Echelon Insights

National Parents Union Survey
Survey of N=1000 parents of public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade
Sampled from online web panel
Field Dates: October 19–27, 2020

**EDUCATION QUALITY**

IF HAS TWO OR MORE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 [QChildrenNumber=2-6], INSERT:
[ParentIntroText] For the following questions, please respond regarding your [INSERT FIRST/SECOND/ETC] child in birth order (from oldest to youngest) of your children who are in grades kindergarten through high school. [RANDOMIZE WHICH CHILD IS ASKED ABOUT, SPLITTING EVENLY BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR PARENTS OF TWO CHILDREN, ASK 50% ABOUT FIRST CHILD (IN BIRTH ORDER FROM OLDEST TO YOUNGEST) WHO ATTENDS K-12 SCHOOL, 50% ABOUT SECOND CHILD WHO ATTENDS K-12 SCHOOL. PROGRAM FOR UP TO SIX CHILDREN.]

1. [QKidGrade] What grade level is your child currently in (2020–2021 school year)?
   1. Kindergarten 8%
   2. 1st grade 10%
   3. 2nd grade 8%
   4. 3rd grade 6%
   5. 4th grade 8%
   6. 5th grade 7%
   7. 6th grade 7%
   8. 7th grade 7%
   9. 8th grade 8%
   10. 9th grade (Freshman) 8%
   11. 10th grade (Sophomore) 7%
   12. 11th grade (Junior) 8%
   13. 12th grade (Senior) 9%

2. [QKidSchoolOptions] What options is your child’s school currently offering for ways your child could attend school? Please select all options that your child’s school is offering, regardless of how your child is currently attending school. [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES] [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Students can attend in person in a classroom or on campus full-time 33%
   2. Students can attend remotely or online full-time 71%
   3. Students can attend part-time in person, part-time remotely or online 30%
   4. Something else (Please specify) 2%
3. **[QKidSchoolType]** How is your child currently attending school? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Only in person, on their school campus 21%
   2. Only remotely or online 54%
   3. Part-time in person, part-time remotely or online 23%
   4. Something else (Please specify) 1%

4. **[QRestSchoolType]** Now, if your child’s school were to allow you to choose ANY of these ways for your child to attend school for the rest of this school year, which would you choose? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Only in person, on their school campus 29%
   2. Only remotely or online 45%
   3. Part-time in person, part-time remotely or online 22%
   4. Something else (Please specify) 1%
   5. Unsure 3%

5. **[QTeacherComm]** In the past two months, has your child’s teacher communicated with you in any of the following ways? Please select all that apply. [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]
   1. Provided updates about what they were teaching 49%
   2. Sent you a report card or similar progress report for your child 44%
   3. Had a conversation with you about your child’s academic performance 42%
   4. Asked how you felt about your child’s learning and needs 31%
   5. Had a conversation with you about your child’s interests or goals for the future 24%
   6. Contacted you to discuss a disciplinary issue with your child 11%
   7. None of these 16%
   8. Unsure 2%

6. **[QParentEngagement]** Do you think your child’s school should be doing more, should be doing less, or is doing about the right amount to engage parents in decisions about their children’s education? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Should be doing more 36%
   2. Should be doing less 4%
   3. Is doing about the right amount 56%
   4. Unsure 4%

7. **[QChildSchoolQuality]** Overall, how would you rate the quality of education your child’s school provides? [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]
   EXCELLENT/GOOD 82%
   ONLY FAIR/POOR 17%
   1. Excellent 29%
   2. Good 52%
   3. Only fair 14%
   4. Poor 3%
   5. Unsure 1%
8. [QLearningMoreLess] At this point in the school year, do you think your child is learning more than they normally would, less than they normally would, or about the same amount as they normally would when attending school? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Learning more 19%
   2. Learning less 35%
   3. About the same amount 42%
   4. Unsure 3%

9. [Ratings Battery] How would you currently rate how your child’s school is doing on each of the following? [DISPLAY AS GRID OVER TWO PAGES] [RANDOMIZE A-i] [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]


   | TOTAL | TOTAL |
   |       | GOOD | POOR |
   | A. Handling health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 | 80% 16% | 37% 44% 13% 3% 3% |
   | B. Quality of teaching and instruction | 75% 23% | 29% 46% 18% 5% 1% |
   | C. Assessing your child’s progress and level of learning | 75% 23% | 30% 46% 18% 5% 2% |
   | D. Communication with parents | 73% 25% | 30% 43% 18% 8% 1% |
   | E. Managing online learning programs or resources for remote learning | 71% 25% | 26% 45% 20% 6% 3% |
   | F. Amount of time focused on instruction | 71% 27% | 25% 46% 21% 6% 2% |
   | G. Providing personalized learning to meet your child’s needs | 66% 32% | 24% 41% 21% 11% 2% |
   | H. Providing resources to support students’ mental health and emotional wellbeing | 64% 31% | 24% 40% 22% 9% 5% |

