

Parent Child Care Survey 2015

PREPARED FOR MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
BY BC STATS – AUGUST 2015

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1. Executive Summary

On behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), BC Stats conducted a telephone survey of 864 British Columbians in March 2015. This survey gathered information about parents' current child care arrangements, child care preferences, and access and barriers to locating and securing child care.

The information gathered in this research will play a fundamental role in assisting MCFD to more accurately and effectively inform government policy and program development throughout the province as related to building a sustainable and quality early years strategy to support B.C. families.

1.1. Key Findings

- Just over half of the respondents reported that they stay at home to care for their child or children (54%).
 - Of those, more than half stay at home because they believe it is the best for their child (56% of primarily stay at home parents; 30% of all respondents).
 - Fewer than two-in-ten stay at home because they “cannot afford child care costs” (16% of primarily stay at home parents; 9% of all respondents).
- The most commonly reported child care arrangement was care by a parent or guardian (sole care providers) (41% of all respondents).
 - The second-most-common care arrangement was provided by family members or relatives (63% of respondents using any form of care arrangement), followed by centre-based child care facilities (34%).
 - Of those who were not sole care providers, more than two out of three respondents (69%) used a single care arrangement; almost all of the remainder (29%) used two care arrangements.
- Four out of five respondents (80%) were satisfied with their current child care arrangements.
 - Quality (87%), location (85%), and facility and hours and days of operation (both 81%) were rated highest among all satisfaction factors.
 - The most important factors in choice of care arrangements were the location being close to home or work (76%), convenient hours/days of operation (72%), and affordability of child care fees (64%).

- Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) respondents were currently using their preferred child care arrangement.
 - Of those who were not currently using their preferred arrangement, more than four-in-ten (44%) would prefer a centre-based facility and 28% would prefer child care provided by themselves or by their spouse/partner.

- When asked about the challenges they faced in obtaining child care, two in five respondents (41%) said “child care costs are too expensive”.
 - Convenient hours/days of operation or flexibility was the second most frequent challenge (33%) followed by ‘location close to home not available’ (20%).

- Just over three-quarters of respondents (77%) did not have to wait before being offered a space in their current child care arrangements.
 - One in ten respondents (11%) were waitlisted while in immediate need of child care and another 12% were waitlisted, while not in immediate need.

- Word of mouth was the most popular source of child care arrangement information (64%).
 - Respondents used the child’s school (11%) to find about child care arrangements if word of mouth wasn’t their primary information source.

- One out of seven (14%) respondents reported receiving the child care subsidy.

2. Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Parent Child Care Survey, administered by NRG Research Group and BC Stats in 2015 on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

2.1. Background

In March 2014, the Minister of Children and Family Development, Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, committed to engaging with parents¹ of children from birth to age 12 years about child care usage and needs in British Columbia.

Since the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) last conducted a provincial survey (in 2003), there have been many changes that may have affected child care usage and needs in the province. Influences such as ongoing societal changes and adjustments to government programs have motivated the pursuit for more up-to-date information.

The information gathered in this research project will play a fundamental role in assisting MCFD to more accurately and effectively inform government policy and program development throughout the province as related to building a sustainable quality early years strategy to support B.C. families. This research has gathered information about parents' current child care arrangements, child care preferences, barriers to locating and securing child care as well as awareness, use and satisfaction with current child care services and programs offered in B.C.

2.2. Research Objectives

Guided by the general purpose, the present study has the following objectives:

- Assess the child care needs of British Columbian families.
- Explore the diversity of parents' child care arrangements.
- Identify parents' child care preferences, and barriers to accessing child care.
- Evaluate the overall satisfaction with the current child care arrangements and specific child care attributes.
- Inform child care policy and program development to build a well-planned, quality child care system.

¹ Includes guardians of children aged zero to 12.

2.3. Survey Methodology: Summary

The survey sample was drawn from a random selection of British Columbia households, and screened to include only those households with at least one child between the ages of birth and 12 years of age.

A total of 864 British Columbia residents completed the survey.

Further details regarding the survey methodology can be found in section 7. Methodology.

The results are based on the responses of 864 British Columbia parents and guardians.

3. Care Arrangements

All respondents to the survey were asked about their primary child care arrangements (staying at home with the child or not), followed by the range of child care arrangements that they use and details about that care. These questions were then followed by enquiries about satisfaction with their current child care arrangements, their needs, and perceived barriers to meeting those needs.

3.1. Staying at home to care for children

Just over half of all respondents reported they stay at home to care for their child or children (54%).

When asked for the primary reason that they stay at home to care for their child, more than half (56%) said it is because they believe it is the best for their child. Fewer than two-in-ten (16%) reported staying at home because they cannot afford child care costs.

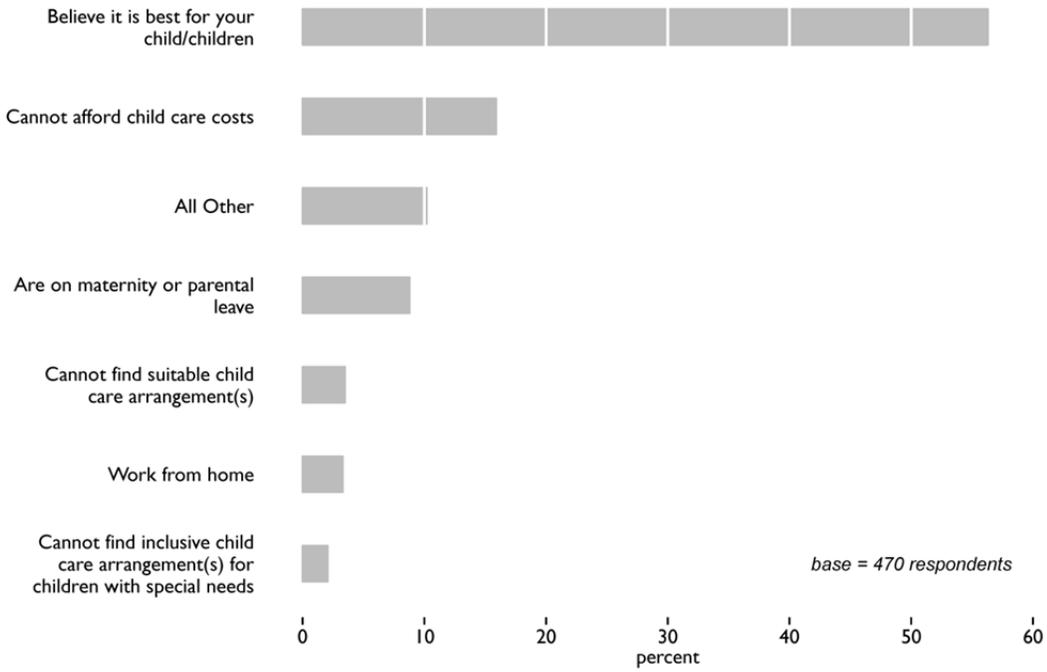
Just over half of all survey respondents stay home primarily to care for their children.

TABLE 1. REASONS FOR STAYING HOME TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Do you or your spouse/partner stay at home primarily in order to care for your child/children? (% yes)	% of All Respondents	% of Parents who stay at home primarily to care for their child or children
	54%	100%
What is the main reason that you or your spouse/partner stays at home to care for your child/children?	% of All Respondents	% of Parents who stay at home primarily to care for their child or children
Believe it is best for the child/children	30%	56%
Cannot afford child care costs	9%	16%
Are on maternity or parental leave	5%	9%
Work from home		3%
Cannot find suitable child care arrangements	1%	3%
Cannot find inclusive child care arrangements for children with special needs	1%	2%
Other	8%	10%

Base: All respondents, n = 864; Parents who stay at home, n = 470.

FIGURE 1. REASONS FOR STAYING AT HOME TO CARE FOR CHILDREN



3.2. Multiple Care Arrangements

All respondents (both those for whom staying at home was identified as the primary choice of care, and those for whom other choices was the primary type of care) were asked to identify all the types of child care they use.

Four out of every ten (41%) respondents did not use any child care arrangement because they were sole child care providers.

Of those who were not sole care providers, more than two out of three respondents (69%) used a single care arrangement; almost all of the remainder (29%) used two care arrangements.

Nearly 70% of respondents who used care arrangements used only one.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF CARE ARRANGEMENTS

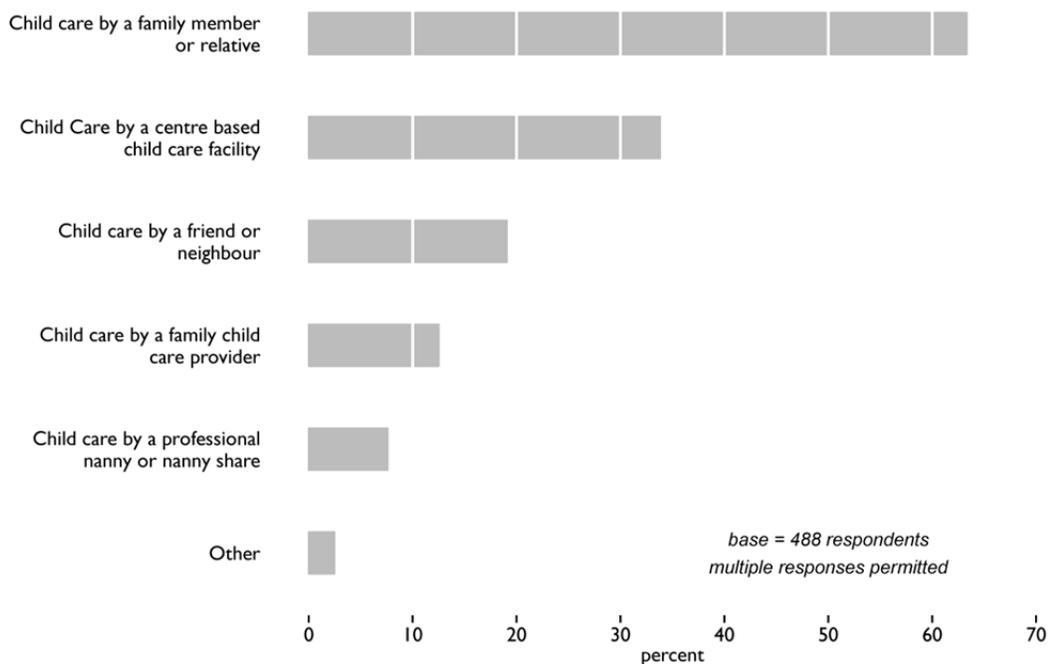
	% of Total	% of Non-sole provider
Sole provider	41%	
Non-sole provider (using child care arrangement)	59%	100%
- 1 care arrangement	40%	69%
- 2 care arrangements	17%	29%
- 3 care arrangements	1%	1%
- 4 or more care arrangements	0%	0%

Base: Total: all respondents, n = 864; Non-sole provider, n = 506

Of those respondents who used child care arrangements, nearly two-thirds (63%) used child care by a family member or relative, while one-third (34%) use a centre-based child care facility². One-in-five (19%) use child care by a friend or neighbour, and just over one-in-ten (13%) use a family child care provider. A professional nanny or nanny share arrangement is used by 8% of those who use child care arrangements.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents used child care by a family member or relative.

