

2016 CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PARENT SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT



The Child Development Council, in conjunction with the Early Care & Learning Council of New York, surveyed parents with a child aged 12 or under to understand their child care experiences and needs. A total of 318 surveys were completed on paper and online. Data collection ended June 30, 2016.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The vast majority of survey respondents were from Tompkins County and the 14850 zip code. The majority of responding families are two-parent households where both parents work and have 3 to 4 total family members. Seventy-five percent of respondents said they currently have a child in child care. The income level of respondents skews slightly higher than the population of households with children in Tompkins and Cortland counties.

Table 1. Respondents by Zip Code

Zip Code	N	%
13045	33	10.4%
13053	13	4.1%
13062	2	.6%
13068	24	7.5%
13073	17	5.3%
13077	6	1.9%
13092	2	.6%
13101	3	.9%
13102	1	.3%
13158	3	.9%
13784	1	.3%
13803	1	.3%
14580	1	.3%
14817	8	2.5%
14845	1	.3%
14850	169	53.1%
14852	1	.3%
14853	1	.3%
14867	11	3.5%
14882	10	3.1%
14886	10	3.1%

Figure 1. Percent of Respondents by County

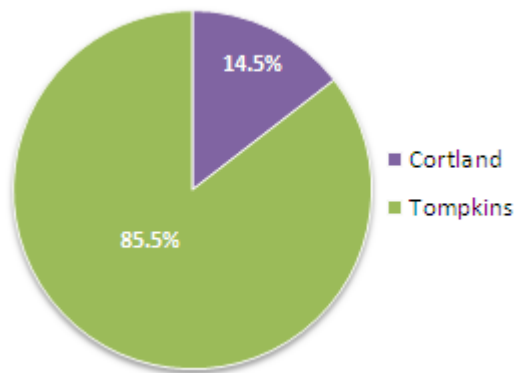


Figure 2. Percent of Respondents by Family Size

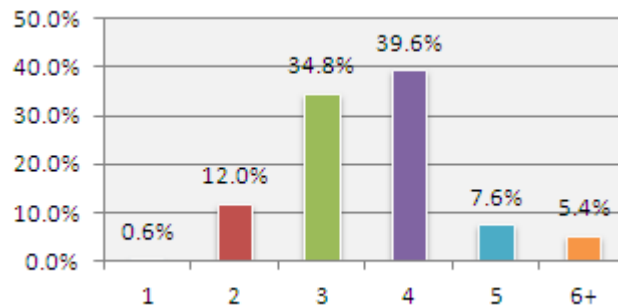


Figure 3. Percent of Respondents by Family Composition

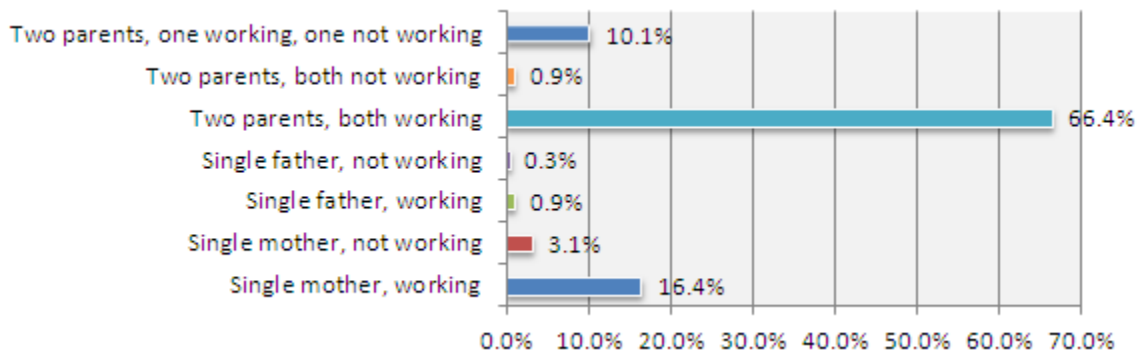


Table 2. Family Income

Survey	N	%	Census Data: ACS 2014, Table B19131 – Cortland & Tompkins Combined	%
No income	1	0.3%		
Less than \$32,000	60	20.5%	Less than \$30,000	22.8%
\$32,000-\$40,000	27	9.2%	\$30,000 to \$39,999	7.4%
\$40,001-\$50,000	18	6.1%	\$40,000 to \$49,999	8.7%
\$50,001-\$60,000	21	7.2%	\$50,000 to \$59,999	8.1%
\$60,001-\$70,000	22	7.5%	\$60,000 to \$74,999	10.9%
\$70,001-\$80,000	20	6.8%	\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.1%
\$80,001-\$90,000	22	7.5%		
\$90,001-\$100,000	22	7.5%		
\$100,001-\$150,000	62	21.2%	\$100,000 to \$159,999	15.1%
\$150,001-\$250,000	15	5.1%	\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.4%
\$250,001-\$350,000	1	0.3%	\$200,000 or more	5.4%
\$350,001-\$500,000	2	0.7%		

CHOOSING CHILD CARE

