

**EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
OF BOULDER COUNTY**

Prepared for

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

Prepared by

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Mr. Vigil and Dr. Heublein have a broad range of teaching and training experience and they conduct program evaluations for parent training programs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF BOULDER COUNTY

I. INTRODUCTION

Child care is not only an investment in families and children, but also it is an investment in our economy. Colorado's child care capacity is decreasing while the number of children needing child care is increasing.¹ The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County asked the Center for Educational Policy (CEPA), School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver to identify the child care usage and needs of Boulder County families with newborn through five year old children.

A. Methodology

The researchers surveyed a random sample of Boulder County households with children age 0-5 in order to collect data that are representative of all families, as well as targeted samples of Spanish-speaking families and families with special needs children.

1. Random Sample Survey

The random sample survey allows us to characterize child care usage and needs for Boulder County. The survey instrument captured *extensive* data on child care use and needs and was developed in both English and Spanish. These include:

- Description of special needs children
- Description of children who exhibit challenging behaviors
- Currently using child care: reasons for needing child care, problems finding child care, care arrangements, most important feature of child care location, child care location, hours and days of care, full or part-time care, types of care needed, satisfaction with care, cost of care, and child care assistance
- Use of infant care
- Awareness of programs to help find child care providers
- Awareness of financial assistance for child care for low income families
- Reasons stopped using child care
- Looking for child care/need child care in near future: reasons for needing child care, problems finding child care, preferred care arrangements, most important feature of child care location, anticipated hours and days of care, anticipated full or part-time care, types of care needed, and how much can afford for care
- Family problems: risk for homelessness, not having enough food
- Demographics: relationship to child age 0-5, family situation, race, ethnicity, city where live, education, preferred language that child care provider speaks to child, and income

¹ Colorado Children's Campaign, *Quality Child Care: An Investment in Families, an Investment in Colorado's Economy*, March 2009.

The research team pretested the survey on both English- and Spanish-speaking parents and made some minor revisions based on the pretests.

After talking with a number of sample vendors, CEPA purchased a sample from Genesys, a highly reputable vendor. The sample consisted of 7,415 households in Boulder County that were determined to have or be likely to have at least one child age zero (0) through 5 years old. Since we were conducting a telephone survey, all of the households in the sample had a (presumably) working telephone number.²

We worked with Survey Technology & Research (STR), the phone house that is affiliated with Genesys, to complete the calls. The phone house set up a very complicated survey protocol to ensure that (1) respondents were screened to verify that they were eligible to complete the survey. Only respondents residing in Boulder County with a child age 0-5 were eligible; (2) respondents were asked the correct set of questions for someone in their situation (e.g., currently have a child age 0-5 in child care or not); and (3) respondents were skipped out of questions that they were not qualified to answer (e.g., if they did not have a special needs child, they were not asked to describe that child). The research team and STR revised the survey multiple times and reviewed the final version thoroughly to ensure that the survey worked as intended.

Calls were conducted using a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, which greatly facilitates the interviewing process, especially when a survey is long, complicated and has a number of different streams of questions and skip patterns. CATI ensures that interviewers ask all of the correct questions and only the correct questions for a given respondent.

STR completed 400 telephone surveys with Boulder County residents who have at least one child age 0-5. Five of these surveys were completed in Spanish. The response rate for the survey is 31.8 percent.³ A detailed listing of the disposition of calls is in Appendix B. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 5 percent.

2. Targeted Surveys

Researchers collected surveys from two targeted populations to give us a more comprehensive picture of the needs of Spanish-speaking families and families of children with special needs.⁴

² Targeted, purchased samples consist of people that have telephone landlines; these samples do not include cell phone numbers. Some people only have cell phones and we expect that low-income persons are more likely than others to rely solely on cell phones. This may result in the sample under-representing low-income families in Boulder County.

³ This response rate is based on the total number of completed surveys (400) divided by the total number of completed surveys (400) and the total number of unsuccessful attempts (858). The response rate did not include ineligible households, “bad” telephone numbers or calls that were still active when the survey was completed.

⁴ Since these data were targeted, they were not meant to be representative of Spanish-speaking families in Boulder County.

Researchers developed eight versions of the targeted surveys:

- Spanish-Speaking Survey Child IN Child Care (Spanish)
- Spanish-Speaking Survey Child NOT in Child Care (Spanish)
- Spanish-Speaking Survey Child IN Child Care (English)
- Spanish-Speaking Survey Child NOT in Child Care (English)
- Families with Special Needs Child IN Child Care (English)
- Families with Special Needs Child NOT in Child Care (English)
- Families with Special Needs Child IN Child Care (Spanish)
- Families with Special Needs Child NOT in Child Care (Spanish)

We developed separated surveys for families with and without a child currently in regular child care in order to shorten the instrument and facilitate participation by the targeted families.

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County asked researchers to work with “IMAGINE!” to orchestrate distributing and collecting surveys from families with special needs children. Researchers also worked with Dr. Tikki Heublein and Denys Vigil, Program Coordinator and Lead Trainer of Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO), respectively, for Spanish-speaking child care providers. They contacted multiple Spanish-speaking parent groups and paved the way for a University researcher to attend the groups to help parents complete surveys. In addition, they conducted a survey with the PASO Spanish-speaking providers and collected information about 1) what Spanish-speaking parents know about quality child care, how these parents choose child care and how they access quality care; and 2) the cultural background, beliefs, practices and learning opportunities of Spanish-speaking child care providers. Dr. Heublein wrote a separate report of these findings. Her complete report is located in Appendix D.

Survey of parents of special needs children: Researchers delivered the following surveys to IMAGINE! for distribution to its program providers, who in turn gave the surveys to parents of children with special needs:

- 70 special needs, Spanish, NOT in child care
- 30 special needs, Spanish, IN child care
- 260 special needs, English, NOT in child care
- 60 special needs, English, IN child care

Researchers included a cover letter in English and Spanish that explained the purpose of the study and the importance of completing the survey. Special needs parents completed fourteen surveys.

Survey of Spanish-speaking families: Researchers attended four Spanish-speaking parent groups, two each in Longmont and Boulder, to help parents complete surveys. In

addition, the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County delivered surveys to Boulder County Head Start and the Wild Plum Center (Head Start program in Longmont), which distributed surveys to Spanish-speaking parents. These groups completed a total of 69 surveys.

II. RESULTS

A. Random Telephone Survey

1. *Special Needs Children*

Ten percent (10.3%) of families – 41 families – have a child age 0-5 who has been identified as having special needs. These families have a total of 45 special needs children.

Description of children’s special needs: Researchers asked families to describe their youngest special needs child. Most parents reported that their child has special needs in speech/language. A substantial minority reported that their child has special needs that are physical.

Type of Special Needs	# of Children	% of Children
Physical	17	41.5%
Cognitive	12	29.3%
Adaptive/Self Help	7	17.1%
Speech/Language	35	85.4%
Emotional/Behavioral	7	17.1%

Child care for special needs children: Of the 41 special needs children who parents describe, 33 (80.5%) currently are in child care on a regular basis, and eight are not currently in child care. One parent whose special needs child is not currently in child care would like child care for this child. The parent said that there are two reasons the child is not currently in child care: the cost, and because the provider they had been using said she could no longer care for this child.

2. *Children with Challenging Behaviors*

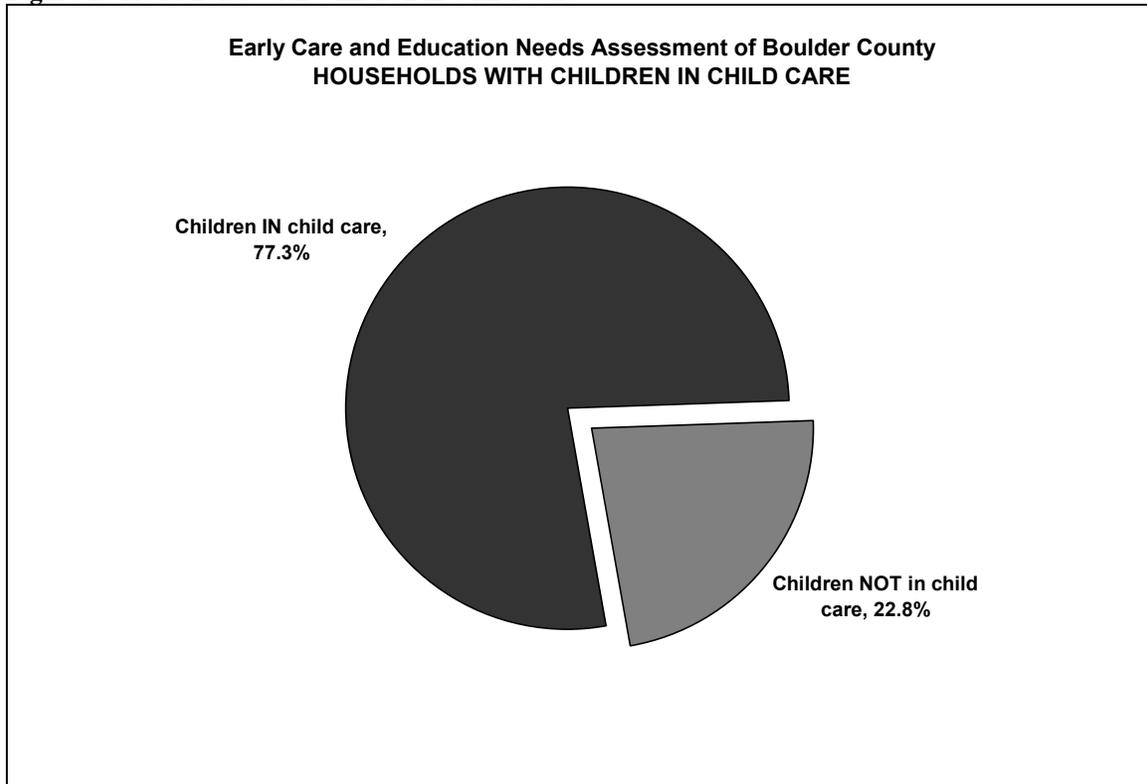
We asked all respondents the following question: “Many children who are not identified as having special needs exhibit challenging behaviors, such as having trouble interacting with other children, following directions, paying attention for any length of time, etc. Do any of your children age 0 through 5 exhibit any challenging behaviors?” Twenty-four respondents said that they have a child age 0-5 who exhibits challenging behaviors. These respondents have a total of 26 children who exhibit challenging behavior.

Challenging behaviors: We asked parents to describe their child’s challenging behaviors. These 26 children were most likely to have the following challenging behaviors: difficulty listening, paying attention and following directions (41.7 percent), poor social skills (29.2%), and tantrums (16.7%). Two parents said that their children were gifted and talented.

3. Families with Child IN Child Care

More than three-quarters (77.3%) of families said that at least one child age 0-5 is currently in regular child care.

Figure 1. Households with Children in Child Care



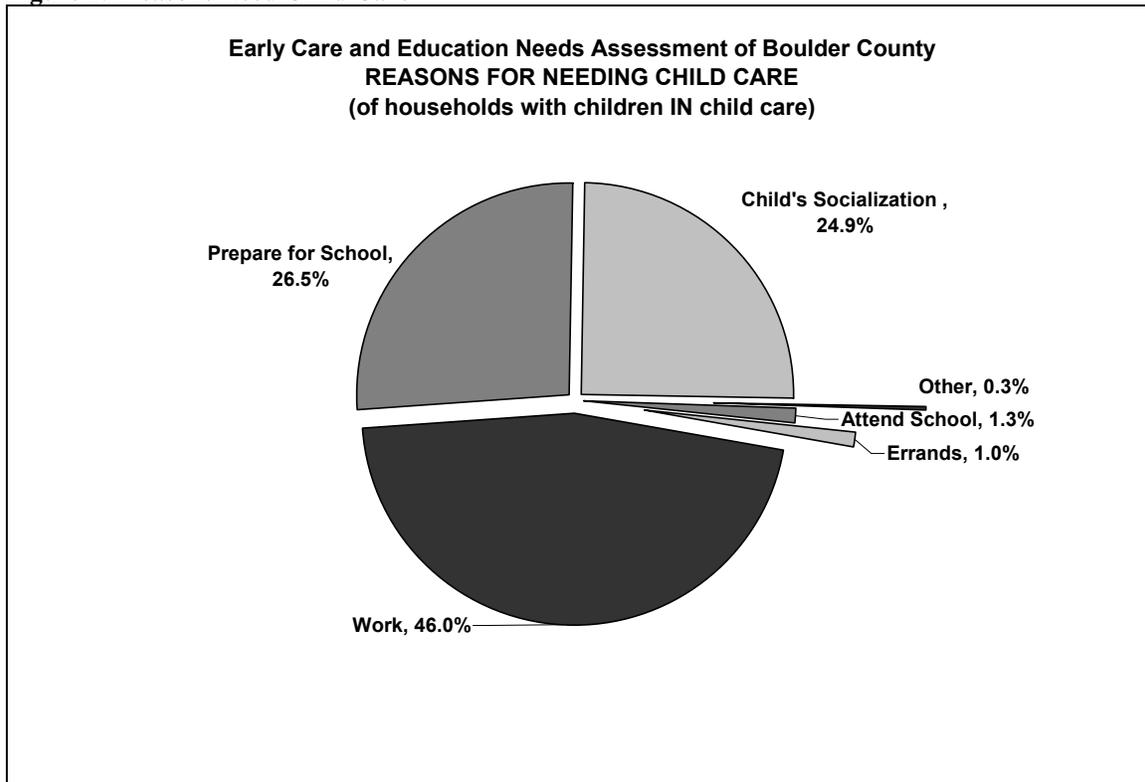
Families have a total of 370 children age 0-5 in child care.⁵ Four-fifths (80.6%) have one child age 0-5 in child care, nearly one-fifth (19.1%) have two children in child care, and one family (0.3%) has three children in child care.

Age of Child	# of Children	% of Children
0	16	4.4
1	17	4.7
2	49	13.5
3	90	24.7
4	90	24.7
5	102	28.0
Total	364	100.0

⁵ Only 364 families reported the actual ages of their children age 0-5 in child care. Six families simply indicated that they had a child age 0-5 in child care but didn't report the actual age.

Why need child care: We asked parents to describe the child care situation of their youngest child. Families primarily need child care so that they can work; nearly half (46.0%) said they need child care for this reason. Approximately one-quarter need child care so their child can socialize/interact with other children (24.9%) and to help their child learn/prepare for school (26.5%).

Figure 2. Reasons Need Child Care

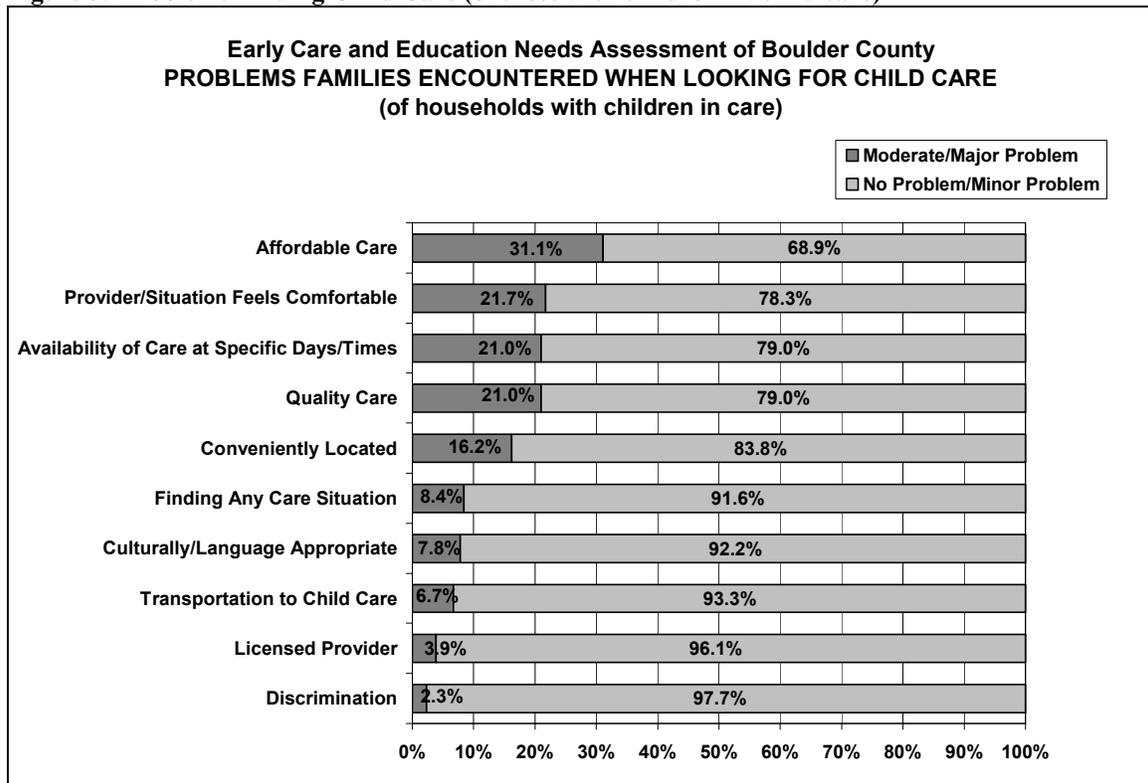


Problems finding child care: We asked parents whether each of a series of potential problems was a major, moderate, minor or not a problem for them when they were looking for child care for their child.

