

2001 FAMILY TIME REPORT



It's time for families.

A statewide look at the attitudes and activities impacting the quality and quantity of family time in Washington

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Executive Summary

It's time for families...

There are 365 days in a year, 24 hours in a day, and 60 minutes in an hour. That means in one year, people have to make decisions about how they will spend 525,600 minutes. In one month alone there are approximately 43,000 minutes to be allocated. And while this may seem like a large amount of time when we look at it on paper, most feel there's never enough time. We are busy people and we seem to have no problem filling every last minute of our life with activities. So how do we find time for the things that are important? How do we find time for family?

It has been said, "You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it." This is especially true for family time. It's easy to think that there will be time later, after work, after the chores are done, on the weekend, during the summer, but does the time ever come? Spending time together as a family is becoming increasingly rare and in order to have that time, parents must choose to make time.

This report is about the condition of family time here in Washington. Are parents making time for family or are they simply hoping to find time for family? What things are keeping parents from making the time? How much time do parents spend with their children and what activities do they engage in? And what about marriage? How does that factor into family time?

The indicators highlighted here give a snapshot of the current condition of family time in our state. They also show that the issue of family time reaches beyond the interaction of parents and children, but also includes the interaction between spouses. As these indicators are measured over time, they provide a measure of how we are doing in our pursuit to strengthen families.

1. A large number of parents (66%) agree with the idea that "to raise children properly, a parent must spend a lot of time with each child everyday." Close to half (45%) agree strongly. As research shows, quantity of time often affects quality of time.
2. Fully three-quarters (75%) of Washington parents agree with the idea that "it is more important that a person spend quality time with a child than to spend a large amount of time with the child." Half of parents (52%) strongly agree with this idea. The debate between quality time and quantity time has been widely discussed, and current research shows that parents are seeing the necessity for both.
3. In general, the more time children are able to spend with their parents, the better the outcomes for those children. Three-quarters of Washington parents (74%) feel that the quality of their life is also improved by spending time with their children. Forty-three percent of parents said having more time to spend with their children would improve the overall quality of their life a lot. When parents spend time with children both of them benefit.

4. A majority of Washington parents (75%) are currently married. This study and others continue to show that the marital status of parents impacts the quality and quantity of parent-child interaction. Furthermore, with so many parents being married, it is important to address the issue of marriage and spouse time when discussing the topic of family time. Just as parent-child interaction is important, parent-parent interaction is important as well and should not be overlooked in the discussion of family time.
5. As children get older, the types of activities they share with their parents change. But, according to findings from this study, the type of activities parents say they share with their children are very interactive. The most common parent-child activity among parents with children under 5 is “playing together” (59% of parents with children under 2 and 66% of parents with children ages 3-5 spend at least 15 minutes a day in this activity). Among parents with children ages 6-9, “reading together” is the most common parent-child activity (42% spend at least 15 minutes a day in this activity). Parents with children ages 10-13 report “eating meals” with their children everyday (36% spend at least 15 minutes in this activity). And finally, parents with teenagers report “just talking together” as the most common parent-child activity (40% spend at least 15 minutes in this activity).
6. Although a fair number of parents with teenagers report talking with their child for at least 15 minutes everyday, only 32 percent of all parents say they “spend 30 minutes or more at one time talking about things that the kids think are important.”



A note on the 1998 Family Time Report.

The 2001 Family Time Report is based on a previous report done by Families Northwest in 1998. Between the 1998 Family Time Report and the 2001 report, changes have been made to gather more accurate information. A number of questions were also added to provide new data on topics Families Northwest feels are relevant today. In this report the reader will find references to the 1998 report. Because changes were made between the 1998 and 2001 study, direct comparison was only possible on a few questions. The comparisons that yielded significant differences have been reported here.

Beliefs Impacting Parent-Child Time

“To raise children properly, a parent must spend a lot of time with each child everyday.”
Agree (66%) Disagree (33%)

“It is more important that a person spend quality time with a child than to spend a large amount of time with the child.”
Agree (75%) Disagree (21%)

“Would having more time to spend with your children improve the overall quality of your life?”
Yes (74%—43% a lot, 23% some, 7% a little) No (26%)

Behaviors Impacting Parent-Child Time

75% of Washington parents are currently married

Most common parent-child activity by child’s age:

Under age 5	<i>Playing Together</i>	59 – 66%
Ages 6-9	<i>Reading Together</i>	42%
Ages 10-13	<i>Eating Meals Together</i>	36%
Ages 14-17	<i>Just Talking Together</i>	40%

Spend more than 30 minutes at one time in conversation with child everyday.
32% of Washington parents

“One thing
you can’t
recycle is
wasted time.”

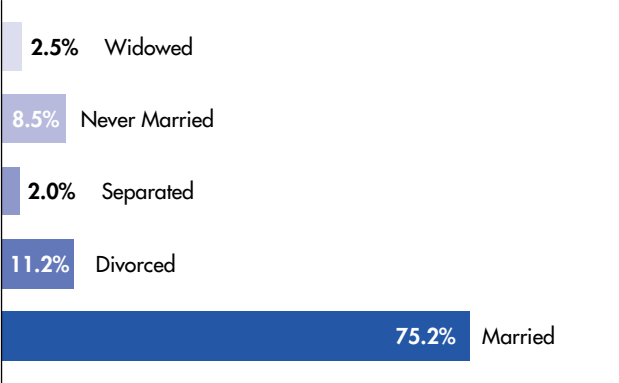
Anonymous

Family Time in Washington



What do families look like?

Three-quarters of Washington parents are currently married (75%) and a single parent heads nearly one-fifth of households (18%). Eight percent of parents are single and have never been married, 2 percent are separated, 11 percent are divorced, 2 percent are widowed, and three people didn't answer or said they don't know. Among all respondents, 26 percent have been divorced and 10 percent are currently in a cohabiting relationship.



Current marital status of parents

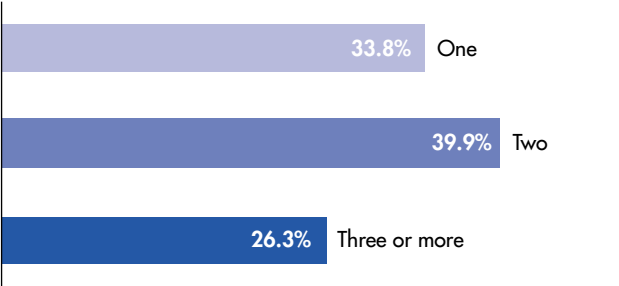
Families with higher incomes are significantly more likely to be headed by married parents. Of those making more than \$75,000, 87 percent report being married and of those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000, 76 percent report being married. At the same time, 36 percent of those making less than \$40,000 are part of one-parent families.

Younger parents are significantly less likely to be married. While 82 percent of those in their 30's and 78 percent of those over 40 are married, significantly fewer (51%) of those under 30 are married.

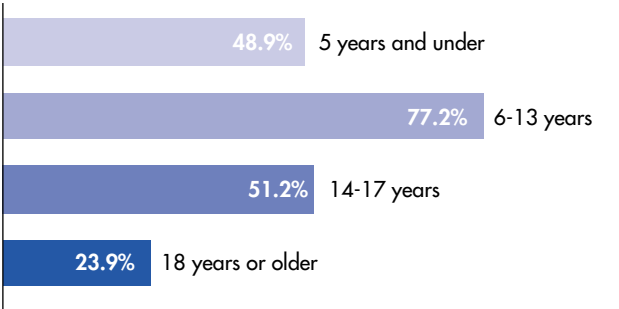
Parents that have graduated from college are more likely to be married than those who have not completed college. Eighty-one percent of college graduates, 69 percent of those that have some college, and 69 percent of those who completed high school or less are married.

Parents who say their families have some unhealthy relationships are less likely to be married. Among parents who say the relationships in their family are not healthy 43 percent are not married.

The majority of parents have one or two children (34% and 40% respectively), while a quarter of parents have three or more (26%). Half of all Washington parents have a teenager living at home (51%) and more than three-quarters of parents have a child between the ages of 6 and 13 (77%). Forty-nine percent of parents have a child age 5 or under, and only 24 percent have a child over the age of 18 living with them.



Number of children



Age of children

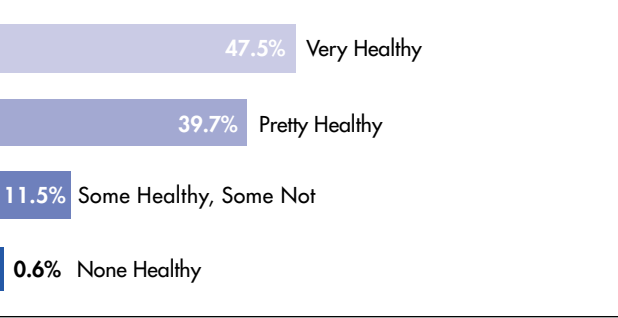
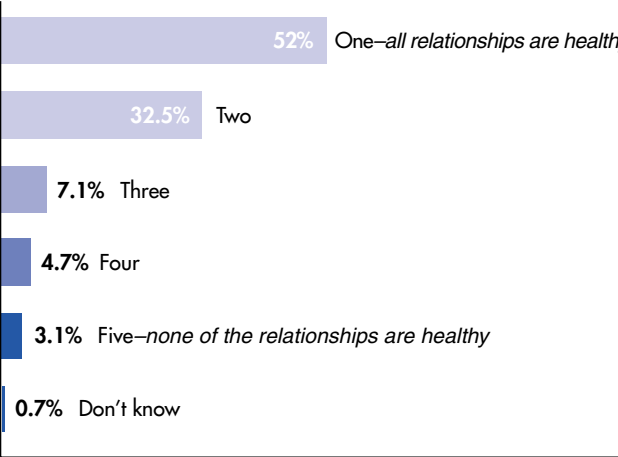
Single parents and those with a high school education or less are more likely to have only one child. Forty-four percent of those who are single and 42 percent of those with a high school education or less have only one child.

Married couples who are the natural parents of their children (44%) and those who make more than \$75,000 (47%) are more likely to have two children.

Families where both parents are not the natural parent are more likely to have three or more children (36%).

Respondents were asked to rate the relationships in their family based on a five-point scale, with one as "all relationships are very healthy" and five as "none of the relationships are healthy." The mean health rating for Washington parents is 1.7. Half of all respondents rated their relationships a one (52%), 33 percent rated the relationships a two, 7 percent a three, 5 percent a four, and 3 percent a five (0.7% said they didn't know). When the question was asked in a different way, responses varied slightly. Respondents were asked to think about their family and indicate which statement fit them. Forty-eight percent agree, "all the relationships in (my) family are very healthy," 40 percent said "all of the relationships are pretty healthy," 12 percent said, "some are healthy, some are not," and 0.6 percent said, "none of the relationships are really that healthy."

Marital status is related to a respondent's assessment of family health. Respondents who have been married more than eleven years were more likely to rate the relationships in the family as a one (58%) and to say that the relationships are very healthy (53%). Single parents are more likely to rate the family relationships a three (54%) or four (37%) and say some of the relationships are healthy and some are not (21%). Families in which both parents are not the natural parent are more likely to rate the relationships a three (44%) and say the relationships are pretty



Health of Families

healthy (51%). And those who have been divorced are more likely to say some of the relationships are healthy and some are not (17%).

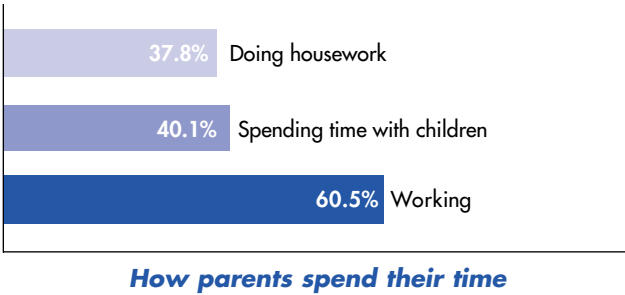
Income is also connected to family health. Families with an income greater than \$75,000 are more likely to rate the health of the family a one (59%), while those with an income less than \$40,000 are more likely to rate the health as a three (45%). Those making less than \$40,000 are also more likely to say some of the relationships are healthy and some are not (20%).

