



# Beresford, South Dakota: Childcare Survey Report – Primary Caregiver

Audrey Rider | SDSU Extension Early Childhood Field Specialist  
Kara Harders | SDSU Extension Community Vitality Field Specialist



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
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## Introduction

The childcare crisis in South Dakota has reached critical levels, with many families struggling to find affordable, high-quality care for their children. This report aims to understand the current landscape of childcare in the state, focusing on availability, cost, quality, and impact on families and the economy. According to South Dakota Kids Count, approximately 74% of children under the age of six live in households where all available parents are working, creating a significant demand for reliable childcare services. However, many rural areas in South Dakota face severe childcare shortages, exacerbating the issue for many families. This survey report draws on data from primary caregivers in the Beresford area (zip code 57004) to provide insights into how childcare issues affect families, their economic stability, and the broader community. By exploring these dimensions, the report seeks to identify opportunities to better the current childcare.

## Survey Respondents

This report examines a portion of a larger group who selected the zip code “57004” indicating they live in Beresford, South Dakota. One hundred seven (107) individuals in the larger group indicated they were from Beresford.

- The Survey was viewed (link opened) 2,138 times
- 515 responses were recorded
- 223 completed enough of the survey to have a meaningful response

While there was a minimum amount of participation, not all questions were required. Open ended questions and demographic questions, specifically, were optional. See questions needing completion indicated in the survey instrument in the appendix of this report. Each question discussed has an associated N=#, this indicates how many people’s answers the table is representing.

**Again, this document is only reporting findings from the 107 individuals who identified themselves as living in Zip code 57004. Respondents did not answer every question, some questions have as few as 15 responses.**

## Key Findings

This survey, based on responses from 107 primary caregivers for children, reveals several critical insights into childcare needs and challenges. A significant portion of respondents (74.7%) have one or two children aged 0-6 years. A vast majority (87.7%) of respondents with one child indicated they planned to not need childcare within the next three years.

A unique finding which exists in Beresford more than statewide, is the need for childcare throughout the week. Unlike the state report which showed mostly uniform demand for childcare Monday-Friday, about ¾ of Beresford respondents needed full-day care Monday through Thursday but only about 64% needed full-day care on Friday. The need for partial-day care in Beresford did not change on Friday (Table 4).

One hundred percent of respondents believe there is a need for more childcare in the area, and over 50% of respondents are dissatisfied with the quality of the current childcare options.

Finally, Beresford deviated from statewide results in one other large way. Thirty two percent of statewide responses preferred a licensed childcare facility, while 69% of Beresford residents indicated they preferred a licensed center. Residents in the 57004 zip code were more than twice as likely to desire a licensed facility than the state average.

## Results

The following information is from a survey (included in appendix at end). Which included a maximum of 23 questions. None of the questions were force-answers, each participant could skip questions they did not wish to answer.

Those who indicated they would not need childcare in three years were thanked and exited the survey.

### How many children (0-6 years old) in your home currently need childcare? Do you anticipate needing childcare or needing additional childcare in the next 3 years? N=107

**Table 1:** Number of children in homes and anticipated future need for childcare.

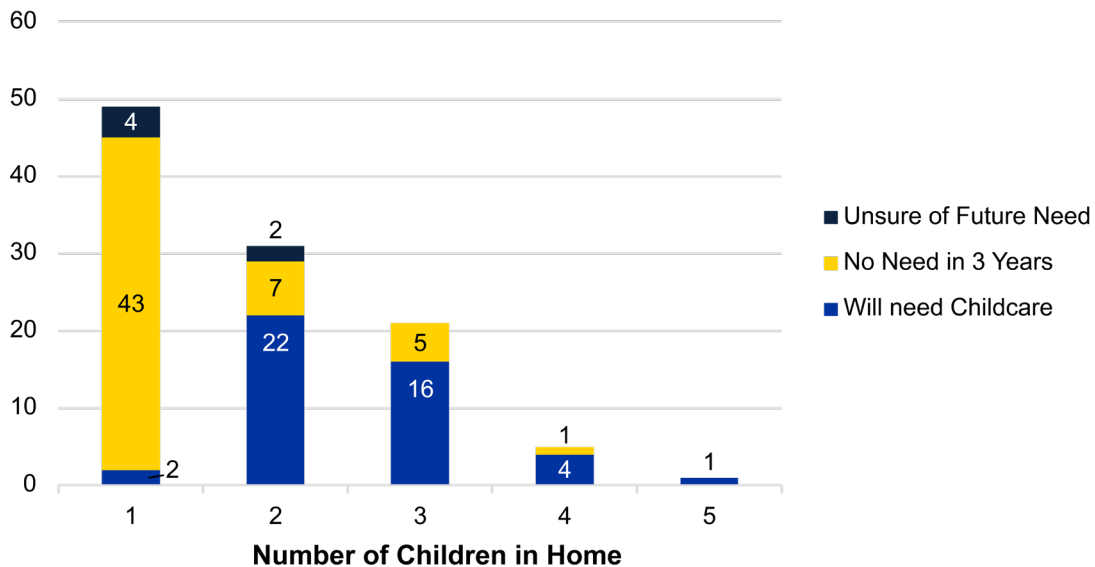


Table 1 pairs two questions, identifying how many children are in each respondent's home and if they will need childcare in three years.

Most respondents with one child in the home indicated they likely wouldn't need childcare in three years, while those with multiple children were far more likely to anticipate childcare needs continuing beyond the next three years. Also, considering the large proportion of respondents with only one child in the home planning to not need childcare in three years (87.7%), this may suggest a reduced need for childcare in the future. It could suggest more families are heading toward needing less childcare, rather than planning to have more children and needing additional or continued childcare.

**If you are not using a childcare center, can you please share about the other arrangement(s) you have?  
N=32**

**Table 2:** Qualitative responses for alternatives to childcare centers

Number of Responses	Other Arrangement
18	Daycare/Childcare Center
17	Parent/Family Members
6	School based programs
4	Nanny/After School Programs

This open-ended question was voluntary and received 32 responses. Four response themes were observed. Verbatim responses will not be shared in these sections, for example, “Family” “My Parents” and “Older siblings” would all be counted in the theme of “Family Members”. Those who responded were able to list multiple arrangements they use to fill childcare gaps, this resulted in 45 responses from 32 individuals.

