



CHILDMINDING IRELAND

Supporting Ireland's Childminders; Minding Ireland's Children

Childminding in Ireland 2021

Results of a survey of carried out by Childminding Ireland 2021

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Introduction

Childminding Ireland is a national organisation solely focused on childminding. In order to obtain relevant information about childminders and Nannies, they devised a detailed questionnaire which consisted of closed and open-ended questions. It was not necessary to carry out a pilot study, as similar surveys have been successfully used in previous years. This research was carried out in November 2021 to collect data from childminders both on their current working situation,⁰ and their future needs.

The questionnaire was uploaded to the software package Survey Monkey and the link to it was sent to all childminders and nannies, regardless of whether or not they were members of Childminding Ireland. The link was also available on the Childminding Ireland website and was advertised on Facebook. This year the survey was also sent / made available to parents and guardians who employ childminders and / or nannies.

The data received was exported to Excel and quantitative analysis was carried out on the survey results using this software package. Descriptive statistics were used to summarise and display the data.

603 people accessed the questionnaire in total. Not everybody completed it, but of those who did, 436 were childminders and 19 were nannies. 79 respondents stated that they used the services of a childminder, with 18 stating that they used the services of a nanny. 42 people said they did not fit into any of the above categories.

Some questions varied depending on whether the person answering was a childminder / nanny or a parent / guardian. Not all questions were relevant to everyone, so the survey varied depending on answers given. The number of people who responded to each question is displayed in the graph as “n= “and the results calculated as a percentage of this number, unless otherwise stated.

Section One of this report will concentrate on the responses from childminders and nannies, with section 2 analysing the responses from parents and guardians using the services of / employing childminders and nannies.

SECTION ONE – CHILDMINDERS AND NANNIES

Respondents

The vast majority of respondents, both nannies and childminders, were aged between 25 and 54. However, there was a slight variation within the age categories which can be seen in **Figure 1**. Nannies tend to be younger (25 – 34 age group), with very few in the older age groups. The largest number of childminders were in the 45-54 age grouping. This is identical to previous surveys, as far back as 2017, which would seem to indicate that people tend to “take up” childminding as they get older, rather than it being seen as a career choice for younger people.

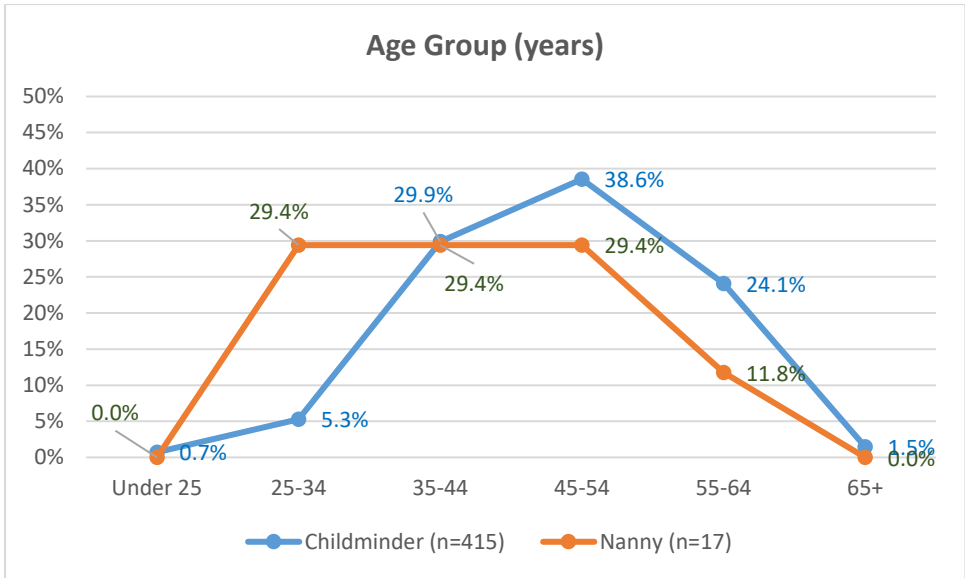


Figure 1: Age Profile of Respondents (%)

There were four options (Rural area, Village, Town or City) given for the question about where a person lived, or in the case of a Nanny, where they worked. Childminders predominantly lived in a rural area, with the smallest number living in the city. Nannies, however, predominantly worked in towns (**Figure 2**), with equal numbers working in rural areas and cities. The number of childminders living in rural areas (40.4%) has been consistently rising (34.4% in 2017; 38.3% in 2020) but the number living in villages and cities has been decreasing.

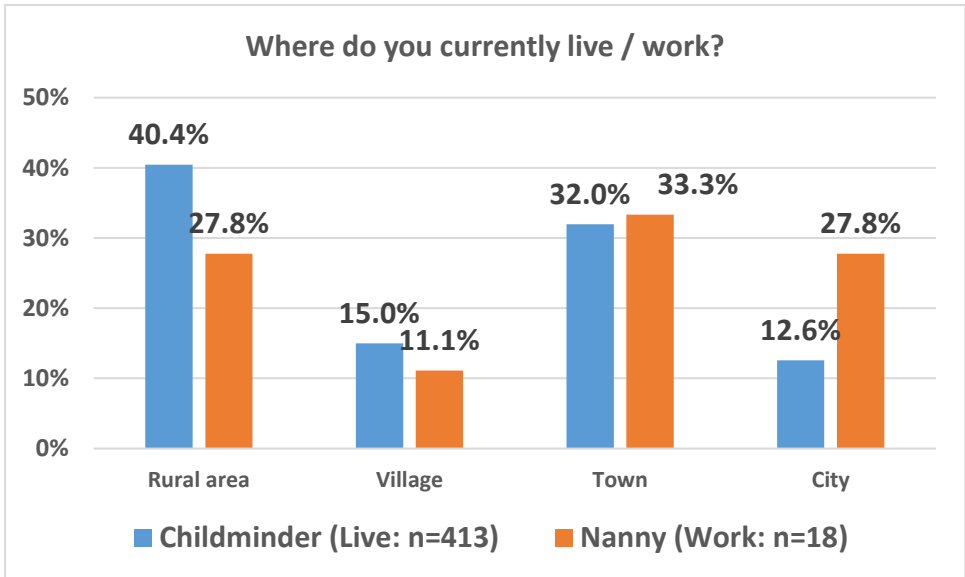


Figure 2: Where do you currently live/work?

34.2% of childminders said they have an annual income of between 10,000 and 19,999 euro. Only 6.9% of them earn more than €60,000, with a higher percentage (11.8%) earning between €1 and €9,999. (**Figure 3**) 39.9% earn between €20,000 and €49,999.

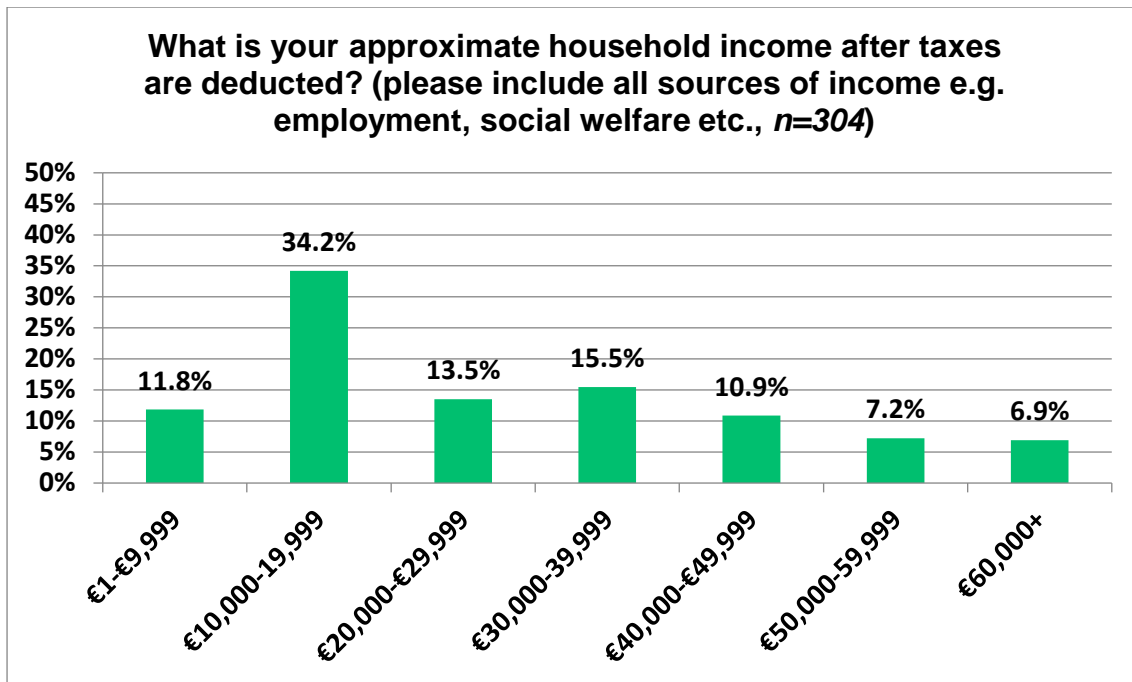


Figure 3: Approximate household income after tax

When asked what proportion of their total income does childminding represent, nearly 60% of the respondents answered between 0 and 30%. For 10.5% of respondents, it represented over 80%. (Figure 4)

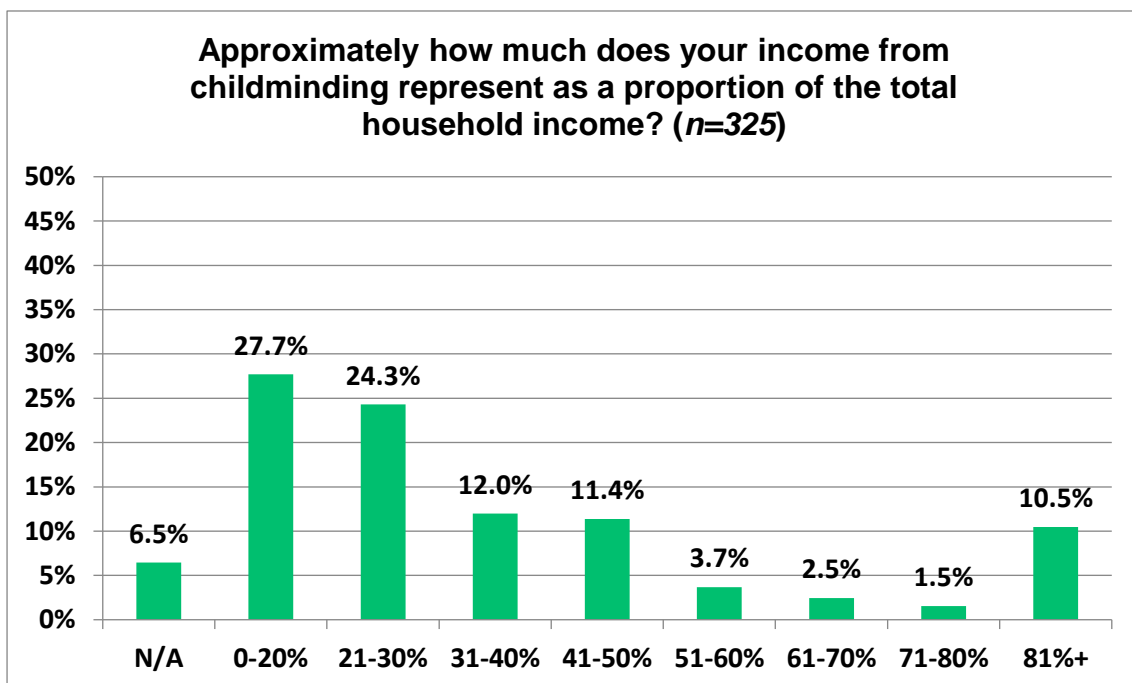


Figure 4: Approximately what proportion of your total household income comes from your childminding?

The vast majority childminders (74.7%) and all nannies have completed or are completing a childcare qualification (**Figure 5**).

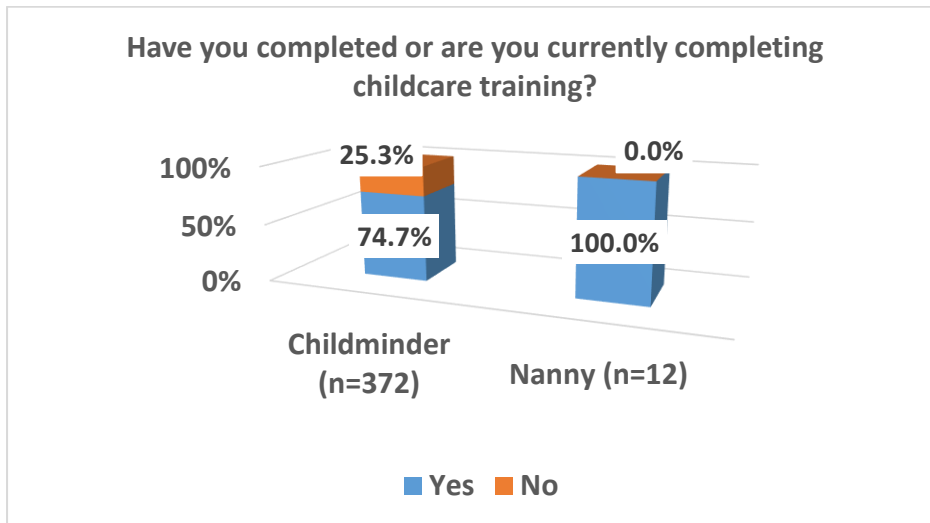


Figure 5: percentage of respondents with completed childcare qualification

Figures 6a and 6b below give a breakdown of the childcare qualification that childminders and nannies have completed or are currently completing. Over 90% of childminders have completed the Paediatric First Aid course. 12.6% of childminders and 16.7% of nannies have completed a Fetac level 8 course. Over 75% of childminders have completed the Tusla Children First E programme, with 66% having completed the Always Children First Child Safeguarding Awareness course and 50.7% have completed the Quality Awareness Programme. Over half of the childminders who responded have completed a QQI (Fetac) level 5 childcare course.

While the percentage of nannies who have completed the above-mentioned training programmes are slightly lower, they are still relatively high, with figures consistently above 40%, with 66.7% having completed the QQI (Fetac) level 5 childcare course. However, it must be remembered that significantly fewer nannies responded to the survey. When compared with the results of previous surveys, we can see an increase in the number of childminders who have now completed a childcare qualification. For example, in the 2017 survey, only 2% of respondents had completed a FETAC level 8 and 4% had completed a FETAC level 7 qualification.

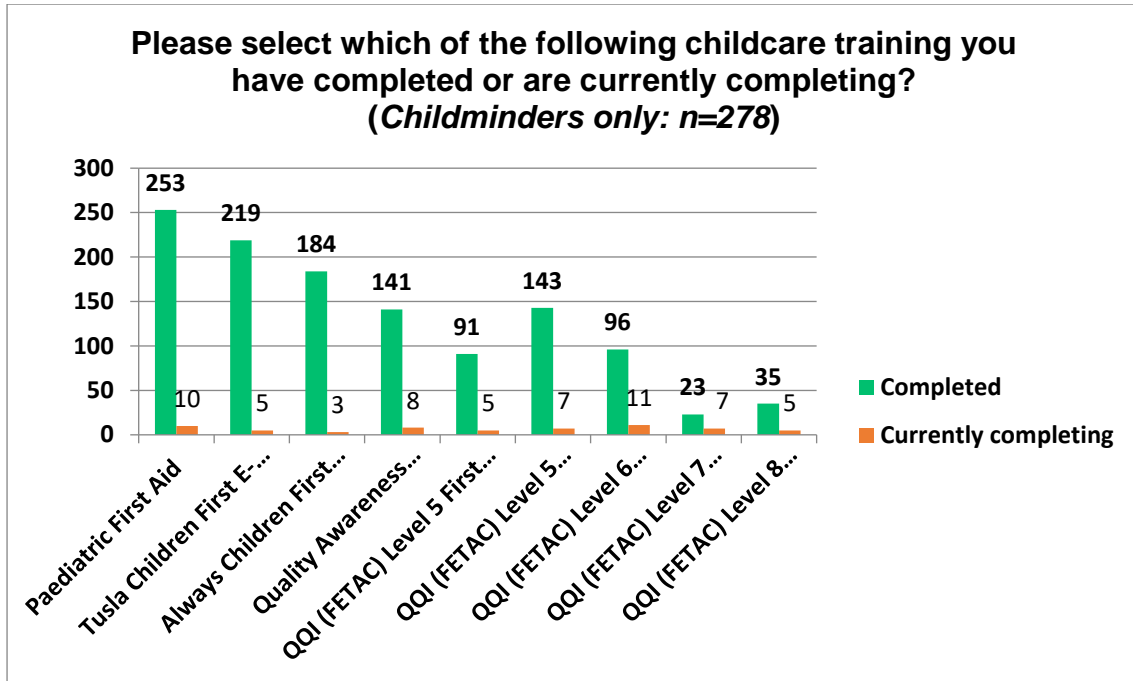


Figure 6a: Childcare training / qualification completed by childminders

Some of the courses that nannies had completed but which weren't offered as specific categories included:
BA honours Degree in Early Childhood Studies.

