


**Indiana Birth-5
Strategic Plan:
Family Questionnaire Response
Summary**

September 2019

Birth-5 Family Questionnaire Purpose & Overview

In early 2019, the State of Indiana received a federal Preschool Development Grant. Through the grant, Indiana developed a comprehensive strategic plan, of which the family questionnaire was a key stakeholder engagement activity.

- In order to collect family feedback from across the state as part of the strategic planning process, a family focused questionnaire was developed and released.
- The questionnaire sought feedback on the needs of families with children aged 0-5 and asked targeted questions related to the draft strategic plan recommendations.
- The questionnaire was intended to inform the strategic plan, and should not be interpreted as a survey that is statistically representative of all Hoosiers.
- The questionnaire, other stakeholder input, and a needs assessment influenced the development of the strategic plan goals. This document is available on the Brighter Futures website.



Indiana Strategic Plan for Education and Care of Children Ages 0-5: Family Questionnaire

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire! Indiana has an exciting opportunity to develop a strategic plan about education and services for kids ages 0 through 5. Your input will help us understand your family's needs for early education and care and other services in your community. Please complete only one questionnaire per family.

Section 1: About You

1 Do you have a child under age 6 at home?
 Yes
 No (you do not need to complete this questionnaire)

2 What is your current zip code?

3 What county do you live in?

Section 2: Your Childcare and Education

Please list the age of each child under 6 in your home and the type(s) of child care the child currently participates in. (✓ option(s) that apply to you.)

CHILD 1: Age: _____

Parent/Guardian at home
 Family Member/Neighbor/Nanny/Friend in your home
 Home-based child care/pay someone to keep your child(ren) in home other than yours
 Head Start/Early Head Start
 Child Care Center
 Public Elementary School
 Church/Registered Ministry
 Other: _____

What Paths to QUALITY level is your child care? (circle one)
N/A 1 2 3 4 I don't know

1

Family Questionnaire Background

The strategic planning committee sought responses from families across Indiana during a one-month period. 1,075 responses were received during a one month period.

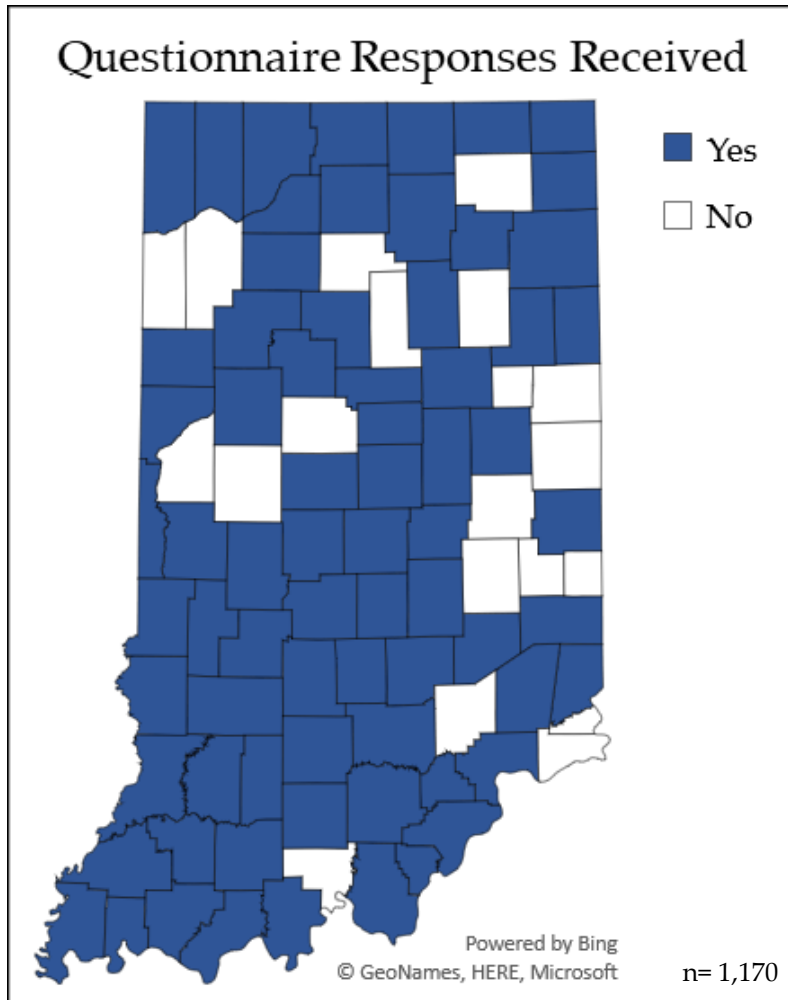
- The family questionnaire opened on 7/31 and closed on 8/31.
- Questionnaires were available in English and Spanish and in print or electronically.
- Families could answer any or all questions and opt not to respond to a question. For this reason, the number of responses (n=#) to each question will vary in this summary document.
- The questionnaire was divided in 5 sections:
 1. About you (location)
 2. Your childcare and education
 3. Strategic plan goals (your needs)
 4. Optional demographic information
 5. Other comments (free response)

Example Distribution Methods

- Birth-5 Strategic plan committee members
- On My Way PreK Facebook page
- On My Way PreK texting app
- First Steps listserv
- First Steps Facebook page
- United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI)
- Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) members
- Early Learning Indiana (ELI)
- Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) early learning newsletter
- IDOE Special Education Director's newsletter
- Infancy Onward Facebook page
- Healthy Families Indiana program managers
- Family Voices Indiana

Respondent Demographics

Responses came from families in 72 of Indiana's 92 counties. Those who answered optional demographic questions receive a variety of services and come from somewhat diverse backgrounds.



