

Family Survey Highlights



Background and Methodology

As part of a community planning process around the needs of infants and toddlers, a family survey was developed in collaboration with community partners to learn more about families of infants and toddlers in Durham County. The Family Survey was distributed in October 2008 in hard copy and online through community partners including Child Care Services Association, Durham's Alliance for Child Care Access, Welcome Baby, Healthy Families Durham and the Health Department. The following provides highlights of the survey results. The survey was completed by 278 parents/caregivers. Response rates varied by question; results reflect responses to individual questions. It is important to note that the survey sample is not representative of the whole population of parents/caregivers in Durham County.

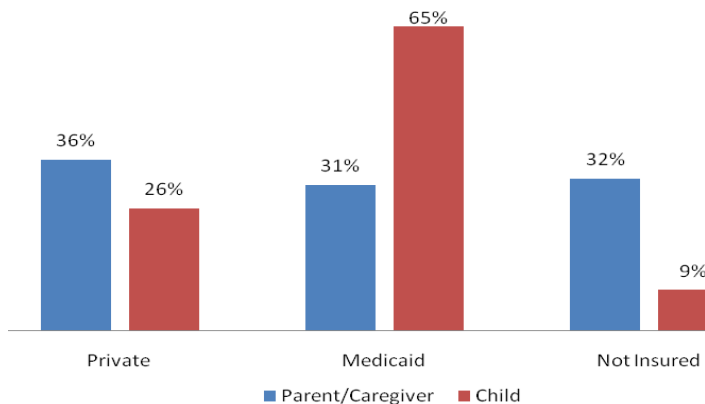
Demographics of Respondents

The Family Survey was completed by 278 parents/caregivers of young children in Durham County. Of the parents/caregivers that responded to the demographic questions, 93% (228) were female and 7% (18) were male. In terms of race/ethnicity of respondents, 53% (130) were Black/Non-Hispanic, 25% (61) Hispanic, 18% (43) White/Non-Hispanic, and 4% (10) were of other races. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of parents/caregivers were between 19-34 years old.

Parents/Caregivers were able to provide demographic data for up to three children. Approximately 162 respondents were first-time parents or were caring for one child, 53 were caring for two children, and 33 respondents had three or more children. Over half (56%) of children were infants and toddlers ages birth to 36 months, and 81% of children were ages birth to 5.

Parents/Caregivers were asked to report the type of health insurance used for themselves and their children (Figure 1). Parents were about four times more likely to be uninsured than children with 32% of children being uninsured, compared to 9% of parents. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of children were insured through Medicaid, compared to 31% of parents. Parents were more likely to be covered by private insurance than their children (36% and 26%, respectively).

Figure 1 Type of Insurance Used by Parents/Caregivers and Children

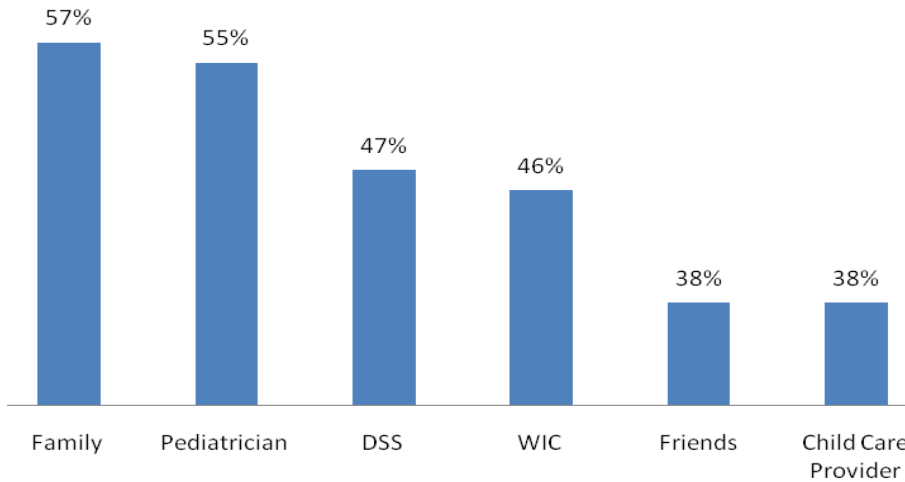


Note: Percentages are based on 222 responses.

