# THE AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY

# 2016 Summary Report: Marriage and Family—Attitudes, Practices & Policy Opinions

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In July of 2016, the Deseret News and The Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University fielded a survey on the family in America. This survey was administered by YouGov[2] to a sample of 3,000 adult respondents whose characteristics mirror those of the general population. This report details the raw results of that survey and some of the key demographic breakdowns. Download the survey report at http://national.deseretnews.com/american-family-survey.

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[1]We are deeply grateful for the efforts and advice of our advisory committee, Karlyn Bowman (American Enterprise Institute), Sara McLanahan (Princeton University), Richard Reeves (The Brookings Institution), and Brad Wilcox (The University of Virginia). They provided substantial advice and comment that dramatically improved the survey and the report. Errors, of course, are our own.

[2]Please see section seven on methodology (below) for a statement about the specific protocols for this survey.

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# 1 Project Overview & Summary

The 2016 American Family Survey was designed to understand the lived experiences of Americans in their relationships and families. People underestimate the amount of diversity there is in the United States, not just racial, ethnic, religious, or ideological diversity, but the diversity that comes from living in different family situations with different structures and struggles. It is hard for any individual to fully grasp the issues facing people who come from so many different backgrounds and experiences. The American Family Survey provides context for understanding Americans' life choices, economic experiences, attitudes about their own relationships, and evaluations of the relationships they see around them.

To accomplish these goals, we have begun developing a battery of survey questions that tap many different elements of relationship and family life. We aim to ask these regularly and pair them with new measures and areas of concern to American families. On many elements of the core items in our battery, the 2016 survey finds a great deal of continuity with the 2015 results. For example, most survey respondents have positive views of their own relationships and families, but they are far less optimistic about the state of marriages and families generally. People of all ages are fundamentally pro-marriage (especially if they have married). Despite this broad pattern, there are some important differences across the generations. Younger Americans are breaking the connection between marriage and having children (see Figure 2, for instance). They are willing to begin their families prior to getting married. Older Americans are concerned about these developments and so have more concern about the nature of marriage generally. The importance of life experiences and the different perspectives that they generate simply cannot be understated in many aspects of family life. For example, the 2016 results confirm the pattern of 2015 that experience with government policies to benefit families is crucial for developing a higher opinion of those programs and their effects on families.

Our goal in 2016 was to expand into new areas of inquiry, including the economic experiences, the prevalence of authoritarian attitudes, and the patterns of reliance on social capital of American families. For example, we find that economic experiences, and specifically distress, are connected to family structure and attitudes about government policies. A willingness to rely on social networks and resources for help with family-related issues is also bound up with the economic lives of American families. And while it is true that authoritarian family attitudes are connected to one's beliefs about the nature of the family, they are far less connected to habits and practices of people in families.

The new survey broadly achieves those goals. Key findings from the 2016 survey can be summarized as follows:

Experiencing a stable marriage as a child is correlated with increased familial and economic stability as an adult. Respondents whose mothers were continuously married to the same person throughout the respondent's childhood are more likely to report being married today, less likely to say their relationship is in trouble, and less likely to have experienced an economic crisis in the past twelve months.

A large number of respondents faced some level of economic deprivation in the last year. About four in ten delayed at least one thing like eating, paying bills or medical care or they required financial help (perhaps housing) from friends, family or other sources.

A similar number has only enough savings to survive a month or less — and this is correlated with but not completely determined by income, as some relatively high-income respondents also could not survive longer than a month. It is also the case that those who are less likely to have quite a bit of savings are also less connected to their neighbors and communities.

Family structure is clearly correlated with these economic patterns as those who are cohabiting or in a relationship are much more likely to experience crises than are those who are simply single or are married. Single mothers definitely face some of these experiences more often. In fact, over six in ten single mothers report an income of less than $30,000 per year.

People generally believe that their local communities offer them decent options for education, but those who have experienced economic crises or who have less than a high school education are much less likely to think this. Those with college degrees or more are most likely to be satisfied. In fact, parental education was the single clearest predictor of satisfaction with local schooling options.

Norms for getting married and having children vary across the generations. Younger Americans are more likely to have children before getting married. Over 90 percent of parents over age 65 were married when they first had children, but only 30 percent of those younger than 30 were married when their first child was born. In addition, younger people tend to have different attitudes about the meaning and value of marriage. Though they do not oppose the idea of marriage, they are more likely than their older counterparts to believe that personal commitment to a partner is more important than the legal fact of marriage.

Much like in 2015, most survey respondents have positive views of their own relationships and families (half believe their marriage has gotten stronger in the past two years), but they are far less optimistic about the state of marriages and families generally (almost four in ten believe marriages have weakened generally).

Liberals and conservatives have very different views about marriage and families, but their actual marital and parenting practices are quite similar.

Authoritarian family attitudes turn out to be closely connected to people's self-described ideology, with more authoritarian people describing themselves as more conservative, although this is essentially only true of whites. Blacks have much higher levels of authoritarian attitudes about family, and this means that the raw partisan differences are not large.

It is important to note that authoritarian family attitudes are not closely related to marital status or parental practices, but are related to attitudes about the meaning of marriage (e.g., the importance of male and female role models).

People rate programs designed to help families like food stamps, housing assistance, and Medicaid and insurance quite highly. There are some differences related to family status, but in general those who are married or have children are less impressed with these programs.

The factor that matters most for evaluations of those social safety net programs is *not* economic deprivation, but experience with the aid of the programs. Those who have benefitted from the programs rate them much more highly. As an example, single mothers do not really rate the programs any higher than married moms, and often less highly than married moms, unless they have benefitted from the program.

People believe that wage programs like the earned income tax credit are of some benefit for families, but there is much less satisfaction with the minimum wage — at least as it is currently arranged.

Family leave is very popular — more than half of all Americans believe paid family leave should be given. However, this unity dissipates when it comes time to decide who pays for the leave. About a quarter want all employers to cover it. Another quarter only want some employers to cover it. And fifteen percent want the national government to pay for it. The single largest response to who should pay for it is "don't know."

Politically, though there are some partisan differences by family structure, they are not overwhelming. Other than unmarried partners most groups call themselves independents (though they do lean towards one party or the other). Unmarried partners tend to be somewhat more Democratic.

The primary election was not one that was dominated by discussions of family policy — as important as that is — but our survey did note two items of interest about the primary supporters of various presidential candidates. First, compared to supporters of other political candidates, Trump's supporters tended to prefer to rely on themselves and their immediate family, rather than reach out to others for help with family-related questions and needs. In this sense, they were more self-reliant and less eager to engage with social networks and resources outside their families. Also, Trump and Cruz supporters tended to favor tax equality, as opposed to helping out families. Clinton and Sanders supporters tended to favor tax breaks for families. The supporters of other Republican candidates, like Rubio and Kasich tended to be near the middle of this scale, caring both about tax equality and helping out families.

Compared to supporters of other presidential candidates, people who expressed support for Donald Trump tended to be more male, more likely to be married, more authoritarian in their attitudes, and less likely to have experienced any kind of economic crisis in the last year.

It was also the case that Trump supporters were much more likely to believe that marriages were getting weaker, while Clinton supporters tended to think marriages were strengthening (or at least getting no weaker). This is consistent with the idea that — though personal practices do not vary much with political labels — people who label themselves as conservative tend to worry more about marriage as a concept and an institution in our society.

The American Family Survey was fielded in late July, just as the political conventions were wrapping up. At that point in time, when our survey respondents looked forward to the general election, Hillary Clinton was the candidate of the unmarried and those without children, while Trump split the group of voters who are married or who have children.

The rest of this report fleshes out these claims in text, tables and figures. It presents a picture of the American family that is open to interpretation. For those concerned with how American families are doing, there are reasons for both optimism and concern — though Americans of different perspectives and experiences may see signs of encouragement or worry in different places. One's final judgement on the matter depends a great deal on which concerns one takes most seriously: moral considerations, economic hardships, policy needs or simply a desire to see strong and connected families. Each of these considerations is important to getting a full picture of the landscape of American marriages and families.

## 2 Relationships and Parenting in the United States

We begin with a basic overview of the experiences our 3,000 respondents have with relationships and parenting.

As Table 1 summarizes, approximately half of the survey sample is married, with just over one-third telling us they are not currently in a relationship of any kind. Just under 10 percent are cohabiting and another 7 percent are in a relationship but are not cohabiting. Conservatives are slightly more likely to be married than liberals (59 percent of respondents identifying as conservative or very conservative, compared to 40 percent of those identifying as liberal or very liberal) and are also slightly less likely to cohabit. In addition, survey respondents under the age of 30 were far less likely be married and far more

likely to have no current romantic relationship than every other age group. These results are very similar to what we saw in the 2015 survey.

Some other basic facts about the 2016 survey respondents:

About 40 percent of all respondents to the survey and 36 percent of married respondents reported cohabiting outside of marriage at least once.

Married respondents younger than 30 reported cohabiting prior to marriage much more often than other age groups — about 53 percent of married respondents under 30 reported cohabiting at least once, compared to 40 percent of respondents between the ages of 30 and 54. Only 22 percent of those over 65 told us they had cohabited prior to marriage. Clearly, norms about cohabiting differ across the generations.

About 30 percent of married respondents who had been married for more than two years said they had worried about their relationship being "in trouble" in the past two years, compared to about 42 percent of cohabiters.

About 63 percent of the sample reported having at least one child.

Of those who have children, they became parents, on average, at age 25.

The average number of children reported is 1.7.

Liberals reported slightly fewer children (average = 1.3) than moderates (1.6) or conservatives (2.0).

**Table 1:** Relationship Status Among Survey Respondents

| | **Married** | **Cohabiting** | **In Relationship** | **No Relationship** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Overall* | 50 | 9 | 7 | 34 |
| *Very Liberal* | 38 | 13 | 10 | 39 |
| *Liberal* | 43 | 9 | 9 | 39 |
| *Moderate* | 49 | 11 | 7 | 34 |
| *Conservative* | 60 | 6 | 4 | 30 |
| *Very Conservative* | 59 | 4 | 5 | 32 |
| *18-29* | 19 | 12 | 15 | 53 |
| *30-44* | 57 | 12 | 6 | 25 |
| *45-54* | 54 | 10 | 6 | 29 |
| *55-64* | 62 | 7 | 2 | 28 |
| *65+* | 59 | 4 | 3 | 35 |

The choices Americans make about marriage and children — and the relationship between the two — differ dramatically across the generations. For example, Table 2 shows that younger Americans are much more likely than older generations to have children outside the context of marriage. In the sample as a whole, about 70 percent of respondents said they were married when they first became parents, with about 22 percent reporting they were not married but in a committed relationship. Only 7 percent of respondents said they became parents outside of marriage or a committed relationship, and another 1 percent were unsure about the state of their relationship when they became parents. However, among respondents under 30, a majority became parents for the first time when they were in a committed relationship, but

not married.[3] Overall, there is a dramatic and linear decline across age cohorts in the percentage who were married when becoming parents and a corresponding rise in the percentage of respondents who became parents outside of the context of marriage, whether in a committed relationship or not. These patterns also differ by income and race, with respondents who report incomes under $30,000 (55 percent married) and Black respondents (40 percent married) less likely than all other income or racial/ethnic groups to report being married when first becoming parents. We do not have enough respondents under 30 with children to reliably parse the patterns by race or ethnicity among the youngest age cohort.

**Table 2:** Relationship Status When First Becoming a Parent

| | **Married** | **Committed Relationship** | **No Committed Relationship** |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Overall* | 70 | 22 | 7 |
| *18-29* | 30 | 56 | 14 |
| *30-44* | 54 | 33 | 11 |
| *45-54* | 67 | 25 | 7 |
| *55-64* | 80 | 14 | 5 |
| *65+* | 91 | 6 | 2 |

These changing norms about the relationship between marriage and parenting are important because the experience of marital stability for children is associated with greater relationship and economic stability in adulthood. We asked survey respondents to tell us a little bit about their family experiences growing up — specifically, whether their mother was continually married to the same person throughout their childhood or not. These are self-reports of past experience, not verified by the respondents' parents, meaning that we are assuming that most respondents knew the marital status of their parents. And it turns out that the experience of growing up in a home with two parents who stayed married affects subsequent familial and economic experiences, as can be seen in Figure 1. Those whose parents were married throughout their childhood are somewhat more likely to be married today (52 percent, as opposed to 45 percent of those who did not experience marital stability as children), less likely to worry that their current relationship is "in trouble" (30 percent, compared to 42 percent), and substantially less likely to report experiencing a financial crisis in the past 12 months (33 percent, compared to 49 percent). The details of the economic crisis variable are discussed below. For now, the key point is that the experience of growing up in a home with parents who stayed married to each other appears to be positively associated with greater stability in adult relationships and a greater likelihood of avoiding severe economic problems.

Notably, the relationship between familial stability for children and the avoidance of economic crisis holds up even in the face of controls for respondent income, race, and age. We do not have a measure of children who grew up in stable cohabiting relationships, so we cannot be sure of the effects of growing up in a home in which parents had a stable and committed relationship but were not married. Still, experiencing marital stability in the form of parents who stayed married to each other appears to be associated with relationship and economic stability as an adult.

[3]For additional information from the Centers for Disease Control about changing demographic patterns in mean age at first birth in the United States, see http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf.

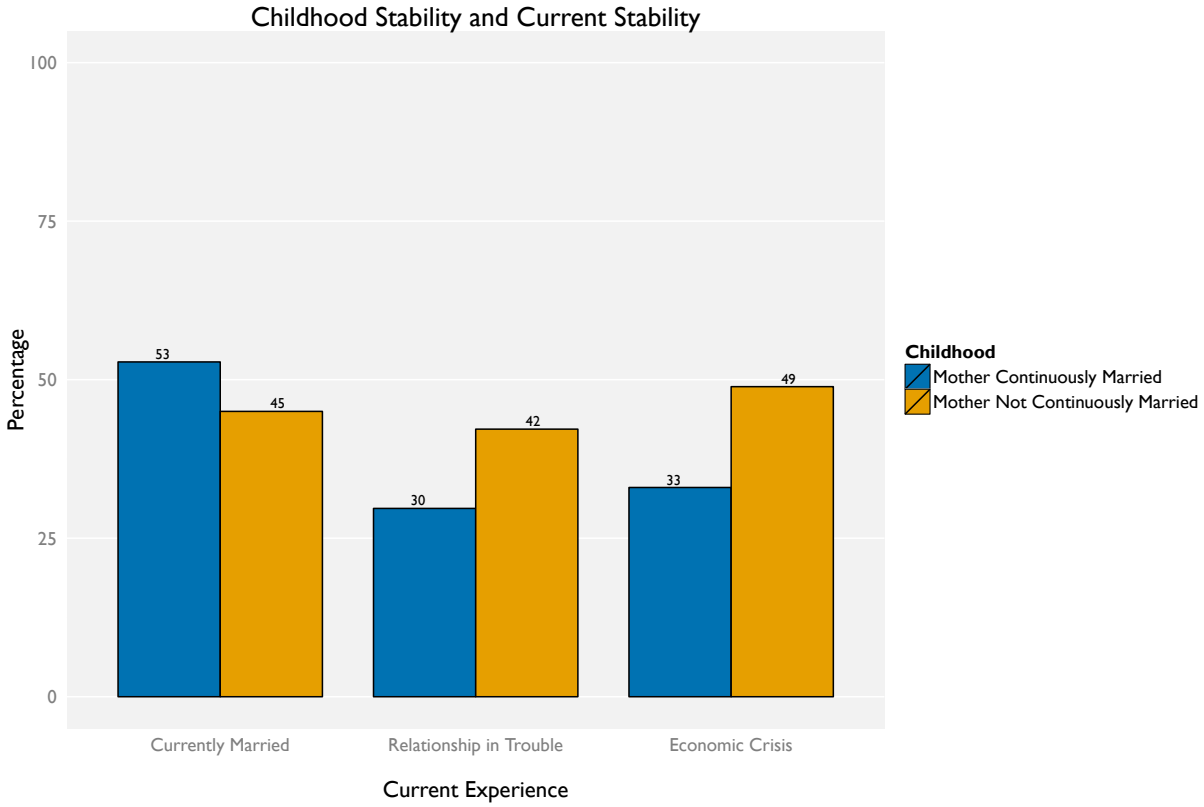


**Figure 1:** Relationship between childhood stability and current economic and relationship stability. Bars represent the percentage of respondents in each category.

# 3 Attitudes about Marriage and Family

Respondents to the American Family Survey expressed generally positive attitudes about marriage, as can be seen in Table 3.[4] These results are very similar to what we saw in the 2015 study. More than half believe that society is better off when more people are married, about 60 percent believe that marriage helps to create strong families, and nearly two-thirds said that marriage helps families and children financially. By the same token, Americans reject the idea that marriage is a burden and that it is old-fashioned and out of date. They are more divided, however, on the question of whether a personal commitment to one's partner is more important than the legal fact of marriage.

Those who are married are especially supportive of the idea of marriage. With respect to every statement in Table 3, married respondents were more enthusiastic about marriage than unmarried. For example, 64 percent of married respondents agreed that "when more people are married, society is better off," and 71 percent expressed agreement with the idea that "marriage is needed in order to create strong families." By contrast, 44 percent of unmarried respondents said that society is better when more people are married, and 51 percent of those who are not married supported the idea that marriage helps create strong families. These twenty percentage point differences are substantial. In addition, a majority of the

[4]Respondents were able to express their agreement or disagreement on a seven-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." In the results that follow, we collapse those who "strongly agree," "agree," or "somewhat agree" and do the same for the three disagreement categories.

**Table 3:** Attitudes about Marriage

| | Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Disagree |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Marriage is needed to create strong families* | 61 | 16 | 23 |
| *Marriage makes families and kids better off financially* | 65 | 24 | 12 |
| *Society is better off when more people are married* | 53 | 33 | 13 |
| *Personal commitment to partner more important than marriage* | 44 | 19 | 36 |
| *Marriage is more of a burden than a benefit* | 14 | 21 | 66 |
| *Marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date* | 13 | 14 | 73 |

unmarried said that personal commitment to one's partner is more important than being legally married, while only one-third of married respondents supported that statement.

As can be seen in Table 4, there are also important differences between the attitudes liberals and conservatives have about marriage.[5] For example, while three-quarters of conservatives believe that society is better off when more people are married and 84 percent feel that marriage is needed to create strong families, only 35 percent and 39 percent of liberals agree with those two statements. In contrast, nearly two-thirds of liberals prize a personal commitment to one's partner over legal marriage, while only one-third of conservatives accept that idea. While a majority of liberals agree that marriage has some financial benefits, fully 80 percent of conservatives think the same. Clearly, liberals and conservatives see the social meaning and benefits of marriage in different ways, though very few survey respondents thought that marriage was completely obsolete or no longer needed and a majority of respondents of all ideological stripes recognized some economic benefits associated with marriage.

**Table 4:** Agreement with Statements about Marriage by Ideology

| | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Marriage is needed to create strong families* | 39 | 55 | 84 |
| *Marriage makes families and kids better off financially* | 57 | 56 | 80 |
| *Society is better off when more people are married* | 35 | 47 | 75 |
| *Personal commitment to partner more important than marriage* | 63 | 43 | 33 |
| *Marriage is more of a burden than a benefit* | 16 | 14 | 11 |
| *Marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date* | 24 | 12 | 7 |

Some of the differences we find in attitudes about marriage are generational. For example, older liberals are much more likely than younger liberals to believe that "marriage is needed to create strong families": over half of liberals over age 65 agree with the statement, but less than one-quarter of liberals younger than 30 do. Similarly, as shown in Figure 2, just over half of liberals over age 65 prize personal commitment to one's partner over legal marriage, but among liberals under age 30, that proportion rises to nearly three-quarters. Among liberals, the generational break seems to occur around age 45, with those over 45 reporting somewhat less agreement with the notion that personal commitment is more important than legal marriage. Still, generational differences can be found among conservatives, too, though it is conservatives younger than 30 who look very different from the other age groups. Nearly 60 percent of conservatives under age 30 think that personal commitment is more important than legal marriage, and

[5]We asked respondents to self-identify their ideology on a five-point scale ranging from "very liberal" to "very conservative." For purposes of the analysis that follows, we collapse the five-point scale into a three-point scale. It is important to note that this measure of ideology is not only capturing political views, but also sometimes measures a respondent's views about lifestyle and personal traditionalism. There are many citizens who describe themselves as conservative who are, for all intents and purposes, liberals on policy. Self-described ideology is a complicated measure.

that number declines monotonically with age group, with only 20 percent of conservatives over age 65 agreeing.

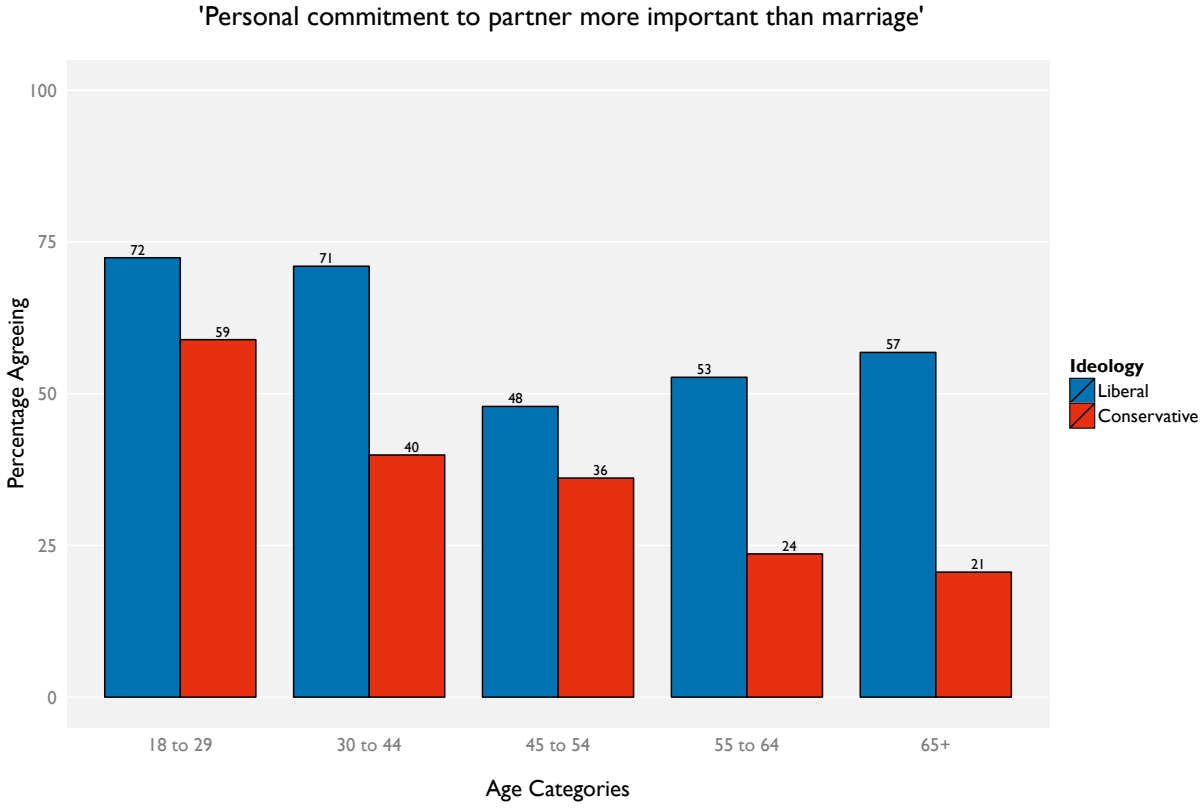


**Figure 2:** Attitudes about Marriage by Age and Ideology. Bars represent the percentage of respondents agreeing with the statement.

In general, respondent age, self-described ideology, and marital status all affect attitudes about marriage, even when we control for the effects of all three simultaneously. Younger, more liberal, and unmarried respondents tend to see less social value in marriage than do older, more conservative, married respondents.

We also asked respondents to tell us whether they would approve of various relationship choices, both in general and for their own children. As part of this series of questions, we conducted a simple experiment by randomly assigning respondents to one of two different versions of the question. Half of respondents were asked about various partnership arrangements with no mention of children and half were asked about the partnership arrangements "when children are present in the home." After this experiment, all respondents with children were asked about their approval of the arrangements for their own children. The results can be seen in Table 5, which reports the percentage approving or strongly approving of each arrangement. Again, we find high levels of approval for the idea of getting married in all cases and somewhat less support for cohabitation. In general, asking respondents to consider each arrangement when children are present makes little difference, though the already high levels of approval for being married go up and support for cohabitation and for never getting married go down. This small drop in support for never getting married when children are present occurs among both liberals and conservatives (though liberals were generally much more comfortable with the choice never to marry than were conservatives) and among both older and younger respondents. When respondents with children are asked to consider

the relationship choices of their own children, support for cohabitation and for never getting married is lower still, while support for marriage remains relatively constant (though part of this result is explained by the fact that respondents without children tend to be younger and more liberal).

