

2020-
2021

EDUCARE NEW ORLEANS '20-'21: PARENT INTERVIEW REPORT

Prepared for the Educare New Orleans Leadership Team

By the Local Evaluation Partner, Tulane University



Parent Demographics

Figure 1: Primary Caregiver

	New Orleans 2018/19	New Orleans 2019/20	New Orleans 2020/21
Mother	93.0%	90.5%	89.6%
Father	1.8%	2.7%	1.5%
Other	5.2%	6.8%	9.0%

This year Parent Interviews were completed with 67 parents or caregivers of 72 of the children enrolled. A series of “Covid-19 Impact” questions were added to the parent interview for the 20/21 school year and findings can be found throughout this report. Parents were asked about their experience during the pandemic (from March 2020 to the present day) and how their families were affected.

- This section describes the characteristics of the parents who participated in the interview. Understanding the types of caregivers, ages, and family structure of children can help Educare better design services and programs for parents.
- **Figure 1** reveals that the majority (90%) of primary caregivers at Educare are mothers.
- **Figure 2** illustrates that more than half (54%) of moms of children that Educare serves are between the ages of 25-34 years of age.
- **Figure 3** demonstrates that the majority (66%) of Educare families are single-parent homes.

Figure 2: Mom Age at Time of Interview

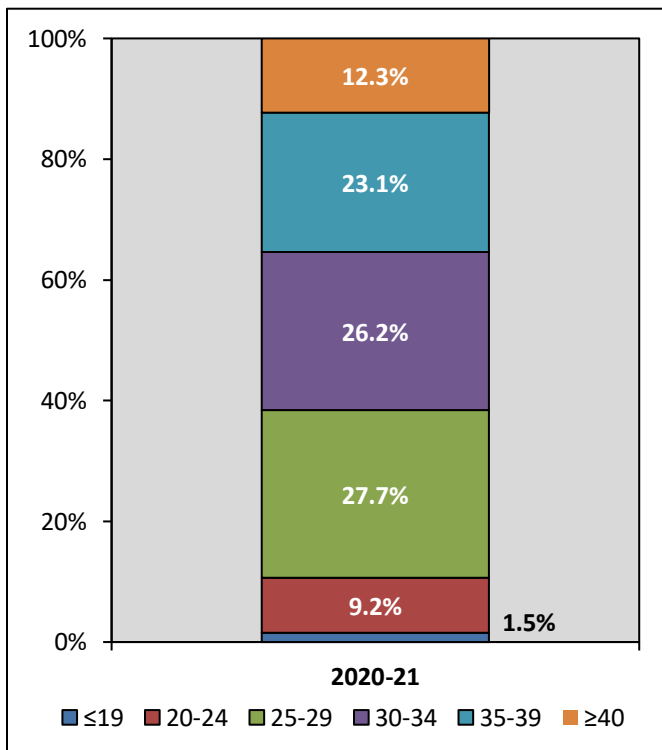
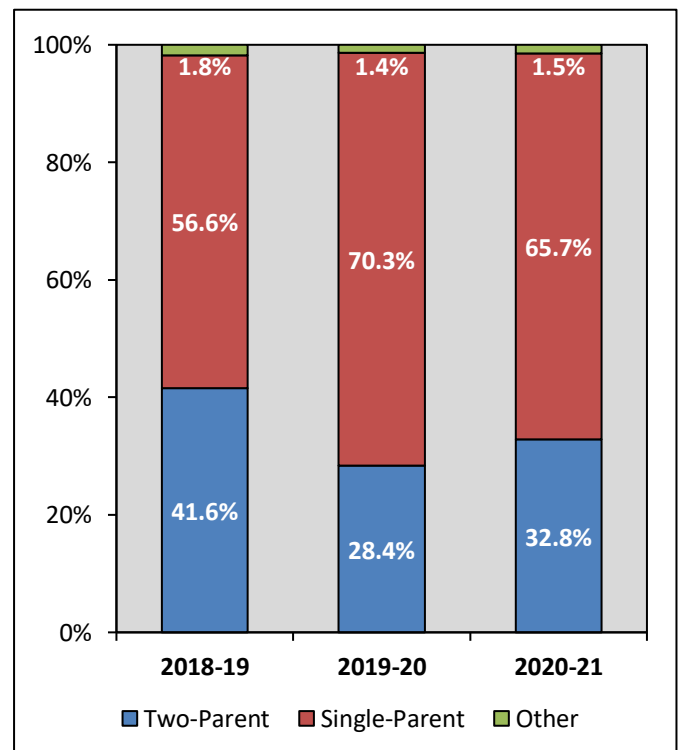


