

Citizen Survey Report for: Urban95 Steering Group

Experience with Babies and Toddlers in Dublin



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Economic Development Office
Dublin City Council

Report Date: 09/04/2024
Survey Fieldwork: Feb. / Mar. 2024

Report by:



Delve Research
Survey Research & Analysis

www.delve-research.com

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Life Satisfaction

- **6.6 out of 10** is the average life satisfaction score among respondents. This is down slightly from the level of 6.7 measured in October 2023.

Feeling Safe in the City Centre

- **69%** of respondents felt safe in the city centre during the day (similar to October 2023). **37%** felt safe in the city centre at night - up from 35% in October 2023.

Looking After Babies or Toddlers

- In the general population **7%** of panel respondents were looking after their own child or children aged up to 3 years old. 2% looked after babies / toddlers for others, and 21% had looked after a child or children aged up to 3 years old in the past 5 years.

Moving Around Dublin City with a Baby and / or Toddler

- Among toddler caregivers, **78% walked / wheeled** to get around Dublin city with a baby and / or toddler. **60% used a car** and **55% used the bus**.
- Dublin City Council area residents were more likely than others to walk / wheel, bus or bike.
- The average time spent out and about with a baby / toddler on a typical day was **1.5 hours**.

Activities Engaged in with Babies / Toddlers

- The most common activities engaged in when out and about with babies / toddlers were going to parks / playgrounds / green spaces (93% engaging) and going to the shops for grocery / household shopping (85%). The majority of caregivers also engaged in organised activities / playdates, getting together with friends for a walk or to sit down, going to a library, and taking the child to childcare.

Ease of Getting to Services

- Toddler caregivers reported good levels of ease in terms of getting to services with babies / toddlers. 93% felt it was easy to get to the library, 92% felt it was easy to get to parks / playgrounds / green spaces and 90% felt it was easy to get to shops for grocery / household shopping.

Challenges Encountered Moving Around Dublin City

- When moving around Dublin city with a baby / toddler, **81%** of caregivers reported encountering **challenges with footpaths** and **79%** encountered **challenges with toilets**. A majority encountered challenges with public seating and rest areas (56%), using public transport (55%) and crossing the road (52%). 47% encountered challenges with public bins, 33% with play spaces, and 29% with using a private car.

Challenges with Footpaths

- The top 3 challenges associated with the condition of footpaths were dog poo, uneven surfaces and litter.
- The top 3 challenges associated with obstacles on footpaths were vehicles parked on the footpath, domestic / commercial bins, overgrown hedging / trees.

Challenges with Toilets

- The top 3 challenges associated with toilets were that toilets are difficult to find, not easy to access and lacked suitable baby changing areas.
- Poor maintenance of toilets was more keenly observed by toddler caregivers than non-toddler caregivers.

Challenges with Public Seating

- The top 3 challenges associated with public seating were not enough public seating, seating not suitable for babies / toddlers and seating not in areas that provide shade and shelter.

Challenges with Public Transport

- The top 3 challenges associated with public transport were that public transport is hard to access with a pram or buggy, hard to access for those with a mobility challenge, and not having enough options / connections.

Challenges with Crossing the Road

- The top 3 challenges associated with crossing the road were obstacles (such as parked cars) blocking the view of traffic, not enough pedestrian crossings, and pedestrian crossings not in the right place.

Challenges with Public Bins

- Not enough bins and bins full / overflowing were challenges encountered by toddler caregivers.

Challenges with Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces

- The top 3 challenges associated with parks, playgrounds and green spaces were a lack of areas suitable for toddlers to explore nature, few or no suitable play facilities for toddlers, and dogs not under control by their owners.

Challenges with Using a Private Car

- Not enough designated parking spaces for people with young children and people taking up designated parking spaces without an obvious need were the most commonly experienced challenges with using a private care among baby / toddler caregivers.

Changes in Movement Around Dublin since Becoming a Caregiver to a Baby / Toddler

- The top 3 changes in how caregivers' movement around Dublin had changed since becoming a caregiver to a baby / toddler were:
 - Being more aware of challenges with public transport (space, frequency, timetables, routes)
 - Being more aware / restricted by which areas are accessible / quiet / have facilities / need to plan
 - Going to the city centre less or not at all / staying more local / suburban

Positive Aspects of Getting Around Dublin City with a Baby / Toddler

- The top 4 positive aspects of getting around Dublin city with a baby / toddler as given by caregivers in their own words were:
 - Range / accessibility / maintenance of parks, playgrounds and green spaces
 - People are friendly and helpful (including bus / Luas staff and passengers)
 - Bus accessibility or service is good or improved
 - Luas accessibility or service is good or improved

Changes Suggested for Improving Getting Around Dublin City with a Baby / Toddler

- The top 4 suggestions for improving getting around Dublin city with a baby / toddler as given by caregivers in their own words were:
 - Improve footpaths / wider footpaths / dishing, general accessibility of paths / lighting along paths
 - Better public transport generally (including accessibility, consideration of needs, platform gaps etc.)
 - More / better / accessible toilets / public toilets
 - More regular / frequent public transport / more bus routes / more bus stops

Availing of Childcare

- Among those responding to the survey with dependent children in the household, 57% availed of childcare provided by others outside of the home.
- For 71% of these the setting of childcare outside the home was a crèche.
- For getting to the crèche, 47% walked / wheeled. 39% walked / wheeled to a childminder's home, 32% walked wheeled to a relative / friend's home, 49% walked / wheeled to a breakfast club or after-school club, and 41% walked / wheeled to a community childcare service.
- For all childcare services the distance of travel to access these services was shorter within the DCC area when compared with other Dublin local authority areas.
- 38% of those availing of childcare outside of the home indicated that there are services nearer their home that they would like to use but do not use. In 91% of cases the reason for not using these nearer services was that there were no places available.

Age of Independent Travel through Neighbourhood

- When asked at what age a child should be able to travel independently though their neighbourhood, the average suggested age was **10.8 years old**.
- The most important factor for people in assessing a child's readiness for independent travel was the safety of the neighbourhood, followed by their emotional maturity.

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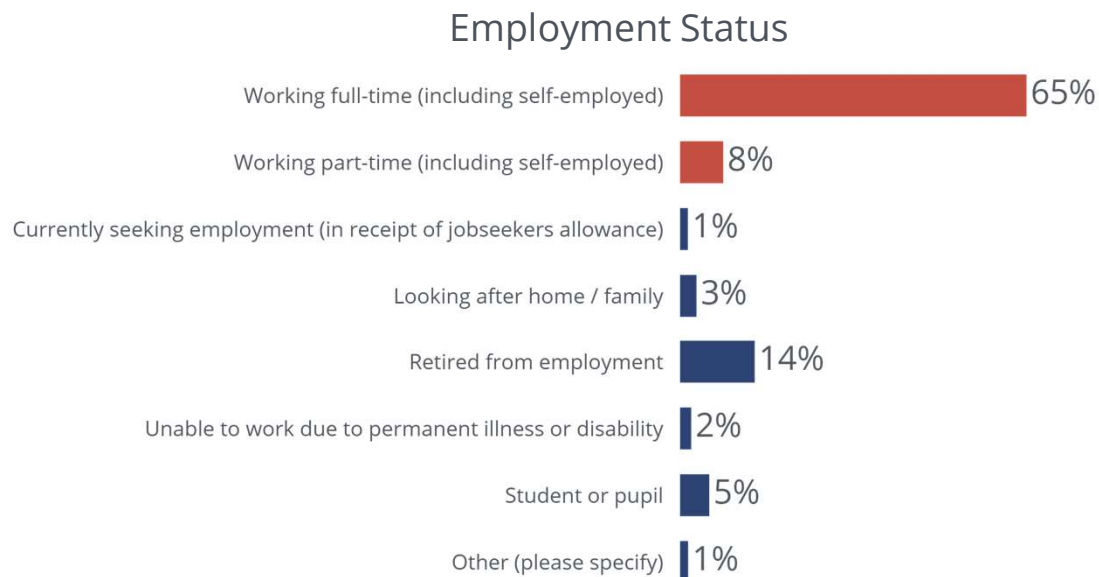
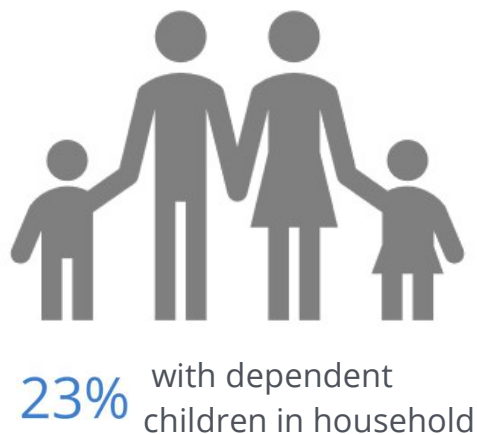
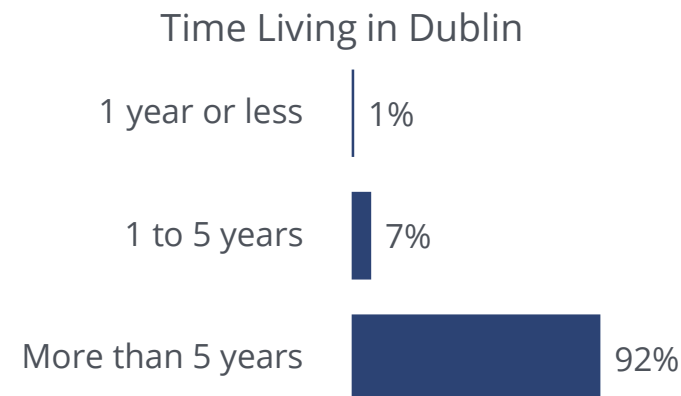
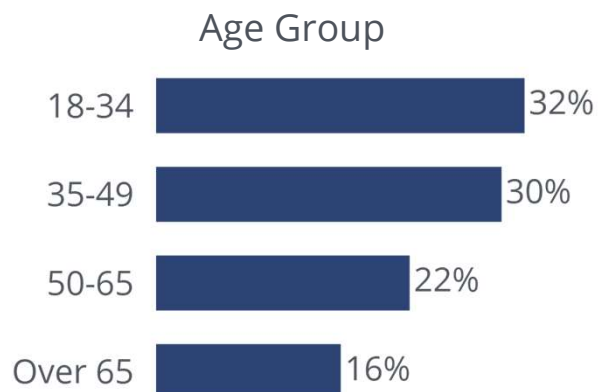
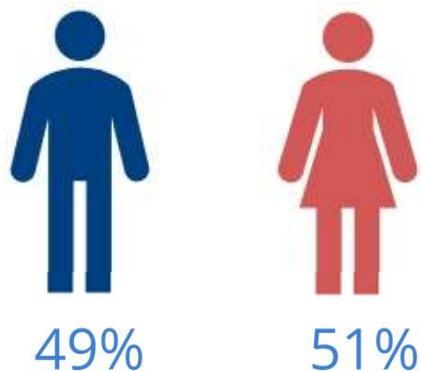


- Online survey, 21st February - 3rd March 2024
- 1,024 respondents from the "Your Dublin, Your Voice" opinion panel
- 22% response rate
- Margin of error +/- 3.0% for general population
- Supplemented by 760 additional respondents from target demographic of toddler caregivers
- **Total responses available for analysis = 1,784**
- Of these, 1,066 are caregivers to babies / toddlers or have been in the last 5 years

