

Raising the Next Generation

Research with Indigenous Parents and Caregivers

MARCH 2021

CONDUCTED FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

PREPARED BY PERRYUNDEM

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

— BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's vision is a Culture of Health, where everyone in America has a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Through its work for healthy children and families, the Foundation sponsored this national survey with diverse parents and caregivers to hear directly from them about their aspirations for their children, the challenges they face, and what enables their families to thrive. PerryUndem, with guidance from GMMB and Betty&Smith, conducted the survey and analysis.

As America rapidly evolves into a more racially and ethnically diverse country, we see the future in today's generation of children. This survey was designed to give equal voice to parents from different backgrounds. It includes parents rarely included in national studies to explore their attitudes, perceptions, and experiences. For more information about this project, please visit: *EveryFamilyForward.org*.

— QUALITATIVE WORK

Qualitative work was used to inform the survey design.

Research methods

37 interviews with parents (<250% FPL) (February-March 2019; April-September 2020)
30 focus groups with parents (<250% FPL) (April-November 2019)
5 focus groups with service providers working with families (December 2019-January 2020)

Topics covered

Parents' optimism about their children's future
Feelings about parenting
Perceptions of inequity in America
Feelings about their neighborhoods / communities
Factors that impact children's ability to thrive
Challenges their children will likely experience
Positive experiences their children will likely have
Worries about children experiencing discrimination
Parents' experiences with discrimination
How discrimination has impacted parents' opportunities
What enables families to thrive

Reports on the qualitative work are available at EveryFamilyForward.org.

Study participants

Most have incomes <250% FPL (about \$54,000 for a family of three):

Alaska Native parents
Arab parents
Black parents
Chinese parents
Indian parents
Indigenous parents
Korean parents
Latino parents
LGBTQ parents
Native Hawaiian parents
Southeast Asian parents
Vietnamese parents
White parents

All participants were compensated for their participation.

Research conducted in...

Arabic
Cantonese
English
Korean
Mandarin
Spanish
Vietnamese

Study locations

In-person interviews and focus groups conducted in...

Albuquerque, NM
Anchorage, AK
Bismarck, ND
Buffalo, NY
Colorado Springs, CO
Fresno, CA
Honolulu, HI
Houston, TX
Irvine, CA
Newark, NJ
New York, NY
Pearl, MS
San Francisco, CA
Savannah, GA
Seattle, WA
Tulsa, OK

During COVID-19, 21 online interviews have been conducted with low-income parents living in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas in...

Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas

— SURVEY DETAILS

We conducted a national survey of 2,023 racially and ethnically diverse parents and caregivers raising children 0-17 years old.

The survey included roughly equal samples of Asian American Pacific Islander (417), Black (400), Indigenous (406), Latino (400) and white (400) parents and caregivers.

This report focuses on the 406 Indigenous parents and caregivers who participated in this survey. The sample size for this segment limits what subgroups we can analyze.

The margin of sampling error for the survey of Indigenous parents is: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

More details on the survey methodology are available on [EveryFamilyForward.org](https://www.everyfamilyforward.org).

Key Findings.

— Optimism

Most Indigenous parents (77%) are optimistic about the future of the country for their children.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I am optimistic about the future of this country for my children.”

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	77	34	43	13	10
>250% FPL	80	32	47	13	7
Have lived on reservation >1 yr.	79	33	46	14	8
Non-college	79	34	45	12	9
Parents of children 0-5	77	39	39	14	9
Dads	77	40	37	11	12
Moms	77	30	47	15	8
<250% FPL	75	34	41	14	11
Never lived on reservation	75	34	41	13	12
College+	66	32	35	20	14

Case sizes: <250% FPL (N=296); >250% FPL (N=110); Dads (N=132); Moms (N=273); Non-college (N=277); College+ (N=129); Parents of children 0-5 (N=209); Never lived on reservation (N=204); Lived on reservation >1 year (N=197)

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Opportunity

But, more than 8 in 10 (83%) worry that despite trying to give their children everything, America doesn't offer every child the same opportunities.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I try to give my children everything for them to succeed, but I worry that America doesn't offer every child the same opportunities?"

