



The Child Care Counts Coalition is dedicated to stabilizing and increasing the number of available slots for high quality child care in Windham County. Recognizing that access to child care is a critical economic and workforce development issue, we seek to engage a broad range of partners invested in the issue.

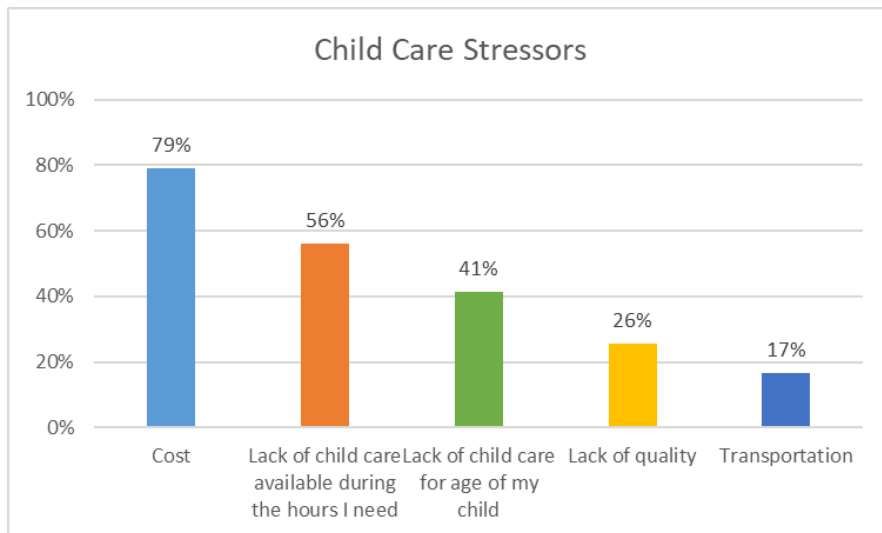
From May 14 to June 15, 2018, we fielded two online surveys for Windham County Employers and Parents and Caregivers in Windham County. For more in depth results contact Margaret at margaret@winstonprouty.org. A summary of key finding follows.

We make a great living - however between our \$90K in student loans and childcare, we live paycheck to paycheck. I feel we miss out on a lot with our children.

PARENT and CAREGIVERS SURVEY

The parent and caregiver survey was answered by 129 people. The majority are female ages 26-45, employed full-time, living in Brattleboro with a partner or spouse who is also employed full-time, and with a household income above \$50,000.

Although most workers report that they have “Some” or “A lot” of flexibility at work, child care was reported as a source of stress for 86% of respondents.



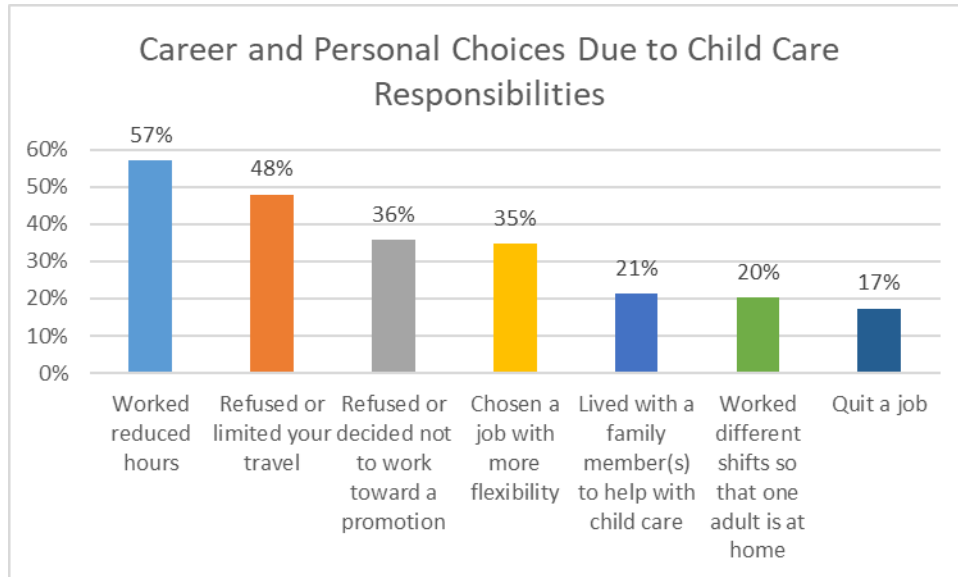
This is one of the most stressful issues for me, my son's grandmother is able to watch him full-time now, if I didn't have her I don't know what I would do because nobody has openings and the cost would be so much more, I'd have to find a way to work even more.

Many respondents stated that the cost of care was a major stressor combined with the costs of housing and student loans. Many respondents have made choices to limit their own career growth. Their partners are working at less flexible jobs and for significantly more hours.

Childcare in the Brattleboro area costs more than rent/mortgage per month ... even when making \$75k per year with other bills (including student loans) its unaffordable. Also, my partner and I have had to decide who will be leaving their job to watch or child because there are no infant spots available.

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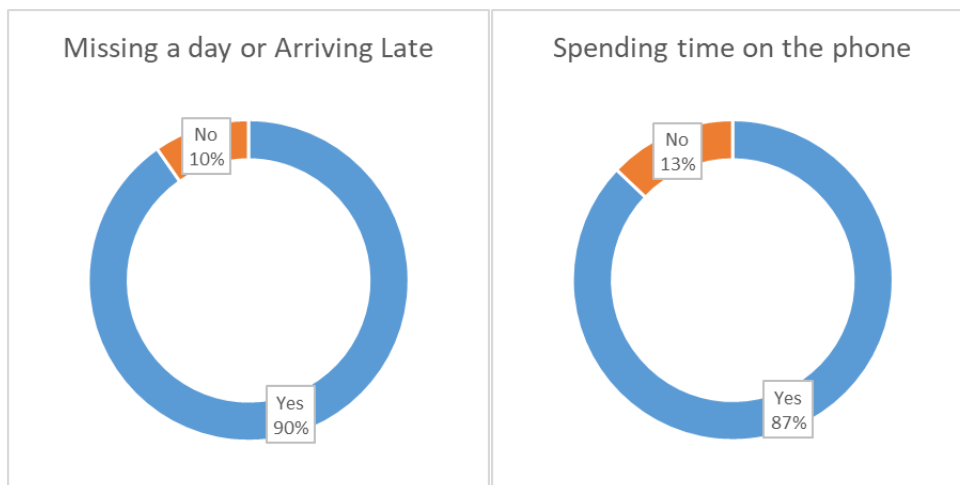
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EMPLOYER SURVEY

The survey for Windham County employers received 36 responses from business of seven major sectors including healthcare, hospitality manufacturing, brick and mortar retail and nonprofit organizations. Small operations with fewer than 10 employees as well as medium and large operations with more than 150 employees were represented.

61% employers surveyed state that child care issues impact employee attendance and job performance ‘Some’ or ‘A lot’. Almost all employers (87-90%) observed employees taking time off or time at work to deal with child care issues.



This loss of productivity occurs even though employers report giving their workers “some” or “a lot” of flexibility as well as other supports at work.

Both employers and employees were asked about a range of benefits they would provide and use if they were able to do so. Employers already offer a range of support and benefits for parents. However, the supports that polled the highest – on site child care and additional subsidy are not under consideration by most employers