

The Japanese Cabinet's original poll may be referenced [here](#), as the Oct.25.07 entry of the Timeline.

A later re-polling of the same issue, done via the anonymity of the Internet, may also be referenced [in the Timeline](#), as the Jul.7.09 entry.

The survey was designed to gauge the average Japanese citizen's opinion of whether or not cartoon drawings of fictional minors should be criminalized as part of a new child pornography legislation. The results indicated that 86.5% of participants were found to believe such illustrations should be re-classified as obscene, illegal art.

That's what history tells you, but what happens when we take a closer look at the poll itself?

First of all, **only 27.3 percent of the participants** indicated that they were actually aware of the issues surrounding the poll's topic.

I feel it would also be wise to consider how the study was conducted on **1,767 participants** who were interviewed (*in person*) by researchers (**about an embarrassing sexual paraphilia**) even though they asked **3000 people**.

^ Taking into account these above 2 points, that means the survey, which is affecting the entire nation of Japan (population: **127,433,494 people** circa 2007), effectively gauged the (already questionable, as explained below) opinions of a laughable **482 of them** who actually knew what they were being interviewed about. 😊

And this "official poll" (if you can even consider **0.000394% of a government's populace** a viable governmental poll any more), not surprisingly, is religiously quoted by the pro-censorship community.

Were this a survey on a mundane non-controversial issue, **41% people declining to be interviewed** (after being informed of the content of the interview) would be an expected "door-to-door salesman" reflex. However, there really isn't a more controversial issue than this one, is there? Not even abortion reaches such a level of taboo. Therefore, it is rational to ask: just how many of the interviewed people declined out of fear of persecution?

Some sites indicate the interviewers presented themselves as "researchers", others state they presented themselves as "investigators".

It is fair to postulate that those who harbor a tolerant view on the embarrassing sexual paraphilia in question (also those who actually have lolicon manga in their possession) would be naturally suspicious of people calling themselves "investigators" knocking on their door asking to speak with them about that very same paraphilia. They have no way of knowing whether the "investigator" is actually an interviewer, or is an undercover agent using the guise as a means to entrap them.

At the very least, it cannot be reasonably denied that both lolicons and lolicon-sympathizers alike would have the highest probability among survey takers to view the emergence of an "investigator" questioning them at their door about lolicon as a potentially threatening presence. This demographic of potential respondents would subsequently just close the door as a defense mechanism, or likewise answer the investigator's questions while under the influence of fear and uncertainty.

Thus there exists an unavoidable partiality in the sampling population, rendering the poll subject to:

- * 1) [response bias](#) ("*Respondents may feel under social pressure not to give an unpopular answer*"),
- * 2) [non-response bias](#) ("*...the characteristics of those who agree to be interviewed may be markedly different from those who decline*"),
- * 3) [selection effect](#) ("*...a distortion of evidence or data that arises from the way that the data are collected ... If the selection bias is not taken into account then any conclusions drawn may be wrong*").

It is skewed by the [spiral of silence](#) in particular ("*...a person is less likely to voice an opinion on a topic if one feels that one is in the minority for fear of reprisal or isolation from the majority*").

Naturally, the pseudonymity/anonymity of the Jul.7.09 internet polling had no such bias, and was open to a much larger sample population of citizens, solving all of the above concerns. 98.4% of citizens, was it, that felt possession of the very same Manga described in the “official” Japanese Cabinet's survey was OK?

Fascinating, that.

It really is interesting to see such an inversion in the survey results, depending on face-to-face approach (Oct.25.07) VS internet “anonymity” (Jul.7.09).