College graduates are more likely to rate the health as a one (57%), those who use childcare are more likely to rate the health as a two (40%), and those who work more than 50 hours a week are more likely to rate the health as a three (35%). Family relationships are rated a four more frequently by mothers (85%), and those over 40 years old (89%).

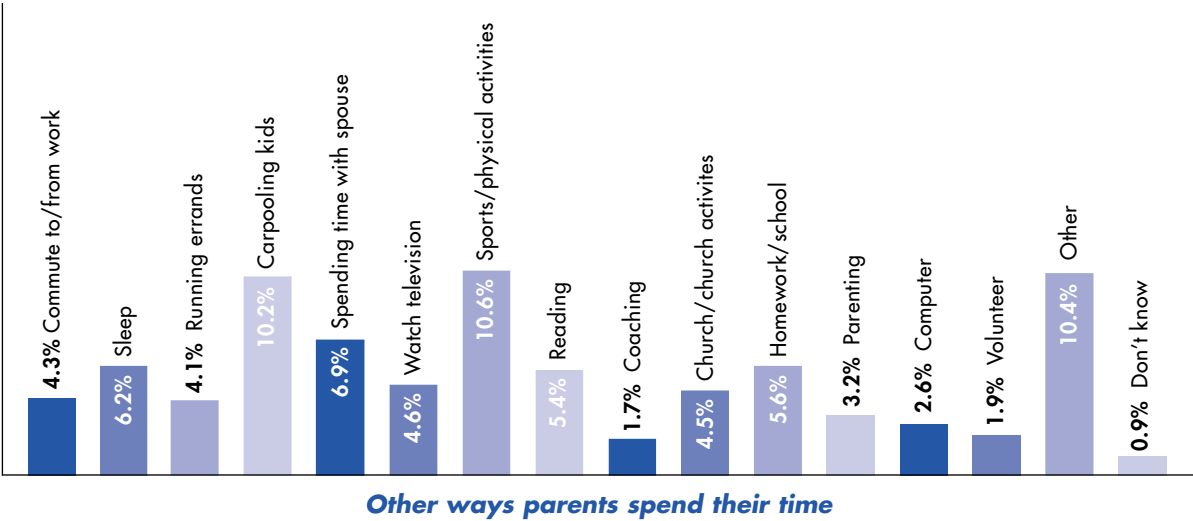
Parents and Time

Before beginning a discussion on family time, it is important to understand where the majority of time is being spent. Respondents were asked to indicate what two or three activities they spend the most time doing in a typical week. In other words, what two or three activities take up most of their time during the week?

The majority of respondents spend their time engaged in work, spending time with children, and/or doing housework. The highest number of respondents (61%) indicated that work is one of the main activities they do during the week. Forty percent of respondents indicate “spending time with children” as a typical weekly event, and 38 percent indicated “housework” as a typical weekly event.



Fathers are more likely to indicate work as a weekly activity, as are people who are married, college graduates, those who have only one child, those making more than \$75,000, those who have been married more than 11 years, those living in the Puget Sound region, those who use childcare, and those who work more than 50 hours a week.



- Those more likely to say spending time with children is a weekly activity are in their 30s or younger, have children under two years old, or have been married 10 years or less.
 - Mothers are more likely to indicate housework is a weekly activity, as are those whose spouse works more than 50 hours a week.
 - Eleven percent or less of the respondents mentioned all other activities.**
 - Fathers are more likely to say they spend time sleeping, in sports/physical activities, or working. Mothers are more likely to say they spend time carpooling kids, volunteering, or doing housework.
 - Those who work more than 50 hours a week are more likely to say they spend time sleeping, coaching kids in sports, or working. Those whose spouse works more than 50 hours a week are more likely to say they spend time parenting, volunteering, or doing housework.
 - Those who have been married eleven or more years are more likely to say they spend time with their spouse, on the computer, or working. Those who have been married ten years or less say they spend time with children or parenting.
 - Those who have ever been divorced are more likely to say they spend time watching television, doing homework/school, or reading.
 - Those with children under two years old are more likely to say they spend time doing home-work/school, parenting, or spending time with children.
- Now that we know what parents are spending most of their time doing, we can take a look at how family time fits into the picture. We can also find out what keeps people from spending time with their families and how time can be increased.

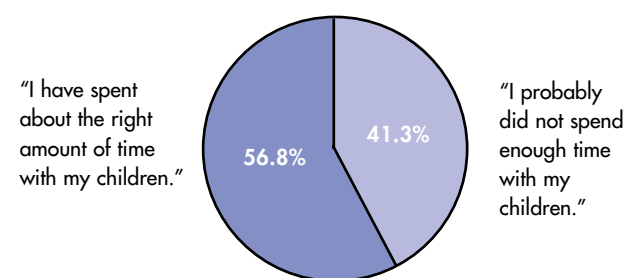
“He plants trees to benefit another generation.”
Caecilius Statius



What amount of time is the right amount?

In general, do parents think they've spent the right amount of time with their children? Among Washington parents, slightly more than half (57%) said they "have spent about the right amount of time" with their children over the previous month. Conversely, 41 percent felt that they "probably did not spend enough time" with their children.

Over the past month...



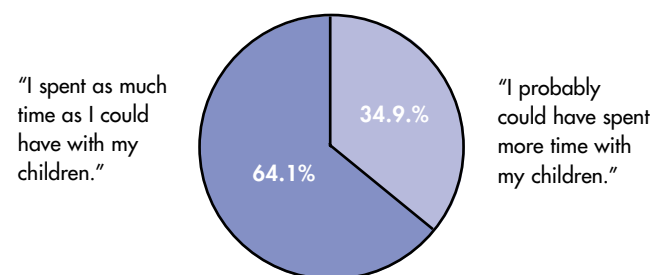
■ Family income is connected to whether parents think they've spent enough time or not. Those making \$75,000 or more are more likely to say they did spend the right amount of time (64%) while those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000 say they probably didn't spend enough time (50%). And not surprisingly, those who work more than 50 hours a week (60%) are more likely to say they didn't spend enough time.

■ Family type is also connected to a parent's assessment of the amount of time they spend with their children. Respondents in a traditional family (63%) and those who are the natural parents (60%) are more likely to say they spent the right amount of time. On the other hand, those who have been divorced were more likely to say they didn't spend enough time (60%).

■ Relational health within the family also is connected to the assessment of time spent with children. Those who rate the relationships a one (66%) or say the relationships in the family are very healthy (65%) are more likely to say they spent enough time. Those who rate the health of family relationships a two (51%), or say some relationships are healthy and some are not (59%) are more likely to say they didn't spend enough time.

Is there a difference between spending the right amount of time and spending as much time as you could? Sixty-four percent of respondents "basically spent as much time as (they) could have with (their) kids," and 35 percent said they "probably could have spent more time" with them.

Over the past month...



■ Mothers (69%) are more likely to say they spent as much time as they could, while fathers (43%) are more likely to say they could have spent more time.

■ Families in which both parents are the natural parents (68%) were more likely to say they spent as much time as they could. Those who had divorced (43%) and those in families where one parent is not the natural parent (47%) are more likely to say they could have spent more time.

■ Respondents who rate the health of family relationships a one (71%) or say the relationships are very healthy (74%) are more likely to say they spent as much time as they could. Conversely, those who rate the relationships a two (42%) were more likely to say they could have spent more time.

Stress can certainly impact a parent's ability and desire to spend time with their children, so how stressed are parents in Washington? According to this report, they're not too stressed. Sixty-six percent of respondents indicate they are not stressed out (34% said they are).

■ Mothers are more likely to be stressed (40%) and fathers are less likely to be stressed (24%).

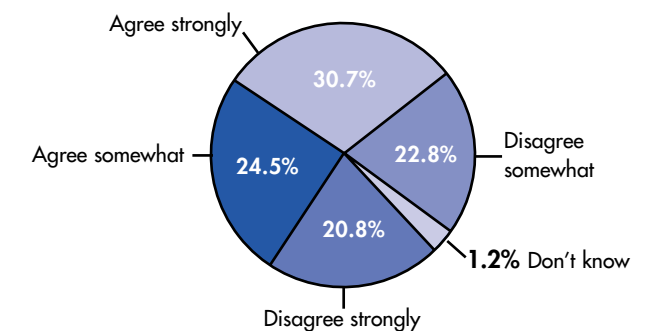
■ The issue of money can often be a stressor. Those with a family income less than \$40,000 are more likely to be stressed (53%) while those with an income of \$75,000 or more are less likely to be stressed (25%).

■ Healthy relationships within the family correlate with less stress. Those rating the relationships a one (72%) or saying relationships are very healthy (75%) are less likely to say they are stressed. Those who say some relationships are healthy and some are not are more likely to say they are stressed (49%).

■ Those more likely to be stressed are those with a high school education or less (43%). Those less likely to be stressed are 40 years old or more (70%), in families where both parents are not the natural parent (71%), or college graduates (70%).

Parents are often pressured for time from all angles. Slightly more than half (56%) of all parents in Washington agree they would do more with their children if they didn't feel so pressured for time, and 44 percent disagree.

Pressured for time
"You would do more with your children if you did not feel so pressured for time."



■ All family types seem to be affected by the pressure for time. Although single respondents (44%), those who have been divorced (53%), and families where both parents are not the natural parent (44%) are more likely to agree strongly, married parents (27%), those in a traditional household (29%), those that are natural parents (28%), and those married 11 or more years (29%) also agree somewhat.

■ Thirty-one percent of parents strongly agree that they would do more with their children if they weren't feeling pressured for time. Parents more likely to say this are non-white (46%), work 50 or more hours each week (41%), make less than \$40,000 (45%), use child care (41%), or say some relationships are healthy and some are not (50%).

■ Those more likely to disagree have children 18 years old or over (32%), are college graduates (25%), rate family relationships a one (23%), or say relationships are very healthy (29%).

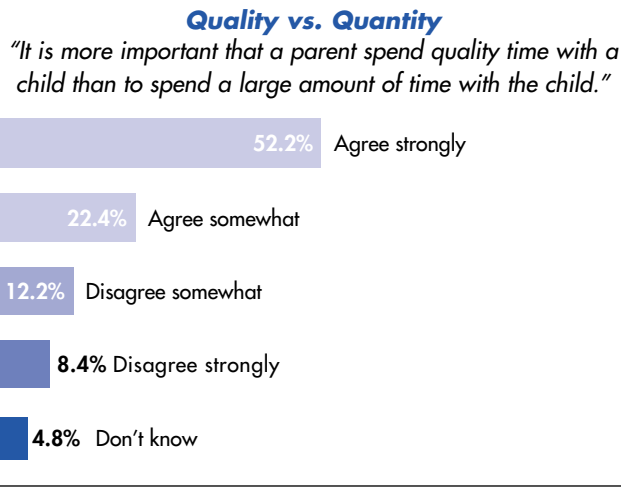
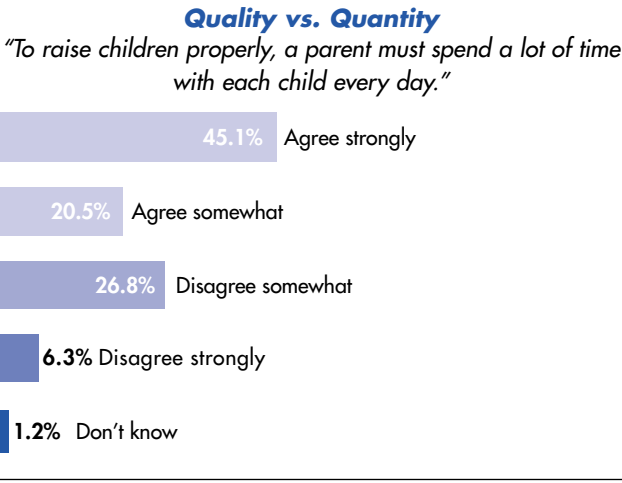
**"Those who bring
sunshine to the lives of others
cannot keep it from
themselves."** Sir James Barrie

Quality time or quantity time?

It's an age-old argument – is it the quality of time you spend with children or the quantity of time that's important? According to 66 percent of Washington parents, "To raise children properly, a parent must spend a lot of time with each child every day." Approximately one-third of parents disagree.

■ Those with younger children are more likely to agree (2 or under 58%, 3-5, 57%) as are parents under 30 years of age (63%) and parents who have been married 10 years or less (57%).

