

# EARLY **MILESTONES**

## COLORADO

WAVE 2 COVID-19 SURVEY FINDINGS: ECE Sector and Families

Colorado Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative  
Commission

AUGUST 10, 2021

# AGENDA

- 1 PROGRAM CAPACITY
- 2 WORKFORCE
- 3 FAMILIES

SURVEY RESPONSES *(as of 06/1/21, rounded)*

Closed



Wave 2 Providers: 1,450

*Wave 1: 1,200*

Closed



Wave 2 Workforce: 4,300

*Wave 1: 5,900*

Closed



Wave 2 Families: 6,300

*Wave 1: 4,000*

# PROGRAM SUPPLY/CAPACITY

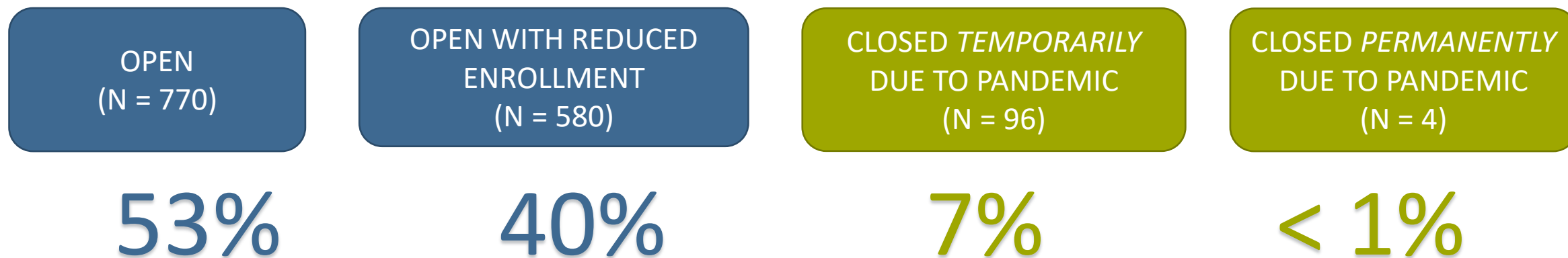


## KEY SUPPLY/CAPACITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Less than **10%** of providers have closed temporarily or permanently
  - Most are providing resources to families
- **Average** enrollment has dropped by:
  - **25%** for children under 5
  - **29%** for school-age children
- Programs are uncertain about their ability to stay open **beyond 6 months**
- \*Results **weighted** by provider type

WHO CURRENTLY IS OPEN/CLOSED?

OPEN/CLOSED STATUS – BIRTH-12 YEARS



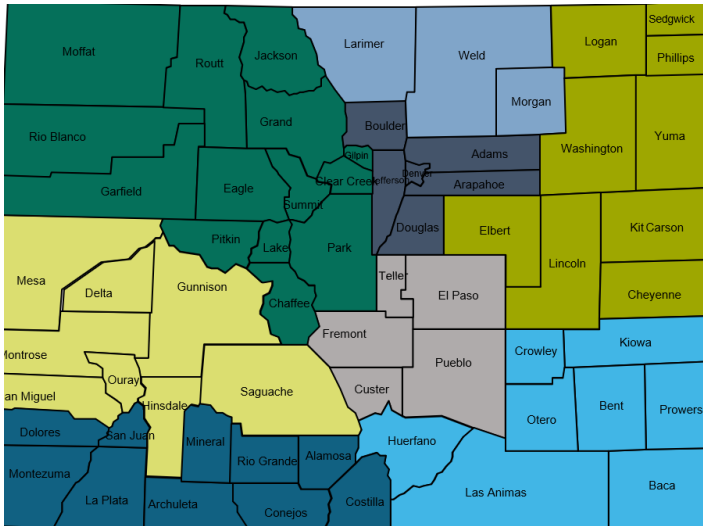
Schedule Adaptations



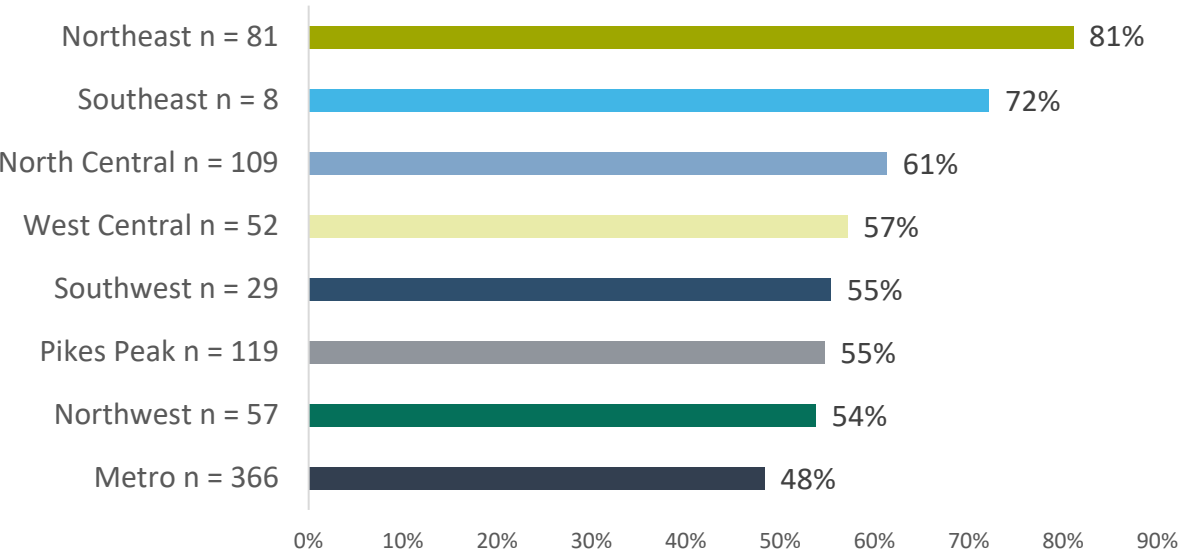
- **79%** (n = 66) of temporarily closed providers offered remote learning/resources
- About **23%** of providers are currently operating with reduced hours (n = 332)
- A combined **25%** have limited days of operation or other schedule limitations (n = 363)



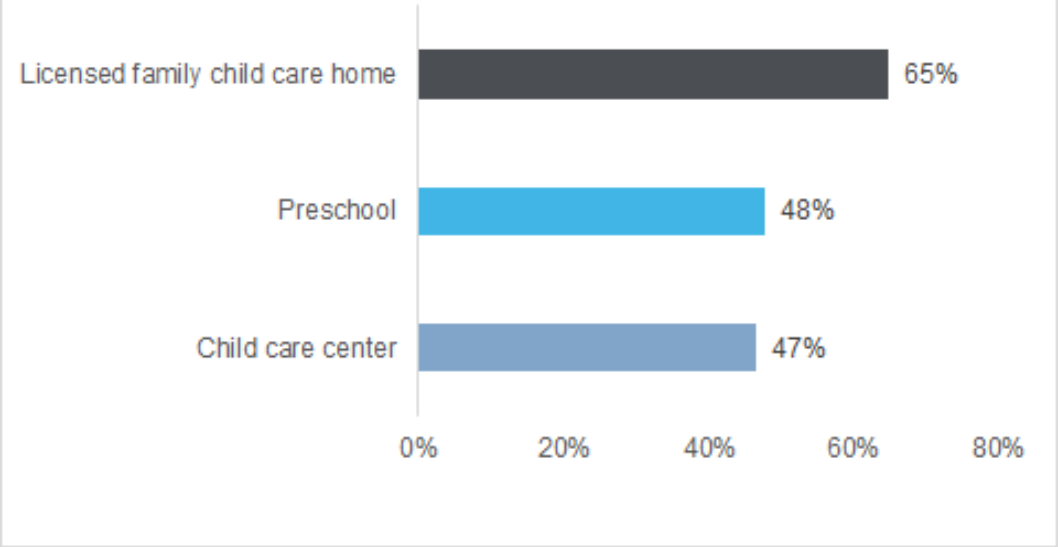
PRELIMINARY DATA



Open by Region



Open by Provider Type



HOW HAS AVERAGE ENROLLMENT CHANGED SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC?

BIRTH-AGE 4

↓ 25%

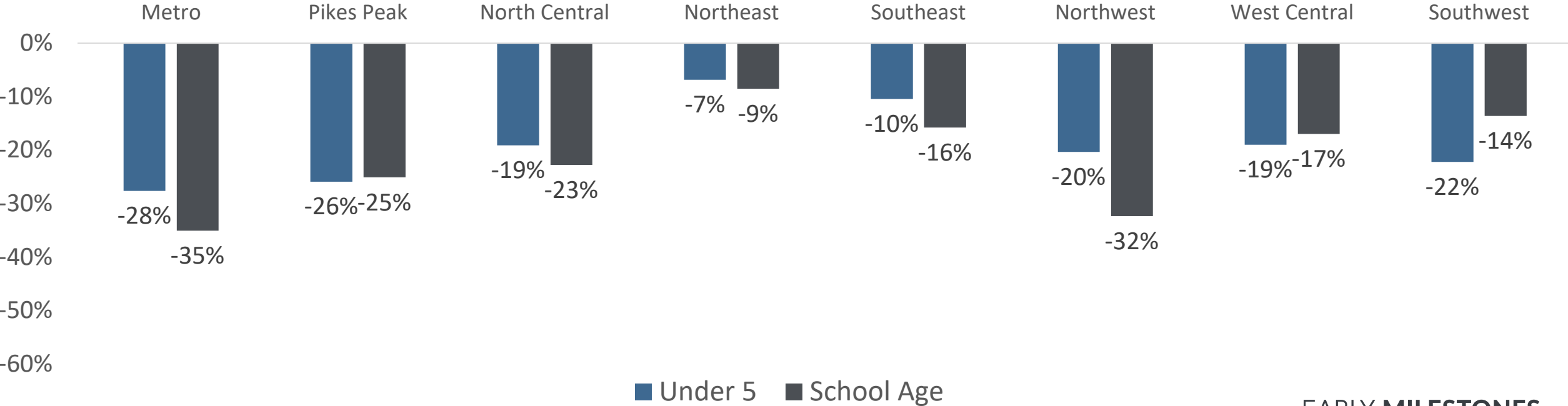
(Wave 1: ↓ 39%)

SCHOOL AGE

↓ 29%

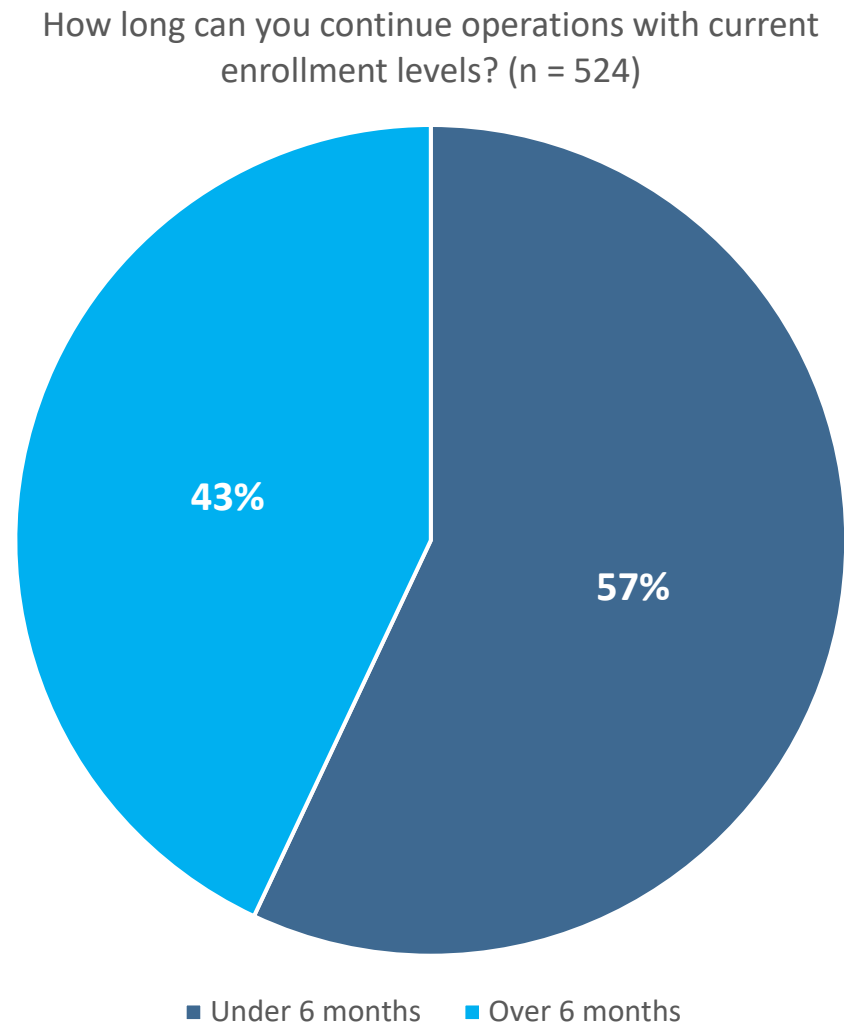
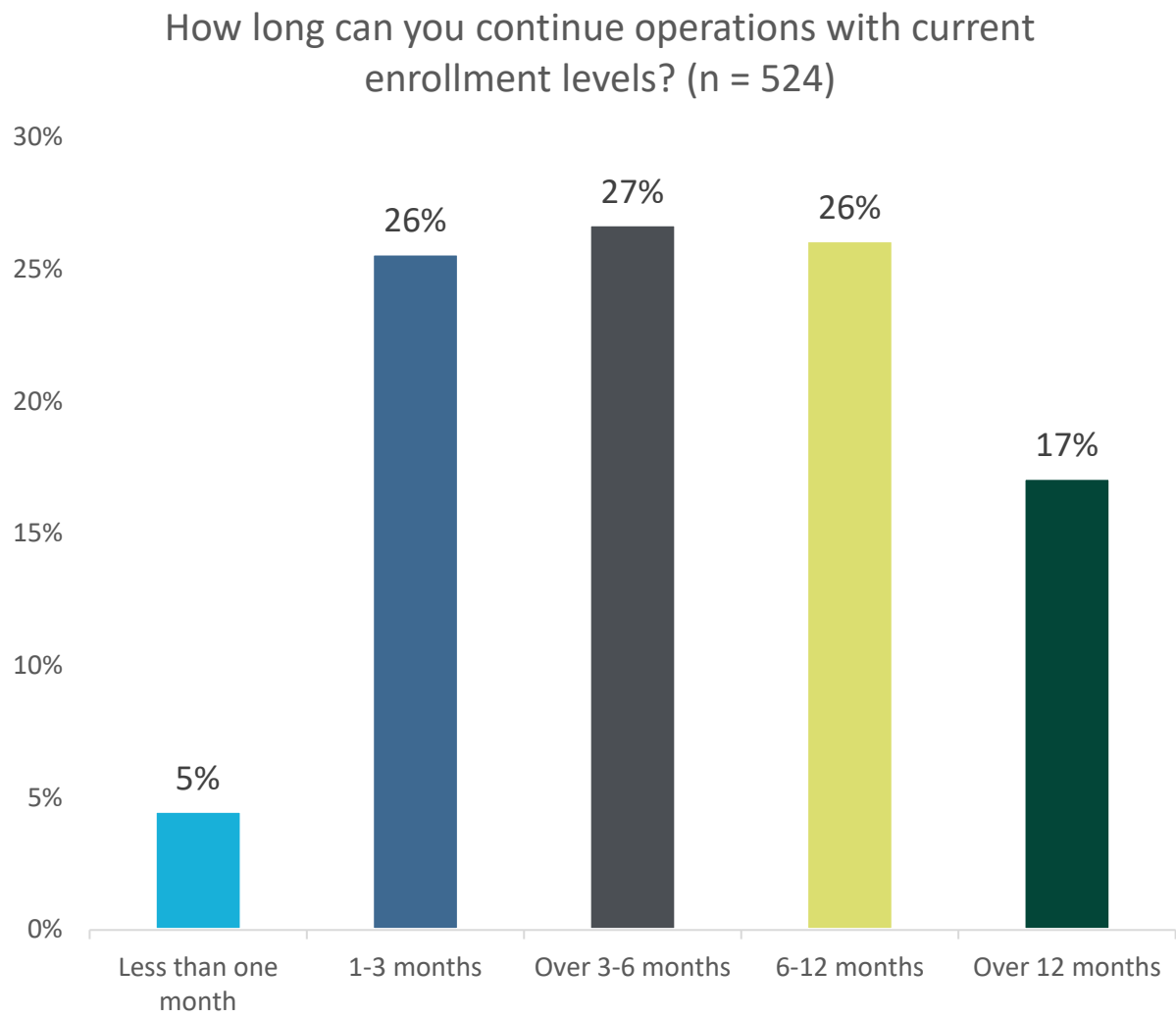
(Wave 1: ↓ 29%)

