

# Survey of Child Care Use During the Pandemic





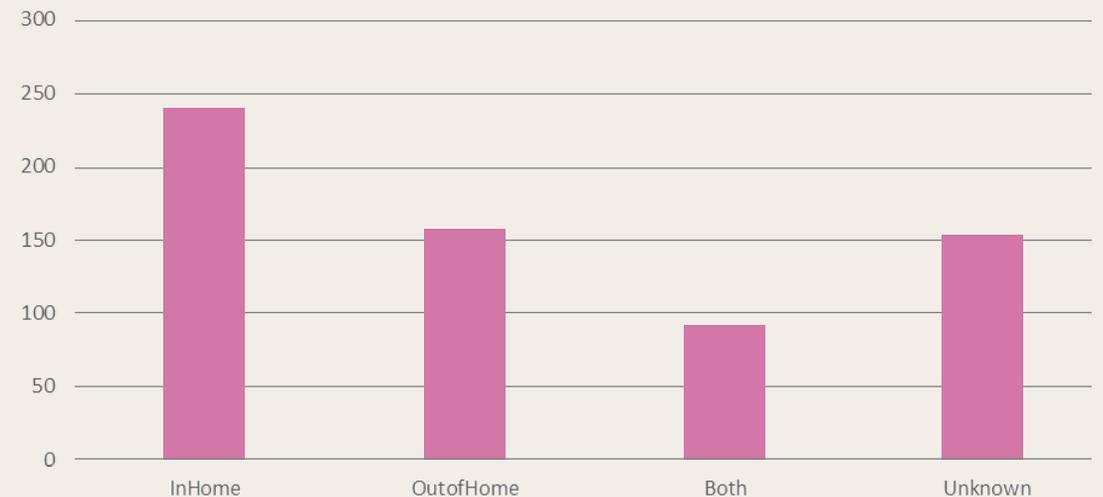
# Survey Overview

**Based on 642 survey responses (Sept. 16 – Oct. 31, 2020)**

- Participation recruited primarily from MWC stakeholder lists; some limited social media
- White (76%), Black/African American (8%), Hispanic (2%), Asian (2%), Alaska Native (<1%), Arab/Middle Eastern (<1%), Native (0%), Native Hawaiian (0%); more than one race (5.8%); 4.2% did not respond
- Household income less than \$50,000 (12.6%), between \$51,000-\$100,000 (34.2%), \$101,000-\$150,000 (26.2%), \$150,000-\$200,000 (6.8%), greater than \$200,000 (6.8%); preferred not to answer (5.6%) or unknown (2%)
- Average indicated age of children in this survey was 6.8, with a standard deviation of 4.4; average number of children in household was 2
- Held 9 informal listening sessions (Aug. 22 – Nov. 24, 2020)

# Child Care Use During the Pandemic

- Most child care is taking place in the home (37.5%) and some is happening outside of the home (24.6%).
- Respondents indicated using both (14.2%), while others did not indicate (23.7%).



