



The Parenting Gap: U.S. Versus China **Americans Want More Pressure on Students, the Chinese Want Less**

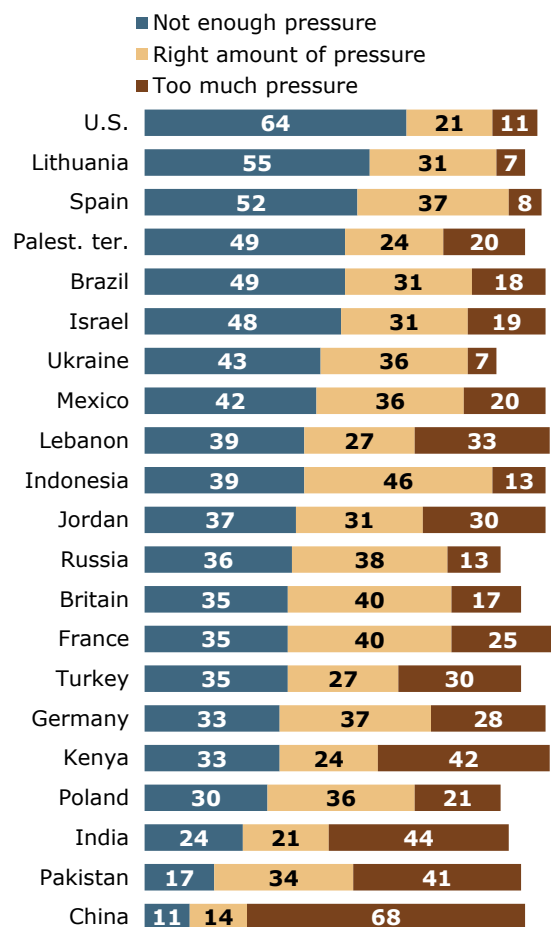
With U.S. students underperforming in international tests, it may not be surprising that more than six-in-ten (64%) Americans say that parents do not put enough pressure on their children to do well in school; only 11% currently say parents put too much pressure on students, while 21% say parents are exerting the right amount of pressure.

In sharp contrast, about two-thirds (68%) of the Chinese public take just the opposite position in saying that parents in their country, with its surging economy, put *too much* pressure on their children to succeed academically.

The survey, conducted March 18 to May 15 by the Pew Research Center’s Global Attitudes Project, finds that Americans are considerably more likely than any other publics polled to say that parents do not put enough pressure on their children, while China is the only country in which a majority sees parents putting too much pressure on students.

In nearly half of the countries surveyed, majorities or pluralities see parents applying too little pressure on students. In addition to

How Much Pressure Are Parents Putting on Students?



Egypt and Japan were included in the 2011 Pew Global Attitudes Survey. However, this question was not asked in those countries.

Survey results are based on national samples except in China. See the Methodological Appendix for more information.

the U.S., narrower majorities in Lithuania (55%) and Spain (52%) also think that parents in their countries are not pushing children hard enough to succeed in school, as do about half in Brazil (49%), the Palestinian territories (49%), and Israel (48%).

While China is the only country where a majority offers the view that parents are applying too much pressure on their children, a 44%-plurality in India also sees parents putting too much pressure on children to succeed academically. Pluralities in Kenya (42%) and Pakistan (41%) also say students in their country face too much pressure from parents to do well in school.

More Americans Say Parents Are Not Tough Enough

The percentage of Americans who say parents do not put enough pressure on their children to do well in school has increased by eight percentage points, from 56% in 2006. The shift has been especially notable among women, people between the ages 30 to 49, those with at least some college education, and Democrats.

Five years ago, men were considerably more likely than women to say parents were not pushing their children hard enough; 62% of men said this was the case, compared with 51% of women. Today, however, men and women offer nearly identical views, with 65% of men and 62% of women saying parents put too little pressure on students.

Americans' Changing Views of Parental Pressure

<i>% Not enough pressure</i>	2006	2011	Change
	%	%	
Total	56	64	+8
Men	62	65	+3
Women	51	62	+11
18-29	56	58	+2
30-49	59	72	+13
50-64	58	65	+7
65+	51	52	+1
College grad +	54	65	+11
Some college	57	68	+11
HS or less	57	60	+3
Democrat	55	69	+14
Republican	58	60	+2
Independent	56	62	+6

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q86.

Similarly, the percentage of respondents between the ages 30 to 49 who say parents do not put enough pressure on children has increased by 13 percentage points since 2006. About seven-in-ten (72%) in this age group, which is more likely than any other group to have children younger than 18 living in their households, say parents are not tough enough; five years ago, 59% shared this view. Opinions have been more stable among other age groups.

Among college graduates and those with some college education, the percentage saying parents do not push their children hard enough has increased 11 percentage points since 2006, from 54% to 65% among those with a college degree and from 57% to 68% among those who attended but did not finish college. By comparison, views on this matter have not changed significantly among those with a high school education or less.

Democrats are also far more likely than they were five years ago to say parents do not put enough pressure on their children to achieve academic success; 69% offer this view now, compared with a narrower 55%-majority in 2006. Views are largely unchanged among Republicans and independents.

About the Pew Global Attitudes Project

The *Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project* conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. The project is directed by Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, DC, that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is principally funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, currently principal, the Albright Stonebridge Group, and by former Senator John C. Danforth, currently partner, Bryan Cave LLP.

