

*The Brighter Futures Initiative
of the
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*Perceptions of Residents
in Communities to be served
by Family Centers*

Prepared April, 2002



PHILLIBER
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATES

16 Main Street
Accord, NY 12404
(845)626-2126
FAX (845)626-3206

St. Louis
8631 Delmar, Ste 204
St. Louis, MO 63131
(314)432-8113

New York
78 W 131st St, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10030
(212)234-3394

San Diego
4069 30th St., Ste 1
San Diego, CA 92104
(619)281-8166

Sacramento
24 East Main St.
Winters, CA 95694
(530)795-3618

Highlights

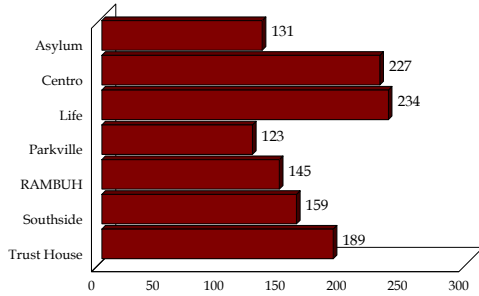
Residents living in the seven communities to be served by Family Centers supported by the Brighter Futures Initiative of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving were surveyed in March, 2002. A total of 1,208 residents were interviewed from households where at least one child eight years old or younger was living.

- **Characteristics of households**
 - ❑ One (29%) or two (33%) children lived in the majority of households.
 - ❑ Children lived with two parents in 45% of homes and with a single parent in 46% of homes.
 - ❑ About a third of the adults surveyed had more than a high school education (35%); a quarter (27%) had less.
- **Literacy activities with children**
 - ❑ Almost all the parents surveyed (93%) read with their children; two-thirds (62%) did so every day.
 - ❑ Half of the homes (48%) had a computer, and children used the computer in most of these homes (81%).
- **Recreational activities with children**
 - ❑ Two-thirds (66%) of the parents do fun things with their children every day.
- **Children's health care**
 - ❑ About a third of the families have children with health problems; the most common health problem was asthma (75% of families with health problems).
 - ❑ One in seven families (13%) wish they had more food to feed their children or report that their children go hungry because there is not enough food to feed them.
 - ❑ Almost one in five families (18%) have children with special needs.
- **Child care**
 - ❑ Most families (82%) have a place where they can leave their children when they need child care; most of these families (86%) leave their children with family members.
 - ❑ Those who leave children with other than family members report they are very satisfied (82%) with their child care arrangements and believe the place does a good job preparing their children to do well in school (98%).
- **Involvement in children's school**
 - ❑ Almost all of the parents (96%) with children in school have been to the school this year.
 - ❑ Most have been to the school to attend a teacher's conference (76%) and to get a report card (52%).
 - ❑ The majority find the information the school sends home understandable (82%).
 - ❑ Parents feel welcome in their children's school most of the time (89%).
- **Quality of neighborhood**
 - ❑ The majority of people rate their neighborhoods as excellent or good in terms of:
 - ✓ The quality of schools (63%)
 - ✓ After-school programs (55%)
 - ✓ A safe place to raise a family (53%)
 - ✓ Child care for pre-school children (51%)
 - ❑ The majority of people rate their neighborhoods as only fair or poor in terms of:
 - ✓ Places to do things together as a family (56%)
 - ✓ Police protection (53%)
 - ✓ Programs to help children do better in school (51%)

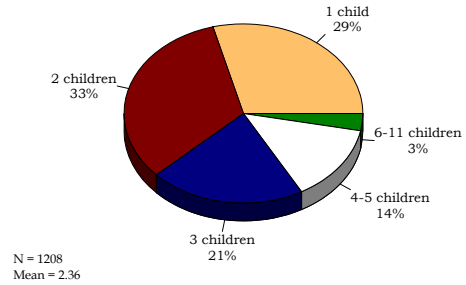
- Sources of support
 - Almost everyone (92%) has someone they can call on when they need help
- Perception of ability to increase school readiness
 - Almost everyone (92%) believes parents can do things to increase school readiness for their children.
 - The majority believe parents can teach children numbers and letters (64%), read to their children (60%), and talk to their children (56%).
- Use of family center
 - The majority of families report they would definitely use a family center if it provided:
 - ✓ Summer programs for children (77%)
 - ✓ Play groups for preschool children (69%)
 - ✓ Activities for family to do together (66%)
 - ✓ Preschool programs (66%)
 - ✓ Tutoring or homework help for children (65%)
 - ✓ Cultural programs (64%)
 - ✓ Classes to teach parents how to support their children (60%)
 - ✓ Anger management for dealing with children (55%)
 - ✓ Classes on money management (52%)
 - ✓ Leadership training classes (51%)
 - The majority would definitely or probably use a family center if it provided:
 - ✓ Parenting classes (79%)
 - ✓ Adult literacy classes (66%)
 - ✓ Adult ESL classes (66%)
 - ✓ GED classes (65%)
 - ✓ Prenatal care classes (59%)
 - The preferred times to use family centers are on weekends (47%) and evenings (43%)

Who participated in this survey?

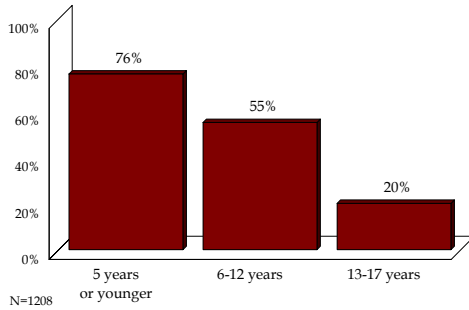
Number surveyed in each Family Center area:



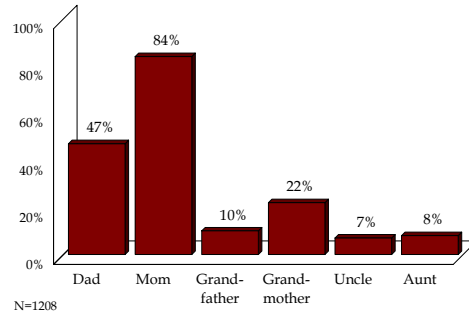
How many children live here altogether?