**Table 5:** Approval of Relationship Choices

| | *Experiment* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **In General** | **When Children Present** | **For Own Children** |
| *Being married and living with a spouse* | 82 | 85 | 83 |
| *Not being married but living with a partner* | 48 | 45 | 38 |
| *Being divorced* | 23 | 23 | 20 |
| *Never getting married* | 34 | 29 | 28 |

Once again, however, there are some important differences across age cohorts that reflect some changing norms about the choice not to marry. While respondents of all ages approved of being married to a spouse, younger respondents with children were far more approving of the idea that their children would live with a partner outside of marriage. About 58 percent of respondents under 30 said they would approve of such an arrangement for their children, but less than 30 percent of respondents over 65 and only one-third of respondents between the ages of 55 and 64 expressed approval. Similarly, almost 40 percent of younger respondents said they would approve of their children never getting married (though less than 7 percent "strongly approved"), compared to one-quarter of respondents over 55. Racial and ethnic differences are also evident in the data, with Black and Hispanic respondents being more likely than white respondents to disapprove of their children choosing cohabitation or never to marry.

In summary, then, high percentages of Americans appear to approve of marriage as a positive and important life choice for themselves and their children, although evidence also exists that beliefs about the necessity of marriage differ across age cohorts. Respondents' optimism about marriage as a life choice is also borne out by the relationship between marriage and life satisfaction (see Table 6). A higher percentage of married respondents reported being "completely" or "somewhat" satisfied with their lives, compared to all other groups. Married respondents were also more likely than any other group to say they were "completely" satisfied. The group least likely to report life satisfaction was those not in a relationship. Life satisfaction is also related to income, with those with higher incomes reporting higher satisfaction, and age, with older respondents reporting higher levels of satisfaction than younger.

**Table 6:** Relationship Status and Life Satisfaction

| | **Completely or Somewhat Satisfied** | **Neutral** | **Completely or Somewhat Dissatisfied** |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Married* | 84 | 6 | 10 |
| *Cohabiting* | 77 | 7 | 16 |
| *In Relationship but Not Cohabiting* | 68 | 14 | 17 |
| *No Relationship* | 59 | 15 | 27 |

This sense that marriage is an valuable and satisfying life choice does not, however, translate into optimism about the health of marriage and families in the United States today. In general, Americans feel much more positively about their own marriages and families than they do about the state of marriages or the American family more generally. We saw this dynamic in 2015 as well, but as Figure 3 shows, this sense of pessimism about others' marriages continued in 2016. If anything, participants in the 2016 American Family Survey were even more optimistic about the state of their own marriages, but this slightly increased

optimism did not translate into greater optimism about American marriages more broadly. Figure 4 shows that these dynamics were similar when the target of the question was families instead of marriages.

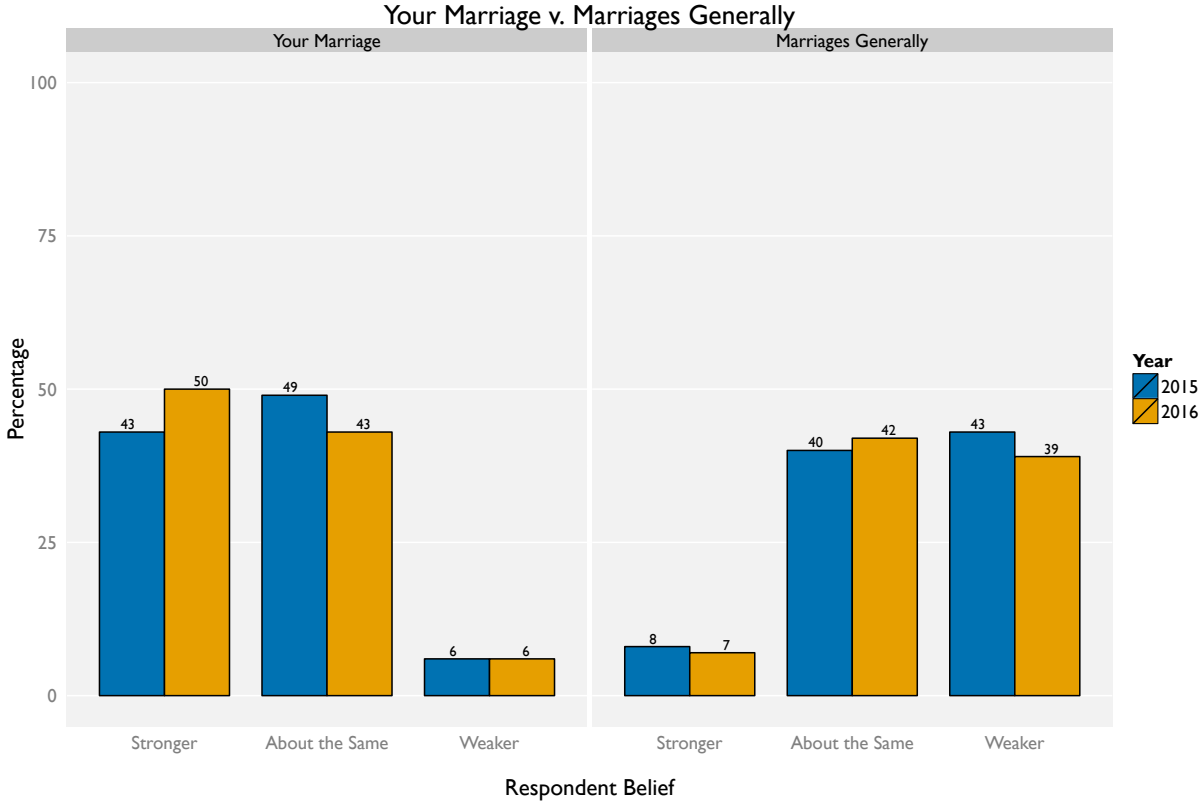


**Figure 3:** Respondent views about the strength of their marriages and marriages generally in 2015 and 2016. Bars represent the percentage of respondents in each category.

**Table 7:** Views about the Strength of Marriages and Families Generally

| | *Marriages* | | | *Families* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Stronger** | **About the Same** | **Weaker** | **Stronger** | **About the Same** | **Weaker** |
| *Liberal* | 10 | 49 | 28 | 8 | 58 | 17 |
| *Moderate* | 7 | 43 | 37 | 7 | 46 | 32 |
| *Conservative* | 5 | 37 | 49 | 5 | 37 | 49 |
| *18-29* | 10 | 47 | 31 | 8 | 49 | 28 |
| *30-44* | 10 | 41 | 37 | 9 | 46 | 30 |
| *45-54* | 7 | 37 | 42 | 6 | 44 | 36 |
| *55-64* | 5 | 46 | 39 | 6 | 46 | 36 |
| *65+* | 3 | 40 | 48 | 3 | 41 | 45 |

Pessimism about the state of marriages and families is more prevalent among older and more conservative respondents. Younger and more liberal respondents were substantially less likely to say that marriages

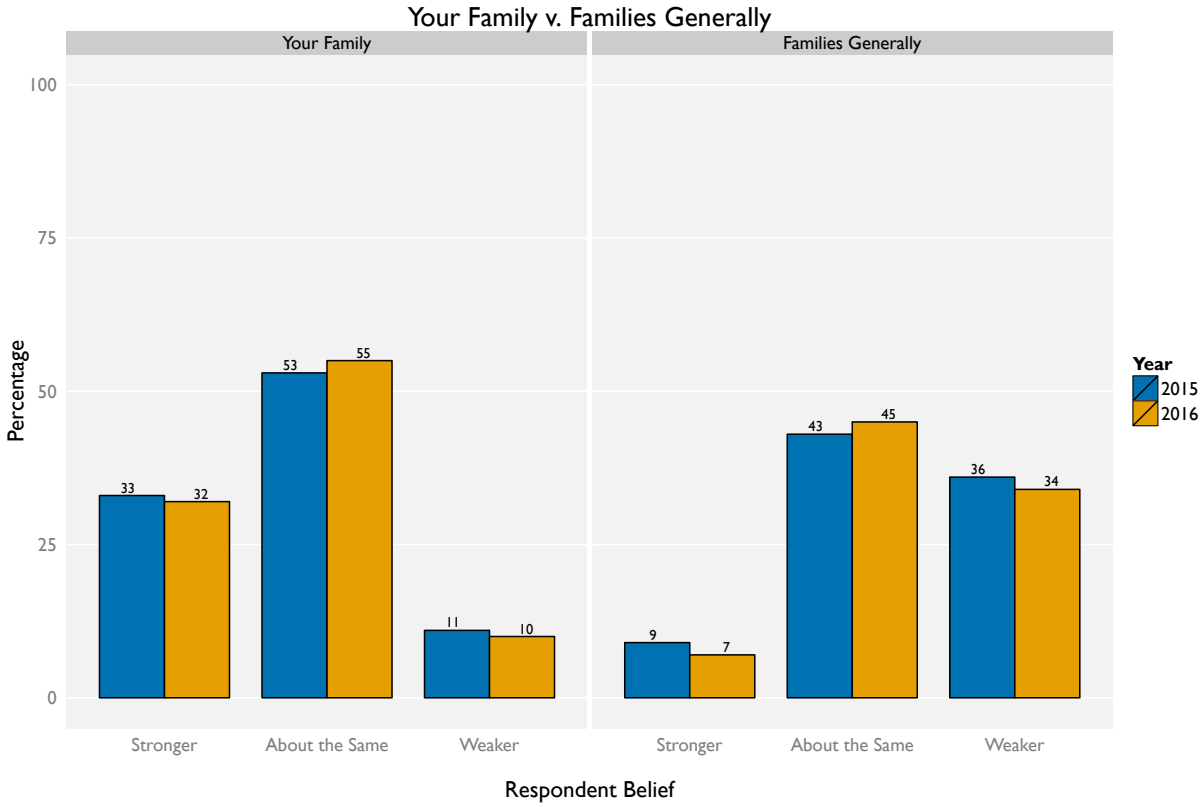


**Figure 4:** Respondent views about the strength of their families and families generally in 2015 and 2016. Bars represent the percentage of respondents in each category.

and families are growing weaker. Details can be found in Table 7.[6] For example, 28 percent of liberals said marriages are becoming weaker, and 17 percent said say families are doing worse. By comparison, 49 percent of conservatives worried that marriages and families are worse off than they were before. Younger respondents were also less pessimistic than older respondents. The analysis does not show that large percentages of young or liberal respondents believe that marriages and families are growing stronger (though they are slightly more optimistic than their older or conservative counterparts), but it is striking that differing levels of pessimism about the state of marriages and families largely track the ideological and generational dividing lines we highlighted above. That is, one possible explanation for these patterns is that older and more conservative Americans may feel less optimistic precisely because they worry about the differing beliefs and norms younger generations are developing about marriage. Some evidence exists, though, that older people are also experiencing increased divorce rates, so it is also possible that the concern older Americans feel is about what they see in their own age cohort.[7]

[6] Respondents who told us they didn't know are excluded.

[7] See, for example, this report on divorce among older Americans: http://www.npr.org/2014/02/24/282105022/older-americans-breakups-are-causing-a-graying-divorce-trend.

## *3.1 Most Important Issues Facing Families*

If few respondents see marriages and families as getting stronger, the next question is, what specific challenges are making family life difficult? As in the 2015 study, respondents were asked to select what they considered the most important issue facing families today. They were given a list of twelve items[8] and were asked to select up to three items. The items were randomly displayed and were not grouped by topic as they are here. The answers (minus the "other" category) for both 2015 and 2016 are displayed in Table 8.

**Table 8:** The Most Important Issues

| | 2015 | 2016 | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Economics** | | | |
| The costs associated with raising a family | 26 | 32 | +6 |
| High work demands and stress on parents | 21 | 27 | +6 |
| The lack of good jobs | 19 | 22 | +3 |
| Lack of government programs to support families | 8 | 10 | +2 |
| **Culture** | | | |
| The widespread availability and use of drugs and alcohol | 27 | 22 | -5 |
| Sexual permissiveness in our society | 25 | 18 | -7 |
| Decline in religious faith and church attendance | 23 | 22 | -1 |
| Crime and other threats to personal safety | 19 | 20 | +1 |
| **Family Structure and Stability** | | | |
| Parents not teaching or disciplining their children sufficiently | 53 | 52 | -1 |
| More children growing up in single-parent homes | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Difficulty finding quality time with family in the digital age | 21 | 21 | 0 |
| Change in the definition of marriage and family | 16 | 15 | -1 |

Note: Cell entries indicate the percentage of the sample selecting that item as one of the three "most important issues facing families today."

In both years, far and away the most popular problem selected was parents "not teaching or disciplining their children" sufficiently. Over 50% of respondents selected it as one of their three items, while no other item was selected by more than one-third of respondents. In fact, all demographic breakdowns suggest that every major demographic group selected discipline as the single most important problem. Essentially, respondents appeared to be suggesting that problems with families are partly self-imposed and that parents should impose more stringent boundaries and limitations. After this belief that discipline is the most serious problem, respondents generally split across multiple categories.

For purposes of better understanding the patterns, we grouped each response into three categories: economics, culture, and family structure and stability. In the economic category, "the costs associated with raising a family" ranked highest, with 32% of respondents selecting that as one of their three items — though we found little to no evidence that a respondent's income correlated with whether or not they selected costs as being an important issue facing families. A slightly higher percentage of respondents located family challenges in the economic category and a slightly lower percentage chose the culture category in 2016 compared to 2015. Respondents who chose the culture category chose each of the items in the category at relatively similar rates. This increased propensity to choose economic problems associated with the family was consistently true across virtually all demographic groups — men, women, all ages,

[8]They could also select an "other" box and fill in a text answer.

parties and ideological status. In some demographic groups, the increased economic emphasis was even more pronounced. For instance, among those age 18 to 29, the average difference across all four categories was over 7 percent. Perhaps because of the heightened interest in the election (or some other unknown reason) people expressed much more concern about economics in 2016 than in 2015 — holding constant their desire to see more discipline in other people's families.

As we have seen with respect to other survey questions, there are clear age-based and ideological differences in propensity to focus on different problems. Younger respondents were more likely to identify economic concerns as being the most important issue (for example, 70 percent of those under 30 selected at least one of the items in the economic category, compared to 50 percent of those over 65). For the culture category, those patterns were essentially reversed: 47 percent of young people identified at least one cultural issue as being a "most important problem," while 75 percent of respondents over 65 did so. These patterns are even more striking when we break down the results by self-described ideology (see Figure 5). Liberals tended to focus on economic issues, while conservatives emphasized cultural problems, and moderates were somewhere in between. Notably, these tendencies are not merely the result of personal economic challenges. About two-thirds of people who had experienced an economic crisis identified economic problems as being the most important issue facing families, but so did 57 percent of those who had not experienced such a crisis. Similarly, about 60 percent of single mothers chose economic issues as being important, but so too did 53 percent of married mothers.

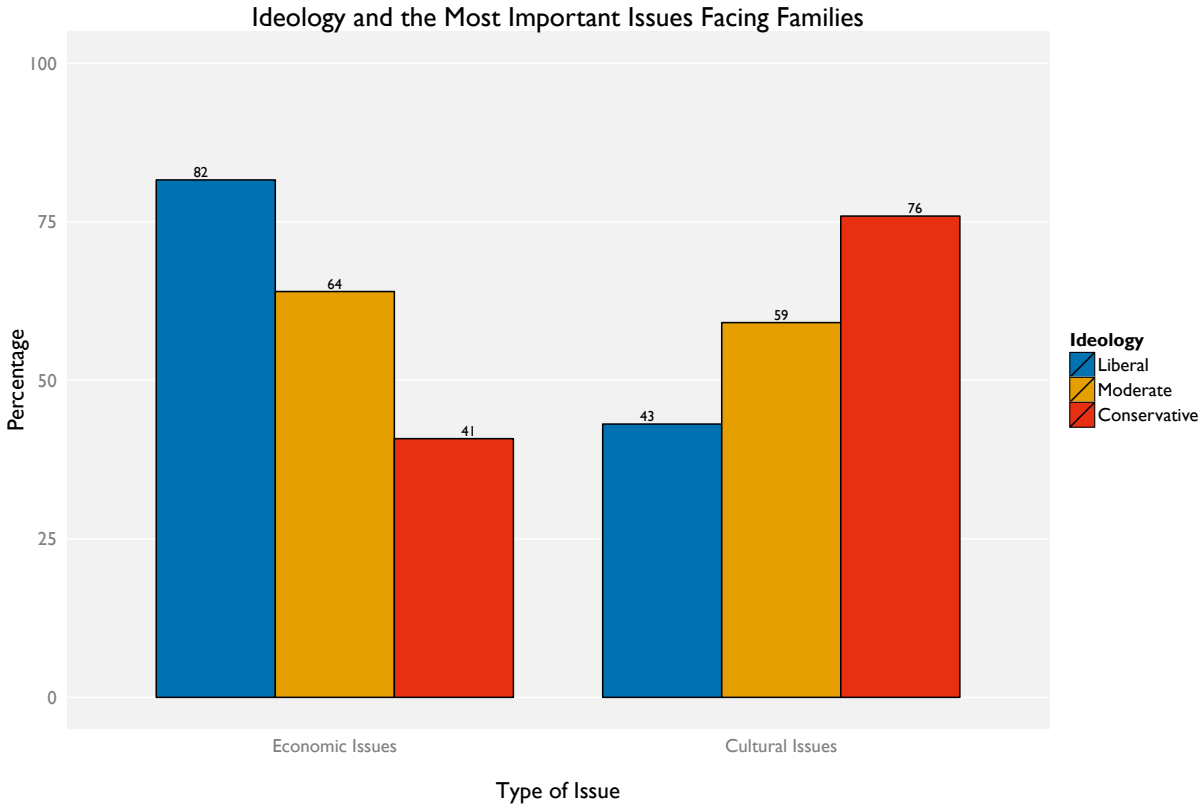


**Figure 5:** Bars represent the percentage selecting at least one item in each category as being one of the "most important issues" facing families.

Concerns about the most important problems facing families mirror respondents' attitudes about other aspects of child-rearing (see Table 9). Just as a majority of respondents selected the need for increased

discipline as a key problem facing families, overwhelming percentages of respondents of all ideological stripes thought that parents should set boundaries on media consumption. Similarly, most respondents worried about the cost of raising children, though conservatives reported less concern about affordability than did liberals. With respect to other aspects of child-rearing, respondents were more divided. For example, liberals were far less supportive than conservatives of spanking as a disciplinary measure, and they were much less convinced that children need both a male and female role model. Similarly, a little less than half of liberal respondents said they believed children are better off with two married parents, compared to nearly 90 percent of conservatives. Consistent with our earlier evidence about changing norms of marriage, there are also differences across age cohorts with respect to that question: less than 60 percent of respondents under 30 said they believed it, compared to 72 percent of those over 65.

**Table 9:** Agreement with Statements about Raising Children

| | **All** | **Liberal** | **Moderate** | **Conservative** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *The cost of raising a child/children is affordable for most people* | 27 | 19 | 23 | 39 |
| *Children are better off if they have two married parents* | 64 | 48 | 56 | 87 |
| *It is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking* | 54 | 35 | 52 | 70 |
| *It is important for parents to pass on their political values to their children* | 34 | 30 | 26 | 46 |
| *Parents should set boundaries on media consumption for their children* | 84 | 84 | 79 | 91 |
| *Children need both a male and a female role model in the home* | 68 | 45 | 64 | 90 |
| *Raising children is one of life's greatest joys* | 74 | 64 | 72 | 84 |

We also see indications of some ideological differences about whether raising children is one of life's greatest joys. However, those differences are driven almost entirely by liberal respondents who do not have children. Liberal respondents who do have children overwhelmingly believed, as did conservative respondents with children, that raising children is a positive life experience. Conservative respondents without children were more enthusiastic about than are liberals without children by more than 20 percentage points, but respondents with children, no matter their ideological perspectives, feel very positively about the experience. Similar dynamics can be seen when we break down the results by age cohort, as can be seen in Figure 6. In general, feeling that raising children is a joy is nearly entirely a function of whether or not the respondent has children. Younger, liberal respondents appear to be less enthusiastic about whether children bring happiness primarily because many of them have not yet had the experience. Of course, self-selection is also an issue here: people who believe that parenthood will be a more positive experience are no doubt more likely to choose to have children.

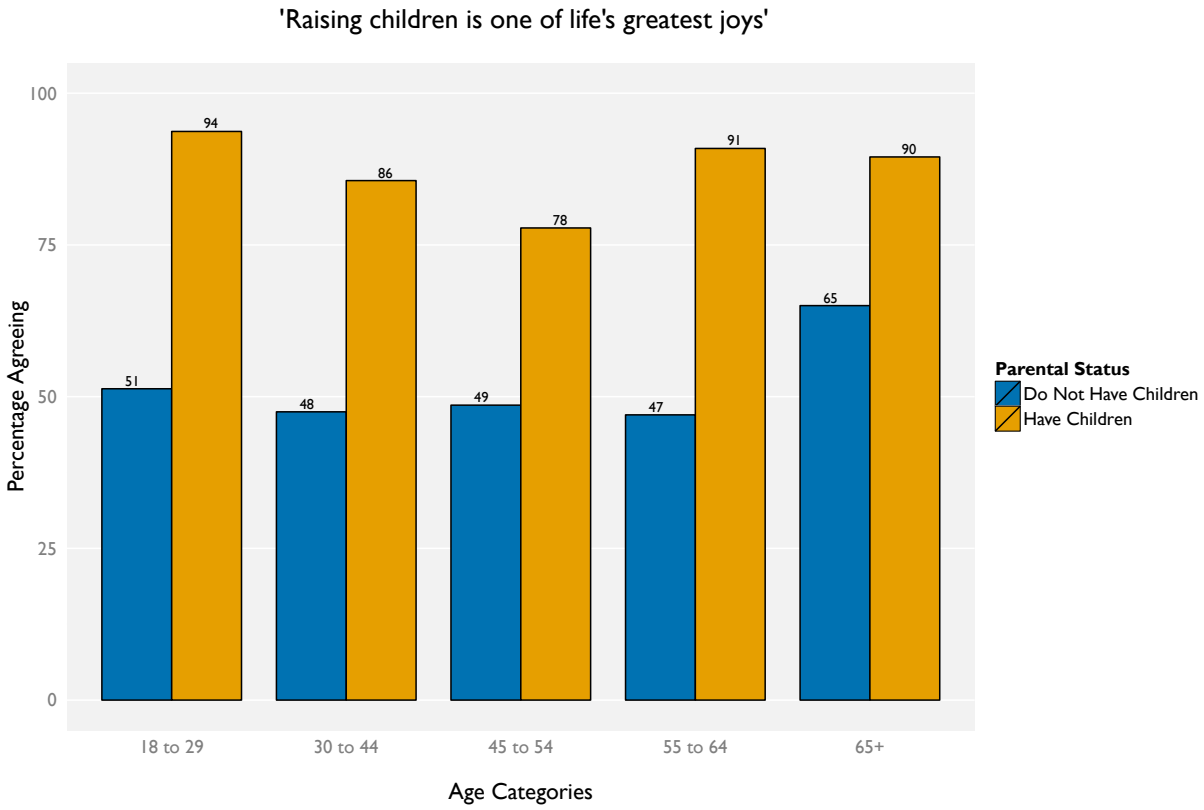


**Figure 6:** Bars represent the percentage of each group that believed "raising children is one of life's greatest joys."

# 4 Relationship and Parenting Practices

We also asked those in a relationship to report some basic facts about their experiences with marriage. These results include all respondents in a relationship, except for questions that applied only to married people and cohabiters (such as sleeping in different rooms). Couples engage in a wide array of activities, some more often than others, but a healthy proportion responded that they engage in these activities often. Table 10 reports the average rates of activities for couples.[9] Some activities are quite common. For instance, people in a relationship express kindness to each frequently, with 40 percent saying they "do nice things for each other" daily and 85 percent saying they do so weekly or more. In addition, couples often discuss family finances, their relationship and social and political issues with one another on a regular basis, along with going out together as a couple and engaging in sex. Serious arguments and hiding finances happen much less regularly. Prayer stands out as something that might be seen in a positive light by many (but certainly not all) couples. However, more than half of couples never pray together. Much of this difference is correlated with ideology. About 70 percent of liberals responded that they never pray with their partner, compared to about 40 percent of conservatives.

We also asked everyone who was married, cohabiting, or who had children to report how often they took part in various activities families might do together. As can be seen in Table 11, the answers for

[9]Response categories for these questions included "Never," "Yearly," "A few times a year," "About once a month," "Weekly," "A few times a week," and "Daily." For purposes of presentation, we collapsed those into three categories: "Yearly or less," "A few times a year/Monthly," and "Weekly or more."

**Table 10:** Couple Activity Rates, Approximately in Order of Frequency

| | Yearly or Less | A Few Times a Year/Monthly | Weekly or more |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Do nice things for each other, such as making coffee, putting gas in the car, etc.* | 4 | 12 | 85 |
| *Discuss finances with each other* | 6 | 32 | 62 |
| *Have sex with each other* | 18 | 26 | 56 |
| *Talk about political or social issues with each other* | 12 | 38 | 51 |
| *Go out together, just the two of you* | 12 | 40 | 49 |
| *Talk about your relationship with each other* | 15 | 39 | 45 |
| *Pray together as a couple, outside of meals* | 57 | 17 | 28 |
| *Have a serious argument* | 33 | 54 | 14 |
| *Hide finances or purchase from each other* | 77 | 16 | 7 |
| *Sleep in different rooms because you were upset with one another* | 82 | 13 | 5 |

the activities vary widely and are difficult to capture in a single descriptive sentence. Three-quarters of families report that they eat dinner together weekly or more, with about half of them saying they do so daily. More than half also do chores together regularly. Over half go out to movies, museums, or other such events at least a few times a year, and a similar percentage said they take time to attend the activities of a fellow family member. About a third of families worship together weekly, but nearly half said they do so infrequently, with over 40 percent saying they never worship together. For some families, then, worship is a key part of family life, while for others, it plays almost no role.