Social Services

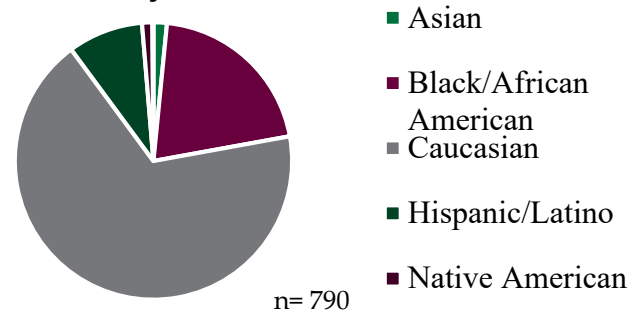
Of questionnaire respondents who provided information about assistance they receive (n= 555):

- 71.0% receive Medicaid
- 42.2% receive SNAP
- 25.8% receive Child Care Assistance Vouchers
- 40.5% receive WIC benefits

Language

- Of all respondents answering providing information about language (n= 807), 10.4% speak some language other than English at home.

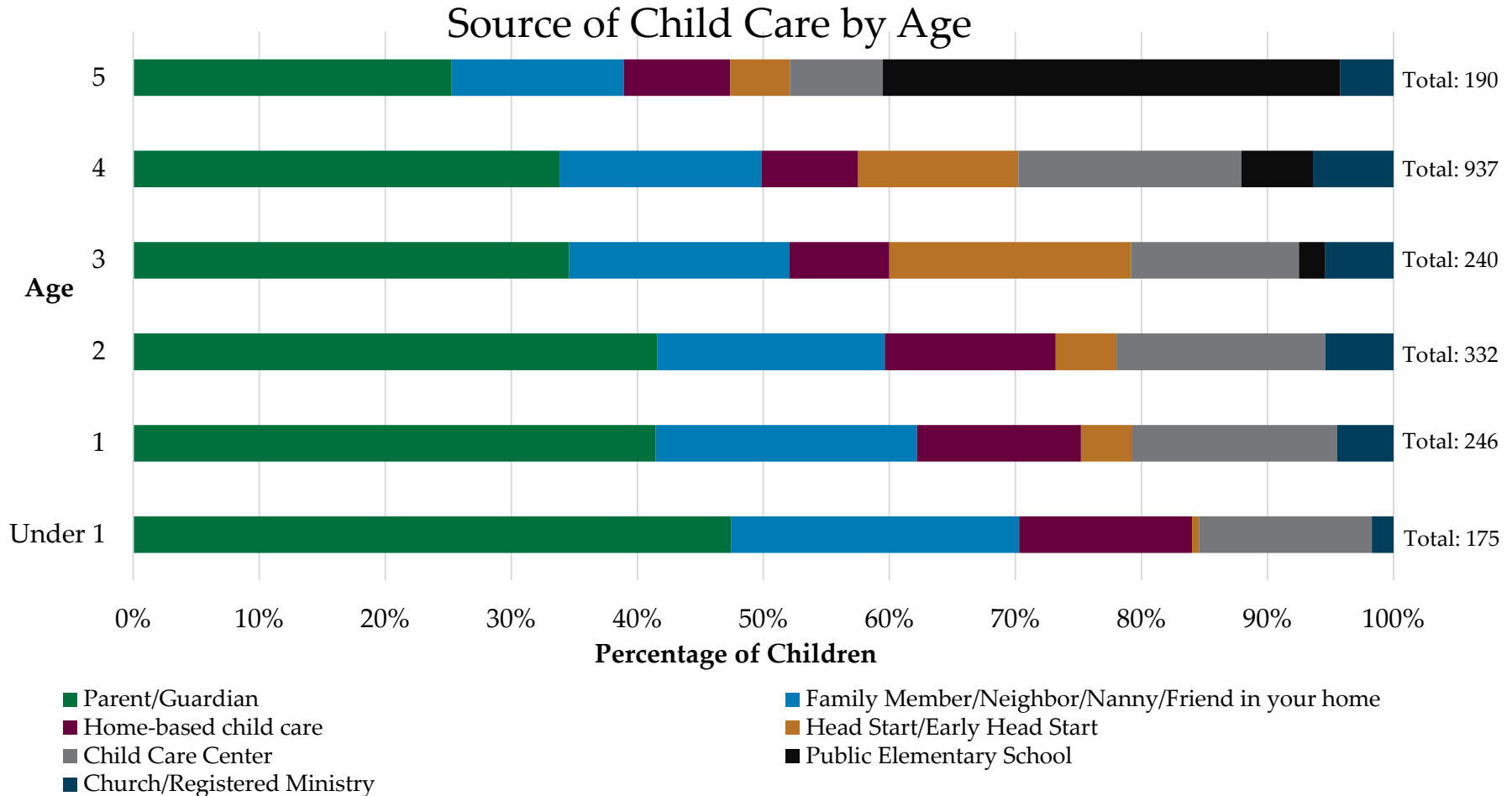
Race/Ethnicity



Note: Respondents were able to provide multiple categories for the Race/Ethnicity question.

Sources of Child Care by Age

Respondents were asked to indicate where each of their children aged birth-5 spend their days. Respondents indicated that approximately 30% of children under age 1 attend an out-of-home child-care setting, and this percentage increases to nearly 60% by the age of 5.

