



Fall 2020 Family Voice Pulse Survey Monroe & Wayne County Caregiver Perceptions on Child Care/Out of School Time During COVID-19

About the survey:

COVID-19 has changed so much in our community. We know all caregivers have been navigating challenges to keep their kids safe during the pandemic. We also know that many caregivers have had to find new and emergency forms of childcare for their babies, school-aged kids, and teens.

Community organizations across Monroe and Wayne County are currently trying to meet the needs of caregivers. As we all continue to navigate this strange new world, we want to make sure that resources, supports, and assistance are informed by data.

[Finger Lakes Community Schools](#), the [United Way of Greater Rochester's](#) Child Care Task Force, and the [Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Task Force](#) at [Common Ground Health](#) set up the survey to get a better understanding directly from caregivers about their current childcare needs.

Our goals were to:

1. Get a better understanding of caregivers' current needs/wants/desires for child care and out of school time care, and
2. Learn what resources and supports caregivers need for their children to have safe, accessible and quality child care during COVID-19.

Audience:

Caregivers of children aged 0-12 in Monroe and Wayne counties

Timeline:

11/20/2020 – 12/14/2020

Responses:

175 caregivers

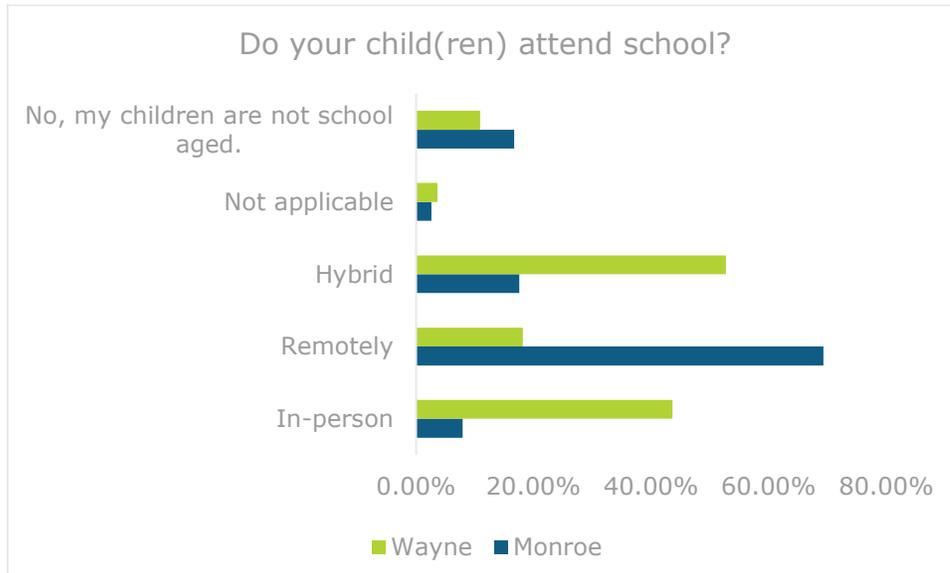
Format of Analysis:

The analysis is split into six sections and provides both quantitative and qualitative analysis of responses from the survey. The sections are listed below:

1. [What caregivers shared about school](#)
2. [What caregivers shared about their current childcare situation](#)
3. [Understanding Emergency Childcare Needs](#)
4. [Caregivers Perceptions on Childcare During COVID-19](#)
5. [What caregivers need to support their children right now](#)
6. [Demographics and household information](#)

What caregivers shared about school:

- Many caregivers (52.7%) responded that their child is currently attending school remotely
- In Wayne County, there is a larger portion of children attending school in-person and through a hybrid model (96.4%) than in Monroe County (25.4%). *
 - *this is likely because RCSD caregivers provided the majority of responses for Monroe County school districts



The lack of consistency is what is difficult. It is hard to plan for the unknown. – Wayne County Caregiver