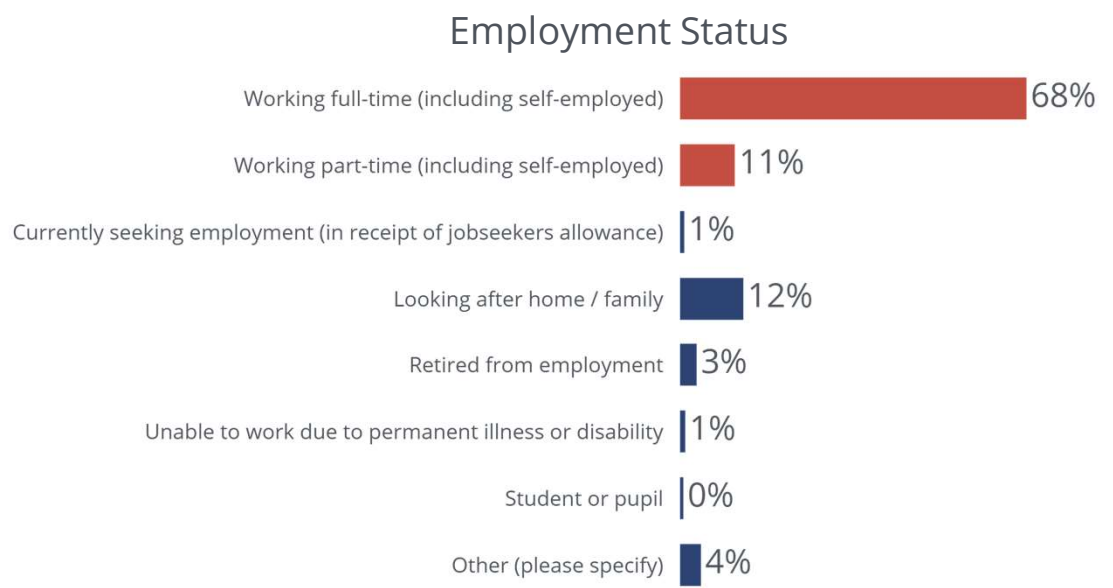
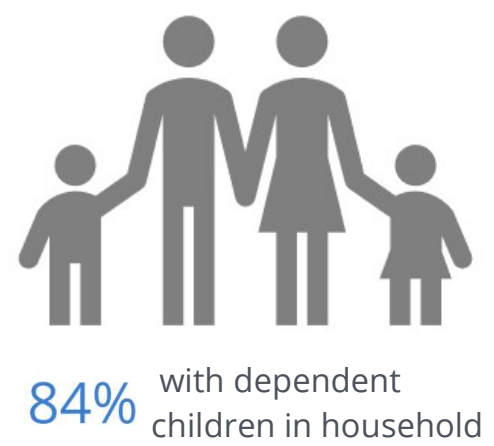
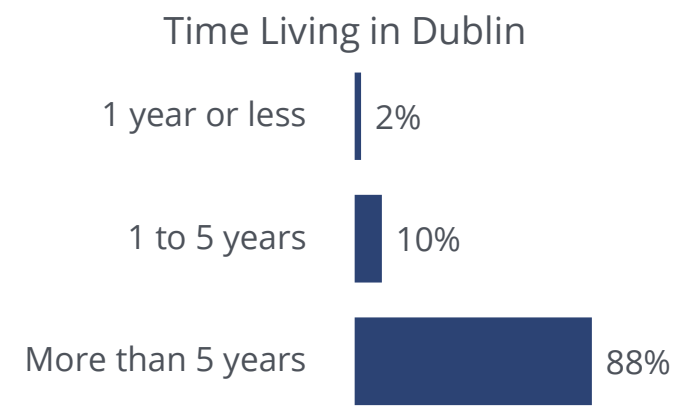
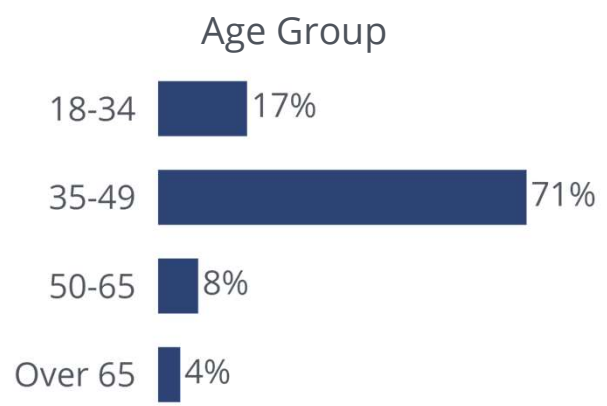
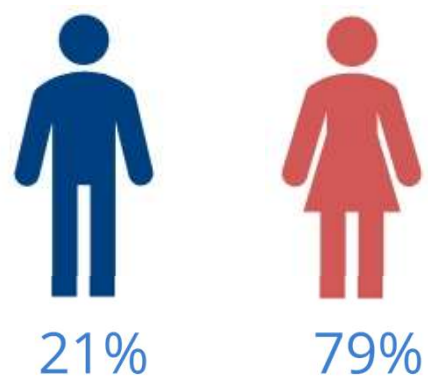


- For any **general population** measures reported here, we use responses from the core Your Dublin, Your Voice panel membership as the basis for reporting. This ensures an accurate representation of the Dublin population at large.
- For measures specific to the topic of interest (e.g. accessibility of the city to toddlers and their caregivers) we supplement the core responses with additional responses from the targeted cohort.

Respondent Profile – general population panel only n=1,024



Profile of Toddler Caregivers n=1,066

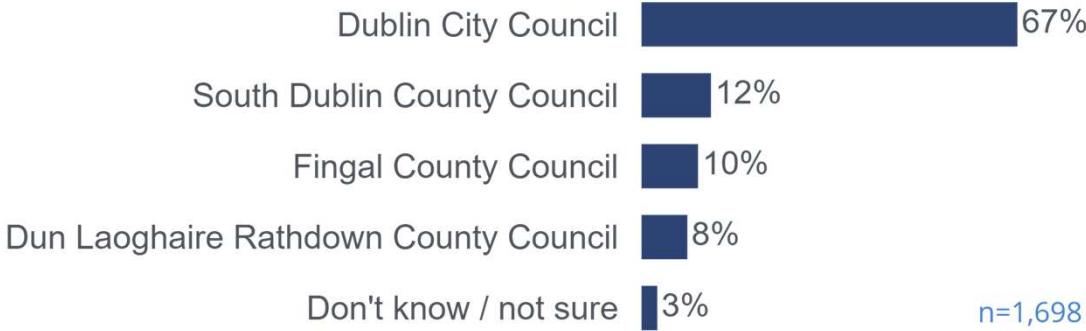


Respondent Profile – all respondents n=1,784

56 nationalities represented on this survey, 86% Irish



Local Authority



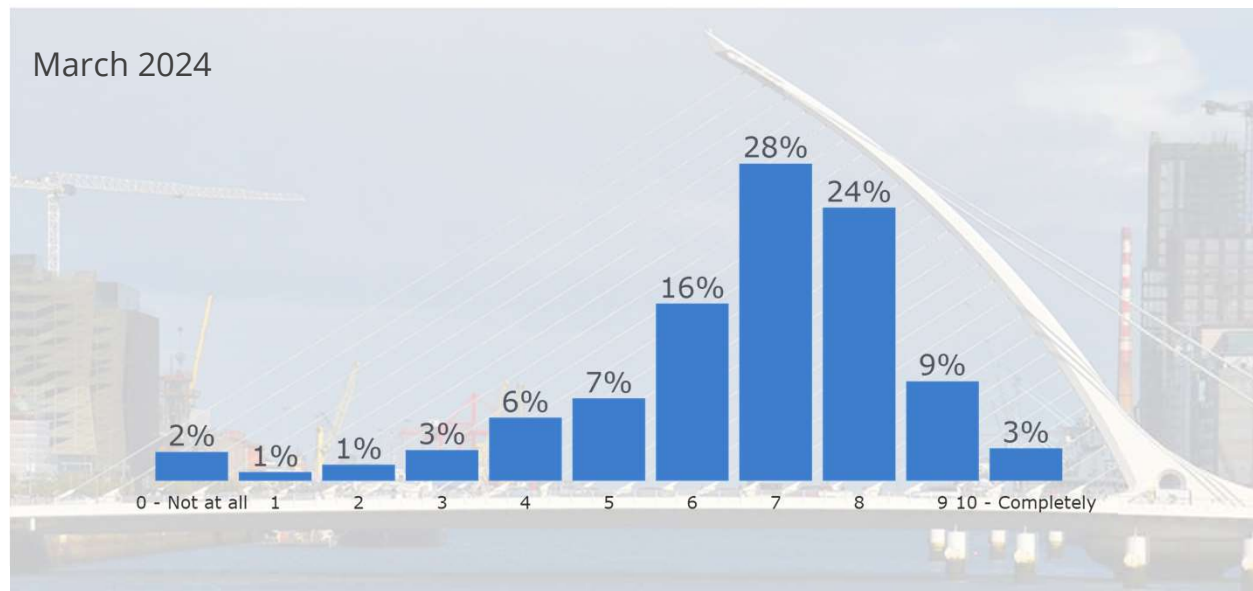
Current Area of Residence

Area	%
Outside County Dublin	4%
Dublin 1	2%
Dublin 2	3%
Dublin 3	7%
Dublin 4	4%
Dublin 5	5%
Dublin 6	4%
Dublin 6W	3%
Dublin 7	11%
Dublin 8	9%
Dublin 9	7%
Dublin 10	1%
Dublin 11	5%
Dublin 12	7%
Dublin 13	4%
Dublin 14	3%
Dublin 15	3%
Dublin 16	2%
Dublin 17	1%
Dublin 18	2%
Dublin 20	1%
Dublin 22	1%
Dublin 24	2%
County Dublin	10%
NET	100%

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On a scale of 0 to 10, overall how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?



6.6

is the average life satisfaction score out of 10

This is down slightly from the level measured in October 2023



Feb 2020 Feb 2022 Aug 2022 Nov 2022 Mar 2023 May 2023 Aug 2023 Oct 2023 Mar 2024

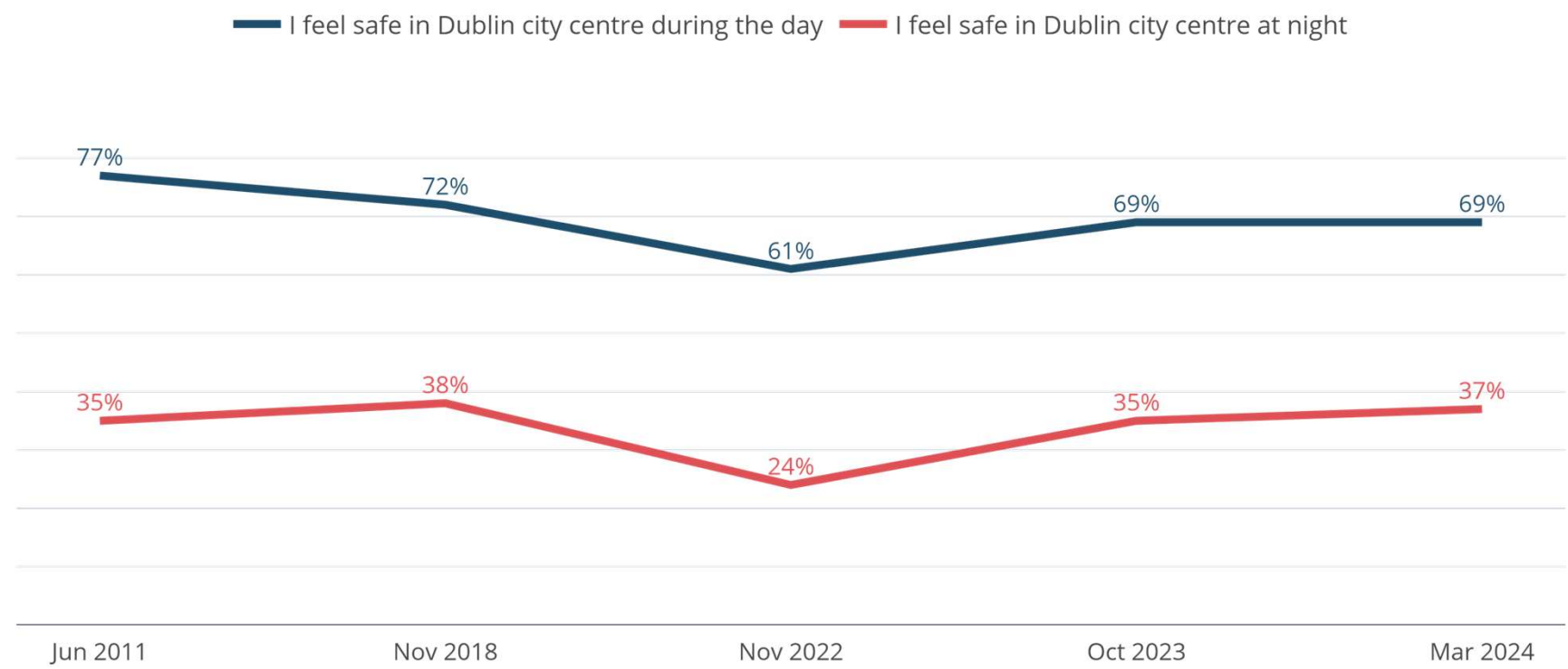
Base: 1024

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Feeling Safe in the City Centre - Trend

Thinking about shopping (excluding groceries) and leisure in general please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:
% agree or strongly agree



Base March 2024: 1022

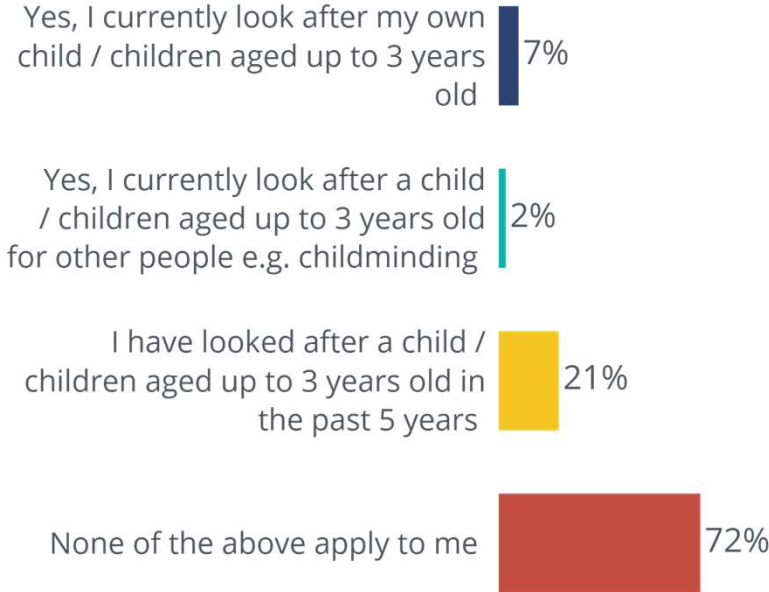
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Looking After Babies or Toddlers

