

**PEW SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS TOPLINE**  
**April 2-8, 2009, FERTILITY SURVEY**  
**TOTAL N=1,003**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN 0.5 % ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL TRENDS REFERENCE SURVEYS FROM THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS PROJECT AND THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS.**

Q.1 Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life—would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

April <u>2009</u>		Feb <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>2008</u>	June <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2005</u>	Late Mar <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>
29	Very happy	32	29	35	36	34	29	29	34
52	Pretty happy	49	51	48	51	50	51	51	53
16	Not too happy	15	17	14	12	15	16	17	11
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3	3	1	1	4	3	2

On another subject ...

Q.2 What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?

	<u>Zero</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Four</u>	Five or <u>more</u>	DK/Ref. <u>(VOL.)</u>	<u>Mean</u> <sup>1</sup>
April 2009	3	3	46	26	9	3	11	2.6
June 2007 Gallup	1	3	52	25	7	2	9	2.5
February 2004 Gallup/CNN/USA Today	1	3	49	26	9	3	9	2.6
July 2003 Gallup	1	2	52	26	9	2	8	2.5
May 2001 Gallup	1	2	49	27	9	2	11	2.6
May 1997 Gallup/CNN/USA Today	2	2	46	29	9	2	6	2.6
February 1996 Gallup	2	3	57	21	7	4	6	2.4
April 1990 Gallup	3	3	57	18	8	3	8	2.4
March 1987 Gallup	1	3	56	22	9	3	6	2.6
February 1985 Gallup	2	4	56	21	8	3	6	2.5
January 1983 Gallup	3	3	54	21	11	3	5	2.6
November 1980 Gallup	3	2	55	20	9	3	8	2.5
September 1978 Gallup	2	2	49	23	13	3	8	2.6
February 1977 Gallup	2	2	50	22	10	4	10	2.6
February 1974 Gallup	1	2	46	22	14	5	10	2.8
January 1973 Gallup	1	1	46	23	14	6	9	2.8
December 1967 Gallup	0	*	23	30	31	9	7	3.4
January 1966 Gallup	0	1	18	27	27	7	20	3.3
April 1965 Gallup	0	1	18	28	29	8	16	3.4
February 1962 Gallup	0	1	16	24	33	13	13	3.3
February 1957 Gallup	1	1	18	34	27	10	9	3.6
1953 Gallup	0	1	28	30	29	12	0	3.3
1947 Gallup	0	1	26	26	29	12	6	3.4
1945 Gallup	0	1	22	28	31	18	0	3.3
1941 Gallup	0	1	31	27	27	14	0	3.3
1936 Gallup	0	2	32	32	22	10	0	3.6

<sup>1</sup> Means for 1936-1996 were estimated by Gallup.

Q.3 Next, please tell me if you think each of the following trends is generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't make much difference. (First, Next) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

**READ IF NECESSARY:** Is this generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't it make much difference?

	Good thing <u>for society</u>	Bad thing <u>for society</u>	Doesn't make <u>much difference</u>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. More single women having babies	4	65	27	3
b. More teenage girls having babies	1	94	4	1
c. More women not ever having children	9	38	46	7
February 2007	13	29	52	6
d. More women having babies after age 40	13	33	47	6
e. More women undergoing fertility treatments in order to have a baby	23	28	39	10

Q.4 Now thinking about teenage girls having babies. Please tell me whether you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why teenage girls are having babies these days. (First/Next) **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE)** **(READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: Is this a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why teenage girls are having babies these days?)**

	Major <u>reason</u>	Minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Parents don't provide enough supervision	69	21	7	3
b. Teenagers don't think about the consequences of their actions	88	7	3	2
c. The media and popular culture present a lot of sexual content	64	22	10	4

Q.4d Of the three reasons I just listed, which one do you think is the MOST important reason why teenage girls are having babies these days? **(IF NECESSARY, READ BACK ITEMS a. THRU c. FROM ABOVE IN SAME ORDER)**

37	Parents don't provide enough supervision
38	Teenagers don't think about the consequences of their actions
19	The media and popular culture present a lot of sexual content
2	All are equally important <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	Some other reason <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

On another subject ...

AGE Can you please tell me your age?

22	18-29
37	30-49
24	50-64
16	65 and older
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

Q.5 Do you have any children under age 18?

