

MAJORITY OF CANADIANS AND AMERICANS DO NOT THINK THIS IS  
A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

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# INTRODUCTION: MAJORITY DO NOT THINK THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

With continued high levels of concern over COVID-19 and its impact on our daily lives it is quite legitimate to ask whether this is a good time to have children. A Toronto-based clinical social worker and psychotherapist **Caitlin Beukema** who specializes in reproductive and maternal mental health says she's gotten many frantic questions about this decision. She notes that "Everyone is facing more uncertainty and anxiety right now, and with this virus especially, we may see a rise in perinatal mood and anxiety disorders." (<https://www.todaysparent.com/getting-pregnant/trying-to-conceive/is-getting-pregnant-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak-a-bad-idea/>)

As New York Times contributor hr.Anastasia Berg observes that "having children, of course, has always been a gamble. It's often noted that our ancestors had children, intentionally or not, under far worse conditions than those we face today and that historically speaking, giving birth in the midst of a crisis is technically the norm, not the exception." (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/30/opinion/coronavirus-pregnancy.html>)

The results of the Leger Marketing survey done in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that a majority of Canadians and Americans do not think this is a good time to have children. In both countries women are less likely than men to think this is a good time to have children. And fear of Covid 19 is an important driver in the disagreement with the idea of having children at this time. The survey of 1513 Canadians and 1001 Americans was conducted between August 14 to August 16, 2020.

# WOMEN ARE LESS LIKELY THAN MEN TO THINK THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?			
Canada	Total	Man	Woman
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	25%	<b>29%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Strongly agree	5%	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Somewhat agree	20%	21%	20%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	53%	54%	52%
Somewhat disagree	31%	31%	32%
Strongly disagree	22%	23%	21%
I don't know	21%	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?			
USA	Total	Male	Female
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	23%	<b>32%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Strongly agree	12%	<b>18%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Somewhat agree	11%	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	56%	<b>51%</b>	<b>60%</b>
Somewhat disagree	21%	<b>18%</b>	<b>24%</b>
Strongly disagree	35%	33%	36%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	21%	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>

**PERSONS IN THEIR 30'S ARE SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN THOUGH DISAGREEMENT REMAINS HIGH ACROSS ALL AGE COHORTS.**

**Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?**

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	22%	32%	30%	23%	27%	21%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	4%	8%	5%	5%	6%	3%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	18%	23%	24%	17%	22%	18%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	66%	54%	52%	52%	48%	52%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	38%	27%	30%	29%	30%	36%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	28%	27%	22%	24%	18%	16%
<b>I don't know</b>	12%	15%	18%	25%	25%	27%

**Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?**

	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	27%	37%	23%	15%	16%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	16%	24%	10%	6%	5%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	11%	12%	13%	8%	11%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	58%	47%	56%	59%	57%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	18%	18%	17%	24%	29%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	39%	30%	39%	35%	28%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	16%	16%	20%	26%	28%

# ALBERTANS SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?					
	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	21%	27%	25%	28%	31%	22%
Strongly agree	2%	4%	5%	6%	7%	5%
Somewhat agree	19%	23%	19%	22%	23%	17%
TOTAL DISAGREE	57%	50%	55%	47%	56%	54%
Somewhat disagree	34%	34%	30%	29%	34%	30%
Strongly disagree	22%	16%	25%	18%	22%	24%
I don't know	22%	23%	20%	25%	14%	24%

# PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN PEOPLE WITHOUT THEM TO THINK THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?	
	With Children	Without Children
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Strongly agree	7%	4%
Somewhat agree	24%	19%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Somewhat disagree	27%	33%
Strongly disagree	22%	22%
I don't know	20%	21%

# THOSE CANADIANS MOST WORRIED ABOUT GETTING THE CONTAGION ARE THE LEAST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Strongly agree	5.2%	3.9%	3.4%	15.6%
Somewhat agree	14.3%	20.9%	22.7%	21.3%
Somewhat disagree	26.1%	35.0%	31.5%	25.5%
Strongly disagree	32.2%	20.0%	18.1%	25.5%
I don't know	22.2%	20.1%	24.3%	12.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE WORST OF THE CRISIS IS YET TO COME ARE THE LEAST LIKELY TO THINK THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE CHILDREN.

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: This is a good time for couples to have children ?	What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?		
	The worst of the crisis is behind us	We are in the worst period of the crisis now	The worst of the crisis is yet to come
Strongly agree	8.4%	9.4%	2.9%
Somewhat agree	25.7%	33.8%	16.2%
Somewhat disagree	31.2%	33.1%	31.1%
Strongly disagree	18.0%	14.4%	28.5%
I don't know	16.6%	9.4%	21.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



## METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From August 14 to August 16, 2020

1510 Canadians and 1001 Americans 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1510 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.9\%$ , 19 times out of 20 and a probability sample of 1001 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20 and

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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