

North Carolina Results

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National Institute for Early Education Research

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Q.1. In your community, how many parents do you think have access to good preschool programs that they can afford for their three- and four-year-old children--would you say that almost all parents have access to these programs, most parents, about half of parents, or fewer than half of parents have access to these programs for their young children?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
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Total	341	164	177	201	133
Almost all parents	12	13	12	11	14
Most parents	21	23	19	20	22
About half of parents	22	20	25	21	23
Fewer than half of parents	33	34	31	38	26
Not sure	12	10	13	10	15
Total Almost All/Most	33	36	31	31	36
Total Half Or Fewer	55	54	56	59	49

Q.2. And which one or two of the following do you think are the biggest obstacles facing parents in finding preschool programs for their three- and four-year-old children? (m) *

* Asked only of respondents who say most parents" or fewer (Q.1)."

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
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Total	299	143	156	179	114
Many of these programs are too expensive	44	39	47	45	40
There are not enough good preschool programs	25	23	27	24	27
The structure and schedule of the programs	20	23	17	24	12
There is not enough information about the programs	24	23	25	25	25
Many parents cannot find preschool programs	18	18	17	18	17

All (VOL)	6	7	6	8	5
None/other (VOL)	2	4	-	1	3
Not sure	2	1	2	-	5

Q.3. Overall, do you think that state government is doing too much, about the right amount, or too little to make sure that all parents have access to affordable preschool programs for their young children?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Doing too much	9	11	7	7	11
Doing about the right amount	24	27	21	22	25
Doing too little	57	52	62	63	51
Not sure	10	10	10	8	13

Q.4. I'd like to read you a list of things that state government could be doing with regard to preschool programs. For each item that I mention, please tell me whether you support or oppose state government getting involved in that specific area.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT STATE GOVERNMENT GETTING INVOLVED IN SELECTED AREAS

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133

Ensuring the safety of preschool programs by establishing and enforcing licensing and inspection standards

71 67 74 72 69

Providing funding and financial support for preschool programs so that all parents who want to can afford to enroll their children

60 51 69 67 50

Ensuring the quality of preschool programs by setting standards for learning and for teacher training and education

61 55 66 65 55

Working with parents and local school systems to operate preschool programs similar to the way local school systems now run kindergarten through twelfth grade school programs

41 35 47 49 29

Holding preschool programs accountable for the learning progress and skill development of young children by establishing evaluation standards

38

32

43

40

35

Q.5a. Now I'm going to describe an approach that some people have suggested for expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs and then get your reaction.

State government would provide funding and financial support so that all parents in the state who want to send their children to a high-quality preschool program can afford to do so. Parents would be able to choose which program to send their child to depending on their needs and preferences--for example, parents could select a public or a private program, and parents could select a program that is part-time or one that is full-time, as long as the program meets state standards for teacher qualifications, class size, and safety.

How do you feel about this approach--do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, feel neutral, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this approach?

	North Ca -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Strongly agree	44	36	51	51	34
Somewhat agree	27	28	27	25	31
Feel neutral	12	16	8	13	10
Somewhat disagree	8	7	8	4	12
Strongly disagree	8	12	4	6	11
Not sure	1	1	2	1	2
Total Agree	71	64	78	76	65
Total Disagree	15	19	12	10	23

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) What do you think are the most positive aspects of this approach?

	North Ca -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Net Positive Aspects	-	-	-	-	-

Equal opportunity, for all chilc	-	-	-	-	-
Good for kids, prepares them	-	-	-	-	-
Gives parents choices/options	-	-	-	-	-
Makes it affordable, it's pensi	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them an early start on l	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them a chance to learn	-	-	-	-	-
Teaches social/communicatic	-	-	-	-	-
Government should be involv	-	-	-	-	-
Gets parents involved, aware	-	-	-	-	-
Important to interact with othe	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits working/single parer	-	-	-	-	-
It's important, need to do mor	-	-	-	-	-
Agree with it, it's a good idea,	-	-	-	-	-
Good age, able to learn, kids	-	-	-	-	-
Gives them the best start, ma	-	-	-	-	-
It's needed, some kids come	-	-	-	-	-
Parents choose based on ne	-	-	-	-	-
More access, more programs	-	-	-	-	-
Develop good habits, learn di	-	-	-	-	-
Good flexibility, choice of hou	-	-	-	-	-
It works, have seen the result	-	-	-	-	-
Good for competition/quality,	-	-	-	-	-
Supports both public and priv	-	-	-	-	-
All other positive aspects of tl	-	-	-	-	-

