

**2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 147 APRIL-MAY 2024  
FINAL TOPLINE  
SURVEY OF ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN  
APRIL 29-MAY 19, 2024  
TOTAL N=2,542<sup>1</sup>**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
U.S. adults ages 50 and older who are not parents <sup>2</sup>	2,542	+/- 2.4 percentage points

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

EVERPAR Have you ever been a parent or guardian to any children, living or deceased, including any biological or adopted children?

April 29-May 19,

2024

0	Yes
100	No
0	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

MARITALMOD Which of these best describes your current marital status?

April 29-May 19,

2024

41	Married
13	Divorced
1	Separated
6	Widowed
38	Never been married
*	No answer

**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND NOT MARRIED (MARITALMOD=2-5,99) [n=1,555]:**

COMMREL Are you currently in a committed romantic relationship?

April 29-May 19,

2024

22	Yes
78	No
*	No answer

<sup>1</sup> The survey includes an oversample of 1,533 responses from adults ages 50 and older without children who are members of Ipsos' KnowledgePanel.

<sup>2</sup> The sample includes respondents ages 50 and older in the American Trends Panel and Ipsos' KnowledgePanel who previously indicated that they are not parents. Respondents were screened again for this survey, and those who indicated they have ever been a parent or guardian to any children (biological or adopted) were excluded from the sample.

**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND ARE IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP (COMMREL=1) [n=312]:**

LWPREL Are you currently living with a romantic partner? By this, we mean that you and your romantic partner share the same residence and neither of you has a separate residence.

April 29-May 19,  
2024

59	Yes
40	No
1	No answer

**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND ARE NOT IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP OR ARE NOT LIVING WITH A PARTNER (COMMREL=2,99 OR LWPREL=2,99) [n=1,377]:**

LIVARRANG Which of the following best describes your living arrangement?

Please think only about the adults you may live with, even if there are children younger than 18 in your household.

April 29-May 19,  
2024

68	I am the only adult in my household
22	I live with one or more adult family members (for example, a parent or a sibling)
10	Some other arrangement
*	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

LIVINGPAR Do you have a living parent?

April 29-May 19,  
2024

34	Yes
66	No
*	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

SIBLIV Do you have any living siblings?

April 29-May 19,  
2024

27	Yes, one
55	Yes, more than one
17	No, I do not have any siblings
1	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

FAMKIDS Do you have any nieces or nephews you feel close to?

April 29-May 19,

2024

12	Yes, one
49	Yes, more than one
27	No, I don't feel close to any of my nieces or nephews
11	I do not have any nieces or nephews <b>[anchor]</b>
*	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

EMPLSIT What is your current work situation?

April 29-May 19,

2024

32	Work full time for pay
11	Work part time for pay
5	Not currently working for pay
9	Unable to work due to a disability
43	Retired
1	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

IMPACTGOALS In general, who do you think has it easier when it comes to each of the following?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

	People who <u>don't</u> have children <u>have it easier</u>	People who <u>have</u> children <u>have it easier</u>	This doesn't have much to do with having children <b>[anchor]</b>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Being financially secure April 29-May 19, 2024	48	5	46	1
b. Having an active social life April 29-May 19, 2024	30	13	56	1
c. Having a successful job or career April 29-May 19, 2024	31	3	64	2
d. Having someone to care for them as they age April 29-May 19, 2024	6	58	34	1
e. Having a fulfilling life April 29-May 19, 2024	10	22	66	1

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

WORRY\_FUTR Thinking about the future, how often do you worry about each of the following?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1]**

	Extremely <u>often</u>	Very <u>often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Having someone who will provide care for you as you age April 29-May 19, 2024	9	17	42	21	11	*
b. Having enough money as you age April 29-May 19, 2024	14	22	37	18	10	*
c. Being lonely as you age April 29-May 19, 2024	7	11	37	28	16	*
d. Having someone who will carry on your values and traditions when you're gone April 29-May 19, 2024	3	8	23	26	40	*

**DISPLAY TO ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

Some of our recent studies have focused on people who are parents. For this survey, we are particularly interested in learning about the views and experiences of adults who do not have children. As always, you are welcome to skip any question that is too difficult to answer or that makes you feel uncomfortable.

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**KIDSEVER Which of the following best describes your thoughts on having children? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

April 29-May 19,

2024

38	There was a time when you wanted to have children
32	You never wanted to have children
25	You weren't sure whether or not you wanted to have children <b>[anchor]</b>
5	No answer

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

RSNNOCHLD\_S1 How much of a reason is each of the following for why you did not have children?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS, WITH ITEM F ALWAYS AFTER ITEM E ON THE SAME SCREEN]**

