

Wisconsinites' Opinions About & Experiences With Child Care: Evidence From The WisconSays Survey

Hilary Shager
Yonah Drazen
Emma Flanagan

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Introduction

After working on a series of studies of the Child Care Counts program that surveyed child care providers throughout the state, researchers from the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) sought additional input from a broader sample of Wisconsin residents regarding their experiences with child care. IRP worked with the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) to leverage their “[WisconSays](#)” initiative—a survey fielded as an online, probability-based panel designed to be representative of the Wisconsin household population. With feedback from DCF, researchers designed a series of questions about child care, exploring Wisconsinites’ opinions about access to child care and state funding for child care. For respondents currently using child care, questions included assessments of challenges accessing and paying for child care, as well as employment and well-being challenges experienced because of issues with child care. These questions were embedded into the December 2024 pulse survey (see **Appendix A: UWSC Follow-up Survey #16, Child Care Questions**). The following memo presents select findings from the survey.

Methods

The tables in this report show descriptive results regarding sample demographics and answers to each survey question. For results regarding the full sample, we present weighted results that represent the full population. Weights were provided by the UW Survey Center and serve to generalize survey results to all of Wisconsin. For subgroup analyses, these weights do not apply; as a result, results for items asked only to respondents who use child care are unweighted.

In addition, the authors conducted a series of multivariate regressions. As the results show, numerous respondent attributes are correlated both with child care outcomes and each other. The linear probability models (LPMs) show which respondents’ attributes remain statistically associated with the listed outcomes when accounting for the others. For the LPMs, we dichotomized each of the survey items based on distribution of the answers. For full-sample questions, results of these models show the increase (or decrease) in the likelihood of respondents providing answers in the one of the three highest response categories (i.e., “somewhat” or higher). For questions asked only to child care users, results show the increase (or decrease) in the likelihood of respondents answering “yes” for already-dichotomized items or providing answers in one of the two highest response categories (e.g., “quite a big problem” or “very difficult” or higher). (See **Appendix B: Linear Probability Models with Multivariate Modeling on Child Care Survey Outcomes**.) We discuss a select set of significant differences by sub-group throughout the report.

Sample and Response Rate

WisconSays Pulse 16 yielded a sample of 2,649 respondents,¹ resulting in a 75.3% response rate. Tables 1A and 1B below provides demographics for the overall sample, both unweighted and weighted to represent the Wisconsin household population. (Results in all tables indicate percentages.) We also provide demographics (unweighted) for the sub-sample of respondents who identified as currently using some form of child care (N=475), as well as those not currently using child care (N=2,154). The sub-sample using child care is more likely to be female, less likely to be White, and more likely to have an annual income over \$125,000; each of these is statistically significant via Pearson's chi-squared test ($p < 0.05$).

Table 1A: Unweighted Sample Demographics

	No Child Care	Child Care	Total
Survey total	2,154 (81.9%)	475 (18.1%)	2,629 (100.0%)
Household children by age group			
No children	1,878 (87.3%)	141 (29.7%)	2,019 (76.9%)
Children 6 and under	57 (2.7%)	224 (47.3%)	281 (10.7%)
Children 7 and older only	215 (10.0%)	109 (23.0%)	324 (12.3%)
Respondent female			
Male	993 (46.1%)	192 (40.4%)	1,185 (45.1%)
Female	1,161 (53.9%)	283 (59.6%)	1,444 (54.9%)
Income			
Under \$30k	287 (13.3%)	63 (13.3%)	350 (13.3%)
\$30 –70k	686 (31.8%)	117 (24.6%)	803 (30.5%)
\$70 –125k	729 (33.8%)	149 (31.4%)	878 (33.4%)
\$125k+	452 (21.0%)	146 (30.7%)	598 (22.7%)
Respondent race/ethnicity			
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	159 (7.4%)	70 (14.7%)	229 (8.7%)
White	1,995 (92.6%)	405 (85.3%)	2,400 (91.3%)
Rural/Urban			
Rural	632 (29.3%)	134 (28.2%)	766 (29.1%)
Urban	1,522 (70.7%)	341 (71.8%)	1,863 (70.9%)

¹ Small fluctuations in N's throughout the report reflect item non-response.

