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School of Public Health

NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

African Americans' Lives Today

Summary

June 2013

African Americans' Lives Today

A new national survey of the life experiences of African Americans draws a mixed picture of their personal lives and their communities. While significant problems and concerns are reported on both a personal and a community level, African Americans also express high levels of satisfaction with their lives in general and the areas where they live.

1. Issues in Personal Lives

Many African Americans face significant problems with their financial security, their health care, and discrimination.

Many have concerns about the future. Many African Americans report significant concerns about future uncertainties. Nearly half (44%) of employed African Americans say they are very or somewhat concerned they or someone in their household might be out of work and looking for a job in the next twelve months. A similar proportion of unemployed African Americans living in a household with someone else are concerned that a household member will lose their job (41%). In addition, almost half (45%) are not confident that they would have sufficient money or health insurance to pay for a major illness. This is similar to the proportion of African Americans who reported in 2005 they were not confident they would have sufficient money for such an illness (48%).^{*1}

Some encounter significant problems paying for or accessing health care. Three in ten African Americans (30%) report that in the past twelve months, they or a family member has had a serious problem having enough money to pay doctor and hospital bills. About one in four (24%) say they had a serious problem with paying for prescription medicines. About one in six (16%) report a serious problem getting health care that was needed, and one in ten (10%) report a serious problem getting mental health care. In a 2000 poll, similar numbers of African Americans reported that they or a family member had problems paying doctor and hospital bills (27%), paying for prescription medicines (21%) and getting needed health care (18%).²

In addition, about one in eight (13%) report there was a time in the past 12 months when they or a family member living in their household needed medical care, but did not get it. Of these, three-quarters (76%) say they did not get needed care for financial reasons. The number not getting medical care is lower than the one in five African Americans (20%) who reported in 2006 that they or a household family member were unable to get needed care.³ The 2013 poll also finds more than eight in ten (81%) are satisfied with the health care services they or their family have used in the past few years, including nearly half (47%) who are very satisfied. This represents an increase in satisfaction since 2002, when seven in ten (70%) of African Americans said they were satisfied.⁴ About two-thirds (67%) in the current poll report that the last time they or a family member got sick, they got care from one of the best doctors in their area.

In summary, despite significant changes in the health care system over the past decade, on most measures of health care system access and affordability there has been little change in recent years. However, on two measures – getting medical care in the last 12 months and satisfaction with health care services – there have been some improvements.

High blood pressure/stroke and diabetes are the top health concerns for African American families. When asked to say their own words what is the biggest health problem for their family, one in five

^{*} For comparative purposes, trend data is taken from multiple surveys, some of which have subsamples of African Americans and some of which have subsamples of non-Hispanic African Americans. Hispanic African Americans make up 6% of the total U.S. African American population.

African Americans cite high blood pressure/stroke (20%) and diabetes (19%). The next two most frequently cited problems, cancer (7%) and heart disease (6%), were mentioned by fewer than one in ten.

Substantial numbers report specific experiences of racism. The poll asked about the frequency of particular negative experiences in interactions with others. A significant number of African Americans report having experienced the following at least a few times a year: being treated with less courtesy or respect than other people (46%), receiving poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores (45%), people acting as if they think the respondent is not smart (40%), people acting as if they are afraid of the respondent (23%), or being threatened or harassed (16%). Half (50%) of those who have had one or more such experiences at least a few times a year say the main reason was racial prejudice. Altogether, about one-third (36%) of all African Americans report they have had at least one of these experiences as a result of racism.

African Americans are divided on the state of their personal finances. Half (50%) say their finances are not so good or poor, while about half (49%) say they are excellent or good. These numbers are unchanged from when this question was last asked in 2001, before the recession began.⁵ This split indicates that African American are not a homogeneous group. Those who feel their financial situation is excellent or good differ significantly on a wide range of measures from those who feel their financial situation is not so good or poor. Those who rate their finances as not so good or poor are more likely to be concerned that they or someone in their household be out of work in the next 12 months (58% vs 32%). They are also less likely to be confident they could pay for a major illness (39% vs. 69%) in the future and were more likely to report have a serious problem paying medical bills in the last year (39% vs 20%). They were less likely to give their communities an A or B rating on many aspects rated, including safety from crime (41% vs 64%) and police department (47% versus 64%).

2. Overall Assessment of Personal Lives

Though specific problems are seen, the majority of African Americans are also positive about their lives and their careers and they are optimistic about their chances of attaining the American dream.

