

Results from Count on Mothers' study on Mothers' Views on the U.S. Education Climate

Count on Mothers **provides legislators, industry leaders, and policymakers with comprehensive first-hand real-time data to help them make more informed decisions.** Each issue or policy that we examine is selected based on what surveyed mothers have indicated they want to address, reflecting the priorities of mothers from across the country and political spectrum. We survey mothers because they are the largest group charged with the well-being of children. Every mother is welcomed to contribute to our efforts. We do this work because we believe that mothers' first-hand experiences are a critical source of information, essential to the policymaking process.

This report focuses on information Count on Mothers collected in September 2024 on mothers' views and firsthand experiences in regard to their district public school. We compiled the results to find out the proportion of mothers who send their children to public, private, home, or charter schools, whether they would leave their chosen school if they had the option, and their sentiment around their district public school. In addition, we looked at the potential reasons public school enrollment has dropped over the past five years – specifically, the main problems mothers had who would leave public school if they had the option, and the main problems mothers had with public school who opted for private, charter, or home. A total of **669** Mothers residing in **46** states and from across the political spectrum provided feedback based on their first-hand knowledge.

Mothers identified politically within the given choice of very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal. Count on Mothers tallies political affiliation, states of residence, zip codes, ethnicity, number of children, and level of education in order to ensure a representative sample and to study where Mothers agree regardless of ideology. After analyzing Mothers' opinions from the survey, we take this aggregate data and share it with policymakers and the public so they are educated on Mothers' firsthand experiences and views on pressing issues and on the policies that affect children and families that seek to address those issues.

Methodology

Design

This process uses a mixed qualitative-quantitative research design. Cross-sectional surveys were distributed in September 2024.

Instrument

A survey was constructed based on the school climate criteria of the [National School Climate Center](#) to gauge a general understanding of mothers' real-time views on school environments and to find potential reasons for the drop in public school enrollment. The instrument measured the proportion of chosen school-type, whether mothers would change school-type if they had the option, sentiment regarding their school climate, and trust in public school teachers and administrators. An open-ended question was used for more nuanced responses, specifically to find the potential reasons families leave or opt-out of public school. The survey also assessed Mothers' political ideology, state/ zip code of residence, ethnicity, number of children, and level of education to better understand the sample demographics.

Statistical Analysis

Open-ended responses were analyzed for content and grouped thematically. For demographic characteristics, we evaluated differences between groups using chi-square tests. The statistical significance level was set at 0.05. This means that if a particular characteristic has a p-value of 0.05 or less, we can be 95% certain that the difference in the groups is not attributed to chance alone. The lower the p-value, the more confident we can be that there are true differences between the groups. JMP®, Version 17.0.0. SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, 1989–2023 was used for data analysis.

Sampling Procedure

Count on Mothers employs both purposive and snowball sampling strategies. Concerted efforts were made to advertise and distribute the survey to and invite participation of as many mothers as possible. For instance, we created Google advertisements, Instagram-based announcements, and posts in mothers' Instagram groups that consist of participants from across the political spectrum. Additionally, mothers who receive the questionnaire are encouraged to distribute the survey to other mothers who they believe would be interested in sharing their perspectives. At the end of the month, we collect additional responses to fulfill the needed distribution.

Sample

669 mothers from **46** states completed the survey focused on the U.S. education climate. Efforts were made to ensure that survey respondents reflected a range of political ideologies, from very conservative to very liberal. Of the 669 Mothers who identified politically, **14.5%** identified as very conservative, **17.2%** identified as conservative, **34.2%** identified as moderate, **19.9%** identified as liberal, **12.4%** identified as very liberal, and **1.8%** identified as other.

While national data on Mothers' political ideologies has not been identified, studies have examined the political ideologies of women, in general. According to a recent Gallup Poll (2021), 32% of women identified as conservative, 37% of women identified as moderate, and 29% of women identified as liberal. Count on Mothers will continue to invite the participation of Mothers across the political spectrum so that our sample closely mirrors these national trends.

66.5% of respondents reported having 1 or 2 children, which is slightly higher than the National average reported in 2014 ([Pew Research Center](#)). The race and ethnicity of mothers surveyed were similarly distributed to the U.S. National distributions ([2020 US Census](#)). Among mothers surveyed, 36.3% have a college degree or higher, while 63.7% of mothers reported having some college (but no degree) or less.

Main Takeaways

Quantitative Section

3 OUT OF 4 Mothers surveyed send their child(ren) to public schools (74%) followed by homeschooling (8%) then private school (6%) (Table 1a).

- Number of children and education level had an impact on what type of school moms chose for their children.
- Race/ethnicity and political affiliation were not shown to statistically impact the distribution of school type.

Of Mothers who send their kids to public school, about 75% agree – regardless of political ideology – it fosters an emotionally supportive and physically safe environment (Table 3a and Chart 3a).

- Mothers who send their children to charter (95%), parochial (100%), and private schools (90%) more often agree/strongly agree that their school fosters a safe and supportive environment compared to mothers who send to public schools (74%).

While 75% of all Mothers trust the teachers in their district public schools to help kids reach successful academic outcomes, only 65% of Mothers believe public school administrators will ensure successful educational outcomes.

- Political affiliation and race/ethnicity are shown to statistically impact trust in public school administration, however the number of children and education level do not.

About 40% of Mothers who send their kids to public school would change their school type if they could.

- Among mothers who send their kids to charter schools or home school, about 27% would change their school type if they could. Mothers sending to parochial

and private schools were only 13% and 18%, respectively, likely to switch if they could.

Of Mothers who would switch out of public school, almost half said the most important problem to solve in their school is bullying and safety.

- After bullying and safety, the next significant problems to solve are academics/curriculum and inadequate funding. Mothers who were not sending their kids to public school were a little more likely to point to these problems than mothers who were sending their kids to public school.

Qualitative Section

What's the most important problem to solve in your district's public school (whether your kids attend or not)?

There may be some answers as to why 25% of mothers do not believe their district school fosters emotionally supportive and physically safe environments, and why 35% do not trust their administrators to ensure successful academic outcomes. Among the mothers who answered the open-ended question, many agree there is substantial room for improvement in several key areas such as bullying, safety, funding, and academics. **Moms consistently gave two responses over and over: bullying and safety.**

- 1. Bullying**
- 2. Safety**
- 3. Inadequate funding**
- 4. Quality of Academics/Curriculum**

In fact, almost **four in ten moms** who responded to this open-ended question mentioned these two overlapping issues – bullying and safety. Overall, these moms feel that teachers and school administrators are not doing enough to prevent bullying at school.

