



2100 Geng Road, Suite 210  
 Palo Alto, CA 94303  
[www.gfk.com](http://www.gfk.com)

Interview dates: May 15 – May 23, 2013  
 Interviews: 1,277 adults ages 18-49 of which 298 are never  
 married women with children or who are pregnant  
 Sampling margin of error for a 50% statistic with 95%  
 confidence is: ±3.8 for all interviews and ±8.9% for never  
 married women with children or who are pregnant

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS-WE tv  
 Perceptions of Childbearing  
 CONDUCTED BY GfK  
 May 30, 2013

**NOTE: All results shown are weighted and are percentages unless otherwise labeled. Results represent all respondents unless otherwise indicated. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

**Q1.** Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Married	56%	--
Widowed	0%	--
Divorced	7%	--
Separated	1%	--
Never married	35%	100%

**Q2.** Are you, personally, a parent, or not?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes	55%	99%
No	45%	1%

[ASKED OF WOMEN WHO WERE NOT PARENTS IN Q2]

**Q2a.** Are you currently pregnant, or not?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes	5%	1%
No	95%	99%

**Q4.** These days, there seems to be a growing variety in the types of family arrangements that people live in. Overall, do you think this is:

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2, ANCHOR OPTION 3]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
A good thing	28%	28%
A bad thing	26%	10%
It doesn't make much difference	45%	62%
Refused/No Answer	1%	*

**Q5.** For each of the following trends, is it generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't it make much difference?

[RANDOMIZE]

More single women having children without a partner to help raise them

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Good thing for society	6%	9%
Bad thing for society	64%	56%
Doesn't make much difference	28%	34%
Refused/No Answer	2%	*

More women not ever having children

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Good thing for society	18%	20%
Bad thing for society	27%	24%
Doesn't make much difference	54%	55%
Refused/No Answer	2%	--

More women having their first child after age 35

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Good thing for society	20%	25%
Bad thing for society	27%	17%
Doesn't make much difference	56%	58%
Refused/No Answer	2%	*

More women undergoing fertility treatments in order to have a baby

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Good thing for society	22%	22%
Bad thing for society	23%	22%
Doesn't make much difference	52%	56%
Refused/No Answer	2%	*

More women being the primary wage earner in their household

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Good thing for society	24%	42%
Bad thing for society	16%	14%
Doesn't make much difference	58%	45%
Refused/No Answer	2%	--

[ASKED OF PARENTS IN Q2]

**Q6.** How old were you when your first child arrived?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
<18	5%	13%
18-25	46%	65%
26-30	27%	12%
31-35	13%	6%
36-40	6%	1%
41-45	1%	1%
45+	1%	*
Refused/No answer	2%	1%

[ASKED OF PARENTS (Q2) AND ANYONE WHO DID NOT SAY "HAVE NEVER BEEN MARRIED" (Q1)]

**Q3.** Were you married at the time your first child arrived, or not?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, was married when first child arrived	78%	--
No, was not married when first child arrived	22%	--
Refused/no answer	1%	--

[ASKED OF PARENTS IN Q2 OR PREGNANT IN Q2A]

**Q7.** Which statement best describes you:

[RANDOMIZE]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
I always knew I wanted to have children	75%	56%
I wasn't sure if I wanted to have children	24%	43%
Refused/no answer	1%	1%

[ASKED OF PARENTS IN Q2]

**Q8.** What kind of an effect did becoming a parent have on each of the following aspects of your life?

[RANDOMIZE]

Your love life

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	28%	19%
Somewhat positive effect	17%	16%
Not much effect either way	34%	41%
Somewhat negative effect	16%	15%
Strongly negative effect	3%	7%
Refused/No answer	3%	2%

Your career

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	15%	21%
Somewhat positive effect	15%	11%
Not much effect either way	45%	35%
Somewhat negative effect	21%	24%
Strongly negative effect	2%	6%
Refused/No answer	2%	2%

Your social life

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	19%	24%
Somewhat positive effect	17%	19%
Not much effect either way	38%	30%
Somewhat negative effect	18%	15%
Strongly negative effect	3%	9%
Refused/No answer	3%	3%

Your financial well-being

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	12%	16%
Somewhat positive effect	13%	12%
Not much effect either way	36%	32%
Somewhat negative effect	31%	32%
Strongly negative effect	4%	8%
Refused/No answer	3%	1%

Your overall happiness

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	63%	51%
Somewhat positive effect	20%	24%
Not much effect either way	12%	14%
Somewhat negative effect	2%	8%
Strongly negative effect	0%	2%
Refused/No answer	2%	1%

Your sense of accomplishment

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	44%	37%
Somewhat positive effect	30%	30%
Not much effect either way	18%	20%
Somewhat negative effect	4%	6%
Strongly negative effect	1%	6%
Refused/No answer	3%	1%

