



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

MEN AND WOMEN HAVE DIFFERING VIEWS ON WHO HANDLES HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE IMPACT OF HAVING A CHILD ON PARENTS' CAREERS.

Mothers are more likely than fathers to say that they do all or most household responsibilities, while fathers tend to say they share the responsibilities equally, according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll also finds that women are more likely than men to say having a child is an obstacle to job security.

Thirty-five percent of mothers report doing more than their partner for each of the eight household responsibilities asked about on the survey, compared to just 3% of fathers who report the same.

A majority of nonparents, regardless of gender, expect to share responsibilities equally should they have children with a partner someday. However, women are still more likely than men to expect to do more than their partner for three-fourths of the responsibilities.

When it comes to the workplace, half of adults who have been employed say having a child is an obstacle to employees' advancement. About 4 in 10 say the same regarding job security and the opportunity for a raise. Women and adults under 30 are more likely to view having a child as an obstacle.



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Three Things You Should Know

About the UChicago Harris/AP-NORC Poll Among American Adults:

- 1) 35% of mothers report doing more than their partner for each of the eight household responsibilities asked about, compared to just 3% of fathers who report the same.
- 2) 47% of women say having a child is an obstacle to job security compared with 36% of men.
- 3) Adults making less than \$50,000 a year are more likely than adults with more income to say having a child is a major obstacle for job security (50% vs. 35%) and job advancement (55% vs. 46%).

To manage work and personal lives, 66% of adults have chosen a job with a schedule that allows them to manage their other responsibilities, and 68% get support from friends or family.

The survey finds that among parents and nonparents, the top factors when considering having a child are a stable partner and a secure job.

The nationwide poll was conducted by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from October 7 to October 11, 2021, using AmeriSpeak®, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 1,054 adults. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.0 percentage points.

Other key findings from the study include:

- 43% of adults without a college degree say having a child is an obstacle to getting a raise, while 32% of adults with a college degree say the same.
- Parents are more likely than nonparents to have chosen a job with a schedule to manage their personal responsibilities, spend less time at their job to focus on friends or family, and to have made sure they have the support of friends or family.
- Women are more likely than men to have chosen a job with a schedule that lets them manage personal responsibilities (70% vs. 61%) and make sure they have the support of friends or family (73% vs. 64%).
- 74% of Americans without children say having enough savings is an extremely or very important factor when thinking about their decision whether to have children, compared to 59% of parents who say it was important.
- Women are more likely than men to say flexibility at work is extremely or very important when thinking about whether to have a child (74% vs. 66%).

MOTHERS REPORT THAT THEY TAKE ON MORE HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES THAN THEIR PARTNER, WHILE FATHERS SAY THEY SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES EQUALLY.

When it comes to raising children, men and women have different perspectives on the division of household labor.

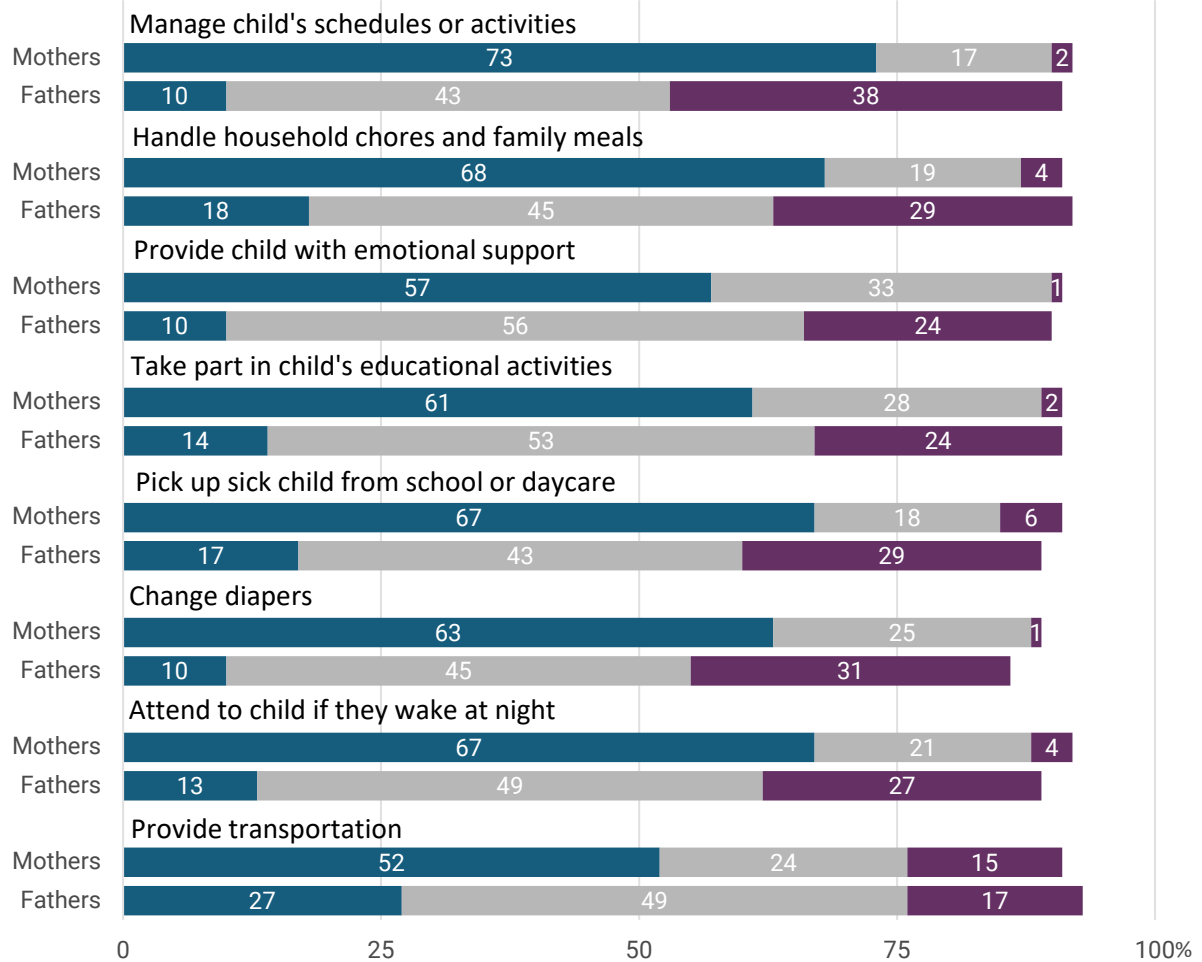
Among parents, mothers are more likely to say that they do all or most of the household responsibilities. In contrast, fathers are more likely to say that they share responsibilities equally with their partner or that their partner does more. This is true both for parents thinking about their current responsibilities and parents whose children are 18 or older thinking about what they did when raising younger children.

