

Memorandum

To: Interim Judiciary Committee
From: Polly Schnaper, Divorce Education Manager
Date: October 2012
Subject: Divorce Education for Parents Program Annual Report FY12

The Divorce Education Program in Utah began as a pilot program on July 1, 1992 and expanded to a statewide mandatory program on July 1, 1994. The statute requires all divorcing couples with children under the age of eighteen to attend a one session, two hour class held in time frames to accommodate both working and non-working parents. State-wide class schedules are available at <http://www.utcourts.gov/specproj/dived.htm>. The goal of the class is to educate and sensitize divorcing parents to their children's needs both during and after the divorce process. The course covers:

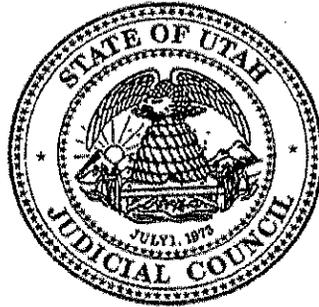
- how parents can help their children through the divorce process,
- the correlation between parental conflict and a child's adjustment to divorce,
- the stages of growth and development of children,
- children's normal reactions to their parents' divorce based on their ages,
- helpful ways to communicate with children about the divorce,
- grieving stages common to divorce,
- helpful ways to share parenting responsibilities,
- helpful ways to encourage cooperative behavior with an ex-spouse,
- handouts to be used as a resource at home.

The Administrative Office of the Courts contracts with mental health professionals throughout the state to teach these classes. Following are the numbers by district of parents who attended the class July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

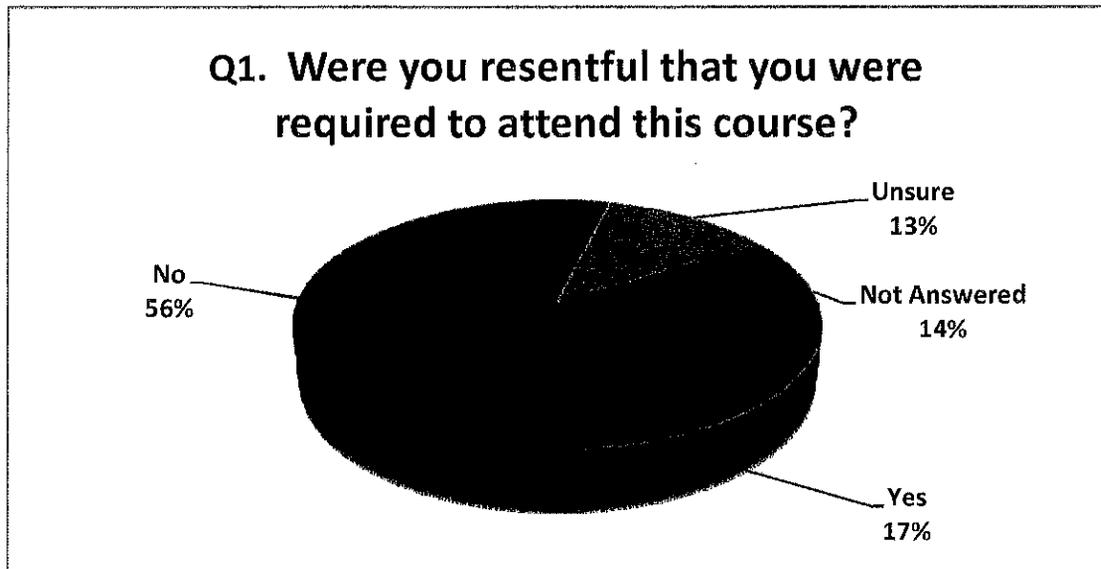
District	Attendance	District	Attendance	
First	298	Fifth	1051	
Second	1373	Sixth	138	
Third	4771	Seventh	133	Total
Fourth	1520	Eighth	193	9477

Classes are evaluated by the participants at the end of every class session and the overwhelming majority of parents are positive about the class, even if they were not initially enthusiastic. The most useful information reported is learning how their children feel and how their children may react to the divorce. Based on the evaluations, it appears that the Divorce Education Program for Parents is meeting the intended goal.

