

2018 Early Care and Learning Household Survey

(Child Care Demand Study)

Research Highlights

Senate Health & Welfare Committee

February 13, 2019



Survey Overview

Key questions about child care and early learning in Vermont:

- What are households' current early care and learning (ECL) arrangements for children not yet in kindergarten? (*Where are the children?*)
- What are parents' perceptions and preferences for ECL? (*What do parents think about different types of programs and settings?*)
- What factors constrain parent choices? (*How does income, work status, and geography interact with what families choose?*)



Respondents

583 Vermont households with children under 6 are represented in these responses .

- 118 households were participating in CC FAP
- 80% of households had all parents working
- 85% of households included 2 adults
- The median income of households was \$69,000 annually
- 42% of households had earnings at or over 300% FPL
- All relevant ages, infants, toddlers and preschool age children are well represented in the data
- Households were distributed pretty evenly across the state
- 41% of households lived in low density (rural) areas



Where are the children?

Use of regular non-parental care is very common among households with young children in Vermont. Just one in five households (21 percent) report using no regular non-parental care.

Exhibit 1. Use of Regular Non-Parental Care for Children Under 6 Years

Provider Type	% of Households Using Provider Type	% of Households Using Type that Pay for Care	Average Weekly Cost Paid for Care	Average Hours per Week	% of Households Using Type During Non-standard Hours
Center-based	57	80	\$168	29	4
Paid Home-based	21	98	\$140	28	7
Unpaid Home-based	29	0	0	15	58
None of these types	21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Where are the children?

- Three questions were used to better understand paid home based arrangements. (Exhibit 3)
- Data indicates that the majority of families using paid, homebased care are using formal arrangements

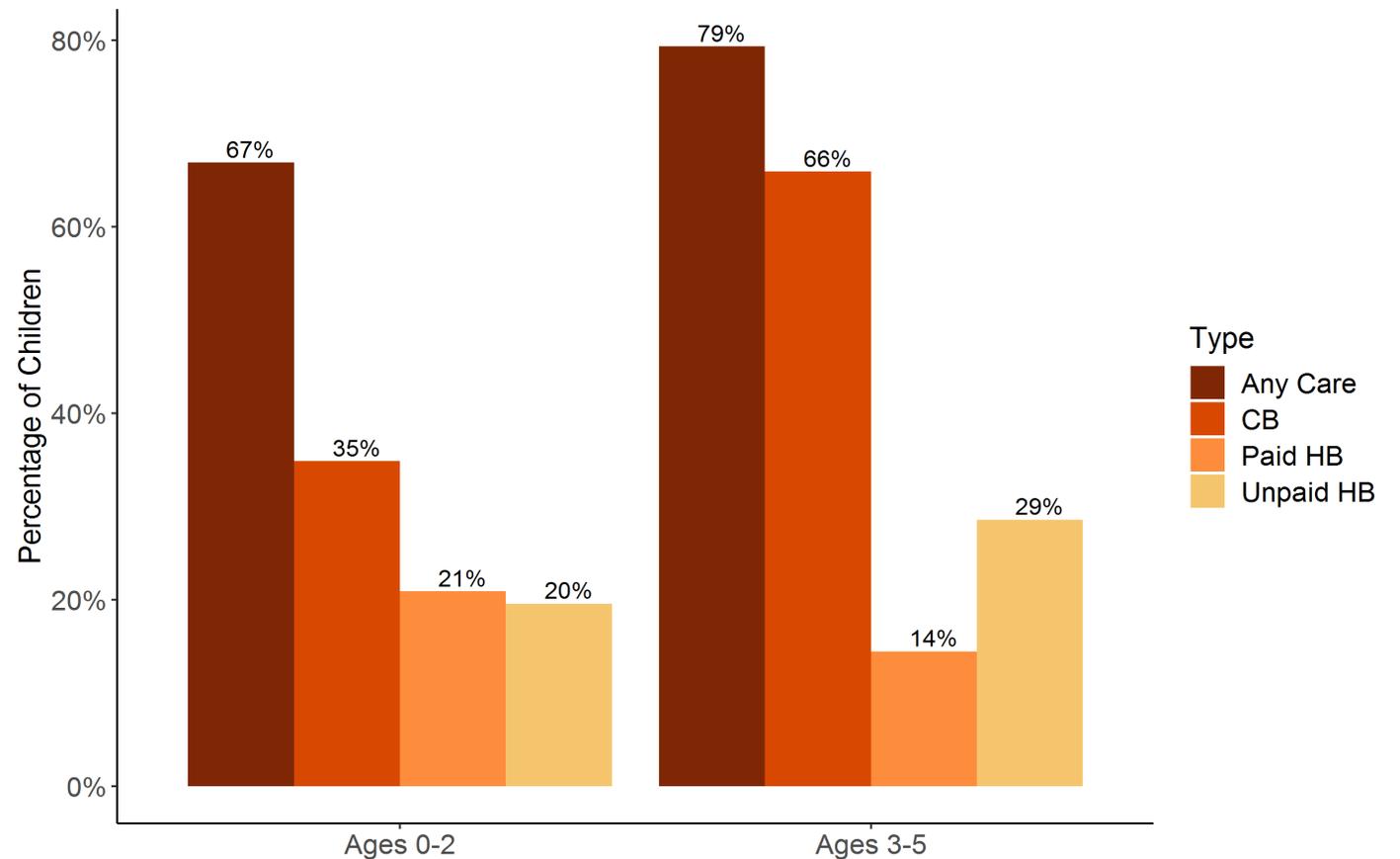
Exhibit 3. Paid home-based providers

Paid Home-based Providers	% of all households
How many families does the provider care for?	
1	22
2-4	29
5+	49
Respondent believes provider is licensed to provide child care	76
Family and provider had a previous relationship before the child received care	40

Where are the children?

