

Voters Favor Policy Investments to Support Young Adults, Including Employment Training and Paid Family and Medical Leave

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March 2024



In September, the U.S. Census Bureau’s annual report on poverty revealed that the young adult poverty rate reached 15.3% in 2022, the highest level for this age group since 2017. With so many young people facing barriers to economic well-being, the alarming figures underscore the need to invest in youth development and opportunity — ensuring that young people have the training, employment opportunities, and job protections they need to support themselves and their families.



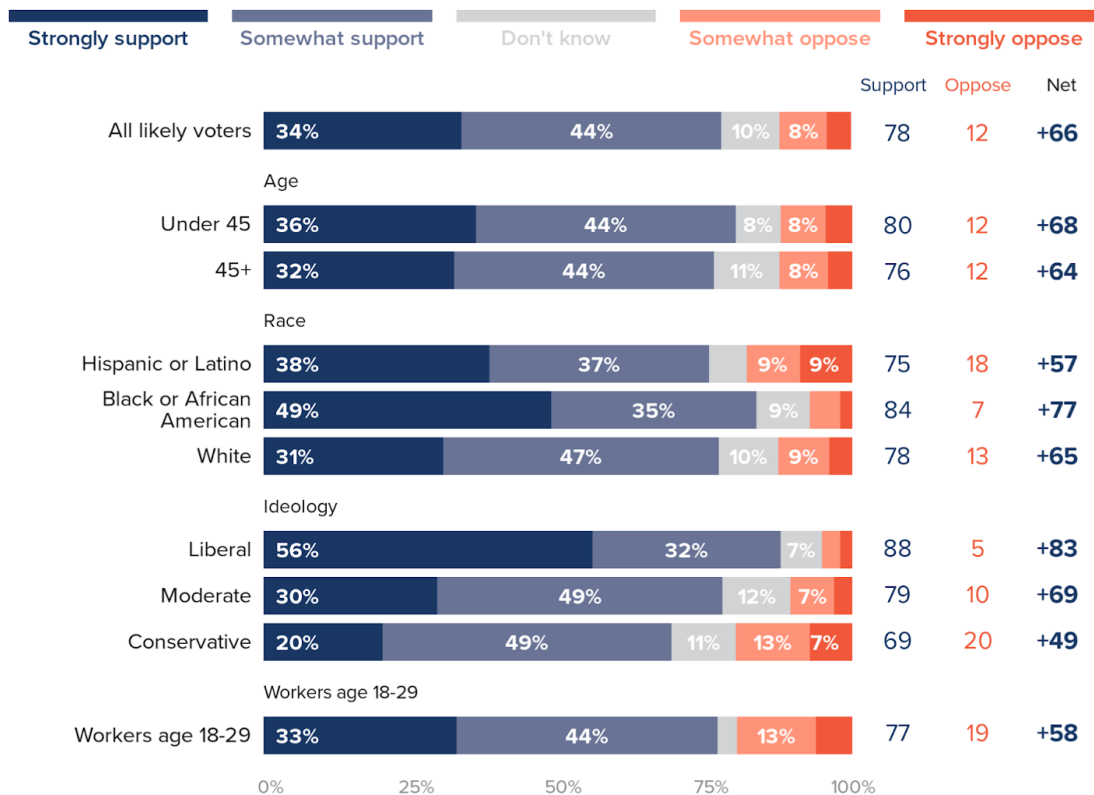
Access to Training and Development

Broad investments in youth will bolster historically disadvantaged communities and increase economic opportunities. A new [poll](#) from Data for Progress and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) finds that an overwhelming majority (78%) of likely voters support creating a youth and young adult development and economic opportunity system. This new approach would increase youth programs and economic opportunities in historically disadvantaged communities. Among likely voters supportive of this system are 77% of workers ages 18 to 29. Black voters are more likely (84%) than white voters (78%) to support this national system. Even likely conservative voters overwhelmingly support this, with more than 2 in 3 (69%) agreeing.

