



Children and working parents

Fundamental facts from the
2004 Minnesota child care survey



Most parents who use child care report no problems that interfere with work.

- Child care problems have not kept most parents (80 percent) from taking or keeping a job in the past.
- 63 percent have not lost time or income in the past six months because of child care problems.

Some families lose work time or income because of child care problems.

- More than one in three (37 percent) families (with low incomes and high incomes alike) say they lost work time or income in the past six months because of a problem with a child care arrangement (not including when a child is sick).
- Parents using licensed family child care and center-based care most commonly lose work time due to scheduled closings (27 percent).
- Parents using informal arrangements (FFN) most commonly lose work time due to illness of the caregiver (17 percent).

Child care problems reduce participation in the workforce for some parents.

- 20 percent of parents say that child care problems in the past year kept them from taking or keeping a job.
- Child care problems that interfere with employment more commonly affect parents of color (35 percent), parents who have a child with a special need (34 percent), parents with low incomes (36 percent) and parents who receive child care subsidies (38 percent) than other parents by about 2 to 1.

Family schedules commonly require child care before and after standard work hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and on weekends.

- 48 percent of children are regularly in nonparental care during weekday evenings (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and on weekends 44 percent are regularly in nonparental care.
- 27 percent of working parents have work schedules that vary from week to week, up from 23 percent in 1999.
- Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care is the most common type of nonstandard hour care.

continued

Child care problems reduce productivity and income of many working parents with low incomes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Download fact sheets and full research reports—*Child Care Use in Minnesota and Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers*—at www.wilderresearch.org. 2004 Minnesota statewide household child care survey funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and conducted by Wilder Research, Richard Chase study director.

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This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 282-5329 (voice). TTY/TDD users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.