Men and Care 2026

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago
Funded by New America

Interviews: 4/06-20/2026
3,345 general population interviews with adults age 18 and older, conducted using the AmeriSpeak® Panel and opt-in oversample of fathers
Margin of error: +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

1,298 fathers, conducted using the AmeriSpeak® Panel and opt-in oversample
Margin of error: +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

CARE1. Do you consider yourself a caregiver?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Yes	44
No	56
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	3,345

PAR. Are you the parent or guardian of a child of any age? Please include your own children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, or others for whom you are responsible and act as a parent.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Yes	33
No	67
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	*3,345*

If "Yes" in PAR

PAR2. How many children do you have who are…?

NORC 4/06-20/2026	0	1	2	3 or more	DK	SKP/ REF
Ages 0-2	74	16	2	*	-	8
Ages 3-5	72	18	2	1	-	8
Ages 6-8	73	16	2	1	-	8
Ages 9-12	69	20	4	*	-	7
Ages 13-17	64	23	6	1	-	7
Ages 18 and older	49	19	15	14	-	3

N = 1,946

If at least one child of age 0-17 in PAR2

PAR3. [Thinking about your child or children under age 18, how/How] often do you do the following for your child or children?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Never	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Manage schedules or activities	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	66	19	6	5	4	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	65	21	5	4	4	-	*
Clean up after them	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	73	14	4	7	3	-	*
Discipline them	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	56	20	6	14	4	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	60	17	6	14	3	*	-
Play with them	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	70	16	5	5	2	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	68	23	3	5	1	*	*
Make meals or feed them	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	81	12	3	3	1	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	86	8	4	2	1	*	*
Provide transportation	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	72	14	4	5	5	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	77	14	2	4	2	*	*
Take part in educational activities such as managing homework, reading to them, or attending parent-teacher conferences	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	59	20	6	9	5	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	62	21	7	7	3	*	*
Comfort them, manage their moods, or provide them with emotional support[1]	4/06-20/2026 *(N=1,287)*	82	11	4	3	*	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,238)*	82	11	3	3	*	*	*

[1] Asked as "Comfort, soothe, and provide them with emotional support" in 2019

If at least one child of age 0-17 in PAR2

KIDHEALTH. [Does your child/Do any of your children] need or use more medical care, mental health, or educational services than is usual for most children of the same age?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	29	28
No	70	72
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*1,287*	*1,238*

If "Yes" in PAR

KIDCARE1. Have you, personally, ever provided care to any of your child/ren [when they were under the age of 18] because of a medical, behavioral, or other condition or disability? This kind of care is more than the normal care required for a child of that age. This could include care for an ongoing medical condition, a serious short-term condition, emotional or behavioral problems, or developmental problems.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	41	38
No	59	61
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1
N=	*1,946*	*1,835*

LTCP1. Some adults need ongoing or periodic living assistance, particularly if they have a serious illness, or a disability, or need extra help as they get older. This assistance can be help with things like keeping house, cooking, bathing, getting dressed, getting around, paying bills, remembering to take medicine, or just having someone check in to see that everything is okay. This help can happen at your own home, in a family member's home, in a nursing home, or in a senior community?

Have you ever provided ongoing or periodic living assistance on a regular basis to an adult family member or close friend, or not?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	44	42
No	56	58
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
N=	*3,345*	*2,966*

LTCP3. [Did you provide/Have you ever provided] any of the following types of ongoing or periodic living assistance for an adult family member or friend who had a serious illness, or a disability, or needs extra help?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC		Yes	No	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Cooking	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	49	50	*	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	47	52	-	*
Shopping for groceries	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	54	46	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	52	48	*	*
Housekeeping[2]	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	50	50	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	48	51	-	*
Bathing, toileting, getting dressed	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	28	71	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	27	71	-	1
Household maintenance[3]	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	51	48	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	45	55	-	*
Transportation outside the house	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	52	48	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	51	49	*	*
Researching, arranging or coordinating medical or therapeutic treatments or services	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	36	63	-	1
Making sure bills are paid or managing finances	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	38	62	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	44	55	-	1
Reminding them to take medicine	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	44	55	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	41	59	-	1

