

New Mexico Caregivers Coalition

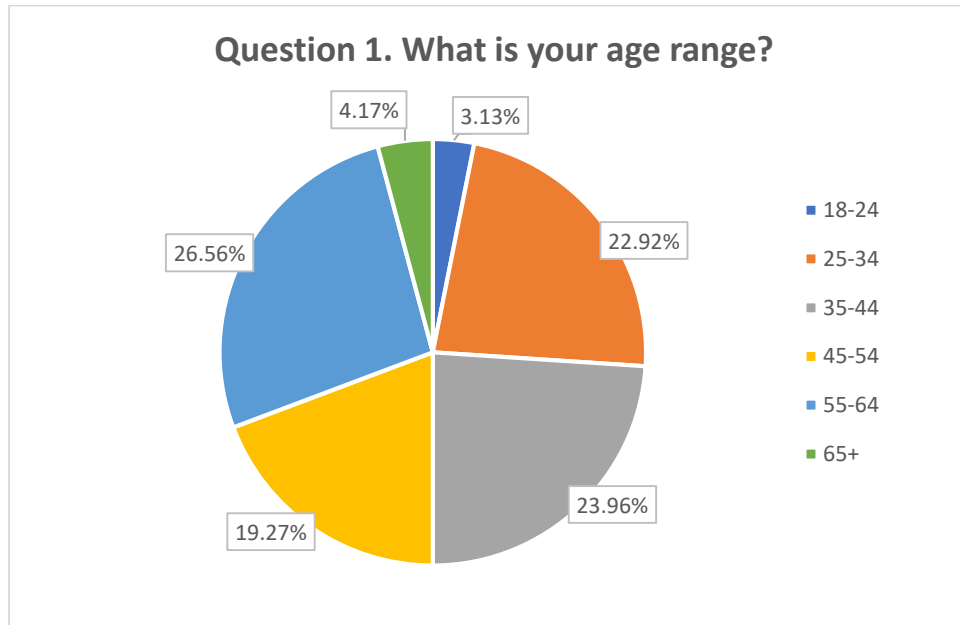
Caregivers' Needs during COVID-19, April 1-August 31, 2020

August 31, 2020

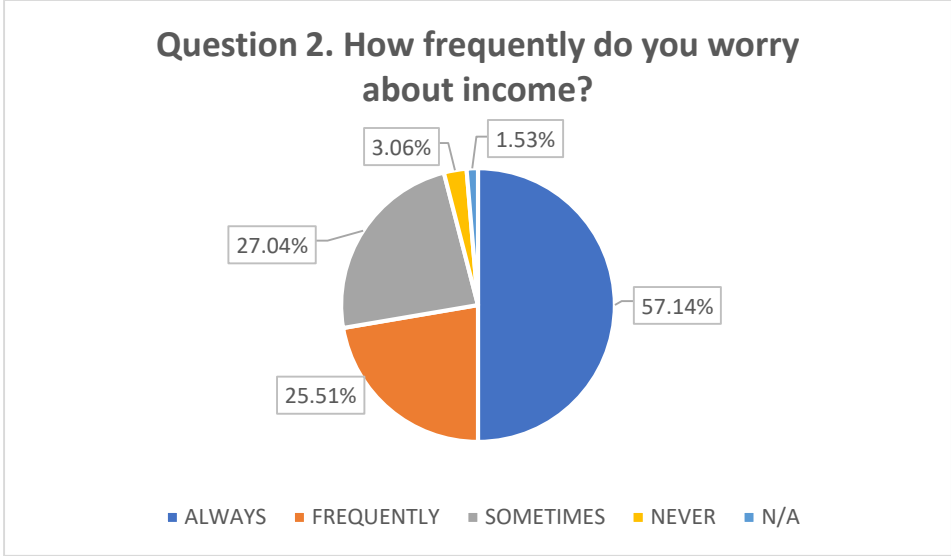
At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, New Mexico Caregivers Coalition (NMCC) moved quickly to reallocate General Operating Funds for New Mexico caregivers' basic needs. In order to make sound decisions on program needs, the survey was designed to provide us information on financial hardships of caregivers throughout the state and do so that would not be onerous to caregivers themselves.

