



CBS NEWS POLL  
For release: Monday, May 18, 2009  
6:30 P.M. EDT

**EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 18 at 6:30 P.M.**  
**CHILDREN OF THE RECESSION**  
**May 6-12, 2009**

It's not only adults who have felt the pain of the current recession, it's affecting children too. Nearly four in ten parents report a decrease in their family's income in the last six months; a similar percentage says the recession is affecting the lives of their children. Even more parents see the recession's impact on their families overall and on others in their communities, and many report recession-related actions and concerns about the future.

For many families, the recession has become a kitchen-table topic for everyone: half of parents have discussed the recession and its impact with their kids.

This special CBS News Poll, which included additional interviews with parents and guardians of children under 18 at home, finds the recession hitting these families in very specific ways: 37% say their household income has declined, and that has left many parents having a harder time paying for food, utilities, even their child's medical bills. Some parents have cut back on after-school activities for their children, changed the food their children eat, or rely on family, friends, neighbors or school meal programs to make ends meet. Lower-income families report being especially hard-hit.

**IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The recession has affected a wide swath of America's children. Nearly four in 10 parents say their children's lives have been affected by the recession in some way, including 12% who say their children have been impacted a lot.

**HAS THE RECESSION AFFECTED YOUR CHILDREN'S LIVES TODAY?**

(Among parents)

Yes	<u>38%</u>
A lot	12%
Some	18
A little	8
No effect	61

Parents with incomes under \$50,000 report feeling more of an impact, and are finding it harder to buy essentials.

When asked whether the recession has affected their families overall, and not just their children, four in five parents say they and their

families have been impacted - with nearly a third saying the recession has had a lot of impact.

**RECESSION'S IMPACT ON THEIR FAMILY**

(Among parents)

Yes	80%
A lot	31%
Some	37
A little	12
No effect	20

Looking more broadly at the communities they live in, nearly three-fourths of parents say people in their community have been hit by the recession. Large majorities in all regions of the country say that.

As a result of the recession, parents are making substantial cutbacks - and children must confront them too. At some point over the past six months, 60% of parents have had to tell their children that they may not have the money available for some of the things they used to. Among those whose family has been affected by the recession "a lot," that number rises to 80%.

**HAD TO TELL CHILDREN YOU DIDN'T HAVE MONEY  
FOR SOME THINGS?**

(Among parents)

Yes	60%
No	31

A majority of the 60% says their children were upset when they were told, including one in five who says their children were "very upset."

**HOW DID YOUR CHILDREN REACT?**

(Parents who told their children they couldn't afford things)

Very upset	19%
Somewhat upset	33
No reaction	46

Parents are talking with their children about the recession. More than half have discussed the nation's economic problems, and half have talked about their own family finances with their children.

**HAVE YOU DISCUSSED ... WITH YOUR CHILDREN?**

(Among parents)

	Country's economic problems	Family's own financial situation
Yes, discussed	56%	50%
Not yet	11	11
It shouldn't be discussed	8	15
Kids not old enough (vol.)	25	23

Among parents of children age 11 or older, 77% have discussed the recession generally, and 68% have discussed their own finances.

More than six in 10 parents in families impacted "a lot" by the recession have spoken about economic issues and family finances with their children.

#### **HOW THE RECESSION HAS AFFECTED THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR CHILDREN**

Many parents say that the recession has meant they have had trouble paying for some basic necessities. For a majority, it has been harder to pay for food in the last six months because of the recession. Nearly as many have had a harder time paying their utility bills. A third has had a more difficult time paying their family's medical bills, their mortgage or their rent. Among parents with a child in school, 30% have had a harder time paying tuition or other school fees.

Concern about paying for those bills over the next year is even more widespread. About six in 10 parents are very or somewhat concerned about paying for necessities such as food, utilities, medical bills or housing.

#### **IMPACT OF RECESSION**

(Among parents)

	Harder to pay for in past 6 months	Concerned about paying for in next year
Food/groceries	52%	59%
Utilities	47%	63%
Medical bills	34%	59%
Housing costs	31%	56%
School fees/tuition*	30%	46%

\*asked of parents with children in school

Providing necessities for their families has been a challenge for the hardest hit parents. Among parents who say the recession has affected them a lot, majorities say it has become harder to buy food and groceries, pay their utility bill, pay their housing costs and pay their medical bills.

