



ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Presents

“The State of Early Childhood in Southington”

June 1, 2022

Joanne Kelleher, Executive Director
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

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ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Welcome and Introductions

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Thank You to ECCS Board

Current board members

- Rachel Wardwell
- Shannon Fitzsimons
- Amanda Gilbert-Largent
- Pat Johnson
- Brian Williams
- Molly Virello

Incoming board members

- Two to be announced soon
- Looking for more

Outgoing board members

- Ryan Howe
- Michelle Beauregard

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Thanks to 2021-2022 ECCS Funders



Connecticut Early Childhood
Funder Collaborative
A project of:



Donations Liberty Bank Foundation,
Calvanese Foundation, the ECCS
Board and members of the
community.



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ECCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Mission: All children are healthy and prepared to learn.

Advocacy – Resources - Education

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Agenda

- Parent Engagement
- Statistics and ECCS Survey Results
- Childcare Crisis
- Addressing the issues
- Community Conversation

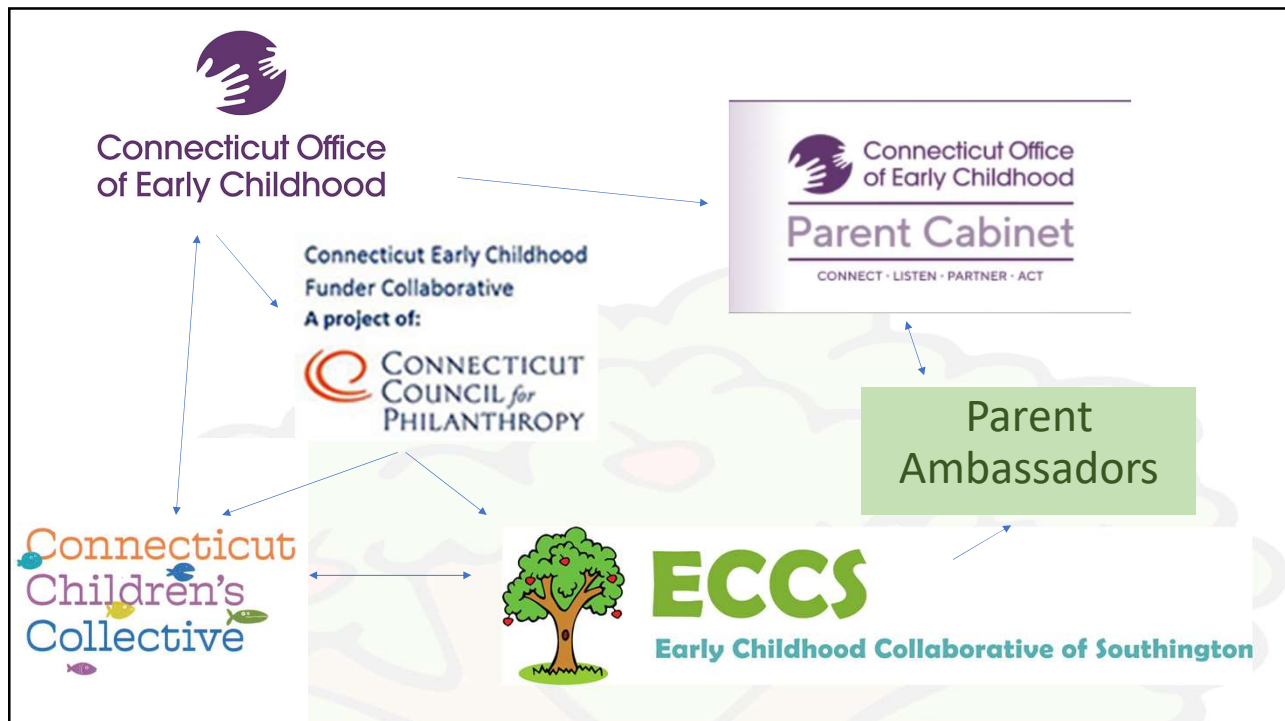
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Barbara Vita
Early Childhood Network Specialist

ctchildrenscollective.org

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Region 6

Casey Russo – Meriden

Ivoni Montes - Wethersfield

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ECCS Parent Ambassadors

- Rebecca Alicki

- Betsy Mintz



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Statistics and Survey Results

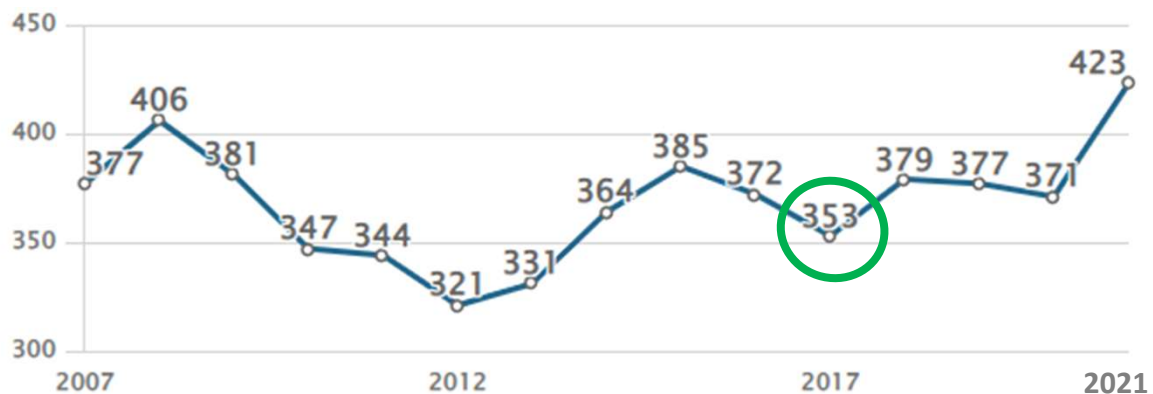
- Town Statistics
- Survey Process and Response
- Economic
- Community
- Health



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How Many Young Children Are There? Babies Born to Southington Families

Source: Town Clerk's Office



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Racial/Ethnicity of SPS Students

Percentage by Race/Ethnicity	10/1/21	10/1/19	10/1/16	10/1/13	10/1/10	10/1/07
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	0.1	*	0.1	0.3
Asian	4	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Black or African American	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.6	2.2
Hispanic or Latino of any race	11.2	9.8	7.7	6.3	5.3	3.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	0.1	*	0	
Two or More Races	4.8	4.4	3.3	2.6	2.4	
White	77.5	79.8	83.2	85.7	87.4	90.4
Total Enrollment	6266	6336	6582	6704	6790	6893
Number Non-white	1410	1280	1106	959	856	662

Source: EdSight annual reports

90% of Southington is white per CERC Town Profile 2021



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Survey Process

- Sample survey questions from Connecticut Children's Collective
- Worked with consultant to modify for our town
- Distributed via providers and social media
- Survey completed January 2022
- Follow up focus groups in April 2022



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Survey Response

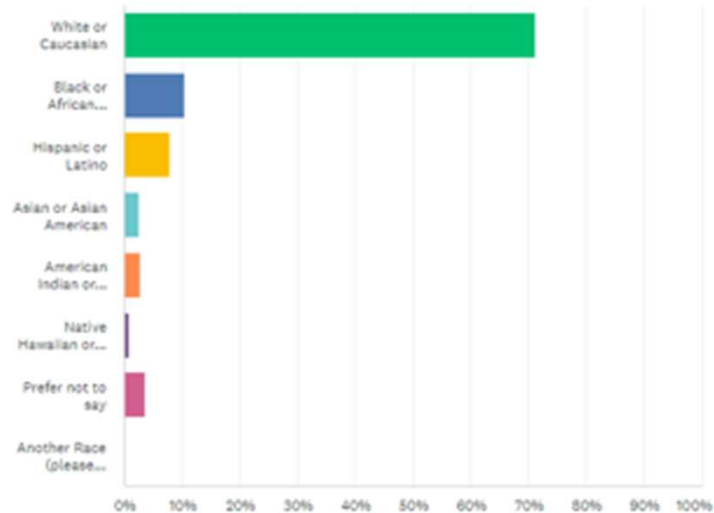
- Target audience: raising children aged 12 and under in Southington
- 354 valid responses (450 started survey)
- Diverse mix of respondents
 - Education level
 - Employment status
 - Own/Rent
 - # of years lived in town



