



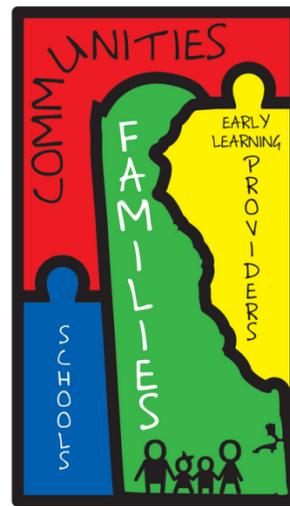
Delaware Family Survey Results

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DELAWARE READINESS TEAMS

November 2023

ABOUT THE DELAWARE FAMILY SURVEY

Respondent demographics:

- **Primary language spoken at home:** 93.93% speak English (n=418), 1.57% speak Haitian Creole (n=7), and 3.37% speak Spanish (n=15).
- **Respondent residence:** 65.24% of respondents were from New Castle County (N=289), and half of those in New Castle County were from the City of Wilmington. 20.32% were from Kent County (n=90). 14.45% were from Sussex County (N=64).
- **Child care setting:** A quarter of respondents have their children in center-based and school-based care (26% and 25%, respectively).
- **Household income:** 10% of respondents reported less than \$30K (n=43), 24% of respondents make \$30-\$55K (n=103), 34% of respondents make \$56-\$88K (n=146), and 31% of respondents make more than \$88K (n=133).

This survey was conducted between 9/13/2023 and 10/10/2023. There were 445 responses in total, responses varied, with most parents answering most questions, and where responses were provided they were included in the results. All responses are from Delaware parents with children ages 0-12.

For the survey/research, we selected three thresholds for income:

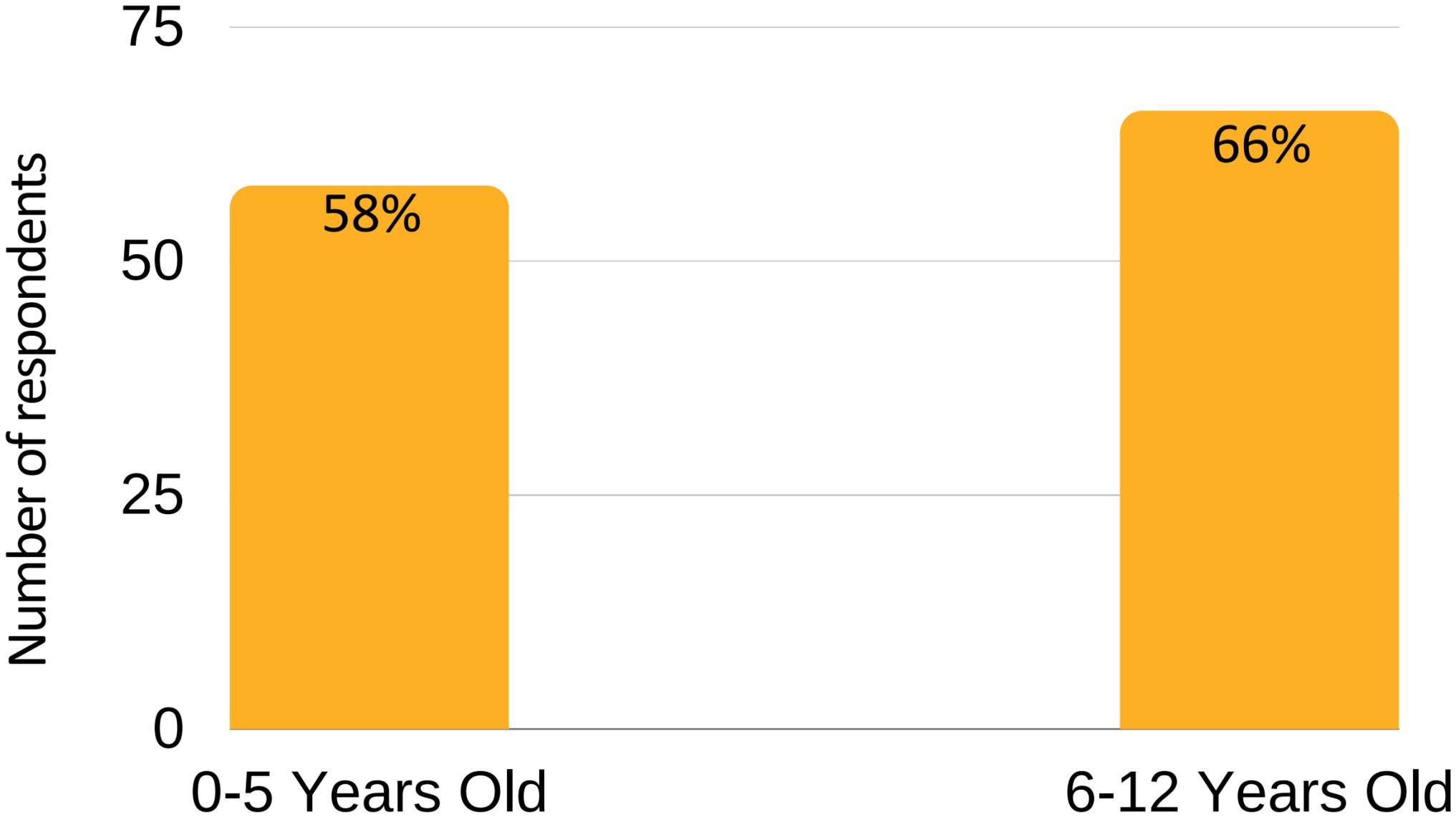
- \$30,000 is equal to 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four, and is the income threshold where families begin to lose access to ECAP (state funded pre-k for ages 0-5).
- \$55,000 is equal to 185 percent of Federal Poverty Level for a family of four, and is where families lose access to Purchase of Care Subsidy for ages 0-12.
- \$88,000 is approximately the “basic survival budget” for a family of four in Delaware, or the income level necessary to be able to afford the basics (rent, food, gas, and child care).

