

Public Interest Alberta Childcare Survey 2014

Public Interest Alberta coordinated a survey of childcare centres, day homes, and after-school care centres in August and September 2014. Close to 1,000 childcare operators were invited to participate and 212 filled out the survey. The survey was coordinated by Ryan MacIntyre, a student at Calgary's Mount Royal University.

Overview of participants

1. 59 of the respondents were from Calgary (28%), 47 from Edmonton (22%), 9 from Lethbridge, 7 from Red Deer, 6 from Medicine Hat, and 13 from Grande Prairie.
2. 31% of respondents have been in operation for less than 5 years, 22% for 5 – 10 years, 16% for 10 – 20 years, and 32% for more than 10 years.
3. 65% were for-profit operations, 33% were not-for profit, and 2% were public (municipally run).
4. 70% were accredited, 7% were in process of accreditation, and 23% were not accredited.
5. 36% operate day homes, 48% childcare centres, 40% school age care, and 6% all of the above (operators can run more than one type of centre and were allowed to check more than one box).

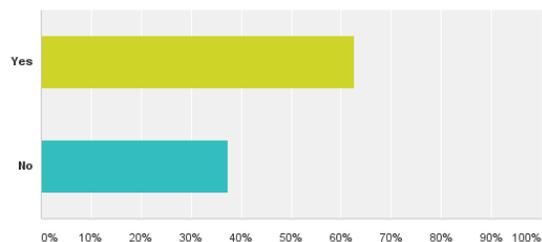
Main Findings

Access to childcare is not sufficient, particularly for infant care and children with special needs.

The survey reveals that the majority (63%) of childcare operations have a waiting list.

Q9 Do you currently have a waiting list?

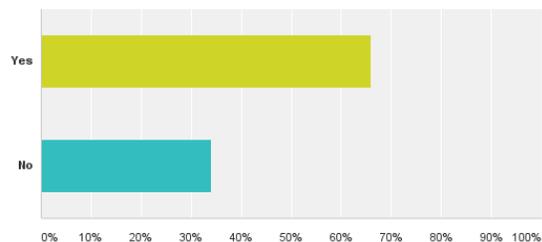
Answered: 209 Skipped: 3



One third of childcare centres and day homes (excluding school-aged care programs) do not provide infant care.

Q7 Do you currently provide care for infants?

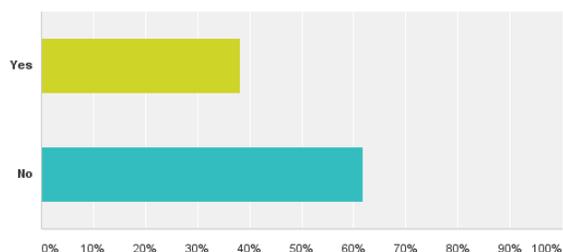
Answered: 182 Skipped: 6



62% of respondents do not provide care for children with complex special needs.

Q8 Do you currently provide care for children with complex special needs?

Answered: 209 Skipped: 3

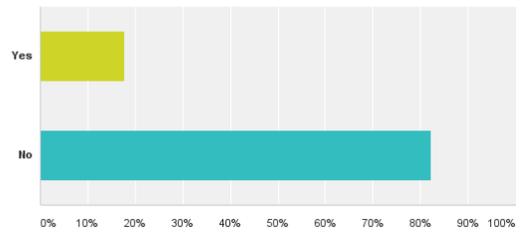


Provincial funding of childcare is not sufficient to support the needs of families.

The vast majority of respondents (82%) say government funding is not sufficient to support affordable, quality childcare.

Q13 Do you think provincial government funding for childcare is sufficient to support affordable, quality childcare?

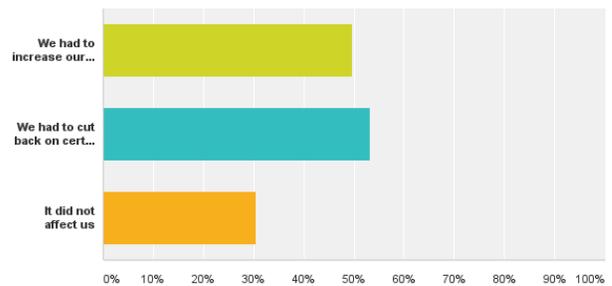
Answered: 197 Skipped: 15



Childcare operations had to increase fees (50%) and/or cut programs (52%) when the Alberta government eliminated the quality enhancement grant in 2013.

Q10 During the spring of 2013 the provincial government eliminated the quality enhancement grant. How has the cutting of this grant affected you? Check all that apply.

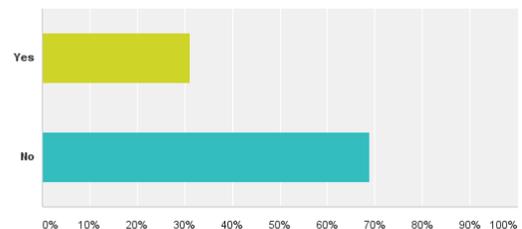
Answered: 203 Skipped: 9



70% of survey respondents said subsidy rates are not sufficient.

Q11 Are provincial subsidy rates for lower income families sufficient?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 19



74% of families receiving subsidies are paying more than \$200/month/child.

Q12 On average, approximately how much do low-income families have to pay above subsidy per child, per month at your centre?

Answered: 189 Skipped: 23

