

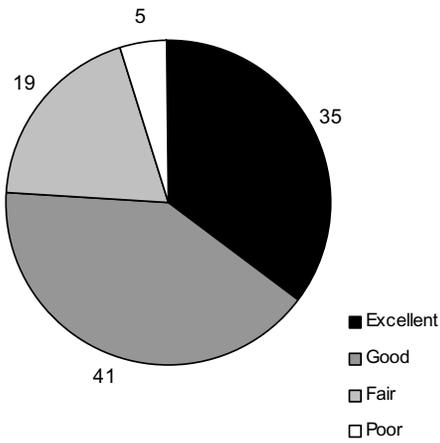


CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SURVEY: A STATUS REPORT

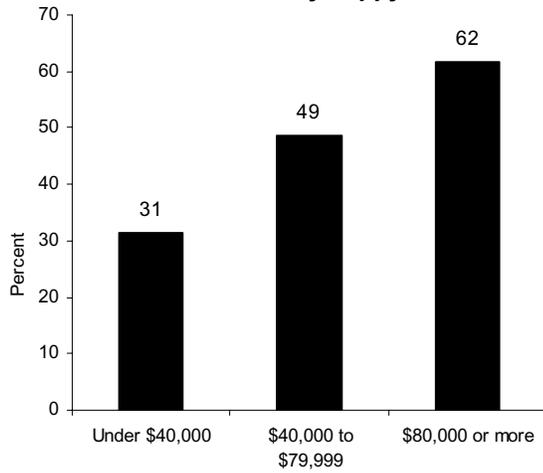
November 2004

- Reported health and happiness vary by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic conditions.**
Three in four women describe themselves as currently in excellent (35%) or good (41%) health. Positive reports of health increase with income and education and decline with age. Whites (88%) are more likely than blacks (73%), Asians (65%), and Latinas (61%) to say they are in excellent or good health. Although nine in 10 women are at least somewhat happy with their lives today, fewer than half (44%) describe themselves as very happy. Reports of being very happy increase sharply with income and education but not with age. They are more common among whites (51%) than Latinas (40%), Asians (33%), and blacks (33%). Reports of health status and happiness differ very little among married women, those employed full time, or those with children age 18 or younger.
- California women are mostly satisfied with their residential conditions today.**
More than half of California women are “very satisfied” with their current housing (57%) and neighborhoods (54%), and nine in 10 are at least somewhat satisfied with these aspects of their lives. Satisfaction with housing and neighborhood increases with age, education, income, and especially homeownership and is higher among whites than among other racial/ethnic groups. Nevertheless, 34 percent report that housing costs are a financial strain on them. Although 51 percent report they are “very satisfied” with the safety of their neighborhoods, whites (64%) are much more likely than blacks (38%), Latinas (38%), and Asians (42%) to feel this way. Sixty-four percent of women report that the place where they live has a “sense of community.”
- Women are more positive about family life than about work and career.**
Two in three report that they are very satisfied with their family life. Seven in 10 women who are married (76%), have children (64%), or are employed full time (69%) say they are very satisfied with family life. However, whites (73%) and Latinas (70%) are more likely than blacks (50%) and Asians (49%) to express that level of satisfaction. Among employed women, 50 percent report being very satisfied with work and career. Satisfaction with work and career tends to increase with education and income but does not vary by marital or parental status.
- Many say employers and state government could do more to help balance work and family.**
Half of women (51%) say that California employers and the state government are not doing enough to help balance work and family through policies such as family leave, flex time, after school programs, and child care. Lower-income women are more likely than others to say that more policies are needed to address these issues. The majority of women who are married, work full time, and have children say that the private and public sectors could do more on work and family issues.
- Women give their state's present and future a mixed assessment.**
About half of California women believe the state is headed in the wrong direction, and 47 percent are pessimistic about the state's economy over the next year. When asked to look 20 years ahead, slightly more think California will be a worse place (38%) rather than a better place (32%) to live than it is today. The rest are undecided (11%) or expect no real change (19%). Latinas are more optimistic about the state's future. Pessimism increases with age and income.
- Three issues top women's list of policy concerns for California's future.**
When asked to name the top policy priorities for the state over the next 20 years, most mentioned schools, jobs, and health care. Issues such as such housing, environment and pollution, immigration, and population growth are also of high concern to California women.