FIGURE 2. RESPONDENTS WHO USE CARE ARRANGEMENTS: CURRENT CARE ARRANGEMENTS



The majority (86%) of those who use child care by a centre-based child care facility or family child care provider indicated that their provider is licensed.

² **Unlicensed Child Care:** Your child receives child care that is not licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of two children (or one sibling group) at any one time.

Licensed Family Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of eight children at any one time.

Licensed Centre-based Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a centre-based setting (such as a school, church, recreation centre, government building, etc.).

TABLE 3. CURRENT USE OF CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Current Use of Child Care Arrangements Include...	Total	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Parent or person responsible provides sole child care	41%	46%	37%	35%	43%	31%	43%
All Other Care Options (multiple responses)							
Total, All Other Care Options	59%	54%	63%	65%	57%	69%	57%
Of "All Other Care Options":							
Child care by a family member or relative	63%	62%	59%	61%	62%	49%	65%
Child Care by a centre-based child care facility	34%	31%	39%	34%	27%	53%	29%
Child care by a friend or neighbour	19%	15%	22%	23%	17%	15%	20%
Child care by a family child care provider	13%	10%	9%	15%	19%	16%	8%
Child care by a professional nanny or nanny-share arrangement	8%	11%	7%	3%	8%	4%	8%
Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	4%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

Multiple selections permitted for "All Other Care Options"; Columns will sum to greater than 100%.

3.3. Care Need Amounts & Times

3.3.1. Number of days per week child care is required

All respondents to the survey were asked to consider a typical week, and how many days (not the number of hours) of child care arrangements per week they require for their child. In this case, “child care arrangements” excludes occasional babysitting for recreation or social events, and child care provided by one’s self and partner or spouse.

Nearly half of all respondents (48%) who required child care arrangements said they needed them five or more days a week. Younger children were somewhat less likely to require care arrangements five or more days a week (38%) than older children, reflecting to some degree maternity and other forms of parental leave.

TABLE 4. TYPICAL NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK CHILDCARE IS NEEDED

Typical number of days per week needed for child care	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
1-2 days per week	25%	21%	32%	30%	26%	23%	26%
3-4 days per week	27%	25%	20%	33%	36%	31%	22%
5+ days per week	48%	55%	49%	37%	38%	46%	52%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: respondents using child care arrangement; n = 432 (Not Applicable, Don’t Know, and Prefer Not to Answer are excluded).

3.3.2. Time of day when child care is required

Respondents were asked which times of day they require child care arrangements and were able to choose multiple answers from a variety of times including during school closures, during school hours, weekends, evenings, and seasonal coverage.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents said that they require child care arrangements for the period after school (3:00 PM to 6:00 PM); this proportion was slightly higher in the Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser region, and for children in the 5 to 12 years old category.

TABLE 5. TIME OF DAY CARE IS REQUIRED (MULTIPLE MENTION, NON-SOLE CARE PROVIDERS)

Which of the following times of day do you require child care arrangements for your child?	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
After school (3:00 PM to 6:00 PM)	73%	78%	66%	68%	59%	63%	82%
During periods of school closures (Pro-D days, statutory holidays, school vacations, etc.)	41%	38%	38%	45%	23%	30%	51%
School hours (8:30 AM to 3:00 PM)	39%	40%	49%	35%	79%	81%	11%
Before school (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM)	38%	45%	32%	30%	36%	46%	36%
Shift coverage (Times of day vary)	18%	17%	15%	20%	18%	18%	18%
Seasonal coverage (Part of the year only)	15%	12%	16%	20%	15%	9%	17%
Early mornings (Before 7:00 AM)	14%	17%	7%	12%	18%	15%	12%
Evenings (After 6:00 PM)	12%	12%	9%	14%	13%	10%	13%
Weekends	9%	7%	7%	11%	7%	6%	10%
Overnights	4%	1%	3%	7%	5%	3%	4%
Other	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

Base: respondents using child care arrangement; n = 548 (Not Applicable, Don't Know, and Prefer Not to Answer are excluded).

Multiple responses permitted; Columns will not add to 100%.

4. Satisfaction & Barriers

4.1. Satisfaction with Care Arrangements

Respondents who used any type of child care arrangement beyond their own direct care, including those who use child care by a family member, relative, friend and/or neighbour, were asked to rate their satisfaction with their current child care arrangements and related attributes.

The majority (80%) of respondents were satisfied (a combination of respondents who answered “satisfied” and “very satisfied” on a five point scale) with their current child care arrangements. Over half of these respondents (57%) answered that they are “very satisfied”.

Eight out of ten respondents who use child care were satisfied with their current child care arrangements.

TABLE 6. SATISFACTION WITH CARE ARRANGEMENTS BY REGION AND CHILD’S AGE

Overall how satisfied are you with your current child care arrangement for your child?	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Satisfied and Very Satisfied	80%	83%	81%	79%	82%	78%	80%

Base: respondents using child care arrangement, n =548 (Not Applicable, Don’t Know, and Prefer Not to Answer are excluded).

Respondents that used child care provided by family, friends, neighbours or relatives and those who use a centre-based facility type were more satisfied overall with their child care arrangement than those who used a family child care provider or a professional nanny/nanny share arrangement.

TABLE 7. SATISFACTION WITH CARE ARRANGEMENTS BY CARE TYPE

Overall how satisfied are you with your current child care arrangement for your child?	Family Member	Friend/ Neighbour	Professional Nanny or Nanny-Share	Family Child Care Provider	Centre-Based Child Care
Satisfied and Very Satisfied	81%	69%	87%	66%	81%

NOTE: respondents using child care arrangement, n =548 (Not Applicable, Don't Know, and Prefer Not to Answer are excluded).

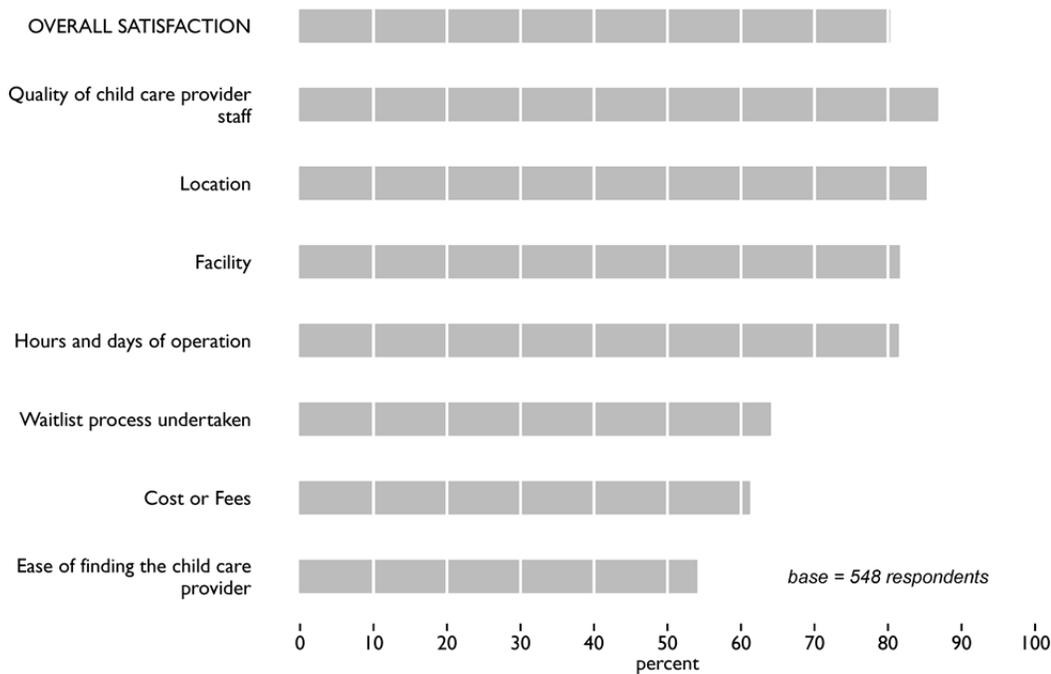
Nearly nine out of ten respondents who used care arrangements beyond their own care were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the child care provider staff (87%) and with the location (85%). Just over eight-in-ten respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the facility (82%) and the hours and days of operation (81%).

Of those respondents who participated in a waitlist process, nearly two-thirds (64%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the process. It is important to note that nearly half (44%) of respondents using care arrangements reported that they had not participated in a waitlist process.

Six out of ten respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with child care cost or fees (61%). Just over half (54%) of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the ease of finding a child care provider.

More than eight out of ten respondents with child care arrangements were satisfied with the quality of the child care provider staff, location, facility, and hours and days of operation.

FIGURE 3. SATISFACTION* WITH CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT



* Satisfied and Very Satisfied

4.2. Main Reason for Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to indicate the main reason why they feel satisfied with current child care arrangements. One-quarter of respondents indicated that the provider is family or friend (25%). Nearly the same proportion indicated that the provider is responsive to the needs of the parent and child (23%). A range of other factors made up the remainder of the responses.

TABLE 8. REASON FOR SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT

Main reason for satisfaction with current child care arrangements	British Columbia
Provider is family or friend	25%
Provider is responsive to parent and child's needs/child is happy	23%
Provider offers convenient hours of operation	11%
Provider is located in a convenient location (e.g. close to home/work/school)	9%
Quality of care	8%
Provider is not located in a convenient location (e.g. close to home/work/school)	7%
Provider offers an engaging, developmentally appropriate curriculum/program	6%
Provider's facility is welcoming, and offers a range of age appropriate activities (both inside and outside)	6%
Provider's fees are affordable	2%
Trust the provider	2%
Provider has an ECE or other level of training/certification (e.g., Bachelor of Education)	1%
Other	9%

Base: respondents satisfied with current child care arrangements; n = 404.

4.3. Main Reason for Dissatisfaction

When asked to state the main reason why they feel dissatisfied with current child care arrangements, nearly one-quarter of respondents indicated either that the provider is not responsive to parent and child’s needs (24%), or “provider’s fees are not affordable” (22%).