- Children in both the 0-2 and 3-5 age groups are more likely than not to be in regular care, and to be in center-based care most frequently.
- Preschool-age children three to five years are 30 percentage points more often in center-based care than are infants and toddlers (under 3 years of age).

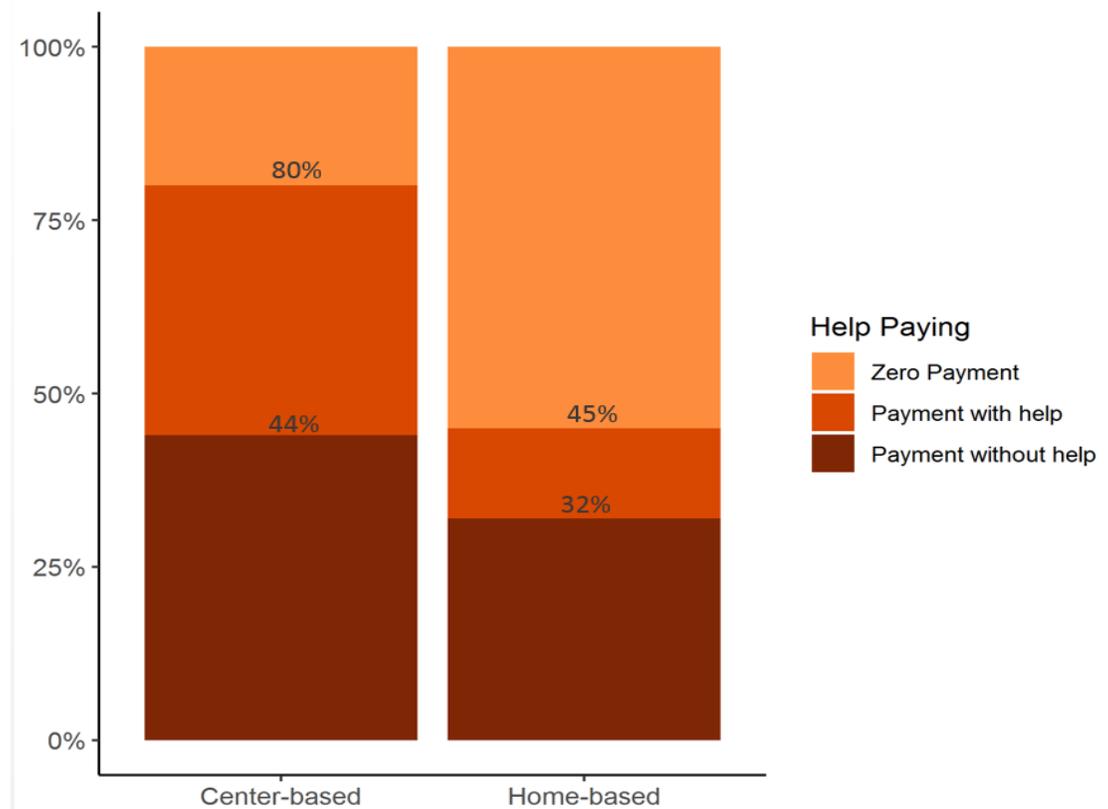
Exhibit 2. Child level use of care by age group



Paying for ECL

- Fewer than half the households (45%) using home-based care pay for that care
- 13% of households using home-based care reported getting help to pay for ECL
- 80% of households using center-based care paid for care
- 36% of households using center-based care reported getting help paying for ECL
- Households who said they got help paying for ECL paid on average, only about \$20 week less than those who said they got no help (Exhibit 5, p4)