- A mom from Florida said that children are being bullied by “both students and teachers.”
- A mom from South Carolina said, “the school is doing nothing about it.”
- Some of the moms who feel safety is the most important problem to solve specifically mention gun violence and school shootings.

Additionally, moms are concerned about inadequate funding for schools as well as the quality of academics/curriculum.

- An Illinois mom said the most important problem that needs to be solved in her school district is “actually having the funding needed to provide students and staff with what they need to learn and teach.”
- Other moms said that lack of funding has led to their schools having an aging infrastructure, outdated learning materials, and even lack of air conditioning or heating.
- Some moms who are concerned about the quality of academics and the curriculum are also concerned that students are being promoted to the next grade without adequate knowledge or academic foundation.

After cross-tabbing “most important problems to solve” with mothers who would switch out of public school if they were able to, **we found almost half (46%) pointed to bullying and safety (table 6c). Mothers who were not sending their kids to public school were a little more likely to point to academics/curriculum and inadequate funding.**

Questions on the U.S. Education Climate

1) What type of school does your school age child(ren) attend?

74% of mothers send their child(ren) to public schools, followed by homeschooling (8%), then private school (6%) (Table 1a).

The distribution of school type varied when broken out by education level (no college degree vs. college degree) (Table 1b). Of moms who send their children to private school, more than twice as many have a college degree (68%) than do not have a college degree (33%). Of the moms who send their children to parochial (religious-based) schools, 100% of the moms surveyed have a college degree. The overall distribution appeared to marginally shift (although not statistically significant) by self-reported political affiliation (Table 1c).

Chi-square tests were conducted to determine if the distribution of school type is different based on factors such as number of children, education level, race/ethnicity, and political affiliation. The statistically significant predictors are the number of children (p-value 0.0135) and education level (p-value 0.0029), meaning that these two factors had an impact on what type of school moms chose for their children. Race/ethnicity (p-value 0.1936) and political affiliation (p-value 0.0525) were not shown to statistically impact the distribution of school type.

What type of school does your school age child(ren) attend?

Table 1a: Distribution of School Type

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Public	493	73.7%
Home-school	53	7.9%
Private	40	6.0%
Charter	38	5.7%
Parochial (religious)	8	1.2%
Other	37	5.5%
Grand Total	669	100.0%

Chart 1a: Percentages of School Type

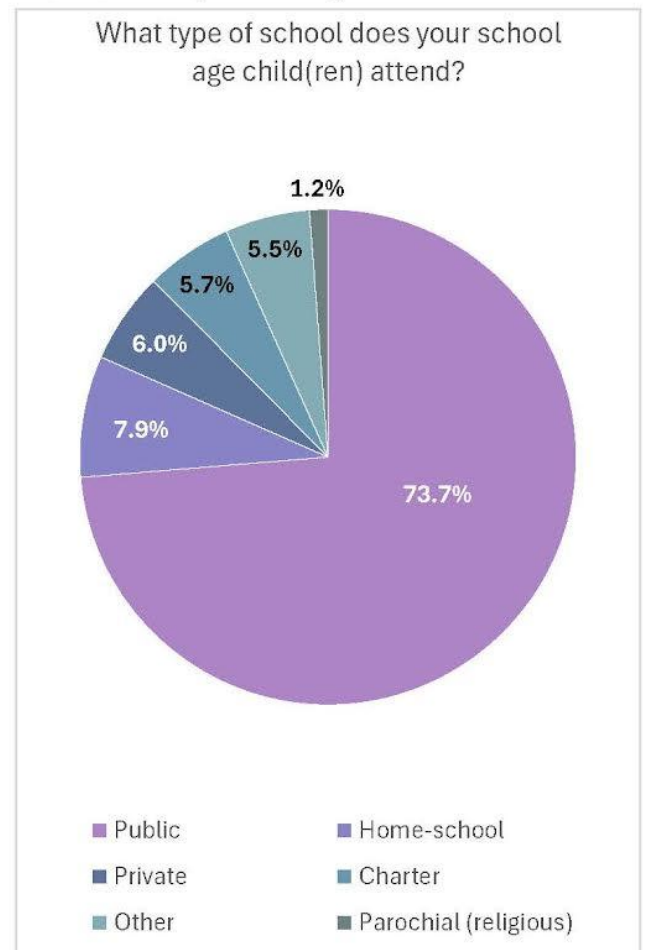


Chart 1b: Distribution of School Type

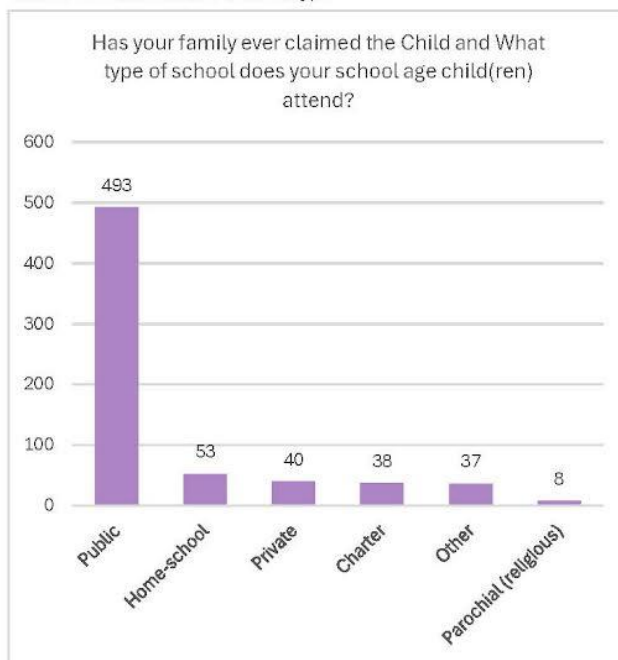


Table 1b: Distribution of School Type by No College Degree vs. College Degree

Education Level		Public	Home-school	Private	Charter	Parochial (religious)	Other	TOTAL
No college degree	# of Respondents	259	26	13	17	0	20	335
	Column %	52.5%	49.1%	32.5%	44.7%	0.0%	54.1%	
	Total %	38.7%	3.9%	1.9%	2.5%	0.0%	3.0%	50.1%
College degree	# of Respondents	234	27	27	21	8	17	334
	Column %	47.5%	50.9%	67.5%	55.3%	100.0%	45.9%	
	Total %	35.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.1%	1.2%	2.5%	49.9%
TOTAL		493	53	40	38	8	37	669

What type of school does your school age child(ren) attend?