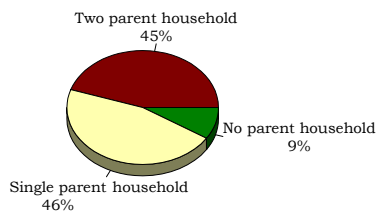
Percent of families with children...



Who are the adults living in the home?

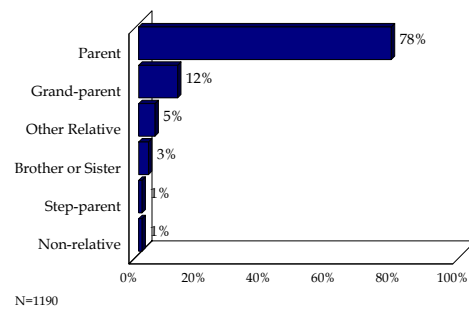


Type of family

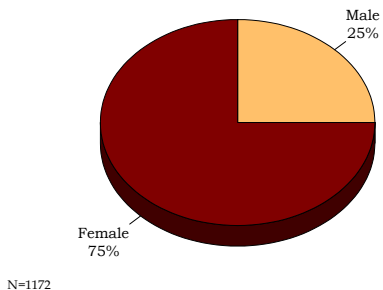


N=1208

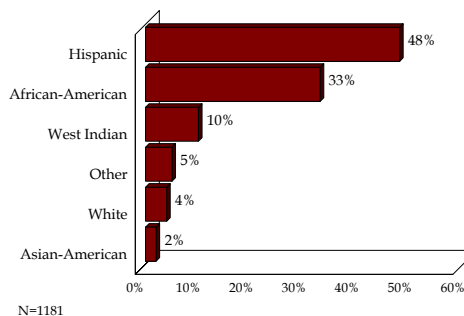
What is your relationship to the child(ren)?



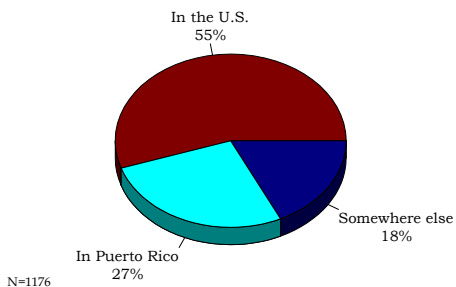
Gender



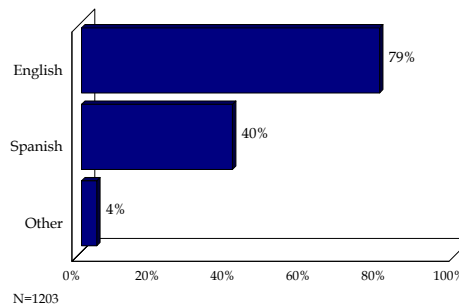
What is your ethnicity?



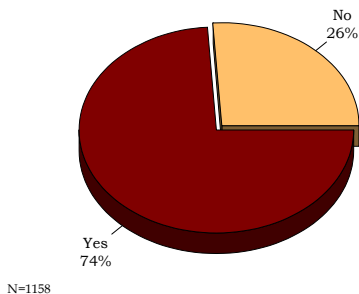
Were you born in the United States or somewhere else?



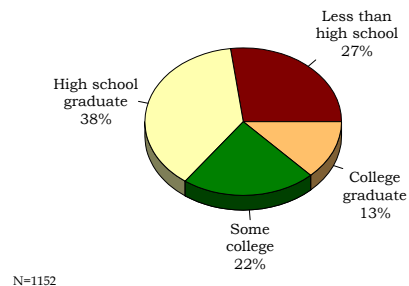
What language is spoken in your home most of the time?



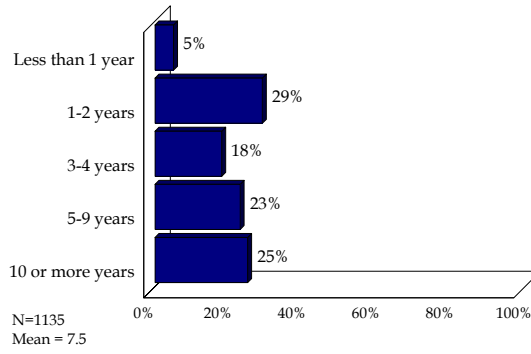
Are you registered to vote?



What is the highest grade in school you completed?

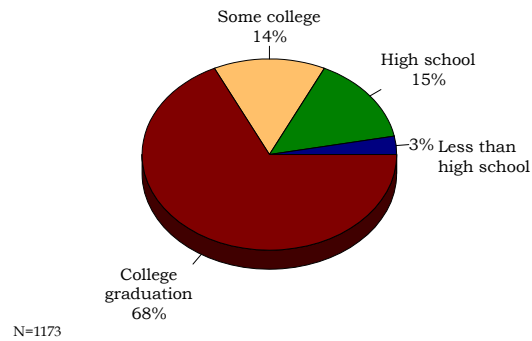


How long have you lived in this neighborhood?



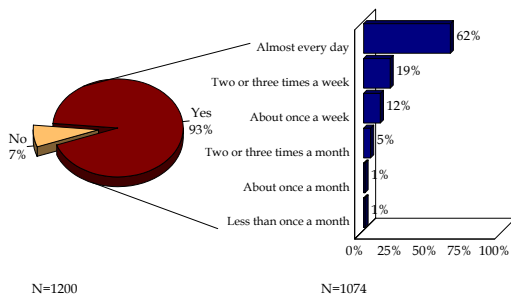
What are their aspirations for their children?

