



Parenting and Pregnant Students: Sense of Belonging

A Research Report from the
2022 Student Life Survey

Center for the Study of Student Life

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report explores the sense of belonging of parenting and pregnant students at The Ohio State University. Data for this report are from the 2022 Student Life Survey. In January 2022, 11,701 students on the Columbus campus were surveyed, out of which 1,639 responded, resulting in a response rate of 14.0%. A sample of 6,741 undergraduate students were surveyed; 14.4% responded ($n = 970$). A sample of 3,795 graduate students were surveyed; 14.5% responded ($n = 552$). A sample of 1,100 professional students were surveyed; 10.4% responded ($n = 114$). Data were weighted to be representative of the Ohio State Columbus campus population.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Significantly more pregnant and parenting students reported having a relationship with Ohio State faculty (**85.0%**) and staff (**65.8%**) compared to all other students (**61.4%** and **50.9%**, respectively).
- Significantly fewer pregnant and parenting students reported having a relationship with students at Ohio State (**70.7%**) and participating in Ohio State traditions (**54.3%**) compared to all other students (**86.8%** and **66.4%**, respectively).

INTRODUCTION

This report explores the sense of belonging of parenting and pregnant students at The Ohio State University. The unique experiences of students attending university while being a primary caregiver can influence the way they interact with other students, staff and faculty. This report examines how sense of belonging differs between students without primary caregiver responsibilities and those who are parenting or pregnant.

METHODS

The Student Life Survey is administered annually by the Center for the Study of Student Life to examine trends in student engagement, sense of belonging and satisfaction with the college experience. The 2022 Student Life Survey was administered to a stratified, random sample of 11,701 Ohio State students at the beginning of spring semester (January 2022). This sample comprised 6,741 undergraduate students, 3,795 graduate and 1,100 professional students, all on the Columbus campus. A total of 1,639 students responded to the survey. Three respondents were removed for mischievous or careless response patterns, resulting in a final sample of 1,636 respondents and an overall response rate of 14.0%. The response rate was 14.4% among undergraduate students, 14.5% among graduate students and 10.4% among professional students. See the Appendix for a summary of respondents' demographic and academic characteristics. Students who did not respond to the items used for this report were removed from analyses, resulting in an unweighted sample size of 1,489 students for this report with 869 undergraduate students, 510 graduate students and 110 professional students. Demographics of the students included in the report did not substantially vary from the overall Student Life Survey sample.

WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Responses were weighted to address differences between the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents compared to the general student population at Ohio State in the spring semester of 2022. Weights were adjusted so the survey data are representative of the student population at Ohio State. For example, 63.1% of the survey respondents in the Student Life Survey were female, but 52.3% of the total population at Ohio State was female. The rake weight procedure adjusts for the over-representation of female students in the data to make responses more reflective of the student population, thus making the data more generalizable to Ohio State students. The procedure adjusted the base weight to the demographic data available on the sampling frame using sex, race/ethnicity and student status (i.e., undergraduate, graduate student or professional student). Weighted and unweighted demographic data for survey respondents is available in the Appendix.

FINDINGS

SENSE OF BELONGING: PARENTING AND PREGNANT STUDENTS

Table 1 compares the experiences of parenting and pregnant students with all other students on six dimensions of sense of belonging. While significantly fewer parenting and pregnant students report having relationships with other Ohio State students, significantly more parenting and pregnant students report having relationships with faculty and staff. Significantly fewer parenting and pregnant students report participating in Ohio State traditions compared to all other students.

Table 1: Parenting and Pregnant Student Sense of Belonging

% Agree or Strongly Agree	Parenting and Pregnant Students	All Other Students	Statistical Significance
I feel that I am a member of the Ohio State community	81.6%	85.1%	
I have relationships with other Ohio State students	70.7%	86.8%	***
I have relationships with Ohio State faculty (e.g., professors)	85.0%	61.4%	***
I have relationships with Ohio State staff (e.g., academic advisors, hall directors, Student Life employees)	65.8%	50.9%	*
I participate in Ohio State traditions	54.3%	66.4%	*
I feel a sense of belonging to Ohio State	75.0%	78.4%	

Note. Because different numbers of respondents answered each item, *ns* are presented in ranges. Parenting and Pregnant Student $n = 74-78$; All Other Student $n = 1,281-1,284$.