Respondents were asked to indicate which factors they considered when making their child care arrangements and to rank them in order of priority. Quality, location, hours, cost, and whether their children were happy in the program were considered most frequently and prioritized most highly.

Table 3. Factors Considered When Making Child Care Arrangements

	Selected as Factor	Priority Rank				
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Quality	64.1%	43.0%	11.5%	5.8%	7.0%	6.2%
Location	62.3%	10.9%	16.8%	16.6%	16.0%	11.3%
Children happy in program	48.4%	11.0%	17.3%	9.0%	8.5%	11.9%
Hours	54.7%	6.6%	15.9%	15.7%	12.2%	9.8%
Cost	50.6%	8.3%	11.1%	12.1%	12.7%	11.3%
A good learning/educational program	30.5%	3.9%	7.1%	9.4%	8.0%	5.2%
Caregiver trained/educated	25.5%	5.3%	4.9%	7.2%	6.1%	5.7%
Heard good things from other parents	19.8%	2.6%	3.5%	4.9%	4.2%	7.2%
Caregiver is a relative	13.2%	5.3%	1.3%	2.2%	3.3%	4.6%
Caregiver is knowledgeable	17.0%	0.4%	4.4%	4.0%	5.6%	3.6%
Activities offered to children	20.4%	0.0%	1.8%	5.4%	8.0%	5.7%
Small number of children to adults	14.4%	0.0%	1.8%	3.6%	2.8%	7.2%
My other child used this program	7.9%	0.4%	0.4%	2.2%	0.9%	4.1%
Program is nationally accredited	5.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%	1.9%	1.5%
Program accepted subsidy	4.1%	0.8%	0.4%	1.3%	0.5%	1.0%
Provider has experience with special needs	3.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%
How I was treated at time of visit	6.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.4%	2.6%

TYPES OF CHILD CARE USED

Respondents were asked to indicate where their children had been cared for in the past 6 months. Infants were most often cared for in child care centers or by their parent or a relative. Respondents with infants were much more likely to indicate that they were currently seeking care. Toddlers were most often cared for by child care centers or in licensed family child care. Pre-school age children were most often cared for in child care centers or Head Start. School age children were most frequently in school-age care. Most respondents indicated they only used one child care option, but a significant portion use a patchwork of arrangements to meet their needs. Families with older children were more likely use multiple child care arrangements. A handful of respondents (N=11) said they use unlicensed care. Five respondents said they use full-day preschool for their child and 3 respondents said they use the YMCA for child care.