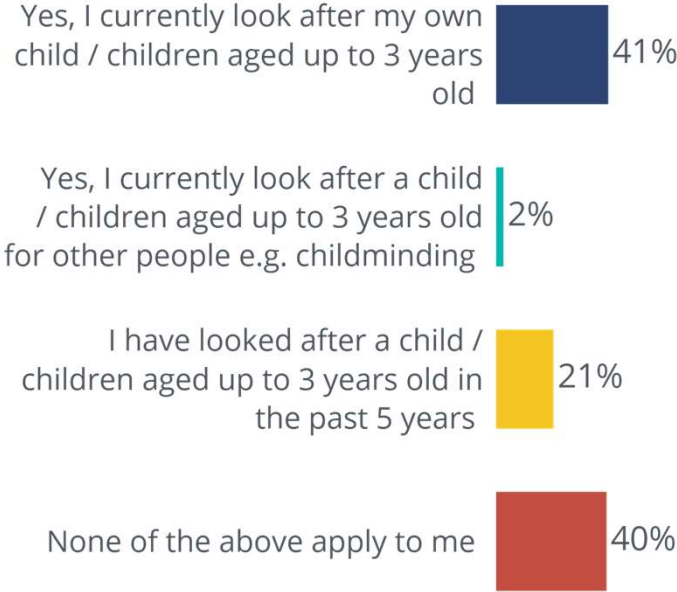
Do you ever look after **babies or toddlers aged up to 3 years old, or have you done so in the last 5 years?** This can be your own child / children or looking after children for other people on a professional or casual basis.

Panel respondents only



Base: 1024

Panel plus external respondents*



Base: 1784

we asked these respondents about their experience of Dublin city as toddler caregivers
n=1,066

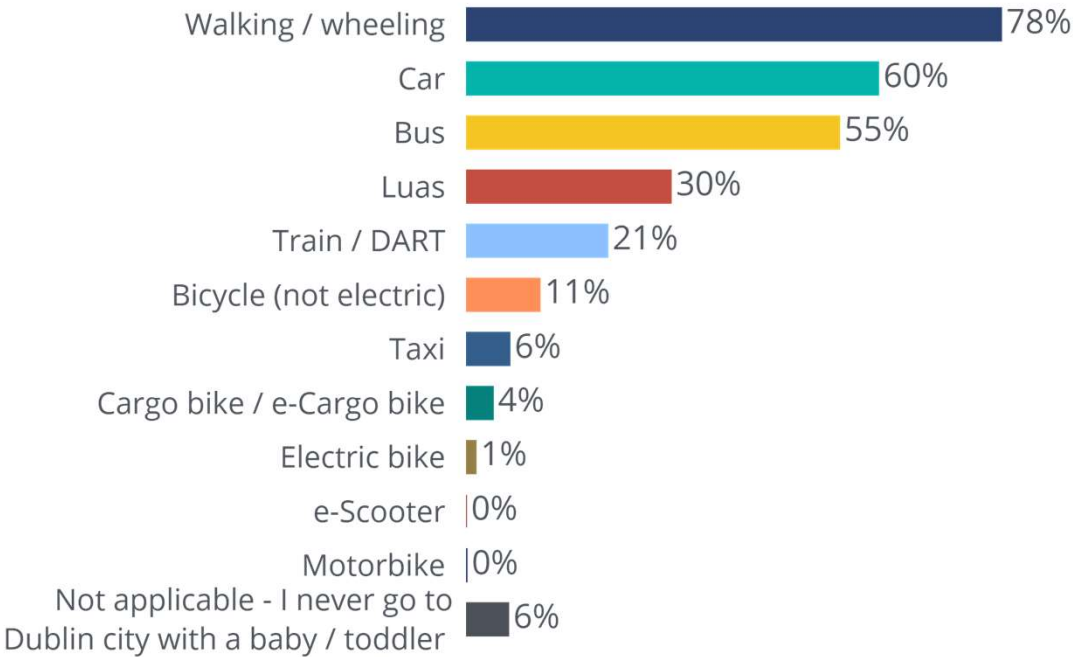
*sourced through various channels e.g. social media

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Moving Around Dublin City with a Baby and / or Toddler

What are your main ways of moving around Dublin city with a baby and / or toddler?



Base: 1066

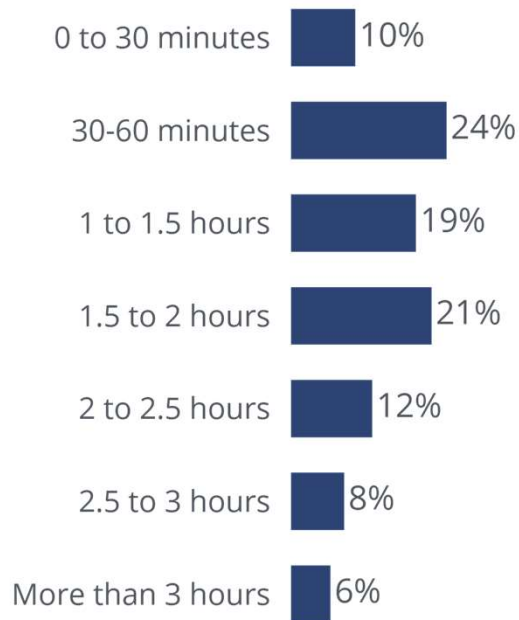
DCC area residents more likely than others to walk / wheel, bus or bike.

Those on lower incomes more likely than others to use bus or Luas.

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On a typical day, approximately how long do you spend "out and about" with a baby / toddler?



Average time spent out and about with a baby / toddler:

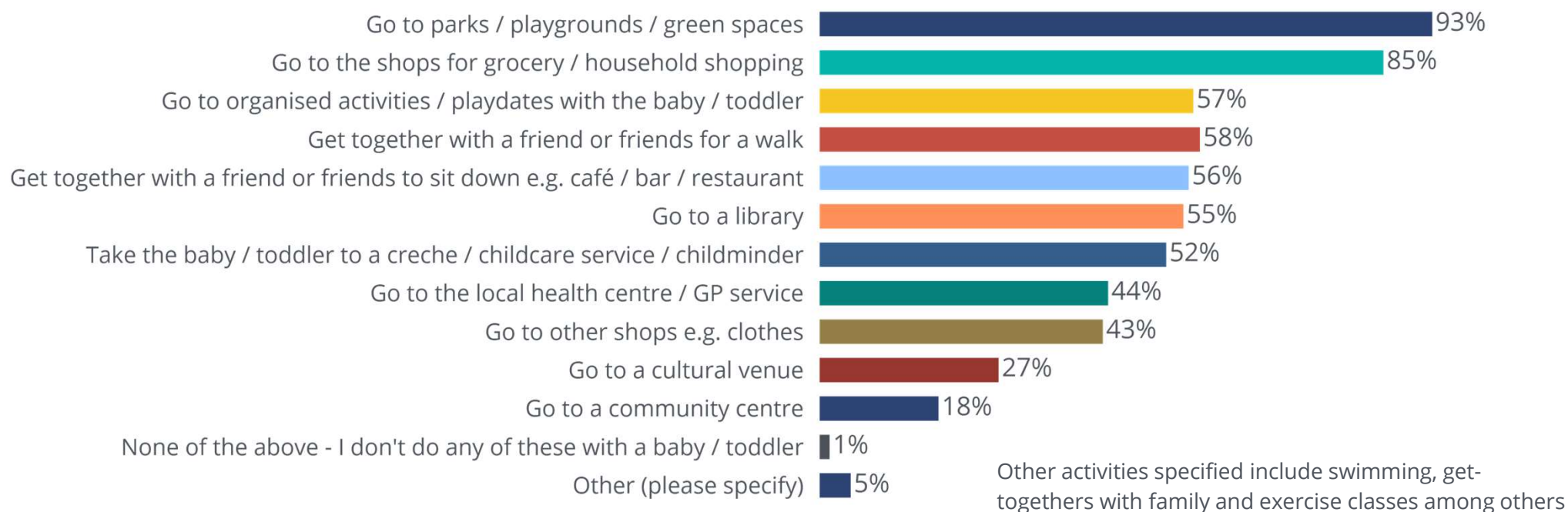
1.5 hours

Base: 1000

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When out and about with a baby / toddler, which of the following facilities, services and activities do you ever engage with or do? Please select as many as apply.



DCC area residents were more likely than others to go to a Library, bring the baby / toddler to childcare or go to a cultural venue.

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XVII.	Public Bins	42
XVIII.	Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces	44
XIX.	Using a Private Car	46
XX.	Changes in Movement Around Dublin since Becoming a Caregiver to a Baby / Toddler	48
XXI.	Experience of Living in Other Cities	50
XXII.	Good Aspects of Getting Around Dublin City with a Baby and / or Toddler	52
XXIII.	Changes Suggested for Improving Getting Around Dublin City with a Baby / Toddler	54
XXIV.	Availing of Childcare	56
XXV.	Setting of Childcare Outside of Home	58
XXVI.	Mode of Travel to Childcare Outside of Home	60
XXVII.	Availability of Closer Childcare Options	64
XXVIII.	Reasons Not Using Closer Childcare Options	66
XXIX.	Age of Independent Travel Through Neighbourhood	68
XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Ease of Getting to Activities / Services with a Baby / Toddler

How easy is it for you to get to the following services with a baby / toddler?
% fairly easy or very easy



DCC area residents found it easier than others to get to the local health centre / GP service or to a cultural venue .

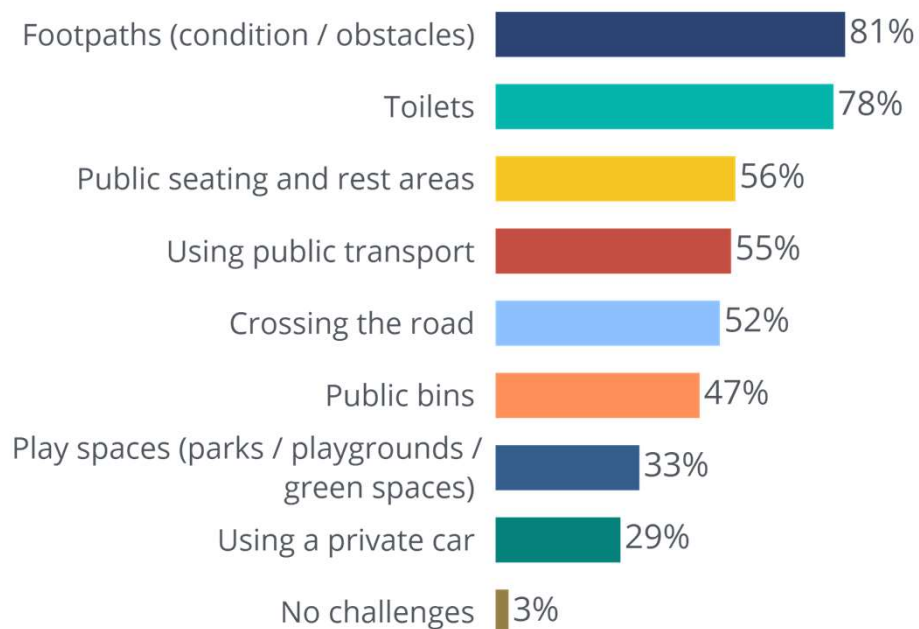
Base: varies

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XI.	Conditions of Footpaths	30
XII.	Obstacles on Footpaths	32
XIII.	Toilets	34
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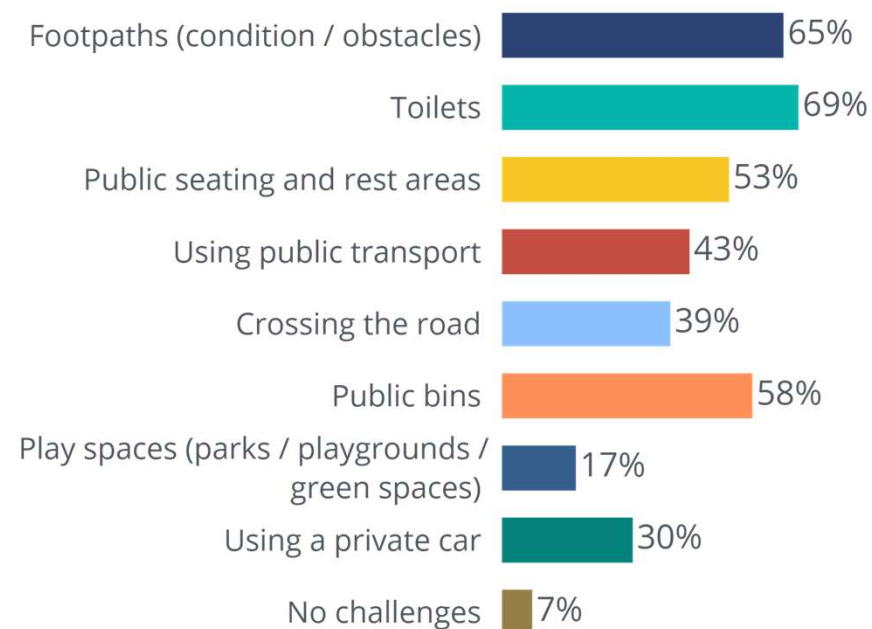
Challenges Encountered Moving around Dublin City