Services and Supports that Families Report are Helpful

Families were asked to rate how helpful a list of services and supports have been over the past 12 months. The scale ranged from 'Not at all helpful' to 'Extremely Helpful.' As shown in Figure 2, parents/caregivers reported that family and pediatricians were the most helpful resources, followed by DSS, WIC, friends and child care providers. The top six responses are displayed below.

Figure 2 Services and Supports Ranked as 'Very Helpful' and 'Extremely Helpful' to Parents/Caregivers

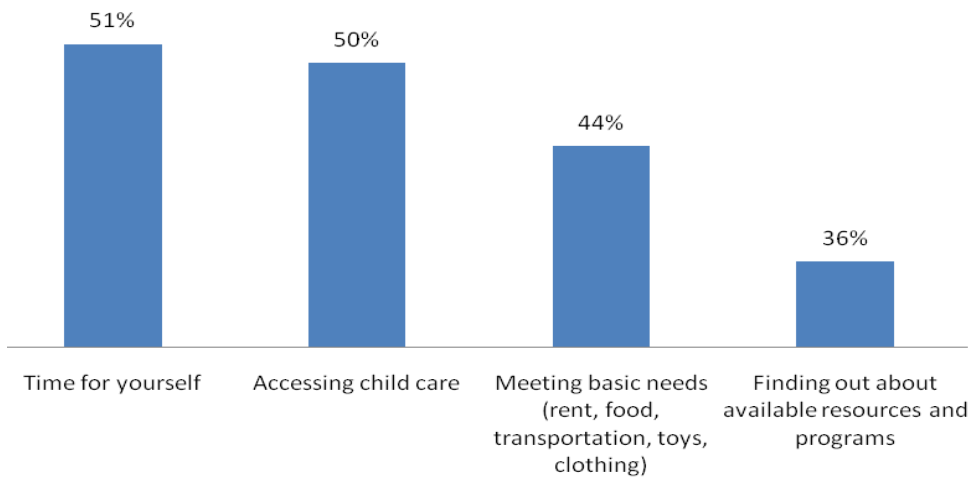


Note: The above data combines the 'very helpful' and 'extremely helpful' responses. Percentages are based on 277 responses.

Greatest Challenges that Families Face

Families were asked about the greatest challenges they face. A list of challenges was provided and respondents could also write in additional challenges. Half of respondents reported 'finding time for yourself' and accessing child care were their greatest challenges. The top four responses are shown in Figure 3.

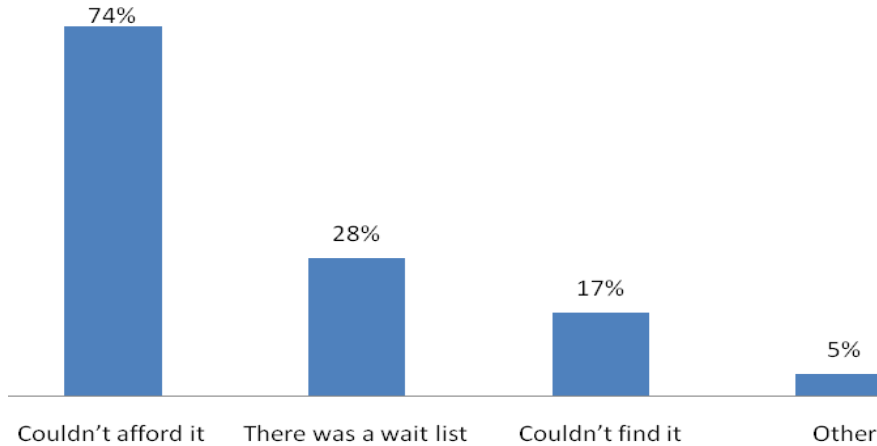
Figure 3 Greatest Challenges Facing Parents/Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers



Note: Percentages are based on 228 responses.

Respondents were asked to identify barriers to accessing health care services or child care (Figure 4). Affordability was the greatest barrier (74% of responses) followed by wait lists (28%) and not being able to find services (17%).

