

The Motherhood Study

Fresh Insights on Mothers' Attitudes and Concerns



How do mothers in the United States today feel about being mothers? What are their understandings of the work of mothers and the part mothers play in children's lives and in the larger society? What are mothers' most pressing concerns and priorities for change? *The Motherhood Study* presents the results of a rigorous, large-scale investigation of more than 2,000 mothers.

Co-authored by Martha Farrell Erickson of the University of Minnesota and Enola G. Aird of the Institute for American Values' Motherhood Project, *The Motherhood Study* finds that 97 percent of mothers are satisfied with their lives as mothers — a portrait in sharp contrast to the picture of mothers presented in much of the public dialogue today. Mothers — regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, geography or employment status — agree to a very large extent in their perception of the importance of mothering, the satisfactions they derive from their lives as mothers, their concerns about the negative forces that threaten their children, and their wishes for a culture that would make the work of mothering less challenging.

The report includes a discussion guide designed to promote conversations about the findings in communities across the country.

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