

RAPID-SW MICHIGAN COMMUNITY VOICES PROJECT

Data Briefing- Recruitment Survey 1 & 2
January 23rd, 2024

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Early Childhood

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OVERVIEW

- Sample Description of the Initial & Second Recruitment Survey
- Child Care Preferences
- Child Care Subsidy
- New Questions Added in Second Recruitment Survey
 - Willingness to Use Center-Based Care
 - GSRP Program Enrollment
 - Importance of Preschool Experiences
 - Most Wanted Types of Providers for Preschool
 - Child Disability & Receiving Support

Sample Description

Initial Recruitment Survey

- N = 910; April 26th – May 9th, 2023
- Race/Ethnicity:
 - 14.8% (n = 134) Black
 - 9.4% (n = 85) Latinx
 - 18.9% (n = 171) other racial/ethnic groups
 - 56.9% (n = 515) White
- Income Levels:
 - 26.0% (n = 222) below 200% FPL
 - 68.0% (n = 581) 200%-400% FPL
 - 6.0% (n = 51) above 400% FPL
- Counties:
 - Berrien County: 21.7%, n = 197
 - Branch County: 6.6%, n = 60
 - Calhoun County: 15.7%, n = 143
 - Cass County: 9.0%, n = 82
 - Kalamazoo County: 26.4%, n = 240

Second Recruitment Survey

- N = 703; October 9th – October 27th, 2023
- Race/Ethnicity:
 - 20.1% (n = 141) Black
 - 10.4% (n = 73) Latinx
 - 3.1% (n = 21) other racial/ethnic groups
 - 66.5% (n = 467) White
- Income Levels:
 - 12.8% (n = 89) below 200% FPL
 - 81.8% (n = 567) 200%-400% FPL
 - 5.3% (n = 37) above 400% FPL
- Counties:
 - Berrien County: 13.5%, n = 95
 - Branch County: 28.0%, n = 197
 - Calhoun County: 11.4%, n = 80
 - Cass County: 9.8%, n = 69
 - Kalamazoo County: 14.7%, n = 103

Survey Recruitment (valid responses)

Survey 1 (May 2023)

- Regional Economic Development Organizations: 218
- Pulse: 19
- City of Kalamazoo: 12
- Other/unknown source: 661

No valid responses

- St. Joseph Great Start Collaborative
- Great Start Collaboratives
- Childcare providers & directors
- Cinco de Mayo event

Survey 2 (October 2023)

- Great Start Collaboratives: 610
- Early Learning & Care Providers: 21
- Community spaces (libraries, museums, etc.): 7
- Pulse diaper distribution event: 2
- Pulse network: 1
- Other/unknown source: 62

No valid responses

- Economic development partners
- Municipalities

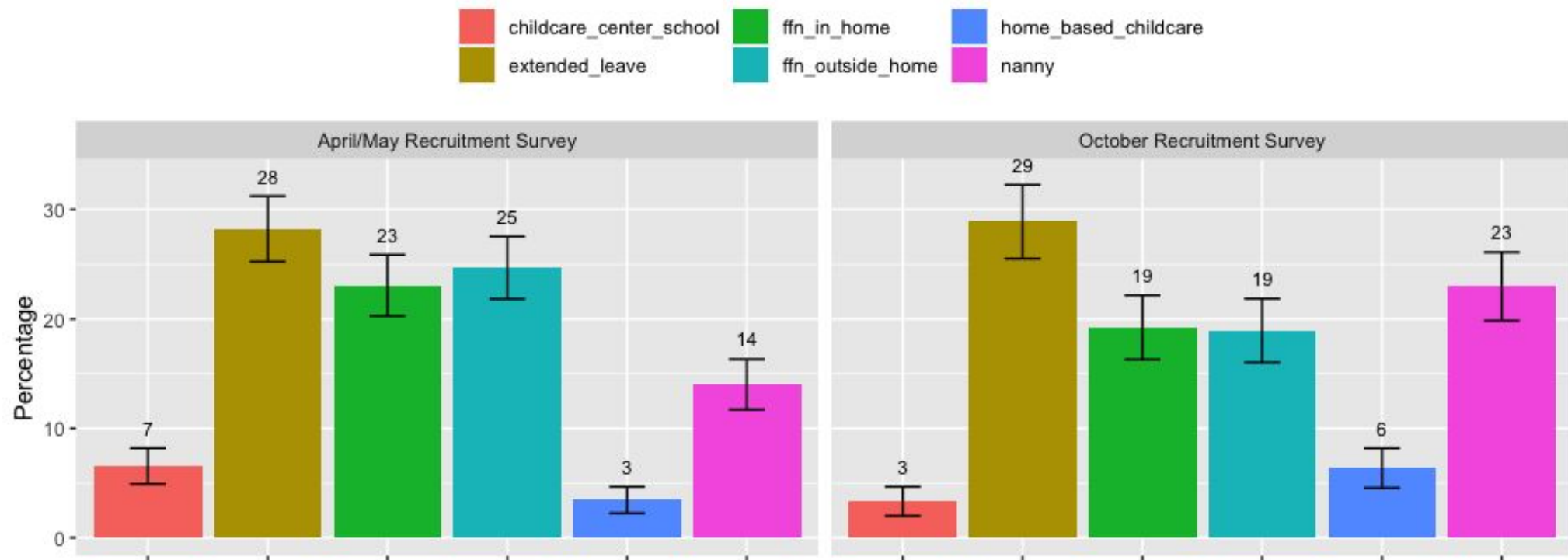
Child Care Preferences

New Parent Ideal Child Care Arrangement

Survey Question: When you were a new parent, what would your most ideal child care arrangement have been?

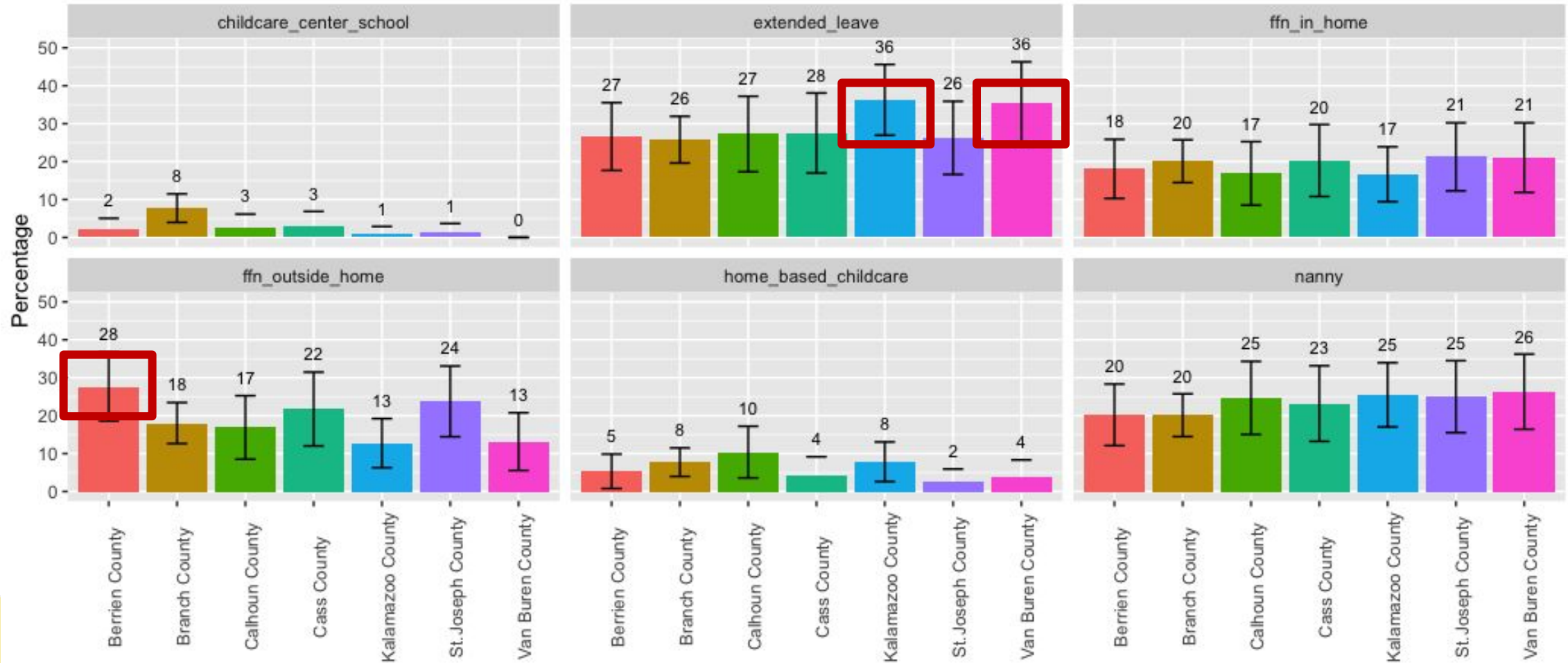
- Extended leave or financial support so I could stay home with my child(ren)
- Friends/extended family members (other than parents)/neighbors in my home
- Friends/extended family members (other than parents)/neighbors outside of my home
- Nanny or nanny share in my home
- Licensed child care in a home-based setting outside of my home (e.g., family child care home)
- Child care center or school
- Not listed

