



Bipartisan Bicameral Childcare Package: Mothers' Views, Experiences, and Insights



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Prepared by
**Count on
Mothers**

Count of Mothers:
800



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Results from Count on Mothers' Study of the 2024 Bipartisan Childcare Package

Count on Mothers provides legislators, industry leaders, and policymakers with comprehensive first-hand real-time data to help them make more informed decisions. Each issue or policy that we examine is selected based on what surveyed mothers have indicated they want to address, reflecting the priorities of mothers from across the country and political spectrum. We survey mothers because they are the largest group charged with the well-being of children. Every mother is welcomed to contribute to our efforts. We do this work because we believe that mothers' first-hand experiences are a critical source of information that need to be an essential part of the policymaking process.

This report focuses on information Count on Mothers collected in August 2024 on mothers' views and firsthand experiences on the components of two bills introduced on July 31st by Senators Katie Britt and Tim Kaine – the “Childcare Availability and Affordability Act” and the “Childcare Workforce Act.” We compiled the results to find out whether mothers believed the proposed bills would have a substantial impact on their families, how effective tax credit and flexible spending accounts are, and whether and why/why not mothers would use these benefits. In addition, we provided a selection of childcare policy options to find out the most useful and impactful solutions for today's families.

A total of 800 Mothers residing in 47 states and from across the political spectrum provided feedback based on their first-hand knowledge. Mothers identified politically within the given choice of very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal. Count on Mothers tallies political affiliation, states of residence, zip codes, ethnicity, number of children, and level of education in order to ensure a representative sample and to study where mothers agree regardless of ideology. After analyzing Mothers' opinions from the survey, we take this aggregate data and share it with policymakers and the public so they are educated on mothers' firsthand experiences and views on pressing issues and on the policies that affect children and families that seek to address those issues.



METHODOLOGY

Design

This process uses a mixed qualitative-quantitative research design. Cross-sectional surveys were distributed in August 2024.

Instrument

A survey was constructed based on the main components of the two bills. **Britt** and **Kaine's** legislative one-pagers were used to identify provisions. Count on Mothers partnered with **Megan Prior, MD** to assess useful data for policymakers and provide definition and explanation of current childcare tax credits and flexible spending accounts for respondents. The instrument measured the frequency of use of current tax credits and FSAs, knowledge, belief of positive impact of proposals, and preference of other policy solutions. Open-ended questions were used to allow mothers to explain why they do not use tax credits or FSAs, and also allowed for more nuanced responses. The survey also assessed Mothers' political ideology, state/ zip code of residence, ethnicity, number of children, and level of education to better understand the sample demographics.

Statistical Analysis

Open-ended responses were analyzed for content and grouped thematically. For demographic characteristics, we evaluated differences between groups using chi-square tests. The statistical significance level was set at 0.05. This means that if a particular characteristic has a p-value of 0.05 or less, we can be 95% certain that the difference in the groups is not attributed to chance alone. The lower the p-value, the more confident we can be that there are true differences between the groups. JMP®, Version 17.0.0. SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, 1989–2023 was used for data analysis.



Sample

800 Mothers from **47 states** completed the survey focused on the **Bipartisan Childcare Package**. Efforts were made to ensure that survey respondents reflected a range of political ideologies, from very conservative to very liberal. Of the 800 Mothers who identified politically, **11.6%** identified as very conservative, **19.8%** identified as conservative, **32.1%** identified as moderate, **21.0%** identified as liberal, **13.6%** identified as very liberal, and **1.9%** identified as other.

While national data on Mothers' political ideologies has not been identified, studies have examined the political ideologies of women, in general. According to a recent Gallup Poll (2021), **32%** of women identified as conservative, **37%** of women identified as moderate, and **29%** of Women identified as liberal. Count on Mothers will continue to invite the participation of Mothers across the political spectrum so that our sample closely mirrors these national trends.

70.3% of respondents reported having 1 or 2 children, which is 7 points higher than the National average reported in 2014 (Pew Research Center). The race and ethnicity of mothers surveyed were similarly distributed to the U.S. National distributions (2020 US Census). Most mothers surveyed (**60%**) have a college degree, while **40% of mothers reported having some college (but no degree) or less**.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

THERE IS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR TAX CREDIT INCREASES

About **8 in 10 American mothers agree** that the proposed **increases** in the **childcare tax credit** and **allowable FSA contributions** would have a **positive impact on their families**.

At least **7 in 10 American mothers agree** that **increasing the employer's tax credit** would have a **positive impact** on their family's access to **quality and reliable childcare**.

THE TAX CREDIT IS A LIFELINE FOR 3 IN 4 AMERICAN MOTHERS

3 out of 4 American mothers report claiming the current Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

- The distribution was fairly consistent across self-reported political affiliations.
- Approximately 77% of moms with a college degree have claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, while only 71% of moms without a college degree reported to have ever claimed it.
- For moms who self-reported not claiming the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, the main reason was due to not using paid childcare (33%).

WHO USES FSAS? EDUCATION & FAMILY SIZE MATTER

Only 1 in 3 American mothers report ever using a childcare/dependent care FSA.

- About 36% of moms with 1-3 children reported using a childcare FSA while only 16% of moms with 4 or more children reported using a childcare FSA
- When broken down by education level, moms with college degrees use childcare FSAs more than moms without college degrees. Specifically, it appeared that the higher the college degree, the more frequently moms used childcare FSAs.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

MOTHERS NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FSAs

A significant number of American mothers are not utilizing FSAs out of confusion.

- *Over 24% of mothers who reported not using a childcare FSA are either confused about eligibility or have never heard of a childcare FSA. However, the total percentage of moms unclear about childcare FSAs is likely higher since over 28% of moms said they are uncertain if they have ever used a childcare FSA.*

PAID FAMILY LEAVE RANKED #1

In considering other policies, American mothers are most interested in paid family leave so that working parents can stay home longer to care for their infant after birth.

- *However, when broken out by political affiliations, very liberal and very conservative moms most often chose a universal pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds through the public school system (81% and 95%, respectively).*

CHILDCARE COSTS ARE PREVENTING MOTHERS FROM EXPANDING THEIR FAMILIES

In an open field, where mothers answer the question, “Is there anything you would like to add and share with policymakers” an overwhelming number expressed stress and uncertainty around cost and stability.

- *A portion of mothers who answered the open-ended question, explicitly stated that they could not have more children because of the cost of childcare.*



QUALITATIVE DATA & INSIGHTS

At the end of the survey, respondents were given an open field to provide additional insight for policymakers.

- The single most frequent open-ended response among mothers was **wanting paid family leave programs expanded or required**.
- The second most frequent response among mothers was that **the government should provide subsidies for childcare**.
- **Ten (10) mothers** explicitly stated that they have **chosen not to have more children because they cannot afford** to spend any more on **childcare costs**.

Overall, **moms feel that policymakers need to step in to provide more support in the childcare system.**

Moms say they are suffering financially because either childcare costs are too high, they cannot afford to pay for quality childcare, or quality childcare programs are inaccessible.

A mom who identified as liberal from Florida said:

“As a mother, I’ve had to make adjustments to my career and work role – to the detriment of my long-term income potential and long-term career development – because I have lived in places without access to affordable childcare. There have been times when I’ve paid as much as 30% of my family’s income to ensure my child had quality (read: accredited) childcare. In the summer months, our childcare costs double or can even triple to cover the same hours during the school year.”