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) And what concerns do you have about this approach?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Net Concerns	-	-	-	-	-
Against government involvem	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers need to be certified	-	-	-	-	-
Too young, not ready, need to	-	-	-	-	-
Where will money/funding co	-	-	-	-	-
Ensure standards/safety, nee	-	-	-	-	-
Too costly, too pensive	-	-	-	-	-
Parents should educate/take	-	-	-	-	-
The schools/other programs \	-	-	-	-	-
Should be based on need, pe	-	-	-	-	-
Used as babysitting/day care	-	-	-	-	-

Should be voluntary, not forced	-	-	-	-	-
Not fair, not equitable for all, 1	-	-	-	-	-
Should be for public only, not private	-	-	-	-	-
Don't have children, not fair for me	-	-	-	-	-
Not needed, not necessary, expensive	-	-	-	-	-
Most parents will choose private	-	-	-	-	-
Shouldn't pay for private education	-	-	-	-	-
Will be taken advantage of, a free ride	-	-	-	-	-
Every child has different needs	-	-	-	-	-
Against evaluating/qualifying children	-	-	-	-	-
Concerns about quality of education	-	-	-	-	-
Disagree with it, bad idea, disagree	-	-	-	-	-
Against vouchers, sounds like a bad idea	-	-	-	-	-
Local government/community responsibility	-	-	-	-	-
All other concerns about this	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know enough, would like to know more	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, no response	-	-	-	-	-

Q.6a. Now I'd like to read you two statements about how preschool programs could be made available. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: These programs should be free to all children, regardless of their family's income, OR

Statement B: These programs should be free ONLY to children from poor and low-income families, with the parents of other children paying based on the family's income and ability to pay.

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Statement A/These programs :	50	45	55	49	51
Statement B/These programs :	40	45	36	42	38
Neither/other (VOL)	7	8	5	6	8
Not sure	3	2	4	3	3

Q.6b. And now I'd like to read you three statements about paying for preschool programs. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: I believe that these programs are a top priority and I would be willing to pay additional state taxes to pay for them

Statement B: I support these programs, but only if they can be funded within the existing state budget and without raising state taxes

Statement C: I do not believe that these programs are an important priority given all the other issues that state government needs to address

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Statement A: I believe that the	34	29	38	41	24
Statement B: I support these p	50	49	50	47	53
Statement C: I do not believe t	12	19	7	9	17
Federal government should p	1	-	3	2	-
None/other (VOL)	2	2	1	1	3
Not sure	1	1	1	-	3

Q.7a. I'd like to list reasons that some people have given for why it is important to have preschool programs available for three- and four-year-old children.

For each statement, please tell me whether you think it is extremely convincing, very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not really convincing.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT SELECTED REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY OR VERY CONVINCING

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Many children who participate in preschool programs do better when they enter elementary school and score higher on basic skills tests	59	50	66	66	49
Many children who participate in preschool programs are more self-confident, better adjusted, and less likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school *	53	47	59	59	44
Good preschool programs help motivate young children to become problem-solvers who are more successful in school, work, and in their communities	54	45	62	59	46
Having children participate in preschool programs strengthens families by giving parents the resources and support they need to help their children get a good start	53	48	57	56	48
Good preschool programs cost a lot more than most working families can afford, leaving many parents with few alternatives	51	50	52	53	47
Children who participate in preschool programs are less likely to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older and more likely to grow up					

and become productive, contributing members of the community *

41 41 41 46 32

Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested, because these programs prevent school failure and crime and produce a better educated, more productive workforce **

31 20 41 29 34

Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are less self-confident, less adjusted, and more likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school **

33 28 38 32 36

Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested *

31 26 35 34 26

Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are more likely to have problems in school and to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older **

32 24 38 23 45

FACTUALS

Q.F1. How old are you?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
18-24	9	8	10	15	-
25-29	7	9	6	12	-
30-34	9	7	11	16	-
35-39	11	13	8	18	-
40-44	11	5	17	19	-
45-49	12	15	10	20	-
50-54	11	10	12	-	29
55-59	7	6	7	-	17
60-64	8	9	7	-	21
65-69	5	6	3	-	12
70-74	4	5	4	-	11
75 and over	4	4	4	-	10
Refused	2	3	1	-	-

Q.F2. Are you currently employed?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Professional, manor	9	9	8	10	6
White-collar worker	5	4	6	5	5
Blue-collar worker	3	3	3	1	5
Farmer, rancher	-	-	-	-	-
Student	4	3	4	6	1
Homemaker	8	1	14	9	6
Retired	15	17	14	1	37
Unemployed, looking for work	3	4	2	5	1
Other	52	58	47	62	39
Not sure	1	1	2	1	-