Likely Voters Strongly Support Creating a Youth and Young Adult Development and Economic Opportunity System

Some groups are proposing a new national program called the Youth and Young Adult Development and Economic Opportunity System. This would create and support accessible youth programs and economic opportunities in historically disadvantaged communities.

Do you support or oppose a new national Youth and Young Adult Development and Economic Opportunity System?



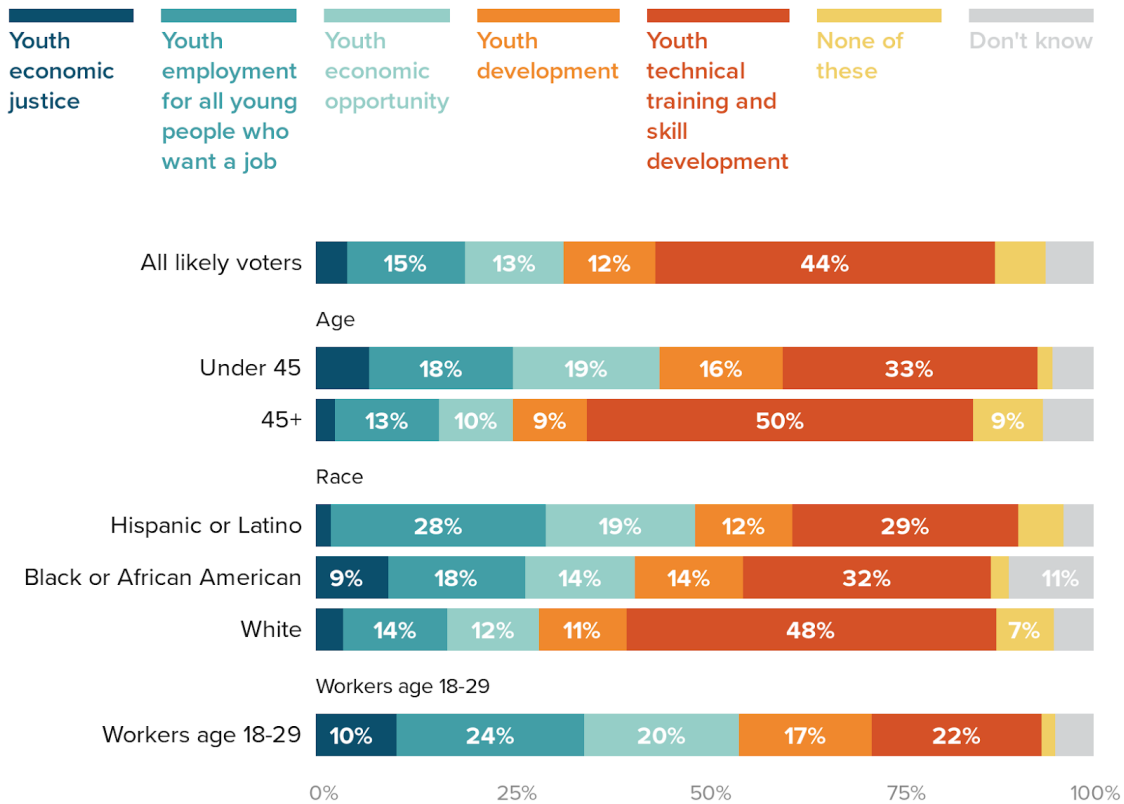
September 11-15, 2023 survey of 1,304 U.S. likely voters. Percentages only shown for responses greater than 5%.

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The Center for Law and Social Policy

When asked about specific areas for youth investment, a plurality of all likely voters (44%) think federal policymakers should prioritize investing in youth technical training and skill development. Additionally, 24% of workers from age 18 to 29 said youth employment for all young people who want a job should be a high priority for federal policymakers.

A Plurality of Voters Think Investing in Youth Technical Training Should Be a High Priority

Thinking about youth and the economy, which of the following areas do you think should be a high priority for federal policymakers to invest in?