[2] Asked as "Housekeeping (such as cleaning and laundry)" in 2019

[3] Asked as "Household maintenance (such as mowing, fixing things)" in 2019

NORC		Yes	No	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Hands-on medical care, such as administering medicine or injections, checking vitals, changing bandages or managing medical equipment	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	30	69	-	1
Advocating for them in medical appointments and services	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	44	56	-	1
Other types of ongoing living assistance or home health services	4/06-20/2026 *(N=3,345)*	8	90	-	2
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=2,966)*	8	91	*	1

EMPLOY2. Which statement best describes your current employment status?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Working – as a paid employee, full-time	41
Working – self-employed, full-time	5
Working – as a paid employee, part-time	9
Working – self-employed, part-time	5
Not working – on temporary layoff from a job	1
Not working – looking for work	6
Not working – retired	21
Not working – disabled	7
Not working – other	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	*3,345*

If working in EMPLOY2

EMPLOY3. Which of the following best describes where you work?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
From your home or place of your choice	23
From an office outside your home	48
A combination of your home and an office	15
Other	14
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	*2,154*

If working in EMPLOY2

EMPLOY4. Which of the following best describes where you would prefer to work, if you were able to choose without facing career or financial consequences?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
From your home or place of your choice	43
From an office outside your home	22
A combination of your home and an office	28
Other	7
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	*2,154*

If working in EMPLOY2

EMPLOY5. When it comes to your work schedule, which of the following best describes your ability to control the days and hours when you work?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
I have no control over when I work	32
I have some control over the days but not the hours I work	21
I have some control over the hours but not the days I work	21
I have full control over when I work	25
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
N=	*2,154*

If working in EMPLOY2

F6A. How often do you experience any of the following?

NORC		**Very often/ Sometimes NET**	Very often	Sometimes	**Hardly ever/ Never NET**	Hardly ever	Never	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
The demands of your job interfere with family or personal time	4/06-20/2026 *(N=2,154)*	**53**	13	41	**46**	29	17	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,970)*	**58**	18	40	**42**	26	16	-	*
Things you want to do for your family or personal responsibilities have to get done while you are working	4/06-20/2026 *(N=2,154)*	**54**	12	42	**45**	29	16	-	*
The demands of your family or personal relationships interfere with your job	4/06-20/2026 *(N=2,154)*	**37**	8	30	**62**	35	27	-	*

If a parent in PAR or if providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a family member, close friend, or child in LTCP1 or KIDCARE1

WORK1. At any point, have you ever been employed while you were providing assistance or care to [a child/ren, a family member, or friend]?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	64	69
No	36	31
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
N=	*2,524*	*1,480*

If yes in WORK1

WORK2. Have you ever missed work in order to provide assistance or care?

Missing work can mean anything from missing a few hours here and there to taking off work for an extended period of time. We mean assistance or care for sick, elderly or disabled adults or children, not healthy kids.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019[4]
Yes NET	**77**	**68**
Yes, I've missed a few hours here and there	36	-[5]
Yes, I've taken off work for a full day or more	41	-[6]
No	**23**	**32**
DON'T KNOW	-	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
N=	*1,674*	*1,043*

If yes in WORK1

WORK8. Have you ever reduced your work hours in order to provide assistance to a family member or friend?

Here we mean assistance or care for sick, elderly or disabled adults or children, not healthy kids.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019[7]
Yes NET	**43**	**43**
Yes, permanently	9	-[8]
Yes, temporarily	34	-[9]
No	**56**	**56**
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*
N=	*1,674*	*1,043*

[4] Asked as only "Yes" or "No" in 2019

[5] Response option not asked in 2019

[6] Response option not asked in 2019

[7] Asked as only "Yes" or "No" in 2019

[8] Response option not asked in 2019

[9] Response option not asked in 2019

If not employed in EMPLOY and providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a family member, close friend, or child in LTCP1 or KIDCARE1

WORK7_1. You indicated earlier that you [retired/are not currently working]. Was providing assistance or care to an adult or child family member who needed help a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason why you [retired/left the workforce]?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Major reason	15
Minor reason	13
Not a reason	71
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*650*

If yes in PAR
SPLIT SAMPLE IN 2026 – HALF SAMPLE ASKED ABOUT FATHERS; HALF SAMPLE ASKED ABOUT MOTHERS
F5.