- A majority of parents said that each problem was “not a problem” when they were looking for child care for their child.
- The biggest problem was finding affordable child care, which was a “major” (11.0%) or “moderate” (20.1%) problem for nearly one-third (31.1%) of parents.
- Other problems that were cited as “major” or “moderate” problems by at least one-in-five parents are:
 - Finding a provider and situation that feels comfortable (21.7%)
 - Finding quality child care (21.0%)
 - Finding child care that is available the days and times that you need (21.0%)

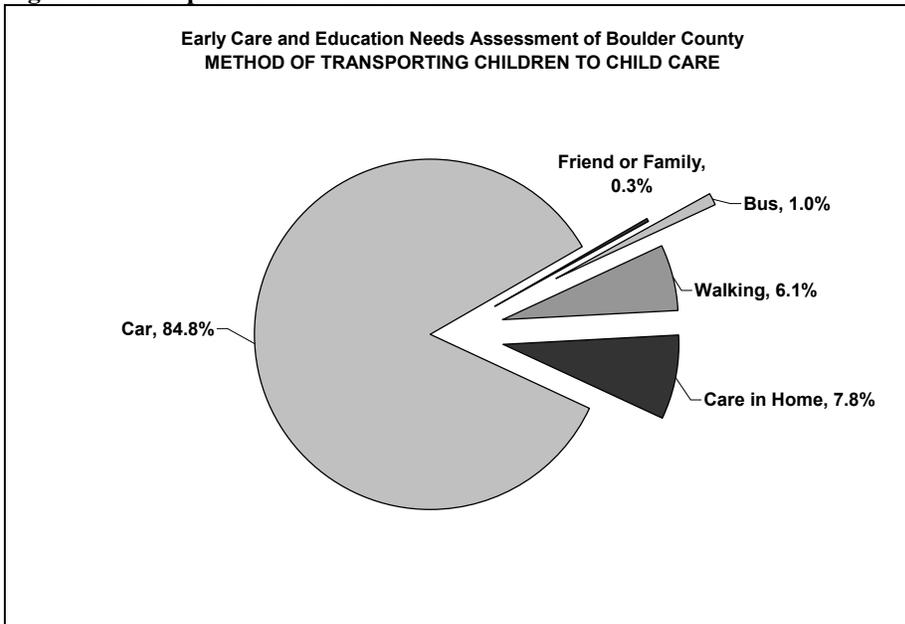
	Not a problem %	Minor problem %	Moderate problem %	Major Problem %
a. Finding child care you could afford	51.8	17.2	20.1	11.0
b. Finding quality child care, for example, child care that is developmentally appropriate, offers a variety of activities and learning materials, etc.	61.5	17.5	13.9	7.1
c. Finding child care that is conveniently located	66.3	17.5	9.7	6.5
d. Finding child care that is available the days and times that you need	61.2	17.8	13.9	7.1
e. Finding child care that you can easily get to considering your transportation situation	74.8	18.4	4.5	2.3
f. Finding a provider and situation that feels comfortable	60.2	18.1	14.9	6.8
g. Finding child care that is culturally and language appropriate	80.6	11.7	5.2	2.6
h. Finding a licensed child care provider	85.4	10.7	2.9	1.0
i. Discrimination	90.6	7.1	1.3	1.0
j. Finding any child care situation	80.3	11.3	5.8	2.6

Figure 3. Problems Finding Child Care (of those with children IN child care)



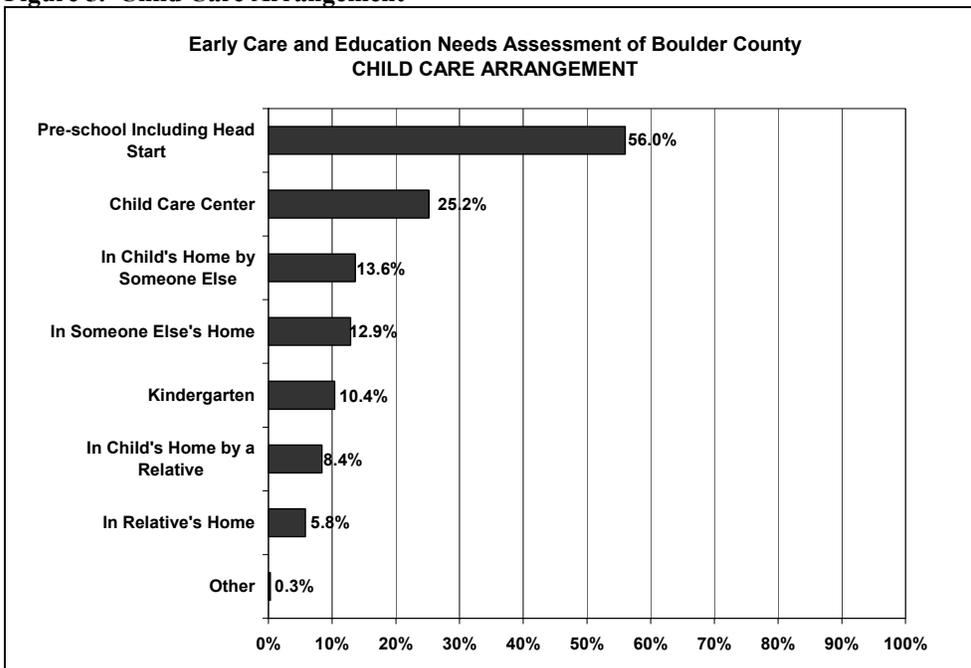
Transportation to child care: Parents usually drive their child to child care. With just one exception, parents who drive to child care have a reliable car.

Figure 4. Transportation to Child Care



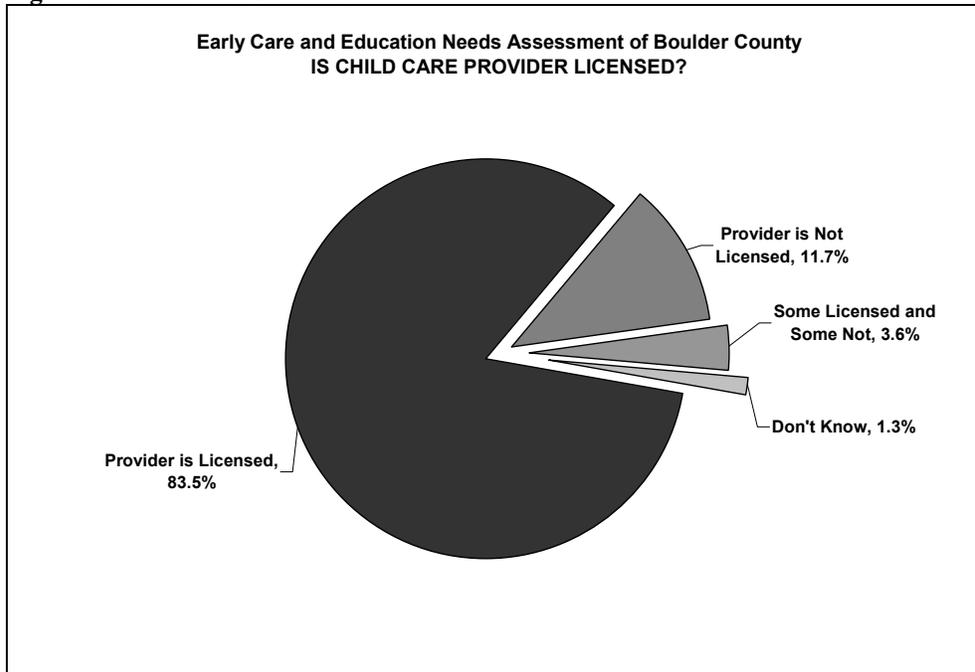
Care arrangement: A majority (56.0%) of children are in a preschool program, including Head Start. A total of more than two-fifths (40.8%) are in a home care situation, either cared for in their own home (22.0%) or in someone else’s home (18.8%). One-quarter (25.2%) are in a child care center.

Figure 5. Child Care Arrangement



Most families (83.5%) said that their provider is licensed. Twelve percent (11.7%) said their provider is not licensed, four percent (3.6%) said some providers are licensed and some are not, and about one percent (1.3%) did not know if their provider is licensed.

Figure 6. Is Provider Licensed

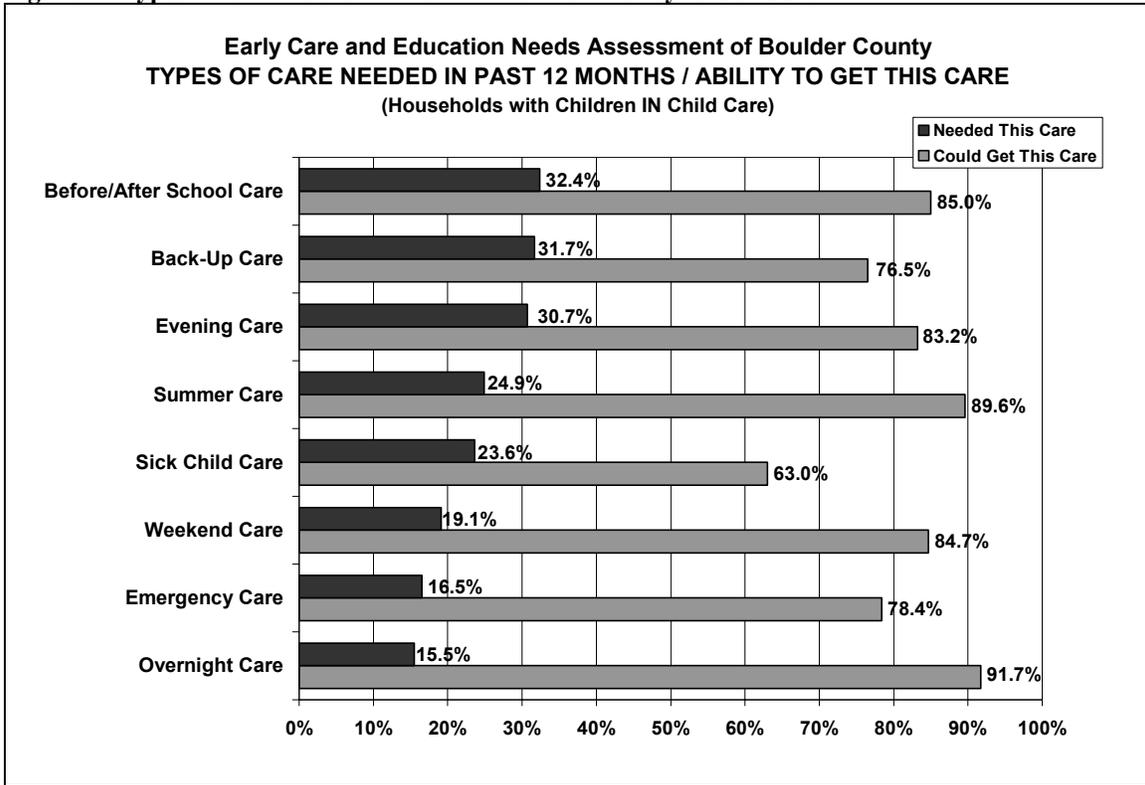


Seventy-three families use more than one child care arrangement for their child. Fifty-five of these families told us the major reason that they have multiple care arrangements. The major reasons for using more than one provider are work schedule (43.6% of those who gave a reason) and convenience, availability or flexibility (38.2% of those who gave a reason).

Types of care needed: Parents were asked if, in the past year, they needed different types of care for their child so they could go to work or school. For each type of care they needed, we asked parents if they could usually get this care when they needed it.

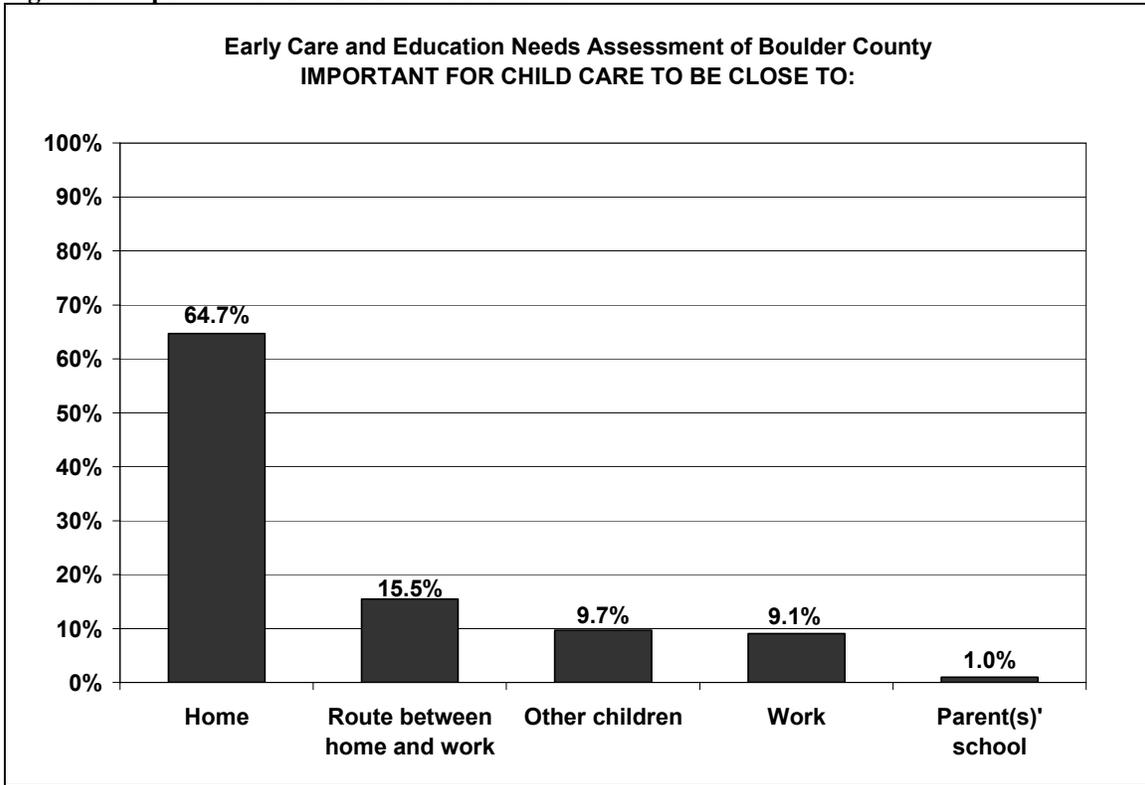
- Parents were most likely to need before or after school care, back-up care when their provider was not available, and evening care (from 6-11 pm) in the past year. At least 30 percent of parents said they needed each of these types of care. Most parents said they could usually get these types of care when they needed it.
- Approximately one-quarter of parents said they needed summer care and care for a sick child in the past year. Almost all parents said they could usually get summer care when they needed it, and slightly less than two-thirds said they could usually get sick child care when they needed it,
- More generally, with the exception of sick child care, at least three-quarters of parents usually could get care when they needed it.

Figure 7. Types of Care Needed in Past 12 Months / Ability to Get Care



Location of care: We asked respondents to tell us the single most important location for their child’s care. Almost two-thirds (64.7%) said that it is most important to have a child care location that is close to home. Sixteen percent (15.5%) want a location on the route between home and work. Approximately one-in-ten want a location that is close to where their other children attend child care or school (9.7%) or close to work (9.1%). Only one percent (1.0%) said it is most important to have a child care location that is close to where they attend school.

Figure 8. Important for Child Care to be Close to:



Approximately one-third of respondents said that their child’s child care is located in Boulder (32.7%), and the same proportion said that their child’s child care is located in Longmont (32.0%). The data indicate that families from surrounding communities bring their children to Boulder for child care. In contrast, many Erie and Lafayette families get child care in other cities.

	City of Residence		City of Child Care	
	#	%	#	%
Longmont	106	34.3	99	32.0
Boulder	68	22.0	101	32.7
Louisville/Superior	55	17.8	50	16.2
Lafayette	41	13.3	23	7.4
Erie	28	9.1	13	4.2
Other communities in Boulder County	11	3.6	20	6.5

Full or part-time care: On average, families have their child in child care for 20 hours per week. A majority (51.4%) of children are in child care 4-5 days in a typical week. One-quarter (27.8%) are in child care three days a week, and one-fifth (20.7%) are in child care 1-2 days in a typical week.

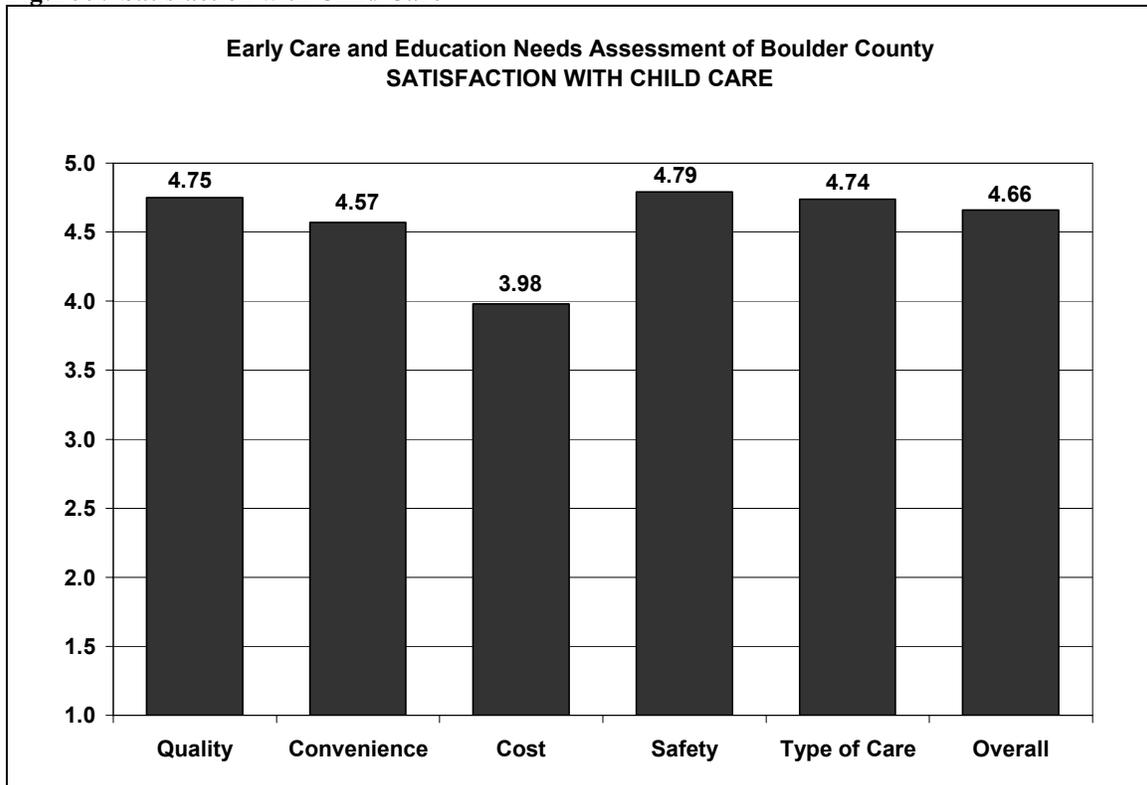
Table 5. Typical Incidence of Child Care Use: Hours, Number of Days and Full or Part-Day Care					
Number of Hours Per Week in Child Care		Number of Days Per Week in Child Care		Full Day/Part Day Child Care	
# of Hours	%	# Days	%	Type	%
1-10	30.4	1	2.9	Full Day	43.0
11-20	28.5	2	17.8	Part Day	53.7
21-30	18.1	3	27.8	Both	3.2
31 or more	23.0	4	15.2		
		5	36.2		

Slightly more than half (53.7%) of children are mainly in full-day care, and nearly half (43.0%) are in part-day care. Three percent (3.2%) are in a combination of full and part-day care.

Satisfaction with child care: Families are very satisfied with their child care arrangements. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with seven different aspects of child care using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 indicates “very dissatisfied” and 5 indicates “very satisfied.”

- On average, families rated each aspect of child care other than cost of care at “4.5” or above, which indicates a high level of satisfaction. They were most satisfied with the safety, quality and type of care, but ratings for all factors except cost were very similar.
- Parents were least satisfied with the cost of their child’s child care. Nevertheless, on average, parents rated the cost of child care at “4,” which is considered to be “very satisfied.” Twenty-three parents (7.4%) rated the cost of their child’s care as a “1” (5 parents) or “2” (18 parents). Not surprisingly, these parents said that the major reason they are dissatisfied with cost is some variant of “extremely expensive.”
- No parents were “very dissatisfied” (rating of “1” or “2”) with the quality or safety of their child’s care arrangement.
- Eight parents were dissatisfied (rating of “2”) with the convenience of their child’s care arrangement. These parents primarily said that the provider was “too far.” Several said the provider was not open all of the hours they needed.

