

# Annex A – Initial findings from parental consultation exercise

## Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010

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## Background & methodology

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City of York Council's Family Information Service (FIS) were interested in understanding the views of parents and carers who currently use childcare or would like to use childcare in the city.

A paper survey was sent to known childcare users and were also available at care centres across the city. Respondents also had the option of completing the survey online via the council's website.

The survey asked about opinions of childcare, reasons for not using childcare and individual's childcare needs.

A total of 618 completed questionnaires were returned, giving a response rate of 3%.

Data-processing was carried out by an independent research agency. The report was written by the market research team, Performance & Improvement.



## Statistical reliability explained

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Based on statistical rules, the *overall results* from this survey are accurate to within +/- 3.9% at the 95% confidence level.

This means that if the exact same survey was carried out 100 times, 95 out of 100 times the results would not be more or less than 3.9% from the figures in this report.

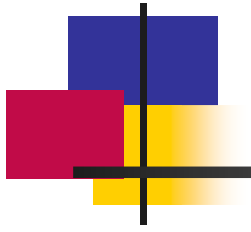
This level is superior to the accepted industry standard of +/- 5%.

The statistical accuracy of *results at sub-level* will vary. As a guide, a base size of 100 will have an accuracy level of +/- 9.8% at the 95% confidence level, 300 at +/- 5.6% and 500 at +/- 4.3%.

This report shows the figures for respondents who gave a definite response to each question so base sizes will vary where questions have not been completed.

Where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple coding (respondents could choose more than one option) or computer rounding.

All reported differences are statistically significant unless otherwise stated.



