NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Perceptions of Childcare in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

2023 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at http://ruralpoll.unl.edu

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Executive Summary

Lack of childcare is an issue in many rural Nebraska communities. According to a report from Voices for Children, most counties in the state (91%) do not have enough available licensed childcare slots to meet the current demand there. Furthermore, 11 counties in the state have no licensed childcare facilities. Many communities are exploring options of how to address these shortages to maintain their current residents or to be able to attract new residents. Given these challenges, what types of childcare are rural Nebraskans currently using? How far do they drive to get to their childcare? And how do rural Nebraskans feel about the childcare issues in their community? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,100 responses to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 28th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about childcare. Comparisons are also made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Most rural Nebraskans with children under the age of 12 are not currently using childcare.*** Almost six in ten respondents with young children are not currently using childcare. Almost one-third (32%) are currently using full-time childcare (32 or more hours a week).
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to use part-time childcare.* Almost two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 are using part-time childcare, compared to only three percent of persons living in or near the largest communities. Persons living in or near both the smallest and largest communities are the groups most likely to use before and/or after school care.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans that use childcare most frequently use a childcare center or school.*** Almost six in ten respondents using childcare are using a childcare center or school (58%). Just over four in ten respondents use a home-based childcare provider.
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to use a home-based childcare provider.* Persons living in or near the largest communities are the group most likely to use a childcare center or school.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans drive less than 10 miles to get to their childcare.*** Just under one-half (48%) drive between one and ten miles and just over three in ten (31%) drive less than a mile.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans recognize the importance of childcare for the growth of their community and think it should be a high priority.*** At least three-quarters of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that increasing access to both high quality and affordable childcare should be a high priority for their community. Just over eight in ten (81%) agree or strongly agree that high quality affordable childcare is important to the growth of their community.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans agree that inadequate or unreliable childcare options cause work disruptions in their community.*** Just over seven in ten agree or strongly agree with that statement.

- ***Opinions are mixed on whether it is affordable for a parent in their profession to use childcare.*** Just over one-third (36%) disagree with that statement, while just under three in ten agree.
  - ✓ *Persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to <u>disagree</u> that it is affordable for a parent working in their profession to use childcare.* Just over two-thirds of persons working in these occupations disagree with that statement, compared to 16 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans agree there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community.*** Just over six in ten (61%) agree with that statement.
  - ✓ *Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community.* Almost three-quarters of residents of this region (73%) agree with that statement, compared to just over one-half of the residents of the Southeast region (51%).

- ***Most rural Nebraskans agree that their community needs more before and after school childcare options.*** Almost six in ten (59%) agree with that statement.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans believe the community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community.*** Almost six in ten agree or strongly agree with that statement.
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that their community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community.* At least six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more agree with this statement, compared to less than four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999.

Introduction

Lack of childcare is an issue in many rural Nebraska communities. According to a report from Voices for Children, most counties in the state (91%) do not have enough available licensed childcare slots to meet the current demand there. Furthermore, 11 counties in the state have no licensed childcare facilities. Many communities are exploring options of how to address these shortages to maintain their current residents or to be able to attract new residents. Given these challenges, what types of childcare are rural Nebraskans currently using? How far do they drive to get to their childcare? And how do rural Nebraskans feel about the childcare issues in their community? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,100 responses to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 28th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about childcare.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,100 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.[1] A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in May and June to 6,030 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, civil discourse, the economy, federal agricultural policy, and childcare. This paper reports only results from the childcare section.

An 18% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project manager approximately two weeks later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately two weeks after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 30 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The

1 In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

margin of error for this study is plus or minus three percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2020).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy-one percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 41 years and have lived in their current community 25 years. Sixty-one percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-eight percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Eighteen percent of the respondents report their 2022 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Sixty-seven percent report incomes over $60,000. Seventy-five percent were employed in 2022 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Nineteen percent are retired. Thirty-one percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Ten percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

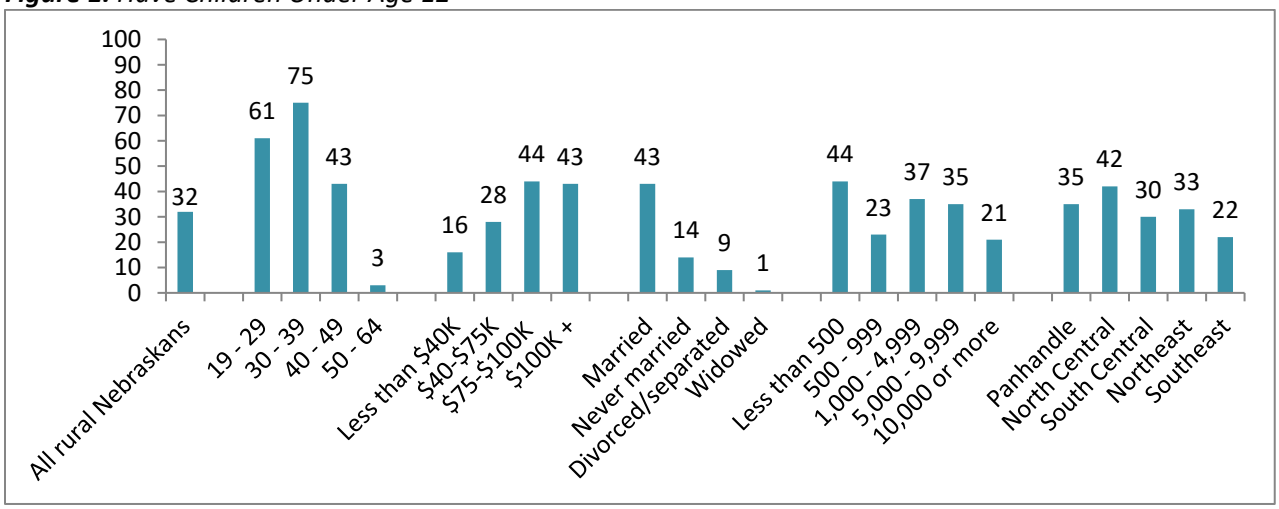
Childcare Used

Respondents were asked a series of questions to determine what types of childcare they are currently utilizing. First, they were asked if they have children under the age of 12. Just under one-third (32%) of rural Nebraskans have children under the age of 12 (Figure 1).

The respondents having children under the age of 12 varied by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have children under the age of 12. Just over four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 have children under the age of 12, compared to just over two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (21%) (Figure 1).