Figure 9. Satisfaction with Child Care

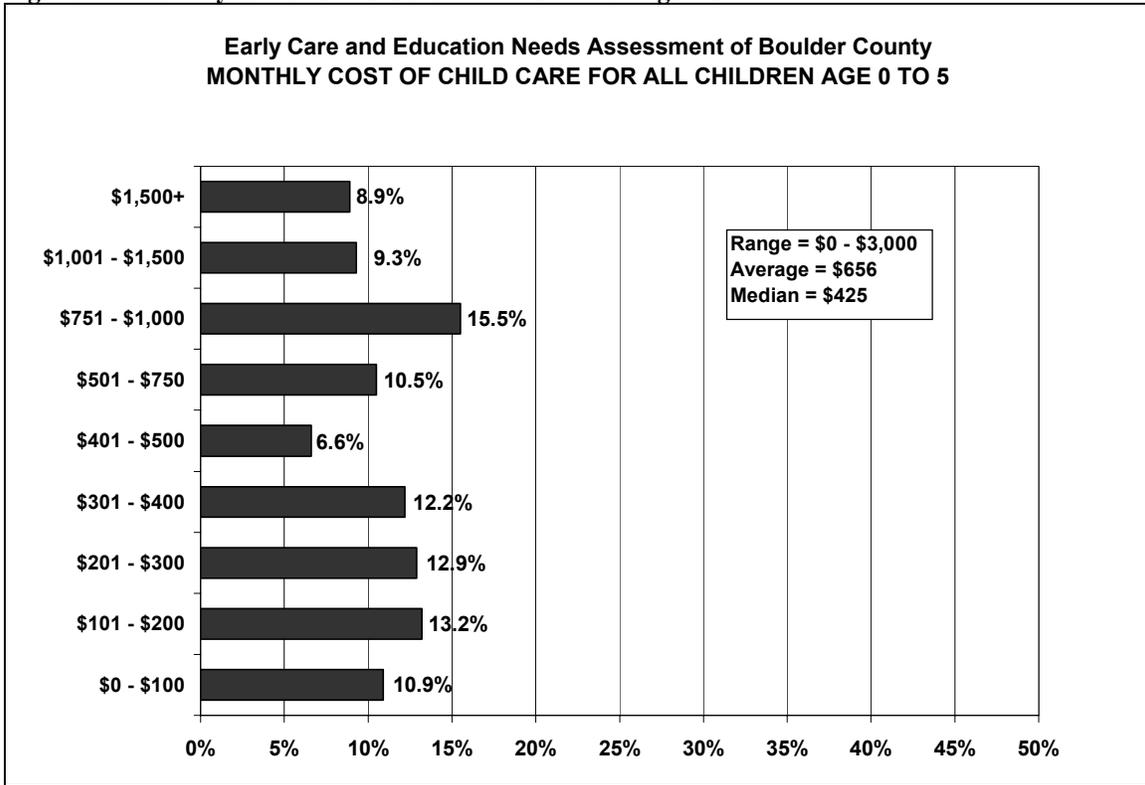


Child care cost: On average, families pay \$656 per month for child care for all of their children age 0-5. This average (mean) is skewed by families who have very expensive child care, because the median (middle) payment is \$425 per month.

- Twenty-two families (7.3%) said they do not pay anything for child care. At the other extreme, 11 families pay more than \$2,000 per month for child care for all of their children age 0-5.
- Only 21 families (6.8%) said that they receive any financial assistance for child care. These families receive funding from scholarships (seven families), CCCAP (four families), and sliding fee/reduced rate based on income, employer benefit, and Child Find (two families). Four “other” reasons include “discount because parent works at child’s school” and “reduced lunch.”
- Two-thirds (66.0%) of families who are currently using child care are aware that there is financial assistance available for child care for low income families. The remaining one-third are **not** aware of this assistance. Respondents living in low-income households are somewhat less likely than others to be aware that financial assistance is available for child care for low-income families (58.9% of low-income respondents versus 67.6% of other respondents are aware).⁶

⁶ This difference is not statistically significant ($p=.14$), but the relatively small number of low-income respondents with a child in child care (56) makes it difficult to achieve statistical significance. Given that

Figure 10. Monthly cost of Child Care for All Children Age 0-5



4. Families Not Currently Using Child Care

Slightly less than one-quarter (22.8%) of respondents do not currently have a child age 0-5 in regular child care.

Used child care in past: Of the 91 families who are not currently using child care, one-fifth (20.9%) said that they have used child care for their youngest child who is age 0-5 in the past. These parents stopped using child care for a variety of reasons. They most frequently said they stopped using child care because they chose to stay home with their child (7 parents), and because they lost their job (5 parents).

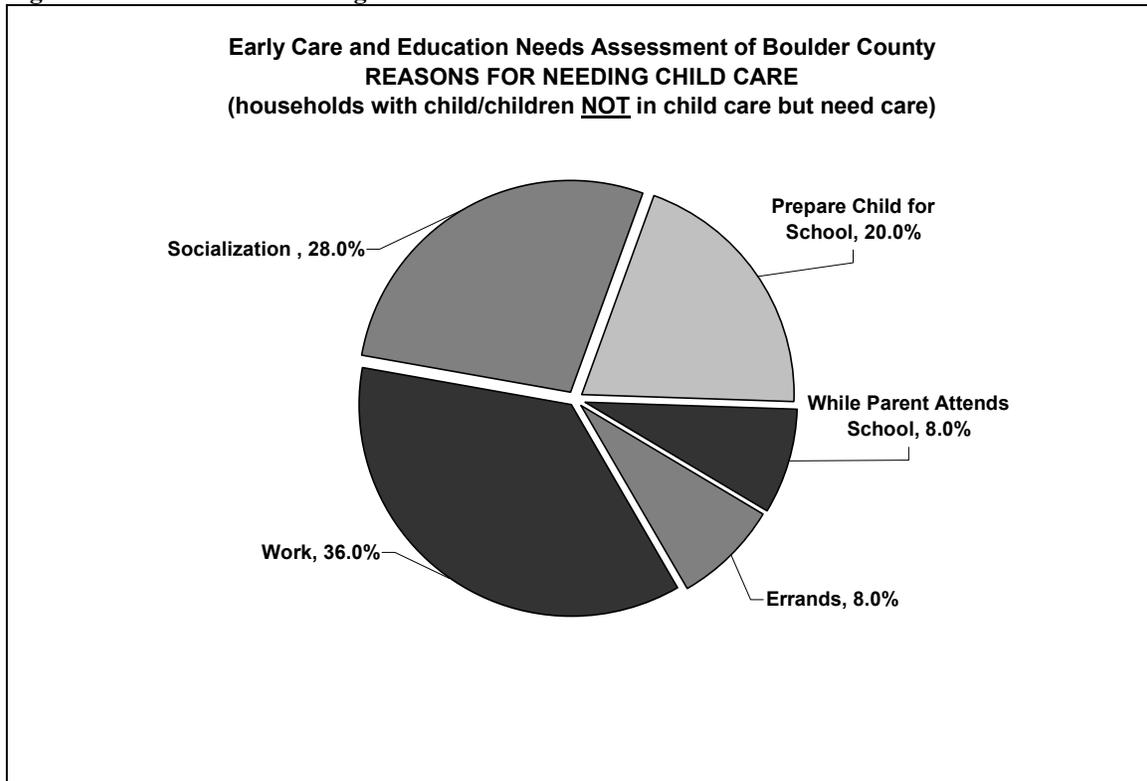
Currently need child care: Twenty-five families said that they currently need child care or are looking for child care because they will need it in the near future. Of the 66 families who do not currently need child care, only six anticipate needing child care in the next 12 months.

Why need child care: Families who currently are looking for or are in need of child care for their child age 0-5 state that their primary reason is work (36%), so their child can interact/socialize with other children (28.0%) and to help their child learn/prepare for

41.1 percent of low income families with a child in child care are not aware of financial assistance programs, the results suggest that Boulder County should make a greater effort to inform low income families of this assistance.

school (20.0%). These are the same reasons that families who currently have a child in child care gave for needing child care.

Figure 11. Reasons for Needing Child Care – Children NOT in Care but Need Care



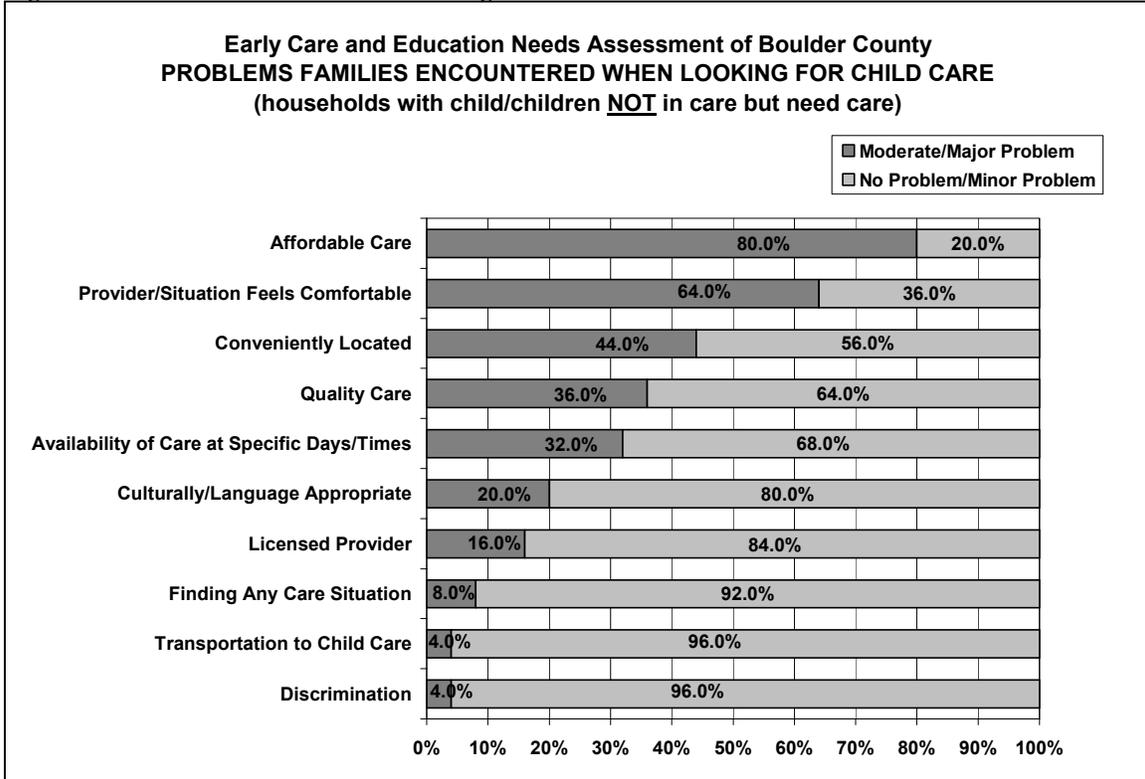
Problems finding child care: We asked these 25 parents whether each of a series of potential problems was a major, moderate, minor or not a problem for them when they were looking for child care for their child.

- By far the greatest problem that parents face when looking for child care is finding child care they could afford: fully four-fifths of parents said that this is a “major” (44.0 percent) or “moderate” (36.0%) problem when looking for child care. Only 12 percent said that cost is “not a problem.”
- Nearly two-thirds (64.0%) said that finding a provider and situation that feels comfortable is a “major” (32.0%) or “moderate” (32.0%) problem when looking for child care. Again, only 12 percent said that finding a comfortable provider and situation is “not a problem.”
- More than two-fifths (44.0%) said that finding child care that is conveniently located is a “major” (24.0%) or “moderate” (20.0%) problem.

While parents with a child currently in care and parents looking for care both said that cost and a situation that feels comfortable were the two biggest problems when looking

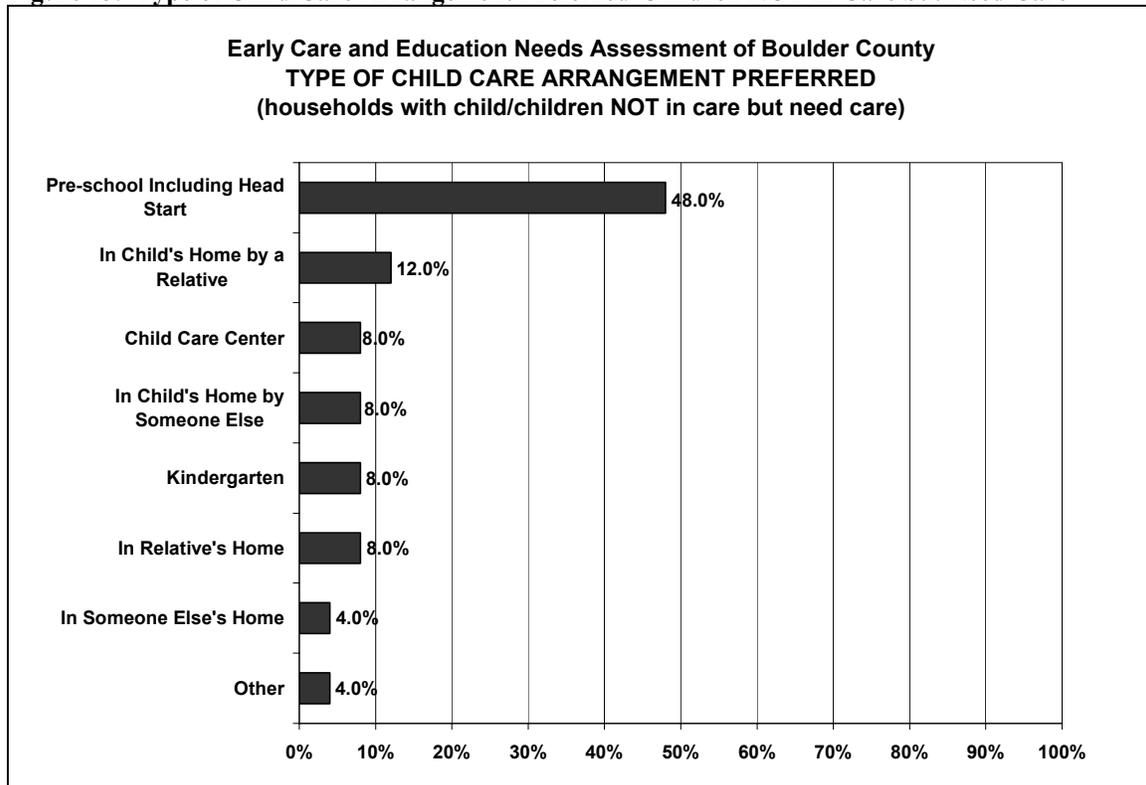
for child care, a much greater proportion of parents looking for care cited each as a “major” or “moderate” problem. Parents looking for care were more than twice as likely to say that finding care that is conveniently located is a “major” or “moderate” problem, and they were nearly twice as likely to say that finding quality care is a “major” or “moderate” problem.

Figure 12. Problems Encountered Looking for Child Care-Children NOT in Care but Need Care



Preferred care arrangement: Parents were asked what kind of child care arrangement they would prefer. Almost half (48.0%) wanted their child to attend a pre-school program, including Head Start. Few parents preferred care in their home or in someone else’s home, and few preferred a child care center.

Figure 13. Type of Child Care Arrangement Preferred-Children NOT in Care but Need Care



Preferred location: More than two-thirds (68.0%) said that it is most important to have a child care location that is close to home. Three parents wanted a location that is close to work, and three parents wanted a location on the route between home and work. Two parents wanted a child care location that is close to where their other children attend child care or school.

On average, families anticipate needing 18 hours of care per week. Forty-four percent (44.0%) wanted care for three days in a typical week. One-third (32.0%) wanted 4-5 days of child care each week, and one-quarter (24.0%) wanted care for 1-2 days each week. Fully three-quarters (76.0%) said they will need part-day rather than full-day care.

One-fifth (20.0%) of families expect that they will need weekday evening care, 16 percent (16.0%) will need weekend care, and only four percent (4.0%) think they will need care on weekday nights.

Child care assistance and cost: Slightly less than half (48.0%) of families who are looking for child care are aware that there is financial assistance available for child care for low income families. On average, families looking for care said that they can afford to pay \$479 per month for child care. Due to several high values, the median (middle) amount that families can pay per month is considerably lower -- \$300. The range in what families can afford is substantial, from no money to \$1,500 per month.

5. *Demographics of All Families*

Necessities: Nine families (2.3%) said that they do not have a stable place to live, that is, a place where they are not worried about housing from one month to the next. Seven families (1.8%) said that someone in their household missed a meal in the last month because they did not have enough food and did not have money to buy food. In all, 15 families were at risk of homelessness or did not have enough food; one family reported that they both are at risk of homelessness and did not have enough food.

Description of respondents: While most respondents (72.0%) are the mother or stepmother of a child age 0-5, a substantial minority – 27 percent – are the father or stepfather. Three respondents are the grandparent and one is another relative of a child age 0-5. The great majority (96.0%) live with their spouse or partner. Only 13 respondents are single parents. Respondents with a child currently in child care and other respondents are equally likely to live with their spouse or partner.

Two-thirds (40.0%) of respondents live in Longmont. One-fifth (20.0%) reside in Boulder, 15 percent (15.0%) in Louisville or Superior, 13 percent (13.0%) live in Lafayette, and nine percent (8.8%) in Erie. Only three percent (3.3%) live in other Boulder County communities.

Race/ethnicity: Eight percent (8.0%) consider themselves Hispanic. Families whose child age 0-5 is not currently in child care are more likely to be Hispanic than those with a child currently in child care, although the difference is fairly small: compare 12.1 percent with 6.8 percent.⁷

The great majority (90.3%) of respondents identify themselves as white. Five percent (5.1%) are Asian/Pacific Islander, three percent (2.8%) are multi-racial, and one percent each are Native American (1.0%) and African American (0.8%). While the differences are fairly small, families not currently using child care are more likely to be minority than those who are using child care: 13.6 percent versus 8.5 percent.⁸

Socioeconomic status: Respondents are highly educated. Nearly four-fifths (79.4%) have a college degree, some post-college education or a graduate or professional degree.

⁷ This difference is significant at the .10 level, which is suggestive of a “real” difference between the two groups.

⁸ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

Educational Level	#	%
8 th grade or less	5	1.3
Some high school	5	1.3
High School Diploma or GED	15	3.8
Some College	31	7.8
Associates degree, trade school or technical training	27	6.8
College degree	139	34.8
Some post college education	25	6.3
Graduate degree	153	38.3

Although a majority of each group has at least a college degree, respondents who currently have a child age 0-5 in child care have completed more school than others.⁹ For example, only three percent (2.9%) of respondents with a child in child care, compared to eighteen percent (17.6%) of others, have a high school diploma/GED or less education. In contrast, fully 85 percent (85.1%) of respondents with a child in child care, compared to three-fifths (59.4%) of others, have at least a college degree.

