



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: ADDRESSING NEW YORK CITY'S CHILD CARE CRISIS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Our summer 2021 poll makes clear that the pandemic-related challenges parents, families, and children face continue to mount as the pandemic continues, heightening the level of economic instability families are experiencing. The poll also found that Staten Island residents resoundingly support increased investment in early childhood programs at the city, state, and federal levels.

FOLLOWING ARE FOUR KEY FINDINGS that highlight the critical need for NYC's next mayor to act quickly to support families of infants and toddlers, putting families on the path to economic stability and our youngest residents on the path to a bright future.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1** Many parents report child care is often a burden and that finding affordable, high-quality child care is difficult in NYC. An overwhelming majority of residents indicated that the next mayor — and other elected local and state officials — should make child care a priority.
- 2** Child care has also created a number of economic difficulties for parents, including work-related consequences and difficulty paying for basic expenses.
- 3** Residents support a number of critical solutions to keep infants and toddlers healthy and developmentally on-track including access to high-quality child care, investing in early childhood programs, and improving resources that would be helpful to parents.
- 4** Parents are largely satisfied with their family-based or center-based child care centers. Residents broadly support further investments in these programs.

FINDING 1:

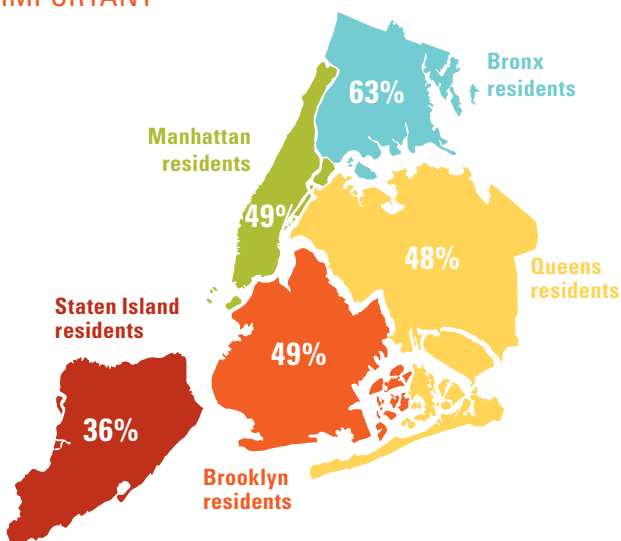
Many parents report child care is often a burden and that finding affordable, high-quality child care is difficult in NYC. An overwhelming majority of residents indicated that the next mayor — and other elected local and state officials — should make child care a priority.

9 out of 10 residents in Staten Island said that child care is a burden for families in NYC. Of those who indicated child care is a burden, **9 out of 10** said it is hard to find affordable, high-quality child care that families are completely satisfied with.

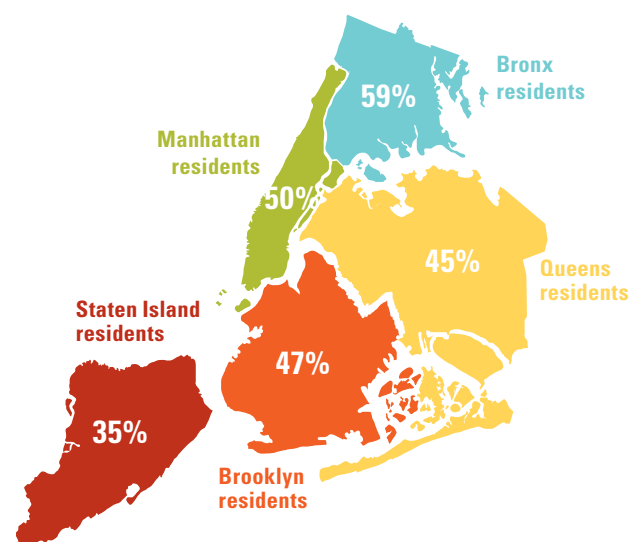
8 in 10 (80%) residents in Staten Island ranked free or low-cost child care as a priority for the next mayor of NYC to focus on.

8 in 10 (80%) parents in Staten Island ranked free or low-cost early education such as preschool and pre-kindergarten as a priority for the next mayor of NYC.

RANKED FREE OR LOW-COST CHILD CARE AS VERY IMPORTANT



RANKED FREE OR LOW-COST EARLY EDUCATION AS VERY IMPORTANT



Staten Island residents expressed strong support for investing additional resources into early childhood programs for infants and toddlers.

81% 

Approve of local and state government officials doing more to make sure that infants and toddlers in NYC are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood.

79% 

Support NYC investing more public funds in expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care for families with infants and toddlers.

77% 

Support NYC using federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support child care programming, including providing child care subsidies to families and grants to child care providers that currently have low numbers of children due to the pandemic and may be forced to permanently close.