Table 1B: Weighted Sample Demographics

	No Child Care	Child Care	Total
Total	3,555,435 (76.7%)	1,077,727 (23.3%)	4,633,162 (100.0%)
Household children by age group			
No children	3,012,028 (84.9%)	350,819 (32.6%)	3,362,847 (72.7%)
Children 6 and under	145,854 (4.1%)	510,172 (47.4%)	656,026 (14.2%)
Children 7 and older only	390,615 (11.0%)	215,098 (20.0%)	605,714 (13.1%)
Respondent female			
Male	1,852,655 (52.1%)	460,339 (42.7%)	2,312,994 (49.9%)
Female	1,702,780 (47.9%)	617,389 (57.3%)	2,320,168 (50.1%)
Income			
Under \$30k	529,878 (14.9%)	215,754 (20.0%)	745,632 (16.1%)
\$30 –70k	987,020 (27.8%)	284,391 (26.4%)	1,271,411 (27.4%)
\$70 –125k	1,126,600 (31.7%)	274,098 (25.4%)	1,400,698 (30.2%)
\$125k+	911,936 (25.6%)	303,484 (28.2%)	1,215,421 (26.2%)
Respondent race/ethnicity			
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	535,094 (15.1%)	250,314 (23.2%)	785,409 (17.0%)
White	3,020,340 (84.9%)	827,413 (76.8%)	3,847,753 (83.0%)
Rural/Urban			
Rural	1,064,125 (29.9%)	338,763 (31.4%)	1,402,888 (30.3%)
Urban	2,491,310 (70.1%)	738,964 (68.6%)	3,230,274 (69.7%)

Survey Questions

How much of a problem do you think access to affordable, high-quality child care is in Wisconsin?

The first question asked all respondents to rank how much of a problem access to affordable, high-quality child care is in Wisconsin. The first row in Table 2 shows weighted results representative of the full Wisconsin household population. Nine out of 10 respondents (90.0%) reported that child care access is at least somewhat of a problem; 22.1% identified child care access as an extremely big problem.

We also present unweighted results by child care use status, child age (has at least one child age 6 years or under, only has children 7- to 18-years-old, no children), gender, race/ethnicity, and urbanicity. Compared to non-users, child care users were more likely to rank child care access as an extremely big problem, although both groups ranked access at least somewhat of a problem at similar rates. A similar pattern emerged for people with children age 6 or younger and females.

Table 2: How Much of a Problem Do You Think Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care Is in Wisconsin?

Group	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem	N
All respondents	3.7	6.3	29.7	38.2	22.1	2,649
Childcare use in household						
No childcare	3.7	5.2	29.3	40.3	21.6	2,153
Childcare	2.7	4.0	22.9	38.5	31.8	475
Household children by age group						
No children	3.5	4.9	28.9	41.2	21.4	2,038
Children 6 and under	3.6	4.6	19.2	35.9	36.7	281
Children 7 and older only	3.4	5.5	30.2	35.1	25.8	325
Respondent female						
Male	4.3	7.4	33.2	39.2	15.9	1,192
Female	2.8	3.0	23.9	40.6	29.8	1,457
Income						
Under \$30k	5.6	6.5	29.1	34.7	24.0	354
\$30 –70k	3.7	4.3	29.2	39.6	23.2	809
\$70 –125k	3.1	4.2	27.6	40.1	25.1	885
\$125k+	2.5	6.0	26.8	43.3	21.5	601
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	8.7	6.1	28.4	32.3	24.5	229
White	3.0	4.8	28.1	40.7	23.5	2,420
Rural/Urban						
Rural	2.7	5.8	29.3	40.6	21.5	771
Urban	3.8	4.6	27.6	39.7	24.4	1,878

Note: first row, All respondents, reports weighted results. The remaining rows are unweighted.

