

**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
STATE OF THE UNION MOTHER'S DAY POLL**

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

March 14-26, 1997

N= 1101 women 18 or older, including 457 mothers of children under 18

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country.

I'd like to ask a few questions of the OLDEST FEMALE age 18 or older who is now at home.

NOTE: Although some demographics were asked earlier in the interview for screening purposes, in this topline all demographic questions are displayed in the back and all the substantive questions are displayed in the front.

1. Next, please tell me how satisfied you are with your life overall -- would you say you are . . . **(READ)**

		<u>Mothers of Children under 18</u>	<u>Mothers of Adult Children</u>	<u>Non-mothers</u>
48	Very satisfied,	46	54	43
46	Mostly satisfied,	49	41	50
4	Mostly dissatisfied, or	4	3	3
1	Very dissatisfied?	1	1	2
<u>1</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)	<u>*¹</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

¹ * = less than .5%

2. Next, I'd like to ask you about some different aspects of your life. As I read the following list, please tell me how important each aspect is to YOUR PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT using a scale from zero to 10, where 10 means very important and zero means not important at all. (First/Next) **(ROTATE)** -- how important is this to your personal happiness. (You can use any number between zero and ten.)

	Most Important (10)	Important (7-9)	Not too Important (5-6)	Not Important at all (0-4)	DK	Mean
<i>Based on women married or living as married; n=695.</i>						
a. Your relationship with your (husband/ partner)	82	13	3	1	1 =100	9.5
<i>Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.</i>						
b. Your relationship with your (child/children) under 18	86	12	1	1	- =100	9.6
<i>Based on mothers of adult children; n=483.</i>						
c. Your relationship with your adult children	77	17	3	2	1 =100	9.5
<i>Based on women employed full or part time; n=661.</i>						
d. Your job or career	30	46	18	6	* =100	7.8
<i>Based on women whose mother is still living; n=732.</i>						
e. Your relationship with your mother	58	29	8	4	1 =100	8.8
<i>Based on women whose father is still living; n=525.</i>						
f. Your relationship with your father	46	31	10	12	1 =100	7.9
g. Your relationships with friends	41	42	14	2	1 =100	8.3
h. The things you do in your free time	37	43	15	3	2 =100	8.1

3. Which of these is MOST important to your personal happiness and fulfillment?

		Mothers of Children <u>under 18</u>	Mothers of Adult <u>Children</u>	Non- <u>mothers</u>
34	Your relationship with your (husband/partner)	28	44	24
19	Your relationship with your (child/children) under 18	51	6	-
13	Your relationship with your adult children	2	29	-
6	Your relationship with your mother	1	1	21
5	Your relationships with friends	1	2	16
4	The things you do in your free time	2	3	8
3	Your job or career	1	1	9
1	Your relationship with your father	-	*	3
9	Don't know	11	10	6
<u>6</u>	None rated 9 or 10 in question 2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100

INTRO TO Q4 AND Q5: Next, please think again about some of the aspects of your life we just talked about. For each I mention, please tell me how often it's a source of HAPPINESS for you and how often it's a source of FRUSTRATION.

4. First, is (**ROTATE**) a source of HAPPINESS for you all the time, most of the time, sometimes, or hardly ever? (Next how about (**INSERT**), is this a source of HAPPINESS all the time, most of the time, sometimes, or hardly ever?)

5. And is (**INSERT**) a source of FRUSTRATION all the time, most of the time, sometimes, or hardly ever?

-----Source of Happiness-----						-----Source of Frustration-----				
	All the Time	Most of the Times	Some- times	Hardly Ever/ Never (VOL.)	DK		All or Most of the Time	Some- times	Hardly Ever/ Never (VOL.)	DK
<i>Based on women married or living as married; n=695.</i>										
a. Your relationship with your (husband/partner)	26	64	8	2	* =100		10	38	51	1 =100
<i>Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.</i>										
b. Your relationship with your (child/children) under 18	35	58	7	*	- =100		9	52	39	* =100
<i>Based on mothers of adult children; n=483.</i>										
c. Your relationship with your adult children	30	59	7	3	1 =100		8	33	58	1 =100
<i>Based on women employed full or part time; n=661.</i>										
d. Your job or career	9	51	33	7	* =100		21	50	29	* =100
<i>Based on women whose mother is still living; n=732.</i>										
e. Your relationship with your mother	29	52	14	4	1 =100		12	33	54	1 =100

6. Considering everything, what would be the ideal situation for you -- working full-time, working part-time, or not working at all outside the home?

