

# DELAWARE FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

# ABOUT THE DELAWARE FAMILY SURVEY

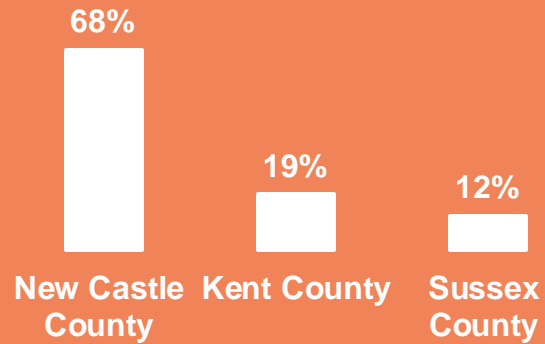
- Parents, caregivers and families are dealing with a lot during the COVID-19 crisis, and many questions remain about fall and the state's road to recovery.
- More than 300 Delaware families shared their thoughts on COVID-19. Families, parents, guardians, and caregivers weighed in on topics ranging from child care to health screenings to economic stress.
- This non-scientific survey was distributed through email and social media between July 2-16, 2021. Most surveys were completed before the Delta variant and before updated nation- and state-wide mask policies were released.
- The survey aimed to gather information from parents so Rodel, the Delaware Readiness Teams, and our partners can better serve families during the crisis.

# DELAWARE FAMILY SURVEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

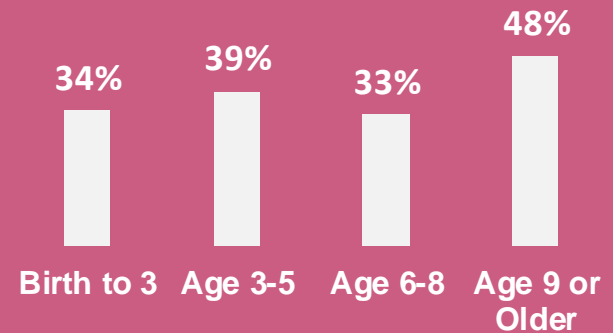
- Almost 40% of all survey respondents indicate that their child(ren) are at home with a parent or other caregiver. While 40% of respondents from New Castle County indicate that this is true for them, the percentage is lower in Kent (28%) and Sussex (7%) counties.
- The top family concern remains balancing work with caring for their child/ren followed by providing their child/ren with socialization and supporting their child/ren's mental health needs.
- About half of respondents said they would be comfortable allowing their child/ren to participate in in-person activities where conditions included masks or it was outdoors. Almost 90% said they are willing to allow their child/ren to participate in-person at school.
- About 70% of respondents said they were vaccinated against COVID-19 and almost half of all survey respondents indicated that they would get their child/ren vaccinated if/when a vaccine becomes available for their child/ren's age group.
- Just over 90% of respondents indicated that they have reliable access to Wi-Fi in their home with less than one percent indicating that they do not have reliable access.

# SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## COUNTY BREAKDOWN



## DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN AGES...



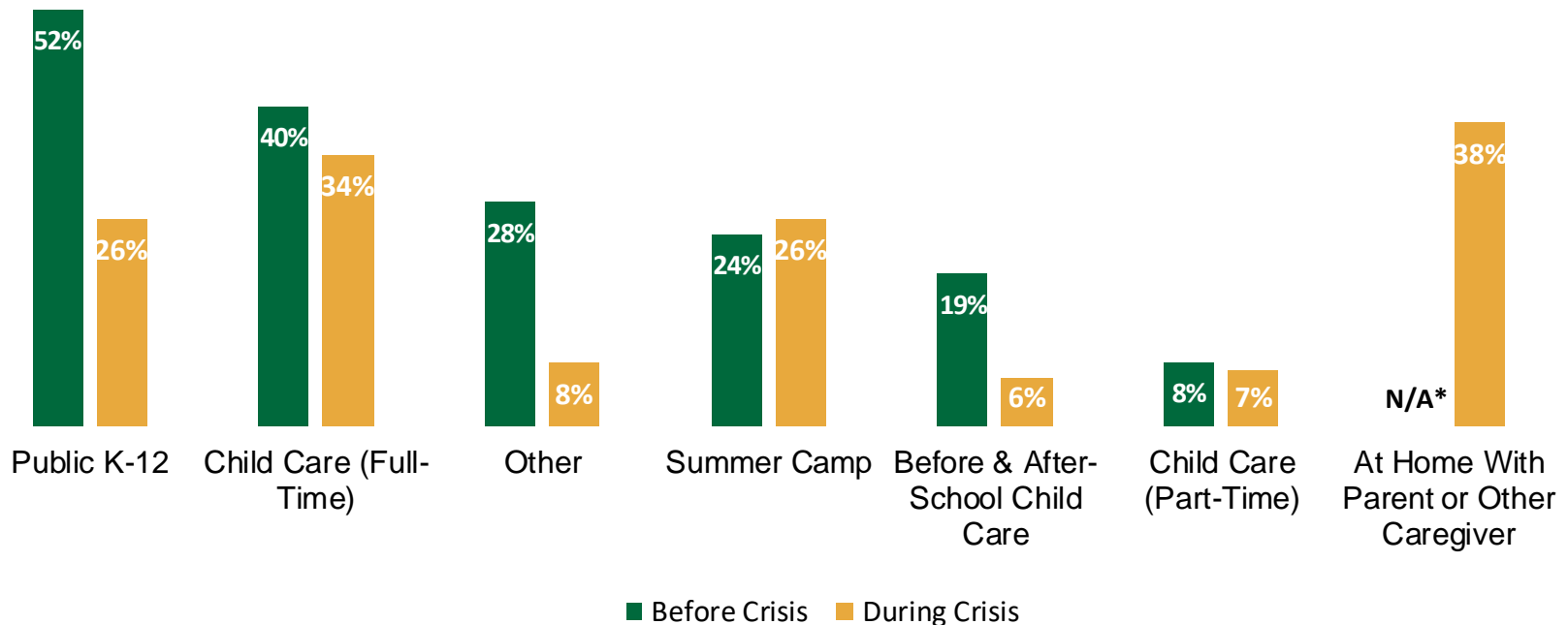


# **EMPLOYMENT AND CHILD CARE**

# CHILD CARE BEFORE AND DURING THE CRISIS

Before the crisis, about half of respondents said their children attended public K-12 school, while 40% used full-time child care. During the crisis, only 26% of respondents said their child/ren attended public K-12 school while 34% said their child/ren attends child care full time.

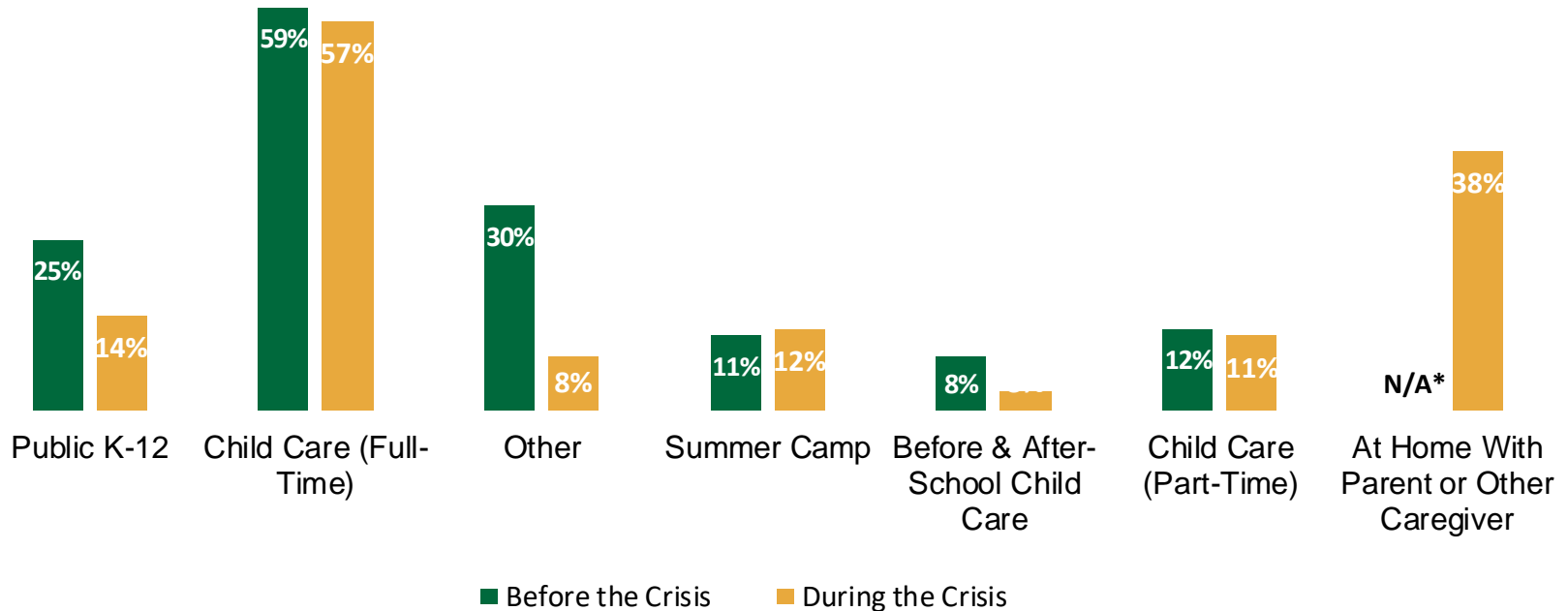
Before/during the crisis, did/do your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)



# CHILD CARE – AGES B-3

The percentage of respondents indicating their child(ren) attends child care full time and part time decreased slightly from before to during the crisis.