Some moms even said they had to forgo having more children because childcare costs are so high. A mom who identified as conservative from Ohio said:

“I love children and would love to have more but it breaks my heart to think I can’t afford to pay for childcare for more than one.”

Likewise, a mom who identified as very liberal from Ohio said:

“My family pays \$1900/month for one child in daycare. That’s half my husband’s income. We aren’t sure we can have another child until that cost goes down. We’d have another child tomorrow if we had the financial security!”



QUALITATIVE DATA & INSIGHTS

Regarding quality and retention of formal childcare, a mom who identified as conservative from Texas wrote:

"Grants need to be given to private childcare centers so they can pay the staff a reasonable wage in order to retain good teachers."

Finally, many mothers contend that funds/credits should support care in the home, as well. A mother identifying as conservative from Washington wrote:

"Any program that provides financial support to parents who work outside the home should also include parents who stay home with their children. Otherwise you are de facto saying it is better for mothers to go back to work rather than choose to stay home with their children. I don't pay for childcare but I do give up wages to provide childcare for my own kids. Why should that be any different than paying a nanny?"

The qualitative responses reflect broad agreement among mothers that the provisions in the Bipartisan Childcare Package address urgent and widely felt challenges.

Mothers consistently described how the high cost and limited availability of childcare have forced them to make difficult trade-offs between work and family. The proposed increases in the Childcare Tax Credit and allowable FSA contributions were widely seen as positive steps that would ease financial strain and improve access to care.

However, many mothers reported confusion about FSAs—specifically around eligibility, how to use them, and whether they could be combined with other benefits.

This highlights a need for better communication and education from both policymakers and employers to ensure families can fully benefit from these resources.

Another key insight is that financial support alone will not solve the childcare crisis unless it is paired with improvements in availability and quality.

Mothers shared frustrations with securing consistent, high-quality care due to staffing shortages and long waitlists. While the proposed employer tax credits were viewed positively, mothers emphasized the need for more flexible care options—such as evening and weekend care—to better reflect modern work schedules. Investing in the childcare workforce through better training and higher wages could improve both stability and quality. These insights underscore that while the Bipartisan Childcare Package offers meaningful relief, its success will depend on addressing the structural gaps in childcare access and quality.



ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS

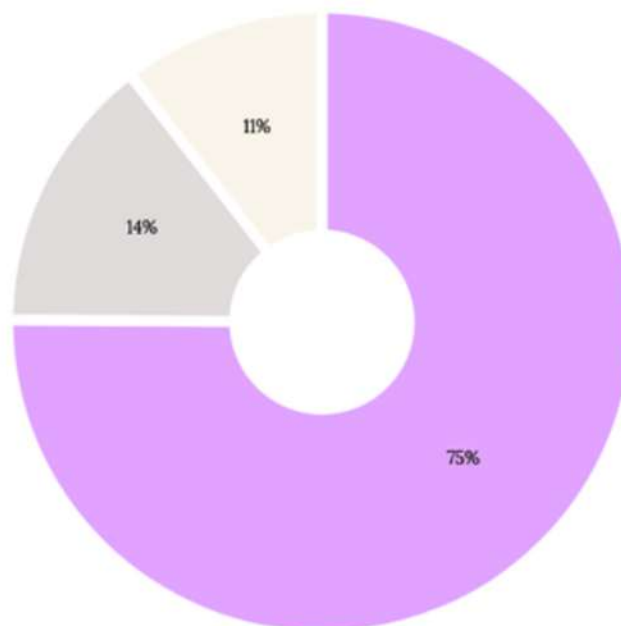
1. Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?

For mothers who self-reported not claiming the childcare tax credit, the main reason was due to not using paid childcare (**33%**). However, at least **25%** of those mothers who did not claim the credit stated reasons associated with lack of information.

75% of mothers surveyed have claimed the current childcare tax credit, and the distribution was fairly consistent across self-reported political affiliations. However, approximately **77%** of mothers with a college degree have claimed the childcare tax credit, while only **71%** of mothers without a college degree reported to have ever claimed it.

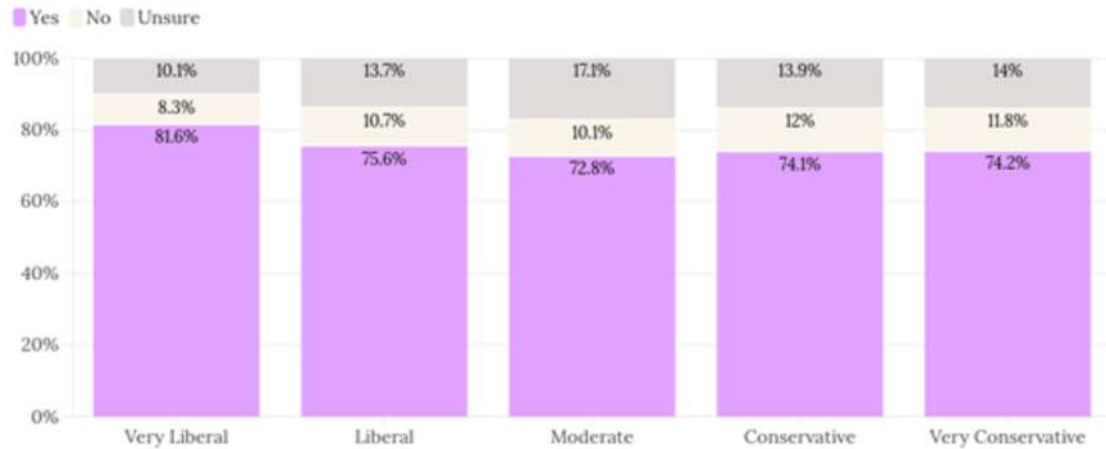
Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?

Yes Unsure No

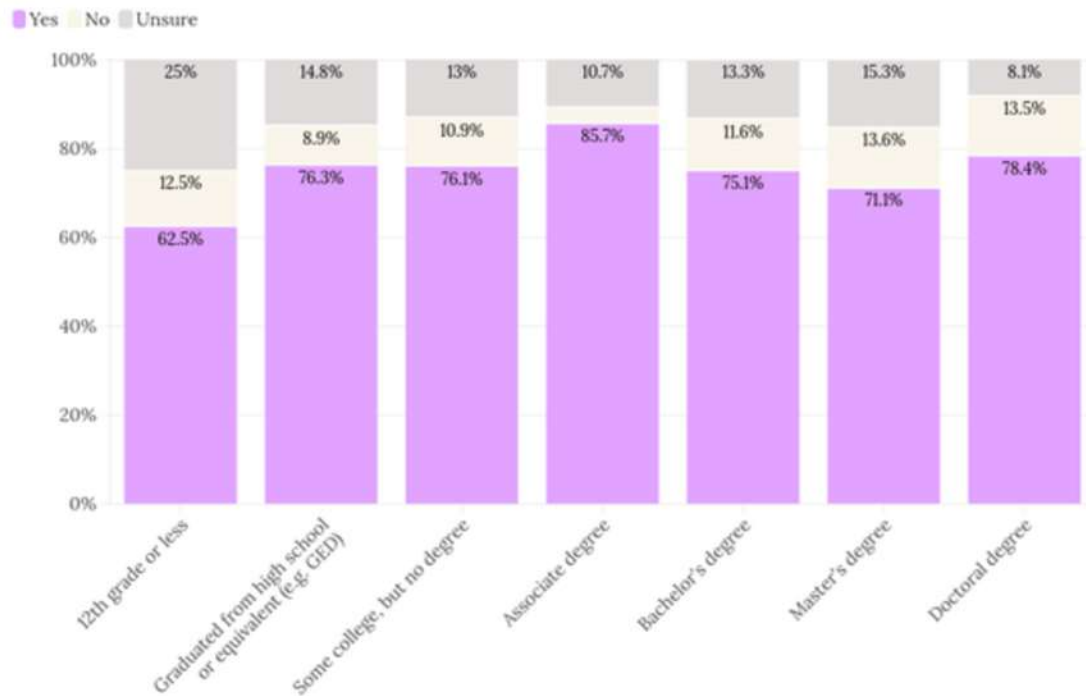




Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Tax Credit? by Political Affiliation

