



# UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYED PARENTS CHILD CARE NEEDS

JUNE 2021

## BACKGROUND + METHODOLOGY

### BACKGROUND

The research conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center seeks to understand how work settings are changing for employed parents and how that impacts child care demands. Specific research objectives included:

1. *Understand current and future work and child care arrangements*
2. *The impact of COVID-19 on children's social-emotional and behavioral health*
3. *Use of financial supports for child care, including federal tax credits*
4. *Future preferences for child care and pre-k*

### AUDIENCE

Survey respondents were screened on having a child at home under the age of 5 and to have all members of the household currently employed.

***For simplicity, throughout the report, this audience is referenced as 'parents.'***

### METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted from May 20-31, 2021 among a national sample of 800 parents with children under the age of 5 who are currently employed, and if they are married/partnered, their spouse/partner is also employed. The interviews were conducted online. Quotas for age and gender were used to guide collection with quota values being determined from the most recently available census data concerning age, gender, presence and age of children, employment status, and marital status (e.g., the April 2021 Current Population Survey). Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

BACKGROUND

PARENT SURVEY SERIES

BPC and Morning Consult have conducted a series of parent surveys to understand parents’ need and preferences for child care.

<p><b>October 2019</b> The Impact of Child Care Costs on Parents</p>	<p><b>April 2020</b> Child Care in the Time of Coronavirus</p>	<p><b>August 2020</b> Child Care in COVID-19: Another Look at Parents’ Perspectives</p>	<p><b>December 2020</b> Parent Child Care Preferences: Are They Changing?</p>	<p><b>May 2021</b> Understanding Employed Parents Child Care Needs</p>
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Parent Survey Series: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/parent-survey-resource-center/>

AGENDA

WORK ARRANGEMENTS

CHILD CARE CLOSURES

CHILD CARE  
ARRANGEMENTS

CHILD CARE AND PRE-K  
PREFERENCES

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-  
EMOTIONAL AND  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

RESPONDENT PROFILE

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR  
CHILD CARE



## Work Arrangements

- 1 A majority of parents (58%) say their employer currently allows them to work a portion of their week remotely, and a majority are taking advantage of that option by working in a hybrid environment (43%) or remotely full-time (38%).

  - Parents with a higher income level (\$100k+ 68%), who live in an urban community (73%), are salaried (70%), and those who have administrative job (78%) are more likely to be able to work a portion of the week remotely.
  - On the other hand, parents with a lower income level (under \$50k, 44%), who live in a rural community (38%), have an hourly job (38%), and have a trade/skill job (33%) are less likely to be able to work a portion of their week remotely.
- 2 Parents are divided on their preferred work situation: 37% say on-site full time, 31% hybrid, and 29% remotely full-time.

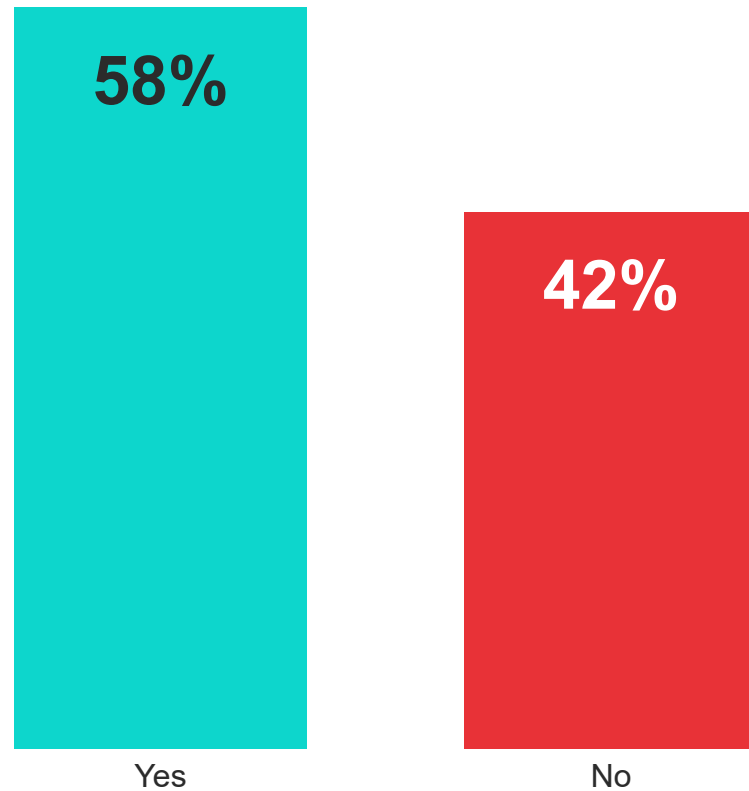
  - Parents are most likely to prefer the work situation they are currently in; among those currently working remotely full-time, 72% say this is their preferred work situation, among those currently working in the office full-time, 54% say this is their preferred work situation, and among those currently in a hybrid model, 62% say this is their preferred work situation.
- 3 How far in advance parents are aware of their work schedule significantly differs across demographic groups.

  - Parents with a higher education level and income level are more likely to have a fixed work schedule; 45% of parents with less than a college degree and 46% of parents with an income under \$50k are aware of their schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.
  - Black parents are more likely than parents of other racial and ethnic groups to be aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less (41% of Black parents aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less).
  - Awareness of work schedule differs significantly across job classifications. Service workers (49%) and trade and skilled workers (40%) are most likely to be aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.

WORK ARRANGEMENTS

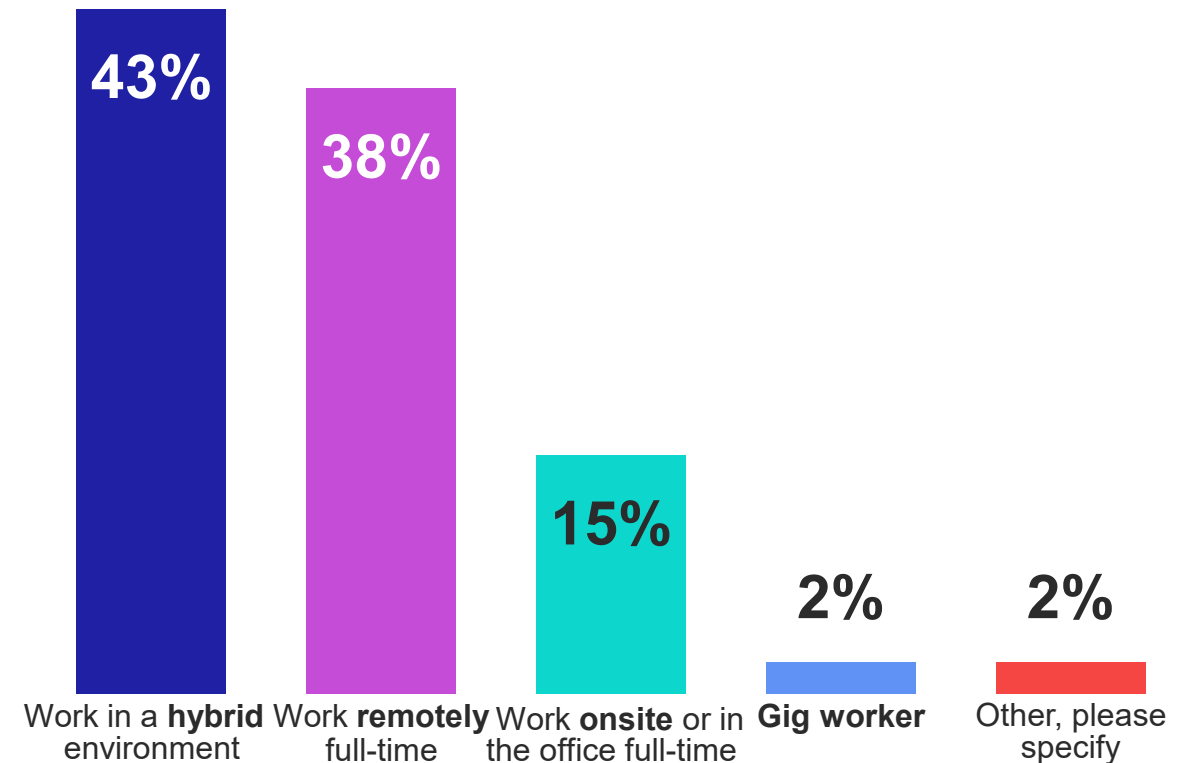
Three in five parents (58%) say their employer allows them to work a portion of the work week remotely.

Does your employer currently allow you to work any portion of the work week remotely?



Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

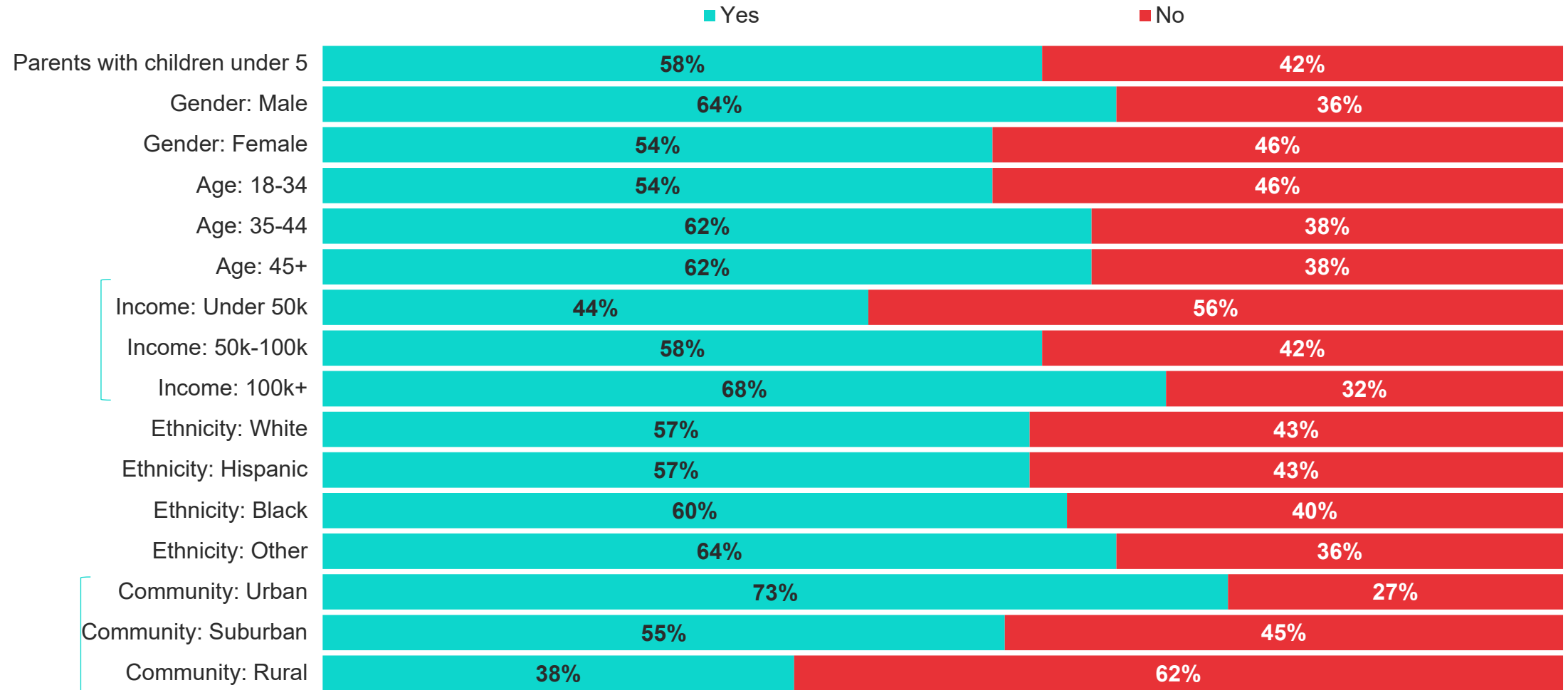
INDICATED EMPLOYER ALLOWS THEM TO WORK PART OF WORK WEEK REMOTELY, N=466



WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with a higher income are more likely to say their employer allows them to work a portion of the week remotely. Additionally, urban parents (73%) are more likely suburban (55%) and rural parents (38%) to be able to work remotely.

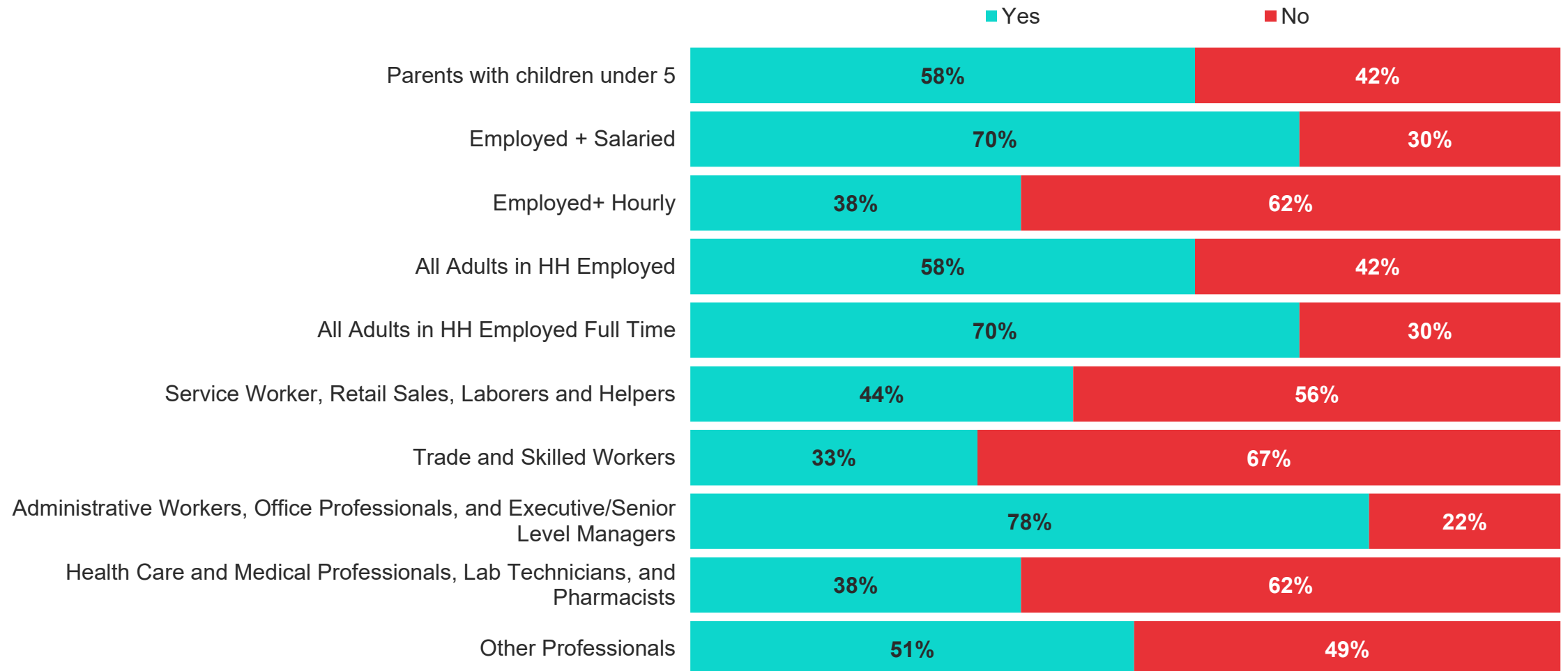
Does your employer currently allow you to work any portion of the work week remotely?



WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Parents' job classification impacts whether their employer allows them to work a portion of the week remotely; administrative workers are more likely than other types of workers to be able to work remotely.

Does your employer currently allow you to work any portion of the work week remotely?



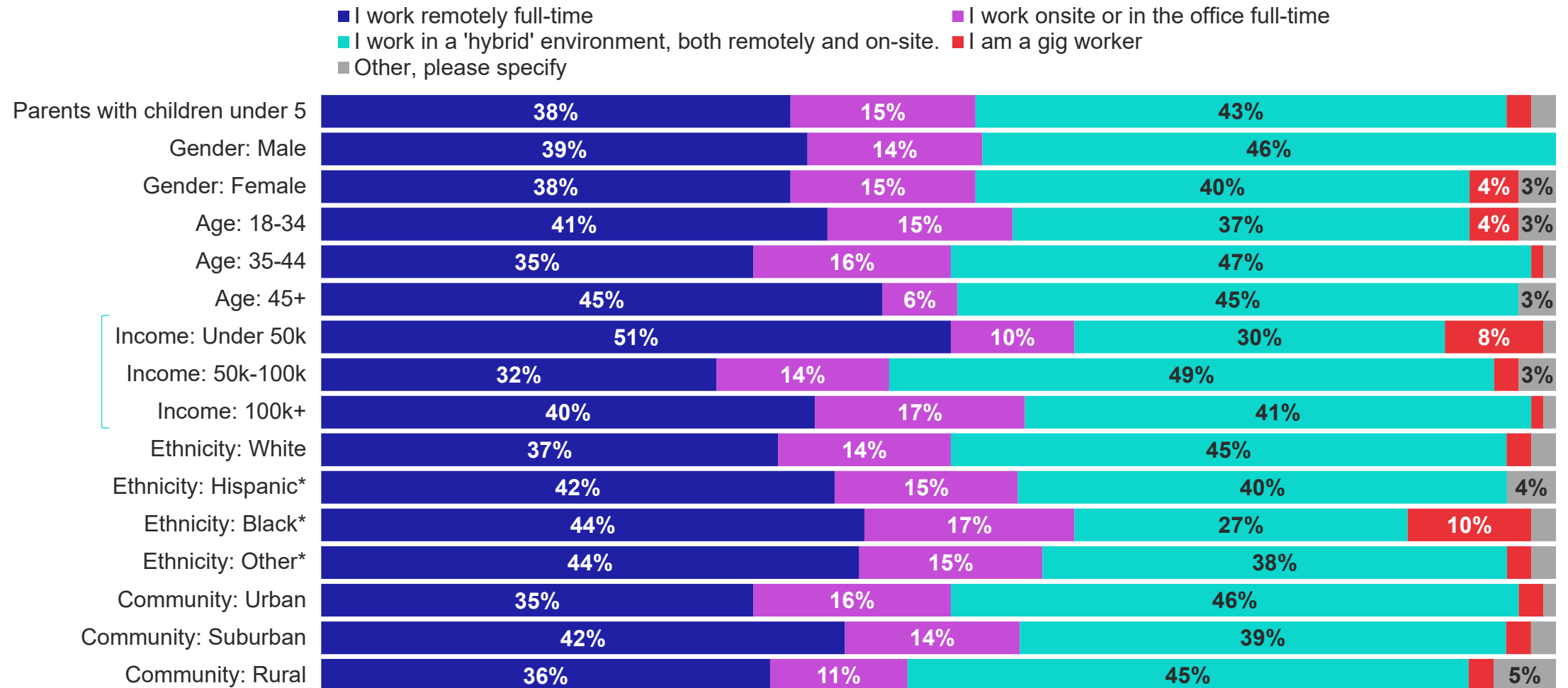


WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Among those who are able to work part of the week remotely, parents with an income under \$50k are more likely to work remotely full-time, while higher income earners are more likely to be in a hybrid model.

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

INDICATED EMPLOYER ALLOWS THEM TO WORK PART OF WORK WEEK REMOTELY, N=466



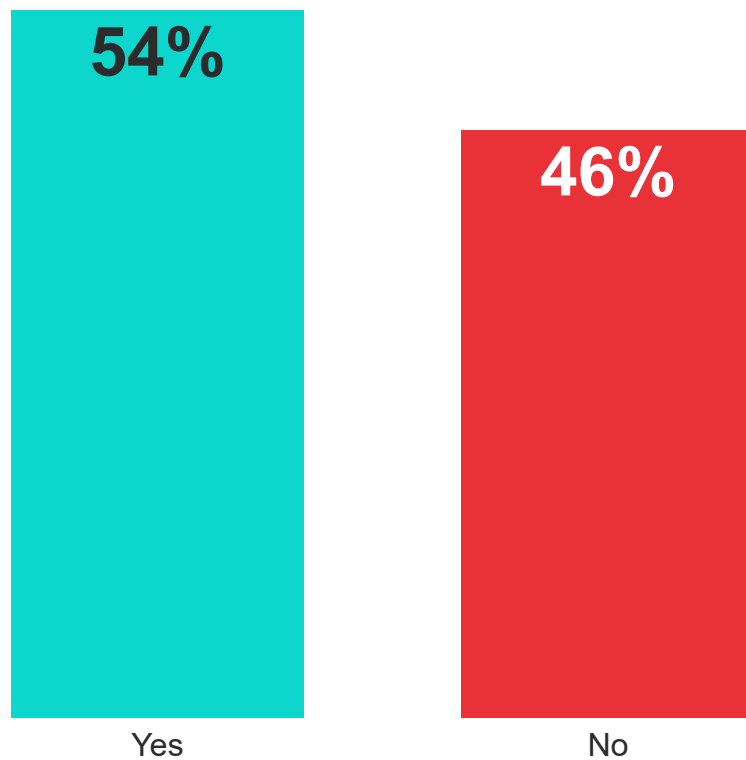
\*small n size, Hispanic n=48, Black n=41, Other n=48

WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Among two adult households, 54% say their spouse or partner's employer currently allows them to work a portion of the week remotely.

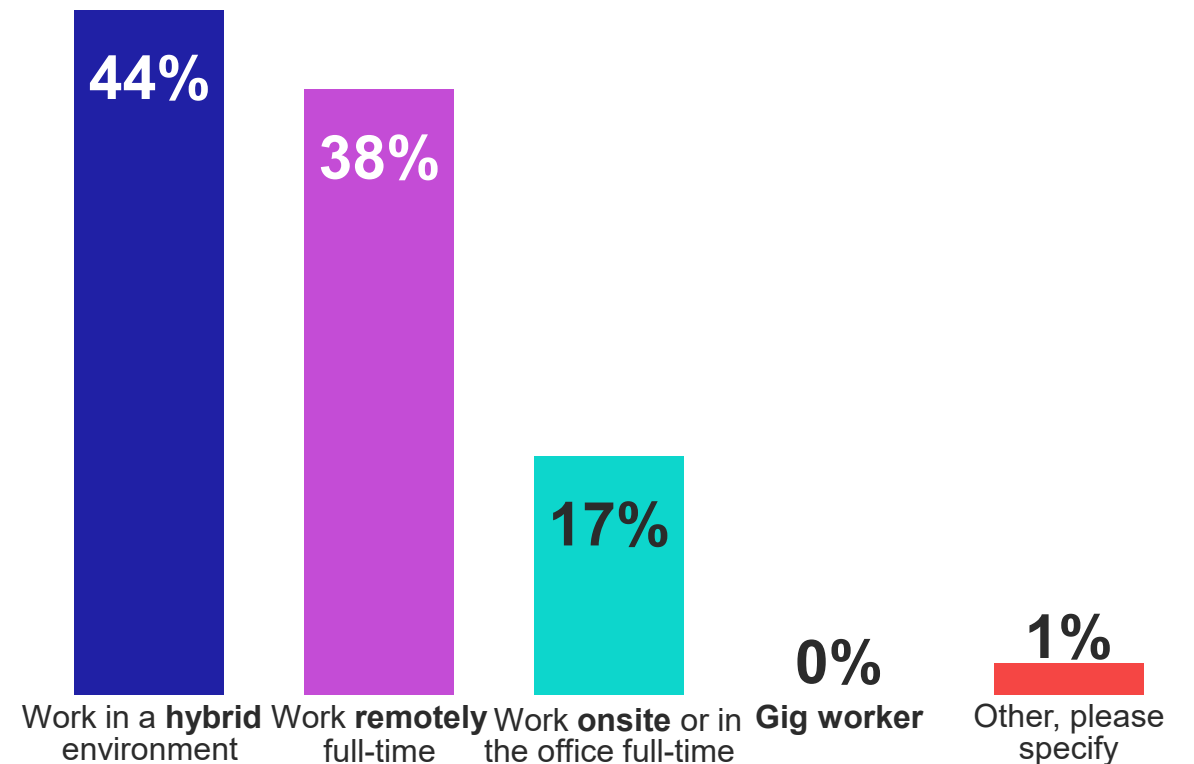
Does your spouse or partner's employer currently allow them to work any portion of the work week remotely?

TWO ADULT HOUSEHOLD\*, N=655



Which of the following best describes your spouse or partner's current work situation?

INDICATED SPOUSE/PARTNER'S EMPLOYER ALLOWS THEM TO WORK PART OF WORK WEEK REMOTELY, N=351

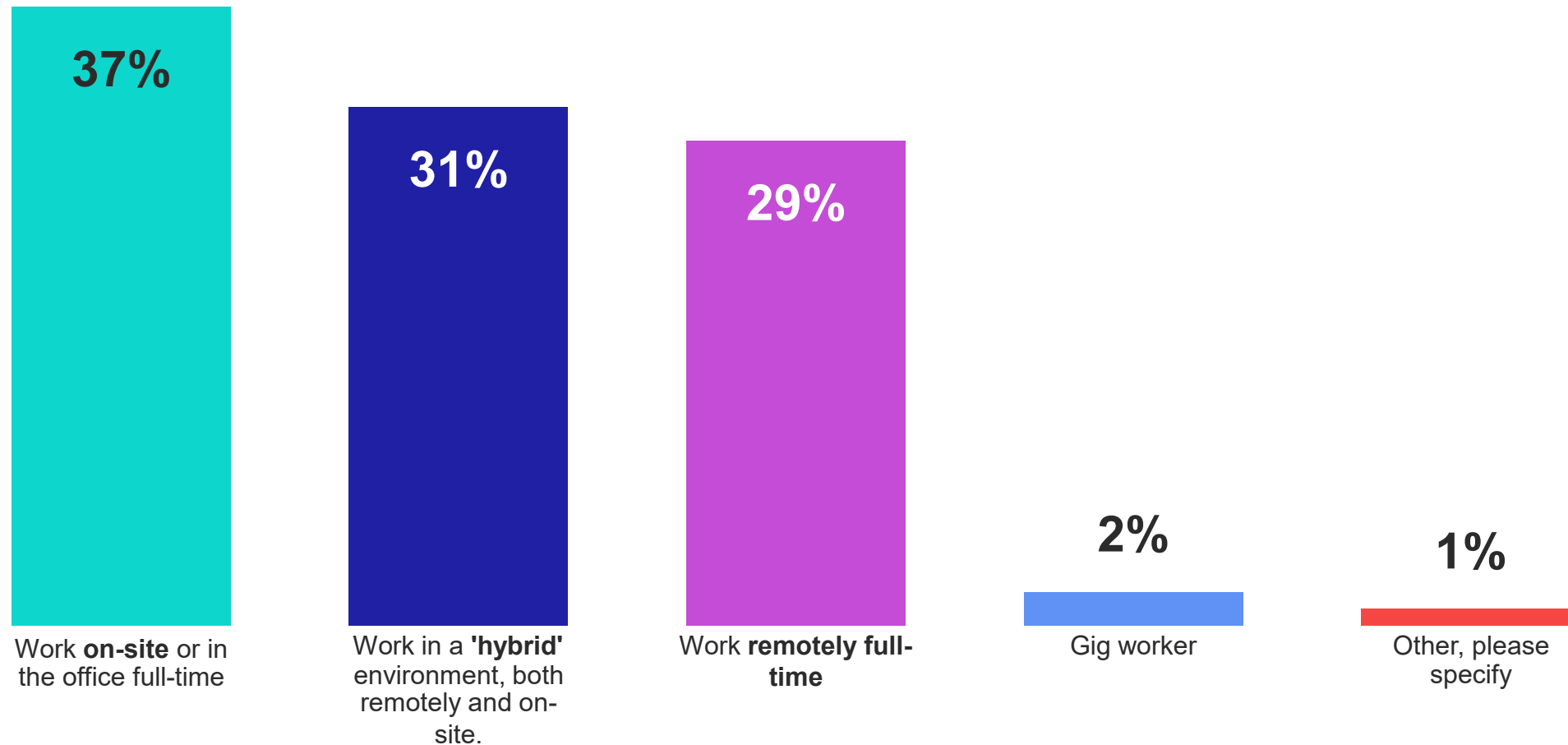


\*Parents indicated they are married or partnered

WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Parents are divided on their preferred work situation: 37% say on-site full time, 31% hybrid, and 29% remotely full-time.

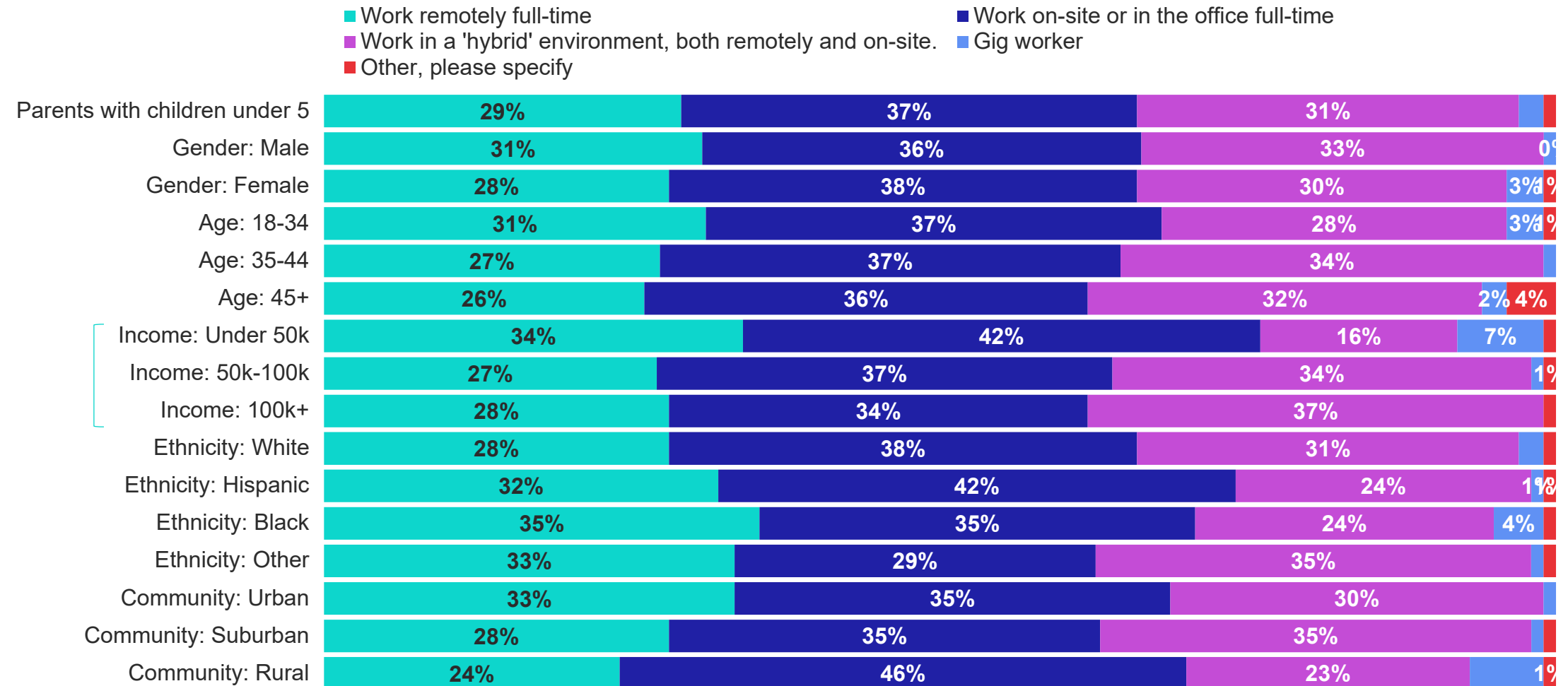
Thinking ahead, which of the following best describes your **preferred work situation**?



WORK ARRANGEMENTS

# Parents with an income under \$50k are more likely to prefer working remotely full-time.

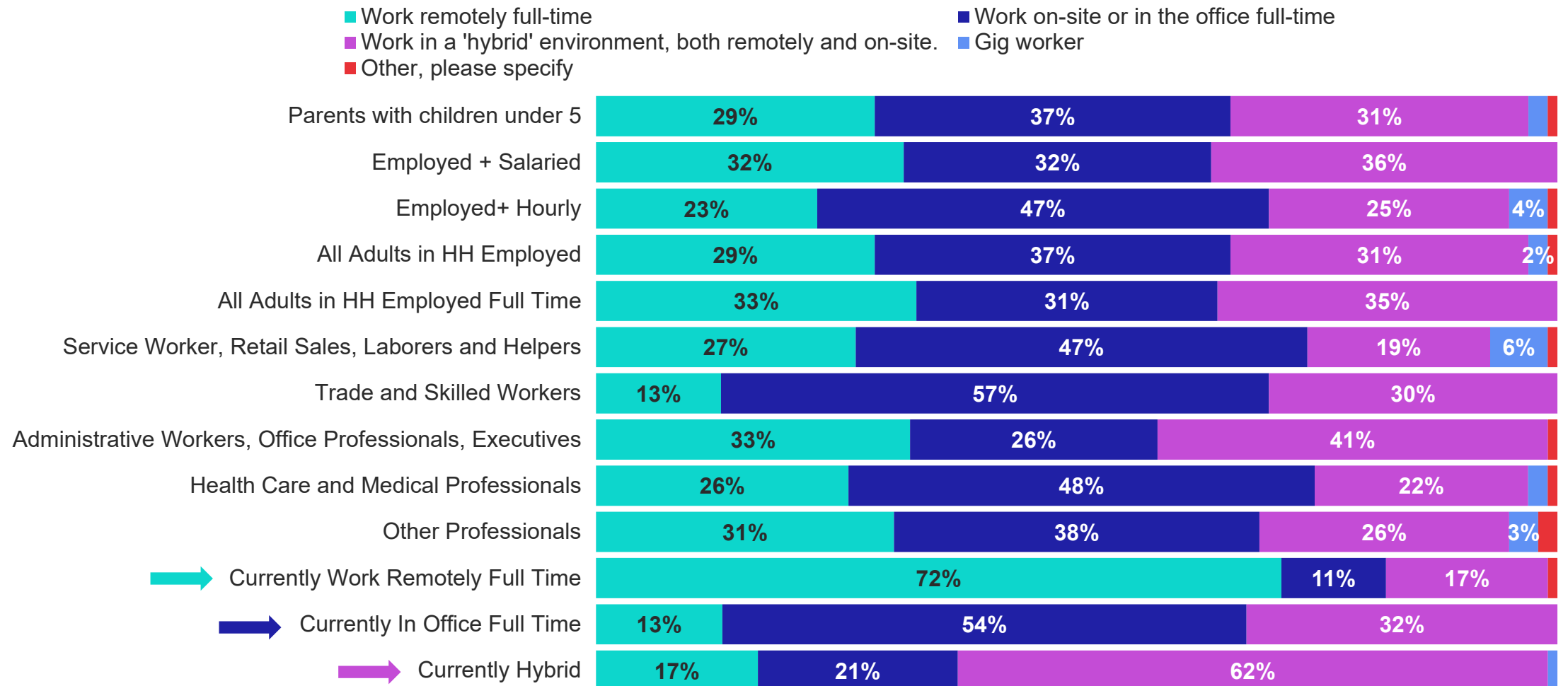
Thinking ahead, which of the following best describes your preferred work situation?



WORK ARRANGEMENTS

A majority of parents say their preferred work situation is their current work arrangement.