Figure 4. Where Infant Has Been Cared for in the Past 6 Months (N=74)

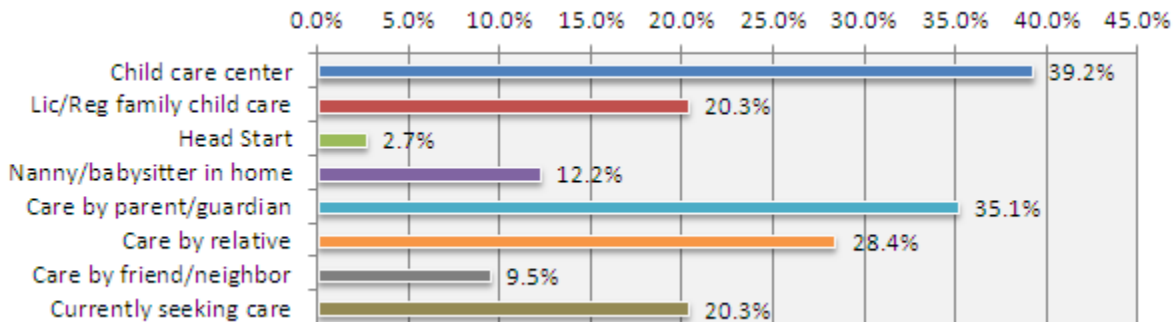


Figure 5. Where Toddler Has Been Cared for in the Past 6 Months (N=120)

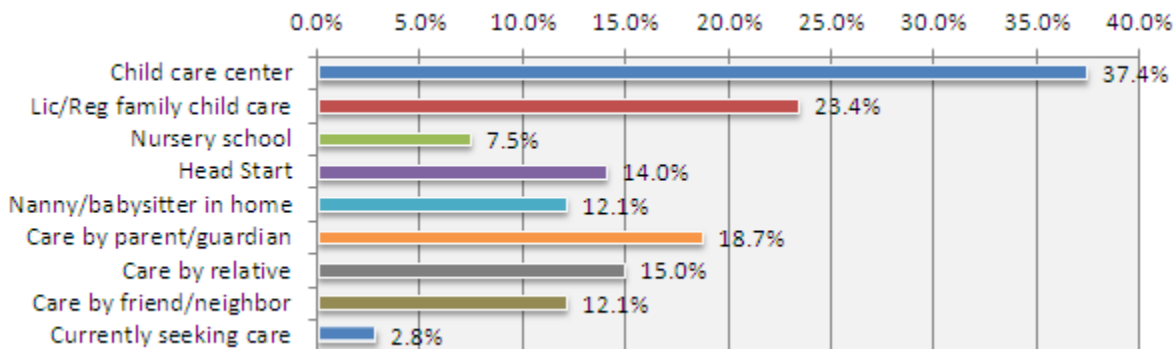


Figure 6. Where Pre-school Age Child Has Been Cared for in the Past 6 Months (N=107)

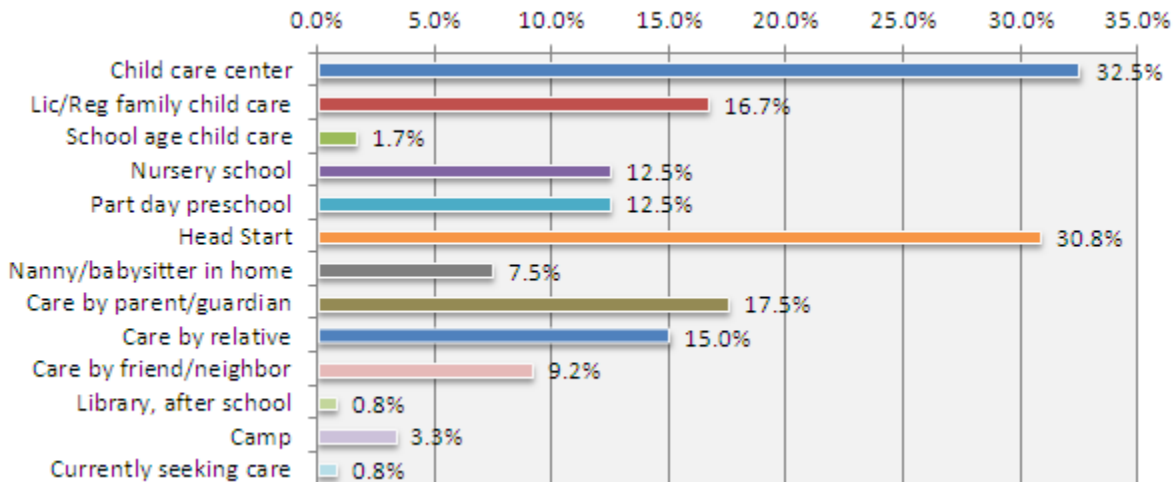


Figure 7. Where School-Age Child Has Been Cared for in the Past 6 Months (N=107)