How much would you support an increase in state funding for affordable, high-quality child care in Wisconsin?

The next question asked all respondents how much they would support an increase in state funding for affordable, high-quality child care. The first row in Table 3 shows weighted results representative of the full Wisconsin household population. Over three-fourths (77.5%) said they would at least somewhat support increased state funding; nearly half (49.3%) supported increased state funding quite a bit or a great deal. Respondents using child care, with children aged 6 or under, who are female, people of color, or have incomes below \$30K showed the highest levels of support.

Table 3: How Much Would You Support an Increase in State Funding for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care in Wisconsin?

Group	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal	N
All respondents	11.5	11.1	28.2	24.7	24.6	2,650
Childcare use in household						
No childcare	10.7	11.0	27.9	26.4	23.9	2,154
Childcare	8.2	10.9	22.1	26.5	32.2	475
Household children by age group						
No children	10.7	10.5	27.9	27.3	23.5	2,039
Children 6 and under	6.8	10.3	18.5	27.8	36.7	281
Children 7 and older only	10.8	14.5	27.4	20.0	27.4	325
Respondent female						
Male	14.8	13.3	28.4	24.7	18.8	1,192
Female	6.7	9.1	25.6	27.9	30.8	1,458
Income						
Under \$30k	6.8	11.0	26.8	27.1	28.2	354
\$30 –70k	10.0	10.9	29.5	25.4	24.2	810
\$70 –125k	9.6	10.7	26.6	27.3	25.8	885
\$125k+	13.8	11.5	23.6	26.3	24.8	601
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	9.2	11.4	24.9	22.3	32.3	229
White	10.4	10.9	27.0	26.9	24.7	2,421
Rural/Urban						
Rural	11.5	12.7	28.2	26.2	21.4	772
Urban	9.8	10.3	26.3	26.6	27.1	1,878

Note: First row, all respondents, reports weighted results. The remaining rows are unweighted.

In the last 12 months, how much of a problem have each of the following been for your family?

Only respondents who indicated they were currently using some form of child care (N=475) answered the rest of the questions in the survey; thus, all subsequent results are unweighted. The next series of questions asked about challenges associated with accessing child care, including the costs of child care, finding high-quality care they can trust, the location or time needed to get to and from child care, and the hours/days care is available (see Tables 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D, below). Almost half of respondents using child care indicated that costs (46.3%) and finding child care they could trust (47.2%) were at least somewhat of a problem. Fewer, but still over one-third of respondents (36.4%), indicated that location or time needed to get to and from child care was at least somewhat of a problem, and 33.3% indicated the hours and days child care is available as somewhat or more of a problem.

Across these questions, people with younger children and people in the lowest income bracket were more likely to rate each item as more problematic. There were also substantial

differences in ratings for each item by race/ethnicity, with people of color more likely to rank each item an extremely big problem. This difference was particularly striking for the item “finding high-quality child care I can trust.”

Tables 4A-4D: In the Last 12 Months, How Much of a Problem Have Each of the Following Been for Your Family?

Table 4A: The Costs of Child Care

Group	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem	N
All respondents	40.0	13.7	16.2	14.5	15.6	475
Household children by age group						
No children	38.6	5.7	24.3	17.9	13.6	140
Children 6 and under	32.1	18.8	14.3	16.1	18.8	224
Children 7 and older only	57.3	13.6	10.0	7.3	11.8	110
Respondent female						
Male	42.9	13.1	18.3	16.2	9.4	191
Female	38.0	14.1	14.8	13.4	19.7	284
Income						
Under \$30k	28.6	9.5	22.2	11.1	28.6	63
\$30 –70k	42.7	7.7	18.8	12.0	18.8	117
\$70 –125k	40.0	15.3	13.3	14.0	17.3	150
\$125k+	42.8	18.6	14.5	18.6	5.5	145
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	32.9	10.0	17.1	11.4	28.6	70
White	41.2	14.3	16.0	15.1	13.3	405
Rural/Urban						
Rural	44.8	9.0	22.4	11.9	11.9	134
Urban	38.1	15.5	13.8	15.5	17.0	341

