THE AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY

2020 SUMMARY REPORT

FAMILY LIFE DURING A PANDEMIC

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY
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1 Project Overview & Summary

The 2020 American Family Survey was fielded between July 3-14, several months after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but still in the midst of both significant public health concern and political upheaval. At that time, the early peak in places like New York had already passed, and some states were beginning to open up after government-imposed lockdowns of many businesses. At the same time, July brought dramatic increases in case counts in other states. On July 13, for example, the governor of California re-imposed restrictions on many businesses, including gyms, indoor dining, bars, movie theaters, and museums, citing increasing case counts in his state. Overall, the CDC reported that U.S. average daily case counts increased by approximately 10,000 over the course of the time the survey was in the field, from just under 50,000 per day to approximately 63,000. Experience with the pandemic at the time of the survey was thus uneven across the United States, with meaningful improvements in some places and significant flareups of COVID-19 cases in others. As a point of orientation, the survey opened approximately two weeks after President Trump's controversial campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The survey field dates also occurred in the midst of ongoing protest activity regarding police brutality and racial inequality. Again for context, the survey was fielded a little over one month after the protests in Lafayette Square and President Trump's photo-op at St. John's Episcopal Church.

We designed the survey in the early spring, and though we had planned to focus on other topics, the obvious importance of the pandemic and societal changes in response to the pandemic (particularly racial tension over policing) grabbed our attention and refocused much of the report. Our goal became one of providing a snapshot in time of the status of the American family—both using our core questions as well as several new questions designed to test how people were faring under these new conditions. The results, broadly, suggest pockets of serious trouble but a kind of resilience in the face of adversity that we believe reflects well on American families and society. Though it is important not to ignore the many people suffering, from various causes, the state of the American family seems to be better than we might have expected when we began the process for this year's survey.

Trends in Marriage and Family

While the 2020 AFS was marked by considerable stability in our core measures, we do see some indications of change. For example, the 2020 survey saw a 5 percentage point increase in the percentage of adult Americans who say they live with members of their extended family. Relatedly, significant percentages of respondents said that the size of their households had increased since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, though increases in household size could come for many reasons, not just the pandemic. Among Black and Hispanic respondents, fully half said that they had experienced an increase in household size since March. At the same time, 2020 continued a steady increase in the percentage of Americans reporting they are in no romantic relationship at all: this year, 37% of respondents indicated that they are single, up from 34% in 2019 and 30% in 2015.

Consistent with previous years, Americans were more optimistic about the state of their own marriages

and families than about marriage and families generally in the United States. However, 2020 was the first year of our survey in which more married respondents said that their marriages were "about the same" than reported them growing stronger. Overall, beliefs about marriage seem to be holding largely steady, though we do find evidence of an increase in the sentiment that marriage is "old-fashioned and out-of-date." Generational differences in beliefs about marriage are very large, however, sometimes rising to as many as 30 percentage points. Older Americans are much more convinced of the value and efficacy of marriage than are younger cohorts.

The percentage of respondents who told us that their identities as parents and as spouses or partners were very or extremely important to them increased relative to 2018. In the midst of a presidential campaign and protests about racial equality, the percentage saying that their partisan and racial identities were important also increased. In this sense, 2020 was a more politicized environment for American families than 2018, but also one in which family relationships were more salient.

While many aspects of American relationships appear to be stable over time, discussion between romantic partners about political or social issues increased by 6 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, while discussion of relationships decreased and frequency of sexual intimacy decreased. On average, about three quarters of Americans said they had talked about Black Lives Matter or about policy brutality with members of their family.

Concern about the most important issues facing families varied by partisanship. Democrats were substantially more likely than Republicans to regard economic issues as the primary challenge facing families — more than 8 in 10 Democrats mentioned economic challenges, compared to just over one third of Republicans. In contrast, Republicans tended to focus on culture and family structure. Partisans also differed in their perception that the coronavirus pandemic and racial inequality posed problems for American families. Nearly half of Democrats identified the pandemic as one of the most important issues facing families, compared to 20% of Republicans. Democrats and Republicans also differed in their beliefs about whether Black families face challenges that white families do not.

COVID and Family Life

While the pandemic has touched many aspects of American life, direct effects on American families appear to be uneven. A little over one third of Americans reported knowing someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and about 4 in 10 say that either they or their partners have experienced a change in employment. Employment disruption was highest among Hispanics and young people. Overall, just over one quarter of Americans say their financial situation is worse because of the pandemic. While this represents substantial economic upheaval for millions of Americans, it also means that at last as of the survey field dates in July, most Americans did not know someone who has been diagnosed and had not directly experienced a decline in their financial situation.

At the same time, the pandemic did influence daily life in other respects. Nearly 9 in 10 Americans said they had worn a mask in public, and three quarters said they had isolated at home or stayed

home as much as possible. Almost 90% of parents said they restricted the activities of their children to help keep them safe. For the most part, families agreed about these measures, and children went along with new parental restrictions about social interactions. Other elements of family life seemed to remain largely the same as in previous years, though more families reported eating dinner together every day, and respondents reported increased levels of media use by both themselves and their children.

People are suffering while they battle the virus, but the pockets of suffering tend to require one to look at multiple points of controversy and difficulty in a survey respondent's life. For instance, while tension does not seem to occur regularly across all families, people who are simultaneously facing marital crises or economic crises are much more likely to believe they are failing as a parent. Overall, many more Americans said that the pandemic had made them appreciate their partners more and deepened their commitment to their relationship than reported increased stress or questions about the strength of their relationships.

We find no evidence of large increases in loneliness in 2020, compared to similar questions asked in 2019. Across both years, the most important predictor of increased loneliness appears to be whether or not someone is in a committed relationship. On the whole, family relationships appear to provide resources and support for navigating the coronavirus, not cause additional stress and difficulty. In this sense, families and relationships may be the lifeline through COVID-19, not the casualty of it. The resources provided in times of challenge and the defense against loneliness provided by romantic partners are another reason why the steady increase in Americans saying they are not in any relationship may be cause for concern.

We find a conventional difference in the way couples see chores and household work being broken down during the virus: men think they are carrying their weight around the house, but women tend to disagree. What we added to the mix was a question about how people see their children contributing. Unlike in their own work, where women see men as contributing less than men see men contributing, parents tend to agree on the amount that children are contributing during the pandemic. But it is true that men are more likely to be satisfied with the contributions of their children and spouse than are women. Both men and women have similar assessments about at-home schooling in the midst of the pandemic, but among employed respondents with school-aged children, men are more likely than women to say that they are struggling to balance home and work life.

Government Policy and Support

People do see themselves as having received a great deal of help during the crisis (though this systematically varies with income and family structure), but they are not particularly convinced that institutions like the public schools, government, or local churches were prepared. But the public broadly agrees on a preferred response: help families and small businesses by limiting prices, stopping housing prices and guaranteeing jobs. Support for these policies extended across partisan lines. Large majorities of *both* Republicans (72%) and Democrats (77%) believed that relief checks to families were helpful government policy, and two-thirds of partisans also agreed about the helpfulness of small business

support. At the same time, most Americans of both parties agreed that the government should *not* help large businesses or postpone elections.

People are clearly motivated by recent events, and the motivations seem strongest among Biden supporters who feel quite motivated to vote—61%—relative to Trump supporters who are only at 53% on that measure. Though a broad cross-section of the responses suggest that this moment has been politicized in various ways, the results, including dissatisfaction with the government, point towards difficulties for President Trump's reelection this November.

Race, Family, & COVID

Most Americans believe that Black families "face obstacles that white families don't face," though this belief is heavily conditioned on partisanship. About eight out of ten Democrats believe that while only a quarter of Republicans believe it. Only one out of every ten Black respondents disagreed with the statement. Liberal whites actually agree with the statement more often than do Blacks.

Significant numbers of protesters reported protesting racial inequalities—as high as 15% among Blacks and 14% among Democrats, and though lower numbers reported protesting COVID restrictions (typically around 7%) the numbers still suggest a large number of unrest in the country relative to other years.

There is a slight trend upwards among all groups for most identities (e.g., career, family status, race, etc.). Consistent with previous years, we find that Black Americans have the highest levels of identification with their role as parents (87%) of any demographic groups we analyzed.

Concerns about Children

Parents have substantial worries about their children during the pandemic. Broadly, they are worried about both genders more or less equally.

The exceptions are that Black and Hispanic parents are somewhat more likely to worry over their daughters' emotional health, while they are less likely than whites to worry about their daughters spending too much time on screens.

Though the public generally thinks that institutions serve their sons and their daughters well there are some patterns of small differences. Most people believe that churches and schools serve daughters better than sons. The exception is that sons are better served by sports clubs according to white parents.

Finally, though people tend to adhere to a norm of gender neutrality or equality, we do find experimental evidence that there is a latent amount of greater concern over boys than girls. This can only be found when the public is cued to think about boys and it is strongest when they are only cued to think about boys.

2 The State of Marriage and Family

In the midst of the striking political and social events of 2020, the 3,000 respondents to the American Family Survey reported their experiences with relationships and family life, beginning with their current relationship status. Because we have asked these same questions since 2015, we can evaluate aggregate change over time. As Table 1 shows, a plurality of survey respondents told us they are married, though this percentage has declined slightly since our first AFS in 2015. By contrast, the percentage of respondents reporting that they are not currently in any relationship has increased by 7 percentage points. Proportions of those who tell us they are cohabiting but not married (10%) and in a romantic relationship but not cohabiting (6%) have remained stable since the 2015 AFS. The decline in marriage and increase in single status has implications, as we will show, for how people experienced the social and political events of 2020.

Table 1: Relationship Status By Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Married	52	50	47	47	48	47
Cohabiting	11	10	11	11	11	10
In a Relationship	7	7	6	6	7	6
No Relationship	30	34	35	35	34	37

In addition to reports of their relationship status, the American Family Survey also asked respondents to report some details of their living arrangements, including whether or not these adults live with members of their extended family, defined as parents, grandparents, and siblings. In 2020, the proportion of respondents who said they live with extended family increased by approximately 5 percentage points compared to 2019. While our survey cannot isolate all the reasons for this increase, it does appear that at least some adults responded to the economic and public health challenges of 2020 by relying on family support systems.

Table 2: Percentage Living with Extended Family

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All	18	19	22	20	20	25

In a separate question, we also asked respondents whether they had experienced an increase in household size since the coronavirus pandemic occurred. Approximately 42 percent of respondents said they had experienced such an increase, though these changes be for any reason, including the birth of a new child, and could include family or non-family additions to the household. A little over one-third of white respondents said their household size had increased, and among Black and Hispanic respondents, fully *half* said that their household size had increased since March. Again, these additions could have been for any reason, including adult children moving back in with parents. In addition, approximately 18%

of respondents said that they had given financial support to a friend or family member outside their immediate household in response to the pandemic and its economic effects.

2.1 Evaluations of Marriage and Family

In every year of the American Family Survey, we have asked Americans to evaluate the strength of their own marriages and of the state of marriage generally in the United States. Specifically, we asked married respondents whether their own marriage had become stronger, weaker, or remained the same over the past two years, and we asked all respondents to evaluate marriages generally with the same response options. Results since 2015 can be see in Figure 1. The striking pattern each year is that respondents have expressed largely positive views of their own marriages, but concern about the state of marriages generally. (These same differences can be seen if we restrict the analysis of the state of marriage generally to married respondents only.) In 2020, this pattern held true: many Americans (43%) evaluated their own marriages as getting stronger, while very few (8%) said that marriages generally were improving. However, for the first time in the history of the survey, more respondents said that their marriages were about the same (48%) than said they were getting stronger. At the same time, 2020 continued a pattern in which extreme pessimism about the state of American marriages seems to be declining: the percentage of respondents choosing that option has dropped nearly 10 percentage points since the first American Family Survey in 2015.

We asked respondents to make parallel evaluations of both their own families and the state of families generally (see Figure 2). Again, respondents judged their own family relationships as mostly holding steady, while they are still more pessimistic than not about the state of the family generally. Still, we do see some signs of growing optimism in recent years. The percentage of those saying families generally are growing weaker has declined by 8 percentage points over time. The 2020 AFS also resulted in the highest percentage of respondents yet saying that American families generally are growing stronger, with this number hitting double digits for the first time ever (12%).

In addition to summary judgments about whether American marriages and families are growing stronger or weaker, another annual series of questions plumbs more specific beliefs about the value and meaning of marriage. Respondents indicate how much they agree or disagree with a series of statements, such as "Marriage makes families and children better off financially" or "Marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date." Figure 3 shows how those beliefs have changed over time. The results reflect no major changes in attitudes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. While there is some evidence of steady, longer-term decline in the belief that marriage is "needed to create strong families," still a majority of respondents agreed with that notion and with the idea that marriage brings financial benefits. Just under a majority agree that society is better off when more people are married. At the same time, a plurality of respondents also agreed with the idea that being legally married is less important than having a personal commitment to one's romantic partner. Very few respondents (16%) said they believed marriage is more of a burden then a benefit, a number that has been roughly consistent over time. However, we do see some evidence of increasing agreement with the idea that marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date. In the 2020 AFS,

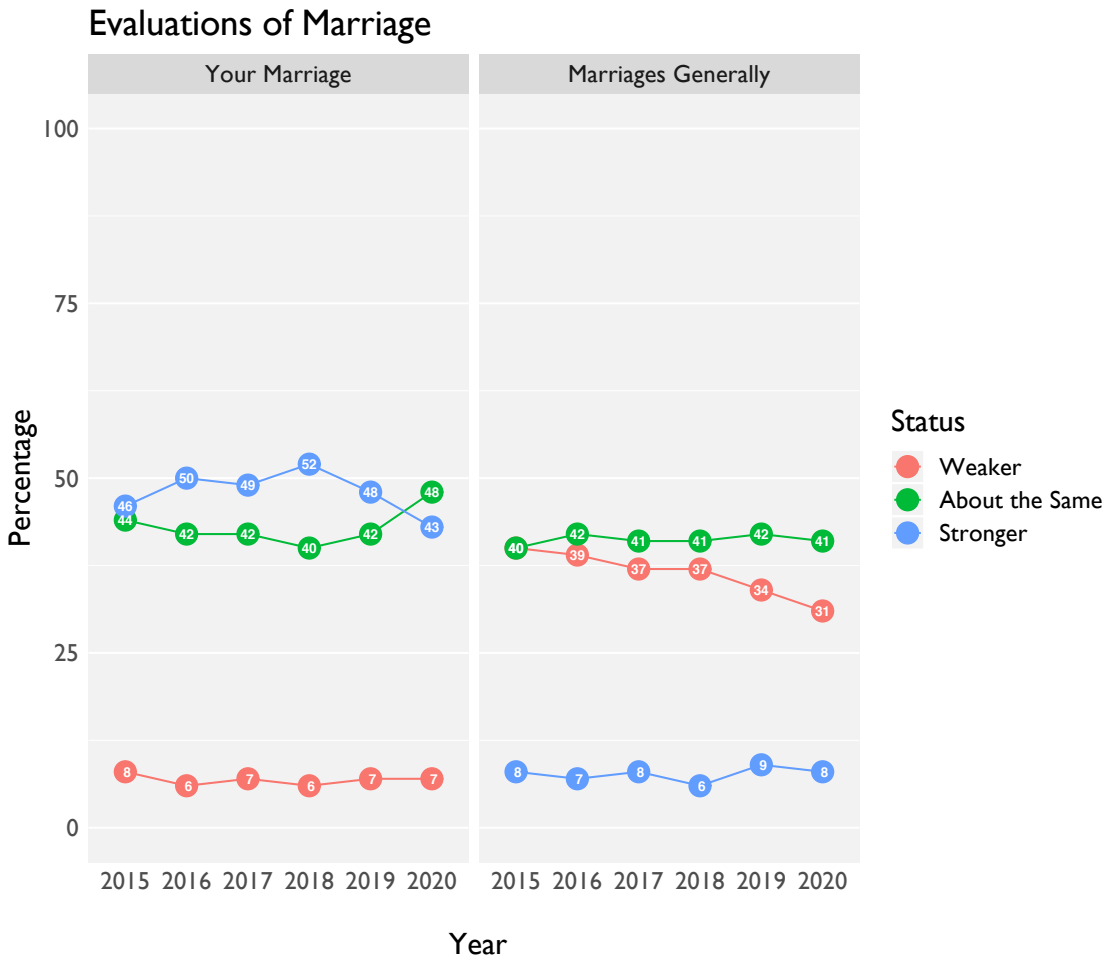

Figure 1: The figure shows beliefs about the respondent's own marriage and marriages in the United States generally.

fully 1 in 5 respondents expressed some level of support for this notion.