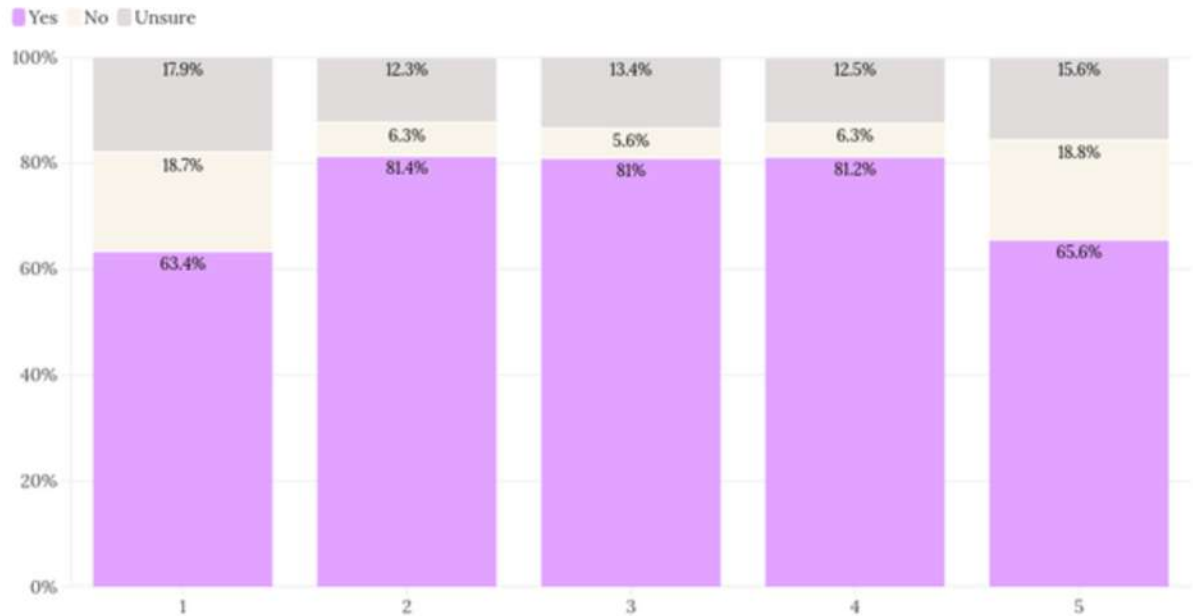


Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Tax Credit? by Education Level

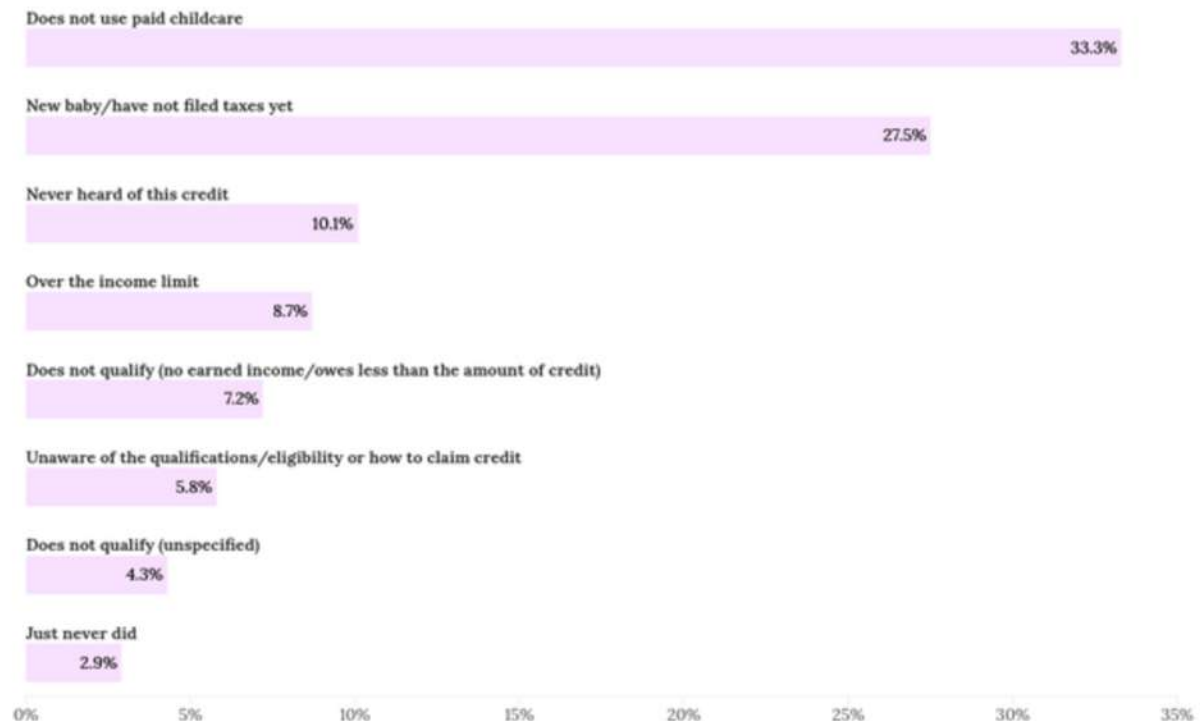




Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Tax Credit? by Number of Children



Of those who have never claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, these are the reasons why:





2. Has your family ever had a childcare FSA?

Approximately **35% of mothers surveyed report using a childcare/dependent care FSA**. About **28% of mothers surveyed said they have never had one**; and the largest faction, about **37%, were unsure**.

Of mothers who self-reported not using a childcare FSA, the top three reasons were:

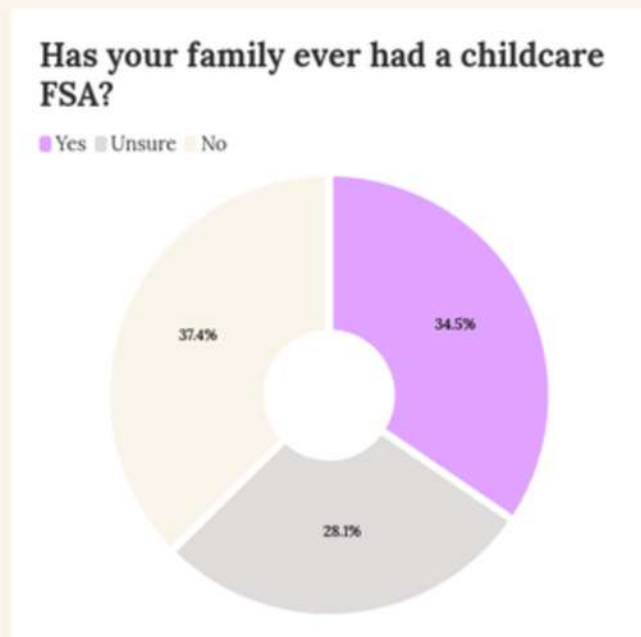
1. They do not use paid childcare (**21%**)
2. They have never heard of a childcare FSA or were unsure what it is (**21%**), and
3. It is not offered/unsure if it is offered by their employer (**20%**).