TABLE 9. REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT

Main reason for dissatisfaction with current child care arrangements	British Columbia
Provider is not responsive to parent and child's needs	24%
Provider's fees are not affordable	22%
Provider does not offer an engaging, developmentally appropriate curriculum/program	10%
Provider does not offer convenient hours of operation	10%
Provider's facility is not welcoming, and does not offer a range of age appropriate activities	7%
Provider is not located in a convenient location (e.g. close to home/work/school)	7%
Provider does not have an adequate level of training/certification	5%
Other	15%

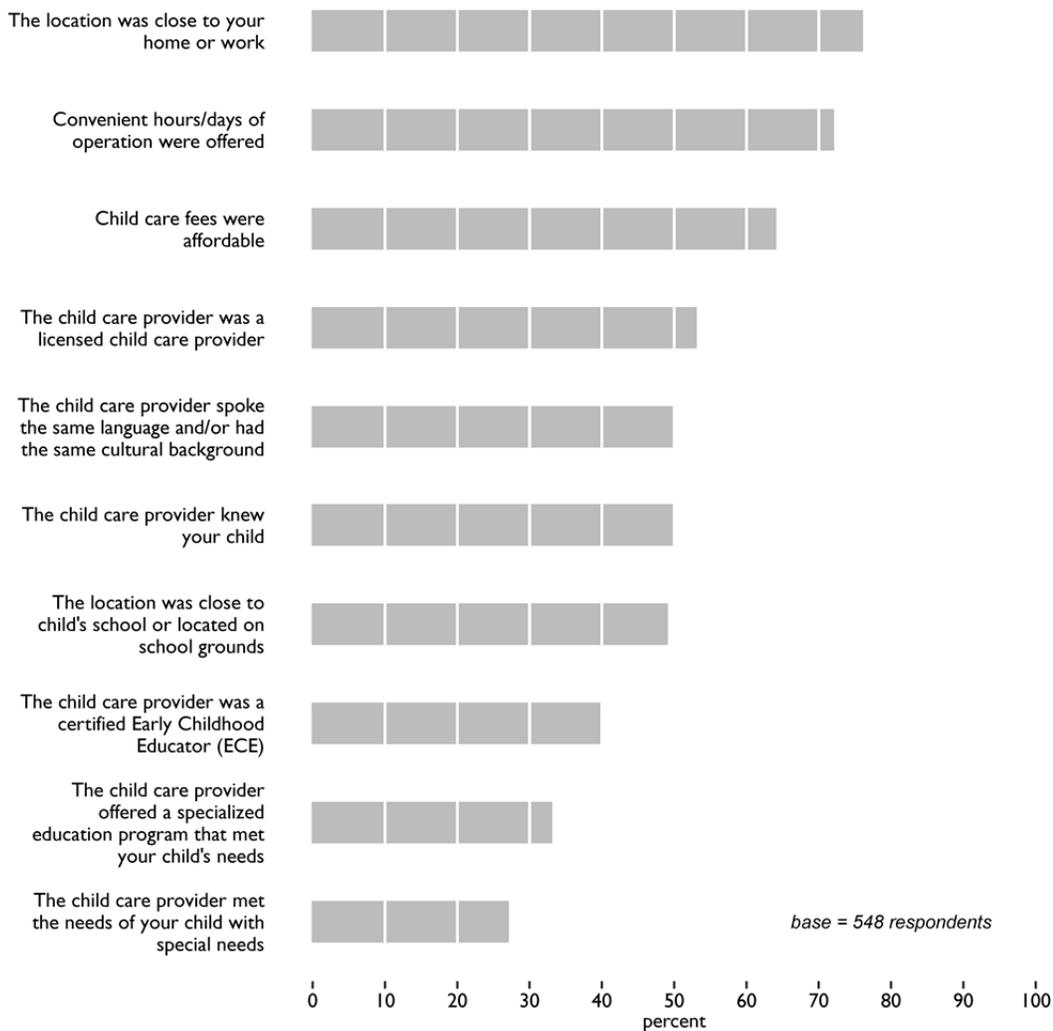
Base: respondents dissatisfied with current child care arrangements; n = 43. Caution is recommended when interpreting the results due to the small sample size.

4.4. Importance of Child Care Factors

When respondents were asked to rate the importance of multiple, diverse factors when choosing current child care arrangements, the factors ranked as most important (combining “Important” and “Very Important”) were:

- Location is close to home or work (76% of respondents)
- Convenient hours/days of operation were offered (72%)
- Child care fees are affordable (64%).

FIGURE 4. IMPORTANCE* OF FACTORS WHEN CHOOSING CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS



* Important and Very Important

4.5. Preferred Care Arrangements

One in five respondents (20%) indicated they did not have a match between their child care preference and their current child care arrangements.

Just over three-quarters (78%) of respondents reported that their current child care arrangement matched their preferred arrangement. Respondents that were either sole care providers or using a centre-based facility provider were more likely than other respondents that use other types to report that they were currently using their preferred arrangement.

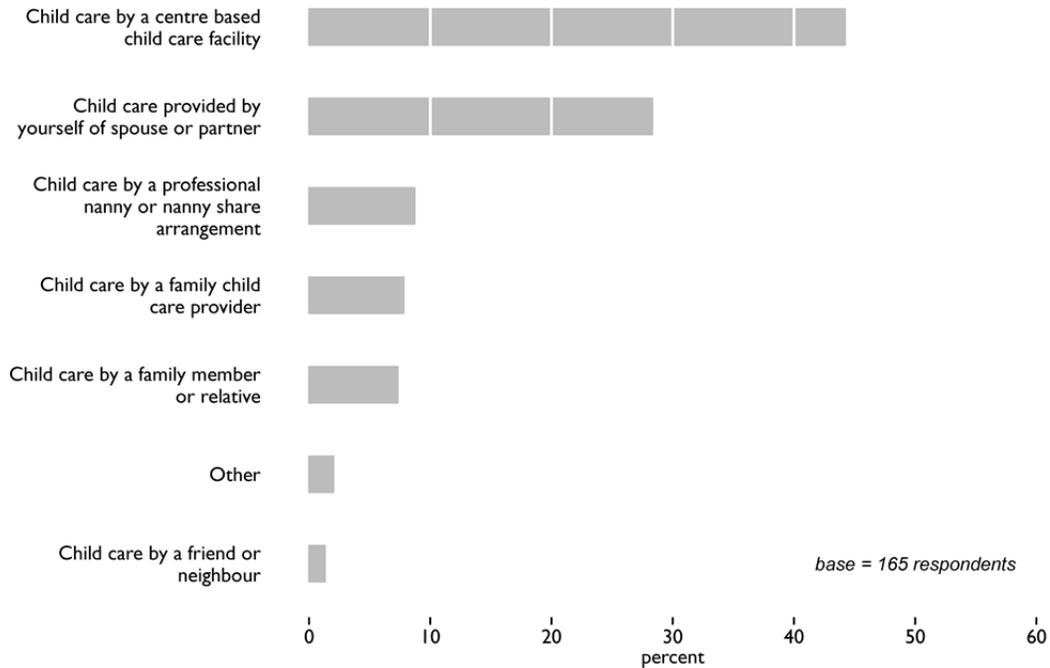
TABLE 10. IS CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENT THE PREFERRED ONE?

Current child care arrangement & preference	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Yes, current arrangement is preferred arrangement	78%	78%	79%	77%	79%	80%	77%
No, current arrangement is not preferred arrangement	20%	19%	19%	21%	19%	17%	20%

Base: all respondents, n =864.

Of those who were not currently accessing their preferred child care arrangement, more than one in four (44%) answered that their preferred arrangement would be child care provided by a centre-based facility.

FIGURE 5. CHILD CARE PREFERENCES

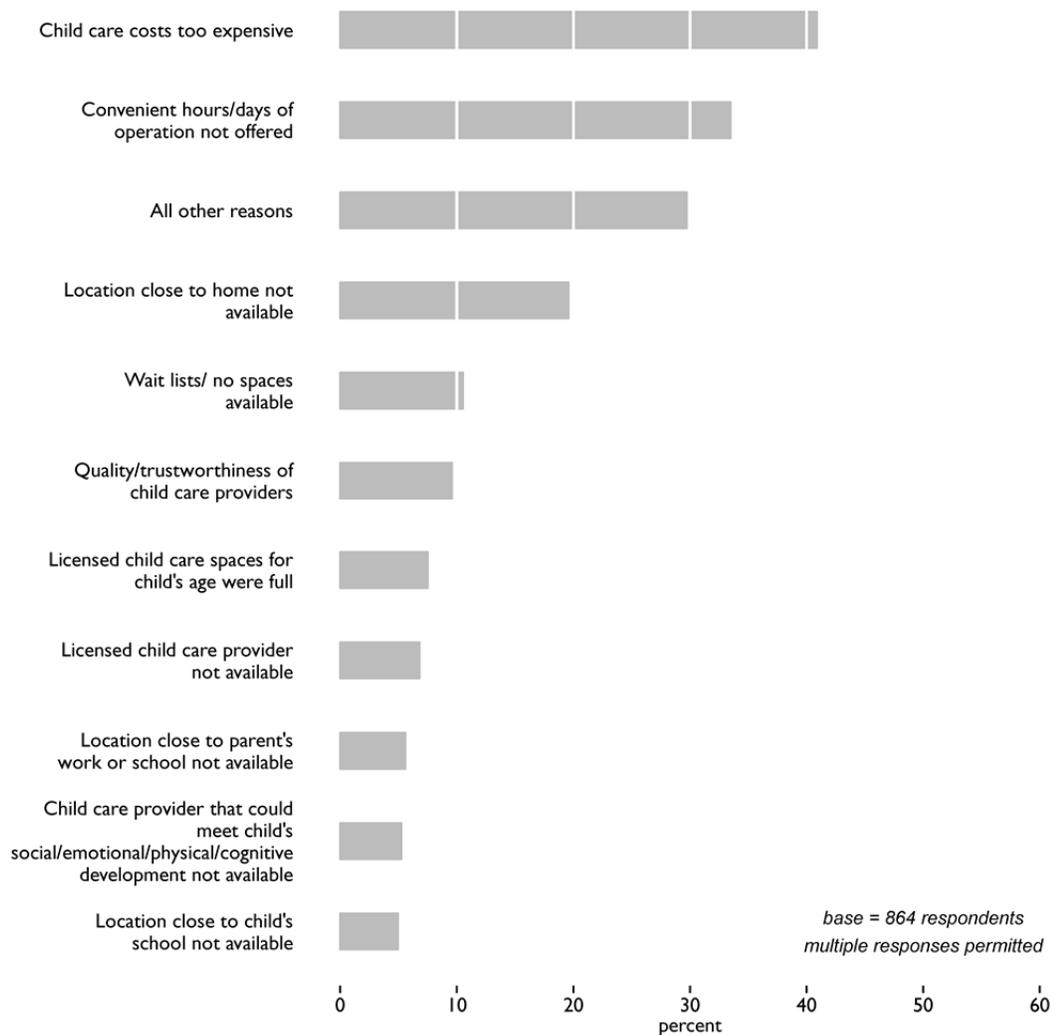


4.6. Challenges in Obtaining Child Care

When respondents were asked what top three challenges they experienced when obtaining child care arrangements, just under one-third (31%) indicated that they experienced no challenges.