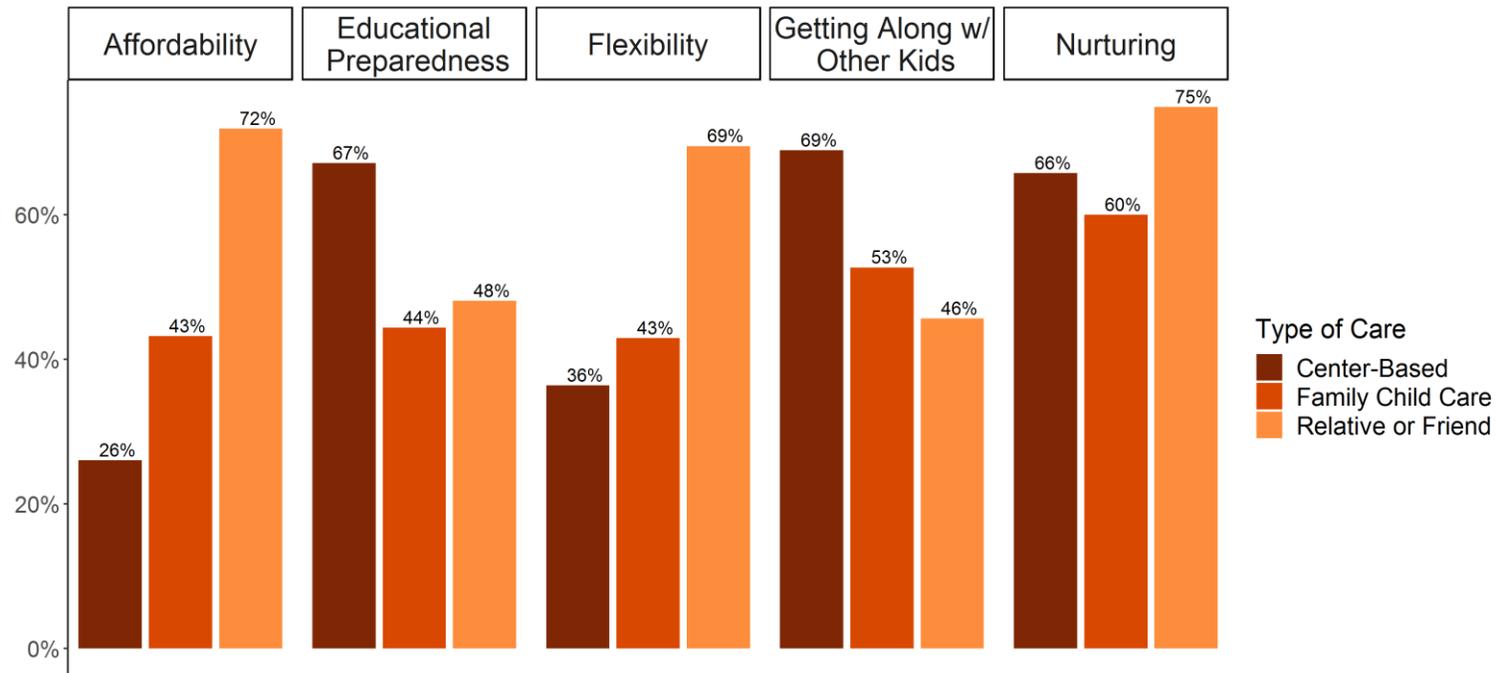
Exhibit 4. Payment by type of care



What do parents think about different settings?

Center-based care is perceived as strong for children’s educational preparedness and ability to get along with other kids, while paid and unpaid home-based care are perceived as strong on affordability and flexibility for families. All three types are seen as nurturing.

Exhibit 6.
Perceptions across different types of care, percent indicating as good or excellent

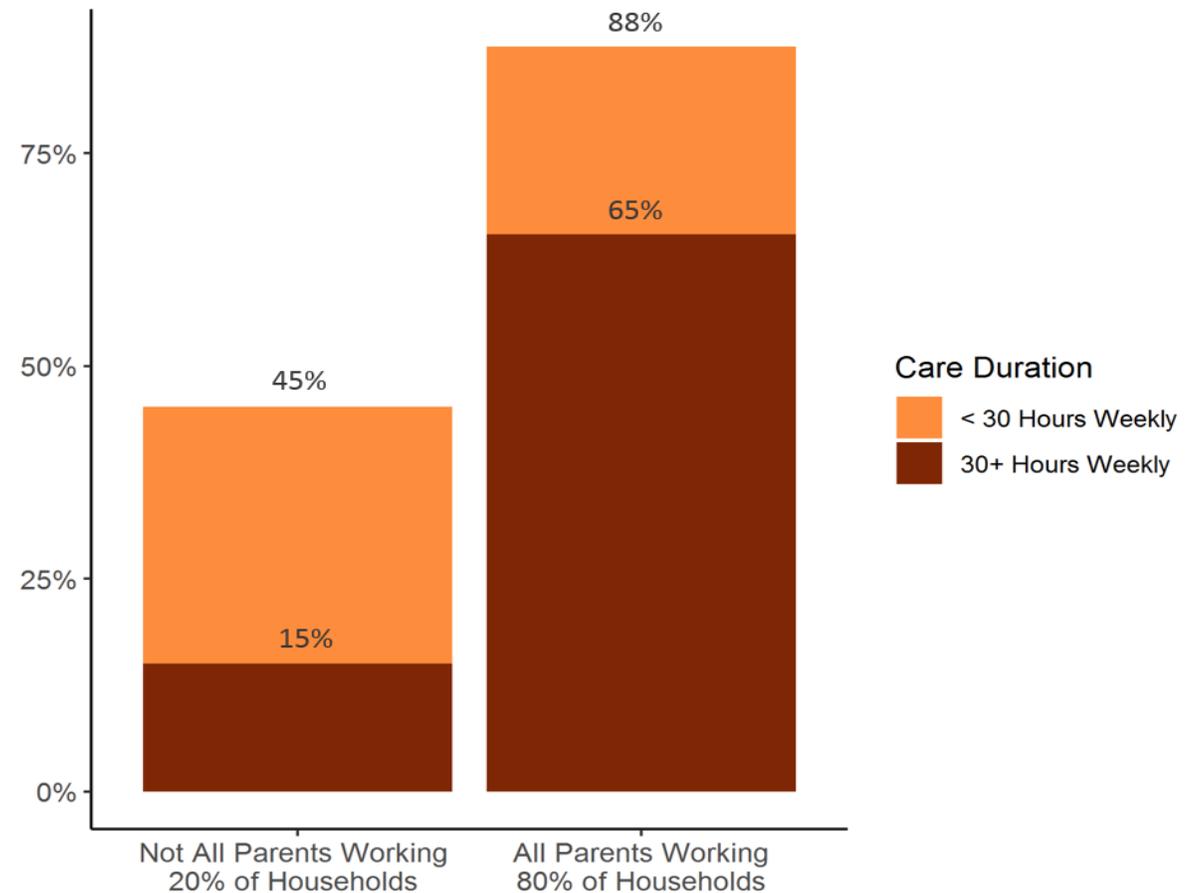


Work and ECL

80% of interviewed households had all parents working. The other 20% had at least one parent not working.