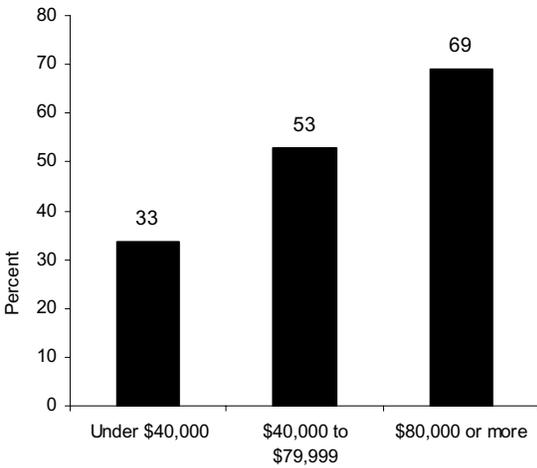
Ratings of Health



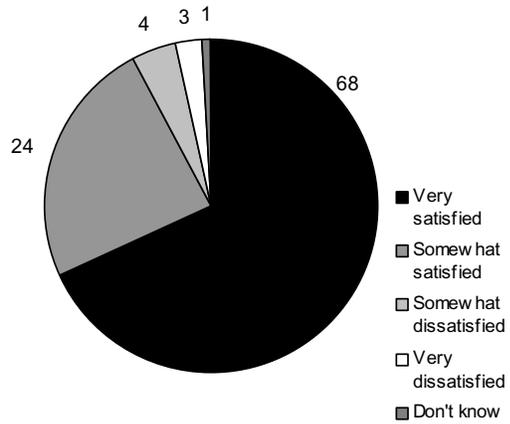
Percent Very Happy



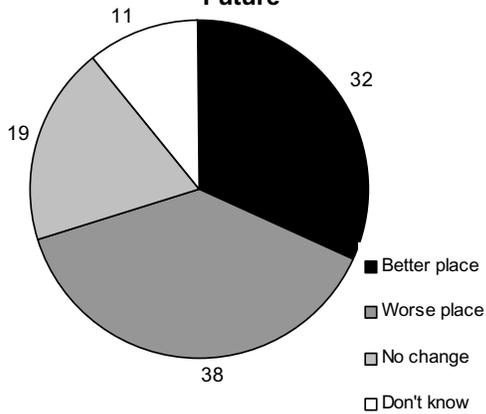
Percent Very Satisfied with Work



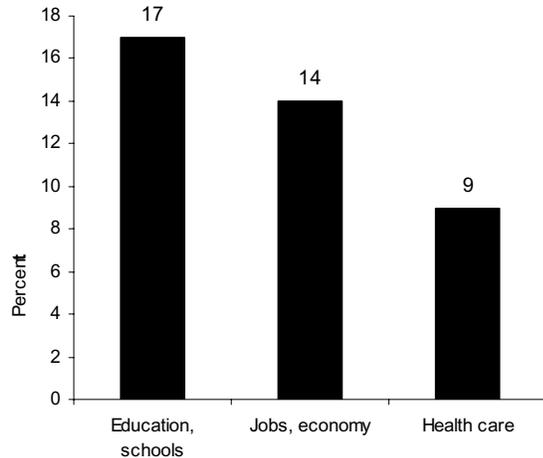
Satisfaction with Family Life



Perceptions of California in the Future



Top Priority for California's Future



Source: PPIC Statewide Surveys conducted from October 10 to November 1, 2004, including 2,369 adult women reached through a random telephone survey and interviewed in Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.