Fathers do many things for their children. How important are each of the following activities to [IF GENDER=MALE: you as a parent/IF GENDER=FEMALE: fathers?]

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC		Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Providing regular financial support	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	80	17	2	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	83	15	2	-	1
Teaching the child about life	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	89	8	2	*	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	90	8	2	*	*
Providing direct care to a younger child, such as feeding, dressing, or child care[10]	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	84	13	3	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	78	19	2	*	*
Showing love and affection to the child	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	90	7	2	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	91	7	2	-	*
Protecting the child from injury or harm	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	88	10	1	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	89	9	1	-	1
Serving as an authority figure and disciplining the child	4/06-20/2026 *(N=981)*	80	16	3	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	83	15	1	-	1

[10] Asked as "Providing direct care to a younger child, such as feeding, dressing, and childcare" in 2019.

Mothers do many things for their children. How important are each of the following activities to [IF GENDER=FEMALE: you as a parent/IF GENDER=MALE: mothers?][11]

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC		Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Providing regular financial support	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	72	24	3	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	74	23	3	-	1
Teaching the child about life	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	88	10	1	*	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	93	5	2	-	*
Providing direct care to a younger child, such as feeding, dressing, or child care[12]	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	89	9	1	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	93	6	1	-	*
Showing love and affection to the child	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	92	6	1	-	1
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	95	4	1	-	*
Protecting the child from injury or harm	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	87	12	1	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	92	6	1	-	1
Serving as an authority figure and disciplining the child	4/06-20/2026 *(N=965)*	75	23	2	-	*
	4/25-5/16/2019 *(N=1,835)*	84	14	1	-	1

[11] Asked as "Fathers do many things for their children. How important are each of the following activities to [you/fathers]?" and "Mothers do many things for their children. How important are each of the following activities to [you/mothers]?" in 2019. Fathers and mothers were asked about in two separate questions.

[12] Asked as "Providing direct care to a younger child, such as feeding, dressing, and child care" in 2019.

If at least one child age 0-17 in KIDNUM and not providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a child in KIDCARE1

CGAT3. How often do you feel each of the following in your role as a parent?

NORC 4/06-20/2026	**Often/ Sometimes NET**	Often	Sometimes	**Rarely/ Never NET**	Rarely	Never	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
People respect me you in my role as a parent	**95**	73	22	**5**	4	1	-	*
I find my parenting meaningful	**96**	77	19	**3**	3	1	-	*
The parenting I do can be stressful	**80**	31	49	**19**	16	3	-	*
People do not trust me to do my parenting because of my gender	**19**	10	9	**80**	14	66	-	1

N = 788

If yes in PAR. Show "father" if father (PAR=1 and GENDER=MALE), show "mother" if mother (PAR=1 and GENDER=FEMALE)

F11A. Thinking about the [father/mother] you want to be, are there any barriers standing in your way?[13]

Fathers

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	27	32
No	72	67
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1
N=	*1,298*	*1,158*

Mothers

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	34	29
No	66	71
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
N=	*648*	*677*

[13] Fathers and mothers asked as two separate questions in 2019.

If yes in F11A

F12. Please describe those barriers.

[Coded open-end response]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026 Fathers and mothers	NORC 4/06-20/2026 Fathers	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019 Fathers
Work or job situation	19	16	18
Money, financial situation, or unemployment	25	21	22
Time or free time	10	7	11
Health condition of child	2	2	1
Personal mental health	7	3	2
Personal physical health	4	6	5
Energy level or tiredness	1	*	*
Distance or transportation	*	1	3
Societal pressures or expectations	*	1	1
Home improvements needed	-	-	1
My patience	3	1	2
My personality	-	-	4
Issues with spouse/coparent/biological or adoptive parent	4	6	4
Other family problems	1	3	*
Need more help from family	*	-	*
Non-work obligations – school, activities, etc.	*	1	1
Social media/screen time	1	1	*
General issues	1	3	2
No barriers	1	1	3
Other/nonspecific	7	10	5
Age of parent[14]	1	2	1
Knowledge, training, experience, instructions, etc.	3	4	-
Divorce or single parent	2	3	4
Don't know	-	-	*
Nonresponse	8	8	10
N=	*585*	*378*	*371*

