

Child care use in Minnesota

*Report of the 1999 statewide
household child care survey*

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 1

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child care survey*

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Prepared by:

Richard Chase and Ellen Shelton

Wilder Research Center
1295 Bandana Boulevard North, Suite 210
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108
651-647-4600
www.wilder.org

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Summary

Study purposes and methods

This report on a statewide telephone survey describes child care use in Minnesota among households with children age 14 and younger. Funded by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, the survey was conducted from June 1999 through March 2000.

Interviewers spoke with one adult in each household who was most knowledgeable about the child care arrangements. The survey collected information about the youngest child's care for the entire prior week, accounting for who cared for the child in what settings for every hour of the prior seven days. The study also includes information on reasons for choosing various arrangements, costs of child care, work-related issues, and parent satisfaction with current child care arrangements.

The results are useful for assessing the availability, quality, and affordability of child care for all families in Minnesota.

In this study, child care refers to all arrangements other than parents and the regular school day (K-12). It includes care by relatives, informal and formal home-based care, center-based care (including preschool, nursery school, and school-age care programs before and after the school day), organized activities such as clubs or sports, and self care by the child. For complete definitions, see page 11 of the report.

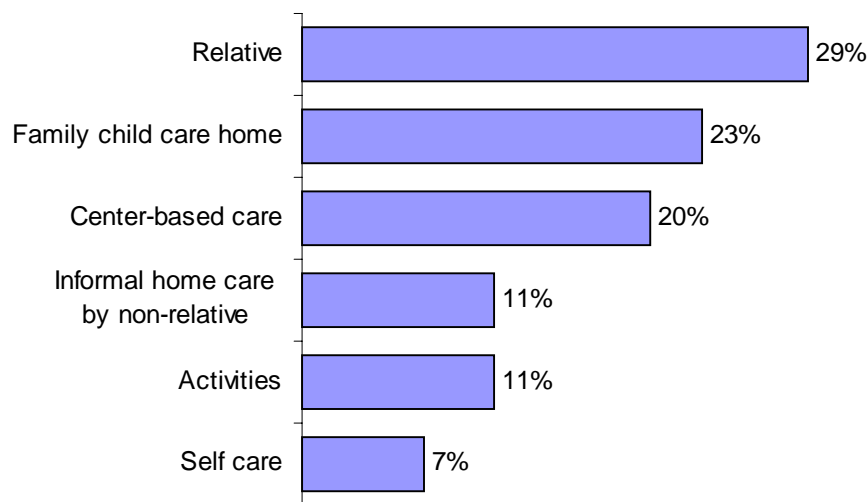
The study has a base sample of 2,450 randomly selected households (852 in summer and 1,598 during the school year). The base sample is stratified by region (in greater Minnesota) and county (in the metro area). The survey has an acceptable response rate of 67.6 percent and an overall sampling error of about plus or minus 2 percent. The study sample is reasonably representative of the population of Minnesota households with children age 14 and younger, based on comparisons with Census data.

Key findings

Relatives are the most common caregivers, but type of care used varies by the child's age.

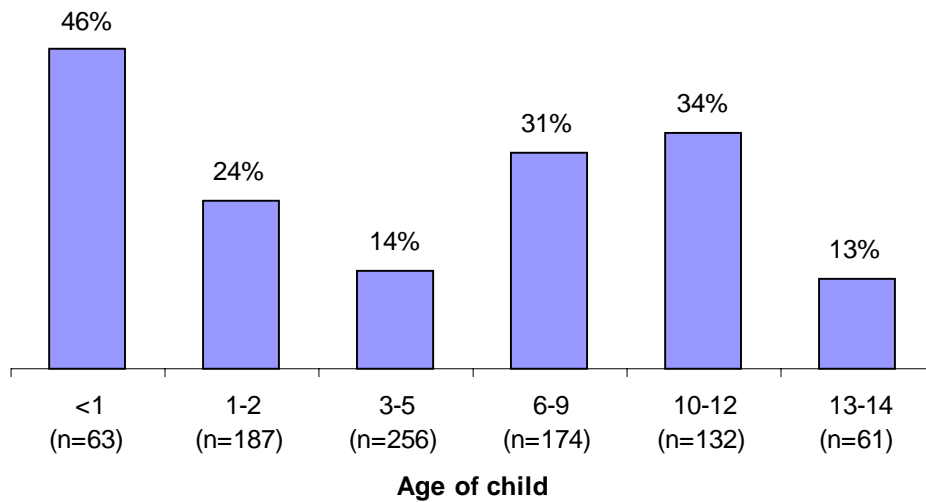
- Grandparents are the usual relatives providing care for children age 5 and younger. By age 6, siblings take over.
- By age 10, self-care grows in use. During the school year, 28 percent of children age 10 to 14 regularly care for themselves. During the summer, 20 percent of children age 10 to 12 and 41 percent of children age 13 and 14 regularly care for themselves.
- 19 percent of respondents feel it is safe, in their neighborhood, for a 10-year-old child to provide self-care on a regular basis, and 82 percent feel the same for 13-year-olds.
- Overall, convenience and quality top the list of why Minnesotans choose their child care, followed by trust in the caregiver and cost. Parents using relative care prefer to keep child care in their family but also choose that type due to the cost, convenience, and trust.
- During the school year, relative care is the most common type of care for infants (46%) and for children 6 to 12 years old (32%). For children age 1 to 2 years, family child care is the most common type of care (41%). For children age 3 to 5, center-based care (41%) and family child care (39%) are the most common types of care. For children age 13 and 14, self-care (41%) and supervised activities (39%) are the most common forms of care.

A. TYPE OF CHILD CARE USED MOST IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK BY CHILDREN AGE 14 AND YOUNGER



(N=1571 children in non-parental care for 5 or more hours)

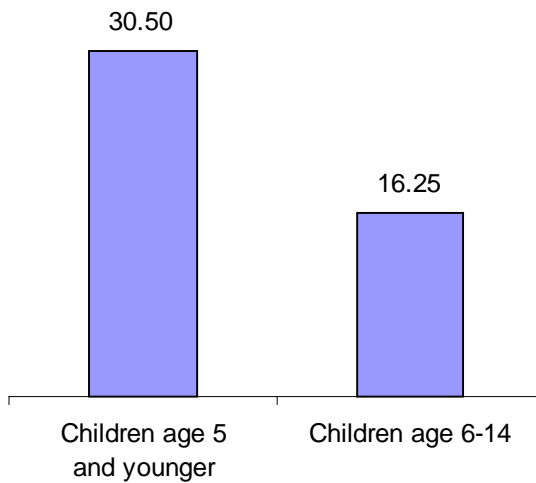
B. CARE BY RELATIVES: PERCENT OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM RELATIVES PROVIDE THE MOST NON-PARENTAL CARE (SCHOOL YEAR ONLY)



About two-thirds (68%) of Minnesota children age 14 or younger are in non-parental, non-school care at some time during the week, including about a third (35%) in care for 20 or more hours per week.

- About half of infants are in non-parental care, the lowest percentage of any age group.
- The highest percentage of children in child care is around three-quarters for children age 3 to 5 and for all children of working parents. Among children of working parents, 82 percent of children age 5 and younger are in child care, compared with 71 percent of children age 6 to 14.
- On average, children who are regularly in child care spend 21 hours per week in child care during the school year and 31.5 hours per week during the summer.
- Children age 5 and younger spend about twice as many hours per week in child care (27.3 hours) as school-age children age 6 through 14 (13.0 hours).

C. MEAN TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS IN CHILD CARE (SCHOOL YEAR ONLY)



- 45 percent of children age 5 and younger are in non-parental care 20 or more hours per week, including 30 percent in care full time (35 or more hours per week).
- 82 percent of *families* (not children) use child care, regularly using an average of about two different arrangements. Households tend to have more child care arrangements, on average, when they have two or more children, when their youngest child is age 6 or older, when their incomes are higher, and when all the parents are employed.

Family schedules that require child care before and after standard work hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and on weekends are fairly common.

- During the school year, over half of children age 14 or younger are regularly in child care before 7 a.m., after 6 p.m., or on weekends. Relatives are the usual caregivers during these times.
- 23 percent of working parents have schedules that vary from week to week.

Child care problems affect employment.

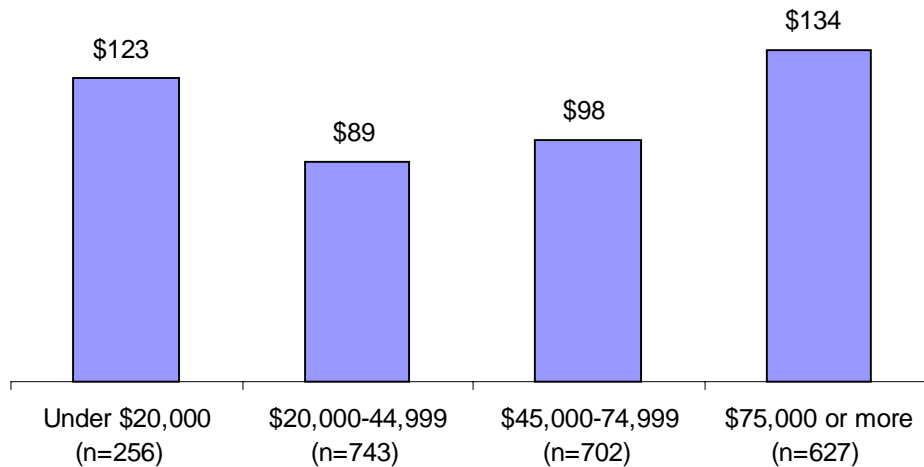
- 21 percent say child care problems have interfered with getting or keeping a job in the past year.
- 23 percent of households say they have lost time from work in the past 6 months due to a child care problem other than a sick child.

- About 30 percent relying mainly on relatives and other informal arrangements lose work time because of illness of the caregiver, similar to the percentage losing work time due to scheduled closings of centers.
- When a child is sick or becomes ill during work hours, 75 percent of parents say their usual back-up plan is for a parent to stay home or to go home from work.

Less than half of households with children age 14 or younger (44%) have out-of-pocket child care expenses.

- For those paying for child care, the average out-of-pocket weekly expense for all children is \$109 (\$5,668 per year).
- 58 percent of households who use child care regularly are getting some type of public or private subsidy, including Dependent Care Tax Credits and the Child Care Assistance Program. Tax credits are the most common (30%) type of public subsidy used.
- Higher-income households (those at or above 200% of federal poverty guidelines based on family size) are as likely to receive a subsidy as low-income households (those near or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines based on family size), with benefit amounts varying by income and family size.
- Looking at the total out-of-pocket cost of care for all children in the family, families with annual incomes below \$20,000 pay, on average, \$123 per week, about as much as upper-income families (incomes of \$75,000 or more) pay. As a proportion of their income, that represents about a third of the income of the lower-income families (under \$20,000), compared with 10-23 percent for families with incomes from \$20,000 to \$44,999, and about 9 percent for families with incomes of \$45,000 and above.
- The average out-of-pocket cost to a working parent for one child age 5 or younger in full-time formal care (35 hours or more per week) amounts to \$99.44 per week or \$5,171 per year.

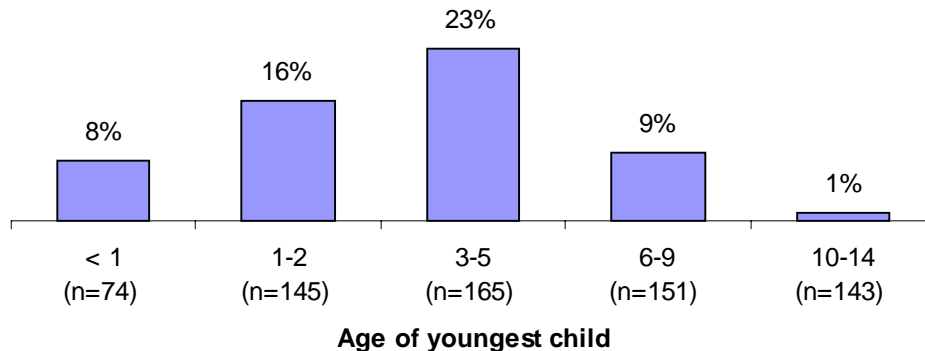
D. COST OF CHILD CARE: AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL FAMILY COST OF CHILD CARE FOR FAMILIES WITH OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES, BY ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Many low-income families are not aware of and do not use state child care assistance programs.

- Over half (57%) of low-income households report being aware of the availability of state help to pay for child care (Child Care Assistance Program).
- 12 percent of low-income households (and 4% of all households in the survey) report currently receiving state child care assistance. The rate of use of assistance peaks among families in which the youngest child is age 3 to 5, and drops to the lowest rate of use when the youngest child is age 10 or older.
- Among low-income households, metro area households are more likely than households in greater Minnesota to report receiving state child care assistance.
- Of those low-income households that are aware of the assistance programs but not participating, 5 percent are on the waiting list, and another 14 percent are not on the waiting list but say they would be if it were not so long.

E. USE OF STATE ASSISTANCE: PERCENT OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

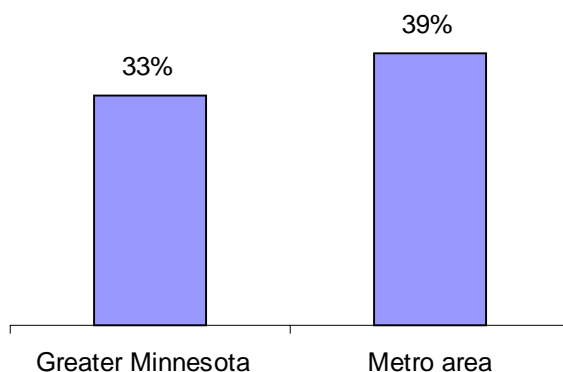


While most parents give high ratings to the quality of their primary child care arrangement, a sizeable percentage of parents indicate they have limited options.

- Parents of preschool-age children tend to be more satisfied with their child care arrangements than are parents with school-age children only.
- Parents using relatives and other informal arrangements tend to rate more highly the individual attention, the flexibility, and the limited turnover than do those using formal arrangements.
- Parents using formal arrangements tend to rate the following items higher: creative activities and “activities that are just right” for their child, the caregiver’s knowledge “about children and their needs,” the caregiver’s ability to meet their child’s needs , and not watching too much TV.
- Most families (71%) have stable child care arrangements; that is, they have not had any change in the child care arrangements for their youngest child in the past 12 months. About 20 percent have had just one arrangement other than their current one(s) , and just under 10 percent have had two or more other arrangements. Children age 5 and younger from low-income families had more changes in their child care arrangements over the prior year than did children from higher-income families.
- Of previous family child care arrangements, 24 percent ended because the provider stopped providing child care.
- 20 percent of families are not using their preferred type of child care.

- More than a quarter of low-income households and more than a quarter of parents working non-standard work hours say that they “had to take whatever child care arrangement they could get,” compared with a fifth of households overall.
- 37 percent of households with children age 14 and younger rarely or never have relatives, friends, or neighbors available for regular care. The percentage without informal help available for regular care is higher in the metro area (39%) than in greater Minnesota (33%).
- 80 percent of respondents said they “always” or “usually” have someone (including a spouse or partner) who shares parenting and the responsibilities of raising their child(ren).
- 14 percent of households with children age 14 and younger have one or more children with a special need that affects their child care needs. Special needs include behavioral problems, developmental disabilities, health care needs that require extra attention, or learning disabilities that require specialized care.
- 65 percent of households with children age 14 and younger in greater Minnesota say that the availability of sick care for children is very important, higher than their counterparts in the metro area (56%).
- 69 percent of working parents say that a reasonable cost for child care is very important, higher than non-working parents (62%). On the other hand, 31 percent of working parents say that care by a relative is “very important,” lower than non-working parents (41%), suggesting that working parents are looking for reasonably priced formal care.

F. INFORMAL SUPPORT: PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN AGE 14 AND YOUNGER WITHOUT INFORMAL HELP (RELATIVES, FRIENDS, OR NEIGHBORS) AVAILABLE FOR REGULAR CHILD CARE



Recommendations

Based on the results of this study, Wilder Research Center recommends the following to assure that the supply of child care is available, of high quality, and affordable for all families in Minnesota.

1. Since relatives are the most common caregivers, formal systems should find ways to provide support and to connect them to appropriate resources. For example, schools, school-age care programs, and other youth enrichment programs could provide opportunities for older siblings who have responsibility for caring for younger siblings to learn more about child safety and care of younger children.
2. The relatively high proportion of pre-teens and early teens providing self-care, coupled with the relatively high proportion of families who say that self-care is not safe until about age 13, point to the need for more supervised activities and programs for children ages 10 to 14, during the summer and after school.
3. When children are sick or child care arrangements fall through, working parents miss work to care for their children. More could be done to educate parents about the potential pitfalls of different types of care so that they are prepared with back-up plans. At the same time, employers should be encouraged to offer family-friendly policies and flexibility in the workplace.
4. Many lower-income Minnesota families are not aware of and do not use state child care assistance programs. In addition, too much of the family income of lower-income families is used to pay for child care. Ways to effectively increase awareness and use of the Child Care Assistance Program should be developed. Increased awareness and use may require additional funding. More funds may not be needed if existing funds are targeted to families with lower incomes than at present by lowering income eligibility limits, or if co-pays are increased. However, this study shows that even families with incomes from \$20,000 up to \$45,000 per year are paying more than is considered affordable. Relatedly, the use rate of state child care assistance in greater Minnesota is lower than in the metro area. The reasons behind this lower use and its impact on the availability and quality of care should be explored.
5. Finally, while informal care is a common child care choice, some parents report problems with reliability, and, perhaps more importantly, it is not an option for nearly 4 out of 10 families. Developing the supply of affordable, formal child care options is clearly necessary, with the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area facing an even larger need than greater Minnesota.

Introduction

Survey purposes

This statewide telephone survey describes the types and patterns of child care usage in Minnesota among households with children age 14 and younger. Funded by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning, it was conducted from June 1999 through March 2000.

One adult responsible for the household and most knowledgeable about the child care arrangements provided information on the youngest child's care for the entire prior week. The study also includes information on reasons for choosing various arrangements and barriers to use, costs of child care and the capacity of parents to pay for various types of child care, the quality and stability of child care currently in use from the parent's perspective, and parent satisfaction with current child care arrangements.

The results are useful for assessing if the supply of child care is available, of high quality, and affordable for all families in Minnesota.

Child care and other definitions in this report

“Child care” refers to non-parental and non-school (K-12) care. It includes care by relatives, informal and formal home-based care, center-based care (including preschool, nursery school, and school-age care programs before and after the school day), organized activities such as clubs or sports, and self care by the child. It excludes care provided by medical or social services, such as personal care attendants, doctors or nurses, group home staff, respite care providers, case managers, and the like.

The **“primary arrangement”** is the child care arrangement in which the youngest child spent the most time during the week for which the child's schedule was collected.

“Regular” means used at least once a week for the last two weeks.

“Non-standard schedule” means child care that occurs before 7:00 a.m., after 6:00 p.m., or on a weekend. In analyzing parents' work schedules, “non-standard” was defined as any weekend hours, or week-day hours outside of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The shorter window for “standard” work hours allows for time needed at either end of the day to travel between work and child care.

“Child care home” includes both licensed family child care homes and legally unlicensed family child care homes that have registered with local authorities to be eligible for child care subsidy.

“Informal care” includes non-regulated, non-registered care by friends, neighbors, babysitters, nannies, etc. It also includes time spent with mentors such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

“Relative care” includes non-regulated, non-registered care by relatives other than parents or step-parents. It includes siblings as well as grandparents, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, and others.

“Center-based care” includes not only child care centers but also nursery schools and preschools, before- and after-school programs, and Head Start. It also includes child care offered while a parent attends some other activity on site, such as drop-in child care at health clubs or child care during Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) programs.

“Activities” include clubs, scout groups, sports and community recreation, theater groups, lessons (including tutoring), camp, and church groups and Sunday School or other religious education classes.

“Self care” includes situations in which the child is responsible for his or her own care. In addition to when the child is alone at home, it includes situations in which another person “checks in” but is not present, or when the child is at the library, mall, or elsewhere alone or with friends. It also includes (rarely) arrangements when the child is at a volunteer or work situation. Unlike in some other recently published child care reports, it does *not* include cases when the child is in the care of a sibling under age 13 (which is here included as sibling care, in the relative care category).

“Parent” is the survey respondent, who is the adult in the household most knowledgeable about the children’s care. In some cases the respondent was not the child’s parent but was functioning as the primary caregiver for the child, and was included in this report as a “parent.” In a very few cases, the respondent was not a caregiver or the primary caregiver, in which case the respondent was not considered a parent for the purposes of this report.

Respondents are classified as **“working”** if they reported themselves, during the previous week, as working for pay at a job (including self-employed), holding a job but not at work (such as on vacation, jury duty, or sick), looking for work, or going to school. Respondents are classified as “not working” if they reported themselves, during the previous week, as being in an unpaid job training program, at home full-time, or unable to work because of disability. Employment information is for the adult in the household who is most knowledgeable about the children’s care, usually the mother (see Figure 1).

If the father is the most knowledgeable adult, it is assumed that the mother's employment status (working or not working) is the same as the father's. If a non-parent is the most knowledgeable adult, that person's employment status is reported only if he or she is the primary caregiver for the youngest child.

“Low-income households” are those whose annual income bracket includes or is below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline for a family of their size. Because the survey asked for income in ranges rather than exact income, this is a high estimate of the number of low-income households.

“Out-of-pocket expenses” for child care are payments made by the parent or anyone in the household for the care of one or more children during the previous week. Parents who receive subsidy through the Child Care Assistance Program and have incomes above 75 percent of poverty guidelines would have out-of-pocket expenses amounting to part but not all of the cost of the care. Other kinds of subsidies, such as the Child Care Dependent Tax Credit, reduce income taxes for eligible families who claim child care expenses. Parents using these types of subsidies would have out-of-pocket costs equal to the full cost of care.