FETAC level 5/6 in Special needs assistance and Diploma in Special needs assistance

Higher Diploma in Autism, SNA 5 & 6, Mindfulness for Kids

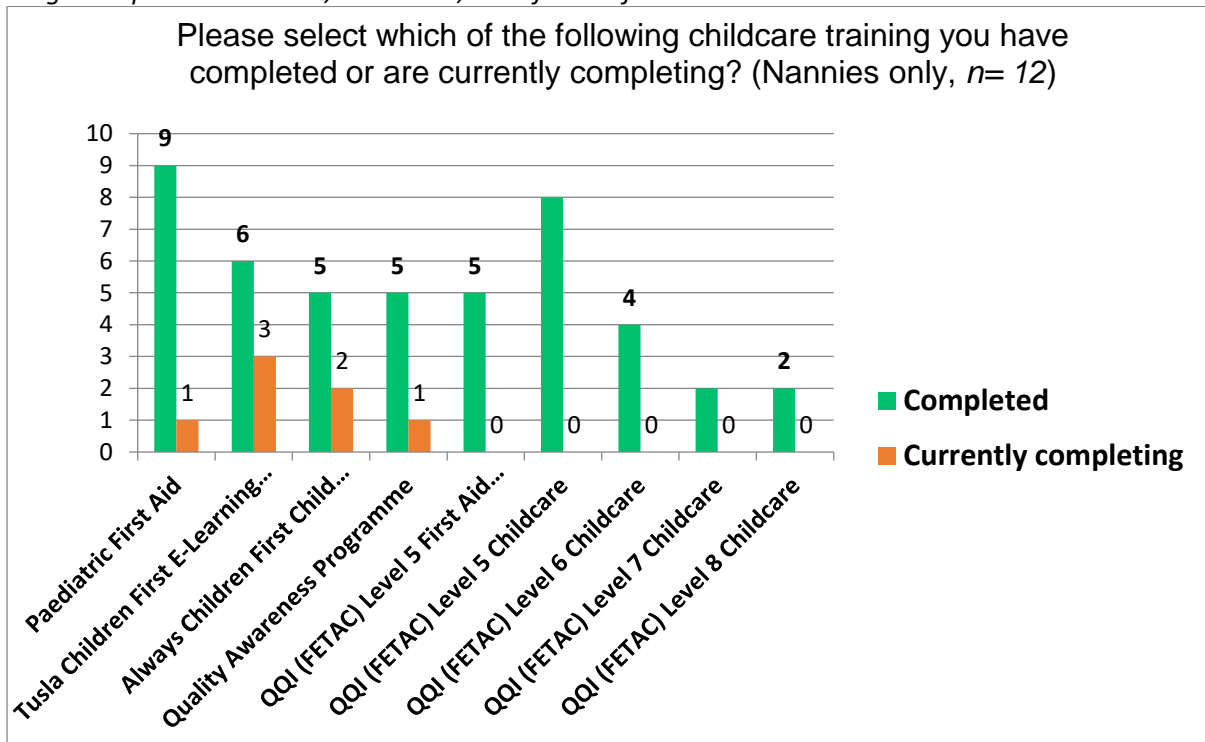


Figure 6b: Childcare training / qualification completed by nannies

As expected, given the high numbers that had completed the various training courses, the numbers were smaller when asked what childcare training / qualifications they were currently completing. Participants (89) who had stated that they had not got a qualification were then asked why they did not have one. They were given a selection of possible reasons but were also able to supply their own reason if that was not included in the list. (Figures 7a and 7b). As all nannies stated that they had a qualification, these figures are for childminders only.

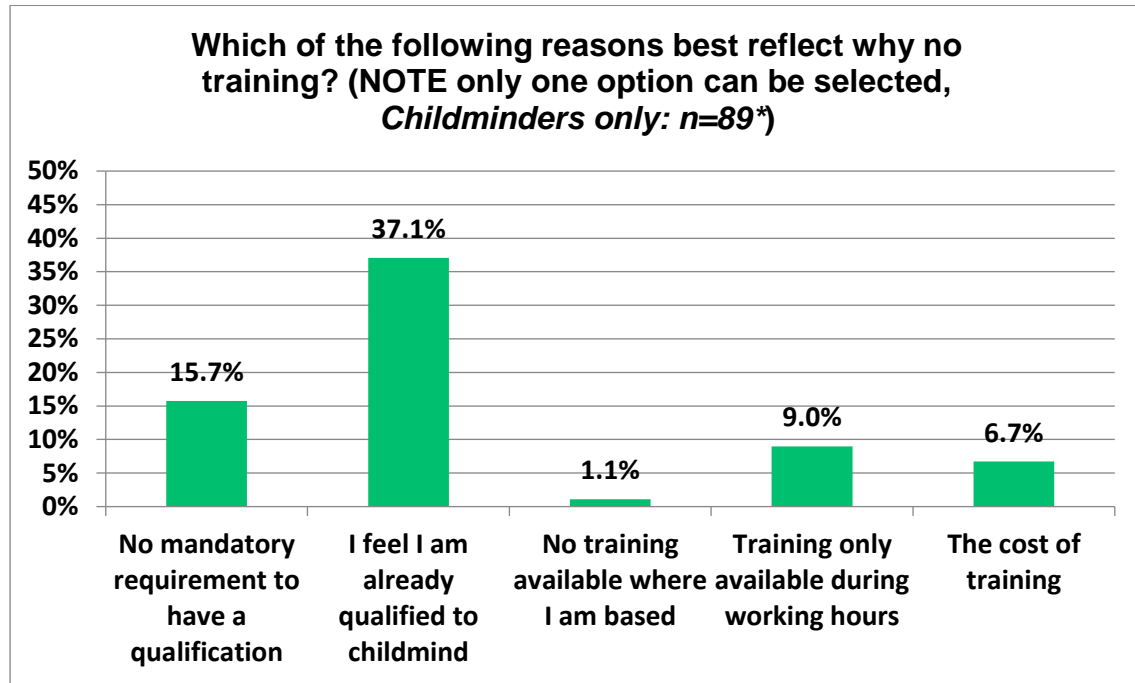


Figure 7a: reason why you have not completed a childcare qualification

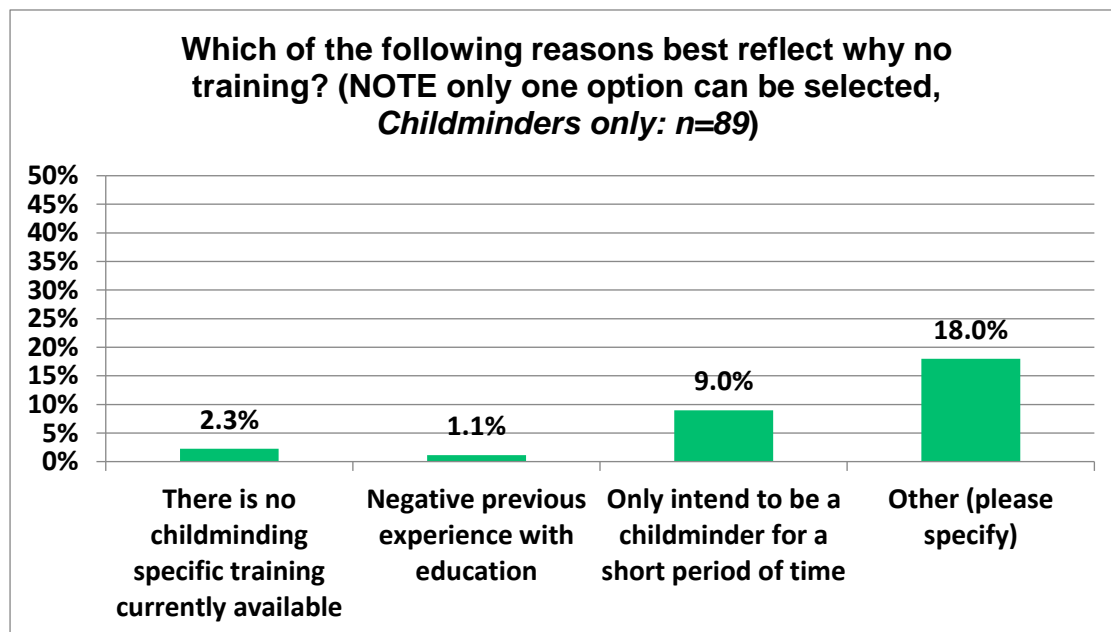


Figure 7b: reason why you have not completed a childcare qualification

**only those who have no completed childcare qualification were referred to this question, no nannies completed it*

The highest reason (37.1%) given by childminders was because they felt they were already sufficiently qualified to childmind. 15.7% stated that they had no qualification because there is no mandatory requirement to have one.

Other childminders felt they were already qualified to childmind:

“I am a mother and have been chosen by other mothers and fathers mind so I'm qualified to do so”

“Am an RGN, never got around to do Childcare course!”

“I have already done a lot of training but doing none at the minute”

Childminding Ireland

Figure 8 shows that the majority of childminders who replied were members of Childminding Ireland, whereas the majority of nannies were not members. This shows a similar pattern to the results from last year, where there were also lower numbers of nannies in Childminding Ireland. However, the disparity is more pronounced this year, with an increasing number of childminders stating they are members of Childminding Ireland while a decreasing number of nannies appear to be joining.

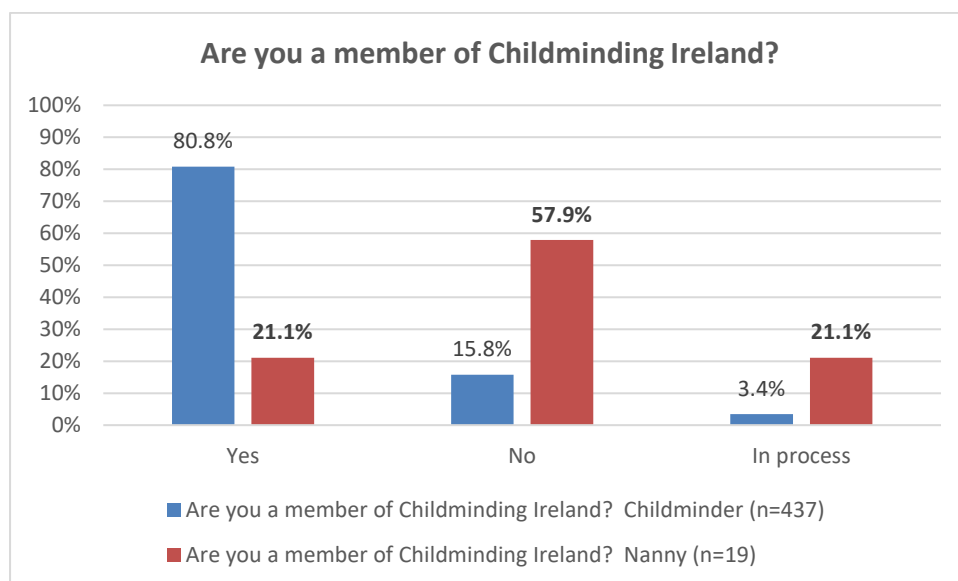


Figure 8: Membership of Childminding Ireland

The Childminding Ireland website and social media were the most common places where Nannies heard about Childminding Ireland. (**Figures 9a and 9b**) The County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and the Childminding Ireland website were the most common places for childminders, to hear about Childminding Ireland with the CCCs being marginally higher. Word of mouth and other childminders were also a common source for childminders. While there is a slight variation from other years, it is not significant.

Some of the “Other” places that people heard about Childminding Ireland were via the internet or through someone in the HSE.

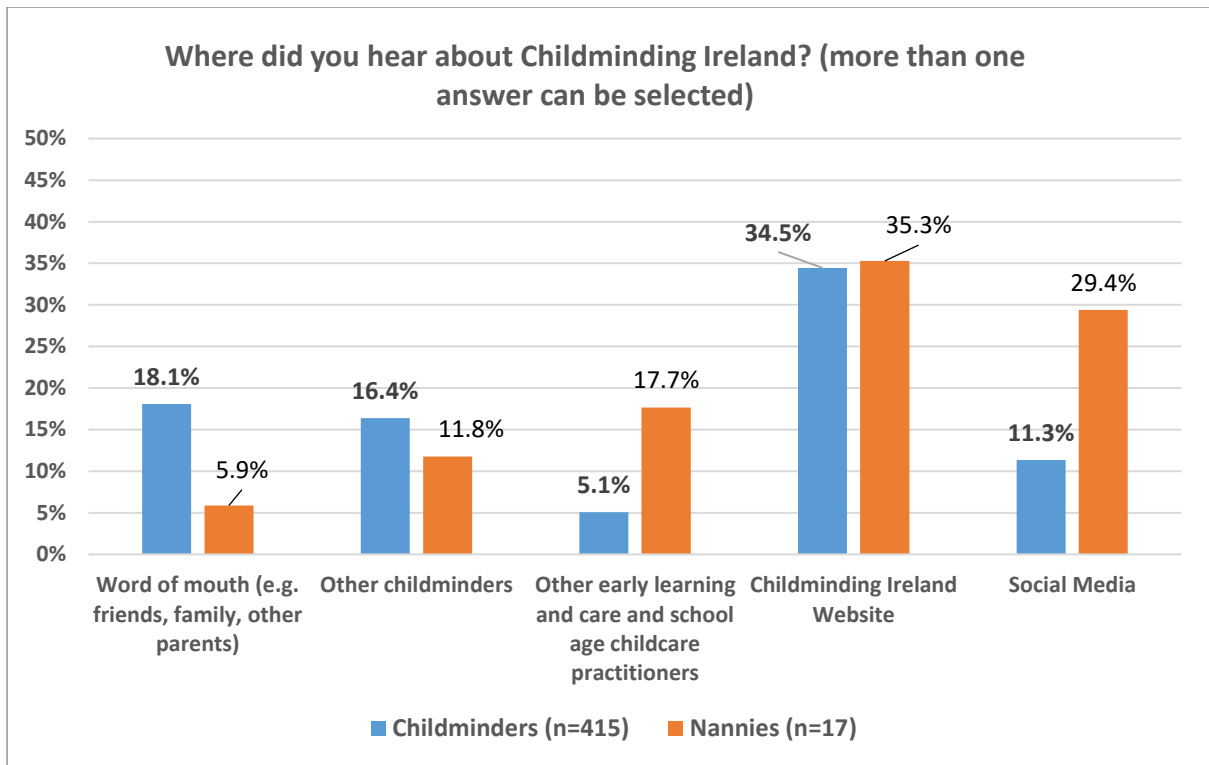


Figure 9a: Where did you hear about Childminding Ireland?