**Table 11:** Family Activity Rates

| | Yearly or Less | A Few Times a Year/Monthly | Weekly or more |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eat dinner together* | 7 | 19 | 75 |
| *Do household chores together* | 21 | 24 | 56 |
| *Worship together* | 48 | 18 | 34 |
| *Go out to movies, museums sporting events, or parks together* | 20 | 59 | 21 |
| *Attend the activities of a family member* | 25 | 54 | 21 |
| *Have an argument* | 32 | 48 | 19 |

Notably, we find very few ideological differences in these family behaviors. Liberals and conservatives may have very different attitudes about marriage and family, but it appears they structure their families in very similar ways, at least with respect to the set of activities we asked about here (see Figure 7). Americans of all ideological stripes eat dinner with their families regularly, do household chores together, and go out to events or activities at roughly similar rates. The exception to these ideological similarities is the choice to worship, which is, like the frequency of prayer in the couples activities we asked about, the only large ideological difference in our battery of family activities. About one quarter of liberals and moderates say they worship together weekly, but more than 40 percent of conservatives told us they attend church at least once a week. By contrast, about half of liberals and moderates told us they never worship

together, compared to only 30 percent of conservatives.

This difference in worship practices appears to be related to ideology more than age: similar percentages of older and younger Americans (around 30 percent) reported worshipping together regularly. More broadly, we also find that younger families told us they were actively involved in all the activities we asked about. If anything, younger respondents just as likely (and in many cases, more likely) to eat dinner together, do household chores together, or engage in other family activities than middle age or older respondents to the survey. Thus, while norms about cohabitation and marriage differ widely across the generations, the details of family life for older and younger Americans appear to remain largely the same.

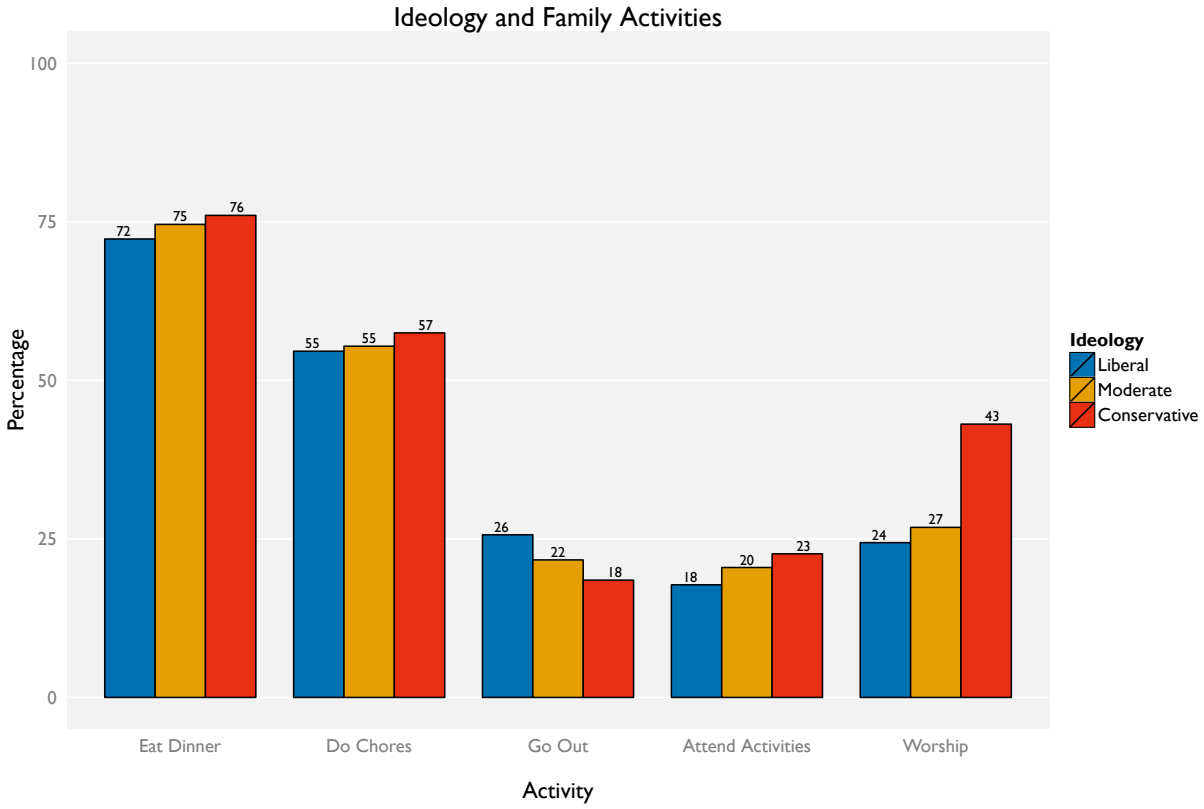


**Figure 7:** Bars represent the percentage of each group that reported doing the activity *weekly or more.*

Given that most respondents to the American Family Survey felt that discipline is an important issue facing families, we also explored the types of rules or limits Americans set for their children. From Table 12, it is clear that the most popular rules are bedtimes and chores, with limits on screen time, phone use and required reading time being somewhat less important to parents. There are places where conservatives stand out, such as on screen time (and to a lesser extent phone use) but there are broadly similar patterns across ideologies as well. The general pattern — and one that fits with the results on family activities but contrasts sharply with the ideological differences in attitudes — is that liberals and conservatives structure the rules of family life in very similar ways.[10]

What differences exist appear to be even more muted when we aggregate the rules. Table 13 displays the aggregated numbers. There are no substantial differences across the parties. The largest difference is

[10]We also find very few generational differences in family rules or limits.

**Table 12:** Rules or Limits for Children

| | All | Liberals | Moderates | Conservatives |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bedtime or curfew* | 64 | 64 | 63 | 65 |
| *Daily or Weekly Chores* | 64 | 60 | 60 | 69 |
| *Limits on Screen Time* | 47 | 46 | 42 | 53 |
| *Limits on Phone Use* | 34 | 31 | 31 | 40 |
| *Required Reading Time* | 33 | 35 | 30 | 35 |
| *Required Music Practice* | 12 | 12 | 9 | 16 |

between Democrats, only 22 percent of whom have at least five of the limits displayed in the table, and Republicans, where 28 percent have that many rules. On the whole, these are relatively small differences. Liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats impose largely similar sets of expectations for their children.

**Table 13:** Percentages of Each Party with Each Number of Rules for their Children

| | 1 or Fewer | 2 - 4 | 5 or More |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Republicans* | 34 | 37 | 28 |
| *Independents* | 38 | 36 | 27 |
| *Democrats* | 40 | 38 | 22 |

We noted above that large percentages of Americans reported doing household chores as a family regularly. We also asked couples about who performs which chores around the house — some of which pertain to children and some of which do not. Figure 8 displays the percentages of men and women who responded "both" by type of chore. There is a consistent pattern of men responding "both" significantly more often than women responded "both." In other words, men are somewhat more likely than women to say that household chores are shared. In some areas — cleaning the house, cooking meals, and transporting children — the differences are quite substantial. The pattern is interrupted for only one set of chores where women were more likely to respond "both": home repairs.

We also asked whether the division of household chores between men and women differs across the generations, but we found no consistent patterns of change. Across all generations, women were more likely than men to say they cook meals, clean the house, discipline children, and transport children to activities on their own, without any assistance from their spouse. In this sense, traditional gender roles continue to play at least some role in the division of household responsibilities, even as other aspects of family life change. At the same time, however, meaningful percentages of women across all age cohorts told us that they share these chores with their partners, so it is also the case that in many families, household responsibilities are not shouldered alone.

In addition, we asked respondents with children to think about how they and their partner work together to raise their children. On the whole, most survey respondents said that they feel high levels of support from their partners and also extend such support in return. For example, about three-quarters of respondents said their partner "supports me in the way I want to raise the children," and about the same number say they "respect [their] partner's wishes about how children should be raised." More than 80 percent reported that they talk with their partners "about problems that come up with raising children." Nearly 80 percent say they can count on their partner to look after the children for an extended period, and only about one quarter say they are "critical of things my partner does with the children."[11] Differences

[11]These results include all respondents with children, but the findings are essentially identical if we restrict our focus to respon-

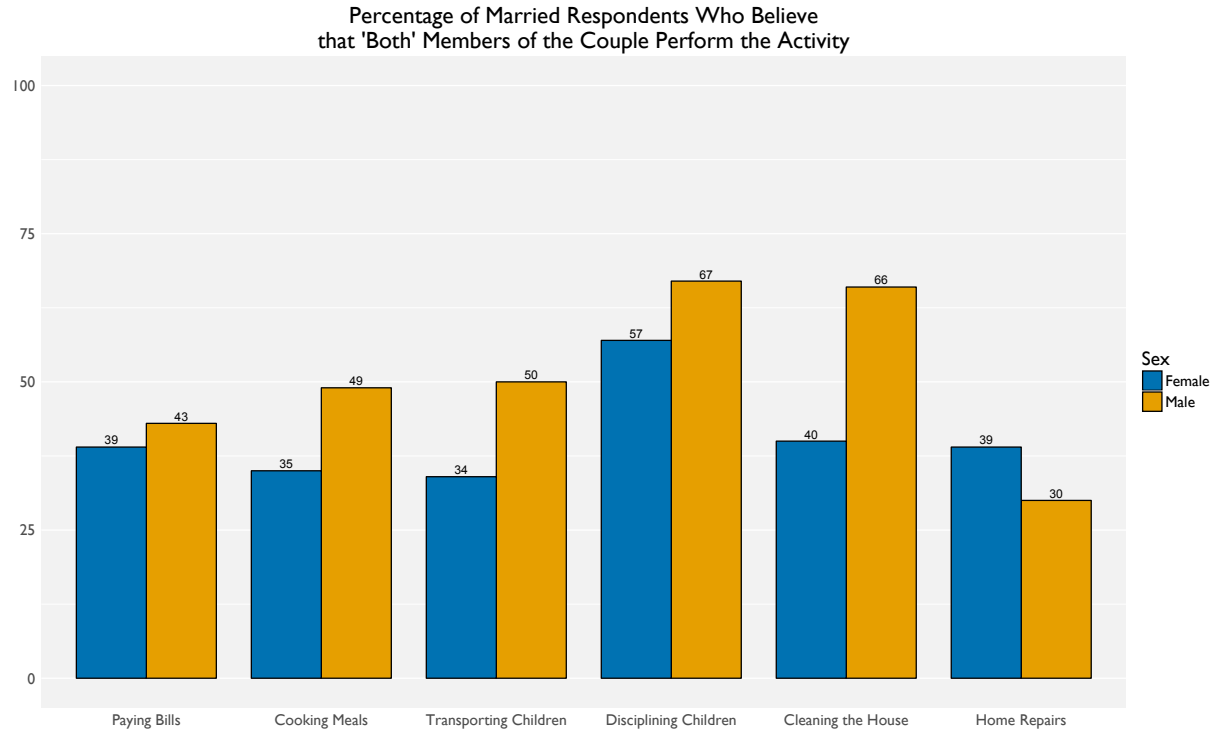


**Figure 8:** Bars represent the percentage of each group that believed both members of the couple took care of the task.

between men and women in responses to these questions are small, though men tend to express slightly more positive attitudes about their partners than women.

We do, however, find substantial differences between married and cohabiting couples. While around 80 percent of married respondents said that they feel support from their partner in child-rearing choices, only 64 percent of cohabiters felt the same — still a strong majority, but 15 percentage points lower.[12] Similarly, cohabiters were somewhat more likely to express criticism about their partners' parenting choices.[13] Notably, but perhaps not surprisingly, married couples who are separated — and thus experiencing severe relationship difficulties — were the most negative of all: about 54 percent said they are critical of their partners' parenting.

We also find evidence of a correlation between partner support and income. As can be seen in Figure 10, low income respondents were substantially less likely to agree that their partners support them in their child-rearing efforts and substantially more likely to respond neutrally. These differences are large: a little over half of low income respondents said they felt support, compared to more than 75 percent of middle-

dents with children currently living in their homes. See Table A1 for details.

[12]Results are again very similar if we restrict findings to only those who currently have children at home. See Table A1 for details.

[13]Cohabiters may feel less support from their partners in part because they are substantially more likely to be parenting children from multiple relationships. In our sample, about two-thirds of cohabiters are parenting children who are not their own biological offspring, compared to one-third of married couples. The combination of cohabitation and parenting children other than one's own offspring is associated with feeling much lower levels of support from one's partner. Cohabiters in that situation with children still at home are least likely (compared to married parents parenting their own offspring, married parents parenting children from other relationships, and cohabiting parents raising their own offspring) to feel that their "partner acts like the parent I want for my children" and that their partner "supports me in the way I want to raise the children." Cohabiters parenting their own biological offspring feel much more support from their partners — still slightly less than married couples do, but the differences are more modest.

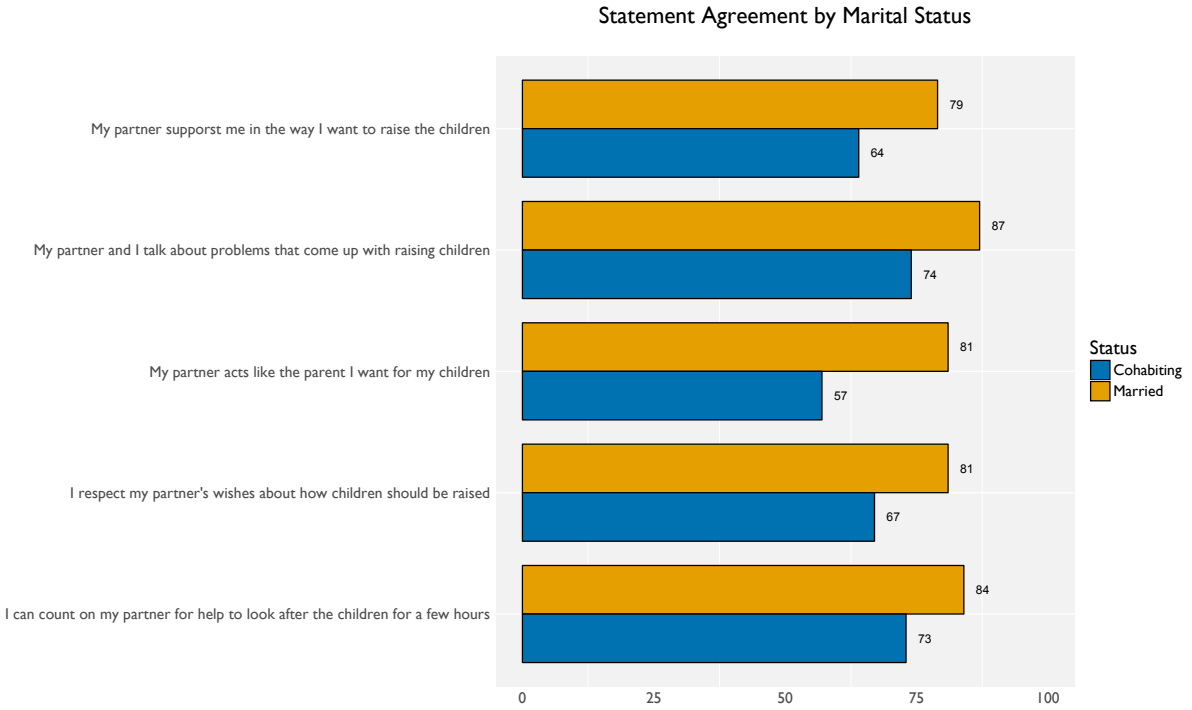


**Figure 9:** Attitudes about partner support by marital status. Bars represent the percentage of respondents agreeing with the statement. See Table A1 for additional supporting details.

and high-income Americans. Thus, not only do those with lower incomes face financial challenges in raising families, they are also more likely to feel that they are shouldering the burden of raising children on their own.

Finally, we asked about a selection of parenting practices meant to gauge what is sometimes called "helicopter parenting" — the extent to which parents closely supervise their children's activities, insist that their children participate in certain sorts of activities, or involve themselves heavily in their child's education by doing homework for a child in a bind or arguing with a teacher about a grade. Focusing on parents with children still at home, we find that doing homework or arguing with teachers occurs rarely and that insisting on activities or allowing children to play outside unsupervised is much more common. In addition, there are few differences in these parenting practices based on ideology, marital status and cohabitation, or age cohort. Men are slightly more likely than women to allow their children to play outside unsupervised. With respect to income, low income parents were significantly more likely to argue with a teacher about their child's grade and less likely to allow their children to play outside unsupervised (see Table 14). We also find that less educated respondents are also less likely to allow their children to play outside and more likely to argue with their child's teacher. These dynamics may have less to do with "helicopter parenting," however, and more to do with frustration about the education system or the safety of the neighborhoods in which low income and less educated Americans live.

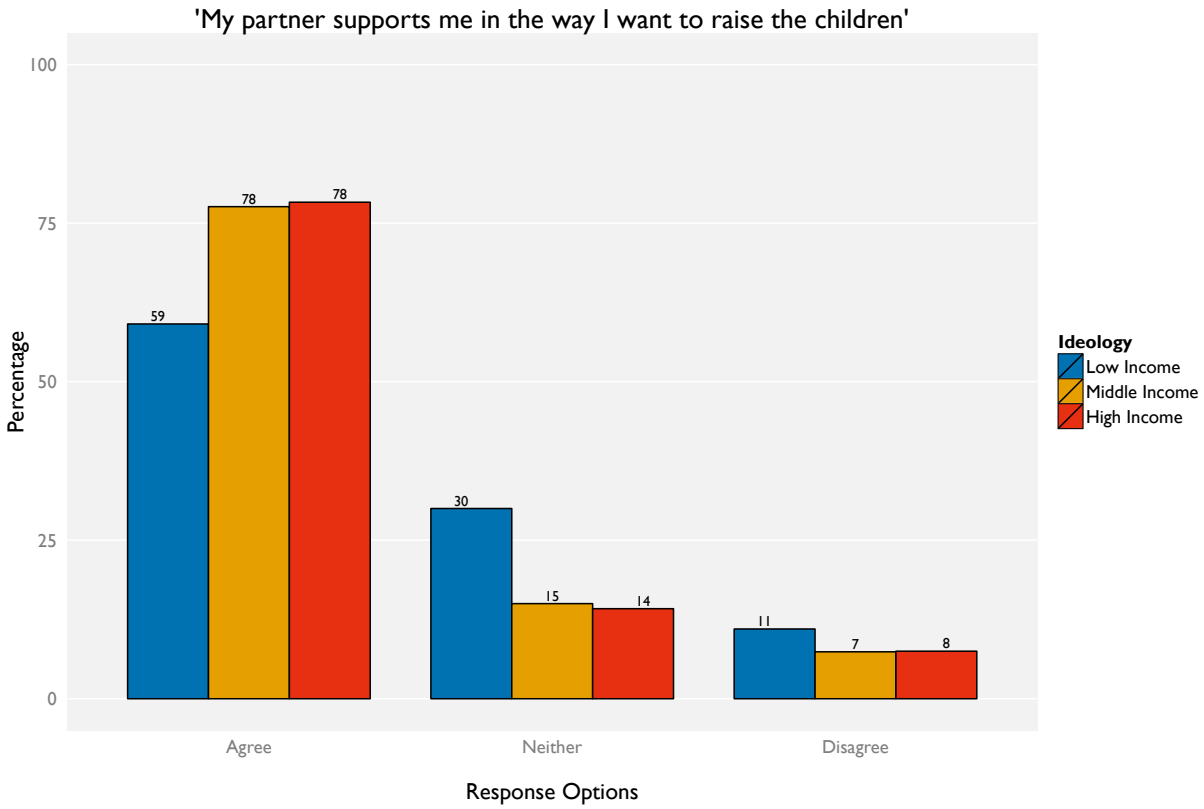


**Figure 10:** Bars represent the percentage of respondents agreeing with the statement.

**Table 14:** Income and Helicopter Parenting: Percentage of Parents with Children at Home who Engage in Each Activity "Frequently" or "Sometimes"

| | All | Low Income | Medium Income | High Income |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Insist on certain activities or classes* | 46 | 44 | 46 | 45 |
| *Allow child to play outside unsupervised* | 51 | 38 | 52 | 69 |
| *Do homework for a child in a bind* | 21 | 23 | 20 | 20 |
| *Argue with your child's teacher* | 18 | 27 | 15 | 13 |

# 5 Economic Experiences

One of the new elements of the 2016 American Family Survey is an exploration of the economic lives — and especially the economic difficulties — people tend to face. Table 15 describes the basic findings with respect to economic crises — moments when the respondent experienced a severe financial or economic challenge. About four out of ten respondents had experienced one of the crises listed in the table within the past year. Some are obviously more common than others. For instance, the most common were to avoid paying the full amount of an important bill or to receive financial aid from friends or family. About one in five respondents experienced these things. Just over one in ten respondents skipped meals because of a lack of funds or avoided going to the doctor because they were sick. Smaller numbers were dislocated to the homes of family or friends or shelters.

**Table 15:** Indicators of Economic Crisis

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| *Didn't Pay Full Amount of Important Bill* | 20 | 80 |
| *Received Financial Aid from Friends/Family* | 19 | 81 |
| *Didn't Go to Doctor because of Cost* | 14 | 86 |
| *Didn't Eat Because Couldn't Afford Food* | 13 | 87 |
| *Moved In with Others Due to Financial Stress* | 6 | 94 |
| *Stayed at Shelter, in Car, etc. Even for One Night* | 2 | 98 |
| *None of the Above* | 62 | 38 |

Respondents with children living at home were especially likely to have experienced an economic crisis. About 46 percent of respondents with children currently in the home said they had experienced at least one of the economic challenges listed in Table 15, compared with about 34 percent of respondents without children at home. Among low income respondents with children currently living in the home, more than 60 percent reported experiencing an economic crisis in the past year. Thus, economic challenges — and the increased stress that accompanies them — are a common experience for the poorest Americans who are in the midst of raising children.

Figure 11 shows the percentage experiencing at least one of those economic crises by family status. It is far more likely that someone experiences such issues if they are cohabiting, or merely in a relationship, than if they are married or single. These patterns are essentially identical if we restrict the sample to respondents who have children living at home.

Table 16 displays the percentage of respondents describing their savings length within income groups. About four in ten respondents were unable to accrue savings for more than a month's worth of their needs. This figure rises to six in ten for those who are making less than $30,000 a year. But even among the highest income group — those making more than $100,000 per year — fifteen percent were unable to save for more than a month's worth of their needs.

**Table 16:** Amount of Savings by Income Group

| | Less than a Month | 1-3 Months | 4-6 Months | 6+ Months |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Overall* | 40 | 23 | 13 | 24 |
| *Low Income* | 59 | 18 | 9 | 14 |
| *Middle Income* | 33 | 26 | 14 | 26 |
| *High Income* | 15 | 22 | 16 | 46 |

There is a healthy percentage of the population — about a quarter on average — that reports substantial savings that would carry them for six months or more. It is true that this is more prevalent among higher income respondents, but a quarter of middle income respondents and even fourteen percent of low-income respondents reported such savings. On the whole these results suggest substantial variation in savings that is connected to income, but is clearly also driven by other factors.

The people with the least savings appear to be those who are least connected with their neighbors. And those with more savings are more able to get together with neighbors. Evidence of this correlation can be seen in Table 17.