■ Parents with children over 18 (45%) and school-aged children (6-13, 31%, 14-17, 10%) are more likely to disagree. Fathers (10%), older parents (40+, 32%), those who have ever been divorced (36%), those with more than 2 children (31%), college graduates (32%), those who work more than 50 hours a week (42%), or those who make more than \$75,000 (34%) are also more likely to disagree.



"To raise children properly, a parent must spend a lot of time with each child every day."

	1998	2001	DIFFERENCE
Agree Strongly	52.6%	45.1%	- 7.5%
Agree Somewhat	18.3%	20.5%	+ 2.2%
Disagree Somewhat	23.1%	26.8%	+ 3.7%
Disagree Strongly	5.5%	6.3%	+ .8%
Total Agreement –	1998	(70.9%)	
	2001	(65.6%)	
Difference			(- 5.3%)

Although a large number of parents believe it's important to spend a lot of time each day with children, more parents (75%) agree with the idea that "It is more important that a parent spend quality time with a child than to spend a large amount of time with the child."

■ Parents who have ever been divorced (61%), non-white parents (71%), single parents (71%), families where both parents are not the natural parent (64%), and those living in the Puget Sound area (26%) are more likely to agree with this statement.

■ Parents more likely to disagree with this statement are older (40+, 16%), have children between 6-13 years of age (15%), or live in Southwest Washington (25%).

Improving the quality of life

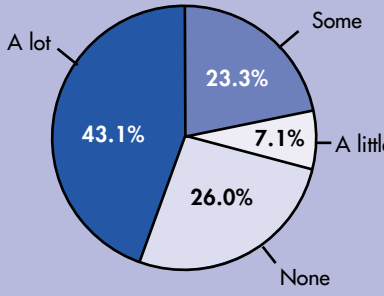
Family time benefits more than just children, spending time with children also benefits adults. Washington parents recognize this. When asked, "Would having more time to spend with your children improve the overall quality of your life?" 74 percent indicated that it would.

■ Employment is related to how parents responded to this question. Families in which both parents work full time (54%) are more likely to say more time with children would improve their life while those families in which one parent works full time or less (46%) are more likely to say it would not improve their life. Respondents who work 50 hours or more a week (55%) are also more likely to indicate more time would improve their life a lot. With fathers working in 80 percent of the households interviewed and mothers working in 64 percent, it is not surprising that parents' employment is connected to their perception of whether or not more time with their children would improve their life. The research further shows that fathers (52%), who are more likely to work outside the home, are more likely to say more time with their children would improve their life a lot. Mothers (30%) are more likely to say more time would not improve their life.

■ Those more likely to indicate time with close friends would improve the quality of their life have been divorced (34%), or are in their 30s (41%). Those more likely to say it wouldn't improve their life say the relationships in their family are very healthy (43%).

Besides spending time with children and close friends, a number of parents (66%) said having more time to spend by themselves would improve the overall quality of their life.

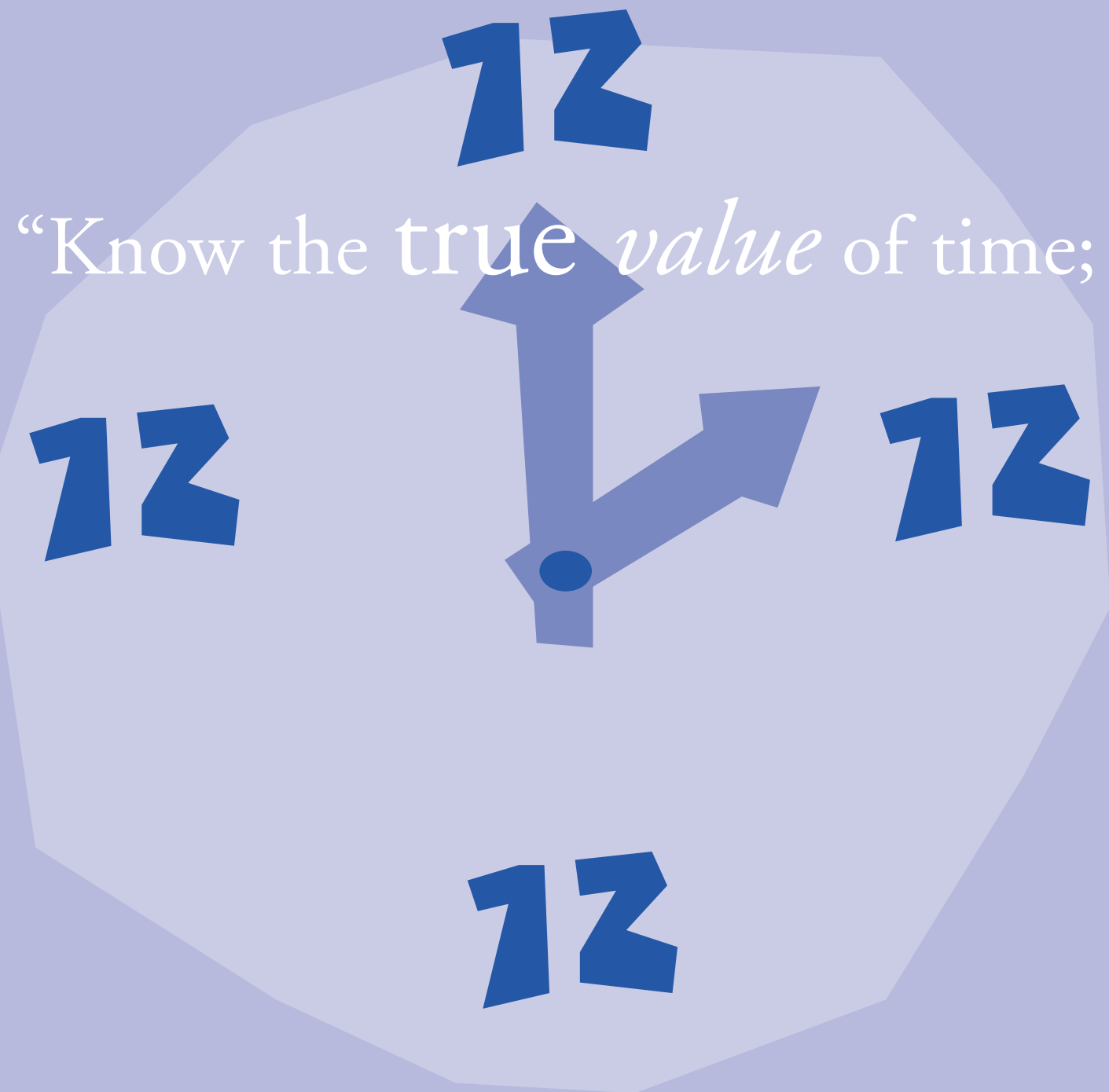
Quality of life and children
"How much would having more time to spend with your children improve the overall quality of your life?"



■ Gender, age, family income, and family health are related to a parent's belief that more time to themselves would improve the overall quality of their life. Mothers (34%) are more likely to say time to themselves would improve their life, while fathers (40%) are more likely to say it would not improve their life. Parents in their 30s (40%) are more likely to say it would improve their life, while older parents (40+, 38%) are more likely to say it wouldn't. Lower income families (less than \$40,000 44%) are more likely to foresee improvement, while families with a higher household income (more than \$75,000 41%) don't. And, those who say some relationships are healthy and some are not (52%) are more likely to see time to themselves as improving life, while those who rate relationships a one (38%), or those who say relationships are very healthy (43%) do not.

■ Parents in families that are healthy are more likely to say more time wouldn't improve the quality of life. Those who rate relationships a one (30%) or those who say relationships are very healthy (33%) are more likely to agree with this statement.

The majority of parents agree that more time to spend with their children would improve the overall quality of their life, but what else would improve their life? A number of parents (69%) also felt that having more time to spend with close friends would improve the overall quality of their life.



“Know the true *value* of time;

snatch, **seize**,
and **enjoy**
every *moment* of it.

No idleness; *no* laziness;
no procrastination; *never* put off till
tomorrow what you can do **today**

Lord Chesterfield

Parent-child time

When was the last time you took the time to jump in a pile of leaves? How often do you simply take the time to admire the trees and appreciate their beauty? When was the last time you watched your child sleeping? How often do you allow yourself to forget the challenges of parenting and simply enjoy your children for who they are?

Conversation is an important part of interaction; it can be one of the “glories of parenthood.” But most parents in Washington don’t spend more than 30 minutes at one time everyday talking with their children about things the kids think are important. Washington parents often miss “the grandeur of the trees.” Only 32 percent of parents say they talk with their kids for more than 30 minutes everyday, while 44 percent said they talk at least once a week, 10 percent at least once a month, and 12 percent talk with their kids for more than 30 minutes less than once a month or never.

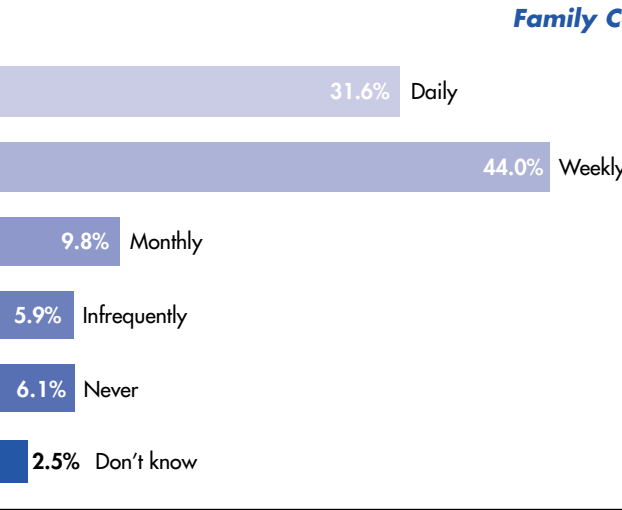
■ Time spent in conversation is related to family health. Those parents who rate the family relationships a one (38%) or who say the rela-

tionships are very healthy (37%) are more likely to say they spend 30 minutes in conversation with their children everyday.

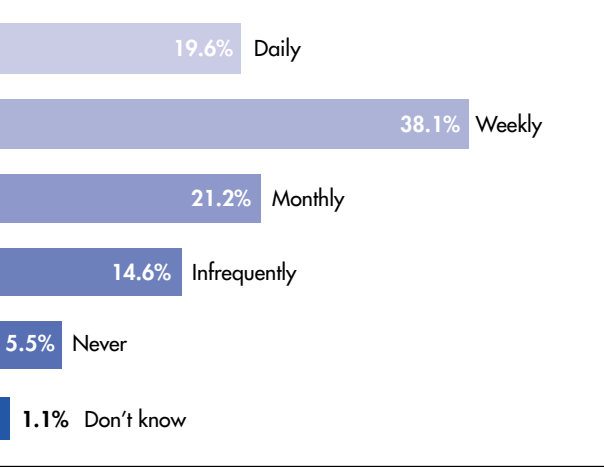
■ Those with school-aged children (6-13, 35%, 14-17, 22%, 18+, 42%), are more likely to say they spend 30 minutes in conversation on a weekly basis. Fathers (19%), parents over 40 years old (18%), households where both parents work full time (22%), or those married longer (11+ 18%) are also more likely to converse on a weekly basis with their children.

■ Younger parents (under 30, 21%) who work 50 or more hours (12%), have children under 2 years old (21%), make less than \$40,000 (14%), have been married 10 years or less (14%), or use childcare (11%) are more likely to say 30 minute conversations with their children happen infrequently or never.

Another aspect of communication among family members is discussing family problems. Although discussion of family problems occurs less often than 30 minute conversations with kids, it still does happen everyday in 20 percent of homes, at



“How often do you spend more than 30 minutes at one time talking about the things that the kids think are important.”



Discuss family problems.

least once a week in 38 percent of homes, at least once a month in 21 percent of homes, and less than once a month or never in 21 percent of homes.

