

# Delaware's Family Care Providers 2012

by Tibor Tóth, Ph.D.

Center for Applied Demography &  
Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Delaware's Family Care Providers  
2012**

**prepared for**

**Delaware Department of Education**

**by**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also want to acknowledge the Survey Committee for providing their experience and insight in developing the questionnaire.

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## Methodology

In 2001, Delaware launched the Delaware Early Care and Education Baseline Quality Evaluation. This evaluation focused on the quality of the experiences for children in their early care and education setting as well as provided policy makers with high level data on teachers in the early care and education workforce. The 2001 analysis led to the Delaware Early Care and Education Workforce Study conducted in 2007. The workforce study was commissioned by the Delaware Early Care and Education Council of the Office of Early Care and Education to help explain to policy makers and program planners what early care and education programs need and to inform them about the people who work in the field of early care and education.

The current study builds upon and expands the previous studies. The 2012 Early Childhood Workforce Study consists of two components:

The Survey of Early Childhood Teachers and Administrators

and

The Survey of Family Childcare Providers

This report presents the results of the Survey of Family Childcare Providers in Delaware. The population for this survey was the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' (DSCYF) Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) database. The data for the survey was extracted from the OCCL on February 23, 2012 for a total of 985 records. No duplicate records were found in the database. Of the 985 records, 907 were identified as Family Child Care units and 78 were identified as Large Family Child Care units.

The method chosen to gather the information for this population was a mail survey. A decision was made to conduct a census – contacting all licensed Family Child Care Providers. The data collection for the current report took place during the Summer 2012. Each person

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included in the survey was contacted 5 times (pre-letter, first mailing of the questionnaire, reminder card, second mailing of the questionnaire, third mailing of the questionnaire). Of the 985 pieces of mail, 7 were undeliverable, 1 respondent explicitly refused to participate, and none was identified as deceased. At the end of the data collection, 538 responses were received, and no responses were received from 440 respondents. The effective response rate (excluding undeliverable, refused and deceased) was 55%. All completed surveys were manually keyed using a double entry system for verification and error correction. Of the 538 responses, all 538 were usable responses. The results presented in the report are based on these responses.

The Delaware Family Care Providers are the focus of this report. After weighting for non-respondents and geographical location, results are tabulated for all licensed Family Care Providers in Delaware unless otherwise noted.

## Overview

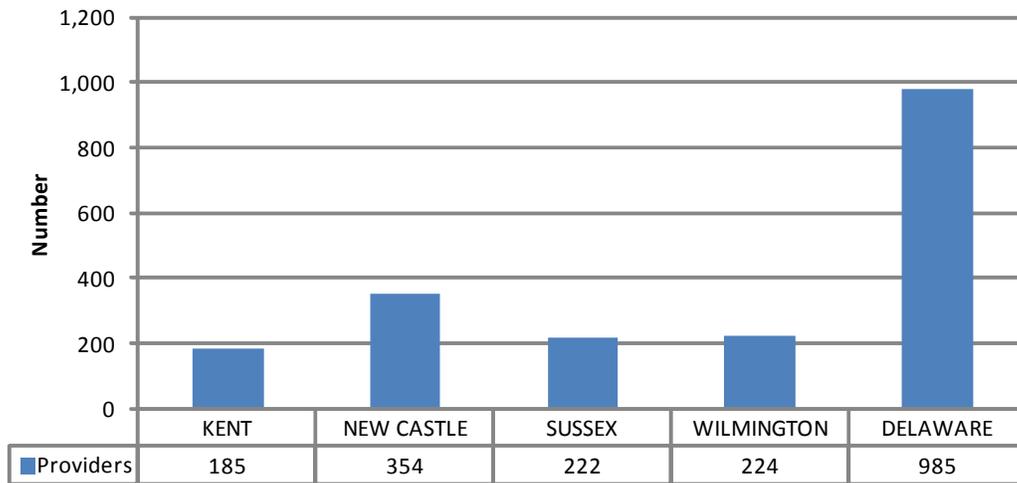
The number of Family Child Care Providers in Delaware is highest in New Castle County (354) and in Wilmington (224) (Figure 2.1). The lowest number is in Kent County (185). On average, Delaware's Family Care Providers have spent about 15 years actively caring for children (Figure 2.1). Some differences exist among locations, Wilmington's providers report having spent on average the least (13.6) caring for children. Interestingly, when asking respondents to identify their likeliness to be active in the field 5 years from now (Figure 2.3), providers located in Wilmington are more likely (76%) to indicate activity in the field compared to their counterparts. Kent County's providers are almost 15% points less likely to indicate to be in the field than those from Wilmington.

Of the 985 Family Child Care Providers in Delaware, 4% (39) have indicated that they have 0 children enrolled in their facility at the time of the survey. Excluding the providers with 0 children, the average number of children enrolled is 7.1 (Figure 2.4) in Delaware. The highest average number of children enrolled (8.0) is reported from Sussex County and lowest (6.4) in New Castle County.

Respondents were next asked to identify the age groups of children in their care (Figure 2.5). Overall in Delaware, about 88% of family care providers indicate enrolling preschool children. Kindergarten aged children are reported by the lowest proportion (50%) of licensed Family Care Providers in Delaware. Across counties, some differences exist – particularly the low proportion (48.5%) of respondents enrolling school age children stands out.

The ability to enroll children is often tied to the number of full time and part time help. Respondents were asked to identify the number of part time and full time help (including self) caring for children at the site. The average number of staff (part time and full time) for large Family Care Providers is reported in Figure 2.6. On average, Delaware's Large Family Care licensees have about 1 full time child care provider and 1 part time Child Care Provider, 1 Full Time Care Assistant and about 1.6 Part Time Child Care Assistants.

**Figure 2.1**  
**Number of Family Child Care Providers by County**



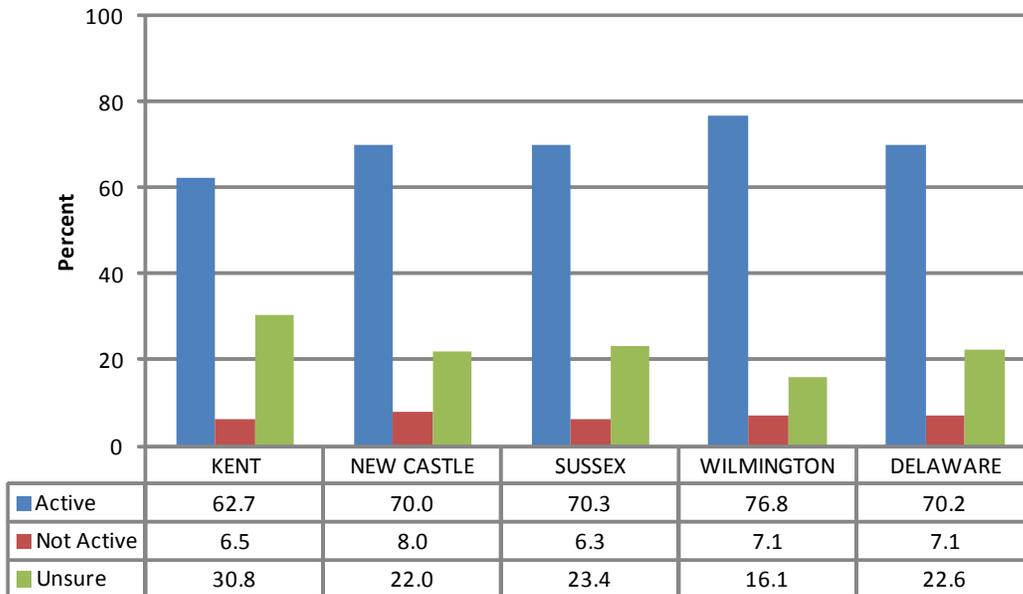
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 2.2**  
**Average Number of Years Actively Caring for Children by County**