Most African Americans are satisfied with their lives. Over half of African Americans report that their lives in general have gotten better in recent years (53%), while only one in ten (10%) say that their lives have gotten worse. A strong majority (86%) say they are satisfied with their lives overall, including just under half (48%) who say they are very satisfied. This is similar to the nine in ten (91%) who reported they were satisfied in 2002.⁶ The highest levels of satisfaction in the current poll are reported by married people, those with incomes of \$75,000 or higher and those aged 65 or older. In addition, over half (56%) report that financially they are better off than their parents were at their age, but one in seven (14%) say they are worse off than their parents were.

A substantial majority (81%) of working[†] and retired African Americans feel they have been successful in their careers, including one-third (31%) who say they are very successful. Only one in six (16%) feel that they will never achieve the American dream of a nice home and financial security, while one in five (21%) feel they have achieved it already. The majority (60%) say they have not achieved it yet, but feel they will do so eventually. African Americans' aspirations for their children are also high. Nearly half of

[†] Includes currently employed and temporarily unemployed.

parents[‡] (45%) report they would like their child to go to college, and a similar number (46%) would like their child to go to graduate school.

3. Community Life

Some problem areas are seen, including crime, housing and entertainment, but African Americans are satisfied with many aspects of their communities.

Crime top problem, varied ratings for community features. When asked to say their own words what is the most important issue facing the area in which they live, about one in four African Americans (26%) name crime. Issues related to the economy are mentioned by 16%. When asked to grade aspects of the area in which they live, less than half give top grades (A or B) to city or local government (47%), the quality of available housing (47%), or entertainment venues like clubs and movie theaters (39%), while significant majorities give high marks to the fire department (88%), garbage collection and sanitation (82%), and the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables (70%).

Overall, African Americans are satisfied with their communities. While the problems in African American communities may dominate the national discussion, the majority (82%) are satisfied with the area in which they live. Just under half (47%) report that most or all of the other people living in their area are black or African American, while about half (51%) say some, just a few or none are African American. Satisfaction with the area in which they live is high for both those in predominantly African American areas (78%) and those in more mixed areas (86%), with those in more mixed communities more likely to say they are very satisfied (50%) than those in neighborhoods that all are or mostly African American (36%). Just over half (52%) say the area where they live has stayed about the same in recent years, while one in four (25%) say it has gotten better and about one in five (19%) say it's gotten worse.

Schools get reasonably good grades. Though nationally school quality in many minority communities is often seen as a problem, a majority of African American parents[§] rate the school their child attends today as excellent or good (70%), while one in three (30%) give low ratings. Nearly half of parents (44%) report that all or most of the other children at their child's school are black or African American, while over half (54%) report that some, just a few or none are. Though in both cases a majority give their child's school top grades, those whose child attends a more mixed school are more likely to say their school is excellent or good (77%) than those whose child attends a predominantly African American school (61%).

Majority positive about health care in their community; about a third negative. About six in ten give an A or B to the medical care system in the area where they live (61%) and the health department or agency (56%). However, about one in three African Americans give a C, D, or F to the medical care system (33%) and the health department or agency (34%).

4. Social Life

The survey also asked African Americans between the ages of 18 and 49 who were divorced, widowed, or never married about dating and relationships.

Many are not looking for long-term relationships. Just one-third (34%) of these young-to-middle-aged singles say they are currently seeking a long-term committed romantic relationship, while just one in ten

[‡] Includes parents, stepparents and others who have significant role in making decisions about a child under 18 in their household.

[§] Includes parents, stepparents and others who have significant role in making decisions about a child under 18 in their household.

(10%) say they are already in one. Men are more likely to say they are looking for a committed relationship (43%) than are women (25%). Nearly all of those seeking such a relationship want to get married someday (98%).

About one-third (35%) of singles not currently in a long-term relationship say they have gone on a date with someone who was not black or African American in the past two years, while another third (35%) have gone on dates only with other African Americans, and the remaining three in ten (30%) haven't gone on any dates at all.

Trend Notes

1. *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, April 25 – June 9, 2005. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

2. Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, November 13 – December 13, 2000. Responses of total African Americans.

3. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, July 6 – September 18, 2006. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

4. NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, March 28 – May 1, 2002. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

5. *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Poll, March 8 – April 22, 2001. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

6. *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Poll, August 2 – September 1, 2002. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

Methodology

This poll is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at the Harvard School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NPR. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

Harvard School of Public Health: Robert J. Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; John M. Benson, Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Kathleen J. Weldon, Research and Administrative Manager; Alecia McGregor, Research Fellow.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Fred Mann, Associate Vice President, Communications; Debra Joy Pérez, Assistant Vice President, Research and Evaluation; Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research and Evaluation; and Ari Kramer, Communications Officer.

