among college graduates (58%).

**Require Financially-Able Parents to Pay for College.** In January 1993, Rep. Matthew Ryan introduced legislation that would require financially-able parents to pay for their children's college education. In his words: "Now is not the time to let parents walk away from their responsibilities to their offspring." More than two-thirds (68%) of Pennsylvanians agree with Rep. Ryan's point of view. Among the elderly the figure jumps to 85 percent, but among young adults it drops to 59 percent.

**Lower the Age of Required Schooling.** Though most children actually start school earlier, Pennsylvania children are not required to enroll in school until the age of eight. A strong majority (74%) of Pennsylvanians want the age lowered. Support for the change is especially strong among young adults. Many (38%) feel that five should be the required age.

**Fund Public Education Through the State Income Tax Rather than the Property Tax.** In the 1991 Public Mind Survey, respondents were asked, "Do you think public education in Pennsylvania should be paid for mostly through local property tax or by the state income tax?" At the time, respondents favored use of the state income tax rather than the property tax (57% versus 24%). This year, nearly identical results were obtained (56% versus 24%). Such a consistent gridlock of opinion on the issue of funding public education underscores a serious need for political leadership in this area. Shifting public opinion toward a consensus is truly an important challenge for political and educational leaders.

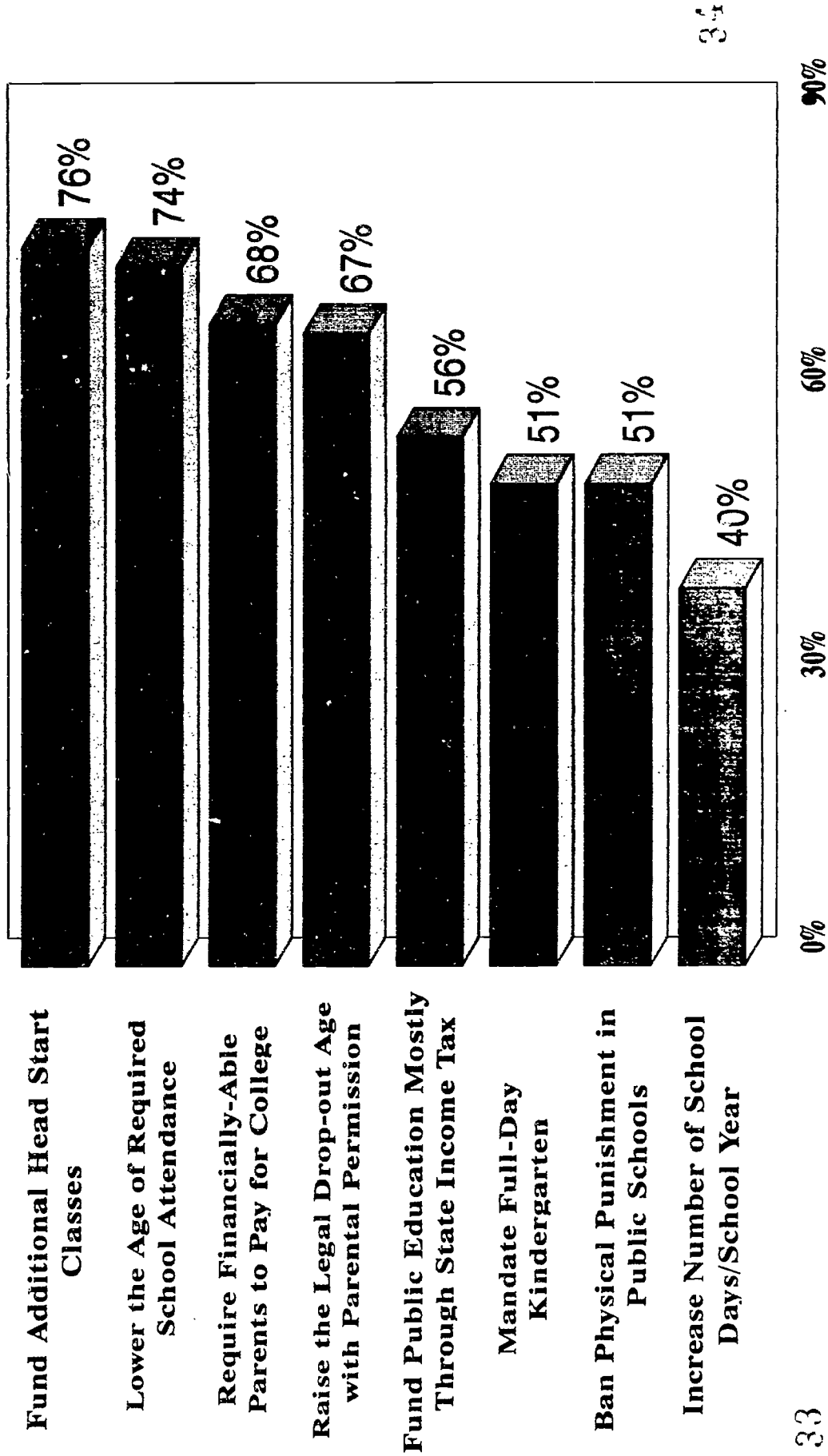
**Mandate Full-Day Kindergarten.** Pennsylvanians are split (51% favor, 45% oppose, 4% don't know) on the proposal that school districts be required to provide full-day kindergarten classes for parents who want to send their children. Opinion on the proposal is linked to political affiliation: 58 percent of Democrats, but only 44 percent of Republicans favor the proposal.

**Ban Physical Punishment in Public Schools.** The 1991 Public Mind survey also asked Pennsylvanians about a proposal to ban corporal punishment in public schools. As with the issue of public school funding, there continues to be a lack of consensus. The public remains split: 51 percent favor a ban, 45 percent oppose, and 4 percent remain undecided. Proponents of a ban tend to be young adults (58%) and mothers of school aged children.