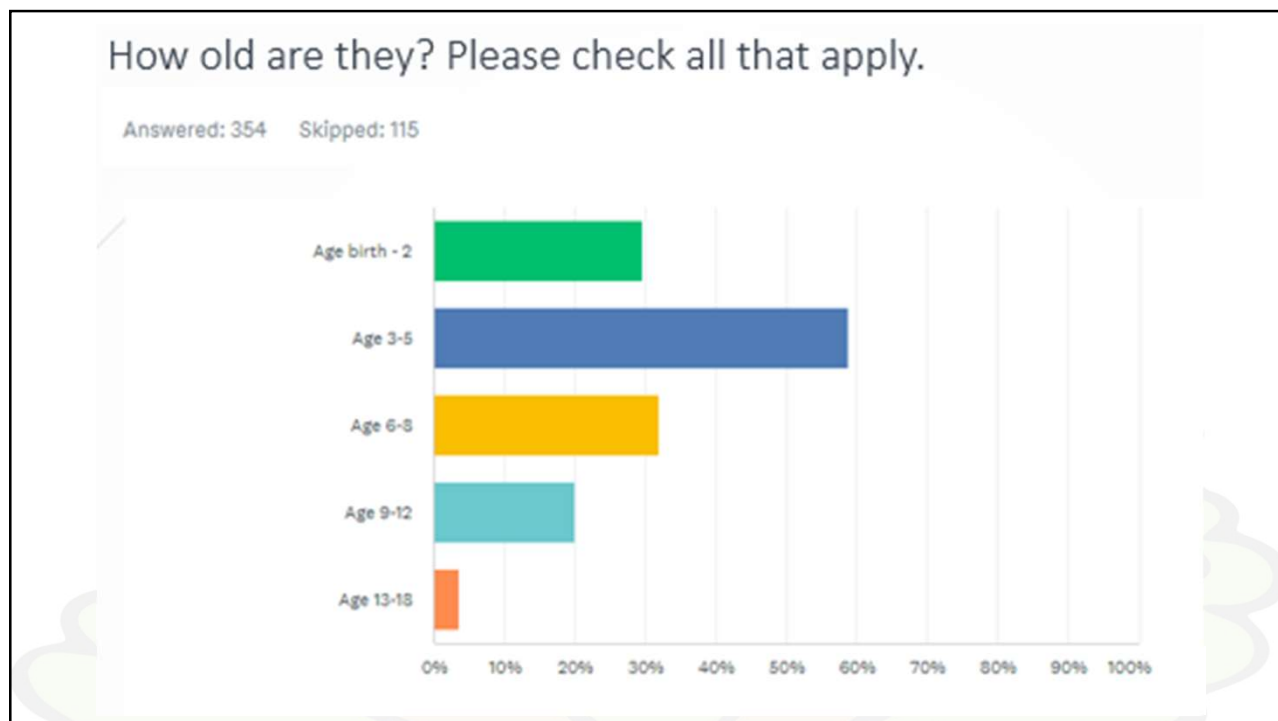
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What is your Race/Ethnicity?

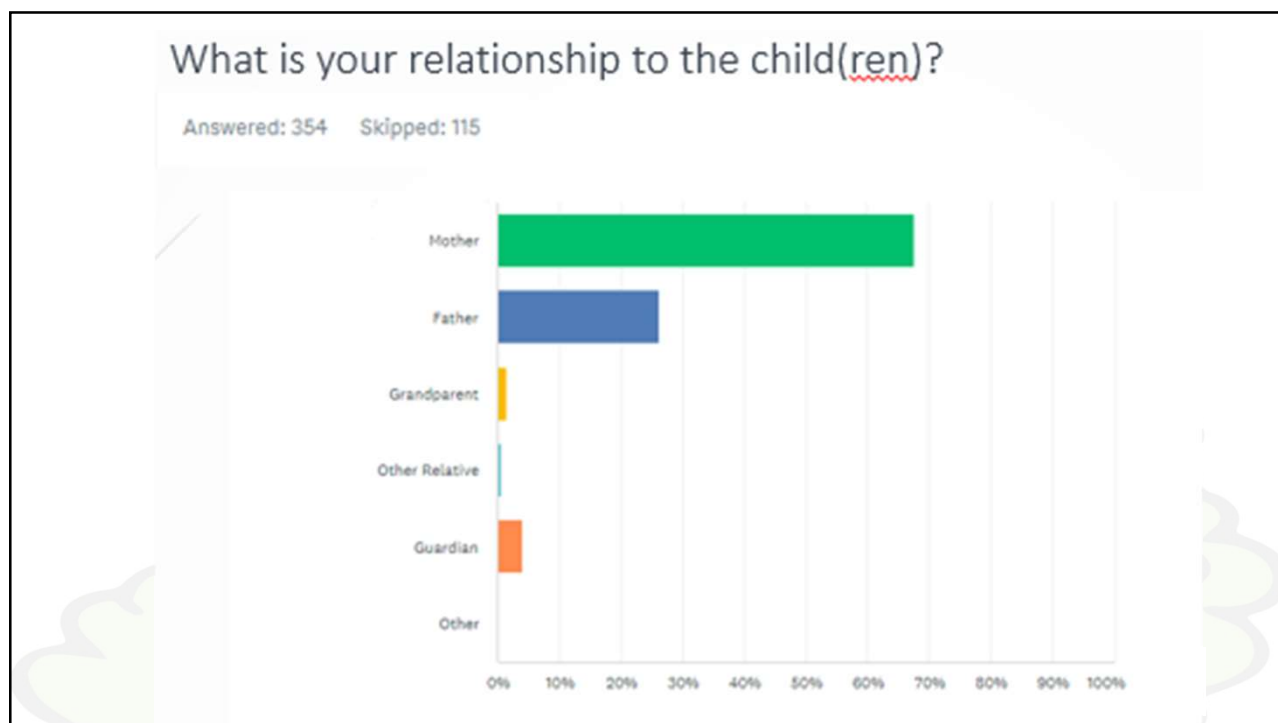
Answered: 351 Skipped: 118



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Economic

- Asked about economic programs: WIC, SNAP, TANF, Housing, BFL, SCS, etc.
 - Participating in (15-25%)
 - Wanted to learn more about (25-35%)
- Food
- Employment