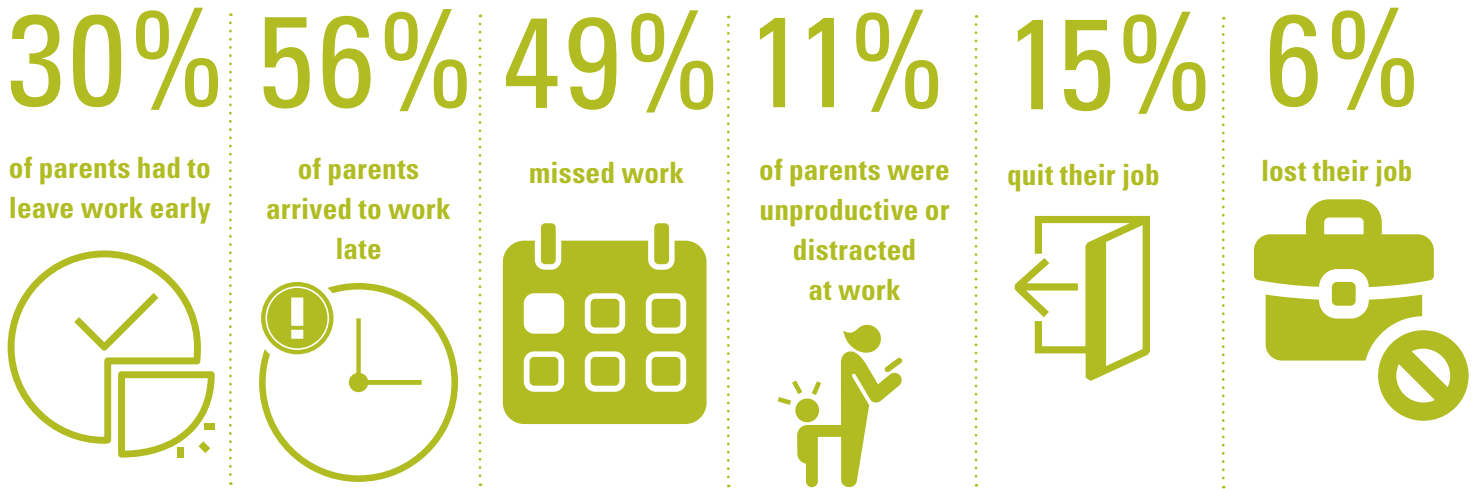


It is critical that the next mayor act with the greatest urgency to create an early childhood system that works for all families. Our city's future depends on it.

FINDING 2:

Child care has also created a number of economic difficulties for parents, including work-related consequences and difficulty paying for basic expenses.

Parents in Staten Island reported that child care issues had work related consequences.



Parents in Staten Island were more likely report that they had to miss work due to child care issues than parents in other boroughs.



FINDING 3:

Residents support a number of critical solutions to keep infants and toddlers healthy and developmentally on-track including access to high-quality child care, investing in early childhood programs, and improving resources that would be helpful to parents.

Parents indicated that NYC should be investing more in the following services that would be helpful to them:

	The Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Programs and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities	85%	76%	81%	69%	76%
Affordable, high-quality child care for toddlers	82%	73%	80%	67%	62%
Affordable, high-quality infant care for newborns	80%	71%	77%	64%	72%
Free preschool programs for 3-year-olds	77%	71%	73%	63%	58%
Free prekindergarten for 4-year-olds	78%	69%	76%	63%	62%
Affordable prenatal and neonatal care	80%	70%	78%	64%	72%
Early childhood programs that are culturally responsive to the communities they serve	79%	70%	73%	64%	56%
Child care and early learning programs for children	80%	67%	72%	62%	60%
Home visits for families with newborns from specialists trained in early childhood development	74%	66%	73%	58%	57%

FINDING 4:

Parents are largely satisfied with their family-based or center-based child care centers. Residents broadly support further investments in these programs.

67% 

OF PARENTS DESCRIBED THEIR **CENTER-BASED** CHILD CARE PROGRAM QUALITY AS POSITIVE

56% 

OF PARENTS DESCRIBED THEIR **FAMILY-BASED** CHILD CARE PROGRAM QUALITY AS POSITIVE

Residents overwhelmingly support local officials taking steps to help ease the financial burdens that child care providers at center- or home-based care programs face.

	The Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Financial assistance for pandemic-related protective gear and cleaning supplies	92%	90%	92%	88%	85%
Increased financial assistance to low-income parents to cover tuition and other fees paid for by the child's parents	92%	87%	90%	85%	76%
Financial assistance for providers to cover wages and employee benefits	93%	88%	89%	80%	78%
Financial assistance for providers to cover the costs of repairs and additions like creating a fenced-in yard, adding a sink or bathroom, or building updates due to fire or building codes	93%	88%	90%	82%	75%
Subsidies or other financial help from government agencies to providers	91%	86%	88%	83%	79%