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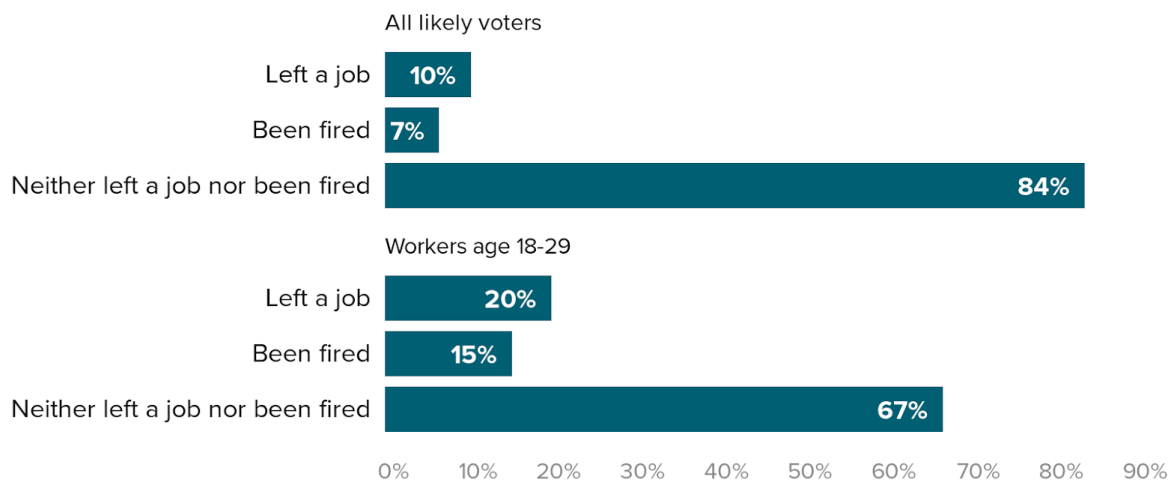
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Access to Paid Family and Medical Leave

Paid family and medical leave policies enable workers to take paid time away from work to care for a new child, a sick family member, or their own serious medical condition. The survey finds that a lack of paid leave impacts the ability for young workers to find secure and gainful employment. **Nearly 2 in 5 workers between the ages of 18 and 29 have left a job or been fired because they did not have paid family and medical leave.** This rate among young adult workers is twice that of all likely voters, 17% of whom left a job or were fired because they were unable to take paid leave.

Thirty-Five Percent of Young Workers Have Left a Job or Been Fired Due to Inability to Take Paid Family and Medical Leave

Have you ever needed to leave or been fired from a job because you were unable to take paid family and medical leave?



