



Garfield County Child Care Needs Assessment 2025

Garfield County Child Care Needs Assessment

2025

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GARFIELD COUNTY CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

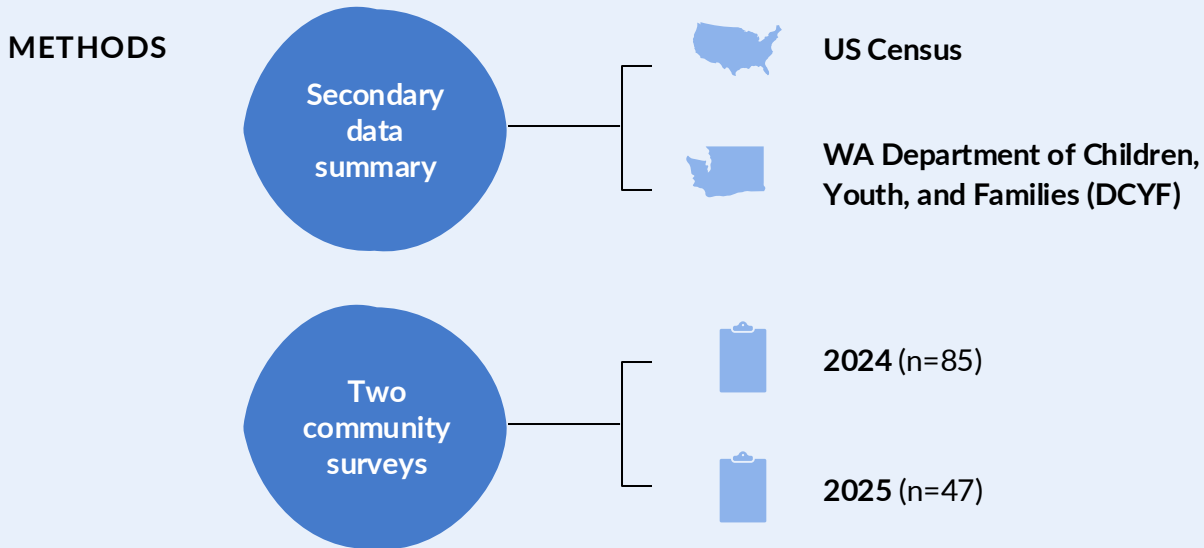
Executive Summary

2025

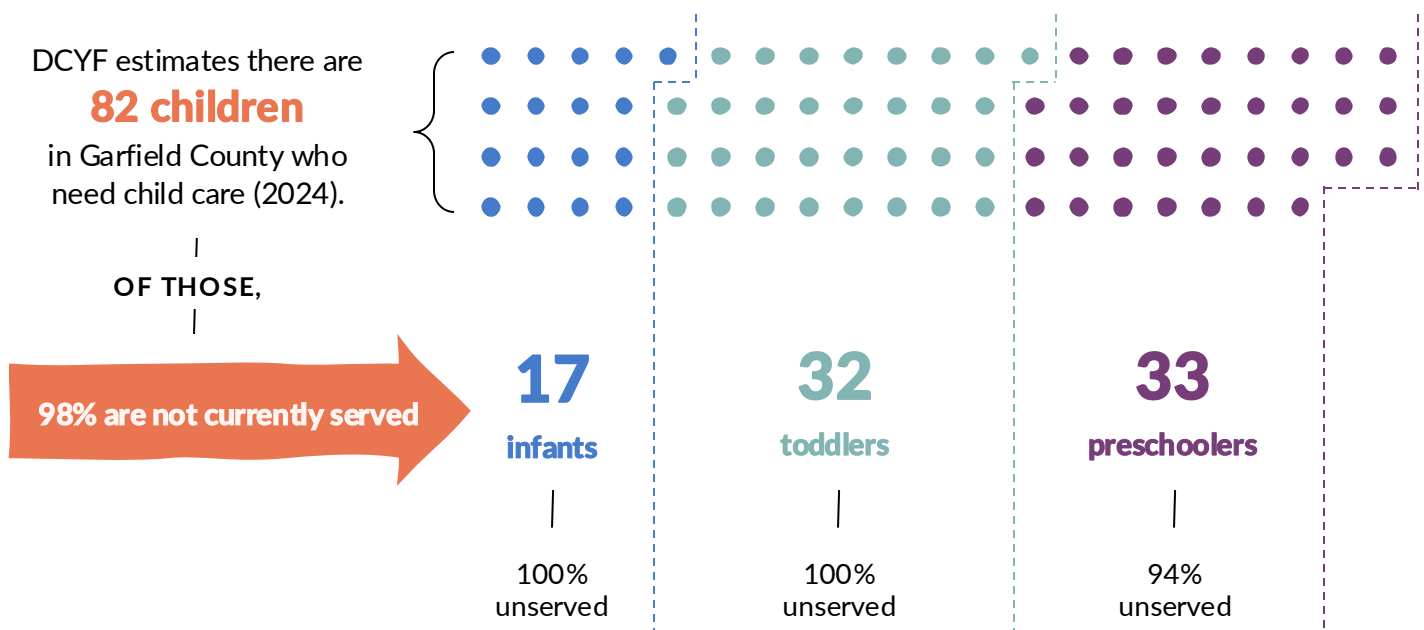
Prepared by Arrowleaf Consulting
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PURPOSE The purpose of this study was to better understand the child care needs of those who live or work in Garfield County, Washington.



Garfield County overview



Garfield County overview (continued)



Washington's Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy makes child care more affordable for eligible families by paying a portion of the tuition directly to the child care provider.

Families can use WCCC to help pay for center, family home, or 'family, friend, and neighbor' providers.



The provider must be licensed.

IN 2024

61 Garfield County children were eligible:



14 infants
(82% of all infants who need care)

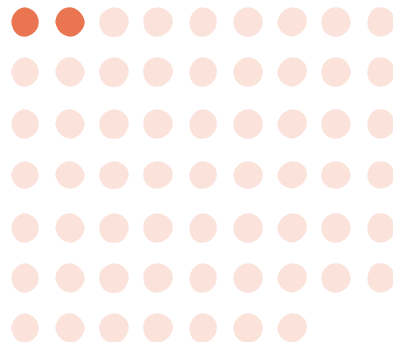


23 toddlers
(72% of all toddlers who need care)



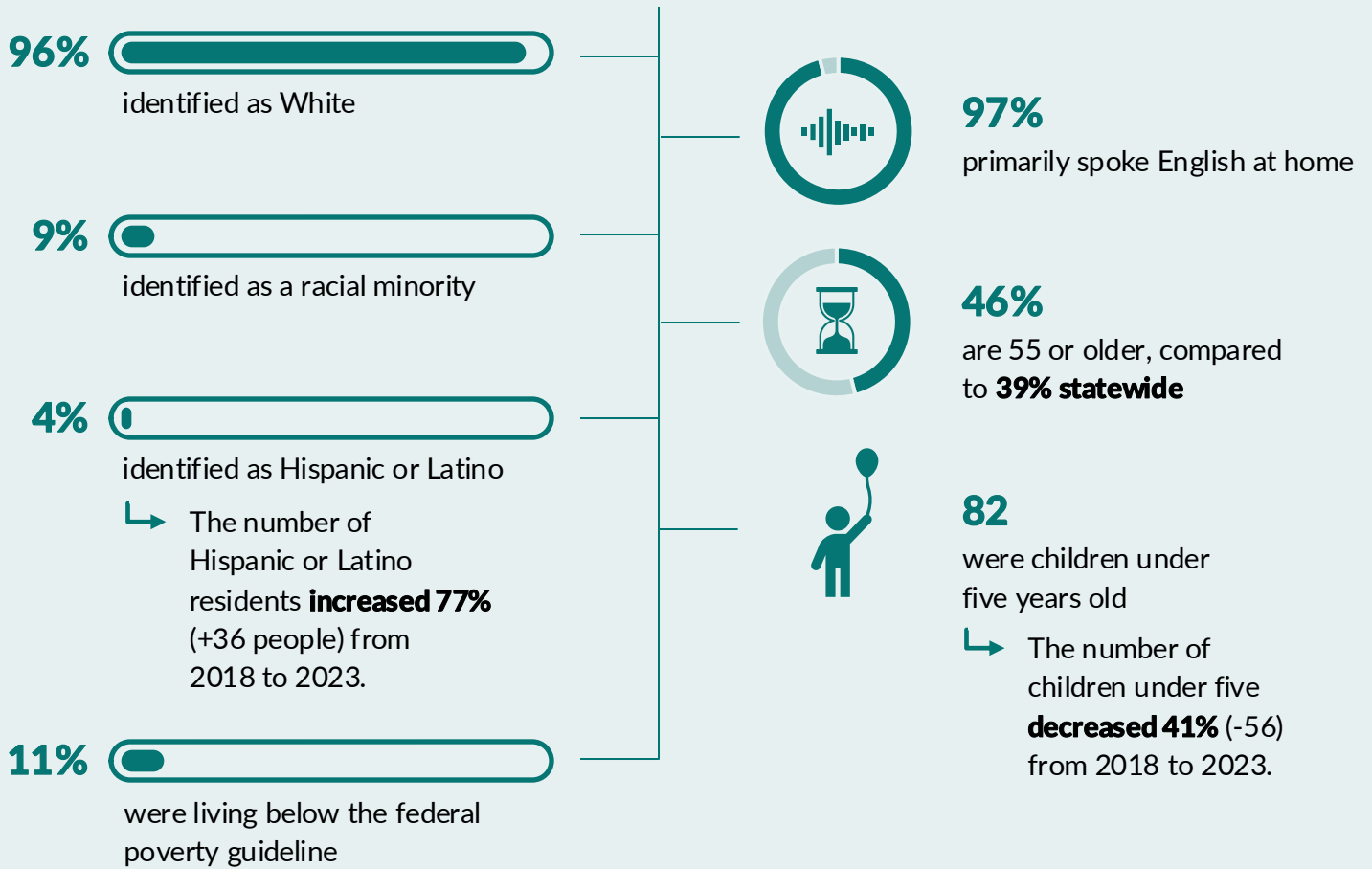
24 preschoolers
(73% of all preschoolers who need care)

Only 2 local children received WCCC in 2024.



Along with offering licensed care, helping families access WCCC will be an important strategy to increase affordability!

In 2023, Garfield County had
2,326 residents



IN 2023

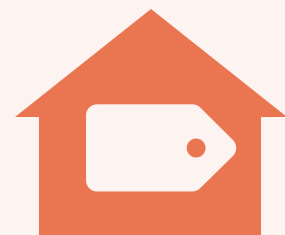


16 babies were born in Garfield County.



117 Garfield County households had **at least one child under six**

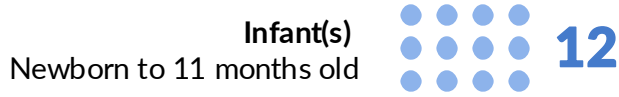
↳ **14** of these households (12%) were led by a single parent



Home values **increased 155%** (\$140,938) from 2012 to 2025.

2024 community survey respondent characteristics

Collectively, respondents have 75 children preschool age or younger (n=85)



93%
live in
Pomeroy
(n=61)

97%
identified as White (n=60)

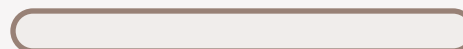


35%
have an
annual
household
income under
\$75,000



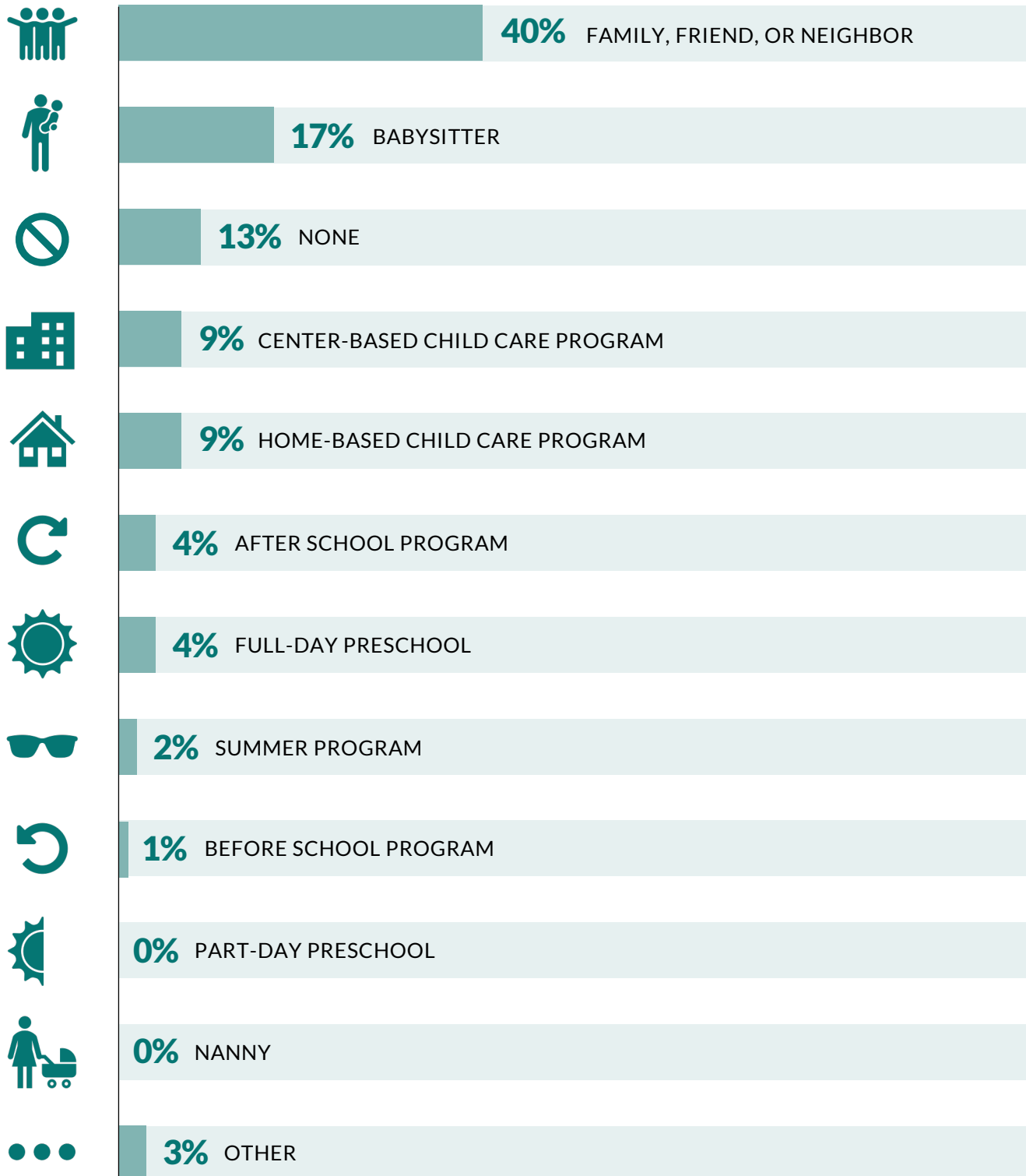
69%
work in
Pomeroy
(n=61)

0%
identified as Hispanic or Latino (n=60)



2024 community survey respondents' current child care arrangements

The largest percentages said they used family, friends, or neighbors (40%) or babysitters (17%) for child care in the last 12 months in contrast to 9% who used a home-based program and 7% who used a center-based program. Thirteen percent did not have child care at all (n=78).





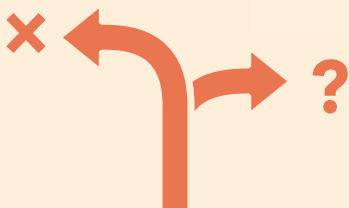
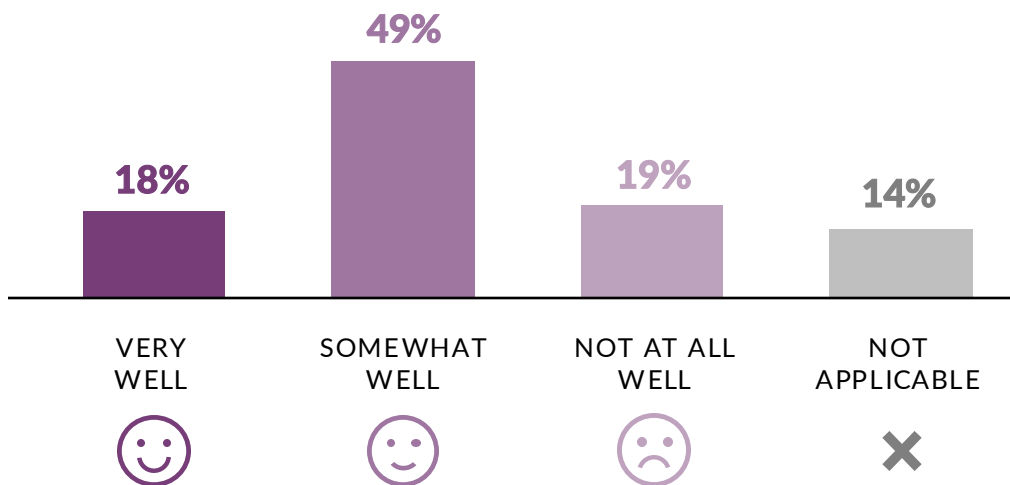
38%

have lived in the area
for less than ten years.