NPR: Anne Gudenkauf, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Vickie Walton-James, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Matt Thompson, Editorial Product Manager.

Interviews were conducted via telephone (including both landline and cell phone) by SSRS of Media (PA), January 10 – February 7, 2013, among a nationally representative sample of 1081 African Americans age 18 and older. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 4.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by household size, cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, education, marital status and census region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

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NPR/ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION/HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AFRICAN AMERICANS' LIVES TODAY

This survey was conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted January 10 – February 7, 2013, among a nationally representative sample of 1,081 African American respondents age 18 and older. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-4.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

1. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your life overall these days? Are you...very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know/Refused
2013	48	38	9	4	1
2002*	45	46	5	2	1

***Trend:** Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Poll, August 2 – September 1, 2002.
Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

2. Do you feel that your life in general has gotten better in recent years, gotten worse in recent years, or stayed about the same?

Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed about the same	Don't know/Refused
53	10	37	*

3. How satisfied are you with the area in which you live? Are you...very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know/Refused
44	38	10	6	2

4. Do you think the area in which you live has gotten better in recent years, gotten worse in recent years, or stayed about the same?

Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed about the same	Don't know/Refused
25	19	52	4

5. What is the **most** important issue facing the area in which you live?

CRIME (NET)	26
Crime	18
Drug activity	5
Need for more law enforcement/police surveillance	*
Safety/security	3
Other crime	1
ECONOMY (NET)	16
Cost of living	1
Economic development/lack of businesses (retail stores/restaurants/DR offices)	2
Economy	2
Low wages	*
Poverty	1
Taxes	1
Jobs/lack of jobs/unemployment	9
Other economy	*
HOUSING ISSUES (NET)	4
Foreclosures	*
Decreased property value	*
Housing market	2
Abandoned/dilapidated houses	1
Lack of open space/overbuilding/new developments/overcrowding	1
Other housing issues	*
ENVIRONMENT (NET)	7
Traffic	3
Noise	1
Pollution	1
Upkeep of/cleaner neighborhood	2
Other environment	*
SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	4
Limited resources for youth (activities/no work)	1
Social issues (racism)	*
Other social issues	2
INFRASTRUCTURE (NET)	7
Highways/roads/road maintenance	1
Transportation	2
Utility issues (sewers/electricity)	*
Inadequate street lights	1
Parking	1
Other infrastructure	2

Changing demographics	1
Education	4
Healthcare issues	*
Poor government/politics	*
Other	4
None	7
Don't know/Refused	20

COMMUNITY

6. Thinking about the area in which you live, how many of the OTHER people who live there are black or African-American? Would you say all of the OTHER people who live there are black or African-American, most of them, some of them, just a few of them, or none are black or African-American?

ALL/MOST			SOME/JUST A FEW/NONE				Don't know/ Refused
NET	All of them	Most of them	NET	Some of them	Just a few of them	None of them	
47	17	30	51	31	18	2	2

7. How many of your friends are black or African-American? Would you say all of them, most of them, some of them, just a few, or none?

ALL/MOST			SOME/JUST A FEW/NONE				Don't know/ Refused
NET	All of them	Most of them	NET	Some of them	Just a few of them	None of them	
54	16	38	44	31	10	3	2

8. In what economic class would you place yourself...?

Lower class	Lower middle class	Middle class	Upper middle class	Upper class	Don't know/ Refused
15	27	44	10	3	1

9. Using a grading scale like they do in schools—where A is excellent, B is good, C is fair, D is poor and F is failing—how would you grade each of the following in the area where you live? How about (INSERT)?

- a. The health department or agency (**Total asked; n = 1081**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
20	36	24	5	5	10

- b. The police department (**Total asked; n = 539**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
22	32	26	9	7	4

- c. The fire department (**Total asked; n = 540**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
55	33	7	1	1	4

- d. The medical care system (**Total asked; n = 540**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
25	36	21	6	6	5

- e. The school system (**Total asked; n = 543**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
21	31	28	7	5	8

- f. The parks and sports facilities (**Total asked; n = 543**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
26	33	19	10	6	6

- g. Garbage collection and the sanitation department (**Total asked; n = 538**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
40	42	12	1	3	2

- h. The grocery stores (**Total asked; n = 537**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
31	38	22	6	1	2

- i. The entertainment venues like clubs and movie theaters (**Total asked; n = 543**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
12	27	27	13	11	10

- j. City or local government (**Total asked; n = 539**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
10	37	33	9	7	4

- k. Child care services (**Total asked; n = 543**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
16	25	25	3	3	28

10. And again, using a grading scale like they do in schools—where A is excellent, B is good, C is fair, D is poor and F is failing—how would you grade each of the following issues in the area where you live? How about (INSERT)?