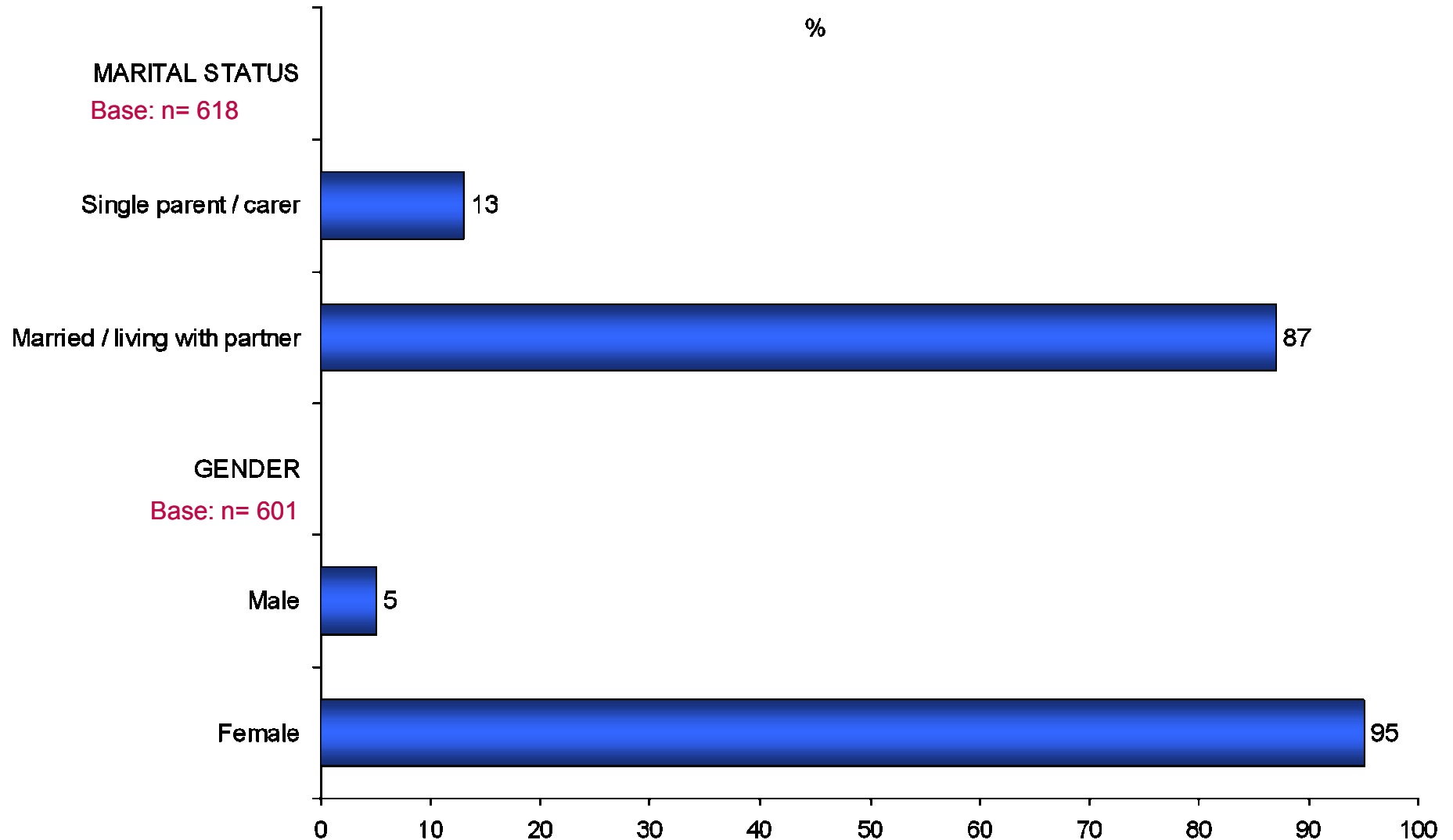
## Sample profile

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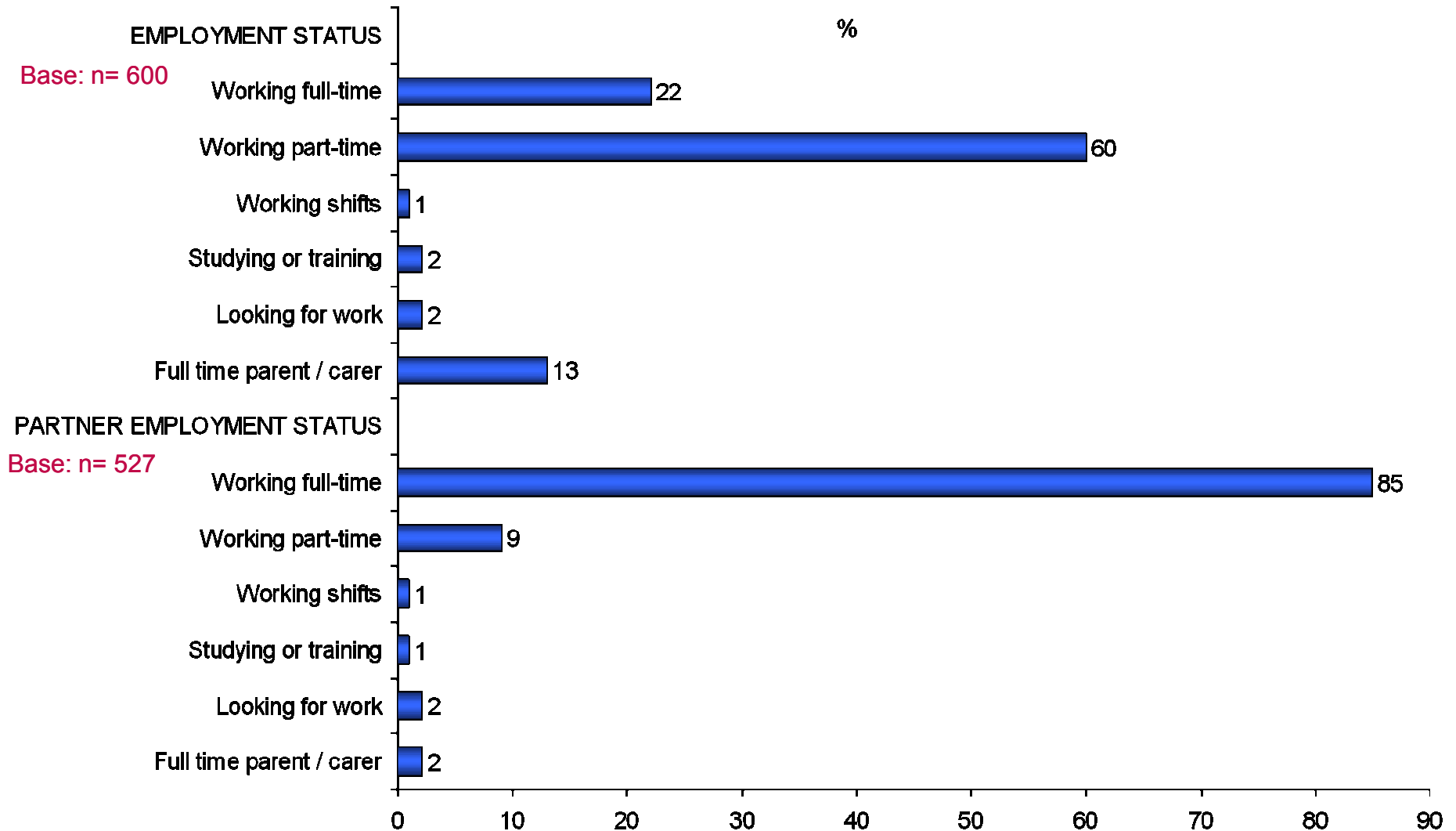
The overwhelming majority of the sample are female (95%) and either married or living with their partner (87%).

Base: all respondents who answered the question



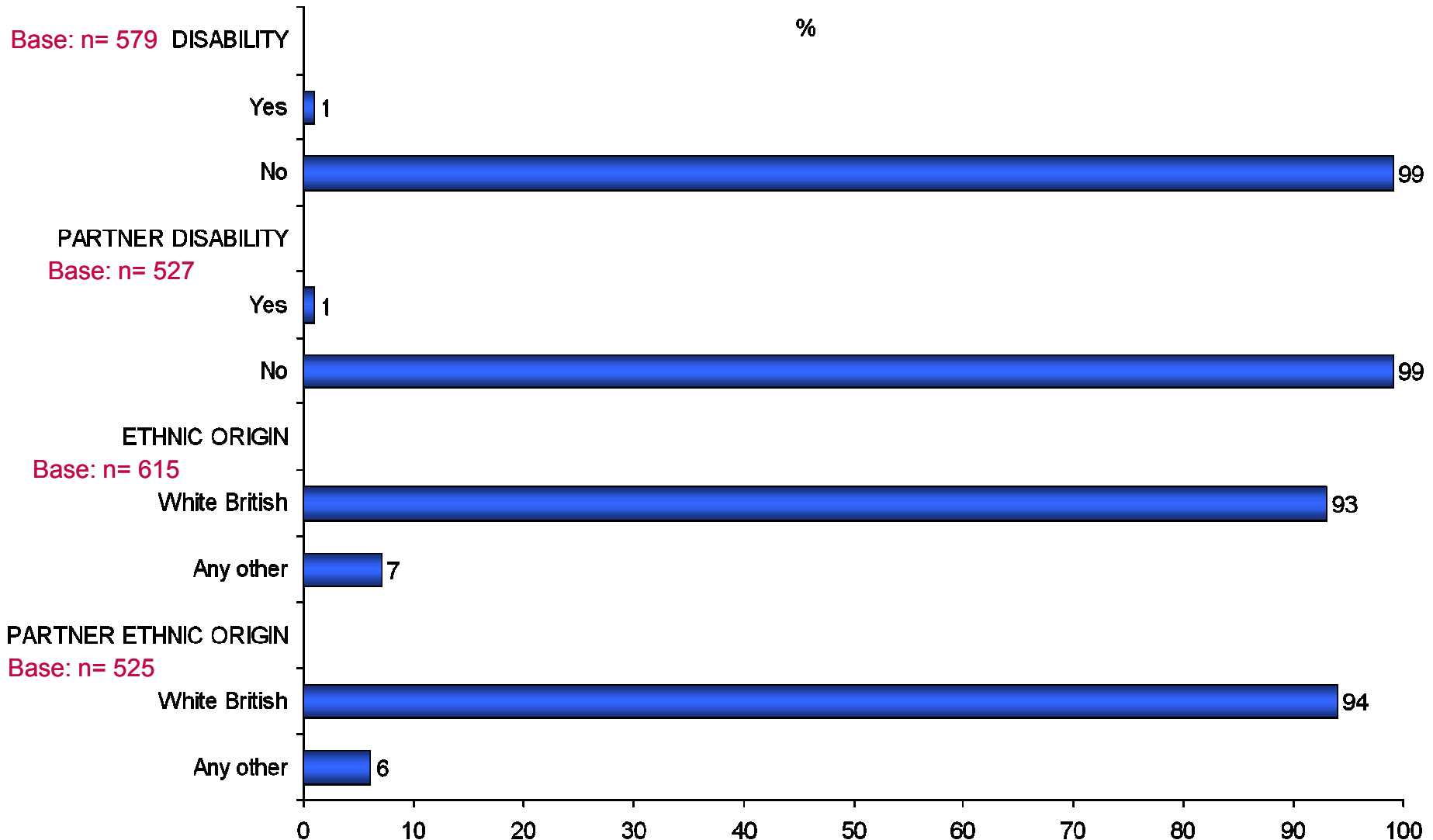
The majority of respondents are currently in employment (83%). However a higher proportion of respondents partners are in employment (95%) and more so in full-time employment (85%).