Newer residents are generally less likely to have family, friends, and neighbors available to provide child care.

19% said their current child care arrangements meet their needs “not at all well” (n=78).

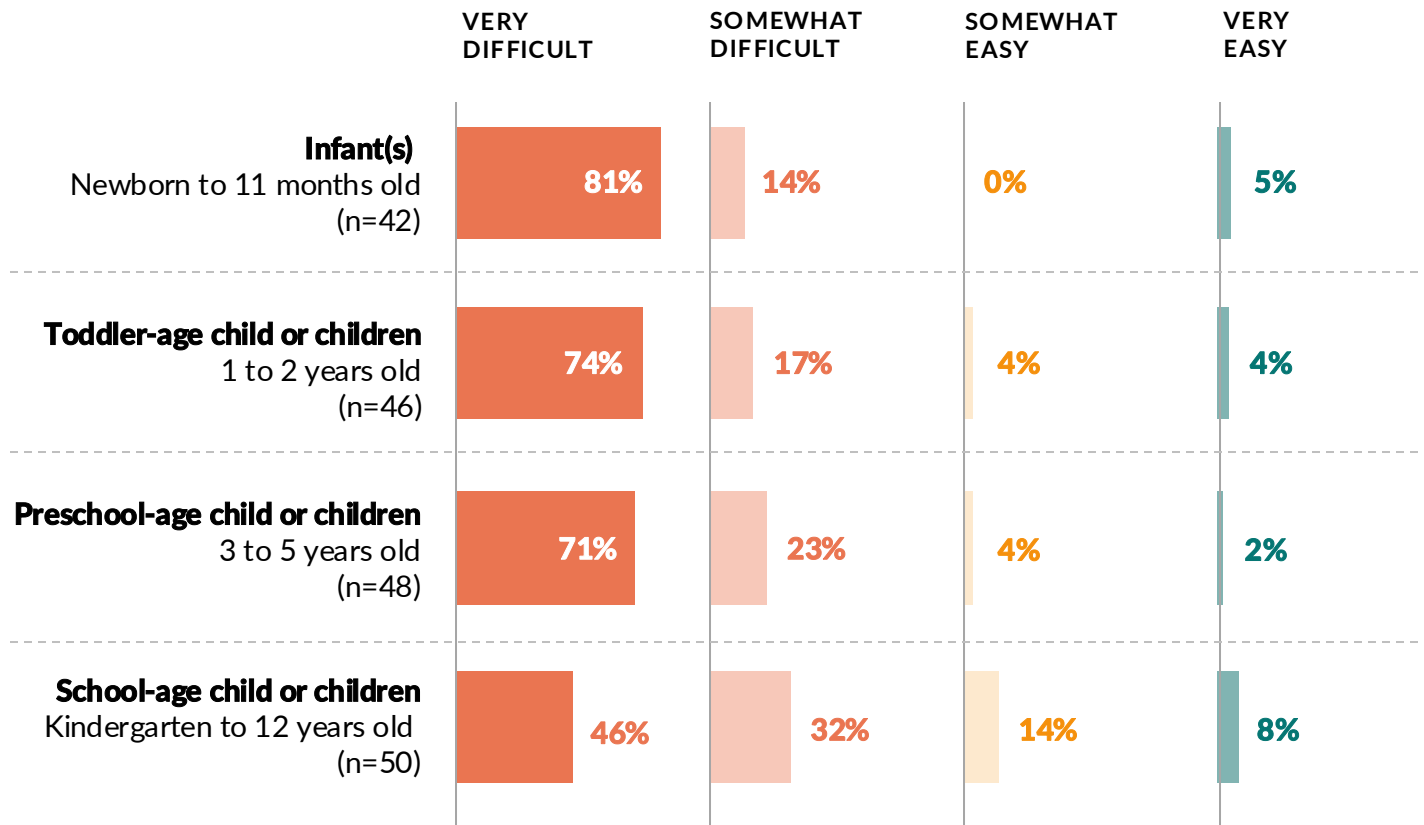


61%

said they almost never or never have back up child care when their regular arrangement is unavailable.

Child care challenges

The vast majority of respondents said it has been difficult to get the child care they need for all ages of children, especially children under five.



TOP-FIVE greatest challenges for the largest number of respondents



89%

finding child care near their home or work
(n=61)



87%

finding child care at the times needed
(n=62)



85%

finding high-quality child care
(n=60)



83%

finding affordable child care
(n=63)



81%

finding a child care provider they trust
(n=62)

Impacts (2024 survey)

DUE TO CHILD CARE DIFFICULTIES



87%

have had to take time off work (n=61)



79%

have had to limit work hours (n=61)



27%

have had to quit a job (n=61)



75%

said child care responsibilities have limited their job performance or career goals (n=61)



79%

said they or someone else in their household at least sometimes is late or misses work (n=61)

“I currently reside in Pomeroy, Washington, where there currently exists no formal/reliable daycare facility. Due to that fact, I currently do not see a logistical way for me to also be employed in the same town as I reside due to lack of daycare. Therefore, I am required to be employed in other towns so that I am able to utilize the available facilities which has added significant costs to our household budget overtime related to commute expenses and out of state taxes.”

– 2024 community survey respondent

“We take our child to Clarkston currently, my husband and I will both be working in Dayton here shortly. Our infant is on a waitlist for the Dayton daycare, but it is expensive.”

– 2024 community survey respondent

In 2025, the largest proportion of survey respondents said their child or a child they know needs child care during standard hours, although considerable proportions suggested extended morning and evening hours are needed too:



35%

BEFORE 8 AM



65%

FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM



20%

AFTER 5 PM

Interest in a child care center in Pomeroy (2025 survey)



100%

of 2025 survey participants said they have or know a child who would use a local child care center if one were available (n=47)



62%

said their child or another child they know would need meals provided (n=47)



36%

said their child or another child they know would need transportation to/from school to a local child care facility (n=47)

"If we want to attract families to Pomeroy, [child care] is a must. The only families that truly have a reliable form of child care are those with family roots."

– 2024 community survey respondent

"I don't work because we don't have child care."

– 2024 community survey respondent

"Being a single dad trying to go to school [and] finding child care is impossible."

– 2024 community survey respondent

Tuition

OF 2024 SURVEY RESPONDENTS (n=47)

38%

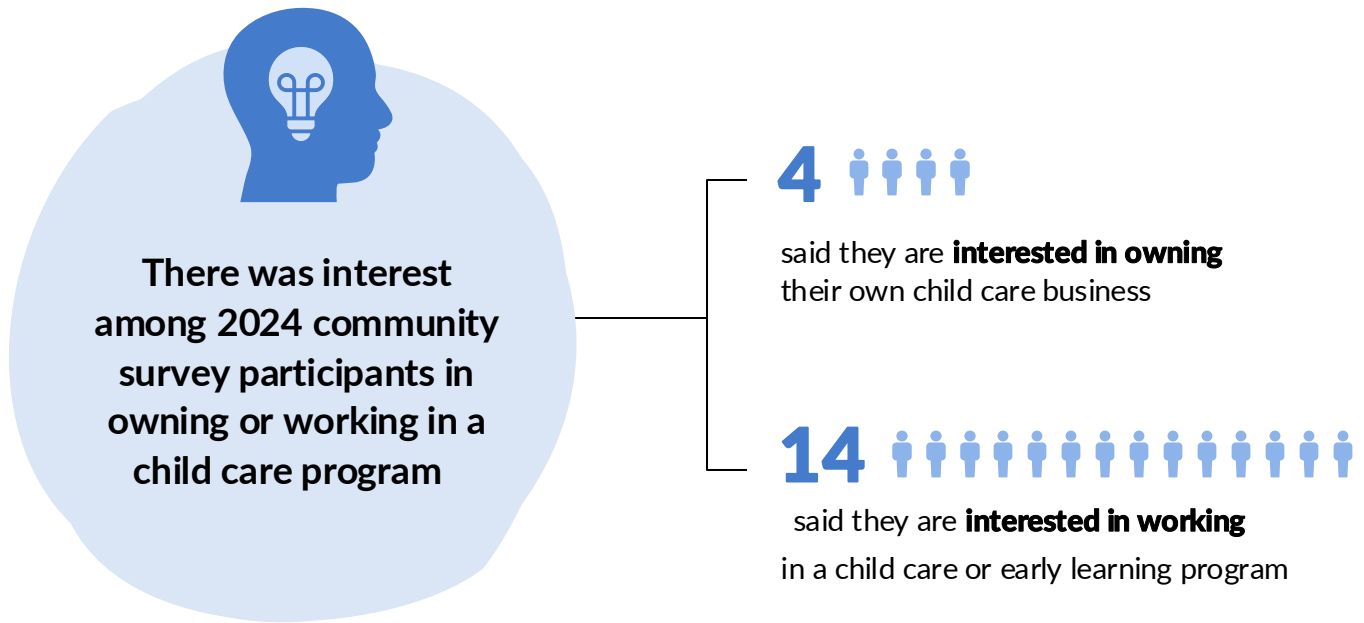
do not currently pay for child care (however, many do not have formal child care arrangements)

38%

pay \$1 to \$999 per month

13%

pay ≥\$1000 per month



Additional strategies

OF 2024 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENTS



85%



said it would be useful to have a directory of local babysitters who have been trained and certified in skills such as basic first aid, what to do during an emergency, how to choose age-appropriate activities, and how to handle behaviors (n=64)



53%



are interested in participating in a parent cooperative preschool arrangement (n=66)

Garfield County Child Care Needs Assessment

2025

Introduction

As of June 2025, there are no licensed child care providers in southeast Washington’s Garfield County, including centers and family homes. The Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) estimates there are 82 children in Garfield County who need child care; of those, 98% are not currently served, including 17 infants, 32 toddlers, and 31 preschoolers (Table 1). This report summarizes data from two community surveys, the US Census, and DCYF to further assess families’ early learning and care needs, help inform development of a licensed program, and characterize the social and economic context.

TABLE 1 | Child care need and coverage in Garfield County, 2024

Age	Number of children who need child care ¹	Number of children who are in child care	Number of unserved children	Percentage of children who are unserved
Total	82	2 ^a	80	98%
Infants (0-11 mos.)	17	0	17	100%
Toddlers (1-2 yrs.)	32	0	32	100%
Preschool (3-5 yrs.)	33	2	31	94%

¹ DCYF defines "need" as “children with all available parents in the labor force” based on US Census American Community Survey data. ^a Enrolled in child care in another county.

Methods

SECONDARY DATA

We provide a demographic overview of Garfield County families drawing primarily from 2023 US Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates as the most recent and comprehensive data available. We also summarize data from US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other secondary sources.

SURVEYS

2024 Community child care needs assessment survey

Arrowleaf Consulting conducted a survey of Asotin County and Garfield County families in May and June 2024 on behalf of the Southeast Early Learning Coalition with funding from WA STEM. The purpose of the survey was to better understand local families' child care needs and interests. The opportunity to participate in the survey was advertised broadly through multiple partners, including the Asotin County Early Learning Coalition, the Clarkston School District, and Garfield County Health District.

In this report, respondents who live in Asotin County are included in the results if they work in Garfield County and said they are interested in having child care in the place where they work. The survey asked that only one person per household participate. In total, 85 community members responded to the survey. Respondents had the option of taking the survey in English or Spanish, and all opted to take the English version.

2025 Community child care interests survey

In February and March 2025, Pomeroy Community Connection (PCC) conducted a follow-up survey to gather additional information about families' child care needs. The survey was sent to the Garfield School District parent contact list, posted to the PCC website and social media platforms, and physically distributed with flyers. The survey outreach asked residents to participate if they would use a local child care center themselves or if they knew someone who would use one. In total, 47 community members participated.

Demographic characteristics

Total population

In 2023, Garfield County had 2,326 residents (Table 2).¹ From 2013 to 2023, the population increased by 77 residents, a net increase of 3%. This was considerably slower than the growth Washington State experienced during the same period (14%).

TABLE 2 | Total population and change in population by number and percentage in Washington State and Garfield County, 2013-2023

Area	2013	2018	2023	Change in population 2013-2023	
				#	%
Washington	6,819,579	7,294,336	7,740,984	921,405	14%
Garfield County	2,249	2,224	2,326	77	3%

Population by race

In 2023, 9% of Garfield County residents identified as a racial minority (not White), compared to 33% of Washingtonians (Table 3).² From 2018 to 2023, the population that identified as a racial minority increased at a faster rate than those who identified as “White” in both Garfield County and Washington State (Table 4 and Figure 1). Notably, the rate of growth in Washington State was much higher than in Garfield County.

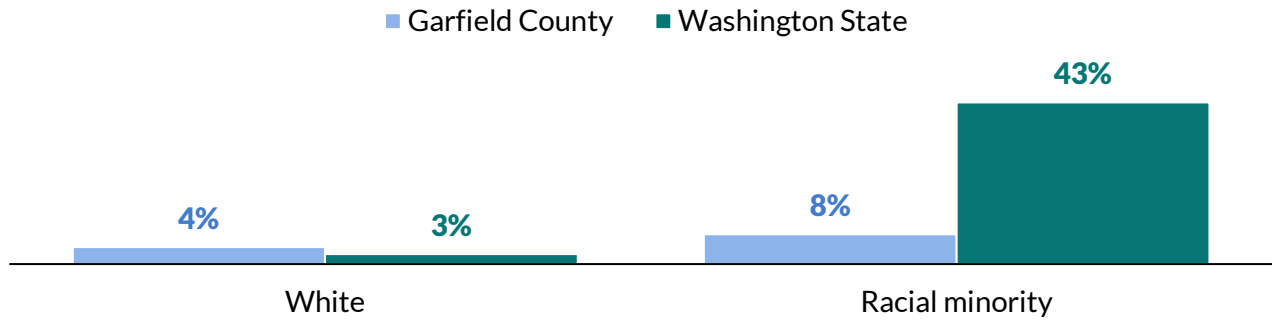
TABLE 3 | Population and percent of population by race alone or in combination with one or more other races, 2023

Race alone or in combination	Garfield		Washington	
	Total Population	Percent of Population	Total Population	Percent of Population
White	2,240	96%	6,077,458	79%
Black or African American	52	2%	466,937	6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	20	1%	254,582	3%
Asian	54	2%	952,847	12%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0%	104,643	1%
Some Other Race	84	4%	852,370	11%

TABLE 4 | Population and percent change of residents by race alone or in combination with one or more other races in Garfield County, 2018-2023

Race alone or in combination	2018	2023	Population change 2013-2023	
			#	%
White	2,144	2,240	96	4%
Black or African American	19	52	33	174%
American Indian and Alaska Native	69	20	-49	-71%
Asian	96	54	-42	-44%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	10	0	-10	-100%
Some Other Race	0	84	84	N/A

FIGURE 1 | Percent change in White and racial minority populations by race alone or in combination with one or more other race data in Garfield County and Washington State, 2018-2023



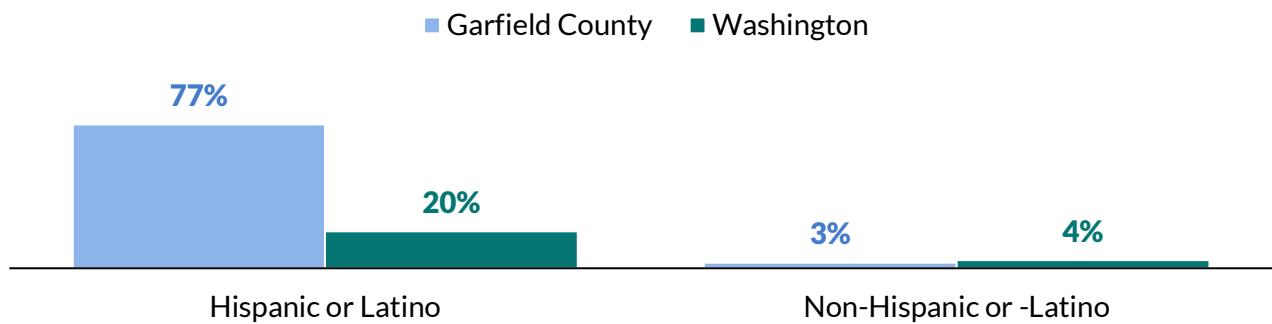
Population by Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

In 2023, 83 residents (4%) in Garfield County identified as Hispanic or Latino (Table 5).³ There was a 77% net increase in the population of Hispanic or Latino residents from 2018 to 2023, which was higher than the statewide net increase of 20% (Figure 2). In Garfield County, the Hispanic or Latino population increased at a faster rate than the non-Hispanic or -Latino population.

