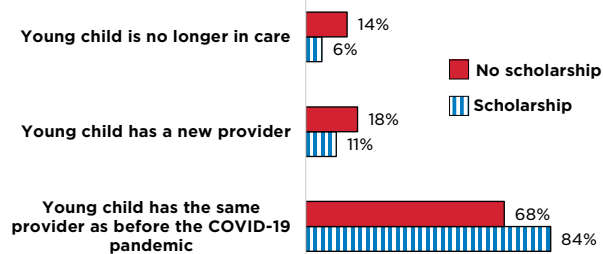


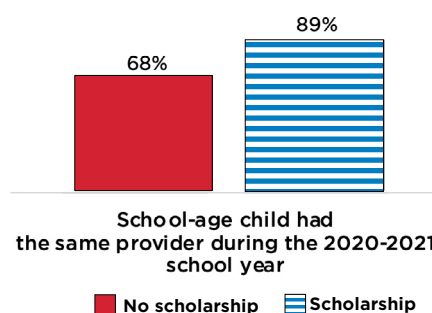
Child Care Continuity and Costs in Maryland During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The global COVID-19 pandemic caused major shifts in the landscape of child care and early education programs nationwide and in the state of Maryland. To understand parents' child care needs during the pandemic, an online survey was distributed to parents in Maryland between September 4, 2020 and November 9, 2020. Approximately 3,600 parents completed the survey. Over half (56%) of respondents received a child care scholarship¹ for at least one child and 72 percent said they had an essential worker in their household.² Parents were asked about their child care needs and usage during the pandemic for their young (birth to age 5) and school-age children. This infographic presents findings on the percentage of children who remained with the same provider as before the pandemic (for young children) and from Summer 2020 to the 2020-2021 school year (for school-age children), and on parents' reported difficulty paying for child care during the pandemic/2020-2021 school year.

Receiving a child care scholarship in Maryland is associated with greater continuity of care during the pandemic for both young (birth to age 5) and school-age children.

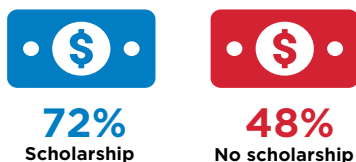


- ▶ Young children (birth to age 5) who receive a child care scholarship remained with their primary care provider during the COVID-19 pandemic at higher rates than young children who do not receive a scholarship (84% compared to 68%).
- ▶ Young children who do not receive a scholarship were twice as likely as young children with a scholarship to no longer be in care during the pandemic (14% compared to 6%).



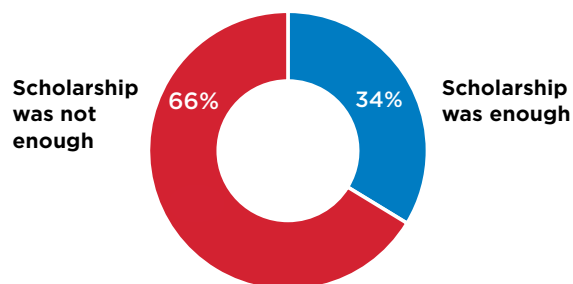
- ▶ School-age children with a child care scholarship remained with the same provider during the 2020-2021 school year at higher rates than those without a scholarship (89% compared to 68%).

Costs of child care during the pandemic were not affordable for families of school-age children receiving a child care scholarship.



- ▶ Families with school-age children who receive a child care scholarship reported they could not afford school-age care during the pandemic at higher rates than families with school-age children who do not receive a scholarship (72% compared to 48%).

Child care scholarships did not sufficiently cover the costs of care while school-age children were learning virtually.



- ▶ Two thirds (66%) of families with a school-age child who receive a part-day child care scholarship reported that their scholarship did not sufficiently cover the costs of care for their school-age child during the school day when they are learning virtually.

¹ Maryland refers to child care subsidies funded through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) as child care scholarships.
² The survey link was distributed to all families receiving scholarships and to families with children currently enrolled in licensed child care.