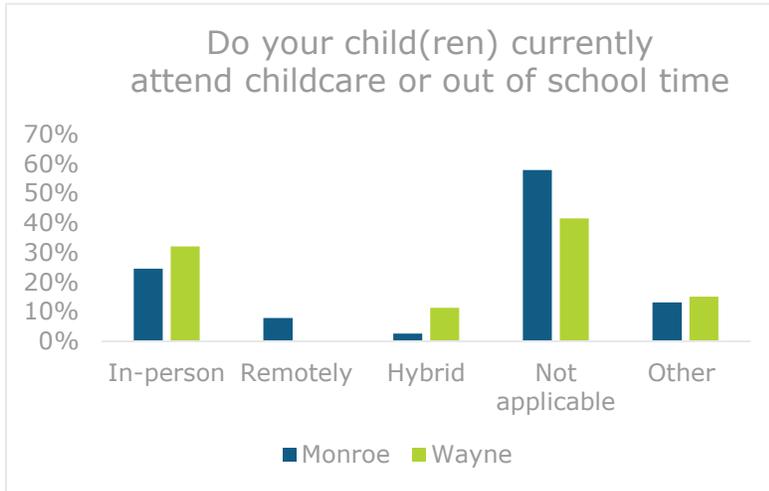
Open the schools!!! We need in person instruction for these children. They are not learning properly at home! – Monroe County Caregiver

If going back to in person learning, we also need before and after care – Monroe County Caregiver

There needs to be safe access for students to have social time, that is currently not built into [remote or hybrid] school days – Monroe County Caregiver

What caregivers shared about their current childcare situation:

- Most respondents (57%) **do not** have children currently in child care or out of school time



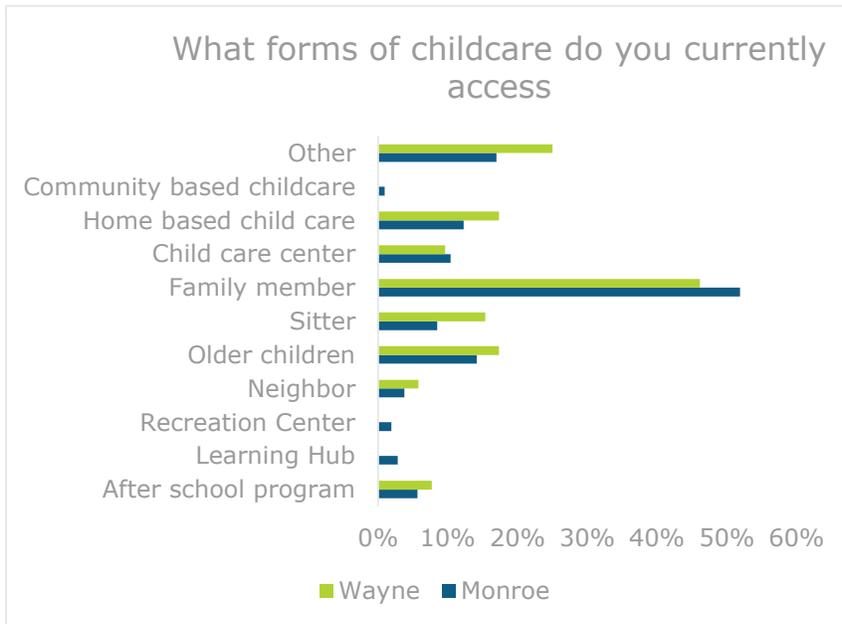
"...the exhaustion is unreal." – Monroe County Caregiver

"Remote learning is extremely taxing on everyone's mental health." - Monroe County Caregiver

"As a single parent...this has been very challenging" - Monroe County Caregiver

- When children are participating in child care, frequency varies (Table-1):
- Children are more likely to be participating in child care and out of school time in-person (26.3%) than hybrid (5.7%) and remote models of care (5.7%)
- Most families (45.7%) are currently relying on other family members for child care

# of days	Percentage
1	2.86%
2	6.29%
3	6.86%
4	5.14%
5	21.14%



I am able to bring my children to work if we go virtual for two weeks but how am I supposed to help them and do my job? – Wayne County Caregiver

We need to find a way for child care to be able to provide care for students that are fully remote – Monroe County Caregiver