When moving around Dublin city **with a baby and / or toddler**, do you ever encounter challenges with any of the following? Please select as many as apply.
toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: 999

When moving around Dublin city, do you ever encounter challenges with any of the following? Please select as many as apply.
Non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: 718

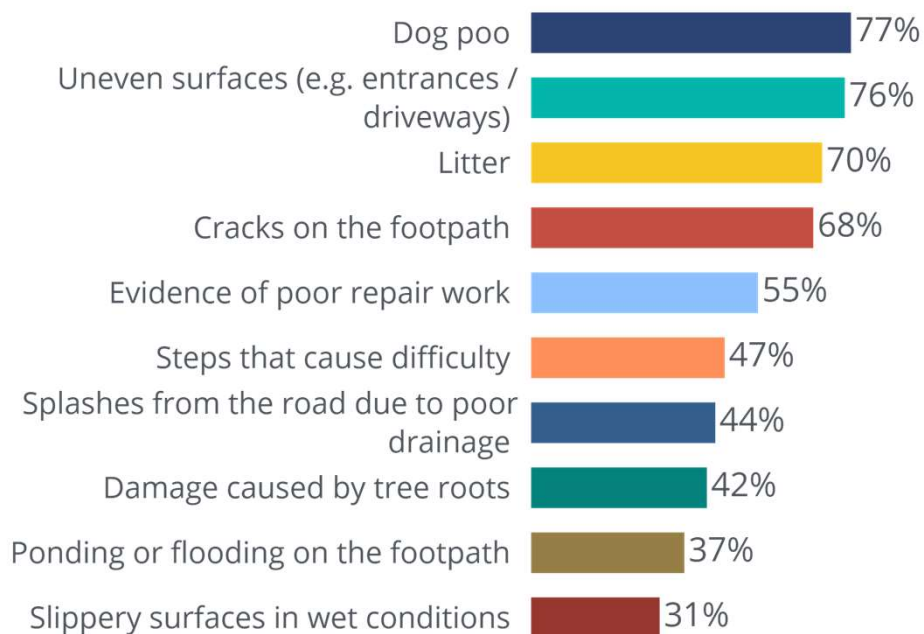
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XXVIII.	Reasons Not Using Closer Childcare Options	66
XXIX.	Age of Independent Travel Through Neighbourhood	68
XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Conditions of Footpaths

Thinking specifically of the condition of footpaths in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

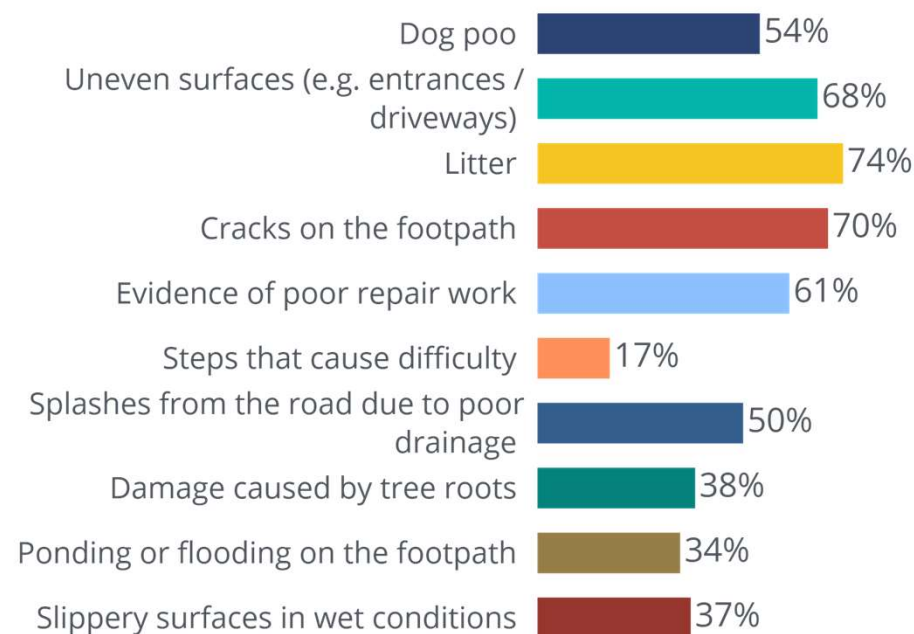
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 807

Thinking specifically of the condition of footpaths in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Not a toddler caregiver 468

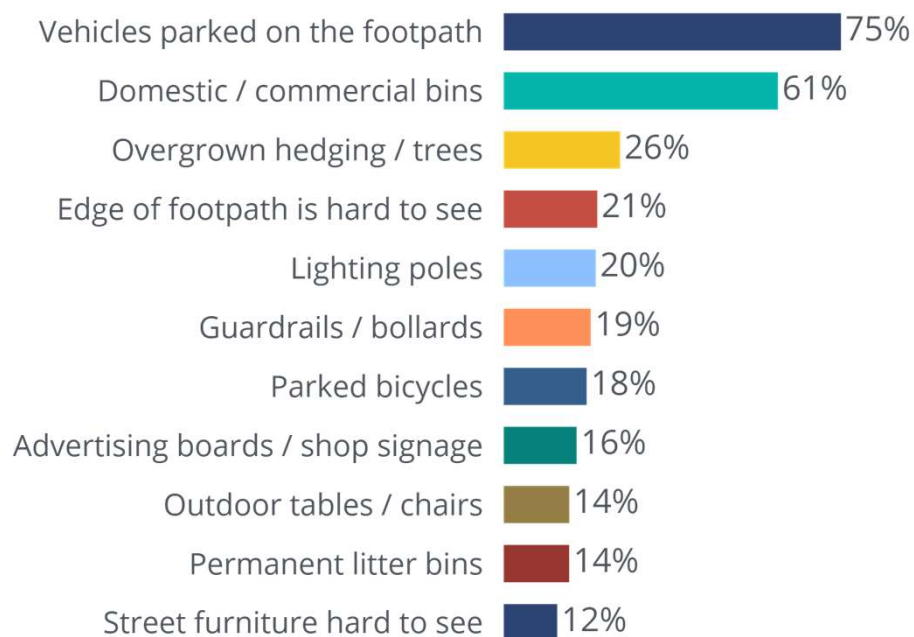
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XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Obstacles on Footpaths

Thinking specifically of obstacles on footpaths in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

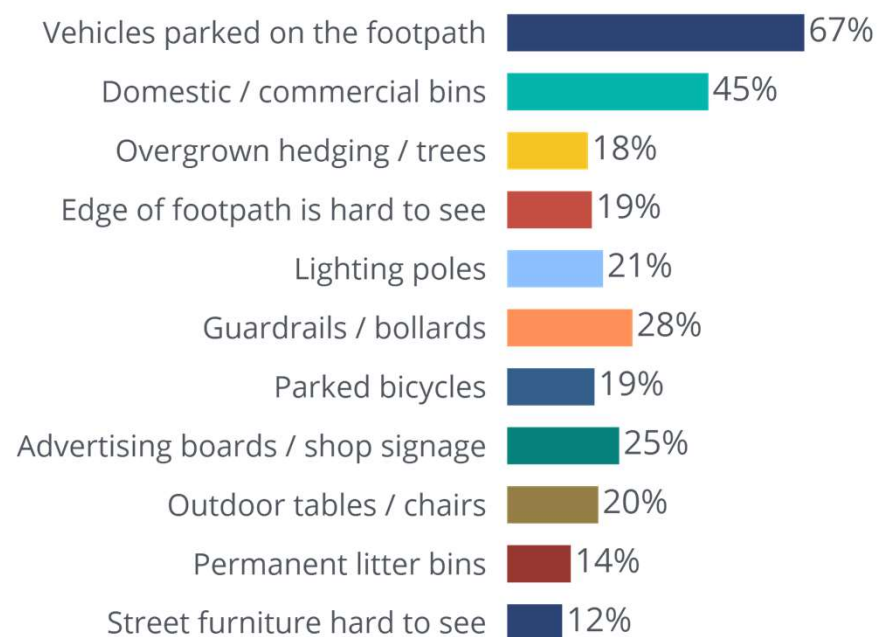
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 805

Thinking specifically of obstacles on footpaths in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



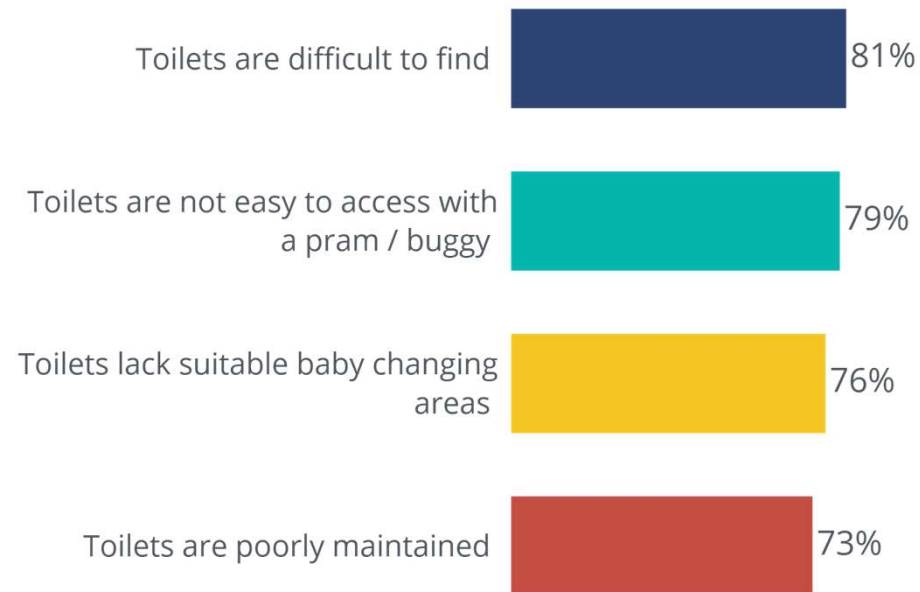
Base: Not a toddler caregiver 469

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XXIX.	Age of Independent Travel Through Neighbourhood	68
XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Thinking specifically of toilets in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

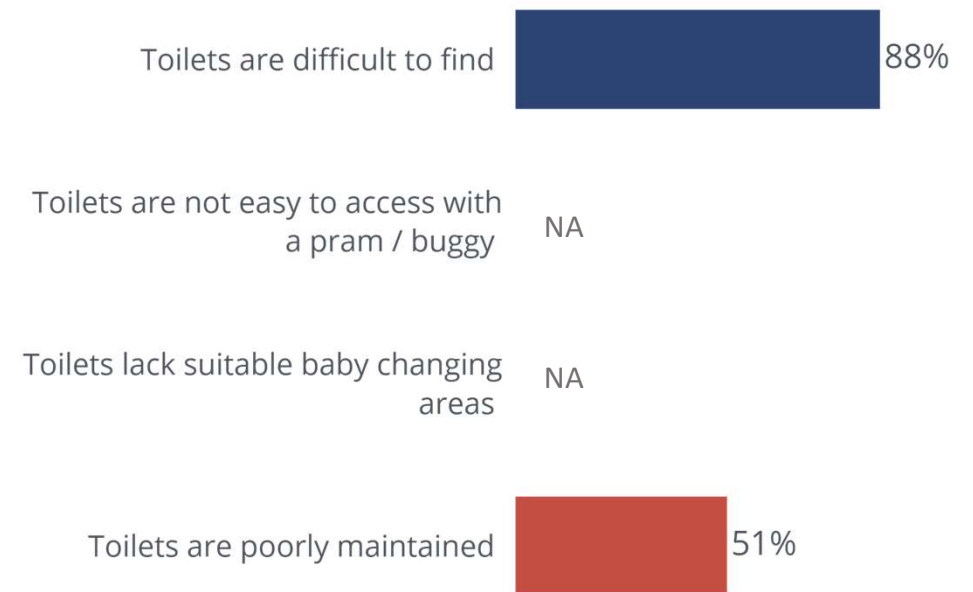
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 779

Thinking specifically of toilets in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Not a toddler caregiver 491