Table 1c: Distribution of School Type by Self-Reported Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Public	68	81.9%	Public	106	79.7%
Home-school	4	4.8%	Home-school	5	3.8%
Private	4	4.8%	Private	8	6.0%
Charter	3	3.6%	Charter	6	4.5%
Parochial (religious)	0	0.0%	Parochial (religious)	2	1.5%
Other	4	4.8%	Other	6	4.5%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	133	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Public	167	72.9%	Public	79	68.7%
Home-school	17	7.4%	Home-school	9	7.8%
Private	8	3.5%	Private	11	9.6%
Charter	19	8.3%	Charter	7	6.1%
Parochial (religious)	1	0.4%	Parochial (religious)	3	2.6%
Other	17	7.4%	Other	6	5.2%
Grand Total	229	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Public	66	68.0%			
Home-school	15	15.5%			
Private	8	8.2%			
Charter	2	2.1%			
Parochial (religious)	2	2.1%			
Other	4	4.1%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

2. I would change the type of school my kid(s) attend(s), if I had the option.

There was a relatively even split between moms who would and would not change their child's school type if they had that option (Table 2a and Chart 2a). About 37% of mothers would change their school, about 40% would not change their school type, and about 23% were unsure. Moms who send their children to public school more often agree/strongly agree that they would change their child's school type (41%) compared to moms who send their child(ren) to other types. However, it is notable that moms who send to other types would switch, if they could. Specifically, those who send to parochial (religious) school (13%), private school (18%), and over a quarter of mothers who send kids to charter school (26%), and home school (27%) would change.

There was more of a difference observed when broken out by education level (Table 2b). Of the moms who agree/strongly agree they would change their child's school type, 44% have a college degree and 56% do not have a college degree. When broken out by political affiliation, liberal moms agree/strongly agree less often (29%) that they would change their child's school type compared to the other political affiliations (very liberal: 36%, moderate: 39%, conservative: 41%, and very conservative: 40%). Chi-square tests were conducted to determine if the distribution of moms who would change their child's school is different based on factors such as number of children, education level, race/ethnicity, and political affiliation. Education level (p-value 0.0110), race/ethnicity (p-value 0.0041), political affiliation (p-value 0.0116), and school type (p-value 0.0051) are statistically significant, meaning that these four variables have an impact on whether moms would or would not change their child's school type. However, the number of children (p-value 0.8917) in a family is not shown to have an impact on agreement of whether moms wanted to change their school type if given the opportunity.

I would change the type of school my kid(s) attend(s), if I had the option.

Table 2c: Distribution of Moms Who Would Change Their Child's School Type by Self-Reported Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	18	21.7%	Strongly agree	20	15.0%
Agree	12	14.5%	Agree	18	13.5%
Unsure	17	20.5%	Unsure	24	18.0%
Disagree	13	15.7%	Disagree	39	29.3%
Strongly disagree	23	27.7%	Strongly disagree	32	24.1%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	133	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	44	19.2%	Strongly agree	19	16.5%
Agree	46	20.1%	Agree	28	24.3%
Unsure	60	26.2%	Unsure	33	28.7%
Disagree	49	21.4%	Disagree	18	15.7%
Strongly disagree	30	13.1%	Strongly disagree	17	14.8%
Grand Total	229	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Strongly agree	23	23.7%			
Agree	16	16.5%			
Unsure	14	14.4%			
Disagree	22	22.7%			
Strongly disagree	22	22.7%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

Table 2d: Distribution of Moms Who Would Change Their Child's School Type by School Type

School Type		Agree/ Strongly Agree	Unsure	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	TOTAL
Public	# of Respondents	202	109	182	493
	Row %	41.0%	22.1%	36.9%	
	Total %	30.2%	16.3%	27.2%	73.7%
Home-school	# of Respondents	14	10	29	53
	Row %	26.4%	18.9%	54.7%	
	Total %	2.1%	1.5%	4.3%	7.9%
Private	# of Respondents	7	9	24	40
	Row %	17.5%	22.5%	60.0%	
	Total %	1.0%	1.3%	3.6%	6.0%
Charter	# of Respondents	10	8	20	38
	Row %	26.3%	21.1%	52.6%	
	Total %	1.5%	1.2%	3.0%	5.7%
Parochial (religious)	# of Respondents	1	3	4	8
	Row %	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	
	Total %	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	1.2%
Other	# of Respondents	15	12	10	37
	Row %	40.5%	32.4%	27.0%	
	Total %	2.2%	1.8%	1.5%	5.5%
Grand Total		249	151	269	669

What type of school does your school age child(ren) attend?

Table 2c: Distribution of Moms Who Would Change Their Child's School Type by Self-Reported Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	18	21.7%	Strongly agree	20	15.0%
Agree	12	14.5%	Agree	18	13.5%
Unsure	17	20.5%	Unsure	24	18.0%
Disagree	13	15.7%	Disagree	39	29.3%
Strongly disagree	23	27.7%	Strongly disagree	32	24.1%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	133	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	44	19.2%	Strongly agree	19	16.5%
Agree	46	20.1%	Agree	28	24.3%
Unsure	60	26.2%	Unsure	33	28.7%
Disagree	49	21.4%	Disagree	18	15.7%
Strongly disagree	30	13.1%	Strongly disagree	17	14.8%
Grand Total	229	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Strongly agree	23	23.7%			
Agree	16	16.5%			
Unsure	14	14.4%			
Disagree	22	22.7%			
Strongly disagree	22	22.7%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

Table 2d: Distribution of Moms Who Would Change Their Child's School Type by School Type

School Type		Agree/ Strongly Agree	Unsure	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	TOTAL
Public	# of Respondents	202	109	182	493
	Row %	41.0%	22.1%	36.9%	
	Total %	30.2%	16.3%	27.2%	73.7%
Home-school	# of Respondents	14	10	29	53
	Row %	26.4%	18.9%	54.7%	
	Total %	2.1%	1.5%	4.3%	7.9%
Private	# of Respondents	7	9	24	40
	Row %	17.5%	22.5%	60.0%	
	Total %	1.0%	1.3%	3.6%	6.0%
Charter	# of Respondents	10	8	20	38
	Row %	26.3%	21.1%	52.6%	
	Total %	1.5%	1.2%	3.0%	5.7%
Parochial (religious)	# of Respondents	1	3	4	8
	Row %	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	
	Total %	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	1.2%
Other	# of Respondents	15	12	10	37
	Row %	40.5%	32.4%	27.0%	
	Total %	2.2%	1.8%	1.5%	5.5%
Grand Total		249	151	269	669

3. My school fosters an emotionally supportive, physically safe environment.

Approximately 76% of mothers surveyed agree/strongly agree that the school their child attends fosters an emotionally supportive and physically safe environment (Table 3a and Chart 3a). Moms who send their children to parochial (religious) schools (100%), charter schools (95%), and private schools (90%) more often agree/strongly agree that the school fosters a safe and supportive environment compared to moms who send their children to public schools (74%).