**Increase the Number of School Days/School Year.** Compared with other states, Pennsylvania is an average state in terms of the length of its school year (180 days). However, many educators argue that if Americans students are to be adequately prepared to compete in the global economy, it will be necessary for them to spend more days in school. For example, in Japan students go 220 days/year. At this point, Pennsylvanians are unwilling to lengthen the school year. In fact, since the 1991 Public Mind Survey, opposition increased slightly from 53 to 56 percent. Opposition is particularly strong (64%) in the rural areas of the Commonwealth.

**Fig. 4 PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION**

*Percentage of Pennsylvanians "Favoring" Proposal to...*



## EDUCATION: Fund Additional Head Start Classes

Question: Head Start is a preschool program for children 3 to 5. However, due to Federal cutbacks it is not available to all children. Would you favor or oppose the use of state funding to provide more Head Start programs?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	76%	20%	3%	1649
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	73	23	4	365
Urban . . . . .	77	20	3	1283
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	77	19	4	167
Southwest . . . . .	76	21	3	393
Central . . . . .	74	22	4	361
Northeast . . . . .	78	19	3	123
Southeast . . . . .	77	20	3	604
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	84	14	2	416
35 - 49 . . . . .	75	21	4	561
50 - 64 . . . . .	74	23	3	359
65 or older . . . . .	70	24	6	306
Sex				
Male . . . . .	73	24	3	685
Female . . . . .	79	17	4	949
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	74	23	3	1068
Divorced . . . . .	83	14	3	140
Separated . . . . .	73	19	8	44
Widowed . . . . .	74	22	4	162
Never Married . . . . .	87	11	2	223
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	73	21	6	195
High School Graduate . . . . .	77	20	3	917
College Graduate . . . . .	77	20	3	524
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	71	27	3	575
Democrat . . . . .	81	16	3	655
Independent/Other . . . . .	74	20	5	82
None . . . . .	79	16	5	296
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	76	20	4	797
Catholic . . . . .	78	20	2	552
Other/None . . . . .	74	21	5	292
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	75	21	4	546
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	76	21	3	673
No . . . . .	80	17	3	391

## EDUCATION: Raise Drop-out Age

Question: Currently, in Pennsylvania, a student can drop out of school with parental permission at age 16. Do you think that age should be raised? If YES, ...What do you think the dropout age should be? \_17yrs \_18yrs \_19+yrs

RESPONSES:	No	17	18	19+	Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	33%	9%	52%	6%	1653
<b>Rural/Urban</b>					
Rural . . . . .	28	9	57	5	364
Urban . . . . .	34	9	50	7	1288
<b>Region</b>					
Northwest . . . . .	28	9	57	7	170
Southwest . . . . .	25	9	58	7	391
Central . . . . .	35	10	46	8	359
Northeast . . . . .	28	10	55	7	121
Southeast . . . . .	38	8	49	4	611
<b>Age</b>					
18 - 34 . . . . .	29	8	55	8	418
35 - 49 . . . . .	30	10	54	7	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	37	12	47	5	354
65 or older . . . . .	37	6	51	6	309
<b>Sex</b>					
Male . . . . .	40	9	46	7	685
Female . . . . .	27	9	57	8	953
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married . . . . .	33	8	53	6	1068
Divorced . . . . .	25	15	52	8	141
Separated . . . . .	32	7	56	6	44
Widowed . . . . .	32	11	52	6	160
Never Married . . . . .	35	10	47	8	226
<b>Educational Level</b>					
< High School . . . . .	27	13	55	5	193
High School Graduate . . . . .	28	9	55	8	917
College Graduate . . . . .	42	7	46	5	528
<b>Political Affiliation</b>					
Republican . . . . .	36	7	53	4	576
Democrat . . . . .	29	11	52	8	655
Independent/Other . . . . .	36	5	49	10	82
None . . . . .	30	10	53	7	297
<b>Religious Preference</b>					
Protestant . . . . .	33	8	53	6	801
Catholic . . . . .	27	10	55	7	546
Other/None . . . . .	43	7	44	6	298
<b>Children</b>					
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	33	10	51	5	541
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	31	7	54	8	677
No . . . . .	35	10	50	5	396



## EDUCATION: Require Parents To Pay For College

Question: Do you think parents who are financially able should be required to pay for their child's college education?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	68%	28%	4%	1667
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	68	27	5	368
Urban . . . . .	68	28	4	1298
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	69	28	4	169
Southwest . . . . .	78	19	3	396
Central . . . . .	61	32	7	362
Northeast . . . . .	74	26	0	123
Southeast . . . . .	65	31	4	616
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	59	35	6	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	64	32	4	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	71	24	6	360
65 or older . . . . .	84	14	2	314
Sex				
Male . . . . .	65	31	4	692
Female . . . . .	71	24	5	960
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	66	30	4	1076
Divorced . . . . .	74	22	5	142
Separated . . . . .	64	22	14	44
Widowed . . . . .	89	11	0	165
Never Married . . . . .	60	34	5	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	79	16	5	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	72	24	4	924
College Graduate . . . . .	58	38	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	63	33	4	580
Democrat . . . . .	72	24	4	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	52	37	10	83
None . . . . .	73	23	4	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	68	27	5	806
Catholic . . . . .	72	25	3	553
Other/None . . . . .	61	35	4	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	76	20	4	533
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	64	31	5	680
No . . . . .	65	31	4	396

## EDUCATION: Lower Age Of Required School Attendance

Question: Currently in Pennsylvania a child is required to start school by age 8. Do you think the age should be lowered? If Yes, what age?  
\_age 7, \_age 6, \_age 5 or less.