Reduction by Region by Age





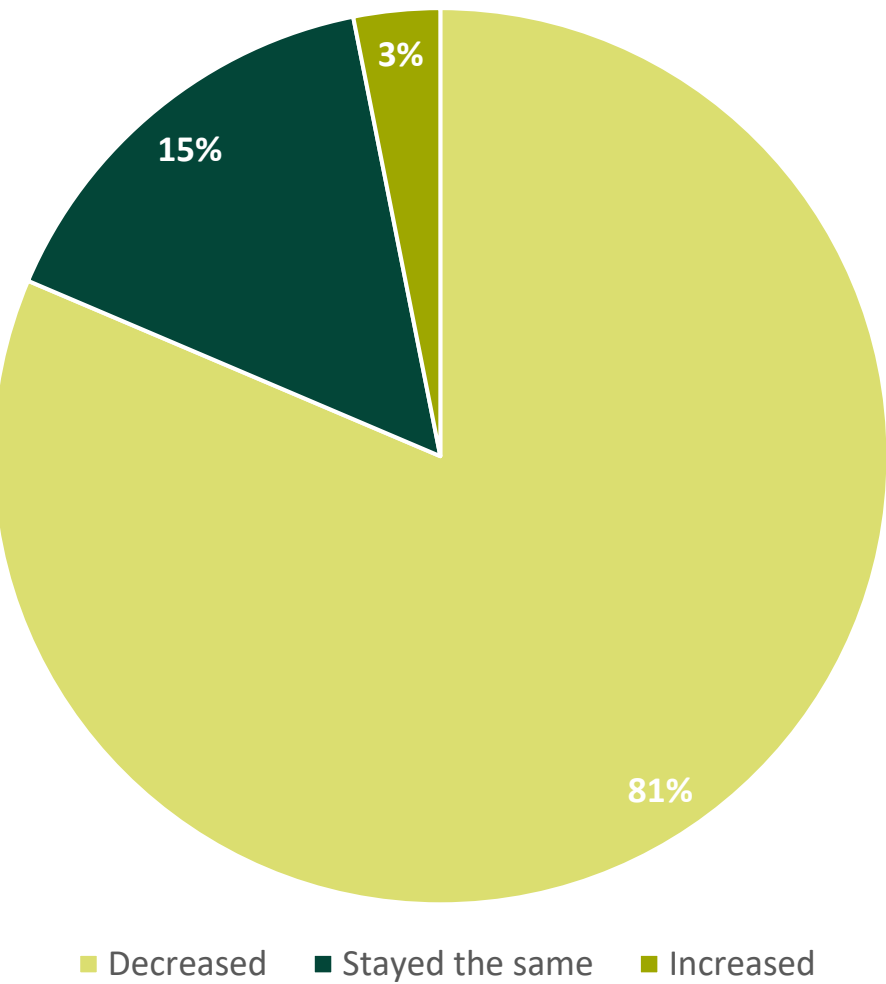
**PRELIMINARY DATA**



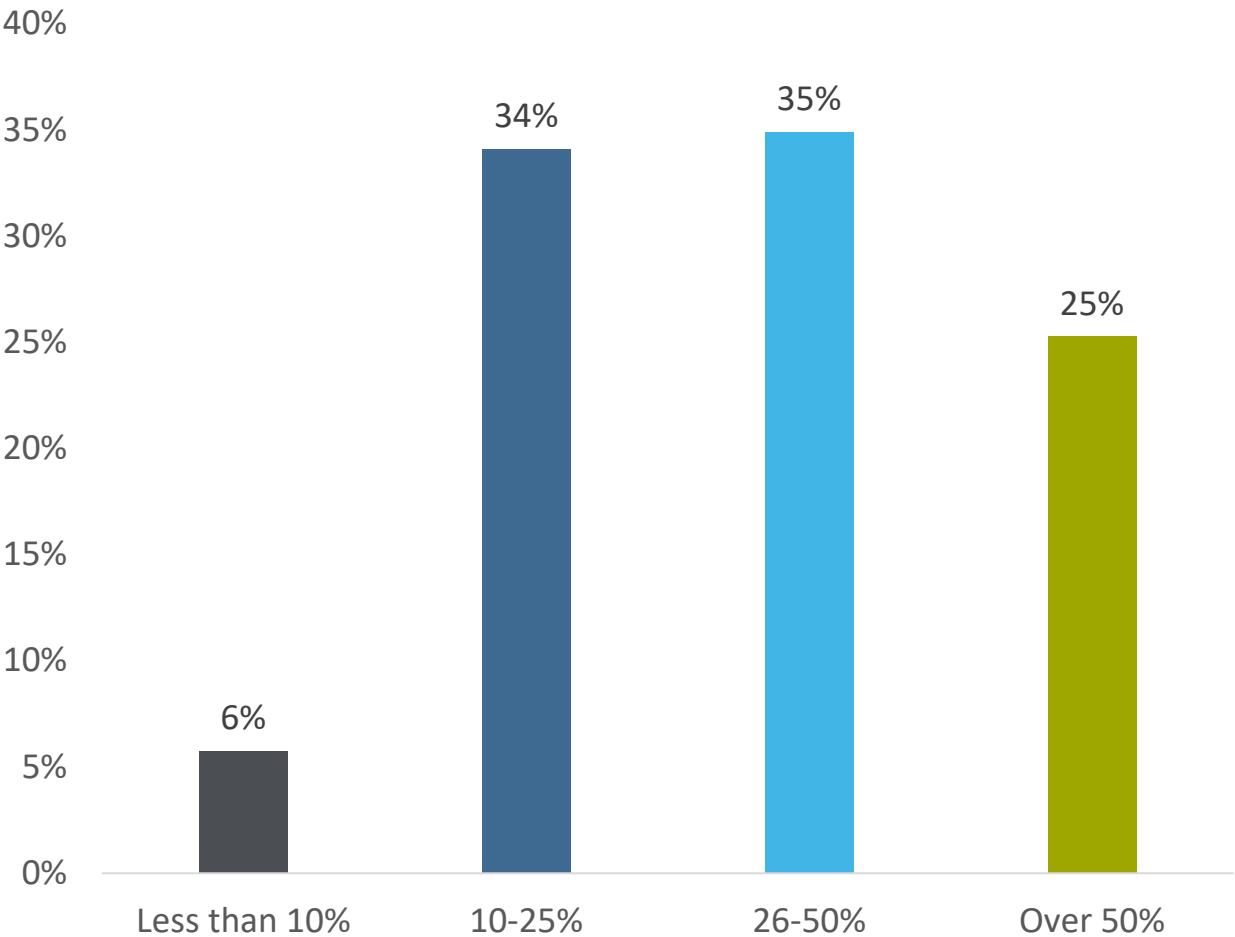
\*Data restricted to reduced enrollment providers

**PRELIMINARY DATA**

Change in average monthly program revenue since start of the pandemic (March 1, 2020) n = 1,402

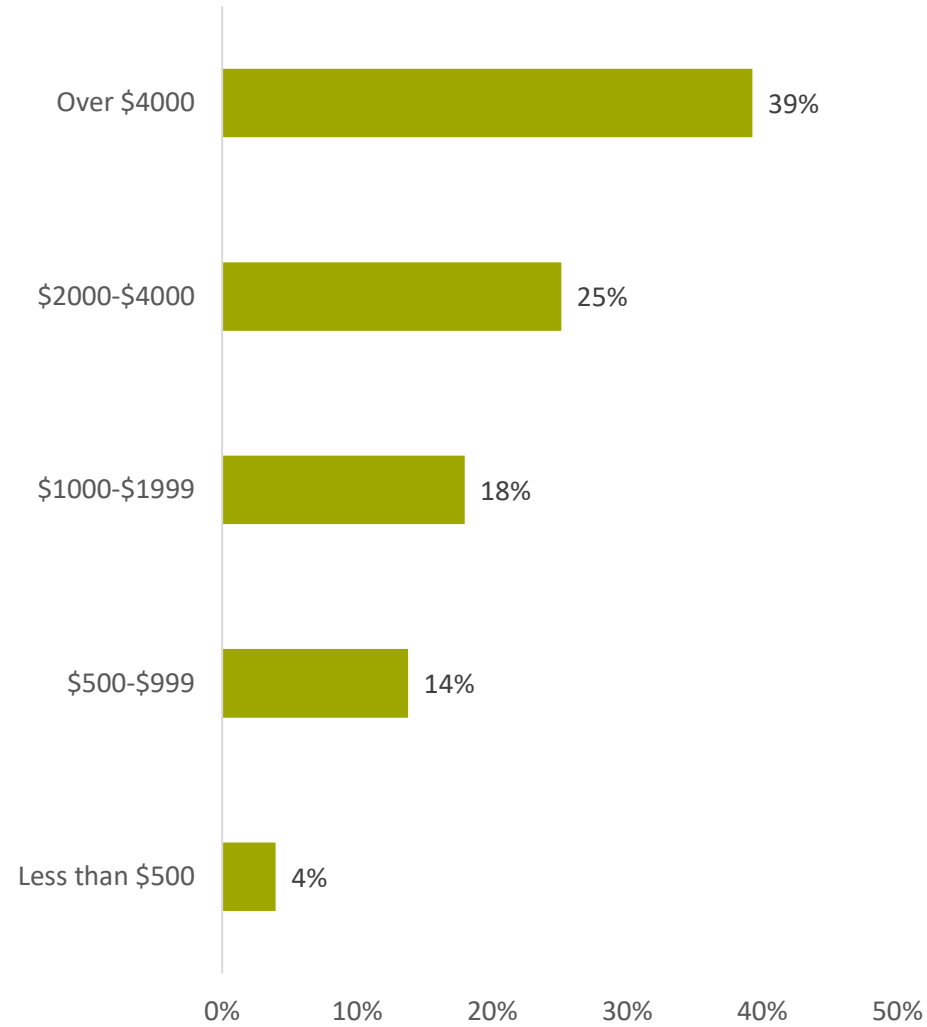


Average monthly program revenue decrease since start of the pandemic (excluding one time grants or loans) n = 1,134

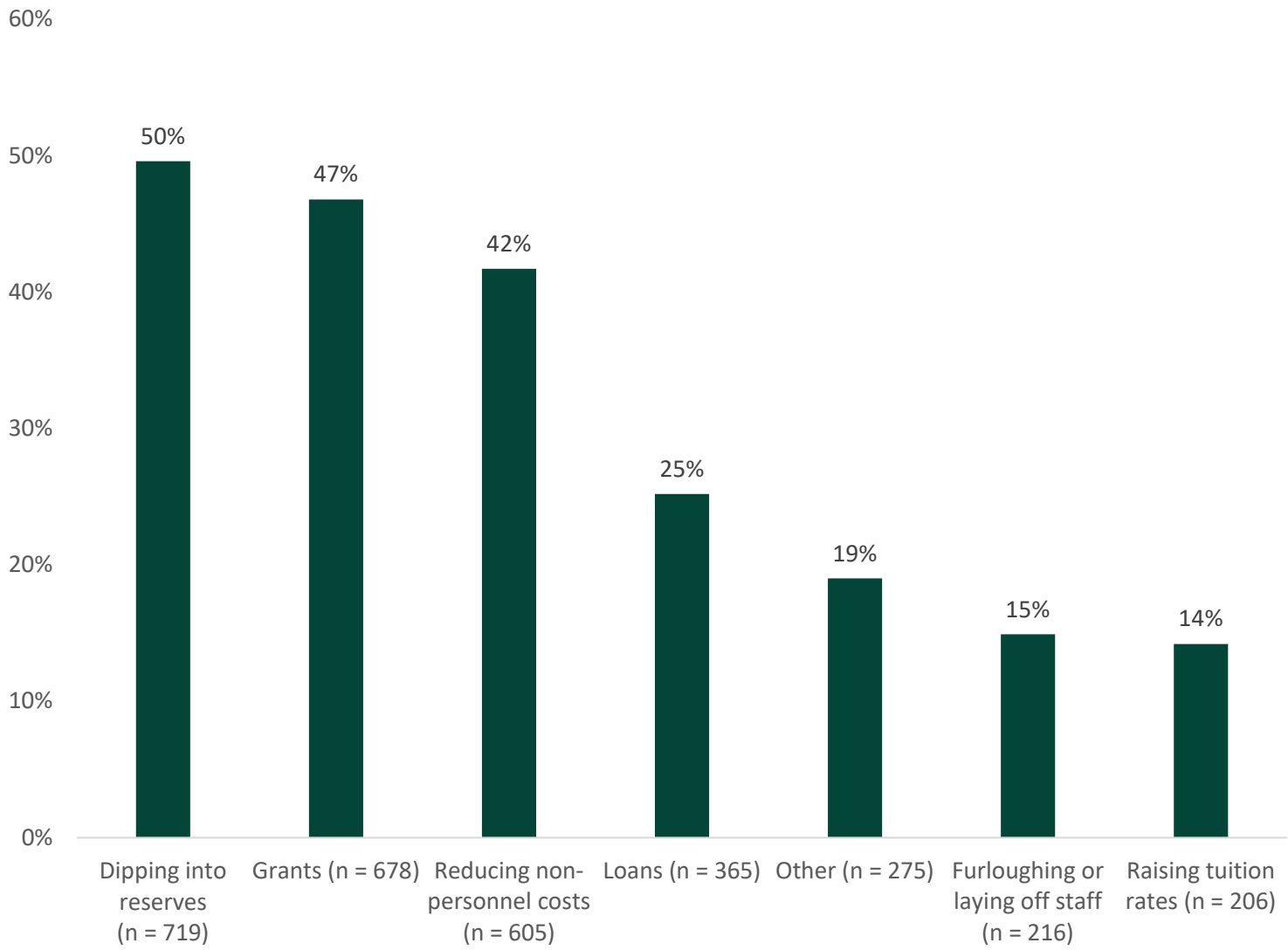


**PRELIMINARY DATA**

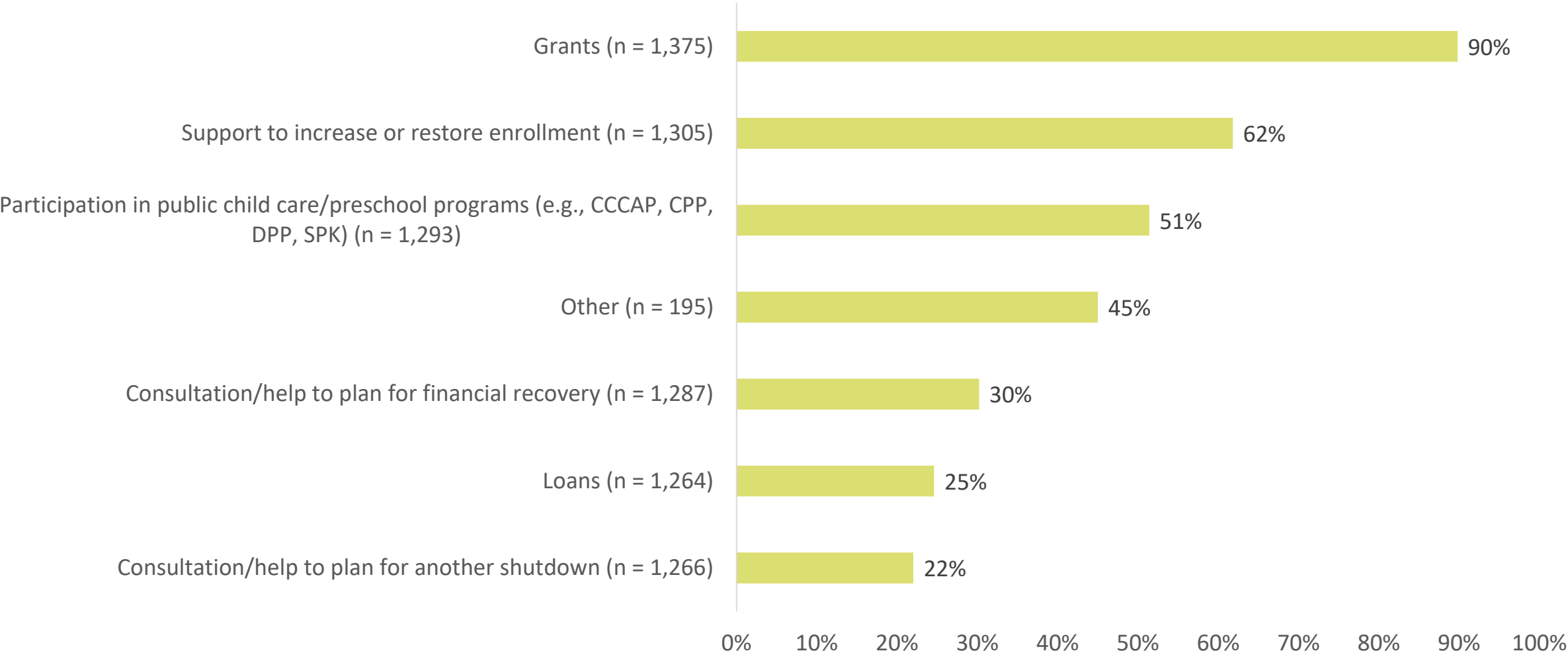
Approximately how much ADDITIONAL money do you need MONTHLY to achieve pre-pandemic revenue levels? (n = 1,121)