How much education do you think your child(ren) will complete?

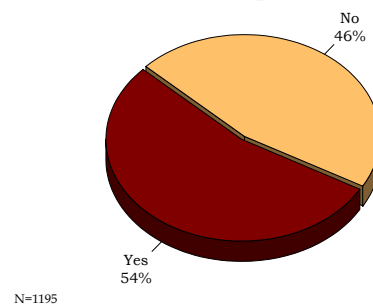


What literacy activities do they do with their children?

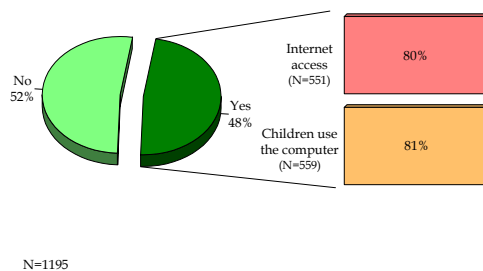
Do you ever have time to read with your child(ren)?



Do you ever have a chance to take your child(ren) to the public library?

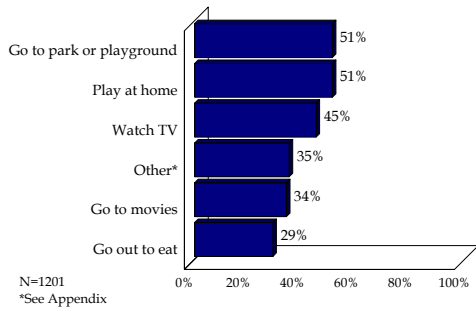


Do you have a computer in your home?

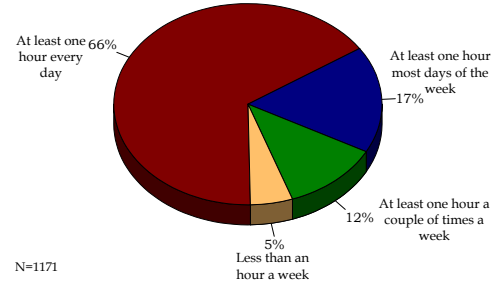


What recreational activities do they do with their children?

What do you like to do for fun with your child(ren)?

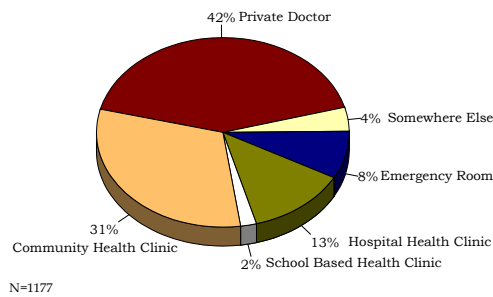


How much time do you spend in an average week doing fun things with your child(ren)?

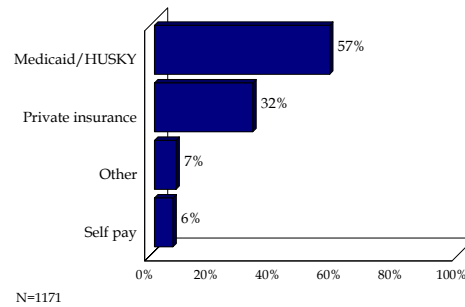


What is the status of their children's health care?

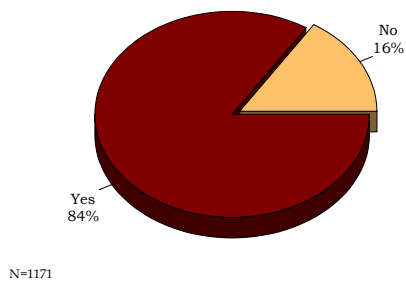
When your children need a doctor, where do you take them?



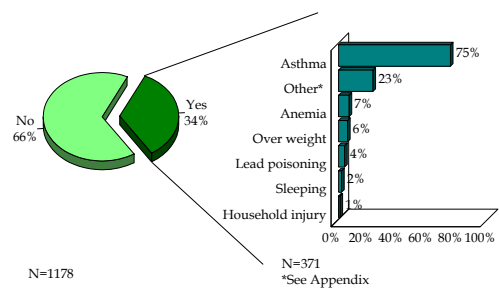
How do you normally pay for health care?



Do you have a place where you take your children for dental care?

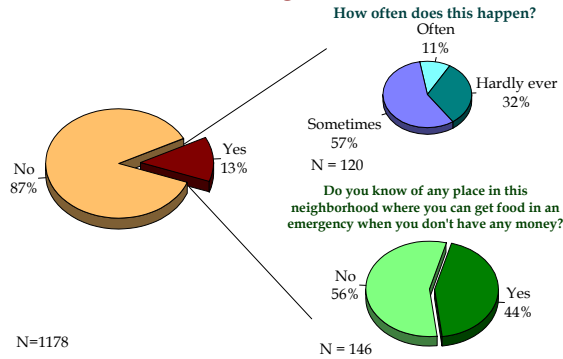


Do any of your children have any particular health problems you worry about?



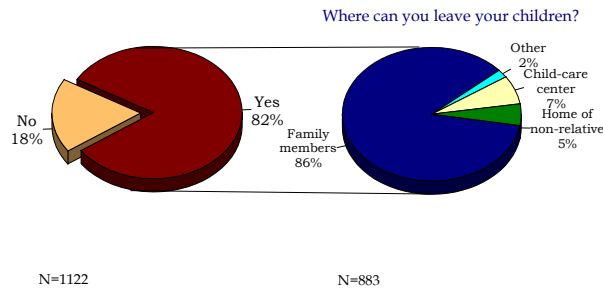
What is the status of their children's nutrition?