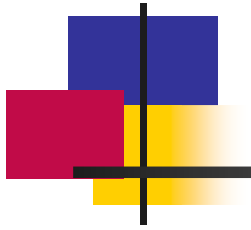
Base: all respondents who answered the question



The overwhelming majority of the sample do not have a disability (99%) and are White British (93%). Results for respondents partner are very similar to that of the sample.

Base: all respondents who answered the question





## Views on childcare

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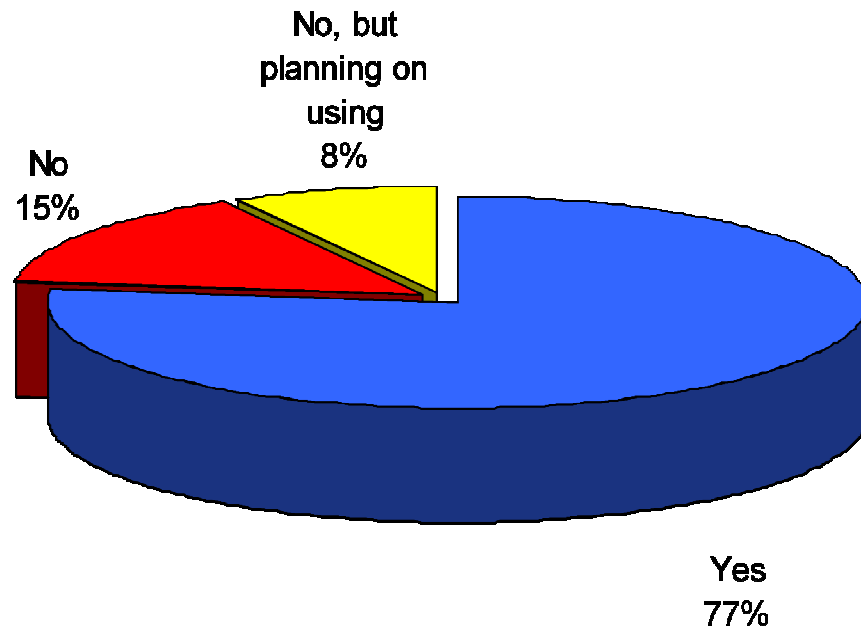
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# Using childcare

Are you currently using childcare or have used childcare in the last 12 months?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 616)



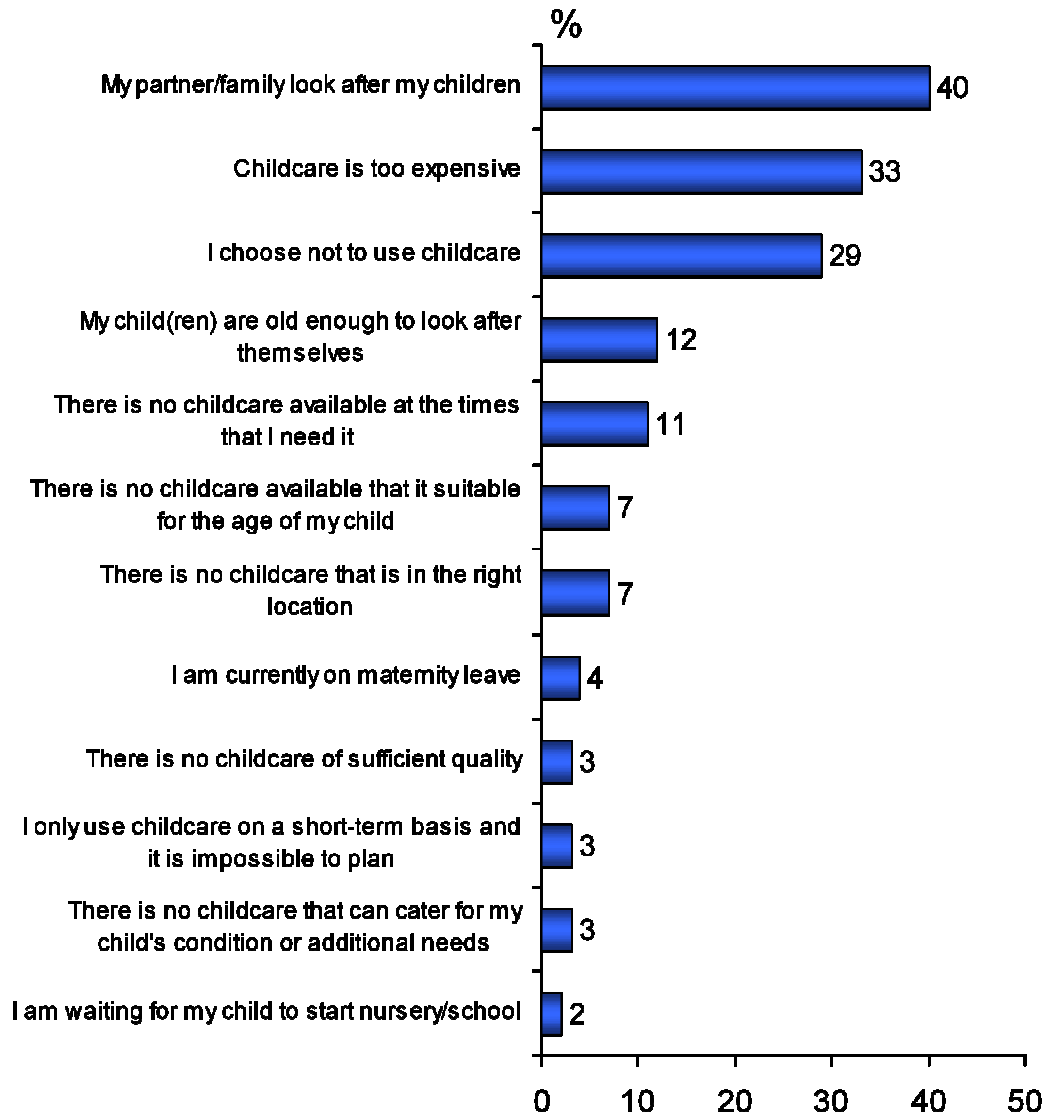
More than three-quarters (77%) of the sample are currently using childcare or have used childcare in the last 12 months.

Of the remaining respondents 15% are not using childcare and 8% aren't currently using childcare but are planning to do so.

# Reasons for not using childcare

If 'no' which of these reasons best describes why you do not use childcare.

