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Interviews: 400 GA parents of kids ages 0-5
Dates: November 6-30, 2023

FINAL

Study #14636
GEEARS Parents Survey
November 2023

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

Gender: Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or some other way?

Man	42
Woman	58
Some other way	0

Qpar1: Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18?

Yes.....	100	CONTINUE
No	0	TERMINATE

Qpar2: Are any of those children under 18 now living in your household?

Yes.....	100	CONTINUE
No	0	TERMINATE

Qpar3: What age(s) are your children? Select all that apply.

Age 5 or younger...	100	CONTINUE
Age 6 to 10	44	TERM IF ONLY THIS
Age 11 or older.....	30	TERMIF ONLY THIS

Qparent2: How old is/are your child/children who are in the age range of 5 or younger? Please select all that apply.

Less than one year old	15
One.....	22
Two.....	23
Three	23
Four	19
Five.....	26

QAGE: For statistical purposes only and to ensure that we have a representative sample, in what year were you born?

18-24.....	8
25-29.....	15
30-34.....	25
35-39.....	28
40-44.....	16
45-49.....	3
50-54.....	2
55-59.....	2
60-64.....	1
65-69.....	0
70-74.....	0
75 or older.....	0

Raceth: Again, for statistical purposes only, are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? And to ensure that we have a representative sample, please indicate your race.

American Indian, or Native American	0
Asian or Asian American	5
Black or African American	28
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin	12
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
White	53
Another race.....	2

Qinc3: If you added together the gross yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

Less than \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to \$19,999.....	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999.....	6
\$30,000 to \$39,999.....	8
\$40,000 to \$49,999.....	9
\$50,000 to \$74,999.....	17
\$75,000 to \$99,999.....	17
More than \$100,000	35

QSedu: What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not graduate high school.....	2
High school graduate	28
Attended technical or vocational school	7
Attended some college, but no degree	14
Graduated 2-year college with an associate degree	7
Graduated 4-year college with a bachelor's degree	26
Obtained a master's, PhD, or professional degree	16

QSempr: Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

Employed full time	68
Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week)	6
Laid off/unemployed but looking for work	1
Disabled, unable to work	3
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	20
Full-time student.....	0
Retired.....	1

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q1: Overall, how are things going for you and your family these days?

Very well	16
Pretty well	34
Somewhat well.....	35
Not too well.....	13
Not well at all	2
Total Well	50
Total Not Well	15

Q2: For each of the following areas, please indicate how well you and your family are doing.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING VERY OR PRETTY WELL

	Total Well	Total Not Well	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Pretty well</u>	<u>Somewhat well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not well at all</u>
Your family's overall health situation	75	4	30	45	21	4	1
Your family's child care situation for your children age five and younger	72	11	41	31	16	9	3
Your family's stress levels and mental health	46	23	13	33	31	17	6
Your family's ability to pay weekly and monthly bills	46	23	22	24	31	18	5
Your family's overall economic situation	42	23	15	28	35	18	5

Q3: Again, for each of the following areas, have things gotten better or more challenging over the past three years, or stayed about the same?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING MUCH OR SOMEWHAT BETTER

	Total Better	Total More Challenging	<u>Much better</u>	<u>Some what better</u>	<u>Stayed about the same</u>	<u>Somewhat more challenging</u>	<u>Much more challenging</u>
Your family's overall economic situation	32	43	13	19	25	24	19
Your family's child care situation for your children age five and younger	32	21	18	14	47	13	8
Your family's overall health situation	31	18	15	16	51	13	5
Your family's ability to pay weekly and monthly bills .	29	47	12	17	24	29	18
Your family's stress levels and mental health	28	44	12	16	28	29	16

Turning to a slightly different topic...

Q4: Thinking about the state government here in Georgia, do you think the state government does a good or bad job at meeting the needs of parents of young children?

Very good job.....	8
Somewhat good job	24
Neither a good nor a bad job	27
Somewhat bad job	27
Very bad job.....	14
Total Good Job	32
Total Bad Job	41

Q5. If you could tell your state leaders here in Georgia ONE thing that would help them to understand your and your family's life, what is the one thing you would like them to know? (OPEN-ENDED QUESTION, RESPONSES CODED) *

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Need affordable, quality child care/daycare.....	24
Struggle financially, living paycheck to paycheck, increase wages	21
Cost of groceries is too high	16
Inflation, cost of living is too high	14
Raise the eligible income level for public assistance	13
Need affordable housing, rent	11
Need affordable healthcare	9
Lower taxes	8
Improve education, expand school choice.....	8
Single parents, mothers need help, more resources	6
Assist poor, less privileged families	6
Don't know, no response	6
All other responses.....	6

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

Q6: Below is a list of some things that families often need but might find it a challenge to pay for. Has it been a challenge for your family to afford any of the items below at any point in the last 12 months? Please select all that apply.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Food.....	50
Housing (rent, mortgage, etc.).....	47
Utilities (electricity, water, etc.).....	44
Healthcare.....	42
Child care	39
Transportation (including gas).....	35
Clothing	32
Baby necessities (diapers, formula, etc.)	28
Other	4
None of the above.....	21