**Please check all the times your family may need childcare throughout the week: N=42**

**Table 3:** Childcare needs by day of the week, N.

Day of week	6:00-9:00 a.m.	3:00-9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other
Sunday	0	1	1	4	3
Monday	6	8	5	32	2
Tuesday	8	7	5	33	2
Wednesday	7	8	6	31	2
Thursday	8	7	5	32	2
Friday	7	7	5	27	3
Saturday	2	1	2	2	2

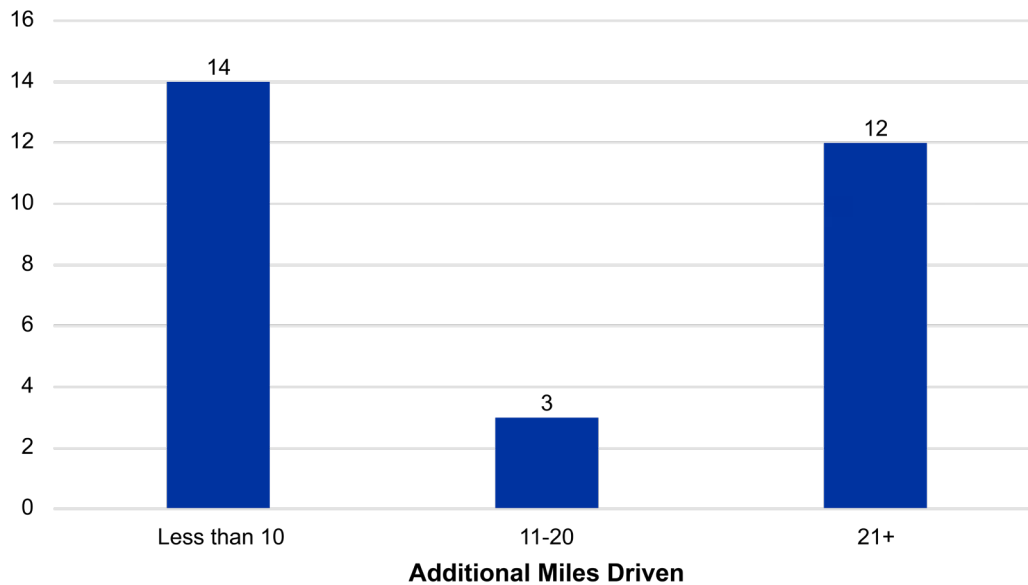
**Table 4:** Childcare needs by day of the week, %. Most needed days are bold and highlighted light blue in table.

Day of week	6:00-9:00 a.m.	3:00-9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other
	Percentage				
Sunday	0%	2%	2%	10%	7%
Monday	14%	19%	12%	<b>76%</b>	5%
Tuesday	19%	17%	12%	<b>79%</b>	5%
Wednesday	17%	19%	14%	<b>74%</b>	5%
Thursday	19%	17%	12%	<b>76%</b>	5%
Friday	17%	17%	12%	<b>64%</b>	7%
Saturday	5%	2%	5%	5%	5%

Participants were asked to share what days of the week and which parts of the day they need childcare. Individuals were able to select multiple options for each day.

### How many additional miles do you drive for childcare? N=31

**Table 5:** Additional miles driven each day for childcare.



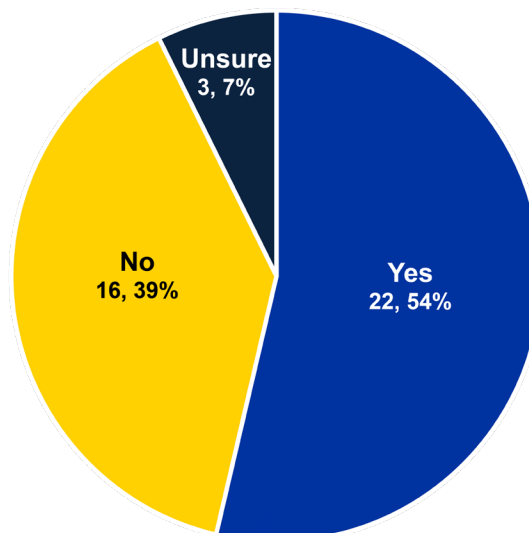
Participants were asked to share how far they travelled to attain childcare. Answers were quite diverse for this group. The average individual drove about 19 miles per day out of their way for childcare.

It is important to note, the survey question before this question received 42 responses and the one after this received 41 responses, this question received 31. It is possible individuals who do not drive additional miles skipped the question when they should have answered “0”.

If those who didn’t respond are not driving additional miles this would pull the average number of miles driven per person down to 14.4 miles per person per day.

### Do your childcare needs change in the summer months? N=41

**Table 6:** Changing childcare needs in summer months.



This question was asked because before and after school care can make a big impact on childcare. Ony those who indicated their needs did change (Table 6) were asked to share what their summer childcare needs were (Tables 7 and 8).

**Please check all the times your family may need childcare throughout the week in the summer. (N=15)**

**Table 7:** Summer childcare needs by day of the week, N.

Day of week	6:00-9:00 a.m.	3:00-9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other
Sunday	0	1	1	1	0
Monday	2	1	3	11	1
Tuesday	2	1	3	11	1
Wednesday	2	2	3	11	1
Thursday	2	1	3	11	1
Friday	2	2	3	10	1
Saturday	0	0	1	1	0

**Table 8:** Summer childcare needs by day of the week, %. Most needed days are bold and highlighted light blue in table.

Day of week	6:00-9:00 a.m.	3:00-9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other
	Percentage				
Sunday	0%	7%	7%	7%	0%
Monday	13%	7%	20%	<b>73%</b>	7%
Tuesday	13%	7%	20%	<b>73%</b>	7%
Wednesday	13%	13%	20%	<b>73%</b>	7%
Thursday	13%	7%	20%	<b>73%</b>	7%
Friday	13%	13%	20%	67%	7%
Saturday	0%	0%	7%	7%	0%

In comparison to the schedule of childcare needs during the year (Table 4), those who indicated a change in needs during the summer months needed a bit more flexibility, with the need for half day care rising about 8% each weekday.