RESPONSES:	No	7 yrs	6 yrs	5 yrs	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	26%	6%	43%	25%	1660
<b>Rural/Urban</b>					
Rural . . . . .	29	5	43	22	365
Urban . . . . .	25	6	43	26	1294
<b>Region</b>					
Northwest . . . . .	35	5	35	25	168
Southwest . . . . .	24	5	48	23	394
Central . . . . .	31	5	42	22	361
Northeast . . . . .	20	6	48	26	120
Southeast . . . . .	23	6	42	28	616
<b>Age</b>					
18 - 34 . . . . .	22	4	36	38	417
35 - 49 . . . . .	32	4	41	23	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	26	6	45	22	354
65 or older . . . . .	21	9	56	14	316
<b>Sex</b>					
Male . . . . .	29	6	42	23	688
Female . . . . .	24	5	44	27	957
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married . . . . .	29	6	42	23	1068
Divorced . . . . .	24	4	42	30	143
Separated . . . . .	26	2	36	36	43
Widowed . . . . .	19	10	55	15	168
Never Married . . . . .	17	4	40	39	224
<b>Educational Level</b>					
< High School . . . . .	23	6	47	24	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	25	6	44	25	922
College Graduate . . . . .	29	5	41	26	525
<b>Political Affiliation</b>					
Republican . . . . .	32	5	44	18	577
Democrat . . . . .	22	6	46	26	661
Independent/Other . . . . .	28	4	41	28	82
None . . . . .	22	5	37	36	297
<b>Religious Preference</b>					
Protestant . . . . .	26	5	45	24	804
Catholic . . . . .	26	7	42	24	550
Other/None . . . . .	28	5	39	29	298
<b>Children</b>					
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	26	5	50	18	550
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	29	4	38	28	678
No . . . . .	20	7	43	30	393

## EDUCATION: Fund Public Education With Income Tax

Question: Do you think public education in Pennsylvania should be paid  
for mostly through local property taxes or by the state income tax?

RESPONSES:	Property	State	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	24%	56%	20%	1639
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	23	55	22	361
Urban . . . . .	24	56	20	1277
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	23	57	20	167
Southwest . . . . .	23	55	22	389
Central . . . . .	24	58	19	359
Northeast . . . . .	17	65	18	121
Southeast . . . . .	26	53	21	602
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	26	57	17	416
35 - 49 . . . . .	25	56	19	557
50 - 64 . . . . .	23	55	22	355
65 or over . . . . .	20	55	25	304
Sex				
Male . . . . .	24	59	16	681
Female . . . . .	24	52	24	944
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	26	55	20	1059
Divorced . . . . .	19	62	19	137
Separated . . . . .	17	61	21	43
Widowed . . . . .	16	54	30	163
Never Married . . . . .	25	56	20	224
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	17	53	30	194
High School Graduate . . . . .	22	58	20	909
College Graduate . . . . .	30	53	18	522
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	27	56	17	570
Democrat . . . . .	22	58	19	654
Independent/Other . . . . .	36	45	20	80
None . . . . .	19	54	27	294
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	24	54	22	796
Catholic . . . . .	24	59	16	549
Other/None . . . . .	22	54	24	287
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	22	55	23	542
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	25	56	19	669
No . . . . .	25	55	20	391

## EDUCATION: Mandate Full-day Kindergarten

Question: Do you think school districts should provide full-day kindergarten classes for five year-olds?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	51%	45%	4%	1670
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	47	49	4	368
Urban . . . . .	52	43	5	1301
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	49	48	3	170
Southwest . . . . .	52	45	3	397
Central . . . . .	41	54	5	363
Northeast . . . . .	50	42	8	122
Southeast . . . . .	57	39	5	617
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	57	39	4	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	47	48	4	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	48	48	4	361
65 or older . . . . .	53	41	6	317
Sex				
Male . . . . .	50	45	5	694
Female . . . . .	52	44	4	961
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	48	48	4	1075
Divorced . . . . .	54	39	7	143
Separated . . . . .	52	42	7	44
Widowed . . . . .	52	42	6	168
Never Married . . . . .	61	33	6	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	53	44	3	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	51	44	4	926
College Graduate . . . . .	50	45	6	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	44	51	5	581
Democrat . . . . .	58	38	4	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	48	46	6	83
None . . . . .	50	45	4	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	48	48	5	808
Catholic . . . . .	57	41	2	554
Other/None . . . . .	48	44	8	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	51	44	5	554
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	49	48	3	680
No . . . . .	54	39	6	397

## EDUCATION: Ban Physical Punishment In Public Schools

Question: Some people feel there should be a law to stop paddling and other forms of physical punishment in public schools. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	51%	45%	4%	1659
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	46	49	4	368
Urban . . . . .	52	44	4	1290
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	50	46	4	169
Southwest . . . . .	46	50	4	394
Central . . . . .	43	50	6	361
Northeast . . . . .	48	49	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	58	38	4	611
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	58	38	3	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	52	44	3	564
50 - 64 . . . . .	43	52	5	360
65 or older . . . . .	45	49	6	309
Sex				
Male . . . . .	48	50	3	689
Female . . . . .	53	41	6	955
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	49	47	4	1072
Divorced . . . . .	55	38	7	142
Separated . . . . .	58	42	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	43	50	7	163
Never Married . . . . .	59	38	3	224
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	48	46	6	196
High School Graduate . . . . .	50	46	4	919
College Graduate . . . . .	53	43	4	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	47	49	4	576
Democrat . . . . .	52	45	3	660
Independent/Other . . . . .	46	48	6	83
None . . . . .	55	38	7	298
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	46	49	5	804
Catholic . . . . .	56	41	3	552
Other/None . . . . .	54	41	5	295
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	43	51	5	547
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	54	42	3	679
No . . . . .	54	41	4	394