- a. The availability of fresh fruit and vegetables (**Total asked; n = 1081**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
39	31	19	5	4	2

- b. The quality of the drinking water (**Total asked; n = 539**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
29	37	20	6	5	2

- c. Air quality (**Total asked; n = 543**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
23	41	27	6	3	*

- d. The quality of available housing (**Total asked; n = 539**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
18	29	28	13	7	5

- e. Safety from crime (**Total asked; n = 542**)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
20	32	30	9	8	1

- f. Noise levels (Total asked; n = 541)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
38	28	23	5	5	*

- g. The cleanliness of the streets and maintenance of public areas (Total asked; n = 539)

A	B	C	D	F	Don't know/ Refused
26	34	22	10	7	1

DISCRIMINATION/EQUALITY

11. In your day-to-day life how often have any of the following things happened to you? How about (INSERT)? Would you say this has happened to you...?

- a. You are treated with less courtesy or respect than other people

A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR MORE					Less than once a year	Never	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Almost every day	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year			
46	8	9	11	18	19	34	1

- b. You receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores

A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR MORE					Less than once a year	Never	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Almost every day	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year			
45	2	5	16	22	19	35	1

- c. People act as if they think you are not smart

A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR MORE					Less than once a year	Never	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Almost every day	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year			
40	8	7	10	15	15	43	2

- d. People act as if they are afraid of you

A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR MORE					Less than once a year	Never	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Almost every day	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year			
23	5	3	6	9	10	65	2

e. You are threatened or harassed

NET	A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR MORE				Less than once a year	Never	Don't know/ Refused
	Almost every day	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year			
16	3	2	3	8	14	70	*

(Asked of those to whom one or more of these negative experiences have happened at least a few times a year; n = 721)

12. Thinking about the experiences we have just been talking about that have happened to you at least a few times a year, do you believe that the **main** reason for these experiences is your race, or is it some other reason?

Race	Some other reason	Don't know/ Refused
50	44	6

11/12. Combo Table

NET	One or more of these negative experiences have happened to you at least a few times a year and...			None of these negative experiences have happened to you at least a few times a year	Don't know/ Refused
	It's mainly because of your race	It's mainly for some other reason	Don't know/ Refused if it's mainly because of your race		
72	36	32	4	28	*

FINANCIAL AND STANDARD OF LIVING

13. Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Not so good	Poor	Don't know/ Refused
2013	8	41	33	17	1
2001*	5	44	34	17	*

*Trend: Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Poll, March 8 – April 22, 2001. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

14. In what economic class would you place your family when you were growing up...?

Lower class	Lower middle class	Middle class	Upper middle class	Upper class	Don't know/ Refused
26	26	34	11	2	1

15. People sometimes talk about the American dream—having a nice home and financial security for you and your family. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

You feel as if you have achieved the American dream	You have not achieved the American dream but you feel that you will do so eventually	You feel that you will never achieve the American dream	Don't know/ Refused
21	60	16	3

16. Think of your parents when they were your age. Would you say you are better off financially than they were, worse off financially than they were or about the same?

Better off	Worse off	About the same	Don't know/ Refused
56	14	28	2

17. How important is religion in your life—the most important thing, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

Most	Very	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
33	45	15	3	4	*

FAMILY LIFE

18. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

Married	Living with a partner	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Never been married	Refused
29	7	10	6	7	39	1

(Asked of total who are married/living with a partner; n = 412)

- 18a. Is your (spouse/partner) of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

(Asked of those who are married/living with a partner and that person is Hispanic)

- 18aa. Is your (spouse/partner) White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(Asked of those who are married/living with a partner and that person is non-Hispanic)

- 18b. Does your (spouse/partner) consider themselves to be white, black or African-American, Asian-American, or some other race?

Spouse/Partner Race Summary Table (based on total who are married/living with a partner; n = 412)

White (non-Hispanic)	7
Black (NET)	90
Black (non-Hispanic)	86
Black Hispanic	4
Asian	*
Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native	1
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	--
Non-Black Hispanic (NET)	1
White Hispanic	1
Hispanic unspecified	--
Some other race	2
Refused	*

- 18aa/b. Combo Table #2 (based on total who are married/living with a partner; n = 412)

Spouse/partner is black/African American	Spouse/partner is not black/African American	Refused
90	10	*

21. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
22	26	21	16	9	3	2	1

Z-7a. What is your age?

18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
26	36	24	14

R1(b-j). What is this person's relationship to you?

