



CHILDCARE SURVEY OF PARENTS

2022

IPSOS on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



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Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



1. INTRODUCTION

2. FINDINGS

3. CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

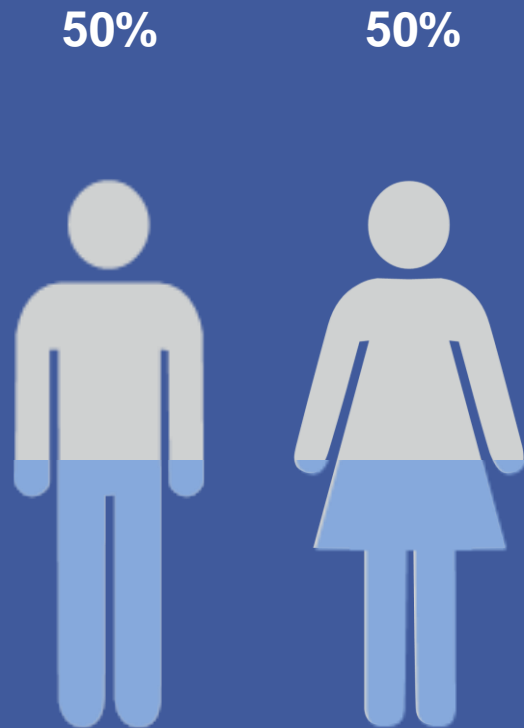
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BACKGROUND

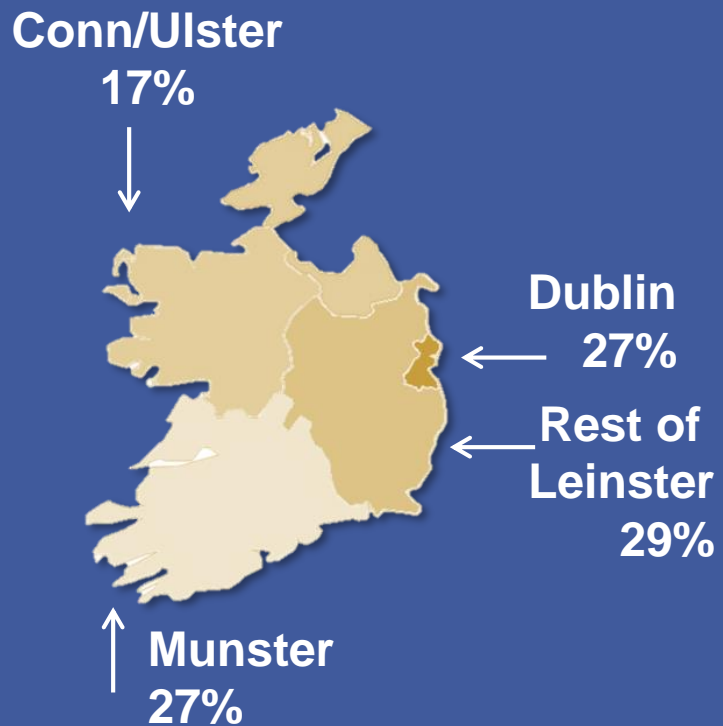
- Research conducted to understand parents' and their children's use of childcare, and their views and experiences.
- 505 telephone interviews among parents, with data collected on 934 children under 15 years.
- Interviews conducted by telephone, with quota controls set by social class, region and age of child to ensure a nationally representative sample was achieved.
- Fieldwork ran from 25th to 31st July 2022.

SAMPLE PROFILE – DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARENTS INTERVIEWED

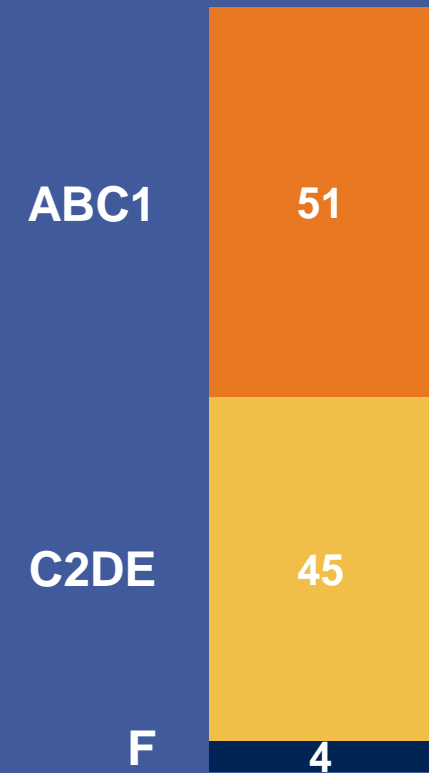
Gender



Region

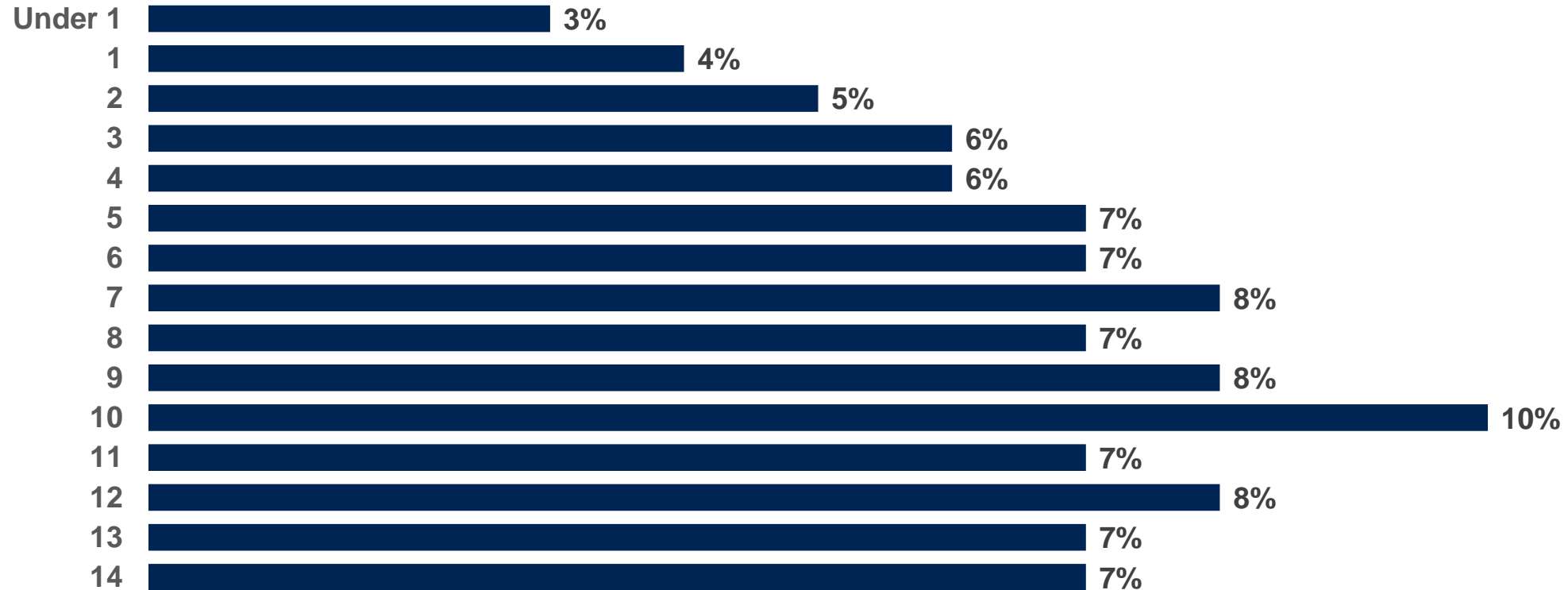


Social Class



Base: All parents/guardians: 505

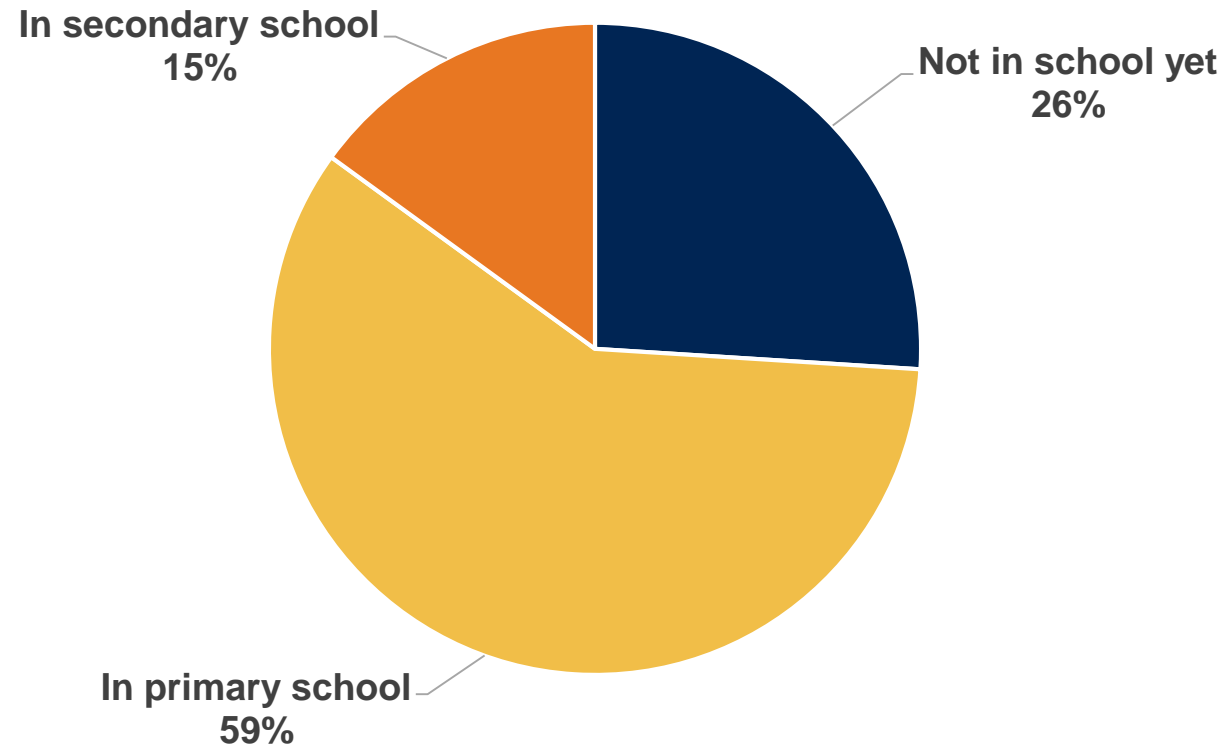
AGE OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD



Q.7 These next few questions are about [CHILD 1 FROM Q.6]. How old is [CHILD 1]?

