



Bipartisan Policy Center

Work is Changing: How Will It Impact Child Care?

Highlights from a new national survey of working parents

June 22, 2021



Survey Objectives

Goals of the May 2021 Parent Survey

- Understand parents' current and preferred work arrangements
- Determine the use of child care beyond the traditional 8am to 6pm workday
- Clarify child care preferences for working families, especially for informal or parent-provided child care arrangements
- Understand the extent to which parents are concerned about their children's social-emotional and behavioral health



Parent Survey Series

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

<u>OCTOBER 2019</u> The Impact of Child Care Costs on Parents	<u>APRIL 2020</u> Child Care in the Time of Coronavirus	<u>AUGUST 2020</u> Child Care in COVID-19: Another Look at Parents' Perspectives	<u>DECEMBER 2020</u> Parent Child Care Preferences: Are They Changing?	<u>MAY 2021</u> Work Is Changing: How Will it Impact Child Care
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Parent Survey Series: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/parent-survey-resource-center/>



Methodology

Survey Methodology

- Survey conducted online from May 20-31, 2021, among a national sample of 800 parents of children under age 5 and in households in which all available parents are employed.
- Results have a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.
- For simplicity, respondents in this survey are referenced as *parents*.



Parents' Work Arrangements



Survey Job Classifications

Job Categories

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

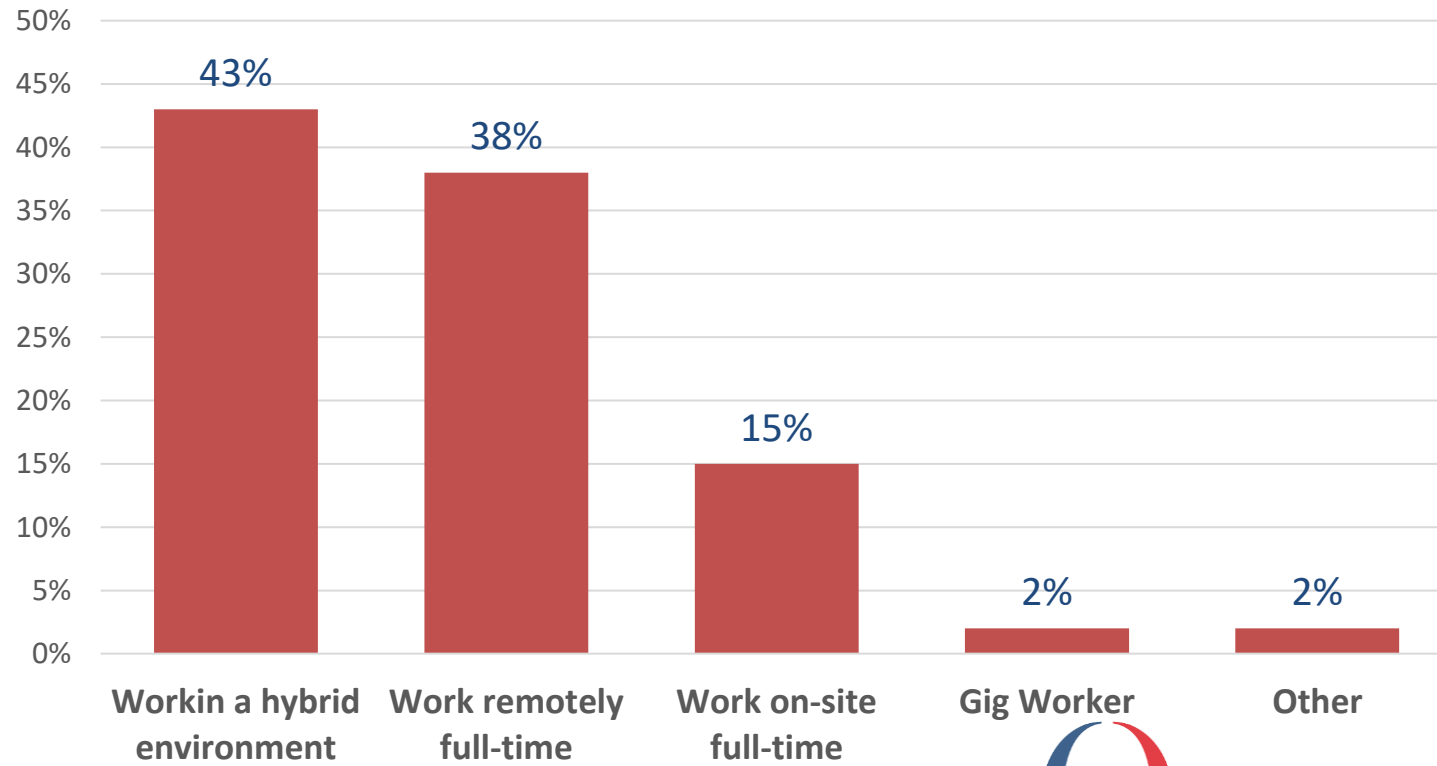
A gig is a job that lasts a certain period of time. It can be short-term and specific in length, or long-term and lasting as long as the need from a company continues. Examples of a gig job can include driving for Uber, or delivering meals via GrubHub.



Parents' Work Arrangements

Over half of parents (58%) report their employer allows them to work remotely. Of the 58% of parents who can work remotely, 81% do some type of remote work, whether full-time or a hybrid model.