Residents of the North Central region (see

Figure 1. *Have Children Under Age 12*



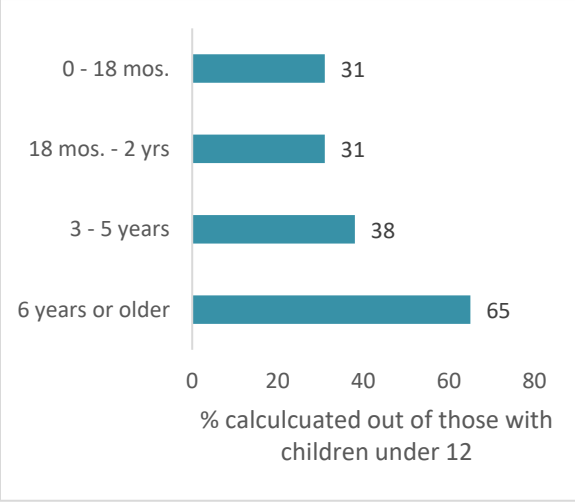
Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region) are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to have children under the age of 12. Just over four in ten residents of the North Central region (42%) have children under the age of 12, compared to just over two in ten residents of the Southeast region (22%).

Demographic groups most likely to have children under the age of 12 include persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, married persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

The respondents who have children under the age of 12 were then asked in which age groups are their children. Most of the respondents with children under the age of 12 have children aged six or older (65%) (Figure 2). Just over three in ten have children 18 months of age or younger or children between the ages of 18 months and 2 years. Just under four in ten have children between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

The respondents having children in the various age groups are examined by region, community size, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Some differences are noted.

Figure 2. *Age Groups of Children*



Persons living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller or larger communities to have children between the ages of 18 months and 2 years. Persons living in or near the largest communities are the group most likely to have children ages 3 to 5 years.

Residents of the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to have infants under 18 months of age. Residents of the Southeast region are most likely to have children six years of age or older.

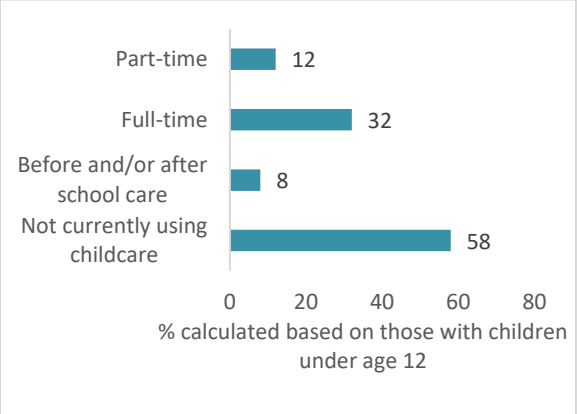
Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have children six years of age or older.

Males are more likely than females to have infants under 18 months of age as well as children between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have infants under 18 months of age. Persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are the group most likely to have children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years.

Respondents with children were next asked if they are currently using childcare. They were allowed to select more than one answer if they had multiple children. Most rural Nebraskans with children under the age of 12 are not currently using childcare. Almost six in ten respondents with young children are not currently using childcare (58%) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. *Currently Using Childcare*



Almost one-third (32%) are currently using full-time childcare (32 or more hours a week).

Responses to this question are examined by region, community size, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Some differences are detected.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to use part-time childcare. Almost two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 are using part-time childcare, compared to only three percent of persons living in or near the largest communities. Persons living in or near both the smallest and largest communities are the groups most likely to use before and/or after school care.

Residents of the Panhandle are the regional group most likely to use before and/or after school care. Residents of both the North Central and Southeast regions are the groups *least* likely to use part-time childcare.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to use both part-time and full-time childcare.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to use full-time childcare. Males are more likely than females to use both full-time and before and/or after school childcare.

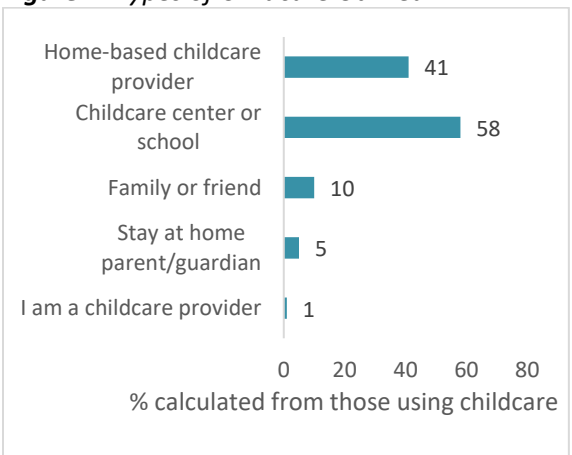
Married persons are more likely than persons with a different marital status to use full-time childcare. Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to use full-time childcare.

The occupation groups most likely to use part-time childcare include persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations as well as persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations. Persons with occupations in agriculture are the group most likely to use full-time childcare.

The respondents who are currently utilizing some kind of childcare were next asked what type of childcare they most frequently utilize. They could select more than one answer.

Most rural Nebraskans that use childcare most frequently use a childcare center or school. Almost six in ten respondents using childcare are using a childcare center or school (58%) (Figure 4). Just over four in ten respondents use a home-based childcare provider.

Figure 4. *Types of Childcare Utilized*



The types of childcare used differ by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 5).

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to use a home-based childcare provider. Persons living in or near the largest communities are the group most likely to use a childcare center or school.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to use a home-based childcare provider. They are the group *least* likely to use a childcare center or school.

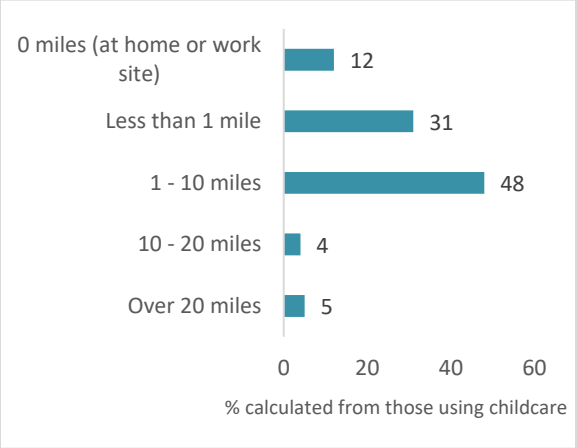
Older persons are more likely than younger persons to use family or friends for childcare. One-third of persons aged 40 to 64 use a family or friend for childcare, compared to none of the persons aged 19 to 29.

Persons with the highest education levels are more likely than persons with less education to use a home-based childcare provider. Conversely, persons with lower education levels are more likely to use a childcare center or school. Persons with the lowest education levels are also most likely to be a childcare provider.

Finally, respondents were asked how far they drive to get to childcare outside of their normal commute. Most rural Nebraskans drive less than 10 miles to get to their childcare. Just under one-half (48%) drive between one and ten miles and just over three in ten (31%) drive less than a mile (Figure 5).

The distances driven for childcare are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Many differences emerge.

Figure 5. *How Far Drive to Get to Childcare*



Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to drive over 20 miles to get to their childcare. Almost three in ten persons living in or near communities of this size (29%) drive over 20 miles to get to their childcare outside of their normal commute. Persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more are the groups most likely to drive between one and 10 miles to get to their childcare.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to drive more than 20 miles to their childcare. Just over one in ten residents of this region drive over 20 miles. Residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions are the groups most likely to not drive outside of their normal commute to their childcare (it is provided at their home or work site).

