

Raising the Next Generation

Research with White Parents and Caregivers

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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*.

— 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 400 white 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 white parents is: +/- 7.3 percentage points.

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

Key Findings.

— Optimism

Nearly two in three (64%) white parents 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	64	19	45	24	9
Dads	69	25	44	23	7
College+	69	10	59	21	9
>250% FPL	64	16	49	26	7
<250% FPL	63	27	35	20	12
Non-college	60	27	33	27	9
Parents of children 0-5	60	14	46	29	8
Moms	59	14	45	25	10

Case sizes: <250% FPL (N=200); >250% FPL (N=200); Dads(N=199); Moms(N=201); Non-college (N=179); College+ (N=220); Parents of children 0-5 (N=119)

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Opportunity

A majority of white parents (68%) are worried that America doesn't offer every child the same opportunities to succeed.

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	68	42	26	17	15
Moms	70	48	23	16	13
<250% FPL	70	48	22	18	12
Parents of children 0-5	69	41	28	18	13
College+	69	40	29	18	13
Non-college	67	44	23	16	16
>250% FPL	67	40	27	17	16
Dads	65	36	29	18	17

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Positive Experiences during Childhood

A majority of white parents think it is likely that their children will grow up in a safe neighborhood, have strong role models, and receive a quality K-12 education.

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
A safe neighborhood to grow up in	98	86	12	0	1
Strong, positive role models	98	85	13	1	1
A quality K-12 education	97	77	20	1	1
A strong social support network	96	76	20	2	1
Have a chance to go to college, vocational, or trade school after high school	95	72	23	2	3
More opportunity to succeed and thrive than you had	91	51	40	6	2

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Challenges

White parents are especially worried about their children experiencing anxiety, bullying, and depression as they grow 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
Anxiety	78	38	40	12	10
Bullying	76	31	45	13	11
Depression	65	17	48	20	14
Unfair discipline from teachers/administrators	39	10	29	29	31
Discrimination on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation	37	12	25	24	38
Racism	35	14	21	22	43
Gun violence	25	5	20	33	42
Harassment and profiling by law enforcement	22	4	18	29	48

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Place to Raise Children

A majority of white parents feel like their communities have places to buy healthy foods nearby and they feel where they live is a good place to raise children.

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
Has places to buy healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables nearby	96	81	15	2	1
A good place to raise children	96	71	25	3	1
Has a good relationship between residents and law enforcement	94	53	41	5	1
Has parks, playgrounds, and safe places for outdoor activities	92	68	24	5	3
Has good quality schools	86	53	33	9	2
Racially and culturally mixed	77	32	45	16	7
Has brown water or unsafe water	16	9	7	6	77
Unsafe	14	6	8	17	69

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination on Children

Only 1 in 5 (22%) white parents are concerned that discrimination will limit their child’s opportunities to get a quality education, go to college, or get a good job.

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	22	5	17	30	47
<250% FPL	29	4	24	36	36
Moms	25	4	21	24	49
Parents of children 0-5	24	6	18	30	46
College+	23	5	18	27	50
Non-college	20	5	15	33	45
>250% FPL	19	5	13	28	53
Dads	18	6	12	36	46

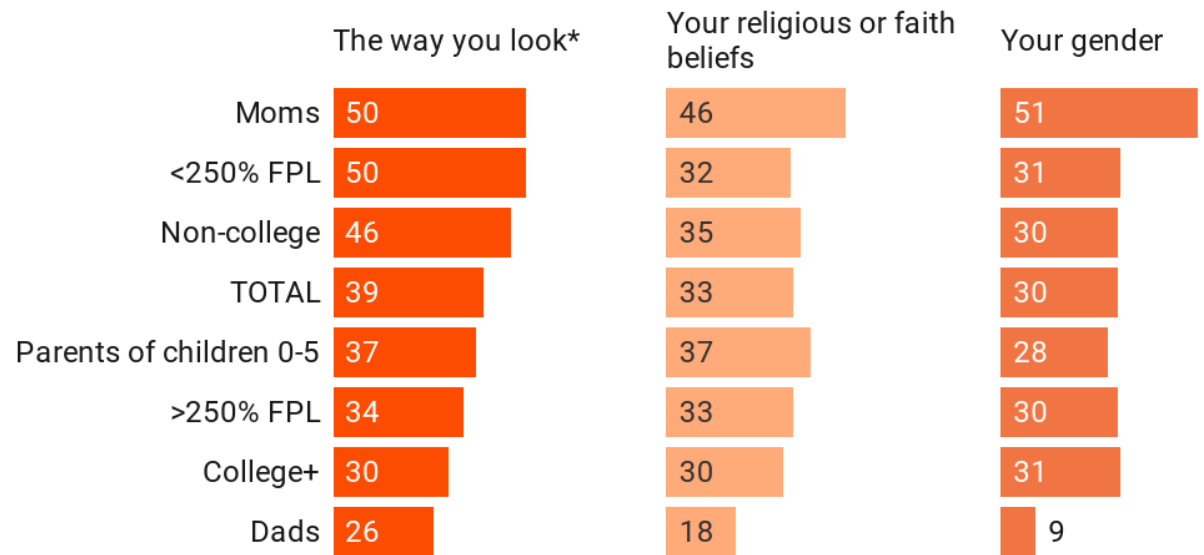
Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Experiences with Racism and Discrimination

Moms are most likely to report they felt discriminated against or treated unfairly for the way they look, their religious beliefs, or their gender.

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 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: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination

Only 14% of white parents feel like racism/discrimination has limited their opportunities, with lower-income parents saying it has had a bigger impact.

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	14	2	12	86
<25% FPL	21	1	20	79
Moms	16	1	15	84
Non-college	14	2	12	86
College+	14	2	12	85
Dads	12	3	9	87
>25% FPL	11	2	9	89
Parents of children 0-5	10	2	8	89

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Systemic Racism

Three in ten (31%) white parents feel that systemic racism and discrimination can make it harder for someone like them to thrive, but nearly half (47%) of lower-income parents feel similarly.

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	31	13	17	21	47
<25% FPL	48	26	21	23	29
Non-college	39	15	24	24	36
Moms	35	15	19	22	42
Parents of children 0-5	31	12	19	20	48
Dads	27	12	15	20	53
>25% FPL	24	8	16	20	55
College+	21	11	10	17	60

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

— Emotions

A majority of white parents say they frequently feel like they provide their children with everything they need to be successful in life, and most feel lucky to be a parent.

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	99	77	22	1	0
Lucky to be a parent	98	89	9	1	1
Supported by family and friends	97	75	22	3	1
That you don't have enough time for your family	66	21	45	18	16

— Factors to Thrive

White parents feel like a strong work ethic, creative problem-solving, and a willingness to ask for help are especially important in helping their family succeed.

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	99	86	13	1	0
Creativity in how you solve problems	98	67	31	2	0
A willingness to ask for help when you need it	96	60	36	4	1
A feeling you have the power to change your family's situation	94	66	28	5	2
Family and friends nearby who can help out	93	63	30	6	1
Cultural traditions you share as a family and with others	79	41	38	12	8
Close connections to neighbors and others in your community	79	34	45	14	6
Strong faith and spiritual beliefs	74	49	25	12	13

Total MOE: +/- 7.3 percentage points

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