Q7a: Below is a list of potential issue areas that can affect families with young children. Do you think each of the following issues should be a priority or not for Georgia's state government?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING A TOP PRIORITY

	Total Top Priority	<u>A top priority</u>	<u>A high priority, but not top priority</u>	<u>A medium priority</u>	<u>A low priority</u>	<u>Not a priority at all</u>
Access to food and formula for families with babies and young children	85	65	20	9	2	3
Consistent healthcare access and coverage for families.....	83	61	23	11	3	3
Affordable, safe, stable housing.....	79	58	21	13	4	3
Access to early childhood programs, like child care and pre-K.....	85	56	28	9	3	4
Paid family and medical leave	73	47	26	17	5	5
Direct financial support to help families pay their bills..	65	43	22	19	10	6

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q7b: Here are those items again. This time, please choose the two you think should be the MOST important priorities that Georgia's state government should focus on.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 2 MOST IMPORTANT

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>Top 2 Most Important</u>
Affordable, safe, stable housing	24	47
Consistent healthcare access and coverage for families	20	38
Access to food and formula for families with babies and young children.	19	36
Direct financial support to help families pay their bills	12	31
Access to early childhood programs, like child care and pre-K.....	14	26
Paid family and medical leave	10	18
None are important.....	2	2

Q8a: The Georgia state government could consider various policies in the future. Would you favor or oppose the state government taking steps to implement each of the following policies?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING STRONGLY OF SOMEWHAT FAVOR

	<u>Total Favor</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>
Eliminating the state sales tax on diapers to help families afford this basic necessity and keep babies healthy	94	76	18	3	3
Increasing access to paid parental leave for families to have time to bond and care for a newborn or newly adopted child.....	93	67	27	3	4
Allowing children who are on Medicaid to automatically stay on it from birth up to the age of six, to make sure they have reliable healthcare during those years of growth and development.....	92	73	19	4	4
Using a portion of Georgia's Lottery funds to increase salaries for pre-K teachers to improve quality of teaching and keep teachers in the job for longer	91	68	23	4	4
Increasing the monthly amount that families who are in need can receive to purchase healthy food and infant formula	91	65	25	6	3
Assisting with housing costs for families of young children who are at risk of losing their homes	89	64	26	7	4
Increasing funding for Georgia's child care program so that more families with low incomes can receive scholarships to help them afford child care	89	65	24	7	5
Investing in financial supports to ease stress for families, such as providing cash assistance to families with young children.....	78	53	25	13	8

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q8b: Here are several of the policies again. This time, please choose the TWO you think would help families like yours the most.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 2 MOST HELPFUL

	<u>Most Helpful</u>	<u>Top 2 Most Helpful</u>
Investing in financial supports to ease stress for families, such as providing cash assistance to families with young children	18	36
Assisting with housing costs for families of young children who are at risk of losing their homes	14	30
Eliminating the state sales tax on diapers to help families afford this basic necessity and keep babies healthy	16	26
Allowing children who are on Medicaid to automatically stay on it from birth up to the age of six, to make sure they have reliable healthcare during those years of growth and development.....	14	25
Increasing access to paid parental leave for families to have time to bond and care for a newborn or newly adopted child	12	25
Increasing funding for Georgia's child care program so that more families with low incomes can receive scholarships to help them afford child care	9	19
Increasing the monthly amount that families who are in need can receive to purchase healthy food and infant formula	9	19
None would help families like mine	9	9

Q9: Taken all together, do you think these are the kinds of things that the Georgia state government should be doing to help parents of young children, or are these the kinds of things that parents should be responsible for on their own?

The Georgia state government should be doing these things to help parents of young children	76
Parents should be responsible for these things on their own	24

Q10. If you could send a message to Georgia state leaders about what they should be doing for parents and families, what message would you send them? (OPEN-ENDED QUESTION, RESPONSES CODED) **

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Families, children need help, more resources	23
Cost of groceries is too high	15
Need affordable, quality child care, daycare.....	14
Need affordable housing, rent	11
Struggle financially, living paycheck to paycheck, increase wages	11
Inflation, cost of living is too high	10
Need affordable healthcare, expand access	9
Lower taxes	9
Assist poor, less privileged families	9
Improve education, expand school choice.....	7
Don't know, no response	6
All other responses.....	4

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Turning to a slightly different topic...