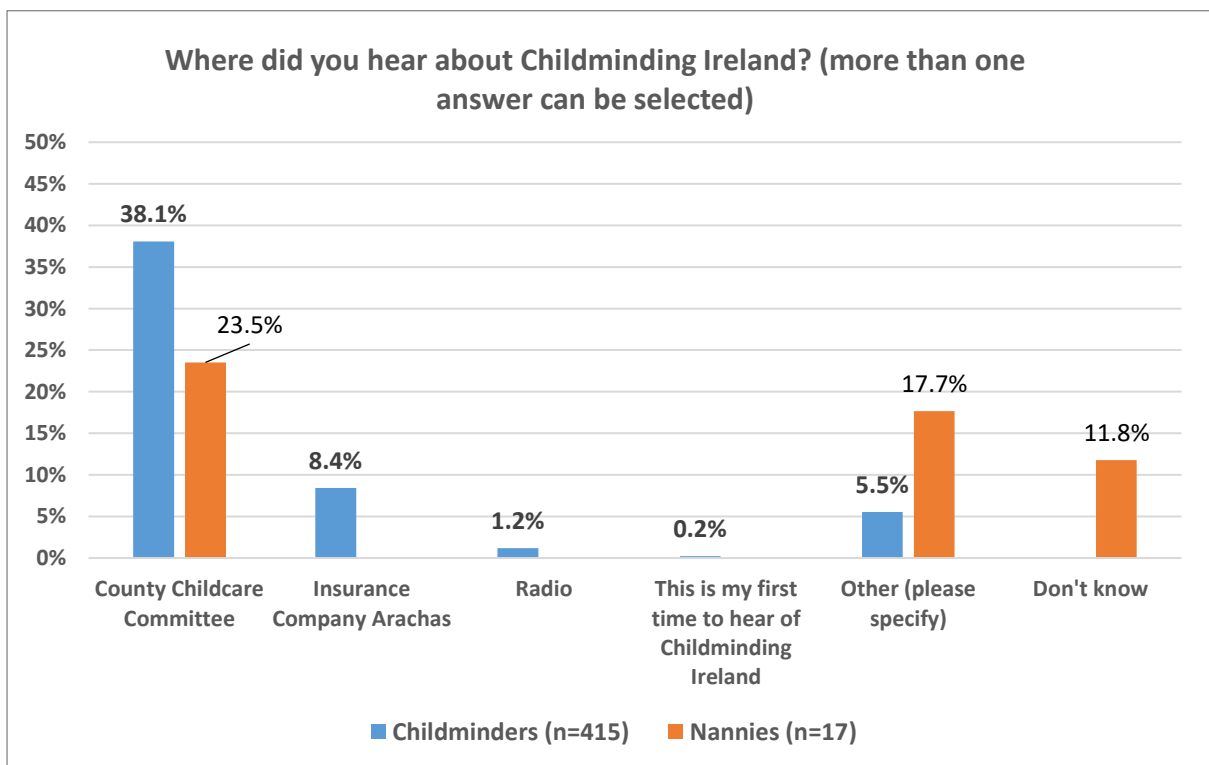


Figure 9b: Where did you hear about Childminding Ireland?

Overall, there was a very positive response from respondents when asked to rate the quality of support offered by Childminding Ireland. 94% of childminders rated the support as good, with 74.4% rating it as “very good”. Fewer than 1% rated the support offered as “Not very good” or “Not good”. 75% of nannies rated the support from Childminding as either “good” or “very good”, with none of them replying that it was “not very good”. **(Figure 10)** It should be noted however, that the question was not applicable to 12.5% of the nannies, as they are not members of Childminding Ireland.

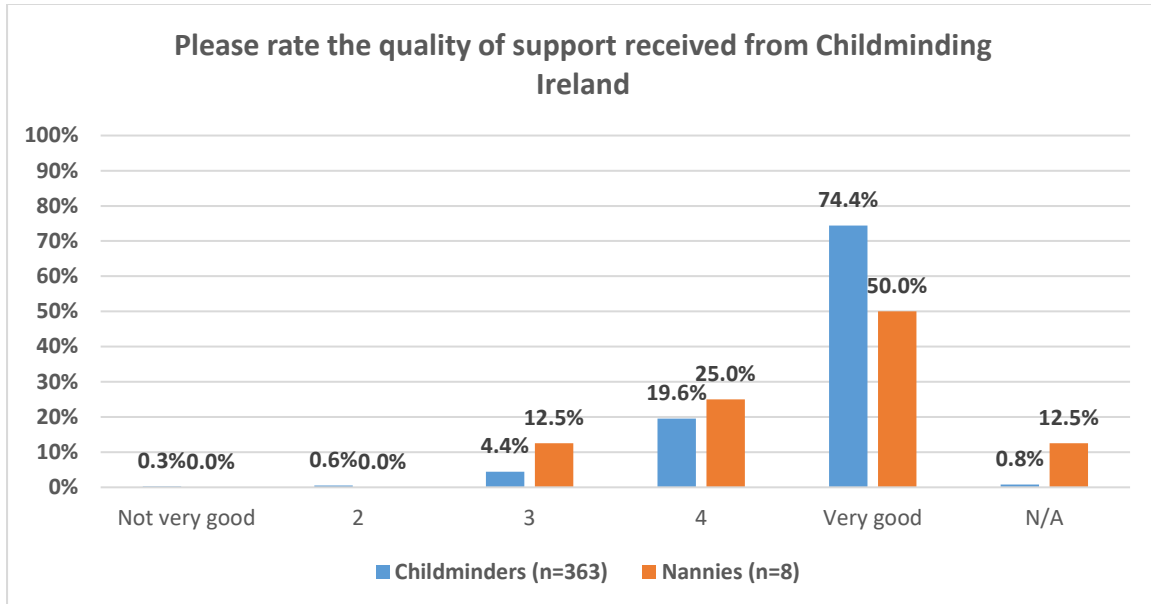


Figure 10: Please rate the quality of support offered by Childminding Ireland

Childminding Information

Over 50% of childminders have been minding children in their own home for at least ten years, with 21.6% having minded children for 20 years or more. This is an increase from 2017 and 2020, when just over 40% of respondents had been childminding for more than 10 years. Does this mean that people are working in this area for longer and perhaps seeing it as a long-term career? Has it become a more attractive option in the last number of years?

Nannies displayed a different pattern, their highest categories were 2 years and 8 years, both with 18.8%. **(Figure 11)** Less than 20% of nannies have been working for 10 years or more.

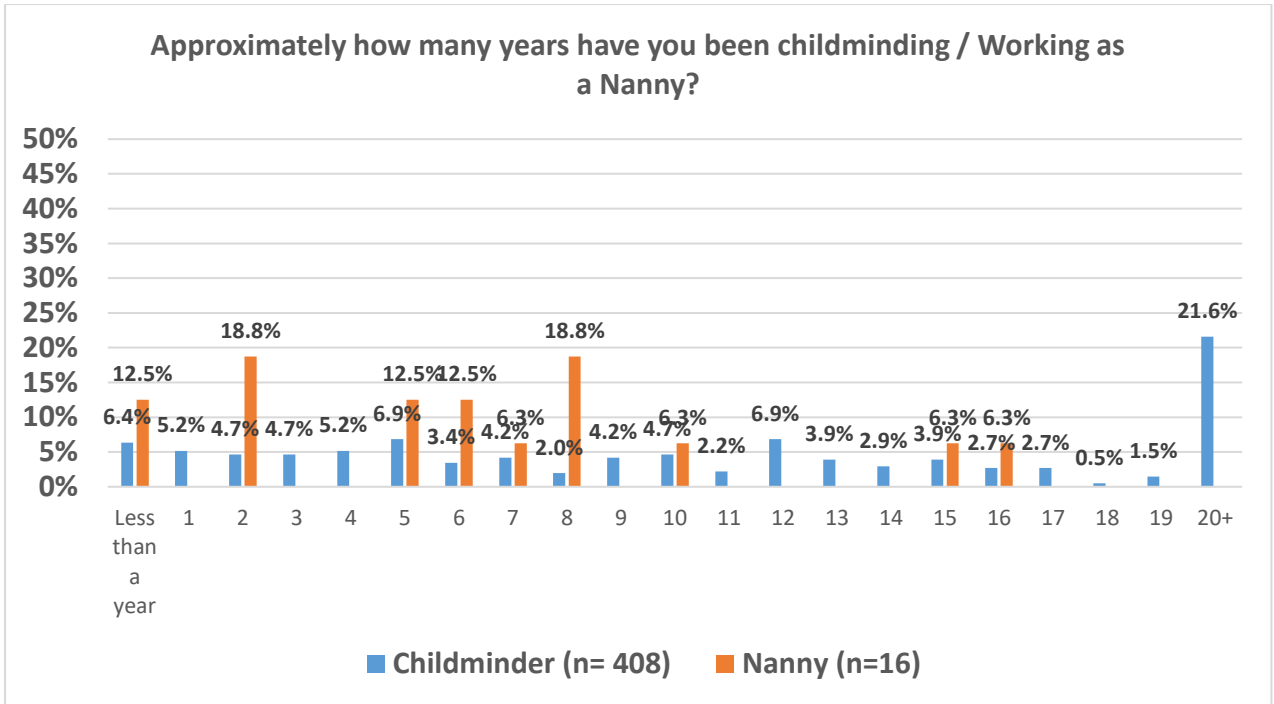


Figure 11: How long have you been working as a childminder / Nanny (years)

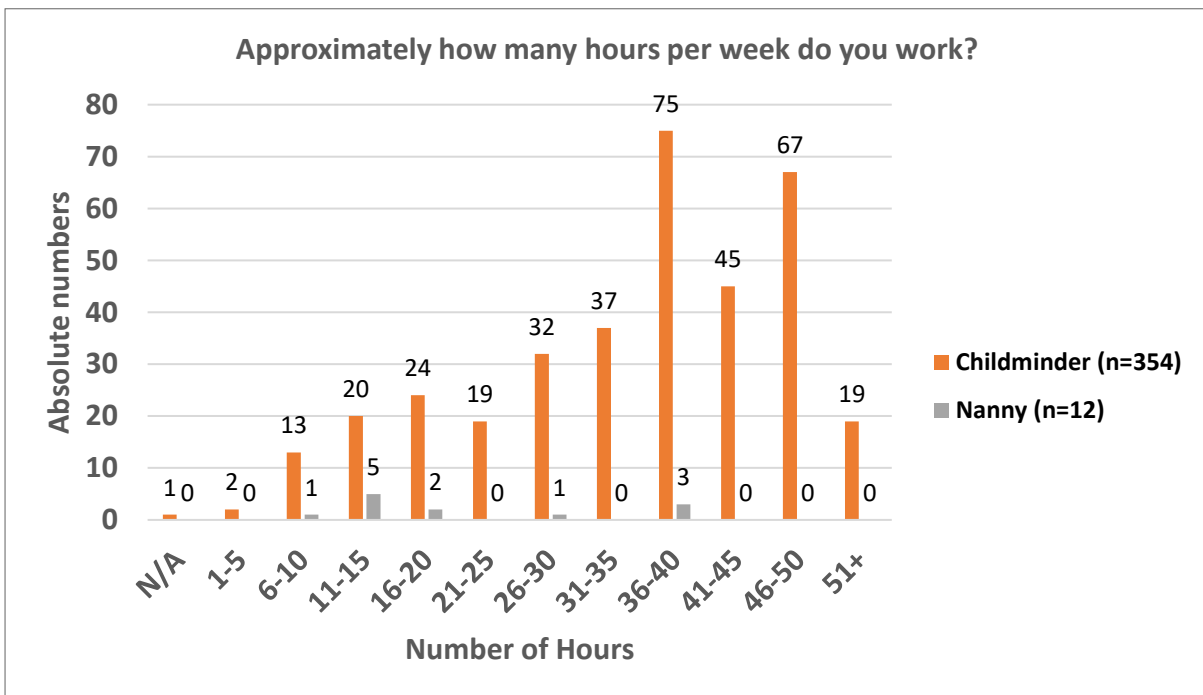


Figure 12: How many hours per week do you work?

Figure 12 above details how many hours per week that respondents work. The highest category for childminders is between 36-40 hours per week, while the highest category for nannies is between 11-15 hours. We can also see that a very large number of childminders work over 40 hours per week, with some working over 50 hours per week. No nannies stated that they worked more than 40 hours per week.

Respondents were then asked to supply information about their rates. They were asked if they use an hourly, half-day or full- day rate and were allowed to choose more than one option. They were then asked to quantify how they defined, for example, a half-day rate. For example, a childminder might charge 20 euro for a half day and define a half day as being up to 4 hours. However, parts of the data gathered were not robust enough to produce accurate results. From the data that was usable, it can be estimated that the most common charges are 5 euro per hour, between 15 to 25 euro per half day and between 30 and 50 euro for a full day. The most common definition of a half day was 4 hours with a full day being either 8, 9 or 10 hours.

Respondents were asked to rank, from seven options, their reasons for choosing to become a childminder. **(Table 1)** The two highest ranked options for becoming a childminder were “it gave me the opportunity to stay at home with my own children” (52.7%) and “I enjoy working with children” (28.9%). Only 3.6% gave the statement “I wanted to pursue a career in early years education” their top ranking, which does raise the question of how childminding is viewed. Is it seen as a temporary situation, perhaps while waiting to restart a career? These rankings are similar to the results from previous years. Wanting flexible hours (3.8%) and the cost of childcare (4.6%) also had low numbers giving it top ranking. Indeed, 38.4% of people gave the cost of childcare the lowest ranking in this question.

Please rank the following statements where 1 most accurately describes your reason for becoming a childminder?							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It gave me the opportunity to stay at home with my own children	52.7%	22.6%	8.0%	4.9%	4.0%	4.3%	3.4%
I enjoy working with children	28.9%	37.8%	19.9%	6.2%	3.6%	1.4%	2.2%
I had worked in centre based childcare setting (e.g. creche) and wanted a change	9.5%	12.1%	18.7%	9.5%	9.5%	10.8%	29.8%
I wanted to start my own business	5.7%	11.5%	21.5%	27.2%	18.6%	9.7%	5.7%
I wanted to pursue a career in early years education	3.6%	6.0%	11.4%	21.3%	27.5%	20.4%	9.9%
I wanted flexible hours	3.8%	5.8%	12.8%	21.5%	18.9%	27.6%	9.6%
Cost of childcare for my own children was unaffordable	4.6%	8.2%	9.5%	6.7%	12.5%	20.1%	38.4%

Table 1: Rank the statements where 1 most accurately describes your reason for becoming a childminder

Nannies were given a choice of 4 statements **(Figure 13)** to rank according to what they felt most accurately described their reasons for becoming a nanny. 38.5% chose “I enjoy working with children” as their number one reason. Interestingly, nobody gave the statement “I wanted a career in early years education” a number one ranking. Wanting flexible hours was ranked either number 1 or 2 by 63.7% of nannies.

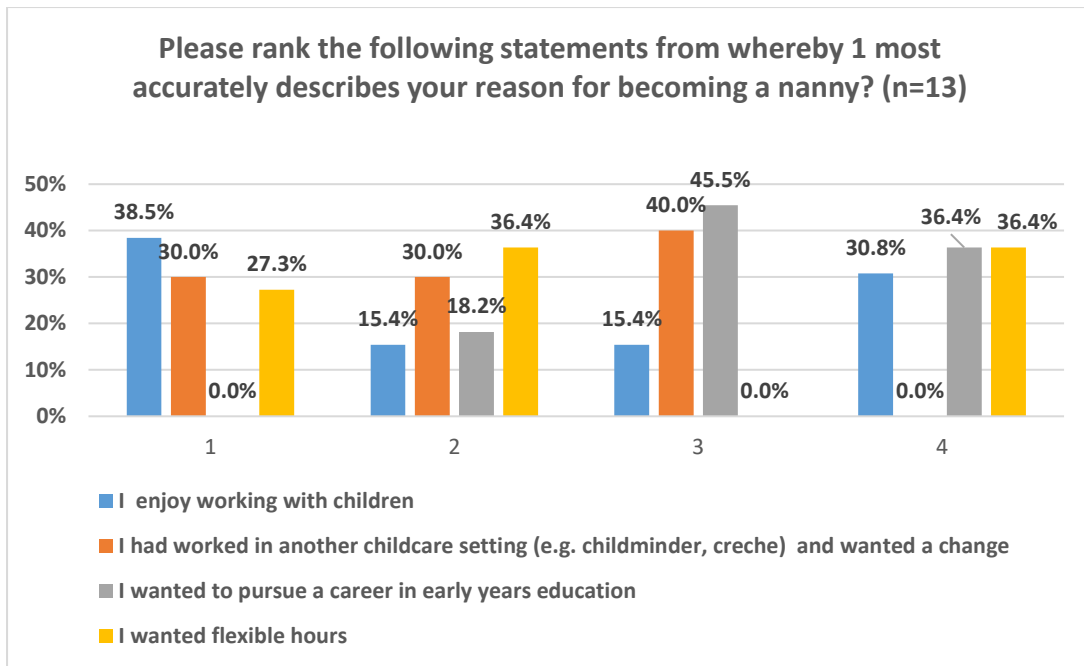


Figure 13: Reasons for becoming a Nanny

Childminders stated that the vast majority of the parents (84%) of the children that they mind, heard about them by word of mouth (Figures 14a and 14B), with 27.4% hearing about their service via Childminding Ireland. Some of the “Other” responses were through signs at their house, www.mindme.ie, facebook or WhatsApp groups.