- Of households with all parents working, 90% used some type of non-parental care, and two-thirds of those households used more the 30 hours of care weekly.
- Of households with at least one parent not working, almost half used some type of non-parental care, and 15% used more than 30 hours weekly.

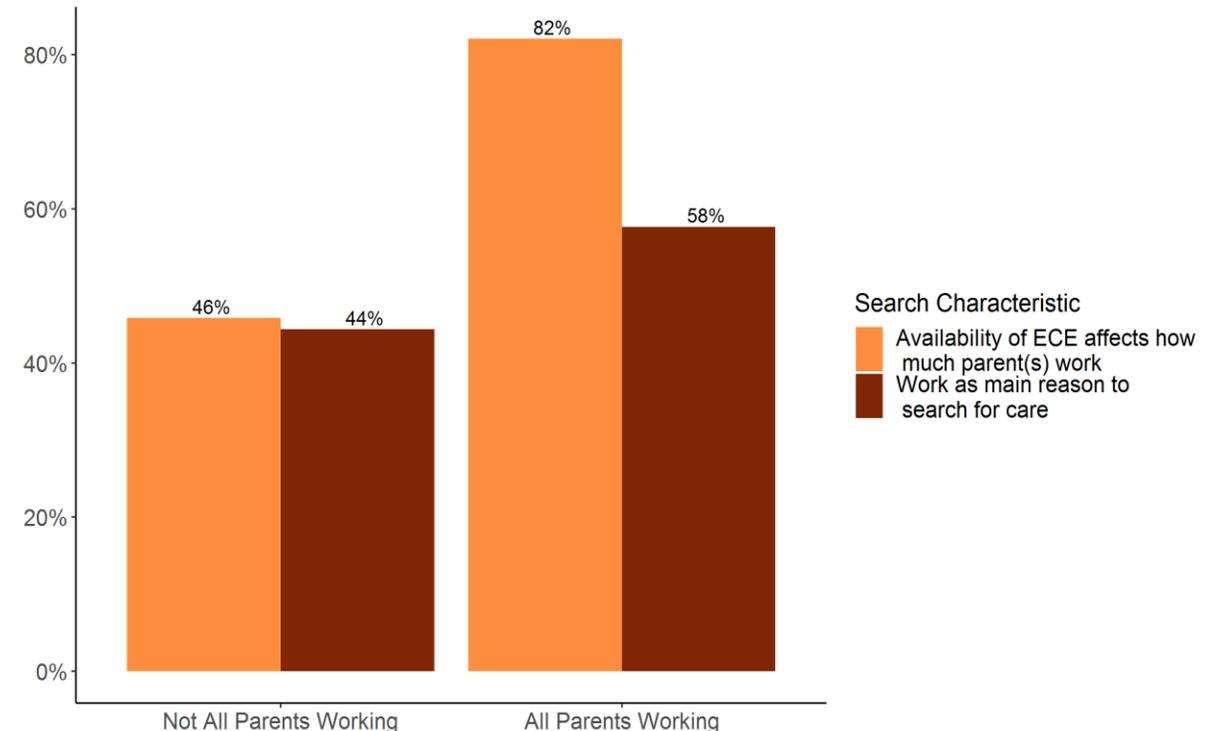
Exhibit 7. Use of non-parental care by parental work status



Work and ECL

- A majority of households with all parents working reported work as the reason for searching for child care, and an even larger percentage stated that the availability of child care affected how much they worked
- Nearly half of all households with at least one non-working parent gave work as a reason to search for care and reported that the availability of care affected how much they could work
- The most common factors driving households choice of child care during that search were cost or quality of care.