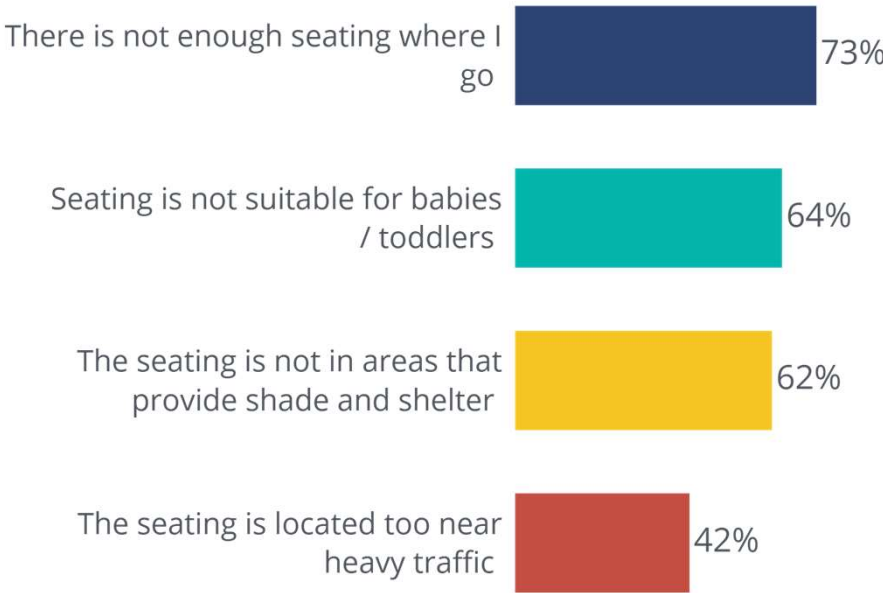
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XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Public Seating and Rest Areas

Thinking specifically of public seating and rest areas in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

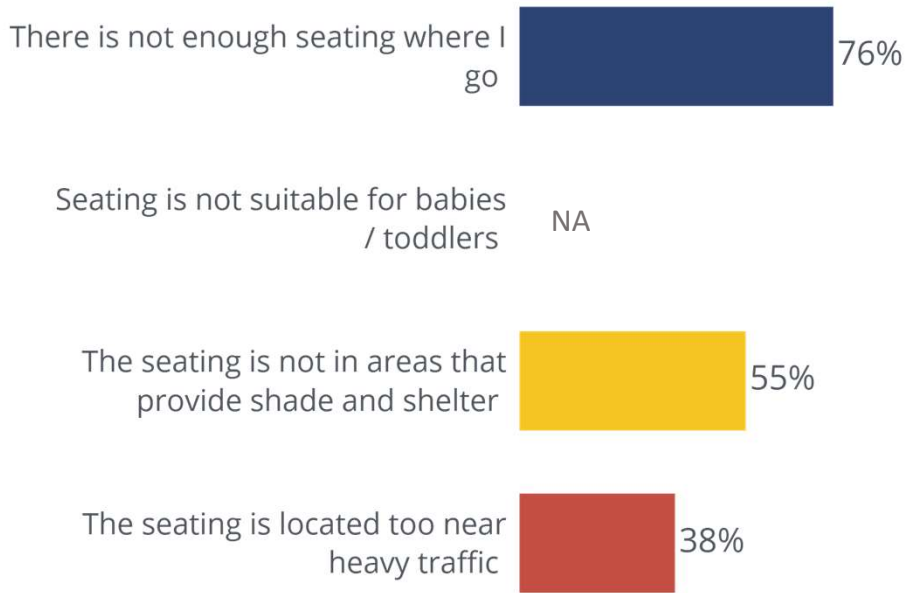
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 552

Thinking specifically of public seating and rest areas in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Not a toddler caregiver 378

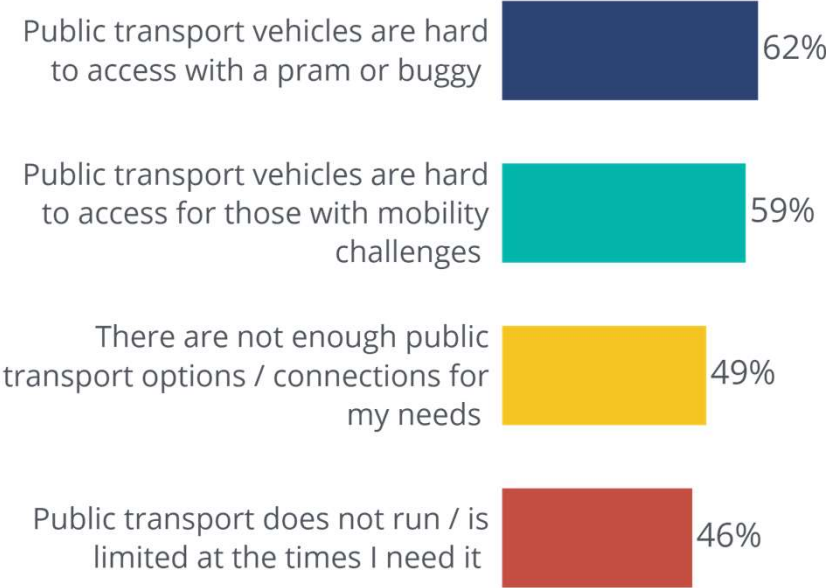
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XXIX.	Age of Independent Travel Through Neighbourhood	68
XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Using Public Transport

Thinking specifically of using public transport in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

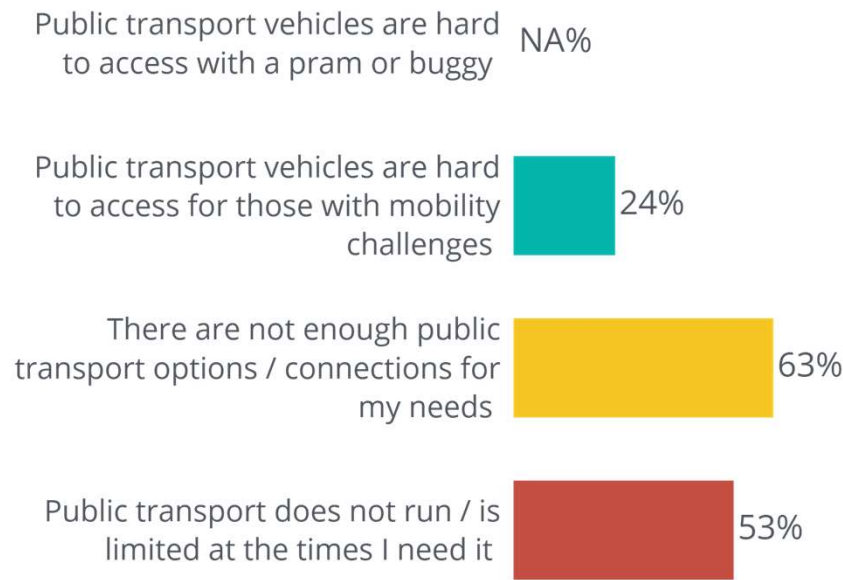
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 544

Thinking specifically of using public transport in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Not a toddler caregiver 312

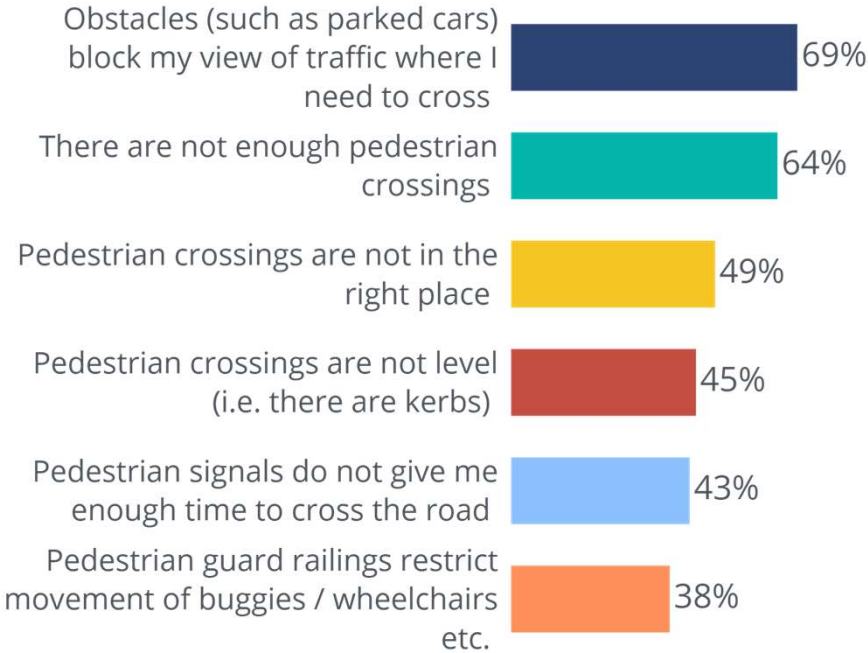
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XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Crossing the Road

Thinking specifically of crossing the road in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

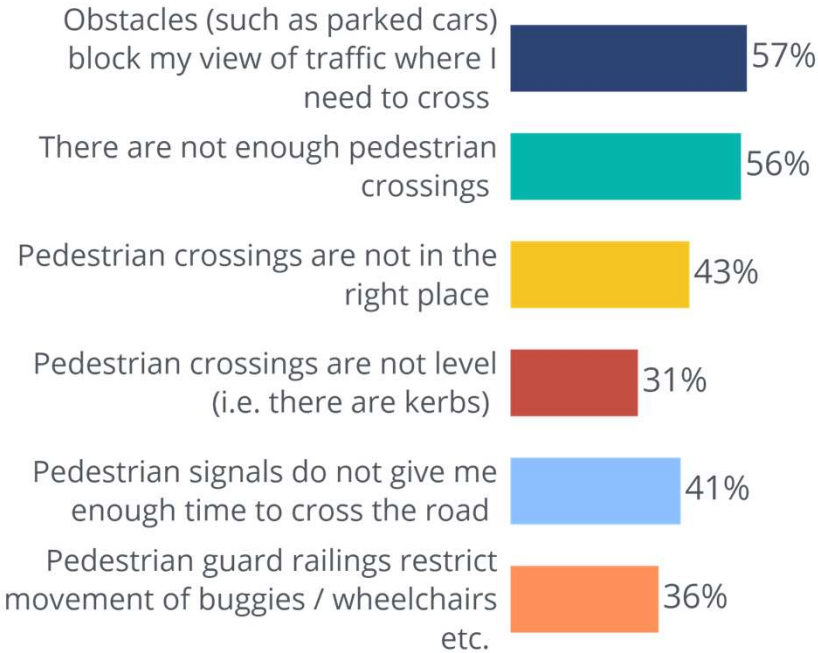
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 519

Thinking specifically of crossing the road in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



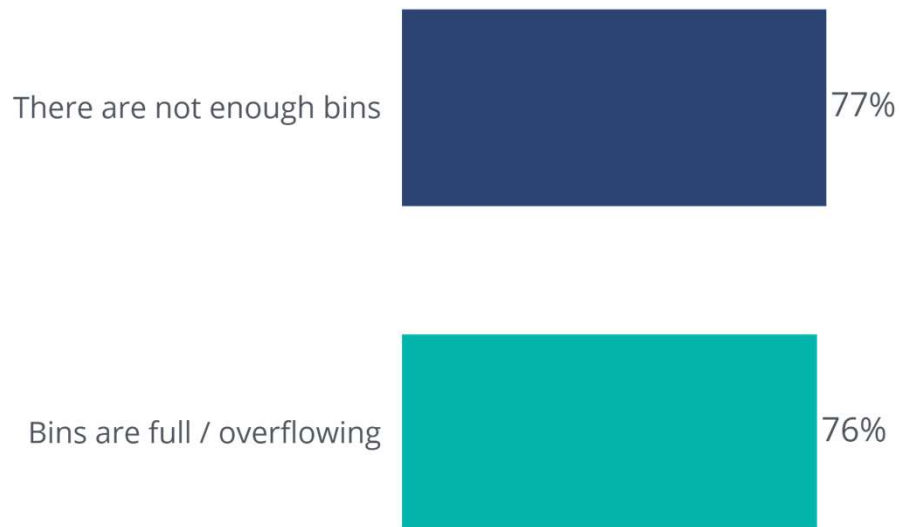
Base: Not a toddler caregiver 280

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Thinking specifically of public bins in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

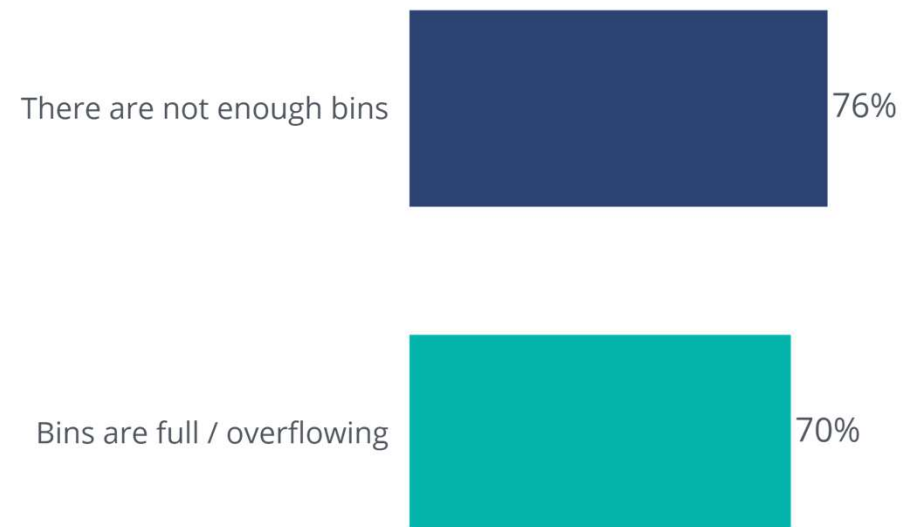
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 472

