

# Raising the Next Generation

Research with Latino Parents and Caregivers

**MARCH 2021**

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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](http://EveryFamilyForward.org)*.

## — QUALITATIVE WORK

Qualitative work was used to inform the survey design.

### Research methods

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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

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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](http://EveryFamilyForward.org).

### Study participants

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*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...

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Arabic  
Cantonese  
English  
Korean  
Mandarin  
Spanish  
Vietnamese

### Study locations

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*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 400 Latino parents and caregivers who participated in this survey. The sample size for this segment limits what subgroups we can analyze.

The Latino survey was offered in English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error for the survey of Latino parents is: +/- 6.8 percentage points.

More details on the survey methodology are available on *EveryFamilyForward.org*.

# Key Findings.

## — Optimism

**Eight in ten (81%) Latino parents are optimistic about the future of this country for their children, with those born outside the U.S. much more optimistic than U.S. born.**

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

	<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
Spanish dominant	93	47	46	0	3
Born outside US	91	50	41	2	5
Moms	86	50	36	6	6
<250% FPL	82	47	35	8	8
Non-college	82	47	35	8	8
>250% FPL	82	42	39	10	7
Parents of children 0-5	80	41	39	11	9
College+	79	39	40	15	5
English dominant	77	45	32	12	10
Dads	76	40	37	12	10
US born	75	42	33	14	9

Case sizes: <250% FPL (N=200); >250% FPL (N=200); Dads (N=172); Moms (N=228); Non-college (N=164); College+ (N=235); Parents of children 0-5 (N=118); US born (N=256); Born outside US (N=142); English dominant (N=284); Spanish dominant (N=117)

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

— Opportunity

**But, a similar share (79%) worry that despite giving their children everything to succeed, America doesn't offer every child the same opportunities. This is especially true of moms and lower-income parents.**

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?"

	<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Moms	87	51	36	6	6
<250% FPL	84	53	31	9	5
English dominant	80	54	26	7	12
Non-college	80	50	30	10	9
US born	79	53	27	8	12
Parents of children 0-5	79	47	32	10	9
Born outside US	79	45	34	11	8
Spanish dominant	76	37	39	15	7
College+	76	44	31	9	16
>250% FPL	71	43	28	11	18
Dads	69	47	23	14	16

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

— Positive Experiences during Childhood

**Still, a majority of Latino parents feel that their children will have more opportunity to succeed and thrive than they had themselves.**

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?

	<b>TOTAL Very/ somewhat</b>	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
More opportunity to succeed and thrive than you had	<b>98</b>	69	25	3	2
A safe neighborhood to grow up in	<b>92</b>	67	25	5	3
A quality K-12 education	<b>91</b>	67	24	6	3
Strong, positive role models	<b>90</b>	72	18	4	5
Have a chance to go to college, vocational, or trade school after high school	<b>90</b>	69	21	6	4
A strong social support network	<b>83</b>	60	23	10	6

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points



## — Challenges

**A majority of Latino parents think it is likely that their children will experience bullying and racism as they grow up. And, most also feel their children will have anxiety and depression at some point.**

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?

	<b>TOTAL Very/ somewhat</b>	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Bullying	<b>68</b>	30	38	18	13
Anxiety	<b>64</b>	25	39	22	14
Racism	<b>56</b>	27	29	22	22
Depression	<b>51</b>	24	27	29	20
Discrimination on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation	<b>45</b>	22	23	23	32
Harassment and profiling by law enforcement	<b>42</b>	21	21	30	28
Unfair discipline from teachers/administrators	<b>41</b>	19	22	34	23
Gun violence	<b>38</b>	16	22	32	29

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

— Place to Raise Children

**Most Latino parents feel like their communities have places to buy healthy foods, are a good place to raise children, and have quality schools. But, many are concerned that their communities are unsafe and have brown/unsafe water.**

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

	<b>TOTAL</b> Very/ pretty	Very well	Pretty well	Not too well	Not well at all
Has places to buy healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables nearby	<b>95</b>	69	26	4	1
A good place to raise children	<b>88</b>	56	32	10	2
Has good quality schools	<b>85</b>	45	40	13	2
Has a good relationship between residents and law enforcement	<b>83</b>	48	35	13	3
Has parks, playgrounds, and safe places for outdoor activities	<b>82</b>	52	30	15	4
Racially and culturally mixed	<b>80</b>	50	30	14	5
Unsafe	<b>39</b>	22	17	27	32
Has brown water or unsafe water	<b>32</b>	21	11	16	51

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination on Children

**Half of Latino parents (48%) are concerned that racism/discrimination will limit their child’s opportunities to thrive. Spanish-dominant and lower-income parents are 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?

	<b>TOTAL</b> Very/ somewhat	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>
Spanish dominant	65	37	28	25	10
<250% FPL	59	27	32	27	14
Moms	56	21	36	27	17
Born outside US	55	29	26	30	15
Parents of children 0-5	53	24	29	28	19
Non-college	50	20	30	28	22
US born	43	10	33	28	29
English dominant	42	12	30	30	28
College+	41	15	27	31	28
Dads	39	17	22	31	31
>250% FPL	32	7	26	30	37