Ideal Child Care Arrangement, Overall



New Parent Ideal Child Care Arrangement County Differences in Recent Survey

Ideal Child Care Arrangement, Overall

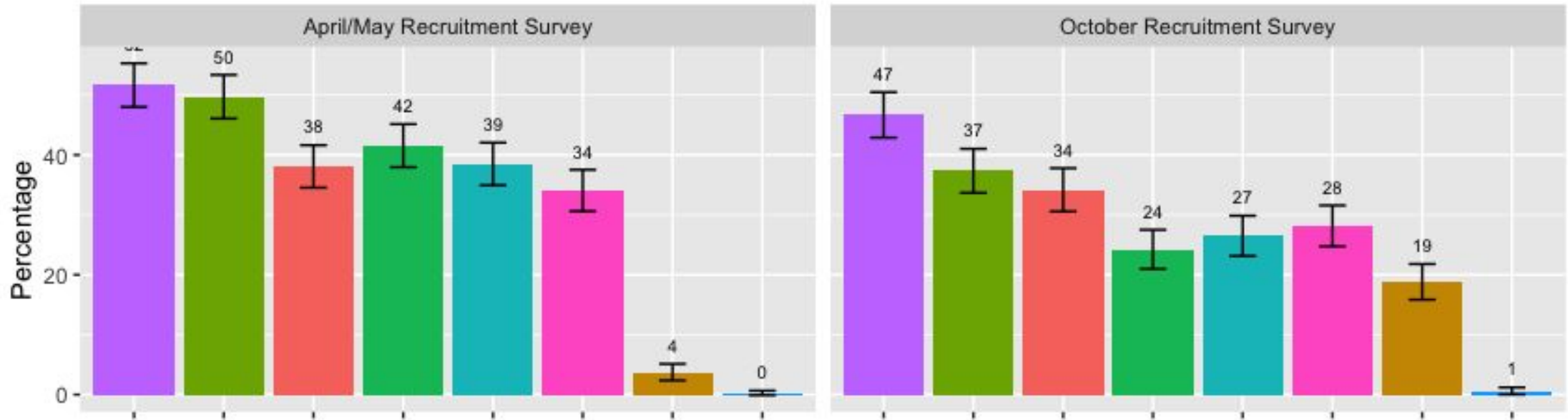


Ideal Child Care Arrangement When Having Equal Access

Survey Question: If all types of arrangements were equally priced and equally accessible to your family what would be your ideal child care arrangement for your youngest child? (Select all that apply)

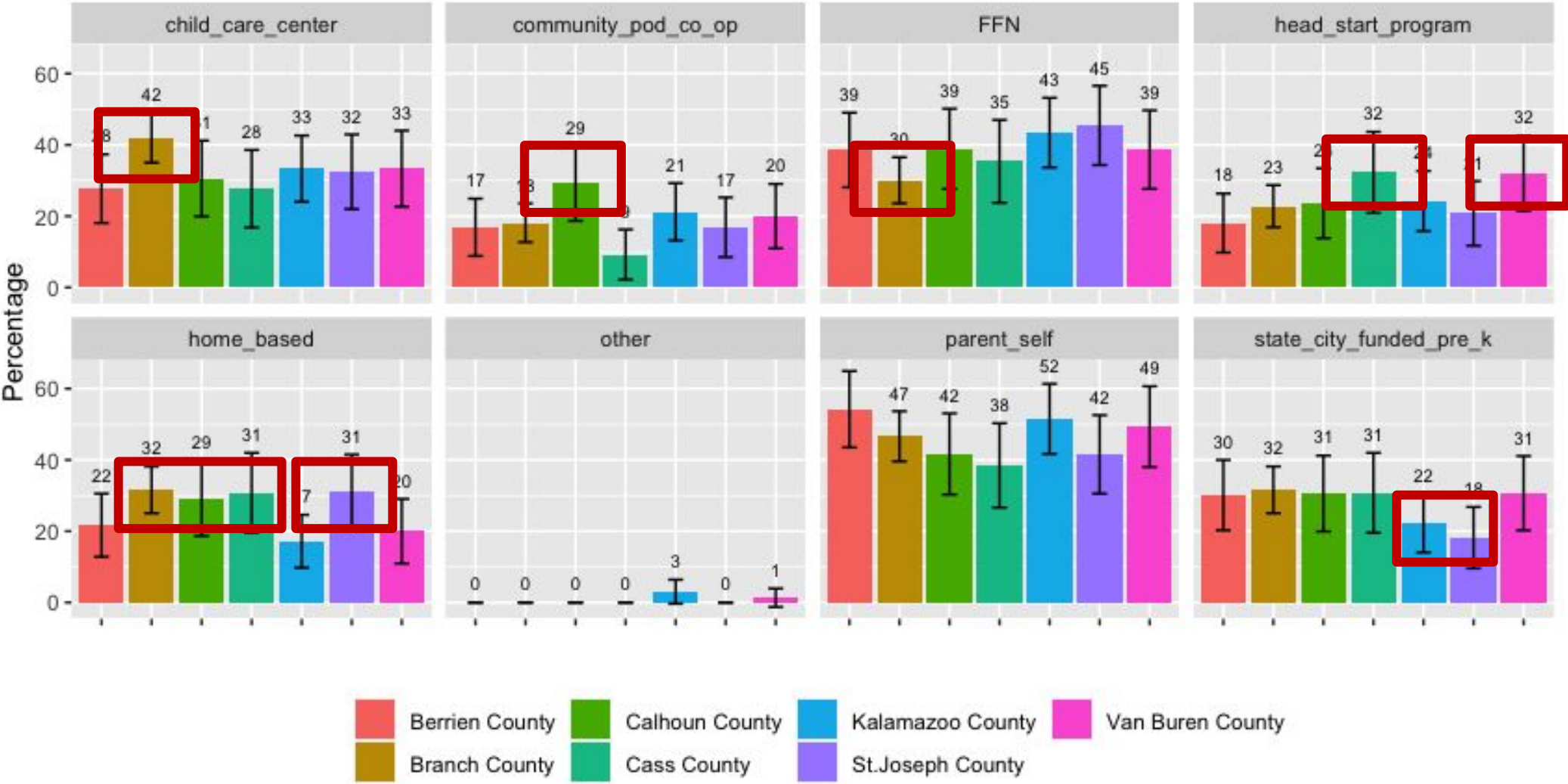
- Child Care Center
- Home-based
- State or city-funded Pre-K program (that may operate in a center or school)
- Head Start program (that may operate in a center or school)
- Relative (e.g., grandparent, aunt/uncle)
- I would provide care for my child
- My spouse/partner would provide care for our child
- Non-relative friend or neighbor
- Community pod or co-op
- Other