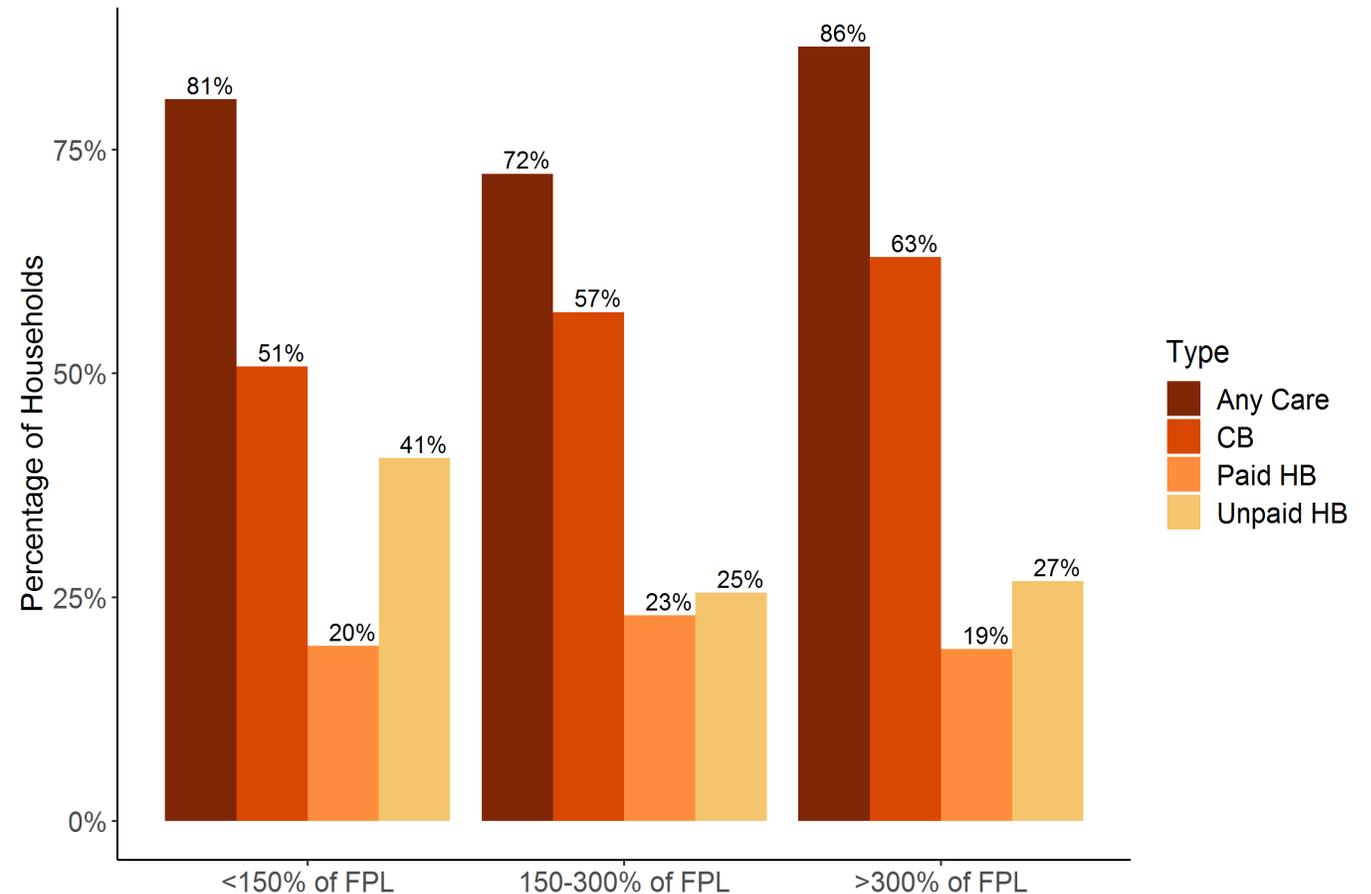
Exhibit 9. Search characteristics by parental work status



Income and ECL

- Use of care is quite high across all income groups.
- Center-based care is the most common across all income levels
- Unpaid home-based care is relatively high among the lowest income households (41%) in comparison with other groups

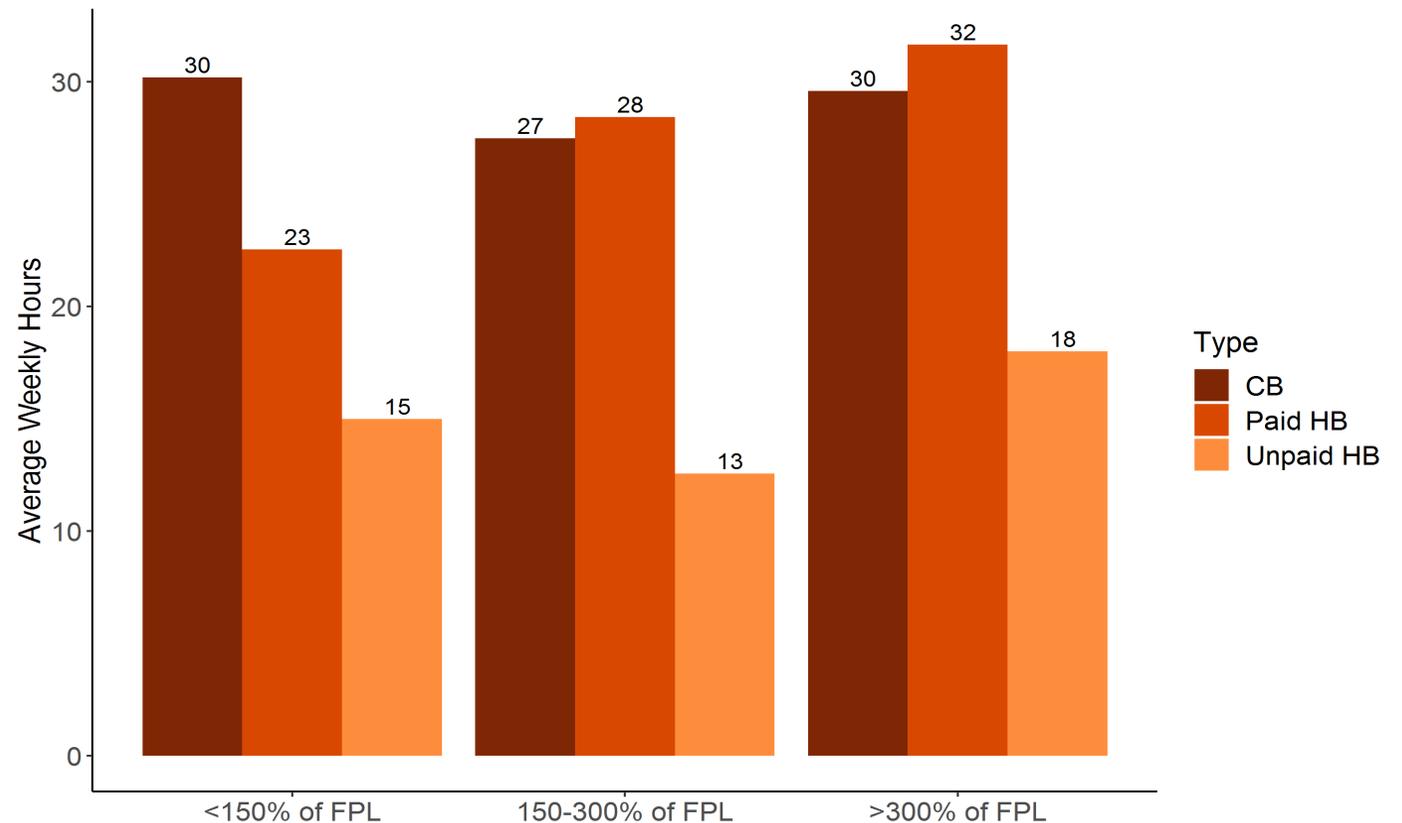
Exhibit 10. Use of care by ratio of household income to federal poverty level