Base: all respondents who answered 'no' to currently using childcare (n= 119)



The main reasons for not using childcare are that family look after the children (40%) or that it is too expensive (33%).

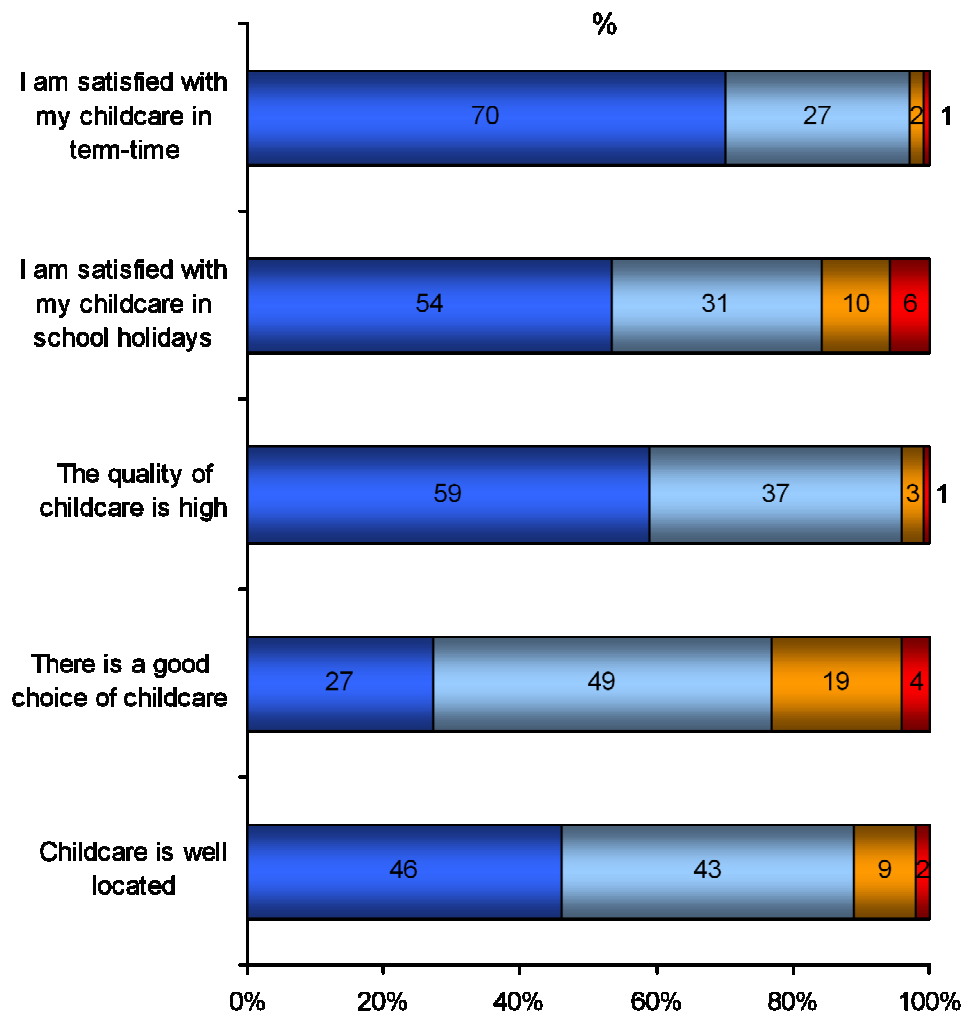
Availability of and the quality of childcare are mentioned far less by respondents as reasons for not using childcare.

# Opinions of childcare

Thinking about all the childcare you use for your children, how much do you agree with the following statements:

Base: all respondents who answered 'yes' to currently using childcare (n= 360-462)

■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree



Respondents were more likely to be satisfied with childcare in term-time than in school holidays (97% compared to 85% total agree).

There is strong agreement that the quality of childcare is high (96% total agree) and that it is well located (89% total agree).

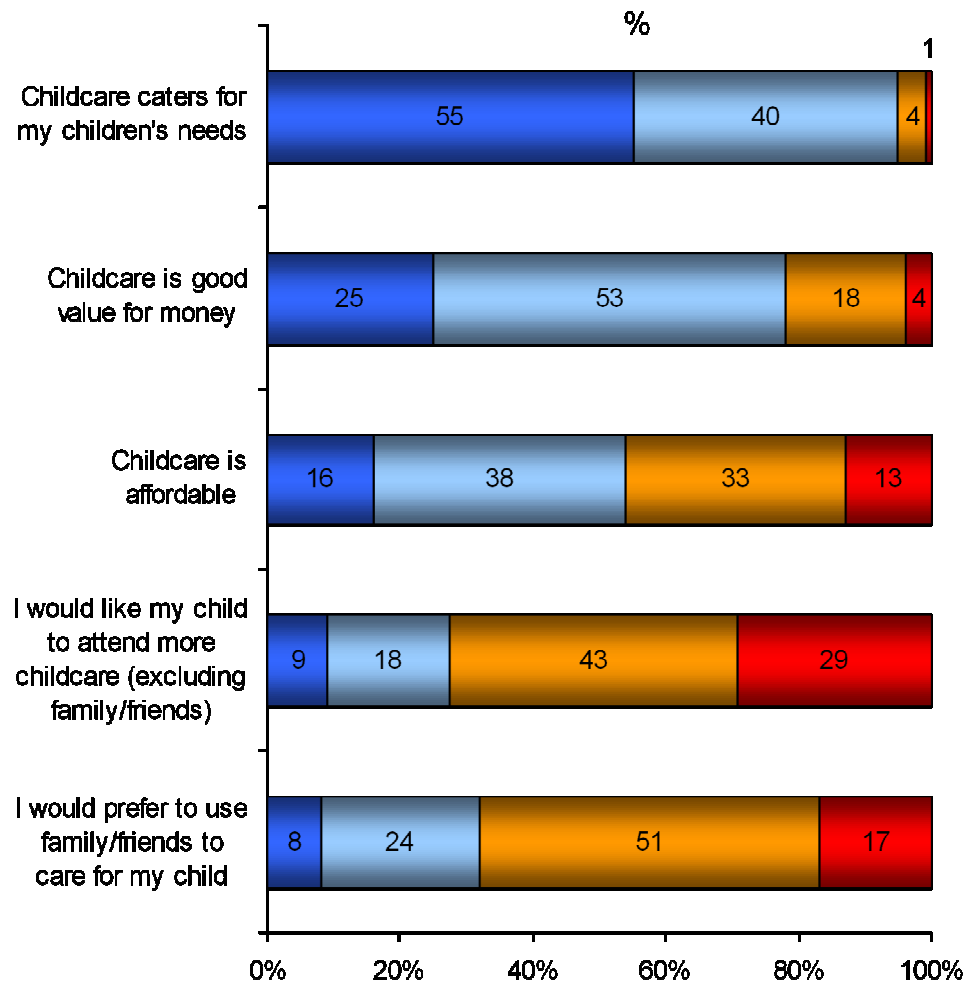
Respondents were less likely to agree that there is a good choice of childcare (76% total agreed).