DELAWARE FAMILY SURVEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

- **Child care is difficult to access and afford; 26%**
 - Nearly half of the respondents reported that the cost of child care was greater than their car payments, groceries, and utilities (when considered separately). More than one-third said that the cost of child care was more expensive than their mortgage payment or rent and their college tuition or loan payments (when considered separately).
- **Lack of child care continues to hold Delaware workforce and economy back**
 - Almost all (96%) of respondents who said that they struggled to afford/access child care said they would improve their lives in some way (start a business, get a job, enroll in school, and/or pick up more hours) if they were able to afford/access child care.
 - 60% said they would get a job and/or pick up more hours or move from part time to full time employment if they could afford/access child care.
 - 18% said they would enroll in college or postsecondary education if they could afford/access child care.
- **Working families are among those most impacted**
 - The number of respondents who report that they cannot afford to pay their other bills due to the high cost of child care increases from a quarter (25%) to nearly a third (31%) for families who make \$88,000 or less.
- **Families struggle to find and afford a program**
 - 44% of all respondents selected at least one of the "cannot" statements (i.e., I cannot find a program that has room, I cannot find a program that meets the needs of my schedule, I cannot afford to send my child to a program). When looking just at the respondents who struggle to afford/access childcare, that percent increases to 70%
- **When they could find and afford it, there are many attributes parents value in child care:**
 - For the most part, all of the options listed (consistent relationship, quality of staff, quality of programming, classroom environment, multicultural programming/diversity, respective/inclusive of my child/children's culture, connections to other services/resources, opportunities for socialization) were valued more or less equally.