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.

		Current Employment Status
30	Full-time	51
44	Part-time	18
26	Not at all	31
*	Don't know	-
100		100

Next, I have some questions about raising children in this country today . . .

7. All in all, do you think MOTHERS of children under 18 are now doing a BETTER job as parents than their own mothers did 20 or 30 years ago, a WORSE job -- or about the SAME job?

		Mothers of Children under 18	Mothers of Adult Children	Non-mothers
11	Better	13	10	11
56	Worse	50	57	63
27	About the same	35	25	21
6	Don't know	2	8	5
100		100	100	100

8. In general, do you think it's easier to be a mother today than it was 20 or 30 years ago, more difficult, or about the same?

		Mothers of Children under 18	Mothers of Adult Children	Non-mothers
7	Easier	9	4	9
81	More difficult	77	86	78
10	About the same	12	8	11
2	Don't know	2	2	2
100		100	100	100

9. In your opinion, what's the MOST important quality for a mother to have? (**OPEN END**)

		Mothers of Children <u>under 18</u>	Mothers of Adult <u>Children</u>	Non- mothers <u></u>
36	Love	29	39	41
28	Patience	39	22	20
19	Communicating with/Understanding children	23	19	19
7	Spending time with children	7	7	7
6	Caring/Compassion	6	6	7
4	Religious or moral values	4	5	5
4	Honesty/Trust	3	4	4
4	Ability to Discipline/Consistency/Setting limits	3	6	2
3	Commitment	3	4	2
16	Other	13	18	18
3	Don't know	2	3	6

Total exceed 100% due to multiple responses

10. Next, I'm going to ask how good a job you think some different types of parents can do raising kids today. (First/What about) (**ROTATE**) -- do you think MOST can do a good job as parents today, some can, very few can, or none of them can do a good job as parents today?

	<u>Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Very Few</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Couples in which both the father and mother work full-time	29	50	16	2	3	=100
b. Couples in which the father works full-time and the mother works part-time	54	38	5	1	2	=100
c. Couples in which the father works full-time and the mother stays home	66	29	3	*	2	=100
d. Single mothers	28	54	13	2	3	=100
e. Stepmothers	28	52	11	1	8	=100
f. Divorced couples who split custody so the children live with each parent some of the time	17	50	23	4	6	=100

INTRO TO Q11,Q12,Q13: Now I have some questions about adoption . . .

11. In general, do you think MOST white couples can do a good job raising a black child, some can do a good job, very few can do a good job, or none can do a good job?

		-----Race/Ethnicity-----		
		<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
29	Most can do a good job	31	19	24
49	Some can do a good job	50	46	52
14	Very few can do a good job	11	24	17
2	None can do a good job	1	5	2
<u>6</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100

12. In general, do you think MOST white couples can do a good job raising an Hispanic child, some can do a good job, very few can do a good job, or none can do a good job?

Based on Form 1; n=555.

		-----Race/Ethnicity-----		
		<u>White</u>	<u>Black*</u>	<u>Hispanic*</u>
29	Most can do a good job	32	15	17
55	Some can do a good job	55	55	63
9	Very few can do a good job	8	13	13
1	None can do a good job	*	6	1
<u>6</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

* Caution, small sample sizes; 57 blacks, 49 Hispanics

13. In general, do you think MOST white couples can do a good job raising an Asian child, some can do a good job, very few can do a good job, or none can do a good job?

Based on Form 2; n=546.