Do your children ever go hungry because you do not have enough food to feed them?



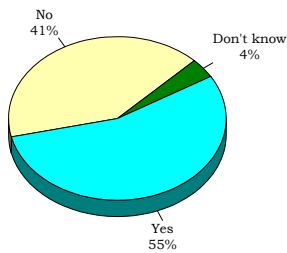
What child care is available?

Do you have a place where you can leave your child(ren) when you need child care on a regular basis?

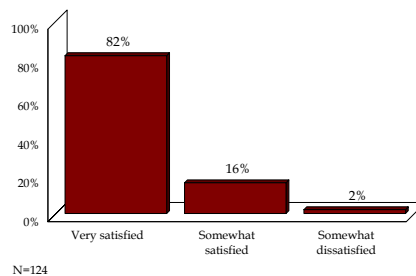


If children left with other than family members:

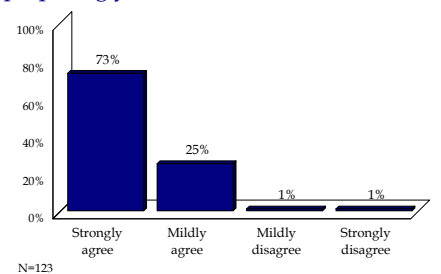
Is this place licensed?



How satisfied are you with this place?

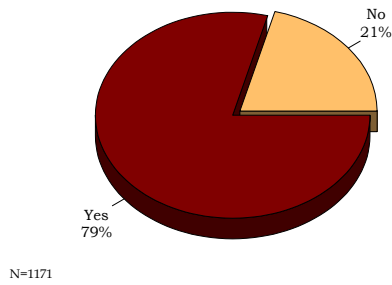


Do you think this place does a good job preparing your child to do well in school?

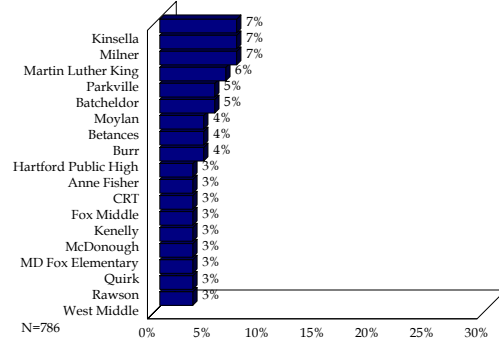


How are they involved in their children's schools?

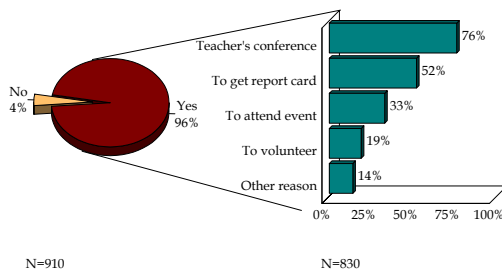
Do you have any children in school?



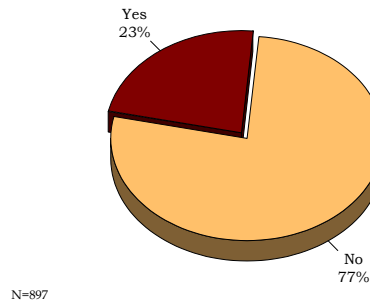
Which schools do they attend?



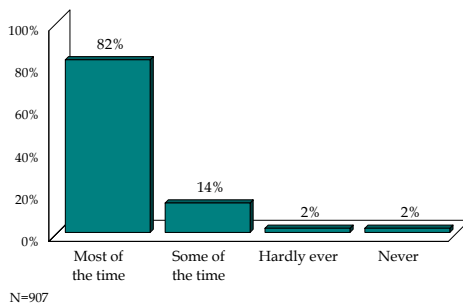
Have you gone to your child(ren)'s school this year?



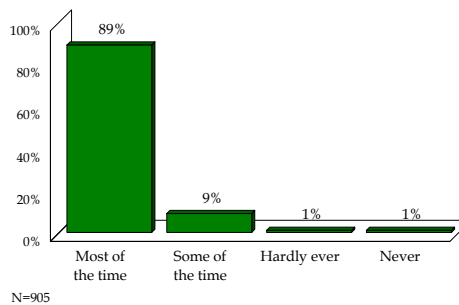
Are you a member of the PTO?



When the school sends home information, how often do you understand it? Is it...

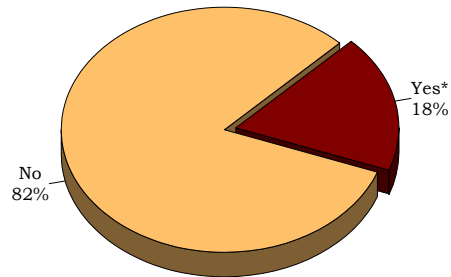


Do you feel welcome in your child's school...



Do their children have special needs?

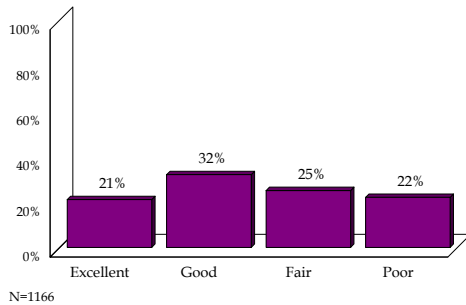
Do any of your children have any special needs?



N=1167
*See Appendix

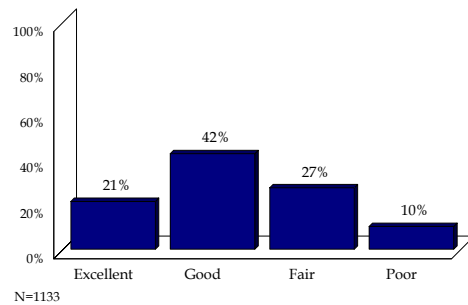
How do they perceive the quality of their neighborhoods?