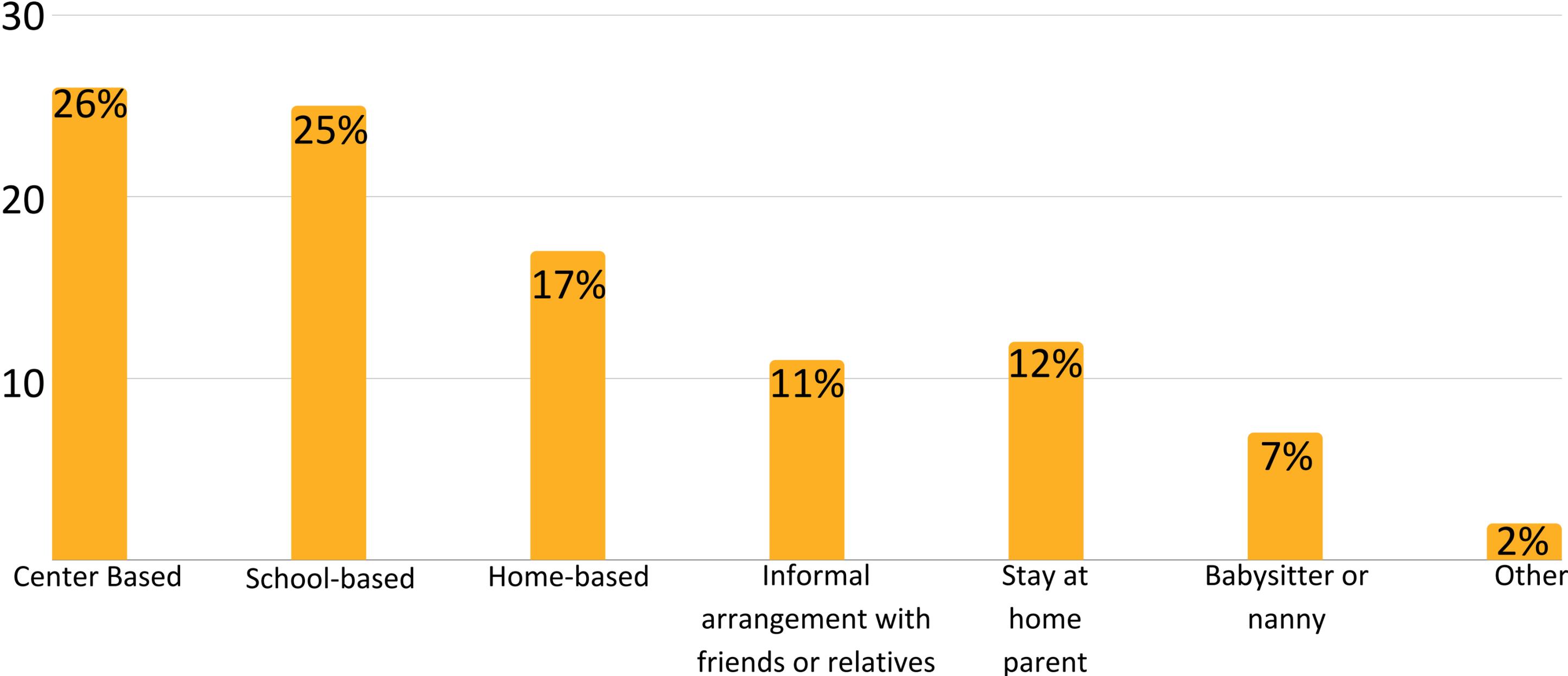
HOW OLD IS/ARE YOUR CHILD(REN)?

Most respondents had at least one child in each age category (0-5 and 6-12).



