

Children, the Internet, and Family Time: What Alabama Thinks

- At least 4 out of 5 Alabama parents whose children have access to the Internet from home are concerned about the potential dangers on the Internet.
- 1 out of 4 parents (23%) *strongly agree* that their Internet provider does enough to protect their children from potential dangers, while 39% only *somewhat agree* that their Internet provider offers adequate protection.
- Finding more time to spend with their children is an *urgent or high priority* for 82% of Alabama parents.
- Two out of three parents agreed that, if they had more time to spend with their children, they would not use this time watching television together.

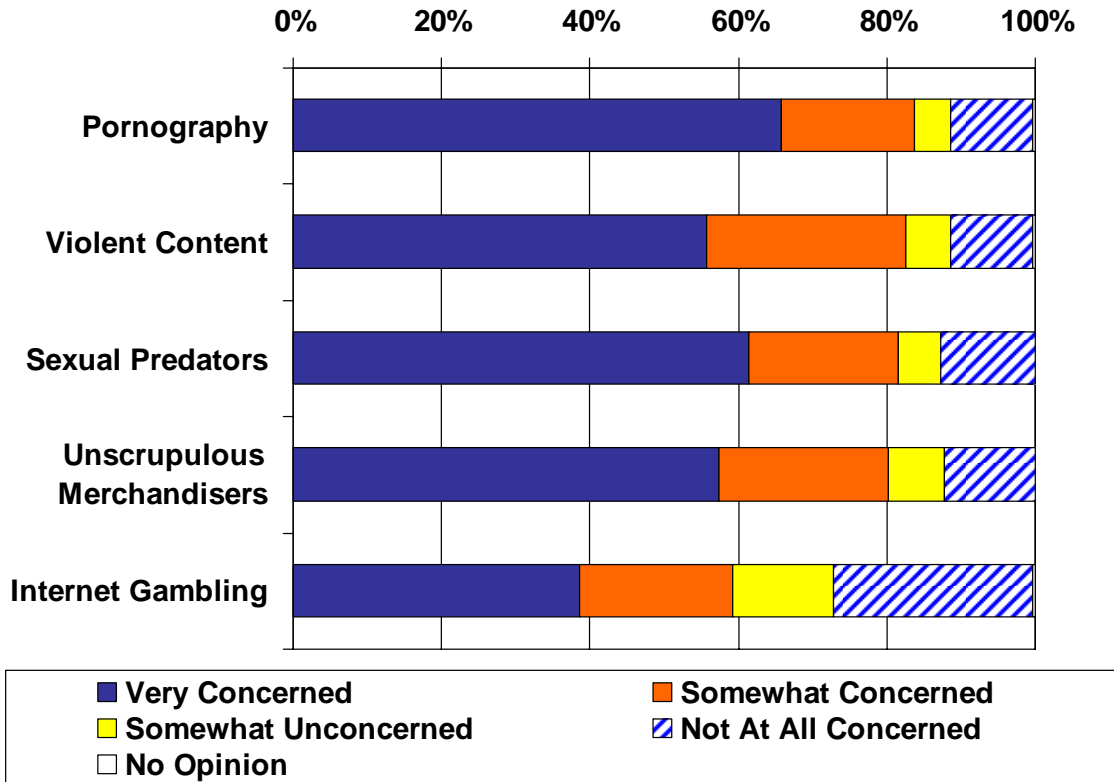
(Auburn, December 9) The *Ask-Alabama* statewide fall 2004 public opinion survey underscores the concerns of parents about the exposure of children to the Internet from home¹. The poll, conducted by the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University, indicates that most Alabama parents whose children have access to the Internet are at least somewhat concerned about potential Internet dangers. Approximately one-fourth (23%) *strongly agree* and 39% *somewhat agree* that there is adequate protection for their children online.

Concern about Dangers Facing Children on the Internet

Two-thirds (67%) of Alabama's parents report that their children have home access to the Internet. Eighty-two percent of these parents are at least *Somewhat Concerned* about the dangers facing their children from internet based sexual predators; 84% are concerned about the children's potential exposure to pornography; 83% are concerned about violent content; and 80% about unscrupulous merchandisers. Nearly sixty percent (59%) also expressed *concern* about their children accessing Internet gambling sites.