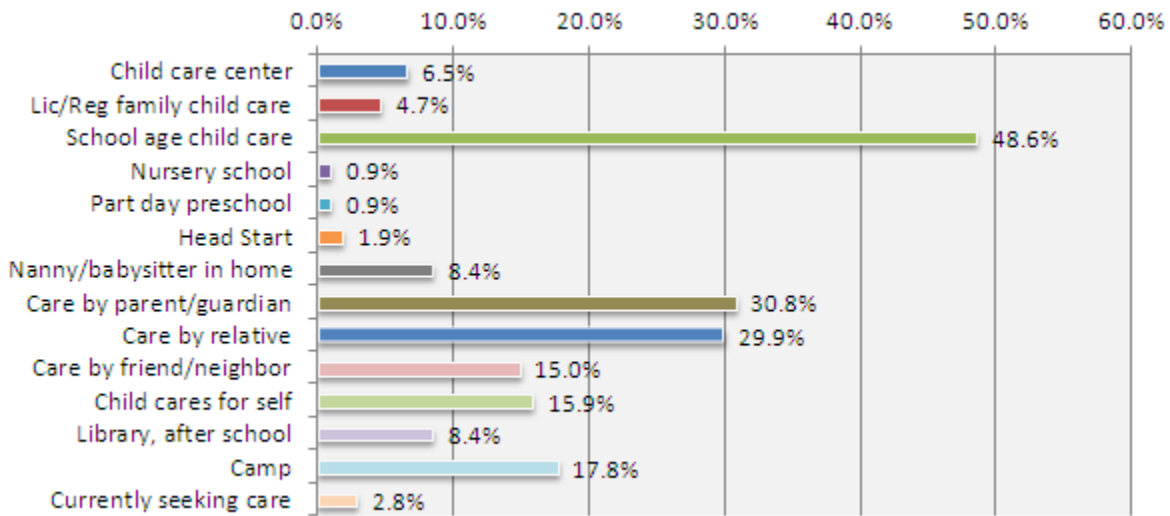
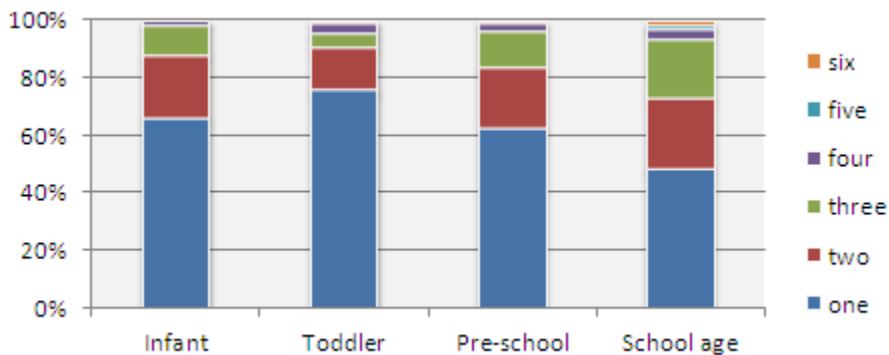


Table 4. Average Number of Child Care Options Utilized

	Infant Care	Toddler Care	Preschooler Care	School Age Care
Mean	1.47	1.40	1.6	1.90
Median	1	1	1.0	2.0

Figure 8. Number of Child Care Options Utilized



SATISFACTION WITH CARE

The vast majority respondents indicated they were satisfied with their child care arrangements. Satisfaction was highest for toddler care and pre-school age care.