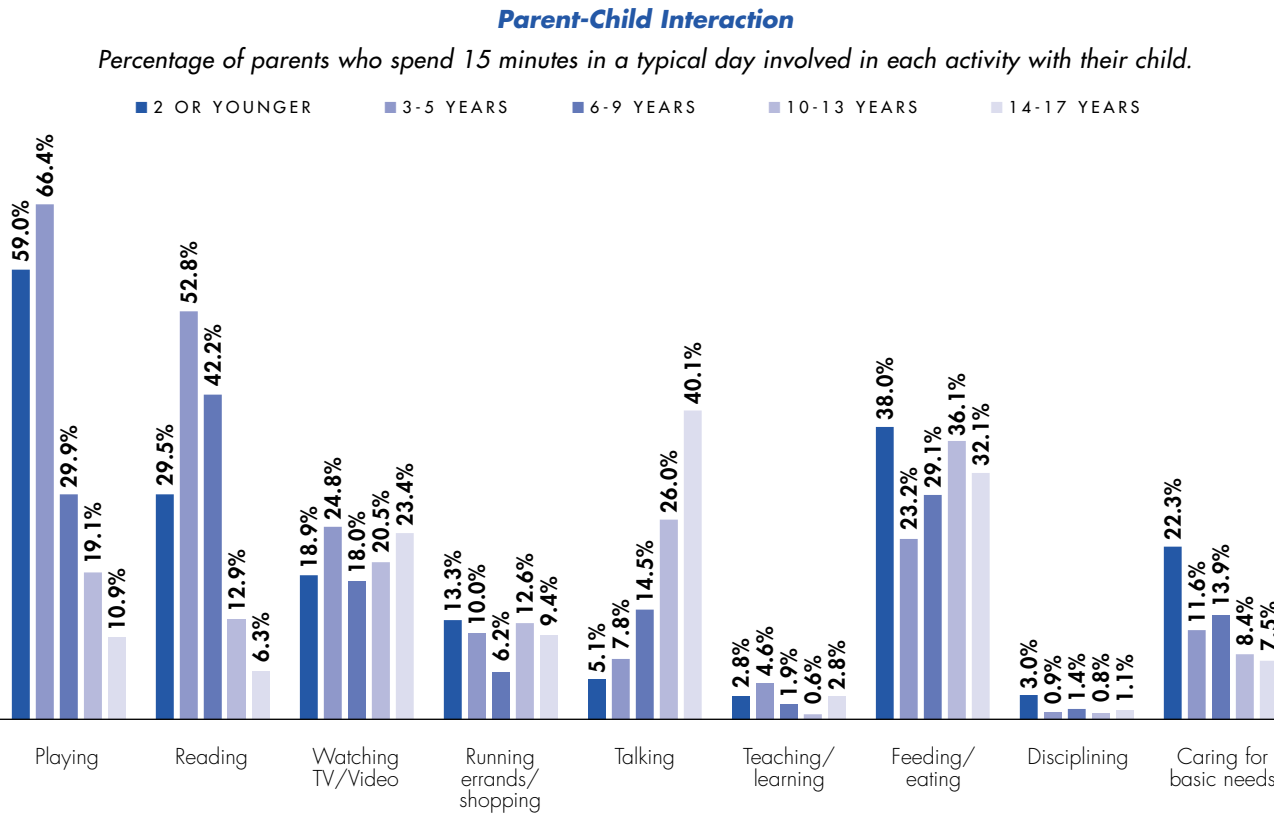
■ Those more likely to discuss family problems on a weekly basis are non-white (31%) or rate the family relationships a 4 or 5 (34%).

■ Those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000 (16%), households where one parent works full time or less (19%), or parents with some

college education (17%) are more likely to say they discuss family problems on a monthly basis.

■ Households with two, full-time wage earners (20%) and households where both parents are the natural parent (17%) are more likely to say they discuss family problems infrequently.

■ More likely to say they never discuss family problems are younger parents (under 30, 20%), single parents (12%), parents with children under 2 years old (17%), and parents making less than \$40,000 (10%).



“Parents are often so busy with the physical rearing of children that they miss the glory of parenthood, just as the grandeur of the trees is lost when raking leaves.”

Marcelene Cox



Activities of parents and children by child’s age:

Parents with children 2 years old and younger

Seventy-eight percent spend more than 45 minutes a day talking or playing with their child and no parents say they don’t spend anytime doing this in a typical day. Nearly half (46%) say they spend more than 45 minutes watching television or videos with their child in a typical day.

Parents with children 3-5 years old

Eighty-one percent spend more than 45 minutes a day talking or playing with their child and 53 percent spend more than 45 minutes watching television or videos with their child.

Parents with children 6-9 years old

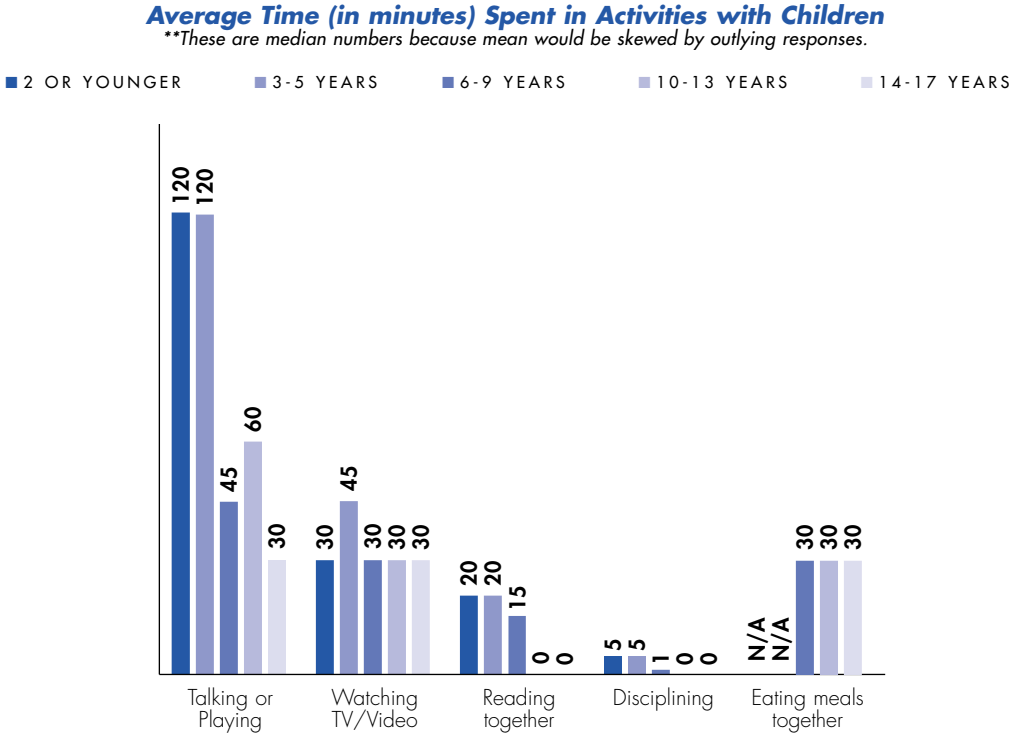
Fifty-seven percent spend more than 45 minutes a day talking or playing with their child. Forty-three percent spend more than 45 minutes a day eating meals with their child and 44 percent spend 15-30 minutes. Thirty-eight percent spend more than 45 minutes watching television or videos with their child and 25 percent spend more than 45 minutes helping their child with home work and 47 percent spend 15-30 minutes.

Parents with children 10-13 years old

Fifty-four percent spend 45 minutes a day talking or playing with their child. Forty-four percent spend more than 45 minutes a day watching television or videos with their child. Twenty-three percent spend more than 45 minutes a day helping their child with their homework and 32 percent spend 15-30 minutes. Forty-two percent spend more than 45 minutes a day eating meals together and 43 percent spend 15-30 minutes.

Parents with children 14-17 years old

Forty-three percent spend more than 45 minutes a day talking or playing with their child and 33 percent spend 15-30 minutes a day doing so. Thirty-two percent spend 45 minutes a day eating meals together and 44 percent spend 15-30 minutes. Forty-four percent don’t spend anytime watching television or videos with their child and 58 percent don’t spend time helping their child with homework.



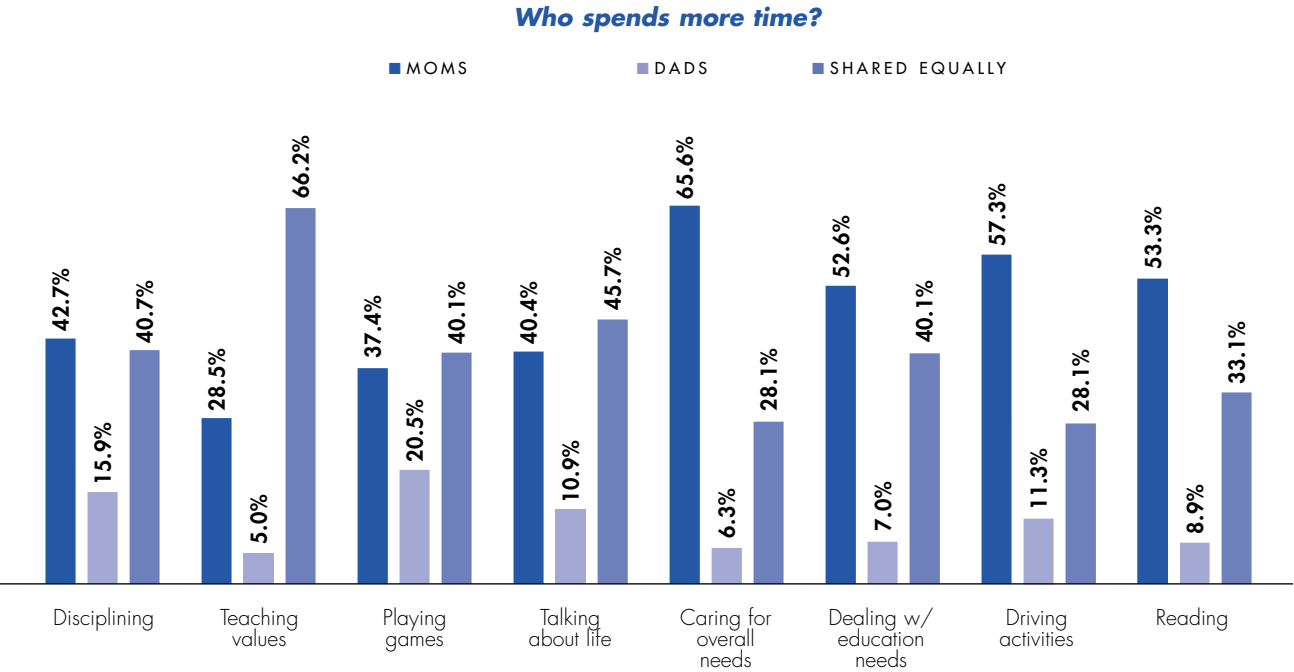
The differences between moms and dads

Research clearly shows that children do best when raised by a married mother and father. Children need interaction with both their parents. Among Washington parents, moms are more involved in many aspects of a child’s life. When married parents were asked who spends more time in activities with children, moms were more likely to be named than dads.

Parents indicate that moms spend more time disciplining (43%), caring for the overall health needs (66%), dealing with education needs (53%), driving children to different activities (57%), and reading to children (53%) than dads or both couples together.

The three activities that are shared equally by parents more often than by moms or dads alone are teaching values to (66%), playing games with (40%), and talking about life with (46%) children. Those who say the family relationships are very healthy (71%) are more likely to say teaching values to children is an activity shared equally by both parents.

Fathers show more involvement in playing games with and disciplining children than any other activity.



	MOMS		DADS		EQUAL	
	1998	2001	1998	2001	1998	2001
Disciplining	33.1%	42.7%	18.6%	15.9%	48.1%	40.7%
Talking about life	37.5%	40.4%	11.7%	10.9%	47.8%	45.9%
Caring for basic health needs	61.1%	65.6%	9.2%	6.3%	29.4%	28.2%

Time for marriage

Marriage is often left out of discussions about family time. But parents must find time for each other. If parents are spending plenty of time with their children, but are not taking time to be together, then something is missing from family life.

More Washington parents report spending time with their children than report spending time with their spouse. Parents were asked what two or three things they spend the most time doing in a typical week, and 40 percent said they spend time with children but only 7 percent said they spend time with their spouse.

■ Parents in their 30s (48%) or younger (64%), parents with children under 2 years old (58%), and parents who have been married 10 years or less (49%) are more likely to report spending time with their children as one of the things they spend the most time doing each week. Parents who have been married longer (11+ 10%), households where both parents are the natural parents (9%), and parents who are college graduates (10%) are more likely to say spending time with their spouse is one of the things they spend the most time doing each week.

