

The Passaic County Council for Young Children Needs Assessment



In 2016, the Passaic County Council for Young Children thru the United Way of Passaic County, contracted with the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) at Montclair State University to conduct a needs assessment of parents and caregivers with children aged 8 years and younger who live in Passaic County. More than 200 parents and caregivers and 17 stakeholders in Passaic County shared their thoughts and opinions about the education, health, and well-being of young children. The following information provides a snapshot of the key findings from the study.

WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT THE ASSETS



97% of parents and caregivers reported their children were physically active for 1 hour or more each day.



88% of parents and caregivers reported their children ate vegetables more than once the prior day.



61% of parents and caregivers reported their children were enrolled in a Head Start Program or licensed certified child care center.



61% of parents and caregivers reported that they or someone in their home read a book for 15 minutes or more to their children aged 5 years or younger three or more times a week.

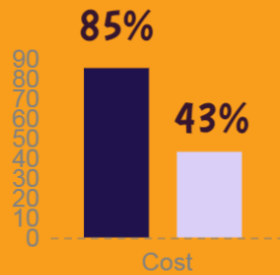


56% of parents and caregivers reported that their child, between the grades of kindergarten and 3, read to themselves or others for 15 minutes or longer three or more times each week.



56% of parents and caregivers surveyed reported that there are good child care options in their neighborhood.

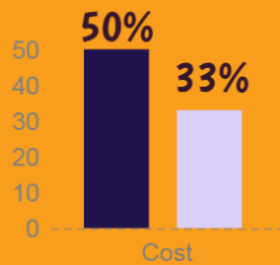
WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT THE NEEDS



85% of stakeholders reported that the main difficulty in getting food was cost whereas 43% of parents and caregivers perceived cost to be the main difficulty.



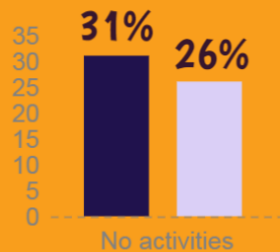
of parents and caregivers reported that their children did not drink plain, sparkling, or zero-calorie flavored water the previous day.



50% of stakeholders indicated that cost was a major challenge when parents and caregivers were searching for child care, preschool, or school-based program compared to 33% of parents and caregivers.



of parents and caregivers reported that that they or someone in their house read to their children aged 5 years or younger every day.



31% of stakeholders reported that there are no activities for children in parents neighborhood compared to 26% of parents and caregivers.



of parents and caregivers reported that their children were exposed to 2 or more hours of screen time (e.g., t.v., tablet, iPod, video games etc) each weekday.

NEXT STEPS

1

Accommodate parents/caregivers desire to receive information about services and programming via latest technology including internet and text messages.

2

Provide resources to develop the child's reading habits and increase the frequency of reading at home.

3

Provide coordinated services - offer multiple services at one location; expand variety of programs; offer extended weekend hours.

4

Offer affordable and accessible recreational spaces and more family friendly activities.

5

Provide increased training opportunities for parents and caregivers to increase skills, knowledge and awareness that help to strengthen the family and the child especially in the areas of: Health and Development; Nutrition; Behavior and Discipline; Physical Activity; and English Language Skills (ESL).