



Most Parents Have Postponed Career-Related Activities Due to Inadequate Child Care Access

*64% of Parents Report Lack of Accessible Child Care Negatively Impacts Their
Daily Lives*

Apr. 14, 2022 (Seattle, WA) - According to a new survey from BestColleges.com, the majority of American parents (56%) report they have prevented or postponed career-related activities due to inadequate access to child care. The survey of 759 parents or guardians of at least one child under the age of 18 also found that 64% report negative impacts to their day-to-day lives due to child care access issues.

Click here for more information:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/parents-negatively-impacted-by-lack-of-child-care/>

Nationwide, 32% of parents agree that inadequate child care access has hindered their ability to achieve their career goals, while 43% disagree. Nearly one-fifth of parents (18%) report that issues with child care access have prevented or postponed career activities such as earning a living wage or acceptable salary, getting a job, increasing their lifetime earnings potential, and pursuing education or training for career advancement.

The majority of respondents agree that parents without adequate child care access are at a disadvantage when it comes to employment and career advancement (59%) and that people should not have to choose between pursuing a career and being a parent (57%). Most also agree that overall, sufficient access to child care would have a positive economic impact (58%) and believe the government should take steps to improve child care access (56%).

"It's no secret that parents constantly juggle many responsibilities," said Jessica Bryant, analyst for BestColleges.com. "Child care access falls short for many parents, but adequate access is critical for working parents to be able to balance work and family commitments.

Too often, working parents encounter issues related not only to child care affordability and availability but also to the quality level of child care when they can find it."

Female parents are significantly more likely to report that they have been prevented from getting a job or postponed getting a job due to issues with access to child care compared to their male counterparts (25% vs. 10%). Conversely, male parents are significantly more likely to say inadequate access to child care has not prevented or postponed any aspects of their career (46% vs. 31%).

Two in five parents (40%) agree they've had to sacrifice something in their life due to a lack of childcare access, while 36% disagree. Nearly half (49%) of Generation Z and millennial parents (age 18-40) say they have already had to sacrifice something in life due to inadequate child care access, compared to 29% of older generations (baby boomers and the silent generation, age 57+).

When asked which aspects of their day-to-day lives have been most impacted by lack of accessible child care, parents are most likely to cite work-life balance (28%), ability to save money (24%), available working hours (17%) and mental health (16%). Female parents are almost twice as likely as male parents to say their available working hours have been impacted most due to inadequate child care access (21% vs. 12%).

Methodology

BestColleges.com commissioned YouGov PLC to conduct the survey. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov PLC. The total sample size was 759 adult parents or guardians. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all U.S. adult (age 18+) parents/guardians of at least one child under age 18. Fieldwork was undertaken on March 21-28, 2022. The survey was carried out online and meets rigorous quality standards.

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