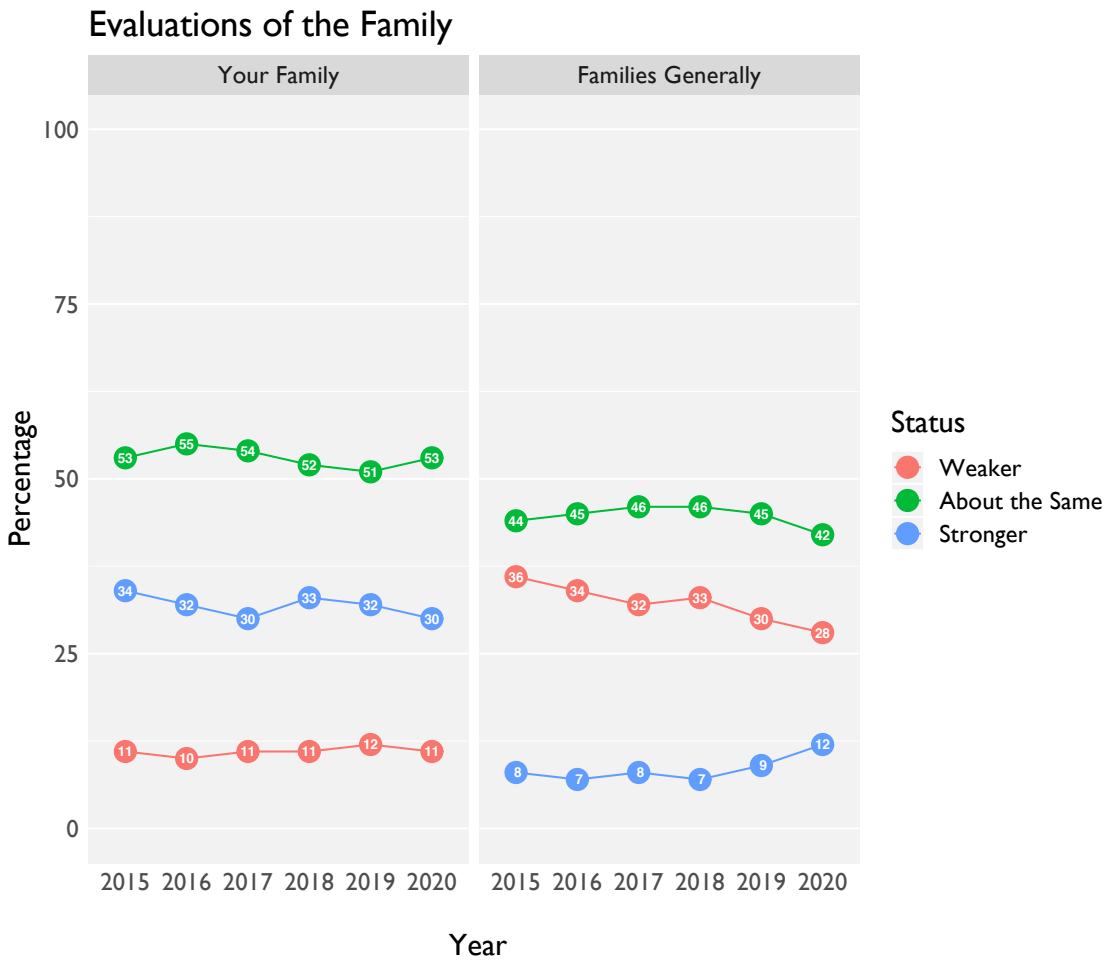

Figure 2: The figure shows evaluations of the state of marriage.

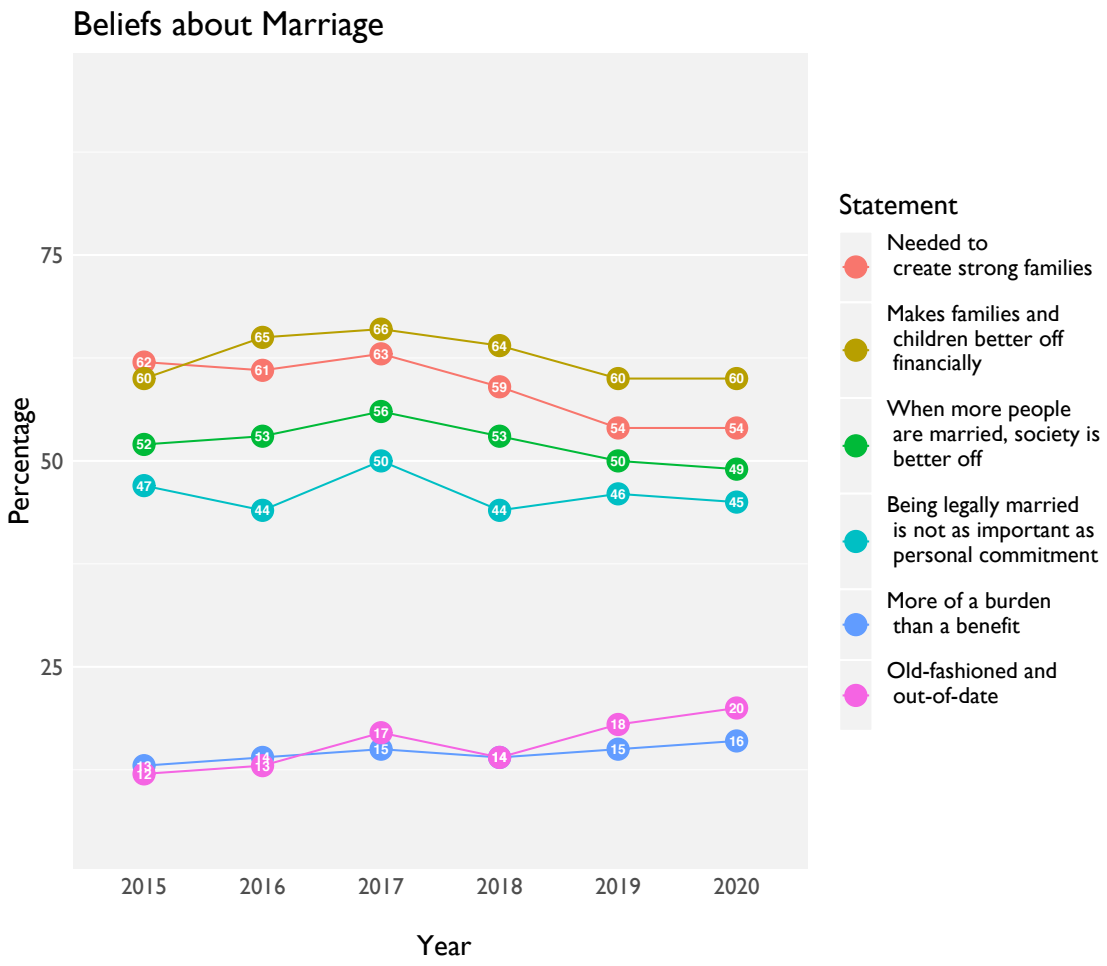

Figure 3: The figure shows agreement with statements about the importance of marriage.

Among the youngest cohorts in the sample, this number rises to nearly 3 in 10, compared to less than 1 in 10 among respondents who are 65 or older. In fact, while more than two-thirds of those over 65 years of age believe that society is better off when more people are married, only one-third of those under 30 agree. This same age gap in attitudes about marriage can be seen with respect to every item in our battery of questions. As Table 3 shows, the decline in support for marriage by age is nearly always monotonic, and the difference in attitudes between the oldest and youngest generational cohorts sometimes rises to more than 30 percentage points. Marriage is thus seen in largely positive terms by most Americans, but the youngest Americans are least convinced of its value and efficacy.

Table 3: Beliefs about Marriage by Age Cohorts in 2020
Percentage Agreeing with Each Statement about Marriage

	18-29	30-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Oldest - Youngest
Needed to create strong families	40	43	55	61	71	**+31**
Makes families and children better off	54	52	59	65	71	**+17**
When more are married, society is better off	35	39	47	59	67	**+32**
Not as important as personal commitment	60	53	43	35	33	**-27**
More of a burden than a benefit	21	21	19	10	6	**-15**
Old-fashioned and out-of-date	30	28	20	14	8	**-22**

While there is some evidence of decline in beliefs about marriage, we also asked respondents to tell us about how important different identities, including religious, racial or ethnic, political, and career roles, were to them. For those who were in a relationship or had children, we also asked about their roles as partners or parents, respectively. Figure 4 shows the percentage of respondents who answered each question indicating that each identity is "extremely" or "very" important to them. The clear result is that among Americans who have children or are in a committed relationship, their roles as parents and partners are vastly more important than other identities. If anything, these family-based identities have taken on greater importance since the last time we asked this question in 2018. The importance of parental identities is approximately 9 percentage points higher than two years ago. Racial or ethnic identities have also become more salient, increasing 8 percentage points since 2018, with meaningful increases over time among whites (5 points), Blacks (6 points), and Hispanics (11 points). And in the midst of a presidential election year, partisan identities also increased by about 5 percentage points.

While we saw dramatic differences across the generations in beliefs about the importance of marriage, generational differences in parental and relationship identities are much smaller. With respect to parental identity, there are essentially no differences. Across all age categories, about 8 in 10 parents said their role as a parent is extremely or very important to them. For identity as a spouse or partner, about 61% of 18-29 year-olds indicated that this role is highly important, compared to 70% of those between 30-44 and 82% of those over 65. These are meaningful differences, but it is notable that a strong majority of even the youngest age cohort places high value on their romantic commitments.

Beyond attitudes about relationships and families, we also asked respondents to report how often they

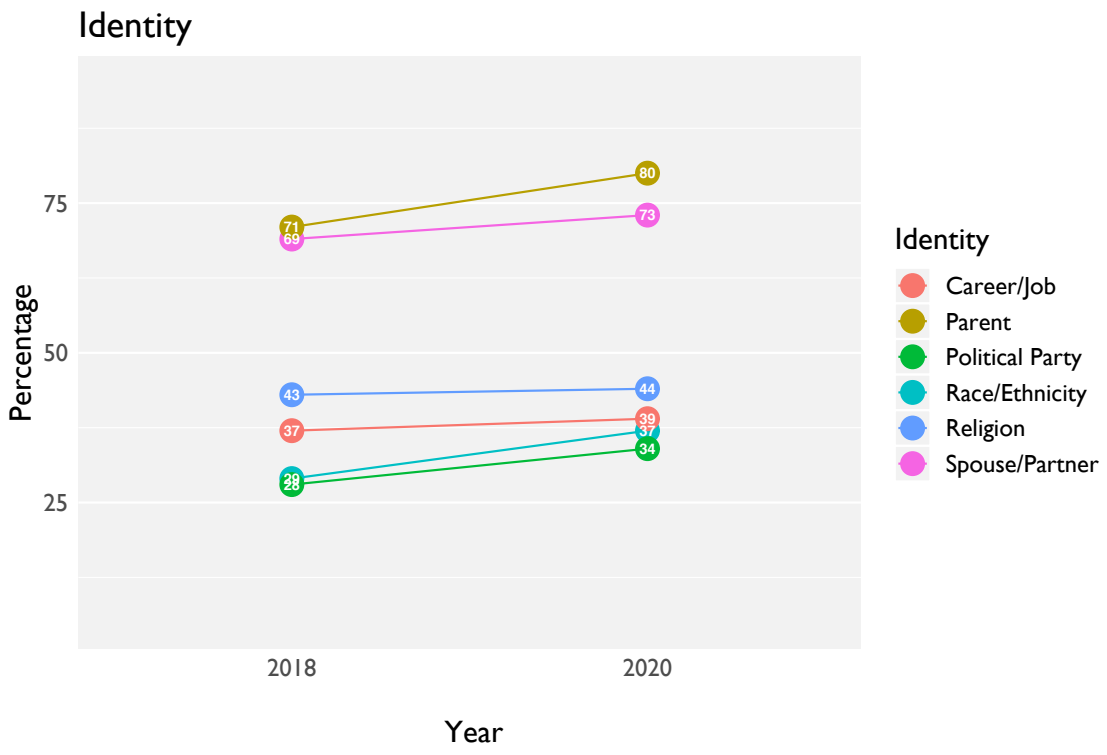

Figure 4: The figure shows the percentage reporting that each identity is "extremely" or "very" important to them.

engaged in various activities together. Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents reporting each activity at least weekly or more for each year of the survey, with results arranged in order from the most to least common activities. On the whole, the overriding impression is one of stability: the core elements of romantic partnership have not changed during the pandemic. At the same time, the events of 2020 did correspond to measurable change in three areas: spouses or partners appear to be talking about political or social issues more (a 6 point increase over 2019 and a 12 point increase since 2015), having sex less (a 5 point drop since 2019 and a 10 point drop since 2015) and discussing their relationships less (a 4 point decline since 2019 and an 11 point decline since 2015).

We also followed up with a specific question about whether respondents had talked about the Black Lives Matter movement or the larger issue of policy brutality with family members. It is clear that these events played an important role in family discussions in the United States in 2020. Approximately three-quarters of both Republicans and Democrats said they had talked about issues of race with family members. Of those in relationships, nearly all of them had talked with their spouses or partners, but more than two-thirds of Republicans and Democrats had family discussions about these issues with their children, too. Democrats also proved more likely than Republicans to extend the conversation to other family members like parents or children. And while we expect that the nature of the conversation differed by partisanship (an issue to which we will return below), these numbers are striking evidence of how issues of race affected the national conversation in American homes.

Table 4: Relationship Activities Over Time
Percentage Doing Each Activity Weekly or More

	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020
Do Nice Things	85	84	79	80	79
Talk about Political or Social Issues	61	68	64	67	73
Discuss Finances	60	61	55	58	55
Have Sex	59	55	50	54	49
Go Out Together	50	49	47	50	47
Discuss Your Relationship	47	45	39	40	36
Pray Together	29	27	25	30	28
Have a Serious Argument	14	13	12	13	12
Sleep in Different Rooms	5	5	7	9	8
Hide Finances	7	6	7	9	7

Table 5: *Since March, have you discussed Black Lives Matter or police brutality with your family?*

	All	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Yes	73	76	77	59
If Yes, with Whom?				
Spouse/Partner	91	93	88	90
Children	66	66	68	56
Parents	40	29	45	46
Siblings	38	31	42	37

2.2 *Most Important Issues Facing Families*

Since 2015 we have asked Americans to tell us about the most important issues or problems facing families today. We do this by presenting respondents with a curated list of twelve items and asking them to choose up to three. The response options (presented in full in the topline in the appendix) are a collection of issues that we have categorized into a set of structural, economic, and cultural issues. Respondents saw only the items, not our categorizations. Structural items included things like parents not teaching or disciplining their children sufficiently or the challenge of finding quality time with family in the digital age. Cultural issues included items like the widespread availability of drugs and alcohol or the decline in religious faith and church attendance. Economic issues involved the costs associated with raising a family, the lack of good jobs, or high work demands and stress on parents.

