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# **FAMILY MATTERS AND COVID IMPACTS: RELATIONS WITH FRIENDS SUFFER MOST SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC**

JACK JEDWAB

PRESIDENT AND CEO

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES AND METROPOLIS CANADA

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# INTRODUCTION: RELATIONS WITH FRIENDS SUFFERS MOST SINCE COVID 19

This Sunday is Mother's Day and for many Canadians it will be an opportunity for families to celebrate the occasion at larger in person gatherings than has been the case over the previous two years. There has been much reflection and discussion about the impact of Covid 19 lockdowns and gathering restrictions on relations between family and friends. Many observers have pointed to increasing stress in these relationships. In one of the larger surveys to look at this issue it is revealed that since the start of the pandemic more Canadians report improvement than worsening in relations with parents, spouses and children. However the majority of respondents contend that the such relationships haven't changed. The exception however is relations with friends where more people report worsening than improving since the start of Covid 19 and this was especially the case for women

The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies and the University of Manitoba during the middle of March 2022 with 2939 Canadians and 3734 Americans 18 years of age or older. A margin of error cannot be assigned because internet-based polls are not considered random.

# IT WAS RELATIONSHIPS WITH FRIENDS THAT SUFFERED MOST SINCE COVID 19

Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...

Canada	Your parents	Your children	Your spouse	Your friends
Worsened	8.5%	4.7%	7.6%	17.6%
Stayed the same	53.0%	50.4%	48.3%	65.9%
Improved	10.6%	10.9%	13.1%	9.6%
Not applicable	26.6%	32.6%	29.1%	3.8%
I don't know	1.4%	1.3%	1.9%	3.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# RELATIONS WITH PARENTS: AMONGST CANADIANS THERE WERE SLIGHTLY MORE THAT SAW IMPROVEMENT THAN WORSENING

Your parents - Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...		
	Canada	United States
Worsened	8.5%	9.2%
Stayed the same	53.0%	42.6%
Improved	10.6%	13.7%
Not applicable	26.6%	31.7%
I don't know	1.4%	2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

# AMONGST CHILDREN THERE WAS A BETTER THAN TWO TO ONE RATIO OF IMPROVEMENT TO WORSENING

	Your children - Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...	
	Canada	United States
Worsened	4.7%	4.5%
Stayed the same	50.4%	47.7%
Improved	10.9%	14.2%
Not applicable	32.6%	30.5%
I don't know	1.3%	3.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

# WITH SPOUSES A NEAR TWO TO ONE RATIO OF IMPROVEMENT OVER WORSENING

	Your spouse - Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...	
	Canada	United States
Worsened	7.6%	6.9%
Stayed the same	48.3%	41.8%
Improved	13.1%	15.8%
Not applicable	29.1%	32.4%
I don't know	1.9%	3.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

# WITH FRIENDS IN CANADA A TWO TO ONE RATIO OF WORSENING OF RELATIONS OVER IMPROVEMENT

	Your friends - Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...	
	Canada	United States
Worsened	17.6%	11.5%
Stayed the same	65.9%	64.5%
Improved	9.6%	13.2%
Not applicable	3.8%	5.8%
I don't know	3.0%	4.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

# DECLINING RELATIONS WITH FRIENDS AFFECTED WOMEN MORE THAN MEN IN CANADA

Your friends - Since COVID-19, how would you describe relationships between yourself and ...			
	Male	Female	Total
Worsened	15.1%	19.9%	17.6%
Stayed the same	67.7%	64.6%	65.9%
Improved	10.5%	8.6%	9.6%
Not applicable	3.5%	4.2%	3.8%
I don't know	3.3%	2.8%	3.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%