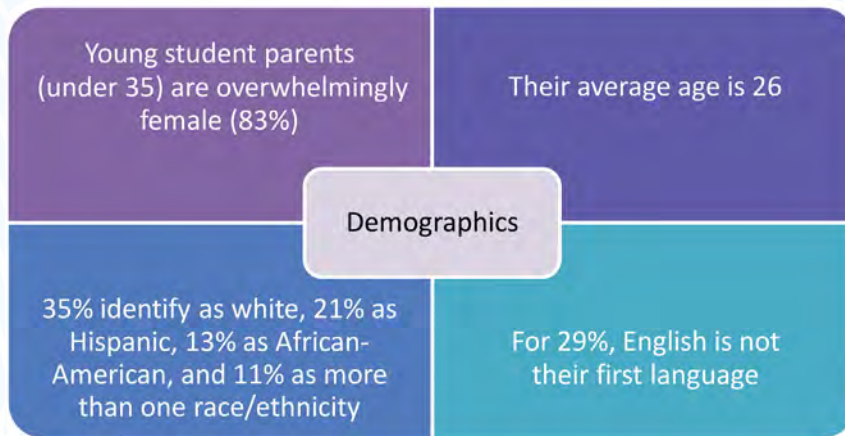


STUDENT PARENTS AT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Over one million parenting students attend baccalaureate degree programs nationwide,¹ but very little is known about them. The following data come from surveys completed by 224 student parents under the age of 35 who attend eight public and private colleges and universities with well-established student parent programs.



“A college education means finding my own place in the world rather than just accepting the place that I was born into. It means giving my children a better starting point and the knowledge that they can go from there to wherever they want.”



“My biggest challenges are finances, balancing the life of a mother, student, employee, girlfriend, daughter, etc. while still having time to be a 21-year-old.”

PARENTING

- Over half (54%) consider themselves single parents, and 40% were raised primarily by a single parent
- Most were in their teens or early 20s when their first child was born
- They have an average of 1.4 children; the average age of the youngest child is 3.6 years, of the oldest is 7 years, and most currently have pre-school age children
- 23% have little or no contact or support from other parent
- 38% are living with or married to the other parent
- 13% of current student parents became a parent after enrolling in their current college; 87% were parents before they enrolled in their current college

1. Institute for Women's Policy Research. 2016. IWPR analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2011-12 *National Postsecondary Student Aid Study* and the *Integrated Postsecondary Aid Survey* (IPEDS).

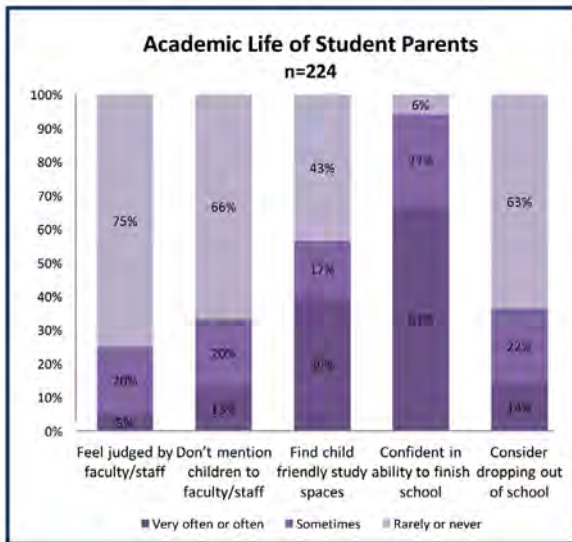
This fact sheet is based on *Baccalaureate Student Parent Programs and the Students They Serve*, a research study conducted by the Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG), under the auspices of The National Center for Student Parent Programs at Endicott College, and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



For more information, go to: www.endicott.edu/PERG
www.endicott.edu/studentparentprograms

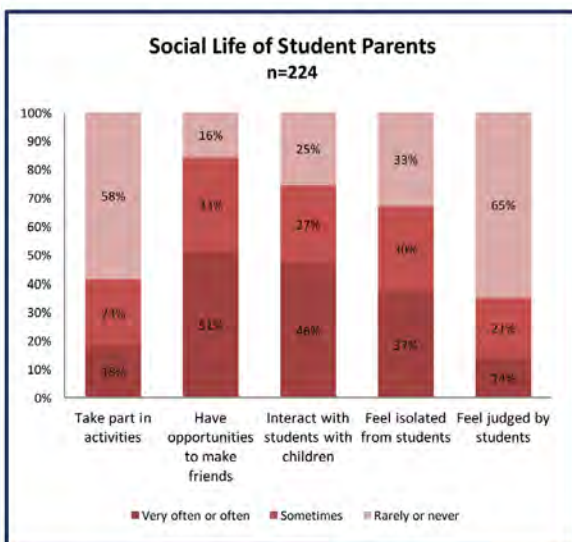
COLLEGE

- Two-thirds (67%) are transfer students, and most parents are juniors or seniors
- Many (58%) are first-generation college students
- Self-reported GPA averages approximately 3.2
- 29% have taken 1-5 breaks from college
- Of these 65 students, 50% took a break because they became pregnant or had a baby



FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT

- Almost all student parents (87%) utilize at least one form of public assistance; 40% utilize 3 or more forms of public assistance (compared to 20% prior to enrollment)
- 35% are employed part-time, 9% full-time, and another 19% are looking for work
- Of those who work, student parents work an average of 21 hours per week at an average hourly wage of \$13
- Two-thirds believe that their education will be worth the cost



2014 HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
0-\$10,000	39%
\$10,000-20,000	21%
UNDER \$20,000	60%
\$20,000-30,000	13%
UNDER \$30,000	73%
\$30,000-50,000	10%
\$50-75,000	4%
\$75-100,000	2%
Over \$100,000	0

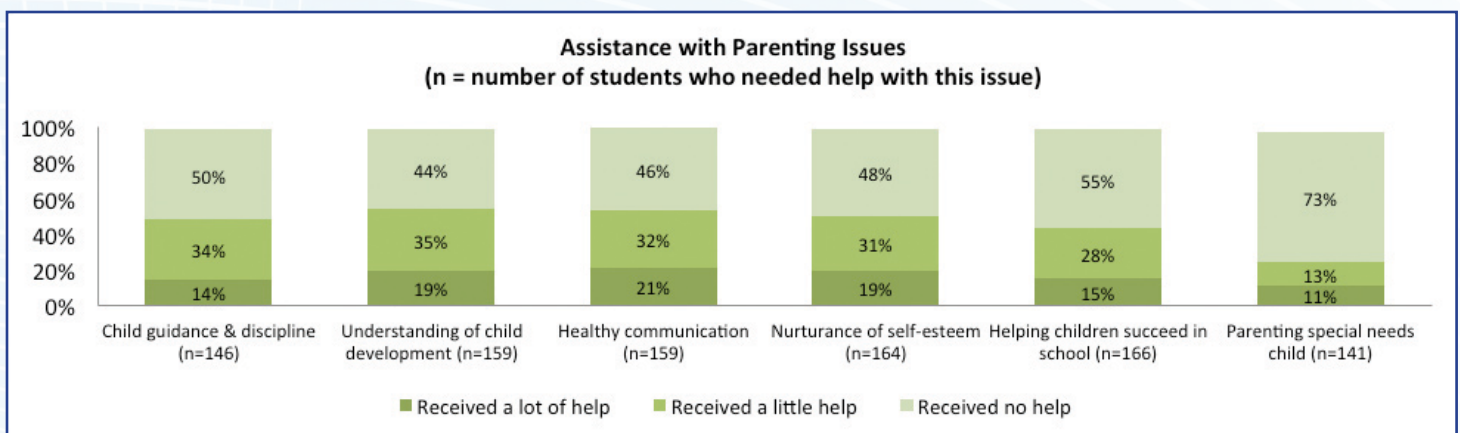
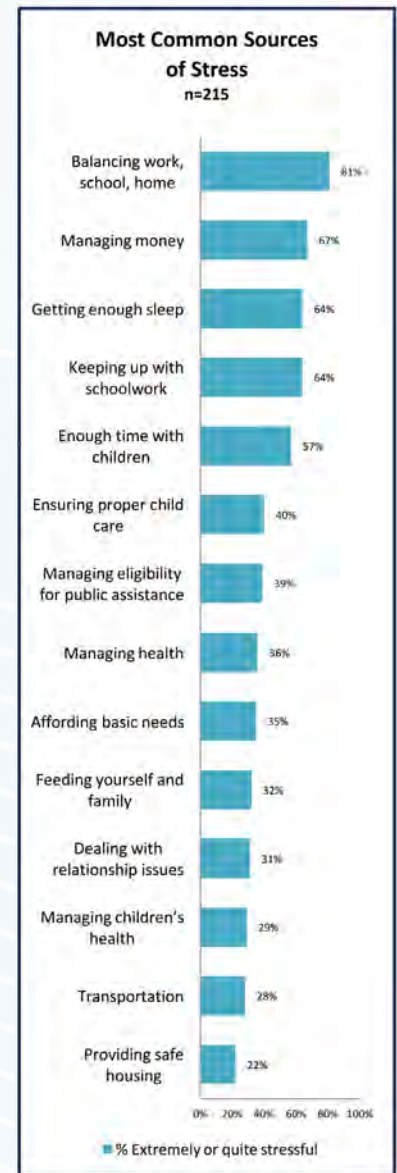
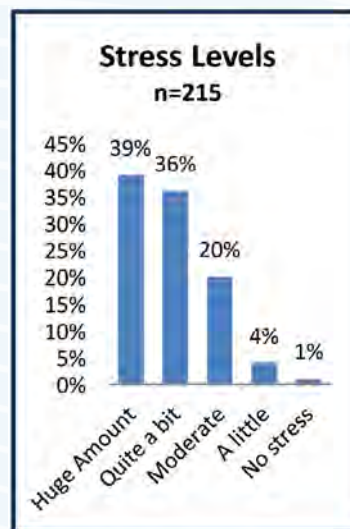
“Getting my degree means finally reaching the goals I set myself before I was surprised with a family. It means financial stability and security because I can get a job that will pay the bills. It means a busy mama and a lot of debt because school with child care is ridiculously expensive.”