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

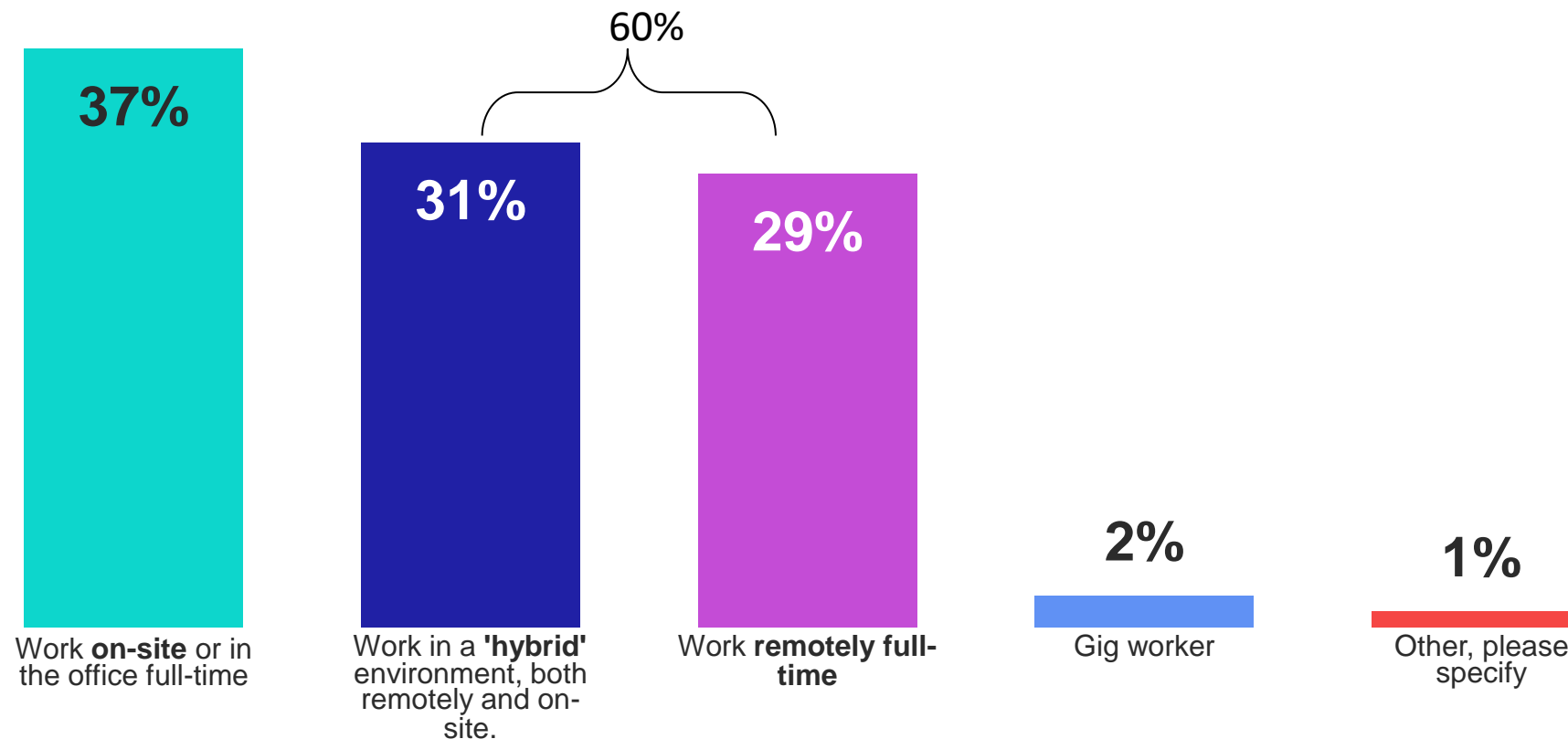


Parents with income less than \$50,000 are less likely to work remotely full-time, whereas higher income earners are more likely to work in a remote/onsite hybrid model.

Parents' Work Arrangements

Over half (60%) of all parents prefer some type of remote work option, whereas 37% of parents prefer working onsite full-time.

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



Parents' Work Arrangements

Over one-quarter (29%) of parents report they are made aware of their work schedules no more than 2 weeks in advance of working, and 42% of parents have a fixed work schedule.

Data show that Black parents and parents with low educational attainment and who earn less than \$50,000 are more likely to be made aware of their work schedule no more than 2 weeks in advance of working.

Work Schedule Awareness: % of Parents who Know Their Schedules No More than 2 Weeks in Advance

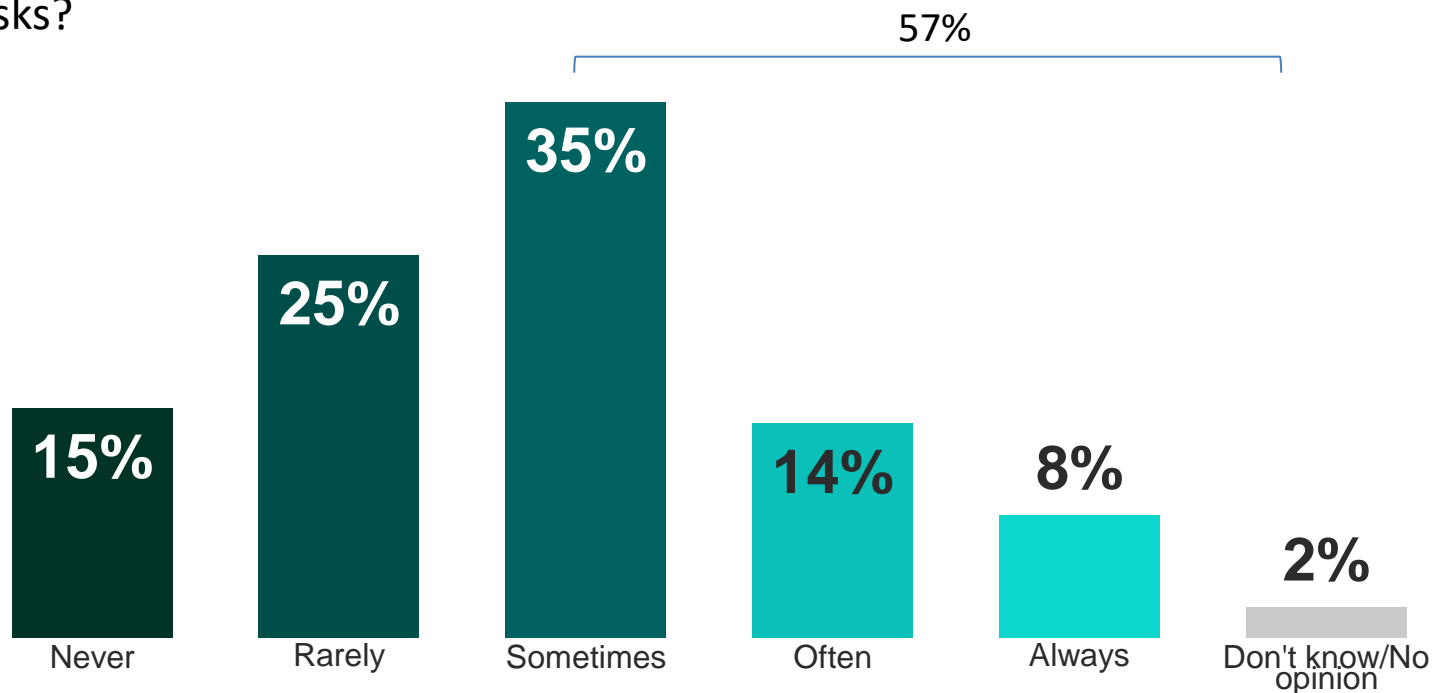
Ethnicity	
Black	41%
Hispanic	32%
White	28%
Income	
Under \$50k	46%
\$50k-\$100k	29%
\$100k+	19%
Education	
< College	45%
Bachelors Degree	19%
Post-Grad	19%



Parents' Work 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?



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.



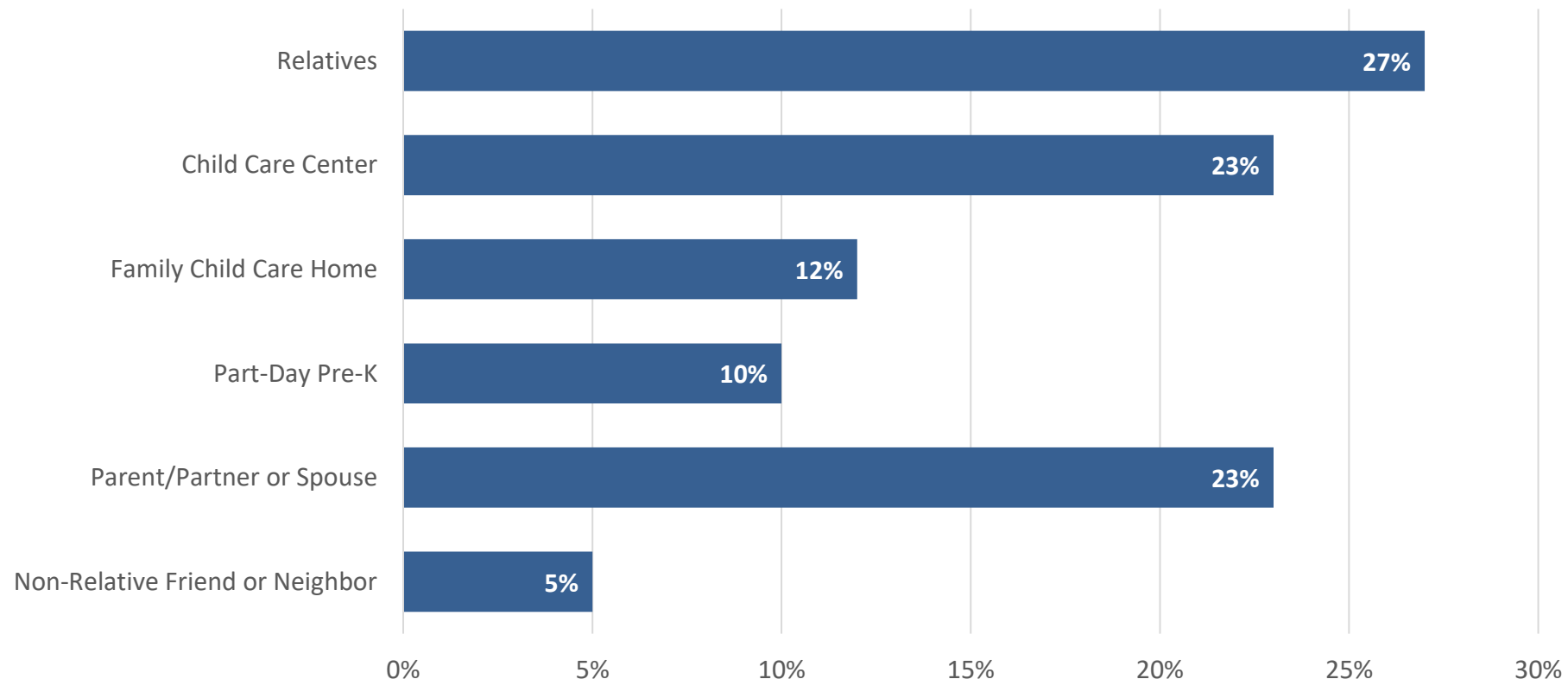
Current and Preferred Child Care Arrangements