#### **WHAT'S GOTTEN HARDER TO PAY FOR IN PAST 6 MONTHS?**

(Among parents who say they are affected a lot by recession)

Food/groceries	69%
Utilities	68%
Housing costs	59%
Medical bills	54%
School fees/tuition*	42%

\*asked of parents with children in school

One in three parents has cut back on their child's extra-curricular activities such as after-school programs and activities, after-school tutoring and test preparation as a result of the recession. One in five are relying more on their friends, family and neighbors for food or financial assistance, or have started to use a school meal program. 13% have started to use food stamps, a community food pantry or food bank because of financial problems resulting from the recession.

Those who say they are affected the most by the recession are more apt to have done all of these things.

**DONE THE FOLLOWING BECAUSE OF RECESSION...**

(Among parents)

*Cut back on child's extra-curricular activities	31%
Relied on family, friends for food, financial help	21%
*Started to use school meal program	20%
Started using food stamps, food pantry	14%
Started receiving food, clothing from church	5%
Made changes in the food their children eat	34%
Made changes in summer vacation plans	50%
*asked of parents with children in school	

Parents have also made changes to the food their children eat. 34% say they have done so as a result of the recession; while most (26%) say the changes have been minor, 8% say they have made major changes. For the most part, those parents are buying more generic brand food.

**CHANGES MADE TO FOOD CHILDREN EAT**

(Among parents)

More generic brands/less expensive	21%
Eat home more	4
More nutritious food	3
Eating less	1

Half of parents say they have made changes to their summer vacation plans as a result of the recession.

More than four in ten parents say they've put off a major purchase because of the recession and the financial insecurities it has brought.

**HAVE YOU POSTPONED A MAJOR PURCHASE?**

(Among parents)

Yes	44%
Seriously considered it	15
Not postponed	39

The most-often cited impact of the recession is job loss: 27% say the recession has cost someone in their household a job. Another quarter are earning less money and 12% are having trouble paying bills.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST IMPACT?**

(Among parents affected by the recession)

Job loss in family	27%
Making less money	25
Hard paying bills	12
Loss in investments	7

Despite the negatives, the recession may be having a positive impact on some families. 18% of parents say that the recession has caused them to spend more time with their children, compared to just 11% who

say less time. Seven in 10 are spending the same amount of time with their kids. Among parents whose families have been impacted the most by the recession, about three in 10 have spent more time with their children as a result.

**IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON TIME SPENT WITH YOUR CHILDREN**

(Among parents)

More	18%
Less	11
No change	71

**THE RECESSION'S EMOTIONAL TOLL ON FAMILIES: STRESS**

In addition to the impact the recession is having on the family budget, it is also causing stress for parents. Nearly two thirds say that not having enough money contributes to stress in their lives at least somewhat often. Three in ten stress over money very often.

Less money equals more stress. Those with incomes under \$50,000 report higher stress levels. But even those with higher incomes are not immune to stress.

**INCOME LEVEL AND MONEY STRESS**

(Among parents)

	All	< \$50k	> \$50k
Very often	29%	42%	20%
Somewhat often	35	34	36
Not too often/not at all	36	22	43

Parents at all income levels who are concerned about their jobs - either because they have already lost one or are worried about losing one - are more likely to be stressed.

Most parents have not noticed any changes in their children's behavior as a result of any financial changes in their household, but 17% have. Parents report that their kids have expressed anger, been stressed and anxious about finances, generally disappointed about the family not being able to afford things they used to and have become more aware of finances and ask questions.

**CHANGES IN CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR AS RESULT OF FINANCIAL CONCERNS?**

(Among parents)

Yes	17%
No	81

Most parents (seven in ten) have had to tighten their belts in some way - either because they've seen their incomes drop in the past six months, or by deciding to curtail non-essential school spending; postpone a major purchase; skip doctor visits or cut medication for money reasons, or a combination of those things. These "belt tightening" parents are more likely than parents overall to feel a lot of stress and to say the recession has had an impact on their children.

