



# COVID-19 CHILD CARE SURVEY

## Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on Young Children, their Families, and Child Care Needs

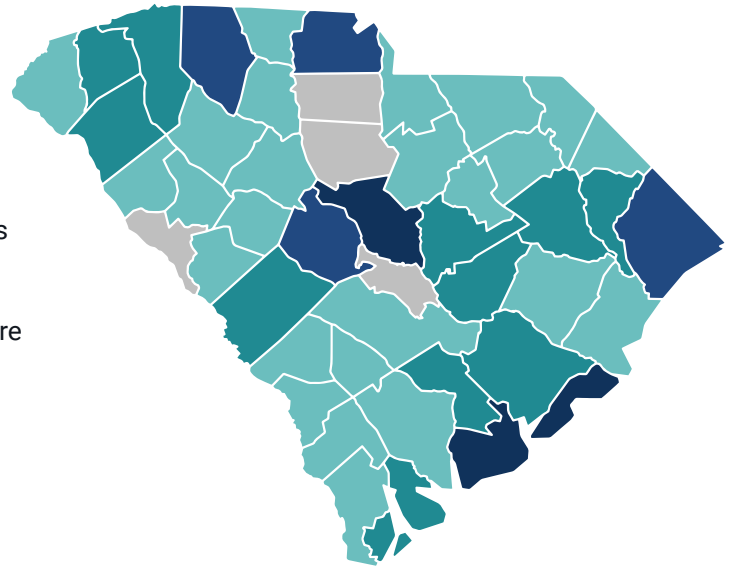
A state of emergency was issued for South Carolina on March 13, 2020. From July 10 to August 9, 2020, we surveyed parents and caregivers of children 0-5 in South Carolina. Our findings represent 1,245 responses from 42 of 46 counties across the state.

SEPTEMBER 2020

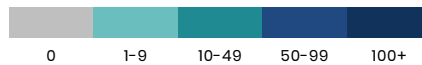
\*update 2/1/2022

### KEY FINDINGS

- Disruptions in child care have required parents and caregivers of young children to modify or reduce their work hours.
- Since March 13, 2020, families have relied on unpaid child care as the most common type of child care arrangement.
- Currently available child care options are not adequate for many working families.
- This crisis poses an acute threat to the wellbeing of young children and their families.
- There is no one-size-fits-all solution.



Survey respondents by county



### RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

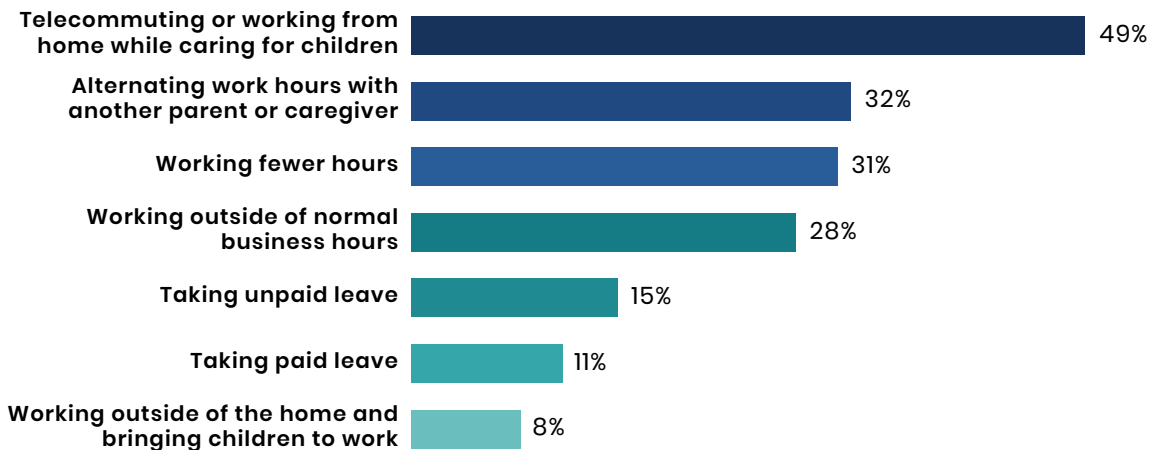
Survey respondents most frequently identified as residing in the Midlands, white, and 35-44 years old.

**56%** of respondents worked part-time or full-time over the past month

**53%** identified as an essential worker, among those who worked at least part-time over the past month

**54%** of respondents identified as a parent (biological, adoptive, or step) to the young children in their household

Parents and caregivers of young children have had to adapt their work schedules in response to changing child care arrangements. Most report alternating work hours with another adult or working fewer hours since March 13, 2020.