Since its inception in 2001, the *Pew Global Attitudes Project* has released numerous major reports, analyses, and other releases, on topics including attitudes toward the U.S. and American foreign policy, globalization, terrorism, and democracy.

Pew Global Attitudes Project team members include Richard Wike, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Jacob Poushter, and Cathy Barker. Other contributors to the project include Pew Research Center staff members Director of International Survey Research James Bell and Vice President Elizabeth Mueller Gross, as well as Neha Sahgal, Carroll Doherty, and Michael Dimock. Additional members of the team include Mary McIntosh, president of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and Jodie T. Allen. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* team regularly consults with survey and policy experts, regional and academic experts, journalists, and policymakers whose expertise provides tremendous guidance in shaping the surveys.

All of the project's reports and commentaries are available at www.pewglobal.org. The data are also made available on our website within two years of publication. Findings from the project are also analyzed in *America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked* by Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes, published by Times Books. A paperback edition of the book was released in May 2007.

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Pew Global Attitudes Project Public Opinion Surveys

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Summer 2002	44 Nations	38,263
November 2002	6 Nations	6,056
March 2003	9 Nations	5,520
May 2003	21 Publics*	15,948
March 2004	9 Nations	7,765
May 2005	17 Nations	17,766
Spring 2006	15 Nations	16,710
Spring 2007	47 Publics*	45,239
Spring 2008	24 Nations	24,717
Spring 2009	25 Publics*	26,397
Fall 2009	14 Nations	14,760
Spring 2010	22 Nations	24,790
Spring 2011	23 Publics*	29,100

* Includes the Palestinian territories.

Methodological Appendix

<u>Country</u>	<u>Sample size</u>	<u>Margin of Error (pct. points)</u>	<u>Field dates</u>	<u>Mode</u>
U.S.	1,001	±4.0	March 25 – April 14	Telephone
Britain	1,000	±3.5	March 22 – April 13	Telephone
France	1,004	±3.5	March 21 – April 5	Telephone
Germany	1,001	±4.5	March 21 – April 11	Telephone
Spain	1,000	±3.5	March 22 - April 5	Telephone
Lithuania	750	±4.5	March 23 – April 7	Face-to-face
Poland	750	±4.5	March 21 – April 15	Face-to-face
Russia	1,000	±4.0	March 21 – April 4	Face-to-face
Ukraine	1,000	±4.0	March 22 – April 7	Face-to-face
Turkey	1,000	±4.0	March 21 – April 12	Face-to-face
Jordan	1,000	±4.0	March 21 – April 7	Face-to-face
Lebanon	1,000	±4.0	March 21 – April 7	Face-to-face
Palest. ter.	825	±4.0	March 22 – April 12	Face-to-face
Israel	907	±5.0	March 22 – April 5	Face-to-face
China	3,308	±2.5	March 18 – April 6	Face-to-face
India	4,029	±3.5	March 26 – April 23	Face-to-face
Indonesia	1,000	±4.0	March 23 – April 6	Face-to-face
Pakistan	1,251	±4.0	May 8 – May 15	Face-to-face
Brazil	802	±4.5	March 19 – April 5	Face-to-face
Mexico	800	±4.5	March 22 – April 7	Face-to-face
Kenya	1,002	±4.0	March 24 – April 5	Face-to-face

Note: For more comprehensive information on the methodology of this study, see the “Methods in Detail” section in [*“China Seen Overtaking U.S. as Global Superpower”*](#), released July 13, 2011.

Pew Global Attitudes Project
2011 Spring Survey Topline Results
August 23, 2011 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples except in China. For further details on sample designs, see Methodological Appendix.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Global Attitudes Project has used an automated process to generate topline. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Previous trends from India are not shown because those results were based on less-representative samples of the population, while the 2011 sample is more representative of the Indian population.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2011 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q86 In general, do you think (survey country) parents put too much pressure on their children to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure?				Total
		Too much pressure	Not enough pressure	Right amount of pressure	DK/Refused	
United States	Spring, 2011	11	64	21	4	100
	Spring, 2006	15	56	24	5	100
Britain	Spring, 2011	17	35	40	9	100
France	Spring, 2011	25	35	40	0	100
Germany	Spring, 2011	28	33	37	2	100
Spain	Spring, 2011	8	52	37	3	100
Lithuania	Spring, 2011	7	55	31	7	100
Poland	Spring, 2011	21	30	36	12	100
Russia	Spring, 2011	13	36	38	14	100
Ukraine	Spring, 2011	7	43	36	14	100
Turkey	Spring, 2011	30	35	27	8	100
Jordan	Spring, 2011	30	37	31	1	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2011	33	39	27	2	100
Palest. ter.	Spring, 2011	20	49	24	7	100
Israel	Spring, 2011	19	48	31	3	100
China	Spring, 2011	68	11	14	7	100
	Spring, 2006	62	11	20	7	100
India	Spring, 2011	44	24	21	10	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2011	13	39	46	2	100
Pakistan	Late Spring, 2011	41	17	34	8	100
Brazil	Spring, 2011	18	49	31	2	100
Mexico	Spring, 2011	20	42	36	2	100
Kenya	Spring, 2011	42	33	24	1	100