



Child care in COVID-19

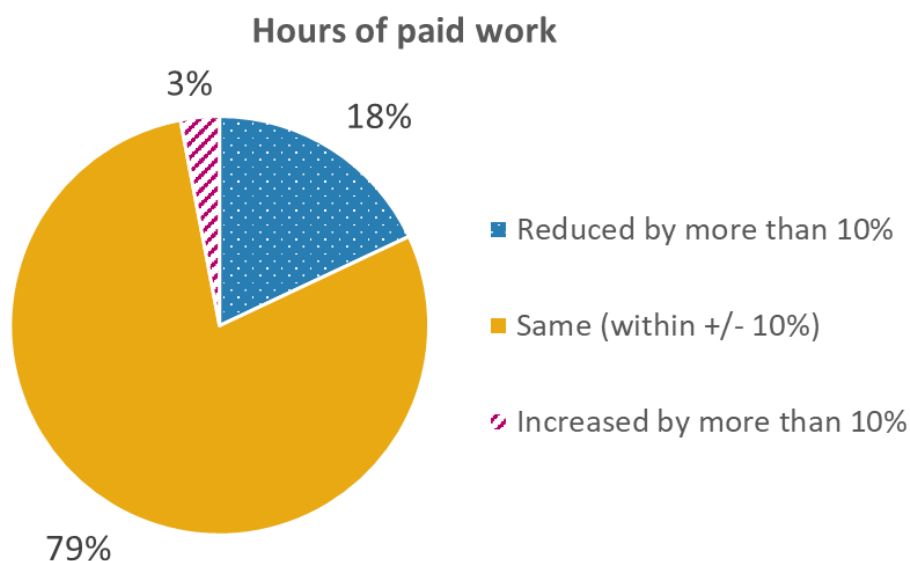
Summary of August parent survey results

We invited 21,000 parents to participate in a random sample online survey about their experiences using child care during COVID-19. 8,109 parents across all states and territories completed the survey between 17 – 23 August 2020.

Work and income

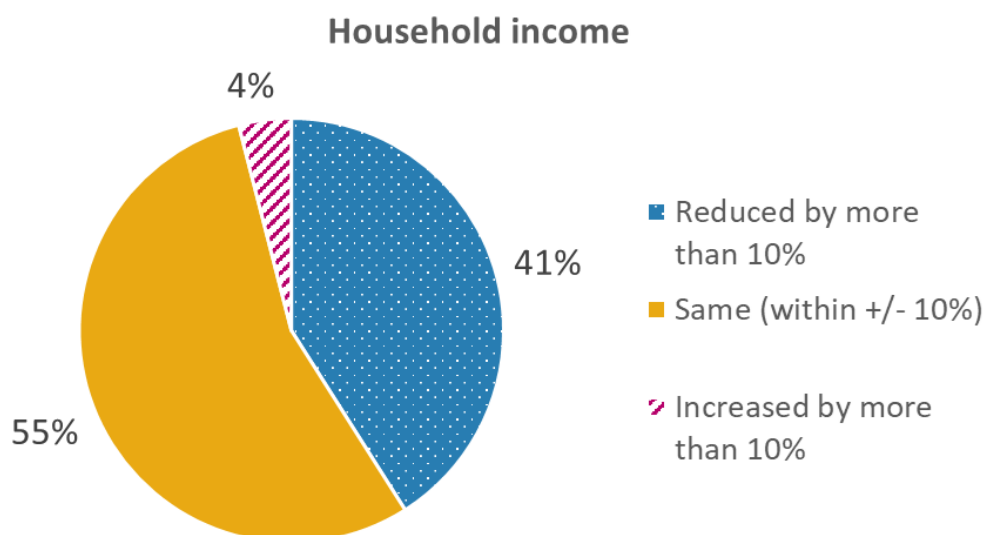
We asked parents about how much they worked and earned in the week 10 – 16 August 2020.