Figure 9. Satisfaction with Infant Care

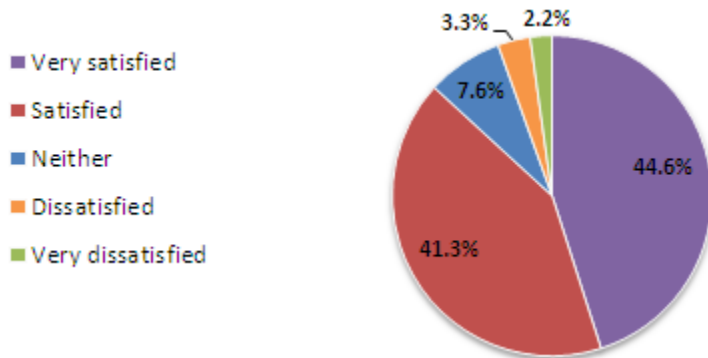


Figure 10. Satisfaction with Toddler Care

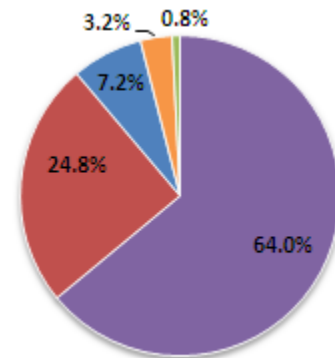


Figure 11. Satisfaction with Pre-School Age Care

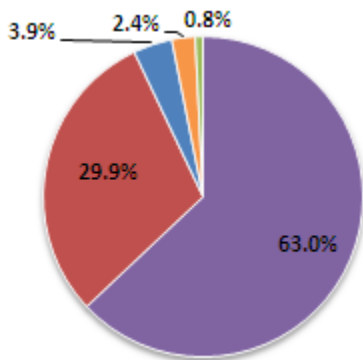
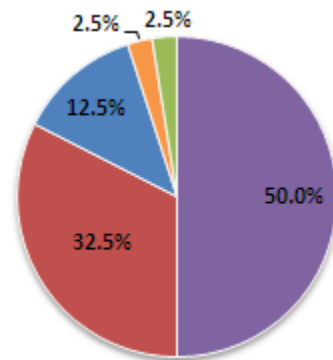


Figure 12. Satisfaction with School Age Care



PAYING FOR CHILD CARE

Of the respondents saying they have at least one child in care, the majority (43.3%) said they have never had trouble paying for child care in the last 6 months. Non-working parents and single parents much more frequently said they always or often have trouble paying for child care. Respondents most frequently said they cut back on family expenses, borrow from family members, or use a “patchwork” to keep child care costs down in order to be able to afford child care. Five percent (N=15) of respondents receive a child care subsidy from the Department of Social Services to pay for care. Nearly all (N=14) of those receiving a child care subsidy said they were having difficulty paying their family share fee and over a quarter (N=4) said they are currently behind in their family share fee payments.

Figure 13. Percent of Respondents by How Often They Have Trouble Paying for Child Care

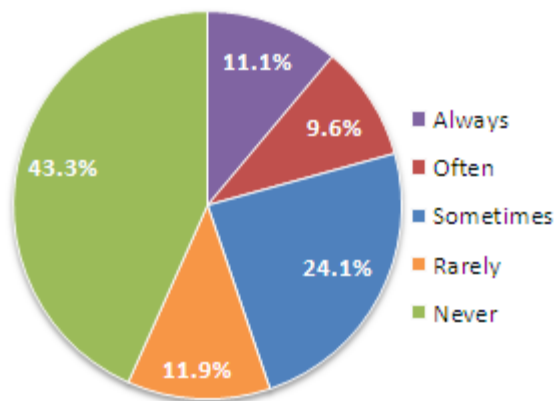


Table 5. Families Having Trouble Paying for Child Care by Family Composition

Family Composition	Always or Often
Single mother, working	25.0%
Single mother, not working	50.0%
Single father, working	33.0%
Single father, not working	100.0%
Two parents, both working	12.8%
Two parents, both not working	0.0%
Two parents, one working, one not working	15.6%

Figure 14. Families Having Trouble Paying for Child Care Always or Often by Family Composition