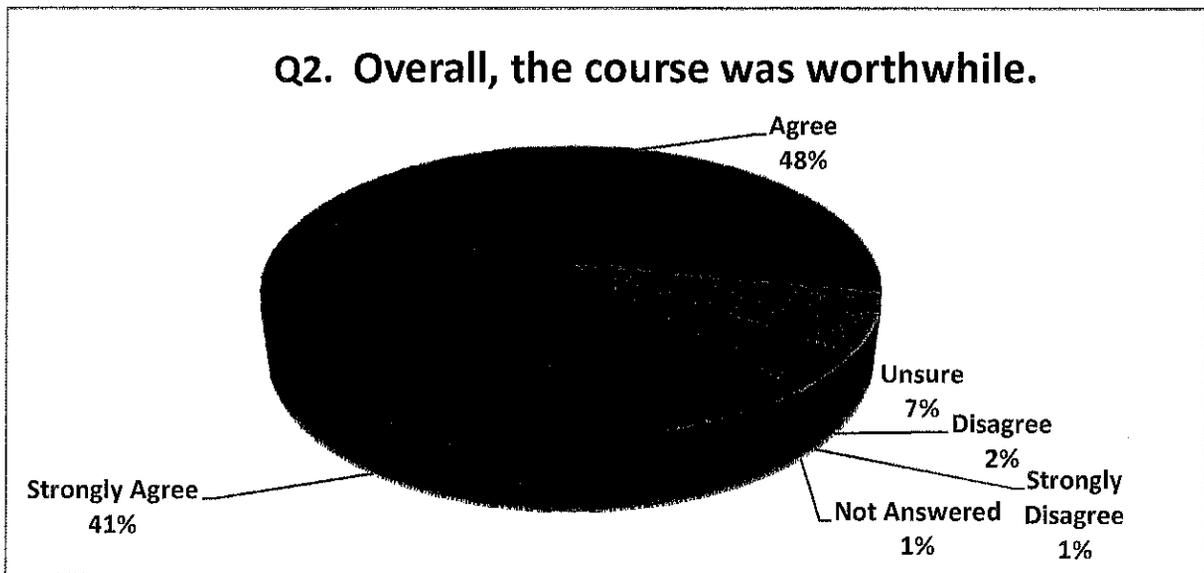
**Utah State Courts
Divorce Education Class Evaluation
FY 2012**



	Yes		No		Unsure		Not Answered		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
District 1	73	18%	182	46%	68	17%	77	19%	406
District 2	231	15%	839	55%	188	12%	269	18%	1499
District 3	537	17%	1912	60%	372	12%	371	12%	3260
District 4	110	15%	452	60%	104	14%	90	12%	723
District 5	125	25%	260	52%	65	13%	51	10%	553
District 6	23	12%	96	51%	22	12%	46	25%	182
District 7	25	20%	58	46%	19	15%	23	18%	129
District 8	26	14%	88	49%	29	16%	38	21%	180
Grand Total	1150	17%	3887	57%	867	13%	965	14%	6932

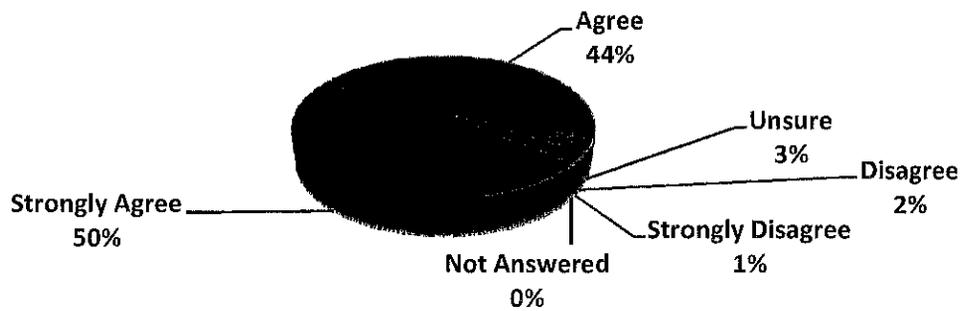


	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Not Answered	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
District 1	113	28%	197	49%	55	14%	14	4%	19	5%	2	1%
District 2	782	51%	639	42%	63	4%	24	2%	13	1%	6	0%
District 3	1312	41%	1560	49%	183	6%	65	2%	36	1%	36	1%
District 4	323	43%	363	48%	45	6%	7	1%	4	1%	14	2%
District 5	125	25%	266	53%	69	14%	32	6%	9	2%		0%
District 6	78	42%	93	50%	14	7%	1	1%		0%	1	1%
District 7	27	22%	74	59%	16	13%	6	5%	2	2%		0%
District 8	89	49%	82	45%	6	3%	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
Grand Total	2849	41%	3274	48%	451	7%	150	2%	84	1%	61	1%



