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# Parenting in America

*Outlook, worries, aspirations are strongly linked to financial situation*

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## Terminology

Throughout this report, references to college graduates or parents with a college degree comprise those with a bachelor's degree or more. "Some college" refers to those with a two-year degree or those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. "High school" refers to those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate.

Mentions of "school-age" children refer to those ages 6 to 17. "Teenagers" include children ages 13 to 17.

References to white and black parents include only those who are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Mentions of Millennials include those who were ages 18 to 34 at the time of the survey. Gen Xers are ages 35 to 50. Baby Boomers are ages 51 to 69.

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# Parenting in America

## *Outlook, worries, aspirations are strongly linked to financial situation*

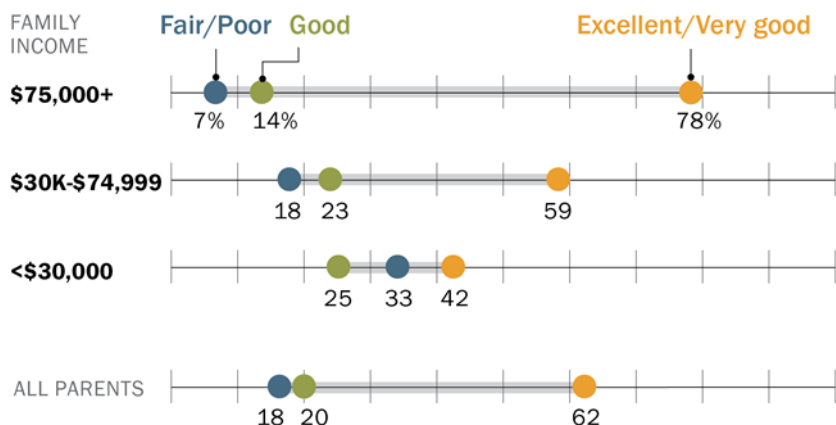
Contemporary debates about parenthood often focus on parenting philosophies: Are kids better off with helicopter parents or a free-range approach? What's more beneficial in the long run, the high expectations of a tiger mom or the nurturing environment where every child is a winner? Is overscheduling going to damage a child or help the child get into a good college? While these debates may resonate with some parents, they often overlook the more basic, fundamental challenges many parents face – particularly those with lower incomes. A broad, demographically based look at the landscape of American families reveals stark parenting divides linked less to philosophies or values and more to economic circumstances and changing family structure.

A new Pew Research Center survey conducted Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015, among 1,807 U.S. parents with children younger than 18 finds that for lower-income parents, financial instability can limit their children's access to a safe environment and to the kinds of enrichment activities that affluent parents take for granted. For example, higher-income parents are nearly twice as likely as lower-income parents to rate their neighborhood as an “excellent” or “very good”

place to raise kids (78% vs. 42%). On the flip side, a third of parents with annual family incomes less than \$30,000 say that their neighborhood is only a “fair” or “poor” place to raise kids; just 7% of parents with incomes in excess of \$75,000 give their neighborhood similarly low ratings.

### Parents' view of their neighborhood differs sharply by income

% saying their neighborhood is a/an \_\_\_\_ place to raise children



Note: “Don't know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

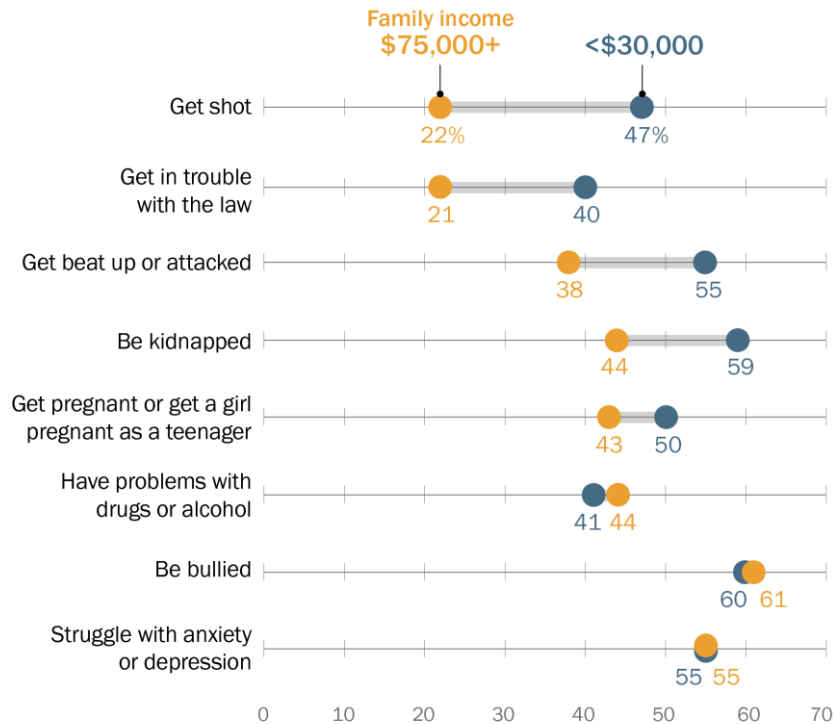
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Along with more negative ratings of their neighborhoods, lower-income parents are more likely than those with higher incomes to express concerns about their children being victims of violence. At least half of parents with family incomes less than \$30,000 say they worry that their child or children might be kidnapped (59%) or get beat up or attacked (55%), shares that are at least 15 percentage points higher than among parents with incomes above \$75,000. And about half (47%) of these lower-income parents worry that their children might be shot at some point, more than double the share among higher-income parents.

### More concern about violence, teenage pregnancy among lower-income parents

*% saying they worry that each of these might happen to their child/one of their children at some point*



Concerns about teenage pregnancy and legal trouble are also more prevalent among lower-income parents. Half of

lower-income parents worry that their child or one of their children will get pregnant or get a girl pregnant as a teenager, compared with 43% of higher-income parents. And, by a margin of 2-to-1, more lower-income than higher-income parents (40% vs. 21%) say they worry that their children will get in trouble with the law at some point.

There are some worries, though, that are shared across income groups. At least half of all parents, regardless of income, worry that their children might be bullied or struggle with anxiety or depression at some point. For parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher, these concerns trump all others tested in the survey.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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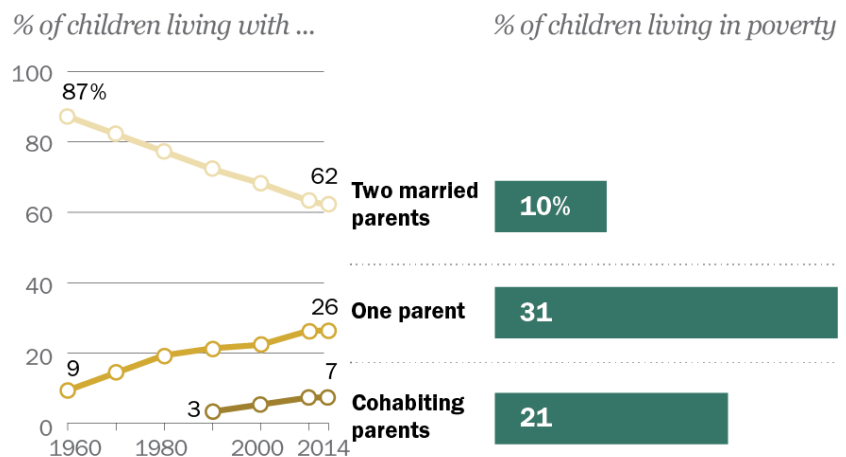
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The survey also finds that lower-income parents with school-age children face more challenges than those with higher incomes when it comes to finding affordable, high-quality after-school activities and programs. About half (52%) of those with annual family incomes less than \$30,000 say these programs are hard to find in their community, compared with 29% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher. And when it comes to the extracurricular activities in which their children participate after school or on weekends, far more higher-income parents than lower-income parents say their children are engaged in sports or organizations such as the scouts or take lessons in music, dance or art. For example, among high-income parents, 84% say their children have participated in sports in the 12 months prior to the survey; this compares with 59% among lower-income parents.

## The link between family structure and financial circumstances

The dramatic changes that have taken place in family living arrangements have no doubt contributed to the growing share of children living at the economic margins. In 2014, 62% of children younger than 18 lived in a household with two married parents – a historic low, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The share of U.S. kids living with only one parent stood at 26% in 2014. And the share in households with two parents who are living together but not married (7%) has risen steadily in recent years.<sup>1</sup>

### For U.S. kids, strong link between parents' marital status and likelihood of living in poverty



Note: Based on children under 18. Data regarding cohabitation are not available prior to 1990; in earlier years, cohabiting parents are included in "one parent." Poverty is measured using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and not the Official Poverty Measure.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1960-2000 decennial census, 2010 and 2014 American Community Survey and 2014 Current Population Survey (IPUMS)

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<sup>1</sup> For the analysis of census data, "parent" is used to mean an adult parental figure, which may be the biological or adoptive parent, or the spouse or partner of a biological or adoptive parent (i.e., a stepparent). For the survey of parents, biological and adoptive parents, as well as those who volunteer that they have a stepchild and consider themselves that child's parent, are included in the sample.



These patterns differ sharply across racial and ethnic groups. Large majorities of white (72%) and Asian-American (82%) children are living with two married parents, as are 55% of Hispanic children. By contrast only 31% of black children are living with two married parents, while more than half (54%) are living in a single-parent household.

The economic outcomes for these different types of families vary dramatically. In 2014, 31% of children living in single-parent households were living below the poverty line, as were 21% of children living with two cohabiting parents.<sup>2</sup> By contrast, only one-in-ten children living with two married parents were in this circumstance. In fact, more than half (57%) of those living with married parents were in households with incomes at least 200% above the poverty line, compared with just 21% of those living in single-parent households.

## Most parents say they're doing a good job raising their kids

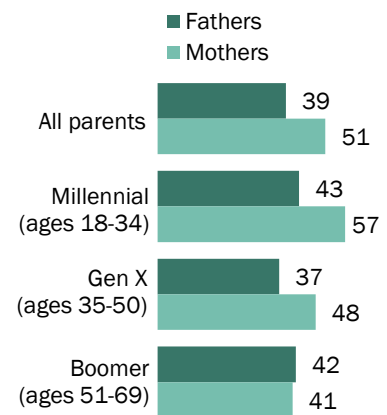
Across income groups, however, parents agree on one thing: They're doing a fine job raising their children. Nearly identical shares of parents with incomes of \$75,000 or higher (46%), \$30,000 to \$74,999 (44%) and less than \$30,000 (46%) say they are doing a *very good* job as parents, and similar shares say they are doing a good job.

Though parental scorecards don't differ by income, they do vary across other demographic divides, such as gender and generation. Among all parents, more mothers than fathers say they are doing a very good job raising their children (51% vs. 39%), and Millennial mothers are particularly inclined to rate themselves positively. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) moms ages 18 to 34 say they are doing a very good job as a parent, a higher share than Millennial dads (43%) or any other generational group.

Regardless of how they see themselves, parents care a lot about how others perceive their parenting skills. For married or cohabiting parents, the opinion of their spouse or partner matters the most: 93% of these parents say it matters a lot to them that their spouse or partner sees them as a good parent. But most single parents (56%) also say they care a lot that their child's other parent sees them as a good parent.

### Millennial moms give themselves high marks

*% saying they are doing a very good job as a parent*



Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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<sup>2</sup> Poverty is measured using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and not the Official Poverty Measure. See [here](#) and [here](#) for more information about the differences between the two measures.

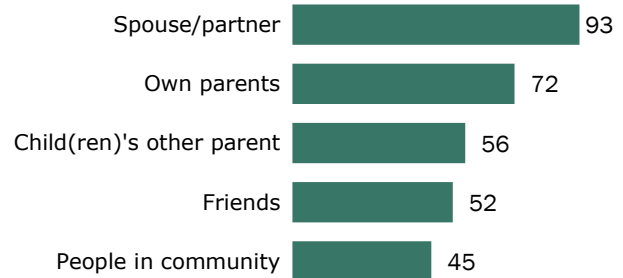
About seven-in-ten (72%) parents want their own parents to think they are doing a good job raising their children, and smaller but substantive shares care a lot that their friends (52%) and people in their community (45%) see them as good parents.

Parents are nearly evenly divided about whether their children's successes and failures are more a reflection of how they are doing as parents (46%) or of their children's own strengths and weaknesses (42%). Parents of younger children feel more personally responsible for their children's achievements or lack thereof, while parents of teenagers are much more likely to say that it's their children who are mainly responsible for their own successes and failures.

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### Most parents want others to see them as good parents

*% saying it matters a lot that \_\_\_\_\_ see them as a good parent*



Note: Figure for "parents" is based on respondents who did not volunteer that they have no living parent. Figure for "child(ren)'s other parent" is based on respondents who are not married, living with a partner or widowed.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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There are significant differences along racial lines as well, with black and Hispanic parents much more likely than whites to say their children's successes and failures are mainly a reflection of the job they are doing as parents.

### Mothers are more overprotective than fathers

About six-in-ten parents (62%) say they can sometimes be overprotective, while just a quarter say they tend to give their children too much freedom. More also say they criticize their kids too much than say they offer too much praise (44% vs. 33%). American parents are more divided on whether they sometimes "stick to their guns" too much or give in too quickly (43% each).

In several key ways, mothers and fathers approach parenting differently. Mothers are more likely than fathers to say that they sometimes are overprotective of their children, give in too quickly and praise their children too much.

Mothers also have more extensive support networks that they rely on for advice about parenting. They're much more likely than fathers to turn to family members and friends and to take advantage of parenting resources such as books, magazines and online sources. For example, while 43% of moms say they turn to parenting websites, books or magazines at least sometimes for

parenting advice, about a quarter (23%) of dads do the same. And moms are more than twice as likely as dads to say they at least occasionally turn to online message boards, listservs or social media for advice on parenting (21% vs. 9%).

In at least one key area gender does not make a difference: mothers and fathers are equally likely to say that being a parent is extremely important to their overall identity. About six-in-ten moms (58%) and dads (57%) say this, and an additional 35% and 37%, respectively, say being a parent is very important to their overall identity.

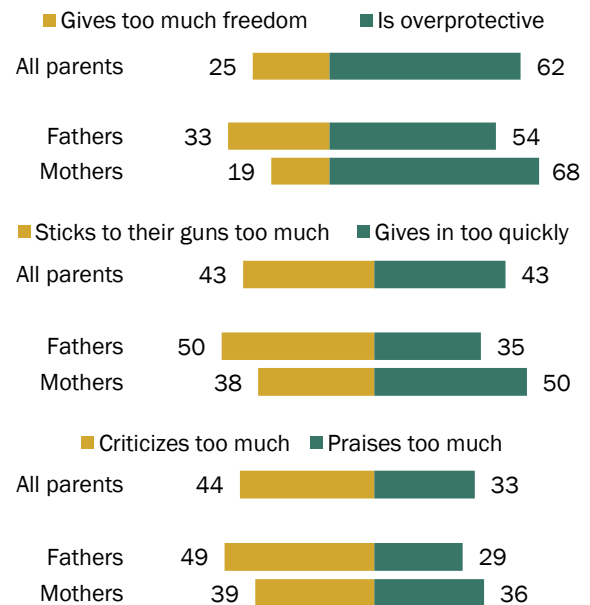
### Parental involvement – how much is too much?

The survey findings, which touch on different aspects of parenting and family life, paint a mixed portrait of American parents when it comes to their involvement in their children's education. About half (53%) of those with school-age children say they are satisfied with their level of engagement, but a substantial share (46%) wish they could be doing more. And while parents generally don't think children should feel badly about getting poor grades as long as they try hard, about half (52%) say they would be very disappointed if their children were average students.

A narrow majority of parents (54%) say parents can never be too involved in their children's education. But about four-in-ten (43%) say too much parental involvement in a child's education can be a bad thing, a view that is particularly common among parents with more education and higher incomes. For example, while majorities of parents with a post-graduate (65%) or a bachelor's (57%) degree say too much involvement could have negative consequences, just 38% of those with some college and 28% with no college experience say the same.

### A gender gap in parenting styles

% saying they are a parent who sometimes ...



Note: Voluntary responses of "Neither," "Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Black and Hispanic parents have a much different reaction to this question than do white parents, even after controlling for differences in educational attainment. Fully 75% of black and 67% of Hispanic parents say a parent can never be too involved in a child's education. About half of white parents (47%) agree.

Whether or not they feel too much involvement can be a bad thing, a majority of parents are involved – at least to some extent – in their children's education. Among parents with school-age children, 85% say they have talked to a teacher about their children's progress in school over the 12 months leading up to the survey. Roughly two-thirds (64%) say they have attended a PTA meeting or other special school meeting. And 60% have helped out with a special project or class trip at their children's school. Parents' level of engagement in these activities is fairly consistent across income groups.

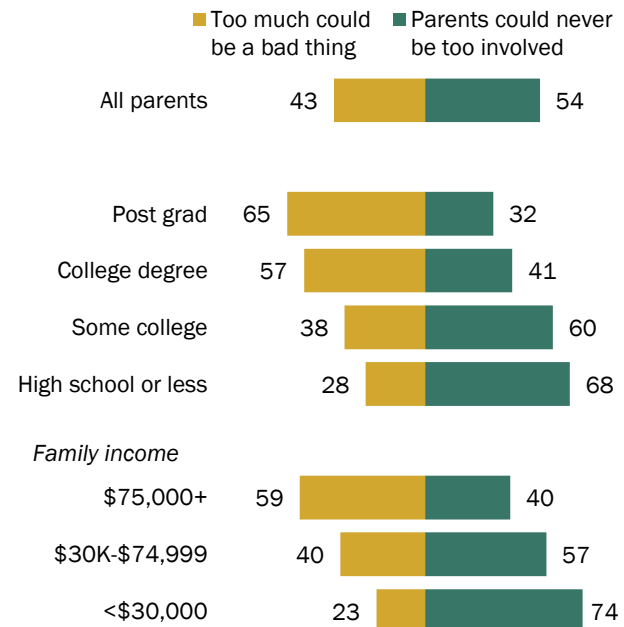
Reading aloud is one way parents can get involved in their children's education even before formal schooling begins. Among parents with children under the age of 6, about half (51%) say they read aloud to their children every day, and those who have graduated from college are far more likely than those who have not to say this is the case. About seven-in-ten (71%) parents with a bachelor's degree say they read to their young children every day, compared with 47% of those with some college and 33% of those with a high school diploma or less.

## Kids are busy, and so are their parents

American children – including preschoolers – participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. At least half of parents with school-age children say their kids have played sports (73%), participated in religious instruction or youth groups (60%), taken lessons in music, dance or art

## Most college graduates say too much parental involvement in a child's education can be a bad thing

*% saying that when it comes to parental involvement in a child's education ...*



Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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(54%) or done volunteer work (53%) after school or on the weekends in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Among those with children younger than 6, four-in-ten say their young children have participated in sports, and about as many say they have been part of an organized play group; one-third say their children have taken music, dance or art lessons.

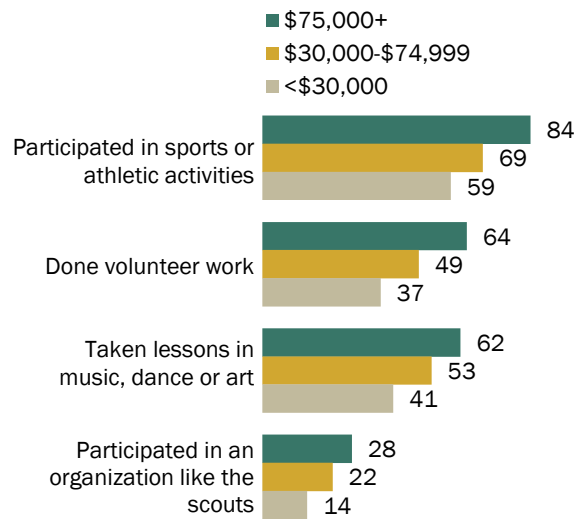
Parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher are far more likely than those with lower incomes to say their children have participated in extracurricular activities. For parents with school-age children, the difference is particularly pronounced when it comes to doing volunteer work (a 27 percentage point difference between those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher and those with incomes less than \$30,000), participating in sports (25 points), and taking music, dance or art lessons (21 points). Similarly, by double-digit margins, higher-income parents with children younger than 6 are more likely than those with lower incomes to say their young children have participated in sports or taken dance, music or art lessons in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Parents with higher incomes are also more likely to say their children's day-to-day schedules are too hectic with too many things to do. Overall, 15% of parents with children between ages 6 and 17 describe their kids' schedules this way. Among those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher, one-in-five say their children's schedules are too hectic, compared with 8% of those who earn less than \$30,000.

But if kids are busy, their parents are even busier. About three-in-ten (31%) parents say they *always* feel rushed, even to do the things they have to do, and an additional 53% say they sometimes feel rushed. Not surprisingly, parents who feel rushed at least sometimes are more

### Kids of higher-income parents are more likely to be in extracurricular activities

% saying any of their children have \_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months



Note: Based on parents with at least one child ages 6 to 17. Income is annual family income.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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likely than those who almost never feel rushed to see parenting as tiring and stressful and less likely to see it as enjoyable all of the time.

Spanking is an unpopular form of discipline, but one-in-six use it at least sometimes

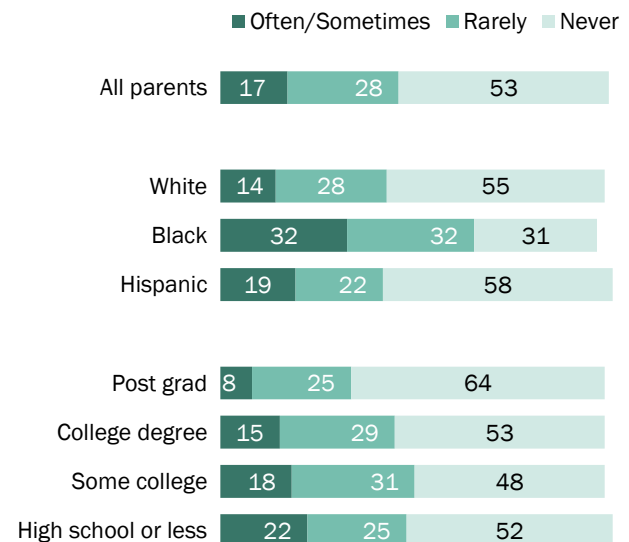
Parents employ many methods to discipline their children. The most popular is explaining why a child's behavior is inappropriate: three-quarters say they do this often. About four-in-ten (43%) say they frequently take away privileges, such as time with friends or use of TV or other electronic devices, and a roughly equal share say they give a "timeout" (41% of parents with children younger than 6) as a form of discipline, while about one-in-five (22%) say they often resort to raising their voice or yelling.

Spanking is the least commonly used method of discipline – just 4% of parents say they do it often. But one-in-six parents say they spank their children at least some of the time as a way to discipline them. Black parents (32%) are more likely than white (14%) and Hispanic (19%) parents to say they sometimes spank their children and are far less likely to say they *never* resort to spanking (31% vs. 55% and 58%, respectively).

Spanking is also correlated with educational attainment. About one-in-five (22%) parents with a high school diploma or less say they use spanking as a method of discipline at least some of the time, as do 18% of parents with some college and 15% of parents with a bachelor's degree. In contrast, just 8% of parents with a post-graduate degree say they often or sometimes spank their children.

### Use of spanking differs across racial and education groups

% saying they use spanking as a form of discipline with any of their children ...



Note: Voluntary responses of "Child is too young/old" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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## Parental worries differ sharply by race, ethnicity

In addition to the economic gaps that underlie parents' worries about the safety and well-being of their children, wide racial gaps exist on a few key items. White parents are far more likely than black parents to worry that their kids might struggle with anxiety or depression (58% vs. 35%) or that they might have problems with drugs or alcohol (40% vs. 23%). Black parents, in turn, worry more than white parents do that their children might get shot at some point. About four-in-ten (39%) black parents say this is a concern, compared with about one-in-five (22%) white parents. And this difference persists even when looking at white and black parents who live in urban areas, where there is more concern about shootings.

On each of these items and others tested in the survey, Hispanic parents are more likely than white and black parents to express concern.

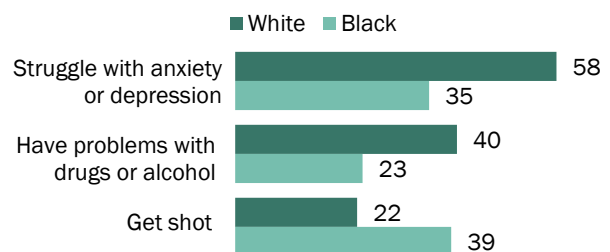
These differences are driven, at least in part, by high levels of concern among foreign-born Hispanics, who tend to have [lower household incomes and lower levels of educational attainment](#) than native-born Hispanics.