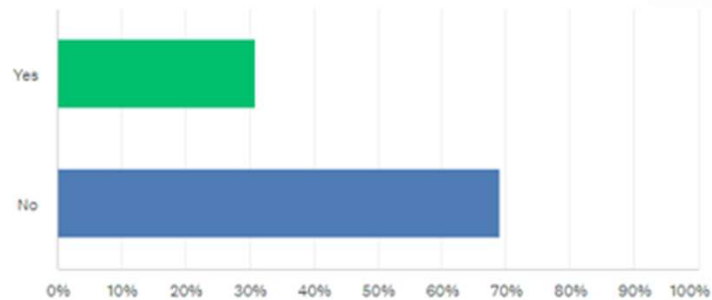
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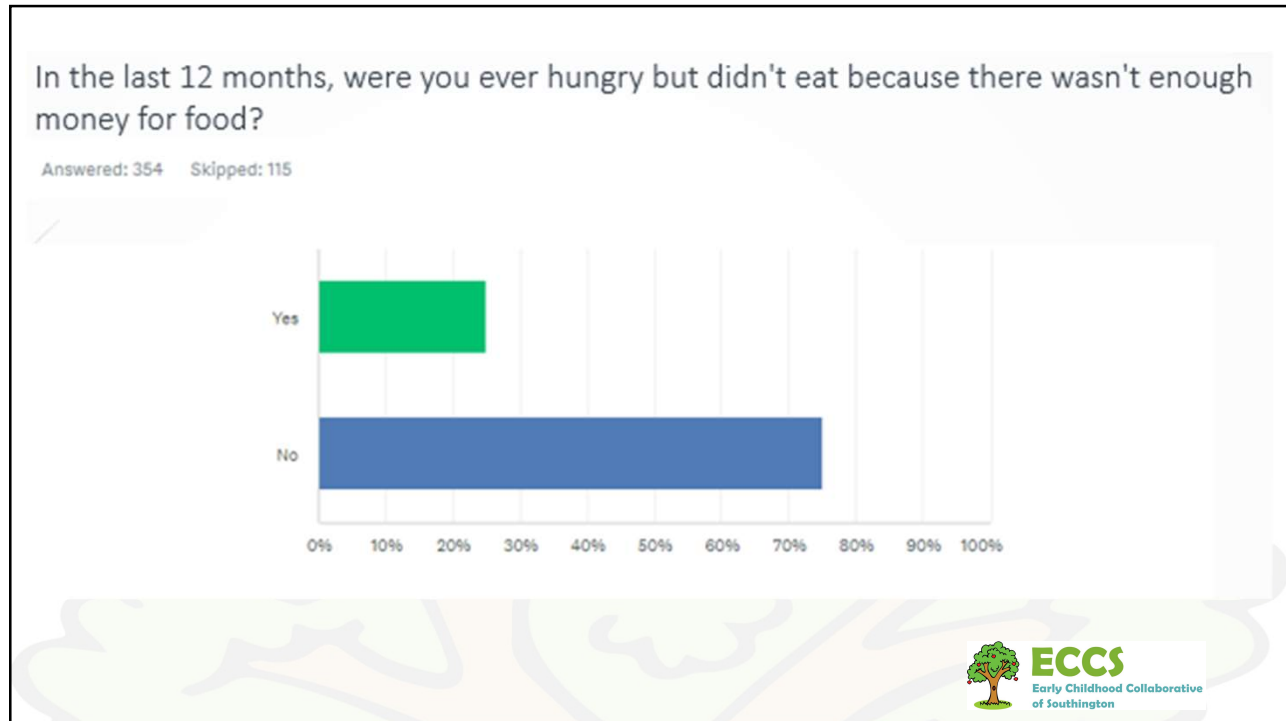
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During the past 30 days, was there any time that you and/or your family did not have enough food or money to buy food?

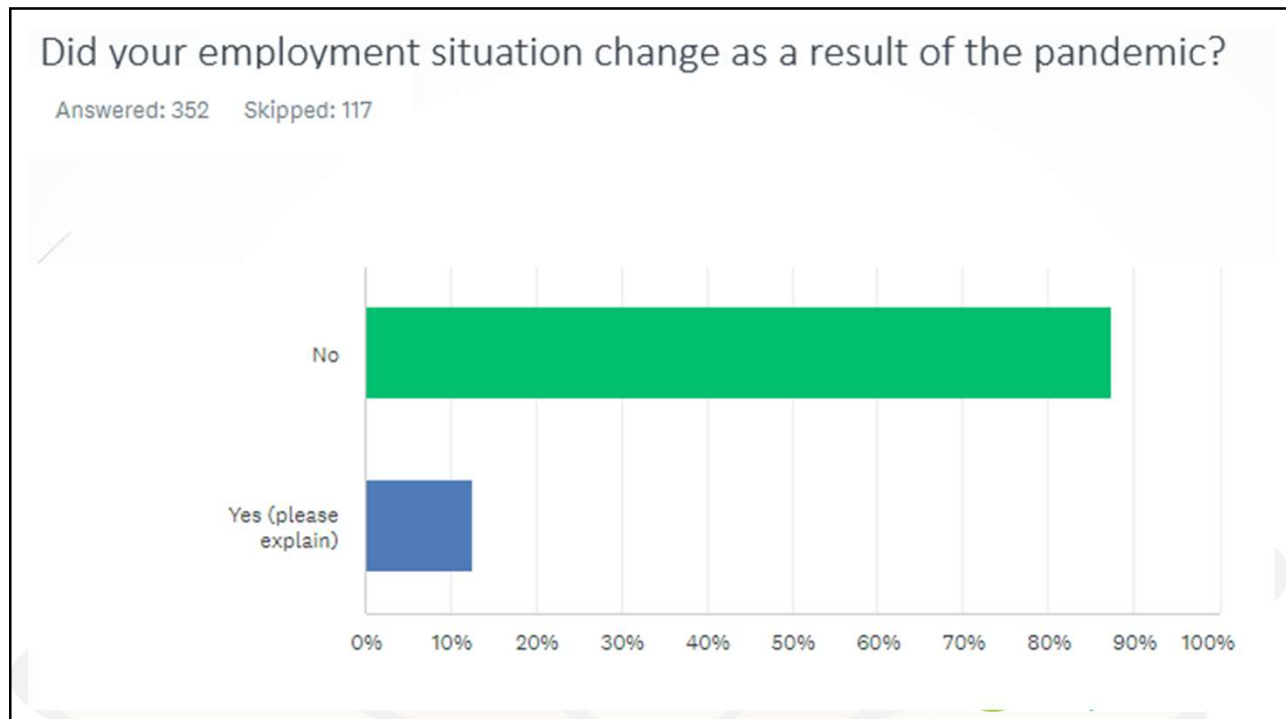
Answered: 353 Skipped: 116



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Community

- Asked about programs for their children: B23, FRC, ECCP, Home Visiting, Special Education, Nursery Schools, Library, etc.
 - Participating in (16-31%)
 - Wanted to learn more about (26-49%)
- Activities/Programs
- Respect
- Safety



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I am satisfied with the variety of activities available for children in town.

■ Always
 ■ Sometimes
 ■ Never
 ■ N/A

20.62%	61.02%	15.25%	3.11%	354	2.01
73	216	54	11		

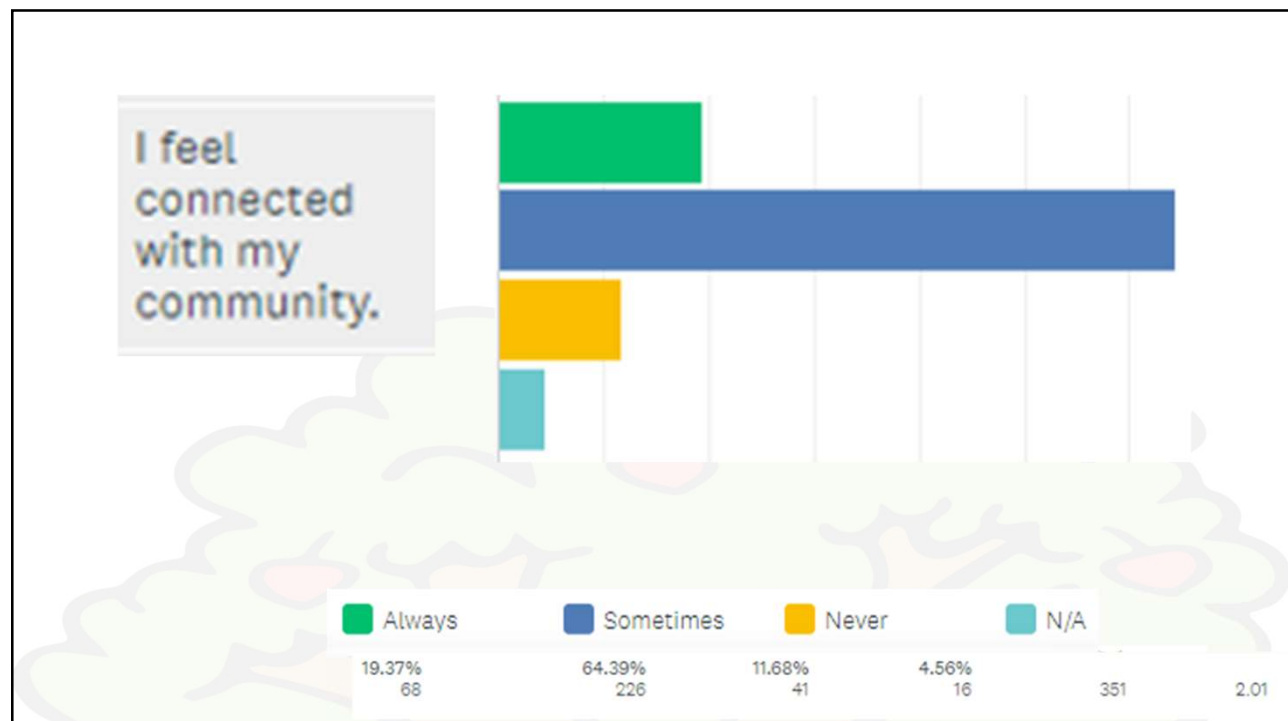
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Program suggestions