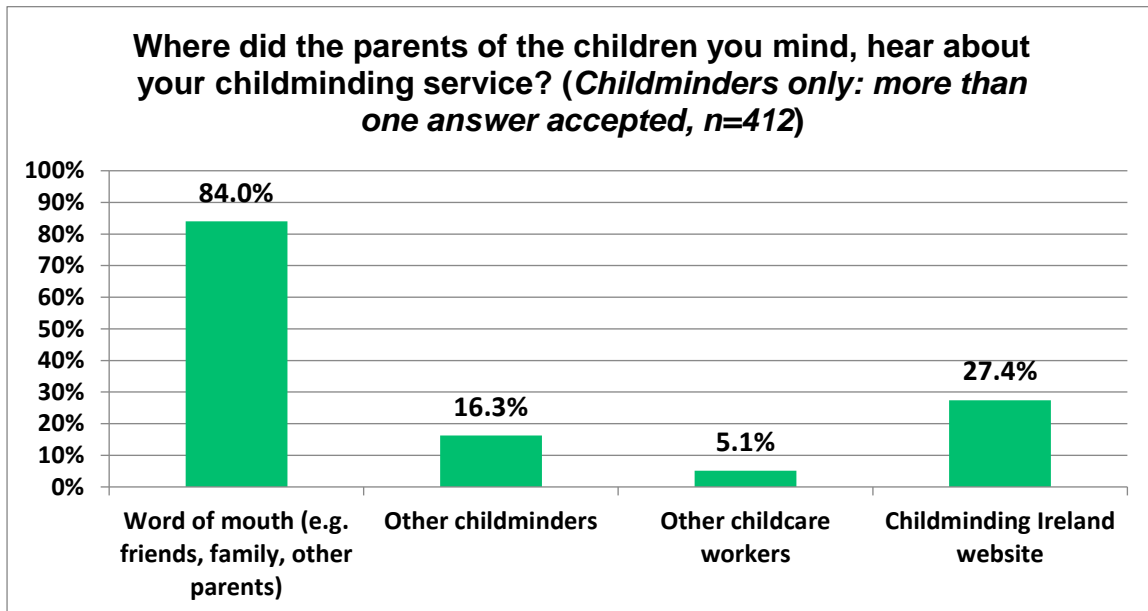


Figure 14a: Where did parents hear about your childminding service?

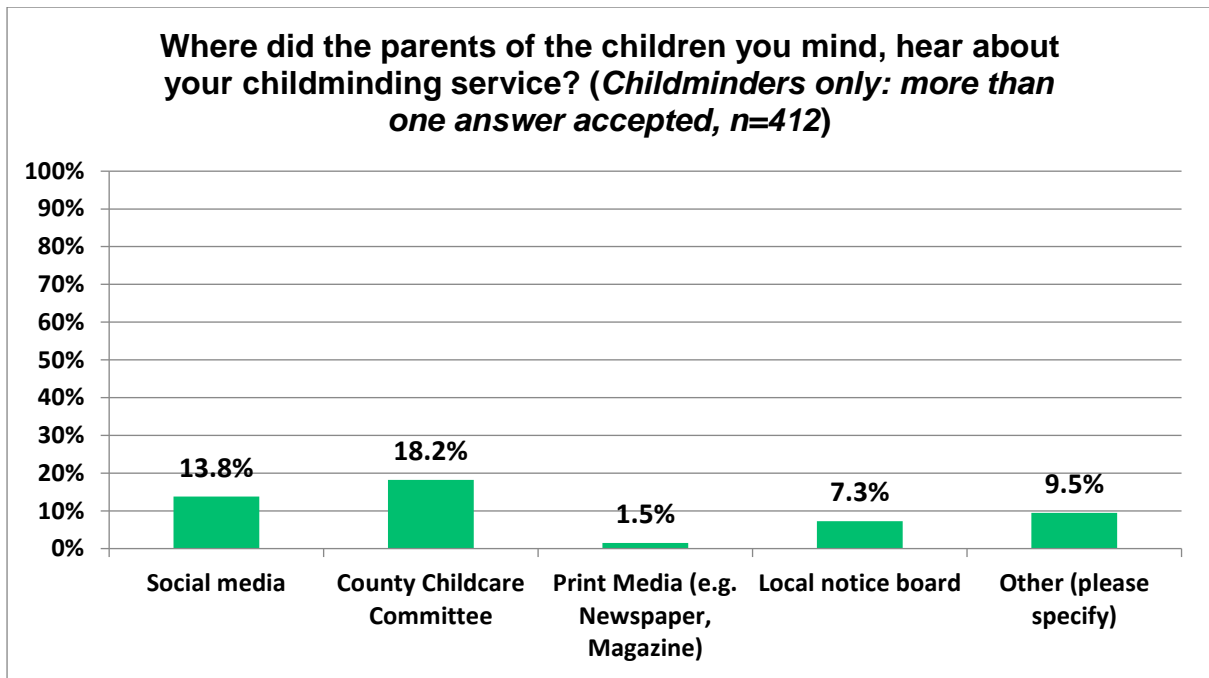


Figure 14b: Where did parents hear about your childminding service?

The vast majority (72.2%) of childminders who completed this survey have a written contract with the parents of the children that they mind. (Figure 15a and Figure 15b)

The vast majority also give a discount when they mind more than one child from the same family and get paid when a child does not attend due to sickness (78.7% and 77.8% respectively). However, 78.2% of childminders do not get paid when they take their holidays and only half get paid for bank holidays. Over 80% of childminders do not charge if parents are late collecting the children. 62.3% of the childminders stated that they get paid electronically.

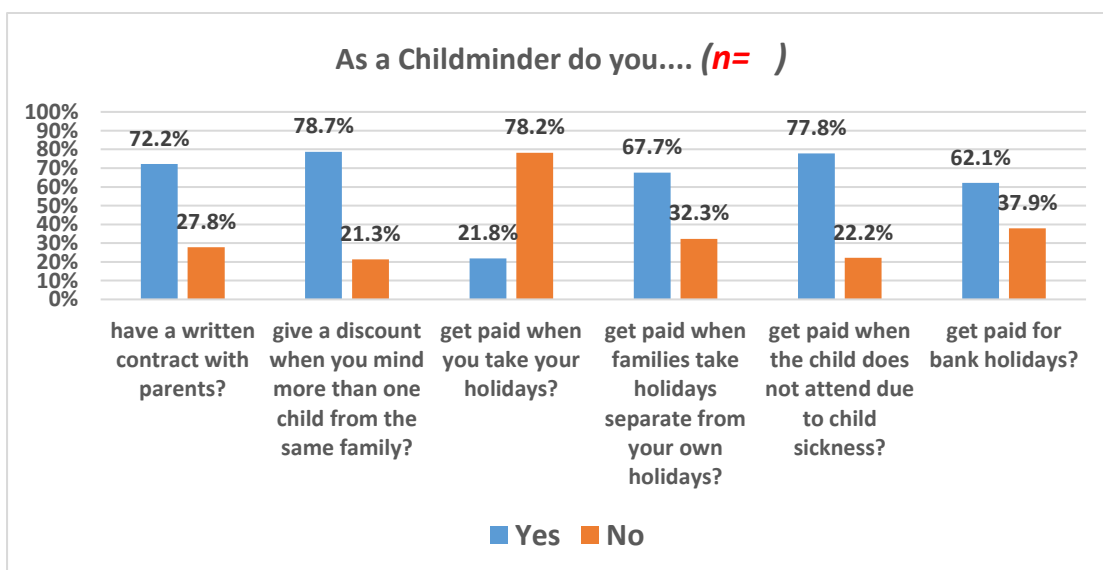


Figure 15a: As a childminder do you

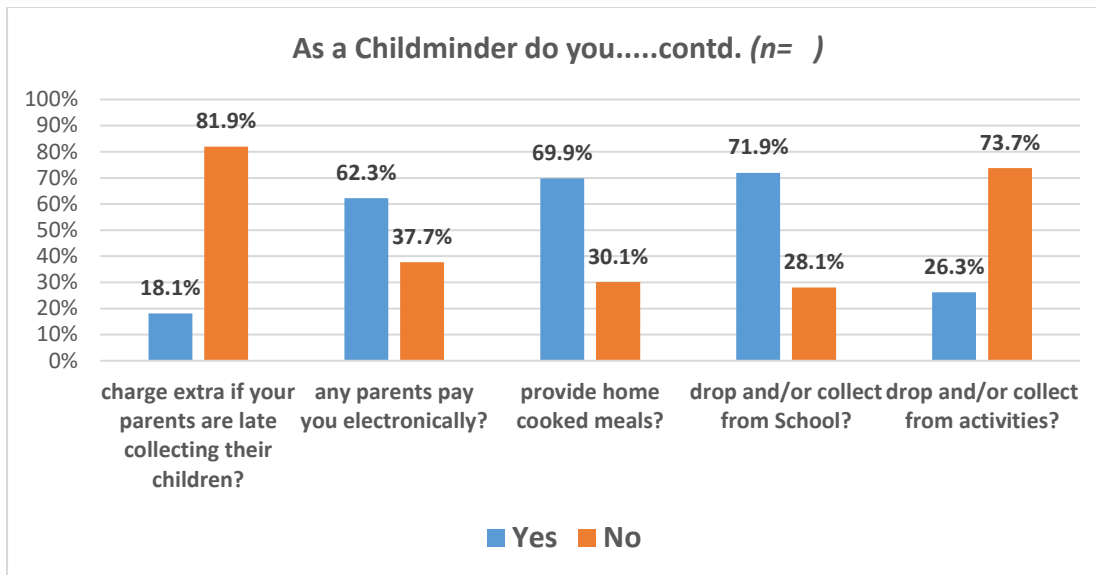


Figure 15b: As a childminder do you (contd.)

A high percentage of childminders provide home cooked meals and do drop and/or collect children from school, (69.9% and 71.9%) but do not drop and/or collect from activities (26.3%).

Less than half of nannies have a written contract with their employers (41.7%) and the same percentage say that their employers do not pay tax or PRSI on their behalf. The vast majority of nannies cook meals, drop and collect children from both school and activities (**Figure 16**)

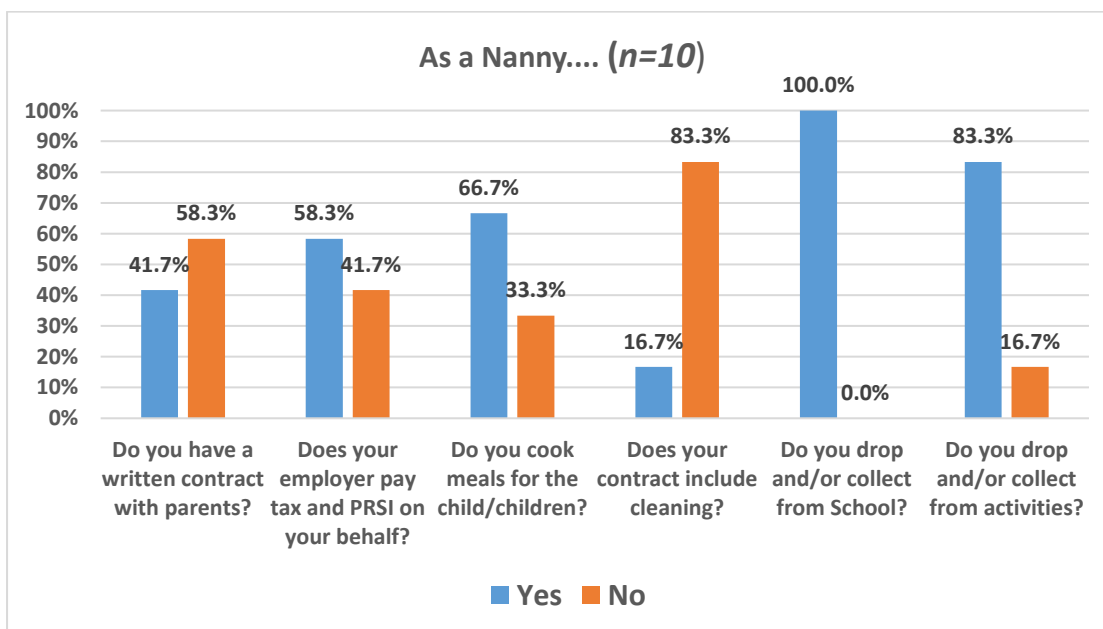


Figure 16: As a nanny.....

The largest category of children being minded by childminders are toddlers (16 months – 2 years and 8 months) closely followed by primary school children. Only 5 children that they mind are attending secondary school. The vast majority of children being minded are pre-primary school children (**Table 2**)

Age Category	Number of Children
Infant (0-15 months)	158
Toddler (16 months - 2 year and 8 months)	225
Preschool not attending ECCE setting	72
Preschool attending ECCE setting	185
Primary School child	217
Secondary school child	5

Table 2: number of children minded by Age category (childminders only)

Table 3 shows the number of children minded by nannies, by age category. The largest single category is primary children, but combined, it is predominantly preschool children that nannies mind.

Age Category	Number of Children
Infant (0-15 months)	2
Toddler (16 months - 2 year and 8 months)	3
Preschool not attending ECCE setting	2
Preschool attending ECCE setting	5
Primary School child	7
Secondary school child	1

Table 3: number of children minded by Age category (Nannies only)

An overwhelming majority of childminders remain in contact with children they have previously minded. (**Figure 17**)

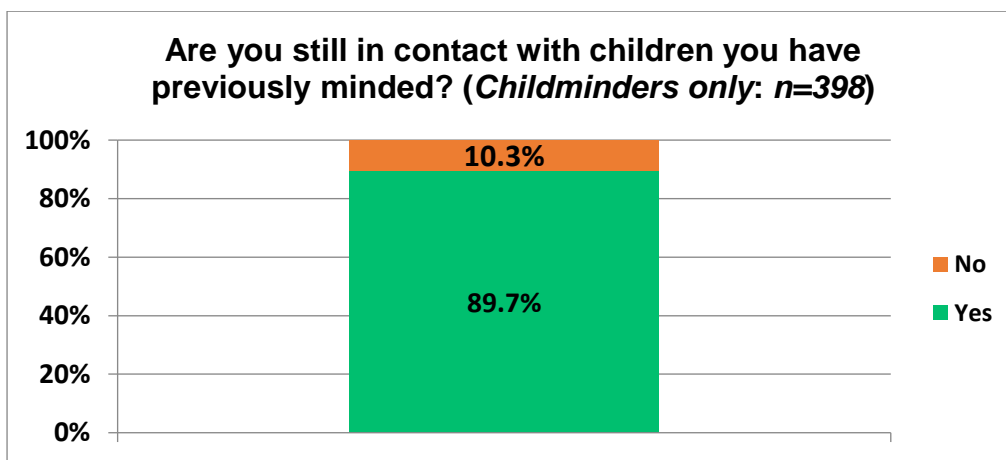


Figure 17: Are you still in contact with children you minded?

Over half of childminders have provided emergency cover for families of children they mind, outside of their normal working hours. (Figure 18)

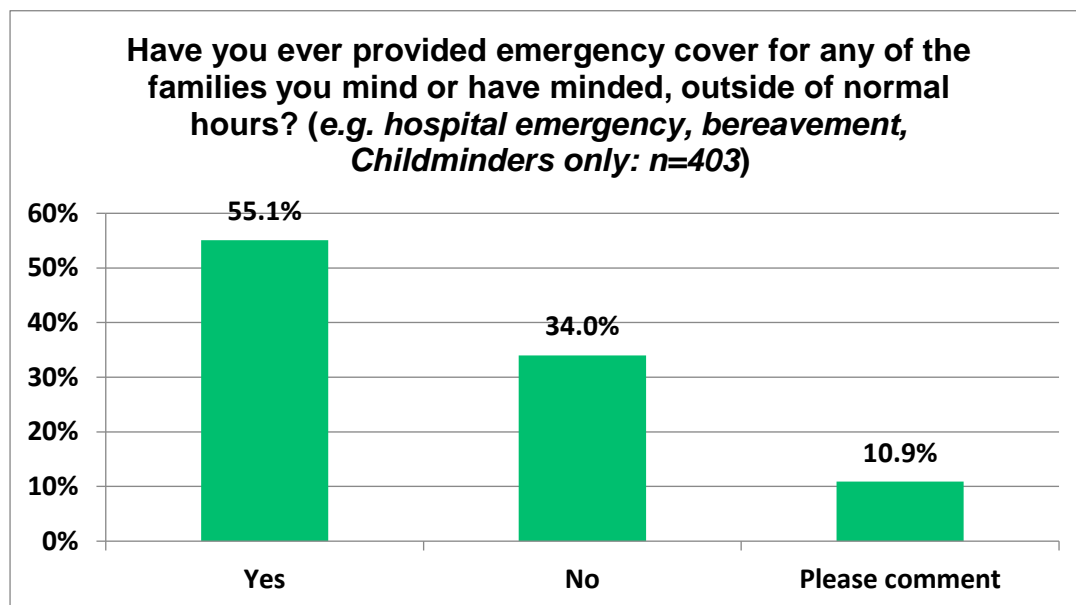


Figure 18: Have you ever provided emergency cover for families outside of normal hours?

