

Invisible Labor, Visible Needs: Making Family Policy Work for Stay-At-Home (And All) Parents

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Appendix 1: Survey instrument

The survey was conducted on Ipsos's non-probability iSay online panel in May 2024, with results analyzed from weighted responses of 1,287 parents of children ages 0-12 who report they are stay-at-home parents (defined as a parent that provides primary child care during the day for at least one child 12 or under). The starting sample was of parents of children ages 0-12, weighted by gender, age, race/ethnicity, and region.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you consider yourself a stay-at-home parent, meaning do you provide primary child care during the day for at least one of your children who is age 12 or below? [SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Yes
- b. No

Which of the following would you describe as the MOST significant challenge faced by your family? [RANDOMIZE - SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Housing costs
- b. Health care costs
- c. Lack of good jobs
- d. Lack of affordable child care
- e. Saving for retirement
- f. Other (please specify)

[INSERT TEXT BOX – ANCHOR]

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How often, if at all, could your household meet an unexpected \$400 expense without having to dip into savings? [SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Often
- b. Sometimes
- c. Rarely
- d. Never

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
[PROGRESSIVE GRID – ROTATE 1-4; 4-1; SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Somewhat agree
- c. Somewhat disagree
- d. Strongly disagree
- e. Don't know [ANCHOR]

[RANDOMIZE]

- The government should do more to support families with a stay-at-home parent
- Stay-at-home parents are respected by policymakers
- Stay-at-home parents are respected by society

What are your current sources of child care during the day, outside of the care provided by yourself? (Mark all that apply) [MULTI-SELECT]

- My spouse or partner
- Relative(s)
- Neighbor(s)
- Friend(s)
- Member(s) of my faith community
- Paid child care (child care center, before- or after-school care, etc.)
- Elementary and/or middle school
- Other (please specify) [INSERT TEXT BOX – ANCHOR]

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How often do you need child care during the day, outside of the care provided by yourself?
[SINGLE SELECT]

- Daily
- A few times a week
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never

How would you describe your access to external child care (care not provided by yourself)?
[SINGLE SELECT]

- a. I have access to the child care I need all of the time
- b. I have access to the child care I need some of the time
- c. I rarely have access to the child care I need
- d. I almost never have access to the child care I need

Would you want to work, or return to work, outside the home if you had access to more affordable paid (external) child care? [SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Yes
- b. No

How much would you support or oppose the following potential policies? [PROGRESSIVE GRID – ROTATE 1-4; 4-1; SINGLE SELECT]

- a. Strongly support
- b. Somewhat support
- c. Somewhat oppose
- d. Strongly oppose
- e. Don't know [ANCHOR]

[RANDOMIZE]

- The federal or state government providing direct cash payments to stay-at-home parents while their kids are below school age
- The federal or state government funding drop-in child care programs for households with a stay-at-home parent
- The federal or state government funding community programs focused on stay-at-home parents with young children such as “parents day out,” playgroups, or other programs that aim to help stay-at-home parents connect with one another
- The federal or state government helping families with a stay-at-home parent afford health care
- The federal or state government helping families with a stay-at-home parent afford housing
- The federal or state government helping families with a stay-at-home parent have a secure path to retirement