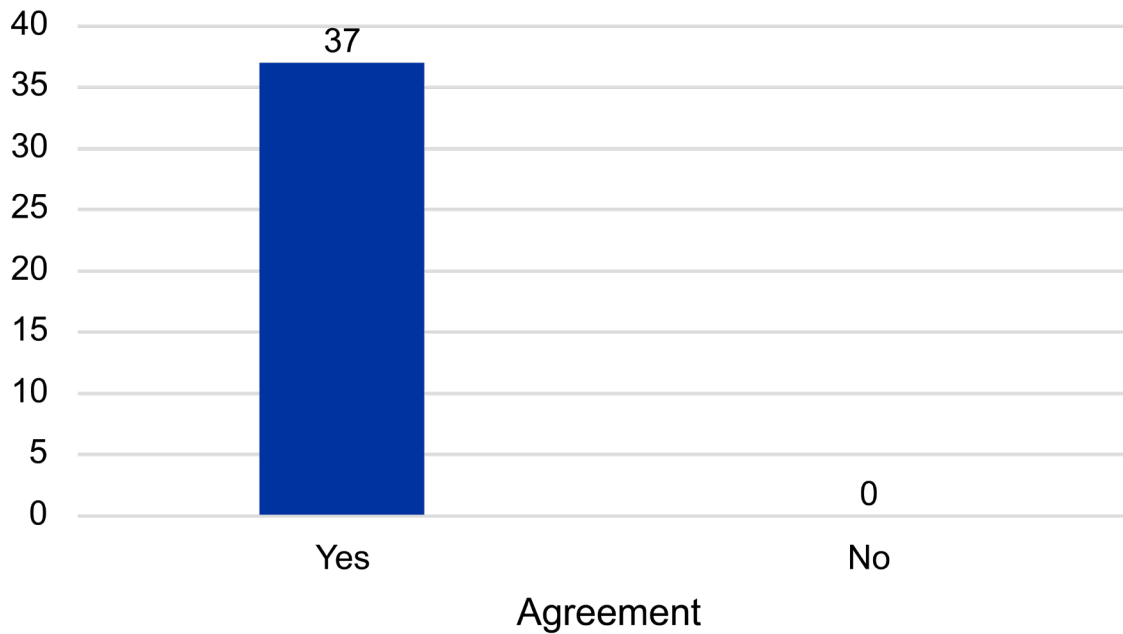
**What childcare options does your family use during the summer? N=18**

This open-ended question was voluntary and received 18 responses. Verbatim responses will not be shared in this section, for example, “Family” “My Parents” and “Older siblings” would all be counted in the theme of “A parent or family member cares for the children”. Those who responded were able to list multiple arrangements they use to fill childcare gaps, this resulted in 21 responses from 18 individuals.

Number of Responses	Other Arrangement
3	Daycare
4	School program
12	A parent or family member cares for the children
3	Had no arrangement

**Do you believe there is a need for a childcare center or more childcare options in your community? N=37**

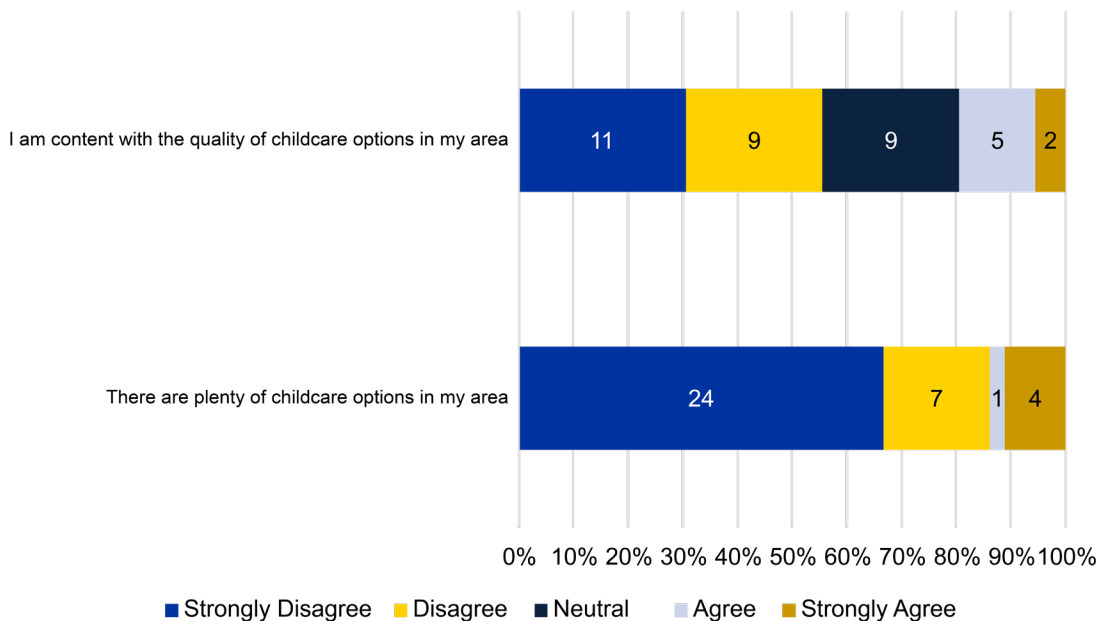
**Table 9:** Belief in need for more childcare in community.



**Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

- There are plenty of childcare options in my area (N=36)
- I am content with the quality of childcare options in my area (N=36)

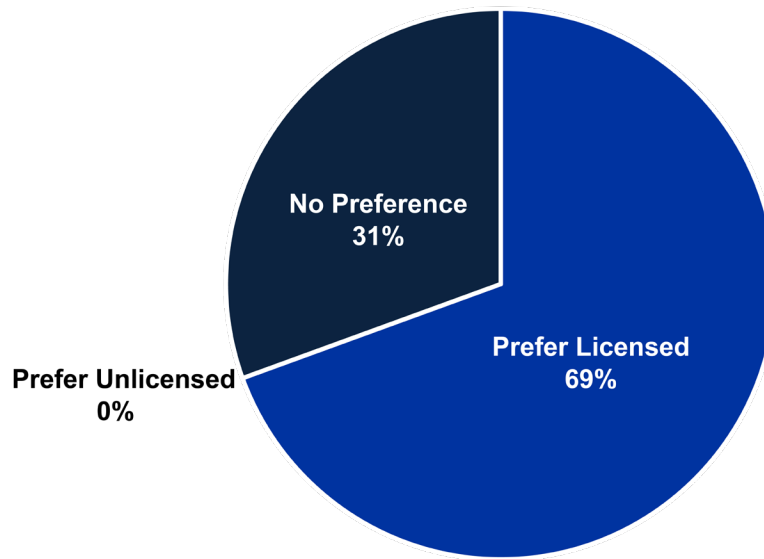
**Table 10:** Contentedness with quality and quantity of childcare options.



When asked about opinions of quality and quantity of childcare options respondents were more content with the quality of childcare options (Table 10), with about 45% having neutral or positive feelings toward the quality of childcare in their area. Stronger disagreement was more widely expressed toward the quantity of available childcare, with over 85% indicating disagreement with the statement.