As can be seen in Figure 5, the trends over time are instructive. The figure shows the percentage of respondents who chose at least one item in each category. While family structure and stability remains

the category chosen by the largest percentage of respondents, this percentage has declined approximately 10 points since 2015. The decrease in concern about culture issues is even more steep: 17 points since 2015 and 5 points since 2019. In contrast, concern about economic issues has increased by about 10 percentage points since 2015, though the biggest increase occurred between 2015 and 2016 and the change from last year was small.

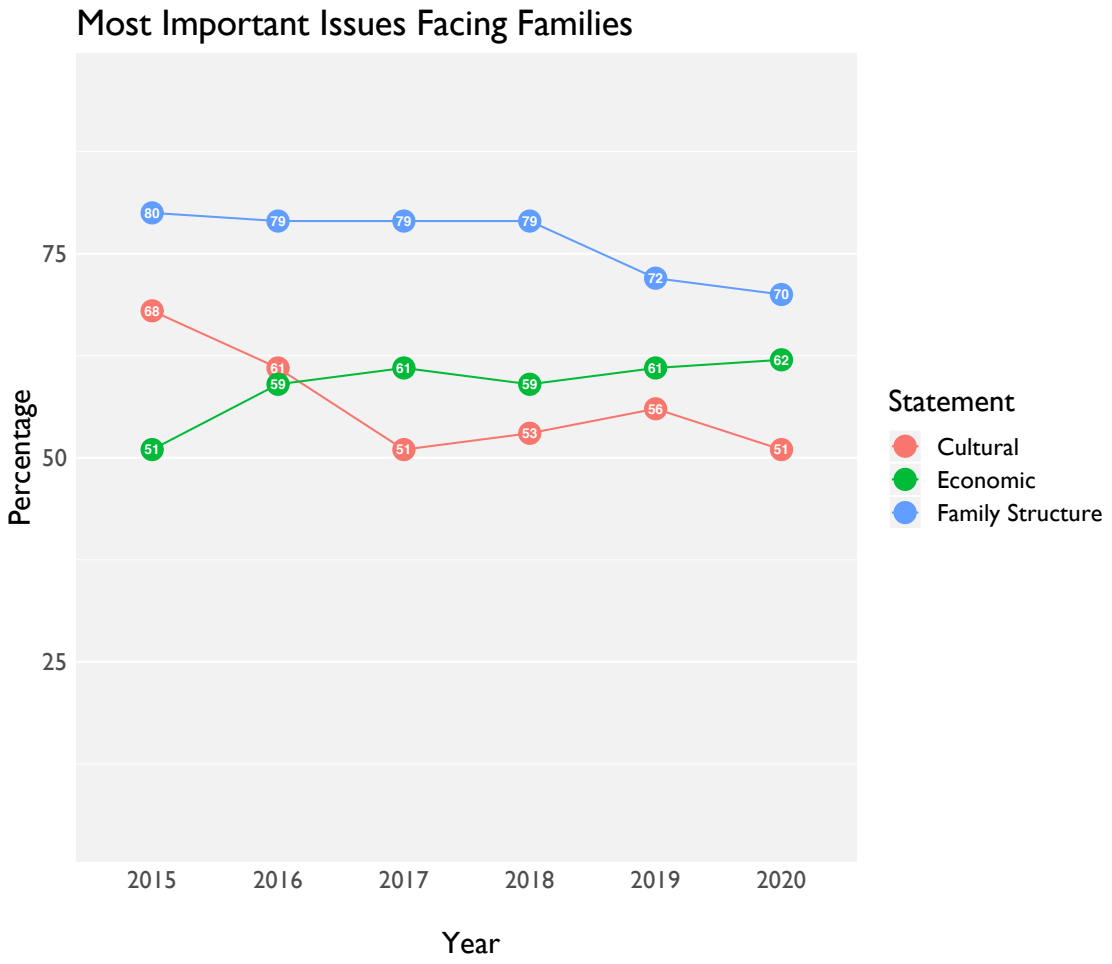

Figure 5: The figure shows trends in the importance of issues that face families.

In light of this increasing concern about economics, it is also notable that in a separate question, only 1 in 5 Americans (22%) agreed with the idea that "the cost of raising a child is affordable for most people." This result represents an 8 point decline from 2015 and a 4 point decline from 2019. In 2020, only 4% of Americans strongly agreed that child-rearing is affordable, while 19% strongly disagreed. Clearly, economic issues loom large in the minds of many Americans when they think about family responsibilities and parenting.

Given the unusually dramatic events of 2020, we also asked some respondents to tell us about their impressions of the challenges current public health crises and social events are creating for American

Table 6: Most Important Issues Facing Families
2020 Half Sample

	All	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Economics	**53**	**32**	**71**	**52**
The cost associated with raising a family	29	17	38	31
High work demands and stress on parents	20	12	27	18
The lack of good jobs	15	8	20	14
Lack of government programs to support family	12	3	19	8
Culture	**45**	**67**	**27**	**45**
Decline in religious faith and church attendance	21	44	5	17
The widespread availability and use of drugs and alcohol	13	13	12	13
Crime and other threats to personal safety	13	16	10	14
Sexual permissiveness in our society	11	16	6	12
Family Structure and Stability	**61**	**81**	**47**	**61**
Parents not teaching or disciplining their children sufficiently	36	51	25	35
More children growing up in single-parents homes	25	41	13	27
Difficulty finding quality time with family in digital age	15	13	16	15
Change in the definition of marriage and family	10	19	5	8
Current Events	**43**	**23**	**60**	**39**
The coronavirus pandemic	33	21	45	30
Racial inequality	20	4	33	15

families. While half of the sample (1500 respondents) was randomly chosen to receive our traditional selection of twelve curated most important issue items (these are the results shown in Figure 5), the other half of the sample received the usual list plus two additional items: the coronavirus pandemic and racial inequality. Table 6 presents the results for the random half of respondents who received this expanded list. This table also provides evidence of stark partisan divides in impressions of the concerns faced by American families. For example, whether they received the two current events items or not, Democrats were substantially more likely than Republicans to regard economic issues as the primary challenge facing families, while larger percentages of Republicans focused on culture and family structure.

Partisan divisions can be seen with respect to the two current events, too. Nearly half of Democrats chose the pandemic, for example, compared to about 20 percent of Republicans. For Democrats, the pandemic was single most often chosen item on the list, followed by the costs of associated with raising a family. Racial inequality ranked third among Democrats and was chosen by fully one-third of Democratic respondents. By contrast, Republicans were most likely to identify parental discipline, the decline in religious faith and church attendance, and the rise of single-parent homes as the most pressing issues facing fami-

lies. Only 4 percent of Republicans chose racial inequality as a pressing concern for families, meaning that this item ranked second to last among Republicans, ahead of only the lack of government programs to support families. Clearly, Republicans and Democrats perceive the issues confronting families, including contemporary public health and social challenges, through very different lenses, even though partisans are talking about these issues a great deal. As we will explore in detail below, there are also important differences by respondent race and ethnicity in these responses.

3 COVID and Family Life

The coronavirus pandemic represented a substantial shock to many different aspects of American life. In July of 2020, what did Americans have to say about their experience of the pandemic to that point? Just over one-third of respondents (see Table 7) reported that they knew someone who had been diagnosed with COVID-19, though it had directly touched the families of fewer respondents, and in addition to those who said they new someone who had definitely tested positive, an additional one in five Americans said that it was possible someone in their orbit had been diagnosed, though they didn't know for sure.

Table 7: Know Someone Diagnosed with COVID-19

Know ...	Anyone	Someone in Household	Other Family Member	Neighbor/Friend	Coworker
Yes	36	4	15	22	12
Maybe	19	4	6	10	11

While most Americans had not been directly touched by a COVID diagnosis, the pandemic did influence daily life in a variety of ways. Large percentages of Americans made at least some changes to their public activities. For example, 89% of respondents reported that they had worn a mask in public since March. In addition, 75% of respondents said they had either completely isolated at home (23%) or tried to stay at home as much as possible (53%). Only 9% reported no changes in their day-to-day activities.

Most Americans agreed with their families about pandemic-related public health measures. Only 19% of respondents said there was at least some disagreement in their household about social distancing and other COVID-related guidelines.

The vast majority of parents took measures to curtail their children's social connections with others. Only 12% of parents said they had **not** restricted their children's in-person interaction with others. This means that nearly 90% of parents — a remarkable number — took action to keep their children safe during the pandemic. And most children seem to have followed their parents' instructions. Approximately 86% of parents said their children had been somewhat (25%) or very (62%) cooperative with the limitations the parents imposed.

Many families experienced financial changes as a result of the pandemic. We asked respondents to report for both themselves and their spouses or partners (if applicable) whether they had experienced temporary

furloughs, permanent layoffs, reductions in hours, or some other loss of income. About 4 in 10 Americans told us they had experienced at least some change in their employment situation or that of their partner since the pandemic began in March. These disruptions to family income were higher among Hispanics (53% reported an employment change for themselves or their partners) than among Blacks (41%) or whites (38%). Nearly one quarter of Americans said they had experienced at least some loss of income, and when partners are included, that number increases to approximately one in three. The income loss among Hispanic families was larger (41%) than among Black (34%) or white (29%) families. In addition, younger families (40% among Americans age 18-29) were more likely than older Americans to lose income (32% among the families of respondents age 55-64). A little over one quarter of Americans said that their financial situation was worse than before the pandemic—exactly 25% among whites, but slightly higher for Blacks (28%) and again significantly higher for Hispanics (35%).

Table 8: Employment Change as a Result of COVID-19 (All Respondents)

	Self	Partner	Self or Partner
Any Employment Change	32	18	41
Loss of Income	23	13	32
Temporary Layoff	15	9	22
Permanent Job Loss	7	4	11
Hours Reduced	19	9	26
Financial Situation Worse	27		

These numbers are striking and represent a significant financial hardship for millions of Americans. At the same time, these patterns also mean that four months after the pandemic began, most Americans still did not personally know someone who had been diagnosed with COVID, and most Americans did not feel that their financial situation had fundamentally changed. In fact, 11% of respondents said that their financial standing was better than before the coronavirus outbreak began, and *fewer* Americans reported that they had experienced a significant financial crisis than in 2019, perhaps in part because of the significant financial aid that states and the federal government made available in response to the pandemic. Nonetheless, the unevenness in the extent to which Americans were directly exposed to either illness or financial hardship is important to keep in mind when evaluating the pandemic's effects.

How is the coronavirus pandemic affecting family life? Our answer is that the effects are complex and often require us to look at multiple indicators and to examine how those indicators combine and interact with one another. The bottom line is that there are serious pockets of trouble in American family life at the moment, but these do tend to be pockets and not swaths. Most people's family life remains largely positive at the moment, and they report it as such.

Since 2015, we have asked Americans about basic features of family life like eating meals together, doing household chores, or attending activities together. As Table 9 shows, reports of these activities held largely steady in 2020. The table shows the percentage of Americans who reported doing these activities at least weekly and for eating dinner together, the percentage reporting that they do so every day. The question

did not urge respondents to focus on the time since the pandemic began, so it is possible that respondents were offering a summary judgment about their typical level of activity. The only meaningful change we see is a 6 point increase since 2019 in the percentage of respondents who told us they eat dinner together daily.

Table 9: Family Activities Over Time

	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020
Eat Dinner Together (Daily)	47	43	47	48	54
Do Household Chores	61	56	57	63	64
Attend Family Member Activities	42	41	34	44	42
Go Out to Movies, Other Events	49	49	45	56	52
Worship Together	34	33	31	35	35
Have an Argument	18	19	18	24	19

If many of the rhythms of family life seemed to be similar, what has changed as a result of the pandemic? In 2020, we asked respondents to report for both themselves and their children whether their levels of media streaming, social media use, video games, and outside activities had increased, decreased, or stayed the same since the pandemic began in March. Table 10 shows that large percentage of respondents reported increased online activity, while very few said that use had decreased. For outdoor activities, the pattern is different. About a quarter said that they were spending more time outside, but even more said they were venturing outdoors less. Parental reports for their children show even more time online, especially for video games. Thus, while some elements of family life remained constant in the pandemic, online activity seemed to increase among a meaningful percentage of adults and children.

Table 10: How Are Families Spending Their Time? Change Since March

	Increased	Same	Decreased
Respondent			
Media Streaming	41	49	10
Social Media	37	53	10
Video Games	28	60	12
Outside Activities	26	46	29
Children			
Media Streaming	46	47	7
Social Media	31	60	8
Video Games	43	50	8
Outside Activities	32	42	26

3.1 Stress and Tension at Home during the Pandemic

What about the emotional toll of the pandemic on stress and tension in the home? Though there is some evidence that tension is increasing, most people do not report such problems.

Figure 6 examines reported levels of tension in the home by family status and the presence of children. Note that the y-axis has been cut off at 50 percent. There are not remarkably high levels of increasing tension. It averages a bit less than a fifth of respondents. Additionally, though there have been large numbers of news reports and discussion of families facing difficulty over children, education, and cramped living space the presence or absence of children does not appear to be making a major difference to people's reported levels of well-being.

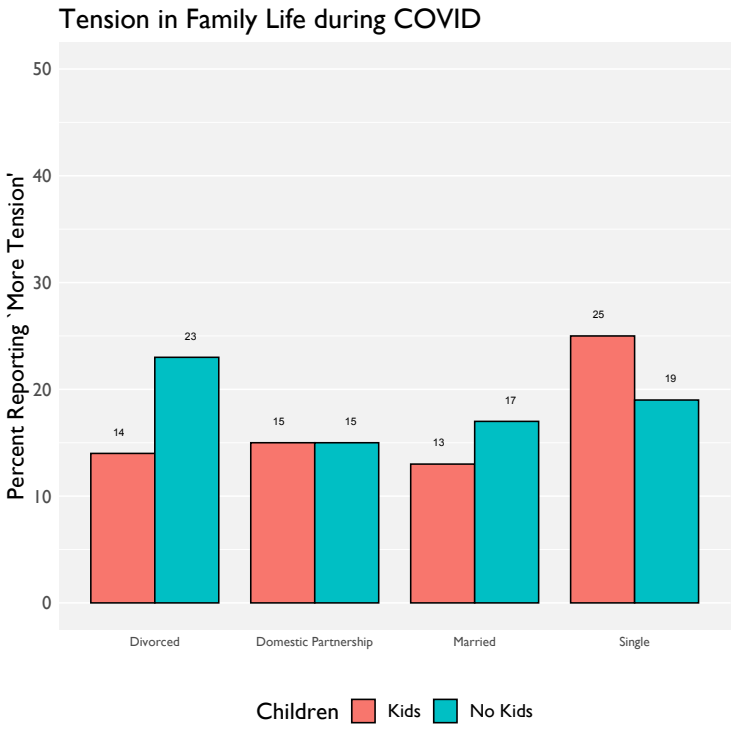

Figure 6: Responses indicate the percentage of people reporting more tension in their families (other tension options are omitted from the graph).

In contrast, Table 11 shows a very clear pattern of increased tension that diminishes with age. Among the youngest cohort (those aged 18 - 29) only one in ten report less tension than usual. Almost a quarter report more than average levels of tension. The pattern monotonically moves on both of those options. The oldest group (those over the age of 65) see three in ten respondents saying that there is *less* tension than average. In contrast only 6% of that group believes that there is more tension than average.