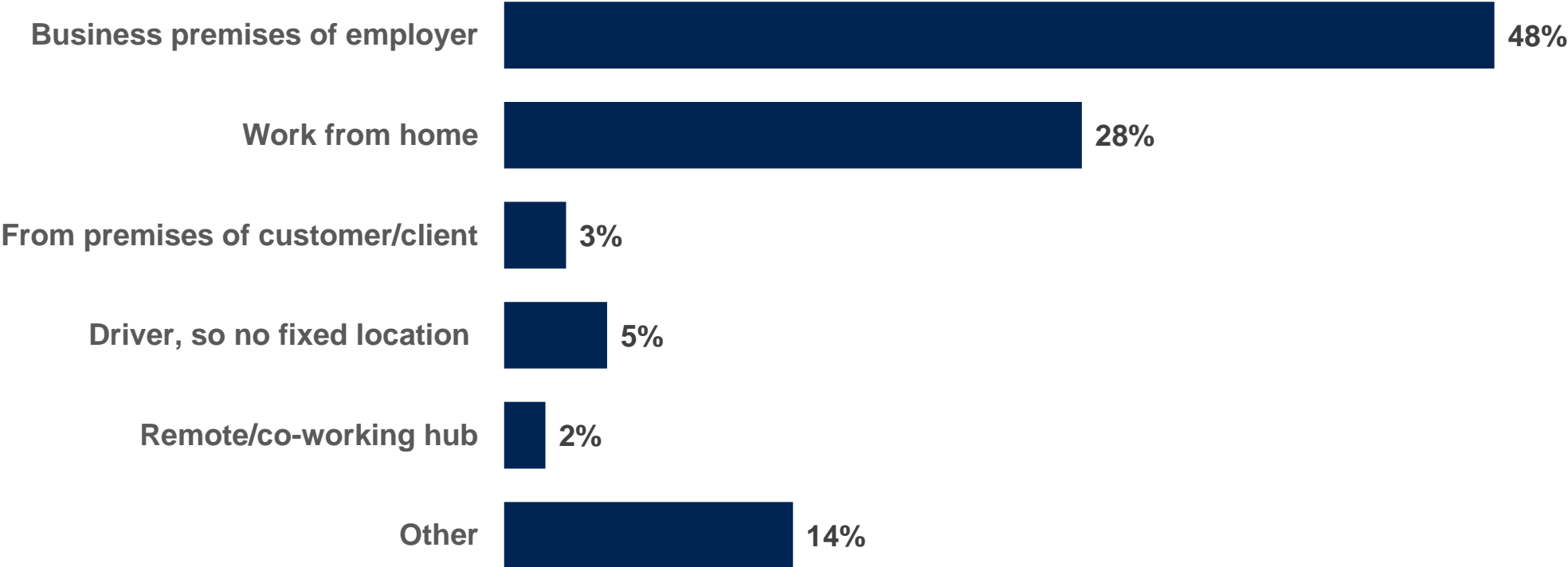
Base: All children: 934

IN PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR NOT YET IN SCHOOL



Q.8 Is [CHILD 1] in primary, secondary or not yet in school?
Base: All children: 934

WHERE WORK IS MAINLY CARRIED OUT FROM ...



Q.2b Is your work mainly being carried out from ...?
Q.5b Is your spouse/partner work mainly being carried out from ...?
Base: All parents/guardians: 505



FINDINGS

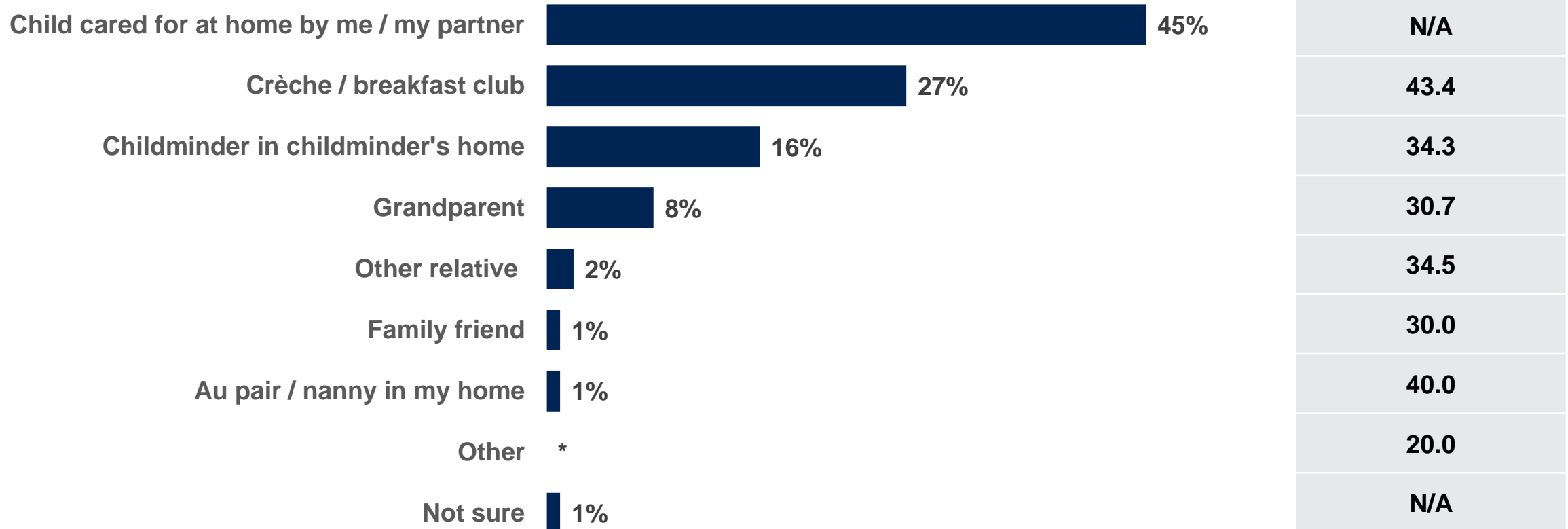
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ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, NOT YET IN SCHOOL

MAIN CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILDREN NOT YET IN SCHOOL

Just under half of children not yet in school were cared for at home, while over one in four attended a crèche/breakfast club.



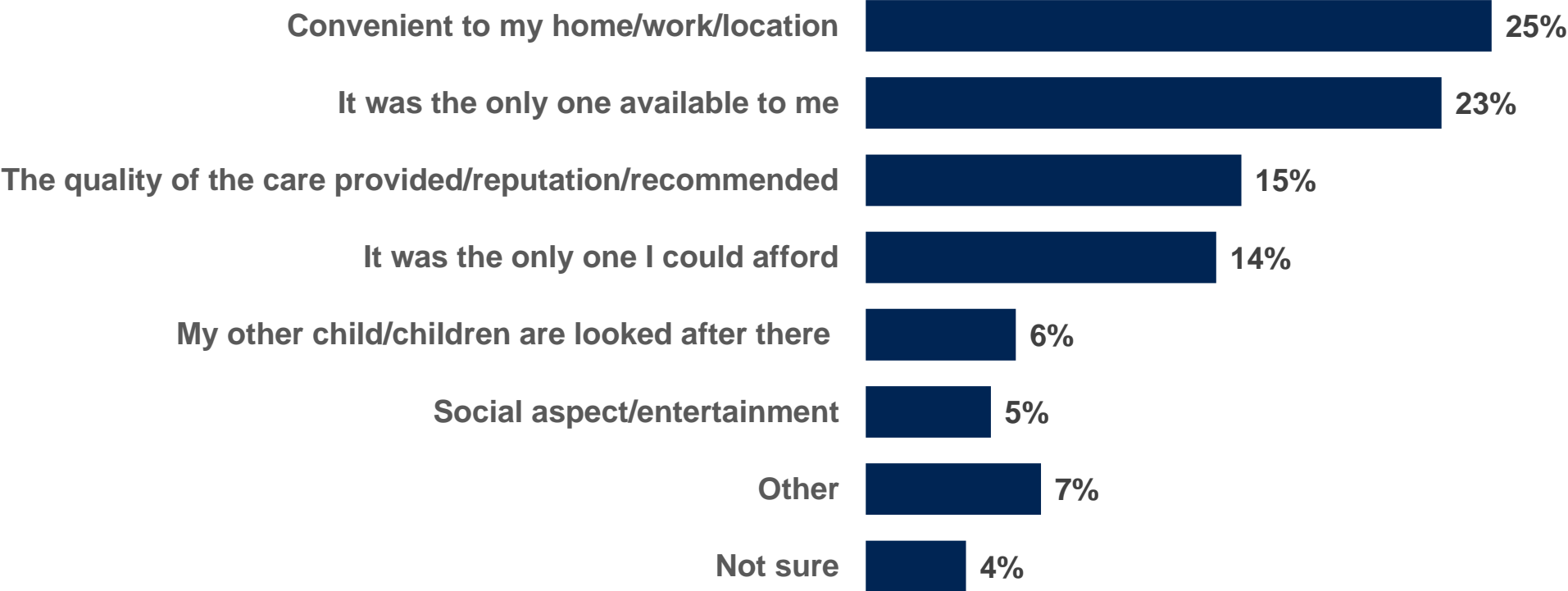
Q.14 Other than free pre-school under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme, if relevant, what is the main childcare arrangement used/planned for [CHILD 1] on weekdays?