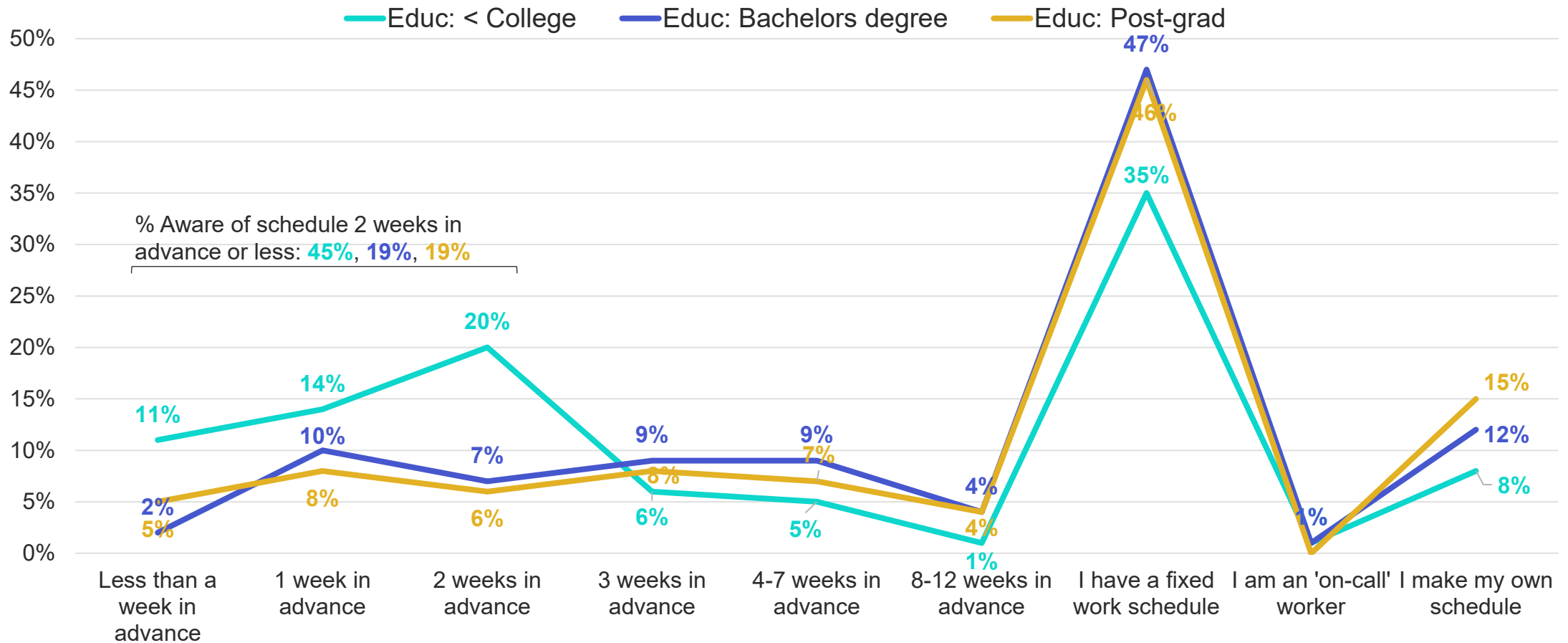
Thinking ahead, which of the following best describes your preferred work situation?



## WORK ARRANGEMENTS

When asked how far in advance parents are aware of their work schedule, parents with a higher education level are more likely to have a fixed work schedule; 45% of parents with less than a college degree are aware of their schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.

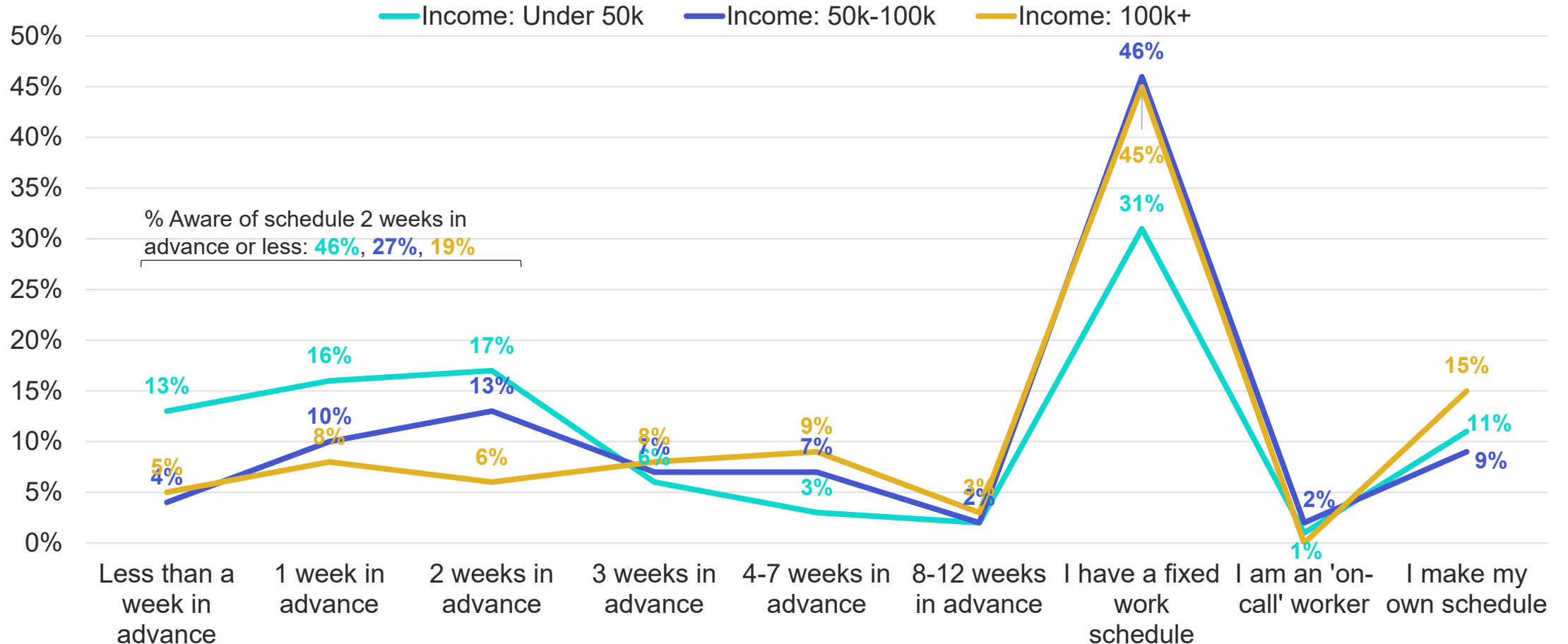
Thinking about your work hours, how far in advance are you aware of your work schedule, or do you have a fixed work schedule?



## WORK ARRANGEMENTS

The same holds true across income level- parents with a lower income level are more likely to be aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.

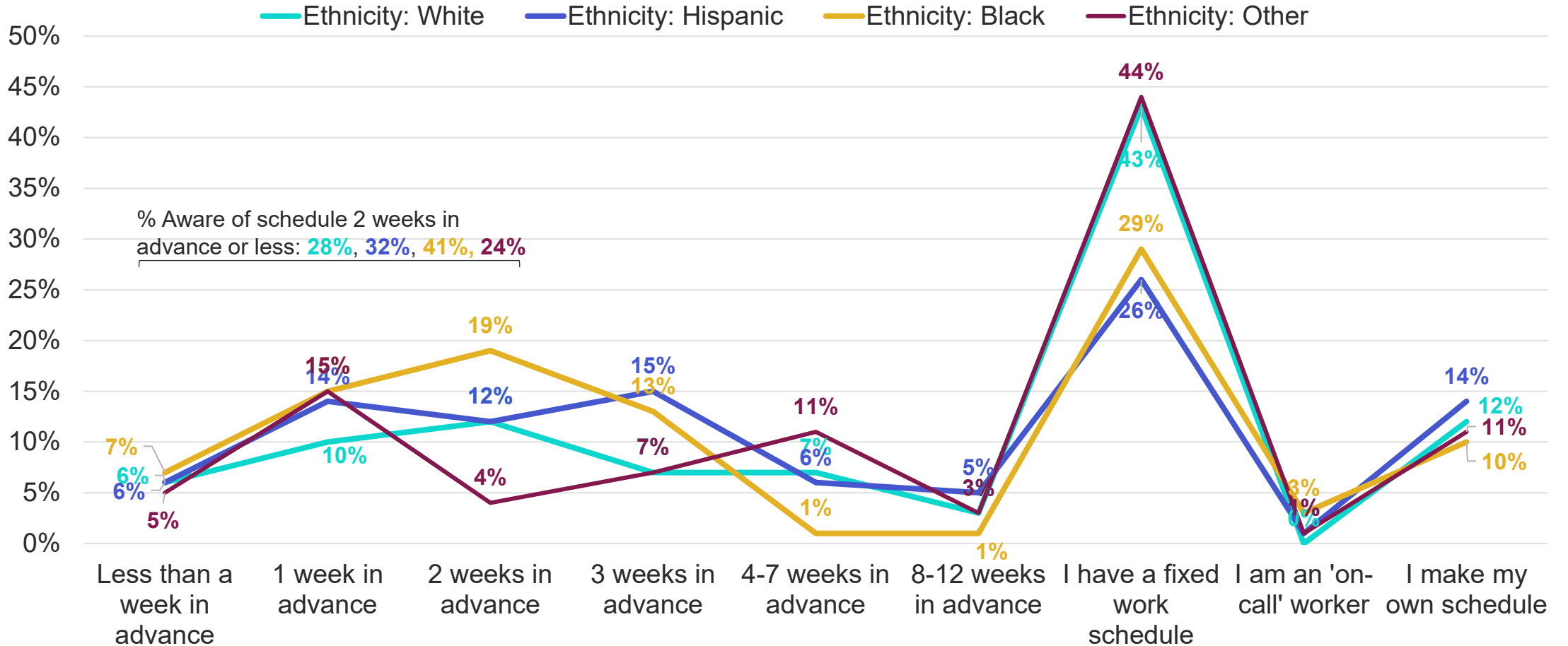
Thinking about your work hours, how far in advance are you aware of your work schedule, or do you have a fixed work schedule?



## WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Black parents are more likely than parents of other racial and ethnic groups to be aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.

Thinking about your work hours, how far in advance are you aware of your work schedule, or do you have a fixed work schedule?

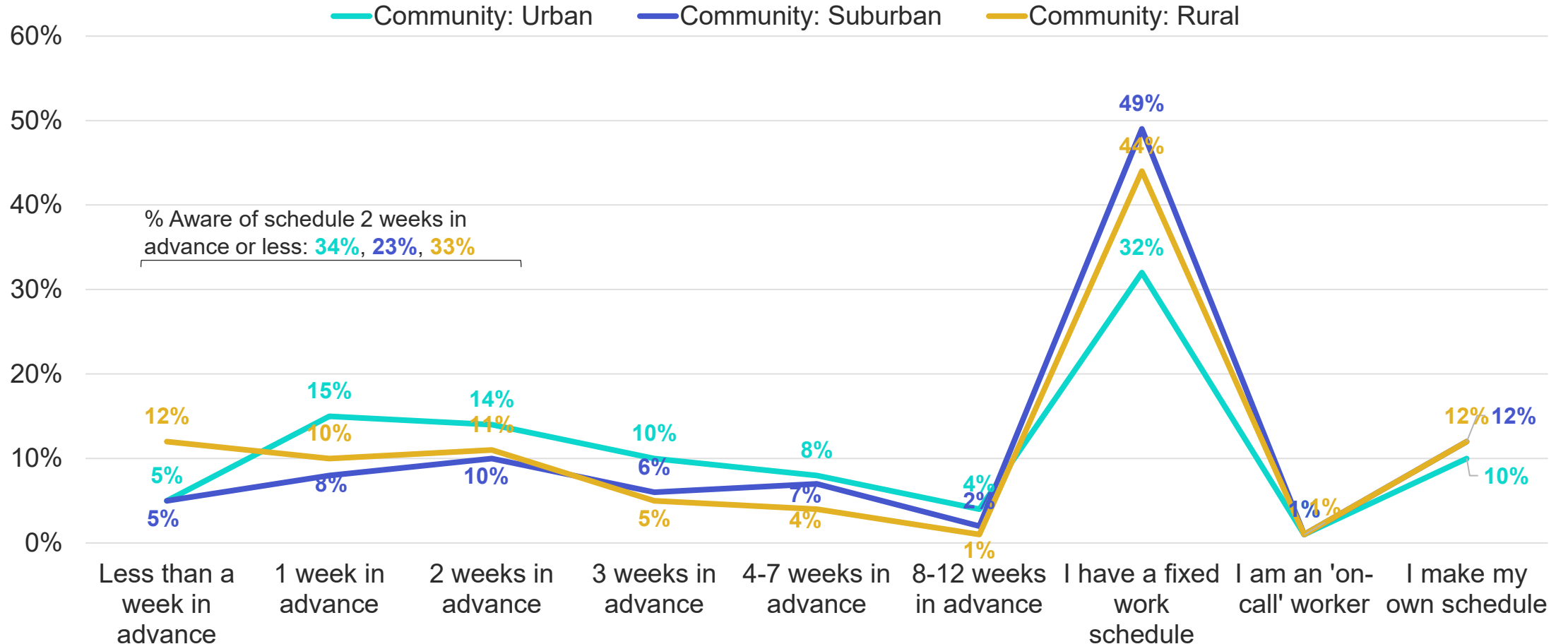




## WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Suburban parents (49%) are more likely than urban (44%) and rural parents (32%) to say they have a fixed work schedule.

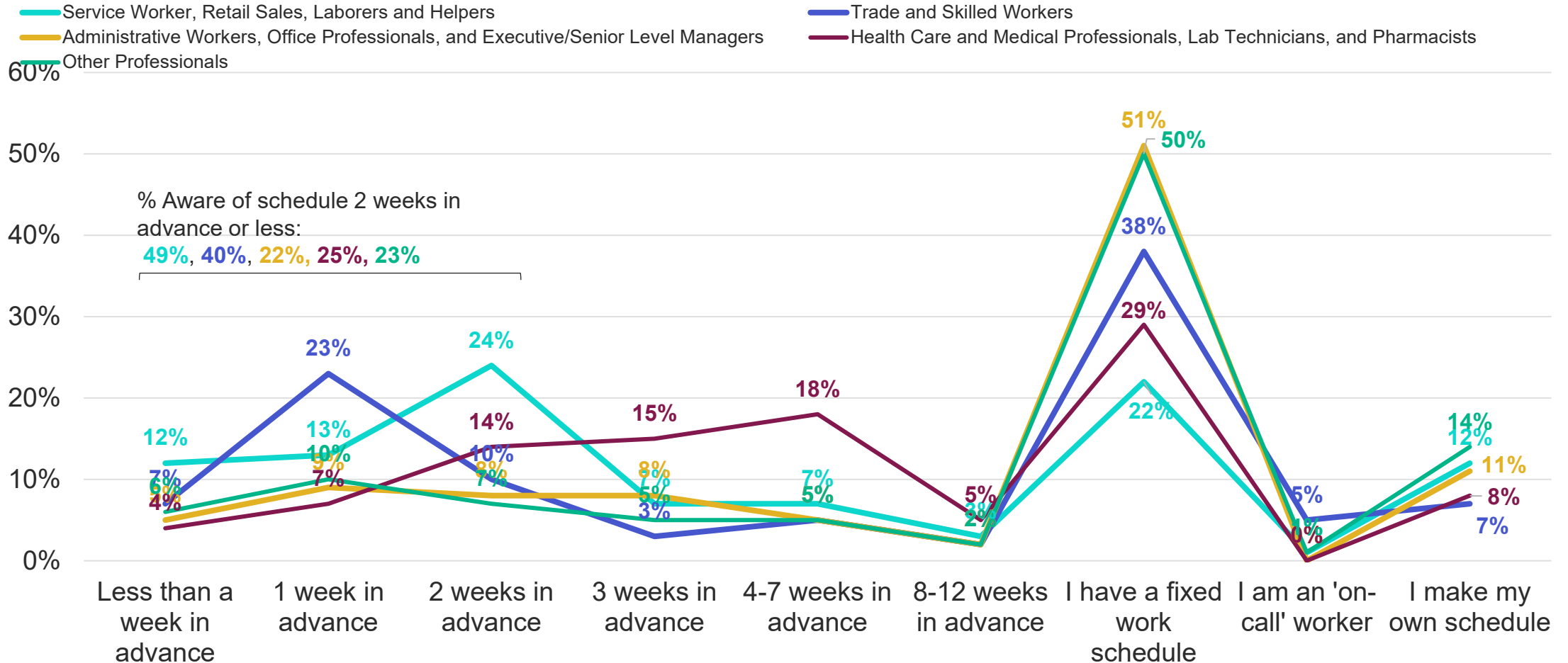
Thinking about your work hours, how far in advance are you aware of your work schedule, or do you have a fixed work schedule?



## WORK ARRANGEMENTS

# Half of service workers (49%) are aware of their work schedule 2 weeks in advance or less.

Thinking about your work hours, how far in advance are you aware of your work schedule, or do you have a fixed work schedule?



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## KEY FINDINGS

# Child Care Arrangements

- 1 Over a quarter of parents (29%) currently need a child care arrangement outside of traditional work hours, and they need care outside of traditional work hours in the evening (49% need care from 6pm-8pm).

  - Hispanic (35%) and Black (38%) parents are more likely to need child care outside of traditional work hours.
  - Urban parents (37%) are more likely than suburban (23%) and rural (26%) parents to need care outside of traditional work hours.
  - Across job classifications, 44% of health care professionals need child care outside of traditional work hours.
- 2 Among parents who need child care during traditional work hours, 27% have been relying on relatives, and 23% have been using a child care center.

  - 23% report using parent-provided care arrangements to care for their children.
  - Women, parents with a lower income level, parents of color, and suburban adults are more likely to rely on relatives to provide care during traditional hours.
  - Service (34%) and administrative workers (32%) are more likely than other types of workers to currently use parent-provided care.
- 3 Relatives have also been the primary care provider for 27% of parents during non-traditional work hours.

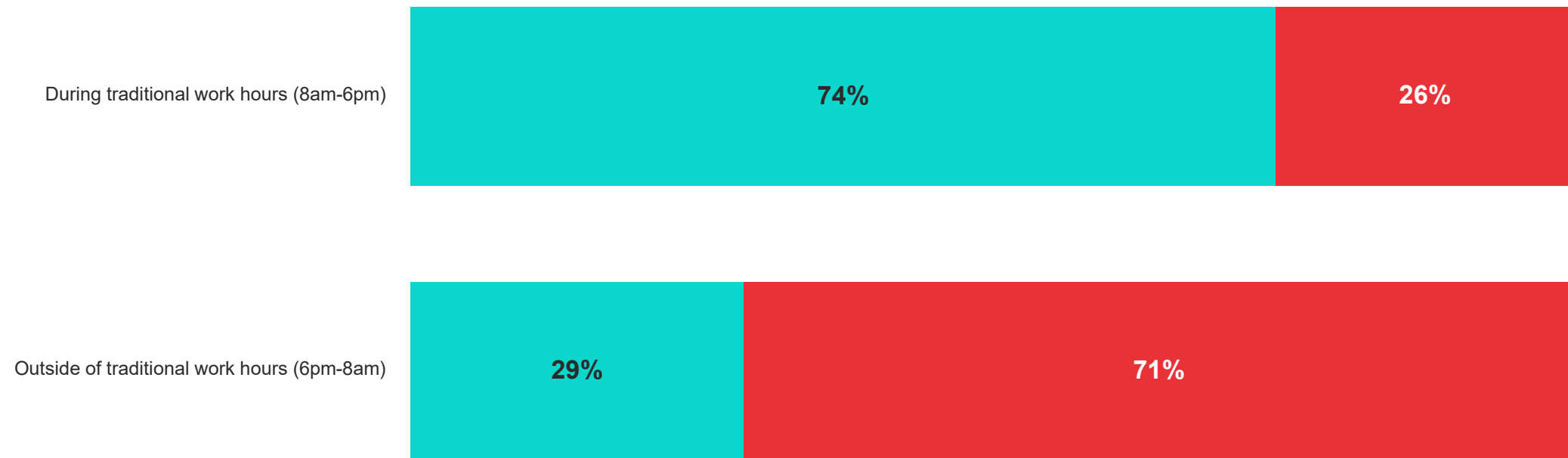
  - 38% report using parent-provided care arrangements to care for their children in non-traditional work hours.
  - Parents with a lower income level are more likely to rely on relatives to provide care during non-traditional work hours (41% parents with income under \$50k).
- 4 Half (47%) of parents say the maximum amount their household can afford to pay per child per week for child care is less than \$200.

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Over a quarter of parents (29%) currently need a child care arrangement outside of traditional work hours.

A child-care arrangement can include centers, home-based child care, pre-k, relatives, parents, etc. In a typical week, does your family need a child care arrangement for your children under 5 so that you (or both you and your spouse/partner) can work during the following hours?

● Yes ● No



## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with a higher level of education are more likely to need child care during traditional work hours.

A child-care arrangement can include centers, home-based child care, pre-k, relatives, parents, etc. In a typical week, does your family need a child care arrangement for your children under 5 so that you (or both you and your spouse/partner) can work during the following hours?

% Yes	Parents with Children under 5	Gender: Male	Gender: Female	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45+	Educ: < College	Educ: Bachelors degree	Educ: Post-grad
<b>During <u>traditional</u> work hours (8am-6pm)</b>	74%	77%	73%	72%	78%	62%	65%	80%	80%
<b><u>Outside of traditional</u> work hours (6pm-8am)</b>	29%	33%	26%	30%	28%	26%	28%	29%	29%

## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Hispanic (35%) and Black (38%) parents are more likely to need child care outside of traditional work hours.

A child-care arrangement can include centers, home-based child care, pre-k, relatives, parents, etc. In a typical week, does your family need a child care arrangement for your children under 5 so that you (or both you and your spouse/partner) can work during the following hours?

% Yes	Parents with Children under 5	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other	Community Urban	Community Suburban	Community Rural
<b>During traditional work hours (8am-6pm)</b>	74%	62%	74%	82%	76%	75%	71%	67%	76%	75%	68%
<b>Outside of traditional work hours (6pm-8am)</b>	29%	29%	29%	28%	28%	35%	38%	25%	37%	23%	26%

## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Urban parents (37%) are more likely than suburban (23%) and rural (26%) parents to need care outside of traditional work hours.

A child-care arrangement can include centers, home-based child care, pre-k, relatives, parents, etc. In a typical week, does your family need a child care arrangement for your children under 5 so that you (or both you and your spouse/partner) can work during the following hours?

% Yes	Parents with Children under 5	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other	Community Urban	Community Suburban	Community Rural
<b>During traditional work hours (8am-6pm)</b>	74%	62%	74%	82%	76%	75%	71%	67%	76%	75%	68%
<b>Outside of traditional work hours (6pm-8am)</b>	29%	29%	29%	28%	28%	35%	38%	25%	37%	23%	26%



## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Across job classifications, 44% of health care professionals need child care outside of traditional work hours.

A child-care arrangement can include centers, home-based child care, pre-k, relatives, parents, etc. In a typical week, does your family need a child care arrangement for your children under 5 so that you (or both you and your spouse/partner) can work during the following hours?

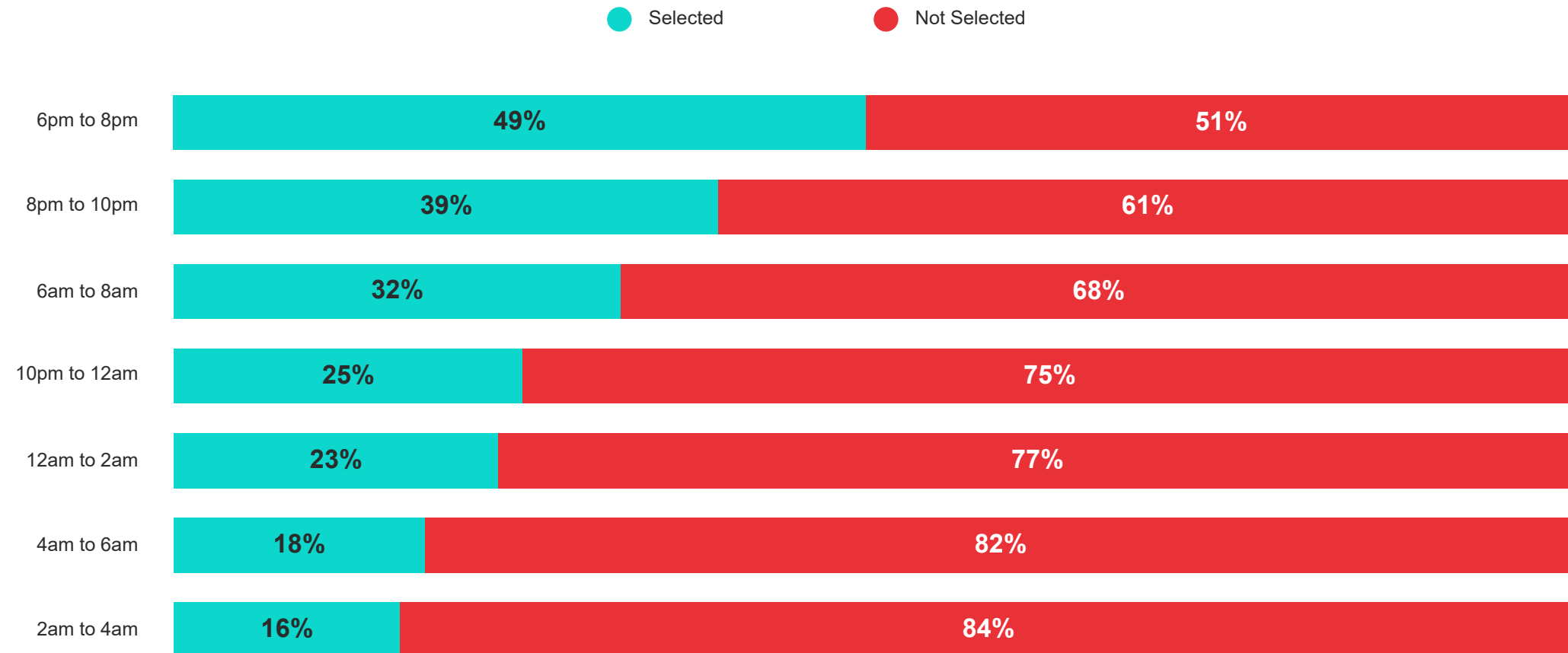
% Yes	Parents with Children under 5	Employed + Salaried	Employed + Hourly	Service Worker, Retail Sales, Laborers and Helpers	Trade and Skilled Workers	Administrative Workers, Office Professionals, and Executive/Senior Level Managers	Health Care and Medical Professionals, Lab Technicians, and Pharmacists	Other Professionals
<b>During traditional work hours (8am-6pm)</b>	74%	80%	69%	64%	75%	79%	72%	76%
<b>Outside of traditional work hours (6pm-8am)</b>	29%	26%	32%	31%	27%	28%	44%	20%

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Among those who need care outside of traditional work hours, they are most likely to need care in the evening 6pm-8pm (49%).

You mentioned that in a typical week, your family needs a child care arrangement for your children under 5 outside of the traditional 8am-6pm work hours in order to work. Which of the following hours do you require a child care arrangement? Please select all that apply.

NEED CHILD CARE OUTSIDE TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

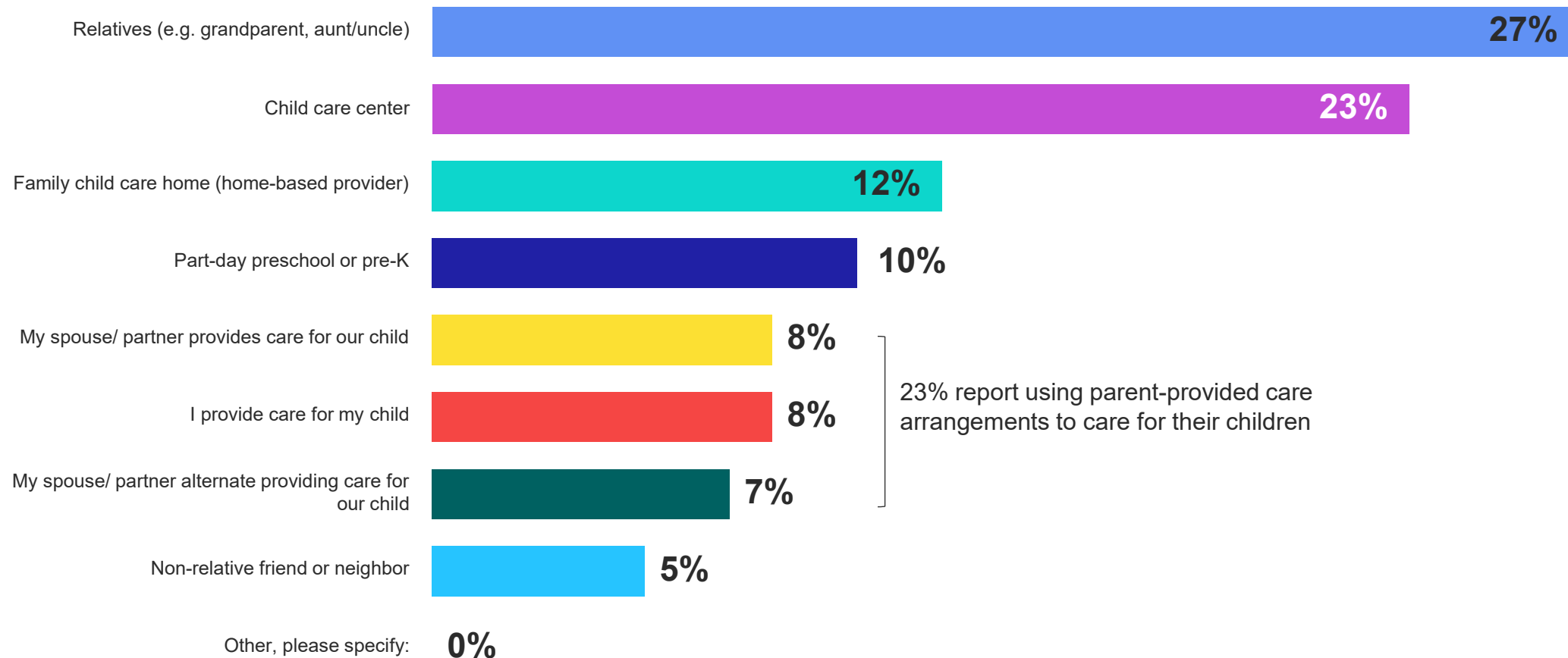


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Among parents who need child care during traditional work hours, 27% have been relying on relatives, and 23% have been using a child care center.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595

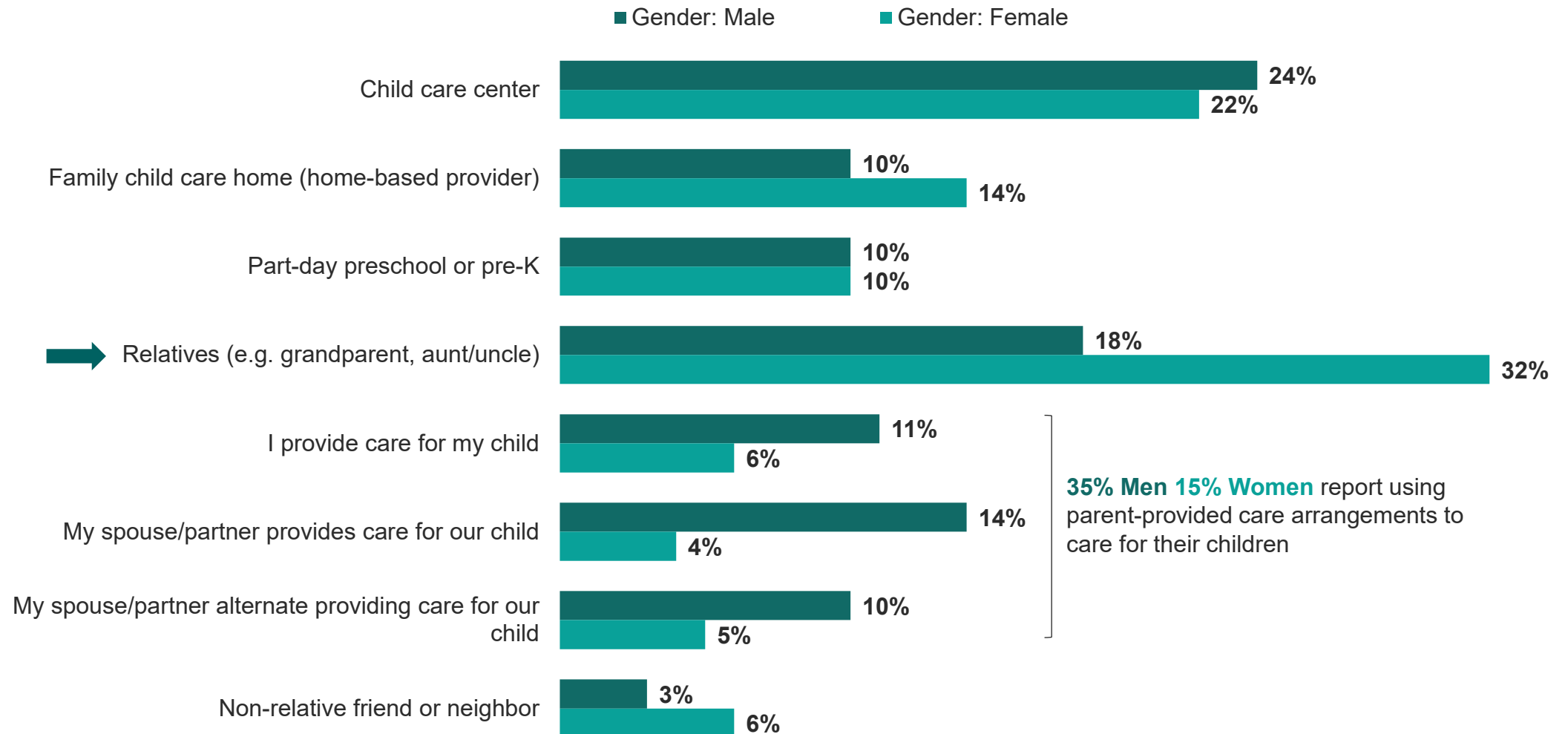


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Women are more likely than men to say relatives are currently providing care for their child (32% vs. 18%).

