
INTERNET STUDY SHOWS SCHOOLCHILDREN USING COMPUTERS FOR HOMEWORK



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This press release is based on data from two polls that were commissioned by Intel. The primary survey was conducted with participants of the Angus Reid Group's Internet Panel – a panel of more than 4,000 Canadian households who have Internet access. The population for this survey was restricted to those households that have children aged 12 to 17 years old - 508 parents and 508 children were interviewed. The survey was conducted online during March and April of 1998. With a sample of 1,016, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the survey results are within ± 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire population of households with 12 to 17 year old children been surveyed. A sample of 508 children (or 508 parents) has an associated margin of error of ± 4.4 percentage points with 95 percent certainty.

The secondary survey was conducted by telephone between April 1st and 7th, 1998 among a representative cross-section of 1,500 Canadian adults. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 1996 Census data. With a national sample of 1,500, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within ± 2.5 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

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These data are based on two parallel surveys. The primary survey was conducted with participants of the Angus Reid Group's Internet Panel – a panel of more than 4,000 Canadian households who have Internet access. The population for this survey was restricted to those households that have children aged 12 to 17 years old - 508 parents and 508 children were interviewed. The survey was conducted online during March and April of 1998. With a sample of 1,016, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the survey results are within ± 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire population of households with 12 to 17 year old children been surveyed. A sample of 508 children (or 508 parents) has an associated margin of error of ± 4.4 percentage points with 95 percent certainty.

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The survey's highlights are as follows,

- Canadian schoolchildren aged 12-17 who have access to a computer and the Internet in their home spend 2 hours per week doing homework on their computer. This constitutes one-third of the total time they spend doing homework.
- Eight in ten (81%) Canadian adults believe that computers and technology have had a positive impact on Canadian children's education
- The computer was chosen first among a range of options presented to participants of the Internet study as the most important learning tool when it comes to doing homework (the computer (52%) was chosen above the calculator (26%), the encyclopedia (8%) and the dictionary (6%))
- Yahoo was chosen by a plurality (27%) of children who participated in the Internet study as their favourite web site for gathering information for their assignments.

Table 1

On average, how many hours a WEEK would you say your child spends doing academic homework?

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	Total	Respondent	
		Parent	Child
Base=All respondents	1016	508	508
	%	%	%
Up to 2 Hours	12	12	12
>2 - 3 hours	9	10	8
>3 - 4 hours	9	9	8
>4 - 5 hours	19	17	20
>5 - 6 hours	9	11	8
>6 - 8 hours	11	11	11
>8 - 10 hours	13	15	11
>10 hours	10	10	11
Not Stated	8	5	11
Mean	6.4	6.4	6.4

Table 2

On average, how many hours a WEEK would you say your child spends on your computer at home specifically doing homework?

On average, how many hours a WEEK would you say you spend on your computer at home specifically doing homework?

	Total	Respondent	
		Parent	Child
Base=All respondents	1016	508	508
	%	%	%
None	8	6	9
<1 Hour	6	7	6
1 hour	25	25	26
>1 - 2 hours	22	27	18
>2 - 3 hours	11	12	9
>3 hours	17	15	20
Not Stated	10	7	12
Mean	2.1	2.1	2.2

Table 3

Overall, do you think that computers and technology have had:

	Total	Province					
		BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	PQ	ATL
Base=All respondents	1504	200	135	120	527	400	122
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A positive impact on Canadian children's education	81	81	81	79	83	79	86
No impact on Canadian children's education	5	4	4	5	4	7	4
A negative impact on Canadian children's education	10	12	14	11	10	11	6
Not stated	3	3	2	5	3	3	4

Table 4

When it comes to doing homework, who would you say provides the most help to you?

	Total	Child's Gender		Child's Age					
		Male	Female	12	13	14	15	16	17
Base=Child 12-17 Years Old	508	231	232	89	85	68	69	85	69
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Your mother	33	37	35	54	45	25	30	38	17
Your father	25	27	27	26	34	40	25	15	23
Friends	12	12	13	7	5	13	13	22	19
Teachers	11	12	11	1	9	8	15	15	23
A brother or sister	6	7	6	4	3	8	9	5	11
Text books	1		1				2		2
Parents	1	1	1		3	2		2	
No one/ I do it myself	2	2	2	3		2	2	2	6
Other	1	1	2	3		2	2	2	
Not Stated	8		1		2		2		

Table 5

Which of the following would you say is your most important learning tool when it comes to doing homework?

	Total	Child's Gender		Child's Age					
		Male	Female	12	13	14	15	16	17
Base=Child 12-17 Years Old	508	231	232	89	85	68	69	85	69
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Calculator	26	31	26	19	25	29	26	31	45
Dictionary	6	5	7	9	14	4	2	5	2
Encyclopedia	8	7	10	15	2	12	8	9	4
Computer	52	57	57	57	60	56	64	55	47
Not Stated	8	1							2

Table 6

Overall, do you think children these days receive...?

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	Total	Respondent	
		Parent	Child
Base=All respondents	1016	508	508
	%	%	%
Too much homework	29	7	50
About the right amount of homework	46	54	38
Not enough homework	20	35	4
Not Stated	6	4	8

Table 7

When it comes to making choices regarding the following types of household purchases would you say your children have ...?

	Food	Clothing	Computer Games	Computers
Base: Parents	508	508	508	508
	%	%	%	%
A great deal of influence	21	46	50	14
A fair amount of influence	40	39	25	19
Some influence	30	10	14	32
Hardly any influence	5	1	7	31
Not stated	4	4	4	4

Table 8

17. And what is your favorite Web site for gathering information for your school assignments?

	Total
Base=Child 12-17 Years Old	508
	%
Yahoo/ yahoo.com	27
None/ don't have one	14
Other	12
Depends on assignment/ various	7
Alta Vista/ altavista.com	3
Infoseek	2
Webcrawler/ webcrawler.com	2

Table 9

22. When it comes to doing homework, what is your favorite school subject?

	Total	Respondent Child
Base=Child 12-17 Years Old	508	508
	%	%
Math/ Algebra	23	23
English/ Language Arts	17	17
Science	12	12
Social Studies	6	6
Art	6	6
Other	5	5
History	4	4
Computers	3	3
French/ Spanish/ German	3	3
Drama	2	2
Geography	2	2
Music	2	2
Biology	2	2
Industrial Arts	1	1
Physics	1	1
Business	1	1
Gym/ sports	1	1
Chemistry	1	1
None	0	0
DK/NS	9	9

-- 30 --

For further information, please contact

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