

Needs Assessment of Students with Children

What are the needs and experiences of students with children at DePaul University?

Methodology

- Endicott College created and administered the online survey with eight campuses as part of a federal research grant.
- Students with dependents were identified using FAFSA dependent data and invited to participate in an online survey about their experiences, perceptions, needs and services relating to their parent status.
- Students who completed the survey were invited to participate in follow-up focus groups.
- Endicott College analyzed data from the online survey and shared summary reports with all eight participating institutions.

Demographics

- Of 1,235 students invited to complete the online survey, only 181 (15%) participated in the survey.
- 59 survey participants (34%) were single parents.
- Surveys were completed by 108 (63%) women and 65 (37%) men.
- 82 survey participants (52%) had taken at least one break in their studies.

Key Findings

- While 92 students (55%) rarely or never interact with other student parents, 136 students (89%) felt having family activities on campus were very or somewhat useful.
- 104 students (62%) said they feel isolated from other students.
- 62 students (37%) indicated that they sometimes, often or very often consider dropping out before finishing.
- Time management was listed as the number one cause of stress by 151 respondents (92%).

Plan of Action

- Update resource guides and websites for students with children to aid in quickly finding services and resources available from DePaul, the community and public aid
- Continue to strengthen community building activities and the club associated with students with children (POLO - Parents of Little Ones)
- Work with other departments to support making existing events more child and family friendly

“Balancing being a young mother in college [is difficult]. The struggle of finding people that accept that I am a mother is very much real.”