The surveyed families have high incomes. Only one-quarter (24.0%) report a 2008 total annual household income below \$60,000, the cut-off researchers used for low income households. We used \$60,000 as the low income cut-off for several reasons. First, in 2007, the median income in Boulder County was \$64,299, so \$60,000 was a reasonable break for income.¹⁰ Second, we asked respondents to report household income in categories because it is more respectful and also more likely to net a response rather than a refusal, so we had to cut income based on categories rather than actual income.

Almost half (45.4%) of respondents had an annual household income above \$100,000. Consistent with the differences in educational level, families with a child age 0-5 currently in child care have higher incomes than others.¹¹ Families whose child is not currently in child care are more than twice as likely to be low income as families who currently have a child in child care: 41.2 percent versus 19.0 percent. In contrast, families who currently have a child in child care are more than twice as likely to have an annual household income above \$100,000: 52.0 percent versus 22.4 percent.

Language: The great majority (90.4%) want their child care provider to speak only English to their child. Five percent (5.1%) want their child care provider to speak both English and Spanish to their child, and two percent (2.0%), only Spanish. Seven parents would like the provider to speak another language to their child, and three parents have no language preference. Families that do not have a child in child care are more likely to

⁹ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

¹⁰ 2008 KidsCount Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-Being. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Baltimore, MD 2008. http://datacenter.kidscount.org/db_08pdf/2008_databook.pdf

¹¹ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

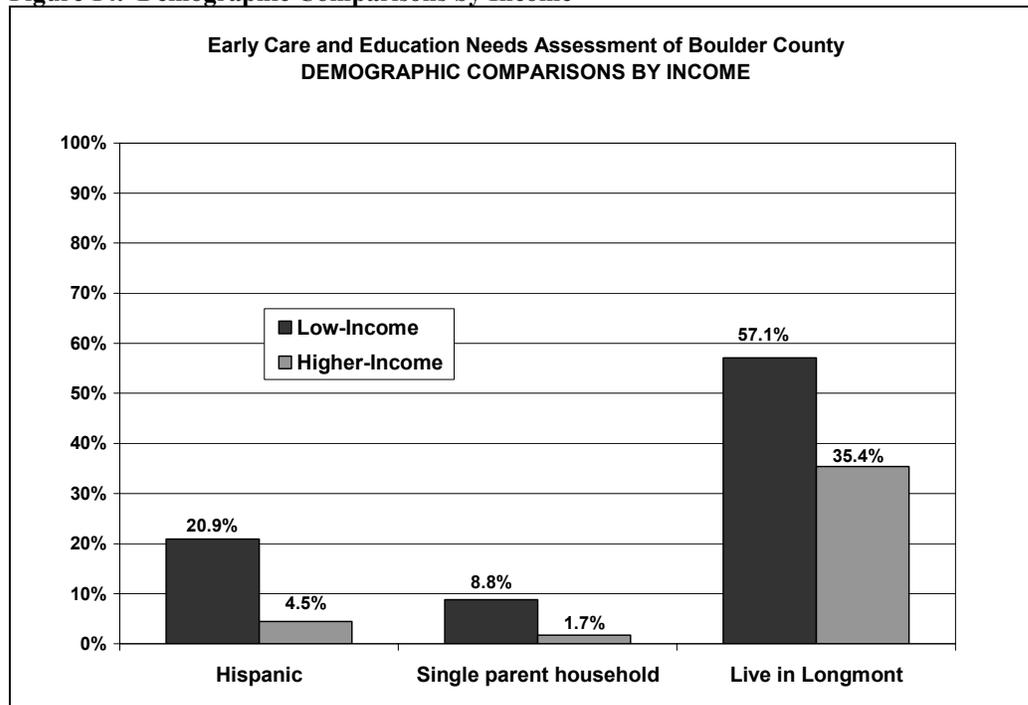
prefer that their provider speak Spanish to their child (5.7% compared to 1.0%) or that their provider speak both Spanish and English (8.0% compared to 4.2%).¹²

6. Comparisons of Low- and Higher Income Families

Almost one-quarter (24.0%) of surveyed families are low income, that is, they earned less than \$60,000 total income in 2008.¹³ Respondents living in low income families have less education than higher income respondents. For example, almost one-quarter (23.1%) of low income respondents, compared to one percent (0.7%) of higher income respondents, have a high school education or less. Nearly half of higher income respondents (46.2%), but only 14 percent (14.3%) of low income respondents, have a graduate or professional degree.¹⁴

Low-income families are four times as likely as higher income families to be Hispanic (20.9% versus 4.5%), and five times as likely to live in single parent families (8.8% versus 1.7%).¹⁵ More than half (57.1%) of low income families live in Longmont, compared to one-third (35.4%) of other families. Low income families are less likely than other families to live in Boulder (13.2% versus 21.2%), Louisville-Superior (9.9% versus 17.0%), or Erie (2.2% versus 11.1%).¹⁶

Figure 14. Demographic Comparisons by Income



¹² This difference is significant at the .05 level.

¹³ Twenty-one families refused to report income. These families are excluded from the calculation of proportion of low income families, and from the comparison of low income and higher income families.

¹⁴ Educational differences are significant at the .01 level.

¹⁵ Both differences are significant at the .01 level.

¹⁶ Differences by location are significant at the .01 level.

Low-income families were compared with higher income families on the following:

- Currently have a child age 0-5 in regular child care
- Have special needs child
- Primary reason for needing child care
- Problems finding child care
- Type of child care provider
- Full or part-day child care
- Satisfaction with child care
- Total monthly cost for child care for child(ren) age 0-5

There are several statistically significant differences between low-income and higher income families that are also substantively important.

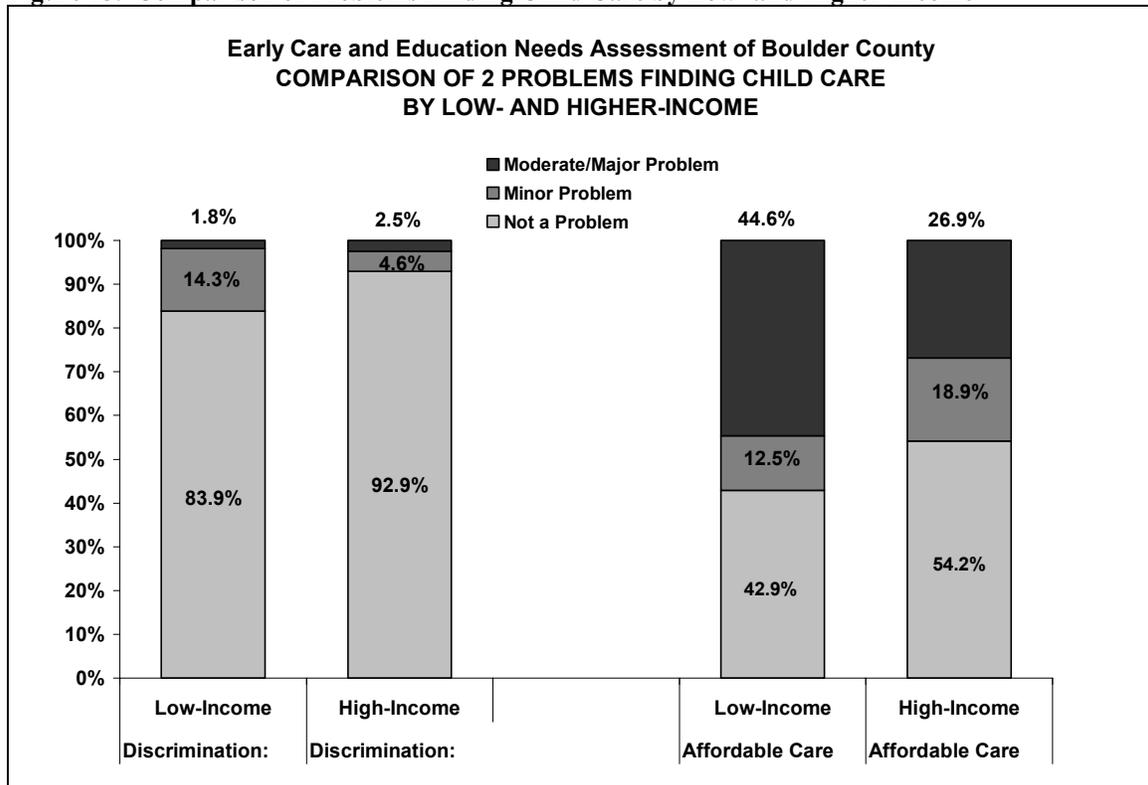
1. **Child currently in child care.** Although a majority of families in both income groups have a child age 0-5 who is currently in regular child care, lower income families are substantially less likely to have a child in child care: compare 61.5 percent with 82.6 percent.¹⁷
2. **Problems finding child care.** Low-income families are substantially more likely to say that finding affordable child care is a “major” or “moderate” problem when looking for child care than higher income families: 44.6% versus 26.9%.¹⁸ Lower-income families also are somewhat more likely to say that discrimination is a problem when looking for child care, but think it is a “minor” rather than a “major” or “moderate” problem. Fourteen percent (14.3%) of low-income respondents said that discrimination is a “minor” problem, and 2 percent (1.8% -- one family), that it is a major problem. In contrast, only five percent (4.6%) of higher income families said that discrimination is a “minor” problem, and three percent (2.5%), that it is a “major” or “moderate” problem.¹⁹

¹⁷ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

¹⁸ This difference is significant at the .05 level.

¹⁹ This difference is significant at the .05 level.

Figure 15. Comparison of Problems Finding Child Care by Low- and Higher-Income



3. **Type of child care provider.** Low-income and higher income families with a child age 0-5 in child care are equally likely to have their child go to a child care center or preschool including Head Start. The major difference between the two groups is that low-income families are more than three times as likely to have their child cared for in a relative’s home: 14.3 percent of low income families versus 3.8 percent of other families use this child care arrangement.²⁰ Low-income families also are more likely to have a relative care for their child in the child’s home (12.5% versus 7.6%), but this difference is not statistically significant. Taken together, these differences may be cultural – low-income families are substantially more likely to be Hispanic.
4. **Satisfaction with child care.** Low-income and higher income families are equally satisfied with the various aspects of their child’s child care, including quality of care, convenience, cost, safety, type of care, and overall care.
5. **Child care cost.** Higher income families pay almost twice as much each month for child care for all of their children age 0-5 as low-income families: compare \$724 with \$369. If we omit the 11 low-income and 10 higher income families who pay nothing for child care, the average monthly cost for child care is \$459 for low income and \$756 for higher income families, *still a large discrepancy*.²¹

²⁰ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

²¹ The difference in income is significant at the .01 level.

7. Comparisons across Cities

Two-fifths (40.0%) of survey respondents live in Longmont. One-fifth (20.0%) live in Boulder, 15 percent in Louisville/Superior, 13 percent in Lafayette, nine percent (8.8%) in Erie, and three percent (3.3%) live in other Boulder County communities.

Longmont residents are more likely than residents of other communities to be Hispanic. Thirteen percent of Longmont respondents (13.1%) are Hispanic, compared to 6.7 percent of residents of other communities.²² While a majority of respondents in all communities are highly educated, two-thirds (68.2%) of Longmont respondents compared to at least 85 percent of respondents living in other Boulder communities have a college degree or more education. Fourteen percent (13.7%) of Longmont respondents, compared to less than four percent of respondents in other areas, have a high school education or less.²³ Longmont and Lafayette families are most likely to be low income. Fully one-third (33.7%) of Longmont respondent and one-quarter (25.5%) of Lafayette respondents are low-income, compared to less than 20 percent of respondents in the other Boulder County communities.²⁴

DEMOGRAPHICS	Boulder		Erie		Lafayette		Longmont		Louisville - Superior		Rest of Boulder Cty	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
EDUCATION												
Less than high school	0	0	0	0	1	1.9	9	5.6	0	0	0	0
High school or GED	0	0	0	0	1	1.9	13	8.1	1	1.7	0	0
Some college, associates, tech school	7	8.8	5	14.3	4	7.6	29	18.2	8	13.3	5	38.5
College degree, some Graduate	36	45.0	18	51.5	30	57.7	50	31.3	25	41.7	5	38.5
Graduate degree	37	46.2	12	34.3	16	30.8	59	36.9	26	43.3	3	23.1
LOW-INCOME	12	16.4	2	5.9	12	25.5	52	33.8	9	15.5	4	30.8
HOUSEHOLD												
Single parent/guardian	3	3.8	1	2.9	1	1.9	6	3.8	2	3.3	0	0
Two adult household	75	93.8	34	97.1	51	98.1	153	95.6	58	96.7	13	100
Other	2	2.5	0	0	0	0	1	0.6	0	0	0	0
HISPANIC	4	5.1	1	2.9	2	3.8	21	13.1	4	6.7	0	0

²² This difference is significant at the .10 level. Given that we are comparing six groups, some of which are relatively small, it is difficult to achieve statistical significance at the standard .05 level or better.

²³ These differences are significant at the .01 level. Again, due to their small number, respondents living in the rest of Boulder County are not included in the comparison; 61.6 percent of these respondents have at least a college degree, and 38.5 percent have some college education or an associate degree, trade school or technical training.

²⁴ These differences are significant at the .01 level. It should be noted that nearly one-third (30.8%) of respondents living in the rest of Boulder County (not including Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville/Superior or Erie) are low income; however, since there are only 13 respondents from the rest of Boulder County, these data may not be reliable. It is interesting that half (53.8%) of these 13 respondents report earning more than \$100,000 annually. It may be that persons residing in the rest of Boulder County are either quite poor or quite wealthy, which is consistent with the demographics of some Boulder County mountain communities.

We compared families by cities on each of the following:

- Currently have a child age 0-5 in regular child care
- Have special needs child
- Primary reason for needing child care
- Problems finding child care
- Type of child care provider
- Full or part-day child care
- Satisfaction with child care
- Total monthly cost for child care for child(ren) age 0-5

The following are highlights of differences by Boulder County community:

1. **Child currently in child care.** Although a majority of families in every Boulder County community have a child age 0-5 who is currently in regular child care, Louisville/Superior families are most likely, and Longmont families least likely, to have a child in child care: compare 91.7 percent with 66.3 percent.²⁵
2. **Primary reason for needing child care.** Work is the primary reason (or one of the two primary reasons) why families in every Boulder County community need child care. In Boulder and Louisville/Superior, the next most frequently cited reason is so their child can socialize/interact with other children. In Longmont, the next most frequently cited reason is to help their child learn/prepare for school, while in Erie, respondents are equally likely to cite work and helping their child learn/prepare for school.²⁶
3. **Problems finding child care.** There are fairly large differences among communities in the proportion of respondents who think that several of the problems was a “major” or “moderate” problem when looking for care for their child age 0-5. However, there are only two statistically significant differences by city: problem finding child care that is conveniently located, and problem finding a provider and situation that feels comfortable.

The data suggest that Boulder and Longmont residents are able to find child care that is more conveniently located than residents of other Boulder County communities. Nearly one-third (31.7%) of Lafayette residents and one-fifth of Louisville/Superior (21.8%) and Erie (21.4%) residents said that this is a “major” or “moderate” problem, compared to approximately 10 percent of Boulder (10.3%) and Longmont (9.4%) residents.²⁷ These data are supported by the fact

²⁵ This difference is significant at the .01 level.

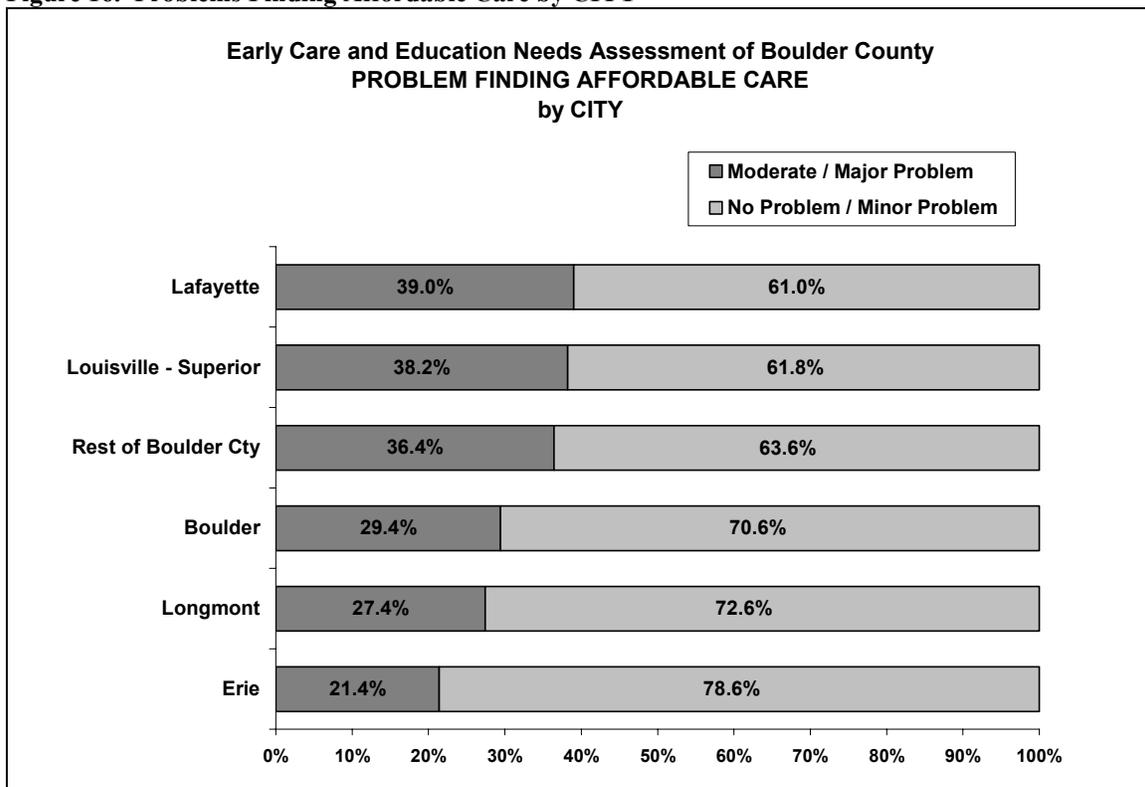
²⁶ These differences are significant at the .01 level. In the rest of Boulder County, the 11 respondents are equally likely to say that work and so their child can socialize/interact with other children are the primary reasons why their child is in child care.

²⁷ These differences are significant at the .06 level. In the rest of Boulder County, 18.2 percent of the 11 respondents say that finding child care that is conveniently located is a “major” or “moderate” problem.

that families from surrounding communities bring their children to Boulder for child care, and that most Longmont residents appear to use child care that is located in Longmont. In contrast, many Erie and Lafayette families get child care in other cities.

A majority of Lafayette respondents (58.5%) said that finding a provider and situation that feels comfortable was a “major” or “moderate” (19.5%) or “minor” (39.0%) problem. Nearly half (45.5%) of Louisville/Superior respondents said that this was a “major” or “moderate” (29.1%) or “minor” (16.4%) problem, with more respondents saying it was a “major” or “moderate” problem than saying it was a “minor” one.²⁸

Figure 16. Problems Finding Affordable Care by CITY



²⁸ These differences are significant at the .05 level.