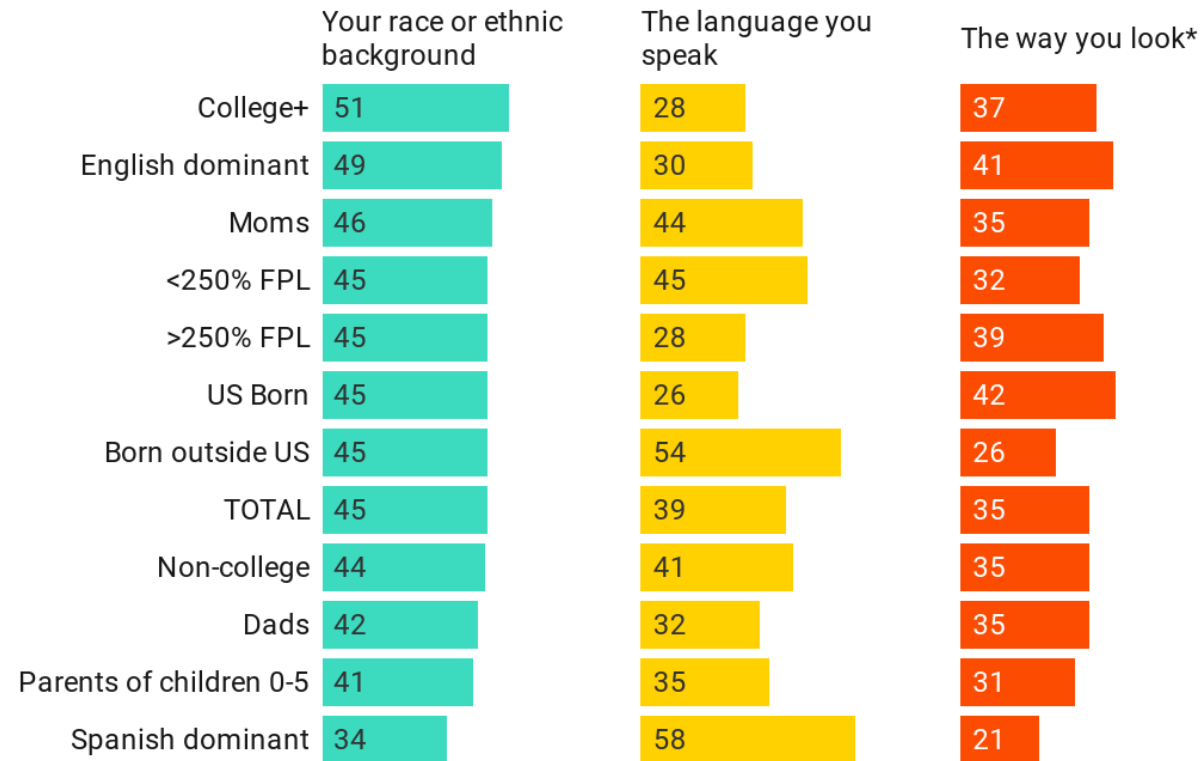
Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

## Experiences with Racism and Discrimination

**More than half (54%) of Latino parents born outside the US have felt discriminated against or treated unfairly because of the language they speak.**

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

PERCENT WHO SAY "YES"



*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*

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points

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

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination

**Half of Latino parents (48%) feel like racism/discrimination has limited their opportunities, and lower-income parents are most likely to feel this way.**

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

	<b>TOTAL</b> <b>A lot/ Some</b>	Limited your opportunities a lot	Limited your opportunities some	Did not limit your opportunities
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>
<250% FPL	56	14	42	44
Parents of children 0-5	51	13	38	49
Moms	51	9	42	49
Born outside US	50	6	43	50
English dominant	49	10	39	51
Non-college	49	10	39	51
US born	48	12	35	52
College+	46	9	38	49
Spanish dominant	46	8	38	55
Dads	45	10	34	55
>250% FPL	37	3	34	63

## — Systemic Racism

**Three-quarters (73%) of Latino parents say that racism/discrimination can make it harder for someone like them to get a good paying job or get good medical care. Lower-income and those born outside of the US are even more likely to agree.**

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.”

	<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Spanish dominant	80	37	43	15	5
Moms	79	39	40	11	10
<250% FPL	79	42	36	12	9
Born outside US	78	40	38	14	8
Parents of children 0-5	76	39	37	11	12
Non-college	73	38	36	13	14
College+	69	39	30	13	17
English dominant	69	38	31	12	18
US born	68	36	32	12	20
Dads	64	36	28	16	20
>250% FPL	63	31	32	15	23

## — Emotions

**Nine in ten (91%) Latino parents frequently feel lucky to be a parent, and most feel they are providing their children with everything they need to be successful, and are supported by family and friends.**

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	72	26	2	0
Lucky to be a parent	97	91	6	2	1
Supported by family and friends	91	60	31	5	4
That you don't have enough time for your family	77	30	47	17	7

— Factors to Thrive

**Latino parents feel a strong work ethic, creative problem-solving, as well as feeling they have the power to change their situation, are very important in helping families get through hard times.**

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

	<b>TOTAL Very/ somewhat</b>	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all
A strong work ethic	<b>99</b>	87	12	1	0
Creativity in how you solve problems	<b>97</b>	79	18	1	2
A feeling you have the power to change your family's situation	<b>96</b>	76	20	3	1
A willingness to ask for help when you need it	<b>92</b>	69	23	6	2
Family and friends nearby who can help out	<b>89</b>	63	26	9	2
Cultural traditions you share as a family and with others	<b>86</b>	56	30	12	2
Strong faith and spiritual beliefs	<b>81</b>	58	23	10	8
Close connections to neighbors and others in your community	<b>81</b>	45	36	15	4

Total MOE: +/- 6.8 percentage points



**For more information or  
further details about this  
project, visit  
[EveryFamilyForward.org](http://EveryFamilyForward.org).**