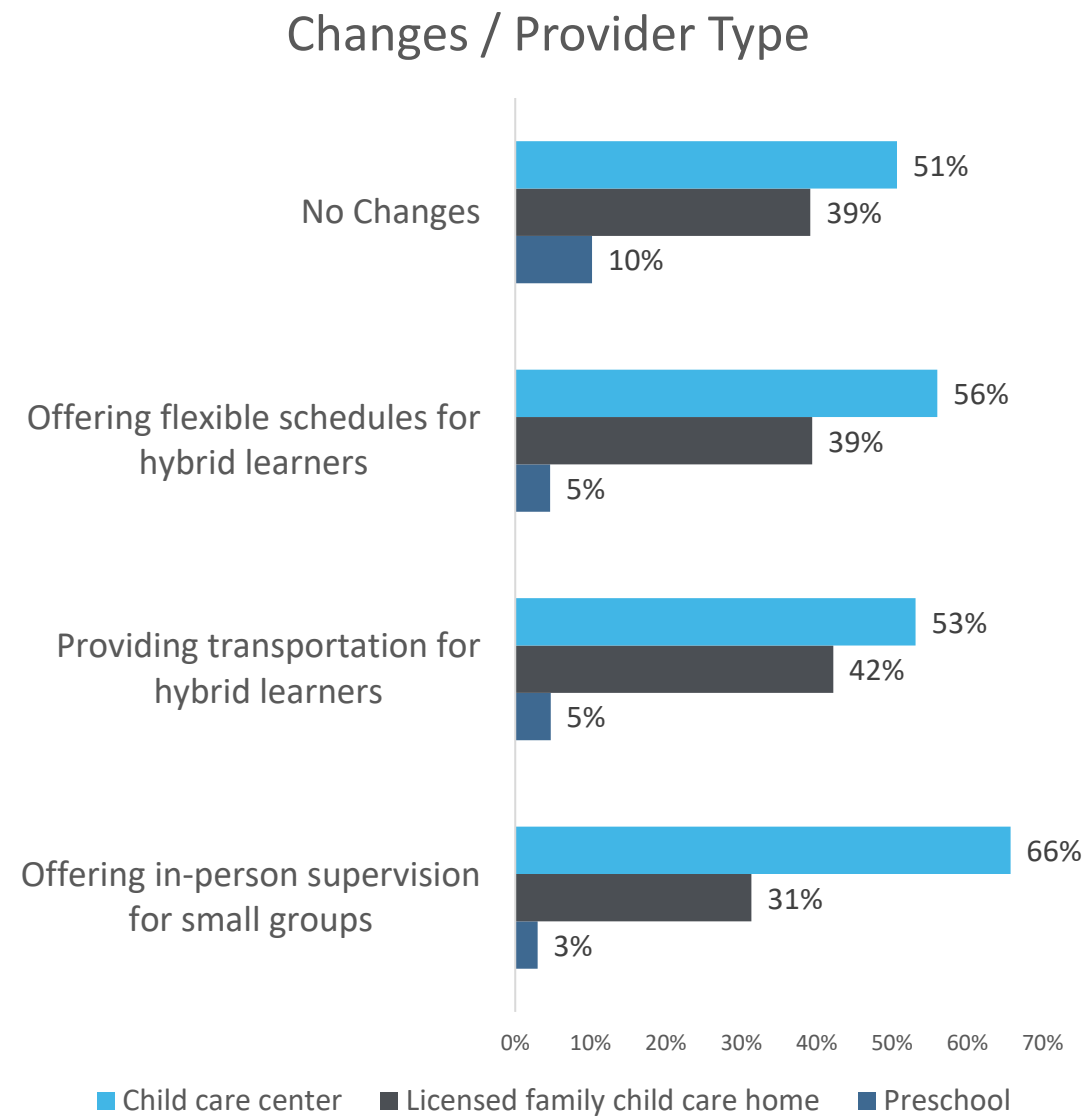
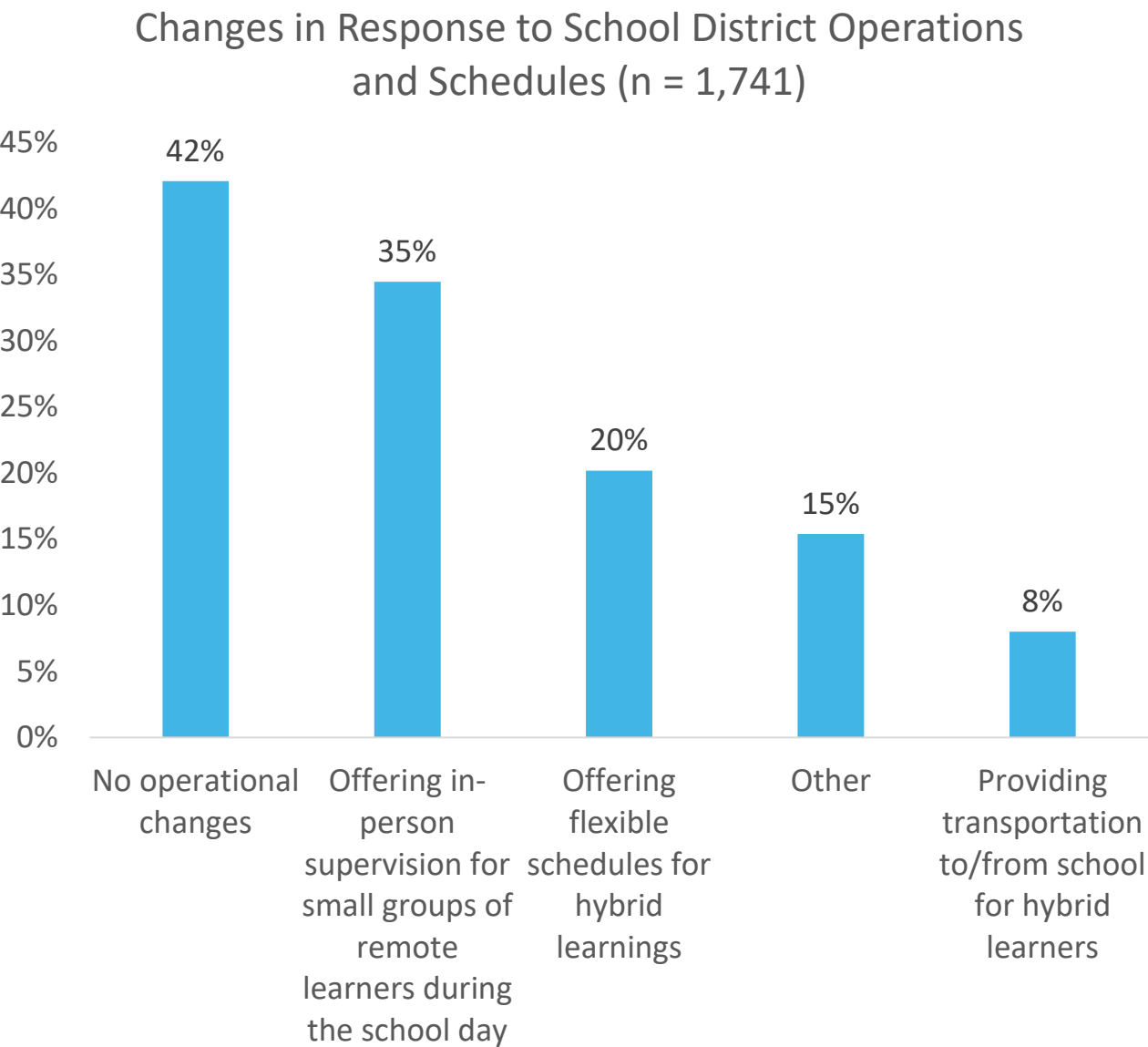


How is your program currently sustaining operations?

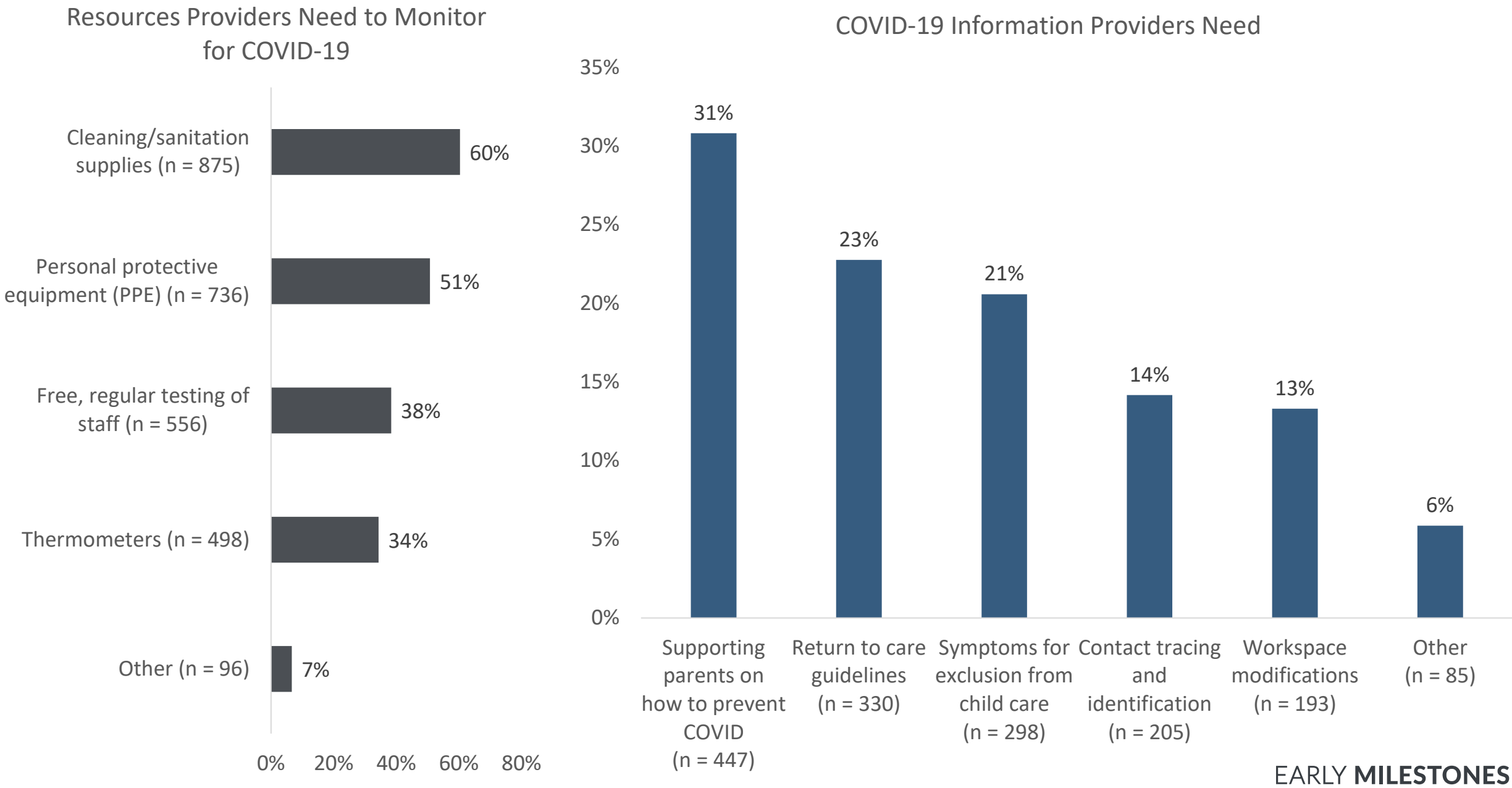


Supports Providers Rated as 'Useful' or 'Very Useful' in Supporting Program to Stay Open, Re-open, and/or Return to Financial Stability



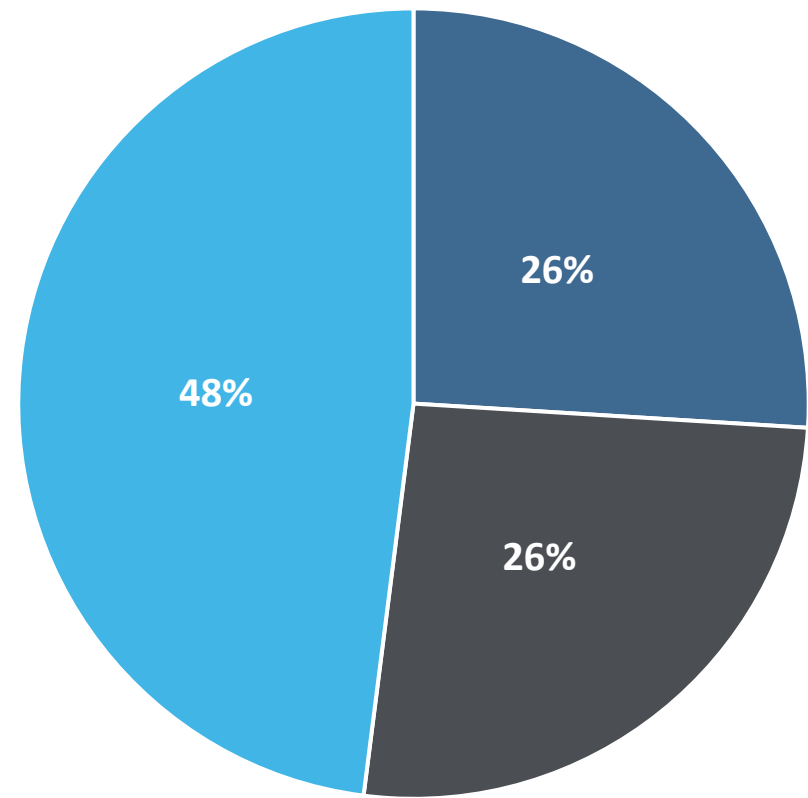


**PRELIMINARY DATA**



**PRELIMINARY DATA**

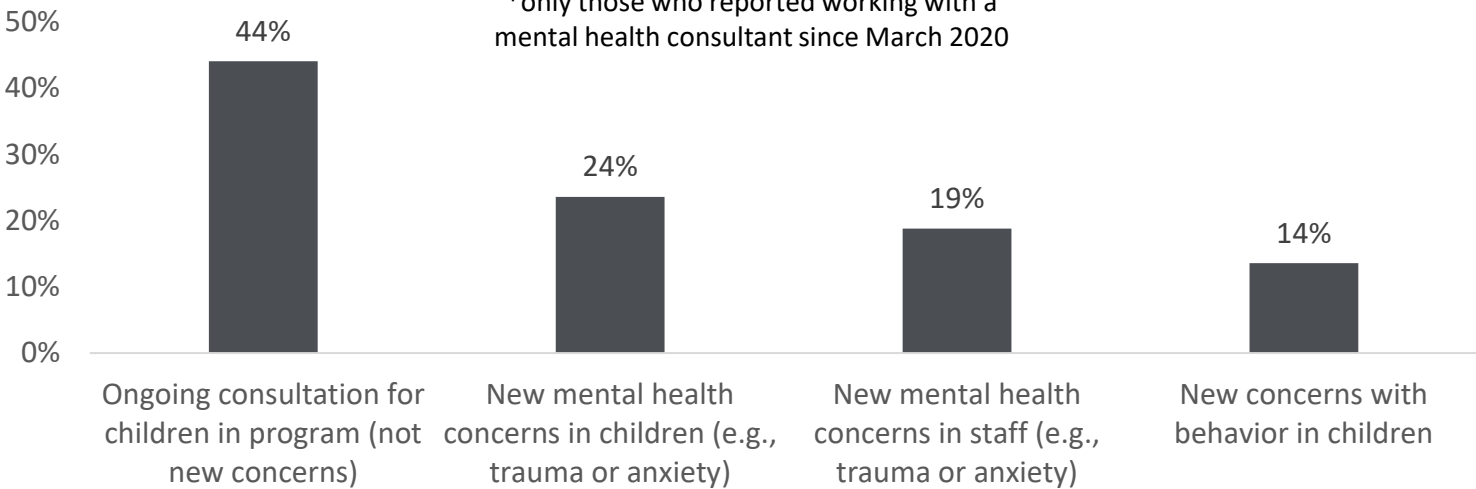
Program Work with Mental Health Consultant  
Since March 2020 (n = 1,383)



- Program has NOT worked with Mental Health Consultant
- Program has worked with Mental Health Consultant
- Program does not have a Mental Health Consultant

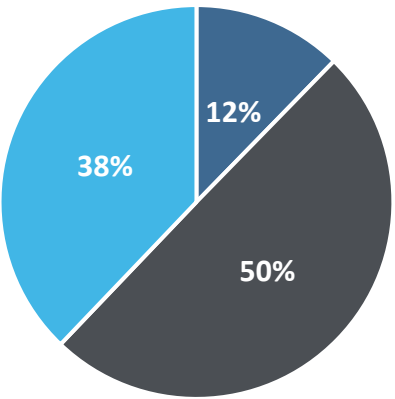
Primary Reason for Working with Mental Health Consultant (n = 353)