The remainder of this report includes an examination of changing family structures in the U.S. as well as detailed analyses of findings from the new Pew Research Center survey. Chapter 1 looks at the changing circumstances in which children are raised, drawing on demographic data, largely from U.S. government sources. This analysis highlights the extent to which parents' changing marital and relationship status affects overall family makeup, and it also includes detailed breakdowns by key demographic characteristics such as race, education and household income. Chapters 2 through 5 explore findings from the new survey, with Chapter 2 focusing on parents' assessments of the job they are doing raising their children and their families' living circumstances. Chapter 3 looks at parenting values and philosophies. Chapter 4 examines child care arrangements and parents' involvement in their children's education. And Chapter 5 looks at extracurricular activities.

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### Key differences in parental concerns across racial lines

*% saying they worry that each of these might happen to their child/one of their children at some point*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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## Other key findings

- About six-in-ten (62%) parents with infants or preschool-age children say that it's hard to find child care in their community that is both affordable and high quality, and this is true across income groups. Most working parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher (66%) say their young children are cared for in day care centers or preschools, while those earning less than \$30,000 rely more heavily on care by family members (57%).
- On average, parents say children should be at least 10 years old before they should be allowed to play in front of their house unsupervised while an adult is inside. Parents say children should be even older before they are allowed to stay home alone for about an hour (12 years old) or to spend time at a public park unsupervised (14 years old).
- Roughly a third of parents (31%) with children ages 6 to 17 say they have helped coach their child in a sport or athletic activity in the past year. Fathers (37%) are more likely than mothers (27%) to say they have done this.
- Nine-in-ten parents with children ages 6 to 17 say their kids watch TV, movies or videos on a typical day, and 79% say they play video games. Parents whose children get daily screen time are split about whether their children spend too much time on these activities (47%) or about the right amount of time (50%).
- Eight-in-ten (81%) parents with children younger than 6 say that their young children watch videos or play games on an electronic device on a daily basis. Roughly a third (32%) of these parents say their kids spend too much time on these activities; 65% say the amount of time is about right.



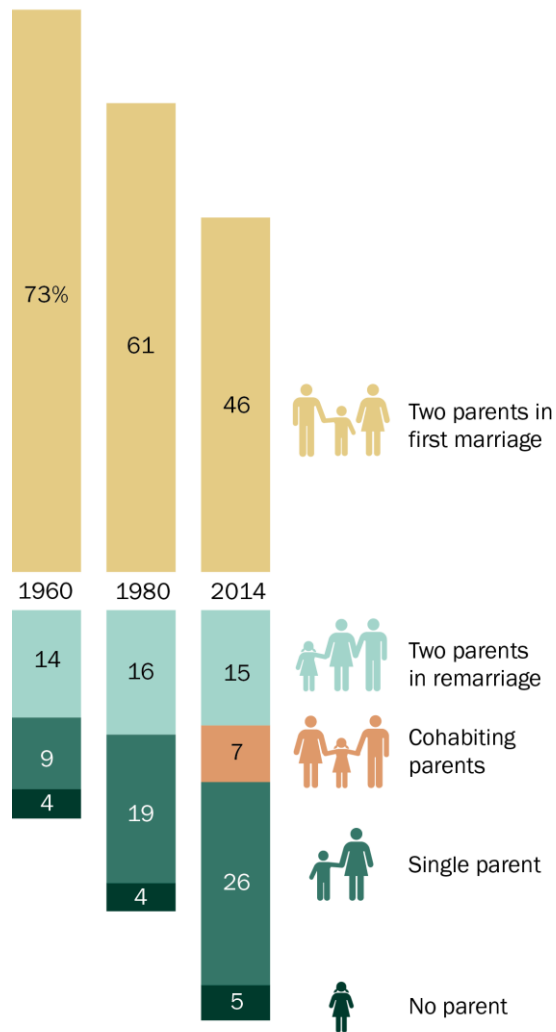
## 1. The American family today

Family life is changing. Two-parent households are on the decline in the United States as divorce, remarriage and cohabitation are on the rise. And families are smaller now, both due to the growth of single-parent households and the drop in fertility. Not only are Americans having fewer children, but the circumstances surrounding parenthood have changed. While in the early 1960s babies typically arrived [within a marriage](#), today fully four-in-ten births occur to women who are single or living with a non-marital partner. At the same time that family structures have transformed, so has the role of mothers in the workplace – and in the home. As more moms have entered the labor force, more have become breadwinners – in many cases, *primary* breadwinners – in their families.

As a result of these changes, there is no longer one [dominant family form](#) in the U.S. Parents today are raising their children against a backdrop of increasingly diverse and, for many, constantly evolving family forms. By contrast, in 1960, the height of the post-World War II baby boom, there was one dominant family form. At that time 73% of all children were living in a family with two married parents in their first marriage. By 1980, 61% of children were living in this type of family, and today less than half (46%) are. The declining share of children living in what is often deemed a “traditional” family has been largely supplanted by the rising shares of children living with single or cohabiting parents.

### For children, growing diversity in family living arrangements

% of children living with ...



Note: Based on children under 18. Data regarding cohabitation are not available for 1960 and 1980; in those years, children with cohabiting parents are included in “one parent.” For 2014, the total share of children living with two married parents is 62% after rounding. Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1960 and 1980 decennial census and 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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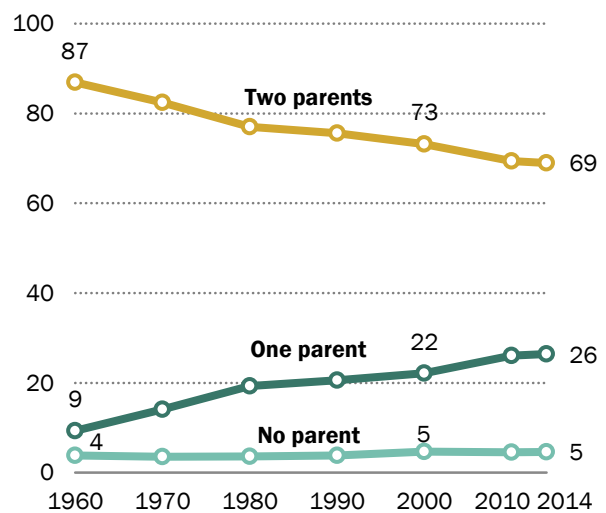
Not only has the diversity in family living arrangements increased since the early 1960s, but so has the fluidity of the family. Non-marital cohabitation and divorce, along with the prevalence of [remarriage and \(non-marital\) recoupling](#) in the U.S., make for family structures that in many cases continue to evolve throughout a child's life. While in the past a child born to a married couple – as most children were – was very likely to grow up in a home with those two parents, this is much less common today, as a child's living arrangement changes with each adjustment in the relationship status of their parents. For example, one [study](#) found that over a three-year period, about three-in-ten (31%) children younger than 6 had experienced a major change in their family or household structure, in the form of parental divorce, separation, marriage, cohabitation or death.

### The growing complexity and diversity of families

The share of children living in a two-parent household is at the lowest point in more than half a century: 69% are in this type of family arrangement today, compared with 73% in 2000 and 87% in 1960. And even children living with two parents are more likely to be experiencing a variety of family arrangements due to increases in divorce, [remarriage](#) and cohabitation.<sup>3</sup> Today, fully 62% of children live with two married parents – an all-time low. Some 15% are living with parents in a remarriage and 7% are living with parents who are cohabiting.<sup>4</sup> Conversely, the share of children living with one parent stands at 26%, up from 22% in 2000 and just 9% in 1960.

### The two-parent household in decline

% of children living with ...



Note: Based on children under 18. From 1990-2014, a child living with cohabiting parents is counted as living with two parents. Prior to 1990 cohabiting parents are included in "one parent."

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1960-2000 Decennial Census and 2010 and 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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<sup>3</sup> "Parent" here is used to mean an adult parental figure. Except as noted, throughout this chapter a parent may be the biological or adoptive parent, or the spouse or partner of a biological or adoptive parent (i.e., a stepparent). The marital status of the parents alone doesn't reveal definitively what their relationship is to their children. For instance, if a child is living with two parents, both of whom are in their first marriage: it may be the case that both of those parents are the biological parents of that child; or it may be the case that the mother is the biological parent of that child and that she later entered into her first marriage to the child's (now) stepfather; or it may be the case that the father is the biological parent of that child and that he entered into his first marriage to the child's (now) stepmother.

<sup>4</sup> Any marriage in which at least one of the partners has been married previously is defined as a remarriage.

These changes have been driven in part by the fact that Americans today are exiting marriage at higher rates than in the past. Now, about two-thirds (67%) of people younger than 50 who had ever married are still in their first marriage. In comparison, that share was 83% in 1960.<sup>5</sup> And while among men about 76% of first marriages that began in the late 1980s [were still intact](#) 10 years later, fully 88% of marriages that began in the late 1950s lasted as long, according to analyses of Census Bureau data.<sup>6</sup>

### The rise of single-parent families, and changes in two-parent families

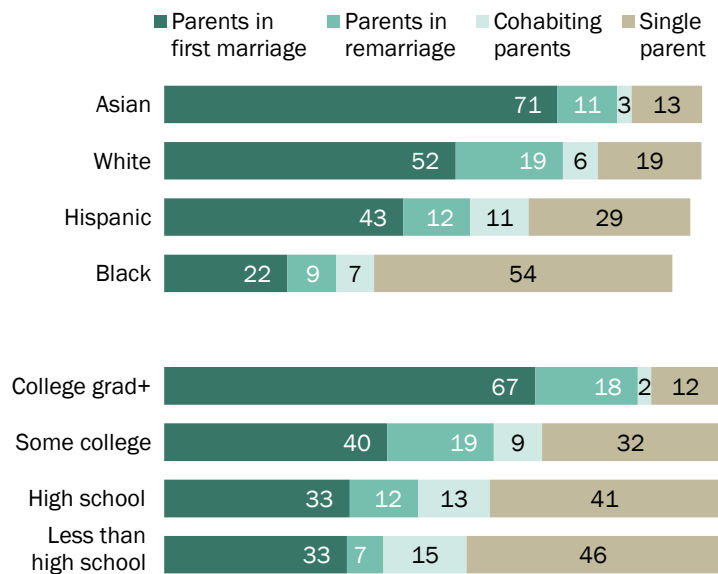
Despite the decline over the past half century in children residing with two parents, a majority of kids are still growing up in this type of living arrangement.<sup>7</sup>

However, less than half—46%—are living with two parents who are both in their first marriage. This share is down from 61% in 1980<sup>8</sup> and 73% in 1960.

An additional 15% of children are living with two parents, at least one of whom has been married before. This share has remained relatively stable for decades.

### Black children and those with less educated parents less likely to be living in two-parent households

% of children living with ...



Note: Based on children under 18. Race and ethnicity are based upon the child's characteristics. Whites, blacks and Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Educational attainment is based upon the characteristics of coresident parents. For analysis by race and ethnicity, children living apart from both parents are not shown. For educational analysis, children living apart from both parents are excluded from analysis. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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<sup>5</sup> While the divorce rate has risen since 1960, the trend in divorce since 1980 is less clear. [Stevenson and Wolfers](#) maintain that divorce rates have declined since that time, while [Kennedy and Ruggles](#) find that the divorce rate has continued its rise.

<sup>6</sup> Among women, 73% of marriages that began in the late 1980s lasted for at least 10 years, compared with 87% of those that began in the late 1950s.

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this report, same-sex couples are grouped with other-sex couples. While same-sex parenting and marriage has become more prevalent, [estimates](#) suggest that less than 1% of couple households with children are headed by same-sex couples; and that, in total, fewer than 130,000 same-sex couples are [currently raising children](#) younger than 18. [See here](#) for more on the challenges of counting same-sex couples in the U.S.

<sup>8</sup> Data on the share of parents in their first marriage are not available for 1990 or 2000.

In the remainder of two-parent families, the parents are cohabiting but are not married. Today 7% of children are living with cohabiting parents; however a far larger share will experience this kind of living arrangement at some point during their childhood. For instance, [estimates](#) suggest that about 39% of children will have had a mother in a cohabiting relationship by the time they turn 12; and by the time they turn 16, almost half (46%) will have experience with their mother cohabiting. In some cases, this will happen because a never-married mother enters into a cohabiting relationship; in other cases, a mother may enter into a cohabiting relationship after a marital breakup.

The decline in children living in two-parent families has been offset by an almost threefold increase in those living with just one parent—typically the mother.<sup>9</sup> Fully one-fourth (26%) of children younger than age 18 are now living with a single parent, up from just 9% in 1960 and 22% in 2000. The share of children living without either parent stands at 5%; most of these children are being raised by [grandparents](#).<sup>10</sup>

The majority of white, Hispanic and Asian children are living in two-parent households, while less than half of black children are living in this type of arrangement. Furthermore, at least half of Asian and white children are living with two parents both in their first marriage. The shares of Hispanic and black children living with two parents in their first marriage are much lower.

Asian children are the most likely to be living with both parents—fully 84% are, including 71% who are living with parents who are both in their first marriage. Some 13% of Asian kids are living in a single-parent household, while 11% are living with remarried parents, and just 3% are living with parents who are cohabiting.

Roughly eight-in-ten (78%) white children are living with two parents, including about half (52%) with parents who are both in their first marriage and 19% with two parents in a remarriage; 6% have parents who are cohabiting. About one-in-five (19%) white children are living with a single parent.

Among Hispanic children, two-thirds live with two parents. All told, 43% live with two parents in their first marriage, while 12% are living with parents in a remarriage, and 11% are living with parents who are cohabiting. Some 29% of Hispanic children live with a single parent.

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<sup>9</sup> In 2014, 83% of children living with only one parent were living with their mother, according to the American Community Survey.

<sup>10</sup> The dramatic changes in kids' living arrangements in the recent past are in sharp contrast to [historical trends](#), which reveal remarkable stability. From 1880 to around 1970, the share of children living with two parents consistently hovered around 85%, while the share living with a single mother remained in the single digits. Even smaller shares were living with no parent, or with a father only.

The living arrangements of black children stand in stark contrast to the other major racial and ethnic groups. The majority – 54% – are living with a single parent. Just 38% are living with two parents, including 22% who are living with two parents who are both in their first marriage. Some 9% are living with remarried parents, and 7% are residing with parents who are cohabiting.

Children with at least one college-educated parent are far more likely to be living in a two-parent household, and to be living with two parents in a first marriage, than are kids whose parents are less educated.<sup>11</sup> Fully 88% of children who have at least one parent with a bachelor’s degree or more are living in a two-parent household, including 67% who are living with two parents in their first marriage.

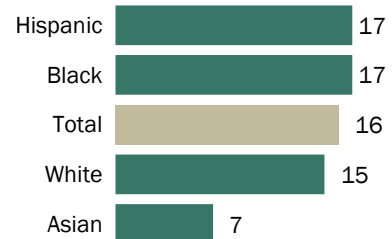
In comparison, some 68% of children who have a parent with some college experience are living in a two-parent household, and just 40% are living with parents who are both in a first marriage. About six-in-ten (59%) children who have a parent with a high school diploma are in a two-parent household, including 33% who are living with parents in their first marriage. Meanwhile, just over half (54%) of children whose parents lack a high school diploma are living in a two-parent household, including 33% whose parents are in their first marriage.

### *Blended families*

According to the most recent data, 16% of [children](#) are living in what the Census Bureau terms “blended families” – a household with a stepparent, stepsibling or half-sibling. This share has remained stable since the early 1990s, when reliable data first became available. At that time 15% of kids lived in blended family households. All told, about 8% are living with a stepparent, and 12% are living with stepsiblings or half-siblings.<sup>12</sup>

### **One-in-six kids is living in a blended family**

*% of children living with a stepparent, stepsibling or half-sibling*



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2009 estimates

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<sup>11</sup> Parental education is based on the highest educational attainment of coresident parents. So if a child lives with both parents, and the father has a bachelor’s degree, and the mother has a high school diploma, that child is classified as having a parent with a bachelor’s degree. A child living with a single parent is classified based on that parent’s education. The 5% of children who are not living with their parents are excluded from this analysis.

<sup>12</sup> These data are based on self-reports. It may be the case that some families that began as stepfamilies may no longer identify as such, if the stepparent went on to adopt the children. And, of course, many families may be “blended” but may not include parents who are formally married; those families are likely not captured in this measure.

Many, but not all, remarriages involve blended families.<sup>13</sup> According to data from the National Center for Health Statistics, six-in-ten (63%) women in [remarriages](#) are in blended families, and about half of these remarriages involve stepchildren who live with the remarried couple.

Hispanic, black and white children are equally likely to live in a blended family. About 17% of Hispanic and black kids are living with a stepparent, stepsibling or a half-sibling, as are 15% of white kids. Among Asian children, however, 7% – a far smaller share – are living in blended families. This low share is consistent with the finding that Asian children are more likely than others to be living with two married parents, both of whom are in their first marriage.

### The shrinking American family

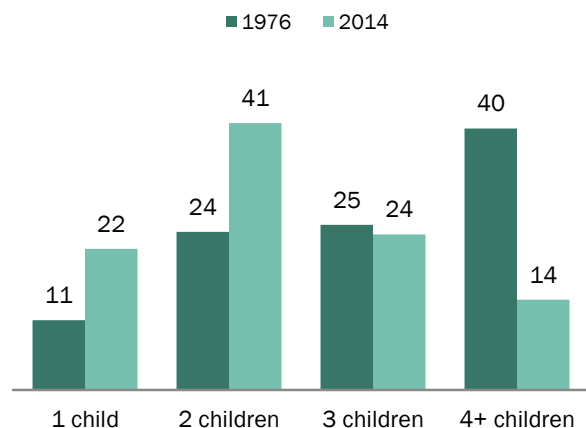
Fertility in the U.S. has been [on the decline](#) since the end of the post-World War II baby boom, resulting in smaller families. In the mid-1970s, a 40% plurality of mothers who had reached the end of their childbearing years had given birth to four or more children.<sup>14</sup> Now, a similar share (41%) of mothers at the end of their childbearing years has had two children, and just 14% have had four or more children.<sup>15</sup>

At the same time, the share of mothers ages 40 to 44 who have had only one child has doubled, from 11% in 1976 to 22% today. The share of mothers with three children has remained virtually unchanged at about a quarter.

Women's increasing educational attainment and labor force participation, and improvements in contraception, not to mention the retreat from marriage, have all likely played a role in [shrinking family size](#).

### Among women, fertility is declining

*% of women ages 40-44 who have given birth to ...*



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1976 and 2014 Current Population Survey June supplements.

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<sup>13</sup> While blended families all involve remarriage, not all remarriages produce blended families. Remarriages involving spouses who have no children from prior relationships would not create blended families.

<sup>14</sup> Women at the end of their childbearing years are often defined as those ages 40-44. While it is still possible to have children beyond this point, about [99.8% of babies](#) are born to women younger than 45, and 97% are born to women younger than 40. Women who reached the end of their childbearing years in the mid-1970s came of age during the height of the post-World War II baby boom, a period typified by unusually high fertility.

<sup>15</sup> While they are not included in this analysis due to data limitations, many women who do not bear children are indeed mothers—either adoptive mothers or stepmothers.

Family size varies markedly across races and ethnicities. Asian moms have the lowest fertility, and Hispanic mothers have the highest. About 27% of Asian mothers and one-third of white mothers near the end of their childbearing years have had three or more children. Among black mothers at the end of their childbearing years, four-in-ten have had three or more children, as have fully half (50%) of Hispanic mothers.

Similarly, a gap in fertility exists among women with different levels of educational attainment, despite [recent increases](#) in the fertility of highly educated women. For example, just 27% of mothers ages 40 to 44 with a post-graduate degree such as a master's, professional or doctorate degree have borne three or more children, as have 32% of those with a bachelor's degree. Among mothers in the same age group with a high school diploma or some college, 38% have had three or more kids, while among moms who lack a high school diploma, the majority – 55% – have had three or more children.

### The rise of births to unmarried women and multi-partner fertility

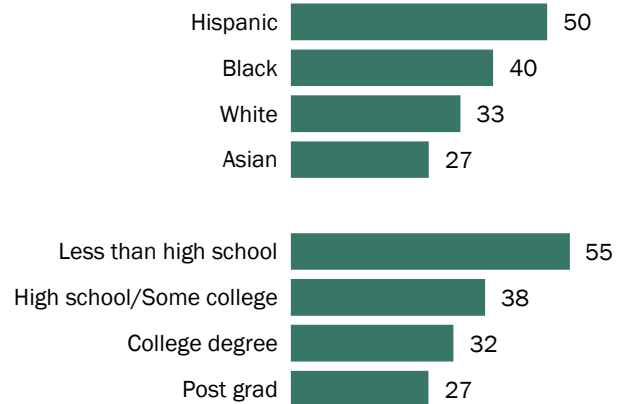
Not only are women having fewer children today, but they are having them under different circumstances than in the past. While at one time virtually all births occurred within marriage, these two life events are now far less intertwined. And while people were much more likely to “mate for life” in the past, today a sizable share have children with more than one partner – sometimes within marriage, and sometimes outside of it.

#### *Births to unmarried women*

In 1960, just 5% of all births occurred outside of marriage. By 1970, this share had doubled to 11%, and by 2000 fully one-third of births occurred to unmarried women. Non-marital births continued

### Among Hispanics and the less educated, bigger families

*% of mothers ages 40-44 who have given birth to 3 or more children*



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. “High school graduate/Some college” includes those with a two-year degree.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2012 and 2014 Current Population Survey June supplements

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to rise until the mid-2000s, when the share of births to unmarried women stabilized at around 40%.<sup>16</sup>

Not all babies born outside of a marriage are necessarily living with just one parent, however. The majority of these births now occur to women who are living with a romantic partner, according to analyses of the National Survey of Family Growth. In fact, over the past 20 years, virtually all of the growth in [births outside of marriage](#) has been driven by increases in births to cohabiting women.<sup>17</sup>

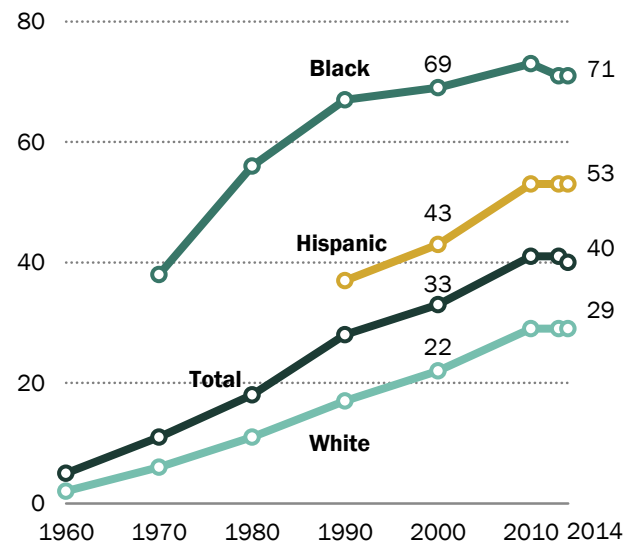
[Researchers](#) have found that, while marriages are less stable than they once were, they remain more stable than cohabiting unions. [Past analysis indicates that](#) about one-in-five children born within a marriage will experience the breakup of that marriage by age 9. In comparison, fully half of children born within a cohabiting union will experience the breakup of their parents by the same age. At the same time, children born into cohabiting unions are more likely than those born to single moms to someday live with two married parents. Estimates suggest that 66% will have done so by the time they are 12, compared with 45% of those who were born to unmarried non-cohabiting moms.

The share of births occurring outside of marriage varies markedly across racial and ethnic groups. Among black women, 71% of births are now non-marital, as are about half (53%) of births to Hispanic women. In contrast, 29% of births to white women occur outside of a marriage.

Racial differences in educational attainment explain some, but not all, of the differences in non-marital birth rates.

### The decoupling of marriage and childbearing

*% of births to unmarried women*



Note: Whites and blacks include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. 2014 data are preliminary. Data for Asians only not available.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics natality data

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<sup>16</sup> Preliminary 2014 data indicate that the share of non-marital births [declined](#) slightly for the first time in almost 20 years, due largely to changes in age composition among childbearing-aged women.

<sup>17</sup> Given the limitations of data regarding the [fertility of men](#), the focus here is on fertility of women.



New mothers who are college-educated are far more likely than less educated moms to be married. In 2014 just 11% of women with a college degree or more who had a baby in the prior year were unmarried. In comparison, this share was about four times as high (43%) for new mothers with some college but no college degree. About half (54%) of those with only a high school diploma were unmarried when they gave birth, as were about six-in-ten (59%) new mothers who lacked a high school diploma.

### *Multi-partner fertility*

Related to non-marital births is what researchers call “[multi-partner fertility](#).” This measure reflects the share of people who have had biological children with more than one partner, either within or outside of marriage. The increase in divorces, separations, remarriages and serial cohabitations has likely contributed to an increase in multi-partner fertility. Estimates vary, given data limitations, but [analysis of longitudinal data](#) indicates that almost 20% of women near the end of their childbearing years have had children by more than one partner, as have about three-in-ten (28%) of those with two or more children. Research indicates that [multi-partner fertility](#) is particularly common among blacks, Hispanics, and the less educated.