Summary Table – One or more people of this description live in your household

Your spouse or partner	34
Your parent or your spouse/partner's parent	15
Your grandparent or your spouse/partner's grandparent	2
Your child	34
Your stepchild or your spouse/partner's child not related to you	2
Your brother or sister	14
Your stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, stepparent's child, child of your mother/father's partner, mother or father's "other" child	1
Your grandchild	5
Another family member	12
Another person not related to you	10
Don't know	--
Refused	*
Respondent only household	22
Don't know/refused household size	1

20. How many children do you have who are 18 or older?

None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
53	12	15	8	5	2	2	1	2

19. How many children do you have who are under 18?

None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
69	15	10	4	1	1	1	--	*

(Asked of those who have any kids under 18 and all of them do not live with them; n = 78)

24. Where (do your children/does your child) under 18 who (do/does) not live with you live?

19/24. Summary Table (based on total who have kids under 18; n = 253)

NET	One or more of your children live elsewhere						Your only child or all of your children live in HH
	With their other parent	With their grandparent	With another family member	In foster care	Somewhere else	Don't know where/Refused	
35	20	1	2	*	6	6	65

(Asked of total respondents with kids in HH who gave the age of the child who had the most recent birthday; n = 283)

27. Are you this child's parent or stepparent?

Yes	No
71	29

(Asked of total respondents with kids in HH who gave the age of the child who had the most recent birthday and they are not that child's parent/stepparent)

28. Are you someone who plays a significant role in making decisions about this child, or not?

Q27/28 Combo table

(Asked of total respondents with kids in HH who gave the age of the child who had the most recent birthday; n = 283)

Parent/stepparent/decision-maker of this child	85
Parent/stepparent	71
Someone (else) who plays a significant role in making decisions about this child	14
Not parent/stepparent/decision-maker	14
Don't know/Refused	1

CHILD'S EDUCATION AND CAREER (This section asked only of Parents/Step-parents/Decision-makers)

(Asked of total parents/step-parents/decision makers of a child age 4-17; n = 206)

29. Is this child currently enrolled in school, or is this child homeschooled, or does this child not attend school?

Currently enrolled	Homeschooled	Does not attend school	Don't know/Refused
90	3	6	*

(Asked of total parents/step-parents/decision makers of a child age 4-17 who is currently enrolled in school; n = 192)

30. Is the school that this child attends a public school, a public charter school, a private school, or a parochial or religious school?

Public school	Public charter school	Private school	Parochial/religious school	Don't know/Refused
81	11	5	4	--

29/30.Combo Table (based on total parents/step-parents/decision makers of child age 4-17; n = 206)

CURRENTLY ENROLLED					Home-schooled	Does not attend school	Don't know/Refused
NET	In public school	In public charter school	In private school	In parochial/religious school			
90	73	10	4	3	3	6	*

(Asked of total parents/step-parents/decision makers of a child age 4-17 who is currently enrolled in school; n = 192)

31. Overall, how would you rate the school this child attends? Excellent, good, fair, poor, very poor?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know/Refused
32	38	27	1	2	--

(Asked of total parents/step-parents/decision makers of a child age 4-17 who is currently enrolled in school; n = 192)

32. Thinking about the school this child attends, how many of the OTHER children who go there are black or African-American? Would you say all of the OTHER children who go there are black or African-American, most of them, some of them, just a few of them, or none are black or African-American?

ALL/MOST			SOME/JUST A FEW/NONE				Don't know/ Refused
NET	All of them	Most of them	NET	Some of them	Just a few of them	None of them	
44	4	40	54	35	18	1	2

(Asked of total parents/step-parents/decision makers of a child; n = 245)

33. Looking ahead, how far would you like this child to go in school? Would you like (him/her/them) to...graduate from high school, get some college or other advanced training, graduate from college, or go to graduate school?

Leave HS before graduation (vol)	Graduate from HS	Get some college/other advanced training	Graduate from college	Go to graduate school	No preferences/ whatever child chooses is fine (vol)	Don't know/ Refused
*	2	5	45	46	1	--

DATING LIFE

(Asked of total 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married; n = 240)

34. Are you currently seeking a long-term committed romantic relationship, or not?

Yes	No	In one already (vol)	Don't know/ Refused
34	57	10	*

(Asked of those 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married and who are currently seeking a long-term committed relationship; n = 81)

35. And how likely do you think you are to find a long-term, committed romantic relationship? Would you say...?

Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Don't know/ Refused
64	30	4	*	2

34/35. Combo Table (based on total 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married; n = 240)

Currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	34
Very likely to find a relationship	22
Somewhat likely to find a relationship	10
Not too likely to find a relationship	1
Not at all likely to find a relationship	*
Not currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	57
Already in a long-term committed relationship (vol)	10
Don't know/Refused	*

(Asked of those 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married and who are currently seeking a long-term committed relationship; n = 81)

36. Would you like to get (married/married again) someday, or not?

Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
98	2	*

34/35. Combo Table (based on total 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married; n = 240)

Currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	34
Would like to get married/married again someday	33
Would not like to get married/married again someday	1
Not currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	57
Already in a long-term committed relationship	10
Don't know/Refused	*

(Asked of those 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married and who are currently seeking a long-term committed relationship; n = 81)

37. How satisfied are you with the opportunities you have to meet people you could have a long-term committed relationship with? Would you say...?

Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know/ Refused
38	29	21	11	1

34/37. Combo Table (based on total 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married; n = 240)

Currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	34
Very satisfied with opportunity to meet someone	13
Somewhat satisfied with opportunity to meet someone	10
Somewhat dissatisfied with opportunity to meet someone	7
Very dissatisfied with opportunity to meet someone	4
Not currently seeking a long-term committed relationship	57
Already in a long-term committed relationship (vol)	10
Don't know/Refused	*

(Asked of total 18-49 yr olds who are divorced, widowed, or never married and not currently in a long-term committed romantic relationship; n = 227)

38. In the last two years, have you gone on a date with someone who was not black or African-American, only gone on dates with people who were black or African-American, or have you not gone on any dates in the last two years?

Have gone on a date with someone who wasn't black/African American	Only gone on dates with people who were black/African American	Have not gone on any dates in the last two years	Don't know Refused
35	35	30	*

WORK

39. Currently, are you yourself employed full-time, part-time, or not at all?

39a. Are you: (READ LIST)

Employed	54
Full-time	40
Part-time	14
Not employed	46
Retired	16
A homemaker	2
A student	6
Temporarily unemployed	13
Disabled/handicapped	7
Other not employed	1
Refused	--

(Asked of total who are not employed; n = 569)

40. Are you currently looking for a job, or not?

Yes, looking	No, not looking	Don't know/ Refused
38	62	*

(Asked of total employed part-time; n = 122)

40a. Are you currently looking for additional work or a full-time job, or not?

Yes, looking	No, not looking	Don't know/ Refused
59	41	--

39/40/40a.Combo Table

Employed full-time	40
Employed part-time (NET)	14
Looking for additional work/full-time job	8
Not looking for additional work/full-time job	6
Not employed (NET)	46
Currently looking for a job	17
Not currently looking for a job	28
Refused	--

(Asked of total who are employed or retired or temporarily unemployed; n = 918)

41. (How successful do you feel you have been in your career so far/How successful do you feel you were in your career)? Would you say...?

Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not too successful	Not at all successful	Don't know/Refused
31	50	11	6	2

Among employed (n = 512)

Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not too successful	Not at all successful	Don't know/Refused
31	52	12	4	1

Among retired (n = 309)

Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not too successful	Not at all successful	Don't know/Refused
41	48	4	3	4

Among temporarily unemployed (n = 97)

Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not too successful	Not at all successful	Don't know/Refused
19	41	17	22	1

(Asked of total employed; n = 512)

42. How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you (or someone else in your household) might be out of work and looking for a job—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know/ Refused
25	19	25	31	*

(Asked of total not employed and 2+ people in HH; n = 376)

- 42a. How concerned are you that in the next 12 months someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know/ Refused
27	14	16	42	1

HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

43. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

Yes, covered	No, not covered	Don't know/ Refused
73	26	1

(Asked of total covered by health insurance or don't know; n = 897)

44. Was there any time in the past 12 months when you were without health insurance, or did you have health insurance for the entire 12 months?

Yes, there was a time without insurance	No, had insurance for the entire 12 months	Don't know/ Refused
15	85	*

43/44. Combo Table

Had insurance all 12 months	Were without health insurance at some time in past 12 months	Don't know/ Refused
63	37	*

45. Overall, how do you feel about the health care services that you and your family have used in the last few years? Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know/ Refused
2013	47	34	10	6	3
2002*	26	44	21	8	1

*Trend: NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, March 28 – May 1, 2002. Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

46. In the past 12 months, have you or a family member had a **SERIOUS** problem with any of the following? How about (INSERT)?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
Having enough money to pay doctor and hospital bills			
2013	30	69	1
2000 *	27	73	*
Paying for prescription medicines that were needed			
2013	24	75	1
2000 *	21	79	*
Getting health care that was needed			
2013	16	83	1
2000 *	18	81	1
Getting mental health care that was needed (2013)	10	89	1

***Trend:** Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, November 13 – December 13, 2000. Responses of African Americans.