Your sense of purpose in life

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Strongly positive effect	60%	54%
Somewhat positive effect	21%	23%
Not much effect either way	13%	16%
Somewhat negative effect	2%	3%
Strongly negative effect	*	3%
Refused/No answer	4%	1%

[ASKED OF PARENTS IN Q2 OR PREGNANT IN Q2A]

**Q9.** Please indicate how important each of the following items were in your decision to have a child.

[RANDOMIZE]

The joy of having children

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	61%	53%
Somewhat important	26%	29%
Not too important	6%	11%
Not at all important	4%	6%
Refused/No answer	3%	1%

Wanting to have a child while you were young

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	23%	21%
Somewhat important	36%	26%
Not too important	22%	30%
Not at all important	16%	21%
Refused/No answer	3%	1%

Having the financial resources to raise a child

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	41%	52%
Somewhat important	40%	31%
Not too important	9%	10%
Not at all important	6%	5%
Refused/No answer	4%	2%

Having found the right person to have a child with

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	71%	53%
Somewhat important	16%	21%
Not too important	6%	15%
Not at all important	3%	10%
Refused/No answer	4%	1%

The impact children would have on your personal life

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	29%	39%
Somewhat important	31%	23%
Not too important	24%	25%
Not at all important	13%	11%
Refused/No answer	3%	2%

Pressure from parents or other family members to have a baby

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	6%	10%
Somewhat important	11%	9%
Not too important	28%	19%
Not at all important	53%	60%
Refused/No answer	2%	2%

Reaching certain career goals before starting a family

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	17%	32%
Somewhat important	30%	24%
Not too important	30%	28%
Not at all important	20%	15%
Refused/No answer	3%	1%

It's just something you always wanted to do

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	37%	28%
Somewhat important	32%	27%
Not too important	18%	23%
Not at all important	10%	20%
Refused/No answer	3%	3%

It wasn't a decision, it just happened

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	21%	46%
Somewhat important	19%	26%
Not too important	21%	16%
Not at all important	35%	10%
Refused/No answer	3%	2%

[ASKED OF NON-PARENTS IN Q2 AND THOSE NOT PREGNANT IN Q2A]

**Q10.** Would you like to have children someday, or not?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes	53%	--
No	16%	--
It depends	30%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

[ASKED OF THOSE ANSWERING "YES" IN Q10]

**Q11a.** What is the main reason you would like to have children? [Open-ended item coded]

[For all mentions, multiple responses possible. Percent sums to greater than 100%]

	All 18-49	1 <sup>st</sup> mention	All mentions
<b>Emotional reasons - NET</b>		<b>44%</b>	<b>53%</b>
Love/enjoy/like children		16%	16%
Want to be a mother/father/to care for/nurture/raise a child		10%	11%
Just want them, no reason		6%	7%
Because of love/To give children love		3%	6%
Feeling of purpose		3%	4%
Always wanted children		2%	2%
Happiness/joy		2%	4%
Experience		1%	2%
Fun/enjoyment		1%	1%
Blessing/gift		*	*
<b>Family/tradition based reasons - NET</b>		<b>41%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Want a family/Family oriented		22%	25%
Want to carry on family/family name/pass on traditions/legacy		10%	13%
To teach a child/share values or interests		6%	9%
Piece of me/my spouse/my partner		4%	5%
Start own traditions		*	*
<b>Practical/Needs/Natural instinct reasons - NET</b>		<b>8%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Children complete you/family/circle of life		2%	2%
Religious reasons		2%	3%
Would be a good parent		1%	1%
Companionship		1%	1%
There when you become older/Not being alone when older		1%	1%
Make a difference/Bring good to the world		1%	1%
Bringing new life into the world		1%	1%
Other		7%	8%
Don't know		1%	1%



[IF Q10 = "YES" OR "DEPENDS"]

**Q12.** Please indicate how important you think each of the following items might be to you in deciding whether to have a child.

[RANDOMIZE]

Finding the right person to have a child with

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	81%	--
Somewhat important	12%	--
Not too important	4%	--
Not at all important	1%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Having the financial resources to raise a child

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	69%	--
Somewhat important	25%	--
Not too important	4%	--
Not at all important	1%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

The joy of having children

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	62%	--
Somewhat important	28%	--
Not too important	9%	--
Not at all important	1%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Pressure from parents or other family members to have a baby

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	7%	--
Somewhat important	16%	--
Not too important	37%	--
Not at all important	39%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

The impact children would have on your personal life

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	43%	--
Somewhat important	38%	--
Not too important	12%	--
Not at all important	6%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Wanting to have a child while you are young

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	12%	--
Somewhat important	39%	--
Not too important	32%	--
Not at all important	16%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Reaching certain career goals before starting a family

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very important	35%	--
Somewhat important	37%	--
Not too important	20%	--
Not at all important	6%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

[IF Q10 = "YES" OR "DEPENDS"]

**Q13.** Below are some things people who want to have children may consider. Please indicate whether you would consider each of them.