“Metro” refers to the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region (Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Scott, Carver, Dakota, and Washington Counties). **“Non-metro north”** comprises state economic development regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7E, and 7W, including the counties of Traverse, Stevens, Pope, Stearns, and Wright, and all other counties north of them or of the Twin Cities metropolitan counties. **“Non-metro south”** comprises state economic development regions 6E, 6W, 8, 9, and 10, including the counties of Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, Sibley, and all other counties south of them or of the Twin Cities metropolitan counties.

Survey method and samples

Wilder Research Center purchased random digit samples of listed and unlisted telephone numbers from Survey Sampling, Inc. for each region in the state (based on standard development regions) and within the metro region for each county. Trained interviewers called each telephone number (more than 40,000) to determine eligibility (a household with one or more children age 14 or younger). Using computer-assisted scheduling, interviewers called each randomly selected number at least four different times at different times of the day and on different days of the week, including Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings. After making contact, interviewers continued calling until exhausting all reasonable leads. Initial contacts were made in English, Hmong, and Spanish, and surveys were conducted in English and Spanish.

Wilder Research Center interviewed one adult per household, who answered general questions about child care use and experiences and provided daily diary information on their youngest child's care for the prior week. In households with 3 or more children, two children were selected at random, stratified by age groups (0-2, 3-5, or 6-14).

The study has a base sample of 2,450 randomly selected households (852 in summer and 1,598 school year). The base sample is stratified by region (in greater Minnesota) and county (in the metro area) to have a minimum of 100 completed surveys per region or metro area county rather than proportional sampling based on population. Accordingly, for analysis, the results for each region and metro county are weighted to be in proportion to their population in the state, based on U.S. Census population projections. The following table shows how the 2,450 completed surveys are distributed by region and metro county.

1. DISTRIBUTION AND WEIGHTING OF COMPLETED SURVEYS

Region or county	Number of completed surveys	Percent of total weighted sample based on Census projections
1	108	2.0%
2	104	1.0%
3	102	5.5%
4	105	4.0%
5	105	3.0%
6E	104	3.0%
6W	104	1.0%
7E	102	3.0%
7W	134	7.0%
8	105	2.0%
9	105	4.0%
10	180	10.0%
Anoka	142	7.5%
Dakota	174	9.6%
Hennepin	361	21.0%
Ramsey	185	9.5%
Washington	106	4.5%
Scott/Carver	124	3.5%
Total	2450	100 percent

Instrument development

The survey instrument was developed by Wilder Research Center with the assistance of an advisory group made up of state, county, and local child care professionals, policy makers, and social service representatives (see Acknowledgements). The first draft of the instrument drew relevant questions from the following prior national and local child care surveys:

National Household Education Surveys, 1991 and 1995

National Survey of American Families (Urban Institute), 1997

National Child Care Survey, 1990

Minnesota Family Investment Program, Longitudinal Study, 1998

Quality of Care from a Parent's Point of View (Emlen), 1997

Census, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Child Care Module, 1998

Minnesota CCR&R Outcomes Follow-up Survey, 1999

The interview instrument used a diary format to collect detailed information on child care arrangements and schedules for the youngest child in the family for the most recent full week. The respondent described who was responsible for the care of the child beginning when they woke up each morning, Monday through Sunday, and continued with each new arrangement to the end of each day. For each separate arrangement, the respondent provided information including when it began and ended, the setting, the age of the caregiver, and the type of care. The interviewer also kept an unduplicated list of all arrangements used by the family. Wilder Research Center used the diary information to compute summary information on types of arrangements, number of arrangements, amount of time spent per arrangement, and times of day during which arrangements were used.

The survey instrument was pre-tested with 25 parents of varying education levels, race-ethnicity, children's ages, and residence (urban or greater Minnesota) for final revisions.

The instrument was translated into Spanish due to the number of Spanish-speaking respondents.

Strengths and limitations of survey results

The survey has an acceptable response rate of 67.6 percent. Comparable national child care surveys had response rates below 60 percent.

The statewide sample of 2,450 has a sampling error of about plus or minus 2 percent. Subsamples have higher sampling errors, for example, plus or minus 5 percent for a sub-sample of 500, 7 percent for a sub-sample of 200, 10 percent for a sub-sample of 100, and 14 percent for a sub-sample of 50.

Interviewers asked to speak to the adult household member most knowledgeable about the selected children. All information is reported by this self-selected household member.

The telephone survey method does not include the estimated 3 percent of households without telephones.

Comparing the survey sample with 1990 Census data, the households surveyed are reasonably representative of the population of Minnesota households with children (see Tables 2 and 3, pages 11-13).

In the tables, the number of respondents in the total sample being reported is shown with a capital “N,” and the number in component subsamples is shown with a lower-case “n.” These numbers represent the size of the group on which the percents in the table are based. That is, if the table shows the figure of 35 percent and N=200, it means that 35 percent of 200 families, or 70 respondents, are represented by that statistic. For example, in Figure 4, page 24, the number of one-parent families in the sample is shown in the second column as “n=404,” the number of two-parent families is shown in the third column as “n=2,026,” and the total number of families for which the number of parents was determined is the sum of the two subsamples, shown in the “all households” column at the furthest right of the table as “N=2,430.” In the first row of the table, 52.2 percent of the 404 one-parent families have just one child, 36.6 percent of the 2,026 two-parent families have just one child, and 39.2 percent of all 2,430 families (the two sub-groups combined) have just one child.

Report structure

Depending on the type of question, the report describes results for all households, by age group based on the youngest sampled child within the household, or by type of child care arrangement. The “youngest sampled child” is usually but not always the youngest child in the household. For a few families with more than one child in the youngest age bracket (0-2), or with children in all three age brackets, the randomizing process for selecting just two children may have chosen children other than the youngest child in the household.

Wilder Research Center tested key variables to see if results differed by various family and child characteristics. The family characteristics in these tests of statistical differences include: youngest child’s age (preschool/school-age); household income; family size; number of parents; race (white/non-white); geography (7-county metro/other 80 counties); parental education level (less than college degree/college grad or more); respondent work status; and child in household with special needs. The child care characteristics include: number of arrangements; mean hours in care; most common type of care (informal/formal); whether or not care is subsidized; whether or not the family is using the preferred type of care; and amount spent on care.

The statistically significant differences are reported as bullets at the end of each topical section.

Profile of study households and children *(figures 2-10)*

This section describes the sample of Minnesota households with children age 14 and younger in the survey, compared with Census data. The study focused on these households because they are potentially eligible to participate in state child care assistance programs. All children from birth through age 12 may be eligible if their parents meet income and activity qualifications, and children age 13 and 14 with disabilities may be eligible.

Households with children age 10 to 14 are also of interest because of concern about the supervision of children after school hours, especially for those who are too old for more usual forms of child care.

2. Respondent and household demographics

Interviewers asked to speak to the person age 18 or older who was most knowledgeable about the children's care. Nearly every respondent (99.7%) is the parent of the youngest sampled child in the household, or the unmarried partner of such a parent. Three-quarters of the respondents (76%) are mothers.

Nearly half of respondents (48%) are in their 30s. Seventeen percent are age 29 or younger, and 34 percent are age 40 or older. These proportions are similar to those of the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families (those with children age 14 or younger).

Ninety percent identified themselves as white, 3 percent as Black or African American, 2 percent as Hispanic or Latino, 2 percent as Asian, and 1 percent as American Indian. One percent are of other racial or ethnic identification or of mixed race or ethnicity, and 1 percent declined to identify their racial or ethnic group. These proportions are similar to those of the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families.

One-quarter (25%) of respondents have a high school education (diploma or GED) or less. Thirty-eight percent have some college education but less than a bachelor's degree. One-quarter (26%) are college graduates, and 11 percent have further education beyond the bachelor's level. These proportions are similar to those of the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families, with more highly educated respondents slightly over-represented, as is common in surveys.

Eighty-three percent of the households surveyed have two parents present, including biological parents, adoptive, foster, and step-parents, and the spouse or partner of such parents. This is a slightly lower proportion of one-parent families than estimated by the Census Bureau for comparable Minnesota families in 1997, possibly due to slightly different definitions of “two-parent.”

Nearly all respondents report English is the primary language in the home (97%). One percent speak primarily Spanish, 0.1 percent speak primarily Hmong, and 2 percent speak other languages. (A Spanish version of the survey was available if needed.) These proportions are similar to those in the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families.

Somewhat over half of the respondents (56%) live in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. One-quarter (25%) live in the non-metro north of the state, including the counties of Traverse, Stevens, Pope, Stearns, and Wright, and all other counties north of them or of the Twin Cities metropolitan counties (economic development regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7E, and 7W). One-fifth (20%) live in the non-metro south of the state, including the counties of Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, Sibley, and all other counties south of them or of the Twin Cities metropolitan counties (economic development regions 6E, 6W, 8, 9, and 10). These proportions are similar to those estimated by the Census Bureau for comparable Minnesota families in 1997.

Eleven percent of the families have been at their current residence for less than one year, 45 percent for one to five years, and 42 percent for more than five years. These proportions are similar to those in the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families.

3. Ages of children

Ten percent of surveyed households include an infant under 1 year old. Around one-quarter (24%) have a child age 1-2, and just over one-third (37%) have a child age 3-5. Half of the households (52%) include at least one child age 6 to 9. One-quarter (25%) include at least one teen age 13 or 14.

The age of the youngest sampled child in the household, for whom the greatest detail was collected concerning child care use, ranges from 0 to 14. Just over half (52%) are 5 years old or younger, including 9 percent under the age of 1. Forty-eight percent are age 6 or older, including 8 percent age 13 or 14. These proportions are similar to those in the 1990 Census for comparable Minnesota families (those with children age 14 or younger).

4. Number of children age 14 or younger in household

Most families include only one child (39%) or two children (41%) age 14 or younger. Fewer than 5 percent of families have four or more children age 14 or younger. Among one-parent families, over half (52%) have only one child in this age range. One family in five (20%) have more than the two children whose care is documented in the survey (see *Survey method and samples*, page 13).

5. Household income, 1998

Eleven percent of families in the study had 1998 household incomes of less than \$20,000. Twenty-five percent had incomes between \$20,000 and \$39,999, 37 percent had incomes between \$40,000 and \$74,999, and 24 percent had incomes of \$75,000 or over.

Twenty-nine percent of families are considered low-income; that is, their annual income is within or below the income range that includes 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline for a household of their size. (Because the survey asked for income in ranges rather than exact income, this is a high estimate of the number of low-income households.)

6. Use of Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

Four percent of households in the survey report currently receiving benefits under the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), also known as welfare. Most of these families have one child (40%) or two children (32%) age 14 or younger. Nine percent have more than three children in this age range.

7. Children with special needs

Fourteen percent of respondents report that their youngest child has one or more special needs affecting their child care (such as: a caregiver has quit because of behavior problems; or a physical or developmental disability, health care need, emotional or behavioral problem, or learning disability that requires special attention or extra effort). Seven percent report that their youngest child has at least two of these needs. Of families that report such needs, 80 percent have spoken with a doctor or other health professional about the need. The percent rises with the age of the child, from 65 percent of parents of infants under age 1, to 86 percent of parents of teens age 13 and 14. Seventy-four percent reported that they have received some kind of help dealing with the need or needs.

8. Work activities of parents during the previous week

Seventy-two percent of the survey respondents were working for pay at a job during the week prior to the interview. This figure excludes respondents who are not primary caregivers (or the spouse or partner of a primary caregiver) for the youngest child in the household. Nine percent were holding a job but not at work during that week because of vacation, jury duty, sickness, or similar temporary absence. Slightly over one-quarter (26%) report being at home full-time. Four percent were in school and 3 percent were looking for work.

Parents of infants have the highest proportion who reported being at home full-time (45%). The proportion falls steadily with the age of the child, to 13 percent of parents of teens age 13 and 14.

9. Working parents and number of jobs

Seventy-six percent of respondents report working, holding a job, looking for work, and/or going to school during the week prior to the interview. These respondents are counted in this report as “working parents.” The proportion who are working rises from 58 percent of parents of infants under 1, to 86 percent of parents of teens age 13 and 14. Eleven percent of parents are working two or more jobs, including 6 percent of parents of infants and 14 percent of parents of teens.

10. Availability of support for child caring

More than half (58%) of respondents have a relative, other than those in the household, who would be available “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” to care for their child or children on a regular basis. Slightly more, 61 percent, knew of an individual such as a neighbor or friend who might be available “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” to care for their child(ren). Slightly less than two-thirds of respondents (64%) said they “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” have at least one or the other of these resources available on a regular basis.

- Households with one child, households with white respondents, households in greater Minnesota, and households without children with special needs are more likely than other households to have relatives or friends available to help with child care on a regular basis.

Eighty percent of respondents, including 89 percent of those in two-parent households, said they “always” or “usually” have someone who shares parenting and the responsibilities of raising their child(ren).

2. RESPONDENT AND HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

	Percent of all households N=2,450	1990 Census or 2000 projections
Respondent's relationship to youngest sampled child		
Mother (including biological, adoptive, foster, and step-mother)	75.6%	<i>not</i>
Father (including biological, adoptive, foster, and step-father)	21.0%	<i>available</i>
Grandparent, sibling, or other non-parent relative	0.2%	
Parent's partner, friend, etc.	2.4%	
Other non-relative	0.1%	
Missing/refused	0.7%	
Age of respondent^a		
Under 20	1.1%	0.4%
20 – 29	16.2%	19.0%
30 – 39	47.9%	50.7%
40 – 49	29.9%	26.0%
50 or older	4.2%	3.9%
Missing/refused	0.7%	0.0%
Primary racial/ethnic identification of respondent^a		
White or Caucasian	89.9%	93.3%
Black or African American	3.1%	2.6%
Hispanic or Latino	2.2%	1.1%
Asian	1.5%	1.8%
American Indian	0.9%	1.3%
Other (including mixed race)	1.2%	0.0%
Missing/refused	1.2%	0.0%
Education level of respondent^a		
Eighth grade or less	0.2%	1.6%
Some high school	2.9%	6.6%
High school diploma or GED	21.4%	32.0%
Some college, including 2-year degree or technical college	38.0%	33.4%
College graduate (bachelor's)	25.3%	17.9%
Post-graduate work or professional school	11.3%	8.5%
Missing/refused	0.9%	0.0%

continued

2. RESPONDENT AND HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)

	Percent of all households N=2,450	1990 Census or 2000 projections
Number of parents in the household^b		
1 parent	16.5%	21.9%
2 parents	82.8%	78.1%
Missing/refused	0.7%	0.0%
Primary language in the home^a		
English	96.1%	95.6%
Spanish	0.9%	1.0%
Hmong	0.1%	
Other (in Census data, includes Hmong)	2.2%	3.4%
Missing/refused	0.7%	0.0%
Geographic area of residence^b		
Twin Cities metro area (core 7 counties)	55.4%	57.3%
Non-metro, north	24.8%	24.3%
Non-metro, south	19.6%	18.4%
Missing/refused	0.2%	0.0%
Length of time living at current residence^a		
Less than one year	11.4%	
1-5 years (in Census data, includes less than 1 year)	44.9%	54.5%
More than 5 years	42.3%	45.5%
Missing/Don't know/Refused	1.3%	0.0%

Note: Percents may not total 100 due to rounding. Census data are shown for comparison purposes, to indicate representativeness of the sample.

^a Data from 1990 Census (most recent data available)

^b Data from 2000 Census projections

3. AGES OF CHILDREN

	Percent of all households N=2,450	1990 Census
All children age 14 or younger (households may be shown in more than one group)		
Under 1 year old	10.4%	
1-2 years old	23.8%	
3-5 years old	36.6%	
6-9 years old	52.4%	
10-12 years old	39.6%	
13-14 years old	25.0%	
Missing (refused)	0.2%	
Youngest child in the household		
Under 1 year old	9.2%	10.8%
1-2 years old	19.6%	22.0%
3-5 years old	22.9%	21.7%
6-9 years old	22.7%	22.1%
10-12 years old	18.0%	15.1%
13-14 years old	7.5%	8.4%
Missing (refused)	0.2%	0.0%

4. NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGE 14 OR YOUNGER IN HOUSEHOLD

Percent of households with ...	One parent n=404	Two parents n=2,026	All households N=2,430
1 child age 14 or younger	52.2%	36.6%	39.2%
2 children	32.7%	42.2%	40.6%
3 children	10.6%	16.2%	15.3%
4 children	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%
5 or more children	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%

Note: "Parent" is the adult in the household most knowledgeable about the children's care. It includes non-parent respondents who are the primary caregivers for the children in the household.

5. HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 1998

Household income, 1998	Number of people in household						Total N=2,368
	2 n=120	3 n=605	4 n=930	5 n=490	6 n=152	7 or more n=71	
Under \$10,000	9.2%	3.3%	1.5%	1.6%	2.0%	5.6%	2.5%
\$10,000 - \$12,499	6.7%	1.8%	1.2%	1.4%	2.0%	5.6%	1.9%
\$12,500 - \$14,999	11.7%	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.6%
\$15,000 - \$17,499	7.5%	2.3%	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	4.2%	1.9%
\$17,500 - \$19,999	7.5%	2.1%	1.2%	2.0%	2.0%	4.2%	2.1%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	7.5%	5.0%	2.9%	3.7%	7.2%	5.6%	4.2%
\$25,000 - \$29,999	10.0%	7.1%	3.9%	5.5%	3.9%	12.7%	5.6%
\$30,000 - \$34,999	8.3%	8.8%	5.3%	8.4%	7.2%	12.7%	7.3%
\$35,000 - \$39,999	5.0%	7.8%	8.0%	6.1%	9.9%	7.0%	7.5%
\$40,000 - \$44,999	7.5%	6.6%	6.9%	8.2%	9.9%	1.4%	7.1%
\$45,000 - \$49,999	5.8%	6.1%	6.6%	7.8%	5.3%	7.0%	6.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	4.2%	22.0%	27.7%	24.7%	19.1%	12.7%	23.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	4.2%	13.1%	15.6%	13.7%	13.2%	11.3%	13.7%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	0.0%	5.6%	8.2%	8.4%	4.6%	4.2%	6.8%
\$150,000 and over	0.0%	1.5%	4.7%	3.3%	7.2%	5.6%	3.5%
Don't know/refused	5.0%	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%	3.9%	0.0%	3.3%
200% poverty or less	50.1%	25.1%	19.3%	30.7%	52.1%	78.7%	28.6%
More than 200% poverty	45.0%	71.5%	77.7%	66.1%	44.1%	21.1%	71.4%

Note: Lightly shaded cells indicate ranges that include families at or above the poverty level (100% of federal poverty guidelines) but still classified as low income (less than 200% of federal poverty guidelines). Darker shaded cells show families below the poverty line.

6. USE OF MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (MFIP)

	Currently on MFIP?			Total N=2,425
	Yes n=106	No n=2,316	Refused n=3	
All families	4.4%	95.5%	0.1%	100.0%
By number of children age 14 or under:				
1	39.6%	39.0%	66.7%	39.1%
2	32.1%	41.1%	33.3%	40.7%
3	19.8%	15.2%	0.0%	15.3%
4	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	3.8%
5 or more	4.7%	0.9%	0.0%	1.1%

Note: The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is Minnesota's state family assistance program under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program that replaced AFDC, also known as "welfare."

7. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,443
	<1 n=225	1-2 n=480	3-5 n=561	6-9 n=555	10-12 n=439	13-14 n=183	
Percent of youngest sampled children whose parent reported they had ...							
...special needs requiring a lot of extra effort	6.6%	8.1%	6.6%	6.8%	6.4%	5.5%	6.8%
... a caregiver quit or let the child go because of [child's] behavioral problems	0.9%	0.8%	2.5%	4.5%	1.4%	2.2%	2.2%
... a physical or developmental disability that requires special attention	1.8%	2.7%	4.8%	4.7%	5.2%	4.4%	4.1%
... a health care need that requires extra attention	3.5%	6.0%	6.8%	5.4%	5.3%	6.0%	5.7%
... an emotional or behavioral problem that requires special attention	1.8%	1.5%	3.0%	6.1%	4.3%	2.2%	3.5%
... a learning disability that requires specialized approaches	0.9%	1.5%	3.2%	5.4%	7.3%	7.1%	4.2%
Other information on special needs:							
Youngest child had at least one of the special needs noted above	8.4%	13.3%	14.2%	14.8%	14.5%	12.0%	13.7%
Youngest child had two or more of the special needs noted above	2.6%	3.7%	6.9%	8.9%	8.4%	6.5%	6.7%
Two or more children in the household had at least one of the special needs noted above	2.7%	1.9%	3.9%	3.6%	2.3%	0.0%	2.7%
Help with special needs:							
Family has spoken with a doctor or other professional about the youngest child's special need(s)	65.0% n=20	70.3% n=64	81.0% n=79	83.1% n=83	85.9% n=64	86.4% n=22	79.8% N=332
Family has gotten any help dealing with the special need(s)	60.0% n=20	60.3% n=63	74.7% n=79	76.8% n=82	86.2% n=65	81.8% n=22	74.3% N=331

8. WORK ACTIVITIES OF PARENTS DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,387
	<1 n=222	1-2 n=471	3-5 n=548	6-9 n=538	10-12 n=431	13-14 n=177	
Working for pay at a job (including self-employed)	53.8%	67.7%	67.5%	79.2%	76.5%	83.1%	71.7%
Holding a job but not at work (vacation, jury duty, sick)	7.7%	7.9%	8.4%	9.1%	11.2%	8.5%	8.9%
Looking for work	4.5%	3.2%	3.1%	3.7%	2.8%	1.7%	3.2%
Going to school	3.2%	4.0%	5.1%	3.7%	4.4%	2.8%	4.1%
In an unpaid job training program	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	1.5%	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%
At home full-time	45.0%	31.2%	30.8%	19.9%	19.5%	13.0%	26.4%
Unable to work because of disability	2.3%	0.0%	1.3%	3.0%	2.3%	1.7%	1.7%
Other	1.8%	0.6%	0.9%	2.4%	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%

Note: “Parent” is the adult in the household most knowledgeable about the children’s care. The category includes non-parent respondents who are the primary caregivers for the children in the household. Percents total more than 100 because of multiple responses.