Child Care During Traditional Work Hours

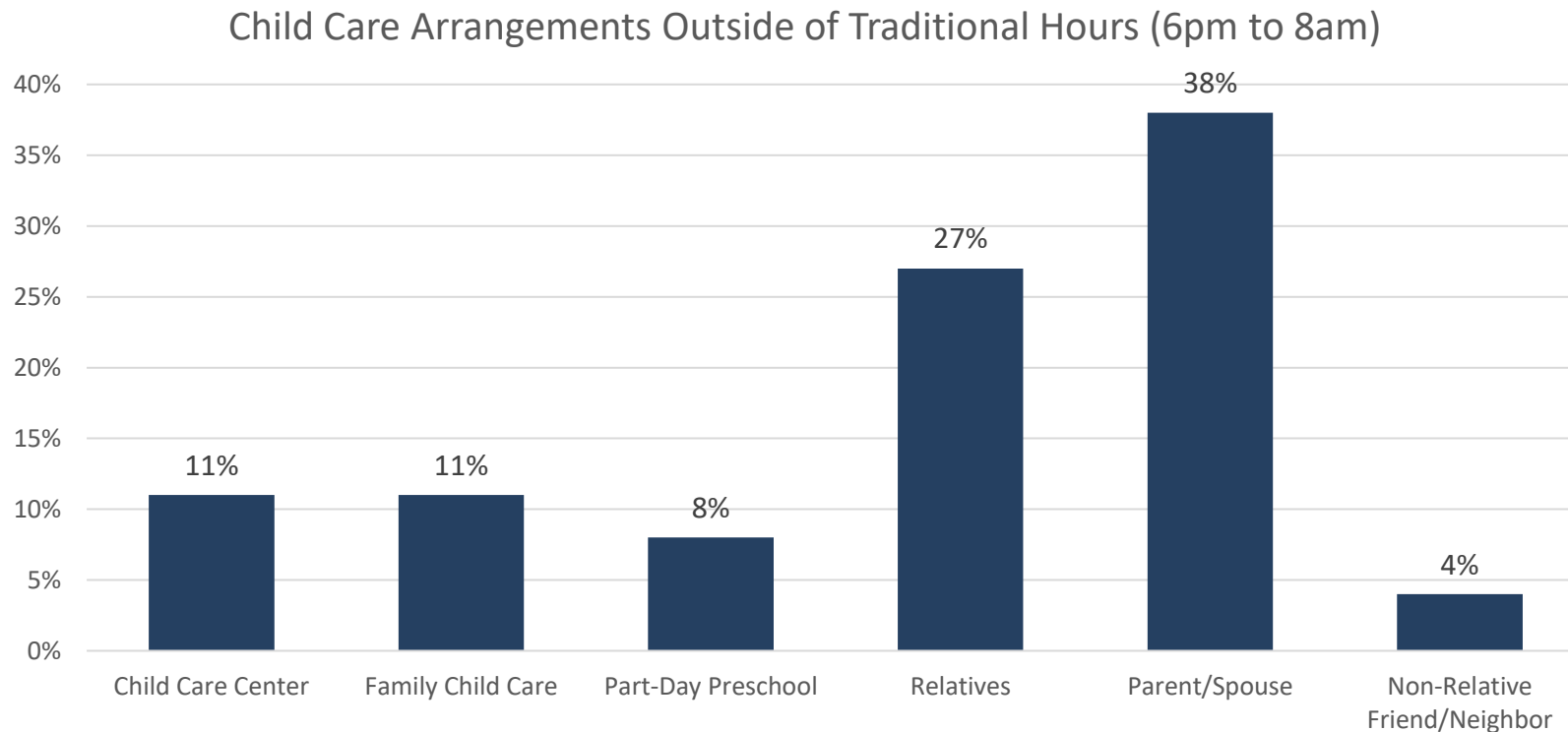
Parents in need of child care during traditional work hours rely heavily on relatives, child care centers, and parent-provided care as their primary care arrangements.

Primary Child Care Arrangements During Traditional Work Hours



Child Care Beyond Traditional Work Hours

Parents in need of child care outside of traditional work hours rely heavily on relatives, and parent-provided care as their primary care arrangements.



29% of parents report needing child care outside of traditional work hours (or between 6pm and 8am)



Child Care Beyond Traditional Work Hours

People need care outside of traditional work hours in the evening (49% need care from 6pm-8pm).



