

BUILD Summer 2021 Client Survey

BUILD Health Challenge® Washington, DC Partners
Children's Law Center • Children's National Medical Center • DC Health

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey!

This survey was sent to families who have worked with Children's Law Center. Children's Law Center is part of a project with Children's National Hospital and the DC Department of Health, where we are focusing on what makes children and families feel strong even if they have experienced trauma or tough times.

The goal of this survey was to help us understand how school went for families this past year, how they feel about going back to school next fall, and other health-harming factors they have been experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data gathered from this survey will help us do better work in the community. Survey data will be used to shape future community trainings and support our policy advocacy in the coming months.

The survey was designed with recommendations from our client parent advocates and was available in English and Spanish.

Overview

- **439** parent respondents
- Information about **468** school-aged children
- Most respondents live in **Wards 7 and 8** (21% and 33%, respectively)
- **47%** of children are enrolled in DCPS; **40%** are enrolled in a DC public charter school
- **Parents had significant concerns heading into the school year.** They were hesitant about schools being able to meet their children's needs and keep them safe.
- **Families have sought mental health resources and public benefits to help cope with the stresses of the pandemic.**
- **Health-harming housing conditions affect families all across the city, regardless of ward or income bracket.**

Education

What we learned:

- **42%** of families preferred hybrid or all-virtual schooling this fall
 - Only **29%** were very or extremely comfortable sending their kids back to school
- Parents' confidence in schools' ability to meet their child's needs **decreased 10%** from pre-pandemic to now
- **39%** of parents requested an evaluation for their child this past year; **72%** of those parents successfully had their child evaluated
- For children with IEPs, parents were **more likely** to express greater concern about their education, mental health, and well-being compared to children without IEPs

What we're doing:

- Our survey data on education has already been **used in Children's Law Center policy testimony** at a public roundtable about returning to school, testifying that parents are hesitant to send their children back to school as well as advocating for compensatory education for missed services.
- Children's Law Center continues to **assist parents and caregivers** in getting **evaluations and appropriate special education services** for their children.
- Children's Law Center is organizing an upcoming **back-to-school training** featuring a psychologist from Children's National.

69% have one or more child with an IEP, 504 plan, or other special needs

18% of children were only receiving partial services outlined in their IEPs

10% received none

33% of parents were very or extremely concerned about their child's education

Only **53%** of families who asked their landlords for repairs had them fixed

33% were behind on rent
43% were behind on utilities

Top health-harming housing conditions



Roaches or other insects (28%)



Mice or other rodents (22%)



Water leaks or sewage issues (20%)



Mold growth (17%)

Housing

What we learned:

- **78%** said it was unlikely they would be evicted in the next 6 months
- **69%** of folks who were behind on rent have applied for **STAY DC** or **ERAP**
- **53%** dealt with housing conditions that are negatively affecting their families
- **87%** of Spanish-speaking respondents and **50%** of English-speakers reported health-harming housing issues.
- Families identified **neighborhood safety (33%)** and **lack of playgrounds (21%)** as barriers to spending time outside.

What we're doing:

- Children's Law Center is sharing information about **STAY DC** with the community and other stakeholders.
- We continue to **assist families** with **STAY DC applications** and **housing conditions** cases

Health, Mental Health & Stress

52% of parents wanted their child to receive mental health services when they are back in school



What we learned:

- **36%** of parents were very or extremely concerned about their child's social and emotional well-being
- **15%** sought mental health resources to help cope with the stressors of the pandemic; **11%** sought these resources for their children.
- **40%** have delayed going to the doctor in-person during the pandemic.
- Only **24%** have delayed well visits or immunizations for their children
- **81%** would continue to use telehealth services if they remain available.

40% of families lost a loved one during the pandemic

38% of parents were very or extremely concerned about their child's health

What we're doing:

- Children's Law Center is organizing upcoming parent trainings on **anxiety** and **grief** featuring a psychologist from Children's National.
- At a recent policy hearing, we shared survey results and advocated for a **trauma-informed** return to school.
- We continue to advocate for **school-based mental health** and assist individual families with **accessing health care**.

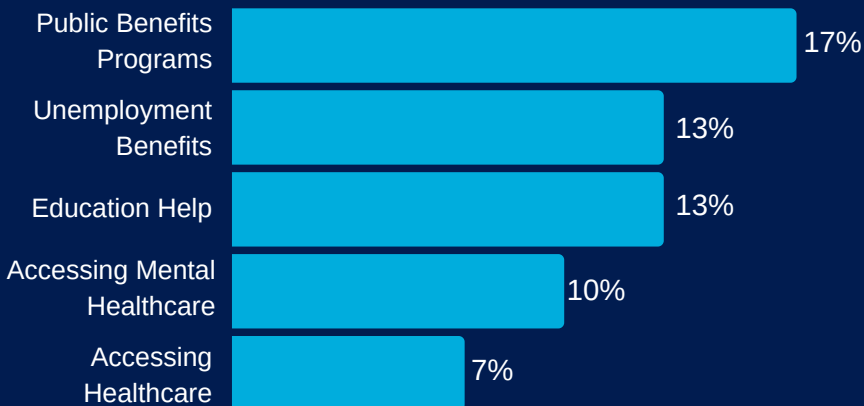
Other Unmet Needs

36% only somewhat confident they will be able to afford the food they need for the next month

75% have at least some difficulty paying for household expenses

19% don't always have enough food to eat

Families are still struggling to access public benefits programs



What we learned:

- **49%** were very or extremely concerned about their family's finances; **35%** were similarly concerned about their ability to go to work.
- **Transportation issues** were identified as barriers to returning to in-person learning and accessing healthcare (**24%** and **7%**, respectively).
- **Additional unmet needs identified:** SSI, monetary assistance, housing assistance, childcare needs, and legal services

What we're doing:

- We continue to **refer families to resources and organizations** that specialize in meeting specific needs: food and nutrition programs, transportation issues, etc.