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595

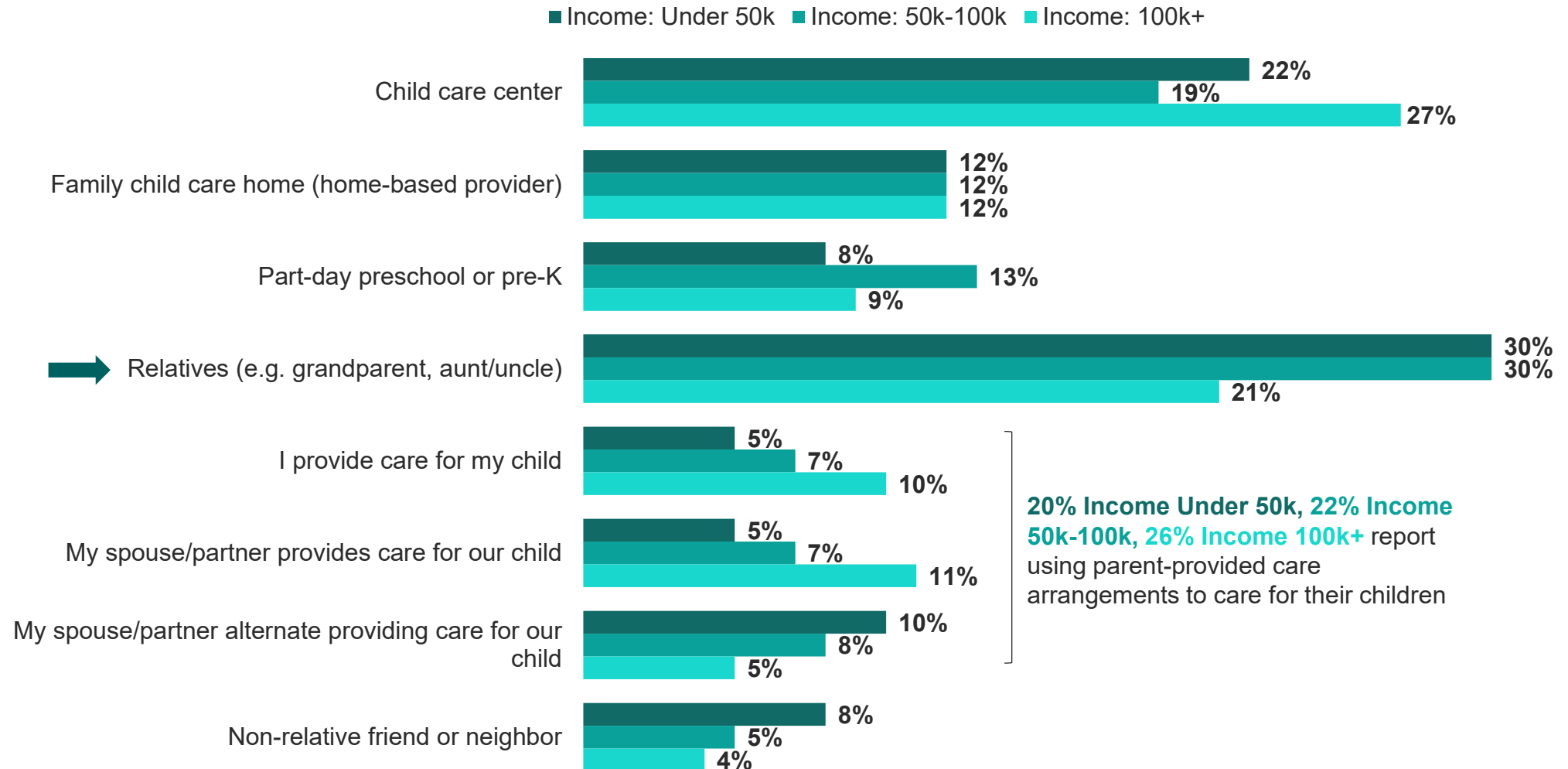


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with an income under \$100k are more likely to use relatives as their primary child care provider during traditional work hours.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595

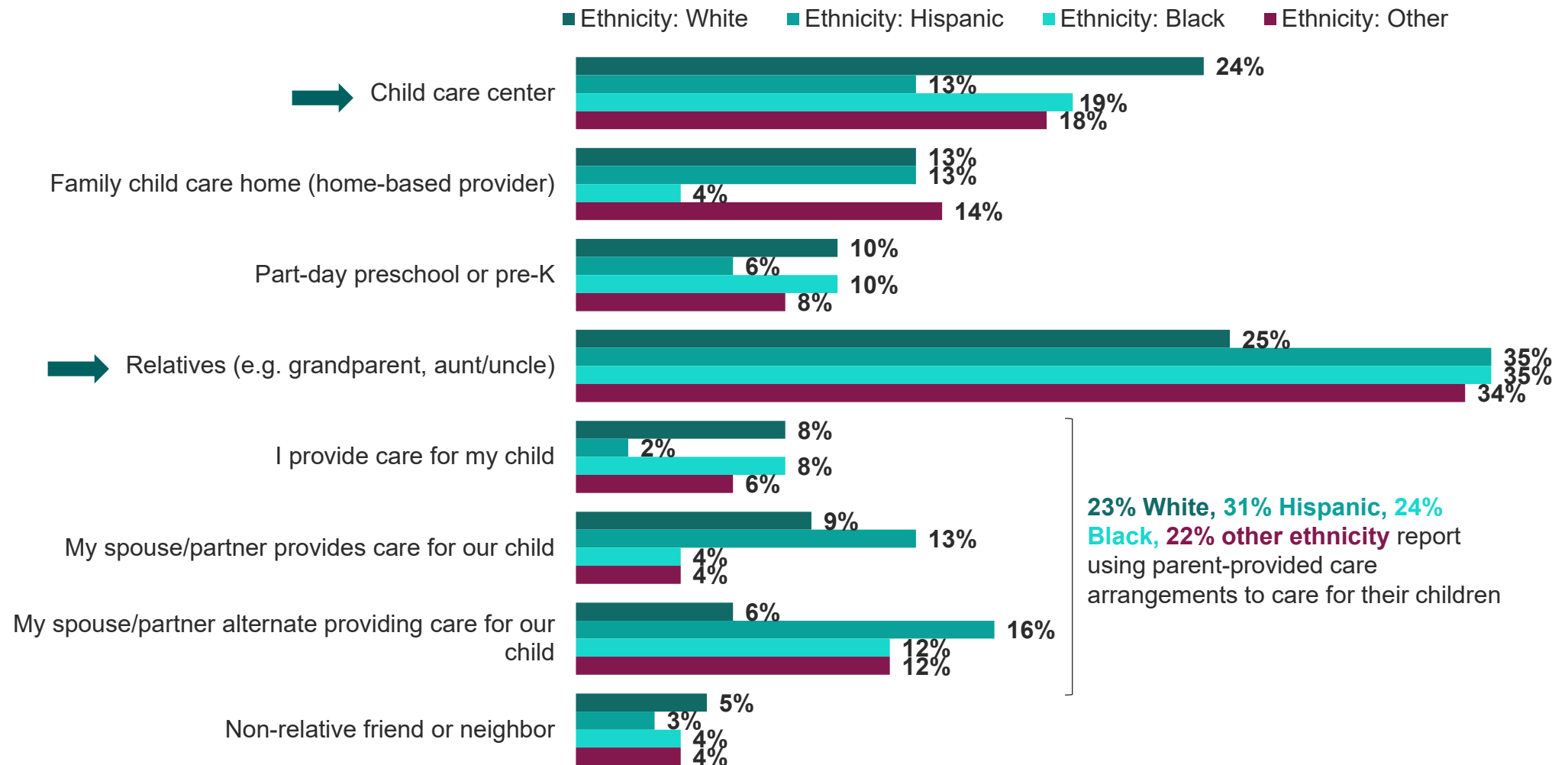


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

In comparison to parents of color, white parents are more likely to be using a child care center and less likely to be relying on relatives for their primary child care provider.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595

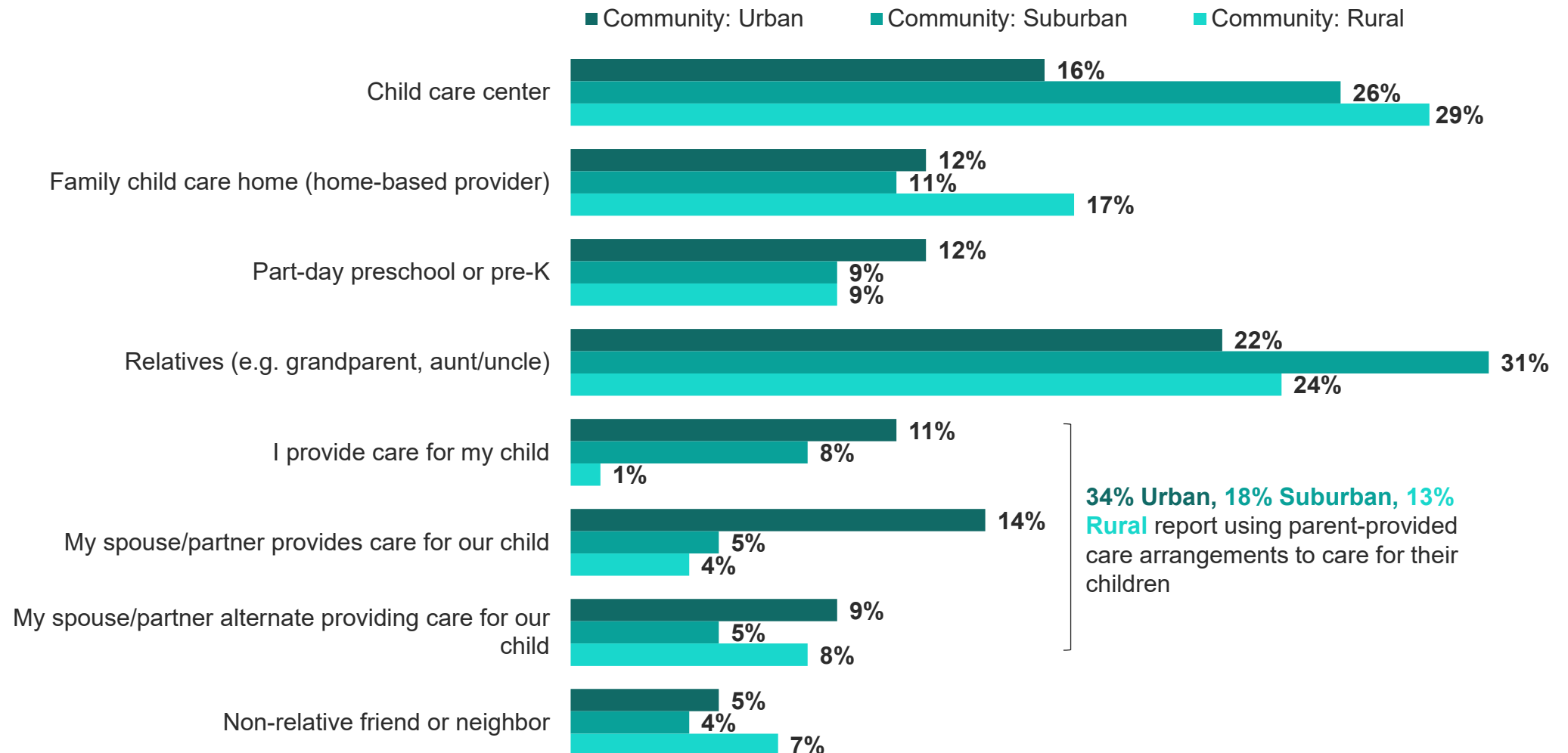


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Urban parents (34%) are more likely than suburban (18%) and rural parents (13%) to be using parent-provided care arrangements to care for their children during traditional hours.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595

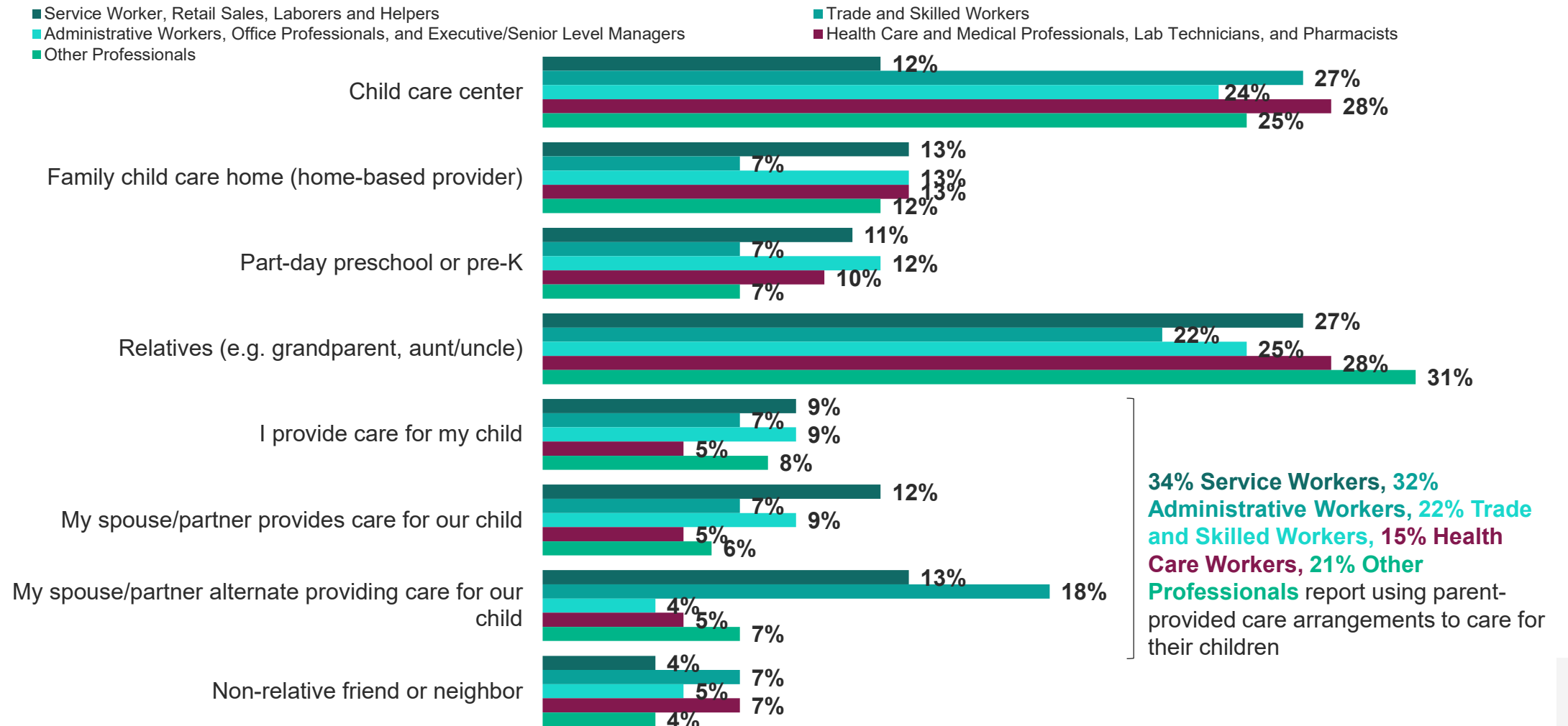


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Current care providers differs significantly across parents' job classifications. Service (34%) and administrative workers (32%) are more likely than other types of workers to currently use parent-provided care.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under 5 during traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=595



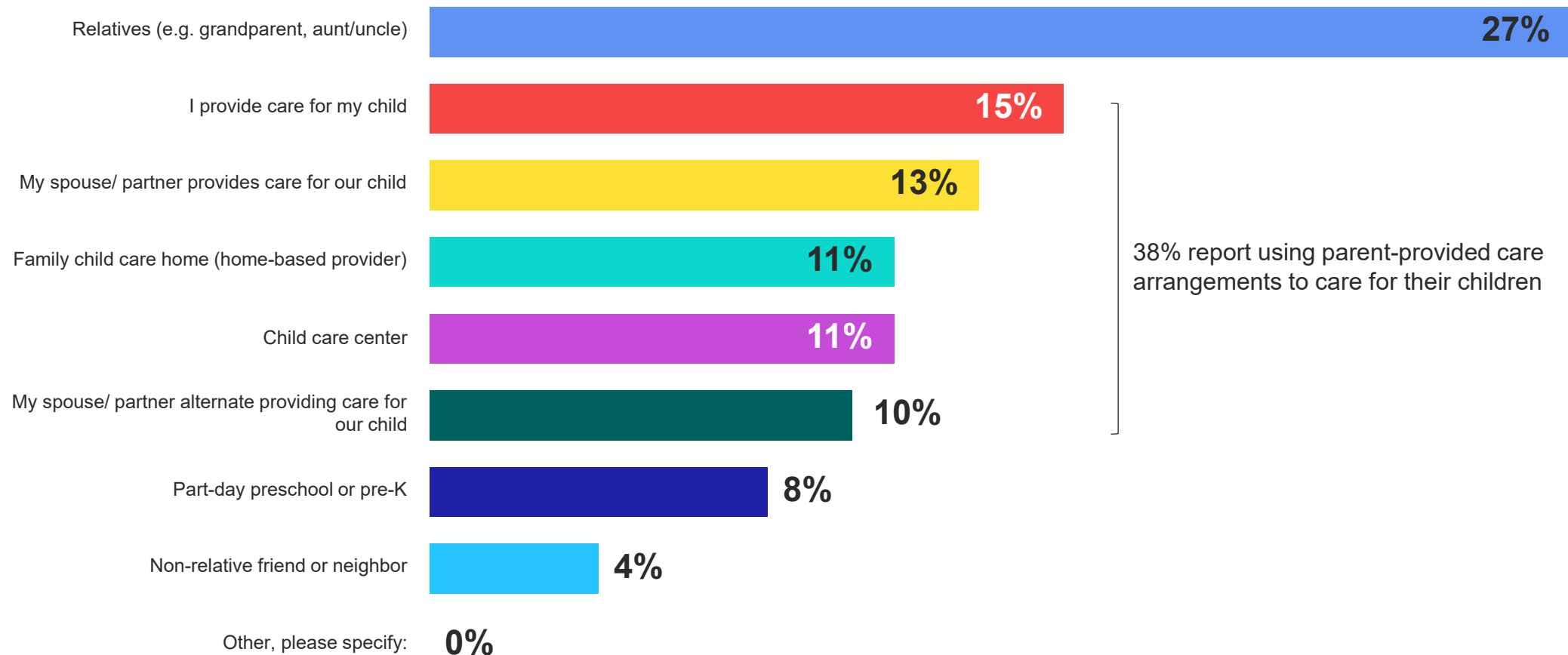


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Relatives have also been the primary care provider for 27% of parents during non-traditional work hours.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

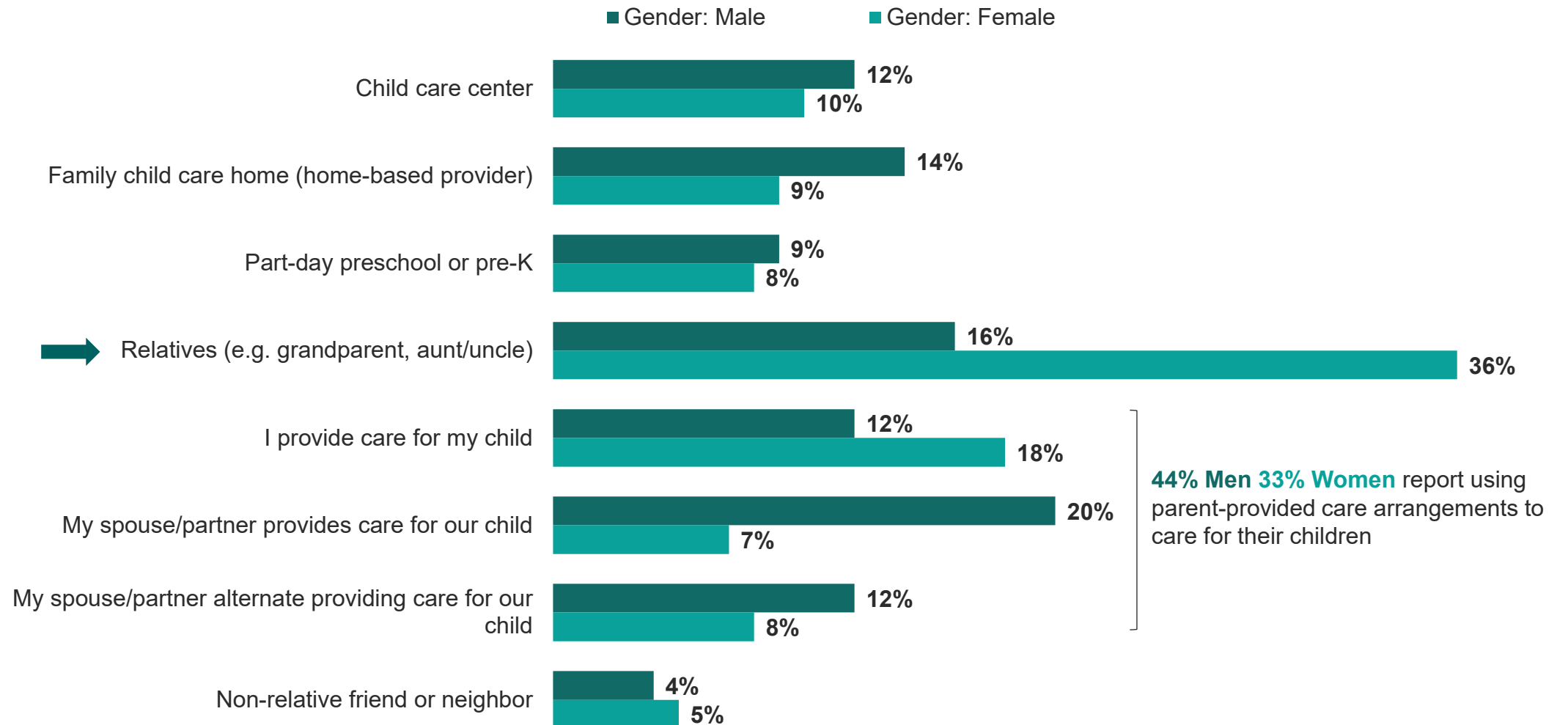


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Women are more likely than men to say relatives are currently providing care for their child during non-traditional hours (36% vs. 16%).

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

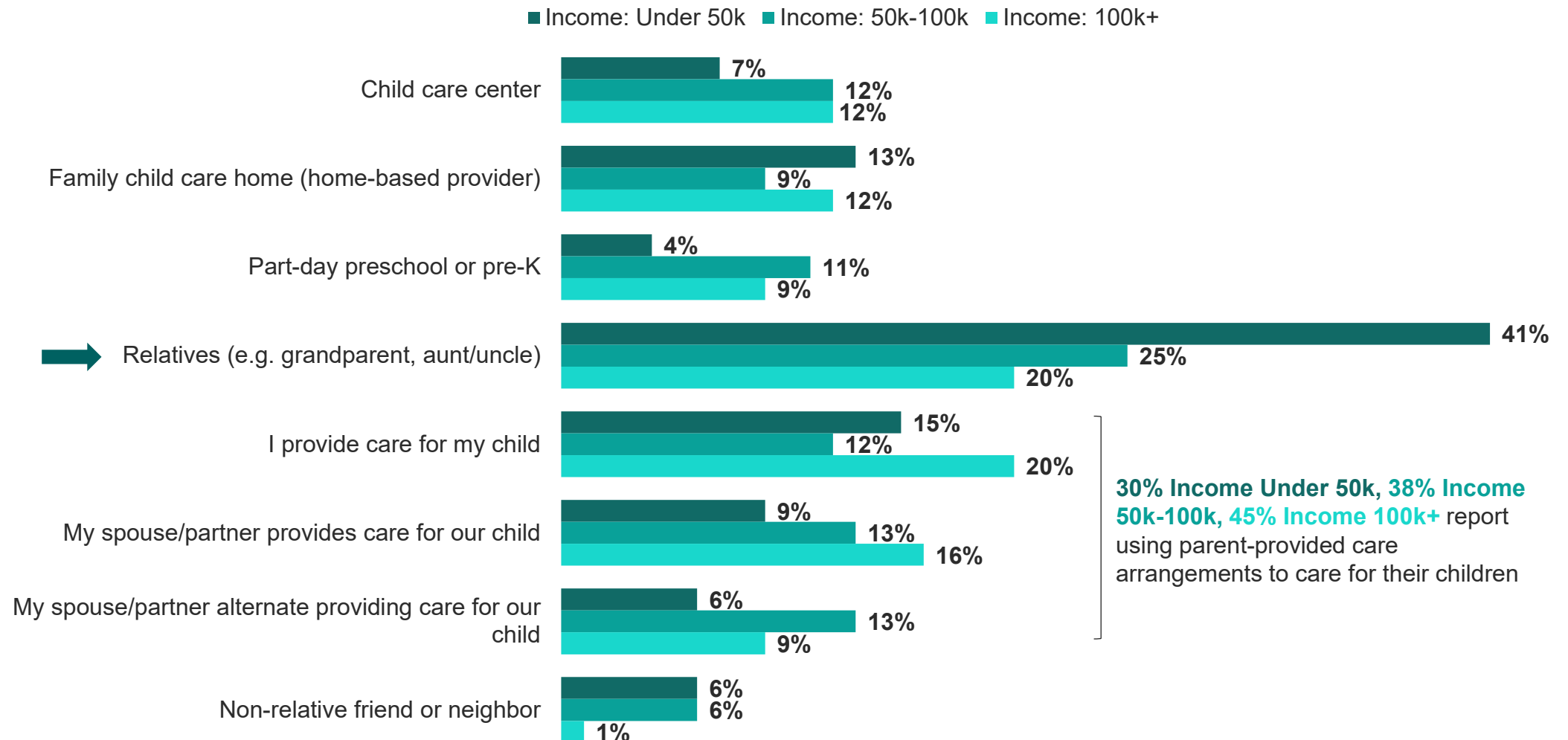


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with a lower income level are more likely to rely on relatives to provide care during non-traditional work hours.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

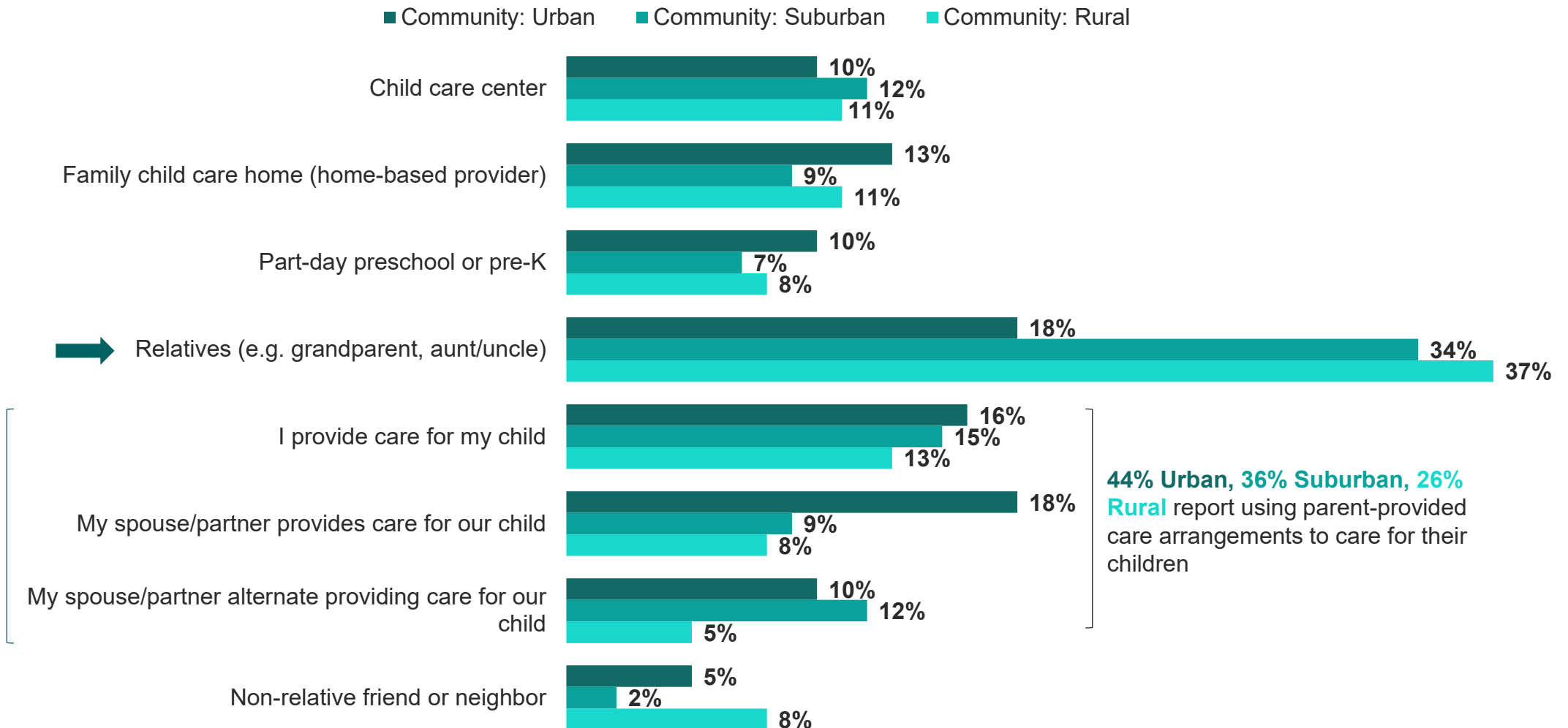


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents in suburban and rural communities are more likely to rely on their relatives to provide care during non-traditional hours, while urban parents are more likely to rely on parent-provided care.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

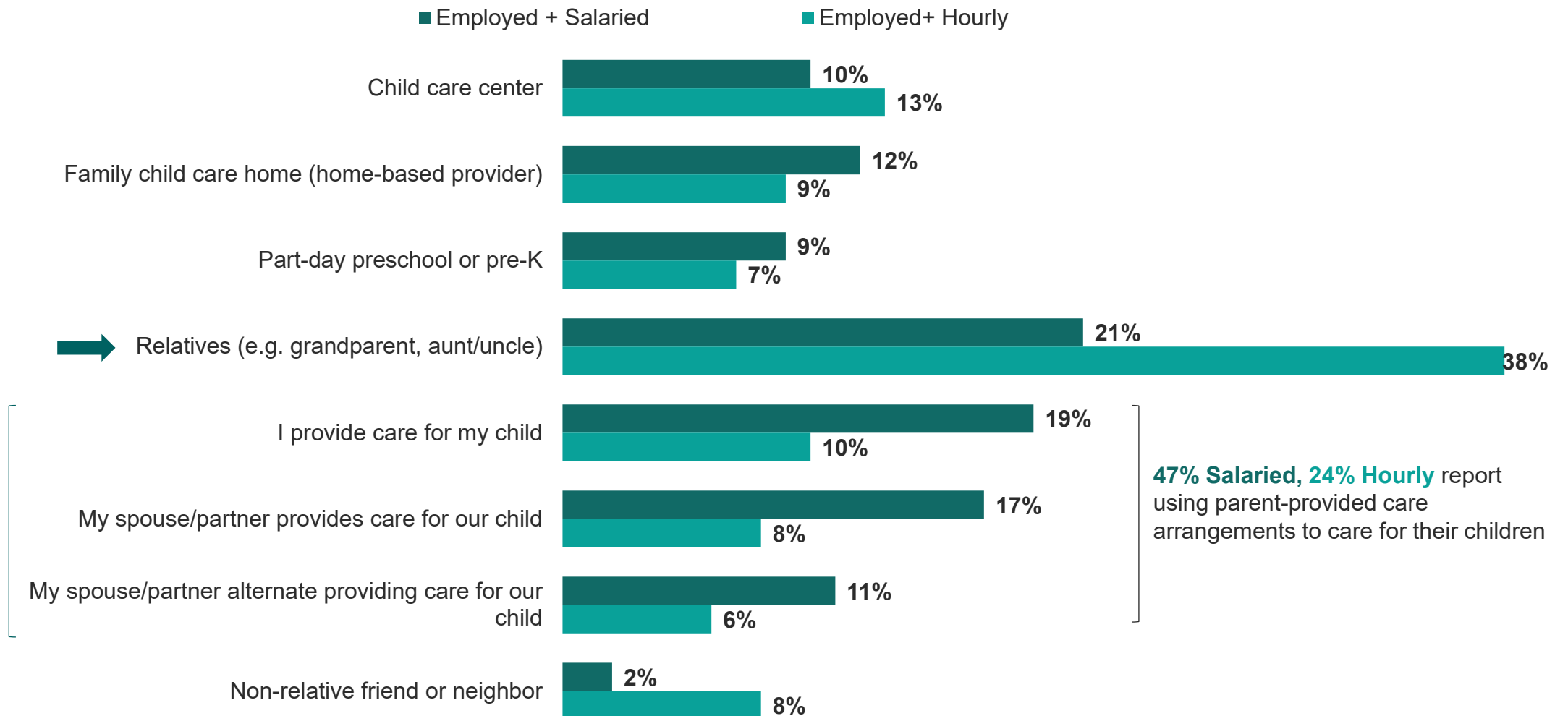


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with hourly pay are more likely to rely on relatives to provide care outside of traditional work hours, while salaried parents are more likely to use parent-provided care.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

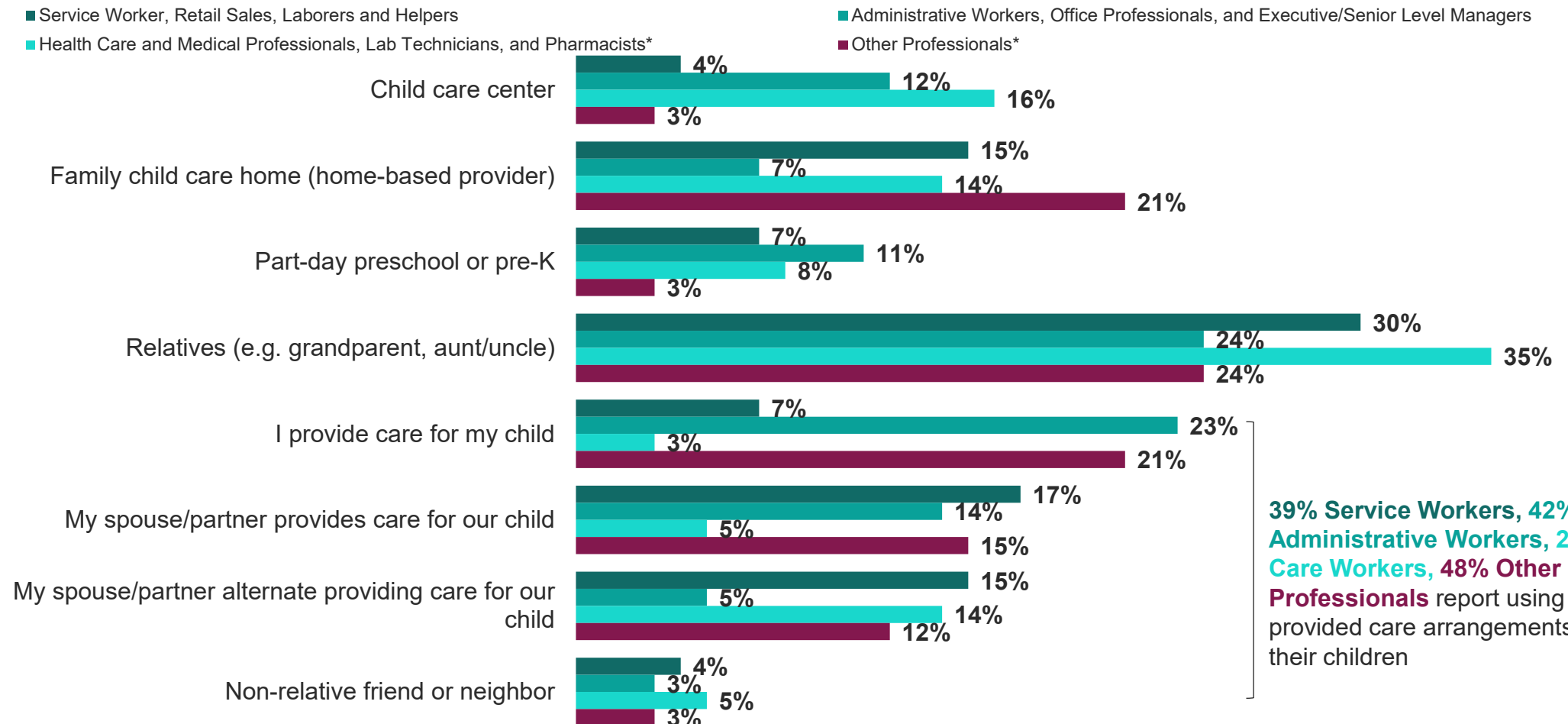


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

The type of child care used outside of traditional work hours varies across parents job classification.

What has been your primary child care arrangement for your children under age 5 outside of traditional 8am-6pm work hours?