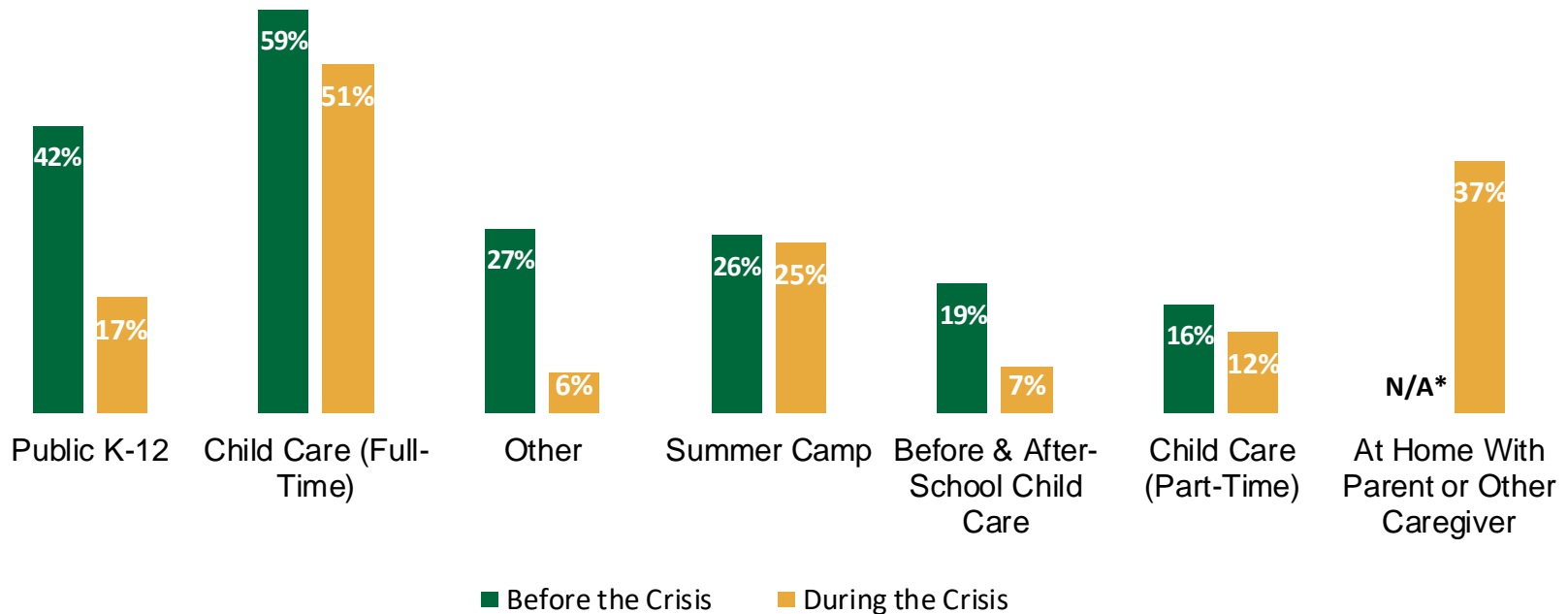
Before/during the crisis, did/do your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)



# CHILD CARE – AGES 3-5

Before the crisis, almost 60% of respondents said their child ages 3-5 attended child care full time compared to 51% during the crisis.

Before/during the crisis, did/do your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)





## FAMILY QUOTES: CHILD CARE AND EMPLOYMENT

My work schedule has shifted – part-time at home and part-time in the office – it’s hard to find part-time care. My child care was by my work but I can't drive 35 minutes every day when I'm working from home.

Child care is too expensive and it's really hard to find anything in the Dover area

Child care is not affordable for me. I'm a stay-at-home mom looking for opportunities for my two kids and I don't know what options there are for me on one income.

I work the third shift and no care is available at that time.