Childminders were asked to rate a selection of statements in terms of how important they thought they were in terms of assuring good quality in a childminding service (Figures 19a and 19b). Interestingly, having support and development visits had the lowest number of childminders rating it as “very important”. Other relatively low-ranking categories included having appropriate policies and procedures (48.2%) and having relevant childminding training (50.8%). Having relevant first aid training received the highest number of “very important” ratings, 91.2%. Having appropriate childminding insurance and being garda vetted also received a large number of “very important” ratings. It is interesting, though, that only 69% of respondents rated as “very important” that all adults who are in contact with minded children be garda vetted

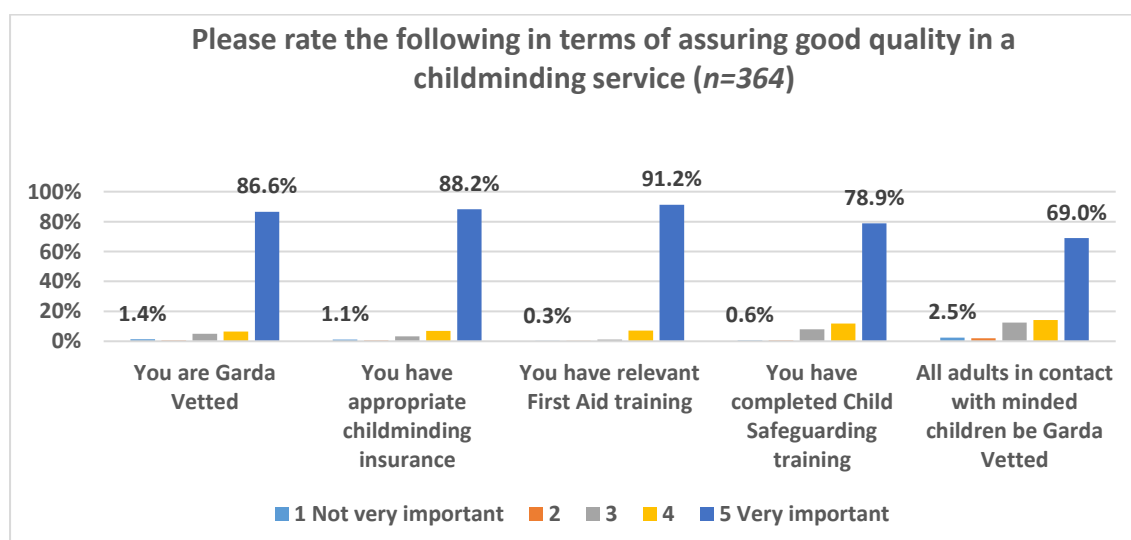


Figure 19a: Rating of importance of qualities in terms of assuring a good childminding service

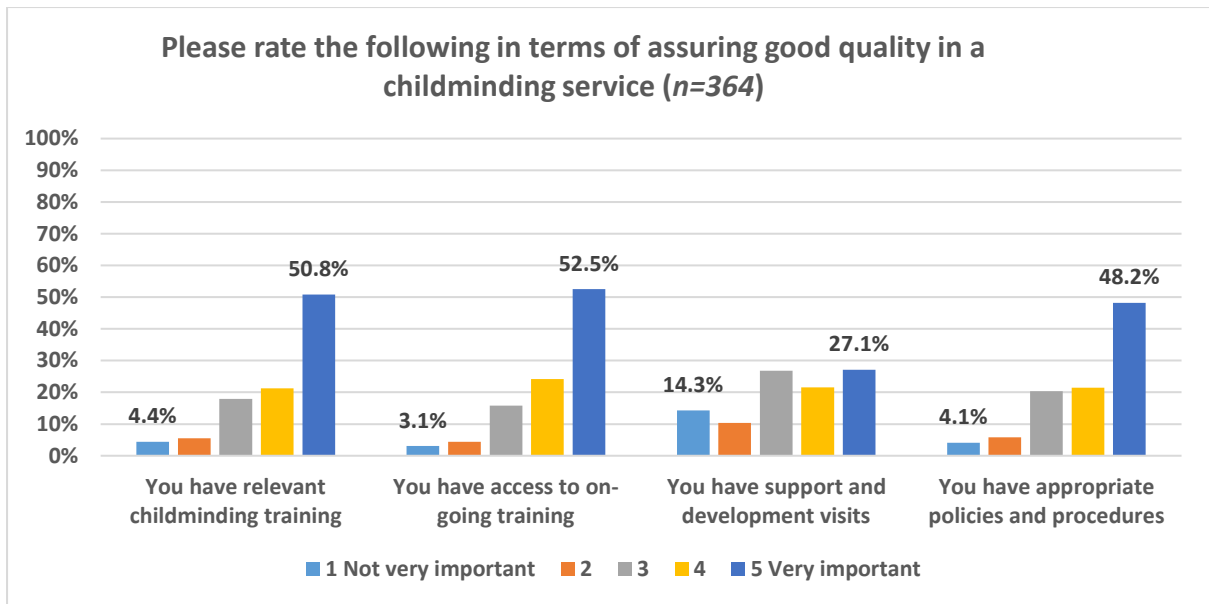


Figure 19a: Rating of importance of qualities in terms of assuring a good childminding service, contd.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDMINDING

87.3% of respondents were aware of the National Action Plan for Childminding (Figure 20).

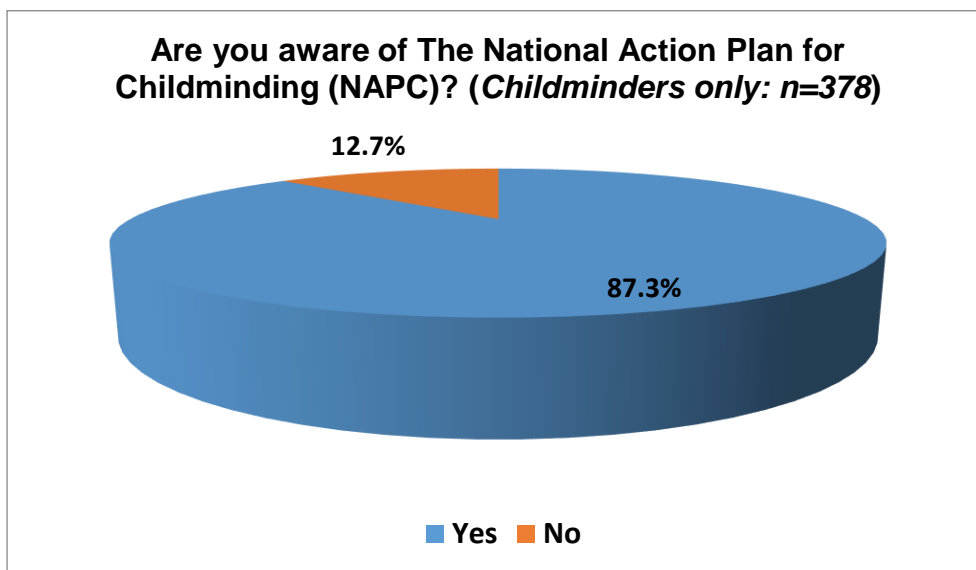


Figure 20: Are you aware of the NAPC?

When asked where they had heard about the NAPC, 72.6% replied that they had heard about it from Childminding Ireland. (Figure 21)

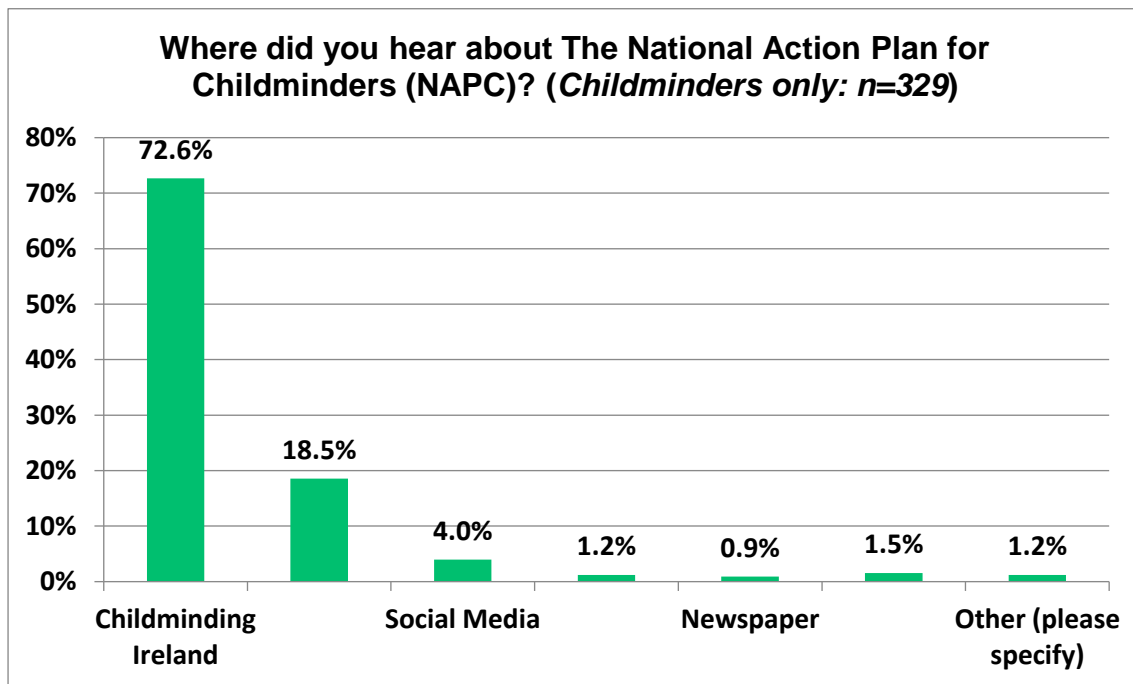


Figure 21: Where did you hear about the NAPC?

GRANTS

Childminders were asked if they had applied for the Childminding Development Grant in 2021. 32.7% of respondents said they had applied, with over 67.3% stating they had not. More than 85% of these applicants being successful. (Figure 22)

The majority of people who hadn't applied for the grant, commented that the reason they didn't apply was because it either wasn't needed, or they weren't eligible, after having received a grant in 2020.

"I didn't need anything new after using the re-opening grant in 2020."

"Applied in 2020" "I received the grant in 2020" "Wasn't eligible as got it the previous year."

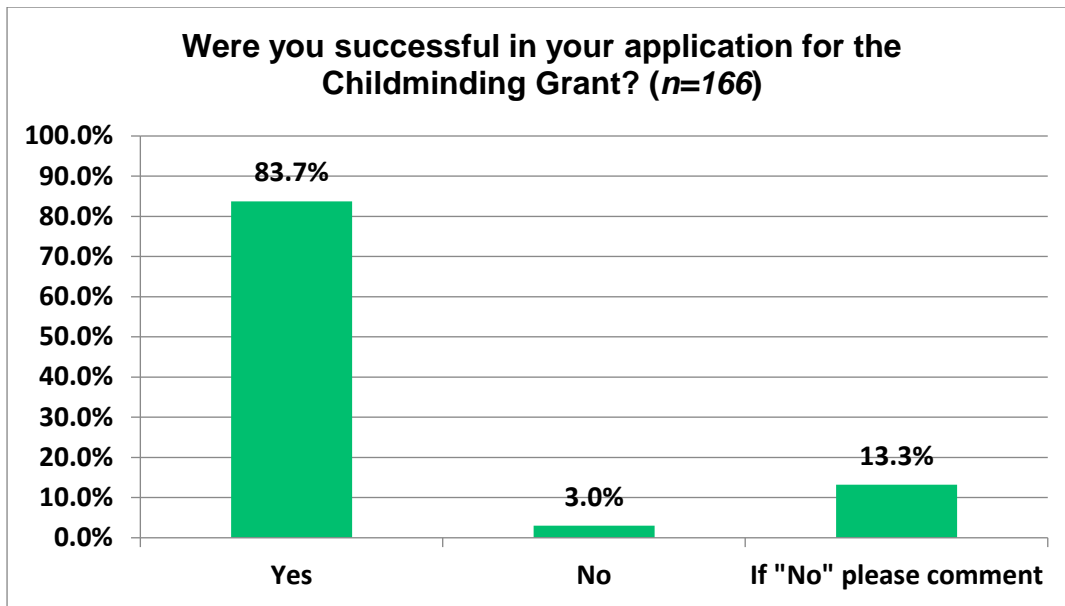


Figure 22: Were you successful in your application for the Childminding Development Grant? People who were not successful were asked to comment and some of the reasons given were:

Didn't apply *"Because I never applied due to no insurance"*

"Red tape did not bother to accept it"

COVID IMPACT

Respondents were asked if Covid-19 was currently impacting them or their service. The majority of nannies (75%) stated that it wasn't, but approximately 50% of childminders answered that it was. (Figure 23)

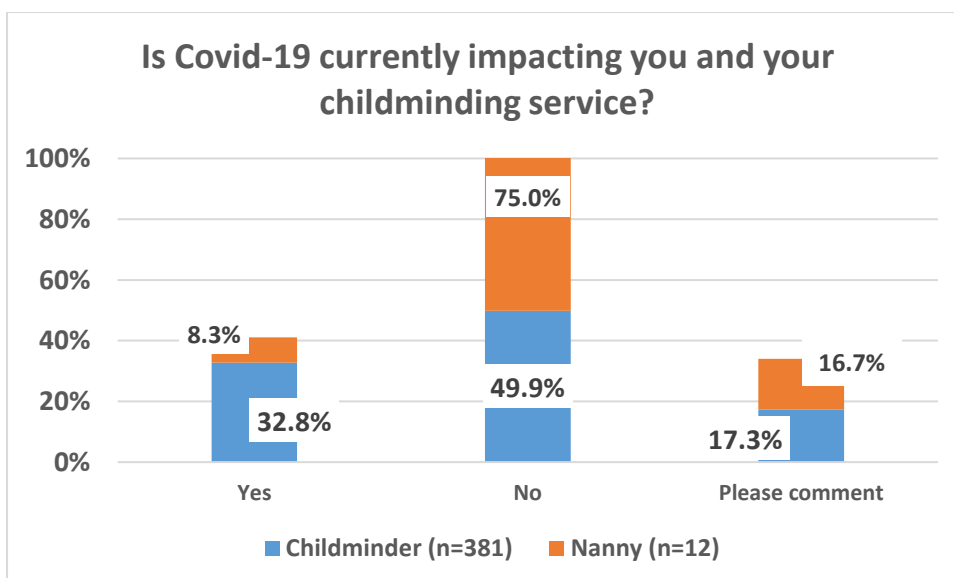


Figure 23: Is Covid-19 currently impacting you and your childminding service?

Childminders and Nannies were invited to comment on how it has impacted on them. The responses varied from “none” to “it destroyed my business for 18 months”

Some respondents reported that their business suffered very serious impacts.

“I didn’t work for 18 months. I did have pup but I much rather be working. I returned to work in September but only have 2 children now, all the other families found alternatives and understandable that they did not want to disrupt children again.”

“Reduced hours and numbers”

The fact that a lot of people were working from home had a big impact on childminders.

“Parents working from home, children in school so I’m excess to requirements. Went from 5 days to 2 days with another family”

“During the summer months as most parents were home I was only minding 2 children but also as a result of companies closing”

“parents working from home do not require childcare”

“A lot of parents are only using the facilities 1-2 days a week as they are not back full time in the office”

For childminders, a big issue was either having to close, or children not coming in, due to sickness.

“Having to close to often because kids have flu symptoms etc”

“I voluntarily shut in summer 4 times due to close contacts, and one positive case. I actually thought I would have to close completely it was so stressful, both for me and the parents”

“More sick days for the children”

When this happens, in a number of cases, the childminder is then not paid and suffers a loss of income.

“Yes, I’ve had to close to have pcr test already on 1 occasion losing 2 days’ pay”

“When children have coughs and colds and have to be tested for covid and are home for maybe 3 to 5 days, I’m not paid for those days.”

“Have lost income due to children or parents being close contacts. Or parents being responsible not sending children who were sick. “

“Occasionally when I have symptoms I don’t operate my service and I don’t take payment”

For some respondents, there has been little or no negative impact:

“No busier than I ever have been.”