Figure 3: Family Structure



Parent Demographics

Figure 4: Primary Caregiver Education Level

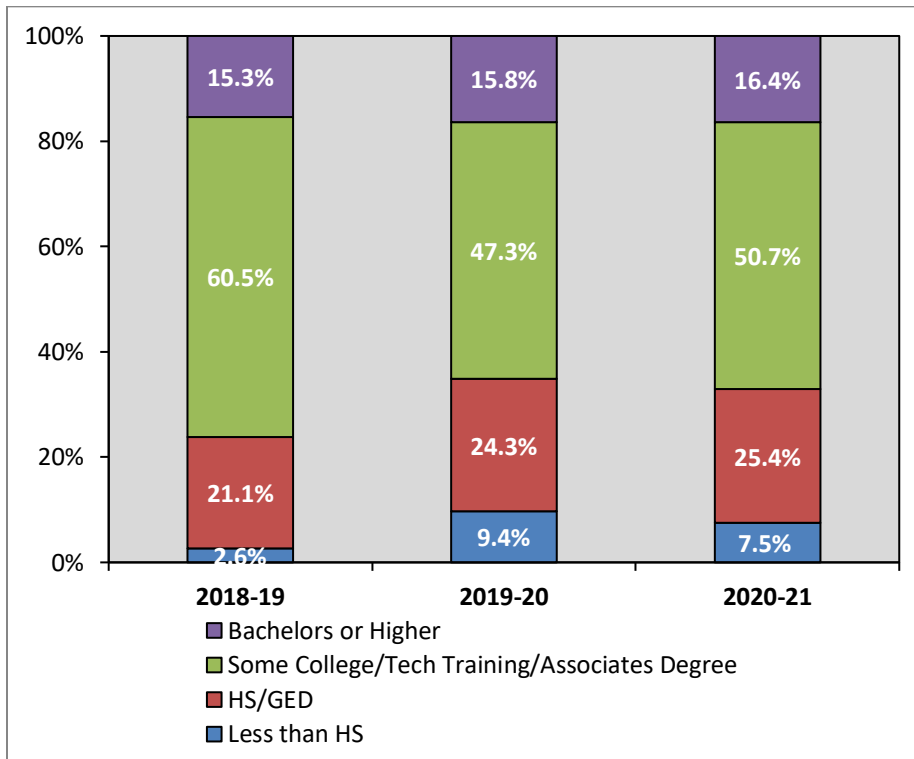
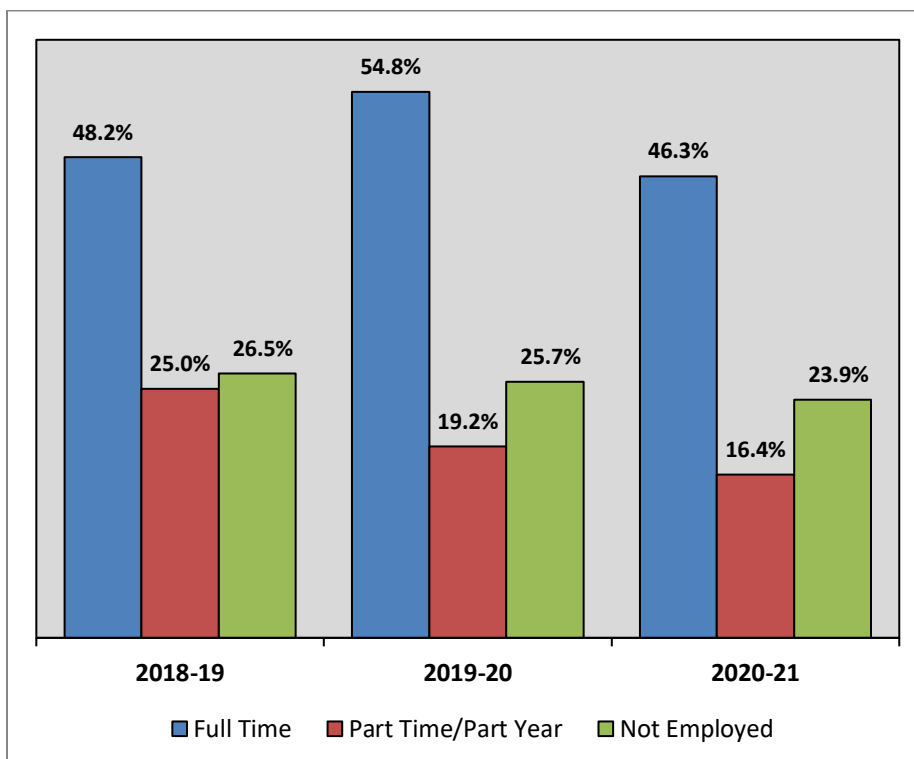


Figure 5: Primary Caregiver Employment Status



- Figure 4** shows the distribution of primary caregiver education level. In congruence with the past two years, the majority (51%) of caregivers have some college, tech training, or an associate degree. In the 2020-21 school year 16.4% of parents stated that they were currently enrolled in school or a training program.

