

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Illinois Parent Survey Panel

Parent Perspectives, Challenges, and Values



RAPID

What is the Illinois Parent Survey Panel?

Illinois Action for Children has partnered with the RAPID survey project at the Stanford Center on Early Childhood to conduct a quarterly survey with an ongoing panel of parents.

- A platform to elevate parents' voices
- Inform policy making and programs across Illinois
- Build new relationships and engage with parents

Strong Families, Powerful Communities



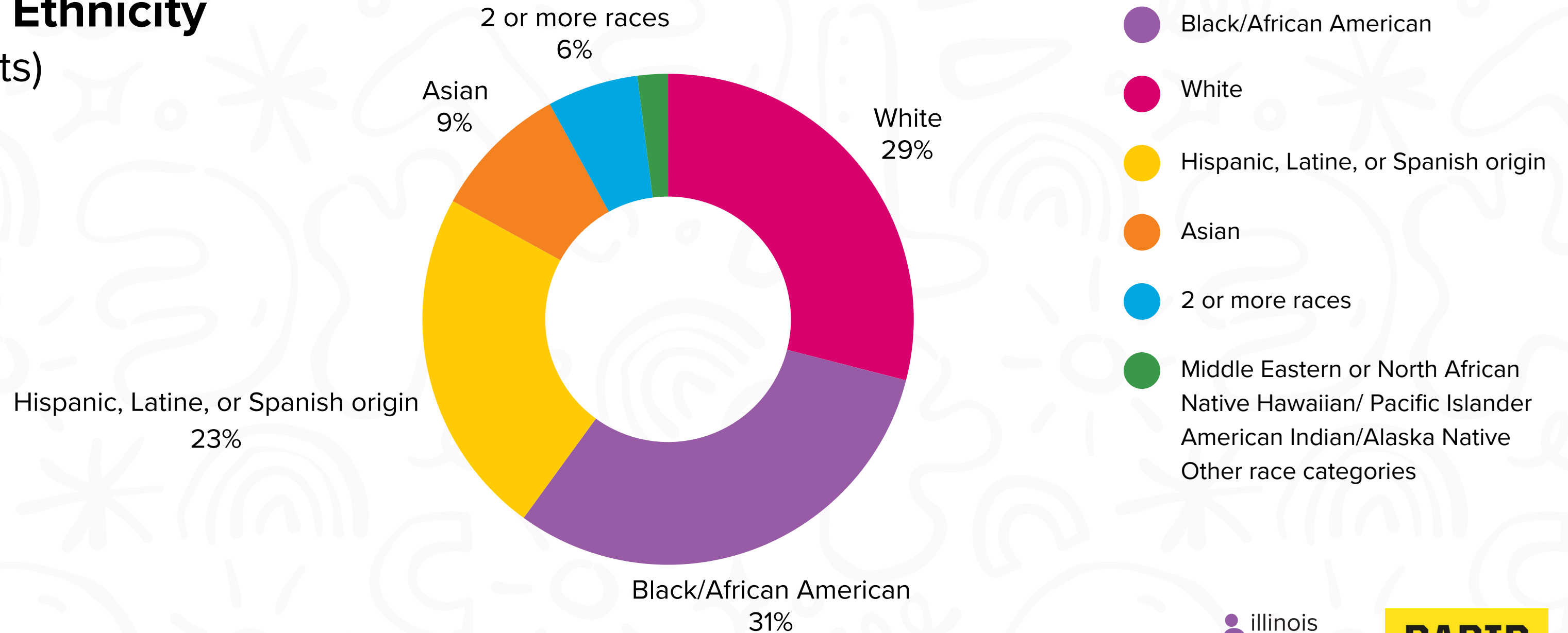


PARENTS



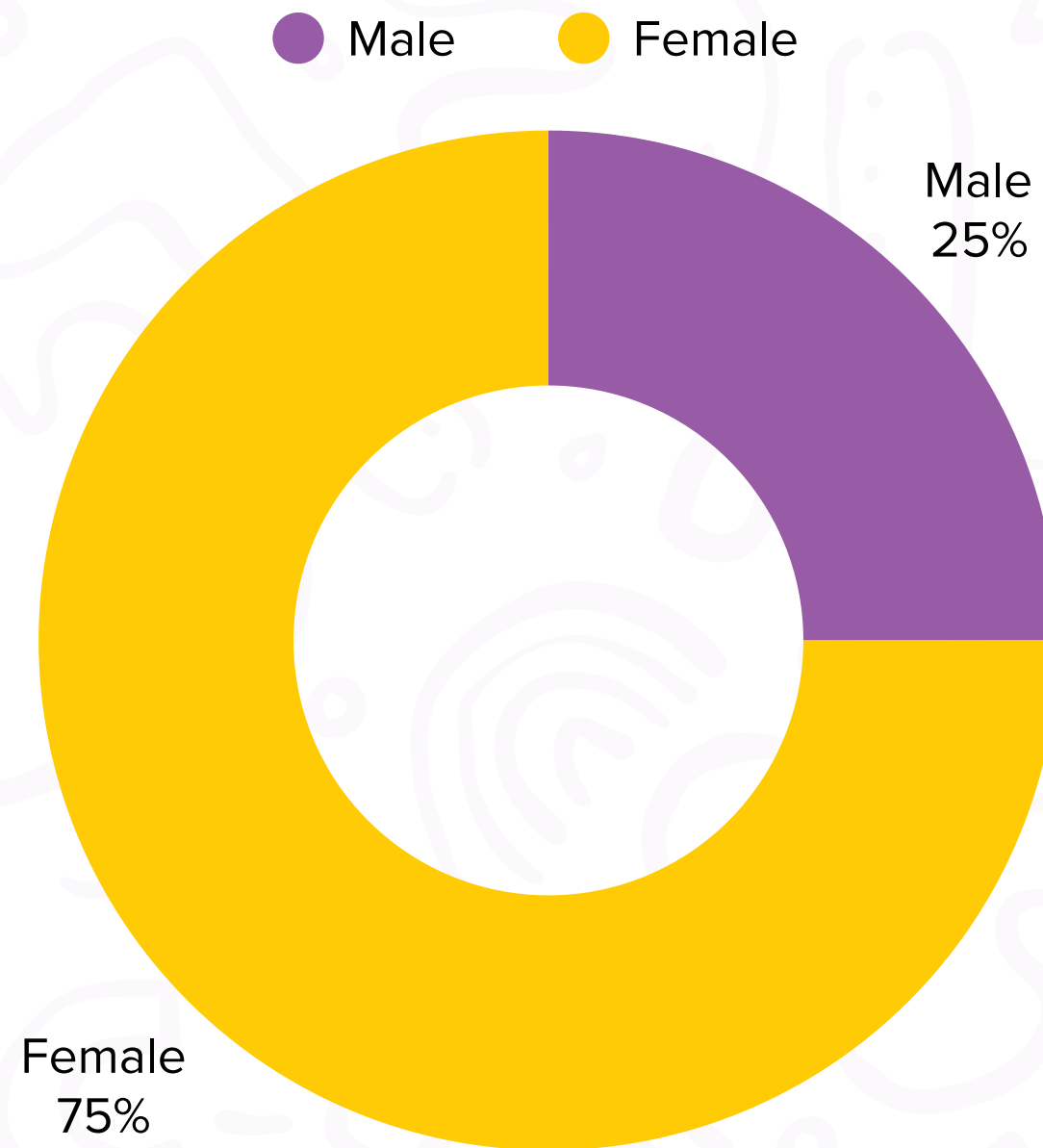
Who Are the Parents on Our Panel?

Race and Ethnicity (479 parents)



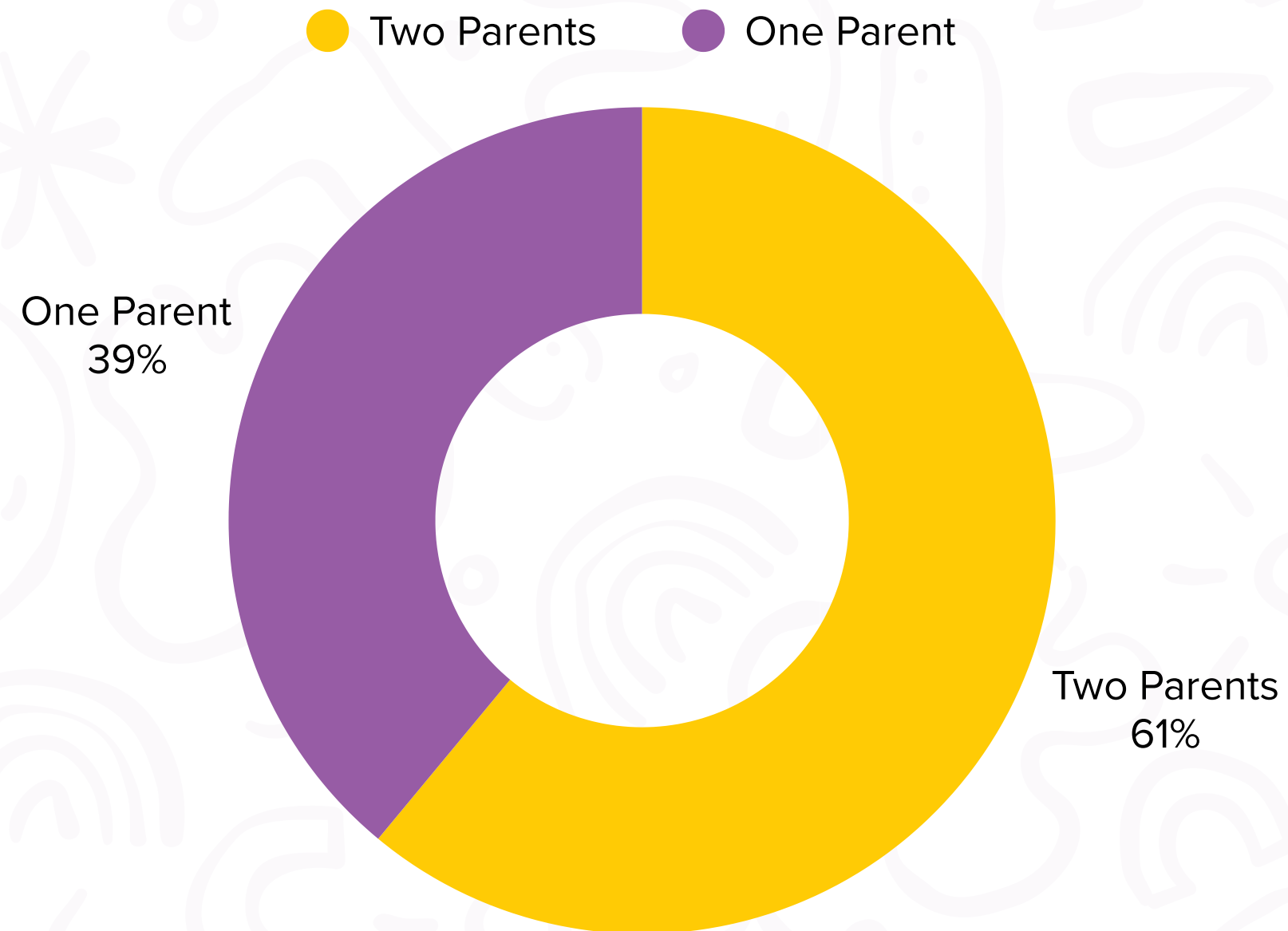
Who Are the Parents on Our Panel?

Gender
(479 parents)



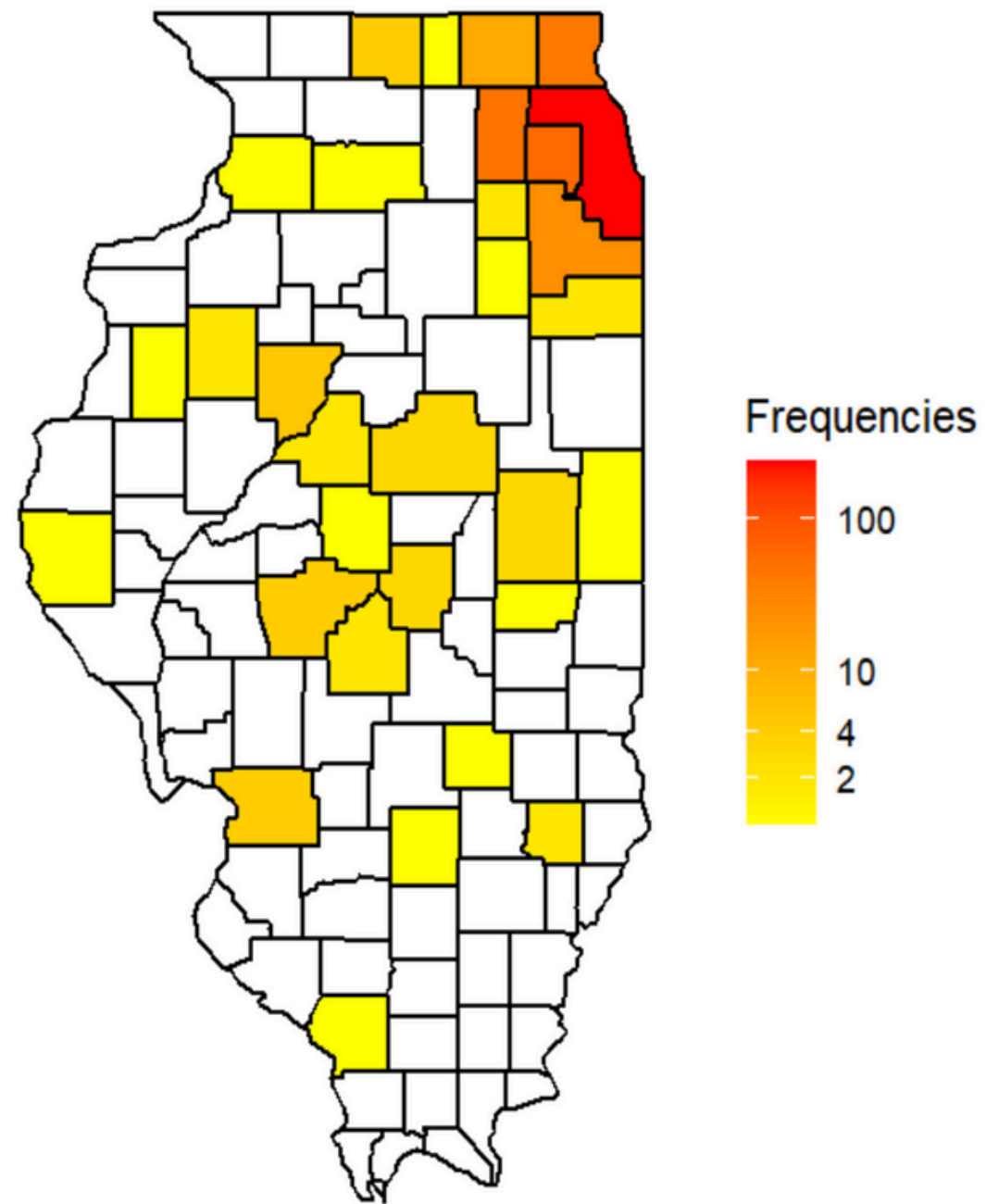
Who Are the Parents on Our Panel?

