



**The Current Project
TOPLINE RESULTS***

N=504 504 Black/African American Single Mothers of School Age Children

Field Dates: November 18-December 12, 2023

Margin of sampling error: \pm 4.36 percentage points

**All numbers are percentages, and some may not sum precisely or to 100% due to rounding.*

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF LOW TO “MIDDLER” INCOME
BLACK SINGLE MOTHERS**

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1. Do you consider yourself Black, African American, Biracial/Mixed and Black, Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, African and/or of African descent?

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Black or African American | 84 |
| Biracial/Mixed and Black | 7 |
| Afro-Caribbean | 5 |
| Afro-Latina | 2 |
| African and of African descent | 2 |
| A person of African descent | <1 |
| Some other background and Black | <1 |

SECTION II: GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

2. In general, do you feel that the country is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Right direction | 7 |
| Wrong direction | 69 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Not sure | 21 |
| Prefer not to answer | 3 |

3. Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following. If you don't have enough information to offer an opinion, select "can't rate."

| | VERY FAV. | SMWHT FAV. | SMWHT UNFAV. | VERY UNFAV. | NEVER HEARD OF | CAN'T RATE | TOTAL FAV. | TOTAL UNFAV. |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|

[RANDOMIZE; ASK ALL RESPONDENTS]

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| The Democratic Party | 19 | 38 | 18 | 12 | 1 | 12 | 57 | 30 |
| The Republican Party | 5 | 11 | 24 | 43 | 1 | 17 | 15 | 67 |
| Traditional public schools in your area | 22 | 36 | 20 | 19 | 1 | 3 | 58 | 38 |
| Public charter schools in your area | 24 | 34 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 19 | 58 | 20 |
| Public magnet schools in your area | 20 | 29 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 21 | 50 | 15 |
| Private schools in your area | 19 | 33 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 52 | 16 |

4. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the schools your children attend?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL SATISFIED | 76 |
| Very satisfied | 31 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 45 |
| TOTAL DISSATISFIED | 23 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 15 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Very dissatisfied | 9 |
| Don't know | <1 |
| Prefer not to answer | <1 |

5. How concerned are you, if at all, about your child's learning or academic progress?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL EXTREMELY/VERY CONCERNED | 43 |
| Extremely concerned | 25 |
| Very concerned | 18 |
| Somewhat concerned | 19 |
| Slightly concerned | 14 |
| Not at all concerned | 23 |
| Don't know | <1 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

SECTION III: SCHOOL CHOICE

6. At any point in the past year, did you think about, consider, search for, or choose a new or different school or learning environment for any of the school-aged children in your household?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 56 |
| No | 44 |
| Prefer not to answer | <1 |

[IF Q6=YES, ASK Q7]

7. Which of the following applies to your situation?

| | |
|--|----|
| I thought about or considered finding a new or different school or learning environment, but did not make the change | 35 |
| I am currently thinking about, searching for, or considering a new or different school or learning environment | 32 |
| Within the last year I chose a new or different school or switched to homeschooling | 26 |
| None of the above | 6 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

8. When choosing a school for your children, how important are each of the following factors?
[RANDOMIZE]

| | EXT. IMPT. | VERY IMPT. | SMWHT IMPT. | NOT TOO IMPT. | NOT IMPT. | DK | TOTAL EXT./VERY IMPT. |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----|-----------------------|
|--|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----|-----------------------|

[SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY]

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| a The school’s reputation in terms of academic outcomes and/or test scores | 55 | 33 | 9 | 2 | 1 | <1 | 88 |
| Distance from your home or job | 45 | 30 | 17 | 6 | 2 | - | 75 |
| Class size | 42 | 36 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 79 |
| The availability of afterschool childcare | 36 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 1 | 56 |
| The availability of science, technology, engineering, or math classes | 48 | 38 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 86 |
| Respect for and/or attention to your child’s special needs | 64 | 26 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 90 |
| Availability of gifted/talented programs | 38 | 32 | 19 | 8 | 3 | - | 70 |

[SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY]

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----------|
| The extent to which the school would help your child prepare for college | 77 | 18 | 5 | <1 | - | - | 94 |
| School safety | 88 | 10 | 2 | - | - | - | 98 |
| Teacher quality | 81 | 17 | 2 | - | - | - | 98 |
| The cultural, ethnic, or racial composition of the school | 55 | 28 | 11 | 3 | 4 | - | 83 |

| | EXT. IMPT. | VERY IMPT. | SMWHT IMPT. | NOT TOO IMPT. | NOT IMPT. | DK | TOTAL EXT./VERY IMPT. |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----|-----------------------|
| The availability of art, music, dance, or other performing arts classes | 53 | 26 | 16 | 4 | 2 | - | 78 |
| A respect for your child's gender identity | 44 | 23 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 4 | 67 |
| The availability of free or reduced lunch | 50 | 23 | 17 | 6 | 4 | <1 | 72 |

9. Suppose you were deciding on which type of school to send your children. With that in mind, please rank, in priority order, the type of school you would prefer. [RANDOMIZED]

| | 1 st CHOICE | 2 nd CHOICE | 3 rd CHOICE | 4 th CHOICE | 5 th CHOICE |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A traditional public school | 30 | 20 | 27 | 20 | 3 |
| A public charter school | 25 | 41 | 22 | 10 | 2 |
| A private or faith-based school | 30 | 26 | 24 | 16 | 4 |
| Homeschool | 16 | 14 | 29 | 39 | 3 |
| Other | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 87 |

10. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion? Please choose one option even if neither matches your views exactly.

| | |
|---|----|
| I wish I had more information about the schooling options available for my children | 50 |
| I have all the information I need about the schooling options available for my children | 46 |
| Don't know | 3 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? [RANDOMIZE]

| | STRG. AGREE | SMWHT. AGREE | SWHT. DISAG. | STRG. DISAG. | DK | TOTAL AGREE |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|----------------|
| [SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY] | | | | | | |
| I am more likely to vote for candidates running for office who support giving parents more options to decide where their kids go to school. | 60 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 86 |
| The one-size-fits-all school system of the past often doesn't meet students' needs. | 62 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 87 |
| Too often, students are not put at the center of decisions in our education system. | 62 | 29 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 91 |
| All students should have nourishing free meals at school. | 89 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 95 |
| [SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY] | | | | | | |
| Too many elected officials are putting politics over kids. | 39 | 30 | 16 | 14 | 1 | 69 |
| Charter schools help the whole public education system improve for all kids. | 26 | 38 | 12 | 5 | 20 | 64 |
| We need more schools led by people of color. | 62 | 24 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 86 |

| | STRG. AGREE | SMWHT. AGREE | SWHT. DISAG. | STRG. DISAG. | DK | TOTAL AGREE |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| It's important for all children to have access to nourishing, culturally relevant food choices at school. | 78 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 94 |

SECTION IV: POLITICAL RESPONSIVENESS

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

12. How would you describe your current stress level?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| High | 29 |
| Moderate | 45 |
| Low | 25 |
| Don't know | 0 |
| Prefer not to answer | <1 |

13. In general, how would you describe the job state and local elected officials are doing when it comes to responding to the issues that are important to Black single mothers?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD | 13 |
| Excellent | 4 |
| Good | 9 |
| TOTAL FAIR/POOR | 81 |
| Fair | 25 |
| Poor | 55 |
| Don't know | 7 |
| Prefer not to answer | <1 |

SECTION V: FINANCIAL SECURITY

The next few questions are about how you and your household are doing with basic expenses in the current economy. When thinking about basic expenses, please just include the essentials, such as housing, food, utilities, childcare, medical expenses, and transportation.

