THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: Supporting Parents With Young Children

The results of our statewide survey on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on parents with infants and toddlers

KEY FINDINGS

1. New York’s parents of infants and toddlers are experiencing intense financial insecurity during this time. As a result of this crisis, many parents are skipping or reducing their family’s meals.

2. For many New York families, the coronavirus crisis has been incredibly disruptive and put parents’ and young children’s well-being at risk.

3. The coronavirus crisis has significantly changed parents’ child care arrangements and other parenting supports. The crisis has introduced a lot of uncertainty about child care for many parents of young children in New York, including among essential workers.

4. Some — but not all — parents have been in a position to make the most out of this time with their child, though more time at home has come at the expense of more screen time for infants and toddlers.

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.9%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
Job loss and fears of job loss are widespread among parents of infants and toddlers

16%  
Unemployed, furloughed, or laid off

34%  
Have had hours or pay reduced or taken time off work to care for their child

67%  
Worried about losing their jobs or having their hours reduced

More than half of parents of infants and toddlers are “uneasy” about their personal finances

Thinking about your family’s personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?

19% Very uneasy

15% Very confident

32% Somewhat uneasy

34% Somewhat confident

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/- 4.8%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
1 in 3 parents of infants and toddlers are skipping or reducing meals

Have you done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?

Many parents of infants and toddlers are facing a food crisis

Have you done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKIPPED/REDUCED THEIR OWN MEALS:</th>
<th>SKIPPED/REDUCED THEIR CHILD’S MEALS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Furloughed workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>Income $50,000-$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>Single parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Income &lt;$50,000/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.9%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
The crisis is disrupting the lives and risking the well-being of families with infants and toddlers

Below are some statements about the coronavirus crisis. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each one.

- **75%**  
  I worry about my and/or my family’s mental health as a result of the coronavirus crisis

- **73%**  
  The coronavirus crisis has significantly disrupted my home and family life

- **68%**  
  I worry my child’s social, emotional, and cognitive development will suffer as a result of the coronavirus crisis

- **25%**  
  I worry about the impact of issues like substance abuse and domestic violence on my family

More than 3 in 4 parents of young children are experiencing higher levels of stress

Would you say your level of stress as a parent is...

- **37%**  
  Much higher than usual

- **40%**  
  Somewhat higher than usual

- **19%**  
  About the same as it usually is

- **1%**  
  Somewhat lower than usual

- **2%**  
  Much lower than usual

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.8%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
The child care landscape for infants and toddlers has shifted dramatically

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, what did you do for childcare during work or school hours? What do you do for child care now due to coronavirus?

Please select any of the following that apply to you:

26% My child’s child care/day care provider closed or modified its hours due to coronavirus

26% I had to make alternate child care arrangements or stay home with my child due to coronavirus

23% I pulled my child out of child care/day care due to coronavirus

17% My child’s babysitter, nanny, or other caregiver can no longer take care of my child due to the restrictions around coronavirus

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.8%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
Most parents of infants and toddlers say their current child care situation is only somewhat workable or is not workable

Why did you say your current child care situation is only somewhat workable/not workable?

Parents say the crisis has been disruptive for their infants and toddlers

Would you say the changes to your routine you have had to make as a result of the crisis have been...
Parents of infants and toddlers are uncertain about child care arrangements when the crisis ends

What do you plan to do for child care once the coronavirus crisis is over?

- 51% I plan to return to the child care provider I had before
- 12% I plan to return to the child care provider I had before, but I will need less care
- 10% I plan to return to the child care provider I had before, but I will need more care
- 6% I do not plan to return to my previous child care provider
- 21% Not sure

More than half of parents who rely on family child care providers and child care centers expect to need additional support to help their children return

When day care and child care centers re-open, do you anticipate your child needing extra support when transitioning back to the child care/preschool setting? Select all that apply.