Thirty-three percent of respondents agree and 64 percent disagree that they intentionally try to spend as much or more time with their spouse as they spend with their children.

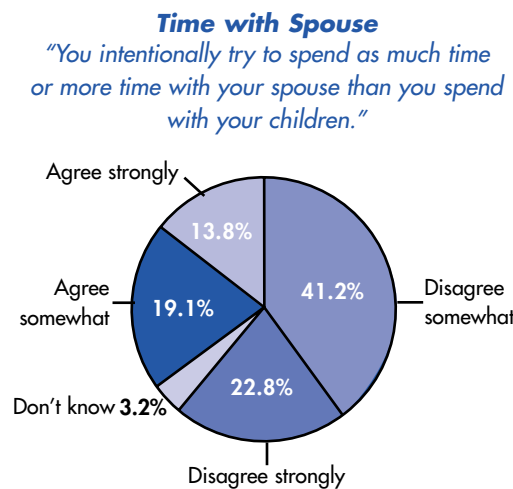
■ Fathers (23%), older parents (40+, 18%), parents of teenagers (14-17, 21%), and those

who have been married 11 or more years (17%) are more likely to agree. Mothers (28%), younger parents (under 30, 42%), parents of younger children (under 2, 34%, 3-5yo 32%), and parents who use childcare (33%) are more likely to disagree.

Parents don't appear to be spending much time together when compared to the time being spent with children, but do they want to spend more time together? The answer for more than three-quarters of parents is yes. When asked if "having more time to spend with your spouse" would improve the overall quality of their life, 84 percent said yes, it would improve their life. Only 16 percent of parents felt that more time would not improve their life. Forty-four percent of parents said it would improve their life a lot, 31 percent said it would improve some, and 9 percent said it would improve a little.

Seventy-five percent of the parents interviewed are currently married. Among them,

23 percent have been married 21 years or more, 24 percent have been married 16 to 20 years, 17 percent have been married 11 to 15 years, 19 percent have been married 6 to 10 years, and 17 percent have been married 1 to 5 years. For 87 percent of respondents currently married, this is a first time marriage for both themselves and their spouse, and for 12 percent of those currently married either one or both have been married before. Among those who rate the health of relationships as a one, 91 percent are in a first marriage for both spouses.



Time and childcare

The amount of time parents have to spend with children is often impacted by the amount of time children spend in childcare. However, for the majority of Washington parents this is not an issue (72% not in childcare, 28% in childcare). Among parents who do use childcare, 50 percent use childcare five days a week, 12 percent use it four days a week, 13 percent three days a week, 11 percent two days a week, and 10 percent only use childcare once a week.

■ It's no surprise that younger families are more likely to make use of childcare than older families. Parents in their 30s (43%) or younger (54%), those with younger children (under 2, 56%, 3-5, 47%), and couples who have been married 10 years or less (51%) are more likely to use childcare. Older parents (87%), parents of teenagers (14-17, 93%) and couples who have been married longer (11+yrs 87%) are less likely to use childcare.

■ Parents who live in the Puget Sound area (59%) or households where both parents work

full-time (73%) are more likely to use childcare five days a week.

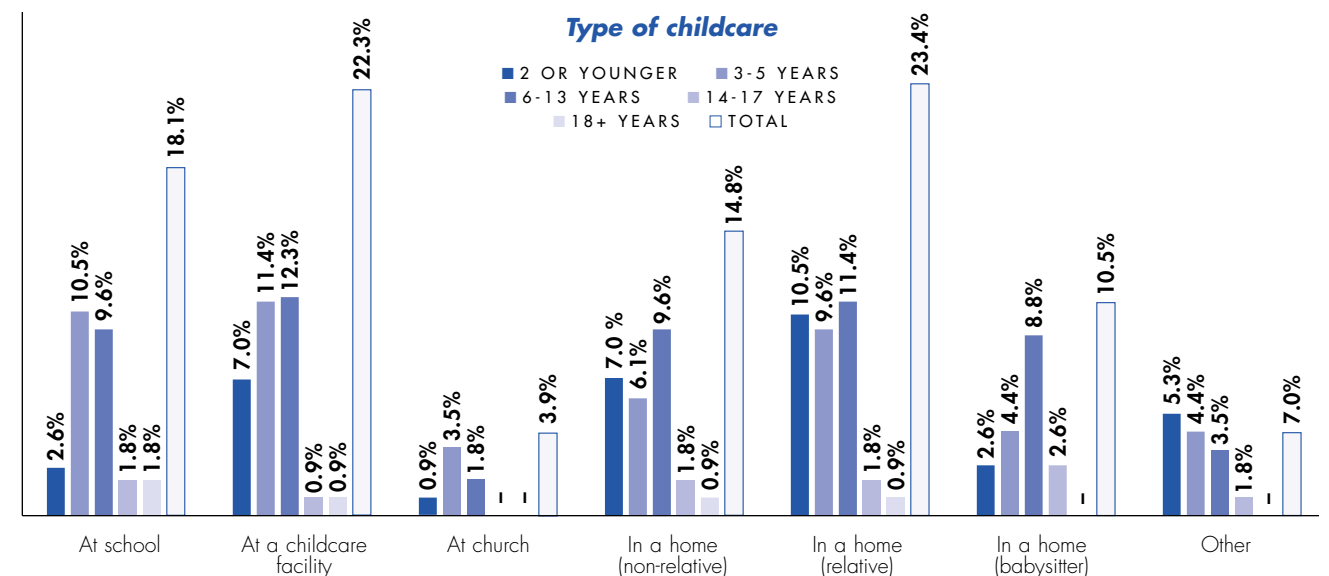
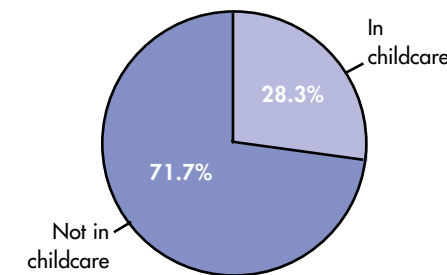
Among children who are in childcare, 35 percent spend more than six hours a day there, 22 percent spend 4-5 hours, 30 percent spend 2-3 hours, and 21 percent spend less than two hours. (*More than 100% because of possibility for multiple answers. Hours may be different for each child in family.)

■ Children under the age of 2 (54%) are more likely to spend more than 6 hours a day in

childcare. And, children between 6-13 years old (19%) are more likely to spend 4 hours a day in childcare.

The majority of children in childcare are either in a home with a relative (23%) or at a childcare facility (22%). The remaining children are in childcare at school (18%), at church (4%), in a home with a non-relative (15%), in a home with a babysitter (11%), or in some other childcare arrangement (7%).

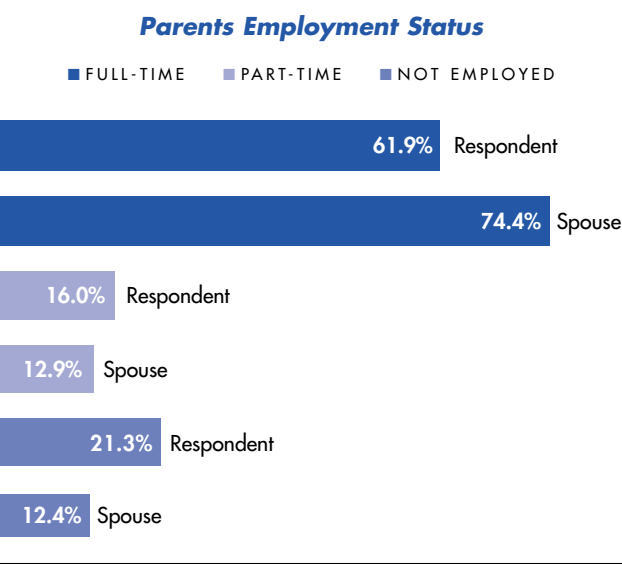
Families Who Use Childcare



Time for work

Work. Whether it's full-time or part-time, work affects a family's ability to spend time together. And, not surprisingly, the activity a large number of parents spend the most time doing each week is working (61%). Sixty-two percent of respondents are currently employed full-time, 16 percent are employed part-time, and 21 percent are not employed at all. The majority of respondents who are employed work 40 hours a week (38%). Nine percent work more than 50 hours a week, 20 percent work 41-50 hours a week, 19 percent work 21-39 hours a week, and 12 percent work less than 20 hours a week. Seventy-four percent of respondents' spouses work fulltime, while only 13 percent work part time and 12 percent are not employed. Again, the majority of spouses work 40 hours a week (43%). Twelve percent work more than 50 hours, 23 percent work 41-50 hours, 13 percent work 21-39 hours, and 8 percent work less than 20 hours.

Washington parents indicate that a flexible work schedule would be more helpful to family time than less time commuting to and from work.



“Many an opportunity is lost because a man is out looking for four-leaf clovers.” *Unknown*

Seventy percent of parents say a flexible work schedule would help to increase the amount of time they spend with their family, while only 26 percent of parents thought they would do more with their kids if they didn't spend so much time commuting to and from work.

Work is a big part of parents' lives, but most have no desire to focus on it any more than they already do. When asked, “would having more time to focus on your career improve the overall quality of your life?” 71 percent said no. Only 10 percent said it would improve their life a lot, 13 percent said it would improve some, and 4 percent said it would improve a little.

■ In general, those more likely to say focusing on their career would improve their life are younger (under 30, 24%), a single parent (20%), non-white (24%), make less than \$40,000 (21%), have been married 10 years or less (8%), or rate the family relationships a 4 or 5 (25%).

■ Those with very healthy relationships (81%), couples married longer (11+, 81%), college graduates (77%), higher income families (\$75,000+, 79%), those living in Eastern Washington (87%), older parents (40+, 80%), white parents (74%), and those in a two-parent homes (74%) are more likely to say focusing on their career would not improve their life.

Finances and family time

A child's inheritance may be measured in time. Money plays a role in the amount of time parents spend with children, but the significance of that remains unclear. While there are some significant differences between parents who are at a higher income level and those at a lower income level, these differences don't appear to be as significant as the differences between family types. And family type, for the most part, impacts family income. So the question is whether family type is more important than income.

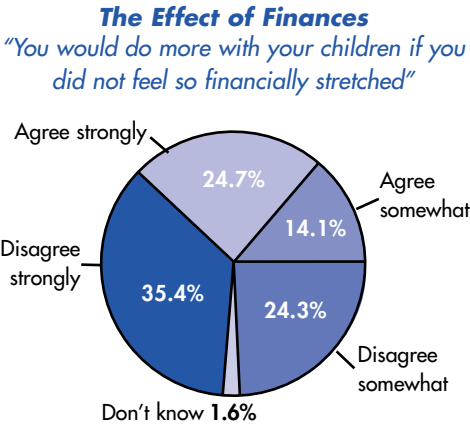
Thirty-nine percent of parents agree they would do more with their children if they didn't feel so financially stretched. Additionally, 71 percent of parents say they are financially comfortable.

■ Family type impacts family income. Married parents (76%), traditional families (75%), and those married longer (11+yrs 79%) are more likely to be financially comfortable while single parents (45%) are less likely to be comfortable financially. Parents who have been divorced (35%), and single parents (45%) are more likely to agree they would do more with children if they weren't financially stretched. On

the other hand, married parents (39%), traditional families (41%), and couples married 11 or more years (41%) are more likely to disagree.

■ Relationships and family income are connected. Those who rate family relationships a one (77%) are more likely to say they are financially comfortable while those who say some relationships are healthy and some are not (47%) are more likely to say they are not financially comfortable. Furthermore, those who say some relationships are healthy and some are not (38%) are more likely to agree they would do more with their

children if they weren't financially stretched while those who say relationships are very healthy (46%) are more likely to disagree.