### **Parents today: older and better educated**

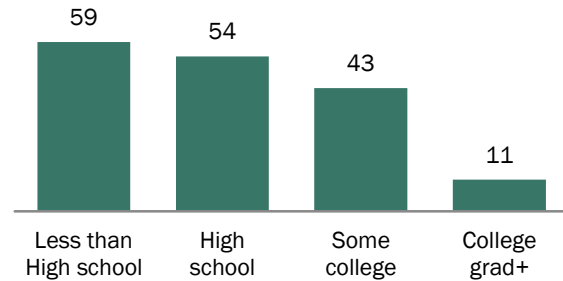
While parents today are far less likely to be married than they were in the past, they are more likely to be older and to have more education.

In 1970, the [average new mother](#) was 21 years old. Since that time, that age has risen to [26 years](#). The rise in maternal age has been driven largely by declines in teen births. Today, 7% of all births occur to women under the age of 20; [as recently as 1990](#), the share was almost twice as high (13%).

While age at first birth has increased across all major race and ethnic groups, [substantial variation](#) persists across these groups. The average first-time mom among whites is now 27 years old. The average age at first birth among blacks and Hispanics is quite a bit younger – 24 years – driven in part by the [prevalence of teen pregnancy](#) in these groups. Just 5% of births to whites take place prior to age 20, while this share reaches 11% for non-Hispanic blacks and 10% for Hispanics. On

### **For the less educated, more births outside of marriage**

*% of new mothers who are unmarried*



Note: Based on women ages 15-44 who have given birth in the past year. Marital status is based on time of survey.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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the other end of the spectrum, fully 45% of births to whites are to women ages 30 or older, versus just 31% among blacks and 36% among Hispanics.

Mothers today are also far **better educated** than they were in the past. While in 1960 just 18% of mothers with infants at home had any college experience, today that share stands at 67%. This trend is driven in large part by dramatic increases in educational attainment for all women. While about half (49%) of women ages 15 to 44 in 1960 lacked a high school diploma, today the largest share of women (61%) has at least some college experience, and just 19% lack a high school diploma.

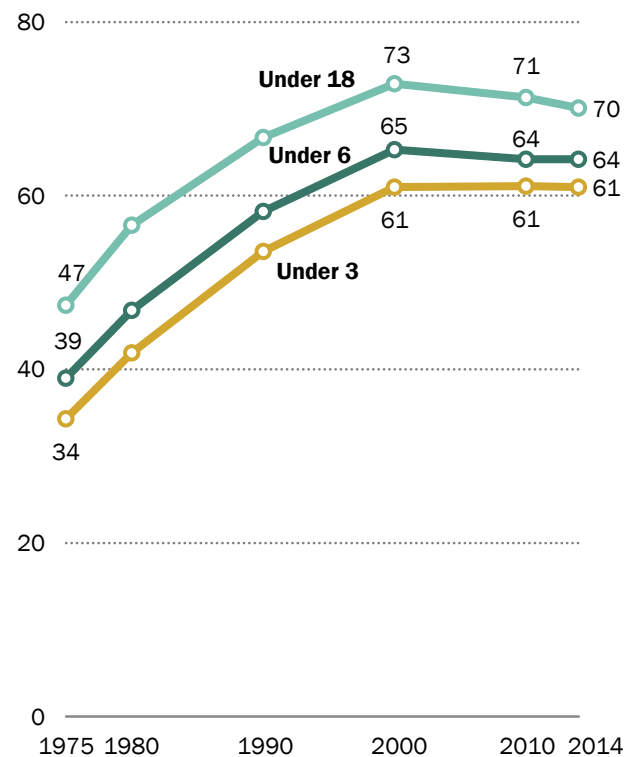
### Mothers moving into the workforce

In addition to the changes in family structure that have occurred over the past several decades, family life has been greatly affected by the movement of more and more mothers into the workforce. This increase in labor force participation is a continuation of a **century-long trend**; rates of labor force participation among married women, particularly married white women, have been on the rise since at least the turn of the 20th century. While the labor force participation rates of mothers have more or less leveled off since about 2000, they remain far higher than they were four decades ago.

In 1975, the first year for which data on the labor force participation of mothers are available, less than half of mothers (47%) with children younger than 18 were in the labor force, and about a third of those with children younger than 3 years old were working outside of the home. Those numbers changed rapidly, and, by 2000, 73% of moms were in the labor force. Labor force participation today stands at 70% among all mothers of children younger than 18, and 64% of moms with preschool-

### Among mothers, rising labor force participation

*% of mothers who are in the labor force with children ...*



Note: Mothers working full time or part time are included as being in the labor force.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey data

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aged children. About three-fourths of all employed moms are working full time.

Among mothers with children younger than 18, blacks are the **most likely** to be in the labor force – about three-fourths are. In comparison, this share is 70% among white mothers. Some 64% of Asian mothers and 62% of Hispanic mother are in the workforce. The relatively high proportions of immigrants in these groups likely contribute to their lower labor force involvement – foreign-born moms are much **less likely to be working** than their U.S.-born counterparts.

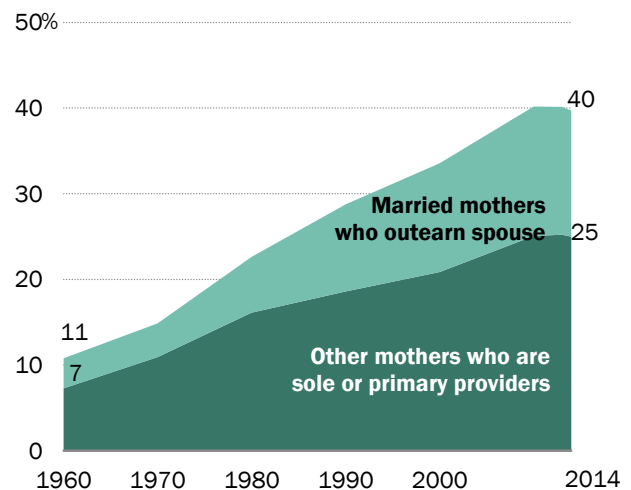
The more education a mother has, the more likely she is to be in the labor force. While about half (49%) of moms who lack a high school diploma are working, this share jumps to 65% for those with a high school diploma. Fully 75% of mothers with some college are working, as are 79% of those with a college degree or more.

Along with their movement into the labor force, women, even more than men, have been attaining higher and higher levels of education. In fact, among married couples today, it is more common for the wife to **have more education** than the husband, a reversal of previous patterns. These changes, along with the increasing share of single-parent families, mean that more than ever, **mothers are playing the role of breadwinner**—often the primary breadwinner—within their families.

Today, 40% of families with children under 18 at home include mothers who earn the majority of the family income.<sup>18</sup> This share is up from 11% in 1960 and 34% in 2000. The bulk of these breadwinner moms—8.3 million—are either unmarried or are married and living apart from their spouse.<sup>19</sup> The remaining 4.9 million, who are married and living with their spouse, earn more than their

### In four-in-ten families, mom is the primary breadwinner

*% of families with children under 18 in the household*



Note: Based on families where the mother or father is the household head. “Married mothers” include only those whose spouse lives in the household. “Other mothers who are sole or primary providers” include unmarried mothers and married mothers who live apart from their spouse.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial census 1960-2000 and American Community Survey data 2010-2014 (IPUMS)

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<sup>18</sup> Only families where the mother or father is the household head are included in the analysis of breadwinner moms.

<sup>19</sup> For the remainder of this chapter, “unmarried mothers” refers to those who are not married, or who are married but living apart from their spouse.

husbands. While families with married breadwinner moms tend to have higher median incomes than married-parent families where the father earns more (\$88,000 vs. \$84,500), families headed by unmarried mothers have incomes far lower than unmarried father families. In 2014, the median annual income for unmarried mother families was just \$24,000.

Breadwinner moms are particularly common in black families, spurred by very high rates of single motherhood. About three-fourths (74%) of black moms are breadwinner moms. Most are unmarried or living apart from their spouse (61%), and the remainder (13%) earn more than their spouse. Among Hispanic moms, 44% are the primary breadwinner; 31% are unmarried, while 12% are married and making more than their husbands. For white mothers, 38% are the primary breadwinners—20% are unmarried moms, and 18% are married and have income higher than that of their spouses. Asian families are less likely to have a woman as the main breadwinner in their families, presumably due to their extremely low rates of single motherhood. Just 11% of Asian moms are unmarried. The share who earn more than their husbands—20%— is somewhat higher than for the other racial and ethnic groups.

The flip side of the movement of mothers into the labor force has been a dramatic decline in the share of mothers who are now [stay-at-home moms](#). Some 30% of all mothers living with children younger than 18 are at home with their children. This marks a modest increase since 1999, when 23% of moms were home with their children, but a long-term decline of about 20 percentage points since the late 1960s when about half of moms were at home.

While the image of “stay-at-home mom” may conjure images of “Leave It to Beaver” or the highly affluent “opt-out mom”, the reality of stay-at-home motherhood today is quite different for a large share of families. In roughly three-in-ten of stay-at-home-mom families, either the father is not working or the mother is single or cohabiting. As such, stay-at-home mothers are generally less well off than working mothers in terms of education and income. Some 49% of stay-at-home mothers have at most a high-school diploma compared with 30% among working mothers. And the median household income for families with a stay-at-home mom and a full-time working dad was \$55,000 in 2014, roughly half the median income for families in which both parents work full-time (\$102,400).<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> The vast majority of stay-at-home parents are indeed mothers, but a [growing share](#) of fathers are joining the ranks, as well. In 2012, 16% of stay-at-home parents were dads, up from 10% in 1989. Like stay-at-home mothers, stay-at-home dads tend to be less well off than their working counterparts; they are far more likely to lack a high school diploma (22% vs. 10%), and far more likely to be living in poverty (47% vs. 8%).

## 2. Satisfaction, time and support

With the complicated fabric of the changing American family as a backdrop, the new Pew Research Center survey provides insight into how today's parents are raising their children and laying the groundwork for their futures. Most parents say they are doing a good job raising their children, but some clearly face more challenges than others. Financial stress can affect parents' overall sense of well-being and their assessments of how they are doing as parents and even the extent to which they feel supported in their parenting efforts by family and friends.

Overall, the vast majority of U.S. parents say being a mother or father is enjoyable, rewarding and an important part of their overall identity. Most are satisfied with the amount of time they spend with their children, but at the same time, sizable minorities say they always feel rushed in their daily lives and most say they find parenting tiring and stressful at least some of the time. This chapter explores parents' overall assessments of the role they play as parents, the challenges they face, and the networks and resources they draw on for support.

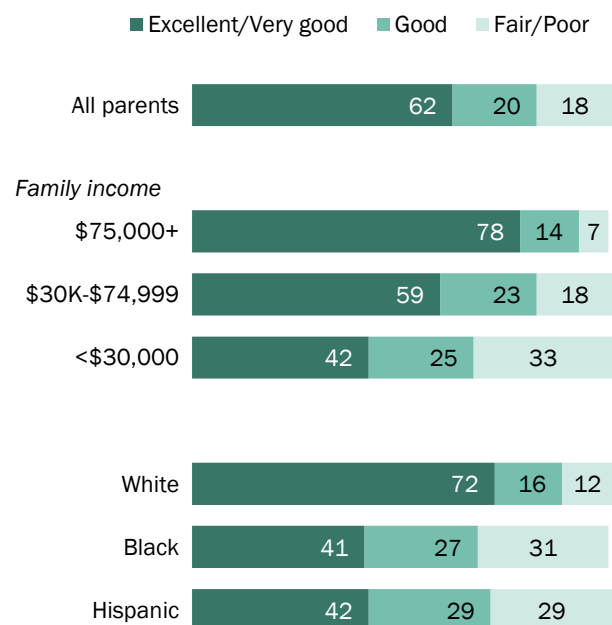
### The varying quality of neighborhoods

While parents are possibly the most important variable in a child's life, where the child is raised matters, too. A neighborhood can determine what schools children attend, who their friends are and what they can do in their free time. Most U.S. parents say their neighborhood is an excellent (34%) or very good (28%) place to raise children. One-in-five say their neighborhood is a good place to raise children. And 18% describe their neighborhood as fair (13%) or poor (5%). But there are stark differences in these assessments along socioeconomic lines.

Parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher give much more positive

### Parents' view of their neighborhood differs sharply by income, race

% saying their neighborhood is a \_\_\_ place to raise children



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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assessments of their neighborhoods than do middle- and lower-income parents: 78% say their neighborhood is an excellent or very good place to raise children, compared with 59% of those earning \$30,000 to \$74,999 and 42% of those earning less than \$30,000 annually. Higher-income parents are twice as likely as those with incomes under \$30,000 to say their neighborhood is an *excellent* place to raise children (44% vs. 22%). Among middle-income parents, 31% give their neighborhood an excellent rating.

Lower-income parents, in turn, are far more likely to describe their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to raise kids. Fully a third of parents with incomes below \$30,000 give their neighborhood a negative rating, compared with 18% of middle-income parents and 7% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher.

Large racial differences are apparent as well. Roughly seven-in-ten white parents say that their neighborhood is an excellent or very good place to raise children, while only about four-in-ten black and Hispanic parents say the same. Black (31%) and Hispanic (29%) parents are more than twice as likely as white parents (12%) to say their neighborhood is a fair or poor place to raise children. There is a significant, though smaller, racial difference in neighborhood assessments even after controlling for income. Among those with annual family incomes of \$50,000 or higher, 79% of white parents and 68% of non-white parents say their neighborhood is an excellent or very good place to raise children.

One-in-ten parents say they can't make ends meet

When asked about their household's financial situation, U.S. parents describe a range of circumstances. One-third of parents say they live comfortably. Roughly the same share (32%) say they are able to meet their basic expenses with a little left over for extras. One-in-four parents say they are just able to meet their basic expenses, and 9% say they don't even have enough to meet their basic

### Meeting basic expenses much more challenging for single parents

*% saying they would describe their household's financial situation as...*

	All parents	Married	Living w/partner	No spouse/partner
Living comfortably	33	39	23	18
Meeting basic expenses with a little left over for extras	32	32	36	32
Just meeting basic expenses	25	23	27	31
Not having enough to meet basic expenses	9	6	14	19
Don't know/Refused	1	*	*	1
	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q4

expenses.

Household financial circumstances differ markedly by family type. Among married parents, roughly four-in-ten (39%) say they live comfortably. Significantly smaller shares of parents who are living with a partner (23%) or have no spouse or partner (18%) say they live comfortably. Fully one-in-five (19%) of those with no spouse or partner say they don't have enough money to meet their basic expenses. That is three times the rate as among married parents.

## Financial well-being linked to outlook on life and parenting

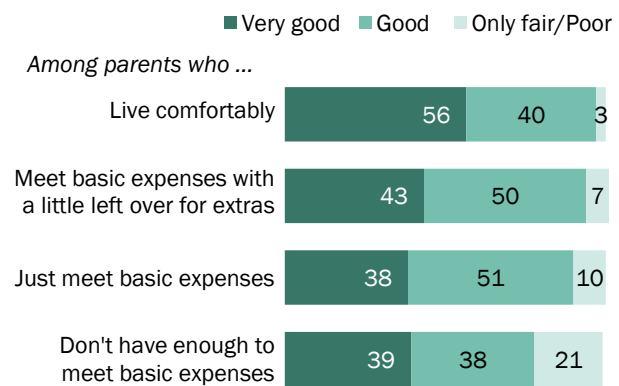
Overall, about half of parents (46%) say they are doing a very good job as a parent. An equal share say they are doing a good job. Relatively few say they are doing a fair (7%) or poor (1%) job.

While these ratings are not strongly linked to parents' income or education, there is a strong correlation between parents' perceived financial well-being and their assessments of how they are doing raising their children. Parents who say they live comfortably give themselves higher ratings than parents who have less financial breathing room. Some 56% of parents who describe their household financial situation as comfortable say they are doing a very good job as a parent. Among those who say they can meet their basic expenses with a little left over or just meet their expenses, about half say they are doing a good (rather than a *very* good) job as a parent. For those who have trouble meeting their expenses, 39% say they are doing a very good job as a parent, 38% say they are doing a good job, and 21% say they are doing only a fair or poor job.

There is a significant gender gap on this question, with more mothers than fathers saying they are doing a very good job as a parent (51% vs. 39%). There are also differences by age, with younger parents (those ages 18 to 29) more likely than their older counterparts to give themselves top marks for parenting.

### Parents who live comfortably give themselves higher ratings for parenting

% saying they are doing a/an \_\_\_\_\_ job as a parent



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q3,4



The age gap is driven almost entirely by younger mothers. In fact, Millennial moms (those ages 18 to 34) are more likely than any other generational group to say they are doing a very good job as a parent. Fully 57% of Millennial mothers say this, compared with 48% of Gen X mothers and 41% of Baby Boomer mothers. Among Millennials, mothers are much more likely than fathers to give themselves the highest rating (43% of Millennial dads say they are doing a very good job as a parent).

White and black parents are significantly more likely than Hispanic parents to give themselves high ratings for their parenting. About half of white (47%) and black parents (51%) say they are doing a very good job, compared with 38% of Hispanic parents.

Parents' marital status is not highly correlated with the overall ratings they give themselves for parenting. Whether they are married, living with a partner or neither, parents are about equally likely to say they are doing a very good job. And there are no significant differences among mothers depending on their work situation. Roughly equal shares of those who work full time (50%), those who work part time (54%) and those who do not work outside the home (51%) say they are doing a very job as a parent.

Parents who have only young children in the home give themselves higher marks than parents who have teens at home. Among those whose oldest child is younger than 6, 52% say they are doing a very good job as a parent. By comparison, of parents with at least one teen in the house, 42% say the same.

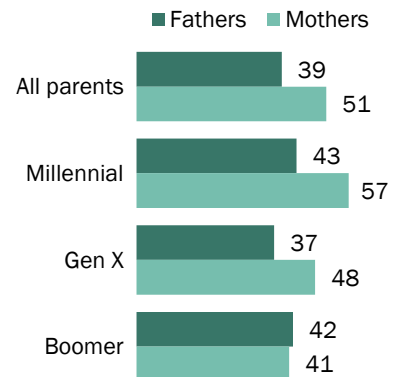
## Most parents care what others think of their parenting skills

Parents care a lot about what their spouse or partner thinks of how they are doing as a parent, and they care what their own parents think as well. The opinions of friends and neighbors are important, too, but less so.

Among parents who are married, 92% say it matters a lot to them that their spouse sees them as a good parent. For those who are living with a partner, 95% say the same about their partner. This sentiment is shared across all major demographic groups. Among single parents, 56% say it

## Millennial moms give themselves high marks for parenting

*% saying they are doing a very good job as a parent*



Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q3



matters a lot to them that their children's other parent thinks they are doing a good job as a parent; an additional 20% say this matters a little.

About seven-in-ten mothers and fathers (72%) say it matters a lot to them that their own parents see them as a good parent. An additional 17% say this matters a little to them, and 10% say it doesn't matter at all. Similar shares of mothers (73%) and fathers (71%) say it matters a lot to them that their parents think they are a good parent. Hispanic parents are more likely than white or black parents to say their own parents' opinion matters a lot to them – 86% of Hispanic parents say this, compared with 75% of black parents and 68% of white parents.

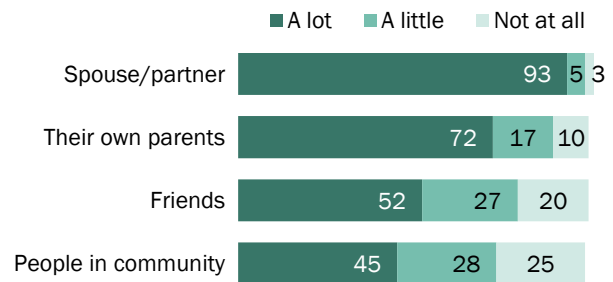
Parents place less importance on the opinions of friends and people in their community. About half (52%) say it matters a lot to them that their friends see them as a good parent. An additional 27% say this matters a little to them, and 20% say it doesn't matter at all. There is no significant difference between mothers and fathers on this measure – both value their friends' opinions about equally.

Some 45% of parents say it matters a lot to them that people in their community see them as a good parent. Again, there are no significant differences between mothers and fathers. Parents with at least some college experience (43%) are somewhat less likely than those with a high school diploma or less (51%) to say it matters a lot to them what people in the community think of their parenting. And middle- and higher-income parents are less likely than lower-income parents to say this matters a lot to them.

Among religious groups, parents who are white, evangelical Protestants are more likely than white mainline Protestants or Catholics to say they care a lot about what people in their community think of how they are doing as a parent: 53% of white evangelical Protestants vs. 41% of white mainline Protestants and 38% of white Catholics say it matters a lot to them that people in their community see them as a good parent.

### About 9-in-10 parents say it matters “a lot” that spouse or partner sees them as a good parent

% saying it matters a lot/a little/not at all that \_\_\_\_\_ see them as a good parent



Note: Figures for “parents” are based on respondents who did not volunteer that they have no living parent. Figures for “spouse/partner” are based on those who are married or living with a partner. “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q21a-e

## Parenting matters to overall identity

For the vast majority of American parents, being a mother or father is an important part of their overall identity. Roughly six-in-ten (58%) say being a parent is extremely important to their identity, and an additional 36% say it is very important. Some 5% say being a parent is somewhat important to their identity, and only 1% say it's not too important.

Mothers and fathers are equally likely to say that parenting is central to who they are: 57% of fathers say being a dad is extremely important to their overall identity, and 58% of mothers say the same about being a mom. Millennial parents (60%) are somewhat more likely than parents who are Baby Boomers (51%) to say being a parent is extremely important to their identity. Some 58% of Gen X parents say the same.

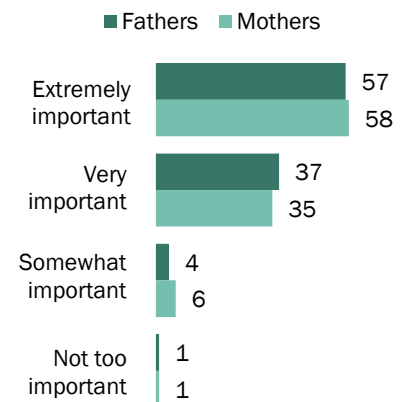
While white and black parents are equally likely to say being a mother or father is an extremely important part of their identity (62% and 61%, respectively), Hispanic parents are less likely to say this (47%).

Being a mother or father is an equally important part of parents' identity, regardless of the age of their children. Whether their youngest child is a preschooler or a teenager, parents are about equally likely to say being a parent is extremely important to their overall identity (60% among those whose youngest child is younger than 6, and 54% among those whose youngest is between ages 13 and 17).

The extent to which mothers and fathers consider being a parent central to their overall identity does not vary significantly by marital status. About the same share of married parents, those who live with a partner and those who don't have a spouse or partner say being a mother or father is extremely important to their identity. Similarly, working moms are just as likely as stay-at-home moms to say being a mother is central to their overall identity.

### For most, being a parent is central to their identity

*% who say being father/mother is \_\_\_\_\_ to their overall identity*



Note: Voluntary responses of "Not at all important" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q8

## The upside of parenting

About nine-in-ten parents say being a parent is rewarding for them all (53%) or most (35%) of the time. And a similar share say being a parent is enjoyable all (43%) or most (47%) of the time.

Roughly equal shares of mothers and fathers say that parenting is rewarding and enjoyable all of the time.

Parents with a college degree are somewhat less likely than other parents to say that being a parent is rewarding and enjoyable all of the time. For example, 31% of parents who have a bachelor's degree or more education say being a parent is enjoyable for them all of the time. Some 45% of parents with some college education and 54% of those who never attended college say parenting is enjoyable all of the time.

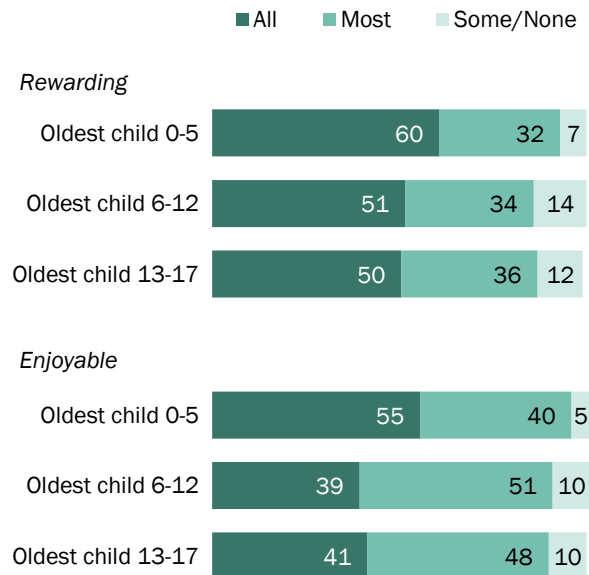
There is a significant age gap in the extent to which parents find parenting rewarding and enjoyable—these views differ by the age of the parent and by the age of their children. Millennial parents (52%) are more likely than Gen X or Boomer parents (39% for both groups) to say that parenting is enjoyable all of the time.

It's not surprising that younger parents find parenting more enjoyable given that they tend to have younger children. The survey finds that parents who have only young children (under age 6) are more likely than parents with older children to say that parenting is enjoyable and rewarding. Fully six-in-ten parents whose oldest (or only) child is younger than 6 say being a parent is rewarding all of the time. This compares with 51% of parents whose oldest child is between the ages of 6 and 12 and 50% of those whose oldest child is 13 to 17.