10. [QImprovements] Of the following, in which one or two areas are you LEAST satisfied or think your child’s school has the most room for improvement? [SELECT UP TO TWO] [RANDOMIZE 1-9]
   1. Quality of teaching and instruction 20%
   2. Amount of time focused on instruction 19%
   3. Providing personalized learning to meet your child’s needs 19%
   4. Managing online learning programs or resources for remote learning 16%
   5. Providing resources to support students’ mental health and emotional wellbeing 15%
   6. Communication with you about your child’s academic progress 13%
   7. Handling health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 13%
   8. Communication with parents about school reopening plans 12%
   9. Assessing your child’s progress and level of learning 11%
   10. Something else (Please specify) 1%
   11. None – Your child’s school is perfect the way it is 21%
11. [QHearUpdates] From whom do you most often hear updates and information about what is going on at your child’s school? [RANDOMIZE 1-5]
   1. Teachers at your child’s school 46%
   2. Principals and administrators at your child’s school 25%
   3. School district leaders 10%
   4. Parents of other children at your child’s school 8%
   5. State education policy leaders 4%
   6. Someone else (Please specify) 2%
   7. Unsure 5%

12. [QTrustAssess] Who do you trust most to give an honest assessment of what is going on at your child’s school? [RANDOMIZE 1-5]
   1. Teachers at your child’s school 43%
   2. Principals and administrators at your child’s school 21%
   3. Parents of other children at your child’s school 11%
   4. School district leaders 10%
   5. State education policy leaders 7%
   6. Someone else (Please specify) 2%
   7. Unsure 7%

13. [QHelpSchoolwork] Other than your child’s public school teacher(s), who is the primary person who helps your child do schoolwork?
   1. I am 70%
   2. My child’s other parent 13%
   3. Another family member 6%
   4. An adult who is not a relative 1%
   5. My child handles it on their own 10%
   6. Unsure 1%

ASK ALL:

14. [QDisability] Does your child have a disability for which they usually receive specialized instruction or therapy? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Yes 19%
   2. No 79%
   3. Unsure 2%
15. [QLearningPod] Some families have chosen to form learning “pods” with other families, where a small group of children meet in-person to do remote or online learning with an adult who helps them with their schoolwork or other educational activities. Are any children in your household participating in a learning “pod” like this, or not? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

1. Yes 17%
2. No 79%
3. Unsure 4%
PRIORITIES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GENERAL, AND REIMAGINING

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about public schools nationally, not just the ones your children attend . . .

16. [QFocusTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Schools should be focused on trying to get back to the way things were before the COVID-19 crisis as soon as it is safe to do so 32%
   2. Schools should be focused on rethinking how we educate students, coming up with new ways to teach children moving forward as a result of the COVID-19 crisis 64%
   3. Unsure 4%

17. [QPriorityTradeoff] If you could send a message to people who make decisions about education policy and public schools, which of the following do you think they should prioritize this school year? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Providing access to consistent, high-quality remote or online learning for public school students this school year 59%
   2. Trying to get public school students back into the classroom this school year and implementing health and safety measures 35%
   3. Unsure 6%

18. [QStatewideTest] There has been some debate about whether or not schools should administer statewide academic tests this school year. Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Even though we are in challenging times, we should continue to assess how well students are learning using statewide tests so that we can compare results to previous years and schools can identify areas students may be falling behind or need support. 51%
   2. Since we are in challenging times, we should take a break from statewide testing this year so that teachers and students have one less thing to worry about. 42%
   3. Unsure 8%

19. [QOptionsPostCovid] Thinking about future school years after the pandemic is over and a vaccine for COVID-19 is widely available, do you think . . .? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Schools should continue providing the online or remote learning options for students that they are offering now 58%
   2. Schools should go back to having all students attend school in-person 37%
   3. Unsure 6%
20. [QNationalSchoolQuality] In general, how would you rate the quality of education that K-12 public schools in the United States provide? [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]

EXCELLENT/GOOD 67%
ONLY FAIR/POOR 31%
1. Excellent 16%
2. Good 50%
3. Only fair 27%
4. Poor 4%
5. Unsure 2%