I'm continuously going from job to job because of child care arrangements. Employers don't want to work with the hours I can work. It's hard trying to keep a steady job and having to pay for someone to watch my kids.

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

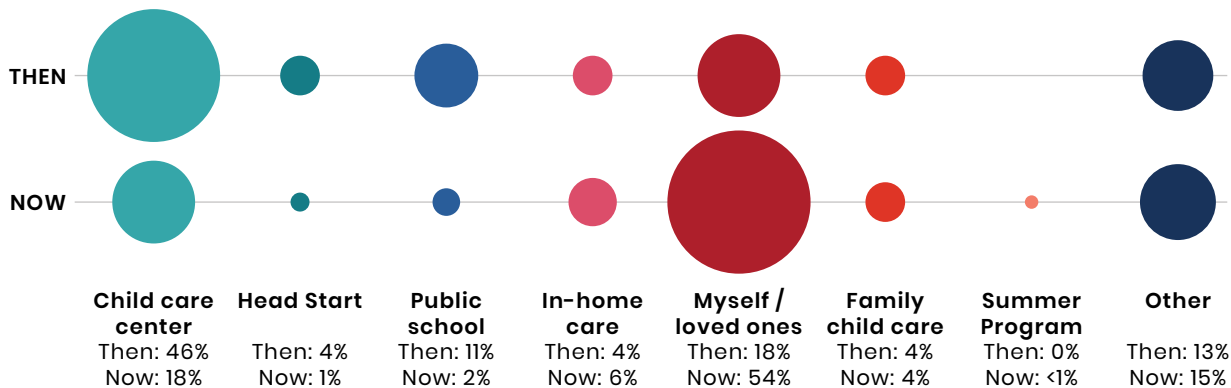
“ It’s exhausting to manage child care and the duties of my job. It feels like I’m failing at both sometimes; being a mom and my job.

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

“ Unfortunately, we need to be a two income family. With COVID-19 we have become a one-income family. We need one parent at home with our immunocompromised child. Before COVID began we weren’t as wary of nannies or small daycare center but now we can not risk it.

PARENT OF 2 YOUNG CHILDREN, PEE DEE

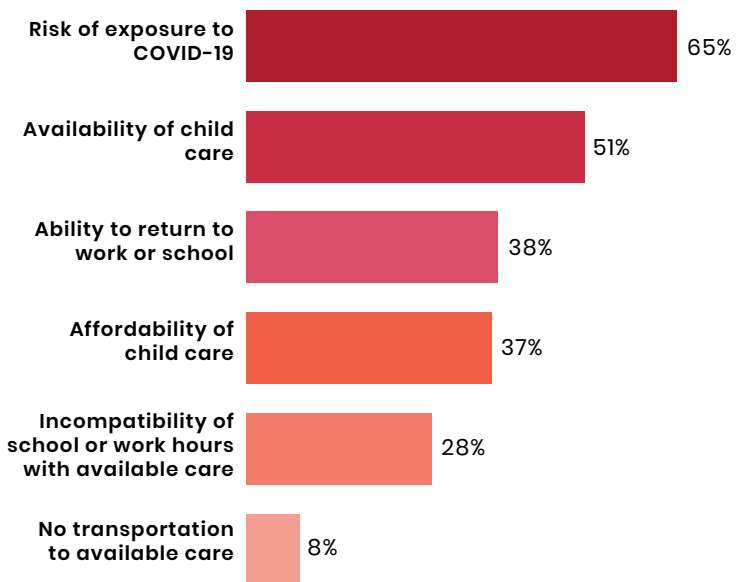
**Child care arrangements have shifted from center-based to unpaid care.** Before March 13, 33% of families reported using a child care center. Now 38% report using unpaid care.



“ We would prefer to have an in-home nanny to reduce the risk for COVID exposures. At this time, we are not able to afford such an arrangement. We are too concerned about COVID to send our child back to daycare but what we are doing is not sustainable either. I also worry that my child is not getting exposure to other children. Everything about this is hard.

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

**Most families report that they are moderately or very concerned about COVID-19 exposure** when thinking about child care over the next three months.



**Most parents and caregivers worry about the effects of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of their children and families.**

**83%** That their young children are missing out on important developmental opportunities, e.g. socialization and learning

**75%** The mental health of their young children

**72%** Their own mental health

**67%** Their ability to meet the basic needs of their families

**39%** That their children with special health care or educational needs are not receiving adequate support

“ My child care was perfect then my sitter became concerned about leaving her house and catching COVID. I was not worried but she locked herself up in the house and my sitter was gone.

GRANDPARENT OF 2 YOUNG CHILDREN, UPSTATE

**59%** of parents and caregivers say they are **more stressed and anxious** than usual.