

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs should not be downsized or merged but should remain as a full government Department.

Childcare Barometer 2020

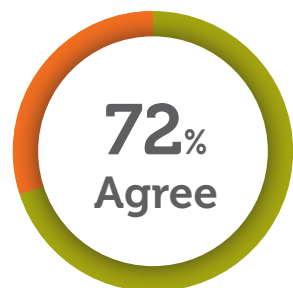
Public Attitudes to Early Years Care & Education



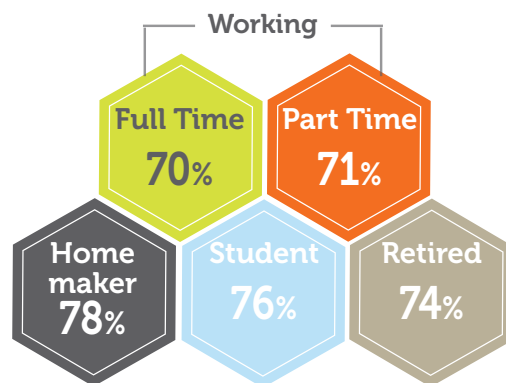
Early Childhood Ireland commissioned RedC to find out the views of Irish people about childcare. 1,000 adults aged 18+ were interviewed over the telephone between 16 and 22 January 2020. For each statement, respondents were asked for their level of agreement.

The next government should make greater investment in childcare in Ireland one of its major priorities.

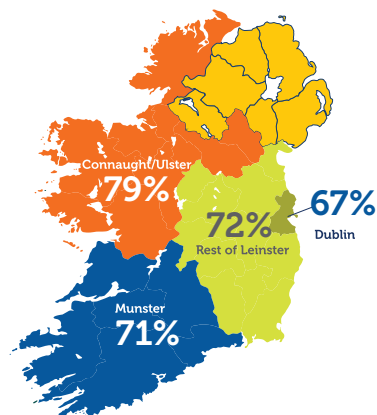
All Adults



Work Status

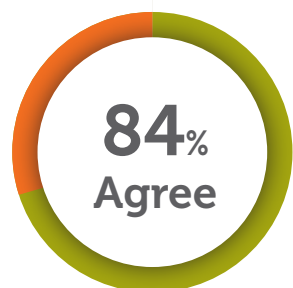


Regional

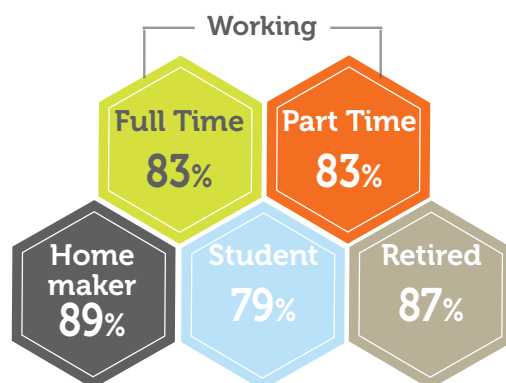


At the moment, childcare providers are required to report into 7 different government agencies and departments. It would make more sense to bring them under one dedicated agency.

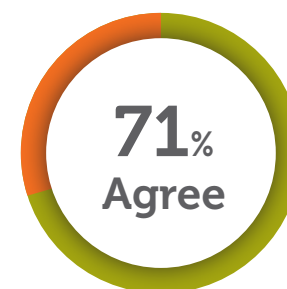
All Adults



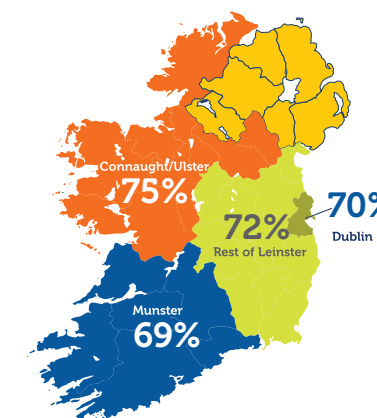
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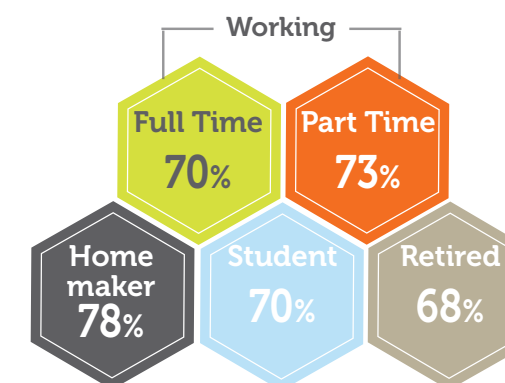
All Adults