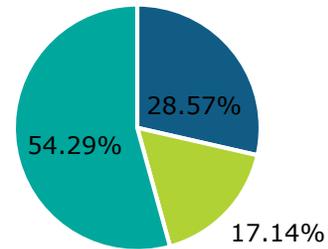
Understanding Emergency Childcare Needs:

- Over the last six months **40.6%** of respondents indicated they needed emergency childcare
- Of those seeking emergency childcare, only **28.6%** were able to secure childcare

It is completely unreasonable for me to be working full time at home AND coordinating my child's schooling. If I had the option, I'd leave the workforce now and find a job post-pandemic. – Monroe County Caregiver

*“A lack of childcare means I can't work full time. I can at best do part time to meet my family's needs”
– Monroe County Caregiver*

Were you successful in finding emergency childcare in the past 6 months?



■ Yes ■ No answer ■ No

- **50.6%** of respondents shared they have missed work in the last 6 months due to a lack of childcare
- When asked how often respondents have missed work due to lack of child care the majority did not select to answer the question (Table-2)
- Finding childcare has been difficult for caregivers. When asked to assess how difficult it has been to access childcare in the last six months, on a scale of 0 to 100 (0 being very difficult, and 100 being very easy). Respondents averaged a response of 39.

Table-2: How often caregivers have missed work in the past 6 months due to child care

Frequency	Percentage
1-2 days	18.29%
3-5 days	11.43%
4-6 days	4.00%
7+ days	10.86%
I left my job to take care of my children	13.14%
Do not wish to answer	41.71%

- While most respondents indicated their school district is already virtual, 40.6% indicated that if their school district is required to go virtual for two weeks, that it would be difficult to secure childcare. This is particularly true for Wayne County respondents. 56.6% of respondents indicated it would be difficult to secure childcare in this scenario vs. 34.9% in Monroe County.

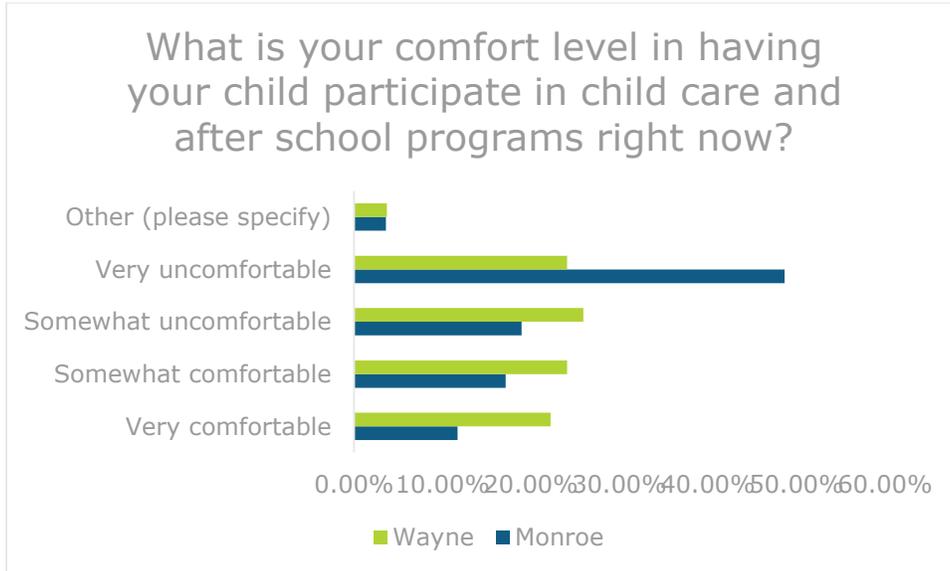
We went from a two-working parent household to one parent working. Stay at home parent is assisting with 100% virtual learning. – Monroe County Caregiver

We are lucky enough that my spouse took leave the first time the daycare closed but cannot do so again...Although I could technically work remotely if school/daycare closed again, it would make life very difficult. - Monroe County Caregiver