Of those who experienced challenges, the most frequently mentioned response was child care costs are too expensive (41%), followed by convenient hours of operation not offered (33%), and location close to home was not available (20%).

FIGURE 6. CHALLENGES IN OBTAINING CHILD CARE



4.7. Waitlists

A potential barrier to satisfaction with current child care access or to child care preferences was the wait listing process. When respondents were asked if they had to wait before being offered a space in their child's current child care arrangement, most respondents (77%) reported that they did not have to wait.

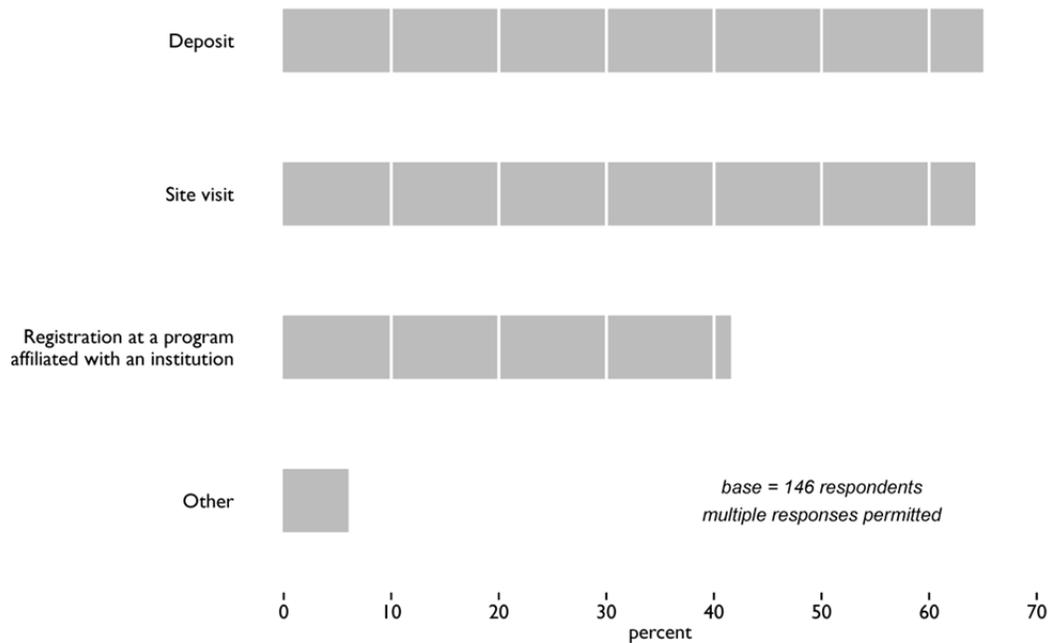
The respondents who were waitlisted before getting access to child care were evenly split between those who were in immediate child care need and those were not in immediate need of a child care arrangement.

Nearly half (47%) of respondents said they were not asked for any requirements in order to secure a place on the waitlist.

Of those respondents who reported being waitlisted and who did have to meet some form of requirement, the most common requirements were doing a site visit (65%) or making a deposit (64%). Roughly two out of five (41%) also mentioned that they were required to register at a program affiliated with an institution such as a school, church, or employer.

Those respondents with children aged birth to 2 years old were more likely than respondents with older children to be required to do a site visit before being placed on the waitlist.

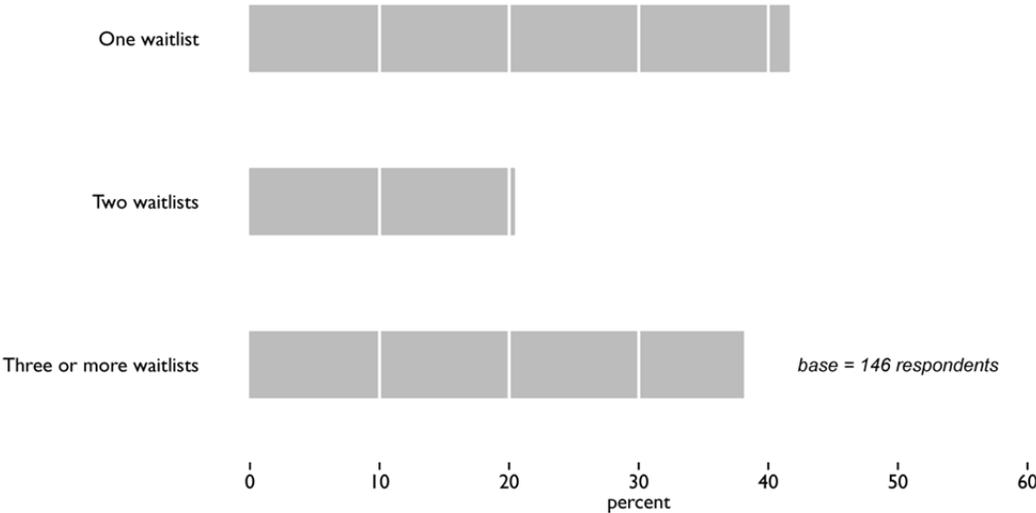
FIGURE 7. REQUIREMENTS BEFORE ACCESS TO PLACEMENT



Over one third of respondents who were waitlisted before being granted access to a care arrangement did not need to provide a deposit, perform a site visit, or register at an affiliated institution program before being placed on a waitlist.

Of those respondents that were waitlisted, just over one-third (36%) noted they were only registered on one waitlist before being offered a space in their current child care arrangement, while another third were registered on three or more waitlists. Nearly one fifth (18%) were registered on two waitlists.

FIGURE 8. NUMBER OF WAITLIST REGISTRATIONS BEFORE BEING OFFERED A SPACE



Of respondents who were waitlisted before being granted a space in care arrangements, just over one-fifth (22%) waited less than a month, while another two-fifths (43%) waited between one and six months.

TABLE 11. LENGTH OF TIME WAITING WHILE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF CHILD CARE

How many months did you wait, while in immediate need of child care, until you were placed in a spot?	% of Respondents who were waitlisted before being granted space
<1 month	22%
1-6 months	43%
6 months - 1 year	22%
1-2 years	14%*
Two years+	0%*

Base: waitlisted in need of immediate care, n =146

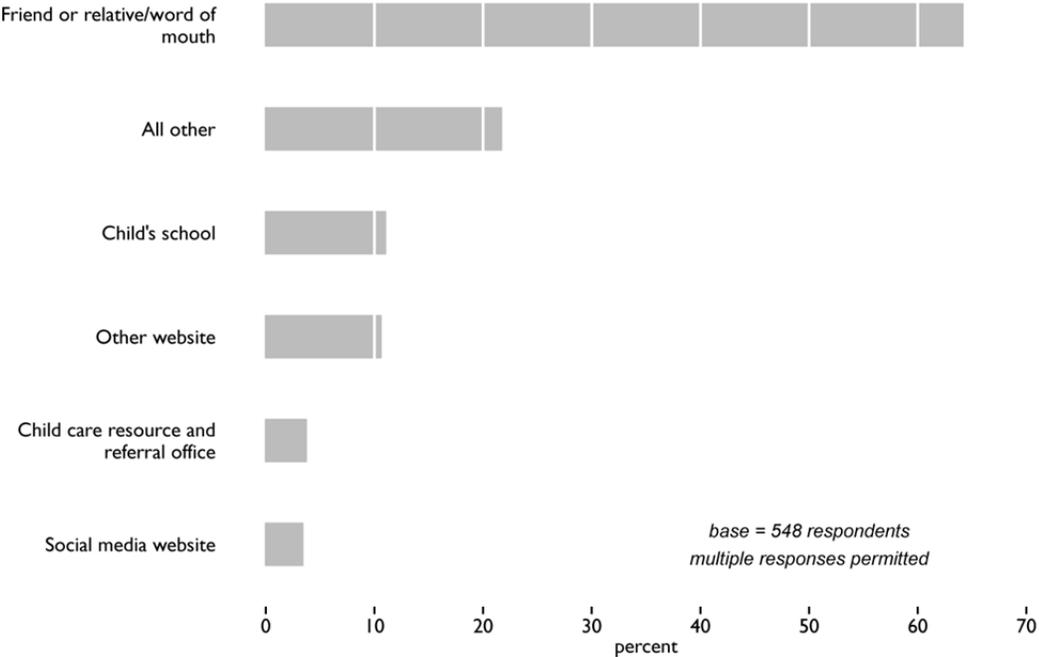
One fifth (20%) of survey respondents who were trying to get child care reported that at the time of the survey, their child was still on a waitlist or multiple waitlists, even though he/she was currently attending child care.

5. Other Contributing Factors to Child Care Access

5.1. Sources of Information for Child Care Arrangements

Word of mouth was the most powerful information sharing tool for finding potential child care arrangements, as reported by nearly two thirds of survey respondents (64%). One in ten used 'other website' or the child's school to find about potential child care arrangements.

FIGURE 9. SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED TO FIND OUT ABOUT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS



5.2. Child Care Subsidy

The majority (86%) of respondents reported not receiving a full or partial child care subsidy³ for their child or children, while 14% of respondents reported receiving a child care subsidy.

TABLE 12. PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO RECEIVE A CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Do you receive a full or partial child care subsidy for your child/children?	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	<=2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Yes	14%	11%	15%	20%	16%	19%	13%
No	86%	89%	85%	80%	84%	81%	87%

Base: all respondents, n=864

³ Child care subsidy is a monthly payment that helps eligible families with the cost of child care. The amount of subsidy depends on family income and size, ages and number of children, and the type of child care setting. Full or partial subsidies may be available.

5.3. Child Care Fees

Respondents using child care arrangements (that is, not those who were sole care givers) were asked how much per month they pay for child care for the individual child about whom they were asked to respond. (See Appendix C: Survey Instrument, Questions 40 and 41.)