Thinking specifically of public bins in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



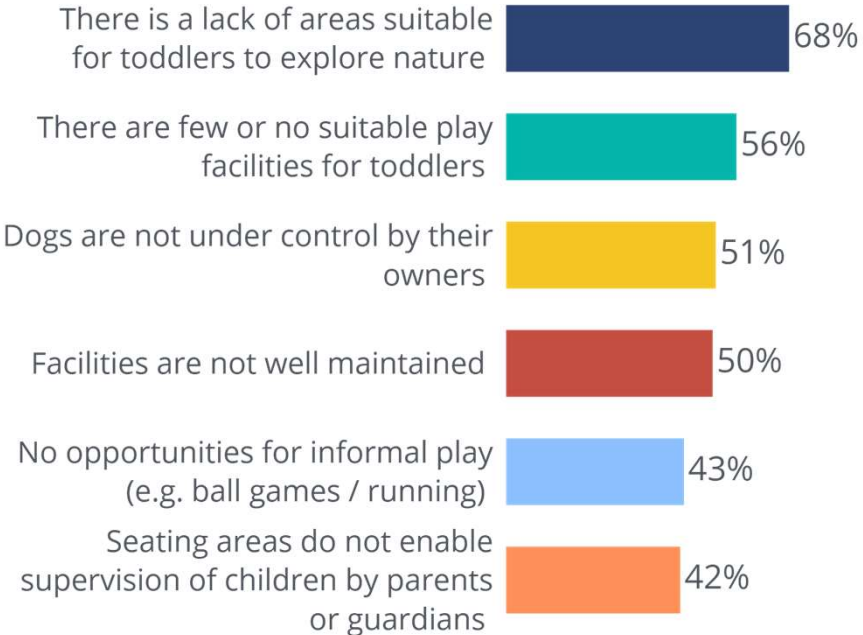
Base: Not a toddler caregiver 417

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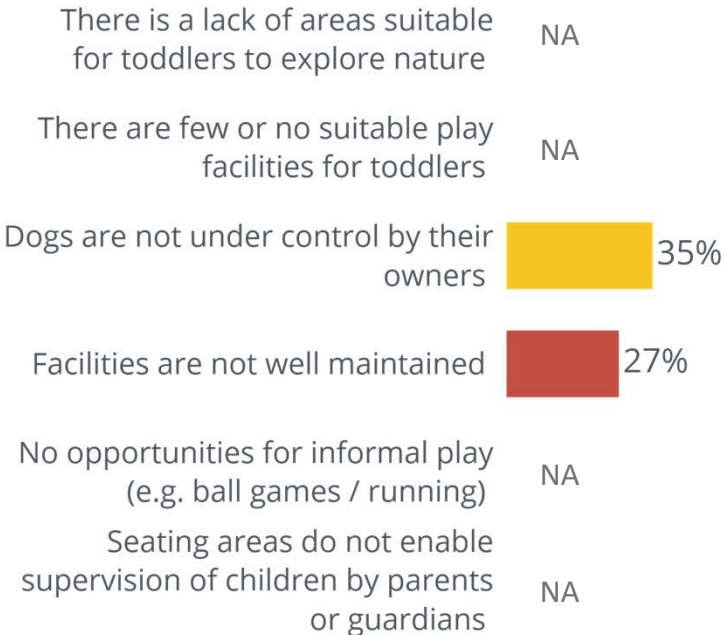
Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces

Thinking specifically of parks, playgrounds and green spaces in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 331

Thinking specifically of parks, playgrounds and green spaces in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?
% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Not a toddler caregiver 122

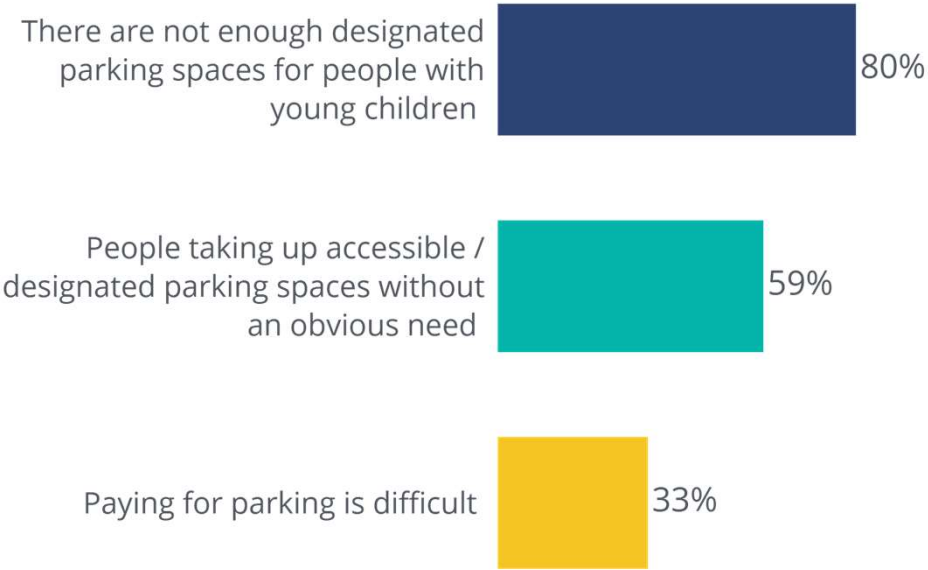
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XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

Using a Private Car

Thinking specifically of using a private car in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

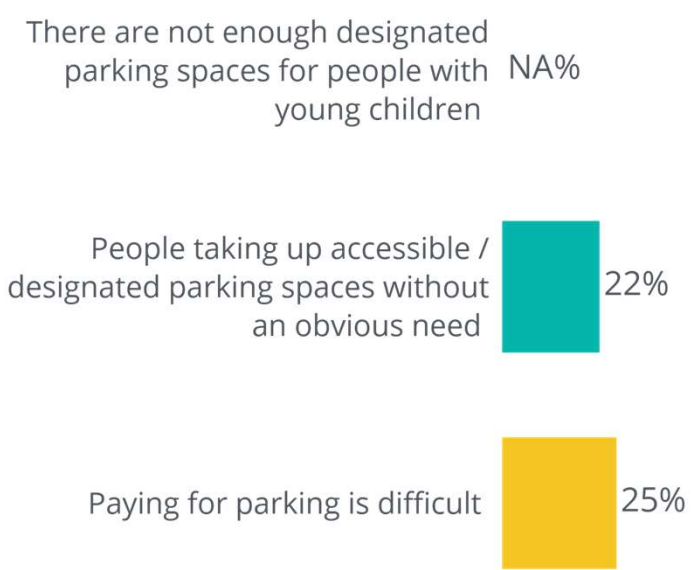
% often, toddler / baby caregivers only



Base: Toddler caregiver 287

Thinking specifically of using a private car in Dublin city, how often (if ever) would you encounter the following challenges?

% often, non-toddler / baby caregivers only



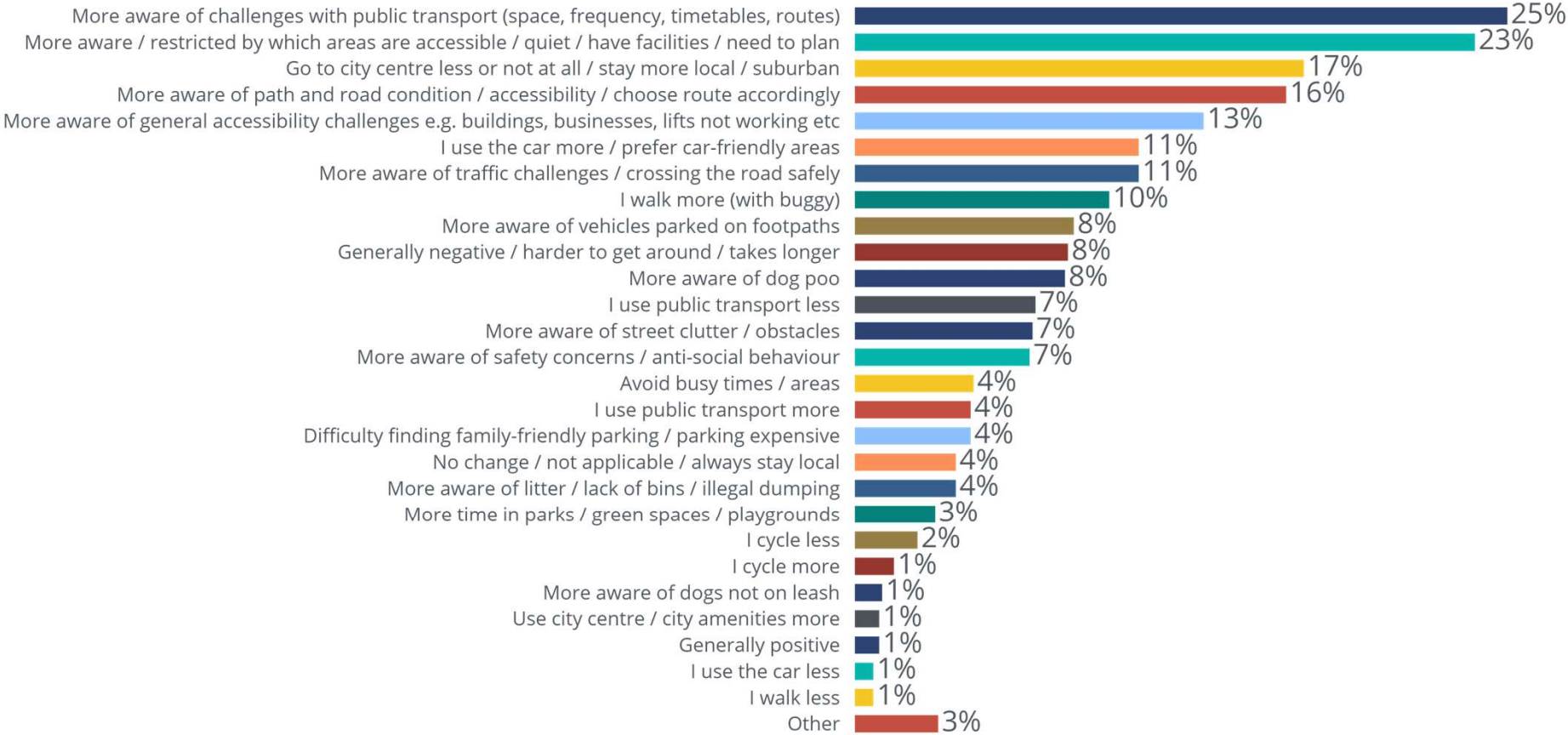
Base: Not a toddler caregiver 216

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XXIX.	Age of Independent Travel Through Neighbourhood	68
XXX.	Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel	70

In what ways has your movement around Dublin changed since becoming a caregiver to a baby or toddler?

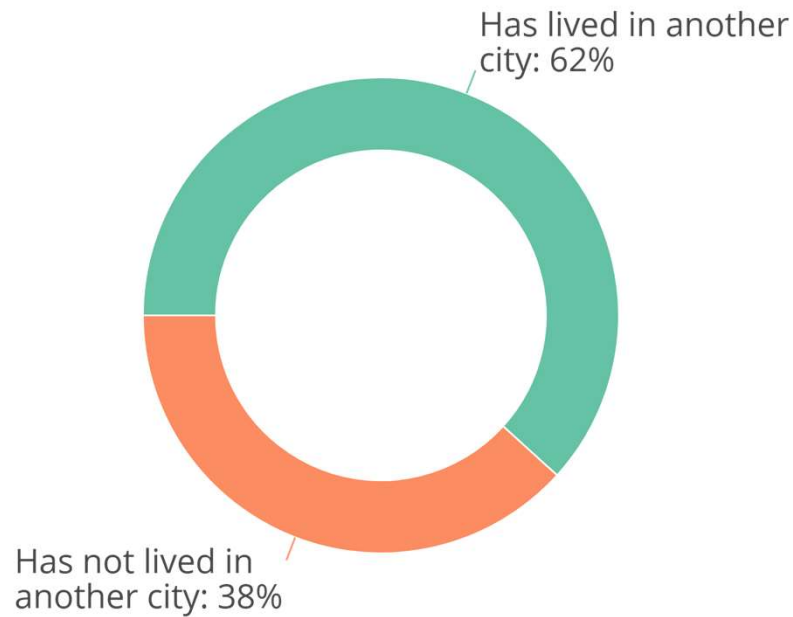
(open-ended comments categorised into topics)



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Have you ever lived in a city or urban area other than the Dublin region?



n=1,066 toddler caregivers

Experience of living in other cities rises to 68% among 35-49 year-olds

Experience increases with income and education

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Good Aspects of Getting Around Dublin City with a Baby / Toddler

Are there specific aspects of your experience getting around Dublin city with a baby / toddler that you believe are particularly good?