NEEDS CHILD CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL WORK HOURS, N=229

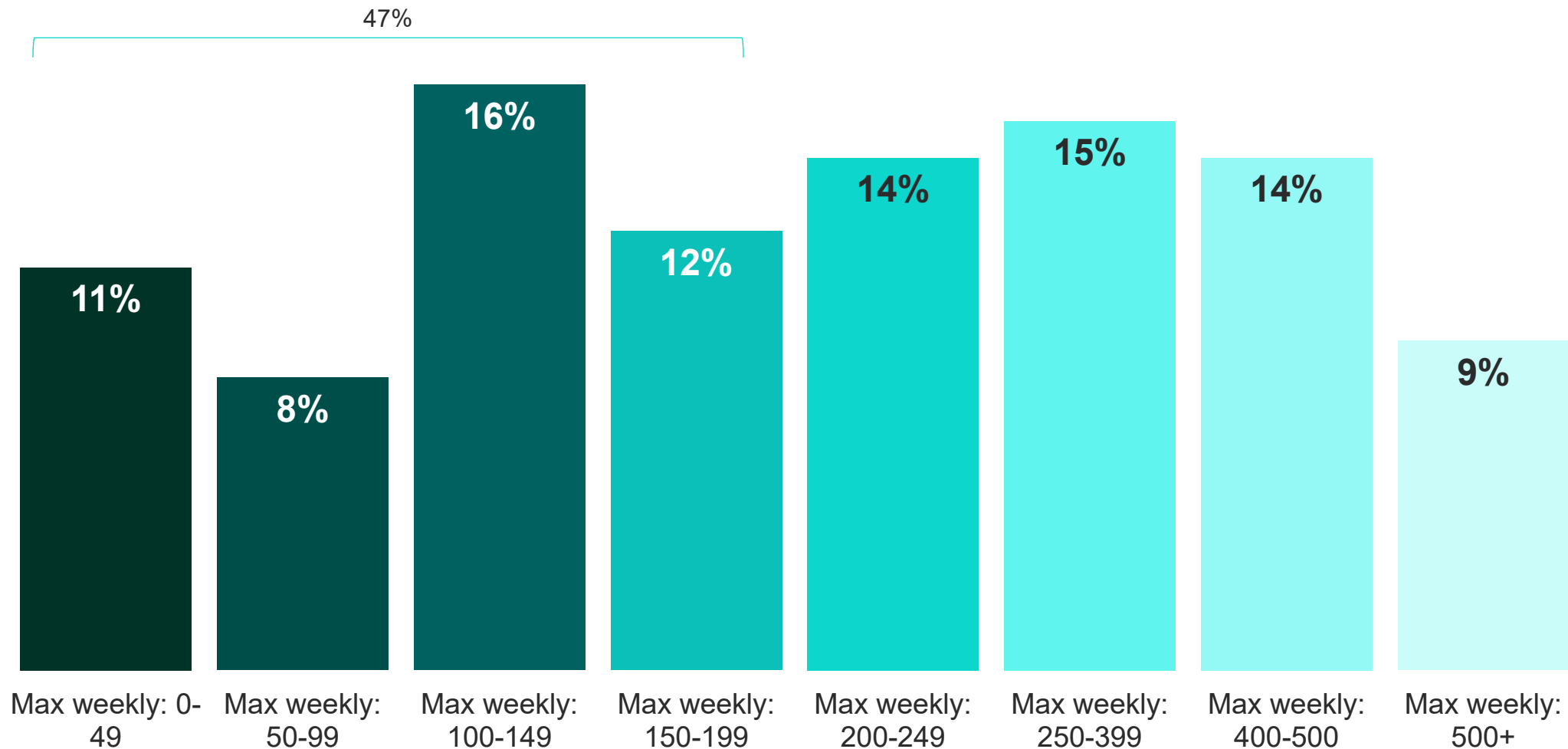


\*small n size, service worker n=46, health care workers n=37, other professionals n=34, trade workers not included n=16

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Half (47%) of parents say the maximum amount their household can afford to pay per child per week for child care is less than \$200.

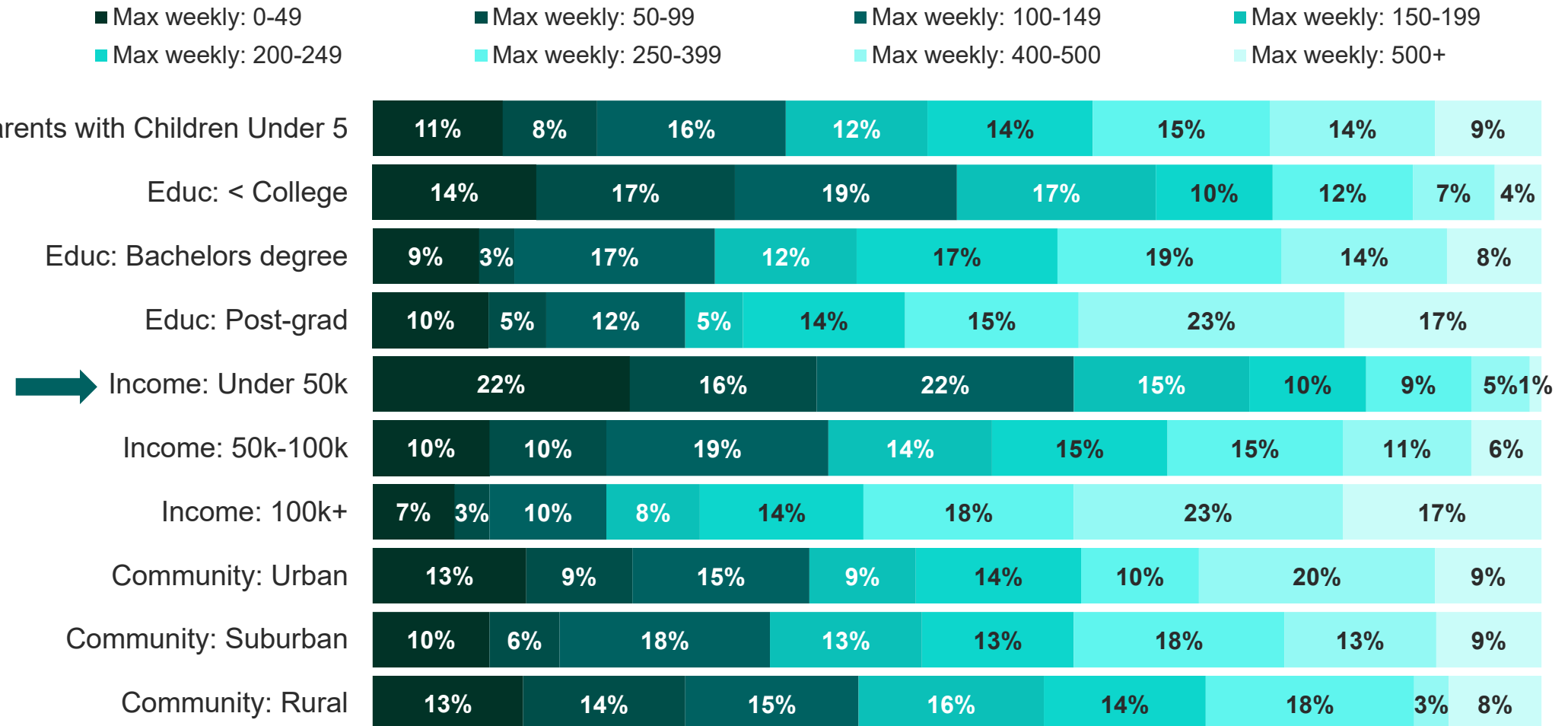
What is the maximum amount you or your household can afford to pay per child for child care **each week**?



CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Three in five parents with an income under \$50k say the max amount they can afford to pay per child for child care each week is less than \$200.

What is the maximum amount you or your household can afford to pay per child for child care **each week**?

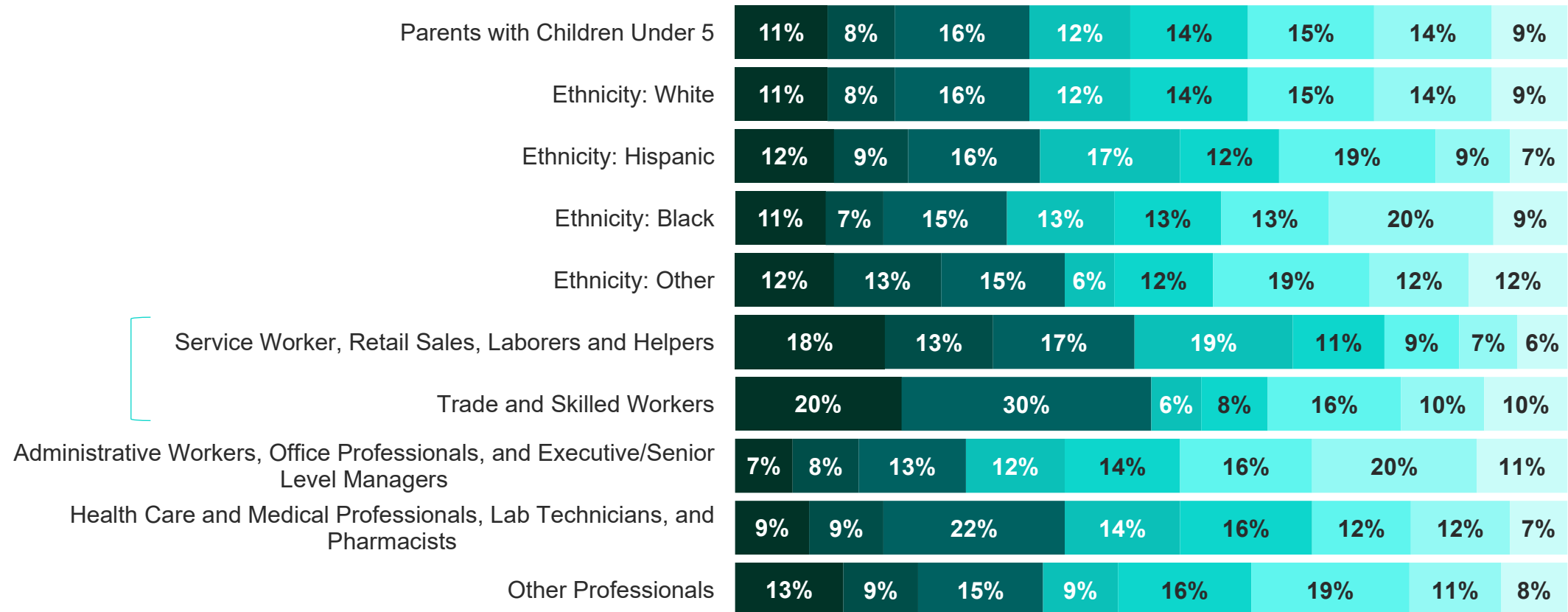




CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Service and trade workers are more likely than parents of other job classifications to say the max amount they can afford for child care is less than \$200 per week per child.

What is the maximum amount you or your household can afford to pay per child for child care **each week**?



CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents who are married/partnered can afford more for child care each week compared to single parent households.

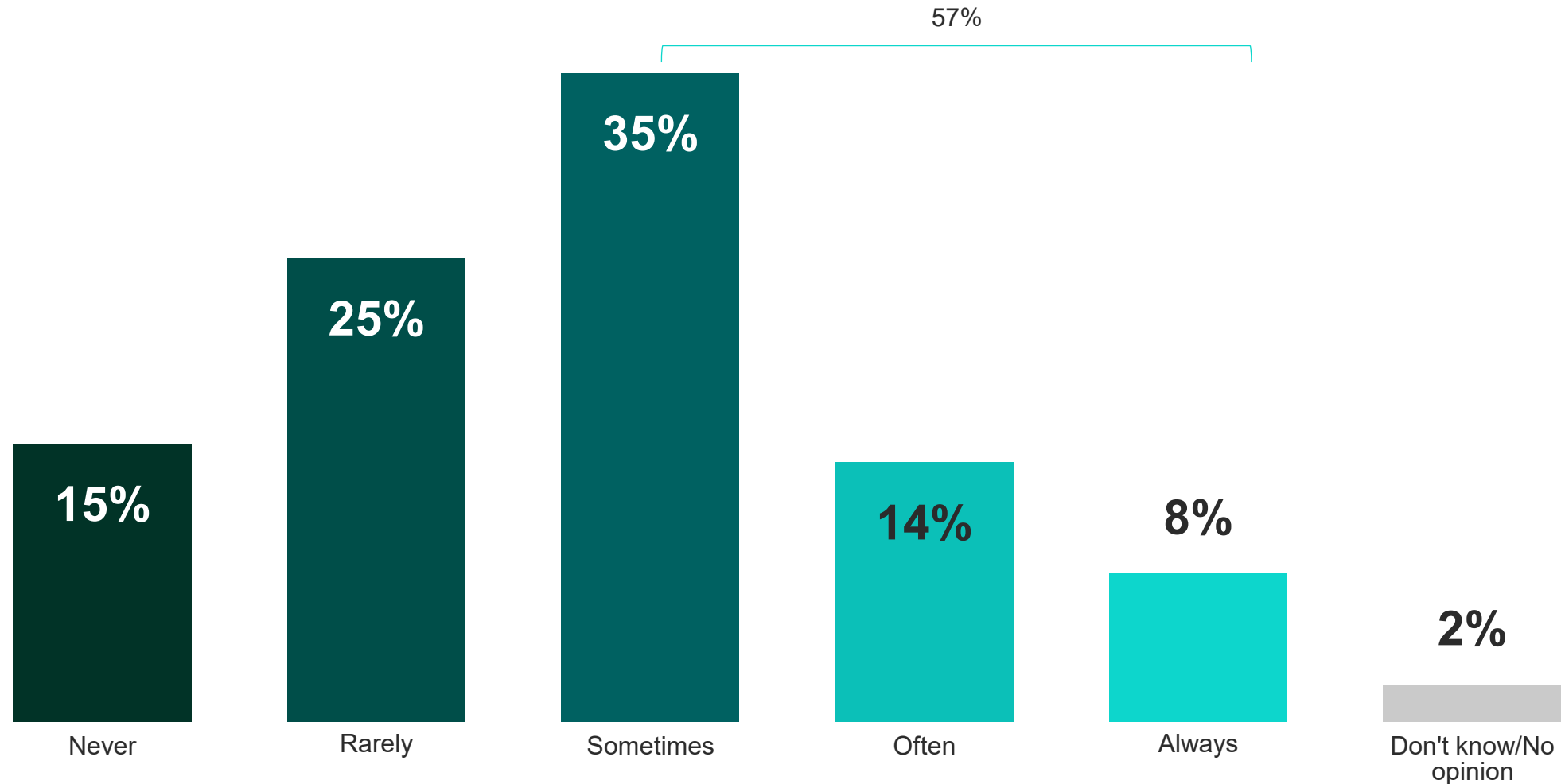
What is the maximum amount you or your household can afford to pay per child for child care **each week**?



CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

A majority of parents (57%) say child care responsibilities have impacted their ability to work over the past month.

In the past month, how frequently, if at all, has child care responsibilities impacted your ability to work or perform work-related tasks?

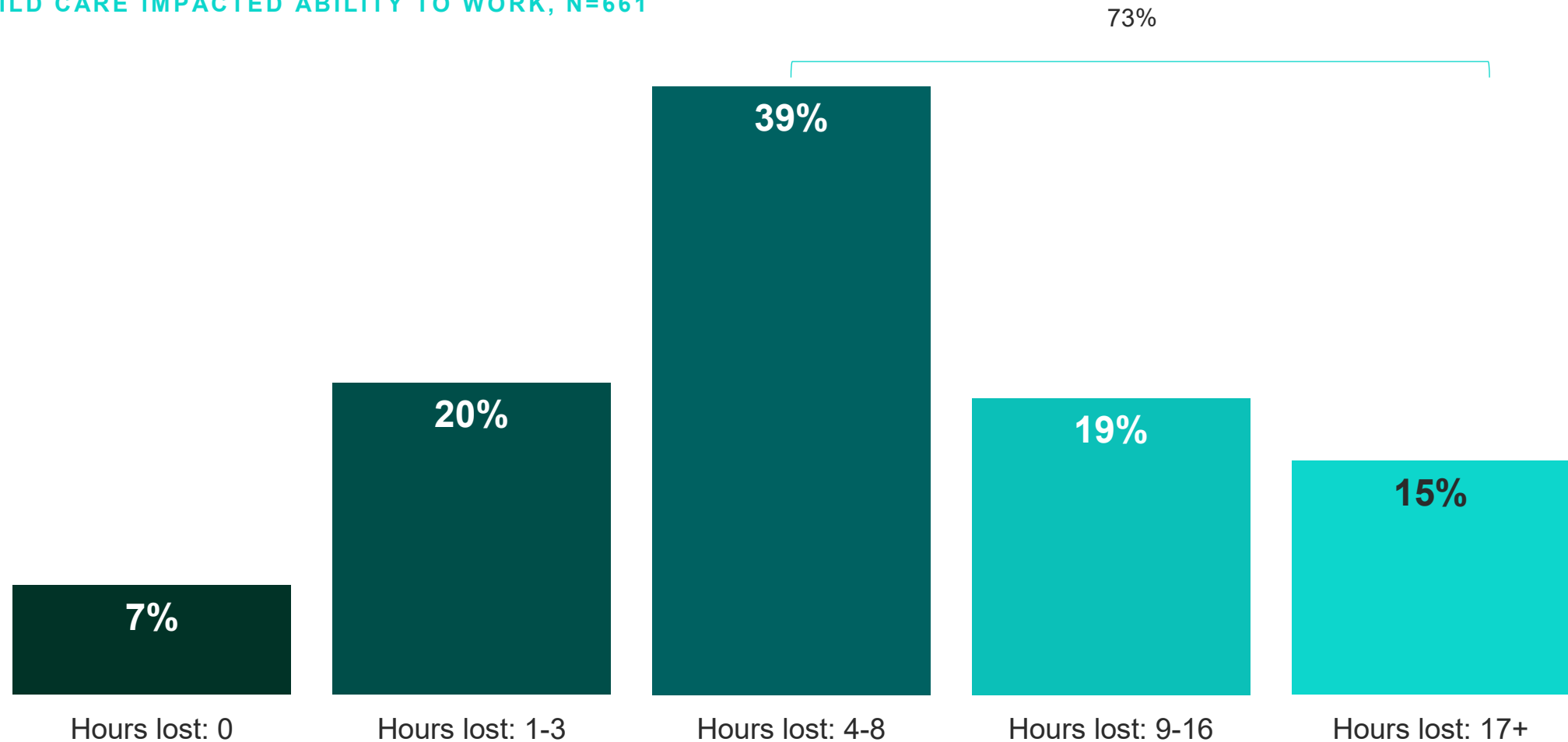


CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Three quarters of parents (73%) who say child care impacted their ability to work say they have missed over 8 hours in the last month due to child care responsibilities.

You have indicated that child care responsibilities have impacted your ability to work or perform work-related tasks. In the last month, how many work hours have you missed due to child care responsibilities?

CHILD CARE IMPACTED ABILITY TO WORK, N=661



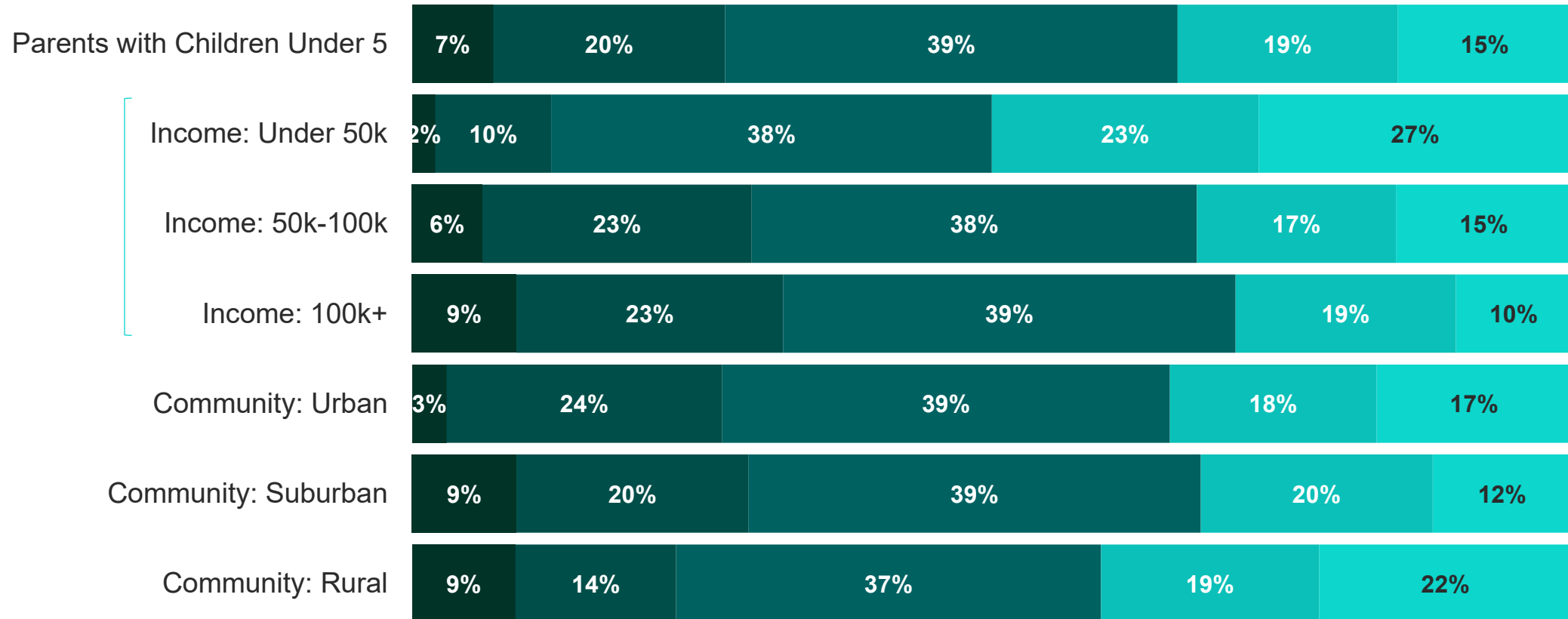
CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Parents with an income under \$50k are more likely than parents of other income levels to have been ore impacted by child care responsibilities over the past month.

You have indicated that child care responsibilities have impacted your ability to work or perform work-related tasks. In the last month, how many work hours have you missed due to child care responsibilities?

CHILD CARE IMPACTED ABILITY TO WORK, N=661

■ Hours lost: 0 ■ Hours lost: 1-3 ■ Hours lost: 4-8 ■ Hours lost: 9-16 ■ Hours lost: 17+



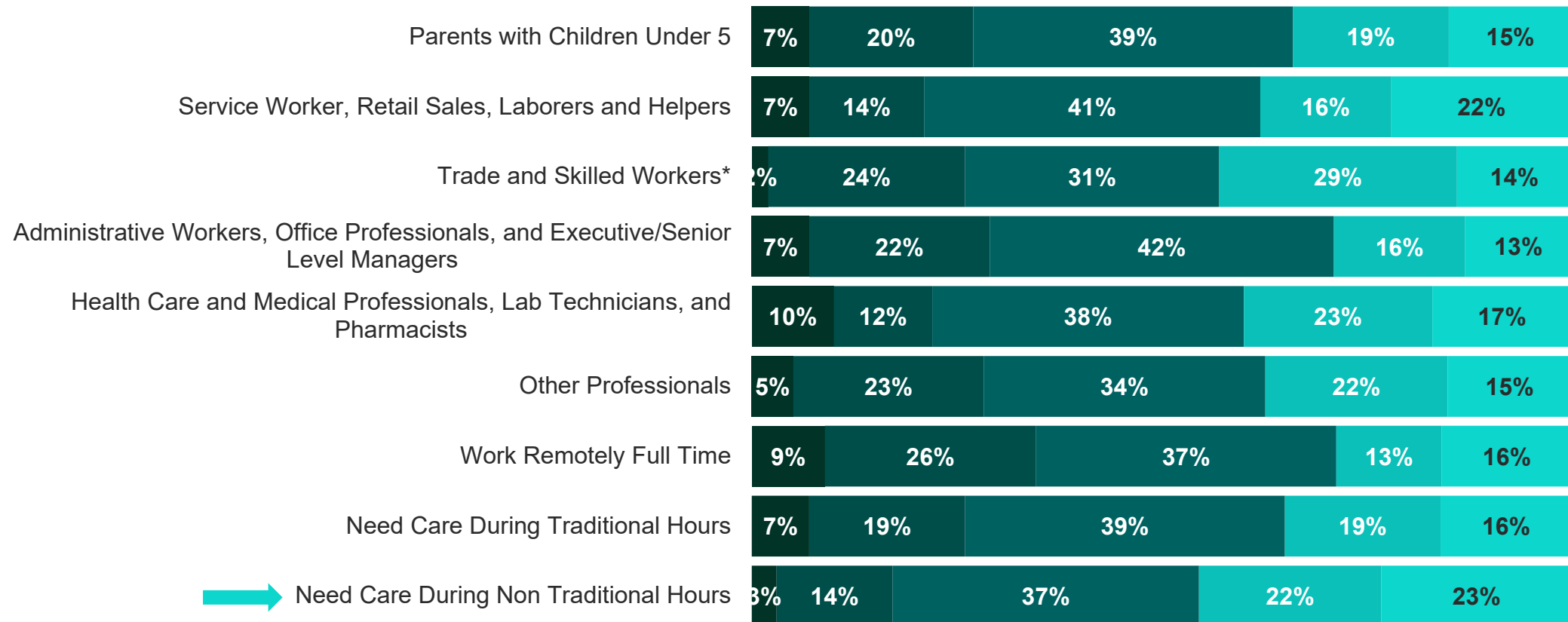
CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Nearly half (45%) of parents who need child care during non-traditional hours have missed 9+ work hours over the past month due to child care responsibilities.

You have indicated that child care responsibilities have impacted your ability to work or perform work-related tasks. In the last month, how many work hours have you missed due to child care responsibilities?

CHILD CARE IMPACTED ABILITY TO WORK, N=661

Hours lost: 0   Hours lost: 1-3   Hours lost: 4-8   Hours lost: 9-16   Hours lost: 17+



\*small n size, n=42 trade and skill workers

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## Children's Social Emotional and Behavioral Health

- 1 Two-thirds of parents say their children's overall development has negatively changed over the past month in one of the tested ways, including a quarter of parents say in the past month they have seen their children's daily eating habits (24%), ability to follow rules (24%), and amount of sleep nightly (23%) change negatively.

  - 8% say their child has been suspended or expelled from child care because of behavioral or disciplinary issues.
  - Across the tested behaviors, urban parents are more likely than suburban and rural parents to say their children's overall development has negatively changed over the past month. And, urban parents (14%) are more likely than suburban (3%) or rural parents (8%) to say their child has been suspended or expelled from child care.
- 2 Three quarters of parents (76%) would be interested in a social and emotional health consultation if made available by their primary child care arrangement.

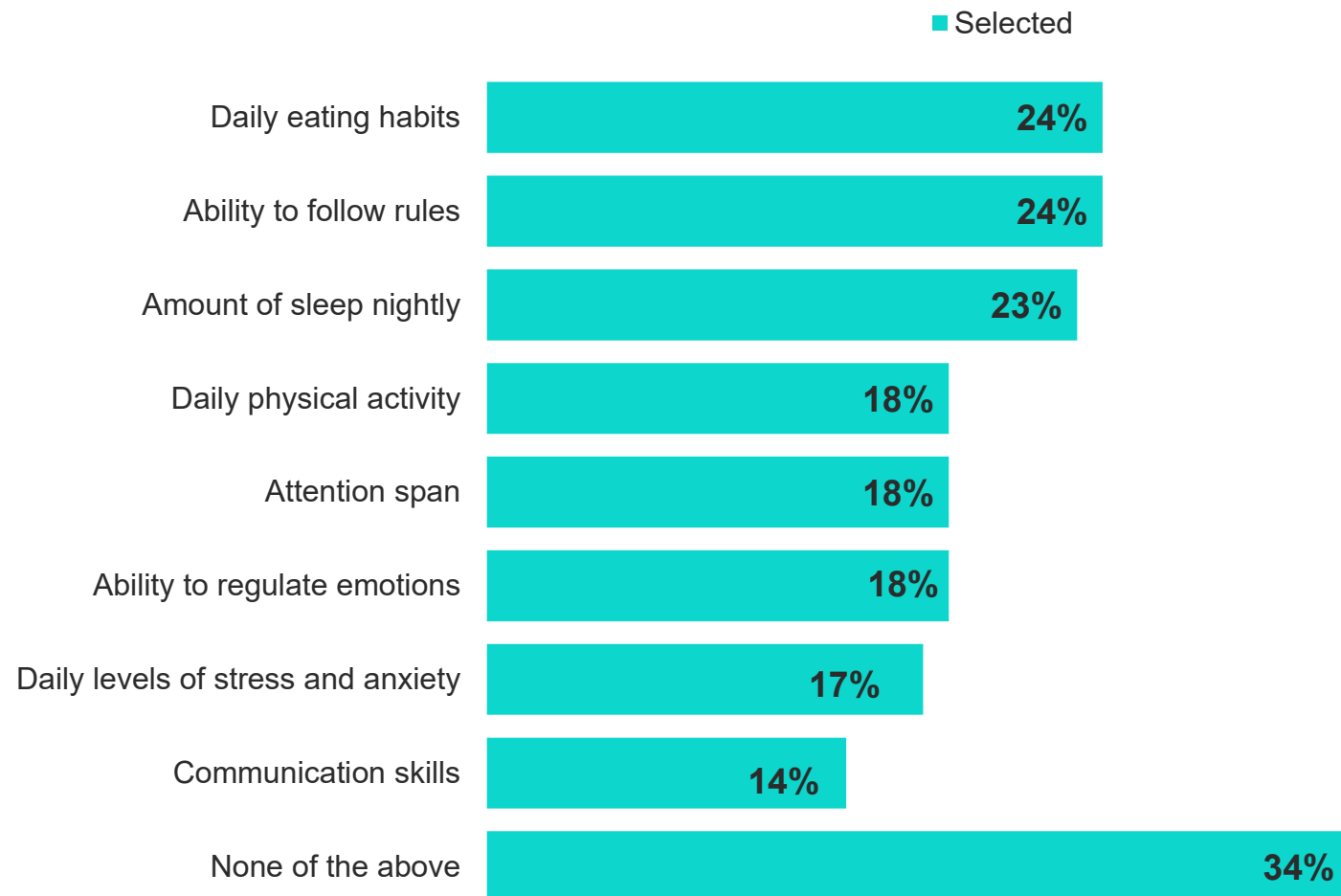
  - Parents with a higher education and income level are more likely to express strong interest in a social and emotional health consultation.
  - Urban parents (57%) are more likely than suburban (29%) and rural (24%) parents to express strong interest in this type of consultation.



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A quarter of parents say in the past month they have seen their children's daily eating habits (24%), ability to follow rules (24%), and amount of sleep nightly (23%) change negatively.

Thinking about the past month, which of the following aspects of your children's overall development has negatively changed? Please select all that apply.



## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Higher income parents are slightly more likely to say their children's amount of sleep, attention span, and communication skills have negatively changed over the past month.

Thinking about the past month, which of the following aspects of your children's overall development has negatively changed? Please select all that apply.

	Parents with Children Under 5	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other
Daily eating habits	24%	25%	25%	22%	23%	27%	31%	29%
Daily physical activity	18%	16%	17%	19%	17%	19%	22%	20%
Amount of sleep nightly	23%	21%	23%	25%	23%	24%	22%	24%
Daily levels of stress and anxiety	17%	16%	18%	17%	18%	15%	19%	12%
Attention span	18%	15%	18%	20%	18%	21%	18%	23%
Communication skills	14%	12%	13%	18%	14%	17%	21%	16%
Ability to follow rules	24%	25%	25%	24%	25%	26%	18%	23%
Ability to regulate emotions	18%	17%	18%	19%	19%	20%	18%	9%

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Across the tested behaviors, urban parents are more likely than suburban and rural parents to say their children's overall development has negatively changed over the past month.

Thinking about the past month, which of the following aspects of your children's overall development has negatively changed? Please select all that apply.

	Parents with Children Under 5	Community: Urban	Community: Suburban	Community: Rural	Youngest Child Age: Under 1 year	Youngest Child Age: 1	Youngest Child Age: 2	Youngest Child Age: 3	Youngest Child Age: 4
Daily eating habits	24%	33%	20%	16%	9%	26%	28%	25%	23%
Daily physical activity	18%	21%	17%	13%	14%	13%	20%	18%	22%
Amount of sleep nightly	23%	27%	22%	21%	17%	25%	29%	22%	18%
Daily levels of stress and anxiety	17%	18%	17%	17%	14%	16%	18%	19%	18%
Attention span	18%	18%	20%	14%	15%	19%	18%	18%	20%
Communication skills	14%	21%	11%	10%	13%	12%	17%	13%	17%
Ability to follow rules	24%	25%	23%	28%	24%	21%	27%	26%	23%
Ability to regulate emotions	18%	19%	17%	19%	24%	17%	18%	16%	19%

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Across the tested behaviors, parents who need care during non-traditional hours are more likely than parents who need care during traditional hours to say their children's overall development has negatively changed over the past month.

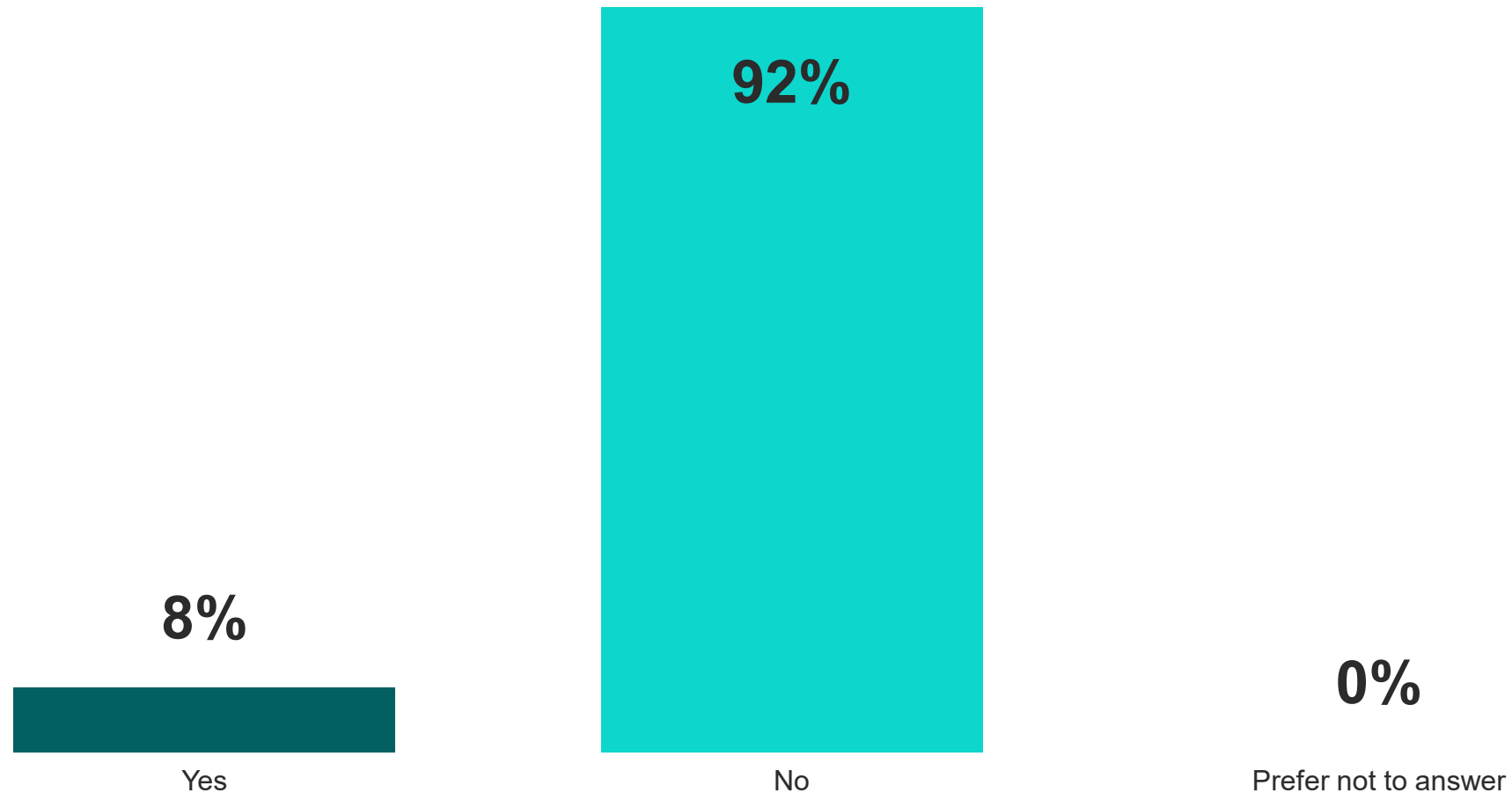
Thinking about the past month, which of the following aspects of your children's overall development has negatively changed? Please select all that apply.