## THE FUTURE

When asked what concerns them most about the impact of their financial situation on their children, parents are particularly concerned about being able to afford tuition or paying for college. That is the top answer, volunteered by 36%, followed by health care costs (6%), general concern about their children's future (6%), and not being able to provide for their children generally (4%).

### TOP CONCERN ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION'S IMPACT ON YOUR KIDS

(Among parents)

Children's tuition/pay for college	36%
Health care costs	6
Concern about future	6
Inability to support children	4
No impact	13

Looking ahead, when parents were also asked specifically how concerned they are about being able to afford their children's college tuition in the future, nine in 10 parents said they were somewhat or very concerned, including 66% who are very concerned.

### CONCERN ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE IN THE FUTURE

(Among parents)

Very concerned	66%
Somewhat concerned	25
Not very/at all concerned	8

More generally, most parents - 85% - say the recession has had an impact on the plans they have for their children's future, including about half who say the recession has had "a lot" of impact.

### HAS THE RECESSION AFFECTED YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE?

(Among parents who say child affected by recession)

A lot	49%
Some	36
A little	14

But there is also a general sense of doubt about the future. When parents are asked about life for the next generation, not specifically their own children, four in ten think their future will be worse. Fewer than a quarter say it will be better.

### WILL THE FUTURE FOR NEXT GENERATION BE...

(Among parents)

Better	22%
Same	32
Worse	41

Nevertheless, parents remain relatively optimistic about their children's financial future. Nearly eight in 10 say it is likely that their children will have better opportunities to succeed financially than they had, including 30% who say it is "very" likely.

Even those greatly impacted by the recession are upbeat about their children's opportunities to succeed financially.

**LIKELY YOUR KIDS WILL HAVE BETTER FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES THAN YOU**

(Among parents)

Very	30%
Somewhat	48
Not	20

**INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT**

The recession has not just brought perceived pain to American families; many have had tangible loss. 13% of parents say they are out of work and looking for a job, and 22% say someone in their household has been unemployed in the last six months. 18% of parents say someone who provided a main source of income to the household has lost their job in the last six months.

**EMPLOYMENT**

(Among parents)

Currently employed	69%
Out of work, looking for a job	13
Someone in HH has lost job in last six months	24%
Main source of HH income lost job	18%
Concerned about losing job in next year	64%

Concern about job loss over the next year is even more widespread. Two in three parents are concerned that they or someone else in the household will be out of work and looking for a job in the next year; 29% are very concerned about that.

42% of parents report a decrease in the amount of their total household income in the last six months.

**IN LAST 6 MOS., INCOME HAS...?**

(Among parents)

Increased	11%
Decreased	42
Stayed the same	47

**CHILDREN AND HEALTH CARE**

Health care has been near the top of the list of Americans' concerns, and 67% think the fact that many American children do not have health insurance is a very serious problem for the country. Another 23% think it is at least somewhat serious. Parents agree.

**UNINSURED CHILDREN: HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM?**

	All Americans	Parents
Very serious	67%	69%
Somewhat serious	23	23
Not too/at all serious	9	7

In February President Obama signed into law an expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program - or SCHIP - to cover an additional four million uninsured children and pregnant women. 13% of parents say they have applied for either SCHIP or Medicaid for the first time in the past six months, and this percentage increases to more than a third of parents making less than \$30,000 a year.

**HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR SCHIP OR MEDICAID FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS?**

(Among parents)

	All Parents	Parents: Income <\$30K
Yes	13%	39%
No	87	61

Lower-income families also have been more likely to cut corners on medical care because of the recession. About one in 10 parents say over the past six months they have delayed taking their children to the dentist, delayed a routine medical check-up, or delayed taking a child to a medical specialist for a specific treatment because of the recession. These percentages jump to about one in five for families making less than \$30,000 a year.

**IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS HAVE YOU...?**

(Among parents)

	All Parents	Parents: Income <\$30K
Delayed taking your children to the dentist?	13%	22%
Delayed taking your children to a routine medical check-up?	9%	23%
Delayed taking your children for specific medical treatment?	8%	20%
Reduced or not purchased medication for your children?	5%	11%

20% of parents have delayed or reduced at least one of the above types of health care for their children.

Many families with health insurance have had to increase the amount of money they contribute to their coverage. 42% of parents (and 42% of all Americans as well) say that the amount of money they contribute to their health plan or their co-payment for a doctor's visit have increased in the past six months.

**AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED TO HEALTH PLAN IN LAST SIX MONTHS...?**  
(Among parents)

Increase	42%
Decrease	3
Stay the same	54

**PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**

Americans across the partisan spectrum approve of using taxpayer money to fund some specific programs to provide essentials for underprivileged children. Eight in 10 Americans - including most Republicans - approve of using taxpayer money to provide school meals and health care to children who can't afford them, and three in four Americans approve of using taxpayer money to provide dental care.

Providing day care is less popular, though six in 10 Americans still approve of using taxpayer money to provide day care to poor children. This measure is supported by less than half of all Republicans, however.

**FOR CHILDREN WHO CAN'T AFFORD THEM,  
SHOULD TAX MONEY BE USED TO FUND...?**  
(Among all Americans)

	Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
School meals	85%	94%	77%	82%
Health care	80%	93%	65%	78%
Dental care	73%	88%	56%	71%
Day care	58%	73%	41%	57%

But when it comes to the general principle, only a slight majority of Americans say they would be willing to pay more in taxes in order to increase government spending on programs for children, and there are partisan differences. Two thirds of Democrats are willing to pay more in taxes for programs for children, while a similar proportion of Republicans say they are unwilling to do so. Independents are divided.

**WOULD YOU SPEND MORE IN TAXES  
TO INCREASE FEDERAL SPENDING ON CHILDREN?**  
(Among all Americans)

	Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Yes	51%	65%	37%	47%
No	44	30	60	47

When it comes to their own political leanings, parents resemble the country at large. In this poll, 25% of parents identify themselves as Republicans, 33% as Democrats, and 41% say they are independents or

don't provide an answer. Also much like the country as a whole, 62% approve of the job President Obama is doing. 44% think the country is headed in the right direction.

---

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,874 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone May 6-12, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus two percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

An oversample of parents or guardians of children under 18 living at home with them was interviewed, for a total of 972 interviews with these parents. The results were then weighted in proportion to the total composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for the sample of parents is three points.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**Children of the Recession**  
**May 6-12, 2009**

q9 Think about your household income, would you say that it is more than enough so that you can save money or buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or is it not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

	Total %	Parents %	Apr09b %
Can save and buy extras	26	22	29
Just enough to pay bills	52	54	47
Not enough to pay bills, etc.	22	23	23
DK/NA	0	1	1

q16 Everybody experiences stress at times. How often does not having enough money contribute to stress in your life--would you say very often, somewhat often, not too often, or not at all?

			Dec06a
Very often	26	29	20
Somewhat often	31	35	34
Not too often	31	31	30
Not at all	11	5	15
Don't know/No answer	1	0	0

q17 Do you think the future of the next generation of Americans will be better, worse, or about the same as life today?

			Mar09a
Will be better	25	22	35
Worse	42	41	32
About the same as life today	28	32	26
Don't know/No answer	5	5	7

q18 Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to increase government spending on programs for children?

Willing	51	51
Not willing	44	44
DK/NA	5	5

q19 Are you the parent or guardian of a child under 18 that lives with you?

Yes	35	100
No	65	0
DK/NA	0	0

q20 Does your child or do your children attend a public school, a private school, or a religious school, or are your children not old enough to attend school?