Overall, there was a significant amount of confusion around FSAs.

Additionally, some moms reported not using a childcare/dependent care FSA because they mistakenly believed they could not have a childcare FSA if they have a healthcare savings account (HSA). A childcare FSA is different from a healthcare FSA.

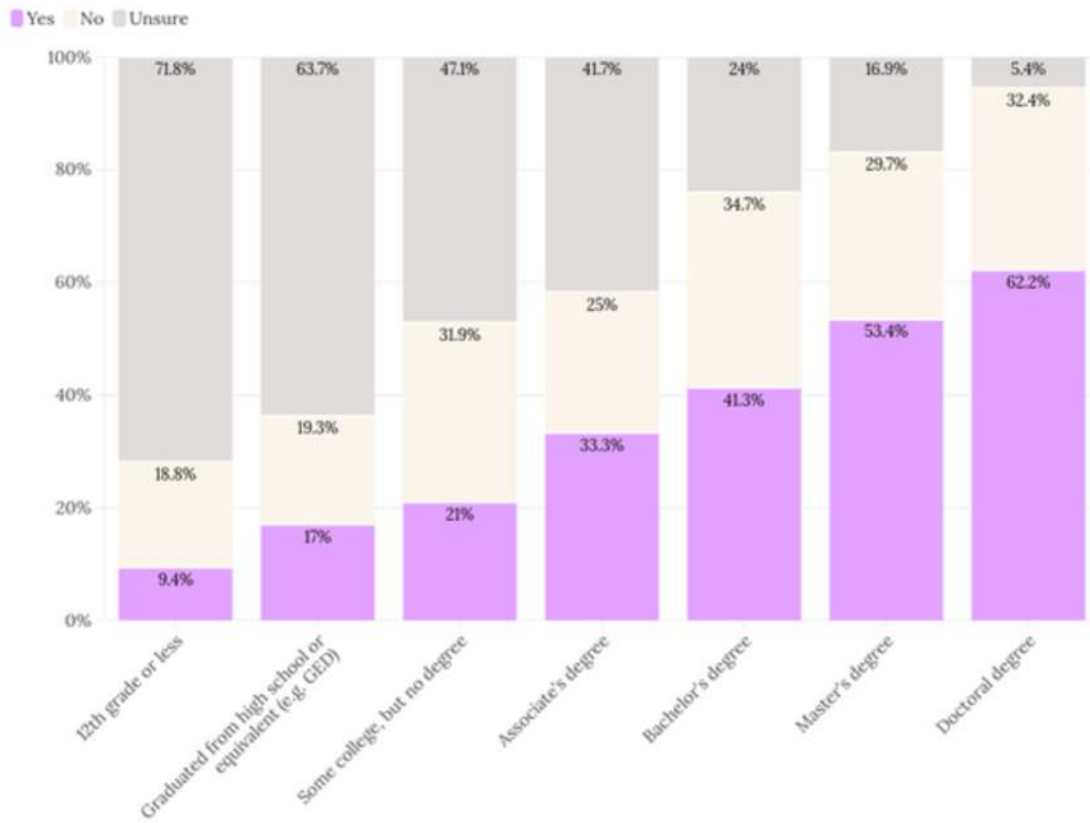
Mothers with 4 or more children were less likely to use a childcare FSA. About **36% of moms with 1-3 children reported using a childcare FSA**, while only **16% of moms with 4 or more children reported using one**. When broken down by education level, moms with college degrees use childcare FSAs more than moms without college degrees. Specifically, it appeared that the higher the college degree, the more frequently moms used childcare FSAs.

Some moms had an incorrect understanding of childcare FSAs and mistakenly believed their childcare center does “not accept” FSAs. FSA funds are deducted from the paycheck and deposited into a childcare FSA account. If the childcare provider has a tax ID number or SSN, FSA funds can be used for that childcare. All licensed or accredited childcare providers would qualify.





Has your family ever had a childcare FSA? by Education Level



Has your family ever had a childcare FSA? by Number of Children





Of those whose families had never had a childcare FSA, these were the reasons:

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Does not use paid childcare	46	20.6%
Unaware/never heard of childcare FSA	46	20.6%
Not offered by employer/unsure if offered by employer	44	19.7%
Doesn't need it/no reason/just didn't utilize	38	17.0%
Too complicated/not beneficial enough to be worth it	8	3.6%
New baby - has not needed childcare yet	7	3.1%
Self-employed	5	2.2%
Doesn't have enough money to deduct from payroll	6	2.7%
Has not used it, but plans to in the future	4	1.8%
Believes their childcare provider does not accept FSA funds*	3	1.3%
Does not qualify (unspecified reason)	3	1.3%
Not currently employed	3	1.3%
Uses HSA instead*	3	1.3%
Believes they are not eligible	2	0.9%
Other	2	0.9%
Pays cash for childcare	2	0.9%
Does not want to lose any unused funds	1	0.4%
Total	223	100.0%

20.40%

*Some moms had an incorrect understanding of dependent care FSAs

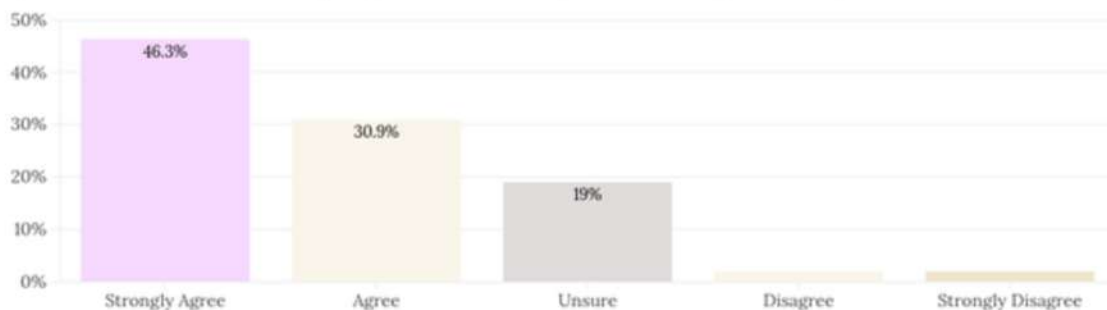


3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The proposed increases in the child care tax credit and the increased allowable FSA contributions would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family.

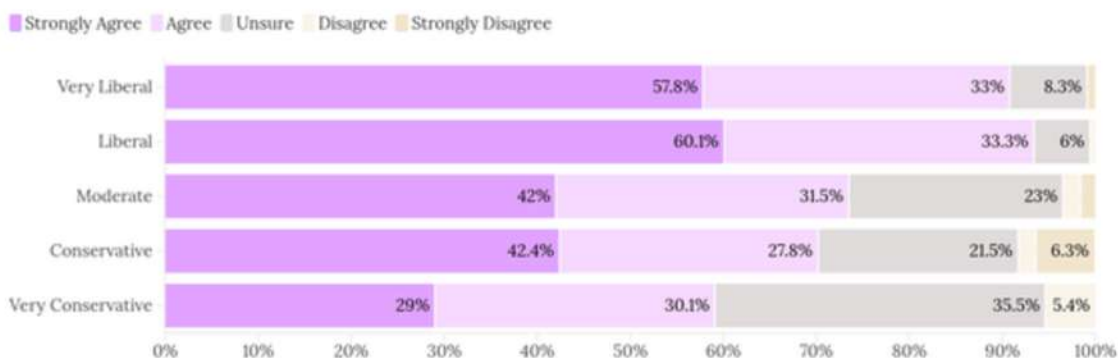
77.2% of the mothers surveyed believe that the proposed increases in the childcare tax credit and the increased allowable FSA contributions would have a positive impact on their families.