- 79% of parents reported that their paid hours were about the same as the pre-COVID period.
- 18% of parents reported that their paid hours were at least 10% lower.
- 59% of male parents worked 32 to 40 hours a week.
- 66% of female parents worked less than 32 hours a week, compared to 20% of men.
- 33% of parents were working from home, with women more likely (36%) to be working from home than men (29%).
- 41% of parents reported that COVID-19 had decreased their household income by at least 10%.



The above graph shows how parent’s paid work hours in the week 10 – 16 August compared with pre-COVID levels. 79% of parents reported their paid work hours remained the same, 18% reported a decrease of more than 10% and 3% reported an increase of more than 10%.

Hours of paid work during COVID-19	Percentage of parents
Reduced by more than 10%	18%
Same (within +/- 10%)	79%
Increased by more than 10%	3%



The above graph shows how household income was affected by COVID-19. 55% of parents reported their household income remained the same, 41% reported a decrease of more than 10%, and 4% reported an increase of more than 10%.

Household income during COVID-19	Percentage of parents
Reduced by more than 10%	41%
Same (within +/- 10%)	55%
Increased by more than 10%	4%

Access to care

We asked parents about attendance in the week 10 – 16 August 2020.

- 83% of parents (93% when excluding those in Victoria) reported that their children attended care.
- 6% of parents reported their child care usage was at least 10% higher than a typical week pre-COVID, 79% reported their usage was about the same, and 15% reported it was at least 10% lower.
- 89% of parents reported their demand for care over the week was met. For those who couldn’t, the most common reasons were:

- their child care service said they or their partner were not essential workers (3.8% of all parents), and
- their child care service said there weren't places available at the times they required (2.6% of all parents).

We asked parents about how much care they expected to use in October.

- Most parents (67%) expected their weekly child care needs to remain about the same.
- 25% of parents expected an increased need of at least 10% (half of these parents cited increased work hours as the reason).
- 8% of parents expected their weekly needs to decrease by at least 10%.

Families in Victoria

We looked at how parents in Victoria compared to the rest of the country.

- Parents in metropolitan Victoria had the lowest average hours of paid work of all metropolitan and regional/remote areas nationally. Female parents averaged 21 hours, while male parents averaged 33 hours.
- 27% of parents in metropolitan Victoria reported their paid hours were at least 10% lower than pre-COVID, compared to 18% nationally.
- 48% of parents in metropolitan Victoria reported that COVID-19 had decreased their household income by at least 10%, compared to 41% nationally.
- Parents in metropolitan Victoria were most likely to be working from home (65% of female parents, 54% of male parents).
- Only 44% of Victorian (35% for metropolitan Victoria) parents reported their children attended care in the week 10 – 16 August 2020, compared to 83% nationally.
- 67% of parents in metropolitan Victoria reported their demand for care was met over the week 10 – 16 August 2020, compared to 89% nationally.

Vulnerable and disadvantaged families

Parents receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) were more likely to report that COVID-19 had reduced their paid work hours and household income.

- 46% of parents receiving ACCS reported their paid work hours were at least 10% lower, compared to 18% of parents overall.
- 17% of parents receiving ACCS lost their jobs, compared to 4% of parents overall.

- 54% of parents receiving ACCS reported their household income was at least 10% lower, compared to 41% of parents overall.