There is a small difference in agreement when broken out by political affiliation, except among very conservative moms (Table 3b). Approximately 71%-77% of moms who self-report as leaning very liberal, liberal, moderate, and conservative agree/strongly agree that their school fosters a supportive and safe environment, while 91% of very conservative mothers agree/strongly agree.

Chi-square tests were conducted to determine if the distribution of moms who felt their child's school fosters an emotionally supportive and physically safe environment is different based on the number of children they have, their education level, race/ethnicity, and political affiliation. Political affiliation (p-value 0.0041) and school type (p-value 0.0003) are the only factors shown to statistically impact moms' agreement that their child's school fosters a supportive and safe environment. Whereas, the number of children (p-value 0.5207), education level (p-value 0.0527), and race/ethnicity (p-value 0.4127) are not statistically significant.

My school fosters an emotionally supportive, physically safe environment.

Table 3a: Distribution of Agreement that Their School Fosters a Safe Environment

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strong agree	237	35.4%
Agree	271	40.5%
Unsure	110	16.4%
Disagree	37	5.5%
Strongly disagree	14	2.1%
Grand Total	669	100.0%

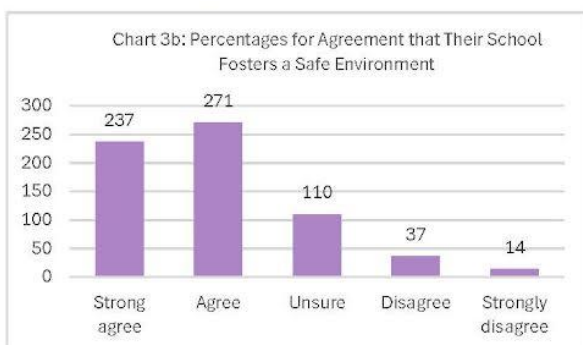


Chart 3a: Percentages of Agreement that Their School Fosters a Safe Environment

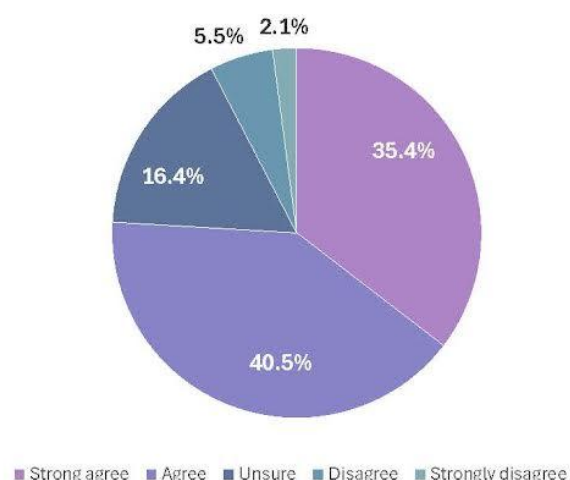


Table 3b: Distribution of Agreement that Their School Fosters a Safe Environment by Self-Reported Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strong agree	41	49.4%	Strong agree	42	31.6%
Agree	23	27.7%	Agree	61	45.9%
Unsure	15	18.1%	Unsure	17	12.8%
Disagree	2	2.4%	Disagree	13	9.8%
Strongly disagree	2	2.4%	Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	133	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strong agree	66	28.8%	Strong agree	36	31.3%
Agree	96	41.9%	Agree	48	41.7%
Unsure	50	21.8%	Unsure	19	16.5%
Disagree	10	4.4%	Disagree	10	8.7%
Strongly disagree	7	3.1%	Strongly disagree	2	1.7%
Grand Total	229	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Strong agree	48	49.5%			
Agree	40	41.2%			
Unsure	5	5.2%			
Disagree	1	1.0%			
Strongly disagree	3	3.1%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

Table 3c: Distribution of Agreement that Their School Fosters a Safe Environment by School Type

School Type		Agree/ Strongly Agree	Unsure	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	TOTAL
Public	# of Respondents	364	86	43	493
	Row %	73.8%	17.4%	8.7%	
	Total %	54.4%	12.9%	6.4%	73.7%
Home-school	# of Respondents	41	6	6	53
	Row %	77.4%	11.3%	11.3%	
	Total %	6.1%	0.9%	0.9%	7.9%
Private	# of Respondents	36	4	0	40
	Row %	90.0%	10.0%	0.0%	
	Total %	5.4%	0.6%	0.0%	6.0%
Charter	# of Respondents	36	2	0	38
	Row %	94.7%	5.3%	0.0%	
	Total %	5.4%	0.3%	0.0%	5.7%
Parochial (religious)	# of Respondents	8	0	0	8
	Row %	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Total %	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Other	# of Respondents	23	12	2	37
	Row %	62.2%	32.4%	5.4%	
	Total %	3.4%	1.8%	0.3%	5.5%
Grand Total		508	110	51	669

4. Overall, I trust the teachers in my public school to help my child(ren) reach successful academic goals.

75% of mothers trust the teachers in their public schools to help their child(ren) reach successful academic outcomes. The proportion of moms who agree/strongly agree is mostly consistent across the political spectrum (72%-76%) except for very liberal moms who more often agree (84%) that they trust the teachers in their public schools to help their children reach successful academic outcomes. Chi-square tests were conducted to determine if the distribution of moms who trust the teachers in their public schools to help their children reach successful academic outcomes is different based on the number of children they have, their education level, race/ethnicity, and political affiliation. Political affiliation (p-value 0.0002) is the only factor shown to have a statistically significant impact on moms trusting the teachers in their public schools to help their children reach successful academic outcomes. Whereas, the number of children (p-value 0.9842), education level (p-value 0.9472), and race/ethnicity (p-value 0.3410) are not statistically significant.

Overall, I trust the teachers in my public school to help my child(ren) reach successful academic outcomes.