- Figure 5** shows the employment status of the primary caregivers of children enrolled at Educare New Orleans. A smaller proportion of parents were employed full time in 2020-21 than in previous years.

- COVID-19 Impact** Over half of families (54%) said that a family member had to cut back their hours at work. Over half (54%) of families said that their family income had decreased. Almost a quarter (24%) of families had a family member that lost their job due to COVID-19.

Parent Behaviors

Figure 6: Past Week Reading with Child

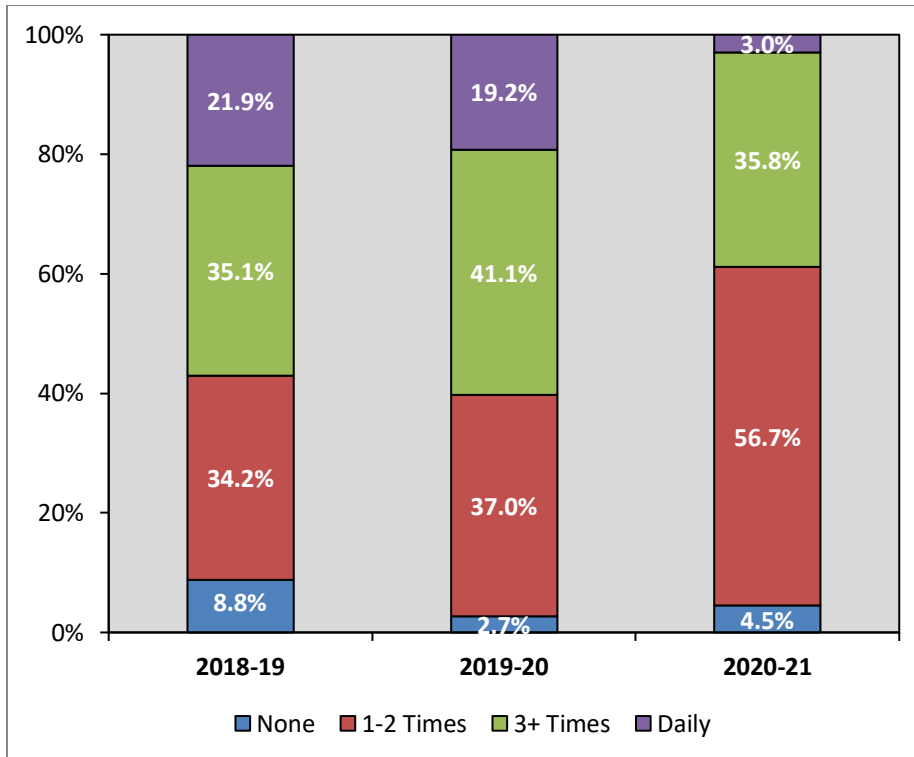
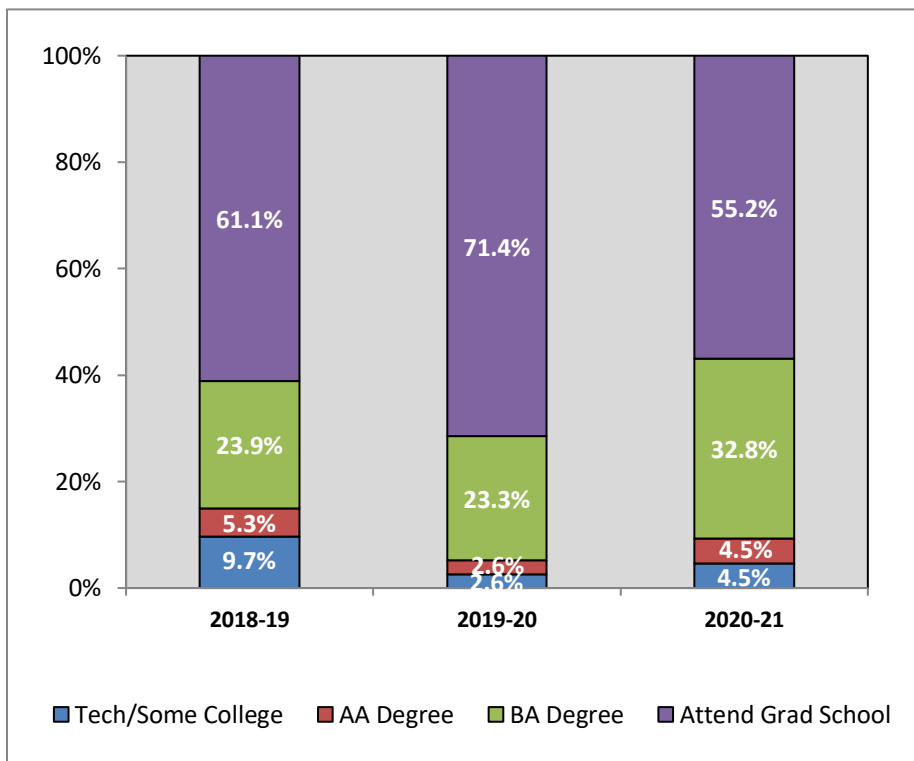


Figure 7: Parents' Expectation about How Far Their Child Will Go in School



- Figure 6** shows the number of times the primary caregiver read with their child in the past week. In 2020-21, the majority of parents were reading with their child 2 or less times a week (57%), and there was a marked decrease in the proportion of parents reading with their child 3 or more times in 2020-21 compared to the previous two years.

