

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family

More are pessimistic than optimistic about the future of the family; relatively few see marriage and parenthood as central to a fulfilling life

BY Kim Parker and Rachel Minkin

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Kim Parker, Director, Social Trends Research
Juliana Horowitz, Associate Director, Research
Julia O'Hanlon, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, September, 2023, "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, computational social science research and other data-driven research. It studies politics and policy; news habits and media; the internet and technology; religion; race and ethnicity; international affairs; social, demographic and economic trends; science; research methodology and data science; and immigration and migration. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2023

How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand Americans' views of trends in marriage, fertility and family life; the responsibility of family members to support each other; and factors that lead to a fulfilling life.

This analysis is based on a survey of 5,073 U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. Everyone who took part is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. Address-based sampling ensures that nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Read more about [the questions used for this report](#) and the [report's methodology](#).

Terminology

References to White, Black and Asian adults include those who are not Hispanic and identify as only one race. Hispanics are of any race.

All references to party affiliation include those who lean toward that party. Republicans include those who identify as Republicans and independents who say they lean toward the Republican Party. Democrats include those who identify as Democrats and independents who say they lean toward the Democratic Party.

Table of Contents

About Pew Research Center	1
How we did this	2
Terminology	3
Overview	5
1. The future of the family	10
2. Views of different family arrangements	17
3. Views of divorce and open marriages.....	25
4. Family responsibilities.....	29
5. What makes for a fulfilling life?.....	32
Acknowledgments	35
Methodology.....	36

Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family

More are pessimistic than optimistic about the future of the family; relatively few see marriage and parenthood as central to a fulfilling life

Trends in marriage and fertility along with shifting social norms and important legal changes have [reshaped the American family](#).

Public views of the family are complicated. Americans are more pessimistic than optimistic about the institution of marriage and the family.

And there is no consensus on how some of the broad trends that are driving family change will impact the country in the future. Majorities say fewer people marrying these days and more couples living together without being married won't have a positive *or* negative impact.

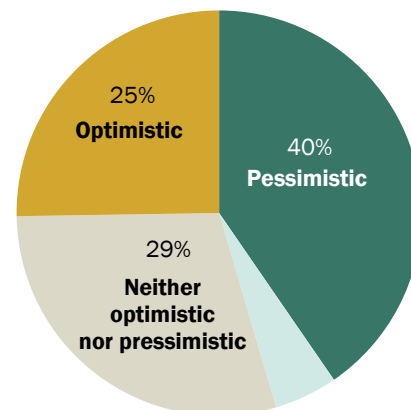
There's baseline support for a variety of family arrangements, but the public still favors some types of families over others. Families that include a married husband and wife raising children are seen as the most acceptable. At the same time, relatively few Americans say marriage and parenthood are central to living a fulfilling life.

For this report, we surveyed Americans on:

- The future of the family
- Views of different family types
- Views of divorce and open marriages
- Family responsibility
- What makes for a fulfilling life

Many Americans are pessimistic about the future of the family

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, in general, they feel ____ about the institution of marriage and the family



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or said they don't know (6%) is shown but not labeled. Response options included "Very" and "Somewhat" optimistic and pessimistic. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The survey included 5,073 U.S. adults and was conducted April 10-16, 2023, using the Center’s nationally representative [American Trends Panel](#).¹

Views of the future of family life

Overall, 40% of Americans say, in thinking about the future of the country, they are very or somewhat pessimistic about the institution of marriage and the family. Only 25% are very or somewhat optimistic, and 29% say they are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

The survey asked about some key trends in family life and what impact they might have in the future. The one that was viewed most negatively by far was the trend toward fewer children being raised by two married parents. About half of adults (49%) say this will have a negative impact on the country, while 11% say the impact will be positive.

Nearly half or more say other trends – such as people having fewer children or marrying later in life – will have neither a positive nor negative impact.

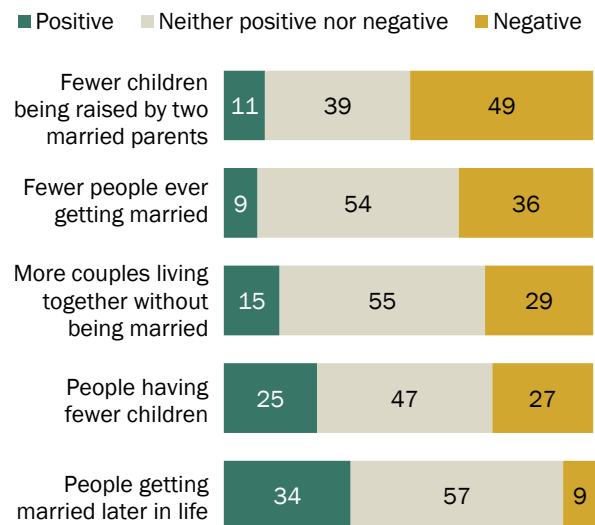
Related:

- [About 8 in 10 women in opposite-sex marriages say they took their husband’s last name](#)
- [A growing share of Americans say they’ve had fertility treatments or know someone who has](#)

For more detail, including demographic data, on views of the future of family life, refer to [Chapter 1](#) of this report.

Majorities say key trends in marriage won’t have much impact on the country’s future

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, each of the following will have a ___ impact



Note: Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer are not shown. Response options included “Very” and “Somewhat” positive and negative.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults April 10-16, 2023.

“Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

¹ For details, refer to the [Methodology](#) section of the report.

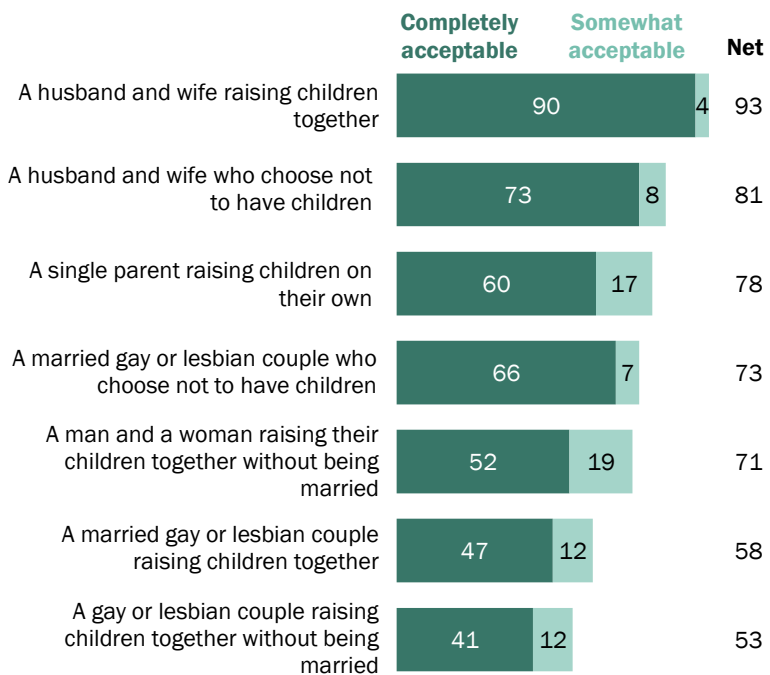
Views of different family types

Many Americans are accepting of a range of different family arrangements. Most say an opposite-sex couple raising children, whether married or not, is an acceptable arrangement. And majorities say the same about single parents and about gay or lesbian couples with or without children.

There are differences in the degree of acceptance, however. Nine-in-ten adults say a husband and wife raising children together is *completely* acceptable. In contrast, 60% say a single parent raising children on their own is a completely acceptable arrangement. And fewer than half (47%) say the same about a married gay or lesbian couple raising children.

Americans find some types of families more acceptable than others

% saying each type of family arrangement is ...



Note: Response options also included "Somewhat unacceptable," "Completely unacceptable" and "Neither acceptable nor unacceptable." Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

For more detail on views of family arrangements, refer to [Chapter 2](#) of this report.

Factors that lead to a fulfilling life

Americans most often point to job satisfaction and close friends – rather than being married or having children – when asked what factors contribute to a fulfilling life. Some 71% say having a job or career they enjoy is extremely or very important for people to live a fulfilling life, and 61% say the same about having close friends.

Only about a quarter say having children (26%) or being married (23%) is equally important.

For more detail on these findings, refer to [Chapter 5](#) of this report.