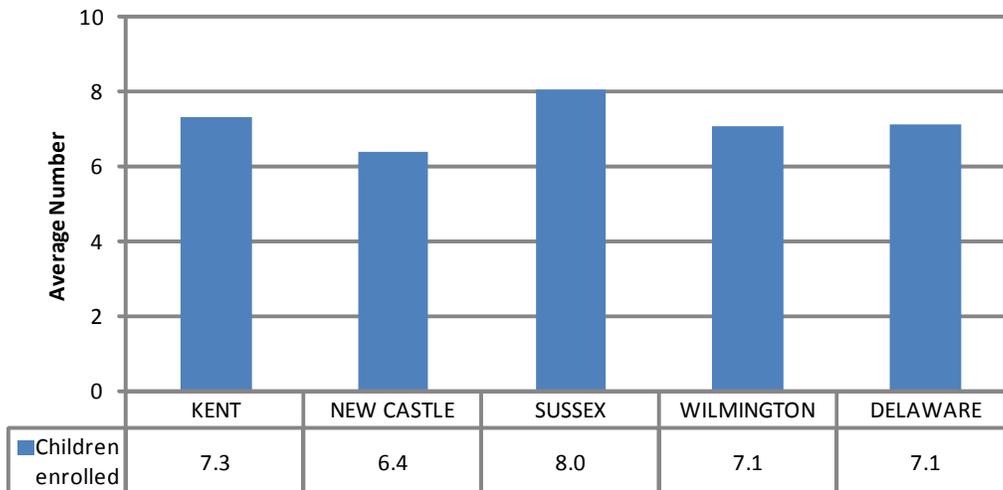
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 2.3**  
**Active 5 Years from now by County**



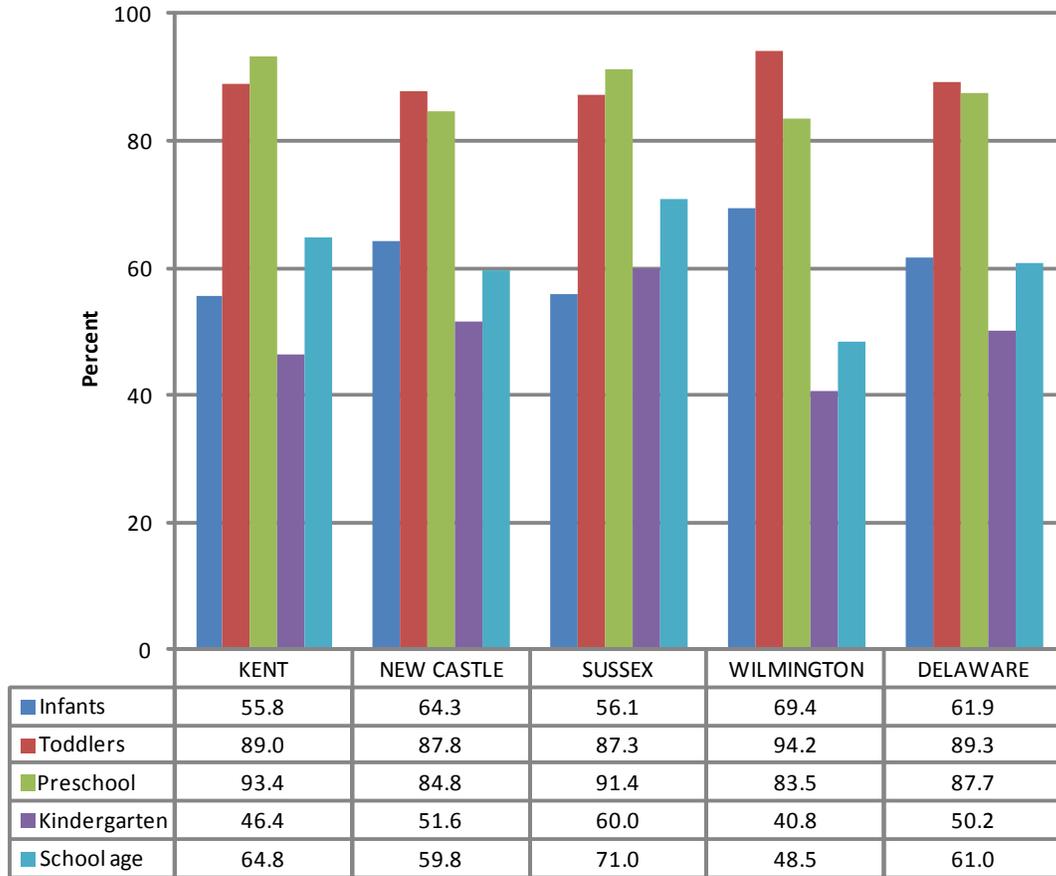
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 2.4**  
**Average Number of Children Currently Enrolled at Site by County**  
**(reporting more than 1)**



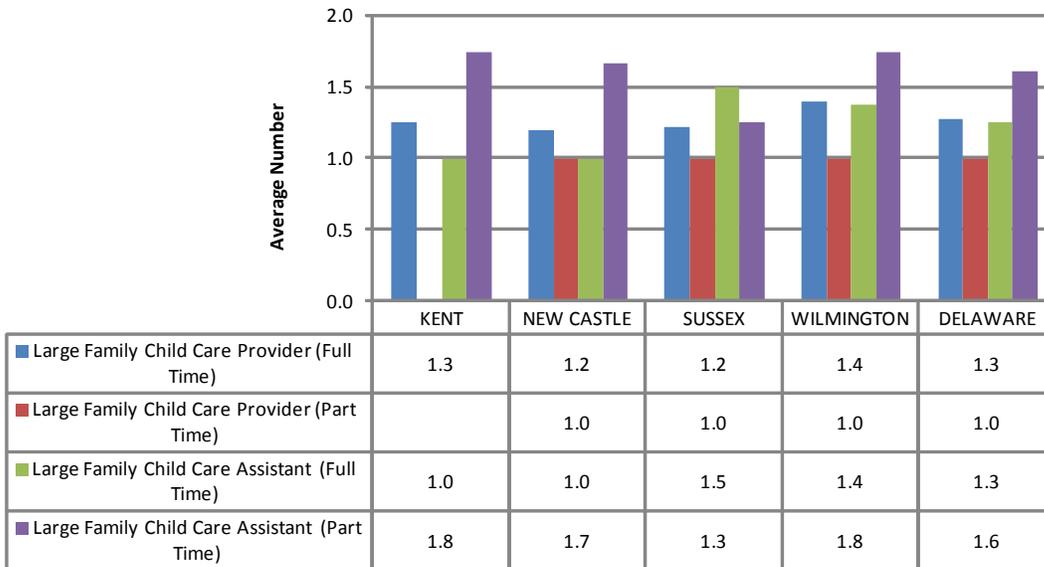
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 2.5**  
**Age Groups Enrolled at Site by County**