Figure 17. Problem Finding Quality Care by CITY

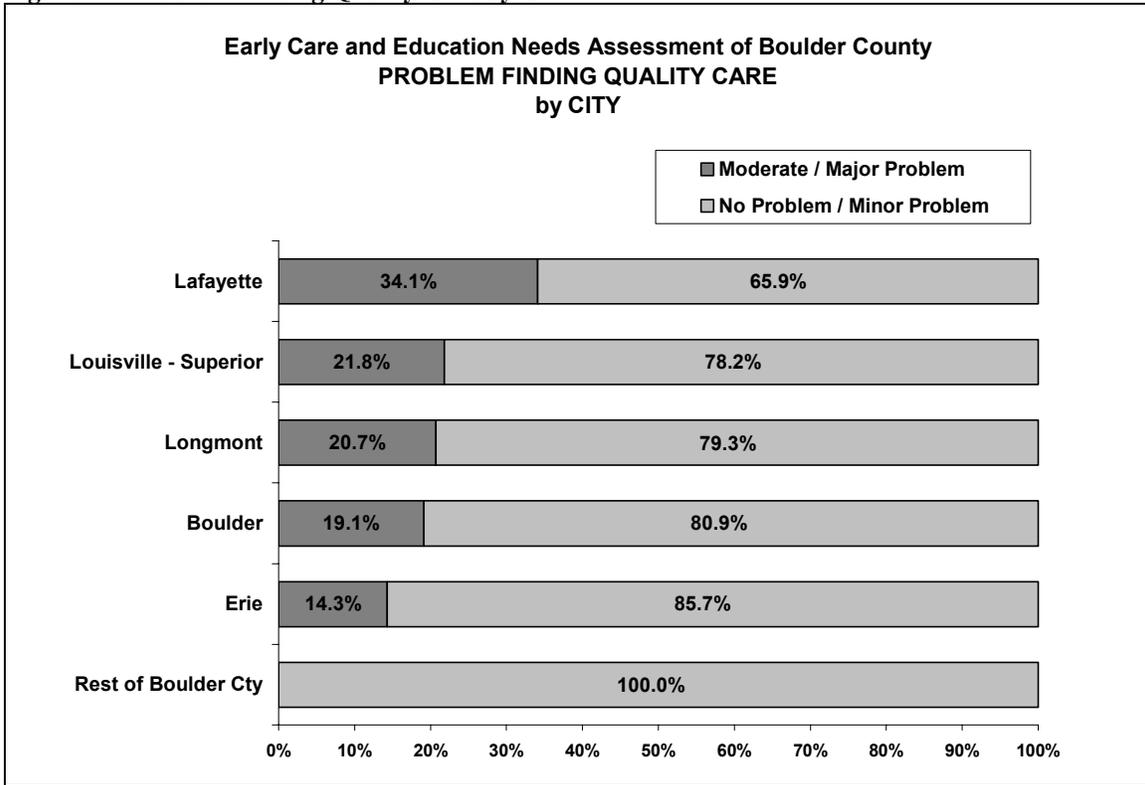


Figure 18. Problem Finding Conveniently Located Care by CITY

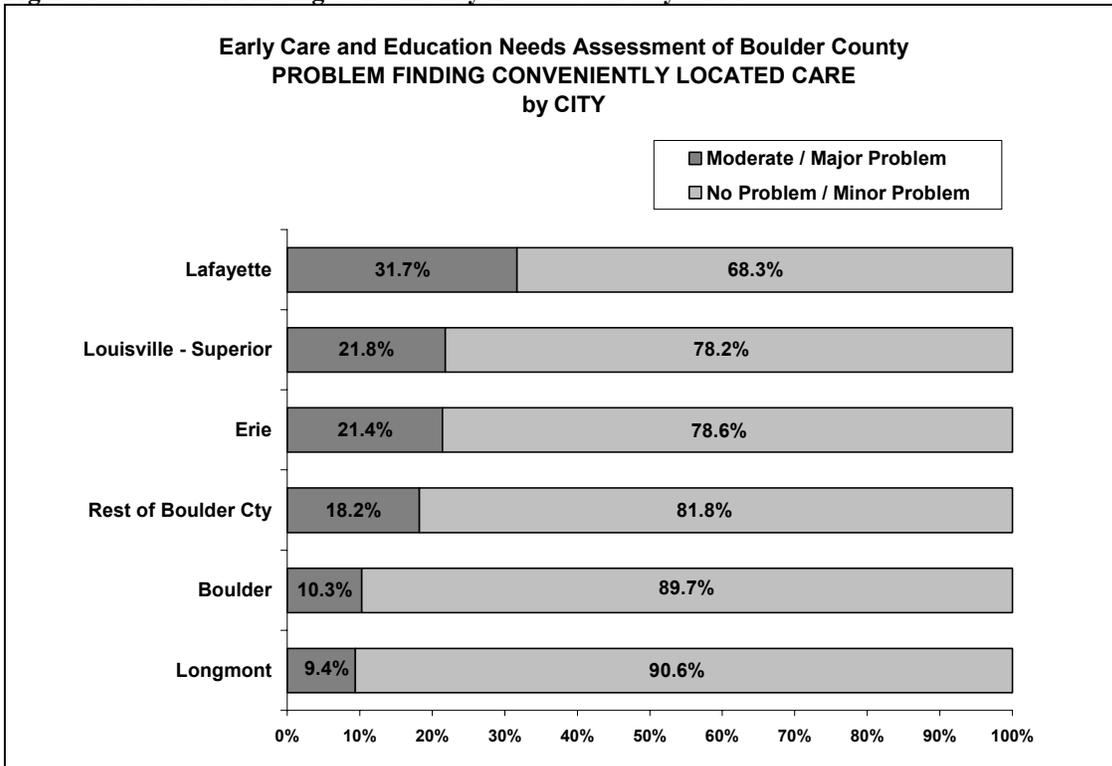


Figure 19. Problem Finding Available Care at Specific Days/Times by CITY

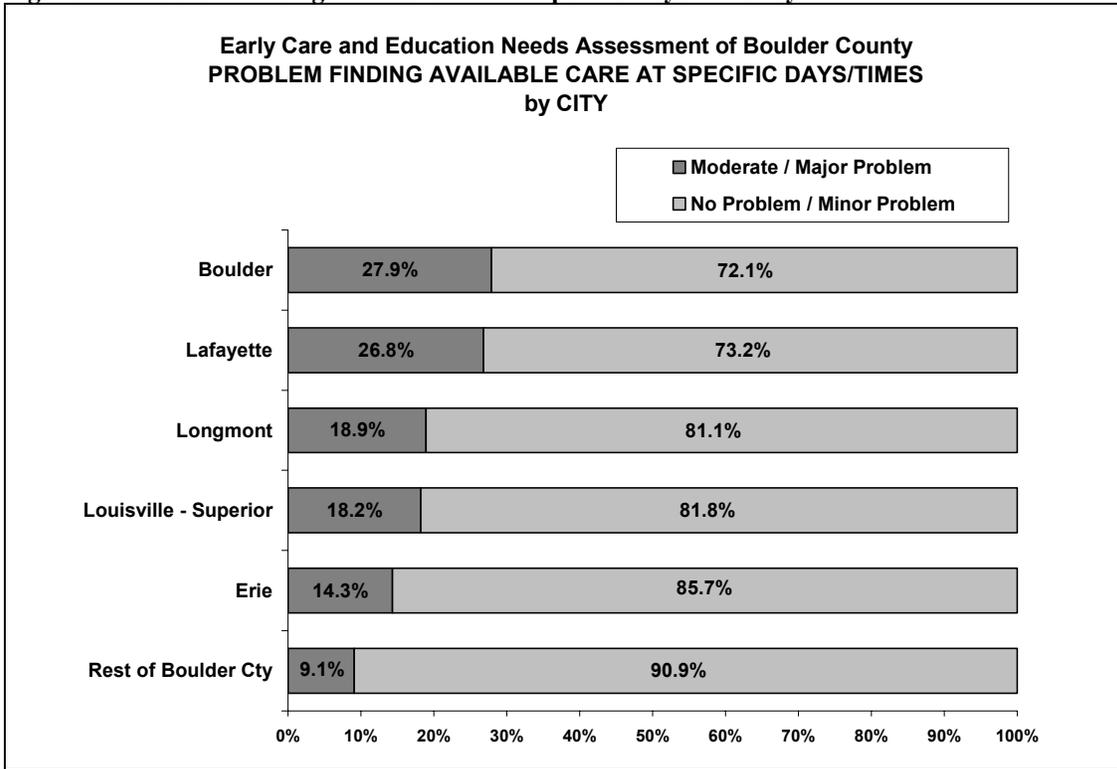


Figure 20. Problem Finding Transportation to Child Care by CITY

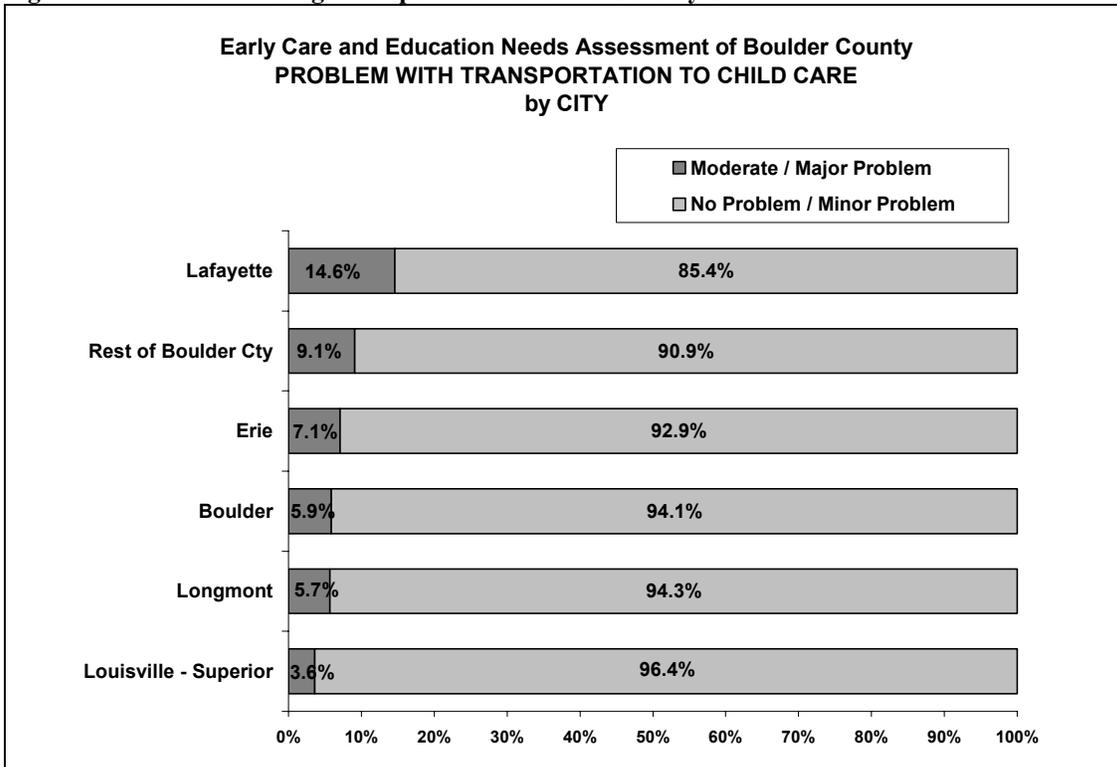


Figure 21. Problem Finding a Provider/Situation that Feels Comfortable by CITY

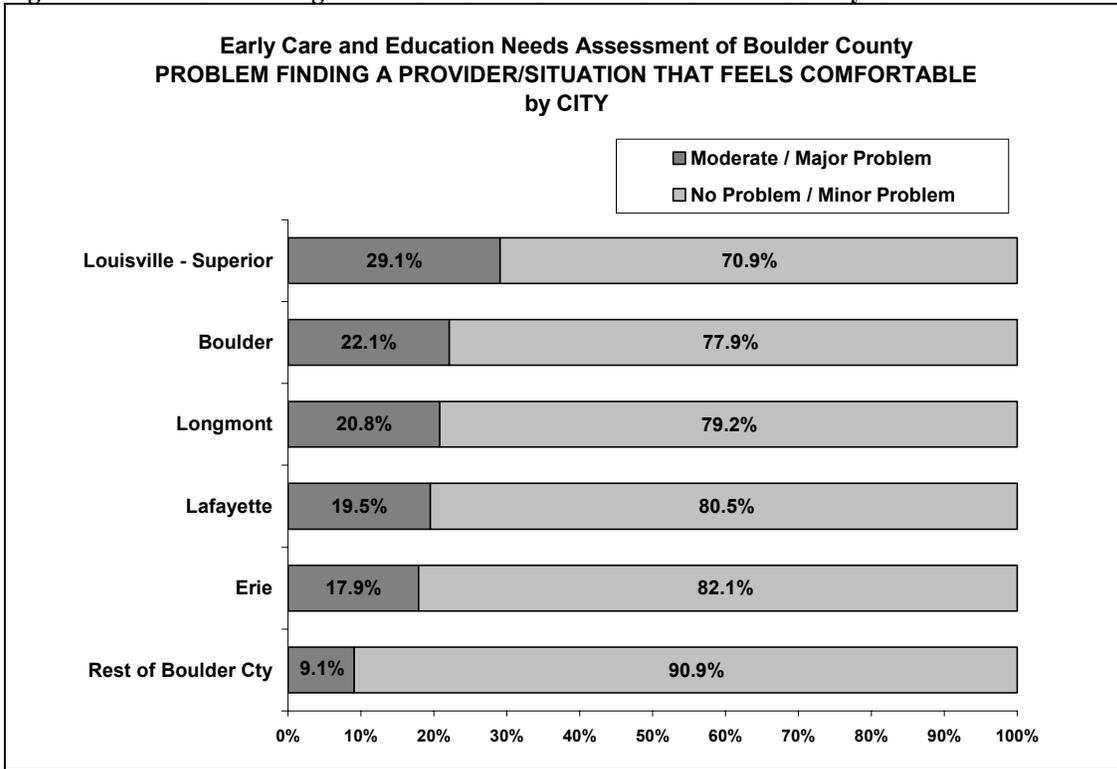


Figure 22. Problem Finding Culturally/Language Appropriate Care by CITY

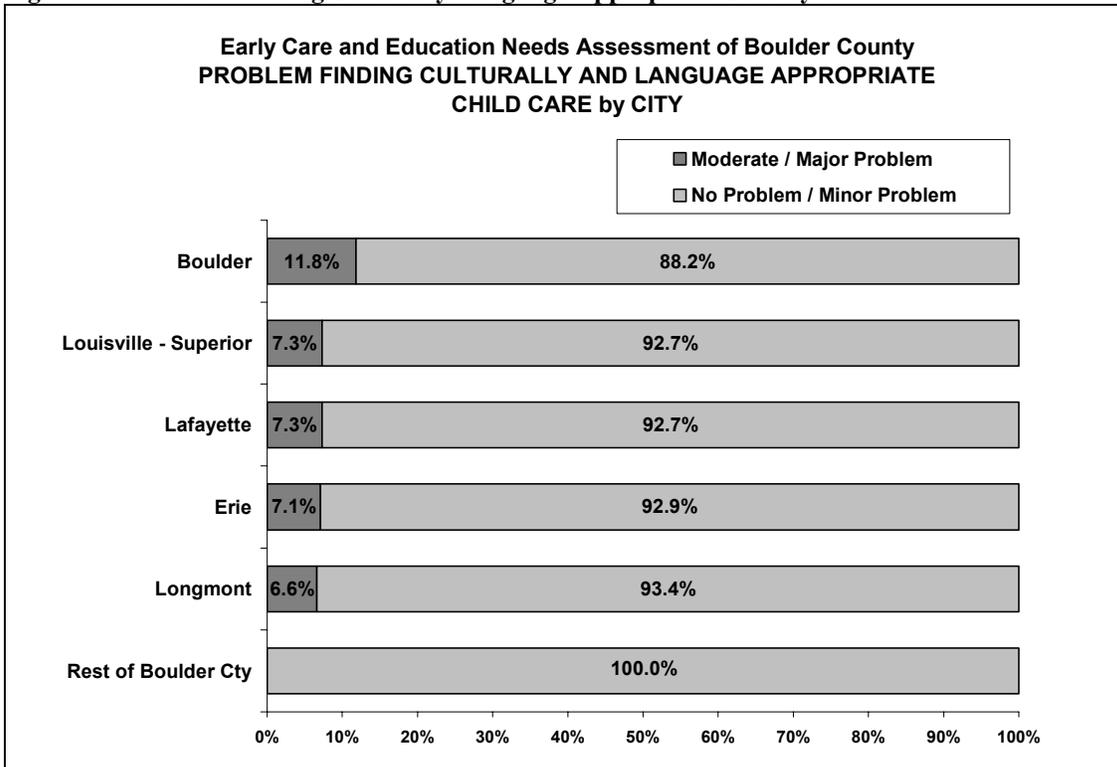


Figure 23. Problem Finding Licensed Child Care by CITY

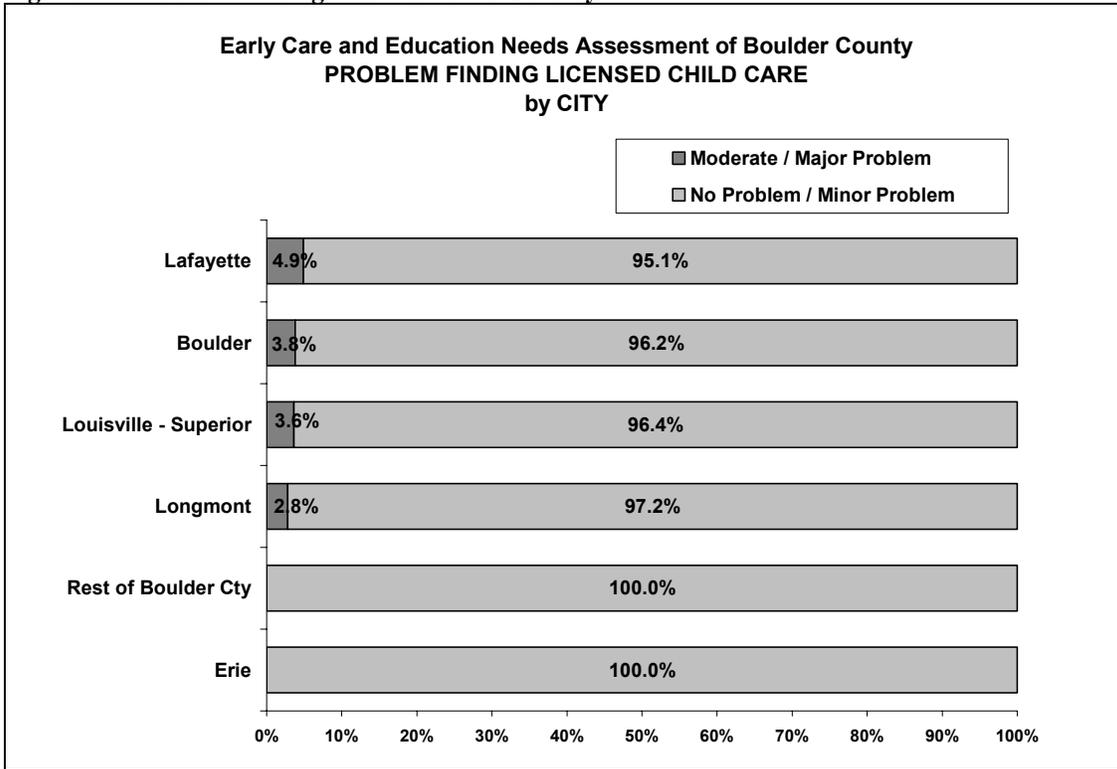


Figure 24. Problem with Discrimination by CITY

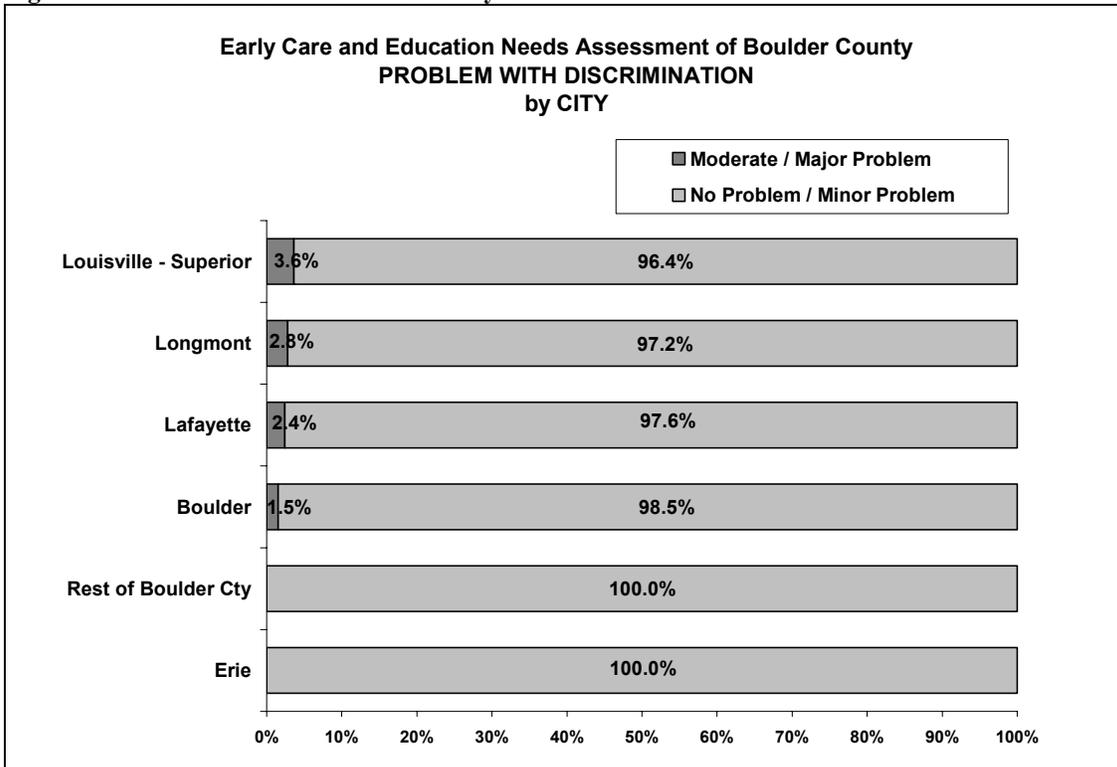
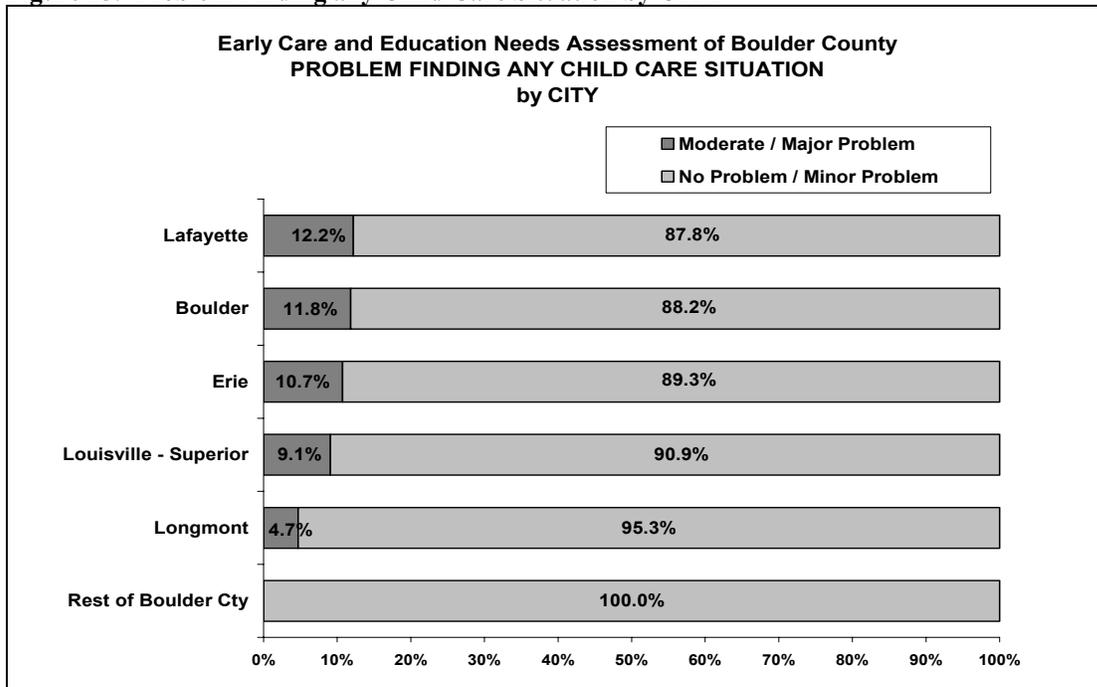


Figure 25. Problem Finding any Child Care Situation by CITY



4. **Type of child care provider.** The only statistically significant difference among Boulder County communities in type of child care provider used for their child age 0-5 is in someone else caring for respondents' child in respondents' home. Approximately one-quarter of respondents living in Lafayette (26.8%) and Boulder (23.5%) said that someone else cares for their child in their home, compared to less than 10 percent of respondents in other communities.²⁹

5. **Satisfaction with child care.** Boulder residents are least satisfied with the cost of their child's child care. On average, using a 1-5 scale where 1 indicates "very dissatisfied" and 5 indicates "very satisfied," Boulder respondents rated cost 3.6. Louisville/Superior respondents rated cost 3.8 on average. Respondents in other Boulder County communities gave cost an average rating of 4.0 or higher.

6. **Child care cost:** Residents of all Boulder County communities are equally likely to have their child age 0-5 in full-time child care. Despite this, Boulder residents pay substantially more for child care than residents of other Boulder County communities. On average, Boulder respondents pay \$972 per month for child care for all of their children age 0-5. This explains their relatively low satisfaction with the cost of child care. Lafayette respondents pay an average of \$729 per month for child care, and Louisville respondents pay an average of \$671 each month for child care. Respondents in the other Boulder County communities pay an average of \$500 or less for child care each month.³⁰

²⁹ These differences are significant at the .01 level.

³⁰ These differences are significant at the .01 level.

B. Targeted Surveys

1. Description of Child Care Needs of Spanish-Speaking Families

Spanish-speaking mothers/stepmothers completed 69 paper and pencil surveys.

Special Needs Children in Spanish-Speaking Families: Thirteen families had at least one child age 0-5 who has been identified with special needs. One family had two children age 0-5 with special needs and one family had three children age 0-5 with special needs, for a total of 16 special needs children.