When considering sources of tension, one of the things we addressed was the degree to which people had access to or lost their family support system. Generally, this was not a major issue, but it certainly

Age Range	Less Tension than Average	More Than Average
18 - 29	11	23
30 - 44	13	21
45 - 54	21	16
55 - 64	24	10
65 and Older	30	6

Table 11: Cell entries indicate the percentage perceiving each level of tension by age grouping.

was for some pockets of the country. Thirty-four percent of the country restricted some family member from coming to see them, but only 24% reported being restricted. On average, most people did not see restrictions or put them in place. We were unable to find any really significant demographic differences across these levels of restriction, with one exception—partisanship. Democrats reported a much higher rate of restricting family members: 42 percent, while only 28% of Republicans reported that.[1]

The bottom line is that in general we see relatively little *mass*-difficulties with COVID and family life, but there are clearly places where people are facing trouble. Take, for instance, the interaction between people's evaluations as parents and how that interacts with other situations or demographics. Figure 7 shows the percentage of parents who believed that they are failing as parents. Overall, about a quarter feel this way, but the numbers substantially increase for the two categories of those who have experienced an economic crisis in the last year or those who believe that their relationship is "in trouble."

The obvious interaction effect here is that COVID is affecting people's family life not so much directly but by how it interacts with other factors in a person's life. In this sense, COVID is having broad effects but those effects are not substantial except when COVID comes into contact with a person's preexisting difficulties and troubles.

As an additional test of this claim we examine people who believe that the coronavirus pandemic has either increased stress in their marriage or made them question the strength of their marriage—see Table 12. We break it down by various types of additional stressors—experiencing an economic crisis, income brackets, and losing income. We note that there is never more than four in ten people who believe either of these statements, and, indeed, usually far fewer agree with them. However, there is a clear pattern where additional stressors in one's life lead to higher levels of such beliefs.

Having experienced an economic crisis almost doubles the percentage of people who believe the coronavirus pandemic has increased stress in their marriage. On the strength of marriage question the number almost triples because of an economic crisis. It is not so obviously a matter of money trouble. There is literally, no pattern in stress across all of the levels of income. However, the lower income individuals (those making less than $40,000 per year) are about twice as likely to have questioned the strength of their

[1]It is perhaps noteworthy that there were no significant differences in family members restricting Democrats and Republicans both were restricted at similar levels to the nation-wide trend.

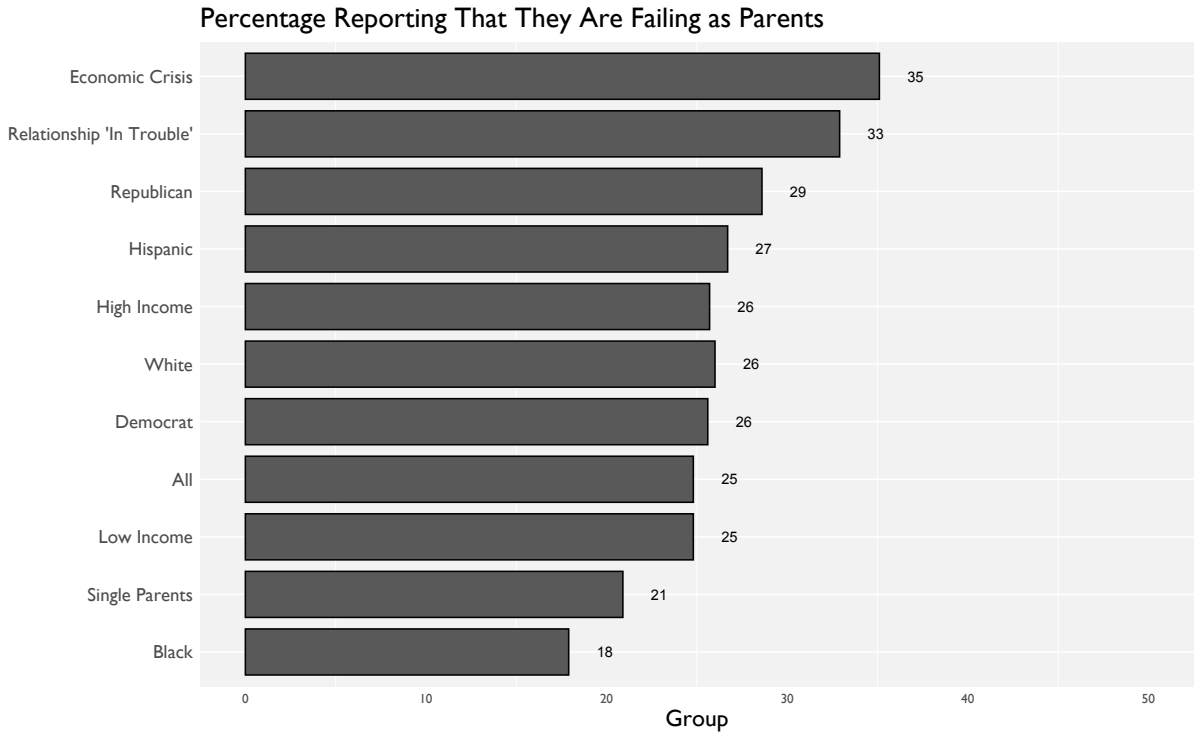

Figure 7: Figure denotes the percentage of persons who believe they are failing as parents by demographic group. Note that the question is only asked of those with children and was phrased "Indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements, thinking about the time since coronavirus restrictions began in March."

	"The coronavirus pandemic has increased stress in my marriage"	**"The coronavirus pandemic has made me question the strength of my marriage"**
No Economic Crisis	20	8
Economic Crisis	37	21
Low Income	25	19
Middle Income	26	10
High Income	28	11
No Lost Income	24	11
Lost Income (self)	31	18
Lost Income (spouse / partner)	34	17

Table 12: Cell entries indicate the percentage of couples who agreed with the statement.

marriage. When we finally turn to lost income the economic considerations are again significant, though not overwhelming. The group without any lost income sees the lowest levels of stress in the marriage and

personal lost income (or that lost the partner) is clearly associated with more trouble.

On balance, then, we see increased relationship stress among about a quarter of Americans (see Table 13), though the numbers are significantly higher among those who experienced an economic crisis. In contrast, a much larger percentage of Americans who are in relationships told us that the pandemic has made them appreciate their partners more or that it has deepened their commitment to their relationship. Thus, while some Americans are struggling, others seem to have found solace in their relationships during these ongoing challenges.

Table 13: Attitudes about Relationships in COVID-19

	Percent Agree	**Percent Disagree**
The coronavirus pandemic ...		
Has made me appreciate my partner more	56	10
Has deepened my commitment to my relationship	47	9
Has increased stress in my relationship	25	45
Has made me question the strength of my relationship	13	62

A similar story emerges with respect to loneliness. In both 2019 and 2020, we asked respondents to indicate how often they "lack companionship," "feel left out," or "feel isolated from others." These questions are often used by psychologists to measure loneliness. We combined answers to these items into a single scale ranging from 0 to 1, with high scores indicating that the respondent answered "often" to all three items. Despite the presence of the pandemic and the push for social distancing, we find no evidence of a substantial increase in overall levels of loneliness in 2020, relatively to 2019. We do, however, find that in both years, people who are experiencing relationship trouble (such as those who are separated from their spouse) and people who are not in a relationship at all reported markedly higher levels of loneliness. In other words, we see no wave of loneliness as a result of the pandemic. Rather, loneliness has primarily to do with the presence or absence of a committed relationship. These results caution that the steady increase over the past 6 years of the AFS in Americans saying they are not in any relationship at all may be cause for concern.

Table 14: Average Loneliness and Relationship Status

	2019	**2020**
All	0.35	0.35
Married	0.26	0.26
Married but Separated	0.47	0.38
Cohabiting	0.35	0.33
In a Relationship, but Not Cohabiting	0.39	0.36
Not in a Relationship	0.46	0.48

Overall, we think these results show clearly that people are responding well to the coronavirus pandemic

and that there is not a wave of family breakdown associate with it. To the contrary, relationships appear to be a source of resilience in dealing with the stresses of the pandemic. In this way, families and relationships appear to be a lifeline through the challenges of COVID-19, not the casualty of it. When it comes to overall relationship stability, only 8% of respondents in a relationship said that they pandemic made them more likely to divorce, separate, or break up (or that they had already broken up), while 8% said they were less likely to do so. More than 8 in 10 said the pandemic did not change their overall likelihood of continuing in the relationship. However, there are pockets of society that are facing problems and these are most evidence when we look for stressors that combine and interact to create problems.

3.2 Responses to COVID

How have families responded to the coronavirus pandemic in their division of household tasks? Though questions that discuss household task divisions are common on family surveys (indeed we have asked such questions several times in the past) the forcing of family life to be more home-centered seemed like an opportunity to ask about how these tasks are divided as well as bring children into the picture. Many families reported children taking up new tasks or being assigned work as they were home facing restrictions. Table 15 displays not only the percent done by a man or a woman in a family but also indicates the percentage of the work that men and women believe are done by children in their family.[2] The table further breaks out these differences by income and race. It is a complicated table but here are the main points.

There is a very traditional split between men and women in this table (though complicated by the addition of children). Men believe they are doing more than women believe they are doing—an expected finding confirmed on previous surveys).

Men and women do *not*, however, substantially disagree on how much the children are doing. Both men and women report that children are doing a bit less than 20 percent of the household tasks and chores. Thus, disagreement is within the relationship and not a feature of women simply systematically giving less credit to the work of others, or of men systematically underestimating the contributions of others.

The pattern has almost no relationship to income and only slight relationships to race. Black and Hispanic men see themselves as doing more slightly more often than do white men who are slightly more likely to credit their partners, though the broad pattern remains the same.

Turning to the satisfaction, men are, on average, more satisfied with their partners than are women, and the same is true with respect to children. Men tend to be more satisfied with the children's contributions than are women. Intriguingly, this gap is smallest (non-exist, actually) for Black respondents where men and women evaluate the children exactly the same.

[2]The specific question wording was "Since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, many households have found there is more to do around the house and that households are dividing up that additional work differently. Indicate what percent of the following tasks each person is doing right now, making the total indicated on the bottom 100%."

			High Income		Low Income		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Men	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**
Percent Done By Yourself	41	60	40	61	44	58	47	60	44	56	39	62
Percent Done By Your Partner	41	23	44	24	36	24	38	22	39	25	42	23
Percent Done By Your Children	18	16	16	15	20	18	14	18	18	20	19	15
Satisfaction with Spouse	66	54	74	63	59	50	63	45	62	42	65	57
Satisfaction with Children	49	39	49	42	50	37	45	44	58	40	46	38

Table 15: Cell entries in the top portion indicate the average amount of work done by category. In the bottom half of the table, cell entries indicate the percentage who are satisfied with the current arrangement by spouse and children. Note that this data is only presenting results from partners with children.

On the whole, men tend to report greater satisfaction with the division of household responsibilities than do women. This is true regardless of whether or not we focus on the relationship between the adults or look at the children. Women are not necessarily terribly dissatisfied (the median woman tends to classify herself as satisfied), but they are less comfortable as a group with the status quo. We note again that this is not driven by disparate evaluations of the children. Men and women tend to agree on how much the children are doing at home, but they are more likely to differ in their assessments of whether that contribution is acceptable or not. This data does not solve the thorny questions about who is perceiving the situation between spouses and workload correctly, but the similar assessments of children's contribution to the household workload does suggest that systematic misperceptions by gender cannot explain these patterns.

Beyond the division of labor in household chores, how did men and women feel about the closure of face-to-face school classes and about the balance of work and family in an age in which many are working from home? For this analysis, we focus on employed respondents with school-aged children at home, and Table 16 presents the basic results. First, majorities of both men and women said they felt better about children's well-being because schools had closed and children were at home. About half of parents said they were following a daily schedule to help their children keep a school routine, and nearly half of both men and women said they were relatively satisfied with the resources and curriculum provided by teachers. About 4 in 10 men and women said they were more likely to consider homeschooling their children in the future as a result of the pandemic and that children had learned about as much in home school as they did in face-to-face school settings. On these issues, men and women substantially agree.

Table 16: Life at Home in a Pandemic
Employed Respondents with School-Aged Children

	Men	Women
Feel better and more secure about children's well-being	53	60
Children have a daily schedule	51	50
Satisfied with home school resources/curriculum	44	47
More likely to consider homeschooling kids in the future	41	37
Children have learned as much at home as at school	39	38
Struggling to balance home and work life	40	31
Struggled being home with my children	39	25
I feel as if I am failing as a parent	32	22
Children have become more difficult	31	19

When it comes to how they are balancing home and work life, however, the responses of men and women diverged markedly. If men were more likely than women to say that they were satisfied with the division of household labor, men were also more likely than women to say that they were struggling to balance home and work life, to be at home with children for longer periods of time, and even to be failing as a parent. Men were also more likely than women to judge that the children had become more difficult and

disobedient while at home during the pandemic. In each case, the difference between men and women was approximately 10 percentage points or more. No doubt, a variety of reasons help to explain these patterns, and we do not mean to conclude that women are not feeling the stress of balancing work and family life, only that men are more likely than women to publicly disclose those stresses.

What about the economic aspects of family life? Earlier, we saw that many families had experienced a loss of income or other change to their employment situation as a result of the pandemic. How far do families believe they can go under current conditions? Table 17 shows expectations about living off of savings, broken down by key demographic and income groups. On average, across most categories, about a quarter of people believe they could go less than a month meaning that most people could, in their own estimation, survive a job loss (or very similar) crisis for a few months. In a few cases, people could go much longer. The racial differences exist but are not enormous. The differences across races among who could go for less than a month are all relatively close to a quarter. The differences grow at the top of the scale, where only about a fifth of Black and Hispanic respondents believe they could survive six months or more. Among white respondents the number is about a third. Income is the far more important factor in this case. Of those making less than $40,000 per year about two-thirds of those respondents could only go for about three months. The figure is smaller for those in the middle income range, and obviously much smaller for those at the top of the income range.

Group	< A Month	1 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6+ Months
All	23	31	18	29
Black	27	33	19	22
Hispanic	27	36	17	20
White	22	29	18	32
<$40,000	33	37	14	17
$40 - 80,000	26	32	21	23
>$80,000	13	26	21	40

Table 17: Percentages of persons whose savings can carry them by period of months; note: figures denote those who currently have a job and are relying on it in some way.

The bottom line is that relatively few people believe that their savings will carry them more than a few months. What does this imply for policy and outside support? We turn to that issue next.

3.3 *Government Policy and Support*

First of all, how are families experiencing government support in this time? Figure 8 displays the reported amount of money a person received from the stimulus.[3] There is a very clear pattern here that marriage leads to greater levels of support, regardless of children in the home as, on average, programs like the

[3]We note that this "reported" money and not the actual dollar amount issued to anyone.

small business loan, the stimulus check and unemployment insurance. These policies are complicated and the formulas to understand how those funds are supposed to be disbursed are beyond the scope of this report, but it is clear that in terms of government support families see more dollars, but they also have to stretch those dollars further than do single respondents.