**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 2.6**  
**Average Number of Staff at Site Including Self by County**  
**(Large Family Child Care Providers only)**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

## Benefits

The current report provides a snapshot of the Family Care Providers in Delaware. To this extent, the availability of benefits is an integral part of this effort. Respondents were asked a series of questions intended to decipher the conditions and motivating factors encouraging the continuation, or entry into the family care provider field. Figure 3.1 tabulates results for the purchase of health insurance using business income. About 13% of Delaware's Family Care Providers indicate that they use business income to purchase health insurance for themselves. The highest proportion of respondents indicating the use of business income to purchase health insurance reported from Sussex County (17.7%). Clearly being a Family Care Provider in Delaware is not the primary source of health insurance for the licensees.

Respondents were next asked to identify if they are covered by health insurance even if they do not purchase it using business income (Figure 3.2). Of those who do not purchase health coverage using business income, about 72% in Delaware indicate that they are covered by health insurance from other sources. This proportion is highest in Kent County (80%) and lowest in Wilmington (65%). About 72% (not pictured) of those indicating coverage of this type, have listed a spouse as the source of health coverage.

Access to dental insurance was examined next (Figure 3.3). The picture is very similar; however, rate of coverage is lower. In general, about 9% of respondents indicate purchasing dental insurance from business income in Delaware. Highest coverage is in Sussex County and lowest in Kent County. Of those not purchasing dental care from business income, about 47% report dental coverage from other sources (Figure 3.4). Here, about 86% (not pictured) list spouse as the source of dental insurance.

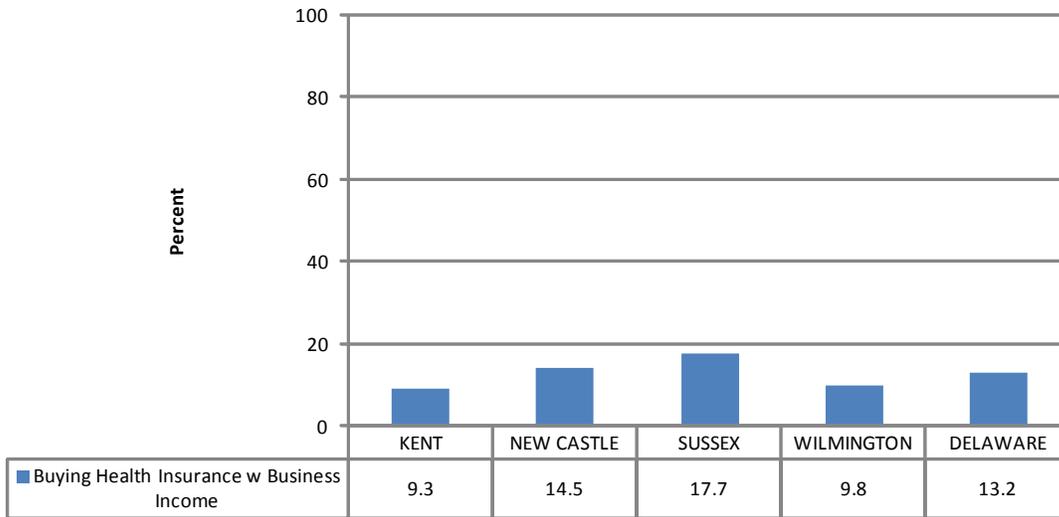
Next we looked at if respondents have second jobs for which they receive income (Figure 3.5). Overall in Delaware 8% of Family Care Providers report having a secondary paid job. Highest proportion with a paid secondary job reports from New Castle County (10%) and the lowest from Wilmington (5%).

The availability of paid vacation time is another factor with a potential to influence providers to continue providing family care (Figure 3.6) in the State. In Delaware, 53% of all Family Care Providers report access to paid vacation time - highest proportion (63%) reporting from New Castle County and the lowest (46%) from Wilmington and Kent County respectively.

Annual income is another factor considered here (Figure 3.7). The average annual income reported for all Family Care Providers (reporting more than \$0) stands at \$27,000. Lowest average income is reported from Kent County (\$25,874) and the highest average income is reported from Wilmington (27,879). The maximum and minimum by county are also reported. Average weekly hours working as a Family Care Provider are reported in Figure 3.8. In Delaware, the average number of hours worked stands at 50 hrs/week. The differences among counties are negligible.

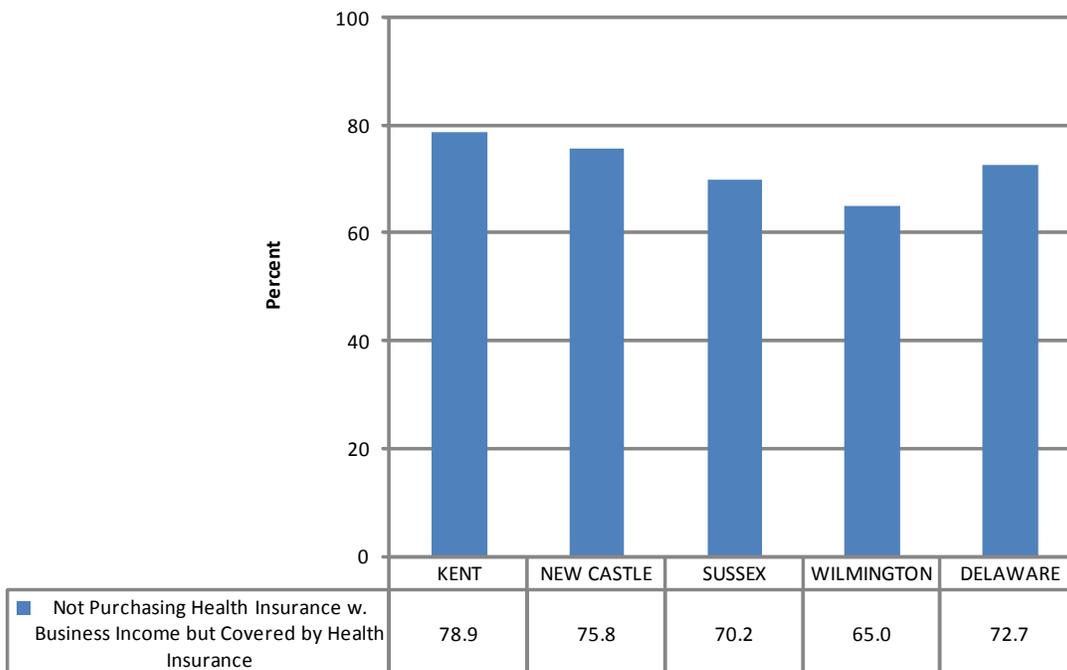
The use of State and Federal programs (WIC, S-CHIP, Medicaid, Food Stamps, POC) was looked at next. Family Care Providers were asked to check all the State and Federal programs they personally use (not programs that they accept). About 62% of Delaware's Family Care Providers indicated that they do not use any of the above programs. The most often utilized program in Delaware is POC (27% reporting using it) and the least often utilized among Family Care Providers is S-CHIP and WIC (about 1% and 2% respectively).