Only 3.9% disagreed that it would have a positive impact on their family, and 19% of mothers were unsure. Generally, mothers identifying as liberal were more likely to believe this than mothers identifying as conservative.

Agree or Disagree: The proposed increases in the child care tax credit and the increased allowable FSA contributions would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family.



Agree or Disagree: The Childcare Tax Increases Would Have A Positive Impact by Political Affiliation

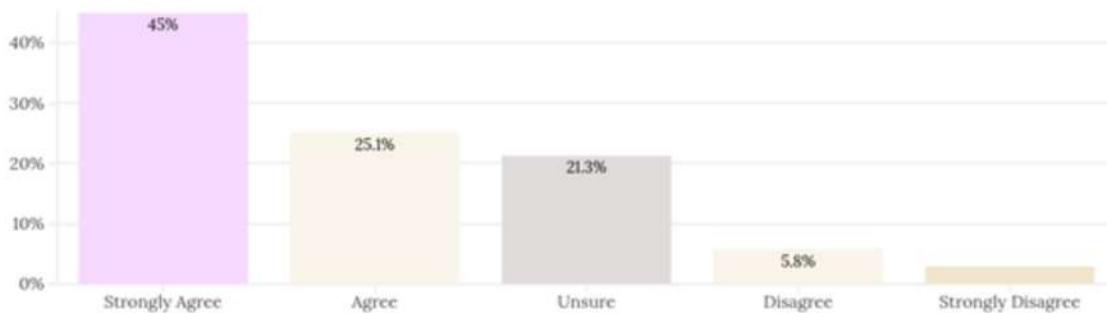




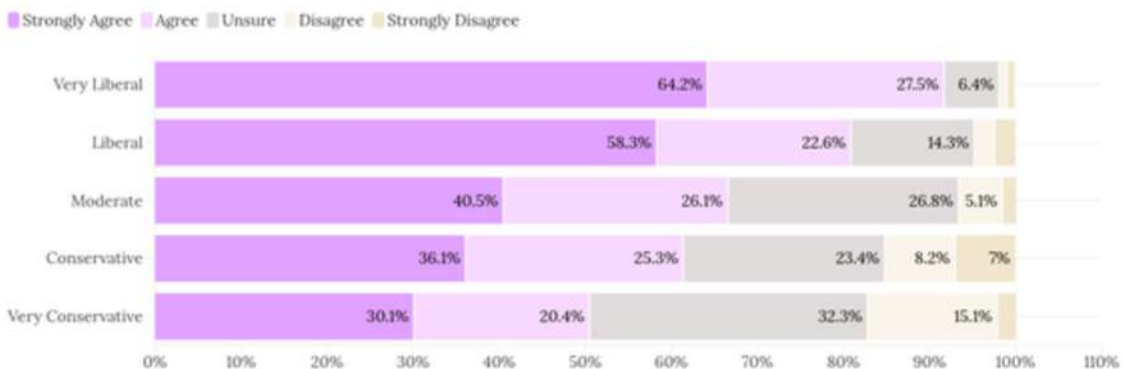
4. Increasing employer's tax credit and promoting employer subsidized childcare would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family's access to quality and reliable childcare.

70% of mothers surveyed agree that increasing employer's tax credit and promoting employer subsidized childcare would have a positive impact, and of those mothers a significant amount strongly agree (45%). Political ideology is a predictor for whether a mother would agree that this provision would have a positive impact on her family. Mothers who identified as very liberal were almost twice as likely to agree than mothers who identified as very conservative.

Agree or Disagree: Increasing employer's tax credit and promoting employer subsidized childcare would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family's access to quality and reliable childcare



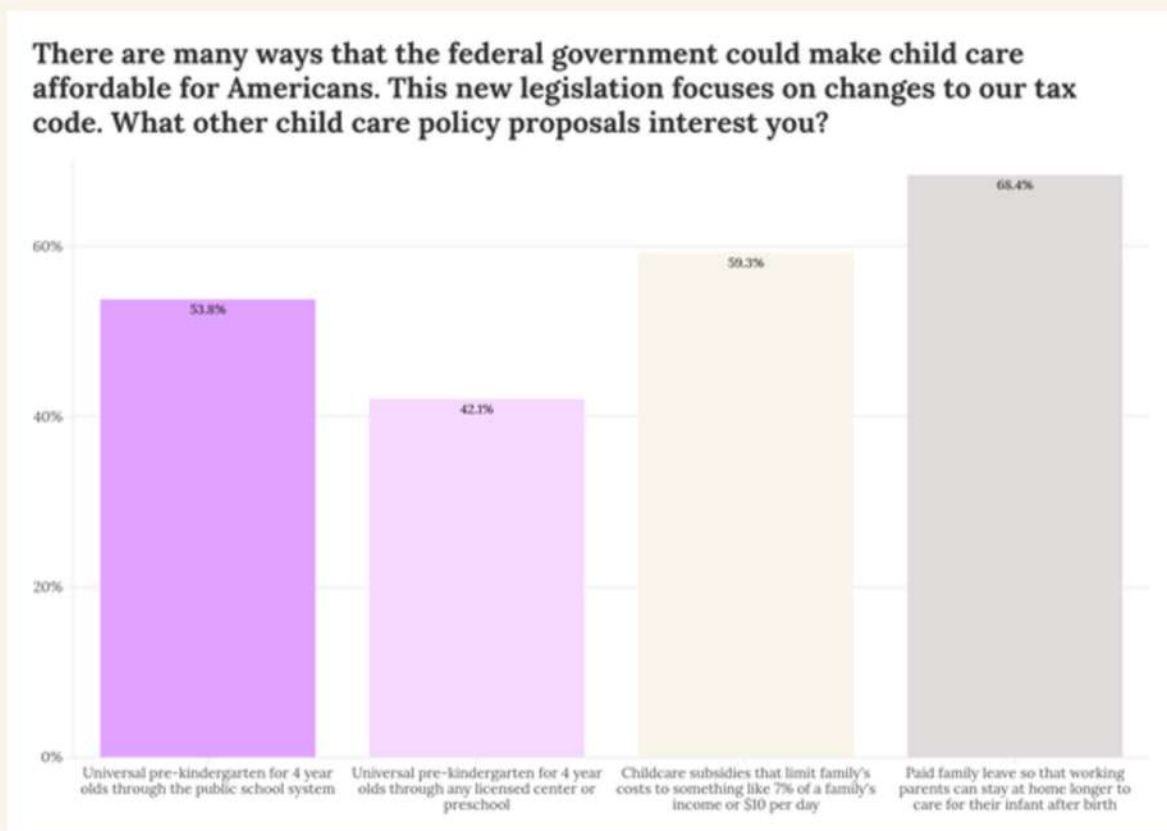
Agree or Disagree: Increasing employer's tax credit and promoting employer subsidized childcare would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family's access to quality and reliable childcare by Political Affiliation





5. There are many ways that the federal government could make child care affordable for Americans. This new legislation focuses on changes to our tax code. What other child care policy proposals interest you?