### How do you feel about childcare center's licensing status? (N=36)

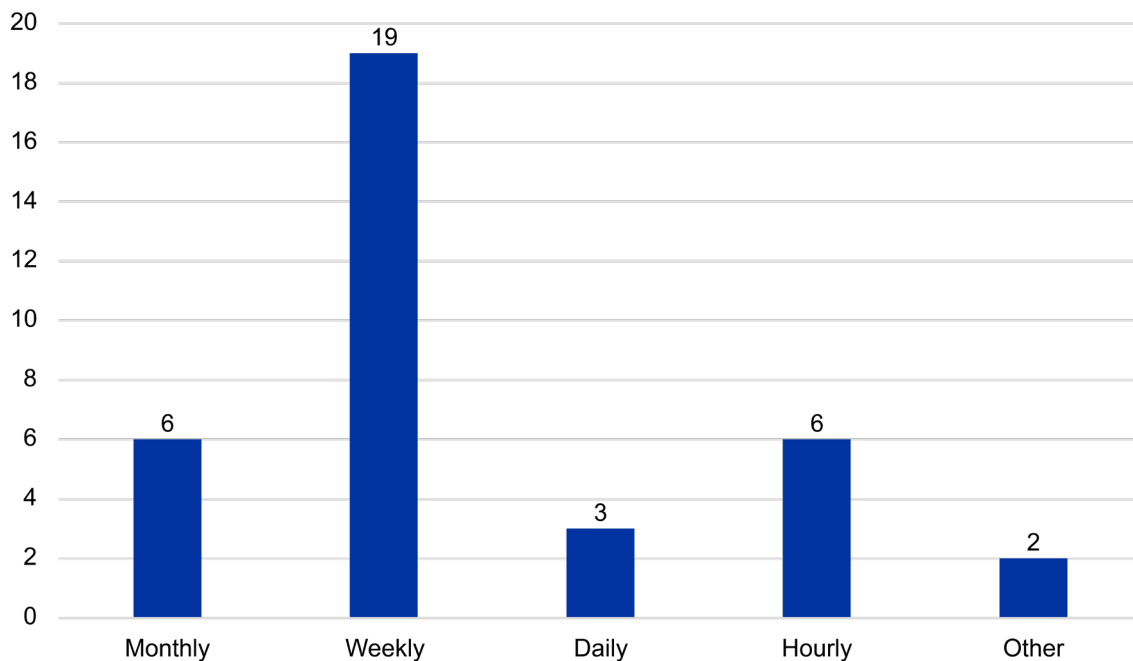
**Table 11:** Preference toward licensing status of childcare center



When asked how respondents felt about licensing status, 30.5% shared they did not have a preference (Table 11). While the rest (69.5%) preferred a licensed facility and no respondents from Beresford preferred a center to be unlicensed.

### How would you prefer to be charged for childcare services? (N=36)

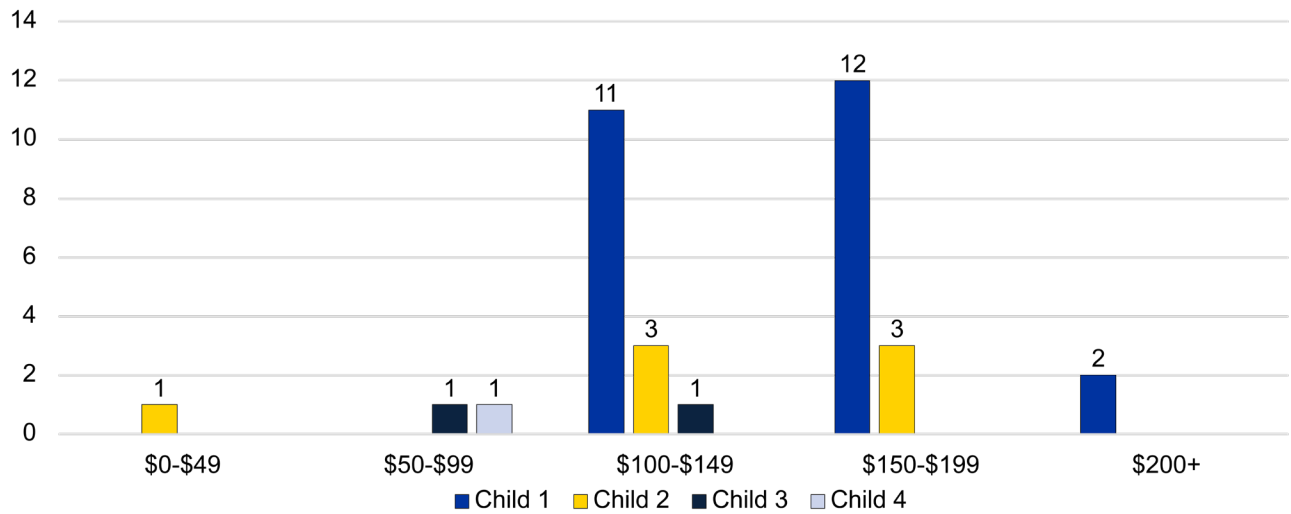
**Table 12:** Preference of payment style/frequency



The most commonly preferred payment schedule was weekly with 53% and the least popular was daily (8%) (Table 12). Beresford was quite similar to the statewide report, in which approximately 50% of respondents also preferred a weekly payment.