		-----Race/Ethnicity-----		
		<u>White</u>	<u>Black*</u>	<u>Hispanic*</u>
37	Most can do a good job	40	18	28
48	Some can do a good job	47	53	63
6	Very few can do a good job	5	15	2
1	None can do a good job	1	4	1
<u>8</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

* Caution, small sample sizes; 67 blacks, 45 Hispanics

14. Next, please tell me if you think each of the following trends is generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't make much difference? (First/Next) (**ROTATE**)

	<u>Good Thing for Society</u>	<u>Doesn't Make Much Difference</u>	<u>Bad Thing for Society</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. More mothers of young children working outside the home	17	37	41	5 =100
b. More women not ever having children	19	48	24	9 =100
c. More women having their first child after age 35	29	45	22	4 =100
d. More single women deciding to have children without a male partner to help raise them	7	25	65	3 =100
e. More UNmarried couples deciding to have children	9	26	62	3 =100
f. More gay and lesbian couples raising children	6	31	56	7 =100
g. More fathers staying home with children so their wives can work full-time	39	38	20	3 =100
h. More people who were adopted as children searching for and finding their birth mothers	47	32	13	8 =100

15. Now I'd like you to think back to your childhood . . .when you were growing up . . . **(DO NOT ROTATE)**

	Yes, Usually <u>Did This</u>	No, Didn't Usually <u>Do This</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Did your family USUALLY eat dinner together, or not?	91	8	1	=100
b. Did your family USUALLY attend religious services together, or not?	72	28	*	=100
c. Was your mother USUALLY there when you got home from school, or not?	78	21	1	=100
d. Was your mother USUALLY able to attend your events like school plays, sporting events, or other activities you were involved in, or not?	76	22	2	=100

16. How often do you talk to your mother these days . . . **(READ)**

Based on women whose mother is still living; n=732.

45	Everyday or almost everyday,
20	Several times a week,
17	About once a week,
12	A few times a month,
3	A few times a year, or
2	Never?
<u>1</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
100	

17. How often, if at all, do you rely on your mother for advice on how to raise your (child /children). . . **(READ)**

Based on mothers of children under 18 whose own mother is still living; n=397.

26	Often,
35	Sometimes,
23	Hardly ever, OR
16	Never ?
<u>*</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
100	

18. Are you now helping to care for a parent or any other older relative by supporting them financially or emotionally, helping them handle their affairs, or helping them care for themselves?
19. Within the next ten years, do you expect to be doing this (**ADD IF NECESSARY:** that is, helping to care for a parent or any other older relative by supporting them financially or emotionally, helping them handle their affairs or helping them care for themselves)?

52	Currently/Expect to be caring for a parent or other older relative
26	Currently caring for a parent or other older relative
26	Expect to be caring for a parent or other older relative in next 10 years
<u>48</u>	Neither
100	

20. How much stress or worry do you feel as a result of this -- a lot of stress or worry, some, only a little, or none at all?

Based on women currently/expect to be caring for a parent or other older relative; n=591.

	<u>Currently</u>	<u>Expect to be</u>
14 A lot	21	8
32 Some	33	31
31 Only a little	25	36
22 None at all	19	24
<u>1</u> Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100	100	100

21. All in all, how satisfied are you with the job you are doing as a mother of (a child/children) under 18? Would you say you are (**READ**)

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.

35	Very satisfied,
62	Mostly satisfied,
1	Mostly dissatisfied, OR
1	Very dissatisfied?
<u>1</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
100	

22. For you personally, what's the most difficult part of being a mother? **(OPEN END)**

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.

		-----Current Employment Status---			Satisfaction with -----Job as Mother-----	
		<u>Working Full-time</u>	<u>Working Part-time</u>	<u>Not Working</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Less than Very Satisfied</u>
23	Time Pressures/Balancing motherhood with other parts of your life	27	18	18	18	26
21	Disciplining children	21	22	20	20	21
9	Outside influences/ Peer pressure	11	11	6	9	10
7	Having patience	6	8	8	9	6
7	Work of parenting/ Housework	7	6	8	8	6
6	Dealing with children at different ages	7	6	4	5	6
5	Financial worries	4	3	7	5	5
4	Teaching them to do the right thing	3	9	4	5	4
4	Being a single parent	5	3	4	4	4
4	Dealing with children's problems	4	4	4	5	4
3	Letting go as child grows	4	2	2	3	3
3	Tiredness	3	3	3	3	3
3	Knowing/Doing what's best for your child	2	2	4	1	4
2	Communicating with children	1	3	3	2	2
15	Other	13	13	19	14	16
6	Don't know	7	4	6	9	5