# Opinions of childcare

Thinking about all the childcare you use for your children, how much do you agree with the following statements:

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 392-460)

■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree



Although just over half (54% total agree) of the sample agreed that childcare is affordable, a larger proportion agreed that it is good value for money (78% total agree).

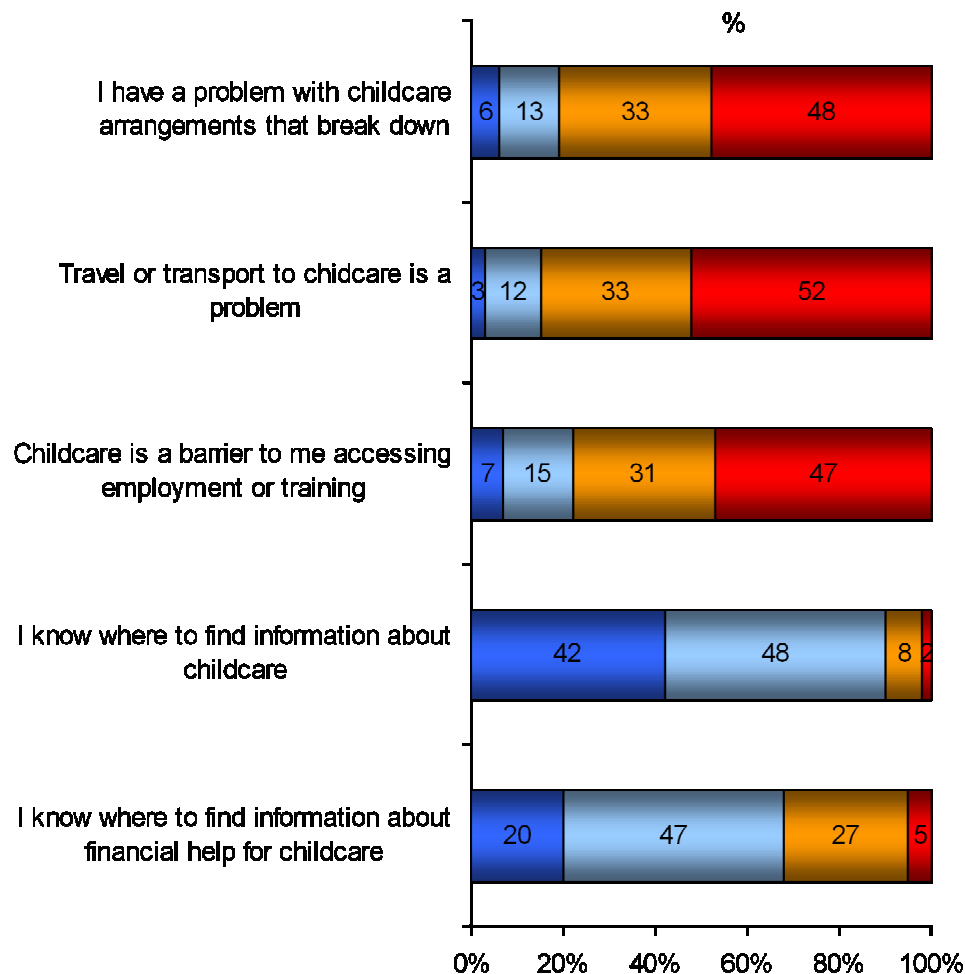
Respondents were less likely to agree that they would like their child to attend more childcare (27% total agree) and that they would prefer family or friends to care for their child (32% total agree).

# Opinions of childcare

Thinking about all the childcare you use for your children, how much do you agree with the following statements:

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 370-460)

■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree



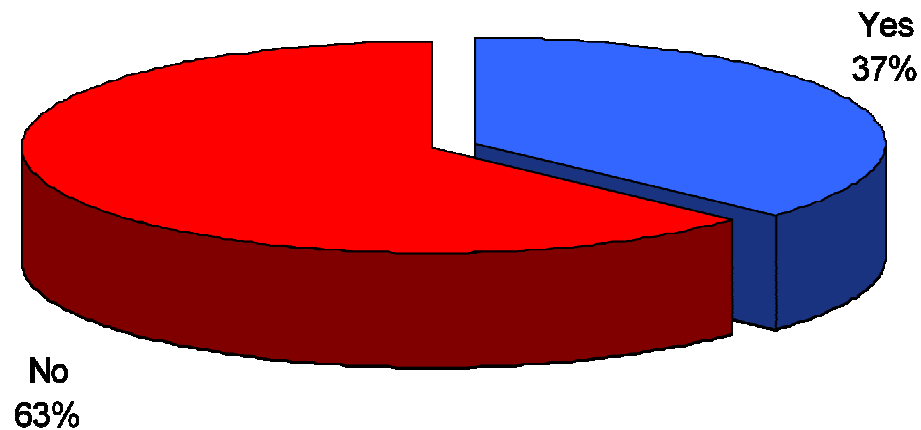
Respondents were more likely to disagree with statements regarding problems with childcare, including; childcare arrangements breaking down (81% total disagree), travel or transport to childcare (85% total disagree) and childcare as a barrier to employment or training (78% total disagree).

Parents / carers appear to be well informed about where to find information about childcare and financial help, with this more likely to be the case for general childcare information (90% total agree) than financial information (67% total agree).

# Paying for childcare

Do you claim the childcare element of the working tax credit?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 468)



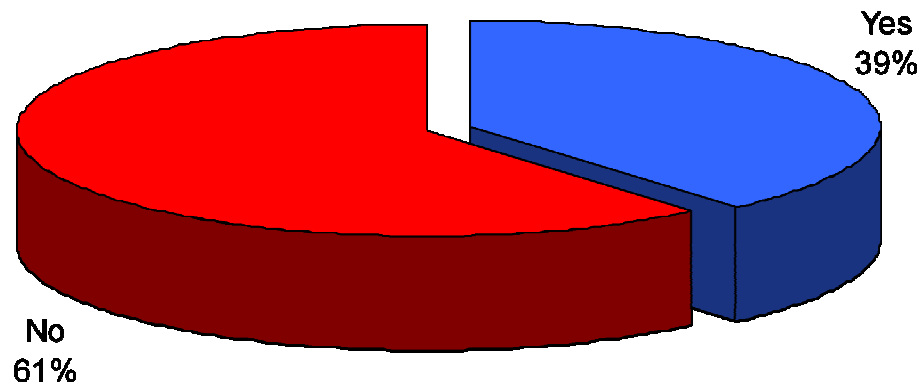
More than a third (37%) of the sample do claim the childcare element of the working tax credit, however the greater majority (63%) do not.

