



Study of Nontraditional-Hour Child Care in the District of Columbia

CCEEPRC Conference Plenary
April 17, 2019

Study goals

- Child Care Study Act of 2017
 - Mandated a study “to determine the number of child development facilities with nontraditional hours in the District that is sufficient to meet the needs of District families” (DC Act 22-72)
 - The Act defines nontraditional-hour facilities as those open outside 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on a 24-hour basis
 - Particular interest in better meeting the needs of families with low incomes

Research Methods

Data sources to estimate child care supply and providers' experiences

Child development facility licensing records

Survey of providers licensed for nontraditional hours (NTH)

- Administered in April–May 2018
- 38 out of 56 eligible providers (68 percent response rate)

Semistructured phone interviews with providers not licensed for NTH

- Purposive sample from three high-need communities
- 12 program directors (4 centers, 4 expanded homes, 4 homes)

Data sources to estimate potential demand

Public-use national survey data on parent work hours

- American Community Survey (2012–16)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (2014)

Child care referral ticket records

- For calendar year 2017
- 121 records mentioned need for NTH care; 9 percent of all tickets

Key informant interviews ($N = 35$)

- Experts in child care and early childhood, child care licensing, subsidy, city planning, and quality improvement
- Employers in hospitality, food service, custodial services, security, retail, and nursing

Who provides nontraditional-
hour care?

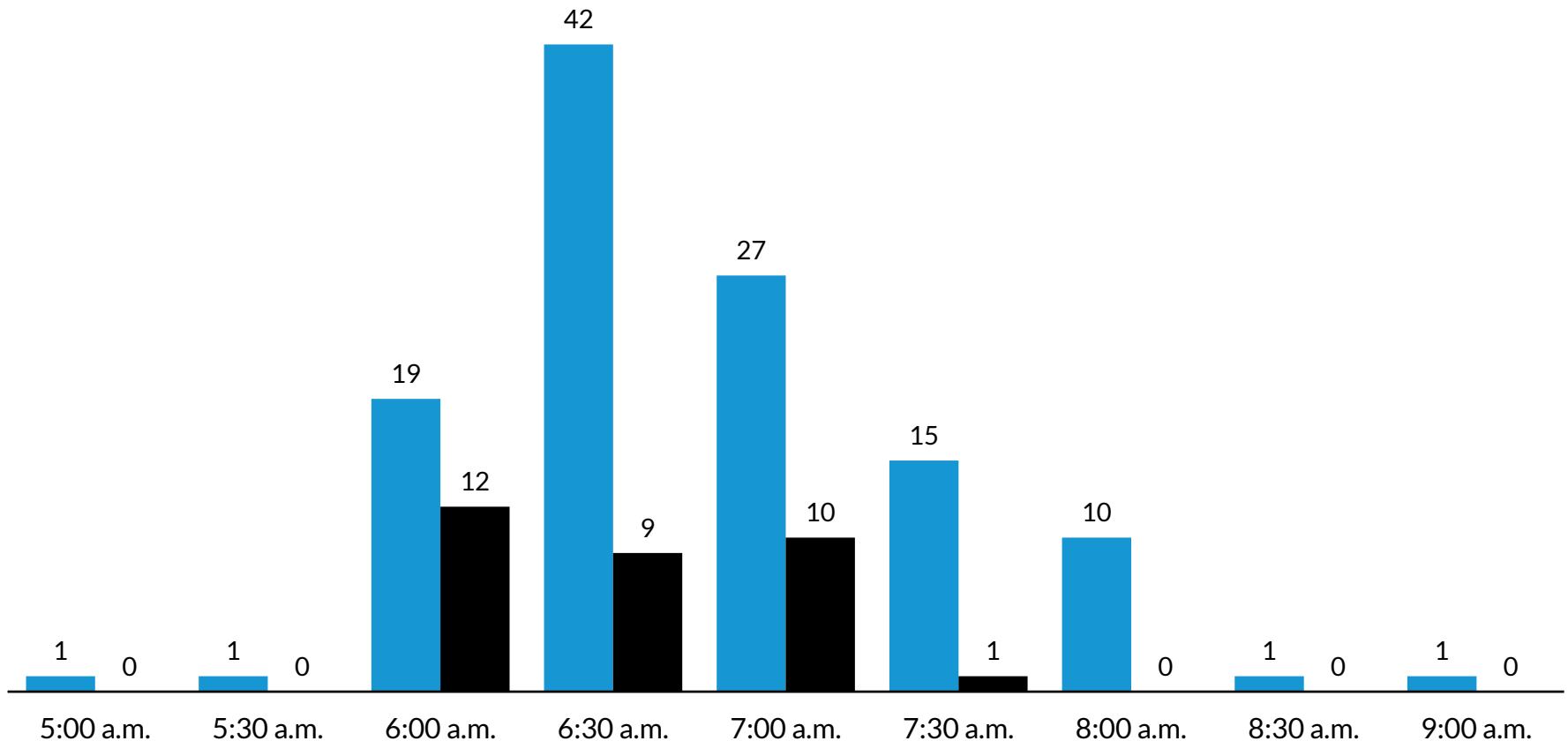
Most child development facilities in the District operate during traditional hours