**Figure 3.1**  
**Using Business Income to Purchase Health Insurance for Self by County**



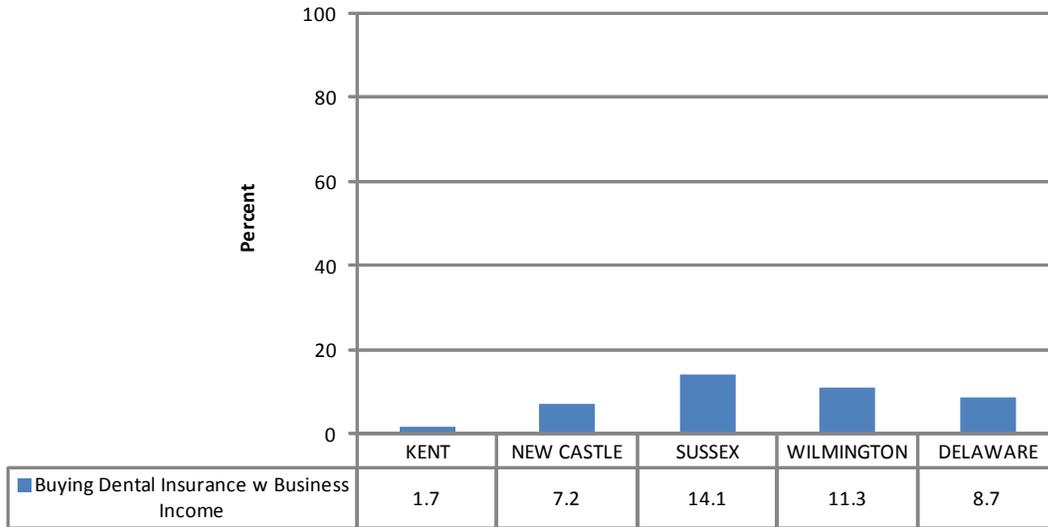
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 3.2**  
**If Not Purchasing Health Insurance Do You Have Coverage by County**



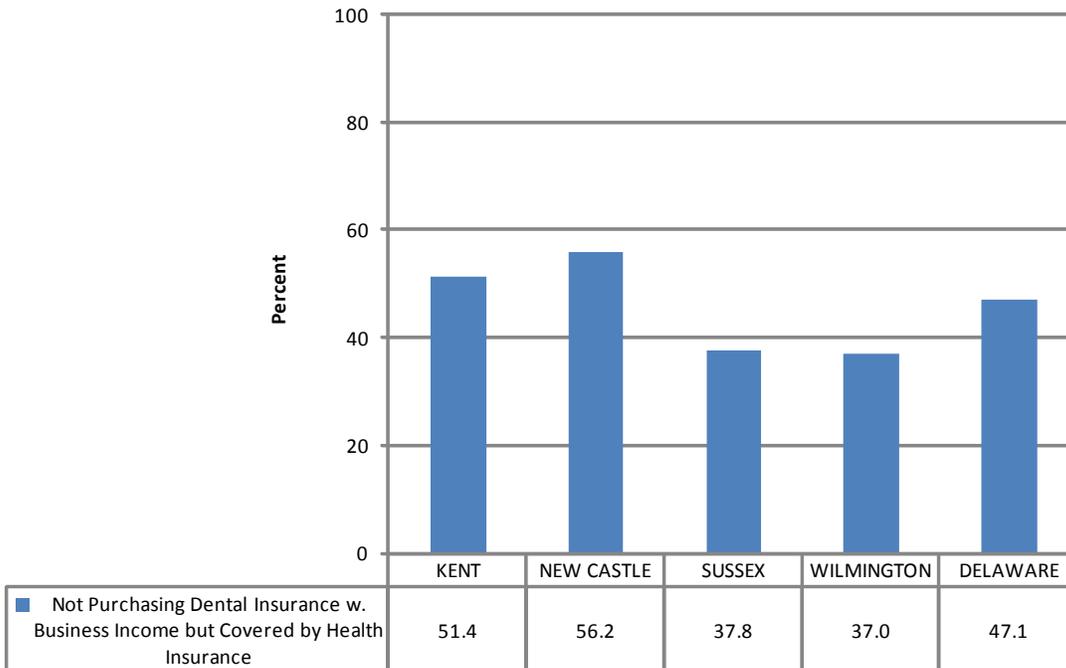
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 3.3**  
**Using Business Income to Dental Insurance for Self by County**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 3.4**  
**If Not Purchasing Dental Insurance Do You Have Coverage? by County**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 3.5**  
**Second Job for Which You Receive Income? by County**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

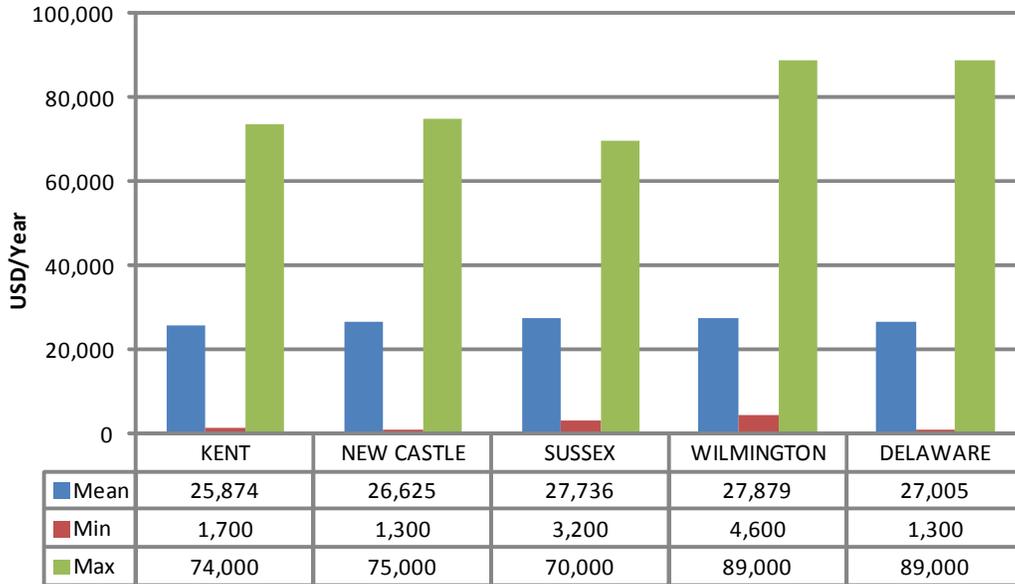
**Figure 3.6**  
**Do You Have Paid Vacation Time by County**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 3.7**