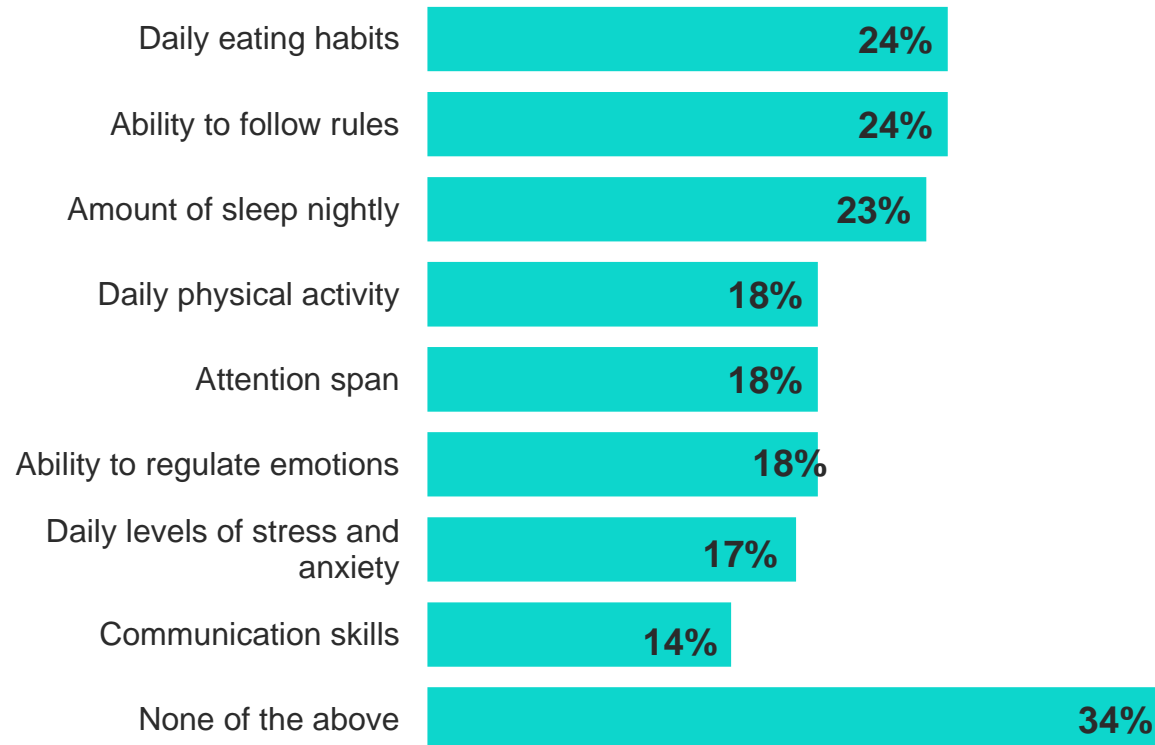


Children's Social Emotional Development



Children's Social-Emotional Health

Two-thirds of parents report their children's overall development has negatively changed over the last month, with one-quarter of parents reporting negative changes to their child's eating habits and ability to follow rules.



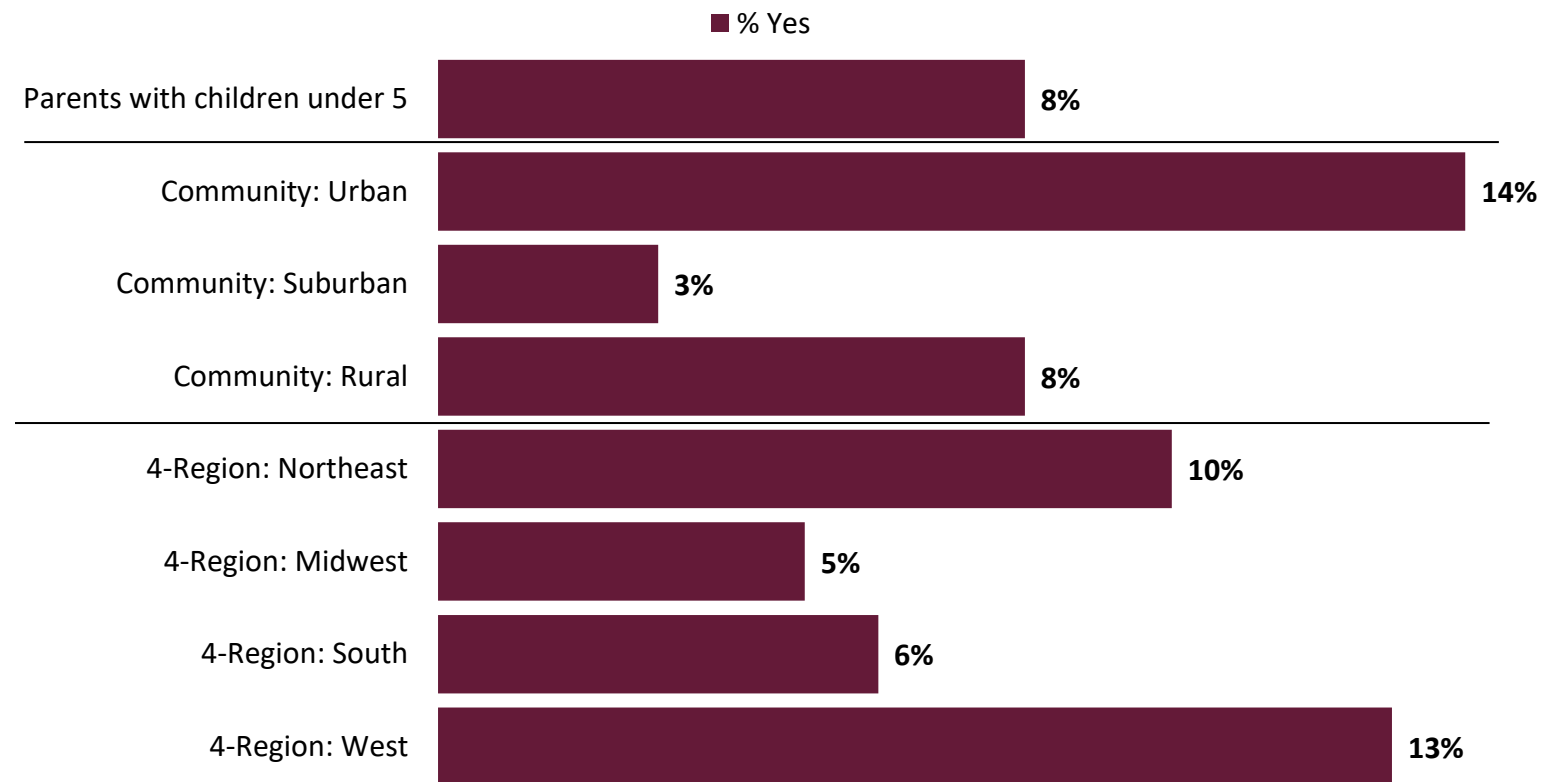
Parents in urban communities are more likely to report negative impacts to their children's development than parents in suburban and rural communities.



Children's Social-Emotional Health

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

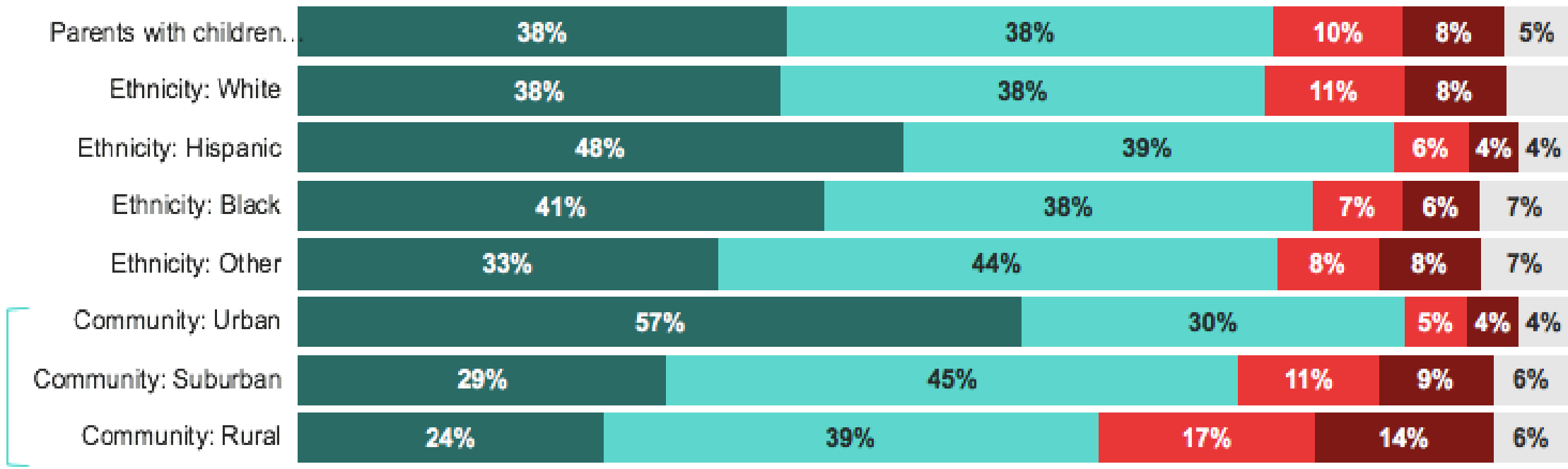
Parents in urban communities are more likely to report their child had been suspended or expelled from child care than parents in suburban communities.