Number of Parents in the Home (479 parents)



Who Are the Parents on Our Panel?

County Distribution (479 parents)



Parents' Hopes for their Children

"I hope he starts walking and talking and completing his baby milestones. I'm grateful he is such a healthy and happy baby."

"To start to pronounce words more, identify colors and numbers, and become fully potty trained"

"Continue progressing in speech and learn to control emotions appropriately."

"To get rid of her pacifier, become potty trained, and to begin head start by January 2024"

PARENTS

Employment and Finances

Parents' Biggest Challenges

High Cost of Living

"The biggest concern is that our economy is not getting any better. Everything is going up and I might lose my home. Bills are expensive and having 6 kids is hard to maintain them."

Housing Concerns

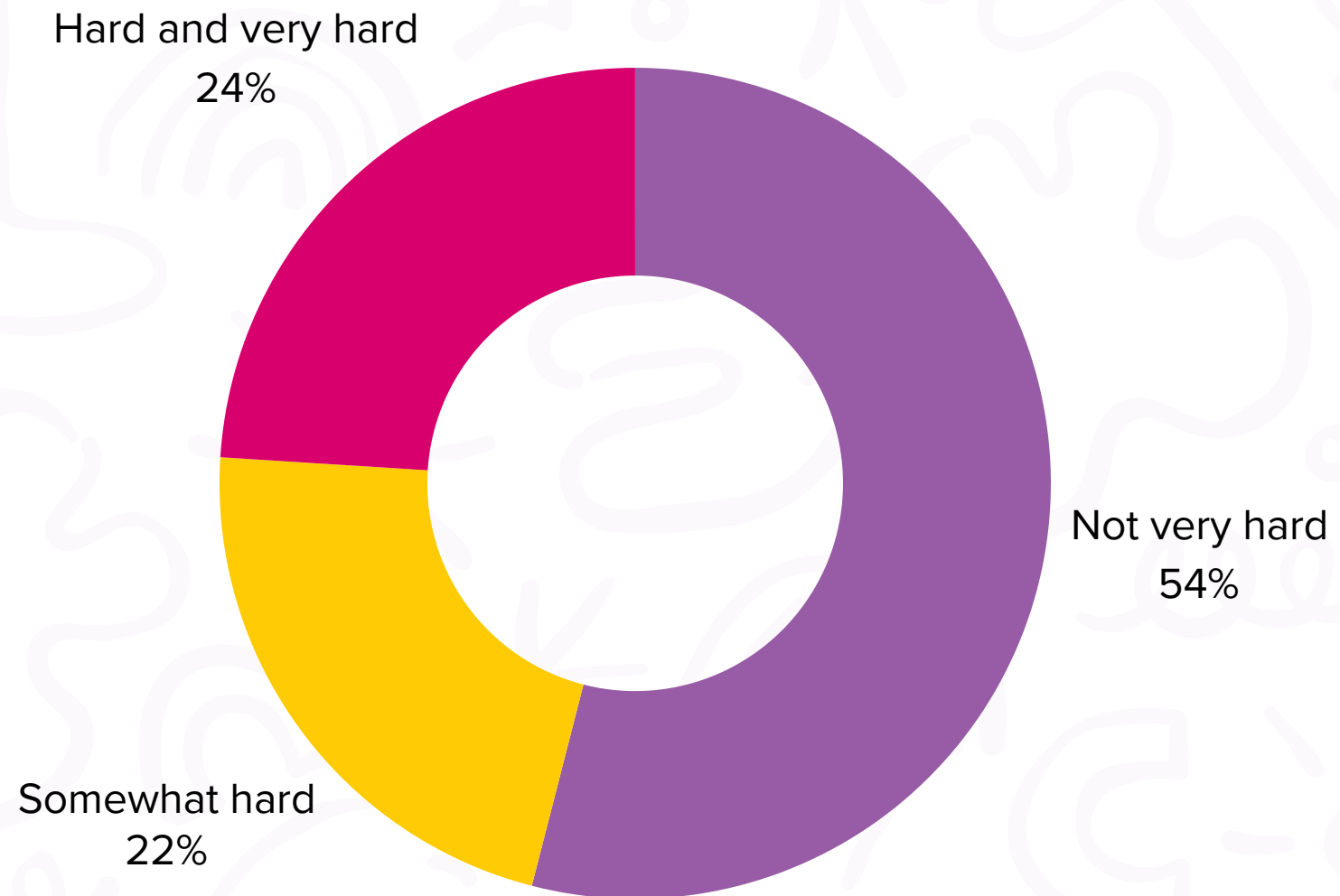
"I need a place to stay for both me and her."

Need for Higher Paying Jobs

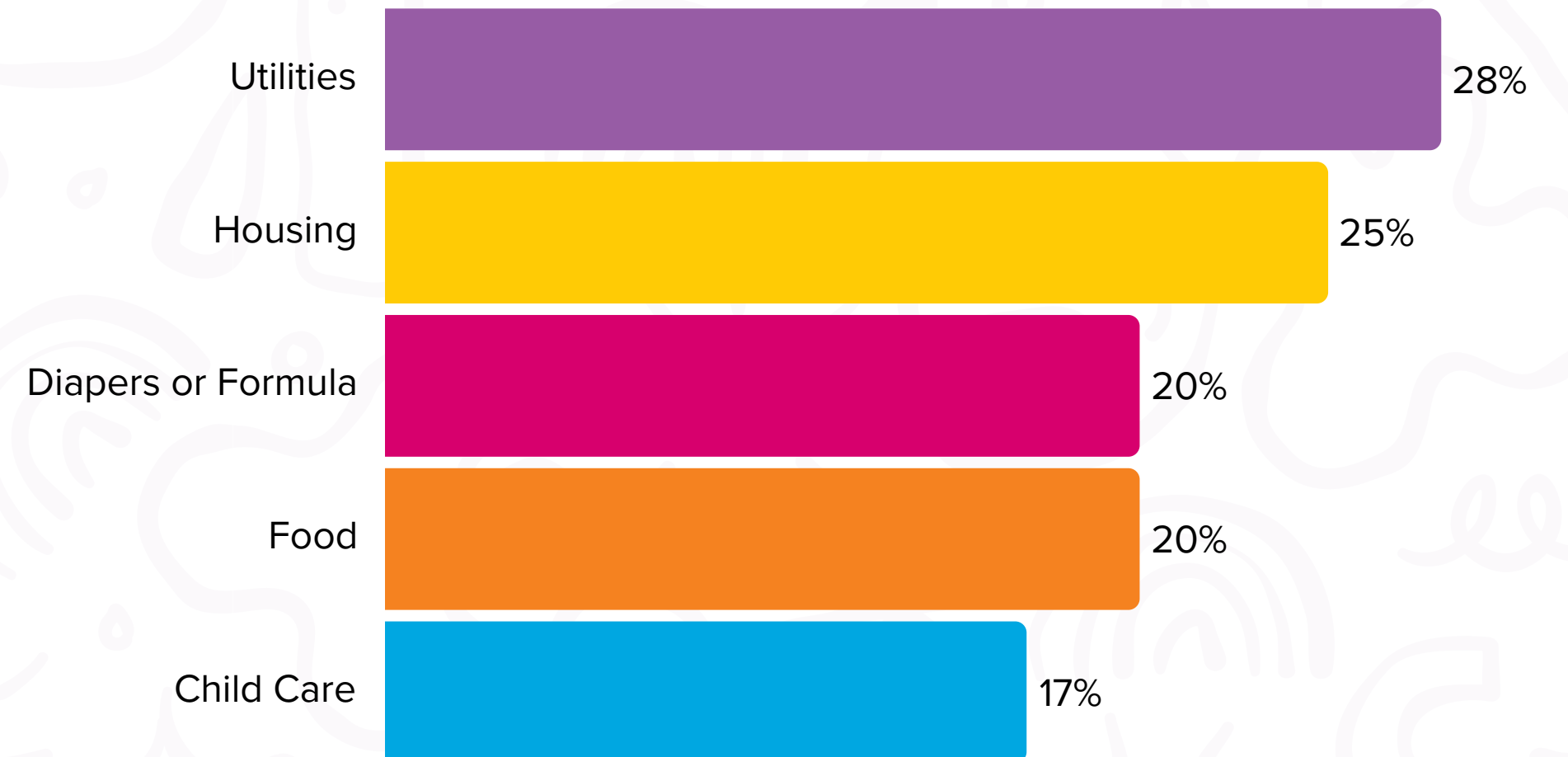
"Not having enough food. Not being able to pay for childcare. Not having transportation due to vehicle issues and no money to pay for auto repairs. Not being able to pay for gas"

Parents' Financial Well-Being

In the past month, how hard has it been for your family to pay for the very basics?
(405 parents)

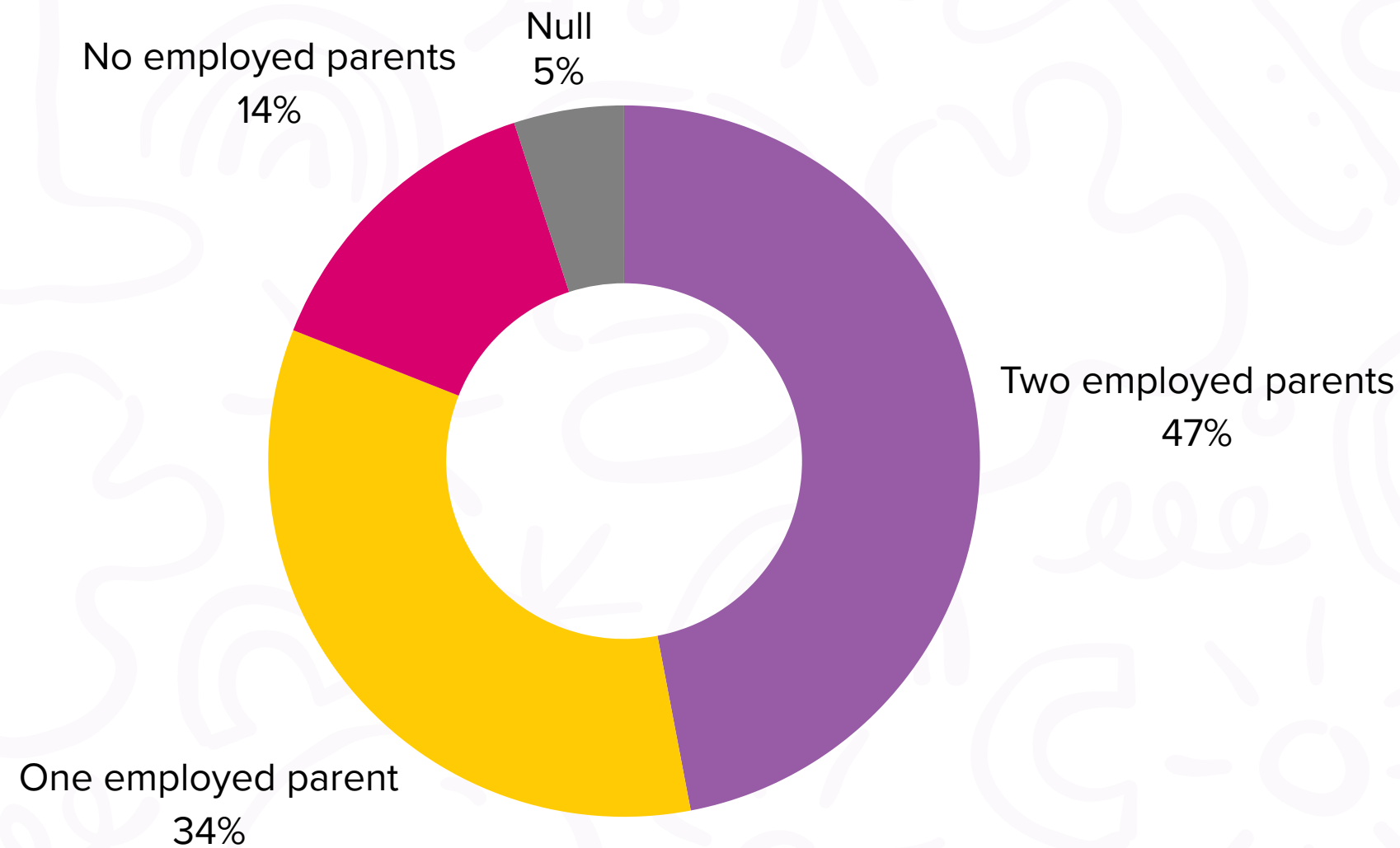


Basic Needs That Are Hardest to Pay For
(419 parents)

