



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
For Release: Sunday, May 10, 2009
9:00 am (EDT)

MOTHERHOOD TODAY
April 22-26, 2009

As Mother's Day is celebrated across the country today, nearly all mothers say they feel appreciated by their family, according to a recent CBS News/New York Times Poll. But the poll also finds that a majority of moms say being a mother today is harder than when they were a child.

73% of Americans, including most mothers, think being a mom is harder today. There is agreement on this question across all demographic groups, and even dads admit being a mother is harder these days.

COMPARED TO WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, IS BEING A MOTHER TODAY...

Table with 4 columns: Response (Harder, Easier, Same), All, Moms, Dads. Data: Harder (73%, 76%, 74%), Easier (5, 2, 5), Same (20, 22, 18)

Half of Americans now say children are better off with their mom at home rather than working, but that is down from 61% who said that in 2003. 38% say children are just as well off if their mother works, up from 29% six years ago.

Still, moms, and even working moms, are more likely to say that children are better off with their mothers at home. Fewer men, just 46%, think children are better off with their mother at home, but among men who are fathers, that number goes up to 57%.

Age has an impact too: 46% of people under age 45 say children are just as well off if their mom works, compared to only 30% of older Americans who say that.

ARE CHILDREN BETTER OFF IF MOTHER STAYS AT HOME?

Table with 5 columns: Response, All, Moms, Dads, 7/2003. Data: Yes (50%, 58%, 57%, 61%), No (38, 32, 31, 29)

This poll also asked mothers about their parenting style, and while 52% describe it as similar to that of their own mother's, nearly as many moms - 47%- say their way of parenting is different.

61% of women with children over age 18, who are likely to be older, say their parenting style is similar to their mother's, while 54% of

moms with kids under age 18 describe their style as different than their mother's. A higher number of younger moms describe their style of parenting as different, compared to that of older moms.

**YOUR PARENTING STYLE COMPARED TO YOUR MOTHER'S**

(Among Mothers)

	All	Kids under age 18	Kids age 18 and over	Moms under age 45	Moms age 45 and over
Similar	52%	45%	61%	44%	61%
Different	47	54	37	58	35

Even though mothers say their job is hard, 85% of moms feel appreciated by their family. Mothers of all ages, income, and education levels say they feel appreciated.

**FEEL APPRECIATED BY YOUR FAMILY**

(Among Mothers)

Yes	85%
No	13

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 This poll was conducted among a random sample of 973 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 22-26, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. The margin of error for the sample of Mothers is four points.

An oversample of African Americans were interviewed for a total of 212 interviews with African Americans. The results then weighted in proportion to the racial composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for the sample of African Americans is 7 points.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q94 Do you think children are better off if their mother is home and doesn't hold a job or are the children just as well off if the mother works?

	Total %	Mothers %	Jul03b %
Better if mother home	50	58	61
Just as well off	38	32	29
Depends (vol.)	9	9	7
Don't know/No Answer	3	1	3

q95 Compared to when you were a child, in general, do you think being a mother today is harder, easier or about the same?

Harder	73	76
Easier	5	2
Same	20	22
DK/NA	2	0

q96 How does your own parenting style compare to your mother's? Is your parenting style very similar, somewhat similar, somewhat different or very different from hers?

	Mothers
Very similar	19
Somewhat similar	33
Somewhat different	19
Very different	28
Wasn't raised by my mother (vol.)	1
DK/NA	0

q97 Do you feel your family appreciates you enough as a mother, or do they not appreciate you enough?

Yes, enough	85
No, not enough	13
DK/NA	2

Total Respondents	<u>Unweighted</u> 973	<u>Margin of error</u> 3 pts.
Total Mothers	696	4 pts.