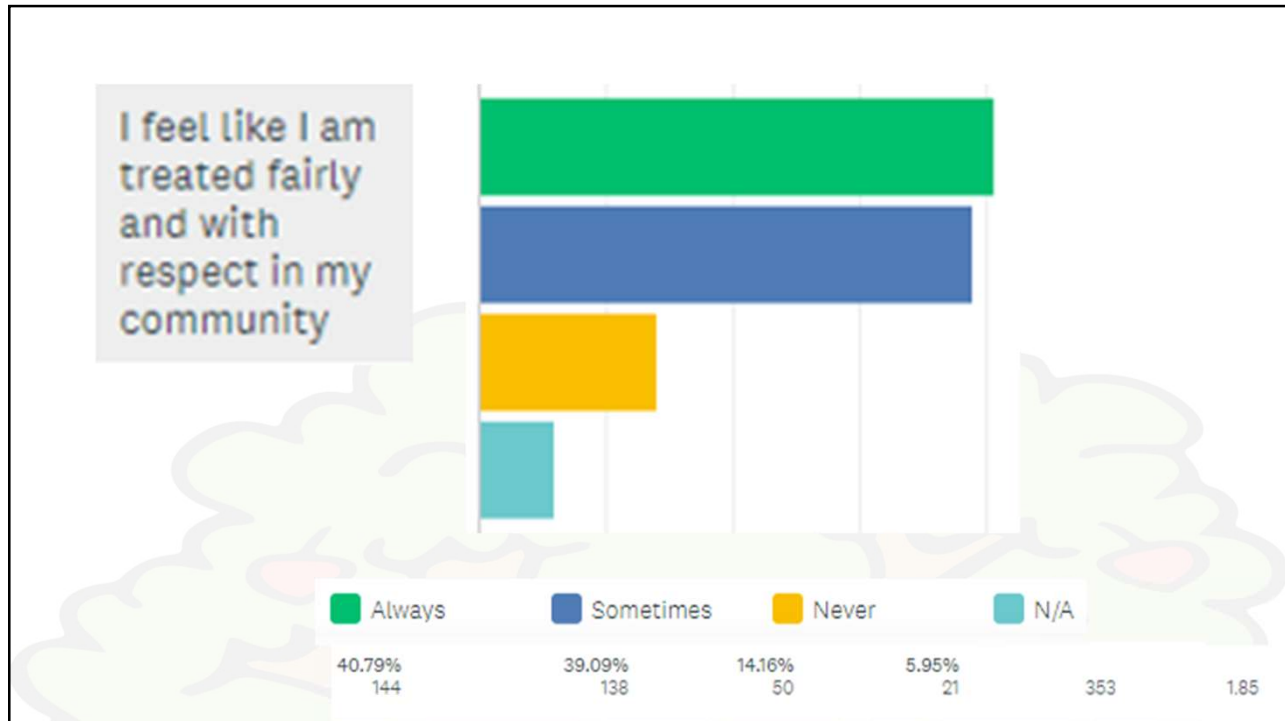
- For new moms – and mom and me programs
- Parenting classes on unconscious bias
- For parents with children with special needs
- Age-appropriate conversations around bullying
- How to talk to your children about drug and alcohol abuse (age appropriate)
- Social development and benchmarks and how to handle the effects of Covid and what to watch for
- On the weekend
- In the evening to accommodate working moms



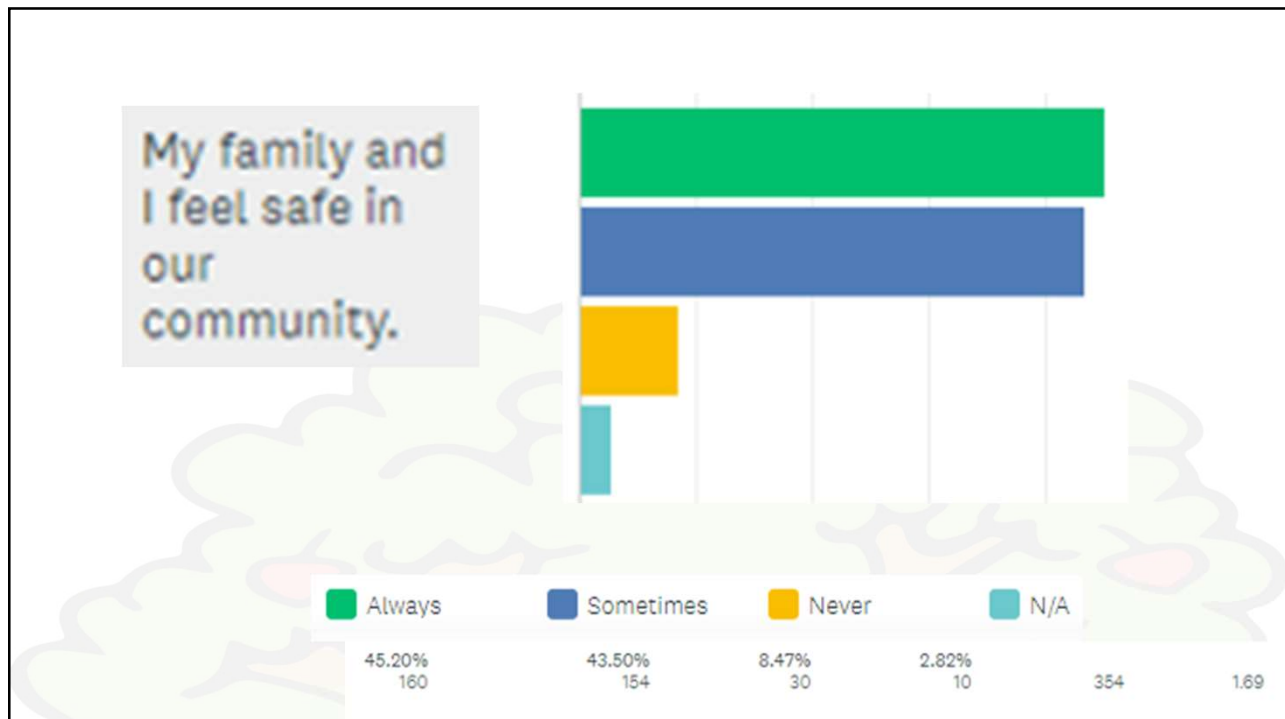
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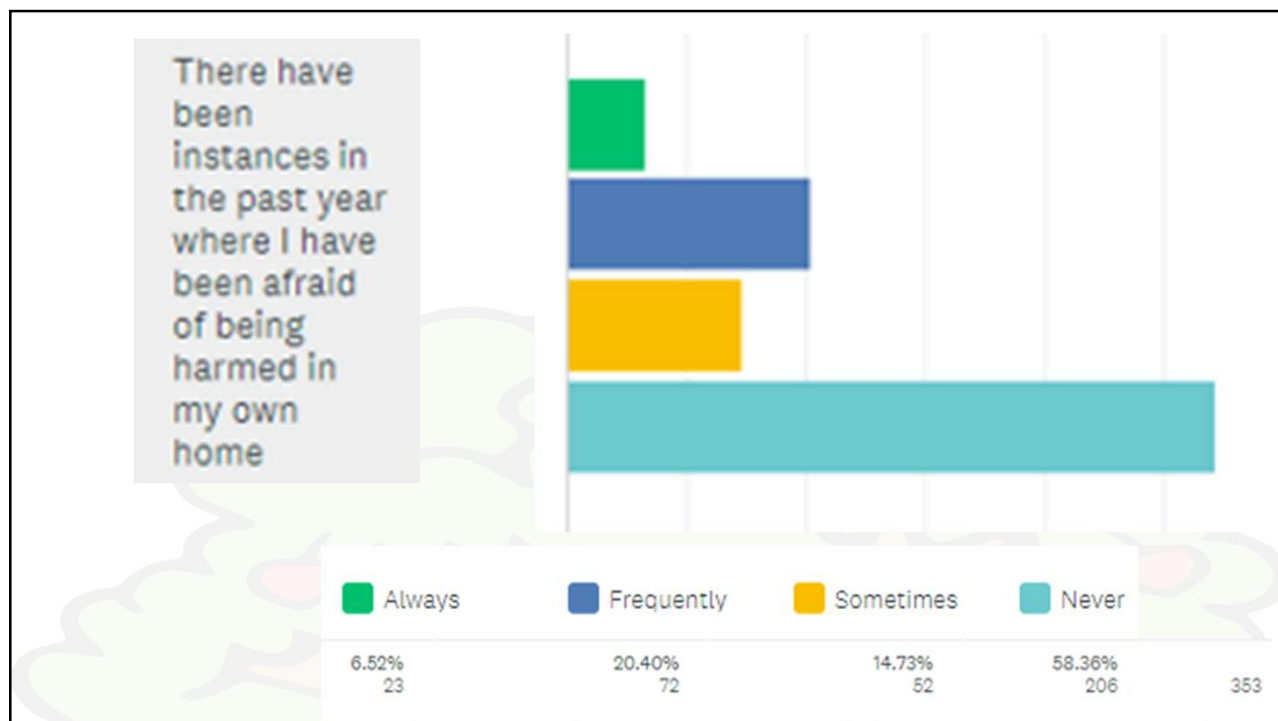
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Health