47. Was there a time over the past 12 months when you or another family member living in your household needed medical care, but did not get it?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
2013	13	87	*
2006*	20	79	1

*Trend: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, July 6 – September 18, 2006.
Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

(Asked of total who needed medical care in the past 12 months and didn't get it; n = 115)

48. Was it **mainly** for financial reasons, or for some other reasons?

Financial reasons	Other reasons	Don't know/ Refused
76	24	--

47/48.Combo Table

Was a time in the past 12 months needed medical care & didn't get it			There wasn't a time in the past 12 months needed medical care & didn't get it	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Because of financial reasons	Because of some other reasons		
13	10	3	87	*

49. How confident are you that you would have enough money or health insurance to pay for a major illness? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	Don't know/ Refused
2013	24	30	21	24	1
2005*	17	35	22	26	*

*Trend: USA Today/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll, April 25 – June 9, 2005.
Responses of non-Hispanic African Americans.

50. In general, how would you describe your own health—excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know/ Refused
16	28	29	21	7	--

51. And how would you describe your weight? Would you say you are very underweight, a little underweight, about the right weight, a little overweight, or very overweight?

Very underweight	A little underweight	About the right weight	A little overweight	Very overweight	Don't know/ Refused
1	5	43	43	8	*

(Asked of total who say they are overweight; n = 566)

52. Are you currently trying to lose weight or not?

Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
74	26	--

51/52. Combo Table

OVERWEIGHT			About the right weight	Underweight	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Trying to lose weight	Not trying to lose weight			
51	38	13	43	6	*

53. How often do you get exercise or vigorous physical activity? Every day, most days of the week, a few times a week, a few times a month, or less frequently than that?

Every day	Most days of the week	A few times a week	A few times a month	Less frequently than that	Don't know/ Refused
31	14	31	11	12	1

(Asked of total who have kids age 4-17 in HH; n = 257)

54. How much would you say you encourage (the child/the children) under 18 in your household to get exercise or vigorous physical activity? Would you say...?

A lot	A little	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
74	18	7	1

55. What disease or health condition is the **biggest** problem for your family?

High blood pressure/stroke	20
Diabetes	19
Cancer	7
Heart disease/heart attack	6
Asthma	4
Obesity	2
Arthritis	2
Cholesterol	1
Respiratory (COPD)	1
Influenza/flu	1
Kidney	1
Allergies	1
Vision problems	1
Neurological (seizures/MS/pain)	1
Spinal/back pain/injuries	*
AIDS/HIV	*
Autoimmune disorders	*
Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, etc)	*
Alzheimer's	*
Aging	*
Liver	*
Mental health	*
Eye, nose, throat	*
Fibromyalgia	*
Other	4
None	24
Don't know	5
Refused	*

56. In the last 12 months, what type of health care facility did you use **most often** for your own care? A private physician, a hospital emergency room, a hospital (non-emergency room), a specialty clinic, a neighborhood community health center, mobile van, or somewhere else?

A private physician	44
A hospital emergency room	12
A hospital (non-emergency room)	12
A specialty clinic	8
A neighborhood community health center	12
Mobile van	1
Veteran's Administration/Military (vol)	2
Somewhere else	2
Did not get health care in the last 12 months	7
Don't know/Refused	*

57. How many minutes does it take you to commute to the health care facility that you use most often?

15 min or less	16 min – 30 min	31 min – 60 min	Over an hour	Don't know/Refused
56	28	10	4	2

58. When you or a family member was last seriously ill, did you or they get care from one of the best doctors in the area where you live or was the doctor not one of the best?

One of the best doctors	Not one of the best doctors	Did not get care (vol)	Don't know if doctor was best (vol)	Haven't had a serious illness in the family (vol)	Don't know/Refused
67	18	1	7	3	4

(Asked of total who did not get care from one of the best doctors in the area; n = 141)

59. Which of the following were reasons you or your family member got care from a doctor who was not one of the best? How about (INSERT)?