Answers about child care fees were provided by 466 respondents who use child care arrangements (that is, those not caring for their children on a full-time basis). Analysis of these responses has led to the conclusion that the number of responses provided, the survey methodology, and the questions asked, are insufficiently robust to provide confidence in the results. First, a large number of the respondents using child care arrangements indicate that they have no child care costs whatsoever (perhaps due to a reliance on family members and/or family friends) which lowered substantially the reported monthly fees. Second, the wide range of dollar values in the responses coupled with a relatively small number of responses leads to a situation where the average value has a confidence interval that is too wide to be meaningful.

BC Stats is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to address the identified issues in survey methodology related to these two questions to ensure that any future iterations of the parent survey produce better quality cost information. The Ministry of Children and Family Development's data on current median fees for licensed group and family child care is available through its performance management report (Ministry of Children and Family Development's Performance Management Report⁴ – pages 23 and 24).

⁴ Available at http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_pmr_2013_14.pdf

6. Characteristics of Survey Respondents

High-level information about the regional representation, gender representation, employment, family and household structure characteristics, and household income of the survey respondent population appear in the following section.

6.1. Regional Representation

For the purpose of understanding regional differences, multiple MCFD Local Service Areas were aggregated into three regions:

- Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
- South Vancouver Island
- Rest of B.C.

Each region was represented by an equal number of survey respondents, to provide comparisons between the three regions.

In order to provide provincial-level results, weights were applied so that the responses reflect the current population of British Columbia.

For more details on the regional groups and their aggregation see Appendix A and the section describing Questionnaire Sampling and Weighting.

6.2. Gender of Survey Respondents

Just over two-thirds of survey respondents were women. The proportion of male respondents was slightly higher in the Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser region than in the other two regions.

TABLE 13. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Gender of Respondent	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.
Males	28%	32%	28%	22%
Females	72%	68%	72%	78%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

6.3. Family Composition and Household Structure

6.3.1. Family Composition

In all three regions, at least three-quarters of survey respondent families were comprised of four or five plus people living in a household.

The majority (95%) of survey respondents were the parents of the child.

Most frequently there were four people living in a home and two children aged 12 years old or younger, including those who live at home on a part-time basis.

TABLE 14. FAMILY COMPOSITION: PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD*

Family Composition by Region	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Two Person Household	2%	2%	3%	2%	<1%	3%	3%
Three Person Household	21%	20%	22%	22%	30%	15%	20%
Four Person Household	44%	40%	45%	49%	38%	47%	47%
Five or More People in the Household	33%	37%	30%	27%	31%	34%	30%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

Note that the age category shown is the age of the child that the respondent answered about and not the age of all children in the household.

6.3.2. Household Structure

Four out of five (80%) respondents classified their household as two-parent while 11% lived in an extended family or multi-generational household. Roughly one-in-ten (9%) was a single-parent household.

TABLE 15. HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

Household Structure	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
One Parent	9%	6%	11%	12%	5%	8%	12%
Two Parents	80%	80%	83%	80%	87%	85%	78%
Other (e.g., grandparents, extended family, multi-generational, etc.).	11%	13%	7%	8%	8%	7%	10%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

Eight-in-ten (82%) respondents were married, while less than one-in-ten (7%) lived in common-law relationships and only 4% were separated or single.

6.4. Household Income & Employment

6.4.1. Household Income

The largest group of survey respondents indicated a household income in the \$50,000 to less than \$100,000 category (34%). The next most common income category was \$100,000 to less than \$150,000 (21%).

TABLE 16. HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY REGION AND AGE OF CHILD

Household Income by Region & Age Group of Child	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
< \$20,000	5%	3%	5%	7%	6%	7%	4%
\$20,000 to < \$50,000	14%	14%	10%	16%	13%	10%	16%
\$50,000 to < \$100,000	34%	33%	41%	32%	38%	34%	32%
\$100,000 to < \$150,000	21%	19%	21%	23%	22%	23%	20%
\$150,000 +	13%	17%	13%	7%	9%	12%	15%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

6.4.2. Employment

Seven out of ten (72%) respondents were employed, while only 16% were unemployed or homemakers. Five percent each were on maternity or parental leave and/or attending school, college, university or other training.

TABLE 17. EMPLOYMENT PROPORTIONS BY REGION AND AGE CATEGORIES

Which of the following best describes your main work or education situation?	British Columbia	Vancouver/ Richmond/ Fraser	South Vancouver Island	Rest of B.C.	≤2 Years Old	3-4 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
Employed	72%	73%	78%	69%	62%	70%	76%
Unemployed/ Homemaker	16%	17%	11%	15%	18%	20%	14%
On maternity or parental leave	5%	5%	3%	6%	19%	5%	0%
Attending school, college, university or other training (full or part-time)	5%	4%	5%	7%	4%	6%	5%
Retired	3%	2%	3%	5%	1%	0%	5%
Other	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: all respondents, n = 864

Respondents were also asked to describe their spouse/partner's main work and/or education situation. The majority (84%) of spouses or partners were employed.

7. Methodology

7.1. Questionnaire Design and Sampling

7.1.1. Questionnaire Design

A survey was developed to address the identified objectives (See 2.2 Research Objectives). The Ministry of Children and Family Development and B.C. Stats developed this survey questionnaire in consultation with NRG Research Group. Where appropriate, definitions provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development were used.

In survey development, a number of factors were taken into account. They were:

- Mode of data collection
- Clarity of the questions for respondents and interviewers
- Minimizing survey length for cost and response-rate implications
- Consistency in wording of question items internally.

7.1.2. Questionnaire Sampling and Weighting

In the present study, BC Stats provided a sample plan and quota structure that resulted in an equal number of survey completes per region and child's age. A total of 864 British Columbia residents completed the survey. Final completions by regions and child's age are as follows.

TABLE 18. SAMPLE SIZE BY REGION AND AGE OF CHILD

	TOTAL	Age Birth-2	Age 3 - 4	Age 5 - 12
Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser	288	96	96	96
South Vancouver Island	288	96	95	97
Rest of B.C.	288	96	96	96
TOTAL B.C.	864	288	287	289

In order to obtain a provincial result, post-survey weighting to known population characteristics was used to correct for the regional distribution in the aggregated sample. The post-survey weighting adjustments ensure that the sample is proportionately consistent with the population of households with children aged 0 to 12 years in British Columbia and allows the results of the survey to be generalized to the population of B.C.

7.2. Survey Administration and Qualifying Criteria

7.2.1. Survey Administration

The Parent Child Care Survey was administered by telephone and online, using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). NRG Research Group was responsible for all data collection activities. The survey was administered from March 5th through 23rd, 2015, using random-digit dialing sample source of both cell phone and landline numbers, and computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

All respondents reached by telephone were given the option to complete the survey online if they were unwilling or unable to complete the survey by telephone; however, none of the respondents opted to complete the survey online.

Respondents completing the survey by telephone were offered the choice of completing the survey in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, or French. The online survey was available in English only.

All respondents were informed that their responses would be kept confidential by B.C. Stats as required under Section 9 of the *Statistics Act* and that no names or personal information would be linked to responses in any material provided to the Government of British Columbia.

7.2.2. Qualifying Criteria

The Parent Child Care Survey included screener questions meant to confirm respondent's eligibility to participate. Respondents who were most responsible for making child care arrangements of children aged 0 to 12 years were qualified to participate. Respondents who preferred not to provide children's ages were disqualified.

7.3. Response Rate and Eligibility Rate

In total, 864 surveys were completed; 2,990 British Columbians responded and of those, 864 met the screening criteria of having children 12 years or younger.

The response rate for the survey was 7.7% (2,990 responses out of 38,695 valid calls). The eligibility rate was 28.9% (864 completed surveys out of 2,990 responses).

TABLE 19. RESPONSE RATE AND ELIGIBILITY RATE*

	TOTAL
TOTAL CALLS	79,556
Valid	38,695
- Unresolved	26,670
- In-scope – Non-responding	9,035
- In-scope – Responding	2,990
<i>Response rate</i>	7.7%
+ Completed (Responding with children age birth to 12)	864
<i>Eligibility Rate (Completed / In-scope – Responding)</i>	28.9%

* Response rate and eligibility rate calculated using the MRIA empirical method standard.⁵

⁵ See <http://mria-arim.ca/about-mria/standards/response-rate-calculation-formula>

7.4. Margin of Error

Based on the sample of 864 completed surveys, the margin of error for any question that includes all respondents, and where the proportion being measured is 50% (that is to say, where half the respondents indicated Choice A and the other half indicated Choice B), is 3.33 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. This means that if the survey were to be conducted 100 times, the measure of a question to which the true value is 50% would be expected to fall between 46.7% and 53.3%, 95 times out of 100.

It is important to note two things:

1. The margin of error grows wider as the number of respondents answering any one particular question is reduced. The table below gives examples of the margin of error associated with smaller sample sizes (where the proportion being measured is 50%, at the 95% confidence interval).
2. The margin of error is reduced as the proportion measured moves away from 50%. As an example, an item with 864 respondents measured at 75% has a margin of error of +/- 2.89 percentage points.

TABLE 20. MARGIN OF ERROR (MAXIMUM; BASED ON 50% PROPORTION)

SAMPLE SIZE	Confidence Interval (95%; $\alpha = 0.05$)	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
864	3.33 percentage points	46.7%	53.3%
400	4.90 percentage points	45.1%	54.9%
200	6.93 percentage points	43.1%	56.9%
100	9.80 percentage points	40.2%	59.8%

7.5. Statistical Methods & Interpretation of Data

Data was analyzed by NRG Research Group and BC Stats using SPSS and R Project for Statistical Computing. The charts in the report were created using R's plotting package ggplot2.

The data set was weighted for region and children's age group based on the total number of B.C. households with children by region and by age group provided by BC Stats. Chi-square tests of significance were used for all of the cross-tabulations.

8. Appendix A: Glossary of Survey Terms

Aboriginal person: First Nations (North American Indian), Metis or Inuk (Inuit). First Nations (North American Indian) includes Status and Non-Status Indians.

Licensed Centre-based Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a centre-based setting (such as a school, church, recreation centre, government building, etc.).

Licensed Family Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of 8 children at any one time.

Landed Immigrant: A landed immigrant (or permanent resident) is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities

Unlicensed Child Care: Your child receives child care that is not licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of two children (or one sibling group) at any one time.