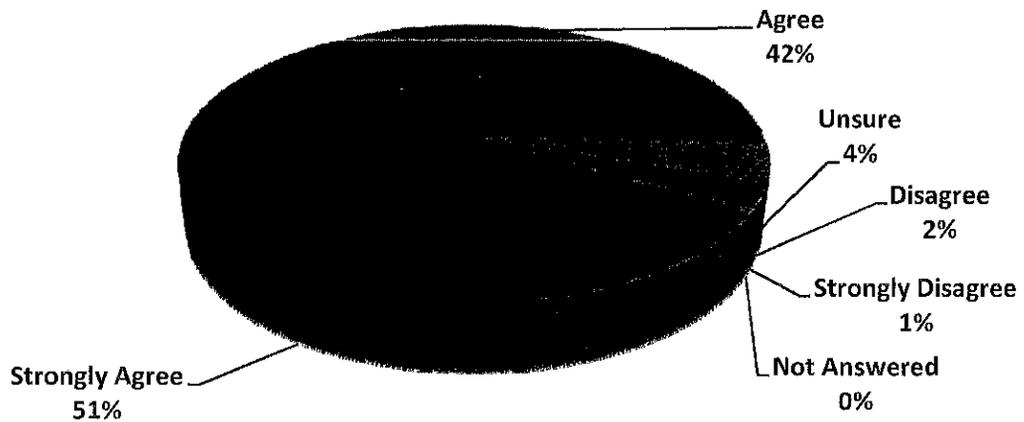
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Not Answered	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
District 1	133	33%	219	55%	27	7%	7	2%	13	3%	1	0%
District 2	886	58%	582	38%	33	2%	14	1%	9	1%	3	0%
District 3	1595	50%	1415	44%	77	2%	51	2%	30	1%	24	1%
District 4	408	54%	318	42%	21	3%	5	1%	2	0%	2	0%
District 5	189	38%	262	52%	23	5%	20	4%	7	1%		0%
District 6	94	50%	88	47%	3	2%	2	1%		0%		0%
District 7	41	33%	72	58%	8	6%	3	2%	1	1%		0%
District 8	104	57%	69	38%	4	2%	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
Grand Total	3450	50%	3025	44%	196	3%	103	1%	63	1%	32	0%

Q3. The course helped me to understand how children are affected by a divorce.



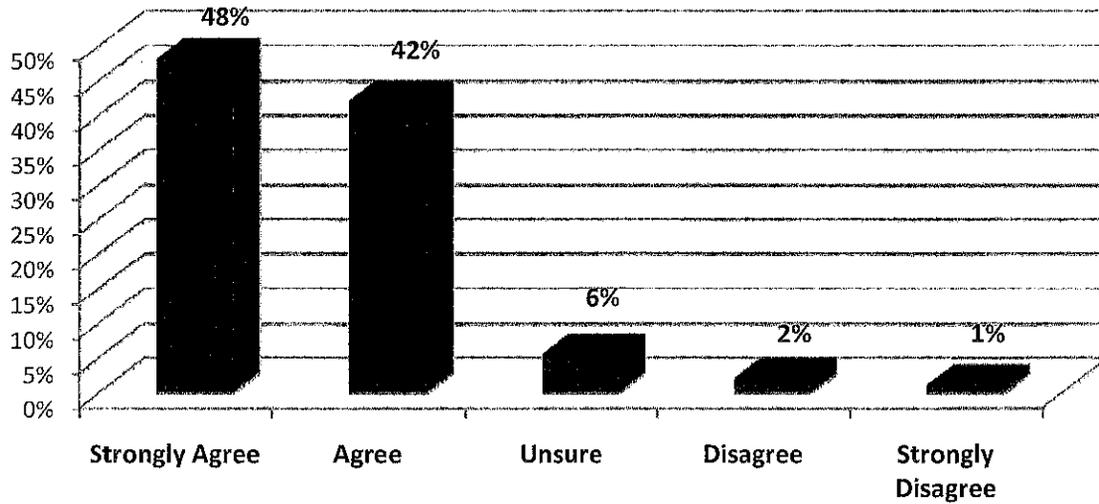
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Not Answered	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
District 1	134	34%	194	49%	43	11%	11	3%	17	4%	1	0%
District 2	861	56%	585	38%	45	3%	23	2%	12	1%	1	0%
District 3	1666	52%	1316	41%	108	3%	48	2%	31	1%	23	1%
District 4	413	55%	309	41%	22	3%	7	1%	4	1%	1	0%
District 5	181	36%	235	47%	52	10%	24	5%	9	2%		0%
District 6	95	51%	83	44%	6	3%	2	1%	1	1%		0%
District 7	45	36%	62	50%	12	10%	4	3%	2	2%		0%
District 8	95	52%	75	41%	6	3%	3	2%	1	1%	1	1%
Grand Total	3490	51%	2859	42%	294	4%	122	2%	77	1%	27	0%