Total exceed 100% due to multiple responses

23. Please tell me if each of the following is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all for you as a mother? (First/Next. . . **(ROTATE)**)

	<u>A Major Problem</u>	<u>A Minor Problem</u>	<u>Not A Problem At All</u>	<u>DK</u>	
<i>Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.</i>					
a. Finding someone to look after your (child/children) when you can't be with them	16	28	56	*	=100
<i>Based on working mothers of children under 18; n=317.</i>					
b. Balancing work and family responsibilities	22	44	34	*	=100
<i>Based on mothers of children under 18 who are married/ living as married; n=341.</i>					
c. Stress on your (marriage/relationship with your partner)	9	48	43	*	=100
<i>D - h are based on mothers of children under 18; n= 457.</i>					
d. Not getting enough help and support from your (child's/children's) father	23	24	52	1	=100
e. Not having enough money to give your (child/children) what they need	17	42	41	*	=100
f. Not having enough time for yourself	28	44	28	*	=100
g. Finding a job with a schedule flexible enough to let you meet your family responsibilities	24	24	50	2	=100
h. Controlling the effects that outside influences, like television and peer pressure, have on your (child/children)	26	46	28	*	=100

24. Now I'd like to ask some questions about the lives of you and your family. . . . (First/Next. . .) **(DO NOT ROTATE)**

	<u>Yes, Usually Do This</u>	<u>No, Don't Usually Do This</u>	<u>DK</u>
<i>A & b are based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.</i>			
a. Does your family USUALLY eat dinner together, or not?	80	19	1 =100
And situation growing up (Q15)	92	8	* =100
b. Does your family USUALLY attend religious services together, or not?	59	40	1 =100
And situation growing up (Q15)	72	28	- =100

C & d are based on mothers with at least one school age child; n=357.

c. Are you USUALLY there when your (child gets/children get) home from school, or not?	61	38	1 =100
And situation growing up (Q15)	78	22	* =100
d. Are you USUALLY able to attend your (child's/children's) events like school plays, sporting events, or other activities your (child is/children are) involved in, or not?	94	6	* =100
And situation growing up (Q15)	79	20	1 =100

25. How much does it bother you that **(INSERT)**? Does this bother you a lot, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some- What</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>DK</u>
<i>Based on mothers of children under 18 who don't usually eat dinner together; n=84.</i>					
a. Your family doesn't USUALLY eat dinner together?	29	32	24	15	- =100

Based on mothers of children under 18 who don't usually got to religious services together; n=168.

b. Your family doesn't USUALLY attend religious services together?	13	32	23	32	- =100
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Based on mothers with at least one school age child who are not usually there when their children get home from school; n=139.

c. You aren't USUALLY there when your (child gets /children get) home from school?	24	32	28	16	- =100
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Based on mothers with at least one school age child who are not usually able to attend their children's events; n=20.

d. You aren't USUALLY able to attend your (child's/children's) events?	-----sample size too small to report-----				
--	---	--	--	--	--

26. All in all, how satisfied are you with your current job -- would you say you are **(READ)**

Based on working mothers of children under 18; n=317

31	Very satisfied,
58	Mostly satisfied,
8	Mostly dissatisfied, OR
3	Very dissatisfied?
<u>-</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
100	

27. What is the MAIN reason you're dissatisfied with your job -- is it because you don't like the work you are doing, you aren't paid enough, you don't like your boss or the people you work with, there is too much stress, the location or commute are inconvenient, your hours are too long, or is it some other reason?

-----sample size too small to report-----

28. If you were looking for a (new) job, how important would it be that the job had each of the following. (First/Next) **(ROTATE)** -- would this be very important, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.

	Very <u>Important</u>	Somewhat <u>Important</u>	Not Too <u>Important</u>	Not At All <u>Important</u>	Not Appl.. (VOL.) , <u>DK</u>		
a. On-site child care	41	13	10	34	2	*	=100
b. Part-time hours or job-sharing	42	29	10	17	1	1	=100
c. A flexible work schedule	73	18	5	3	1	*	=100
d. The ability to work from home	42	26	12	19	*	1	=100

29. [If you have an adult child living at home] What's the MAIN reason (your ____ year old, / this son or daughter) is living with you now -- is it because he or she . . . **(READ)**

Based on mothers with adult children living in their household; n=141.