Expanding tax credits seems to be very favorable among mothers surveyed, but we also asked moms about other childcare policy proposals that interest them outside of changes to the tax code. In considering other policies, mothers were most interested in paid family leave, expressing the need for working parents to stay home longer to care for their infant after birth. Also of strong interest were childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a household income. Interestingly, when broken out by political affiliations, moms who identified as very liberal and moms who identified as very conservative most often chose a universal pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds through the public school system (81% and 95%, respectively).



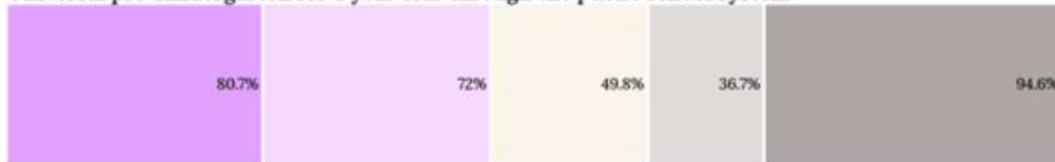


What other childcare policy proposals interest you? by Political Affiliation

There are many ways that the federal government could make child care affordable for Americans. This new legislation focuses on changes to our tax code. What other child care policy proposals interest you? by Political Affiliation

Very Liberal Liberal Moderate Conservative Very Conservative

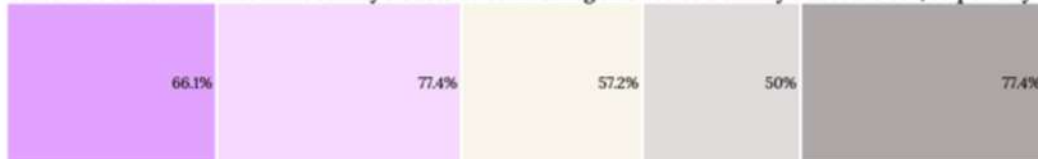
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system



Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool



Childcare subsidies that limit family's costs to something like 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day



Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth



0% 50% 100% 150% 200% 250% 300% 350%



Of those whose families had never had a childcare FSA, these were the reasons:

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Other	72	26.3%
Expand or require paid family leave	44	16.1%
Provide government subsidies for childcare	27	9.9%
Lower cost of childcare overall, through no specific plan/program	26	9.5%
Improve/expand/change tax credits	23	8.4%
Expand childcare assistance programs beyond tax credits, FSAs, subsidies, etc., so more families could benefit from different options	16	5.8%
Improve the system so that mothers do not have to sacrifice their careers to provide childcare	12	4.4%
Create some kind of assistance/program so that homeschooling families or stay-at-home parents could receive benefits	11	4.0%
Unable to afford to expand their family due to childcare costs	10	3.6%
Expand childcare assistance programs so middle class families could benefit more	10	3.6%
Improve childcare access - not enough quality childcare to meet the needs of families	7	2.6%
Improve childcare access/affordability/options specifically for children with special needs	6	2.2%
Expand/raise FSAs	4	1.5%
Government-funded programs like universal pre-k programs	4	1.5%
Expand programs so self-employed families could benefit more	2	0.7%
Total	274	100.0%



CONCLUSION

This study highlights the pressing challenges American families face in accessing affordable and reliable childcare. **The findings underscore the significant support among mothers for the proposed increases in the Childcare Tax Credit and allowable FSA contributions, with nearly 8 in 10 mothers agreeing these measures would positively impact their families.** Similarly, 70% of mothers support increasing employer tax credits and promoting employer-subsidized childcare as a way to improve access to quality childcare.

However, the data also reveal substantial gaps in the current system, with only 35% of mothers reporting ever using a childcare FSA and a significant portion of mothers unaware of how FSAs work or uncertain about their eligibility.

The qualitative responses reflect the deep personal and financial strain caused by the high cost of childcare. Mothers reported suffering financial insecurity and forgoing having additional children due to the expense and limited availability of quality childcare. This demonstrates that childcare is not just a family issue—it is an economic issue with far-reaching consequences for workforce participation and financial security.

Mothers across the political spectrum expressed a shared desire for more comprehensive and accessible childcare options, signaling an overwhelming U.S. belief for greater government support in childcare for families.

Recommendations

1. Expand Awareness and Accessibility of FSAs – Policymakers should launch a national awareness campaign to improve understanding of childcare FSAs, including eligibility requirements and benefits. Employers should also be incentivized to offer FSAs and provide clear guidance to employees on how to use them.

2. Increase and Streamline Childcare Tax Credits – Lawmakers should support and pass increases to the Childcare Tax Credit, while ensuring that the application and reimbursement process is simplified to reduce administrative burdens on families.

3. Introduce Paid Family Leave – Survey responses show strong bipartisan support for paid family leave. Federal and state-level initiatives to expand paid family leave would give working parents the financial and logistical support needed to care for their children without sacrificing financial stability.

4. Provide Direct Childcare Subsidies – Policymakers should explore direct subsidies to limit childcare costs to no more than 7% of household income, ensuring that all families, regardless of income level, have access to quality childcare.



5. Support for At-Home Care – To ensure equity for stay-at-home parents, financial support and tax incentives should be extended to families where one parent provides childcare at home. This would address the imbalance between working and stay-at-home parents, providing more families with the flexibility to choose the childcare arrangement that works best for them.

The findings from this study clearly demonstrate that mothers are seeking practical solutions to the childcare crisis. Expanding financial support through increased tax credits and FSA contributions is a critical step, and can be paired with broader structural improvements to maximize impact. Addressing staffing shortages, improving provider wages, and increasing access to flexible care options—such as evening and weekend care—are essential to ensuring that families can access reliable, high-quality childcare. Moreover, improving public awareness and simplifying the process for claiming benefits will help more families take full advantage of available resources.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic questions were asked to **ensure the sample population was representative of the US population.**

The survey data measured education level, ethnicity, political ideology, state of residence, region by zip code, and number/ages of children.

Political Ideology

800 Mothers from 47 states completed the survey focused on the Bipartisan Childcare Package. Efforts were made to ensure that survey respondents reflected a range of political ideologies, from very conservative to very liberal. Of the 800 Mothers who identified politically, 11.6% identified as very conservative, 19.8% identified as conservative, 32.1% identified as moderate, 21.0% identified as liberal, 13.6% identified as very liberal, and 1.9% identified as other.

While national data on Mothers' political ideologies has not been identified, studies have examined the political ideologies of women, in general. According to a recent Gallup Poll (2021), 32% of women identified as conservative, 37% of women identified as moderate, and 29% of Women identified as liberal. Count on Mothers will continue to invite the participation of Mothers across the political spectrum so that our sample closely mirrors these national trends.

Generally, I identify as:

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
Very Liberal	109	13.6%
Liberal	168	21.0%
Moderate	257	32.1%
Conservative	158	19.8%
Very Conservative	93	11.6%
Other	15	1.9%
Total	800	100.0%



DEMOGRAPHICS

State of Residence Question

Mothers who responded to the survey and answered the state of residence question resided in 47 states. The states with the most representation included: Ohio (11.8%), Texas (7.3%), California (6.9%), Pennsylvania (5.8%), Florida (5.4%), New York (4.5%), Michigan (3.1%), Georgia (2.9%), and North Carolina (2.3%).