Above, we mentioned single mothers as an important group to study and assess. When it comes to economic experiences, it is clear that single mothers face a different set of challenges. Though they do not

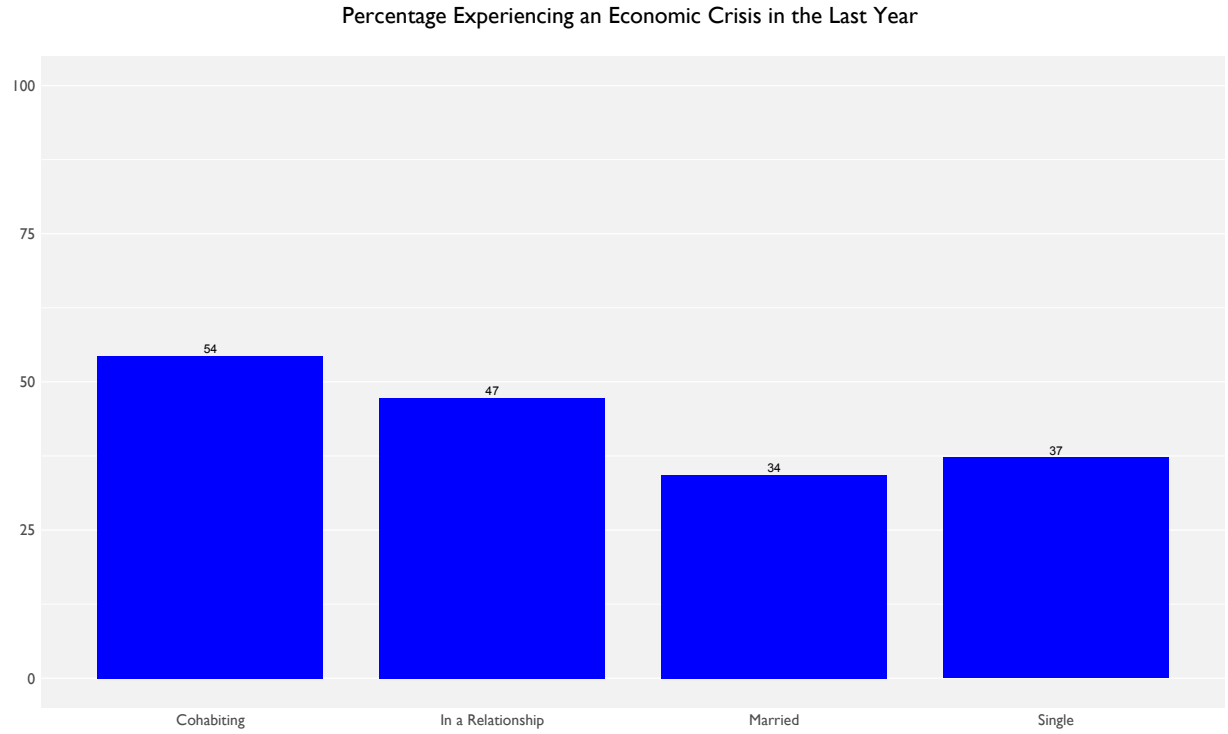


**Figure 11:** Bars represent the percentage of each group that experienced one or more of those economic crises in the past year.

**Table 17:** Family Savings by Contact with Neighbors

| | Never | Yearly | Monthly | Weekly or More |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Less than a Month* | 47 | 32 | 30 | 32 |
| *1-3 Months* | 22 | 24 | 25 | 25 |
| *3-6 Months* | 12 | 15 | 16 | 11 |
| *6+ Months* | 20 | 29 | 29 | 32 |

stand out on many measures, they are substantially different on economic crises, where 47 percent of them have faced such challenges, as opposed to only 35 percent of married mothers. Income is no different. Single mothers experience these challenges, at least in part, because they face drastically different income situations. As shown in Table 18, of women with children in each income category, 63 percent of those making a low income — less than $30,000 per year – are single mothers. The figure for middle incomes is less than half that amount, and for those making more than $100,000 per year, just one in ten are single mothers. Analyzed differently, about 59 percent of single mothers make a low income, compared to only 23 percent of married women with children.

Broadly, we take these results to suggest that there is substantial economic distress in American life and society and that the rates of savings suggest that people are not always able to meet these patterns. Though claims about "two Americas" can be overdrawn, it is true that some people are much more likely to experience these events. Women in general experience such crises more. Single mothers experience them the most, and all of it is tied to important economic context. Below we will explore how that affects

**Table 18:** Percentage of Single Mothers within Income Categories

| Income Category | Percentage Single Mothers |
|---|---|
| *Low* | 63 |
| *Medium* | 29 |
| *High* | 10 |

their policy attitudes.

# 6 Social Sources of Help for Family-Related Needs

In the 2016 American Family Survey, we also explored how people relate to the social resources and networks around them. For example, we asked survey respondents to tell us where they would turn first, outside of their families, if they needed help with various family-related issues, such as childcare, advice about children or relationships, financial help, care for home or property, or transportation to an important appointment. Table 19 shows which source respondents told us they would rely upon for help in these different circumstances. It is clear that across a wide range of family-related questions and needs, most people rely on themselves or, for a smaller percentage of respondents, their friends. Comparatively fewer Americans turn to neighbors, churches, co-workers, or other community organizations.

**Table 19:** Who Would You Turn to First if You Needed Help?

| | Neighbors | Religious Organizations | Community Organizations | Co-Workers | Other Friends | Rely on Myself |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Help with Childcare* | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 28 | 54 |
| *Advice about Children* | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 51 |
| *Advice about Relationship* | 2 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 33 | 51 |
| *Financial Help* | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 73 |
| *Taking Care of Property* | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 57 |
| *Transportation* | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 30 | 55 |

To examine these patterns still further, we focus on one particular set of respondents — those who said they *always* relied on themselves first and never identified any other resource or group for assistance with family-related needs. This group might be labeled as the most self-reliant or alternatively (at least with respect to the family-related needs we asked about) the least willing to lean on social networks, community resources, or other forms of social capital. This group is a minority of the sample — only about 27 percent of respondents. Most participants in the American Family Survey said they would look outside of their families for help with at least one family-related issue. As a confirmation that this measure is getting at some form of social capital, about 70 percent of those who say they would rely only on themselves also reported that they never get together socially with their neighbors.

In general, we find small demographic differences in those who report relying on social networks for help as compared to those who prefer to depend on themselves and their families. For example, there are few differences across racial or ethnic categories, and single mothers were no more likely to say they rely on themselves than married respondents. Moderate and conservative respondents were somewhat more likely to be self-reliant than liberals, but these differences are relatively small (22 percent of liberals, compared to 29 percent of moderates and 27 percent of conservatives).

We do find, however, that older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to rely on themselves instead of bringing social networks and resources to bear for help. Nearly one-third of respondents over age 65 told us they would not turn to sources of social capital for any form of help, compared to about 18 percent of people under 30. In addition, income is also associated with a lack of reliance on others for help (Table 20), but in a potentially unexpected way. One-third of those in the lowest income category (under $30,000) said they would rely only on themselves, compared to about one-fifth of those in the highest income category (over $100,000). In some ways, this result is surprising: we might have expected, for example, that those with the highest incomes would be the most self-sufficient, given their economic resources and success. But that is not what we find. Instead, it is those with the fewest resources who are more likely to go it alone.

When we dig still deeper, though, we find that these more self-reliant respondents in the lowest income categories were *less* likely to have experienced an economic crisis. About 23 percent of people who had experienced a crisis said they were self-reliant, compared to 44 percent of low-income respondents who did not experience a crisis. In other words, low-income respondents with the greatest economic challenges were less likely to go it alone than those not facing an economic emergency.

**Table 20:** Income and Self-Reliance

| Income Category | Percentage Relying Only on Themselves |
|---|---|
| *Low* | 33 |
| *Medium* | 24 |
| *High* | 21 |

A willingness to depend on social networks and resources is also connected to church attendance. Table 21 reveals that respondents who never attend church were significantly less likely to look outside themselves for family-related needs. This is, perhaps, not surprising, given that one of our indicators of social capital is a willingness to reach out to religious groups. Nonetheless, those who attend church services more often are likely to be more deeply embedded in a social network and thus more likely to have friends and religious resources on which they can rely when they need help.

**Table 21:** Church Attendance and Self-Reliance

| Religious Attendance | Percentage Relying Only on Themselves |
|---|---|
| *Weekly or more* | 19 |
| *Monthly or a few times per year* | 16 |
| *Seldom* | 24 |
| *Never* | 41 |

# 7 Authoritarianism

People's authoritarian attitudes have long been of interest to social scientists who study both family and politics. These attitudes are typically measured using a battery of questions that ask about a person's attitudes toward desirable qualities in children.

> Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below are pairs of desirable qualities. Please indicate which one you think is more important for a child to have, even if you think both are important.

Independence v. Respect for Elders
Obedience v. Self-Reliance
Curiosity v. Good Manners
Being Considerate v. Being Well Behaved

The aim is to test whether people who are more likely to select respect, obedience, good manners and being well-behaved are systematically different from those who are more likely to select the other items. For our purposes authoritarian attitudes may be useful as a test of whether or not the survey is capturing important family or political dynamics. As will be seen below, the measure is connected to some political and policy variables and occasional family attitudes, though rarely family practices and habits.

Two factors are important to note at the outset and can both be seen in Figure 12. African-Americans tend to have much more authoritarian views than whites. However, the self-described ideology of whites (liberal to conservative) tends to be more closely connected to one's authoritarian attitudes. White self-described liberals tend to be much, much less authoritarian than white self-described conservatives. In contrast, even blacks who describe themselves as very liberal are approximately as authoritarian as the whites who describe themselves as conservative.

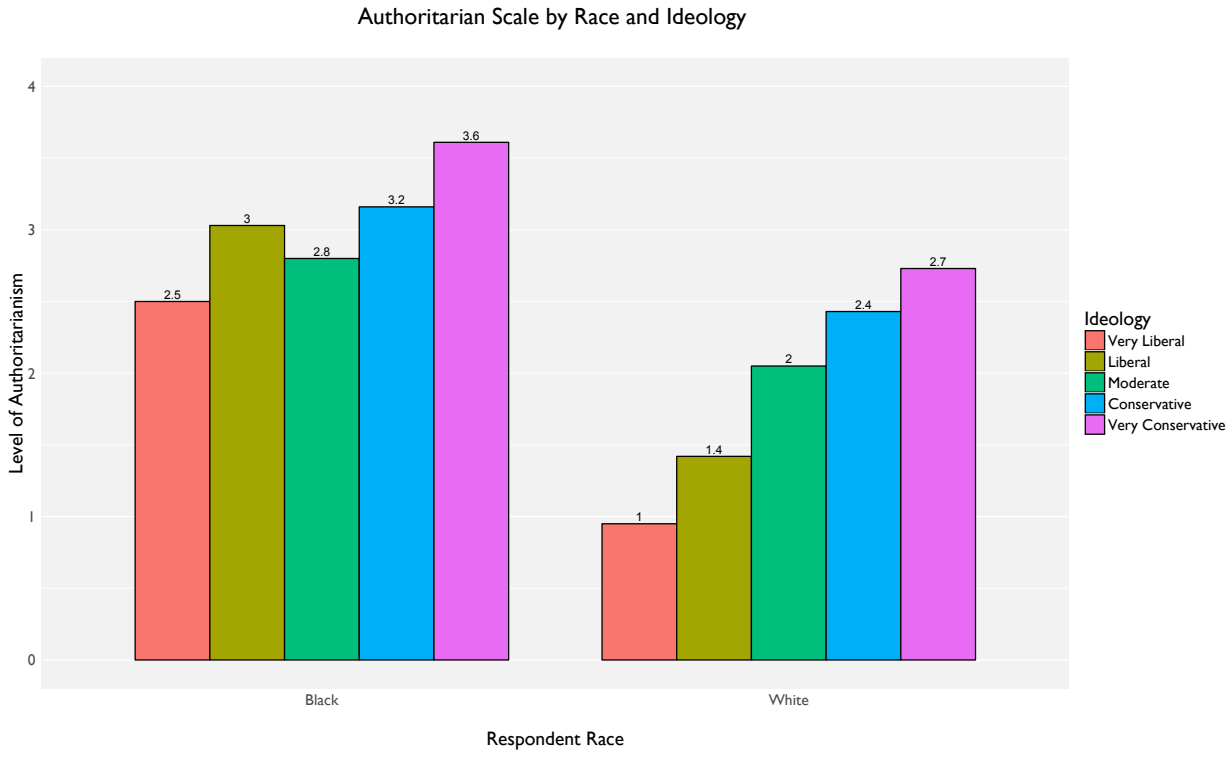


**Figure 12:** Bars represent the average authoritarianism score for a black or white respondent in each category. Black citizens exhibit, on average, higher levels of authoritarian attitudes at all levels of self-described ideology, while for whites, self-described ideology has a stronger connection to authoritarian attitudes.

Not all characteristics are closely connected to authoritarian views however. For instance, one's marital status is not strongly connected to authoritarian attitudes. Figure 13 displays the scores for those who are cohabiting, married or single and, despite the fact that there remains a significant difference between whites and blacks, there is no significant difference across any of these categories within race. It appears

that whether or not one has authoritarian attitudes has relatively little relationship with one's choices about marriage.

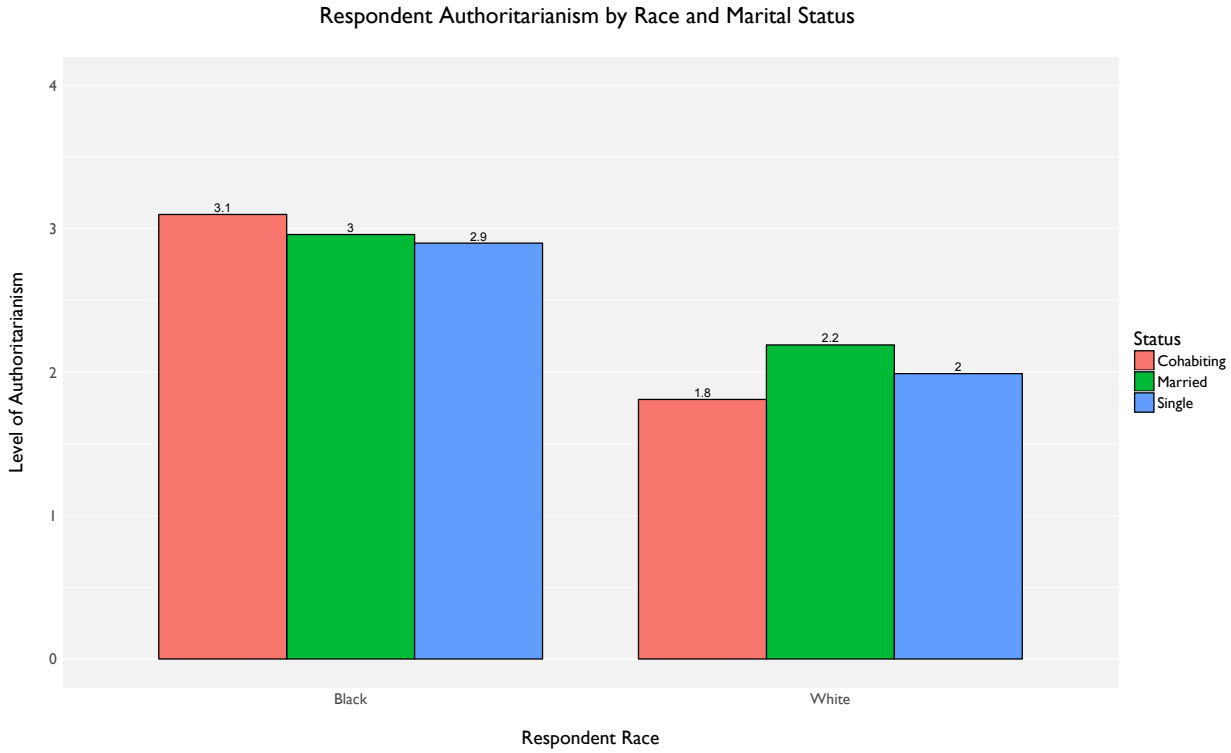


**Figure 13:** Martial status is not significantly connected to reported authoritarianism, though there are the obvious racial differences.

Similarly, parenting attitudes are also not always connected to authoritarianism. For instance, in Figure 14 we see little to no major differences in authoritarian attitudes between parents who are either in favor of setting boundaries on their children's media, against setting such boundaries, or neutral on the subject. Specific family practice is not necessarily connected to one's authoritarian attitudes.

However, it is clear that authoritarian attitudes are connected to some family attitudes. In Figure 15, for example, we see that those with more authoritarian attitudes also tend to believe in the importance of both a male and a female role model for children. The connection is more profound among whites, who clearly exhibit strong differences across all beliefs about role models, whereas in the case of black respondents it is really only the respondents who believe in the importance of both male and female role models who appear different.

Authoritarianism is perhaps somewhat more connected to politics than some of the previously discussed attitudes or practices, so it is not surprising that there is also a connection between partisanship and one's authoritarian attitudes. Table 22 highlights this connection. Republicans score much higher than do Democrats. Of course these differences are most pronounced among whites, whereas among blacks the differences really only amount to independents being different from Democrats (the number of Republicans is quite small and is only provided for completeness).

What seems clear based on these data is that authoritarian attitudes are connected to one's views about some political questions and also certain issues related to family, but by no means all family issues. On

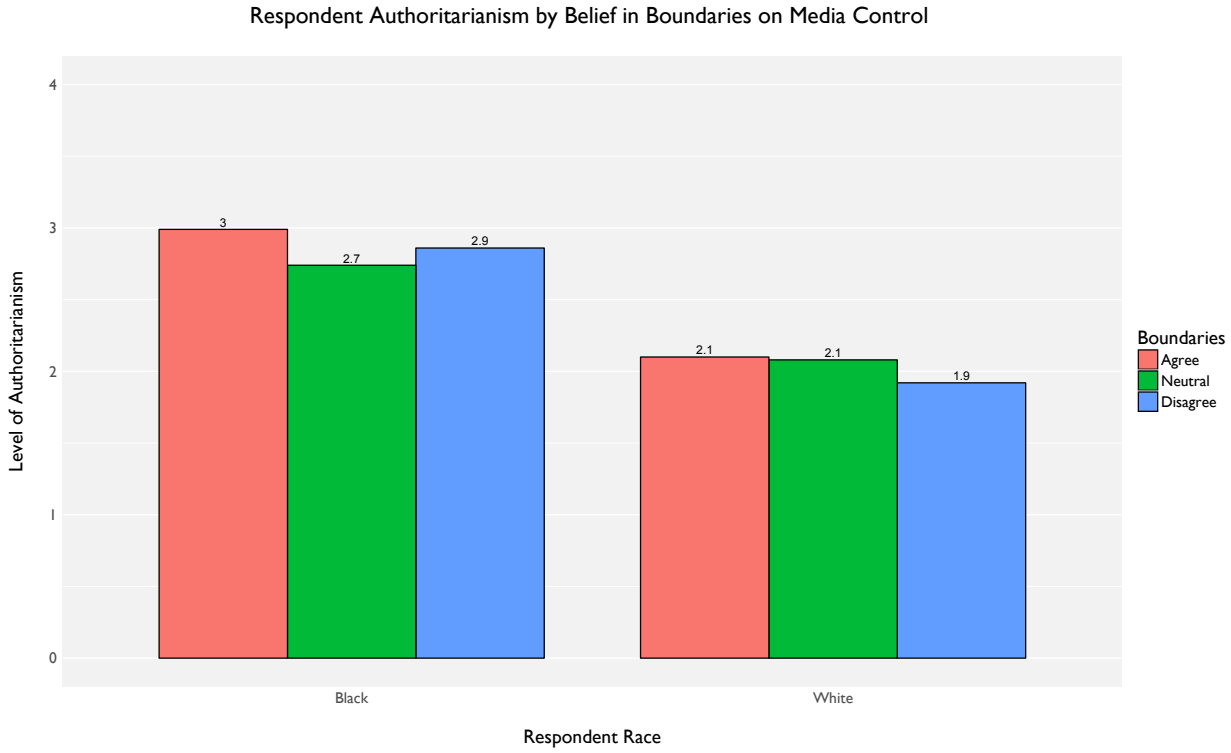


**Figure 14:** There is not a strong connection between levels of authoritarianism and specific media practices for children.

**Table 22:** Cell entries indicate the average authoritarian score for partisans by race. (Note that the number of black Republicans is extremely small and is only provided for completeness.)

| | **White** | **Black** |
|---|---|---|
| *Republican* | 2.49 | 3.00 |
| *Independent* | 2.07 | 2.59 |
| *Democrat* | 1.70 | 3.10 |

many issues, authoritarians are no different in practice than the people around them. For instance, 74 percent of those in the bottom half of the measure eat dinner together weekly or more often. In the top half of the distribution the percentage is 75 percent. Sometimes there are small differences. For instance, with respect to attending activities 60 percent of the lower scoring respondents attended family activities a few times a year or monthly. For higher scoring respondents the figure was only 50 percent. But the differences are rarely substantial and not always consistent. Table **??** displays the figures for those scoring in the lower half of the measure (low authoritarians) and for scoring in the upper half of the measure (high authoritarians). There are virtually no differences in how the two groups set limits for their children.

Though we did not measure authoritarian attitudes on the 2015 American Family Survey, this general pattern of practices exhibiting less connection to politics than some attitudes about the ideal image of families is consistent with the data on that survey. We will return to a discussion of the role of authoritarianism in our discussion of politics and policy below.

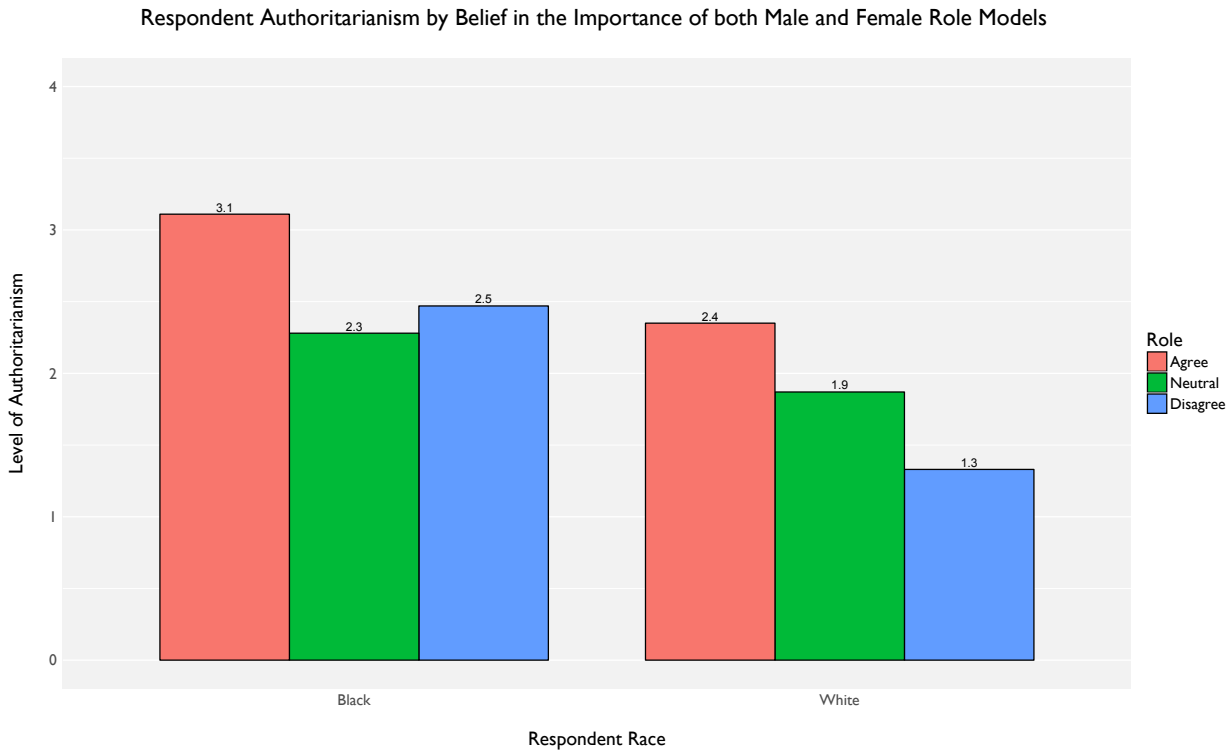


**Figure 15:** There is a connection between people's attitudes about male and female role models and authoritarianism, a connection that is clearer among whites than it is among blacks.

**Table 23:** Authoritarians and Boundaries for Children

| | Low Authoritarians | High Authoritarians |
|---|---|---|
| *Bedtime or Curfew* | 63 | 64 |
| *Limits on Screen Time* | 48 | 47 |
| *Limits on Phone Use* | 34 | 34 |
| *Required Time for Reading Books* | 31 | 34 |
| *Required Time for Practicing Musical Instruments* | 10 | 14 |
| *Daily or Weekly Chores* | 63 | 64 |
| *Limits on Media Content* | 41 | 43 |

# 8 Policy

## *8.1 Traditional Assistance*

One of the goals of the American Family Survey is to explore how Americans view government policies that affect families. To that end, we asked respondents to rate various government programs on the extent to which they are good for families with children. Table 24 displays the average ratings of each of the core assistance programs polled in the survey. The ratings are on a scale 0 - 100, and higher ratings indicate a belief that the program is more likely to help families. Typical political patters are there in the data — people on the left slightly prefer the programs, those on the right are more skeptical — but it should be

noted that the typical response (even among those on the right) ranges from neutrality to a positive stance.

**Table 24:** Assistance Program Ratings

| | **Program Rating** |
|---|---|
| Food Stamps | 61 |
| Housing Assistance | 58 |
| Medicaid and other Insurance | 60 |

When we break down these ratings by other characteristics, two things become clear. First, patterns across family groups exist but are not overwhelming. Figure 16 breaks out the ratings for each of those programs by whether or not a respondent is married and has children. The pattern is fairly consistent across each group, though the effect is not enormous. People who are married and have children rate these programs the lowest, while those who are unmarried and have no children rate them just a bit higher. The groups that like the programs a bit more are those who are married without children and those who are unmarried and have kids — this latter group rating the programs most highly.