And 35% of mothers report doing more than their partner for each of the eight household responsibilities listed on the survey, compared to just 3% of fathers who say the same.

Mothers are more likely than fathers to say they do most of the household responsibilities.

Percent of parents

■ I do/did all/most of it ■ Partner and I do about the same ■ My partner does/did all/most of it



Question: For each of the following, who would you say [did/does] more in your household [when you were raising children]? If you [didn't/don't] have a partner, you can say that too.

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



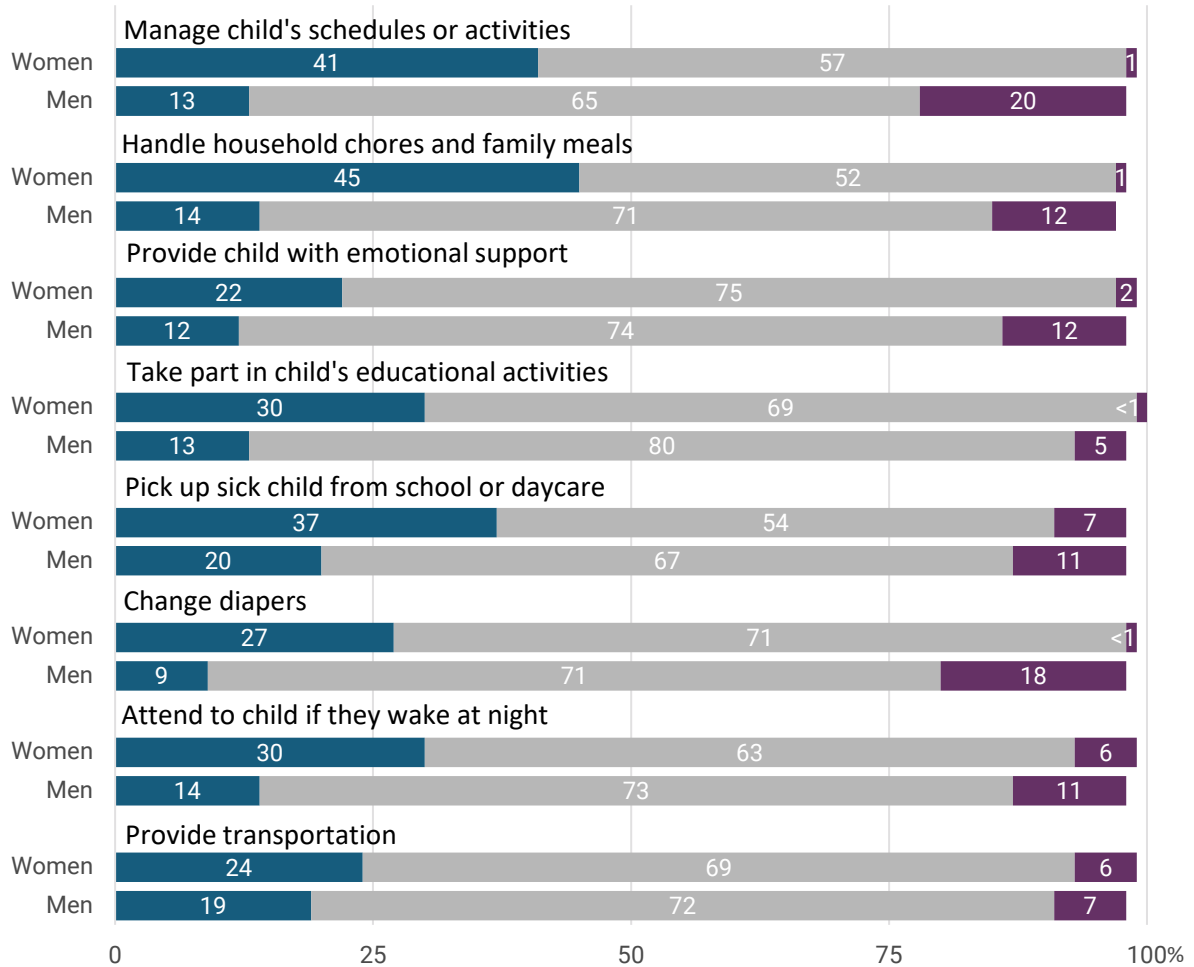
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A majority of men and women without children expect to share household labor equally should they have children with a partner someday. However, even among nonparents, women expect to do more than their partner for all responsibilities other than providing transportation and emotional support. Men are more likely to say that their partner would do more.