- Figure 7** includes information on how far parents think their child will go in terms of their education. Consistent with previous years, most parents had expectations for a graduate or professional level of education for their child, but the proportion who expected this was less than in previous years. However, there was an increase in the proportion of parents who expected their child would obtain a college degree in 2021-21 compared to previous years.

- COVID-19 Impact** The majority (70%) of families said that Educare provided them with online learning supports during the pandemic and most families had access to a computer (97%) and reliable internet access (88%).

Parent Behaviors

Figure 8: Relationship with Child – Conflict Mean Score

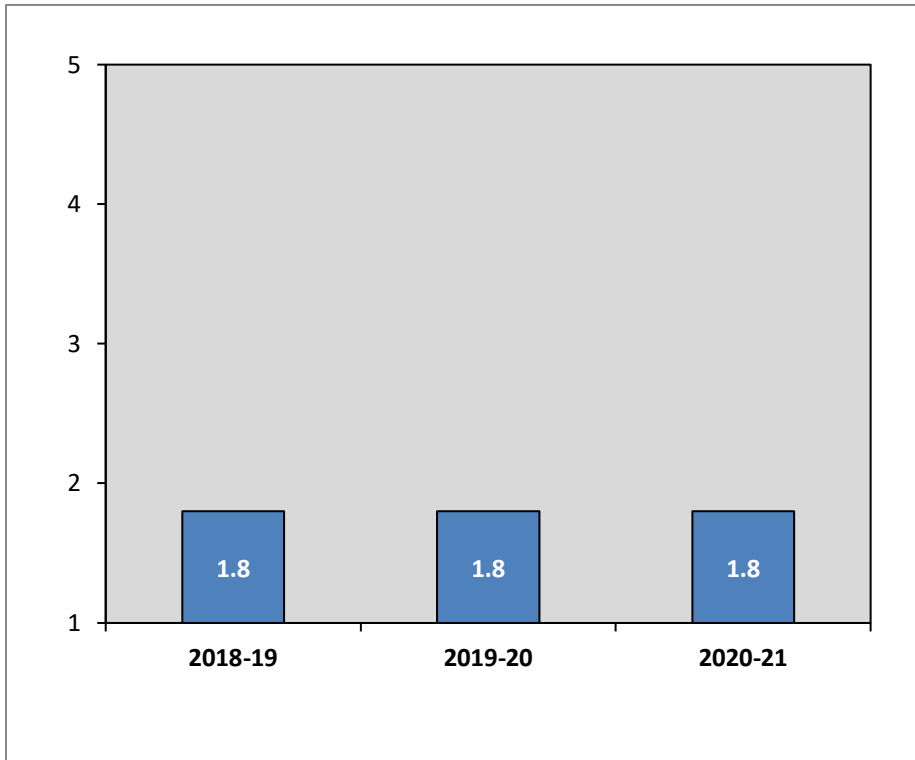
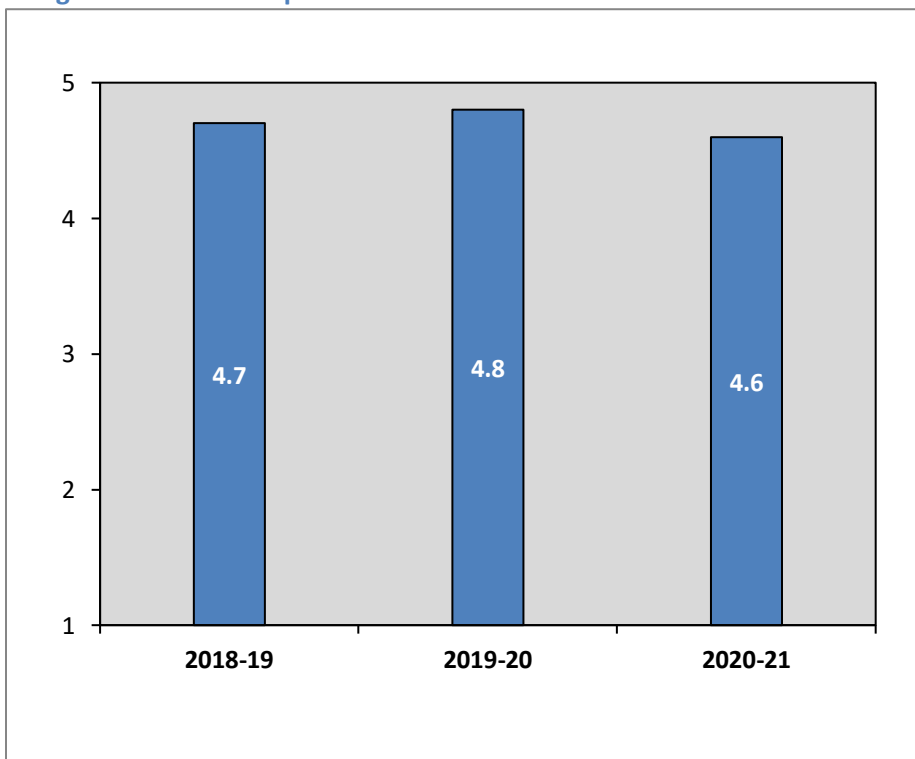