[RANDOMIZE]

Having a child on your own without a partner

[ASKED ONLY OF THOSE NOT MARRIED IN Q1]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	18%	--
No, would not consider	81%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Adopting a child on your own without a partner  
 [ASKED ONLY OF THOSE NOT MARRIED IN Q1]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	26%	--
No, would not consider	73%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Freezing your eggs so that you can have children later  
 [ASKED ONLY OF WOMEN]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	31%	--
No, would not consider	68%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Using donor sperm and artificial insemination to become pregnant  
 [ASKED ONLY OF WOMEN]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	27%	--
No, would not consider	73%	--
Refused/No answer	--	--

Marrying someone who already has a child  
 [ASKED ONLY OF THOSE NOT MARRIED IN Q1]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	68%	--
No, would not consider	30%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Undergoing fertility treatments in order to have a child

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	51%	--
No, would not consider	48%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

Adopting a child with a spouse or partner

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	77%	--
No, would not consider	22%	--
Refused/No answer	1%	--

[ASKED IF WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR NEVER MARRIED IN Q1]

**Q14.** Do you, personally, want to get married {again} someday or not?

[AGAIN INSERTED FOR DIVORCED/WIDOWED RESPONDENTS ONLY]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would like to get married	80%	81%
No, would not like to get married	19%	19%
Refused/no answer	2%	*

[ASKED IF NOT MARRIED IN Q1]

**Q15.** Please tell me if you would consider starting a relationship with someone in each of the following situations:

[RANDOMIZE]

Someone who is divorced

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	74%	64%
No, would not consider	25%	36%
Refused/No answer	1%	*

Someone who has children

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	68%	75%
No, would not consider	31%	25%
Refused/No answer	1%	*

Someone who has an infant

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	56%	54%
No, would not consider	44%	45%
Refused/No answer	1%	1%

Someone who is pregnant  
 [ASKED AMONG MEN]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, would consider	23%	--
No, would not consider	75%	--
Refused/No answer	2%	--

**Q16.** Do you think a single mother can do as good a job of raising a child as two parents can?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes	30%	56%
No	27%	8%
It depends	43%	36%
Refused/No answer	1%	--

**Q17.** Do you have any female friends, family members or co-workers who have had or adopted a child without having a partner to help raise the child?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes	32%	45%
No	66%	55%
Refused/No answer	2%	--

**Q18.** Do you currently work, for pay, or not?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Yes, work full-time	52%	52%
Yes, work part-time	18%	13%
No, do not currently work for pay	29%	34%
Refused/No answer	1%	*

[ASKED OF THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK FOR PAY IN Q18]

**Q18a.** Which of the following best describes you:

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
A student	27%	16%
A homemaker	34%	35%
Retired	5%	2%
Temporary unemployed	34%	47%
Refused/No answer	1%	--

*Q18b held for later release*

**Q19.** How would you rate your personal financial situation? Would you say it is:  
 [OPTIONS REVERSED FOR HALF OF THE SAMPLE]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Excellent	6%	1%
Good	35%	16%
Fair	40%	48%
Poor	13%	23%
Very poor	5%	11%
Refused/No answer	1%	*

**Q20.** Generally speaking, do you consider yourself:  
 [OPTIONS REVERSED FOR HALF OF THE SAMPLE]

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Very liberal	5%	7%
Somewhat liberal	17%	14%
Moderate	41%	60%
Somewhat conservative	25%	11%
Very conservative	10%	6%
Refused/No answer	2%	2%

**Q21.** What is your religious preference?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Protestant	21%	9%
Catholic	23%	14%
Mormon	1%	1%
Jewish	1%	1%
Muslim	*	--
Another religion	24%	40%
None	27%	32%
Refused/No answer	1%	2%

**Q22.** Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
More than once a week	9%	6%
Once a week	20%	13%
Once or twice a month	10%	11%
A few times a year	16%	22%
Less often than that	19%	24%
Never	24%	21%
Refused/No answer	1%	3%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**PPAGE.** Age

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
18-24	22%	24%
25-29	16%	18%
30-34	16%	22%
35-39	15%	17%
40-44	16%	12%
45-49	16%	8%

**PPGENDER.** Gender

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Male	50%	0%
Female	50%	100%

**PPEDUCAT.** Education (4 category)

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Less than high school	11%	16%
High school	28%	36%
Some college	31%	40%
Bachelor's degree or higher	29%	8%

**PPETHM.** Race / Ethnicity

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
White, Non-Hispanic	60%	24%
Black, Non-Hispanic	12%	43%
Other, Non-Hispanic	7%	6%
Hispanic	19%	22%
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	2%	5%

**PPREG4.** Region 4 - Based on State of Residence

	All 18-49	Never married women with children
Northeast	18%	12%
Midwest	21%	20%
South	37%	47%
West	24%	20%

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**METHODOLOGY**

The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection. People who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online, and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

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