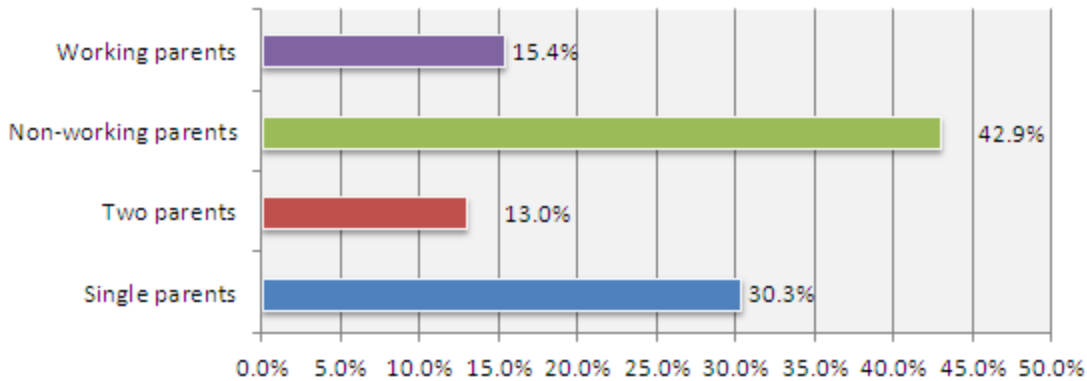


Table 6. What Families Did in Order to Pay for Child Care

	N	%
Borrow from family	43	13.5%
Borrow from friends	7	2.2%
Use credit cards because I did not have money to pay	28	8.8%
Cut back on basic household spending (ex. Food, utilities)	81	25.5%
Cut back your hours at work	25	7.9%
Cut back the hours your child attends child care	28	8.8%
Remove your child from regulated care to use informal care (friends, relatives, etc.)	21	6.6%
Switch your child care provider for less expensive child care	13	4.1%
Use a "patchwork" to keep costs down (i.e. use child care one day, family member the next, a neighbor the next, etc.)	38	11.9%
None of the above, I am able to pay for care on my own	114	35.8%
<i>Other responses: child care grant/assistance (N=17), child care is free (N=13), savings (N=4), loan (N=2), pay late (N=1), work more (N=1)</i>		

Respondents reported a dramatically higher cost of care for infants with a mean cost of \$223 per week. School age care is the lowest at a mean cost of \$54 per week. Toddler care and pre-school care had a similar mean cost per care between \$135 and \$139 per week.