Figure 9: Relationship with Child – Closeness Mean Score



- **Figure 8** shows the average score on the Pianta Parent-Child Conflict Scale. The scale ranges from 1-5 with a score of less than 2 indicating low conflict in the relationship. Though the majority of parents scored less than 2, approximately a third (33.3%, n=24) of parents scored over 2, indicating some conflict in their relationship with their child.
- **Figure 9** shows the average score on the Pianta Parent-Child Closeness Scale. This scale also ranges from 1-5, but a score of higher than 2 is considered a good close relationship. This closeness measure did not have a lot of variability among Educare parents, with only 5 parents (n=72) scoring less than 4, meaning parents at Educare have close relationships with their children.
- **COVID-19 Impact** The majority of families said that the pandemic affected their parenting and how family members got along in a positive way. Some parents said the pandemic “made it [their parenting] a lot better” (43.3%) and about one-third (31.3%) said it “made it [how family members got along] a lot better.” Less than 2% of families said the pandemic worsened their parenting or how family members got along.

Family Stress

Figure 10: Food Security

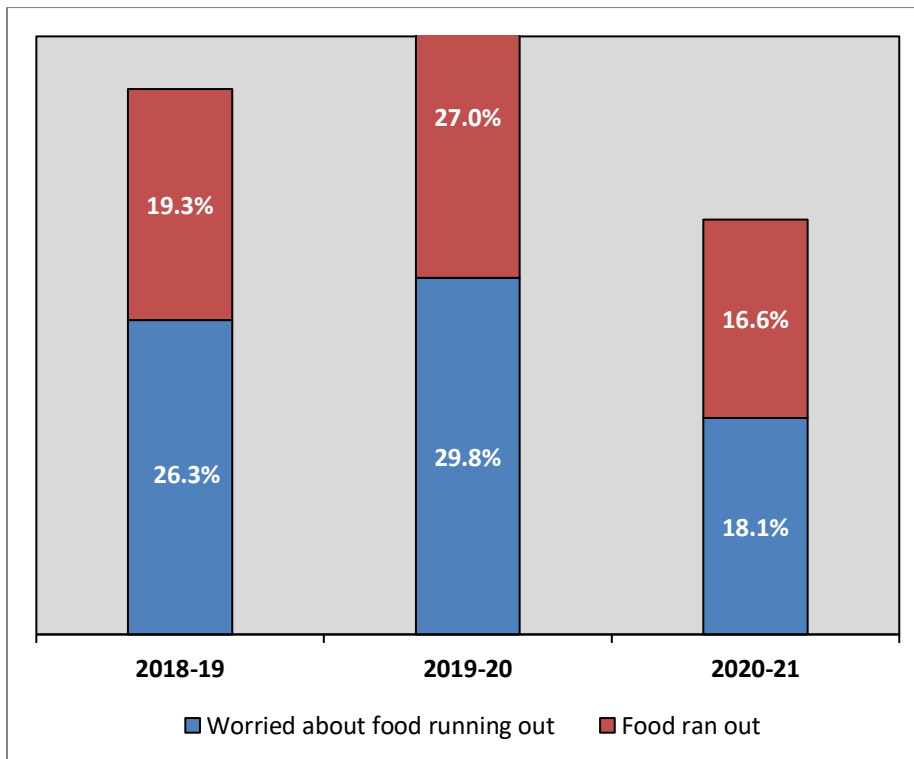
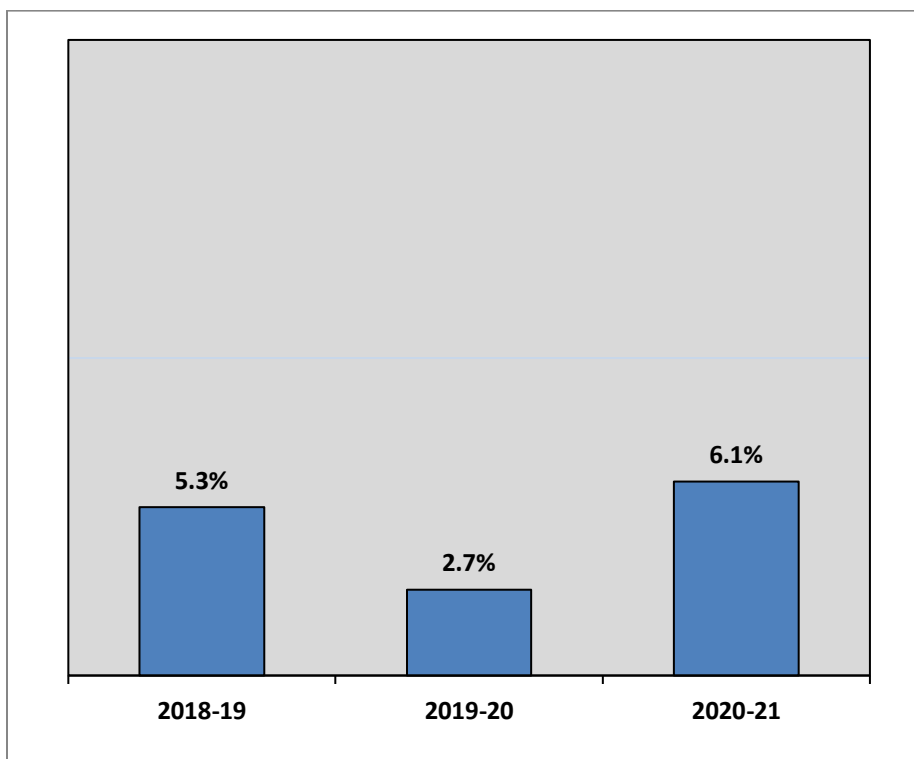