Q.14a And about how many hours does/will [CHILD 1] spend in this main form of childcare arrangement in a typical week?

Base: All children not in school:249

MAIN REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS FORM OF CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN NOT YET IN SCHOOL

Convenience was the main reason for choosing form of childcare, followed by availability.



Q.14b What was the single most important reason for you choosing this form of childcare for [CHILD 1]?
Base: All children not in school and not cared for by parent/guardian:145



CHILDCARE AFFORDABILITY AND SATISFACTION

Just 3 in 10 found it easy to pay for childcare for young children not yet in school, while around half found it difficult.

Ease of paying for this form of childcare

■ Very easy
 ■ Fairly easy
 ■ Neither easy nor difficult
 ■ Fairly difficult
 ■ Very difficult
 ■ Not sure/ Not applicable

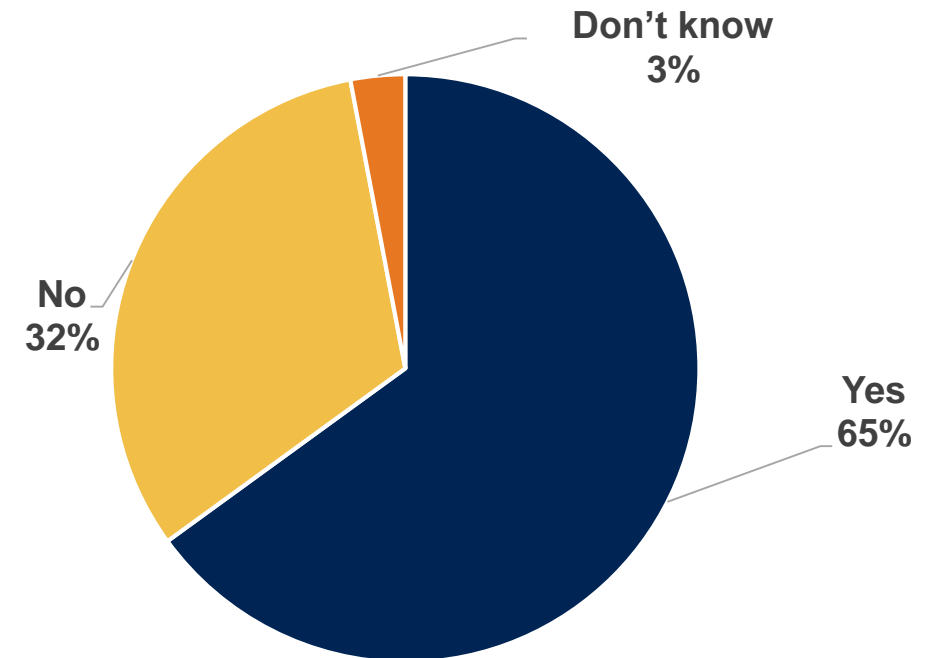


Satisfaction with this form of childcare

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither sat./dissat.	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not sure
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Childcare for young children not yet in school	66	21	3	4	-	6

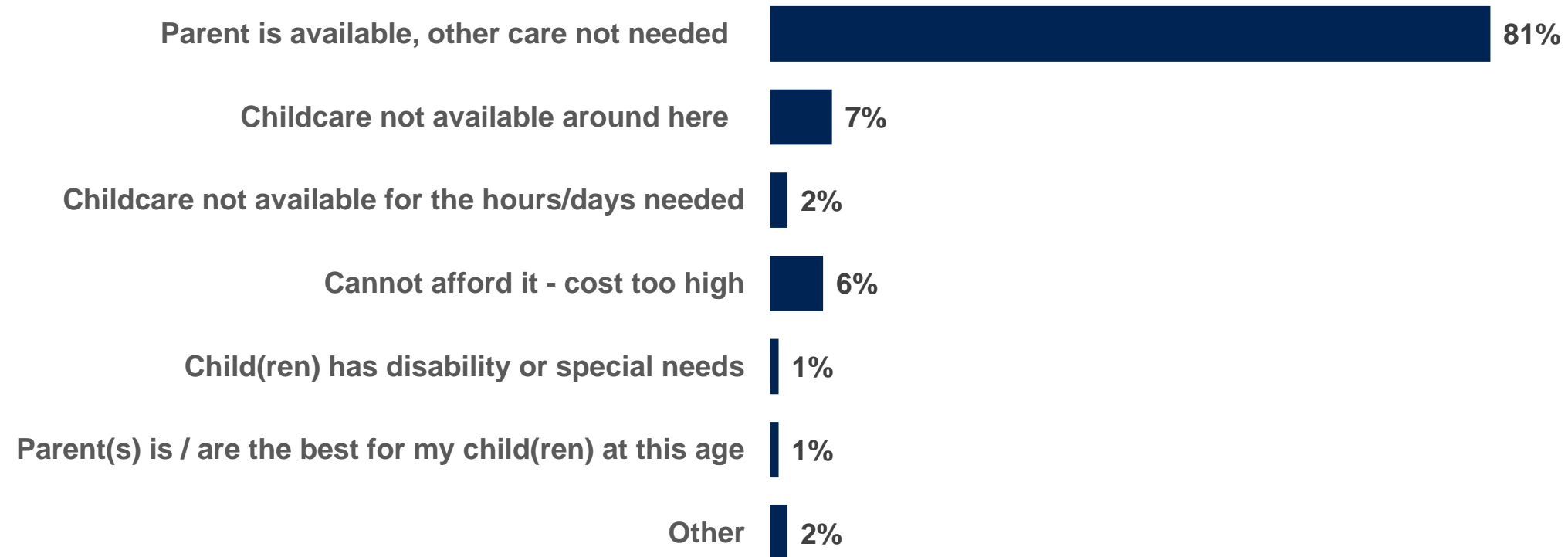
Q.14c How easy or difficult do/will you find it to pay for this form of childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.14d How satisfied are you with this form of childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.14f Do/will you receive subsidy from the Government towards this main form childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Base: All children not in school and not cared for by parent/guardian: 145

Subsidy from the Government



MAIN REASON NO REGULAR CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILDREN NOT YET IN SCHOOL

Being cared for by a parent was the preferred option for most.

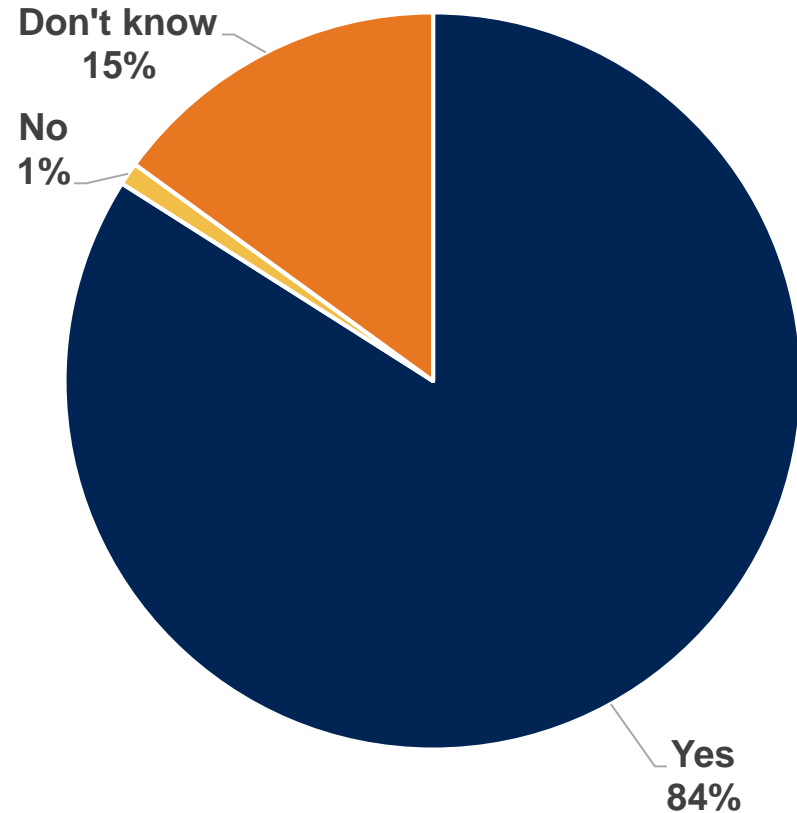


Q.14g What is the main reason you do not have a different childcare arrangement in place for [CHILD 1] during the week?

