

# Why are young children not in child care? Typologies of child care non-use among Canadian children under six years <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Source:** Canadian Public Policy

**Format:** Article

**Publication Date:** 10 Feb 2025

## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

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## 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 <sup>[4]</sup>

Survey on early learning and child care arrangements, 2020 <sup>[5]</sup>

**Region:** Canada <sup>[6]</sup>

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## Links

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