Figure 11: Became Homeless



There are many factors that can cause families stress.

- **Figure 10** shows that the percent of families who worried about food running out or ran out of food over the past year was less than in previous years.
- **Figure 11** illustrates that the percentage who report being homeless in the past year has increased since the previous year.
- The Parent Interview revealed that the percentage of families who *worried* about becoming homeless has increased steadily over the past four years (15.1% in 2020-21, 13.5% in 2019-20, 12.3% in 2018-19, and 10.1% in 2017-18).
- **COVID-19 Impact** Children who were enrolled at Educare in the spring of 2020, during the time school was closed, received the following supports from Educare:
 - 32.7% received food/grocery pick-up/delivery
 - 21.2% received supply pickup/delivery
 - 3.8% received a cash stipend/gift card
 - 17.3% received referrals to other services (e.g., medical, employment, mental health, etc.)

Family Stress

Figure 12: Parent Perceived Stress Level

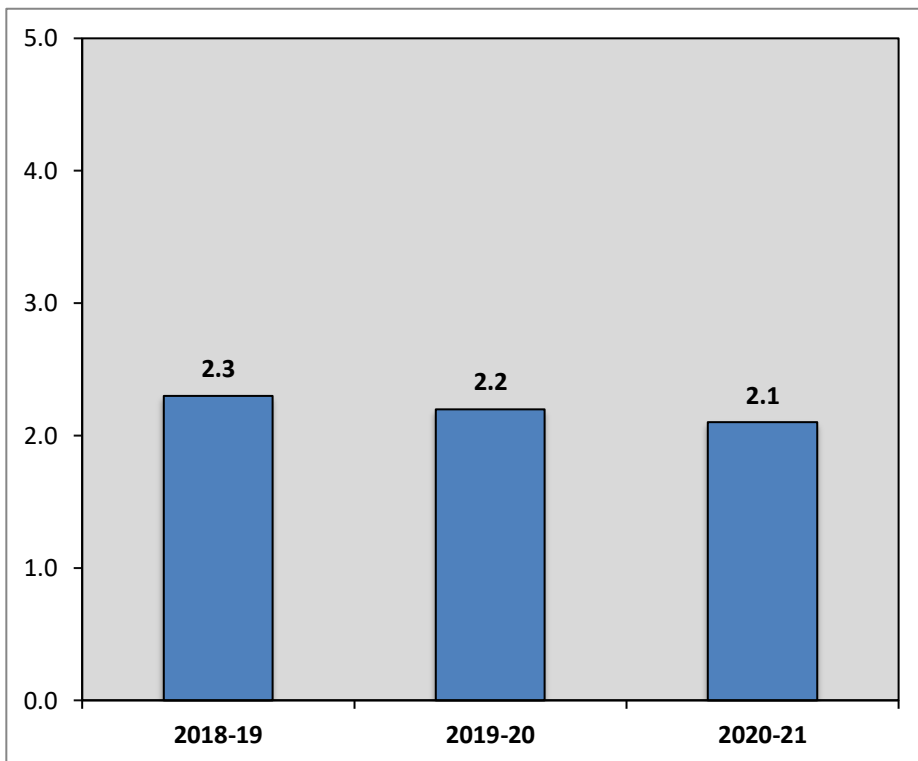
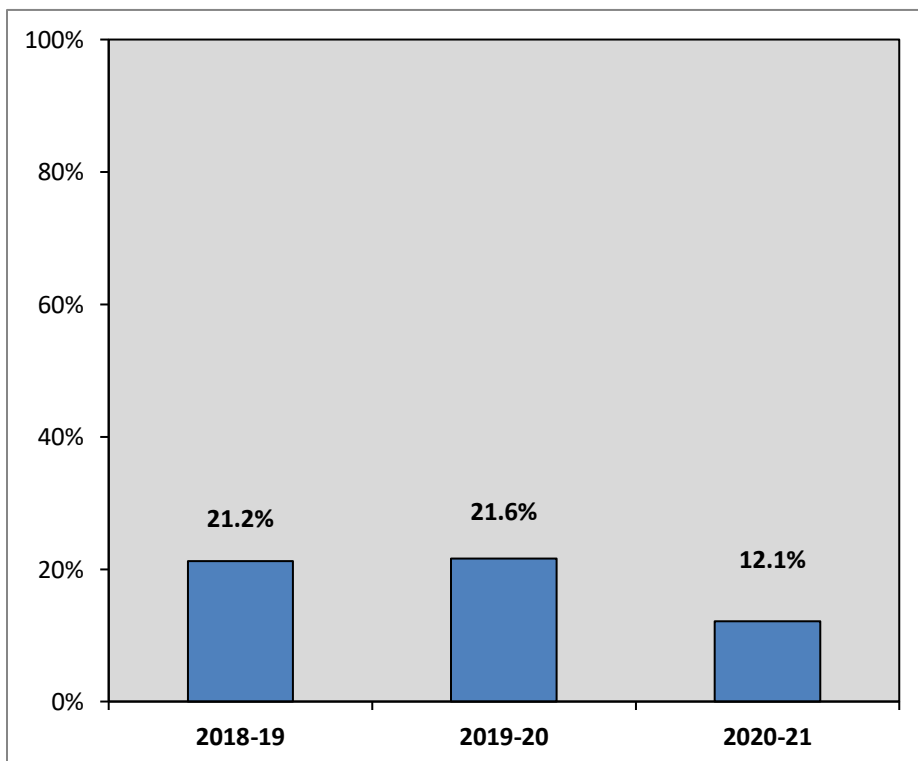


Figure 13: Caregiver Depression



- **Figure 12** shows parents' perceived stress levels in the past month (interviews were conducted during the fall 2020). Questions ask about their confidence to control and handle important things in their life or overcome personal problems. Scores range from 1-5 with 5 being the highest perceived stress. The mean stress score for families was 2.1, only slightly less than in the previous two years.