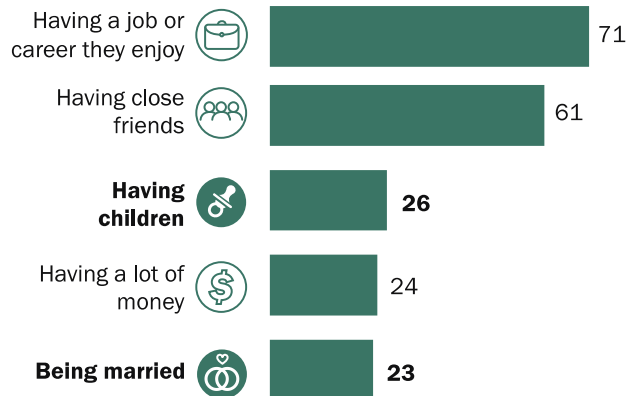
How attitudes about family life vary across different groups

Views of a range of issues related to the modern family vary widely by:

- Age:** Across age groups, younger adults (ages 18 to 29) are less pessimistic about the future of marriage and the family. They're also more accepting of family arrangements involving gay and lesbian couples. Older adults (ages 65 and older) are the most likely to say being married is extremely or very important in living a fulfilling life.
- Race and ethnicity:** White adults are more pessimistic than Black and Hispanic adults about the future of marriage and the family, but also more accepting of a variety of family types. When it comes to families that include gay or lesbian couples, White and Asian adults tend to be more accepting than Black or Hispanic adults.
- Partisanship:** Party divides on these questions are deep and consistent. Republicans and those who lean to the Republican Party express more pessimism than Democrats and Democratic leaners about the future of marriage and the family, and are more likely to view broad trends that are shaping family life as negative. Republicans are also less accepting than Democrats of any family arrangement that doesn't involve a married husband and wife raising children together. The partisan gaps are particularly large when it comes to family arrangements that involve gay or lesbian couples with children.

Marriage and parenthood are seen as less important to living a fulfilling life

% saying each is *extremely or very important* in order for people to live a fulfilling life



Note: Response options also included "Somewhat important," "Not too important" and "Not at all important."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Additional key findings from the survey:

- **The public has mixed views of the impact falling fertility rates are having on society.** On balance, Americans are more likely to say people having fewer children has a positive rather than negative impact on women’s careers and job opportunities and on the environment. But more say this trend has a negative rather than positive impact on the future of the Social Security system and the economy more broadly. To learn more, refer to [Chapter 1, “The future of the family.”](#)
- **Americans are skeptical about open marriages.** Half of adults say marriages where both spouses agree that they can date or have sex with other people are unacceptable. A third say these marriages are acceptable. Young adults are more open to this type of arrangement than older age groups: 51% of 18- to 29-year-olds say open marriages are acceptable. To learn more, refer to [Chapter 3, “Views of divorce and open marriages.”](#)
- **When it comes to divorce, more say unhappy couples tend to stay in bad marriages too long (55%) than say they get divorced too quickly (43%).** Men are more likely than women to say unhappy couples split up too quickly. Adults younger than 30 are among the most likely to say these couples stay together too long.
- **People’s experiences in their own family weigh more heavily than other factors in shaping their view of what makes a good family today:** 68% of adults say what they experienced growing up in their family had a great deal or a fair amount of influence on their views of what makes a good family arrangement. Smaller but still substantial shares point to their religious views and what they’ve seen from their friends or their friends’ families. To learn more, refer to [Chapter 2, “Views of different family types.”](#)
- **Majorities say adult children have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide caregiving (66%) and financial assistance (55%) to an elderly parent who needs this type of support.** Much smaller shares say parents have at least a fair amount of responsibility to provide financial assistance to their adult children (31%) or to save money to hand down to their children after they die (32%). To learn more, refer to [Chapter 4, “Family responsibility.”](#)

1. The future of the family

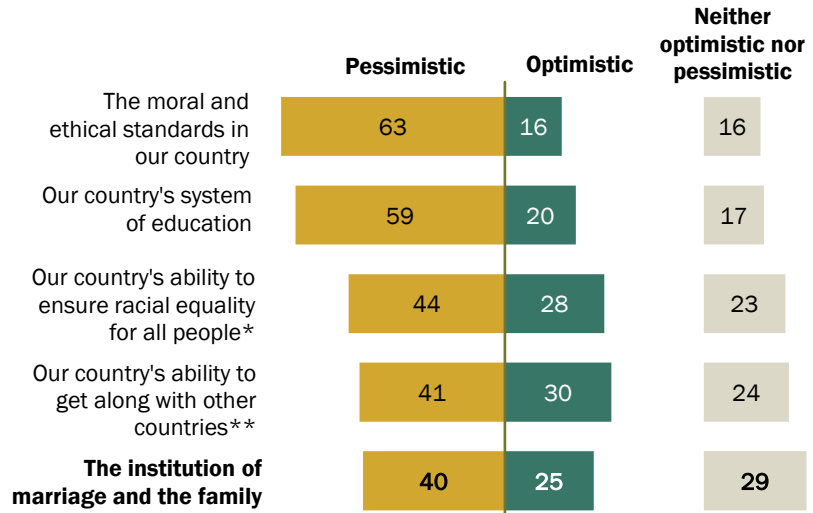
In thinking about the future of the United States, Americans are more pessimistic than optimistic about the institution of marriage and the family. Overall, 40% say they are very or somewhat pessimistic, while 25% are very or somewhat optimistic. About three-in-ten (29%) say they're neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

To be sure, the public is pessimistic about a lot of things these days – not just the family. Majorities say they're pessimistic about the country's moral and ethical standards (63%) and its educational system (59%).

In addition, the public is more pessimistic than optimistic about the country's ability to ensure racial equality for all people regardless of their race or ethnicity (44% pessimistic vs. 28% optimistic) and its ability to get along with other countries in the world (41% pessimistic vs. 30% optimistic).

Public is more pessimistic than optimistic about various aspects of American life

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, in general, they feel ____ about each of the following



* The full wording includes "regardless of their race or ethnicity."

** The full wording includes "in the world."

Note: Response options included "Very" and "Somewhat" optimistic and pessimistic. Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer or said they don't know are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Race and ethnicity

When it comes to the future of the family, views vary widely along key demographic lines. Across racial and ethnic groups, White adults express higher levels of pessimism about the institution of marriage and the family (43% are pessimistic) than Black (30%) and Hispanic adults (34%).

At 40%, Asian adults are more pessimistic about this than Black adults but not significantly more so than Hispanic adults. Black adults (12%) are about twice as likely as other racial and ethnic groups to say they don't know how they feel about the future of marriage and the family.

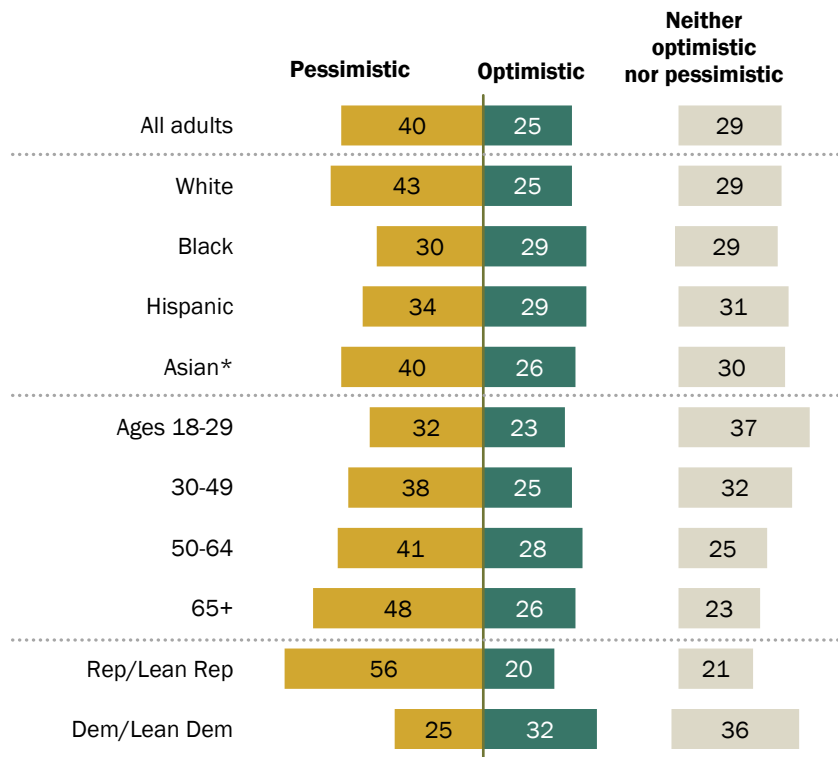
Age

Views also differ by age. Older adults are the most likely to say they are pessimistic about the institution of marriage and the family. Roughly half (48%) of those ages 65 and older say they are very or somewhat pessimistic; adults younger than 30 are the least likely to feel this way (32% are pessimistic).

No age group is particularly optimistic about the institution of marriage and the family, but adults younger than 50 are more likely than their older counterparts to say they are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

White adults, older adults and Republicans are more pessimistic about the institution of marriage and the family

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, in general, they feel ___ about the institution of marriage and the family



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.
 Note: Response options included "Very" and "Somewhat" optimistic and pessimistic. Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer or said they don't know are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
 "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Partisanship

As with other opinions about family life in America, there is a wide partisan gap on this question.

More than half (56%) of Republicans and Republican leaners say they are very or somewhat pessimistic about the institution of marriage and the family. Only 25% of Democrats and Democratic leaners feel the same way. Many Democrats (36%) say they're neither optimistic nor pessimistic about this. Only 21% of Republicans feel similarly neutral.

Conservative Republicans stand out as the most pessimistic about the future of marriage and the family, with 66% saying they are very or somewhat pessimistic. Liberal Democrats are the least pessimistic (21%).