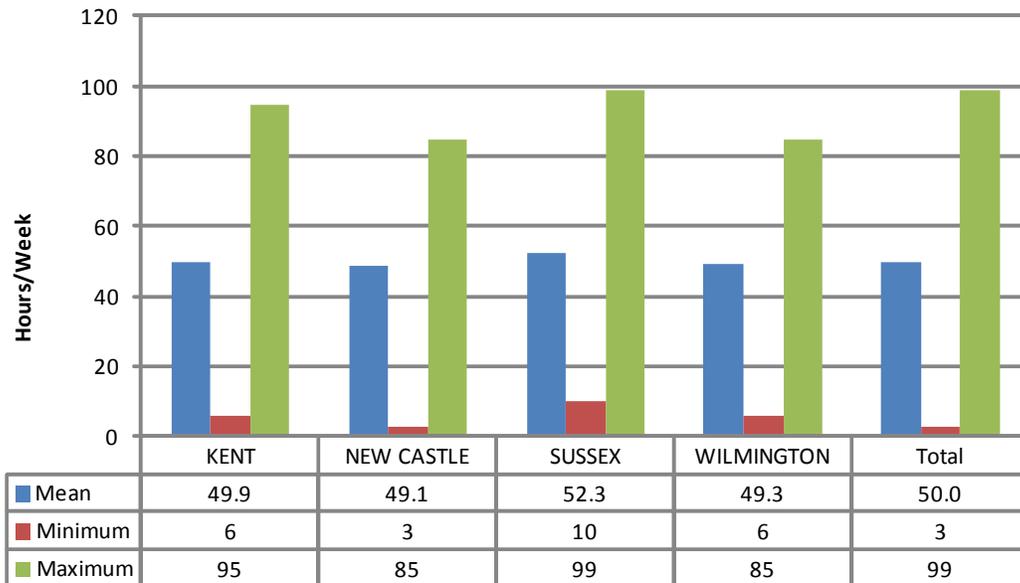
**Annual Income in 2011 as a Family Child Care Licensee (reported more than \$0)**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 3.8**

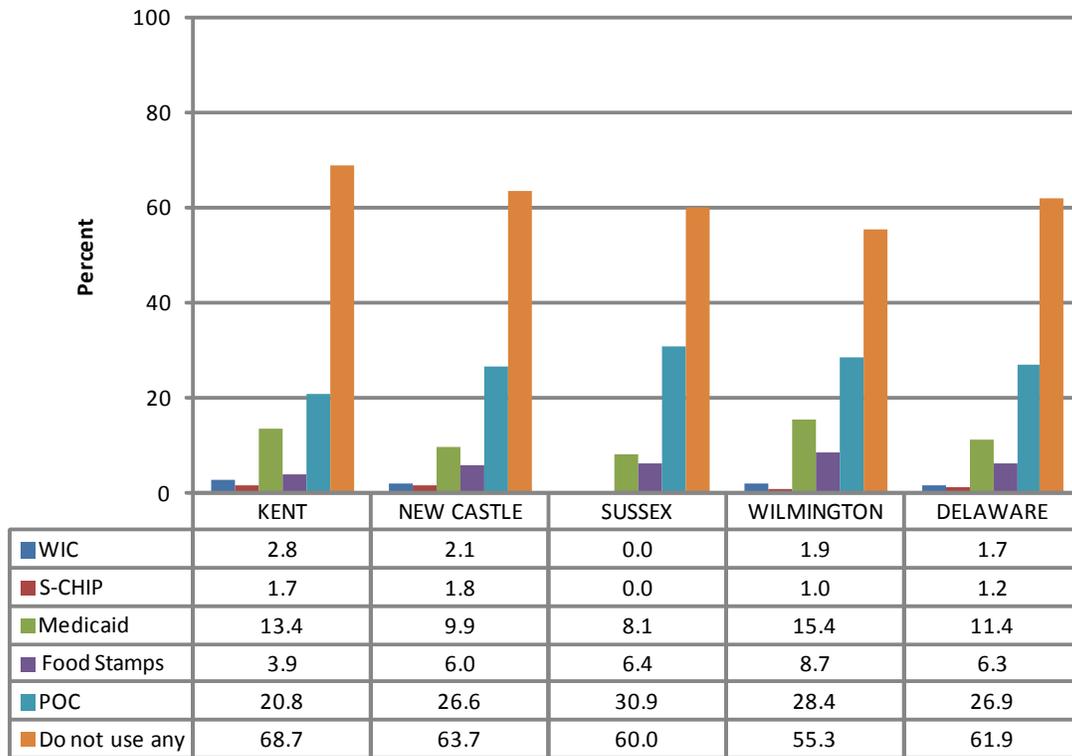
**Average Weekly Hours Working Directly With Children by County**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 3.9**

**Use of State and Federal Programs by County (does not add up to 100%)**



**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

## Demographic Characteristics

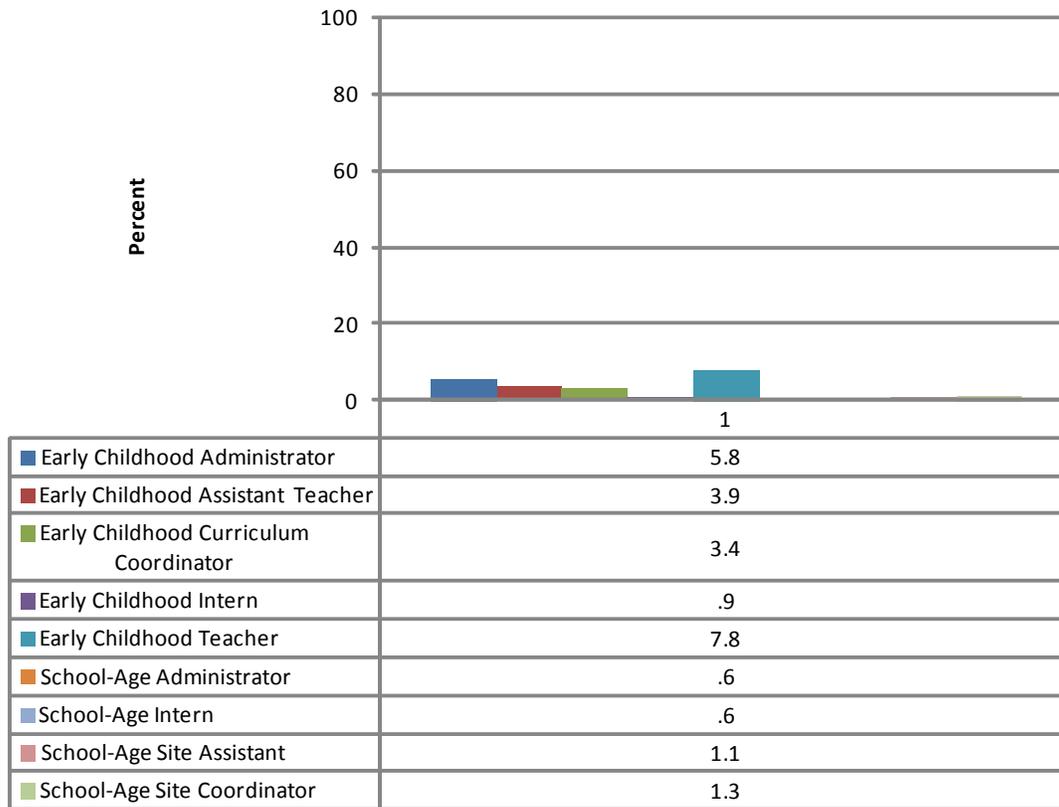
Demographic characteristics of the Family Care Providers are reported in the next section of the report. Certification through Delaware First is presented in Figure 4.1. About 25% of Delaware's Family Care Providers reported having one of the 9 certifications through Delaware First. The highest proportion is reported for an Early Childhood Teacher (8%) and the lowest School Age Administrator and School Age Intern (about 0.5%).

