General Information

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Description

A March 2013 study from the Pew Research Center finds that 37% of mothers say they want to work full-time, due in large part to the recession and financial insecurity. In addition, workplace priorities are different for men and women, with women valuing flexibility and men valuing salary.

Keywords


Citation

MLA

Transcript

Families Struggling for Work/Life Balance

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
We mentioned this right before the break. A big new survey on parenthood is out tonight. It's painting a picture of economic stress. Moms and dads who feel there is simply not enough time in the day to juggle all various responsibilities. Our report on this tonight from NBC's Rehema Ellis.

REHEMA ELLIS, reporting:
Striking a balance between work and family is a work in progress for Julie Lastro.

JULIE LASTRO: I'm going to have actually go and pick up my kids.

ELLIS: Juggling her fulltime job, the mother of two sometimes wishes she could spend more time at home with her young children.

LASTRO: How was school?

ELLIS: But Julie says for her and her husband David, financially it's just not doable in Washington, DC.

LASTRO: The cost of living everywhere seems to be going up, and people’s salaries are not necessarily coinciding with that rise. So it's-- it's driving more people into the workforce.

ELLIS: The Lastros are a part of a growing trend. A new Pew Research Center poll found rapid changes in the last few years. In 2007, 21% of working mothers wanted to work fulltime. Now it's jumped to 37%. Researchers say due in large part to the recession and financial insecurity.

KIM PARKER (Pew Research Center): The women who were the most likely to say they wanted to work fulltime were some of the most economically vulnerable.

ELLIS: The survey also found workplace priorities are different for men and women. Men valued a high-paying job, while a flexible schedule ranked higher for women. But finding that flexible schedule may be more difficult as workers at one top corporation are learning.

MARISSA MAYER (file): There's a lot of great people there, there's great ideas.

ELLIS: Last month Yahoo’s CEO and new mom, Marissa Mayer, made headlines when the company announced it was ordering all telecommuting workers back to the office.

KELLY WALLACE (iVillage Chief Correspondent): In the age of BlackBerrys and laptops, it seems like we should be able to have more flexibility.
ELLIS: Also striking from the study, working dads are finding the work-family balance just as challenging as working moms. While the demands of work and family life often collide, the good news may be that more than ever those stresses are shared--
LASTRO: Good job.