

Why are young children not in child care? Typologies of child care non-use among Canadian children under six years ^[1]

Author: Lavergne, K. J.

Source: Canadian Public Policy

Format: Article

Publication Date: 10 Feb 2025

AVAILABILITY

Access online ^[2]

Access online [PDF] ^[3]

Abstract

I examine child care non-use prior to the 2021–2026 Canada-wide early learning and child care agreements between the federal and provincial and territorial governments supported by a federal investment of up to C\$30 billion. Using the Statistics Canada Survey on Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements collected in 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2020 (mid-pandemic), I conducted latent class analyses of parental reasons for not using child care and identified six similar typologies of child care non-use in both cohorts, plus a typology of pandemic-constrained parents in 2020. Some parents did not seem to want child care (i.e., volitional stay-at-home parents, parents accommodated by school, employed parents on leave, out-of-work parents). Others appeared to have unmet child care demand due to affordability barriers or pandemic constraints. I estimate unmet demand to have been equivalent to 201,858 children under six years (9 percent) in 2019 and 394,881 children (17 percent) in 2020.

Related link: Survey on early learning and child care arrangements, 2019 ^[4]

Survey on early learning and child care arrangements, 2020 ^[5]

Region: Canada ^[6]

Tags: access ^[7]

affordability ^[8]

Source URL (modified on 26 Mar 2025): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/03/why-are-young-children-not-child-care-typologies-child-care>

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/03/why-are-young-children-not-child-care-typologies-child-care> ^[2]

<https://utppublishing.com/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2023-065> ^[3] <https://utppublishing.com/doi/pdf/10.3138/cpp.2023-065> ^[4]

<https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/19/04/survey-early-learning-and-child-care-arrangements-2019> ^[5]

<https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/21/04/survey-early-learning-and-child-care-arrangements-2020> ^[6]

<https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7864> ^[7] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/access> ^[8]

<https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/affordability>