Over one million parenting students attend baccalaureate degree programs nationwide, but very little is known about them. The following data come from surveys completed by 224 student parents under the age of 35 who attend eight public and private colleges and universities with well-established student parent programs.

“A college education means finding my own place in the world rather than just accepting the place that I was born into. It means giving my children a better starting point and the knowledge that they can go from there to wherever they want.”

• Over half (54%) consider themselves single parents, and 40% were raised primarily by a single parent
• Most were in their teens or early 20s when their first child was born
• They have an average of 1.4 children; the average age of the youngest child is 3.6 years, of the oldest is 7 years, and most currently have pre-school age children
• 23% have little or no contact or support from other parent
• 38% are living with or married to the other parent
• 13% of current student parents became a parent after enrolling in their current college; 87% were parents before they enrolled in their current college

For more information, go to: www.endicott.edu/PERG
www.endicott.edu/studentparentprograms
College

- Two-thirds (67%) are transfer students, and most parents are juniors or seniors
- Many (58%) are first-generation college students
- Self-reported GPA averages approximately 3.2
- 29% have taken 1-5 breaks from college
- Of these 65 students, 50% took a break because they became pregnant or had a baby

Finances and Employment

- Almost all student parents (87%) utilize at least one form of public assistance; 40% utilize 3 or more forms of public assistance (compared to 20% prior to enrollment)
- 35% are employed part-time, 9% full-time, and another 19% are looking for work
- Of those who work, student parents work an average of 21 hours per week at an average hourly wage of $13
- Two-thirds believe that their education will be worth the cost

2014 Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-$10,000</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$20,000</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER $20,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$30,000</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER $30,000</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000-$50,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50-$75,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75-$100,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $100,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Getting my degree means finally reaching the goals I set myself before I was surprised with a family. It means financial stability and security because I can get a job that will pay the bills. It means a busy mama and a lot of debt because school with child care is ridiculously expensive.”
Sources of Encouragement to Attend a 4-Year College:

- Family members (54%)
- High school or community college counselor (26%)
- Friends (23%)
- Availability of services and supports for student parents (19%)
- 17% received no encouragement

“Being a student hinders me from being the mom I want to be and being a mom hinders me from being the student I want to be.”

Assistance with Parenting Issues
(n = number of students who needed help with this issue)
On-Campus Services for Student Parents
\( (n = \text{number of students with access to this service}) \)

- On-campus child care facilities (121) 76%
- Staff person to provide related support (163) 72%
- Child care subsidies (167) 71%
- Emergency financial assistance (99) 69%
- Dining hall/meal plans that accommodate children (57) 65%
- Information about services and supports (176) 63%
- Drop-in child care (76) 62%
- Family friendly spaces/activities policies (147) 60%
- Activities or groups for students with children (129) 59%
- Financial education and counseling (114) 59%
- Disability accommodations for pregnant students (42) 59%
- Parenting skill information/education (102) 57%
- Peer counseling from student parents (114) 56%
- Accommodations from faculty (117) 54%
- Access to on campus healthcare for children (42) 50%

% of those with access stating service is extremely or quite helpful

86% of children wish they had more time with their parent; only 22% are more angry with or resent them.
78% are more proud of their parent.
76% have expressed more desire to attend college.
75% are more interested in school, while only 5% are less interested in school.

27% of parenting students said their children's behavior at home had improved since they started college.
35% said their children's school behavior has improved.
39% said their children's school academic performance has improved.
33% described their children as having better study habits.

“It's a sacrifice now, for a hopeful future.”

Photo by Parker Fish

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