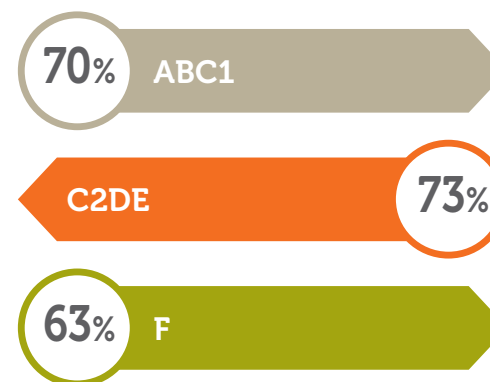
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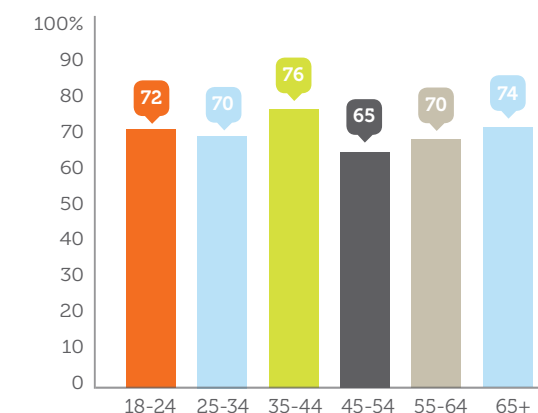
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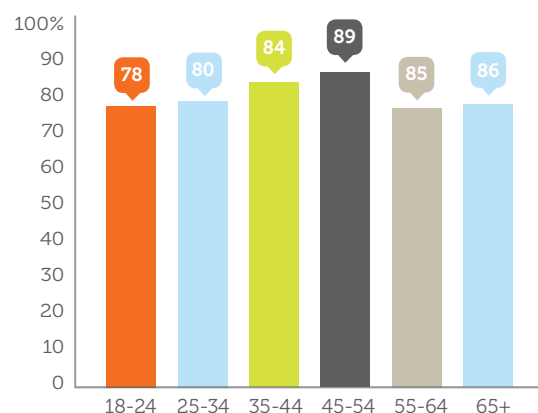
Social Class



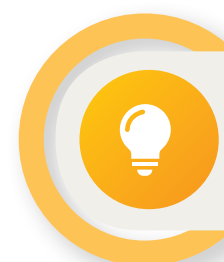
Age



Age



There is clearly a desire to see these 7 different government agencies brought under one roof – this is the highest level of agreement noted within this survey.

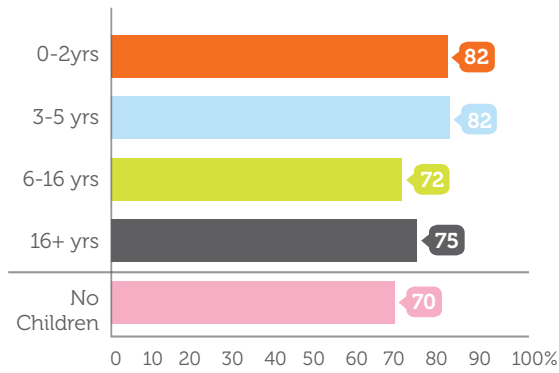


The greatest take-away from this research is the high level of importance adults in Ireland place behind childcare in Ireland. Despite a looming election with agendas focusing on health, housing and crime, the figures in this research remain incredibly stable in attitude.

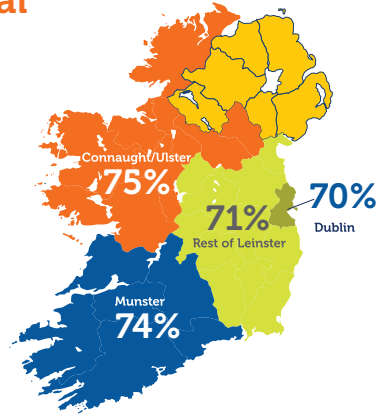
Social Class:
ABC1 = Managerial, administrative or professional workers;
C2DE = Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, casual workers, pensioners & unemployed;
F = Farmers & agricultural workers

The education of children under 5 is as important as the education of children over 5.