TABLE 5 | Population and percent change of Hispanic or Latino residents in Garfield County and Washington State, 2018-2023

Area	Hispanic or Latino				Not Hispanic or Latino			
	2018	2023	Change in population		2018	2023	Change in population	
			#	%			#	%
Washington	911,573	1,089,609	178,036	20%	6,382,763	6,651,375	268,612	4%
Garfield County	47	83	36	77%	2,177	2,243	66	3%

FIGURE 2 | Percent change in population of Hispanic or Latino and non-Hispanic or -Latino residents in Garfield County and Washington State, 2018-2023



LANGUAGE

In 2023, Garfield County had a higher percentage of residents who primarily speak English (97%) at home compared to the statewide level (79%) (Table 6).⁴ Three percent of Garfield County residents primarily speak Spanish at home, lower than the statewide level of 9%.

Table 7 shows the English language proficiency of all residents over five years old statewide and in Garfield County. In Garfield County, a greater proportion of the population speaks English fluently or proficiently (99%) than the state average of 92%. Of residents that primarily speak a language other than English at home, 79% are also fluent or proficient in English in Garfield County. This is higher than the state average of 63%.

TABLE 6 | Primary language spoken at home of the population five years and over, 2023

Primary language spoken at home	Garfield County	Washington State
English	97%	79%
Spanish	3%	9%
Other Indo-European languages	0%	4%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	0%	6%
Other languages	0%	1%

TABLE 7 | Population five years old and over by English language proficiency, 2023

Area	Total Population		Population who primarily speaks a language other than English	
	Fluent or proficient in English	Not fluent in English	Fluent or proficient in English	Not fluent in English
Washington	92%	8%	63%	37%
Garfield County	99%	1%	79%	21%

Population by age

Figure 3 shows the distribution of Garfield County residents by age group in 2023. The 65- to 74-year-old age group experienced the greatest net population increase from 2018 to 2023, reinforcing Garfield County's status as an aging county with a high proportion of older residents (Figure 4). Residents over 55 years old (1,071 people) made up 46% of the total population (2,326 people) compared to 39% statewide (Figure 5).

The 25- to 34-year-old age group saw a sharp decrease from 2018 to 2023. Residents aged 20 to 44, typically the primary childbearing age group, make up 20% of Garfield County's population (476 people), compared to 35% statewide. This lower proportion may be a contributing factor to the county's decline in the population of children under age 15.

FIGURE 3 | Population by age distribution, 2023

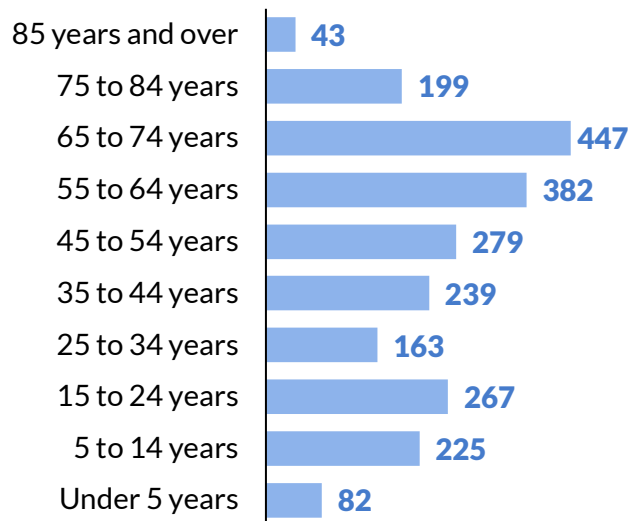


FIGURE 4 | Change in population by age distribution, 2018-2023

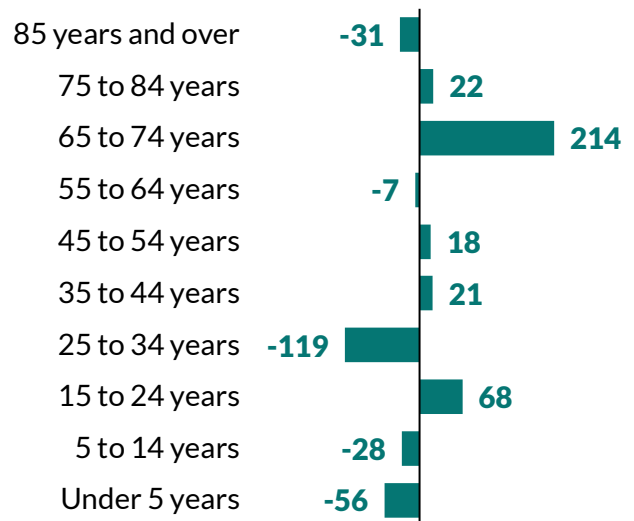
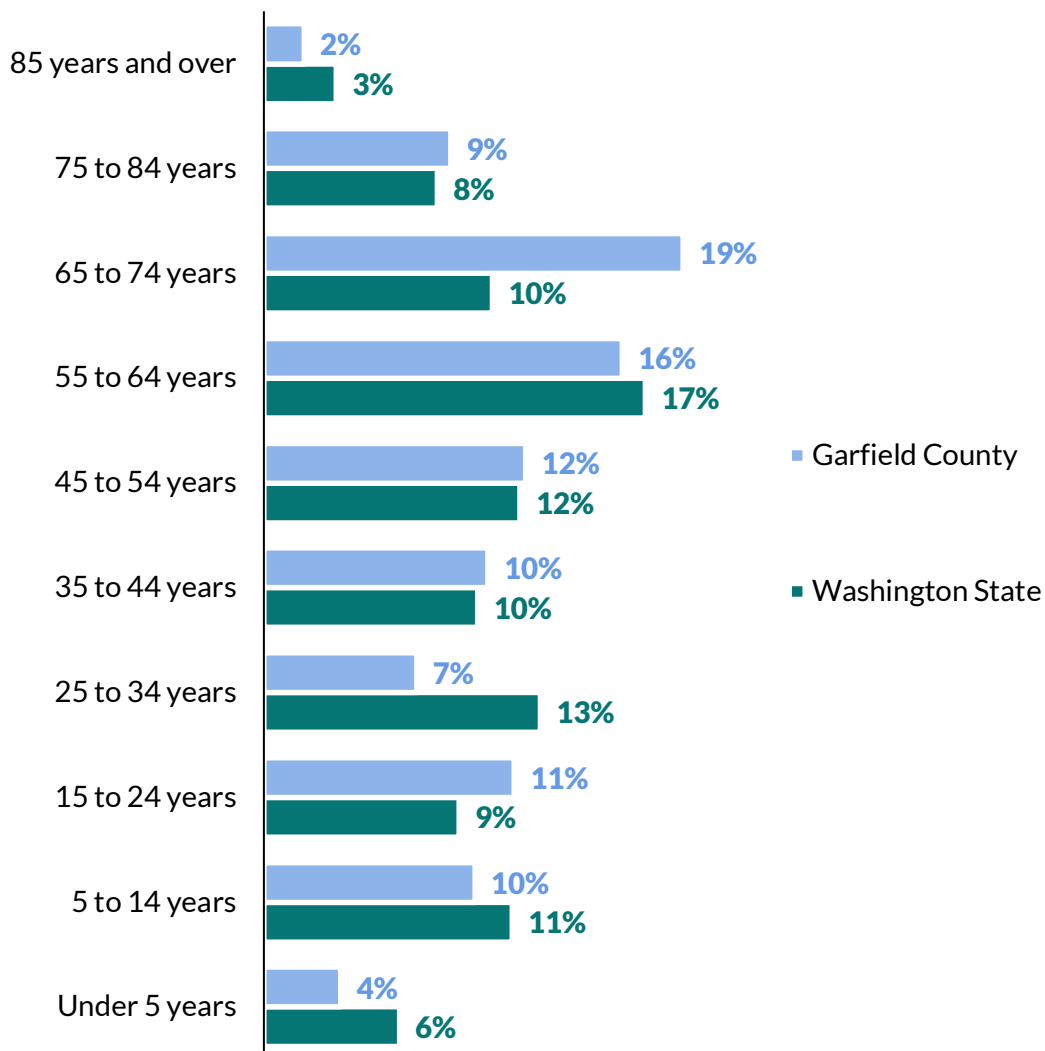


FIGURE 5 | Percentage of population by age distribution in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023



CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

In 2023, there were 82 children under five years old in Garfield County (Table 8).⁵ From 2018 to 2023, the population of children under the age of five decreased 41% in Garfield County.

TABLE 8 | Population and percent change in population of children under the age of five in Washington State and Garfield County, 2018-2023

Area	2018	2023	# change	% change
Washington	453,008	437,433	-15,575	-3%
Garfield County	138	82	-56	-41%

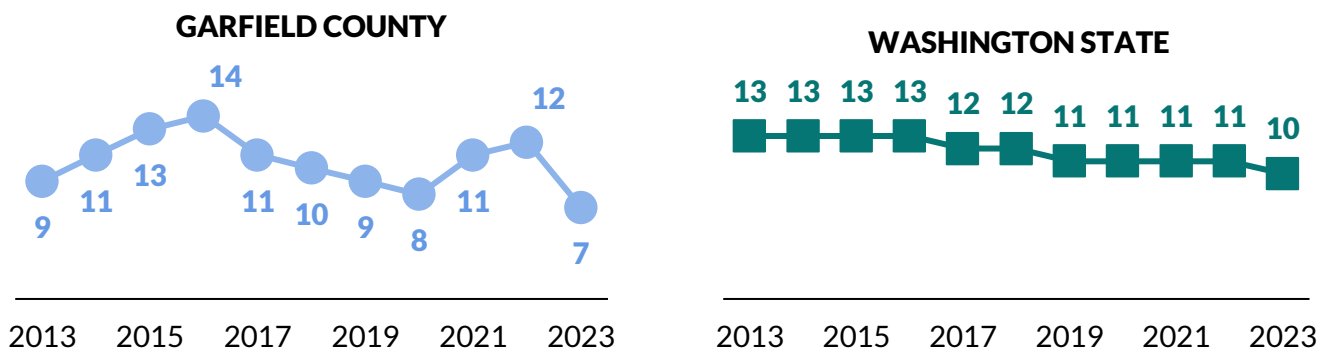
BIRTH AND FERTILITY RATES

In 2023, 16 babies were born in Garfield County (Table 9).⁶ The birth rate in Garfield County fluctuated between 2013 and 2023 and was lower in 2023 than the statewide rate of 10 births per 1,000 people (Figure 6).

TABLE 9 | Number of births, birth rate, and fertility rate per 1,000 population in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023

	Number of births	Birth rate per 1,000	Fertility rate per 1,000
Washington	80,871	10	51
Garfield County	16	7	45

FIGURE 6 | Birth rate per 1,000 population in Garfield County and Washington State, 2013-2023



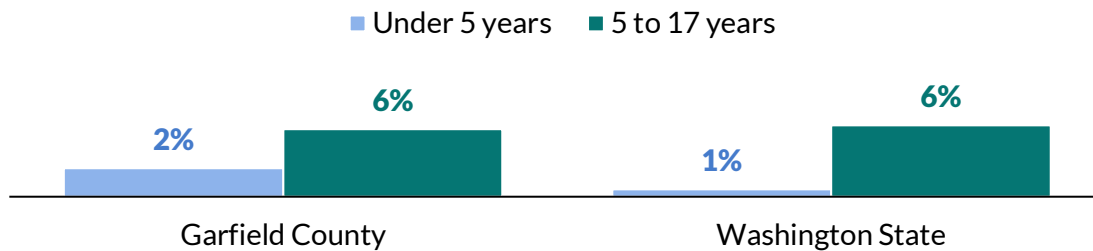
Children with disabilities

The ACS counted four children under five years old and 31 children under 18 years old with a disability in Garfield County in 2023 (Table 10).⁷ Disability rates are commonly lower in children under five years old than for children between five and 17 years old because younger children are less likely to have been screened or diagnosed (Figure 7).

TABLE 10 | Children by age group with a hearing, vision, ambulatory, cognitive, or self-care difficulty in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023

Disability	Age group	Garfield County		Washington	
		#	%	#	%
Hearing difficulty	Under 5 years old	2	2%	1,998	0.5%
	Between 5 and 17 years old	0	0%	7,282	0.6%
Vision difficulty	Under 5 years old	2	2%	1,629	0.4%
	Between 5 and 17 years old	0	0%	11,550	0.9%
Cognitive difficulty	Children under 18 years old	14	4%	58,789	5%
Ambulatory difficulty	Children under 18 years old	4	1%	7,221	0.6%
Self-care difficulty	Children under 18 years old	13	4%	12,650	1%

FIGURE 7 | Percentage of children with a disability by age category in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023



Household composition

In 2023, 117 households in Garfield County had at least one child under the age of six (Figure 8).⁸ Fourteen of these households (12%) were led by a single parent (Table 11 and Figure 9).

FIGURE 8 | Number of households by age of children in Washington State and Garfield County, 2023

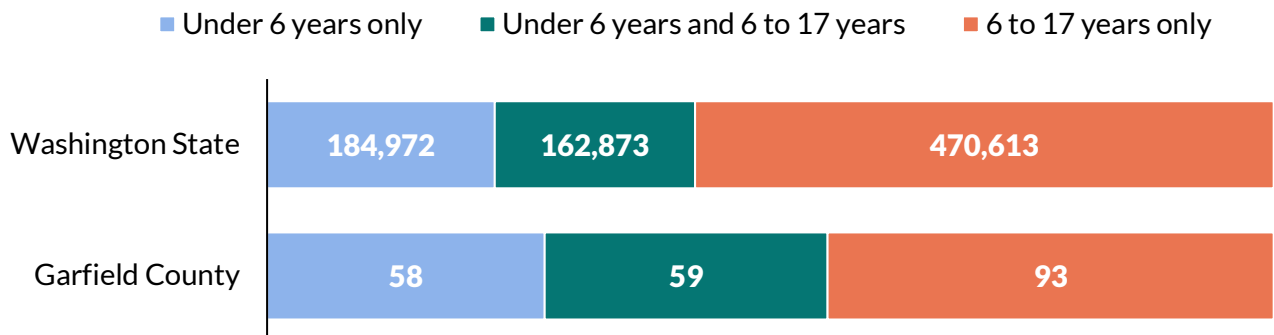
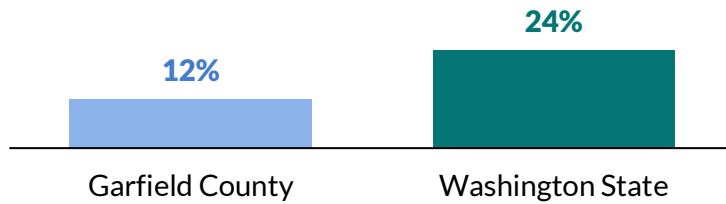


TABLE 11 | Number of households with at least one child under 18 by family type in Garfield County, 2023

	Married couples	Single mothers	Single fathers
Total	196	14	0
Under 6 years only	58	0	0
Under 6 years and 6 to 17 years	45	14	0
6 to 17 years only	93	0	0

FIGURE 9 | Percentage of households with at least one child under six that are led by a single parent, 2023

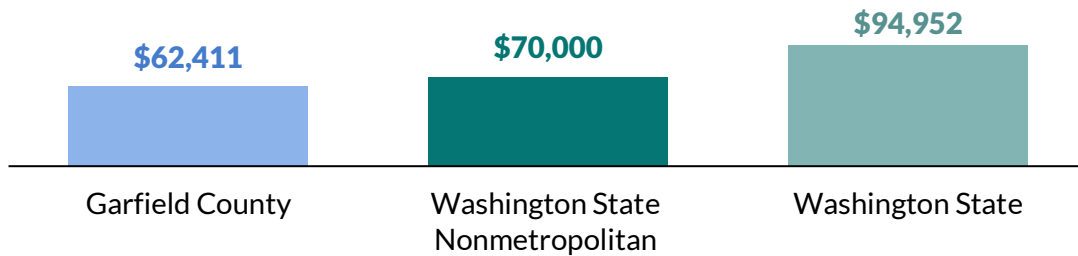


Economic activities and trends

Median income

The 2023 median income in Garfield County was lower than both the overall Washington State median income and the Washington State nonmetropolitan median household income (Figure 10).^{9,10}

FIGURE 10 | Median income in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023



Poverty

The Department of Housing and Human Services (HHS) calculates the maximum household income considered to be below the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) annually. Table 12 shows the tiered FPGs for 2023 to contextualize the poverty-related population data presented in the subsequent sections.¹¹ We also include the 2025 FPG in Table 12 to provide the most recent FPG figures, although the corresponding data from the ACS is not yet available.

