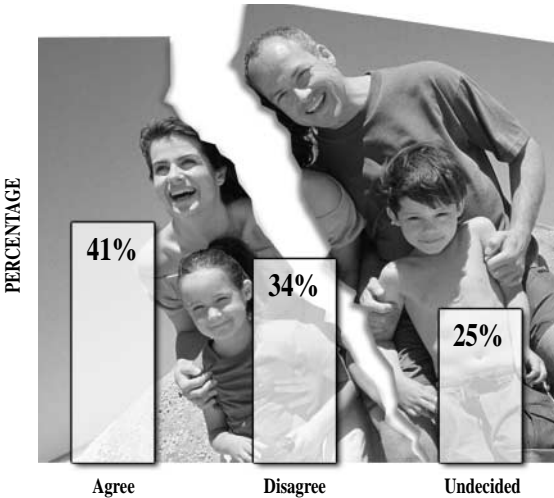


Edmontonians' poll station

By Linda Banister

Recent estimates suggest that approximately 50 percent of all new marriages will end in divorce. This month's poll station looked at Edmontonians' thoughts, feelings, and reactions to issues related to this topic.

DO YOU FEEL IT IS TOO EASY TO GET DIVORCED IN CANADA?



Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents felt it is too easy to get a divorce in Canada, while just over one third (34%) did not and one quarter (25%) did not know.

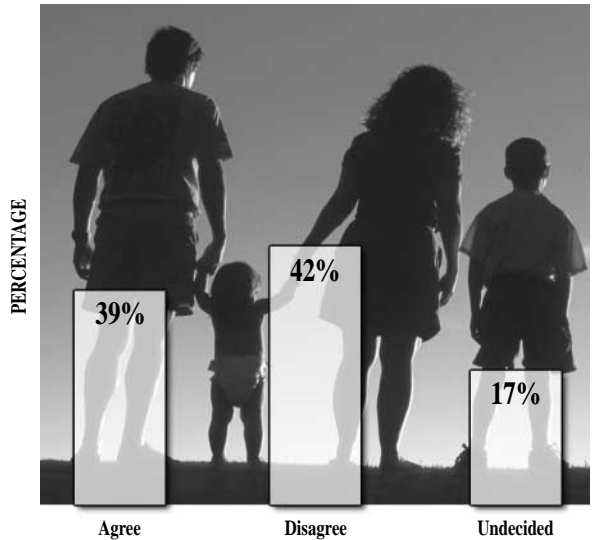
DO YOU AGREE WITH MANDATORY COUNSELING BEFORE DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS OCCUR?

Almost one half (47%) of respondents strongly agreed that counseling should be mandatory before divorce proceedings occur, while almost another third (32%) somewhat agreed. At the other end of the spectrum 16 percent either strongly or somewhat disagreed with mandatory counseling (6% strongly, 10% somewhat) and five percent did not know.

DO YOU THINK THAT CHILDREN WOULD BE HAPPIER LIVING WITH AN UNHAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE, OR LIVING PART-TIME WITH EACH PARENT SEPARATELY?

A full 68 percent of respondents felt that children would be happier living part-time with each parent separately, while nine percent believed children would be happier living with an unhappily married couple. Just under a quarter (23%) of respondents did not know and felt it depended on the individual circumstances.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT: IT IS A PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SACRIFICE THEIR OWN HAPPINESS FOR THEIR CHILDREN?



Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreed that it is the parent's responsibility to sacrifice their own happiness for their children to have the traditional two-parent household (17% strongly, 22% somewhat). While another quarter (25%) of respondents indicated they strongly disagreed and another 17 percent somewhat disagreed. Two percent (2%) did not know. ✓

The *Edmontonians* Poll Station surveyed 100 city of Edmonton residents on this topic and while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what local business is thinking.



Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research & Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services. If you have a question you would like included in the Edmontonians Poll, contact

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