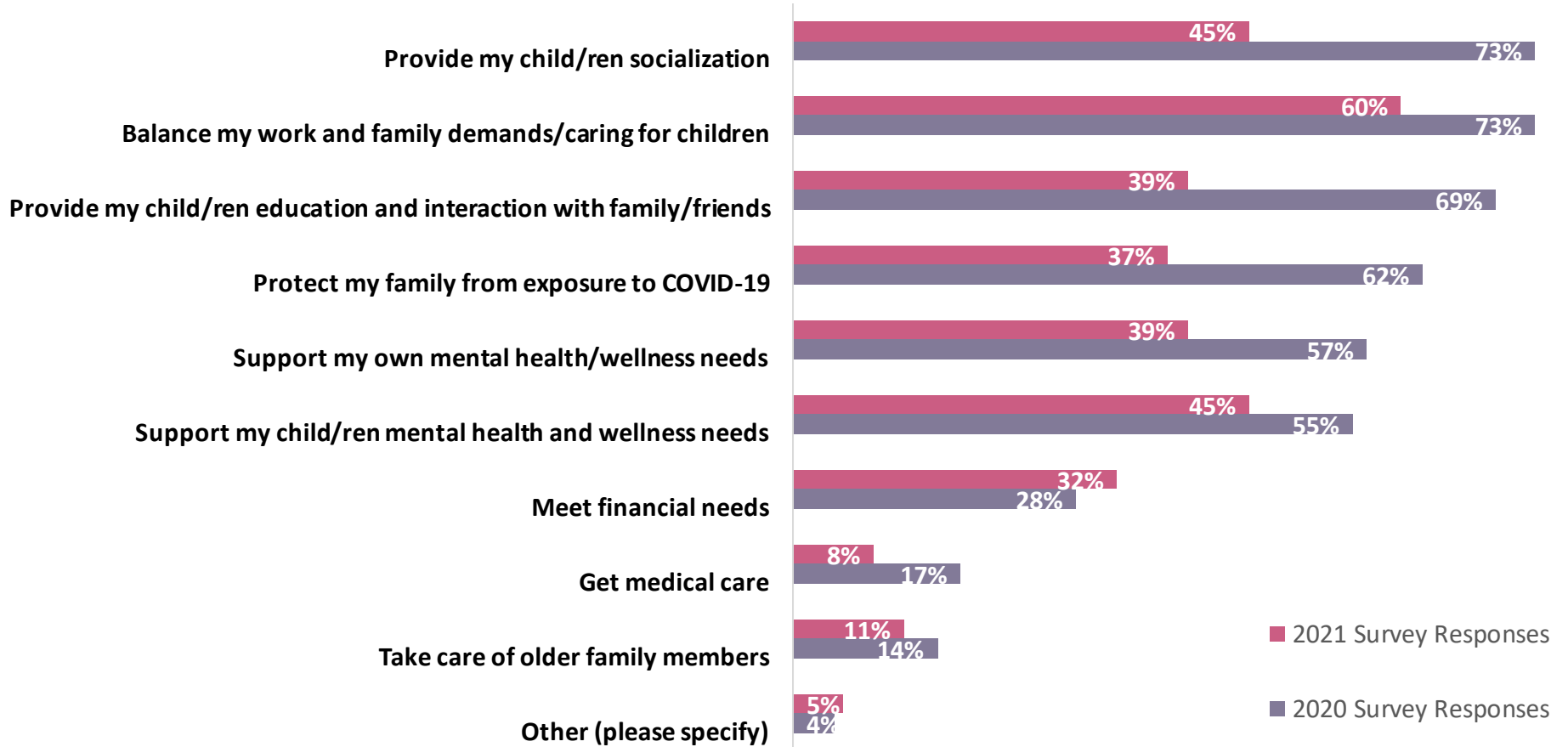




# **COVID-19'S IMPACT ON FAMILIES**

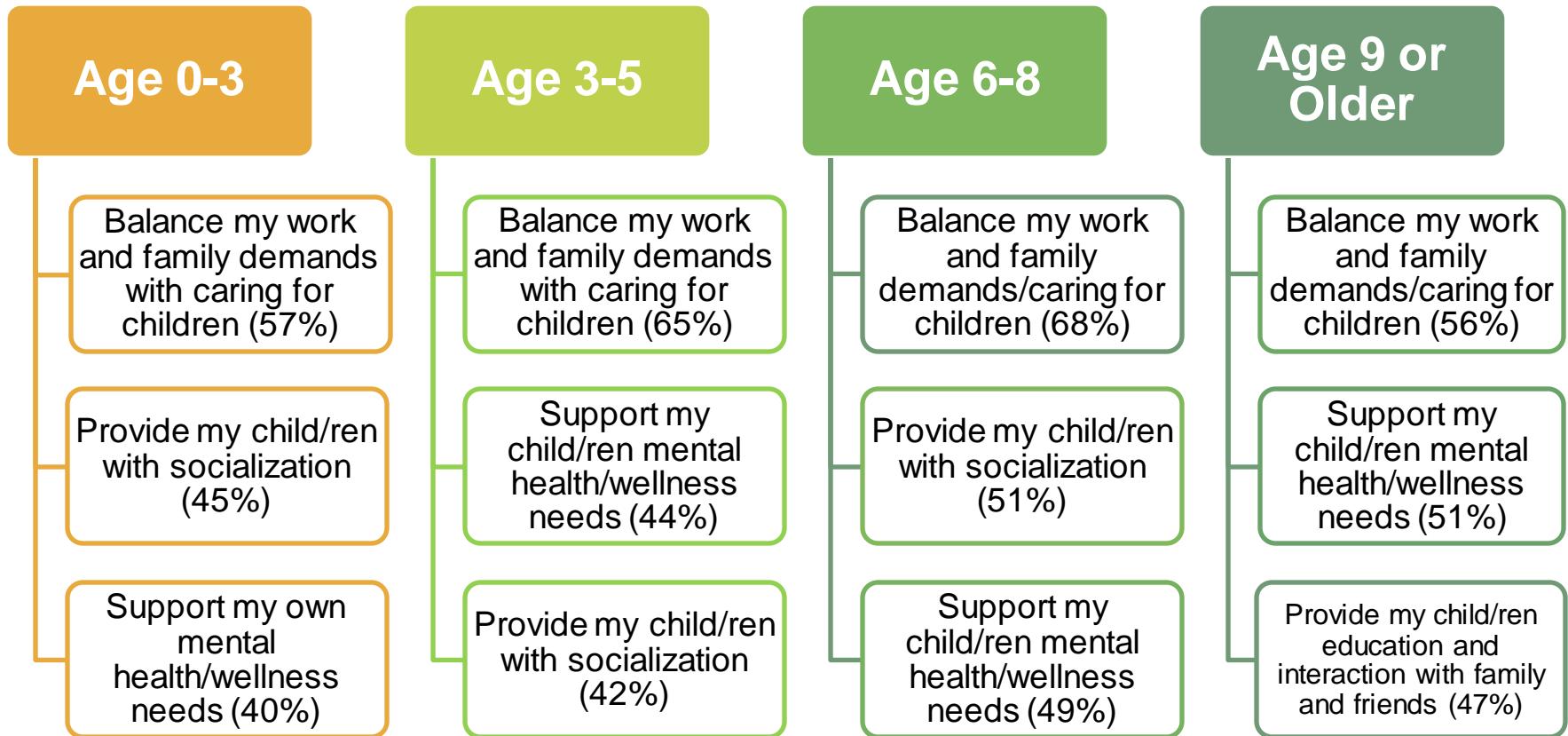
# TOP FAMILY CONCERNS: NOT BEING ABLE TO....

Compared to the 2020 survey results, a larger share of respondents were concerned about meeting financial needs this year (32% of respondents) compared to last year (28% of respondents). While the share of respondents decreased, more than half are concerned about balancing family and work demands with caring for children.



# TOP FAMILY CONCERNS BROKEN DOWN BY AGE OF CHILD(REN)

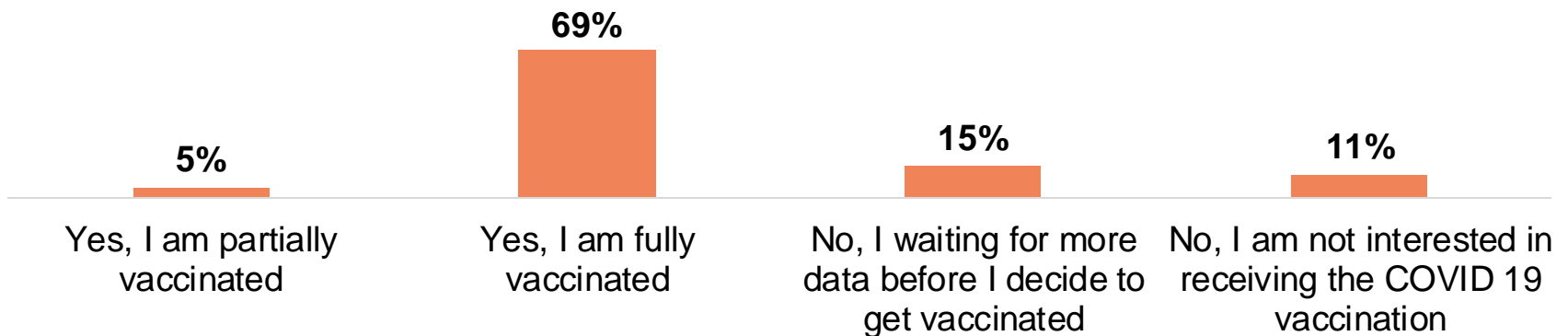
All families, parents, and caregivers are worried about balancing demands of work and caring for their child/ren. Supporting their child/ren's mental health, supporting their own mental health needs, and socialization for children are among the other top concerns.



## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The majority of respondents (69%) said they were fully vaccinated. About a quarter of respondents said they were waiting for more data before deciding or that they were not interested in receiving the vaccine.

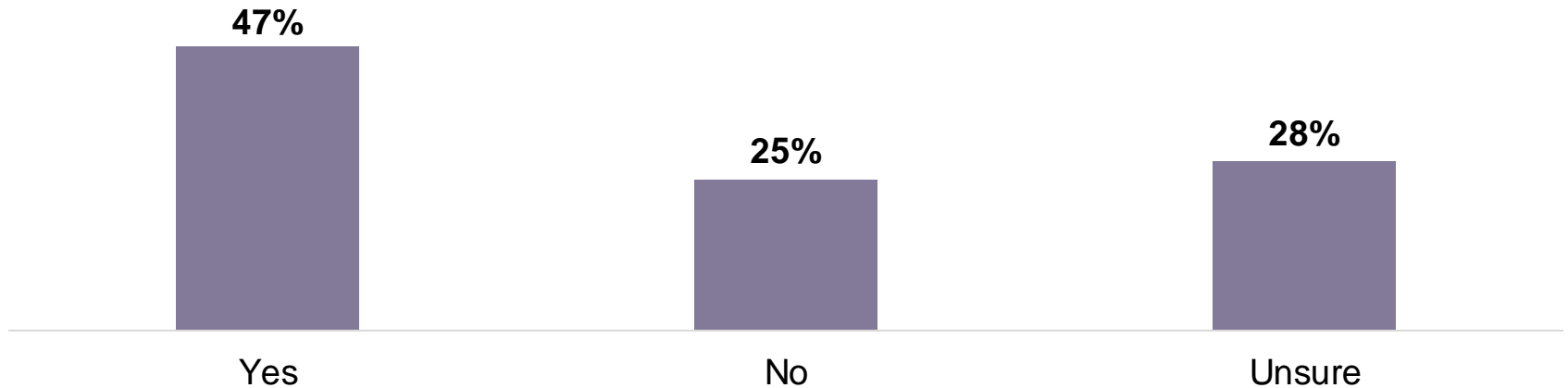
### Have you received the Covid-19 vaccination?



## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Almost half (47%) of respondents said they you have their child/ren vaccinated against COVID-19 if/when becomes available for their child/ren's age group. About a quarter responded no and almost 30% said they were unsure.