Income and ECL

- Among the lowest income households, children spend the most time in center-based care relative to other settings.
- Center-based care hours are similar for other income groups
- In the highest income households, hours in paid home-based care increase overtaking the hours in center-based care

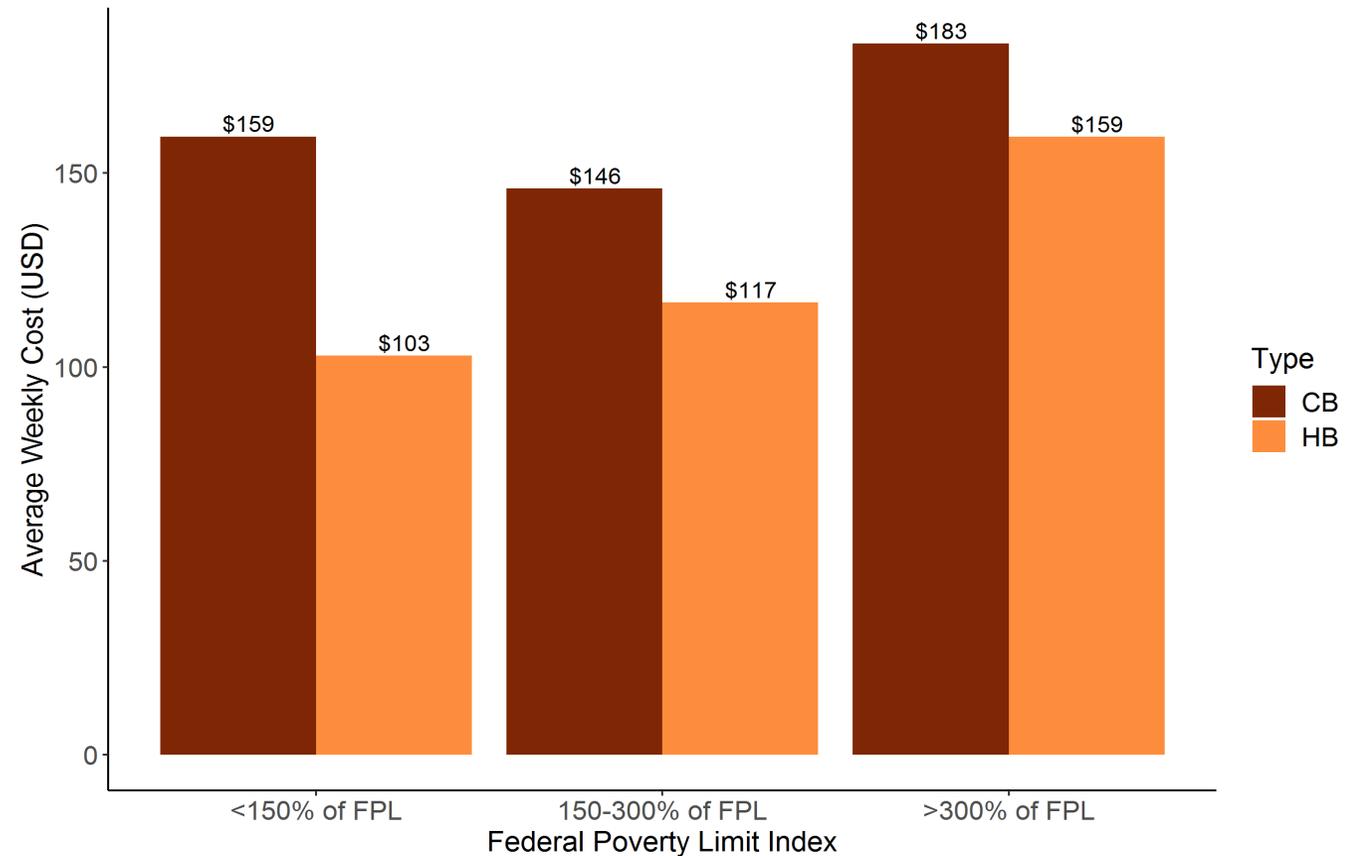
Exhibit 11. Hours of care used by ratio of household income to federal poverty level



Income and ECL

- Although households with higher incomes pay somewhat higher costs, the difference in costs are much smaller than the differences in income.
- Low-income households pay a significantly greater portion of their income when they pay for care.