The age structure of Family Care Providers is tabulated in Figure 4.2. Plurality (20%) of all Family Care Providers reported being 51-55 of age. About 52% of all licensed Family Care Providers in Delaware are aged 51 and above.

Family Care Providers were asked to indicate the education background. From this data the highest level of education is reported in Figure 4.3. Plurality (44%) of all licensed Family Care Providers report a High School Diploma/ GED, followed by some college courses (30%) and Associate's and Bachelor's degree with 10% respectively. Only about 2% of all Family Care Providers reported having a degree beyond a Bachelor's.

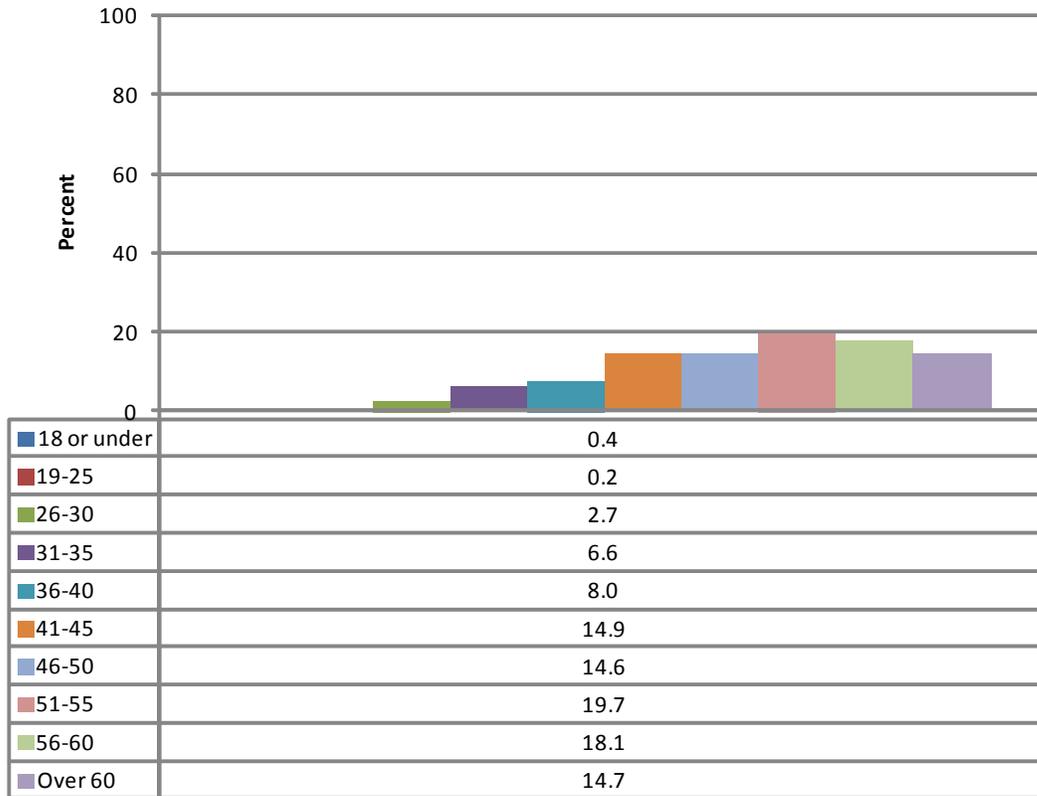
On overwhelming majority (99.6%) of Delaware's Family Care Providers reported being female (Figure 4.4). About 96% of Delaware's Family Care Providers are of non Hispanic origin (Figure 4.5). Looking at the race of Family Care Providers, about 56% of Family Care Provider licensees are White, 35% are African American.

**Figure 4.1**  
**Reporting Certifications through DELAWARE First**



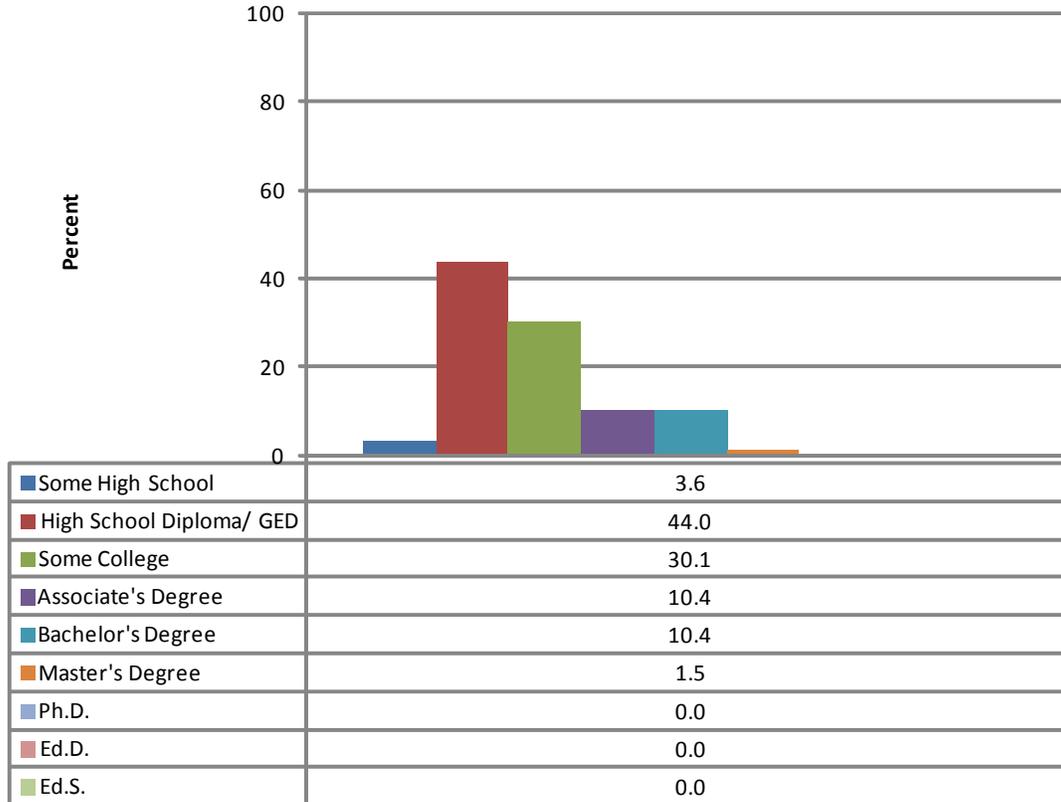
**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
 University of Delaware