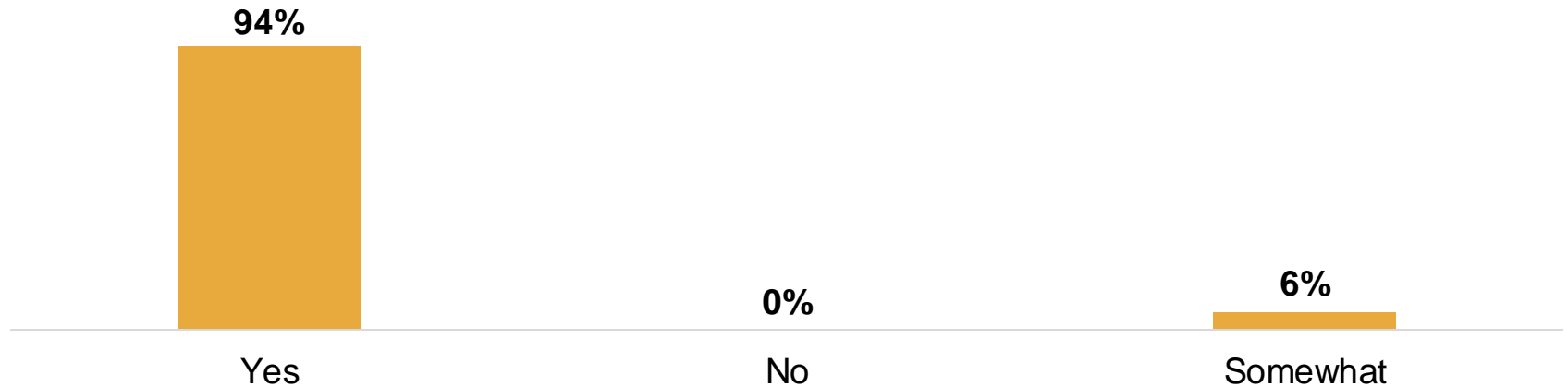
**Would you have your child/ren vaccinated for Covid 19 if/when one becomes available for that age group?**



## ACCESS TO WI-FI

Almost 100% of the just over 300 respondents indicated that they have access to Wi-Fi in their homes.

**Do you have reliable access to Wi-Fi in your home?**



## ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

My oldest two kids (11 and 14) did great in virtual learning both achieving honor roll. My youngest (7) is nonverbal autistic and we struggled a bit with virtual learning. We did have extra therapy sessions via zoom, but he needs more hands-on assistance. We will be going in person next year and I'm very concerned about the Delta & Lambda variants of COVID, especially with a special needs child.

I'm super grateful for my child care provider and her faithful service to our family through the pandemic.

I haven't gotten the vaccine yet because I'm a stay-at-home mom, so if I have side effects from the vaccine, I can't take care of my kids. I have no family, so no help. Is there any support out there if I get the shot and need help the next day? I heard a few others at the state center talking about this issue.

Social distancing has had a negative impact on my children's social development. They truly miss the interaction with their friends and have resorted to communicating with them online in most circumstances. They wish COVID-19 was 'over' so they could have things back the way they were before. This school year was tough for everyone: educators, staff, families, and children. I appreciate there were very difficult decisions that had to be made and I think the schools and communities handled the restrictions and guidelines from the CDC as best as they could.

I'm hesitant about sending my child back to school with this new strain.

My child struggled significantly being at home and learning remotely last year. Her mental health suffered. She needs the opportunity to have socialization with friends at school as well as activities in person. She needs a more normal year or I fear her mental health struggles will just get worse with the removal of "normal" school activities.

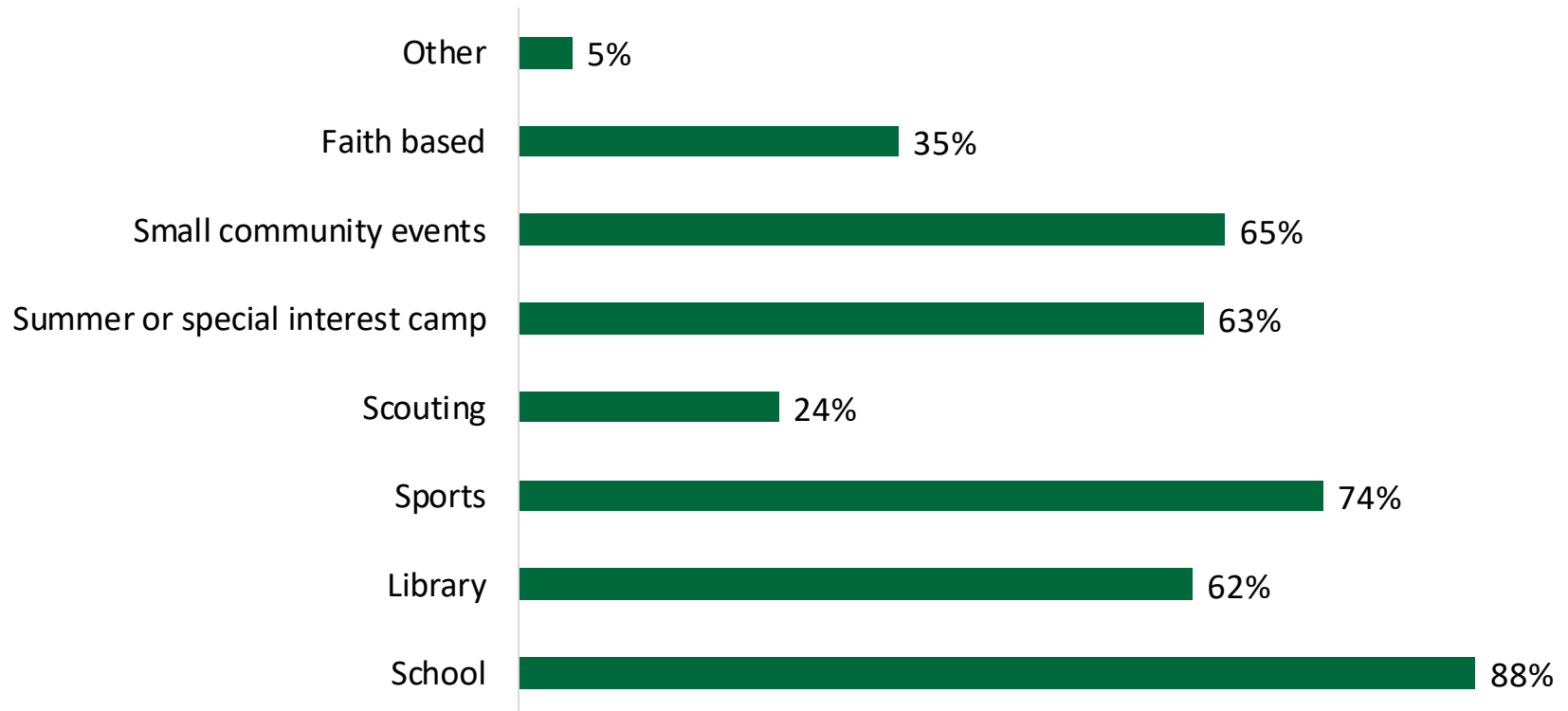




# LOOKING AHEAD

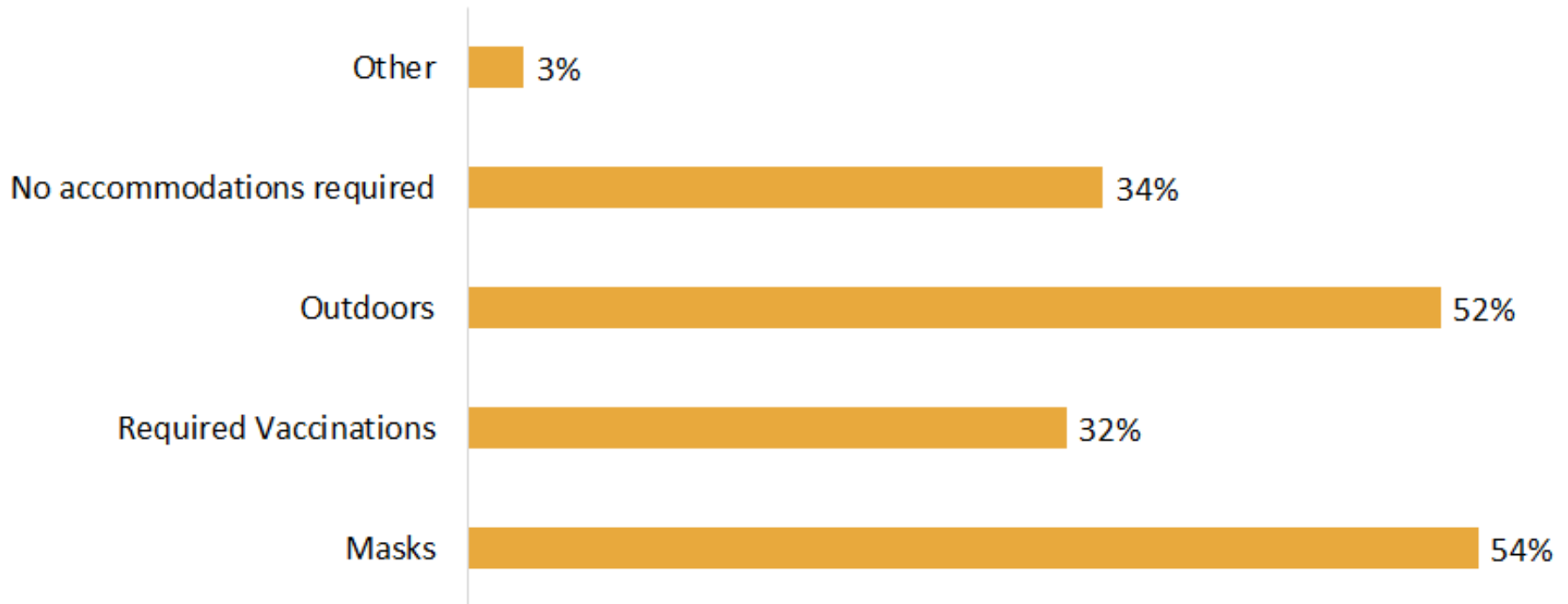
# WHAT KINDS OF IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE YOUR CHILD/REN PARTICIPATE IN?