Q.F3. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Grade school	-	-	1	-	-
Some high school	11	10	11	10	12
High school graduate	24	25	23	23	27
Some collie, no degree	19	21	17	23	14
Vocational training/2-year collie	11	8	13	10	14
4-year bachelor's/bachelor's de	19	18	20	19	20
Some postgraduate work, no c	4	4	4	3	5
2 or 3 years' postgraduate wor	8	9	7	9	6
Doctoral/law degree	2	3	2	3	1
Not sure/refused	2	2	2	-	1

Q.F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or as something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF NOT REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or closer to the Democratic Party?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Strong Republican	19	20	19	20	18
Weak Republican	13	13	13	13	14
Independent/lean Republican	10	12	7	7	13
Strictly independent	11	12	10	11	13
Independent/lean Democrat	8	9	7	6	10
Weak Democrat	16	13	18	19	13
Strong Democrat	17	15	20	20	15
Not sure/refused	6	6	6	4	4
Total Republicans	42	45	39	40	45
Total Democrats	41	37	45	45	38

Q.F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Liberal	19	19	19	18	20
Moderate	39	37	40	40	39
Conservative	35	37	33	35	37
Not sure	7	7	8	7	4

Q.F6. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Single	16	17	16	25	3
Married	64	70	57	57	76

Separated	1	2	1	1	2
Widowed	5	1	10	1	11
Divorced	11	8	14	14	8
Other (VOL)	1	-	1	1	-
Not sure/refused	2	2	1	1	-

Q.F7a. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Yes, kids under 18 in househo	38	34	42	57	10
No, no kids under 18 in househ	61	65	57	43	90
Not sure	1	1	1	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Zero to five *

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	129	55	74	114	14
One	26	23	28	29	7
Two	8	7	9	8	-
Three	4	10	-	5	-
Four	2	-	4	3	-
Five or more	2	-	2	1	-
None	58	60	57	54	93
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Six to nine *

North Ca	50 and
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		Men	Women	18-49	over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	129	55	74	114	14
One	23	25	22	24	16
Two	6	3	7	6	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	1	1	-
None	71	72	70	69	84
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Ten to fourteen *

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	129	55	74	114	14
One	37	38	36	36	45
Two	8	7	8	9	-
Three	1	3	-	1	-
Four	1	-	1	1	-
Five or more	-	-	1	-	-
None	53	52	54	53	55
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Fifteen to eighteen *

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	129	55	74	114	14
One	25	12	35	23	41

Two	3	3	3	2	11
Three	2	2	1	2	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	1	-	-
None	69	83	59	72	48
Not sure	1	-	1	1	-

Q.F7c. Have you yourself ever had a child under age five enrolled in a preschool program?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Yes, child is currently enrolled	6	3	8	8	2
Yes, child was enrolled in a preschool	30	28	32	27	36
Yes, child enrolled in a preschool	3	2	4	4	1
No, never had a child under a five	57	64	52	58	59
Not sure/refused	4	3	4	3	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In	39	33	44	39	40

Q.F7d. Have you ever had a child under a five in a child care arrangement outside the home—including with friends or relatives?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Yes, child is currently in a child care arrangement	7	6	9	11	2
Yes, child was in child care arrangement	32	30	33	30	36
Yes, child was in child care arrangement	3	3	3	3	3
No, never had a child under a five	55	58	52	54	59
Not sure/refused	3	3	3	2	-
Total Have/Have Had Child In	42	39	45	44	41

Q.F7e. Do you have any grandchildren under a twelve? *

* Asked only of respondents who say that they are a 40 or over (Q.F1).

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Yes, have grandchildren under	32	28	37	11	66
No, do not have grandchildren	30	33	26	28	33
Not sure	2	2	2	1	1

Q.F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Protestant	64	62	66	59	74
Catholic	11	12	11	12	11
Jewish	-	-	-	-	-
Other	17	17	17	21	12
None	4	5	2	4	3
Not sure/refused	4	4	4	4	-

Q.F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way? *

* Asked only of Protestants (Q.F8a).

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Fundamentalist/evangelical	23	22	24	15	35
Neither fundamentalist nor eva	37	36	38	39	36
Not sure	4	4	4	5	3
Non-Protestants (Q.F8a)	36	38	34	41	26

Q.F9. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the

total be more than that?

	II North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	341	164	177	201	133
Less than \$10,000	4	1	7	5	3
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	8	6	10	8	9
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	12	9	15	12	11
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	11	9	12	9	14
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	10	13	8	11	11
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	17	19	14	18	16
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	8	11	5	11	4
More than \$100,000	7	10	5	6	9
Not sure/refused	23	22	24	20	23

Q.F10. What is your race?

	North Ca	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
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Total	341	164	177	201	133
Hispanic	2	2	2	1	4
White	73	77	68	71	79
Black	20	15	25	24	14
Asian	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2	3	2	2	2
Not sure/refused	3	3	3	2	1