Similarly, while 55% of parents whose oldest child is younger than 6 say being a parent is enjoyable all of the time, only about four-in-ten parents whose oldest child is ages 6 to 12 (39%) or 13 to 17 (41%) say the same.

## Parents of young children find parenting more enjoyable, rewarding

% saying parenting is ... all/most/some or none of the time



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q29a,b

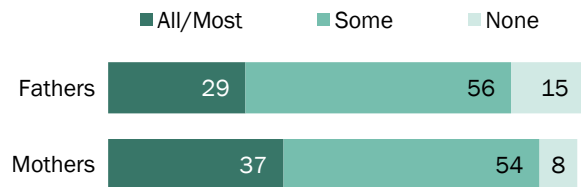
## And the downside of parenting

The survey finds that more parents say parenting is rewarding and enjoyable than say it is tiring and stressful. Still, one-third of parents say their job as a parent is tiring all (15%) or most (18%) of the time, and one-quarter say being a parent is stressful all (10%) or most (15%) of the time. Overwhelming majorities say being a parent is tiring or stressful at least some of the time.

Mothers are somewhat more likely than fathers to say that being a parent is tiring all or most of the time (37% vs. 29%). Some 15% of dads say that parenting is never tiring, compared with 8% of moms. The views of mothers and fathers are more similar when it comes to the stress of being a parent, though fathers are still somewhat more likely than mothers to say parenting is never stressful (12% vs. 7%).

### Mothers, more than fathers, find being a parent tiring

% who say being a parent is tiring \_\_\_\_ of the time



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q29d

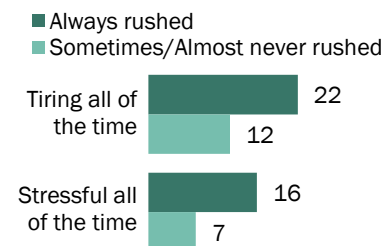
Children's ages make a difference here as well. Parents who have at least one child younger than 6 are more likely than parents who do not to say parenting is tiring for them. Among those whose youngest (or only) child is younger than 6, 39% say parenting is tiring all or most of the time. Among parents whose youngest child is ages 6 to 12, 32% say parenting is tiring all or most of the time, and among those whose youngest child is ages 13 to 17, 25% say this.

## Feeling rushed?

Feeling like there aren't enough hours in the day no doubt contributes to feelings of stress and fatigue among parents. And most parents today say that they feel rushed at least some of the time. In fact, 31% say they *always* feel rushed, even to do the things they have to do. An additional 53% say they sometimes feel rushed. Only 15% of parents say they never feel rushed. Mothers are somewhat more likely than fathers to say they always feel rushed (33% vs. 28%), but even among fathers, 81% say they feel rushed at least some of the time. And among

### Parents who always feel rushed are more tired, stressed than other parents

Among those who feel rushed always vs. less often, the % saying parenting is ...



Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q29c,d

mothers, full-time working moms (40%) are significantly more likely than those who work outside the home part time or not at all (29%) to say they always feel rushed.

Parents who say they always feel rushed are more likely than other parents to say that parenting is tiring all of the time (22% vs. 12% of parents who say they feel rushed sometimes or almost never) and they are twice as likely to say that being a parent is stressful all of the time (16% vs. 7%).

Parents with three or more children aren't any more likely than parents with one child to say they always feel rushed. And there are no significant differences according to children's ages. Parents whose oldest child is a teenager and those whose children are all under age 6 are equally likely to say they always feel rushed.

### Finding time for family, friends and leisure

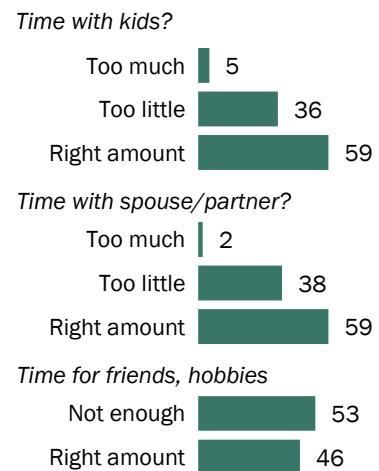
Even though many parents feel rushed in their daily lives, most (59%) say that they spend about the right amount of time with their children. About a third (36%) say they spend too little time with their children, and 5% say they spend too much time. There is a significant gender gap on this question: mothers (66%) are much more likely than fathers (50%) to say they spend the right amount of time with their children. Roughly half of dads (48%) say they spend too little time with their kids, compared with 25% of moms.

For mothers, work arrangements are linked to their feelings about the amount of time they have to spend with their children. Four-in-ten (39%) full-time working moms say they spend too little time with their children, compared with only 14% of moms who work part time or don't work outside the home at all. For their part, half of full-time working fathers say they have too little time to spend with their children, significantly larger than the share of full-time working mothers who said the same.<sup>21</sup>

While relatively few parents say they spend too much time with their children, parents who have only young children are more likely to say this than parents with school-aged children. Among

### Many parents say they spend too little time with kids, partners, friends

% saying ...



Note: Only parents who are married or living with a partner were asked about the amount of time they spend with their spouse/partner. "Not enough" includes 2% of parents who volunteered that they have "no time" for friends, hobbies. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q12,2x,15

<sup>21</sup> The sample sizes for fathers who work part time or are not employed are too small for analysis.

those whose oldest child is younger than 6, 11% say they spend too much time with their kids. By comparison, only 4% of those whose oldest child is 6 or older say the same.

When asked about the time they spend with their spouse or partner, about six-in-ten (59%) married or cohabiting parents say they spend about the right amount of time. Still, a sizable share (38%) say they spend too little time with their spouse or partner. Very few (2%) say they spend too much time.

Mothers and fathers tend to agree on this point—nearly identical shares say they spend the right amount of time with their spouse or partner. White parents (41%) are more likely than black (29%) or Hispanic (32%) parents to say they spend too little time with their spouse or partner.

Married parents are less satisfied with the amount of time they spend with their spouse than cohabiting parents are with the amount of time they spend with their partner. Among married parents, 40% say they don't spend enough time with their spouse, and 58% say they spend the right amount of time. Among parents who are living with a partner but not married, fully 70% say they spend about the right amount of time with their partner; only 22% say they spend too little time.

Just as work arrangements are linked to attitudes about time spent with children, in households where both the mom and the dad work full time parents are less satisfied with the amount of time they spend with their spouse or partner. Fully 44% of parents in these two full-time working parent households say they spend too little time with their spouse or partner. By comparison, only about a third of parents in households where only one parent works full time say the same (35%). These differences are largely driven by the attitudes of mothers with different work situations: Moms who work full time (44%) are much more likely than those who work part time (27%) or not at all (34%) to say they spend too little time with their spouse or partner.

When it comes to free time, away from the kids, parents are evenly split. About half (53%) say that they don't have enough time (or volunteer that they have no free time) away from their children to get together with friends or pursue hobbies and other interests, while 46% say they have about the right amount of time to do these things.

Nearly identical shares of mothers (53%) and fathers (52%) say they don't have enough free time. And there are no significant differences by race or education. Financial well-being is linked to perceptions about free time: 57% of those who say they live comfortably also say they have about the right amount of time away from their children to pursue outside interests. Among parents who say they can't even meet their basic expenses, only 32% say they have enough free time.

Parents who have multiple children are less satisfied with the amount of free time they have away from their kids: 58% of parents with two children and 55% of those with three or more say they don't have enough time to spend with friends or on hobbies; 46% of parents with only one child say the same.

There are significant differences among mothers by employment status. Fully 59% of full-time working moms say they don't have enough time to spend with friends or pursue outside interests. Part-time working moms (48%) and moms who don't work outside the home (47%) are less likely to express this sentiment. Full-time working dads are less likely than full-time working moms to say they don't have enough time to spend with friends or pursue outside interests – some 45% of full-time working dads say this, while 52% of these dads are satisfied with the amount of time they have for these pursuits.

### Some parents feel more supported than others

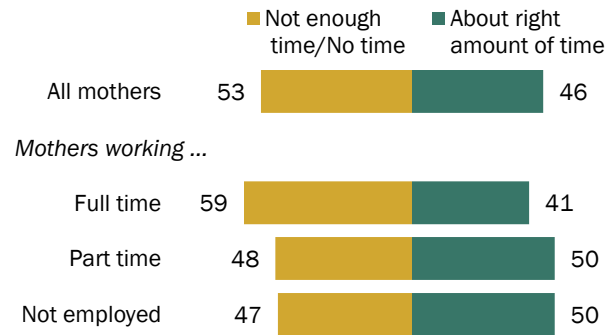
Most American parents say that they have at least some support from friends or extended family when it comes to raising their children – 44% say they have a lot of support and an additional 39% say they have some support. Some 15% of U.S. parents say they have almost no support when it comes to raising their children, and 2% volunteer that they have no support at all.

Moms and dads express similar views about their parenting support networks: 45% of mothers and 44% of fathers say they have a lot of support from friends and extended family when it comes to raising their children. The differences across racial and ethnic groups and by educational attainment are minimal.

Marital status is also linked to parents' perceptions about the level of support they receive from friends and extended family. Parents without a spouse or partner (22%) are significantly more likely than married parents (15%) to say that they have almost no support (or none at all) when it comes to raising their children.

### Most full-time working moms say they don't have enough free time for friends, hobbies

% saying they have \_\_\_\_\_ away from kids to spend with friends or pursuing hobbies



Note: "No time" was a voluntary response. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q15



## Whom do parents turn to for parenting advice?

When parents need advice on raising their children, those who are married or living with a partner lean heavily on that person. Some 57% of these parents say they often turn to their spouse or partner for advice about parenting. An additional 23% say they sometimes rely on their spouse or partner for this type of advice, 8% say they rarely do, and 11% say they never do.

Mothers and fathers are equally likely to say that they turn to their spouse or partner for advice on parenting.

Parents are less reliant on other family members and on friends for parenting advice. Overall, 27% of parents say they often ask a family member (other than their spouse or partner, if they have one) for advice about raising their children. About a third (37%) say they sometimes do this, 21% say they rarely do and 16% say never they never do. Parents whose only or oldest child is younger than 6 are somewhat more likely than those with children ages 6 to 17 to say they often rely on a family members for advice about parenting (33% vs. 25%).

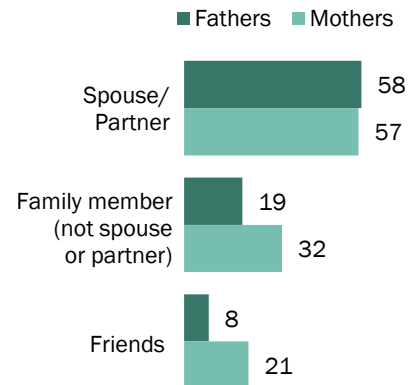
Parents are less likely to use friends as a source of parenting advice. Overall, 15% of parents say they often turn to their friends for advice on parenting, and 35% say they sometimes do. Fully half of parents say they rarely (25%) or never (24%) check in with friends when they need advice about child rearing.

There are significant gaps between mothers and fathers when it comes to seeking advice from family and friends. Mothers are much more likely than fathers to say they often turn to family members (other than their spouse or partner) for advice about parenting. Roughly a third of mothers (32%) say they often rely on family members for advice, while only 19% of fathers say they do the same. Some 44% of dads say they rarely or never get advice on parenting from family members, compared with 30% of moms.

The gender gap is also large when it comes to friends. Roughly one-in-five mothers (21%) say they often turn to friends for advice about raising their children, and an additional 38% of moms say they sometimes do this. By comparison, 8% of dads say they often lean on friends for parenting

### Moms, more than dads, turn to family and friends for parenting advice

% saying they often turn to \_\_\_\_\_ for advice about parenting



Note: Responses for "Spouse/partner" are based on respondents who are married or living with a partner.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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advice, and 33% say they sometimes do. Three-in-ten dads say they never get parenting advice from friends (31% vs. 18% of moms).

## Parenting books, magazines, Facebook and more

Relatively few parents say they rely on outside resources (rather than people) for parenting advice. Fewer than one-in-ten (7%) say they often turn to parenting websites, books or magazines for advice on how to raise their children. Even fewer (4%) say they regularly rely on online message boards, listservs or social media such as Facebook for parenting advice.

Still, a significant share say they consult these outlets at least some of the time. About a third (34%) say they often or sometimes get advice from parenting websites, books or magazines, while 22% say they rarely do this and 44% say they never do. Internet sites where information is shared are used less often: 15% say they often or sometimes turn to online message boards, listservs or social media for parenting advice, 20% say they rarely do this and 64% say they never do.

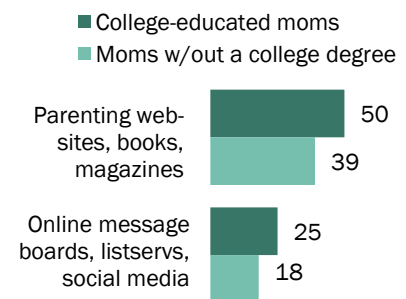
There are significant gaps between mothers and fathers in their reliance on these types of resources. Mothers (43%) are almost twice as likely as fathers (23%) to say they often or sometimes turn to parenting websites, books or magazines for advice. More than half of dads (56%) say they never use these types of resources for parenting advice, compared with 34% of moms. Mothers are more than twice as likely as fathers to say that they turn to online message boards, listservs or social media at least sometimes for advice on raising their kids (21% of moms vs. 9% of dads).

College-educated moms are among the most likely to utilize these parenting resources. Fully half of moms with a college degree say they often or sometimes get advice from parenting websites, book or magazines. This compares with 39% of moms without a bachelor's degree. There is an education gap among fathers as well, and, as a result, dads without a college degree are among the least likely to rely on parenting websites, books or magazines for advice (20% do so at least sometimes compared with 29% of college-educated dads).

Similarly, college-educated moms are among the most likely to use online resources where information is shared to get

### Half of college-educated moms get advice from parenting websites, books, magazines

*% saying they often or sometimes get parenting advice from ...*



Note: "College-educated moms" comprise those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

parenting advice. One-in-four moms with a college degree say they often or sometimes turn to online message boards, listservs or social media for parenting advice. Fewer moms without a college degree (18%) say the same. There is no education gap among dads on this measure – 8% of college-educated dads and 9% of dads without a college degree say they often or sometimes use these types of resources.

Parents who have a young child in the house are significantly more likely than parents with older children to say that they turn to any of these sources for parenting advice. Among those whose youngest child is under age 6, 43% say they often or sometimes turn to parenting websites, books or magazines for parenting advice. Among those whose youngest child is between the ages of 6 and 12, 32% say they do this, and among those whose youngest child is ages 13 to 17, 21% say the same.

Similarly, 20% of parents whose youngest child is under age 6 say they often or sometimes rely on online message boards, listservs or social media for parenting advice. About half the share of parents whose youngest child is age 6 or older say the same (11%).

### 3. Parenting approaches and concerns

American parents across demographic groups say being a parent is central to who they are, but the ways they approach parenting – and the concerns they have about their children – vary in some significant ways between mothers and fathers as well as across generations, and racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.

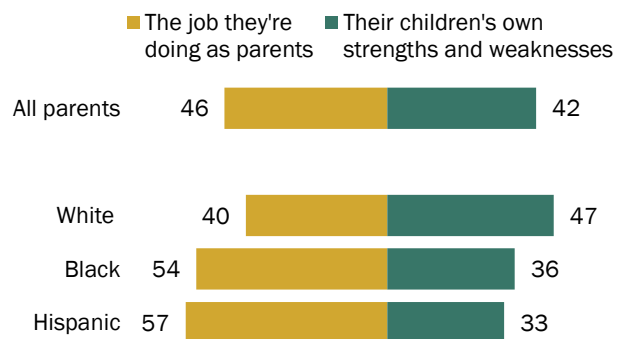
For example, while similar shares of black and white parents say it is extremely important to them for their children to grow up to be honest and ethical and caring and compassionate, black parents place more value than white parents on raising their kids to be hardworking, ambitious and financially independent. Black parents, as well as those who are Hispanic, are also more likely than white parents to say their children’s successes and failures mostly reflect the job they’re doing as parents, while whites are more likely to say this mostly reflects their children’s own strengths and weakness.

When it comes to concerns about challenges their children may face, bullying and mental health issues such as anxiety and depression top the list. But for black and Hispanic parents, as well as for those with lower incomes, the fear that their child or one of their children might get shot at some point is relatively common. And among parents with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000, concerns about teenage pregnancy, physical attacks and their kids getting in trouble with the law are also more prevalent than among those who earn \$75,000 or more.

This chapter explores the parenting styles and philosophies of parents across demographic groups, as well as their concerns and aspirations for their children’s future.

#### Black and Hispanic parents are more likely to see kids’ successes and failures as a reflection of their parenting

*% saying their children’s successes and failures mostly reflect ...*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Voluntary responses of “Both,” “Neither,” “Depends” and “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q30

## Parenting styles differ between mothers and fathers

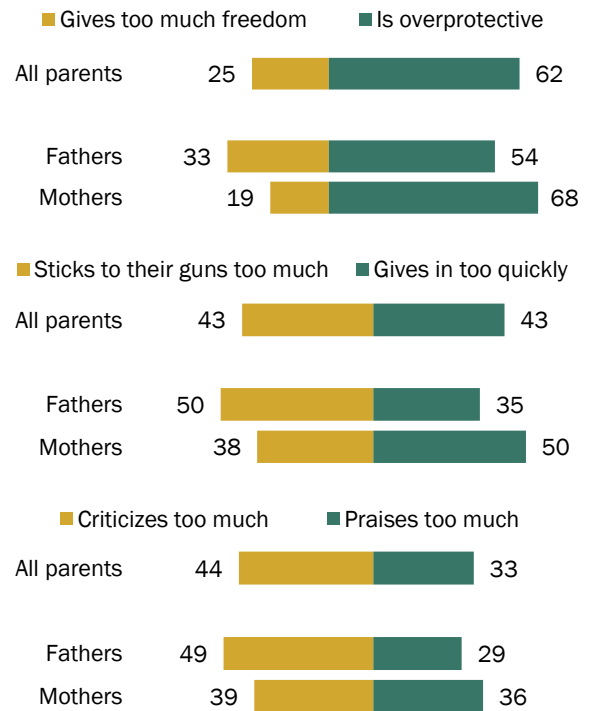
A majority of American parents (62%) say they can sometimes be overprotective, and this is particularly the case among mothers. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) moms describe themselves this way, compared with 54% of dads. About one-in-five (19%) moms and a third of dads say they are the type of parent who sometimes gives too much freedom.

Mothers are also more likely than fathers to describe themselves as a parent who sometimes gives in too quickly. Overall, the same share of parents say they give in too quickly as say they stick to their guns too much (43% each). Among moms, half say they sometimes give in too quickly, while 38% say they sometimes stick to their guns too much. Dads' answers are nearly the mirror opposite: half say they sometimes stick to their guns too much, while 35% say they sometimes give in too quickly.

Mothers and fathers also describe themselves differently when asked if they are the type of parent who criticizes or praises too much. Among all parents, somewhat more say they criticize too much (44%) than praise too much (33%), and this is especially the case among dads. About half (49%) of dads say they sometimes criticize their kids too much, while 29% say they sometimes offer too much praise. Among moms, about an equal share say they sometimes are too critical (39%) as say they sometimes praise their kids too much (36%).

### Most parents say they can be overprotective at times

*% saying they are a parent who sometimes ...*



Note: Voluntary responses of "Neither," "Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q65a-c

## Millennials more likely to say they sometimes give too much praise

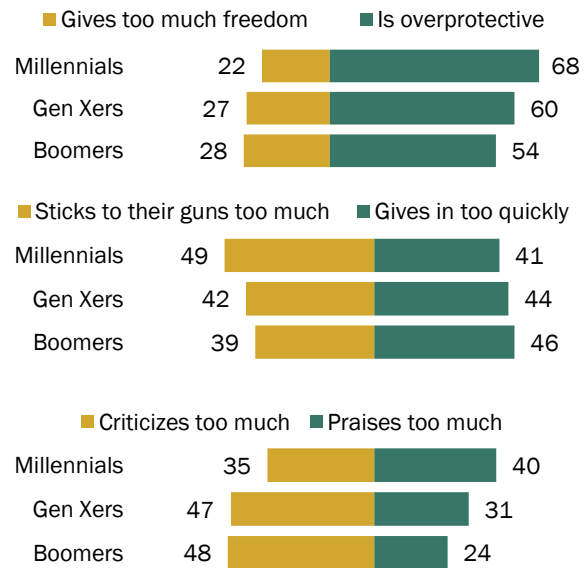
Millennials and older parents describe their parenting styles in different ways, but these differences can be attributed, at least in part, to the fact that Millennials tend to have younger children. For example, about two-thirds (68%) of Millennial parents say they can sometimes be overprotective, compared with 60% of Gen X and 54% of Boomer parents. But when looking only at parents who have children younger than 6, about an equal share of Millennials (71%) and older parents (65%) say they can sometimes be overprotective. Similarly, while Millennials are more likely than older parents to say they sometimes stick to their guns too much when it comes to their children, the difference virtually disappears when only those with young children are considered.

Yet, there is one area in which Millennials stand out, even when looking only at parents with children younger than 6: Millennials are more likely than Gen X or Boomer parents to describe themselves as parents who can sometimes praise too much. Four-in-ten Millennials say this, while 35% say they can sometimes criticize too much. In contrast, about half of Gen X and Boomer parents say they sometimes criticize too much (47% and 48%, respectively), while 31% of Gen Xers and 24% of Boomers say they sometimes give too much praise.

Other demographic differences in parenting styles also stand out. For example, college-educated parents are more likely than those who did not attend college to say they sometimes criticize their kids too much; half of parents with a bachelor's degree or higher and 45% of those with some college describe themselves this way, compared with 36% of parents with a high school diploma or less.

### Parenting styles across generations

% saying they are a parent who sometimes ...



Note: Voluntary responses of "Neither," "Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q65a-c

Across racial and ethnic groups, Hispanics are more likely than white or black parents to say they sometimes praise their kids too much; 42% of Hispanic parents say this, compared with about three-in-ten white (30%) and black (31%) parents. When it comes to describing themselves as overprotective, about seven-in-ten black (70%) and Hispanic (72%) parents do so, compared with a narrower majority of white parents (57%). And black parents (54%) are more likely than white (43%) and Hispanic (41%) parents to say they sometimes stick to their guns too much when it comes to parenting.

## Many parents say their kids' successes and failures reflect parenting

American parents are quite divided on how much responsibility they bear for the happy victories and inevitable defeats their children face as they grow up. For some (46%), their children's successes and failures reflect, for the most part, the job they're doing as parents. But about an equal share (42%) say these ups and downs mostly reflect their children's own strengths and weaknesses. Fathers are somewhat more likely to say their children's successes and failure mostly reflect the job they're doing as parents (47%) than they are to say they reflect the kids' own strengths and weaknesses (40%). Moms are evenly divided: 44% give each answer.

There are also some modest differences by race. Among whites, about half (47%) say their kids' successes and failures are mostly a reflection of the children's own strengths or weaknesses, while somewhat fewer (40%) say it mostly reflects the job they're doing as parents. Among black and Hispanic parents, however, narrow majorities (54% and 57%, respectively) say their children's successes and failures are mostly a reflection of the job they're doing as parents.

### Parents are divided on how they view their children's successes and failures

*% saying their children's successes and failures mostly reflect ...*

	The job they're doing as parents	Children's own strengths/weaknesses	Other/DK
	%	%	%
All parents	46	42	12=100
Fathers	47	40	13=100
Mothers	44	44	11=100
White	40	47	13=100
Black	54	36	11=100
Hispanic	57	33	10=100
College grad+	40	48	12=100
Some college	49	39	12=100
High school or less	49	39	12=100
<i>Age of youngest child</i>			
0-5	50	37	13=100
6-12	48	41	11=100
13-17	34	54	12=100

Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Other/DK" includes those who volunteered "neither," "both," "it depends," or refused to answer the question. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

There are also some differences across education groups. Among parents who have a bachelor's degree, more say their children's successes and failures mostly reflect their children's own strengths and weaknesses (48%) than say this mostly reflects the job they are doing as parents (40%). The opposite is true among those with some college or with a high school diploma or less.

In some ways, views on whether the responsibility lies more with the parent or the child depend on the age of the child. In particular, parents of teenagers are far more likely than parents with younger children to give their offspring the credit, or the blame. About half (54%) of parents whose youngest child is between ages 13 and 17 say their children's successes and failures mostly reflect their children's own strengths and weakness, compared with about four-in-ten for parents whose youngest child is 12 or under.

