

**INTERNET SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS, INC.  
GROWING UP WITH MEDIA  
WAVE 3 ONLINE METHODOLOGY REPORT**

**Conducted for:**

Internet Solutions for Kids, Inc.  
Johns Hopkins University  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Field Dates:**

Wave 1: August 24, 2006 to September 14, 2006  
Wave 2: November 2, 2007 to January 10, 2008  
Wave 3: August 29, 2008 to November 26, 2008

**Prepared by:**

Dana Markow, VP, Sr. Consultant, Youth Center of Excellence  
Koby Oppenheim, Sr. Research Associate, Youth Center of Excellence

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## INTRODUCTION

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### Survey Description and Objectives

Harris Interactive Inc. is conducting the *Growing Up with Media* study on behalf of Internet Solutions for Kids and Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This study examines the opinions of children ages 10 to 15 and their parents about their experiences with and opinion about the media. This longitudinal study seeks to understand the mental health effects of Internet-mediated violence exposure on adolescents.

The primary objective of this study is to assess prospectively the role of violent media in involvement in violent behavior. More specifically, the objectives are:

- **Objective 1.** To examine the association between exposure to violent media and serious violent behavior, including victimization and perpetration resulting in injury.
- **Objective 2.** To assess specific aspects of media (i.e., type and content) that are likely to contribute to risk for violence.
- **Objective 3.** To identify individual and contextual factors that mediate or moderate the association between exposure to violent media and serious violent behavior, with particular attention to the potential moderating effects of gender and prior exposure to real-life violence.

The *Growing Up with Media* study is a longitudinal study of U.S. parents and their children, beginning when the child was 10 to 15 years old. A national sample of 1,588 households were recruited in Year 1 to complete a survey at three different points of time (T1, T2, T3) over a two year period. Each data collection point is to be separated by a period of approximately 12 months.

This report documents the methodology for the Wave 3 survey in this longitudinal study.

### Wave 3 Survey Method

Wave 3 of the longitudinal study was conducted August 29, 2008 to November 26, 2008. The online survey was completed by 1,159 pairs of parents and their children who had completed the Wave 1 study. Wave 1 sample was obtained from the Harris Poll Online (HPOL) opt-in panel. On average, interviews for the Wave 3 survey were estimated at 39 minutes in length for the parent and child combined.

## **Project Responsibility and Acknowledgments**

The Harris team responsible for the survey was led by Dana Markow, Ph.D., Vice-President, Sr. Consultant, Youth Center of Excellence. Internet Solutions for Kids had the primary responsibility of the questionnaire design. Dr. Michele Ybarra (Internet Solutions for Kids), Dr. Philip Leaf (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health), Dr. Marie Diener-West (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics) and Dr. Merle Hamburger (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) worked with Harris Interactive Inc. to provide support and guidance in crafting the final questionnaire. The Harris team ensured that the survey met Harris Interactive's quality standards.

## **Public Release of Survey Findings**

All Harris Interactive Inc. surveys are designed to comply with the code and standards of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) and the code of the National Council of Public Polls (NCPP). Because data from the survey may be released to the public, release must stipulate that the complete report is also available.

## METHODOLOGY

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This methodology describes the panel retention and interviewing procedures used by Harris Interactive Inc., for Wave 3 of the *Growing Up with Media* study.

The survey questionnaire for Wave 3 was self-administered online by means of the Internet from August 29, 2007 to November 26, 2008. Wave 3 sample consisted of parent-child pairs who completed the survey in Wave 1.

### **Sample**

In Wave 1, a stratified random sample of Harris Interactive's online panel was invited through password protected email invitations to participate in a survey about their experiences with various types of media. Qualified respondents for Wave 1 were defined as:

- U.S. adults (ages 18 or older)
- Parents/guardians of a 10 to 15 year old child who lives in the household at least 50% of the time
- Youth has Internet access somewhere (i.e., at home, another person's house, school, library, or elsewhere)
- Youth has accessed the Internet within the past 6 months
- Respondent is familiar / most familiar with child's daily activities
- Parent/guardian and child give their informed consent to participate in the survey

### **Panel Maintenance**

In order to ensure the highest possible retention rate of Wave 1 participants, Harris Interactive engaged in several efforts during the intervening period between the Wave 1 and Wave 2 surveys (September 2006 – October 2007) and between the Wave 2 and Wave 3 surveys (January 2008 – August 2008). Wave 1 parent participants were contacted several times throughout the year to remind them of the study and allow them to update their contact information

- **Mailings.** To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, three mailings were sent to parents who participated.
  - Mailing #1 consisted of a thank you letter, 5"x7" participation certificate (color), and prepaid postcard to update any address/email/phone changes.
  - Mailing #2 included a letter reminding participants of the upcoming survey and a prepaid postcard to update any address/email/phone changes.
  - Mailing #3 consisted of an email alert reminding participants of the upcoming survey and provided an email and phone number by which they could update any address/email/phone changes.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In Wave 2, respondents received an additional email informing them of a delay in the planned start of the survey.

The dates for each of these mailings Wave 2 & 3 were as follows:

	Between Wave 2 & Wave 3
Mailing #1	February 2008
Mailing #2	May 2008
Mailing #3	July 2008

- **Opportunities to update contact information.** In addition to the prepaid postcard, respondents were also given the opportunity to update their contact information via a toll-free 800# and an email address. Other inquiries by respondents were addressed by project staff at Harris Interactive during the interim period between surveys.