Ideal Child Care Arrangement When Having Equal Access, Overall



Ideal Child Care Arrangement When Having Equal Access County Differences in Recent Survey

Ideal Child Care Arrangement When Having Equal Access, Overall



Child Care Subsidy

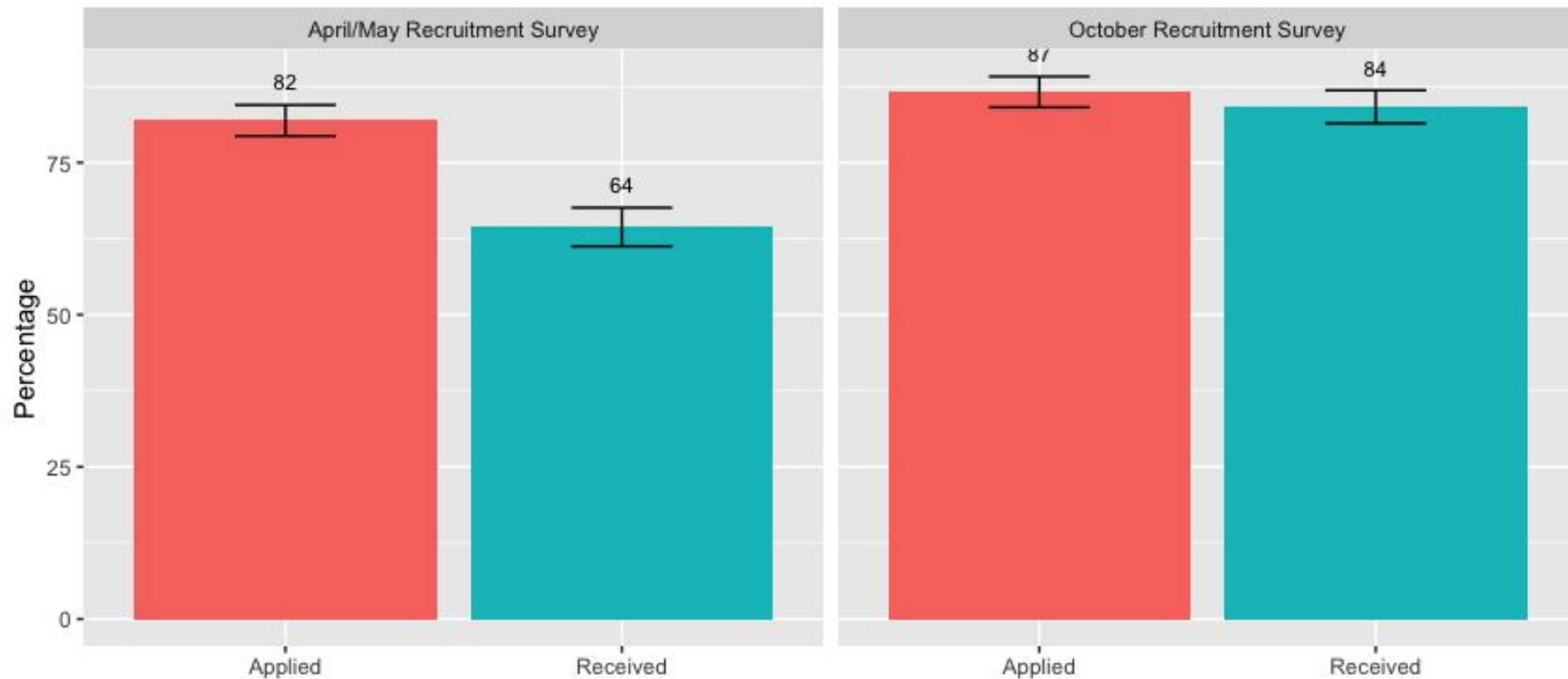
Applied for/Received Child Care Subsidy

Survey Responses:

Have you applied for a childcare subsidy through the state of Michigan? – Yes/No

Have you received a childcare subsidy through the state of Michigan? – Yes/No

Applied for and Receiving Child Care Subsidy, Overall

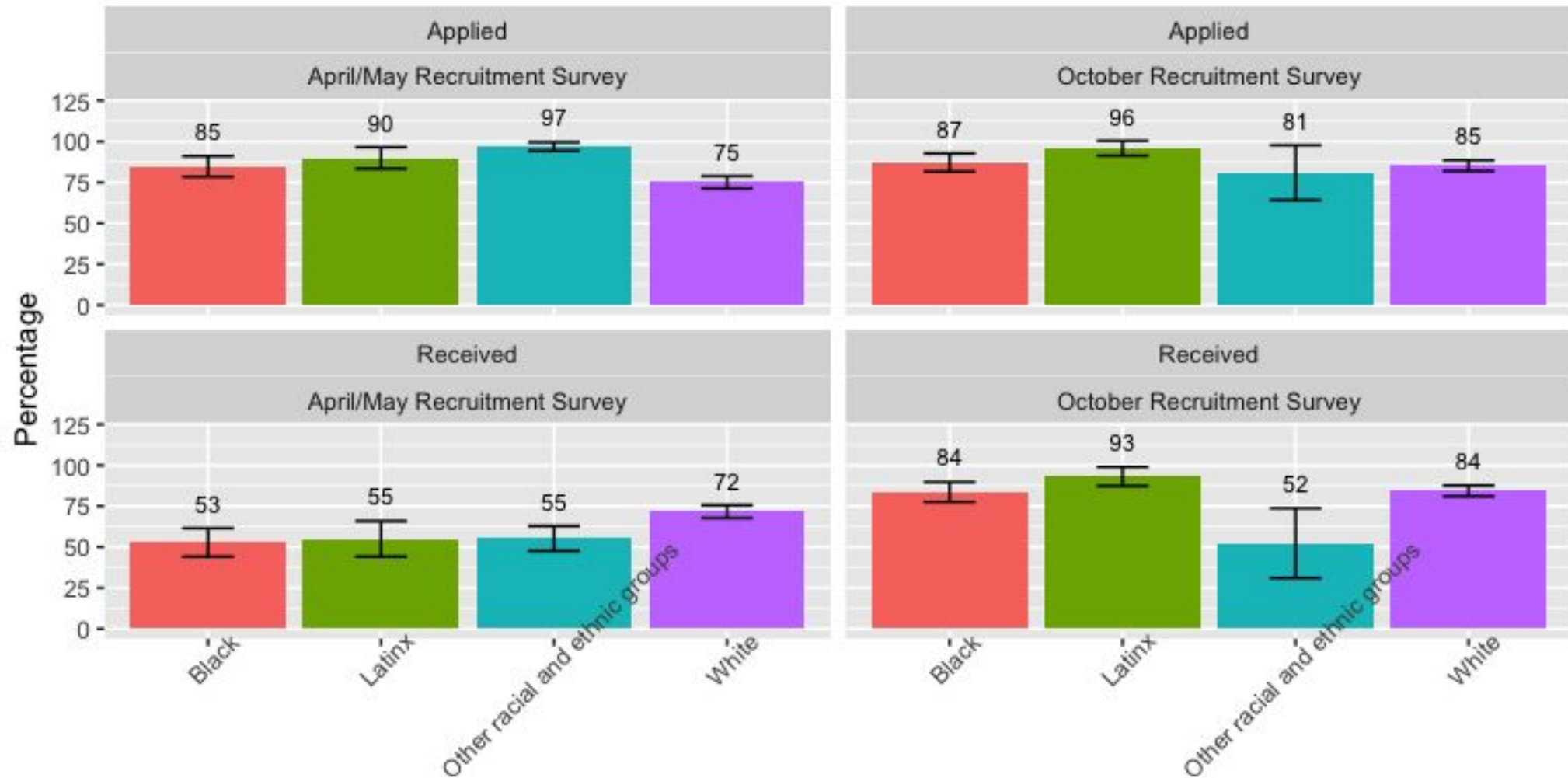


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In addition, **99%** in survey 1 & **96%** in survey 2 reported the copayment being affordable