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to drive over 20 miles to their childcare. Approximately two-thirds of persons with these types of occupations (67%)

say they drive over 20 miles outside of their normal commute to get to their childcare.

Opinions about Childcare in Community

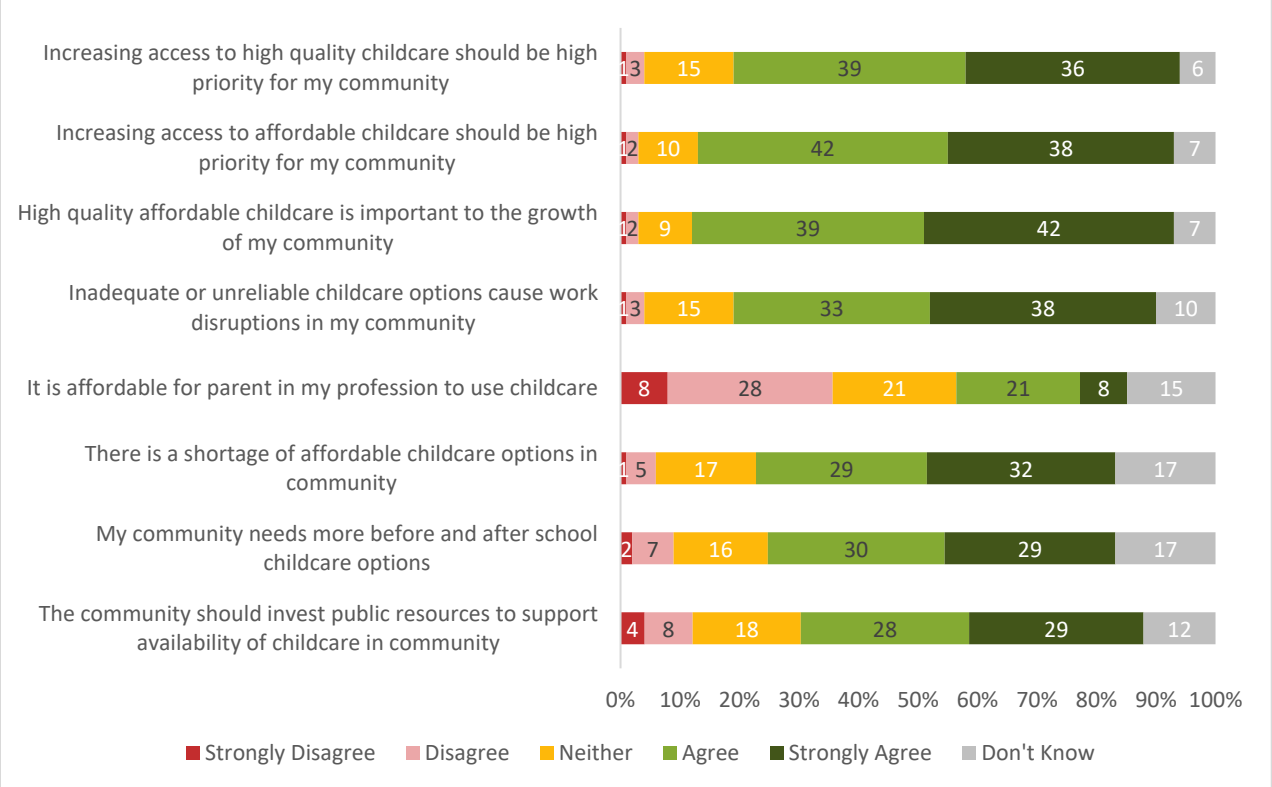
Finally, all respondents were given a series of statements about childcare in their community and were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with each. Most rural Nebraskans recognize the importance of childcare for the growth of their community and think it should be a high priority. At least three-quarters of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that increasing access to both high quality and affordable childcare should be a high priority for their community (Figure 6). Just over eight in ten (81%) agree or strongly agree that high quality affordable childcare is important to the growth of their community.

Most rural Nebraskans agree that inadequate or unreliable childcare options cause work disruptions in their community. Just over seven in ten agree or strongly agree with that statement.

Opinions are mixed on whether it is affordable for a parent in their profession to use childcare. Just over one-third (36%) disagree with that statement, while just under three in ten agree.

Most rural Nebraskans agree there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community. Just over six in ten (61%) agree with that statement.

Figure 6. *Opinions about Childcare in Community*



Most rural Nebraskans agree that their community needs more before and after school childcare options. Almost six in ten (59%) agree with that statement.

Most rural Nebraskans believe the community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community. Almost six in ten agree or strongly agree with that statement.

These opinions are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). Many differences are detected.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that increasing access to high quality childcare should be a high priority for their community. Approximately eight in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more agree with this statement, compared to just under six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999.

Other groups most likely to agree that increasing access to high quality childcare should be a high priority for their community include residents of the North Central region, persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels, persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations, and persons with management, professional, or education occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that increasing access to both high quality and affordable childcare should be a high priority for their community. Over nine in ten persons aged 19 to 29 agree that increasing access to affordable childcare should be a high priority for their community, compared to approximately three-quarters of persons aged 40 and over.

Younger persons and females are the groups most likely to agree that high quality affordable childcare is important to the growth of their community.

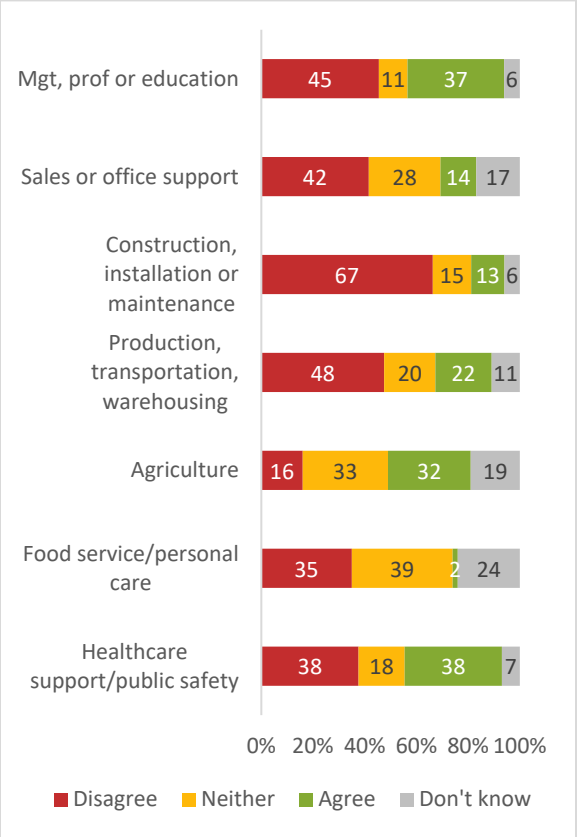
Residents of both the Panhandle and South Central regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that inadequate childcare options cause work disruptions in their community. Almost eight in ten residents of these two regions agree with this statement, compared to just over six in ten residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to agree that inadequate childcare options cause work disruptions in their community include persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, and persons with at least a four-year degree.

Persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to *disagree* that it is affordable for a parent working in their profession to use childcare. Just over two-thirds of persons working in these occupations *disagree* with that statement, compared to 16 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture (Figure 7).

The groups most likely to *agree* that it is affordable for a parent working in their profession to use childcare include persons living in or near communities with populations under 10,000, residents of the North Central region, persons with higher household incomes, persons aged 30 to 39, females, married persons, and persons with a least a four-year college degree.

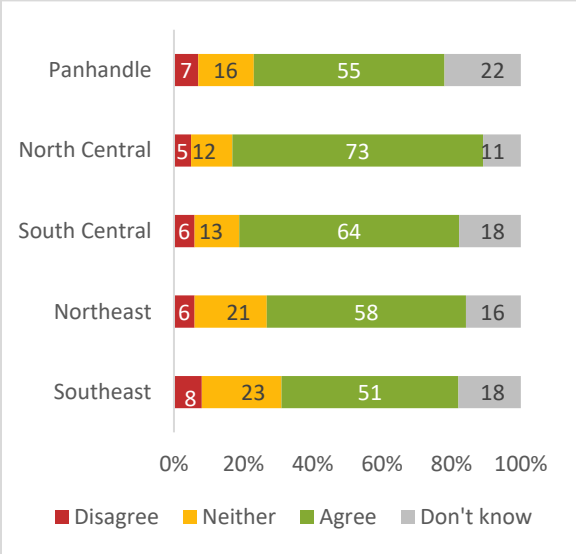
Figure 7. *It is Affordable for Parents Working in My Profession to Use Childcare by Occupation*



Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community. Almost three-quarters of residents of this region (73%) agree with that statement, compared to just over one-half of the residents of the Southeast region (51%) (Figure 8).

The other groups most likely to agree that there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community include persons living in or near the smallest communities, persons living in or near mid-sized communities, persons with the highest household incomes, the youngest persons, married persons, persons with the highest education levels, and persons with production, transportation, and warehousing

Figure 6. *There is a Shortage of Affordable Childcare Options in My Community by Region*



occupations.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that their community needs more before and after school childcare options. Over eight in ten persons with these types of occupations (84%) agree with this statement.

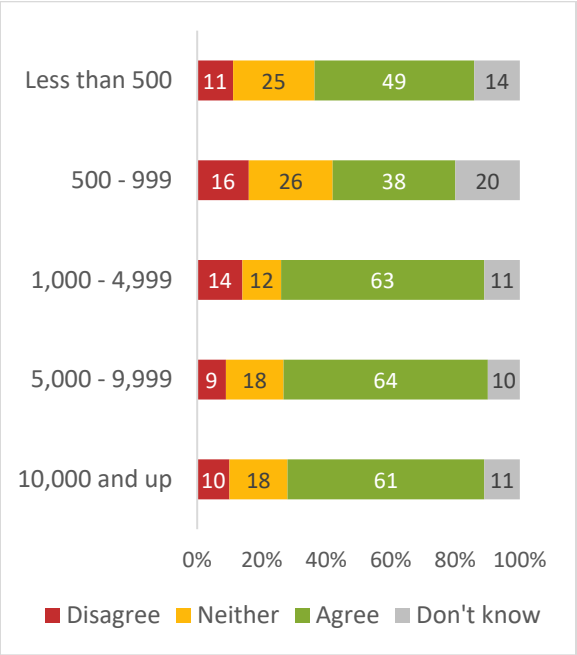
Other groups most likely to agree that their community needs more before and after school childcare options include persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, females, and persons with lower education levels.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that their community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community. At least six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more agree with this statement, compared to less than four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500

to 999 (Figure 9).

The other groups most likely to agree that the community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community include residents of the South Central region, persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, females, and persons with at least some college education.

Figure 9. *Community Should Invest Public Resources to Support the Availability of Childcare in Community by Community Size*



Conclusion

Most rural Nebraskans with children under the age of 12 are not currently using childcare. Almost six in ten respondents with young children are not currently using childcare. Almost one-third are currently using full-time childcare (32 or more hours a week).

Part-time childcare is more prevalent in smaller communities. Almost two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 are using part-time childcare, compared to only three percent of persons living in or near the largest communities. Persons living in or near both the smallest and largest communities are the groups most likely to use before and/or after school care.

Most rural Nebraskans that use childcare most frequently use a childcare center or school. Almost six in ten respondents using childcare are using a childcare center or school. Just over four in ten respondents use a home-based childcare provider. There are differences by community size in what type of childcare is most used. Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to use a home-based childcare provider. Persons living in or near the largest communities are the group most likely to use a childcare center or school.

Most rural Nebraskans drive less than 10 miles to get to their childcare. Just under one-half (48%) drive between one and ten miles and just over three in ten (31%) drive less than a mile.