Generally, respondents indicated they feel comfortable having their child/ren participate in multiple in-person activities such as school, sports, and small community events.



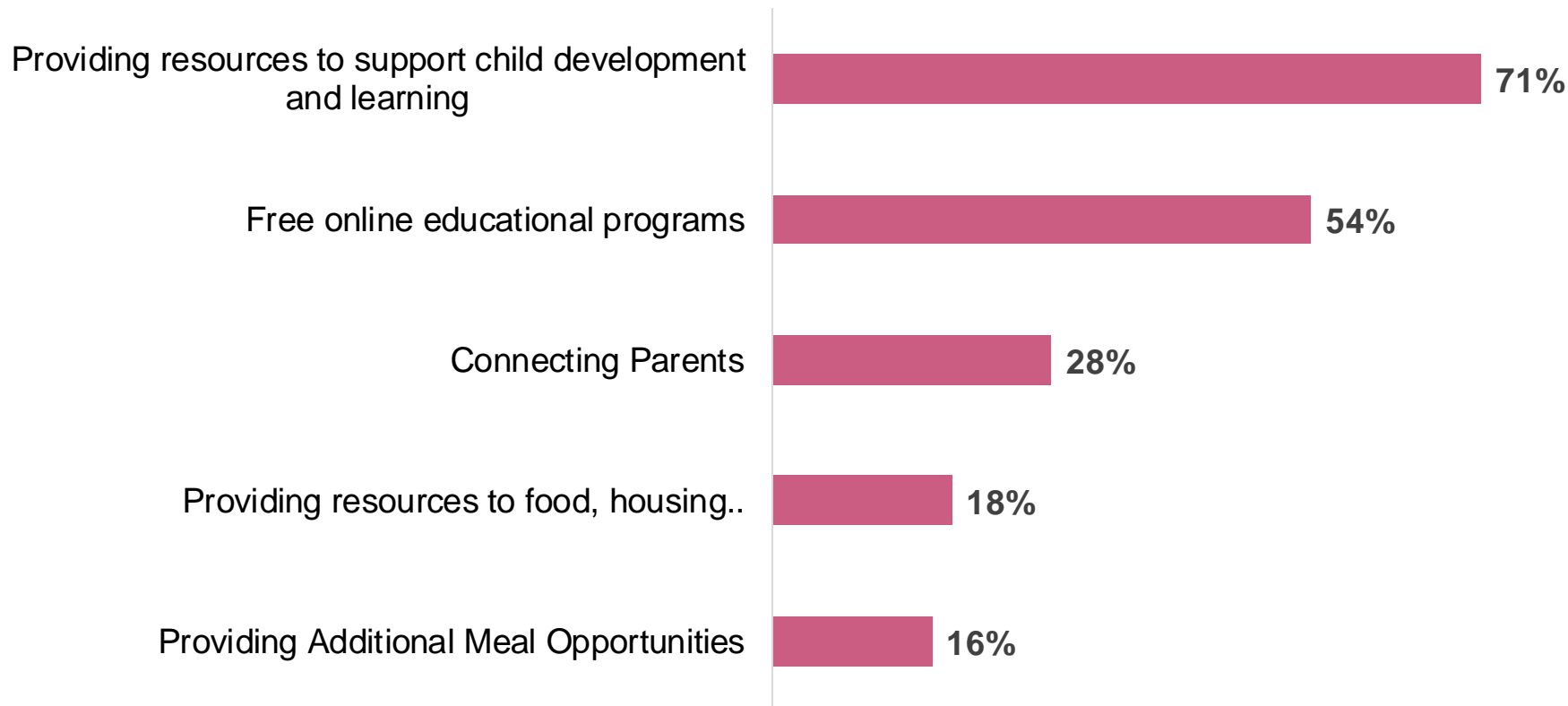
# WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD YOU BE COMFORTABLE ALLOWING YOUR CHILD/REN TO PARTICIPATE IN IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES?

About half of respondents indicated that they would be comfortable allowing their child/ren to participate in in-person activities the conditions included masks or it was outdoors. About a third of respondents indicated that the would be comfortable if vaccinations were required and another third indicated that there were no accommodations required.



## WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AT HOME GOING FORWARD?

The majority of respondents prioritized resources to support child development and learning as well as free online educational programs.



# WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL?

What is available to me? Child care is not affordable, so I am a stay-at-home mom looking for opportunities for my two kids. I don't know what options there are for me. Our one income is just over the amount that would qualify us for services. The system sucks. You try to work hard for your family but the harder you work the harder it is to raise your family without supports.

More in-person learning and child care so parents can get back to work!

Strategies to work on emotional development.

Mental health counseling

Checklists on what children should know and be doing in each age or grade level.

Especially during pandemic, free accessibility to educational program such as K-readiness zoom, zearn, epic, library online programs, etc were helpful. These should be available all the time off- and on-line including extra curricula with other kids (e.g. coding, chess, sewing, word-play etc.)

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR DELAWARE

- Districts and schools are required to release their plan on how to spend federal stimulus dollars to address learning loss, socioemotional learning, and other student needs.
- The state and many districts/schools continue to conduct surveys of parents and families.
- Visit [rodelde.org](http://rodelde.org) for more information.

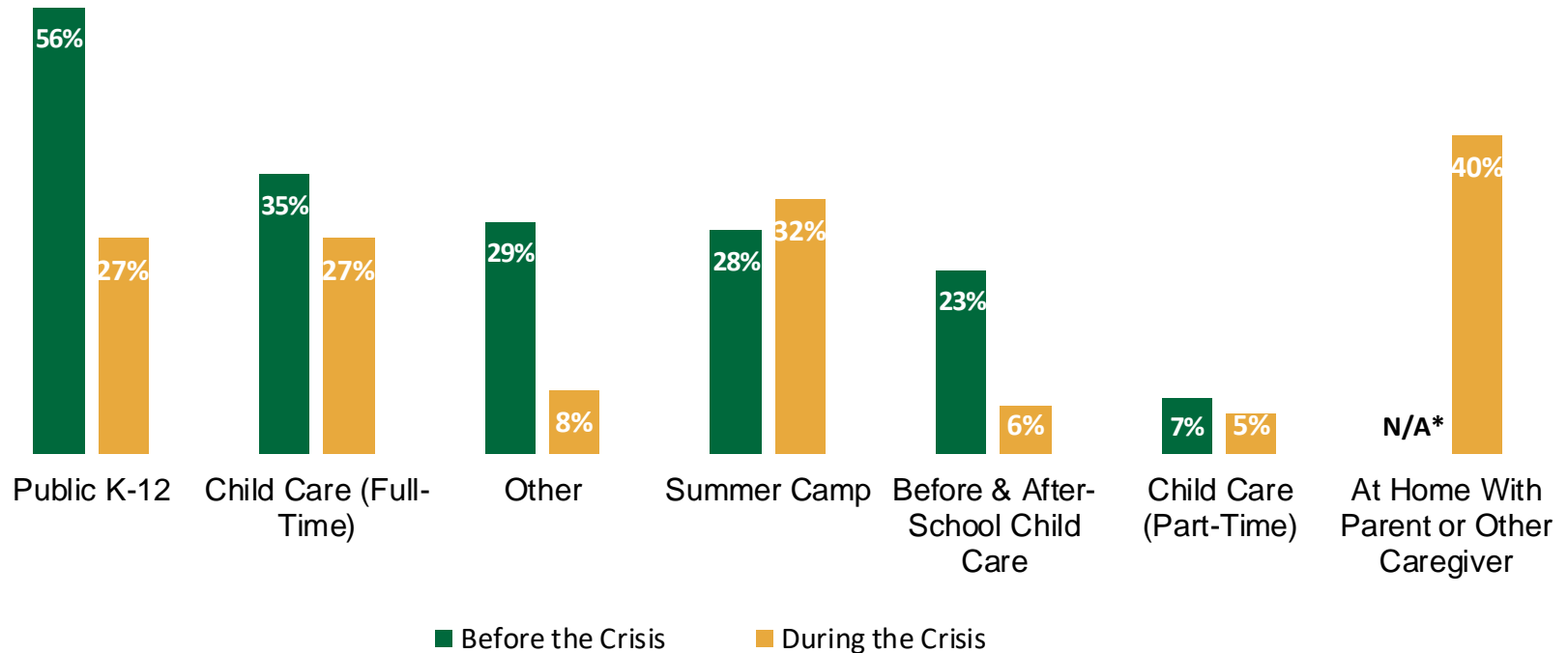


# APPENDIX

# CHILD CARE – NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Before the crisis, about half of respondents in New Castle County said their children attended public K-12 school, while 40% used full-time child care. During the crisis, only 27% of respondents said their child/ren attended Public K-12 school while 27% said their child/ren attends child care full time (a drop from before COVID).