OVERALL BELONGING SCORES

The final set of analyses examined variations in students' average sense of belonging. To obtain a mean score, select items from Table 3 and Table 4 were used to create a sense of belonging scale. Table 5 illustrates which items were incorporated into the scale. Additional analyses demonstrated that the items had an acceptable reliability score ($\alpha = 0.81$) and loaded onto a single factor, indicating this is a reliable scale for measuring sense of belonging. Each item was a four-point Likert question (i.e., Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree), meaning that a minimum possible score was one, and a maximum possible score was four. Students were given a score if they answered at least four out of the five questions on the belongingness scale.

Table 2: Items in Sense of Belonging Scale

Based on your experience at Ohio State thus far, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

I feel that I am a member of the Ohio State community

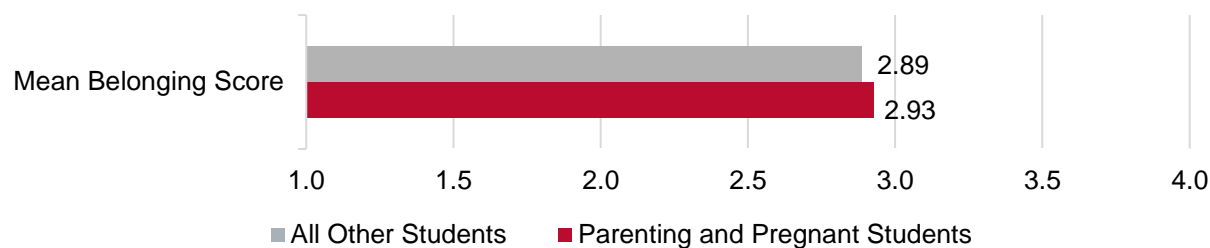
I have relationships with other Ohio State students

I have relationships with Ohio State faculty (e.g., professors)

I have relationships with Ohio State staff (e.g., academic advisors, hall directors, Student Life employees)

I feel a sense of belonging at Ohio State

The first set of analyses involved independent sample *t*-tests to examine whether average scores differed by involvement. Figure 1 below summarize these findings. There was not a significant difference between overall sense of belonging between parenting and pregnant students and all other students.

Figure 1: Average Belonging Scores

CONCLUSION

This report provides valuable information for understanding students' sense of belonging. While there was not a significant difference in overall sense of belonging for parenting and pregnant students compared to all other students, there were some significant differences on several of the individual belongingness items. Significantly fewer parenting and pregnant students reported having relationships with other Ohio State students and participating in Ohio State traditions. However, significantly more parenting and pregnant students reported having relationships with Ohio State faculty and staff.

APPENDIX: PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Note: Participant demographics below represent all respondents in the 2022 Student Life Survey. Demographics of respondents for this report did not substantially vary from the overall sample.

	All Students			Parenting and Pregnant Students			Non-Parenting Students		
	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>N</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent
Total	1391			106			1285		
Academic Level	1391			106			1285		
Undergraduate student	794	57.1%	76.1%	18	17.0%	35.7%	776	60.4%	78.5%
Graduate student	492	35.4%	18.2%	77	72.6%	51.8%	415	32.3%	16.2%
Professional student	105	7.6%	5.7%	11	10.4%	12.5%	94	7.3%	5.3%
Gender Identity	1391			106			1285		
Man	478	34.4%	43.3%	49	46.2%	60.2%	429	33.4%	42.3%
Woman	866	62.3%	52.4%	55	51.9%	37.9%	811	63.1%	53.3%
Another identity not listed	35	2.5%	3.4%	0	0.0%	0.0%	35	2.7%	3.6%
Prefer not to say	12	0.9%	0.9%	2	1.9%	1.9%	10	0.8%	0.8%
Transgender Status	1383			106			1277		
Transgender	21	1.5%	2.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	21	1.6%	2.1%
Cisgender	1341	97.0%	96.2%	103	97.2%	96.9%	1238	97.0%	96.2%
Not sure	10	0.7%	0.9%	0	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.8%	0.9%
Prefer not to say	11	0.8%	0.9%	3	2.8%	3.1%	8	0.6%	0.8%
Marital Status				106					
Married				93	87.7%	83.2%			
Cohabiting				3	2.8%	5.1%			
Partner				2	1.9%	2.7%			
Single				8	7.6%	9.1%			

