



**Holiday Hijinks:  
Movies, Music, and Family**

**NATIONAL POLL FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, December 22, 2008**

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This Marist Poll reports:

- ***It's a Wonderful Life Reigns Supreme:*** There's a reason Frank Capra's 1946 Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, shows up around this time every year. It's the favorite holiday movie of 19% of Americans. Little Ralphie and his Red Ryder BB rifle aren't far behind! *A Christmas Story* tops the list for 17% of U.S. residents. 9% of Americans prefer *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, and 7% enjoy watching Bing Crosby croon in *White Christmas*. *A Christmas Carol* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* each receive 6%.

**\*Question Wording:** What is your favorite classic holiday or Christmas movie?

	It's a Wonderful Life	A Christmas Story	Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street	White Christmas	A Christmas Carol	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Residents	19%	17%	9%	7%	6%	6%

\*Results shown for top five responses. For complete question results, go to: [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](http://www.maristpoll@marist.edu)

- ***Leading the Way...Rudolph Favorite Animated Flick:*** He's the most famous reindeer of all, and this year, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* takes top honors as Americans' favorite animated holiday movie with 30%. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* comes in second with 24%. 17% of U.S. residents enjoy *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* the most. Rounding out the top five are *Frosty the Snowman* with 10% and *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town* with 3%.

**\*Question Wording:** What is your favorite animated holiday or Christmas movie or cartoon?

	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	A Charlie Brown Christmas	How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Frosty the Snowman	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town
Residents	30%	24%	17%	10%	3%

\*Results shown for top five responses. For complete question results, go to: [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](http://www.maristpoll@marist.edu)

- All is Bright for *Silent Night*:** Its age may be nearly 200 hundred years, but for 19% of Americans, *Silent Night* never gets old. It takes the number-one spot as favorite holiday song this year. Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* comes in a close second, cited by 16% of U.S. residents as the holiday song they like to hear most. *Jingle Bells* keeps 11% of Americans "laughing all the way" while *O Holy Night* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* complete the list of top five holiday songs with 6% and 4%, respectively.

**\*Question Wording:** What is your favorite holiday or Christmas song?

	Silent Night	White Christmas	Jingle Bells	O Holy Night	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Residents	19%	16%	11%	6%	4%

\*Results shown for top five responses. For complete question results, go to: [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](http://www.maristpoll@marist.edu)

- The Ties That Bind...Playing Favorites:** When it comes to holiday gatherings, most Americans admit there are certain family members with whom they *most* look forward to spending time. Close to one-third of U.S. residents -- 30% -- are eager to be with their children while 25% report they want to be in the company of their spouse or significant other. Parents come in third with 14%.

**\*Question Wording:** Which family member do you *most* look forward to spending the holiday with?

	Children/Stepchildren	Spouse/Significant Other	Parents
Residents	30%	25%	14%

\*Results shown for top three responses. For complete question results, go to: [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](http://www.maristpoll@marist.edu)

- Family Near and Dear...Except, Maybe the In-laws:** A majority of Americans look forward to spending time with all of their family at holiday time. 57% report there isn't one relative they dread seeing. However, 12% of U.S. residents say in-laws are the family members with whom

they'd prefer to spend the least amount of time. 9% report they aren't looking forward to being with their parents.

**\*Question Wording:** Which family member do you *least* look forward to spending the holidays with?

	In-laws	Parents	No One
Residents	12%	9%	57%

\*Results shown for top three responses. For complete question results, go to: [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](mailto:www.maristpoll@marist.edu)

### **Nature of the Sample: 1,003 Americans**

This survey was conducted on December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older within the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. The results of the entire survey are statistically significant at  $\pm 3\%$ . The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations. For complete poll results, log onto [www.maristpoll@marist.edu](mailto:www.maristpoll@marist.edu).