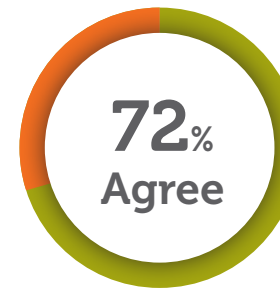
Adults with children aged



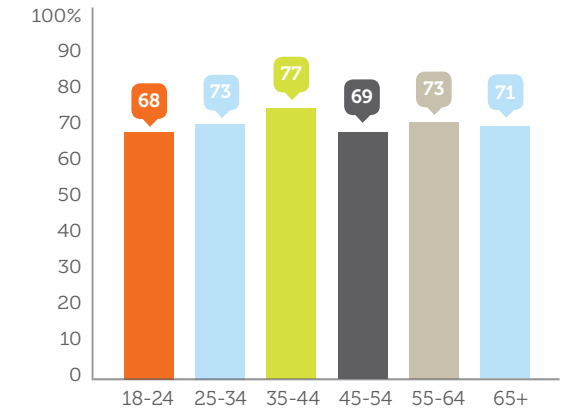
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All Adults



Age

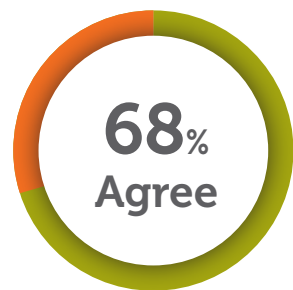


In terms of financial support, it is clear there is support for making improvements for parents. 68% agree parents should be financially supported to stay at home in the first 12 months. A further 67% believe childcare in Ireland should be free. There is also high agreement (66%), that parents should pay for childcare in line with their income.

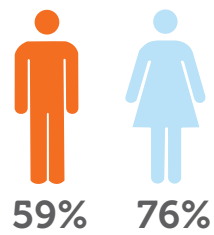
All parents should be financially supported to stay at home with their child for the first 12 months of the child's life.

Parents should only pay toward childcare in line with their overall income.

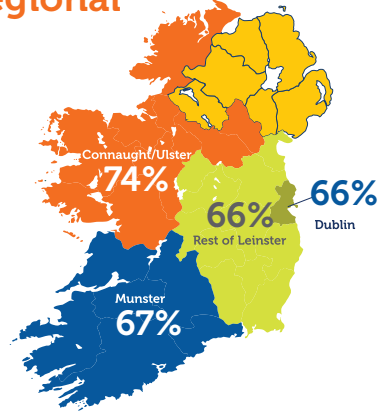
All Adults



Gender Breakdown



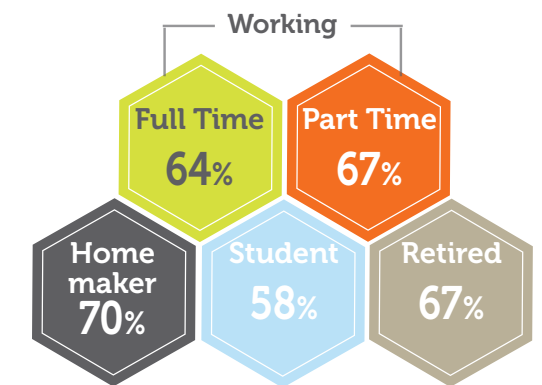
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All Adults



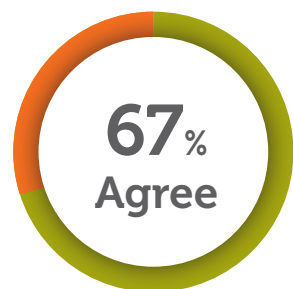
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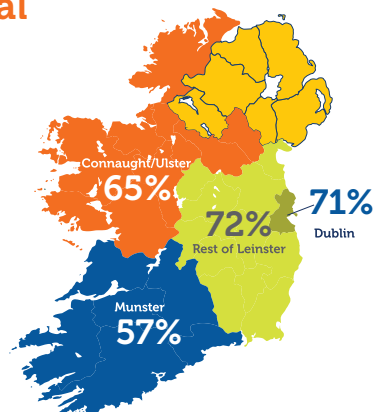
Similar to primary education in Ireland, childcare should be available free to all children.

By 2022, under EU guidelines, childcare staff who work directly with children must be qualified as other professionals such as nurses and teachers. When this occurs, the terms and conditions of their employment contract should reflect this fact.

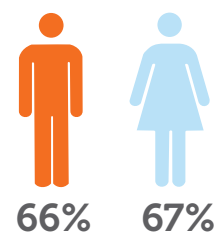
All Adults



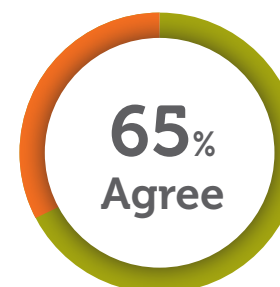
Regional



Gender Breakdown



All Adults



Adults with children aged