Base: All children not in school and cared for by parent/guardian:104

WHETHER MAIN CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILDREN NOT YET IN SCHOOL WAS FIRST PREFERENCE

The majority of children not yet in school were in their parents' preferred childcare arrangement.



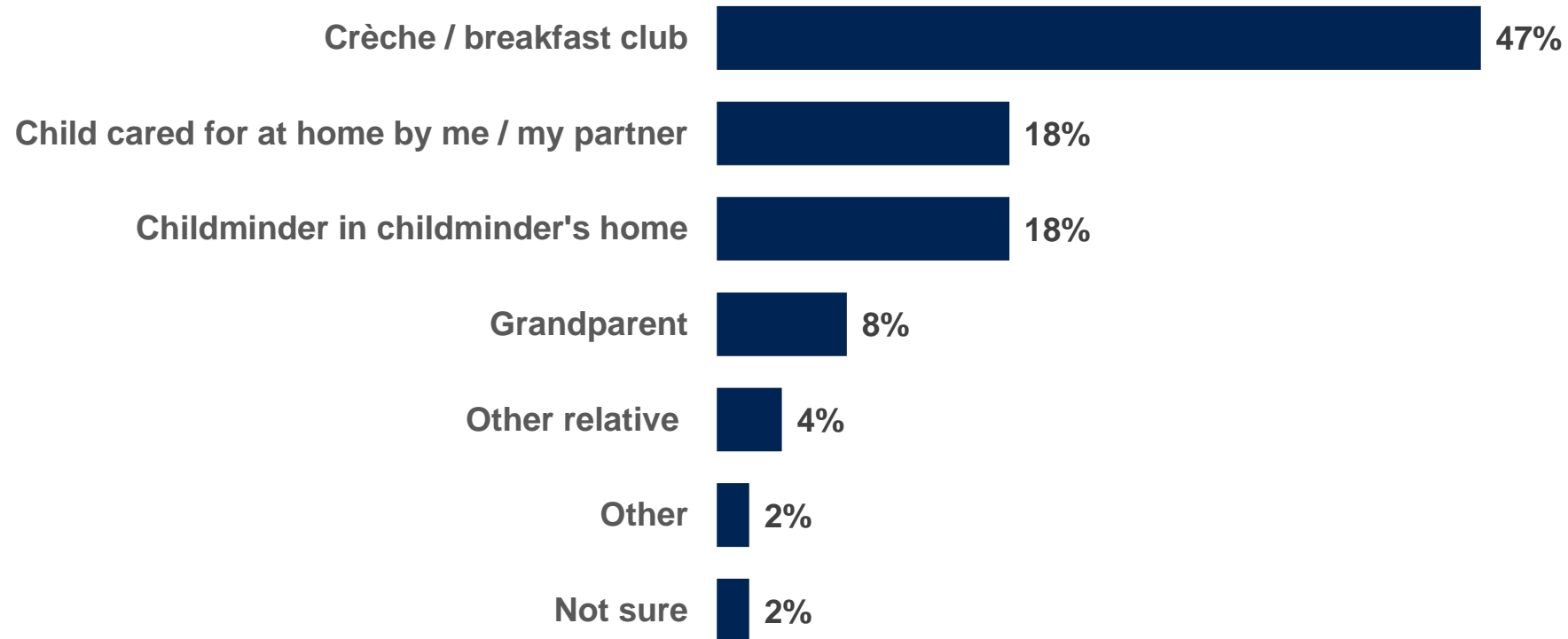
Type of arrangement	1 st preference
	%
Child cared for at home by me / my partner	86
Crèche / breakfast club	87
Grandparent	84
Childminder in childminders home	75
Family friend*	100
Other relative*	100
Au pair / nanny in my home*	100

Q.14a1 Is this your first preference for the main childcare arrangement used/planned for [CHILD 1] on weekdays?
 Base: All children not in school:249

* Caution small base size

PREFERRED CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILDREN NOT YET IN SCHOOL AND NOT IN PREFERRED ARRANGEMENT

Of those whose childcare was not first preference, crèche/breakfast club followed by child being cared for at home or by a childminder would be parents' preferred choice.



Q.14a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] on weekdays?

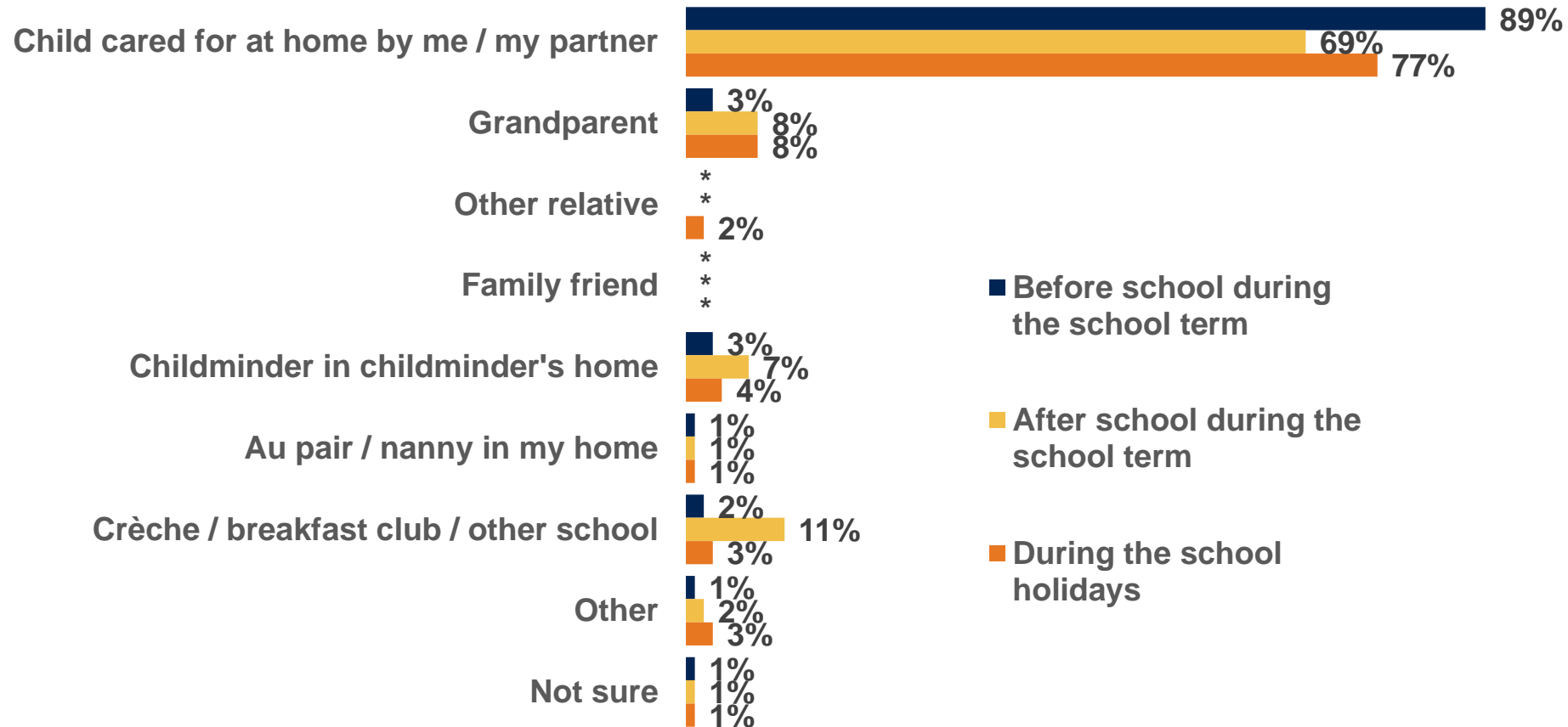
Base: All children not in school whose childcare is not 1st preference:38



ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

MAIN CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

Caring for school-going children at home was the main form of childcare before school, after-school and during the holidays.



	In Primary	In Secondary
	88	93
	65	84
	75	83
	4	1
	8	7
	8	9
	*	-
	*	-
	2	2
	1	-
	*	-
	*	-
	3	1
	9	2
	5	1
	1	-
	2	1
	2	1
	2	1
	14	1
	4	-
	*	2
	1	2
	3	3
	1	2
	1	3
	1	2

Q.9 What is the main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] before school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?
 Q.10 What is the main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] during the school holidays?
 Q.12 What is the main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] after school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?
 Base: All children in primary/secondary school: 685

* = less than 0.5%



AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDCARE HOURS USED BY EACH HOUSEHOLD FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN (BASED ON HOUSEHOLD USING THAT ARRANGEMENT)

	Hours		
	Before school during the school term	After school during the school term	During the school holidays
Grandparent	9.4	13.3	47.6
Other relative	4.0	10.0	21.0
Family friend	15.0	39.1	30.0
Childminder in childminder's home	8.5	22.2	42.7
Au pair / nanny in my home	6.8	35.0	54.8
Crèche / breakfast club / other school	4.8	14.5	44.0
Other	5.0	20.1	39.1

Q.9a And about how many hours does/will [CHILD 1] spend in/with (READ OUT FROM Q.9) in a typical week before school?