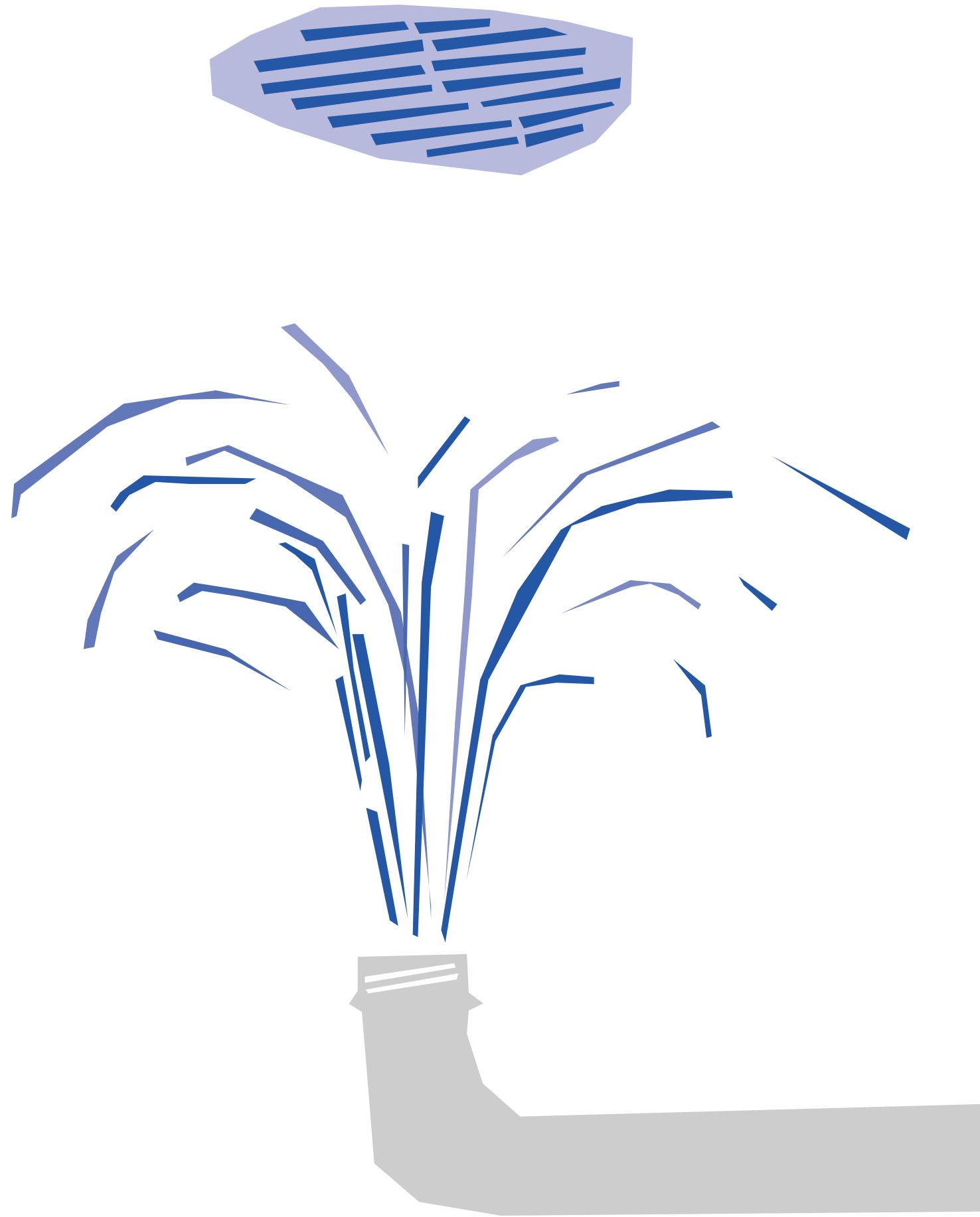
According to the Census, the average annual income for Washington State is approximately \$50,152 and for King County the average is \$63,217. Among Washington parents, 6 percent are making less than \$20,000, 20 percent

are making between \$20,000 and \$40,000, 32 percent are making between \$40,000 and \$75,000, 19 percent are making between \$75,000 and \$100,000, and 17 percent make more than \$100,000.

“The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day” *(M. Grundler)*

“Be a
fountain,
not a
drain.”

Rex Hudler

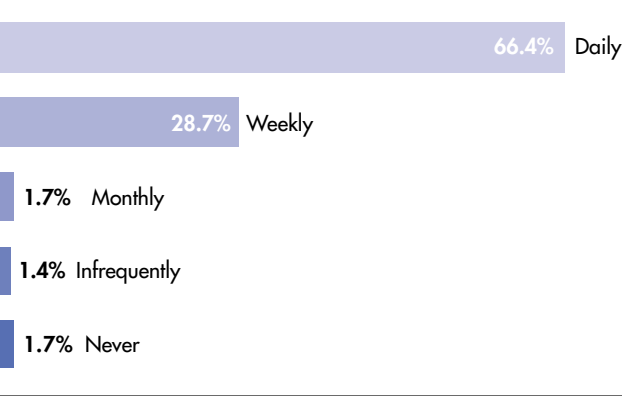


Family time and activities

Family time looks different in every family. Some families do fun activities together, some focus more on educational activities, and many make a point of doing routine activities together. The frequency and type of activity families participate in are closely related to family type, parents’ employment, and the relationship health of the family. Following are some of the activities that Washington families do together.

“Eat meals together, where you talk as a family”

According to 66 percent of Washington parents, eating meals together as a family occurs on a daily basis in their home. Another 29 percent eat together on a weekly basis, 2 percent monthly, 1 percent infrequently, and 2 percent never eat meals together.



Eat Meals Together Where You Talk as a Family

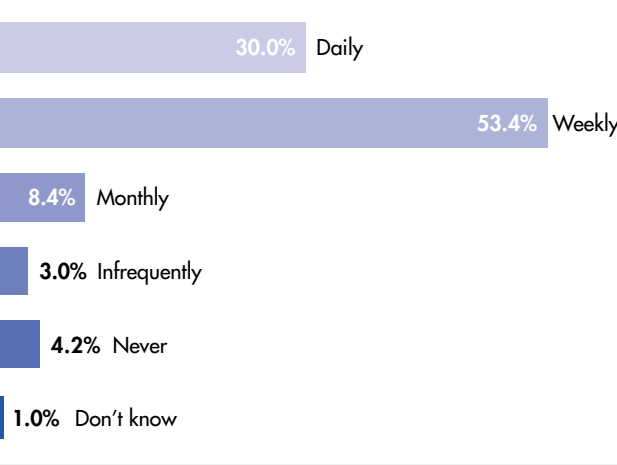
■ Mothers (72%), married parents (70%), traditional families (73%), natural parents (70%), two-parent households with only one full-time employed parent (76%), families that live in the Northwest region (80%), those who give family relationships a rating of one (72%), and those who say relationships are very healthy (72%) are more likely to eat together as a family on a daily basis.

■ Fathers (35%), those who have ever been divorced (34%), non-white parents (39%), those with older children (18+, 45%), households with a single parent who works full-time (43%), and respondents who work 50 or more hours (38%) are more likely to eat meals together as a family at least once a week.

“Watch television or movies together at home”

Sitting down to watch television or movies together is an everyday occurrence in 30 percent of Washington households. In 54 percent of households it is a weekly activity, a monthly activity in 8 percent, an infrequent activity in 3 percent, and an activity that never happens in 4 percent.

■ Younger parents (under 30, 57%), households where both parents are not the natural parent (40%), parents with children under 2 years old (46%), parents with only a high school education (44%), those who have been married 10 years or less (42%), families living in the Puget Sound area (35%), and those who use childcare (42%) are more likely to say they watch television or movies on a daily basis.



Watch Television Movies Together at Home

■ Parents over 40 years old (23%), those married longer (11+, 23%), and those living in the Northwest region (50%) are more likely to say they watch television or movies weekly.

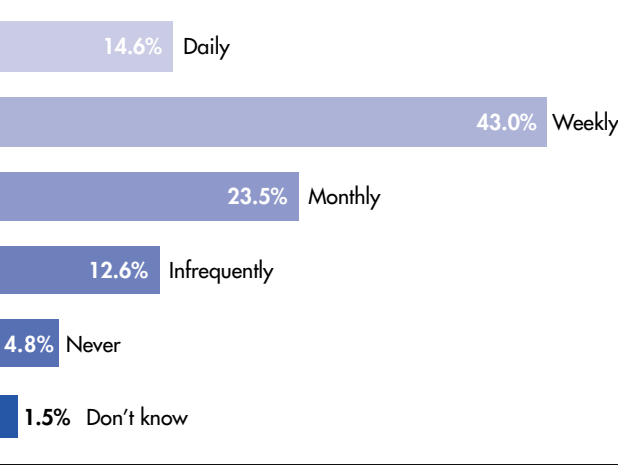
“Play games together”

Fifteen percent of parents say they spend time playing games together as a family everyday, 43 percent say they play games together weekly, 24 percent play games together monthly, 13 percent are playing together infrequently, and 5 percent never play games together.

■ Parents under 30 years old (28%), those with younger children (under 2, 31%, 3-5, 24%), married parents when only one parent is employed (21%), parents married 10 years or less (30%), and those living in the Southwest region (32%) are more likely to play games together daily.

■ Parents in their 30s (32%), those with children between 3 and 5 years old (38%) and/or 6 and 13 years old (32%), college graduates (29%), those who use childcare (35%), parents with only a high school education (26%), lower income families (less than \$40,000, 33%), and those who say the relationships in the family are very healthy (30%) are more likely to say they play games together weekly.

■ Married parents (16%), natural families (17%), older parents (40+, 17%), parents with school-aged children (6-13, 18%, 14-17, 17%, 18+, 20%), parents with some college experience (22%), couples married longer (11+yrs 20%), households where both parents work full-time (15%), and those who say the family relationships are very healthy (13%) are more likely to play games together monthly.

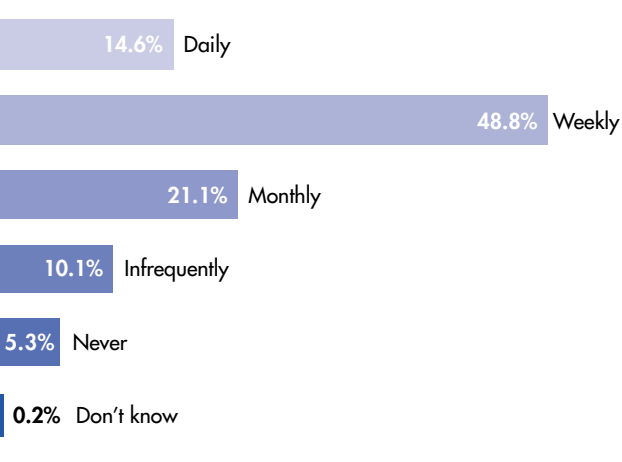


Play Games Together



“Work on your home or residence together”

Fifteen percent work on the family home or residence together everyday, 49 percent do that together weekly, 22 percent monthly, 10 percent infrequently, and 5 percent never.



Work on Your Home or Residence Together

■ Those more likely to say they work on the home or residence together everyday are living in the Northwest region (27%), rate the family relationships a one (20%), or say the family relationships are very healthy (20%).

■ Those more likely to say weekly have children between 14 and 17 years old (31%) or work more than 50 hours a week (37%).

“Participate in sports or outdoor activities together”

Eleven percent participate in sports or outdoor activities together everyday, 48 percent do it weekly, 23 percent monthly, 11 percent infrequently, and 7 percent never participate in sports or outdoor activities together.

■ The age of parents relates to how often they participate in sports or outdoor activities with their children. Younger parents (under 30, 23%) are more likely to make this a daily activity, parents in their 30s (25%) participate at least once a week, and older parents (40+, 13%) participate at least once a month.

■ Child’s age has some impact on a parent’s participation in sports or outdoor activities. Parents with children under 2 are more likely to participate daily (22%) or at least once a week (29%). Parents with elementary-aged children (6-13, 14%) are more likely to engage in this activity everyday, while those with teenagers (14-17, 16%) and older children (18+, 21%) are more likely to only participate once a month.

“Use the Internet together”

Thirty-six percent of parents never use the Internet with their children and 15 percent do infrequently. Eight percent of parents use the Internet with their children everyday, 25 percent do at least once a week, and 14 percent do at least once a month.

■ Parents with teenagers (14-17, 12%) and households where one parent works full-time or less (14%) are more likely to use the Internet together everyday.

■ Traditional (20%) and natural (20%) families, those living in the Puget Sound area (20%), and mothers (10%) are more likely to use the Internet with their kids at least once a week.

■ Families where both parents are not the natural parent (14%), parents with children between 6 and 13 years old (9%), college graduates (9%), those whose spouse works more than 50 hours a week (16%), those living in the Northwest region (16%), and those who rate the family relationships a 4 or 5 (19%) are more likely to have used the Internet at least once a month with their children.