9. Appendix B: Regional Structure

MCFD Local Service Area & Regional Group	Survey Regional Group
MCFD SDA - 11 Kootenays	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 12 Okanagan	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 13 Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 25 Coast/North Shore	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 32 North Vancouver Island	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 41 Northwest	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 42 North Central	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 43 Northeast	Rest of BC
MCFD SDA - 31 South Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island
MCFD SDA - 21 East Fraser	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD SDA - 22 North Fraser	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD SDA - 23 South Fraser	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD SDA - 24 Vancouver/Richmond	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 1101 East Kootenay	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1102 Kootenay Boundary	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1203 South Okanagan	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1204 North Okanagan	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1205 Central Okanagan	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1306 Shuswap	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1307 Kamloops	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1308 Cariboo	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 1309 Gold Trail	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 2525 North Shore/Squamish	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 2526 Sunshine Coast/Pemberton	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 2527 Powell River/Central Coast	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 2528 Bella Coola Valley	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 2529 Central Coast	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3234 Nanaimo	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3235 Parksville/Qualicum	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3236 Port Alberni	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3237 Comox Valley	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3238 Campbell River	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3239 Port Hardy	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4140 Haida Gwaii/Rupert	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4141 Terrace/Kitimat	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4142 Bulkley/Stikine	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4243 Quesnel	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4244 Nechako Lakes	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4245 Prince George	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4346 Peace River South	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 4347 Peace River North	Rest of BC
MCFD LSA - 3130 Victoria	South Vancouver Island
MCFD LSA - 3131 Sooke/Westshore	South Vancouver Island
MCFD LSA - 3132 Peninsula/Gulf Islands	South Vancouver Island

MCFD Local Service Area & Regional Group	Survey Regional Group
MCFD LSA - 3133 Duncan	South Vancouver Island
MCFD LSA - 2110 Abbotsford	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2111 Chilliwack	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2112 Mission	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2113 Fraser/Cascades	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2214 Burnaby New Westminster	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2215 Ridge Meadows	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2216 Tri-Cities	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2317 Langley	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2318 Surrey North	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2319 Surrey South	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2320 Surrey East	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2321 Delta	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2422 Vancouver/Richmond	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2423 Vancouver North	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser
MCFD LSA - 2424 Vancouver South	Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser

10. Appendix C: Survey Instrument

2015 MCFD Child Care Usage and Needs Assessment Survey

V8 – March 06 - Final

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is _____. I am calling from NRG Research Group on behalf of BC Stats and the Government of British Columbia. We are doing a survey regarding child care usage and needs. The information gathered will help inform child care policy and program development.

S1. Are there any children aged 0 to 12 that live in your home? This includes all birth, step, adopted and/or foster children including those who may not live in your home on a full-time basis due to specific custody arrangements.

1. Yes
2. No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer

[TERMINATE SURVEY IF No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer: "Thank you for your time but this survey is only relevant for households with children aged 0 to 12. Have a nice day/night."]

This survey is intended to gather information about current child care arrangements, preferences, barriers to locating and securing child care as well as information about awareness, use and satisfaction with the child care services and programs offered in British Columbia.

Your telephone number has been randomly selected for this survey. Please be assured that we are not selling or soliciting anything.

The interview will take between 10 to 15 minutes to complete, depending on your answers. Your participation in this interview is completely voluntary.

S2. We would like to speak with the parent or person in your home who is most responsible for making child care arrangements. If more than one individual in your home shares this responsibility, we would like to speak with the person who has the next birthday. Would this individual be you?

1. Yes
2. No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer

[IF No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer: "Would it be possible to speak with the parent or person in your home who is most responsible for making child care arrangements? Alternatively, I can call back at a different date and time if this would be more convenient."]

[IF NEW INDIVIDUAL – REPEAT INTRODUCTION]]

Your participation in this survey is important to us, and your responses will be kept strictly confidential. The information in this survey is collected and kept confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act for statistical and research purposes only. When survey results are published, your responses will be combined with the responses of others so that you cannot be identified. If there is a question that you prefer not to answer, just let me know and I will move onto the next one. You can end the survey at any time you wish. May I begin the survey with you now?

1. Yes
2. No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer

[IF No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer THEN SCHEDULE CALLBACK]

[IF CALLBACK IS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE LANGUAGE...]

The survey is also offered in Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi and French. Would you like to complete the survey in a language other than English?

1. Yes
 - a. Mandarin
 - b. Cantonese
 - c. Punjabi
 - d. French
2. No/Don't know/Prefer not to answer – ENGLISH

[IF CALL BACK IS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE LANGUAGE – ARRANGE]

[IF REFUSAL...]

You can also complete the survey online. We can either send you an email with the confidential online survey link or I can provide you with the link and your access code right now if you have a pen and paper handy. The online survey option would allow you to complete the survey at your convenience. Again, this option will take about 15 minutes in total, but it does not need to be completed all at once. Would you be interested in this option?

1. Yes **[ONLINE]**
 2. No **[TERMINATE]**
99. Don't know/No response **[READ: "I understand you may need to think about whether you wish to participate. May we send you the link to the survey in case you decide to participate?" [GO TO ONLINE]**

[ONLINE]

In order for you to complete the survey online, I will need your email address to send you a link to the survey. Can you tell me what your email address is?

1. **COLLECTED EMAIL:** _____ [RECORD GENDER _____] – “Thank you for your time. You can expect to see an email from NRG Research Group on behalf of BC Stats and the Government of British Columbia within the next few business days. Have a nice day/night.”
2. **PROVIDED LINK AND ACCESS CODE** – “Thank you for your time. Have a nice day/night.”
3. **REFUSAL** – “Thank you for your time. Have a nice day/night.”

FAMILY STRUCTURE

1. How many children, 12 years old or younger, live in your home including children who live in your home on a part-time basis due to a custody arrangement? This includes birth, step, adopted and/or foster children.

_____ [PROG MAX 10]

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

[TERMINATE SURVEY IF Q1 = ZERO (0), 88 or 99: “Thank you for your time. Those are all of my questions. This survey is related to child care usage and needs for children 12 years old or younger. Have a nice day/night.”]

2. [ASK ALL] You have indicated there [IF Q1=1 “is a child”] are _____ children living in your home. Please provide the initials of [IF Q1=1 “your ”] each child and their age. For example, Michael David Smith would have the initials MDS. [IF Q1=1 DO NOT SHOW THIS ON SCREEN] Once I have recorded the initials and ages of each child, the survey will randomly choose 1 child for you to focus on for the next series of questions.

INPUT CHILD INITIALS [INTERVIEWER PROMPT FOR ENGLISH INITIALS]: _____

INPUT CHILD AGE: _____

[PROGRAMMER NOTE: DISPLAY NUMBER OF FIELDS BASED ON Q1, MAX 10]

99. Prefer not to answer

[TERMINATE SURVEY IF Q2 = 99: “Thank you for your time. Those are all of my questions. Have a nice day/night.”]

The child that has been randomly chosen is [PIPE IN CHILD'S INITIALS] _____. For specific questions in the survey, you'll be asked to respond based on [PIPE IN CHILD'S INITIALS] _____'s situation.

3. Including yourself and [IF Q1 = 1: “your child”, IF Q1 > 1: “your [PIPE IN NUMBER IN Q1] _____ children”], how many people currently live in your home?

_____ **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: To be > or = to 2]**

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

4. Would you classify your household as a... **[READ LIST]**

- 1. One-parent household
- 2. Two-parent household
- 3. Other – for example extended family, multi-generational, etc. (please describe)_____

- 88. Don't know **[DO NOT READ]**
- 99. Prefer not to answer **[DO NOT READ]**

5. What is your marital status... **[READ LIST]**

- 1. Married
- 2. Common-law
- 3. Widowed
- 4. Separated
- 5. Divorced
- 6. Single, never married

- 88. Don't know **[DO NOT READ]**
- 99. Prefer not to answer **[DO NOT READ]**

6. What is your relationship to the child? **[READ LIST]**

- 1. Parent
- 2. Foster Parent
- 3. Grandparent
- 4. Relative
- 5. Other (Specify)

- 88. Don't know **[DO NOT READ]**
- 99. Prefer not to answer **[DO NOT READ]**

CHILD CARE NEEDS

The next few questions are about current work and school activities to gauge how these activities affect child care usage and needs.

7. Do you **[IF Q5 = 1: "or your spouse", IF Q5 = 2: "or your partner"]** stay at home primarily in order to care for your **[IF Q1 = 1: "child?", IF Q1 > 1: "children?"]** **[DO NOT READ]**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

- 88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

8. **[IF Q7 = 1 ASK]** What is the main reason that you **[IF Q5 = 1: “or your spouse”, IF Q5 = 2: “or your partner”]** are staying home to care for your **[IF Q1 = 1: “child”, IF Q1 > 1: “children”]**. **[READ LIST, SELECT ONE]**

1. Are on maternity or parental leave
2. Believe it is best for your **[IF Q1 = 1: “child”, IF Q1 > 1: “children”]**
3. Cannot find suitable child care arrangement(s)
Q7a. Is that because you...? **[READ LIST]**
 - A. Cannot find quality child care
 - B. Cannot find flexible child care
 - C. Cannot find any child care at all
 - D. Other (Please specify): _____ **[DON'T READ]**
4. Cannot afford child care costs
5. Cannot find inclusive child care arrangement(s) for children with special needs
6. Other (Please specify): _____ **[DON'T READ]**

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

CHILD CARE USAGE

[ASK ALL] For the next series of questions, please respond based on your child with initials **[PIPE IN SELECTED CHILD'S INITIALS FROM Q2]** _____'s situation.]

9. Are you currently using any of the following child care arrangements for your child?
[READ LIST] [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

1. Child care by a family member or relative (for example grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc.)
2. Child care by a friend or neighbour
3. Child care by a professional nanny or nanny-share arrangement
4. Child care by a family child care provider
5. Child Care by a centre-based child care facility
6. Other (Please specify): _____

77. Not applicable (e.g., parent or person responsible provides sole child care)**[SKIP TO Q19]**

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

10. **[IF Q9 = 4 or 5]** Is the child care provider licensed?

1. Yes
2. No

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

[INTERVIEWER READ INFORMATION IF REQUIRED]

Unlicensed Child Care: *Your child receives child care that is not licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of 2 children (or one sibling group) at any one time.*

Licensed Family Child Care: *Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of 8 children at any one time.*

Licensed Centre-based Child Care: *Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a centre-based setting (such as a school, church, recreation centre, government building, etc.).*

11. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** For a typical week, how many days of child care arrangements per week (regardless of the hours per day) do you require for your child? This does not include occasional babysitting for recreation or social events, and this does not include child care arrangements provided by yourself **[IF Q5 = 1: "or your spouse", IF Q5 = 2: "or your partner"]**.