**How much are you paying for childcare services, per child, per week? N=25**

**Table 13:** Cost per week, per child, by child



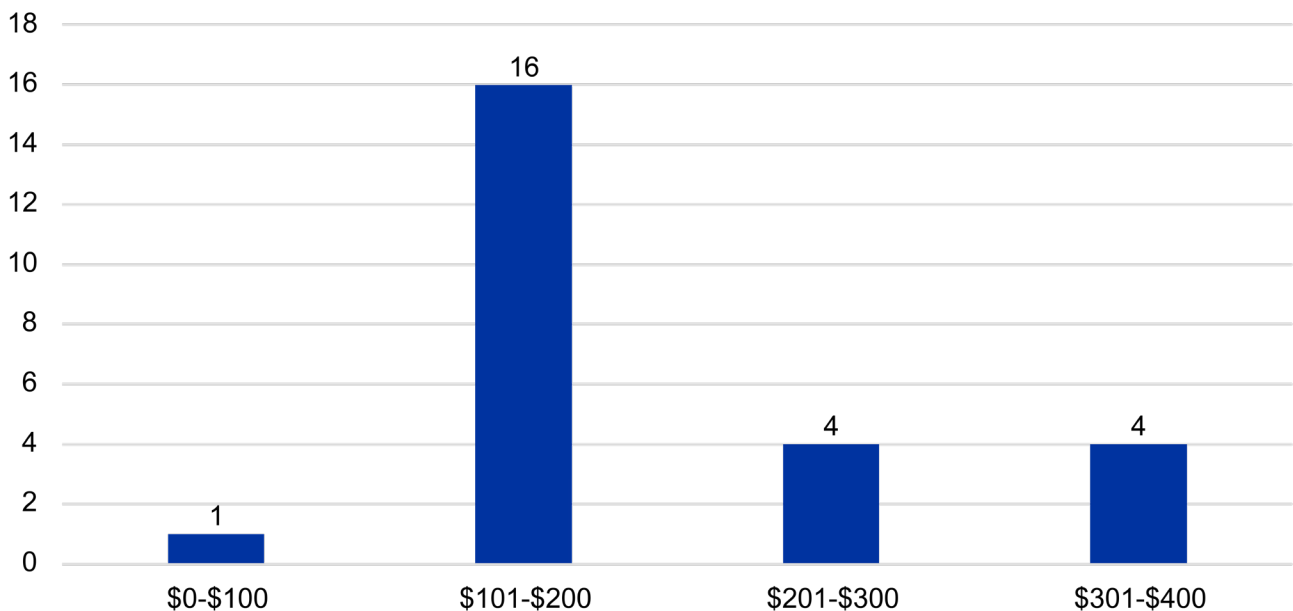
This question allowed for up to 5 children, no one entered a cost for a fifth child, so the report reflects only up to four children.

Of the 25 respondents who answered this question they entered data for 35 children. The most common amount paid for “Child 1” was between \$100 and \$149 (48%).

Using the responses to this question, it was possible to calculate how much each family is paying for childcare for all children per week (Table 14).

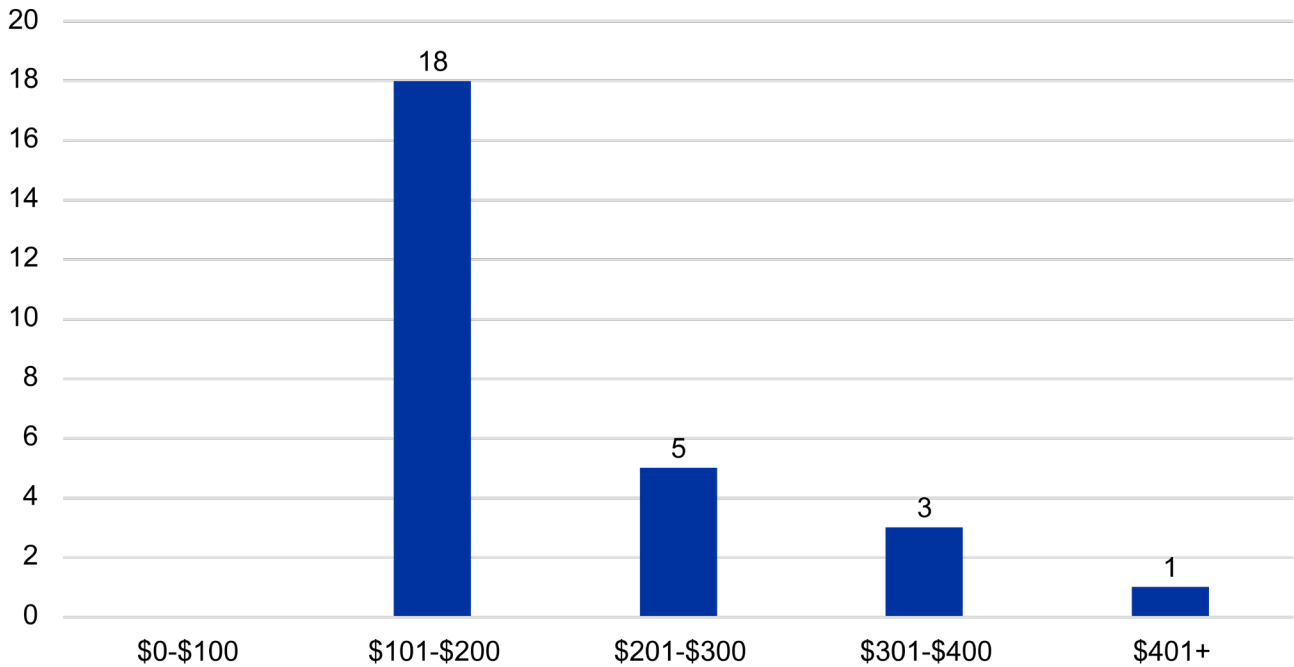
This was not asked as a standalone question but rather, was determined by adding up each respondent’s reported cost per child, per week, for all of their children (N=25).

**Table 14:** Total cost per respondent

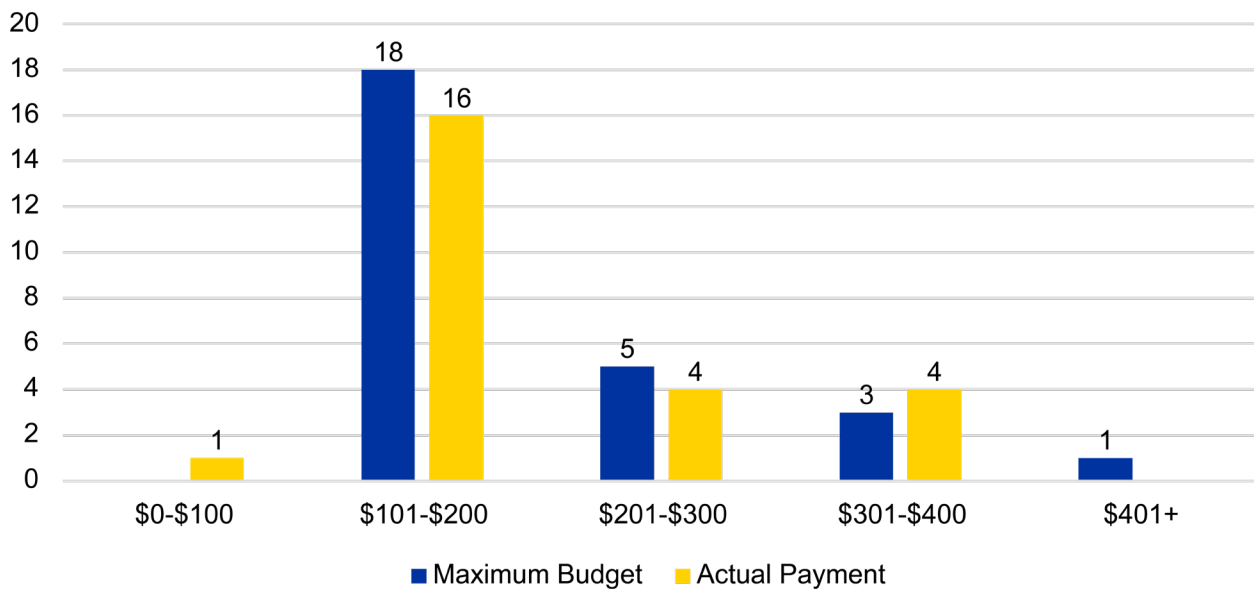


**What is your maximum budget per week for childcare? (Consider costs such as additional childcare fees or having additional children in childcare) (N=27)**