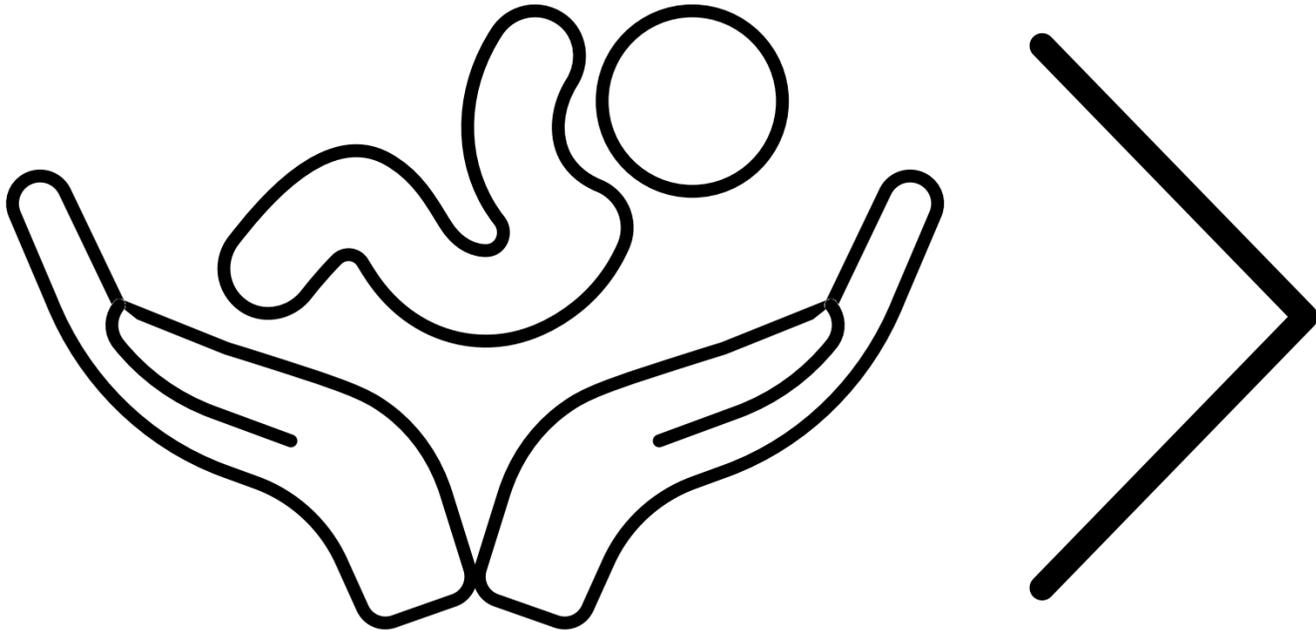
153 respondents only have child(ren) aged 0-5 and 115 only have child(ren) aged 6-12. 178 have at least one child in both age ranges.

WHAT KIND OF CHILD CARE IS YOUR FAMILY USING?