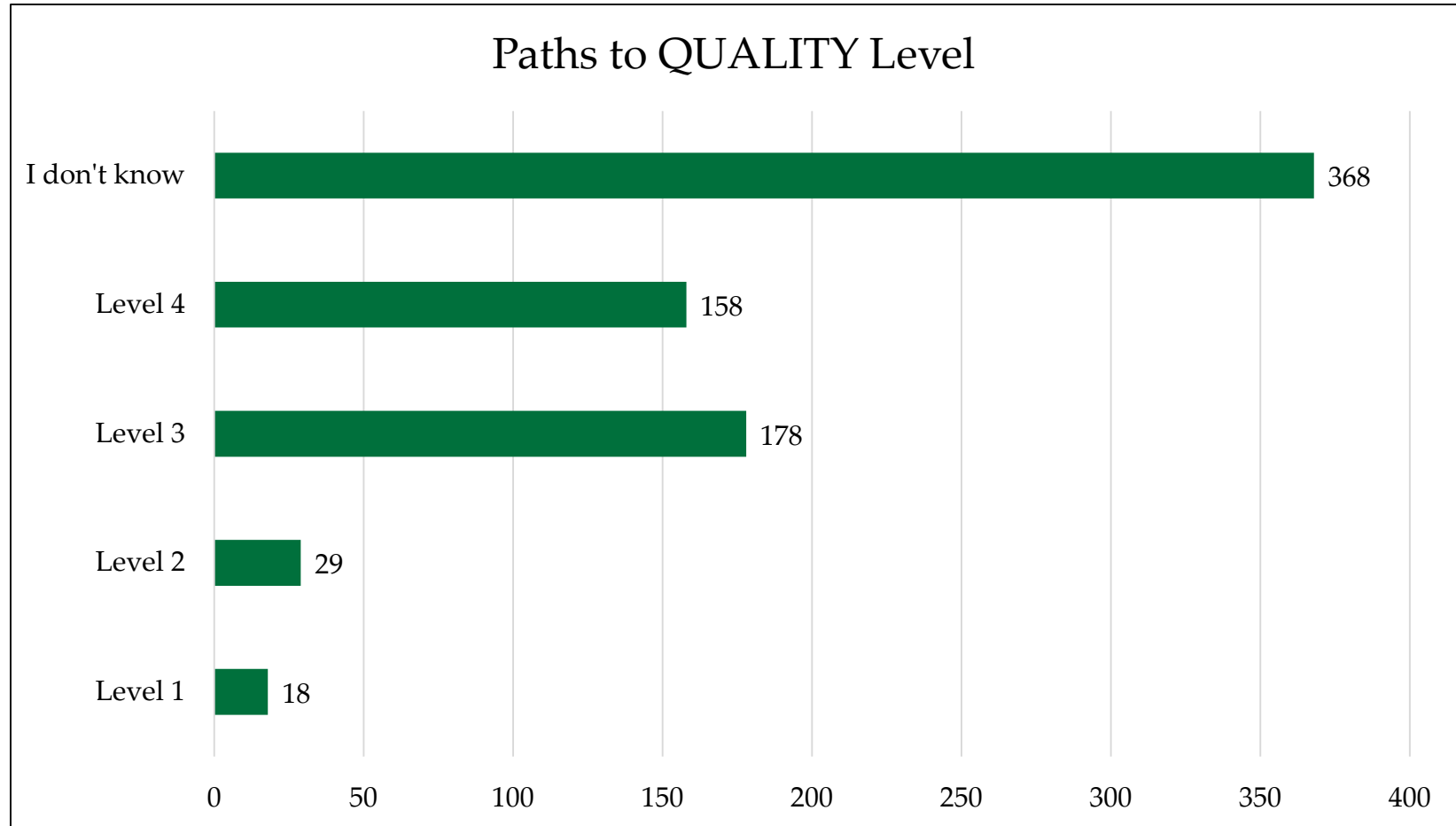


Note: Respondents were able to select more than one source of child care for each child.

Note: The promotion of the questionnaire through the On My Way PreK network may be tied to the high response from parents of four-year-olds.