“Currently the government measures are not affecting my service. However, I was out of work during the lockdowns”

SECTION TWO – PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Respondents

Over 55% of parents / guardians who employ childminders and / or nannies were in the 35- 44 age group. (**Figure 24**) No respondent was aged under 25. Parents / guardians who employed nannies tended to be older, all of them were aged 35 years of older.

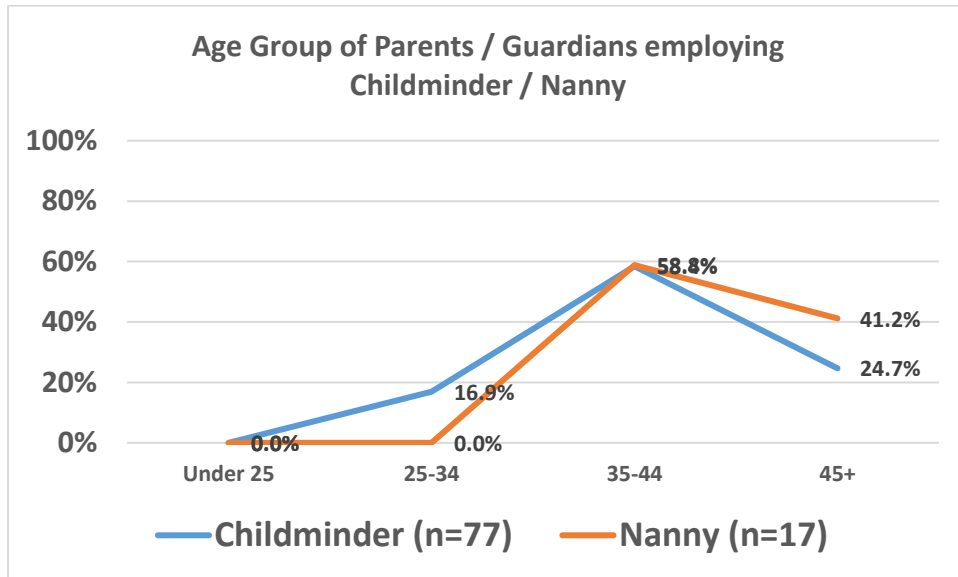


Figure 24: Age profile of respondents

Figure 25 below shows that the majority of people employing a nanny live in a town or a city (75.5%) whereas the majority of respondents employing a childminder live in either a rural area or a village (53.3%)

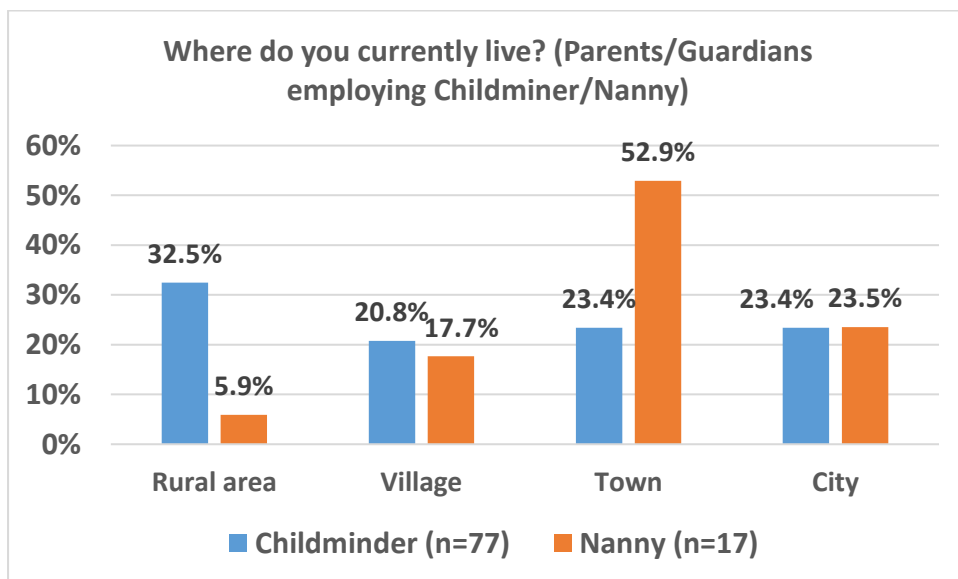


Figure 25: Where do you currently live?

When asked how many years they have been using the services of a childminder / nanny, an interesting pattern emerged. **Figure 26** shows that families don't use them for a long period of time. Both lines show decreasing numbers as the number of years increase. Only 12.5% of respondents have employed a nanny and 37.5% have employed a childminder for more than 5 years.

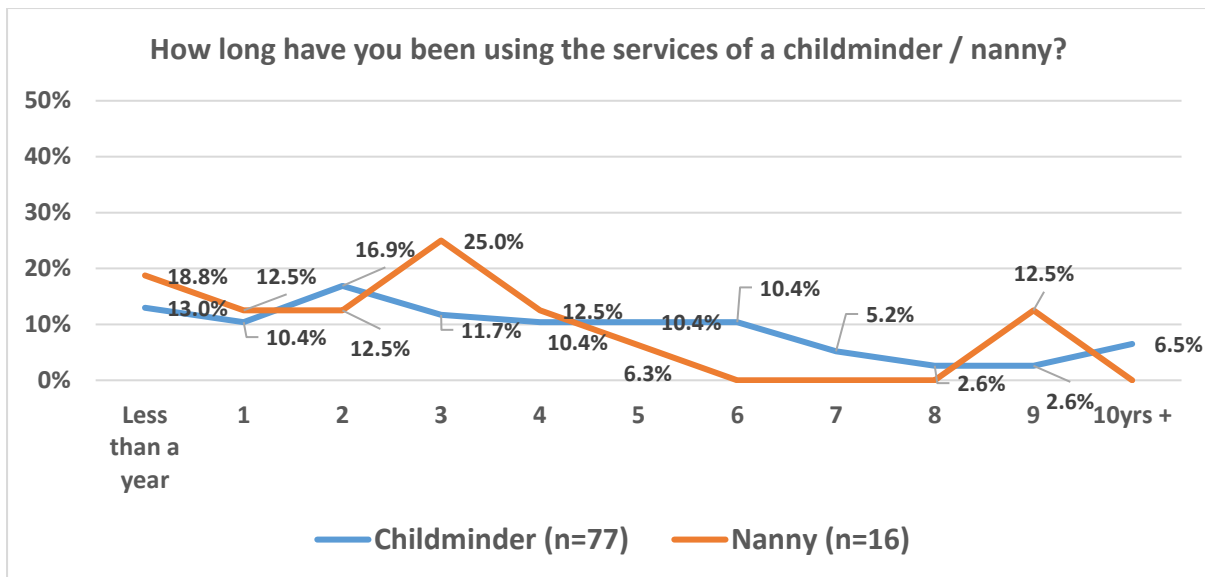


Figure 26: How long have you been using the services of a childminder / nanny?

Linking in with the results from section 1, the majority of parents / guardians heard about their childminder through friends, family or other parents. Parents / guardians who use the services of a nanny predominantly heard about them through an online search. **(Figure 27)** Respondents were given the option of specifying other places or giving more information about where they heard. Similar to the answers given by childminders, the responses in this category include Facebook, mindme.ie and friends.

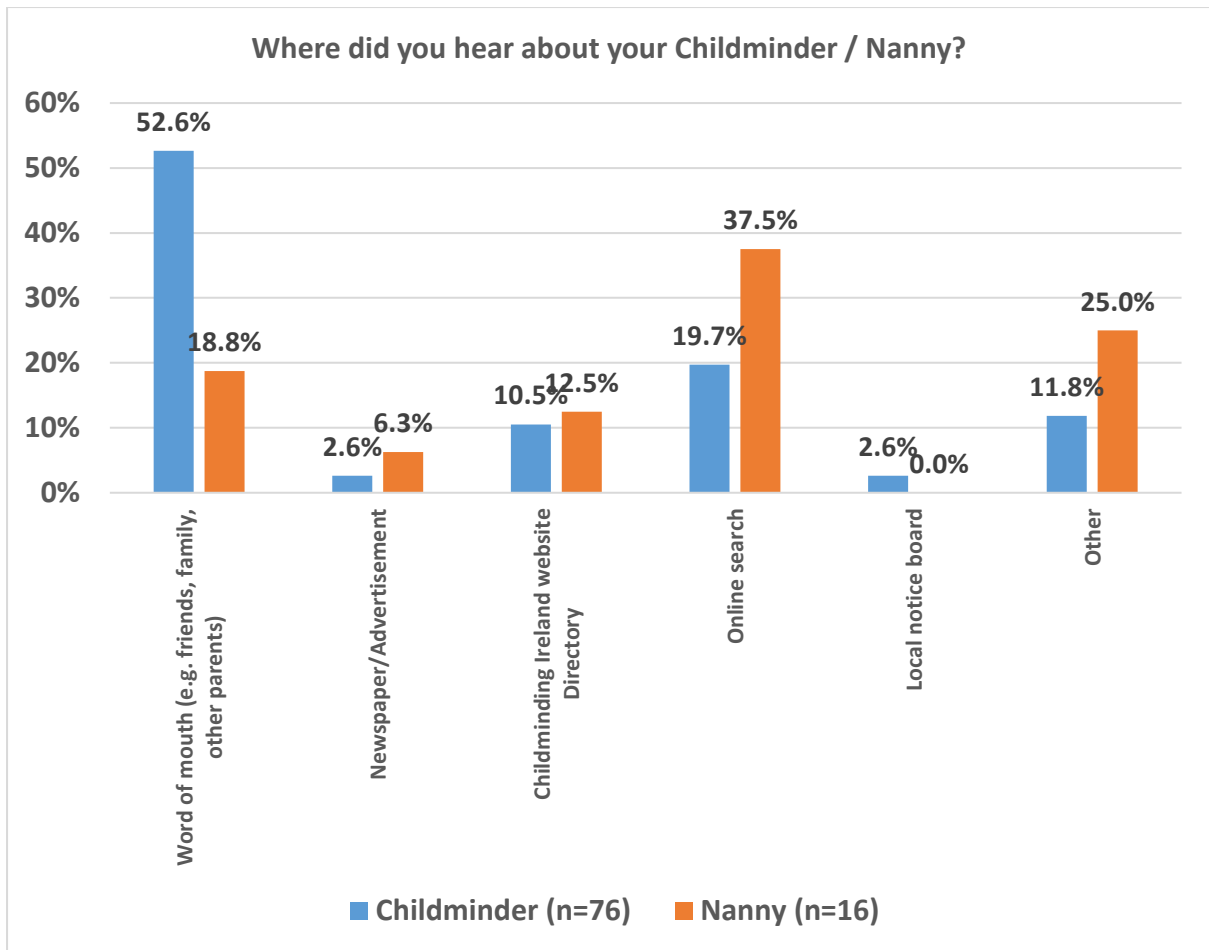


Figure 27: Where did you hear about your Childminder / Nanny?

Over 60% of parents / guardians have an annual household income (after tax) of 60,000 euro or more. (Figure 28)

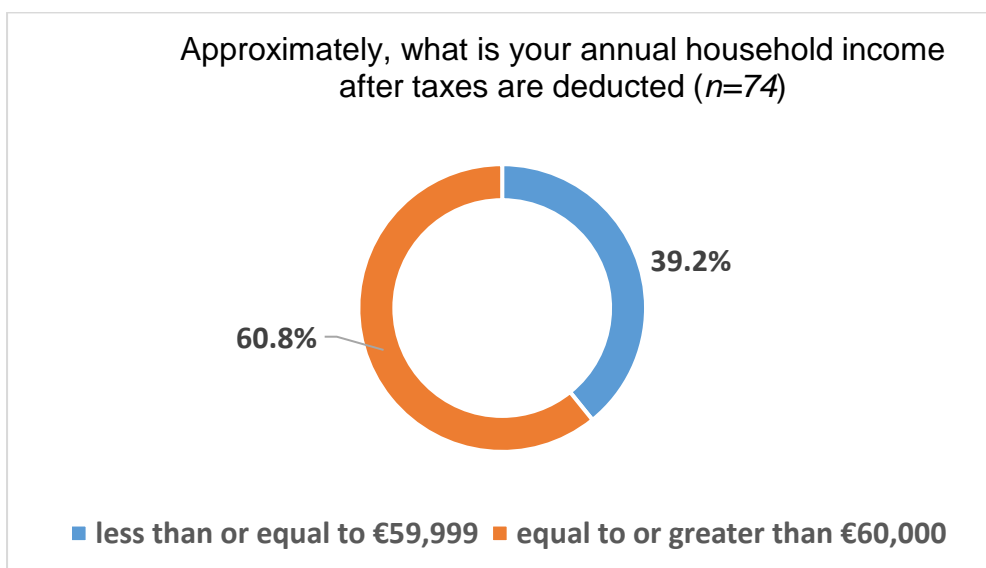


Figure 28: Approximate annual household income after tax

Figure 29 shows what proportion of a parent / guardian’s total household annual income represents their childminding costs. It can be seen from this that 48% of parents who employ childminders spend between 0 and 20% of the annual income on childminding, with 31.3% who employ nannies fall into this category. For those who use a childminding service, the numbers decrease as the proportion increases, except for a slight rise in the 61-70% category (2.7%). For those who employ nannies, there is not much variation between the categories 0-20%, 21-30% and 31-40%. No parents / guardians pay more than 70% of their annual income on childminding.

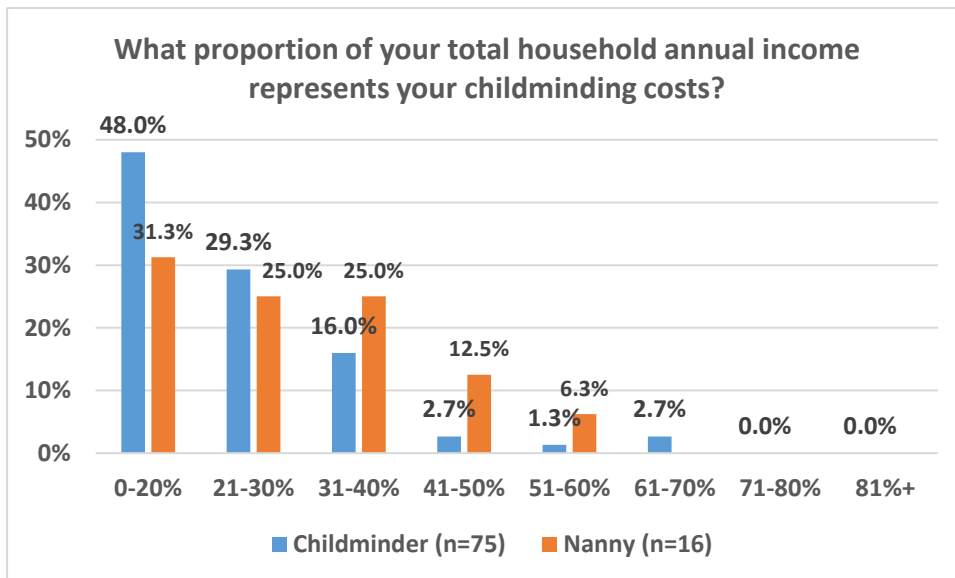


Figure 29: What proportion of your total household annual income represents your childminding costs?

The majority of parents / guardians who employ a nanny stated that they heard about Childminding Ireland on the Childminding Ireland website (38.9%), with 33.3% hearing about it from friends, family, other parents, etc. and 27.8% via social media. (**Figure 30**) No parents / guardians who use a childminder replied to this question.

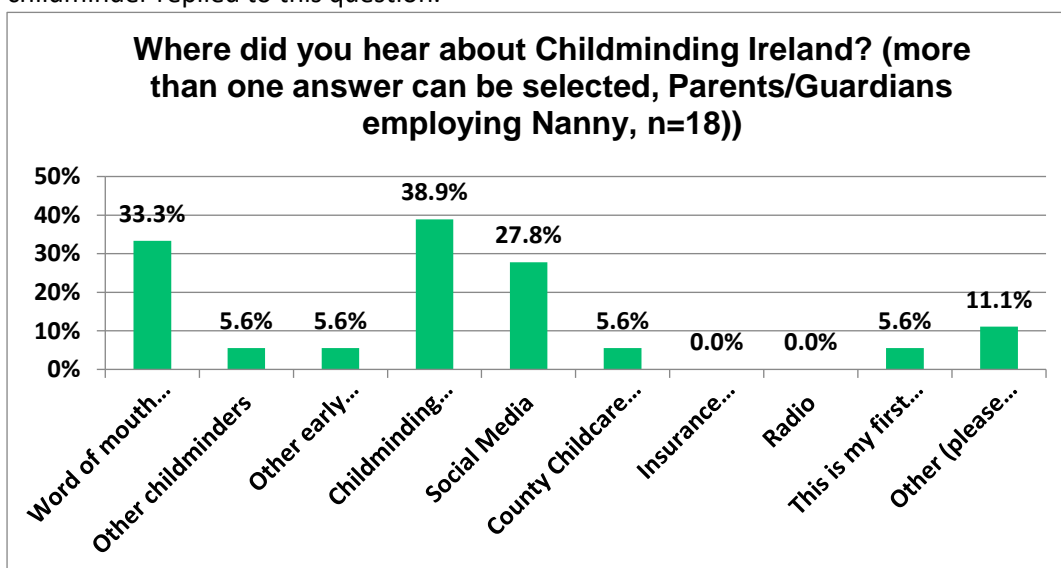


Figure 30: Where did you hear about Childminding Ireland?