[14] Asked as "Age of father" in 2019

ATT1. In general, who do you think is best suited to care for an adult family member who needs assistance? Would you say [mainly women, mainly men,] or does gender not play a role in who is best suited to provide care?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Mainly women	23
Mainly men	3
Gender doesn't play a role in who is best suited	74
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

ATT3. Aside from breastfeeding, do you think:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Mothers do a better job caring for a new baby than fathers	42	49
Fathers do a better job caring for a new baby than mothers	1	2
Both [mothers and fathers] do an about equally good job caring for a new baby	56	48
DON'T KNOW	-	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*3,345*	*2,966*

ATT4. In general, who do you think should care for children, once they are beyond the age of breastfeeding and/or bottle feeding?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Mostly mothers	11
Mostly fathers	1
Both [mothers and fathers] should care equally for children once they are beyond the age of breastfeeding and/or bottle feeding	87
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

If providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a family member, close friend, or child in LTCP1 or KIDCARE1

CGAT2. How often do you feel each of the following in your role providing assistance or care to your [child/ren, family member, or friend]?

NORC 4/06-20/2026	**Often/ Sometimes NET**	Often	Sometimes	**Rarely/ Never NET**	Rarely	Never	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
People respect me in my role as a caregiver	**88**	50	38	**11**	9	2	-	*
I find my caregiving meaningful	**91**	60	32	**8**	6	2	-	*
The caregiving I do can be stressful	**84**	37	47	**16**	12	4	-	*
People do not trust me to do my caregiving because of my gender	**15**	6	10	**84**	18	66	-	*

N = 1,713

If a parent or if providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a family member, close friend, or child in LTCP1 or KIDCARE1

CGAT4. How well do the following statements describe how you feel about your caregiving role in your family?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 4/06-20/2026	**Extremely/ Very well NET**	Extremely well	Very well	**Somewhat well**	**Not very/Not well at all NET**	Not very well	Not well at all	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
I'm proud to talk with my friends and family about the caregiving role that I play.	**53**	24	29	**33**	**13**	9	3	*	1
I share caregiving responsibilities equally with others at home.	**40**	17	24	**36**	**23**	12	11	*	1
I live in a community or extended family where most men do less care work than their spouses, partners and family members.	**25**	9	16	**36**	**36**	17	19	1	2
The caregiving I do is a source of joy in my life.	**45**	18	27	**36**	**16**	11	6	-	2
I want to share caregiving equally at home, but there are barriers in my way.	**20**	8	13	**35**	**42**	20	22	*	2
I have other people I you can count on when I you need help in my caregiving role.	**43**	18	25	**32**	**22**	11	12	*	2
If parent: I would be a stay-at-home parent, if I had the choice. *(N=1,946)*	**45**	25	20	**24**	**29**	14	15	-	2

NORC 4/06-20/2026	**Extremely/ Very well NET**	Extremely well	Very well	**Somewhat well**	**Not very/Not well at all NET**	Not very well	Not well at all	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
If caregiver: I would be a full-time caregiver, if I had the choice. *(N=1,713)*	**22**	11	11	**24**	**51**	22	29	*	2

N = 2,524

CGAT6. How well do the following statements describe how you feel about family roles in general:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 4/06-20/2026	**Extremely/ Very well NET**	Extremely well	Very well	**Somewhat well**	**Not very/Not well at all NET**	Not very well	Not well at all	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
Being an involved father is an important part of being a man.	**85**	58	27	**11**	**3**	2	1	-	1
Men and women should divide caregiving responsibilities equally at home.	**74**	44	30	**21**	**4**	3	1	*	1
It's okay for men to do some care work, but women are better suited to do more of it.	**26**	11	15	**31**	**43**	25	18	-	1
Men's role in the family should be providing financial support, and women should run the household.	**21**	10	11	**27**	**51**	27	24	*	1
The care work people do inside their home is as valuable as the paid work others do outside the home.	**76**	46	30	**18**	**4**	3	1	-	1
The care work people do at home is valuable to society.	**75**	44	32	**19**	**4**	3	1	-	2
Caregiving is a skill people are born with.	**29**	11	18	**38**	**32**	23	9	*	2
Caregiving is a skill that can be learned with time and experience.	**68**	29	39	**27**	**4**	3	1	*	2