■ Older parents (40+, 20%), college graduates (21%), households with one parent working full-time and one working part-time (23%), and higher income families (\$75,000+ 24%) are more likely to use the Internet infrequently with their children.

■ Single parents (48%), those with only a high school education (47%), lower income families (less than \$40,000, 51%), those living in the

Eastern region (52%), and those who say some of the relationships in the family are healthy and some are not (57%) are more likely to never use the Internet with their children.

“Go to visit your family or friends together”

Six percent visit everyday, 46 percent visit weekly, 34 percent visit monthly, 13 percent visit infrequently, and 2 percent never visit.

■ Younger parents (under 30, 16%) are more likely to visit family and friends everyday or at least once a week (41%). Conversely, older parents (40yo, 18%) are more likely to visit on a monthly basis or infrequently (17%).

■ Marital status also affects the frequency of visits with family and friends. Single parents (12%), and couples married 10 years or less (32%) are more likely to visit everyday and at least once a week (respectively). Parents who have been married longer (11+, 24%) are more likely to visit family or friends monthly or infrequently (17%).

■ Children’s age is another factor in how often families visit others together. Parents with younger children (under 2, 12%) are more likely to visit daily or at least once a week (38%). Those with children between 3 and 5 years old (35%) are more likely to visit at least once a week. Parents with school-aged children (6-13, 17%; 14-17, 19%) are more likely to visit at least once a month, and those with children between 14 and 17 years old (18%) are more likely to visit infrequently.

“Take part in some sort of family hobby together”

Five percent do a family hobby together everyday, 36 percent do so weekly, 30 percent do so monthly, 17 percent infrequently take part in a family hobby, and 11 percent never do.

■ Parents under 30 years old (27%), two-parent homes (18%), parents with younger children (under 2, 26%, 3-5, 27%), parents with some college experience (23%), couples married 10 years or less (26%), and parents who utilize child-care (22%) are more likely to say they take part in a family hobby at least once a month.

■ College graduates (23%) take part in a family hobby infrequently, and those making less than \$40,000 (21%) are more likely to never take part in a family hobby.

1998 to 2001 Comparison		
	1998	2001
Eat meals together daily	77%	66%
Watch TV together daily	44%	30%
Work on home together daily	21%	15%
Work on home together weekly	68%	49%

“Go out to a concert, movie, or sporting event together”

Forty-eight percent say they go out to a concert, movie, or sporting event at least once a month, 14 percent go

at least once a week, 29 percent go infrequently, 8 percent never go, and 1 percent say they go everyday.

■ Parents under 30 years old (32%), non-white parents (33%), households where both parents work full-time (36%) or one parent works full-time and one part-time (27%), and those who rate their family relationships a one (23%) are more likely to say they attend at least once a month.

■ Parents in their 30s (37%), and those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000 (39%) are more likely to attend infrequently and those with younger children (under 2, 16%; 3-5, 14%) are more likely to never attend.

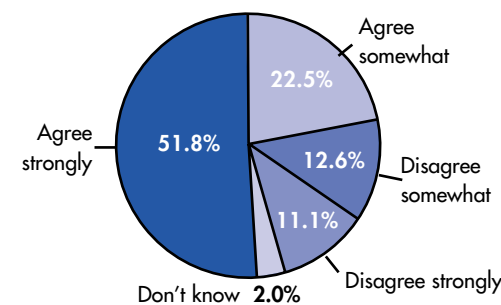
Time for religion

Parents make decisions about what things are important enough in the life of their family to make time to accomplish. One decision parents have to make is about religion – will their family be involved in a religious community and if so, how much time will be devoted to religious activities.

Eighty-two percent of parents in Washington self-identify as Christian, eight percent are Atheist or have no faith, and two percent are Jewish. Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu each make up .2 percent of parents in Washington. The remaining parents either don't know their religion (5%) or are of some other faith (3%). Half of all parents say they are absolutely committed to their faith (52%) regardless of what that faith is. Thirty-three percent are somewhat committed, seven percent are not too committed and five percent are not at all committed.

Less than half (43%) of all parents say they attend religious services together as a family at least once a week and another 13 percent attend at least once a month. Eighteen percent attend services infrequently and 26 percent don't ever attend.

Religious Beliefs and Parenting
"Your personal religious beliefs play a very important part in how you raise your children"



■ Attendance at religious services is more likely to occur on a weekly basis in families that are traditional (38%), have children between 6 and 13 years old (37%), are a two-parent household where one parent works full-time or less (17%), or family relationships are rated a 4 or 5 (54%).

■ Parents who are single (26%), and those with children over 18 (28%) are more likely to attend infrequently. Families where both parents are not the natural parent (37%), families with only one child (33%), and parents with a high school education or less (34%) are more likely to say they never attend religious services.

Prayer and scripture reading are activities in some religious communities. One-quarter of parents report reading the scriptures or praying together as a family everyday. Seventeen percent indicate they do this at least once a week, 8 percent at least once a month, 18 percent are infrequent in their scripture reading or prayer, and 30 percent never read the scriptures or pray together.

■ Mothers (31%) are more likely to say the family reads the scriptures or prays together everyday, while fathers (11%) are more likely to say this occurs on a weekly basis. Parents with children between 6 and 13 years old (31%), and those in a two-parent household where one parent works full-time or less (37%) are more likely to read or pray together everyday.

Seventy-five percent of parents agree that their personal religious beliefs play a very important part in the way they raise their children. Those who are more likely to agree have been married 10 years or less (30%), have teenagers (14-17, 58%), or rate the family relationships a 4 or 5 (83%). Those more likely to disagree (24%) are younger parents (under 30, 25%), and have young children (under 2, 21%).

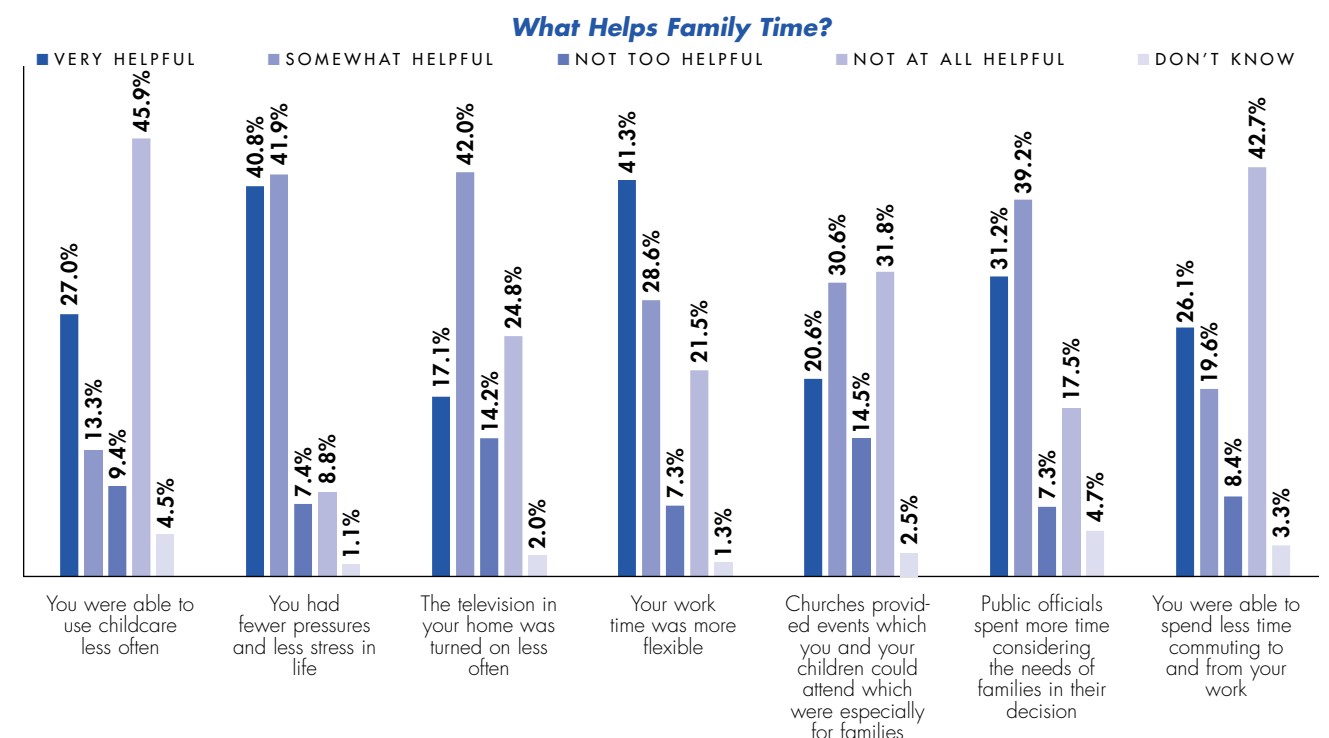
Increasing family time

Families have many demands on their time, so how can they increase their family time when it seems there is no time left? Increasing family time is often a matter of making choices that will allow for more time together, but there are some things that can help parents make those choices.

Approximately half (48%) of parents want more time to spend as a family, and half (52%) are satisfied with the amount of time their family spends together. Traditional families (57%), two-parent households with one full-time employed parent (65%), and higher income families (\$75,000+ 61%) are more likely to say they are satisfied with family time. On the other hand, parents who have ever been divorced (59%), households where both parents work full-time (58%), respondents who work 50 hours or more (62%), and those who use childcare (60%) are more likely to say they want more family time.

Parents who are not satisfied with their family time and want more were asked how helpful a list of things would be to increase their family time. The three things parents indicate most often as being helpful are fewer pressures and less stress in life (83%), more flexible work time (70%), and public officials giving more consideration to the needs of families in their decisions (70%).

■ Fewer pressures and less stress in life are considered by 41 percent of parents to be very helpful in increasing family time and 42 percent said they would be somewhat helpful. A flexible work time would be very helpful for 41 percent of parents and somewhat helpful for 29 percent of parents. Thirty-one percent of parents said more time spent by public officials considering the needs of families would be very helpful and 39 percent said it would be somewhat helpful. Parents also indicated that using less childcare,