- **Figure 13** shows that a little over a fifth of all parents who took the Parent Interview in the previous two years were reporting some type of depression, but there was a marked decrease in parents reporting depression in 2020-21. It should be noted that this is not a clinical measure of depression, though it may provide some insight into what families are struggling with.

- **COVID-19 Impact** When families were asked how COVID-19 affected their emotional and physical well-being, almost half said it was 'about the same' (47.8% had "about the same" emotional well-being and 44.8% had "about the same" physical well-being due to the impacts of Covid). However, about one-third of families said that it (emotional and physical well-being) was worse (34.4% had worse emotional well-being and 31.4% had worse physical well-being due to the impacts of Covid).

Family Stress

Figure 14: Significant Life Events

	2019-20	New Orleans 2020-21
Change in primary caregiver's work	33.8%	28.4%
Death of someone important in child's life	25.7%	22.4%
Gained a new family member	25.7%	22.4%
Major change in living conditions	12.2%	20.9%
Separated from partner or divorced	18.9%	14.9%
Separated from another family member	12.2%	11.9%
Family member incarcerated	18.9%	10.5%
Family member had serious illness	14.9%	9.0%
Family member victim of violent crime	5.4%	6.0%
Child lived with someone else	8.1%	3.0%
Child saw domestic violence	5.4%	1.5%