- Overall health
- Mental Health
- Survey include an explanation of how to find mental health and domestic violence services.

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Trends Identified During 2019 Strategic Planning

Mental health needs are increasing
(anxiety, depression, understanding of trauma)

- Need for trauma-informed care and social emotional learning training for childcare providers
- Decline in Empathy
- Decline in Self-Regulation



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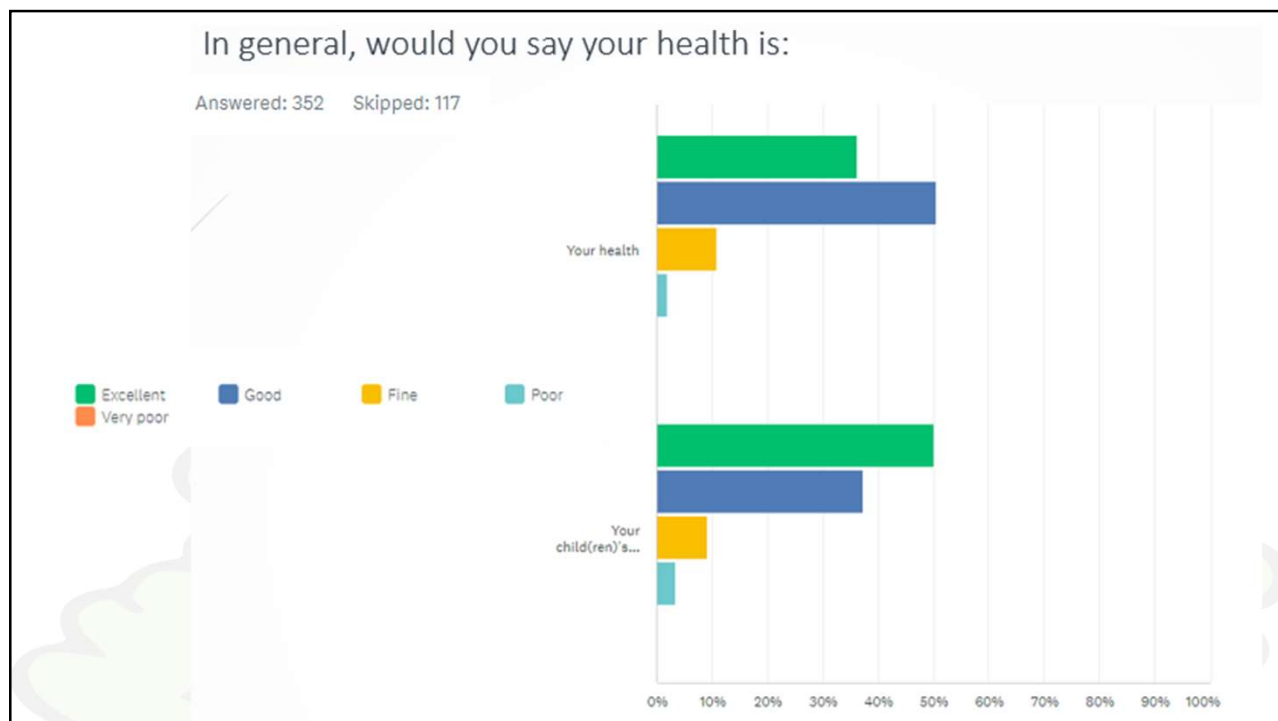
Trends Identified During 2019 Strategic Planning

Dependence on electronic devices
(smartphones, tablets, computers)

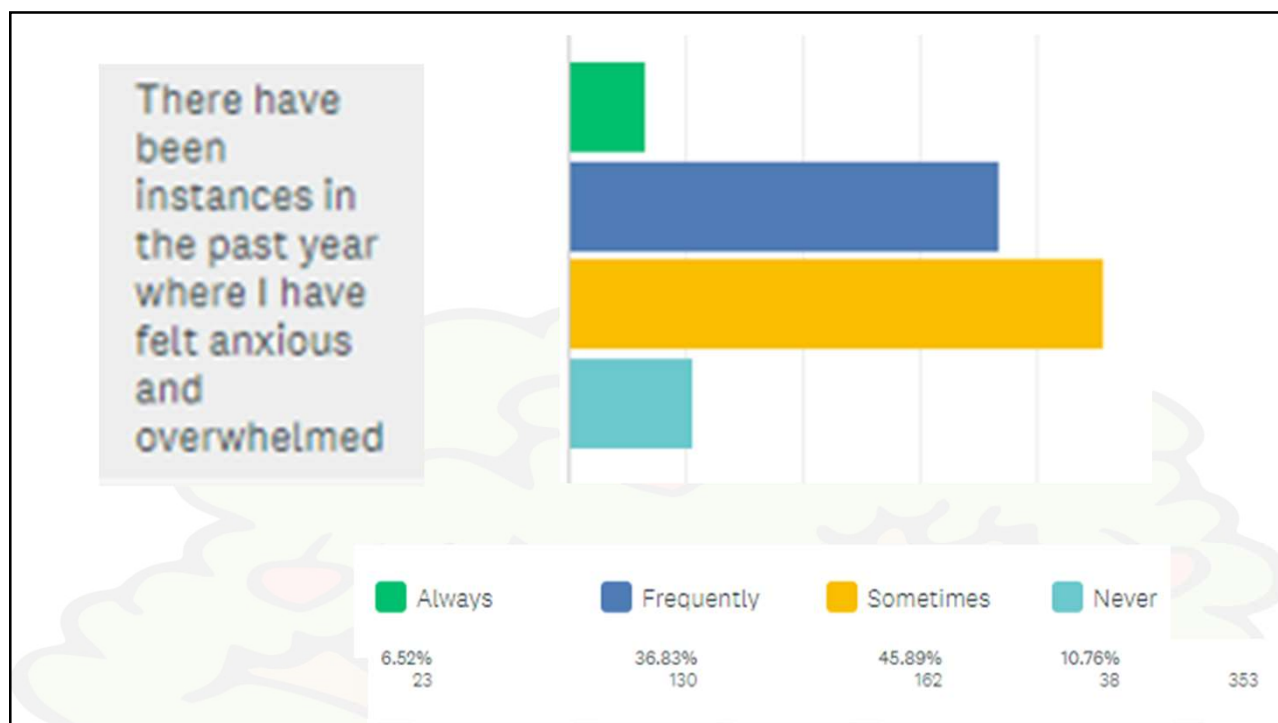
- Impact on kindergarten readiness due to decrease in parents reading to children
- Decrease in Gross Motor Skills
- Decrease in Fine Motor Skills