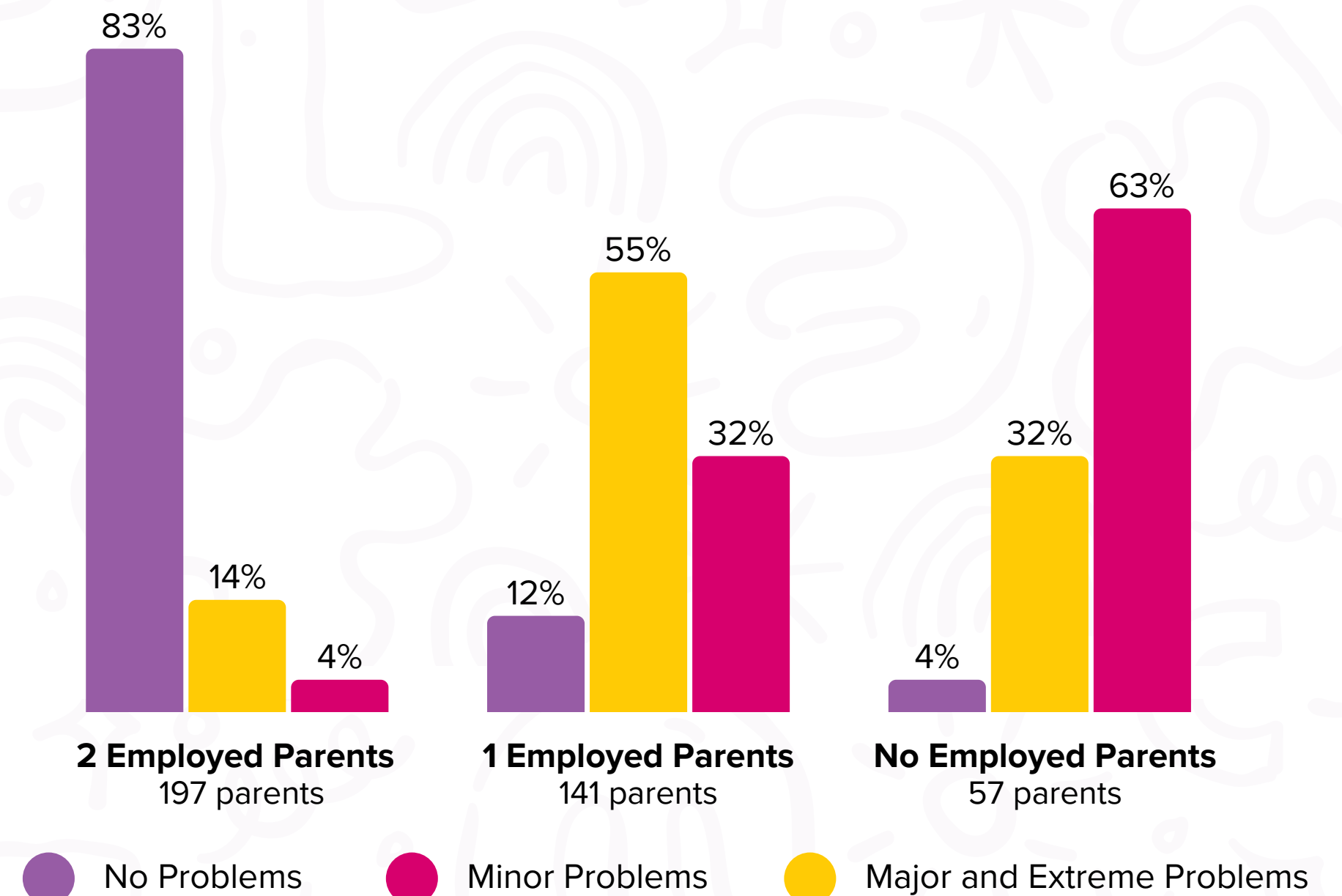


Parents' Employment Status

Number of Employed Parents in the Home (419 parents)



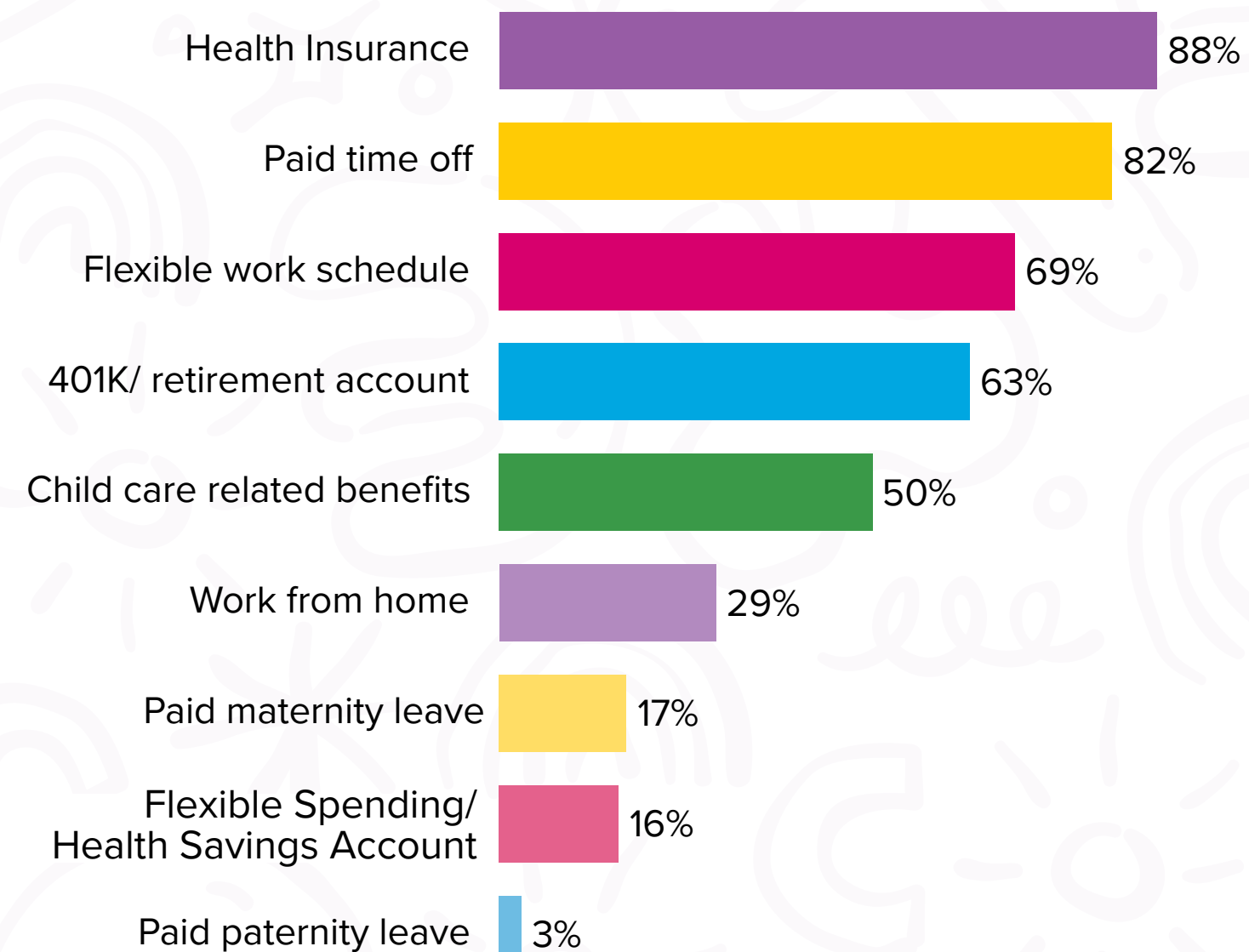
Family's Financial Problems (419 parents)



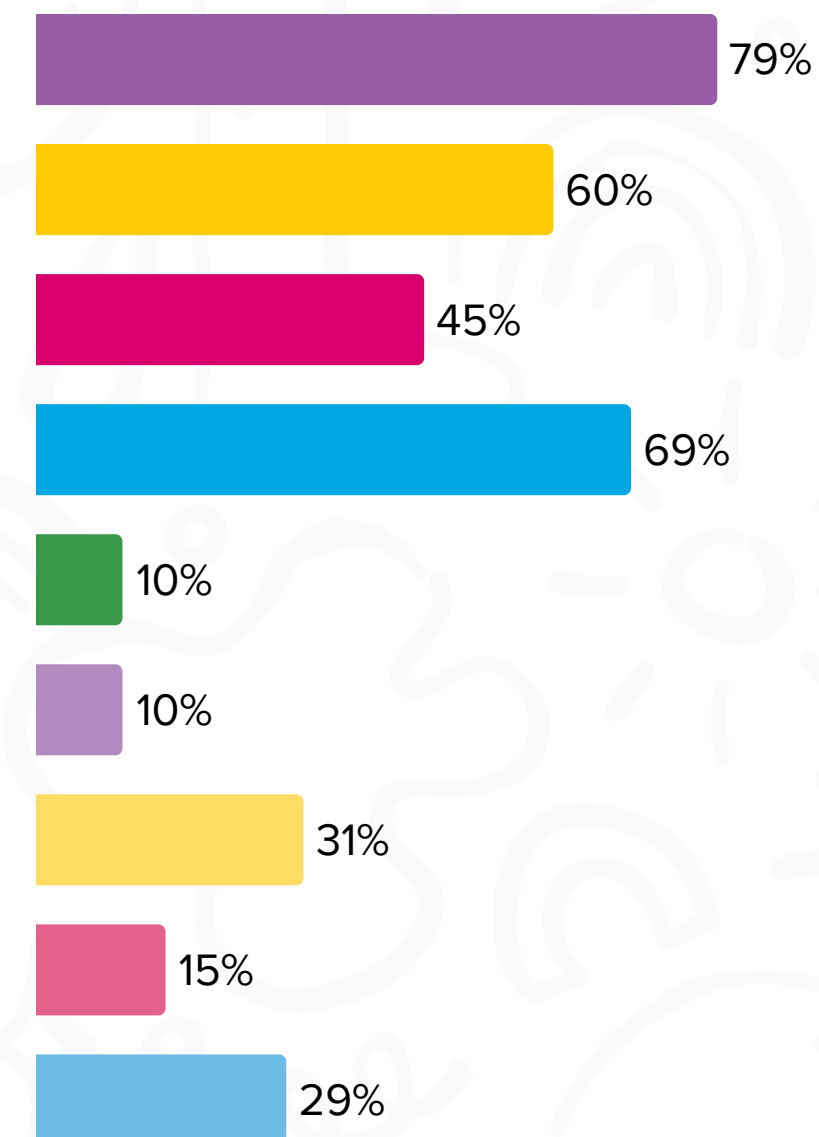
Job Benefits That Parents Receive & Value

Job Benefits Most Important to Parents

(291 parents)



Job Benefits That Parents or Their Partners Receive



Challenges of Working Parents

Spending time with their children

“Giving my son my attention and energy and being present with him. Work took all my best hours and left me stressed and exhausted. When working full time from home and being a full time stay at home parent, I was unable to properly care for my child and unable to properly perform my job functions.”

Finding child care that fits their schedules

“Having to call off and switch [my] schedule around when one of the boys is sick and not having someone to watch them to work fulltime”

Managing multiple responsibilities

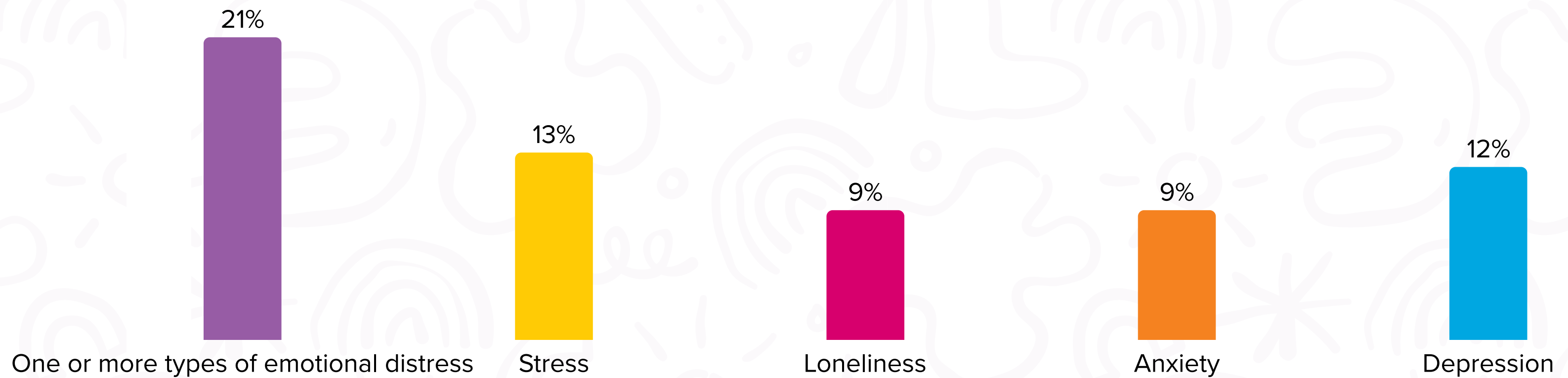
“Time. There are not enough hours in a day for me to work, take/pick-up my kids to/from school, take/pickup from extracurricular activities, make home cooked meals, clean, help kids with homework, family time, grooming, etc.”