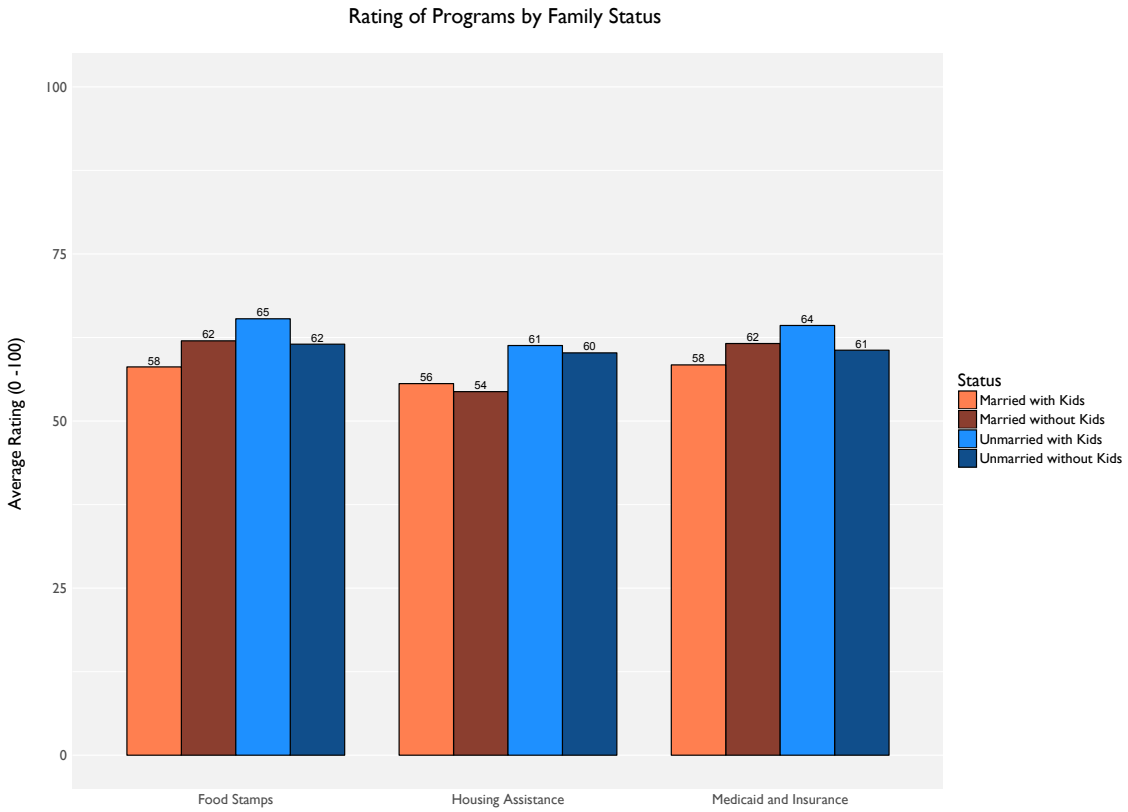


**Figure 16:** Program ratings by family status show that those who are married with kids or unmarried without kids tend to rate the programs the lowest.

It is, perhaps, somewhat surprising that the group that consistently rates the programs lowest are those who are married and have children. These programs are, in many ways, designed to help people with children, but something about marriage relates to a kind of dislike for these programs. When we use a regression analysis on these ratings, we find that having children and especially being married with

kids leads to lower program ratings even after controlling for a host of other variables. One possible interpretation of this result is that those with more relationship stability, because of a solid family structure, simply see less need for the programs.

Second, we also examined the question of economic experience, and this is obviously related to the question of how people perceive economic programs. People's economic experience is somewhat related to their evaluations of the typical assistance programs, but it is not as important as is their experience with those programs. Figure 17 shows that the key consideration is whether or not someone has benefitted from the programs rather than whether or not they have recently experienced any economic distress. The results suggest, then, that the mere fact that a family has faced economic challenge is not enough to boost appreciation for the role these government programs can play in assisting families. Instead, increased appreciation comes from having seen the benefits of the programs firsthand.

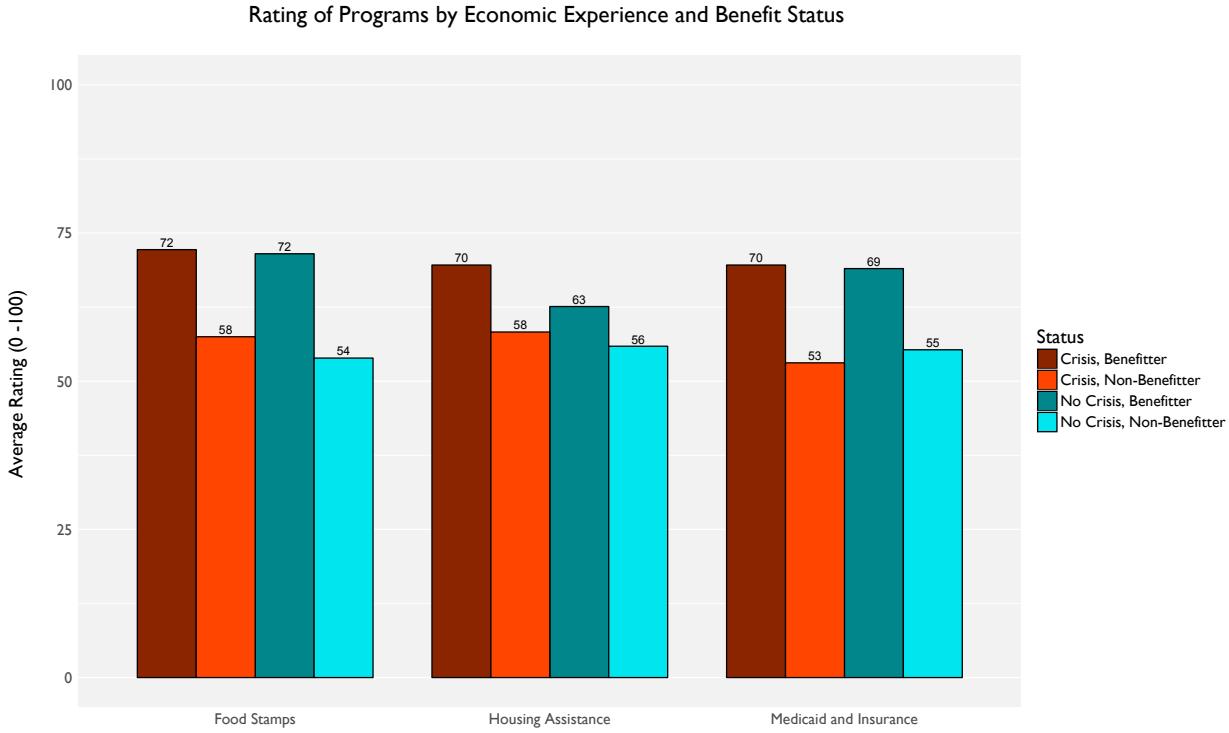


**Figure 17:** Policy programs are rated most highly by those who have benefitted from the program, not those who have only experienced economic distress.

Figure 18 breaks it out further by focusing on a key group that is a target of assistance: single mothers. Again, it is clear that whether or not someone has benefitted from the program is a crucial consideration. Single-mothers who have not benefitted from the program tend to like the programs no more than married moms who did not benefit (housing assistance is the area where there is the greatest difference). The group that stands out are single moms who have benefitted from the programs. They consistently rate these programs higher. And in fact, their status as single moms may contribute to even higher ratings than exist among married moms who have benefitted from the program. But again, it is clear that benefitting is the key variable — not need, but experience with government assistance. Though there are differences on the other variables — such as authoritarianism and reliance on social capital — they are not as important as the basic fact of having used the program in the past.

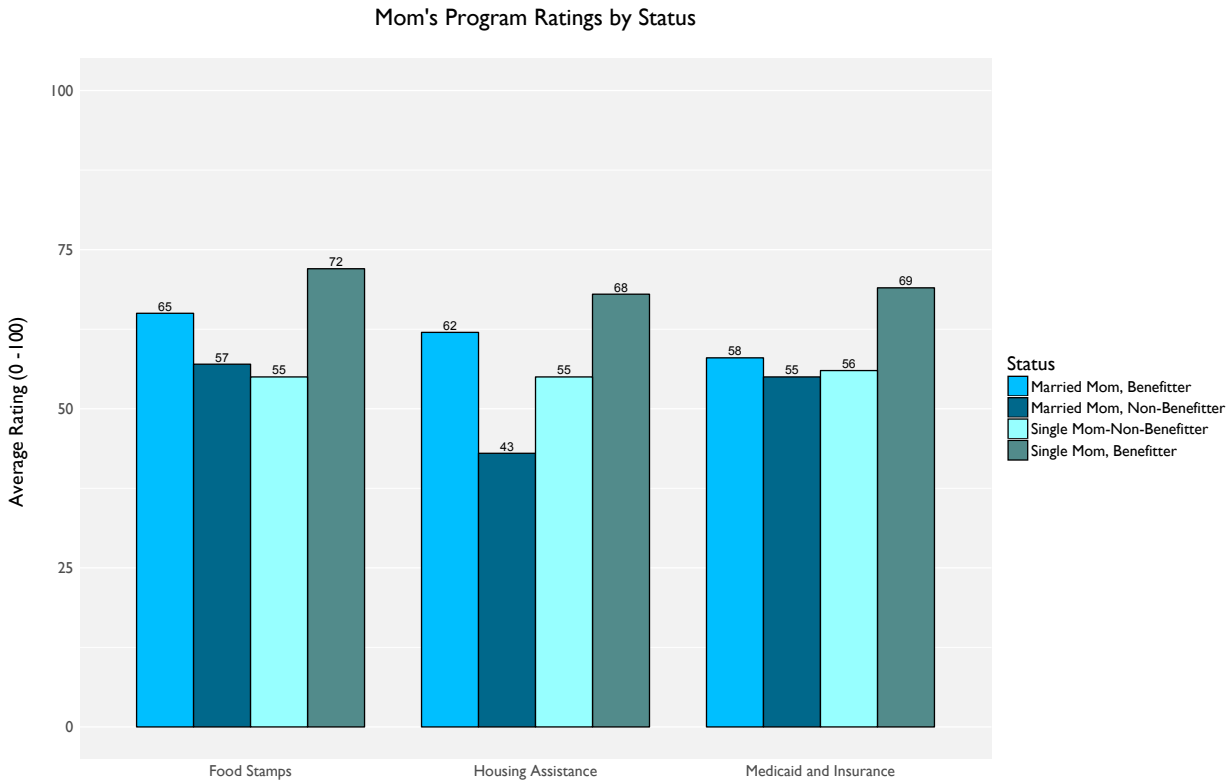


**Figure 18:** Bars represent the average program rating by a mother's status.

If personal experience shapes attitudes about government assistance programs, families' economic experiences matters for Americans' views of the quality of their local schools. Figure 19 displays the percentage of respondents who saw their local education options in a positive light. Though the result is not dramatically different by family status or the number of children, those who have experienced economic crises are less likely to agree that good educational opportunities exist in their neighborhoods. It is raises the troubling possibility that those who are economically deprived cluster into neighborhoods that tend to have weaker educational offerings. Of course this is self-perception, not a true measure of the educational quality in a given area, but it is suggestive of a pattern of many problems clustering in a single area.

This general pattern masks a series of important distinctions. For instance, Table 25 shows a strong pattern that connects a parent's education with the options for their children. Those who lack a high school degree tend not to agree that the local options are good for their children. Those with a four-year bachelor's degree or post-graduate education tend to agree with the idea that the local options are quite good. Those with a high school diploma or some level of college that falls short of a typical bachelor's degree are exactly in the middle. This broad pattern holds for several other related demographics like income and related areas like race, though the educational results are the most consistent and clear. This is not, however, a partisan issue. About 58 percent of Democrats believe they have good schools, as do 57 percent of Republicans (only 49 percent of self-described independents believe it). The issue with good schooling has more to do with achievement in society than it does with the political agendas of the respondents.

Finally, we turn to two additional programs that are not traditionally labelled as being about assistance but about wages (and, to a degree, taxes): the earned income tax credit and the minimum wage. Figure 20

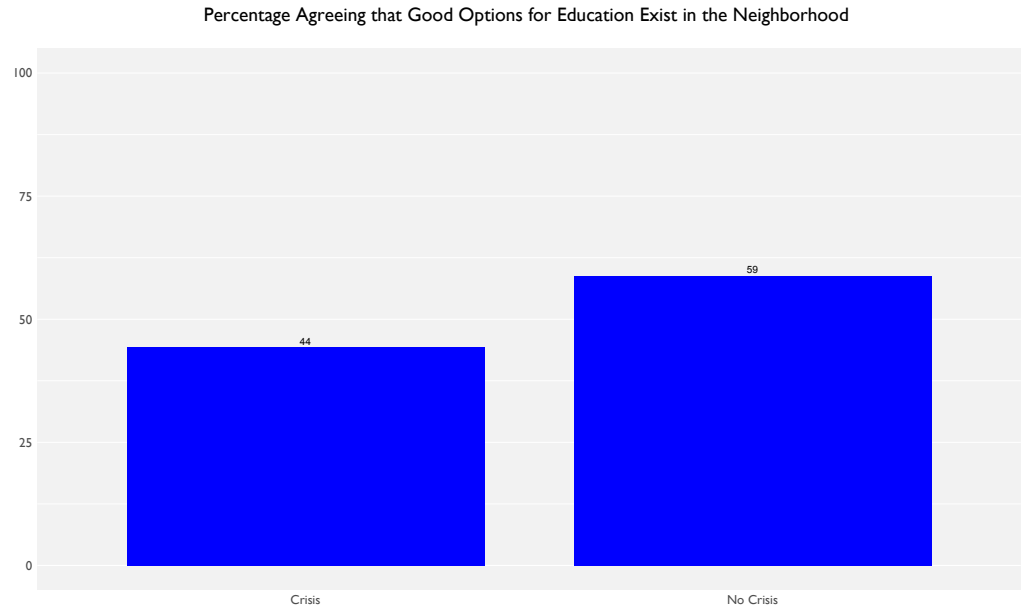


**Figure 19:** The percentage who agree that local options for public schools are good is much higher among those who have not experienced any economic crises in the past year.

**Table 25:** Percentage Agreeing with the Statement that Local Neighborhood Schools have Good Educational Options for their Children

| | **Percentage** |
|---|---|
| *Less than High School* | 38 |
| *High School* | 48 |
| *Some College* | 50 |
| *2-Year College Degree* | 51 |
| *4-Year College Degree* | 68 |
| *Post-Graduate Degree* | 69 |

shows the rating — controlling for benefitting from the program — for the two programs. As with other programs, it is clear that benefiters are more enthusiastic than non-benefiters. It is also striking that at least with respect to the question of whether it benefits families, the minimum wage is far less popular than is the earned income tax credit. We hasten to add, though, that this could be due to the fact that those on the left are more likely to believe that the level of assistance provided by the current minimum wage is not high enough.

In general, the policies evaluated by the public suggest some significant support for the existing social safety net, but a *strong* connection between experience and attitudes. What is curious is that the necessary experience is not simply economic need. In fact, though there are some connections between economic deprivation and a belief that the safety net helps families, the much stronger connection is one's experience with the government programs. It is decidedly not enough to need the help that government could provide to shape one's attitudes about these programs. One must actually experience assistance from the government to evaluate it positively.

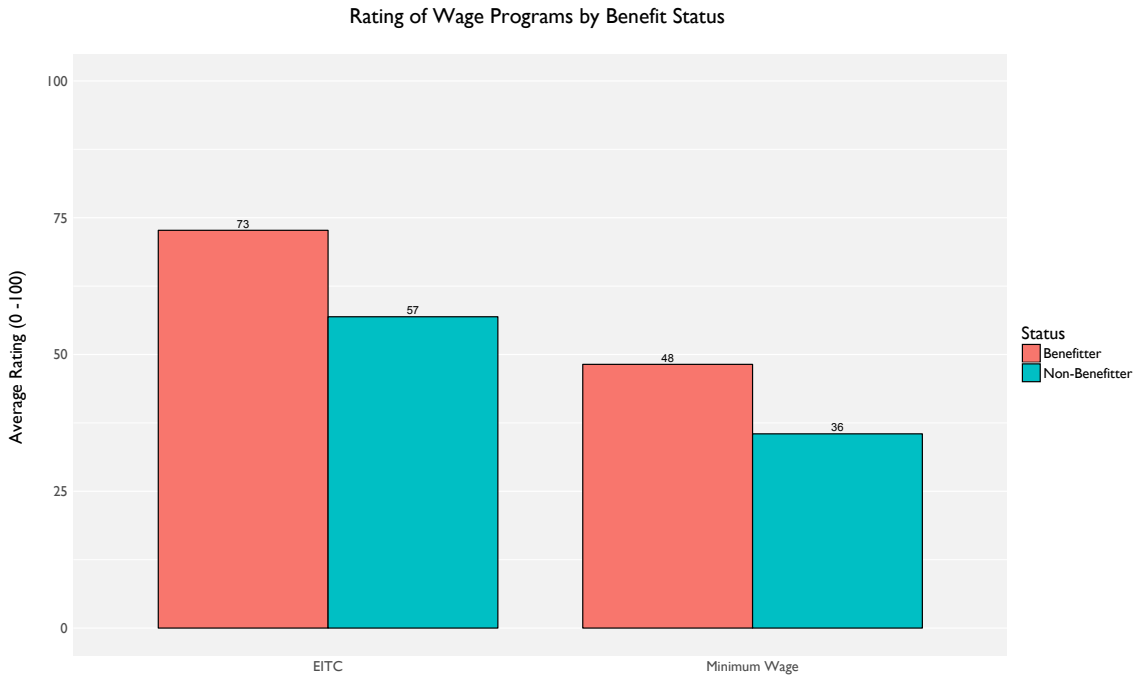


**Figure 20:** The earned income tax credit is much more popular than the minimum wage—at least as regards help for families.

## *8.2 Family Leave*

One of the political issues related to families that has been raised in the 2016 presidential election is the question of family leave. We asked respondents to the American Family Survey whether the government should "require employers to provide family leave time" to their employees and if so, whether such leave should be paid or unpaid. Table 27 shows that family leave is relatively popular: over half of respondents said they supported paid family leave and another 14 percent said they would want the government to mandate unpaid leave. Just under one-fifth of the sample said the government should not mandate any sort of leave. Paid family leave is slightly more popular with women than with men, but even so, half of men supported it. Similarly, it is more popular with Blacks and Hispanics than with whites, but again, about half of white respondents preferred a government mandate to provide paid leave.

**Table 26:** Should the Government Require Employers to Offer Family Leave?

| | Yes and Paid | Yes but Unpaid | No | Don't Know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All* | 54 | 14 | 19 | 13 |
| *Men* | 50 | 16 | 23 | 11 |
| *Women* | 58 | 12 | 16 | 14 |
| *White* | 51 | 15 | 22 | 12 |
| *Black* | 64 | 13 | 9 | 14 |
| *Hispanic* | 61 | 10 | 13 | 16 |

Not surprisingly, given that the question asked about a government mandate, there are large ideological differences in support for family leave policies (see Figure 21). Liberals are strongly supportive of paid family leave, moderates somewhat less so (though a majority favor the policy), and conservatives are least enthusiastic. Even so, more conservatives favor some form of family leave (whether paid or unpaid) than oppose it outright.

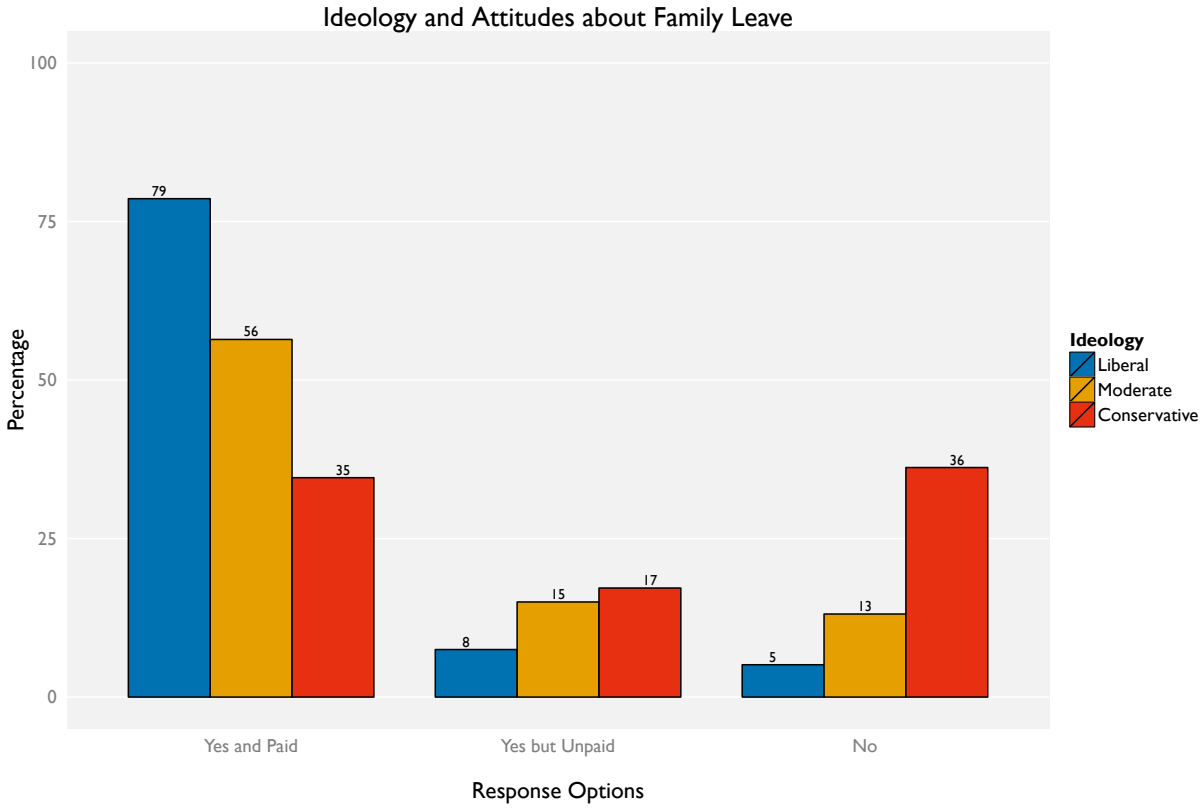


**Figure 21:** Support for family leave varies by ideology.

Consistent with the pattern we saw for other government assistance programs, attitudes about family leave are also associated in part with respondents' own experience with these programs (see Figure 22). Majorities of those who currently have access to leave, whether paid or unpaid, favor a government requirement to ensure employees have this benefit. Those who currently have no access to any family leave benefits are least likely to support government intervention in this area — though they are still more likely to embrace paid family leave than oppose it. Put differently, people who have experienced family leave programs see their benefit and want to make sure those benefits continue.

We also asked respondents to tell us how long different types of paid family leave should be, were the government to require employers to offer it. Employers might offer leave in a variety of different circumstances, so we asked about a variety of different possibilities. Maternity and paternity leave are the most common types of leave, but employers might offer it in cases of serious personal illness, a sick child, to care for elderly adults, or for any other reason employees might choose. Table 27 shows that respondents favored longer maternity leave and more modest leaves for other circumstances — on average, respondents estimated that maternity leaves should last for a little more than three-and-a-half months. Women, those without children, liberals, and moderates preferred even longer maternity leaves, but even conservatives favored maternity leaves of about 3 months. Differences between high and low income respondents

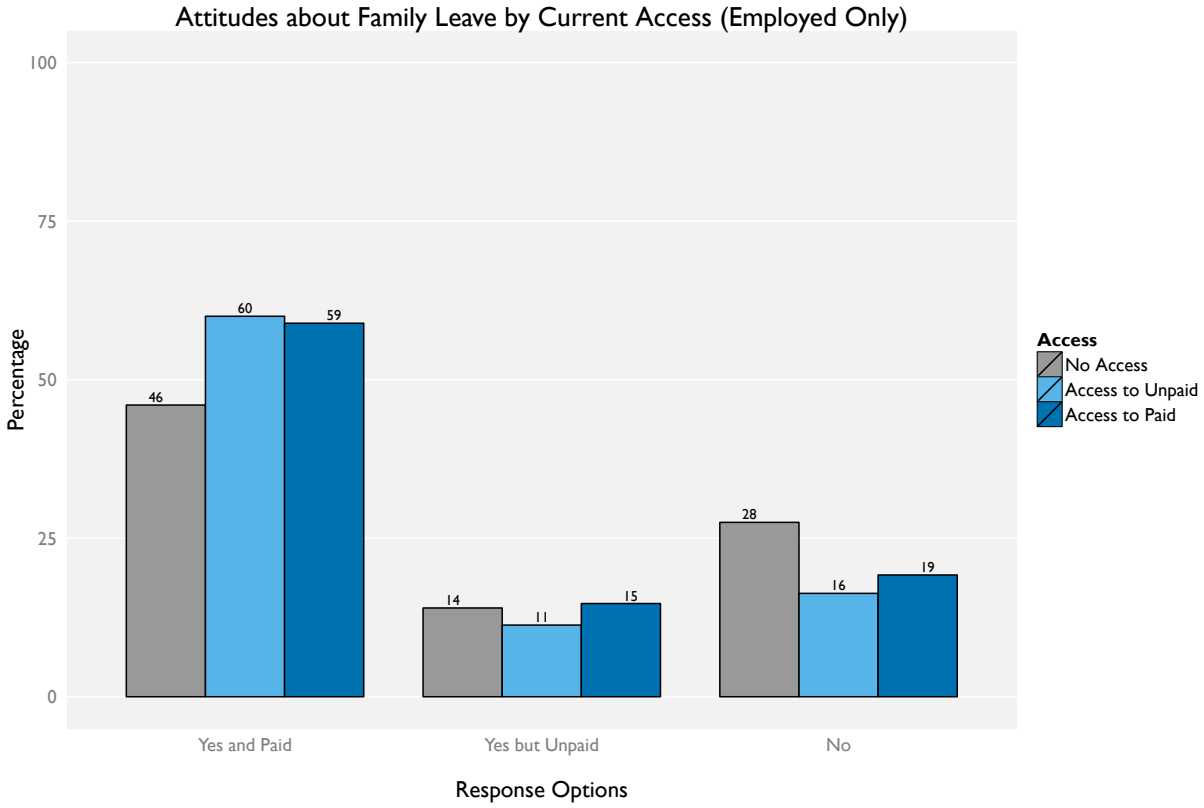


**Figure 22:** Support for family leave varies by access to leave from current employer.

(not shown in the table) were modest, but as a general rule, higher income respondents tended to favor slightly longer leave times. In addition, respondents thought that leaves for most other circumstances should be two to two-and-a-half months. The shortest leave preferences were for "any reason" chosen by the employee.