TABLE 12 | 2023 and 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPGs) for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia

Persons in household	FPG 2023	FPG 2025
1	\$14,580	\$15,650
2	\$19,720	\$21,150
3	\$24,860	\$26,650
4	\$30,000	\$32,150
5	\$35,140	\$37,650
6	\$40,280	\$43,150
7	\$45,420	\$48,650
8	\$50,560	\$54,150

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,380 for each additional person.

Table 13 summarizes the poverty rates by total population and children under five years old. The subsequent subsections refer to this table.

TABLE 13 | Population and percent of population living below FPG by demographic category in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023

	Garfield County		Washington	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	247	11%	753,455	10%
Children under five years old	13	17%	55,306	13%

POVERTY RATE

In Washington, 10% of the population is below poverty compared to 11% in Garfield County (Table 13).¹²

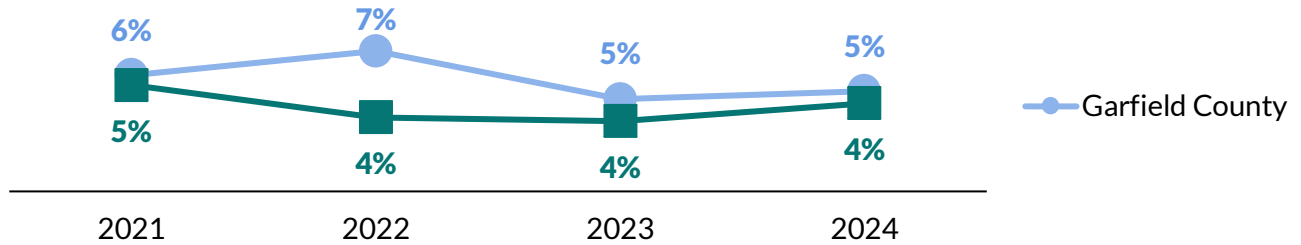
CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OLD LIVING BELOW POVERTY

The percentage of children under five years old living below poverty is 17% in Garfield County compared to 13% statewide (Table 13).¹³

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Garfield County ranged from 5% to 7% from 2021 to 2024 (Figure 11).¹⁴ Garfield County unemployment rates were consistently above Washington State's.

FIGURE 11 | Unemployment rate in Garfield County and Washington State, April 2021-2024

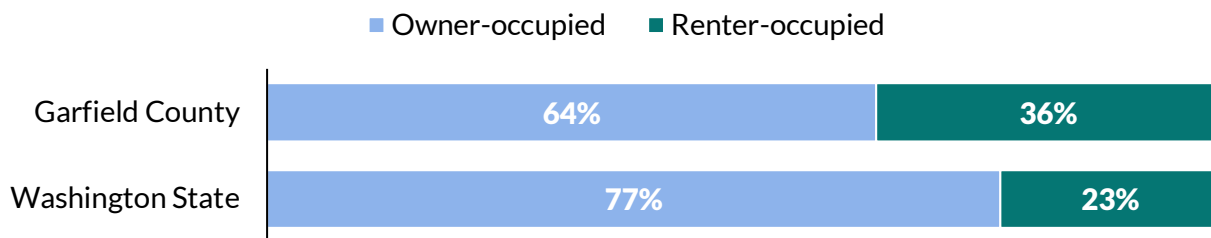


Housing

HOME OWNERSHIP

Most housing (64%) in Garfield County in 2023 was owner-occupied, which is lower than the statewide rate (77%).¹⁵

FIGURE 12 | Percentage of owner-occupied versus renter-occupied housing units in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023



HOUSING COSTS

Housing prices steadily increased in Garfield County between 2012 and 2025 (Figure 13).¹⁶ The Zillow Home Value Index in Garfield County increased from \$91,056 in 2012 to \$231,993 in 2025, an increase of \$140,938, or 155% (Figure 14). This increase was also seen statewide. Washington State’s home value index rose from \$224,620 in 2012 to \$603,837 in 2025, or 169%.

FIGURE 13 | Zillow Home Value Index at the end of March in Garfield County and Washington State, 2012-2025

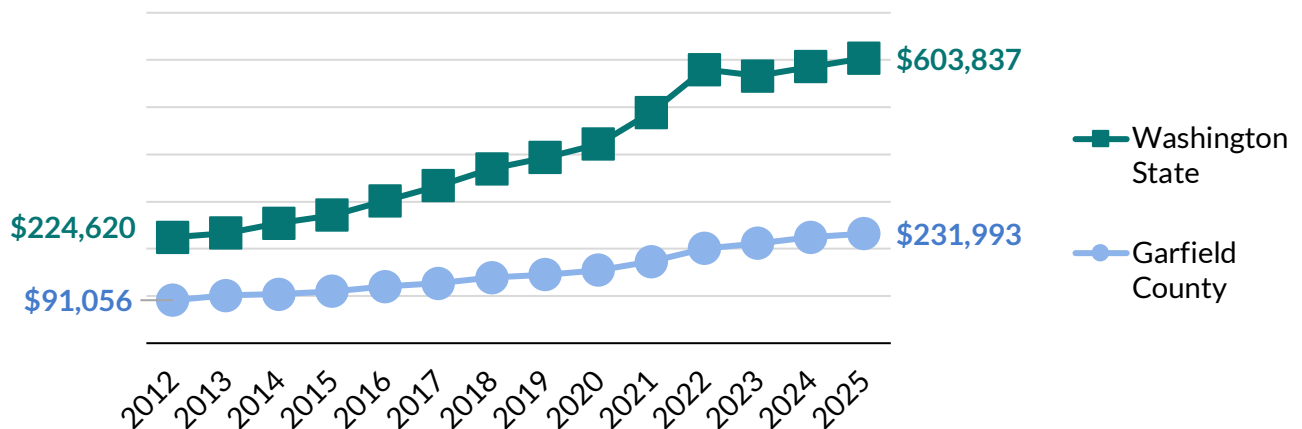
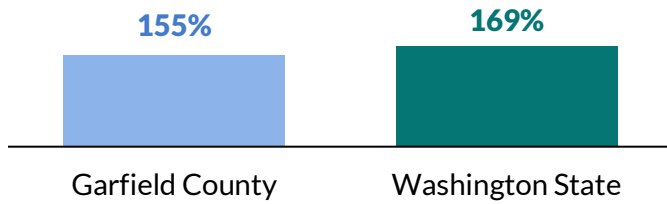


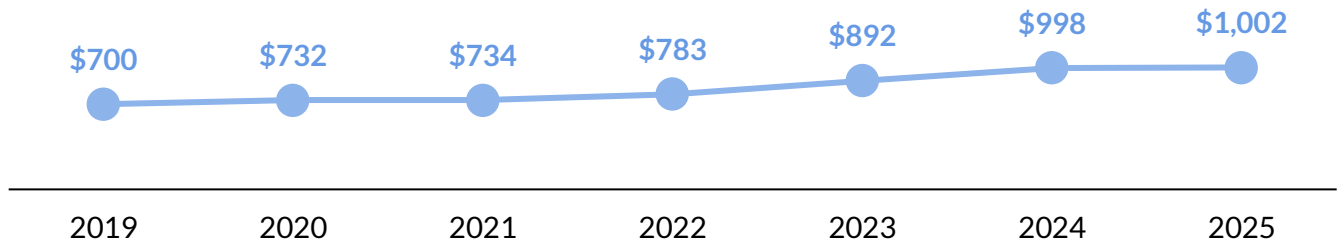
FIGURE 14 | Percent change in Zillow Home Value Index at the end of March in Garfield County and Washington State, 2012-2025



RENTAL COSTS

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) fair market rental price for a two-bedroom house has been on the rise since 2019 (Figure 15).¹⁷ Between 2019 and 2025, it increased by \$302, or 43%, in Garfield County.

FIGURE 15 | Fair market monthly rent price for a two-bedroom housing unit in Garfield County, 2020-2025



Homelessness

Table 14 shows the HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) data.¹⁸ The PIT count takes place yearly during a night in January and counts the number of individuals residing in temporary housing programs (sheltered) and in public areas (unsheltered). The PIT count only reflects this one night and does not reflect the number of people experiencing homelessness throughout the year. For privacy, any number between 1 and 11 was reported as <11. Data was not collected in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of the 2024 PIT survey, less than 11 people in Garfield County were experiencing homelessness (Table 14).¹⁹

TABLE 14 | PIT homelessness counts in January, Garfield County, 2014-2024

County	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Garfield	2	0	8	0	<10	<11	<11	N/A	0	<11	<11

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In the 2024-25 school year, there were three children experiencing homelessness in the Garfield School District, representing 2% of students (Table 14).²⁰

TABLE 15 | Number and percent of K-12 students experiencing homelessness by school year, 2020-21 to 2024-25

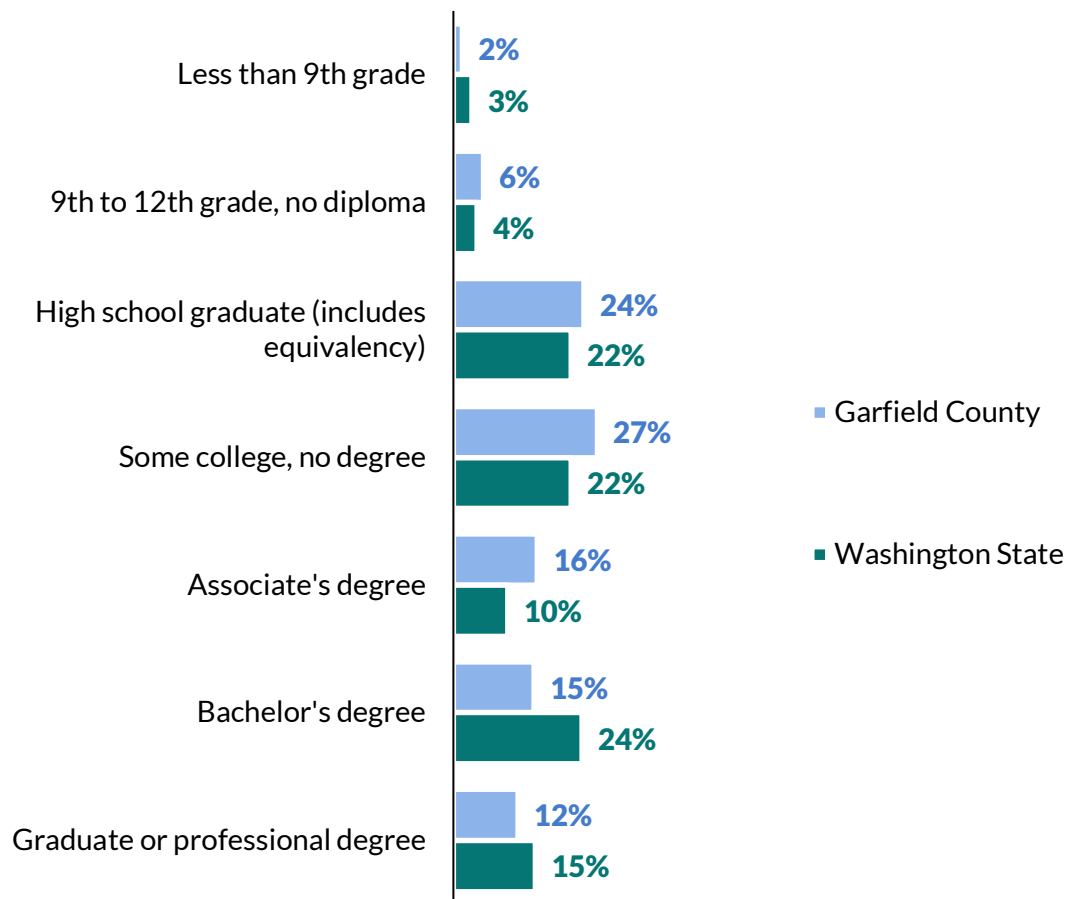
School	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
All districts in Washington	27,712	3%	31,359	3%	35,795	3%	41,050	4%	36,826	3%
Garfield School District	3	3%	1	1%	2	2%	5	4%	3	2%

Educational attainment

ADULT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Figure 16 shows educational attainment in Garfield County compared to the state level.²¹ Garfield County has higher high school graduation, “some college, no degree,” and associate’s degree rates than the state averages. However, it has a lower rate of bachelor and graduate or professional degrees.

FIGURE 16 | Educational attainment in Garfield County and Washington State, 2023



Public program eligibility

Strategies to increase early learning and care affordability include leveraging public programs with subsidized slots (Head Start and Washington's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and helping eligible families access Washington's Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) tuition subsidy. We provide a brief overview of these programs for reference. Note that all Garfield County families who use child care and may be eligible for WCCC should apply.

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) is a subsidy program in Washington that pays a portion of tuition directly to the child care provider. For a family to use WCCC, their child care provider must be licensed and set up to accept WCCC. In this program, families pay a child care co-pay, which is tiered to household income in relation to qualifying state median income (SMI). Subsidy rates are based on the type of care (home; center; or family, friends, and neighbors) and the child's age. A family is eligible for WCCC subsidies if they meet the following criteria: 1) have income at or below 60% SMI and resources under \$1 million; 2) be a Washington resident; 3) child is a US citizen, legal resident, or otherwise eligible for federal benefits; and 4) available parents are employed or self-employed in legal, income-generating, taxable activities, or enrolled in school or approved educational activities. Children with disabilities may qualify for higher subsidy rates to help pay for needed additional supports.

Washington's **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)** serves children aged three and four. Children are eligible for ECEAP if their family is 1) living at or below 36% of the state median income, 2) from a federally recognized tribe living at or below 100% state median income, 3) currently experiencing homelessness; or 4) receiving assistance through public programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Additionally, any children who are in foster care, are on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), or have participated in Early ECEAP, Early Head Start (EHS), Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), or Early Childhood Intervention and Preventions Services (ECLIPSE) are eligible. Some children may be accepted who are over the income limit if they have developmental or environmental factors.

Early ECEAP serves children birth to age three. Children are eligible for Early ECEAP if their family is 1) living at or below 50% of the state median income, 2) from a federally recognized tribe living at or below 100% state median income; or 3) currently experiencing homelessness. Additionally, any children who are receiving early intervention services with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), or have participated in EHS, ESIT, or ECLIPSE are eligible.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs serve children aged birth to five. In Washington, children are eligible for these two programs if their family is 1) living at or below 130% of the federal poverty guideline (FPG), with priority going to those at or below 100% FPG; 2) currently experiencing homelessness; or 3) receiving assistance through public programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Security Income (SSI), and Basic Food Assistance in Washington State. Additionally, any child who is in foster care is eligible. Up to 10% of Head Start and Early Head Start slots can be filled by children above the income requirement who have multiple support needs, including: 1) environmental factors such as homelessness, family violence, chemical dependency, foster care, or incarcerated parents, or 2) developmental factors such as developmental delay or other special needs.

Table 16 summarizes eligibility criteria for these three programs.

TABLE 16 | Federal poverty level, Washington State median income, and ECEAP/WCCC subsidy eligibility by family size, 2025

Family size	Federal Poverty Level	WA State Median Income	Head Start Eligibility Threshold (130% FPG)	ECEAP Eligibility Threshold (36% SMI)	WCCC Eligibility Threshold (60% SMI)
1	\$15,650	\$68,832	\$20,345	\$24,780	\$41,299
2	\$21,150	\$90,024	\$27,495	\$32,409	\$54,014
3	\$26,650	\$111,204	\$34,645	\$40,033	\$66,722
4	\$32,150	\$132,384	\$41,795	\$47,658	\$79,430
5	\$37,650	\$153,564	\$48,945	\$55,283	\$92,138
6	\$43,150	\$174,744	\$56,095	\$62,908	\$104,846
7	\$48,650	\$178,716	\$63,245	\$64,338	\$107,230
8	\$54,150	\$182,688	\$70,395	\$65,768	\$109,613

Sixty-one children were eligible for WCCC in 2024, and only two preschool-age children were enrolled (Table 17). No infants or toddlers were enrolled.