**Figure 4.2**  
**Age of Respondents**



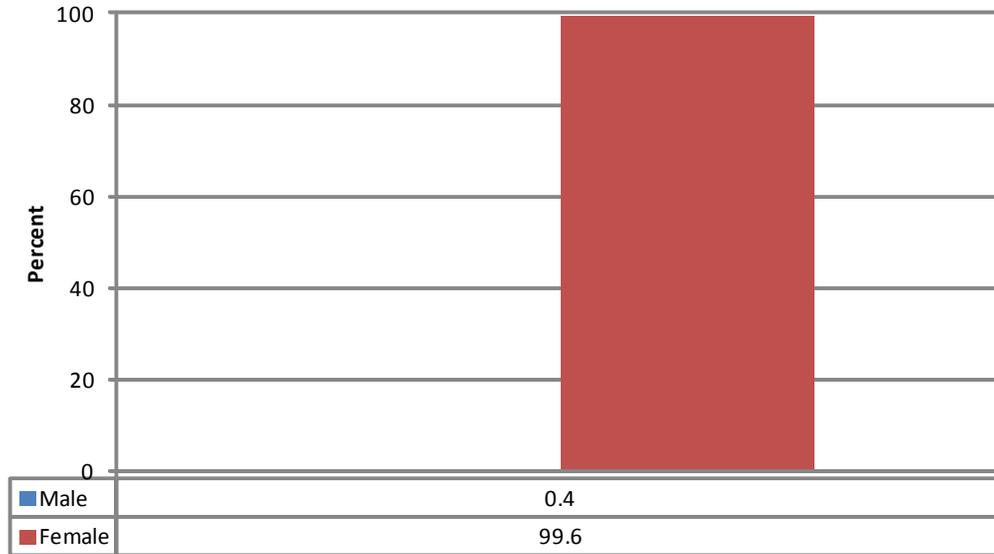
**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 4.3**  
**Highest Level of Education**



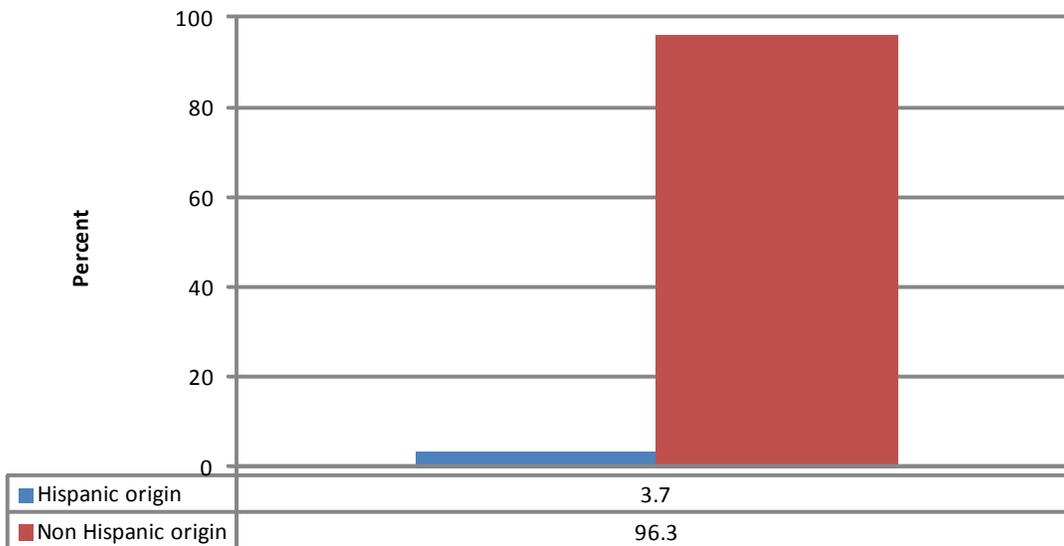
**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 4.4**  
**Gender of Respondents**



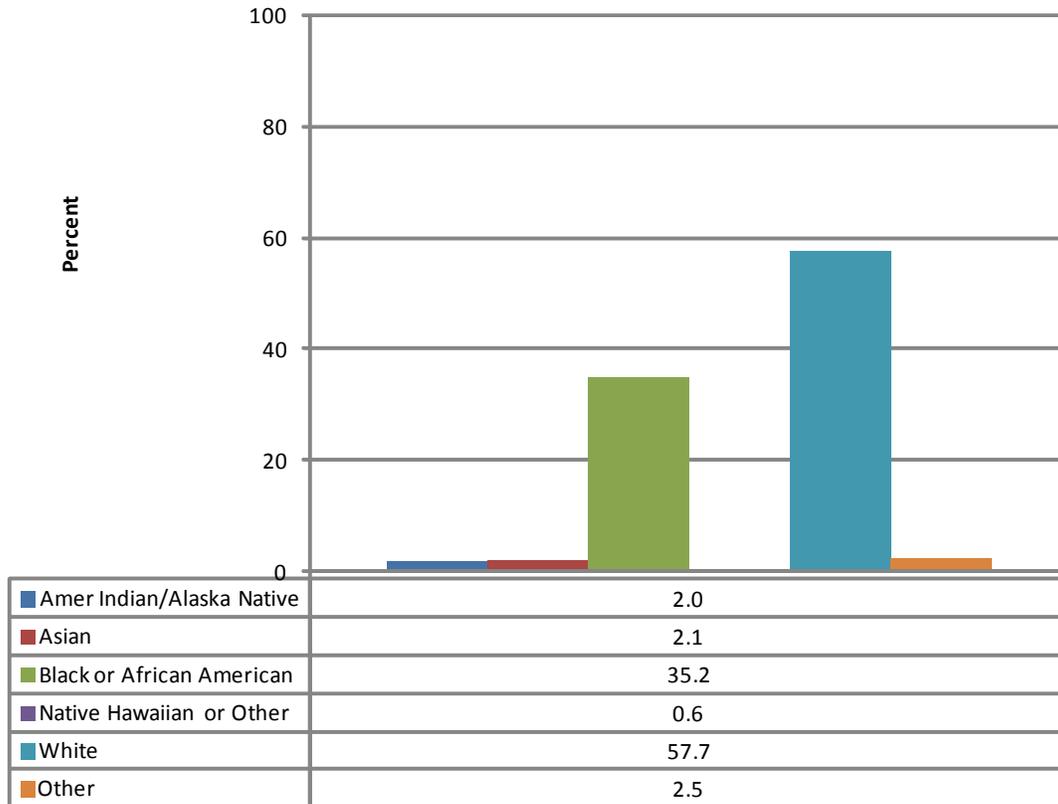
Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 4.5**  
**Hispanic Origin of Respondents**