**Table 27:** Average Preferred Length of Paid Family Leave (in months)

| | Maternity | Paternity | Personal Illness | Sick Child | Care of Adults | Any Reason |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All* | 3.6 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 1.2 |
| *Men* | 3.4 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| *Women* | 3.8 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.2 |
| *No Children* | 4.1 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| *Have Children* | 3.3 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 1.1 |
| *Liberal* | 4.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 1.7 |
| *Moderate* | 4.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| *Conservative* | 3.0 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 0.9 |

We also plumbed the ideological differences in preferred length of paid maternity leave by examining the

preferences of voters who preferred different candidates during the primary season (see Table 28). Ted Cruz voters preferred the shortest average leave times – just over two months – and Bernie Sanders voters preferred much longer leaves of over 5 months on average. Those who supported Donald Trump during the primary season wanted leaves of about two-and-a-half months. Hillary Clinton supporters preferred leaves of just under four months — substantially longer than the preferences of most Republican voters but still much less than what Sanders voters wanted.

**Table 28:** Primary Vote Choice and Average Length of Maternity Leave

| ***Candidate Preference*** | **Average Preferred Maternity Leave (in months)** |
|---|---|
| *Ted Cruz* | 2.2 |
| *Donald Trump* | 2.6 |
| *Other Republican* | 2.8 |
| *Hillary Clinton* | 3.9 |
| *Bernie Sanders* | 5.2 |

With respect to who should pay for family leave (Table 29) if the government were to mandate it, respondents favored no single source. Nearly 30 percent were unsure who should fund such a program. Very few thought that state or local governments should shoulder the burden, but they were split as to whether paid leave should be provided by all employers, businesses that employ more than 30, or (to a lesser extent) the federal government. Altogether, about half of respondents said that businesses of some sort should provide the funding for paid leave, though it is clear that opinions about this issue are not fully developed.

**Table 29:** Who Should Pay for Paid Family Leave?

| | **Percent** |
|---|---|
| *All Employers, Regardless of Size* | 25 |
| *Business that Employ More Than 30* | 25 |
| *The Federal Government* | 15 |
| *State or Local Governments* | 6 |
| *Don't Know* | 29 |

Finally, we asked respondents to think about the possibility that the federal government would fund paid family leave and then tell us how the federal government should pay for such a program. Table 30 shows that opinions were sharply divided, though predictably, there are substantial ideological differences. On the whole, no one method of funding the program stands out, and again nearly 30 percent of respondents said they were unsure. Liberals tended to favor strongly a tax on high earners, while conservatives preferred family leave savings accounts (though many were not sure). Moderates were split across all the categories, with a third favoring a tax on high earners, a a third unsure, and the rest split across the remaining two response options. As with the question of who should pay for family leave, it is clear that attitudes about how a federally funded program of paid family leave are not crystallized.

In general, we can conclude that a majority of respondents want to require employers to provide family leave of some sort, with most preferring paid leave, and that they favor maternity leaves of substantial length and generous (though somewhat smaller) leaves for other life circumstances. But at this point at least, respondents are far less certain about the details of how to structure or pay for such a policy.

**Table 30:** How Should Family Leave Be Paid For?

| | All | Liberals | Moderates | Conservatives |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Payroll Tax on All Workers* | 16 | 21 | 15 | 15 |
| *Tax on High Earners* | 30 | 50 | 32 | 15 |
| *Required Family Leave Savings Accounts* | 25 | 12 | 21 | 39 |
| *Don't Know* | 29 | 17 | 32 | 32 |

## *8.3 Immigration*

We also asked questions about people's reactions to immigration policy and whether or not respondents favored a strict immigration policy, requiring deportation, even if families broke up because of that policy. In general this policy was opposed by more respondents than not, but that masks the racial differences visible in Table 31 White respondents are essentially evenly split on the question with only a slight plurality opposing such policies. But among Black, Hispanic and Asian respondents the responses are much more negative. Below we discuss how immigration relates to social capital and Trump voters.

**Table 31:** Responses to the Question of Deporting Illegal Aliens Even if it Breaks up Families

| | Favor | Neutral | Oppose |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Overall* | 29 | 31 | 40 |
| *White* | 34 | 30 | 37 |
| *Black* | 14 | 40 | 45 |
| *Hispanic* | 15 | 31 | 54 |
| *Asian* | 16 | 38 | 46 |

Other groups that opposed such immigration restrictions included women, those on the left, the more educated, higher income respondents and younger respondents, under age 45. Broadly similar patterns existed on a question about placing a higher priority on reuniting families. Overall there was a great deal of neutrality about these proposals, suggesting that only subsets feel strongly about the issue, but immigration is an area where racial and ethnic differences matter. Controlling for age, there was not relationship between family structure and attitudes about immigration Though married respondents were the most likely to take a restrictionist stance, the differences relative to other relationship statuses was not significant.

# 9 Politics

We divide our analysis into two sections — one of the primary voters who supported candidates in the primaries (a relatively small, but importance slice of the public) and the much larger group of people in the general election. As part of the context for all of that it is important to understand that family status is clearly connected to partisanship and political preferences. As shown in Table 32, the most Republican group in the sample are the married, while the least Republican group is those in a committed relationship who are not living together. But relationship status is not tightly connected with partisanship. Among all groups the most common self-identification is "independent." The only exception to this pattern is among the unmarried who are living with a partner who are most likely to be Democrats.

Political scientists know that most of these have an electoral preference for one party of the other, but

**Table 32:** Partisanship by Relationship Status

| | Republican | Independent | Democrat |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Married* | 29 | 36 | 35 |
| *Unmarried but Living with a Partner* | 22 | 35 | 43 |
| *Living Apart but in a Committed Relationship* | 17 | 40 | 22 |
| *Single* | 23 | 40 | 37 |

also tend to have heterogeneous views on policy, much like weak partisans. As shown above, there are tendencies in people's views about policy, but also considerable variation. When it comes to electoral choices between candidates, one's family status is clearly connected to those choices.

## *9.1 Primaries*

General patterns that one might expect of income and ideology clearly play a role in the primary election. Here we focus on variables specific to our survey. One that stood out is self-reliance — preferring to look to oneself as opposed to reaching out to social networks and other sources of social capital. Trump primary voters were the most likely to say they relied exclusively on themselves for family-related needs (see the description of this variable above and Table 33). In fact, a third of Trump supporters relied on no one outside of their families for anything. The totals for Clinton and Sanders were also relatively higher than the other Republican candidates, still Trump's supporters really stand out.

**Table 33:** Self-Reliance and Primary Election Preferences

| Candidate | Percentage Relying Only on Themselves |
|---|---|
| *Donald Trump* | 33 |
| *Hillary Clinton* | 25 |
| *Bernie Sanders* | 20 |
| *Ted Cruz* | 19 |
| *John Kasich* | 13 |
| *Other Republicans* | 12 |

This does not appear to be a particularly Republican phenomenon however. Among primary voters, the next two most self-reliant groups are for both of the Democratic candidates. And it should be noted that social capital and self-reliance do not appear to play a strong role in the general electorate's preferences. This is a reminder that important policies that affect wide cross-sections of American families can be determined in the primary election, where voters' preferences may be quite different from those of the most Americans because so few people participate.

However, we would like to note that self-reliance relates to a key policy area for Trump. Those least willing to make use of social capital for family-related needs also seem to be much less likely to favor a loose immigration policy. Only 30 percent of this group opposed deporting illegal immigrants even when it separates parents from children — compared with 44 percent of those who are more willing to depend on social networks and resources. And only 18 percent of the most self-reliant group favored giving a higher priority to reuniting families —- compared with 27 percent of those who did not rely only on themselves. Social capital appears to be one avenue where Trump primary voters tend to be quite different than others and it may relate not only to social capital but also to a deeper set of questions related to immigration policy.

Table 34 shows the percentage of Republican primary voters that opposed reuniting families as a priority for immigration policy. Trump stands out, although Cruz and Rubio supporters are not distantly behind. The candidate whose voters are least likely to oppose this priority are Kasich's primary voters.

**Table 34:** Percentage of Primary Election Voters Opposing Reuniting Families

| Candidate | Percentage Opposed |
|---|---|
| *Donald Trump* | 58 |
| *Ted Cruz* | 55 |
| *Marco Rubio* | 45 |
| *John Kasich* | 29 |

On tax policy for families, there was a clear difference between primary Democrats and the primary supporters of the most prominent Republicans — Trump and Cruz. Figure 23 shows the average position of each group on a 0 - 100 scale where 0 represents a desire for more tax breaks for families and 100 represents a preference for equity in tax burdens regardless of any family status differences.[14] Supporters of the Democratic candidates were each clearly on the side of help for families. For Trump and Cruz voters the preference was for no special tax relief for families. However, the other Republicans are decidedly more centrist on this issue, apparently caring somewhat about both values and taking a middle position.

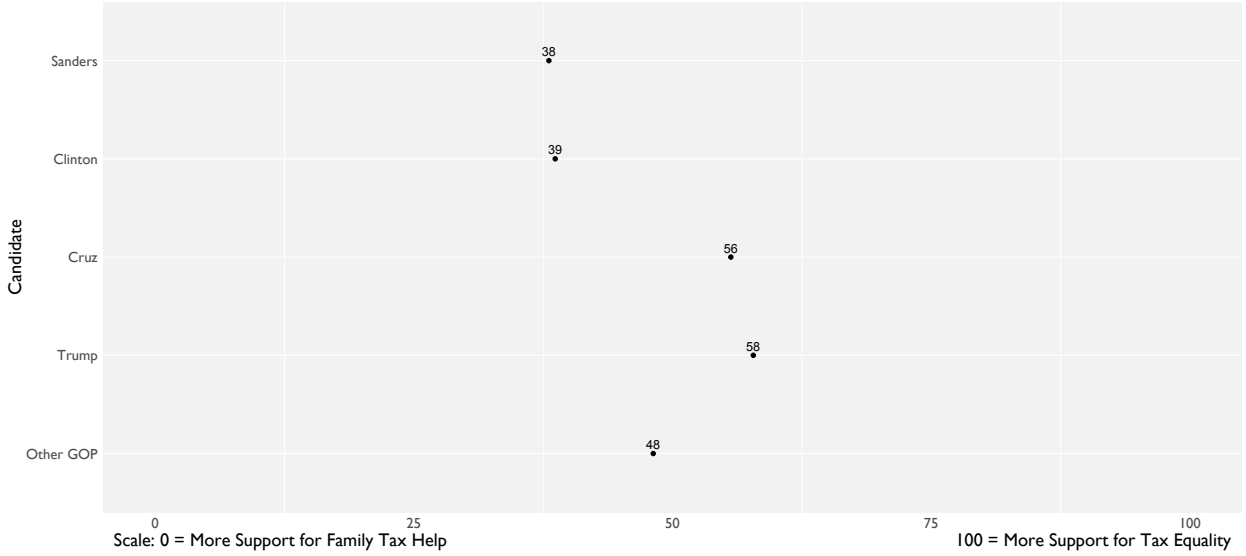


**Figure 23:** Average attitudes about tax policy by primary candidate support.

Republicans, as a party, often discuss family values and an attachment to helping families, but it is clear from the graph that there is a division within the party over whether or not tax policy should reflect a commitment to helping families. Democrats clearly feel that tax policy should reflect some help for families, way regardless of how they were voting. Republican primary voters, on the other hand, are divided on the question.[15]

[14] As a point of comparison, the average for all respondents was about 46 on the 0 - 100 scale, though a little less than 20 percent of respondents said they didn't know. The average for all Republicans was 53 and for all Democrats was 39.

[15] The basic pattern of those on the left preferring more help for families and those on the right preferring flat equality holds in the general election, though there is more variability among Republicans.

## *9.2 The General Election*

The American Family Survey was fielded in July, just as the party conventions were concluding. At that point in the campaign, we asked survey respondents to tell us which candidate they preferred. How does family structure and the other key measures of authoritarianism, economic instability and social connection relate to vote preferences?

Table 35 displays some of those measures by the percentage indicating a preference for Clinton or Trump in the general election.[16] The top portion of the table displays the percentages by family status and the pattern is quite striking. Trump is favored very narrowly by those who are married and by those who have children. Indeed in every other single case, the margin is quite a bit wider and the advantage goes to Clinton. She is the candidate of the unmarried and those without children, while Trump splits the group of voters who are married or who have children.

**Table 35:** Percentage of each demographic that planned to vote for either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump in the November election. When the survey was taken in July, large numbers of respondents did not plan to vote for either (and, of course, many do not vote) and so percentages do not add to one hundred.

| | **Clinton** | **Trump** |
|---|---|---|
| *All* | 36 | 32 |
| | | |
| *Married* | 35 | 37 |
| *Living with a Partner* | 37 | 27 |
| *In a Relationship* | 40 | 24 |
| *Not in a Relationship* | 36 | 27 |
| *Has Children* | 35 | 36 |
| *No Children* | 37 | 24 |
| | | |
| *Least Authoritarian (Whites)* | 52 | 17 |
| *Most Authoritarian (Whites)* | 13 | 46 |
| | | |
| *Experienced an Economic Crisis* | 37 | 26 |
| *Did Not Experience a Crisis* | 35 | 36 |
| | | |
| *No Social Connections* | 34 | 34 |
| | | |
| *Marriages Stronger (Generally)* | 47 | 16 |
| *Marriages About the Same (Generally)* | 41 | 29 |
| *Marriages Weaker (Generally)* | 29 | 40 |

As noted above, authoritarianism is a variable that is strongly correlated with self-described ideology among whites, though that is far less true among African-Americans and other races or ethnicities. Table 35 shows the pattern of the least and most authoritarian of whites and the pattern is striking. When considering only this group there is a clear preference among the more authoritarian voters for Trump—and a clear preference among the less authoritarian voters for Clinton.

As respects economic instability, the next group of percentages displays the percentage of voters who either experienced one of the economic crises described above of did not. Among those respondents who

[16] The question was, "If the presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?" Response options included Clinton, Trump, Gary Johnson, Jill Stein, Other, Don't Know, and "Not planning on voting for any of these."

did experience such a crisis, there is a clear preference for Clinton—thirty-seven percent to twenty-six percent who preferred Trump. But among those who did not experience such a crisis, the percentages are essentially without any clear winner among the candidates.

Our measure of social reliance, though it is important to some family indicators, is essentially irrelevant to vote choice. The table displays the percentage choosing Clinton or Trump among those who expressed *none* of the social connections described above and there is no difference. Among those who did have some social connections, there was a very slight lean towards Clinton, but of only about three points.

Finally, the table displays the vote preference by beliefs about marriages generally. Those who believe marriages are getting stronger or that there is little change decisively favor Clinton, but margins of ten percent or better. However, those who believe that marriages are getting weaker favor Trump, also by a large margin. There was no important relationship by how people felt about their own marriages.

One of the key findings of this survey (and many others) is that there is a difference between men and women. Figure 24 breaks down that relationship by whether or not a respondent has experienced an economic crisis. That factor matters only marginally for women, who dislike Trump at relatively high levels regardless. Among men, however, the experience of an economic crisis of key importance. Men who have not experienced an economic crisis go for Trump by twelve points. Men who have experienced such a crisis prefer Clinton by about ten points.

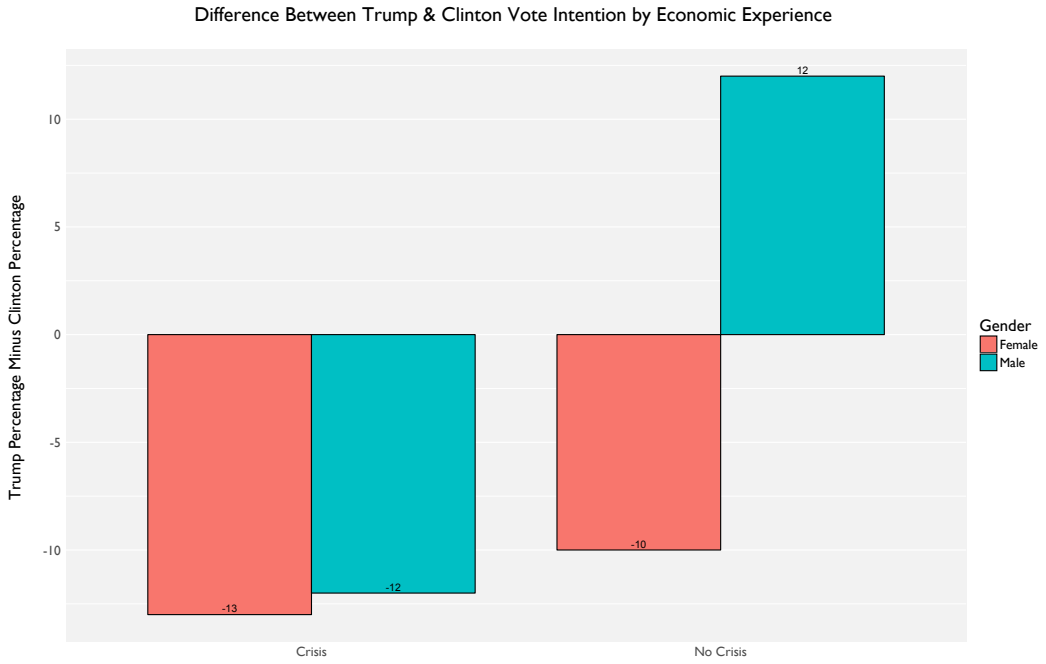


**Figure 24:** The figure displays the demographic group's preference for Trump minus the preference for Clinton. Higher values indicate a group that leans more toward Trump.

Family experience is also relevant to the Trump voter. Figure 25 is similar to Figure 24 in that it displays how groups lean, but in this case breaks down the figures by parental status. The only group that favors Trump is men who have children (by almost ten points). Women without children stand out. They favor Clinton by almost thirty points. The two groups that are relatively similar in their preferences are men without children and women who have children. Neither group leans as strongly in one direction or the other as do the two poles.

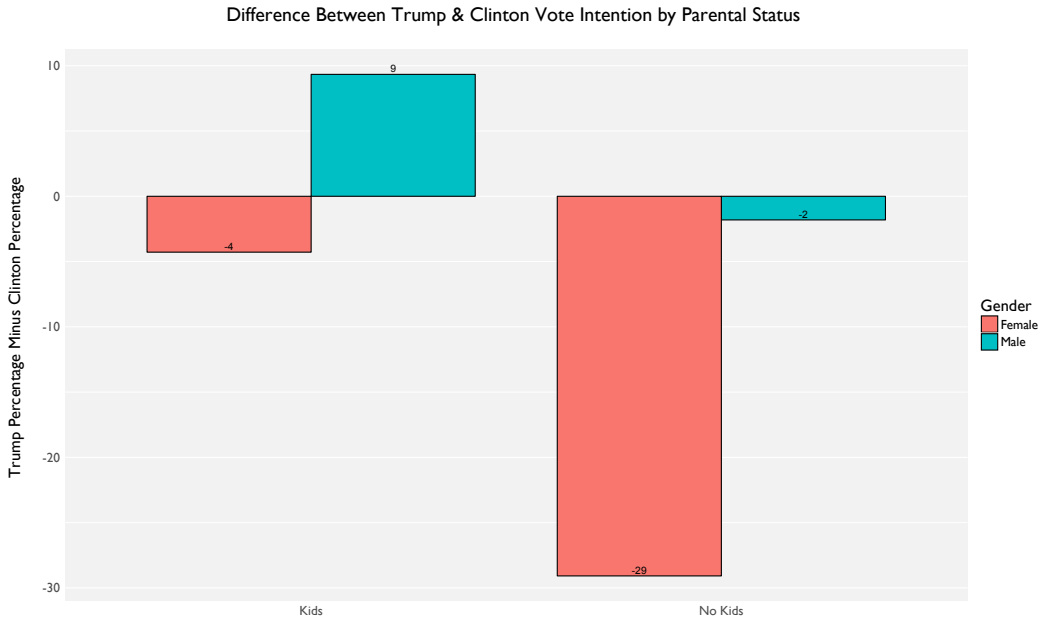


**Figure 25:** The figure displays the demographic group's preference for Trump minus the preference for Clinton. Higher values indicate a group that leans more toward Trump.

Taken as a whole these data suggest a picture of Trump voters that is connected to family status. They tend to be men who have children and have not experienced an economic crisis of any kind. Clinton's supporters are women, and she gains her strongest support among women who have no children. The fact that Trump does so well among those who are concerned about family suggests that in some ways his supporters are those who are most worried about the future of marriage and family in the country, but that Clinton's supporters tend to be those who have experienced more actual economic deprivation.

Finally, we note that there are some partisan differences in how important people believe it is to pass along one's political views to one's children. Among Republicans, 43 percent believe it is important to do that, while among Independents the figure is only 29 percent, and among Democrats it is just 33 percent. While it is true that Republicans want to influence their children at higher rates, no group has a majority that believes such influence is important. Perhaps this means that whatever political differences exist in the electorate they are not so great that people want to see the next generation emulate those differences.

# 10 Conclusions

The results presented here reflect a complex mix of family-related attitudes and practices. Though many people do worry a great deal about marriages and families, it is not the case that we see people abandoning the institution completely. To the contrary, people value their families and relationships highly, and many still see marriage as a valuable and important life choice, one that protects children and confers other important benefits. And in fact, we do find that married couples are more stable and financially better off than Americans in other family circumstances. At the same time, people in all different family circumstances still want to do right by their families, and they still generally spend time on key activities for marriage and family. But there is no denying that the norms around marriage are changing, especially

for the rising generation, the vast majority of whom have chosen to have children prior to getting married.

This change in the connection between marriage and family raises concerns among older and more conservative Americans, and the full import of these generational changes is not yet clear. We do know that those who experienced a childhood where both of their parents remained married to each other are more likely to have more stable economic and family lives today. It also appears that those who are currently cohabiting with a partner are somewhat more likely to experience economic and familial instability, though it remains to be seen whether more stable couples who live and raise children together experience the same benefits that are currently associated with marriage. Put differently, the effects of changing norms about the relationships between marriage and children bear close attention in the future.

We also find that economic challenges continue to remain a concern for many American families. Many respondents to the American Family Survey identified economic issues as being especially important to families, and fully four in ten respondents said they had experienced at least one meaningful economic challenge in the past twelve months. Despite the fact that there is significant economic difficulty in the country, it is also the case that economic disadvantages do not prevent people from having full and happy family lives. This is true at all levels of income, except perhaps at the very bottom. The safety net is still valued across most classes of society (and even across parties) and it plays an important role in some people's lives. This is especially true if people have some experience with the safety net. The data prove that some experience with the system is required to gain a full appreciation for the role of that safety net.

This general point about experiences is an important one. People's dissatisfaction with marriage and family is largely about their worries about others. People see problems around them, but tend to believe things are doing fine in their own local sphere. Perhaps that means one element of civic education should be helping people to see other perspectives. Though an important goal of this report has been to describe the objective public opinion about family and family policy, we do believe that American families of all types would be normatively better off if they understood one another better. Those on the left would do well to consider why those on the right believe that the institution of marriage is threatened. But those on the right would also benefit from understanding more about the left's concerns about economic distress and the role of assistance in helping families. The health of American families can be measured many ways, and it is a key goal of the American Family Survey to get those measures and spread the news about marriages, families, and policy to people across the political spectrum.

Last updated: October 18, 2016
http://national.deseretnews.com/american-family-survey

# 11 Appendix: Statement on Methodology

Between July 25 and July 30, 2016, YouGov interviewed 3268 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 3000 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, party identification, ideology, and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and ideology. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The margin of error for this study is 2.48% which was calculated based on the $N$ and weights.