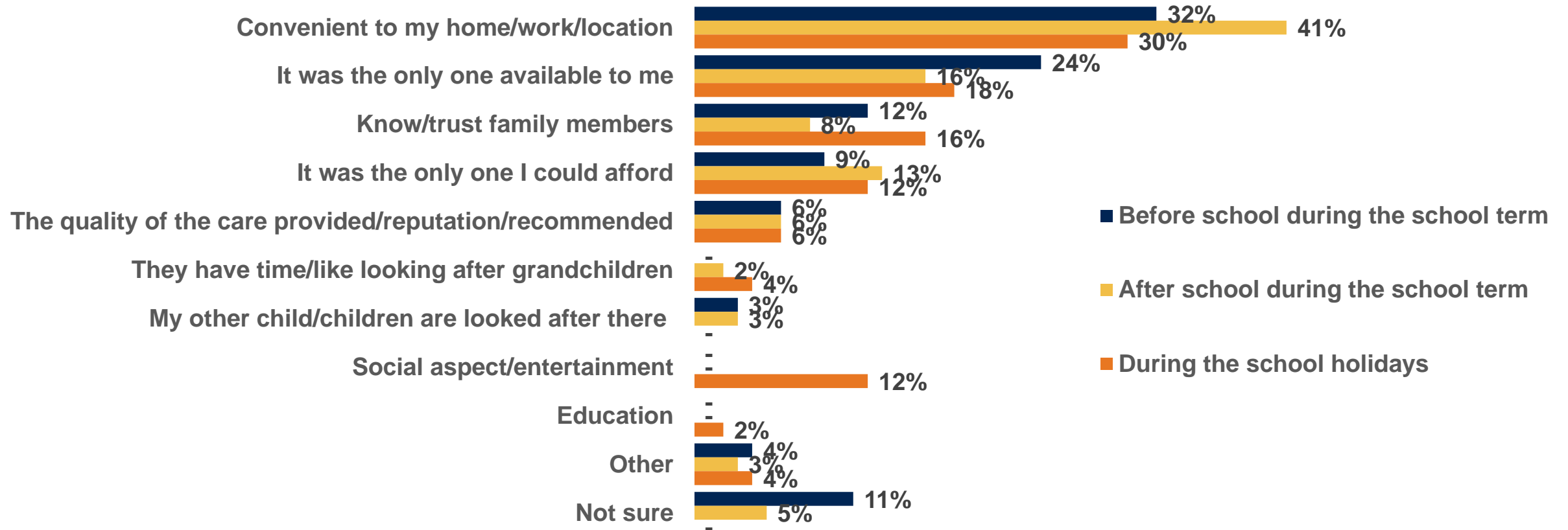
Q.10a And about how many hours does/will [CHILD 1] spend in (READ OUT FROM Q.10) in a typical week during the school holidays?

Q.12a And about how many hours does/will [CHILD 1] spend in/with (READ OUT FROM Q.12) in a typical week after school during school term?

Base: All children not cared for at home

MAIN REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS FORM OF CHILDCARE FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

Convenience was the main reason for choosing childcare arrangement, particularly amongst those attending after-school during the school term.



Q.9b What was the single most important reason for you choosing this form of childcare before school for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.12b What was the single most important reason for you choosing this form of childcare for after school for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.10b What was the single most important reason for you choosing this form childcare during the school holidays for [CHILD 1]?
 Base: All children not cared for at home (Q.9b n=71, Q.12b n=221, Q.10b n=157)

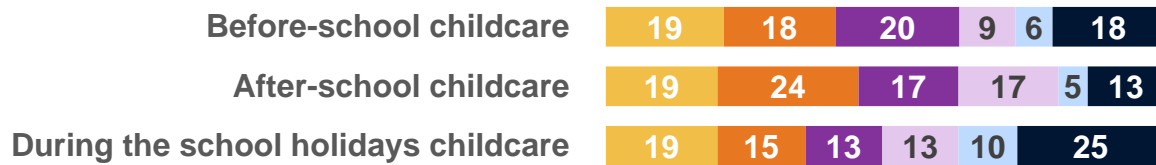


CHILDCARE AFFORDABILITY AND SATISFACTION

Approaching one in four parents found it difficult to pay for after-school care and care during the school holidays.

Ease of paying childcare

■ Very easy
 ■ Fairly easy
 ■ Neither easy/diff.
 ■ Fairly difficult
 ■ Very difficult
 ■ Not sure/Not applicable

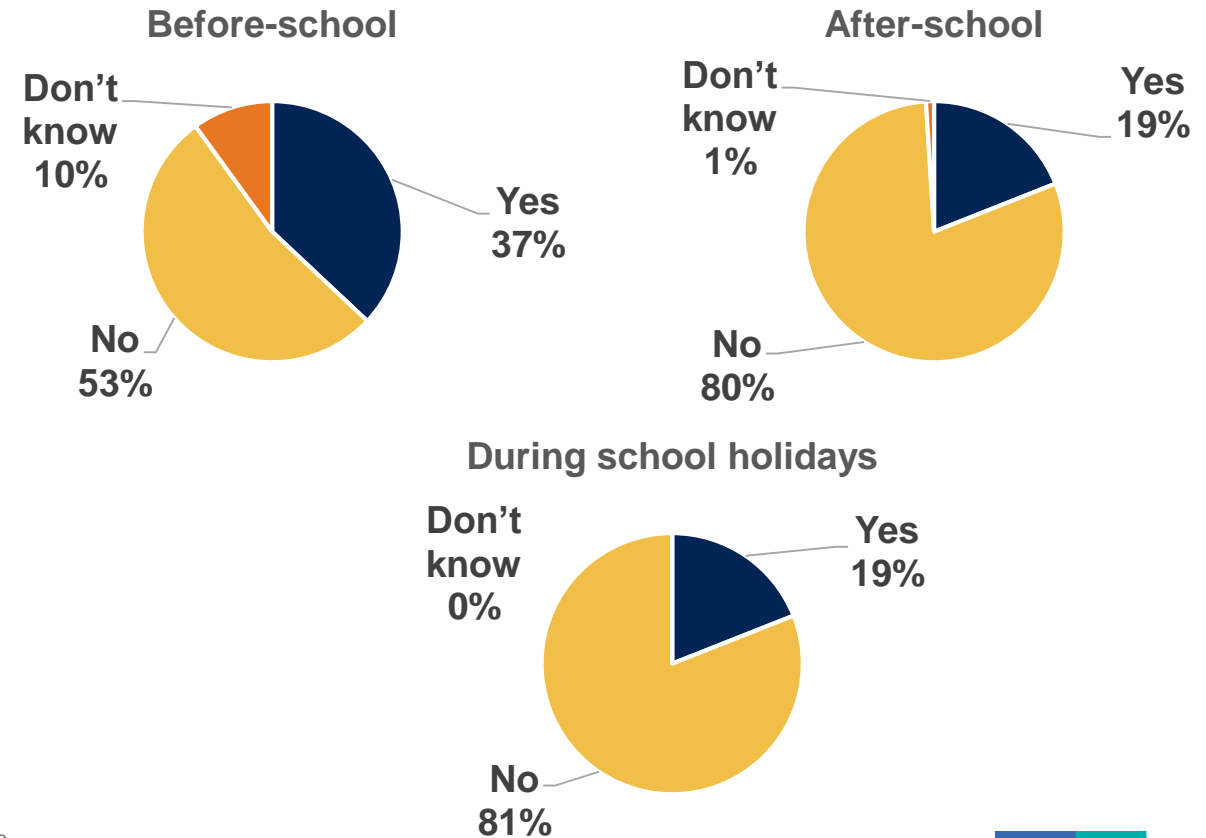


Satisfaction with childcare

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither sat./dissat.	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not sure
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Before-school childcare	61	17	2	6	2	12
After-school childcare	73	17	3	1	1	5
During the school holidays childcare	68	16	4	5	2	5

Q.9c/10c/12c How easy or difficult do/will you find it to pay for this form of before-school childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.9d/10d/12d How satisfied are you with this form of before-school childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Q.9f/10f/12f Do/will you receive a subsidy from the Government towards this form of before-school childcare for [CHILD 1]?
 Base: All children not cared for at home

Subsidy from the Government



MAIN REASON NO REGULAR CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENT FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

The majority reported that childcare was not needed because a parent is available, especially before school.

	Before school	After school	During holidays
	%	%	%
Parent/guardian is available, other care not needed	90	82	84
Problems with getting childcare places around here	*	-	-
Childcare service not available around here	1	3	3
Childcare not available for the hours/days needed	*	1	1
Transport problems to childcare	-	-	-
Cannot afford it - cost too high	5	8	7
Concerned with quality of care	-	*	-
Child(ren) has disability or special needs	1	2	1
Didn't want child(ren) cared for by strangers	1	1	1
Parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are the best for my child(ren) at this age	1	1	1
Other	1	2	2

Q.9g What is the main reason [CHILD 1] does not have any regular childcare arrangement before school?