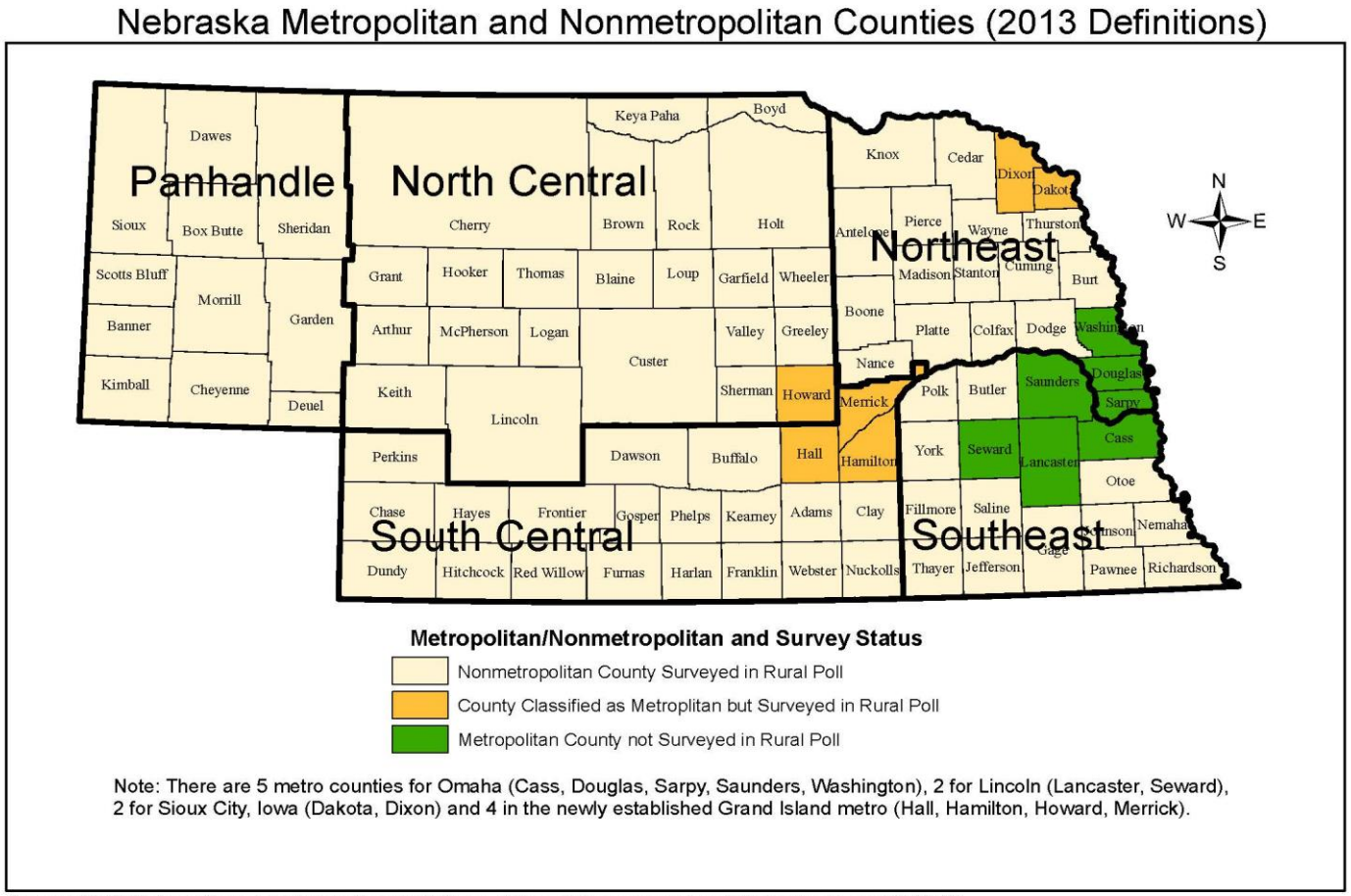
Most rural Nebraskans recognize the importance of childcare for the growth of their community and think it should be a high priority. They also agree that inadequate or unreliable childcare options cause work disruptions in their community**.**

Opinions are mixed on whether it is affordable for a parent in their profession to use childcare. Persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to disagree that it is affordable for a parent working in their profession to use childcare.

Most rural Nebraskans agree there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community. Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that there is a shortage of affordable childcare options in their community.

Most rural Nebraskans agree that their community needs more before and after school childcare options and most believe the community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community. Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that their community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13

Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents[1] Compared to 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Average for Nebraska**

	2023 Poll	***2022 Poll***	***2021 Poll***	***2020 Poll***	***2019 Poll***	***2017 - 2021 ACS***
Age : [2]						
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	42%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
Gender: [3]						
Female	60%	51%	55%	55%	55%	50%
Male	40%	49%	45%	46%	45%	50%
Education: [4]						
Less than high school graduate	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	10%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%	32%
Some college, no degree	25%	26%	26%	18%	18%	24%
Associate degree	13%	16%	15%	24%	24%	12%
Bachelors degree	28%	25%	28%	26%	29%	16%
Graduate or professional degree	17%	16%	13%	14%	13%	7%
Household Income: [5]						
Less than $20,000	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	14%
$20,000 - $39,999	12%	15%	17%	14%	15%	19%
$40,000 - $59,999	15%	17%	16%	19%	18%	18%
$60,000 - $74,999	18%	17%	14%	16%	16%	11%
$75,000 - $99,999	16%	16%	17%	21%	19%	15%
$100,000 - $149,999	22%	17%	19%	15%	16%	15%
$150,000 - $199,999	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
$200,000 or more	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Marital Status: [6]						
Married	71%	66%	69%	69%	70%	61%
Never married	13%	17%	13%	12%	12%	20%
Divorced/separated	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%	12%
Widowed/widower	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%

[1] Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

[2] 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[3] 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[4] 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 25 years of age and over.