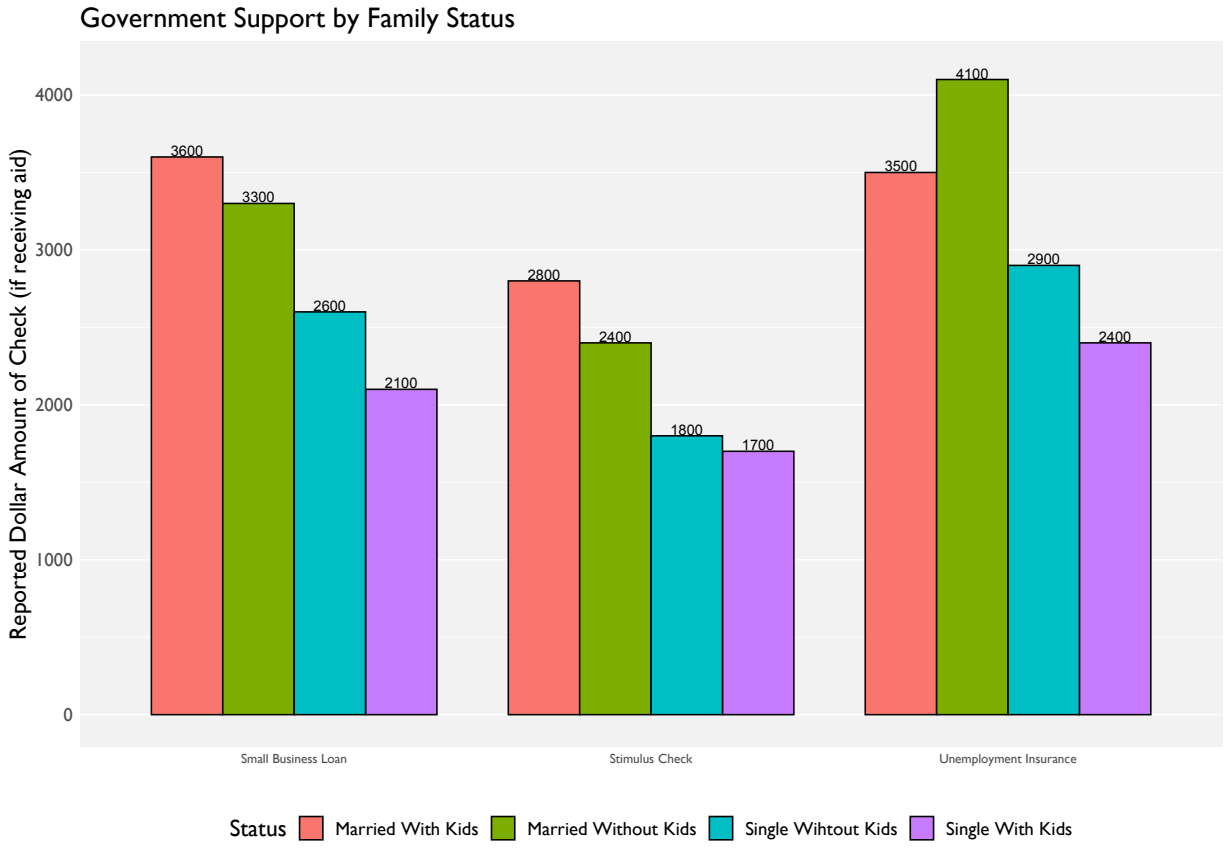

Figure 8: Figure amounts denote the amount (rounded to the nearest $100) of support by the type of support and family status.

Does the support vary by other demographics? Two notable ones are race and partisanship. Figure 9 shows the support by family status and race as well as partisanship. Again, we see that families with children get the most. Single respondents, regardless of whether or not they have children reported relatively lower amounts. In this graphic it's clear that white respondents are generally reporting lower levels of government support, though whether this is due to underestimation or to actual income levels is difficult to tell.

What is clear about these figures is that the experience of receiving government support, in its various forms, is one that is intimately linked to family life and family arrangements. Government rules and formulas send more money (though certainly less on a per capita basis) to families. Additionally, we would note that this is a substantial amount of money given out to people in this early period of the coronavirus pandemic. It is doubtless true that this affected people's well-being and feelings of support. But govern-

ment is not the only form of support. We also asked about the preparedness levels and helpfulness of a range of institutions. Table 18 gives those figures with reference to the coronavirus pandemic.

Policy Response	**Prepared**	**Helpful**
Your Household	72	NA
Your Neighbors	58	31
Your Employer	54	30
Churches	47	23
State and Local Government	44	35
Federal Government	34	37
Public Schools	32	19

Table 18: Percentages who rated an institution or group as "prepared" or "helpful."

Perhaps the key thing to note is that about three-quarters of the population felt they were at least somewhat prepared for the pandemic, but views of other institutions were not nearly so sanguine. Though local institutions like neighbors and employers were seen as prepared, after that most institutions were described as less than prepared with the federal government and public schools being seen as prepared by only about a third of the population. Helpfulness (where the question wording permitted indifference which was typically the most popular category) saw less of a range of views, with most institutions coming in at around a third of the population describing them as helpful. The key exceptions were churches and public schools which people saw as less likely to be helpful. Notably, the only institution for which a slightly larger percentage of Americans indicated that it was "helpful" than judged it to be "prepared" was the federal government.

Policy Response	**Percentage Favoring**
Help Individuals and Families	72
Help Small Businesses	64
Pause / Hold Rent & Mortgage	60
Set Limits on Prices	58
Guarantee Jobs	56
Help Large Businesses	31
Postpone Elections	20

Table 19: Percentages supporting each of the described policies.

On the question of what policies people want to see put in place there was a resounding set of answers, and these answers did not show large differences across various demographic groups like race, income, or family status. It was a relatively consistent message communicated in Table 19: people want to see local institutions like their families and small businesses helped. This is one area where partisans agree strongly. Large majorities of *both* Republicans (72%) and Democrats (77%) believed that relief checks to

families were helpful government policy, and two-thirds of Republicans and Democrats judged federal support for small businesses to be helpful. Most Americans also favor price controls and the suspension of rent or housing payments as well as guarantees for jobs. There is relatively little support for helping larger institutions and the idea of postponing elections is particularly unpopular, garnering only 20% of support.

In considering these results we conclude with a pair of figures that describe how motivated people are by this set of circumstances. Figure 10 displays how people reacted to the question of changing their activities and there is a very clear pattern that suggests while people are somewhat more motivated to get involved in community affairs or volunteer, almost half of the population is more motivated to vote in this year's elections. And when this is broken down in the second panel of that figure it appears to be Biden supporters who are most motivated to vote. Simply looking across partisanship tells no real differences, but people who are expecting to vote for Joe Biden are substantially more interested in voting than are those planning to vote for Donald Trump. Unsurprisingly, the least motivated category are those who are undecided. Still, the results here should give the Trump campaign some pause with regard to how their messages are being received.

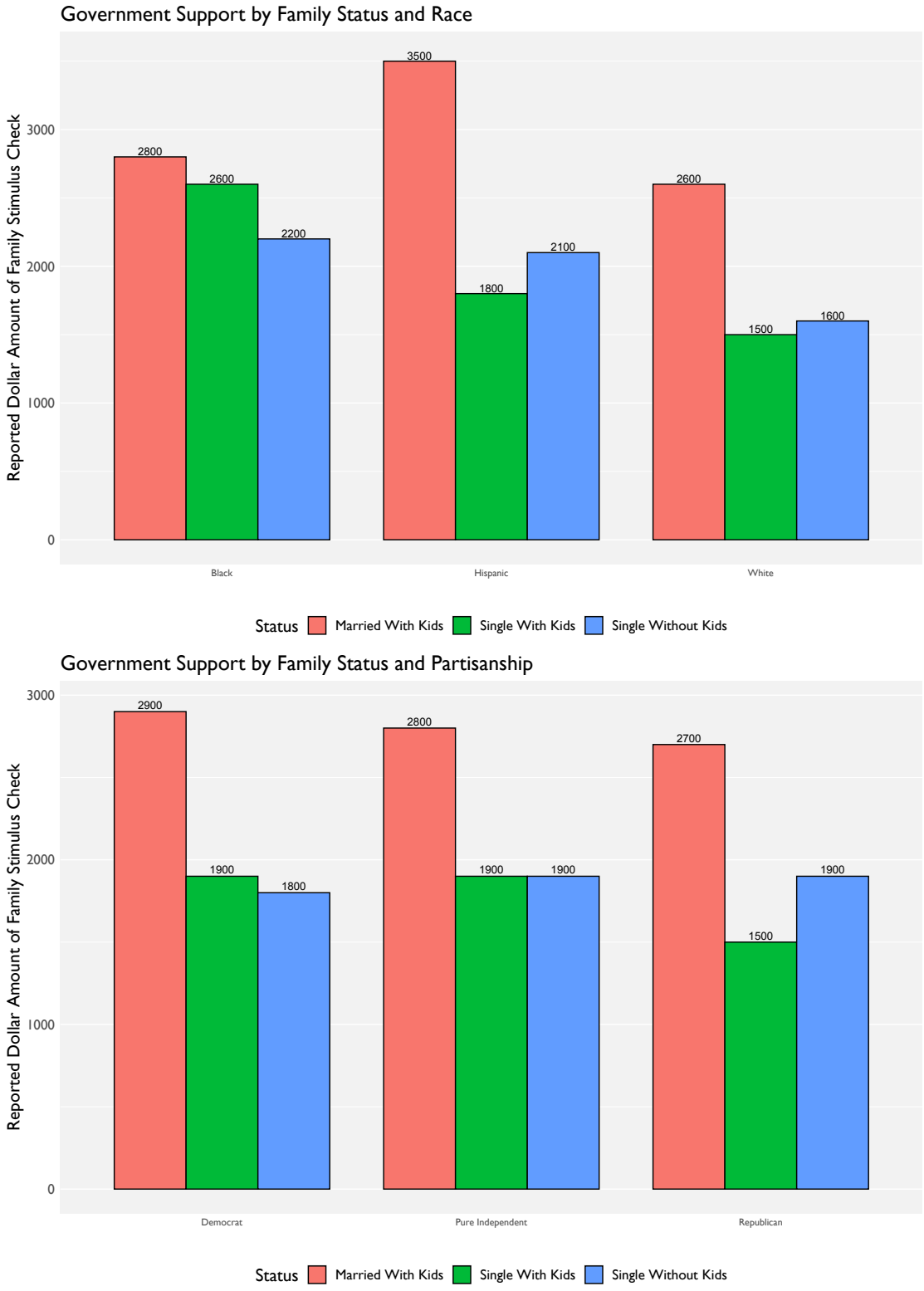

Figure 9: Figure amounts denote the amount (rounded to the nearest $100) of support by the type of support and family status. In this graphics marriage without children was omitted as a category because of sample sizes.

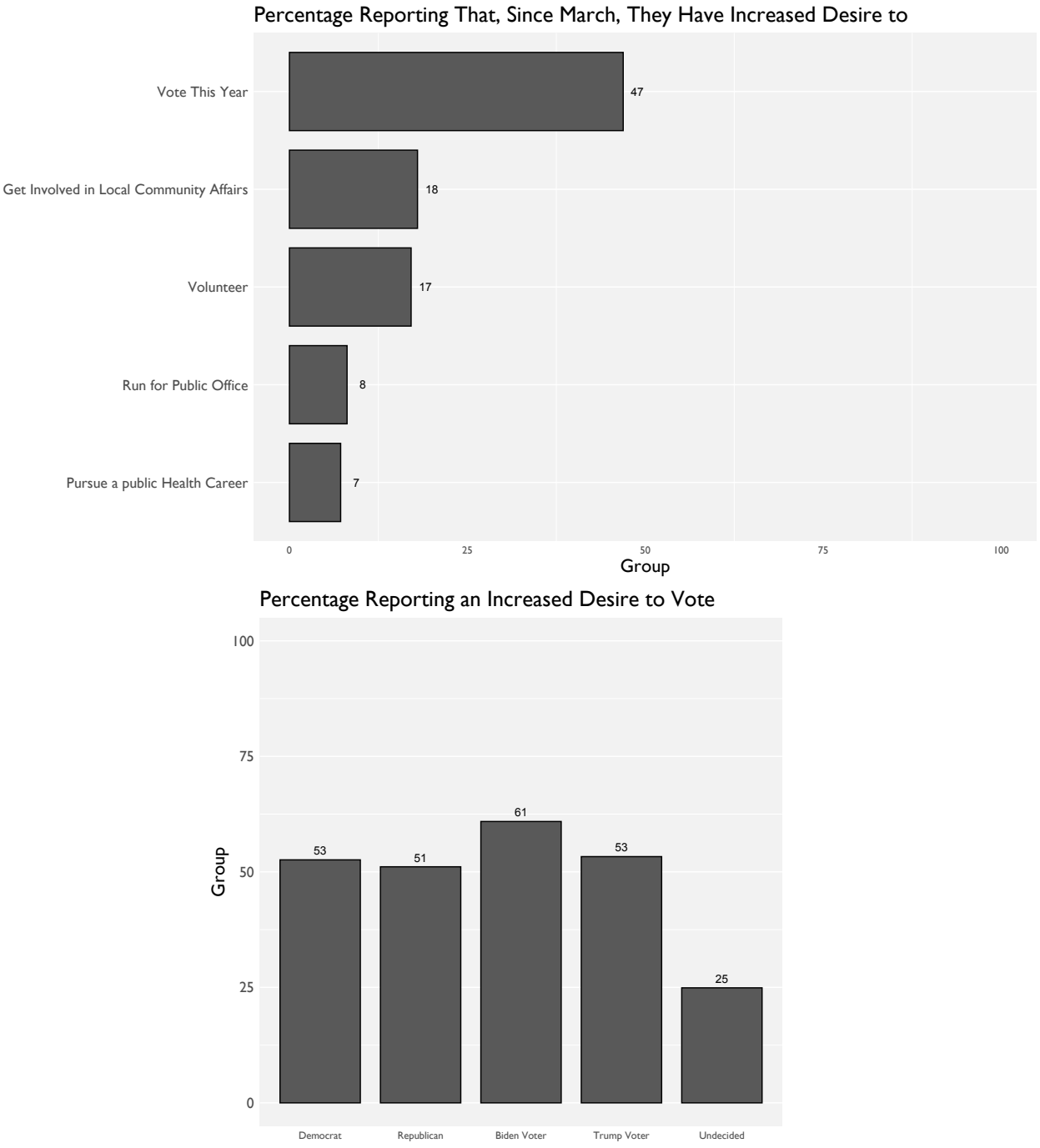

Figure 10: Increased desire to participate (in the top panel) and how various demographics report motivation to vote in the bottom panel.

4 Race, Family & COVID

In this section, we turn to the question of how recent events of police violence and protesting reactions have played out in public opinion and interacted with coronavirus. Earlier, we reported substantial partisan differences in the extent to which Democrats and Republicans viewed these issues as among the most pressing issues American families are currently facing. To explore these issues further, we begin with a baseline question of how people feel about the situation Black families face. Table 20 displays the percentage of the public that agrees, is neutral or disagrees with the statement: "Black families in America face obstacles that white families don't face." The results show some of the largest gaps in the survey across partisanship.

Table 20: *"Black families in America face obstacles that white families don't face"*

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
All	56	20	24
Black	77	15	9
Hispanic	55	27	18
White	53	19	29
Democrat	80	12	8
Republican	25	26	49

While it is true that a majority of the public agrees with that statement, once this is broken down by racial and partisan groups, it becomes clear how large the gulf is between Democrats and Republicans. Eight out of ten Democrats agree with the statement, about the same as is true among Black respondents. However, only one-quarter of Republicans agree with the statement (and half disagree). Hispanics are closer to whites in their agreement with the statement (a bit over half of each group agree) but Hispanics are somewhat less likely to disagree with the statement than whites (18 to 29 percent respectively). Only one out of every ten Blacks disagreed with the statement.

To give the gulf between the parties some visual reference, Figure 11 breaks down the results by race and partisanship for both the most important issue question (among the half of the sample that received that question) and the question about racial differences in obstacles faced by families.[4] In both cases it is clear that partisanship is the key driver of the response to these questions. One third of white and Black Democrats chose racial inequality as one of the most important issues facing American families, while less than 10% of Republicans did so. Among white Republicans, the number is only 3%. With respect to the view that Black families face unique obstacles, white Democrats are actually somewhat more likely to respond in the affirmative than are Black Democrats. Again, Republicans were far less likely to agree, and white Republicans the least likely of all.

[4]We mark the difference between white and non-white for purposes of this analysis because the sample contained too few Black Republicans to be confident of the results. Thus, we combine all non-white respondents in both parties.