The main reason given for not claiming the childcare element of the working tax credit is that individuals do not qualify, mainly because their income is too high.

# Early Years Entitlement

Do you currently claim Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds or for any of your children?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 449)

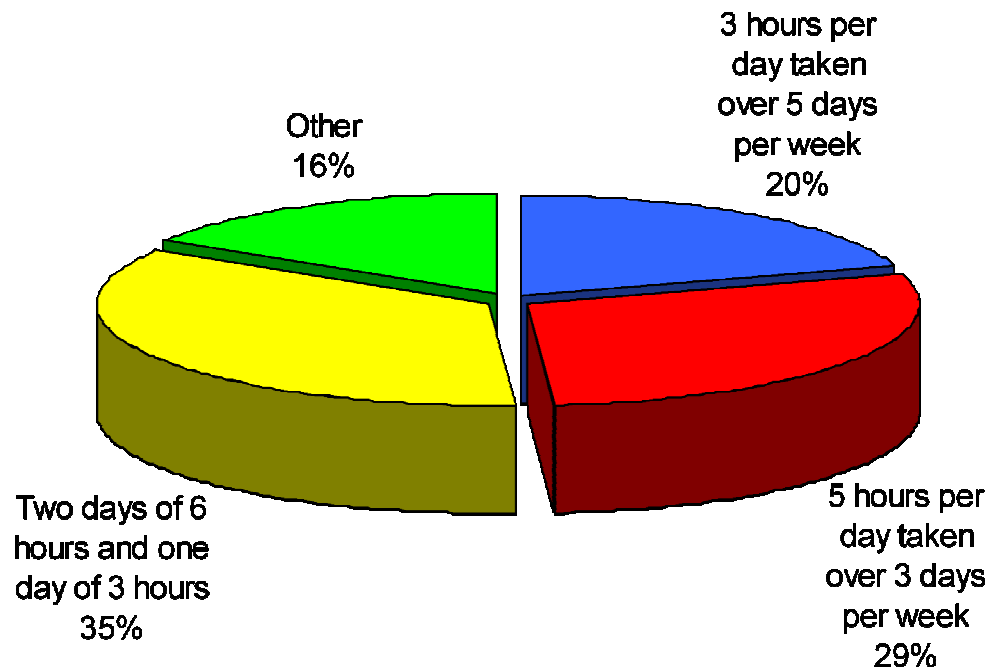


More than a third (39%) of the sample do claim Free Early Years Entitlement, however the greater majority (61%) do not.

# Early Years Entitlement

Which of the three options would you most likely want to use?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 354)



Respondents were told about 3 options for taking the Free Early Years Entitlement more flexibly and asked which they would be most likely to use.

The largest proportion of the sample would prefer to take Free Early Years Entitlement over two days of six hours and one day of three hours (35%).



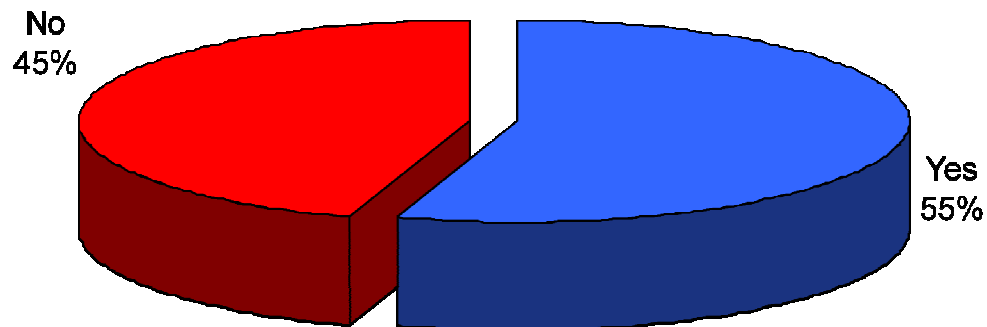
# Early Years Entitlement

Would you want the option of stretching your overall numbers of hours over more than 38 weeks?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 401)

Respondents were then told about the possible option of allowing people to take less hours per week but stretching them over more weeks of the year to cover outside of school term time.

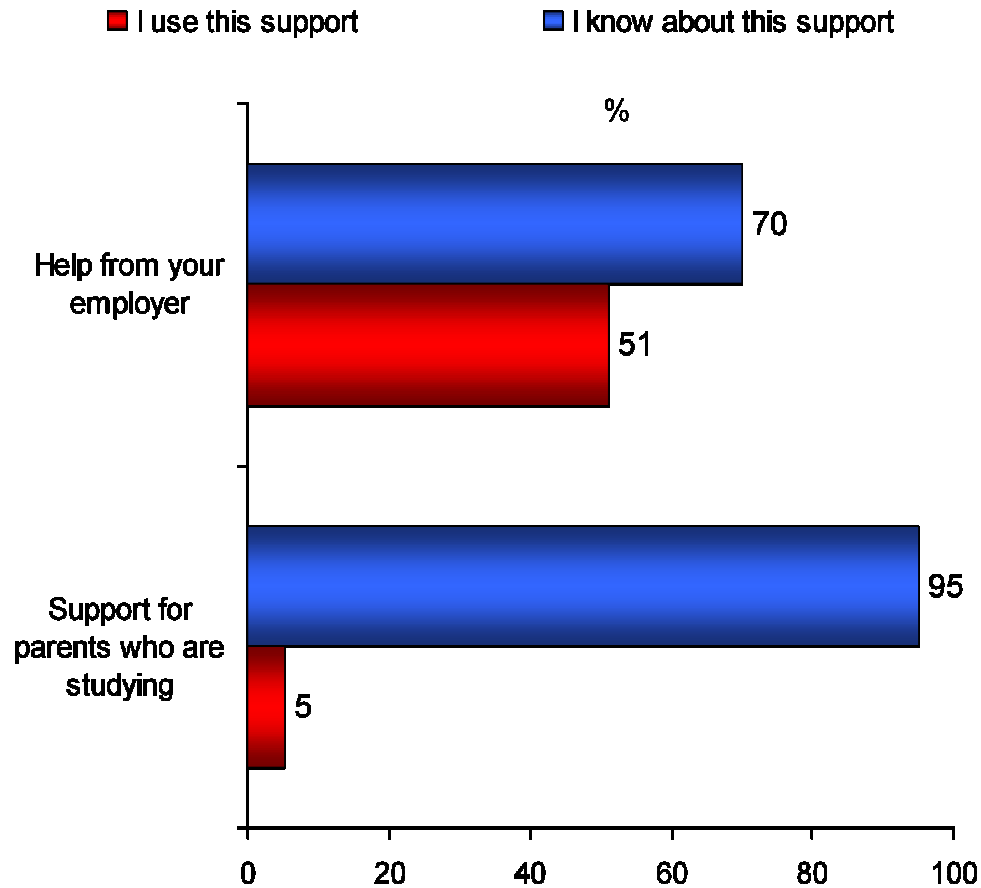
The sample is roughly split over the idea of stretching the overall number of hours over more than 38 weeks, with 55% agreeing and 45% disagreeing.