- 50% Yes, I anticipate my child will need additional support to transition back to school routines after time away
- 14% Yes, I anticipate my child will need counseling or other social-emotional supports
- 42% No, I don’t think my child will need extra support

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.8%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
More than 1 in 3 parents of infants and toddlers who rely on Early Intervention, Early Head Start, and home visitation programs that provide coaching for new parents are no longer receiving services.

Is the child currently receiving services?

- 38% No
- 18% Yes, services have continued as usual
- 44% Yes, my child is receiving services online

If no, why is the child currently not receiving services?

- 49% I was not given the option of online services
- 32% I was given the option of online services but did not think they would benefit my child
- 11% I was given the option of online services but did not have the technology (computer, tablet or smartphone, internet access)
- 10% I was given the option of online services but there is not an adult in our household that can participate in the sessions with my child
Higher-income parents and unemployed parents have been able to spend the most additional quality time with their infants and toddlers

Percent saying they are spending more or much more quality time with their child as a result of the coronavirus crisis...

75% Parents who are employed

89% Parents who are unemployed

72% Parents with income under $50,000

73% Parents with income $50,000-$100,000

81% Parents with income over $100,000
Parents are spending much more time engaging in indoor activities with their infants and toddlers

Below are some activities that some parents have done with their children while they are at home. For each one, please indicate if the time spent on these activities has increased, decreased or stayed about the same as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>Not Usually Do This</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playing games together</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking together</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and crafts</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical exercise</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor activities</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.9%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
Infants and toddlers are spending more time watching TV and in front of screens, and less time playing outdoors

Below are some activities your child could be doing while at home. Please indicate if your child is spending more, less or stayed the same as usual doing each activity as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

**WATCHING TV**

- 71% More time
- 4% Less time
- 21% About the same amount
- 4% My child doesn't usually do this

**USING DEVICES LIKE A COMPUTER/IPAD/TABLET**

- 67% More time
- 2% Less time
- 17% About the same amount
- 13% My child doesn't usually do this

**PLAYING OUTDOORS**

- 34% More time
- 46% Less time
- 16% About the same amount
- 5% My child doesn't usually do this

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.9%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
More than 9 in 10 parents of young children support greater public investment in quality affordable child care

Broadly speaking, do you support or oppose New York State investing more public funds in expanding access to quality, affordable child care/preschool for New York families with young children ages 0 to 3?

The vast majority of parents of young children believe government should be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers are healthy and developmentally on track

In your opinion, should New York State be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers in New York are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Resources</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing parents with free online resources to use with their children during this time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Access</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing free or increased internet access to families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telehealth</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing parents access to their child’s doctor via telehealth through technology like a computer, tablet, or telephone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proving meals that parents can pick up in their communities or have delivered to their home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Leave</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing additional paid or unpaid leave so parents can stay home with their children during the crisis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing parents with creative activities for children using household items / other ways to limit screen-time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Raising NY. The survey was conducted from 4/18 - 4/22 and had a confidence interval of +/-4.9%. Learn more at RaisingNY.org/Coronavirus.
### Equity Priorities: Action needed now to support struggling parents (continued)

#### Resources
- **Sharing examples of resources to help parents support their child’s development while they are at home**
  - 89% of parents say it would be helpful
  - 16% of parents say have received or have access to

#### Meeting Family Needs
- **Connecting parents to resources that can help with food, housing, employment, health, & other needs**
  - 87% of parents say it would be helpful
  - 14% of parents say have received or have access

#### Food Insecurity
- **Providing ATM-like cards that parents can use to purchase food at local grocery stores**
  - 85% of parents say it would be helpful
  - 12% of parents say have received or have access to

#### Unemployment Compensation
- **Providing additional unemployment compensation**
  - 83% of parents say it would be helpful
  - 15% of parents say have received or have access to

#### Working from Home
- **Providing tips for parents on how to balance caring for their child while working from home**
  - 82% of parents say it would be helpful
  - 14% of parents say have received or have access to