# 12 Appendix: Tables Supporting Statistics Used in Figures

**Table A1:** Supporting Information for Figure 9

| | **All** | **Children at Home** | *All* | | *Children at Home* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Married** | **Cohabiting** | **Married** | **Cohabiting** |
| *My partner acts like the parent ... I want for my children.* | 73 | 73 | 81 | 57 | 79 | 55 |
| *My partner supports me ... in the way I want to raise the children.* | 72 | 75 | 79 | 64 | 79 | 66 |
| *My partner and I talk about problems ... that come up with raising children.* | 81 | 83 | 87 | 74 | 87 | 72 |
| *I can count on my partner for help ... to look after the children for a few hours.* | 78 | 80 | 84 | 73 | 84 | 72 |
| *I respect my partner's wishes ... about how children should be raised.* | 73 | 74 | 81 | 67 | 79 | 65 |
| *I am critical of things ... my partner does with the children.* | 25 | 30 | 23 | 31 | 28 | 32 |

# 2016 AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY

## THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY & *THE DESERET NEWS*

### SECTION 1 – MARITAL STATUS AND CHILDREN

**Q1**. In what year were you born?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 1969 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

[see data file]

**Q2**. Which best describes your current relationship status?

| | |
|---|---|
| Married | 49% |
| Married, but currently separated from spouse | 1 |
| Not married but living with a partner | 9 |
| Currently in a committed relationship but not living with partner | 7 |
| Not currently in a relationship | 34 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q3.** How long have you been in a relationship with your current spouse?

[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1. Asked in a dropdown showing values within the following ranges: 0-11 months, 1-50 years, More than 50 years]

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 year or less | 2% |
| 2 to 5 years | 10 |
| 6 to 10 years | 14 |
| 11 to 15 years | 13 |
| 16 to 20 years | 11 |
| 21 to 30 years | 16 |
| 31 to 40 years | 15 |
| 41 to 50 years | 14 |
| More than 50 years | 5 |
| Total *N* | 1,505 |

**Q4.** How long have you been married to your current spouse?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1. Asked in a dropdown showing values within the following ranges: 0-11 months, 1-50 years, More than 50 years]

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 year or less | 8% |
| 2 to 5 years | 13 |
| 6 to 10 years | 14 |
| 11 to 15 years | 11 |
| 16 to 20 years | 9 |
| 21 to 30 years | 16 |
| 31 to 40 years | 14 |
| 41 to 50 years | 12 |
| More than 50 years | 4 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,505 |

**Q5.** Have you ever been divorced or widowed? Check all that apply.
[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Divorced | 25% |
| Widowed | 2 |
| None of the above | 74 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,617 |

**Q6.** How long have you been in a relationship with your current partner?
[Asked of all participants who selected Not married but living with a partner in Q1. Asked in a dropdown showing values within the following ranges: 0-11 months, 1-50 years, More than 50 years]

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 year or less | 11% |
| 2 to 5 years | 30 |
| 6 to 10 years | 27 |
| 11 to 15 years | 12 |
| 16 to 20 years | 12 |
| 21 to 30 years | 6 |
| 31 to 40 years | 2 |
| 41 to 50 years | - |
| More than 50 years | - |
| | |
| Total *N* | 275 |

**Q7.** How long have you been living with your current partner?
[Asked of all participants who selected Not married but living with a partner in Q1. Asked in a dropdown showing values within the following ranges: 0-11 months, 1-50 years, More than 50 years]

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 year or less | 19% |
| 1 to 5 years | 34 |
| 5 to 10 years | 21 |
| 10 to 15 years | 12 |
| 15 to 20 years | 8 |
| 20 to 30 years | 5 |
| 30 to 40 years | 1 |
| 40 to 50 years | - |
| More than 50 years | - |
| | |
| Total *N* | 275 |

**Q8.** Have you ever been divorced or widowed? Check all that apply.
[Asked of all participants who selected Not married but living with a partner in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Divorced | 32% |
| Widowed | 8 |
| None of the above | 63 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 275 |

**Q9.** How long have you been in a relationship with your current partner?
[Asked of all participants who selected Currently in a committed relationship but not living with partner in Q1. Asked in a dropdown showing values within the following ranges: 0-11 months, 1-50 years, More than 50 years]

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 year or less | 49% |
| 1 to 5 years | 29 |
| 5 to 10 years | 11 |
| 10 to 15 years | 5 |
| 15 to 20 years | 2 |
| 20 to 30 years | 3 |
| 30 to 40 years | 0 |
| 40 to 50 years | - |
| More than 50 years | - |
| | |
| Total *N* | 204 |

**Q10.** Have you ever been divorced or widowed? Check all that apply.
[Asked of all participants who selected Currently in a committed relationship but not living with partner in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Divorced | 21% |
| Widowed | 3 |
| None of the above | 77 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 204 |

**Q11.** Have you ever been divorced or widowed? Check all that apply.
[Asked of all participants who selected Not currently in a relationship in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Divorced | 28% |
| Widowed | 11 |
| None of the above | 64 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 901 |

**Q12.** What year did you most recently get divorced?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1 and selected Divorced in Q5.]

| | |
|---|---|
| 2010 to now | 11% |
| 2000 to 2009 | 17 |
| 1990 to 1999 | 29 |
| 1980 to 1989 | 24 |
| 1970 to 1979 | 15 |
| 1960 to 1969 | 4 |
| 1950 to 1959 | 0 |
| 1940 to 1949 | - |
| 1930 to 1939 | - |
| | |
| Total *N* | 380 |

**Q13.** What year did you most recently get divorced?

[Asked of all participants who selected Not married but living with a partner in Q1 and selected Divorced in Q8.]

| | |
|---|---|
| 2010 to now | 30% |
| 2000 to 2009 | 36 |
| 1990 to 1999 | 13 |
| 1980 to 1989 | 19 |
| 1970 to 1979 | 2 |
| 1960 to 1969 | - |
| 1950 to 1959 | - |
| 1940 to 1949 | - |
| 1930 to 1939 | - |
| Total *N* | 91 |

**Q14.** What year did you most recently get divorced?

[Asked of all participants who selected Currently in a committed relationship but not living with partner in Q1 and selected Divorced in Q10.]

| | |
|---|---|
| 2010 to now | 28% |
| 2000 to 2009 | 29 |
| 1990 to 1999 | 36 |
| 1980 to 1989 | 3 |
| 1970 to 1979 | 4 |
| 1960 to 1969 | - |
| 1950 to 1959 | - |
| 1940 to 1949 | - |
| 1930 to 1939 | - |
| Total *N* | 44 |

**Q15.** What year did you most recently get divorced?
[Asked of all participants who selected Not currently in a relationship in Q1 and selected Divorced in Q11.]

| | |
|---|---|
| 2010 to now | 15% |
| 2000 to 2009 | 30 |
| 1990 to 1999 | 25 |
| 1980 to 1989 | 19 |
| 1970 to 1979 | 9 |
| 1960 to 1969 | 3 |
| 1950 to 1959 | - |
| 1940 to 1949 | 0 |
| 1930 to 1939 | - |
| Total *N* | 282 |

**Q16**. How many times have you been married?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1 along with those who selected Divorced and/or Widowed in Q8, Q10, or Q11.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 1.4 |
| Total *N* | 2,021 |

**Q17.** How old were you when you first married?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Married or Married, but currently separated form spouse in Q1, along with those who selected Divorced and/or Widowed in Q8, Q10, or Q11.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 24 |
| Total *N* | 2,022 |

**Q18.** How many partners have you lived with outside of a marriage?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 0.7 |
| Total *N* | 2,978 |

**Q19.** How old were you when you first lived with someone as part of a committed relationship?
[Asked of all participants who reported living with at least one partner outside of marriage in Q14.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 23 |
| Total *N* | 1,193 |

**Q20.** How many children do you have (please include biological, adopted, or step-children)?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean total | 1.7 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q21.** Please tell us about each of your children. **[Number of children (reported from Q15); Age; Living in your home or not; Biological, step-child, or adopted; Gender]**
[Asked of all participants who reported having children in Q20.]

| **Number of children** | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 37% |
| 1 | 15 |
| 2 | 21 |
| 3 | 14 |
| 4 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 |
| 8+ | 1 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

| **Child 1** | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 10% |
| 5-11 years old | 13 |
| 12-17 years old | 10 |
| 18+ years old | 67 |
| Living at home | 40 |
| Biological with current partner | 49 |
| Biological with previous partner | 41 |
| Step-child | 8 |
| Adopted | 2 |
| Female | 46 |
| Total *N* | 1,889 |

**Child 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 10% |
| 5-11 years old | 12 |
| 12-17 years old | 10 |
| 18+ years old | 68 |
| | |
| Living at home | 38 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 53 |
| Biological with previous partner | 35 |
| Step-child | 10 |
| Adopted | 2 |
| | |
| Female | 50 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,455 |

**Child 3**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 8% |
| 5-11 years old | 12 |
| 12-17 years old | 11 |
| 18+ years old | 69 |
| | |
| Living at home | 33 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 49 |
| Biological with previous partner | 33 |
| Step-child | 16 |
| Adopted | 2 |
| | |
| Female | 49 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 823 |

**Child 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 9% |
| 5-11 years old | 8 |
| 12-17 years old | 12 |
| 18+ years old | 72 |
| | |
| Living at home | 30 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 39 |
| Biological with previous partner | 32 |
| Step-child | 26 |
| Adopted | 4 |
| | |
| Female | 49 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 419 |

**Child 5**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 6% |
| 5-11 years old | 6 |
| 12-17 years old | 8 |
| 18+ years old | 80 |
| | |
| Living at home | 21 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 27 |
| Biological with previous partner | 31 |
| Step-child | 39 |
| Adopted | 3 |
| | |
| Female | 44 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 197 |

**Child 6**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 4% |
| 5-11 years old | 5 |
| 12-17 years old | 9 |
| 18+ years old | 82 |
| | |
| Living at home | 16 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 26 |
| Biological with previous partner | 24 |
| Step-child | 44 |
| Adopted | 6 |
| | |
| Female | 52 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 97 |

**Child 7**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 2% |
| 5-11 years old | 4 |
| 12-17 years old | 5 |
| 18+ years old | 90 |
| | |
| Living at home | 16 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 32 |
| Biological with previous partner | 14 |
| Step-child | 50 |
| Adopted | 4 |
| | |
| Female | 57 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 53 |

**Child 8+**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 years old | 4% |
| 5-11 years old | 5 |
| 12-17 years old | 4 |
| 18+ years old | 88 |
| | |
| Living at home | 22 |
| | |
| Biological with current partner | 23 |
| Biological with previous partner | 13 |
| Step-child | 50 |
| Adopted | 15 |
| | |
| Female | 47 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 32 |

**Q22.** How old were you when you first became a parent?
[Asked of all participants who reported having children in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 to 19 years old | 27% |
| 20 to 29 years old | 55 |
| 30 to 39 years old | 15 |
| 40 to 49 years old | 2 |
| 50 to 59 years old | 0 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,900 |

**Q23.** And when you first became a parent, what was your relationship status?
[Asked of all participants who reported having children in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Married | 70% |
| Unmarried but in a committed relationship | 22 |
| Unmarried and not in a committed relationship | 7 |
| Unsure | 1 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,901 |

**Q24.** Was your mother married or single when you were born?

| | |
|---|---|
| Married | 86% |
| Single | 12 |
| Don't know | 2 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q25.** Which of the following best describes what you experienced between birth and age 18?
[Asked of all participants who reported that their mother was married when they were born in Q24.]

| | |
|---|---|
| My mother was continuously married to the same person | 77% |
| My mother divorced and then remarried | 14 |
| My mother divorced and never remarried | 9 |
| Total *N* | 2,584 |

**Q26.** Which of the following best describes what you experienced between birth and age 18?
[Asked of all participants who reported that their mother was single when they were born in Q24.]

| | |
|---|---|
| My mother never married | 39% |
| My mother married after I was born | 36 |
| My mother married after I was born and then was divorced | 24 |
| Total *N* | 355 |

**SECTION 2 – MARRIAGE**

**Q27.** How satisfied are you with your **[Job, Family, Marriage/Relationship, Life]**?
[Response options for Marriage/Relationship not shown for those who selected Not currently in a relationship in Q1. "Marriage" shown if the participant is currently married, and "Relationship" shown for those currently in a relationship but not married.]

| | Job | Family | Marriage/Relationship | Life |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Completely satisfied | 18% | 47% | 59% | 31% |
| Somewhat satisfied | 23 | 31 | 28 | 42 |
| Neutral/Don't know | 10 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 8 | 8 | 6 | 13 |
| Completely dissatisfied | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Not applicable | 35 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 | 2,999 | 1,985 | 2,999 |

**Q28.** How likely is it that you will **[get married sometime in the next two years/be married or still married two years from now]**?
[First response option shown to those not currently in a relationship, second response option shown to those who are in a relationship or married.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Very likely | 43% |
| Likely | 5 |
| Somewhat likely | 4 |
| Neither likely or unlikely | 6 |
| Somewhat unlikely | 4 |
| Unlikely | 7 |
| Very unlikely | 26 |
| Don't know | 5 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q29.** How likely is it that you will still be in the same relationship two years from now?
[Asked of all participants who reported being in a relationship in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Very likely | 49% |
| Likely | 17 |
| Somewhat likely | 14 |
| Neither likely or unlikely | 8 |
| Somewhat unlikely | 3 |
| Unlikely | 2 |
| Very unlikely | 3 |
| Don't know | 5 |
| Total *N* | 480 |

**Q30.** At any point in the last two years, have you thought that your marriage or relationship was in trouble?
[Asked of all participants but those who selected Not currently in a relationship in Q1.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 34% |
| No | 66 |
| Total *N* | 1,984 |

**Q31.** Would you say that your marriage or relationship is stronger, weaker or about the same as two years ago?
[Asked of all participants who responded with an answer of 2 years or higher to Q3, Q6, or Q9 (questions about length of current marriage/relationship).]

| | |
|---|---|
| Stronger | 50% |
| About the same | 42 |
| Weaker | 6 |
| Don't know | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,890 |

**Q32.** Turning to marriage generally, do you feel that marriages in the United States are stronger, weaker, or about the same as two years ago?

| | |
|---|---|
| Stronger | 7% |
| About the same | 43 |
| Weaker | 39 |
| Don't know | 12 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q33.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? [**Go out together, just the two of you]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 8% |
| Yearly | 4 |
| A few times a year | 18 |
| About once a month | 22 |
| Weekly | 25 |
| A few times a week | 17 |
| Daily | 7 |
| Total *N* | 1,984 |

**Q34.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? **[Have a serious argument]**

[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 18% |
| Yearly | 15 |
| A few times a year | 37 |
| About once a month | 17 |
| Weekly | 7 |
| A few times a week | 5 |
| Daily | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,982 |

**Q35.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? **[Talk about your relationship with each other]**

[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 11% |
| Yearly | 4 |
| A few times a year | 19 |
| About once a month | 20 |
| Weekly | 17 |
| A few times a week | 15 |
| Daily | 13 |
| Total *N* | 1,981 |

**Q36.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? **[Discuss finances with each other]**

[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 4% |
| Yearly | 2 |
| A few times a year | 8 |
| About once a month | 24 |
| Weekly | 24 |
| A few times a week | 25 |
| Daily | 13 |
| Total *N* | 1,777 |

**Q37.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? **[Sleep in different rooms because you were upset with one another]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either Married; Married, but currently separated from spouse; or Not married, but living with partner in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 74% |
| Yearly | 8 |
| A few times a year | 9 |
| About once a month | 4 |
| Weekly | 1 |
| A few times a week | 1 |
| Daily | 3 |
| Total *N* | 1,736 |

**Q38.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner? **[Talk about political or social issues with each other]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 10% |
| Yearly | 2 |
| A few times a year | 8 |
| About once a month | 13 |
| Weekly | 17 |
| A few times a week | 25 |
| Daily | 25 |
| Total *N* | 1,983 |

**Q39.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse? **[Pray together as a couple, outside of meals]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 53% |
| Yearly | 4 |
| A few times a year | 9 |
| About once a month | 8 |
| Weekly | 9 |
| A few times a week | 7 |
| Daily | 12 |
| Total *N* | 1,979 |

**Q40.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse? **[Have sex with each other]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either Married; Married, but currently separated from spouse; or Not married, but living with partner in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 15% |
| Yearly | 3 |
| A few times a year | 10 |
| About once a month | 16 |
| Weekly | 25 |
| A few times a week | 26 |
| Daily | 5 |
| Total *N* | 1,970 |

**Q41.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse? **[Do nice things for each other, such as making coffee, putting gas in the car, etc.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 3% |
| Yearly | 1 |
| A few times a year | 4 |
| About once a month | 8 |
| Weekly | 17 |
| A few times a week | 28 |
| Daily | 40 |
| Total *N* | 1,984 |

**Q42.** How often do you do each of the following with your spouse? **[Hide finances or purchases from each other]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either Married; Married, but currently separated from spouse; or Not married, but living with partner in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 72% |
| Yearly | 5 |
| A few times a year | 11 |
| About once a month | 5 |
| Weekly | 3 |
| A few times a week | 2 |
| Daily | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,777 |

**Q43.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[When more people are married, society is better off]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 3 |
| Disagree | 5 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 33 |
| Somewhat Agree | 14 |
| Agree | 18 |
| Strongly Agree | 21 |
| Total *N* | 2,966 |

**Q44.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Marriage is more of a burden than a benefit to couples]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 30 |
| Disagree | 25 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 11 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 21 |
| Somewhat Agree | 7 |
| Agree | 4 |
| Strongly Agree | 3 |
| Total *N* | 2,972 |

**Q45.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Marriage is needed in order to create strong families]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 7 |
| Disagree | 8 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 8 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 16 |
| Somewhat Agree | 14 |
| Agree | 18 |
| Strongly Agree | 28 |
| Total *N* | 2,979 |

**Q46.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Being legally married is not as important as having a personal sense of commitment to your partner]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 15 |
| Disagree | 12 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 9 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 19 |
| Somewhat Agree | 16 |
| Agree | 15 |
| Strongly Agree | 14 |
| Total *N* | 2,974 |

**Q47.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 39 |
| Disagree | 23 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 11 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 14 |
| Somewhat Agree | 7 |
| Agree | 3 |
| Strongly Agree | 3 |
| Total *N* | 2,958 |

**Q48.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Marriage makes families and children better off financially]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 3 |
| Disagree | 5 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 4 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 24 |
| Somewhat Agree | 20 |
| Agree | 22 |
| Strongly Agree | 23 |
| Total *N* | 2,978 |

**Q49.** Would you say that your family relationships are stronger, weaker, or about the same as two years ago?

| | |
|---|---|
| Stronger | 32 |
| About the Same | 55 |
| Weaker | 10 |
| Don't Know | 2 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q50.** Turning to families generally, do you feel that family relationships in the United States are stronger, weaker, or about the same as two years ago?

| | |
|---|---|
| Stronger | 7 |
| About the Same | 45 |
| Weaker | 34 |
| Don't Know | 13 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q51.** There are many different partnership arrangements. We want to know your opinion about the arrangements listed below. Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations **[*when children are present in the home*]**: **[Being married and living with a spouse]**

[Because this was an experiment with a control group and an experiment group, approximately half of all respondents saw the bolded phrase near the end of this question, and the other half did not.]

| | **Control** | **Children Present** |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 2 | 1 |
| Disapprove | 1 | 2 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 15 | 12 |
| Approve | 37 | 35 |
| Strongly Approve | 45 | 49 |
| Total *N* | 1,471 | 1,514 |

**Q52.** There are many different partnership arrangements. We want to know your opinion about the arrangements listed below. Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations **[when children are present in the home]**: **[Not being married but living with a partner in a committed relationship]**

[Because this was an experiment with a control group and an experiment group, approximately half of all respondents saw the bolded phrase near the end of this question, and the other half did not.]

| | **Control** | **Children Present** |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 9 | 10 |
| Disapprove | 12 | 15 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 32 | 30 |
| Approve | 36 | 34 |
| Strongly Approve | 1 | 11 |
| Total *N* | 1,475 | 1,515 |

**Q53.** There are many different partnership arrangements. We want to know your opinion about the arrangements listed below. Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations **[when children are present in the home]: [Being divorced]**

[Because this was an experiment with a control group and an experiment group, approximately half of all respondents saw the bolded phrase near the end of this question, and the other half did not.]

| | **Control** | **Children Present** |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 7 | 9 |
| Disapprove | 17 | 17 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 53 | 52 |
| Approve | 18 | 18 |
| Strongly Approve | 5 | 5 |
| Total *N* | 1,464 | 1,512 |

**Q54.** There are many different partnership arrangements. We want to know your opinion about the arrangements listed below. Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations **[when children are present in the home]**: **[Never getting married]**
[Because this was an experiment with a control group and an experiment group, approximately half of all respondents saw the bolded phrase near the end of this question, and the other half did not.]

| | **Control** | **Children Present** |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 6 | 10 |
| Disapprove | 9 | 13 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 52 | 48 |
| Approve | 24 | 22 |
| Strongly Approve | 10 | 8 |
| Total *N* | 1,466 | 1,516 |

**Q55.** Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations for your own children: **[Being married and living with a spouse]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 1 |
| Disapprove | 2 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 15 |
| Approve | 35 |
| Strongly Approve | 48 |
| Total *N* | 1,901 |

**Q56.** Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations for your own children: **[Not being married but living with a partner in a committed relationship]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 12 |
| Disapprove | 18 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 32 |
| Approve | 31 |
| Strongly Approve | 7 |
| Total *N* | 1,897 |

**Q57.** Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations for your own children: **[Being divorced]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 11 |
| Disapprove | 20 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 49 |
| Approve | 17 |
| Strongly Approve | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,900 |

**Q58.** Please tell us how much you approve or disapprove of each of the following individual situations for your own children: **[Never getting married]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disapprove | 7 |
| Disapprove | 14 |
| Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 51 |
| Approve | 23 |
| Strongly Approve | 5 |
| Total *N* | 1,891 |

**SECTION 3 – PARENTING**

**Q59.** How likely are you or your partner to give birth or adopt a child in the next two years?
[Asked of all participants under 50 who selected that they were in a relationship or married in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Very Likely | 8 |
| Likely | 4 |
| Somewhat Likely | 6 |
| Neither Likely nor Unlikely | 9 |
| Somewhat Unlikely | 3 |
| Unlikely | 8 |
| Very Unlikely | 55 |
| Don't Know | 8 |
| Total *N* | 1,607 |

**Q60.** Parents have many different approaches to raising their children. How often do each of the following things when it comes to parenting? **[Insist on certain activities or classes for your child]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Frequently | 7 |
| Sometimes | 25 |
| Seldom | 22 |
| Never | 16 |
| Not Applicable | 30 |
| Total *N* | 2015 |

**Q61.** Parents have many different approaches to raising their children. How often do each of the following things when it comes to parenting? **[Allow your child to play outside with friends unsupervised]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Frequently | 15 |
| Sometimes | 22 |
| Seldom | 15 |
| Never | 19 |
| Not Applicable | 29 |
| Total *N* | 2019 |

**Q62.** Parents have many different approaches to raising their children. How often do each of the following things when it comes to parenting? **[Do a homework assignment for your child in a bind]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Frequently | 4 |
| Sometimes | 8 |
| Seldom | 15 |
| Never | 40 |
| Not Applicable | 32 |
| Total *N* | 2020 |

**Q63.** Parents have many different approaches to raising their children. How often do each of the following things when it comes to parenting? **[Argue with your child's teacher about a bad grade or discipline]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Frequently | 2 |
| Sometimes | 9 |
| Seldom | 17 |
| Never | 37 |
| Not Applicable | 35 |
| Total *N* | 2019 |

**Q64.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[The cost of raising a child/children is affordable for most people.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 11% |
| Disagree | 19 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 25 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 19 |
| Somewhat Agree | 13 |
| Agree | 10 |
| Strongly Agree | 4 |
| Total *N* | 2,986 |

**Q65.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Children are better off if they have two married parents.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 4% |
| Disagree | 5 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 22 |
| Somewhat Agree | 16 |
| Agree | 19 |
| Strongly Agree | 30 |
| Total *N* | 2,994 |

**Q66.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[It is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 8% |
| Disagree | 9 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 10 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 19 |
| Somewhat Agree | 20 |
| Agree | 20 |
| Strongly Agree | 15 |
| Total *N* | 2,988 |

**Q67.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[It is important for parents to pass on their political values to their children.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 9% |
| Disagree | 12 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 12 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 34 |
| Somewhat Agree | 15 |
| Agree | 11 |
| Strongly Agree | 7 |
| Total *N* | 2,983 |

**Q68.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Parents should set boundaries on media consumption for their children.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 1% |
| Disagree | 1 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 3 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 12 |
| Somewhat Agree | 20 |
| Agree | 31 |
| Strongly Agree | 33 |
| Total *N* | 2,989 |

**Q69.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Children need both a male and female role model in the home.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 6% |
| Disagree | 6 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 15 |
| Somewhat Agree | 13 |
| Agree | 22 |
| Strongly Agree | 34 |
| Total *N* | 2,992 |

**Q70.** How much do you agree or disagree with the following: **[Raising children is one of life's greatest joys.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 3% |
| Disagree | 3 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 3 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 18 |
| Somewhat Agree | 14 |
| Agree | 26 |
| Strongly Agree | 35 |
| Total *N* | 2,990 |

**Q71.** How often does your family: **[Eat dinner together]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 5% |
| Yearly | 2 |
| A few times a year | 10 |
| About once a month | 9 |
| Weekly | 10 |
| A few times a week | 22 |
| Daily | 43 |
| Total *N* | 1,900 |

**Q72.** How often does your family: **[Attend the activities of a family member (recitals, sporting events, etc.)]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 17% |
| Yearly | 8 |
| A few times a year | 34 |
| About once a month | 20 |
| Weekly | 11 |
| A few times a week | 7 |
| Daily | 3 |
| Total *N* | 1,898 |

**Q73.** How often does your family: **[Do household chores together]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 18% |
| Yearly | 3 |
| A few times a year | 10 |
| About once a month | 14 |
| Weekly | 24 |
| A few times a week | 19 |
| Daily | 13 |
| Total *N* | 1,899 |

**Q74.** How often does your family: **[Go out to movies, museums, sporting events, or parks together]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 12% |
| Yearly | 8 |
| A few times a year | 31 |
| About once a month | 28 |
| Weekly | 14 |
| A few times a week | 6 |
| Daily | 1 |
| Total *N* | 1,899 |

**Q75.** How often does your family: **[Worship together]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 42% |
| Yearly | 6 |
| A few times a year | 12 |
| About once a month | 6 |
| Weekly | 20 |
| A few times a week | 6 |
| Daily | 7 |
| Total *N* | 1,900 |

**Q76.** How often does your family: **[Have an argument]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 19% |
| Yearly | 13 |
| A few times a year | 31 |
| About once a month | 17 |
| Weekly | 9 |
| A few times a week | 7 |
| Daily | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,899 |

**Q77.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Paying bills]**
[Asked of all participants in a relationship.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 38% |
| Partner | 19 |
| Both | 41 |
| Neither | 2 |
| Total *N* | 1,984 |

**Q78.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Cooking meals]**
[Asked of all participants in a relationship.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 38% |
| Partner | 18 |
| Both | 42 |
| Neither | 3 |
| Total *N* | 1,982 |

**Q79.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Transporting children to activities]**
[Asked of all participants in a relationship who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 22% |
| Partner | 8 |
| Both | 41 |
| Neither | 29 |
| Total *N* | 1,513 |

**Q80.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Disciplining children]**
[To everyone in a relationship who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 14% |
| Partner | 5 |
| Both | 61 |
| Neither | 20 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,516 |

**Q81.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Home repairs]**
[Asked of all participants in a relationship.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 31% |
| Partner | 26 |
| Both | 35 |
| Neither | 8 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,981 |

**Q82.** Thinking about you and your partner, who has primary responsibility for each of the following activities? **[Cleaning the house]**
[Asked of all participants in a relationship.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Self | 34% |
| Partner | 11 |
| Both | 52 |
| Neither | 3 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,984 |

**Q83.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply.
**[Bedtime or curfew]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 64% |
| No | 36 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q84.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply.
**[Limits on screen time (Internet, video games, TV, etc.)]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 47% |
| No | 53 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q85.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply.
**[Limits on phone use (including texting)]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 34% |
| No | 66 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q86.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply.
**[Required time for reading books]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 33% |
| No | 67 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q87.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply. **[Required time for practicing musical instruments]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 12% |
| No | 88 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q88.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply. **[Daily or weekly chores]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 64% |
| No | 36 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q89.** Which of the following limits or guidelines do you have for your children? Check all that apply. **[Limits on media content]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 42% |
| No | 58 |
| Total *N* | 2,025 |

**Q90.** How often do you get together with your extended family—that is, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, parents or siblings?