Sources of Child Care & Paths to Quality

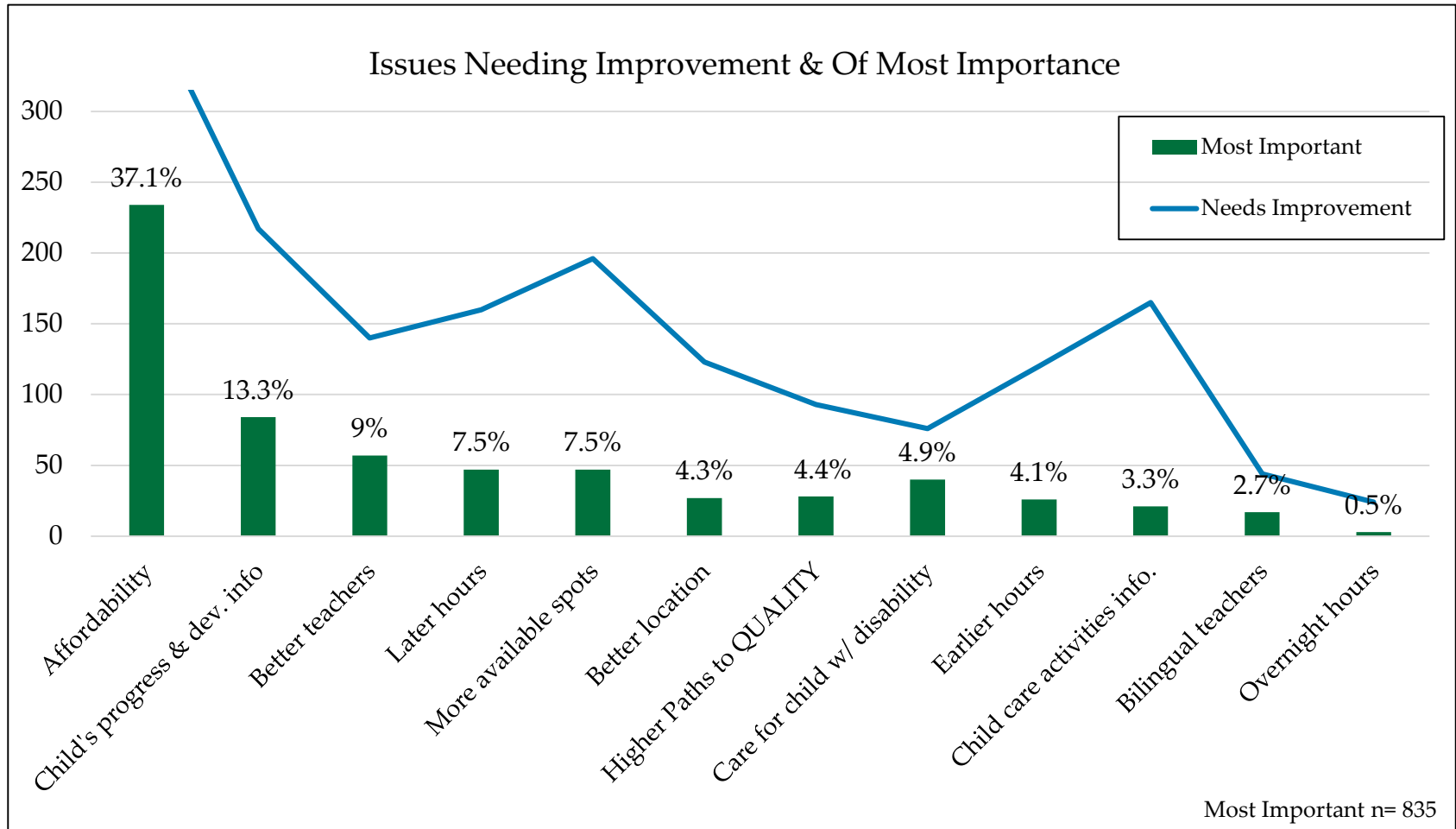
Respondents were asked to provide the PTQ level for the type of care their children receive. Of those accessing out-of-home care, 51% indicated their childcare's PTQ rating.



n= 751

Child Care Issues Important to Families

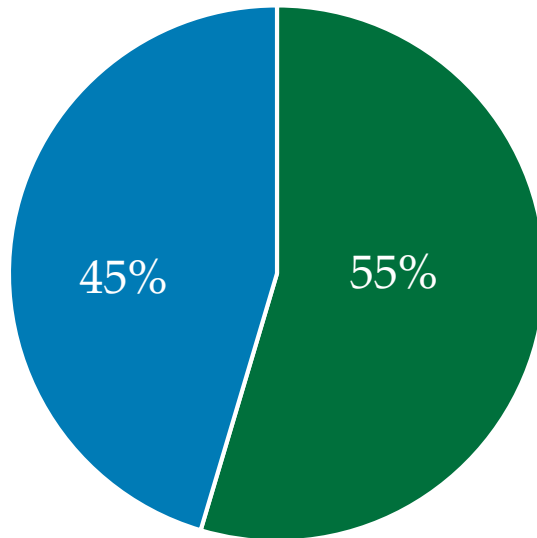
Respondents were asked to select the items that would improve their ability to care for their child and to rank one item of most importance from their selections. Affordability and information on their child's progress and development were the top two responses.



Strategic Plan Goals Feedback: Access

Respondents reacted to statements regarding their ability to access child care. More than half of respondents indicated childcare issues limited their education or work.

Have child care issues stopped or limited your employment or continuing your education?