These surveys questions were designed to gather insight on what home care workers and family caregivers were most concerned about and to learn about resources and benefits we could connect them to that would assist with those concerns. Survey administration began on April 1. Responses continue to be received at the time of this writing and are expected to continue at least through 2020.

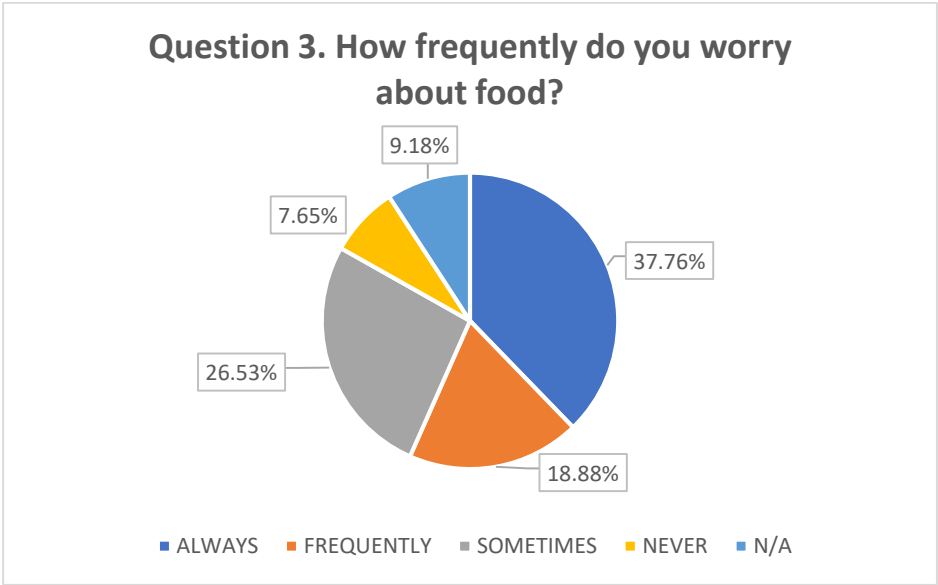
Responses for 196 paid, professional home care workers and unpaid, family caregivers are shown. Responses from these different types of caregivers are, nonetheless, grouped together.



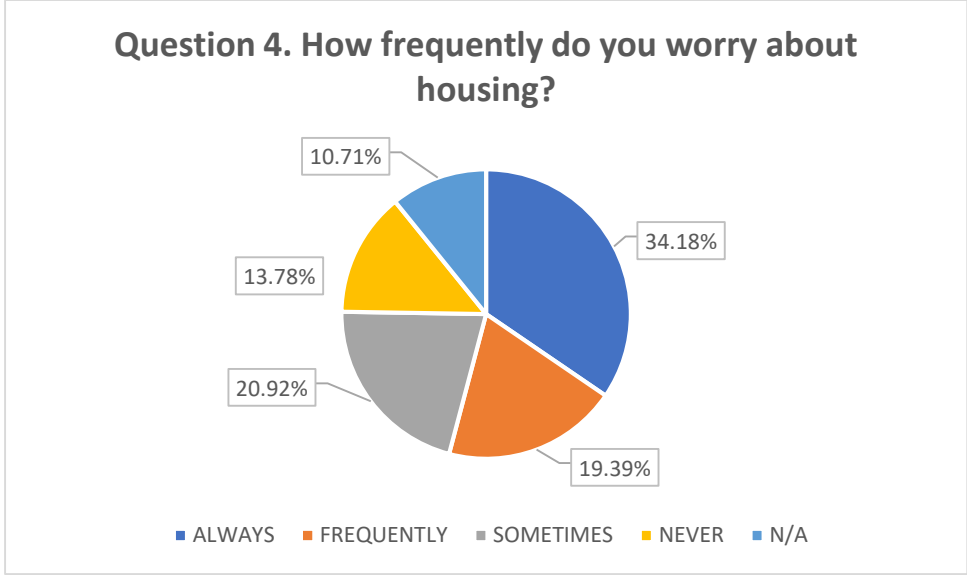
The graph above shows that respondents are of working age, or between the ages of 25-64; 7% of the sample size are younger than 25 or older than 64.