[5] 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

[6] 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. *Have Children Under Age of 12 by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Do you have children under the age of 12?		
	Yes	*No*	*Significance*
	Percentages		
Total	32	68	
Community Size	(n = 1073)		
Less than 500	44	56	
500 - 999	23	77	
1,000 - 4,999	37	63	$\chi^2 = 39.42$*
5,000 - 9,999	35	66	(.000)
10,000 and up	21	79	
Region	(n = 1091)		
Panhandle	35	65	
North Central	42	58	
South Central	30	70	$\chi^2 = 17.91$*
Northeast	33	67	(.001)
Southeast	22	78	
Income Level	(n = 1045)		
Under $40,000	16	84	
$40,000 - $74,999	28	73	$\chi^2 = 52.32$*
$75,000 - $99,999	44	56	(.000)
$100,000 and over	43	57	
Age	(n = 1092)		
19 - 29	61	39	
30 - 39	75	25	
40 - 49	43	57	$\chi^2 = 444.01$*
50 - 64	3	97	(.000)
65 and older	0	100	
Gender	(n = 1081)		
Male	29	71	$\chi^2 = 3.29$
Female	34	66	(.073)
Marital Status	(n = 1066)		
Married	43	57	
Never married	14	86	
Divorced/separated	9	91	$\chi^2 = 112.13$*
Widowed	1	99	(.000)
Education	(n = 1081)		
H.S. diploma or less	16	84	
Some college	31	69	$\chi^2 = 37.59$*
Bachelors or grad degree	40	60	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 794)		
Mgt, prof or education	44	56	
Sales or office support	29	71	
Constrn, inst or maint	51	49	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	13	87	
Agriculture	44	56	
Food serv/pers. care	37	63	
Hlthcare supp/safety	37	63	$\chi^2 = 28.97$*
Other	18	82	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3. *Age Groups of Children by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	In which of the following age groups are your children?			
	0 – 18 months	*18 months – 2 years*	*3 - 5 years*	*6 years or older*
		Percentages		
Total	31	31	38	65
Community Size		(n = 348)		
Less than 500	39*	29*	36*	79*
500 - 999	20*	20*	28*	72*
1,000 - 4,999	22*	48*	33*	51*
5,000 - 9,999	38*	20*	18*	63*
10,000 and up	30*	15*	60*	74*
Region		(n = 353)		
Panhandle	32*	43*	47*	74*
North Central	33*	27*	36*	53*
South Central	26*	41*	51*	59*
Northeast	44*	27*	33*	64*
Southeast	5*	12*	12*	93*
Income Level		(n = 348)		
Under $40,000	32*	0*	7*	68*
$40,000 - $74,999	21*	41*	30*	61*
$75,000 - $99,999	41*	31*	51*	49*
$100,000 and over	32*	32*	45*	75*
Age		(n = 351)		
19 – 29	64*	55*	27*	36*
30 – 39	23*	29*	58*	71*
40 – 49	5*	10*	24*	88*
50 – 64	0*	0*	13*	100*
65 and older				
Gender		(n = 350)		
Male	41*	29	58*	59
Female	25*	32	26*	69
Marital Status		(n = 353)		
Married	30	34*	41*	65
Never married	48	0*	0*	50
Divorced/separated	0	0*	0*	100
Widowed				
Education		(n = 352)		
H.S. diploma or less	40	7*	23	50*
Some college	29	32*	40	86*
Bachelors degree	29	34*	39	54*
Occupation		(n = 310)		
Mgt, prof or education	26*	33*	26*	54*
Sales or office support	42*	60*	8*	92*
Constrn, inst or maint	37*	74*	93*	93*
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0*	33*	67*	100*
Agriculture	56*	18*	49*	43*
Food serv/pers. care	63*	0*	37*	21*
Hlthcare supp/safety	18*	18*	43*	88*
Other	0*	0*	0*	100*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those who do not have children under 12 were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 4. *Currently Using Childcare by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Are you currently using childcare?			
	Yes, part-time	*Yes, full-time*	*Yes, before and/or after school care*	*No, not currently using childcare*
			Percentages	
Total	12	32	8	58
Community Size			(n = 343)	
Less than 500	19*	36*	13*	57*
500 - 999	8*	20*	0*	72*
1,000 - 4,999	10*	32*	5*	57*
5,000 - 9,999	13*	13*	0*	80*
10,000 and up	3*	39*	12*	46*
Region			(n = 347)	
Panhandle	15*	45	20*	30*
North Central	7*	26	9*	67*
South Central	13*	33	2*	54*
Northeast	17*	33	5*	58*
Southeast	0*	18	5*	82*
Income Level			(n = 344)	
Under $40,000	0*	0*	7*	93*
$40,000 - $74,999	0*	16*	1*	83*
$75,000 - $99,999	30*	45*	14*	27*
$100,000 and over	12*	42*	9*	49*
Age			(n = 349)	
19 – 29	18	46*	0*	46*
30 – 39	9	39*	15*	47*
40 – 49	7	7*	5*	86*
50 – 64	0	13*	25*	63*
65 and older				
Gender			(n = 346)	
Male	16	39*	13*	53
Female	9	27*	4*	61
Marital Status			(n = 348)	
Married	13	34*	8	54*
Never married	0	0*	0	100*
Divorced/separated	0	0*	22	78*
Widowed				
Education			(n = 348)	
H.S. diploma or less	7	10*	7	73
Some college	12	36*	10	57
Bachelors degree	11	31*	6	56
Occupation			(n = 309)	
Mgt, prof or education	12*	24*	10	57*
Sales or office support	0*	50*	0	50*
Constrn, inst or maint	37*	37*	0	63*
Prodn/trans/warehsing	33*	0*	0	67*
Agriculture	7*	60*	16	39*
Food serv/pers. care	0*	16*	0	84*
Hlthcare supp/safety	18*	43*	13	39*
Other	0*	0*	0	100*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those who do not have children under 12 were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 5. *Type of Childcare Utilized by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

What type of childcare do you most frequently utilize?

	Home-based childcare provider	*Childcare center or school*	*Family or friend*	*Me or spouse/partner (stay at home parent/ guardian)*	*I am a childcare provider*
			Percentages		
Total	41	58	10	5	1
Community Size			(n = 145)		
Less than 500	40*	58*	17	5*	2
500 - 999	100*	0*	0	29*	0
1,000 - 4,999	57*	47*	2	0*	0
5,000 - 9,999	29*	71*	0	29*	0
10,000 and up	6*	94*	14	0*	0
Region			(n = 150)		
Panhandle	22*	72*	3*	7	3
North Central	100*	20*	20*	8	0
South Central	39*	61*	0*	5	0
Northeast	25*	70*	18*	0	0
Southeast	22*	50*	22*	0	0
Income Level			(n = 149)		
Under $40,000	100*	100*	0	0	0
$40,000 - $74,999	0*	89*	11	11	0
$75,000 - $99,999	66*	33*	9	0	2
$100,000 and over	32*	67*	11	7	0
Age			(n = 150)		
19 – 29	33	67	0*	0	0*
30 – 39	43	57	14*	10	0*
40 – 49	67	33	33*	0	0*
50 – 64	0	33	33*	0	33*
65 and older					
Gender			(n = 150)		
Male	31	69*	12	8	0
Female	47	51*	9	2	1
Marital Status			(n = 150)		
Married	41	58	10	5	1
Never married					
Divorced/separated	0	50	50	0	0
Widowed					
Education			(n = 150)		
H.S. diploma or less	25*	63*	0*	25*	13*
Some college	26*	74*	21*	4*	0*
Bachelors degree	52*	47*	4*	2*	0*
Occupation			(n = 142)		
Mgt, prof or education	51*	48*	10	0*	0*
Sales or office support	0*	100*	17	0*	0*
Constrn, inst or maint	0*	100*	0	0*	0*
Prodn/trans/warehsing	100*	0*	0	0*	0*
Agriculture	36*	64*	7	7*	0*
Food serv/pers. care	0*	67*	0	0*	33*
Hlthcare supp/safety	50*	60*	8	21*	0*
Other					

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those who do not have children under 12 or not currently using childcare were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 6. *How Far Drive to Get to Childcare by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	How far do you drive to get to childcare <u>outside of your normal commute</u>?					
	0 miles (childcare is provided at home or work site)	*Less than a mile*	*Between 1 and 10 miles*	*Between 10 and 20 miles*	*Over 20 miles*	*Significance*
			Percentages			
<u>Total</u>	12	31	48	4	5	
<u>Community Size</u>			(n = 143)			
Less than 500	26	12	51	5	7	
500 - 999	0	71	0	0	29	
1,000 - 4,999	4	52	40	0	4	
5,000 - 9,999	29	0	71	0	0	$\chi^2 = 56.70$*
10,000 and up	6	21	74	0	0	(.000)
<u>Region</u>			(n = 149)			
Panhandle	9	31	59	0	0	
North Central	0	20	80	0	0	
South Central	0	34	50	5	11	
Northeast	31	33	26	5	5	$\chi^2 = 46.24$*
Southeast	22	56	22	0	0	(.000)
<u>Income Level</u>			(n = 148)			
Under $40,000	0	0	100	0	0	
$40,000 - $74,999	11	67	6	0	17	
$75,000 - $99,999	2	33	62	0	4	$\chi^2 = 38.96$*
$100,000 and over	20	22	49	7	3	(.000)
<u>Age</u>			(n = 150)			
19 – 29	17	33	50	0	0	
30 – 39	7	37	43	7	7	
40 – 49	14	0	71	0	14	$\chi^2 = 24.07$
50 – 64	33	0	67	0	0	(.088)
65 and older						
<u>Gender</u>			(n = 150)			
Male	20	41	28	8	3	$\chi^2 = 24.96$*
Female	7	25	63	0	6	(.000)
<u>Marital Status</u>			(n = 150)			
Married	12	32	48	3	5	
Never married						$\chi^2 = 2.14$
Divorced/separated	0	0	100	0	0	(.976)
Widowed						
<u>Education</u>			(n = 148)			
H.S. diploma or less	43	29	29	0	0	
Some college	26	30	39	5	0	$\chi^2 = 34.53$*
Bachelors degree	0	32	57	2	8	(.000)
<u>Occupation</u>			(n = 138)			
Mgt, prof or education	3	36	55	3	3	
Sales or office support	0	0	100	0	0	
Constrn, inst or maint	100	0	0	0	0	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0	0	100	0	0	
Agriculture	8	58	27	0	8	
Food serv/pers. care	33	0	0	0	67	$\chi^2 = 142.1$*
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	9	74	9	0	(.000)
Other						