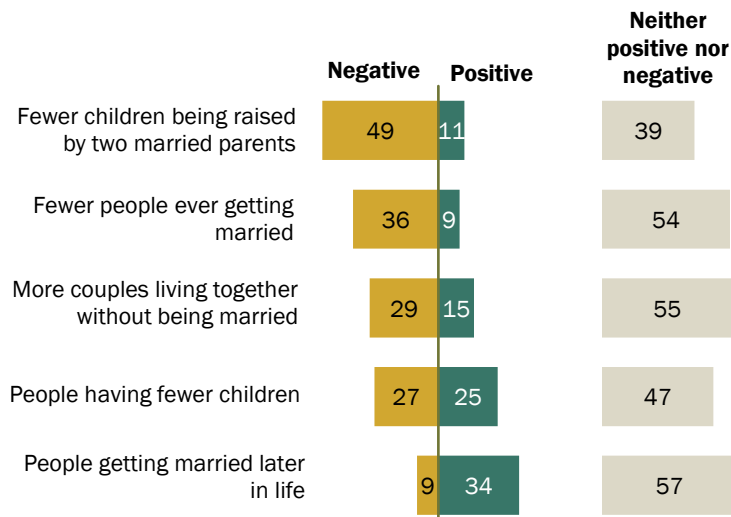
How trends in family life will impact the U.S.

There are a variety of trends in relationships and family living arrangements that are changing American life. Some are viewed more negatively than others, but in many cases, the public is taking these trends in stride.

The fact that [fewer children are being raised by two married parents](#) is viewed the most negatively among the trends asked about in the survey. Some 49% of adults say this will have a very or somewhat negative impact on the country's future. Only 11% say this trend will have a very or somewhat positive impact, while 39% say the impact will be neither positive nor negative.

About half of adults say fewer children being raised by two married parents will have a negative impact on the U.S. in the future

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, each of the following would have a ____ impact



Note: Response options included "Very" and "Somewhat" positive and negative. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Majorities of Americans see several key marriage trends as having neither a positive nor negative impact. For those who do see an impact, the balance of opinion varies by trend:

- When asked about fewer people getting married, 36% say this will have a negative impact on the future of the country, while only 9% say it will have a positive impact.
- 29% say more couples living together without being married will have a negative impact, while 15% say the impact will be positive.
- More see the impact of couples marrying later in life as positive than negative (34% vs. 9%).
- The public has mixed views of the trend toward people having fewer children: 25% say this will have a positive impact, while 27% say the impact will be negative. Some 47% say the impact will be neither positive nor negative.

Gender

Men and women have similar outlooks on the future of the institution of marriage and family – both are more pessimistic than optimistic. But there are significant gender gaps in views about the impact specific trends in family life will have on the United States. Men are more likely than women to say all of the trends included in the survey will have a negative impact.

For example, 55% of men say fewer children being raised by two married parents will have a negative impact on the future of our country, compared with 45% of women. And by a margin of 12 percentage points, men are more likely than women to say fewer people ever getting married will have a negative impact (43% vs. 31%). Similarly, while 35% of men say people having fewer children will impact the U.S. negatively, only 21% of women say the same.

Partisanship

Republicans and Democrats have very different outlooks on how trends in family life will impact the country, with Republicans expressing more negative views. The gaps range from 17 to 29 points on four of the five items included in the survey.

About half of Republicans (52%), compared with 23% of Democrats, say fewer people ever getting married will have a negative impact on the future of the country. Similarly, while 44% of Republicans say more couples living together without being married will have a negative impact, only 15% of Democrats say the same.

Republicans are also more likely than Democrats to say fewer children being raised by two married parents and people having fewer children will have a negative impact. Relatively few from either party see the trend toward people marrying later in life having a negative impact in the future, though Republicans are still more likely than Democrats to say this.

About half or more Democrats view each of these trends as having neither a positive nor negative impact on the future of the family. With the exception of people marrying later in life (38%), only about a third or fewer say the impact will be positive.

Again, conservative Republicans stand out when taking party and ideology into account. Majorities say fewer children being raised by two married parents (72%), fewer people ever getting married (63%) and more couples living together without being married (56%) will have a negative impact on the future of the country. In each case, conservative Republicans are much more likely than moderate or liberal Republicans to express this view.

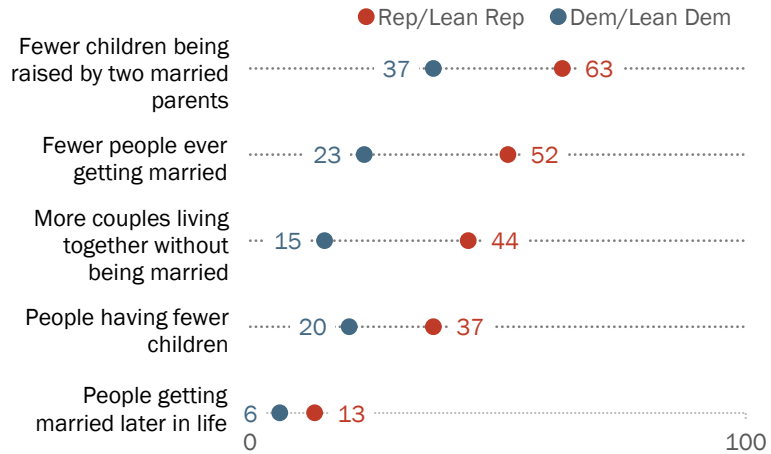
Views of falling fertility rates

It's been widely reported that [the birth rate in the U.S. has been falling in recent years](#). This trend has implications for individuals and families but also for the country more broadly. While many Americans don't see much of an impact, some see upsides and downsides associated with this trend.

More say people having fewer children than in the past has a *positive impact* than say it has a negative impact on each of the following:

Republicans more than Democrats think key trends in family life will negatively affect the U.S.

% saying, thinking about the future of our country, each of the following will have a **very or somewhat negative impact**



Note: Response categories also included "Very positive," "Somewhat positive" and "Neither positive nor negative."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

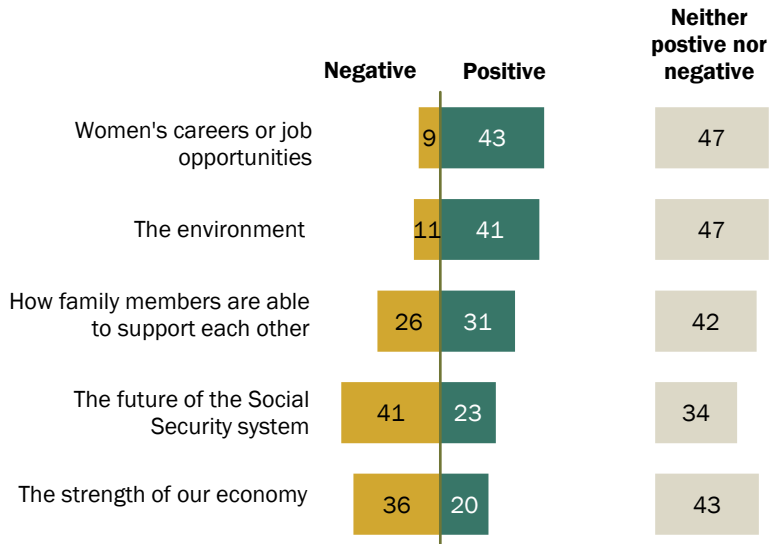
- Women’s careers or job opportunities: 43% positive versus 9% negative.
- The environment: 41% positive versus 11% negative.

More see a *negative impact* than a positive one from falling fertility rates when it comes to each of the following:

- The future of the Social Security system: 41% negative versus 23% positive.
- The strength of the economy overall: 36% negative versus 20% positive.

Public sees some pros and cons from falling fertility rate, but many don’t see much impact at all

% saying people having fewer children than in the past has a ___ impact on each of the following



Note: Response options included “Very” and “Somewhat” positive and negative. Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
 “Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The public is divided over the impact this trend has on family members’ ability to support each other – 31% say positive, 26% negative and 42% say neither positive nor negative.

While women and men have similar views of how falling fertility rates impact the environment, women are slightly more likely than men to say it will have a positive impact on women’s careers (44% vs. 41%).

On the flip side, men are more likely than women to point to this trend’s negative impact on Social Security and the economy. (The gender gaps on these items are more than 10 points.)