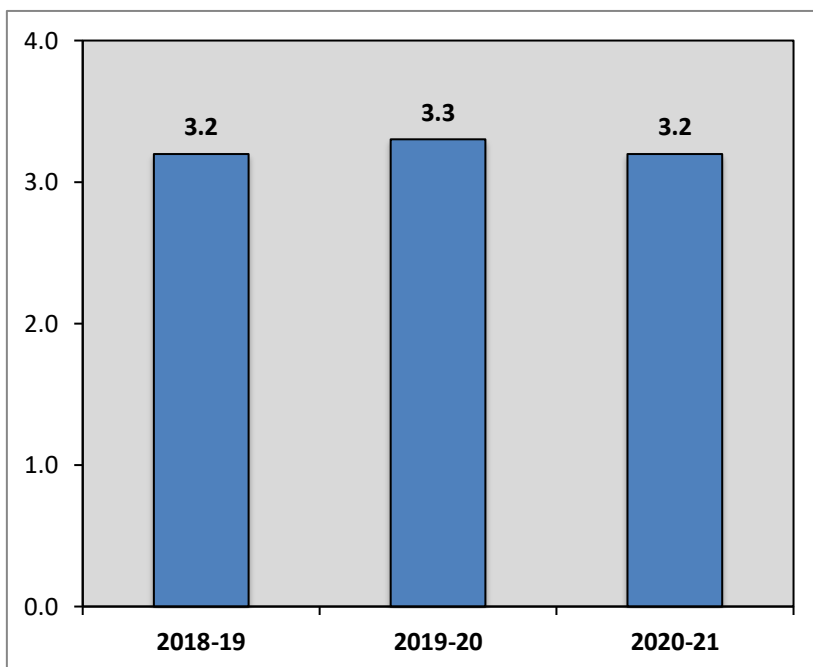
- Figure 14** shows the percentages for significant life events that occurred in a child's life over the past year as asked on the Parent Interview. On par with last year, the mean number of life events for 2020-21 was 1.75 (last year the mean was 1.97).
- COVID-19 Impact** The majority of parents (86.6%) reported they had no family members diagnosed with Covid. Only 3% of families had a family member hospitalized and 7.5% had a family member die from Covid.

Educare Parent Relationships & Resilience

Figure 15: Educare Parents Contact with Other Educare Families and Staff During the Pandemic Shutdown, Spring 2020

Educare Parents Contact with Other Educare Families and Staff During the Pandemic Shutdown	New Orleans Spring 2020
Contact or communication with my child(ren)'s teacher(s)	28.4%
Contact or communication with other school staff (e.g., family support/advocate, mental health consultant, social worker, school director, etc.)	22.4%
Contact or communication with my child(ren)'s classmate(s)	22.4%
Contact or communication with other Educare parents/families	20.9%

Figure 16: Parent Resilience Levels



This section includes descriptive information about how parents at Educare interacted with each other and their personal resiliency. In 2019-20, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, nearly a quarter of parents reported having established close friendships, lasting more than 3 months, with other Educare parents. In 2019, 38% of parents reported that they were having conversations with other Educare parents 1-2 times a week. These interactions were happening at drop-off/pick-up times, in the classroom, and at Educare events.

- **Figure 15** shows the percentage of families who were in contact or communication with other members of the Educare community during the school closure in the Spring of 2020.
- **Figure 16** shows the mean resilience levels of parents based on the Brief Resilience Scale over the past three years. Scores range from 1-4, with 4 indicating highest levels of resilience. The scale asks parents about their ability to bounce back and recover after stressful events or setbacks. Parents at Educare New Orleans are resilient, even despite the pandemic, and have exhibited relatively consistent scores over the past three years.
- **COVID-19 Impact** Due to the pandemic restrictions were enacted, and parents engaged less often with other families. The pandemic also changed the scope of Educare interactions among families. Families were not able to interact on campus and only 2 parents said they were still in contact or communication with other Educare parents/families. Parents were also unable to meet in-person with their family advocates, instead communication between staff and parents consisted of zoom calls, letters sent home, and telephone calls.

Parent Focus Group Highlights

How are children being impacted by Covid-19?

At School

- Children have a short attention span and online learning has been hard at this age
- Although it was hard, children adjusted quickly. It was harder for parents to adjust to kids learning from home
- Children missed the social interaction that they got being at school

At Home

- Seeing family members sick
- Families bonded, spending more time together at home
- Parents became more hands on and had more respect for what teachers do for their kids
- Cooking more together and having family meals

Parent Focus Group

Educare parents participated in a focus group to help us better understand family needs and how Educare has helped support them since Covid-19.

Four parents participated and provided feedback about how Educare staff has communicated with and supported families since the start of the pandemic. They felt that Educare had done a good job of meeting their needs and supporting them throughout the pandemic.

Consistent with parent interview findings, focus group parents said that the pandemic affected their parenting and how family members got along in a positive way.

Connecting with Educare Staff and Other Families during Covid-19

Parent Testimonials

Parents stated their contact with Educare staff has not been negatively impacted by Covid-19, and, in fact, staff checked in with families even more. "They [staff] have done more than expected, especially compared to other schools."

Parents missed connecting with other families and staff in the hallways and at school. "Relationships with other parents make you feel like you are not alone, nice to have that exchange of saying hi, how are you doing, it is a comforting exchange, feeling not alone."

Parents missed participating in Educare activities such as coffee connect and fieldtrips. "It has been very hard, not getting to know other parents in kid's classroom and talking about mommy things, seeing what other children and parents are experiencing."

At the beginning of the pandemic Educare provided families with supplies, groceries, feminine hygiene products and snacks for the kids. "Going to pick up food and groceries there once a week was a fun outing for the kids too."