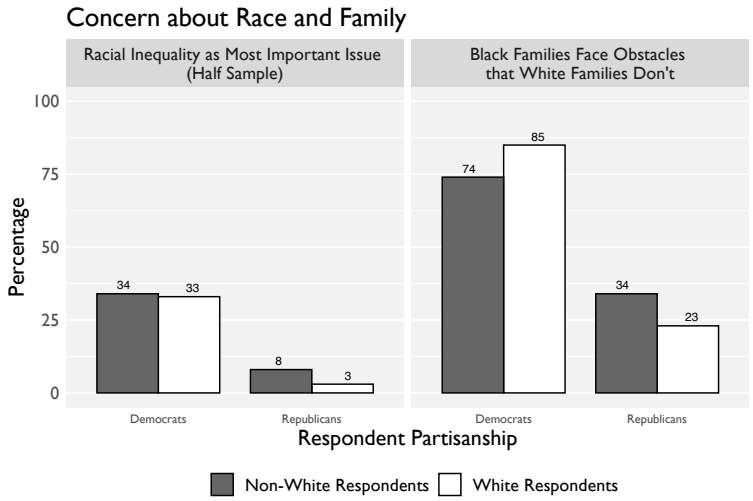

Figure 11: Reported agreement with the statement "Black families in America face obstacles that white families don't face" and percentage choosing racial inequality as one of the most important issues facing families by partisan and demographic group.

Our interpretation of these results is that white Democrats have embraced the cause of police brutality and violence against Black citizens, to some degree even more than have Black citizens themselves. The broader public is less convinced of this cause, though there clearly is some level of agreement with it across most demographic groups. Republicans, however, generally do not agree with that statement.

Given these attitudes, what can we say about participation in protest events in 2020? Because news coverage has emphasized different types of protests, we asked respondents about their involvement in protests regarding police brutality and racial inequality and their participation in protests of COVID-related restrictions. Figure 12 shows the results for individual respondents across a range of demographics. The figures are relatively low as compared with some answers on our survey (note that the y-axis runs only to 50%). It should be noted that in a typical year on the American National Election Study the percentage reporting that they attended a political meeting of some sort is only around 7%. Our question wording is somewhat different, but yields a roughly similar percentage overall, though protesting varies quite a bit with the type of protest and the demographic group. Black and Hispanic citizens were much more likely to protest than were whites, although the key difference is the protesting over racial inequality as the numbers are relatively similar on protesting COVID restrictions.

We should note that the data in Figure 12 refers only to individuals. We also asked people about who else in their home protested and the numbers for that accounting (which may contain somewhat more measurement error) are similarly large: 17% of all Americans and 27% of Democrats (but only 3% of Republicans). However one measures protest, this period has seen heavy activity.

In past years we have noted that identities that are particularly important are those of parents and spouses or partners, relative to things like partisanship or jobs or other identities (racial identities are more com-

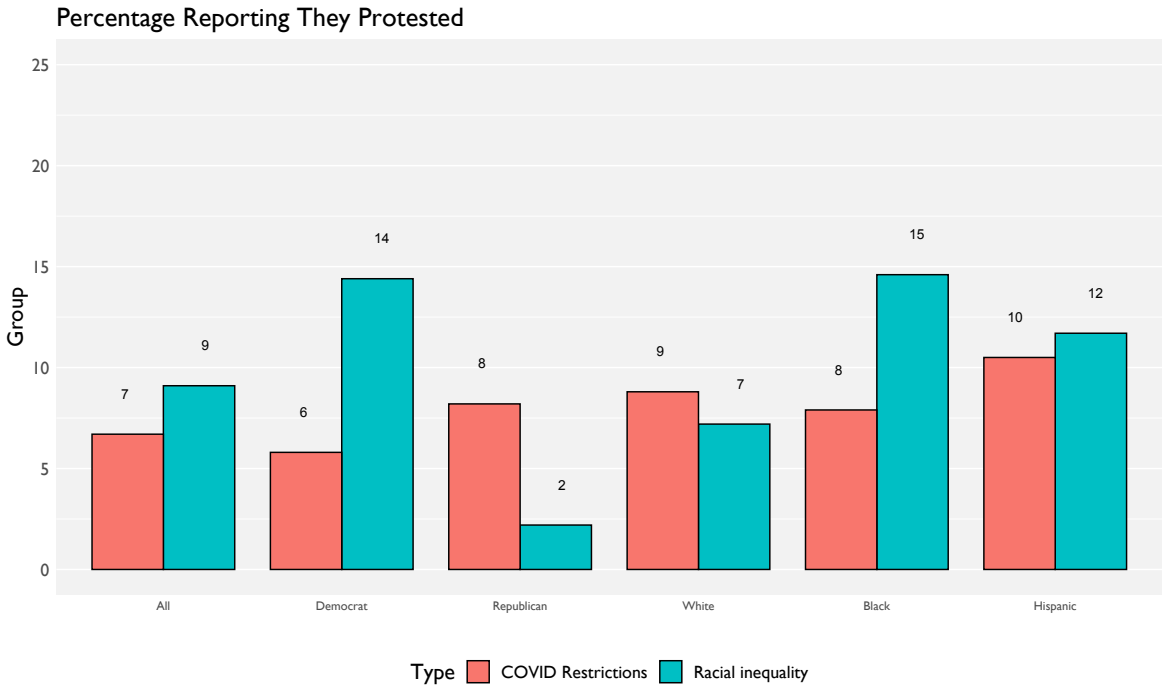

Figure 12: Figure shows reported percentages of protesting by demographic group.

plicated). Above we noted shifts in those identities over the past year, but here we break it down by race and, for whites, by ideological self-classification. Table 21 shows the numbers for each of the groups. We highlight three patterns across the groups. First, Black respondents continue to have higher scores than other groups on parenting identities. Though Hispanics and white conservatives are not much further behind, they are at a somewhat lower level on that metric. White liberals in particular score lower on their identity as parents, though it should be noted that about three-quarters of them still say that parental identity is important, so it is hardly the case that they do not care about their role as parents.

	Black	**Hispanic**	**White**	**White Liberals**	**White Conservatives**
My Role as a Spouse or Partner	78	69	74	62	82
My Role as a Parent	87	83	78	76	81
My Religion	57	46	41	17	67
My Race / Ethnicity	79	51	24	15	33
My Political Party	36	30	35	42	46
My Career / Job	49	45	36	38	36

Table 21: Cell entries indicate the percentage who said either "important" or "very important" in response to that role (roles as parent or spouse/partner were only asked of the relevant categories).

By contrast, far fewer white liberals appear to place great weight on a religious identify. Only 17% of them

consider that an important source of identity—in contrast with three-quarters of white conservatives and a clear majority of Black respondents. It is notable that among white conservatives a third of them find their racial identity to be important to them while the same figure among white liberals is only 15 percent.

5 Concerns about Children

Finally, we show a small portion of our questions on concerns over gender and how people are reacting to their sons and daughters during the pandemic. Table 22 shows what people are worried about with respect to their children, broken out by sons and daughters. There are not massive differences across most items and we would argue that, with one exception, there are no gender differences in worries over children at this time where the kids are cooped up indoors and restricted in their movements. The one significant exception is emotional health. People are more worried about the emotional health of their daughters than they are their sons.

	Sons	**Daughters**
Too much screen time	59	56
Social life	53	52
Education and learning	58	61
Physical activity	53	52
Emotional Health	49	56

Table 22: Cell entries indicate the percentage that are worried about their sons or daughters with respect to the particular area.

Figure 13 shows that among Black and Hispanic respondents the patterns are slightly different than among whites. For instance, Black and Hispanic respondents are more often worried about their daughters' emotional health as well as their education and learning, where whites, though still concerned at broadly similar levels, do not see a gender difference. In contrast, whites are more concerned about their sons when it comes to screen time, though both Black and Hispanic respondents see this as a problem in their daughters more than their sons.

Finally, on the question of race and institutions, Table 23 shows the percentage of the public that believes an institution is serving their sons and daughters well. Overall, there are not major differences. Daughters are more likely to be seen as getting better treatment from the educational system and churches, though boys are, on average, better served by sports or clubs in the public's eyes.

How do these responses break down by race? Figure 14 shows the results by race and reveals some interesting distinctions. The results about sports clubs serving boys better are driven entirely by white respondents while the differences among other races are muted. Churches and the school system are more complicated. The the results do not vary much by race. It is largely the view of the public that those

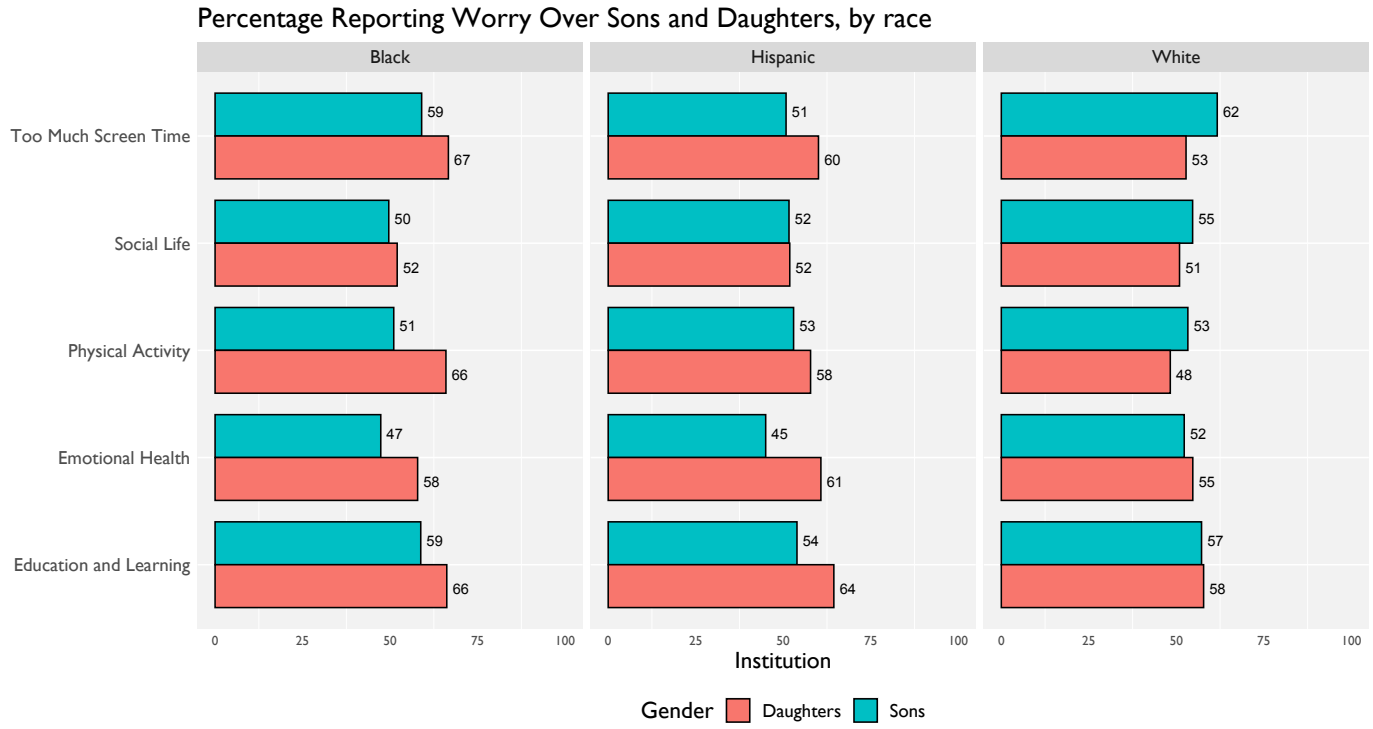

Figure 13: Percenages of parents worried about sons and daughters broken out by race/ethnicity.

	Sons	**Daughters**
Education System	55	63
Criminal Justice System	33	34
Churches	36	41
Friend Networks	62	66
Sports or Other Clubs	42	37

Table 23: Cell entries indicate the percentage that believe the institution is serving their sons or daughters well.

institutions just serve girls slightly better, regardless of race or ethnicity.

On a final note—nominally unrelated to coronavirus but still asked during this time period—we performed a small experiment on our respondents and their overall concern about boys and girls. Some respondents saw a question that *only* asked them about their worries over girls, while some respondents saw a question that *only* asked them about boys. A final group of respondents saw both. Figure 15 shows the differences between those groups.

Though more work needs to be done to understand these results, the broad patten is most consistent with increased worries when people are cued to think about boys. For instance, parents who were only asked to think about their worries about girls responded with a concern only 30% of the time. The figure jumps

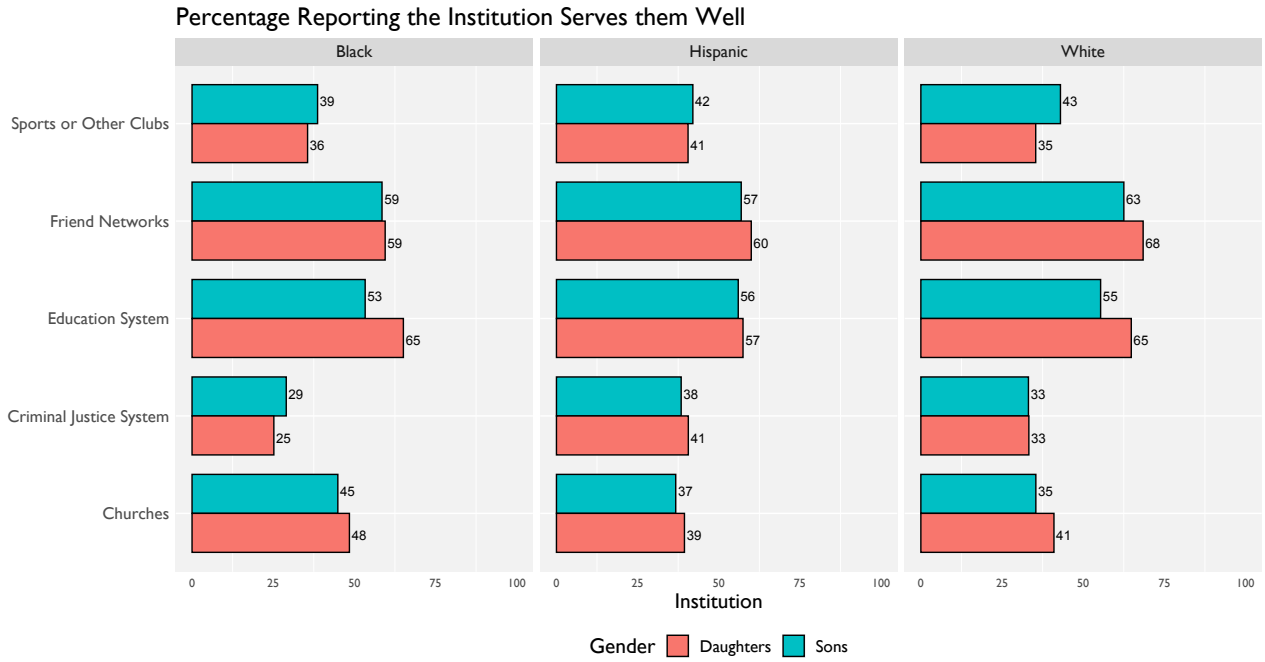

Figure 14: Figure denotes the percentage who believe that an institution serves their sons and daughters well by race.

to about 35 or 36 percent of the time (for girls or boys respectively) when boys were introduced. And, finally, in the condition where respondents were only asked about boys the number jumps to 45% of the public with concerns. This experiment highlights something key about society and it is a topic we plan to follow up on in future years. When the public is simply asked about boys and girls they tend to follow an ethic of equality. They will claim to have similar levels of worry about both genders. However, when only asked about girls the percentage of the public with concerns shrinks a bit and when only asked about boys the percentage of the public with concerns grows substantially.

What is the best way to characterize these results? Are people concealing concerns when asked about boys or girls? We doubt it. Our assumption would be that each of the responses is genuine it's just that people do harbor some latent concerns about boys that come out when asked the question in a slightly different way. There is, probably, more concern about boys and young men in our current society but it can be masked by norms of gender equality.