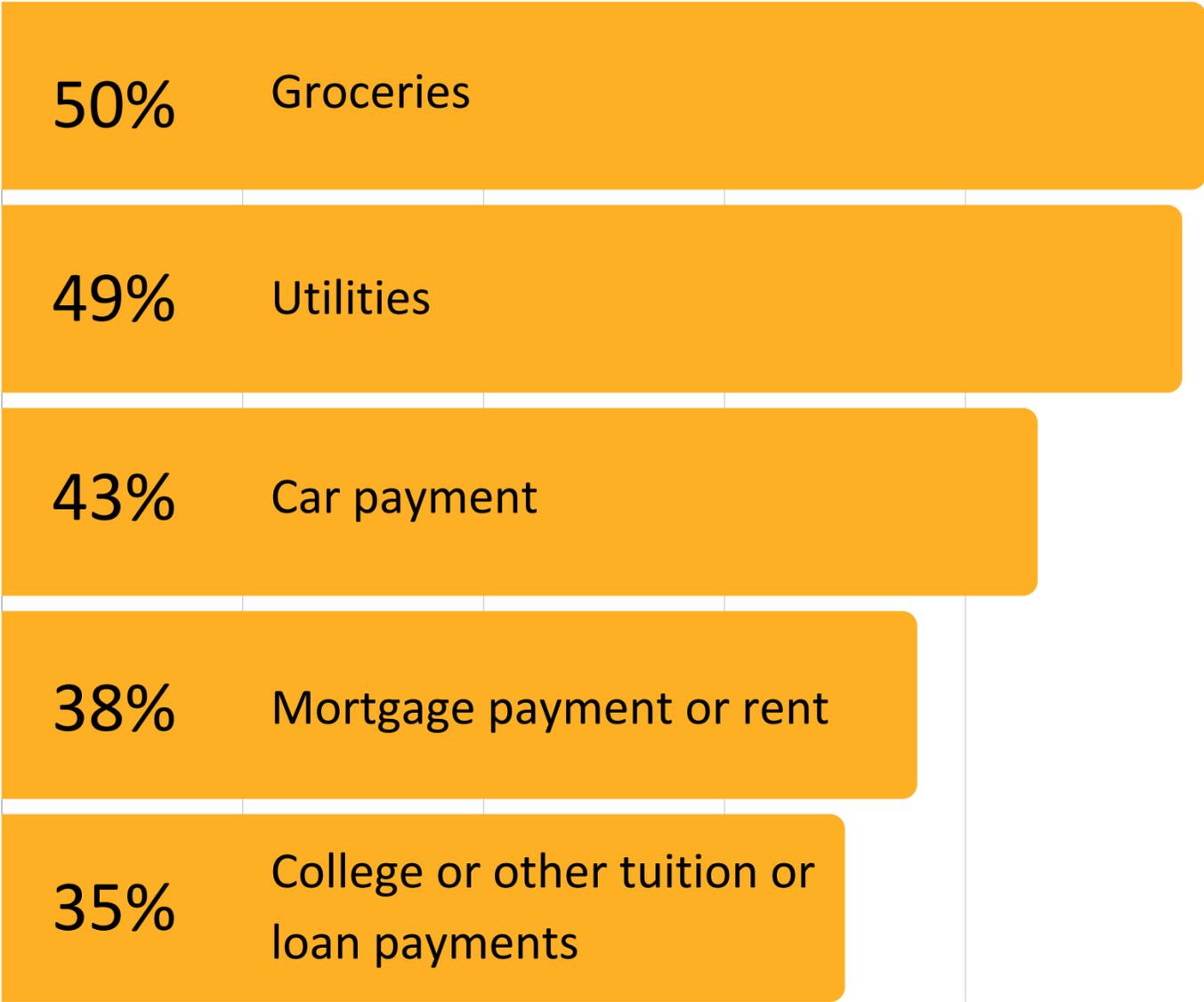


Respondents could select all that apply, therefore percentages may not add up to 100

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THAT THEIR MONTHLY CHILD CARE COSTS WERE GREATER THAN THE COST OF THEIR...