14. Which of the following statements best describes your current situation, even if none matches your situation exactly:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| TOTAL BARELY/CAN'T COVER BASIC EXPENSES | 66 |
| Sometimes, I don't have enough at the end of the month to cover basic expenses | 34 |
| I just barely cover basic expenses every month | 32 |
| TOTAL COVER BASIC EXPENSES | 33 |
| I cover basic expenses every month with just a little left over for other things | 26 |
| I cover basic expenses every month with more than a little left over for other things | 8 |
| Don't know | <1 |
| Prefer not to answer | <1 |

15. Thinking about the last 12 months, have you had difficulty with any of the following?
[RANDOMIZE]

| | YES | NO | DOES NOT APPLY | DON'T KNOW | PNTS |
|--|-----|----|----------------|------------|------|
|--|-----|----|----------------|------------|------|

[SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY]

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|---|----|----|
| Having enough food to eat | 51 | 45 | 3 | <1 | <1 |
| Finding or accessing health care services | 33 | 62 | 4 | <1 | - |
| Paying weekly or monthly bills | 81 | 17 | 1 | <1 | 1 |
| Dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and/or the pandemic | 62 | 35 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Dealing with inflation and the rising cost of living | 91 | 8 | 1 | - | <1 |
| Getting sufficient sleep | 66 | 32 | 1 | <1 | <1 |

[SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY]

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| Maintaining stable housing | 42 | 49 | 9 | - | <1 |
| Finding or accessing mental health services | 34 | 46 | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| Maintaining steady employment or finding employment | 35 | 53 | 11 | - | <1 |

| | YES | NO | DOES NOT APPLY | DON'T KNOW | PNTS |
|--|-----|----|----------------|------------|------|
| Access to safe and reliable transportation | 33 | 53 | 13 | - | <1 |
| Finding or paying for childcare | 31 | 37 | 32 | - | - |
| Finding a balance between work and family responsibilities | 65 | 28 | 7 | <1 | - |

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

16. Thinking about the last 12 months, have any of the following been true for you?

[RANDOMIZE]

| | YES | NO | DOES NOT APPLY | DON'T KNOW | PNTS |
|--|-----|----|----------------|------------|------|
|--|-----|----|----------------|------------|------|

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| Could not afford afterschool activities for your children | 49 | 36 | 14 | 1 | <1 |
|---|----|----|----|---|----|

[SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY]

| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|
| Could not afford healthy food options | 57 | 38 | 4 | <1 | <1 |
| Gotten rid of your car to save money or because you could not afford the expense | 24 | 63 | 13 | <1 | - |
| Moved in with family members, downsized your home or apartment to save money | 24 | 62 | 13 | - | <1 |

[SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY]

| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|
| Could not afford new clothes | 55 | 37 | 8 | <1 | <1 |
| Decided not to go to the doctor or seek health care for you or your children | 22 | 63 | 15 | | <1 |
| Had to live out of your car due to a lack of housing | 5 | 79 | 16 | - | <1 |

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

17. In the past year, were you receiving or waiting to receive any government benefits or public assistance, such as cash assistance, SNAP/food stamps, housing assistance, or childcare assistance?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 54 |
| No | 45 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

14. Sometimes families have a need for government benefits or public assistance but find that their income is too high to qualify for such benefits, but not enough to comfortably make ends meet. Is this currently true for you?

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL YES | 77 |
| Yes, very much so | 56 |
| Yes, somewhat | 21 |
| No, not at all | 20 |
| Prefer not to answer | 2 |

15. How has the inability to qualify for government benefits or public assistance impacted you personally or financially? For example, are there things you have had to give up, forgo, or sacrifice as a result? **[OPEN-END; VERBATIM COMMENTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY]**

16. Many people are busy and don't get a chance to vote in every election. This year, some people have said they are tired of politics and will not vote. Thinking ahead to the primary elections next year that will take place for President, U.S. Senate and other offices, what are the chances that you will vote in the primary election in your state?