Among nonparents, women are more likely than men to say they expect to do most of the household responsibilities.

Percent of nonparents

■ I would do all/most of it ■ Partner and I would do about the same ■ My partner would do all/most of it



Question: For each of the following, who would you expect to do more in your household if you had a child with a partner?
Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.

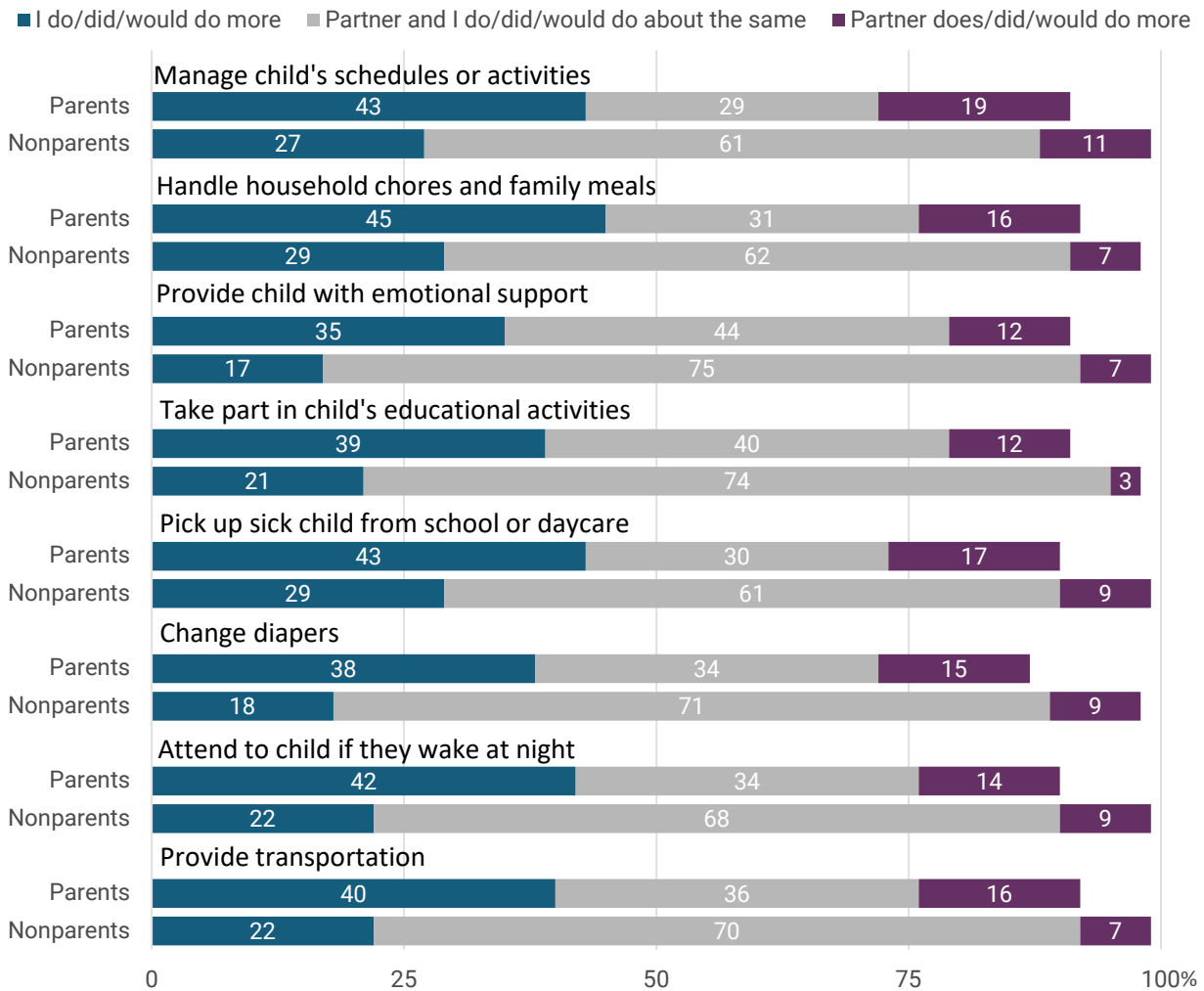


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Although women expect to do more in their household, Americans without children are still more optimistic that they would share responsibilities equally with a partner than what parents report.

Nonparents are more optimistic that they will share responsibilities equally with their partner than what parents report.

Percent of adults



Question: For each of the following, who would you say [did/does] more in your household [when you were raising children]? If you [didn't/don't] have a partner, you can say that too.

Question: For each of the following, who would you expect to do more in your household if you had a child with a partner?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.