Did/does your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)

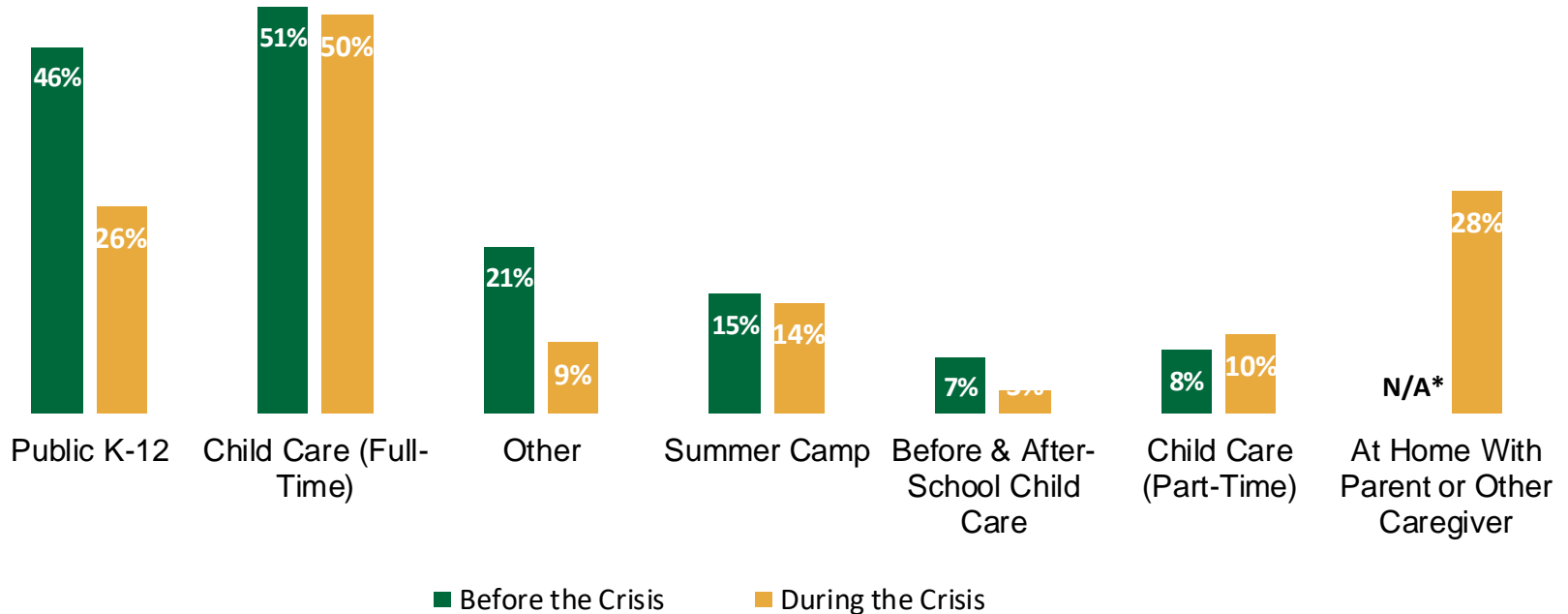




# CHILD CARE – KENT COUNTY

Before the crisis, almost half of respondents in Kent County said their children attended public K-12 school. During the crisis, only 26% of respondents said their child/ren attended Public K-12 school. There was a slight increase in child care (part-time) during the crisis compared to before the crisis.

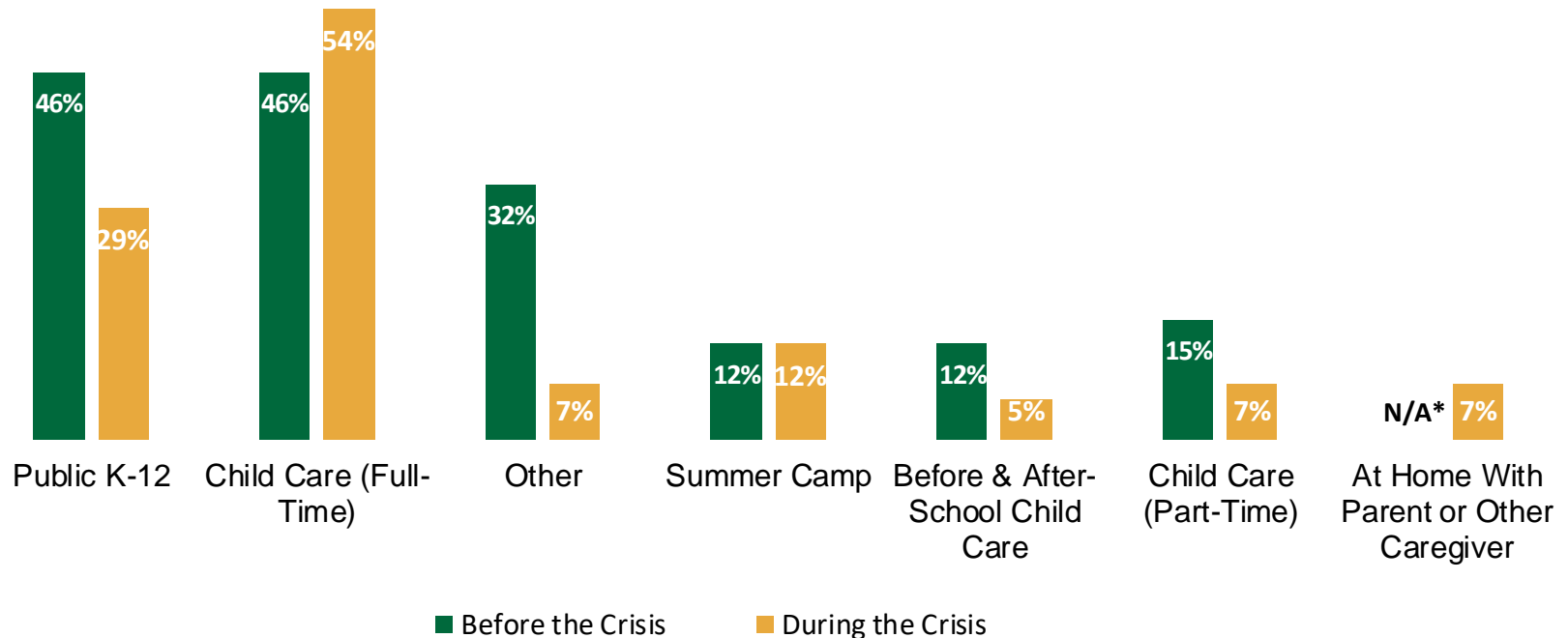
Before the crisis, did your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)



# CHILD CARE – SUSSEX COUNTY

Before the crisis, almost half of respondents in Sussex County said their children attended public K-12 school. During the crisis, only 29% of respondents said their child/ren attended Public K-12 school. There was increase in use of child care in Sussex county between before the crisis (46%) and during the crisis (54%).