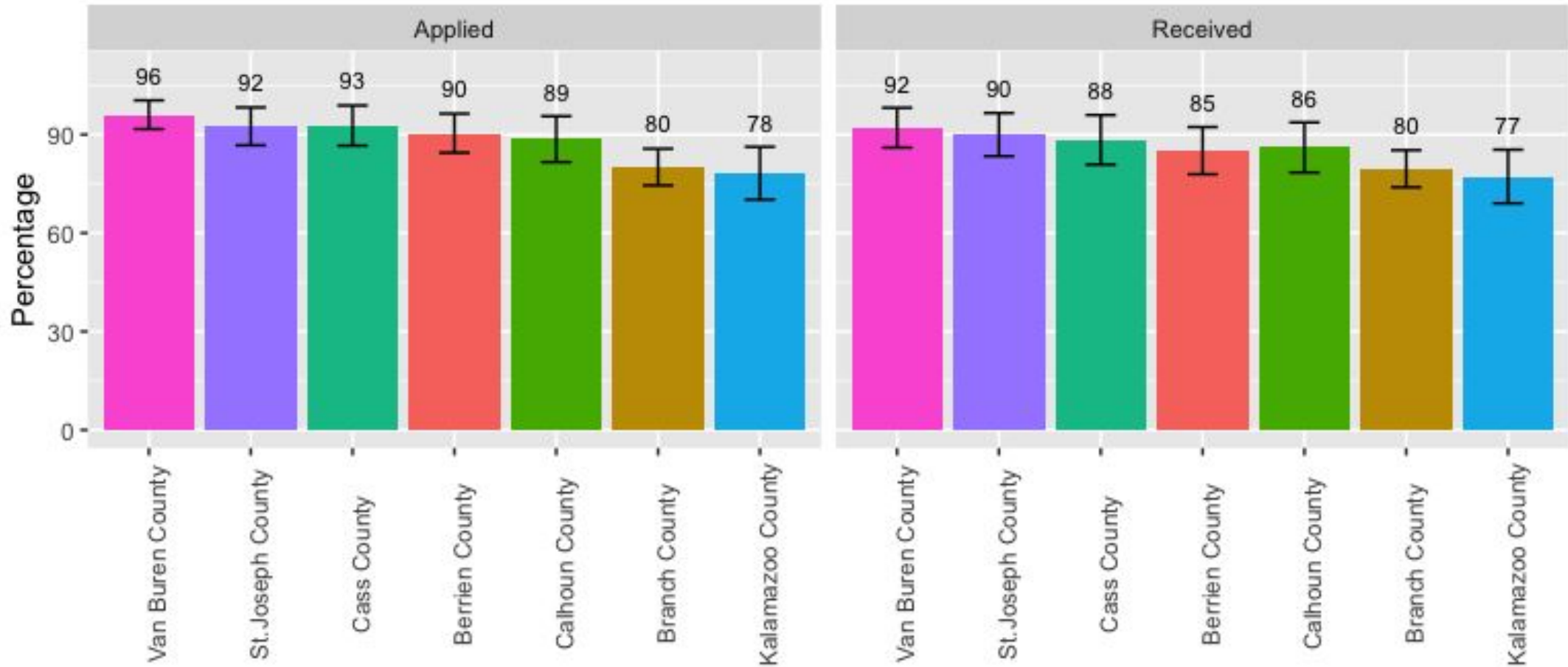
Applied for/Received Child Care Subsidy Racial/Ethnic Differences

Applied for and Receiving Child Care Subsidy, by Race/Ethnicity



Applied for/Received Child Care Subsidy County Differences in Recent Survey

Applied for and Receiving Child Care Subsidy, by County

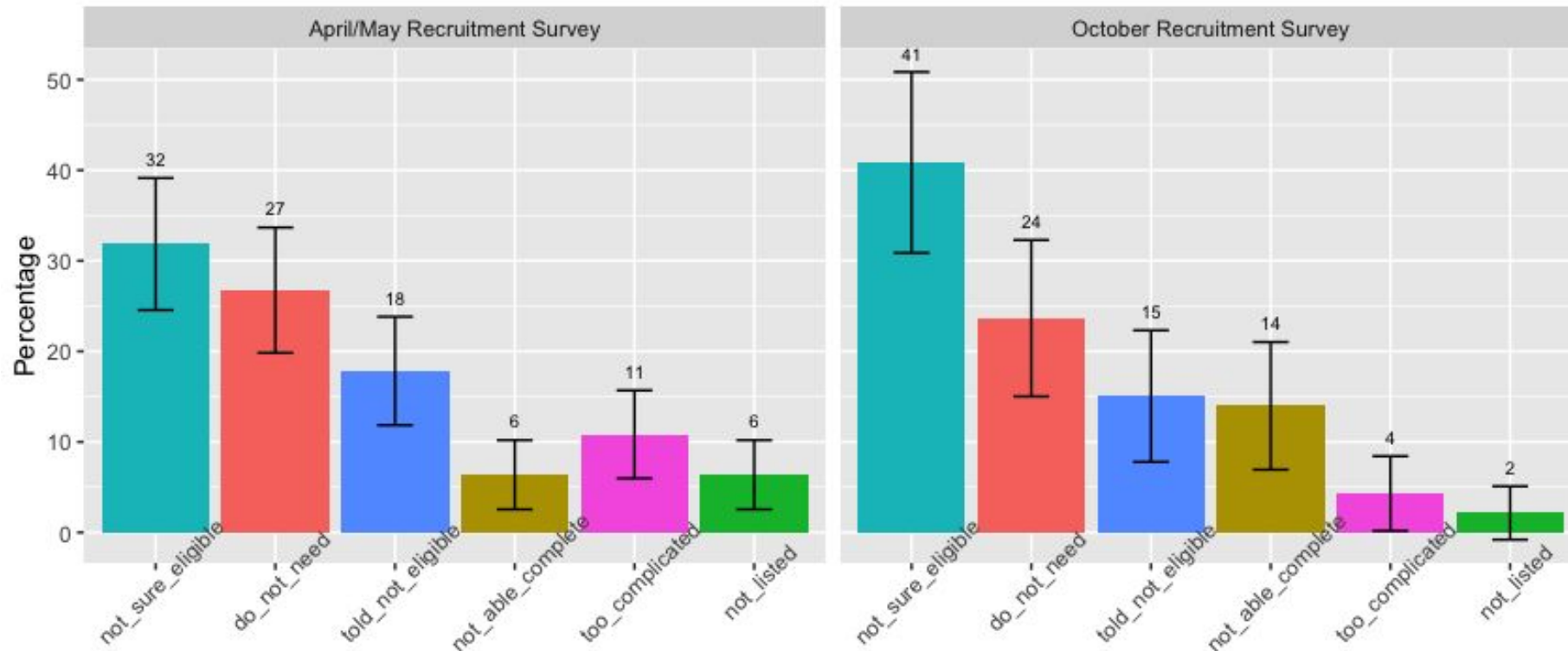


Why Not Applying for Subsidy

Survey Question: Why have you not applied for public assistance for child care?