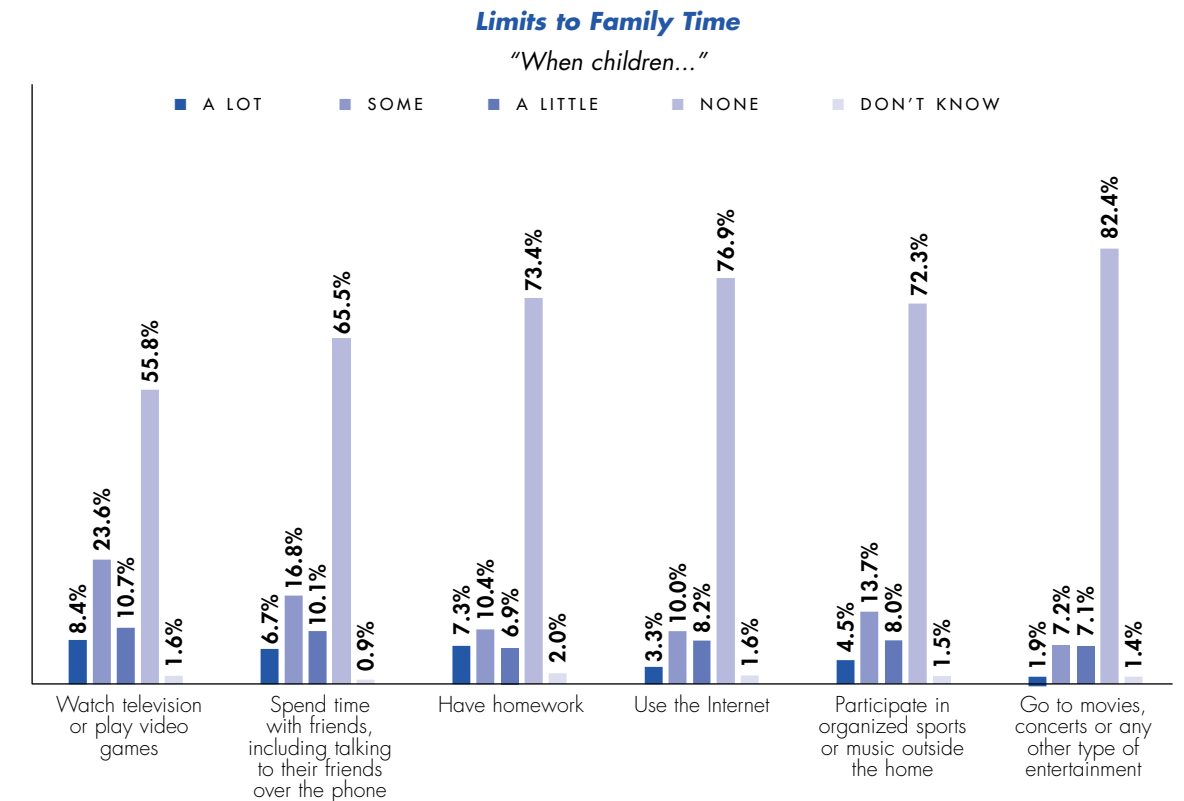
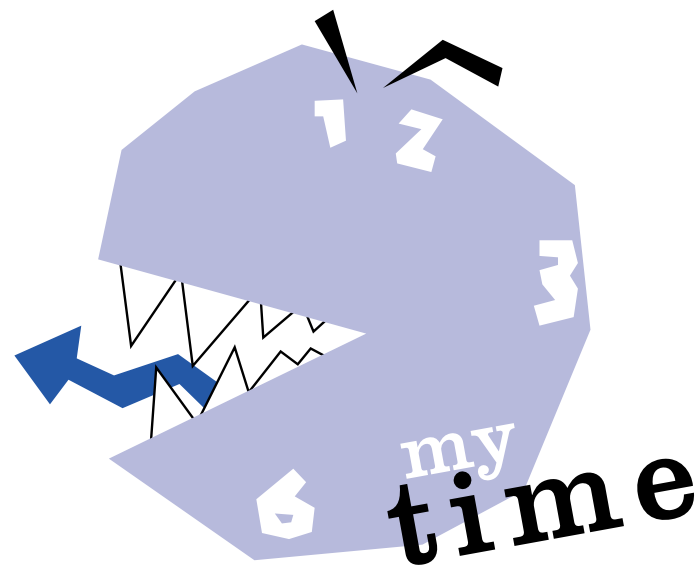
having the television on less, family events provided by churches, and spending less time commuting to work would also help them increase their family time. Twenty-seven percent of parents said it would be very helpful if they were able to use childcare less often and 13 percent felt it would be somewhat helpful. Seventeen percent and 42 percent said turning on the television less often in their home would be very or somewhat helpful, respectively. If churches provided events that families could attend together, this would be very helpful to 21 percent of parents, and somewhat helpful to 31 percent of parents. Twenty-six percent of parents felt that spending less time commuting to and from work would be very helpful to increasing their family time and 20 percent said it would be somewhat helpful.

Family time is not only affected by the parents' activities and decisions, but also the activities of children. Sometimes you hear parents talking about how busy they are and how busy their kids are with all the activities of life. However, when we asked Washington parents if their kids were too busy, 76 percent said no. Parents were also asked to what degree their children's activities limit the family's time together. The activity mentioned most was children watching television or playing video games.

■ Forty-three percent of parents say that when their children watch television or play video games it limits family time. Parents with teenagers (14-17, 13%), higher income families (\$75,000+, 13%), and parents who work 50 or

**“We are always too busy
for our children; we never give them the
time or interest they deserve. We lavish gifts
upon them; but the most precious gift,
our personal association, which means so
much to them, we give grudgingly.”**

Mark Twain



more hours a week (18%) are more likely to say their family time is limited a lot by this activity. Older parents (40+, 30%), those who have ever been divorced (31%), households with two or more children (29%), parents with school-aged children (6-13, 28%; 14-17, 33%), those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000 (30%), and couples married longer (11+, 29%) are more likely to say it limits family time some.

■ Thirty-four percent of parents say that when their child spends time with friends, including talking to their friends on the telephone their family time is limited. Parents with children between 14 and 17 (28%) and/or over 18 years old (30%) are more likely to say it limits family time, while those with children under 2 (79%) and/or between 3 and 5 years old (74%) are more likely to say it doesn't limit family time. Parents who work 50 hours or more a week (13%), those making between \$40,000 and \$75,000 (22%), older parents (40+, 23%), parents who have ever divorced (13%), parents with two or more chil-

dren (20%), those married longer (11+, 21%), and those with some college experience (25%) are more likely to say it limits family time.

■ Thirty-four percent of parents feel their family time is limited when their children have homework. Parents with children between 14 and 17 (16%) and/or over 18 years old (17%), and older parents (40+, 14%) are more likely to believe homework limits their family time.

■ Twenty-seven percent of parents said when their children participate in organized activities like sports or music their family time is limited. Twenty-one percent of parents indicated that their family time is limited when their children use the Internet. And 16 percent of parents said their family time is limited when their children go to movies, concerts, or other types of entertainment.

Recommendations

Recommendations

- As families, try going “TV free” for a week or even a month.
- Create a TV budget – plan what you will watch, and only watch programs that have been planned.
- Consider how you can use the Internet as a family. Find websites the whole family can share to bring your family together.
- Create a family mission statement. Set goals and make plans to achieve them (e.g. college education: create savings account where both parents and children contribute).
- As parents, make sure you plan date nights alone together on a regular basis. If you don’t schedule it, it won’t happen.
- Decide what’s important (physical health, academic achievement) and plan activities to achieve it (exercise, trips to the library).
- Take the relational health survey on the Families Northwest website at *www.familiesnorthwest.org*.
- Since health affects work, employers could give people resources/tools to assess family time and family health in an intentional way. Survey employees to determine their need for flexibility and explore how you can meet the needs of the employee and the organization.
- Ask your church to sponsor activities for whole family can participate in.
- Make family a visible part of your city or town. Plan a festival of families and invite health and education organizations.
- Churches, community centers – offer parenting classes that emphasize how parents can create intentional family time – how to enrich and maximize family time
- Attend local music, as a family rather than the more expensive events.
- Find out if there is a Marriage and Family Agreement (MFA) in your community. Request that pre-marital and parenting classes are offered. *(For more information on MFA’s go to our website at www.familiesnorthwest.org.)*

Methodology

It's Time For Families . . . is a research project commissioned by Families Northwest and conducted by the Barna Research Group, Ltd. of Ventura, CA. The first report was released in 1998, and examined the attitudes and activities impacting the quality and quantity of family time in Washington, this report is a follow-up to the first report. Changes were made to the original questionnaire, but a number of questions were retained in their original form. Respondents were not necessarily the same in 2001 as they were in 1998.

The data in this report originated from a telephone survey of 402 adults living in the state of Washington who have children under the age of 18-years-old currently living in their household. According to the 2000 Census, this makes up approximately 35% of households in Washington State. The survey, approximately 21 minutes in length, was conducted between April 24 and May 7, 2001. Respondents were called between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. The survey benefited from very high cooperation rates (77%), which increases the likelihood that the data collected accurately reflects the population studied.

The results of the research are accurate to within ± 5 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level (which means that if the study were repeated 100 times, in 95 of those cases the results would fall within ± 5 percentage points of the results we obtained with this study).

All of the differences reported are significant to at least the 0.10-level, with the majority of them significant to the 0.01-level, which means that there is a less than one percent chance that the difference reported is coincidence and a greater than 99 percent chance that there is a correlation between those variables.

All questions about this research should be directed to Families Northwest (425-637-5959).

About Families Northwest

Washington is known the world over for producing the best airplanes, computer software, apples and coffee. Wouldn't it be great if we also were known as the best place in the world to be married and raise children?

Our future and the physical, mental and spiritual health of our children depend on strong families. Families Northwest is working to encourage and equip businesses, government, schools, media and churches to actively support marriage and the principal role parents play in the health and welfare of children. In other words, we want Washington to become the best place in the world to be married and raise children.

We measure our progress with the answers to three questions:

Marriage Movement

Are marriages increasing and is the divorce rate and family breakdown decreasing?

Family Time

Are parents and children spending more quality time together?

Healthy Homes for Children

Is the number of children nurtured and raised by their married mother and father increasing?

Families Northwest is a compelling voice for marriage and families. We give communities resources, strategies, and research to reduce divorce and prevent the consequences of family breakdown. If you want to become part of the movement for marriage and families or just want to know more about us, please contact us.

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Appendix

Definitions:

2 parent, natural = there are 2 ‘parents’ in the home (which can include those who are not married) and BOTH are the natural parents of ALL of the children in the home.

2 parent, other = there are 2 ‘parents’ in the home (again, can include those cohabitating) and both are NOT the natural parents of ALL of the children in the home.

Traditional = A respondent categorized as traditional is married, and this is the first marriage for both them and their spouse.

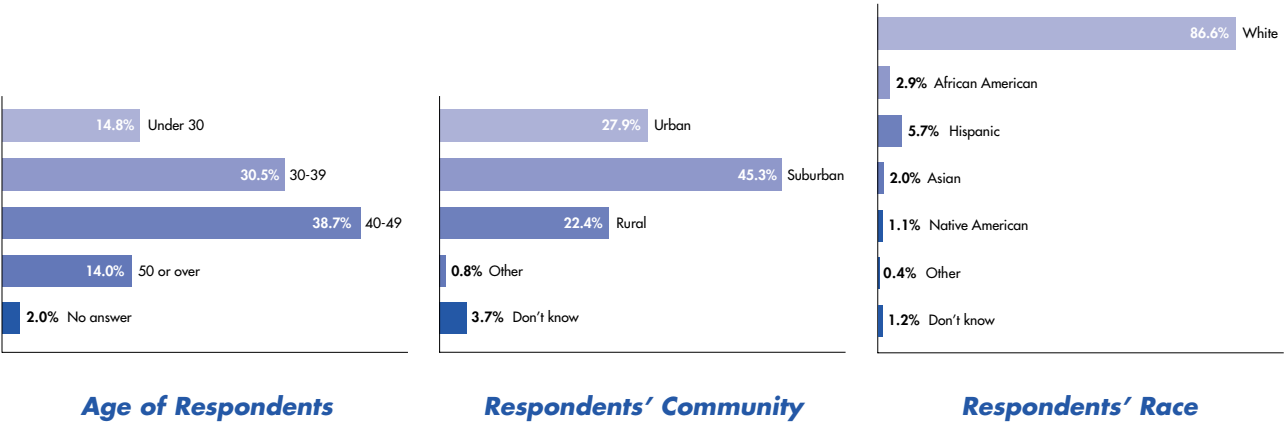
Demographics:

Nearly three-quarters of Washington parents attended college (71%). Fourteen percent did some graduate studies, 37 percent graduated from college, and 20 percent attended college but did not graduate. Eight percent of parents attended a trade or vocational school, 16 percent graduated from high school, and 4 percent attended grade school or part of high school and did not graduate.

Eighty-seven percent of respondents are the natural birth parent of all the children in their household. Five percent are the natural parent of some of the children, and seven percent are the natural parent of none of the children in the immediate household. Among respondents living with a spouse or cohabiting, 85 percent say that person is also the natural birth parent of all the children in the household. Seven percent are the natural parent of some of the children, and seven percent are the natural parent of none of the children in the immediate household. Thirteen percent of respondents report that at least one of the children living in the household is adopted.

The majority of parents (93%) do not home school any of their children.

Respondent’s gender: Sixty-two percent of respondents were female and 38 percent were male.



County of Residence

(# of respondents in each)

Eastern WA (11.7% of sample)

Adams	6
Asotin	1
Columbia	0
Ferry	4
Garfield	1
Lincoln	0
Pend Oreille	0
Spokane	24
Stevens	5
Walla Walla	3
Whitman	3

Central WA (7.2% of sample)

Benton	7
Chelan	4
Douglas	2
Franklin	0
Grant	3
Kittitas	1
Klickitat	0
Okanogan	2
Yakima	10

Puget Sound (57.6% of sample)

King	163
Pierce	68

Southwest WA (8.2% of sample)

Clark	17
Cowlitz	6
Lewis	1
Pacific	1
Skamania	0
Thurston	8
Wahkiakum	0

Western WA (3.5% of sample)

Clallam	2
Grays Harbor	3
Jefferson	0
Kitsap	9
Mason	0

Northwest WA (11.5% of sample)

Island	0
San Juan	0
Skagit	3
Snohomish	37
Whatcom	6



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