Table 4a. Distribution of Mothers' Agreement in Trusting the Teachers in Their Public School to Help Their Child(ren) Reach Successful Academic Outcomes

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	211	31.7%
Agree	285	42.8%
Unsure	106	15.9%
Disagree	40	6.0%
Strongly disagree	24	3.6%
Grand Total	666	100.0%

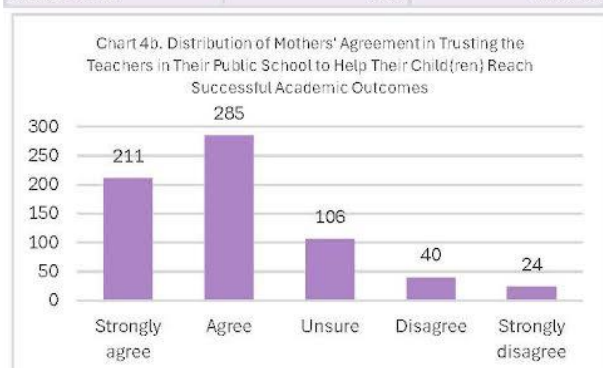


Chart 4a. Percentages of Mothers' Agreement in Trusting the Teachers in Their Public School to Help Their Child(ren) Reach Successful Academic Outcomes

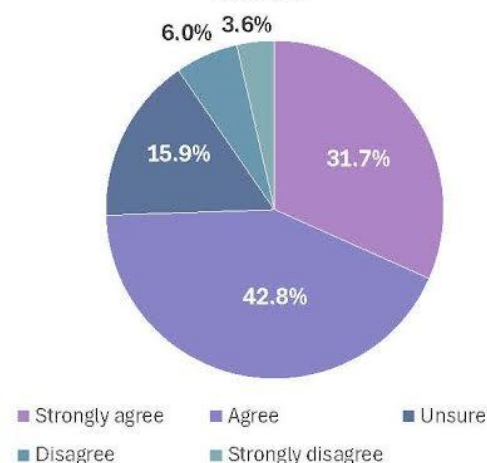


Table 4b. Distribution of Mothers' Agreement in Trusting the Teachers in Their Public School to Help Their Child(ren) Reach Successful Academic Outcomes by Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	38	45.8%	Strongly agree	46	35.1%
Agree	32	38.6%	Agree	54	41.2%
Unsure	9	10.8%	Unsure	22	16.8%
Disagree	2	2.4%	Disagree	8	6.1%
Strongly disagree	2	2.4%	Strongly disagree	1	0.8%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	131	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	56	24.6%	Strongly agree	36	31.3%
Agree	109	47.8%	Agree	48	41.7%
Unsure	48	21.1%	Unsure	18	15.7%
Disagree	10	4.4%	Disagree	8	7.0%
Strongly disagree	5	2.2%	Strongly disagree	5	4.3%
Grand Total	228	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Strongly agree	34	35.1%			
Agree	38	39.2%			
Unsure	7	7.2%			
Disagree	9	9.3%			
Strongly disagree	9	9.3%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

5. Overall, I trust the public school administrators (principal, assistant principal, superintendent) in my district to ensure successful educational outcomes.

Over 65% of mothers surveyed agree/strongly agree that they trust the public school administrators (principal, assistant principal, superintendent) in their district to ensure successful educational outcomes. The proportion of moms who agree/strongly agree is mostly consistent across the political spectrum (61%-67%) except for very liberal moms who more often agree (78%) that they trust their public school administrators to ensure successful educational outcomes.

Chi-square tests were conducted to determine if the distribution of moms who trust their public school administrator is different based on the number of children they have, their education level, race/ethnicity, and political affiliation. Political affiliation (p-value 0.0041) and race/ethnicity (p-value 0.0470) are shown to statistically impact moms' agreement that their child's school fosters a supportive and safe environment. The number of children (p-value 0.1106) and education level (p-value 0.2835) are not statistically significant.

Overall, I trust the public school administrators (principal, assistant principal, superintendent) in my district to ensure successful educational outcomes for my child(ren).

Table 5a. Distribution of Agreement of Moms That Trust the Public School Administrators in Their District to Ensure Successful Educational Outcomes

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	172	25.7%
Agree	264	39.5%
Unsure	131	19.6%
Disagree	58	8.7%
Strongly disagree	44	6.6%
Grand Total	669	100.0%

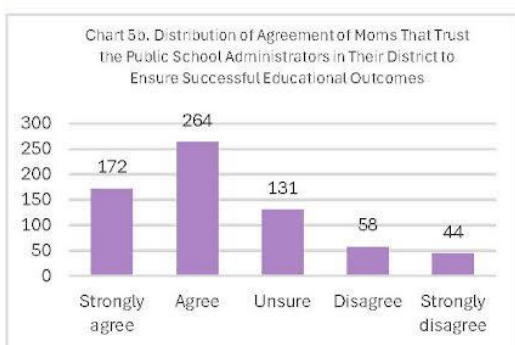


Chart 5a. Percentages of Agreement of Moms That Trust the Public School Administrators in Their District to Ensure Successful Educational Outcomes

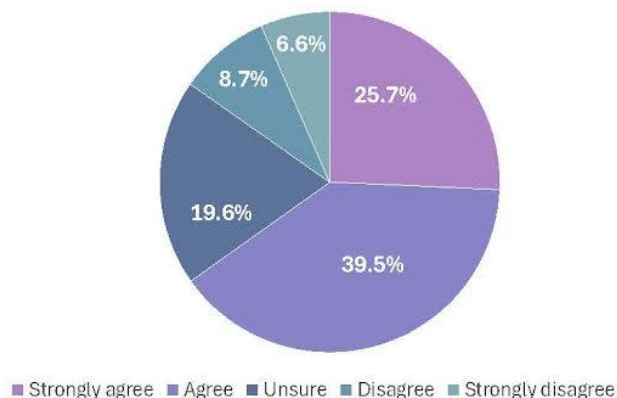


Table 5b. Distribution of Agreement of Moms That Trust the Public School Administrators in Their District to Ensure Successful Educational Outcomes By Political Affiliation

Very Liberal			Liberal		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	30	36.1%	Strongly agree	33	24.8%
Agree	35	42.2%	Agree	53	39.8%
Unsure	9	10.8%	Unsure	26	19.5%
Disagree	5	6.0%	Disagree	15	11.3%
Strongly disagree	4	4.8%	Strongly disagree	6	4.5%
Grand Total	83	100.0%	Grand Total	133	100.0%
Moderate			Conservative		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample		# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Strongly agree	49	21.4%	Strongly agree	30	26.1%
Agree	91	39.7%	Agree	49	42.6%
Unsure	66	28.8%	Unsure	16	13.9%
Disagree	13	5.7%	Disagree	12	10.4%
Strongly disagree	10	4.4%	Strongly disagree	8	7.0%
Grand Total	229	100.0%	Grand Total	115	100.0%
Very Conservative					
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample			
Strongly agree	30	30.9%			
Agree	30	30.9%			
Unsure	12	12.4%			
Disagree	12	12.4%			
Strongly disagree	13	13.4%			
Grand Total	97	100.0%			

Qualitative Questions

What's the most important problem to solve in your district's public school (whether your kids attend or not)?