9. WORKING PARENTS AND NUMBER OF JOBS

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Percent of mothers (most knowledgeable adults) working	57.9%	71.6%	71.7%	83.3%	80.8%	86.4%	75.8%
	n=216	n=465	n=537	n=532	n=428	n=176	N=2,354
Number of jobs:	n=125	n=336	n=391	n=445	n=362	n=155	N=1,814
1	93.6%	88.4%	89.3%	88.1%	88.4%	86.5%	88.7%
2 or more	6.4%	11.6%	10.8%	11.9%	11.6%	13.5%	11.4%

Note: Employment information is for the adult in the household who is most knowledgeable about the children’s care, usually the mother (see table 2.1). If the father is the most knowledgeable adult, it is assumed that the mother’s employment status (working or not working) is the same as the father’s. If a non-parent respondent is the primary caregiver, that person’s employment status is shown here. “Working” includes holding a job but not at work (sick, vacation, etc.), looking for work, or going to school.

10. AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARING

Percent of respondents who ...	Always	Usually	Some- times	Rarely	Never	DK/NA/ Refused
...have any relatives other than those in the household who would be available to care for their child(ren) on a regular basis (N=2,450)	13.9%	18.0%	25.7%	15.4%	27.1%	0.0%
... know of any individual such as a neighbor or friend who might be available to care for their child(ren) on a regular basis (N=2,450)	9.3%	18.5%	32.9%	20.1%	18.9%	0.2%
... have someone who shares parenting and the responsibilities of raising their child(ren) (N=2,450)	70.5%	9.5%	8.4%	3.7%	7.7%	0.2%
Percent of respondents who “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” have <i>either</i> a relative <i>and/or</i> a neighbor or friend who would be available to care for their child(ren) on a regular basis (N=2,450)	Yes					
			No			
	63.5%		36.5%			

Child care use (figures 11-19)

The use of child care has increased in recent years as more women have entered the labor force. It has also increased in importance for policymakers in the last few years as welfare reform has required parents to work in order to receive welfare assistance. In addition, policymakers and the general public are increasingly aware of the importance of early care and development to school readiness. This is especially important for children most at risk of poor developmental outcomes. For these children, the quality of care makes the greatest difference in social, emotional, and cognitive development. It is also helpful to examine patterns of care for older children for whom state-regulated forms of care are unavailable (family child care homes are only licensed for care up to age 10).

This section presents information on the types of care used, including information on the primary arrangement – the one in which the child spends the most time – and information about all types of care for children with more than one arrangement. It also presents information on the number of different arrangements used by families.

Recent national child care studies include the Census Bureau's 1995 Survey of Income and Program Participation,¹ and the National Survey of American Families conducted in 1997 by the Urban Institute,² which included Minnesota as well as 12 other states representative of the U.S. as a whole. Both of these studies found a wide variety in the mix of different types of care used, and variations in the mix depending on the age of the child. Both found relative care to be the most common type across the full age spectrum, with center-based care peaking for children in their later preschool years. These studies also found self care to be fairly common, regularly used by around 10 percent of younger elementary school children, increasing to around 40 percent of children age 12 to 14.

¹ Smith, Kristin. 2000. *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1995*. Current Population Reports, P70-70. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.

² Published in four separate reports:

Capizzano, J., Tout, K., and Adams, G. 2000. *Child Care Patterns of School-Age Children with Employed Mothers*. Assessing the New Federalism Occasional Paper #41. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

Capizzano, J., Adams, G., and Sonenstein, F. 2000. *Child Care Arrangements for Children Under Five: Variation Across States*. Assessing the New Federalism Occasional Paper No. B-7. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

Capizzano, J., and Adams, G. 2000. *The Number of Child Care Arrangements Used by Children Under Five: Variation Across States*. Assessing the New Federalism Occasional Paper No. B-12. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

Capizzano, J., and Adams, G. 2000. *The Hours That Children under Five Spend in Child Care: Variation Across States*. Assessing the New Federalism Occasional Paper No. B-8. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

The Urban Institute found Minnesota's use of self care was the highest of all the states in their study.

Both of these studies found it common for children to be in multiple arrangements. The Census Bureau reports that of all children in any form of child care, the average number of arrangements was two. The Urban Institute found that 38 percent of U.S. preschoolers, and 46 percent of Minnesota preschoolers, had multiple arrangements. Minnesota had the highest state rate of preschoolers in multiple arrangements.

Both the Census Bureau and the Urban Institute studies described only school-year arrangements. As far as the authors know, this is the only study to include descriptions of both school-year and summer patterns of child care use, allowing for comparisons based on seasonal differences. Although preschool children are not necessarily affected by school-year variations, it is useful to examine seasonal differences to see how stable their care arrangements are. Instability of care is known to increase the risk of less healthy development, especially for very young children.

11. Amount and types of child care in use

Eighteen percent of families do not regularly use any child care (non-parental, non-school care). One-third of families (33%) regularly use just one arrangement. Eleven percent use four or more different child care arrangements regularly. Including only families who use at least one child care arrangement regularly, the mean number of arrangements used is 2.1. These figures may under-report the number of arrangements actually used by families, because no more than two children were sampled per family; families with more children, who comprise 20 percent of the households in the survey, may use more arrangements.

Nearly one-third (32%) of children spend no time in child care. Nineteen percent of children spend some time but less than 10 hours in child care per week, and 45 percent spend some time but less than 35 hours per week in child care. Thirteen percent spend more than 45 hours per week in child care. Including only children who spend at least some time in child care, the mean time in care per week is 25 hours and 25 minutes.

Thirty percent of all children spend at least some time being cared for by relatives, including grandparents or siblings. The next most common types of care for all age groups combined are center-based care (19%) and adult-supervised activities (18%). Sixteen percent are cared for in family child care homes, and 16 percent are cared for informally by friends, neighbors, babysitters, or other non-relatives. Twelve percent of children age 14 and younger spend at least some time caring for themselves.

Looking only at the arrangement in which the youngest child spends the most time, relative care is again the most common, at 29 percent of children. Next is family child care, at 23 percent, followed by center-based care at 20 percent. Informal care by a non-relative and activities are the primary arrangement for 11 percent each. Self care is the primary arrangement for 7 percent of children.

- Child care use is more likely when the youngest child is age 6 or older, when the household has two or more children, and when the respondent is working.

12. Percent of children in child care

Two-thirds (68%) of Minnesota children are cared for during a typical week by people other than their parents and K-12 schools. Just over half (52%) of infants under one year of age receive some non-parental care. The rate of non-parental care is highest for children age 3 to 5, especially during the school year (74% for the year overall, and 78% during the school year).

At all ages, children of working parents have a higher rate of child care use than children with a stay-at-home parent. Overall, three-quarters of children of working parents (76%) are cared for by people other than their parents or K-12 school staff. By age groups, the rate ranges from 68 percent of infants and 69 percent of teens to 84 percent of children age 3 to 5.

13. Percent of children in each type of care, summer

Overall, when they are not cared for by their parents, children tend to be cared for during the summer in home-based settings by relatives (29%; mainly grandparents, 14%, and siblings, 13%) or by non-relatives. Care by non-relatives is about evenly divided between informal care by neighbors, friends, babysitters, and the like (13%) and more formal care in licensed or (rarely) unlicensed but registered family child care homes (15%). However, family child care home use drops sharply after age 5, and is used for fewer than 2 percent of children older than 9, whereas informal arrangements are an important source of care (used for between 9 and 17 percent of children) from age 1 through 14.

Infants (children under age 1): When not in parental care, infants tend to be cared for during the summer by relatives (20%, mainly grandparents) or in family child care homes (18%). About 12 percent are in informal arrangements. Only 5 percent are in center-based care.

Toddlers (1- and 2-year-olds): During the summer, one-quarter of children age 1 and 2 (25%) are in family child care homes, almost all of which are licensed. One-fifth (20%) are cared for by relatives, mostly grandparents. Fourteen percent use child care centers and 13 percent use informal arrangements.

Preschoolers (3- to 5-year-olds): One-quarter (24%) are regularly cared for during the summer by relatives (of which sibling care, at 7 percent, is an important component). The same proportion, 24 percent, are in family child care homes, mainly licensed. Five percent are in nursery school or preschool, and 16 percent are in child care centers. Ten percent are in informal arrangements.

Younger school age (6- to 9-year-olds): For children who are of school age, summer arrangements tend to include child care homes and centers less and to include relatives (especially siblings) and activities more. One-third of children age 6 to 9 (33%) are cared for by relatives, with siblings used even more than grandparents (19 and 15%, respectively). Thirteen percent are in informal arrangements, 12 percent in center-based arrangements (mostly child care centers), and 11 percent in family child care homes. Eight percent are in activities, spread among clubs, sports, lessons, camps, and community recreation.

Older school age (10- to 12-year-olds): During the summer, siblings (29%) are the most frequent providers of non-parental supervision for children ages 10 to 12. Together with grandparents at 16 percent, relatives care for 44 percent of all children in this age range during the summer. The next most common category is self care (20%), followed by informal arrangements (17%) and activities (16%). Center-based care has dropped to only 3 percent and child care homes to only 2 percent.

Teens (13- and 14-year-olds): Self care predominates during the summer (41%), followed by home-based care by relatives (31%). These relatives are mostly siblings (19%) and other relatives (10%) rather than grandparents (5%). Activities, mainly sports, are used by 17 percent, and informal arrangements by 9 percent. Center-based care and family child care are not used at all.

14. Percent of children in each type of care, school year

During the school year, the most frequently used type of non-parental, non-K-12-school care for all ages combined is relative care (27%). Eighteen percent of children are in at least one type of center-based care, including 7 percent in child care centers, 7 percent in nursery school or preschool, and 5 percent in before- and after-school programs. Seventeen percent of children spend time in activities, 16 percent in family child care

homes, and 14 percent in informal care arrangements. Eight percent of all children spend at least some time caring for themselves during the school year.

Infants (children under age 1): During the school year, one-third of infants (34%) are cared for at least part of the time by relatives (25% by grandparents, 9% by other non-sibling relatives such as cousins, aunts, etc.). Fifteen percent are cared for in family child care homes.

Toddlers (age 1-2): During the school year, family child care homes (28%) and relatives (28%, mainly grandparents at 22%) are the most common types of child care. Informal arrangements are used by 17 percent of children age 1 and 2, and center-based care by 14 percent.

Preschoolers (age 3-5): During the school year, center-based care jumps to 40 percent (compared with 21 percent in the summer). This includes 13 percent of children in child care centers, close to the 16 percent during the summers, but 23 percent in nursery schools and/or preschools, compared with 5 percent during the summer. Family child care homes are used by about twice as many children age 3 to 5 as use child care centers (29% compared to 13%). Relatives, mainly grandparents, care for 21 percent. Informal arrangements are used for 12 percent. Activities, mainly in church-related settings, are a source of non-parental care for 11 percent of children age 3 to 5 during the school year.

Younger school age (age 6 to 9): Relatives are the most common type of care during the school year, with siblings taking over main responsibility from grandparents (17% compared to 9%). Twenty-three percent of children spend at least part of their time in activities during the school year, with church groups and/or Sunday School the main component in this category (13%), followed by lessons (7%) and sports (5%). Nineteen percent of children spend some time in center-based care, mainly before- and after-school programs (14%). Sixteen percent are cared for in informal arrangements. Family child care is used by 9 percent.

Older school age (age 10 to 12): For children age 10 to 12 during the school year, relatives – especially siblings – are the main source of care (33%). Activities are the second most common at 28 percent. Self care, at 26 percent, is almost as common. Informal arrangements are used for 16 percent of children age 10 to 12 during the school year. Before- and after-school programs are used for 4 percent, family care homes for 2 percent, and child care centers for less than half of 1 percent, yielding a combined total of less than 5 percent in any form of center-based care.

Teens (age 13-14): During the school year, activities are the most commonly-used form of non-parental, non-K-12-school supervision, used for 42 percent of children (including mainly sports, 21%, and church/Sunday school, 14%). Next most common is self care, used by one-third of children (33%). Relative care is third at 21 percent, relying mainly on sibling care (at 19%). Informal arrangements account for the remainder (17%). As during the summer, no teens age 13 and 14 used family child care homes or center-based care (either child care centers or before- and after-school programs).

15. Primary child care arrangement, summer

Figures 14 and 15 screen out children who do not regularly use child care for at least five hours per week (such as those whose non-parental care is limited to occasional play dates at friends' houses or Sunday school classes). Also, unlike Figures 12 and 13 which show all forms of care used, Figures 14 and 15 show only the arrangement in which the child spends the most time.

During the summer, taking all ages together, home-based care by a relative is the most common kind of primary arrangement (36%), followed by family child care (25%), with center-based care in third place (19%). For children age 0-5, family child care is the most common type of primary arrangement. Relative care is the most common type for elementary schoolers (6-12), and self care is the most common type for young teens (13-14). The figures show a reliance on relatives to fill the supervision gap while school is out for the summer, compared with lower use of relative care during the school year.

16. Primary child care arrangement, school year

During the school year, combining all ages, three kinds of care are used with nearly equal frequency: relative care (25%), family child care (26%), and center-based care (23%). As in the summer, patterns of use depend on the age of the child. Relatives are the most frequent providers of care of infants under one year of age (46%), but are less often relied on for the care of older children. Family child care is the most common type of primary arrangement for children ages 1 and 2 (41%). For ages 3 to 5, the years during which nursery school and other forms of preschool are most used (41 percent in center-based care), family child care is the second most common type of primary arrangement, at 39 percent. For school-age children, with fewer hours of supervision needed, relative care again rises in use. Center-based care is fairly frequently used by 6- to 9-year-olds, but not by older school-age children, for whom self-care and activities rise in use, becoming the top two types for ages 13 and 14.

17. Number of regular child care arrangements in the past week, summer

Fifteen percent of children have no non-parental care during the course of a typical summer week. Even for infants under one year of age, nearly three-quarters are cared for at least part of the time by someone other than their parent. Half of all children have two or more non-parental arrangements, including 9 percent with four or more different non-parental arrangements. Including all children (those who regularly used child care and those who did not), the mean number of child care arrangements per child is 1.8. When only children in child care are included, the mean number of arrangements is 2.1.

- During the summer, the average number of regular arrangements is higher for higher income households and for households with two or more children.

18. Number of regular child care arrangements in the past week, school year

During the school year, all but 6 percent of children under 15 are supervised at least part of the time by caregivers other than their parents or K-12 schools. Even among infants under the age of one, only 13 percent are cared for only by their own parents. Multiple arrangements are common. Over half of all infants have two or more non-parental caregivers during the week. For all ages combined, just over half have three or more non-parental caregivers, and one-quarter have four or more. School-age children are more likely than younger children to have three or more arrangements. For all children (including those who do not use child care), the mean number of arrangements used during the school year is 2.6 per child. When only children with regular child care arrangements are included, the mean number of arrangements is 2.8. Even though this number excludes K-12 school, it is still higher than the number of arrangements used during the summer.

- During the school year, households with a child age 6 or older as the youngest child have more regular child care arrangements, on average, than those whose youngest child is age 5 or younger. The average (mean) number of regular child care arrangements is also higher for higher income households, for households with two or more children, and for households with a working respondent.

19. Number of child care arrangements, other than current ones, used for the youngest child in the past 12 months

Most families (71%) have not had any change in the child care arrangements for their youngest child in the past twelve months.³ About 20 percent have had just one arrangement other than their current one or ones, and just under 10 percent have had two or more other arrangements. The mean number of other arrangements in the past year is 0.5 for all children. Including only children whose arrangements changed, the mean number of other arrangements is 1.6. The means exclude six respondents who estimated they have had 100 other arrangements in the past 12 months. Including these respondents, the overall means would be 1.3 for all children, and 4.4 for those with changes.

- Children age 5 and younger from low-income families had more changes in their child care arrangements over the prior year than did children from higher-income families. There was no significant difference in number of prior arrangements for school-age children.

³ In center-based child care settings, this does not preclude turnover among staff within the arrangement during that time, merely that the overall child care program has remained the same.

11. AMOUNT AND TYPES OF CHILD CARE IN USE

	Percent of all households
Number of regular child care arrangements used by the family in the previous week (N=2,450)	
0	18.3%
1	32.7%
2	24.3%
3	12.9%
4 or more	10.5%
Refused	1.4%
Mean number of arrangements, including all children (N=2,415)	1.7
Mean number of arrangements, only children in child care (N=1,967)	2.1
Number of hours per week that youngest child spent in child care, previous week (N=2,450)	
0	31.7%
More than 0 to less than 5	9.3%
5 to less than 10	9.7%
10 to less than 20	13.0%
20 to less than 35	13.1%
35 to less than 45	9.3%
45 hours or more	12.5%
Refused	1.4%
Mean number of hours in child care, all children (N=2,415)	17 hrs., 13 mins.
Mean number of hours in care, only children in child care (N=1,636)	25 hrs., 25 mins.
Types of child care used by the family in the previous week (N=2,411 families who provided child care schedules for one or two children)	
Relative	29.6%
Informal home care by non-relative	15.9%
Family child care home	16.1%
Center-based care	18.8%
Activities	18.3%
Self care	12.2%
Type of child care used most in the previous week, youngest child (N=1571 youngest children in non-parental care for 5 or more hours)	
Relative	29.3%
Informal home care by non-relative	10.7%
Family child care home	22.5%
Center-based care	19.9%
Activities	10.7%
Self care	7.0%

Note: Regular arrangements are those used at least once per week in the last two weeks.

12. PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE

Age of youngest child	Children of working parents			All children		
	Summer n=595	School Year n=1,186	Total N=1,781	Summer n=852	School Year n=1,556	Total N=2,407
Under 1	71.8%	65.5%	68.0%	48.1%	53.7%	51.8%
1-2	72.9%	83.6%	79.6%	60.6%	72.6%	68.2%
3-5	79.5%	85.6%	83.6%	64.1%	78.2%	73.7%
6-9	78.6%	71.9%	74.0%	68.1%	67.8%	67.8%
10-12	78.9%	72.0%	74.2%	65.6%	69.2%	68.1%
13-14	81.3%	64.7%	69.3%	74.1%	64.4%	67.6%
Preschool (age 0-5)	75.6%	81.7%	79.7%	59.8%	71.7%	67.6%
School age (age 6-14)	79.1%	70.7%	73.3%	68.0%	67.8%	67.9%
Total	77.5%	76.0%	76.4%	63.8%	69.9%	67.8%

Note: Shows percent of children receiving any kind of non-parental, non-school (K-12) care during the previous week. Respondents are classified as “working” if they reported themselves as working for pay at a job (including self-employed), holding a job but not at work (such as on vacation, jury duty, or sick), looking for work, or going to school.

13. PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN EACH TYPE OF CARE, SUMMER

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=851
	<1 n=76	1-2 n=175	3-5 n=181	6-9 n=204	10-12 n=157	13-14 n=58	
Parent care	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%	96.2%	98.3%	98.9%
School (K-12)	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	9.3%	7.0%	5.1%	4.3%
Home-based care by relative	19.7%	20.0%	23.9%	32.8%	43.9%	31.0%	29.1%
child's grandparent	14.5%	14.3%	14.4%	14.7%	15.9%	5.1%	14.1%
child's sibling	0.0%	1.7%	6.7%	19.1%	28.7%	19.0%	12.9%
another relative (aunt, cousin, etc.)	6.6%	5.7%	7.2%	6.4%	3.8%	10.2%	6.2%
Informal home-based care by non-relative	11.8%	13.1%	10.0%	12.7%	16.6%	8.6%	12.6%
Family child care home	18.2%	24.6%	23.8%	11.3%	1.9%	0.0%	14.8%
unlicensed but registered family child care	1.3%	1.7%	3.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
licensed family child care	17.1%	22.9%	20.4%	10.8%	1.9%	0.0%	13.5%
Center-based care	5.3%	13.7%	21.0%	12.2%	2.5%	0.0%	11.2%
child care center	5.3%	13.7%	15.5%	9.8%	0.6%	0.0%	9.0%
nursery school/preschool	0.0%	0.6%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
before or after-school program	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	2.4%	1.3%	0.0%	1.2%
Head Start	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Activities	1.3%	0.6%	2.8%	8.3%	15.9%	17.2%	6.9%
lessons	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.5%	2.5%	1.7%	1.4%
clubs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%
sports	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	8.3%	10.3%	2.7%
community recreation/theater	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.6%
camp	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	1.9%	5.1%	1.1%
church/Sunday School	1.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.6%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	2.5%	20.4%	41.4%	7.3%
self care	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	2.5%	19.7%	41.4%	7.2%
child's job, volunteer position	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.7%	0.2%
out with friends	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%

Notes: Shows all types of care for the child during the week. Children may be listed in multiple categories. "Other" includes medical and social services such as personal care attendants, doctor or hospital, group home, and supervised parental visitation. Figures in shaded lines are unduplicated totals of any subcategories shown below them.

14. PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN EACH TYPE OF CARE, SCHOOL YEAR

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=1,557
	<1 n=149	1-2 n=304	3-5 n=371	6-9 n=340	10-12 n=275	13-14 n=118	
Parent care	99.3%	99.7%	100.0%	98.8%	99.6%	100.0%	99.6%
School (K-12)	0.0%	0.0%	19.7%	88.5%	89.5%	89.8%	46.8%
Home-based care by relative	34.2%	27.6%	20.8%	26.5%	33.3%	20.5%	26.8%
child's grandparent	25.3%	21.7%	14.6%	9.4%	5.8%	3.4%	13.5%
child's sibling	0.7%	2.6%	3.8%	16.8%	26.2%	18.6%	11.2%
another relative (aunt, cousin, etc.)	9.4%	4.6%	3.8%	2.1%	4.7%	0.9%	4.1%
Informal home-based care by non-relative	5.4%	16.8%	12.1%	15.9%	15.6%	16.9%	14.2%
Family child care home	14.8%	28.0%	29.1%	9.1%	1.8%	0.8%	16.2%
unlicensed but registered family child care	2.0%	4.3%	1.3%	1.5%	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%
licensed family child care	13.4%	23.7%	27.5%	7.4%	1.8%	0.0%	14.4%
Center-based care	9.4%	13.5%	39.5%	18.8%	4.7%	0.0%	17.9%
child care center	8.7%	9.9%	13.2%	4.1%	0.4%	0.0%	6.9%
nursery school/preschool	0.7%	3.6%	22.9%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%
before or after-school program	0.0%	0.3%	2.9%	13.5%	4.4%	0.0%	4.5%
Head Start	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Activities	2.7%	3.3%	11.3%	22.9%	28.4%	41.5%	16.8%
lessons	0.0%	1.3%	2.4%	7.4%	6.9%	7.7%	4.2%
clubs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	2.2%	5.1%	1.7%
sports	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	5.3%	13.1%	21.4%	5.6%
community recreation/theater	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.5%	0.9%	0.4%
camp	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
church/Sunday School	2.7%	2.0%	8.6%	12.6%	12.4%	13.6%	8.7%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	5.6%	25.8%	32.5%	8.4%
self care	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	4.7%	25.8%	30.5%	8.0%
child's job, volunteer position	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.1%
out with friends	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4%	1.7%	0.4%
Other	3.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%

Notes: Shows all types of care for the child during the week. Children may be listed in multiple categories. "Other" includes medical and social services such as personal care attendants, doctor or hospital, group home, and supervised parental visitation. Figures in shaded lines are unduplicated totals of any subcategories shown below them.

15. PRIMARY CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT, SUMMER

	Age of youngest sampled child							Total N=464	
	<1 n=31	1-2 n=96	3-5 n=101	0-5 n=228	6-9 n=115	10-12 n=82	13-14 n=39		6-14 n=236
Home-based care by relative	29.0%	24.0%	20.8%	23.2%	42.6%	59.8%	38.5%	47.9%	35.8%
Informal care by non-relative	16.1%	9.4%	6.9%	9.2%	12.2%	8.5%	7.7%	10.2%	9.7%
Family child care	41.9%	42.7%	38.6%	40.8%	17.4%	3.7%	0.0%	9.7%	25.0%
Center-based care	9.7%	24.0%	32.7%	25.9%	20.0%	4.9%	0.0%	11.4%	18.5%
Activities	3.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.9%	7.8%	12.2%	5.1%	8.9%	5.0%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.0%	48.7%	11.9%	6.0%

Note: Figure shows the non-parental, non-school (K-12) arrangement in which the child spent the most time during the previous week, calculated from time diary information given by the parent. Figures include only those children who were in non-parental, non-school (K-12) care for at least five hours during the week.

16. PRIMARY CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT, SCHOOL YEAR

	Age of youngest sampled child							Total N=873	
	<1 n=63	1-2 n=187	3-5 n=256	0-5 n=506	6-9 n=174	10-12 n=132	13-14 n=61		6-14 n=367
Home-based care by relative	46.0%	24.1%	14.1%	21.7%	30.5%	34.1%	13.1%	28.9%	24.7%
Informal care by non-relative	1.6%	17.1%	5.5%	9.3%	14.4%	15.9%	6.6%	13.6%	11.1%
Family child care	33.3%	41.2%	38.7%	38.9%	15.5%	3.8%	0.0%	8.7%	26.2%
Center-based care	17.5%	17.6%	41.0%	29.4%	28.2%	3.0%	0.0%	14.4%	23.1%
Activities	1.6%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%	6.9%	19.7%	39.3%	16.9%	7.4%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	23.5%	41.0%	17.4%	7.3%

Note: Figure shows the non-parental, non-school (K-12) arrangement in which the child spent the most time during the previous week, calculated from time diary information given by the parent. Figures include only those children who were in non-parental, non-school (K-12) care for at least five hours during the week.

17. NUMBER OF CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS USED REGULARLY FOR YOUNGEST CHILD, SUMMER

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=850
	<1 n=76	1-2 n=174	3-5 n=180	6-9 n=205	10-12 n=157	13-14 n=58	
0	26.3%	12.1%	11.1%	13.2%	17.2%	15.5%	14.6%
1	31.6%	33.9%	27.8%	30.7%	28.0%	20.7%	29.6%
2	25.0%	29.3%	31.7%	25.9%	24.8%	39.7%	28.5%
3	15.8%	21.3%	18.9%	20.5%	13.4%	19.0%	18.5%
4 or more	1.3%	3.4%	10.6%	9.8%	16.5%	5.2%	8.9%
Mean number of arrangements, all children	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8
Mean number of arrangements, children in non-parental care	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.1

Note: Excludes parent care, school (K-12), and arrangements not used at least once in each of the previous two weeks.

18. NUMBER OF CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS USED REGULARLY, SCHOOL YEAR

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=1,595
	<1 n=150	1-2 n=305	3-5 n=380	6-9 n=351	10-12 n=285	13-14 n=124	
0	13.3%	8.2%	6.1%	4.6%	3.5%	0.8%	6.0%
1	28.7%	21.3%	19.2%	13.1%	10.9%	13.7%	17.2%
2	32.7%	32.8%	30.0%	20.2%	22.8%	26.6%	27.1%
3	16.7%	26.2%	23.4%	27.4%	24.2%	27.4%	24.6%
4 or more	8.7%	11.5%	21.3%	34.8%	38.6%	31.4%	25.1%
Mean number of arrangements, all children	1.8	2.1	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.6
Mean number of arrangements, children in non-parental care	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.8

Note: Excludes parent care, school (K-12), and arrangements not used at least once in each of the previous two weeks.

19. NUMBER OF CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, OTHER THAN CURRENT ONES, USED FOR THE YOUNGEST CHILD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,389
	<1 n=223	1-2 n=471	3-5 n=548	6-9 n=539	10-12 n=430	13-14 n=178	
0	82.5%	68.4%	72.6%	62.0%	75.8%	75.8%	71.1%
1	13.9%	21.4%	18.1%	25.8%	16.3%	14.0%	19.5%
2	2.7%	5.9%	5.3%	6.7%	4.2%	4.5%	5.2%
3 or more	0.8%	4.2%	4.1%	5.5%	3.6%	5.7%	4.2%
Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mean number of other arrangements, all children	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Mean number of other arrangements, only children with one or more	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.6

Note: Includes arrangements used for at least one or two weeks. Means do not include six respondents who said they have had 100 other arrangements in the past year; including these respondents would bring the total means to 1.3 for all children and 4.4 for children with one or more other arrangements.

Child care hours and schedules (figures 20-27)

This section describes the number of hours that children spend in child care of various types as well as the times of day and week that care is used, including standard weekday times, early mornings, evenings and overnights, and weekends.

It is important to document use of more than just full-time child care in formal, regulated settings to ensure that policy may be based on an accurate understanding of actual patterns of use for all types of arrangements. In addition, since some policies are based on the assumption that parents can rely on relatives, friends, and neighbors to care for their children when needed, this section sheds some light on that assumption.

The Census Bureau study referred to in the previous section found that U.S. preschoolers (children age 0-5) averaged 28 hours per week in child care, or 35 hours if their mother worked. Children in formal arrangements (child care centers and family child care homes) tended to spend more hours in care than children in informal arrangements with relatives.

Both the Census Bureau and the Urban Institute studies found that the amount of time spent in self care increases for older children, and that children from higher-income families were more likely to be in self care. Higher-income children (above 100% of poverty in the Census study, above 200% of poverty in the Urban Institute study) were also more likely to use after-school enrichment activities than were lower-income children.

20. Mean hours in non-parental care per week summer

On average, including all ages of children and all types of care, children spend 31.5 hours in child care per week during the summer. Children age 3 to 5 spend the most hours in child care (average 35 hours per summer week), and infants the fewest (27 hours).

Children spend fewer hours in self care (23 hours) than in other types of care. Center-based care (38 hours) and family child care homes (36 hours) have children for more hours per week than other types of care. Beginning at age 10, when few children are in centers or child care homes, the amount of time spent in relative care rises.

21. Mean hours in non-parental care per week, school year

Children of all ages combined average 21 hours per week in child care during the school year, lower than the 31.5 hour summer average. Children from birth through age 5 spend about twice as many hours in child care (27 hours) as school-age children age 6 through 14 (13 hours).

Family child care homes have children for more hours per week (average 31) than any other form of care. Both family child care homes and center-based settings (25 hours) have children for more hours than informal care (18 hours) and relatives (also 18 hours). Self care is used for fewer hours per week (12 hours), ahead only of activities (8 hours).

22. Children regularly in child care: Percent in care by type of schedule and age of child, summer

Figure 22 shows the times of day and week that children are in care, including only regular arrangements and only children who regularly spend at least five hours per week in care.

The standard weekday schedule of Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., is the most common schedule for children's non-parental care. During the summer, a majority of all children (59%) are in child care only during these days and hours, and 96 percent of all children have at least part of their child care during these hours. In addition to the standard weekday, during the summer 20 percent of children are regularly in the care of non-parents during weekday evenings (6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), and 20 percent are regularly in non-parental care during weekends. Thirteen percent are in non-parental care after 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 12 percent in the early mornings before 7:00 a.m.

Although not shown in Figure 22, analysis of the data shows that children whose summer child care is limited to only the standard weekday hours (between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.) are mainly in family child care homes (33%) or center-based care (23%). Relatives care for the next largest share of these children (25%). The balance shifts with the age of the child in care: family child care homes are used most for the youngest children, centers more for children between 3 and 9 years of age, and relatives or self care more beginning with age 10. Among teens whose summer child care is limited to weekdays only, 67 percent are taking care of themselves for at least part of that time.

23. Children regularly in child care: Percent in care by type of schedule and age of child, school year

Slightly fewer than half of all children (46%) are in care only during the standard weekday schedule of Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., although 95 percent of all children's care schedules include these days and hours. More than one-quarter (27%) of children are regularly in non-parental care between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekday evenings during the school year, and one-third (33%) on weekends. Fewer children are in non-parental care in the early mornings before 7:00 a.m. (13%) or after 10:00 p.m. at night (11%).

Over half of teens age 13 and 14 (55%) are regularly in non-parental care during at least some weekday evenings during the school year. Forty-six percent of 13- to 14-year-olds, and 45 percent of children age 10 to 12, are regularly in non-parental care during school year weekends.

Children whose school year child care is limited to standard times only (weekdays only and between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.) are most commonly cared for in family child care homes (35%) or center-based care (31%). Relatives care for 17 percent, and 8 percent are in informal arrangements. Six percent care for themselves, and 3 percent are in activities. As during the summer, the type of care varies with age. Among teens whose non-parental, non-school care during the school year is limited to weekdays only, 50 percent are caring for themselves at least part of that time.

24. Types of child care during non-standard times, summer

During the summer, relatives are the most common providers of child care during the non-standard times of the day and week. Forty-nine percent of children in care in the early mornings (before 7:00 a.m.) are cared for by relatives, as are 58 percent of children in care in the evenings (between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m.), 61 percent of children in care late at night (after 10:00 p.m.) and 67 percent of children in care on weekends.

Early morning care is more distributed across types of care than care during other non-standard times. In the early mornings during the summer, 19 percent of children in care are cared for in family child care homes, 14 percent in informal arrangements with friends and neighbors, and 12 percent in center-based care. Self care, used by 4 percent of all children, is used only by children age 10 or older. Family child care is used only for children younger than 10.

During the evenings, other than relative care, the next most commonly used type of care is informal care (19% of children), followed by activities (10%). Family child care

homes care for 6 percent of children in care during these hours (almost entirely children age 5 or younger), and child care centers for 3 percent (also almost entirely age 5 or younger). During the summer weekday evenings, 4 percent of the children in non-parental care take care of themselves, all of them age 10 or older. Fewer children are in care after 10:00 p.m., but relatives and informal arrangements are still the main sources of care (61% and 19%), followed by family child care homes (7%).

On summer weekends, nearly all children who are cared for by other than their parents are supervised by relatives (67%) and/or friends or neighbors (30%). None are in center-based care, and only 1 percent are in family child care homes. Five percent care for themselves (19% of children ages 10-14), and 4 percent are in activities during the weekend.

25. Types of child care during non-standard times, school year

During the school year, relatives are the most common providers of child care during all non-standard times. They care for 37 percent of children in care during the early morning hours before 7:00 a.m. During these early morning times, another 31 percent of children in child care are in family child care homes, 19 percent are in center-based care (child care centers or before-school programs), and 9 percent are caring for themselves. Six percent are cared for in informal arrangements with neighbors, friends, or babysitters. As during the summer, family child care homes are used only for children younger than 10. Only older children care for themselves during these hours, but 67 percent of children age 10 or older who were not in parent or school care during the early morning hours care for themselves.

During school-year evenings, after relative care (40%), children are most commonly in activities (31%) or informal arrangements (25%). Six percent are in centers, 4 percent in child care homes (both mainly children ages 3-5). Only 6 percent are taking care of themselves, all of them ages 10 or older, in which age range they represent 18 percent of children in care during the evening.

After 10:00 p.m., relatives care for nearly half of children not in parental care (48%), and 32 percent of children are in informal arrangements. Ten percent are in center-based care and 7 percent in family child care homes, both mainly children age 3 to 5. Six percent are in activities and 4 percent are in self care, both entirely children ages 10 through 14.

On weekends during the school year, 40 percent of children who are in child care at any time are cared for by relatives, 30 percent are in activities, and 25 percent are cared for informally by friends, neighbors, or the like. Ten percent care for themselves. Six percent are in center-based care, and 6 percent in family child care homes.

26. Children of working parents: Percent in each type of after-school care

For after-school care, from school dismissal until 6:00 p.m., center-based care (including before- and after-school programs) is used almost entirely by children ages 6 to 9, for which age range it includes 19 percent of children in after-school care. Relatives (16%) are the other major type of after-school care for this age group. For children age 10-12, after-school care is provided mainly by relatives (18%) or by the children themselves in self care (16%), although activities (such as sports, clubs, lessons, etc.) are used to supervise 10 percent of the age group. For teens ages 13-14, after-school time in non-parental care is spent mainly in activities (23%) or self care (20%).

27. Children of working parents: Mean amount of time spent per week in each type of after-school care

Although family child care homes are not caring for a substantial proportion of the children in after-school care, they provide the longest average amounts of time spent by children in after-school care (25 hours per week on average). The next longest average time (19 hours per week) is spent by children in center-based care. The more common kinds of care – relatives, activities, and self care – tend to cover shorter amounts of children’s time (seven, six, and five hours per week, respectively, on average). Caution should be used in interpreting these figures, as they are based on small numbers of children.

20. MEAN HOURS IN NON-PARENTAL CARE PER WEEK, SUMMER

Type of primary arrangement	Age of youngest sampled child								Total N=502
	<1 n=34	1-2 n=103	3-5 n=106	0-5 n=243	6-9 n=127	10-12 n=91	13-14 n=41	6-14 n=259	
Relative care	25:24	22:28	28:19	25:21	25:14	34:21	32:06	29:59	28:28
Informal home care by non-relative	*	24:55	*	25:52	27:48	*	*	28:39	27:16
Family child care home	28:32	35:35	37:49	35:32	34:45	*	--	35:46	35:40
Center-based care	*	38:39	39:39	38:08	37:51	*	--	37:47	37:53
Activities	*	*	*	*	30:05	24:06	*	31:54	31:04
Self care	--	--	--	--	*	29:52	21:13	23:26	23:26
All arrangements combined	26:49	31:32	35:18	32:30	29:26	32:22	29:47	30:31	31:29

Note: Figures show total weekly time in non-parental care, not only care in primary arrangement. Includes only children who regularly receive five or more hours per week of non-parental, non-school care. Times shown as hours:minutes. Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than 10 children in the category.

21. MEAN HOURS IN NON-PARENTAL CARE PER WEEK, SCHOOL YEAR

Type of primary arrangement	Age of youngest sampled child								Total N=1,070
	<1 n=80	1-2 n=216	3-5 n=286	0-5 n=582	6-9 n=229	10-12 n=183	13-14 n=76	6-14 n=488	
Relative care	25:14	20:42	25:25	23:20	12:37	14:20	15:41	13:36	18:15
Informal home care by non-relative	*	22:44	20:17	21:09	12:31	18:20	*	15:02	18:21
Family child care home	29:38	35:49	33:40	34:04	15:22	*	*	16:06	31:23
Center-based care	33:53	30:47	25:20	27:20	15:26	*	*	16:41	24:33
Activities	*	*	5:33	5:45	7:22	6:50	14:17	08:54	8:24
Self care	--	--	--	--	7:42	11:05	15:39	12:20	12:20
All arrangements combined	26:54	28:00	26:52	27:18	12:31	12:24	16:00	13:01	20:47

Note: Figures show total weekly time in non-parental care, not only care in primary arrangement. Includes only children who regularly receive five or more hours per week of non-parental, non-school care. Times shown as hours:minutes. Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than 10 children in the category.

22. CHILDREN REGULARLY IN CHILD CARE: PERCENT IN CARE BY TYPE OF SCHEDULE AND AGE OF CHILD, SUMMER

Child care schedule	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=465
	<1 n=31	1-2 n=96	3-5 n=102	6-9 n=115	10-12 n=84	13-14 n=38	
Child care <i>only</i> during standard weekday (Monday – Friday, 7 am – 6 pm)	56.7%	54.2%	68.6%	61.7%	51.8%	55.3%	59.1%
Percent of all children in child care whose care schedule includes:							
Standard weekday (7 am – 6 pm)	83.9%	91.7%	98.0%	99.1%	97.6%	97.3%	95.9%
Early mornings (before 7 am)	12.9%	9.5%	10.8%	13.0%	14.3%	15.8%	12.3%
Evenings (6 pm – 10 pm)	6.5%	22.9%	11.8%	19.8%	29.8%	29.7%	20.4%
Nights (after 10 pm)	0.0%	12.6%	8.8%	11.2%	22.6%	21.6%	13.1%
Weekends	32.3%	23.2%	16.7%	17.4%	22.6%	18.4%	20.4%

Notes: Includes only children who regularly receive 5 or more hours per week of non-parental, non-school care. One child may be included in multiple categories (except standard weekday schedule only). Percents in the lower part of this figure are based on the same set of cases as those in the upper part (N=465).

23. CHILDREN REGULARLY IN CHILD CARE: PERCENT IN CARE BY TYPE OF SCHEDULE AND AGE OF CHILD, SCHOOL YEAR

Child care schedule	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=869
	<1 n=63	1-2 n=188	3-5 n=256	6-9 n=171	10-12 n=131	13-14 n=60	
Child care <i>only</i> during standard weekday (Monday – Friday, 7 am – 6 pm)	48.4%	48.4%	55.5%	45.3%	33.8%	23.7%	46.0%
Percent of all children in child care whose care schedule includes:							
Standard weekday (7 am – 6 pm)	96.9%	95.2%	97.7%	95.9%	90.1%	90.0%	95.1%
Early mornings (before 7 am)	12.7%	18.1%	10.2%	12.9%	15.9%	8.3%	13.3%
Evenings (6 pm – 10 pm)	25.0%	19.7%	17.6%	32.7%	38.2%	55.0%	27.2%
Nights (after 10 pm)	10.9%	10.6%	9.0%	6.5%	13.7%	20.0%	10.5%
Weekends	38.1%	22.3%	28.4%	34.3%	44.7%	46.0%	32.7%

Notes: Includes only children who regularly receive 5 or more hours per week of non-parental, non-school care. One child may be included in multiple categories (except standard weekday schedule only). Percents in the lower part of this figure are based on the same set of cases as those in the upper part (N=869).

24. TYPES OF CHILD CARE DURING NON-STANDARD TIMES, SUMMER

Of children in child care during the time shown, distribution by type(s) of care during that time:	Early morning (< 7 am) N=116	Evening (6-10 pm) N=237	Late night (>10 pm) N=92	Weekend (Sat or Sun) N=286
Relative care	49.1%	57.9%	60.7%	67.4%
Informal home care by non-relative	14.0%	19.1%	19.4%	29.5%
Family child care home	19.3%	6.4%	6.6%	1.1%
Center-based care	12.3%	3.2%	5.0%	0.0%
Activities	5.3%	9.6%	3.3%	4.2%
Self-care	3.6%	4.2%	1.7%	5.3%
Of all children in child care, percent with the schedule shown (N=465)	12.3%	20.4%	13.1%	20.4%

Notes: Shows type(s) of care used regularly during the different schedules shown. Children may be included in multiple schedule categories. Includes only children who are in child care at least five hours per week. Regular arrangements are those used at least once per week for the last two weeks.

25. TYPES OF CHILD CARE DURING NON-STANDARD TIMES, SCHOOL YEAR

Of children in child care during the time shown, distribution by type(s) of care during that time:	Early morning (< 7 am) N=116	Evening (6-10 pm) N=237	Late night (>10 pm) N=92	Weekend (Sat or Sun) N=286
Relative care	36.8%	39.9%	48.4%	39.7%
Informal home care by non-relative	6.0%	24.9%	31.5%	24.7%
Family child care home	31.3%	4.2%	6.5%	5.6%
Center-based care	19.0%	6.4%	9.9%	5.9%
Activities	0.9%	31.2%	5.5%	30.3%
Self-care	8.7%	6.3%	4.3%	10.2%
Of all children in child care, percent with the schedule shown (N=870)	13.3%	27.2%	10.5%	32.7%

Notes: Shows type(s) of care used regularly during the different schedules shown. Children may be included in multiple schedule categories. Includes only children who are in child care at least five hours per week. Regular arrangements are those used at least once per week for the last two weeks.

26. CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS: PERCENT IN EACH TYPE OF AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

	Age of youngest sampled child			
	6-9 n=288	10-12 n=232	13-14 n=102	Total N=622
Relative care	16.0%	17.7%	7.9%	15.3%
Informal home care by non-relative	6.9%	3.9%	2.0%	5.0%
Family child care home	5.9%	0.9%	0.0%	3.0%
Center-based care	19.1%	2.6%	0.0%	9.8%
Activities	7.3%	9.9%	22.5%	10.8%
Self care	3.8%	15.9%	19.6%	10.9%

Note: Includes only school year respondents with children age 6 to 14 with employed parents. “After-school” includes times up to 6:00 p.m. Includes regular arrangements only (used at least once a week for at least the previous two weeks). Figures total to less than 100% because not all children are in non-parental care after school.

27. CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS: MEAN AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT PER WEEK IN EACH TYPE OF AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

	Age of youngest sampled child			
	6-9	10-12	13-14	Total
Relative care	6:51 n=52	5:36 n=41	10:58 n=11	6:48 N=103
Informal home care by non-relative	10:07 n=19	7:22 n=10	* n=2	9:25 N=31
Family child care home	25:18 n=17	* n=2	-- n=0	25:01 N=19
Center-based care	19:07 n=56	* n=7	-- n=0	18:36 N=64
Activities	3:19 n=21	5:55 n=23	9:07 n=26	6:20 N=70
Self care	3:11 n=11	4:48 n=39	7:05 n=22	5:14 N=72

Note: Time shown as hours:minutes. Includes only school year respondents with children ages 6-14 with employed parents. “After-school” includes times up to 6:00 p.m. Includes regular arrangements only (used at least once a week for at least the previous two weeks).

Cost of child care (figures 28-35)

Given the importance of child care to families and children as well as to the state's economy, it is important to understand the amount of money Minnesota families are currently paying for child care, what families might need help paying for it, and how they might be helped to afford it. This section provides information on how many families pay for child care; what families pay for all children in their family and for the youngest child; average costs per hour for different kinds of care; and sources of help for child care costs.

A national study by the Children's Defense Fund⁴ found that full-time child care costs from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year, comparable to the cost of in-state tuition at a public university.

The Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services oversees federal funding to states for child care subsidies, which under federal guidelines are limited to families at or below 85 percent of state median income. According to a 1998 report on state child care subsidy programs,⁵ the Administration for Children and Families set forth 10 percent of income as the benchmark for affordability, citing the opinion of "most experts" that this percent of income is "the limit of affordability." Parents who spend more than this amount may have difficulties maintaining safe or stable child care and as a result may have trouble getting or keeping a job.

The Census Bureau, in its study referenced earlier, found that 41 percent of employed women paid for child care in 1995, with an average weekly cost of \$85 per family per week. Poor families (below 100 percent of federal poverty guidelines) paid nearly as much as non-poor families (\$75 compared to \$86), but paid a much higher percent of income (35% of income, compared to 7%). This gap in affordability between poor and non-poor has held steady in Census Bureau survey results since 1987, and was also independently confirmed in a 1990 national study⁶ which found that working poor families (those below the poverty line) averaged 33 percent of their income on child care costs, compared with 6 percent for middle-class families and 13 percent for "working class" (those with incomes above poverty but below \$25,000 in 1990 dollars).

⁴ Schulman, K., and Adams, G. 1998. *Issue Brief: The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families*. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.

⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. 1998. *States' Child Care Certificate Systems: An Early Assessment of Vulnerabilities and Barriers*. Washington, D.C.: author.

⁶ Hofferth, S. 1991. *National Child Care Survey, 1990*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press.

In another recently released report,⁷ the Urban Institute found that in 1997 Minnesota families with employed parents paid an average of \$315 per month for their child care (for all children age 12 and under, including informal and part-time care). This amount was more than the national average of \$286 per month. The study also found that Minnesota working families were more likely to be paying for child care than were working families in the nation as a whole.

In Minnesota, several kinds of assistance are available to help lower-income families afford child care through the Child Care Assistance Program. These include:

- Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance, for parents with incomes below 75 percent of state median income (presently around 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines) who are working, attending school, or looking for work.
- MFIP Child Care Assistance, for parents who are participating in qualifying work activities as part of their Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) employment services plan. Eligibility for MFIP ends at approximately 120 percent of federal poverty guidelines.
- Transition Year Child Care Assistance, for parents who have exited MFIP within the past 12 months and who meet other eligibility criteria.

Other kinds of subsidy for child care include:

- The federal Dependent Care Tax Credit, which allows a family to receive a refund on their federal income taxes for 20 to 30 percent of their child care expenses, capped at \$2,400 for one child or \$4,800 for two or more children. The maximum credit is thus \$720 for one child, or \$1,440 for two or more. Families who do not owe federal income tax (such as those with incomes below the minimum for tax liability) cannot receive for the benefit. As a result, most single parents do not benefit unless their annual income is more than \$11,500, and two-parent families do not benefit unless they earn more than \$15,000. There is no maximum income threshold.
- Employer pre-tax accounts allow employees to pay for child care expenses with pre-tax dollars. Employers generally may deduct their costs as business expenses, and employees may exclude up to \$5,000 of child care expenses from their gross income. Employees using an employer pre-tax account must subtract the amount of benefit received from any federal Dependent Care Tax Credit for which they would otherwise be eligible.

⁷ Giannarelli, L., and Barsimantov, J. 2000. *Child Care Expenses of America's Families*. Assessing the New Federalism Occasional Paper No. 40. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

- There is also a Minnesota Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which was not addressed in the survey questions. Families qualify by completing and submitting the federal Dependent Care Tax Credit form, and the maximum amount of the credit is the same (\$720 for one child, \$1,440 for two or more). Unlike the federal credit, the benefit is refundable; the family need not owe income taxes to Minnesota to receive the benefit. The credit phases down to zero for families with annual incomes over \$31,370.

28. Average total weekly cost of child care per household

Figure 28 shows the average amount paid out-of-pocket by the parent (after subsidy through the Child Care Assistance Program, but before benefits from the Child Care Dependent Tax Credit and employer pre-tax accounts) for child care for all children in the family in the previous week. For those families who had child care costs, the average weekly cost is \$108.08 (or \$5,825 annually). This figure includes all families, including those whose child care is only part-time. It should not be interpreted as representing the cost of full-time care.

For families whose youngest child is not yet in school, the amount is more for families with two children than for families with only one child. Child care costs are lower for families whose youngest child is at least 6 and has therefore started school, but do not drop steeply for school age children, suggesting that before- and after-school care costs remain substantial for those relying on paid arrangements.

Although the rates charged by providers of infant care are known to be higher than for other age groups, many families use less costly relative care, resulting in lower average costs overall. The high average cost for children age 13 and 14 is probably due to the lower use of child care assistance and higher use of activities for this age group.

29. Weekly cost of child care by household income

Overall, slightly more than half of all families (56%) pay nothing out-of-pocket for child care. A slightly higher proportion of families with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more pay for child care: 50 percent in this income range pay some amount, compared with 44 percent overall. Families of \$75,000 or more annual income who pay for child care also pay more per week (\$134, compared with \$109 for all families). Families with annual incomes below \$20,000 also pay more than the mean weekly amount (\$123 for those who pay at all, compared to \$109 for all families who pay). Families with incomes between \$20,000 and \$45,000 have the lowest proportion who pay for child care, and the lowest weekly cost of care of any income group. These costs are for all children in the family.

Families in the lowest income group (under \$20,000 per year) pay almost as much per week as those in the highest group (\$75,000 or over), and pay much higher percent of their income for child care costs (32% or more, compared to 9% or less).

30. Weekly cost of care for youngest child

Less than half of families (39%) paid anything out-of-pocket for their youngest child's care during the previous week. The proportion is highest for children age 3 to 5 (55%), and lowest for children age 10 to 12 (17%) and teens (10%).

Of families who did pay for care, the mean weekly cost for the youngest or only child was \$77.60 (or \$4,035 annually). The highest cost was for toddlers age 1 to 2, at \$89.76 weekly (\$4,668 annually), and the lowest was for older elementary school children age 10 to 12, at \$58.67 weekly (\$3,061 annually). These figures are for families using a wide range of hours of care per week. Including only families using full-time care of 35 or more hours per week, the average cost was \$96.70 weekly, or \$5,028 for a full year. These costs are for only the youngest sampled child in the family (including only children).

Although the rates charged by providers of infant care are known to be higher than for other age groups, many families use less costly relative care, resulting in lower average costs overall. The high average cost for children age 13 and 14 is probably due to the lower use of child care assistance and higher use of activities for this age group.

31. Cost of full-time care from licensed providers

Figure 31 shows the average cost of child care for the youngest child, for only those families where that child is in formal child care (child care center or family child care home) at least half time (20 hours a week or more). The average cost for a child age 0-5 in formal care for 20 or more hours is \$92.27 per week (\$4,798 annually). For children age 0-5 in formal care full time (35 or more hours per week) the average cost is \$99.44 per week, or \$5,171 annually.

Fewer school-age children are in child care for 20 or more hours per week. The cost of formal care for 35 or more hours per week, \$84.46 per week (\$4,392 annually) was slightly lower than that for children 5 and younger.

32. Average hourly cost of care, by type of arrangement (parents' out-of-pocket cost)

Excluding activities, for which few parents reported paying in the previous week, parents pay the greatest hourly cost for center-based care. This type of care, which includes child care centers, nursery schools and pre-kindergarten programs, before- and after-school programs, averages \$3.84 per hour. Informal care, including in-home nannies, is the next most expensive form of care, at \$3.69 per hour. Family child care averages an out-of-pocket cost

of \$2.82 per hour. For those who pay for care provided by relatives, the average hourly cost is \$2.09. No family in the survey reported paying children for taking care of themselves.

33. Awareness and use of the Child Care Assistance Program

About half (51%) of respondents in the survey report being aware of the availability of “state subsidy programs to help pay for child care costs” (i.e., the Child Care Assistance Program, described in the introduction to this section). Low-income households, for whom this program is intended, are only slightly more likely to be aware of their existence, with 57 percent of low-income households aware of this program. Awareness among households in general is lower for parents of the youngest children (under age 3), but among the low-income households that are more likely to be eligible, awareness is as high for parents of infants as it is for parents in general.

Four percent of all households in the survey, and 12 percent of low-income households, report currently receiving a subsidy through the state Child Care Assistance Program. The rate of use of the state subsidy peaks among families in which the youngest child is age 3 to 5, and drops to a low rate of use when the youngest child is age 10 or older.

Of those low-income households that are aware of the assistance program but not receiving them, 5 percent are on the waiting list, and another 14 percent are not on the waiting list but say they would be if it were not so long.

Of the 23 surveyed families on the waiting list, six (or 23.1%) report they would change child care arrangements if they were to receive the assistance. The youngest children in these families range in age from 1 to 12. These families are currently using parental care only (1), relative care (3), informal non-relative care (1), and a child care center (1). If subsidized, they would change to: child care centers (4), licensed family child care (1), and an unspecified kind of care (1). Because the number is small, these may not be representative of all families on the waiting list.

- Some households are more likely than others to report currently receiving state child care assistance. These include households with a preschooler as their youngest child (13% vs. 5% for school age), one parent households (23% vs. 6% for two parent households), households with a respondent of color (28% vs. 7% for white respondents), and households with a working respondent (10% vs. 3.5% for respondents not working).
- Among low-income households, metro area households are more likely than households in greater Minnesota to report receiving state child care assistance.

Help with child care costs

34. Households with and without regular child care

35. Households regularly using child care

Besides the state Child Care Assistance Program, a variety of other kinds of assistance are available to families to help with child care costs, and 44 percent of all households in the survey use at least one of them. The major kinds of help used (described in the introduction to this section) are the federal Dependent Care Tax Credit (30%) and employer pre-tax plans that allow the parent to purchase child care with pre-tax dollars (17%). Use of most forms of assistance peak for families with youngest children ages 3 to 5, mirroring the higher average child care costs for these families (Figure 28). Tax-related forms of assistance (the federal income tax dependent care credit and the use of employer pre-tax plans) are used more by higher-income families than by lower-income families.

Looking at only those families whose youngest child is regularly in child care for at least five hours a week, 58 percent receive some kind of help with child care costs, including 54 percent of low-income families.

28. AVERAGE TOTAL WEEKLY COST OF CHILD CARE PER HOUSEHOLD (PARENTS' OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS)

Number of children	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,391
	<1 n=224	1-2 n=474	3-5 n=548	6-9 n=536	10-12 n=431	13-14 n=177	
1	\$36.12	\$58.48	\$64.83	\$57.33	\$14.99	\$15.30	\$39.67
2	\$56.20	\$92.78	\$79.22	\$35.48	\$12.59	\$6.38	\$54.24
3	\$47.91	\$75.46	\$57.68	\$21.22	\$15.54	*	\$49.92
4 or more	\$58.55	\$59.22	\$25.54	\$16.97	*	*	\$39.17
Total (mean weekly cost, all families)	\$47.38	\$74.49	\$66.41	\$39.83	\$14.89	\$14.80	\$47.16
Mean cost for only those who paid	n=95	n=273	n=335	n=233	n=87	n=21	N=1,043
Mean weekly cost	\$112.02	\$129.47	\$108.84	\$91.68	\$73.95	\$122.95	\$108.08
Calculated annual cost	\$5,825	\$6,732	\$5,660	\$4,767	\$3,845	\$6,393	\$5,620

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than 10 households in the category.

29. WEEKLY COST OF CHILD CARE (PARENTS' OUT-OF-POCKET COST) BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Weekly household payment for child care, all families	Annual household income				Total N=2,328
	Under \$20,000 n=256	\$20,000- \$44,999 n=743	\$45,000- \$74,999 n=702	\$75,000 or more n=627	
\$0	58.6%	61.1%	55.3%	49.8%	56.0%
\$1-\$50	18.8%	17.1%	14.2%	14.5%	15.7%
\$51-\$100	10.5%	12.4%	15.7%	12.3%	13.1%
\$101-\$200	7.8%	7.0%	11.7%	13.1%	10.1%
\$201-\$300	*	*	2.7%	6.4%	3.1%
More than \$300	*	*	*	4.0%	1.9%
Mean weekly payment, all families	\$41.03	\$34.74	\$43.82	\$72.64	\$48.39
Household payment, only those who paid	n=106	n=289	n=314	n=315	N=1,024
Mean weekly payment	\$123.39	\$89.12	\$97.71	\$133.86	\$109.00
Calculated annual cost	\$6,416	\$4,634	\$5,081	\$6,961	\$5,668
Annual cost as percent of income	32% ^a	10–23%	7–11%	9% ^b	

Notes: Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than 10 households in the category.

^a assumes all households have \$20,000 annual income; actual percent would be higher

^b assumes all households have \$75,000 annual income; actual percent would be smaller

30. WEEKLY COST OF CARE FOR YOUNGEST CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
	n=223	n=471	n=545	n=536	n=429	n=175	N=2,379
\$0	64.1%	48.8%	44.6%	61.6%	83.0%	89.7%	61.3%
\$1 – \$25	8.5%	8.5%	11.2%	13.2%	7.0%	6.9%	9.8%
\$26 - \$50	7.2%	6.8%	9.4%	8.0%	4.0%	1.7%	6.8%
\$51 - \$100	11.2%	17.4%	21.3%	11.0%	3.3%	0.0%	12.4%
\$101 - \$150	6.3%	11.9%	9.2%	4.1%	1.6%	0.6%	6.3%
More than \$150	2.7%	6.6%	4.4%	2.1%	1.2%	1.1%	3.3%
Mean weekly cost, all families	\$27.82	\$45.94	\$43.26	\$24.86	\$10.09	\$13.20	\$30.01
Mean weekly cost, only those who paid	\$78.21	\$89.76	\$78.05	\$64.67	\$58.87	\$129.32	\$77.60
Calculated annual cost, only those who paid	\$4,067	\$4,668	\$4,059	\$3,363	\$3,061	\$6,725	\$4,035

Note: Figures show parents' out-of-pocket costs for the previous week.

31. COST OF FULL-TIME CARE FROM LICENSED PROVIDERS

	Age of child		Total
	Age 0-5	Age 6-10	
Mean weekly cost for those using at least 20 hours of licensed care per week	\$92.27	\$68.72	\$88.44
	n=324	n=63	N=387
Calculated annual cost, 20+ hours per week of licensed care	\$4,798.04	\$3,573.44	\$4,598.88
Mean weekly cost for those using at least 35 hours of licensed care per week	\$99.44	\$84.46	\$97.65
	n=224	n=30	n=254
Calculated annual cost, 35+ hours per week of licensed care	\$5,170.88	\$4,391.92	\$5,077.80

Note: Figures show parents' out-of-pocket costs for the previous week. Includes only care from licensed providers (licensed family child care homes, nursery schools, licensed child care centers, and before- and after-school programs).

32. AVERAGE HOURLY COST OF CARE, BY TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT (PARENTS' OUT-OF-POCKET COST)

	Preschool (age 0-5)	School age (age 6-14)	Total (all ages)
Relative care	\$1.78 n=69	\$2.38 n=45	\$2.09 N=88
Informal home care by non-relative	\$3.70 n=87	\$3.65 n=44	\$3.69 N=132
Family child care home	\$2.68 n=197	\$3.54 n=52	\$2.82 N=328
Center-based care	\$3.78 n=134	\$3.98 n=68	\$3.84 N=252
Activities	\$5.68 n=12	\$5.15 n=67	\$5.23 N=80

Note: Average includes only families that paid for the type of care shown. No family reported paying for self care. Figures are computed from the reported amount paid per week and the number of hours reported for the corresponding type of care in the child care diary. To the extent that families pay for longer time periods than weekly, these figures over-represent the number of families paying nothing, and show larger than true values for average weekly costs. Cost is shown only for all ages combined because of the small numbers in subgroups.

33. AWARENESS AND USE OF STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Respondents who are aware of the availability of the state Child Care Assistance Program							
as percent of all households	46.2%	45.8%	52.3%	53.5%	54.5%	47.0%	50.8%
	n=225	n=480	n=560	n=555	n=440	n=183	N=2,443
as percent of low-income households	56.8%	49.0%	60.5%	58.6%	61.1%	51.3%	56.8%
	n=74	n=145	n=167	n=152	n=108	n=39	N=685
Households currently receiving state child care assistance							
as percent of all households	5.8%	5.8%	7.0%	3.6%	0.7%	2.7%	4.4%
	n=225	n=480	n=560	n=555	n=440	n=183	N=2,443
as percent of low-income households	13.5%	14.5%	19.2%	8.5%	0.9%	5.1%	11.6%
	n=74	n=145	n=167	n=152	n=108	n=39	N=685
Low-income households on a waiting list for state child care assistance							
As percent of low-income households	9.1%	10.0%	4.3%	6.6%	1.5%	0.0%	5.4%
	n=33	n=50	n=69	n=76	n=66	n=19	N=313
Low-income households not receiving assistance who would be on the waiting list if it weren't so long							
As percent of low-income households	23.3%	15.6%	20.0%	12.9%	6.2%	0.0%	13.7%
	n=30	n=45	n=65	n=70	n=65	n=18	N=293

Note: Low-income households are those whose income is within or below the range that includes 200% of the federal poverty guideline for a household of their size.

34. HELP WITH CHILD CARE COSTS, HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT REGULAR CHILD CARE

Type of help received	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Households of all income levels	n=225	n=475	n=548	n=540	n=432	n=178	N=2,398
Government subsidy(federal, state, or local government agency or welfare office)	3.6%	5.3%	7.7%	3.1%	0.7%	1.7%	4.1%
Child's other parent (in a different household)	1.8%	1.9%	2.9%	2.2%	1.6%	0.6%	2.0%
Employer-paid subsidy	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other (medical insurance, social service program, family member, postsecondary child care grant)	0.4%	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%
Federal income tax credit for child care expenses	18.2%	34.0%	44.2%	36.0%	16.7%	6.2%	30.1%
Pre-tax plan through employer	19.2%	23.7%	21.6%	17.6%	9.3%	4.0%	17.3%
Discount, bargain rate, sliding scale, scholarship, or general program subsidy from church, provider, employer, or agency	7.1%	7.2%	10.1%	5.6%	2.5%	1.7%	6.2%
Any one of the above	35.1%	51.4%	61.7%	47.6%	25.9%	12.4%	43.9%
Low-income households	n=74	n=145	n=165	n=151	n=105	n=38	N=678
Government subsidy (federal, state, or local government agency or welfare office)	8.1%	15.9%	23.0%	9.3%	0.0%	5.3%	12.2%
Child's other parent (in a different household)	0.0%	3.4%	4.8%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Employer-paid subsidy	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Other (medical insurance, social service program, family member, postsecondary child care grant)	1.4%	1.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Federal income tax credit for child care expenses	14.7%	26.7%	36.0%	33.1%	14.2%	5.3%	25.9%
Pre-tax plan through employer	8.1%	6.2%	7.3%	6.6%	5.7%	0.0%	6.3%
Discount, bargain rate, sliding scale, scholarship, or general program subsidy from church, provider, employer, or agency	9.5%	11.0%	18.2%	11.9%	4.7%	7.7%	11.6%
Any one of the above	29.6%	46.4%	63.5%	43.2%	20.0%	13.5%	42.1%

Note: Percents are of all families including those that do not use non-parental, non-school (K-12) care. Subsidy categories may overlap.