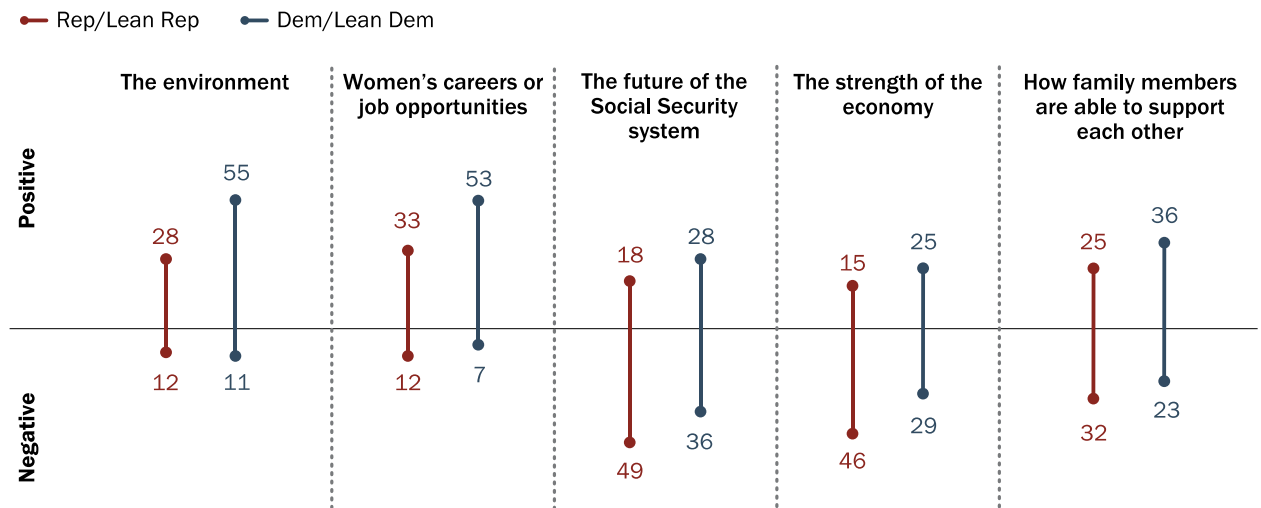
Partisanship

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to view the trend toward people having fewer children as positively impacting various aspects of life and society. At least half of Democrats say this trend has a positive impact on women’s careers (53% vs. 33% of Republicans) and on the environment (55% vs. 28% of Republicans).

For their part, about half of Republicans (49%) say this trend negatively impacts the future of the Social Security system, and 46% say it has a negative impact on the economy. Democrats are less likely to see the trend as harmful in either area (36% say this for Social Security and 29% for the economy).

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to see upsides to falling birth rate

% saying people having fewer children than in the past has a positive/negative impact on each of the following



Note: Response options included “Very” or “Somewhat” positive and negative. Shares of respondents who selected “Neither acceptable nor unacceptable” or who didn’t offer an answer are not shown. Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. “Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

2. Views of different family arrangements

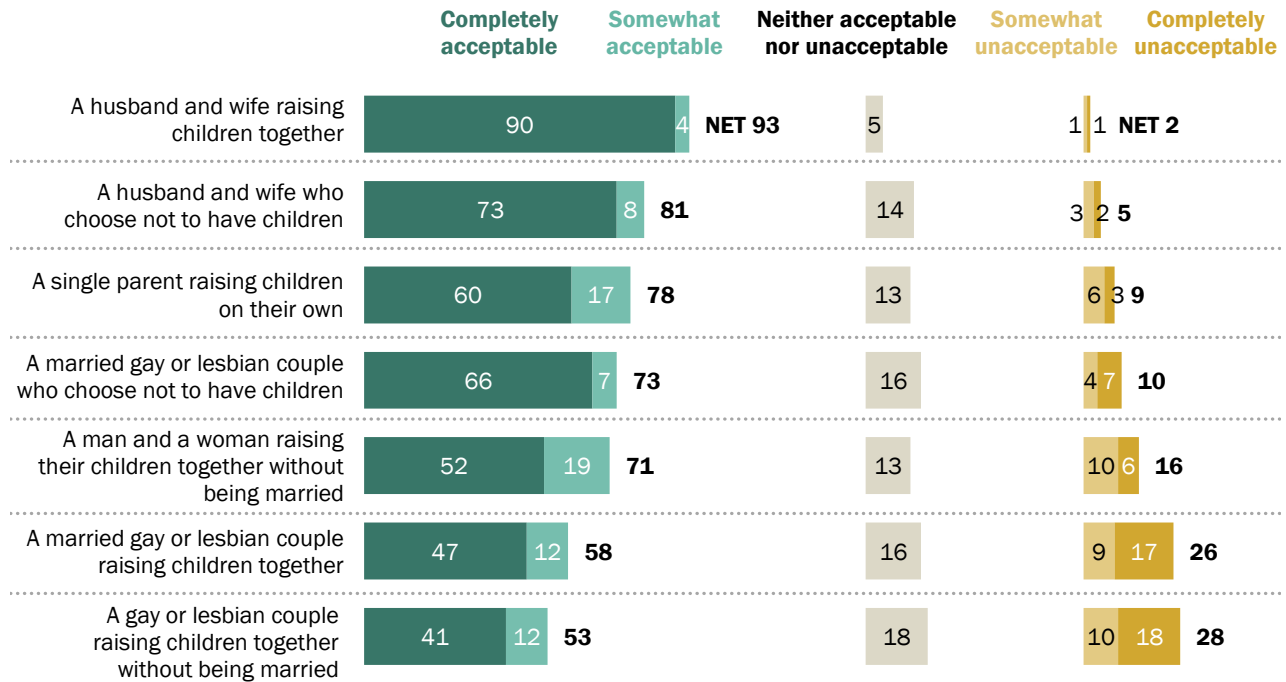
As American families have evolved, there is no longer one dominant family form in the United States. More and more commonly, families consist of fewer children, single parents or same-sex marriages. Amid these changes, the public is fairly accepting of diverse family arrangements, though they favor some more than others.

Americans tend to be more accepting of families with a married man and woman who have children. The level of acceptance drops for husbands and wives who choose not to have children and is even lower for unmarried men and women raising children together (though a majority still say these are acceptable). When it comes to gay and lesbian couples, the public is more accepting of these families when they've made the decision *not* to have children.

- **Most Americans say a husband and wife raising children together (93%) or who choose not to have children (81%) are somewhat or completely acceptable family arrangements.** Some 71% say an unmarried man and woman raising children together is at least somewhat acceptable, including 52% who say it's completely acceptable.
- **About eight-in-ten adults (78%) say a single parent raising children on their own is acceptable.** This includes 60% who say this arrangement is completely acceptable.
- **About three-quarters of the public (73%) say a married gay or lesbian couple who choose not to have children is acceptable,** including 66% who say it's completely acceptable. Less than half of Americans say a married (47%) or unmarried (41%) gay or lesbian couple raising children is completely acceptable, with another 12% each saying these types of families are somewhat acceptable. On balance, more say these types of families are acceptable than say they are unacceptable.

Majorities of Americans find a variety of family arrangements acceptable, but degree of acceptance varies

% saying each of the following family arrangements is ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Women are more likely than men to say several family types are acceptable, including a husband and wife who choose not to have children, a single parent, and a married or unmarried gay or lesbian couple raising children.

Opinions also vary by race and ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, and partisanship.

Race and ethnicity

While the vast majority of adults say a husband and wife raising children together is acceptable, White adults are the most likely to say this. White adults (84%) are also more likely than Black (75%), Hispanic (78%) and Asian adults (76%) to say a husband and wife who choose not to have children is acceptable.

Acceptance of different family types varies across racial and ethnic groups

% saying each of the following family arrangements is **completely or somewhat acceptable***

	A husband and wife raising children together	A single parent raising children on their own	A married gay or lesbian couple who choose not to have children	A married gay or lesbian couple raising children together	A gay or lesbian couple raising children together without being married
All adults	93	78	73	58	53
White	96	81	75	61	55
Black	85	66	64	48	44
Hispanic	91	77	70	55	53
Asian**	90	76	78	68	62

* Only items with at least a 10-point difference between two or more groups are shown.

** Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. The survey also asked about a husband and wife who choose not to have children and a man and a woman raising their children together without being married. Other response options included "Neither acceptable nor unacceptable," "Somewhat unacceptable" and "Completely unacceptable."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

There are wider differences among racial and ethnic groups when it comes to assessments of single parents and gay or lesbian couples with or without children. About three-quarters or more among White (81%), Hispanic (77%) and Asian adults (76%) say a single parent raising children on their own is an acceptable type of family. Some 66% of Black adults say the same.

White and Asian adults are more likely than Black and Hispanic adults to say most family arrangements for gay or lesbian couples asked about are acceptable. For example, 68% of Asian adults and 61% of White adults say a married gay or lesbian couple raising children is acceptable. This compares with 55% of Hispanic and 48% of Black adults. White, Hispanic and Asian adults are more likely than Black adults to say a gay or lesbian couple raising children together without being married is acceptable.

Age

Across age groups, younger adults are more accepting than older adults when it comes to families involving gay and lesbian couples. For example, 73% of 18- to 29-year-olds say a married gay or lesbian couple raising children together is acceptable, compared with 60% of those ages 30 to 49, and about half of those 50 and older.

Adults under 50 are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say an unmarried man and woman raising children is an acceptable arrangement (76% vs. 66%).

Marital status

Views of family arrangements differ by marital status. Unmarried adults who are living with a partner are the most likely to say an unmarried man and woman raising children together is acceptable: 87% say this. By comparison, 66% of married adults say the same, as do 78% who have never been married.