- 1. 0 days per week
- 2. 1 day per week
- 3. 2 days per week
- 4. 3 days per week
- 5. 4 days per week
- 6. 5 days per week
- 7. 6 days per week
- 8. 7 days per week

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

12. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** For the days you require care, on average, how many hours per day do you require child care?

_____ **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: To be > or = to 1]**

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

13. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6]** Which of the following times of day do you require child care arrangements for your child? Again, this does not include occasional babysitting for recreation or social events, and this does not include child care arrangements provided by yourself **[IF Q5 = 1: "or your spouse", IF Q5 = 2: "or your partner"]**. **[READ LIST] [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]**

1. Early mornings (Before 7:00 AM)
 2. Before school (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM)
 3. School hours (8:30 AM to 3:00 PM)
 4. After school (3:00 PM to 6:00 PM)
 5. Evenings (After 6:00 PM)
 6. Weekends
 7. Overnights
 8. During periods of school closures (Pro-D days, statutory holidays, school vacations, etc.)
 9. Shift coverage (Times of day vary)
 10. Seasonal coverage (Part of the year only)
 11. Other (Please specify): **[DO NOT READ]** _____
-
77. Not applicable
 88. Don't know
 99. Prefer not to answer

Still thinking about your child with initials **[PIPE IN SELECTED CHILD'S INITIALS FROM Q2 _____]**'s situation.

14. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not At All Satisfied and 5 is Very Satisfied, overall how satisfied are you with your current child care arrangement for your child?

1. Not At All Satisfied
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very Satisfied
-
77. Not applicable
 88. Don't know
 99. Prefer not to answer

15. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not At All Satisfied and 5 is Very Satisfied, how satisfied are you with your current child care arrangement for your child regarding: **[READ ALL, REPEAT SCALE IF NECESSARY]**
RANDOMIZE LIST]

- a. Cost/Fees
- b. Location
- c. Hours and days of operation
- d. Quality of child care provider staff
- e. Facility
- f. Ease of finding the child care provider [including your search for child care, interviewing the child care operator, and obtaining (e.g. being placed in) your current child care arrangement]

g. Waitlist process undertaken

1. Not At All Satisfied

2.

3.

4.

5. Very Satisfied

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

16. **[IF Q14 = 1 OR 2]** You mentioned earlier that in general you are not satisfied with your current child care arrangement for your child. What is the main reason why you are not satisfied with your current child care arrangement? **[DO NOT READ] [SELECT FROM THE PRE-CODED LIST, IF NOT IN LIST SPECIFY IN OTHER]**

- a. Provider is not responsive to parent and child's needs
- b. Provider's fees are not affordable
- c. Provider does not offer an engaging, developmentally appropriate curriculum/program
- d. Provider does not have an adequate level of training/certification
- e. Provider's facility is not welcoming, and does not offer a range of age appropriate activities
- f. Provider is not located in a convenient location (e.g. close to home/work/school)
- g. Provider does not offer convenient hours of operation
- h. Other – please specify _____

17. **[IF Q14 = 4 OR 5]** You mentioned earlier that in general you are satisfied with your current child care arrangement for your child. What is the main reason why you feel satisfied with your current child care arrangement? **[DO NOT READ] [SELECT FROM THE PRE-CODED LIST, IF NOT IN LIST SPECIFY IN OTHER]**

- a. Provider is responsive to parent and child's needs
- b. Provider's fees are affordable
- c. Provider offers an engaging, developmentally appropriate curriculum/program
- d. Provider has an ECE or other level of training/certification (e.g. Bachelor of Education)
- e. Provider's facility is welcoming, and offers a range of age appropriate activities (both inside and outside)
- f. Provider is located in a convenient location (e.g. close to home/work/school)
- g. Provider offers convenient hours of operation
- h. Other – please specify _____

18. [ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99] Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not At All Important and 5 is Very Important please rate the importance of the following factors when you chose your current child care arrangement(s) for your child. Not applicable is available if any of the factors do not apply. How important was it that... **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: RANDOMIZE] [READ ALL]**

- a. ...child care fees were affordable
- b. ...convenient hours/days of operation were offered (e.g., evenings, weekends, part-time, etc.)
- c. ...the location was close to your home or work
- d. ...the location was close to your child's school or located on school grounds
- e. ...the child care provider spoke the same language and/or had the same cultural background as your child
- f. ...the child care provider was a certified Early Childhood Educator (ECE)
- g. ...the child care provider knew your child (e.g., relative, family friend, etc.)
- h. ...the child care provider offered a specialized education program (e.g., Preschool, Montessori, Waldorf, etc.) that met your child's needs
- i. ...the child care provider was a licensed child care provider
- j. ...the child care provider met the needs of your child with special needs

1. Not At All Important

2.

3.

4.

5. Very Important

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

Still thinking on your child with initials **[PIPE IN SELECTED CHILD'S INITIALS FROM Q2 _____]**'s situation.

19. [ASK ALL] Is your current child care arrangement your preferred arrangement?

1. Yes

2. No

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

20. [IF Q19=2] What is your preferred child care arrangement of choice? **[READ LIST] [SELECT ONE]**

1. Child care provided by yourself or **[IF Q5=1 your spouse, IF Q5 = 2 your partner]**

2. Child care by a family member or relative (for example grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc.)
3. Child care by a friend or neighbour
4. Child care by a professional nanny or nanny-share arrangement
5. Child care by a family child care provider
6. Child care by a centre-based child care facility (e.g. school, church, recreation centre)
7. Other (Please specify): _____

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

21. **[IF Q20 = 4 or 5]** Would your preferred child care provider be licensed?

1. Yes
2. No

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

[INTERVIEWER READ INFORMATION IF REQUIRED]

Unlicensed Child Care: Your child receives child care that is not licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of 2 children (or one sibling group) at any one time.

Licensed Family Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a private home/residence for a maximum of 8 children at any one time.

Licensed Centre-based Child Care: Your child receives child care that is licensed by a local health authority in a centre-based setting (such as a school, church, recreation centre, government building, etc.).

22. **[ASK IF Q9=77 (SOLE CARE PROVIDERS ONLY)]** Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not At All Important and 5 is Very Important please rate the importance of the following factors when you *choose* your child care arrangement(s) for your child in the near future. Not applicable is available if any of the factors do not apply. How important is it that... **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: RANDOMIZE][READ ALL]**

- a. ...child care fees are affordable
- b. ...convenient hours/days of operation are offered (e.g., evenings, weekends, part-time, etc.)
- c. ...the location is close to your home or work
- d. ...the location is close to your child's school or located on school grounds
- e. ...the child care provider speaks the same language and/or has the same cultural background as your child
- f. ...the child care provider is a certified Early Childhood Educator (ECE)
- g. ...the child care provider knows your child (e.g., relative, family friend, etc.)

- h. ...the child care provider offers a specialized education program (e.g., Preschool, Montessori, Waldorf, etc.) that meets your child's needs
- i. ...the child care provider is a licensed child care provider
- j. ...the child care provider meets the needs of your child with special needs

- 1. Not At All Important
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. Very Important

- 77. Not applicable
- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

Still thinking about your child with initials **[PIPE IN SELECTED CHILD'S INITIALS FROM Q2 _____]**'s situation.

23. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** How did you find out about your current child care arrangement(s) for your child? **[DO NOT READ LIST, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

- 1. Child Care Resource and Referral Office
- 2. Friend or Relative
- 3. Public Health Nurse, Family Doctor, Infant Development Consultant, etc.
- 4. Social Media Website (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Discussion Board, Blog, etc.)
- 5. Other Website
- 6. Newspaper
- 7. Child Care Map
- 8. Child's school
- 9. Child's current child care provider
- 10. Telephone Directory
- 11. Bulletin Board
- 12. Other (Please specify): _____

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

24. **[ASK IF Q9=77 (SOLE CARE PROVIDERS ONLY)]** What sources of information, if any, have you used to find out about child care arrangement(s) for your child? **[DO NOT READ LIST, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

- 1. Child Care Resource and Referral Office
- 2. Friend or Relative
- 3. Public Health Nurse, Family Doctor, Infant Development Consultant, etc.
- 4. Social Media Website (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Discussion Board, Blog, etc.)
- 5. Other Website
- 6. Newspaper

- 7. Child Care Map
- 8. Child's school
- 9. Child's current child care provider
- 10. Telephone Directory
- 11. Bulletin Board
- 12. Other (Please specify): _____

- 77. Not applicable
- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

25. **[ASK ALL]** On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is "not useful at all" and 5 is "very useful", how useful would an online web resource about child care location and availability be to you?

- 1. Not Useful At All
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. Very Useful

- 77. Not applicable
- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

26. **[ASK ALL]** Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "would never use" and 5 is "would definitely use", would you use an online web resource to locate and apply for child care in your community?

- 1. Would Never Use
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. Would Definitely Use

- 77. Not applicable
- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

27. **[ASK ALL]** What were the top three challenges, if any, you experienced when obtaining child care arrangement(s) for your child **[DO NOT READ, SELECT UP TO THREE PRE-CODED ANSWERS IF APPLICABLE, OTHERWISE SPECIFY OTHERS]**

- 1. Child care costs too expensive
- 2. Convenient hours/days of operation not offered (e.g., evenings, weekends, part-time, etc.)
- 3. Location close to home not available
- 4. Location close to child's school not available
- 5. Location close to parent's work or school not available

6. Child care provider that spoke same language as child not available
7. Child care provider that had same culture background as child not available
8. Child care provider certified as Early Childhood Educator (ECE) not available
9. Friend or relative not available to provide child care
10. Child care provider offering specialized education program (e.g., Preschool, Montessori, Waldorf, etc.) not available
11. Licensed child care provider not available
12. Child care provider that allowed siblings to stay together not available
13. Child care provider that offered sibling discounts not available
14. Child care provider that offered field trips or links with other community-based programs not available
15. Child care provider that could meet needs of child with special needs not available
16. Child care provider that could meet child's social/emotional/physical/cognitive development not available
17. Did not like the available facility
18. Did not like the available child care provider
19. Did not know where to look for available child care provider
20. Licensed child care spaces for child's age were full
21. Other (Please specify): _____

77. Not applicable – No challenges experienced

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

28. **[ASK IF Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** Did you have to wait before you were offered a space in your child's current child care arrangement(s)?

1. Yes

2. No

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

29. **[IF Q28 = 1 ASK]** Were you required to do any of the following before being placed on the waitlist: **[READ ALL, SELECT ALL THE APPLY]**

1. Deposit

2. Site visit

3. Registration at a program affiliated with an institution (school, church, employer, etc.)

4. Other (Please Specify): _____ **[DO NOT READ]**

5. Nothing **[DO NOT READ]**

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

30. **[IF Q28 = 1 ASK]** Were you waitlisted for a spot while in immediate need of child care?