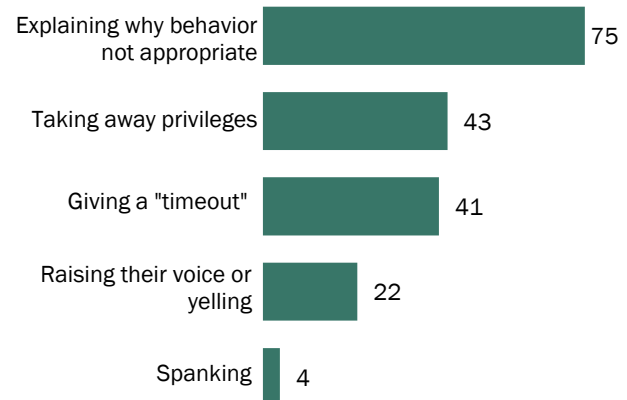
### One-in-six use spanking as discipline at least sometimes

American parents employ many methods of discipline with their children, but explaining why their behavior wasn't appropriate is the one used most frequently: three-quarters of parents say they do this often, while about four-in-ten say they often take away privileges (43%) or give a "timeout" (41% of parents with kids younger than 6). About one-in-five (22%) parents say they often raise their voice or yell at their kids, and 4% say they turn to spanking often as a way to discipline their kids.

With the exception of spanking, mothers are more likely than fathers to say they rely on each method of discipline often. For example, nearly half (47%) of moms say they often take away privileges, compared with 39% of dads who say the same. And while majorities of mothers and father say they often discipline by explaining to their kids why their behavior was inappropriate, more moms than dads say they do this (80% vs. 70%). An equal share of moms and dads (4% each) say they often spank their children when they need to be disciplined.

### Few parents say they spank their kids often as a way to discipline

*% saying they often use each of these methods of discipline*



Note: Only parents with children ages 0-5 were asked about giving a "timeout" (n=662).

Source: Pew Research Center Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q68a-e

While few parents say they frequently rely on spanking, more than four-in-ten (45%) have used this method of discipline with their children, with 17% saying they use it at least some of the time and 28% who rarely spank; 53% say they never spank their children. Black parents are more likely than white or Hispanic parents to say they give spankings at least some of the time: one-third say this, compared with 14% of white parents and 19% of Hispanic parents. And while at least half of white (55%) and Hispanic (58%) parents say they never rely on spanking as a form of discipline, far fewer black parents (31%) say this.

Spanking is also correlated with educational attainment: Parents with a post-graduate degree are less likely than those with a college degree or less education to say they spank their children at least some of the time. Some 8% among the most educated parents say this is the case, compared with 15% of college graduates who did not obtain a post-graduate degree, 18% of those with some college experience, and 22% of those with a high school diploma or less. Among parents with a post-graduate degree, 64% say they never spank, compared with about half of those with less education.

For the most part, reliance on other methods of discipline does not vary as much across demographic groups, but white parents with children younger than 6 are more likely than black and Hispanic parents with children in the same age group to say they often give “timeouts” as a form of discipline (50% vs. 33% and 27%, respectively). And while roughly eight-in-ten among those with at least some college say they often explain to their children why their behavior was inappropriate, about six-in-ten of those with a high school diploma or less say they do this often.

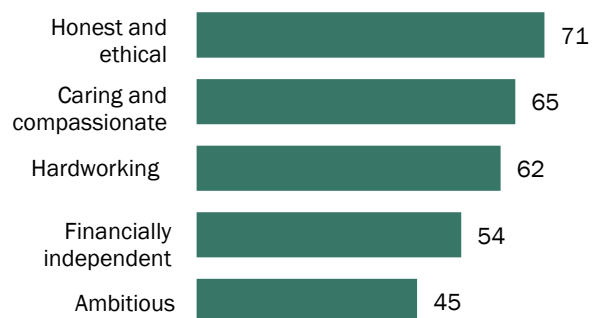
### Parents want to raise honest, compassionate and hardworking kids

About seven-in-ten (71%) American parents say it is extremely important to them that their children be honest and ethical as adults, and at least six-in-ten place the same importance on having kids who grow up to be caring and compassionate (65%) and hardworking (62%).

Financial independence is seen as extremely important by a narrower majority (54%) of

### Honesty, compassion, hard work trump financial independence, ambition when it comes to parents' hopes for their kids

*% saying it is extremely important to them that their children be \_\_\_ as adults*



Source: Pew Research Center Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q23a-e



American parents, while fewer than half (45%) say it is extremely important to them that their children be ambitious as adults.

About the same shares of white and black parents say it is extremely important to them for their children to be honest and ethical and caring and compassionate as adults. But, by double digits, black parents are more likely than white parents to hope their children grow up to be hardworking (72% vs. 62%), financially independent (67% vs. 53%) and ambitious (60% vs. 46%). Hispanic parents are less likely than white or black parents to say they consider each of the five items tested an extremely important trait for their children to have as adults.

Higher-income parents are more likely than those with lower incomes to say it is extremely important to them that their children grow up to be honest and ethical, but majorities across income groups say this (79% among those with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher, 70% with incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999, and 63% with incomes less than \$30,000). About two-thirds or more of parents in the higher-income group say it is extremely important for their kids to be caring and compassionate (71%) and hardworking (66%) as adults. Among those in the lower-income group, about six-in-ten say both of these traits are extremely important (57% and 58%, respectively).

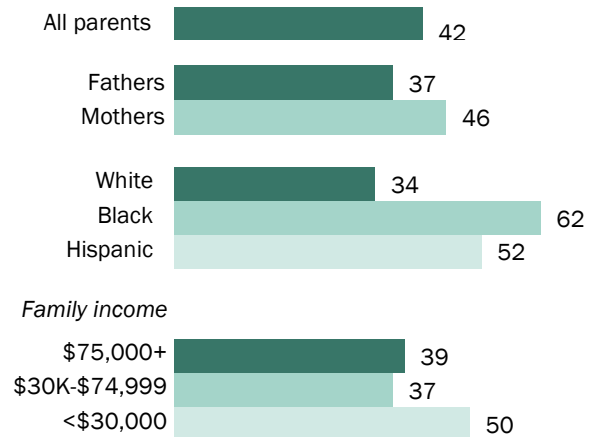
For the most part, there are no generational differences in the traits parents value most, but Millennial parents are more likely than older parents to say it is extremely important to them that their kids grow up to be ambitious. About half (52%) of Millennial parents say this, compared with about four-in-ten Gen X (43%) and Boomer (40%) parents.

### About four-in-ten place high value on college degree

About four-in-ten (42%) parents say it is extremely important to them that their children earn a college degree, and an additional 31% say this is very important to them. Mothers are more likely than fathers to say a college degree is extremely important

### Mothers and non-white and lower-income parents place more importance on college degrees

*% saying it is extremely important to them that their children earn a college degree*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

(46% vs. 37%).

Black and Hispanic parents are more likely than white parents to say it is extremely important to them that their children earn a college degree; about six-in-ten (62%) African American and 52% of Hispanic parents say this, compared with about a third (34%) of white parents.

Parents with lower incomes are also more likely than those with higher incomes to value a college degree. Half of parents with an annual family income below \$30,000 say it is extremely important to them that their children graduate from college, compared with about four-in-ten of those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 (37%) and those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher (39%).

The relationship between having a college degree and seeing it as essential to one's child is not as clear. While parents who have a bachelor's degree are more likely than those with some college to say it is extremely important to them that their children earn a college degree (46% vs. 36%), they are no more likely than those with a high school diploma or less (42%) to say this is the case.

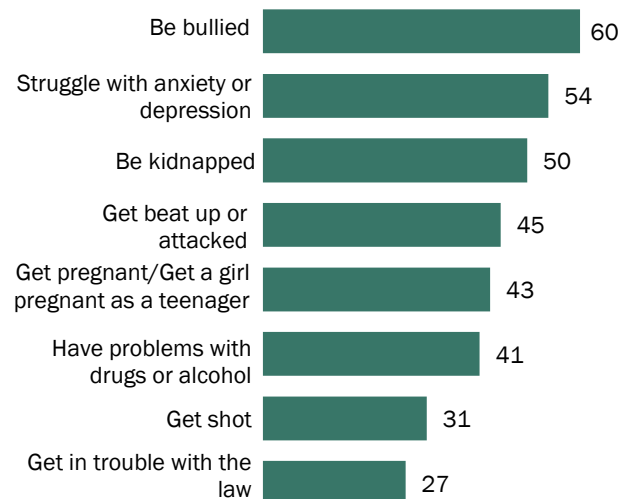
### Bullying tops list of parents' concerns

Six-in-ten parents worry that their child or any of their children might be bullied at some point, and at least half also worry that their children might struggle with anxiety or depression (54%) or that they might be kidnapped (50%). About four-in-ten parents express concerns about their children getting beat up or attacked (45%), getting pregnant or getting a girl pregnant as a teenager (43%) and having problems with drugs or alcohol (41%).

Smaller but substantial shares of parents worry that their children might get shot at some point; about three-in-ten (31%) say this is a concern. And about a quarter (27%) worry

### Six-in-ten parents worry their children might be bullied at some point

*% saying they worry that each of these might happen to their child/any of their children at some point*



Source: Pew Research Center Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q54a-h

their children might get in trouble with the law.

Mothers are particularly concerned about bullying, mental health, and kidnappings. About two-thirds (65%) of mothers worry that their child or children might be bullied at some point, compared with 55% of fathers who worry about this. Similarly, mothers are more likely than fathers to say they worry that their children might struggle with anxiety or depression (57% vs. 51%) and that their kids might be kidnapped (55% vs. 44%).

Parental concerns vary across income groups, with those with an annual family income below \$30,000 far more likely than those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher to worry about violence, teenage pregnancy and legal trouble for their kids. For example, 55% of lower-income parents worry that their children might be beat up or attacked, and 47% worry they might get shot at some point. Among those in the high income group, 38% worry about their children being physically attacked, while about a one-in-five (22%) are concerned about gun violence.

Similarly, more parents with family incomes below \$30,000 (50%) than those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher (43%) worry that their child or children might get pregnant or get a girl pregnant as a teenager. And those with low incomes are about twice as likely as those with high incomes to say they worry their kids might get in trouble with the law at some point (40% vs. 21%, respectively).

There are also some differences in the concerns expressed by parents across different racial and ethnic backgrounds. In particular white parents are far more likely than black parents to worry that their kids might struggle with anxiety or depression (58% vs. 35%) or that they might have problems with drugs or alcohol (40% vs. 23%). Black parents, in turn, are more likely to worry their kids might get shot at some point. About four-in-ten (39%) black parents say this is a concern, compared with about one-in-five (22%) white parents, and this difference persists even when looking only at white and black parents who live in urban areas, where there is more concern about shootings. Overall, 40% of all parents in urban areas worry that their child or children might

**Parents with higher and lower incomes don't always share the same concerns**

*% saying they worry that each of these might happen to their child/any of their children at some point*

	Family income		
	\$75,000+	\$30,000- \$74,999	<\$30,000
	%	%	%
Be bullied	61	62	60
Struggle with anxiety or depression	55	55	55
Be kidnapped	44	51	59
Get beat up or attacked	38	44	55
Get pregnant/Get a girl pregnant as a teenager	43	40	50
Have problems with drugs or alcohol	44	36	41
Get shot	22	29	47
Get in trouble with the law	21	25	40

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q54a-h

get shot, compared with 29% of parents in the suburbs and 21% of parents in rural parts of the country.

On nearly all items tested, Hispanic parents are more likely than white or black to express concern. By double digits, more Hispanic than black or white parents say they worry that their child or children might be bullied, be kidnapped, get beat up or attacked, get pregnant or get a girl pregnant as teenager, have problems with alcohol, get shot, and get in trouble with the law. Hispanic parents are about as likely as white parents – and far more likely than black parents - to worry about their kids struggling with anxiety or depression.

Concerns about bullying and kidnappings are especially prevalent among parents with kids younger than 13. At least six-in-ten parents whose only or youngest child is younger than 6 (66%) or between ages 6 and 12 (62%) say that they worry their children might be bullied at some point, compared with about half (49%) of those whose youngest child is a teenager. Similarly, about six-in-ten (57%) parents with children younger than 6 worry that their children might be kidnapped, compared with 50% of those whose youngest child is between 6 and 12 years old, and even fewer among those with only teenagers (38%).

**At what age should children be left alone without adult supervision?**

While some states and jurisdictions have laws or guidelines about when children can or should be allowed to be at home or in public without adult supervision, the decision often rests with parents, and half or more say kids should be at least 10 years old before they are allowed to play in front of the house, stay home alone for a short period, or spend time at a public park unsupervised.

## Parental concerns vary across racial and ethnic groups

*% saying they worry each of these might happen to their child/any of their children at some point*

	White	Black	Hispanic
	%	%	%
Be bullied	59	50	71
Struggle with anxiety or depression	58	35	61
Be kidnapped	44	48	71
Get beat up or attacked	38	45	67
Get pregnant/Get a girl pregnant as a teenager	38	37	63
Have problems with drugs or alcohol	40	23	58
Get shot	22	39	59
Get in trouble with the law	21	27	52

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q54a-h

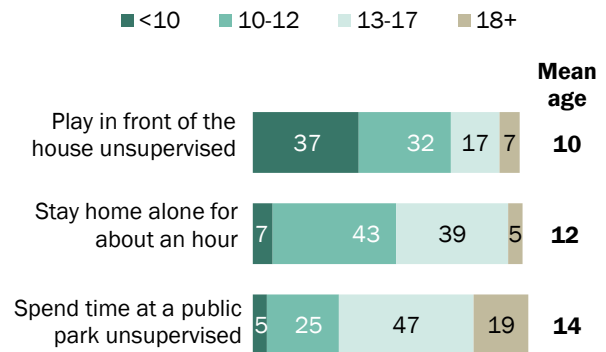
The average age at which parents say children should be allowed to play in front of the house unsupervised while an adult is inside is 10. On average, parents say children should be older than that before they are allowed to stay home alone for about an hour (12 years old) or to spend time at a public park unsupervised (14 years old).

Parents' notions about when it is OK for children to be unsupervised at home and in public are correlated with their views of their neighborhood as a good place to raise kids. For example, among parents who describe their neighborhood as excellent or very good, the average age at which a child should be allowed to play in front of the house unsupervised is 9, compared with 11 for those who describe their neighborhood as fair or poor. Similarly, those who give their neighborhood high marks say a child should be 13 years old in order to spend time at a public park unsupervised; those who say their neighborhood is a fair or poor place to raise kids say children should be at least 15 to be at a public park unsupervised.

On two of the three items, Hispanic parents give a higher age, on average, than do white or black parents. For example, the average age at which Hispanic parents say children should be allowed to spend time at a public park unsupervised is 15, compared with 13 among white parents and 14 among black parents. Similarly, Hispanic parents think children should be 14 before they can stay home alone for about an hour, while white parents say this should be allowed to happen when children are 12 and black parents say it should happen when children are 13. When it comes to letting kids play in front of the house while an adult is inside, white parents give a considerably lower age (9 years old) than do black or Hispanic parents (12 years old each).

## Parents say kids should be at least 10 to be alone at home or in public without adult supervision

Age at which parents say children should be allowed to do each of these things



Notes: "18+" includes parents who said children should never be allowed to do these things. Voluntary responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q44a-c

## Divorced and separated parents more likely to disagree about raising kids

While mothers and fathers approach parenting differently in many respects, from the way they describe themselves as parents to the concerns they have, relatively few say they often have disagreements with their spouse, partner, or children's other parent about how to raise the kids.

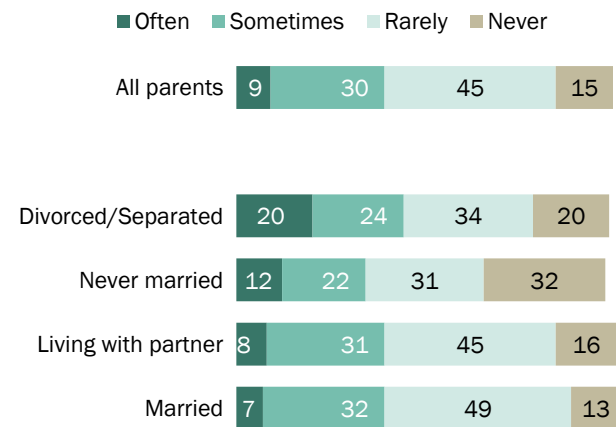
Overall, about one-in-ten (9%) say this is the case; an additional 30% say they sometimes have disagreements, while most say they rarely (45%) or never (15%) do.

Parents who are divorced or separated are more likely than other parents to say they often have disagreements about child rearing with the other parent of their child or children. One-in-five divorced or separated parents say this is the case, compared with 12% of parents who have never been married and are not cohabiting, 8% of those who are living with a partner with whom they share at least one child, and 7% of those who are married to the parent of one or more of their children.

But divorced or separated parents are also among the most likely to say they never have disagreements with their children's other parent. One-in-five say this, compared with 16% of cohabiting and 13% of married parents. Single parents who have never been married are the most likely to say they never have disagreements with their children's other parent about how to raise the kids; 32% say this.

### One-in-five separated or divorced parents say they disagree with children's other parent often

*% saying they \_\_\_ disagree with their spouse, partner, or children's other parent about child rearing*



Notes: Results for parents who are married or living with a partner are based only on respondents who have at least one child with their spouse or partner. Voluntary responses of "Don't know/Refused" and "There is no other parent" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q50

## 4. Child care and education: quality, availability and parental involvement

Many parents say that too much parental involvement in a child's education can be a bad thing, and about half of those with school-age children say they are satisfied with the level of their own involvement in their children's education. Still, more than four-in-ten say they wish they could be more involved. This is particularly the case among black parents; about six-in-ten say they would like to be more involved, compared with about four-in-ten white and Hispanic parents.

Child care is a major concern for parents with children who are not yet school age. A majority of parents with one or more children younger than 6 say it's hard to find high-quality, affordable child care in their community. Among parents with school-age children, about four-in-ten say it's hard to find after-school activities and programs that are both affordable and high quality. Black parents – as well as those with lower incomes – are more likely than other parents to say this is a challenge for them.

This chapter explores parents' involvement in their children's education and school activities, as well as child care and after-school arrangements, across different socioeconomic and racial groups. It also looks at parents' approaches to education, including how much pressure they put on their children to succeed academically and whether they would be disappointed if their children got average grades.

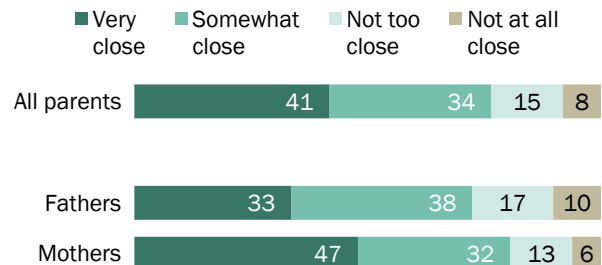
### Parents have mixed views about children's academic performance

Parents generally feel that children should never feel bad about themselves because of poor grades in school as long as they try hard; 41% say this is very close to their view, and an additional 34% say it is somewhat close. Still, about a quarter (23%) of parents say this is not too close or not at all close to their opinion.

Mothers are more likely than fathers to say the sentiment that kids shouldn't feel bad about their academic performance as long as they try hard is very close to their own view; about half

### Most parents generally agree that kids shouldn't feel bad about poor grades as long as they try hard

*% saying the statement "As long as they try hard, children should never feel bad about themselves because of poor grades in school" comes \_\_\_\_\_ to their own view*



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q67a

(47%) of moms say this, compared with a third of dads.

There are no significant differences on this question across generations or racial, educational or income groups, but there is a difference in how parents with different ideological leanings approach this. Fully half of parents who describe themselves as politically liberal say the notion that children should never feel bad about themselves because of poor grades as long as they try hard is very close to their own view; fewer conservative (39%) and moderate (32%) parents say this is the case. Despite this ideological difference, partisan splits are not evident on this question.

While parents generally agree that children shouldn't feel bad about themselves because of poor grades as long as they make an effort, many say they would be very disappointed if their child got average grades in school. About one-in-five say this is very close (19%) to the way they feel, and about a third (32%) say it is somewhat close. Somewhat more fathers (22%) than mothers (17%) say this comes very close to their view, but about half in each group say it is at least somewhat close.

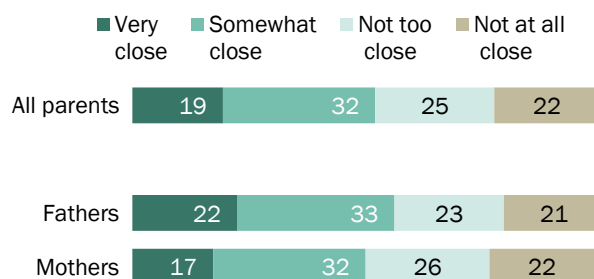
Parents who have a bachelor's degree are considerably more likely than those who don't to say that the statement, "I would be very disappointed if my child got average grades in school" comes at least somewhat close to their own view; 60% among college graduates say this, compared with 45% of parents with some college and 48% of those with a high school diploma or less. Similarly, parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher are more likely than those with lower incomes to say this comes at least somewhat close to their view (58% vs. 47% of those with incomes under \$30,000).

## Most parents say they put the right amount of pressure on their kids

The large majority of American parents with school-age children say they put the right amount of pressure on their kids to do well in school (82%), but one-in-ten say they don't put enough pressure on their kids, and 7% say they exert too much pressure.

### Many would be disappointed if their children got poor grades

% saying the statement "I would be very disappointed if my child got average grades in school" comes \_\_\_ to their own view



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q67b



Parents who do not have a college degree are twice as likely as those who do to say they don't put enough pressure on their kids to do well in school (12% vs. 6%), although about three-quarters or more across education groups say they put the right amount of pressure on their kids. Similarly, those with lower incomes are slightly more likely than those with higher incomes to say they could be putting more academic pressure on their kids; 16% of those with annual family incomes below \$30,000 say this, compared with 10% of those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and 7% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher.

### Most parents are satisfied with the quality of education their kids are getting

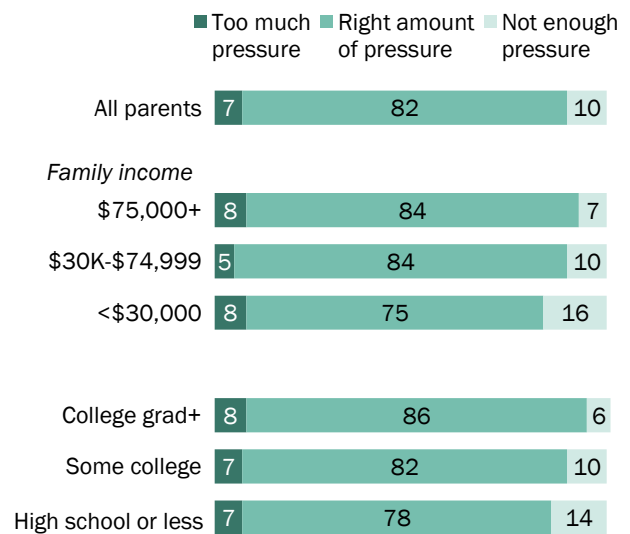
Half of parents with school-age children say they are very satisfied with the quality of education their children are receiving at school, and an additional 36% are somewhat satisfied; just 13% say they are very (4%) or somewhat (9%) dissatisfied.

For many parents, opinions about the quality of education at their kids' schools and views about their neighborhoods go hand in hand. Six-in-ten parents with school-age children who describe their neighborhood as an excellent place to raise kids say they are very satisfied with the education their kids are getting. About half (52%) of those who say their neighborhood is a very good place to raise kids, and fewer among those who rate their neighborhood as good (39%) or fair or poor (40%), are very satisfied with the quality of education their children are receiving.

Hispanic parents are more likely than white or black parents to say they are very satisfied with the quality of education at their kids' schools (62% vs. 49% and 48%, respectively).

### Low-income parents slightly more likely to say they don't put enough pressure on their kids to do well in school

% saying they put \_\_\_ on their school-age children to do well in school



Notes: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q31

## Can too much parental involvement in a child's education be a bad thing?

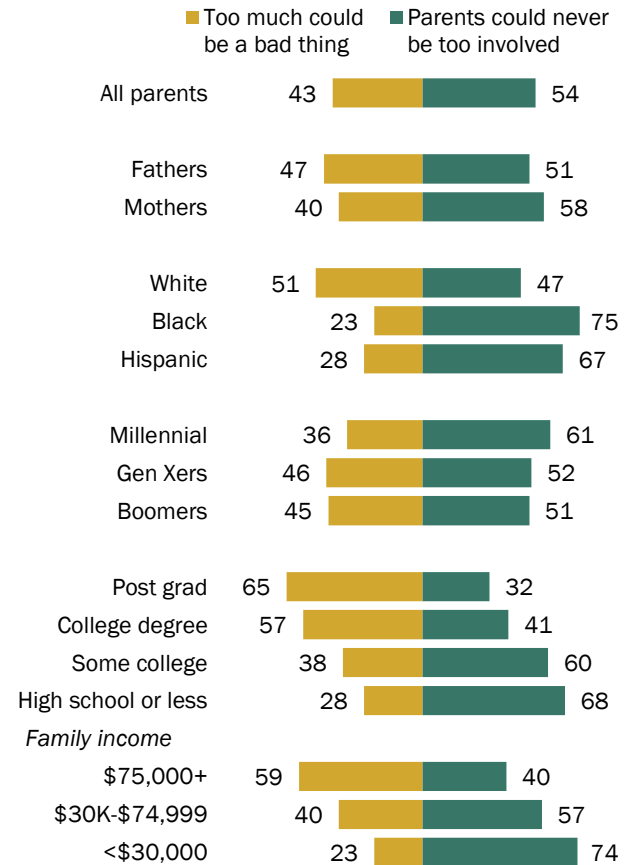
About half (54%) of American parents say parents can never be too involved when it comes to their children's education, but about four-in-ten (43%) say too much involvement could be a bad thing. Mothers are somewhat less likely than fathers to say too much parental involvement in a child's education could be a bad thing (40% vs. 47%).