Table 4B: Finding High-Quality Child Care I Can Trust

Group	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem	N
All respondents	41.6	11.2	15.2	16.0	16.0	474
Household children by age group						
No children	37.1	10.7	19.3	20.7	12.1	140
Children 6 and under	36.3	12.6	15.2	15.7	20.2	223
Children 7 and older only	57.3	9.1	10.0	10.9	12.7	110
Respondent female						
Male	44.0	15.2	14.1	17.3	9.4	191
Female	39.9	8.5	15.9	15.2	20.5	283
Income						
Under \$30k	22.2	11.1	19.0	20.6	27.0	63
\$30 –70k	47.0	9.4	11.1	13.7	18.8	117
\$70 –125k	45.0	7.4	14.8	18.1	14.8	149
\$125k+	42.1	16.6	17.2	13.8	10.3	145
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	29.0	4.3	14.5	14.5	37.7	69
White	43.7	12.3	15.3	16.3	12.3	405
Rural/Urban						
Rural	44.8	10.4	16.4	15.7	12.7	134
Urban	40.3	11.5	14.7	16.2	17.4	340

4C: The Location or Time Needed to Get To and From Child Care

Group	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem	N
All respondents	49.1	14.5	16.6	11.6	8.2	475
Household children by age group						
No children	41.4	17.1	19.3	16.4	5.7	140
Children 6 and under	45.1	16.1	17.0	12.1	9.8	224
Children 7 and older only	66.4	8.2	12.7	4.5	8.2	110
Respondent female						
Male	49.2	16.8	17.3	12.0	4.7	191
Female	48.9	13.0	16.2	11.3	10.6	284
Income						
Under \$30k	28.6	9.5	23.8	20.6	17.5	63
\$30 –70k	53.0	12.8	16.2	9.4	8.5	117
\$70 –125k	48.7	14.0	17.3	12.0	8.0	150
\$125k+	55.2	18.6	13.1	9.0	4.1	145
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	35.7	10.0	15.7	21.4	17.1	70
White	51.4	15.3	16.8	9.9	6.7	405
Rural/Urban						
Rural	49.3	13.4	21.6	9.7	6.0	134
Urban	49.0	15.0	14.7	12.3	9.1	341

Table 4D: The Hours and Days Child Care is Available

Group	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem	N
All respondents	53.5	13.3	13.1	11.4	8.8	475
Household children by age group						
No children	43.6	15.7	19.3	15.0	6.4	140
Children 6 and under	50.9	14.7	11.2	12.5	10.7	224
Children 7 and older only	70.9	7.3	9.1	4.5	8.2	110
Respondent female						
Male	55.5	12.6	12.0	14.1	5.8	191
Female	52.1	13.7	13.7	9.5	10.9	284
Income						
Under \$30k	33.3	14.3	15.9	17.5	19.0	63
\$30 –70k	55.6	12.8	12.0	11.1	8.5	117
\$70 –125k	54.7	13.3	14.7	9.3	8.0	150
\$125k+	59.3	13.1	11.0	11.0	5.5	145
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	41.4	7.1	14.3	15.7	21.4	70
White	55.6	14.3	12.8	10.6	6.7	405
Rural/Urban						
Rural	53.7	15.7	11.2	12.7	6.7	134
Urban	53.4	12.3	13.8	10.9	9.7	341

In a typical month, how difficult is it for you to cover your child care expenses in addition to your other bills?

The next question asked child care users how difficult it is to cover child care expenses in addition to other bills. Overall, about one-third (30.1%) indicated covering child care expenses was at least somewhat difficult. Individuals with younger children, with lower income, and people of color reported high levels of difficulty covering child care expenses.