Q4. The information presented will have an influence on the decisions I make regarding my children.



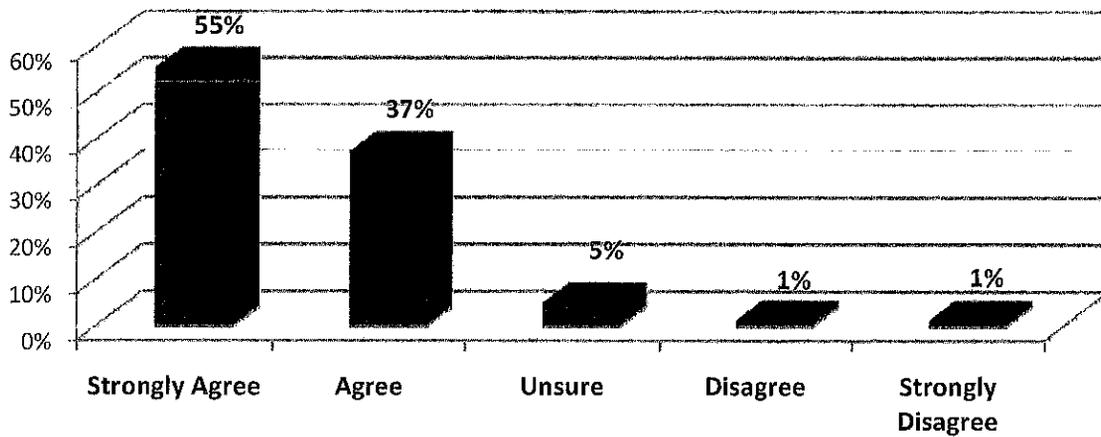
Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Not Answered	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
District 1	135	34%	212	53%	24	6%	15	4%	13	3%	1	0%
District 2	860	56%	572	37%	65	4%	17	1%	12	1%	1	0%
District 3	1508	47%	1354	42%	184	6%	70	2%	45	1%	31	1%
District 4	405	54%	285	38%	44	6%	16	2%	4	1%	2	0%
District 5	176	35%	247	49%	45	9%	24	5%	9	2%		
District 6	92	49%	85	45%	7	4%	2	1%	1	1%		
District 7	41	33%	62	50%	14	11%	6	5%	2	2%		
District 8	93	51%	80	44%	6	3%	2	1%		0%		
Grand Total	3310	48%	2897	42%	389	6%	152	2%	86	1%	35	1%

Q5: The course increased my understanding of why it is important for parents to find a way to cooperate.