Almost half of the mothers who send their kids to public school, and would switch to another type if they could, said that bullying and safety were the most important problems to solve. All mothers who answered the open-ended question, and who attended all types of schools felt similar about their district public school – bullying and safety were the most important problems to solve. However, mothers who were not attending public schools were more likely to say that academics/curriculum and inadequate funding were important problems to solve than moms who were attending public schools.

Moms consistently gave two responses over and over:

1) Bullying

2) Safety

In fact, almost four in ten moms who responded to this open-ended question mentioned these two overlapping issues. Overall, moms feel that teachers and school administrators are not doing enough to prevent bullying at school. Some of the moms who feel safety is the most important problem to solve specifically mention gun violence and school shootings.

- A mom from Florida even said that children are being bullied by “both students and teachers,” and
- A mom from South Carolina said, “the school is doing nothing about it.”

Additionally, moms are concerned about:

3) Inadequate funding for schools

4) The quality of academics/curriculum

- An Illinois mom said the most important problem that needs to be solved in her school district is “actually having the funding needed to provide students and staff with what they need to learn and teach,”
- Other moms said that lack of funding has led to their schools having an aging infrastructure, outdated learning materials, and even lack of air conditioning or heating.
- Some moms who are concerned about the quality of academics and the curriculum are also concerned that students are being promoted to the next grade without adequate knowledge or academic foundation.

While most moms have positive feelings towards the schools their children attend, many moms agree there is substantial room for improvement in several key areas such as bullying, safety, funding, and academics. After cross-tabbing “most important problems to solve” with mothers who would switch out of public school if they were able to, **we found almost half (46%) pointed to bullying and safety (table 6c). Mothers who were not sending to public school were a little more likely to point to academics/curriculum and inadequate funding.**

What's the most important problem to solve in your district's public school (whether your kids attend or not)?

Table 6a. Distribution of Categorized Open Ended Responses

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Bullying	109	18.2%
Safety	109	18.2%
Inadequate funding	57	9.5%
Academics/Curriculum	55	9.2%
Other	51	8.5%
Large class size/inadequate number of teachers	39	6.5%
Teacher retention/teacher pay	29	4.8%
Behavior and mental health	23	3.8%
Political agendas (both ends of the spectrum)	19	3.2%
Inadequate resources for students with special needs	18	3.0%
Facilities/infrastructure/maintenance	16	2.7%
Food/nutrition issues	10	1.7%
Equity/equality issues	9	1.5%
Lack of inclusion	9	1.5%
Transportation/bus issues	8	1.3%
Standardized testing	8	1.3%
Drugs/smoking	6	1.0%
Attendance	6	1.0%
Teacher qualifications	6	1.0%
Inadequate school administration	5	0.8%
Lack of communication with parents	4	0.7%
School rezoning	3	0.5%
Grand Total	599	100.0%

Table 6b. Distribution of Categorized Open Ended Responses: Moms Who Send Their Children to Public School Who Would Change School Type Given the Opportunity

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Bullying	51	27.9%
Safety	33	18.0%
Other	16	8.7%
Academics/Curriculum	15	8.2%
Inadequate funding	10	5.5%
Large class size/inadequate number of teachers	10	5.5%
Behavior and mental health	9	4.9%
Inadequate resources for students with special needs	7	3.8%
Teacher retention/teacher pay	6	3.3%
Attendance	4	2.2%
Political agendas (both ends of the spectrum)	4	2.2%
Standardized testing	4	2.2%
Lack of communication with parents	3	1.6%
Transportation/bus issues	2	1.1%
Facilities/infrastructure/maintenance	2	1.1%
Inadequate school administration	2	1.1%
Drugs/smoking	2	1.1%
Equity/equality issues	1	0.5%
Teacher qualifications	1	0.5%
Lack of inclusion	1	0.5%
Grand Total	183	30.6%

Note: Verbatim open ended responses have been categorized

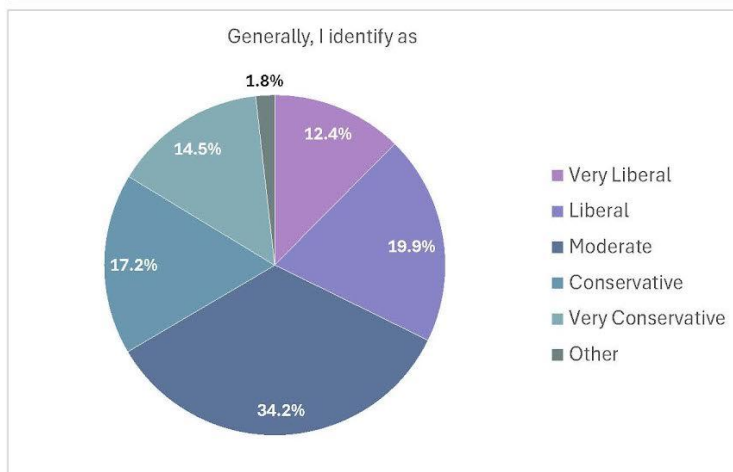
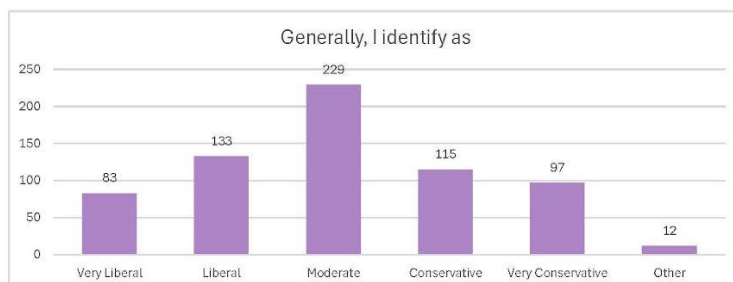
Political Ideology

Count on Mothers is committed to representing Mothers of all political ideologies so that policymakers can be best informed of mothers' experiences and views regardless of ideology or politics.