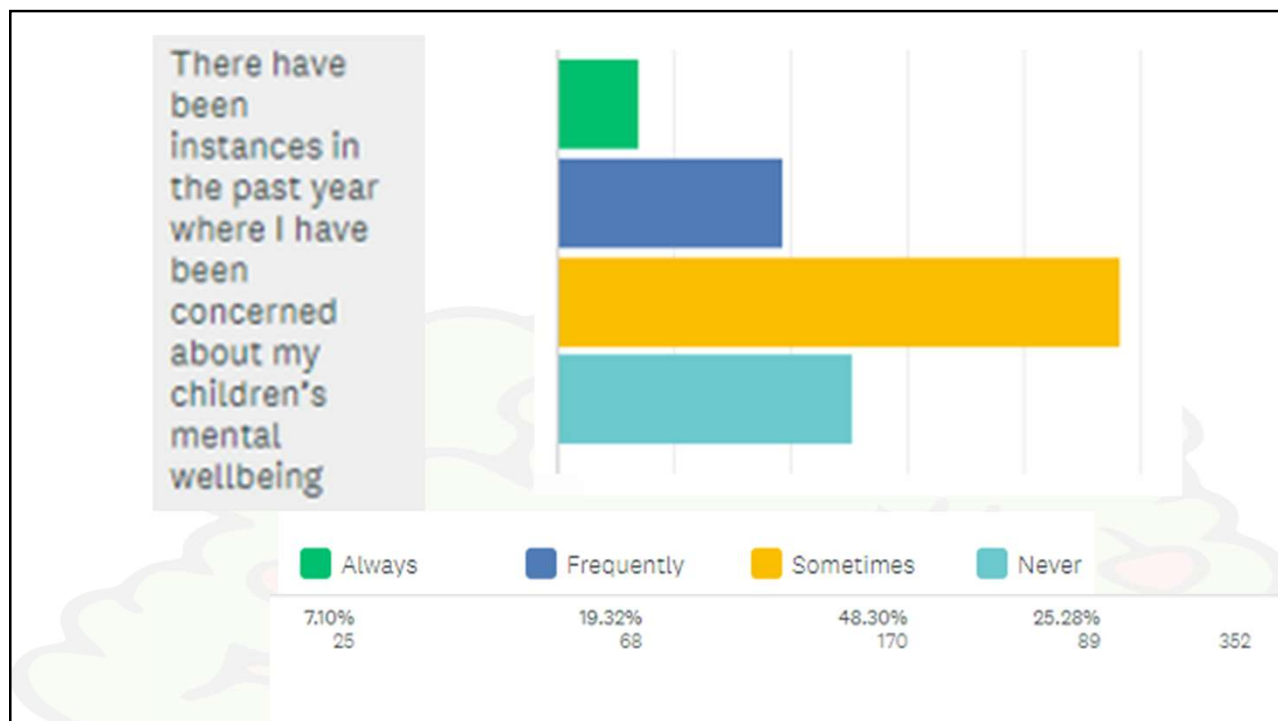
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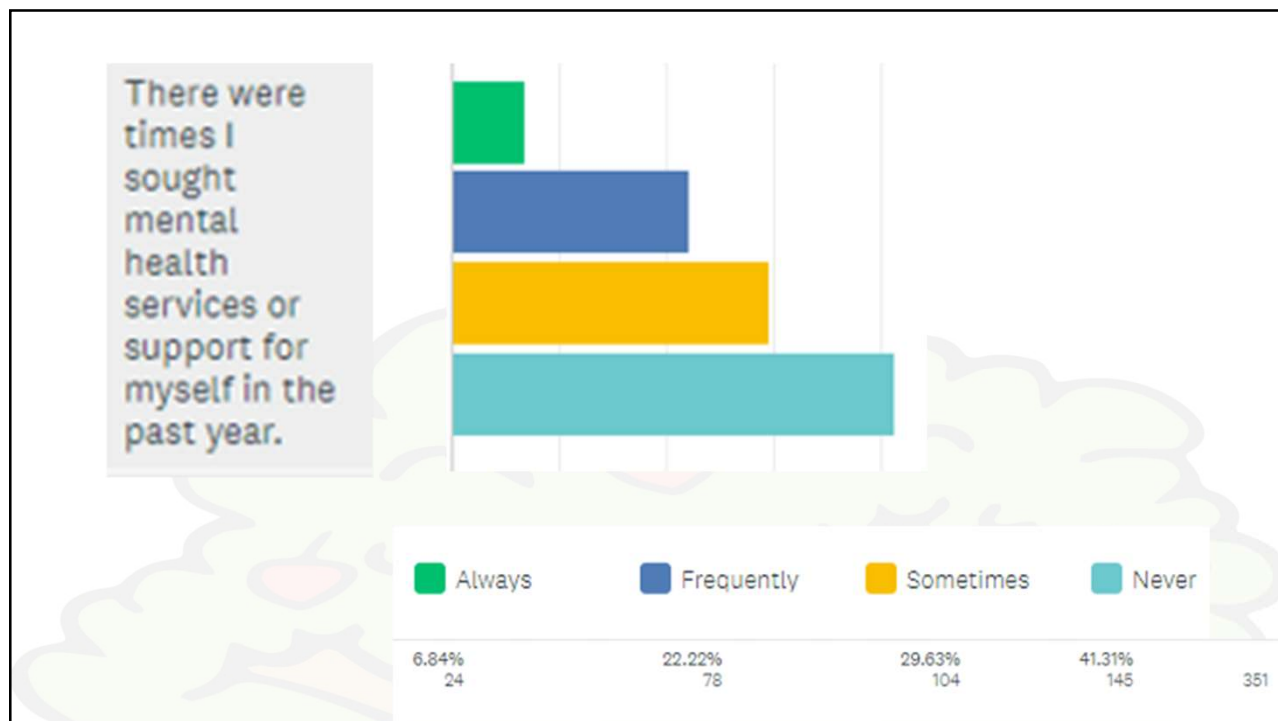
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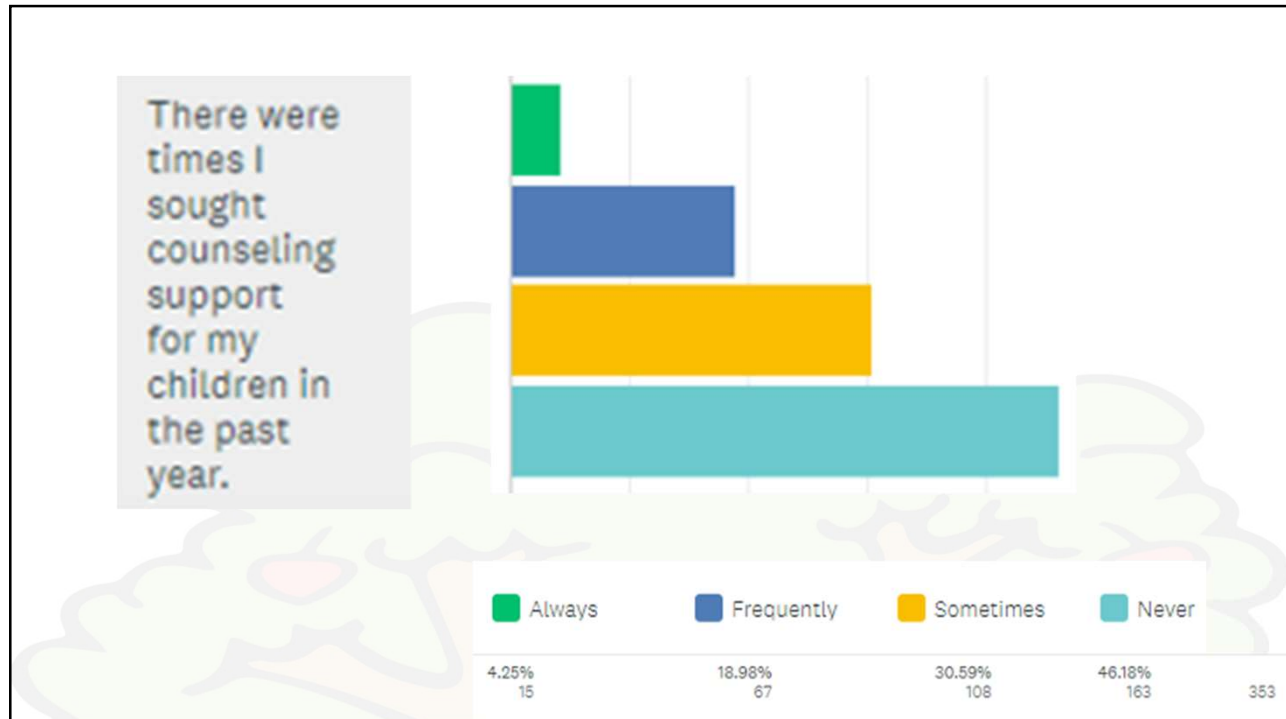
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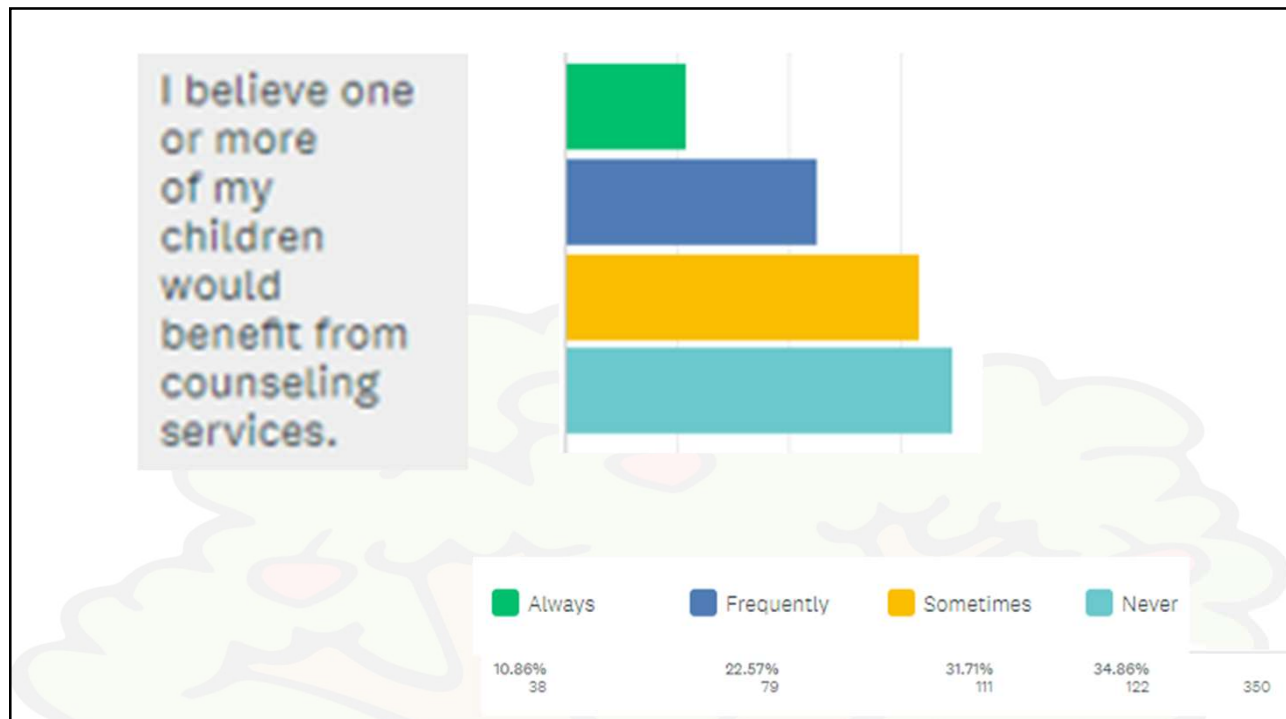