Table 5: In A Typical Month, How Difficult Is It for You To Cover Your Child Care Expenses in Addition to Your Other Bills?

Group	Not at all difficult	A little difficult	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Extremely difficult	N
All respondents	49.7	20.2	14.3	8.2	7.6	475
Household children by age group						
No children	48.6	17.1	16.4	10.0	7.9	140
Children 6 and under	44.6	24.6	12.5	8.9	9.4	224
Children 7 and older only	60.9	15.5	15.5	4.5	3.6	110
Respondent female						
Male	51.8	23.0	14.1	7.3	3.7	191
Female	48.2	18.3	14.4	8.8	10.2	284
Income						
Under \$30k	38.1	6.3	27.0	12.7	15.9	63
\$30 –70k	53.0	10.3	13.7	11.1	12.0	117
\$70 –125k	46.0	24.7	14.0	9.3	6.0	150
\$125k+	55.9	29.7	9.7	2.8	2.1	145
Respondent race/ethnicity						
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	40.0	10.0	17.1	14.3	18.6	70
White	51.4	22.0	13.8	7.2	5.7	405
Rural/Urban						
Rural	53.7	20.9	12.7	6.0	6.7	134
Urban	48.1	19.9	15.0	9.1	7.9	341

In the last 12 months, how many times has someone in your family missed work or school due to lack of child care?

Table 6 shows that approximately half (48.5%) of respondents reported that someone in their family missed at least one day of work or school in the last 12 months due to child care. Missing work was more common for people with children aged 6 years or under and people of color.

Table 6: Percentage of Households Who Reported Missing Work or School Due to Lack of Child Care

Group	No missed days	At least one missed day	N
All respondents	51.5	48.5	474
Household children by age group			
No children	60.4	39.6	139
Children 6 and under	42.4	57.6	224
Children 7 and older only	58.2	41.8	110
Respondent female			
Male	55.0	45.0	191
Female	49.1	50.9	283
Income			
Under \$30k	43.5	56.5	62
\$30 –70k	59.0	41.0	117
\$70 –125k	49.3	50.7	150
\$125k+	51.0	49.0	145
Respondent race/ethnicity			
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	37.1	62.9	70
White	54.0	46.0	404
Rural/Urban			
Rural	55.6	44.4	133
Urban	49.9	50.1	341

In the last 12 months, have you or another person in your family experienced the following because of issues with child care?

The final set of questions asked about experiencing challenges because of issues with child care (see Table 7 on the following page). Most items addressed matters related to work or schooling. Because of issues with child care, approximately half of respondents reported working fewer hours (49.8%), taking paid sick leave or vacation (48.8%), or changing work or school hours (48.2%); 42.9% reported working unusual times or days. Approximately one-quarter of respondents (24.0%) reported taking unpaid leave. Similar percentages of respondents reported getting reprimanded at work (13.1%) or getting passed up for a job opportunity or promotion (12.0%). A substantive number of respondents (12.2%) reported leaving the workforce because of child care issues. Furthermore, 42.8% of respondents reported experiencing emotional stress or poor mental health because of child care issues. Consistently across these survey items, people with younger children (aged 6 years and under), people of color, people in lower income brackets, and females reported higher rates of challenges.

Table 7. In The Last 12 Months, Have You or Another Person in Your Family Experienced the Following Because of Issues with Child Care?