	Parents with Children Under 5	Service Worker, Retail Sales, Laborers and Helpers	Trade and Skilled Workers	Administrative Workers, Office Professionals, and Executive/Senior Level Managers	Health Care and Medical Professionals, Lab Technicians, and Pharmacists	Other Professionals	Need Care During Traditional Hours	Need Care During Non Traditional Hours
Daily eating habits	24%	27%	30%	25%	24%	18%	25%	33%
Daily physical activity	18%	20%	12%	17%	21%	17%	16%	27%
Amount of sleep nightly	23%	20%	23%	23%	28%	24%	24%	31%
Daily levels of stress and anxiety	17%	16%	15%	19%	15%	17%	17%	21%
Attention span	18%	16%	10%	19%	25%	18%	19%	29%
Communication skills	14%	10%	8%	15%	22%	15%	15%	22%
Ability to follow rules	24%	24%	35%	24%	28%	20%	25%	31%
Ability to regulate emotions	18%	14%	17%	20%	19%	17%	19%	22%

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Eight (8% ) percent of parents say their child has been suspended or expelled from child care because of behavioral or disciplinary issues.

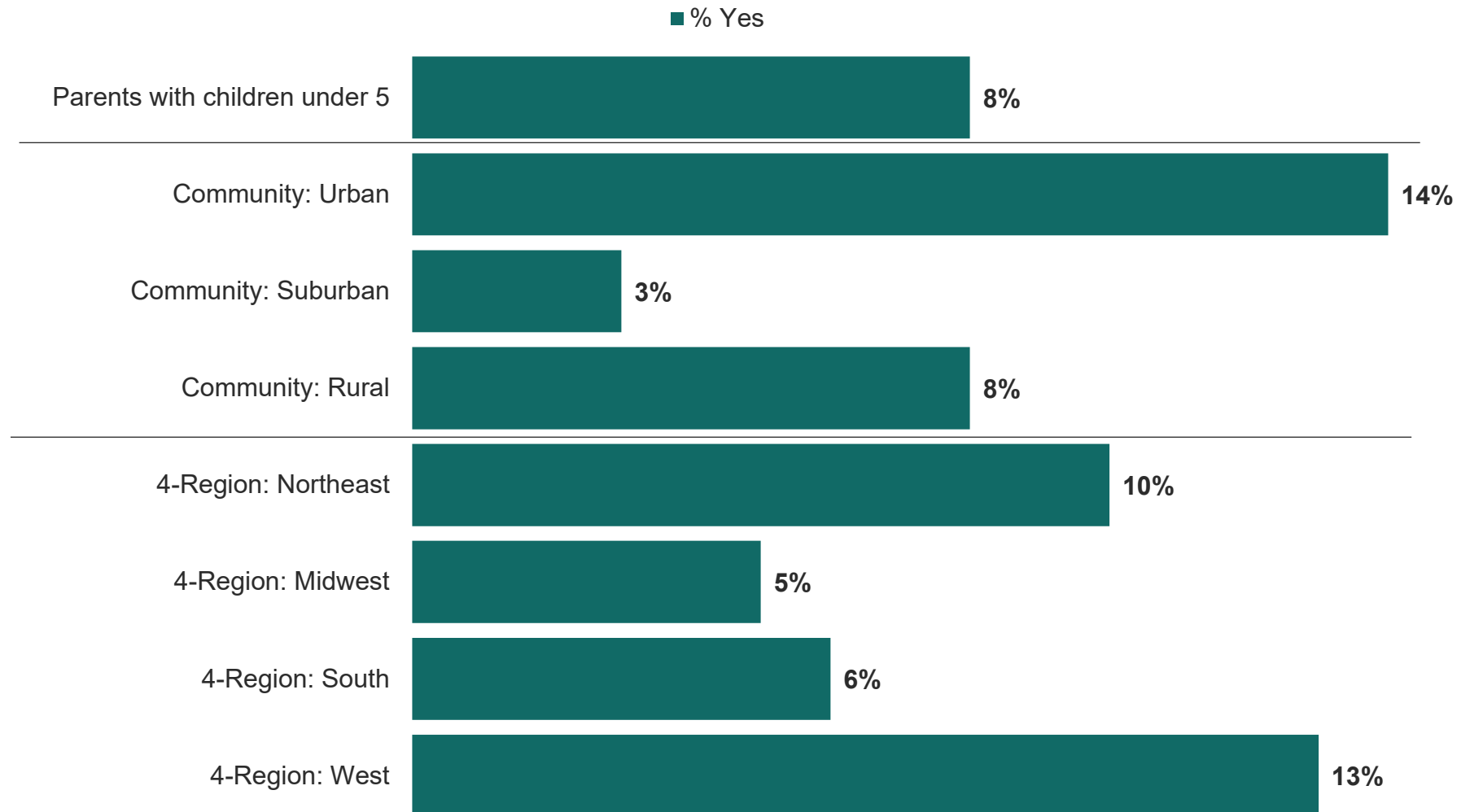
Has your child under age 5 ever been suspended or expelled from child care because of behavioral or disciplinary issues?



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Urban parents (14%) are more likely than suburban (3%) or rural parents (8%) to say their child has been suspended or expelled from child care.

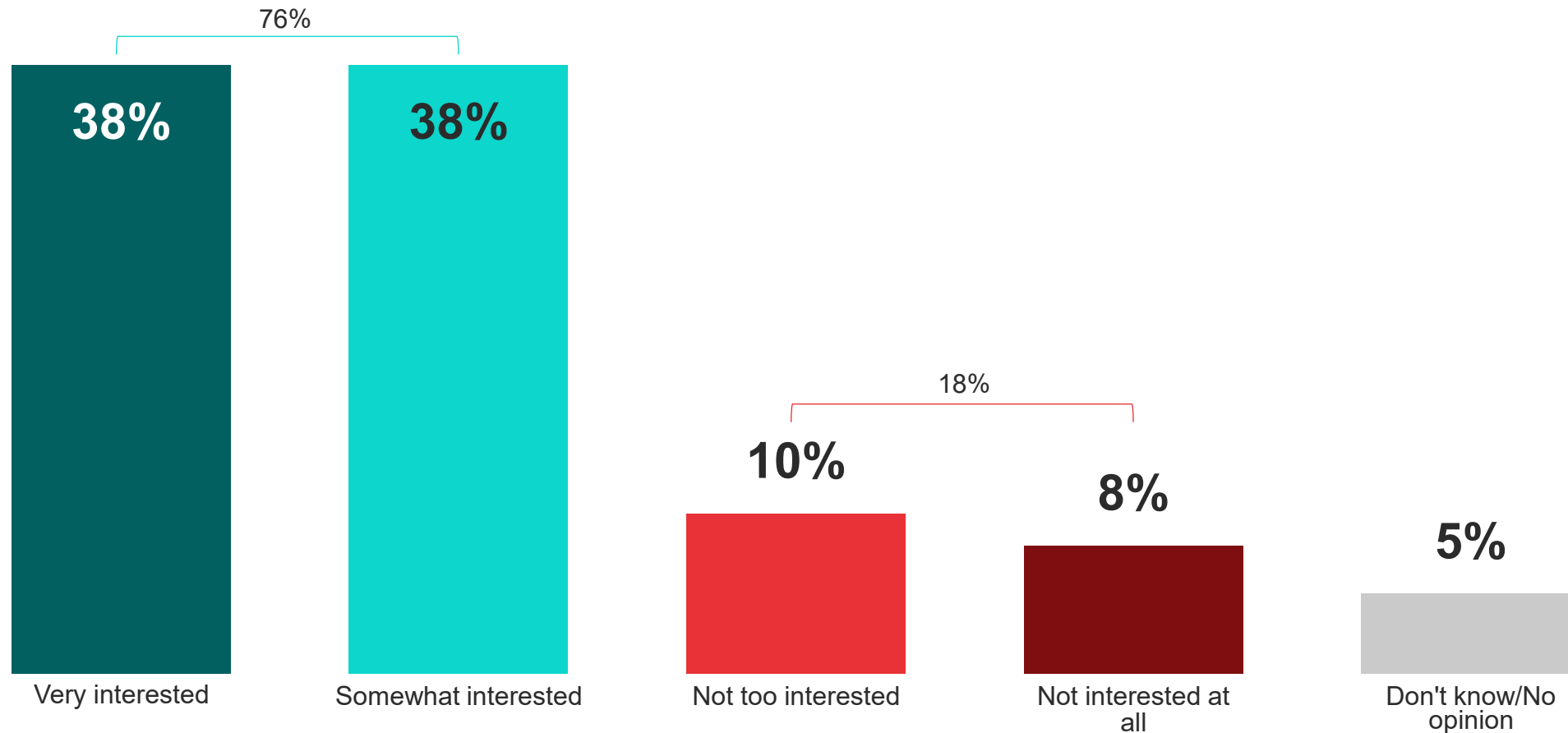
Has your child under age 5 ever been suspended or expelled from child care because of behavioral or disciplinary issues?



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Three quarters of parents (76%) would be interested in a social and emotional health consultation if made available by their primary child care arrangement.

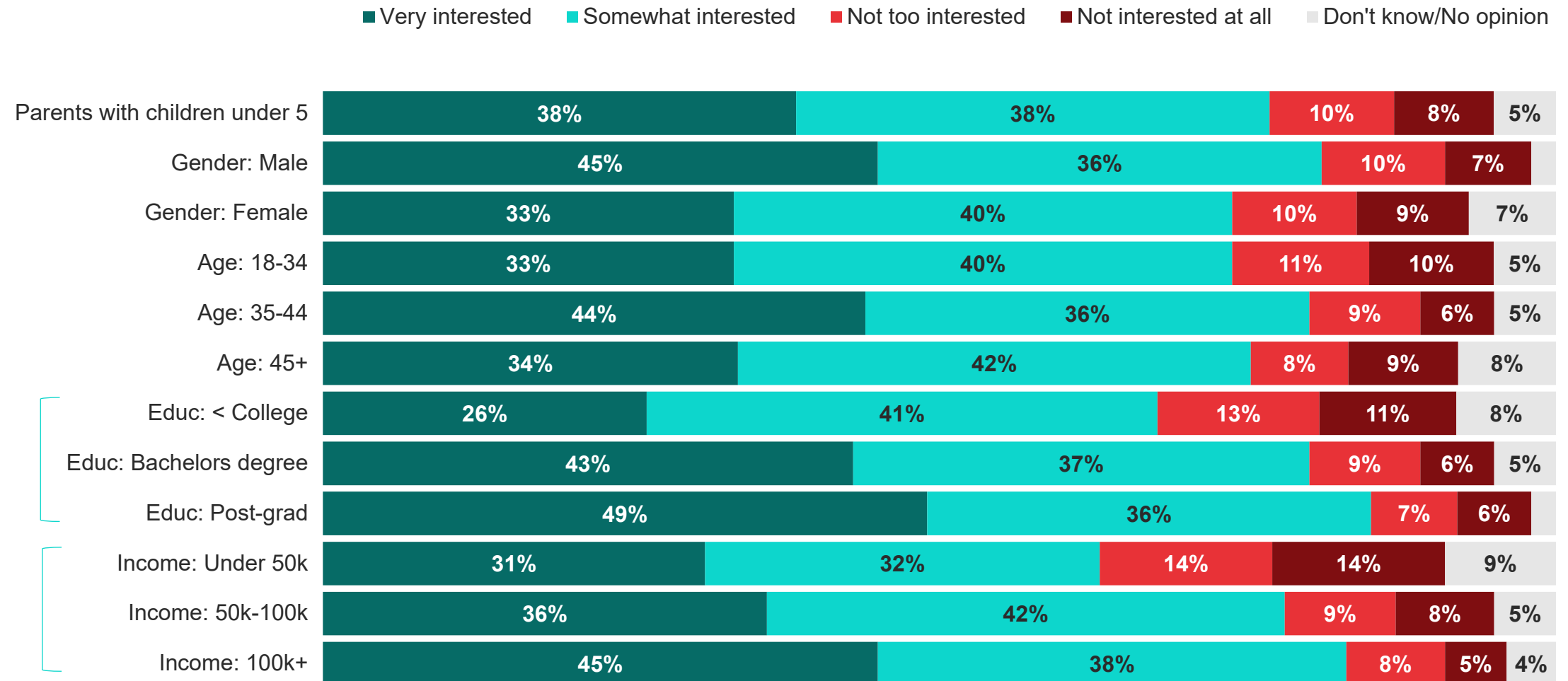
Social and emotional health consultants promote healthy growth in young children's social and emotional development by guiding and supporting the caregivers and parents in the child's life to recognize, understand, and support social and emotional development. **How interested, if at all, would you be in a social and emotional health consultation if it was made available to you by your primary child care arrangement?**



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Parents with a higher education and income level are more likely to express strong interest in a social and emotional health consultation.

How interested, if at all, would you be in a social and emotional health consultation if it was made available to you by your primary child care arrangement?

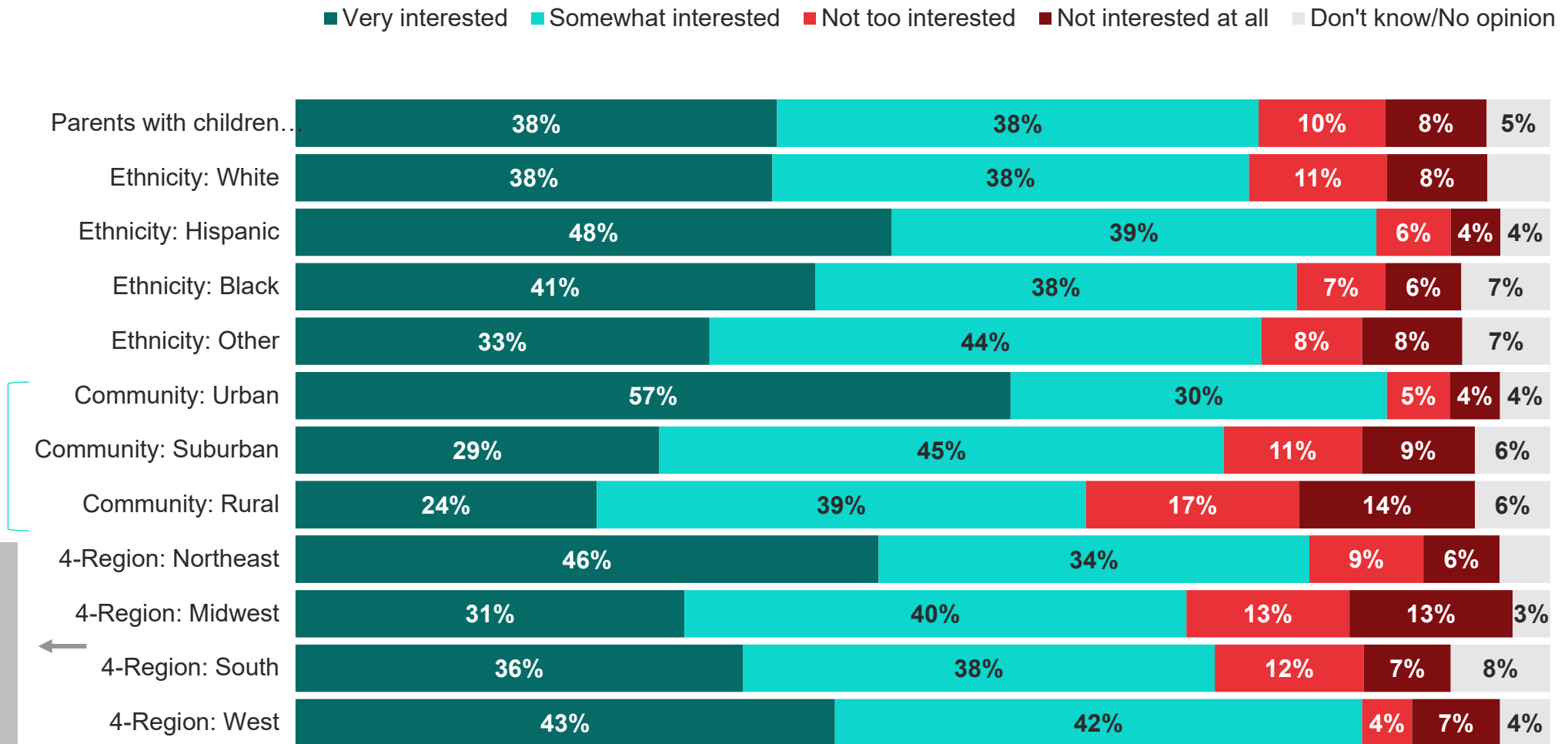




CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Urban parents (57%) are more likely than suburban (29%) and rural (24%) parents to express strong interest in this type of consultation.

How interested, if at all, would you be in a social and emotional health consultation if it was made available to you by your primary child care arrangement?



Parents in the Northeast (46%) and West (43%) region are more likely to express strong interest compared to parents in the Midwest (31%) and South (31%) region

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## Financial Supports for Child Care

- 1** Adults are more likely to say that they have received federal tax credit for their child care expenses than say they have received help from grandparents or other family members

  - A majority (80%) of parents say they have not received help paying for child care from grandparents or other family members.
  - Parents are split on whether they have (42%) or have not (51%) received a federal tax credit for their child care expenses.
- 2** There is a lack of awareness among parents around the type of federal financial support they can receive for child care.

  - Among parents that have not received federal credit for their child care expenses, a plurality say it is because they were not aware that they could (24%).
  - Parents are divided on whether or not they say they are (52%) or not aware (48%) that they can claim more of their child care expenses on their 2021 taxes.
- 3** Parents are divided on their preferences around how they would want to receive financial support, but clear on the cadence.

  - Parents are divided on whether they would most prefer to receive financial support for their child care expenses via tax refunds (39%) or both government subsidies and tax refunds (39%).
  - Two thirds (66%) of parents who would prefer to receive financial support for their child care expenses say they would prefer periodic reimbursement (monthly) throughout the year.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

A majority (80%) of parents say they have not received help paying for child care from grandparents or other family members.

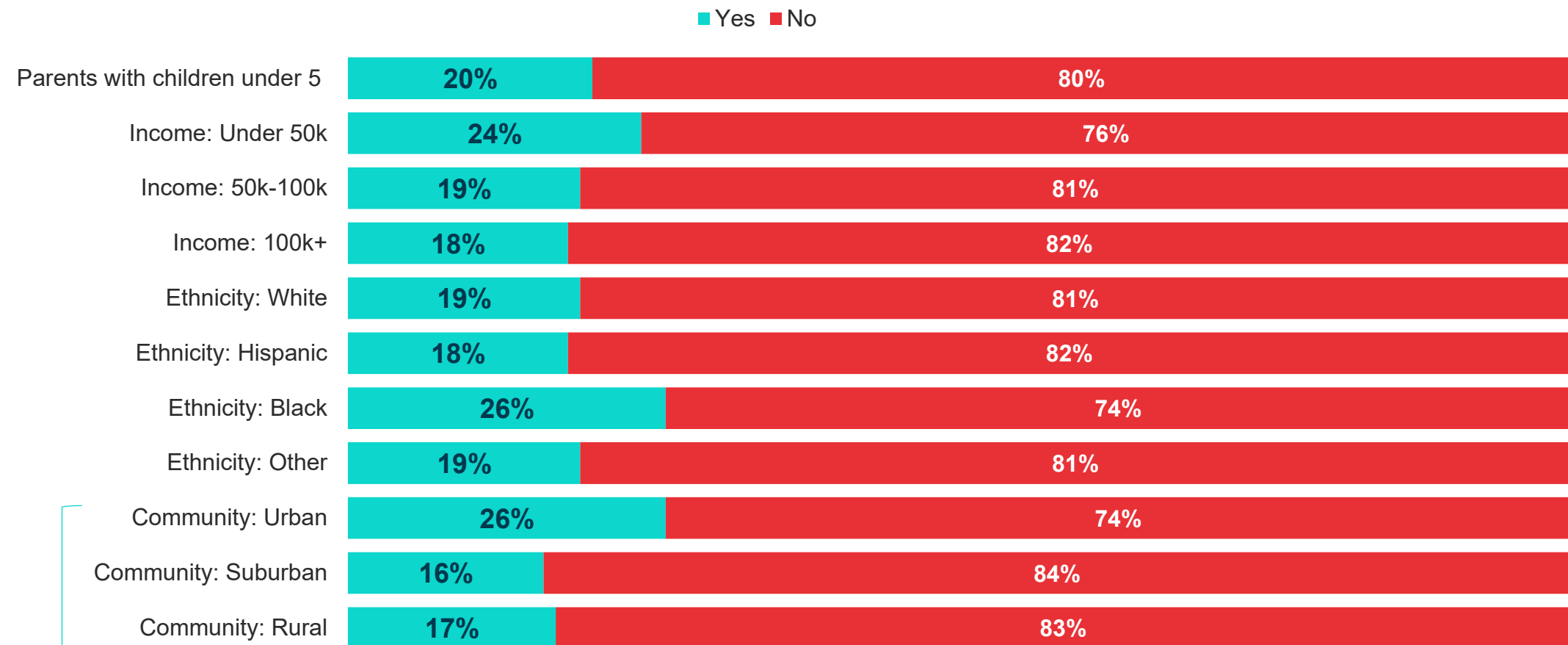
Have you received help paying for child care from grandparents or other family members?



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Urban parents (26%) are more likely than suburban (16%) and rural (17%) parents to say they received help paying for their child care from grandparents or other family members.

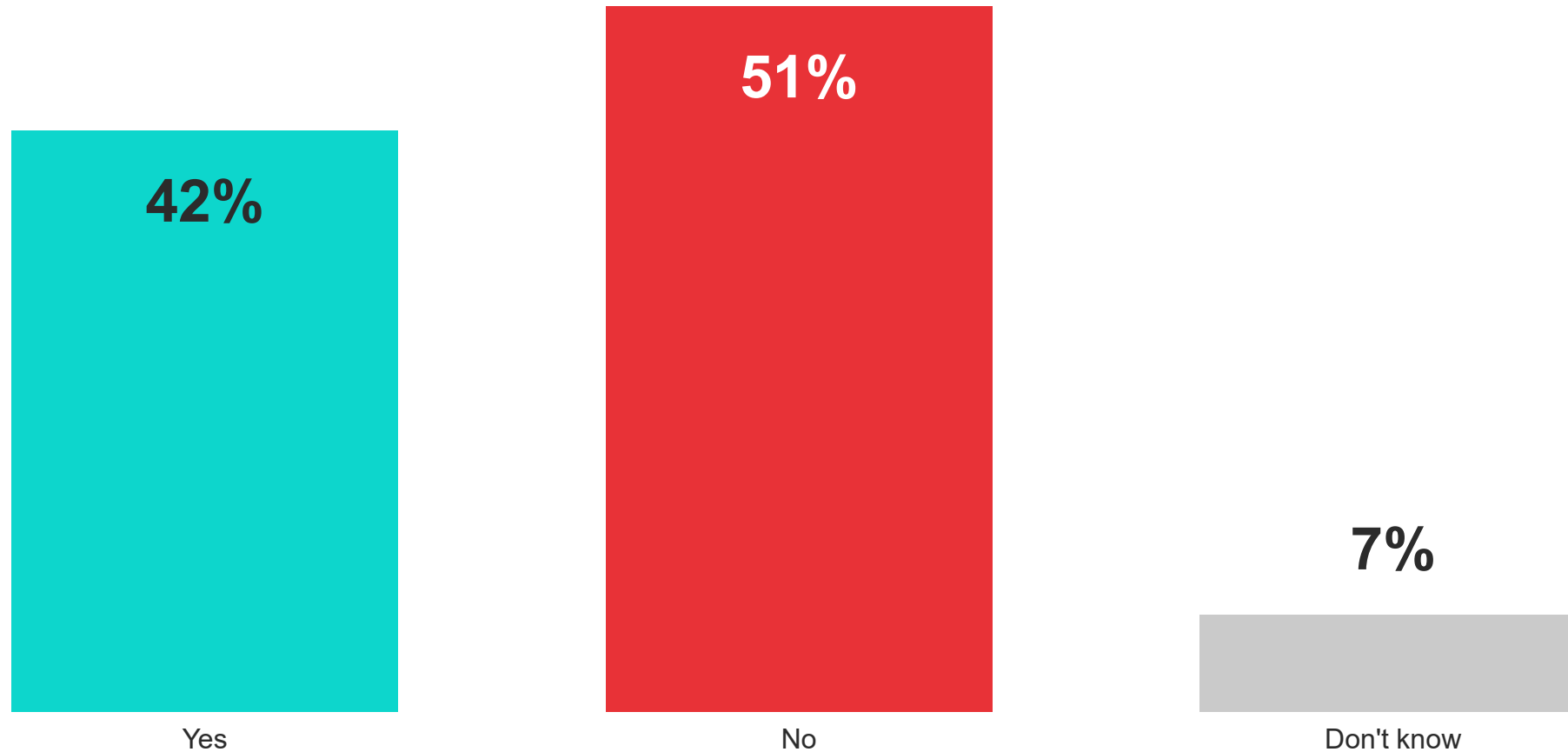
Have you received help paying for child care from grandparents or other family members?



## FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Parents are split on whether they have (42%) or have not (51%) received a federal tax credit for their child care expenses.

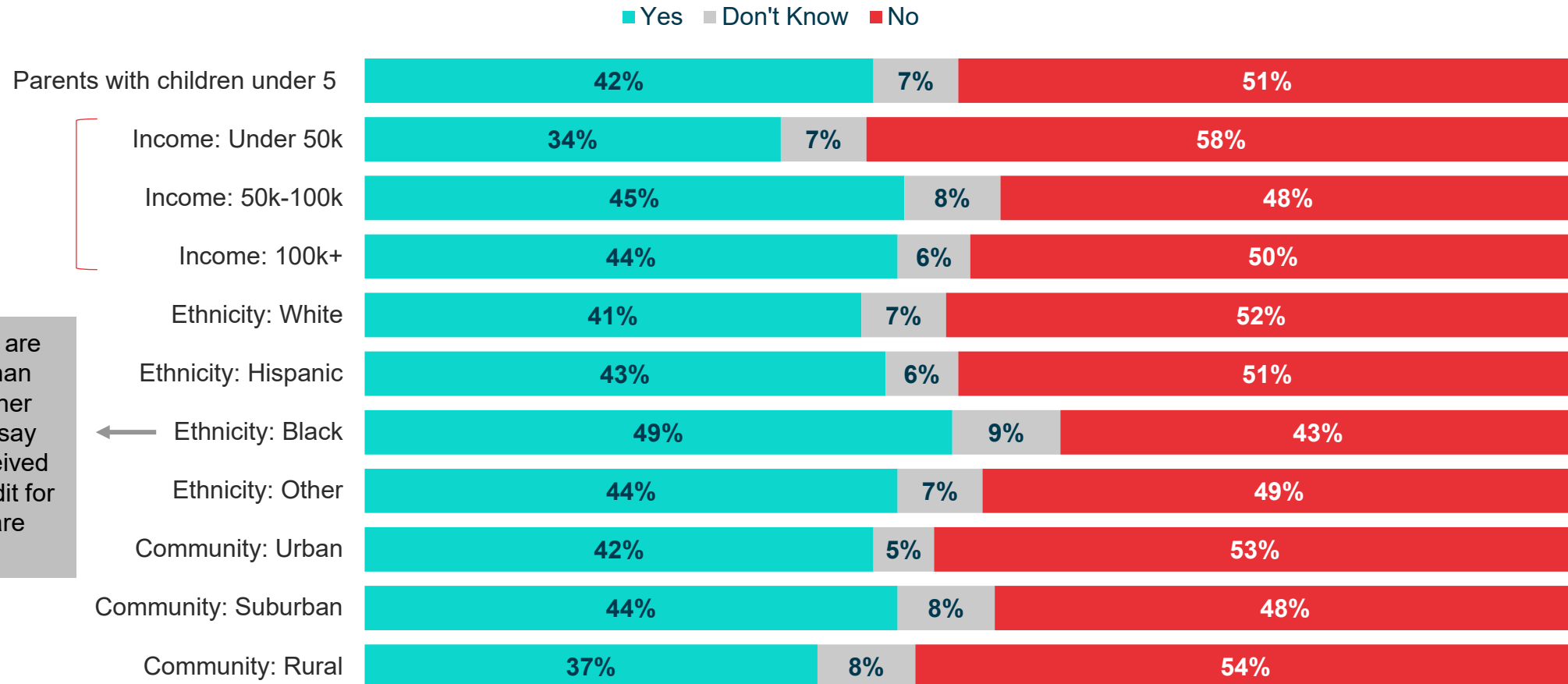
Have you ever received a federal tax credit for your child care expenses?



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Low income parents (58%) are more likely than middle (48%) and high (50%) income parents to say they have not received a federal tax credit for their child care expenses.

Have you ever received a federal tax credit for your child care expenses?



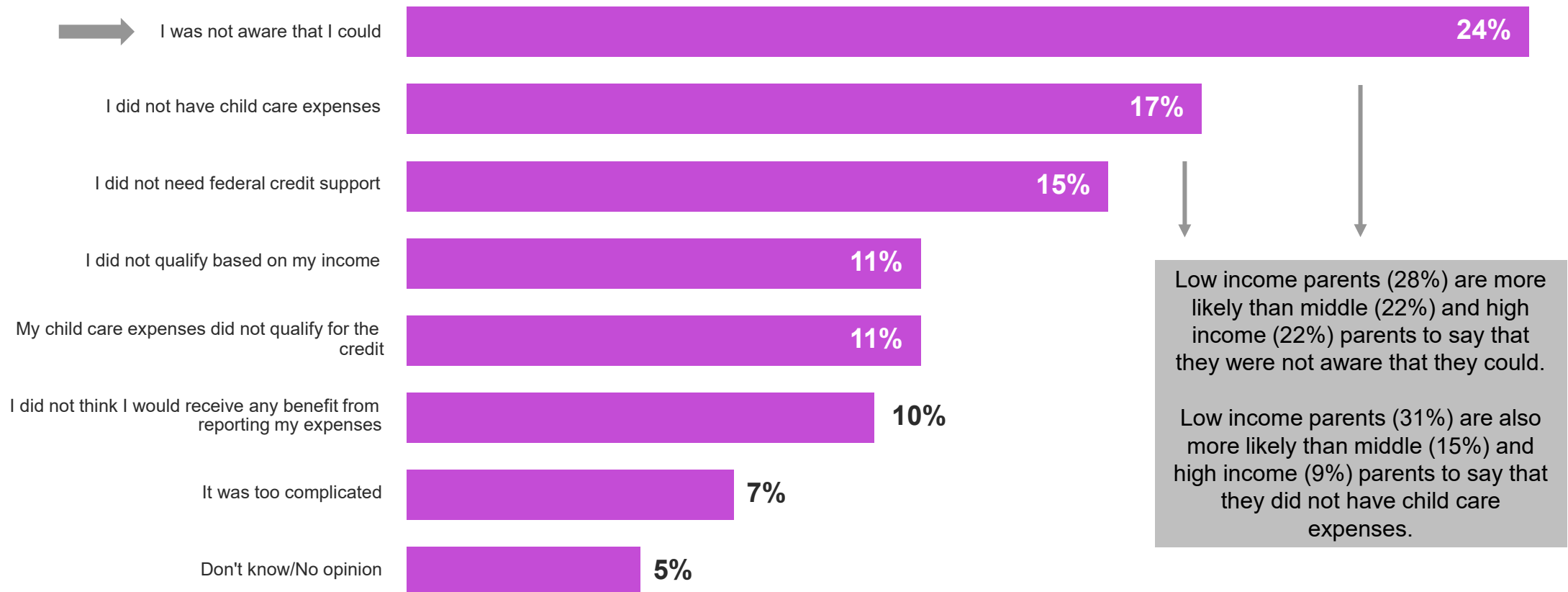
Black parents are more likely than parents of other ethnicities to say they have received federal tax credit for their child care expenses.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Among parents that have not received federal credit for their child care expenses, a plurality say it is because they were not aware that they could (24%).

You mentioned that you have not received federal credit for your child care expenses. Which of the following best describes why?

HAVE NOT RECEIVED FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR CHILD CARE, N=407





Parents are divided on whether or not they say they are (52%) or are not aware (48%) that they can claim more of their child care expenses on their 2021 taxes.

Are you aware that you can claim more of your child care expenses on your 2021 taxes?

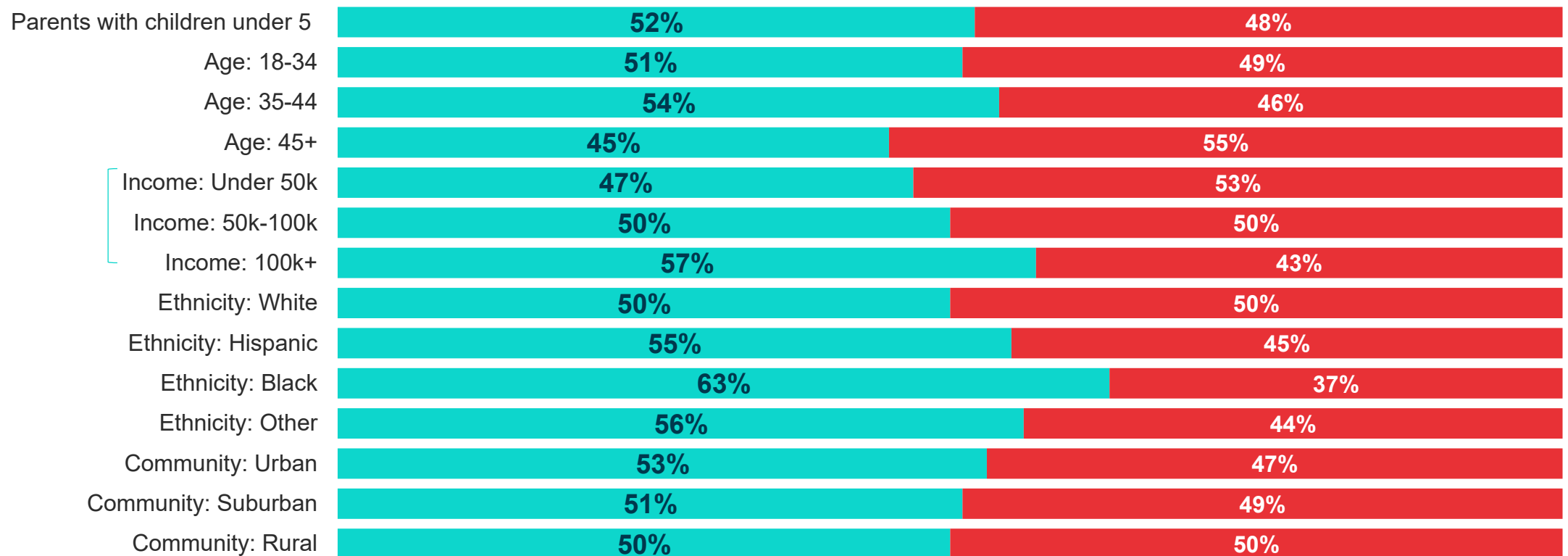


FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

High income parents (57%) are more likely than middle (50%) and low (47%) income parents to say that they are aware they can claim more of their child care expenses on their 2021 taxes.