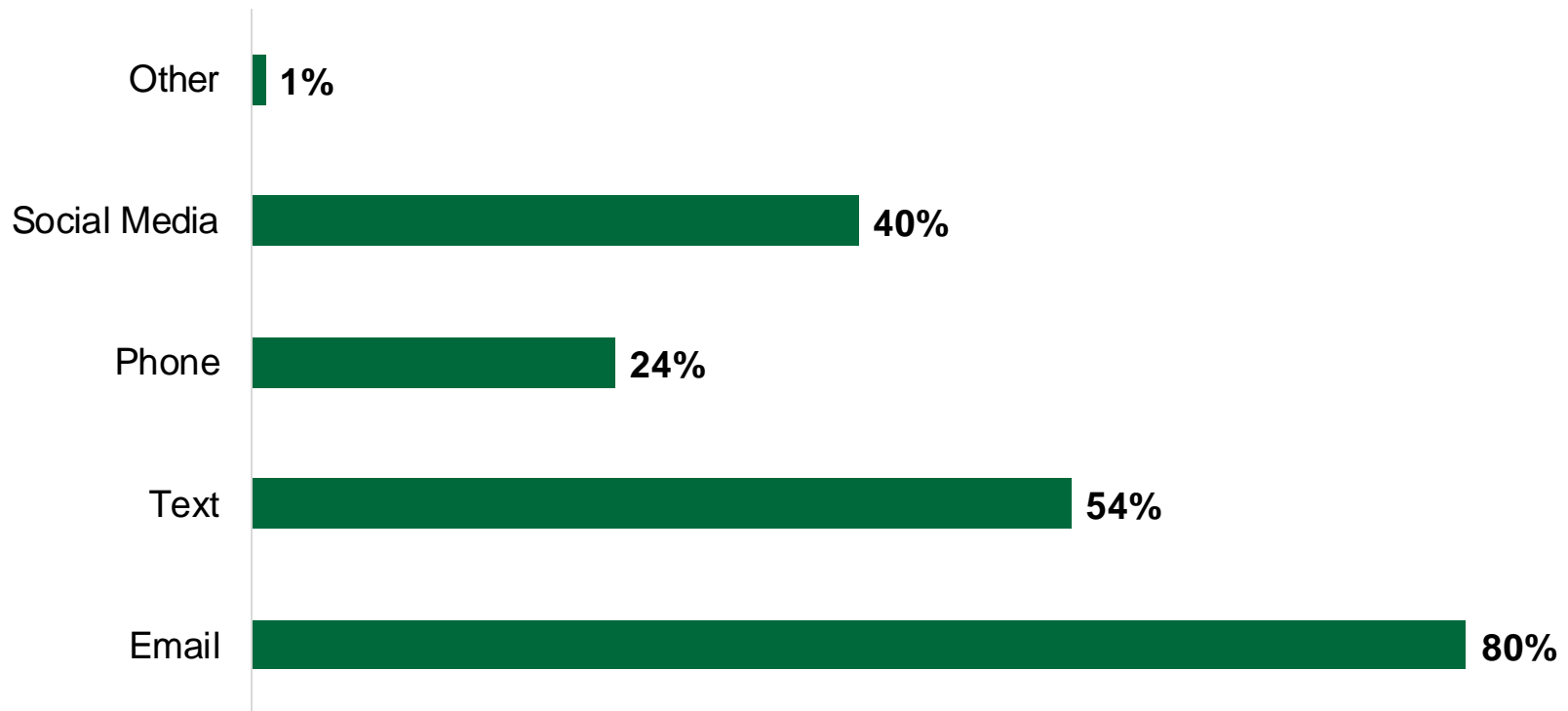
Before the crisis, did your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)



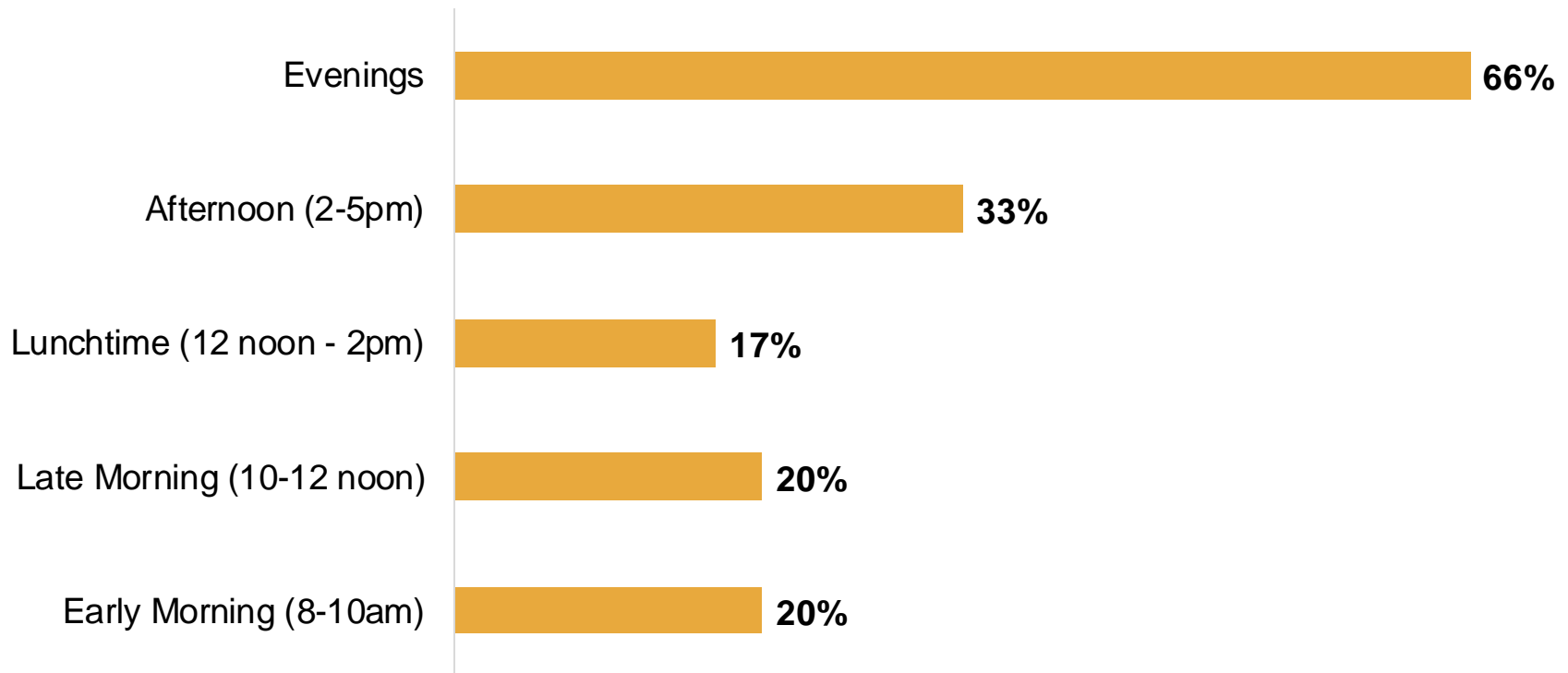


# PROGRAMMING NEEDS

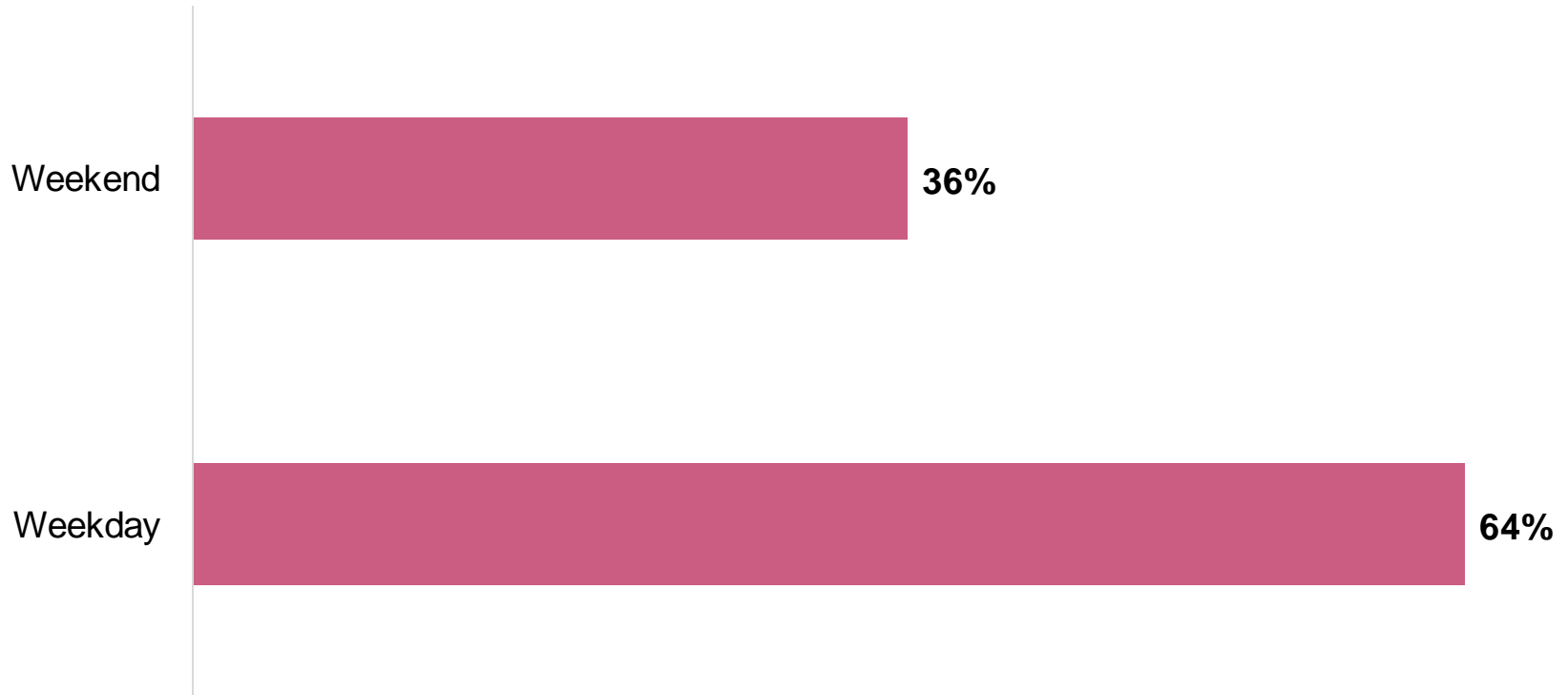
# WHAT ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOU AND YOUR PEERS ABOUT SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD/REN AND THEIR LEARNING (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)?