Similarly, three-quarters of unmarried adults living with a partner say a married gay or lesbian couple raising children is acceptable. This compares with 54% of married adults and 68% of those who have never been married.

Sexual orientation

Lesbian, gay or bisexual adults are more likely than straight adults to say all of these types of families are acceptable. The one exception is a husband and wife raising children together, which the vast majority of all adults say is acceptable.

Not surprisingly, this is especially the case in views of gay and lesbian couples. While 90% of lesbian, gay or bisexual adults say a married gay or lesbian couple who choose not to have children is acceptable, 71% of straight adults say the same. Similarly high shares of lesbian, gay or bisexual adults say a married (89%) or unmarried (88%) gay or lesbian couple raising children together is acceptable. Smaller shares of straight adults say the same for each (55% and 50%, respectively).

Partisanship and ideology

Apart from a husband and wife raising children together, which an overwhelming majority in both parties find acceptable, there are double-digit differences in the shares of Democrats and Republicans who say the other family types are acceptable.

For example, there is a difference of 37 percentage points between the 72% of Democrats who say an unmarried gay or lesbian couple raising children together is acceptable and the 35% of Republicans who say the same.

And while majorities of both Republicans and Democrats say an unmarried man and woman raising children together is acceptable, Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to hold this view (84% vs. 58%).

There are also differences among Democrats and Republicans across the ideological spectrum on views of different family types.

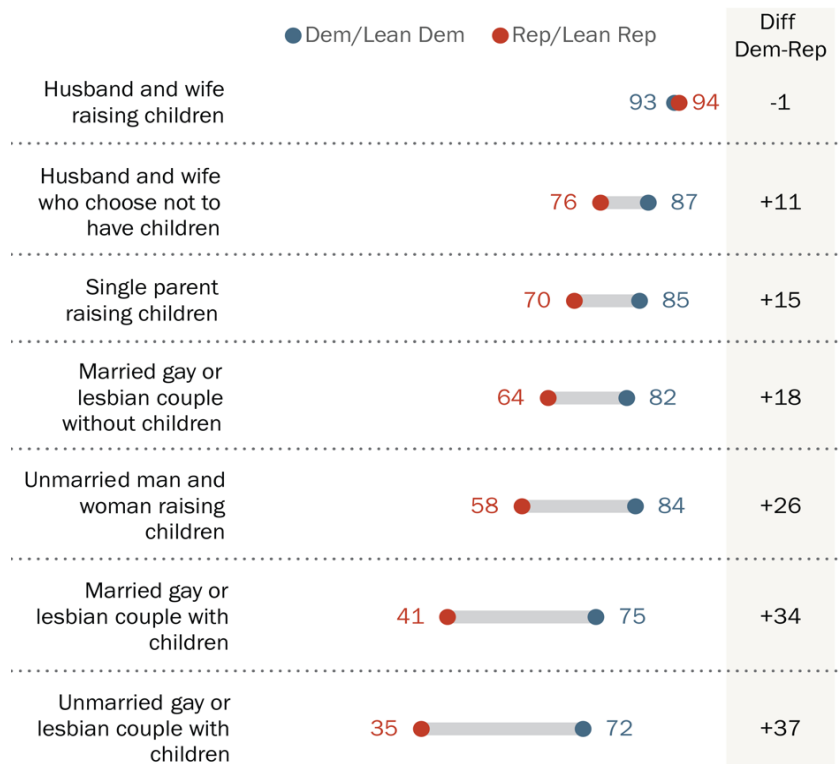
For most types of families apart from a husband and wife raising children together, conservative Republicans are the least accepting. In turn, liberal Democrats are the most accepting. Moderate and liberal Republicans and moderate and conservative Democrats have quite similar views about many family types.

For example, 50% of conservative Republicans say an unmarried man and woman raising children together is acceptable. This compares with 73% of moderate and liberal Republicans, 78% of conservative and moderate Democrats, and 92% of liberal Democrats who say the same.

The differences are even more striking when looking at views of families that include gay and lesbian couples. There is a 30-point difference between the share of conservative Republicans and the share of moderate and liberal Republicans who say a married gay or lesbian couple raising children together is acceptable. Among Democrats, there is a 26-point difference between conservatives and moderates in the party and liberals who say these families are acceptable.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say many family types are acceptable

% saying each of the following family arrangements is **completely or somewhat acceptable**



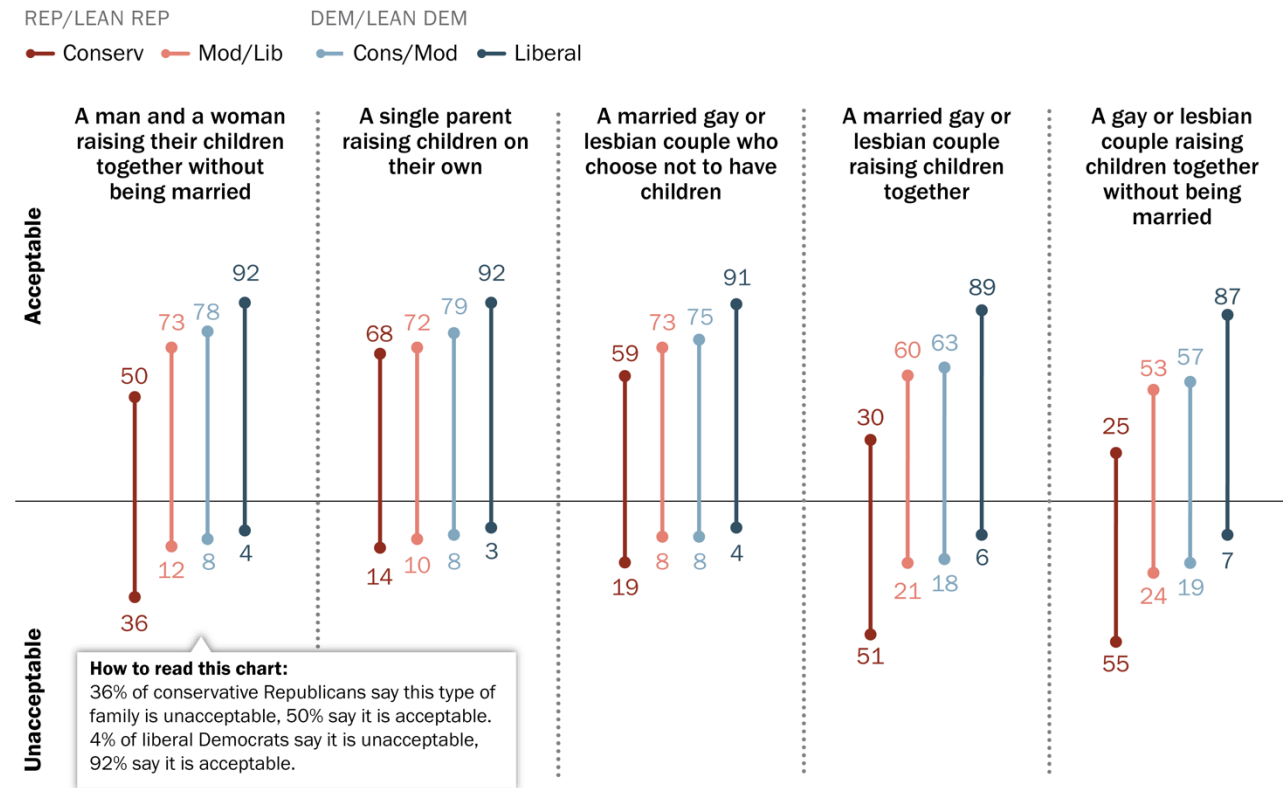
Note: Other response options included "Neither acceptable nor unacceptable," "Somewhat unacceptable" and "Completely unacceptable."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Acceptance of family types differs widely within parties, with conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats standing out

% of conservative and moderate/liberal Republicans, and of conservative/moderate and liberal Democrats, saying each of the following family arrangements are either **completely or somewhat acceptable** or **completely or somewhat unacceptable***



* Only family types with at least a 10-point difference between conservative Republicans and moderate or liberal Republicans or between conservative or moderate Democrats and liberal Democrats are shown.

Note: Shares of respondents who selected “Neither acceptable nor unacceptable” or who didn’t offer an answer are not shown. The survey also asked about a husband and wife raising children together and a husband and wife who choose not to have children.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

“Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family”

Factors that shape views of family

The survey also asked about what factors have influenced Americans' views of what makes a good family arrangement. By far the biggest influence is a person's experiences with their own family growing up. About seven-in-ten adults (68%) say this has influenced their views of what makes a good family a great deal or a fair amount.