PARENTS

Mental Well-Being

Parents' Mental Well-Being

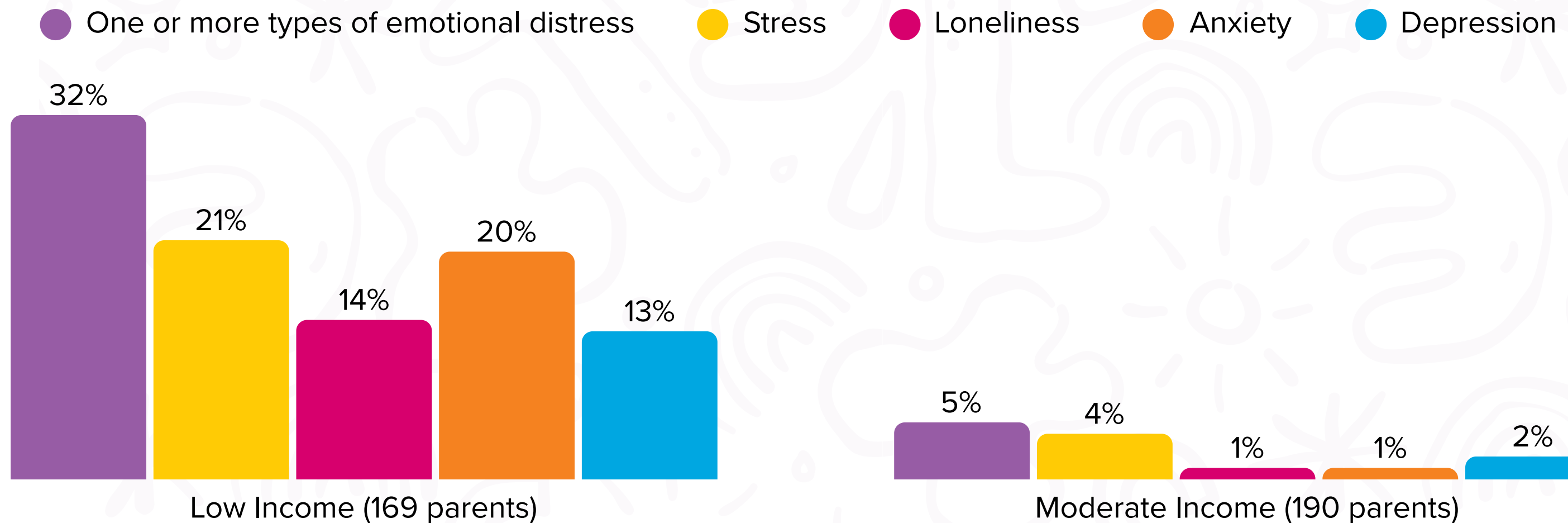
Parents Experiencing Frequent Emotional Distress (419 parents)



Parents who report experiencing anxiety or depression 'more than half the days' or 'nearly every day' in the past month, or who experienced stress or loneliness 'usually', or 'always' in the past month.

Parents' Mental Well-Being

Parents Experiencing Frequent Emotional Distress (By Income Level)



Please note: 60 parents did not share their income. When we studied their mental well-being levels, they showed similar rates of emotional distress as the group of parents with low income.

What Is Helping Parents the Most

Government assistance programs

“A big help for us right now is being able to get formula for my baby through WIC. Sometimes we use the food pantries. That helps us a lot.”

“Child care assistance program. SNAP. LIHEAP. Support from my parents.”

Family’s Support

“We have a huge family. We are all very close and help each other. We would be lost without them.”

Having employment and child care

“Therapy and medication help with my worrying thoughts. Staying present with my child so I can be a part of his developing world. My husband is a great support.”



FAMILIES

FAMILIES

Family Time

Quality Time with Family

**Eating or making
food together**

"Playing board games together, baking together, going out for a family activity together, movie night at home with popcorn and other goodies, crafting. Quality time means no phones out and all our attention is on the current activity we are doing together."

Playing together

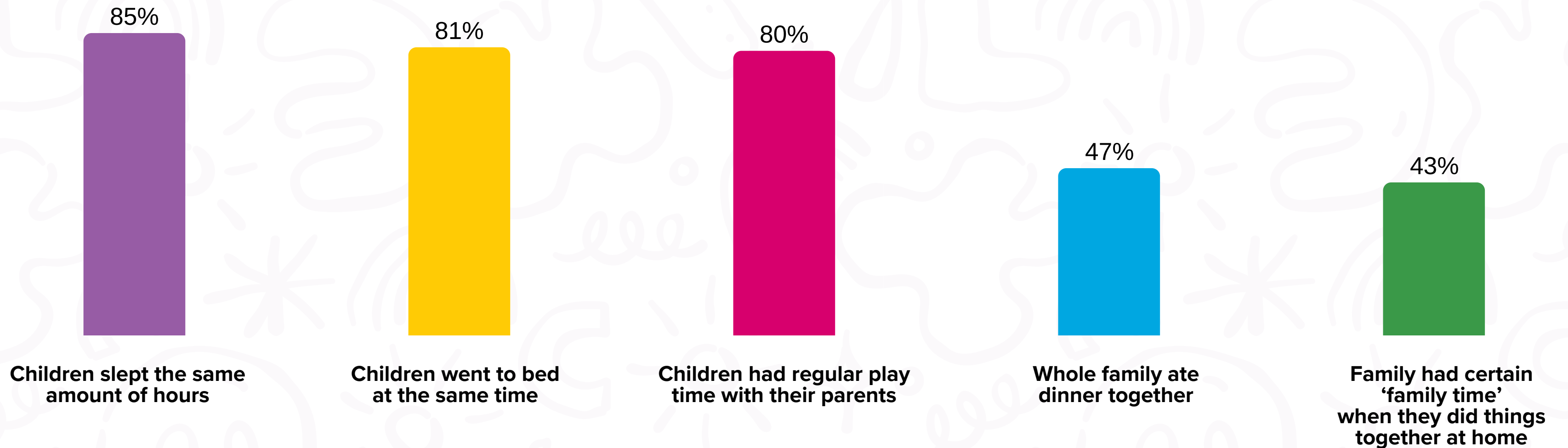
"Time spent with the family being relaxed and non-stressed. Time where we can enjoy each other's company and laugh. Time for cuddles and tickles. Time for smiling and loving one another."

**Enjoying each other's
company**

"Eating dinner together every night. Engaging in conversations that are important to my children. Being supportive of their activities."

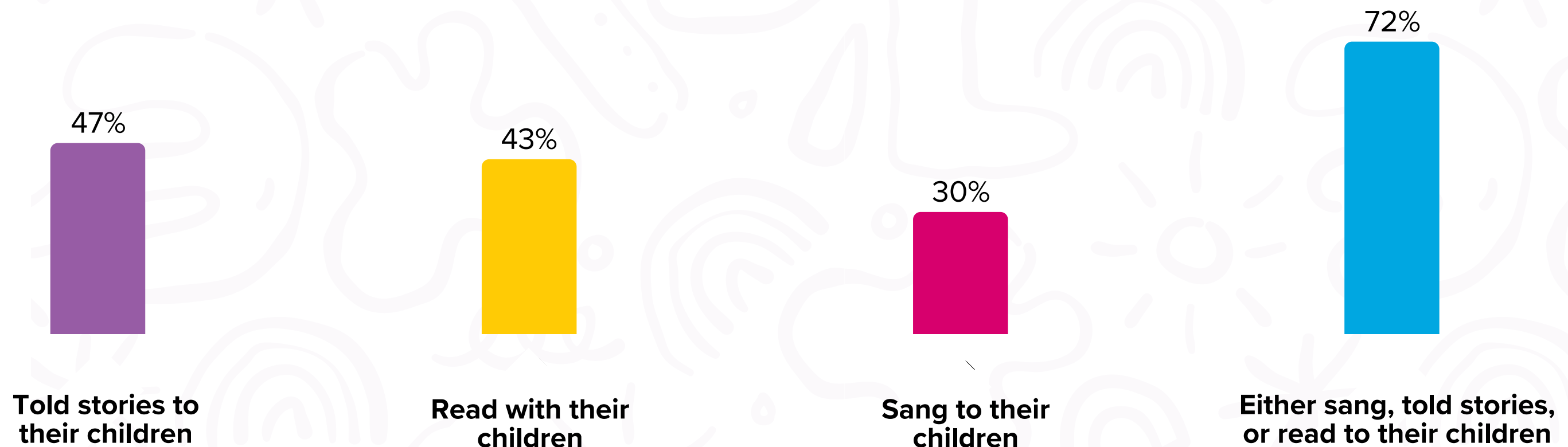
Family routines

Families that had the following routines almost every day
(310 parents)

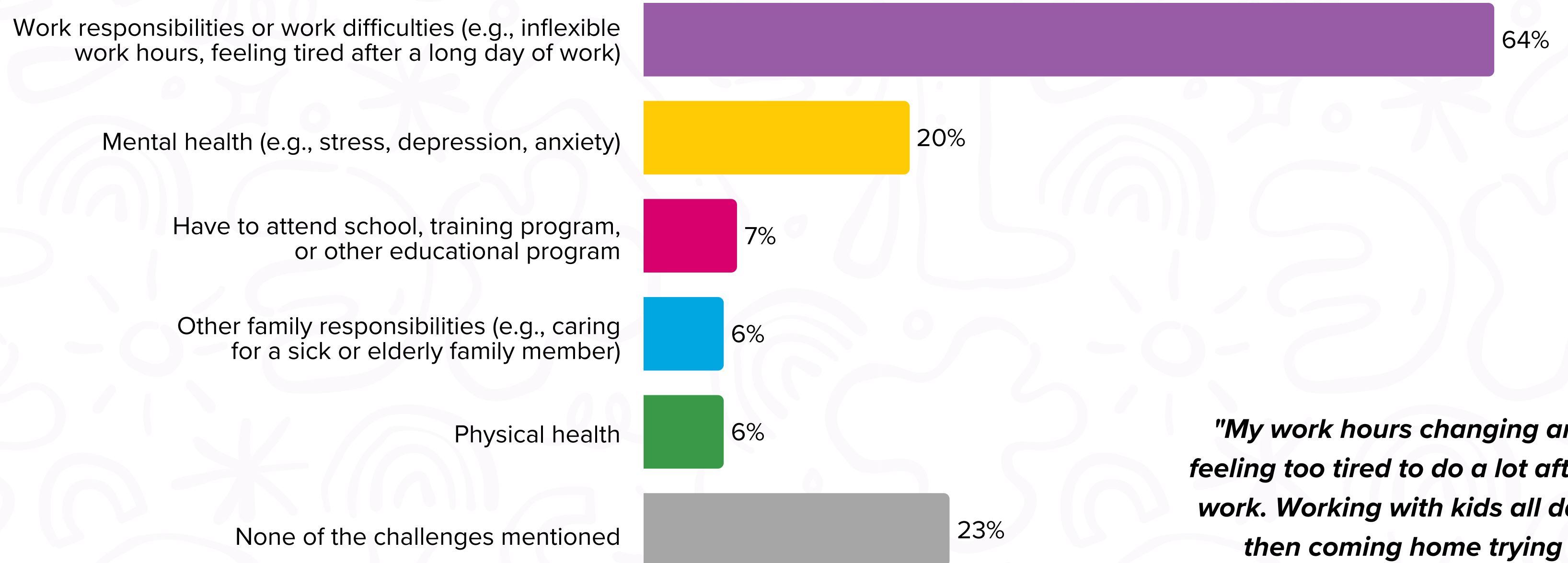


Routines That Support Language Development

Families had the following language development activities almost every day
(310 parents)