Children's Social-Emotional Health

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

■ Very interested ■ Somewhat interested ■ Not too interested ■ Not interested at all ■ Don't know/No opinion



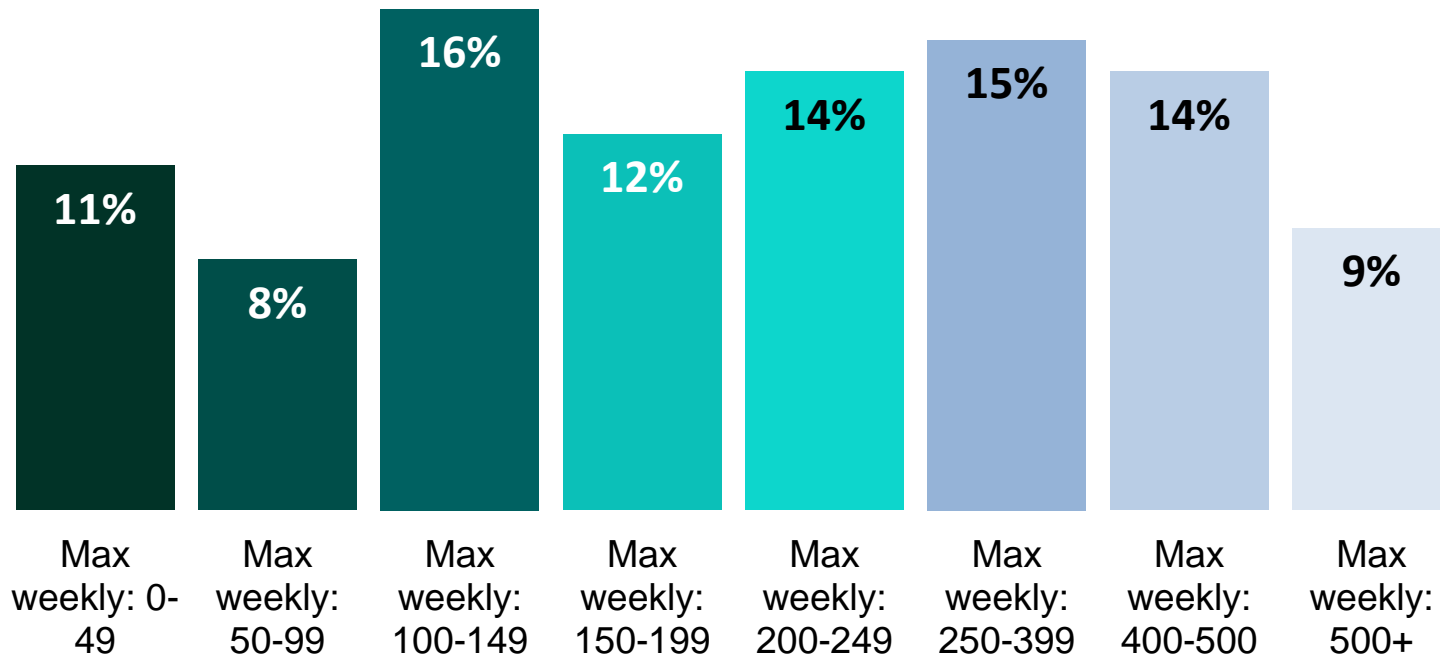


Supports for Affording Child Care



Child Care Affordability

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.

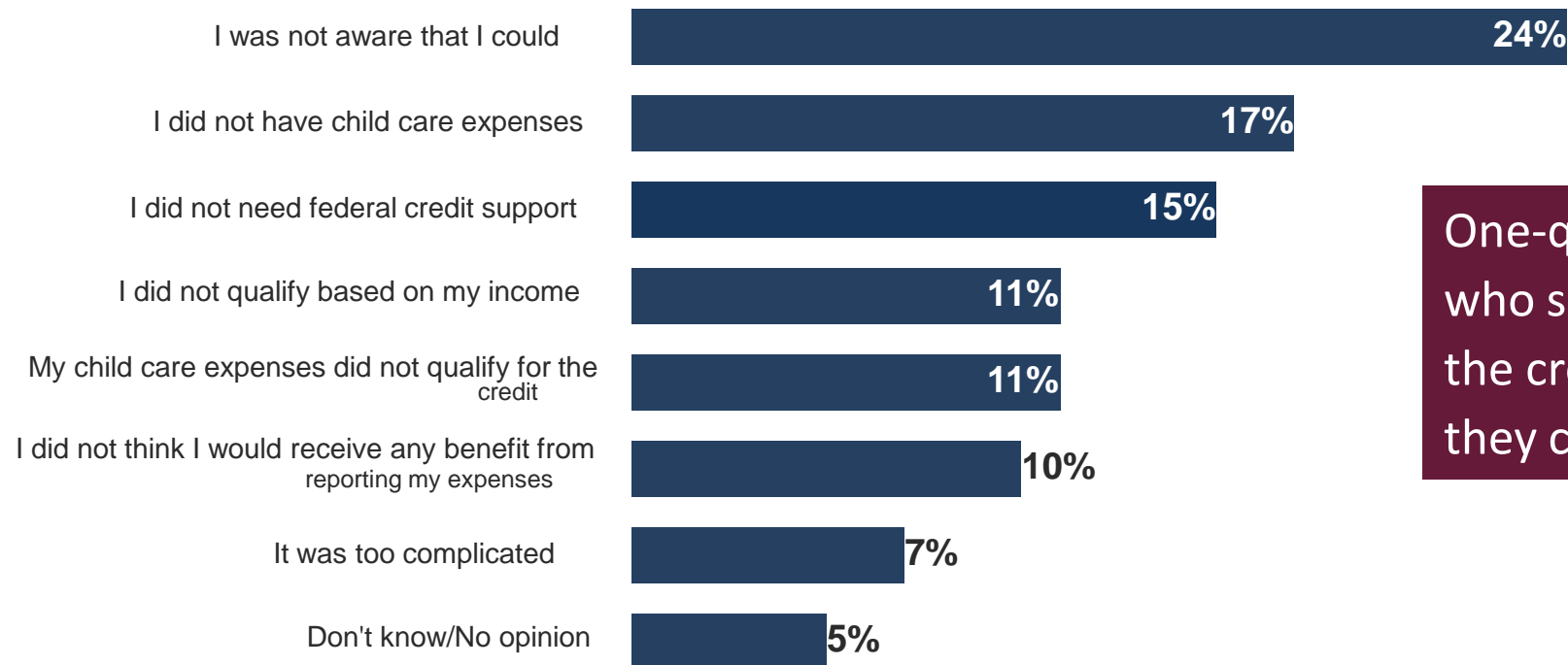


67% of service and retail workers report the maximum they can afford for child care is less than \$200 per week.



Supports for Affording Child Care

Nearly half (42%) of parents say they have received a federal tax credit for their child care expenses. While 51% said they have not, 7% of parents do not know if they have received it or not.