# Help paying for childcare

Which of the following forms of helping paying for childcare do you 1) know about and 2) use?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 109)

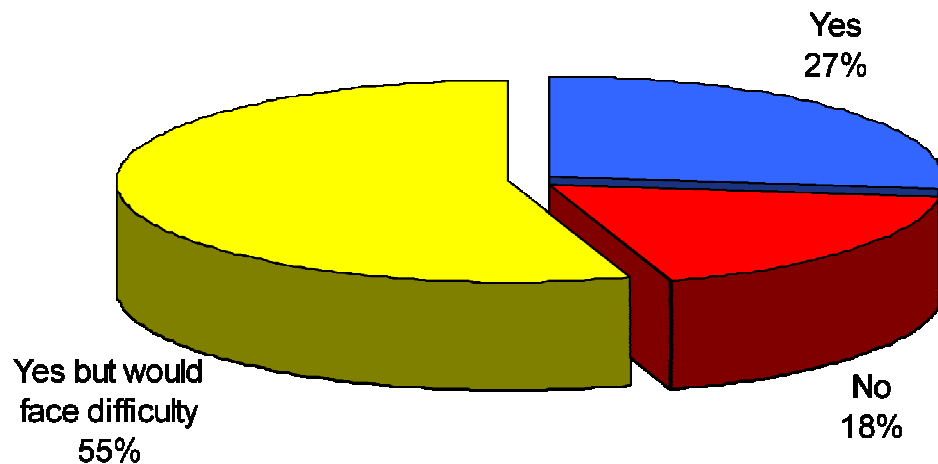


Reflecting the overall sample, in that 83% of respondents and 95% of respondents partners are currently in employment, respondents were far more likely to use help from their employer, such as childcare vouchers (51%).

# Rise in cost of childcare

Would you be able to continue to use childcare if costs rose?

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 448)



Respondents were more likely to say that they would be able to continue using childcare if costs rose, but that they would face difficulty (55%).



## Children and childcare

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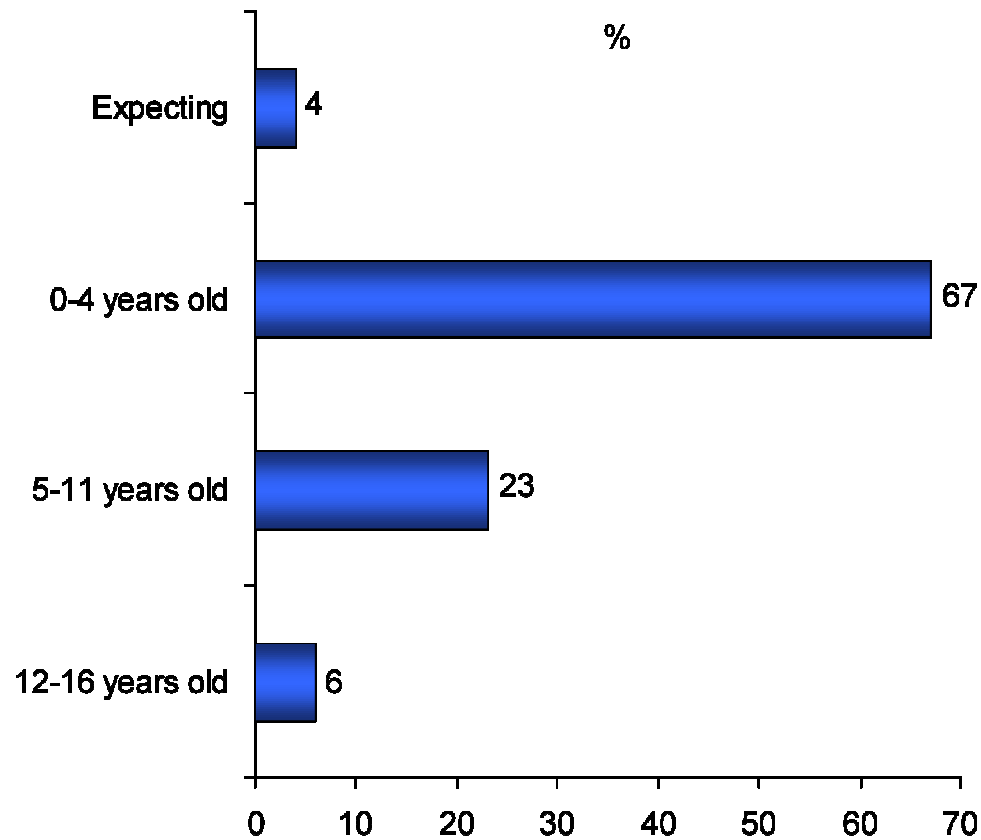
Results for children and childcare section are based in the total number of responses for children, which could be more than one child per questionnaire. Therefore the sample size for the children and childcare section is a total of 1,038 responses.

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# Age or due date

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 1014)



The overwhelming majority (90%) of the sample are aged 0-11 years old, with two-thirds (67%) aged 0-4 years old and nearly a quarter (23%) 5-11 years old.



# Types of childcare

The table below shows for each type of childcare the percentage of respondents currently using it, planning to use it and wanting to use it but can't.

\*Please note that those respondents who are currently using a type of childcare may also have responded to say they are planning to use this childcare in the next two years.

	Base	Currently using	Planning to use in the next 2 years	Wanting to use but can't
Childminder	171	64%	38%	9%
Private Day Nursery	426	76%	30%	5%
Nursery School / Class	171	34%	63%	9%
Pre-School Playgroup	306	44%	32%	29%
Before School Club	157	39%	56%	17%
After School Club	236	43%	52%	15%
Other school activities	111	44%	52%	15%
Holiday Scheme	193	39%	57%	16%
Friend or relative	375	72%	32%	10%



## Rating the quality of childcare

Those respondents who currently use a friend or relative to care for their child were most likely to rate the quality of care as excellent (84%). The quality of care at after school clubs or holiday schemes was least likely to be rated as excellent (41% and 42% respectively).