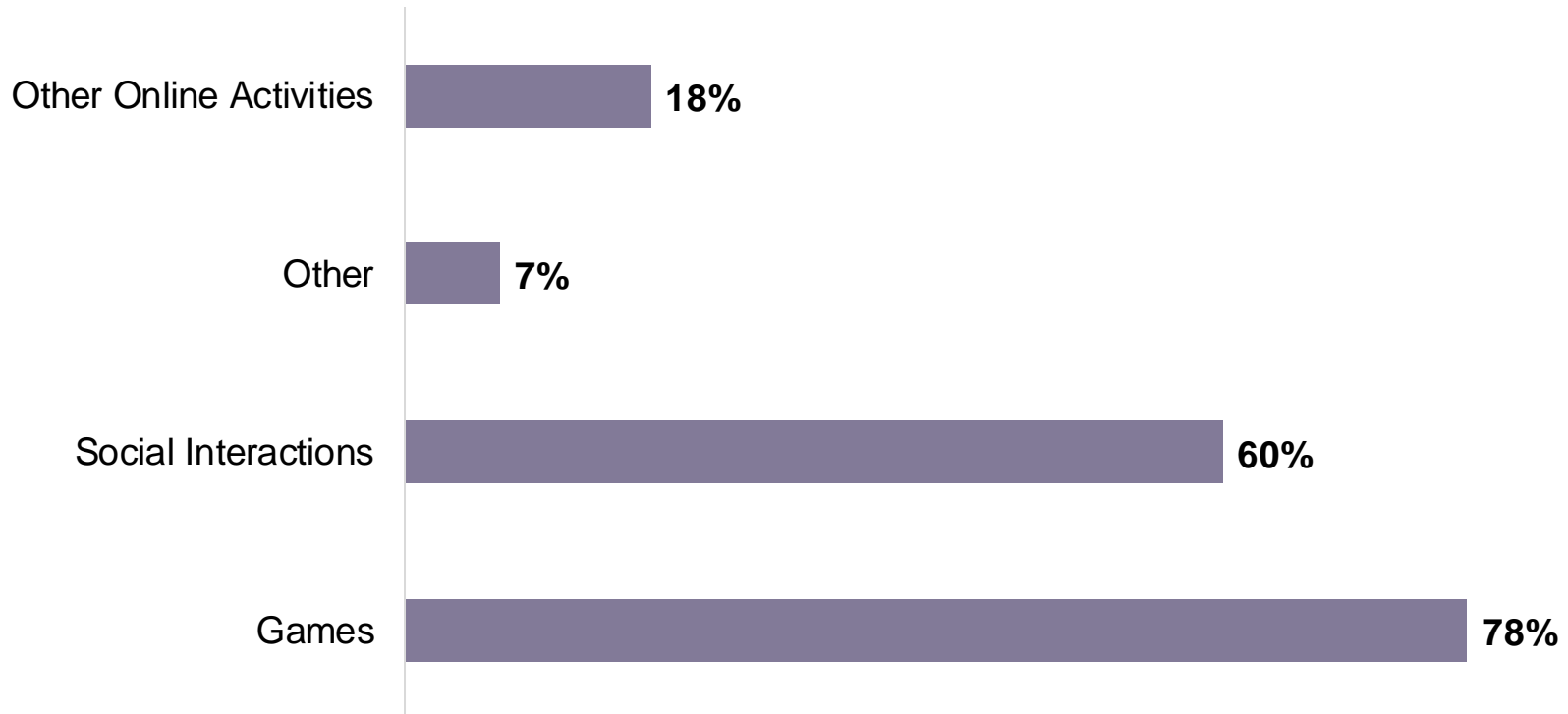
## WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF DAY TO HOLD VIRTUAL PARENT/CHILD EVENTS (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)?



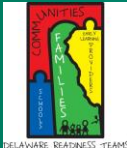
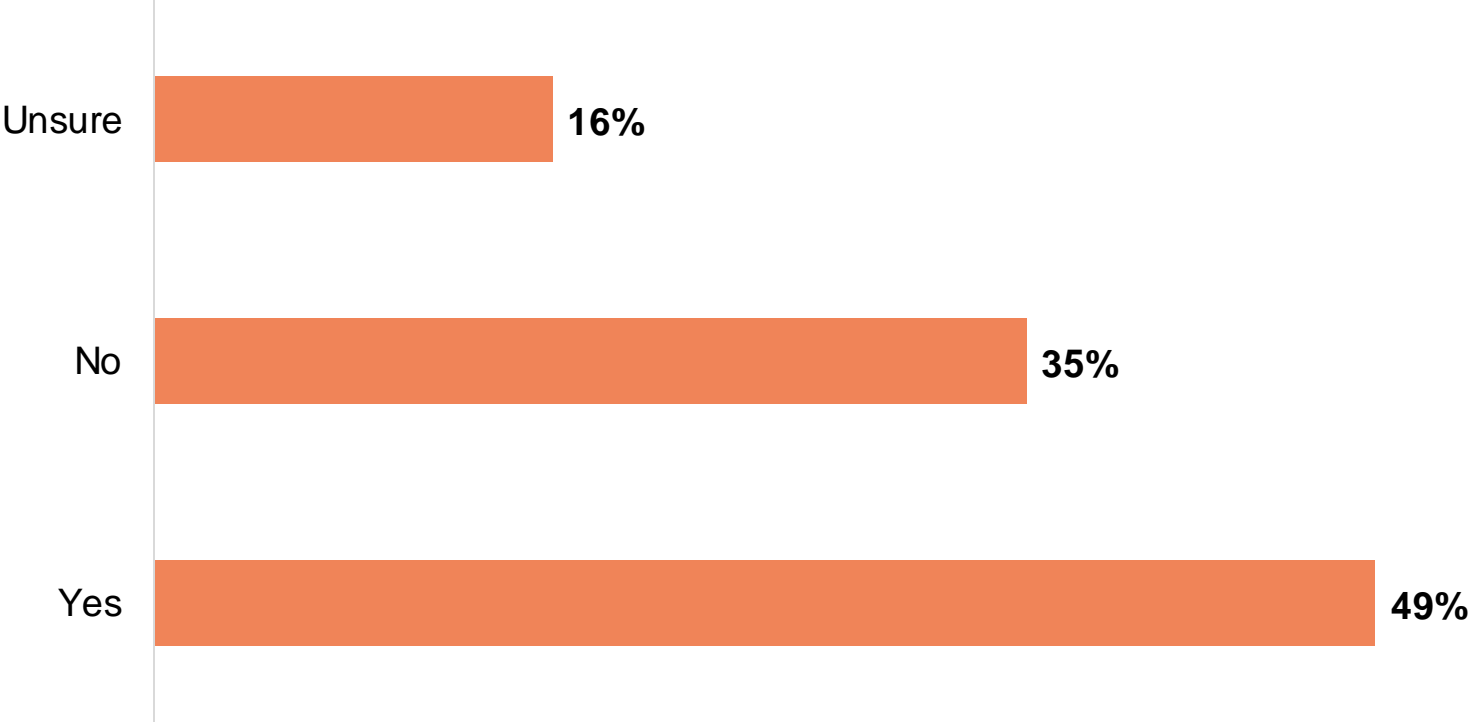
# WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF WEEK TO HOLD VIRTUAL PARENT/CHILD EVENTS (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)?



## WHAT KINDS OF ON-LINE ACTIVITIES DO YOU AND YOUR CHILD/REN ENJOY? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



# HAVE YOU COMPLETED A DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT FOR YOUR CHILD?





# WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A CHILD-CENTERED INFORMATIONAL SESSION BASED ON DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS?