Location of Respondents

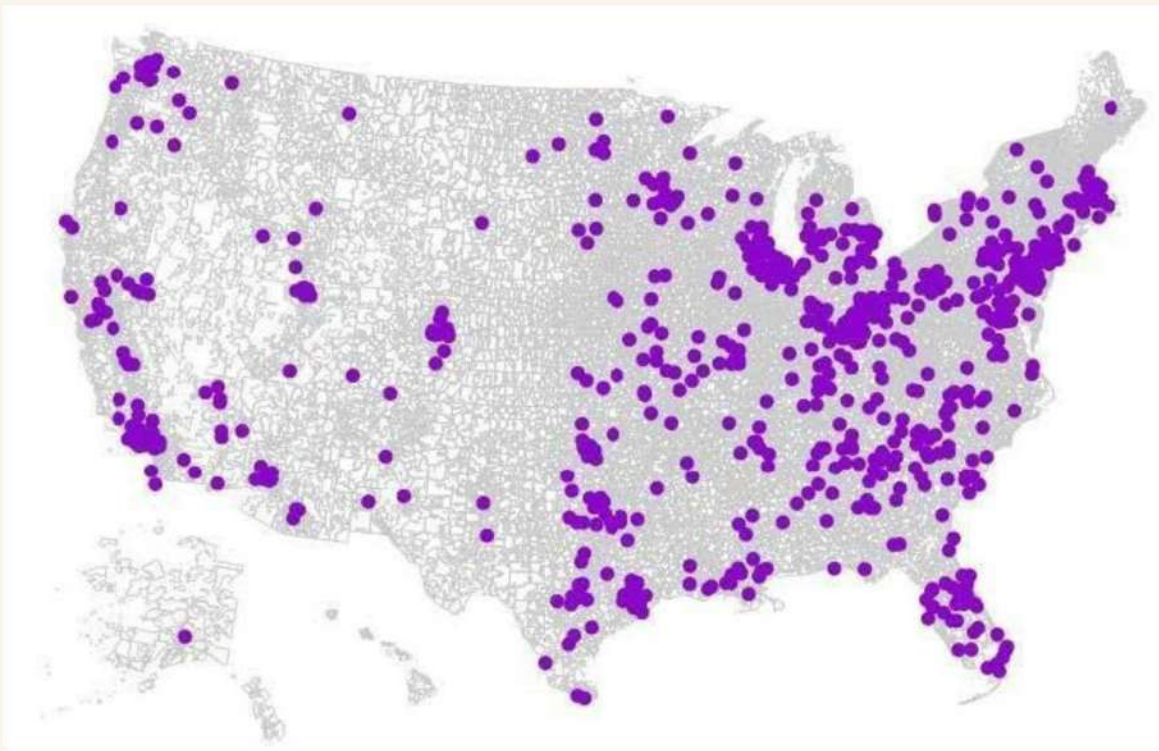
	# of Respondents	% of Sample		# of Respondents	% of Sample
Alabama	12	1.5%	Nebraska	3	0.4%
Alaska	2	0.3%	Nevada	8	1.0%
Arizona	17	2.1%	New Hampshire	3	0.4%
Arkansas	4	0.5%	New Jersey	16	2.0%
California	55	6.9%	New Mexico	4	0.5%
Colorado	14	1.8%	New York	36	4.5%
Connecticut	5	0.6%	North Carolina	18	2.3%
Delaware	0	0	North Dakota	4	0.5%
Florida	43	5.4%	Ohio	94	11.8%
Georgia	23	2.9%	Oklahoma	15	1.9%
Hawaii	1	0.1%	Oregon	5	0.6%
Idaho	3	0.4%	Pennsylvania	46	5.8%
Illinois	31	3.9%	Rhode Island	1	0.1%
Indiana	27	3.4%	South Carolina	22	2.8%
Iowa	5	0.6%	South Dakota	5	0.6%
Kansas	8	1.0%	Tennessee	14	1.8%
Kentucky	21	2.6%	Texas	58	7.3%
Louisiana	13	1.6%	Utah	8	1.0%
Maine	1	0.1%	Vermont	0	0
Maryland	11	1.4%	Virginia	17	2.1%
Massachusetts	16	2.0%	Washington	14	1.8%
Michigan	25	3.1%	Washington DC	2	0.3%
Minnesota	17	2.1%	West Virginia	6	0.8%
Mississippi	7	0.9%	Wisconsin	14	1.8%
Missouri	25	3.1%	Wyoming	0	0
Montana	1	0.1%	Grand Total	800	100.0%



DEMOGRAPHICS

Zip Code

We asked mothers to provide their zip code to give legislators an idea of districts where mothers who participate in Count on Mothers surveys live. We are actively involved in expanding these districts and reaching out to more mothers in each district.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity, Number of Children, and Education level

- Most mothers surveyed reported having 1 or 2 children (63%), which is in line with national averages (Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/05/07/family-size-among-mothers/>)
- The race and ethnicity of mothers surveyed were also similarly distributed to the US national distributions (2020 US Census: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html>)
- The majority of mothers surveyed (53%) did not have a college degree, while 47% of mothers had at least an associate degree.

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	0.6%
Asian or Asian American	19	2.4%
Black or African American	80	10.0%
Hispanic or Latino/a	49	6.1%
Middle Eastern or North African	6	0.8%
Multiracial	22	2.8%
Native Hawai'ian or Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
White or Caucasian	617	77.1%
Total	799	100.0%



DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of Children

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
1	246	30.8%
2	316	39.5%
3	142	17.8%
4	64	8.0%
5+	32	4.0%
Total	800	100.0%

Highest level of education completed

	# of Respondents	Percent of Sample
12th grade or less	32	4.2%
Graduated from high school or equivalent (e.g. GED)	135	17.6%
Some college, but no degree	138	17.9%
Associate degree	84	10.9%
Bachelor's degree	225	29.3%
Master's degree	118	15.3%
Doctoral degree	37	4.8%
Total	769	96%



APPENDIX

Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	601	75.1%
No	84	10.5%
Unsure	115	14.4%
Grand Total	800	100.0%

By Political Affiliation:

Very Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	89	81.7%
No	9	8.3%
Unsure	11	10.1%
Grand Total	109	100.0%

Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	127	75.6%
No	18	10.7%
Unsure	23	13.7%
Grand Total	168	100.0%

Moderate

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	187	72.8%
No	26	10.1%
Unsure	44	17.1%
Grand Total	257	100.0%

Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	117	74.1%
No	19	12.0%
Unsure	22	13.9%
Grand Total	158	100.0%

Very Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	69	74.2%
No	11	11.8%
Unsure	13	14.0%
Grand Total	93	100.0%



APPENDIX

Has your family ever claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?