Is this neighborhood a safe place to raise a family?



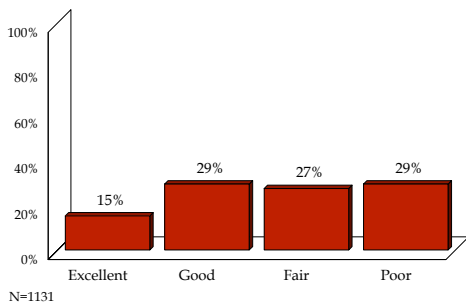
N=1166

How would you rate the quality of schools in this neighborhood...



N=1133

How would you rate places to do things together as a family in this neighborhood?



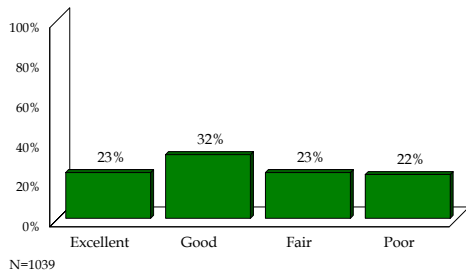
N=1131

How would you rate child care for preschool children in this neighborhood?

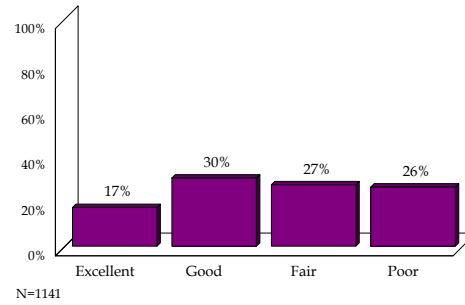


N=1026

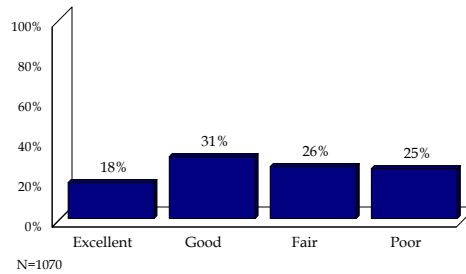
How would you rate the after-school programs for children in school in this neighborhood?



How would you rate police protection in this neighborhood?

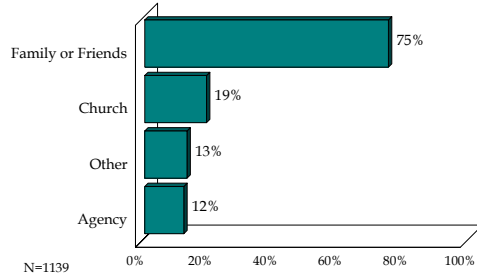


How would you rate places or programs to help kids do better in school in this neighborhood?

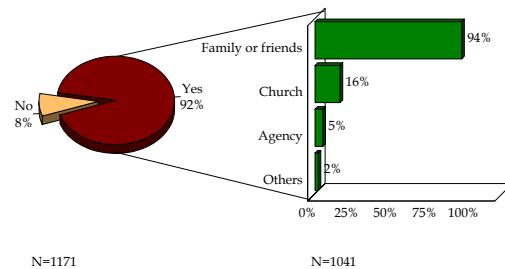


What support systems do they have?

When you need something for your family and don't know where to go, how do you learn about what to do?

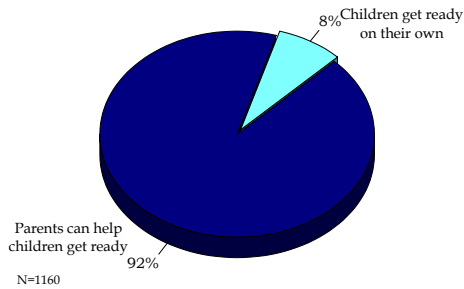


Are there people you can call on when you need help?

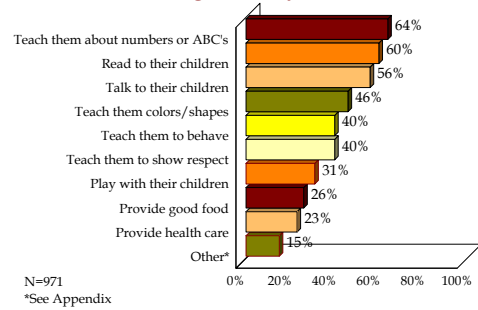


How do they perceive parents' ability to increase school readiness?

Do you think parents of young children can do things to help their children get ready to start school?

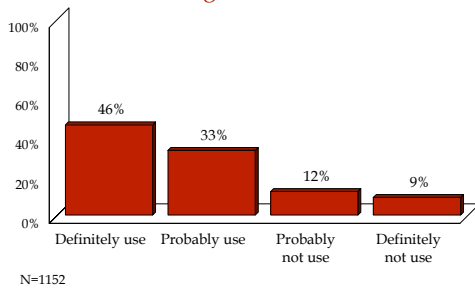


What do you think parents can do to help their children get ready to start school?

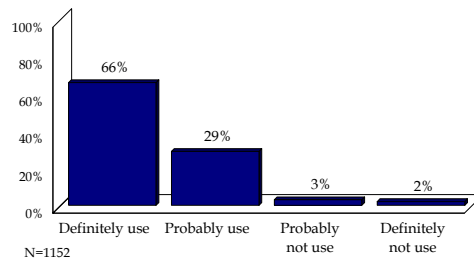


What would they use at a Family Center?

