

# CBS NEWS POLL

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For release: January 7, 2010  
7:00 AM EST

## WHERE AMERICA STANDS: THE NEXT GENERATION ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS December 17 - 22, 2009

They may be growing up in a world vastly different from previous generations, but parents of children between the ages of 9 and 17 have a lot of confidence in their kids. Most say their children are at a healthy weight, have a good understanding of the value of a dollar, and are helping out with chores at home.

But today's parents also feel the need to keep watch on what their children do. Most parents of children between the ages of 9 and 17 monitor most of what their children do online, and few children shop on their own.

### THE VALUE OF MONEY

Three in four parents of children 9 to 17 think their children understand the value of money at least somewhat well, including three in 10 who say very well. About a quarter say their children do not understand the value of money well at all.

#### HOW WELL DO YOUR CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF MONEY?

(Among parents of children 9-17)

	All	Teens 13-17
Very well	30%	33%
Somewhat well	46	48
Not well at all	24	19

According to their parents, 54% of children between 9 and 17 get a regular allowance, though nearly half - 46% - say they do not. Just one in five says they have a child who works outside the home at least part-time. Parents of teenagers report similar percentages.

#### DO YOUR CHILDREN...?

(Among parents of children 9-17)

	Yes	No
Get a regular allowance	54%	46
Work outside the home	20%	80

Most parents are still involved in their children's shopping decisions - just 7% say their children 9 to 17 shop for things on their own most of the time. Seven in 10 say their children shop on their own either rarely or never, though this drops to less than six in 10 among teens 13 to 17.

**HOW OFTEN DO YOUR CHILDREN SHOP ON THEIR OWN?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

	All	Teens 13-17
Most of the time	7%	9%
Sometimes	24	34
Rarely	30	27
Never	39	30

**CHILDREN AND THEIR WEIGHT**

Obesity rates may be growing in America, but parents do not necessarily see this trend among their own children. Few parents of children 9 to 17 think their own children are overweight - just 12% think so. 87% do not think their children are overweight.

**ARE ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN OVERWEIGHT?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

Yes	12%
No	87

**HOUSEHOLD CHORES**

Children 9 to 17 are still helping out around the house, at least according to their parents. 62% of parents of children age 9 to 17 say those children do chores around the house regularly. 32% say they do chores occasionally, while only 5% say hardly ever. Similar percentages of teens help out around the house regularly.

**HOW OFTEN DO YOUR CHILDREN DO CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

Regularly	62%
Occasionally	32
Hardly ever	5

**INTERNET USE**

American children between 9 and 17 may be the first generation to have no memory of a world before the internet, but according to their parents they are not spending too much time online. 45% of parents of children age 9 through 17 say their kids spend just a little amount of time online, while another 40% say they spend some time online, but not all. Just 7% say their children spend almost all their time online. Teens are slightly more likely to spend more time on the internet.

**HOW MUCH OF YOUR CHILDREN'S FREE TIME IS SPENT ON THE INTERNET?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

	All	Teens 13-17
Just a little	45%	35%
Some but not all	40	48
Almost all	7	10

A majority of parents of children between 9 and 17 say they monitor most of their children's activities online, while another third says they check in from time to time. Very few - just 2% - say they mainly leave their children on their own when they are on the internet. Parents of teenagers are more likely to check in from time to time rather than monitor most of their teens' activities online.

**HOW MUCH DO YOU MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THE INTERNET?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

	All	Teens 13-17
Monitor most of what they do	58%	46%
Check in from time to time	35	49
Mainly leave them on their own	2	0

According to their parents, one particular behavior that hasn't affected most children age 9 to 17 is online bullying. Just 5% of parents of children age 9 to 17 think their children have ever been harassed or bullied online.

**HAVE ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN EVER BEEN BULLIED ONLINE?**

(Among parents of children 9-17)

Yes	5%
No	93

**TEENS AND DRUG USE**

Most parents think their own teenagers have not experimented with drug use - either illegal drugs or using prescription drugs for recreational purposes. About nine in 10 parents of teenagers under 18 do not think those teens have tried either.

**AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, HAVE ANY OF YOUR TEENAGERS...?**

(Among parents of teens 13-17)

	Yes	No
Tried illegal drugs	12%	88
Tried RX drugs to get high	3%	96

**TEENS AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

Just a small percentage of parents think their teenagers have been sexually active - only 22%. More think their teens may have engaged in "sexting" - 35% of parents of teens under 18 think their teens have either sent or received a sexually explicit text

or image through their cell phones. Still, more than six in 10 parents say their teenagers have not done this.

**AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, HAVE ANY OF YOUR TEENAGERS...?**

(Among parents of teens 13-17)

	Yes	No
Tried "sexting"	35%	64
Become sexually active	22%	75

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1048 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 17-22, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

192 parents of children between the ages of 9 and 17 were interviewed, including 97 parents of children between the ages of 13 and 17. The margin of error for parents of children between the ages of 9 and 13 is seven percentage points and 10 percentage points for parents of children between the ages of 13 and 17.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS POLL

Where America Stands: The Next Generation According to their Parents  
December, 17-22 2009

q1-q38 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q39 For the next few questions, please let us know if you think any of your own teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 have done any of the following.

As far as you know, do you think any of your teenagers have tried illegal drugs?

\*\* PARENTS OF CHILDREN 13-17 \*\*

	%
Yes	12
No	88
DK/NA	0

q40 As far as you know, do you think any of your teenagers have tried prescription drugs just to get high?

Yes	3
No	96
DK/NA	1

q41 As far as you know, do you think any of your teenagers are sexually active?

Yes	22
No	75
DK/NA	3

q42 As far as you know, do you think any of your teenagers have sent or received a sexually explicit message or image through their mobile phone?

Yes	35
No	64
DK/NA	1

q43 Do you think any of your 9 to 17 year old children are over the weight that you think is healthy for them?

\*\* PARENTS OF CHILDREN 9-17 \*\*

Yes	12
No	87
DK/NA	1

q44 In a typical weekday, how would you describe the amount of free time that your 9-17-year old children spend on-line or on the internet - do they spend just a little of their free time on line, some but not all of their free time, or does it seem like they spend almost all of their free time online?

A little	45
Some	40
Almost all	7
DK/NA	8

q45 How much do you usually try to monitor or learn about what your 9-17-year old children are doing on the internet - do you try to monitor most of what they do, OR do you try to check in with them from time to time, OR do you mainly let them be on their own at this point?

\*\* PARENTS OF CHILDREN 9-17 \*\*

	%
Monitor most	58
Check in time to time	35
Mainly on own	2
Don't know/No answer	5

q46 & q47 BLANK

q48 As far as you know, have any of your 9-17-year old children ever been threatened or bullied by someone online?

Yes	5
No	93
Don't know/No answer	2

q49 Do you give any of your 9-17-year old children a regular allowance?

Yes	54
No	46
DK/NA	0

q50 Are any of your 9-17-year old children employed outside the home at least part-time?

Yes	20
No	80
DK/NA	0

q51 How often does your 9-17-year old children shop for things they like to buy on their own, without a parent - most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never?

Most of the time	7
Sometimes	24
Rarely	30
Never	39
Don't know/No answer	0

q52 How well do you think your 9-17-year old children understand the value of money - would you say they understand the value of money very well, somewhat well, or not well at all?

Very well	30
Somewhat well	46
Not well at all	24
Don't know/No answer	0

q53 How often do your 9-17-year old children do chores around the house -- regularly, occasionally, or hardly ever?

Regularly	62
Occasionally	32
Hardly ever	5
DK/NA	1

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>	<u>Margin of error</u>
Total Respondents	1048		3 points
Parents, kids 9-17	151	192	8 points
Parents, kids 13-17	97	112	10 points