

Centre for Social Justice Polling on Public Attitudes to Family in Policy: Summer 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

The Centre for Social Justice conducted three polling exercises during the summer of 2017 to test public attitudes to family and government activity to strengthen families as part of a wider social justice strategy. A summary of this polling data is outlined below.

YouGov:

YouGov polled a representative sample of 1,665 British adults between 31 July - 1 August:

How serious a problem, if at all, do you think family breakdown is in today's society?

63% of British adults think family breakdown is a serious problem. 20% think it is not serious.

(compared to September 2011: 83% thought it was serious; 13% thought it was not serious)

45% of 18-24 year olds think it is serious, compared to 74% of adults over 65.

Over the last few decades, do you think marriages has become less important in society?

45% of British adults think that marriage has become less important and that this is a bad thing (a fall from 60% of people who thought the same thing in November 2012).

25% of British adults think that marriage has become less important but that this is a good thing (a rise from 19% of people who thought the same in November 2012).

26% of 18-24 year olds think that marriage has become less important and that this is a bad thing, compared to 63% of British adults over 65. 44% of 18-24 year olds think that marriage has become less important but that this is a good thing, compared to just 13% of over 65s.

How important, if at all, do you think stronger families and improved parenting are to addressing Britain's social problems?

81% of British adults think that this is important compared to 7% who believe it is not important.

61% of 18-24 year olds think this is important compared to 93% of over 65s.

How important, if at all, do you think it is for children to grow up living with both parents?

69% of British adults think this is important, whilst 22% think it is not important (for comparison, 81% of people thought that this was important in 2012)

51% of 18-24 year olds think that this is important, compared to 86% of British adults over 65.

How serious a problem, if at all, do you think fatherlessness, in particular, is in today's society?

64% of British adults think that this is a serious problem, whilst 23% think it is not.

46% of 18-24 year olds think that this was a serious problem, as opposed to 80% of over 65s.

How important, if at all, do you think a strong family life is for children growing up in poverty?

87% of British adults think this is important, whilst only 5% think it is not.

ComRes

ComRes polled a representative sample of 2,026 adults between 2 August - 3 August:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Family breakdown is a serious problem in Britain today and more should be done to prevent families from breaking up

72% of British adults agree with this statement, with 24% strongly agreeing.

Marriage is important and the Government should support couples who get married

71% of British adults agree with this statement, with 28% strongly agreeing. 59% of 18-24 year olds agree compared to 80% of adults over 65.

The absence of fathers (or 'fatherlessness') in families has a negative impact on children growing up in poverty

71% of British adults agree with this statement, with 29% strongly agreeing.

Do you support or oppose the following policy proposals?

The Government should recognize marriage in the tax system with a specific allowance for low and middle income married couples?

75% of British adults support this policy proposal, with 33% of strongly supporting it. 15% of people oppose this.

The Government should spend extra money with the goal of strengthening families and improving parenting in order to prevent social problems?

76% of British adults support this policy proposal, with 26% of strongly supporting it. 12% of oppose it.

[Bounty.com](#)

Bounty.com surveyed 1,658 pre-natal and post-natal members via their online newsletter between 14th-25th August 2017.

How important is it for children to grow up with both parents?

88% of respondents agree that it is important for children to grow up with both parents (67% very important and 21% quite important) - including 62% of lone parents.

When we had a baby, my baby's father and I began to argue a lot more

43% agreed that they argued more with the baby's father when they had a baby. For lone parents the figure is 61%.

The Government is right to say that stability matters for children

91% agree that the Government is right to say 'stability matters for children' (71% agree strongly and 20% agree slightly). 93% of parents living with their partner agree. 86% of lone parents agree.

Relationship tips should be part of the advice you get when you have a baby

68% of all respondents think that relationship tips should be part of the advice you get when you have a baby including 56% of lone parents.

Do you support a tax allowance for married couples?

78% of all respondents support this policy, 22% oppose it. Support is highest (81% - 82%) amongst couple families and lowest amongst lone parents (57%)

76% of respondents from social groups C2DE agree with this policy.

Do you support public money being spent on strengthening families and improving parenting with children in poverty?

89% of all respondents support this, only 10% oppose this action.

Methodology:

ComRes interviewed 2,026 GB adults online between 2nd and 3rd August 2017. Data were weighted by age, gender, region and socio-economic grade to be demographically representative of all GB adults. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

Total sample size for the **YouGov** polling was 1,665 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 31st July - 1st August 2017. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council and abide by their rules.

Bounty.com conducted an online survey to Bounty pre-natal and post-natal members via the Bounty newsletter 14th-25th August 2017. 1,658 surveys were completed.

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

34a Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AB
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0) 20 7227 9999

Twitter: @csjthinktank

www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