Challenges to Quality Time



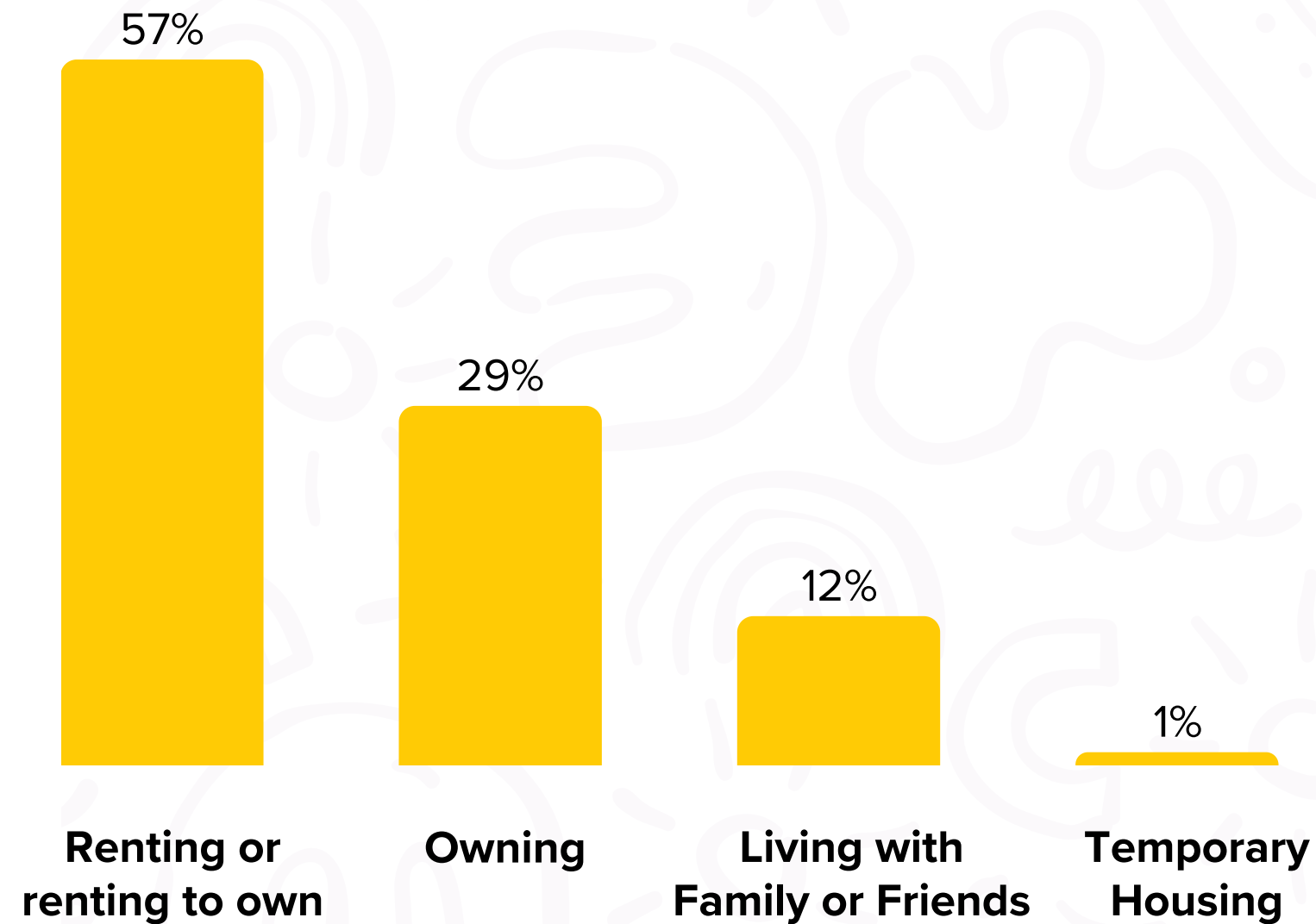
"My work hours changing and feeling too tired to do a lot after work. Working with kids all day then coming home trying to engage in fun activities with my own child has become hard."

FAMILIES

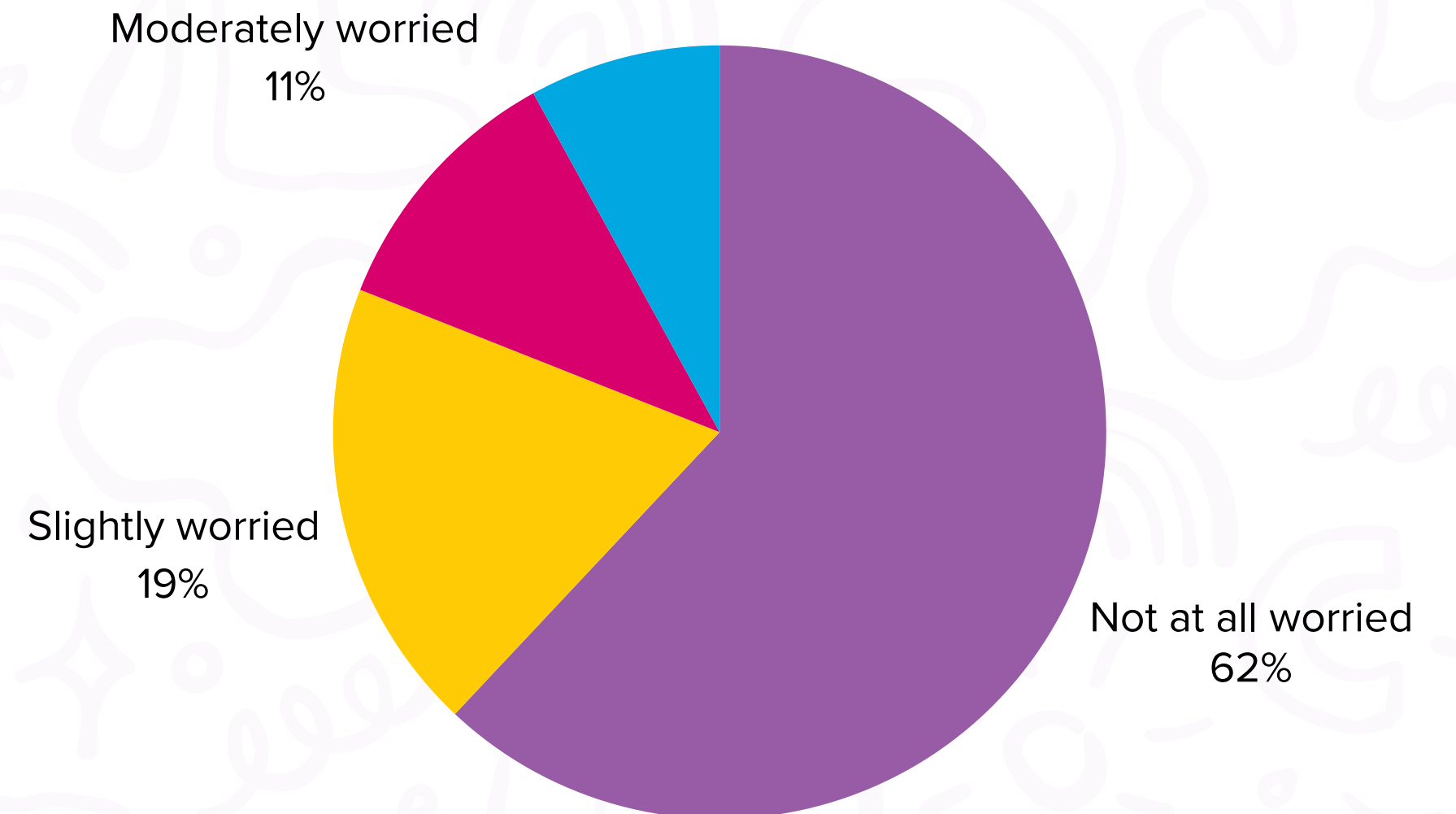
Housing

Housing Status and Housing Stability

Parents' Housing Status
(312 parents)

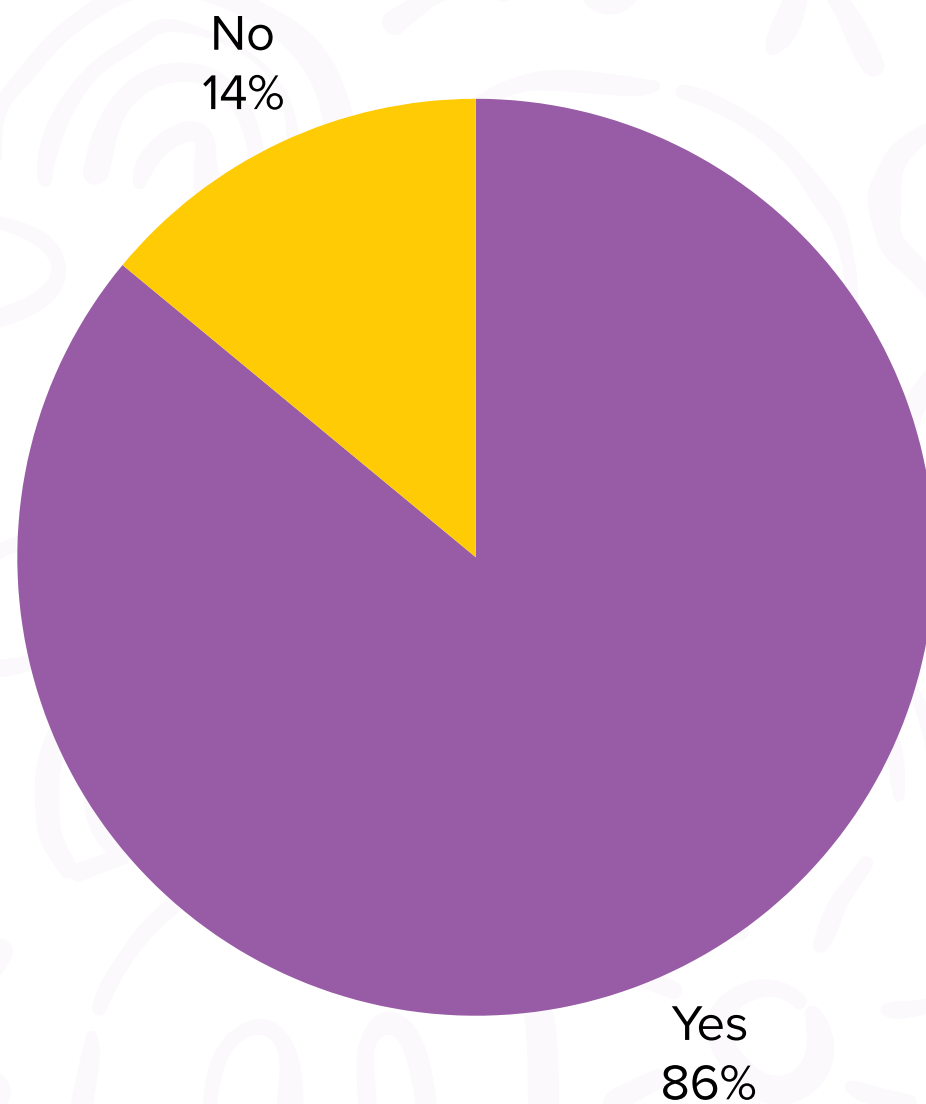


Parents' Worries About Being Late or Not Being Able to Pay Rent or Mortgage
(263 parents)

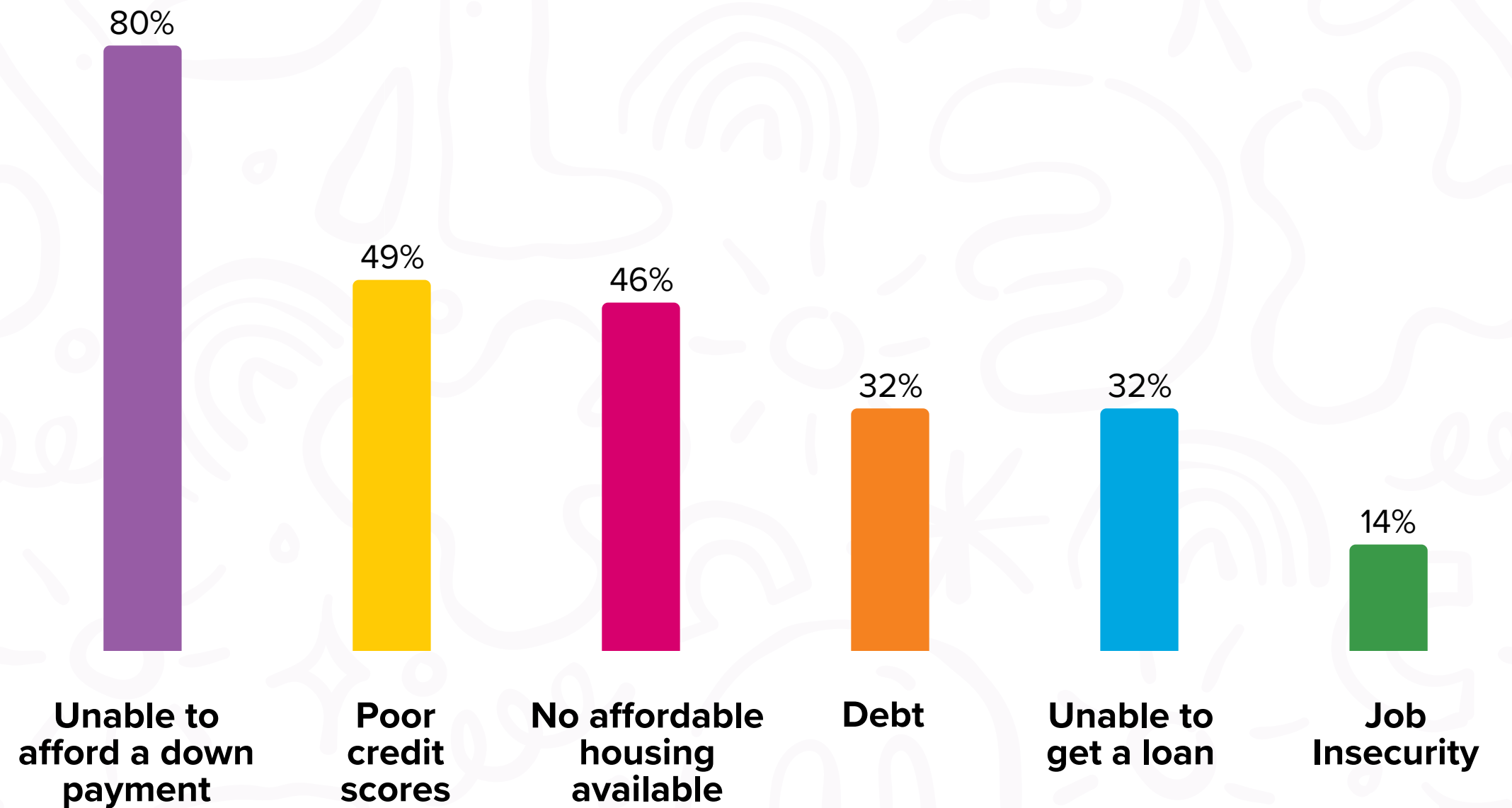


Home Ownership Goals and its Barriers

Is home ownership a goal for those who do not own their home?
(221 parents)