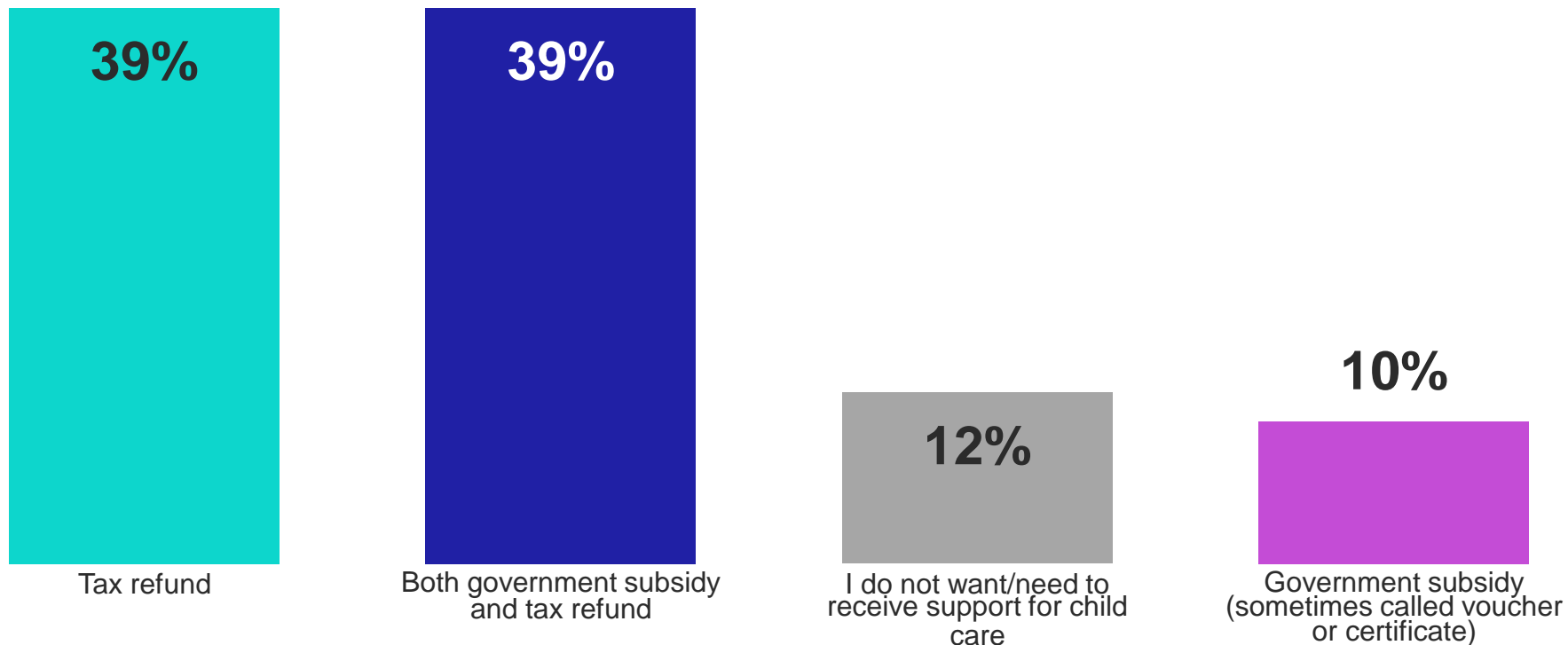


One-quarter (24%) of parents who said they did not receive the credit were not aware that they could.



Supports for Affording 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 through both government subsidies and tax refunds (39%).

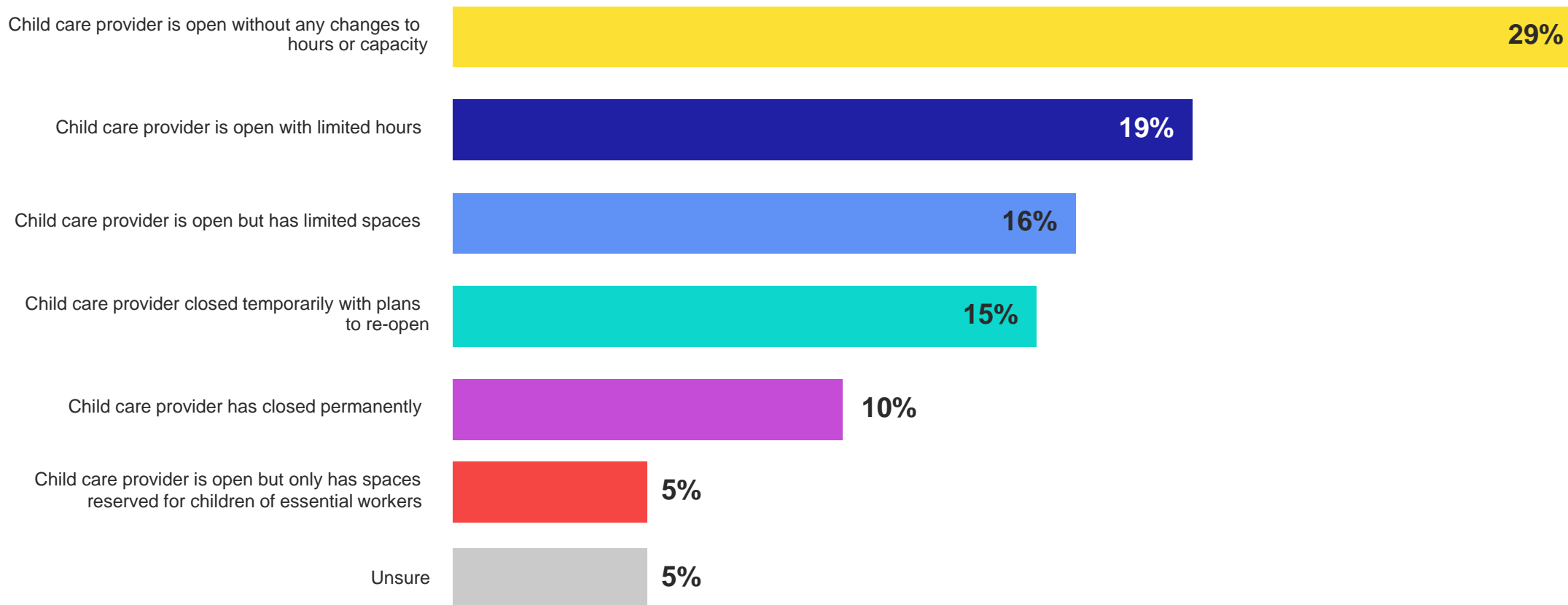


Operating Status of Child Care Programs



Child Care Closures

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



Child Care and Pre-K Preferences



Preferred Child Care Arrangements

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.