Source: Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

**Figure 4.6**  
**Race of Respondents**



**Source:** Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research  
University of Delaware

## **APPENDIX**



# DELAWARE FAMILY CARE PROVIDER SURVEY 2012

Commissioned by Delaware Department of Education



(CADSRID)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Mail your completed form** in the attached prepaid envelope to:  
University of Delaware  
CADSR - Graham Hall  
Newark, DE 19716

- Use either a pen or pencil when completing the questionnaire.
- Follow all "SKIP" instructions after answering a question. If no instructions are provided, continue to the next question.
- If you have any questions, contact the **Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research** at the **University of Delaware** by calling **302-831-3320**.

**PURPOSE** – Results from the survey will be used to help state and local governments along with employers and educational institutions to plan for early child care in Delaware.

**SCOPE** – All Family childcare providers licensed to operate in the State of Delaware are contacted. **Even if you do not currently provide childcare in Delaware please complete the questionnaire.**

**NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY** – The information you report on this questionnaire is confidential. It will never be linked to you as a respondent. Responses will be analyzed in a summary form only.

**RESPONSES** – The tracking information printed on the form permits follow-up contacts to ensure the highest quality data. When you return the completed questionnaire, your name will be deleted from the list and never connected to your answers in any way

**PARTICIPATION** – Your participation is voluntary. However, your responses are important to ensure adequate care for the children in Delaware.

**Even if you currently have no children in your care, do not work in the field, you are retired, unemployed, or no longer in Delaware, please complete the survey!**

**1. Please indicate your Family Child Care status based on your license. (Check one)**

- 1  Level I Family Child Care
- 2  Level II Family Child Care
- 3  Large Family Child Care

**2. How many years have you had your Family Care Provider license?**

Years

**3. Of those years with a license how many years have you actively cared for children?**

Years actively caring for children

**4. Do you expect to be actively providing early childhood care in Delaware 5 years from now? (Check one)**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No
- 3  Unsure

**If NO, or UNSURE, what are the primary reasons you might not be providing early childhood care in Delaware?**

**5. How many children are currently enrolled at this site?**

Number enrolled

**If 0 please go to Question 19**

**6. What age group(s) are currently enrolled at this site? (Check all that apply)**

- 1  Infants (0 weeks to 12 months)
- 2  Toddlers (13 months to 35 months)
- 3  Preschool (36 months to 5 years)
- 4  Kindergarten
- 5  School-age children other than Kindergarten

**7. Currently how many teaching staff are employed, by assignment (including yourself) at this site? For definition of assignments see below. PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE A LARGE FAMILY CARE PROVIDER**

	Full Time	Part Time
<b>LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER</b>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSISTANT</b>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

**LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER** – means the staff member with direct responsibility for the total program of services provided to children and their families including providing child care and related duties and, when applicable, managing the administrative aspects of a Large Family Child Care Home.

**LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSISTANT** – means the staff member who works under the supervision, and when applicable, the direct observation of the Large Family Child Care Provider and provides child care and related duties at a Large Family Child Care Home.

**8. Do you use your business income to purchase Health Insurance benefits for yourself?**

- 1  Yes (Go to Question 11)
- 2  No

**9. Are you covered by Health Insurance?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No (Go to Question 11)

**10. What is your source of Health Insurance? (spouse, partner, parent, etc.)**

Source of Health Insurance

**11. Do you use your business income to purchase Dental Insurance benefits for yourself?**

- 1  Yes (Go to Question 14)
- 2  No

**12. Are you covered by Dental Insurance?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No (Go to Question 14)

**13. What is your source of Dental Insurance? (spouse, partner, parent, etc.)**

Source of Dental Insurance

**14. Do you have paid vacation time?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

**QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 18 ARE SENSITIVE IN NATURE. WE ASK THESE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE ECONOMIC STANDING OF FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN DELAWARE.**

**PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT THE ANSWERS YOU PROVIDE WILL NEVER BE SHARED WITH ANYONE AND WILL ONLY BE REPORTED IN A SUMMARY FORM.**

**15. What was your gross annual income in 2011 as a Family Child Care Licensee or Large Family Child Care Provider?**

2011 Gross Annual Income

**16. On average, how many hours do you work directly with children as a Family Child Care Licensee or Large Family Child Care Provider per week?**

Average number of hours worked per week

**17. Do you have a second job for which you receive income?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

**18. Do you currently use any of the following federal or state aid programs? (Check all that apply)**

- 1  WIC
- 2  S-CHIP
- 3  Medicaid
- 4  Food stamps
- 5  POC
- 6  I do not use any of the above programs

**19. Do you have any of the following certifications through Delaware First? (Check all that apply)**

- 1  Early Childhood Administrator
- 2  Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
- 3  Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator
- 4  Early Childhood Intern
- 5  Early Childhood Teacher
- 6  School-Age Administrator
- 7  School-Age Intern
- 8  School-Age Site Assistant
- 9  School-Age Site Coordinator

**20. What is your age group? (Check one)**

- 1  18 or under
- 2  19-25
- 3  26-30
- 4  31-35
- 5  36-40
- 6  41-45
- 7  46-50
- 8  51-55
- 9  56-60
- 10  Over 60

**21. What are the levels of education you have completed? (Check and list all that apply)**

- 1  Some High School
- 2  High School Diploma / GED
- 3  Some College   
Credits earned
- 4  Associate's Degree   
Major
- 5  Bachelor's Degree   
Major
- 6  Master's Degree   
Major
- 7  Ph.D.   
Major
- 8  Ed.D.   
Major
- 9  Ed.S.   
Major

**22. What is your gender?**

- 1  Male
- 2  Female

**23. Are you of Hispanic origin?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

**24. What is your race? (Check all that apply)**

- 1  American Indian or Alaska Native
- 2  Asian
- 3  Black or African American
- 4  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 5  White
- 6  Other

**25. If you have any comments, please feel free to include them in the space provided below.**

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**Thank you for completing  
the Delaware Family Care Provider Survey 2012.**

**Return the completed form to:**

**University of Delaware,  
CADSR  
Graham Hall  
Newark, DE 19716**

## **Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research**

**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**University of Delaware**  
287 Graham Hall  
Newark, DE 19716

phone: **302-831-8406**      fax: **302-831-6434**

**[www.cadsr.udel.edu](http://www.cadsr.udel.edu)**

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