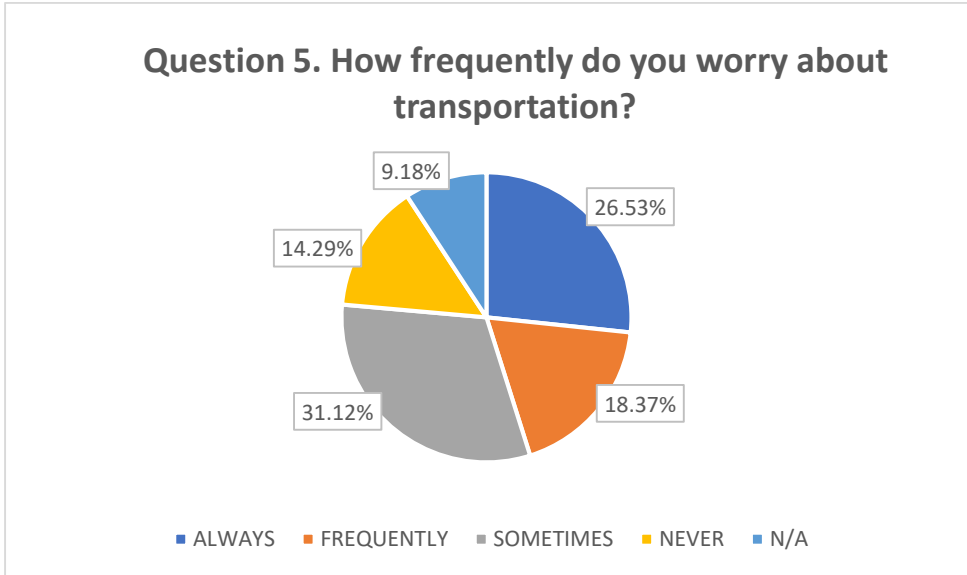
A full 82.5% of all respondents stated they “frequently” or “always” worry about income. Only 3% of all respondents stated they never worry about income. 1.5% refused to answer.



We expected the answer to the question of worries about food to track like worries about income. As shown, 37.7% of respondents “always” worry about food. 18.8% of respondents “frequently worry about food. And 26.5% “sometimes” worry about food. One caregiver we know about applied twice for a \$400 cash card. When we explained that we were awarding one per caregiver, she said, “But I have to buy groceries and have no way to pay for them.” This woman lived on the Navajo Nation.

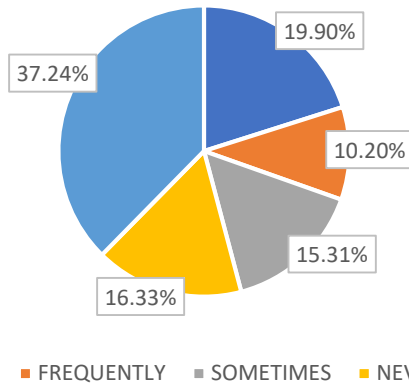


Again, as with Question 3., we expected answers to Question 4. to be similar. A full 53% of respondents stated they “always” or “frequently” worried about housing. Another 21% stated they sometimes worry about housing.



As shown above, 26.5% of caregiver respondents stated they “always” worry about transportation; 18% said they “frequently” worry about transportation; and 31% said they “sometimes” worry about transportation. Fourteen percent said they never worry about transportation; 9% of respondents refused.