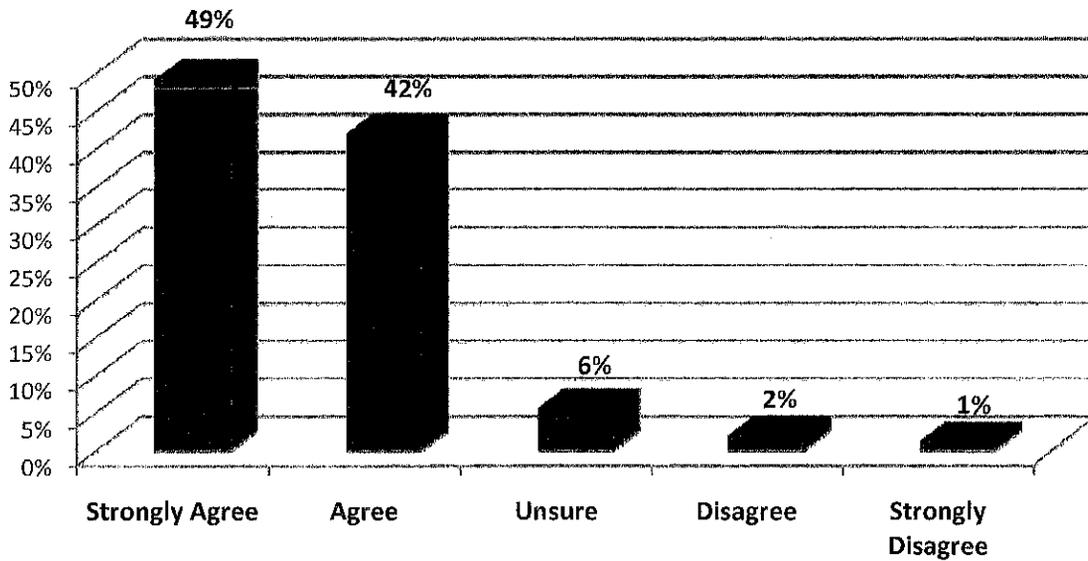
Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
District 1	163	41%	182	46%	35	9%	6	2%	11	3%	399
District 2	892	59%	530	35%	69	5%	17	1%	16	1%	1489
District 3	1802	57%	1157	37%	130	4%	31	1%	39	1%	3182
District 4	448	59%	266	35%	28	4%	10	1%	2	0%	713
District 5	230	46%	209	42%	38	8%	14	3%	9	2%	545
District 6	96	51%	79	42%	9	5%	1	1%	2	1%	181
District 7	52	42%	54	44%	13	10%	3	2%	2	2%	129
District 8	95	53%	70	39%	12	7%	1	1%	2	1%	180
Grand Total	3778	55%	2547	37%	334	5%	83	1%	83	1%	6818

Q6: I plan to make a stronger effort to work with my ex-spouse for the kid's sake.



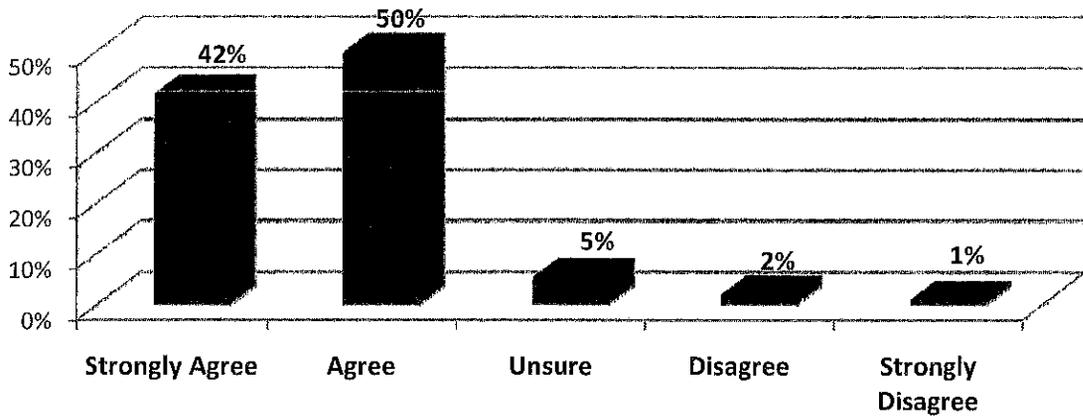
Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
District 1	137	34%	189	47%	43	11%	15	4%	15	4%	399
District 2	835	55%	595	39%	61	4%	17	1%	15	1%	1523
District 3	1586	50%	1312	42%	153	5%	66	2%	37	1%	3154
District 4	400	53%	301	40%	43	6%	6	1%	1	0%	751
District 5	175	35%	236	47%	54	11%	25	5%	11	2%	501
District 6	85	45%	91	49%	10	5%		0%	1	1%	187
District 7	41	33%	64	51%	14	11%	4	3%	2	2%	125
District 8	95	53%	76	42%	7	4%	2	1%		0%	180
Grand Total	3354	49%	2864	42%	385	6%	135	2%	82	1%	6820

Q7: The course increased my understanding of the importance of having a time-sharing plan, which allows both parents to have a meaningful relationship with the children.