\*only those who reported working with a mental health consultant since March 2020



Frequency of Access/Mental Health Consultants (n = 357)

\*reported working with a mental health consultant since March 2020



- Less than before
- The same as before
- More than before

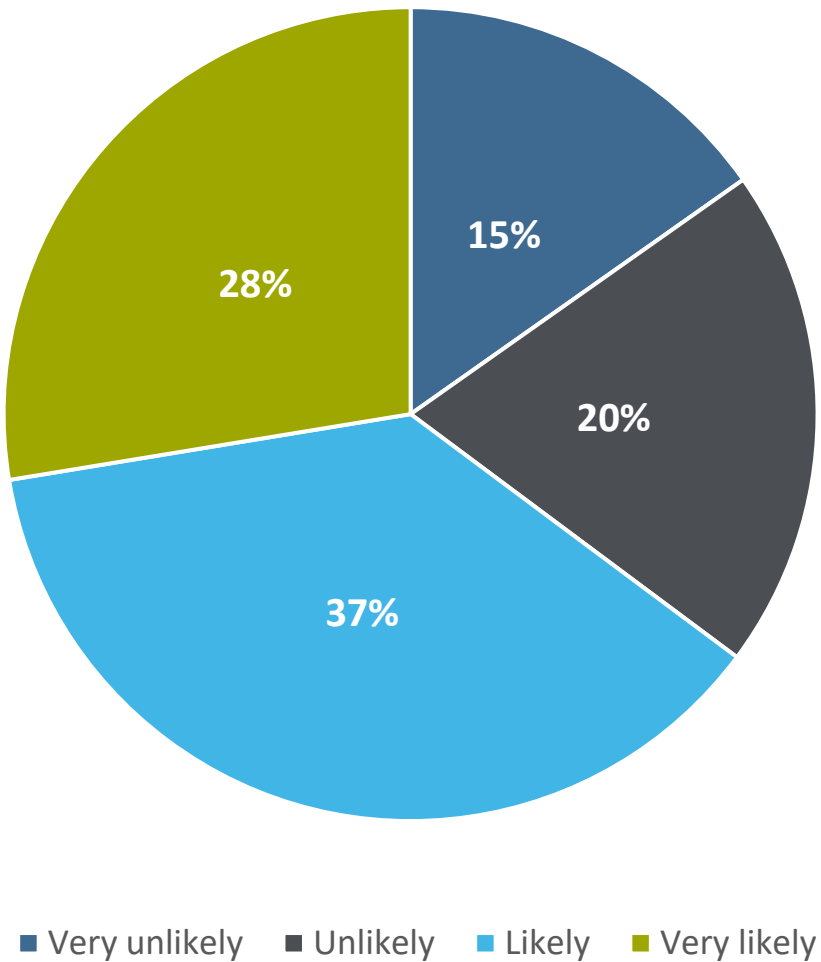


A photograph of a man with dark skin and short hair, wearing a checkered shirt, smiling warmly while holding a baby. The baby, also with dark skin and curly hair, is wearing a purple and white striped shirt and blue pants. They are sitting on a colorful striped blanket. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery and a fence.

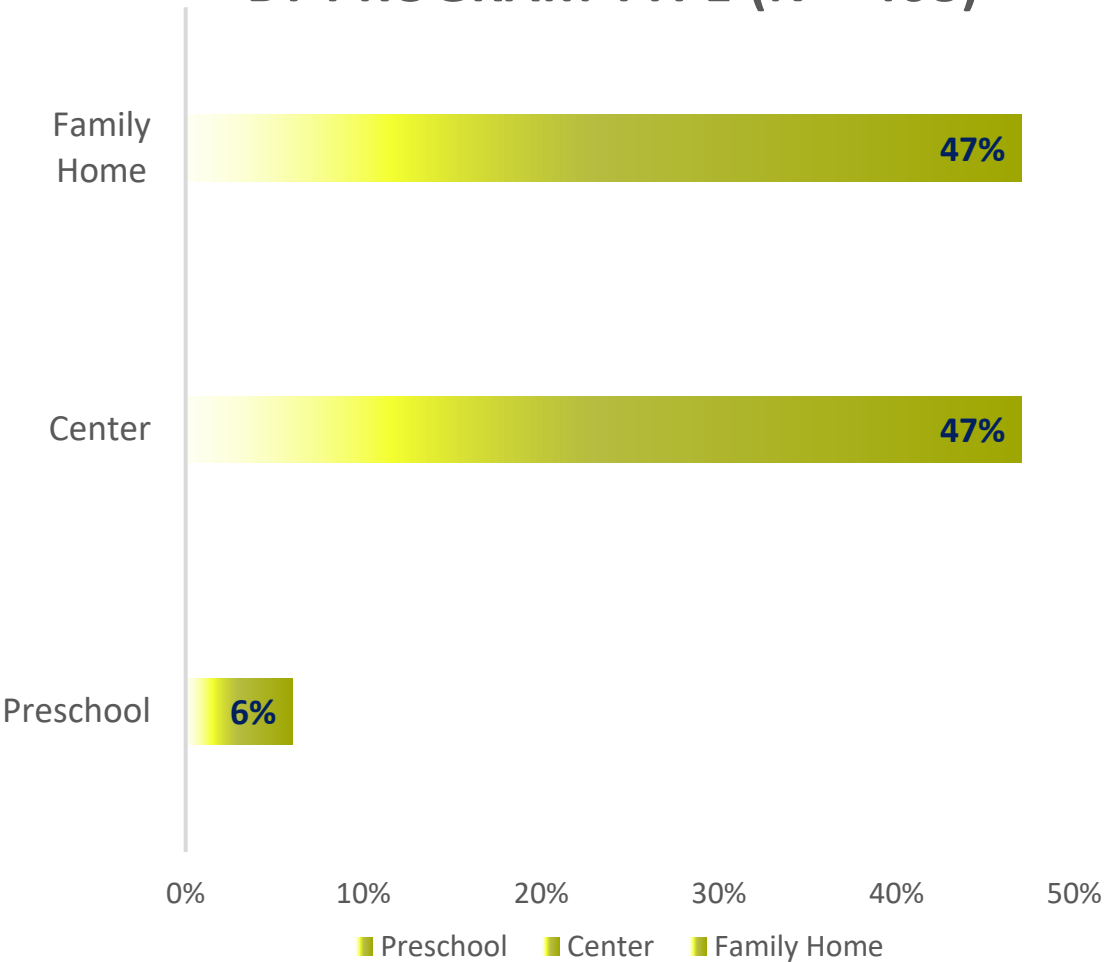
PRE-K

EARLY MILESTONES

Likelihood Providers Would Want to Participate in  
UPK (n = 1,330)

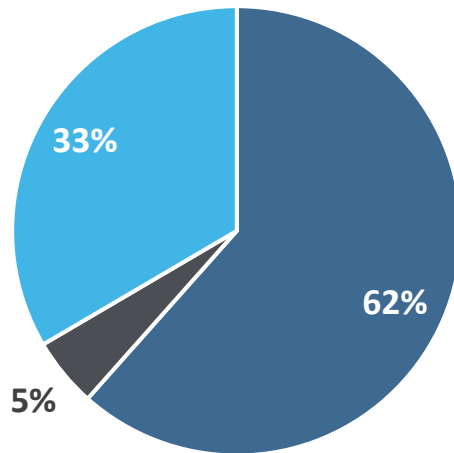


**PROVIDERS WHO ARE ‘UNLIKELY’ OR  
‘VERY UNLIKELY’ TO PARTICIPATE IN UPK  
BY PROGRAM TYPE (N = 468)**



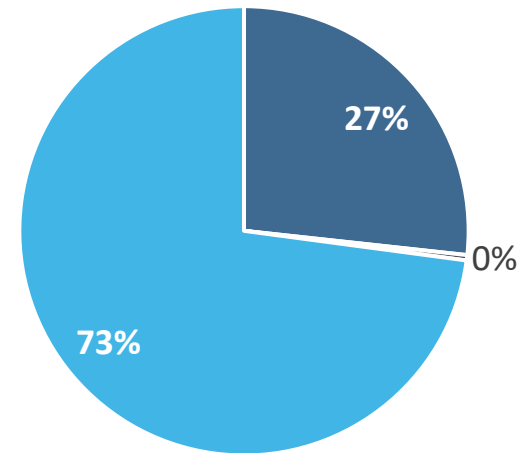
**38%** of providers who are licensed to serve infants, toddlers, and 4-year-olds would likely need to reduce infant/toddler services in order to serve more 4-year-olds

Programs that are Unlikely to Need to Reduce Infant/Toddler Services to Serve More 4-year-olds (n = 569)



- Child care center
- Preschool
- Licensed family child care home

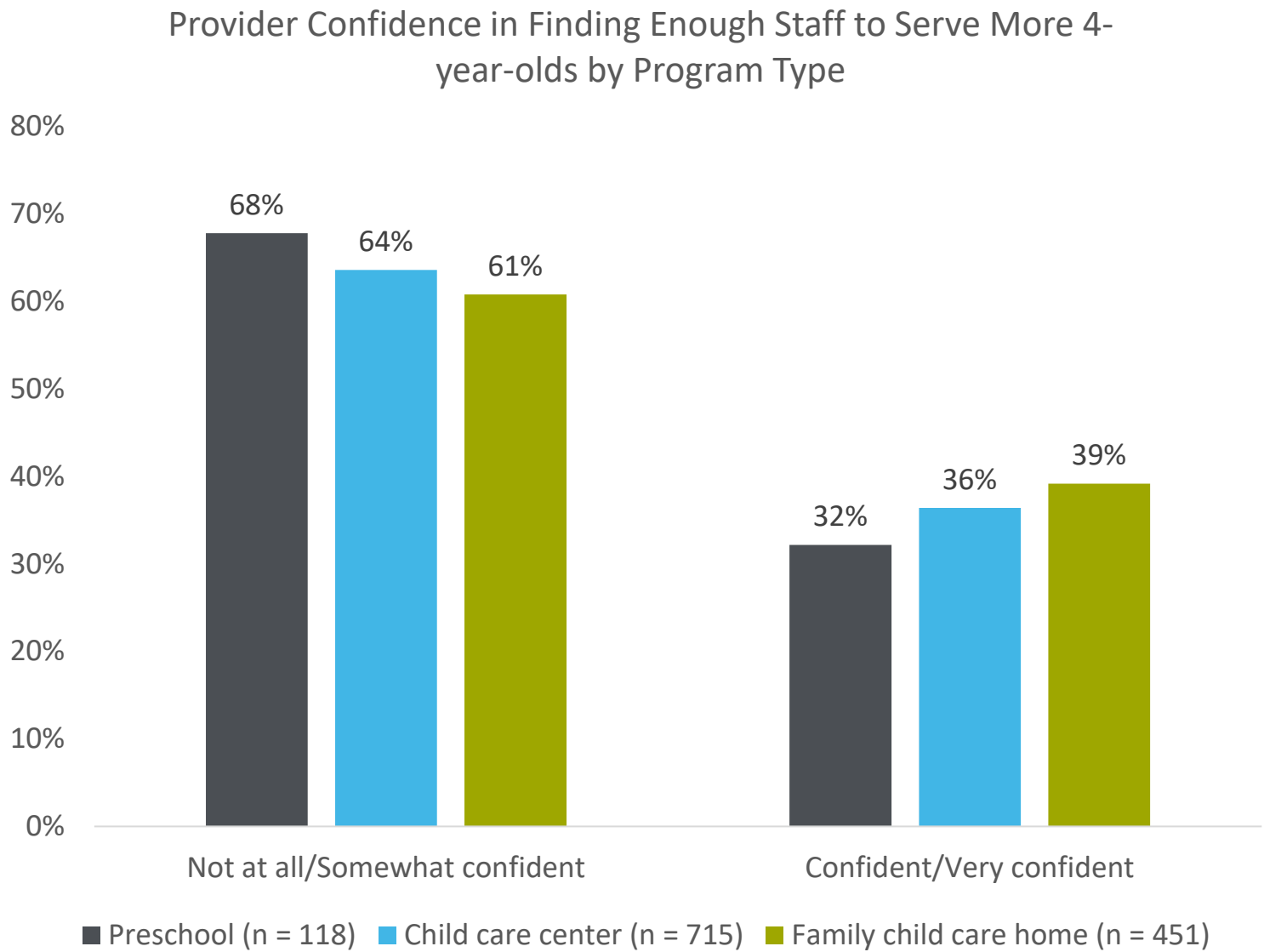
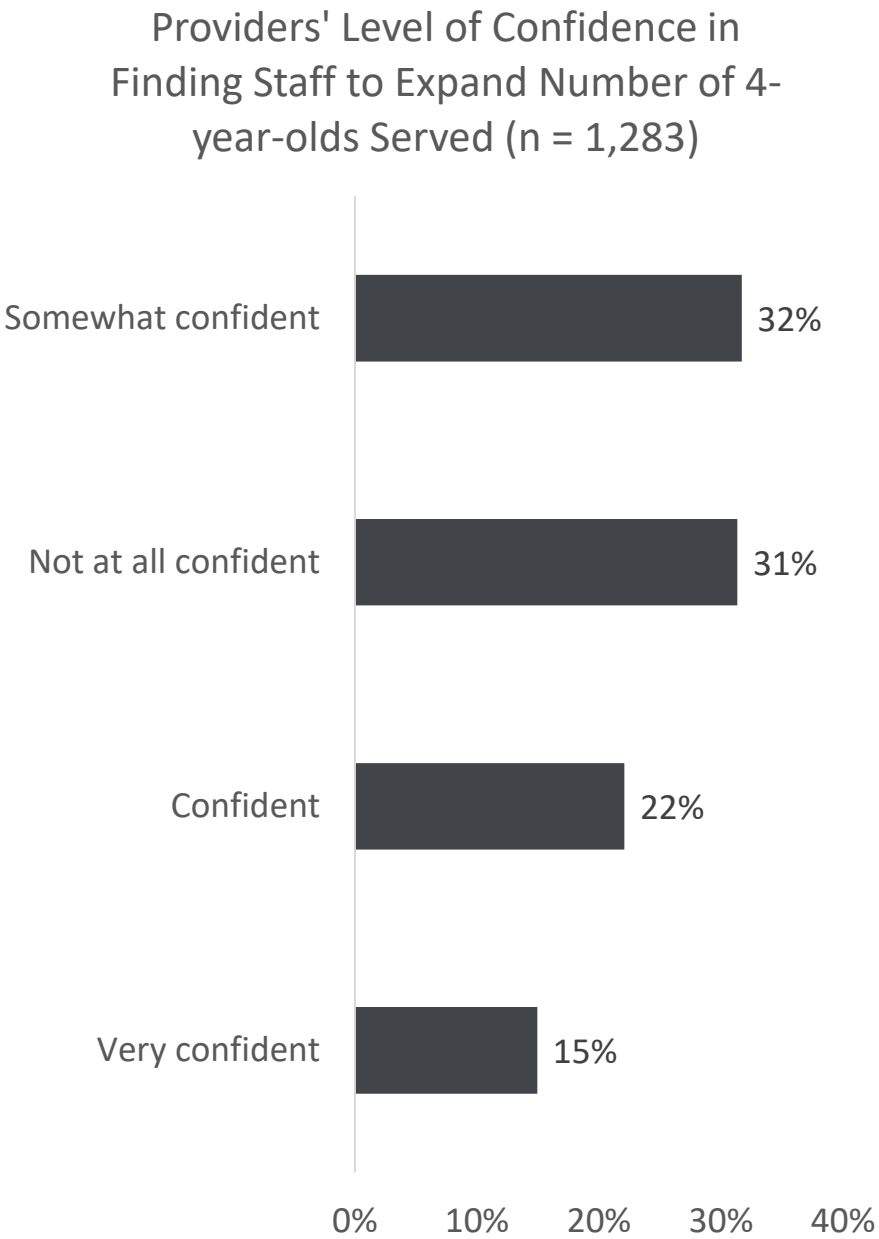
Programs that are Likely to Need to Reduce Infant/Toddler Services to Serve More 4-year-olds (n = 353)