Regarding the political background of the survey respondents, the sample closely reflects the U.S. breakdown of political ideology among women according to Gallup. **14.5%** identified as very conservative, **17.2%** identified as conservative, **34.2%** identified as moderate, **19.9%** identified as liberal, **12.4%** identified as very liberal, and **1.8%** identified as other.

Generally, I identify as

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Very Liberal	83	12.4%
Liberal	133	19.9%
Moderate	229	34.2%
Conservative	115	17.2%
Very Conservative	97	14.5%
Other	12	1.8%
Grand Total	669	100.0%



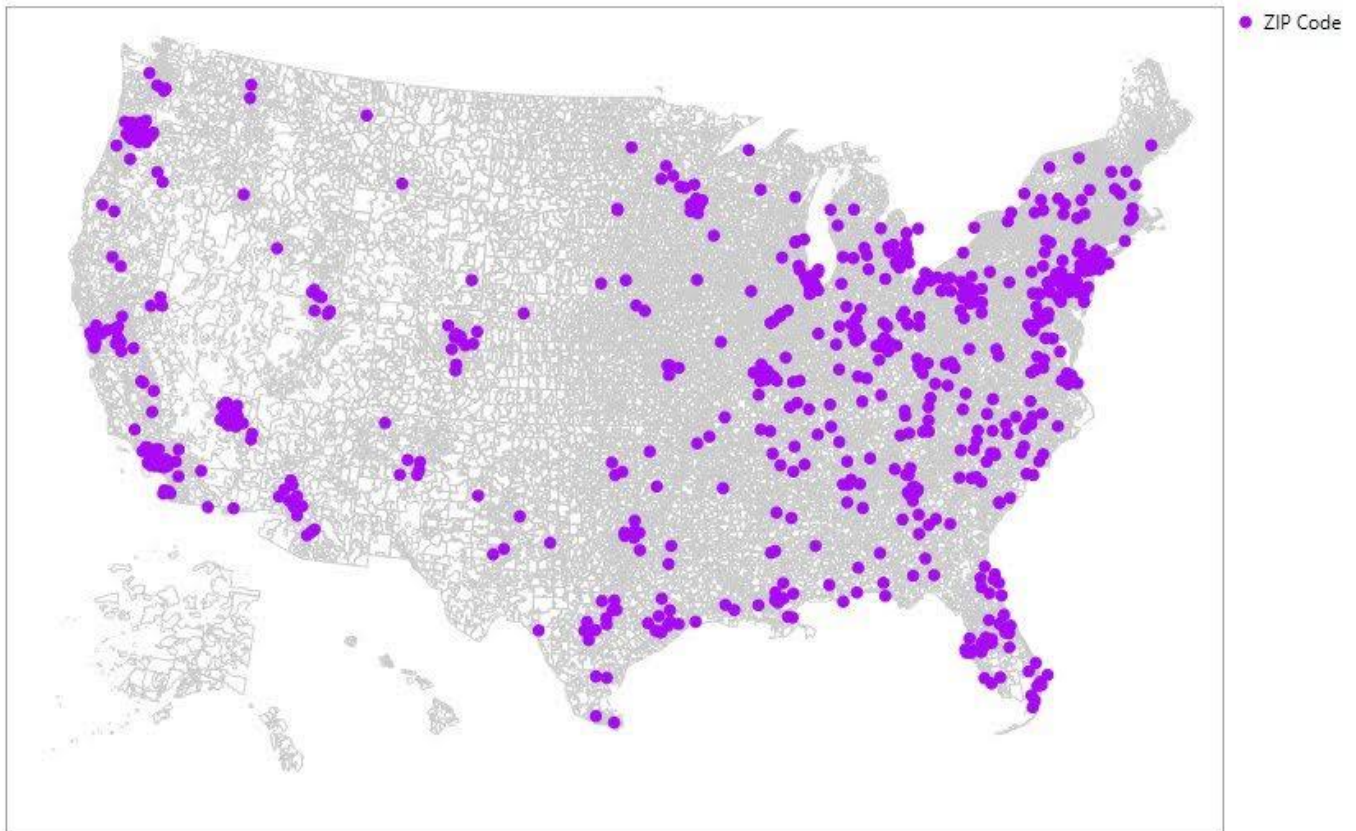
State of Residence Question

Mothers who responded to the survey and answered the state of residence question resided in 46 states. The states with the most representation included: California (7.5%), New York (6.9%), Florida (6.7%), Pennsylvania (6.4%), Texas (6.3%), Ohio (4.2%), Illinois (4.2%), Oregon (4.2%), North Carolina (3.9%), Michigan (3.7%), Nevada (3.6%), and Georgia (3.1%).

I live in		
	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Alabama	8	1.2%
Arizona	17	2.5%
Arkansas	5	0.7%
California	50	7.5%
Colorado	12	1.8%
Connecticut	2	0.3%
Delaware	1	0.1%
Florida	45	6.7%
Georgia	21	3.1%
Idaho	1	0.1%
Illinois	28	4.2%
Indiana	16	2.4%
Iowa	2	0.3%
Kansas	1	0.1%
Kentucky	12	1.8%
Louisiana	10	1.5%
Maine	1	0.1%
Maryland	11	1.6%
Massachusetts	5	0.7%
Michigan	25	3.7%
Minnesota	17	2.5%
Mississippi	7	1.0%
Missouri	16	2.4%
Montana	2	0.3%
Nebraska	5	0.7%
Nevada	24	3.6%
New Hampshire	4	0.6%
New Jersey	18	2.7%
New Mexico	7	1.0%
New York	46	6.9%
North Carolina	26	3.9%
North Dakota	1	0.1%
Ohio	28	4.2%
Oklahoma	5	0.7%
Oregon	28	4.2%
Pennsylvania	43	6.4%
South Carolina	10	1.5%
South Dakota	2	0.3%
Tennessee	14	2.1%
Texas	42	6.3%
Utah	7	1.0%
Virginia	20	3.0%
Washington	7	1.0%
Washington D.C.	1	0.1%
West Virginia	8	1.2%
Wisconsin	7	1.0%
Wyoming	1	0.1%
Grand Total	669	100.0%