Q11a: What child care arrangements are you currently using for your child/children? Please select all that apply.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Home with parent/guardian	44
Child care/daycare center	38
Pre-K program.....	23
Staying with another family member, friend, or neighbor ..	19
Nanny/babysitter	11
Head Start program.....	4
Home-based child care program	4
Other	7

Q11b: What is the main child care arrangement you are currently using for your child/children? For the purpose of this question, please select the arrangement you are using the most right now, even if you are using multiple types.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Home with parent/guardian	34
Child care/daycare center	29
Pre-K program.....	13
Staying with another family member, friend, or neighbor ..	10
Nanny/babysitter	5
Head Start program.....	2
Home-based child care program	2
Other	5

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO USE FAMILY CARE ARRANGEMENT (Q11b p1-2))

Q11c: You stated in the previous question that you use care by a parent or family member, friend, or neighbor as your main form of child care. Do you use this arrangement because...? Select all that apply.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Care by a parent or family member, friend, or neighbor is the option you prefer for your child ..	62
Out-of-home care options are too expensive	49
There is no out-of-home care options that fit your family's needs (close enough to your home or work, etc.)	20
There are no spots available in out-of-home care options in your area.....	10

Q12: About how many of the child care and early learning programs in your area would you say are high quality AND affordable for lower- and middle-income families?

All.....	2
Most.....	10
About half	15
Only some	25
Very few.....	48
Total All/Most	12

Q13: Have any of these things ever applied to your family?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING APPLIES TO MY FAMILY

	<u>Applies to my family</u>	<u>Does not apply to my family</u>
You or your partner had to miss a shift or reduce your hours at work because you had a problem with your child care situation.	65	35
You have ever relied on family, friends, or neighbors to help take care of children because child care is too expensive or not available.	63	37
You have had to cut back on other household essentials because of child care costs.	54	46
You or your partner had to turn down a job opportunity because you had a problem with your child care situation.	44	56
You or your partner had to leave the workforce entirely because you had child care challenges.	36	64

# Of Q13 Items That Apply To Respondent's Family	
None.....	16
1	16
2	14
3	19
4	15
5	20
Total One or More Items Applies to My Family	84

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

Qurb: Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

Urban	16
Suburban.....	47
Small town.....	27
Rural	10

PID5THa: In politics, are you a...?

Strong Republican.....	15
Leaning Republican.....	14
Completely independent.....	26
Leaning Democrat.....	21
Strong Democrat	16
Something else	7
Total Republican	30
Total Democrat	37

QF1: How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household, either of your own or who you are responsible for raising?

One	25
Two	35
Three.....	27
Four.....	8
Five or more	6

QF2: Are you...?

Now married	69
Widowed	1
Divorced.....	4
Separated	1
Never married	13
Not married, living with partner ...	12

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER (P1 OR P6) IN QF2.)

QSem2: Which of the following best describes your partner's current employment situation?

Employed full time	73
Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week)	8
Laid off/unemployed but looking for work	3
Disabled, unable to work	2
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	12
Full-time student.....	0
Retired.....	2

QF3a: Have you ever taken parental leave from a job when your child/children was/were born or adopted? If so, did your job provide paid parental leave, or not?

Yes, I have taken paid parental leave.....	35
Yes, I have taken unpaid parental leave.....	37
No, I have never taken parental leave	33
Total Taken Parental Leave	67

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY YES, PAID (p1) IN QF3a.)

QF3b: How many weeks of PAID parental leave did you take following the birth or adoption of your child? (If you have taken different amounts of leave, you can answer this based on the most recent time you did so.) ¹

1	10
2	22
3-4	17
5-6	18
7-11	12
12 or more	21
Median	6

¹ Results shown among the 35% of parents who have taken paid parental leave.

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY YES, UNPAID (p2) IN QF3a.)

QF3c: How many weeks of UNPAID parental leave did you take following the birth or adoption of your child? (If you have taken different amounts of leave, you can answer this based on the most recent time you did so.)¹

1	15
2	16
3-4	11
5-6	23
7-11	15
12 or more	19
Median	6

¹ Results shown among the 37% of parentse who have taken unpaid parental leave.

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY YES (p1/2) IN QF3a.)

QF3d: When you took parental leave, did that decision have a negative effect on your position at work in any way? Some examples of ways that taking leave could have affected you at work may include being passed over for a promotion, having to take a pay cut, having responsibilities shifted, etc.

Yes, taking leave had a negative effect on my position at work in some way	32
No, taking leave did not have a negative effect on my position at work	68

QF4a: Finally, for each of the following, please indicate whether you have received that benefit in the past 12 months.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING YES, RECEIVED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

	Yes, received in the past 12 <u>months</u>	No, did not receive in the past <u>12 months</u>
SNAP, WIC, food stamps, or other nutrition support...	33	67
Georgia's Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS).....	12	88
Social Security payments.....	7	93
State or federal unemployment benefits.....	4	96
TANF, or other governmental financial support.....	4	96
Worker's Compensation payments or other payments as a result of a job-related injury or illness	1	99

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY YES (p1) TO CAPS IN QF4a.)

QF4b You indicated in the previous question that you have received benefits from Georgia's Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) in the past 12 months. Has participating in this program been helpful for your family? Please explain how it has (or has not) been helpful. (OPEN-ENDED QUESTION)

SEE VERBATIMS DOCUMENT