21. [QMostImportant] Thinking about what a good K-12 public education looks like, which one or two of the following do you think are MOST important for students to learn by the time they finish high school? [SELECT UP TO TWO] [RANDOMIZE 1-7]

1. Reading, writing, and communication skills 42%
2. Critical thinking skills 30%
3. Life skills such as budgeting 27%
4. Job-related skills for their future careers 26%
5. Mastery of math and science subjects 21%
6. Digital and technology-related skills 18%
7. Open-mindedness and appreciation for diversity 14%
8. Something else (Please specify) 1%
9. Unsure 5%

22. [QPoliceTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

1. In disciplinary situations, schools should rely less on school police officers and move toward providing social emotional supports to address student needs with staff like counselors, psychologists, and social workers 59%
2. In disciplinary situations, schools should continue to rely on school police officers in the way they do now 31%
3. Unsure 10%

23. [QChoiceTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

1. Those who support school choice say that all parents should be able to send their child to a good quality school regardless of their zip code or financial situation, and that means public education funding should follow the student to whatever school their parents decide is best for them. 63%
2. Those who oppose school choice say that public education funding should continue to be given to public schools the way it currently is, and that school choice just encourages districts to abandon struggling schools rather than working to fix them. 25%
3. Unsure 12%
24. [School Policies/Practices and Race Battery] To what extent, if at all, do you think the way schools handle each of the following creates greater inequality for students of color?  
[DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE A-C] [RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-3, 3-1]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. This contributes a lot to inequality</th>
<th>2. This contributes somewhat to inequality</th>
<th>3. This does not contribute to inequality</th>
<th>4. Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A. School disciplinary policies and procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. This contributes a lot to inequality</th>
<th>2. This contributes somewhat to inequality</th>
<th>3. This does not contribute to inequality</th>
<th>4. Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. How students are offered the opportunity to take advanced classes (AP or IB) or dual-credit courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. This contributes a lot to inequality</th>
<th>2. This contributes somewhat to inequality</th>
<th>3. This does not contribute to inequality</th>
<th>4. Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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</table>

C. School policies regarding attendance and absences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. This contributes a lot to inequality</th>
<th>2. This contributes somewhat to inequality</th>
<th>3. This does not contribute to inequality</th>
<th>4. Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</table>
ASK ALL:

25. [QPubSchoolAccess] Would you support or oppose changing laws to establish a right to quality public education as a civil right in the same way that the right to vote is, meaning the government would be obligated by law to provide every child access to a quality education, and that the government could be challenged in court if that right is infringed upon?

STRONGLY/SOMEWAT SUPPPORT 76%
STRONGLY/SOMEWAT OPPOSE 11%
1. Strongly support 45%
2. Somewhat support 30%
3. Somewhat oppose 6%
4. Strongly oppose 5%
5. Unsure 13%
DEMOGRAPHICS

ASK ALL:

Finally, we have a few questions for demographic purposes.

26. [QInfoSources] In what ways do you typically get information or updates about what is going in public schools in the United States? Please select all that apply. [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]
   1. Television news 56%
   2. Social media 46%
   3. Education or school-related websites 44%
   4. Newspaper 25%
   5. Radio 17%
   6. Podcasts 8%
   7. Something else (Please specify) 4%
   8. None of these 4%
   9. Unsure 2%

27. [QParty] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself a …? [RANDOMIZE SCALE R>D, D>R]
   STRONG/NOT VERY STRONG REPUBLICAN 34%
   STRONG/NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT 40%
   1. Strong Republican SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY 21%
   2. Not very strong Republican SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY 12%
   3. Independent CONTINUE TO QPARTYLEAN 22%
   4. Not very strong Democrat SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY 15%
   5. Strong Democrat SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY 25%
   6. A member of another party SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY 1%
   7. Unsure CONTINUE TO QPARTYLEAN 3%

IF INDEPENDENT OR UNSURE [QParty=3 OR 7], ASK:

28. [QPartyLean] Which of the following statements would you say best describes you? [RANDOMIZE SCALE] (n=245)

   VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS 19%
   VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS 22%
   1. I almost always vote for Republican candidates 6%
   2. I vote for Republicans more often than I vote for Democrats 14%
   3. I vote for Democrats more often than I vote for Republicans 14%
   4. I almost always vote for Democratic candidates 8%
   5. I vote equally for Democrats and Republicans 30%
   6. Unsure 29%
ASK ALL:

29. [QIdeology] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself to be...? [RANDOMIZE SCALE CONSERVATIVE>LIBERAL, LIBERAL>CONSERVATIVE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideology</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERY/SOMewhat CONSERVATIVE</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERY/SOMewhat LIBERAL</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very conservative</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat conservative</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat liberal</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very liberal</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30. [QSocial] Which social media platforms or apps do you use? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-9]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinterest</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapchat</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinkedIn</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WhatsApp</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reddit</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else (Please specify)</td>
<td>*%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. [QIncome] Which range includes your annual household income?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $30,000 per year</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $49,999 per year</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999 per year</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $125,000 per year</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $125,000 per year</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32. [QEmployment] What is your current employment status?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed full-time</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed part-time</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freelance, contract, or temporary work</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furloughed or placed on temporary leave by my employer</td>
<td>*%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed and looking for work</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed and not currently looking for work</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay-at-home parent or caregiver</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time student</td>
<td>*%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else (Please specify)</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>*%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IF EMPLOYED [QEmployment=1-3], ASK:

33. [QWorkplace] Are you currently working from your home, or do you go to work at an office or other workplace? If you are working from an office or other workplace, do you have the option to work from home, or not? [RANDOMIZE 1-3, 3-1] (n=659)

1. I currently work from home 36%
2. I currently go to work at an office or workplace, but I have the option to work from home 18%
3. I currently go to work at an office or workplace and do NOT have the option to work from home 45%
4. Prefer not to say 1%

ASK ALL:

34. [QState] In what state do you live?

1. States in the Northeast 13%
2. States in the Midwest 27%
3. States in the South 25%
4. States in the West 35%

35. [QUrbanRural] How would you describe the area in which you live?

1. City 33%
2. Suburb near a city 41%
3. Small town not near a city 9%
4. Rural or country area 17%

IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER, ASK:

36. [QSpousePartnerEducation] What is the highest level of education your spouse or partner has completed? (n=747)

1. High school or less 28%
2. Some college 20%
3. Associate's degree 12%
4. Bachelor's degree 24%
5. Graduate degree 16%
6. Prefer not to say -
37. [QIndustry] Do you or does anyone in your household work in any of the following industries? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-8]
   1. Technology 4%
   2. Sales 5%
   3. Healthcare 8%
   4. Education or early childhood development 4%
   5. Journalism or the media TERMINATE -
   6. Food service or the restaurant industry 5%
   7. Market research TERMINATE -
   8. Public relations TERMINATE -
   9. None of these 78%

38. [QPublicSchoolParent] Are you the parent or guardian of a public school student who is currently in grades kindergarten through 12th grade? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
   1. Yes 100%
   2. No TERMINATE -
   3. Prefer not to say TERMINATE -

39. [QLivingAtHome] Where do your children who are in grades kindergarten through 12th grade live?
   1. Full-time with me in my home 91%
   2. Split between my home and the home of another parent or family member 9%
   3. Not with me TERMINATE -

40. [QChildrenNumber] How many children do you have in public school in grades kindergarten through 12th grade?
   1. 1 57%
   2. 2 29%
   3. 3 9%
   4. 4 3%
   5. 5 1%
   6. 6 or more *%
41. [QKidsGradeLevels] In which grade levels do you have a child or children in public school (2020–2021 school year)? Select all that apply. [ALLOW MULTIPLE – LIMIT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SELECTIONS BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN]

1. Kindergarten 11%
2. 1st grade 14%
3. 2nd grade 12%
4. 3rd grade 10%
5. 4th grade 13%
6. 5th grade 12%
7. 6th grade 11%
8. 7th grade 12%
9. 8th grade 13%
10. 9th grade (Freshman) 12%
11. 10th grade (Sophomore) 12%
12. 11th grade (Junior) 11%
13. 12th grade (Senior) 13%

42. [QInPerson] Are any of your children currently attending school in person on their school campus, either all or part of the time?

1. Yes 51%
2. No 49%

43. [QRemote] Are any of your children currently attending school remotely or online, either all or part of the time?

1. Yes 83%
2. No 17%

44. [QGender] What is your gender? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

1. Male 44%
2. Female 56%

45. [QRace] What is your race or ethnicity? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]

1. White 63%
2. Black 14%
3. Hispanic/Latino 22%
4. Asian 7%
5. Native American or Alaska Native 2%
6. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander *
7. Something else 1%

46. [QEducation] What is the highest level of education you have completed?

1. High school or less 36%
2. Some college 22%
3. Associate’s degree 10%
4. Bachelor’s degree 20%
5. Graduate degree 12%
6. Prefer not to say -
### Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1%</td>
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### Marital Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single, never married</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with a partner</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>*%</td>
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