**INTERVIEWER: INCLUDE CHILDREN/STEPCHILDREN/ DECEASED CHILDREN:**

34	Yes
66	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS "NO KIDS AT ALL" IN Q5, DO NOT ASK Q6 BUT AUTOMATICALLY CODE Q6 AS A "NO" (Q6=2) AND PROCEED.**

Q.6 Do you have any ADULT children age 18 or older?

**INTERVIEWER: INCLUDE CHILDREN/STEPCHILDREN/ DECEASED CHILDREN:**

46	Yes
53	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**IF HAVE ANY CHILDREN (Q.5=1 or Q.6=1) ASK: [N=775]**

Q.7 Altogether, how many children do you have?

**INTERVIEWER: INCLUDE CHILDREN/STEPCHILDREN/ DECEASED CHILDREN:**

20	One
35	Two
22	Three
11	Four
11	Five or more
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**IF ONE CHILD (Q.7=1), ASK: [N=144]**

Q.8 Is that a stepchild or not?

7	Yes
93	No
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD (Q.7=2-11), ASK: [N=626]**

Q.8a How many of your children, if any, are stepchildren?

86	None
11	One or two
3	Three or more
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO Q.9 OR Q.10**

**IF WOMAN WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD AND UNDER AGE 50 (SEX=2 & Q.7=1-11 & AGE=18-49) OR MAN WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD AND UNDER AGE 60 (SEX=1 & Q.7=1-11 & AGE=18-59), ASK: [N=369]**

Q.11 Do you think you will have more children or not?

11	Yes
82	No
5	Maybe (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD (Q.7=2-11), ASK: [N=626]**

Q.12 How old were you when your first child was born?

20	15-19
63	20-29
15	30-39
*	40 or older
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
23.8	Mean age

**IF ONE CHILD (Q.7=1), ASK: [N=144]**

Q.12a How old were you when your child was born?

10	15-19
54	20-29
31	30-39
2	40 or older
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
26.5	Mean age

**IF WOMAN WITH NO CHILDREN AND UNDER AGE 50 (SEX=2 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2 & AGE=18-49) OR MAN WITH NO CHILDREN AND UNDER AGE 60 (SEX=1 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2 & AGE=18-59), ASK: [N=178]**

Q.13 Do you think you will have children in the future, or not?

66	Yes
24	No
3	Hope to have children (VOL.)
4	Depends (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**\*\*\*NOTE: RESULTS FOR Q.14 AND Q.14a ARE NOT SHOWN DUE TO SMALL SAMPLE SIZES\*\*\***

**IF NO IN Q.13 (Q.13=2), ASK: [N=48]**

Q.14 Tell me about why you don't think you will ever have children. Is it because (READ AND ROTATE)?

You would like to have children but it hasn't happened [OR]  
You don't want to have children  
[DO NOT READ] It just worked out that way  
Unable to have kids (VOL.)  
[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused

**IF WOMEN AND AGE 50+ AND NEVER HAD KIDS (SEX=2 & AGE=50-97 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2 OR IF MAN AND AGE 60+ AND NEVER HAD KIDS (SEX=1 & AGE=60-97 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2), ASK: [N=41]**

Q.14a Tell me about why you don't have any children. Is it because (READ AND ROTATE)?

You wanted to have children but it never happened [OR]  
You didn't want to have children  
[DO NOT READ] It just worked out that way  
Unable to have kids (VOL.)  
[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused

**ASK THOSE WHO HAVE CHILDREN (Q.7=1-11): [N=770]**

Q.15 I'm going to read a list of reasons why some people have children. For each one, please tell me how important this factor was for YOU in deciding to have your first child. (First,/Next,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE – ITEM f. SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST]** (READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: was this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in your decision to have your first child?)

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	Not Applicable <b>(VOL.)</b>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Having the financial resources to raise a child	47	24	8	17	2	2
b. Wanting to have someone to take care of you when you're old	15	9	13	58	3	3
c. The joy of having children	76	11	2	8	1	1
d. Feeling pressure from parents or other family members to have a baby	4	4	11	77	3	2
e. Your spouse or partner really wanted to have a baby	50	22	6	17	2	2
f. It wasn't a decision; it just happened	35	12	7	29	9	8

**ASK THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN BUT THINK THEY WILL OR HOPE TO IN THE FUTURE OR SAY "IT DEPENDS" (Q.13=1,3,4): [N=125]**

Q.16 I'm going to read a list of reasons why some people have children. For each one, please tell me how important you think this factor will be for YOU in deciding to have a child. (First,/Next,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** (READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: will this be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in your decision to have children?)