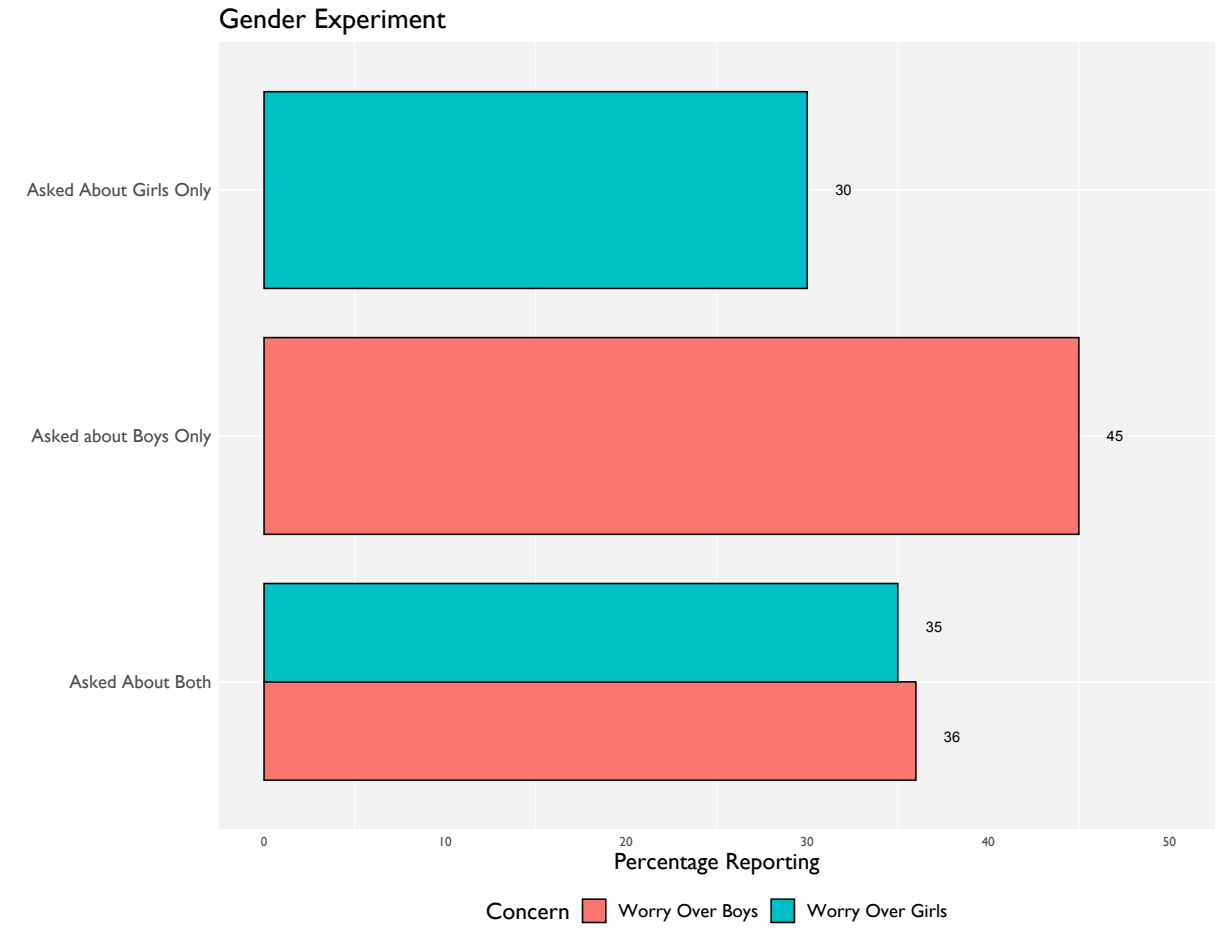

Figure 15: An experiment on gender concerns where respondents were placed into three conditions. Persons were presented three different types of questions: worries over girls, worries over boys and worries over both.

6 Conclusions

Family life under the threat of the coronavirus pandemic is, on balance, not doing as poorly as we might have imagined when we put this questionnaire together in the early spring. But that is not to say that there are not pockets of problems and trouble. Indeed, we think that those "pockets" should still be regarded with serious attention, both this year and in the future. Though the direct effects of the pandemic are uneven, Americans are fairly united in the policies they want to see put in place to help families: support for families as well as local institutions (but not large businesses). This much is true despite racial tension and the politicization of the problems of the moment.

Still, we choose to close on a hopeful note that the evidence here should point to how people from all sorts of different backgrounds are facing the challenges together. Families have moved in together and supported one another. Now as in the past, healthy relationships help to combat loneliness, and in the midst of the stresses of public health and other challenges, partners and children are a source of solace and strength for many. Thus, strong relationships are helping many Americans survive the pandemic.

In addition, we find evidence that Americans are working to support each other: many people across all sectors of society both received and reached out for help. Protests, particularly of racial disparities in policing (despite the attendant problems of such protests and persistent differences across partisanship in perceptions about the challenges faced by racial minorities), show clearly how motivated the vast majority of Americans are to make life better for themselves and their children. The not inconsiderable amount of help from the government that many Americans have received seems to have made life better for many. Americans are aware of the most basic problems facing their society and are seeking solutions to those problems across a host of institutions from their families, to local organizations, to state and national government efforts.

This is far from the last time that we will ask questions about COIVD or racial inequality (or many of these other matters as well) since the difficulties and problems attendant to the pandemic or to the nation's history of racial inequality or to the other challenges facing American family life seem, to us, quite likely to reverberate into the future affecting family life next year, the year after that, and even as this generation of children grows up. Those problems are daunting, but, in a host of ways, American families are resilient and ready to face those challenges.

7 Appendix: Statement on Methodology

YouGov interviewed 3251 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, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

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 region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified on 2016 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

8 Appendix: Topline Report

What follows is a topline report of all survey questions asked in the 2020 American Family Survey. This topline report was generated by YouGov. Any questions about the survey or the topline should be directed to BYU's Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy (csed@byu.edu).

BYUC0024

July 2020

YouGov

Sample	3000 US Adults (18+)
Conducted	July 03 – 14, 2020
Margin of Error	$\pm 1.9\%$

1. At any point in the last two years, have you thought that your marriage or relationship was in trouble?

Yes	26%
No	74%

2. Would you say that your marriage or relationship is stronger, weaker or about the same as two years ago?

Stronger	43%
About the same	48%
Weaker	7%
Don't know	3%

3. 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	8%
About the same	41%
Weaker	31%
Don't know	20%

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
When more people are married, society is better off.	5%	7%	6%	33%	14%	16%	20%
Marriage is more of a burden than a benefit to couples.	27%	21%	13%	23%	8%	4%	4%
Marriage is needed in order to create strong families.	10%	11%	9%	17%	14%	17%	24%
Being legally married is not as important as having a personal sense of commitment to your partner.	15%	11%	10%	19%	14%	17%	14%
Marriage is old-fashioned and out-of-date.	33%	18%	10%	17%	12%	4%	4%
Marriage makes families and children better off financially.	5%	4%	5%	26%	20%	21%	20%

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

Stronger	30%
About the same	53%
Weaker	11%
Don't know	6%

6. 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	12%
About the same	42%
Weaker	28%
Don't know	19%

7. How satisfied are you with your...?

	Completely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	t know	Somewhat satisfied	Completely satisfied	Not applicable
Job	5%	9%	12%	21%	15%	38%
Family	3%	8%	12%	31%	44%	2%
Life	5%	14%	12%	42%	26%	1%
Community	6%	15%	23%	36%	17%	2%

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

High work demands and stress on parents	25%
Lack of government programs to support families	15%
The costs associated with raising a family	32%
The lack of good jobs	17%
Decline in religious faith and church attendance	21%
Sexual permissiveness in our society	11%
The widespread availability and use of drugs and alcohol	14%
Crime and other threats to personal safety	15%
Change in the definition of marriage and family	11%
Parents not teaching or disciplining their children sufficiently	41%
More children growing up in single-parent homes	25%
Difficulty finding quality time with family in the digital age	18%
The Coronavirus pandemic	17%
Racial inequality	10%
Other	3%

9. How likely is it that you will still be in the same relationship two years from now?

Very likely	70%
Likely	10%
Somewhat likely	6%
Neither likely or unlikely	5%
Somewhat unlikely	2%
Unlikely	1%
Very unlikely	3%
Don't know	4%

10. How often do you do each of the following with your spouse or partner?

	Never	Yearly or less	A few times a year	About once a month	Weekly	A few times a week	Daily
Go out together, just the two of you	7%	6%	17%	24%	24%	17%	6%
Have a serious argument	13%	26%	32%	16%	7%	4%	1%
Discuss your relationship with each other	11%	9%	23%	21%	14%	13%	8%
Discuss finances with each other	5%	4%	12%	24%	24%	20%	11%
Sleep in different rooms because you were upset with one another	67%	12%	8%	5%	3%	2%	4%
Talk about political or social issues with each other	8%	4%	6%	9%	16%	25%	32%
Pray together as a couple, outside of meals	49%	7%	9%	7%	10%	8%	11%
Have sex with each other	14%	9%	10%	18%	24%	20%	5%
Do nice things for each other, such as making coffee, putting gas in the car, etc.	4%	2%	6%	9%	17%	24%	38%
Hide finances or purchases from each other	66%	13%	9%	6%	3%	2%	2%

11. How do the decisions or activities of the following institutions affect your family?

	Negatively - 1	2	Neutral / Not at all - 3	4	Positively - 5
Churches or houses of worship	6%	4%	53%	13%	24%
Public schools	7%	8%	62%	14%	9%
The police	8%	7%	56%	13%	16%
Your employer	5%	7%	64%	15%	10%
Your neighborhood	3%	7%	56%	21%	13%
Your state and local government	10%	15%	50%	18%	7%
The federal government	15%	19%	48%	12%	6%

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

Very likely	31%
Likely	19%
Somewhat likely	12%
Neither likely or unlikely	8%
Somewhat unlikely	7%
Unlikely	4%
Very unlikely	8%
Don't know	8%
Not currently employed	2%

13. Do you personally hope or desire to marry in the future?

Yes	42%
No	32%
Not sure	26%

14. Since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, has your desire to marry increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Increased	9%
Decreased	6%
Stayed the same	75%
Don't know	9%

15. Since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, did your plans to marry your partner change?

Yes, we chose to marry sooner than planned.	5%
Yes, we chose to postpone our marriage.	6%
No, our plans were not affected.	51%
My partner and I are not currently considering marriage.	37%

16. Do you personally hope or desire to have a child someday?

Yes	39%
No	29%
It depends	22%
Don't know	10%

17. How much do you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
The cost of raising a child/children is affordable for most people	19%	19%	22%	19%	11%	7%	4%
Children are better off if they have two married parents	4%	5%	4%	23%	17%	18%	30%
It is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking	14%	10%	10%	19%	18%	15%	15%
It is important for parents to pass on their political values to their children	11%	12%	12%	34%	14%	11%	7%
Parents should set boundaries on media consumption for their children	1%	1%	2%	14%	23%	29%	29%
Children need both a male and a female role model in the home	9%	7%	6%	17%	13%	18%	30%
Raising children is one of life's greatest joys	3%	3%	3%	22%	14%	23%	32%
It's morally wrong to have a child outside of marriage	27%	16%	9%	21%	10%	9%	9%

18. How often does your family...?

	Never	Yearly or less	A few times a year	About once a month	Weekly	A few times a week	Daily
Eat dinner together	3%	2%	7%	6%	10%	18%	54%
Attend the activities of a family member (recitals, sporting, events, etc.)	17%	12%	28%	18%	12%	8%	5%
Do household chores together	9%	3%	9%	15%	28%	19%	17%
Go out to movies, museums, sporting events, or parks together	12%	11%	25%	28%	15%	6%	3%
Worship together	40%	8%	10%	7%	21%	7%	7%
Have an argument	10%	21%	29%	20%	10%	6%	3%
Participate in activities together at home (watch TV, watch a movie, play games, etc.)	4%	3%	5%	9%	15%	20%	44%

19. Outside of your family, who would you turn to first if you needed help with each of the following issues?

	Nearby neighbors	Religious orgs	Community orgs	Co-workers	Other friends	I generally just rely on myself
Help with childcare	4%	4%	5%	2%	22%	63%
Advice about children	1%	7%	3%	3%	25%	60%
Advice about my relationship	1%	7%	3%	3%	31%	55%
Financial help	1%	4%	6%	3%	13%	72%
Taking care of my house or other property	9%	2%	4%	2%	18%	64%
Transportation to an important appointment	5%	2%	4%	4%	27%	58%

20. In the past 12 months, did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money?*Check all that apply.*

Were you ever hungry, but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food? 7%

Did you not pay the full amount of an important bill (like rent, mortgage, or a utility bill)? 13%

Did you borrow or receive money from friends or family to help pay the bills? 13%

Did you move in with other people even for a little while because of financial problems? 4%

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? 3%

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? 10%

None of the above 71%

21. Did these things happen before or after the coronavirus pandemic began in March?

	Before the coronavirus pandemic began in March	After the coronavirus pandemic began in March
Were you ever hungry, but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?	62%	38%
Did you not pay the full amount of an important bill (like rent, mortgage, or a utility bill)?	49%	51%
Did you borrow or receive money from friends or family to help pay the bills?	50%	50%
Did you move in with other people even for a little while because of financial problems?	64%	36%
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?	64%	36%
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?	65%	35%

22. The next questions are about how you feel about different aspects of your life. For each one, indicate how often you feel that way.

	Hardly ever	Some of the time	Often
I lack companionship	47%	35%	18%
I feel left out	45%	40%	14%
I feel isolated from others	43%	41%	16%

23. When coronavirus restrictions began in your state, which of the following best describes your behavior?

I completely isolated at home	23%
I tried to stay home as much as possible	52%
I continued my typical day-to-day activities but practiced social distancing	16%
I made no changes in the way I went about my day-to-day activities	9%

24. To what extent were you in agreement with members of your household on how to implement social distancing and other measures?

No disagreement at all	56%
Very little disagreement	25%
Some disagreement	12%
Quite a bit of disagreement	4%
A lot of disagreement	3%

25. Have you limited your children's in-person social interactions in response to the coronavirus pandemic that began in March?

Yes, with more restrictive limits than my personal limitations	37%
Yes, with the same limits I have for myself	43%
Yes, with less restrictive limits than my personal limitations	8%
No	12%

26. How cooperative have your children been with these limitations?

Not at all cooperative	1%
Not very cooperative	8%
Somewhat cooperative	24%
Very cooperative	62%
There have been no changes or restrictions	5%

27. Have any of the following people you know been diagnosed with the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Yes	No	Maybe/Not sure
Someone in your household	4%	92%	4%
A family member you don't live with	15%	80%	6%
A neighbor or friend	22%	69%	10%
A coworker	12%	76%	11%

28. How prepared were each of the following for the coronavirus pandemic when virus-related restrictions began in March?

	Not prepared at all	Not very prepared	Somewhat prepared	Very prepared	Not applicable
Your household	11%	16%	41%	28%	4%
Churches or houses of worship	16%	18%	18%	13%	35%
Public schools	26%	25%	15%	9%	25%
Your employer	13%	15%	20%	13%	40%
Your neighbors	12%	20%	32%	12%	25%
Your state and local government	24%	29%	29%	12%	6%
The federal government	43%	20%	21%	11%	6%

29. Since March, have your or a member of your immediate household done any of the following? Select all that apply.

	Myself	A household member	Neither
Worn a mask in public	89%	66%	7%
Protested coronavirus-related restrictions	10%	6%	87%
Protested racial inequality	17%	13%	78%
Donated to a social cause or political campaign	29%	14%	66%

30. Since March, have you discussed the Black Lives Matter demonstrations or police brutality with a member of your family?

Yes	73%
No	27%

31. With which family members have you discussed these topics with? (Check all that apply.)

Spouse/partner	60%
Children	39%
Parents	40%
Siblings	38%
Grandparents	5%
Grandchildren	6%
Other extended family members	22%

32. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Black families in America face obstacles that white families don't face.