As can be seen from **Table 4** below, it is predominantly parents / guardians of younger children who responded to the survey. Only 6 children aged 3 years or over are with a childminder.

Age Category	Number of Children
Under 1 year	74
1 – 2 years	42
3-4 years	5
5 – 6 years	1
7 -12 years	0
13 – 16 years	0

Table 4: Age of children who are with a childminder

The most common rate of pay per week, per child, is between 1 and 99 euro. Nobody replied that they paid €300 or more, with only 4 people saying that they paid between 200 and 299 euro. (**Table 5**)

Rate of Pay (per week, per child)	Number
€1-€99	71
€100-€199	39
€200-€299	4
€300-€399	0
€400+	0

Table 5: Approximately how much are you paying your childminder per week, per child?

Table 6 below details how many hours parents / guardians said their childminder or nanny worked for them. 71 parents who use the services of a childminder responded, having a total of 109 children between them. 16 parents / guardians who employed a nanny responded. We can see that very few answered the 40+ hours category. The highest category was between 20 – 29 hours for both those using a childminding service and those employing a nanny.

Hours employing	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40+
Childminder	22	23	31	24	9
Nanny	3	3	5	4	1

Table 6: Approximately how many hours per week do you use a childminder / your nanny work for you?

The next questions were concerned with whether or not parents /guardians asked for evidence from their childminder about such things as insurance, qualifications, etc. The answers are outlined below in **Figures 31a and 31b**. What is striking about these results is how many parents / guardians did not ask for, or consider asking for, evidence about, for example, if their childminder had completed a safeguarding course, had adequate insurance, if they followed specific policies and procedures and if they had access to support and training.

Only 15.7% of respondents asked their childminder if they had completed child safeguarding. Less than 40% asked for evidence of garda vetting and if they had a childcare qualification.

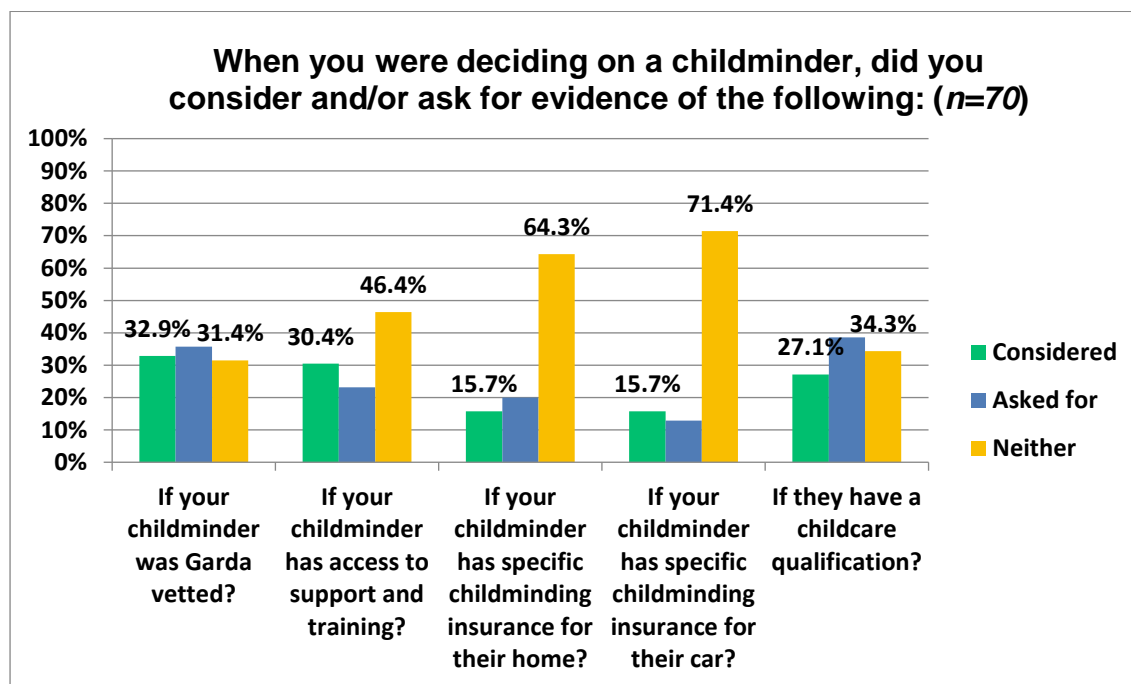


Figure 31a: Considering or asking for evidence of

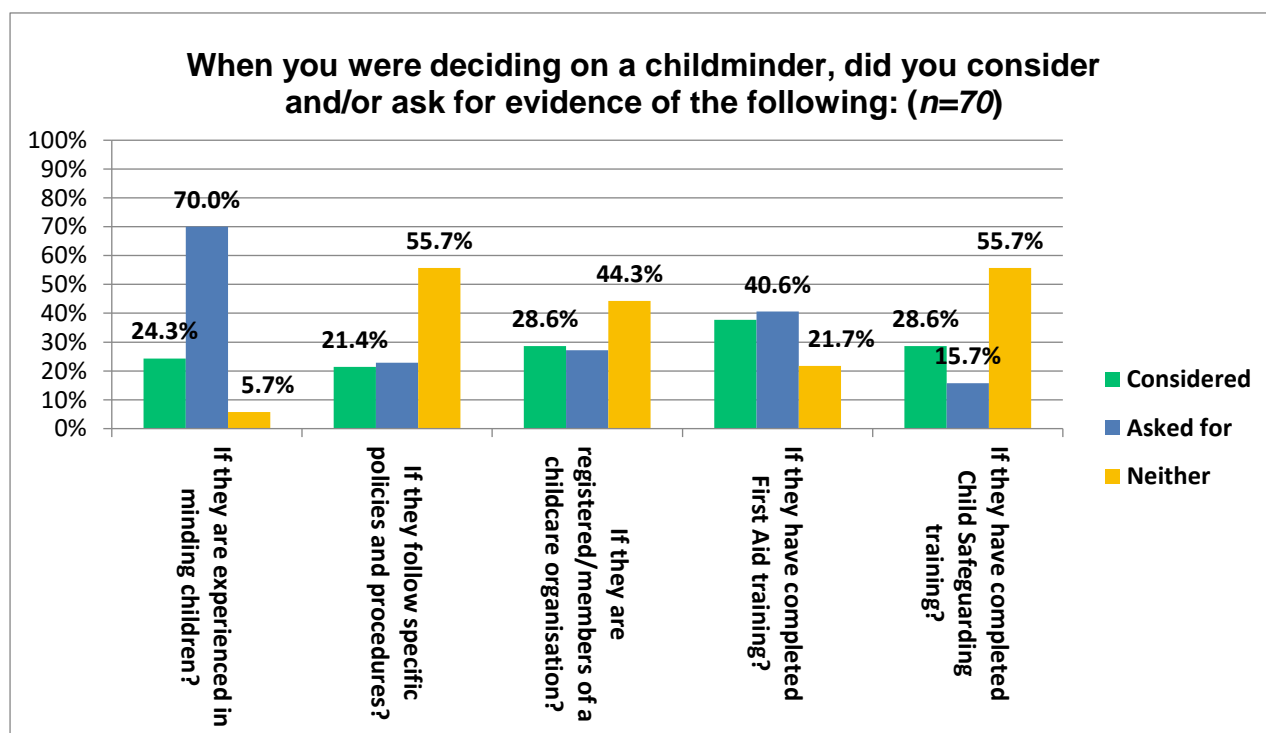


Figure 31b: Considering or asking for evidence of

A similar pattern emerged when parents / guardians who employ a nanny were asked if they had asked for evidence of the same things. The vast majority did not consider asking about car, house or

nanny insurance. (Figures 32a and 32b) However, over 70% of respondents did ask for evidence of previous childminding experience. Only 40% asked if their nanny had a childcare qualification, but 50% asked for evidence of having access to support and training.

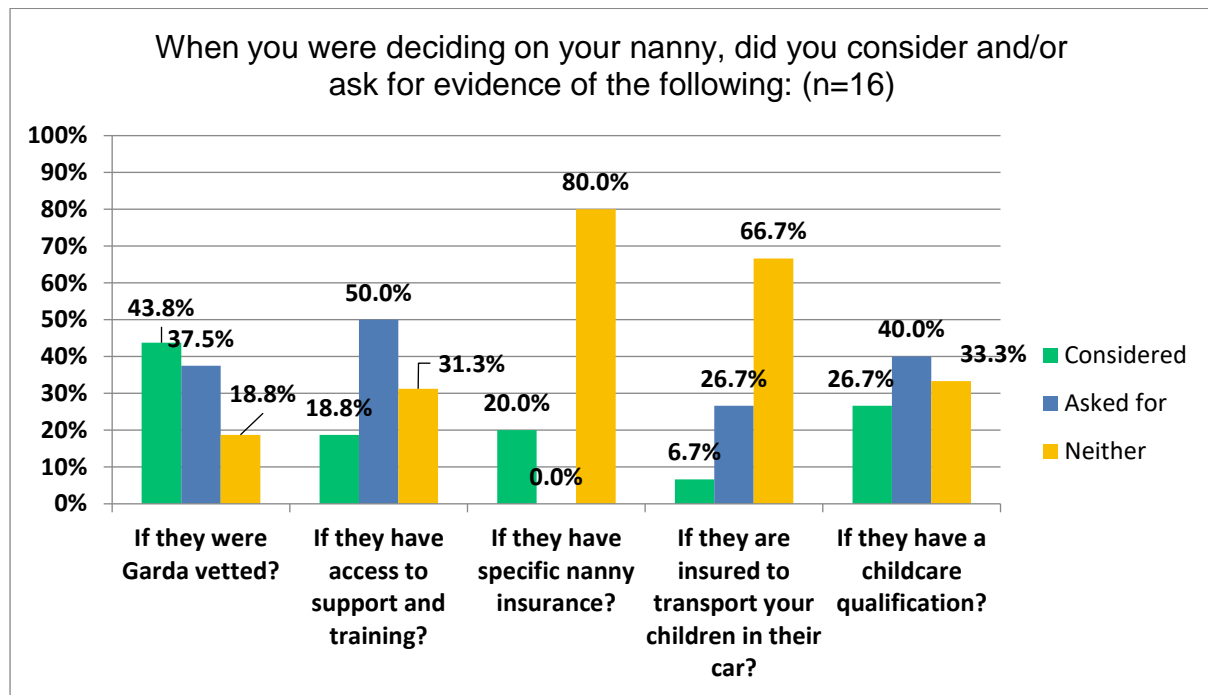


Figure 32a: When you were deciding on your nanny, did you consider and / or ask for evidence of.....

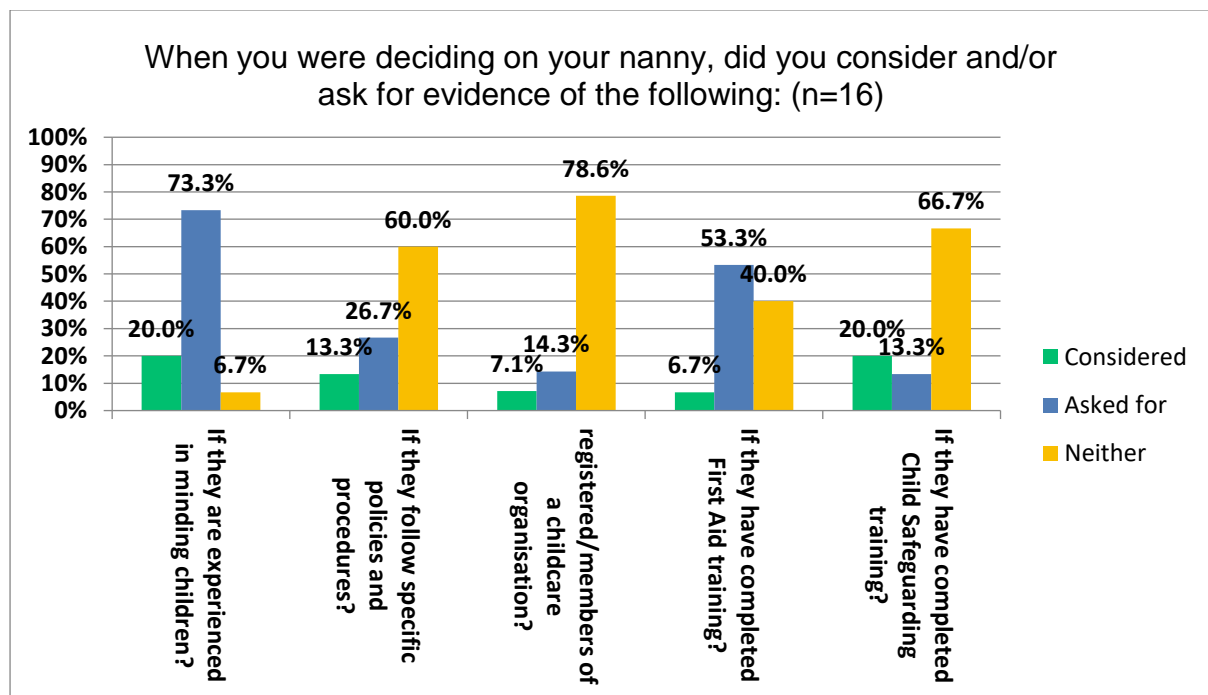


Figure 32b: When you were deciding on your nanny, did you consider and / or ask for evidence of.....

Parents / guardians were given a number of characteristics and asked to rate each of them on a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 meant they considered something not at all important and 5 they considered to be very important when they were choosing their childminder. The results can be seen in **Figures 33a and 33b** below. The category which was rated “very important” by the highest number of parents / guardians (94.2%) was their childminder’s qualities, qualities such as being kind and caring. This was followed by the physical environment, safety and cleanliness (78.3%). Other highly ranked qualities included “A home from home setting” and “positive references from known people”. Interestingly, less than half the respondents ranked cost as being either “important” or “very important”.

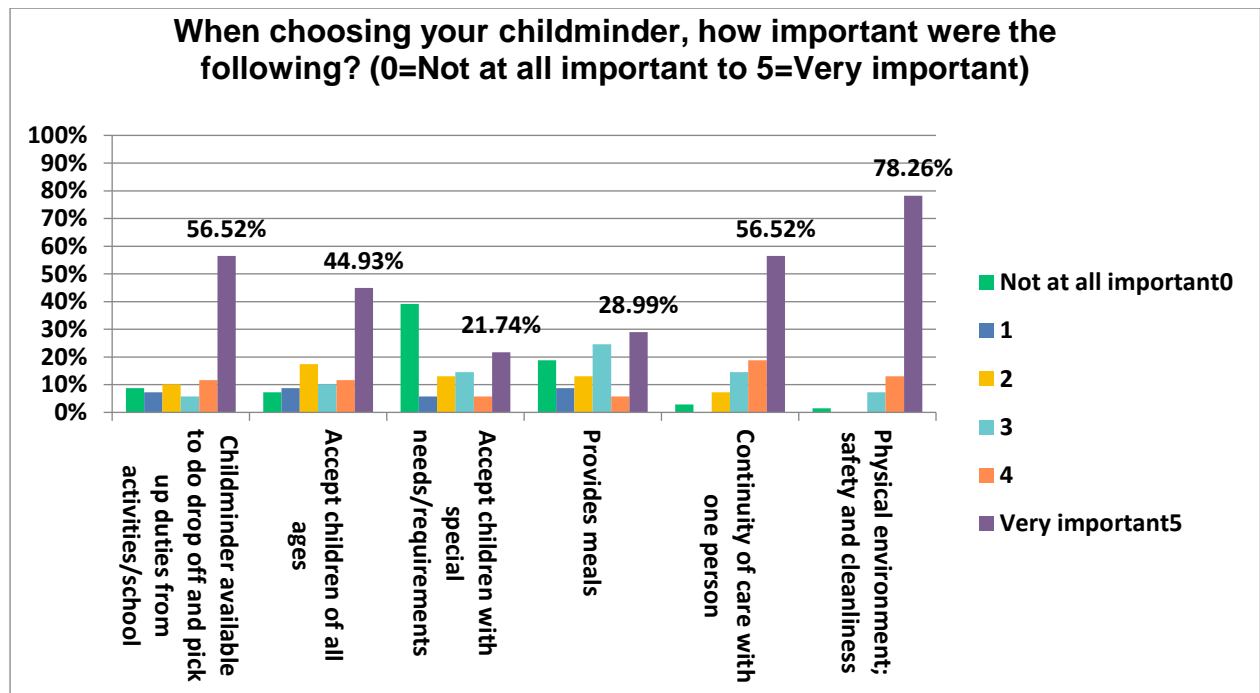


Figure 33a: When choosing your childminder, how important were the following?