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| I will definitely vote | 60 |
| I will probably vote | 16 |
| Chances are 50-50 that I will vote | 13 |
| I probably will not vote | 4 |
| I definitely will not vote | 4 |
| Prefer not to answer | 3 |

17. Are you currently registered to vote?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 95 |
| No | 3 |
| Not sure | 2 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

SECTION VI: DEMOGRAPHICS

22. In what year were you born? [**OPEN-END, CODED INTO CATEGORIES**]

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| (2005-1999) 18-24 | 2 |
| (1998-1994) 25-29 | 8 |
| (1993-1989) 30-34 | 23 |
| (1988-1984) 35-39 | 25 |
| (1983-1979) 40-44 | 22 |
| (1978-1974) 45-49 | 13 |
| (1973-1969) 50-54 | 5 |
| (1968-1964) 55-59 | 1 |
| (1963-1959) 60-64 | <1 |
| (1958-1954) 65-69 | 0 |
| (1953-1949) 70-74 | <1 |

1. In what city and state do you live? [**OPEN-END**]

2. How would you describe the area where you live?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Rural area | 16 |
| Small town | 15 |
| Suburb | 21 |
| Urban area | 45 |
| Prefer not to answer | 3 |

1. Do you currently own the home or apartment where you live, do you rent, do you live with family, or in a dorm, residence hall, or group housing setting, or do you not have stable housing?

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Own | 23 |
| Rent | 67 |
| Live with family | 5 |
| Don't have stable housing | 3 |
| Prefer not to answer | 2 |

2. How many children do you have that are under the age of 18 and live in your household?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1 | 38 |
| 2 | 34 |
| 3-4 | 24 |
| 5-6 | 2 |
| 7 or more | <1 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

3. Into what grade levels do your children fall? Please select all that apply.

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Preschool or younger | 26 |
| Kindergarten | 14 |
| Grades 1-8 | 66 |
| Grade 9 | 14 |
| Grade 10 | 11 |
| Grade 11 | 14 |
| Grade 12 | 14 |
| College | 5 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

4. Do you have a child in any of the following types of schools? Please select all that apply.

| | |
|--|----|
| A traditional public school | 69 |
| A public magnet school | 9 |
| A public charter school | 17 |
| A private school | 6 |
| An alternative school or continuation school | 3 |
| A home school | 5 |
| Prefer not to answer | 2 |

5. Do any of your children have special needs?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 26 |
| No | 73 |
| Prefer not to answer | 2 |

6. Do you currently have children over the age of 18 living at home with you?

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 20 |
| No | 80 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

1. Are you or is someone in your household currently earning income through work or self-employment?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL YES | 76 |
| Yes, self | 66 |
| Yes, household member | 3 |
| Yes, both self and household member | 7 |
| No | 21 |
| Prefer not to answer | 3 |

1. What is the last grade or highest level of education you completed in school?

| | |
|--|----|
| Some grade school or middle school | 0 |
| Some high school | 3 |
| High school graduate/GED | 20 |
| Technical/Vocational school | 6 |
| Some college or community college | 26 |
| 2-year college degree | 16 |
| 4-year college degree | 15 |
| Post-graduate degree (M.A., M.B.A., J.D., M.D., Ph.D.) | 13 |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 |

1. What was your total household income before taxes in 2022?

| | |
|---|----|
| Less than \$15,000 | 16 |
| \$15,000 or more, but less than \$20,000 | 8 |
| \$20,000 or more, but less than \$30,000 | 17 |
| \$30,000 or more, but less than \$50,000 | 25 |
| \$50,000 or more, but less than \$75,000 | 19 |
| \$75,000 or more, but less than \$100,000 | 6 |
| \$100,000 or more | 4 |
| Don't know/Can't recall | 2 |
| Prefer not to answer | 3 |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----|
| REGION | Northeast | 16 |
| | Midwest | 21 |
| | Mid-Atlantic | 4 |
| | South | 49 |
| | West | 1 |