



Families with Children Survey | Summary Results

January 2016

Survey overview

- Online format, 19 questions, anonymous
- Emailed to 675 people on RHN's database on 1/14/16. Subsequently shared via NextDoor, Facebook, Twitter.
- Respondents self-reported to be residents of Russian Hill and parents or guardians of children (age 17 or under)
- 104 survey responses by 1/31/16

How many children by age live in your household?

| <u>Answer choices</u> | <u>Total number</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 0-3 years | 38 |
| 3-5 years | 22 |
| 5-7 years | 14 |
| 7-10 years | 20 |
| 10-15 years | 36 |
| 15-18 years | 7 |

Is it your intention to remain living in San Francisco through your child's/children's graduation from:

- Preschool (17%)
- Elementary school (22%)
- Middle school (19%)
- High school (65%)
- Not sure (20%)

Which factors have the greatest impact on your decision about whether to continue to live in San Francisco and raise your family here?

Top 5:

- Overall quality of life (38%)
- Safety (36%)
- Housing (36%)
- Quality of public schools (34%)
- Cleanliness of streets and public areas (29%)

If you are considering moving out of San Francisco, where do you intend to move?

- Marin County (40%)
- Other locations (e.g. out of state, more affordable, better schools) (34%)
- East Bay (13%)
- Peninsula (11%)
- South Bay (2%)

If you intend to move and raise your family in a location other than San Francisco, which factors have the greatest impact on your decision?

Top 5:

- Quality of public schools (47%)
- Access to public schools (41%)
- Overall quality of life (43%)
- Safety (41%)
- Housing (35%) / Proximity to preferred schools (35%)

Do you feel your current housing in Russian Hill is satisfactory for your family's needs?

- Yes (57%)
- No (32%)
- Not sure (12%)

Do you feel you can relocate to satisfactory housing for your family within San Francisco?

- Yes (6%)
- No (70%)
- Not sure (20%)

What are the barriers to finding satisfactory housing for your family in San Francisco?

- Affordability (97%)
- Proximity to schools (42%)
- Proximity to child care (20%)
- Proximity to work (23%)

Have you completed a San Francisco Unified School District General Enrollment Form?

- Yes (47%)
- No (53%)

Was your child/children successful in gaining entrance to their top choice?

- Yes (53%)
- No (33%)
- Not sure (17%)

Do you believe the public schools in Russian Hill provide an excellent education?

- Yes (27%)
- No (28%)
- Not sure (50%)

Do your children attend or do you intend for them to attend private schools in San Francisco?

- Yes (47%)
- No (33%)
- Not sure (20%)

Do you believe a private school education to be superior to a public school education in San Francisco?

- Yes (51%)
- No (24%)
- Not sure (25%)

Do you feel the needs of families are a priority with San Francisco's elected-officials?

- Yes (11%)
- No (70%)
- Not sure (20%)



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A selection of comments and themes below:

Do you believe the public schools in Russian Hill provide an excellent education?

- ✓ **Yick Wo Elementary is strong; Francisco Middle and Galileo High School are not desirable**
 - "Our child attends Yick Wo Elementary. While we are happy enough with the academic quality there, we believe that district policies tend to favor the needs of disruptive students and the expense of a better education for the rest."
 - "At the elementary school level for sure. The middle school's reputation is still recovering from years of problems and now some of the district's new policies are making the schools even more unattractive both due to safety and academics."

Do you believe a private school education to be superior to a public school education in San Francisco?

- ✓ **Private schools may provide better experiences, but there are public school exceptions like Lowell High School**
 - "I don't think all of the private schools are superior, they have more resources, they have more children from families with more resources but some of them are not actually as good as their price tags would indicate, compared to truly excellent private schools elsewhere. SF private schools are just hard to get in to, which makes them exclusive, which gives the illusion that they are "superior.""
 - "Private school education may not be better in terms of actual academics. But in terms of safety and overall experience, it may be better. On the other hand, public school is better at exposing kids to the diversity of our real-life world."

Do you feel the needs of families are a priority with San Francisco's elected-officials?

- ✓ **Not generally**
 - "San Francisco would not have the lowest per capita population of children of major cities in the country if elected officials tended better to the needs of families."
 - "Some - new playgrounds and libraries are great. But safety, walk signals on streets, open drug use and alcohol use in parks, these are not things I am comfortable with and my kids have seen them in our neighborhood."

What would need to change, specifically, in order for you to remain living in San Francisco through your child/children graduating from high school?

- ✓ **Improved quality and access to local public schools**
 - "All children should have access to "excellent" schools & childcare regardless of their income/status. It would be nice if the quality of public schools was in-line to the private options. And for pre-schools in general, if there were more options for all to have a good start in education."
 - "If we could count on the fact that our kids will get into a strong public school within a mile of our house, we'd be thrilled to stay in SF!"
- ✓ **Affordability of housing**
 - "We have rented for 13 years. We are stuck. We cannot afford to stay in San Francisco and move (to rent or buy) and keep our kids in great schools."
 - "We've lived in our current rent-controlled apartment for over 10 years but if we are evicted, we wouldn't be able to afford anything else in SF."

If you have decided to stay and raise your family in San Francisco, what specific circumstances do you feel has enabled you to do this?

- ✓ **Purchased a residence before prices rose dramatically and/or rent control**
 - "We scraped up every last bit of money we had and were able to buy our condo when it converted from a rental unit in 2005. We are lucky that it is big enough for us to stay in (we cannot afford to move to some place bigger/better in the city)."
 - "The ONLY reason I live here is good fortune to live in family home bought decades ago."
- ✓ **Success in school or acceptance into a desired school.**
 - "If my son is doing well in school I will stay in SF, even that mean working 2-3 jobs."
 - "We were fortunate to get accepted to an independent school. The public school process that initially was constructed for good intentions is an overall failure. Not until the powers to be recognize that, nothing will change. It needs to be completely redone."
- ✓ **Significant income or found a way to save costs**
 - "My wife stays home with our children, which has enabled us to take care of our kids without having to rely on childcare. I don't get the sense that SF offers much to help families - taxes are overwhelming."
 - "Living with parents home."

Do you have recommendations on other things RHN can do to help support your family?

- ✓ Advocate for areas for kids (soccer field, playground) within the new Francisco Park
- ✓ Plan more events for neighborhood families to connect and share information about schools, etc.
- ✓ Promote neighborhood resources for families

For a complete set of survey data and comments, contact families@rhnsf.org.