Monthly child care cost

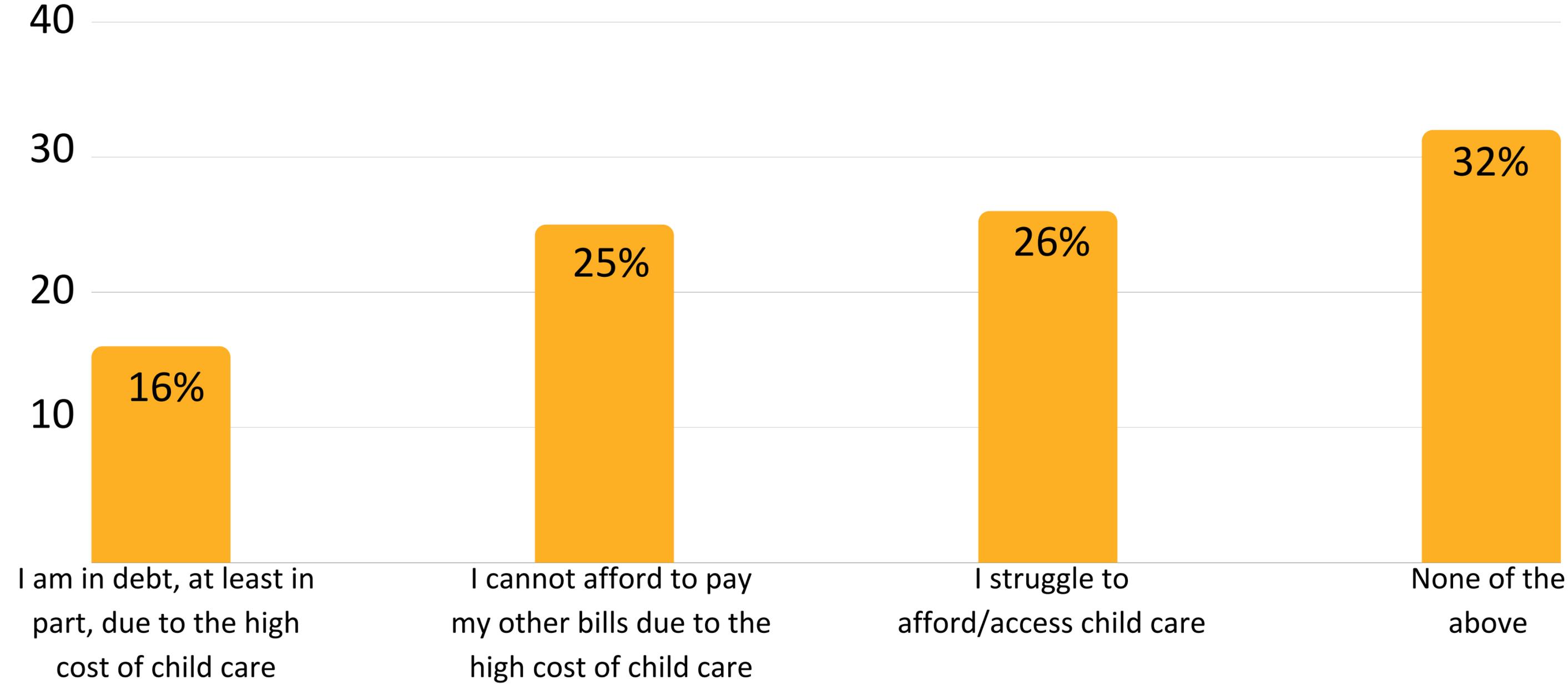


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IF YOUR EXPENSES WERE TOTALED, WHICH WOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE?