Views about parental involvement in a child's education also vary by race and ethnicity, with white parents far more likely than black or Hispanic parents to say too much can be a bad thing. About as many whites say this (51%) as say a parent could never be too involved (47%). In contrast, only 23% of black parents and 28% of Hispanic parents think too much parental involvement in a child's education could be a bad thing, while 75% and 67%, respectively, say parents could never be too involved.

Parents with a bachelor's degree, as well as those with higher incomes, are more likely than those with less education and lower incomes to say too much parental involvement in a child's education could be a bad thing. Six-in-ten college graduates say this, compared with 38% of parents with some college and 28% of parents with a high school diploma or less. On the flip side, at least six-in-ten of those with some college (60%) or no college (68%) say one could never be too involved, compared with 37% of parents with a college degree or more. But even among parents who have graduated from college, those with a post-graduate degree are more likely than those without to say too much parental involvement in their kids' education could be a bad thing (65% vs. 57%).

### About half say parents could never be too involved in their kids' education

*% saying that when it comes to parental involvement in a child's education ...*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q62

Similarly, 59% of parents with an annual family income of \$75,000 or higher say too much involvement could have negative effects. Four-in-ten parents with family incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and even fewer (23%) among those with an income under \$30,000 share this view.

Across generations, Millennials are more likely than older parents to say parents could never be too involved in their children’s education, but these differences are driven primarily by the views of Millennial moms. Overall, 61% of Millennial parents say one could never be too involved, compared with 52% of Gen X parents and 51% of Boomer parents. Like mothers and fathers in older generations, about half (51%) of Millennial dads say parents could never be too involved in their children’s education; 66% of Millennial moms share this view.

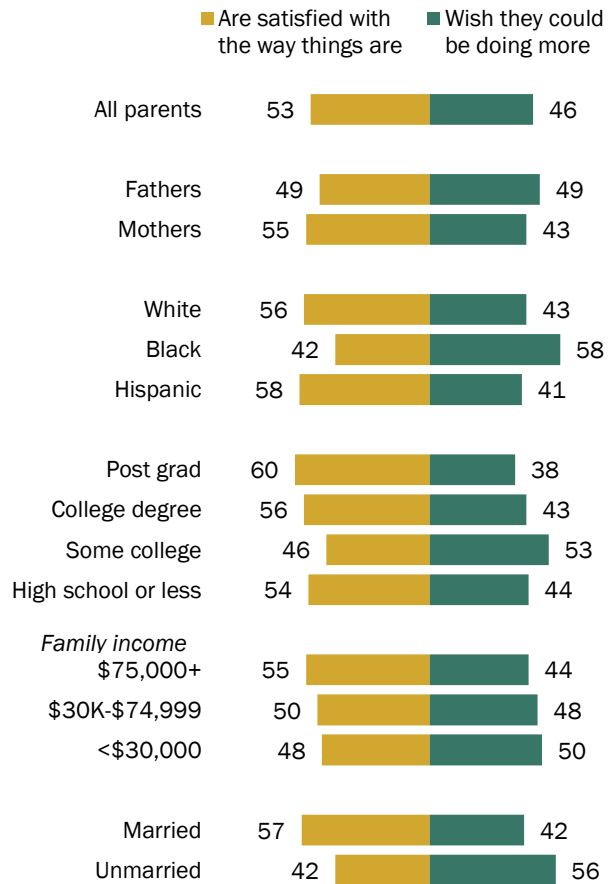
**About half of parents wish they could be more involved**

When it comes to assessments of their own involvement in their kids’ education, close to half (46%) of parents of school-age children say they wish they could be doing more, although somewhat more (53%) say they are satisfied with the way things are. Dads are somewhat more likely than moms to say they wish they could be more involved in their kids’ education (49% vs. 43%).

Self-assessments also differ by race and ethnicity. About six-in-ten (58%) black parents

**About six-in-ten black parents wish they could be more involved in their kids’ education**

*% saying that when it comes to their own involvement in their children’s education they ...*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Unmarried parents include those who are living with a partner but not married. Voluntary responses of “Doing too much” and “Don’t know/Refused” not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

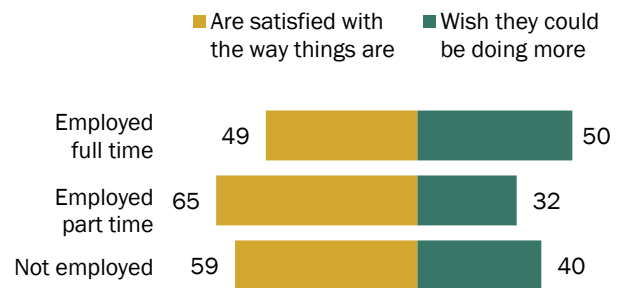
wish they could be doing more when it comes to their children's education, compared with about four-in-ten white (43%) and Hispanic (41%) parents. There is not a clear link between parents' education or income and assessments of their involvement in their children's education.

Unmarried parents are more likely than those who are married to say they wish they could be doing more when it comes to their children's education. While about four-in-ten (42%) married parents would like to be more involved in their children's education, 56% of those who are unmarried say this is the case.

Moms who work full time are more likely than those who work part time or are not employed to say they wish they could be more involved in their children's education (50% vs. 32% and 40%, respectively). Among dads, however, there is no significant difference in the shares of those who are employed full time (49%) and those who are employed part time or not employed (53%) saying they wish they could be doing more when it comes to involvement in their children's education.<sup>22</sup>

### Full-time working moms are less satisfied with their level of involvement in children's education

*% of mothers saying that when it comes to their own involvement in their children's education they ...*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Voluntary responses of "Doing too much" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q63

### Most parents say they're involved with school-related activities

More than eight-in-ten (85%) parents with one or more school-age children say they talked to a teacher about their children's academic progress in the 12 months prior to the survey, and at least six-in-ten attended a PTA or other special school meeting (64%) or helped out with special projects, activities or a class trip at school (60%). Overall, about four-in-ten (43%) say they did all three of these activities in the year prior to the survey, while about half (49%) did one or two, and just 8% were not engaged in any of these school-related activities.

Moms are somewhat more likely than dads to say they participated in each of these activities in the previous 12 months, although majorities in both groups say they have done each of these things. For example, nine-in-ten mothers with school-age children say they talked to a teacher about their

<sup>22</sup> There are not enough fathers of school-age children in the sample who are employed part time or not employed to analyze each group separately.

children's academic progress in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared with 78% of fathers with kids in the same age group. Similarly, 67% of moms say they attended a PTA meeting or other special school meeting and 63% helped out with special projects, activities or class trips; among dads, 61% say they attended a school meeting and 57% say they volunteered to help out with a special project or activity.

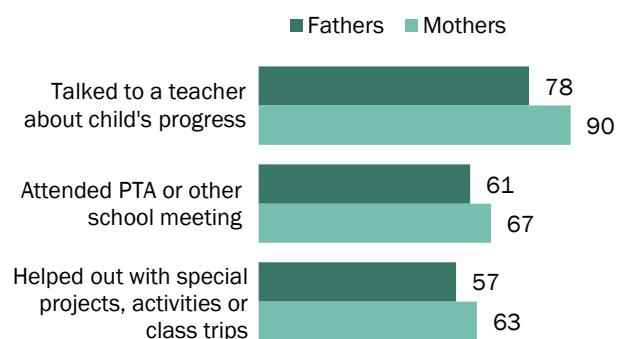
White parents are somewhat more likely than black or Hispanic parents to say they helped out with a special project, activity or class trip in the 12 months before the survey (63% vs. 56% and 51%, respectively). But a larger share of black parents (75%) than white parents (63%) say they attended a PTA meeting or other special school meeting over that period; 68% of Hispanic parents say they did this.

Across socioeconomic groups, parents with higher incomes and those who attended college are far more likely than those with lower incomes and those with a high school education or less to say they helped out with special projects, activities or a class trip at their children's school during the 12 months prior to the survey. About seven-in-ten higher-income and college-educated parents (69% each) say they did this over that period, compared with about half of those with annual family incomes less than \$30,000 and those who did not attend college.

Parents with at least some college experience are also more likely than other parents to say they attended a PTA or other school meetings or talked to a teacher about their children's progress in the 12 months before the survey. When it comes to participation in these activities, differences across income groups is modest at best.

## Most moms and dads say they have participated in school meetings and activities

*% saying they have done each of these things in the past 12 months*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q94a-c

## After-school arrangements vary by income

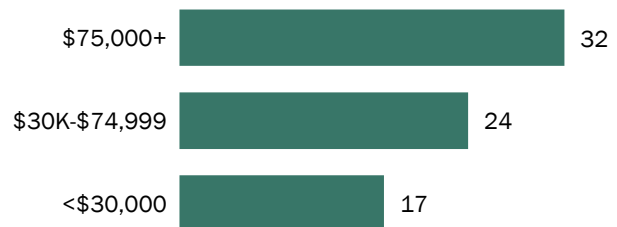
Seven-in-ten parents say their school-age children go home after school, while about a quarter say they participate in after-school activities (18%) or use an after-care program (8%). Parents with higher incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to say their children participate in after-school activities or go to an after-care program; 32% of those with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher use one of these options, compared with 24% of those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and 17% of those with incomes below \$30,000. Parents with incomes below \$30,000 are more likely to say their children go home after school; about eight-in-ten (79%) say this, compared with about two-thirds of those with higher incomes.

Parents of teenagers are more likely than those whose only or oldest child is ages 6 to 12 to say their children participate in after-school activities (22% vs. 12%), while after-care programs are a more popular option for those with younger school-age kids than for those whose oldest child is a teenager (13% vs. 4%).

Perhaps not surprisingly, parents in two-parent households where both parents work full time are more likely than those in families where one works full time and one works part time and families where only one parent is working outside of the home to use after-care programs (11% vs. 3% and 4%, respectively). But about the same shares of parents in families where both parents work full time (22%) and in families with one parent who works full time and one who works part time (25%) say their children participate in after-school activities; just 9% of families with one parent at home say this. In these families, 79% say their kids go home after school, compared with 68% in families where both parents work at least part time.

### Higher-income parents are more likely to have their kids in after-school activities

*% saying their children participate in activities or go to an after-care program after school*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Respondents were asked about all arrangements they use, and multiple responses were recorded by the interviewer. Other responses given by respondents included going home, going to a relative's house, going to a friend's house, or going to a neighbor's house. Overall, 70% said their children go home after school. Income is annual family income.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q41a

## For some parents, good after-school programs can be hard to find

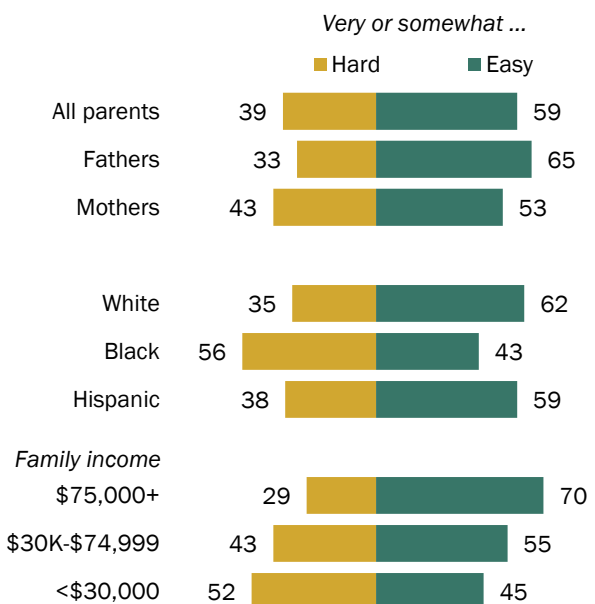
Most parents of school-aged children are upbeat about the availability of after-school activities in their community, although many say affordable, high-quality programs are hard to find. Roughly six-in-ten parents with children ages 6 to 17 say it is very (25%) or somewhat (34%) easy to find affordable, high-quality after-school activities and programs for school-aged children in their community. About four-in-ten say it is very (14%) or somewhat (25%) hard to find these activities.

Mothers (43%) are somewhat more likely than fathers (33%) to say it's difficult to find good after-school activities where they live. And there are major gaps by race and socioeconomic status. Many black parents (56%) with school-aged children say it is hard to find affordable, high-quality after-school programs in their community; only 43% say this is easy. By contrast, about six-in-ten white (62%) and Hispanic parents (59%) say it's easy to find these types of activities for school-aged kids where they live.

Parents from lower-income families have a more negative assessment of the availability of after-school programs in their communities than parents in higher-income families. Among parents with school-aged children who say their annual family income is less than \$30,000, 52% say it is hard to find high-quality, affordable after-school programs where they live; 45% say this is easy. Parents from middle-income families lean in the opposite direction, with 55% saying it's easy to find these after-school activities and 43% saying it's hard. Parents with family incomes in excess of \$75,000 have a much more positive view: 70% say it's easy (and 29% say it's hard) to find affordable, high-quality activities for school-aged children where they live.

### Big racial, income gaps in availability of after-school programs

*% of parents with children ages 6 to 17 saying it is \_\_\_\_\_ to find after-school activities and programs for school-aged children in their community that are affordable and high quality*



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q58



## Finding affordable, high-quality day care

About half (48%) of working parents with at least one child younger than 6 say their children attend day care or preschool, while 45% say their kids are cared for by a family member when the parents are at work, and 16% rely on a nanny or babysitter.

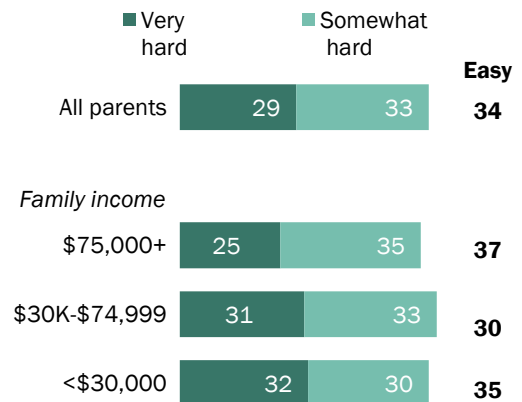
White parents with young children are more likely than non-white parents to say their kids attend day care or preschool (55% vs. 39%). Those with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or more are about twice as likely as those with lower incomes to say their young children are in this type of child care arrangement (66% vs. 32%). In turn, those with incomes below \$75,000 are far more likely than those with higher incomes to rely on a family member to care for their children while they are at work (57% vs. 35%).<sup>23</sup>

Child care can be a major expense for working parents, and the cost has gone up significantly in recent years. [Census data](#) show that average weekly child care expenses for families with working mothers increased from \$84 per week in 1985 to \$143 per week in 2011 (both in 2011 dollars).<sup>24</sup> And the burden of child care costs falls more heavily on lower-income parents, as it takes up a larger proportion of their household earnings.

The challenges parents face in finding and affording child care for their young children are reflected in one striking finding from the survey: A majority of parents with one or more children younger than 6 say it is very (29%) or somewhat (33%) hard to find affordable, high-quality child care in their community. Mothers and fathers agree on this point. And there are few differences among parents from different races, income groups or educational backgrounds.

### Most parents, regardless of income, say good, affordable child care is hard to find

*% of parents with one or more children younger than 6 saying it is \_\_\_ to find child care for young children in their community that is affordable and high quality*



Note: Based on all parents of children ages 0 to 5, regardless of employment status. Easy includes responses of "very" or "somewhat" easy. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q57

<sup>23</sup> Because of the relatively small number of working parents with children younger than 6 in the sample, it is not possible to provide more detailed break downs of non-white or income groups.

<sup>24</sup> Dollar figures are adjusted for inflation and based on families who paid for child care and a mother is present and children are under the age of 15.



Unmarried parents are more likely than those who are married to say that it's hard to find high quality, affordable day care where they live (70% vs. 58%). And families with two full-time working parents – who are highly likely to be in need of child care – are much more likely to say this is a challenge in their community than are those in families in which one of the parents does not work outside of the home. Among parents in families where both the mother and father work full time, 67% say it's hard to find affordable, high-quality day care where they live. By comparison, some 53% of in families with a parent at home say the same.

## How involved are parents in their young kids' education?

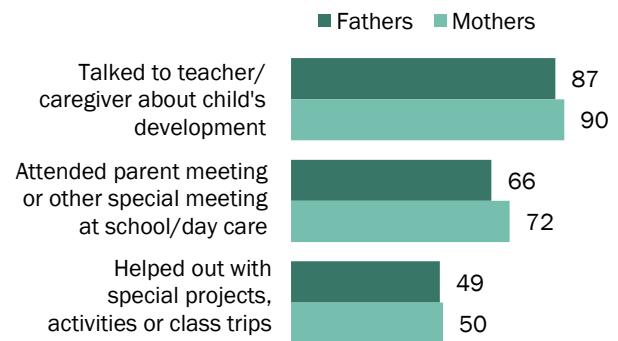
Nearly half (45%) of parents with at least one child younger than 6 say that they have a child who attends a day care, preschool or pre-kindergarten program. An overwhelming majority of these parents (89%) say that, in the 12 months prior to the survey, they talked to a teacher or caregiver at their child's day care or preschool about their child's development. Mothers (90%) and fathers (87%) are about equally likely to say they did this.

About seven-in-ten (69%) parents whose children younger than 6 are enrolled in day care or preschool say they attended a parent meeting or other special meeting at the facility in the year leading up to the survey. Again, similar shares of mothers (72%) and fathers (66%) say they did this.

Half of parents with young children in day care or preschool say they helped out with special projects, activities or class trips in the year prior to the survey.

### Mothers and fathers equally involved in day care and preschool activities

*% of parents with one or more children younger than 6 who attend day care or preschool saying they have \_\_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months*



Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q81a-c

## Half of parents read to their young children daily

Among all parents with at least one child under the age of 6, 51% say that they read aloud to their young children every day. An additional 31% say that they read to their children a few times a week. Some 8% say that they do this about once a week, and 9% say they read aloud less often than that.

There is a significant gender gap on this item: Mothers (58%) are more likely than fathers (43%) to say that they read to their young children every day.

White parents with young children are significantly more likely than non-white parents to say that they read to their young children daily. About six-in-ten (59%) white parents say they read aloud to their kids every day, compared with 39% of non-white parents. A higher share of non-white parents than white parents say they read to their children a few times a week (39% vs. 27%).

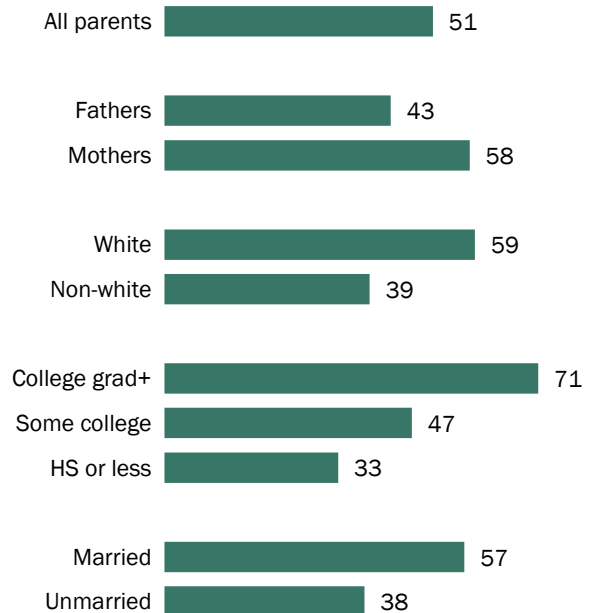
Parents with a bachelor's degree are among the most likely to say they read aloud to their young children every day – 71% say they do. By comparison, 47% of parents with some college education and 33% of those with a high school diploma or less say they do the same.

Finally, while about six-in-ten married parents (57%) say they read to their infants or preschoolers on a daily basis, only 38% of unmarried parents say they do.

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### Strong link between parents' gender, race, educational background and reading aloud to young children

*% of parents with one or more children younger than 6 saying they read aloud to their children every day*



Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Hispanics are included in non-whites. Unmarried parents include those who are living with a partner but not married.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q77

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## 5. Children's extracurricular activities

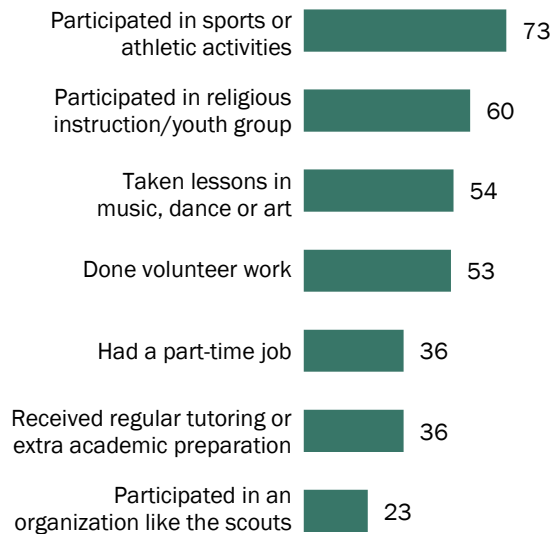
Most parents with one or more school-age children say it is easy to find after-school activities and programs in their community, and this is reflected in the fact that most parents say their children participated in some form of extracurricular activity in the 12 months prior to the survey. Sports or athletic activities are the most popular, but at least half of parents say their children ages 6 to 17 have participated in religious instruction, taken music, dance or art lessons, or done volunteer work.

Even more parents report that their school-age children watch TV, movies or videos (90%) or play games (79%) on any electronic device on a typical day, and about half of these parents say their children spend too much time on these activities. About eight-in-ten parents with children younger than 6 also say their children have screen time on a typical day, but fewer say their children spend too much time watching videos or playing games on electronic devices.

The survey finds that parents with higher income and higher education generally are more likely to report that their children participate in various activities after school. Meanwhile, these parents tend to worry more about their children doing too much. These findings are consistent with what sociologists have found about parenting approaches among parents of different socioeconomic status.<sup>25</sup>

### Seven-in-ten parents say their school-aged kids participated in sports in the past year

*% saying any of their children have \_\_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Figure for "Had a part-time job" is based on parents with at least one child ages 13 to 17.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q86a-g

<sup>25</sup> See Lareau, Annette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. University of California Press.

## Parents' income and education linked to kids' extracurricular activities

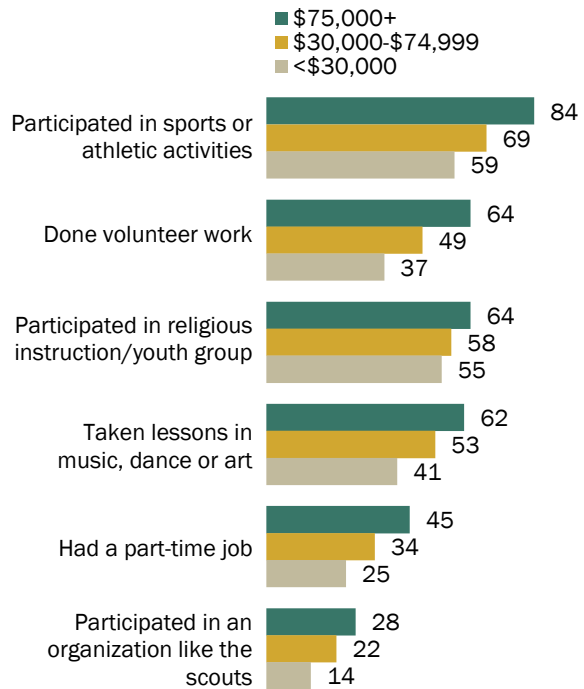
The survey asked parents with school-aged children about a variety of activities that take place outside of regular school hours. Sports are by far the most popular extracurricular activity for kids in this age group. About seven-in-ten parents (73%) with at least one child ages 6 to 17 say that their children participated in sports or athletic activities in the 12 months prior to the survey. Religious-based activities are also quite common: 60% of parents say that their children were in a church youth group or received religious instruction. About half of parents (54%) say that their children took music, dance or art lessons over that period, and a similar share (53%) say their children did volunteer work.

About one-in-three parents (36%) say that their children received regular tutoring or extra academic preparation in the 12 months before the survey. And about one-in-five (23%) parents say that their children participated in an organization such as the scouts. Among parents of teenagers, 36% say that their children had a part-time job during the 12 months leading up to the survey.

Parents with higher income and education are more likely to report that their children participate in various extracurricular activities. Among parents with an annual family income of \$75,000 or higher, 84% say their children participated in sports or athletic activities in the 12 months prior to the survey; 62% say their children took music, dance or art lessons. By contrast, some 59% of parents with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 say their children participated in sports, and 41% say their children took lessons in music, dance or art over that period.