By Education Level:

12th grade or less

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	20	62.5%
No	4	12.5%
Unsure	8	25.0%
Grand Total	32	100.0%

Graduated from high school or equivalent (e.g. GED)

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	103	76.3%
No	12	8.9%
Unsure	20	14.8%
Grand Total	135	100.0%

Some college, but no degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	105	76.1%
No	15	10.9%
Unsure	18	13.0%
Grand Total	138	100.0%

Associate degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	72	85.7%
No	3	3.6%
Unsure	9	10.7%
Grand Total	84	100.0%

Bachelor's degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	169	75.1%
No	26	11.6%
Unsure	30	13.3%
Grand Total	225	100.0%

Master's degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	84	71.2%
No	16	13.6%
Unsure	18	15.3%
Grand Total	118	100.0%

Doctoral degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	29	78.4%
No	5	13.5%
Unsure	3	8.1%
Grand Total	37	100.0%



APPENDIX

Reasons why families HAVE NOT claimed the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Open Field Responses	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Does not use paid childcare	23	33.3%
New baby/have not filed taxes yet	19	27.5%
Never heard of this credit	7	10.1%
Over the income limit	6	8.7%
Does not qualify (no earned income/owes less than the amount of credit)	5	7.2%
Unaware of the qualifications/eligibility or how to claim credit	4	5.8%
Does not qualify (unspecified)	3	4.3%
Just never did	2	2.9%
Grand Total	69	100.0%

By Number of Children

1 child

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	156	63.4%
No	46	18.7%
Unsure	44	17.9%
Grand Total	246	100.0%

2 children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	257	81.3%
No	20	6.3%
Unsure	39	12.3%
Grand Total	316	100.0%

3 children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	115	81.0%
No	8	5.6%
Unsure	19	13.4%
Grand Total	142	100.0%

4 children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	257	81.3%
No	20	6.3%
Unsure	39	12.3%
Grand Total	316	100.0%

5+ children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	21	65.6%
No	6	18.8%
Unsure	5	15.6%
Grand Total	32	100.0%



APPENDIX

Table 1a.
Has your family ever had a childcare FSA?

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	276	34.5%
No	225	28.1%
Unsure	299	37.4%
Grand Total	800	100.0%

If no, please specify why:

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Does not use paid childcare	46	20.6%
Unaware/never heard of child care FSA	46	20.6%
Not offered by employer/unsure if offered by employer	44	19.7%
Doesn't need it/no reason/just didn't utilize	38	17.0%
Too complicated/not beneficial enough to be worth it	8	3.6%
New baby/Has not needed childcare yet	7	3.1%
Self-employed	5	2.2%
Doesn't have enough money to deduct from payroll	6	2.7%
Has not used it, but plans to in the future	4	1.8%
*Believes their childcare provider does not accept FSA funds	3	1.3%
Does not qualify (unspecified reason)/believes not eligible	5	2.2%
Not currently employed	3	1.3%
*Uses HSA instead	3	1.3%
Other	2	0.9%
Pays cash for childcare	2	0.9%
Does not want to lose any unused funds	1	0.4%
Grand Total	223	100.0%



APPENDIX

Has your family ever had a childcare FSA? by Education Level

By Education Level:

12th grade or less

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	3	9.4%
No	6	18.8%
Unsure	23	71.9%
Grand Total	32	100.0%

Graduated from high school or equivalent (e.g. GED)

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	23	17.0%
No	26	19.3%
Unsure	86	63.7%
Grand Total	135	100.0%

Some college, but no degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	29	21.0%
No	44	31.9%
Unsure	65	47.1%
Grand Total	138	100.0%

Associate degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	28	33.3%
No	21	25.0%
Unsure	35	41.7%
Grand Total	84	100.0%

Bachelor's degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	93	41.3%
No	78	34.7%
Unsure	54	24.0%
Grand Total	225	100.0%

Master's degree

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	63	53.4%
No	35	29.7%
Unsure	20	16.9%
Grand Total	118	100.0%



APPENDIX

Has your family ever had a childcare FSA? by Number of Children

By Number of Children:

1 child

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	79	32.1%
No	92	37.4%
Unsure	75	30.5%
Grand Total	246	100.0%

2 children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	132	41.8%
No	69	21.8%
Unsure	115	36.4%
Grand Total	316	100.0%

3 children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	47	33.1%
No	33	23.2%
Unsure	62	43.7%
Grand Total	142	100.0%

4 children

		# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	15	23.4%	
No	20	31.3%	
Unsure	29	45.3%	
Grand Total	64	100.0%	

5+ children

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Yes	3	9.4%
No	11	34.4%
Unsure	18	56.3%
Grand Total	32	100.0%



APPENDIX

The proposed increases in the child care tax credit and the increased allowable FSA contributions would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	370	46.3%
Agree	247	30.9%
Unsure	152	19.0%
Disagree	15	1.9%
Strongly disagree	16	2.0%
Grand Total	800	100.0%

By Political Affiliation:

Very Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	63	57.8%
Agree	36	33.0%
Unsure	9	8.3%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly disagree	1	0.9%
Grand Total	109	100%

Moderate

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	108	42.0%
Agree	81	31.5%
Unsure	59	23.0%
Disagree	5	1.9%
Strongly disagree	4	1.6%
Grand Total	257	100.0%



APPENDIX

Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	101	60.1%
Agree	56	33.3%
Unsure	10	6.0%
Disagree	1	0.6%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Grand Total	168	100.0%

Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	67	42.4%
Agree	44	27.8%
Unsure	34	21.5%
Disagree	3	1.9%
Strongly disagree	10	6.3%
Grand Total	158	100.0%

Very Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	27	29.0%
Agree	28	30.1%
Unsure	33	35.5%
Disagree	5	5.4%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%
Grand Total	93	100.0%



APPENDIX

Increasing employer's tax credit and promoting employer subsidized childcare would have (or would have had) a positive impact on my family's access to quality and reliable childcare

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	360	45.0%
Agree	201	25.1%
Unsure	170	21.3%
Disagree	46	5.8%
Strongly disagree	23	2.9%
Grand Total	800	100.0%

By Political Affiliation:

Very Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	70	64.2%
Agree	30	27.5%
Unsure	7	6.4%
Disagree	1	0.9%
Strongly disagree	1	0.9%
Grand Total	109	100.0%

Moderate

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	104	40.5%
Agree	67	26.1%
Unsure	69	26.8%
Disagree	13	5.1%
Strongly disagree	4	1.6%
Grand Total	257	100.0%



APPENDIX

Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	98	58.3%
Agree	38	22.6%
Unsure	24	14.3%
Disagree	4	2.4%
Strongly disagree	4	2.4%
Grand Total	168	100.0%

Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	57	36.1%
Agree	40	25.3%
Unsure	37	23.4%
Disagree	13	8.2%
Strongly disagree	11	7.0%
Grand Total	158	100.0%

Very Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Strongly agree	28	30.1%
Agree	19	20.4%
Unsure	30	32.3%
Disagree	14	15.1%
Strongly disagree	2	2.2%
Grand Total	93	100.0%



APPENDIX

There are many ways that the federal government could make childcare affordable for Americans. This new legislation focuses on changes to our tax code. What other childcare policies interest you?

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	430	53.8%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	337	42.1%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	474	59.3%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	547	68.4%
Grand Total	800	

By Political Affiliation:

Very Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	88	80.7%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	66	60.6%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	72	66.1%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	61	56.0%
Grand Total	109	

Liberal

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	121	72.0%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	99	58.9%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	130	77.4%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	137	81.5%
Grand Total	168	



APPENDIX

Moderate

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	128	49.8%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	110	42.8%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	147	57.2%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	181	70.4%
Grand Total	158	

Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	58	36.7%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	43	27.2%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	79	50.0%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	102	64.4%
Grand Total	158	

Very Conservative

	# of Respondents	% of Sample
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through the public school system	88	94.6%
Universal pre-kindergarten for 4 year olds through any licensed center or preschool	66	71.0%
Childcare subsidies that limit family's cost to 7% of a family's income or \$10 per day	72	77.4%
Paid family leave so that working parents can stay at home longer to care for their infant after birth	61	65.6%
Grand Total	93	