- Child care center
- Preschool
- Licensed family child care home

\*only providers licensed to serve infants, toddlers, and 4-year-olds

**PRELIMINARY DATA**



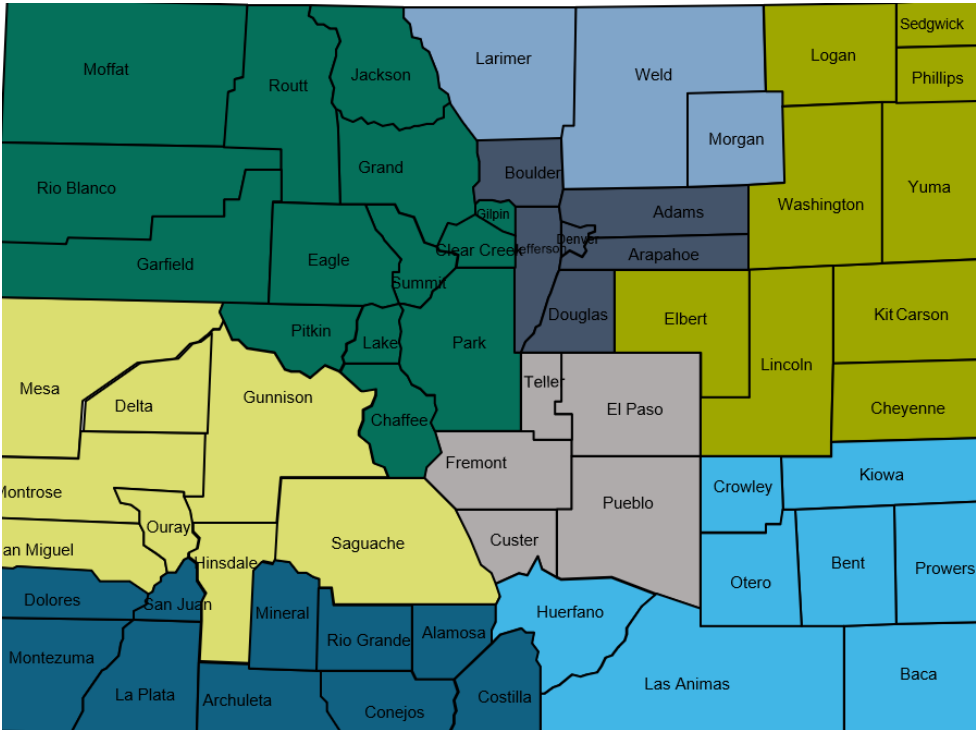
WORKFORCE

# HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC IMPACTED TEACHER EMPLOYMENT?

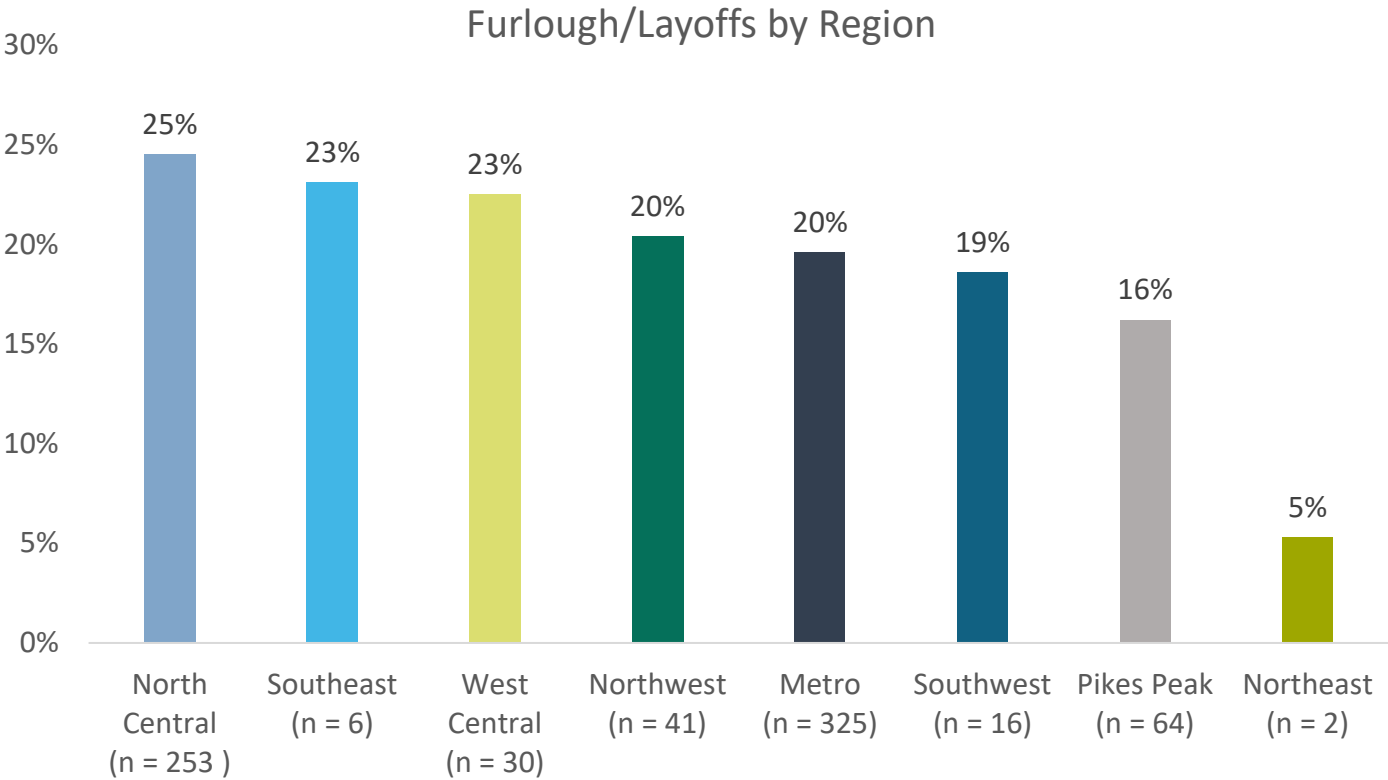
FURLOUGHED / LAID OFF  
(n = 595)

20%

Wave 1: 23%



Duration of Furlough (n = 339)	%
Less than 1 month	17%
1 - 3 months	57%
4 - 6 months	21%
Still currently furloughed	5%



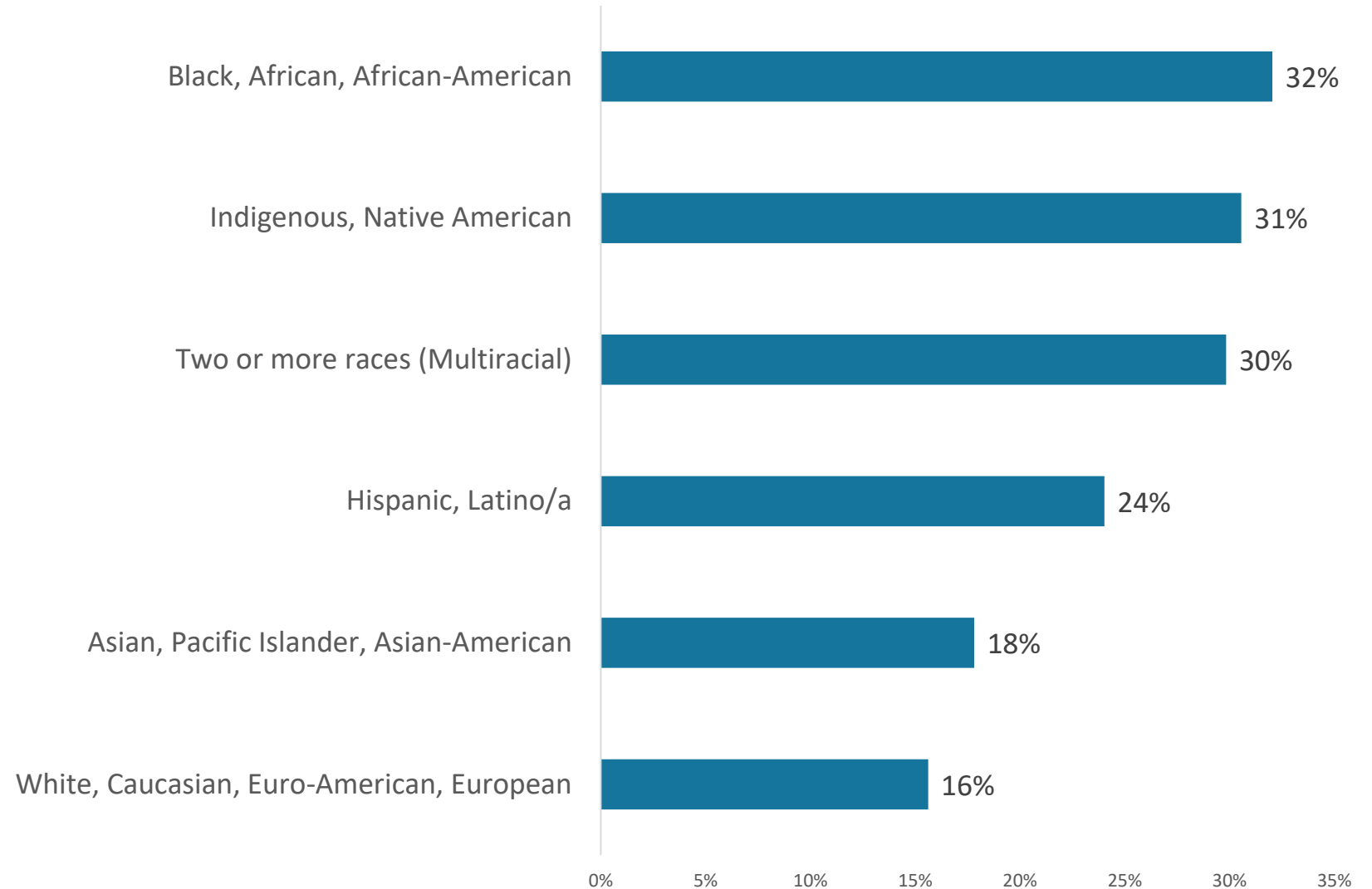
19%

Finding it “difficult”  
or “very” difficult to  
pay monthly bills

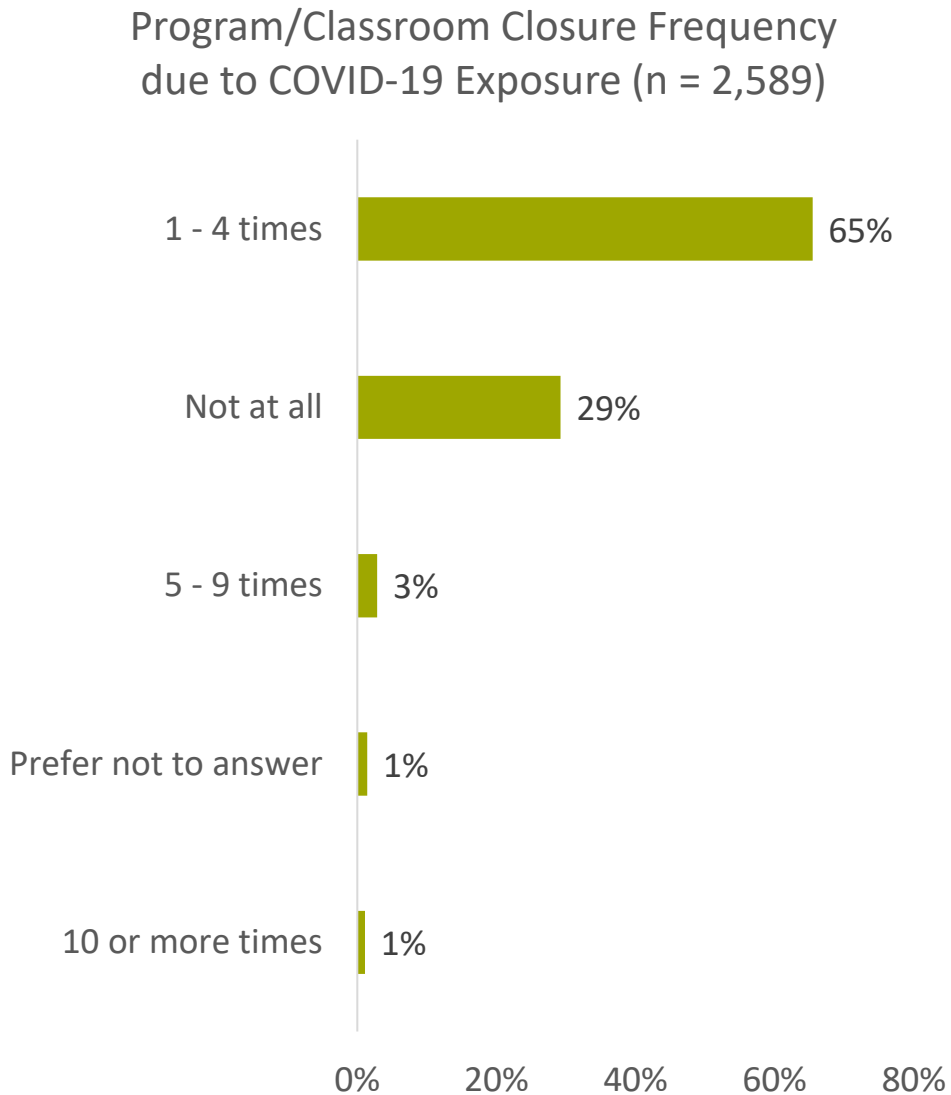
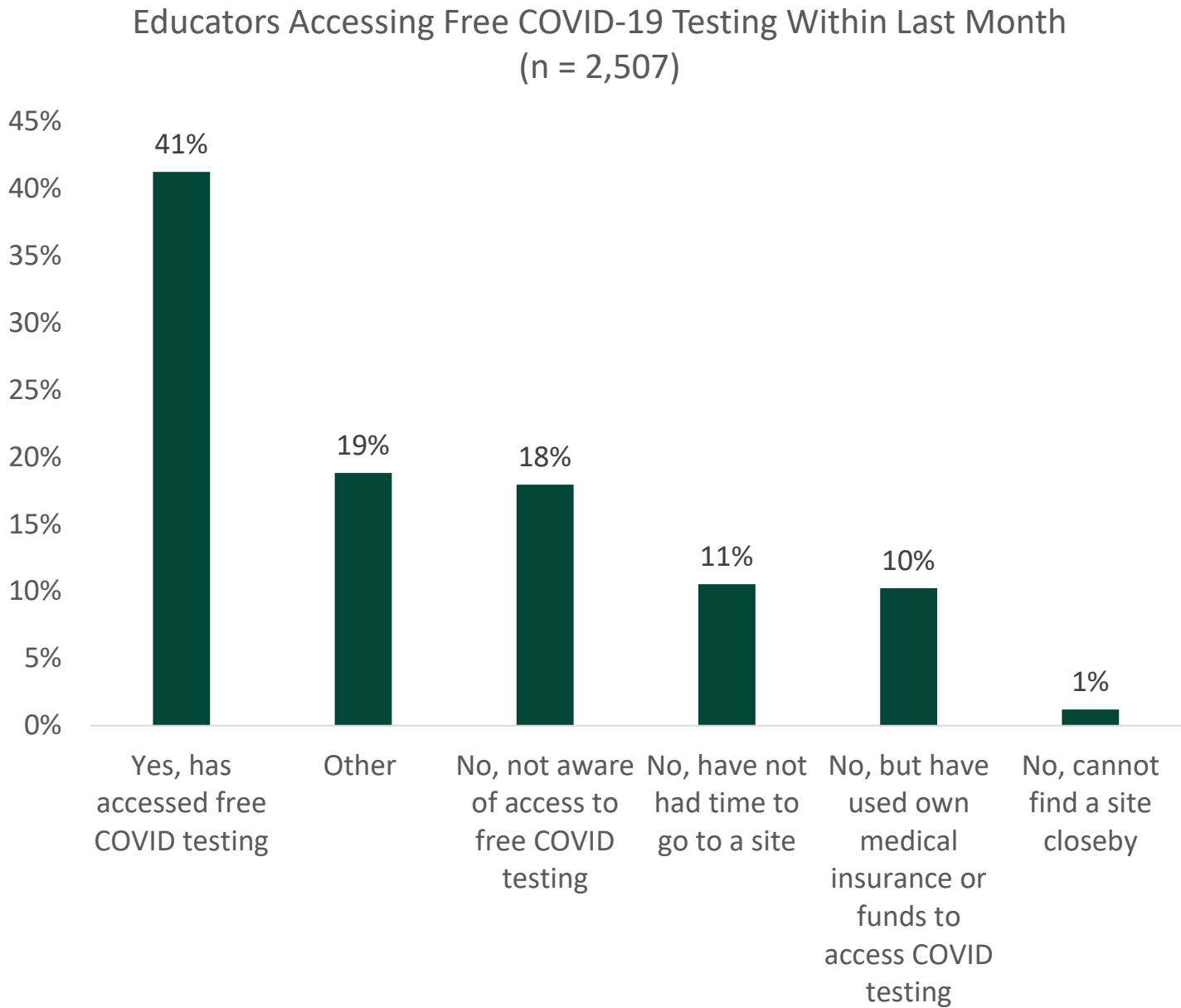
25%