Are you aware that you can claim more of your child care expenses on your 2021 taxes?

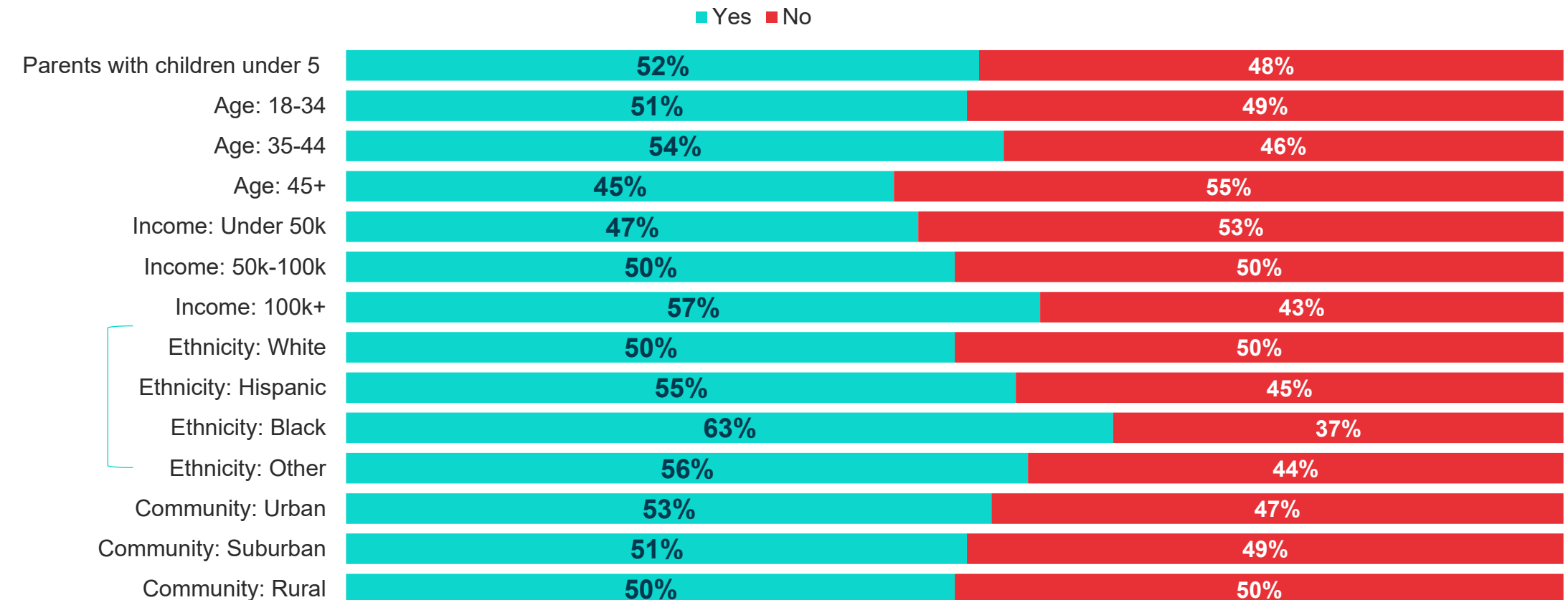
■ Yes ■ No



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

# Black parents are more likely than parents of other ethnicities to say they are aware that they can claim more of their child care expenses on their 2021 taxes

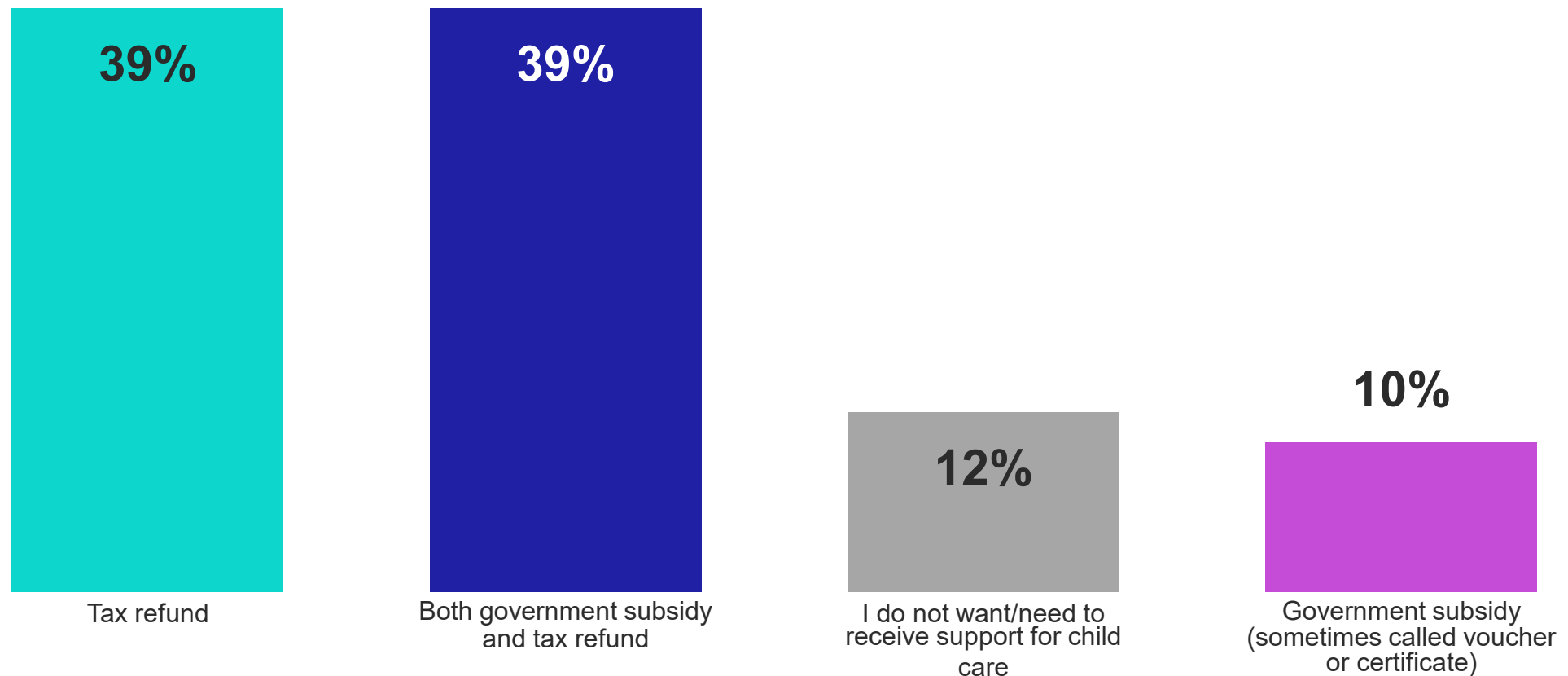
Are you aware that you can claim more of your child care expenses on your 2021 taxes?



## FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Parents are divided on whether they would most prefer to receive financial support for their child care expenses via tax refunds (39%) or both government subsidies and tax refunds (39%).

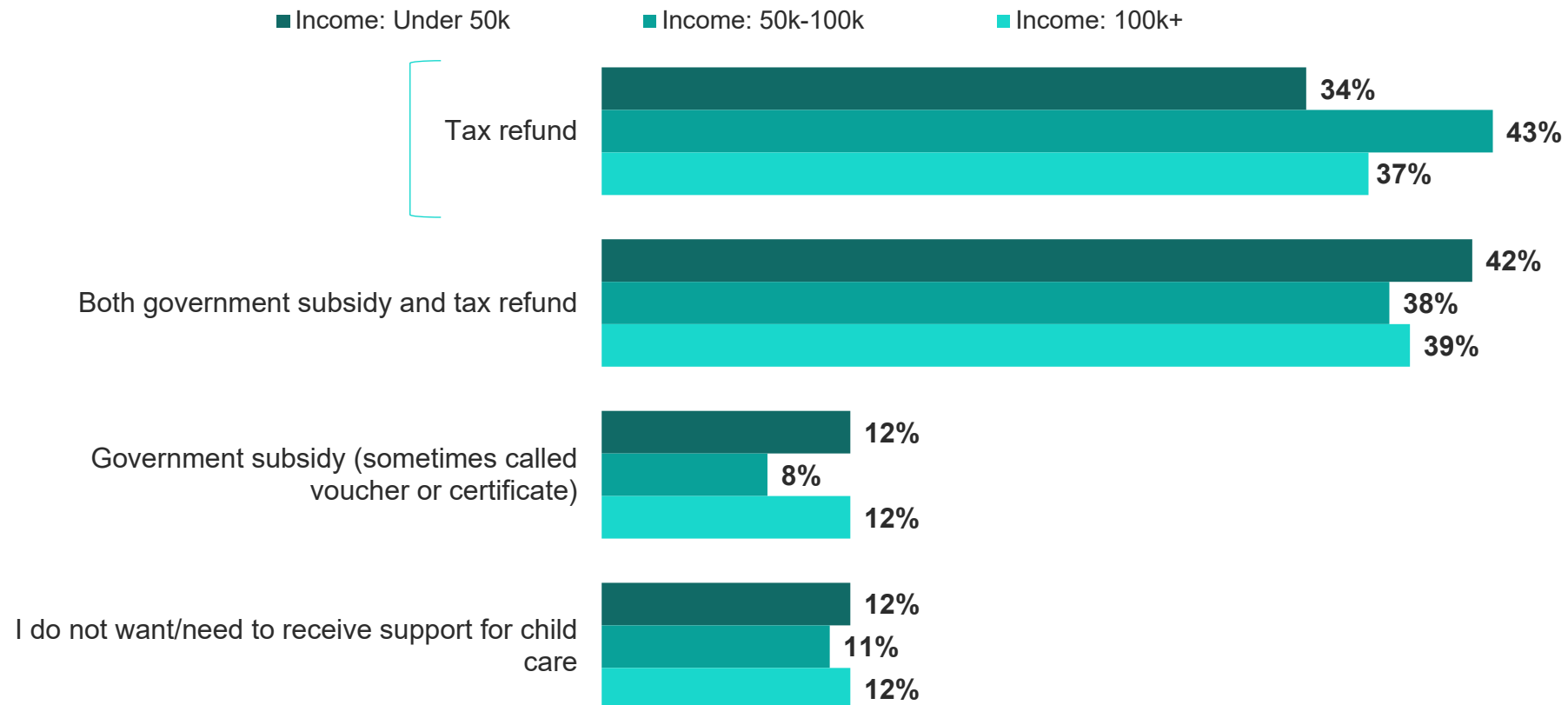
Which of the following ways would you most prefer to receive financial support for your child care expenses?



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Middle income parents (43%) are more likely than low income (34%) and high income (37%) parents to say they would most prefer receive financial support for their child care expenses via a tax refund.

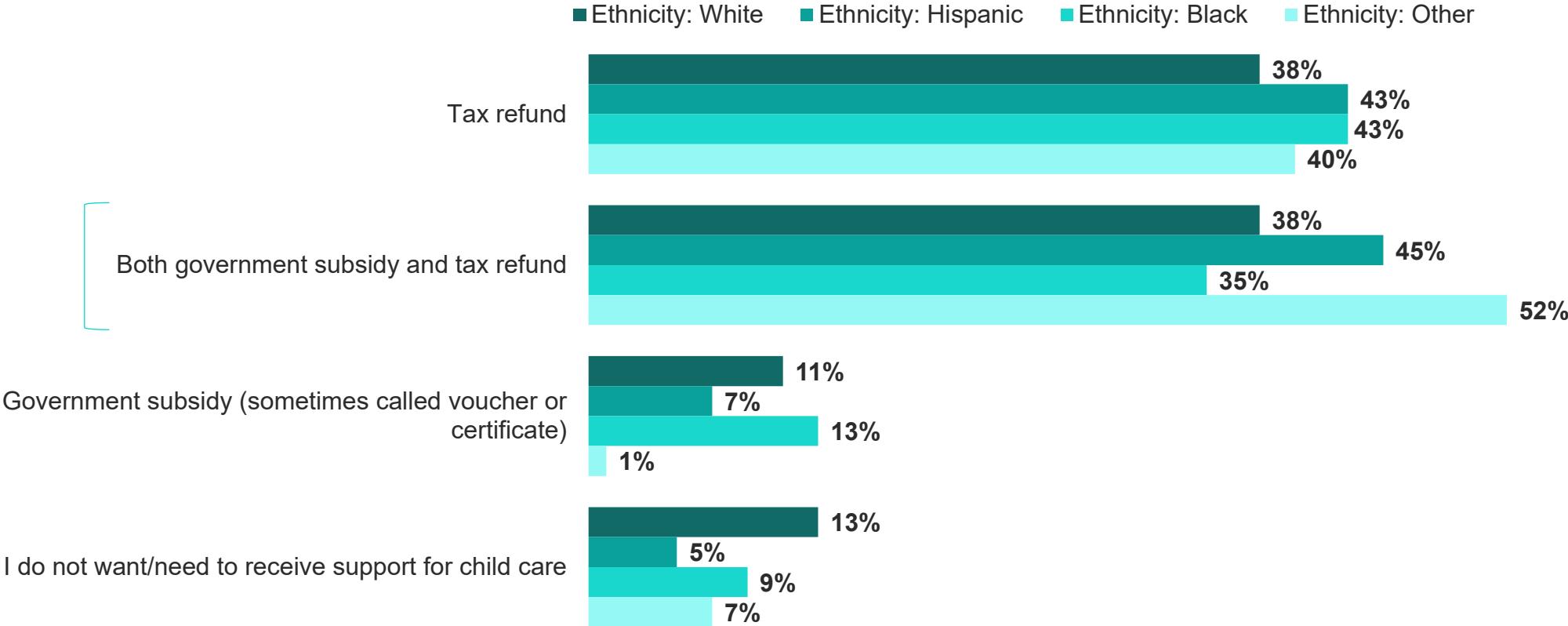
Which of the following ways would you most prefer to receive financial support for your child care expenses?



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Other parents of color (52%) are more likely than white, Hispanic and Black parents to say they would most prefer to receive financial support for their child care expenses via both government subsidies and tax refunds.

Which of the following ways would you most prefer to receive financial support for your child care expenses?

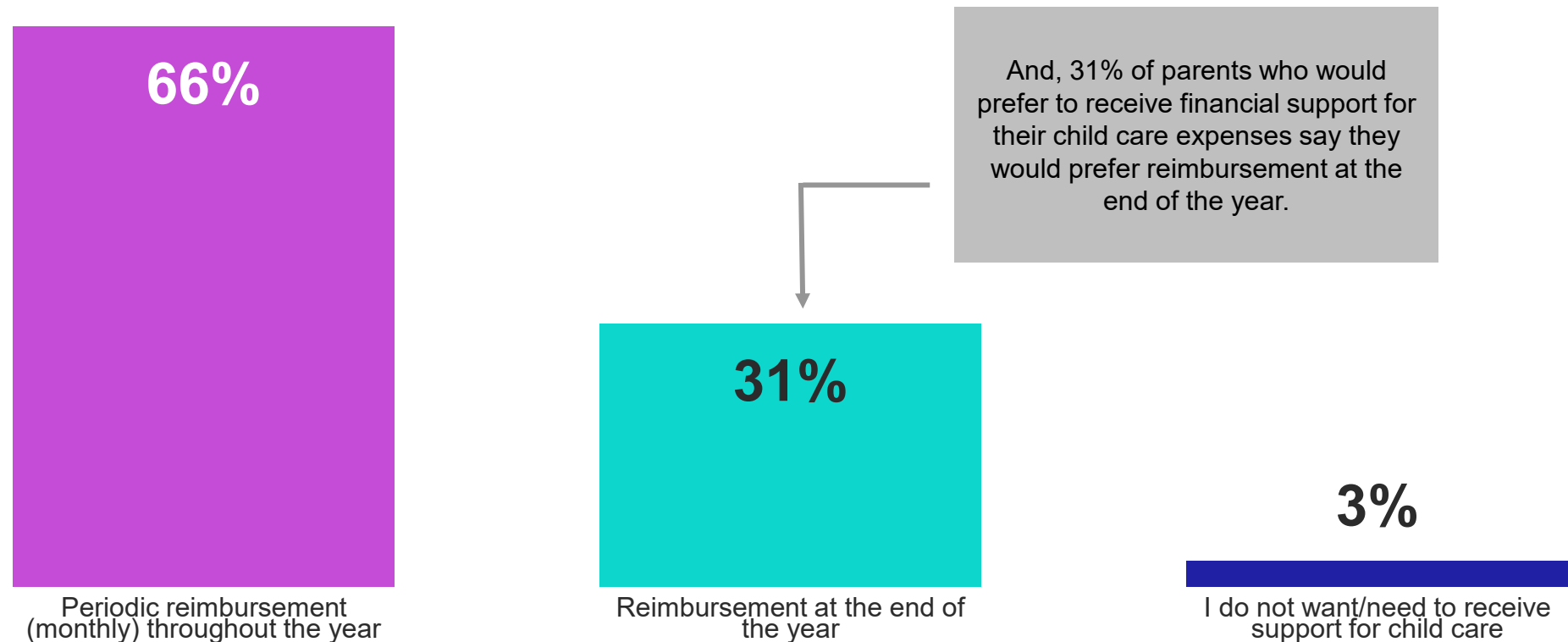


FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE

Two thirds (66%) of parents who would prefer to receive financial support for their child care expenses say they would prefer periodic reimbursement (monthly) throughout the year.

And, which of the following types of child care reimbursement would best enable you to pay for the child care you need throughout the year?

WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE EXPENSES, N=706



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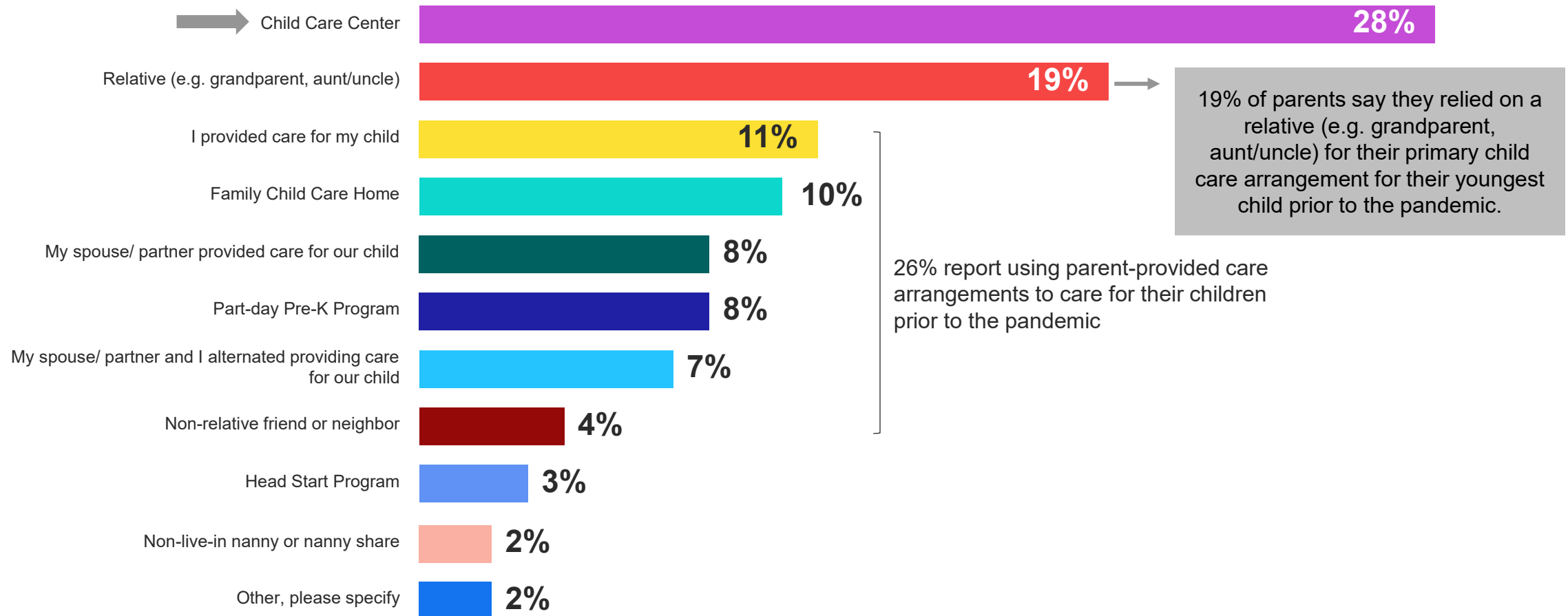
## Child Care Closures

- 1** For a quarter of parents, child care arrangements have not shifted since prior to the pandemic.
  - A plurality (28%) of parents say that they used a child care center prior to the pandemic for their youngest child.
  - And, 26% report using parent-provided care arrangements to care for their children prior to the pandemic.
- 2** A plurality of adults say that there are no restrictions on the operating status of their child care provider, but operating status varies across demographic groups.
  - Twenty nine percent of parents who say they were using formal child care prior to the pandemic say that their child care provider is open without any changes to hours or capacity.
  - However, current operating status varies across parents of different income levels, community types and regions.
- 3** Public schools will likely open either entirely in-person or using a hybrid model.
  - To the best of their knowledge, parents say that the public schools in their region will open either entirely in-person learning (38%) or a hybrid of online and in-person (33%).
  - Notably, public school opening formats vary across regions. Half of parents in the Midwest region (49%) say that public schools will reopen entirely in-person learning, compared to the Northeast (32%), South (37%) and West (30%) regions.

CHILD CARE CLOSURES

A plurality (28%) of parents say that they used a child care center prior to the pandemic for their youngest child.

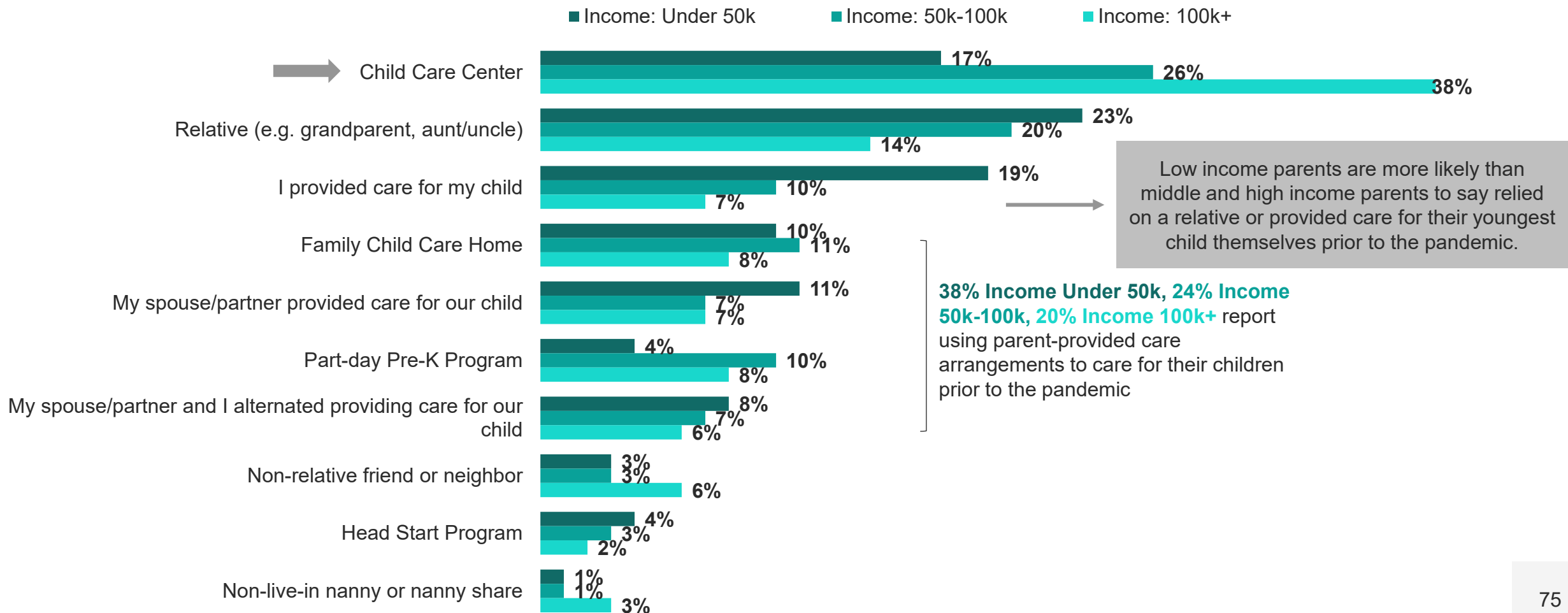
Which of the following best describe the primary child care arrangement you used prior to the pandemic for your youngest child?



CHILD CARE CLOSURES

High income parents (38%) are more likely than middle (26%) and low (17%) income parents to say they used a child care center prior to the pandemic for their youngest child.

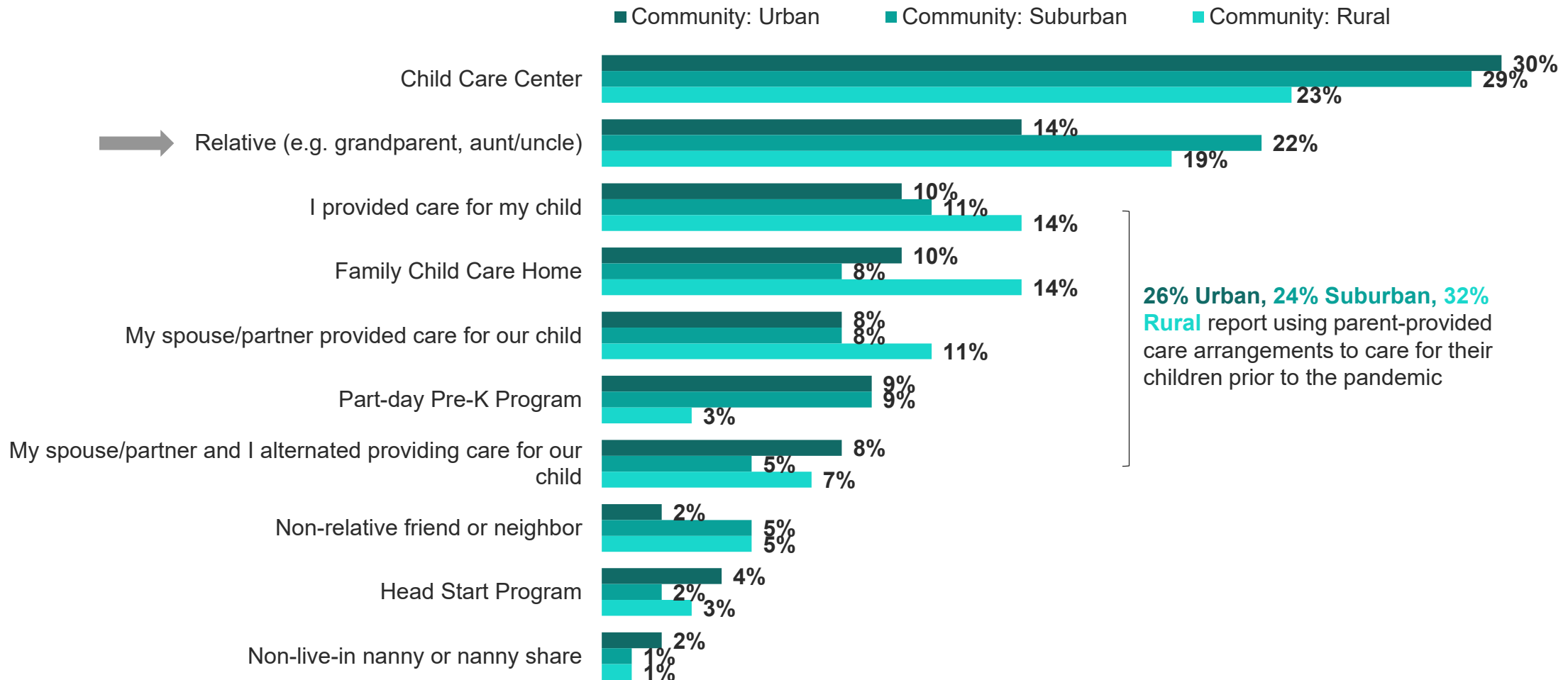
Which of the following best describe the primary child care arrangement you used prior to the pandemic for your youngest child?



CHILD CARE CLOSURES

Urban parents (14%) are less likely than suburban (22%) and rural (19%) parents to say they relied on a relative as the primary child care arrangement for their youngest child prior to the pandemic.

Which of the following best describe the primary child care arrangement you used prior to the pandemic for your youngest child?



CHILD CARE CLOSURES

A plurality of parents currently use the same child care arrangement for their youngest child as they did prior to the pandemic.

*Child Care Arrangement Prior to the Pandemic*

<i>Current Child Care* Arrangement During Traditional Work Hours</i>		Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	Part-day Pre-K Program	Head Start Program	Relative (e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)	I provided care for my child	My spouse/partner provided care for our child	My spouse/partner and I alternated providing care for our child	Non-relative friend or neighbor	Non-live-in nanny or nanny share	Other, please specify
	Currently Used Child Care Center	75%	8%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
	Currently Use Family Child Care Home	18%	45%	8%	1%	11%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%
	Currently Use Part-Day Preschool/preK	25%	3%	42%	3%	3%	5%	8%	5%	0%	5%	0%
	Currently Use Relatives	16%	7%	4%	4%	56%	5%	1%	3%	2%	1%	0%

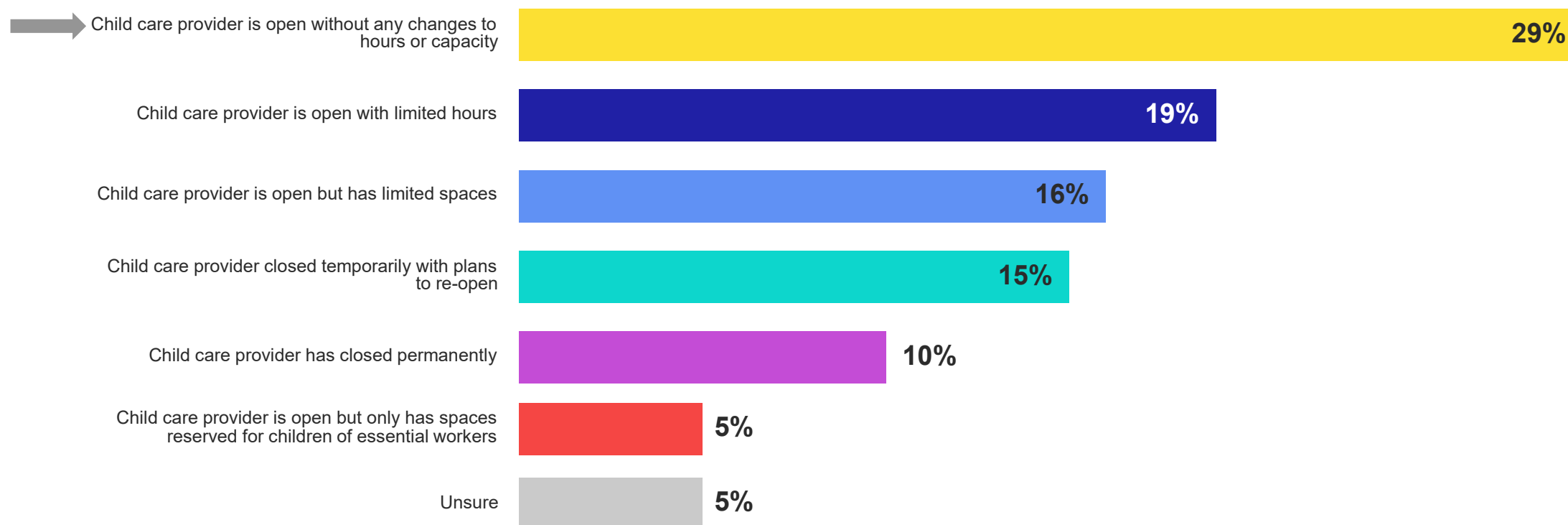
\*Current child care arrangement used during traditional work hours comes from BPC11, other arrangements not included due to small sample size.

CHILD CARE CLOSURES

A plurality of parents who say they were using formal child care prior to the pandemic say that their child care provider is open without any changes to hours or capacity.

Thinking about the primary child care arrangement for your youngest child prior to the pandemic, what best describes their current operating status?

USING FORMAL CHILD CARE PRIOR TO PANDEMIC, N=386

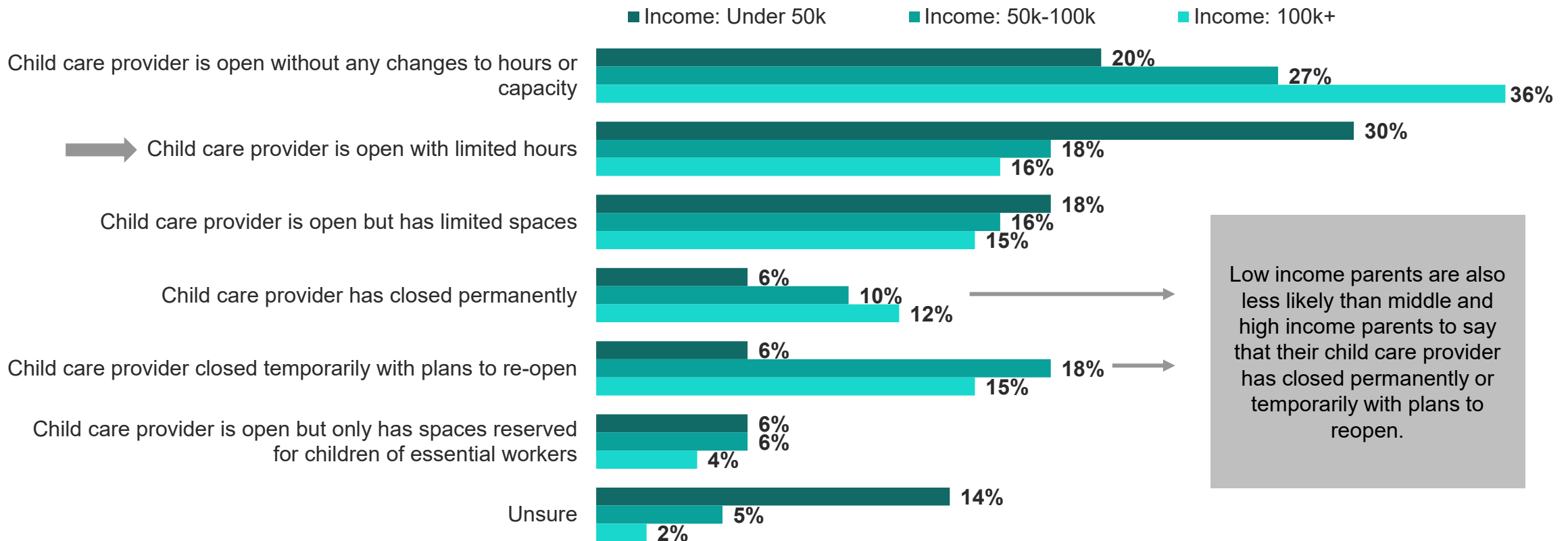


CHILD CARE CLOSURES

However, low income parents (30%) are almost twice as likely as middle (18%) and high (16%) income parents to say that their child care provider is open with limited hours.

Thinking about the primary child care arrangement for your youngest child prior to the pandemic, what best describes their current operating status?