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	Not Applicable <b>(VOL.)</b>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Finding the right person to have children with	94	4	0	2	0	0
b. Having the financial resources to raise a child	77	16	2	4	1	0
c. Wanting to have someone to take care of you when you're old	15	20	32	32	0	1
d. The joy of having children	84	9	2	3	0	3
e. Feeling pressure from parents or other family members to have a baby	5	10	24	60	0	1
f. Your spouse or partner really wanting to have a baby	67	23	3	6	0	0

**IF WOMAN AND UNDER AGE 50 AND HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T PLAN TO HAVE ANY MORE (SEX=2 & AGE=18-49 & Q.7=1-11 & Q.11=2) OR IF WOMAN AGE 50 AND OLDER AND HAS KIDS (SEX=2 & AGE=50-97 & Q.7=1-11) OR IF MAN AND UNDER AGE 60 AND HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T PLAN TO HAVE ANY MORE (SEX=1 & AGE=18-59 & Q.7=1-11 & Q.11=2) OR IF MAN AGE 60 AND OLDER AND HAS KIDS (SEX=1 & AGE=60-97 & Q.7=1-11), ASK: [N=703]**

Q.17 Now I'm going to read a list of reasons why some people decide to LIMIT the number of children they have. For each one, please tell me how important this factor was for YOU in deciding to limit the number of children you have. (First,/Next,) [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] (READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: was this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in deciding to limit the number of children you have?)

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	Not Applicable <u>(VOL.)</u>	DK/Ref <u>(VOL.)</u>
a. Because of your age	24	18	13	41	2	1
b. The financial cost of raising children	48	24	10	16	1	2
c. The stress of raising children	29	20	15	32	2	2
d. Wanting time to pursue your own interests	19	21	19	38	1	2
e. Your spouse or partner didn't want to have more children	27	19	9	36	4	5
f. Wanting to devote your time to the children you already have	64	12	6	15	1	2

**\*\*\*NOTE: RESULTS FOR Q.18 ARE NOT SHOWN DUE TO SMALL SAMPLE SIZE [N=89]. SEE THE FULL WRITTEN REPORT FOR FINDINGS. \*\*\***

**IF WOMAN AND UNDER AGE 50 AND DOESN'T PLAN TO HAVE KIDS (SEX=2 & AGE=18-49 & Q.13=2) OR IF WOMAN AGE 50 AND OLDER AND DOESN'T HAVE CHILDREN (SEX=2 & AGE=50-97 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2) OR IF MAN AND UNDER AGE 60 AND DOESN'T PLAN TO HAVE KIDS (SEX=1 & AGE=18-59 & Q.13=2) OR IF MAN AGE 60 AND OLDER AND DOESN'T HAVE CHILDREN (SEX=1 & AGE=60-97 & Q.5=2 & Q.6=2), ASK:**

Q.18 Now I'm going to read a list of reasons why some people do not have children. Please rate the importance of each factor in making your own decisions regarding children. (First,/Next,) [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] (READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: would you rate this factor as very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in making your own decisions regarding children?)

- a. Because of your age
- b. The financial cost of raising children
- c. The stress of raising children
- d. Wanting time to pursue your own interests
- e. Fertility problems
- f. Not finding the right person to have children with

**ASK ALL WOMEN UNDER AGE 50 (SEX=2 & AGE=18-49) AND ALL MEN UNDER AGE 60 (SEX=1 & AGE=18-59): [N=550]**

Q.19 Has the present state of the U.S. economy affected your own plans about whether to have a child or whether to have more children, or not?

21	Yes
77	No
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Now, just a couple more questions about children and families. Thinking about the people you know ...

**RANDOMIZE Q.25 AND Q.26**

Q.25 Do you personally know any WOMEN who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? **[READ FOR EVERY ITEM]:** And do you know any women who **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Have had a baby without being married	79	20	1
b. Had a baby while they were a teenager	69	30	1
c. Have undergone fertility treatments in order to have a baby	33	67	1

Q.26 Do you personally know any MEN who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? And do you know any MEN who **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>
a. Fathered a baby without being married	68	30	2
b. Fathered a baby while they were a teenager	50	49	1