A study of Idaho citizen’s attitudes about Early Childhood Care & Education Issues

Conducted by Boise State University
Department of Public Policy & Administration
Social Science Research Center
http://ppa.boisestate.edu/ssrc

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

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- Annually, the SSRC conducts a large-scale survey of Idahoans to identify public policy concerns. The study is provided to public officials and interested citizens to facilitate policy discussion and education. This study was undertaken in conjunction with the annual policy survey. The findings in this report reflect eleven questions sponsored by Mountain State’s Group, supported by a grant from the Anne Casey Foundation.

- 773 adults in Idaho households representing six geographic regions were surveyed between November 12, 2007 and January XX, 2008. Telephone calls, interviews, data collection and preparation were made by Clearwater Research.

- The survey standard error is +/- 4.2% at a 95% confidence-level for the total population.
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

Regions covered in the survey

I. **Panhandle** - Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone

II. **North Central** - Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho

III. **Southwest** - Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee

IV. **South Central** - Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia

V. **Southeast** - Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou

VI. **East Central** - Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

Are you currently a working parent? – by region

- **Region I: Panhandle**
  - Yes: 74.8%
  - No: 25.2%

- **Region II: North Central**
  - Yes: 69.6%
  - No: 30.4%

- **Region III: Southwest**
  - Yes: 51.6%
  - No: 48.4%

- **Region IV: South Central**
  - Yes: 57.6%
  - No: 42.4%

- **Region V: Southeast**
  - Yes: 70.7%
  - No: 29.3%

- **Region VI: East Central**
  - Yes: 71.6%
  - No: 28.4%
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Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

Working parent and kids under 6 years old – distribution by region

- Region I: Panhandle: 5.1%
- Region II: North Central: 3.0%
- Region III: Southwest: 22.3%
- Region IV: South Central: 5.6%
- Region V: Southeast: 3.5%
- Region VI: East Central: 5.9%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

Working parent, but no kids under 6 years old – distribution by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region I: Panhandle
Region II: North Central
Region III: Southwest
Region IV: South Central
Region V: Southeast
Region VI: East Central
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that the government should offer more financial help to working families who need it to pay for quality childcare?

- Strongly agree: 32%
- Somewhat agree: 35%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 12%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 1%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that the government should offer more financial help to working families who need it to pay for quality childcare?

Region I: Panhandle
- Strongly agree: 16.0%
- Somewhat agree: 32.1%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 34.9%
- Somewhat disagree: 4.7%
- Strongly disagree: 12.3%

Region II: North Central
- Strongly agree: 5.5%
- Somewhat agree: 16.4%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 29.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 1.8%
- Strongly disagree: 11.0%

Region III: Southwest
- Strongly agree: 12.5%
- Somewhat agree: 39.5%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 30.0%
- Somewhat disagree: 3.9%
- Strongly disagree: 14.2%

Region IV: South Central
- Strongly agree: 12.2%
- Somewhat agree: 23.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 40.0%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.7%
- Strongly disagree: 17.8%

Region V: Southeast
- Strongly agree: 11.0%
- Somewhat agree: 31.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 29.3%
- Somewhat disagree: 8.5%
- Strongly disagree: 19.5%

Region VI: East Central
- Strongly agree: 11.7%
- Somewhat agree: 33.0%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 27.7%
- Somewhat disagree: 10.6%
- Strongly disagree: 17.0%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that providing childcare funding assistance to low-income parents helps them stay in the workforce?

- Strongly agree: 40%
- Somewhat agree: 40%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3%
- Somewhat disagree: 9%
- Strongly disagree: 6%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 2%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that providing childcare funding assistance to low-income parents helps them stay in the workforce?

Region I: Panhandle
- Strongly agree: 45.0%
- Somewhat agree: 34.9%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11.0%
- Somewhat disagree: 3.2%
- Strongly disagree: 0.0%

Region II: North Central
- Strongly agree: 50.0%
- Somewhat agree: 33.9%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 1.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.4%
- Strongly disagree: 2.1%

Region III: Southwest
- Strongly agree: 41.0%
- Somewhat agree: 38.6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6.3%
- Somewhat disagree: 4.2%
- Strongly disagree: 0.0%

Region IV: South Central
- Strongly agree: 45.6%
- Somewhat agree: 42.2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6.3%
- Somewhat disagree: 2.2%
- Strongly disagree: 0.0%

Region V: Southeast
- Strongly agree: 35.4%
- Somewhat agree: 48.1%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 5.1%
- Strongly disagree: 0.0%

Region VI: East Central
- Strongly agree: 30.9%
- Somewhat agree: 57.4%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 4.2%
- Strongly disagree: 0.0%
How strongly do you agree that childcare funding assistance to low-income working parents helps children be safe?

- Strongly agree: 38%
- Somewhat agree: 35%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 7%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that childcare funding assistance to low-income working parents helps children be safe?

Region I: Panhandle
Region II: North Central
Region III: Southwest
Region IV: South Central
Region V: Southeast
Region VI: East Central

Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
How strongly do you agree that childcare affordability has affected my or my spouse or partner’s ability to participate in the workforce to my potential?