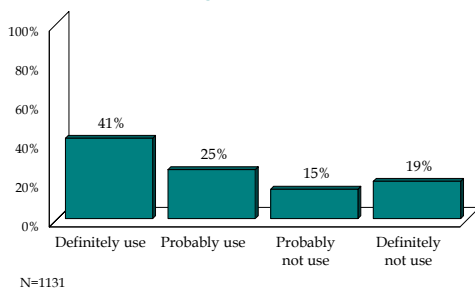
Would you use parenting classes if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



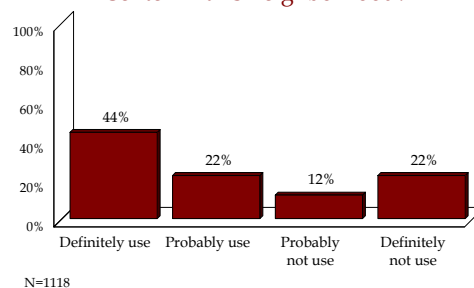
Would you use activities for parents and children to do together if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



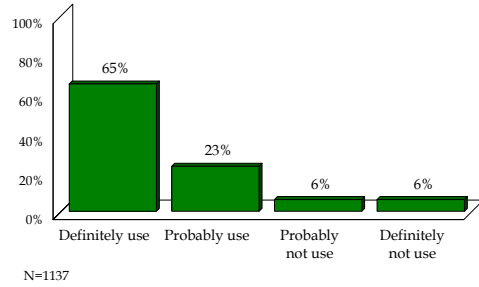
Would you use classes to help adults read better if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



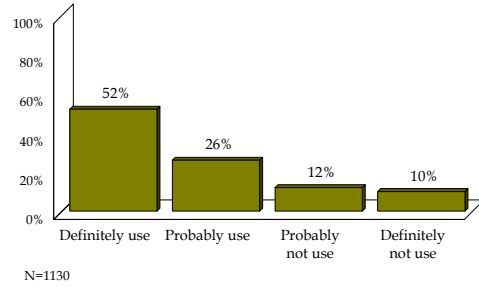
Would you use classes to help adults learn English if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



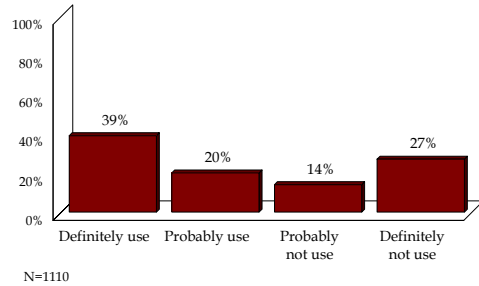
Would you use tutoring or homework help for children if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



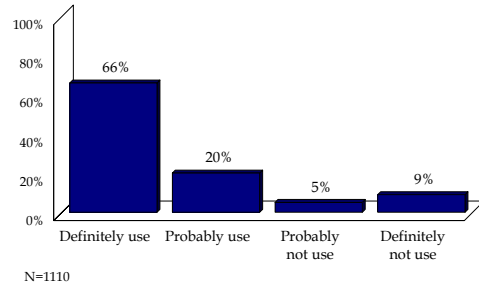
Would you use classes on money management if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



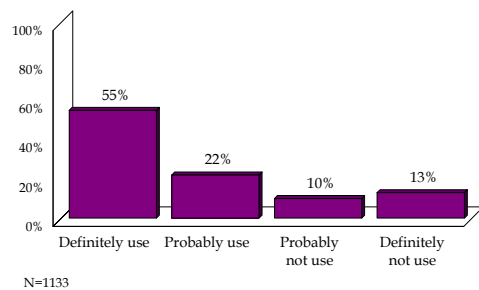
Would you use classes on prenatal care if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



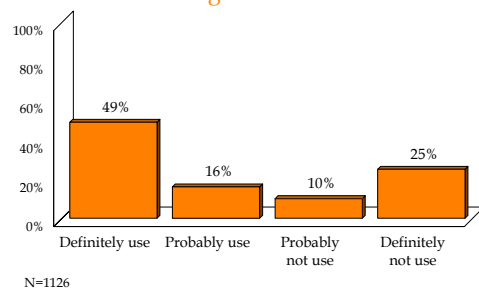
Would you use preschool programs for children if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



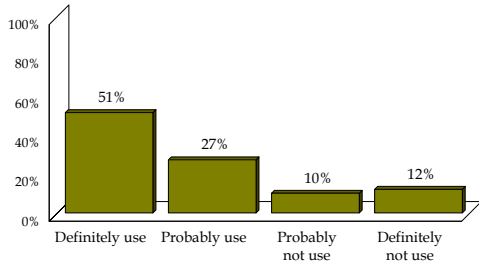
Would you use classes on how to deal with children when you are angry if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



Would you use GED classes for adults if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?

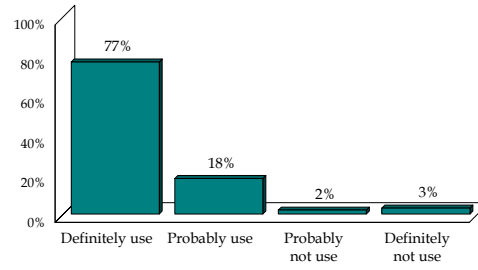


Would you use leadership training programs if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



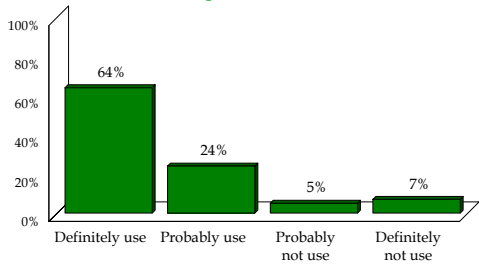
N=1124

Would you use summer programs for kids the age of your children if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