TABLE 17 | WCCC subsidy coverage summary by age in Garfield County, 2024

Age	Number of children eligible for WCCC	Number of children who are in WCCC	Number of unserved children	Percentage of children who are unserved
Total	61	2	59	97%
Infants (0-11 mos.)	14	0	14	100%
Toddlers (1-2 yrs.)	23	0	23	100%
Preschool (3-5 yrs.)	24	2	22	92%

In 2023, an estimated five pregnant women were living below poverty in Garfield County and were therefore eligible for WCCC (Table 18). See Appendix A for estimation methodology.

TABLE 18 | Birth and poverty statistics for mothers and expecting mothers aged 15-44 in Garfield County, 2023

	Garfield County
Number of births	16
Number of pregnant women pregnant in a given month	12
Poverty rate of women who gave birth in the past 12 months	44%
Number of expectant mothers in poverty in a given month	5

Community survey results

The following section summarizes results from the 2024 and 2025 community surveys.

2024 and 2025 survey participants' characteristics

Figures 17-27 characterize the 2024 and 2025 survey respondents. Collectively, 2024 survey respondents have 174 children ranging from newborn to 18 years old (75 of these children are preschool age or younger) (Figure 17). PCC's 2025 survey asked participants if they or someone they know would use a local child care facility and, if so, how old the relevant children are. Figure 18 summarizes the results. For example, 25 of the 2025 survey respondents said they have or know someone who has at least one infant who would use a local child care facility.

Figure 19 shows where survey respondents live. Respondents living outside of Garfield County (7%) are included because they work in Garfield County and are interested in child care where they work.

FIGURE 17 | Total number of children 2024 survey respondents have collectively, by age group (n=85)

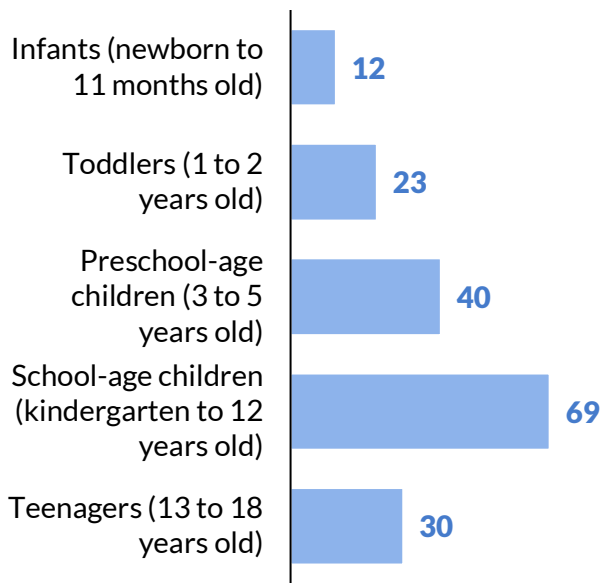


FIGURE 18 | Number of 2025 survey respondents who said they have or know someone with a child who would use a local child care facility, by age group (n=46). For example, 29 respondents said they have or know at least one toddler who would use a local child care facility.

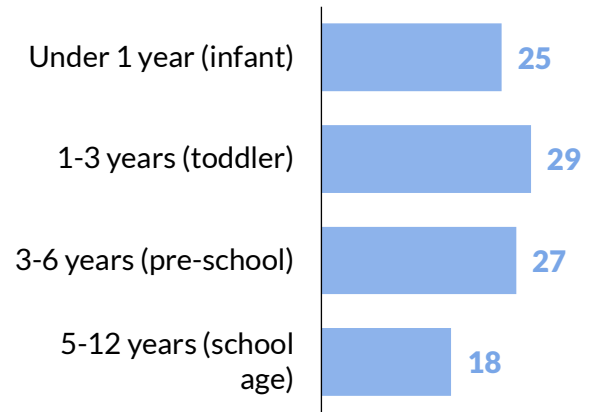


FIGURE 19 | Where 2024 survey respondents live (n=61)

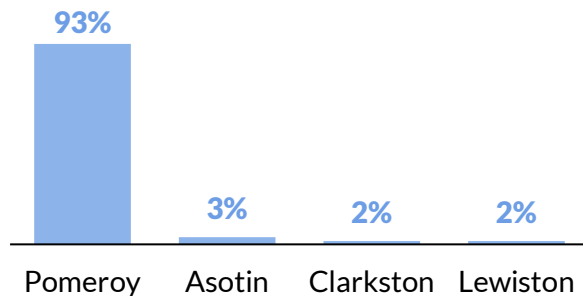
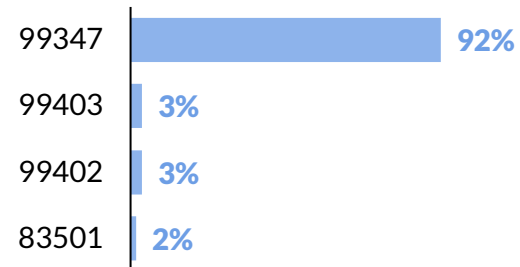
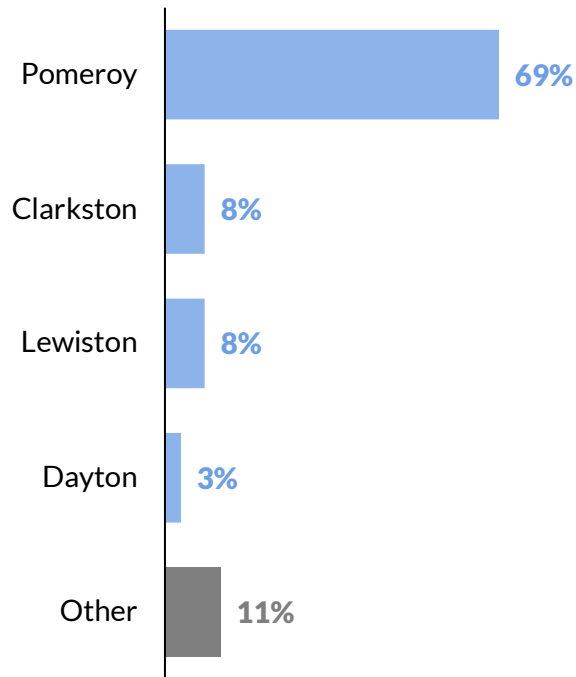


FIGURE 20 | 2024 survey respondents' zip code (n=59)



98% of 2024 community survey respondents live in the area year-round (n=61).

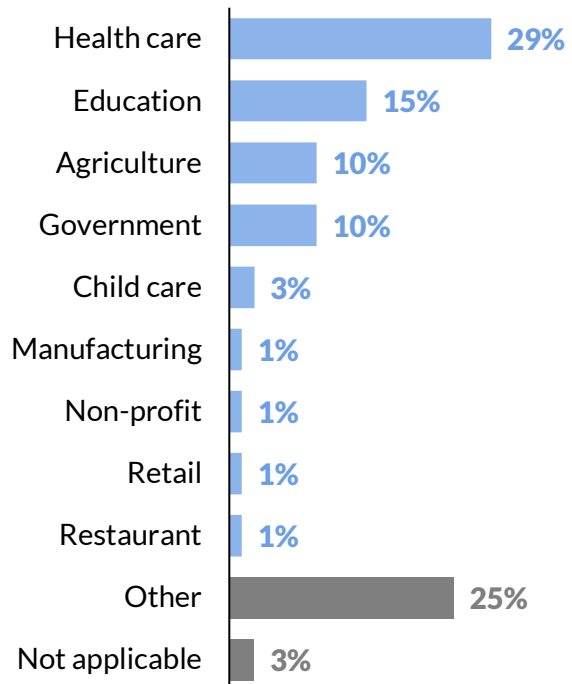
FIGURE 21 | Where 2024 survey respondents work (n=61)



“Other” responses:

- Garfield, Asotin, Whitman, Nez Perce, and Latah counties
- Going to college there
- Stay at home mom due to no childcare
- Stay at home mom (2 respondents wrote this)
- Work from home (2 survey respondents wrote this)

FIGURE 22 | 2024 survey respondents’ work sector or industry



“Other” responses:

- Banking (3 respondents wrote this)
- Business owner
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Insurance (3 respondents wrote this)
- Media
- Remote work
- Stay at home mom (2 respondents wrote this)
- Stay at home mom and massage therapist
- Self employed
- Utility
- Wind Industry

FIGURE 23 | 2024 survey respondents' race (n=60)
*respondents were able to select multiple races

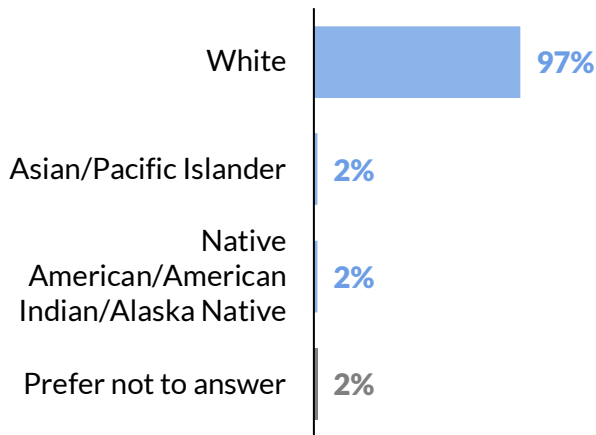
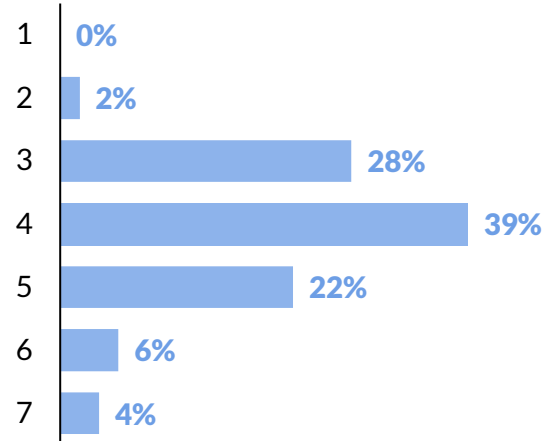


FIGURE 24 | Number of people living in 2024 survey respondents' households (n=54)



0% of 2024 community survey respondents were Hispanic or Latino (n=60).

FIGURE 25 | Gender of 2024 survey respondents (n=54)

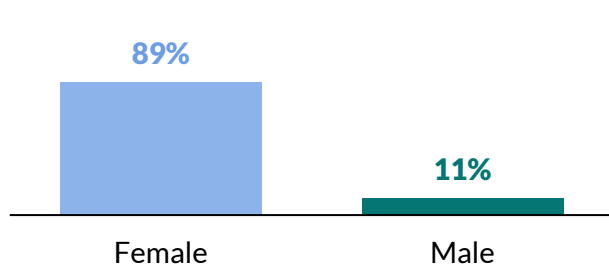


FIGURE 26 | Primary language spoken at home by 2024 survey respondents (n=60)

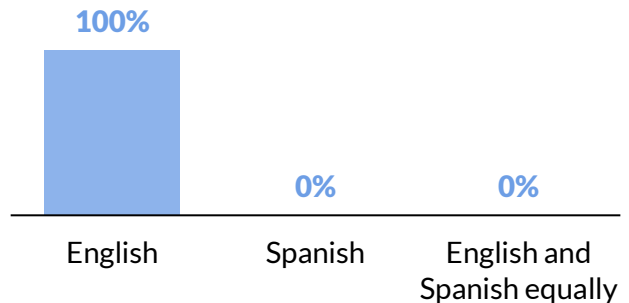
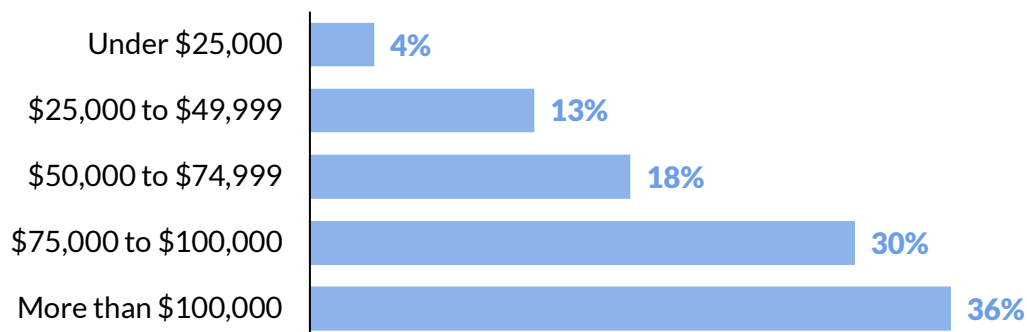


FIGURE 27 | 2024 survey respondents' annual household income (n=56)

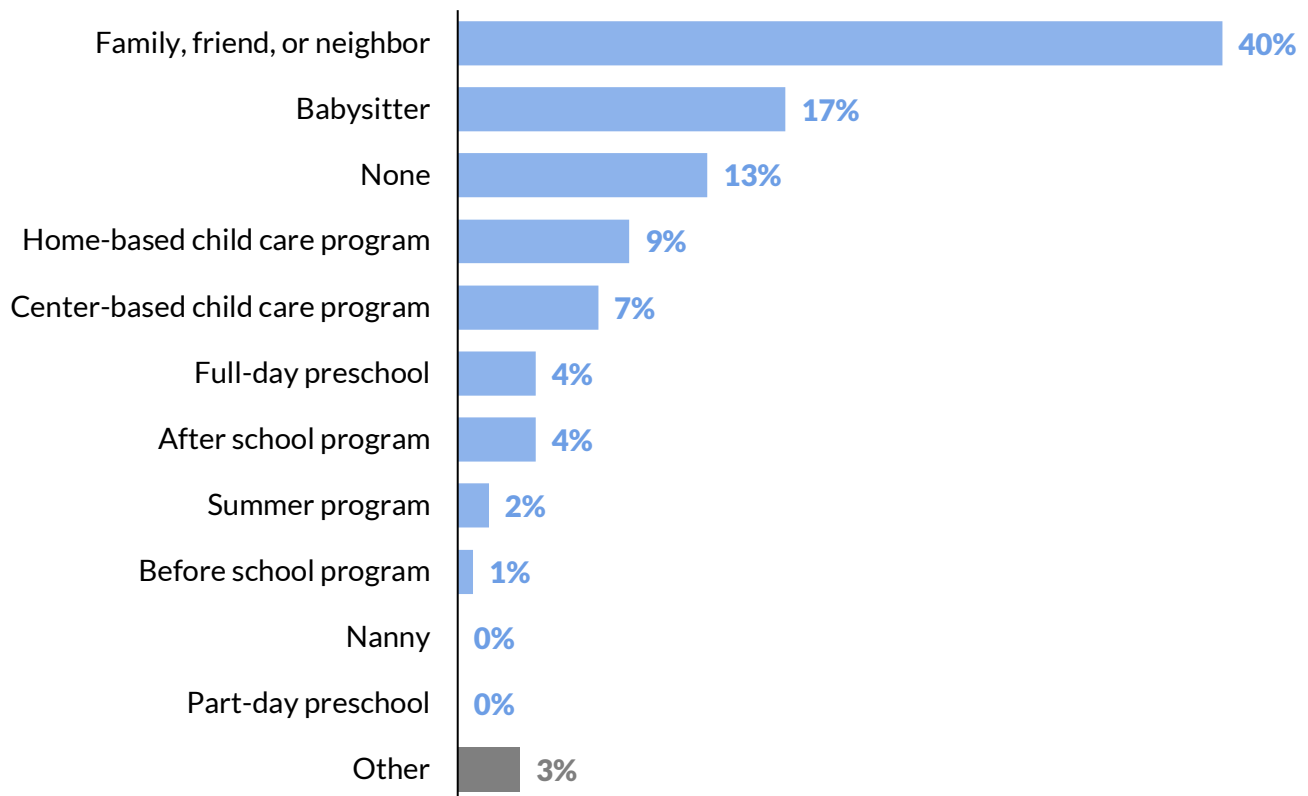


Child care needs and access

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 28 shows the types of child care arrangements 2024 survey respondents said they had used in the last 12 months. The largest proportion (40%) said they used family, friends, or neighbors for child care followed by babysitters (17%) or nothing at all (13%) (Figure 28). Not surprisingly since there were no licensed child care providers in Garfield County in 2024, only 9% had used a home-based and 7% had used a center-based program, presumably in another county. Sixty-eight percent said their current child care arrangements meet their child care needs somewhat (49%) or not at all (19%) well compared to 18% who said their current arrangements meet their needs very well (Figure 29). Sixty-one percent of survey respondents either almost never or never have backup child care when their regular care is unavailable (Figure 30).