■ Yes ■ No

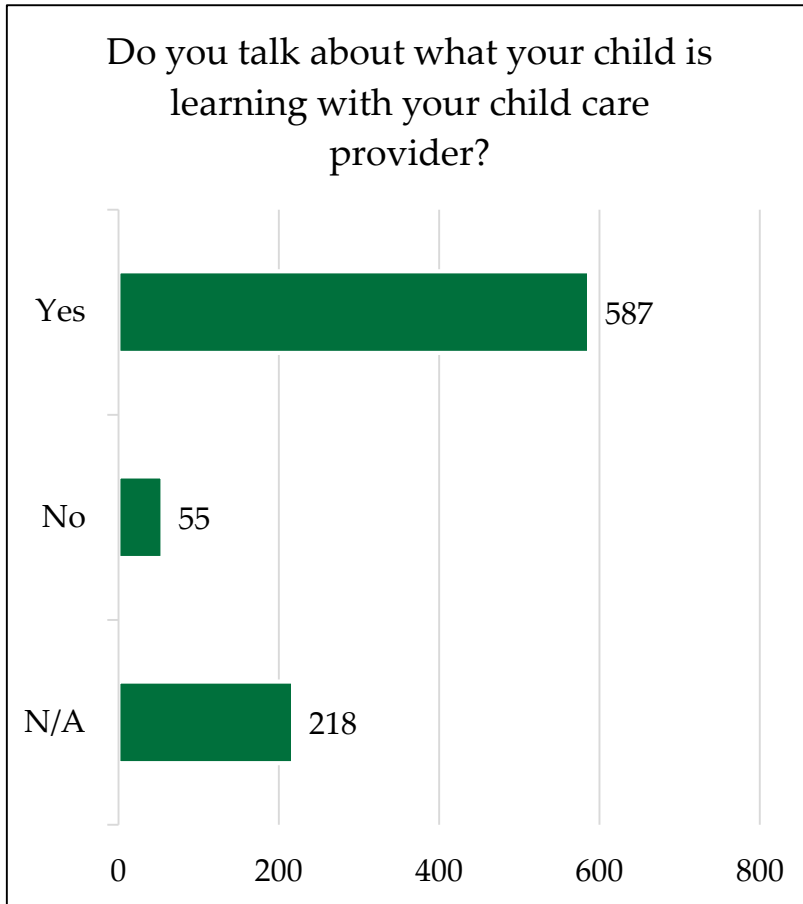
n = 857

Specific comments regarding employment and child care and education access included:

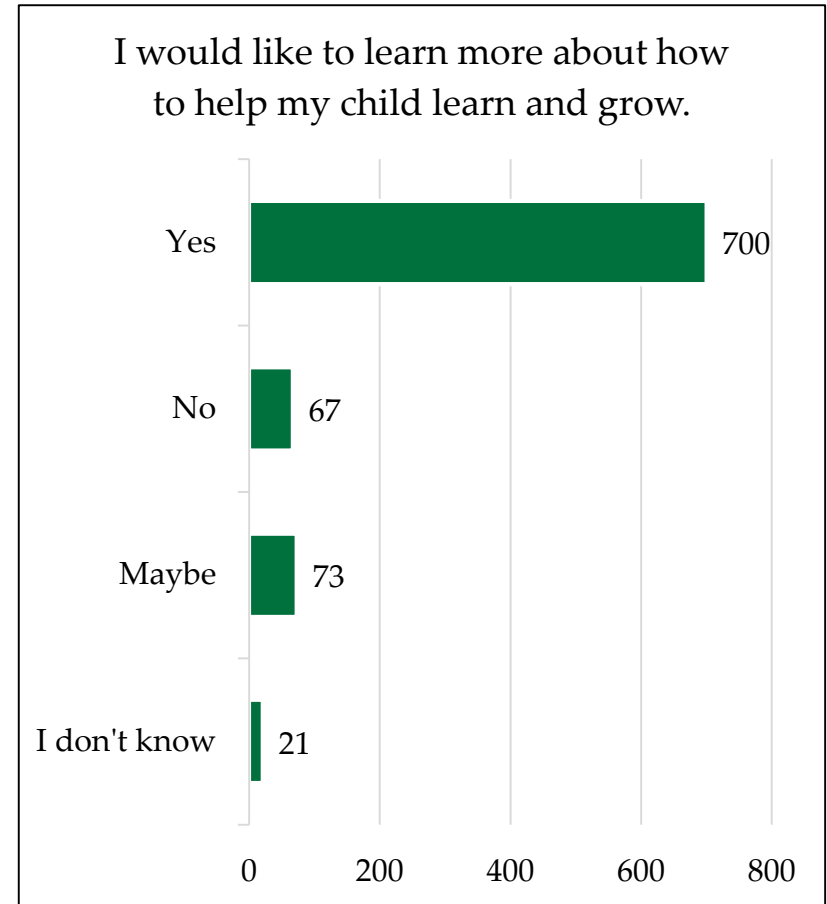
- "Please help parents who cannot become employed until they have childcare securely in place."
- "The cost of child care has been a determining factor in employment, where my family lives and the overall financial needs for our family."
- "I need childcare to keep my job."
- "The center is changing hours which is very sad since its one of the very few that was open before 7."

Strategic Plan Feedback: Family Engagement

The questionnaire sought strategic plan input about family engagement in their child's child care and education. While respondents indicated they spoke with their child's providers (where applicable), the majority indicated they wanted to learn more.