	Parents %
Public	67
Private	5
Religious	4
Not old enough	18
Combo public/private (vol.)	3
Home schooled (vol.)	1
DK/NA	2

q21 How likely do you think it is that your children will have better opportunities to succeed financially than you have had--very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

Very likely	30
Somewhat likely	48
Somewhat unlikely	15
Very unlikely	5
Don't know/No answer	2

q22 How serious a problem is it for the United States that many American children do not have health insurance--very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Total %	Parents %	Feb07b %
Very serious	67	69	78
Somewhat serious	23	23	16
Not too serious	7	6	4
Not at all serious	2	1	1
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1

q23 Do you think the federal government should or should not use taxpayer money to do the following:

See to it that day care and after-school care is available to all children whose families can't afford it?

Yes	58	61
No	36	35
Don't know/No answer	6	4

q24 (Do you think the federal government should or should not use taxpayer money to do the following) ...

See to it that health care is available for all children whose families can't afford it?

Yes	80	81
No	17	17
Don't know/No answer	3	2

q25 (Do you think the federal government should or should not use taxpayer money to do the following) ...

See to it that meals in schools are available for all children whose families can't afford it?

	Total %	Parents %
Yes	85	87
No	13	11
Don't know/No answer	2	2

q26 (Do you think the federal government should or should not use taxpayer money to do the following) ...

See to it that dental care is available for all children whose families can't afford it?

Yes	73	73
No	24	25
Don't know/No answer	3	2

q27 Has the current recession had an effect on you and your family in any way?

Yes	73	80
No	26	20
Don't know/No answer	1	0

q28 Overall, how much has the current recession affected you and your family - a lot, some, or only a little?

A lot	29	31
Some	35	37
A little	9	12
Not effected in q27	26	20
DK/NA	0	0

q29 What would you say is the MAIN way you and your family have been directly affected by the economic recession?

Those affected by the recession in q27

	Total	Parents
Job loss	23	27
Reduced income/less money	21	25
Hard to pay bills	14	12
Investment losses/retirement	13	7
Cutting expenses	5	6
Spend less on food/eating out	3	2
Second job/returned to work	2	1
Housing costs	2	4
No impact	1	1
Other	13	13
DK/NA	3	2

q30 Overall, has the current recession had an effect on most of the people who live in your community in any way?

	Total %	Parents %
Yes	72	74
No	18	16
Don't know/No answer	10	10

q31 BLANK

q32 Overall, has the current recession had an effect on your children's lives today in any way?

Yes	38
No	61
Don't know/No answer	1

q33 How much has the current recession affected your children's lives today - a lot, some, or only a little?

A lot	12
Some	18
A little	8
Not affected in q32	61
Don't know/No answer	1

q34 How much has the current recession affected your plans for your children's future - a lot, some, or only a little?

A lot	49
Some	36
A little	14
DK/NA	1

q35 When you think about how your current financial situation affects your children, what, if anything, concerns you the most?

Can't afford tuition/college	36
Health care costs	6
Concern about future	6
Inability to support child	4
Problems in school	2
Less activities/entertainment	2
No impact	13
Other	22
DK/NA	9

q36 In the past six months, have you noticed any changes in your children's behavior that you think might be the result of economic or financial changes in your household, or not?

Yes	17
No	81
No financial changes (vol.)	1
DK/NA	1

q37 What changes in behavior have you noticed?

	Parents who said "yes" in q36
	%
Angry	24
Concern/stress/anxious about finances	14
Disappointed can't afford things	13
More aware of finances	9
Poor grades	5
Sad/cries a lot	4
Quiet/withdrawn	3
More responsible/understanding	3
No impact	1
Other	22
DK/NA	2

q38 Have you discussed the economic problems in the country, that is, the recession, with your children, haven't you got around to doing that yet, or don't you think you should be discussing issues like this with your children?

	Parents
Discussed with children	56
Not done it yet	11
Don't think should be disc	8
Children not old enough (Vol.)	25
DK/NA	0

q39 Have you discussed your family's own financial situation with your children, haven't you got around to doing that yet, or don't you think you should be discussing issues like this with your children?

Discussed with children	50
Not done it yet	11
Don't think should be disc	15
Children not old enough (vol.)	23
DK/NA	1

q40 In the last six months, have you ever had to tell your children that you may not have the money available for some of the things you used to, or not?