(open-ended comments categorised into topics)

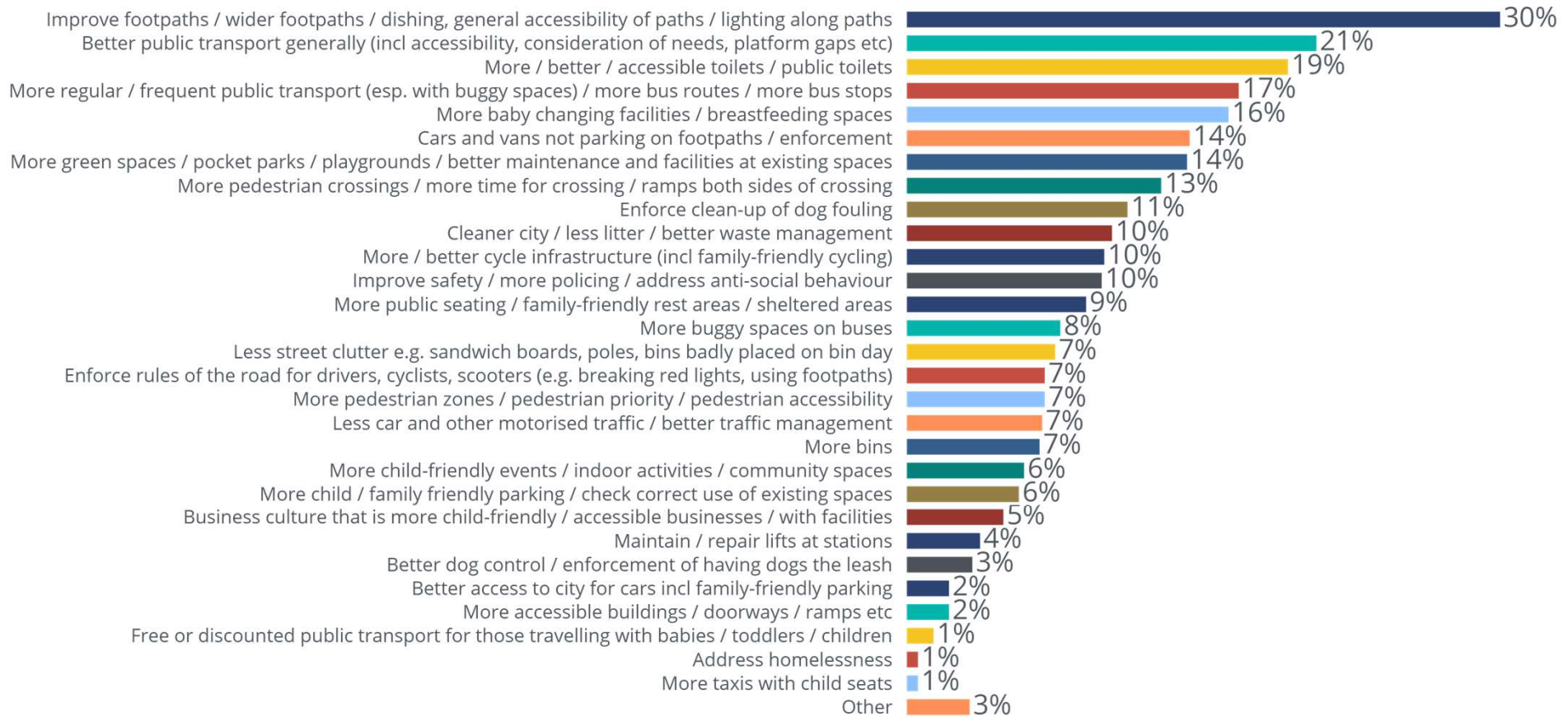


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What changes would you suggest to improve your experience of getting around Dublin city with babies and toddlers?

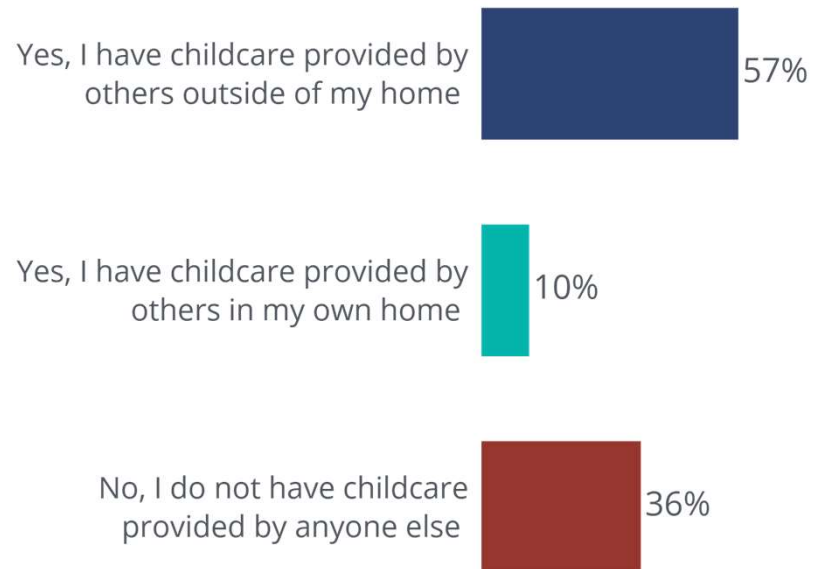
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Do you avail of childcare for a child / children of any age? This can be paid or non-paid childcare. Please select as many as apply.

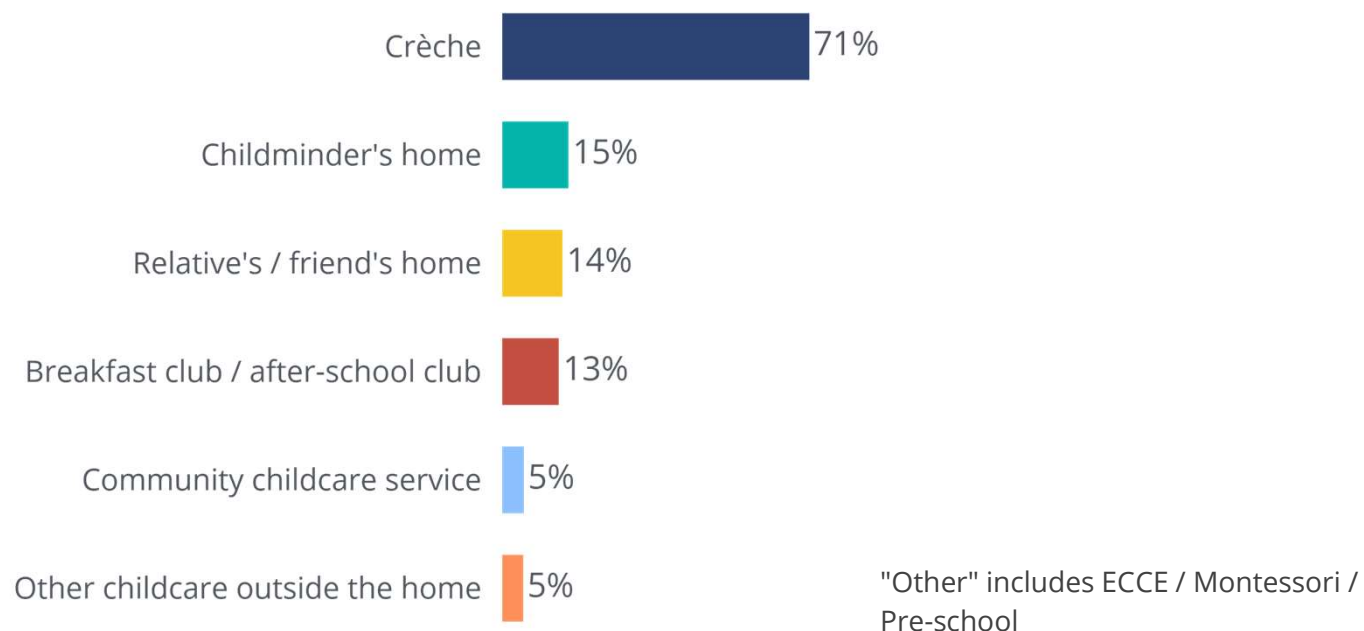


Base = 1,010 respondents with dependent children under 18 in the household

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What is the setting of the childcare provided outside your home? Please select as many as apply.



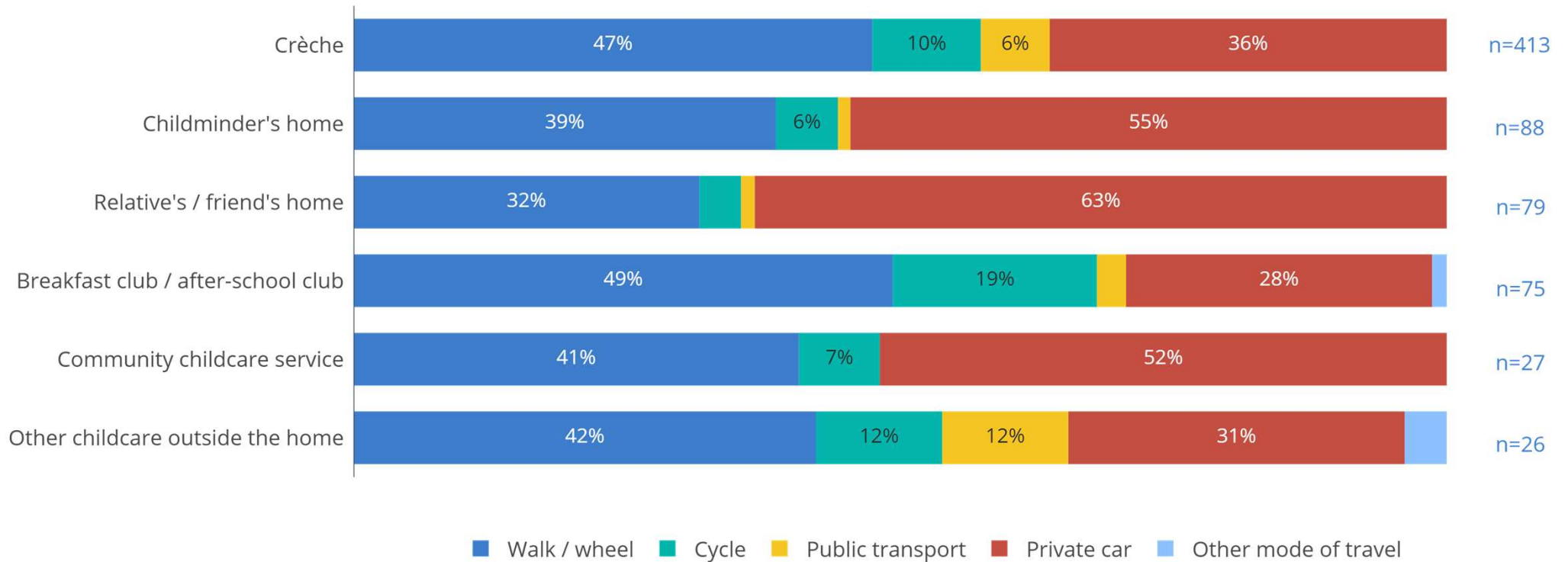
Base = 580 respondents availing of childcare outside of the home

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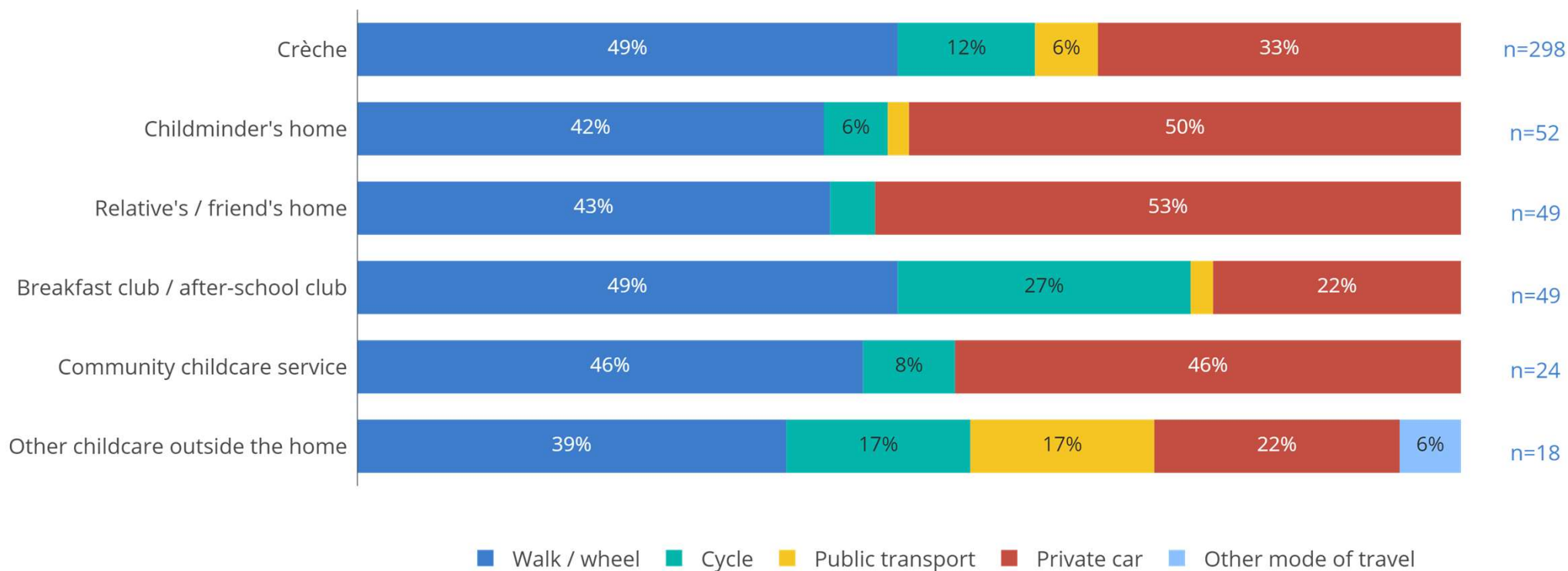
Mode of Travel to Childcare Outside of Home

How do you usually get to the childcare services that you use?