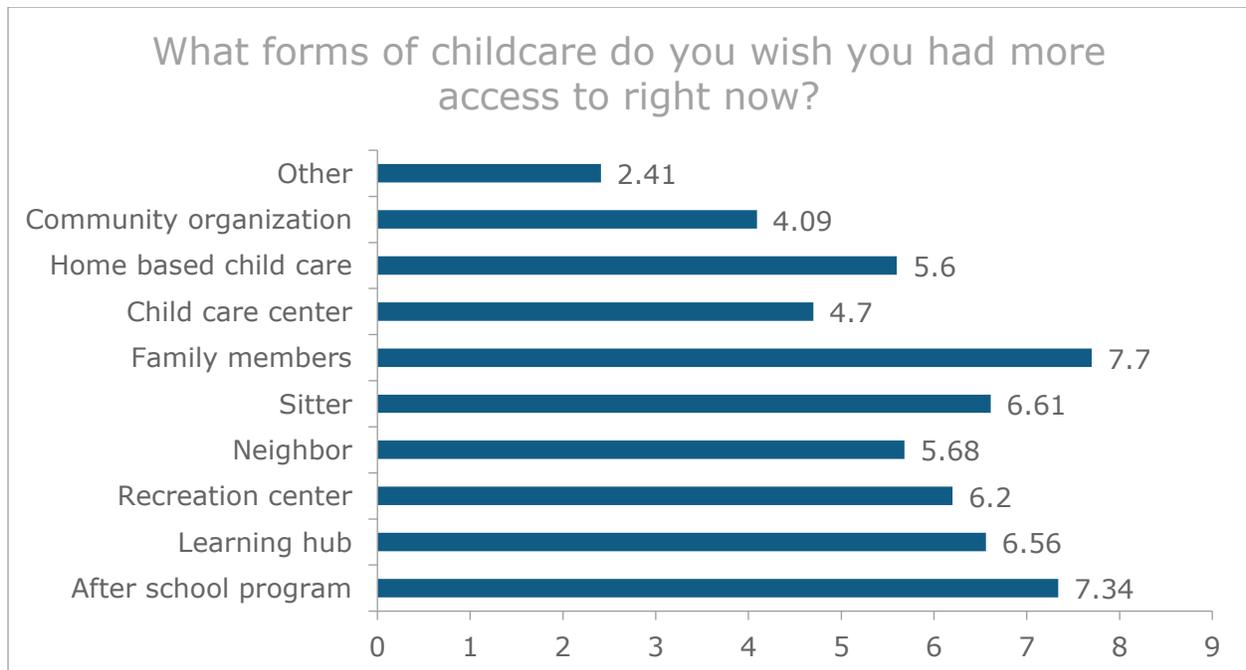
Caregivers Perceptions on Childcare During COVID-19

61% of respondents shared they were uncomfortable in having their child participate in child care and after school programs

- This is particularly true in Monroe County, where 67.6% of caregivers shared they were either very or somewhat uncomfortable; compared to 50% in Wayne County



When asked what forms of childcare caregivers had more access to right now the majority of respondents indicated they would prioritize family members for the care of their children; followed by access to after school programs; a sitter; and learning hubs.



What caregivers need to support their children right now:

When asked what would best improve caregivers' childcare right now, most respondents (60%) shared additional income support would be helpful.

We can't afford not to work, so it becomes a catch-22. And although my job is flexible, working at home with a kid under the age of three is really really difficult. Extended family leave and flexible work policies are a must – Monroe County caregiver