SOURCES OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO ATTEND A 4-YEAR COLLEGE:

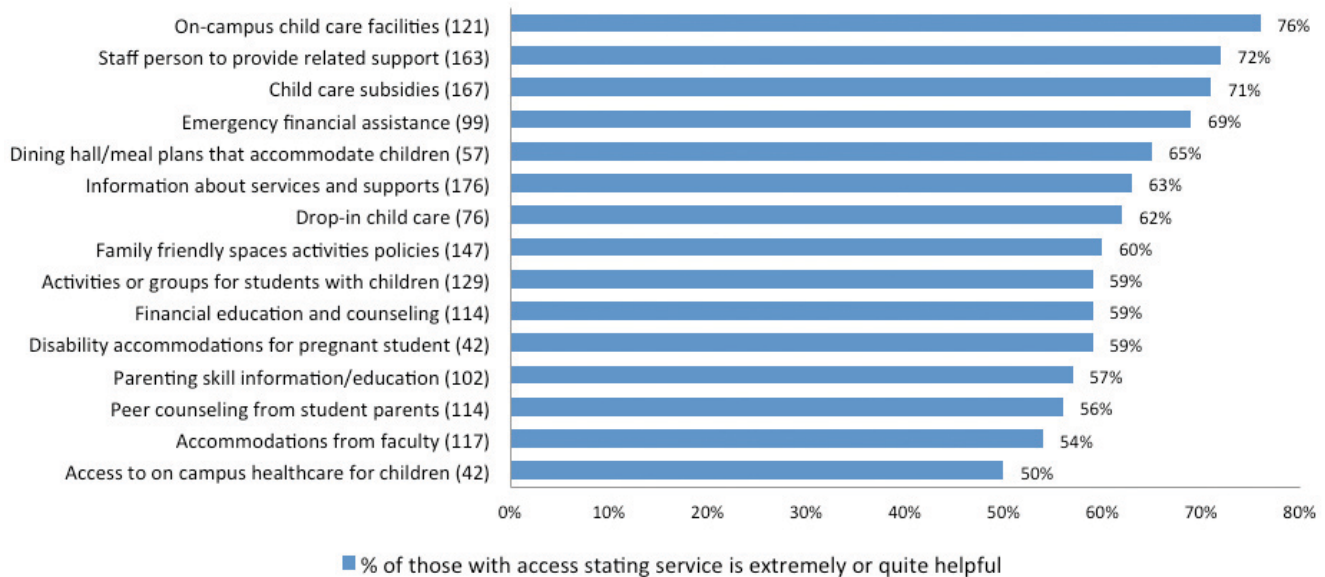
- Family members (54%)
- High school or community college counselor (26%)
- Friends (23%)
- Availability of services and supports for student parents (19%)
- 17% received no encouragement

“Being a student hinders me from being the mom I want to be and being a mom hinders me from being the student I want to be.”



On-Campus Services for Student Parents

(n = number of students with access to this service)



Impacts of College on Children

86% of children wish they had more time with their parent; only 22% are more angry with or resent them

78% are more proud of their parent

76% have expressed more desire to attend college

75% are more interested in school, while only 5% are less interested in school

Impacts of College on Children's Behavior

27% of parenting students said their children's behavior at home had improved since they started college

35% said their children's school behavior has improved

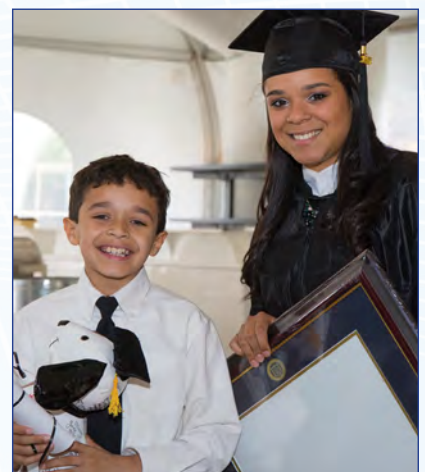
39% said their children's school academic performance has improved

33% described their children as having better study habits



Photo by Parker Fish

"It's a sacrifice now, for a hopeful future."



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