Mode of Travel to Childcare Outside of Home - DCC Area Only

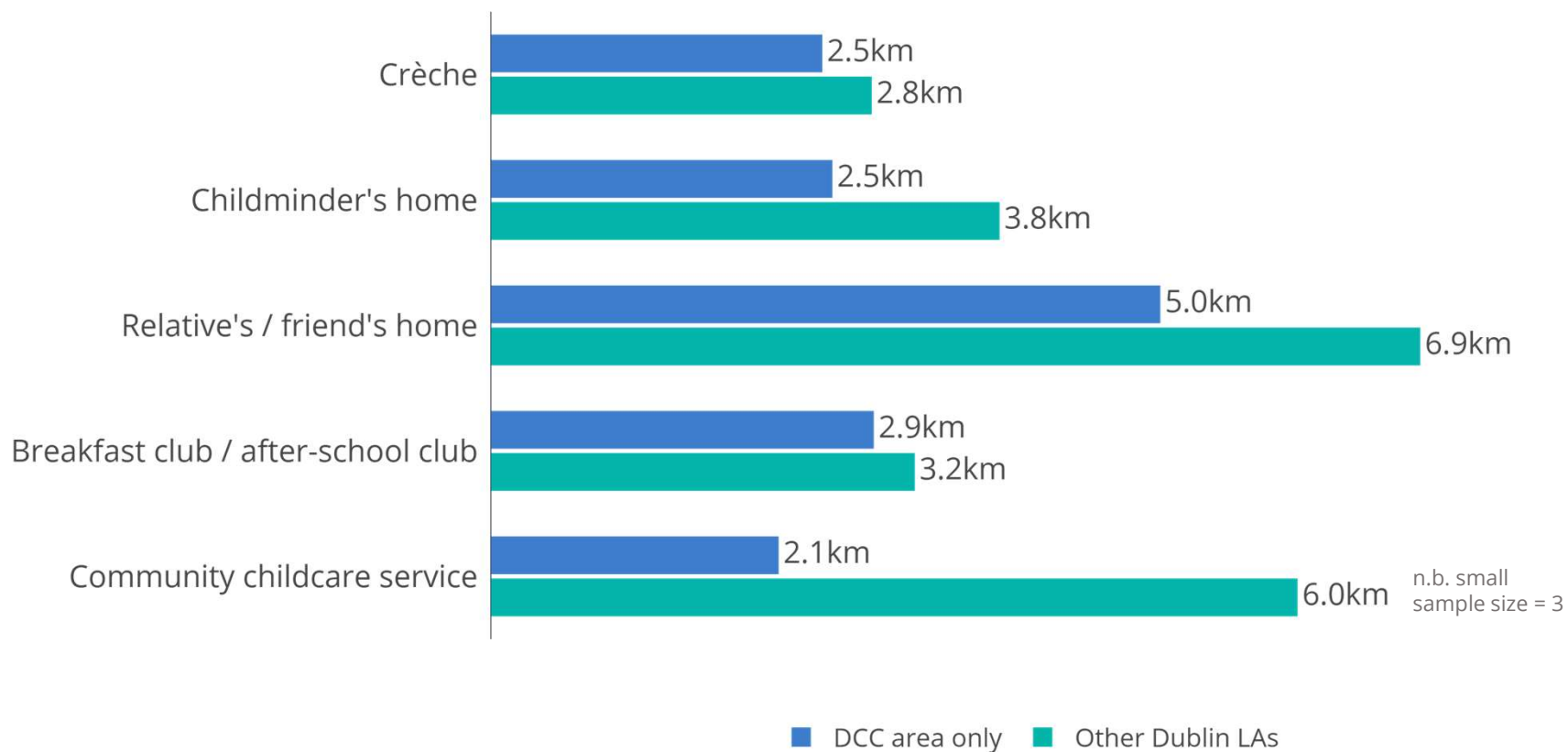
How do you usually get to the childcare services that you use?



DCC area residents are more likely to walk / wheel when getting to a relative's / friend's home than those in other areas.

Any active travel modes are more likely within the DCC area.

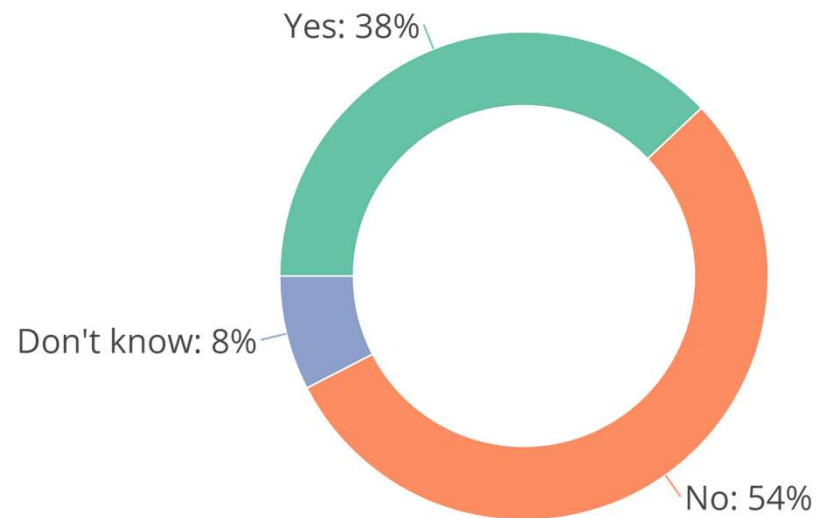
On average, about how far do you travel to get to:



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Are there childcare services nearer your home that you would like to use but do not use?



"Yes" rises to 50% among those in Dublin up to 5 years

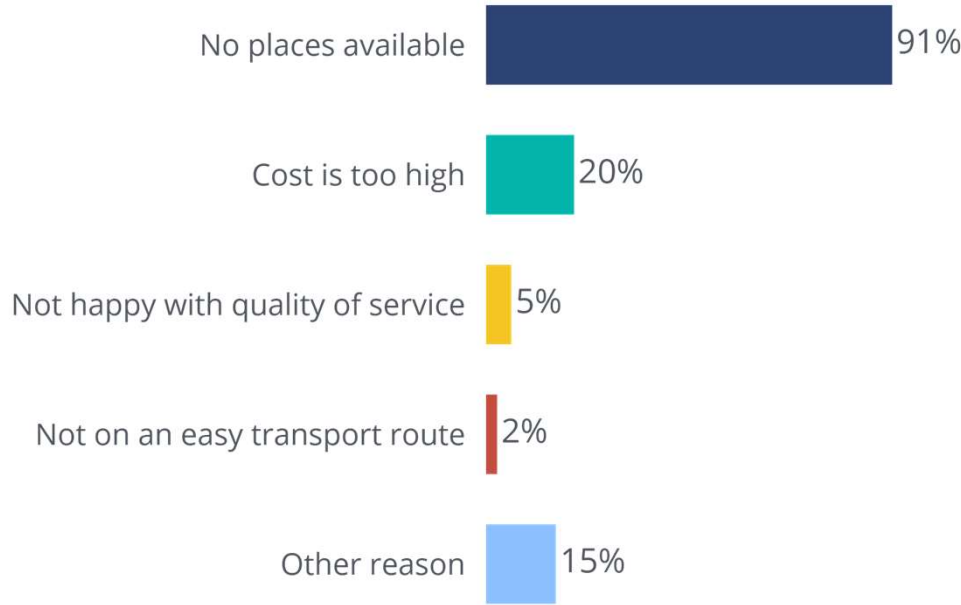
n=495 availing of childcare outside of home

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Reasons Not Using Closer Childcare Options

What are the reasons that you do not use the closer childcare services?



"Other" reasons include "on waiting list", "hours not suitable for working parents" among others

n=220 not availing of childcare closer to their home

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At what age do you believe a child should be able to independently travel through your neighbourhood? Please enter an age between 4 and 18.



10.8 years

average age suggested across all respondents

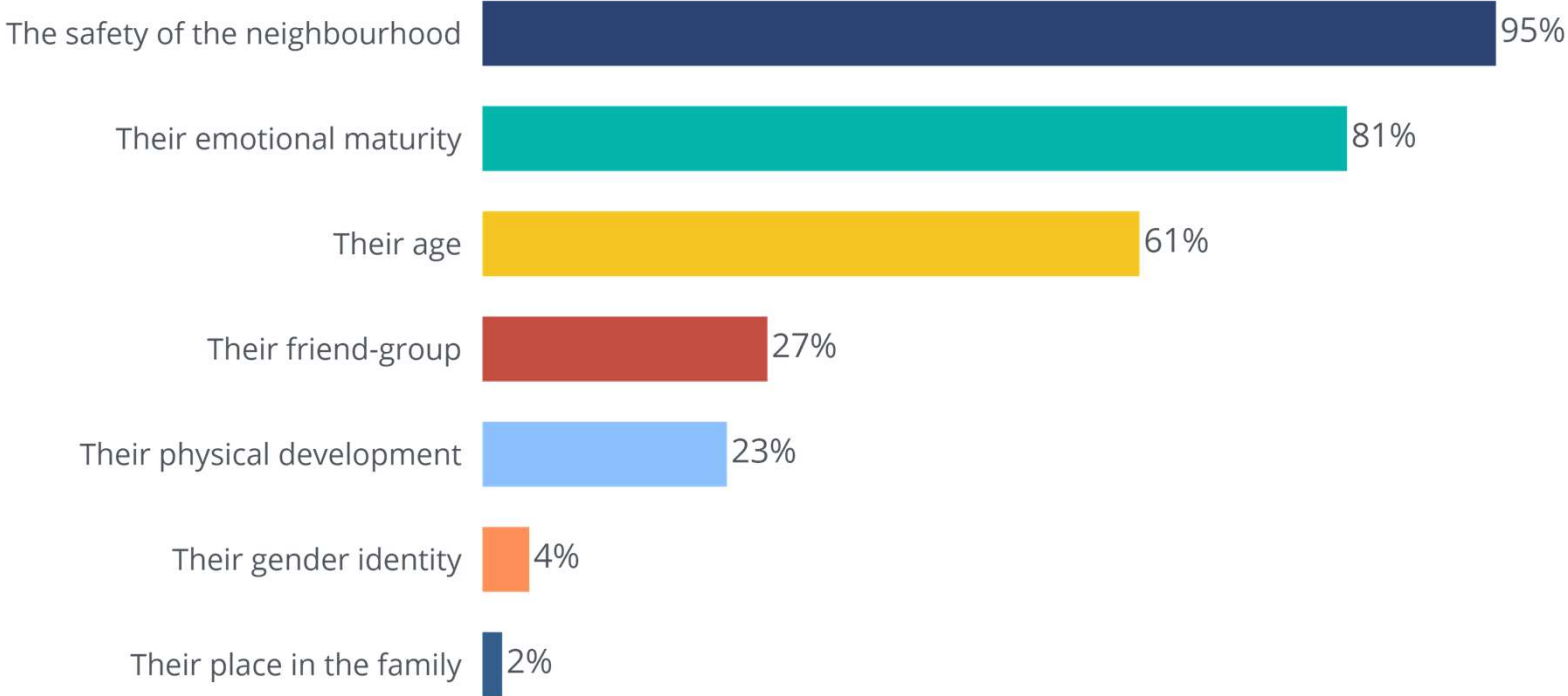
n=1,024 general population

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Factors in Assessing Readiness for Independent Travel

When assessing a child's readiness for independent travel, what do you think are the top 3 most important factors to take into consideration?



Base: 1019



For further information please
contact:

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