N = 3,345

If providing ongoing or periodic living assistance or care to a family member, close friend, or child in LTCP1 or KIDCARE1

CGAT8A. Thinking about the caregiver you want to be, are there any barriers standing in the way?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes	28	33
No	70	66
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*1,713*	*1,480*

If yes in CGAT8A
CGAT8B. Please describe those barriers.

[Coded open-end response]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Work or job situation	15	14
Money, financial situation, or unemployment	14	23
Time or free time	10	10
Health condition of care recipient	1	2
Personal mental health	3	1
Personal physical health	15	8
Energy level or tiredness	-	1
Distance or transportation	5	2
Societal pressures or expectations	*	4
Home improvements needed	*	1
My patience	1	2
My personality	*	1
Issues with other caregivers(s)	1	*
Other family problems	2	2
Need more help from family	2	2
Non-work obligations – school, activities, etc.	-	2
Social media	-	*
General issues	1	1
No barriers	2	2
Other/nonspecific	6	2
Age of caregiver	6	7
Knowledge, training, experience, instructions, etc.	9	3
Don't know	-	*
Nonresponse	7	9
N=	*475*	*501*

If yes in PAR

PFL6. Have you ever, at any point in your life, taken <u>unpaid or paid</u> leave from work following the birth or adoption of a child, or not?

By leave from work, we mean more than a day or two off of work, regardless of whether that came from sick or vacation time or some other allotted time off of work.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes, have taken leave	49	52
No, have not taken leave	28	31
No, was not working when I would have taken leave	12	10
No, did not have access to leave when I wanted or needed it	10	6
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*1,946*	*1,835*

If employed, on a temporary layoff, looking for work, other, don't know/refused in EMPLOY2

PFL7. How likely do you think it is that, at some point in their future, you <u>will need to</u> take leave from work following the birth or adoption of a child?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Very/Somewhat likely NET	**30**	**30**
Very likely	12	14
Somewhat likely	18	16
Not too/Not at all likely NET	**69**	**69**
Not too likely	18	20
Not at all likely	51	49
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*2,531*	*2,246*

PFL8. Have you ever, at any point in your life, take <u>unpaid or paid</u> leave from work to care for a family member with a serious illness, or a disability, or who needed extra help as they go older, or not?

By leave from work, we mean more than a day or two off of work, regardless of whether that came from sick or vacation time or some other allotted time off of work.

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Yes, have taken leave	21	28
No, have not taken leave	26	31
No, was not working when I would have taken leave	7	7
No, did not have access to leave when I wanted or needed it	2	3
No, have not needed to take this type of leave	43	30
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*
N=	*3,345*	*2,966*

If employed, on a temporary layoff, looking for work, other, don't know/refused in EMPLOY2
PFL9. How likely do you think it is that, at some point in the future, you <u>will need to</u> take leave from work to care for a family member with a serious illness, or a disability, or who needs extra help as they get older?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Very/Somewhat likely NET	**48**	**51**
Very likely	15	15
Somewhat likely	33	36
Not too/Not at all likely NET	**51**	**48**
Not too likely	29	31
Not at all likely	22	18
DON'T KNOW	-	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*2,531*	*2,246*

If yes in PFL6 or PFL8

PFL10. Thinking about the most recent time you took leave from work for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child or adult, was that leave fully paid, partly paid or unpaid?[15]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	NORC 4/25-5/16/2019
Fully paid	38	42
Partly paid	22	16
Unpaid	30	35
Not sure	9	6
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
N=	*1,356*	*1,338*