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those who do not have children under 12 or not currently using childcare were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 7. *Opinions about Childcare in Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Increasing access to high quality childcare should be a high priority for my community.					***Increasing access to affordable childcare should be a high priority for my community.***				
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages					
Total	4	15	74	6		4	10	79	7	
Community Size		(n = 1058)					(n = 1056)			
Less than 500	5	14	71	11		4	12	74	10	
500 - 999	5	30	59	7		3	18	73	7	
1,000 - 4,999	6	17	74	4	χ^2 =	4	7	82	7	χ^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	1	11	83	4	39.72*	1	11	81	7	19.48
10,000 and up	4	11	79	6	(.000)	4	8	82	6	(.078)
Region		(n = 1072)					(n = 1073)			
Panhandle	3	20	73	4		4	10	79	7	
North Central	2	10	80	8		4	8	79	8	
South Central	7	13	73	7	χ^2 =	4	10	81	6	χ^2 =
Northeast	3	17	75	6	21.84*	3	8	80	9	8.56
Southeast	5	19	70	6	(.039)	4	14	76	6	(.740)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1034)					(n = 1032)			
Under $40,000	3	19	72	7		3	13	76	8	
$40,000 - $74,999	7	19	68	6	χ^2 =	3	11	81	5	χ^2 =
$75,000 - $99,999	3	11	80	6	21.49*	5	9	81	6	12.07
$100,000 and over	3	11	80	6	(.011)	3	8	80	10	(.209)
Age		(n = 1074)					(n = 1074)			
19 - 29	6	17	78	0		0	0	94	6	
30 - 39	4	10	82	4		3	7	85	6	
40 - 49	4	12	76	8	χ^2 =	7	10	74	10	χ^2 =
50 - 64	4	21	68	7	36.51*	3	17	74	6	63.40*
65 and older	4	16	70	10	(.000)	4	13	74	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1064)			χ^2 =		(n = 1063)			χ^2 =
Male	6	17	71	6	10.07*	5	13	75	8	11.38*
Female	3	14	77	7	(.018)	3	8	82	7	(.010)
Marital Status		(n = 1050)					(n = 1049)			
Married	4	16	74	6		4	11	79	7	
Never married	2	17	74	7	χ^2 =	1	8	84	7	χ^2 =
Divorced/separated	7	10	77	6	6.70	7	6	78	9	10.68
Widowed	5	14	72	9	(.668)	5	12	76	8	(.298)
Education		(n = 1068)					(n = 1066)			
HS diploma or less	2	21	69	8	χ^2 =	2	12	79	7	χ^2 =
Some college	6	17	73	5	13.52*	3	14	78	6	23.50*
Bachelors or grad degree	4	12	77	7	(.036)	5	6	81	9	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 791)					(n = 791)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	13	82	4		1	9	86	4	
Sales or office support	6	14	73	6		6	11	76	6	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	6	70	4		2	4	91	4	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	7	84	7		0	7	86	7	
Agriculture	6	10	75	9		8	9	74	9	
Food serv/pers. care	0	36	64	0	χ^2 =	0	6	92	2	χ^2 =
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	19	69	8	94.15*	5	7	71	18	60.16*
Other	0	33	63	4	(.000)	8	15	65	12	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	High quality affordable childcare is important to the growth of my community.					***Inadequate or unreliable childcare options cause work disruptions in my community.***				
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages					
Total	3	9	81	7		4	15	71	10	
Community Size		(n = 1058)					(n = 1048)			
Less than 500	5	12	73	10		5	20	65	10	
500 - 999	3	12	83	2		6	21	60	14	
1,000 - 4,999	2	9	83	5	χ^2 =	3	14	75	8	χ^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	3	7	79	11	20.79	4	17	64	15	27.35*
10,000 and up	4	7	83	7	(.054)	3	10	78	9	(.007)
Region		(n = 1073)					(n = 1064)			
Panhandle	3	9	81	7		3	12	77	9	
North Central	3	8	80	9		5	16	70	10	
South Central	3	7	84	7	χ^2 =	2	13	77	9	χ^2 =
Northeast	3	12	80	6	11.01	5	14	67	14	29.61*
Southeast	5	12	76	7	(.528)	6	25	63	7	(.003)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1034)					(n = 1024)			
Under $40,000	4	12	74	10		3	26	58	14	
$40,000 - $74,999	3	8	85	4	χ^2 =	5	15	71	9	χ^2 =
$75,000 - $99,999	2	9	81	8	14.03	3	13	73	11	30.09*
$100,000 and over	4	8	81	7	(.121)	4	12	77	8	(.000)
Age		(n = 1073)					(n = 1063)			
19 - 29	0	6	94	0		0	6	94	0	
30 - 39	4	3	85	9		1	15	74	10	
40 - 49	4	10	78	8	χ^2 =	6	14	68	13	χ^2 =
50 - 64	3	15	75	6	53.58*	4	21	67	7	84.48*
65 and older	4	11	75	10	(.000)	6	18	59	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1065)			χ^2 =		(n = 1054)			χ^2 =
Male	4	14	76	6	20.21*	5	17	69	9	3.44
Female	3	6	83	8	(.000)	3	14	72	11	(.328)
Marital Status		(n = 1049)					(n = 1041)			
Married	3	10	81	6		4	15	73	9	
Never married	1	11	80	8	χ^2 =	4	15	70	12	χ^2 =
Divorced/separated	7	4	80	9	13.78	5	18	62	15	12.05
Widowed	5	11	75	9	(.131)	6	20	59	15	(.211)
Education		(n = 1067)					(n = 1058)			
HS diploma or less	2	13	76	9	χ^2 =	3	18	68	12	χ^2 =
Some college	3	11	81	5	12.83*	4	20	68	9	19.13*
Bachelors or grad degree	4	7	82	7	(.046)	5	11	75	10	(.004)
Occupation		(n = 795)					(n = 785)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	7	88	5		3	12	80	6	
Sales or office support	6	11	79	4		3	18	69	11	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	6	87	6		4	15	78	4	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0	4	91	4		7	7	78	9	
Agriculture	6	13	70	11		7	14	67	12	
Food serv/pers. care	0	6	92	2	χ^2 =	0	16	82	2	χ^2 =
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	13	70	11	52.94*	6	12	74	8	31.54