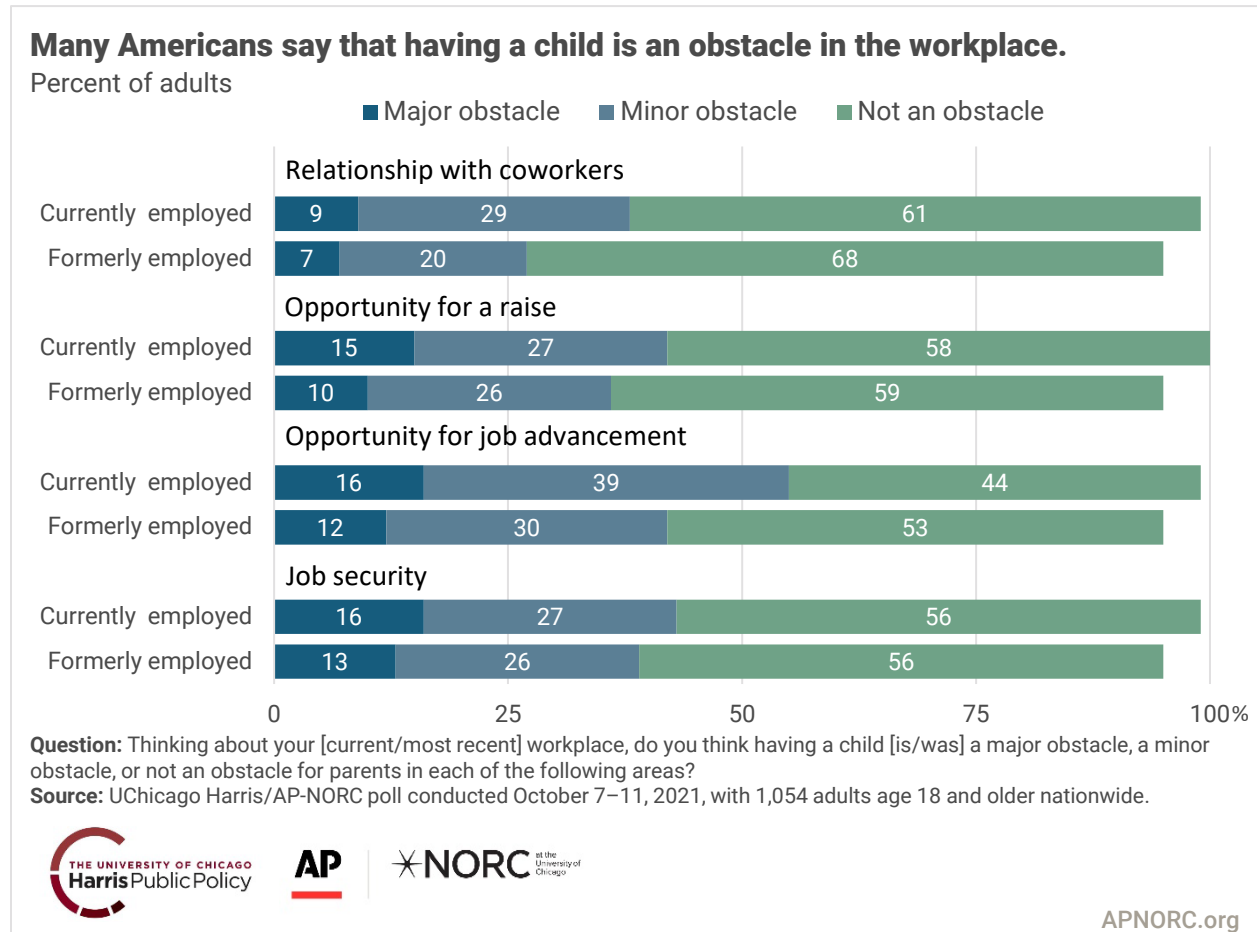


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MANY AMERICANS SAY HAVING A CHILD IS AN OBSTACLE FOR PARENTS' JOB SECURITY AND ADVANCEMENT.

Although a majority of American adults are parents, many report that having a child is an obstacle in the workplace. About half of adults who are currently employed view having a child as an obstacle to employees' opportunity for advancement. About 4 in 10 say the same regarding job security, the opportunity for a raise, and relationships with coworkers.

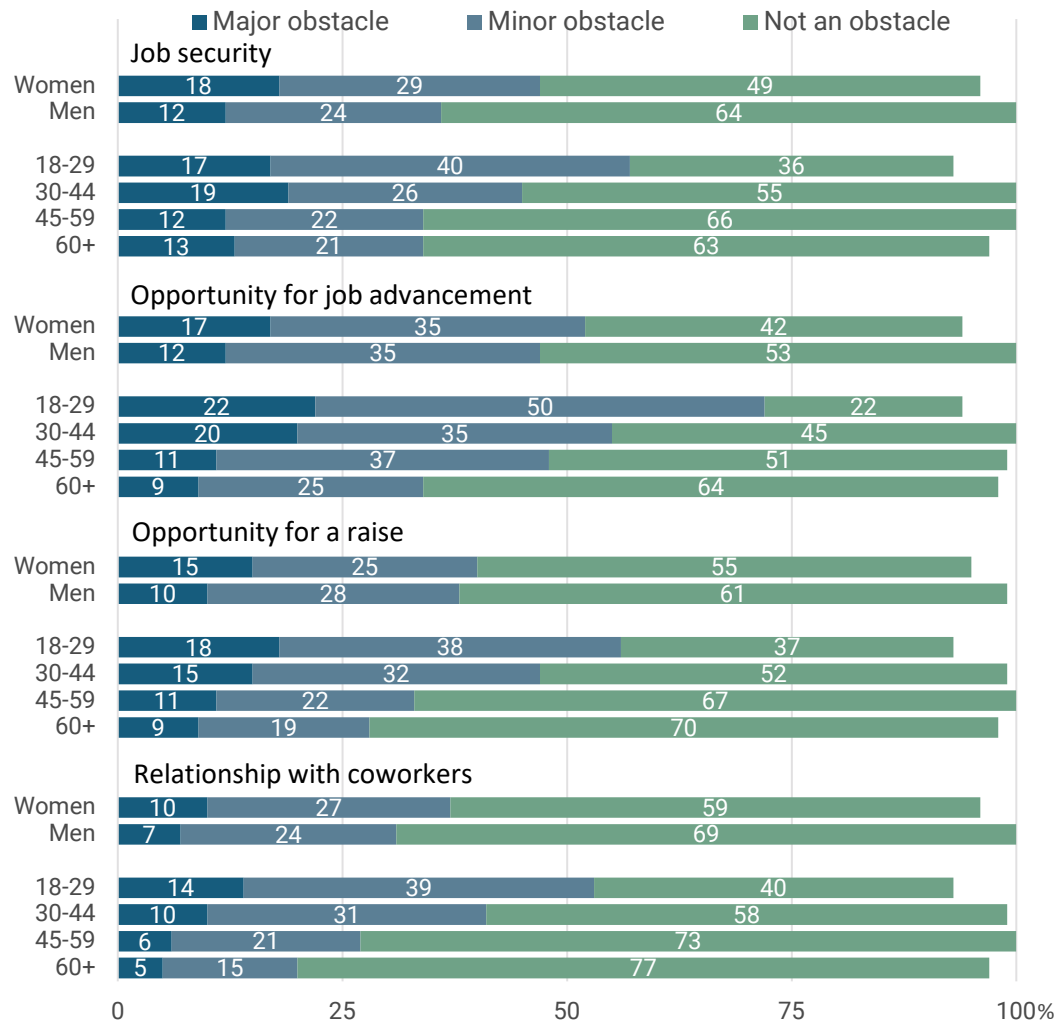
There are also no significant differences in opinions about the impact of children on parents' careers between currently employed and formerly employed Americans.



