

Method

The Landscape Structures Inclusive Play Survey was conducted with U.S. parents of children 12 years of age and younger by using ORC International's Parent CARAVAN omnibus service. Participants were further screened on use of playground equipment in public parks and spaces. A total of N=845 parents qualified for and completed the survey in May 2014.

Key Findings

- Parents take their children to the playground for both fun and exercise.

(46% of parents say that fun is the most important reason they take their children to a playground, followed by 31% who say exercise is the most important reason.)

- Children are most often bullied in the classroom, playground and on the bus, according to parents. Parents in the southern U.S. believe children are more likely to be bullied in the classroom than parents in other regions of the country, while those in the west say the playground is where bullying occurs.

(When asked where they think bullying most often occurs, parents chose the school classroom (33%), playground (29%) and bus (21%) most often. Parents in the south select the school classroom (41%) significantly more often than parents in other regions, while parents in the western U.S. indicate the playground (41%) significantly more often than those in other areas.)

- Nearly half (45%) of parents say they sometimes or frequently see children with disabilities at the playground.
- When asked what types of requirements exist to make playgrounds inclusive for children with disabilities, well over half (57%) mistakenly believe playgrounds are required to have elements designed for children with Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairment. Just a quarter (24%) said their expectations were limited to the kinds of accommodations required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(Parents were asked what they expect to be required to ensure kids with disabilities can truly play on the playground. A range of options were provided describing elements that would accommodate various disabilities, including mobility restrictions, Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairment. 57% selected all of the above (an exclusive response) while only 24% selected accommodating mobility restrictions more narrowly.)

- 7 out of 10 parents (71%) agree or strongly agree that playground equipment should be designed so all children can play together, including those with physical and other disabilities.
- Nearly three quarters (74%) believe it is important or extremely important that their children have an opportunity to play with a variety of children, including those with disabilities.

- The vast majority (80%) of parents are supportive of having inclusive playgrounds in their area. Almost half (48%) are extremely supportive of inclusive playgrounds. Inclusive playgrounds are particularly important to African American and Hispanic parents, as well as to those whose household earns less than \$50,000 per year.

(80% of parents supported inclusive playgrounds by responding 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 1 is "not at all supportive" and 5 is "extremely supportive." 48% were extremely supportive. African Americans (63%) and Hispanics (61%) were significantly more likely to be supportive than white respondents (45%) and parents in households with an annual income of less than \$50,000 (53%) were significantly more likely to be extremely supportive than those at all other income levels.)