Out of 444 full-time, licensed facilities:

- 267 (60 percent) operate only during traditional hours
- 177 (40 percent) are licensed to provide care beyond M–F, 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
 - 125 (71 percent) centers, 39 (22 percent) homes, and 13 (7 percent) expanded homes
 - 28 facilities hold a 24-hour license
 - 34 facilities operate more than 12 hours but less than 24 hours
 - 7 centers and 7 homes operate on Saturdays
 - 6 centers and 4 homes operate on Sundays

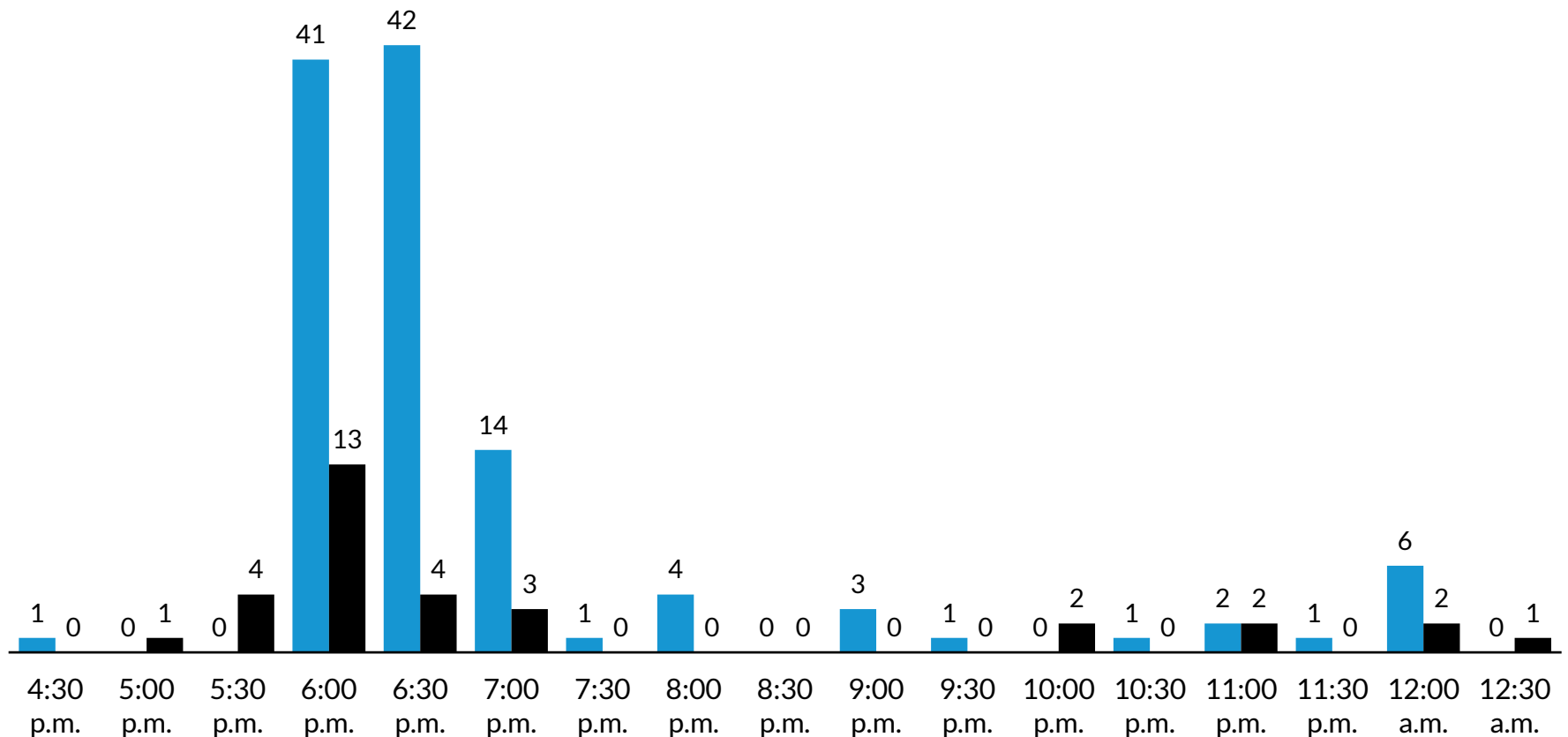
Most licensed NTH facilities open 6:00–7:30 a.m.