1. Yes
2. No

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

31. **[IF Q28 = 1 ASK]** How many waitlists were you registered on before you were offered a space in your current child care arrangement(s)? **[DO NOT READ]**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three or more

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

32. **[IF Q28 = 1 ASK]** How many months did you wait, while in immediate need of child care, until you were placed in a spot? If your child attends more than one child care arrangement, please respond based on the child care arrangement your child spends the most amount of time in during the week. **[DO NOT READ]**

1. Less than one month
2. One to six months
3. Between six months and one year
4. One to two years
5. More than two years

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

33. **[IF Q28 = 1 ASK]** Is your child still on a waitlist or multiple waitlists, even though he/she is currently attending child care? (for example still waiting for your preferred child care arrangement)

1. Yes
2. No

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

Still thinking about your child with initials **[PIPE IN SELECTED CHILD'S INITIALS FROM Q2 _____]**'s situation.

[Q34-37 ARE ASKED TO HOME CARE PROVIDERS IF Q9=77]

34. **[ASK IF Q9=77]** Are you currently waiting to be offered a space in a child care arrangement for your child?

1. Yes
2. No

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

35. **[IF Q34 = 1 ASK]** Were you required to do any of the following before being placed on the waitlist: **[READ ALL, SELECT ALL THE APPLY]**

1. Deposit
2. Site visit
3. Registration at a program affiliated with an institution (school, church, employer, etc.)
4. Other (Please Specify): _____
5. Nothing **[DO NOT READ]**

77. Not applicable

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

36. **[IF Q34= 1 ASK]** How many waitlists are you currently registered on to be offered a space in child care arrangement(s) for your child? **[DO NOT READ]**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three or more

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

37. **[IF Q34 = 1 ASK]** How many months have you been waiting to be placed in a spot? **[DO NOT READ]**

1. Less than one month
2. One to six months
3. Between six months and one year
4. One to two years
5. More than two years

88. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

38. **[ASK ALL]** How many different child care arrangements have you used for your child since he/she was born? (for example when he/she was an infant/toddler, preschool, before/after school care, etc.)

_____ **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: To be > or = to 1]**

- 77. Not applicable
- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

39. **[ASK ALL]** Do you receive a full or partial child care subsidy for **[IF Q1 = 1: "your child?", IF Q1 > 1: "any of your children?"]** **[INTERVIEWER READ CHILD CARE SUBSIDY DEFINITION IF REQUIRED]**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

[Child care subsidy is a monthly payment that helps eligible families with the cost of child care. The amount of subsidy depends on family income and size, ages and number of children, and the type of child care setting. Full or partial subsidies may be available.]

Q39a. **[Q39=1]** Please indicate how much per month do you receive for child care subsidy for **[IF Q1 = 1: "your child?", IF Q1 > 1: "all of your children?"]**

\$ _____ PER MONTH

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

40. **[Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** How much per month do you pay for child care specifically for your child? For example, child care for you **[IF Q5 = 1: "or your spouse", IF Q5 = 2: "or your partner"]** to work, to look for work or go to school. This does not include occasional babysitting for recreation or social events. Do not include child care subsidy you may receive.

[RECORD AMOUNT EITHER PER MONTH OR PER YEAR]
[ENTER 0 IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT PAY FOR CHILD CARE]

\$ _____ PER MONTH
\$ _____ PER YEAR **[USE IF RESPONDENT CAN'T PROVIDE A MONTHLY AMOUNT]**

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

41. **[ASK IF Q1>1 AND Q9 = ANY OF 1-6 OR 88 OR 99]** And how much per month do you pay for all your children? For example, child care for you **[IF Q5 = 1: "or your spouse", IF Q5 = 2: "or your partner"]** to work, to look for work or go to school. This does not include occasional babysitting for recreation or social events. Do not include child care subsidy you may receive.

[RECORD AMOUNT EITHER PER MONTH OR PER YEAR]
[ENTER 0 IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT PAY FOR CHILD CARE]

\$ _____ PER MONTH **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: To be >or = to Q40]**
\$ _____ PER YEAR **[PROGRAMMER NOTE: To be >or = to Q40] [USE IF RESPONDENT CAN'T PROVIDE A MONTHLY AMOUNT]**

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

These last few demographic questions are asked for statistical purposes.

42. **[ASK ALL]** What is your postal code?

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

43. **[ASK ALL]** Are you now, or have you ever been, a landed immigrant? [A landed immigrant (or permanent resident) is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.]

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

44. **[SKIP IF Q43 =1]** Are you an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Metis or Inuk (Inuit)? [First Nations (North American Indian) includes Status and Non-Status Indians].

- 1. No
- 2. Yes

- 88. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to answer

45. **[ASK ALL]** Which of the following best describes your main work or education situation...? **[READ FULL LIST]**

1. Employed
2. Attending school, college, university or other training (either full or part-time)
3. Unemployed **[EXCLUSIVE]**
4. On maternity or parental leave
5. Retired **[EXCLUSIVE]**
6. Other (Please Specify) **[DO NOT READ] [EXCLUSIVE]**

88. Don't know
99. Prefer not to answer

[IF Q45=1] Q45a. Would that be...**[READ, SELECT ONE]**

1. Employed, at work or self-employment
2. Employed, but currently absent from work or self-employment (e.g., short-term illness, injury or disability)

[IF Q45=3] Q45b. Are you... **[READ, SELECT ONE]**

1. Looking for work
2. Unable to work due to an injury or disability
3. Not looking for work because you are the primary caregiver of your [IF Q1 = 1: "child", IF Q1 > 1: "children"]
4. Not looking for work
5. Already have plans to go to work

46. **[IF Q5 = 1 or 2 ASK]** Which of the following best describes your **[IF Q5 = 1: "spouse's", IF Q5 = 2: "partner's"]** main work and/or education situation... **[READ FULL LIST]**

1. Employed
2. Attending school, college, university or other training (either full or part-time)
3. Unemployed **[EXCLUSIVE]**
4. **On maternity or parental leave**
5. **Retired [EXCLUSIVE]**
6. Other (Please Specify) **[DO NOT READ] [EXCLUSIVE]**

88. Don't know
99. Prefer not to answer

[IF Q46=1] Q46a. Would that be...**[READ, SELECT ONE]**

1. Employed, at work or self-employment
2. Employed, but currently absent from work or self-employment (e.g., short-term illness, injury or disability)

[IF Q46=3] Q46b. Is your **[IF Q5 = 1: “spouse”, IF Q5 = 2: “partner”]** ... **[READ, SELECT ONE]**

1. Looking for work
2. Unable to work due to an injury or disability
3. Not looking for work because he/she is the primary caregiver of your **[IF Q1 = 1: “child”, IF Q1 > 1: “children”]**
4. Not looking for work
5. Already have plans to go to work

47. **[IF Q45 = 1]** How many hours per week, on average, do you spend working for pay?

1. Full-time (30 hours per week or more)
2. Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)

77. Not applicable
88. Don't know
99. Prefer not to answer

48. **[IF Q46 = 1]** How many hours per week, on average, does your **[IF Q5 = 1: “spouse”, IF Q5 = 2: “partner”]** spend working for pay?

1. Full-time (30 hours per week or more)
2. Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)

77. Not applicable
88. Don't know
99. Prefer not to answer

49. **[ASK ALL]** What is your best estimate of your total annual household income, received by all household members, from all sources, before taxes and deductions? **[READ]**

1. Less than \$50,000
2. \$50,000 or more

88. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
99. Prefer not to answer [DO NOT READ]

50. **[IF Q49 = 1 ASK]** Which of the following categories does your total annual household income, received by all household members, from all sources, before taxes and deductions, fall into? Is it... **[READ]**

1. Less than \$5,000
2. \$5,000 to less than \$10,000
3. \$10,000 to less than \$15,000
4. \$15,000 to less than \$20,000
5. \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
6. \$30,000 to less than \$40,000
7. \$40,000 to less than \$50,000

88. Don't know **[DO NOT READ]**

99. Prefer not to answer **[DO NOT READ]**

51. **[IF Q49 = 2 ASK]** Which of the following categories does your total annual household income, received by all household members, from all sources, before taxes and deductions, fall into? Is it...**[READ]**

1. \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
2. \$60,000 to less than \$70,000
3. \$70,000 to less than \$80,000
4. \$80,000 to less than \$90,000
5. \$90,000 to less than \$100,000
6. \$100,000 to less than \$125,000
7. \$125,000 to less than \$150,000
8. \$150,000 or more

88. Don't know **[DO NOT READ]**

99. Prefer not to answer **[DO NOT READ]**

Thank you for your time. The feedback you have given will assist the Government of British Columbia to accurately and effectively inform policy and program development leading to a sustainable quality early years strategy to support B.C. families.

As noted earlier, your responses will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act for statistical and research purposes only. When survey results are published, your responses will be combined with the responses of others so that you cannot be identified.

Have a nice day/night. {Have a nice day.}

[NOTES]

FURTHER QUESTIONS? For questions related to child care programs and services in British Columbia, please contact EarlyYears@gov.bc.ca

FURTHER QUESTIONS? For questions related to the Statistics Act, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or confidentiality, please contact...

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11. Appendix D: Factground

High Level

Study	Parent Child Care Study
Project Sponsor	Ministry of Children and Family Development

Operations

Instrument / Data Collection Method	15 minute telephone survey with online survey component to a random sample of parents with children aged 0-12.
Modes	CATI/CAWI
Fielding Window / Dates	March 5 th to 23 rd , 2015
Project History	N/A

Population / Sample

Scope	Total of 864 telephone with an online survey component using a random sample of parents with children up to 12 years of age in British Columbia.
Population	1,764,635 households in British Columbia (Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2011)
Contacted	38,695
Obtained Sample	RDD sample
Response Rate	7.7%
Eligibility Rate	28.9%
Sampling Strategy	Random sample ensuring representativeness of the population and a 95% confidence level and a +/- 10% margin of error.
Strata	By regions (Vancouver/Richmond/Fraser, South Vancouver Island, and rest of B.C.). By child's age group (0 to 2 years old, 3 to 4 years old, and 5 to 12 years old).



BC Stats is the provincial government's leader in statistical and economic research, information and analysis essential for evidence-based decision making. BC Stats, the central statistics agency of government, is excited to be taking a lead role in the strategic understanding of data sources and analysis across government. The goal is to increase overall business intelligence—information decision makers can use. As part of this goal, BC Stats is also developing an organizational performance measurement program. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Vickery.

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