### Extracurricular activities are more common in higher-income families

% saying any of their children have \_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Income is annual family income. Figure for "Had a part-time job" is based on parents with at least one child ages 13 to 17.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q86a-g

A similar pattern is evident across education groups, with college graduates more likely than those with some college or with a high school diploma or less to say their children have participated in extracurricular activities. For example, about eight-in-ten (83%) parents with a bachelor's degree say their children participated in sports or athletic activities in the year prior to the survey, and 66% say that their children took music, dance or art lessons. Among parents with a high school education or less, the shares are 63% and 42%, respectively.

In addition to sports and arts, children from families with higher income and education are more likely to do volunteer work than other children. Some 64% of parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher say their children did volunteer work in the year prior to the survey, and the share among middle-income parents and low-income parents (less than \$30,000) is 49% and 37%, respectively. Meanwhile, 62% of parents with a college degree say that their children did volunteer work over that period, compared with 54% of parents with some college education and 41% of parents with a high school education or less.

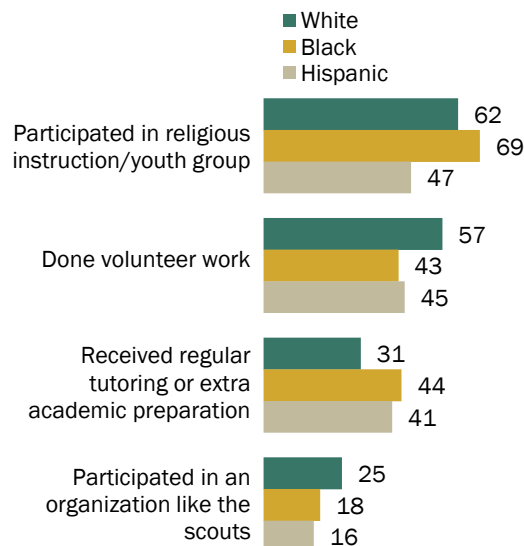
Overall, relatively small shares of parents across socioeconomic groups say their school-age children participate in an organization like the scouts, but here, too, participation is more common among families with higher income and education. For example, 28% of parents with college degrees say their child or at least one of their children was a scout in the year leading up to the survey, compared with 20% of parents without a bachelor's degree.

Teenagers from higher-income families are more likely than their peers to have had some work experience in the year before the survey. Among parents with annual incomes of \$75,000 or higher, 45% say their teenager worked at a part-time job during this period. About a third (34%) of middle-income parents and 25% of lower-income parents say the same.

Race and ethnicity are linked to participation in some extracurricular activities but not to

### Some children's activities are linked to parents' racial background

% saying any of their children have \_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

others. When it comes to athletic activities, there are no significant differences by race: white (75%), black (68%) and Hispanic (69%) parents are about equally likely to say that their school-aged children participated in sports in the year prior to the survey. And roughly equivalent shares of white (55%), black (47%) and Hispanic (52%) parents say their children took music, dance or art lessons over that period.

White and black parents are more likely than Hispanic parents to report that their children participated in religious instruction or church youth activities in the 12 months prior to the survey. And black and Hispanic parents are more likely than white parents to say that their children have received tutoring or extra academic help over that period.

White parents are more likely than other parents to report that their children did volunteer work, had a part-time job or participated in an organization like the scouts in the 12 months leading up to the survey.

For the most part, parents with younger school-age kids are as likely as those with teenagers to say their children participate in extracurricular activities. The exception is volunteering: Two-thirds (67%) of parents with only teenagers at home say that their children did volunteer work over the year prior to the survey, compared with 36% of those whose oldest child is between ages 6 and 12.

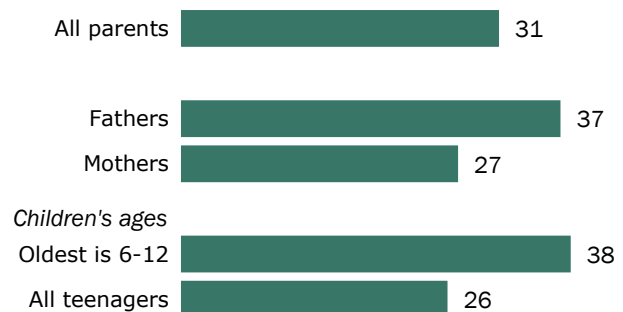
### Three-in-ten parents have coached their children's sports

Parents often play an active role in children's activities. About three-in-ten parents of school-age children (31%) say that in the 12 months leading up to the survey, they helped coach a sport or athletic activity in which their children participate. Parents from different incomes and education, as well as racial and ethnic backgrounds, are equally likely to say they have done that over the same period.

More fathers (37%) than mothers (27%) say they helped with coaching their children's sports in the year prior to the survey, and parents with younger school-age children are more likely than those with teenagers to say

### Parents with younger children are more active in coaching their kids' sports

*% saying in the past 12 months, they have helped coach a sport or athletic activity any of their children have been involved in*



Note: Based on parents with children ages 6 to 17.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

this is the case. Among parents whose children are all under age 13, about four-in-ten (38%) had helped with coaching, compared with 26% of parents with only teenagers at home.

## Few parents describe their children's schedule as hectic

While most parents say their children participate in extracurricular activities, relatively few say that their children's schedules are too hectic. According to most parents (72%) with children between the ages of 6 and 17, things are just about right when it comes to their children's day-to-day schedule. An additional 11% say their children have too much free time on their hands. Some 15% say their children's daily schedule is too hectic with too many things to do.

There are significant differences by race and income in parents' perceptions about how busy their children's schedules are. White parents (18%) are twice as likely as black parents (9%) to say that the schedules are too hectic. Among Hispanic parents, 5% say their kids' daily schedules are too busy.

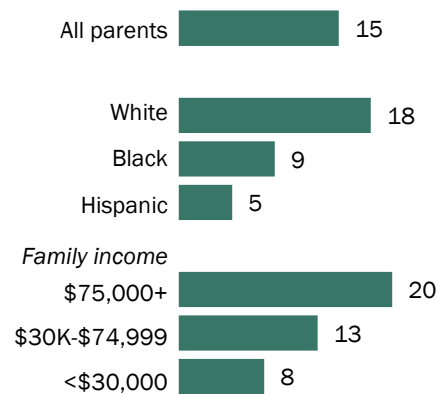
Parents with higher incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to say their children's daily schedule is too hectic. One-in-five parents with an annual family income of \$75,000 or more think their children have too many things to do during the day, compared with 13% of parents with an annual income of \$30,000 to \$74,999, and 8% of parents with incomes less than \$30,000.

Parents who report that their children are involved in a greater variety of activities are more likely than other parents to say that their children's schedule is too hectic. For example, 8% of parents whose kids are in one activity or no activities say their kids' schedules are too hectic, compared with 15% of those whose kids participate in two activities and 22% of those who say they participate

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### Are children's day-to-day schedules too hectic?

*% saying their children's schedule is too hectic with too many things to do*



Note: Asked of parents who have children ages 6 to 17. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q52

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in three or four.<sup>26</sup> Still majorities of parents – regardless of the number of activities in which their children participate – say things are about right when it comes to their kids’ schedules.

On a typical day, a vast majority of children watch TV or play video games

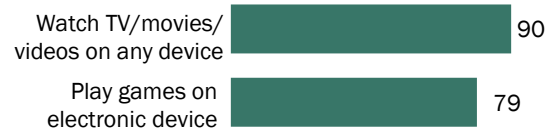
The most common after-school activities for today’s children may be sedentary. Nine-in-ten parents report that their children ages 6 to 17 watch TV, movies or videos (on any device) on a typical day, and about eight-in-ten say their school-age children play video games. Majorities of about three-quarters or more across racial, education and income groups say their children engage in these activities on a typical day.

Overall, parents of school-age children are split about whether their children have too much screen time or about the right amount, based on the parent’s assessment: some 47% of parents whose child or children watch videos or play games on a typical day think their children spend too much time on TV, videos and games, while 50% think their children spend about the right amount of time on these activities.

Compared with white (55%) or black parents (47%), Hispanic parents (23%) whose children have daily screen time are less likely to say that their children spend too much time in

## About eight-in-ten or more say their kids spend time watching videos or playing games on electronic devices

% saying any of their children \_\_\_ on a typical day



Note: Based on parents of children ages 6 to 17.

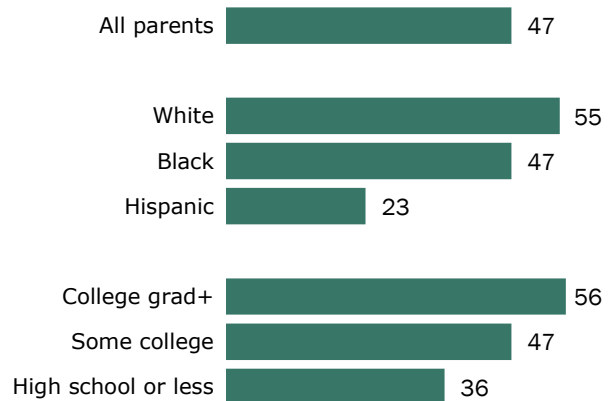
Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q92a-b

## About half say their kids get too much screen time

% saying any of their children spend too much time on watching TV/movies/videos or playing games



Note: Based on parents of children ages 6 to 17 who say their children watch videos or play games on electronic devices on a typical day (n=1,247). Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Q93

<sup>26</sup> Based on an index of four activities that parents saying that their children participated in (sports, music/dance/art lessons, volunteer work, scouts). The index ranges from 0 to 4, with 0 referring to parents who say their children did not participate in any of the four activities, and 4 referring to parents who say their children participated in all four activities. Parents’ responses were categorized as low (0,1), medium (2) or high (3,4).



front of a screen. Instead, a majority of these parents (73%) say their children's screen time is the right amount.

Parents with higher education tend to worry a little more about their children's screen time. More than half of parents with a bachelor's degree (56%) say that their children spend too much time on TV and video games, compared with 47% of parents with some college education, and 36% of parents with high school education or less.

Parents with higher incomes are also more likely to be concerned about their children's screen time. Some 56% of parents with an annual income of \$75,000 or higher say that their children spend too much time watching TV or playing video games. By comparison, 46% of parents with incomes of \$30,000 to \$74,999 and 33% of those in lower-income families say their children spend too much time on these activities.

Children's ages may also play a role in their screen time. Among parents with only teenagers at home, 52% say that their children spend too much time watching TV or videos or playing video games, compared with 43% of parents whose children are all under 13 years old.

A recent study on children's media use finds that teenagers spend an average of nine hours per day on media use (through TV, Internet, smartphones, and so on) for purposes other than school or homework, and that children ages 8 to 12 spend about six hours per day in these activities.<sup>27</sup> The study also suggests that low-income children are less likely than others to have access to computers, tablets and smartphones. However, when they do have access, they are more likely to spend more time on these devices.

### Four-in-ten parents with young children say their kids participate in sports

Organized activities such as sports or lessons in music or arts are less common among younger children. Four-in-ten parents of children ages 5 or younger say their kids participated in sports or athletic activities in the 12 months prior to the survey, and one-in-three parents say their children took music, dance or art lessons over that period. About four-in-ten (39%) say their young children participated in an organized play group in the 12 months.

Parents' education has a lot to do with their young children's activities. College-educated parents are more likely than parents with lower educational levels to report that their children participate in all three activities asked in the survey. Nearly half of college-educated parents (49%) say that

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<sup>27</sup> Common Sense Media, November 2, 2015: "Tweens, Teens, and Screens: What Our New Research Uncovers." (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/tweens-teens-and-screens-what-our-new-research-uncovers>)

their kids younger than 6 participated in sports or athletic activities in the 12 months leading up to the survey; a similar share (48%) says their kids took music, dance or art lessons, and 44% say their kids were in a play group. By contrast, the shares among parents with high school education or less are 33%, 20% and 31%, respectively.

Family income also plays a role in young children's activities. About half of parents with family incomes of \$75,000 or more (51%) say their child or children participated in sports, compared with 33% of parents with family incomes of \$30,000 or less. Parents with higher incomes (46%) are also more likely than low-income parents (21%) to say that their kids took music, dance or art lessons in the 12 months prior to the survey. However, parents' income does not seem to affect whether their children participate in an organized play group. Also, parents with different racial and ethnic backgrounds are equally likely to say that their kids have participated in these three activities.

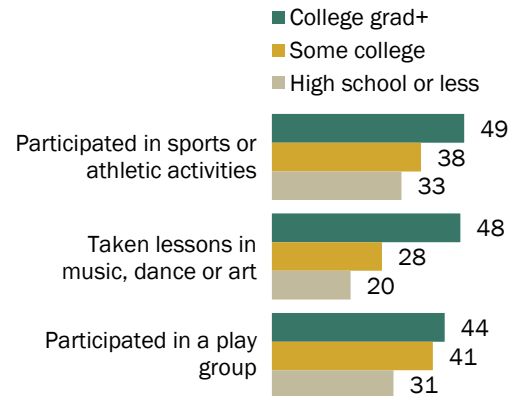
## TV, video games are popular among young children

Preschoolers are also frequently in front of a screen. On a typical day, a majority of parents (81%) say that their child or children ages 5 or younger watch TV or movies or play games on any type of electronic device (such as a computer, tablet or cell phone). Meanwhile, about a third of parents whose children have daily screen time (32%) worry that their children spend too much time on these devices, although more parents think their children's screen time is about right (65%).

White parents are more likely than non-white parents to be concerned about their young children's screen time (39% vs. 19%). College-educated parents whose children watch videos or play games on most days are also more likely than parents who have a high school education or less to say that their young children spend too much time in front of a screen (37% vs. 25%).<sup>28</sup>

### College-educated parents are more likely to say their young children participate in activities

% saying any of their children have \_\_\_\_ in the past 12 months



Note: Based on parents of children ages 0 to 5.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015

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Q74a-c

<sup>28</sup> The sample size for parents with children ages 0 to 5 is 476, and some comparisons cannot be made due to small sample sizes.



## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted from Sept. 15 to Oct. 13, 2015, among a nationally representative sample of 1,807 parents, 18 years of age or older, with children under 18, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (635 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 1,172 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 697 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International.

A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial (RDD) samples was used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who was home at the time. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. To supplement the fresh RDD sample, interviews were completed among a sample of parents who recently participated in the PSRAI Weekly Omnibus survey and a recent Pew Research Center political survey. Approximately half of respondents were obtained from the RDD sample and half from the callback sample.

For the RDD sample, the combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity, and region to parameters of parents from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the 2010 Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone.

For the callback sample, the final weight used in the original survey was applied as the first-stage weight. The second stage of weighting balances sample demographics to population parameters of parents as described above. The population density and phone use parameters were derived from an analysis of all Pew political survey data collected in 2015. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,807	2.7 percentage points
Fathers	937	3.7 percentage points
Mothers	870	3.9 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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## Appendix A: Topline questionnaire

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
2015 SURVEY OF AMERICAN PARENTS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 13, 2015**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN .5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERIKS (\*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.**

	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
Adult parents (18+) of children under age 18	1,807	+/- 2.7% points
<i>Fathers</i>	937	+/- 3.7% points
<i>Mothers</i>	870	+/- 3.9% points

**BASED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.1 Please tell me how satisfied you are with your life overall – would you say you are **[READ IN ORDER]**?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	Very satisfied	42	44
50	Mostly satisfied	50	50
4	Mostly dissatisfied	5	3
1	Very dissatisfied	1	2
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	1

**BASED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.2 In general, how do you feel about your time? Would you say that you always feel rushed even to do the things you have to do, only sometimes feel rushed, or almost never feel rushed?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
31	Always	28	33
53	Sometimes feel rushed	53	53
15	Almost never feel rushed	18	13
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*

**Trends for comparison:**

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Sometimes feel rushed</u>	<u>Almost never feel rushed</u>	<u>DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b></u>
<i>Nov 2012</i>	34	46	18	1
<i>Dec 2005</i>	31	56	12	*
<i>PSRA/National Commission on Children Sept-Nov 1990<sup>29</sup></i>	27	57	15	*

<sup>29</sup> The 1990 survey was based on adult parents who live with their children. The question read, "In general, how do you feel about your time? Would you say that you almost always feel rushed even to do the things you have to do, only sometimes feel rushed, or almost never feel rushed?" The share who said they "almost always feel rushed" is reported in the "Always" column in the table above.

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

M.1 Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married? **[IF R SAYS "SINGLE," PROBE TO DETERMINE WHICH CATEGORY IS APPROPRIATE]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
70	Married	74	66
8	Living with partner	9	8
9	Divorced	8	10
3	Separated	3	4
1	Widowed	*	1
8	Never been married	5	11
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**ASK IF LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=2):**

M.2 Have you ever been married?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
35	Yes	---	---
63	No	---	---
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	---	---
<b>(n=119)</b>		<b>(n=63)</b>	<b>(n=56)</b>

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2):**

Q.2x Do you think you spend too much time with your (spouse/partner), too little time or about the right amount of time?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
2	Too much	2	3
38	Too little	39	37
59	Right amount	58	60
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
<b>(n=1,438)</b>		<b>(n=787)</b>	<b>(n=651)</b>

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.3 Overall, how would you rate the job you do as a parent? Do you think you do a very good job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
91	Very good/good <b>(NET)</b>	88	94
46	Very good	39	51
46	Good	48	43
8	Only Fair/Poor <b>(NET)</b>	12	5
7	Only fair	10	5
1	Poor	1	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1



**Q.3 CONTINUED...****Trends for comparison:**<sup>30</sup>

	Very <u>good</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>PSRA/Newsweek: May 1996</i>	56	38	4	1	1
<i>PSRA/Newsweek: May 1995</i>	56	38	4	1	1

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.4 How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say you **[READ; DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
33	Live comfortably	32	33
32	Meet you basic expenses with a little left over for extras	34	31
25	Just meet your basic expenses	26	25
9	Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	7	11
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*

**Trend:**

	<u>Live comfortably</u>	<u>Meet you basic expenses with a little left over for extras</u>	<u>Just meet you basic expenses</u>	<u>Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses</u>	<u>DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b></u>
<i>Nov 2012</i>	30	32	27	11	1

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

E3 Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed? **[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY WORK IN THE HOME, I.E. CARING FOR THEIR KIDS OR BEING A HOMEMAKER, ASK: Are you now employed FOR PAY full-time, part-time, or not employed for pay?]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
75	Employed <b>(NET)</b>	89	64
61	Full-time	83	43
14	Part-time	5	21
25	Not employed <b>(NET)</b>	11	36
22	Not employed	8	33
1	Disabled <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
1	Retired <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
1	Student <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**NO QUESTIONS 5 AND 6**

<sup>30</sup> In the 1995 and 1996 surveys, the question read, "Overall, how would you rate the job you do as (child's name)'s parent? Do you think you do a very good job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?"

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.7 How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to raise children? Would you say it is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
62	Excellent/Very good <b>(NET)</b>	60	63
34	Excellent	33	34
28	Very good	27	29
20	Good	22	19
18	Fair/Poor <b>(NET)</b>	18	18
13	Fair	13	13
5	Poor	5	5
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*

**Trend for comparison:**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref. (VOL.)</u>
<i>PSRA/National Commission on Children: Sept-Nov 1990<sup>31</sup></i>	34	29	22	12	3	-

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.8 Now thinking about yourself ... How important, if at all, is being a (father/mother) to your overall identity? Would you say it is **(READ)?**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
58	Extremely important	57	58
36	Very important	37	35
5	Somewhat important	4	6
1	Not too important	1	1
*	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**NO QUESTIONS 9 THROUGH 11****IF RESPONDENT HAS ADULT CHILDREN (P2=1,2,9), READ:**

For the rest of this survey, please think only about your (child who is/children who are) under 18.

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.12 Thinking about the time you spend with your (child/children) ... Do you think you spend too much time with your (child/children), too little time or about the right amount of time?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
5	Too much	2	8
36	Too little	48	25
59	Right amount	50	66
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**Trend:**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>DK/Ref. (VOL.)</u>
<i>Nov 2012</i>	6	33	60	1

**NO QUESTIONS 13 AND 14**

<sup>31</sup> The 1990 survey was based on adult parents who live with their children.

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

- Q.15 Thinking about the time you have away from your (child/children) to get together with friends or pursue hobbies and other interests, would you say **[RANDOMIZE: (that you don't have enough time) or (that you have about the right amount of time)]** to do these things?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
51	Don't have enough time	51	50
46	About the right amount	46	46
2	Have no time <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	3
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	1

**NO QUESTIONS 16 THROUGH 20****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

- Q.21 How much, if at all, does it matter to you that **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE, NEVER ASK ITEM c FIRST]** you as a good parent – a lot, a little or not at all? And how much, if at all, does it matter to you that your **[NEXT ITEM]** you as a good parent? **[REPEAT ONCE AND THEN AS NECESSARY: "A lot, a little, or not at all?"]**

**ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2):**

- a. Your (spouse/partner) sees

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
93	A lot	94	91
5	A little	5	5
3	Not at all	1	4
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
<b>(n=1,438)</b>		<b>(n=787)</b>	<b>(n=651)</b>

**ASK IF NOT MARRIED, LIVING WITH PARTNER OR WIDOWED (M1=3,4,6,9):**

- b. Your (child's other parent/children's other parent) sees

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
56	A lot	60	54
20	A little	20	20
22	Not at all	18	24
*	No living other parent <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	1
<b>(n=342)</b>		<b>(n=146)</b>	<b>(n=196)</b>

- c. Your parents see

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
69	A lot	67	70
16	A little	17	16
10	Not at all	9	10
5	No living parents <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	4
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

- d. Your friends see

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
52	A lot	51	52
27	A little	26	27
20	Not at all	21	19
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

e. People in your community see

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
45	A lot	45	46
28	A little	29	28
25	Not at all	25	25
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.22 Thinking about your parenting situation, in general, how much support do you feel that you have from friends or extended family when it comes to raising your (child/children) - a lot of support, some support, or almost no support?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
44	A lot of support	44	45
39	Some support	39	38
15	Almost no support	15	15
2	Not support at all <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.23 Thinking about the kind of (person/people) you hope your (child becomes as an adult/children become as adults), how important is it to you that (he/she/they) be **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** - extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important? And how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important to you that your (child/children) be (ITEM) as (an adult/adults)]?**

a. Hardworking

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
62	Extremely important	60	64
33	Very important	35	32
4	Somewhat important	5	3
*	Not too important	*	*
*	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

b. Financially independent

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
54	Extremely important	49	58
37	Very important	39	36
7	Somewhat important	10	5
1	Not too important	2	*
0	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1

**Q.23 CONTINUED...**

## c. Caring and compassionate

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
65	Extremely important	58	71
31	Very important	36	27
3	Somewhat important	5	1
*	Not too important	*	1
*	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## d. Ambitious

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
45	Extremely important	44	46
33	Very important	34	33
15	Somewhat important	15	14
5	Not too important	4	6
1	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

## e. Honest and ethical

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
71	Extremely important	68	74
27	Very important	30	25
1	Somewhat important	2	1
*	Not too important	*	*
0	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.24 And how important is it to you that your (child earns/children earn) a college degree—extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
42	Extremely important	37	46
31	Very important	32	30
20	Somewhat important	22	18
7	Not too important	8	6
*	Not at all important <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**NO QUESTIONS 25 THROUGH 28**

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.29 Would you say that for you, personally, being a parent is **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** all of the time, most of the time, just some of the time, or none of the time? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?  
**[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Would you say being a parent is [ITEM] all of the time, most of the time, just some of the time, or none of the time?]**

## a. Enjoyable

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	All of the time	46	41
47	Most of the time	45	49
9	Some of the time	9	10
*	None of the time	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## b. Rewarding

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
53	All of the time	54	52
35	Most of the time	33	36
11	Some of the time	12	10
*	None of the time	1	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	2

## c. Stressful

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
10	All of the time	9	11
15	Most of the time	15	15
65	Some of the time	63	67
9	None of the time	12	7
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## d. Tiring

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
15	All of the time	13	17
18	Most of the time	15	21
55	Some of the time	56	54
11	None of the time	15	8
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.30 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
46	My (child's/children's) successes and failures mostly reflect the job I'm doing as a parent	47	44
42	My (child's/children's) successes and failures mostly reflect (his/her/their) own strengths and weaknesses	40	44
9	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>	9	9
1	Neither <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
*	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	2

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.31 In general, would you say you put too much pressure on your (child/school-age child/children/school-age children) to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
7	Too much pressure	6	8
10	Not enough pressure	10	10
82	Right amount of pressure	83	81
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**NO QUESTION 32****QUESTIONS 33-35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2):**

E5 Is your (spouse/partner) now employed full-time, part-time or not employed? [INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT SPOUSE/PARTNER WORKS IN THE HOME, I.E. CARING FOR THEIR KIDS OR BEING A HOMEMAKER, ASK: Is he or she now employed FOR PAY full-time, part-time, or not employed for pay?]