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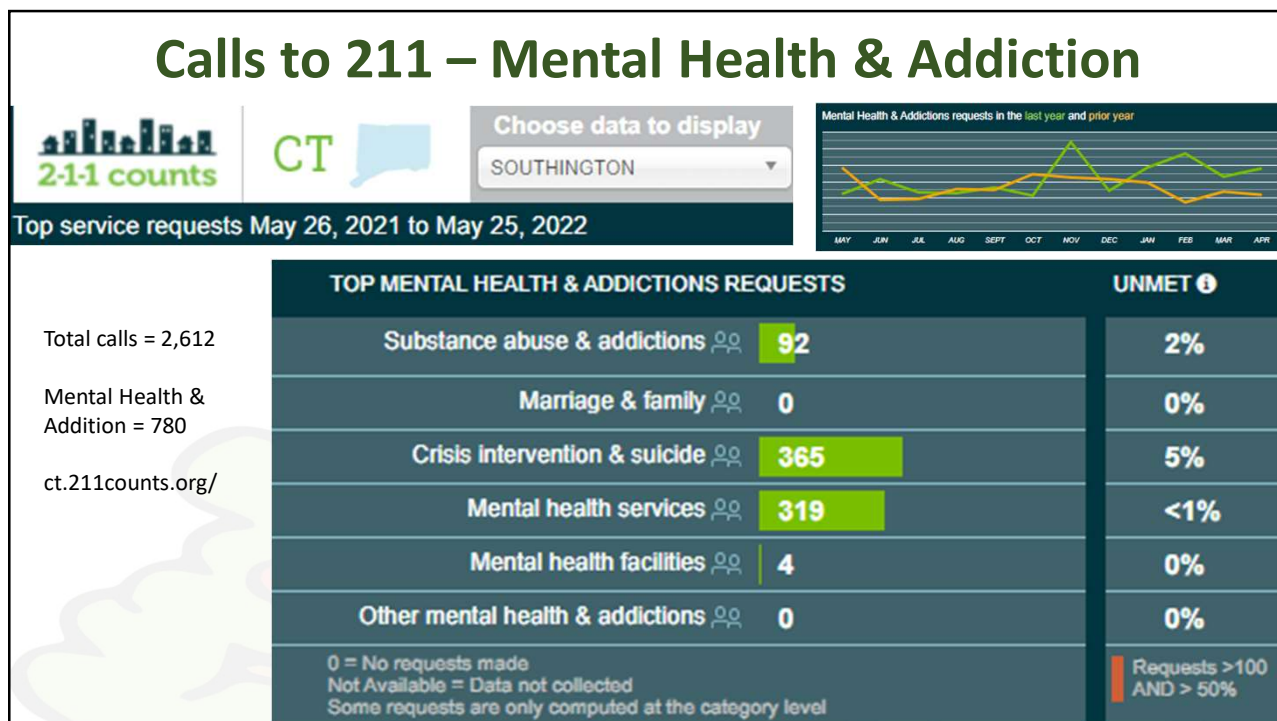
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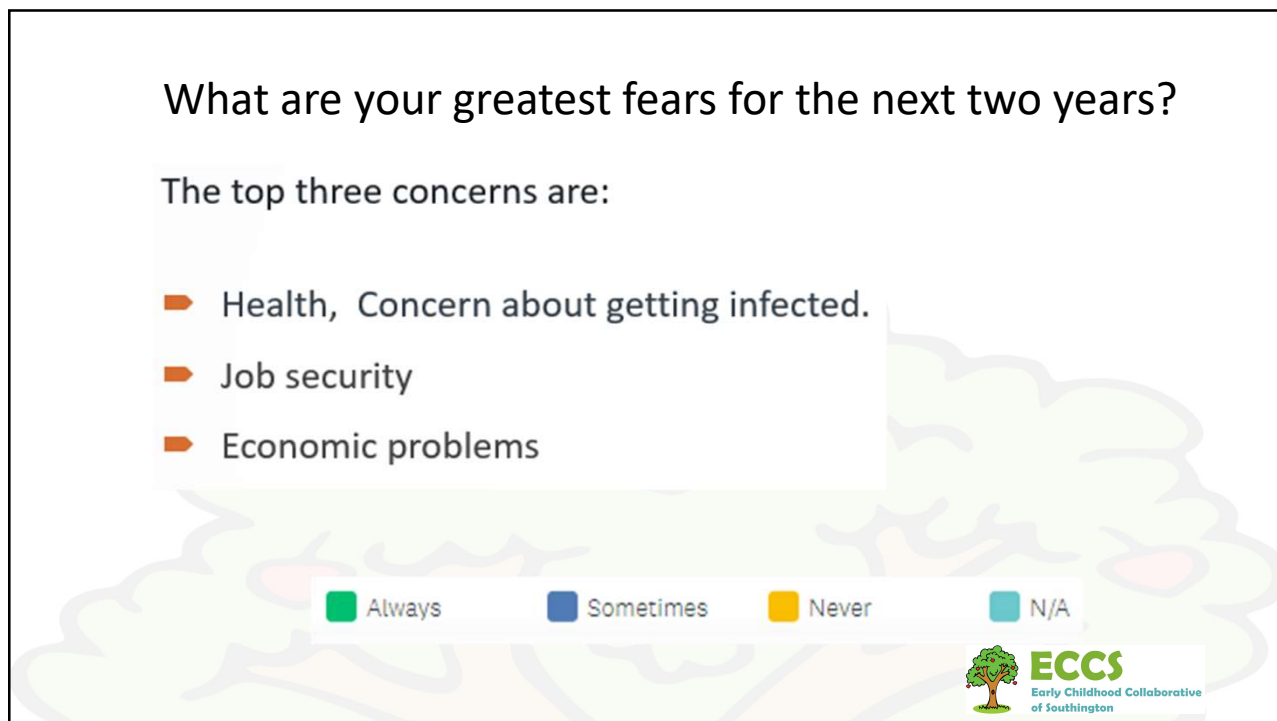
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Q24