Figure 15. Cost of Care - Infant

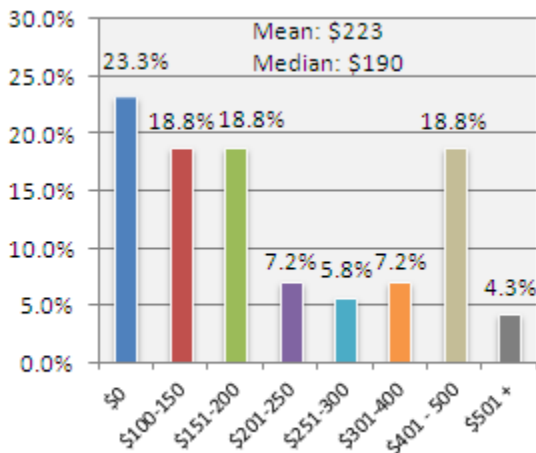


Figure 16. Cost of Care - Toddler

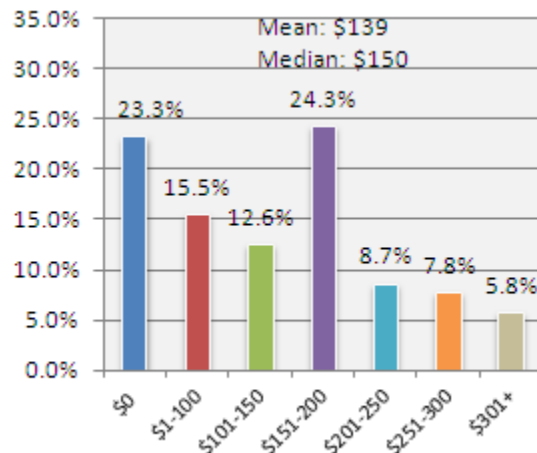


Figure 17. Cost of Care Pre-School

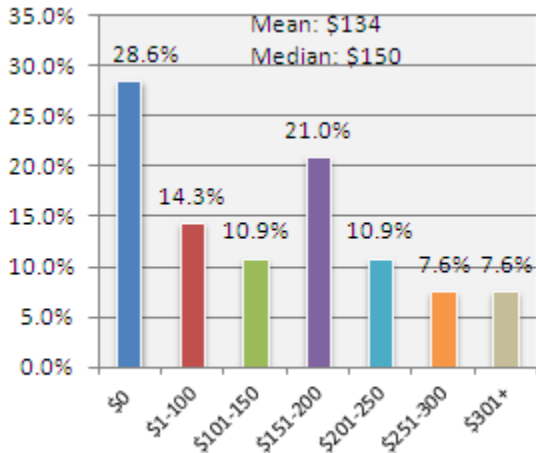
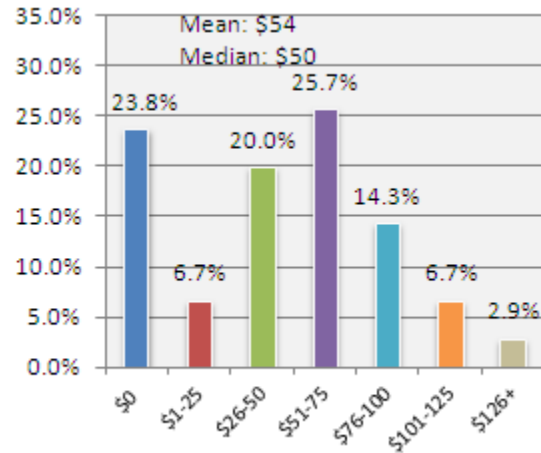


Figure 18. Cost of Care - School Age



CHILD CARE AND WORK

Respondents were asked to indicate which child care issues they had experienced and the impact it had on their work and job. The most frequently noted issue that respondents reported experiencing was that they had no one to watch their child while they worked (21.1%) and that their care was not always reliable (15.1%). Other responses included not having care when their child was sick or on school breaks, the hours that their care was available, and transportation. The impact of child care issues on work centered primarily on work hours with 40.6% of respondents saying they had to leave early, 38.1% reporting they had to call out of work, and 30.8% saying they arrived to work late. Other responses included not returning to work, worrying, having to work part-time or taking a second job, and taking paid time off. Overall, a minority of respondents said their employer offered child care support options. The most frequently mentioned option (29.6%) was that their employer allows them to work from home when their child is sick. Nearly 1 in 5 respondents said their employer offered paternity leave, financial assistance to pay for child care, and resources to find child care. Other options respondents said their employers offered included allowing them to bring their child to work, offering flex time, and unpaid maternity leave.

