TECHNICAL INFORMATION

2004 Study Methodology

As in 2001, the survey was conducted using telephone interviews. Families and Work Institute developed the survey questionnaire, and Harris Interactive collected the data. A nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years or older who are employed full- or part-time by someone else were interviewed using computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) technology. Telephone numbers were selected using random-digit-dial (RDD) procedures. Interviews averaged about 19 minutes in length and were conducted between October 7, 2004 and November 15, 2004.

In order to maintain the reliability and integrity of the sample, telephone field staff adhered to the following procedures when attempting to contact respondents:

1. A non-answering telephone or answering machine was dialed seven more times on different days and at different times of the day. If more than one call was made on the same day—at the request of the household called—these calls did not count as separate attempts. If these attempts failed to yield a completed interview, a new telephone number was called from that sample.

2. Partially completed interviews: If a respondent could not complete the interview during one phone call, up to four additional attempts were made to complete the survey. Data were used only when the entire survey was completed.

3. If a business telephone was reached, or if contact was made with a household in which a potential respondent generated a language barrier, a new telephone number was generated.

A total of 10,673 calls were made to obtain 1,003 qualified completes. The ratio of completed interviews (1,003) to the number of *known* eligible phone numbers (1,034) plus the estimated number of eligible phone numbers among those phone numbers for which eligibility could not be determined (3,279) is 23 percent. This is the *most* conservative estimate of the survey response rate and is comparable to, or a bit higher than, customary response rates calculated in the same manner for other telephone surveys. *It is important to note that once respondent eligibility was determined through several screening questions, 97 percent of interviews were completed. The real challenge for us and other researchers is being able to reach potential respondents by telephone, then engaging them long enough to determine eligibility.*

Sample data were weighted to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest population statistics for education, gender, race or ethnicity, and age. This weighting adjusted these key variables where necessary to their actual proportions in the population. Following sample weighting and on the basis of empirical computation, the values of the design effect (DEFF) and DEFT (square root of DEFF) for this sample design have been determined to be 1.53 and 1.24, respectively.

Technical Notes

In some analyses the reported sample sizes are smaller than the total sample either because of missing data or because the question was not asked of respondents who did not meet particular conditions—such as having children.

Because of rounding errors, when findings are presented as percentage distributions across several response categories, they do not always add to 100%. Fractional percentages are not reported in order to simplify presentation.

Whenever we talk about *differences* or *relationships*, they are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. The minimum threshold for statistical significance in this report is $p < .05$, meaning that a difference reported as significant would only occur 5 times in 100 by chance. Conversely, 95 times out of 100, such a finding reflects a *real* difference. In many instances, the differences or relationships reported here are much less likely to have occurred by chance: 1 in 100 times ($p < .01$) and 1 in 1,000 times ($p < .001$) or less. Levels of statistical significance are indicated in tables using the following conventions: ns = not significant; * = $p < .05$; ** = $p < .01$; and *** = $p < .001$.

This survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.2 percent.