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
82	Employed (NET)	70	92
70	Full-time	52	87
11	Part-time	18	5
18	Not employed (NET)	30	8
17	Not employed	29	6
1	Disabled (VOL.)	*	1
*	Retired (VOL.)	*	1
*	Student (VOL.)	*	0
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=1,438)</b>		<b>(n=787)</b>	<b>(n=651)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 36 THROUGH 39****READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5,9 AND (CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5)]:**

Now thinking only about your (child who is/children who are) between ages 6 and 17 ...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.40 How satisfied are you with the quality of education your (child is/children are) receiving at school? Are you ... [READ]

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
50	Very satisfied	47	52
36	Somewhat satisfied	39	34
9	Somewhat dissatisfied	8	9
4	Very dissatisfied	4	4
1	Depends on child/school (VOL.)	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.41a Where (does your child/do your children) usually go right after school on a typical school day? **[DO NOT READ; PRECODED OPEN-END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE; IF RESPONDENT SAYS IT DEPENDS ON THE DAY OR THE CHILD, TELL RESPONDENTS THEY CAN LIST MORE THAN ONE ARRANGEMENT]**

<u>Total</u> <sup>32</sup>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
70	Go home	68	72
18	Stay at school for activities/goes to after-school activities	19	17
8	Go to an after-care program	7	8
2	Go to another relative's house	3	2
2	Child is home-schooled	2	2
1	Go to a friend's house	2	1
4	Other	5	3
1	Don't know/Refused	1	1
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**ASK IF 'GO HOME' IN Q41A (Q41A=1):<sup>33</sup>**

Q.41C On most days, (is your child/are your children) supervised by an adult when they're home after school, or not? **[IF 'NO' ASK: Is this because your (child doesn't/children don't) need supervision or for some other reason?]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
89	Yes, supervised	90	89
10	No, don't need supervision	9	10
1	No, some other reason	1	1
*	Supervised by older sibling or a non-adult babysitter <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
<b>(n=1,002)</b>		<b>(n=508)</b>	<b>(n=494)</b>

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5 AND CHAGE5=1-9]:**

Now thinking only about your (child who is/children who are) 5 or younger ...

**ASK EMPLOYED PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 WITH EMPLOYED SPOUSE OR PARTNER OR WHO ARE NOT MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER [CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5)] AND [(M1=1,2 AND (E3=1,2 AND E5=1,2)) OR (M1=3-9 AND E3=1,2)]:**

Q.42 Which of the following child care arrangements do you currently use for your (child/children) when (you/you and your spouse/you and your partner) are at work? You can select as many as apply. **[READ]**

<u>Total</u> <sup>34</sup>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
45	Care by family member <sup>35</sup>	45	46
48	Day care or preschool	48	49
16	Nanny or babysitter	12	21
7	Something else <b>[SPECIFY]</b>	7	8
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	0
<b>(n=393)</b>		<b>(n=215)</b>	<b>(n=178)</b>

<sup>32</sup> Individuals could give multiple responses. As a result, the sum of each column may exceed 100%.

<sup>33</sup> This question was added on September 16, 2015. As a result, 25 parents who said their child goes home did not receive the question.

<sup>34</sup> Individuals could give multiple responses. As a result, the sum of each column may exceed 100%.

<sup>35</sup> Care by family member includes responses that the respondent or spouse cares for the children by working alternative schedules or working from home.



**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 WHO ARE MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER AND ONE PARENT IS NOT EMPLOYED OR WHO ARE NOT MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER AND ARE NOT EMPLOYED [CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5] AND [(M1=1,2 AND (E3=3-9 OR E5=3-9)) OR (M1=3-9 AND E3=3-9)]:**

Q.43 (Does your child/Do any of your children) attend a preschool or pre-kindergarten program, or not? **[IF 'NO' ASK: Is this because your (child is/children are) too young to attend preschool or pre-kindergarten or for some other reason?]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
40	Yes, attend preschool or pre-kindergarten	43	37
29	No, too young to attend preschool or pre-kindergarten	29	29
31	No, do not attend preschool or pre-kindergarten and not too young	27	34
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	0
<b>(n=269)</b>		<b>(n=131)</b>	<b>(n=138)</b>

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.44 In your opinion, at what age should children be allowed to **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]?** How about **[NEXT ITEM]?** **[REPEAT IF NECESSARY: At what age should children be allowed to (ITEM)? [OPEN-END]**

a. Stay home alone for about an hour

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
*	0-5	*	0
7	6-9	9	6
43	10-12	44	43
39	13-17	37	40
2	18 or older	2	2
4	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	5
3	Never <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
12	Mean	12	13

b. Play in front of the house unsupervised while an adult is inside

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
7	0-5	8	6
31	6-9	31	30
32	10-12	32	31
17	13-17	17	17
2	18 or older	3	2
6	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	7
5	Never <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	5
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2
10	Mean	10	10

**Q.44 CONTINUED...**

- c. Spend time at a public park unsupervised

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
*	0-5	*	1
5	6-9	6	4
25	10-12	26	24
47	13-17	48	46
10	18 or older	10	10
3	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	4
9	Never <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	12
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
14	Mean	14	14

**NO QUESTIONS 45 THROUGH 48****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

- Q.49 Now I'd like you to think about where you turn for advice about raising children and parenting. How often, if at all, do you turn to **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS AS FOLLOWS: RANDOMIZE a-c AND d-e BLOCKS; WITHIN a-c BLOCK, ALWAYS ASK b IMMEDIATELY AFTER a; DO NOT RANDOMIZE d AND e]** when you have questions about raising children or parenting –often, sometimes, rarely, or never? How about to **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT ONCE AND THEN AS NECESSARY: How often do you turn to (ITEM) when you have questions about raising children or parenting - often, sometimes, rarely, or never?]**

**ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2):**

- a. Your (spouse/partner)

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
57	Often	58	57
23	Sometimes	23	24
8	Rarely	10	7
11	Never	10	12
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
<b>(n=1,438)</b>		<b>(n=787)</b>	<b>(n=651)</b>

- b. (IF NOT MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER: a/IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER: another) family member

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
27	Often	19	32
37	Sometimes	36	37
21	Rarely	25	17
16	Never	19	13
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1

- c. Your friends

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
15	Often	8	21
35	Sometimes	33	38
25	Rarely	28	23
24	Never	31	18
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**Q.49 CONTINUED...**

d. Online message boards, listservs, or social media like Facebook

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
4	Often	2	5
11	Sometimes	6	16
20	Rarely	16	24
64	Never	75	55
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

e. Parenting websites, books or magazines

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
7	Often	5	9
27	Sometimes	19	33
22	Rarely	20	23
44	Never	56	34
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE NOT WIDOWED (M1=1,2,3,4,6,9):**

Q.50 How often, if at all, do you and your (spouse/partner/child's other parent/children's other parent) have disagreements about how to raise your (child/children) – often, sometimes, rarely or never?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
9	Often	9	10
30	Sometimes	32	28
45	Rarely	44	45
15	Never	14	16
*	There is no other parent <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
<b>(n=1,780)</b>		<b>(n=933)</b>	<b>(n=847)</b>

**NO QUESTION 51****ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.52 (Thinking about your child who is between ages 6 and 17/Thinking about your children who are between ages 6 and 17 ...) Which of these comes closest to describing your (child's/children's) day-to-day schedule? **[READ]**

**RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
15	It's too hectic with too many things to do	18	13
11	He has/she has/he or she has/they have too much free time on his/her/his or her/their hands	12	10
72	Things are just about right	68	76
1	It depends on the child <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	1
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**Trend for comparison:**

	It's too hectic with too many things to do	Child has too much free time on their hands	Things are just about right	DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004<sup>36</sup></i>	16	13	71	1

<sup>36</sup> The 2004 survey was based on adult parents of children in grades K-12.

**READ TO ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Thinking again more generally about (your child who is/all of your children who are) under 18...

**NO QUESTION 53****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.54 I'm going to read a list of things parents worry might happen to their children at some point. Please tell me if you worry that each of these might happen to (your child/any of your children). First, do you worry that (he/she/he or she/any of them) might **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** at some point, or not? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you worry that this might happen to (your child/any of your children) at some point, or not?]**

## a. Have problems with drugs or alcohol

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
41	Yes, worry	41	41
58	No, do not worry	59	58
1	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1
*	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## b. Get beat up or attacked

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
45	Yes, worry	42	47
54	No, do not worry	56	52
1	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
*	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## c. Get in trouble with the law

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
27	Yes, worry	27	27
72	No, do not worry	73	72
*	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
0	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## d. Get shot

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
31	Yes, worry	29	33
68	No, do not worry	70	66
*	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

## e. Get pregnant or get a girl pregnant as a teenager

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	Yes, worry	45	41
56	No, do not worry	53	57
1	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
*	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**Q.54 CONTINUED...**

f. Be bullied

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
60	Yes, worry	55	65
38	No, do not worry	43	33
1	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
1	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

g. Struggle with anxiety or depression

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
54	Yes, worry	51	57
44	No, do not worry	47	41
1	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
1	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

h. Be kidnapped

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
50	Yes, worry	44	55
49	No, do not worry	56	44
*	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
0	Already a problem <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*

**NO QUESTIONS 55 AND 56****IF RESPONDENT GETS BOTH Q.57 AND Q.58, RANDOMIZE Q.57 AND Q.58****ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 (CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5):**

Q.57 How easy or hard do you think it is to find child care for children who are not yet school-age in your community that is both affordable and of high quality - very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat hard or very hard?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
8	Very easy	9	7
26	Somewhat easy	25	26
33	Somewhat hard	36	31
29	Very hard	26	31
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	6
<b>(n=662)</b>		<b>(n=346)</b>	<b>(n=316)</b>

**IF RESPONDENT GETS BOTH Q.57 AND Q.58, RANDOMIZE Q.57 AND Q.58****ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.58 How easy or hard do you think it is to find after-school activities and programs for school-age children in your community that are both affordable and of high quality - very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat hard or very hard?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
25	Very easy	28	22
34	Somewhat easy	36	31
25	Somewhat hard	25	25
14	Very hard	9	18
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 59 THROUGH 61****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.62 When it comes to parental involvement in a child's education, do you think there is a point where too much can be a bad thing or could you never be too involved as a parent?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	Too much could be a bad thing	47	40
54	Could never be too involved	51	58
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	3

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.63 When it comes to your own involvement in your (child's/children's) education, do you sometimes wish you could be doing more or are you satisfied with the way things are?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
46	Wish could be doing more	49	43
53	Satisfied with the way things are	49	55
1	Doing too much <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
<b>(n=1,486)</b>		<b>(n=755)</b>	<b>(n=731)</b>

**NO QUESTION 64****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.65 Please tell me which of the following descriptions are more likely to describe your parenting style. Are you a parent who **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]? [IF NEEDED: If you had to pick one of these, which would it be?]**

a.

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	Sometimes sticks to their guns too much	50	38
43	Sometimes gives in too quickly	35	50
11	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	12	10
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	2

**Trend for comparison:**

	Sometimes sticks to their guns too much	Sometimes gives in too quickly	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jul-Aug 2002<sup>37</sup></i>	43	37	19	1

b.

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
33	Sometimes praises too much	29	36
44	Sometimes criticizes too much	49	39
22	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	20	23
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	2

<sup>37</sup> The 2002 survey was based on adult parents of children ages 5-17 living with them.

**Q.65 CONTINUED...****Trend for comparison:**

	Sometimes praises too <u>much</u>	Sometimes criticizes too <u>much</u>	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jul-Aug 2002<sup>38</sup></i>	33	31	34	1

c.

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
62	Can sometimes be overprotective	54	68
25	Can sometimes give too much freedom	33	19
12	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	12	12
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**Trend for comparison:**

	Can sometimes be too <u>overprotective</u>	Can sometimes give too much <u>freedom</u>	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	DK/Ref. <b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jul-Aug 2002<sup>10</sup></i>	58	22	20	1

**NO QUESTION 66****ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.67 How closely does each of the following come to your own view? First, **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**. Does this come very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? Does this come very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view?

- a. As long as they try hard, children should never feel bad about themselves because of poor grades in school

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
41	Very close	33	47
34	Somewhat close	38	32
15	Not too close	17	13
8	Not close at all	10	6
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2

- b. I would be very disappointed if my child got average grades in school

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
19	Very close	22	17
32	Somewhat close	33	32
25	Not too close	23	26
22	Not close at all	21	22
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3

<sup>38</sup> The 2002 survey was based on adult parents of children ages 5-17 living with them.

**ASK ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18:**

Q.68 Now thinking about some methods of discipline parents might use with their children... Please tell me how often, if at all, you use each method with (your child/any of your children). First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE; NEVER ASK ITEM d FIRST]**. Do you use this method of discipline often, sometimes, rarely or never? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you use this method of discipline often, sometimes, rarely or never?]**

## a. Raising your voice or yelling

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
22	Often	19	24
46	Sometimes	44	48
23	Rarely	27	20
9	Never	10	8
*	Child is too young/old (VOL.)	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 to 5 (CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5):**

b. Giving a "timeout," that is, making the child take a break from whatever activity they're involved in

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
41	Often	33	48
36	Sometimes	42	31
11	Rarely	12	9
10	Never	9	11
2	Child is too young/old (VOL.)	3	1
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=662)</b>		<b>(n=346)</b>	<b>(n=316)</b>

c. Taking away privileges, such as time with friends or use of TV or other electronic

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
43	Often	39	47
36	Sometimes	40	33
11	Rarely	11	11
7	Never	8	6
2	Child is too young/old (VOL.)	2	2
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

d. Spanking

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
4	Often	4	4
13	Sometimes	13	14
28	Rarely	28	27
53	Never	52	53
2	Child is too young/old (VOL.)	3	2
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*

e. Explaining why (his/her/their) behavior is not appropriate

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
75	Often	70	80
15	Sometimes	18	13
5	Rarely	6	3
3	Never	4	3
1	Child is too young/old (VOL.)	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*



## NO QUESTIONS 69 THROUGH 73

Questions 74 through 81 were asked to parents of children ages 0 to 5. Questions 86 to 94 were asked to parents of children ages 6 to 17. A random half of the sample of respondents who have children ages 0 to 5 and ages 6 to 17 were asked questions 74 to 81 and the other half were asked questions 86 to 94.

Throughout questions 74 to 81, the interviewer was asked to remind the respondents with children in both age groups, as necessary, to think only of their children ages 0 to 5.

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5 AND CHAGE5=1-9]:**

For the next set of questions, please think only about your (child who is/children who are) 5 or younger...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 (CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5):**

Q.74 Thinking about the kinds of activities your (child does/children do), not including in day care or preschool... In the past 12 months, (has he/has she/has your child/have any of your children) **[INSERT ITEM; DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**, or not? How about **[NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT AS NECESSARY: In the past 12 months, (has your child/have any of your children) [ITEM], not including in day care or preschool, or not]**

- a. Taken lessons in things like music, dance or art

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
33	Yes	33	33
67	No	67	67
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=476)</b>		<b>(n=257)</b>	<b>(n=219)</b>

- b. Participated in any kind of sports or athletic activities

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
40	Yes	42	40
58	No	56	60
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1
<b>(n=476)</b>		<b>(n=257)</b>	<b>(n=219)</b>

- c. Participated in an organized play group

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
39	Yes	41	37
60	No	57	62
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1
<b>(n=476)</b>		<b>(n=257)</b>	<b>(n=219)</b>

## NO QUESTIONS 75 AND 76

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5 AND CHAGE5=1-9]:**

Still thinking only about your (child who is/children who are) 5 or younger...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 (CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5):**Q.77 How often, if ever, do you, yourself, read aloud to your (child/children)? **[READ]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
51	Everyday	43	58
31	A few times a week	34	29
8	About once a week	8	8
5	A few times a month	6	4
4	Less often	8	2
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	0
<b>(n=476)</b>		<b>(n=257)</b>	<b>(n=219)</b>

**NO QUESTION 78****ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 (CHAGE1=0-5 OR CHAGE2=1-5):**

Q.79 On a typical day, (does your child/does your child who is five or younger/do any of your children/do any of your children who are five or younger) spend any time watching videos or playing games on any type of electronic device, such as a TV, computer, tablet or cell phone, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
81	Yes	81	80
18	No	17	19
1	Not applicable/Too young to do this <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	0
<b>(n=476)</b>		<b>(n=257)</b>	<b>(n=219)</b>

**ASK IF CHILD WATCHES VIDEOS OR PLAYS GAMES (Q79=1):**Q.80 Overall, do you think your (child spends/children spend) **[RANDOMIZE: (too much time) or (about the right amount of time)]** on these activities?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
32	Too much time	34	29
65	Right amount	62	67
2	Too little time <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	2
1	It depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	2
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	1
<b>(n=393)</b>		<b>(n=213)</b>	<b>(n=180)</b>

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5 AND CHAGE5=1-9] AND CHILD ATTENDS DAY CARE OR PRESCHOOL (Q42=2 OR Q43=1):**

And still thinking about your (child who is/children who are) 5 or younger...

**ASK IF CHILD AGES 0 TO 5 ATTENDS DAY CARE OR PRESCHOOL (Q42=2 OR Q43=1):**

Q.81 In the past 12 months have you, yourself, done any of the following things? First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT IF NECESSARY: In the past 12 months, have you done this?]**

- a. Talked to a teacher or caregiver at day care or preschool about (your child's/any of your children's) development

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
89	Yes	87	90
11	No	13	10
0	Not applicable (VOL.)	0	0
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=229)</b>		<b>(n=122)</b>	<b>(n=107)</b>

- b. Attended a parent meeting or other special meeting at (your child's/any of your children's) day care or preschool

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
69	Yes	66	72
30	No	34	27
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	0	2
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=229)</b>		<b>(n=122)</b>	<b>(n=107)</b>

- c. Helped out with special projects, activities or a class trip at (your child's/any of your children's) day care or preschool

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
50	Yes	49	50
49	No	50	48
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	1	2
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	0	0
<b>(n=229)</b>		<b>(n=122)</b>	<b>(n=107)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 82 THROUGH 85**

Questions 86 to 94 were asked to parents of children ages 6 to 17. A random half of the sample of respondents who have children ages 0 to 5 and ages 6 to 17 were asked questions 74 to 81 and the other half were asked questions 86 to 94.

Throughout questions 86 to 94, the interviewer was asked to remind the respondents with children in both age groups, as necessary, to think only of their children ages 6 to 17.

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5,9 AND (CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5)]:**

Now for the next set of questions I want you to think only about your (child who is/children who are) between ages 6 and 17...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.86 Thinking about the kinds of activities your (child does/children do) when (he's/she's/your child's/they're) not in school – that is, after school and on weekends... In the past 12 months, (has your child/have any of your children) **[INSERT ITEM; DO NOT RANDOMIZE]** after school or on weekends, or not? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: In the past 12 months (has your child/have any of your children) [ITEM] after school or on weekends, or not]**

- a. Taken lessons in things like music, dance or art

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
54	Yes	58	51
46	No	41	49
0	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

- b. Participated in any kind of sports or athletic activities

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
73	Yes	73	72
27	No	26	28
*	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

- c. Participated in religious instruction or a church youth group

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
60	Yes	60	60
40	No	40	40
0	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

**Q.86 CONTINUED...**

d. Participated in an organization like the scouts

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
23	Yes	22	23
77	No	77	77
*	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

e. Received regular tutoring or extra academic preparation

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
36	Yes	37	35
64	No	62	65
0	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

f. Done volunteer work

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
53	Yes	51	54
47	No	49	45
*	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	*
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 13 TO 17:**

g. Had a part-time job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
36	Yes	36	35
63	No	62	63
1	Child is too young <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	1
0	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
<b>(n=812)</b>		<b>(n=421)</b>	<b>(n=391)</b>

**Q.86 CONTINUED...****Trend for comparison:**<sup>39</sup>

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u> <u>(VOL.)</u>
a. Taken lessons in things like music, dance or art <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	38	62	-
b. Participated in any kind of sports or athletic activities <sup>40</sup> <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	64	36	-
c. Participated in religious instruction or a church youth group <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	57	43	*
d. Participated in an organization like the scouts <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	24	77	-
e. Received regular tutoring or extra academic preparation <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	24	76	*
f. Done volunteer work <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	36	65	*
g. had a part-time job <i>Public Agenda Foundation: Jun 2004</i>	46	54	-

**NO QUESTIONS 87 THROUGH 89****ASK IF CHILD AGES 6 TO 17 PARTICIPATES IN SPORTS OR ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES (Q86B=1):**

Q.90 In the past 12 months, have you helped coach a sport or athletic activity (your child has been/any of your children have been) involved in?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
31	Yes	37	27
68	No	63	73
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	0
<b>(n=1,000)</b>		<b>(n=511)</b>	<b>(n=489)</b>

**NO QUESTION 91**

<sup>39</sup> The 2004 survey is based on adult parents of children in grades K-12 and asked about the respondent's oldest child. Because the 2004 survey was conducted at the end of the school year, respondents were instructed to "think about the current school year from September 2003 through June 2004," while the current survey, conducted at the start of the school year, asked about "the past 12 months."

<sup>40</sup> In 2004, this item asked about participation in "any kind of sports activities."

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5,9 AND (CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5)]:**

Still thinking only about your (child who is/children who are) between ages 6 and 17...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.92 On a typical day, (does your child/do any of your children) [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE], or not. And, on a typical day, (does your child/do any of your children) [NEXT ITEM], or not?

- a. Watch any kind of video including TV, movies or short clips on any type of device

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
90	Yes	91	90
9	No	8	9
1	It depends (VOL.)	1	1
0	Not applicable/Too young to do this (VOL.)	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

- b. Play games on any type of electronic device

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
79	Yes	82	76
20	No	17	23
1	It depends (VOL.)	1	1
0	Not applicable/Too young to do this (VOL.)	0	0
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

**ASK IF CHILD WATCHES VIDEOS OR PLAYS GAMES (Q92a=1 OR Q92b=1):**

Q.93 Overall, do you think (your child spends/your children spend) [RANDOMIZE: (too much time) or (about the right amount of time)] on these activities?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
47	Too much time	49	45
50	Right amount	47	53
1	Too little time (VOL.)	2	1
1	It depends (VOL.)	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1
<b>(n=1,247)</b>		<b>(n=638)</b>	<b>(n=609)</b>

**READ IF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5 AND 6-17 [CHAGE2=1-5,9 AND (CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5)]:**

And still thinking about your (child who is/children who are) between ages 6 and 17...

**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 17 (CHAGE1=6-17 OR CHAGE3=1-5 OR CHAGE4=1-5):**

Q.94 In the past 12 months have you, yourself, done any of the following things? First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT IF NECESSARY: In the past 12 months, have you, yourself, done this?]**

- a. Talked to a teacher about (your child's/any of your children's) progress in school

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
85	Yes	78	90
15	No	22	10
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

- b. Attended a PTA, or Parent Teacher Association, meeting or other special school meeting

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
64	Yes	61	67
36	No	39	33
0	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	0
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

- c. Helped out with special projects, activities or a class trip at school

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
60	Yes	57	63
39	No	43	36
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	*
<b>(n=1,312)</b>		<b>(n=666)</b>	<b>(n=646)</b>

**Trend for comparison:** <sup>41</sup>

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u> <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Talked to a teacher about child's/any children's progress in school <i>PSRA/National Commission on Children: Sept-Nov 1990</i>	83	17	-
b. Attended a PTA, or Parent Teacher Association, meeting or other special school meeting <i>PSRA/National Commission on Children: Sept-Nov 1990</i>	70	30	-

<sup>41</sup> In the 1990 survey this question was asked of adult parents who live with their school-age children and it was worded, "In the past year."



**ASK PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE NOT MARRIED, LIVING WITH PARTNER OR WIDOWED (M1=3,4,6,9):**M.3 How involved would you say your (child's/children's) other parent is in (his/her/their) life? **[READ]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
62	Very/Somewhat involved <b>(NET)</b>	77	53
43	Very involved	62	32
19	Somewhat involved	16	21
34	Not too/not at all involved <b>(NET)</b>	19	43
15	Not too involved	10	18
19	Not at all involved	9	24
2	It depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2
<b>(n=342)</b>		<b>(n=146)</b>	<b>(n=196)</b>

**ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2) AND ONLY ONE CHILD (P1A=1):**FAM3a Is your (spouse/partner) the parent of your child under 18, or not? **IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT SPOUSE/PARTNER IS A STEPPARENT, MARK 2 'NO'****ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2) AND TWO CHILDREN (P1A=2):**FAM3b Is your (spouse/partner) the parent of both of your children under 18, one of your children, or neither of your children? **IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT SPOUSE/PARTNER IS A STEPPARENT, SAY THAT FOR THIS QUESTION WE ARE NOT COUNTING STEPPARENTS AS PARENTS****ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (M1=1,2) AND THREE OR MORE CHILDREN (P1A=3-99):**FAM3c Is your (spouse/partner) the parent of all of your children under 18, some of your children, or none of your children? **IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT SPOUSE/PARTNER IS A STEPPARENT, SAY THAT FOR THIS QUESTION WE ARE NOT COUNTING STEPPARENTS AS PARENTS****FAM3a/FAM3b/FAM3c COMBO TABLE****BASED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Mothers</u>
81	All	79	83
6	Some	7	6
12	None	13	12
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	0
<b>(n=1,438)</b>		<b>(n=787)</b>	<b>(n=651)</b>

**QUESTIONS 95-96 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**