Among all adults who are currently employed or have been employed, men are less likely than women to say having a child is an obstacle to job security, job advancement, and relationships with coworkers. Adults under 30 are also more likely than older adults to report having a child is an obstacle.

Women and adults under 30 are more likely to view having a child as an obstacle in the workplace.

Percent of adults who have ever been employed



Question: Thinking about your [current/most recent] workplace, do you think having a child [is/was] a major obstacle, a minor obstacle, or not an obstacle for parents in each of the following areas?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



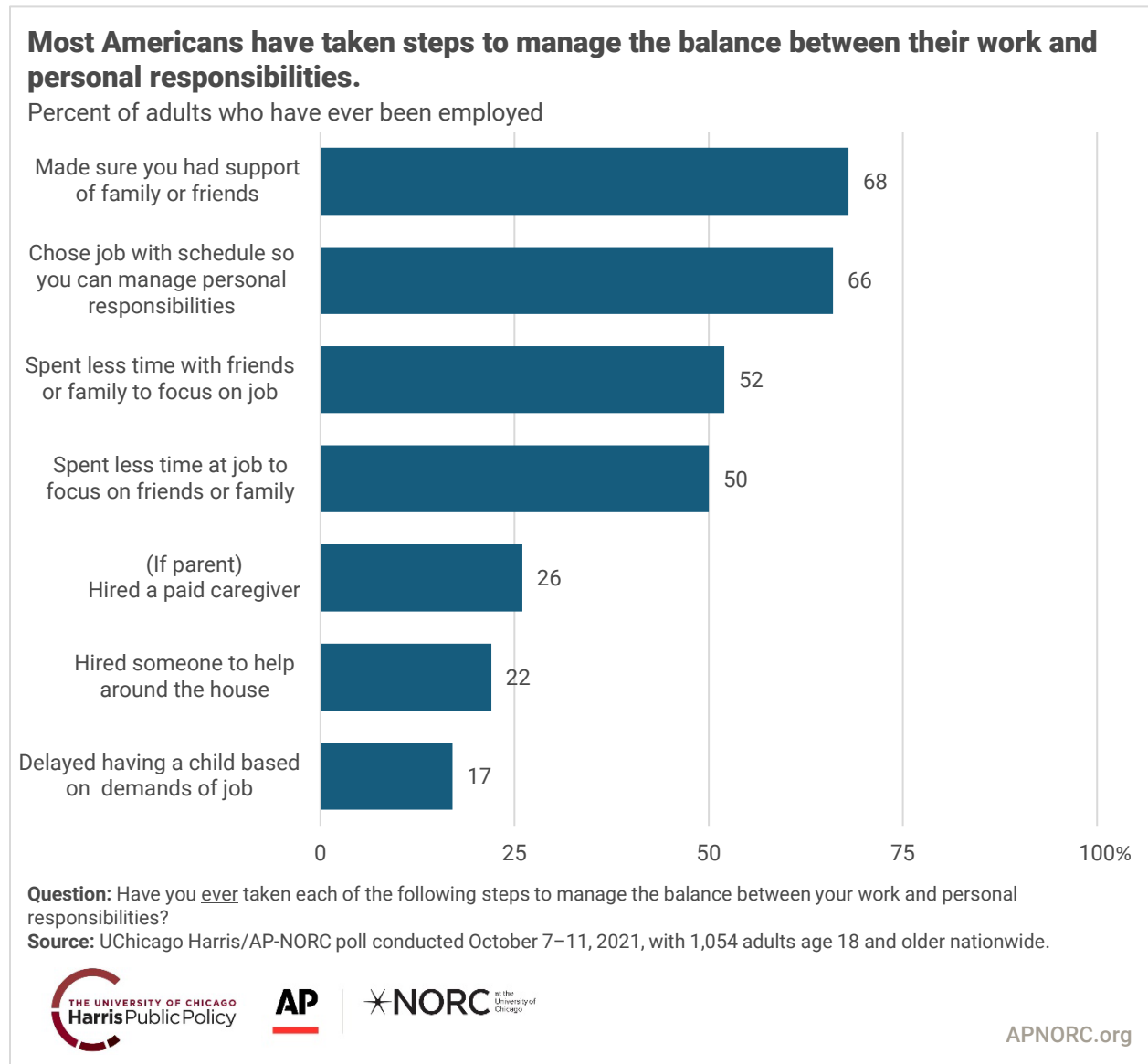
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Socioeconomic differences emerge in terms of the impact of a child on parents' careers. Forty-three percent of adults without a college degree view having a child as an obstacle to getting a raise, including 15% who say it is a major obstacle. Just 32% of adults with a college degree say it is an obstacle.