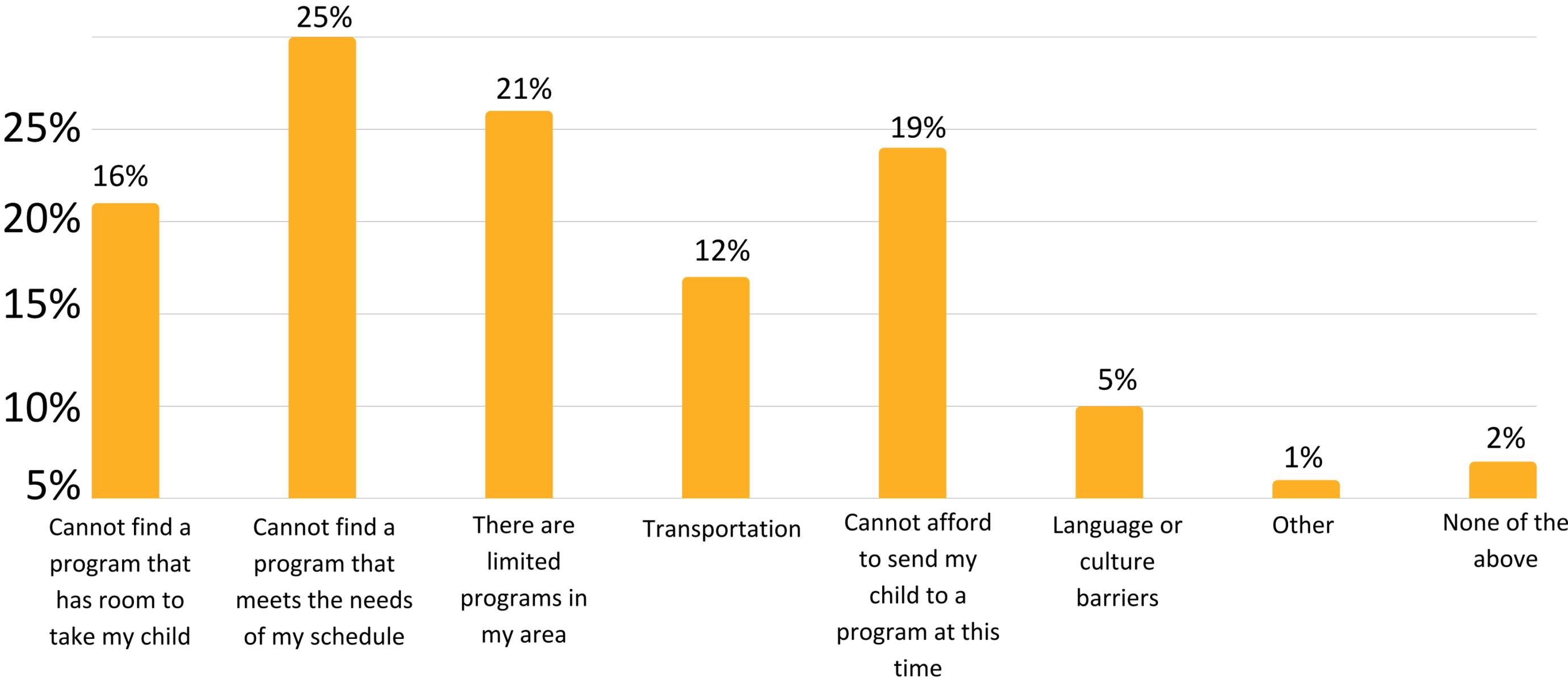


SELECT THE STATEMENTS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR SITUATION



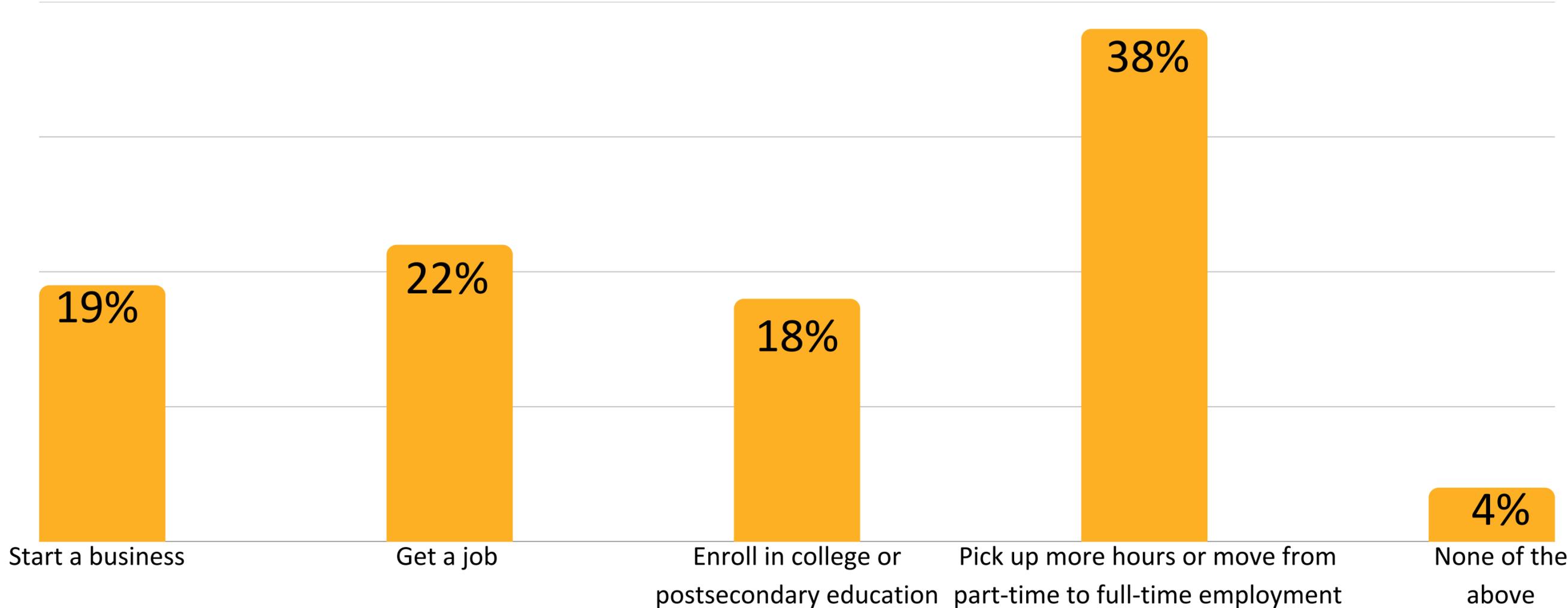
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PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY CHALLENGES THAT YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING AS THEY RELATE TO ACCESSING OR AFFORDING CHILD CARE.