	All Respondents	Household Children			Gender		Household Income				Race/Ethnicity		Rural	
		No children	Children 6 and under	Children 7 and older only	Male	Female	Under \$30k	\$30 –70k	\$70 – 125k	\$125k+	Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race	White	Rural	Urban
Missed work or school due to lack of child care?	48.5	39.6	57.6	41.8	45.0	50.9	56.5	41.0	50.7	49.0	62.9	46.0	44.4	50.1
Changed work or school hours	48.2	40.7	53.1	48.2	42.4	52.1	57.1	40.2	51.3	47.6	61.4	45.9	49.3	47.8
Worked fewer hours	49.8	43.9	57.1	42.7	47.9	51.1	58.7	42.7	52.7	48.6	61.4	47.8	47.0	50.9
Worked unusual times or days	42.9	38.6	47.8	39.1	41.4	44.0	54.0	41.9	45.3	36.6	55.7	40.7	36.6	45.5
Took paid sick leave or vacation	48.8	41.4	54.5	47.3	49.2	48.6	38.1	44.4	56.0	49.7	48.6	48.9	42.5	51.3
Took unpaid leave	24.0	29.3	24.6	16.4	20.9	26.1	41.3	23.9	23.3	17.2	38.6	21.5	23.1	24.3
Got reprimanded or disciplined at work	13.1	15.0	14.3	8.2	9.4	15.5	28.6	18.8	11.3	3.4	27.1	10.6	13.4	12.9
Got passed up for a job opportunity or promotion	12.0	12.1	12.9	10.0	8.9	14.1	30.2	14.5	10.0	4.1	37.1	7.7	9.7	12.9
Left the workforce	12.2	10.7	14.3	10.0	7.3	15.5	30.2	13.7	10.0	5.5	25.7	9.9	11.2	12.6
Experienced emotional stress or poor mental health	42.8	36.0	47.3	42.7	33.5	49.1	62.9	41.0	42.7	35.9	59.4	40.0	35.1	45.9
Total	474	139	224	110	191	283	62	117	150	145	69	405	134	340

Conclusion

In sum, a large majority of respondents reported that access to affordable, high-quality child care is problematic in Wisconsin, and most would support increased state funding to address the problem. Many people using child care reported challenges paying for care, finding child care they could trust, and accessing care that met their needs in terms of location and available hours. Furthermore, many people reported experiencing work-related challenges due to issues with child care, such as missing work, having to take unpaid leave, or being reprimanded or passed up for promotion. Over 40% of respondents reported experiencing emotional stress or poor mental health because of child care issues. Such challenges were reported by all sub-groups examined in this study, although people with younger children (6-years-old and under), females, people of color, and people with lower incomes reported higher rates of challenges across many of the items.

Appendix A: UWSC Follow-up Survey #16, Child Care Questions

S16_0 WisconSays Survey

Thank you for participating in WisconSays by completing the questions in this survey! This survey asks about your food situation and some issues related to child care and politics.

It will take about 8 minutes to complete this survey. You will receive 3,500 points for completing the survey. You can complete the survey in more than one session. If you choose to complete the survey in more than one session, please use the same web link you received in your email.

As a reminder, WisconSays is being conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC). Your answers will be combined with those from other people across the state and will be linked with information you provided previously. Your participation in this study is voluntary and confidential. There are minimal risks to participating, and we will take precautions to protect you from these risks. For example, the risk of a confidentiality breach will be minimized by storing survey data securely according to University of Wisconsin –Madison campus policy and by removing names and other identifying information from any reporting or sharing with other researchers or entities. After you complete the survey, your responses will be carefully de-identified and may be included in a public use data set for future research. We do not expect any direct benefits to you from participating in this study.

If you have any technical difficulties or questions about WisconSays, please contact UWSC Project Director Nadia Assad at 1-800-291-8624 or email us at wisconsays@uwsc.wisc.edu. If you are not satisfied with the response of the research team or want to talk with someone about your rights as a research participant, please contact the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506.

Please click "NEXT" to advance to the next page of the survey.

HS1. The next questions are about issues related to child care in Wisconsin.

How much of a problem do you think access to affordable, high-quality child care is in Wisconsin?

- ☐ Not a problem
- ☐ A small problem
- ☐ Somewhat of a problem
- ☐ Quite a problem
- ☐ An extremely big problem

HS2. How much would you support an increase in state funding for affordable, high-quality child care in Wisconsin?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Quite a bit
- ☐ A great deal

HS3. In the last 12 months has any child in your household taken part in any of the following forms of child care services?