**Table 15:** Weekly Childcare Budget



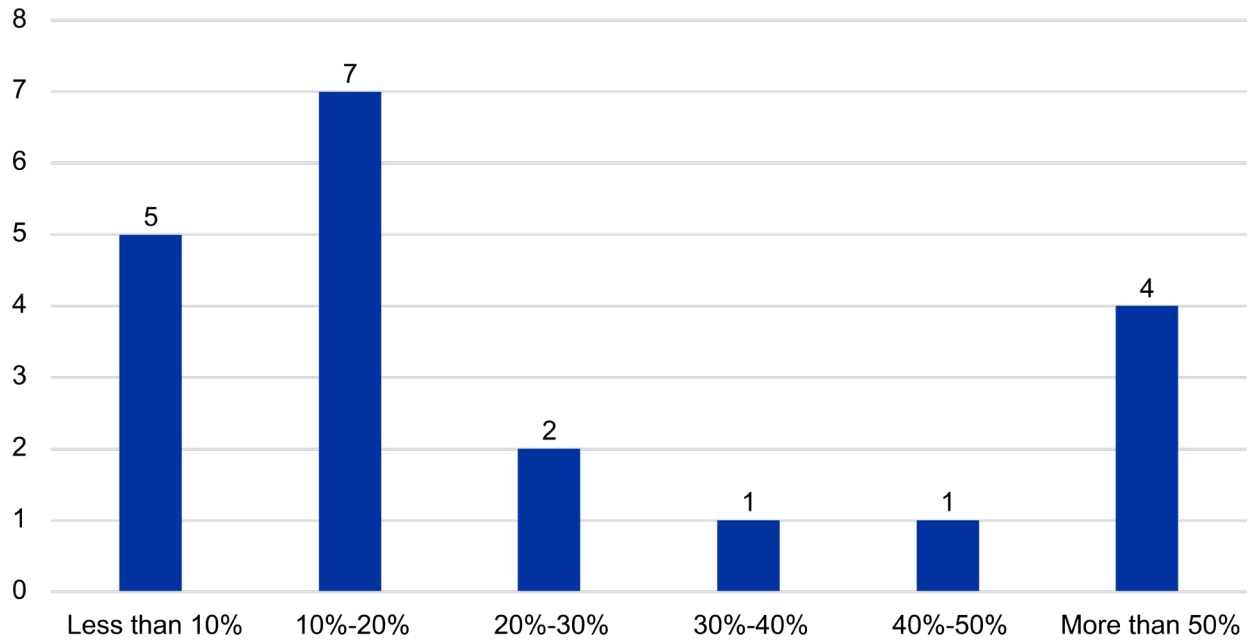
**Table 16:** Actual vs. estimated maximum childcare budget.



When compared side by side, the actual payment is very close to the upper limit budget most respondents are currently identifying, individuals from Beresford were more likely to identify a maximum budget above their current payments than those in the statewide report.

Furthermore, if middle ground is assumed for income ranges (ie. \$0-\$24,999 = \$12,500) (Table 21 and Appendix) and multiply the childcare costs people are currently paying per week by 52 (Table 14), a ratio of the approximate amount of income being spent on childcare can be seen (participants needed to share how much they paid for childcare as well as their income level to be included in this statistic. (N=20)

**Table 17:** Percent of income spent on childcare.

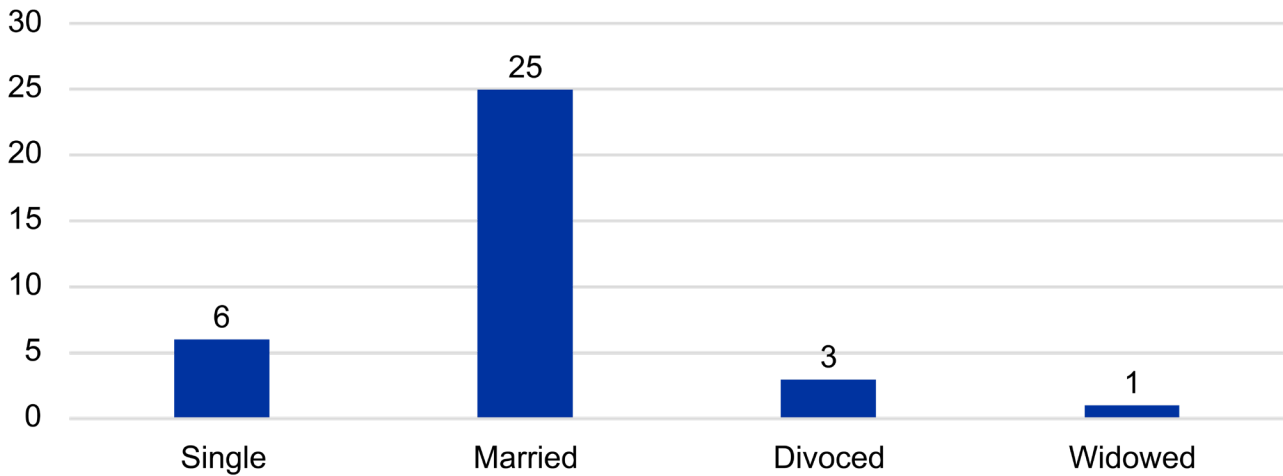


## Demographics

### Marital Status N=35

When asked about marital status, the most common answer being “married”, 71.4%.