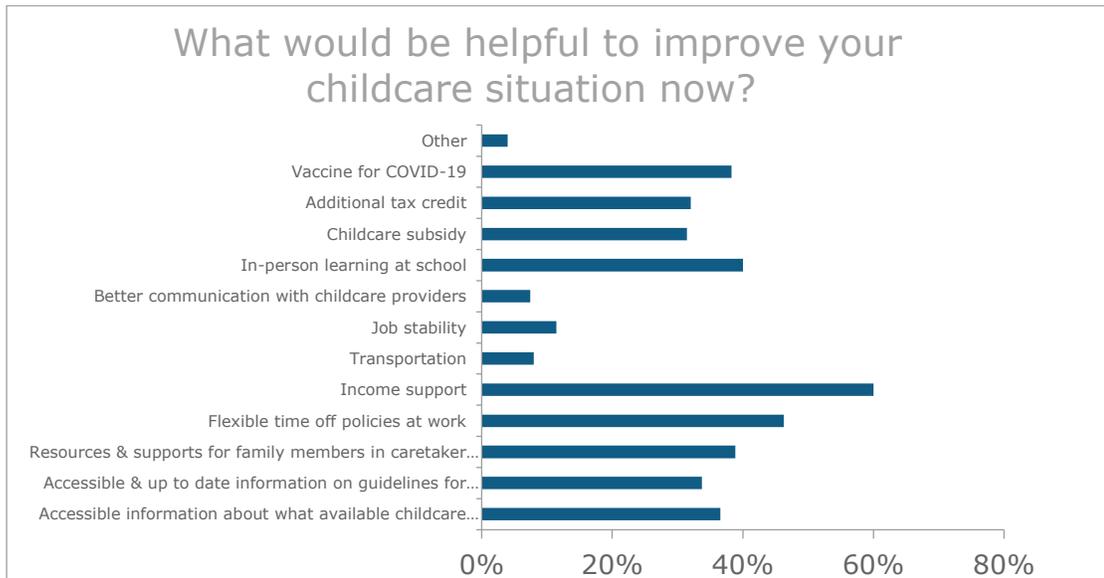
Is there an opportunity for when we're in hybrid forms of school to for in school day care? – Monroe County caregiver

We need after [school] care with virtual times for children to play together – Monroe County caregiver

Have you've considered home based supports- partnering with WXXI for programming, volunteer cyber tutoring and entertainment. – Monroe County caregiver

Extended family leave and flexible work policies are a must – Monroe County caregiver

Overall, the current emergency childcare situation could be improved with: income support, flexible time off policies at work, a vaccine for COVID-19, and resources/supports for family members who have taken on caregiver roles during the pandemic.



Top five responses in Monroe County

- Income support (69.7%)
- Flexible time off policies at work (50.5%)
- Resources and supports for family members who have taken on caregiving roles (44%)
- Vaccine for COVID-19 (39.5%)
- Better communication with childcare providers over current regulations (38.5%)

Top five responses in Wayne County:

- In person learning at school (52.3%)
- Income support (50.9%)
- Vaccine for COVID-19 (45.1%)
- Flexible time off policies at work (45.1%)
- Accessible information about what childcare options are currently available (41%)

Demographics/Household information:

Location

- 68% of respondents were from Monroe County
- 31.4% of respondents were from Wayne County

Race/Ethnicity	All Responses	Monroe County	M.C. Census Bureau	Wayne County	Census Bureau
Asian	1.14%	1.77%	3.70%	0.00%	0.70%
Black or African American	18.86%	29.20%	16.20%	0.00%	3.10%
Hispanic or Latino	12.00%	12.39%	9.20%	3.64%	4.70%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	N/A
Multiracial or Multiethnic	3.43%	4.42%	2.70%	1.82%	2.30%
Native American or Alaska Native	0.00%	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%	0.40%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%	0.00%	0
White	63.43%	52.21%	76.80%	92.73%	93.40%

Income:

- 17.7% reported their 2019 household income between Less than \$25,000
- 18.9% reported their 2019 household income between \$25,000-\$50,000
- 30.9% reported their 2019 household income between \$50,000-\$100,000
- 28% reported their 2019 household income between \$100,000-\$200,000
- 0.6% reported their 2019 household income between More than \$200,000
- 3.4% preferred not to report their 2019 household income.

School Districts

- 23 of the 29 school districts in Monroe and Wayne counties are represented in the survey
 - No responses were received from caregivers in the following districts: Brockport, Churchville-Chili, Honeoye Falls-Lima, Wheatland-Chili, Gananda, and Red Creek
- 40% of respondents were caregivers of children in the Rochester City School District
- 15% of respondents did not have school aged children
- 12% were caregivers of children in Wayne School District
- 9.7% were caregivers of children in Williamson School District

Number & Age of children in household

- The majority of responses (70.3%) were from caregivers who have one or two children in their household
- 77.7% of respondents indicated they have children 7 and under

Age	Percentage
0-3	27.43%
4-7	50.29%
8-12	53.14%
13-18	31.43%
Ages of children	