

THE UNH POLL*

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FOR RELEASE
December 20, 1999

MOST GRANITE STATERS UNCONCERNED ABOUT Y2K

DURHAM, NH—Most New Hampshire residents are not taking any special precautions for Y2K.

These findings are based on the latest **UNH POLL**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

WHAT, ME WORRY?

As January 1, 2000 comes closer, fears of major problems resulting from the computer glitch known as “Y2K” are fading. Just six months ago, many people were predicting major disruptions in electricity, banking, and business as a result of Y2K. But recently, the State of New Hampshire’s Year 2000 task force reassured New Hampshire residents that New Hampshire is ready for Y2K. Not that the people of the state needed much reassuring. In the most recent UNH Poll, 66% of New Hampshire residents said they do not plan to take any special precautions for Y2K.

About one-third of Granite Staters do plan to take precautions for Y2K problems. Twenty-four percent of New Hampshire residents say they are stocking up on extra food and water, 19% will take extra cash out of the bank, 14% will buy extra gasoline, 10% will stock up on firewood, and 9% have installed or will install an electric power generator.

SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS

For the most part, there are few differences between demographic groups in their Y2K preparations, however there are some significant variations. Upper income residents and divorcees are most likely to say they are taking no Y2K precautions. College graduates are most likely to report taking out extra cash from the bank. People aged 30 to 45 are most likely to report stocking up on extra food and water. Residents of northern New Hampshire and the Lakes Region are most likely to report stocking up on firewood.

UNH Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent UNH Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from November 16 to November 30, 1999.

A random sample of 712 adults from throughout New Hampshire was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.7 percent. Results reported for subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

Respondents to the UNH Poll were asked:

- “There has been a lot of talk about Y2K and the problems that might occur with some computers because of the Y2K bug. Some people are taking precautions in case something bad should happen and others are not. What about you, are you taking, or planning to take any of the following precautions because of Y2K ... taking cash out of the bank ... stocking up on food and water ... installing an electric power generator ... stocking up on firewood .. filling up with extra gas, or ... doing nothing special at all?”

Y2K Precautions

	<u>Percent*</u>
Stocking up on food and water	24
Taking cash out of the bank	19
Filling up with extra gas	14
Stocking up on firewood	10
Installing an electric power generator	9
Nothing special at all	66

(N=666)

* Multiple responses possible. Percentages sum to more than 100%.

Y2K Preparations

STATEWIDE	<u>Extra Cash</u> 19%	<u>Food & Water</u> 24%	<u>Power Generator</u> 9%	<u>Firewood</u> 10%	<u>Extra Gasoline</u> 14%	<u>Nothing</u> 66%	<u>(N)</u> 666
Reg. Democrat	18	28	11	14	15	63	112
Reg. Independent	21	25	9	9	15	65	380
Reg. Republican	15	21	8	10	13	70	171
Registered to vote	20	24	9	10	16	66	468
Not registered	16	25	11	9	12	66	194
Liberal	26	28	4	5	12	62	118
Moderate	18	24	10	10	16	64	289
Conservative	18	22	11	11	12	70	203
18 to 29	18	16	7	4	11	67	95
30 to 45	23	32	13	12	17	60	240
46 to 64	14	19	9	8	12	70	199
65 and over	15	22	5	9	12	72	105
Male	16	18	11	7	11	71	321
Female	22	31	8	12	18	60	346
High school or less	15	26	8	9	13	68	222
Some college	17	25	11	11	14	65	185
College graduate	27	23	8	11	17	62	167
Post-graduate	16	24	10	4	10	68	80
Less than \$20,000	6	30	3	3	4	69	58
\$20,000 to \$39,999	19	22	10	11	13	74	108
\$40,000 to \$59,999	21	27	13	14	19	57	101
\$60,000 to \$99,000	22	28	10	7	13	64	123
\$100,000 or more	12	11	6	4	5	80	55
Married	20	28	11	11	16	63	430
Widowed	17	26	2	9	16	71	40
Divorced	11	16	6	6	8	77	74
Never Married	20	16	7	4	10	70	111
Own home	18	24	11	11	14	65	490
Rent home	22	26	4	6	13	67	144
Protestant	19	25	11	14	16	66	210
Catholic	20	23	8	7	14	66	253
North West Central NH	17	27	9	17	18	66	88
Western NH	18	25	7	8	10	65	63
Central/Lakes	15	22	11	18	14	70	100
Hillsborough County	21	29	10	6	15	62	197
Seacoast	19	21	9	7	14	67	218