■ Licensed child development centers ■ Licensed child development homes and expanded homes

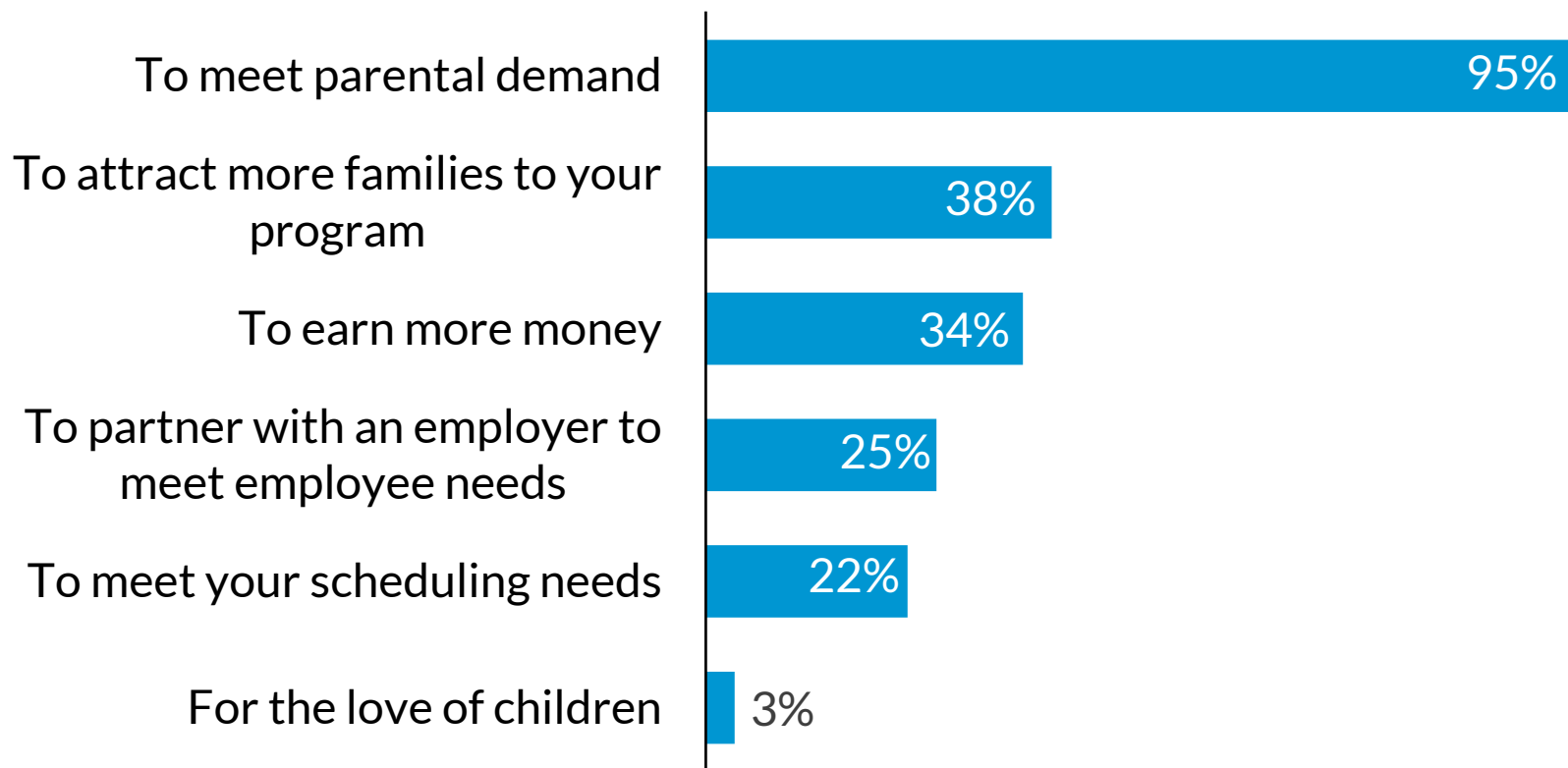


Most licensed NTH facilities close at 6:00–7:00 p.m.

■ Licensed child development centers ■ Licensed child development homes and expanded homes



Reasons for providing nontraditional hours