Figure 4 Barriers to Accessing Health Care Services or Child Care



Note: Percentages are based on 101 responses.

Services and Supports Needed

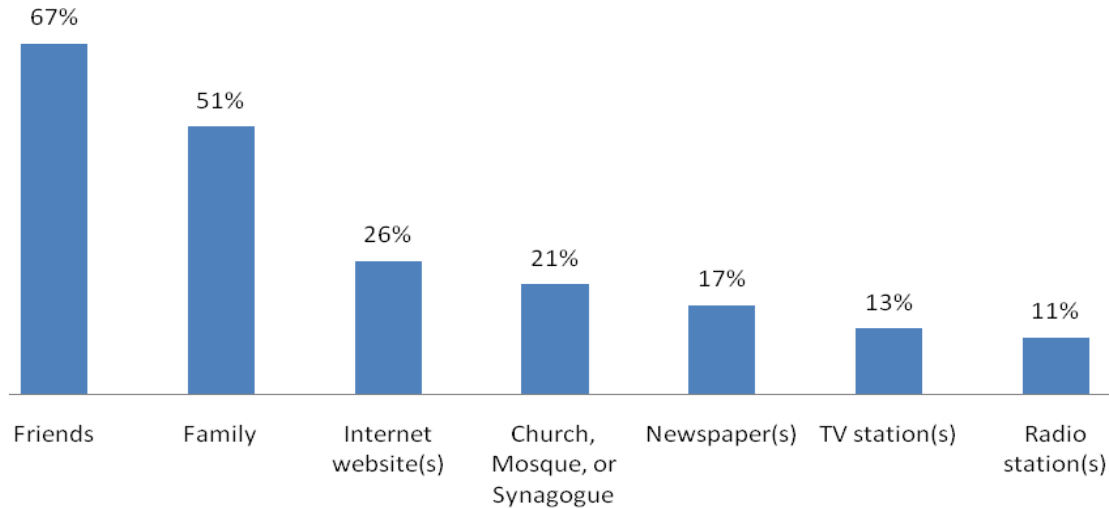
Parents/Caregivers had the opportunity to tell us what services and supports they are looking for in the community. This was an open-ended question and there were 78 responses. Most of the responses fell in the following categories: child care, programs for youth, support services/programs for parents, bi-lingual services, public assistance, and awareness of programs. Affordable child care is a support that many parents identified as a need in this open-ended question. Parents also reported looking for more youth programs “to keep young people out of the streets” and to help “kids to develop themselves.” Some expressed the need for more services such as parenting classes, counseling, support groups, and bilingual services. Public supports and services such as a “better transit system” and food stamps were noted by some parents and others expressed the need for “something for working mothers who are just making it.” While parents and caregivers expressed the need for many services and supports, they also noted that there needs to be more awareness about the services in the community. As one parent/caregiver stated, “the problem is making the services known to individuals.” Some suggestions for creating more awareness were creating “a resource guide to all programs/aids for single parents and their children in Durham” and “monthly forums to inform people about services available and how to access these needs.”

Where Families Get Information about Community Resources

Parents were asked where they get information about resources in the community. More than two-thirds (67%) of respondents reported that they use friends as a source of information and 51% of respondents identified family as an information source. Internet websites were selected by 26% of respondents. Newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations were the least common sources identified. Parents/Caregivers had the opportunity to write in other sources and to name specific internet sites, newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations used to learn about resources in the community. The *Herald Sun* was the most common newspaper listed. Search engines, such as Google, were the most

common internet sites listed. Welcome Baby El Centro, Durham Connects, and Healthy Families were reported by some parents/caregivers as sources of information.

Figure 5 Information Sources about Resources in the Community



Note: Percentages are based on 226 responses.

Conclusion

The results from the Family Survey will be used to inform a larger collaborative planning process around the needs of infants and toddlers in Durham County. We would like to thank all of the community partners that helped distribute the Family Survey as well as the parents/caregivers who completed the survey. The information gathered will be useful to community partners that serve parents/caregivers with infants and toddlers. The full survey results are available by request. Please contact Kate Irish, Program and Evaluation Manager, Durham’s Partnership for Children for more information (kate@dpfc.net, 919.403.6960 ext. 226).