Strongly disagree	13%
Disagree	11%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%
Agree	22%
Strongly agree	34%

33. If your situation during the coronavirus pandemic suddenly became worse, who would you ask for help first?

Immediate family	54%
Extended family	6%
Nearby neighbors	2%
Religious organizations	3%
Community organizations	3%
Co-workers	1%
Other friends	5%
None of the above. I would just rely on myself	26%

34. How would you rate the *current* level of tension between members of your household?

Much less than average	19%
Less than average	13%
Same as average	52%
More than average	12%
Much more than average	4%

35. Earlier we asked you about the strength of marriages and relationships in the United States. Consider how the coronavirus pandemic has affected your marriage/relationship, and indicate how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
The coronavirus pandemic has made me appreciate my partner more.	5%	5%	34%	36%	20%
The coronavirus pandemic has deepened my commitment to my marriage/relationship.	4%	5%	44%	28%	19%
The coronavirus pandemic has increased stress in my marriage/relationship.	20%	25%	30%	20%	6%
The coronavirus pandemic has made me question the strength of my marriage/relationship.	34%	28%	25%	9%	4%

36. Have your thoughts about divorce, separation, or breaking up changed since the coronavirus pandemic began?

Yes, more likely to divorce, separate, or break up	6%
Yes, less likely to divorce, separate, or break up	8%
Yes, we did divorce, separate, or break up	2%
No change	84%

37. Since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, have your plans to have children changed?

I was trying to become pregnant, and I am still trying.	3%
I was trying to become pregnant, but I have delayed trying.	3%
I was not trying to become pregnant, and I am still not trying.	88%
I was not trying to become pregnant, but I am now.	7%

38. When coronavirus restrictions began in March, how often were you having sex relative to before that time?

Less often	16%
More often	10%
About the same	75%

39. Have you or your spouse/partner experienced any of the following changes to your employment as a result of the coronavirus pandemic? (Check all that apply.)

	Yes, myself	Yes, my spouse/partner	No
Been temporarily laid off or furloughed	14%	14%	74%
Been permanently let go	6%	7%	87%
Seen a loss of income	21%	20%	65%
Had your hours reduced	18%	15%	71%

40. Have you experienced any of the following changes to your employment as a result of the coronavirus pandemic? (Check all that apply.)

	Yes	No
Been temporarily laid off or furloughed	15%	85%
Been permanently let go	7%	93%
Seen a loss of income	26%	74%
Had your hours reduced	21%	79%

41. 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	28%
1 to 3 months	25%
3 to 6 months	14%
6 or more months	33%

42. Has your financial situation gotten worse, better, or stayed the same since the coronavirus outbreak began in March?

It got worse	27%
It stayed the same	62%
It got better	11%

43. How long do you estimate it will take you to restore your income and savings to where they were before the coronavirus pandemic?

0-3 months	9%
3-6 months	16%
6-12 months	29%
1-2 years	21%
2+ years	23%

44. Since the coronavirus pandemic began in March, has the time **you** spend on the following increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram	37%	53%	10%
Media streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, AppleTv, and Disney+	41%	49%	10%
Mobile and video games like smartphone apps and PC/console games	28%	60%	12%
Activities outside, such as walks, bike rides, or sports and games	26%	46%	29%

45. Since the coronavirus began in March, has the time your **child(ren)** spend on the following increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram	31%	60%	8%
Media streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, AppleTv, and Disney+	46%	47%	7%
Mobile and video games like smartphone apps and PC/console games	43%	49%	7%
Activities outside together, such as walks, bike rides, or sports and games	32%	42%	26%

46. For the following set of questions, think about any school-age daughters and indicate how much you agree with the following statements, considering the time since coronavirus restrictions began in March

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I am worried about my daughter spending too much time on screens.	27%	29%	24%	13%	7%
I am worried about my daughter's social life.	25%	27%	27%	13%	9%
I am worried about my daughter's education and learning.	30%	30%	23%	9%	8%
I am worried about my daughter's level of physical activity.	26%	26%	25%	12%	10%
I am worried about my daughter's emotional health.	24%	32%	26%	9%	8%

47. For the following set of questions, think about any school-age sons and indicate how much you agree with the following statements, considering the time since coronavirus restrictions began in March.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I am worried about my son spending too much time on screens.	25%	34%	28%	7%	7%
I am worried about my son's social life.	23%	30%	26%	12%	9%
I am worried about my son's education and learning.	30%	28%	24%	10%	8%
I am worried about my son's level of physical activity.	23%	30%	25%	13%	9%
I am worried about my son's emotional health.	21%	28%	26%	14%	11%

48. Indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements, thinking about the time since coronavirus restrictions began in March.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I am satisfied with the resources/curriculum my children's teachers have provided for them.	14%	28%	35%	16%	8%
My children have learned as much at home as they did at school.	16%	21%	30%	17%	16%
I have become more likely to consider homeschooling my kids in the future.	19%	19%	32%	13%	16%
I have used a daily schedule for my children to keep them in a routine during the week.	20%	26%	32%	13%	9%
Having my children at home has made me feel better/more secure about their well-being.	30%	27%	34%	7%	2%
I feel as if I am failing as a parent.	9%	16%	28%	18%	29%
I have struggled with being home with my children for longer periods of time.	10%	19%	32%	13%	26%
My children have become more disobedient and difficult at home.	9%	16%	30%	16%	29%
I am struggling to balance home and work life.	9%	18%	35%	14%	24%

49. Stimulus check from the government

mean 19

50. Small business loan

mean 7

51. Unemployment insurance

mean 8

52. Evaluate the extent to which the response of each of the following groups or institutions to the coronavirus pandemic helped or did not help your family.

	Not helpful at all	Not very helpful	Neither helpful nor unhelpful	Slightly helpful	Very helpful	Helpful for some people, but not my family
Churches or houses of worship	22%	5%	37%	9%	13%	15%
Public schools	20%	6%	40%	10%	8%	15%
Your employer	16%	6%	39%	16%	15%	8%
Your neighbors	14%	5%	43%	18%	13%	7%
Your state and local government	16%	12%	31%	23%	12%	6%
The federal government	23%	13%	21%	25%	13%	4%

53. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, how helpful do you think each of the following government policies would be for families?

	Not helpful at all	Not very helpful	Neither helpful nor unhelpful	Slightly helpful	Very helpful
Provide financial relief to small businesses	7%	6%	23%	30%	34%
Provide financial relief to large businesses	19%	16%	33%	19%	12%
Guarantee people's jobs	9%	8%	27%	21%	35%
Provide relief checks to individuals and families	5%	5%	18%	29%	43%
Pause/hold rent and mortgage payments	8%	6%	26%	23%	36%
Limit prices companies can charge for certain goods	9%	8%	24%	25%	33%
Postpone primary or general elections	33%	12%	35%	12%	8%

54. Did you restrict any family member outside of your household from coming to visit you in person after the coronavirus restrictions began in March?

Yes	34%
No	47%
This doesn't apply to me	20%

55. Who did you restrict?

Parent	28%
Sibling	30%
Child	24%
Grandparent	15%
Grandchild	11%
Other family members	44%

56. Did any family member outside of your household restrict you from coming to visit them in person after the coronavirus restrictions began in March?

Yes	24%
No	56%
This doesn't apply to me	20%

57. Who restricted you?

Parent	33%
Sibling	30%
Child	23%
Grandparent	13%
Grandchild	3%
Other family members	31%

58. Many households have found there is more to do around the house and that households are dividing up that work differently. Indicate what percent of housework and other household chores each person is doing right now, making the total indicated on the bottom 100%: Housework and other household chores

Myself	57
My spouse/partner	38
My child(ren)	18

59. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the amount of housework done by your spouse or partner?

Very unsatisfied	10%
Somewhat unsatisfied	11%
Neither unsatisfied nor satisfied	19%
Somewhat satisfied	19%
Very satisfied	40%

60. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the amount of housework done by your children?

Very unsatisfied	9%
Somewhat unsatisfied	18%
Neither unsatisfied nor satisfied	30%
Somewhat satisfied	22%
Very satisfied	21%

61. Indicate what percent of homeschooling you and your spouse or partner were responsible for after March, when many schools went online, making the total indicated on the bottom 100%.

Myself	63
My spouse/partner	37

62. Think about the time since March, when the coronavirus pandemic began in the United States. Did your household give or lend any money to friends or family members who live outside of your home to help them make ends meet, such as by paying bills or covering expenses?

Yes	18%
No	73%
Don't know	9%

63. To whom did you give or lend money? Mark all that apply.

Parents	17%
Siblings	18%
Adult children	30%
Grandchildren	4%
Other extended family	23%
Friend(s)	33%

64. Since March, how has the quality of your relationship with family members who do not live in the same household as you changed, if at all?

Yes, we are **more** close now	18%
Yes, we are **less** close now	9%
No change	66%
Don't know	7%

65. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_1insert who is $years_old_child1_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	20%	9%	78%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	30%	16%	64%
Fund their education	19%	7%	79%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	21%	10%	76%

66. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_2insert who is $years_old_child2_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	17%	7%	81%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	27%	16%	66%
Fund their education	17%	5%	81%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	20%	10%	76%

67. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_3insert who is $years_old_child3_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	16%	6%	83%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	22%	16%	70%
Fund their education	12%	4%	87%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	17%	8%	80%

68. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_4insert who is $years_old_child4_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	12%	4%	86%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	22%	12%	69%
Fund their education	8%	3%	90%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	12%	4%	85%

69. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_5insert who is $years_old_child5_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	17%	4%	80%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	25%	7%	70%
Fund their education	13%	3%	82%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	13%	6%	82%

70. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_6insert who is $years_old_child6_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	17%	5%	83%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	20%	15%	73%
Fund their education	9%	3%	91%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	20%	8%	80%

71. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_7insert who is $years_old_child7_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	30%	-	70%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	29%	-	71%
Fund their education	23%	-	77%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	24%	-	76%

72. Earlier, you indicated that you have an adult $s_or_d_8insert who is $years_old_child8_insert. In what areas, if any, did you assist this adult child over the past two years? (select all that apply for each child)

	Before March	Since March	Never/Not applicable
Provide their health insurance	-	-	100%
Provide financial assistance for living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.)	50%	38%	50%
Fund their education	-	-	100%
Provide financial assistance for vehicles (car insurance, car payments, maintenance, etc.)	38%	38%	62%

73. In this question, please consider your adult children living at home. My adult child at home does/did the following...

	Pays rent/utilities	Helps with household chores	Assists with childcare	Has a plan to move out	None of the above
$yearold_child1_insert $s_or_d_1insert	26%	56%	3%	29%	31%
$yearold_child2_insert $s_or_d_2insert	21%	49%	5%	28%	34%
$yearold_child3_insert $s_or_d_3insert	21%	54%	3%	21%	36%
$yearold_child4_insert $s_or_d_4insert	30%	55%	10%	19%	26%
$yearold_child5_insert $s_or_d_5insert	25%	69%	8%	42%	26%
$yearold_child6_insert $s_or_d_6insert	-	64%	11%	17%	24%
$yearold_child7_insert $s_or_d_7insert	-	54%	-	54%	22%
$yearold_child8_insert $s_or_d_8insert	-	-	-	-	-

74. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am worried about my $Pick0to30Boy_insert son becoming a successful adult.

Strongly agree	18%
Somewhat agree	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	29%

75. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am worried about my $Pick0to30Girl_insert daughter becoming a successful adult.

Strongly agree	14%
Somewhat agree	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	33%

76. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am worried about **boys** in the United States in general becoming successful adults.

Strongly agree	15%
Somewhat agree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	36%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	13%

77. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am worried about **girls** in the United States in general becoming successful adults.

Strongly agree	11%
Somewhat agree	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	37%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	18%

78. How well do you feel your $Pick12to40Boy_insert son is doing in the following areas?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Neither well nor poorly	Somewhat poorly	Very poorly
Education and/or career	44%	24%	19%	8%	6%
Financial self-reliance	45%	23%	15%	10%	7%
Family relationships	46%	28%	15%	9%	3%
Emotional maturity	42%	24%	19%	10%	4%
Relationships with friends	46%	25%	19%	7%	3%

79. How well do you feel your $Pick12to40Girl_insert daughter is doing in the following areas?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Neither well nor poorly	Somewhat poorly	Very poorly
Education and/or career	49%	25%	17%	7%	2%
Financial self-reliance	44%	29%	15%	7%	5%
Family relationships	51%	26%	14%	5%	4%
Emotional maturity	47%	27%	16%	6%	4%
Relationships with friends	51%	25%	16%	6%	2%

80. How well do you feel the following institutions or networks serve or have served your $Pick12to40Boy_insert son?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Neither well nor poorly	Somewhat poorly	Very poorly
Education system	28%	26%	31%	8%	6%
Criminal justice system	21%	13%	56%	5%	5%
Churches	22%	14%	53%	5%	6%
Friend networks	33%	29%	29%	5%	4%
Sports or other clubs	24%	18%	49%	4%	5%

81. How well do you feel the following institutions or networks serve or have served your $Pick12to40Girl_insert daughter?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Neither well nor poorly	Somewhat poorly	Very poorly
Education system	31%	33%	24%	8%	4%
Criminal justice system	21%	13%	58%	4%	4%
Churches	25%	16%	49%	4%	7%
Friend networks	39%	27%	27%	5%	3%
Sports or other clubs	20%	17%	54%	5%	4%

82. How well do the following statements describe your $Pick12to40Boy_insert son?

	Very much like him	Mostly like him	Somewhat like him	Not much like him	Not like him at all
Setbacks don't discourage him. He doesn't give up easily.	33%	25%	20%	13%	10%
He is a hard worker.	52%	20%	15%	8%	5%
He has difficulty maintaining focus on long-term projects.	11%	12%	20%	22%	35%
He lacks initiative.	11%	9%	21%	20%	39%
He has high aspirations for what he wants to achieve in life.	42%	20%	21%	10%	7%

83. How well do the following statements describe your $Pick12to40Girl_insert daughter?

	Very much like her	Mostly like her	Somewhat like her	Not much like her	Not like her at all
Setbacks don't discourage her. She doesn't give up easily.	38%	29%	18%	10%	4%
She is a hard worker.	59%	20%	13%	6%	2%
She has difficulty maintaining focus on long-term projects.	9%	11%	16%	26%	38%
She lacks initiative.	7%	8%	14%	26%	45%
She has high aspirations for what she wants to achieve in life.	46%	24%	19%	7%	4%

84. How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I would want my son(s) to choose politics as a career.	5%	7%	25%	13%	49%
I think my son(s) could become president.	14%	13%	31%	12%	31%

85. How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I would want my daughter(s) to choose politics as a career.	5%	6%	29%	12%	49%
I think my daughter(s) could become president.	14%	14%	34%	11%	27%

86. How important are the following things to your personal identity?

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important
My role as a spouse or partner	42%	31%	18%	4%	5%
My role as parent	53%	27%	13%	3%	4%
My religion	28%	16%	17%	10%	29%
My race / ethnicity	21%	16%	21%	19%	23%
My gender	27%	23%	24%	11%	14%
My political party	15%	18%	26%	18%	23%
My career/job	18%	21%	25%	11%	25%

87. In light of recent events, has your desire to do the following things increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Pursue a public health career	7%	69%	24%
Run for public office	8%	67%	25%
Volunteer	17%	67%	16%
Get involved in local community affairs	18%	66%	16%
Vote this year	47%	45%	8%

88. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

89. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	25%
45-64	33%
65+	21%

90. Race

White	63%
Black	12%
Hispanic	16%
Other	9%

91. Education

HS or Less	39%
Some College	31%
College Grad	19%
Post Grad	11%

92. Census Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	20%
South	38%
West	24%

93. Ideology

Lib	34%
Mod	33%
Con	34%