If fully paid, party paid, or unpaid in PFL10

PFL12. During your most recent leave, how did you cover the costs of taking time off from work?[16]

Please select all that apply

	NORC 4/06-20/2026	4/25-5/16/2019
Used savings set aside for health needs	21	18
Used savings set aside for other uses	29	27
Borrowed money to cover lost pay	10	12
Signed up for public assistance	6	8
Limited spending on basic needs	23	24
Put off paying bills	11	13
Asked for donations or charitable assistance	3	2
Received paid leave offered by my workplace or my state	29	-[17]
Other (please specify)	4	-[18]
Didn't need to do anything different	21	41
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
N=	*1,343*	*1,259*

[15] Asked as "Thinking about the most recent time you took leave from work to care for a child or adult, was that leave fully paid, partly paid, or unpaid?" in 2019

[16] Asked as "During your most recent leave, how did you cover the costs of taking time off of work?" in 2019

[17] Response option not asked in 2019

[18] Response option not asked in 2019

If yes in PFL6 or PFL8

PFL16. Thinking about the most recent time you took leave from work for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child or adult, how long was your leave?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
1-2 weeks	38
2-4 weeks	18
Longer than a month	42
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
N=	*1,356*

If yes in PFL6 or PFL8

PFL17. Thinking about the most recent time you took leave from work for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child or adult, were each of the following [a major reason, a minor reason,] or not a reason you decided to take leave when you needed it?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 4/06-20/2026	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
My workplace supports employees taking leave when they need it	38	26	34	-	2
My spouse, family, or partner were supportive	50	24	24	-	2
My household could get by without my income	21	27	49	*	2
My workplace or the state I live in offers paid leave	36	19	44	*	2

N = 1,356

If have not taken leave in PFL6 or PFL8

PFL18. Thinking about the most recent time you <u>wanted</u> to take leave from work for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child or adult, but did not do so, were each of the following [a major reason, minor reason,] or not a reason for that decision?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 4/06-20/2026	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REFUSE
My workplace was not supportive	11	16	69	*	4
I worried taking leave would hurt my career or job	13	19	64	*	3
If male: It's not seen as manly to take leave to provide care *(N=1,827)*	6	15	78	-	2
I couldn't afford to take leave	21	17	59	*	4
Family, friends, or neighbors were not supportive of me taking leave	5	11	80	*	4

N = 2,657

BELIEF1. When you think of the word "caregiver," what images or words come to mind?

[Coded open-end response]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Providing daily care/assistance with needs/general mentions of support or help	36
Providing care for family members or loved ones (generic)	5
Providing care for children	1
Providing care for elderly	3
Parenthood/parenting/mothers/fathers	5
Nurses/health or medical professional work or imagery (including mentions of hospitals or nursing homes)	8
Emotional support/compassion/patience/kindness/love	13
Responsibility/obligation/dedication	1
Selflessness/sacrifice	1
Protection/advocacy/safety	1
Hard work/exhaustion/burden/lack of pay or appreciation	1
Gendered imagery	2
Other	6
Don't know	*
Nonresponse	14
N=	*3,345*

BELIEF1_2. Is there anything else about caregiving you want to share with us?

[Open-end response]

TRANSGENDER. Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
No, I am not transgender	96
Yes, I am transgender	1
I am not sure if I'm transgender	1
I don't know what this question is asking	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

SEXID. This next question is about sexual identity. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Lesbian or gay	3
Heterosexual (straight)	87
Bisexual or pansexual	4
Asexual	1
Prefer to self-describe	1
I am not sure about my sexual identity	1
I don't know what this question is asking	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

PID1. Do you consider yourself [a Democrat, a Republican,] an Independent or none of these?
If Democrat:
PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?
If Republican:
PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?
If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:
PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?
Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Democrat NET	**37**
Strong Democrat	16
Not so strong Democrat	12
Lean Democrat	9
Independent/None – Don't lean	**25**
Republican NET	**37**
Lean Republican	9
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	16
N=	*3,345*

VOTE2024. Did you vote in the 2024 presidential election for Kamala Harris, Donald Trump, or someone else? If you did not vote in this race, you can say that, too.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Kamala Harris	30
Donald Trump	31
Someone else	1
Did not vote in this race	37
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

URBAN. How would you describe the community you live in now?