## Quote



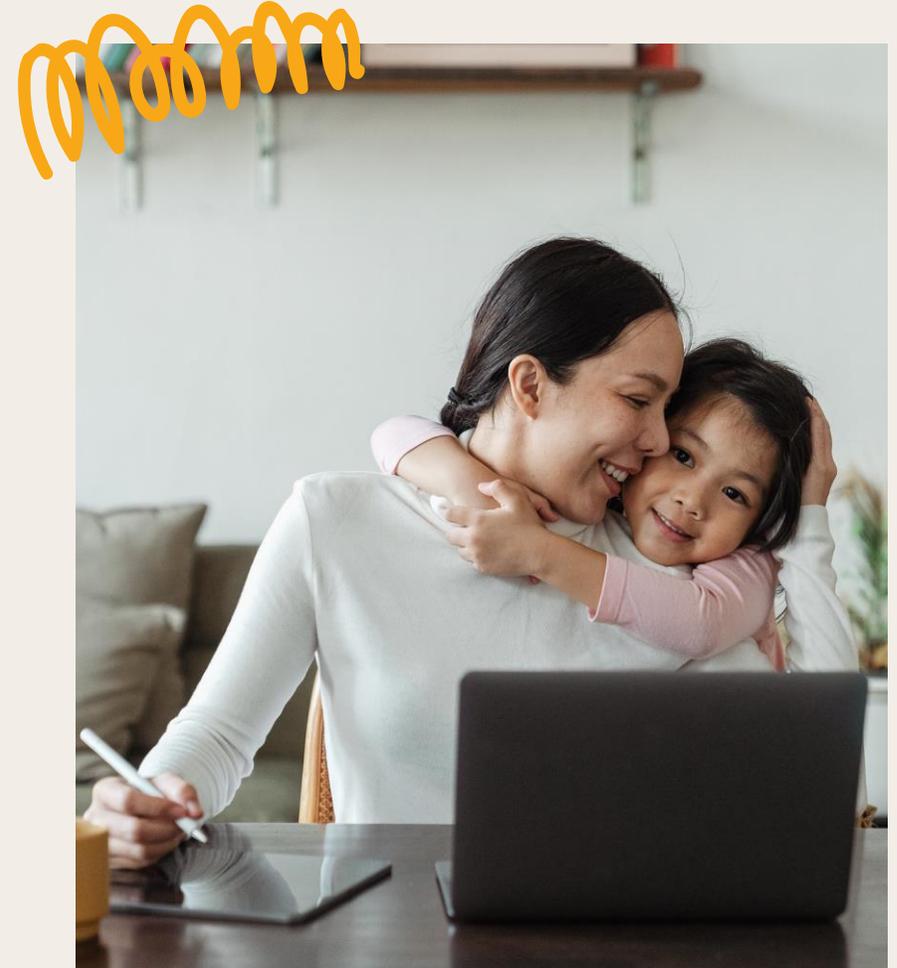
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**I wake up at 4 am, work for 2-2.5 hours. Then I get the kids up. I divide daytime hours between supervising online schooling and professional matters.**

We're lucky: we share cooking, cleaning, shopping, schooling duties. But our workday ends, if we're lucky, at 10 p.m. We try, but don't often succeed, in reserving weekend time for family fun. We do eat lunch and dinner together. That helps. We've been doing this since mid-March. We're exhausted. And we're not alone. Friends, neighbors and extended family members are in similar situations. My sister assumed 24-hour care of our 94-year-old mother. She volunteered when the pandemic took hold; all of us were deeply concerned about contagion in assisted living residences. Her day is much the same as mine.

# Child Care Use During the Pandemic

- A large percentage report using the help of family members during this time to support their child care needs (31%).
- Others indicated that having the ability to work remotely (21%) and having flexibility around their work schedule (16%) also aided with child care during this time.
- Having paid support was also a mechanism for providing support (14%).
- Although survey did not ask specifically, **approximately 2.2% of respondents indicated that they had to leave the workforce to take care of their children; approximately 1.7% respondents indicated that their spouse had to leave the workforce to care for their children.** (We anticipate this may be an underestimation of reality).



## Quotes



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**I quit my job of 20 years so I could care for my own kids in virtual school because they have IEPs.**

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**I had to give up my day job to be a full-time caregiver for my children during the day.** My husband works remotely but his job is demanding, so I am solely responsible for meeting all the needs of both children from 8am to 5pm.

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**I have left the workforce to be the main caregiver for the children in my home.** My children are also doing school virtually until at least March 2021.

# Who Would You Prefer Take Care Of The Children During And Post-pandemic?





# What Would It Take For You To Feel Comfortable Sending Children To Out-of-home Child Care During The Pandemic?

- Rapid testing at center-based and home-based child care
- Implementation of safety protocols (e.g., wearing masks, frequent cleaning, small groups of children)
- Reduced cost of child care
- Widespread vaccine implementation
- Reduced spread of COVID-19
- More communication from the school and government about cases
- More flexibility about holding child care spots (e.g., child care centers not allowing people to pay for only 2 days a week; pay standard amount or give up spot)