- Not a parent: 60%
- Don’t Know/Unsure: 1%
- Strongly agree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Somewhat disagree: 8%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2%
- Somewhat agree: 6%

Total population: 100%
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Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that childcare affordability has affected my or my spouse or partner’s ability to participate in the workforce to my potential?
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that childcare affordability has affected my or my spouse or partner’s ability to participate in the workforce to my potential?

- Strongly agree: 22%
- Strongly disagree: 37%
- Somewhat disagree: 20%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6%
- Somewhat agree: 15%

Of Parents n=298
How strongly do you agree that low-income single parents should have higher priority for public funding than college students for child care assistance?

- Strongly agree: 14%
- Somewhat agree: 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 15%
- Somewhat disagree: 24%
- Strongly disagree: 22%
- Don't know/Unsure: 3%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that low-income single parents should have higher priority for public funding than college students for child care assistance?

Region I: Panhandle
- Strongly agree: 14.4%
- Somewhat agree: 21.2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 30.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 17.3%
- Strongly disagree: 16.3%

Region II: North Central
- Strongly agree: 18.9%
- Somewhat agree: 22.6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 28.3%
- Somewhat disagree: 15.1%
- Strongly disagree: 15.1%

Region III: Southwest
- Strongly agree: 29.2%
- Somewhat agree: 25.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 16.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 17.9%
- Strongly disagree: 11.6%

Region IV: South Central
- Strongly agree: 21.2%
- Somewhat agree: 25.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 12.9%
- Somewhat disagree: 29.4%
- Strongly disagree: 14.1%

Region V: Southeast
- Strongly agree: 20.5%
- Somewhat agree: 32.1%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 14.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 29.4%
- Strongly disagree: 17.2%

Region VI: East Central
- Strongly agree: 17.2%
- Somewhat agree: 25.8%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 16.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 25.8%
- Strongly disagree: 15.1%
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that in my community, children have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, nursery school or Head Start programs to help them become ready to succeed in school?

- Strongly agree: 25%
- Somewhat agree: 34%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9%
- Somewhat disagree: 10%
- Strongly disagree: 10%
- Don’t Know/Unsure: 12%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that in my community, children have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, nursery school or Head Start programs to help them become ready to succeed in school?

Region I: Panhandle
Region II: North Central
Region III: Southwest
Region IV: South Central
Region V: Southeast
Region VI: East Central

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that in my community, programs that help get children ready to succeed in school are available and affordable?

- Strongly agree: 16%
- Somewhat agree: 35%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7%
- Somewhat disagree: 17%
- Strongly disagree: 10%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 15%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that in my community, programs that help get children ready to succeed in school are available and affordable?

Region I: Panhandle
Region II: North Central
Region III: Southwest
Region IV: South Central
Region V: Southeast
Region VI: East Central

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that government has a responsibility to provide high-quality pre-kindergarten education for young children in low-income families?

- Strongly agree: 32%
- Somewhat agree: 26%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 8%
- Somewhat disagree: 18%
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 1%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that government has a responsibility to provide high-quality pre-kindergarten education for young children in low-income families?

Region I: Panhandle
Region II: North Central
Region III: Southwest
Region IV: South Central
Region V: Southeast
Region VI: East Central
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that, as a voter, I would more likely vote for a candidate who supported expanding access to pre-kindergarten programs for young children?

- Strongly agree: 35%
- Somewhat agree: 30%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 8%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 11%
- Not a voter: 0%
- Don’t Know/Unsure: 1%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that, as a voter, I would more likely vote for a candidate who supported expanding access to pre-kindergarten programs for young children?

Region I: Panhandle
- Strongly agree: 34.3%
- Somewhat agree: 33.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 13.9%
- Somewhat disagree: 10.7%
- Strongly disagree: 6.5%

Region II: North Central
- Strongly agree: 26.8%
- Somewhat agree: 48.2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5.4%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.5%
- Strongly disagree: 12.5%

Region III: Southwest
- Strongly agree: 31.0%
- Somewhat agree: 34.5%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.5%
- Strongly disagree: 8.9%

Region IV: South Central
- Strongly agree: 26.7%
- Somewhat agree: 40.0%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 13.4%
- Somewhat disagree: 3.7%
- Strongly disagree: 13.4%

Region V: Southeast
- Strongly agree: 32.9%
- Somewhat agree: 36.6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 12.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 15.5%
- Strongly disagree: 14.9%

Region VI: East Central
- Strongly agree: 23.4%
- Somewhat agree: 28.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 19.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 12.8%
- Strongly disagree: 13.4%
How strongly do you agree that, as a voter, I would more likely vote for a candidate who supported expanding funding for child care assistance for low-income families?

- Strongly agree: 29%
- Somewhat agree: 38%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 9%
- Don't Know/Unsure: 2%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

How strongly do you agree that, as a voter, I would more likely vote for a candidate who supported expanding funding for child care assistance for low-income families?