Age of Special Needs Child	# of Children	% of Children
1	2	12.5%
2	4	25.0%
3	3	18.8%
4	2	12.5%
5	5	31.2%
Total	16	Average Age = 3.3

Description of children's special needs: We asked families to describe their youngest special needs child. Most parents reported that their child has special needs in speech/language. Half of the children have emotional/behavioral problems.

Type of Special Needs	# of Children	% of Children
Physical	3	23.1%
Cognitive	6	46.2%
Adaptive/Self Help	6	46.2%
Speech/Language	11	84.6%
Emotional/Behavioral	7	53.8%

Child care for special needs children: Of the 13 special needs children, seven are in child care on a regular basis and six are not in child care.

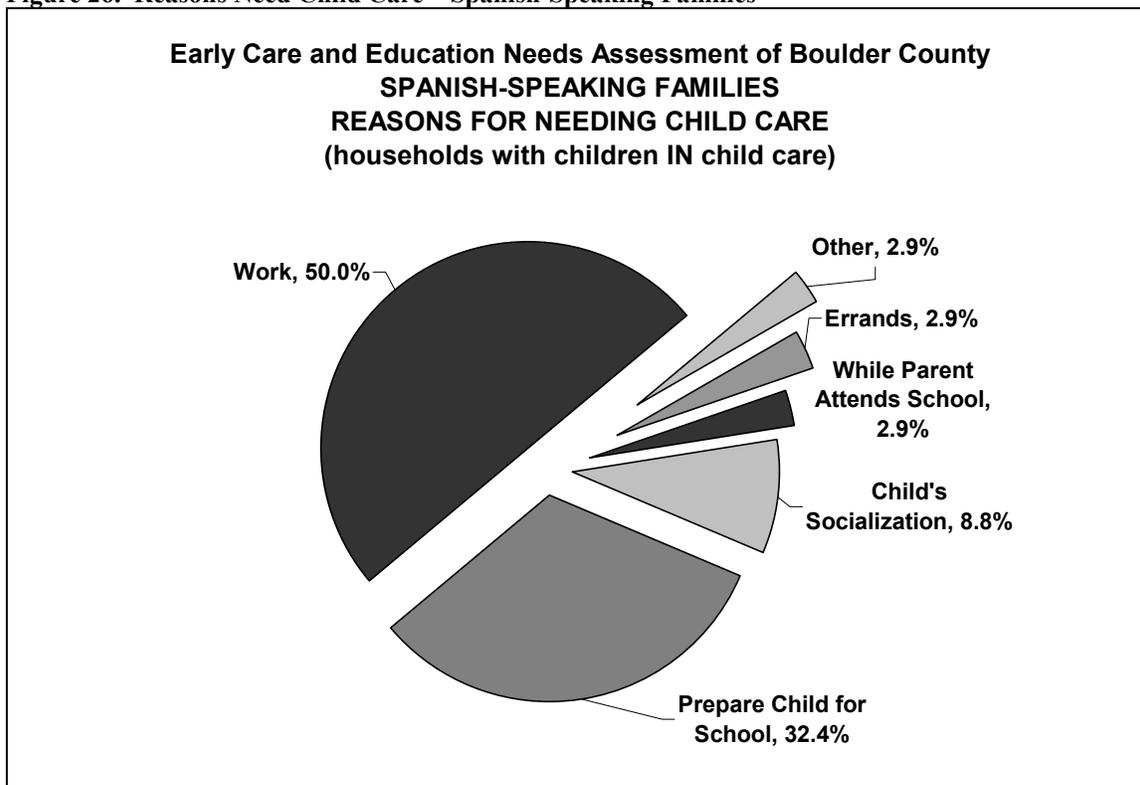
2. Spanish-Speaking Families with Child Currently in Child Care

Of the 69 Spanish-speaking parents who completed surveys, slightly more than half (53.6%) currently have at least one child age 0-5 in child care. Most of these 37 families (70.3%) have only one child age 0-5. Nine families have two children and two families have three children under age 6. In all, these families have 50 children age 0-5.

Age of Child	# of Children	% of Children
0	3	6%
1	4	8%
2	2	4%
3	12	24%
4	14	28%
5	15	30%
Total	50	Average Age = 3.5

Why need child care: We asked parents to describe the child care situation of their youngest child. Families primarily need child care so that they can work. The second most frequently cited reason for needing child care is to help their child learn/prepare for school, probably because a majority of families with a child in child care have a four or five year old child.

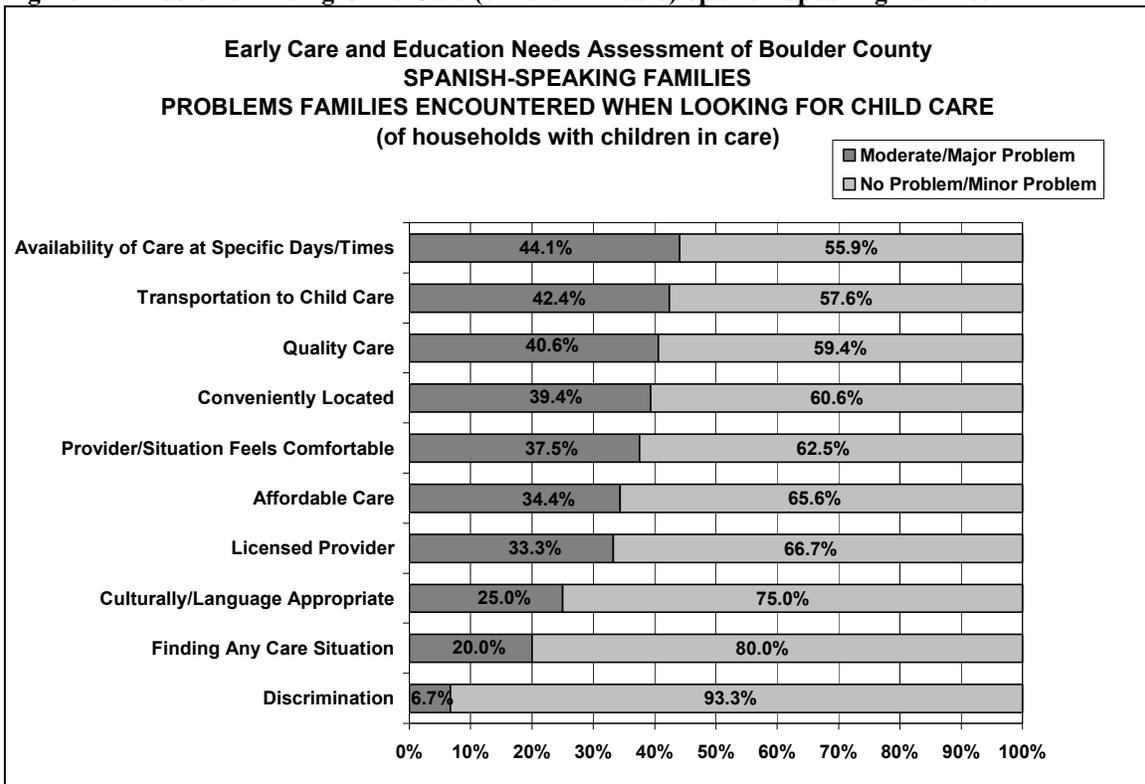
Figure 26. Reasons Need Child Care – Spanish-Speaking Families



Problems finding child care: We asked parents whether each of a series of potential problems was a major, moderate, minor or not a problem for them when they were looking for child care for their child.

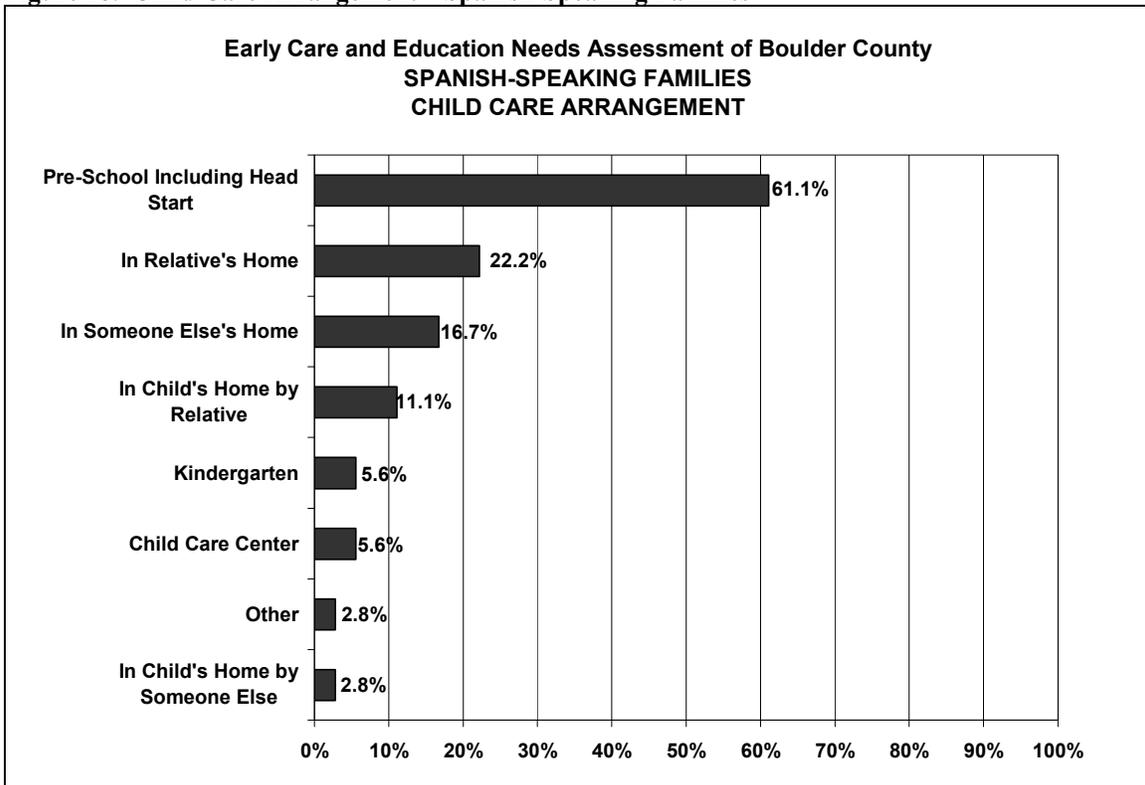
- Fewer than half of parents said that any problem was a “major” or “moderate” problem when looking for child care.
- Families said that the biggest problems were finding child care that is available during the days and times they need, finding child care that they can easily get to considering their transportation situation, and finding quality child care.

Figure 27. Problems Finding Child Care (children IN care) Spanish-Speaking Families



Care arrangement: Three-fifths of children are in a preschool program, including Head Start. Half are in a home care situation either in their own home or in someone else’s home. Very few children are in a child care center

Figure 28. Child Care Arrangement – Spanish-Speaking Families



Fewer than half of families (45.7%) said that their provider is licensed. Of the families who use a home provider, only one said that their home provider is licensed.

Three families use more than one child care arrangement. The major reason for using more than one provider is work schedule.