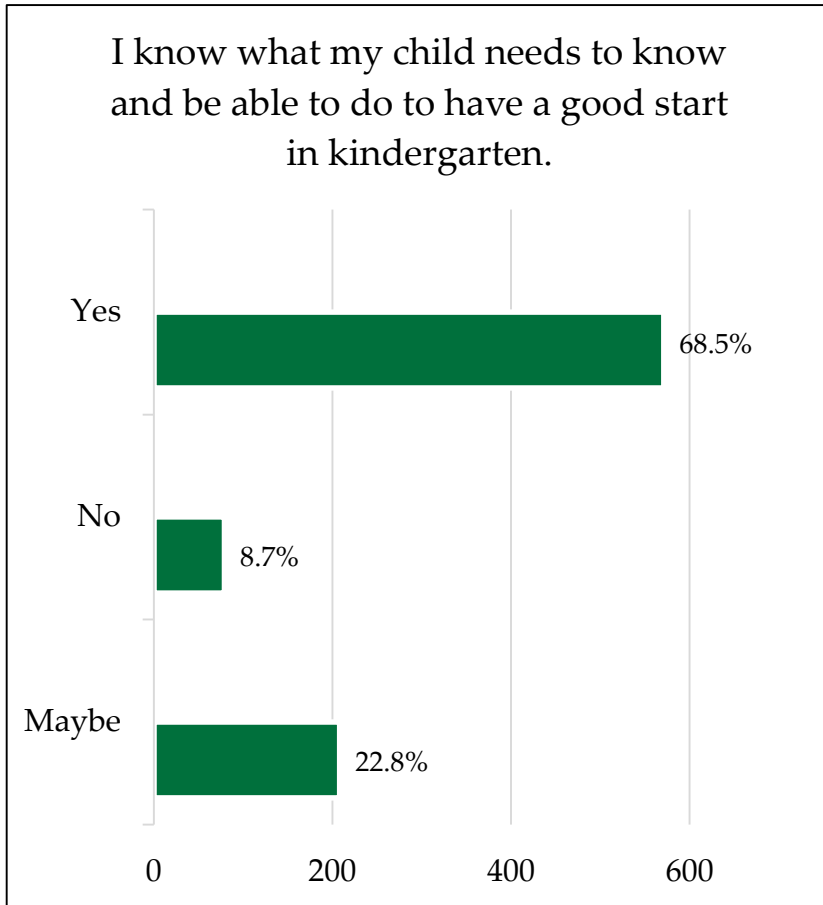
n= 860



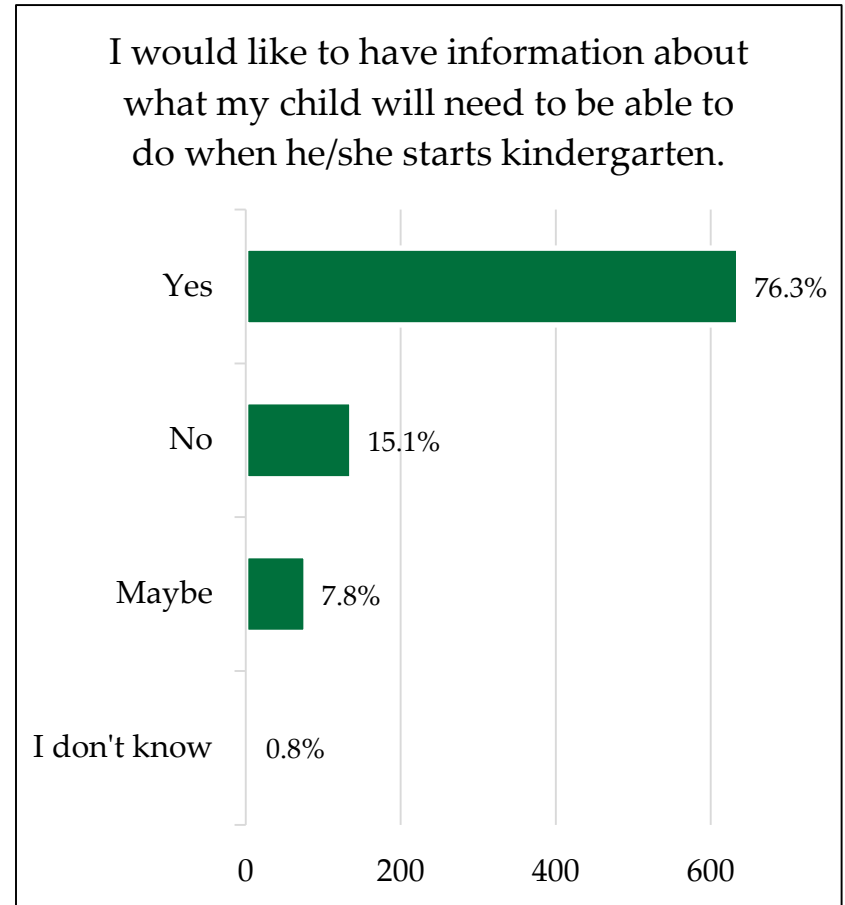
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Strategic Plan Feedback: Kindergarten Transition

When respondents reacted to statements about kindergarten transition, the majority felt they knew what their child needed to start kindergarten but still desired additional information to help their child have a successful start.