Adults making less than \$50,000 a year are more likely than higher-income adults to say having a child is an obstacle to job security (50% vs. 35%) and job advancement (55% vs. 46%).

MOST AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO MANAGE THE BALANCE BETWEEN WORK AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

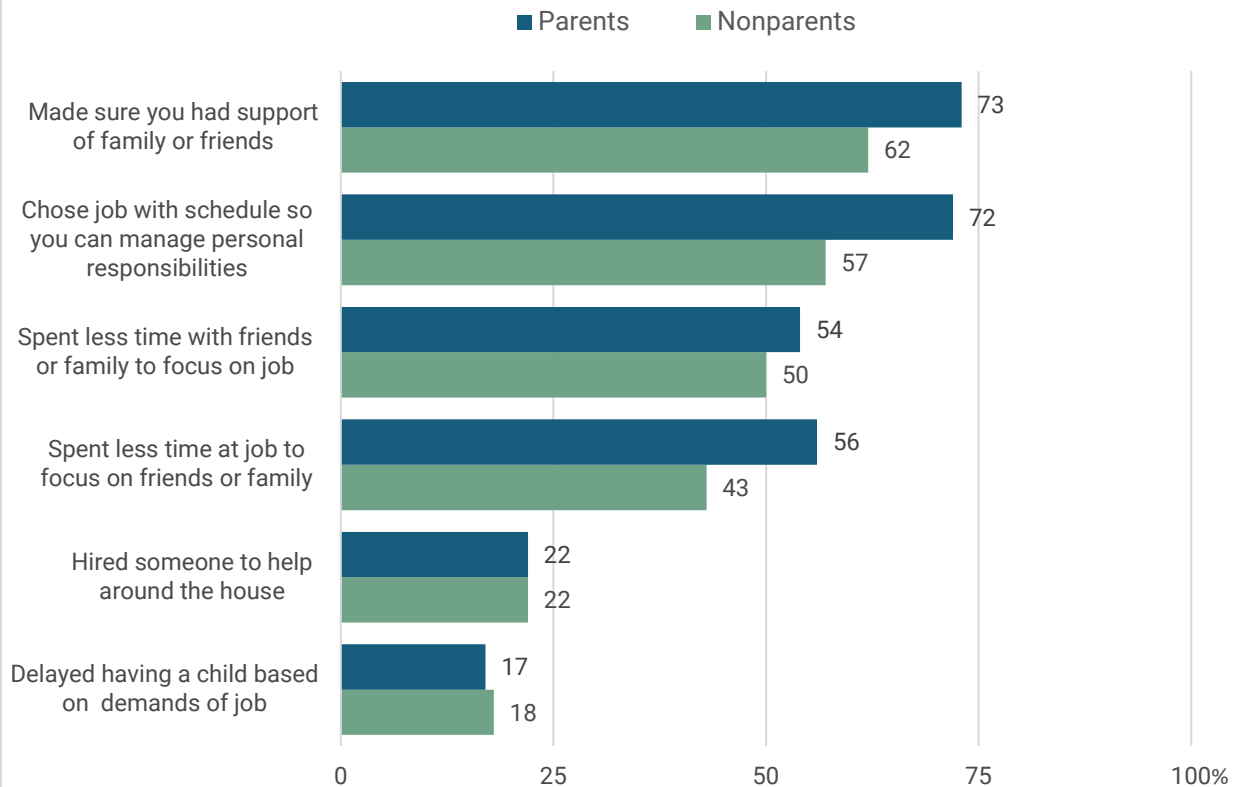
To manage the balance between work and personal lives, two-thirds of adults have chosen a job with a schedule that lets them manage their other responsibilities and have made sure they have support from friends or family. Half have spent less time with their friends or family to focus on their job, and half have spent less time at their job to focus on friends and family.



Parents are more likely than nonparents to have chosen a job with a schedule that lets them manage their personal responsibilities, spend less time at their job to focus on friends or family, and make sure they had the support of friends or family.

Parents are more likely than nonparents to have chosen a job with a flexible schedule, spent less time with their job, and made sure they have family support.