## EDUCATION: Increase Number Of School Days

Question: Would you favor or oppose increasing the number of days children are required to attend school each year?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	40%	56%	4%	1665
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	34	64	3	367
Urban . . . . .	42	53	4	1297
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	39	56	5	168
Southwest . . . . .	38	60	3	397
Central . . . . .	36	60	4	363
Northeast . . . . .	36	59	5	123
Southeast . . . . .	45	50	4	613
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	36	60	4	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	39	58	3	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	42	52	6	358
65 or older . . . . .	46	50	4	315
Sex				
Male . . . . .	47	49	4	692
Female . . . . .	34	62	4	958
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	40	56	4	1075
Divorced . . . . .	38	59	3	141
Separated . . . . .	42	53	5	44
Widowed . . . . .	38	54	7	165
Never Married . . . . .	45	51	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	38	57	5	197
High School Graduate . . . . .	36	60	3	923
College Graduate . . . . .	47	47	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	40	55	5	576
Democrat . . . . .	42	54	4	663
Independent/Other . . . . .	45	52	4	83
None . . . . .	34	63	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	39	57	4	806
Catholic . . . . .	41	56	3	553
Other/None . . . . .	43	53	5	298
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	42	54	4	554
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	36	61	3	678
No . . . . .	44	51	5	394

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Required Vaccination of Pre-Schoolers.** Many vaccinations should be given when a child is only a few months old, yet it is estimated that only half of children under two are properly immunized. In February, a New York judge ruled that a father's refusal to allow his 23-month-old daughter to be vaccinated against measles violated child neglect laws. The case reflected growing public sentiment that the requirement of vaccination should apply not only to school children, but also to pre-school children. Among Pennsylvanians, 97 percent agree.

**Allow Use of Sick Leave to Care for a Sick Child.** The proposed Family and Medical Leave Act establishes minimum job protection standards for workers who need to take an unpaid leave of absence from work to care for a seriously ill child. However, some companies already go a step further and allow employees to utilize their sick leave to care for a sick child. Overwhelmingly (92%), Pennsylvanians support that practice. As one single mother noted, "When my kid's sick, I don't feel that my boss has the right to force me to leave 'em."

**Require a Child Riding in the Backseat to Wear a Seatbelt.** Seatbelts reduce fatalities, serious injuries, and concomitant medical cost. Since 1983, Pennsylvania has required children riding in the front seat of a motor vehicle to be secured by a seatbelt. Most (91%) Pennsylvanians feel that children riding in the backseat should also be required to wear a seatbelt.

**Tighten Gunowner Liability if a Child Misuses a Gun.** The increasing number of guns has created an increased risk of children getting hold of a gun and misusing it. A strong majority (88%) of Pennsylvanians support legislation that would hold gun owners legally responsible if a child harms himself or others if reasonable steps have not been taken to keep the gun out of the child's possession.

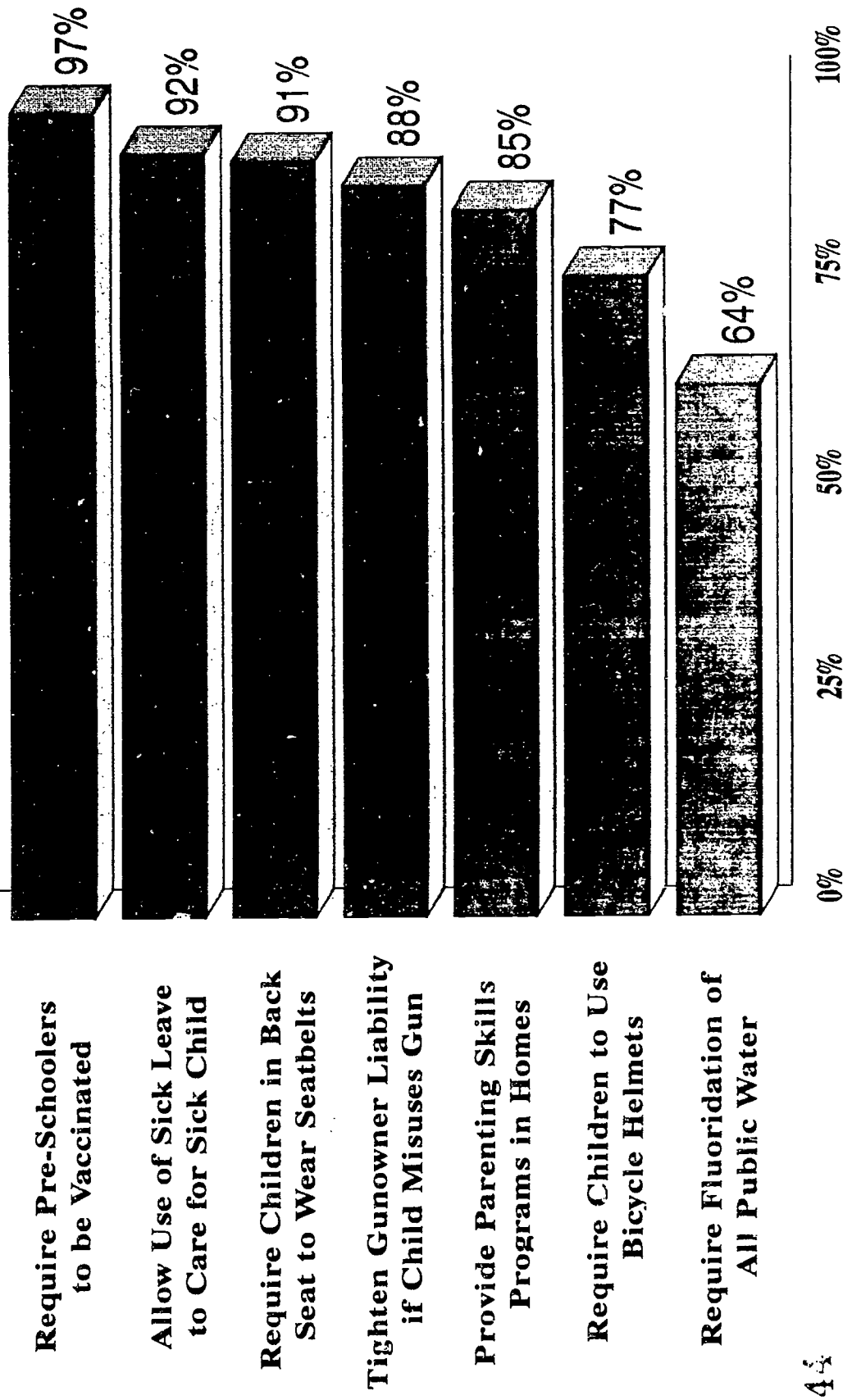
**Provide Parenting Skills Programs in Homes.** In Hawaii, trained social workers teach parenting skills to at-risk parents who volunteer for help. According to the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and neglect, 54 percent of those in the program were reported abusers—but not repeated after the skill training. Overall, the abuse rate by parents in the program is reported to be less than half the rate for all Hawaiian parents. A strong majority (85%) of Pennsylvanians favor the creation of a similar program in Pennsylvania. Among persons under 35, the figure jumps to 92 percent.