Exhibit 12. Average weekly cost of care by ratio of household income to federal poverty level



Geography and ECL

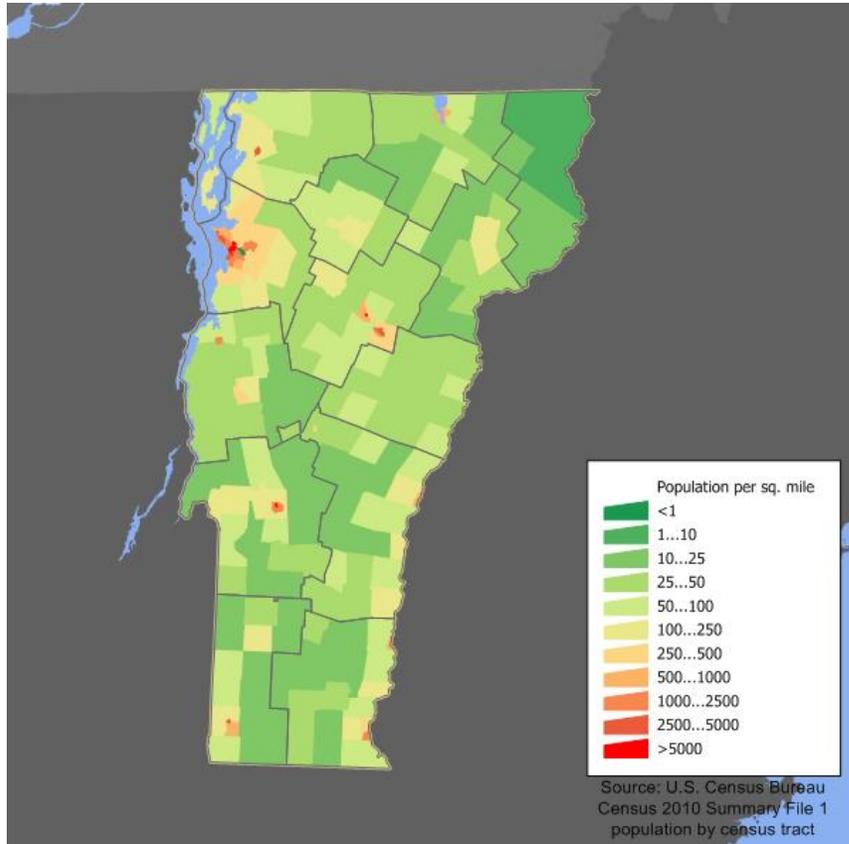
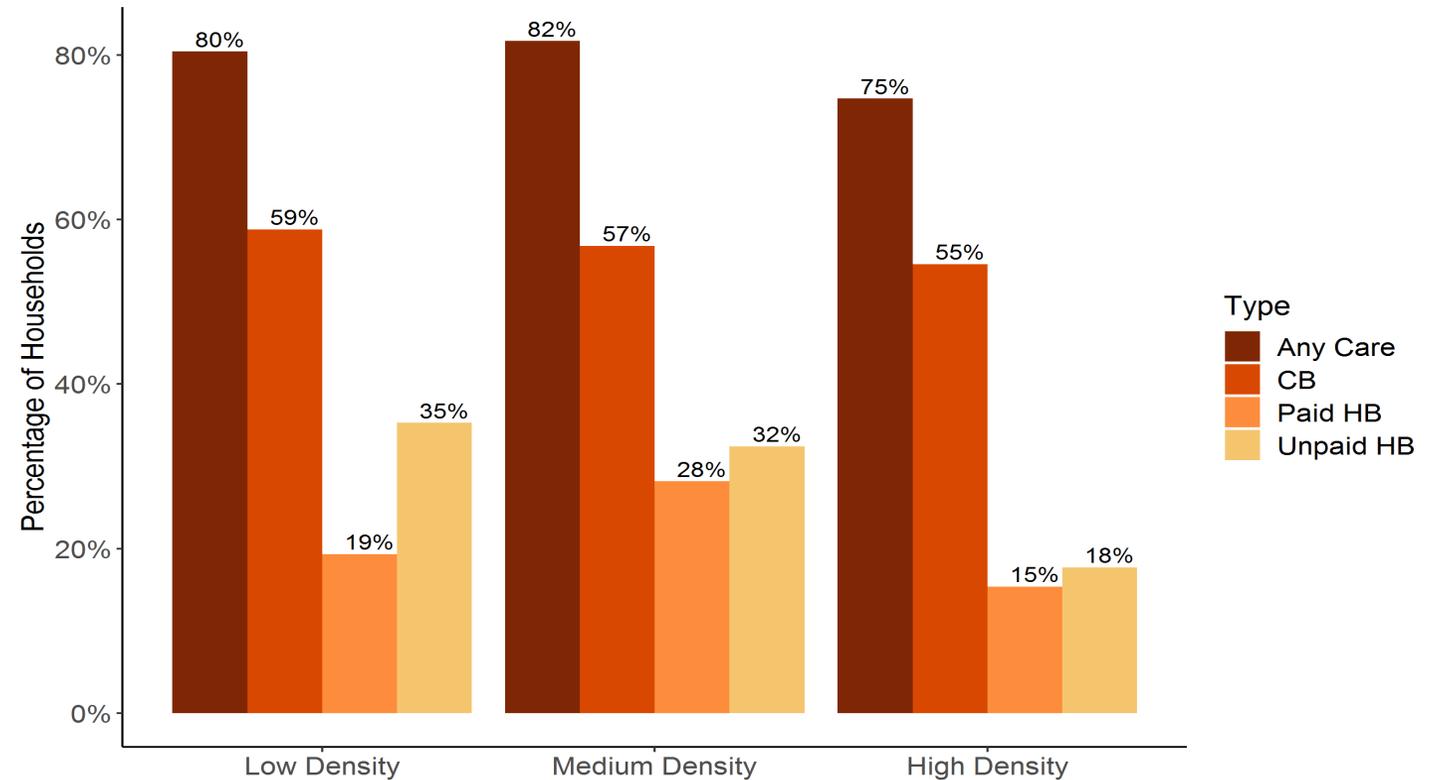