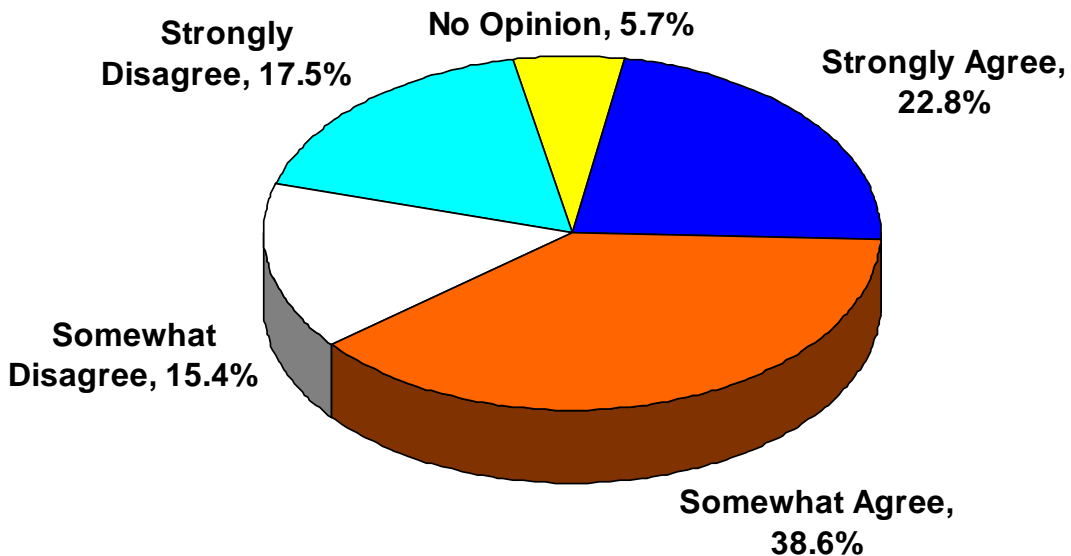
¹ The survey of a random telephone sample of 344 Alabama parents was conducted from October 12-27, 2004. The average estimated margin of error among parents is +/- 5%, and +/- 7% for the sub-sample of 228 parents with Internet access.

Parents are Concerned about Potential Internet Threats to Children



Most parents are at least somewhat confident that their Internet provider offers adequate protection for children online. When asked whether their Internet provider does enough to protect their children from potential dangers, 39% *somewhat agreed* and 23% *strongly agreed*.

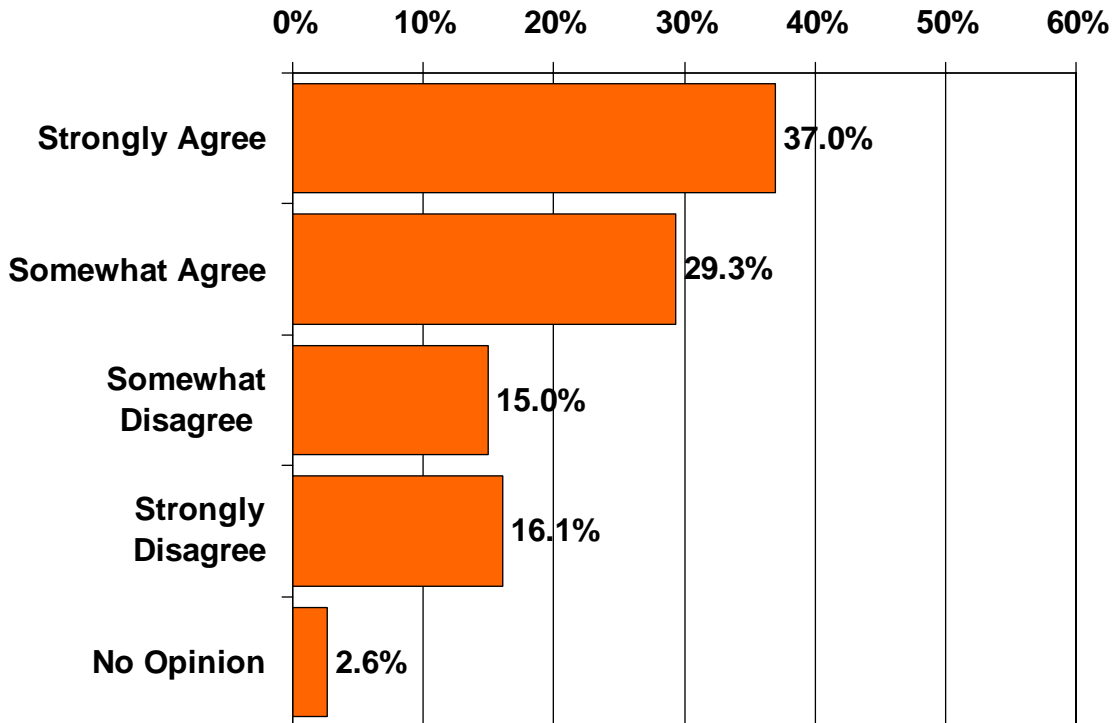
Moderate Agreement that Internet Providers Protect Children



Family Time

Eighty-two percent of Alabama's parents believe that finding more time to spend with their children is an *urgent or high priority*. Most (53%) also believe that they *do not have enough time to spend with their children*. Furthermore, 66% of parents agree that, if asked, *their children would say that they spend too much time at work*.

Children Believe Their Parents Spend Too Much Time at Work



Parents Would Like to Do More with Their Children – But Not Watching Television

Respondents were provided with a list of seven activities and were asked to indicate whether they would be interested in doing each of these with their children if they had the time. If parents had more time to spend with their children, only one-third (34%) state that they *would want to spend this time watching television with their children*. Clearly parents would like to spend more time engaged in active endeavors that allow for interaction with their children, either at home or on an outing.

At least four out of five parents would like to spend more time with their children in activities such as: *participating in a sports activity* (85%), *going out to a movie, dinner, or sporting event* (86%), *working on a hobby together* (87%), *attending church-sponsored activities or events* (88%), and even *preparing meals or doing household*

chores together (81%). In addition, about three-fourths (77%) would like to participate in more school or extramural activities such as scouting.

Family Activities Parents Would Do More Often If They Had Time