**Require Children to Use Bicycle Helmets.** Each year about 950 bicyclists die, and thousands suffer head trauma injuries that could be prevented if bicyclists wore helmets. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control, fewer than 2 percent of children wear helmets. Within the past year, New Jersey and Georgia have passed legislation requiring cyclists or passengers to wear helmets (age 14 in New Jersey, and age 16 in Georgia). Among Pennsylvanians a strong majority (77%) favor similar legislation. In fact, among females support increases to 84 percent. Currently, in Pennsylvania, a pedacycle passenger under the age of five must wear a helmet.

**Require Fluoridation of All Public Water.** In November 1992, the American Public Health Association issued its annual "Public Health Report Card on Pennsylvania." With regard to the fluoridation of its water supplies, the commonwealth ranks 37th nationwide, that is, in the bottom quartile. During the same time, the Centers for Disease Control issued a report on the importance of fluoride in preventing dental carries among children. Among Pennsylvanians, about only half report that they drink fluoridated water. In fact, in the northern section of the state, the figure drops to about 30 percent. Nonetheless, a clear, though largely a "silent majority" (64%) favor legislation that would mandate the fluoridation of all public water supplies. Support runs strongest among Catholics (71%) and Democrats (69%). The vocal minority (24%) who oppose fluoridation are more apt to be political independents (36%). About 12 percent of Pennsylvanians remain undecided about the matter of fluoridation.

# Fig. 5 PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...*





## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Require Pre-schoolers To Be Vaccinated

Question: Do you favor or oppose the idea of requiring every child to be immunized or vaccinated before entering preschool or a child care program?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	97%	3%	1%	1677
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	96	3	0	365
Urban . . . . .	97	2	1	1311
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	98	1	1	169
Southwest . . . . .	97	3	0	399
Central . . . . .	95	4	1	364
Northeast . . . . .	96	3	1	124
Southeast . . . . .	97	2	1	620
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	97	3	0	416
35 - 49 . . . . .	96	3	1	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	98	1	1	364
65 or older . . . . .	95	4	1	321
Sex				
Male . . . . .	97	3	1	697
Female . . . . .	97	2	1	965
Marital Status:				
Married . . . . .	97	2	1	1080
Divorced . . . . .	96	4	0	140
Separated . . . . .	93	2	5	44
Widowed . . . . .	98	2	1	169
Never Married . . . . .	96	3	1	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	96	3	1	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	97	2	1	928
College Graduate . . . . .	96	3	0	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	97	3	0	583
Democrat . . . . .	98	2	0	663
Independent/Other . . . . .	90	8	2	83
None . . . . .	96	2	2	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	97	2	1	813
Catholic . . . . .	98	2	0	552
Other/None . . . . .	93	5	2	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	98	1	1	560
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	96	3	1	679
No . . . . .	95	4	1	398

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Allow Use Of Sick Leave To Care For Sick Child

Question: Do you feel that employees should be allowed to use their sick leave to care for a sick child?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	92%	6%	2%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	91	6	3	366
Urban . . . . .	92	6	2	1312
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	90	7	3	171
Southwest . . . . .	94	4	2	399
Central . . . . .	88	8	4	362
Northeast . . . . .	95	5	0	124
Southeast . . . . .	93	5	2	622
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	95	4	1	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	93	5	2	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	91	7	2	362
65 or older . . . . .	87	8	4	322
Sex				
Male . . . . .	90	7	3	698
Female . . . . .	94	4	2	966
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	92	5	2	1081
Divorced . . . . .	92	6	2	142
Separated . . . . .	93	7	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	91	5	4	168
Never Married . . . . .	90	8	2	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	92	4	3	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	92	5	2	928
College Graduate . . . . .	91	6	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	90	8	3	586
Democrat . . . . .	94	4	2	661
Independent/Other . . . . .	94	5	1	84
None . . . . .	92	6	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	92	5	2	812
Catholic . . . . .	93	5	2	555
Other/None . . . . .	88	9	3	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	91	6	2	558
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	94	4	2	681
No . . . . .	89	7	3	399

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Require Use Of Seatbelts In Backseat

Question: Some states require children riding in the back seat of a motor vehicle to wear a seat belt. Should Pennsylvania have such a law?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	91%	7%	2%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	88	9	3	368
Urban . . . . .	92	6	2	1310
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	91	5	4	171
Southwest . . . . .	90	9	2	399
Central . . . . .	89	10	2	363
Northeast . . . . .	92	6	2	123
Southeast . . . . .	92	5	3	622
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	92	6	1	421
35 - 49 . . . . .	90	8	3	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	88	7	5	362
65 or older . . . . .	94	6	1	321
Sex				
Male . . . . .	90	8	2	697
Female . . . . .	92	6	3	967
Marital Status . . . . .				
Married . . . . .	90	7	2	1081
Divorced . . . . .	89	9	3	142
Separated . . . . .	82	16	2	44
Widowed . . . . .	96	2	2	169
Never Married . . . . .	92	5	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	89	9	2	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	91	6	2	929
College Graduate . . . . .	90	8	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	89	9	2	584
Democrat . . . . .	92	6	2	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	91	7	2	84
None . . . . .	90	7	3	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	89	8	2	812
Catholic . . . . .	93	5	2	554
Other/None . . . . .	90	8	2	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	91	6	3	560
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	91	7	2	680
No . . . . .	92	6	2	399