Source: Urban Institute survey of nontraditional-hour child care providers. *N* = 38.

How many District children
have parents working
nontraditional hours?

Maximum potential demand

19,050 resident children ages 12 and younger

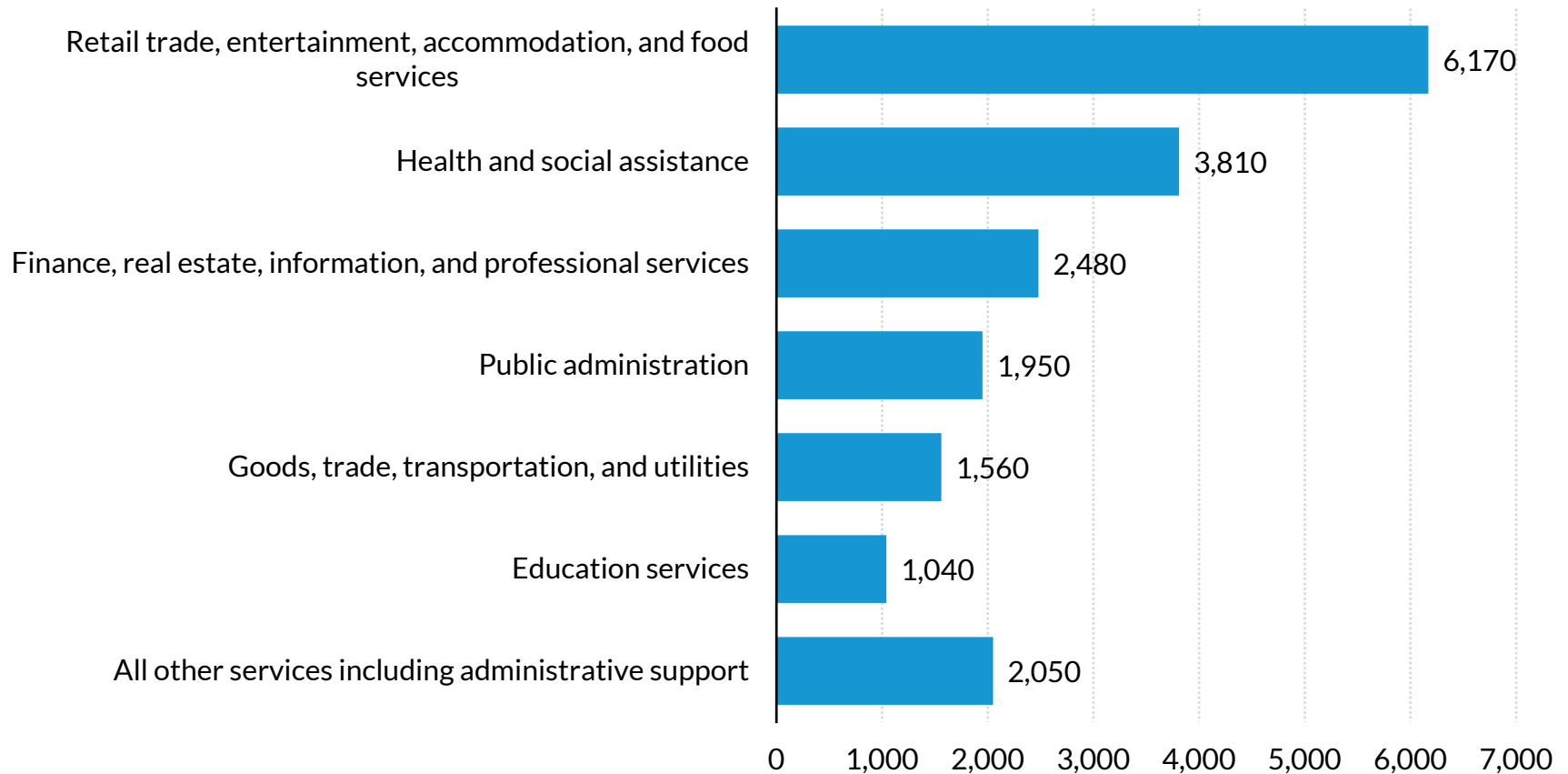
22 percent of District children of that age group