FIGURE 28 | Types of child care used by 2024 survey respondents in the last 12 months (n=78) *respondents were able to select multiple types



“Other” responses:

- Daycare
- Husband became a stay-at-home parent
- I have been transporting my children to the next town over from Pomeroy to the town of Lewiston, Idaho to meet my childcare requirements
- Stayed home

FIGURE 29 | How well 2024 survey respondents' current child care arrangements meet their child care needs (n=78)

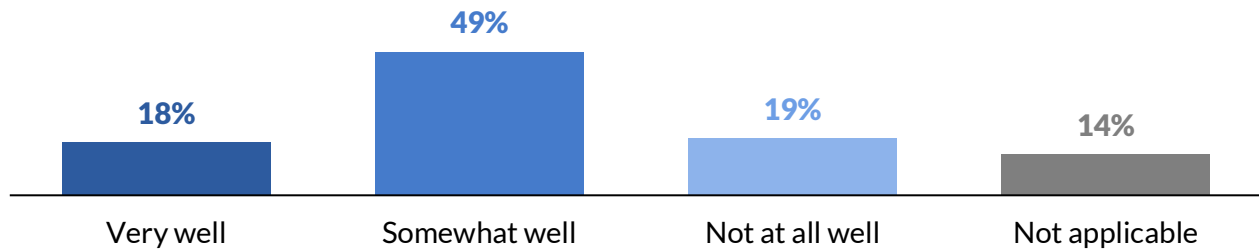
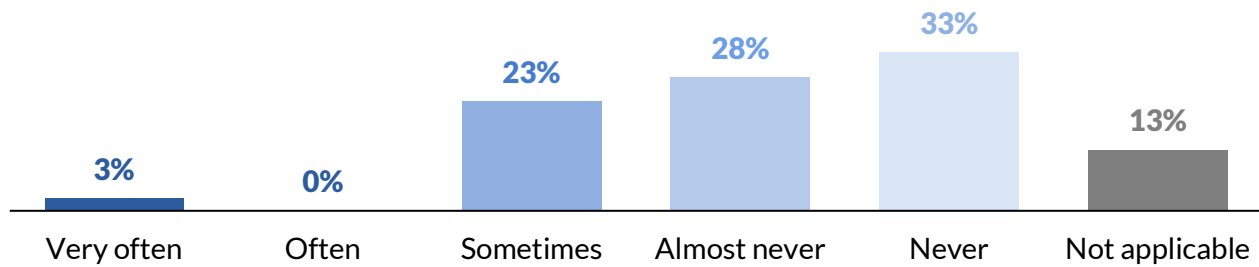


FIGURE 30 | How often 2024 survey respondents have backup child care when their regular care is unavailable (n=78)



CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS

The 2024 survey asked respondents how easy or difficult it has been to get the child care they need for children in different age groups (Figure 31). Overall, respondents have experienced greater difficulty than ease getting needed care for their children in any age group with the vast majority (71%-81%) saying it has been very difficult to get the care they need for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

FIGURE 31 | Level of difficulty 2024 survey respondents experienced getting child care by age category

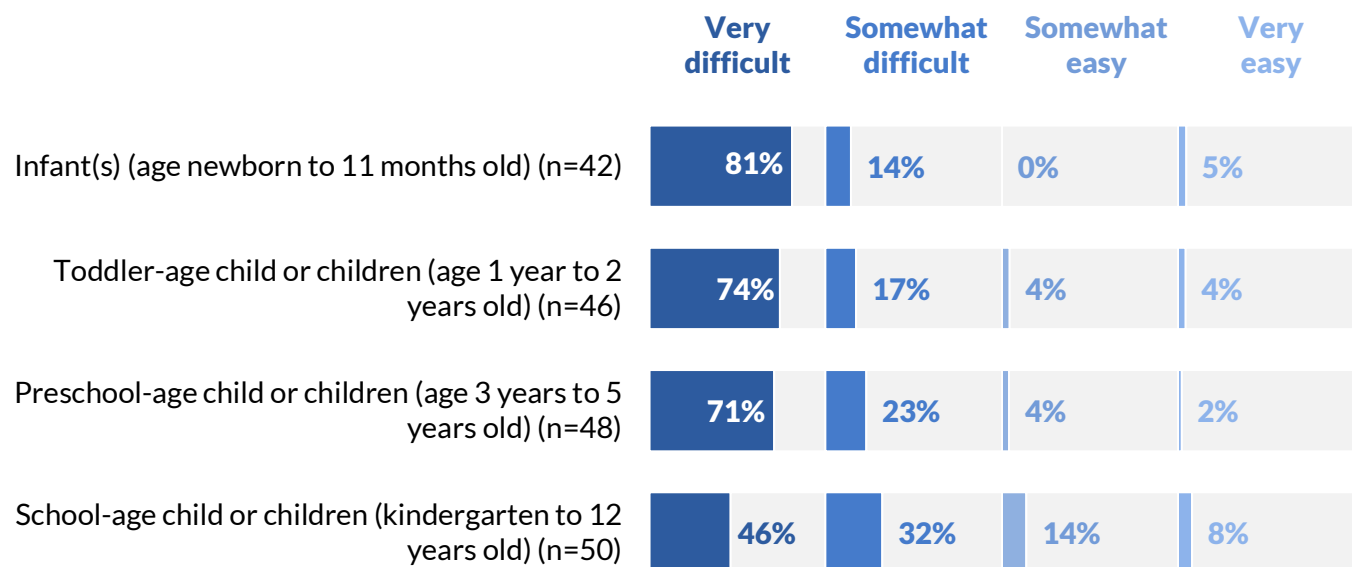


Figure 32 reports the extent to which 2024 survey respondents have experienced select challenges with accessing the child care they need, ordered by those the largest percentages have found most challenging. Seventy-four percent of respondents said that finding child care that is close to their home or work is a significant challenge. Other significant challenges for the majority were finding affordable child care, finding high-quality child care, and finding child care at the times when they need it, and finding a provider they trust.

FIGURE 32 | How challenging the following factors have been for 2024 survey respondents' households

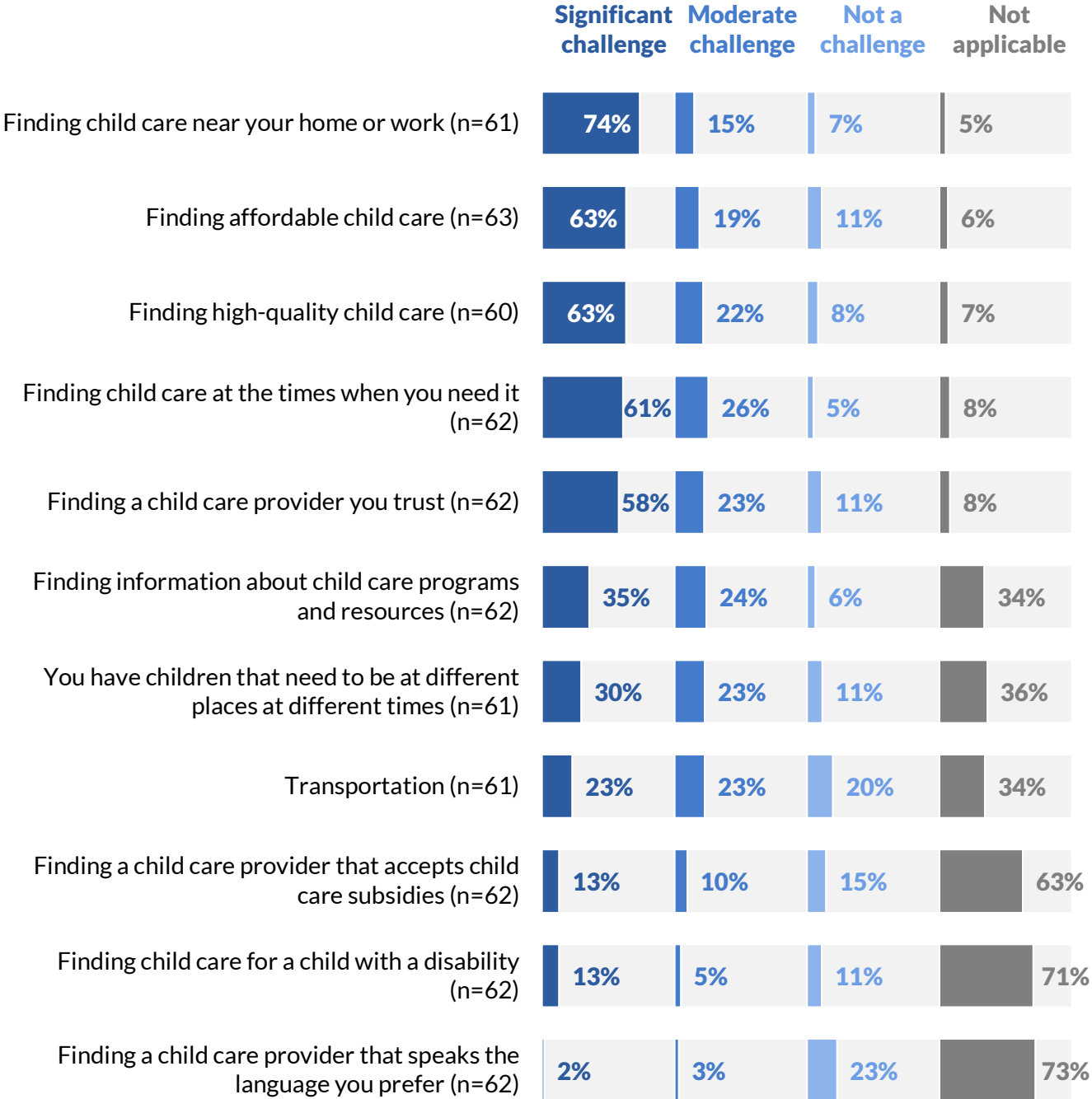
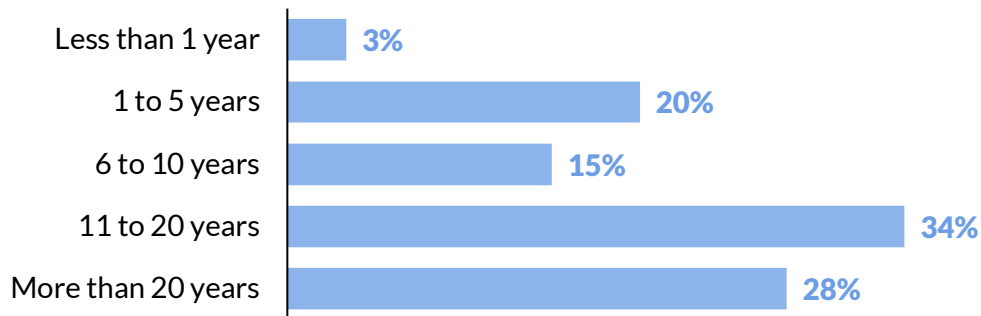


Figure 33 shows 38% of respondents have lived in the area for less than ten years and 23% for less than five years. Newer residents are often less likely to have family, friends, and neighbors available to provide child care.

FIGURE 33 | Sixty-two percent of 2024 survey respondents have lived in Asotin or Garfield counties for 11 years or more (n=61)



The 2024 survey then invited respondents to comment on the challenges they have experienced related to accessing child care, or to describe any additional challenges their household has experienced related to child care and early learning. Six respondents answered the open-ended question, and these are their unedited responses:

- Child care is pretty much nonexistent in Pomeroy unless you know the right people. We need a reliable facility with responsible adults running it.
- I currently reside in Pomeroy Washington where there currently exists no formal/reliable daycare facility. Due to that fact I currently do not see a logistical way for me to also be employed in the same town as I reside due to lack of daycare. Therefore, I am required to be employed in other towns so that I am able to utilize the available facilities which has added significant costs to our household budget overtime related to commute expenses and out of state taxes. It is very unfortunate that a town like Pomeroy currently lacks any form of professional daycare. Daycare is a basic aspect of adult societal existence in the United States of America. I don't see any reason why there should be a lack of child care resources in any town in the United States of America where the working class tax paying citizens live their daily lives. Thank you for putting this survey together and putting the effort into securing a daycare facility for the community of Pomeroy.
- My child is now almost four but there has been no options in Pomeroy to help.
- No child care options are or have been offered in the community for a long while.
- See previous comment. I'll also add, if we want to attract families to Pomeroy, this is a must. The only families that truly have a reliable form of childcare are those with family roots.
- We take our child to Clarkston currently, my husband and I will both be working in Dayton here shortly. Our infant is on a waitlist for the Dayton daycare but it is expensive. I know that you can't put a price on taking care of your babies, but it has to be affordable for working families. It is unfair when I see (and know) that spots are taken up by families who are not working. I am not trying to be rude or unkind. This is a frustration. We use family members when available.

Workforce impacts

The 2024 survey asked respondents if child care challenges have impacted their work and career. Overall, child care difficulties have greatly impacted respondents' work: 87% said that they or someone in their household have had to take time off work, 79% said they or someone in their household have had to limit their work hours, and 27% have had to quit a job because of child care difficulties (Figure 34). Twenty percent of respondents said they or someone in their household "often" has been late or missed work because of child care challenges (Figure 35) and 21% said that child care responsibilities "limit me a lot" when it comes to job performance or career goals (Figure 36).

FIGURE 34 | Percentage of 2024 survey participants who said they (or someone else in their household) have been impacted in select ways by child care difficulties

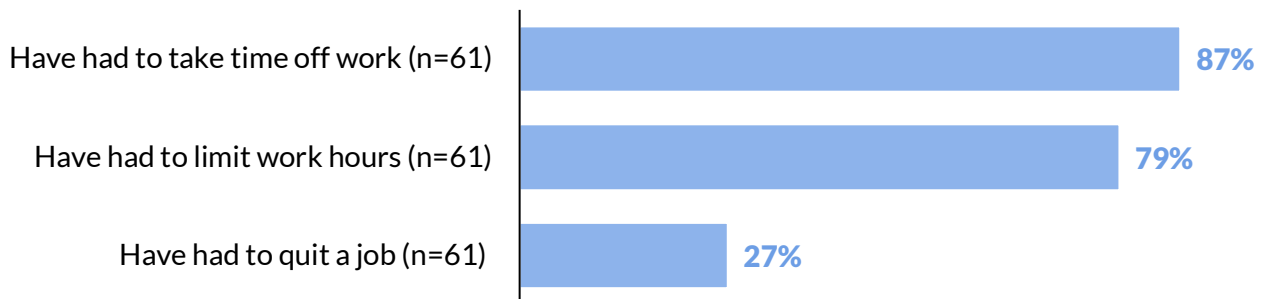


FIGURE 35 | How often 2024 survey respondents or someone else in their household has been late or missed work because of child care challenges (n=61)

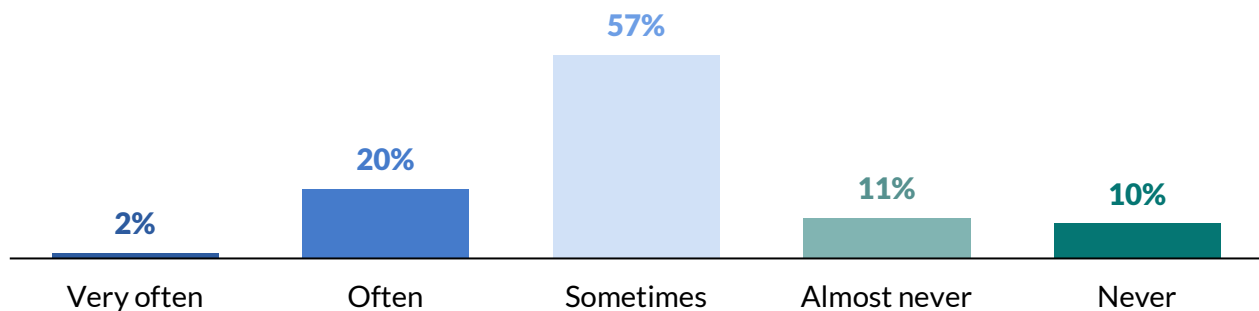
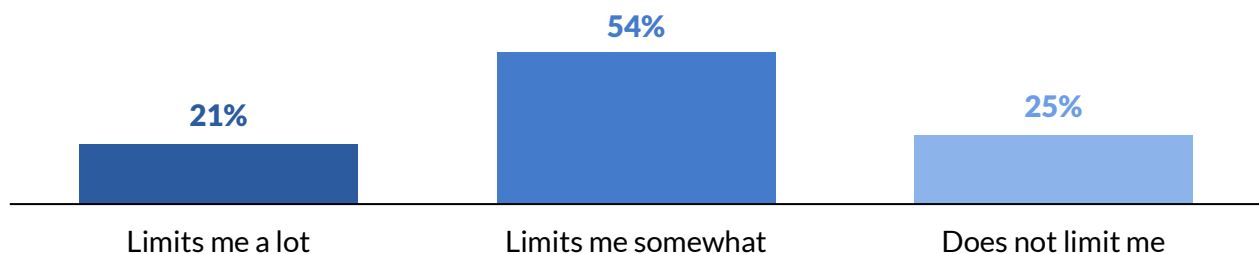


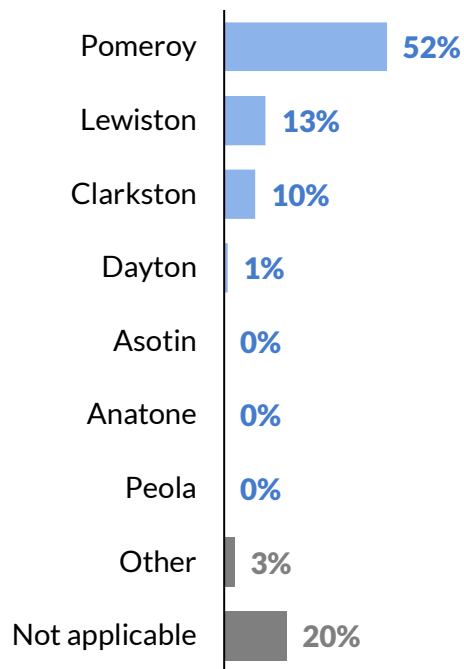
FIGURE 36 | What extent child care responsibilities limit 2024 survey respondents' job performance or career goals (n=61)



CURRENT AND PREFERRED LOCATION

Ninety-three percent of the 2024 survey respondents live in Pomeroy (Figure 19), 69% said they work there (Figure 21), and 52% said that is where they have child care (Figure 37). Forty-four percent of respondents said that they prefer to have child care near where they live, and 13% prefer to have child care near where they work (Figure 38). In other words, most would prefer to have child care in Pomeroy.