### **Consent**

At the start of the survey, respondents were given a short description of the research, which also referenced the additional survey to be conducted in Wave 3, as well as the incentive amount for completing each survey. Parents were individually asked to read a consent form and their children were asked to read an assent form. Each was asked to indicate their willingness to participate in the survey, before continuing on with the main survey.

### **Control of the Sample and Incentives**

To maintain the reliability and integrity of the sample, the following procedures were used for the Wave 3 survey:

- **Password protection.** Each invitation contained a password-protected link to the survey that was uniquely assigned to that email address. Password protection ensures that a respondent completes the survey only one time.
- **Reminder invitations.** To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, one reminder invitation was mailed 2 days after the initial invitation to those respondents who had not yet participated in the survey.
- **“Instant Results” of selected survey findings.** To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, respondents were able to access results to pre-determined, selected questions after completing the survey.
- **Cash incentives.** To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, parents were offered a \$10 cash incentive and children a \$15 Target gift card for completing each of the Wave 1 and Wave 2 surveys and a \$20 cash incentive and children a \$25 Target gift card for completing the Wave 3 survey.
- **Telephone calls.** To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, telephone calls were made to respondents who could not be reached by email (invalid address, email bounced back, etc.) or who did not complete the survey after the email reminders were sent.
- **Mailing.** A few weeks after field start, a letter containing the URL link to the survey and password was sent to those respondent for whom a valid email address or phone number was unavailable or who had not yet completed the survey.

- HIpoints<sup>SM</sup>.\* To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, adults were awarded HIpoints.
- HIstakes<sup>SM</sup>.\* To increase the number of respondents in the survey and to improve overall response rates, adults were entered in the monthly HIstakes sweepstakes drawing.

\* Between Wave 1 and subsequent waves some respondents unsubscribed or were removed from Harris Interactive's online panel. These respondents received only the cash incentive and not the HIpoints or HIstakes incentives.

### **Survey Administration**

The Wave 3 survey was conducted from August 29, 2008 to November 26, 2008. Participants in the Wave 1 survey were contacted via an email invitation and asked to complete the second wave of the study. Screening was conducted at the beginning of the survey to confirm that the appropriate respondents participated. Respondents entered their age and gender at the start of the survey and their entries were compared with those collected in Wave 1. Respondents' age in Wave 3 had to be within 3 years of the age entered in Wave 1 in order to enter the survey. In a few instances further follow-up was needed to clarify some respondents age or gender.

Respondents were asked to enter their contact information. These data were captured and stored in a separate survey instrument to ensure that personally identifiable information was not directly linked to survey responses.

On average, interviews were estimated at a total of 39 minutes in length for both the parents and the child in Wave 3.

## **Sample Disposition**

Panelists were emailed survey invitations beginning on August 29, 2008. Details of the sample disposition for Wave 3 are listed below:

### **Wave 1 Completed Interviews**

1,591	Total number of respondents completing Wave 1
3	Respondents removed due to data quality issues
1,588	Final number of Wave 1 participating households

### **Wave 2 Interviews**

1,588	Initial number of potential Wave 2 respondents
1,206	Respondents who completed the Wave 2 survey
26	Suspended interviews (unknown qualification)
34	Suspended interviews (qualified respondent)
9	Refusals (Parents)
24	Non-qualified respondents (whose age/gender did not match those recorded in Wave 1)
287	Non-responders
2	Respondents without a valid email, phone or mail address and therefore did not receive invitations to Wave 2

### **Wave 3 Interviews**

1,579	Initial number of potential Wave 3 respondents (Wave 1 completers who did not refuse in Wave 2)
1,159	Respondents who completed the Wave 3 survey
16	Suspended interviews (unknown qualification)
18	Suspended interviews (qualified respondent)
6	Refusals (Parents)
3	Refusals (Youth)
33	Non-qualified respondents (whose age/gender did not match those recorded in Wave 1)
336	Non-responders
8	Respondents without a valid email, phone or mail address and therefore did not receive invitations to Wave 3

## **Online Interviewing Procedures**

Interviews were conducted using a self-administered online questionnaire via Harris' proprietary, web-assisted interviewing software. The Harris Online interviewing system permits online data entry by the respondents. Online questionnaires are programmed into the system with the following checks:

1. Question and response series
2. Skip patterns
3. Question rotation
4. Range checks
5. Mathematical checks
6. Consistency checks
7. Special edit procedures

For questions with pre-coded responses, the system only permits answers within a specified range; for example, if a question has three possible answer choices ("Agree," "Disagree," "Not Sure"), the system will only accept coded responses to these choices.

## **Weighting the Data**

Data for all waves were weighted to represent the population of US parents of children who at Wave 1 were ages 10-15, had access to the Internet and had accessed the Internet in the past 6 months. Variables used in weighting were age, gender, race/ethnicity, region, education, household income and age/gender of child who took the survey. The weighting algorithm also included a variable called a propensity score, to account for differences between those who are online versus those who are not, those who join online panels versus those who did not, and those who responded to this particular survey invitation versus those who did not.

In addition, a separate weight variable was calculated that adjusts for respondents' propensity to participate in the study after Wave 1. This weight accounts for respondents' propensity to participate in risky behaviors. This weight variable adjusts for these differences as well as those noted above (demography and propensity to be online).

## **Editing and Cleaning the Data**

The data processing staff performs machine edits and additional cleaning for the entire data set. Harris edit programs act as a verification of the skip instructions and other data checks that are written into the program. The edit programs list any errors by case and type. These are then resolved by senior EDP personnel who inspect the original file and make appropriate corrections. Complete records are kept of all such procedures.