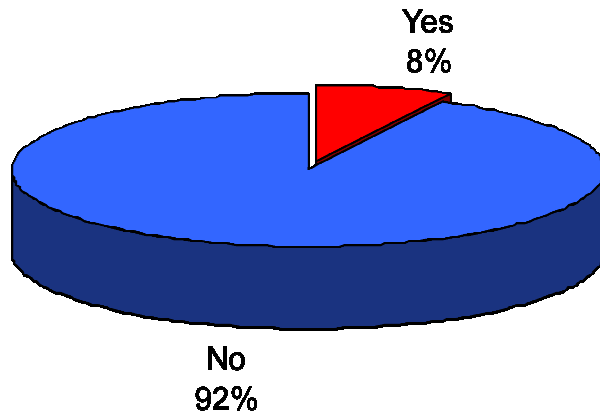
	Base	1 = Poor	2	3	4 = Excellent
Childminder	92	1%	3%	21%	75%
Private Day Nursery	426	1%	3%	29%	66%
Nursery School / Class	171	0%	0%	33%	67%
Pre-School Playgroup	306	0%	7%	32%	61%
Before School Club	157	0%	11%	34%	55%
After School Club	236	0%	8%	51%	41%
Other school activities	111	0%	0%	39%	62%
Holiday Scheme	193	0%	17%	41%	42%
Friend or relative	375	0%	2%	15%	84%



# Disability or additional needs

Base: all respondents who answered the question (n= 905 and 773 respectively)

Do you feel this child is disabled or has additional needs?

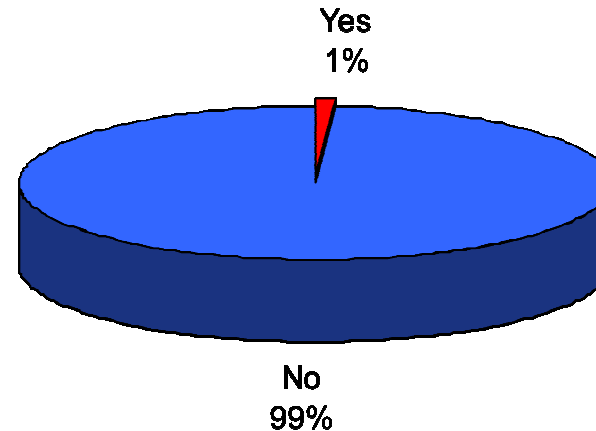


The overwhelming majority (90%) of the sample feel that their child does not have a disability or additional needs.

Do you feel they are unable to use childcare because of their condition or additional needs?

Again an overwhelming majority of the sample (99%) believe that their child's condition or additional needs are not a barrier to using childcare.

\*NB respondents who answered that their child does not have a disability or additional needs may have also answered this question.







## Current childcare – start times and days

The table below details the current start times of childcare for each day from Monday to Friday. Weekends have not been included due to extremely small respondent base numbers (12 respondents for Saturday and 4 for Sunday).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	389	442	423	440	353
7.00 - 7.29am	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
7.30 - 7.59am	6%	4%	5%	7%	7%
8.00 - 8.29am	42%	45%	42%	43%	40%
8.30 - 8.59am	13%	13%	11%	13%	13%
9.00 - 9.29am	18%	15%	16%	15%	16%
9.30 - 10.29am	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
10.30- 11.29am	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
11.30am - 12.29pm	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%
12.30- 1.29pm	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
1.30- 2.29pm	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2.30- 3.29pm	7%	8%	9%	6%	8%
3.30- 4.29pm	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%
4.30- 5.29pm	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5.30pm or later	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%



## Current childcare – finish times and days

The table details the current finish times of childcare for each day from Monday to Friday. Weekends have not been included due to extremely small respondent base numbers (9 respondents for Saturday and 4 for Sunday).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	394	445	425	441	355
Before 8.30am	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
8.30 - 9.29am	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
9.30 - 10.29am	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%
10.30 - 11.29am	4%	4%	2%	5%	5%
11.30 - 12.29pm	17%	14%	16%	15%	15%
12.30 - 1.29pm	16%	16%	16%	14%	16%
1.30- 2.29pm	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
2.30- 2.59pm	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
3.00- 3.29pm	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%
3.30- 3.59pm	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%
4.00- 4.29pm	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
4.30- 4.59pm	2%	3%	3%	3%	5%
5.00- 5.29pm	14%	15%	16%	15%	14%
5.30- 5.59pm	8%	9%	8%	9%	9%
6.00- 6.29pm	15%	16%	18%	17%	14%
6.30-6.59pm	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
7pm or later	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%



## Would like to use childcare – start times and days

The table below details the start times respondents would like for childcare for each day from Monday to Friday. Weekends have not been included due to extremely small respondent base numbers (7 respondents for Saturday and 5 for Sunday).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	231	259	252	241	213
Before 7am	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
7.00 - 7.29am	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%
7.30 - 7.59am	9%	8%	8%	10%	9%
8.00 - 8.29am	34%	36%	37%	35%	33%
8.30 - 8.59am	10%	11%	14%	14%	10%
9.00 - 9.29am	19%	21%	17%	17%	21%
9.30 - 10.29am	6%	3%	4%	3%	5%
10.30- 11.29am	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
11.30am - 12.29pm	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
12.30- 1.29pm	1%	2%	4%	2%	1%
1.30- 2.29pm	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%
2.30- 3.29pm	7%	9%	2%	6%	9%
3.30- 4.29pm	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%
4.30- 5.29pm	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5.30pm or later	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%



## Would like to use childcare – finish times and days

The table details the finish times respondents would like for childcare for each day from Monday to Friday. Weekends have not been included due to extremely small respondent base numbers (6 respondents for Saturday and 4 for Sunday).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	228	259	254	241	210
Before 8.30am	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8.30 - 9.29am	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
9.30 - 10.29am	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10.30 - 11.29am	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11.30 - 12.29pm	11%	10%	6%	10%	13%
12.30 - 1.29pm	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%
1.30- 2.29pm	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%
2.30- 2.59pm	3%	0%	1%	0%	3%
3.00- 3.29pm	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%
3.30- 3.59pm	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%
4.00- 4.29pm	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%
4.30- 4.59pm	2%	4%	3%	5%	2%
5.00- 5.29pm	19%	21%	19%	15%	17%
5.30- 5.59pm	11%	12%	11%	13%	11%
6.00- 6.29pm	26%	28%	29%	29%	24%
6.30-6.59pm	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%
7pm or later	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%