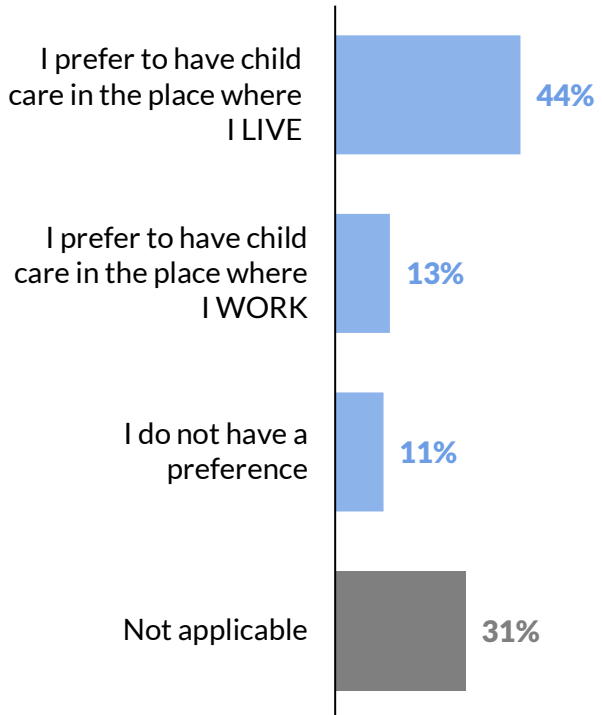
FIGURE 37 | Location of child care by 2024 survey respondents in the last 12 months (n=78) *respondents were able to select multiple locations



Other write in responses:

- Moscow
- Post Falls
- Nowhere

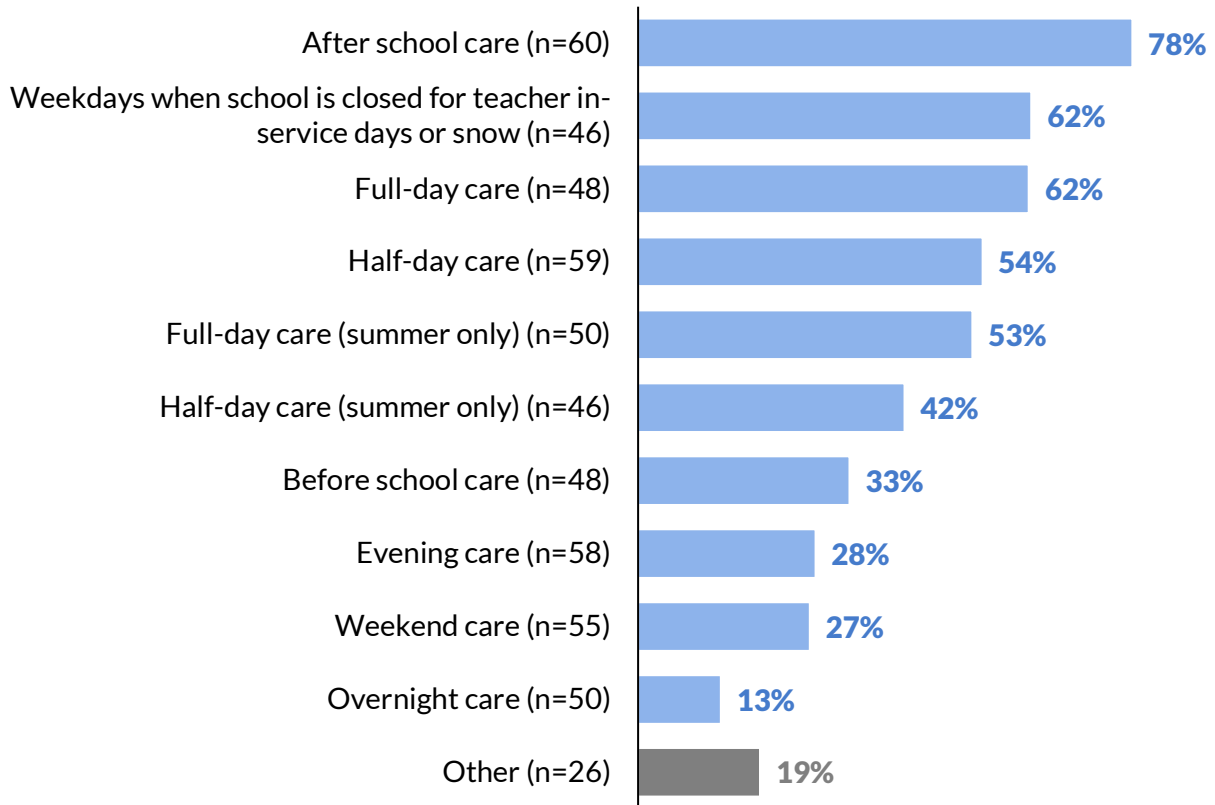
FIGURE 38 | 2024 survey respondents' preferred child care location if they work in a different place than they live (n=61)



DESIRED ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 39 shows when 2024 survey respondents need child care, with 78% of respondents needing after school care, 62% needing full-day care, and 54% needing half-day care. Figure 40 shows the type of child care 2025 survey respondents said their child or a child they know needs, with 52% needing full-time care, and 39% needing part-time care. Figure 41 shows that the largest proportion (65%) of 2025 survey respondents either need or know someone who needs child care during standard hours (i.e., from 8am to 5pm), although more than a third (35%) said care is needed before 8am and 20% said it is needed after 5 pm.

FIGURE 39 | Whether they currently have it or not, when 2024 survey respondents said they need child care



“Other” responses:

- 6:15am - 5:15pm
- Emergency care
- I don’t have children but I know many people that do that would love to be able to have childcare, especially during summer or when there are snow days
- I don’t work because we don’t have child care
- Random times
- Summer Part-Time Care, 2 days a week
- Summer programs

FIGURE 40 | Type of child care 2025 survey respondents said their child or a child they know needs (n=46)

*respondents were able to select multiple types

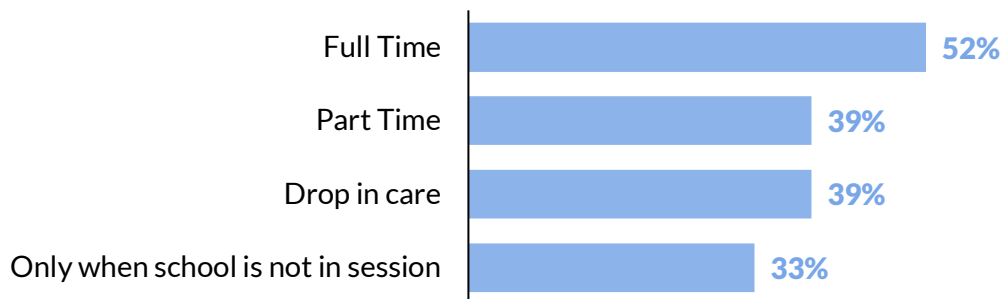


FIGURE 41 | Hours child care is needed according to 2025 survey respondents either for their own child or a child they know (n=46) *respondents were able to select multiple time frames

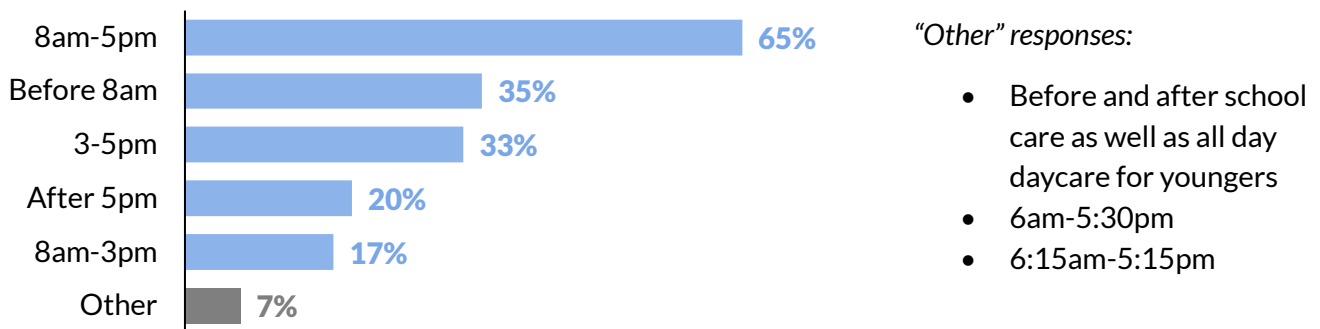
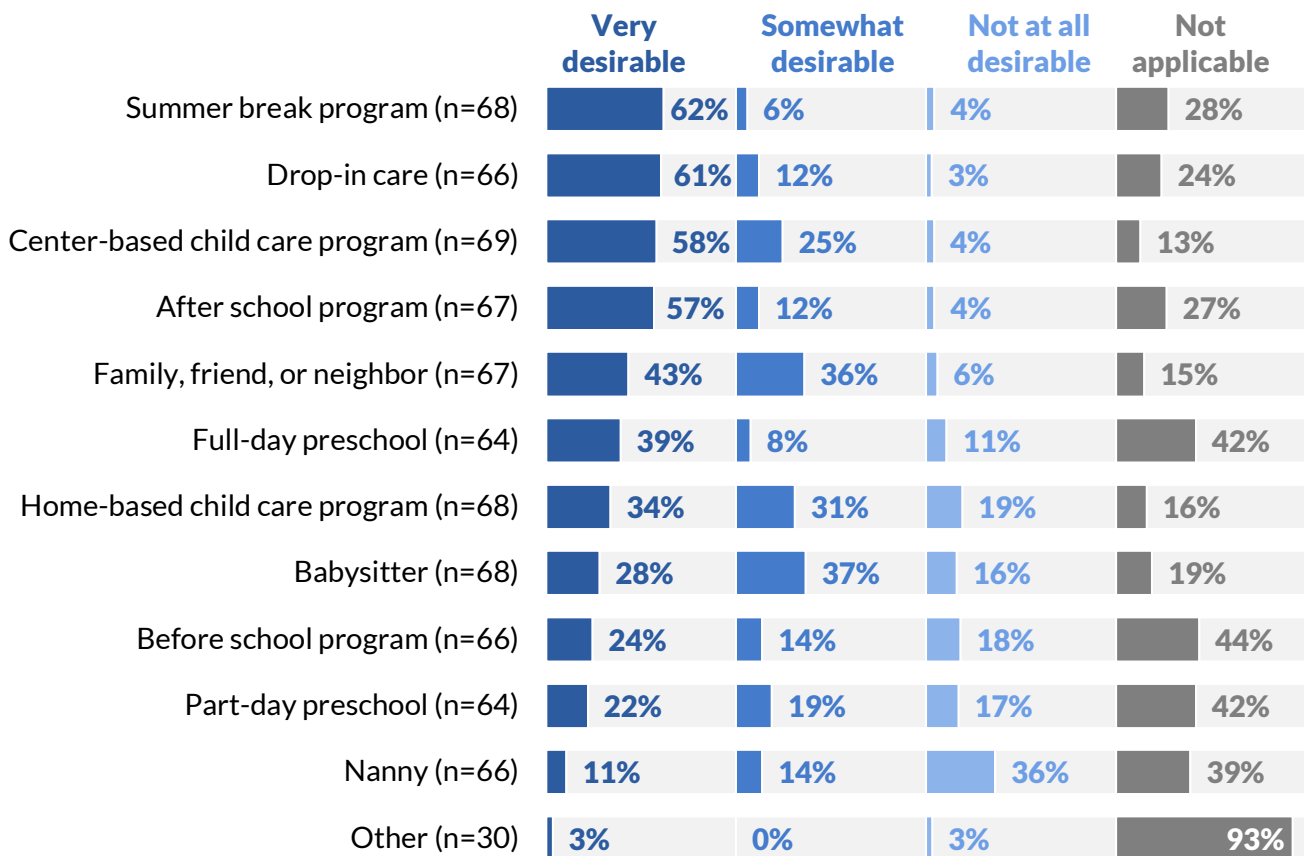


Figure 42 shows how desirable, if at all, selected child care arrangements would be for 2024 survey participants. The arrangements relevant to children under five years old that the largest percentages identified as most desirable are drop-in care and a center-based program. However, considerable proportions said most arrangements presented were at least somewhat desirable. Notably, 58% said a center-based program would be very desirable compared to 34% who said a home-based program would be very desirable. While 48 respondents desire it, drop-in care and other highly flexible arrangements can be difficult or impossible for child care providers to sustain because the unpredictability impacts staffing, income, and program quality (n=66). A drop-in program may be ineligible for subsidies as well.

FIGURE 42 | How desirable the following types of child care arrangements are for 2024 survey respondents' families



The 2024 survey prompted participants to “Please tell us what types of child care or early learning program(s) you would like to see more of in your community.” Survey participants provided the following unedited answers:

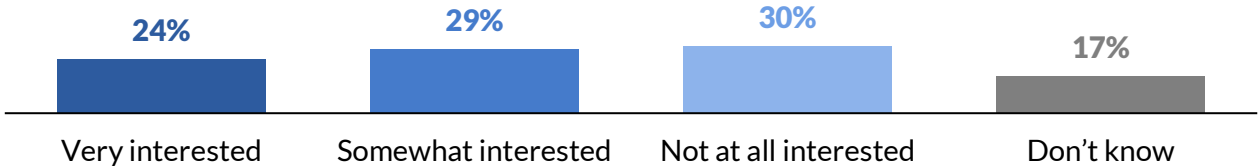
- A childcare center.
- A fully licensed professional daycare service that operates as a traditional style childcare facility. Montessori style learning/teaching to foster independence/responsibility/self-esteem in young child who are learning to exist and thrive outside of their home environment. Other important life skills such as summer swimming lessons to foster water safety habits. Summer library programs to encourage children to maintain their current developmental/educational levels to avoid regression during summer school break.
- After school programs for sure.
- After school, full time summer programs, emergency drop in center
- Any licensed Child care. We have to have Daycare in Garfield County or we will never see growth
- Any type of child care and any early learning option not associated with the school.
- Child care during the day for younger than school-age, and after school care for school-aged.
- Day and evening care is a must or will continue to use resources outside of area, which may result in moving children to a Lewiston school
- Daycare would be imperative
- Half day play school to get children accustomed to a school setting.
- I am a grandparent and am asked constantly by not only my children but others to babysit. I do not want to be the sole caregiver for anyone. Our community needs a full time daycare with a drop in program for emergencies.
- I don't have need of childcare for my own use, but I know it is a need in the community, and want to support the efforts to make Pomeroy a better place. We need child care in this community!
- I would like to see full time care in Pomeroy. My family's needs, don't require care; however, multiple families need full time care in order to work.
- I would love to see half day preschool offered for 3-year olds again. It was such a benefit to those kids!
- More summer activities for young kids and infants can be a part of and enjoy.
- Our community severely needs licensed child care. This has been an issue for the 15 years that I have lived in Pomeroy. While it is no longer an issue for myself, with older children, it affected whether and when we started a family, and essentially forced us from a dual income to a single income household once we did have kids.
- Play-based learning programs and STEM
- Pre-school, daycare, evening care, early childhood learning programs
- Summer and after-school
- We need childcare for working families. It is hard to be a working parent when childcare is unavailable and the waitlist is endless.