Other	0	19	67	15	(.000)	0	15	63	22	(.065)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	It is affordable for a parent working in my profession to use childcare.					***There is a shortage of affordable childcare options in my community.***				
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
						Percentages				
Total	36	21	28	15		6	17	61	17	
Community Size		(n = 1047)					(n = 1051)			
Less than 500	35	17	32	16		6	11	69	14	
500 - 999	26	15	35	24		10	17	53	20	
1,000 - 4,999	32	24	31	14	χ^2 =	5	13	70	13	χ^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	24	27	35	14	55.70*	5	37	37	20	66.09*
10,000 and up	49	21	17	13	(.000)	6	16	58	20	(.000)
Region		(n = 1060)					(n = 1064)			
Panhandle	33	23	27	17		7	16	55	22	
North Central	31	14	39	15		5	12	73	11	
South Central	45	19	22	15	χ^2 =	6	13	64	18	χ^2 =
Northeast	30	29	28	14	35.70*	6	21	58	16	28.74*
Southeast	35	19	31	15	(.000)	8	23	51	18	(.004)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1024)					(n = 1023)			
Under $40,000	32	29	18	21		7	32	37	25	
$40,000 - $74,999	39	22	21	18	χ^2 =	7	18	59	17	χ^2 =
$75,000 - $99,999	33	14	40	14	55.28*	4	12	69	14	76.73*
$100,000 and over	38	19	35	8	(.000)	7	9	72	12	(.000)
Age		(n = 1063)					(n = 1065)			
19 - 29	56	11	28	6		0	11	72	17	
30 - 39	38	19	36	7		10	15	63	12	
40 - 49	38	20	29	13	χ^2 =	4	14	64	17	χ^2 =
50 - 64	34	25	26	15	118.09*	8	22	57	14	45.27*
65 and older	18	27	24	31	(.000)	8	19	50	22	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1053)			χ^2 =		(n = 1055)			χ^2 =
Male	34	27	25	14	17.81*	7	19	59	15	3.21
Female	37	17	31	16	(.000)	6	15	61	18	(.360)
Marital Status		(n = 1038)					(n = 1043)			
Married	35	20	34	12		6	15	69	11	
Never married	37	27	15	22	χ^2 =	4	26	32	38	χ^2 =
Divorced/separated	45	19	18	19	52.50*	13	19	46	22	106.8*
Widowed	24	26	19	31	(.000)	8	19	48	26	(.000)
Education		(n = 1057)					(n = 1060)			
HS diploma or less	25	36	14	25	χ^2 =	4	26	48	21	χ^2 =
Some college	41	19	27	14	67.48*	7	19	59	15	34.70*
Bachelors or grad degree	36	17	35	12	(.000)	6	11	67	16	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 793)					(n = 783)			
Mgt, prof or education	45	11	37	6		4	11	70	16	
Sales or office support	42	28	14	17		4	18	61	17	
Constrn, inst or maint	67	15	13	6		8	19	64	10	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	48	20	22	11		0	14	75	11	
Agriculture	16	33	32	19		7	10	69	14	
Food serv/pers. care	35	39	2	24	χ^2 =	2	35	37	26	χ^2 =
Hlthcare supp/safety	38	18	38	7	124.42*	8	14	66	12	47.19*
Other	37	22	22	19	(.000)	11	11	56	22	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	My community needs more before and after school childcare options.					***The community should invest public resources to support the availability of childcare in the community.***				
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages					
Total	8	16	59	17		12	18	58	12	
Community Size		(n = 1054)					(n = 1056)			
Less than 500	5	19	60	15		11	25	49	14	
500 - 999	9	21	53	17		16	26	38	20	
1,000 - 4,999	8	11	63	19	χ^2 =	14	12	63	11	χ^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	12	12	59	17	17.03	9	18	64	10	41.41*
10,000 and up	8	16	60	17	(.149)	10	18	61	11	(.000)
Region		(n = 1070)					(n = 1073)			
Panhandle	9	10	65	16		11	22	53	15	
North Central	8	23	56	14		9	23	56	12	
South Central	8	14	61	16	χ^2 =	10	15	65	10	χ^2 =
Northeast	7	15	59	19	12.96	11	19	57	13	21.25*
Southeast	9	16	57	18	(.372)	19	17	51	13	(.047)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1030)					(n = 1034)			
Under $40,000	5	18	52	25		8	20	51	21	
$40,000 - $74,999	9	14	62	15	χ^2 =	11	19	60	11	χ^2 =
$75,000 - $99,999	11	11	65	14	19.69*	15	14	60	11	24.96*
$100,000 and over	8	17	60	15	(.020)	13	18	59	10	(.003)
Age		(n = 1070)					(n = 1074)			
19 - 29	6	6	72	17		0	0	83	17	
30 - 39	13	9	66	13		10	12	71	7	
40 - 49	6	19	56	19	χ^2 =	15	21	53	12	χ^2 =
50 - 64	10	22	56	13	54.46*	16	29	47	8	141.19*
65 and older	7	19	52	23	(.000)	15	23	44	18	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1061)			χ^2 =		(n = 1063)			χ^2 =
Male	10	22	54	14	28.35*	15	22	52	11	16.28*
Female	7	12	63	19	(.000)	10	16	61	13	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1045)					(n = 1050)			
Married	8	17	60	15		13	20	58	9	
Never married	14	9	57	20	χ^2 =	5	8	59	28	χ^2 =
Divorced/separated	3	18	61	17	20.05*	12	18	60	10	61.86*
Widowed	6	19	50	25	(.018)	14	19	42	25	(.000)
Education		(n = 1064)					(n = 1066)			
HS diploma or less	5	18	63	15	χ^2 =	7	24	52	17	χ^2 =
Some college	6	15	64	15	17.35*	11	20	57	13	17.97*
Bachelors or grad degree	11	15	54	19	(.008)	14	15	61	10	(.006)
Occupation		(n = 790)					(n = 790)			
Mgt, prof or education	8	16	59	18		8	18	68	7	
Sales or office support	4	25	58	13		18	19	54	9	
Constrn, inst or maint	8	15	66	11		8	19	72	2	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0	11	77	11		9	11	73	7	
Agriculture	13	13	62	12		15	21	54	10	
Food serv/pers. care	4	6	84	6	χ^2 =	6	14	52	28	χ^2 =
Hlthcare supp/safety	10	9	60	21	46.57*	14	12	52	22	66.78*
Other	7	14	43	36	(.001)	26	11	44	19	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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