Please provide any other comments about living and raising children in Southington, the efforts of the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington or ways the ECCS can support you.

The top four concerns are:

Answered: 257 Skipped: 212

- More diverse and inclusive programs for children of all ages. Safe places for teens to gather and more programs for children under three.
- Broad experiences in school to assist children enter the real society in the future
- Pay more attention to children's physical and mental health. Treat your children with love and respect and listen to their needs and concerns.
- Programs and schools with longer days to accommodate working parents.



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Common Issues from Focus Groups

- Mental health and accessing help for their children
- Lack of knowledge about resources in the community
- Feelings of isolation and anxiety and unsure how to find answers



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A Crisis with Childcare: Parents

- High Cost
- Space Availability
- Waiting lists
- Staff turnover – impact's child's attachment
- Health concerns – Covid spread
- Temporary classroom closures due to Covid cases



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A Crisis with Childcare: Providers

- Staffing shortage
- Pay - long hours, low wages, minimal benefits
- Increased Financial pressure
- Health Concerns – Staff and children
- Covid impacts – room closures, quarantines and cleaning
- Change in children's behavior – getting support



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What Does Childcare Cost?

- Nursery Schools
 - Age 3-5: \$146-310 per month, PT, 2-3 days/week
 - Centers
 - Infants/Toddlers: \$200-\$265 per week FT
 - Preschool: \$150 -\$245 per week FT
- FT Childcare costs = In-State UConn tuition



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Care4Kids

- A state childcare subsidy for low-moderate income families if working or, temporarily, in training.
 - As of 10/2021: less than 60% of the State Median Income (SMI), family of 4 = \$75,052
- Only 114 Southington Children enrolled (as of 2/22)
- Encourage people to apply.

Source: <http://www.ctcare4kids.com/>



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Licensed Childcare Centers

	# Centers	Total capacity	Under 3
May 2022	11 (9 for under 3)	1006	438

Summer: 5 licensed youth camps.

School age: Licensed YMCA before/after sites plus 1 camp and centers

List of all Southington childcare providers and other resources at
<http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/resources>



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Family Childcare Providers – May 2022

	Age	#	Cap
Infant	0-18 months	23	46
Preschool	19 months-5 years	23	138
School Age	5-12 years	23	69

Women-owned small businesses owned run out of their homes.

Licensed, registered and inspected. Must meet training requirements.

Limited to 2 infants and up to 6 pre-school age, plus school age.

Capacity limits increasing as of July 1.



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Nursery Schools

- Village Green Nursery School
- Zion Lutheran Nursery School
- YMCA Nursery School
- Southington Catholic
- Southington Public School Integrated Preschool
 - Special Education students (CT requirement)
 - Community peers



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Other Pre-School Experiences - Free

- Family Resource Center of Southington
 - Classes for children ages 1 to 5 with an adult
 - Six-week sessions, year round
 - Currently smaller classes
 - Fills to capacity within hours
- Southington Library
 - Variety of children's programs – online and in-person
 - Children's Department needs more space – Building project



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What is ECCS Doing?

- Advocacy
- Outreach
- Resource for Information
- Education



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Advocacy – State and Federal

- Federal Build Back Better
- State budget – funding for childcare providers
- SB-1- An Act Concerning Childhood Mental And Physical Health Services In Schools
- SB-2 - An Act Expanding Preschool And Mental And Behavioral Services For Children
- HB001 - An Act Concerning Children’s Mental Health.
- SB-377 - An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage For Newborns.



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Outreach

- Events: Library's ComicCon, Farmer's Market, Health Family Funfest, PRIDE Festival, Touch-a-Truck
- Community Organizations: Chamber, Activate, Behavioral Health Stakeholders, ICA, SHS FCS Advisory
- Letter/brochure to new parents via Town Clerk's office
- Books and math kits for incoming K students
- Books via Southington Community Services
- Print ads and sign on Town Green
- Social media, email and calls to answer questions about childcare, providers, etc.



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Resources Directory / Info

- Childcare, camps and before/after school options
- Enrichment/summer activities – dance, sports, music
- Healthcare providers and mental health support
- Kid's events and activities
- Parks, playgrounds and outdoor spaces
- Health, SEL and development issues
- Covid, Anti-racism, Grief...

www.southingtonearlychildhood.org



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Education

- Info Calls for Childcare Providers
- Parent Virtual Office Hours
- Kindergarten Info Session
- ASL for Babies classes
- Car seat checks with SPD
- Social Media: Car seat usage, fire prevention, stress, supports, developmental milestones, activities, other health, safety and school readiness issues



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Circle of Security® Parenting



- An attachment-based parenting class.
- ECCS has two registered facilitators.
- Runs 8 weeks.
- To be scheduled soon.



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FAMILIES: LEARN AND PLAY TOGETHER ALL SUMMER LONG AT

CAMP SPARKLER

Free mobile app for CT families with children 0-5 and programs serving those families.

- **Know:** Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ)
- **Play:** Fun, off-screen activities and tips
- **Grow:** Follow progress in scrapbook
- **Connect:** Get tips and answers from experts at 211 Child Development or your school/provider

Camp Sparkler is an 8-week summer program.



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SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



SUMMER READING PROGRAM


REGISTRATION BEGINS - 6.13.2022

Prizes. Reading. Fun for all ages.

Visit our website, stop by the library, or call for more information.

SOUTHINGTONLIBRARY.ORG 860-628-0947
255 MAIN ST., SOUTHINGTON

Summer Reading Program




SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Summer Lunch Program



So no one goes hungry.

2022 Southington Summer Lunch Program

Bread for Life will be providing healthy lunches and fun, at no cost, for kids and teens in their neighborhoods in town this summer beginning June 20, 2022.

No registration needed!

FRIENDS!

Grab and Go Lunches

DePaolo Middle School
Monday/Wednesday/Friday • 11:15am–12:15pm

Bread for Life
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday • 11:45am–12:15pm

Lunch and Activities


Summerbrook Apartments
Monday/Wednesday/Friday • 12:00pm–1:00pm

FOOD!

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Support the ECCS

- Tell a young family or make referral
- Make a Donation
- Volunteer
- Join Board
- Follow, Like, Share Us on Social Media
- Attend Workshops, Events or Fundraisers - www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/events/



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Community Conversation

- What are your thoughts?
- What other needs are there in the community?
- What else can the ECCS do?

All comments are welcome.

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Questions?

Joanne C. Kelleher
Executive Director

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington
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www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

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