35. HELP WITH CHILD CARE COSTS, HOUSEHOLDS REGULARLY USING CHILD CARE

Type of help received	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Households of all income levels	n=94	n=279	n=356	n=286	n=216	n=99	N=1,330
Government subsidy (federal, state, or local government agency or welfare office)	6.4%	6.8%	10.7%	4.2%	0.5%	0.0%	5.7%
Child's other parent (in a different household)	3.2%	2.9%	4.5%	3.1%	2.3%	1.0%	3.2%
Employer-paid subsidy	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other (medical insurance, social service program, family member, postsecondary child care grant)	1.1%	0.7%	1.4%	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%
Federal income tax credit for child care expenses	21.3%	45.4%	53.8%	47.4%	20.0%	7.1%	39.4%
Pre-tax plan through employer	27.4%	31.5%	24.9%	26.0%	12.4%	3.0%	23.0%
Discount, bargain rate, sliding scale, scholarship, or general program subsidy from church, provider, employer, or agency	9.5%	11.5%	14.0%	7.7%	2.8%	3.0%	9.2%
Any one of the above	45.7%	69.7%	77.6%	64.5%	31.5%	12.1%	58.4%
Low-income households	n=30	n=77	n=111	n=74	n=53	n=23	N=368
Government subsidy (federal, state, or local government agency or welfare office)	16.7%	20.8%	31.5%	14.9%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%
Child's other parent (in a different household)	0.0%	6.5%	7.2%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Employer-paid subsidy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Other (medical insurance, social service program, family member, postsecondary child care grant)	3.3%	2.6%	0.9%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Federal income tax credit for child care expenses	22.6%	32.1%	42.3%	42.7%	18.5%	4.5%	32.9%
Pre-tax plan through employer	16.7%	3.9%	5.5%	8.1%	7.5%	0.0%	6.5%
Discount, bargain rate, sliding scale, scholarship, or general program subsidy from church, provider, employer, or agency	16.1%	16.9%	26.1%	17.3%	7.4%	13.0%	18.1%
Any one of the above	44.8%	55.8%	75.9%	57.5%	26.9%	13.0%	54.4%

Note: Includes only those families that regularly use non-parental, non-school(K-12) care for at least five hours per week. Percents are of all families including those that do not use non-parental, non-school (K-12) care. Subsidy categories may overlap.

Selecting child care: options and barriers *(figures 36-54)*

This section explores the extent to which parents are able to find care that meets their needs for quality, cost, and convenience, as well as what parents look for in determining quality. Knowing that the quality of care may affect children's emotional, social, and intellectual development, it is important to understand how parents select child care.

Currently, the state funds a statewide network of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies that help parents identify and select child care in their communities. These agencies, also known as CCR&Rs, also work with providers and communities to improve the quality and availability of care for young children.

The findings in this section of the report will help policymakers understand how most parents identify potential child care providers, how they choose between alternatives, and why they end arrangements. It also presents information on the extent to which parents have a choice, or simply take whatever care they can find. Finally, this section explores the role of transportation in accessing child care, including how much time parents spend getting children to and from child care, what kinds of transportation they use, and the degree to which transportation is a problem.

36. Awareness of child care resource and referral service

About two-thirds of all households surveyed (63%) and of households using non-parental care (67%) are aware of the existence of child care resource and referral services. A smaller proportion of parents using relatives, informal arrangements, and activities are aware of this service than those using formal kinds of child care (centers and family child care homes).

- Some households are more aware of CCR&R services than other households. These include households with a preschooler as their youngest child (66% vs. 60% for school age), households whose respondent has a college degree (67% vs. 61% for those with less than a college degree), households with a child with special needs (68% vs. 61.5% for those without a special needs child), and households in greater Minnesota (65% vs. 61% in the metro area).

37. How people learned about the arrangement they currently use most

In response to an open-ended question, with responses grouped by categories, about half of families report that they either already knew their main child care provider (15%) or were referred to the provider by someone they knew (37%). Community services such as child care resource and referral (CCR&R) services helped 11 percent of families find their current primary arrangements. Ten percent learned about their current primary arrangement through K-12 schools, and 9 percent through a newspaper, advertisements, or yellow pages.

A greater proportion of parents learned about informal arrangements and child care homes through personal connections (80% and 62%, respectively), while schools were the source of information for a higher proportion of parents using child care centers or activities as their primary arrangement.

38. Why people chose the arrangement they currently use most

In open-ended responses grouped by category, respondents most commonly report choosing the arrangement they use most due to the convenient location (32%) and the quality of care (20%). For care by a relative, the main reasons are preference of care by a family member (47%), cost (25%), convenience (25%) and trust (24%). For informal care by a non-relative, the main reasons are trust (36%), the interaction between the child and provider (24%), and the convenient location (23%). Among families whose youngest child is in self care, the most common reasons are because the child is old enough (52%), and because no other option is available (48%). The number of respondents using self care is small, so these figures should be used with caution.

Important considerations in choosing child care

39. By age of child

40. By type of primary arrangement

From a list of important considerations in choosing child care, the top “very important” reasons are “a caregiver who has special training in taking care of children,” “a reasonable cost,” “a place close to home,” and a small group size (from 70% to 64%, respectively). For those using relative care, “a place where children will be cared for when they are sick” is also a top very important reason (69%). The training of the caregiver is the most important consideration for parents of infants, and declines in importance as the age of the child increases. Readers should note that this figure shows parents’ ratings of how important a consideration is in choosing child care, which may be different from research findings on how important a consideration is for the well-being or development of children.

- Some households are more likely than others to say that a caregiver who has special training in taking care of children is “very important.” These include households with a child age 5 or younger as the youngest child (74% vs. 66%), and households with a respondent of color (83% vs. 70%).
- Some households are more likely than others to say that a place where children will be cared for when they are sick is “very important.” These include households with a child age 6 or older as the youngest child (63% vs. 55%), households with lower incomes (67% vs. 52%), households with one child (62% vs. 58%), households with a respondent of color (76% vs. 58%), and households in greater Minnesota (65% vs. 56%).
- Some households are more likely than others to say that a reasonable cost is “very important.” These include households with a child age 6 or older as the youngest child (70% vs. 65%), households with lower incomes (78% vs. 57%), households with one child (70% vs. 66%), households with a respondent of color (85% vs. 66%), and households with a working respondent (69% vs. 62%).
- Some households are more likely than others to say that a small number of children in the same class, home, or group is “very important.” These include households with a child age 5 or younger as the youngest child (68% vs. 60%), households with higher incomes (67.5% vs. 60%), households in the metro area (67% vs. 60%), household with a non-working respondent (72% vs. 61%), and households where the respondent has a college degree (69% vs. 61.5%).
- Some households are more likely than others to say that a caregiver who is a relative or family member is “very important.” These include households with lower incomes (39% vs. 27%), households with a respondent of color (54% vs. 31.5%), households with a non-working respondent (41% vs. 30.5%), households with a child with special needs (41% vs. 32%), and households where the respondent has less than a college degree (39% vs. 24.5%).
- Some households are more likely than others to say that a caregiver close to home is “very important.” These include households with lower incomes (67% vs. 62%), households with two or more children (66% vs. 62%), and households with a respondent of color (74% vs. 64%).

41. Households that seriously considered other kinds of arrangements

About half of the respondents (48%) report they seriously considered other kinds of arrangements when they chose their current primary arrangement. In general, parents of younger children are more likely to have considered other kinds of care than are parents of older children.

42. Households that had no realistic options other than their current arrangement

When asked whether they had seriously considered another kind of arrangement, about 5 percent of respondents volunteered the information that they had not had any other realistic options to consider.

Kind of arrangement most seriously considered

43. By age of child

44. By type of primary arrangement

Figures 43 and 44 show the kinds of arrangements that families report having considered, displayed in Figure 43 by the age of the child, and in Figure 44 by the type of arrangement they ended up choosing. Center-based care is the type most commonly considered by respondents who looked at different options (37% of that group).

Of families who considered different options, about a fifth (22%) of those using informal care by non-relatives and about a third (32%) of those using family day care homes seriously considered parental care instead. Thirty percent of those using relative care seriously considered using a family day care home.

- Among households who considered using another type of arrangement, parents of preschool age children (24% vs. 11%) and parents with two or more children (23% vs. 13%) were more likely than others to consider parent care.

Main reason for ending previous child care arrangement

45. By age of child

46. By type of previous arrangement

In an open-ended question, parents were asked for the main reason their last arrangement (before their current ones) ended, and their responses were grouped by category. The most common reason parents report is because it was temporary (35%) or seasonal (8%), or because the school year stopped or started (12%). Other common reasons include “the provider closed or stopped providing care” (10%), “parent or child was unhappy with the program” (6%), and “parent changed job or schedule” (6%). More parents of preschool

age children (age five or younger) than of school age children (age six or older) report having ended a previous arrangement because of dissatisfaction with it or because the provider stopped providing care. Two-thirds (67%) of previous arrangements with relatives ended because they were temporary; 5 percent of arrangements with child care centers ended for this reason. Twenty-seven percent of previous arrangements with child care centers ended because the school year stopped or started. One-quarter (24%) of previous arrangements with child care homes, and 2 percent of arrangements with child care centers, ended because the provider stopped providing care.

47. Households that report they had to take whatever arrangement they could get

About one-fifth (21%) of parents say it was sometimes, usually, or always the case that in choosing child care, they felt they had to take whatever arrangement they could get. More than one-quarter of low-income parents (28%) and parents with non-standard work schedules (work hours that extended before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. or included weekends; 27 percent) report that they sometimes, usually, or always had to take whatever child care they could get.

Working parents (23% vs. 11%) and households using child care subsidies (32% vs. 20% of those not using a subsidy) are more likely to report they had to take whatever child care was available.

48. Opinions on safe age for self care: Percent of respondents who feel it is safe, in their neighborhood, for a child to be left to care for himself or herself on a regular basis

Fewer than 5 percent of parents think 9-year-old or younger children can safely be left to care for themselves. Nineteen percent think 10-year-olds can, and 82 percent think 13-year-olds can.

49. Mean length of time a child of that age could be left to care for himself or herself

By the time a child is considered old enough to care for himself or herself on a regular basis, parents consider it safe to leave them alone for one to two hours at a time. The length of time grows longer as the child grows older, rising from just over two hours at age 10, to three and one-half hours at age 13, and six hours at age 15.

Use of child care that may not be the preferred type of care

50. By age of child

51. By type of arrangement

Five different questions in the interview give some indication of whether the respondent is satisfied with their current child care arrangements or might prefer to change to different arrangements if they had other options. Restricting the analysis to only those respondents with children regularly in child care for at least five hours a week, one in five respondents (20%) answered at least one of these questions in a way that suggests their current care is not their preferred type. Of respondents with identified primary arrangements, 5 percent volunteered that at the time they chose their current primary arrangement, they had no other realistic options; 6 percent say that if they had to do it over, they would choose the same arrangement again “never,” “rarely,” or “sometimes;” 7 percent report that in choosing child care, they felt they had to take whatever they could get “always” or “usually;” and 10 percent say that their current arrangement is not their preferred, number 1 choice of child care arrangement but that they would prefer to change caregivers or providers.

In addition, a small number but sizeable percent of those with current, regular child care who are on the subsidy waiting list say they would change arrangements if they were to receive the subsidy (five people, 25 percent of those on the waiting list). Because of the small size of this number, the statistic must be interpreted with caution.

52. Transportation time (one way)

In a question about the youngest sampled child, parents report that about one-third of children (32%) receive care in their own homes or just a couple of minutes away. Another quarter (23%) report that it takes five minutes or less to get to the child’s primary arrangement. Six percent reported a travel time of more than 20 minutes.

Among all families who use child care, including those with no transportation time, parents report that on a typical day it takes them an average of 13 minutes to get all the children in their household to child care. This does not include time spent picking them up again at the end of the day. The average time for only those families who spend time on transportation is 23 minutes, one way, per day. The amount of time for this group of families increases as the age of the youngest child increases. Parents of infants report an average of 18 minutes, while parents of teens report an average of 38 minutes.

53. Type of transportation used by child to get to and from primary arrangement

Ninety percent of parents report that the youngest child gets to and from the primary child care arrangement in a family vehicle. This includes 100 percent of infants, and decreases with the age of the child to 54 percent of teens ages 13 and 14. Four percent of children use a school bus to get to and from their primary arrangement, and 3 percent walk or ride a bicycle.

54. Percent of households reporting that transportation to and from child care is a problem

Three percent of respondents report that transportation to and from child care is a big problem. Ten percent report that it is somewhat of a problem, and 87 percent report that it is not a problem.

36. AWARENESS OF CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICES

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,446
	<1 n=226	1-2 n=480	3-5 n=561	6-9 n=555	10-12 n=441	13-14 n=183	
Percent of households who are aware of the existence of child care resource and referral service in their area	62.8%	65.0%	67.2%	62.0%	61.5%	51.4%	63.0%

	Type of primary arrangement						Total N=1,339
	relative n=384	informal n=142	child care home n=344	center n=288	activities n=89	self care n=92	
Percent of households who are aware of the existence of child care resource and referral service in their area	58.9%	52.8%	78.5%	73.3%	57.3%	67.4%	66.8%

Note: "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time.

37. HOW PEOPLE LEARNED ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT THEY CURRENTLY USE MOST

	Youngest child's primary arrangement				Total N=762
	Informal n=110	Child care home n=304	Center n=254	Activities n=94	
Referred by friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers	31.8%	45.7%	31.9%	25.5%	36.6%
Already knew provider	48.2%	16.4%	3.5%	3.2%	15.1%
Community service, CCR&R	0.9%	18.8%	9.4%	3.2%	11.2%
Public or private school	2.7%	0.3%	16.9%	27.7%	9.6%
Newspaper, advertisements, yellow pages	6.4%	8.2%	13.0%	4.3%	9.1%
Church, synagogue, other place of worship	0.9%	1.3%	2.4%	21.3%	4.1%
Place of employment	0.9%	3.0%	4.7%	0.0%	2.9%
Drove by/happenstance	0.0%	0.3%	8.3%	0.0%	2.9%
Public bulletin boards, flyers	0.9%	0.0%	3.9%	10.6%	2.8%
Provided care for other child	0.0%	1.7%	2.4%	0.0%	1.4%
Reference materials	0.9%	1.6%	0.4%	1.1%	1.0%
Welfare or social service caseworkers	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%
Other	1.8%	1.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
Don't know/refused	3.6%	1.0%	2.0%	2.2%	1.8%

Note: Responses to open-ended question, grouped into categories. Question not asked of families whose primary arrangement was relative care or self care. "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time. Percents may not total to 100 due to rounding.

38. WHY PEOPLE CHOSE THE ARRANGEMENT THEY CURRENTLY USE MOST

Youngest child's primary arrangement

	Relative n=160	Informal n=111	Child care home n=304	Center n=255	Activities n=96	Self care n=17	Total N=943
Convenient location	24.6%	23.4%	37.9%	41.4%	12.8%	9.0%	31.7%
Quality of care given	14.1%	17.3%	23.9%	26.0%	11.7%	0.0%	20.4%
Parent knows/trusts them	24.1%	35.5%	17.1%	6.9%	7.8%	24.4%	13.5%
Cost	24.6%	11.0%	10.2%	14.7%	5.1%	7.5%	13.4%
Personality of provider	2.4%	15.4%	20.8%	11.1%	2.5%	8.3%	12.3%
Interaction between child and provider	11.5%	23.8%	12.2%	2.6%	6.8%	0.0%	10.1%
Training/experience of provider	1.5%	12.6%	11.7%	10.3%	6.4%	0.0%	8.8%
No other option available	11.8%	5.9%	4.5%	5.9%	20.5%	48.1%	8.8%
Convenient hours	9.3%	12.4%	6.8%	10.5%	2.4%	15.0%	8.6%
Prefer care by family member	47.3%	2.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	8.6%
Number of center in the home/center; ratio	1.4%	3.1%	12.1%	10.8%	3.1%	0.0%	7.7%
Educational experience/teaches skills	0.0%	1.3%	3.0%	14.1%	22.0%	0.0%	7.2%
References	0.0%	2.3%	13.6%	5.9%	4.1%	0.0%	6.7%
Availability (had an opening)	7.2%	3.8%	4.4%	3.8%	4.6%	0.0%	4.6%
Health/safety	3.9%	3.8%	3.3%	5.3%	2.9%	0.0%	3.9%
Child wanted/suits child's interests	0.9%	2.3%	0.3%	0.2%	31.4%	0.0%	3.8%
Inside appearance of the home/center	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Child old enough to care for self	4.3%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	51.9%	1.9%
Prefers home care	3.9%	5.4%	0.9%	0.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.9%
Takes child when child is sick	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	6.3%	12.6%	11.9%	22.8%	40.7%	17.8%	16.8%
Don't know, refused, NA	0.8%	2.5%	0.9%	0.0%	13.9%	0.0%	2.1%

Note: Responses to open-ended question, grouped into categories. Includes both first and second reasons when given; total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

39. IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN CHOOSING CHILD CARE, BY AGE OF CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,444
	<1 n=225	1-2 n=480	3-5 n=561	6-9 n=555	10-12 n=440	13-14 n=183	
A caregiver who has special training in taking care of children							
Very important	79.6%	74.2%	73.8%	70.6%	62.1%	58.2%	70.4%
Somewhat important	16.4%	23.8%	23.4%	25.8%	30.2%	34.1%	25.4%
Not important	2.7%	2.1%	2.1%	3.2%	7.3%	7.7%	3.8%
No response/don't know	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
A reasonable cost							
Very important	68.1%	63.1%	65.3%	68.3%	70.7%	71.0%	67.2%
Somewhat important	29.2%	31.7%	31.7%	27.5%	25.2%	25.1%	28.9%
Not important	2.2%	4.4%	2.8%	3.6%	3.9%	3.8%	3.5%
No response	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%
A place close to home							
Very important	61.8%	58.8%	66.3%	67.2%	67.3%	60.1%	64.3%
Somewhat important	31.6%	34.8%	28.9%	28.8%	28.2%	36.6%	30.7%
Not important	6.2%	6.0%	4.8%	3.6%	4.3%	3.3%	4.7%
No response	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
A small number of children in the same class, home, or group							
Very important	69.9%	74.4%	62.9%	59.8%	59.1%	58.7%	64.1%
Somewhat important	28.8%	24.0%	34.3%	35.7%	34.5%	33.2%	32.0%
Not important	0.9%	1.7%	2.3%	4.5%	5.9%	8.2%	3.6%
No response	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%
A place where children will be cared for when they are sick							
Very important	65.9%	52.3%	55.4%	62.1%	59.7%	67.8%	59.0%
Somewhat important	17.7%	24.0%	24.6%	21.8%	21.4%	16.4%	22.0%
Not important	15.0%	21.9%	18.6%	15.5%	17.8%	14.2%	17.7%
No response	1.3%	1.8%	1.4%	0.5%	1.1%	1.6%	1.2%
A caregiver who is a relative or family member							
Very important	40.0%	33.4%	30.4%	29.9%	36.1%	36.6%	33.2%
Somewhat important	38.7%	40.3%	40.4%	39.9%	35.9%	37.2%	39.1%
Not important	20.9%	26.1%	29.1%	30.0%	28.0%	26.2%	27.5%
No response	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%

40. IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN CHOOSING CHILD CARE, BY TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT

	Youngest child's primary arrangement						Total N=948
	Relative n=162	Informal n=111	Child care home n=305	Center n=255	Activities n=98	Self care n=19	
A caregiver who has special training in taking care of children							
Very important	66.7%	53.2%	71.5%	80.3%	69.1%	61.1%	70.5%
Somewhat important	27.8%	42.3%	27.9%	18.5%	24.7%	33.3%	26.8%
Not important	5.6%	4.5%	0.7%	1.2%	5.2%	5.6%	2.6%
No response/don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.1%
A reasonable cost							
Very important	76.5%	64.9%	65.0%	67.8%	66.0%	73.7%	67.9%
Somewhat important	19.8%	27.9%	33.7%	29.8%	28.9%	26.3%	29.0%
Not important	3.7%	7.2%	1.3%	2.0%	5.2%	0.0%	2.9%
No response	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
A place close to home							
Very important	67.7%	63.6%	68.2%	64.6%	60.2%	50.0%	65.5%
Somewhat important	26.7%	30.9%	28.5%	31.5%	38.8%	44.4%	30.6%
Not important	5.6%	4.5%	3.3%	3.9%	1.0%	5.6%	3.8%
No response	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
A small number of children in the same class, home, or group							
Very important	62.7%	64.5%	62.6%	60.8%	60.8%	52.6%	62.1%
Somewhat important	33.5%	30.9%	34.8%	36.9%	30.9%	31.6%	34.1%
Not important	3.7%	4.5%	2.6%	2.4%	7.2%	15.8%	3.7%
No response	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.1%
A place where children will be cared for when they are sick							
Very important	68.5%	57.7%	54.1%	50.6%	53.1%	52.6%	56.0%
Somewhat important	17.9%	27.0%	27.9%	29.8%	19.4%	47.4%	26.1%
Not important	13.6%	15.3%	17.0%	18.4%	26.5%	0.0%	17.3%
No response	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.2%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%
A caregiver who is a relative or family member							
Very important	45.3%	28.8%	16.8%	14.1%	38.8%	22.2%	24.7%
Somewhat important	35.4%	39.6%	41.8%	45.5%	38.8%	33.3%	41.0%
Not important	19.3%	31.5%	41.1%	40.4%	22.4%	44.4%	34.3%
No response	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Note: "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time.