Exhibit 13. Type of care used by community density



Geography and ECL

Exhibit 14. Average weekly hours by community density

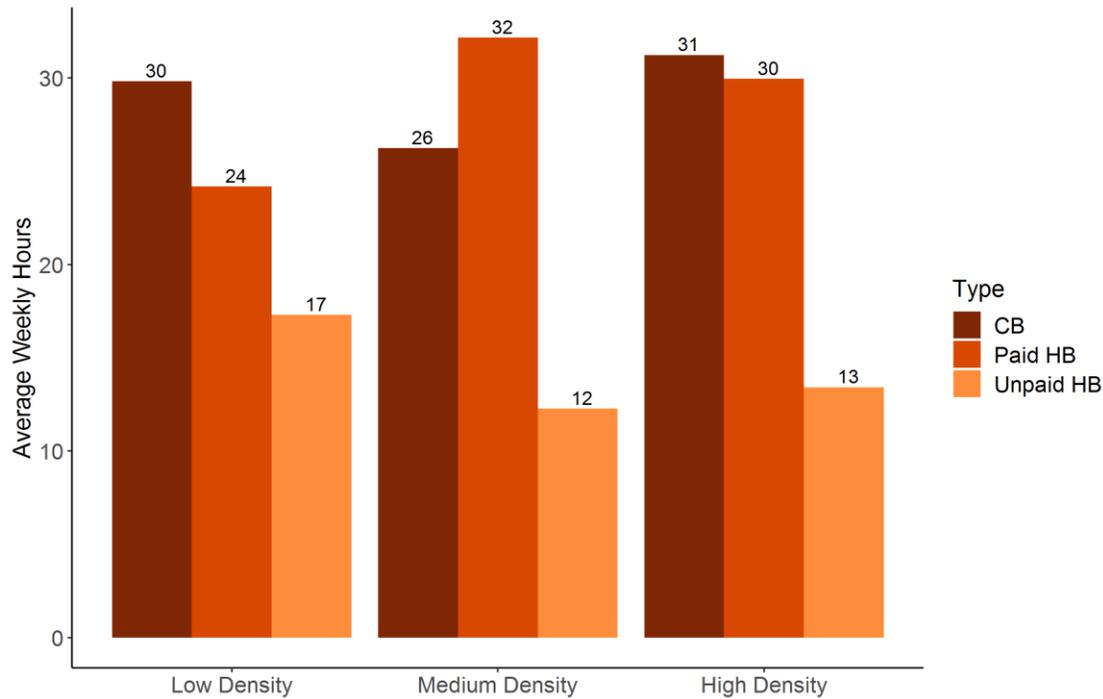
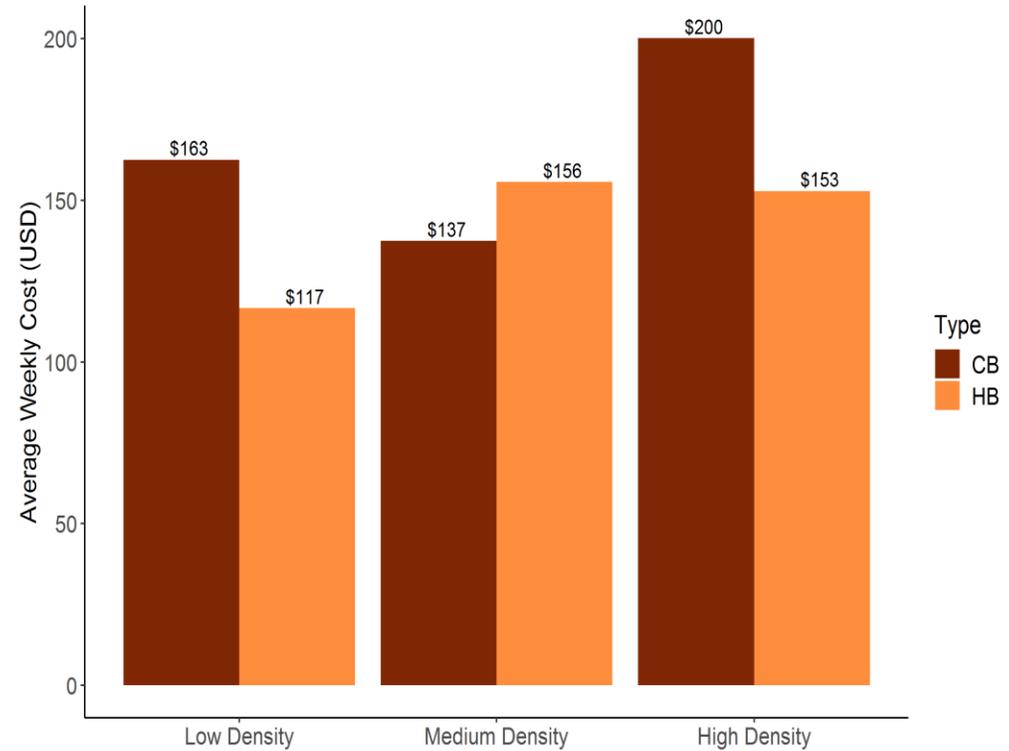


Exhibit 15. Average weekly cost by community density



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Research Highlights



Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner,
reeva.murphy@Vermont.gov 802-241-0819



Rupa Datta, Vice President and Senior Fellow
datta-rupa@norc.org



Carolyn Wesley, Interim Executive Director
cwesley@buildingbrightfutures.org



Janet McLaughlin, Interim CEO
janet@letsgrowkids.org