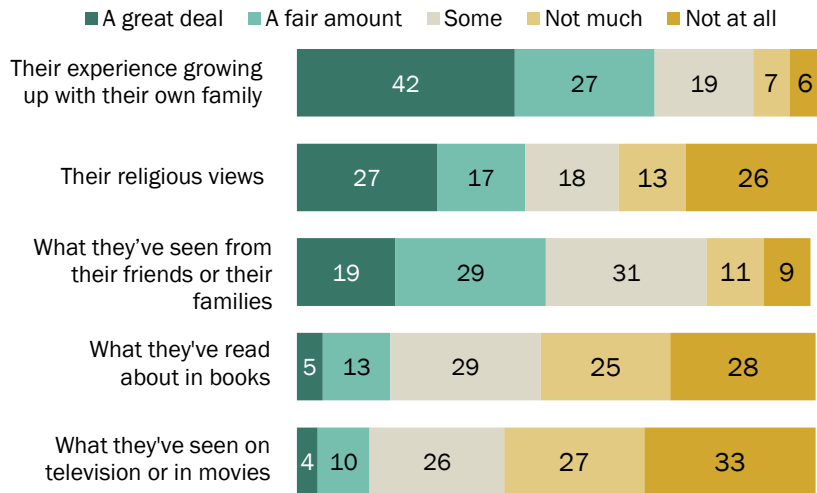
About half (49%) say what they've seen from their friends or their friends' families has had at least a fair amount of influence, and 43% point to their religious views.

Smaller shares say what they've read about in books (18%) or what they've seen on television or in movies (14%) has had a great deal or a fair amount of influence on their views.

Experiences growing up are the dominant influence across most major demographic groups, with some important differences by age, sexual orientation and religion.

Personal experience is a very influential factor in shaping views of what makes a good family

% saying each of the following has influenced their views of what makes a good family arrangement ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
 "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Age

Adults ages 65 and older are the most likely to say their families growing up and their religious views have had at least a fair amount of influence on their views of what makes a good family.

In turn, adults younger than 30 are the most likely to say what they've seen on television or in movies has had this amount of influence.

Sexual orientation

Lesbian, gay or bisexual adults are more likely than straight adults (22% vs. 13%) to say what they've seen on television or in movies has had a fair amount or a great deal of influence on their views of good types of families. This difference remains even when considering the fact that lesbian, gay or bisexual adults tend to be younger than straight adults.

In turn, straight adults are more likely than lesbian, gay or bisexual adults to say their experience growing up with their own family (70% vs. 56%) and their religious views (46% vs. 19%) have had at least a fair amount of influence on their views of good types of families.

Young adults are among the most likely to say TV and movies have influenced their views on family

*% saying each of the following has had a fair amount or great deal of influence on their views on what makes a good family arrangement**

	Their experience growing up with their own family	Their religious views	What they've seen on TV or in movies
All adults	68	43	14
Ages 18-29	62	31	23
30-49	62	38	15
50-64	73	48	11
65+	78	57	9
Straight	70	46	13
Lesbian, gay or bisexual	56	19	22

* Only the three items with the largest statistically significant differences between groups are listed.

Note: The survey also asked about the influence of what they've seen from their friends or friends' families and what respondents have read about in books. Other response options included "Some," "Not much" and "Not at all."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religion

White evangelical Protestants are much more likely than other groups to cite their religious beliefs as an influence on their views about what makes a good family arrangement. Fully 83% say religion has at least a fair amount of influence on these views, compared with 48% of White non-evangelical Protestants, 62% of Black Protestants and 47% of Catholics. Just 12% of religiously unaffiliated adults say this about their religious beliefs.

3. Views of divorce and open marriages

A slight majority of Americans (55%) say couples who are unhappy tend to stay in bad marriages for too long, compared with 43% who say these couples tend to get divorced too quickly.

Women are more likely than men to say couples stay in bad marriages for too long (58% vs. 52%).

Views also vary by race and ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, and partisanship.

Race and ethnicity

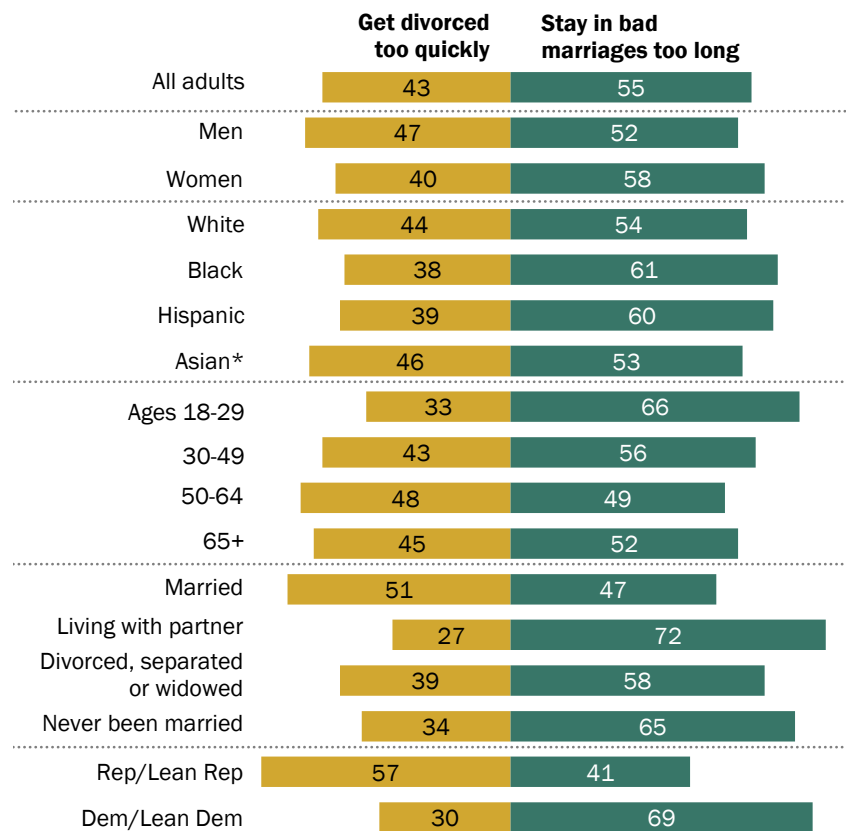
About six-in-ten Black (61%) and Hispanic adults (60%) say unhappy couples stay in bad marriages for too long, while 54% of White adults and 53% of Asian adults say the same.

Age

Younger adults are the most likely to say couples tend to stay in bad marriages too long. Some 66% of those ages 18 to 29 say this, compared with 56% of adults 30 to 49 and about half of those 50 and older.

Younger adults more likely than older adults to say unhappy couples stay married too long

% saying couples who are unhappy tend to ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Women under 50 are particularly likely to say couples stay in bad marriages too long: 66% say this, compared with about half of women ages 50 and older and about half of men in both age groups.

Marital status

About seven-in ten unmarried adults living with a partner (72%) say couples stay in bad marriages for too long, while smaller shares of adults who have never been married (65%), who are divorced, separated or widowed (58%), and who are married (47%) say the same.

Sexual orientation

About three-quarters of lesbian, gay or bisexual adults (74%) say unhappy couples tend to stay in bad marriages too long compared with 54% of straight adults.

Partisanship and ideology

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say couples tend to stay in bad marriages too long (69% vs. 41%).

Among Republicans, there are wide ideological differences on views of divorce. While 53% of moderates and liberals in the party say unhappy couples tend to stay in bad marriages too long, 35% of conservatives say the same.

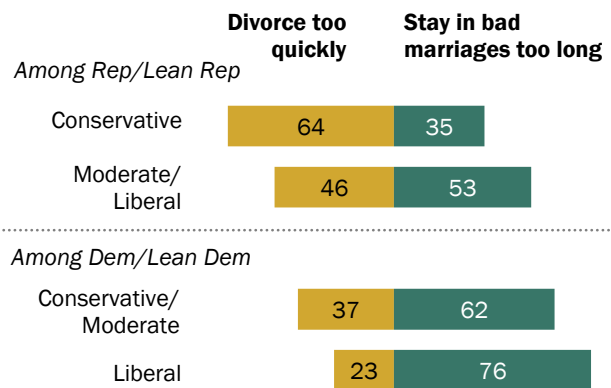
Majorities of Democrats across the ideological spectrum say couples stay in bad marriages too long, but liberals are more likely than conservatives and moderates to say this (76% vs. 62%).

Views of open marriages

Half of Americans say open marriages – a marriage where both spouses agree that they can date or have sex with other people – are somewhat or completely unacceptable. This includes 37% who say these marriages are completely unacceptable and 13% who say they're somewhat unacceptable.

Views of divorce differ by party, ideology

% saying couples who are unhappy tend to ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A third of Americans say these marriages are somewhat or completely acceptable (23% say completely acceptable and 11% say somewhat). The remainder (16%) say they are neither acceptable nor unacceptable.

Men are more likely than women to say open marriages are at least somewhat acceptable (36% vs. 30%).

Views of these marriages differ by race and ethnicity, age, marital status, and sexual orientation.

Race and ethnicity

Some 44% of Asian adults say open marriages are acceptable, compared with about a third among White (33%), Hispanic (32%) and Black adults (31%).

