



The Child's Family

Having a child with an emotional, behavioral, or developmental condition can affect the health, stress, and functioning of the entire family. This section explores various aspects of family well-being and how they vary in families with a child with an emotional, behavioral, or developmental condition.



Parenting Stress

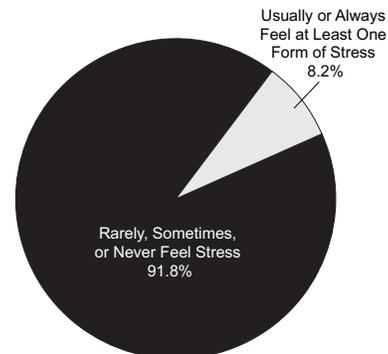
The demands of parenting can cause considerable stress for families. Parents were asked how often during the past month they had felt that their child was much harder to care for than others of his or her age; how often the child did things that really bothered them a lot; and how often they had felt angry with the child. Parents were considered to often feel stressed if they answered “usually” or “always” to at least one of these measures: Overall, parents of 10.7 percent of children reported often feeling stressed (data not shown).

For parents of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions, stress was much more common. Parents of 30.9 percent of children with at least one condition reported usually or always feeling at least one type of stress. For parents of children with one condition, this proportion was 21.8 percent; for parents of children with two conditions, 37.5 percent; and for parents of children with three or more conditions, more than half (54.0 percent) usually or always felt stress. Among children with no emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions, the parents of 8.2 percent usually or always felt one of these types of stress.

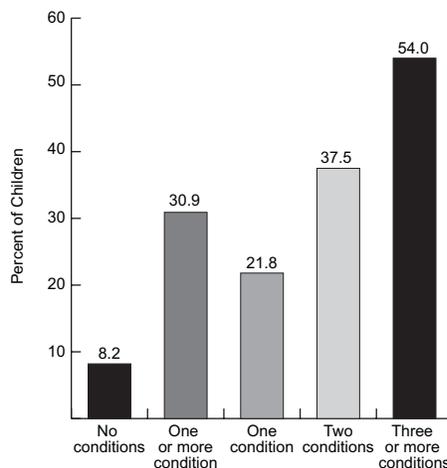
Percent of Children with Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions Whose Parents Report Stress



Percent of Children without Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions Whose Parents Report Stress



Children Whose Parents Usually or Always Feel Stress, by Number of Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions





Parents' Health Status

The health of children is closely related to the health of their parents; the physical and mental health of children and adults are influenced by the health of the family as a whole. Parents with physical or mental health problems may be less able to care for their children, and children's health conditions may make it more difficult for parents to care for themselves.

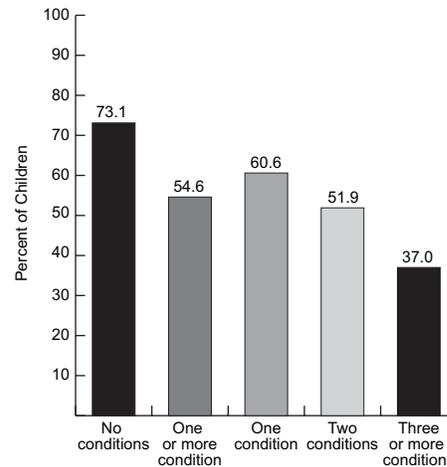
The survey asked about the physical and mental health of parents who lived with the child. Overall, the mothers of 71.1 percent of children reported themselves to be in excellent or very good physical and mental health, and the fathers of 76.7 percent of children were in excellent or very good physical and mental health (data not shown).