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

Child Care Arrangements They Would Most Prefer

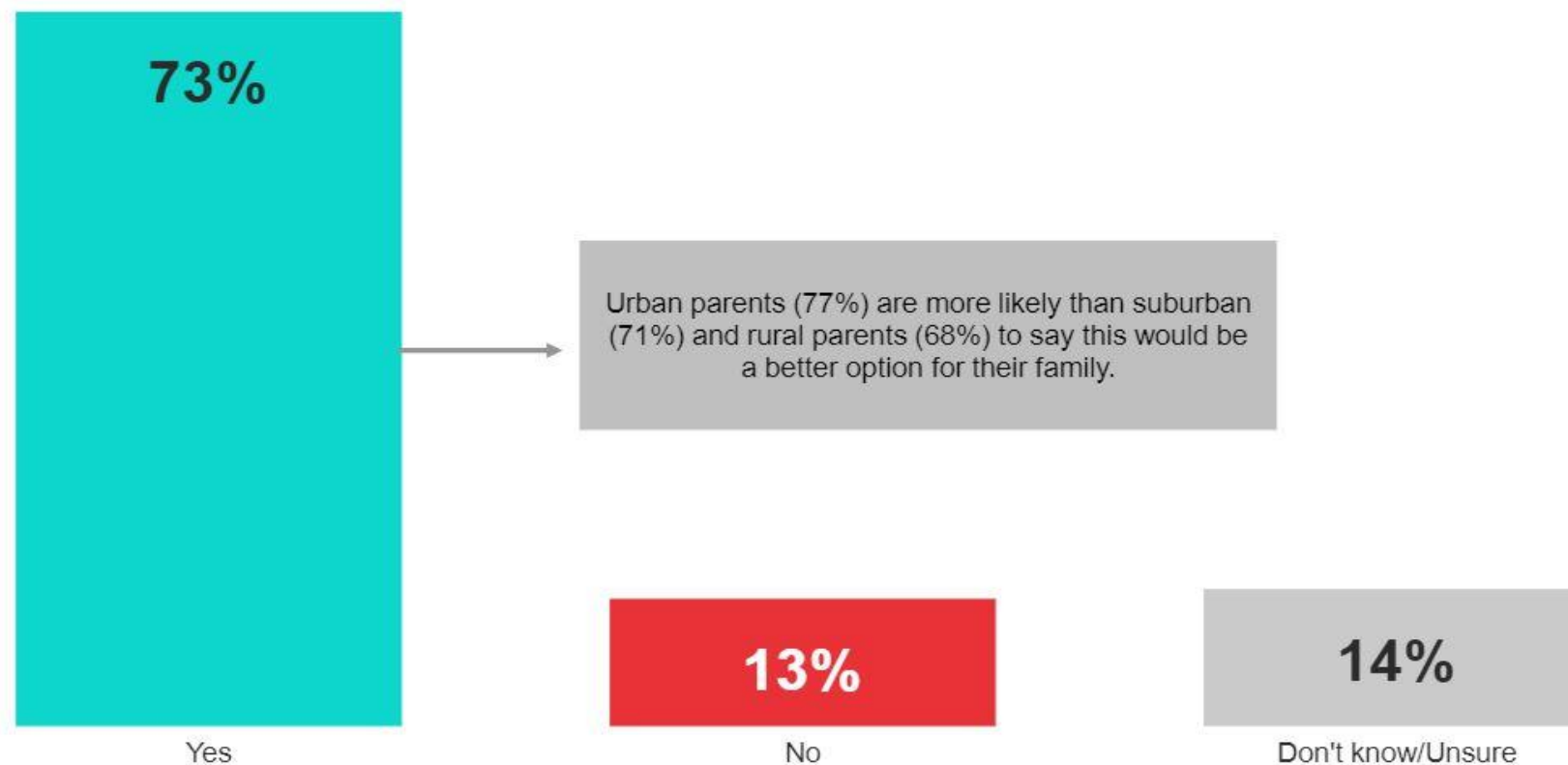
Current Child Care Arrangements During Traditional Work Hours	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	Part-day Pre-K Program	Head Start Program	Relative (e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)	I provided care for my child	My spouse/partner provided care for our child	My spouse/partner and I alternated providing 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%



Public Pre-k as a Child Care Option

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?