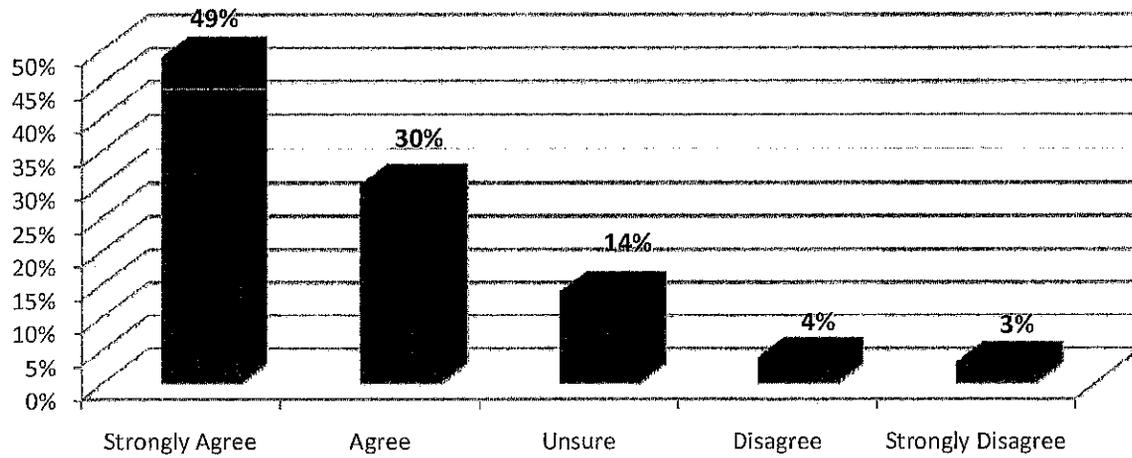
Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
District 1	134	33%	221	55%	23	6%	16	4%	8	2%	402
District 2	652	44%	714	48%	71	5%	29	2%	24	2%	1490
District 3	1388	43%	1565	49%	164	5%	48	2%	29	1%	3194
District 4	334	47%	329	46%	34	5%	8	1%	7	1%	712
District 5	140	26%	311	57%	57	10%	33	6%	6	1%	547
District 6	71	39%	99	55%	7	4%	3	2%	1	1%	181
District 7	33	26%	76	59%	12	9%	6	5%	2	2%	129
District 8	87	48%	91	51%	2	1%		0%		0%	180
Grand Total	2839	42%	3406	50%	370	5%	143	2%	77	1%	6835

Q8: The course increased my understanding that children have different needs during a divorce than do divorcing the divorcing parents.



Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Responses #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
District 1	146	37%	113	28%	86	22%	23	6%	31	8%	399
District 2	838	55%	442	29%	158	10%	44	3%	41	3%	1523
District 3	1585	50%	958	30%	402	13%	122	4%	95	3%	3162
District 4	363	48%	245	32%	113	15%	23	3%	10	1%	754
District 5	174	35%	146	29%	110	22%	41	8%	29	6%	500
District 6	108	58%	59	32%	17	9%	3	2%		0%	187
District 7	37	30%	35	28%	37	30%	8	6%	8	6%	125
District 8	97	54%	54	30%	22	12%	4	2%	3	2%	180
Grand Total	3348	49%	2052	30%	945	14%	268	4%	217	3%	6830

Q9: I think the course should be mandatory for divorcing parents.



Location	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
District 1	250	63%	123	31%	13	3%	5	1%	6	2%	397
District 2	1246	82%	258	17%	7	0%	2	0%	7	0%	1520
District 3	2346	74%	761	24%	25	1%	2	0%	16	1%	3150
District 4	538	72%	202	27%	8	1%		0%		0%	748
District 5	282	56%	171	34%	35	7%	5	1%	7	1%	500
District 6	140	75%	44	24%	3	2%		0%		0%	187
District 7	54	44%	58	47%	9	7%	2	2%	1	1%	124
District 8	154	85%	24	13%	3	2%		0%		0%	181
Grand Total	5010	74%	1641	24%	103	2%	16	0%	37	1%	6807