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused
a. The best doctors were too expensive	61	37	3
b. Insurance didn't cover the best doctors	57	37	6
c. You or your family member couldn't get an appointment with the best doctors	37	60	4
d. The offices were too hard to get to	29	71	--
e. You or your family member preferred to go to a place you were familiar with	62	37	1
f. You didn't know which doctors were the best	57	41	2

58/59. Combo Table

Got care from one of the best doctors	67
Got care from not one of the best doctors	18
Because the best doctors were too expensive	11
Because insurance didn't cover the best doctors	10
Because you/your family member couldn't get an appointment with the best doctors	6
Because the offices were too hard to get to	5
Because you/your family member preferred to go to a place you were familiar with	11
Because you didn't know which doctors were the best	10
Did not get care (vol)	1
Don't know if doctor was best (vol)	7
Haven't had a serious illness in the family (vol)	3
Don't know/Refused	4

DEMOGRAPHICS**E. GENDER OF RESPONDENT**

Male	Female
44	56

- S-5. (Some people who are black or African American consider themselves to be Hispanic and some do not. How about you?) Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

(Asked of Hispanics)

- S-6. Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(Asked of non-Hispanics)

- S-7. (And just to confirm...) Do you consider yourself to be white, black or African-American, Asian-American, or some other race?

Race Summary Table

Black (non-Hispanic)	Black (Hispanic)
94	6

60. What is the last grade of school you completed?

High school graduate or less (NET)	51
Less than high school graduate	16
High school graduate	33
Technical school/Other	2
Some college	29
College grad+ (NET)	20
Graduated college	12
Graduate school or more	7
Refused	*

61. What is your religion, if any? Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular?

Protestant (includes Baptist, Episcopalian, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)	57
Roman Catholic/Catholic	6
Jewish	*
Muslim/Islam	3
Mormon (vol)	1
Christian (vol)	18
Other religion	2
Atheist	*
Agnostic	2
Nothing in particular	10
Don't know/Refused	1

(Asked of total other, dk, ref religion)

62. Do you think of yourself as Christian, or not?

(Asked of total Protestants/Christians)

- 62a. Do you happen to be a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

61/62/62a. Combo Table #1

Protestant	57
Roman Catholic	6
Other Christian	21
Jewish	*
Muslim/Islam	3
Mormon	1
Other, not Christian	*
Atheist	*
Agnostic	2
Nothing in particular	10
Don't know/refused	*

61/62/62a. Combo Table #2

Born-again/evangelical Christian	Not born-again/evangelical	Don't know/refused
44	52	4

64. Were you born in the United States, or in another country?

United States	Another country	Don't know/Refused
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88	11	.*
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64a. Were both of your parents born in the United States, was one born in the United States and one in another country, or were both or your parents born in another country?

Both parents born in U.S.	One parent born in U.S. and one in another country	Both parents born in another country	Don't know/Refused
82	3	14	1

64/64a. Combo Table

Respondent & parents born in the U.S.	Respondent born in U.S., one or more parent not born in U.S.	Respondent not born in U.S.	Respondent dk/ref if born in U.S.
81	7	11	*

(Asked of total born in another country, dk, ref)

65. Were you born in the Caribbean, or not?

(Asked of total born in another country, dk, ref but not born in the Caribbean)

66. Were you born in Africa, or not?

64/65/66. Combo Table

Born in the U.S.	Born in the Caribbean	Born in Africa	Born somewhere else	Don't know/refused where born
88	6	3	3	*

67. Are you, or is anyone in your household serving in the military or a military veteran, or not?
[IF YES ASK: Is that you, or someone in your household?]

-----YES-----				No veterans or active in HH	Don't know/ Refused
NET	Respondent is a veteran or active	Other HH member is veteran or active	Both respondent/other HH member		
18	9	7	2	82	*

68. For statistical reasons only, I need to ask, do you consider yourself to be heterosexual or straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

Heterosexual/ straight	-----LGBT-----					Don't know/ Refused
	NET	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Transgender	
94	4	1	2	1	--	2

69. Do you happen to have a family member or close friend who is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
43	54	3

70. Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes:

Less than \$50K	69
Less than \$15K	20
\$15K but less than \$25K	20
\$25K but less than \$30K	10
\$30K but less than \$40K	10
\$40K but less than \$50K	8
Less than \$50K (unspec)	2
\$50K but less than \$100K	18
\$50K but less than \$75K	11
\$75K but less than \$100K	6
\$50K but less than \$100K (unspec)	1
\$100K+	7
\$100K but less than \$150K	3
\$150K but less than \$200K	2
\$200K but less than \$250K	1
\$250K +	1
\$100K+ (unspec)	*
Don't know/Refused	7

72. REGION

Northeast	North central	South	West
17	17	57	8

73. METRO STATUS

Urban	Suburban	Rural
58	27	13

(Asked of total landline respondents; n = 662)

- L1. Now thinking about your telephone use... Does anyone in your household, including yourself, have a working cell phone?

(Asked of total cell phone respondents; n = 419)

- C1. Now thinking about your telephone use, is there at least one telephone INSIDE your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

L1/c1/. Combo Table

Landline only	Both LL and Cell	Cell phone only
14	48	38