	Yes	No
a. Employer-sponsored child care at workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Child care center or preschool not at a workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Licensed child care at someone else's home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Child care at someone else's home that is not licensed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Babysitter or nanny at your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Older child or other family member takes care of younger child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Programming note for HS4 to HS8:

- Display HS4 to HS8 if there is at least one "yes" for HS3

HS4. In the last 12 months, how much of a problem have each of the following been for your family?

	Not a problem	A small problem	Somewhat of a problem	Quite a problem	An extremely big problem
a. The costs of child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Finding high quality child care I can trust	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The location or time needed to get to and from child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The hours and days child care is available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

HS5. In a typical month, how difficult is it for you to cover your child care expenses in addition to your other bills?

- ☐ Not at all difficult
- ☐ A little difficult
- ☐ Somewhat difficult
- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ Extremely difficult

HS6. Do you receive Wisconsin Shares benefits for child care?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

HS7 For these questions, please tell us about the number of times per day, per week, per month, or
a per year you or someone in your household had to miss work or school due to child care. If you never had to miss work or school due to child care, enter "0" for the number of times.

In the last 12 months, how many times have you missed work or school due to lack of child care?

Number of times
☐ Per day
☐ Per week
☐ Per month
☐ Per year (in total)

HS7 In the last 12 months, how many times has someone in your family missed work or school due
b. to lack of child care?

Number of times
☐ Per day
☐ Per week
☐ Per month
☐ Per year (in total)

HS8. In the last 12 months, have you or another person in your family experienced the following because of issues with child care?

	Yes	No
a. Changed work or school hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Worked fewer hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Worked unusual times or days	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Took paid sick leave or vacation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Took unpaid leave	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Got reprimanded or disciplined at work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Got passed up for a job opportunity or promotion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Left the workforce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Experienced emotional stress or poor mental health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Appendix B: Linear Probability Models with Multivariate Modeling on Child Care Survey Outcomes