	All Students			Parenting and Pregnant Students			Non-Parenting Students		
	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>N</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent
Race/Ethnicity	1391			106			1285		
African American or Black	59	4.2%	6.8%	8	7.6%	10.6%	51	4.0%	6.6%
Asian or Asian American	234	16.8%	13.8%	13	12.3%	9.2%	221	17.2%	14.0%
Latinx or Hispanic	51	3.7%	3.1%	4	3.8%	4.5%	47	3.7%	3.0%
Middle Eastern or Arab American	20	1.4%	1.4%	2	1.9%	1.2%	18	1.4%	1.4%
White or European American	971	69.8%	70.9%	71	67.0%	65.6%	900	70.0%	71.2%
Prefer not to answer	32	2.3%	2.4%	5	4.7%	6.8%	27	2.1%	2.1%
Another identity not listed	23	1.7%	1.6%	3	2.8%	2.1%	20	1.6%	1.5%
Biracial or Multiracial	1	0.1%	0.1%	0	0.0%	0.0%	1	0.1%	0.1%
Sexual Orientation	1387			106			1281		
LGBQ+	324	23.4%	24.5%	10	9.4%	8.4%	314	24.5%	25.5%
Heterosexual/straight	1019	73.5%	72.3%	91	85.9%	85.6%	928	72.4%	71.5%
Prefer not to say	44	3.2%	3.1%	5	4.7%	5.9%	39	3.0%	3.0%
Generational Status	1391			106			1285		
First-generation student	243	17.5%	19.7%	16	15.1%	20.8%	227	17.7%	19.7%
Continuing-generation student	1148	82.5%	80.3%	90	84.9%	79.2%	1058	82.3%	80.3%
Disability Status	1388			106			1282		
Has a disability	133	9.6%	9.7%	6	5.7%	4.5%	127	9.9%	10.1%
Does not have a disability	1203	86.7%	86.1%	96	90.6%	89.3%	1107	86.4%	85.9%
Prefer not to state	52	3.8%	4.2%	4	3.8%	6.2%	48	3.7%	4.1%

	All Students			Parenting and Pregnant Students			Non-Parenting Students		
	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>N</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent	<i>n</i>	Un-weighted Percent	Weighted Percent
Education Route¹	789			17			772		
Campus change	51	6.5%	7.3%	2	11.8%	12.8%	49	6.4%	7.2%
Transfer student	129	16.4%	16.9%	8	47.1%	48.6%	121	15.7%	16.0%
Continuing Ohio State student	609	77.2%	75.8%	7	41.2%	38.6%	602	78.0%	76.8%
Residence	1391			106			1285		
On-campus, in a university residence hall	334	24.0%	31.0%	3	2.8%	2.9%	331	25.8%	32.7%
Off-campus, in university-owned housing	21	1.5%	1.2%	0	0.0%	0.0%	21	1.6%	1.3%
Sorority or fraternity housing	14	1.0%	1.1%	0	0.0%	0.0%	14	1.1%	1.2%
Off-campus, in an apartment	876	63.0%	54.9%	68	64.2%	64.7%	808	62.9%	54.3%
Off-campus, with a family member	146	10.5%	11.7%	35	33.0%	32.4%	111	8.6%	10.4%

¹This question was only asked to undergraduate students