September 11-15, 2023 survey of 1,304 U.S. likely voters.
Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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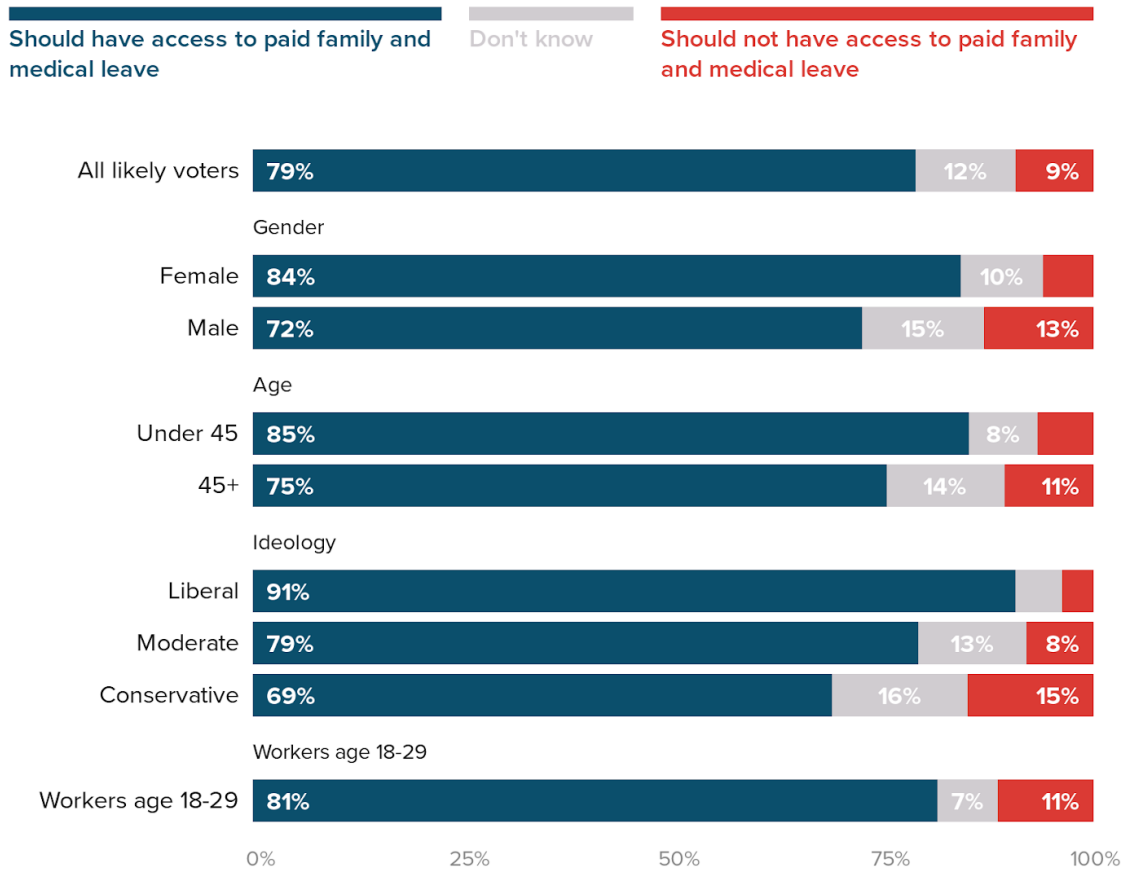
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An overwhelming majority (79%) of likely voters believe that young workers should have access to paid family and medical leave. A majority of voters across demographic groups and political ideology believe young workers should have access to paid leave, including 81% of young workers, 72% of men, and 69% of conservative voters.

A Majority of Voters Agree That Young Workers Should Have Access to Paid Family and Medical Leave

Please say whether or not you think that the following workers should have access to paid family and medical leave.

— Young workers



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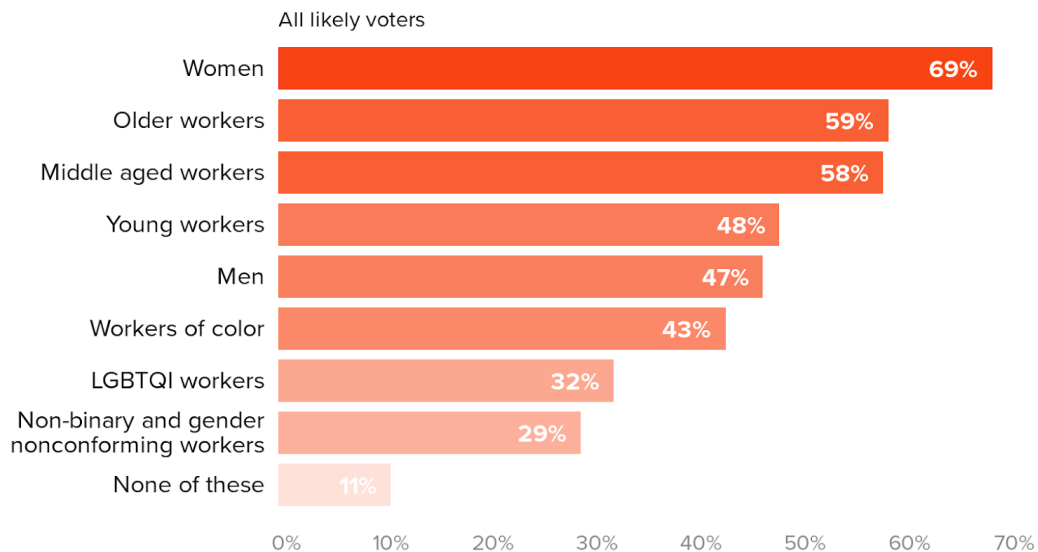
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In addition to investing in youth development, voters think investments in paid family and medical leave would improve the economic outcomes of the general workforce. A majority (69%) of all likely voters believe paid leave would improve the economic outcomes of women. Voters also think this policy would aid older workers (59%), middle-aged workers (58%), and young workers (48%).