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 9% |
| Every few years | 16 |
| Yearly | 13 |
| A few times a year | 34 |
| About once a month | 15 |
| Weekly | 9 |
| More than once a week | 4 |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q91.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[When my partner is with our children, he/she acts like the parent I want for my children.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 24% |
| Agree | 33 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16 |
| Disagree | 4 |
| Strongly disagree | 2 |
| Does not apply to me | 21 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,896 |

**Q92.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[My partner supports me in the way I want to raise my children.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 21% |
| Agree | 36 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 15 |
| Disagree | 5 |
| Strongly disagree | 2 |
| Does not apply to me | 22 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,898 |

**Q93.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[My partner and I talk about problems that come up with raising children.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 25% |
| Agree | 39 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 11 |
| Disagree | 3 |
| Strongly disagree | 1 |
| Does not apply to me | 21 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,896 |

**Q94.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[I can count on my partner for help when I need someone to look after the children for a few hours.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 27% |
| Agree | 30 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 11 |
| Disagree | 4 |
| Strongly disagree | 3 |
| Does not apply to me | 26 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,896 |

**Q95.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[I respect my partner's wishes about how children should be raised.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 18% |
| Agree | 40 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16 |
| Disagree | 4 |
| Strongly disagree | 1 |
| Does not apply to me | 20 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,896 |

**Q96.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[My partner and I talk about problems that come up with raising children.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 25% |
| Agree | 39 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 11 |
| Disagree | 3 |
| Strongly disagree | 1 |
| Does not apply to me | 21 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,896 |

**Q97.** The following statement are about how parents work together in raising their children. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement. If you are not currently married or in a committed relationship, think about an ex-partner. If you are currently married or in a committed relationship, think about your current partner: **[I am critical of things my partner does with the children.]**
[Asked of all participants who selected that they had at least one child in Q20.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 4% |
| Agree | 16 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 24 |
| Disagree | 21 |
| Strongly disagree | 12 |
| Does not apply to me | 23 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,898 |

**Q98.** Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below are pairs of desirable qualities. Please indicate which one you think is more important for a child to have, even if you think both are important. **[Independence vs Respect for Elders]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Independence | 30% |
| Respect for Elders | 70 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,998 |

**Q99.** Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below are pairs of desirable qualities. Please indicate which one you think is more important for a child to have, even if you think both are important. **[Obedience vs Self Reliance]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Obedience | 43% |
| Self-Reliance | 57 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,996 |

**Q100.** Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below are pairs of desirable qualities. Please indicate which one you think is more important for a child to have, even if you think both are important. **[Curiosity vs Good Manners]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Curiosity | 30% |
| Good Manners | 70 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,997 |

**Q101.** Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below are pairs of desirable qualities. Please indicate which one you think is more important for a child to have, even if you think both are important. **[Being Considerate vs Being Well-Behaved]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Being Considerate | 56% |
| Being Well-Behaved | 44 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q102.** What are the most important issues facing families today? Pick **up to three** items.

| | |
|---|---|
| High work demands and stress on parents | 27% |
| Lack of government programs to support families | 10 |
| The costs associated with raising a family | 32 |
| The lack of good jobs | 22 |
| Decline in religious faith and church attendance | 22 |
| Sexual permissiveness in our society | 18 |
| The widespread availability and use of drugs and alcohol | 22 |
| Crime and other threats to personal safety | 20 |
| Change in the definition of marriage and family | 15 |
| Parents not teaching or disciplining their children sufficiently | 52 |
| More children growing up in single-parent homes | 25 |
| Difficulty finding quality time with family in the digital age | 21 |
| Other | 1 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q103.** How have the decisions or activities of the following organizations affected your family? **[The Republican Party]**

[Labeled scale with "Negatively" on the left, "Neutral/not at all" in the center, and "Positively" on the right (i.e. a score less than 50 would indicate that the institution negatively affected their family to some degree, and a score greater than 50 would indicate that the institution positively affected their family to some degree.)]

| | **The Republican Party** | **The Democratic Party** |
|---|---|---|
| Mean | 45 | 48 |
| Total *N* | 2,996 | 2,994 |

**SECTION 4 – SOCIAL NETWORK**

**Q104**. How often do you get together socially with your neighbors?

| | |
|---|---|
| Never | 52% |
| Yearly | 19 |
| Monthly | 19 |
| Weekly or More | 10 |
| Total *N* | 1,556 |

**Q105**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Help with children]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 8% |
| Religious organizations | 4 |
| Community organizations | 5 |
| Co-workers | 2 |
| Other friends | 28 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 54 |
| Total *N* | 1,548 |

**Q106**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Advice about children]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 2% |
| Religious organizations | 10 |
| Community organizations | 3 |
| Co-workers | 4 |
| Other friends | 27 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 53 |
| Total *N* | 1,552 |

**Q107**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Advice about my relationship]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 2% |
| Religious organizations | 12 |
| Community organizations | 2 |
| Co-workers | 3 |
| Other friends | 27 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 55 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,552 |

**Q108**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Financial help]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 1% |
| Religious organizations | 5 |
| Community organizations | 5 |
| Co-workers | 1 |
| Other friends | 13 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 75 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,554 |

**Q109**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Taking care of my house or other property]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 14% |
| Religious organizations | 2 |
| Community organizations | 2 |
| Co-workers | 1 |
| Other friends | 21 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 61 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,555 |

**Q110**. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues? **[Transportation to an important appointment]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nearby neighbors | 7% |
| Religious organizations | 2 |
| Community organizations | 2 |
| Co-workers | 4 |
| Other friends | 29 |
| I generally just rely on myself | 56 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,558 |

**SECTION 5 – POLICY**

**Q111**. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

**Parents in my neighborhood have good options for the education of their children.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | 5% |
| Disagree | 5 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 9 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 16 |
| Somewhat Agree | 19 |
| Agree | 24 |
| Strongly Agree | 12 |
| Total *N* | 1,556 |

**Q112.** How would you rate each of the following government programs on a scale? Place each item along the scale where items on the left mean they are not at all good for families with children and items on the right mean they are very good for families with children.

Drag and drop items onto the scale to rate an item. If you are not sure about an item, drag it into the "not sure" box below.

[Labeled scale with "Not at all good for children" on the left and "Very good for families with children" on the right (i.e. a score less than 50 would indicate that the government program was worse than average for families with children, and a score greater than 50 would indicate that the government program was better than average for families with children.)]

| | **Food stamps** | **Child tax credit** | **Medicaid and other health insurance subsidies** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 61 | 68 | 60 |
| Total *N* | 2,676 | 2,628 | 2,656 |

| | **Housing assistance** | **Minimum wage** | **Earned income tax credit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 58 | 39 | 63 |
| Total *N* | 2,633 | 2,660 | 2,581 |

**Q113.** Have you or your family ever **directly benefitted** from the following programs? **[Food Stamps]**

| | **Food stamps** | **Child tax credit** | **Medicaid and other health insurance subsidies** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 34% | 38% | 38% |
| No | 60 | 51 | 55 |
| Don't know | 6 | 11 | 6 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 | 2,998 | 3,000 |

| | **Housing assistance** | **Minimum wage** | **Earned income tax credit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 12% | 28% | 35% |
| No | 82 | 63 | 51 |
| Don't know | 6 | 9 | 14 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |

**Q114**. Should the government require employers to offer family leave time?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes, and employees should be paid for that time off | 54% |
| Yes, but employees should not be paid for that time off | 14 |
| No, the government should not require employers to offer family leave time | 19 |
| Don't know | 13 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q115**. Suppose the government were to require employers to offer paid family leave time. Who should pay for that expense?

| | |
|---|---|
| All employers, regardless of size | 25% |
| Businesses that employ more than thirty people | 25 |
| The federal government | 15 |
| State or local governments | 6 |
| Don't know | 29 |
| Total *N* | 2,995 |

**Q116**. Suppose the federal government were to provide the funding for paid family leave time. How should that program be paid for?

| | |
|---|---|
| Payroll tax on all workers | 16% |
| A tax on high earners (those making more than $250,000 per year) | 30 |
| Require an individual family leave savings program for all workers | 25 |
| Don't know | 29 |
| Total *N* | 2,997 |

**Q117.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Maternity leave]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 3.6 months |
| Total N | 2,996 |

**Q118.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Paternity leave]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 2.2 months |
| Total *N* | 2,996 |

**Q119.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Personal illness]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 2.4 months |
| Total *N* | 2,996 |

**Q120.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Illness of a child]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 2.4 months |
| Total *N* | 2,996 |

**Q121.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Care of adult family members]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 2.4 months |
| Total *N* | 2,994 |

**Q122.** If the government requires paid family leave time, how long should that leave be? If you don't think that leave should be allowed for one of the situations listed below choose the "none" option. **[Personal reasons that any individual can define]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 1.2 months |
| Total *N* | 2,995 |

**Q123.** Some politicians are proposing that the government pay for universal pre-kindergarten for all children younger than 5. Do you agree or disagree with these proposals?

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 24 |
| Somewhat Agree | 22 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 24 |
| Somewhat Disagree | 10 |
| Strongly Disagree | 19 |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q124.** Some people believe families with children should receive special tax relief. Other people believe that all households should be taxed the same, whether they have children or not. Where do you stand on this issue?

[Labeled scale with "Special tax relief for households with children" on one end and "Tax all households the same" on the other end. "Not sure" option included (dropped from mean). A score less than 50 indicates that the respondent would prefer special tax relief for households with children, and a score greater than 50 indicates that the respondent would prefer to have all households taxed the same.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 46 |
| Total *N* | 2,482 |

**Q125.** Do you favor or oppose the following statements about immigration? **[The immigration system should give a higher priority to reuniting families than to helping people who have job skills that are in demand; We should deport illegal immigrants even when it separates parents from children who are natural-born citizens.]**

| | Priority to Families | Deport Immigrants |
|---|---|---|
| Favor | 24% | 29% |
| Neutral | 48 | 31 |
| Oppose | 27 | 40 |
| Total *N* | 2,998 | 2,997 |

**Q126.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?
**[Respondents randomly see only one question from Q126-128.]**

| | |
|---|---|
| The government should do more to help **[needy Americans]**, even if it means going deeper into debt. | 35 |
| Neutral | 35 |
| The government today can't afford to do much more to help **[needy Americans]**. | 30 |
| Total *N* | 994 |

**Q127.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

| | |
|---|---|
| The government should do more to help **[needy families]**, even if it means going deeper into debt. | 30 |
| Neutral | 34 |
| The government today can't afford to do much more to help **[needy families]**. | 36 |
| Total *N* | 986 |

**Q128.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

| | |
|---|---|
| The government should do more to help **[families]**, even if it means going deeper into debt. | 24 |
| Neutral | 41 |
| The government today can't afford to do much more to help **[families]**. | 35 |
| Total *N* | 1,012 |

**SECTION 5 – FAMILY ECONOMICS**

**Q129.** If you lost your job, about how long would you be able to live off your savings without going into debt?

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than a month | 40 |
| 1 to 3 months | 23 |
| 3 to 6 months | 13 |
| 6 or more months | 24 |
| Total *N* | 2,986 |

**Q130.** Based on your current financial situation, what is the largest emergency expense that you could pay right now using cash or money in your checking/savings account?
[$1,000,000 or less]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | $7,227 |
| Total *N* | 2,997 |

**Q131.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Were you ever hungry, but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 13 |
| No | 87 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q132.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Did not pay the full amount of a bill?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 20 |
| No | 80 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q133.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Did you borrow or receive money from friends or family to help pay the bills?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 5 |
| No | 95 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q134.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Did you move in with other people even for a little while because of financial problems?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 5 |
| No | 95 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q135.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Did you stay at a shelter, in an abandoned building, an automobile or any other place not meant for regular housing, even for one night?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 2 |
| No | 98 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q136.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[Was there anyone in your household who needed to see a doctor or go to the hospital but couldn't go because of the cost?]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 15 |
| No | 85 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q137.** In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money? **[None of the above]**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 64 |
| No | 36 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q138.** If your children attended college, which of the following best describes how you contributed financially? If you children have not yet reached that age, please answer based on what you expect will be true when they have reached that age.
[Shown only to respondent with children living at home].

| | |
|---|---|
| I paid for all of their college expenses, including tuition and room and board | 14 |
| I paid for some of their college expenses, including tuition and/or room and board | 39 |
| I paid for none of their college expenses | 14 |
| My children did not attend college | 32 |
| Total *N* | 2,024 |

**Q139.** How much income do you think you would need to provide comfortably for all of your family's needs?

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than $10,000 | 6 |
| $10-$14,999 | 4 |
| $15-$19,999 | 6 |
| $20-$24,999 | 4 |
| $25-$29,999 | 5 |
| $30-$39,999 | 10 |
| $40-$49,999 | 11 |
| $50-$59,999 | 13 |
| $60-$69,999 | 9 |
| $70-$79,999 | 9 |
| $80-$99,999 | 7 |
| $100-$119,999 | 6 |
| $120-$149,999 | 3 |
| $150,000+ | 7 |
| Total *N* | 2,747 |

**SECTION 5 – DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Q140.** Is your spouse or partner a man or a woman?
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Man | 56 |
| Woman | 44 |
| Total *N* | 2,097 |

**Q141.** Other than a spouse or your own children, what other relatives currently live with you? Mark all that apply.

| | |
|---|---|
| Grandparent | 2% |
| Parent | 16 |
| Sibling | 9 |
| Niece/nephew | 2 |
| Son or daughter in law | 3 |
| Other (please specify) | 3 |
| None of the above | 2 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q142.** What is your current employment status?

| | |
|---|---|
| Working full time now | 34 |
| Working part time now | 12 |
| Temporarily Laid off | 1 |
| Unemployed | 8 |
| Retired | 20 |
| Permanently Disabled | 7 |
| Taking care of home or family | 9 |
| Student | 6 |
| Other | 2 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q143.** What is your spouse's or partner's current employment status?
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Working full time now | 49 |
| Working part time now | 10 |
| Temporarily Laid off | 2 |
| Unemployed | 6 |
| Retired | 19 |
| Permanently Disabled | 4 |
| Taking care of home or family | 5 |
| Student | 2 |
| Other | 2 |
| Total *N* | 2,099 |

**Q144.** How long have you worked at your current job? If you have more than one job, respond for the job that is more important to you.
[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time now in Q142.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 6 years |
| Total *N* | 1,401 |

**Q145.** How many jobs have you held in the past two years?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 1 |
| Total *N* | 2,994 |

**Q146.** How likely is it that you will have the same job two years from now?

| | |
|---|---|
| Very Likely | 23 |
| Likely | 10 |
| Somewhat Likely | 7 |
| Neither Likely or Unlikely | 6 |
| Somewhat Unlikely | 4 |
| Unlikely | 4 |
| Very Unlikely | 6 |
| Don't Know | 5 |
| Not Currently Employed | 36 |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q147.** How many hours per week do you typically work?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time now in Q142.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 37.6 |
| Total *N* | 1,393 |

**Q148.** Which of the following best describes your work schedule?
[Asked of all participants who input an integer greater than 0 in Q147.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Work time and/or days change from week to week | 37 |
| Regular work schedule that does not change much from week to week | 63 |
| Total *N* | 1,384 |

**Q149.** How many hours per week does your spouse or partner typically work?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time now in Q143.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 39.9 |
| Total *N* | 1,232 |

**Q150.** Which of the following best describes your work schedule?
[Asked of all participants who input an integer greater than 0 in Q149.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Work time and/or days change from week to week | 33 |
| Regular work schedule that does not change much from week to week | 67 |
| Total *N* | 1,219 |

**Q151.** Have you been unemployed in the past 2 years?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 46 |
| No | 54 |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q152.** Has your spouse or partner been unemployed in the past 2 years?
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 37 |
| No | 63 |
| Total *N* | 2,100 |

**Q153.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Maternity leave]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 5 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 11 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 3 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 7 |
| I have none of these options | 37 |
| Don't Know | 37 |
| Total *N* | 2,962 |

**Q154.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Paternity leave]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 2 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 8 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 2 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 7 |
| I have none of these options | 39 |
| Don't Know | 41 |
| Total *N* | 2,893 |

**Q155.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Personal illness]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 14 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 12 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 4 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 7 |
| I have none of these options | 32 |
| Don't Know | 31 |
| Total *N* | 2,947 |

**Q156.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Illness of a child]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 5 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 9 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 3 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 8 |
| I have none of these options | 38 |
| Don't Know | 37 |
| Total *N* | 2,943 |

**Q157.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Care of adult family members]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 3 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 6 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 3 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 10 |
| I have none of these options | 38 |
| Don't Know | 38 |
| Total *N* | 2,943 |

**Q158.** Many employers offer family leave time. Which of the following types of leave does your employer offer? **[Personal reasons that any individual can define]**

[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid and I have used it | 8 |
| Paid and I have not used it | 6 |
| Unpaid and I have used it | 4 |
| Unpaid and I have not used it | 8 |
| I have none of these options | 37 |
| Don't Know | 36 |
| Total *N* | 2,947 |

**Q159.** Do you feel like you have enough family leave time for your needs?
[Asked of all participants who selected either Working full time now or Working part time in Q89.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 54 |
| No | 31 |
| Don't Know | 15 |
| Total *N* | 1,399 |

**Q160.** In an average weekday how many hours are you solely responsible for the care of your children?
[Asked of all participants with children at home]

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 11.1 |
| Total *N* | 2,004 |

**Q161.** How many sexual partners have you had in the previous two years?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mean Total | 1 |
| Total *N* | 2,986 |

**SECTION 6 – POLITICAL VIEWS**

**Q162.** If the Presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

| | |
|---|---|
| Clinton (Democrat) | 36 |
| Trump (Republican) | 32 |
| Gary Jonson (Libertarian) | 5 |
| Jill Stein (Green Party) | 2 |
| Other | 2 |
| Don't Know | 10 |
| Not voting for any | 13 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2999 |

**Q163.** Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?

| | |
|---|---|
| Republican | 24 |
| Democrat | 36 |
| Independent | 36 |
| Other | 4 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2999 |

**Q164.** Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?
[Asked of respondents who answered Republican to Q163.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strong | 52 |
| Not very strong | 48 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 783 |

**Q165.** Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?
[Asked of respondents who answered Democrat to Q163.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Strong | 58 |
| Not very strong | 42 |
| | |
| Total N | 1118 |

**Q166.** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?
[Asked of respondents who answered Independent to Q163]

| | |
|---|---|
| Republican Party | 24 |
| Democratic Party | 20 |
| Neither | 55 |
| Total N | 906 |

**Q167.** Does your spouse or partner support the same political party you do?
[Asked of all participants who selected that they were either married or in a relationship in Q2.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 68 |
| No | 14 |
| Unsure | 17 |
| Total N | 2100 |

**SECTION 7 – DEMOGRAPHICS II**

**Q168.** Are you male or female?

| | |
|---|---|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q169.** Which racial or ethnic group best describes you?

| | |
|---|---|
| White | 67% |
| Black or African-American | 12 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 14 |
| Other (please specify) | 7 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q170.** What is the highest level of education you have completed?

| | |
|---|---|
| High school or less | 42% |
| Some college, but no degree (yet) | 32 |
| College graduate | 17 |
| Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD PhD, etc.) | 9 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q171.** Which of the following best describes your employment status?

| | |
|---|---|
| Employed | 62% |
| Unemployed | 12 |
| Retired | 26 |
| Total *N* | 2,276 |

**Q172.** Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than $40k | 43% |
| $40-$80k | 28 |
| $80k+ | 29 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q173.** Census Region

| | |
|---|---|
| Northeast | 20% |
| Midwest | 21 |
| South | 36 |
| West | 24 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q174**. For whom did you vote for President in 2012?

| | |
|---|---|
| Barack Obama | 37% |
| Mitt Romney | 27 |
| Someone else | 2 |
| Did not vote | 30 |
| Don't recall | 3 |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q175**. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

| | |
|---|---|
| Very liberal | 5% |
| Liberal | 17 |
| Moderate | 36 |
| Conservative | 27 |
| Very conservative | 6 |
| Don't know | 9 |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q176.** What is your present religion, if any?

| | |
|---|---|
| Protestant | 34% |
| Roman Catholic | 21 |
| Mormon | 1 |
| Eastern or Greek Orthodox | 1 |
| Jewish | 2 |
| Muslim | 1 |
| Buddhist | 1 |
| Hindu | 0 |
| Atheist | 6 |
| Agnostic | 6 |
| Nothing in particular | 20 |
| Something else (please specify) | 7 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q177.** To which Protestant church or group do you belong?
[Asked of all participants who selected Protestant in Q176.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Baptist | 26% |
| Methodist | 10 |
| Nondenominational or Independent Church | 19 |
| Lutheran | 7 |
| Presbyterian | 6 |
| Pentecostal | 8 |
| Episcopalian | 3 |
| Church of Christ or Disciples of Christ | 4 |
| Congregational or United Church of Christ | 3 |
| Holiness | 1 |
| Reformed | 1 |
| Adventist | 2 |
| Jehovah's Witness | 3 |
| Something else (please specify) | 7 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 1,363 |

**Q178.** Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 29% |
| No | 71 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 3,000 |

**Q179.** How important is religion in your life?

| | |
|---|---|
| Very important | 39% |
| Somewhat important | 26 |
| Not too important | 14 |
| Not at all important | 21 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |

**Q180.** Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

| | |
|---|---|
| More than once a week | 8% |
| Once a week | 18 |
| Once or twice a month | 6 |
| A few times a year | 14 |
| Seldom | 21 |
| Never | 32 |
| Don't know | 2 |
| | |
| Total *N* | 2,999 |