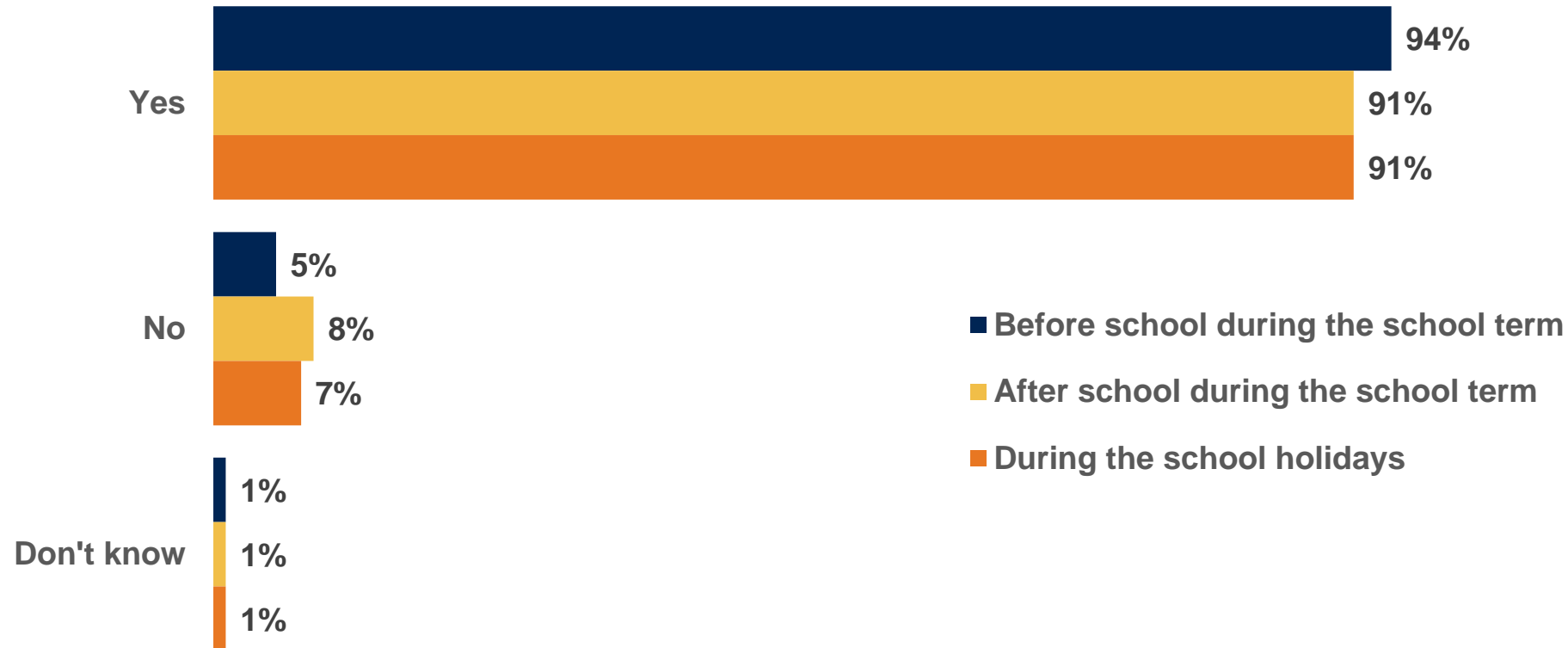
Q.10g What is the main reason you do not choose a different childcare arrangement for [CHILD 1] during the school holidays?

Q.12g What is the main reason you do not choose a different after-school children's arrangement for [CHILD 1]?

Base: All children cared for at home (Q.9g n=614, Q.10g n= 522 Q.12g n=464)

FIRST PREFERENCE FOR MAIN CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

The majority of school-going children were in their parents' preferred childcare arrangement.



Q.9a1 Is this your first preference for the main childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] before school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

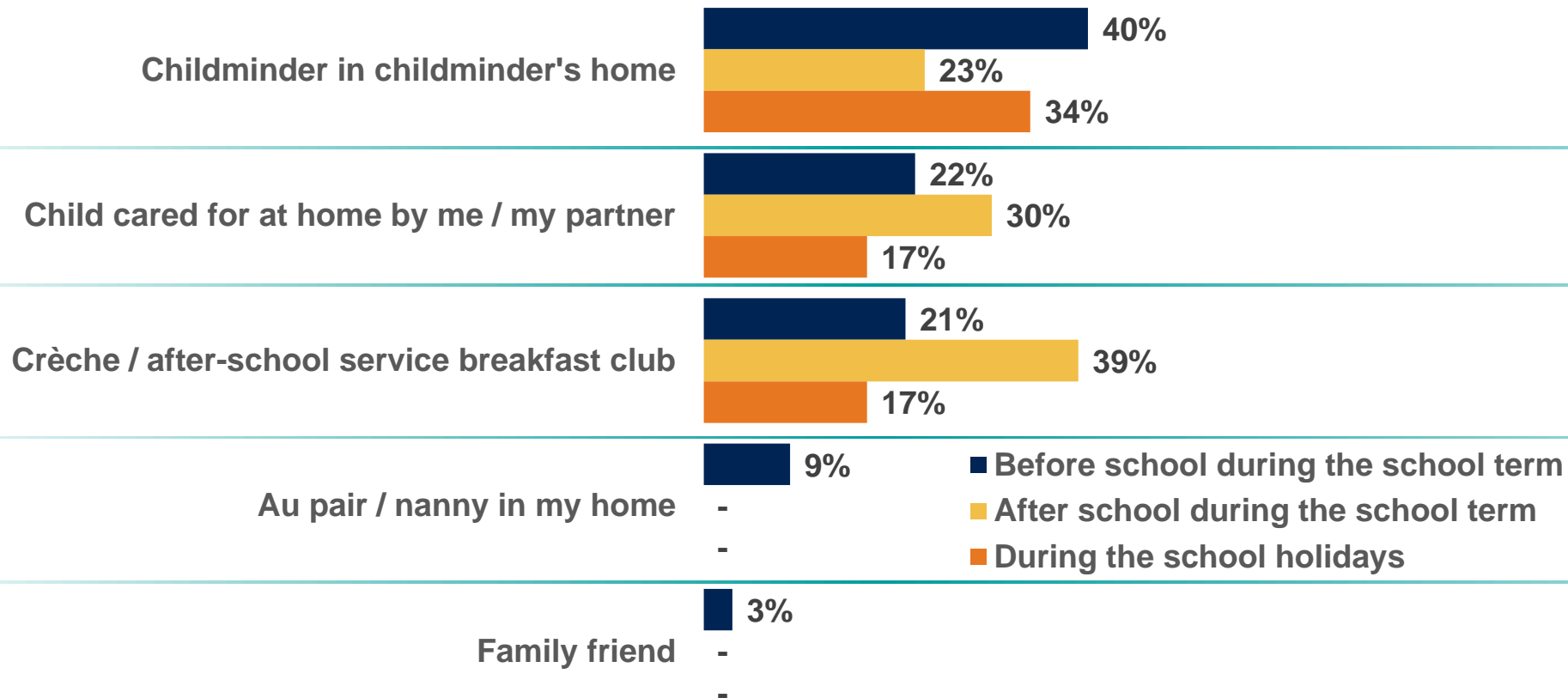
Q.12a1 Is this your first preference for the main childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] after school during school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

Q.10a1 Is this your first preference for the main childcare arrangement used/planned for [CHILD 1] during the school holidays?

Base: All children in primary/secondary school: 685

PREFERRED CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN NOT IN PREFERRED ARRANGEMENT

Of those whose childcare was not first preference, going to a childminder or being cared for at home would be parents/guardians' preferred choice.



	In Primary	In Secondary
%	%	
	35	67
	22	36
	32	57
	25	-
	27	51
	17	24
	25	-
	42	12
	19	-
	10	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	18
	-	-
	-	-

Q.9a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] before school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

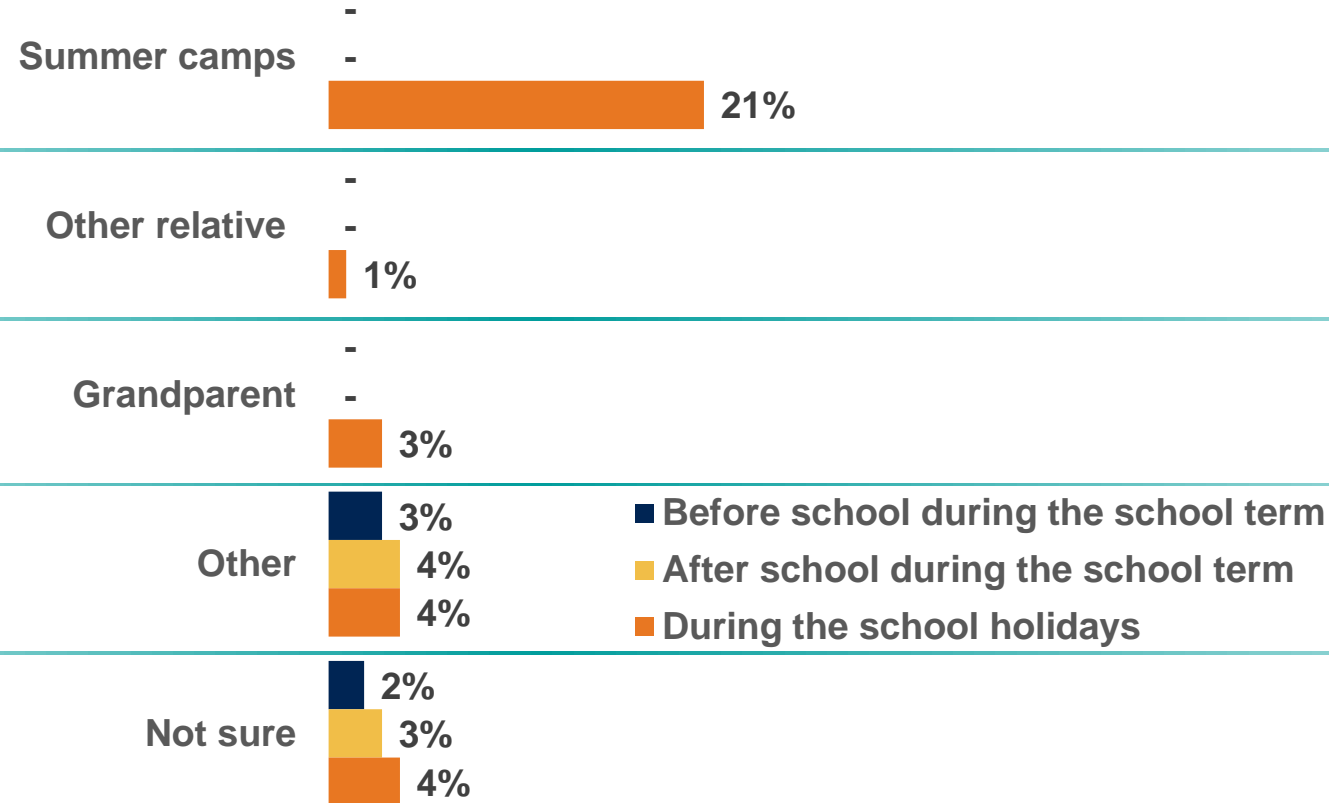
Q.12a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] after school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

Q.10a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned for [CHILD 1] during the school holidays?