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Tighten Gunowner Liability

Question: In some states if a child harms anyone with a gun, the gun-owner can be held legally responsible if he has not taken reasonable steps to keep it out of the hands of the child. Should Pennsylvania have a similar law?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	88%	8%	4%	1677
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	86	12	3	367
Urban . . . . .	89	8	4	1309
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	90	9	1	170
Southwest . . . . .	88	8	3	399
Central . . . . .	84	12	4	363
Northeast . . . . .	88	6	5	124
Southeast . . . . .	90	7	4	620
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	90	9	1	419
35 - 49 . . . . .	85	10	4	567
50 - 64 . . . . .	87	8	5	362
65 or older . . . . .	92	4	4	321
Sex				
Male . . . . .	85	11	4	697
Female . . . . .	91	6	3	965
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	87	10	4	1080
Divorced . . . . .	91	7	2	141
Separated . . . . .	92	5	2	44
Widowed . . . . .	93	2	5	168
Never Married . . . . .	88	9	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	85	10	5	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	87	9	4	927
College Graduate . . . . .	91	7	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	87	10	3	582
Democrat . . . . .	88	8	3	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	83	10	7	84
None . . . . .	90	6	4	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	88	9	3	811
Catholic . . . . .	89	8	3	553
Other/None . . . . .	87	8	5	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	89	7	4	559
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	87	10	4	678
No . . . . .	91	7	2	400

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Provide Parenting Skill Training

Question: In some states, parents who lack parenting skills are offered training by social workers who make home visits. Would you favor or oppose creating a similar program in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	85%	12%	3%	1673
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	82	14	3	366
Urban . . . . .	85	12	3	1306
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	86	9	5	171
Southwest . . . . .	84	13	3	397
Central . . . . .	81	16	3	362
Northeast . . . . .	85	13	2	124
Southeast . . . . .	87	10	3	618
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	92	7	1	418
35 - 49 . . . . .	82	14	4	562
50 - 64 . . . . .	85	14	2	362
65 or older . . . . .	80	16	5	322
Sex				
Male . . . . .	82	15	3	696
Female . . . . .	87	10	3	962
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	84	13	3	1077
Divorced . . . . .	87	10	3	141
Separated . . . . .	83	14	3	43
Widowed . . . . .	81	13	6	169
Never Married . . . . .	92	7	2	224
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	85	11	3	200
High School Graduate . . . . .	85	12	3	924
College Graduate . . . . .	85	13	2	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	81	15	4	586
Democrat . . . . .	87	11	2	660
Independent/Other . . . . .	83	15	2	82
None . . . . .	89	8	3	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	85	11	4	810
Catholic . . . . .	85	13	2	552
Other/None . . . . .	82	14	3	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	85	12	3	557
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	84	13	3	677
No . . . . .	89	9	2	401

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Require Children To Use Bicycle Helmets

Question: To reduce childhood injuries, some states require children on bicycles to wear helmets. Do you favor or oppose passing such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	77%	19%	4%	1674
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	76	20	4	363
Urban . . . . .	77	19	4	1310
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	77	21	2	168
Southwest . . . . .	79	18	2	401
Central . . . . .	71	25	4	361
Northeast . . . . .	74	18	8	123
Southeast . . . . .	79	17	4	620
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	72	25	3	420
35 - 49 . . . . .	75	20	5	565
50 - 64 . . . . .	79	18	3	359
65 or older . . . . .	85	11	4	322
Sex				
Male . . . . .	70	26	5	695
Female . . . . .	84	14	3	964
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	76	21	4	1080
Divorced . . . . .	78	18	4	141
Separated . . . . .	67	28	5	43
Widowed . . . . .	90	8	2	168
Never Married . . . . .	73	21	6	223
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	82	15	4	199
High School Graduate . . . . .	78	18	4	925
College Graduate . . . . .	72	23	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	76	20	4	579
Democrat . . . . .	78	17	4	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	66	31	2	84
None . . . . .	79	18	3	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	76	20	4	807
Catholic . . . . .	81	17	3	553
Other/None . . . . .	72	22	6	305
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	81	15	3	558
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	73	23	4	680
No . . . . .	77	19	4	397

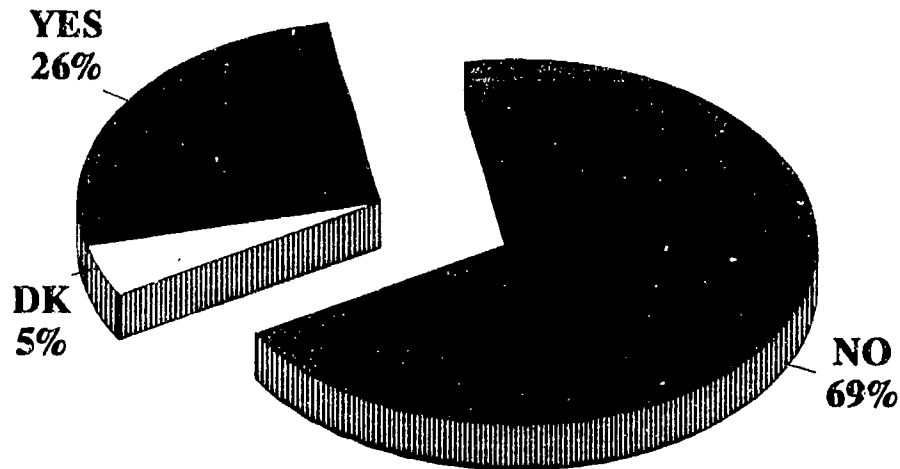
## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: Require Fluoridation Of Public Water Supply