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	84	55	28	8	9
Moms	89	59	30	8	4
<250% FPL	88	58	30	9	4
Have lived on reservation >1 yr.	85	58	27	8	7
Parents of children 0-5	84	58	26	6	10
Non-college	84	56	28	7	8
Never lived on reservation	84	53	31	6	10
College+	81	50	30	9	10
>250% FPL	77	51	26	6	17
Dads	77	50	27	8	16

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Positive Experiences during Childhood

Most Indigenous parents think it is very likely that their children will have strong, positive role models, have a chance to go to college or vocational school, or experience a strong social support network.

Q: Now let me ask you about other experiences your children might have. How likely do you think it is that your children will experience the following during their childhood and teen years?

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Strong, positive role models	95	73	22	3	3
Have a chance to go to college, vocational, or trade school after high school	93	68	25	6	2
A strong social support network	93	65	28	4	3
More opportunity to succeed and thrive than you had	93	63	30	4	3
A safe neighborhood to grow up in	93	60	33	5	2
A quality K-12 education	91	62	29	8	1

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Challenges

Indigenous parents are worried that their children will experience bullying, anxiety, depression, and racism growing up.

Q: How likely do you think it is that your children are or will experience (the following/any of these) during their childhood and teen years?

	TOTAL	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Bullying	74	41	33	15	10
Anxiety	74	30	44	14	12
Depression	68	28	40	19	13
Racism	62	34	28	18	20
Discrimination on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation	55	24	31	27	19
Unfair discipline from teachers/administrators	55	22	33	29	15
Harassment and profiling by law enforcement	50	23	27	30	20
Gun violence	35	6	29	33	32

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Place to Raise Children

Most Indigenous parents think their communities are good places to raise children, have places to buy healthy foods, and have safe places for outdoor activities. But, some worry their areas are unsafe or have brown/unsafe water.

Q: Now think about where you live, your home and community. How well does each describe where you live?

	TOTAL Very/ pretty	Very well	Pretty well	Not too well	Not well at all
A good place to raise children	89	43	46	8	3
Has places to buy healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables nearby	88	61	27	8	5
Has parks, playgrounds, and safe places for outdoor activities	84	42	42	9	7
Has a good relationship between residents and law enforcement	82	34	48	14	3
Has good quality schools	79	39	40	18	3
Racially and culturally mixed	73	33	40	17	10
Unsafe	29	13	16	31	40
Has brown water or unsafe water	17	9	8	20	62

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination on Children

More than half (57%) are concerned that racism/discrimination will limit their child’s opportunities, with moms and those who have lived on reservations most concerned.

Q: How concerned are you that racism and discrimination will limit your children's opportunities to get a quality education, go to college, or get a good job when they are an adult?

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
Total	57	23	34	25	18
Moms	64	27	36	27	10
Have lived on reservation >1 yr.	63	26	37	23	13
<250% FPL	62	24	38	22	15
Non-college	57	23	35	25	17
Parents of children 0-5	57	26	31	24	19
College+	54	24	30	24	22
Never lived on reservation	49	19	30	27	24
>250% FPL	47	20	27	30	23
Dads	47	17	30	23	30

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

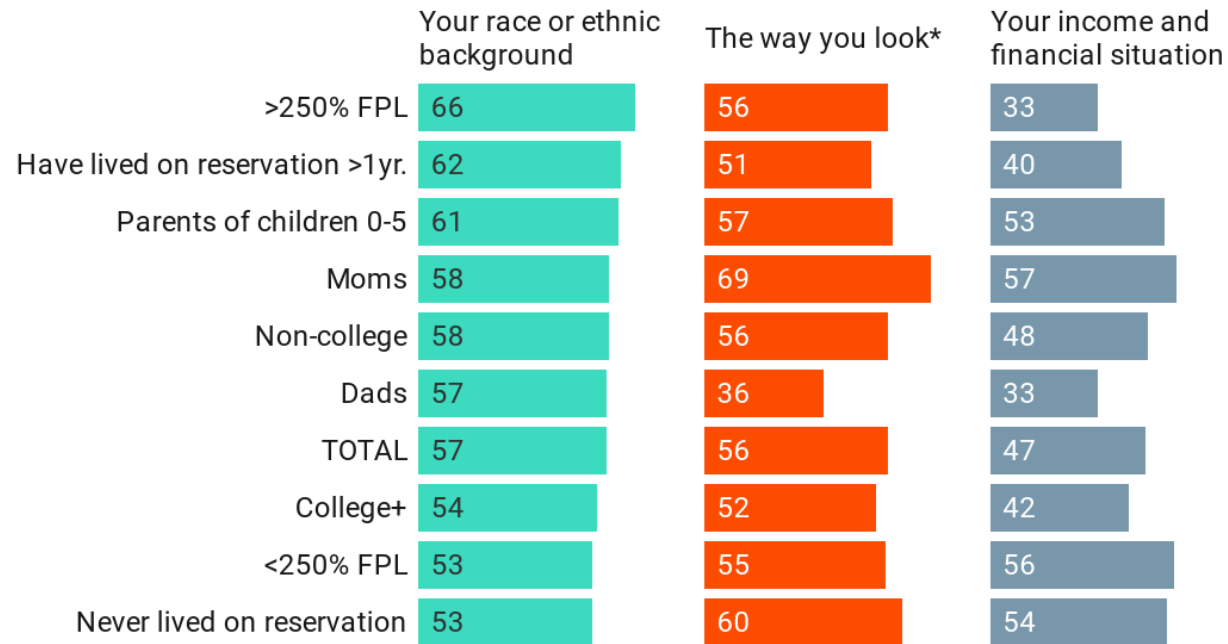
— Experiences with Racism and Discrimination