40	Is still in school
38	Can't afford to live on their own or is saving money to go out on their own
13	Just likes living with you
5	Is recently divorced or separated,
2	Has an illness or medical problem
1	Some other reason
<u>1</u>	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
100	

30. [If you never had children] Did you choose not to have children, or did it just happen that way?

Based on women over 45 who have never had children; n=57.

23	Chose not to have children
68	Just happened that way
<u>9</u>	Don't know
100	

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

D1. Are you the female head of your household?

88	Yes, female head of household
12	No, not female head
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

D2. Are you the mother or legal guardian of any children under 18 years of age now living in your household?

38	Yes
62	No
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

D4. HOW MANY of your children under 18 now live with you?

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457.

44	One child
34	Two children
12	Three children
9	Four or more children
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

D5. What is this child's age?/What is the age of your OLDEST child under 18 now living with you?

Based on mothers of children under 18; n=457

22	0 to 4 years of age
30	5 to 11 years of age
48	12 to 17 years of age
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

D6. What is the age of your YOUNGEST child under 18 now living with you?

Based on mothers with more than one child under 18; n=249.

37	0 to 4 years of age
45	5 to 11 years of age
18	12 to 17 years of age
<u>-</u>	Refused
100	

D7. Do you have any ADULT children, that is, sons or daughters who are now 18 years of age or older?

45	Yes
55	No
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

Motherhood Status

74	Total Mothers
38	Mothers with children under 18 in household
45	Mothers with adult children
29	Mothers with only children under 18 in household
35	Mothers with only adult children
10	Mothers with both adult children and children under 18 in household
<u>26</u>	Non-mothers
100	

D8. Which, if any, of your own parents are still living . . . **(READ)**

41	Both parents
22	Only your mother
4	Only your father, OR
33	Neither parent?
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)
100	

D9. What is your age?

20	18-29
42	30-49
17	50-64
18	65+
<u>3</u>	Refused
100	

D10. Are you now married, LIVING as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

	<u>Mothers of Children under 18</u>	<u>Mothers of Adult Children</u>	<u>Non-mothers</u>
54 Married	66	60	30
3 Living as Married	3	2	4
13 Widowed	2	21	12
12 Divorced	15	12	8
2 Separated	4	2	2
16 Never Married	10	2	44
<u>*</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100	100	100	100

D11. Are you now employed full-time for pay, part-time, are you retired or are you not employed for pay?

		Mothers of <u>Children under 18</u>	Mothers of <u>Adult Children</u>	<u>Non-mothers</u>
42	Employed full-time	51	34	50
15	Employed part-time	18	13	16
21	Retired	1	37	16
18	Not employed	25	13	15
1	Disabled (VOL.)	1	1	1
1	Student (VOL.)	1	*	2
2	Homemaker (VOL.)	3	2	*
*	Don't know/Refused	-	*	-
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

D12. Thinking again about your adult children, that is, sons or daughters who are now 18 years of age or older . . . Do any of your adult children now live in your household, including any who may be away at school part of the year?/Do you now live with one of your adult children?

Based on mothers of adult children; n=483.

29	Yes, mother and adult child live together
28	Yes, adult child lives within your household
1	Yes, mother lives with adult child in child's household
70	No
<u>1</u>	Refused
<u>100</u>	

D13. What is the age of your OLDEST son or daughter now living in your household?

Based on mothers with adult children living in their household; n=141.

61	18 to 22 years of age
21	22 to 28 years of age
16	30 and older
<u>2</u>	Refused
<u>100</u>	

D14. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

4	None, or grade 1-8
12	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
34	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
4	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
24	Some college, no 4-year degree
15	College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
6	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward A master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
<u>1</u>	Refused
<u>100</u>	

D15. Last year, that is in 1996, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

10	Less than \$10,000
14	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
16	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
20	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
12	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
5	\$75,000 or under \$100,000
3	\$100,000 or more
8	Don't know (DO NOT READ)
<u>12</u>	Refused (DO NOT READ)
100	

D16. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

7	Yes
92	No
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

D17. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race?

83	White
12	Black or African-American
*	Asian
4	Other or mixed race
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. Have a nice day/evening.