Have taken a second  
job to make ends  
meet

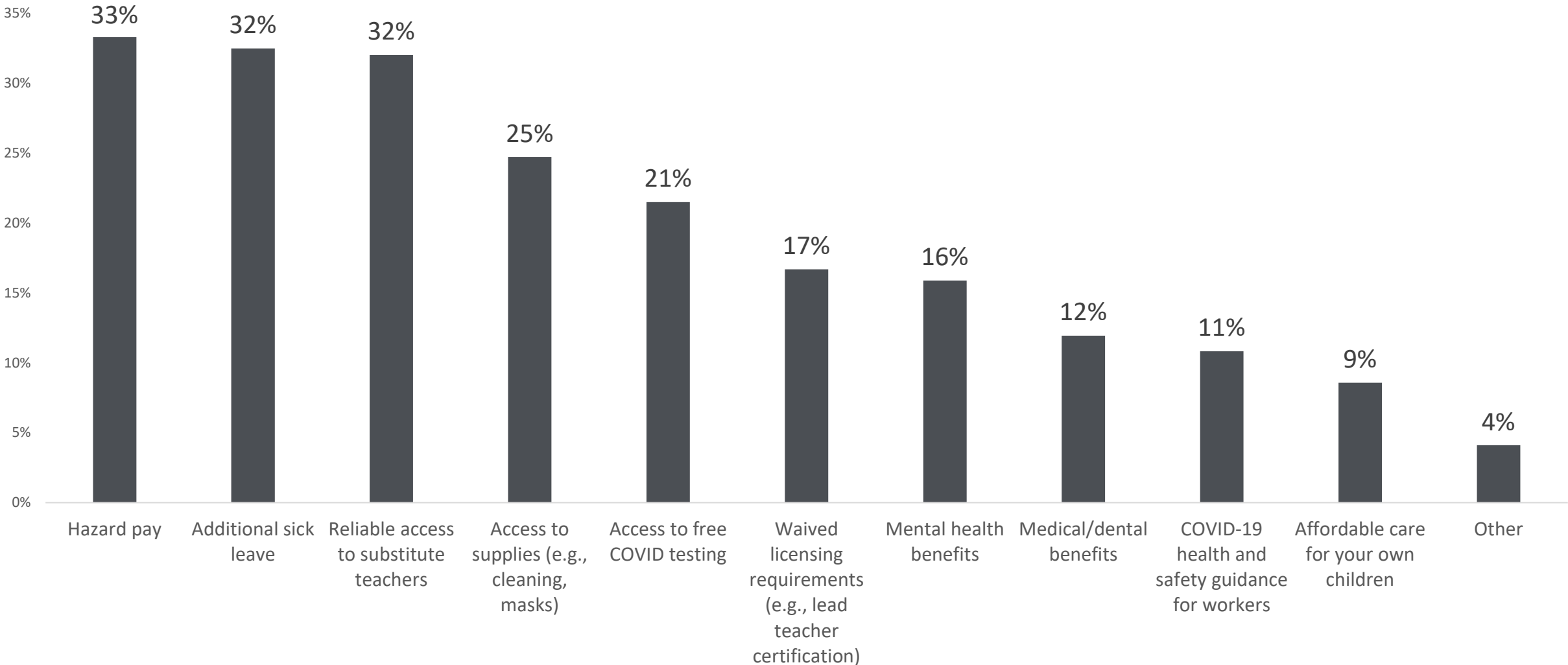
% of Educators Who Experienced Difficulty Paying Bills by Race/Ethnicity



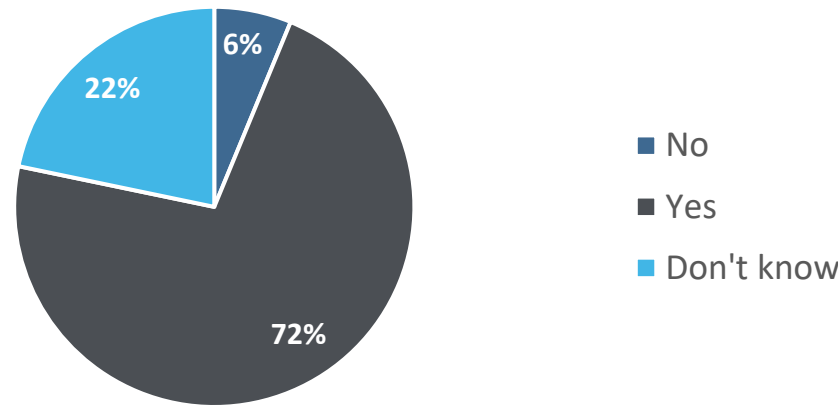




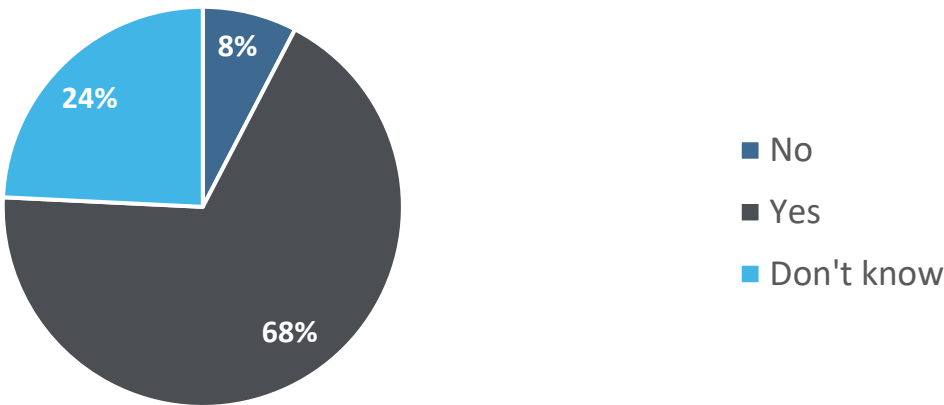
WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES DO EDUCATORS NEED FROM THEIR **EMPLOYERS** OR THE **STATE SYSTEM** DURING THE PANDEMIC?



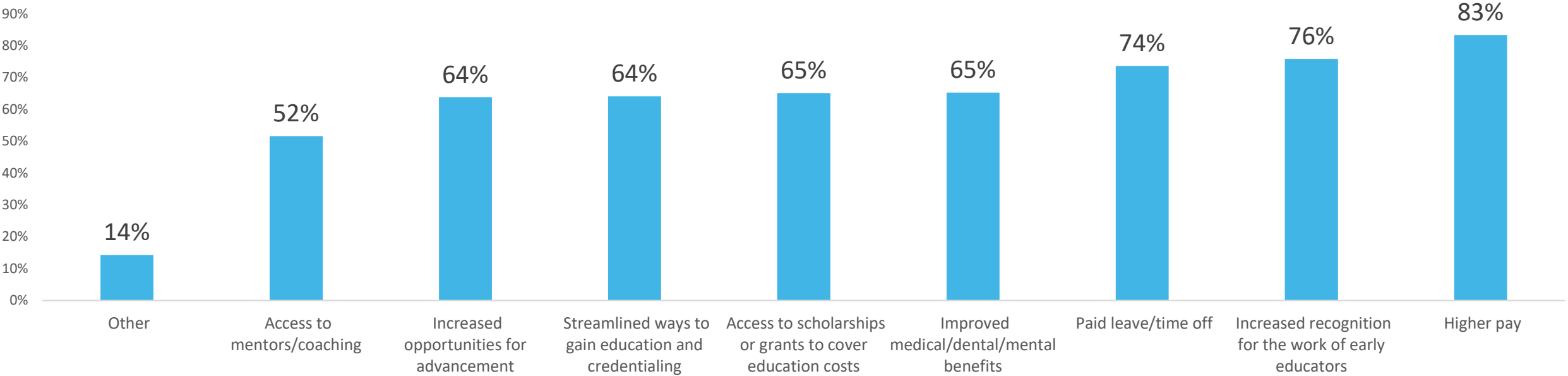
Plans to Stay in **JOB** for Next **2 Years** (n = 2,613)



Plans to Stay in **EC Field** for at Least Next **5 Years** (n = 2,777)

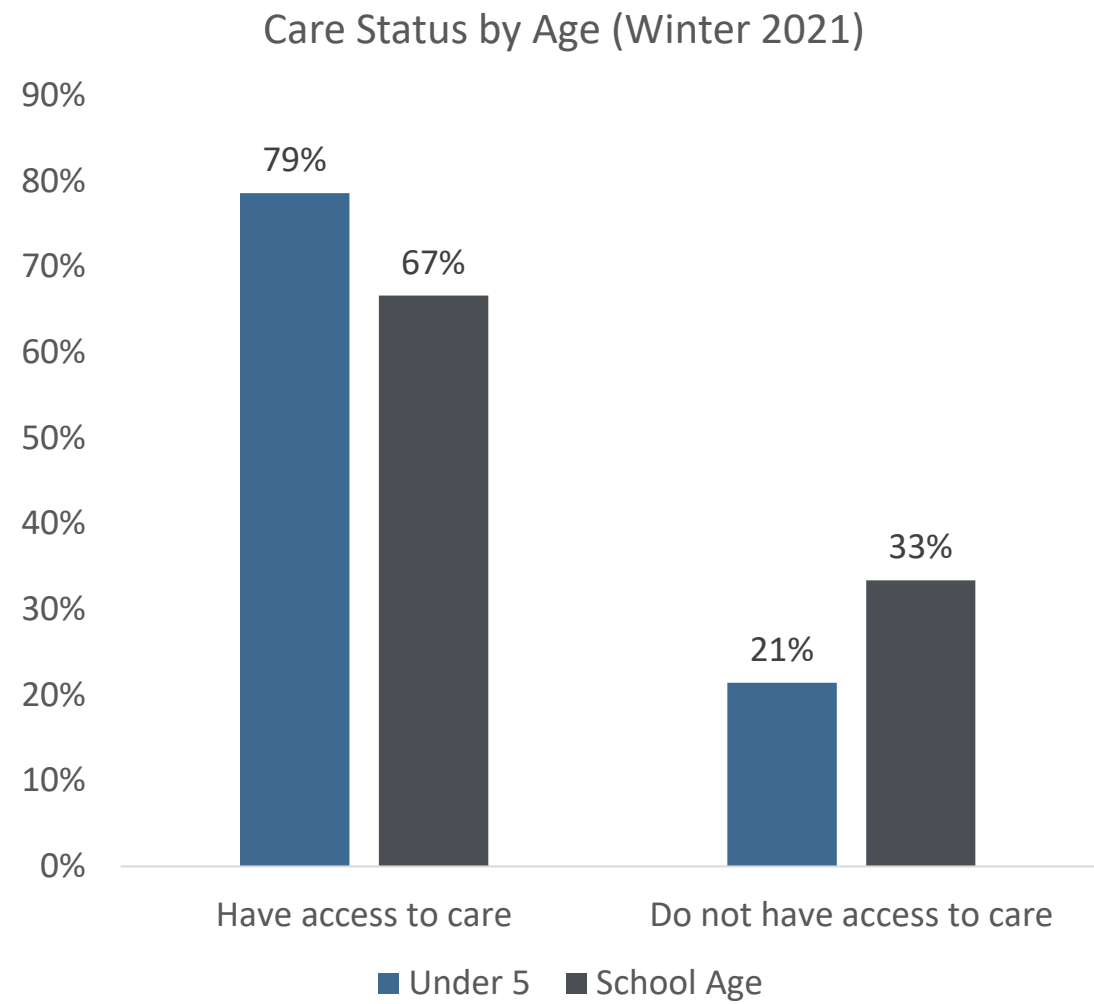
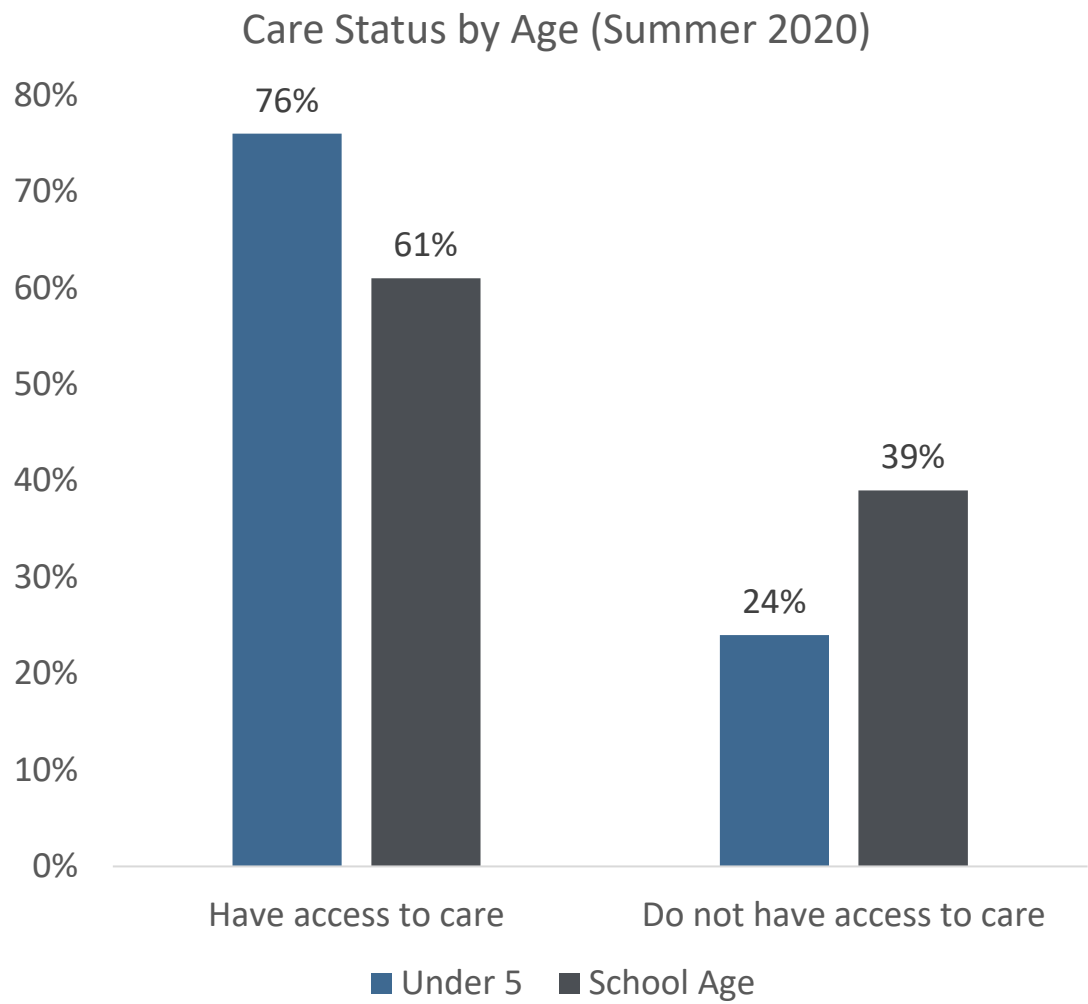


Supports Most Influential to Promoting Retention



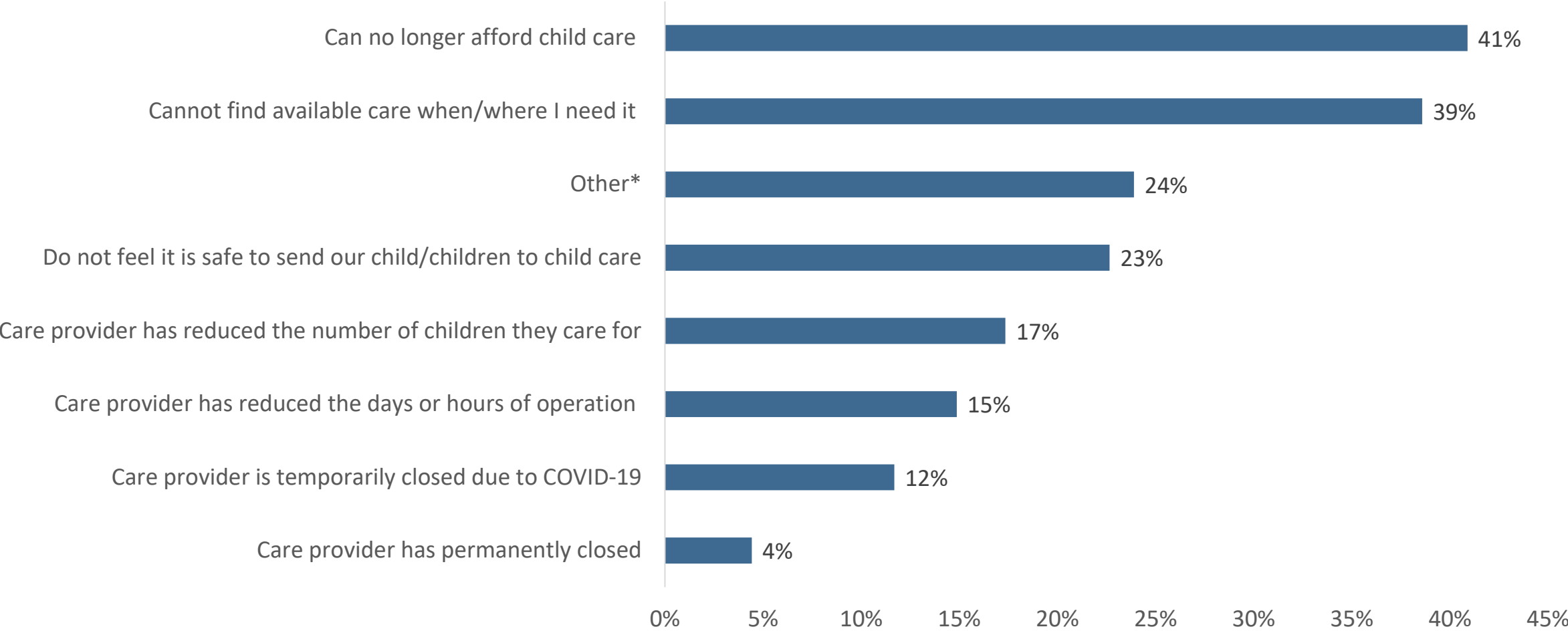
FAMILIES

DO FAMILIES HAVE NEEDED CHILD CARE?