Figure 19. Child Care Issues Faced in Past Year

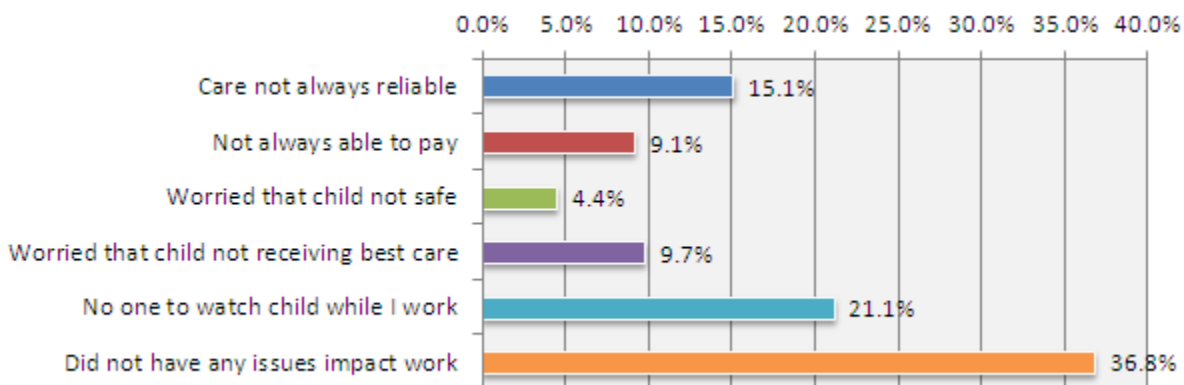


Figure 20. Impact of Child Care Issues in Past Year

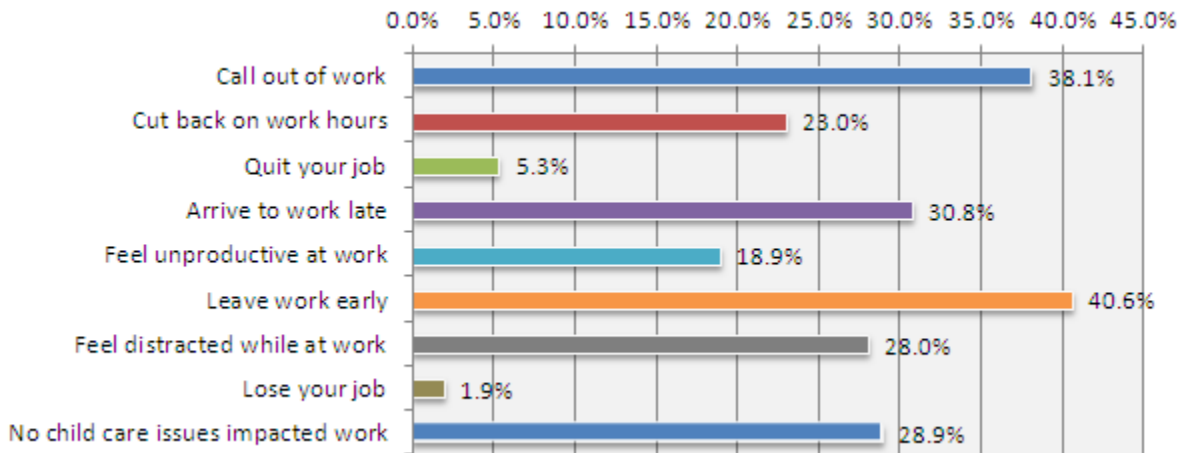
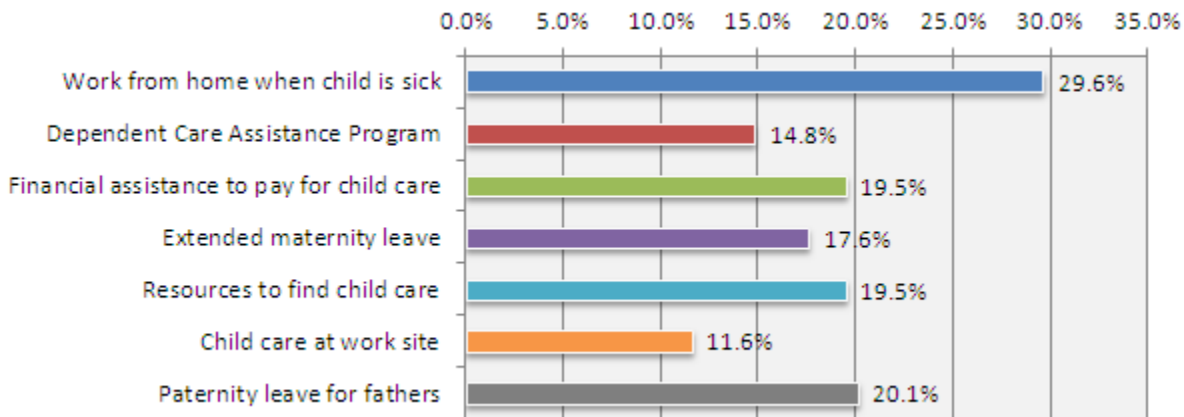


Figure 21. Child Care Support Options Provided by Employer



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