Voters Believe Paid Leave Would Improve Economic Outcomes for Young Workers and Other Groups

Of the following groups, please select which group or groups you believe would have **improved economic and employment outcomes** as a result of paid family and medical leave. You may select more than one.



September 11-15, 2023 survey of 1,304 U.S. likely voters.

CLASP DATA FOR PROGRESS
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ID: 3P0003

Conclusion

Without access to high-quality, stable jobs, education, and training, young people’s early adulthood is defined by economic distress. Young workers who don’t have access to paid leave often lack the economic resources needed to support themselves and their families. They are often just beginning their careers and are unlikely to have savings to fall back on. It’s clear that voters support policies that can help end this cycle, including federal investments in youth opportunity and employment.

Methodology

From September 11 to 15, 2023, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,304 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

Appendix



From September 11 to 15, 2023, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,304 U.S. likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

NB: subgroups with a n-size less than 50 (<50) are not shown on these cross-tabs. We choose not to display N<50 subgroups because the sample is too small to have statistical significance. We did, however, take samples of these subgroups for representational and weighting purposes to accurately reflect the electorate makeup. Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

N=1,304 unless otherwise specified.

[1] Some groups are proposing a new national program called the Youth and Young Adult Development and Economic Opportunity System. This would create and support accessible youth programs and economic opportunities in historically disadvantaged communities.

Do you support or oppose a new national Youth and Young Adult Development and Economic Opportunity System?

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Strongly support	34	36	31	36	32	33	34	49	31	37	56	30	20	33
Somewhat support	44	45	43	44	44	44	44	35	47	37	32	49	49	44
Somewhat oppose	8	6	10	8	8	8	8	5	9	9	3	7	13	13
Strongly oppose	4	3	6	4	4	4	4	2	4	8	2	3	7	6
Don't know	10	10	10	8	11	10	10	9	10	9	7	12	11	3
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	78	81	74	80	76	77	78	84	78	74	88	79	69	77
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	12	9	16	12	12	12	12	7	13	17	5	10	20	19
SUPPORT (NET)	+66	+72	+58	+68	+64	+65	+66	+77	+65	+57	+83	+69	+49	+58
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[2] Thinking about youth and the economy, which of the following **areas** do you think should be a **high priority** for federal policymakers to invest in?

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Providing youth economic justice should be a high priority for federal policymakers	4	4	4	7	2	4	4	9	3	3	8	3	2	10
Providing youth employment for all young people who want a job should be a high priority for federal policymakers	15	16	15	18	13	17	13	18	14	25	15	16	14	24
Providing youth economic opportunity should be a high priority for federal policymakers	13	12	14	19	10	11	15	14	12	19	18	12	10	20
Providing youth development should be a high priority for federal policymakers	12	13	10	16	9	12	12	14	11	12	14	12	10	17
Providing youth technical training and skill development should be a high priority for federal policymakers	44	44	44	33	50	42	46	32	48	32	41	40	50	22
None of these	7	5	9	2	9	7	5	2	7	5	2	6	11	2
Don't know	6	7	5	5	7	7	5	11	5	5	3	10	5	5
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[3] The United States does not have a federal paid family and medical leave program. Paid family and medical leave provide workers with paid time off to take care of a new child or seriously ill or disabled family member, or because they are suffering from a serious health condition themselves.