WHY DON'T FAMILIES HAVE THE CHILD CARE THEY NEED?

Reasons Families Do Not Have Child Care (n = 985)

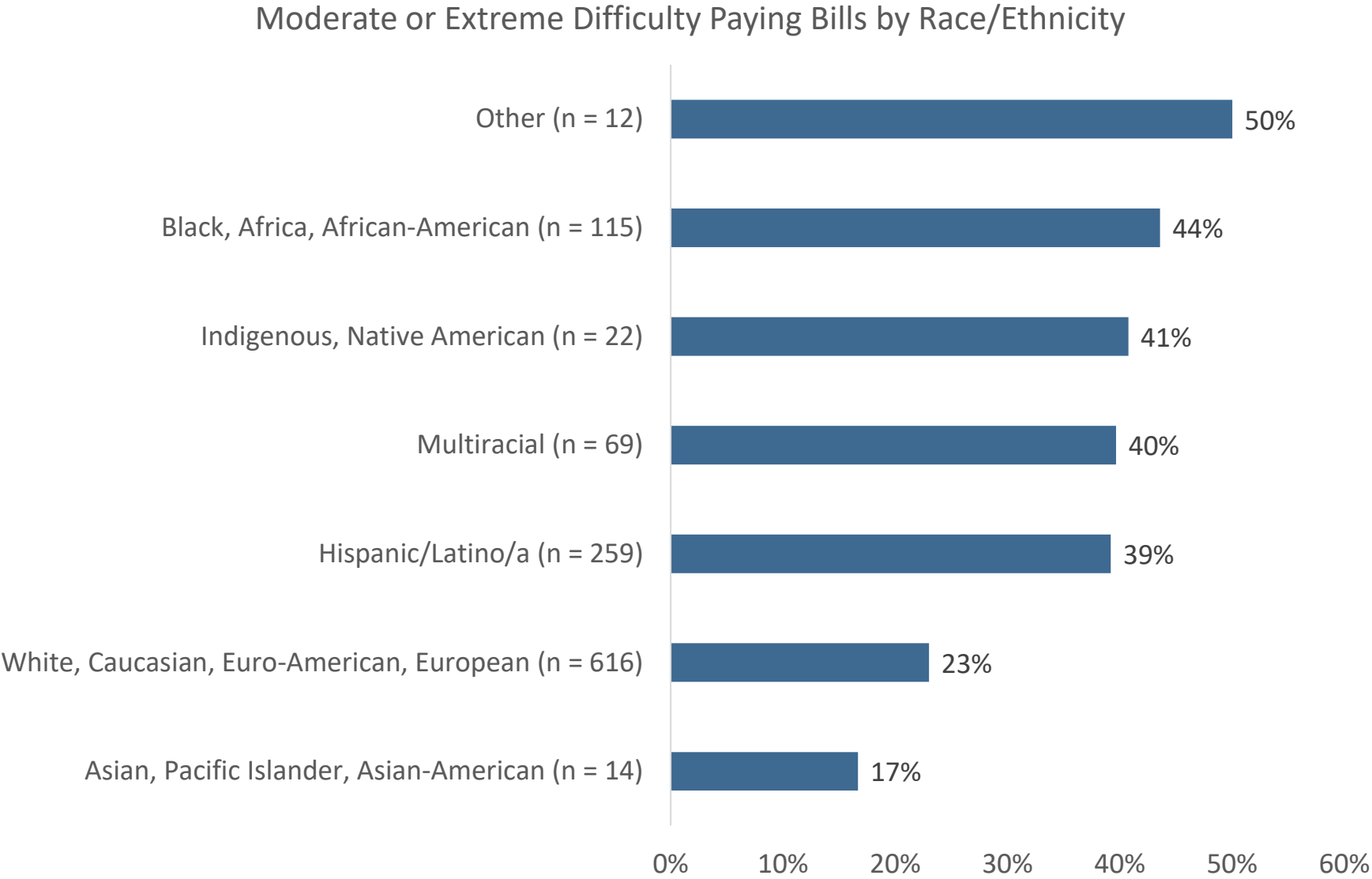


\*Examples of *Other* responses include: difficulty finding provider to care for immunocompromised or disabled child, denied/in process of applying for CCCAP, lack of transportation

FAMILY FINANCIAL WELL-BEING



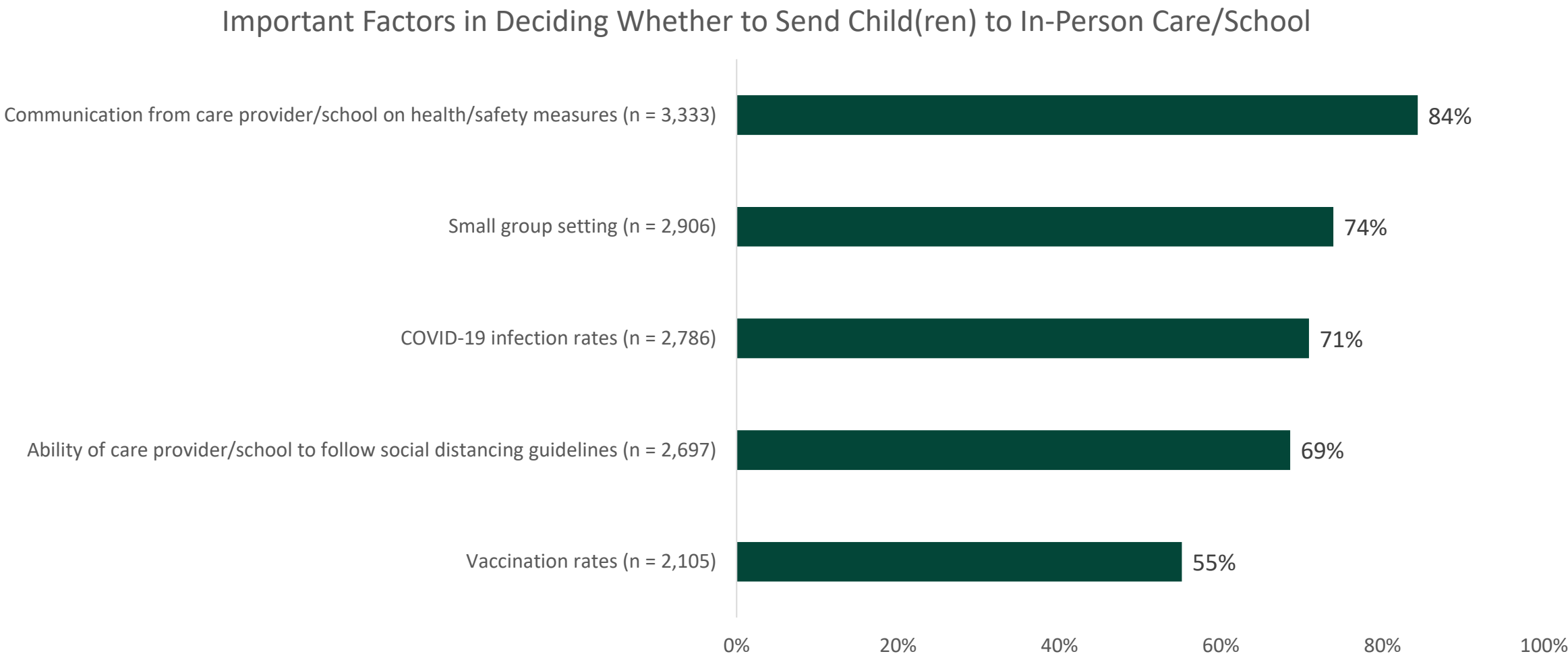
Wave 1: 26%





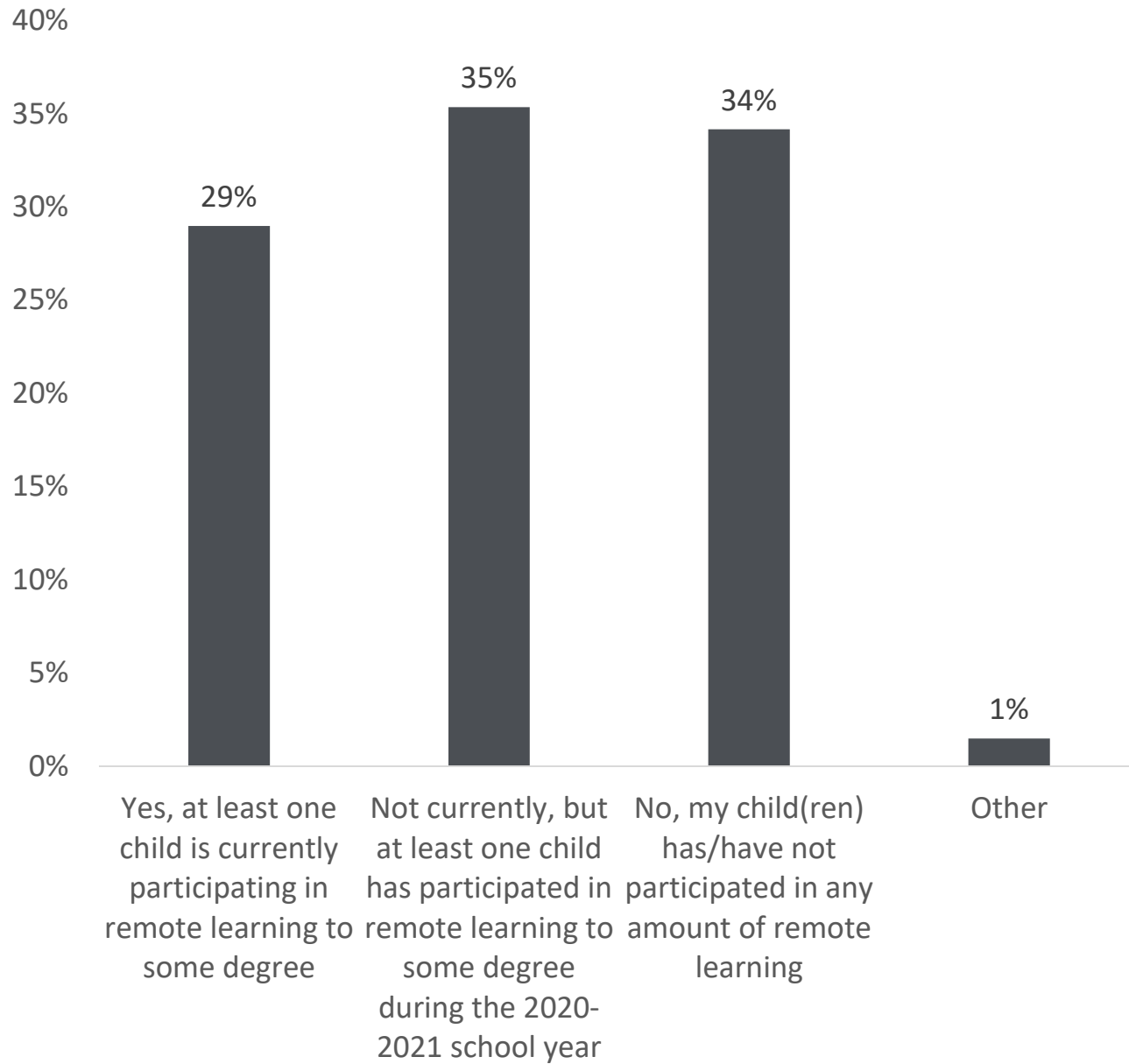
**PRELIMINARY DATA**

**WHAT FACTORS ARE IMPORTANT FOR FAMILIES IN DECIDING WHETHER TO SEND CHILD(REN) TO IN-PERSON CARE/SCHOOL?**



## PRELIMINARY DATA

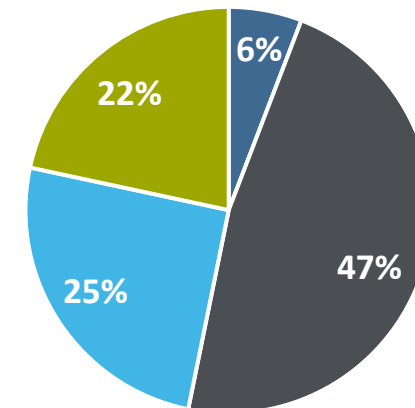
### Participation in Remote Learning



82%

Of respondents are/were the primary supervisor of children's remote learning

### Average Amount of Parent/Guarian's Time Needed to Support Remote Learning on Daily Basis



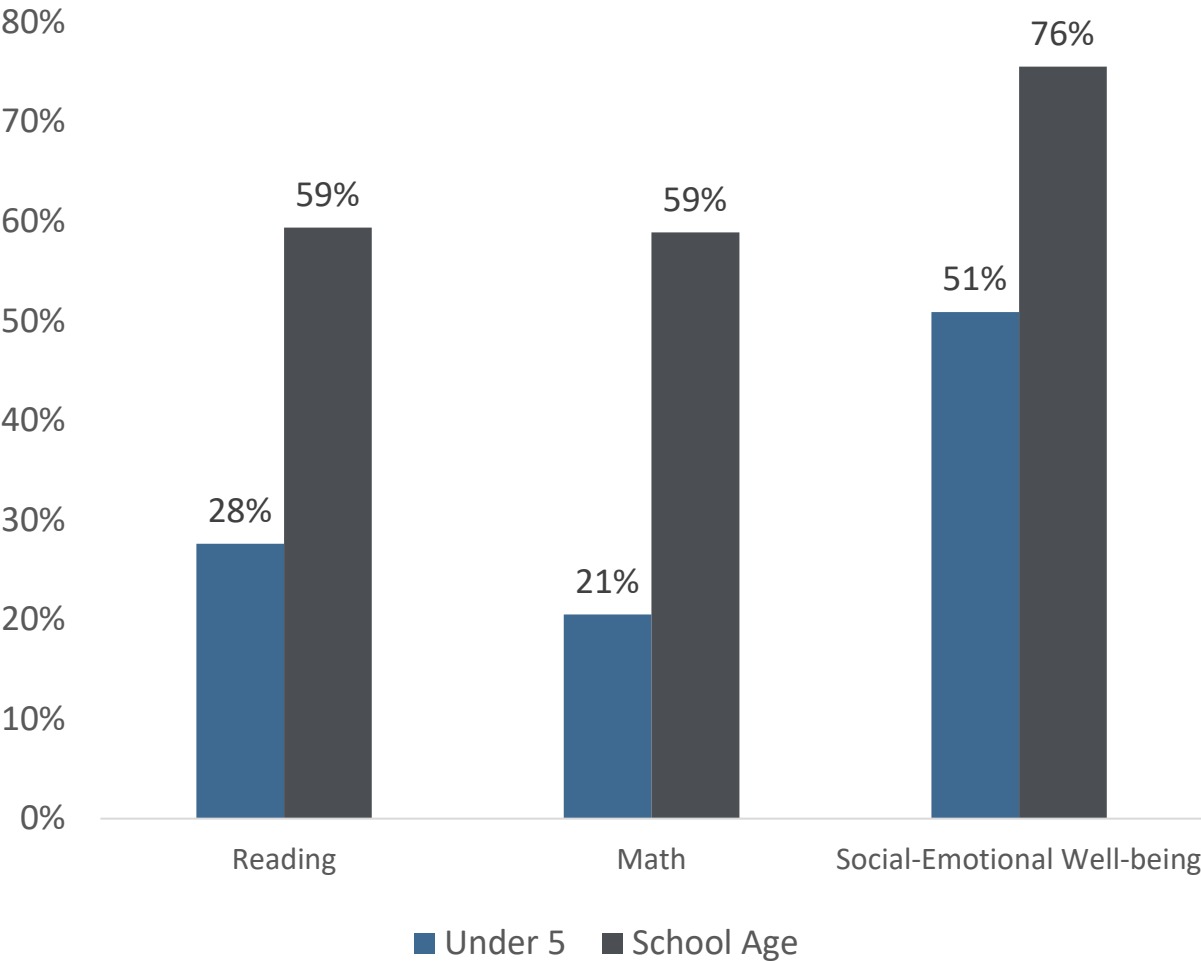
■ No additional time ■ 1-3 hours ■ 4-5 hours ■ More than 5 hours

