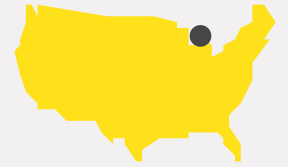


RAPID-KENT COUNTY SURVEY

First Steps Kent is an independent nonprofit leading a community-wide effort to build a comprehensive early childhood system in Kent County, Michigan. RAPID and First Steps Kent are partnering to hear directly from Kent County's families with young children about their experiences, needed supports, and what's going well. First Steps Kent will use these data to inform its annual investments and community partner initiatives.

FIRST STEPS KENT KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



First Steps Kent brings together parents, providers, and other stakeholders to research, advocate, and innovate so that we can achieve our community vision: Every young child in Kent County will enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life.

COMMUNITY FINDINGS

92% of Black families reported material hardship, followed by 88% of Latinx families, 55% of white families, and 29% of other minority groups.

76% of caregivers located in the southwest corner of Kent County reported experiencing material hardship, the highest rate of any area in Kent County.

55% of families reported receiving the MI Bridges Childcare subsidy.

65% of parents reported emotional distress in their child(ren).

77% of parents are covered by health insurance.

76% of children under six are covered by health insurance.

Children served

45,000 kids under age six in Kent County

Community partners

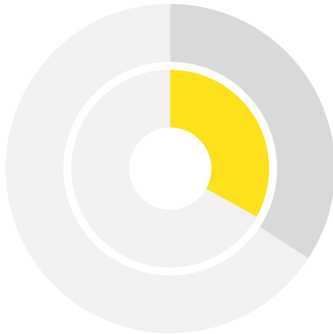
- Family Futures
- Kent District Library
- Kent Intermediate School District
- Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
- Spectrum Health

KEY FINDINGS: RAPID NATIONAL AND KENT COUNTY DATA JULY & SEPTEMBER 2022

● Kent County data ● National data

Parent emotional distress level*

● 33
● 34



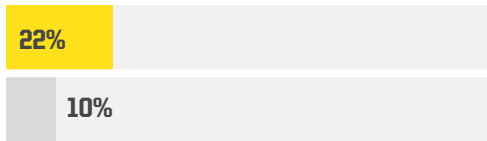
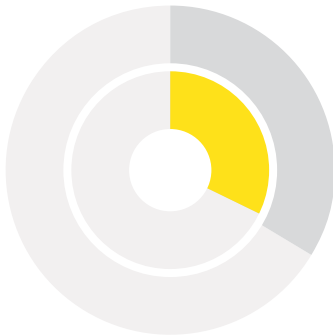
of families are experiencing material hardship.



of families reported using any kind of non-parental care.

Child emotional distress level*

● 32
● 34



of parents reported they were struggling to afford child care.

* We ask parents about their experiences with four symptoms of emotional distress: stress, loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Responses for each symptom were averaged to create a single score and transformed to a range of 0-100 for each parent. Child emotional distress is calculated in the same manner.

“The extra SNAP benefits [are helping the most right now]. It was very helpful when we were getting the monthly child tax credit wish that would come back.”
Parent in Grand Rapids

“Being able to work from home so that we don’t have daycare and gas costs associated with leaving the house for work.”
Parent in Byron Center

“I’m curious about the long-term mental ramifications of the pandemic for my kids. They’ve lived such strange lives for two years and I’m wondering how that will affect them when they are older.”
Parent in Wyoming

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

RAPID and First Steps Kent will continue to partner to collect data from parents and caregivers in 2022 and 2023. The second Kent County survey was fielded in July 2022, and additional surveys are planned

for the third and fourth quarters of this year. Following each survey, First Steps Kent will continue to share survey data, communicate key findings, and elevate parent and community voices.

“Lack of quality infant childcare. Huge concern, likely will cause me to quit my job in the next year.”
Parent in Northview