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FP-18-11 Job Satisfaction and Interference with Family Life Among Mothers and Fathers

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Today, most parents work—from the nation’s 34.2 million families that include children under the age of 18, nine out of ten have at least one parent employed. In three out of five married-couple families with children under 18, both parents are employed, and seven out of ten unmarried parents with children under 18 are employed (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017). The challenges associated with combining work and family are well-known (Bianchi and Milkie, 2010). This profile uses data from the 2014 General Social Survey to examine job satisfaction and conflicts between work and family life among working parents with at least one child under 18 living at home.

**Degrees of Job Satisfaction Among Working Parents**

Overall, the majority of working parents are satisfied with their jobs.

- Nearly half of working American parents with at least one minor child at home reported being “very satisfied” with their jobs.
- Only 10% of working parents reported being not satisfied with their jobs.

A larger share of married parents reported being “very satisfied” with their job—compared to single parents.

- Married mothers were more satisfied than single mothers, and married fathers were more satisfied than single fathers.
- Married mothers stand out, with 60% reporting such high levels of job satisfaction.

**Working Parents Who Were “Very Satisfied” with Their Jobs, by Gender and Marital Status**

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- Married mothers were more satisfied than single mothers, and married fathers were more satisfied than single fathers.
- Married mothers stand out, with 60% reporting such high levels of job satisfaction.

**Conflicting Work and Family Lives, by Gender and Marital Status**

- Married mothers reported the least interference between their jobs and their family lives.
- Fathers, regardless of marital status, had the largest share—at nearly 60%—who reported their jobs interfering with their family life often or sometimes.

Job Interferes with Family Life

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Family Life Interferes with Job

- Married fathers were least likely to report that their family life interfered with their work obligations (36%), while single mothers reported the highest level of conflict (57%).
- Mothers, regardless of marital status, fall between these two groups, with four out of five single mothers and two out of five married mothers reporting interference.

**Suggested Citation:**


**Data Source:**


**References:**


**Family Profiles:**

Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR’s core research themes.