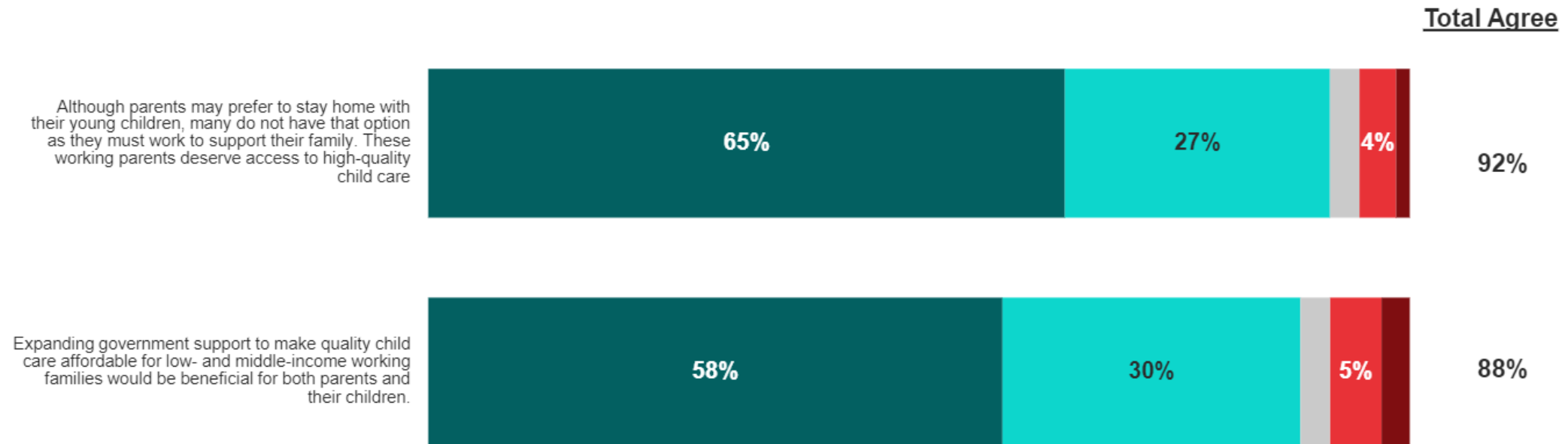


Support for Working Parents

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

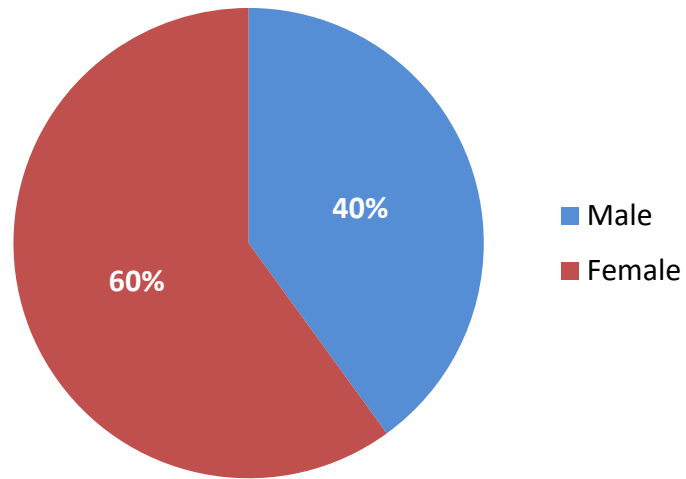


Respondent Demographics

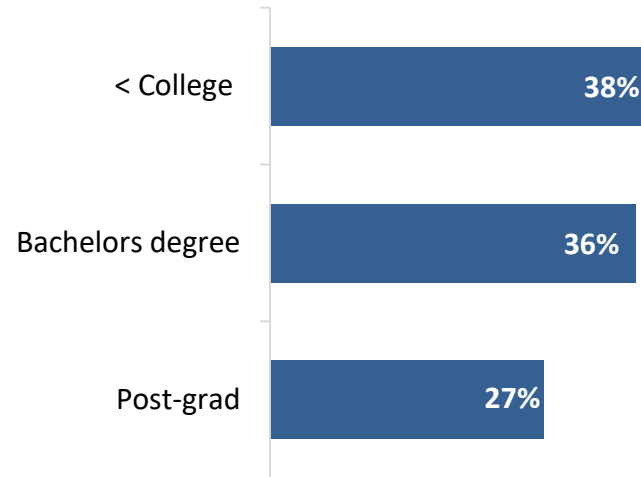


Respondent Profile

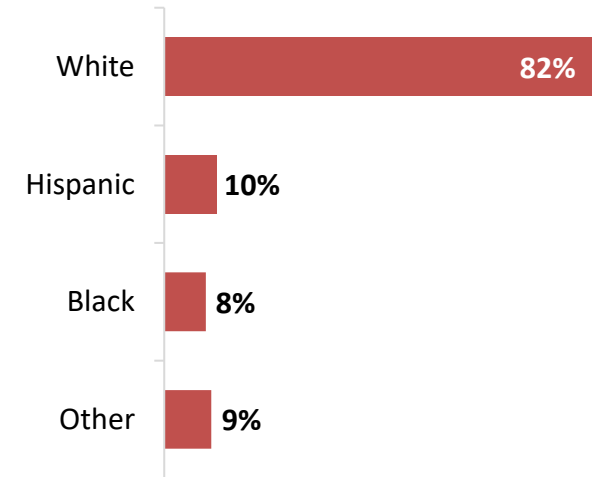
GENDER



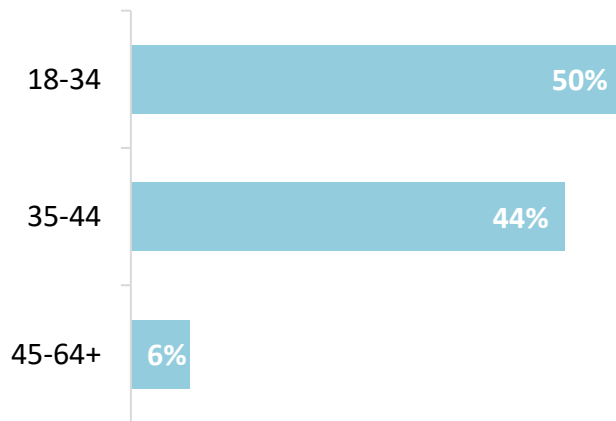
EDUCATION



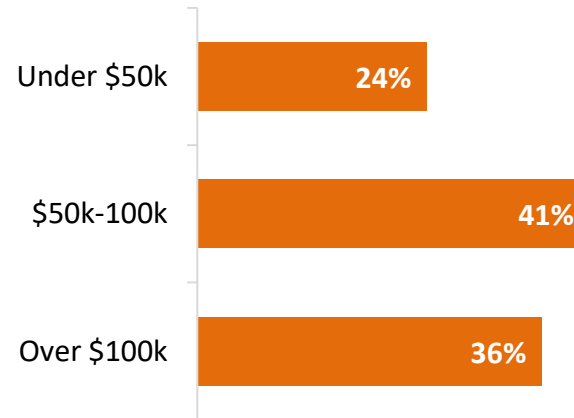
ETHNICITY



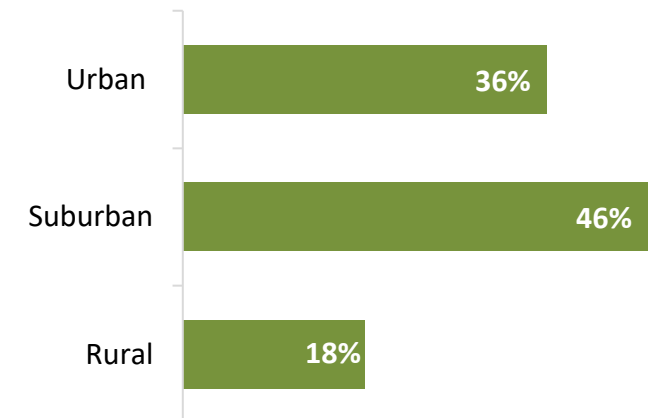
AGE



INCOME



COMMUNITY TYPE

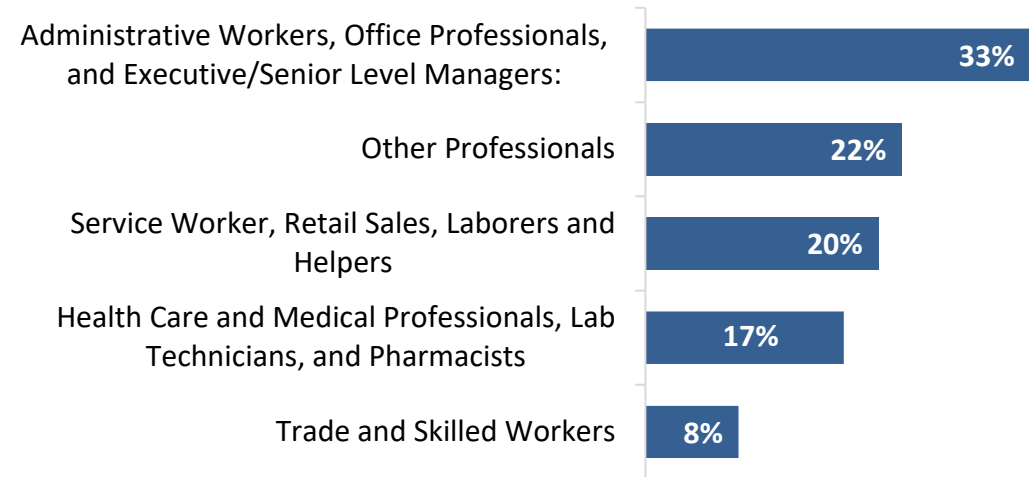


Employment Demographics

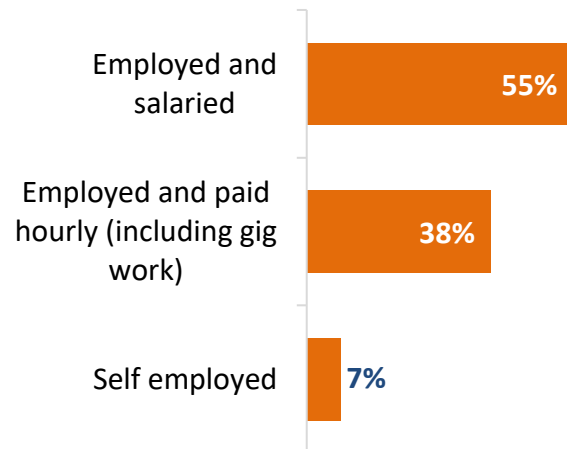
RESPONDENT JOB CLASSIFICATIONS



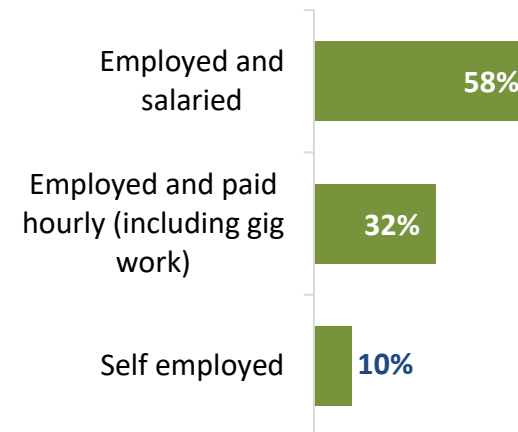
SPOUSE/PARTNER JOB CLASSIFICATIONS



RESPONDENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



SPOUSE/PARTNER EMPLOYMENT SITUATION





Discussion: How Do Changing Work Arrangements Impact Child Care?



Discussion

- The need for child care in the evening time is clear, but it falls outside of traditional hours for many child care programs. What are the implications on the child care system?
- One-in-five parents in which all available parents in the household are working rely on themselves or their spouse for child care. How does this impact what we know about the child care gap facing many communities?
- We've learned many parents aren't aware of their work schedules far enough in advance of working, and a large number of parents say child care responsibilities hinder their work. What role does the child care system play in supporting these parents? What can employers do?

*Please ask your questions
in the “comment” box*