- I am not sure if my family is eligible
- I was told my family is not eligible
- I don't think my family needs it
- I tried to apply but wasn't able to complete the process
- I did not apply because the process seemed too complicated (e.g., language barriers, too much paperwork)
- Not listed

Reason of NOT Applying for Child Care Subsidy, Overall

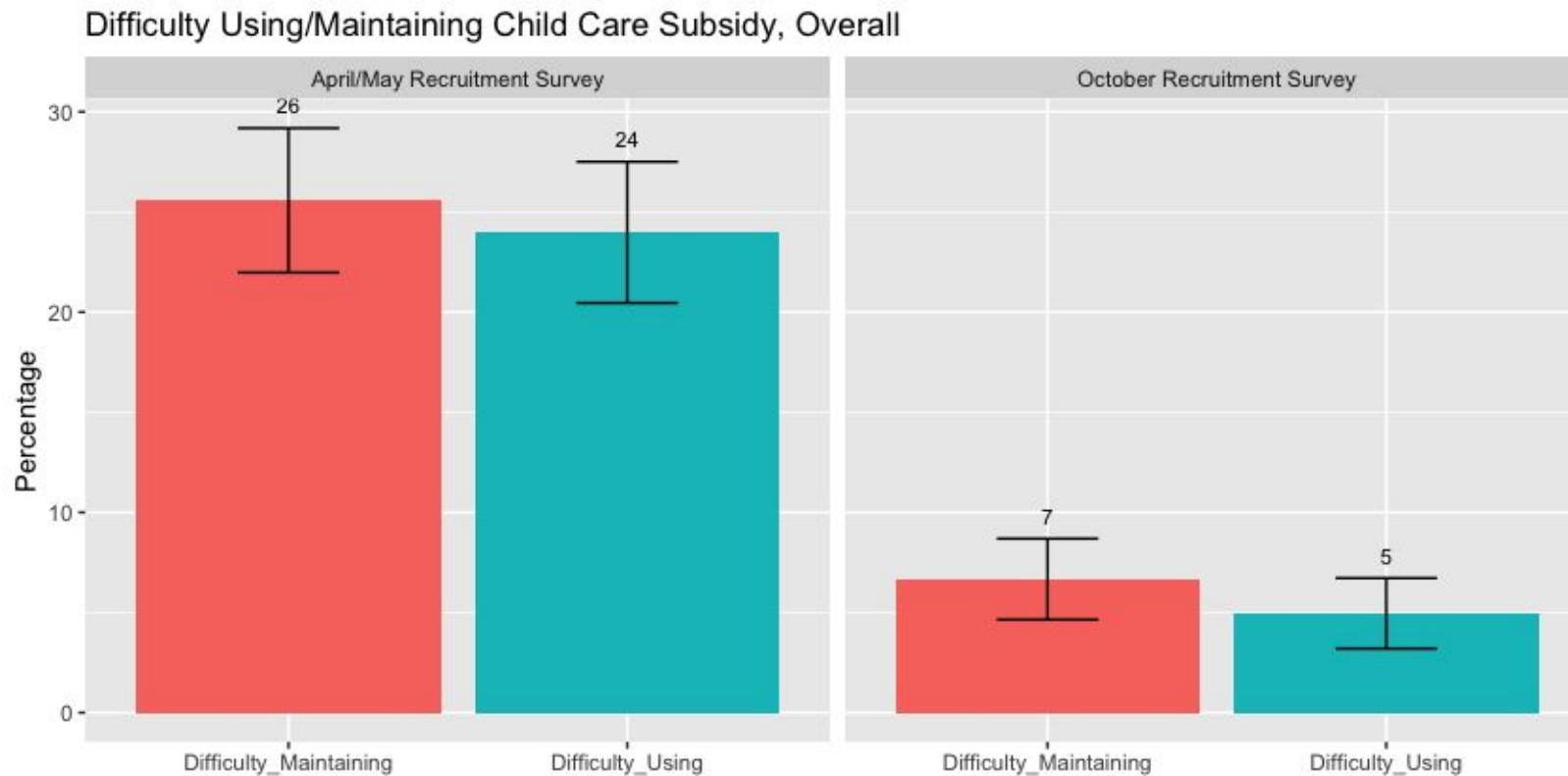


Difficulty Finding Accepting Provider & Maintaining Subsidy

Survey Question:

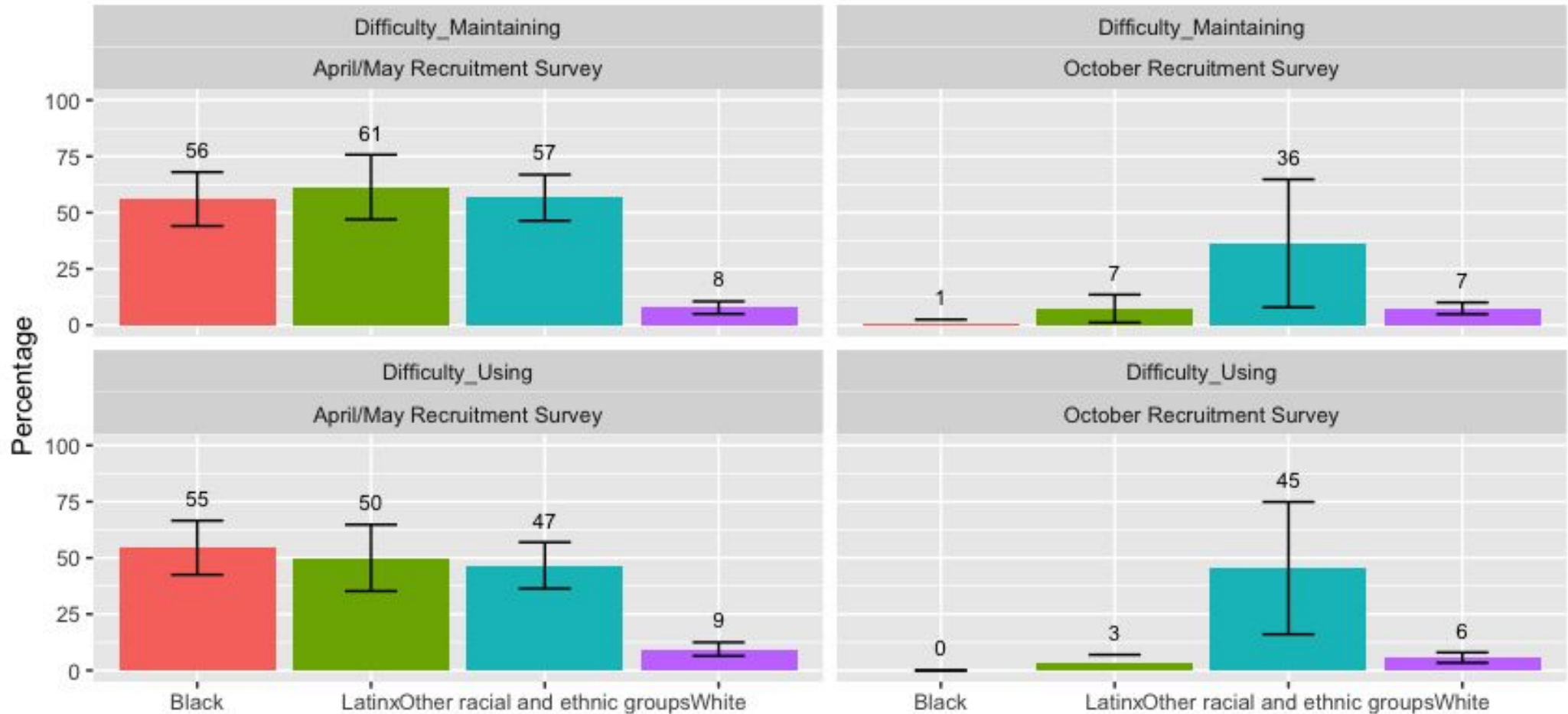
Did you have any difficulty finding a provider who accepts the subsidy/spot for your child(ren)? – Yes/No