64 percent are income-eligible for child care
subsidy

In what industries are
nontraditional-hour employees
working?

Potential demand is highest in health care, retail, accommodation, and food services

Industry

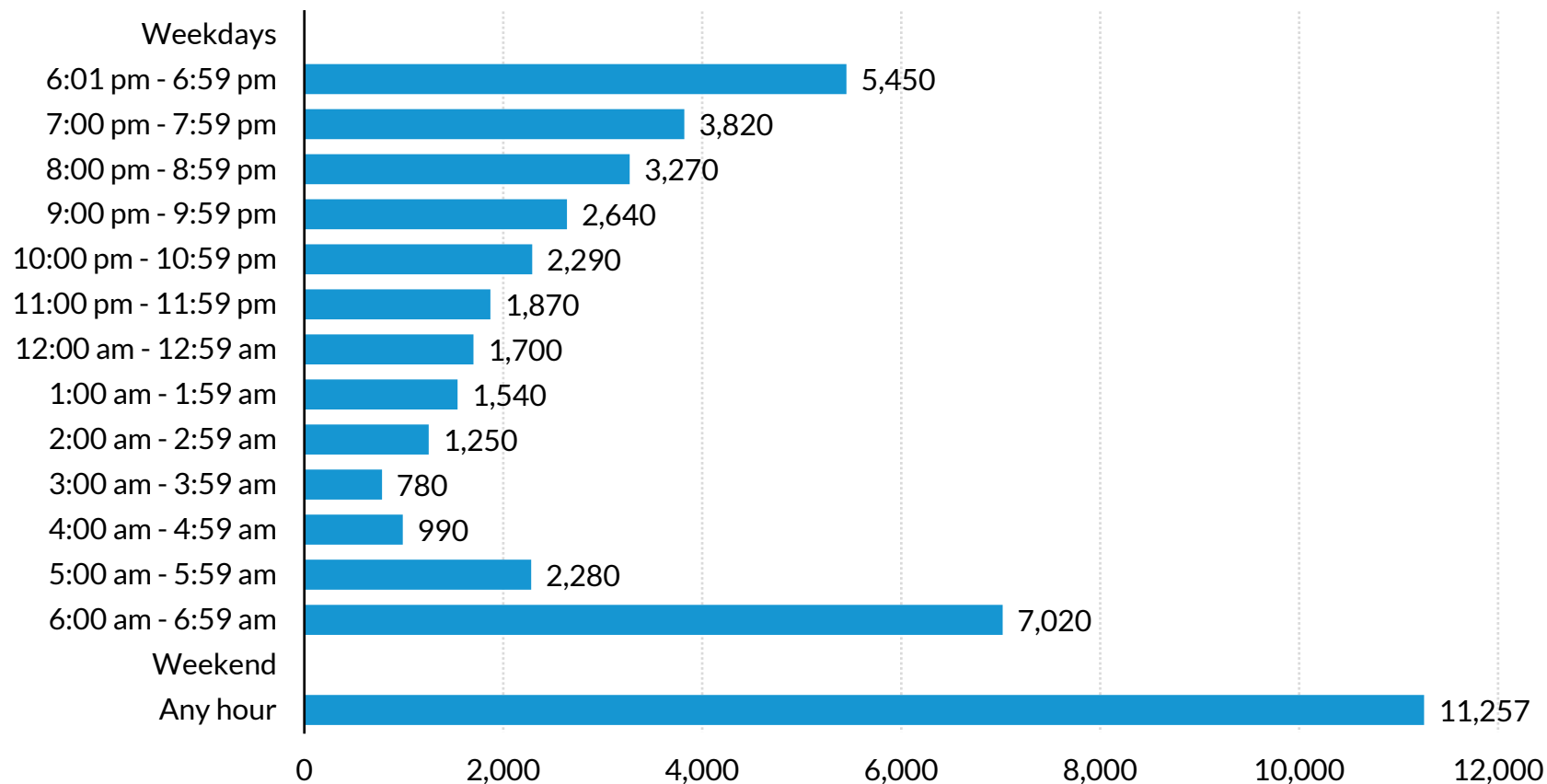


Number of children potentially needing NTH care

When is demand highest?

Potential demand is highest on the weekend and 6:00–7:00 a.m., sustained demand into evening