USING FORMAL CHILD CARE PRIOR TO PANDEMIC, N=386



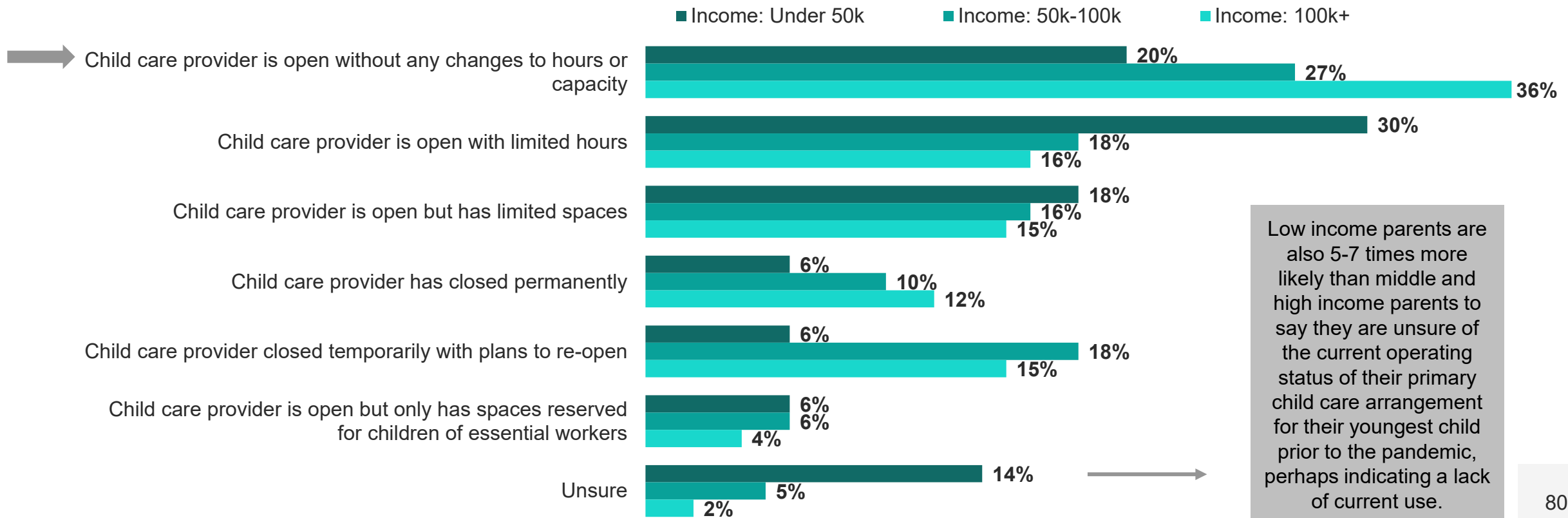
Low income parents are also less likely than middle and high income parents to say that their child care provider has closed permanently or temporarily with plans to reopen.

CHILD CARE CLOSURES

Low income parents (20%) are less likely than middle (27%) and high income parents (36%) to say their child care provider is open without any changes to hours or capacity.

Thinking about the primary child care arrangement for your youngest child prior to the pandemic, what best describes their current operating status?

USING FORMAL CHILD CARE PRIOR TO PANDEMIC, N=386



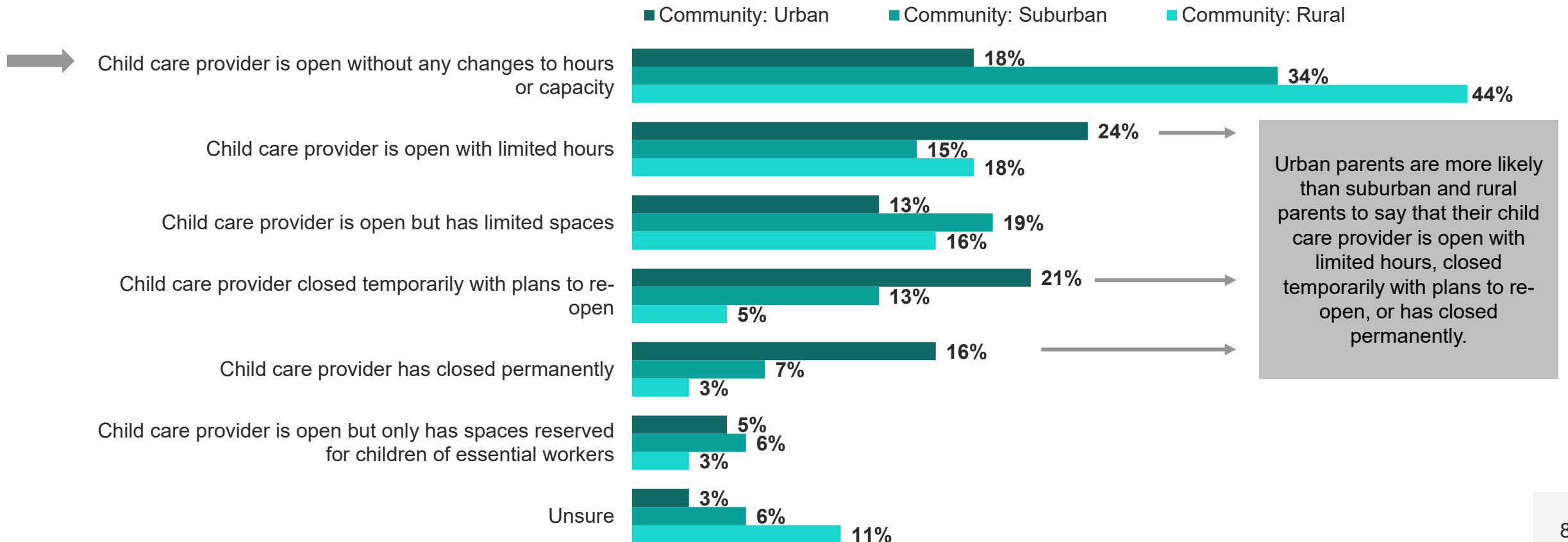


CHILD CARE CLOSURES

Rural parents who say they were using formal child care prior to the pandemic say (44%) are more likely than suburban (34%) and urban (18%) parents to say their child care provider is open without any changes to hours or capacity.

Thinking about the primary child care arrangement for your youngest child prior to the pandemic, what best describes their current operating status?

USING FORMAL CHILD CARE PRIOR TO PANDEMIC, N=386

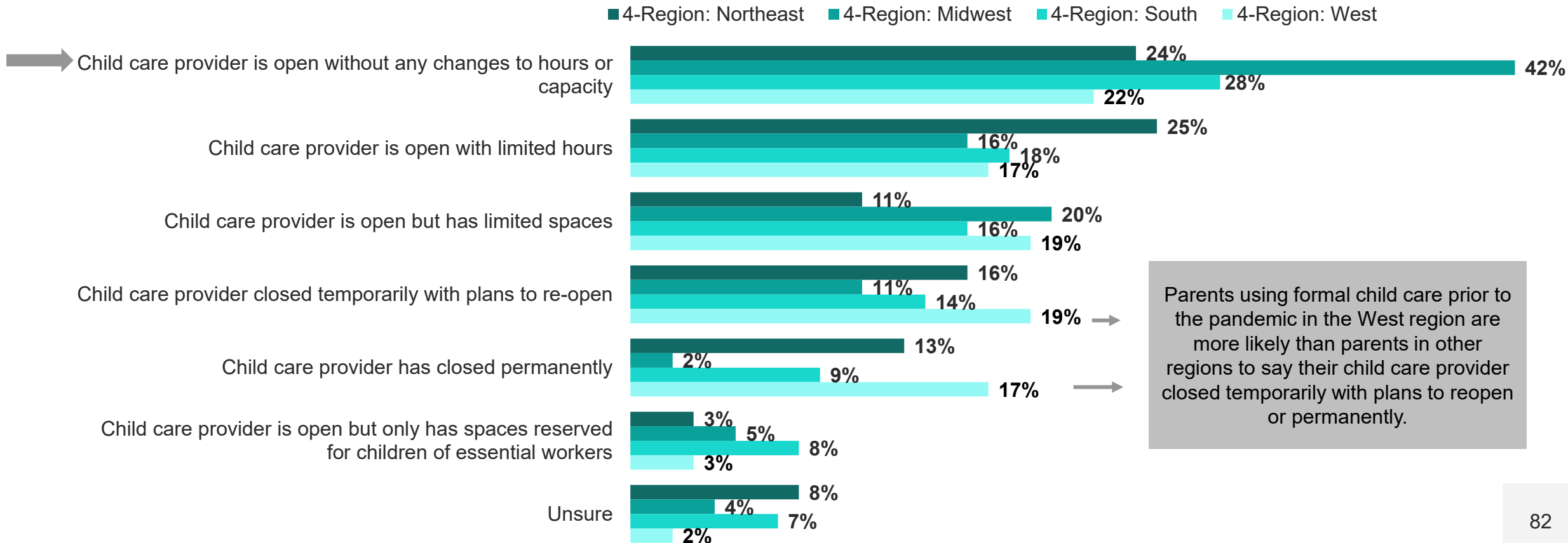


CHILD CARE CLOSURES

Parents using formal child care prior to the pandemic are more likely to say their child care provider is open without any changes to hours or capacity if they live in the Midwest compared to other regions.

Thinking about the primary child care arrangement for your youngest child prior to the pandemic, what best describes their current operating status?

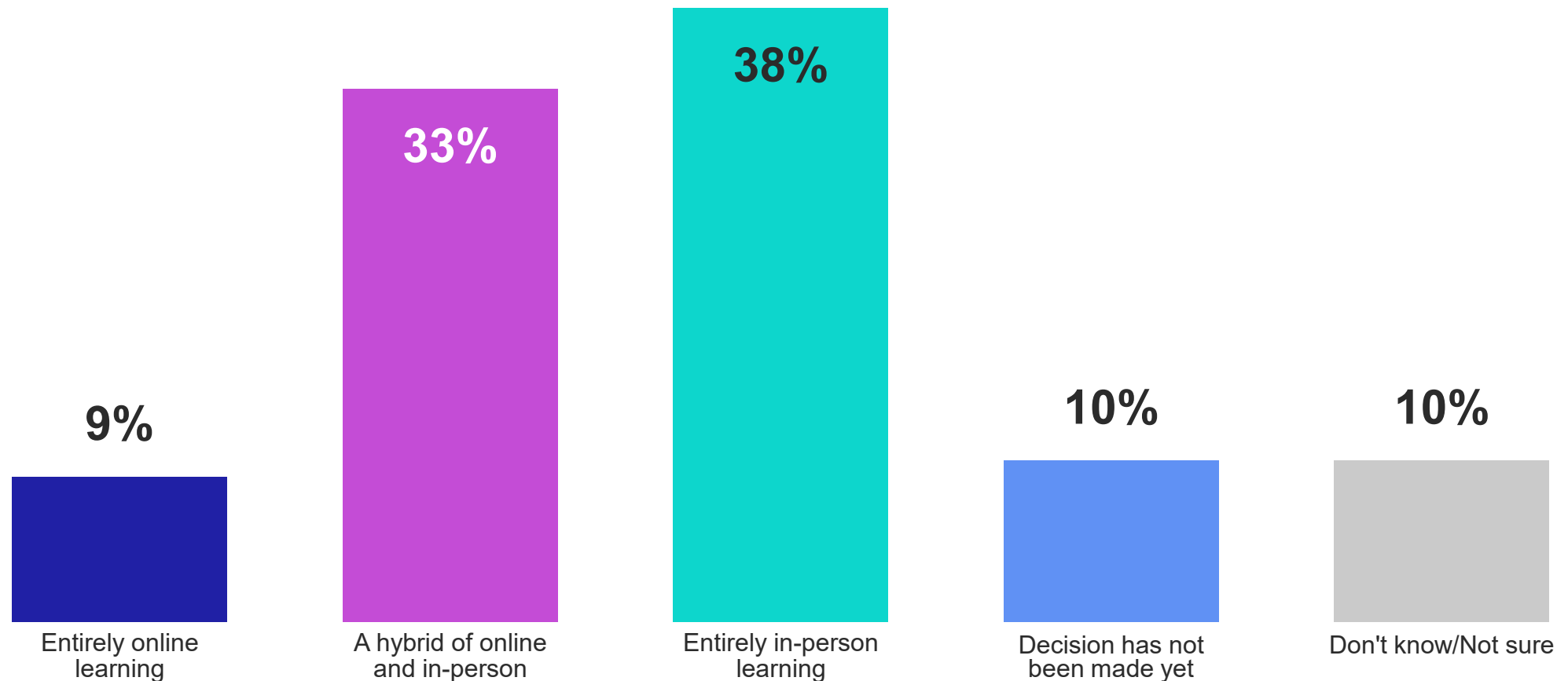
USING FORMAL CHILD CARE PRIOR TO PANDEMIC, N=386



## CHILD CARE CLOSURES

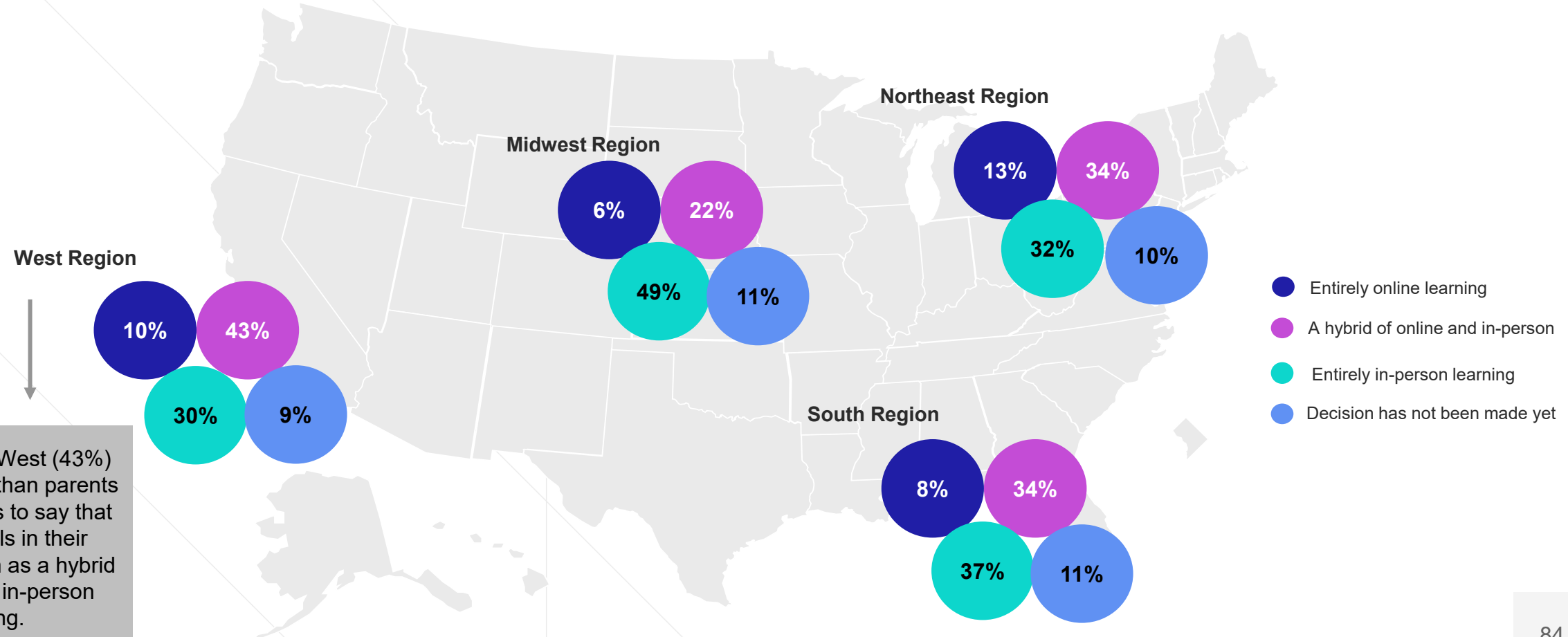
To the best of their knowledge, parents say that the public schools in their region will open either entirely in-person learning (38%) or a hybrid of online and in-person (33%).

To the best of your knowledge, how will public schools in your region open in the fall?



Half of parents in the Midwest region (49%) say that public schools will reopen entirely in-person learning, compared to the Northeast (32%), South (37%) and West (30%) regions.

To the best of your knowledge, how will public schools in your region open in the fall?



Parents in the West (43%) are more likely than parents in other regions to say that public schools in their region will open as a hybrid of online and in-person learning.

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CHILD CARE



## Child Care and Pre-K Preferences

- 1 If finances were not a concern to their household, 71% of parents would prefer to stay home to care for their child. Among parents who would prefer to stay at home to care for their child, half (52%) would need additional financial support of \$2000+ a month.

  - Parents with higher education and income levels are less likely than parents with lower education and income levels to say they would prefer to stay home to care for their child if finances were not a concern to their household.
- 2 If child care were free for their family, a plurality of parents (30%) say that they would prefer the child care arrangement they currently use.

  - Regardless of their current child care arrangement, parents are also likely to say they would most prefer a child care center—specifically those currently using preschool (28%) and relatives (25%).
  - If child care were free to their family, a plurality of parents who need care during traditional (34%) and non-traditional (31%) hours say they would most prefer a child care center.
- 3 Parents are interested in public pre-k as a child care option.

  - A majority (71%) of parents say if free pre-k were available to their family during the typical work day, they would choose to send their child.
  - Three quarters of parents (73%) say that if public pre-k were co-located in a child care program that offered longer hours of care, it would be a better option for their family.
- 4 A strong majority of parents agree with the statements that working parents deserve access to high quality child care (92%) and that expanding government support would be beneficial for parents and children (88%).

## CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

If finances were not a concern to their household, 71% of parents would prefer to stay home to care for their child.

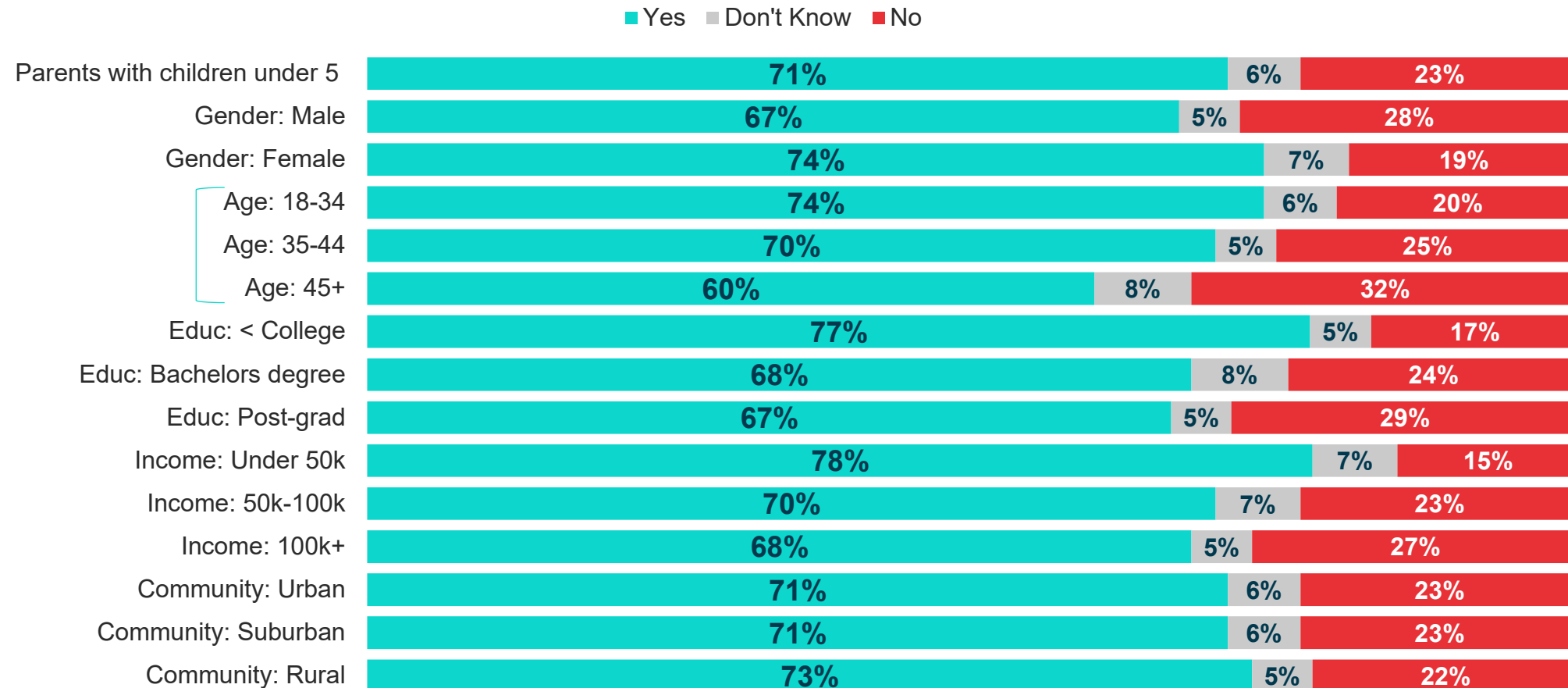
If finances were not a concern to your household, would you prefer to stay home to care for your child?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

Younger parents are more likely than older parents to say they would prefer to stay home to care for their child.

If finances were not a concern to your household, would you prefer to stay home to care for your child?

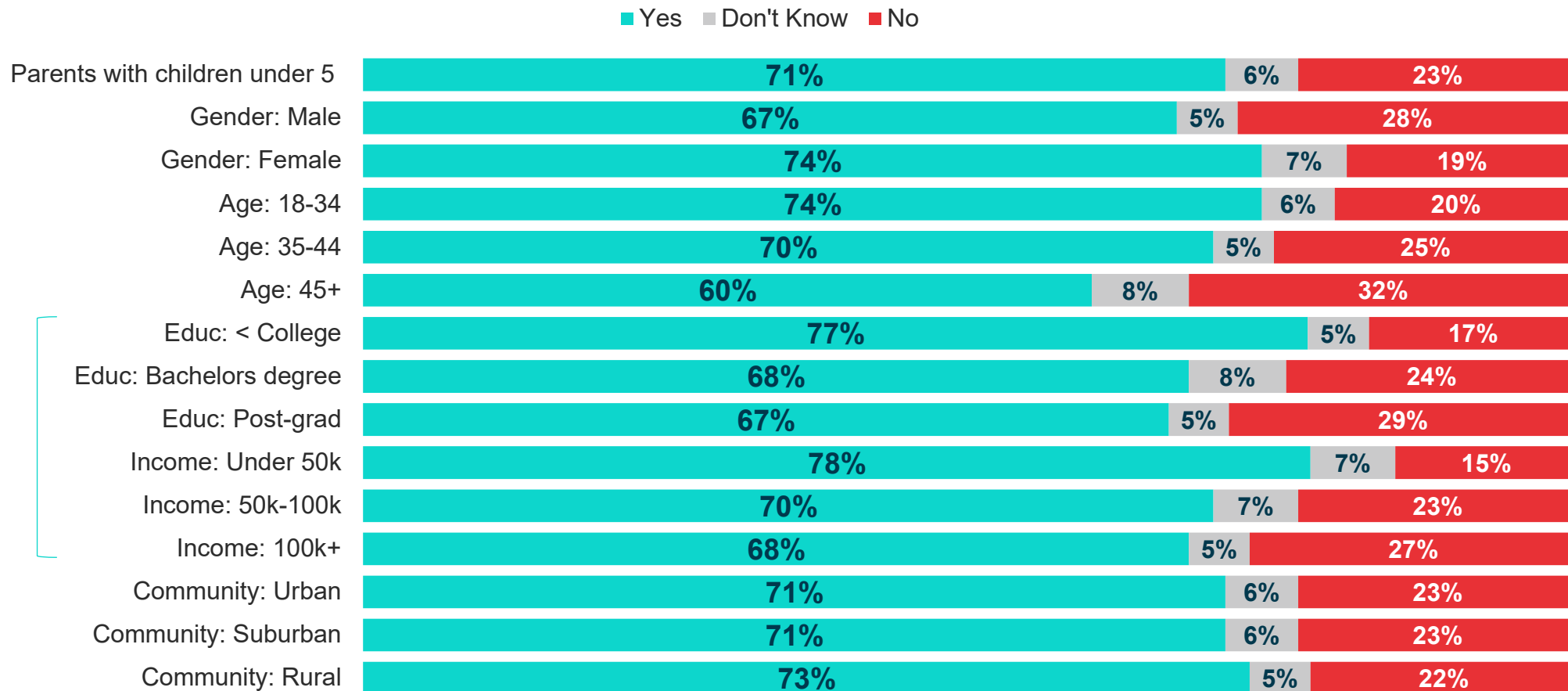




CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

Parents with higher education and income levels are less likely than parents with lower education and income levels to say they would prefer to stay home to care for their child if finances were not a concern to their household.

If finances were not a concern to your household, would you prefer to stay home to care for your child?

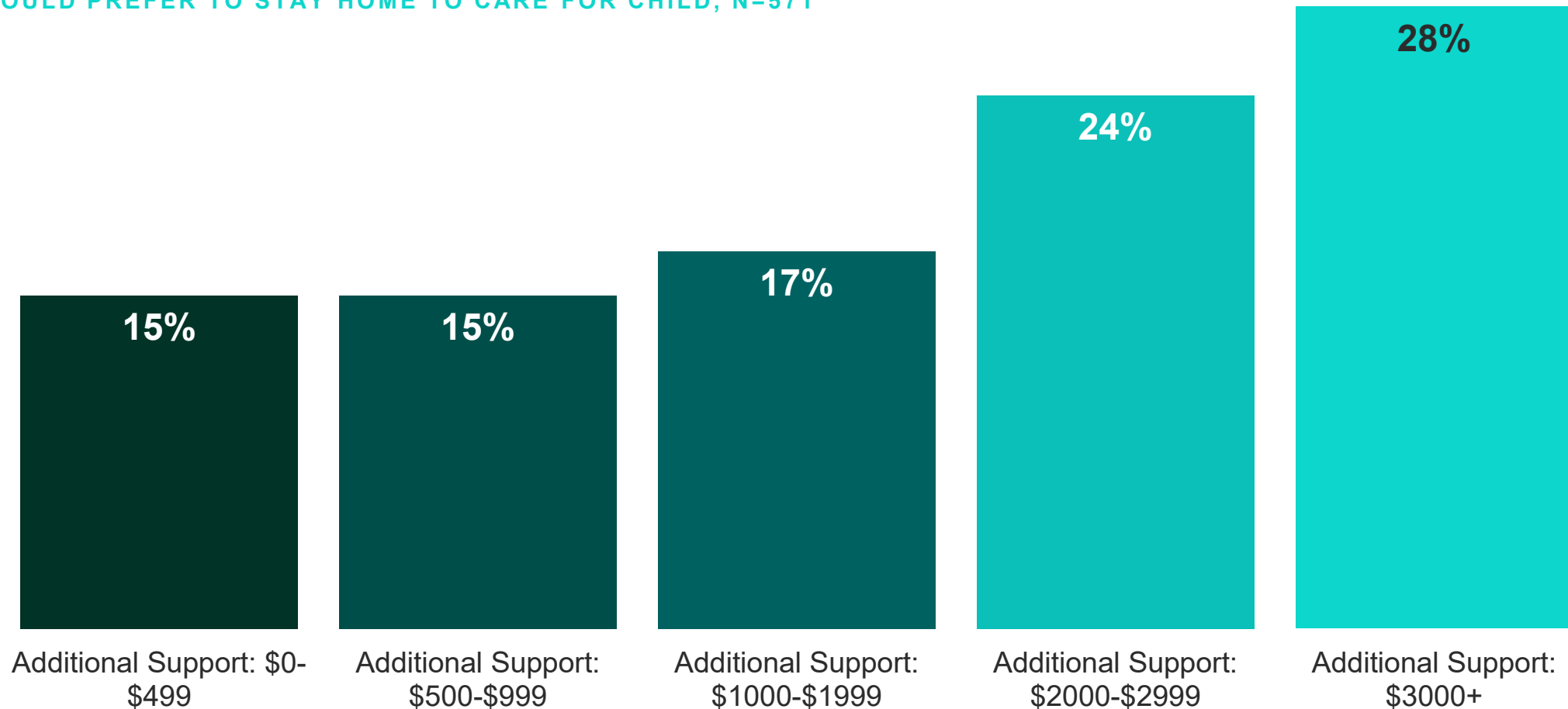


CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

Among parents who would prefer to stay at home to care for their child, half (52%) would need additional financial support of \$2000+ a month.

If you were to stay home to care for your child instead of working, how much additional monthly financial support would your household need to afford your expenses?

WOULD PREFER TO STAY HOME TO CARE FOR CHILD, N=571



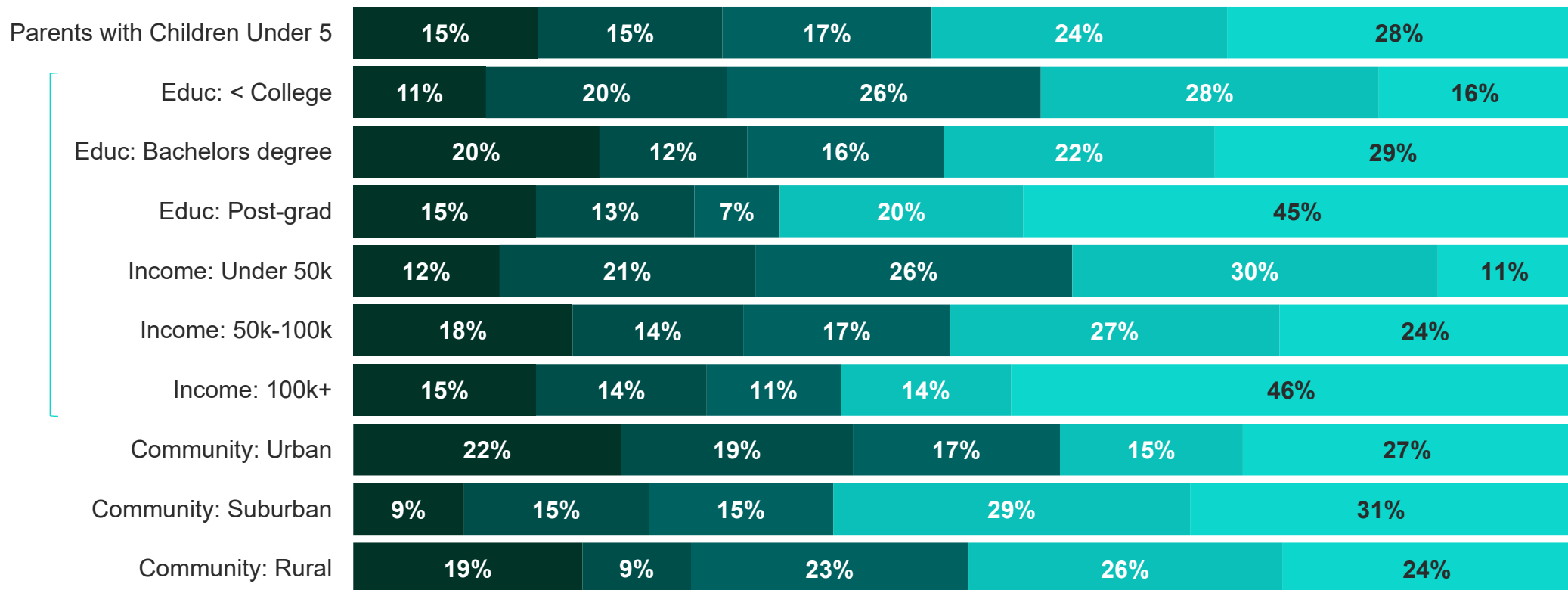
CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

Parents with a higher level of education and income need more additional monthly financial support.

If you were to stay home to care for your child instead of working, how much additional monthly financial support would your household need to afford your expenses?

WOULD PREFER TO STAY HOME TO CARE FOR CHILD, N=571

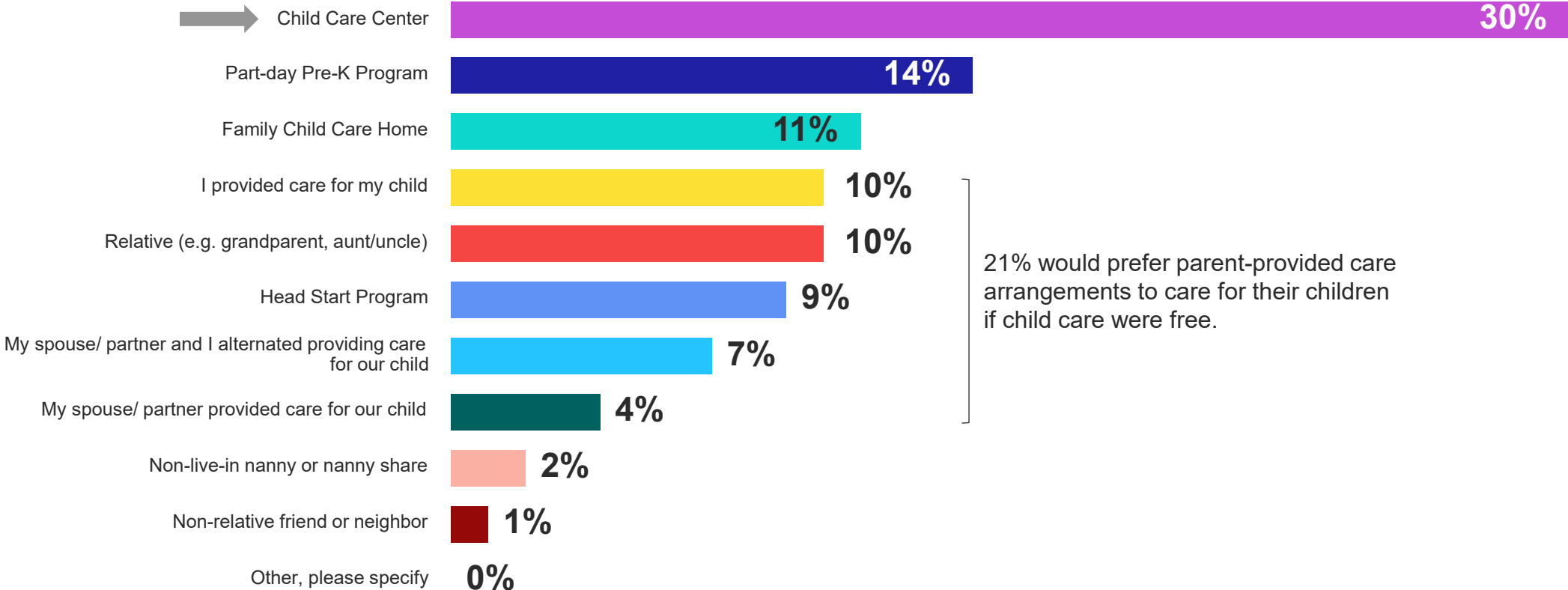
■ Additional Support: \$0-\$499    
 ■ Additional Support: \$500-\$999    
 ■ Additional Support: 1000-1999  
■ Additional Support: \$2000-\$2999    
 ■ Additional Support: \$3000+



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

A plurality of parents (30%) say that if child care were free to their family, they would most prefer a child care center.

If child care were free for your family, what type of child care arrangement would you most prefer?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

If child care were free for their family, a plurality of parents say that they would prefer the child care arrangement they currently use.

If child care were free for your family, what type of child care arrangement would you most prefer?