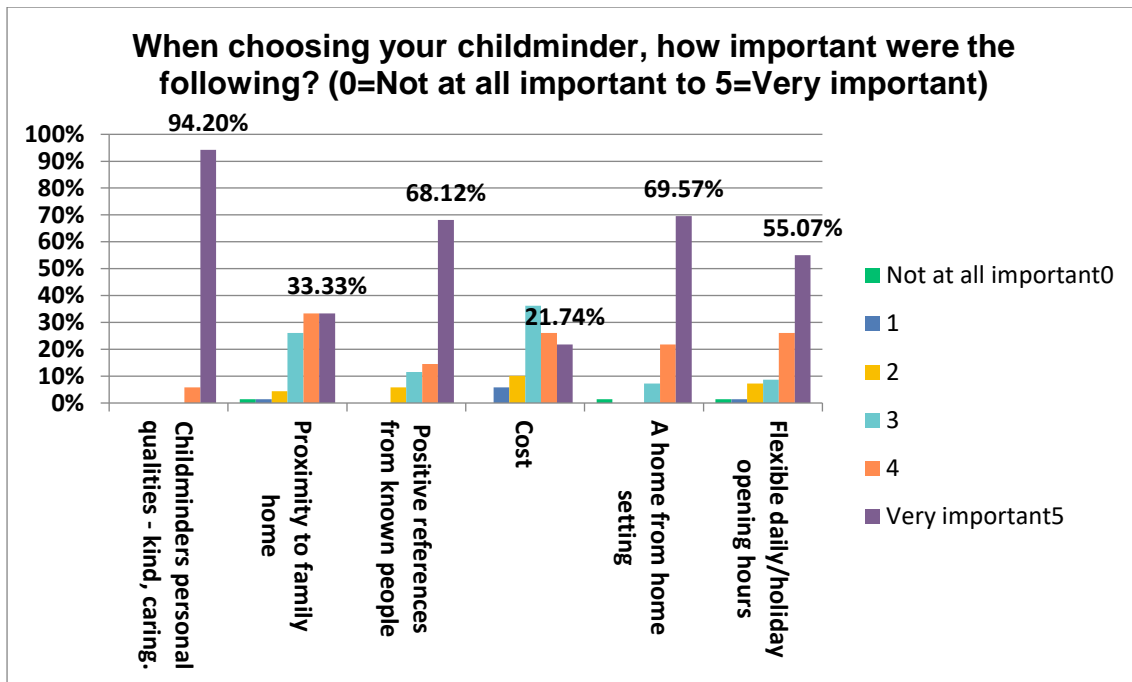


Figure 33b: When choosing your childminder, how important were the following?

They were then asked (Figure 34) to rank from 1 to 6, (where one was the most accurate) which of a selection of statements most accurately described their reason for choosing a childminder. Enforcing the results from the previous question, the statement which received the highest amount of “1” rankings was “I wanted the home from home experience for my child/ren” (48.4%). This statement also received a high amount of “2” rankings (28.1%). The least accurate statements (47.1%) were “There were no spaces available in any creche close to me” and “There were no creches close to me” (32.3%).

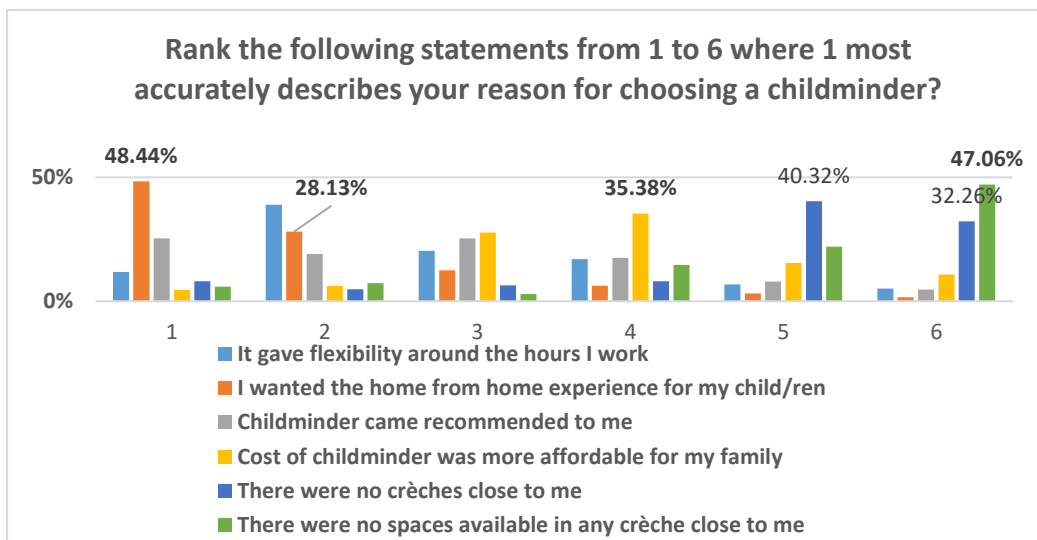


Figure 34: Rank the following statements which most accurately describes your reason for choosing a childminder

The vast majority of Parents / Guardians do not have a written contract with their childminders (73.1%) and do not pay when the childminder takes holidays (72.1%). The majority of parents / guardians do, however, pay their childminder if their child / children do not attend due to illness, (80.9%) when they themselves take holidays (70.6%) and pay them for bank holidays (68.7%). (Figure 35)

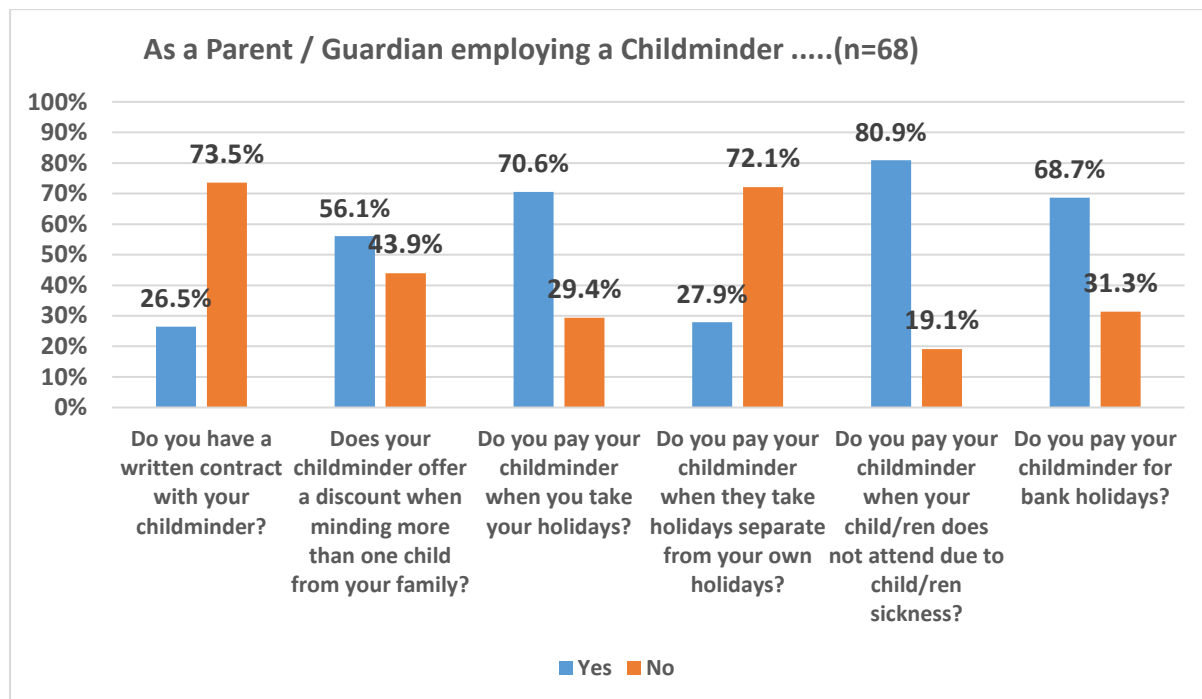


Figure 35: As a parent / guardian employing a childminder, do you.....

The majority of parents / guardians who employ a nanny, do not have a written contract with them and half of them do not pay tax / PRSI for them. (Figure 36) Only 12.5% of nannies do cleaning as part of their employment, but 68.8% cook meals for the child / children. 75% of nannies drop and / or collect from school, but only 40% drop and / or collect from activities.

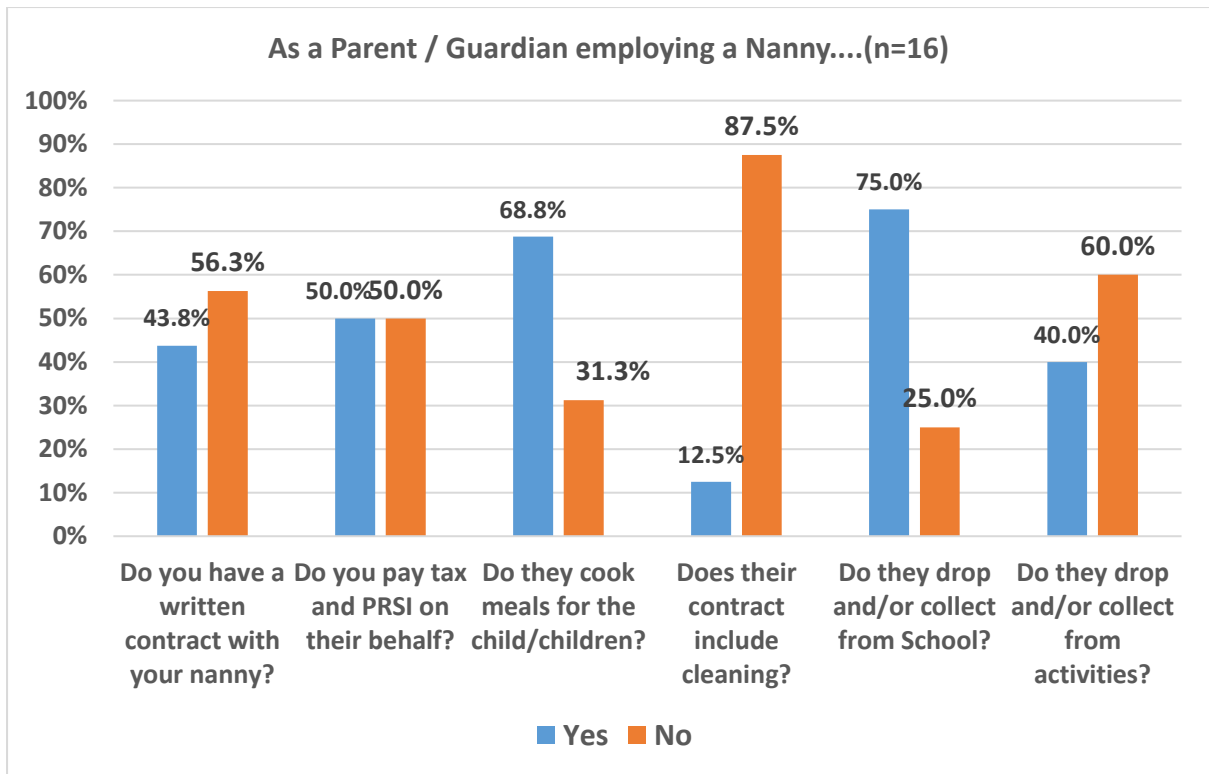


Figure 36: As a parent / guardian employing a Nanny, do

As regards the quality of care offered, both childminders and nannies got very high approval ratings from parents / guardians (**Figure 37**). 94.1% of parents / guardians said the quality of care offered by their childminders was either “good” or “very good”, while 95.8% said the same about the quality of care offered by their nannies.

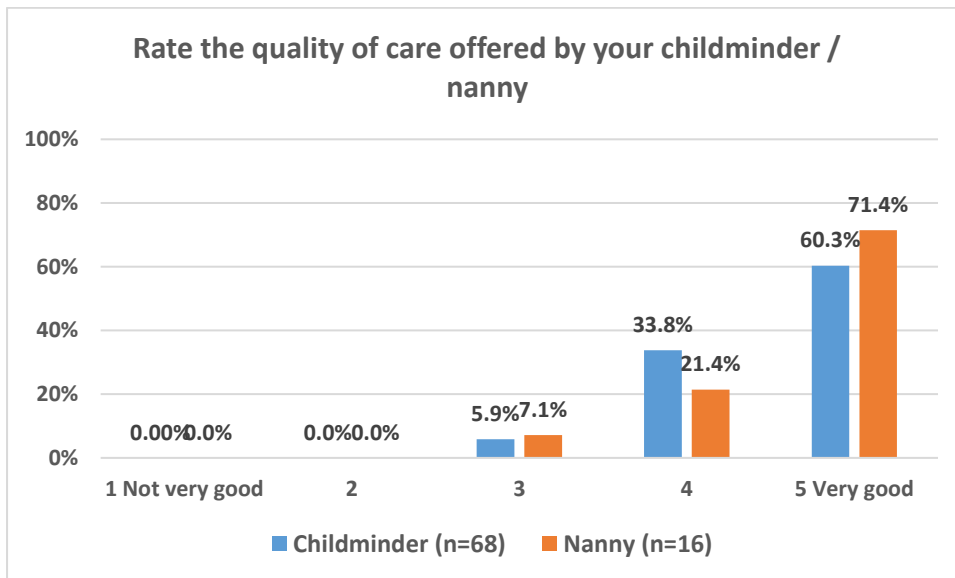


Figure 37: Rate the quality of care offered by your childminder / nanny

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Childminders stated that they are very happy with Childminding Ireland. The satisfaction rate can be seen to be rising consistently with each new survey. This would indicate that Childminding Ireland is evolving and developing over the years to meet the changing needs of childminders. It also indicates that they were able to adapt during the covid pandemic to give strong support to childminders and to address the difficulties that were experienced at that time. The importance of the organisation is reflected in the fact that the vast majority of childminders heard about the NAPC via the Childminding Ireland website.

The profile of childminders remains predominantly rural and are aged between 45-54 years of age, in contrast, nannies tended to be younger and work in urban areas. The vast majority of childminders still rely on word of mouth to inform parents of their service.

The qualities that parents said they look for in a childminder, and that childminders themselves, regard as most important, remain ones of kindness, caring, home from home setting, etc. Having qualifications and training are not ranked as important as those characteristics mentioned above. This has been the case in all the surveys which have been carried out.

However, there is an increasing number of childminders who now have childcare qualification(s) and also a higher level of qualification. The figures in the 2021 survey show an increase from previous years, indicating that people are seeing the relevance and importance of them for their work.

A clear issue from this survey is that the response rate from Nannies is very low. In 2020, 93 of the respondents were nannies, while only 19 completed the survey this year, which is a significant drop. Should it be a cause for concern for Childminding Ireland that perhaps nannies are not engaging with them because they feel that it is not relevant to them or that it is not meeting their needs? The second concern is that, given the relatively low sample size, it is difficult to extrapolate from the sample to the population with any degree of certainty. Has the interpretation of 'nanny' changed to a broader definition rather than the formal definition of an individual minding children in the parent's home as an employee of the parents?

This year, the survey was extended to include parents and / or guardians who are using the services of a childminder or employing a nanny. The majority of respondents were aged between 35 and 44 years of age. Parents / Guardians who employed nannies tended to be older than those who used the services of a childminder.

The majority of parents / guardians who responded, have not been using a childminder / nanny for a long period of time. The majority of them heard about their childminder / nanny through friends or family.

The response to the question about what parents / guardians considered asking about when deciding on their childminder / nanny reveals that they only appeared to be concerned about previous childminding experience and did not consider such things as insurance, completed safeguarding courses and being a registered member of a childcare organisation as a priority.