Question: Would you favor or oppose a law requiring fluoride to be added to all public water supplies?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	64%	24%	12%	1673
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	61	29	10	365
Urban . . . . .	66	22	12	1307
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	60	32	8	169
Southwest . . . . .	62	23	14	398
Central . . . . .	61	27	12	362
Northeast . . . . .	68	23	9	124
Southeast . . . . .	68	21	11	619
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	66	24	10	418
35 - 49 . . . . .	64	24	12	566
50 - 64 . . . . .	65	25	10	363
65 or older . . . . .	64	22	15	318
Sex				
Male . . . . .	62	27	11	695
Female . . . . .	67	21	12	963
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	64	25	11	1077
Divorced . . . . .	64	24	12	142
Separated . . . . .	55	32	13	44
Widowed . . . . .	62	22	16	167
Never Married . . . . .	69	22	9	225
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	62	22	16	198
High School Graduate . . . . .	67	23	10	925
College Graduate . . . . .	60	27	13	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	62	26	12	580
Democrat . . . . .	69	20	11	662
Independent/Other . . . . .	52	36	12	84
None . . . . .	64	24	12	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	62	26	12	808
Catholic . . . . .	71	21	8	553
Other/None . . . . .	59	24	17	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	62	24	14	557
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	65	24	11	679
No . . . . .	68	22	10	397

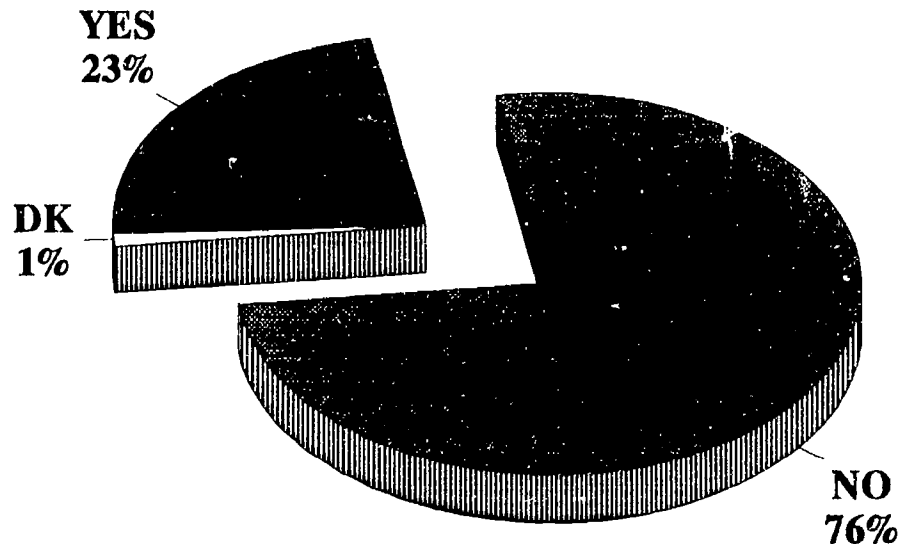
## Fig. 6 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION/RETRAINING

"As you know, a person who is injured while working may get workmen's compensation or disability pay. Do you think a person should continue receiving workmen's compensation if they refuse to be retrained for a new job?"



## Fig. 7 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION/"CHEATING"

"Do you personally know anyone who is receiving workmen's compensation or disability pay that you feel is capable of working but refuses?"





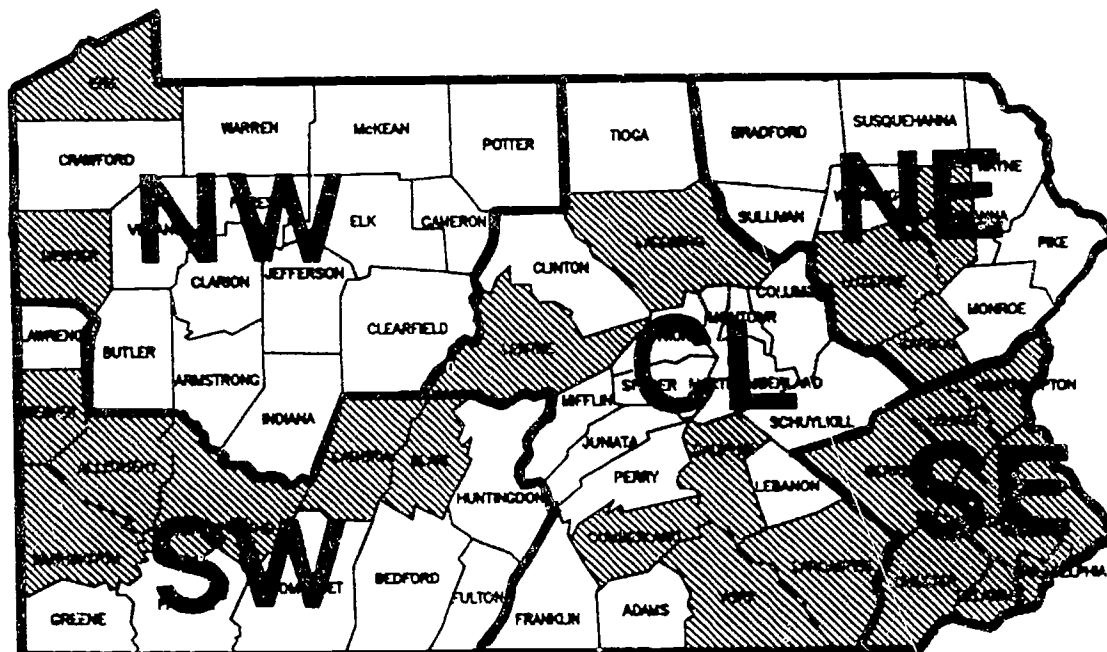
## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION: Public Perception Of "Cheating"