Region I: Panhandle
- Strongly agree: 34.3%
- Somewhat agree: 41.8%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 27.1%
- Somewhat disagree: 34.1%
- Strongly disagree: 24.5%

Region II: North Central
- Strongly agree: 9.5%
- Somewhat agree: 12.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6.3%
- Somewhat disagree: 6.6%
- Strongly disagree: 5.3%

Region III: Southwest
- Strongly agree: 8.6%
- Somewhat agree: 6.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 1.8%
- Somewhat disagree: 19.1%
- Strongly disagree: 7.4%

Region IV: South Central
- Strongly agree: 7.3%
- Somewhat agree: 15.5%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 15.4%
- Somewhat disagree: 10.9%
- Strongly disagree: 12.7%

Region V: Southeast
- Strongly agree: 9.8%
- Somewhat agree: 15.5%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 18.5%
- Somewhat disagree: 9.9%
- Strongly disagree: 7.3%

Region VI: East Central
- Strongly agree: 11.0%
- Somewhat agree: 33.0%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 34.6%
- Somewhat disagree: 27.2%
- Strongly disagree: 24.5%
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- **CHILDCARE (AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, ETC):** 33%
- **ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (WAGES, JOBS, COST OF LIVING, ETC):** 25%
- **EDUCATION (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, SKILLS FOR PARENTS):** 9%
- **HEALTH CARE (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY):** 5%
- **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (WORK ETHIC, RESPONSIBILITY):** 6%
- **GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE/FUNDING:** 2%
- **FAMILY ISSUES (INTACT FAMILIES, FAMILY VALUES):** 4%
- **HOUSING (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY):** 2%
- **OTHER:** 3%
- **Don’t Know/Unsure/Refused/No opinion:** 11%

Open-ended responses

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What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children? (total population)

Open-ended responses
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- **Region 1: Panhandle**
  - **Childcare (Availability, Affordability, etc.):** 22%
  - **Economic Problems (Wages, Jobs, Cost of Living, etc.):** 40%
  - **Parental Responsibility (Work Ethic, Responsibility, etc.):** 6%
  - **Health Care (Access, Affordability, etc.):** 4%
  - **Education (Access, Affordability, Skills for Parents, etc.):** 4%
  - **Housing (Access, Affordability, etc.):** 9%
  - **Family Issues (Intact Families, Family Values, etc.):** 40%
  - **Government Assistance/Funding:** 22%
  - **Other:** 4%

Open-ended responses
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- CHILDCARE (AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, ETC)
- ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (WAGES, JOBS, COST OF LIVING, ETC)
- PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (WORK ETHIC, RESPONSIBILITY, ETC)
- HEALTH CARE (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, ETC)
- EDUCATION (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, SKILLS FOR PARENTS, ETC)
- HOUSING (ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, ETC)
- FAMILY ISSUES (INTACT FAMILIES, FAMILY VALUES, ETC)
- GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE/FUNDING
- OTHER

Region 2: North Central

Open-ended responses
Early Childhood Care & Education
Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- **Region 3: Southwest**

  - **Childcare (Availability, Affordability, etc)**: 45%
  - **Economic Problems (Wages, Jobs, Cost of Living, etc)**: 23%
  - **Parental Responsibility (Work Ethic, Responsibility, etc)**: 6%
  - **Health Care (Access, Affordability, etc)**: 5%
  - **Education (Access, Affordability, Skills for Parents, etc)**: 13%
  - **Housing (Access, Affordability, etc)**: 0%
  - **Government Assistance/Funding**
  - **Other**: 4%
  - **Open-ended responses**: 3%
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- Childcare (Availability, Affordability, etc)
- Economic problems (Wages, Jobs, Cost of living, etc)
- Parental responsibility (Work ethic, responsibility, etc)
- Health care (Access, Affordability, etc)
- Education (Access, Affordability, skills for parents, etc)
- Housing (Access, Affordability, etc)
- Family issues (Intact families, family values, etc)
- Government assistance/funding

Open-ended responses
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- Childcare (Availability, Affordability, etc) - 35%
- Economic Problems (Wages, Jobs, Cost of Living, etc) - 16%
- Parental Responsibility (Work Ethic, Responsibility, etc) - 13%
- Health Care (Access, Affordability, etc) - 14%
- Education (Access, Affordability, Skills for Parents, etc) - 9%
- Housing (Access, Affordability, etc) - 6%
- Family Issues (Intact Families, Family Values, etc) - 0%
- Government Assistance/Funding - 4%
- Other - 3%

Open-ended responses
Early Childhood Care & Education Perceptions of Idaho Citizens

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing low-income working parents with young children?

- Childcare (availability, affordability, etc) 22%
- Economic problems (wages, jobs, cost of living, etc) 34%
- Parental responsibility (work ethic, responsibility, etc) 15%
- Health care (access, affordability, etc) 10%
- Education (access, affordability, skills for parents, etc) 9%
- Housing (access, affordability, etc) 1%
- Family issues (intact families, family values, etc) 4%
- Government assistance/funding 0%
- Other 5%

Region 6: East

Open-ended responses