Did you have any difficulty maintaining your subsidy (paperwork delays, recertification rules, etc.)? – Yes/No



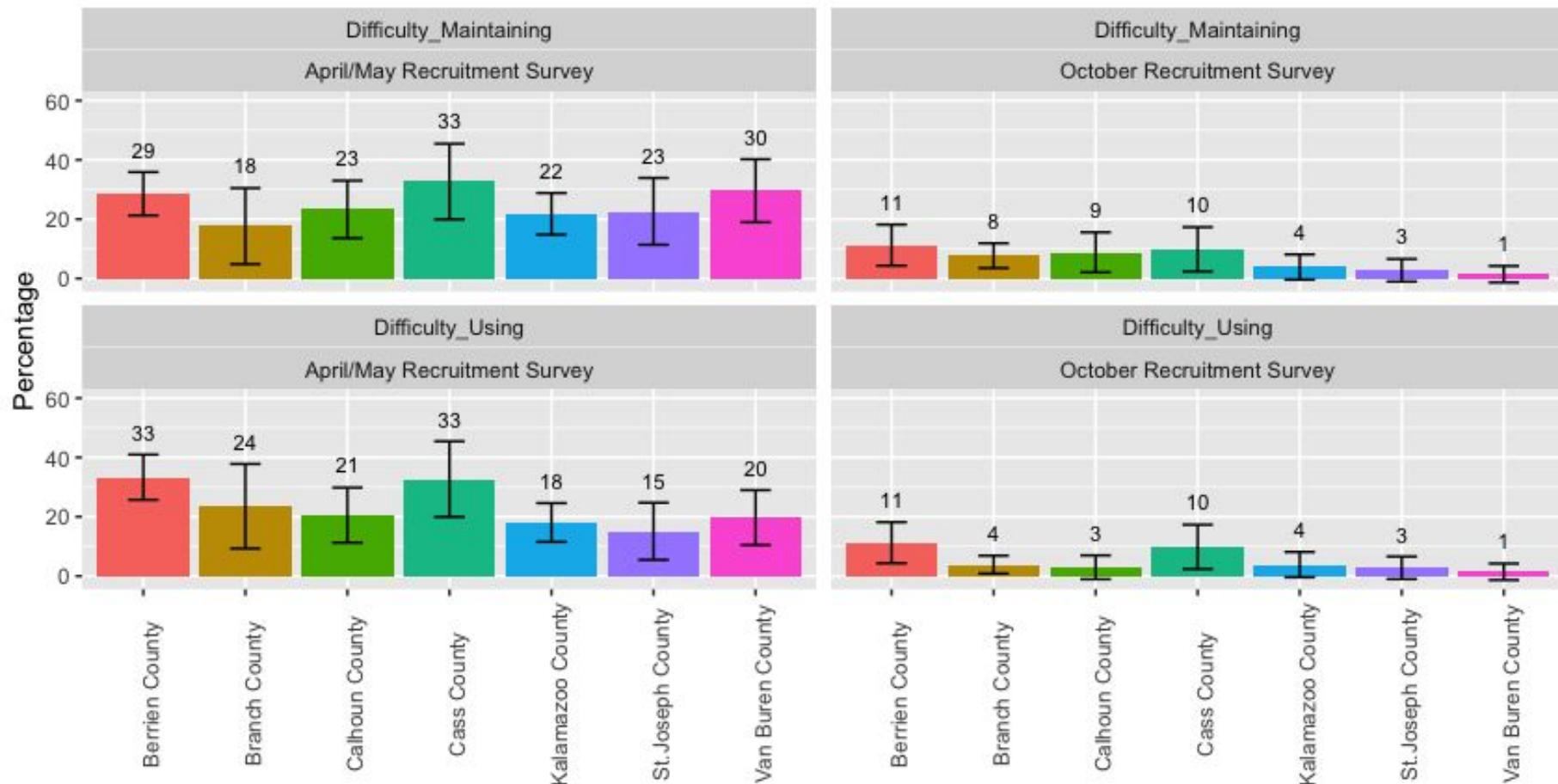
Difficulty Finding Accepting Provider & Maintaining Subsidy by Race/Ethnicity

Difficulty Using/Maintaining Child Care Subsidy, by Race/Ethnicity



Difficulty Finding Accepting Provider & Maintaining Subsidy by County

Difficulty Using/Maintaining Child Care Subsidy, by County



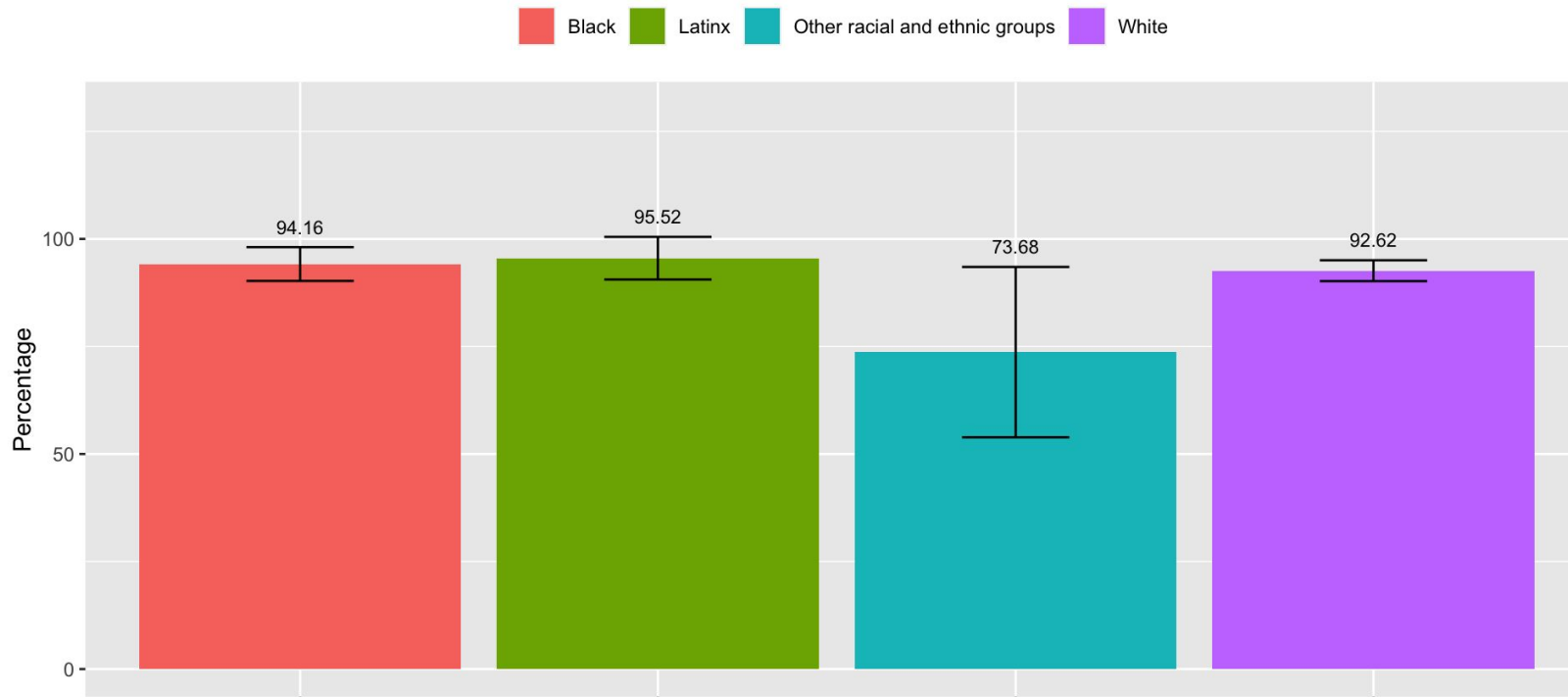
New Modules – Child Care Related

Willingness to Use Center-Based Care

Survey Question: If there was a center that matched your culture and values, would you send your child there for care?