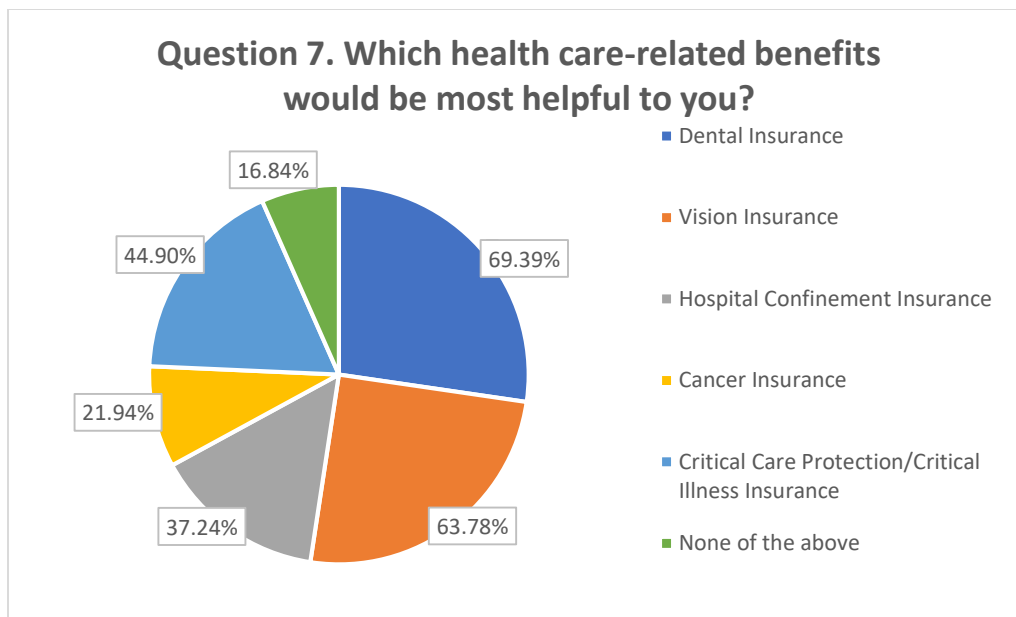
Question 6. How frequently do you worry about child care?



The first new program we announced during the COVID-19 outbreak was one that granted \$100 cash payments to mothers of very young children to lessen the financial impact on them and to help ensure those caregivers could continue to report to work. Anecdotal data from our interactions with caregivers of very young children told us these young mothers were very concerned with the loss of child care. Most caregivers we spoke to already received subsidies for child care. Even so, we learned that out-of-pocket payments ranged from \$150-\$350 per month.

As shown above, 20% of respondents said they were “always” worried about child care, either losing the service if centers were to close or being unable to pay for their portion of the service. And 25.5% said they “frequently” or “sometimes” worried about child care.

Sixteen percent of respondents had no children or no child care-age children; and, for 37%, this question did not apply.



Question 7. asked caregivers to check any and all boxes containing those health care-related benefits named above. It is presumed that a caregiver who stated a particular benefit would be helpful meant that he/she did not already have/own that benefit.

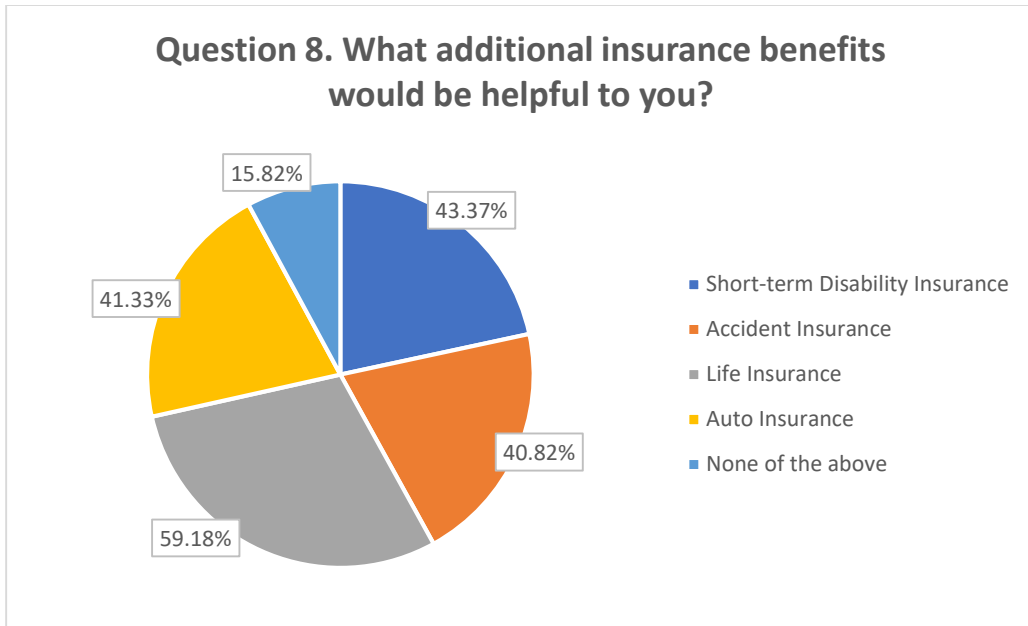
69% of respondents said they would benefit from dental insurance;