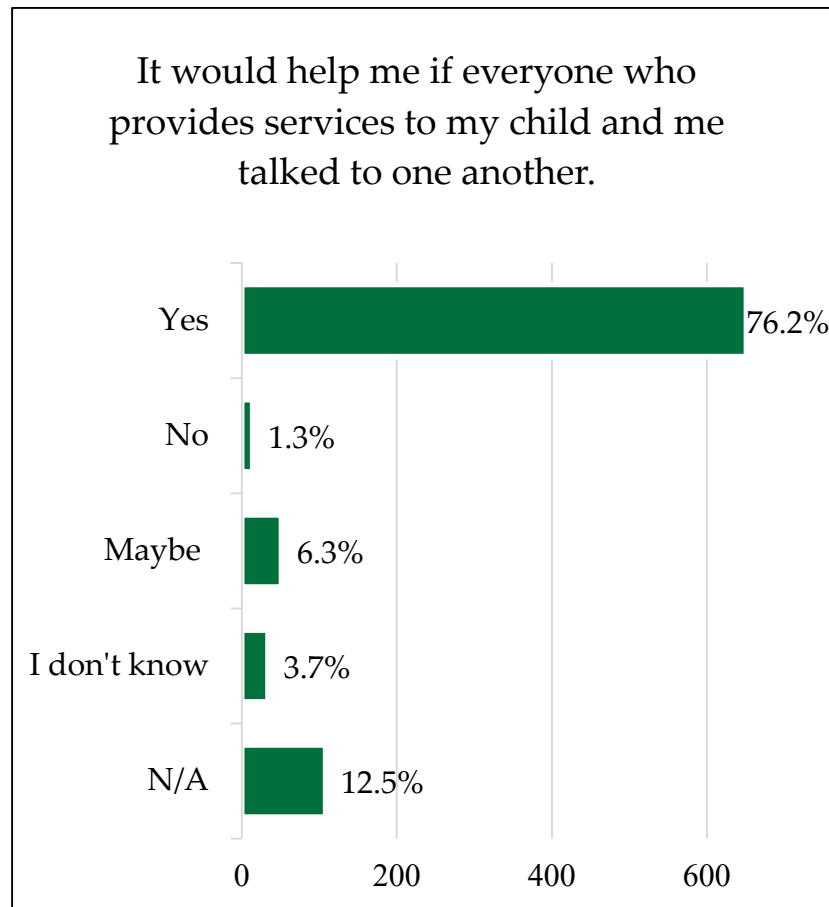
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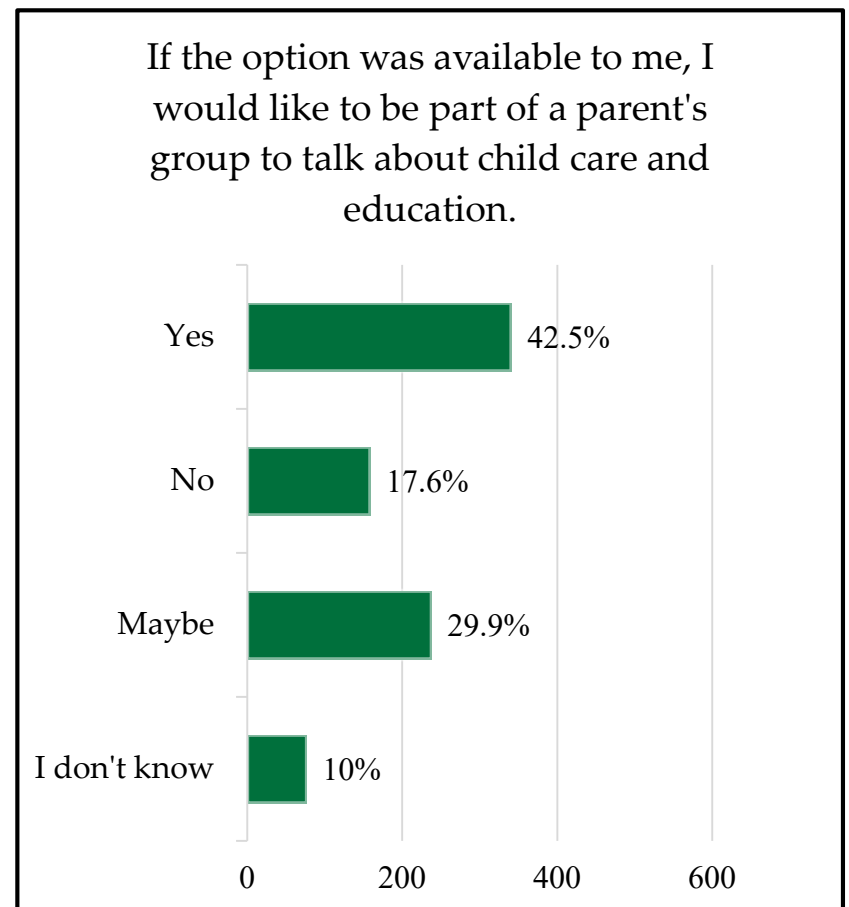
n= 857

Strategic Plan Feedback: Communication & Coordination

Respondents indicated a strong desire for the providers who serve them to communicate with one another. Some respondents were interested in more opportunities to communicate with other families with young children.



n= 858



n= 815

Additional Feedback

In the final response section, respondents were able to provide open comments on their child care and education needs. The following is a selection of their feedback, based upon key themes.

Subject	Experiences
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “The biggest obstacle is finding safe quality daycare that is affordable.”• “There is such a shortage of child care in our area that is affordable. Places that are high levels of paths to quality are either for low income (Head Start) or are very expensive.”• “The cost of good child care takes up a lot of our budget. It is more than our mortgage!”• “There is a major shortage of licensed child care centers in Hancock County. I work in downtown Indianapolis and there are virtually zero options there, so I have to find something that I can get to between my home and my work that is reliable, affordable, and somewhat on the way, which is nearly impossible.”• “Cost for quality care is simply unaffordable for our dual income household!”

Additional Feedback (continued)

Subject	Experiences
Access and Capacity Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In our area it is almost impossible to find childcare for a child 0-1 years of age, and if you do find a spot, it is very expensive.” • “There are not enough pre-k programs around, and none that offer full day or bus service.” • “There are not enough providers for childcare and limited private options due to limited staff and cost.” • “My community needs more spots for on my way pre-k and more locations that accept the program. There is a high need in my area.”
Eligibility for Program Subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We never qualify for aid because we make too much, but only can afford the cheapest childcare we could find with financial help from other family members.” • “My child will be 5 in September. Each year, I’ve tried Head Start and he has either been wait-listed or I was told I make too much money. He needs more help getting ready for school than I am currently able to provide, and his brother was in kindergarten at age 4.”
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “My program is a Level 3 but always has issues with licensing visits. Paperwork, trainings and ratios. Why is a “high quality” program having these types of issues? I know my child will be alive when we pick up. We want and my child deserves more than that in a program.” • “Our child care for school breaks is low quality. It's the only option we can afford.”