Types of care needed: Parents were asked if, in the past year, they needed different types of care for their child so they could go to work or school. For each type of care they needed, we asked parents if they could usually get this care when they needed it.

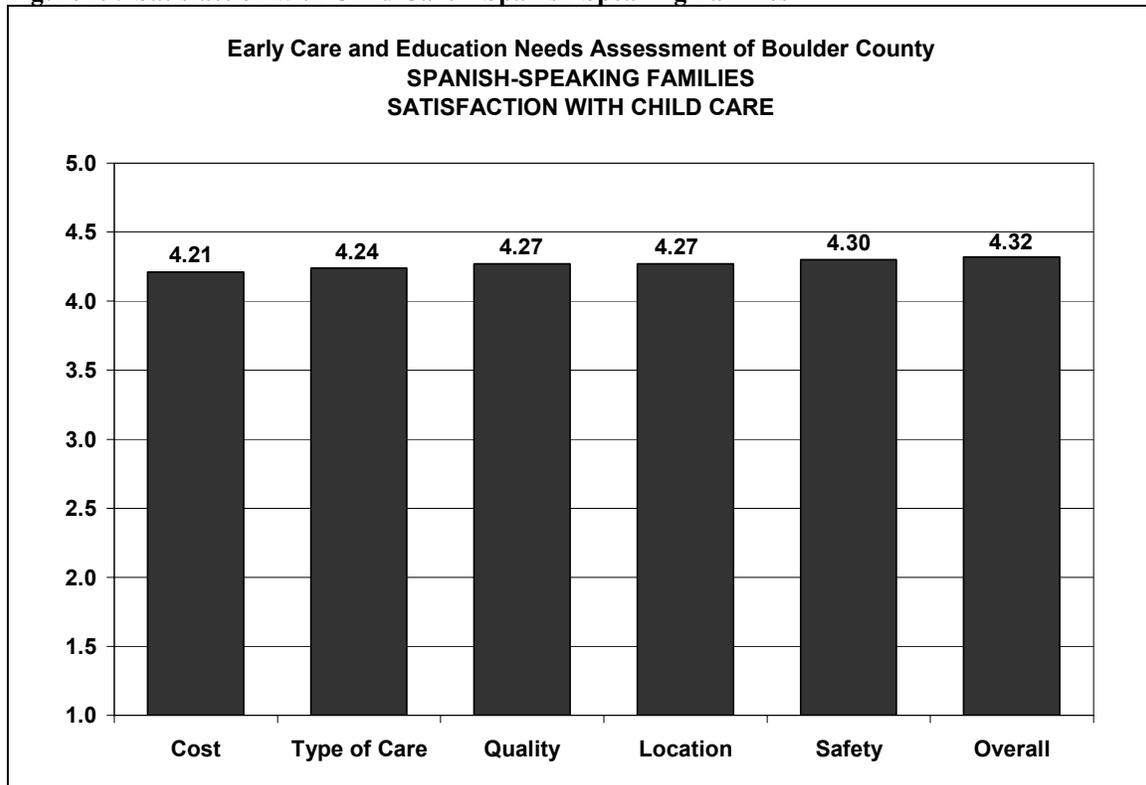
Parents were most likely to need before or after school care, back-up care when their provider was not available, summer care and sick child care. While a lot of parents did not respond to the follow-up question, with the exception of emergency care, most parents usually could get care when they needed it.

Table 11. Types of Care Needed in Past 12 Months / Ability to Get This Care (Spanish-Speaking Families)					
Type of Care	Needed this Type of Care		For Parents Who Needed Care: Could You Usually Get this Care When You Needed It		
	# Who Needed Care	% Who Needed Care	Total number who answered question	# saying "Yes"	% saying "Yes"
Care before or after your child's preschool or kindergarten day	13	35.1%	8	7	87.5%
Back-up care when your provider was not available	13	35.1%	6	4	66.7%
Care when your child was sick	11	29.7%	6	4	66.7%
Summer care	11	29.7%	5	4	80.0%
Emergency care	9	24.3%	5	4	80.0%
Weekend care	5	13.5%	2	1	50.0%
Evening care (6-11pm)	3	8.1%	0	--	--
Overnight care (11pm-6am)	1	2.7%	0	--	--

Full or part-time care: On average, families have their child in child care for almost 27 hours per week. Half (53.8%) are in care five days a week, and one-quarter (26.9%) are in child care four days a week. Over half (59.3%) of children are in part-day care and one-fifth (22.2%) are in full-day care. Nearly 20 percent (18.5%) are in a combination of full and part-day care.

Satisfaction with child care: Spanish-speaking families were very satisfied with their child care arrangement. They were asked to rate their satisfaction with six aspects of child care using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 indicates "very dissatisfied" and 5 indicates "very satisfied." On average, they rated each aspect of child care above "4," which indicates a high level of satisfaction.

Figure 29. Satisfaction with Child Care – Spanish-Speaking Families



Three families were “very dissatisfied” with all aspects of their child’s care arrangement. Unfortunately, they did not report why they are dissatisfied. Two parents who were less satisfied with their child’s care were unhappy with safety and the fact that the home provider does not give their child adequate attention.

Child care cost: On average, families pay \$146 per month for child care. The median (middle) cost of care is \$103 per month. Nineteen percent (18.9%) of families with a child in child care (7 families) receive financial assistance. They receive funding from CCAP, sliding scale fee, Child Find, CLIF, and direct assistance from Head Start. More than half of the families (58.3%) who currently are using child care are **not** aware that there is financial assistance available for child care for low-income families. All families who completed this survey are low-income.³¹

3. Demographics: Spanish-Speaking Families Currently in Care

Socioeconomic status: More than one-third of respondents (35.2%) have not completed high school. Two-fifths (41.2%) have a high school diploma or GED, and nearly a quarter (23.5%) have completed some college or more.

³¹ Five parents did not report their annual household income.

	# at Education Level	% at Education Level
8 th grade or less	6	17.6%
Some high school	6	17.6%
High School Diploma or GED	14	41.2%
Some College	2	5.9%
Associates degree, trade school or technical training	4	11.8%
College degree	1	2.9%
Some post college education	1	2.9%
Graduate degree	0	--

4. Spanish-Speaking Families NOT Currently Using Child Care

Thirty-two Spanish-speaking families do not currently have their child in child care. Nearly half (46.9%) of these families have one child age 0 to 5, and the same proportion (46.9%) have two children in this age group. Two families (6.3%) have three children under the age of 6. In all, these families have 51 children age 0-5.

Age of Child	# of Children	% of Children
0	6	11.8%
1	11	21.6%
2	12	23.5%
3	7	13.7%
4	6	11.8%
5	9	17.6%
Total	51	

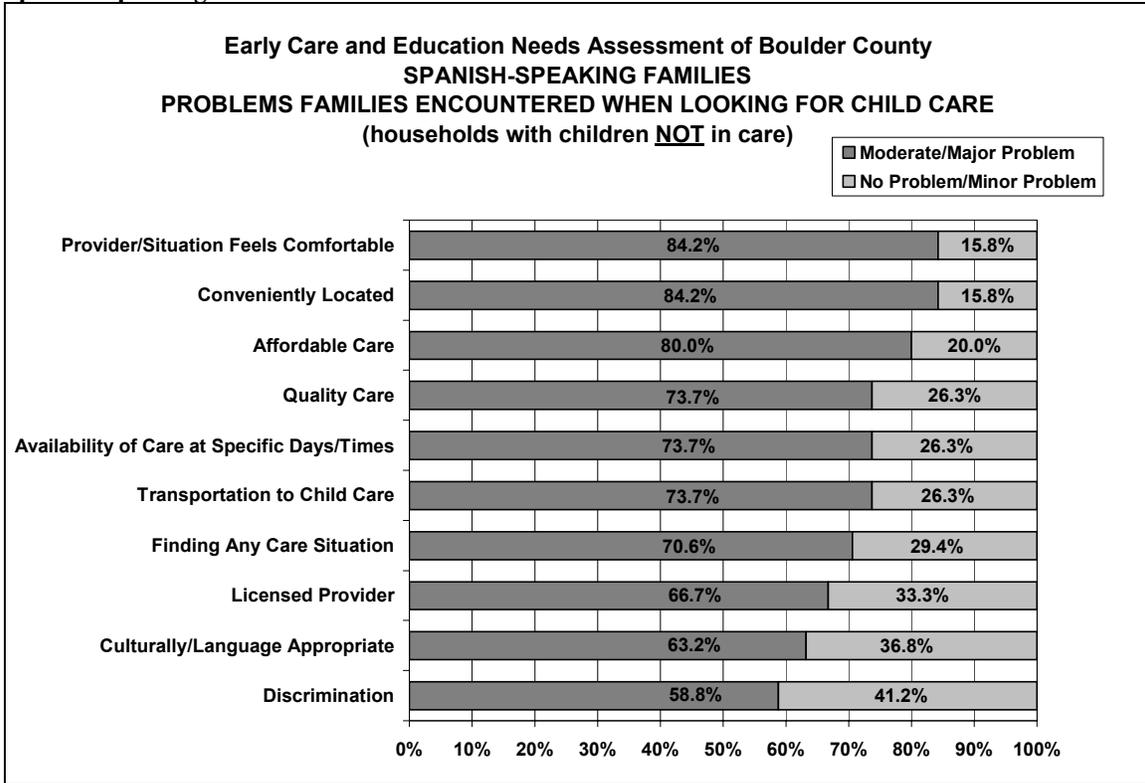
Two-thirds of these families (65.6%) said that they currently need child care or are looking for child care because they will need it in the near future. Of the 11 families who do not currently need child care, only two anticipate needing child care in the next 12 months.

Why need child care: More than half of the 21 families (57.1%) who currently are looking for child care or are in need of child care state that their primary reason is work. Approximately fifteen percent (14.3%) need child care so that their child can socialize/interact with others and to help their child learn/prepare for school.

Problems finding child care: We asked parents whether each of a series of potential problems was a major, moderate, minor or not a problem for them when they were looking for child care for their child. The majority of parents said that each problem was a “major” or “moderate” problem when looking for child care. Parents who are looking

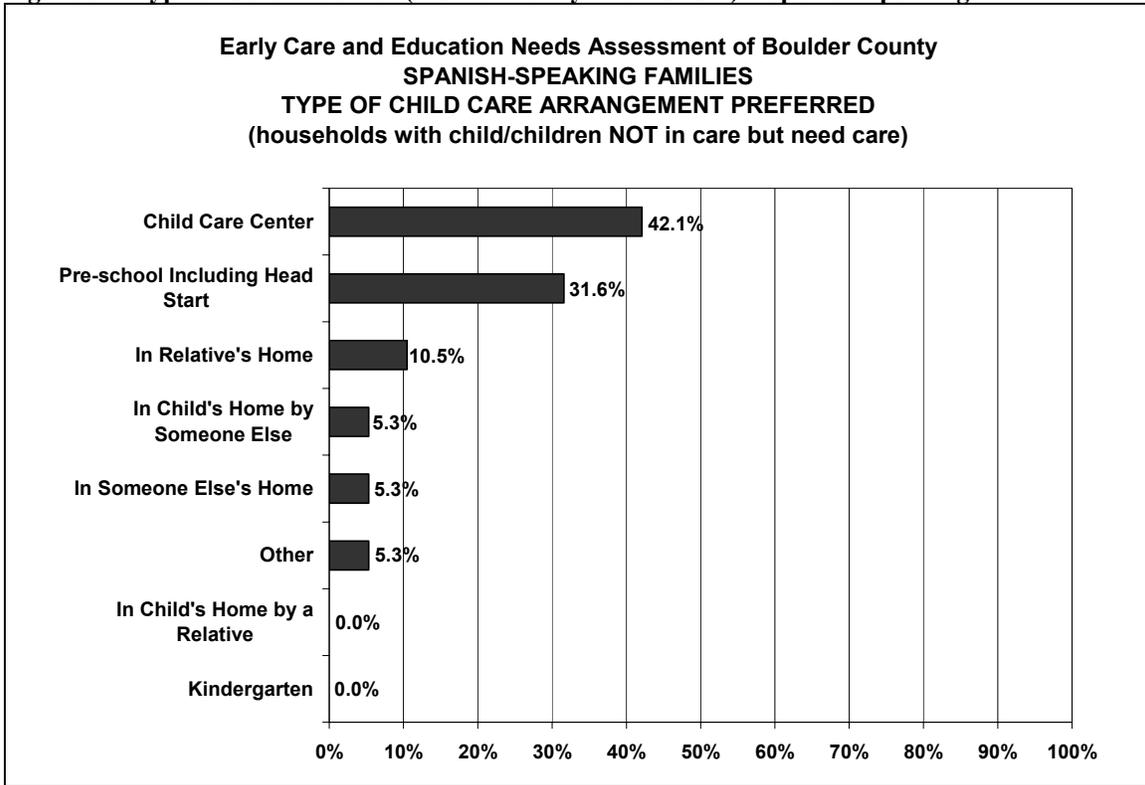
for care report substantially higher problems finding care than those parents whose children are currently in care.

Figure 30. Problems Encountered Looking for Child Care-Children NOT in Care but Need Care – Spanish-Speaking Families



Preferred care arrangement: Parents were asked what kind of child care arrangement they would prefer. Most parents wanted either a child care center (42.1%) or a preschool program including Head Start (31.6%).

Figure 31. Type of Care Preferred (NOT currently in child care) – Spanish-Speaking Families



Anticipated need: On average, families anticipate needing 24 hours of care per week. Half (52.6%) wanted care for five days each week, and one-fifth (21.1%) wanted four days of child care each week. Nearly half (45.0%) said they will need part day care. Almost one-third (30.0%) said they will need full day care, and one-quarter (25.0%) anticipated needing a combination of full and part day care.

Number of Days	#	%
1	2	10.5%
2	1	5.3%
3	2	10.5%
4	4	21.1%
5	10	52.6%

Two-thirds (68.4%) of families expect that they will need evening care, fifteen percent (15.8%) will need care weekday nights, and one-third (31.6%) will need weekend care.

Child care assistance and cost: Just 30 percent of families who are looking for child care are aware that there is financial assistance available for low income families. On average, families looking for care said that they can afford to pay \$97.50 per month for child care.

5. Demographics: All Spanish Speaking Families

Necessities: Sixteen families – nearly one in four (23.2%) – said that they do not have a stable place to live, that is, a place where they are not worried about housing from one month to the next. Another respondent said that, when her husband’s hours were cut, they couldn’t afford the rent. Nine families (13.0%) said that someone in their household missed a meal in the last month because they did not have enough food and did not have money to buy food.

Description of respondents: Most respondents are mothers/stepmothers of a child age 0-5. Two are fathers/stepfathers and one is another relative. Most – 82 percent (81.8%) of respondents with a child in child care and 69 percent (69.0%) of other respondents -- live with their spouse or partner. Respondents whose child is not currently in child care are more likely than those with a child in child care – 27.6 percent compared to 18.2 percent – to be single parents.

Nearly half (47.8%) of Spanish-speaking families live in Longmont. One-fifth (21.7%) live in Boulder.

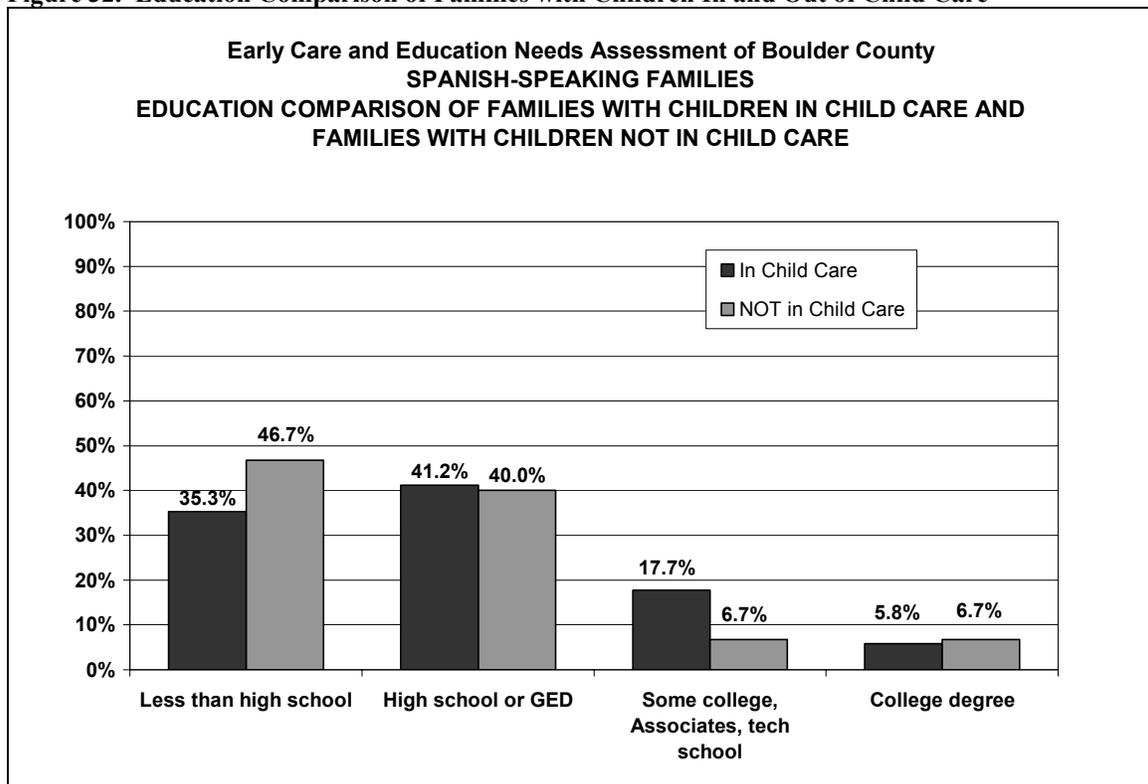
Socioeconomic status: Almost half of respondents (46.7%) whose child is not in child care have not completed high school. Two-fifths (40.0%) have a high school education or GED, and approximately one-in-eight (13.4%) have completed at least some college.