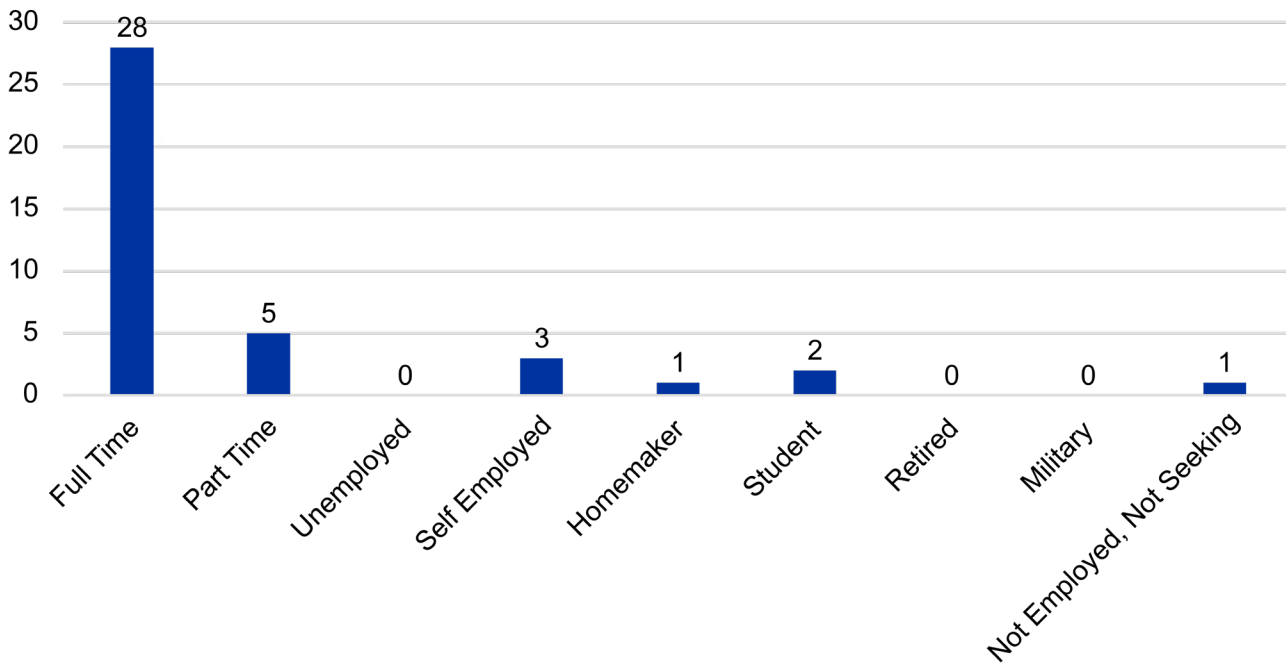
**Table 18:** Marital status



### Employment N=35

When asked about employment status the most common answer being “Full-time”. Participants could select more than one answer, which is why more than 35 employment options were selected.

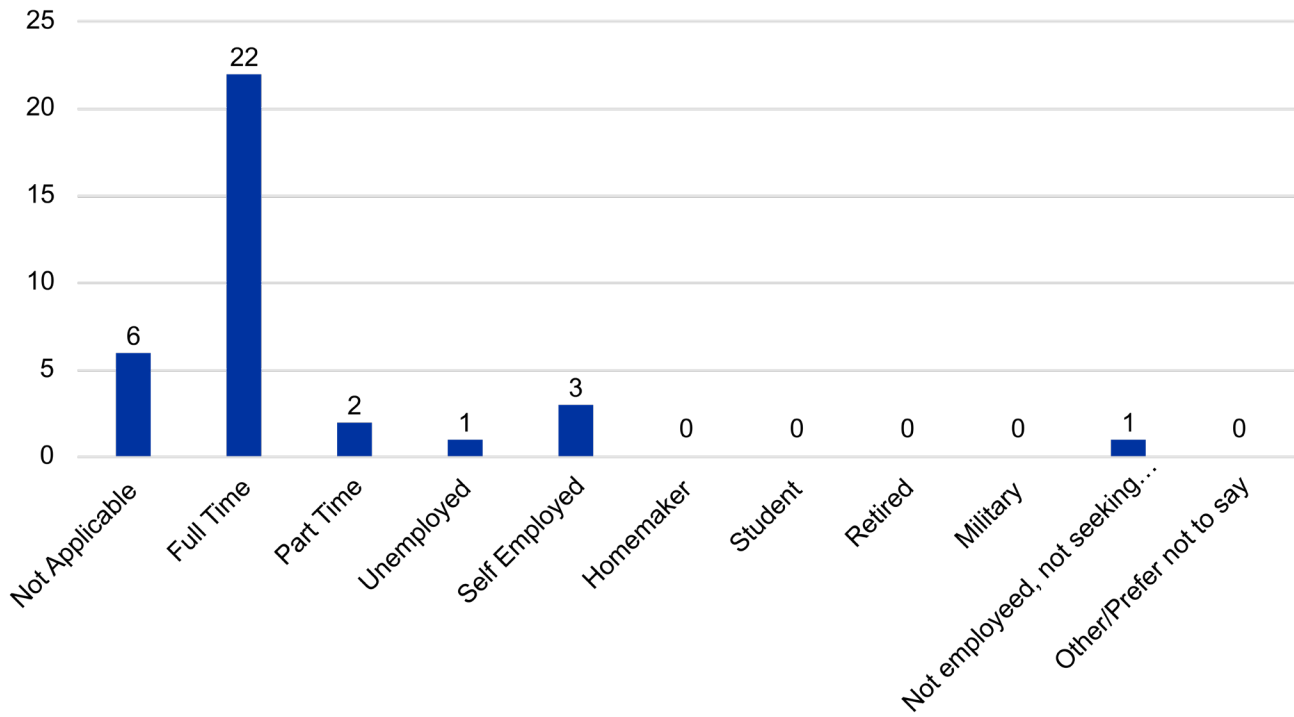
**Table 19:** Employment



### Spouse/Partner Employment N=35

When asked about the employment status of a Spouse/Partner, the most common answer was “Full-time” employment (63%).