**All states represented except Alaska, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont*

Map of Respondents Based on Zip Code

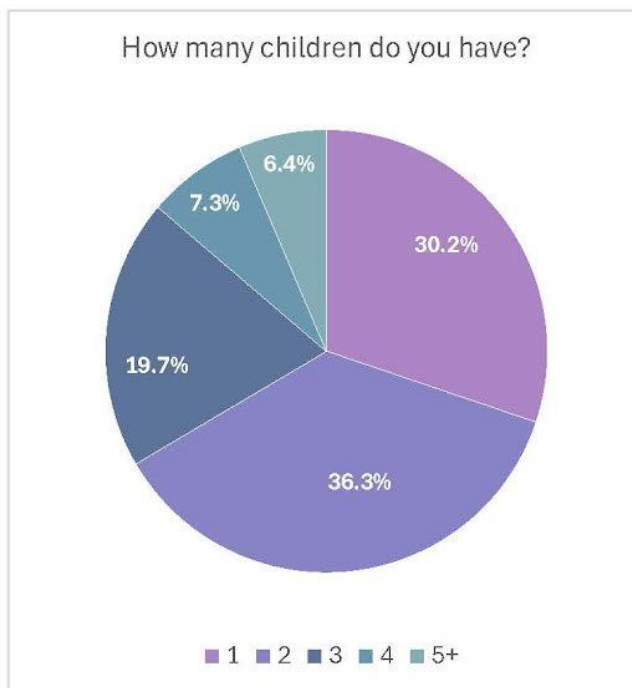
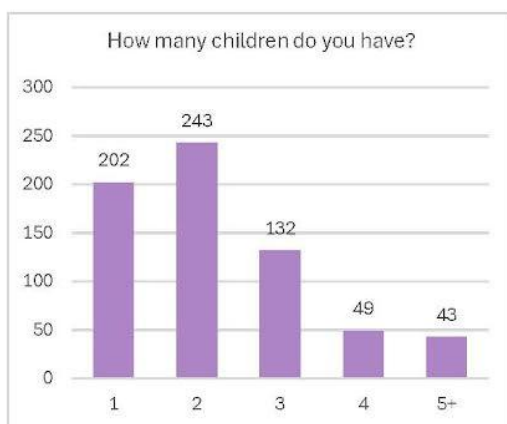


Demographics

- Most mothers surveyed report having 1 or 2 children (67%), which is aligned with national averages (Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/05/07/family-size-among-mothers/>).
 - The race and ethnicity of mothers surveyed are also similarly distributed to the US national distributions (2020 US Census: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html>).
 - There is an even split between mothers surveyed who have a college degree (n = 335, 49.9%) and mothers who do not have a college degree (n = 334, 50.1%).
-

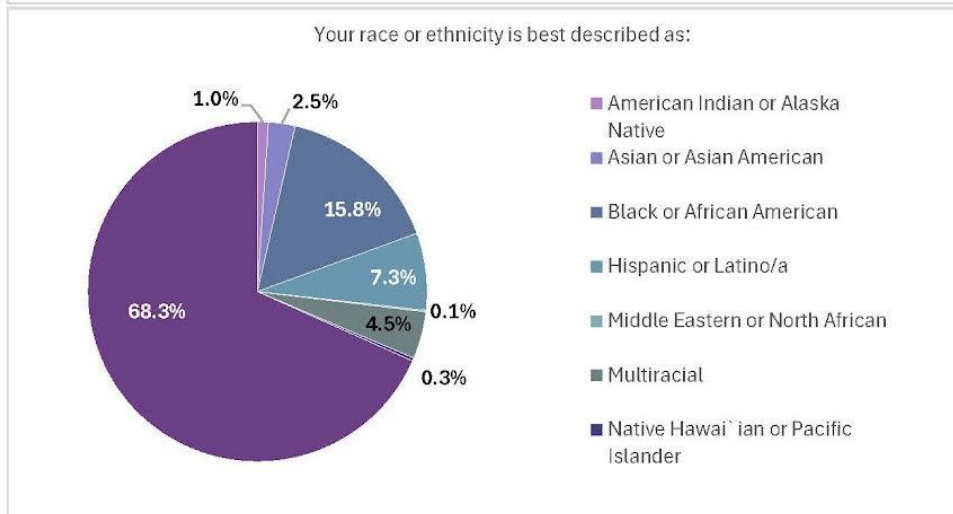
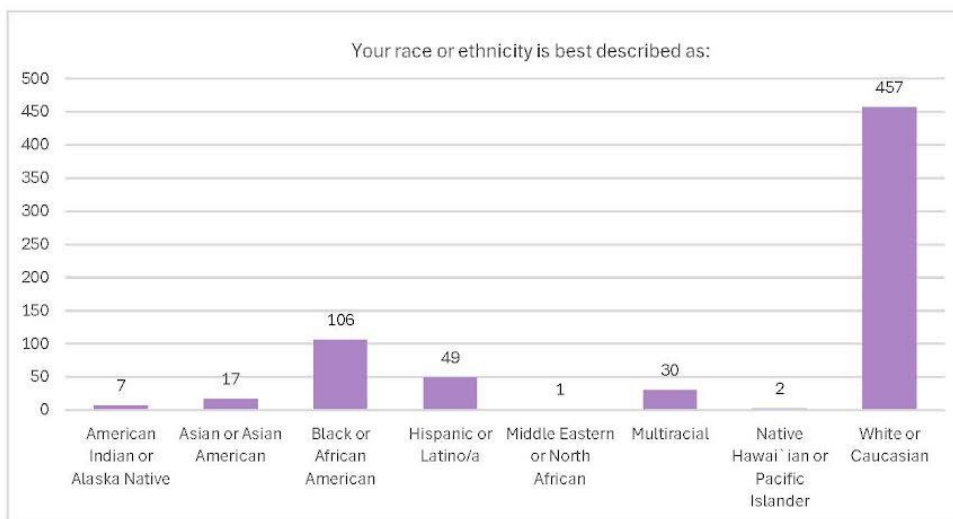
How many children do you have?

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
1	202	30.2%
2	243	36.3%
3	132	19.7%
4	49	7.3%
5+	43	6.4%



Your race or ethnicity is best described as:

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	1.0%
Asian or Asian American	17	2.5%
Black or African American	106	15.8%
Hispanic or Latino/a	49	7.3%
Middle Eastern or North African	1	0.1%
Multiracial	30	4.5%
Native Hawai'ian or Pacific Islander	2	0.3%
White or Caucasian	457	68.3%
Grand Total	669	100.0%



What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
12th grade or less	33	4.93%
Graduated from high school or equivalent (e.g., GED)	162	24.22%
Some college, but no degree	140	20.93%
Associate degree	91	13.60%
Bachelor's degree	146	21.82%
Master's degree	78	11.66%
Doctoral degree	19	2.84%
Grand Total	669	100.00%