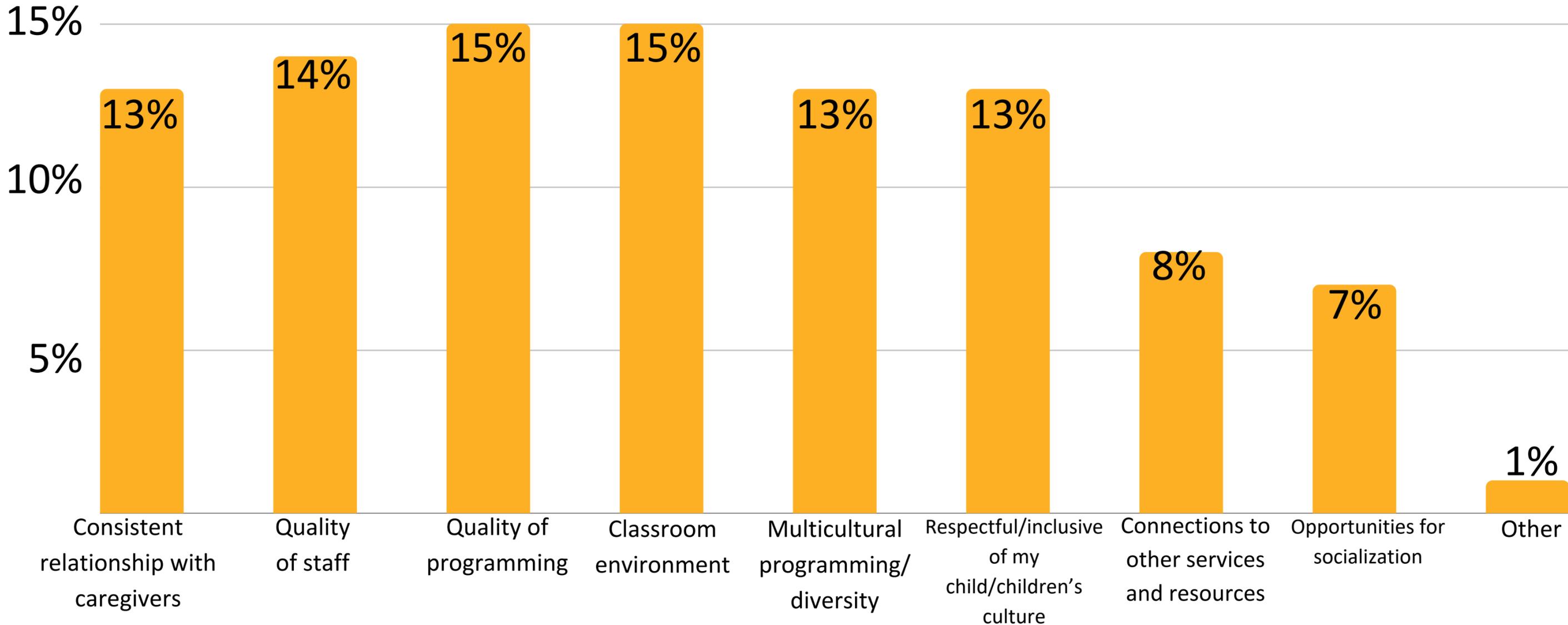
Respondents could select all that apply, therefore percentages may not add up to 100

IF I COULD AFFORD/ACCESS CHILD CARE, I (OR MY SPOUSE/PARTNER) WOULD...



Respondents could select all that apply, therefore percentages may not add up to 100

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT YOUR CENTER-,SCHOOL-, AND OR HOME-BASED CHILD CARE?



Respondents could select all that apply, therefore percentages may not add up to 100

Delaware caregivers share their stories

“We are not able to afford both daycare and extended care. We use PTO and have made special arrangements with our employers.” –Caregiver from City of Wilmington, more than \$88,000 household income



“I have a good [child care center] but it's costing me quite a bit of money even with [Purchase of Care].” –Caregiver from Kent County, between \$30,000-\$55,000 household income



“I stay home because we could not afford bills and child care. Even to stay home I am having to file bankruptcy because we can't even afford this but this was the better option compared to fulltime care so I can work. The cost of EVERYTHING is going up but job pay is increasing at a MUCH slower rate.” -Caregiver from Sussex County, \$56-\$88K