Barrier to Home Ownership
(182 parents)



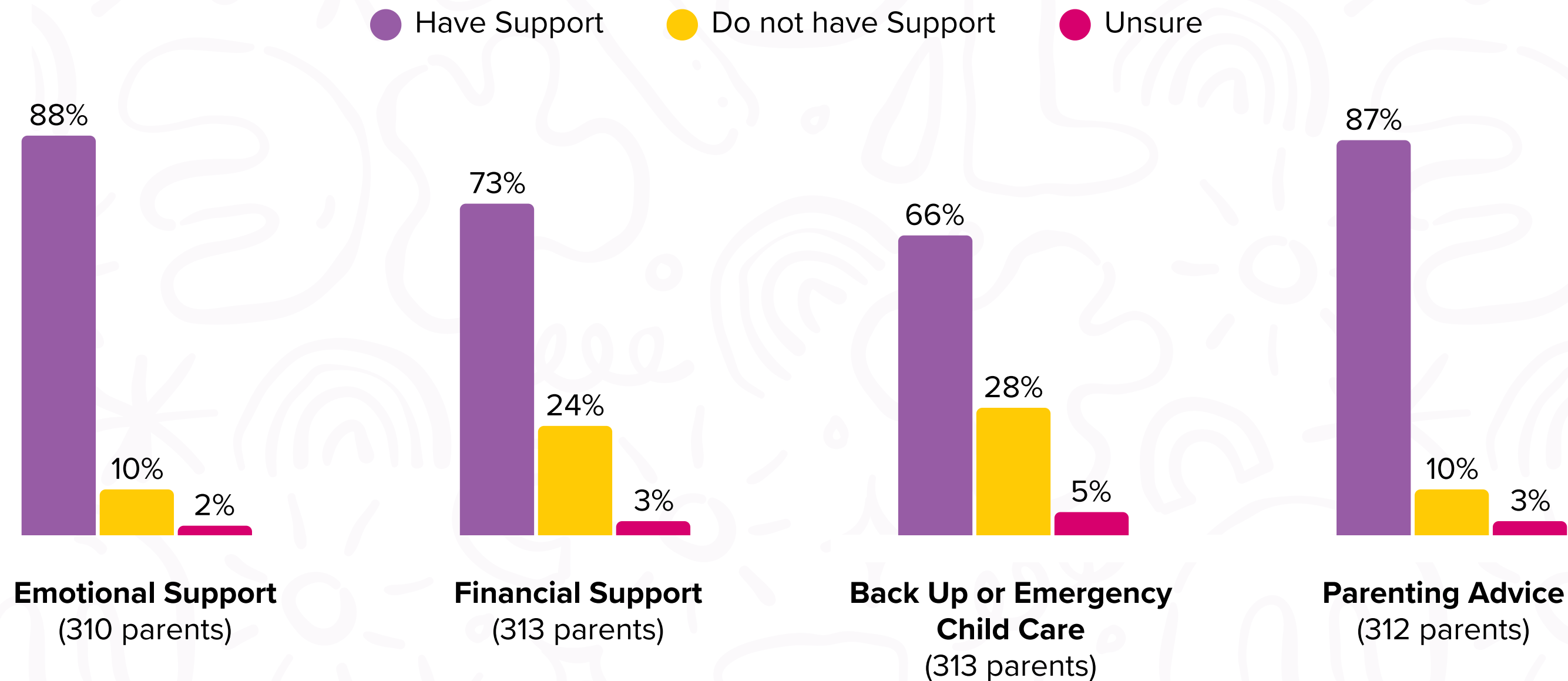


SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS



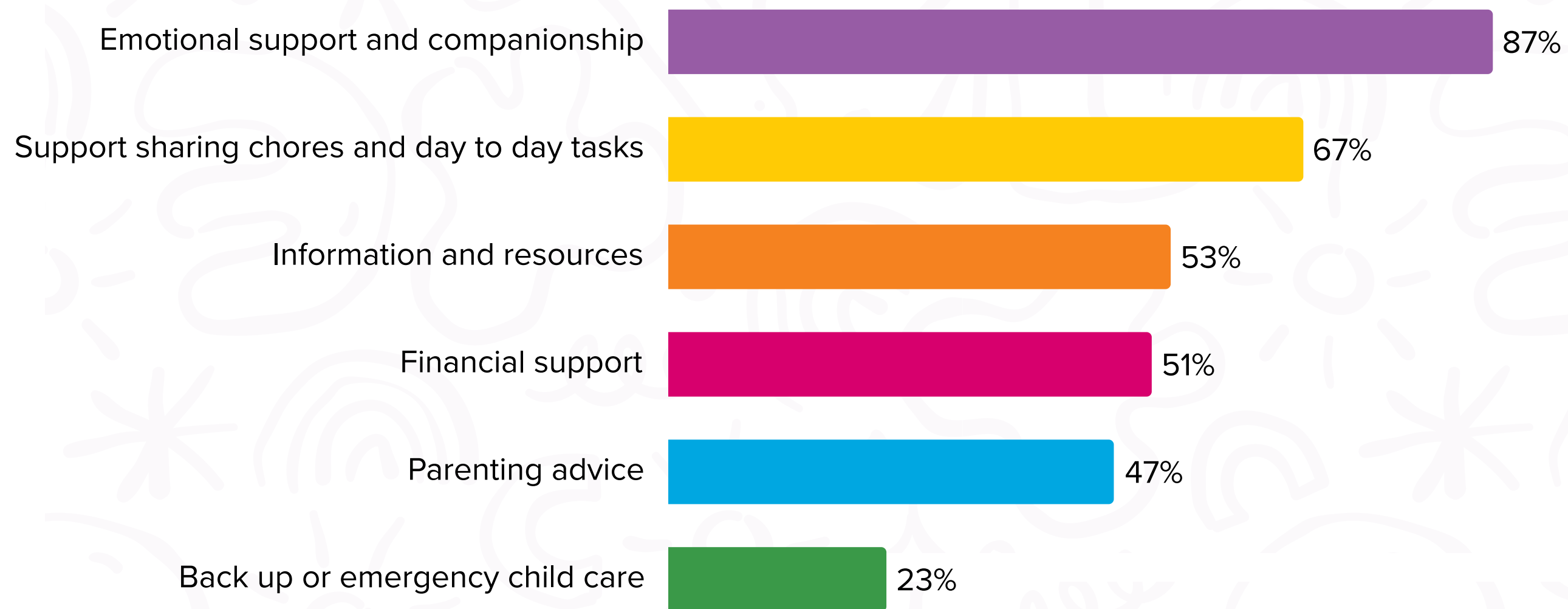
Parents' Support Networks

Do parents have friends, family, or a network of people that they can call on for the following?



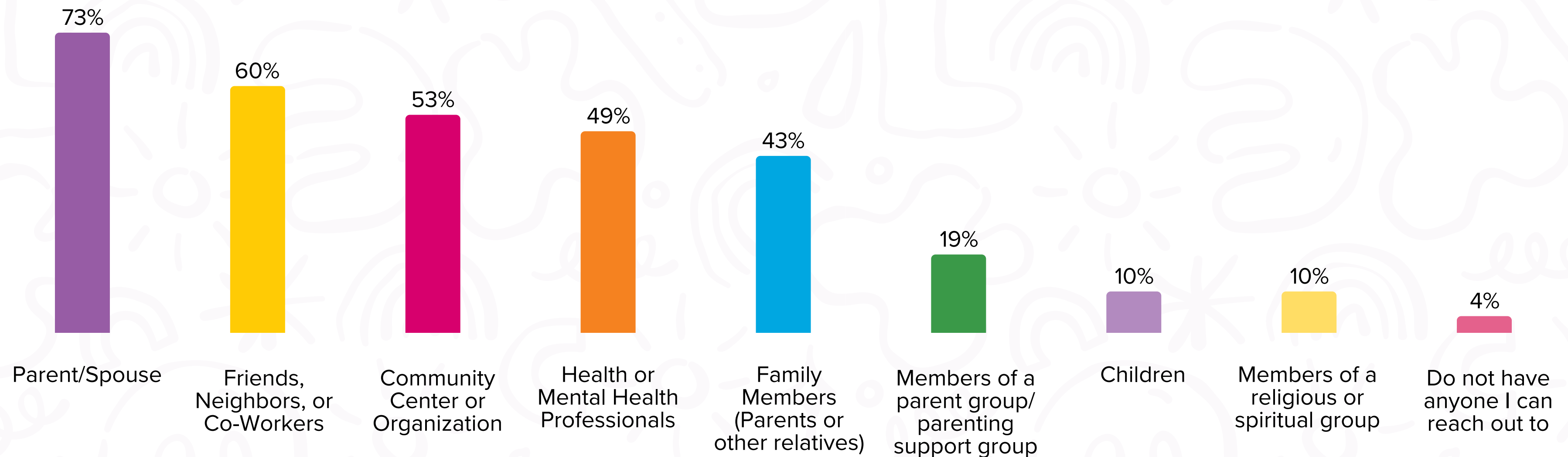
Parents' Support Networks

What type of supports do parents give to family, friends, or others in their social network? (318 parents)



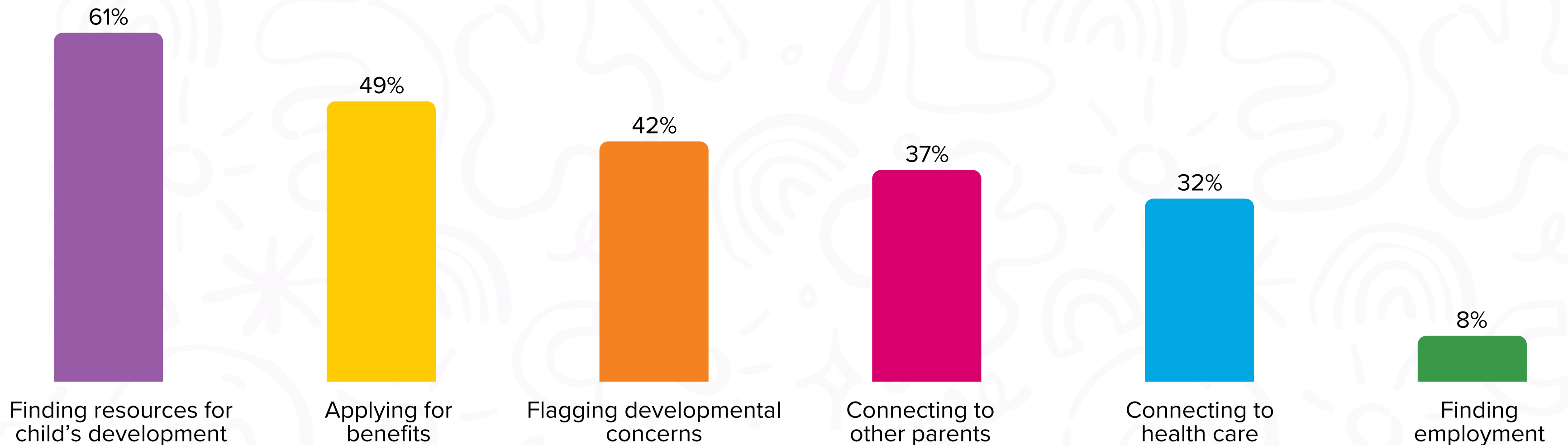
Parents' Support Networks

Who do parents turn to for social support? (312 parents)



Parents' Support Networks

Types of support child care providers have provided to families (318 parents)





COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

What do parents like about their community?

Quiet and peaceful neighborhood

“It’s mostly clean, I feel somewhat safe, multicultural neighborhoods, peaceful, great schools and mostly friendly faces.”

Trustworthy, friendly, and caring neighbors

“Neighborhood is like a village. They care for one another.”

Community resources and amenities for children

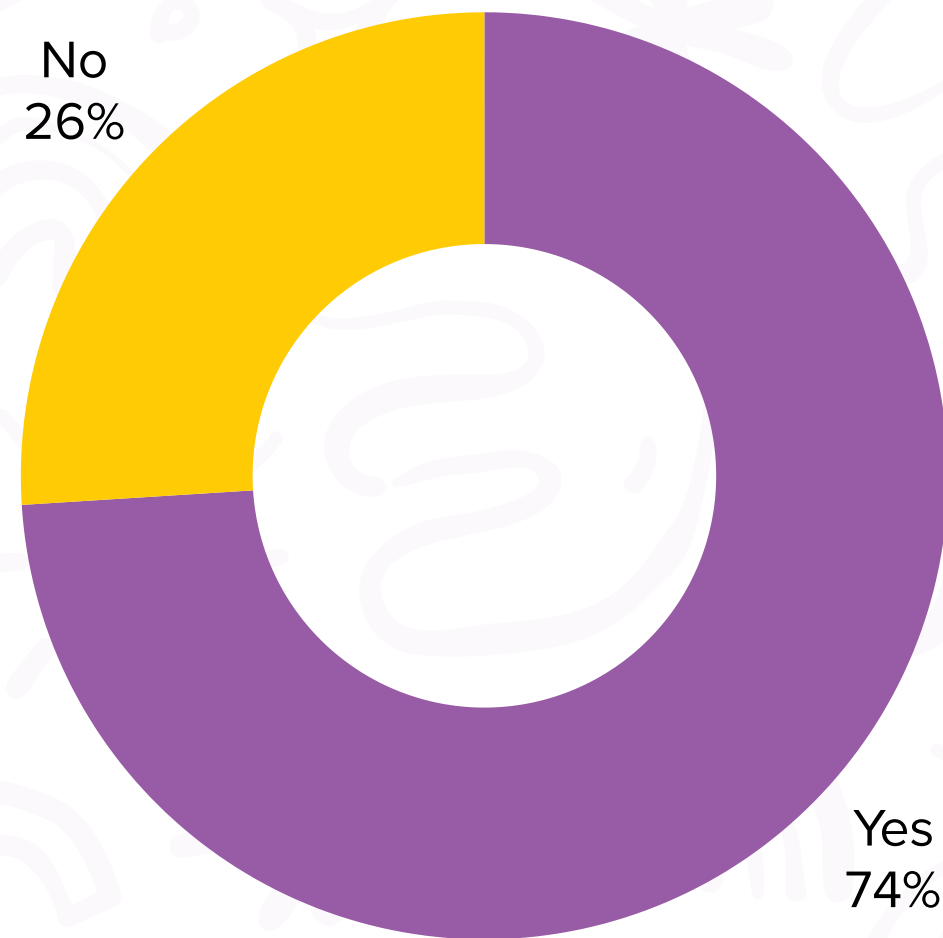
“Lots of kids for my daughter to play with. Safe enough they can play together without needing close adult supervision.”

COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

Child Care

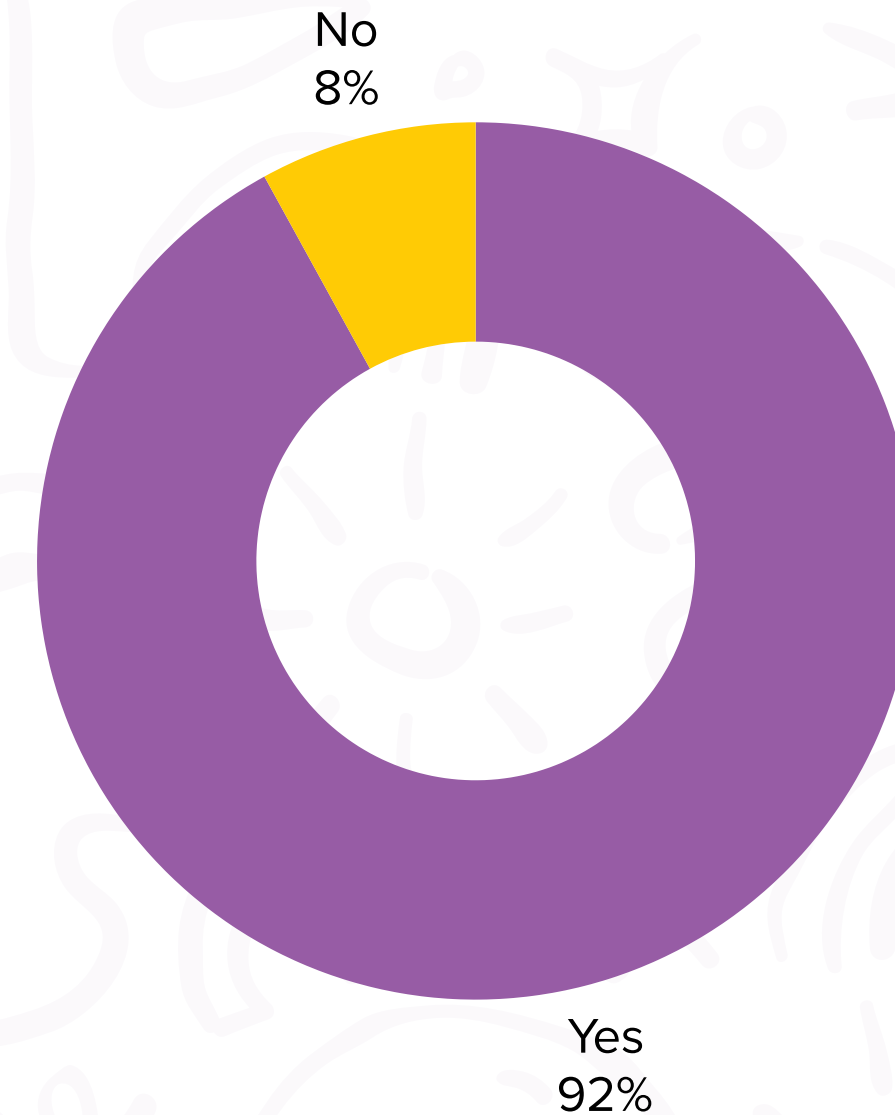
Finding New Child Care

Did parents have difficulty finding space?
(36 parents)



"There are not many people who you trust with your child and care on the weekends is slim."

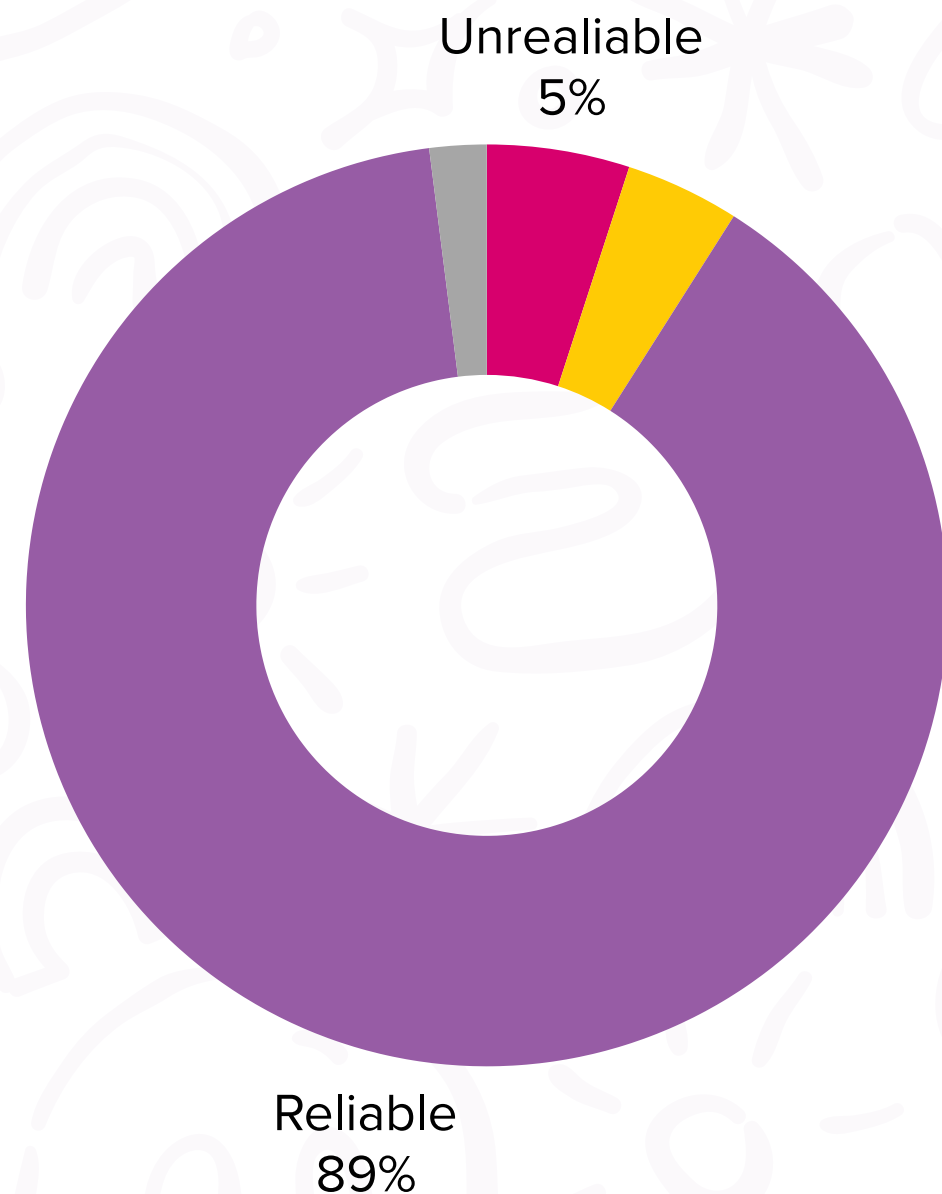
Did this impact their ability to work?
(26 parents)



"Financially, we cannot afford child care and don't qualify for income help so I stay home with the kids."

Reliability of Child Care

Reliability of Current Child Care Arrangements (236 parents)



Parents value child care providers' trustworthiness, their ability to treat their children with care and patience, and the quality of education that their children receive.

"What I like best about my child care provider is that they are someone I can trust to take care of my child. I also like that they have other children my child can play with."

"Very professional and clean daycare. I can view her on camera on my phone app at any time and they give updates all day of everything (food ate, diaper changes, activities)."

"The main teacher does a good job of teaching educational concepts, and they also teach songs and movement and ASL."

COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

Healthcare

Satisfaction with Healthcare Services

Parents' satisfaction with availability and access of healthcare services in their communities

● Satisfied ● Neutral ● Dissatisfied



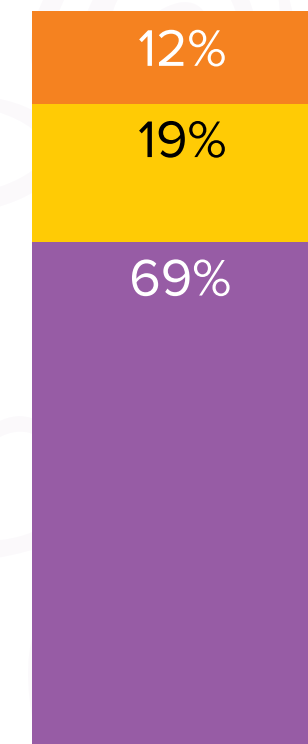
Pediatric Services
(235 parents)



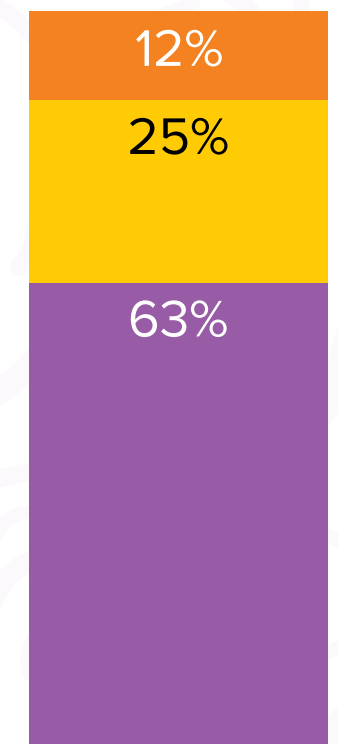
**Obstetrician/
Gynecologist Services**
(234 parents)



**Primary Care or
General Care Services**
(235 parents)



Dental Care
(234 parents)



Mental Health Services
(234 parents)

Challenges in Accessing Medical Care

Finding a doctor or getting an appointment

“Unable to pay for medical care out of pocket and was denied Medicaid because IDHS lost my paperwork sent for redetermination. Children’s doctors are ALWAYS booked, and appointments are MONTHS out.”

Affordability

“Medical care is hard to access for myself being that it's hard to afford it and I don't know any resources to help me pay for it.”

Mental health services

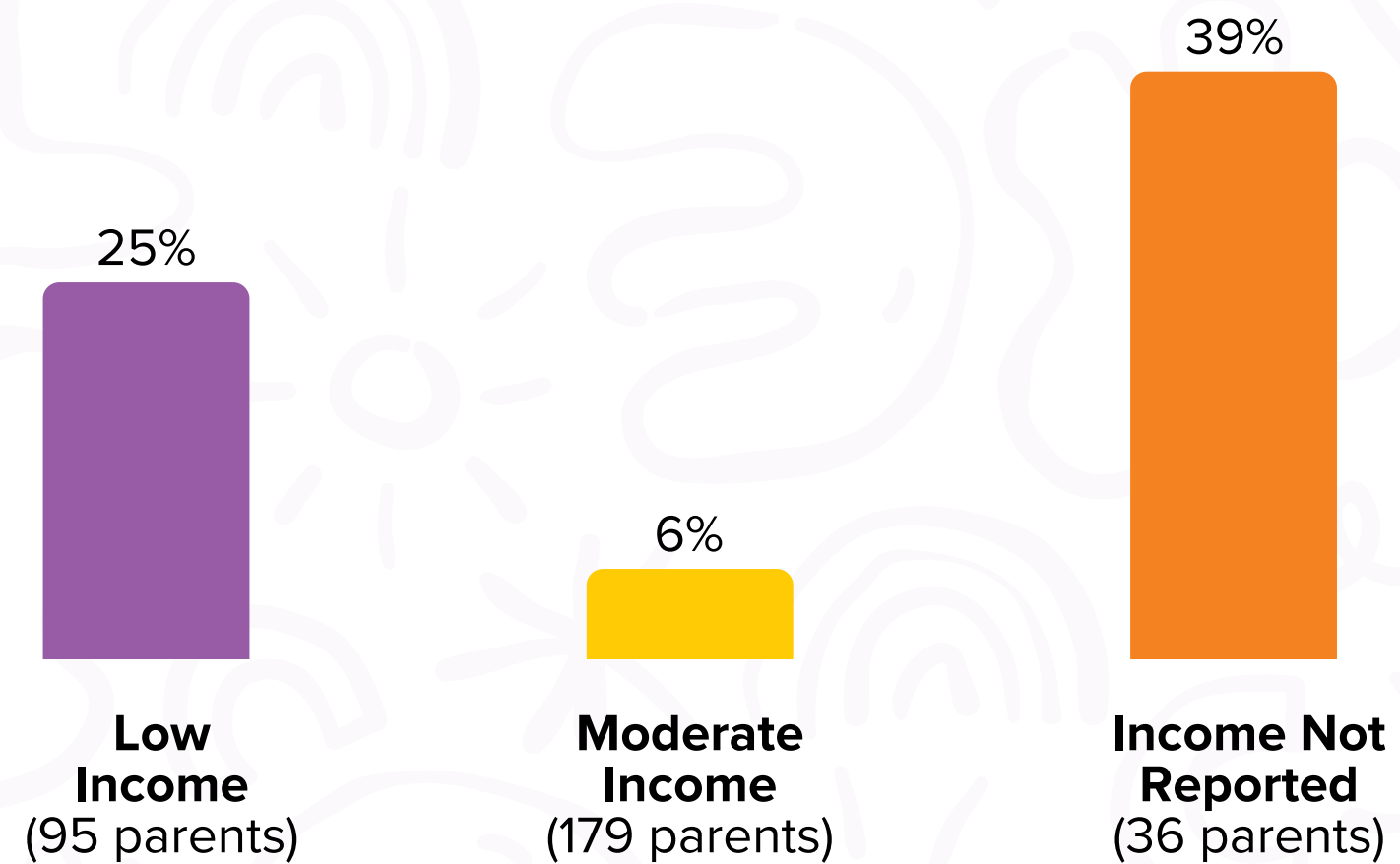
“Local doctor's office, particularly the psychiatric unit, is always 5 months behind in appointments. So, to fill my medication I have to see a medical doctor. If I want to talk to a psychiatrist I have to go elsewhere.”

COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

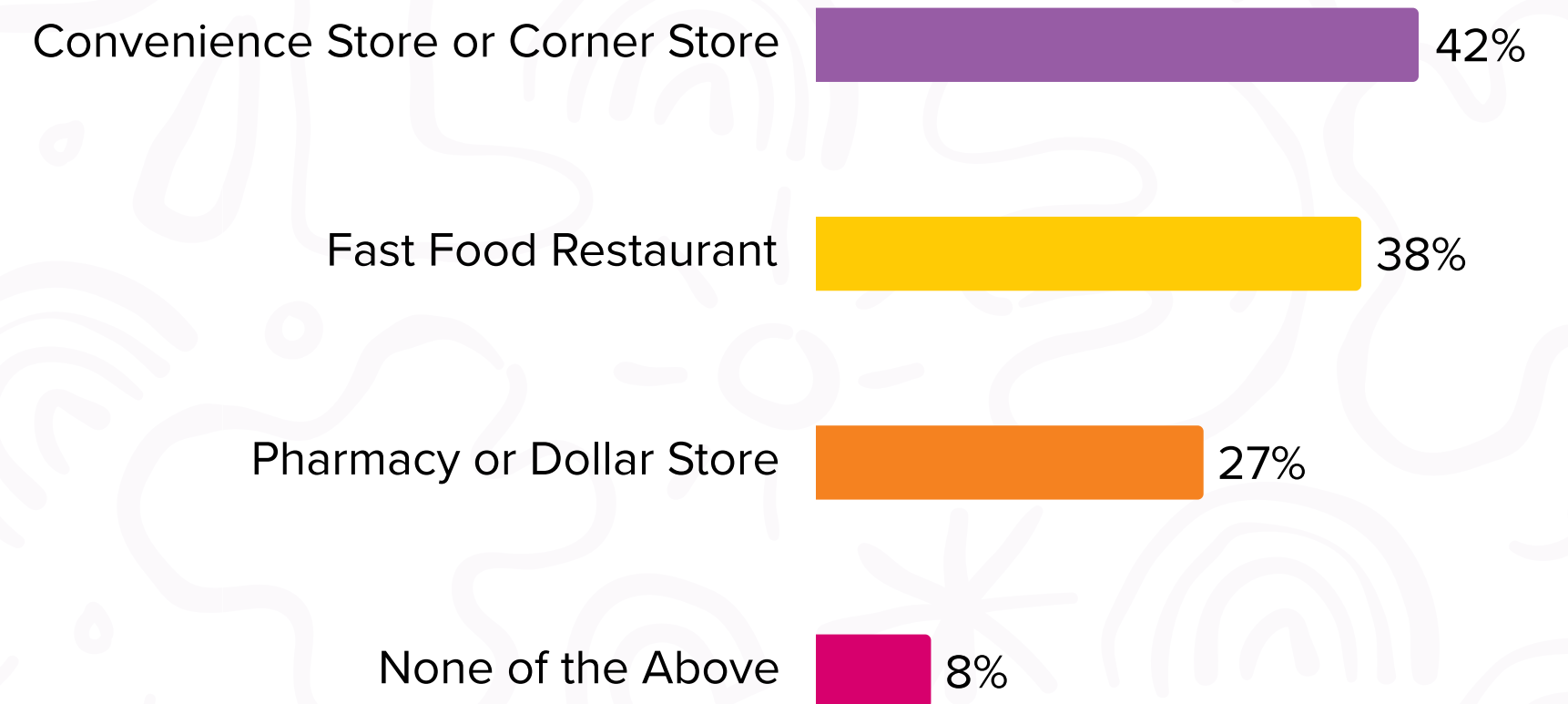
Access to Food

Access to Food Sources

% of Parents Who Do Not Live Near A Supermarket or Grocery Store, By Income Levels



Food Sources Near Those That Do Not Live By A Supermarket or Grocery Store (48 parents)

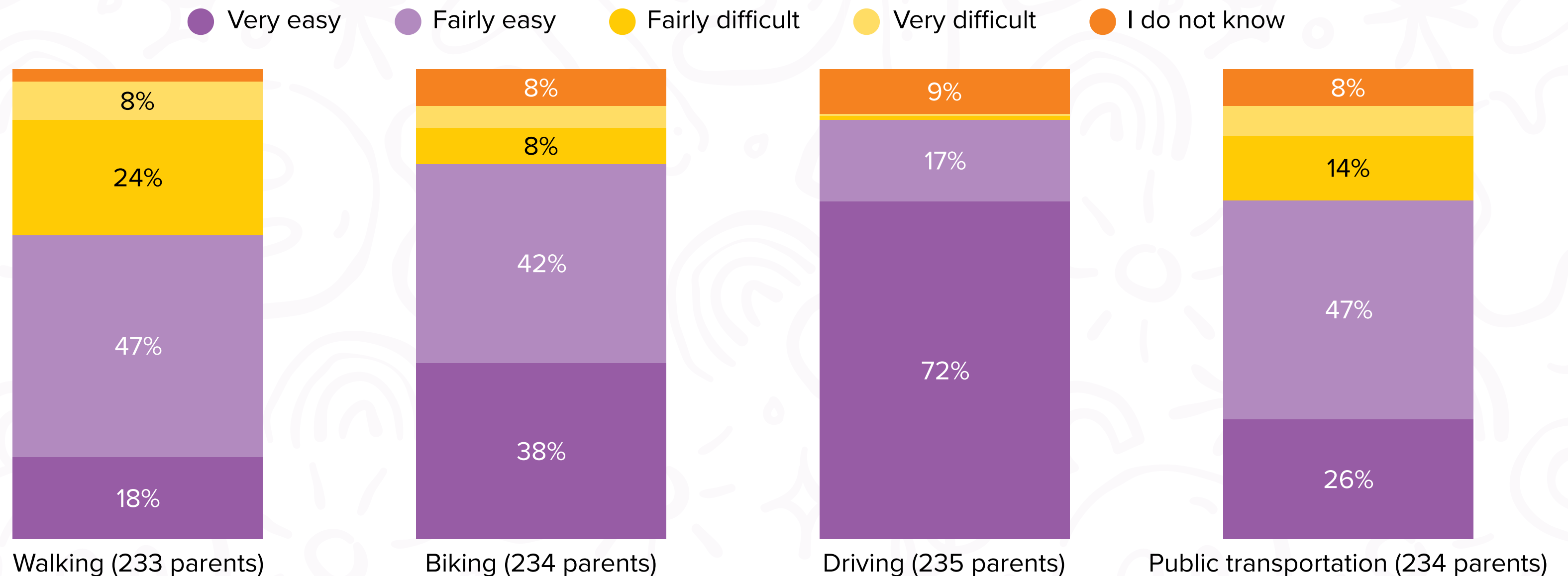


COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

Transportation

Ease of Getting Places with Different Modes of Transportation

Parents' ease with different modes of transportation



How to make it easier to get to where you need to go?

Increased access and reduced fares for public transportation

“Less construction and street closures. Less people on the roads causing accidents. Cheaper gas.”

Improvements to road infrastructure

“Maybe better bus routes especially for the neighborhoods that aren’t urban. Maybe carpool services for the single parents who don’t have cars.”

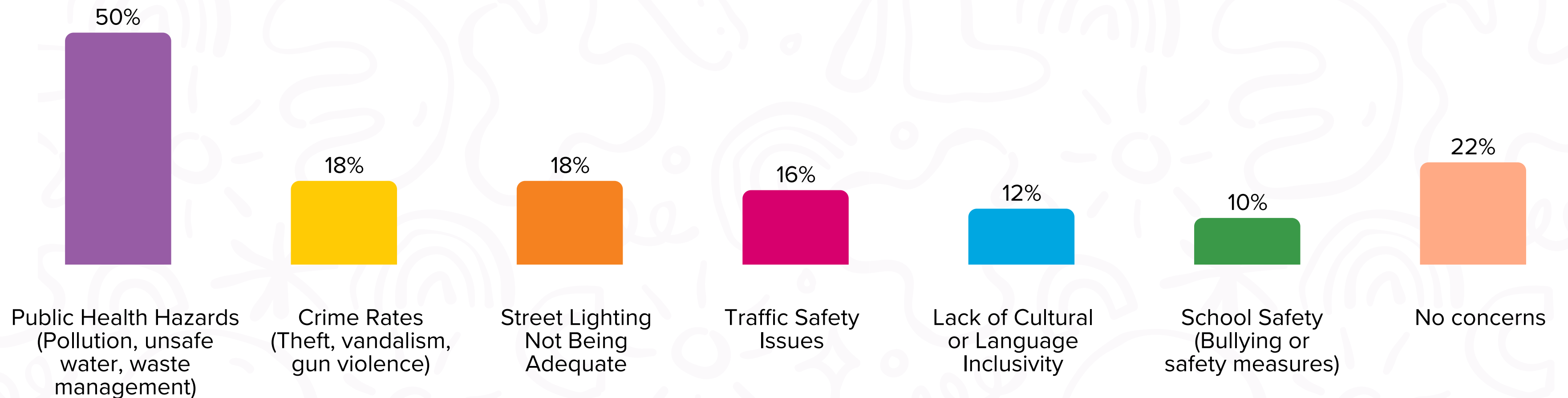
“Faster public transportation, more sidewalks, parks, walk trails, helping families with use car donations, decrease in utility bills, more bike lanes on roads and cheaper gas!”

COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

Safety

Safety Concerns

Safety Concerns Parents Have In Their Area (240 parents)



What do you wish was different about your community?

Communities were safer

“I wish people cared more about their children’s education and I wish that our community didn’t experience gun violence, so I could feel more comfortable walking outside with my family.”

More affordable and free amenities for families

“Less expensive. The community is great, but the cost of living has skyrocketed. I would love for my toddler to attend a school in this neighborhood, but I don't know if I can afford it in a few years.”

What community resources and activities would you like to see more of in your area?

Parents want more free activities and resources for children and families including more parks, playgrounds, libraries, neighborhood-based events and festivals.

“FREE activities for children in nearby park districts so families can actually participate get their children out of the house.”

“Workshops on various parenting topics, such as child development, positive discipline, and managing work-life balance.”

“More exercising park, free yoga, free movie night, free meditation event, free exercise classes, free gardening areas and more free events.”

“More child and parent activities that does not cost money or costs little money. More free indoor play areas because all the indoor ones have expensive cover charges.”



PARENT PRIORITIES

What parents want policymakers and elected officials to know

Challenges with the rising cost of living

"[The] middle class is suffering. It's discouraging to know that we cannot turn to state or government officials to help. The cost of living has increased but everything else has stayed the same."

Need for higher wages and more job opportunities

"We need cheaper housing, affordable childcare, and more Snap Benefits. We need more help to get on our feet. We need healthier food and water."

"We are living paycheck to paycheck with no additional money for anything else. We need an increase in pay and decrease in living costs. We shouldn't have to worry about feeding our families and working just to get by."



BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Discussion Questions

What finding from today's presentation was most surprising or interesting to you? Why?

What's missing from this data that would help you understand parents' experiences better?

What's your biggest hope for how this information will be used (either in your own organization, or through policymakers and state officials)?

THANK YOU!



RAPID

Thank you for supporting the
Illinois Parent Survey Panel

Vivo Foundation

Grand Victoria Foundation



RAPID

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to have the opportunity to make this research possible because of the support and contribution of Illinois Action for Children staff, our partners at the RAPID Survey at the Stanford Center on Early Childhood, and the organizations listed below who helped us recruit parents.

Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition

Evanston Cradle to Career

Palatine Early Learning Alliance

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative

SPARK Aurora

We, The Village

Raising IL Coalition

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care

Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)

North Lawndale Early Learning Collaboration



RAPID

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Advocacy Opportunities with the PPRA Team

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