Age

Across age groups, young adults are the most likely to say open marriages are acceptable, and older adults are the most likely to say they're unacceptable. About half of adults under age 30

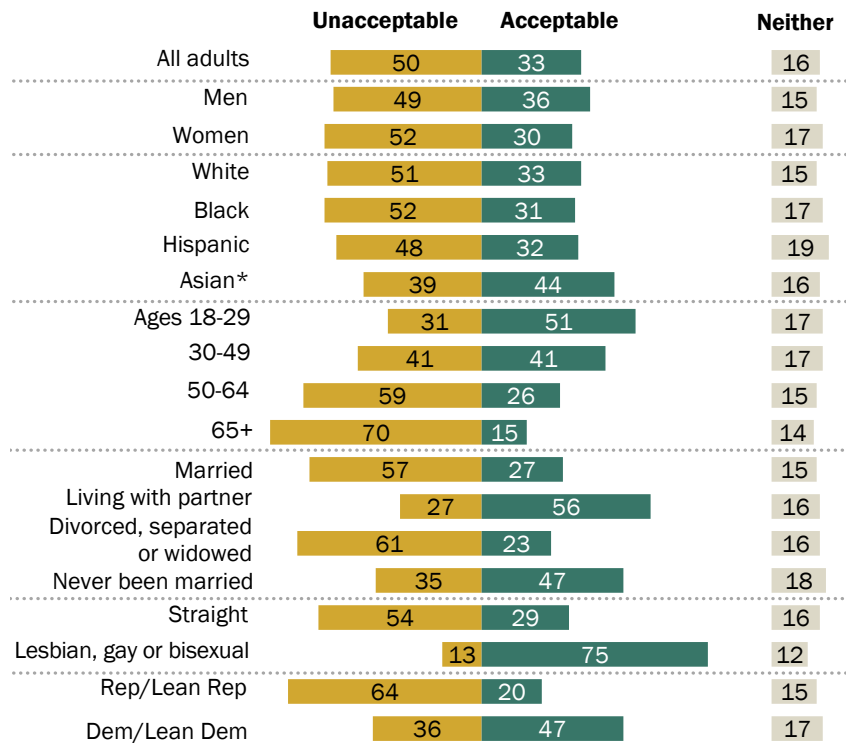
(51%) say open marriages are acceptable. The shares go down steadily with age. Fewer than half of those ages 30 to 49 (41%) say these marriages are acceptable, as do 26% of those 50 to 64 and 15% of those 65 and older. And 70% of adults 65 and older say these marriages are *unacceptable*.

Marital status

Married adults (57%) and those who are divorced, separated or widowed (61%) are more likely than those who are living with a partner (27%) or have never been married (35%) to say open

Half of adults say open marriages are unacceptable

% saying an open marriage is a/an ___ arrangement for people to have



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.
 Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Response options included "Completely acceptable," "Somewhat acceptable," "Neither acceptable nor unacceptable," "Somewhat unacceptable" and "Completely unacceptable."
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
 "Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

marriages are unacceptable. In fact, those who are living with a partner are the most likely to say these kinds of marriages are acceptable (56%).

Sexual orientation

Lesbian, gay or bisexual adults are far more likely than straight adults to say open marriages are acceptable (75% vs. 29%). These differences remain even when considering the fact that lesbian, gay or bisexual adults tend to be younger than straight adults.

Partisanship

A majority of Republicans (64%) say open marriages are unacceptable, while 20% say they are acceptable. Views among Democrats are more mixed: 47% say these kinds of marriages are acceptable and 36% say they are unacceptable. As may be expected, conservative Republicans are the most likely to say these marriages are unacceptable (74%), while liberal Democrats are the most likely to say they are acceptable (63%).

4. Family responsibilities

Family members help each other in a variety of ways, and oftentimes that assistance cuts across generations. The public makes clear distinctions between the types of things family members should be expected to do for their loved ones and the things that are less essential.

Roughly two-thirds of adults (66%) say grown children should have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide caregiving for an elderly parent who needs it. This includes 32% who say they have a *great deal* of responsibility.

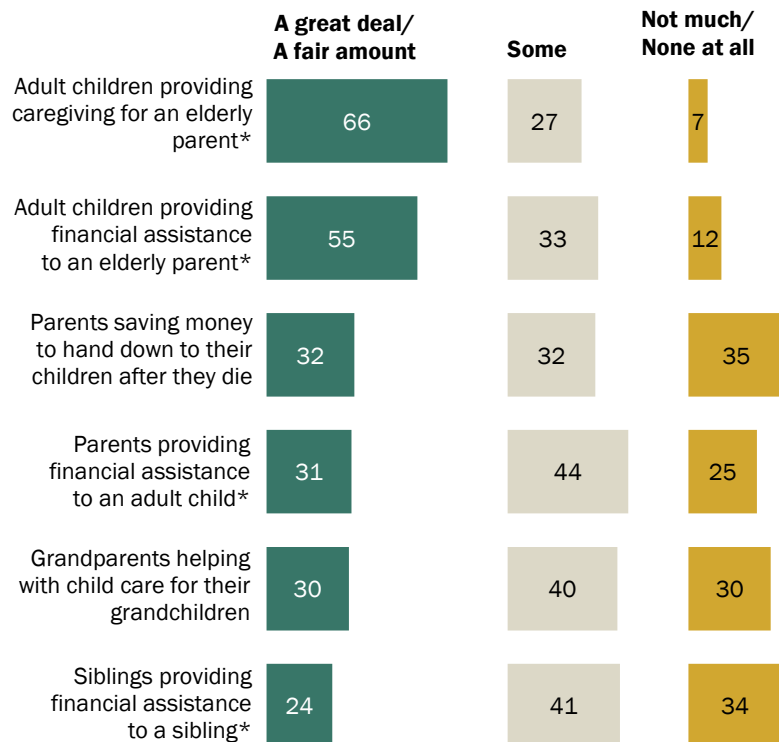
A majority (55%) say adult children have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide financial assistance to an elderly parent in need, with 24% saying they have a great deal of responsibility.

When it comes to parents providing financial assistance for an adult child who needs it, far fewer Americans say parents have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility: Only 31% say this.

A similar share (32%) say parents have at least a fair amount of responsibility to save money to hand down to their children after they die. About a third (35%) say parents have little or no responsibility to do this.

Majorities say adult children have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide caregiving and financial help to elderly parents who need it

% saying people should have ___ responsibility for doing each of the following



* The full question wording includes "who needs it."

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Three-in-ten adults say grandparents have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to help with child care for their grandchildren.

And a smaller share (24%) say siblings have at least a fair amount of responsibility to provide financial assistance to another sibling who needs it.

Race and ethnicity

Views of these responsibilities differ widely by race and ethnicity. On each item, Black adults are more likely than White and Hispanic adults to view family members as responsible. In some cases, these gaps are quite large.

For example, 51% of Black adults say parents should have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to save money to hand down to their children after they die. Roughly three-in-ten White (28%) and Hispanic adults (31%) say the same as do 37% of Asian adults.

Similarly, when it comes to siblings providing financial assistance to another sibling who needs it, 37% of Black adults say people have at least a fair amount of responsibility to do this, compared with 20% of White adults and 28% of Hispanic adults. (The share is 31% for Asian adults, which is not statistically different from Black adults.)

Majorities across racial and ethnic groups say adult children have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide caregiving for an elderly parent who needs it. But even in this case, Black adults (71%) are more likely than White (65%) and Hispanic adults (64%) to hold this view.

Views of providing family financial assistance across generations differ widely by race, ethnicity

% saying people should have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility for doing each of the following

	Adult children providing financial assistance to an elderly parent*	Parents saving money to hand down to their children after they die	Parents providing financial assistance to an adult child*	Siblings providing financial assistance to a sibling*
All adults	55	32	31	24
White	51	28	28	20
Black	68	51	42	37
Hispanic	57	31	31	28
Asian*	65	37	36	31

* The full question wording includes "who needs it."

Note: Response options also included "Some," "Not much" and "None at all."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Age

Views also differ by age. Adults ages 50 and older are more likely than those younger than 50 to say adult children should have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to provide caregiving to an elderly parent who needs it (71% vs. 60%).

For their part, younger adults see greater responsibility for parents to save money to hand down to their children when they die. Among those ages 18 to 29, 40% say parents have a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility to do this. The share is smaller among those ages 30 to 49 (34%), and smaller still among those 50 to 64 (26%) and 65 and older (29%).

The oldest age group stands out as the most likely to say grandparents have at least a fair amount of responsibility to help with child care for their grandchildren. Some 40% of adults ages 65 and older say this, compared with about three-in-ten or less among younger age groups.

Views about family responsibilities differ by age

% saying people should have **a great deal or a fair amount** of responsibility for doing each of the following*

	Adult children providing caregiving to an elderly parent who needs it	Parents saving money to hand down to their children after they die	Grandparents helping with child care for their grandchildren
All adults	66	32	30
Age 18-29	58	40	29
30-49	62	34	26
50-64	71	26	28
65+	72	29	40

* Only items with at least a 10-point difference between two or more groups are shown.