Yes	60
No	31
Children not old enough (vol.)	9
DK/NA	0

q41 How did your children react when you told them? Were they upset by it, or have they not reacted to it? ASK IF UPSET: Were your children very or somewhat upset?

	Parents who said "yes" in q40	
	%	
Very upset	19	
Somewhat upset	33	
No reaction	46	
DK/NA	2	

q42-43 BLANK

q44 In the last six months, has the amount of your total household income increased, decreased, or has the amount stayed about the same?

	Total	Parents
	%	
Increased	11	11
Decreased	37	42
Stayed the same	52	47
DK/NA	0	0

q45 Are you currently employed - either full-time or part-time -- or are you temporarily out of work, or are you not in the market for work at all?

IF NOT IN MARKET FOR WORK, ASK: Are you currently retired, or not?

Currently employed	58	69
Temporarily out of work	11	13
Not in the market for work	15	16
Retired	16	2
DK/NA	0	0

q46 Have you or has anyone in your household lost a job in the last six months?

Yes, I have	10	10
Yes, other person has	10	11
Yes, I and other person ha	2	3
No	78	75
DK/NA	0	1

q47 Was the person who lost his or her job in the last six months one of the main sources of income for your household?

Yes	13	18
No	8	6
No in q46	78	75
DK/NA	1	1

q48 And 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, or not at all concerned?

			Apr09b
			%
Very concerned	25	29	32
Somewhat concerned	33	35	26
Not at all concerned	40	35	42
DK/NA	1	1	0

q51 Now I'd like to read you some items. Thinking back over the past six months, please tell me if it has become easier for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, harder for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession , or hasn't there been much of a difference.

Food and groceries?

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Easier	2	2
Harder	46	52
No difference	52	46
DK/NA	0	0

q52 (In the last six months, has it become easier for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, harder for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, or hasn't there been much of a difference)

Utilities such as gas and electric bills?

Easier	3	3
Harder	48	47
No difference	49	50
DK/NA	0	0

q53 (In the last six months, has it become easier for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, harder for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, or hasn't there been much of a difference)

Medical bills for you and your family?

Easier	2	3
Harder	38	34
No difference	59	63
DK/NA	1	0

q54 (In the last six months, has it become easier for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, harder for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, or hasn't there been much of a difference)

Housing costs, such as your rent or mortgage?

Easier	3	4
Harder	28	31
No difference	67	64
DK/NA	2	1

q55 (In the last six months, has it become easier for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, harder for you to pay for each of the following because of the recession, or hasn't there been much of a difference)

Your children's school fees and tuition?

	Parents with children in school	
	%	
Easier		1
Harder		30
No difference		53
No school fees (vol.)		16
DK/NA		0

q56 NOW, LOOKING AHEAD OVER THE NEXT YEAR, please tell me if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about being able to pay for each of the following?

Food and groceries?

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Very concerned	23	25
Somewhat concerned	34	34
Not at all concerned	44	41
Don't know/No answer	0	0

q57 (Looking ahead over the next year, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about being able to pay for...)

Utilities such as gas and electric bills?

Very concerned	25	30
Somewhat concerned	35	33
Not at all concerned	40	38
Don't know/No answer	0	0

q58 (Looking ahead over the next year, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about being able to pay for...)

Medical bills for you and your family?

Very concerned	30	30
Somewhat concerned	29	29
Not at all concerned	41	40
Don't know/No answer	0	1

q59 (Looking ahead over the next year, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about being able to pay for...)

Housing costs such as your rent or mortgage?

Very concerned	24	26
Somewhat concerned	25	30
Not at all concerned	50	43
Don't know/No answer	1	1

q60 ( Looking ahead over the next year, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about being able to pay for...)

Your children's school fees and tuition?

	Parents with children in school
	%
Very concerned	22
Somewhat concerned	24
Not at all concerned	40
No school fees (vol.)	13
DK/NA	1

q61 Looking to the future, how concerned are you about being able to afford your children's college tuition--very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Parents
Very concerned	66
Somewhat concerned	25
Not at all concerned	8
Not going to college (vol.)	1
DK/NA	0

q66 Do you currently have some form of health insurance or health care coverage, or not?

