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Age is in the Eye of the Beholder?

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

At what point is someone considered to be old? It's an annual question the Marist Poll asks to determine if the current age of Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, is young, middle-aged, or old. As Dr. Miringoff faces 61, there's good news. According to this Marist Poll, 61 years of age is not that benchmark. More than six in ten adults nationally -- 63% -- believe someone who is 61 is middle-aged. 15% think 61 is young while 22%, however, say it is old.

Not surprisingly, there is an age gap. While 67% of Americans 45 and older say 61 is middle-aged, 20% believe the age to be young, and only 13% report it is old. Looking at residents younger than 45, 56% say 61 is middle-aged. Just 7% think that age is young while nearly four in ten -- 37% -- say it is old.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: Marist National Poll of 1,080 Adults

This survey of 1,080 adults was conducted on March 20th through March 22nd, 2012. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in 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. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - National Adults

		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Region	Northeast	18%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%
	\$50,000 or more	51%
Education	Not college graduate	62%
	College graduate	38%
Age	Under 45	38%
	45 or older	62%
Age	18 to 29	18%
	30 to 44	20%
	45 to 59	38%
	60 or older	25%
Race	White	68%
	Non-white	32%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	74%
	Cell Phone	26%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012,
N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		Do you think that a person who is 61 years old is young, middle-aged, or old?		
		Young	Middle-aged	Old
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		15%	63%	22%
Region	Northeast	16%	60%	24%
	Midwest	18%	62%	20%
	South	13%	65%	23%
	West	15%	62%	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	17%	60%	24%
	\$50,000 or more	13%	66%	21%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	61%	23%
	College graduate	15%	65%	20%
Age	Under 45	7%	56%	37%
	45 or older	20%	67%	13%
Age	18 to 29	4%	46%	50%
	30 to 44	9%	66%	25%
	45 to 59	14%	70%	16%
	60 or older	29%	62%	9%
Race	White	16%	65%	19%
	Non-white	12%	58%	30%
Gender	Men	12%	60%	28%
	Women	18%	65%	17%
Interview Type	Landline	17%	65%	19%
	Cell Phone	10%	57%	33%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.