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Urban	28
Suburban	48
Rural	23
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	*3,345*

AGE

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	24
60+	30
N=	*3,345*

GENDER

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Male	49
Female	51
N=	*3,345*

RACE/ETHNICITY

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
White, non-Hispanic	60
Black or African American	11
Hispanic	18
Other	11
N=	*3,345*

MARITAL STATUS

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Married	43
Not married	57
N=	*3,345*

EDUCATION

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	26
Some college	29
Bachelor's degree	21
Post graduate study or professional degree	13
N=	*3,345*

CENSUS REGION

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Northeast NET	**17**
New England	6
Mid-Atlantic	12
Midwest NET	**21**
East North Central	14
West North Central	7
South NET	**38**
South Atlantic	22
East South Central	6
West South Central	10
West NET	**24**
Mountain	7
Pacific	17
N=	*3,345*

INCOME

	NORC 4/06-20/2026
Under $10,000	6
$10,000 to under $20,000	7
$20,000 to under $30,000	10
$30,000 to under $40,000	8
$40,000 to under $50,000	9
$50,000 to under $75,000	17
$75,000 to under $100,000	14
$100,000 to under $150,000	14
$150,000 or more	14
N=	*3,345*

Study Methodology

This survey, funded by New America, was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago and New America collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Data were collected using both probability and non-probability sample sources. Interviews for this survey were conducted between April 6 and April 20, 2026, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The probability sample source is AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face to face). The National Sample Frame provides coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. The U.S. Postal Service delivery-sequence file (DSF) and National Consumer Address File have been used in a subset of years as a supplemental sample during AmeriSpeak panel recruitment for low coverage states. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 2,673 completed the survey—2,627 via the web and 46 via telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from a NORC telephone interviewer. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive ($3) for completing the survey. The weighted household panel recruitment rate is 24.9 percent and the survey completion rate is 40.6 percent, for a weighted cumulative response rate of 10.1 percent.

Dynata provided 672 non-probability interviews with men age 18 to 29, men of color, and fathers of children age 0 to 8. The non-probability sample was derived based on quotas related to age, race and ethnicity, gender, and education. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish and via the web only. For panel recruitment, Dynata uses invitations of all types including email invitations, phone alerts, banners, and messaging on panel community sites to include people with a diversity of motivations to take part in research. Because non-probability panels do not start with a frame where there is known probability of selection, standard measures of sampling error and response rates cannot be calculated.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 208 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them or for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample, NORC used TrueNorth calibration, an innovative hybrid calibration approach developed at NORC in order to explicitly account for potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample. TrueNorth uses a tree-based non-parametric supervised learning algorithm to classify respondents based on their survey responses and apply a ratio adjustment to adjust the weights for the nonprobability sample to bring weighted distributions of the nonprobability

sample in line with the population distribution for characteristics correlated with the survey variables. Such calibration adjustments help to reduce potential bias, yielding more accurate population estimates. A raking process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling in both probability and non-probability samples resulting from the study specific sample design. Raking variables for both the probability and the nonprobability samples sample included age, sex, census region, race/ethnicity, education, parental status, and 2024 vote choice. Population control totals for the raking variables were obtained from the 2020-2024 5-year American Community Survey. For the general population, the weighted data reflect the U.S. population of people age 18 and over. For fathers, the weighted data reflect the U.S. population of fathers age 18 and over.

The overall margin of error for the combined sample of 3,345 completed interviews is +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Men overall and fathers specifically were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of error for the combined sample of 2,299 completed interviews with men is +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect. The overall margin of error for the combined sample of 1,298 completed interviews with fathers is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

For the open-ended questions BELIEF1, CGAT8B, and F12, responses were initially classified using Microsoft Copilot. These codes were reviewed, validated, and adjusted as needed by a human coder for reporting.

Additional information on the TrueNorth approach can be found here: https://amerispeak.norc.org/our-capabilities/Pages/TrueNorth.aspx.

For more information, email info@norc.org.