Additional Feedback (continued)

Subject	Experiences
Training Needs and Program Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I have a child with special needs, and the transition from First Steps to Developmental Preschool and the lack of summer service is very disheartening. I have been disappointed by the lack of availability and communication between service providers.” • “Please make more training required to care for children with special needs.” • “It is very difficult to find support for families who have individuals with disabilities.”
Kindergarten Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “My child needs more social interactions with peers. She is very high ability and needs to be challenged.” • “My child is too smart to keep out of an educational, consistent, and structured school program for another year before starting kindergarten. She turns 5 next month.”
Early Childhood Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It is a wonderful facility, however the teacher turnaround rate is high due to lower than average wages. The teachers and staff are wonderful, but would benefit from a more stable environment if teachers had the ability to stay and were not forced to leave due to income.” • “Teachers do not receive the pay they deserve - especially if they are facilities that receive state funding.”

Applications of the Family Questionnaire

- The information gathered from this family questionnaire was shared with Indiana's Birth - 5 Strategic Planning Committee to help them develop and refine their strategic planning goals.
- Indiana's Birth – 5 Strategic Plan was finalized in September 2019 and is available on the Brighter Futures Indiana website: <http://brighterfuturesindiana.org/>.

APPENDIX

Survey Questions

About You

1. Do you have a child under 6 at home?
2. What is your current zip code?
3. What county do you live in?

Survey Questions (continued)

Your childcare and education

4. Child 1: Please select the type(s) of child care this child under age 6 currently participates in (check all option(s) that apply to you).

- a) Parent/Guardian at home
- b) Family Member/Neighbor/Nanny/Friend in your home
- c) Home-based child care/pay someone to keep your child(ren) in home other than yours
- d) Head Start/Early Head Start
- e) Child Care Center
- f) Public Elementary School
- g) Church/Registered Ministry
- h) Other (please specify)

5. Child 1: How old is the child in the previous question?

6. Child 1: What PATHS to Quality level is this child's child care? (pick one)

7. Child 2: Please select the type(s) of child care this child under age 6 currently participates in (check all option(s) that apply to you).

- a) Parent/Guardian at home
- b) Family Member/Neighbor/Nanny/Friend in your home
- c) Home-based child care/pay someone to keep your child(ren) in home other than yours
- d) Head Start/Early Head Start
- e) Child Care Center
- f) Public Elementary School
- g) Church/Registered Ministry
- h) Other (please specify)

Survey Questions (continued)

Your childcare and education

8. Child 2: How old is the child in the previous question?
9. Child 2: What PATHS to Quality level is this child's child care? (pick one)
10. Child 3: Please select the type(s) of child care this child under age 6 currently participates in (check all option(s) that apply to you).
 - Parent/Guardian at home
 - Family Member/Neighbor/Nanny/Friend in your home
 - Home-based child care/pay someone to keep your child(ren) in home other than yours
 - Head Start/Early Head Start
 - Child Care Center
 - Public Elementary School
 - Church/Registered Ministry
 - Other (please specify)
11. Child 3: How old is the child in the previous question?
12. Child 3: What PATHS to Quality level is this child's child care? (pick one)

Survey Questions (continued)

Strategic plan goals (your needs) and other comments (free response)

13. What would MOST improve your child/children's care or your ability to have care for your child?

Check all that apply.

- a) Better location
- b) Better teachers
- c) More available spots
- d) Higher PATHS to Quality rating
- e) Different hours - earlier in the morning
- f) Different hours - later in the evening
- g) Different hours – overnight
- h) Lower cost
- i) Bilingual teachers/information
- j) More information about child care activities/goals
- k) More information about your child's progress and development
- l) Ability to care for a child with a disability
- m) No improvement needed
- n) Other (please specify)

Survey Questions (continued)

Strategic plan goals (your needs) and other comments (free response)

14. Please indicate the ONE item you have checked above that is most important to you.
15. Have child care issues stopped or limited your employment or continuing your education?
16. Do you talk about what your child is learning with your child care provider?
17. I would like to learn more about how to help my child learn and grow.
18. I feel comfortable speaking for my child's needs with my child care provider(s).
19. It would help me if everyone who provides services to my child and me talked to one another.
20. If the option was available to me, I would like to be part of a parent's group to talk about child care and education.
21. I know what my child needs to know and be able to do to have a good start in kindergarten.
22. I would like to have information about what my child will need to be able to do when he/she starts kindergarten.
23. Do you have any other comments about your child care needs?

Survey Questions (continued)

Optional demographic information

24. OPTIONAL: Do you currently receive any assistance from any of these programs? Check all that apply.
- a) SNAP (Food Assistance)
 - b) Medicaid/Health Coverage/CHIP
 - c) Cash Assistance (TANF)
 - d) Child Care Assistance Vouchers (CCDF/On My Way PreK)
 - e) Women, Infants, and Children Benefits (WIC)
 - f) First Steps Early Intervention
 - g) Children's Special Healthcare Services
 - h) None
 - i) Other (please specify)
25. OPTIONAL: How would you describe your ethnicity? Check all that apply.
- a) Asian
 - b) Black/African American
 - c) Caucasian
 - d) Hispanic/Latino/Spanish Origin
 - e) Native American
 - f) Pacific Islander
 - g) Other (please specify)

Survey Questions (continued)

Optional demographic information

26. OPTIONAL: What languages are spoken in your home? Check all that apply.
- a) English
 - b) Spanish/Spanish Creole
 - c) German Dutch/Pennsylvania Dutch
 - d) Arabic
 - e) Burmese
 - f) Cantonese or Mandarin
 - g) Other (please specify)
27. OPTIONAL: Are you currently employed?
28. OPTIONAL: Are you currently enrolled in school?