Table 15. Educational Level of Respondents Who Do Not Have a Child In Child Care (Spanish-Speaking Families)		
	# at Educational Level	% at Educational Level
8 th grade or less	4	13.3%
Some high school	10	33.3%
High School Diploma or GED	12	40.0%
Some College	2	6.7%
Associates degree, trade school or technical training	0	0
College degree	2	6.7%
Some post college education	0	0
Graduate degree	0	0

	# at Educational Level	% at Educational Level
8 th grade or less	6	17.6%
Some high school	6	17.6%
High School Diploma or GED	14	41.2%
Some College	2	5.9%
Associates degree, trade school or technical training	4	11.8%
College degree	1	2.9%
Some post college education	1	2.9%
Graduate degree	0	--

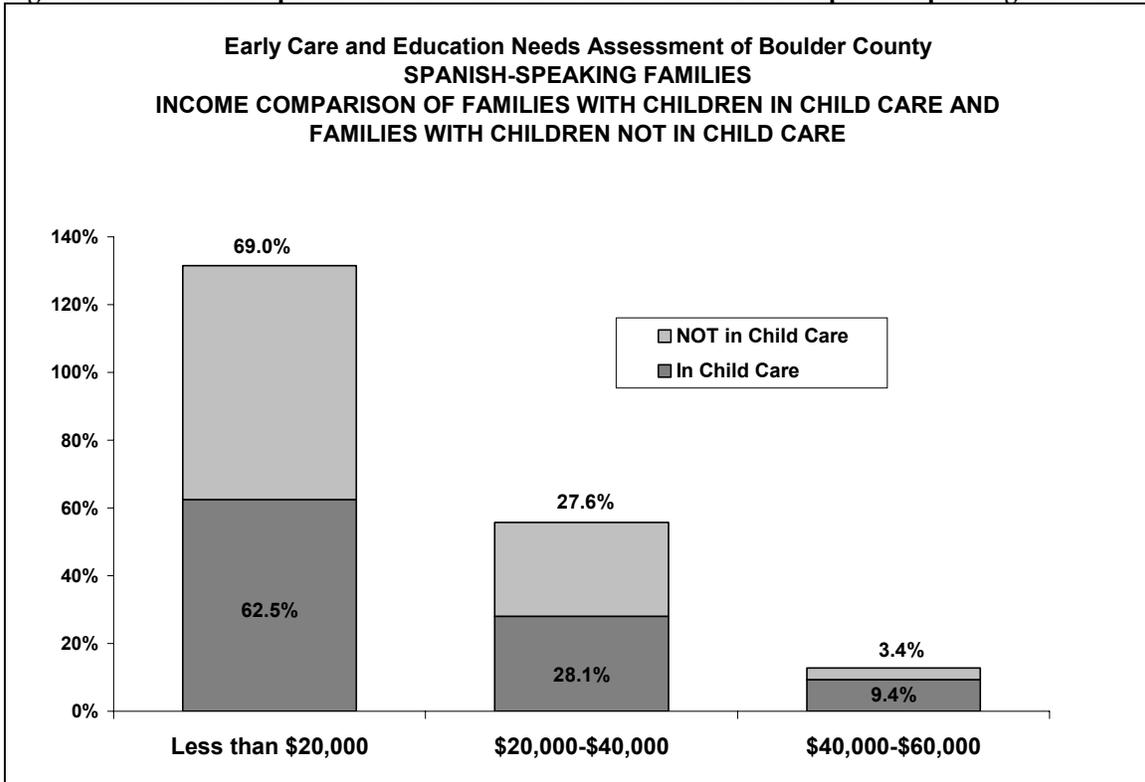
Parents whose children are in child care have a higher level of education on average than do parents whose children are not in child care. For example, slightly over one-third (35.3%) of parents with children in child care did not finish high school, compared to nearly half (46.7%) of those whose children are not in child care.

Figure 32. Education Comparison of Families with Children In and Out of Child Care



All of the families who reported their annual income – both families with and without a child currently in child care -- are low income, that is, their total 2008 annual household income was less than \$60,000. Families without a child in child care have slightly lower incomes: 69.0 percent of families without a child in child care, compared to 62.5 percent of families with a child in child care, earned less than \$20,000 last year.

Figure 33. Income Comparison of Families In and Out of Child Care – Spanish-Speaking Families



Parents’ Language Preference of Provider: A majority of each group of Spanish-speaking families want their child care provider to speak both English and Spanish to their child. Eleven percent (11/1%) of parents with a child in child care and three percent (3/3%) of others prefer their provider to speak only English to their child, and at least 30 percent of each group prefers their provider to speak only Spanish to their child.

6. Survey of Spanish-Speaking Providers

The study benefited from the experience and expertise of two additional researchers, Denys Vigil and Tikki Heublein, Ph.D. (please see Appendices for a brief description of their work). They conducted a survey with Spanish-speaking child care providers. The purpose of the survey was to get providers' perceptions of the child care needs of Spanish-speaking families. The Spanish-speaking child care providers are part of Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO), where Mr. Vigil serves as the PASO Program Coordinator and Dr. Heublein is the Lead Trainer. The goals of the PASO project are: 1) to create an equitable, replicable, community-based model program for providing professional development to Latino Family Friend & Neighbor (FFN) providers; 2) to enhance language and literacy development for Latino children in poverty, birth through five years of age; and 3) to promote school readiness and reduce the achievement gap between Latino and non-Latino children before they enter kindergarten. The program operates across Boulder County.

PASO provides training with a curriculum modeled after the CDA (Head Start). The training includes 130 hours of training over 18 months to Latino, Spanish-speaking FFN-PASO providers in the areas of: 1) child development (cognitive, language/literacy, social/emotional, physical); 2) safe and appropriate learning environments; 3) child physical health and prevention; 4) health screening for vision, dental, auditory, and developmental for children served by the PASO providers; and 5) parent training and materials.

Researchers read the questions in Spanish to PASO participants. The fourteen questions addressed: 1) what Spanish-speaking parents know about quality child care, how these parents choose child care and how they access quality care; and 2) the cultural background, beliefs, practices and learning opportunities of Spanish-speaking child care providers. Following is a summary of the researchers' findings. The full report is available in the Appendices.

According to the care providers, when Spanish-speaking parents need to find child care because their older children are in school or they do not have older children, they seek care from caregivers they can trust to love and respect their children and to respect them as parents. Clearly, parents in general want trusted and loving caregivers, but the providers emphasized that they work with parents who are uninformed about the principles of quality early care and education. Also, parents do not include their child's school readiness as part of their standard of quality. From the perspective of Spanish-speaking providers, parents are unaware of conventional standards of quality early care and education and are more concerned about the love, care, trustworthiness, and respect that providers give their children. This includes the respect paid to parents by providers.

Due to this lack of information about what constitutes quality care and because of parents' limited economic resources, Spanish-speaking parents do not access regulated child care either in homes or in centers. These parents find child care through families, friends, and neighbors' "word-of-mouth" connections. The providers also observed that

often, Spanish-speaking parents are unaware of the critical role they play as their child’s first teacher, including helping get their child ready for school. Providers reported that parents tend to rely on teachers, and do not see this as part of their parenting role.

Characteristics of Child Care Environment	#
Love and [take good] care of the children	15
Responsible, trustworthy provider	13
Respect for parents and children	11
Discipline/morality (children are “well behaved”)	11
Providers have education/training	10
Provide safe environment	8
Provide social and educational experiences	8
Religion/spirituality	7
Culture and language	4
Active learning, organized environment	2
Children have fun	1

Barriers	#
No formal training programs that are accessible to them, except PASO	15
Not speaking English	15
Fear of neighbors, social workers, police, U.S. culture	15
Lack of information about their rights and responsibilities	15
Not knowing U.S. culture	15
Lack of formal education	10
Stress	10
Lack of education of Latino parents	10
Racism	5
Lack of transportation	4
Lack of space in homes	2
Lack of communication	2
Lack of money	2

These Spanish-speaking providers do not have the early care and education experiences that are socially and culturally commonplace in the United States. They themselves had no formal early care and education. The families they serve come from the same cultural milieu: older children take care of younger children when parents and grandparents are not available. Since the providers have been participating in the PASO training program, they are more aware of the experiential differences between young Spanish-speaking Latino children and the majority of Anglo children, and are beginning to understand the reasons for the educational achievement gap between Latino children and majority children. With this understanding, they are more aware of the parents’ lack of

information, thus lack of appreciation for a broader meaning of “quality” early care and education.

The following table shows the types of help that Spanish-speaking child care providers said they need to implement quality child care.

Table 19. What Spanish-Speaking Child Care Providers Need to Implement Quality Child Care	
Needs	#
Training programs in Spanish that teach them how to take care of children and child development	15
Educational materials and equipment, inside and outside	15
To put into practice what they learn in PASO	13
Find more opportunities to continue learning	7
Food for the children	7
To maintain interest in learning	5
More space for the children	3
Educational materials for parents	2
Money	2

Recommendations for Spanish-Speaking Parents

- Use multiple methods to inform Spanish-speaking parents about “school readiness” for kindergarten children.
- Use multiple methods to inform Spanish-speaking parents about the need for quality early care and education for their children.
- Families need greater resources to access regulated, quality care and education for their young children.

Recommendations for Spanish-Speaking Providers:

- Use multiple methods to inform Spanish-speaking FFN PROVIDERS about the need for quality early care and education for their children.
- Make quality early childhood training programs, in Spanish, available to all Spanish-speaking FFN providers in Boulder County.
- Alternative certification or licensing provisions for trained Spanish-speaking providers are necessary so that these providers have equitable pay.
- Community resources must be available for Spanish-speaking providers to establish equitable learning environments.

7. Families With Special Needs Children

Targeted Survey – Special Needs Children

Families with a special needs child age 0-5 completed 14 paper and pencil surveys. Eight of these families are Spanish-speaking and six are English-speaking.

Number of special needs children: Two families each have two children with special needs. In all, these families have 16 children with special needs.

Age of Special Needs Child	# of Children	% of Children
0	2	12.5%
2	8	50.0%
4	4	25.0%
5	2	12.5%
Total	16	Average Age = 2.6

Youngest child with special needs: We asked families to describe their youngest special needs child. The average age of the 14 children about whom we collected detailed information is 2.4.

Description of children’s special needs: Families reported that all 14 children have special needs in speech/language. Half of the children have cognitive problems, and almost half have physical problems. Children have from one to five special needs. On average, children have 2.9 special needs.

Type of Special Needs	# of Children	% of Children
Physical	6	42.9%
Cognitive	7	50.0%
Adaptive/Self Help	4	28.6%
Speech/Language	14	100.0%
Emotional/Behavioral	5	35.7%

8. Families with Special Needs Children IN Child Care

Six of the 14 families currently have at least one child in child care.

Why need child care: Four families (66.7%) said their primary reason for needing childcare is to care for their child while they work. One parent needs child care so that their child can socialize with other children, and one parent needs care for her child while she runs errands.

Problems finding child care: We asked parents whether each of a series of potential problems was a major, moderate, minor or not a problem for them when they were looking for child care for their child.

- The biggest problems were finding quality child care and finding a provider and a situation that feels comfortable. For each, three parents said that it was a “major” problem, and two said it was a “moderate” problem.’

Half said that finding affordable child care and finding child care that cares for children with special needs is a “major” or “moderate” problem. Forty percent said that finding a provider with medical training and finding any child care is a “major” or “moderate” problem.

Care arrangement: None of these special needs children are in child care centers. Most are cared for in their own or someone else’s home: three children are cared for in their home, one is cared for in a relative’s home, and two are cared for in someone else’s home. Three children are in a preschool program including Head Start. One parent reports that their provider is licensed.

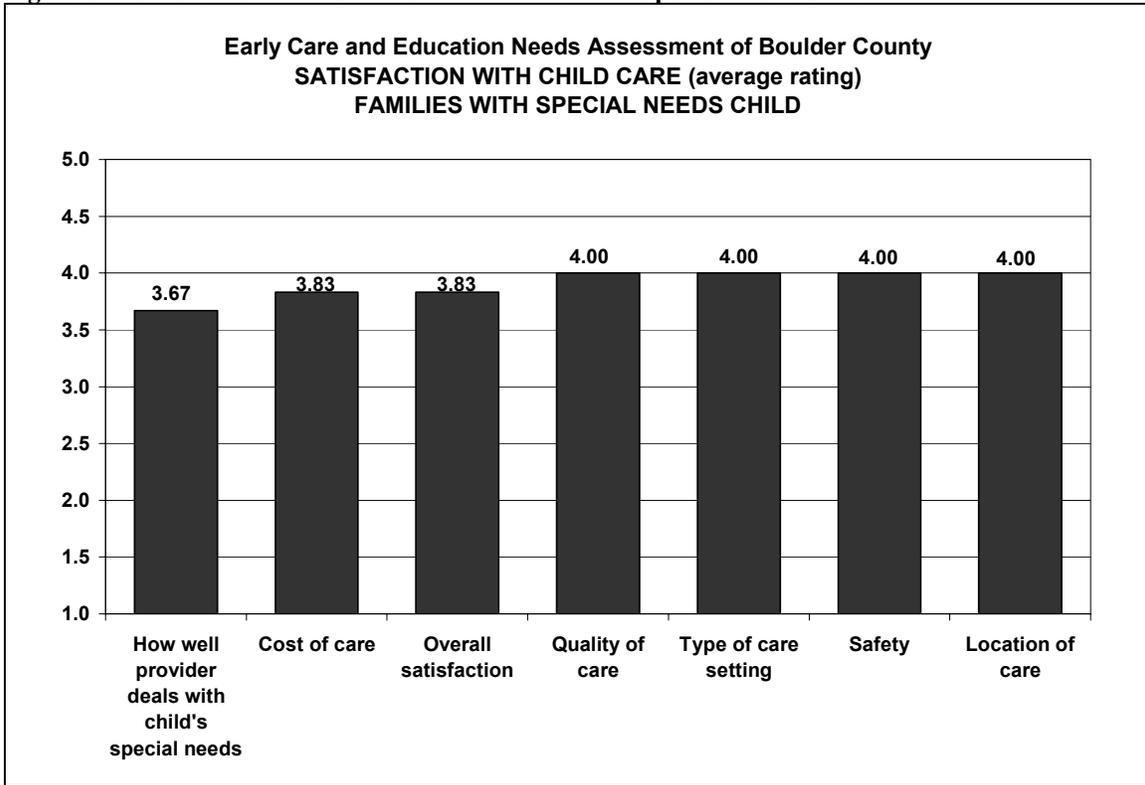
Respite care: Five of the six families reported needing respite care for their child in the past year. Four of these five families said they could usually get respite care when they needed it. One parent said that she could not always get respite care when she needed it because her provider is not always available.

Full or part-time care: Two families have their children in full-day care (39 hours per week on average). Four families have their children in part-day care (7.5 hours per week on average).

Satisfaction with child care: Families were satisfied with their child care arrangement. They were asked to rate their satisfaction with seven different aspects of child care using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 indicates “very dissatisfied” and 5 indicates “very satisfied.” On average, they rated most aspects of child care a “4,” which indicates a high level of satisfaction.

Parents were most satisfied with quality of care, location, safety, and type of care setting. Each was rated a “4.0” on average. They were less satisfied with how the provider deals with their child’s special needs (3.7 average rating) and, the cost of care (3.8 average rating). Parents rated their overall satisfaction with their child’s child care as a “3.8.” One mother is especially dissatisfied with most aspects of her respite care arrangement. She feels that the child care provider does not pay attention to her child. “She pays more attention to the television than my child.”

Figure 34. Satisfaction with Child Care – Families with Special Needs Child



Child care cost: On average, families pay \$289 per month for child care. The families with a special needs child in full-time care pay an average of \$405 per month; those with a child in part-time care pay an average of \$231 per month. Only two families receive financial assistance for child care, from CCCAP and Child Find. Two of the six families are not aware of financial assistance for child care for low income families.

9. Families with Special Needs Children NOT Currently Using Child Care

Eight families with special needs children do not currently have their child in child care. Two of these families said that they currently need child care or are looking for child care because they will need it in the near future. Of the six families who do not currently need child care, only one family anticipates needing child care in the next 12 months.

Why need child care: The two families who currently are looking for or in need of child care state that their primary reason is to care for their child while they work.

Problems finding child care: Both families said that finding quality care, finding a licensed child care provider, finding a situation that cares for children with their child’s special needs and finding a provider with medical training is a “major” problem. Finding child care that is conveniently located and finding child care that is available the days and times that they need is a “major” problem for one parent and a “moderate” problem for the other. Both parents said that finding child care they can easily get to considering their

transportation situation is a “moderate” problem. One parent said that finding child care that is culturally and language appropriate is a “major” problem, and one parent said that finding any child care situation is a “major” problem.

Preferred care arrangement: One parent preferred finding a preschool program while the other parent preferred to have relative care in her own home. On average, these parents anticipated needing 27 hours of care per week over 3-5 days.

Child care assistance and cost: Neither family was aware of financial assistance available for low income families, even though both are low income. One parent said that they could only afford \$100 per month for child care; the other parent did not answer this question.

10. Demographics: All Families with Special Needs Child

Necessities: Two families said that they do not have a stable place to live, that is, a place where they are not worried about housing from one month to the next. A third family said that they sometimes are unable to pay their rent. None of these families said that a household member had to miss a meal in the past month because could not afford food.

Description of Respondents: All of the surveys were completed by a parent of the special needs child. With one exception, the respondents were mothers or stepmothers. Three respondents are single parents, and the rest are living with a spouse or partner. Nine families live in Longmont, one family lives in Lafayette, one lives in Boulder, and three live in other communities in Boulder County.

Socioeconomic Status: Respondents have a wide range of educational attainment. Two have an eighth grade education or less, two have completed some high school, four have a high school diploma or GED, three have completed some college, and three have college degrees. Most families – 71 percent (10 of 14 families) – are low income, that is, they have annual household incomes below \$60,000.

Language: While all the respondents are Spanish-speaking, some preferred that the child care provider speak to their child in Spanish and some preferred that the provider speak to their child in English. Among families with a child in child care, only one parent preferred that the provider speak to their child in Spanish. Two wanted the provider to speak to their child in both English and Spanish, and three preferred only English.

III. PROJECTIONS

The researchers used the 2005-2007 American Community Survey three-year estimates to get the number of children age 0 through 5 living in Boulder County.³² Using these data, we estimated that there are 20,454 children age 0 through 5 residing in Boulder County. Using this base, we estimated the number of children age 0-5 currently in child care and the unmet need for child care (children whose parents are looking for child care or who will need child care in the near future). This estimate may overstate the number of children in child care, because low income families are less likely to use care than others. It may understate the unmet need for child care, because low income families are more likely than other families to need child care but not currently be using it.³³

Source	Random Sample Survey			Boulder County
	Children Age 0-5 in Child Care	Total # of Children Age 0-5#	% of children age 0-5 in Child Care	Estimated # of Children in Child Care
Random Sample Survey: All Families (400)	370	564	65.6	13,418

Source	Random Sample Survey			Boulder County
	Children Age 0-5 Needing Child Care	Total # of Children Age 0-5#	% of children age 0-5 Needing Child Care	Estimated # of Children with Unmet Need for Child Care
Random Sample Survey: All Families (400)	28	564	5.0% ³⁴	1,016

There are an estimated 13,418 children age 0-5 currently in child care in Boulder County. There is unmet need for child care for 1,016 children age 0-5. Based on these estimates, overall, 14,434 children age 0-5 need child care in Boulder County.

³² The 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimate for children under five years old is 17,045. To estimate the number of children under six years old, we divided 17,045 by five and then multiplied it by six.

³³ In the survey, 52.0 percent of low-income children – children living in families with a total 2008 annual income below \$60,000 -- are in child care, compared to 65.6 percent of all children in the sample. Also in the survey, 8.0 percent of low-income children, compared to 5.0 percent of all children in the sample, have unmet need for child care.

³⁴ We used a more precise number -- 4.965 -- to do the calculation.

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