Percent of adults who have ever been employed



Question: Have you ever taken each of the following steps to manage the balance between your work and personal responsibilities?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



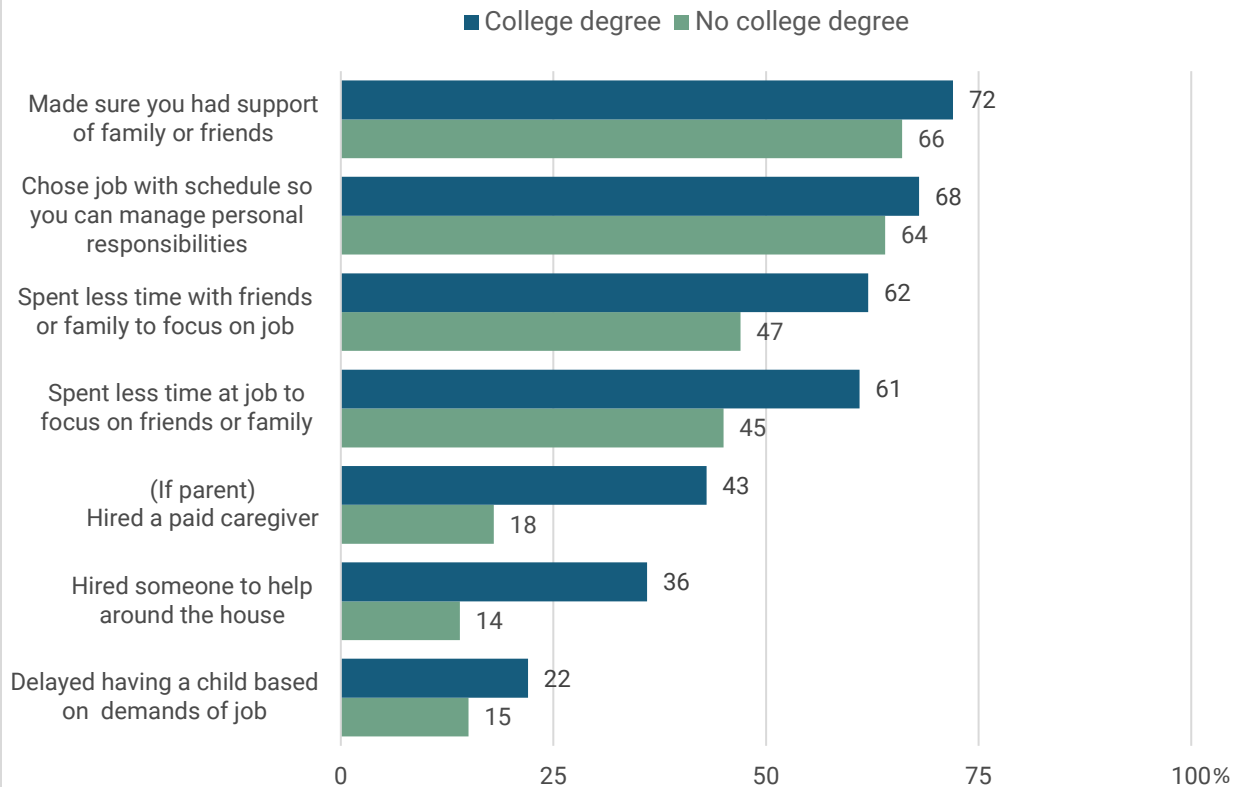
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Women are more likely than men to have chosen a job with a schedule that allows them to manage their personal responsibilities (70% vs. 61%) and made sure they had the support of friends or family (73% vs. 64%).

Adults with a college degree are more likely than those without a degree to have spent less time with friends or family to focus on their job, spent less time at their job to focus on friends or family, delayed having a child, hired someone to help around the house, and hired a paid caregiver.

Adults with a college degree are more likely to have taken certain steps to balance their work and personal responsibilities.

Percent of adults who have ever been employed



Question: Have you ever taken each of the following steps to manage the balance between your work and personal responsibilities?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



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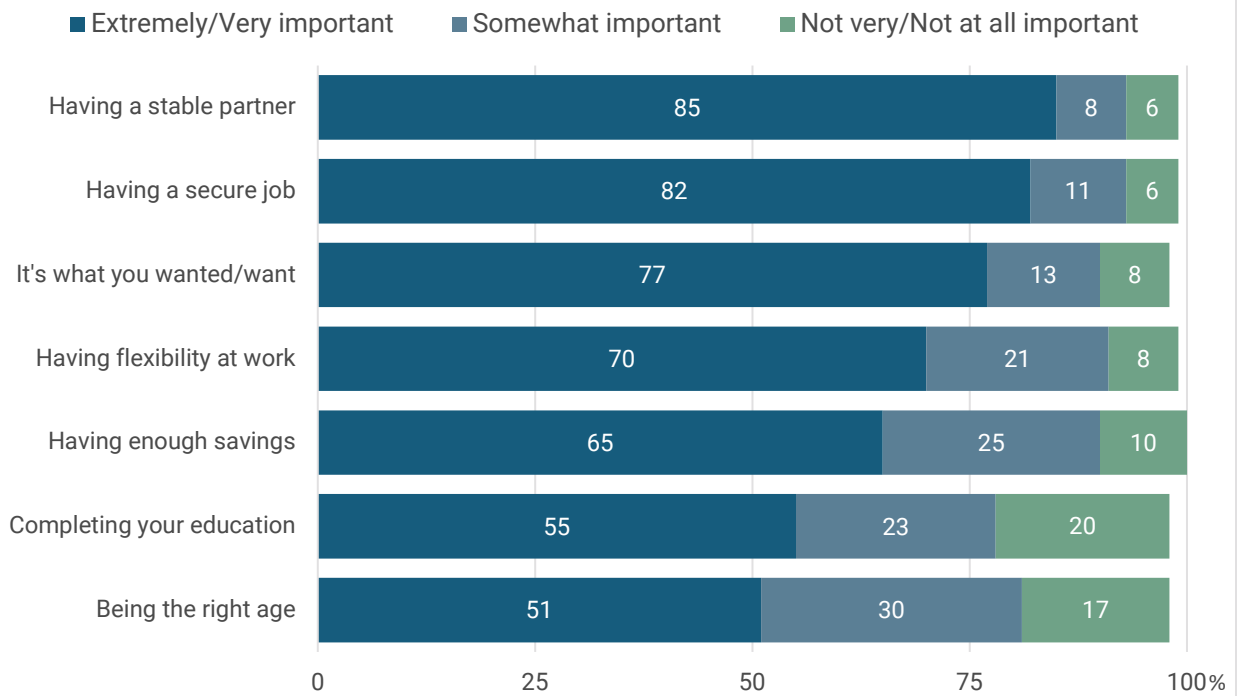
Among the 41% of Americans who are not parents, 38% are considering or have considered having a child someday. Of Americans who are considering having a child someday, nearly a quarter (24%) say they have delayed having a child based on the demands of a job.

WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO HAVE A CHILD, BOTH PARENTS AND NONPARENTS SAY IMPORTANT FACTORS INCLUDE HAVING A STABLE PARTNER AND A SECURE JOB.

Americans consider a variety of factors when deciding whether to have a child. Both parents and nonparents say having a stable partner and a secure job are the top reasons behind their decisions. Nonparents, however, are more likely than parents to say savings are important when thinking about whether to have a child (74% vs. 59%).

Having a stable partner and a secure job are key factors in deciding whether or not to have child.

Percent of adults



Question: How important [were/are] each of the following in thinking about whether or not to have a child?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



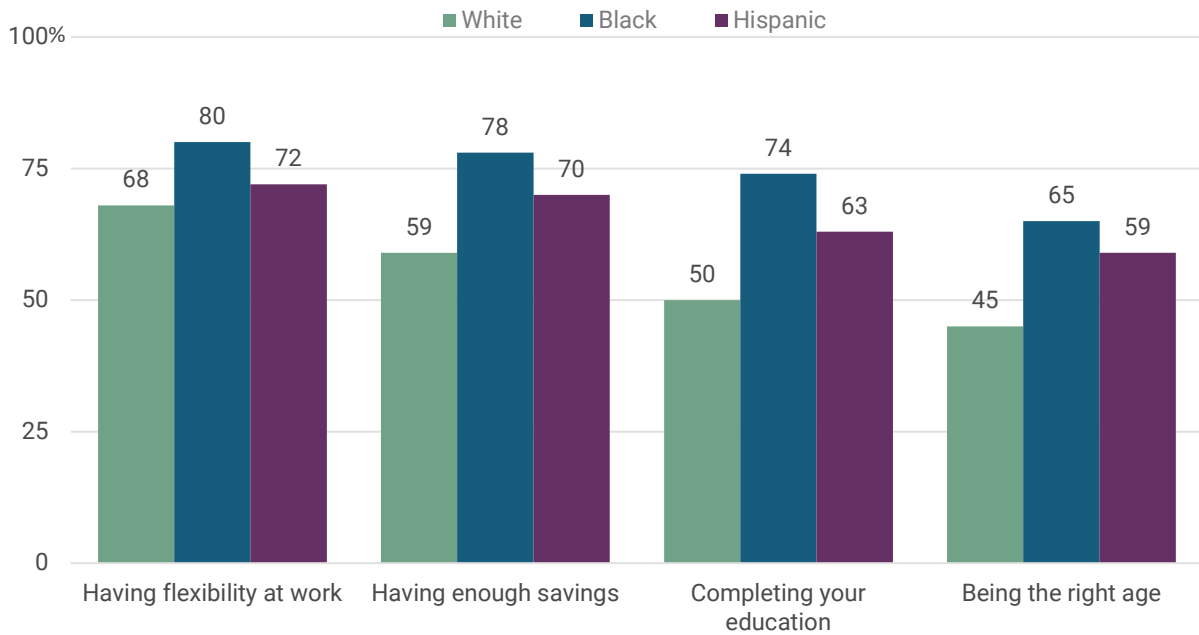
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Women are more likely than men to say flexibility at work (74% vs. 66%) and just wanting to be parents (81% vs. 74%) are important when thinking about having a child.

Black Americans are more likely than white Americans to say savings, being the right age, and flexibility at work are important when thinking about having a child. Black adults and Hispanic adults are more likely than white adults to say finishing their education is an important consideration.

Racial and ethnic differences emerge when it comes to Americans' reasons for deciding whether to have a child.

Percent of adults who say extremely or very important



Question: How important [were/are] each of the following in thinking about whether or not to have a child?

Source: UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted October 7–11, 2021, with 1,054 adults age 18 and older nationwide.



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STUDY METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Staff from Harris Public Policy and The AP-NORC Center collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between October 7 and October 11, 2021, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,054 completed the survey—987 via the web and 67 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 20.0 percent, the weighted household panel recruitment rate is 19.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.9 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2021 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HARRIS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

One of the largest graduate professional schools at the University of Chicago, Harris Public Policy has been driven by the belief that evidence-based research, not ideology or intuition, is the best guide for public policy. For more than three decades, our exceptional community of scholars, students, and alumni have applied this exacting perspective to the world's most pressing problems using the latest tools of social science. Through our undergraduate and graduate programs, we empower a new generation of data-driven leaders to create a positive social impact throughout our global society. For more information visit <https://harris.uchicago.edu/>

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS-NORC CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.