Parent cooperative preschool and babysitter directory

The 2024 survey then asked respondents about their interest in participating in a parent cooperative preschool arrangement. A parent cooperative preschool is organized by a group of families who hire a trained teacher to lead the program. The children’s parents or guardians volunteer a percentage of time to

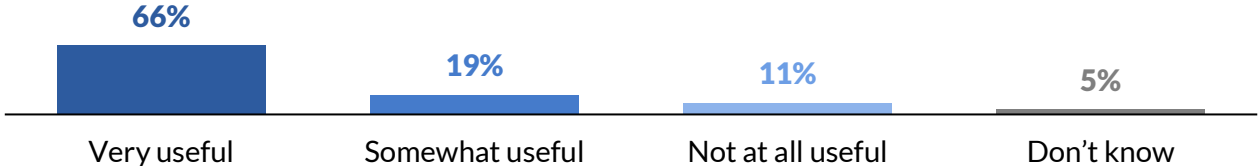
help in the classroom on a rotating basis and provide administrative support. Fifty-three percent of respondents said they are either “somewhat” or “very” interested in participating.

FIGURE 43 | How interested 2024 survey respondents are in participating in a parent cooperative preschool arrangement (n=66)



The 2024 survey also asked respondents how useful it would be for them to have a directory of babysitters in the community who have been trained and certified in skills such as basic first aid, what to do during an emergency, how to choose age-appropriate activities, and how to handle behaviors. A majority (66%) of respondents feel it would be very useful to have a directory of qualified babysitters in their community and another 19% said it would be somewhat useful (Figure 44).

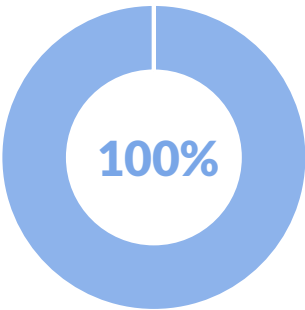
FIGURE 44 | How useful 2024 survey respondents think it would be to have a directory of qualified babysitters (n=64)



Interest in a child care center in Pomeroy

Asked in the 2025 survey if they, or someone they know, would utilize a local child care facility, 100% of respondents said yes.

FIGURE 45 | One-hundred percent of 2025 survey respondents either would utilize themselves or know someone who would **utilize a local child care facility** (n=47)



NEED FOR MEALS AND TRANSPORTATION

Sixty-two percent of 2025 survey respondents said their child or another child they know who would use a local child care facility would need meals to be provided by the program (Figure 46). Figure 47 shows that 36% of the 2025 survey respondents said their child or a child they know who would use a local child care facility would need transportation to/from school to child care.

FIGURE 46 | Sixty-two percent of 2025 survey respondents said their child or another child they know who would use a local child care facility would **need meals provided** (n=47)

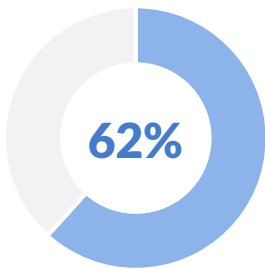
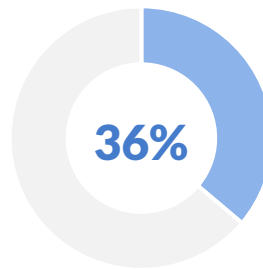


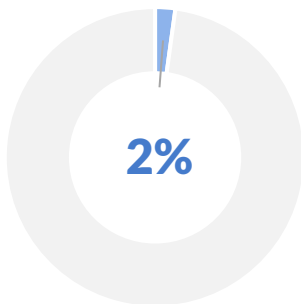
FIGURE 47 | Thirty-six percent of 2025 survey respondents said their child or another child they know who would use a local child care facility would **need transportation to/from school to a local child care facility** (n=47)



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

One out of the 46 people who participated in the 2025 survey said they have or know a child with special needs who would use a local child care facility (Figure 48).

FIGURE 48 | Two percent of 2025 survey respondents said their child or another child they know who would use a local child care facility **has special needs** (n=46)



TUITION

The 2024 survey asked how much respondents spend on child care per month (Figure 49). Forty-nine percent of respondents said they do not have a child care bill—which makes sense as many do not have a formal child care arrangement—while 32% pay between \$500 and \$999 per month.

The 2025 survey asked respondents how much they, or someone they know, is currently paying for child care per month per child. Thirty-one percent said they or someone they know currently pays “less than

\$500” (note that this category includes those who do not have a child care bill) and 31% pay from \$500 to \$700. It also asked respondents how much they, or someone they know, would be comfortable paying per month per child. Figure 51 shows that 49% percent of respondents said \$500 to \$700 would be a comfortable amount to pay and another 19% said they would feel comfortable paying more than that.

FIGURE 49 | Amount 2024 survey respondents spend on child care per month (n=47)

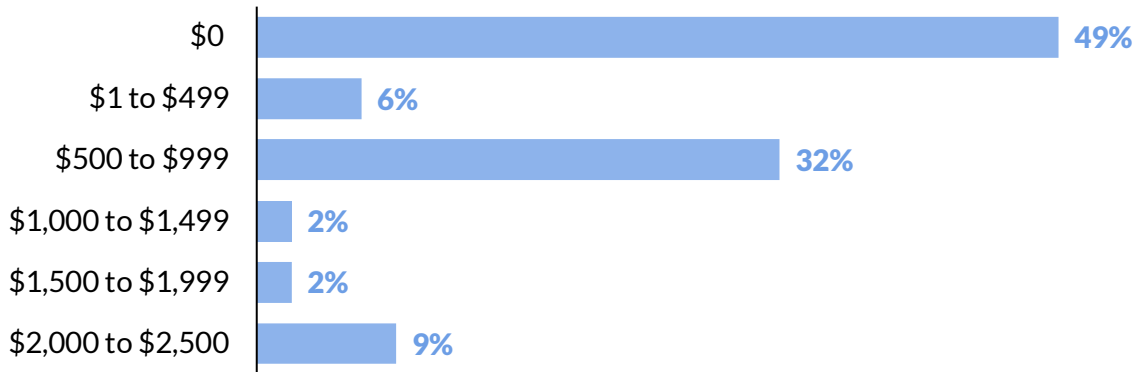


FIGURE 50 | Amount that 2025 survey respondents said they or someone they know is currently paying for child care per month per child (n=42)

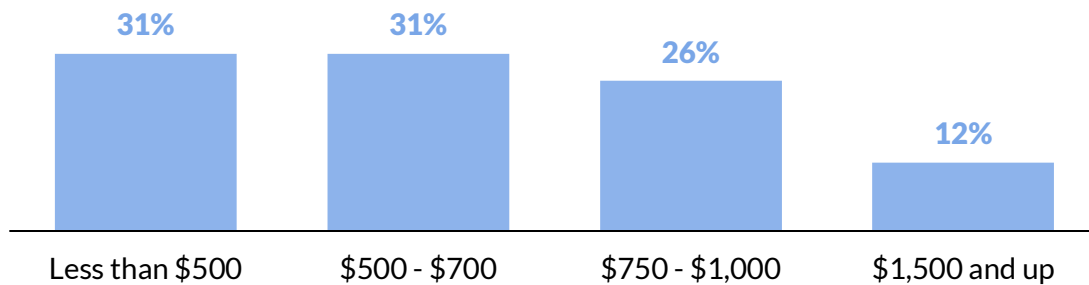
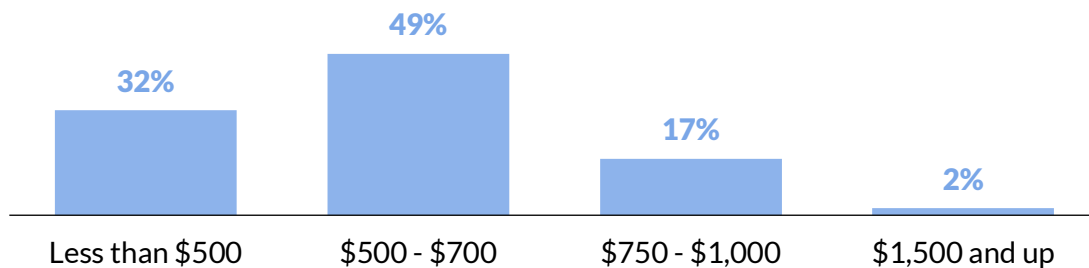


FIGURE 51 | Amount that 2025 survey respondents said they or someone they know would feel comfortable paying for local child care per month per child (n=47)



Interest in owning or working in a child care program

The majority of 2024 survey respondents said they are not at all interested in owning their own child care business; however, some were interested (Figure 52). Of the four respondents that said they are either somewhat or very interested in owning their own child care business, three said they would be interested in owning a home-based child care program, and two said they would be interested in owning a center-

based child care program (Figure 53). Twenty-three percent of respondents said they are very or somewhat interested in working in a child care or early learning program (Figure 54).

Nine of the 2025 survey respondents said that they would be interested in working at a local child care facility (Figure 55).

FIGURE 52 | How interested 2024 survey respondents are in owning their own child care business (n=61)

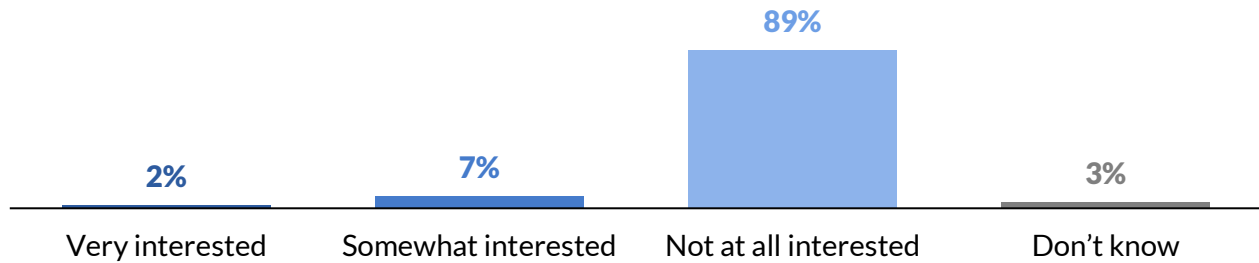


FIGURE 53 | What type of child care business 2024 survey respondents are interested in owning (n=4)

*respondents were able to select multiple types

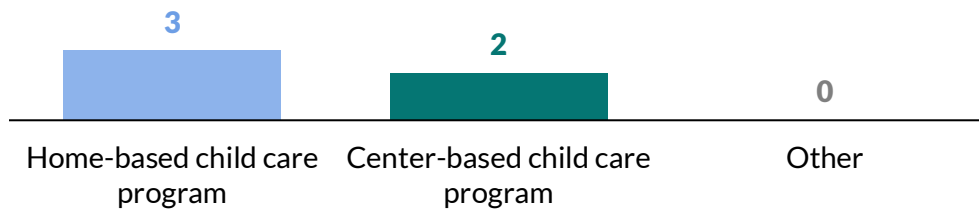


FIGURE 54 | How interested 2024 survey respondents are in working in a child care or early learning program (n=60)

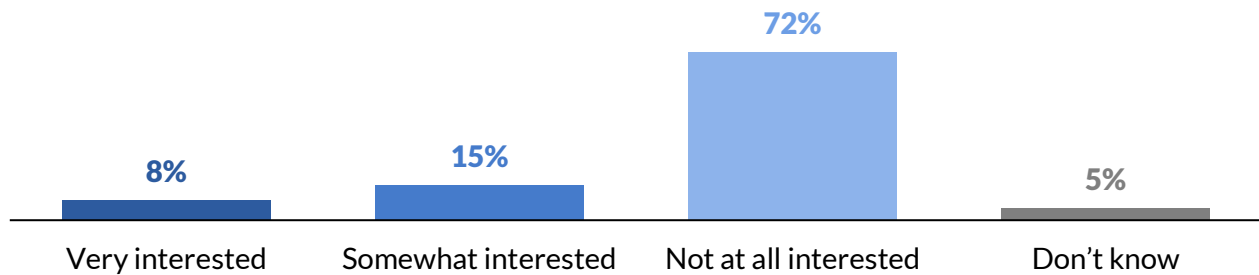
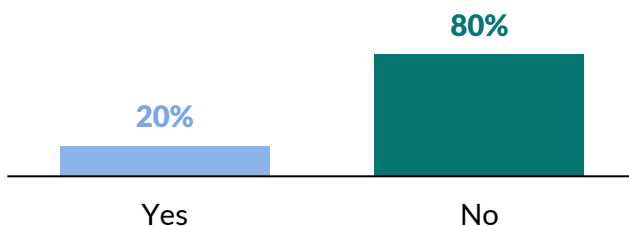


FIGURE 55 | Whether or not 2025 survey respondents are interested in working at a local child care facility (n=45)



Additional comments from the 2024 community survey

The 2024 survey invited respondents to share any additional comments related to child care and early learning in their community to which they provided the following responses:

- All of our children are of school age as of this school year, but we had a significant challenge to find affordability, reliable child care. We had to piece together weekday childcare with different friends, this was stressful. We scrambled a few times and had to take time off of work if there was an emergency at our regular childcare.
- Being a single dad trying to go to school finding child care is impossible
- Finding a facility, caretaker, nanny, leap center that is qualified to take care of children no matter what need (health related or not) would be amazing for this community.
- Garfield county must have an option if people with children are going to survive in this area
- Having early learning and child care accessible to all kiddos and families supports our community and education system.
- I think there needs to be something. And it should be Affordable. Not costing an arm and a leg.
- I would love to have a program in Garfield County that would aide the families with kids that are not yet of T-K age.
- Lack of childcare in our community limits our growth. I would like to see flexible drop-in hours as well as consistent daycare to support local families.
- My husband doesn't work in order to have childcare
- Thank you for the effort to bring childcare to Pomeroy.
- This is an extreme need for our community. We have single parents here that cannot work as they do not have daycare

Appendix A: Estimating the number of eligible expectant mothers

STEP 1: Gather county-level data on the number of births

SOURCE: Washington Department of Health, All Births Dashboard - County, retrieved from <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/county-all-births-dashboard>

STEP 2: Calculate total expected number of pregnancies for each county in a year and in a given month

CALCULATION:

Number of women pregnant in a given month = Total births per year x 0.75

SOURCE: CDC Division of Reproductive Health, Estimating the Number of Pregnant Women in a Geographic Area, methodology sourced and adapted from <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/emergency/pdfs/pregnacyestimatobrochure508.pdf>

STEP 3: Gather poverty rate of women who gave birth in the past 12 months

Using the 5-Year Estimate Subject Tables, gather the percent of women with births in the past 12 months living below 100 percent of poverty level.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S1301, “Fertility”

STEP 4: Calculate the number of expectant mothers who are who are living in poverty in a given month and thus eligible for Early Head Start

CALCULATION: For each county, multiply the number of expectant pregnancies in a given month by the poverty rate for women who have given birth in the past 12 months.

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- ² U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2018, & 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, Generated by Josh Cowgill; using <<https://data.census.gov/>> (23 April 2025).
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- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates, Table S1101: Households and Families, Generated by Josh Cowgill; using <<https://data.census.gov/>> (6 May 2025).

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- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates, Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months, Generated by Josh Cowgill; using <<https://data.census.gov/>> (6 May 2025).
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- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates, Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Generated by Josh Cowgill; using <<https://data.census.gov/>> (6 May 2025).
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ Washington Employment Security Department; Labor area summaries, April 2024; generated by Josh Cowgill; using esd.wa.gov; <<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/labor-area-summaries>> (7 May 2025).
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- ¹⁹ Washington Department of Commerce; PIT Results 2024, Generated by Josh Cowgill; using <<https://deptofcommerce.com>> (7 May 2025).
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