41. HOUSEHOLDS THAT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED OTHER KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS

Percent of households by type of current primary arrangement	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Relative care	60.0% n=20	35.3% n=34	41.2% n=17	47.8% n=46	19.4% n=36	* n=9	38.3% N=162
Informal care by a non-relative	* n=8	67.7% n=31	45.8% n=24	55.6% n=27	46.2% n=13	* n=7	51.8% N=110
Family child care home	58.1% n=31	56.6% n=113	55.8% n=113	43.6% n=39	* n=7	* n=1	54.3% N=304
Center-based care	65.0% n=20	72.2% n=54	51.9% n=108	55.7% n=61	58.3% 12	-- n=0	58.4% N=255
Activities, clubs, etc.	-- n=0	* n=1	20.0% n=10	16.1% n=31	18.2% n=33	19.0% n=21	17.7% N=96
Self care by child	-- n=0	-- n=0	-- n=0	* n=1	50.0% n=10	* n=8	36.8% N=19
All types combined	58.2% n=79	58.4% n=233	51.1% n=272	45.9% n=205	30.6% n=111	17.4% n=46	48.3% N=946

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than ten households in the group. "Current primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spent the most time in the survey week.

42. HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAD NO REALISTIC OPTIONS OTHER THAN THEIR CURRENT ARRANGEMENT

Percent of households by type of current primary arrangement	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Relative care	0.0% n=20	2.9% n=34	5.9% n=17	2.2% n=46	5.6% n=36	* n=9	3.1% N=162
Informal care by a non-relative	* n=8	0.0% n=31	0.0% n=24	3.7% n=27	0.0% n=13	* n=7	1.8% N=110
Family child care home	3.2% n=31	8.0% n=113	6.2% n=113	10.3% n=39	* n=7	* n=1	7.2% N=304
Center-based care	0.0% n=20	1.9% n=54	4.6% n=108	1.6% n=61	8.3% n=12	-- n=0	3.1% N=255
Activities, clubs, etc.	-- n=0	* n=1	0.0% n=10	3.2% n=31	3.0% n=33	14.3% n=21	5.2% N=96
Self care by child	-- n=0	-- n=0	-- n=0	* n=1	10.0% n=10	* n=8	10.5% N=19
All types combined	2.5% n=79	4.7% n=233	4.8% n=272	3.9% n=205	5.4% n=111	8.7% n=46	4.7% N=946

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than ten households in the group. "Current primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spent the most time in the survey week.

43. KIND OF ARRANGEMENT MOST SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, BY AGE OF CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=462
	<1 n=46	1-2 n=139	3-5 n=140	6-9 n=94	10-12 n=33	13-14 n=10	
Parent care	21.7%	24.4%	15.0%	7.4%	18.2%	10.0%	17.1%
Relative care	8.7%	14.4%	7.9%	7.5%	6.1%	0.0%	9.5%
Informal care by a non-relative	13.0%	4.3%	7.1%	6.4%	9.1%	10.0%	6.9%
Family child care home	28.3%	20.1%	20.0%	37.2%	12.1%	0.0%	23.4%
Center-based care	28.3%	29.5%	43.6%	37.2%	42.5%	50.0%	36.6%
Activities, clubs, etc.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	9.1%	30.0%	1.4%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Other ("day care" (unspecified); group home; school, "don't know")	0.0%	2.1%	1.4%	2.2%	3.0%	0.0%	1.6%

Note: Shows the type of arrangement most seriously considered by the parent when selecting the youngest child's current primary arrangement.

44. KIND OF ARRANGEMENT MOST SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, BY TYPE OF PRIMARY ARRANGEMENT

	Youngest child's primary arrangement						Total N=457
	Relative n=60	Informal n=58	Child care home n=165	Center n=149	Activities n=17	Self care n=8	
Parent care	8.4%	22.4%	31.6%	15.5%	0.0%	*	20.4%
Relative care	5.0%	8.6%	9.7%	10.8%	5.9%	*	9.4%
Informal home-based care by a non-relative	8.30%	5.2%	1.8%	13.4%	5.9%	*	7.7%
Formal home-based care (family child care home)	30.0%	15.5%	11.5%	36.2%	17.7%	*	22.8%
Center-based care	48.3%	46.5%	43.6%	22.2%	23.5%	*	36.5%
Activities, clubs, etc.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	41.2%	*	1.5%
Self care by child	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	*	0.2%
Other ("day care" (unspecified); group home; school, "don't know")	0.0%	1.7%	1.8%	2.0%	0.0%	*	1.5%

Note: Shows the type of arrangement most seriously considered by the parent when selecting the youngest child's current primary arrangement.

45. MAIN REASON FOR ENDING PREVIOUS CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT, BY AGE OF CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=682
	<1 n=38	1-2 n=147	3-5 n=147	6-9 n=204	10-12 n=104	13-14 n=42	
Arrangement was temporary	34.2%	35.4%	29.3%	30.9%	43.3%	52.4%	34.9%
School year started/ended	10.5%	2.0%	6.8%	21.1%	17.3%	7.1%	11.9%
Provider closed/stopped providing care	7.9%	18.4%	16.3%	6.4%	3.8%	0.0%	10.4%
Arrangement was seasonal	2.6%	2.0%	6.8%	8.8%	14.4%	23.8%	8.4%
Parent or child unhappy with program	5.3%	11.6%	10.2%	2.9%	1.9%	0.0%	6.2%
Parent changed job/schedule	13.2%	5.4%	3.4%	7.4%	3.8%	2.4%	5.6%
Respondent/child moved	0.0%	4.8%	5.4%	3.4%	1.9%	2.4%	3.7%
Preferred program became available	5.3%	3.4%	4.1%	4.4%	1.0%	0.0%	3.4%
Could no longer afford care/program	5.3%	2.7%	4.1%	2.9%	1.0%	0.0%	2.8%
Parent wanted to stay with children	0.0%	4.8%	2.7%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Parent stopped working/finished school	2.6%	2.7%	1.4%	2.0%	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%
Child exceeded age of old program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Child reached age for new program	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%	3.8%	0.0%	0.9%
Problems with staff/provider turnover	2.6%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Wanted educational program	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Started having to stay home with other dependents	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other incl. don't know	10.5%	4.1%	6.8%	6.0%	4.0%	11.9%	5.8%

Note: Response to an open-ended question, grouped by category. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. Asked only of parents who self-identified a non-parental, non-K-12-school primary arrangement.

46. MAIN REASON FOR ENDING PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT, BY TYPE OF PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT

	Type of previous arrangement							Total N=678
	Parent n=20	School (K-12) n=8	Relative n=190	Informal n=112	Child care home n=153	Center n=134	Activities n=61	
Arrangement was temporary	35.0%	12.5%	66.8%	37.5%	17.0%	4.5%	49.2%	35.2%
School year started/ended	10.0%	50.0%	5.3%	8.0%	8.5%	26.9%	8.2%	11.6%
Provider closed/stopped providing care	15.0%	0.0%	6.8%	14.3%	23.5%	2.2%	0.0%	10.5%
Arrangement was seasonal	10.0%	12.5%	2.6%	7.1%	5.2%	10.4%	36.1%	8.8%
Parent or child unhappy with program	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	5.4%	11.8%	11.2%	0.0%	6.0%
Parent changed job/schedule	15.0%	12.5%	4.2%	7.1%	7.2%	3.7%	0.0%	5.3%
Respondent/child moved	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	5.4%	4.6%	7.5%	0.0%	3.5%
Preferred program became available	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	3.6%	4.6%	6.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Could no longer afford care/program	5.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%	8.2%	3.3%	2.7%
Parent stopped working/finished school	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	1.8%	1.3%	4.5%	3.3%	2.1%
Parent wanted to stay with children	0.0%	12.5%	1.1%	0.9%	3.3%	3.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Child exceeded age of old program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	3.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Child reached age for new program	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	2.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%
Problems with staff/provider turnover	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.4%
Wanted educational program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Started having to stay home with other dependents	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other incl. don't know	10.0%	0.0%	7.3%	6.3%	6.7%	7.3%	0.0%	6.2%

Note: Response to an open-ended question, grouped by category. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. No respondent identified self care as the type of their most recent previous arrangement.

47. HOUSEHOLDS THAT REPORT THEY HAD TO TAKE WHATEVER ARRANGEMENT THEY COULD GET

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Percent of all households	11.5% n=78	22.8% n=237	19.0% n=274	24.3% n=206	26.1% n=111	16.7% n=48	21.2% N=954
Percent of households on subsidy waiting list	* n=6	30.0% n=10	20.0% n=10	* n=9	* n=1	* n=1	24.3% N=37
Percent of low-income households	18.5% n=27	27.1% n=59	29.8% n=84	29.3% n=58	25.9% n=27	40.0% n=15	28.1% N=270
Percent of households with non-standard work schedules	23.1% n=13	28.9% n=38	16.7% n=36	28.6% n=42	42.9% n=21	* n=8	26.6% N=158
Percent of households with 3 or more non-parental arrangements	15.4% n=13	14.5% n=55	19.1% n=110	20.5% n=83	29.3% n=58	21.4% n=14	20.4% N=333

	Type of primary arrangement							Total
	Parent/ school only	Relative	Informal	Child care home	Center	Activities	Self care	
Percent of all households	17.3% n=150	25.1% n=139	19.6% n=92	21.8% n=285	23.5% n=213	10.2% n=49	20.6% n=29	21.1% N=957
Percent of households on subsidy waiting list	* n=7	* n=6	* n=4	41.6% n=12	* n=8	-- n=0	* n=1	26.4% N=38
Percent of low-income households	27.5% n=40	27.2% n=59	27.6% n=29	30.0% n=73	27.3% n=55	* n=8	* n=6	27.4% N=270
Percent of households with non-standard work schedules	23.0% n=26	30.4% n=33	30.0% n=20	27.8% n=36	23.5% n=34	* n=7	* n=2	26.6% N=158
Percent of households with 3 or more non-parental arrangements	25.5% n=47	28.9% n=59	18.8% n=32	17.1% n=88	19.5% n=72	4.2% n=24	25.0% n=12	20.4% N=334

Note: Table shows percent reporting “sometimes,” “usually,” or “always” in response to the statement, “In choosing child care for [youngest child], I’ve felt I had to take whatever I could get.”

48. OPINIONS ON SAFE AGE FOR SELF CARE: PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO FEEL IT IS SAFE, IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD, FOR A CHILD TO BE LEFT TO CARE FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF ON A REGULAR BASIS

Age at which a child may safely care for himself or herself:	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,445
	<1 n=225	1-2 n=480	3-5 n=561	6-9 n=554	10-12 n=442	13-14 n=183	
3 years old or younger	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%
7 years old or younger	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%
8 years old or younger	1.6%	3.7%	2.5%	1.6%	3.0%	0.5%	2.4%
9 years old or younger	4.7%	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	2.1%	4.9%
10 years old or younger	15.4%	19.9%	19.6%	17.5%	23.6%	9.2%	18.8%
11 years old or younger	23.0%	29.5%	31.0%	32.5%	42.2%	22.3%	31.7%
12 years old or younger	60.9%	60.6%	67.7%	66.8%	73.1%	60.7%	65.9%
13 years old or younger	80.0%	78.3%	83.6%	82.9%	86.4%	80.9%	82.4%
14 years old or younger	92.0%	90.0%	93.0%	93.1%	93.7%	92.9%	92.5%
18 years old or younger	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

49. MEAN LENGTH OF TIME A CHILD OF THAT AGE COULD BE LEFT TO CARE FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,419
	<1 n=223	1-2 n=472	3-5 n=553	6-9 n=549	10-12 n=440	13-14 n=182	
7 years old	*	*	*	*	*	*	1:54
8 years old	*	1:29	1:53	*	1:29	*	1:36
9 years old	*	*	1:36	1:54	1:31	*	1:46
10 years old	2:12	1:59	1:48	2:23	2:34	2:12	2:11
11 years old	2:07	2:22	3:03	2:42	3:10	2:19	2:47
12 years old	3:12	2:54	2:59	3:23	3:28	3:21	3:11
13 years old	3:45	3:34	3:08	3:39	3:30	3:21	3:29
14 years old	3:20	3:24	2:57	3:44	4:31	4:08	3:35
15 years or older	4:38	6:12	7:46	6:04	5:15	4:10	6:03
Mean, all ages combined	3:11	3:08	3:05	3:19	3:21	3:14	3:13

Note: Time shown as hours:minutes.

50. USE OF CHILD CARE THAT MAY NOT BE THE PREFERRED TYPE OF CARE, BY AGE OF CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
A. On subsidy waiting list who would change arrangements if they received the subsidy (percent of those on waiting list)	*	*	*	*	*	*	25.0% N=20
	n=60	n=212	n=244	n=168	n=87	n=34	N=805
B. Had no realistic options other than their current type of care	3.3%	4.7%	4.9%	4.1%	5.7%	8.6%	4.8%
C. If they had to do it over, would choose the same arrangement again (percent responding "never," "rarely," or "sometimes")	1.7%	3.8%	8.6%	9.0%	2.3%	3.0%	6.0%
D. In choosing child care, felt they had to take whatever they could get (percent responding "usually" or "always")	4.9%	7.1%	6.2%	6.6%	10.5%	8.8%	7.0%
E. Would rather change from current primary arrangement	8.5%	8.0%	9.4%	16.1%	4.6%	0.0%	9.5%
F. At least one of A - E above	16.7%	18.6%	20.0%	24.8%	18.6%	23.5%	20.4%
	n=60	n=210	n=245	n=165	n=86	n=34	N=800

Note: In lines B-F the number shown as the basis for percents is the number of families who self-identified an "arrangement used most often" and who responded to the questions related to that arrangement. All figures include only families regularly using child care for at least five hours per week.

51. USE OF CHILD CARE THAT MAY NOT BE THE PREFERRED TYPE OF CARE, BY TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT

	Youngest child's primary arrangement						Total
	Relative	Informal	Child care home	Center	Activities	Self care	
A. On subsidy waiting list who would change arrangements if they received the subsidy (percent of those on waiting list)	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.7% N=13
	n=125	n=88	n=288	n=232	n=56	n=14	N=803
B. Had no realistic options other than their current type of care	0.0%	2.3%	7.3%	3.0%	5.4%	6.7%	4.7%
C. If they had to do it over, would choose the same arrangement again (percent responding "never," "rarely," or "sometimes")	4.8%	10.2%	5.6%	7.2%	1.8%	0.0%	6.1%
D. In choosing child care, felt they had to take whatever they could get (percent responding "usually" or "always")	4.8%	10.2%	5.6%	7.2%	1.8%	0.0%	6.1%
E. Would rather change from current primary arrangement	8.9%	11.4%	6.3%	15.1%	5.4%	0.0%	9.6%
F. At least one of A – E above	20.7% n=121	20.9% n=86	19.9% n=287	21.9% n=228	12.0% n=50	14.3% n=14	20.1% N=786

Note: In lines B-F the number shown as the basis for percents is the number of families who self-identified an "arrangement used most often" and who responded to the questions related to that arrangement. All figures include only families regularly using child care for at least five hours per week. Number in line A includes fewer cases than that shown in the line A of Figure 50 because not all respondents identified a current primary arrangement.

52. TRANSPORTATION TIME (ONE WAY)

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Length of time from home to youngest child's primary arrangement							
	n=78	n=234	n=275	n=203	n=111	n=48	N=949
In own home	11.5%	13.2%	8.4%	22.7%	36.9%	37.5%	17.7%
A couple of minutes	16.7%	14.1%	15.3%	13.8%	10.8%	6.3%	13.8%
5 minutes or less	25.6%	22.2%	26.5%	23.6%	10.8%	18.8%	22.6%
6-9 minutes	14.1%	16.7%	19.3%	14.8%	18.0%	10.4%	16.6%
10-20 minutes	24.4%	23.5%	24.7%	21.7%	18.0%	18.8%	22.7%
21-30 minutes	2.6%	6.8%	4.7%	2.5%	1.8%	2.1%	4.1%
More than 30 minutes	5.1%	3.4%	1.1%	1.0%	3.6%	2.1%	2.3%
Don't know / refused	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.2%
Mean number of minutes to get all children in the household to child care on a typical day							
All families using child care	9 n=224	13 n=465	14 n=544	12 n=534	11 n=423	16 n=174	13 N=2364
Only families with transit time	18 n=107	21 n=302	20 n=388	24 n=278	28 n=170	38 n=73	23 N=1318

Note: "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the youngest sampled child spent the most time. The question about transportation to the youngest child's primary arrangement was answered only by parents who identified a primary arrangement other than parent or school (K-12) care. The question about time to take all children to child care was asked of all families.

53. TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY CHILD TO GET TO AND FROM PRIMARY ARRANGEMENT

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=649
	<1 n=55	1-2 n=168	3-5 n=210	6-9 n=133	10-12 n=57	13-14 n=26	
Family vehicle	100.0%	97.0%	95.7%	79.7%	73.7%	53.8%	89.5%
Public transportation	0.0%	0.6%	1.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
School bus	0.0%	0.6%	1.4%	7.5%	10.5%	23.1%	4.0%
Child care provider picks child up	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	1.8%	3.8%	0.8%
Someone else takes child	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.8%	3.8%	0.5%
Child walks/bikes	0.0%	1.2%	1.0%	4.6%	8.8%	3.8%	2.5%
Car pool	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Other (mix of types; plane)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	3.6%	7.6%	1.6%

Note: Response to open-ended question, grouped by category. Asked only of respondents who self-identified a primary arrangement for the youngest child. "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time.

54. PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING THAT TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CHILD CARE IS A PROBLEM

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=2,402
	<1 n=226	1-2 n=476	3-5 n=548	6-9 n=542	10-12 n=432	13-14 n=178	
A big problem	2.7%	3.4%	1.8%	1.5%	3.9%	1.7%	2.5%
Somewhat of a problem	11.1%	8.0%	10.6%	9.8%	10.2%	11.2%	9.9%
Not a problem	86.3%	88.0%	87.2%	88.6%	85.6%	84.8%	87.1%
Don't know/refused	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	2.3%	0.4%

Note: Question asked of all respondents, concerning transportation to and from child care for all their children age 14 and younger.

Characteristics of child care arrangements, including quality and parent satisfaction (figures 55-58)

This section presents parents' reports of the quality of their youngest child's current primary arrangement, and their satisfaction with that arrangement. Readers should note that usually, in surveys of parent satisfaction, parents tend to report high levels of satisfaction with their child care when they are asked general questions. This has been found even when trained observers visiting the same providers have determined that quality was marginal. However, when parents are asked more probing questions, such as those reported at the end of the last section ("Would you change arrangements if you were to receive a subsidy?" "If you had it to do over, would you choose the same arrangement again?" "In choosing child care, I've felt I had to take whatever I could get," "Is this arrangement your number one top pick, or would you rather change?"), or the question reported in this section in Table 58 ("What one thing would you change about this arrangement?"), they generally reveal more dissatisfaction. Presenting both kinds of responses, while they may appear contradictory, helps to document a more balanced account of parents' perceptions about the quality of their child care, which is important, since current policy relies heavily on parents to make well-informed choices on the quality of the care they select.

55. Average group size

Parents were asked to report how many children are usually cared for together, in the same group at the same time, by the provider in their youngest child's primary arrangement. Relatives typically care for two children, informal caregivers (friends, neighbors, babysitters, etc.) for three, and family child care homes for eight in a group. The group size for activities (sports, clubs, lessons, etc.) averages 20 children. Parents' estimates of the group size in center-based care averages 15, ranging from seven for infants under age 1, to 25 for children ages 10 to 12.

56. Average child: adult ratio (number of children per adult in group)

Parents also reported how many adults usually care for their child at the same time in the primary arrangement. This information was combined with the reported group size to determine the child: adult ratio, or number of children per adult, for the arrangement. Relatives typically have one child per caregiver. (Given the average group size of two children reported above, this suggests there is usually more than one relative present.) Informal care has the next lowest ratio, at 1.8 children per caregiver. Family child care homes average 4.8 children per caregiver, and center-based care averages 5.0.

57. Parents' quality and satisfaction ratings for youngest child's primary arrangement

Parents tend to express strong satisfaction with the quality of their primary child care arrangements. Characteristics on which arrangements are rated highest include “my child feels safe and secure” (99% said “always” or “usually”), “my child likes the caregiver” (97%), and “the caregiver is warm and affectionate toward my child” (95%). Ninety-four percent say if they had it to do all over they would “always” or “usually” choose the same care again. Characteristics in which parents report a lesser degree of quality include “the children watch too much TV” (77% say “rarely” or “never”), “the caregiver needs more help with the children” (82% say “rarely” or “never”), and “the caregiver provides activities that are just right for my child” (82% say “always” or “usually”). Half the respondents (50%) say they always or usually rely on their caregiver to be flexible about their (the respondents’) hours.

- Three family and child care characteristics are associated with higher parental ratings of arrangements : households whose youngest child is 5 or younger, those using (on average) more hours of care, and those using the preferred type of care.
- Compared to parents using formal arrangements, parents using relatives and other informal arrangements tend to be more satisfied with the individual attention, the flexibility, and the limited turnover of their primary arrangement.
- Parents using formal arrangements, on the other hand, tend to rate these items higher: creative activities and activities that are just right for their child, the knowledge of the caregiver about children and their needs, the caregiver’s ability to meet their child’s needs (not feel they are too demanding), and not watching too much TV.

58. What one thing would you change about this arrangement?

In response to an open-ended question (responses grouped by category), 40 percent of respondents say there is nothing they would change about their youngest child’s primary child care arrangement. Fourteen percent want a better fit with the family’s schedule. Nine percent would change some aspect of the arrangement’s curriculum or activities. This includes 21 percent of parents of children in self care who would prefer less television watching (however, since the number in self care is small, this figure should be interpreted with caution). Seven percent cited some aspect of the center or arrangement’s organization, such as the age mix or age groupings, child:adult ratio, or waiting list. Six percent wished for some kind of better fit with the things that they value, including wishing they could stay home with their children (mentioned most by parents of infants and teens).