However, the health of parents and children are interdependent, as is evident in the health status of parents of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions. Overall, the mothers of 54.6 percent and the fathers of 66.8 percent of children with at least one condition reported their physical and mental health to be excellent or very good. This percentage is far lower for parents of children with multiple conditions: of children with two

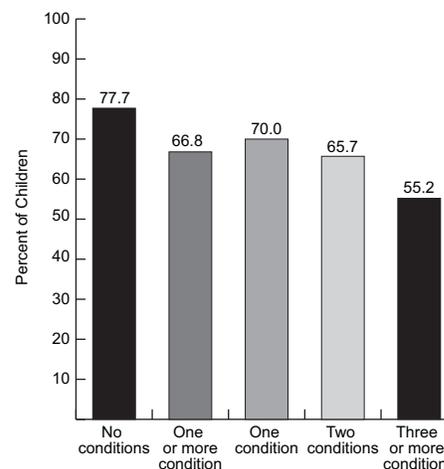
conditions, the mothers of 51.9 percent were in excellent or very good health, and of children with three or more conditions, the mothers of 37.0 percent reported their health as excellent or very good. The health of

fathers is somewhat better: of children with two conditions, the fathers of 65.7 percent were in excellent or very good health, as were the fathers of 55.2 percent of children with three or more conditions.

Children Whose Mothers are in Excellent or Very Good Physical and Mental Health, by Number of Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions



Children Whose Fathers are in Excellent or Very Good Physical and Mental Health, by Number of Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions



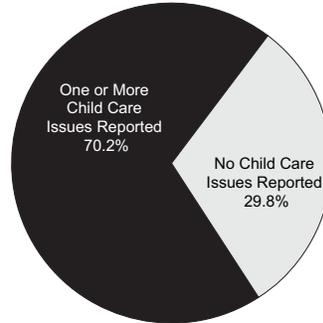


Child Care

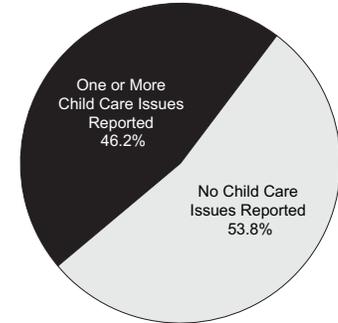
Even in the healthiest of families, the availability of child care, and the need to make backup child care arrangements in emergencies, can cause stress. Overall, parents of 59.3 percent of children aged 2 to 5 years reported that their child received some form of nonparental child care; of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental problems, 62.5 percent received care. In addition, 9.8 percent of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions did not receive child care that they needed, compared to 8.4 percent of children without these conditions (data not shown).

Parents of children aged 2-5 who received care from someone other than a parent were asked whether they had had to make different child care arrangements in the past month due to circumstances beyond their control and whether anyone in the family had had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change their job because of child care problems within the past year. Overall, the parents of 46.0 percent reported having to make last-minute child care arrangements in the past month, and the parents of 10.9 percent reported having to quit, not take, or change a job because of child care problems (data not shown).

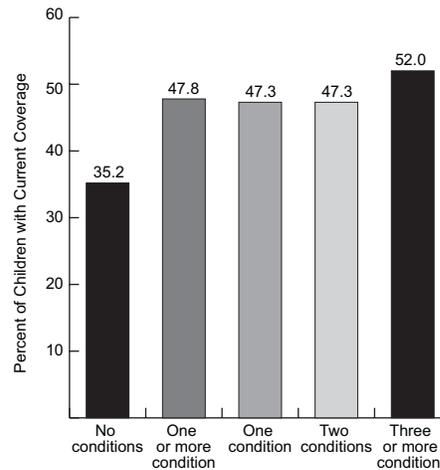
Children Aged 2-5 Years Whose Families Experienced Child Care Problems



Children Aged 2-5 Years with Emotional, Behavioral, or Developmental Conditions Whose Families Experienced Child Care Problems



Children Aged 2-5 Years Whose Families Had to Make Alternative Child Care Arrangements in the Past Month, by Number of Emotional, Developmental, or Behavioral Conditions



Parents of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions were especially likely to report child care problems. Of children aged 2-5 with one or two conditions, the parents of nearly half reported having to make alternative arrangements at least once, and of children with three or more conditions, the par-

ents of more than half (52.0 percent) reported having this problem. The parents of nearly one-quarter (23.6 percent) of children with at least one condition had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change their job because of their child care difficulties (data not shown).