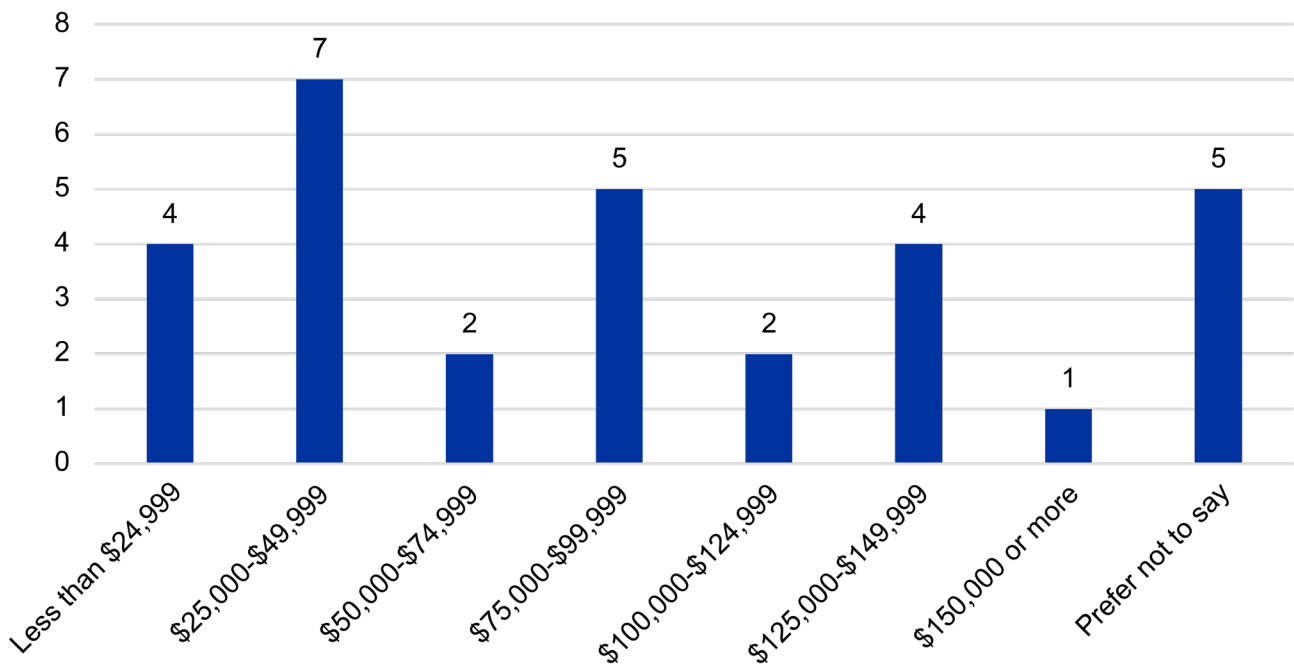
**Table 20:** Spouse/Partner employment status



### Income N=30

When asked about household income level, responses were widely distributed.

**Table 21:** Household income



**Thank you for participating in this survey, please share here any additional comments you may have about childcare. These comments have been heavily generalized due to the low number of responses. N=16**

Of the 16 responses five main themes were identified. A response may have had multiple ideas and been counted in multiple themes, which is why there are more occurrences within themes than number of responses to the question. All responses were summarized and theme coded to protect the anonymity of the participants.

**1. Severe Childcare Shortage and Limited Availability (12 responses)**

- Waitlists and Access: Families face long waitlists, sometimes up to 4 years, with few daycare options available locally. Parents often resort to driving to other towns for care.
- Area Specific Needs: Certain areas are particularly underserved, with only a few in-home providers and limited established centers.

**2. Impact on Families and Employment (10 responses)**

- Quitting Jobs and Relocation: Some parents are forced to leave their jobs due to the lack of available childcare, while others move to areas with better childcare options to meet their family's needs.
- Foster Care and Childcare: Foster families struggle with finding licensed daycare, limiting their ability to take in children.

**3. Critical Need for After-School Care and Early Education (7 responses)**

- After-School Care: There is a strong demand for after-school programs, which are seen as essential for working parents.
- Preschool and Early Learning: Respondents emphasized the need for state-funded preschool programs to promote early childhood learning and socialization, along with transportation between schools, homes, and daycare.

**4. Community, City, and State Support for Childcare (9 responses)**

- Grants and Funding: There are calls for local governments to secure grants to establish more daycare centers or help in-home providers by offering low-cost rental spaces.
- Daycare Linked with Schools: Communities that have daycare centers connected with schools are seen as models for successfully addressing childcare shortages.

**5. Desire for Involvement and Solutions (5 responses)**

- Interest in Action: Some respondents, particularly those working in early childhood education or Head Start programs, expressed interest in participating in efforts to improve local childcare.
- Stay-at-Home and Homeschooling Families: Even stay-at-home parents recognize the importance of expanding childcare options, particularly for foster families, to provide structure and support for children.

## Appendix A – Survey Instrument

The information below represents the survey participants took to collect the data in this report. Respondents took the survey online, so this is not identical to what they saw. Participants were not forced to answer any questions, however, if they skipped certain questions their response was not counted in the reports, those required questions are indicated with an asterisk (\*) this asterisk was not included in the live survey and only exists for clarity in this report.



This voluntary survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Answers will be held strictly confidential and used only for this study. The results will only be reported in aggregate form and cannot be identified individually. One business owner or household member aged 18 years or older should complete the survey.

What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a childcare provider?

- Yes\*
- No

***\*If “yes” was selected the participant was asked a different set of questions and then offered the rest of these questions if they had children of childcare age and wanted to take the survey***

How many children (0-6 years old) in your home currently need childcare?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

Do you anticipate needing childcare or needing additional childcare in the next 3 years?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If you are not using a childcare center, can you please share about the other arrangement(s) you have?

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Please check all the times your family may need childcare throughout the week.

Day of the week	6:00 - 9:00 a.m.	3:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other time frame
Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How many additional miles do you drive for childcare? Daily Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Do your childcare needs change in the summer months?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What childcare options does your family use during the summer? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all the times your family may need childcare throughout the week in the summer.

Day of the week	6:00 - 9:00 a.m.	3:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Half Day	All Day	Other time frame
Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you believe there is a need for a childcare center or more child care options in your community?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
There is plenty of childcare available in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am content with the quality of childcare in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How do you feel about childcare centers licensing status?

- I prefer an unlicensed center
- I have no preference if a center is licensed
- I prefer a licensed center

How would you prefer to be charged for childcare services?

- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Hourly
- Other

How much are you paying for childcare? (Enter as many children as you pay for)

Child	Cost per week for child care
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

What is your maximum budget per week for childcare? (Consider costs such as additional childcare fees or having additional children in childcare)

If you would be interested in participating in a round table discussion in your community please share your email address below:

What is your marital status?

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Other or Prefer not to answer

What is your employment status?

- Full-time employment
- Part-time employment
- Unemployed
- Self-employed
- Home-maker
- Student
- Retired
- Military
- Not employed, not seeking employment
- Other or Prefer not to answer

What is your spouse/partner's employment status?

- N/A
- Full-time employment
- Part-time employment
- Unemployed
- Self-employed
- Home-maker
- Student
- Retired
- Military
- Not employed, not seeking employment
- Other or Prefer not to answer

What is your annual household income?

- \$0-\$24,999
- \$25,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$124,999
- \$125,000-\$149,000
- \$150,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

Thank you for participating in this survey, please share here any additional comments you may have about childcare.



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