55. AVERAGE GROUP SIZE

Type of arrangement:	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=942
	<1 n=77	1-2 n=234	3-5 n=271	6-9 n=205	10-12 n=110	13-14 n=45	
Relative care	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
Informal home care by non- relative	2	3	3	2	3	3	3
Family child care home	6	7	8	10	6	28	8
Center care	7	12	14	21	25	--	15
Activities	--	14	9	19	21	25	20

Note: Figure shows the average number of children who are usually cared for together, in the same group at the same time, by the youngest child's primary caregiver. All figures rounded to nearest whole number.

56. AVERAGE CHILD:ADULT RATIO (NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER ADULT IN GROUP)

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total N=921
	<1 n=77	1-2 n=234	3-5 n=271	6-9 n=200	10-12 n=100	13-14 n=39	
Relative care	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0
Informal care by non-relative	*	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	*	1.8
Family child care home	4.3	4.3	5.3	5.6	4.2	*	4.8
Center-based care	3.1	3.4	5.9	6.3	8.3	--	5.0
Activities	--	*	4.3	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.0
Average across all types	1.9	2.6	3.8	2.4	1.7	2.1	2.6

Note: Number shown is the mean number of children per adult in the group, calculated from the number of adults who usually care for the child at the same time and the number of children usually cared for together in the same group at the same time. Asterisk (*) indicates fewer than 10 cases in the category.

57. PARENTS' QUALITY AND SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR YOUNGEST CHILD'S PRIMARY ARRANGEMENT

	Yes	No	Ref/ DK/NA			
Do you feel free to drop in at this child care arrangement without an appointment? (N=951)	95.1%	3.3%	1.6%			
	Always	Usually	Some- times	Rarely	Never	Ref/ DK/NA
My child feels safe and secure (N=950)	90.1%	8.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
The caregiver or provider is warm and affectionate toward my child (N=949)	73.2%	21.8%	3.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.9%
The caregiver and I share information about my child (N=949)	71.3%	18.5%	6.0%	2.2%	1.3%	0.7%
There are lots of creative activities going on (N=950)	46.4%	31.9%	17.4%	2.4%	1.2%	0.7%
My child gets a lot of individual attention (N=949)	37.4%	38.5%	20.2%	1.5%	0.6%	1.9%
The caregiver provides activities that are just right for my child (N=949)	45.4%	36.7%	13.2%	2.0%	1.2%	1.4%
My caregiver knows a lot about children and their needs (N=949)	63.1%	29.1%	5.5%	0.8%	0.4%	1.0%
My child likes the caregiver or provider (N=949)	76.1%	20.4%	2.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%
My caregiver feels that my child's needs are too demanding (N=949)	0.5%	0.5%	11.7%	19.8%	66.1%	1.3%
I rely on my caregiver to be flexible about my hours (N=949)	30.2%	20.0%	19.2%	9.9%	19.4%	1.4%
The caregiver needs more help with the children (N=949)	1.0%	1.2%	14.1%	23.5%	58.6%	1.5%
The children watch too much TV (N=950)	1.6%	4.5%	16.0%	22.2%	54.4%	1.3%
If I had it to do over, I would choose this care again (N=950)	80.8%	12.8%	3.6%	1.7%	0.6%	0.3%
There has been too much turnover in my child's caregivers at this arrangement (N=951)	0.3%	1.2%	6.0%	13.6%	76.4%	2.5%

Note: Respondents' reports about self-identified primary arrangement for their youngest child.

58. WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THIS ARRANGEMENT?

	Youngest child's primary arrangement						
	Relative n=158	Informal n=111	Child care home n=295	Center n=250	Activities n=92	Self care n=19	Total N=925
Nothing	48.1%	51.4%	39.3%	29.2%	50.0%	15.8%	40.1%
Better fit with family's schedule	8.2%	10.8%	15.9%	15.2%	18.5%	5.3%	13.8%
Curriculum and activities	8.9%	5.4%	13.2%	6.4%	2.2%	21.1%	8.8%
Center/program organization / characteristics	2.5%	3.6%	9.5%	9.6%	7.6%	5.3%	7.4%
Cost	1.9%	6.3%	5.1%	13.6%	5.4%	0.0%	6.9%
Better fit with family's values	11.4%	2.7%	6.4%	3.2%	1.1%	26.3%	5.8%
Provider training/experience	5.1%	2.7%	1.4%	10.0%	5.4%	15.8%	5.2%
Facility/transportation	1.9%	4.5%	1.7%	4.0%	4.3%	0.0%	2.9%
Structure and discipline	4.4%	0.9%	3.1%	2.4%	1.1%	0.0%	2.6%
Caregiver-family relationship	3.2%	3.6%	1.7%	2.4%	2.2%	0.0%	2.4%
Health / safety / nutrition	1.9%	2.7%	2.4%	3.2%	1.1%	0.0%	2.4%
Better fit with child's characteristics/needs	2.5%	2.7%	0.3%	0.8%	1.1%	5.3%	1.3%
Other	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.4%

Note: Responses to open-ended question, grouped by category. Asked only of respondents who self-identified a primary arrangement for their youngest child.

Employment issues related to child care (figures 59-64)

The Census Bureau announced this fall⁸ that, for the first time, families in which both parents work have become the majority among married couples with children. In the same release of 1998 data, they reported that a record share of new mothers were in the work force nationwide: 59 percent of married or single women with babies less than a year old were employed in 1998.

Economic and social expectations increasingly assume most adults, including parents of young children, will be in the paid work force, raising the importance of understanding how children are cared for during the time their parents are unable to be present. Minnesota's "work-first" model of welfare reform discourages the use of public funds to help parents stay home, and provides funds to support child care so parents can work. More generally, many recent reports have documented that Minnesota continues to lead the nation in the percentage of women in the work force.

Not all child care is work-related; evidence from national studies suggest that some non-working parents choose various types of care to give children social opportunities or enrichment and development experiences. However, a large proportion of child care is necessary to support parents' employment.

This section presents findings from the household survey concerning the work activities of Minnesota parents that might shape their child care needs; the ways in which child care issues affect parents' work; parents' ability to handle child care problems that arise during work hours; and parents' usual back-up arrangements for handling child care problems such as a sick child or a school closure.

This information will help policymakers assess the impact of policies that expect parents to combine their parenting activities with employment. It will also be useful to Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to help parents plan for the kinds of contingencies they may need to deal with, and it will help employers to know how to support their employees' attendance and productivity.

⁸ Bachu, A., and O'Connell, M. 2000. *Fertility of American Women: Population Characteristics*. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Report No. P20-526.

59. Work schedules of respondents (parent or most knowledgeable adult)

Information on work schedules is inexact, because respondents were asked only for starting and ending times for each day, thereby losing information for respondents who work more than one job or whose work hours are discontinuous. The design of the instrument also did not allow collecting ending time information for respondents who work overnight shifts ending after midnight, so the figures shown for early morning schedules (midnight to 8:00 a.m.) are low.

Of parents who are working (or looking for work, going to school, or in a job training program), 88 percent are doing so during standard weekday hours (Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.). Forty-five percent have work schedules that include weekday hours earlier than 8:00 a.m., 27 percent include weekday evening hours between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and 2 percent include hours later than 10:00 p.m. on at least one weekday. Twenty-one percent report work schedules that include at least some time on a Saturday or Sunday.

Twenty-three percent of working parents report that their work schedule varies from week to week. A slightly higher proportion of these parents report schedules that include weekends (35%, compared with 23% overall).

Work-related child care problems

60. By age of child

61. By type of primary arrangement

Ten percent of respondents report that child care problems have prevented them from accepting or keeping the kind of job they wanted in the past 12 months. Another 11 percent say child care problems have been “somewhat” responsible for such a problem.

Twenty-three percent of all respondents report that they or their spouse or partner have missed time from work within the past six months because of a problem with child care. This does not include occasions when the child was sick. Of respondents who have lost time from work, 8 percent say such problems have happened “often” in the last six months, and another 25 percent say they had happened “sometimes,” while 67 percent say “rarely.”

A higher proportion of parents of infants report having lost time from work “often” (19%, compared with 8% of all parents). Thirty-one percent of parents with child care homes as their youngest child’s primary arrangement report lost time from work (compared with 23 percent overall), and of these 10 percent say it has happened often. However, both of

these differences are within the range of sampling error and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Seventy percent of parents say that in their work place it is “rarely” or “never” difficult to deal with child care problems that arise during working hours. Twelve percent say it is “always” or “usually” difficult.

- Lower-income families were more likely to report that child care problems prevented them from keeping or accepting a job.
- Parents whose youngest child has two or more regular child care arrangements were more likely to have missed work due to child care problems.

62. Kind of problem that caused loss of time from work

Parents were asked to say what kind of problem they had had with their child care the last time they had lost time from work as a result, and their responses to this open-ended question were grouped by category. The most common kind of problem was illness of the child care provider (22%). Sixteen percent of parents report the problem was caused by a scheduled closing of the school or center on which they relied. Eight percent cite an unscheduled closing, and another 10 percent mention providers taking time off or holidays, without specifying whether such closure was scheduled or unscheduled. Thirteen percent say their provider had personal problems.

Among those relying mainly on relative care, the second most commonly cited kind of problem is unreliability or poor communication (21%). For those using informal care as their primary arrangement, personal problems of the provider (31%) ranks first, above illness of the provider. With child care homes, scheduled closing is the most common problem (23%), followed by illness in the provider’s family (22%). With self care, several parents report that if there are any problems they have to go home to take care of them (23%); another 23 percent reported that the child was unreliable or could not be found, or that there was poor communication with the child. However, these numbers are very small and should be interpreted with caution.

63. Backup arrangements for children who are sick

In response to an open-ended question, with responses grouped by category, three-quarters of parents (76%) say that when their child is sick, they or a spouse or partner usually stays or goes home from work to care for the child. Eight percent say a relative cares for the child, 3 percent say the child cares for himself or herself, and 3 percent say the child goes to their usual child care (non-school) arrangement.

65. Backup arrangements for school-age children when there is no school on a regular weekday

In another similar open-ended question, parents of school-age children were asked what usually happens when there is no school on a regular week day. Forty percent reported that they or a spouse or partner either stay or go home to care for the child. Twenty-six percent report that their child goes to their regular child care (non-school) arrangement. Ten percent say an older child stays home to care for the child, and 6 percent say the child cares for himself or herself.

For parents whose primary arrangement is relative care, 22 percent said an older child would be responsible on a non-school day, compared with 10 percent of parents overall. For children in family child care homes, 51 percent would go to their usual arrangement, compared with 26 percent of children overall. Of parents relying on activities for their primary arrangement, 66 percent would go or stay home from work on a non-school day, compared with 40 percent overall.

59. WORK SCHEDULES OF RESPONDENTS (PARENT OR MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ADULT)

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Percent of working respondents whose work schedules include:							
	n=125	n=333	n=385	n=443	n=346	n=151	N=1,783
Standard hours (weekdays between 8am and 5 pm)	78.4%	85.0%	87.3%	92.6%	88.2%	92.7%	88.2%
Early mornings (weekdays before 8 am)	49.6%	47.4%	45.0%	43.3%	44.3%	39.5%	44.7%
Evenings (weekdays 5 pm to 10 pm)	28.2%	28.9%	31.9%	24.6%	24.9%	23.8%	27.2%
Nights (weekdays after 10 pm)	0.8%	2.7%	0.8%	1.8%	3.2%	0.7%	1.9%
Weekends (includes Saturday and/or Sunday)	23.0%	18.5%	21.5%	19.5%	23.6%	18.0%	20.7%
	n=122	n=329	n=381	n=440	n=343	n=150	N=1,765
Respondents whose work schedule varies from week to week							
(as percent of all working respondents)	23.8%	22.8%	19.4%	23.4%	25.7%	23.2%	22.9%
	n=122	n=325	n=372	n=428	n=339	n=142	N=1,728
Respondents with variable work schedules; percent whose schedule in most recent week included:							
	n=29	n=74	n=73	n=101	n=88	n=33	N=398
Standard hours (weekdays between 8am and 5 pm)	63.3%	75.0%	80.0%	87.4%	81.8%	90.6%	80.9%
Early mornings (weekdays before 8 am)	50.0%	48.7%	51.4%	41.2%	44.3%	39.4%	45.6%
Evenings (weekdays 5 pm to 10 pm)	46.4%	41.3%	39.7%	38.0%	35.2%	33.3%	38.5%
Nights (weekdays after 10 pm)	3.6%	7.0%	1.4%	6.0%	6.8%	0.0%	4.9%
Weekends (includes Saturday and/or Sunday)	46.4%	35.7%	30.0%	34.7%	36.9%	30.3%	35.0%
	n=28	n=70	n=70	n=98	n=84	n=33	N=383

Note: Includes only respondents who are parents or primary caregivers for the youngest sampled child in the household. "Working" includes working for pay at a job, holding a job but not at work (such as on vacation, jury duty, or sick), looking for work, or going to school.

60. WORK-RELATED CHILD CARE PROBLEMS, BY AGE OF CHILD

	Age of youngest sampled child						Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12	13-14	
Respondent prevented from accepting or keeping the kind of job they want because of child care problems in the past 12 months	n=225	n=480	n=561	n=555	n=440	n=182	N=2,443
Yes	15.1%	14.4%	10.9%	7.7%	5.9%	2.7%	9.7%
Yes, somewhat	10.7%	12.5%	11.4%	12.1%	9.3%	9.3%	11.2%
No	74.2%	73.1%	77.7%	80.0%	84.8%	87.9%	79.0%
Respondent, spouse, or partner lost time from work with past 6 months because of a child care problem	n=224	n=473	n=547	n=539	n=431	n=177	N=2,391
Late for work	10.3%	14.2%	11.2%	10.0%	6.3%	7.3%	10.3%
Left work early	17.9%	18.9%	13.3%	17.4%	12.1%	13.5%	15.6%
Missed entire day of work	12.5%	17.1%	12.4%	11.3%	7.0%	5.6%	11.6%
At least one of the above	23.2%	29.6%	22.4%	23.4%	16.2%	16.4%	22.6%
Of households who lost time from work, how often in the past 6 months:	n=52	n=140	n=123	n=126	n=70	n=29	N=540
Rarely	55.8%	60.7%	70.7%	70.6%	70.0%	79.3%	67.0%
Sometimes	25.0%	32.1%	23.6%	19.8%	25.7%	17.2%	25.0%
Often	19.2%	7.1%	5.7%	9.5%	4.3%	3.4%	8.0%
Difficulty of dealing with child care problems at work	n=124	n=337	n=390	n=446	n=361	n=155	N=1,813
Always difficult	8.1%	8.3%	7.2%	7.0%	5.8%	7.7%	7.2%
Usually difficult	5.6%	7.4%	4.1%	2.5%	3.9%	5.2%	4.5%
Sometimes difficult	16.1%	16.9%	19.5%	17.9%	16.6%	15.5%	17.5%
Rarely difficult	25.8%	30.0%	29.5%	27.6%	31.3%	30.3%	29.3%
Never difficult	42.7%	35.9%	39.7%	44.2%	42.1%	41.3%	40.9%
Don't know	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%

Note: "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time, other than parent or school (K-12) care.

61. WORK-RELATED CHILD CARE PROBLEMS, BY TYPE OF PRIMARY ARRANGEMENT

	Youngest child's primary arrangement							Total
	Parent/ school only	Relative	Informal	Child care home	Center	Activities	Self care	
Respondent prevented from accepting or keeping the kind of job they want because of child care problems in the past 12 months	n=1076	n=384	n=142	n=343	n=289	n=88	n=93	N=2,415
Yes	12.5%	10.7%	10.6%	8.2%	5.9%	2.3%	2.2%	9.9%
Yes, somewhat	9.9%	12.8%	12.0%	9.3%	16.6%	6.8%	14.0%	11.3%
No	77.6%	76.3%	77.5%	82.5%	77.5%	90.9%	83.9%	78.8%
Respondent, spouse, or partner lost time from work with past 6 months because of a child care problem	n=1062	n=383	n=138	n=341	n=287	n=89	n=93	N=2,392
Late for work	8.4%	11.2%	13.8%	13.8%	11.1%	5.7%	11.8%	10.3%
Left work early	13.2%	13.1%	20.3%	21.4%	16.7%	17.0%	19.6%	15.6%
Missed entire day of work	8.9%	12.0%	14.5%	18.5%	14.6%	5.6%	6.5%	11.6%
At least one of the above	17.8%	23.2%	29.9%	31.4%	24.4%	22.5%	25.8%	22.6%
Of households who lost time from work, how often in the past 6 months:	n=189	n=89	n=41	n=107	n=70	n=19	n=24	n=539
Rarely	67.7%	69.7%	82.9%	64.5%	54.3%	73.7%	70.8%	67.2%
Sometimes	22.8%	25.8%	12.2%	25.2%	41.4%	10.5%	16.7%	24.7%
Often	9.5%	4.5%	4.9%	10.3%	4.3%	15.8%	12.5%	8.2%
Difficulty of dealing with child care problems at work	n=651	n=324	n=114	n=330	n=233	n=74	n=87	N=1,813
Always difficult	5.4%	9.9%	12.3%	6.1%	6.9%	4.1%	11.5%	7.2%
Usually difficult	4.3%	4.0%	6.1%	5.5%	3.9%	2.7%	4.6%	4.5%
Sometimes difficult	17.2%	13.3%	11.4%	20.9%	20.6%	24.3%	17.2%	17.5%
Rarely difficult	28.1%	28.7%	25.4%	31.2%	35.6%	27.0%	23.0%	29.3%
Never difficult	44.4%	42.9%	44.7%	35.5%	33.0%	41.9%	43.7%	40.9%
Don't know	0.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%

Note: "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time, other than parent or school (K-12) care.

62. KIND OF PROBLEM THAT CAUSED LOSS OF TIME FROM WORK

	Child's primary arrangement						Total N=273
	Relative n=75	Informal n=39	Child care home n=86	Center n=50	Activities n=10	Self care n=13	
Provider was ill	29.3%	28.2%	19.8%	10.0%	20.0%	15.4%	21.6%
School or center closed (scheduled closing)	6.7%	0.0%	23.3%	30.0%	10.0%	15.4%	15.8%
Provider had personal problems	10.7%	30.8%	10.5%	8.0%	10.0%	7.7%	12.8%
Provider unreliable/unable to be found; poor communication with provider	21.3%	15.4%	3.5%	8.0%	10.0%	23.1%	12.1%
Provider's family was ill	5.3%	7.7%	22.1%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.6%
Provider taking time off, or holiday (unspecified whether scheduled or not)	13.3%	10.3%	9.3%	8.0%	10.0%	0.0%	9.9%
School or center closed (unscheduled closing)	4.0%	5.1%	10.5%	16.0%	10.0%	0.0%	8.4%
Other, including "don't know"	9.3%	0.0%	1.2%	14.0%	30.0%	38.5%	8.4%

Note: Response to open-ended question, grouped by category. Percents may not total to 100 due to rounding. Includes only families with children in child care. "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time, other than parent or school (K-12) care. Because many children have multiple arrangements, the primary arrangement is not necessarily the arrangement that caused the loss of time from work.

63. BACKUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK

	Child's primary arrangement						Total N=273
	Relative n=75	Informal n=39	Child care home n=86	Center n=50	Activities n=10	Self care n=13	
Parent/spouse/partner stays or goes home	66.1%	66.1%	87.8%	85.7%	78.6%	58.7%	75.7%
Relative cares for child	12.7%	3.1%	5.7%	7.5%	3.1%	4.6%	7.5%
Child cares for self	2.2%	2.5%	0.3%	0.3%	7.4%	22.0%	3.4%
Child goes to regular arrangement (other than school)	4.2%	10.5%	2.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.8%	3.0%
Parent takes child to work	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%	1.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.0%
Neighbor or friend cares for child	0.4%	2.5%	0.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%
Parent hires a sitter	0.2%	2.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Older child stays home to care for the sick child	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%
Other, including combinations of above or "don't know"	3.5%	0.6%	1.2%	1.3%	2.4%	1.8%	2.1%
Not applicable	8.8%	11.7%	1.1%	2.9%	5.5%	10.1%	5.9%

Note: Response to open-ended question, grouped by category. Percents may not total 100 due to rounding. Includes only families with children in child care. "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time, other than parent or school (K-12) care.

64. BACKUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WHEN THERE IS NO SCHOOL ON A REGULAR WEEKDAY

	Child's primary arrangement						Total N=1,123
	Relative n=304	Informal n=114	Child care home n=221	Center n=236	Activities n=151	Self care n=97	
Parent (or spouse/partner) stays or goes home	34.2%	43.9%	32.1%	41.9%	66.2%	27.8%	40.2%
Child goes to regular arrangement (other than school)	17.1%	25.4%	51.1%	33.5%	4.6%	10.3%	25.8%
Older child stays home to care for the child	22.0%	7.0%	3.6%	4.2%	4.6%	10.3%	9.8%
Relative cares for child	17.1%	2.6%	2.3%	9.3%	6.0%	5.2%	8.5%
Child cares for self	3.0%	2.6%	1.4%	1.3%	11.3%	37.1%	6.3%
Neighbor or friend cares for child	2.3%	5.3%	0.9%	1.7%	2.6%	1.0%	2.1%
Parent hires a sitter	0.3%	5.3%	2.7%	1.3%	0.0%	3.1%	1.7%
Parent takes child to work	0.3%	2.6%	1.4%	3.0%	0.7%	1.0%	1.4%
Other, including combinations of the above, "depends," and "don't know"	3.6%	5.3%	4.5%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%

Note: Response to open-ended question, grouped by category. Percents may not total 100 due to rounding. Includes only families with children in child care. "Primary arrangement" is the one in which the child spends the most time, other than parent or school (K-12) care.