Base: All whose children's childcare is not their 1st preference (Q.9a2 n=32, Q.12a2 n=53, Q.10a2 n=53)

PREFERRED CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN NOT IN PREFERRED ARRANGEMENT

Of those whose childcare was not first preference, going to summer camps over the school holidays was a popular choice for primary school children.



In Primary*	In Secondary*
%	%
-	-
-	-
22	-
-	-
-	-
1	-
-	-
-	-
1	19
4	-
5	-
6	-
-	15
3	-
5	-

Q.9a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] before school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

Q.12a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned on weekdays for [CHILD 1] after school during the school term (i.e. between September and June)?

Q.10a2 What is your preferred main type of childcare arrangement used/planned for [CHILD 1] during the school holidays?

Base: All whose children's childcare is not their 1st preference (Q.9a2 n=32, Q.12a2 n=53, Q.10a2 n=53)

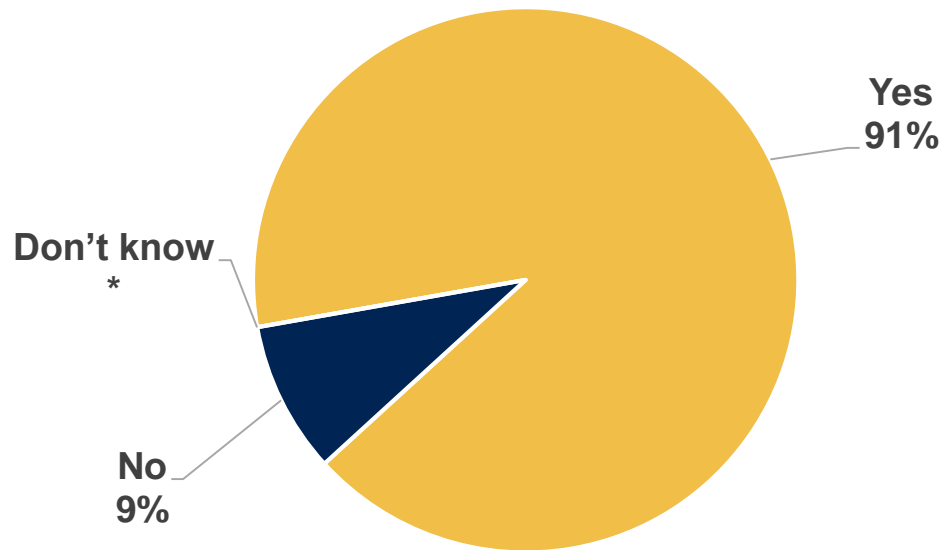
* Caution small base size

AWARENESS OF SUPPORTS, PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND INVESTMENT

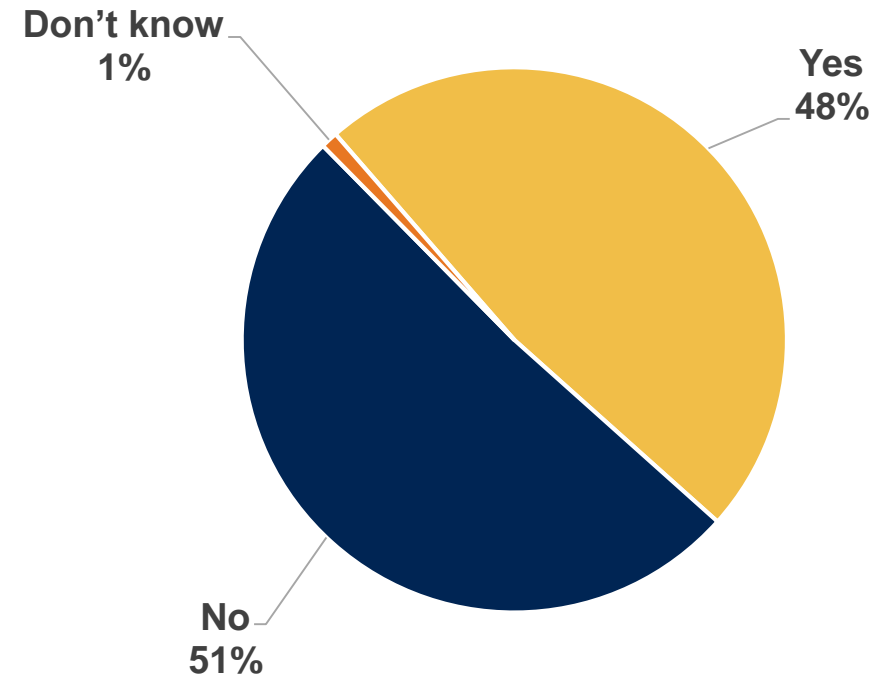
AWARENESS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE PRE-SCHOOL /FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS THE COST OF REGISTERED CHILDCARE

The majority (91%) of parents were aware of the free pre-school under the ECCE Programme, while just under half (48%) were aware of the financial support under the National Childcare Scheme

Aware of two years of free pre-school education



Aware of financial support towards the cost of registered childcare



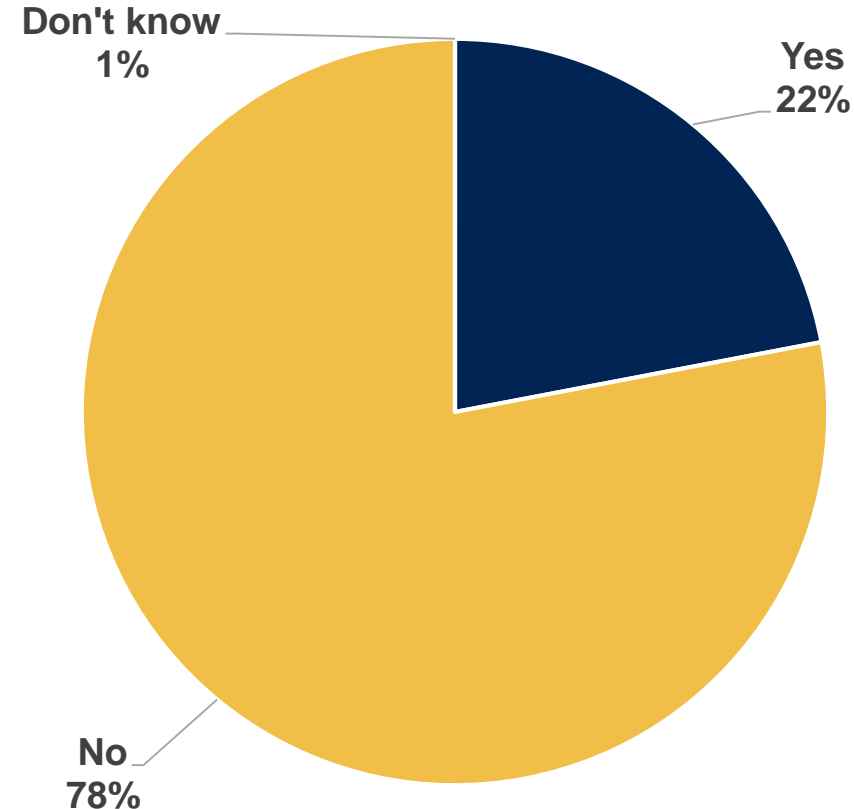
Q.17 Are you aware that all children between 2 years 8 months and 5 years 6 months are eligible for two years of free pre-school education under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme?

Q.18 Are you aware that some families with children age 14 years and under are eligible for financial support towards the cost of registered childcare under the National Childcare Scheme (NCS)?