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Infertility or other medical reasons (yours or your spouse/partner's) April 29-May 19, 2024	15	7	74	4
b. Couldn't afford to raise a child April 29-May 19, 2024	12	17	67	4
c. Didn't find the right partner to have children with April 29-May 19, 2024	33	13	50	4
d. A spouse or partner who did not want to have children April 29-May 19, 2024	10	10	75	4
e. Concerns about the environment, including climate change April 29-May 19, 2024	6	10	80	4
f. Concerns about the state of the world, other than the environment April 29-May 19, 2024	13	16	67	4
g. You don't really like children April 29-May 19, 2024	8	13	75	4
h. Negative experiences with your own family growing up April 29-May 19, 2024	11	16	69	4
i. You wanted to focus on other things, like your job or other interests April 29-May 19, 2024	21	22	53	4
j. You just didn't want to April 29-May 19, 2024	31	18	47	4
k. It just never happened April 29-May 19, 2024	39	15	41	4

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

IMPACTLIFE Overall, has the fact that you don't have children made each of the following easier or harder for you? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1, WITH OPTIONS 6 AND 7 ALWAYS LAST]**

		A lot <u>easier</u>	Somewhat <u>easier</u>	Neither easier nor <u>harder</u>	Somewhat <u>harder</u>	A lot <u>harder</u>	Does not apply <b>[anchor; DISPLAY FOR ITEMS C AND F ONLY]</b>	Not sure <b>[anchor]</b>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Affording the things you want April 29-May 19, 2024	30	30	23	3	2		6	4
b.	Saving for the future April 29-May 19, 2024	30	27	26	4	2		6	4
c.	Being successful in your job or career April 29-May 19, 2024	18	20	34	2	1	15	7	4
d.	Having an active social life April 29-May 19, 2024	16	19	42	6	1		10	4
e.	Having time for hobbies and interests April 29-May 19, 2024	32	25	27	2	1		8	5
f.	Maintaining relationships with friends who have children April 29-May 19, 2024	4	6	46	19	4	12	5	4

**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED (EMPLSIT=1,2) [n=1,104]:**

WORKNOKID Has each of following ever happened to you at work because you don't have children?  
**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Been expected to take on extra work or responsibilities April 29-May 19, 2024	33	64	3
b.	Been given less flexibility than people who have children April 29-May 19, 2024	30	67	3
c.	Have had more opportunities to network outside of work hours April 29-May 19, 2024	35	61	4
d.	Been given more opportunities for important assignments April 29-May 19, 2024	17	80	3
e.	Felt left out of conversations with coworkers who have children April 29-May 19, 2024	32	65	3

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

RELNOKID In general, what type of impact has not having children had on your relationship with the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1]**

		<u>Very positive</u>	<u>Somewhat positive</u>	<u>Neither positive nor negative</u>	<u>Somewhat negative</u>	<u>Very negative</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK IF MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP (MARITALMOD=1 OR COMMREL=1) [n=1,299]:</b>							
a.	Your spouse or partner April 29-May 19, 2024	15	10	64	4	1	6
b.	Your friends who have children April 29-May 19, 2024	4	4	73	12	1	5
<b>ASK IF HAS LIVING PARENTS (LIVINGPAR=1) [n=834]:</b>							
c.	Your parent(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	7	3	75	12	1	3
<b>ASK IF HAS AT LEAST ONE SIBLING (SIBLIV=1,2) [n=2,142]:</b>							
d.	Your sibling(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	6	6	77	6	1	5

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

PRESNOKID When you were younger, how often did you feel pressure from each of the following to have children? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS WORRY\_FUTR, WITH OPTION 6 ALWAYS LAST FOR ITEM A]**

		Extremely often	Very often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Never had a spouse or partner [anchor; <b>DISPLAY FOR ITEM A ONLY]</b>	No answer
a.	A spouse or partner April 29-May 19, 2024	1	2	10	15	57	13	3
b.	Family members April 29-May 19, 2024	2	6	24	22	44		3
c.	Friends April 29-May 19, 2024	1	3	16	24	53		3
d.	Society in general April 29-May 19, 2024	2	8	24	21	43		3

**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND HAVE A LIVING PARENT AND AT LEAST ONE SIBLING (LIVINGPAR=1 AND SIBLIV=1,2) [n=749]:**

CAREPAR1 If your parent(s) needed help caring for themselves, who would provide more of the care? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTIONS 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

April 29-May 19,  
2024

34	You
19	A sibling
42	You and <b>(IF ONE SIBLING (SIBLIV=1): your sibling; IF MORE THAN ONE SIBLING (SIBLIV=2): at least one of your siblings) about equally [anchor]</b>
4	You and your sibling(s) would not provide care <b>[anchor]</b>
1	No answer



**ASK ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS AND INDICATED THEY WOULD PROVIDE MORE CARE FOR THEIR PARENTS THAN A SIBLING (CAREPAR1=1) [n=263]:**

CAREPAR2 How much of a reason is each of the following for why you would provide more of the care for your parent(s) than your sibling(s)? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. You do not have children April 29-May 19, 2024	32	18	49	1
b. You have more time or flexibility than your sibling(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	42	22	35	1
c. You live closer to your parent(s) than your sibling(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	47	13	40	1
d. You have a closer relationship with your parent(s) than your sibling(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	38	18	43	1
e. You would do a better job providing care than your sibling(s) April 29-May 19, 2024	37	22	39	1

**ASK ALL ADULTS AGES 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE NOT PARENTS:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [n=875]:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>3</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
30	35	27	7	1	15	15

<sup>3</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.