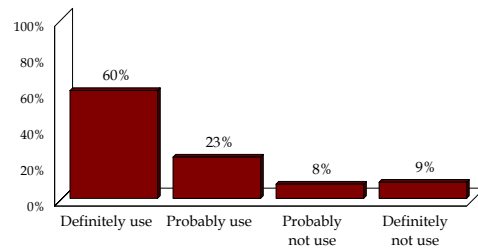
N=1144

Would you use cultural programs if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



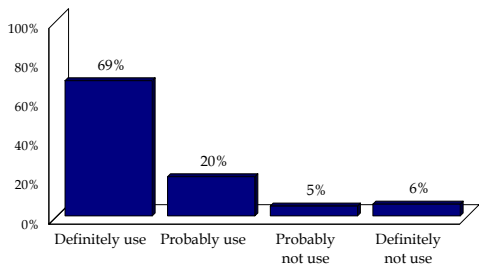
N=1143

Would you use classes to teach parents how to support their children if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



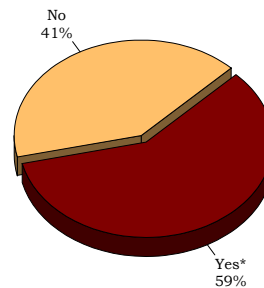
N=1139

Would you use play groups for preschool children if they were made available at a Family Center in this neighborhood?



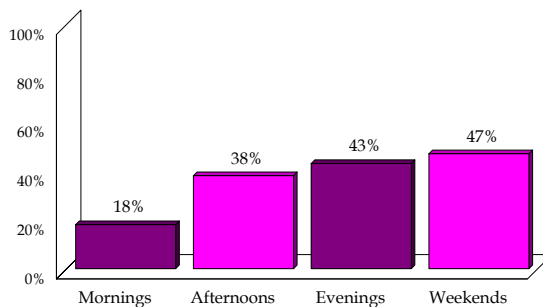
N=1135

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?



N=1126
*See Appendix

What time of day do you think your family would be most likely to use the Center?



N=1144

Appendix

What <i>other things</i> do you like to do with your child(ren)? <i>(Most frequent activities)</i>	Number
Play sports	87
Read	68
Attend church activities	22
Play arcade/video games	21
Shop	20
Travel	15
Cook	7

What <i>other</i> health problems do your children have? <i>(Most frequent problems)</i>	Number
Speech and hearing problems	8
Skin problems	8
ADD/ADHD	7
Heart problems	6
Allergies	6
Breathing problems	5
Epilepsy	4
Autism	3

What special needs do children have? <i>(Most frequent needs)</i>	Number
Health problems	39
Special education	24
Behavior problems	16
Speech problems	10

What other things do you think parents can do to help their children get ready to start school?

- #’S, songs, nursery rhymes
- Spend quality time
- Take them out, songs
- Coloring, drawing
- Write, sing
- Cultural
- Better ourselves
- Take them out, exposure
- Emergency info
- Speak to them in English
- Llevado al head start
- Teach writing skills
- TV programs
- Help with homework
- Compralo educatives
- Time deadlines
- Help with homework
- With getting to school
- Right\wrong
- Get them ready at home
- Testing math spec. ed. needs
- Ayuda home work
- Contar
- Los retrastos
- Puntar, escribir, sueno
- Everyday things, memory games
- Teach about being healthy
- Look for help
- Scribble
- Play with other children
- Ayudarle con la tarea
- Custarlo temprano, ropa
- Read
- Social/interaction skills
- Clothing & supplies
- Send to day care
- To share
- Weekend school at home
- Show them pictures
- Support
- Teach writing
- Teach music
- Tie their shoes
- Potty training

- Study with them
- Getting dressed
- Funding
- Numbers, interaction w/others
- Potty train
- Head start program
- Social interaction
- Dress
- Buy school supplies
- How to eat properly
- Manners
- Spend time with them
- Clothes
- Talk to them
- Keeping self straight
- Help them in all ways
- Give child more attention
- Educational cartoons
- Write name
- Practicing
- Tie shoes
- Numbers
- Be a role model
- Speak English
- Learn computers
- Sing along
- Count
- Children programs
- Introduce them to music
- Show books to her
- Expose them to plays, arts
- Be around strangers
- Communicate
- Educate them
- Sing to & with them
- In home
- Read
- Independence learning
- Go to church
- Write
- Pre-K, Head Start
- Learning games
- Parent education
- Night prep and bath

What other things do you think parents can do to help their children get ready to start school?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing• Night prep• Home ed. Share education• Teach the children• Math• Study• Prepare at night• Ready at night• Buy helpful material• Get involved in schools• Take to school/play• Put them in bed early• Day care• Library• Teach them at home• Teach them• Be example• Show school basics• Ensenarles como se vaman• Count, phone number | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach by example• Talk about drugs in school• Sharing• El ejemplo son los padres• Tener mas atencion con el• Su nombre• Practicing in writing• Talk to teacher• Pre-K• Mas unido con los padres• Preschool program• Head start• Out in the morning• Going to school• Teach to read, do numbers• Hygiene• Hygiene• Understanding• Pick out clothes H\W done• Sharing honesty |
|--|--|

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug program • DIY for men • Young adult pregnancy prevention • Computers • Boy scouts of America • Terapias parentinos • Job training • Arts/crafts, dance, sport • Swimming-arts • After school program • Computer • Health • Drug rehab • Sponsored field trip • Sports, karate, dance • Dancing, acting, self defense • Credit repair money mgmnt • How to invest in stocks • Basketball team • Swimming • Child aetirres • Community drill team • Understand behavior prg. • Children get along • Counseling • Acting classes & programs • Game club • Social behavior • Teaching children • Big brother • Available activities • Reading • Recreation • Recreation • Computer • Swimming • Reading educational • Psychology • Day care for babies • Computation • Computadora • Computer work preparation • Sitio niños puedan jugar sane • Computer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline • Community involvement • After school • Mas recreation • Computer • Help with homework • More recreation • Music • Consejeria matrimonial • Manualidades • Child care • More raffles • Arts and crafts • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports\dancing • More stores • Compartir entre la familia • En alquiar es bueno • Maps • Como ayudar los padres • Crt • Homework help • Niños ayudar al padre • Cualquiera • Counseling • Pscologia • Problema adol. Con adicci • Sports, arts & crafts, exercising • Deportes • Expand park • Salud primer hig • Ayuda a los padres • More store • Computadora • Day care • Sports, dance, arts • Proper behavior for kids • Recreation • Sports, exercise • Arts-crafts dance • Compartir entre padres
---	--