A majority of Indigenous parents have felt discriminated against or treated unfairly because of their race/ethnic background or the way they looked.

Q: Have you ever felt discriminated against or treated unfairly because any of the following?

PERCENT WHO SAY "YES"

Indigenous Parents



Full question options: Your race or ethnic background; Your gender; Your gender identity; Your income and financial situation; You are an immigrant; Your sexual orientation; Your religious or faith belief; The language you speak; The way you look

*For example, your hair length or style, the shape of your body, the clothes you wear

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination

One in two (53%) Indigenous parents feel like racism and discrimination have limited their opportunities, with those who have lived on reservations more likely to feel this way.

Q: What effect, if any, has racism or discrimination had on your opportunities in life? Has racism and discrimination...

	TOTAL A lot/ Some	Limited your opportunities a lot	Limited your opportunities some	Did not limit your opportunities
Total	53	15	38	38
Moms	61	17	44	30
College+	59	22	37	39
Have lived on reservation >1 yr.	58	20	38	33
<250% FPL	56	17	39	31
Non-college	52	14	38	38
Parents of children 0-5	51	21	30	41
>250% FPL	50	13	37	50
Never lived on reservation	48	11	37	43
Dads	43	13	30	49

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

— Systemic Racism

Two-thirds (68%) of Indigenous parents feel that systemic racism and discrimination can make it harder for someone like them to get a good paying job or medical care.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Systemic racism and discrimination can make it harder for someone like me to get a good paying job, live in a safe community, attend quality schools, and get good medical care.”

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	68	31	37	18	13
Moms	72	33	38	18	9
Have lived on reservation >1 yr.	70	29	41	15	12
College+	69	33	36	11	20
<250% FPL	69	32	37	20	9
Non-college	68	31	37	19	12
Parents of children 0-5	67	37	30	17	15
>250% FPL	67	29	38	14	19
Never lived on reservation	65	32	33	21	14
Dads	63	28	35	18	19

— Emotions

Nearly nine in ten (86%) say they frequently feel lucky to be a parent, and a majority feel supported by family and friends and that they provide their children with everything they need to be successful.

Q: As a parent or guardian of a child, how often do you feel _____. Would you say frequently, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

	TOTAL Frequently/ sometimes	Frequently	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
That you provide your children with everything they need to be successful in life	98	64	34	1	1
Lucky to be a parent	97	86	11	2	1
Supported by family and friends	89	57	32	8	3
That you don't have enough time for your family	65	19	46	21	14

— Factors to Thrive

A strong work ethic, a feeling you have the power to change your family’s situation, and creativity in solving problems are seen as especially important assets in getting through hard times.

Q: How important is each of the following in helping your family get through hard times and to succeed:

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all
A strong work ethic	96	83	13	3	1
A feeling you have the power to change your family's situation	96	73	23	4	1
Creativity in how you solve problems	96	71	25	3	0
A willingness to ask for help when you need it	91	66	25	6	2
Family and friends nearby who can help out	90	60	30	7	4
Cultural traditions you share as a family and with others	87	54	33	8	5
Strong faith and spiritual beliefs	81	61	20	12	7
Close connections to neighbors and others in your community	80	37	43	15	4

Total MOE: +/- 6.7 percentage points.

**For more information or
further details about this
project, visit
EveryFamilyForward.org.**