Linear Probability Models: Dichotomized Outcomes by Group Categories

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
	How much of a problem do you think access to affordable, high-quality child care is in Wisconsin?	How much would you support an increase in state funding for affordable, high-quality care?	In a typical month, how difficult is it for you to cover your child care expenses?	The costs of childcare	Finding high quality child care I can trust	The location or time needed to get to and from childcare	The hours and days child care is available	In a typical month, how difficult is it for you to cover your child care expense	In the last 12 months, has someone in your family missed work or school due to I	Changed work or school hours	Worked fewer hours	Worked unusual times or days	Took paid sick leave or vacation	Took unpaid leave	Got reprimanded or disciplined at work	Got passed up for a job opportunity or promotion	Left the workforce	Experience d emotional stress or poor mental health
Childcare	0.0368* (2.09)	0.0241 (0.94)																
Children 6 and under ¹	-0.0240 (-1.10)	0.0157 (0.49)	-0.0145 (-0.30)	0.0304 (0.61)	0.0239 (0.47)	-0.00474 (-0.11)	0.0236 (0.54)	0.0115 (0.30)	0.164** (3.01)	0.0996 (1.82)	0.122* (2.22)	0.0980 (1.81)	0.117* (2.13)	-0.0479 (-1.03)	0.00409 (0.11)	0.0126 (0.38)	0.0421 (1.20)	0.108* (2.03)
Children 7 and older only ¹	-0.0206 (-1.19)	-0.0545* (-2.15)	-0.0984 (-1.71)	-0.136* (-2.30)	-0.106 (-1.76)	-0.100* (-1.97)	-0.0785 (-1.51)	-0.0960* (-2.08)	-0.00648 (-0.10)	0.0413 (0.63)	-0.0319 (-0.49)	-0.000308 (-0.00)	0.0310 (0.48)	-0.131* (-2.37)	-0.0570 (-1.33)	-0.0268 (-0.67)	-0.00206 (-0.05)	0.0440 (0.70)
Female ²	0.0637*** (5.82)	0.122*** (7.59)	0.0489 (1.16)	0.0686 (1.57)	0.0689 (1.56)	0.0291 (0.78)	-0.0149 (-0.39)	0.0589 (1.74)	0.0325 (0.69)	0.0731 (1.53)	0.0114 (0.24)	-0.00343 (-0.07)	-0.0126 (-0.26)	0.0408 (1.01)	0.0399 (1.27)	0.0113 (0.39)	0.0561 (1.83)	0.118* (2.54)
\$30-70k ³	0.0390* (2.18)	-0.0155 (-0.59)	-0.154* (-2.21)	-0.0647 (-0.90)	-0.103 (-1.41)	-0.162** (-2.62)	-0.132* (-2.10)	-0.0175 (-0.31)	-0.111 (-1.42)	-0.129 (-1.63)	-0.128 (-1.63)	-0.0969 (-1.24)	0.0697 (0.88)	-0.140* (-2.09)	-0.0695 (-1.33)	-0.103* (-2.12)	-0.139** (-2.75)	-0.186* (-2.42)
\$70-125k ³	0.0487** (2.75)	-0.0107 (-0.41)	-0.209** (-3.04)	-0.0387 (-0.54)	-0.0713 (-0.99)	-0.114 (-1.86)	-0.139* (-2.23)	-0.0735 (-1.33)	-0.0208 (-0.27)	-0.0263 (-0.34)	-0.0330 (-0.42)	-0.0630 (-0.81)	0.174* (2.22)	-0.120 (-1.82)	-0.132* (-2.57)	-0.131** (-2.74)	-0.171*** (-3.42)	-0.172* (-2.26)
\$125k+ ³	0.0365 (1.92)	-0.0571* (-2.06)	-0.359*** (-5.10)	-0.123 (-1.70)	-0.161* (-2.19)	-0.186** (-2.98)	-0.143* (-2.26)	-0.179** (-3.18)	-0.0331 (-0.42)	-0.0445 (-0.56)	-0.0707 (-0.89)	-0.158* (-2.00)	0.0991 (1.24)	-0.180** (-2.66)	-0.205*** (-3.91)	-0.175*** (-3.59)	-0.211*** (-4.13)	-0.240** (-3.10)
Any non-White/Hispanic ethnicity/race ⁴	-0.0699*** (-3.57)	-0.0173 (-0.60)	0.126* (2.08)	0.0650 (1.04)	0.180** (2.83)	0.167** (3.12)	0.164** (2.99)	0.136** (2.81)	0.149* (2.20)	0.135* (1.97)	0.117 (1.71)	0.101 (1.49)	0.0207 (0.30)	0.122* (2.09)	0.102* (2.25)	0.246*** (5.86)	0.0866* (1.97)	0.0948 (1.42)
Urban ⁵	0.00489 (0.41)	0.0439* (2.51)	0.0794 (1.75)	0.102* (2.17)	0.0587 (1.23)	0.0615 (1.53)	0.00882 (0.21)	0.0519 (1.42)	0.0590 (1.15)	-0.0193 (-0.38)	0.0444 (0.86)	0.100 (1.96)	0.100 (1.94)	0.0166 (0.38)	0.000370 (0.01)	0.0210 (0.66)	0.0164 (0.50)	0.113* (2.26)
Constant	0.845*** (45.14)	0.713*** (26.05)	0.439*** (5.86)	0.262*** (3.38)	0.323*** (4.12)	0.270*** (4.07)	0.308*** (4.56)	0.165** (2.75)	0.369*** (4.35)	0.429*** (5.06)	0.455*** (5.36)	0.390*** (4.64)	0.256** (3.01)	0.367*** (5.10)	0.225*** (4.02)	0.181*** (3.48)	0.198*** (3.64)	0.375*** (4.54)
Observations	2623	2624	473	473	472	473	473	473	472	473	472	473	473	473	473	473	473	472

t statistics in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Comparison groups: ¹No children in household; ²Male respondents; ³Households with less than \$30k annual income; ⁴White, non-Hispanic respondents; ⁵Rural