Finding: **93%** participants reported willingness to use center-based care

Willingness to Use Ideal Center, by race/ethnicity

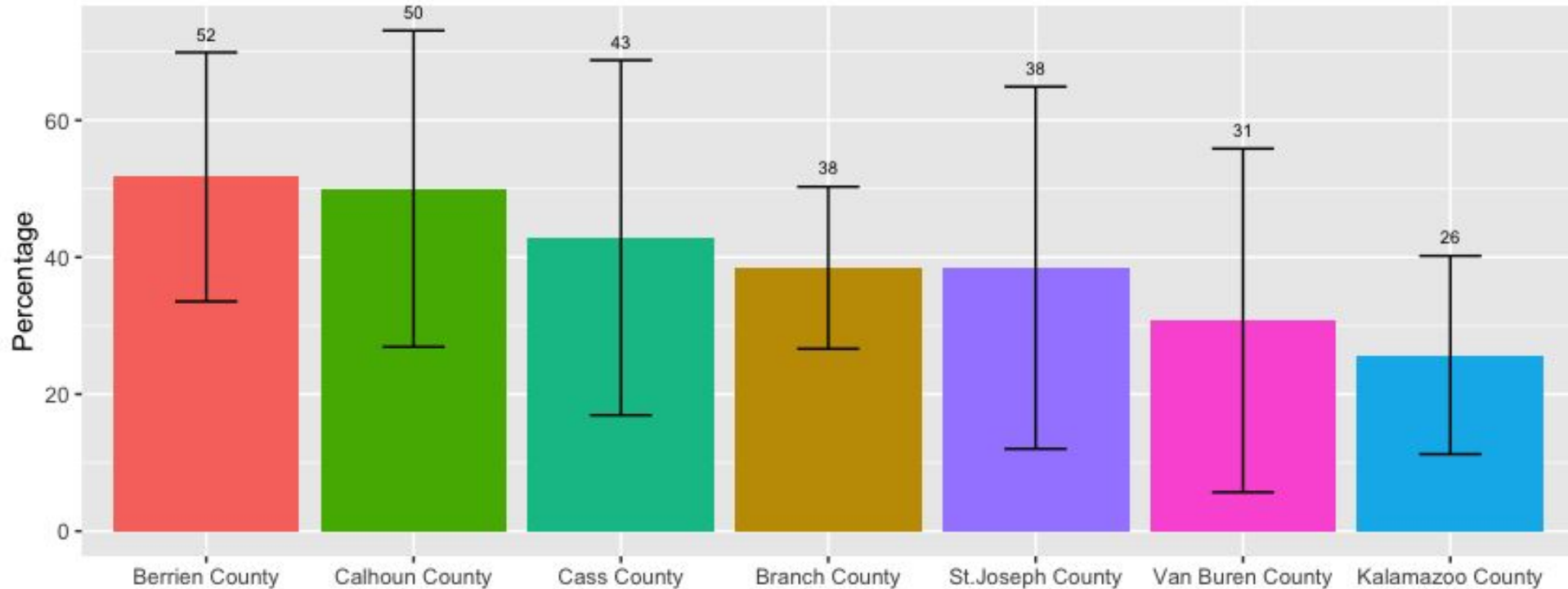


GSRP Program Enrollment

Survey Question: Is your child in the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)? The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state-funded preschool Program for income-eligible, four-year-old children.

Finding: **39%** participants reported children in the GSRP

GSRP Enrollment, by county

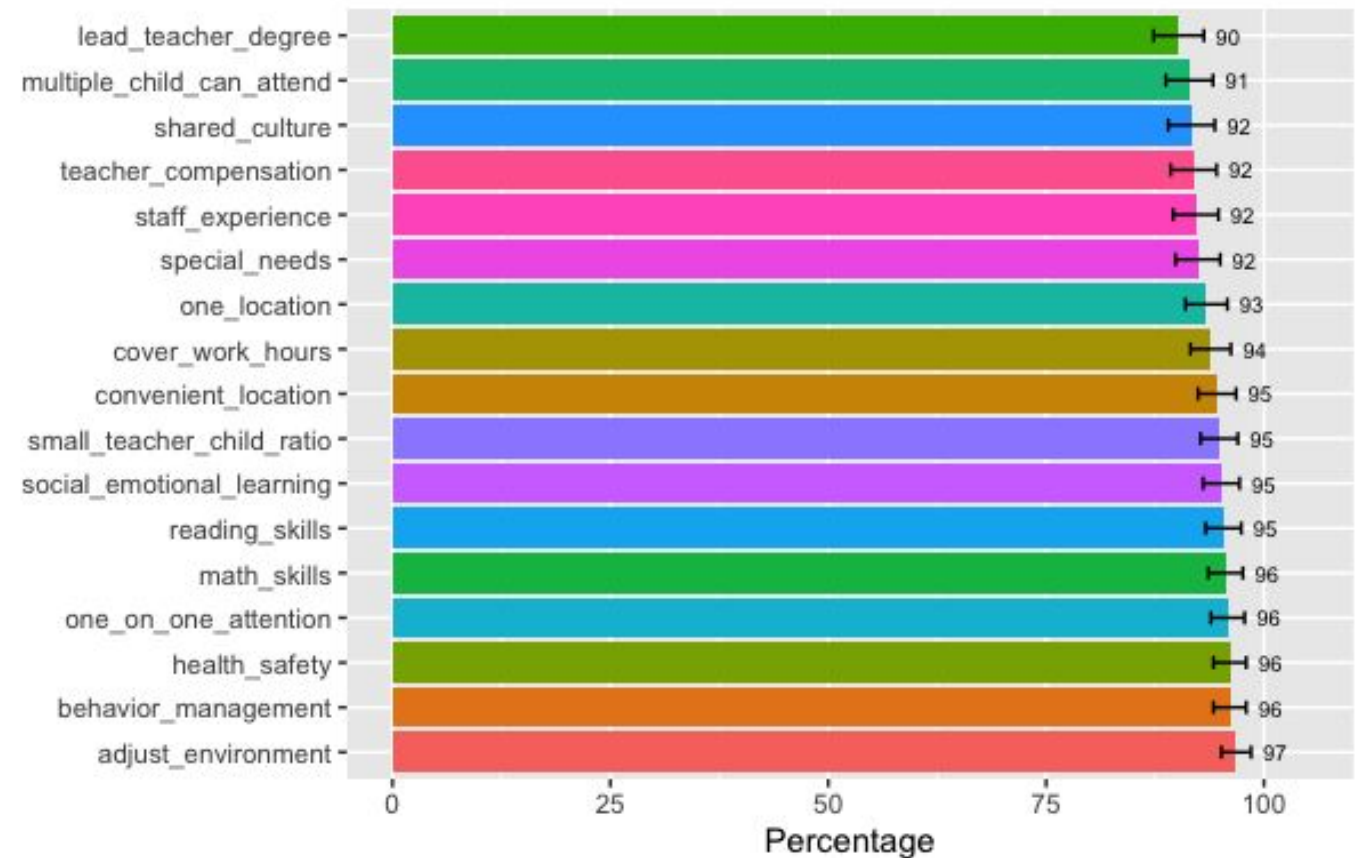


Importance of Preschool Experiences

Survey Question: How important are each of the following for your child's preschool experience?
Analyses only conducted among 409 families who had children entering preschool