If you are employed, which of the following best describes your access to paid family and medical leave?

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
I can take paid family and medical leave	29	26	31	43	21	23	38	43	25	34	30	30	26	50
I cannot take paid family and medical leave	19	20	18	27	15	20	17	17	19	23	19	19	20	29
I am not sure if I can take paid family and medical leave	8	8	8	12	5	7	8	11	6	12	10	9	4	19
I am not employed	45	46	43	18	59	49	36	30	50	31	41	42	50	2
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[4] Respondents who can take paid family and medical leave

How much paid family and medical leave can you use **annually**? (N=373)

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
None	2	2	3	1	4	2	3	2	2	0	2	0	6	2
1 to 4 weeks	32	22	41	33	30	34	29	43	29	36	35	32	28	28
4 to 8 weeks	21	22	21	25	17	20	23	19	22	22	23	20	21	25
8 to 12 weeks	20	25	15	20	20	19	21	14	20	22	19	22	19	13
More than 12 weeks	7	5	10	7	8	8	7	11	5	14	7	5	11	8
Not sure	17	24	11	14	21	17	18	10	22	7	14	21	16	23
Weighted N	373	183	190	194	179	194	179	61	236	58	112	138	123	59

[5] Have you ever needed to leave or been fired from a job because you were unable to take paid family and medical leave?

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
No, I have not needed to leave or been fired from a job because I was unable to take paid family and medical leave	84	81	87	76	88	80	90	77	86	78	85	80	86	67
Yes, I have needed to leave a job because I was unable to take paid family and medical leave	10	13	8	17	7	12	7	13	9	15	10	12	8	20
Yes, I have been fired from a job because I was unable to take paid family and medical leave	7	7	6	8	6	8	4	11	6	8	6	8	6	15
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[6] Please say whether or not you think that the following workers should have access to paid family and medical leave.

— Young workers

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Should have access to paid family and medical leave	79	84	72	85	75	78	80	79	77	87	91	79	69	81
Should not have access to paid family and medical leave	9	6	13	7	11	9	9	10	10	6	4	8	15	11
Don't know	12	10	15	8	14	13	11	12	13	7	6	13	16	7
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[7] Please say whether or not you think that the following workers should have access to paid family and medical leave.

— Middle aged workers

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Should have access to paid family and medical leave	88	92	83	91	86	88	88	85	88	89	96	87	83	89
Should not have access to paid family and medical leave	4	3	5	3	5	4	5	8	4	4	2	4	6	5
Don't know	8	4	12	6	9	9	7	8	8	7	2	10	11	6
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[8] Please say whether or not you think that the following workers should have access to paid family and medical leave.

— Older workers

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Should have access to paid family and medical leave	88	93	82	92	86	88	88	83	88	90	94	87	84	89
Should not have access to paid family and medical leave	4	3	6	2	5	4	4	8	4	3	3	4	6	3
Don't know	8	4	12	6	9	8	7	9	8	7	3	9	10	8
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116

[9] Of the following groups, please select which group or groups you believe would have **improved economic and employment outcomes** as a result of paid family and medical leave. You may select more than one.

Response	Topline	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Young Worker
Women	69	77	58	70	68	67	71	59	70	69	84	67	58	63
Older workers	59	65	51	56	60	58	60	50	61	54	71	58	49	50
Middle aged workers	58	62	53	59	58	58	58	50	60	55	70	57	49	55
Young workers	48	50	46	54	45	46	52	43	50	50	62	47	38	47
Men	47	45	49	50	45	47	46	42	47	49	56	48	37	47
Workers of color	43	48	37	49	40	39	49	47	42	44	67	44	22	49
LGBTQI workers	32	37	26	37	29	30	36	32	32	33	55	32	14	32
Non-binary and gender nonconforming workers	29	34	24	33	27	27	32	25	30	28	50	28	13	26
None of these	11	6	16	7	13	11	10	12	11	7	4	11	16	8
Weighted N	1,304	697	607	455	849	836	468	143	947	171	372	467	465	116