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enseñanza • Como ayudar a los padres • Programa personas emigran • Mas recreacion • Computadora • Computadora • Spanish as second language • Clases de ingles • Mas programas para niños • Preescolar • Computoria • Program de nunos con habir • Casa para que los ninos a • Costura • Health program for asthmatics • Counseling • Tutoring • Family recreation • Cualgier program • Computacion • Entertainment center • Exercise, sports • Sports • Dance / music • Sports • Sports • Help looking for job • Tutoring, sports, clubs • Summer program • Music and dance • Actividades con padre • Ayudan estudios • Ayuda a asignaciones • Arregler calle (dump) • Mas recreacion para ninos • Comp, youth bible, • Scout, boys club, many others • Food share, computer training • Vocational training • Computer training • Computer, certified trainings • Computer classes • After school tutoring • Computer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer training • Swimming • Stopping violence • Stopping violence • Anything helpful • Probably • Adult training • Children's program • After school program • Adult Ed classes • Educational • Anger management • Day care • Classes for employment skills • Job training • Training program • Learning skills • Grandparenting class • Volunteer to help • Child care • Computer workshops • 2nd language, bilingual • After school • Learning Spanish • After school programs • Teen care/trips for teens • Job training • Child care • Daycare • Exercise • Managing kids • Job training • Computer • Counseling • Playground in neighborhood • Computer • Drug prevention • Computer • Computer training • Learning education program • Computer • Playground closer to child • Computer classes • Bball, other sports |
|--|---|

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball, football • Reading and fam. act • Reading/fam act., Sports • Speaking, Spanish class • Sewing, crafts • Sports programs • Home Ed classes, exercise • Business management • Computer training • Computer training • Business • Bible study • Computer training • Computer training • Education support • All sports • Computer • Circle • Black history program • Computer • Drug deterrents • Tutoring • Emp. Ag. • Women classes • Job training • Sewing + cooking • Recreational program • More educational activities • Plays • Community activities • Sports programs • Sports • Sports • Religious groups • Play group with all races • Computacion • Evening care, piano • Computer • Sports • Sports • Artes manuales • Computadores artes manual • Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manualidades • Prepararlo para riesgos • Health education classes • Outdoor activities • Camp • Viajes • Trips • Religiosos o viajes • Summer camps • Sports • Field trips • Learn English • Dependiendo • Reading (variety) • Computers • Computer • Coloring, art, reading • Madres solteras • Centro recreacions • Computers • Camping & outdoors • Camp • Mantener ninos ocupados • Spanish • Sports • Reposteria • Bailar • Deportes • Craft courses • Swimming & computers • After school activities • Martial arts • Resource center • Swim, dance, music, Spanish • Models, sports, computers, dance • Computers, swimming • Sports, martial arts, swim • Music class • Sports • Place to hang out & talk • Abstinence • Swimming • Computer training |
|---|---|

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical instrument, soccer • Children w/disabilities • Classes for young ladies • Gym facilities • Black history, create web pages • Learn English • Web program, arts & craft • Sports activities • Help child read better • West Indian culture • Computer training • Something of interest • Skating • Volleyball team • More playgrounds for kids • Sports • Boy scouts, boys club etc • Field trips/holiday event • Camping, comp class • Parenting • Grandparent support group • Sex education/drugs • Recreation • Parenting, big brother • Computer classes • Summer school • Educational • Better community center • Boys & girls club • Dealing w/family changes • Investment • Free computer training • Transportation • Drug/teen pregnancy prevention • Job readiness program • Parenting counseling • Computer class • Consejeria • Pool park • Recreation • Computer • Childcare • Educational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Swimming class • Field trips • Transportation • Early school for children • Sports for kids • Outdoor activities • Transportation • After school programs • Cooking classes • Transportation • Learning centers • Art, crafts, sports • Activities • Community programs • Community centers • Free classes • Tutoring • Tutoring • Gym • Para alluda • Ones that benefit education • Dance • Music • Transportation for parent • Ensenar musica • Play ground • Help find job • Education • Cultural arts and crafts • Exercise music • Sports • Dance • Language, comp classes • Arts and crafts, dance • Day care, working parents • Programa para trabajo • Childcare • Young parent education • Los de arriba • Job search • Computer • Home financing program
---	---

Are there other programs that your family would use if the Family Center were to offer them?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social workers • Trabajos de velano • Swimming lessons • Some deportes • En lo iglesia • Iglesia • Church • Cultural • Sports, arts, crafts • Ayuda con renta • Summer school • Recreational • Transportation to trust house • Rels clones humanas • Computer class • Clases de ingles • Cna, day care • Council • Employment training • Parents going to every class • Home buyers org • Summer programs • Kids study programs • Community center • GED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult literacy program • Job placement • Jobs/volunteer • Computers • Child care • Job training • Urban development • Special needs counseling • Mentoring program • Iglesia • Psychology class • Programs to learn more • Transportation to get to trust house • Publicize trust house more • Arts, dance • Tutorias de clases • Computer classes • Sports • Control w\fam. Sales of drugs • Sports • Martial arts, B-ball, Black history • Swimming, Black history • Arts, music, exercise • Exercise |
|--|--|