Base: All parents/guardians: 505

AWARENESS OF PLANS TO MAKE THE NATIONAL CHILDCARE SCHEME AVAILABLE TO ALL PAID, NON-RELATIVE CHILDMINDERS

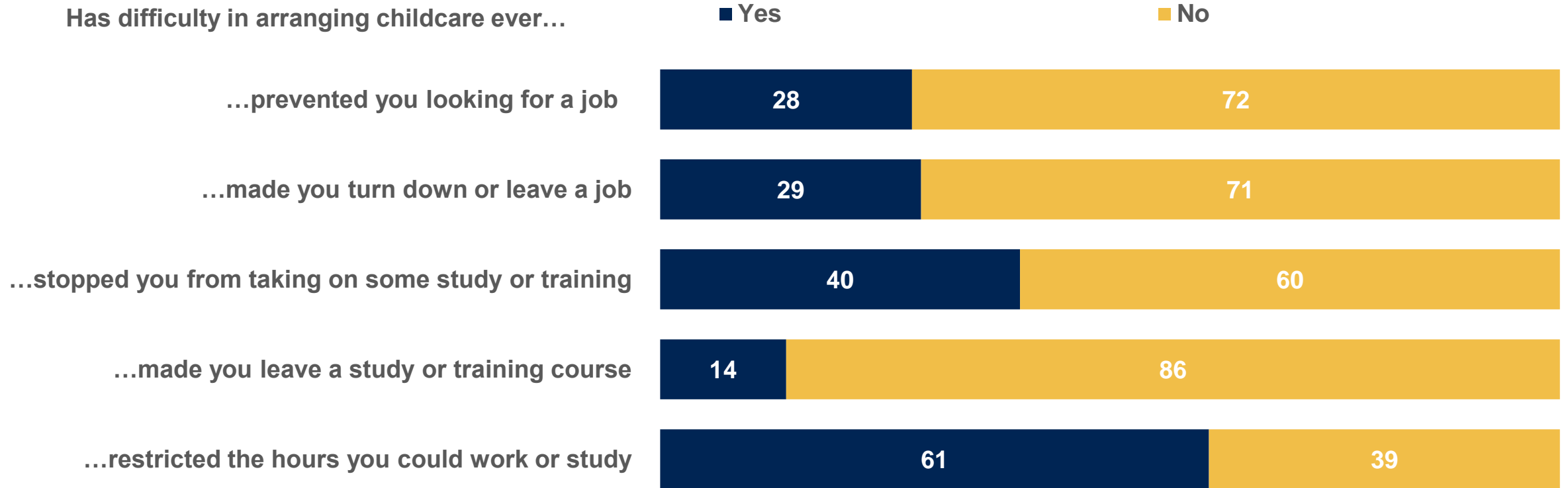
Around one in five reported to be aware of plans to provide access to the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) to all paid, non-relative childminders



Q.19a Are you aware that over the next 2 -3 years, government are planning to provide access to the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) to all paid, non-relative childminders?
Base: All parents/guardians: 505

IMPACT OF DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING CHILDCARE

Three in five reported difficulties in arranging childcare restricted their hours of work or study.

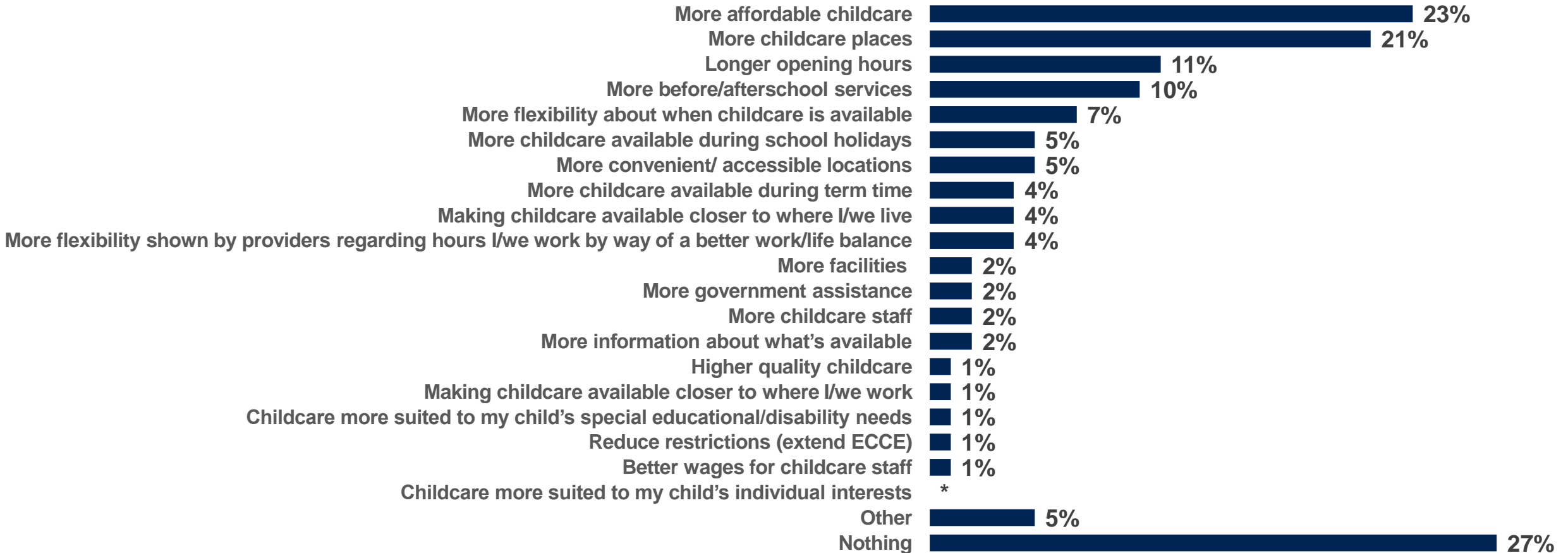


Q.16 Since your child(ren) were born, has a difficulty in arranging childcare ever impacted in any of the following ways....?

Base: All parents/guardians: 505

CHANGES TO CHILDCARE PROVISION IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

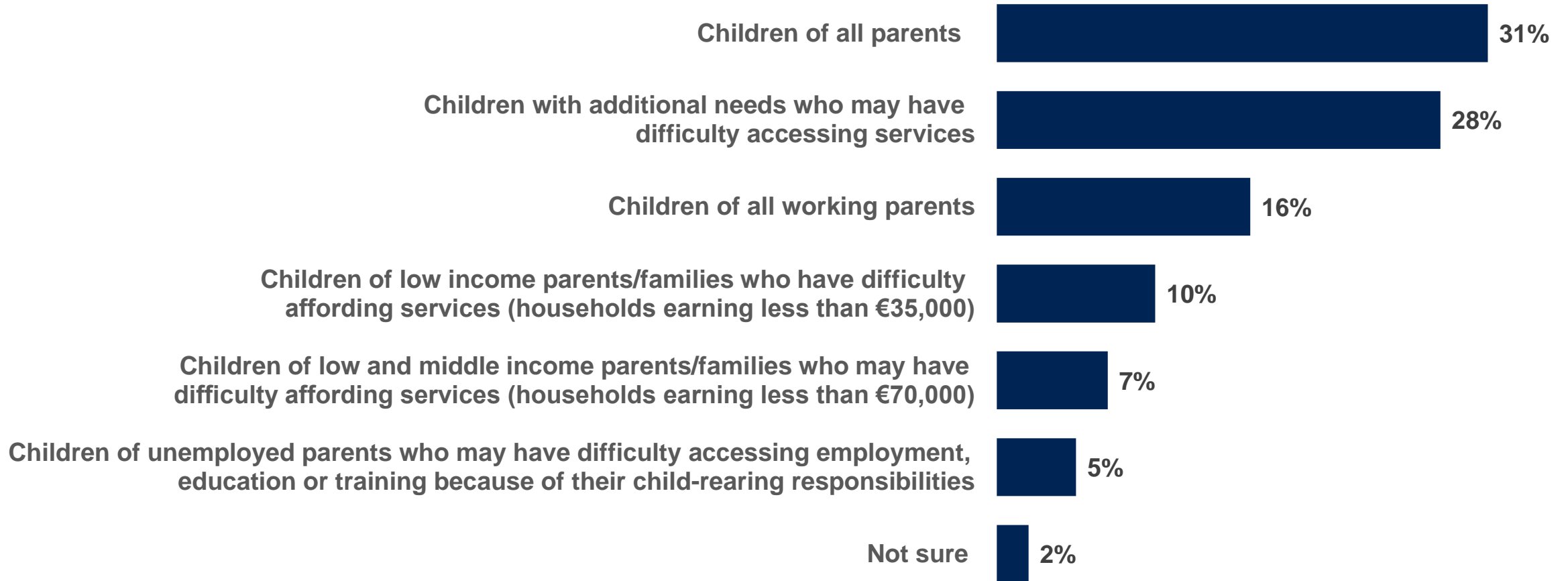
More affordable childcare followed by more childcare places and longer opening hours topped the list of desired changes parents would like to see.



Q.19 What changes to childcare provision in your local area, if any, do you think would be most helpful for making it better suited to your needs?
 Base: All parents/guardians: 505



HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT WHEN IT COMES TO FUTURE INVESTMENT



Q.21 Please tell me which one of these groups should be the highest priority for Government when it comes to future investment?

Base: All parents/guardians: 505

CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

- Parental care was the main form of childcare for young children not yet in school, followed by crèche/breakfast clubs.
- Parental care was the main form of childcare for school children before school, after-school and during holidays, followed by care from grandparents/other relatives
- Convenience was the main reason overall for choosing childcare options, followed by availability.
- Just three in ten found it easy to pay for childcare for young children not yet in school, while around half found it difficult. In addition, one third did not receive a subsidy from the Government.
- Three in five reported that difficulties in arranging childcare had restricted their hours of work or study.
- The majority of parents (91%) were aware of the free pre-school under the ECCE Programme, while just under half (48%) were aware of the financial support under National Childcare Scheme.
- Only one in five (22%) reported to be aware of plans to provide access to the National Childcare Scheme to all paid, non-relative childminders
- More affordable childcare, more childcare places and longer opening hours were the most desired changes parents would like to see.

**THANK
YOU**