- One-on-one attention for my child
- Support for social-emotional learning
- Approach to behavior management/guidance
- Support for my child's reading skills
- Support for my child's math skills
- Helping my child adjust to a classroom environment
- Support for my special needs of my child
- Attention paid to health and safety
- Program staff and/or other families who share my culture, traditions, and language
- Lead teachers have a bachelor's degree
- Program staff has significant years of experience
- Classroom has small teacher to child ratios
- Teachers are compensated the same as K-12 teachers
- Program covers the hours that I am at work
- Program is in a location convenient to home or work
- More than one of my children can attend the same location
- My child can be in one location during the day rather than in many places

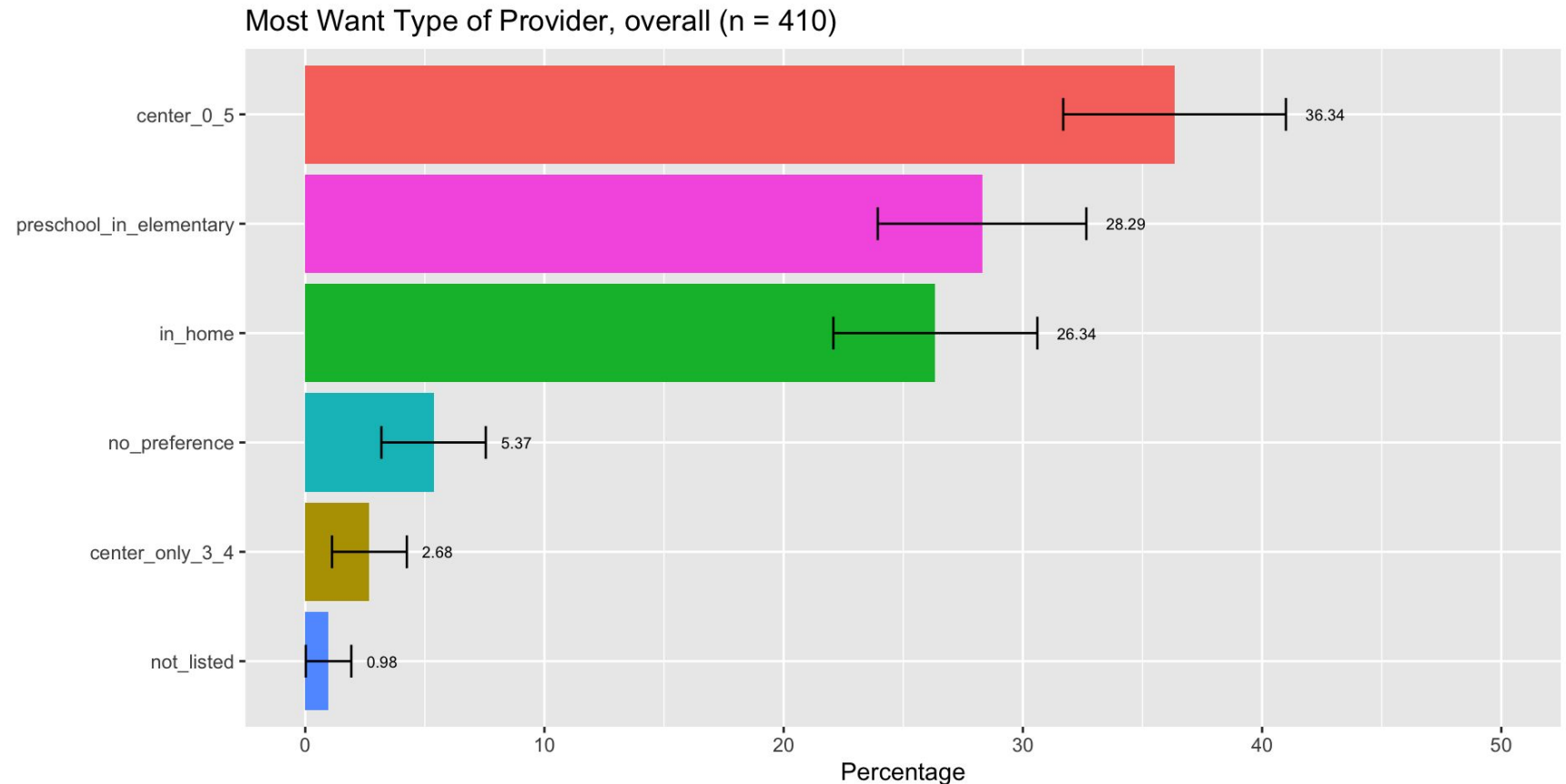
Importance of Preschool Experiences, Overall (n = 409)



Most Wanted Type of Provider for Preschool

Survey Question: What type of provider would you MOST want to provide preschool for your child?

- An in-home child care provider
- A child care center that serves children ages 0-5 years old
- A preschool classroom inside a public elementary school
- I don't have a preference
- A preschool center not part of a public elementary school that serves 3 and 4 years old only
- Not listed



PARENT VOICES IN OCTOBER SURVEY

- What's Most Challenging?

Affording childcare and affording ANYTHING. Dealing with a son with special needs and severe mental health issues. Trying to balance work demands and days off needed for elderly parents and sick kids.— *Parent in Kalamazoo County*

The biggest challenge is money, especially with the ailing condition of my child it's very difficult — *Parent in Branch County*

My family income is not enough to support the daily expenses of the family and it is difficult to meet the needs of childcare. — *Parent in Branch County*

Having a stable daycare. Staffing shortages make that challenging currently. Additionally when [our] child is sick (which is inevitable) and sent home that means either my husband and I have to take off work which makes it really challenging. It's a ripple effect.— *Parent in Kalamazoo*

County



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PARENT VOICES IN OCTOBER SURVEY

- What's Helping?

When you are very busy and can't spare the time to be with your children, relatives, friends and neighbors who take your children to and from school, daycare centers and schools are also a great help.— *Parent in Kalamazoo County*

Reliable and high-quality childcare options that allow parents to work or have some personal time while ensuring the child's well-being.— *Parent in Berrien County*

Provide parental support and training to help us cope with parenting challenges and pressures. This can include training courses providing parenting skills and knowledge, home visits and coaching, and opportunities for emotional support and understanding. — *Parent in Branch County*

Community resources and support organizations can provide families with practical help, education, and social connections— *Parent in Branch County*



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New Modules – Health Related

Child Disability & Receiving Support

- In October sample, **1.6% (n = 11)** participants reported children having disabilities
- When asked whether they agree with the statement “My child with disabilities and/or special needs is receiving the appropriate support they need throughout their early care and education experience,” only **36% somewhat agree**, and **36% disagree**.
- We received two open-ended responses about this topic:
 - “The whole pediatric mental health care system is broken. There's not enough space here to justify our experience.”
 - “One is virtually impaired.”

THANK YOU QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

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