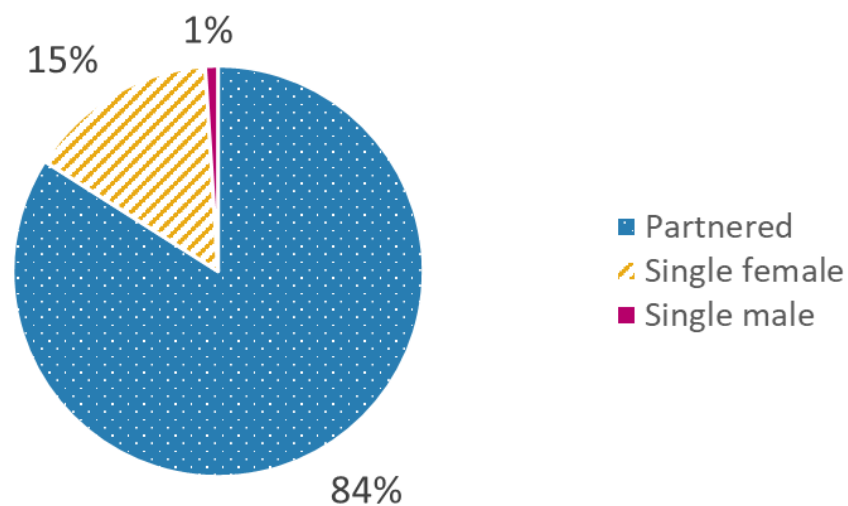
We compared attendance and demand of families receiving ACCS with parents overall in the week 10 – 16 August 2020.

- 83% of parents receiving ACCS reported their children attended care, matching the rate among parents overall.
- 93% of parents receiving ACCS reported their demand for care was met, compared to 89% overall.
- 35% of parents receiving ACCS expected their weekly child care needs to increase by at least 10% from mid–August to early–October, compared to 25% overall.

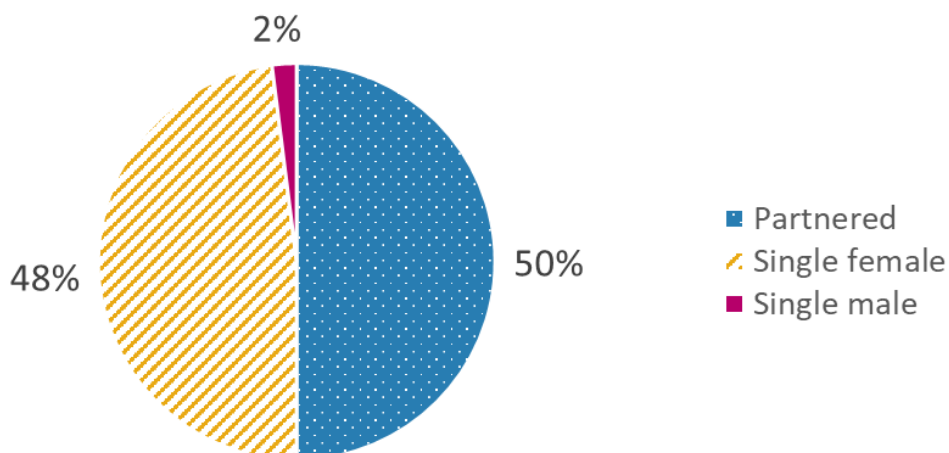
Parents receiving ACCS were significantly less likely to be partnered than parents overall.

- 48% were single mothers,
- 2% were single fathers, and
- 50% were partnered (compared to 84% for parents receiving only CCS).

Relationship status of parents receiving Child Care Subsidy only



Relationship status of parents receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy



The above graphs show the relationship status of parents receiving Child Care Subsidy and those receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy. For parents receiving Child Care Subsidy, 84% are partnered, 15% are single females and 1% are single males. For parents receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy, 50% are partnered, 48% are single females and 2% are single males.

	Partnered	Single female	Single male
Relationship status of parents receiving Child Care Subsidy-only	84%	15%	1%
Relationship status of parents receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy	50%	48%	2%

Families no longer using care

The survey included a sample of 2,000 parents who were no longer using child care after 13 July 2020. The most common reasons for no longer using care were:

- 31% were working from home and did not require child care
- 18% did not feel comfortable sending their children to child care during a pandemic
- 15% said that COVID-19 restrictions had been introduced in their state or territory.

Regional and remote areas

Parents living in regional and remote areas were:

- less likely to report that COVID-19 had decreased their paid hours by at least 10% (19% metropolitan, 14% regional, 9% remote)
- less likely to report that COVID-19 had decreased their household income by at least 10% (43% metropolitan, 34% regional, 25% remote)
- less likely to be working from home (37% metropolitan, 18% regional, 7% remote).