EARLY MILESTONES

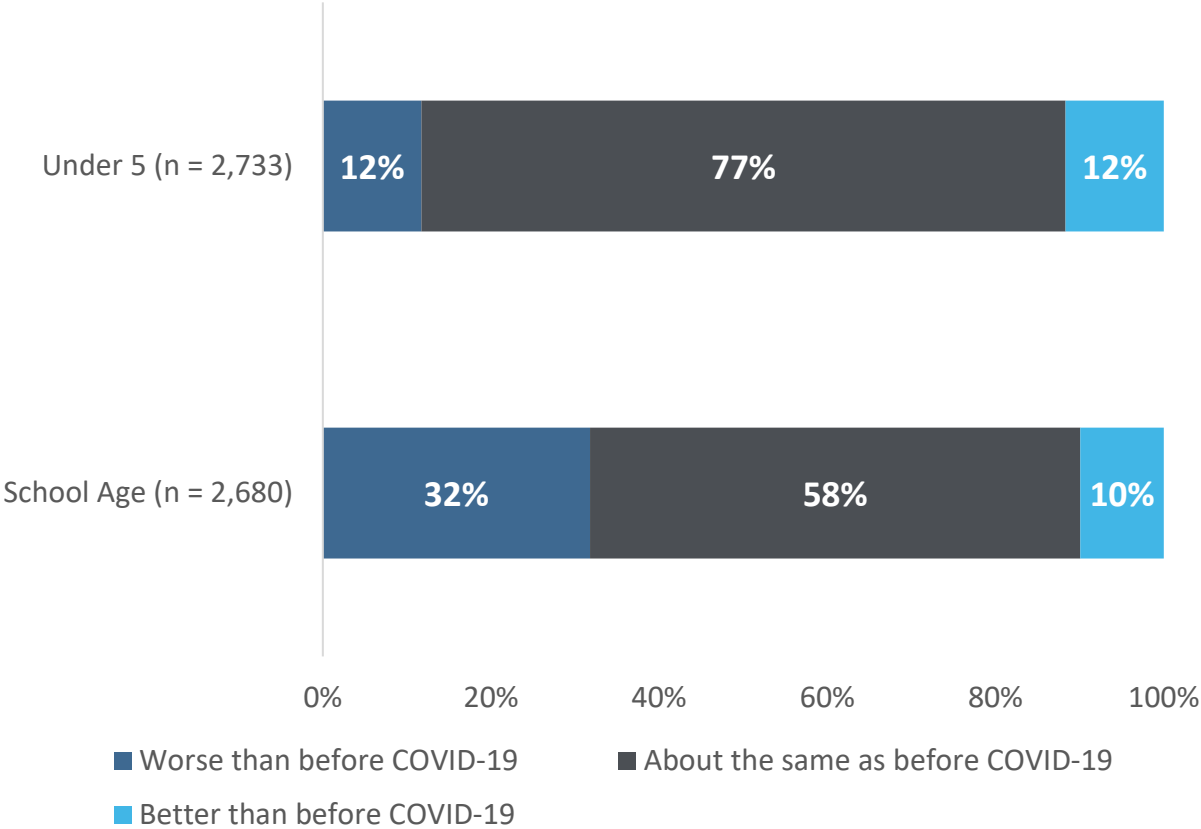
**PRELIMINARY DATA**

**HOW CONCERNED ARE FAMILIES ABOUT POTENTIAL LEARNING LOSS & CHILD(REN)’S WELL-BEING**

Respondents' Level of Concern for Learning Loss:  
Somewhat/Very Concerned



How Children are Feeling & Doing Compared to Before  
March 2020



A photograph of a man with dark skin and short hair, smiling warmly while holding a young child. The man is wearing a light-colored, patterned button-down shirt. The child, who has dark skin and curly hair, is wearing a purple and white striped long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. They are sitting on a blanket with diagonal stripes in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery and a light-colored wall.

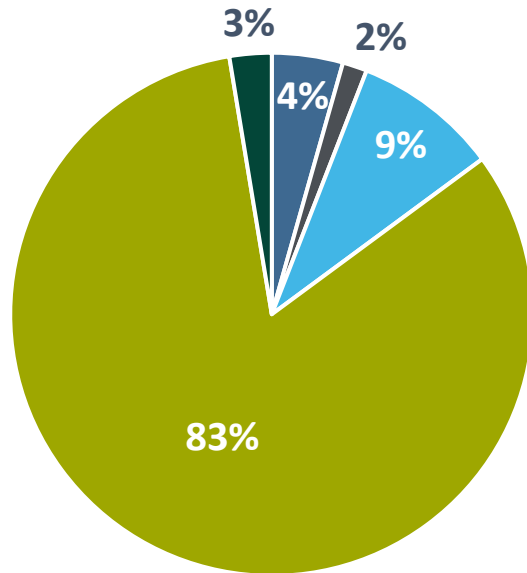
PRE-K

EARLY MILESTONES

# DO FAMILIES WANT TO SEND THEIR CHILD(REN) TO PRESCHOOL AND, IF NOT, WHY?

## PRELIMINARY DATA

Likelihood Families Would Send Child(ren) to Preschool^ (n = 2,573)

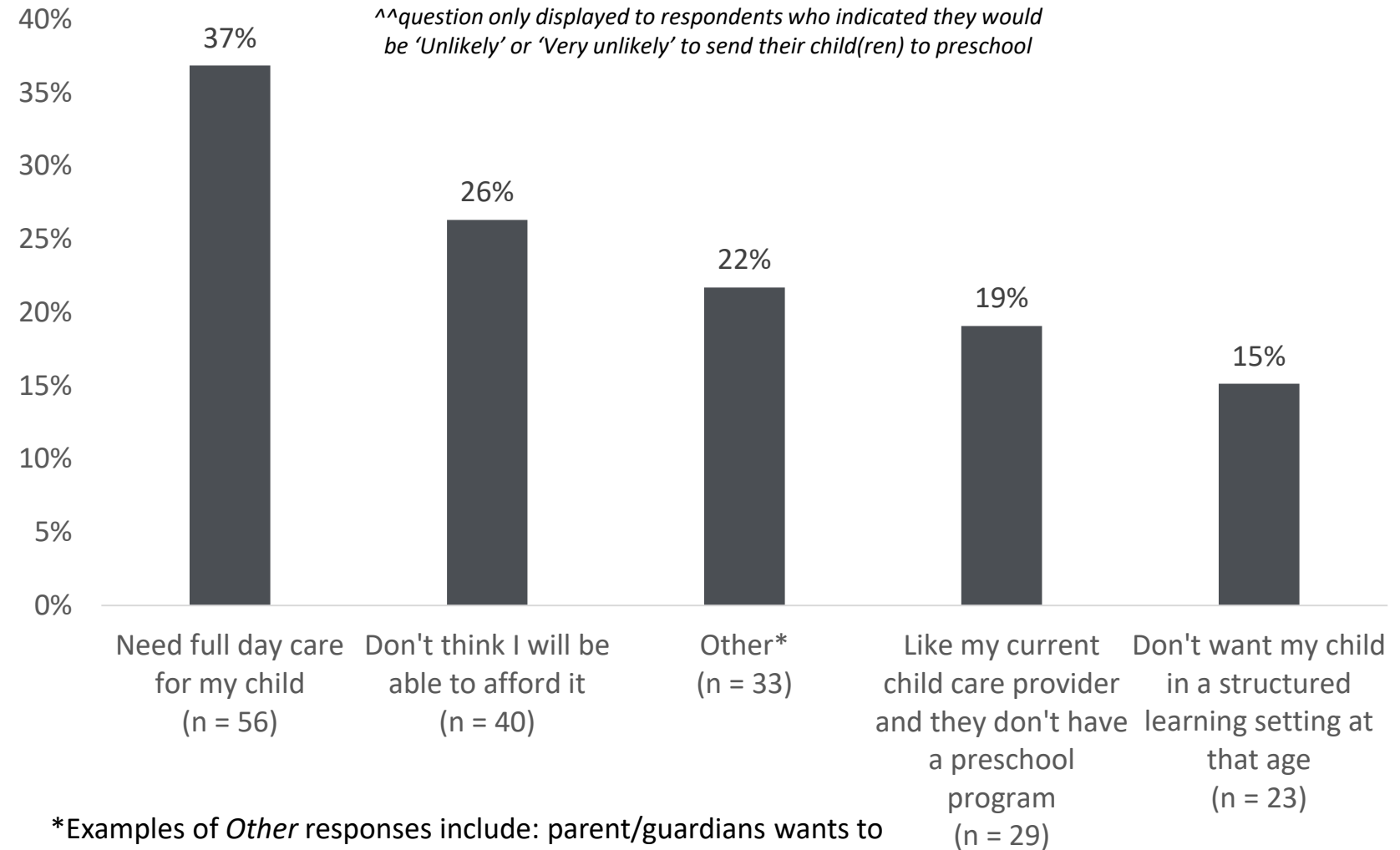


- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Don't know/Not sure

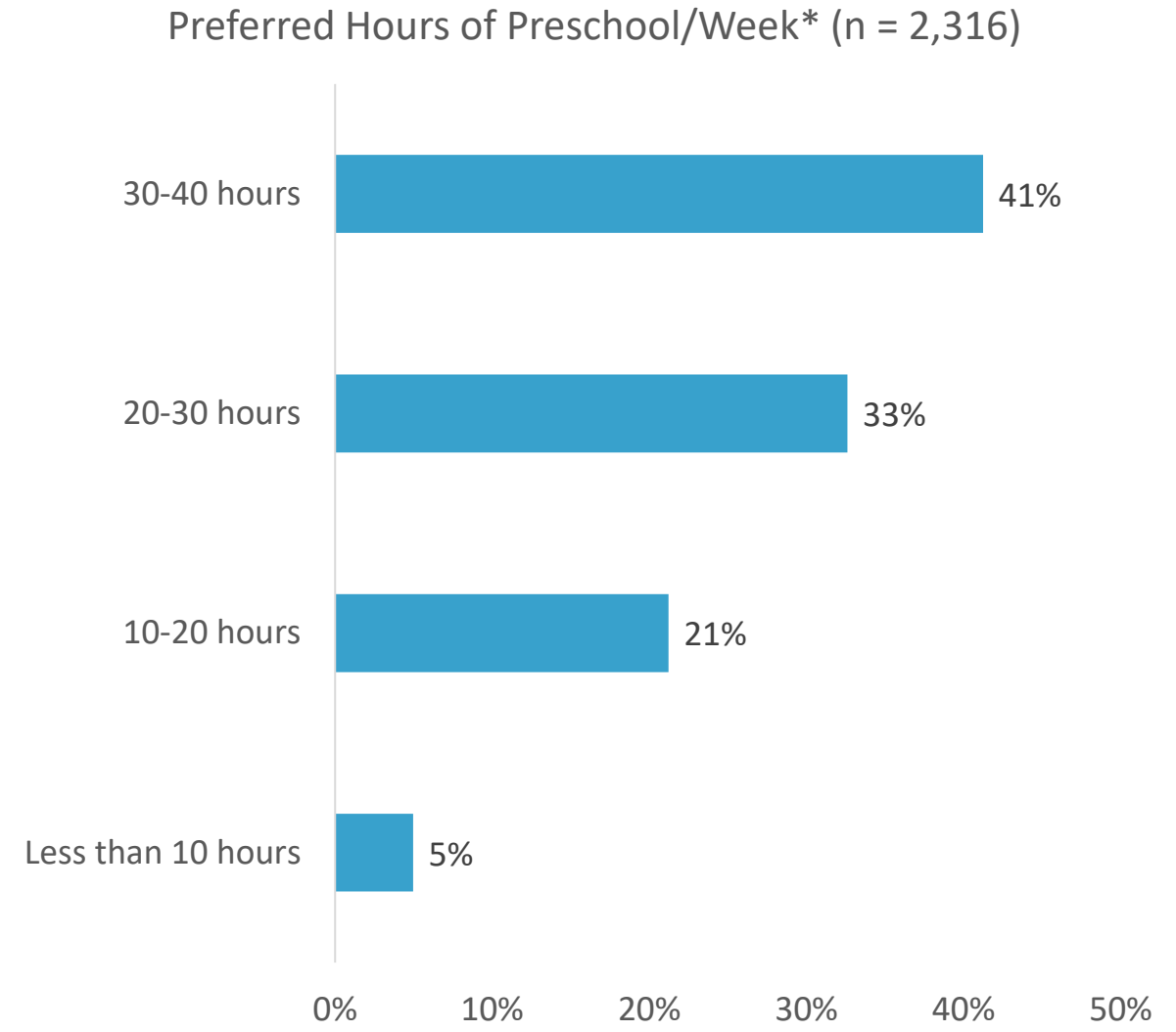
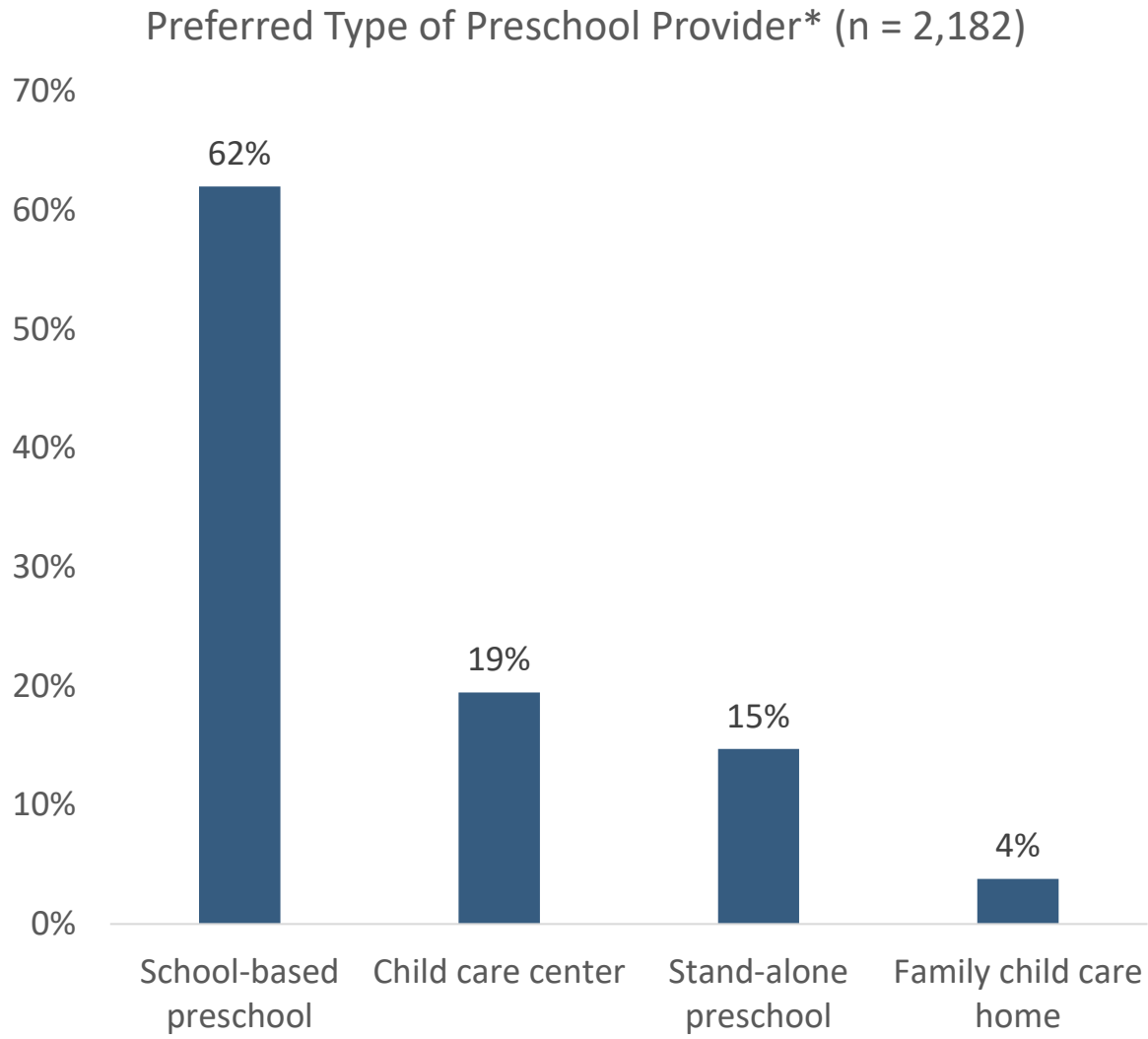
*^question only displayed to respondents who indicated they have a child age 4 or under*

## Reasons Families Are Unlikely to Send Child(ren) to Preschool^^

*^^question only displayed to respondents who indicated they would be 'Unlikely' or 'Very unlikely' to send their child(ren) to preschool*



*\*Examples of Other responses include: parent/guardians wants to provide direct care and instruction, don't have enough information about options, health risks associated with COVID-19*

**PRELIMINARY DATA**

*\*questions only displayed to respondents who indicated they would be 'Likely' or 'Very Likely' to send their child(ren) to preschool*



# THANK YOU

Jennifer Stedron  
Executive Director

[jstedron@earlymilestones.org](mailto:jstedron@earlymilestones.org)

Suzanne Delap  
Director of Research

[sdelap@earlymilestones.org](mailto:sdelap@earlymilestones.org)



EARLY MILESTONES