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Yes	87	86
No	13	14
DK/NA	0	0

q67 In the last six months, has the amount of money you contribute to your health plan or the amount of your co-payment for a doctor's visit increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

	THOSE WITH HEALTH COVERAGE	
	Total	Parents
	%	%
Increased	42	42
Decreased	2	3
Stayed the same	54	54
DK/NA	2	1

q68 Did you have health insurance coverage before but lost it in the last six months?

	* TOTAL RESPONDENTS *	
	Total	Parents
	%	%
Yes	34	48
No	66	52

q69 Do all of your children currently have some form of health insurance or health care coverage, or not?

Yes	90
No	9
DK/NA	1

q70 Did any of your children have health insurance coverage before but lose it in the last six months?

	Parents
	%
Yes	54
No	46

q71 In the last six months, have you applied for S-CHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or Medicaid for any of your children for the first time because of financial concerns?

Yes	13
No	87
DK/NA	0

q72 In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.

Delayed or not taken any of your children to the doctor for a routine medical or well-child visit?

Yes	9
No	91
DK/NA	0

q73 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Delayed or not taken any of your children to a specialist for a specific medical problem?

Yes	8
No	92
DK/NA	0

q74 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Reduced or not purchased medications for any of your children?

Yes	5
No	95
DK/NA	0

q75 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Delayed or not taken any of your children for a dental visit for maintenance or a check-up?

Yes	13
No	87
DK/NA	0

q76 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Started to use school meal programs?

	Parents with children in school
	%
Yes	20
No	78
DK/NA	2

q77 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Started to cut back on any extra-curricular activities such as after school programs or activities, after-school tutoring, or test preparation?

Yes	31
No	68
DK/NA	1

q78 In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.

Rely on your family, friends, and neighbors more for food or financial assistance?

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Yes	21	21
No	79	79
DK/NA	0	0

q79 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Started using food stamps, a community food pantry or a food bank?

Yes	11	14
No	89	86
DK/NA	0	0

q80 (In the last six months, please tell me whether you have done any of the following because of the recession.)

Started receiving food, clothing, or other assistance from a church or religious group?

Yes	5	5
No	95	95

q81 In the last six months, have you made any changes to the kinds of food your children eat at home because of the recession? IF YES, ASK: Would you describe these changes as major changes or minor changes?

Yes, major changes	8
Yes, minor changes	26
No	65
DK/NA	1

q82 What changes have you made?

	Parents who made changes in q81
	%
More generic foods	61
Eat home more	11
more nutritious food	8
Eating less	4
Less fresh foods	3
No impact	2
Less fast food	1
Food bank	1
Other	8
DK/NA	1

q83 Have you already or do you expect to change your vacation plans this summer because of the recession?

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Yes	40	50
No	57	46
DK/NA	3	4

q84 As a result of what has happened to the economy lately, have you postponed making a major purchase, seriously considered doing so, or not seriously considered doing so?

			Jan09a
			%
Postponed major purchase	40	44	34
Seriously considered	14	15	12
Not seriously considered	44	39	51
Don't know/No answer	2	2	3

q85-86 BLANK

q87 Do you or does someone in your household receive child support or alimony payments?

Yes	5	13
No	95	87
Don't know/No answer	0	0

q88 In the past six months, have those payments increased, decreased or stayed the same?

	Those who said "yes" in q87	
	Total	Parents
	%	%
Increased	3	4
Decreased	33	29
Stayed the same	62	65
DK/NA	2	2

q89 How much has a reduction in child support or alimony payments contributed to the decrease in your total household income? Is it a major factor, a minor factor, or not at all a factor?

Those who said "decrease" in q88

	Total	Parents
	%	%
Major	46	58
Minor	34	20
Not a factor	20	22

q90 Has any aspect of the recession - either financial difficulties in your household or things going on outside of your household - caused you to spend more time with your children, less time with your children, or has the amount of time you spend with your children not changed?

	Parents
	%
More	18
Less	11
No change	71
DK/NA	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1874	
Total Parents	972	660
Parents with children in school	820	529