***Child Care Arrangement they would Most Prefer***

<b><i>Current Child Care* Arrangement During Traditional Work Hours</i></b>	<b><i>Child Care Arrangement they would Most Prefer</i></b>										
	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	Part-day Pre-K Program	Head Start Program	Relative (e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)	I provided care for my child	My spouse/partner provided care for our child	My spouse/partner and I alternated providing care for our child	Non-relative friend or neighbor	Non-live-in nanny or nanny share	Other, please specify
Currently Used Child Care Center	64%	6%	5%	12%	0%	7%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Currently Use Family Child Care Home	15%	38%	15%	11%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	4%	0%
Currently Use Part-Day Preschool/preK	28%	5%	40%	15%	3%	2%	2%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Currently Use Relatives	25%	9%	14%	8%	26%	8%	1%	8%	0%	2%	0%

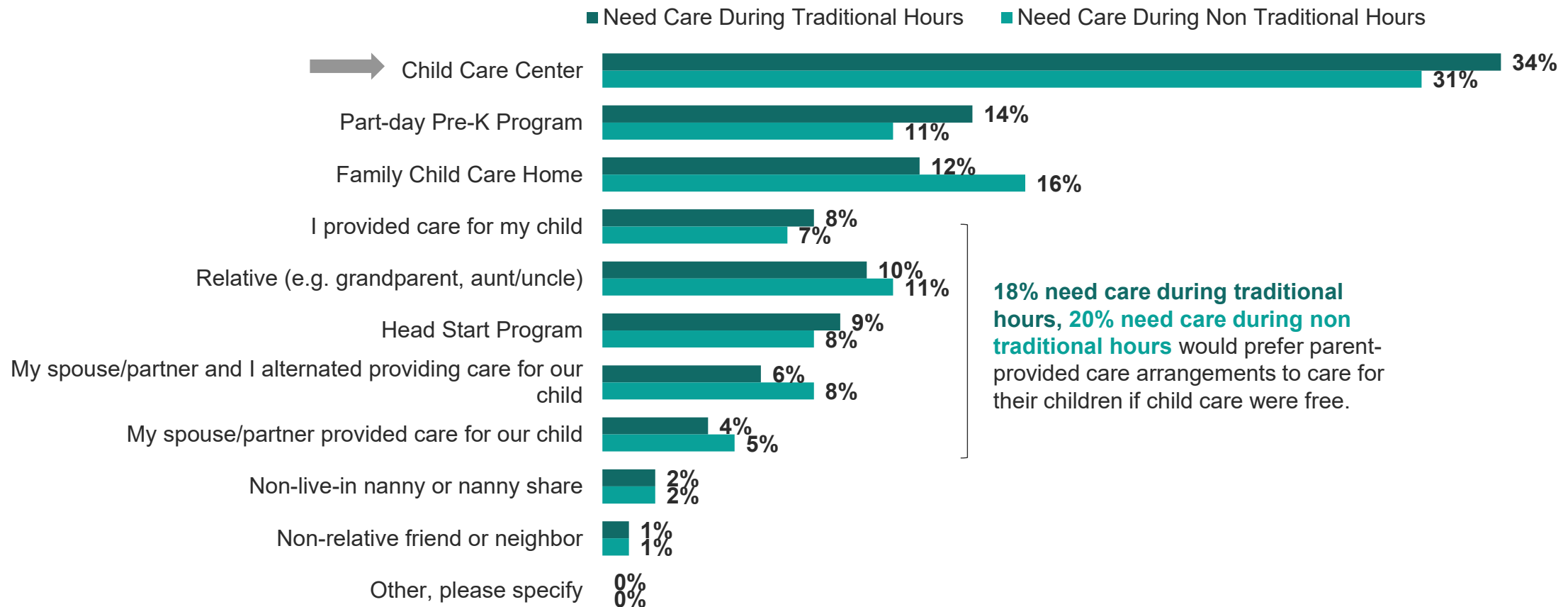
Regardless of their current child care arrangement, parents are also likely to say they would most prefer a child care center—specifically those currently using preschool (28%) and relatives (25%).

\*Current child care arrangement used during traditional work hours comes from BPC11, other arrangements not included due to small sample size.

CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

If child care were free to their family, a plurality of parents who need care during traditional (34%) and non-traditional (31%) hours say they would most prefer a child care center.

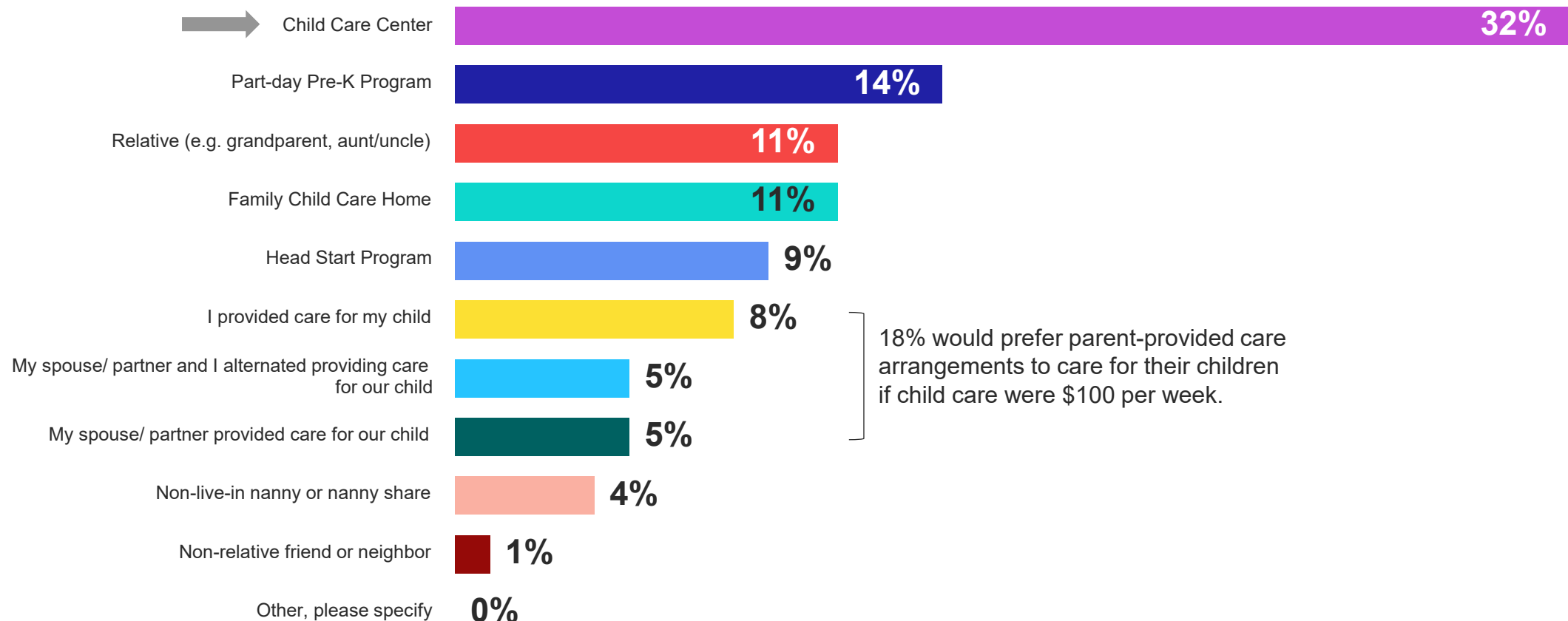
If child care were free for your family, what type of child care arrangement would you most prefer?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

If child care were to cost less than \$100 a week, a plurality of parents (32%) would most prefer a child care center.

If child care costs were less than \$100 per week, what type of child care arrangement would you most prefer?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

If child care costs were less than \$100 per week, a plurality of parents say that they would most prefer the child care arrangement they currently use.

If child care costs were less than \$100 per week, what type of child care arrangement would you most prefer?

*Child Care Arrangement they would Most Prefer*

<i>Current Child Care* Arrangement During Traditional Work Hours</i>	<i>Child Care Arrangement they would Most Prefer</i>										
	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	Part-day Pre-K Program	Head Start Program	Relative (e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)	I provided care for my child	My spouse/partner provided care for our child	My spouse/partner and I alternated providing care for our child	Non-relative friend or neighbor	Non-live-in nanny or nanny share	Other, please specify
Currently Used Child Care Center	64%	9%	7%	12%	1%	4%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Currently Use Family Child Care Home	22%	38%	11%	12%	3%	4%	0%	3%	1%	5%	0%
Currently Use Part-Day Preschool/preK	27%	5%	37%	13%	8%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Currently Use Relatives	28%	8%	16%	6%	29%	4%	3%	4%	0%	3%	0%

Regardless of their current child care arrangement, parents are also likely to say they would most prefer a child care center, specifically parents currently using preschool (27%) or relatives (28%).

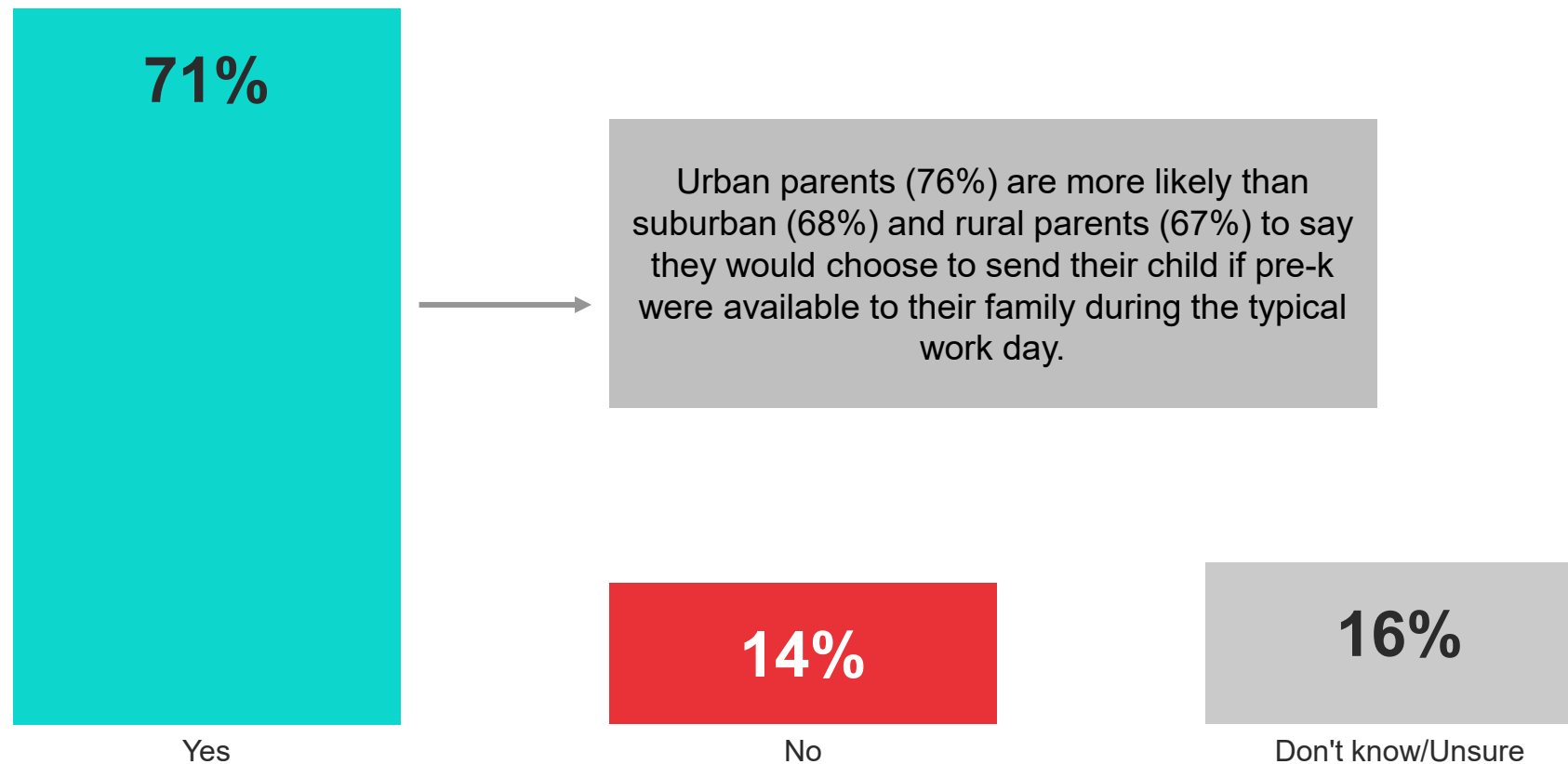
\*Current child care arrangement used during traditional work hours comes from BPC11, other arrangements not included due to small sample size.



## CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

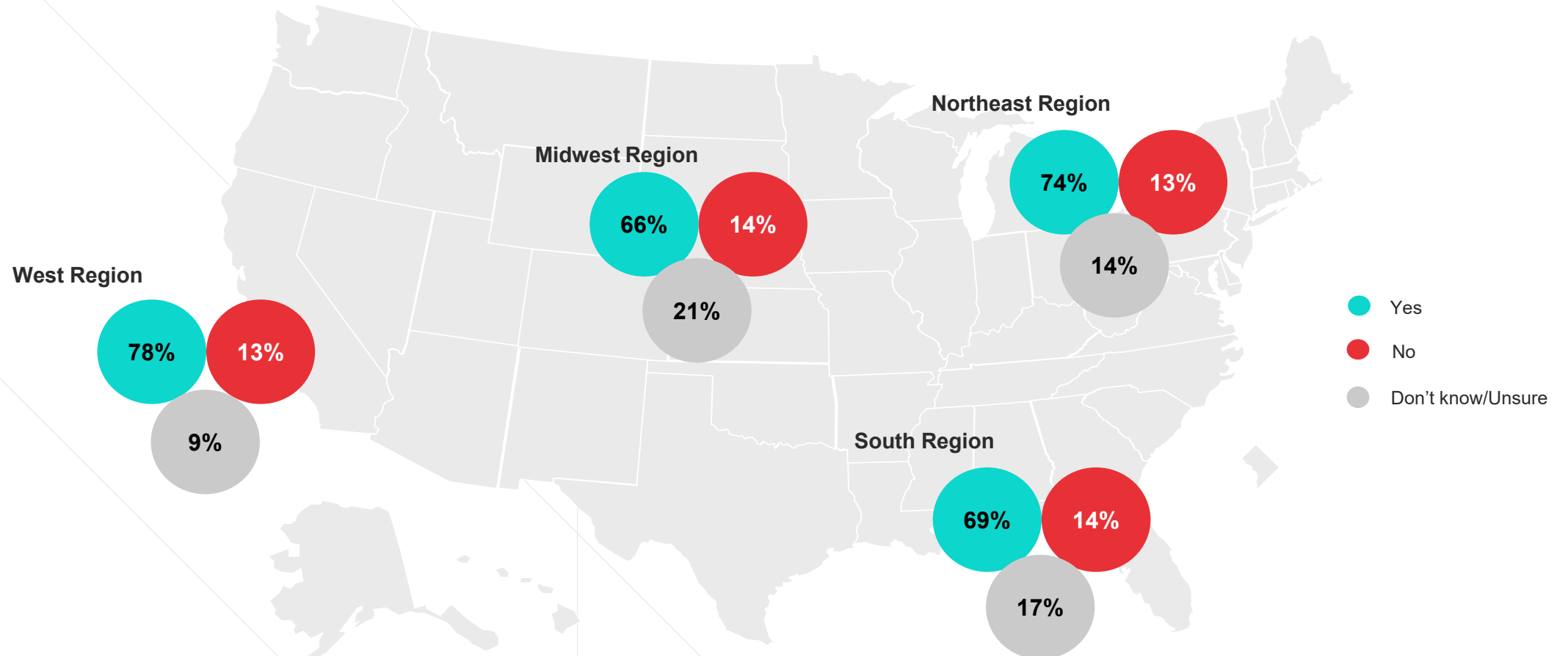
A majority (71%) of parents say if free pre-k were available to their family during the typical work day, they would choose to send their child.

Many public pre-k programs operate at times aligned to a K-12 school day, which is shorter than a typical work day for most parents. If free pre-k were available to your family during these times, would you choose to send your child?



Parents in the West (78%) and Northeast (74%) regions are more likely than parents in the Midwest (66%) and South (69%) regions to say they would choose to send their child.

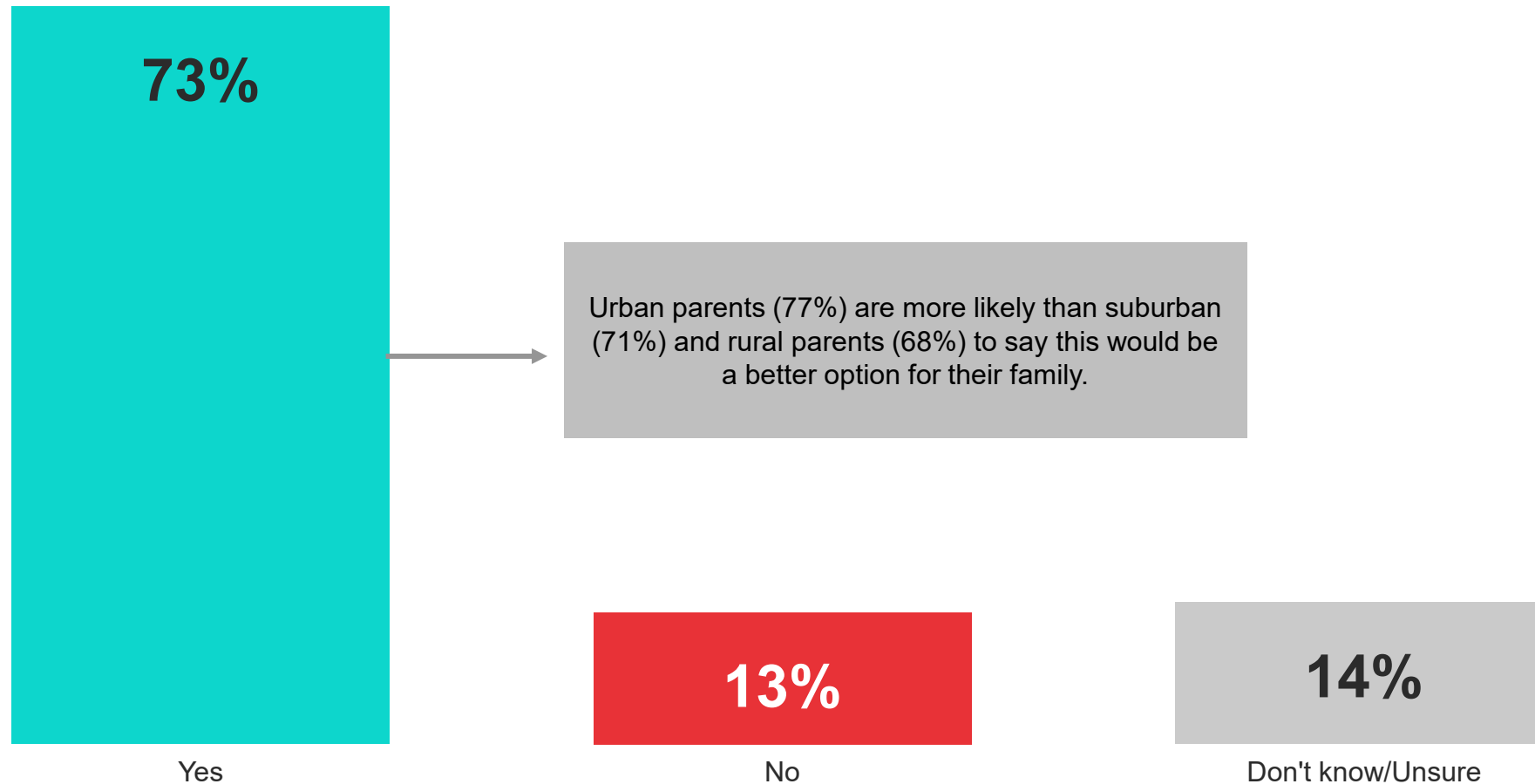
Many public pre-k programs operate at times aligned to a K-12 school day, which is shorter than a typical work day for most parents. If free pre-k were available to your family during these times, would you choose to send your child?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

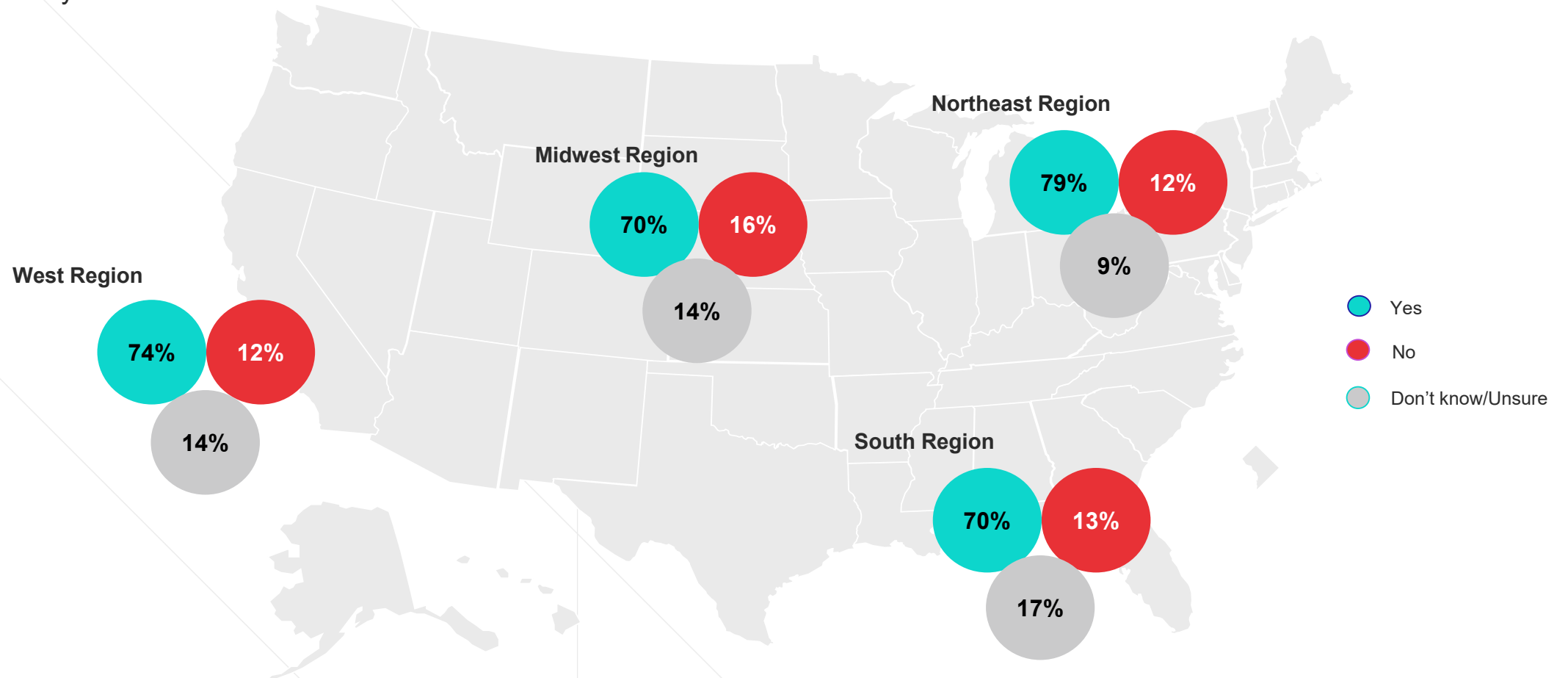
Three quarters of parents (73%) say that if public pre-k were co-located in a child care program that offered longer hours of care, it would be a better option for their family.

If free public pre-k were co-located in a child care program that offered longer hours of care, would this be a better option for your family?



Parents in the Northeast (79%) region are more likely than parents in other regions to if free public pre-k were co-located in a child care program that offered longer hours of care, it would be a better option for their family.

If free public pre-k were co-located in a child care program that offered longer hours of care, would this be a better option for your family?



CHILD CARE AND PRE-K PREFERENCES

A strong majority of parents agree with the statements that working parents deserve access to high quality child care (92%) and that expanding government support would be beneficial for parents and children (88%).

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

● Strongly agree  
 ● Somewhat agree  
 ● Don't know/No opinion  
 ● Somewhat disagree  
 ● Strongly disagree

**Total Agree**

Although parents may prefer to stay home with their young children, many do not have that option as they must work to support their family. These working parents deserve access to high-quality child care



Expanding government support to make quality child care affordable for low- and middle-income working families would be beneficial for both parents and their children.



Agreement remains high across all demographic groups

AGENDA

WORK ARRANGEMENTS

CHILD CARE CLOSURES

CHILD CARE  
ARRANGEMENTS

CHILD CARE AND PRE-K  
PREFERENCES

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-  
EMOTIONAL AND  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

RESPONDENT PROFILE

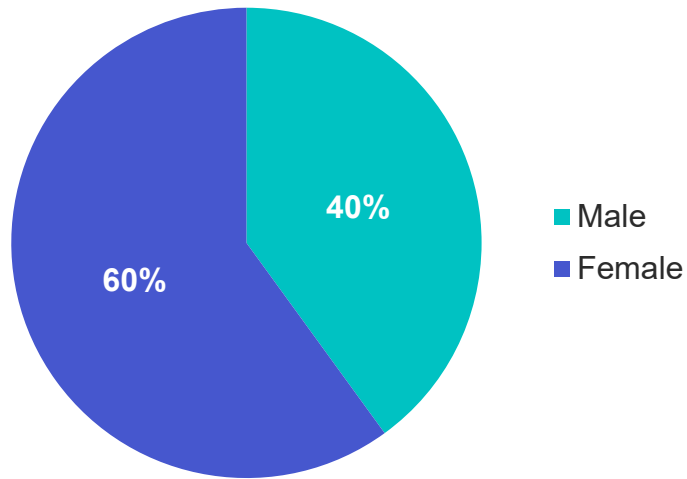
FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR  
CHILD CARE



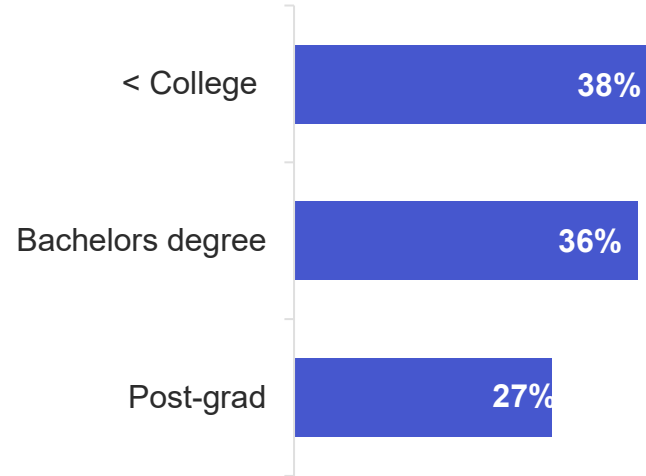
RESPONDENT PROFILE

Demographic Information

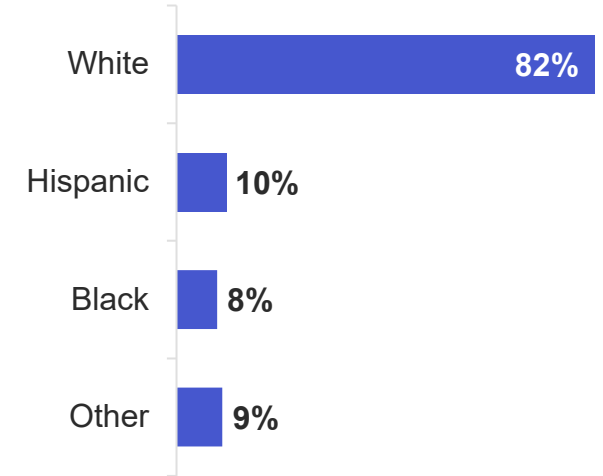
Gender



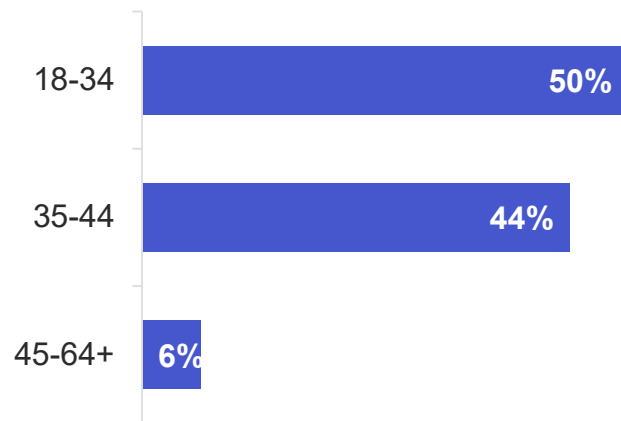
Education



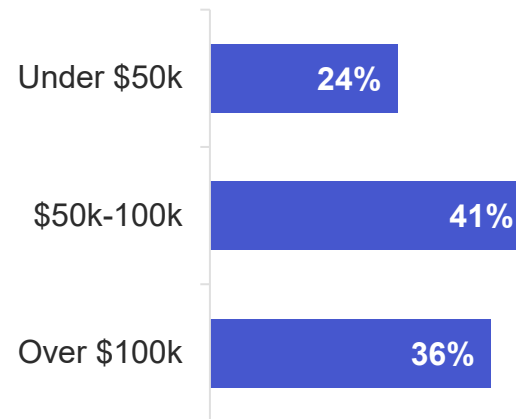
Ethnicity



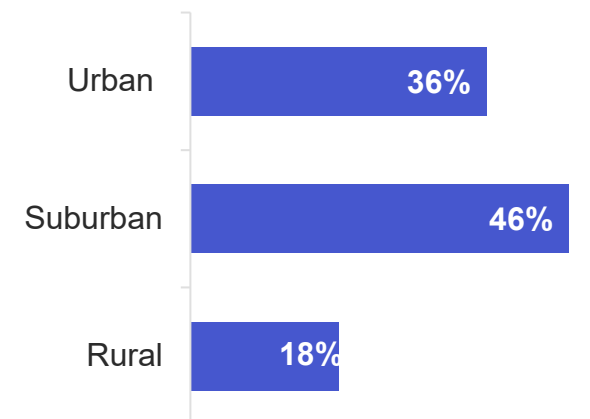
Age



Income



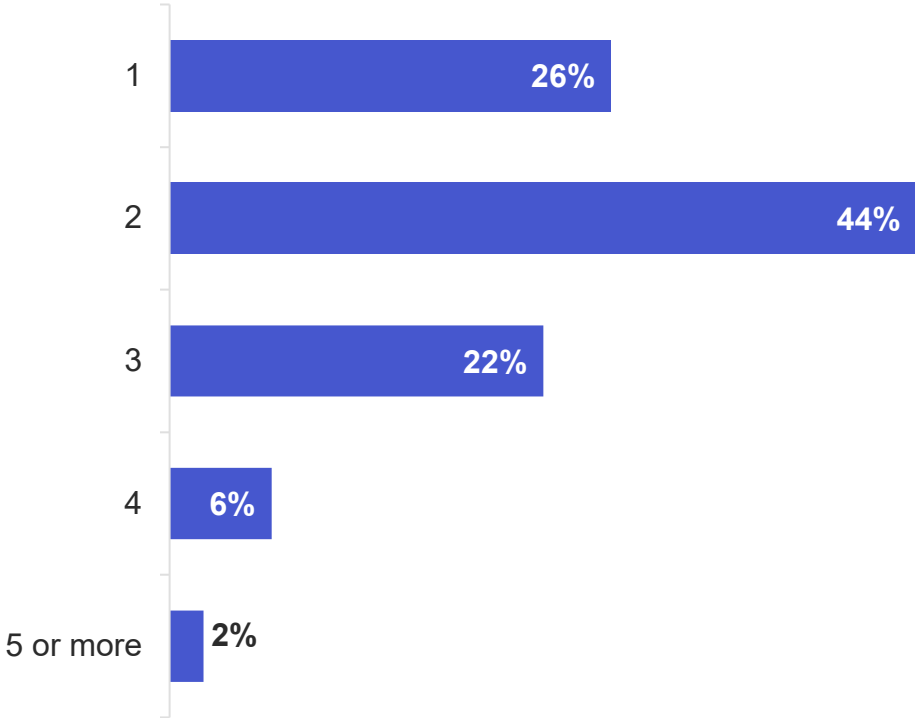
Community Type



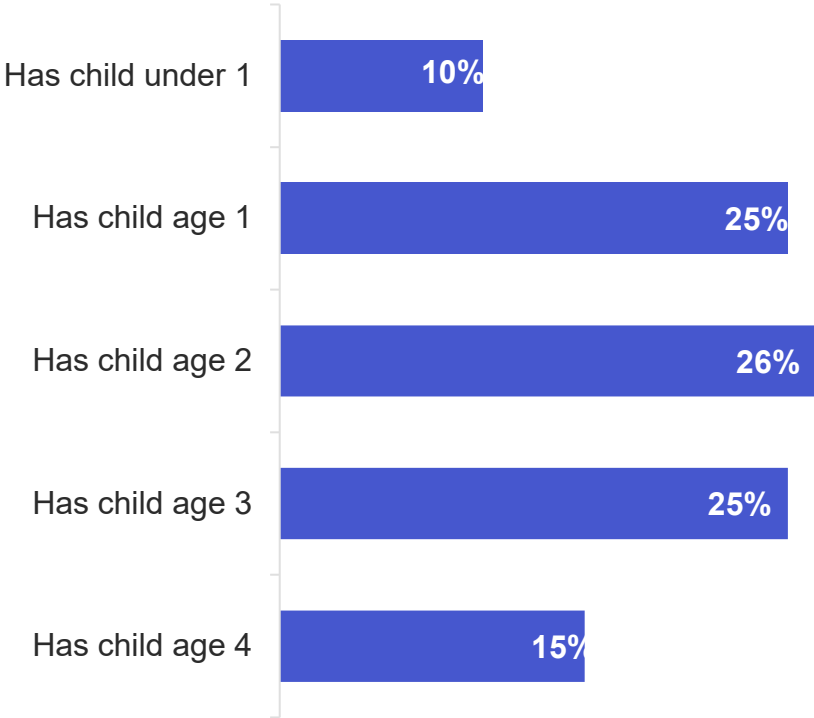
RESPONDENT PROFILE

Family Demographics

How many children under the age of 18 do you have?



Age of children





RESPONDENT PROFILE

**Employment Demographics**

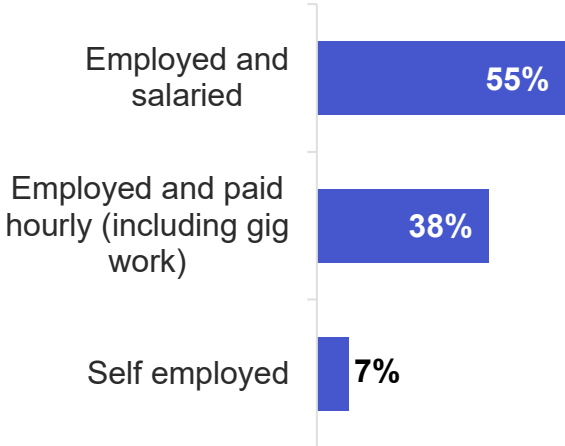
Which of the following categories best describes your current job?



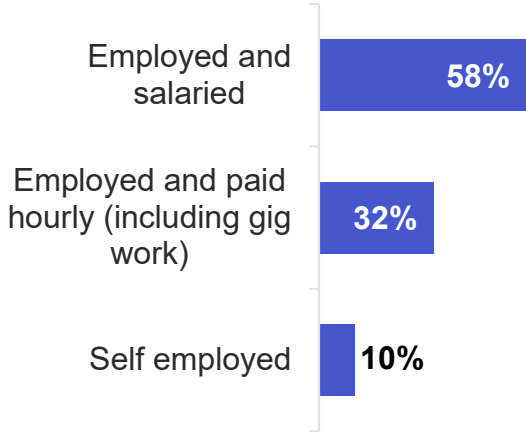
Which of the following categories best describes your spouse's or partner's current job?



How would you describe your present employment situation?



How would you describe your spouse's or partner's present employment situation?





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