Note: The survey also asked about adult children providing financial assistance to an elderly parent who needs it, parents providing financial assistance to an adult child who needs it and siblings providing financial assistance to a sibling who needs it. Response options also included "Some," "Not much" and "None at all."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

5. What makes for a fulfilling life?

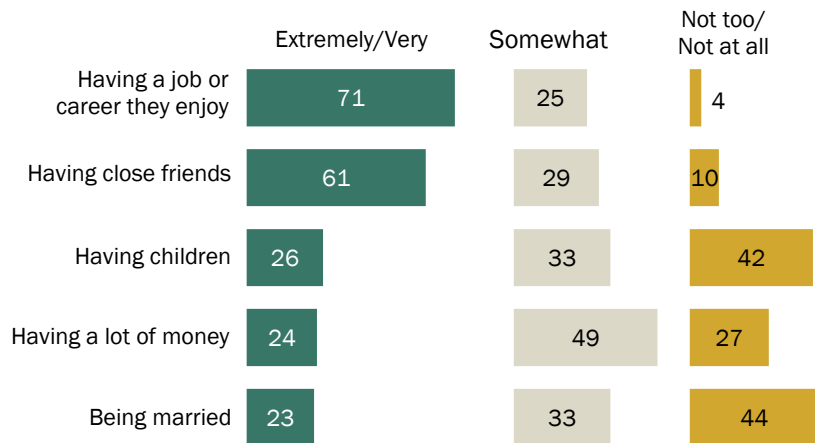
When asked what it takes to lead a fulfilling life, the public prioritizes job satisfaction and friendship over marriage and parenthood. Some 71% of all adults say having a job or career they enjoy is extremely or very important in order for people to live a fulfilling life. And 61% say having close friends is equally important.

Only about one-in-four adults say having children (26%) or being married (23%) is extremely or very important in order to live a fulfilling life. A third say each of these is somewhat important. And 42% and 44%, respectively, say having children or being married is not too or not at all important.

Having a lot of money is viewed as extremely or very important for a fulfilling life by 24% of adults, while another 49% say this is somewhat important. About one-in-four adults (27%) say this is not too or not at all important.

Americans see jobs and close friends, rather than marriage and parenthood, as highly important elements in living a fulfilling life

% saying, in general, each of the following is ___ important in order for people to live a fulfilling life



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.
"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Gender

When it comes to what leads to a fulfilling life, men and women have similar views of the importance of having close friends and having a lot of money.

Women place a little more importance on job or career enjoyment than men do (74% vs. 69%). At the same time, men place somewhat more importance on marriage and having children. Some 28% of men, compared with 18% of women, say being married is extremely or very important for a fulfilling life. Similarly, 29% of men versus 22% of women say the same about having children.

Marital status and parenthood

Not surprisingly, married adults are more likely than those who are unmarried to say marriage is important in order to live a fulfilling life. About three-in-ten married adults (29%) say being married is extremely or very important for a fulfilling life. This compares with 18% of those who are divorced, separated or widowed, 15% of those who have never been married, and 12% of those who are living with a partner. Still, married people place much greater importance on job satisfaction and having close friends than they do on being married.

Similarly, parents are more likely than adults without children to say having children is important for a fulfilling life. About three-in-ten parents with children of any age (31%) say having children is extremely or very important, compared with 18% of adults who do not have children.

Race and ethnicity

Adults across racial and ethnic groups place the highest importance on having a job or career they enjoy in order to live a fulfilling life. But White (66%) and Asian adults (65%) are more likely than Hispanic (51%) or Black adults (46%) to say having close friends is extremely or very important.

In turn, Black (39%), Hispanic (33%) and Asian adults (49%) are more likely than White adults (16%) to say having a lot of money is highly important.

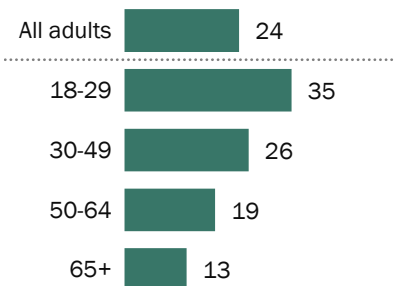
Age

Across age groups, older adults (ages 65 and older) are the most likely to say having an enjoyable job or career is extremely or very important for a fulfilling life (78% say this). Still, 67% to 73% of other age groups say the same. Adults ages 65 and older also place a higher value on being married than younger age groups do.

Younger adults (ages 18 to 29) are more likely than other age groups to say having a lot of money is extremely or very important for a fulfilling life: 35% say this, compared with about one-in-four or fewer among older age groups.

Young adults are most likely to say having a lot of money is important for a fulfilling life

*% saying, in general, having a lot of money is **extremely or very important** in order for people to live a fulfilling life*



Note: Other response options included "Somewhat important," "Not too important" and "Not at all important." The survey also asked about being married, having children, having a job or career they enjoy, and having close friends.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023.

"Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

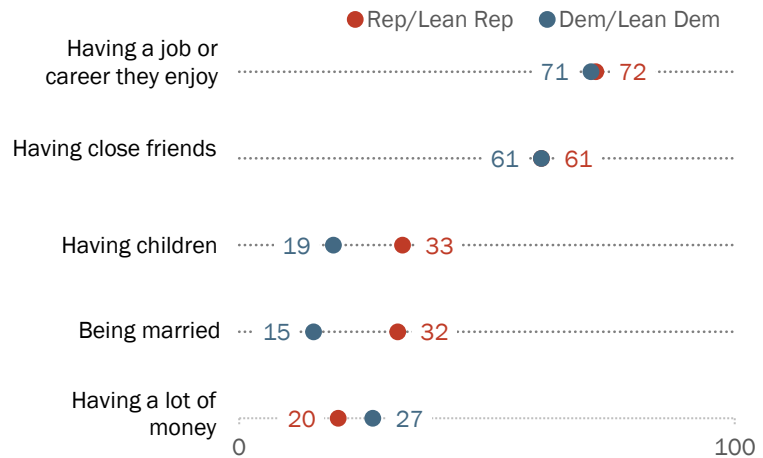
Partisanship

Roughly equal shares of Republicans and Democrats say having an enjoyable job or career and having close friends are highly important when it comes to living a fulfilling life. And both groups prioritize these things over marriage and having children.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say having children and being married are extremely or very important. Democrats place somewhat more importance than Republicans on having a lot of money.

Most Republicans and Democrats say career satisfaction and close friends are highly important to living a fulfilling life

% saying, in general, each of the following is extremely or very important in order for people to live a fulfilling life



Note: Other response options included “Somewhat important,” “Not too important” and “Not at all important.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 10-16, 2023. “Public Has Mixed Views on the Modern American Family”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at pewresearch.org/topic/family-relationships

Kim Parker, *Director of Social Trends Research*

Juliana Horowitz, *Associate Director, Research*

Rachel Minkin, *Research Associate*

Luona Lin, *Research Associate*

Alex Cahn, *Former Intern*

Shannon Greenwood, *Senior Digital Producer*

Peter Bell, *Design Director*

John Carlo Mandapat, *Information Graphics Designer*

Anna Jackson, *Editorial Assistant*

Julia O'Hanlon, *Communications Manager*

In addition, the project benefited greatly from the guidance of the Pew Research Center methodology team: Courtney Kennedy, Andrew Mercer, Ashley Amaya, Dorene Asare-Marfo, Dana Popky, Anna Brown and Arnold Lau.

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from ATP Wave 126, conducted from April 10 to April 16, 2023, and includes an [oversample](#) of Hispanic men, non-Hispanic Black men, non-Hispanic Asian adults, and adults who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population. A total of 5,073 panelists responded out of 5,802 who were sampled, for a response rate of 87%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,073 respondents is plus or minus 1.7 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,501
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	881
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	433
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,116
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,467
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,541
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	787
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,694
	Total	42,894	30,283	12,420

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the five address-based recruitments, a total of 23,176 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,341 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 30,283 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,420 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.² The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic men, non-Hispanic Black men, non-Hispanic Asian adults, and adults who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

² AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was April 10 to April 16, 2023. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on April 10.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on April 10. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled panelists were included in the full launch and sent an invitation on April 11.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 126

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	April 10, 2023	April 11, 2023
First reminder	April 13, 2023	April 13, 2023
Final reminder	April 15, 2023	April 15, 2023

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, one ATP respondents was removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanic and Asian adults	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2021 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2021 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	
<i>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</i>	
Age	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Gender	
Education	
Hispanic ethnicity	
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th

percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 126

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,073	1.7 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic men, non-Hispanic Black men, and non-Hispanic Asian adults, and adults who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 126

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,073
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	71
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	48
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	607
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	2
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		1
Screened out		0
Total panelists sampled for the survey		5,802
Completed interviews	I	5,073
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	727
Non-contact	NC	2
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,802
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		87%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 126

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 126	48%
Response rate to Wave 126 survey	87%
Cumulative response rate	3%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A note about the Asian adult sample

This survey includes a total sample size of 368 Asian adults. The sample primarily includes English-speaking Asian adults and, therefore, may not be representative of the overall Asian adult population. Despite this limitation, it is important to report the views of Asian adults on the topics in this study. As always, Asian adults' responses are incorporated into the general population figures throughout this report.

© Pew Research Center 2023