Question: Do you personally know anyone who is receiving workmen's compensation or disability pay that you feel is capable of working but refuses?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide . . . . .	23%	76%	1%	1642
Rural/Urban				
Rural . . . . .	29	70	1	363
Urban . . . . .	21	78	1	1279
Region				
Northwest . . . . .	30	70	0	167
Southwest . . . . .	25	73	2	389
Central . . . . .	22	78	0	359
Northeast . . . . .	16	82	2	121
Southeast . . . . .	22	78	0	606
Age				
18 - 34 . . . . .	28	72	0	414
35 - 49 . . . . .	26	73	0	560
50 - 64 . . . . .	20	80	1	358
65 or older . . . . .	14	84	1	306
Sex				
Male . . . . .	25	74	1	678
Female . . . . .	22	78	0	951
Marital Status				
Married . . . . .	23	76	1	1067
Divorced . . . . .	31	69	0	141
Separated . . . . .	16	84	0	44
Widowed . . . . .	17	83	1	166
Never Married . . . . .	26	74	0	218
Educational Level				
< High School . . . . .	13	86	1	193
High School Graduate . . . . .	24	75	1	918
College Graduate . . . . .	25	75	0	526
Political Affiliation				
Republican . . . . .	23	77	0	574
Democrat . . . . .	22	77	1	658
Independent/Other . . . . .	21	78	1	81
None . . . . .	26	73	1	297
Religious Preference				
Protestant . . . . .	23	76	1	798
Catholic . . . . .	22	77	1	547
Other/None . . . . .	23	77	0	291
Children				
Yes - Over 18 . . . . .	18	81	1	547
Yes - Under 18 . . . . .	25	74	1	674
No . . . . .	24	76	0	384

## Appendix A: REGIONAL AND URBAN-RURAL CLASSIFICATION

With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people and not contiguous to a built-up urbanized area are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. If at least half (50%) of the residents in the county fit this description, then the county is considered rural. The remaining counties are therefore considered urban. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "rural counties," and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "urban counties."



### - URBAN COUNTIES -

Allegheny	Lackawanna
Beaver	Lancaster
Berks	Lehigh
Clair	Luzerne
Bucks	Lycoming
Cambria	Mercer
Carbon	Montgomery
Centre	Northampton
Chester	Philadelphia
Cumberland	Washington
Dauphin	Westmoreland
Delaware	York
Erie	

### - RURAL COUNTIES -

Adams	Franklin	Perry
Armstrong	Fulton	Pike
Bedford	Greene	Potter
Bradford	Huntingdon	Schuylkill
Butler	Indiana	Snyder
Cameron	Jefferson	Somerset
Clarion	Juniata	Sullivan
Clearfield	Lawrence	Susquehanna
Clinton	Lebanon	Tioga
Columbia	McKean	Union
Crawford	Mifflin	Venango
Elk	Monroe	Warren
Fayette	Montour	Wayne
Forest	Northumberland	Wyoming

## Appendix B: THE SAMPLE

The sample was provided by Survey Sampling, Inc. It was a sample consisting of 5400 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of this number, 35 percent were completions, 24 percent were refusals, and the remainder were unavailable (no answer, answering machines, etc.). The data were weighted to compensate for the male-female imbalance.

The interviews took place between February 7 and February 26, 1993. Each interview took approximately 10-12 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual	Sample*
Population . . . . .	11,861,643	1691
Sex		
Male . . . . .	47%	47%
Female . . . . .	53	53
Age		
18 - 34 . . . . .	35%	25%
35 - 49 . . . . .	26	34
50 - 64 . . . . .	19	22
65 + . . . . .	20	19
Region		
Northwest . . . . .	10%	10%
Southwest . . . . .	24	24
Central . . . . .	20	22
Southeast . . . . .	39	37
Northeast . . . . .	8	7
Urban-Rural		
Mostly urban counties . . . . .	79%	78%
Mostly rural counties . . . . .	21	22
Political Affiliation		
Registered . . . . .	59%	82%
Republican . . . . .	45	44
Democratic . . . . .	51	49
Independent/Other . . . . .	5	6
Not registered . . . . .	41	18

\* Percentages are weighted for sex.

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than 2.4 percent in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus 3.5 percent.

# Division of Community Services And Continuing Education

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

(717) 662-4244 or 4849

### **Undergraduate/Graduate Courses**

- o Mansfield University/Guthrie Education Center-Sayre, PA
- o College Center of The Finger Lakes, Coming, NY
- o Towanda-Williamsport-Loyalsock-Lock Haven

### **Distance Courses**

- o Tele-Conferences
- o Travel Abroad

### **Undergraduate Special Students**

- o Academic Advising and Counseling
- o Course Selection, Registration, Evaluation of Transfer Credit
- o Diagnostic Placement Testing

## **SUMMER SCHOOL & NON-CREDIT OFFERINGS**

(717) 662-4866 or 4850

- o Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
- o Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and In-Service Training
- o Summer Youth Camps: Gifted, Music, Computer
- o Workshops, Seminars, Travel Tours

## **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

(717) 662-4809

- o Grant Writing Workshops
- o Resource Library - Materials & Information
- o Assistance In Locating Funding Sources
- o Cooperative Projects With Community Agencies

## **RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE**

(717) 662-4808

### **Small Business Assistance Center**

- o Assistance in Starting A New Business and Business Expansions

### **Applied Research Center**

- o Surveys, public opinion polls, studies, evaluations, data analysis

### **Data Center**

- o Rural Data Base - Demographic, Economic, Social data

## **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**

(717) 662-4746

### **Pride, JTPA & ABE**

- o Basic Literacy And Basic Skills Training
- o Preparation For High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- o Family/Workplace Literacy Classes
- o Computer Assisted Instruction
- o Volunteer Opportunities
- o Tutor Training Workshops/State Sponsored Seminars

### **HOPE**

- o Tioga County Prison Program

### **Student Literacy Corps**

- o Literacy Corps Projects and University Credit

Copies of this survey  
are available from:

Rural Services Institute  
Mansfield University  
209 Doane Center  
Mansfield, PA 16933  
(717) 662-4808