64% of respondents said they would benefit from vision insurance;

37% of respondents said they would benefit from hospital confinement insurance;

22% of respondents said they would benefit from cancer insurance;

45% of respondents said they would benefit from critical care or critical illness insurance;

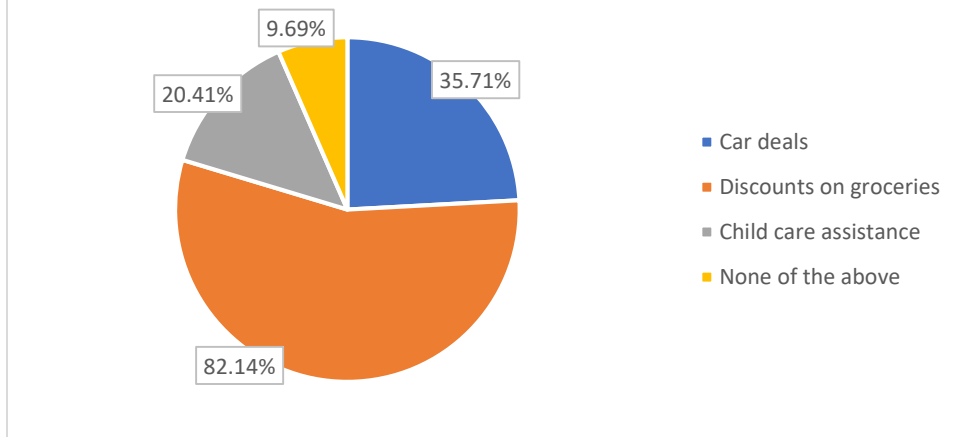


In addition to health care-related benefits, we asked caregivers to check all boxes containing additional insurance available that would be helpful.

Unlike Question 7, we presumed that a caregiver who stated a particular benefit would be helpful meant that he/she may already have/own that benefit.

- 43% of respondents said they would benefit from short-term disability insurance;
- 41% of respondents said they would benefit from accident insurance;
- 59% of respondents said they would benefit from life insurance;
- 41% of respondents said they would benefit from auto insurance;
- 45% of respondents said they would benefit from critical care or critical illness insurance;

Question 9. Any additional items that would be helpful to you?



Note that 82% of respondents indicated the need for discounts or cash assistance to buy groceries; 36% stated that discounts on cars would be helpful. And 20% stated that ongoing child care assistance would be helpful to them. As for the nearly 10% who said “None of the Above,” we concluded the list of additional items simply did not contain items a respondent may have believed would be helpful.

At the time of this writing, August 31, 2020, New Mexico Caregivers Coalition continues to receive survey responses. Survey administration is expected to continue through 2020. Additional data will be provided in future updates.

For more information, write info@nmdcc.org or call 505-867-6046.

New Mexico Caregivers Coalition

New Mexico Caregivers Coalition advocates for care workers’ education, training, benefits, wages and professional development so they may better serve people who are elderly and those with disabilities.

Physical: 906 S. Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo, NM 87004

Mailing: PO Box 297, Bernalillo, NM 87004

Ph. 505-867-6046 / info@nmdcc.org

[facebook.com/NewMexicoDirectCaregiversCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoDirectCaregiversCoalition)

twitter.com/NMCaregivers