Day and hour

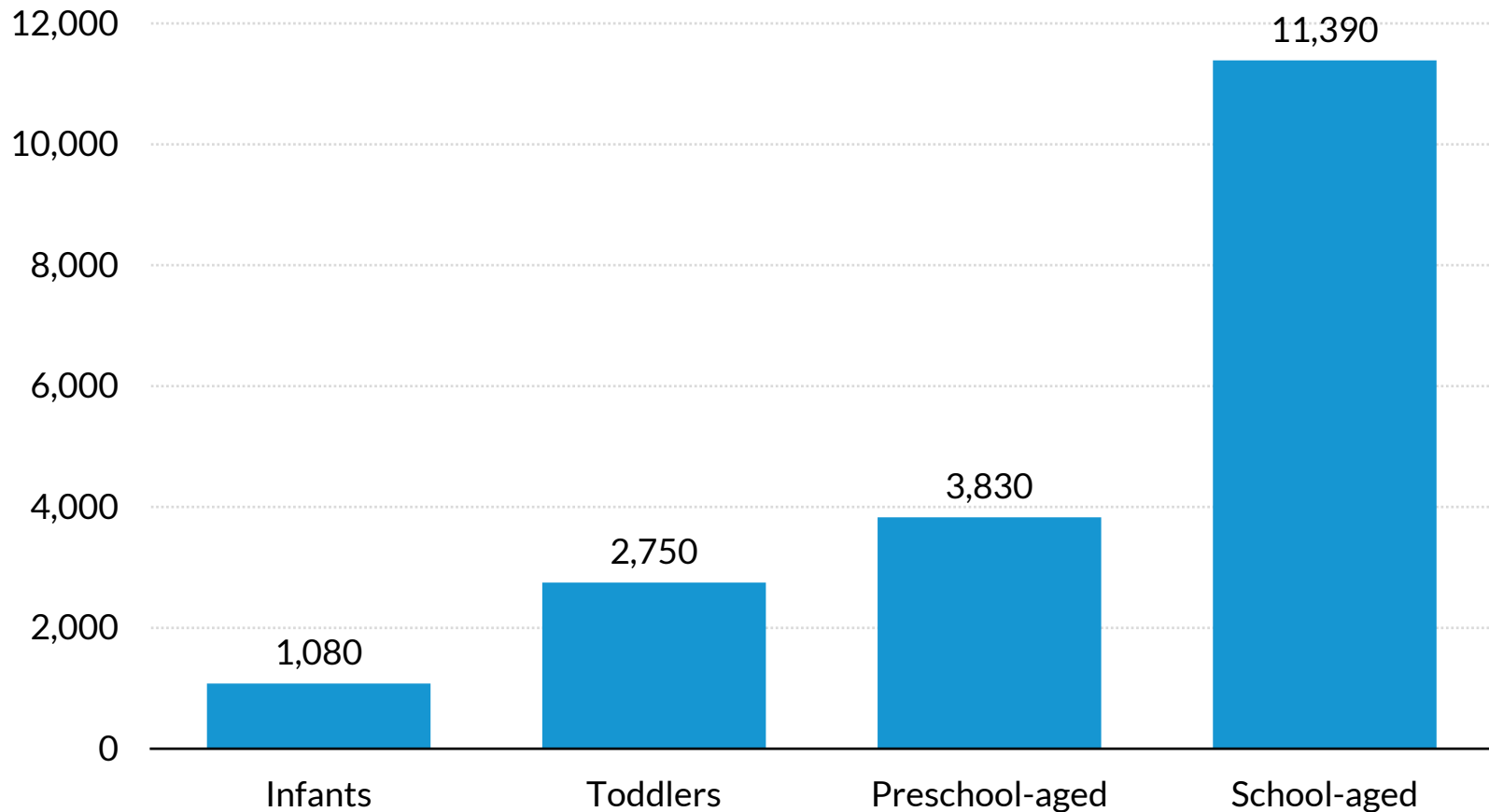


Number of children potentially needing NTH care

What age groups need care
during nontraditional hours?

School-age children as a whole have greater potential need for nontraditional-hour care

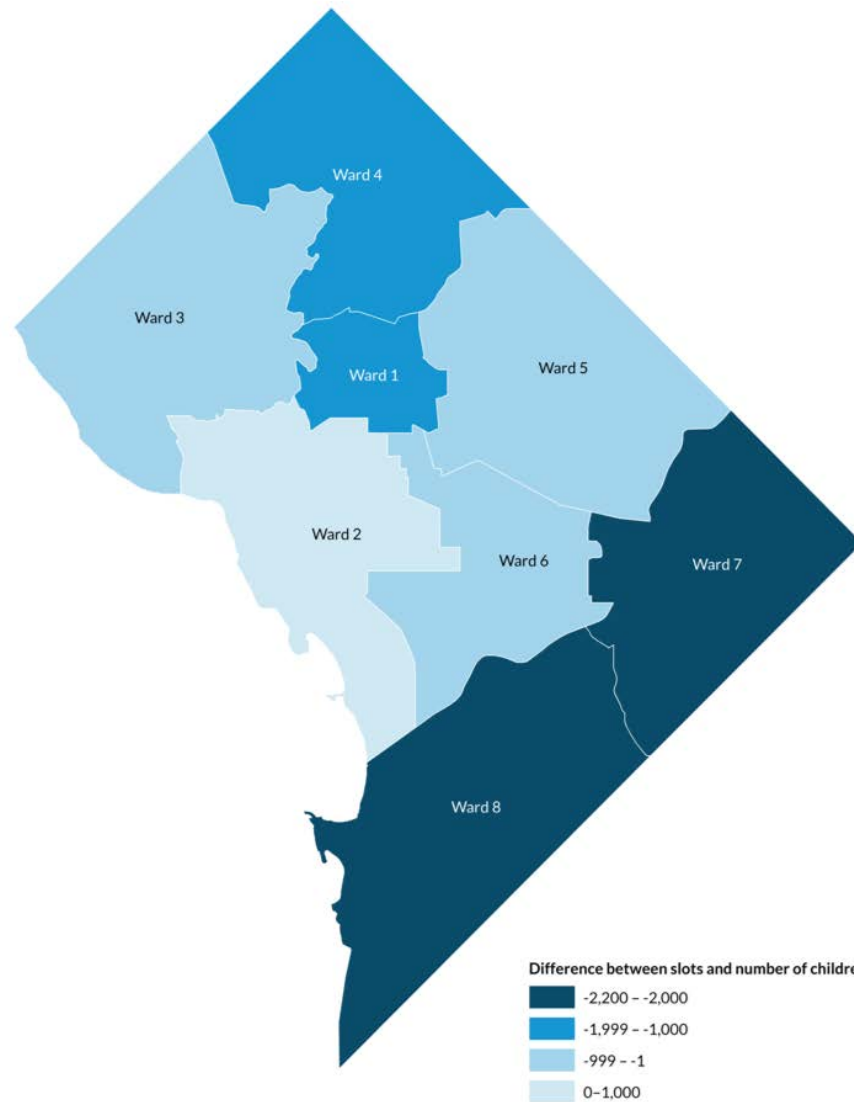
Number of children potentially needing NTH care



Age group

What is the extent of unmet
need?

Potential unmet need greatest in Wards 7 and 8



Stakeholders observe high demand for NTH care, but parental preferences vary

- Many workers rely on friends and family
- Preferences for care near home or work are highly varied
- Parents may prefer different care settings for different ages
- Transportation and cost are key considerations

“A lot of people have to scramble to find child care with a family member. And if the family member falls through, and that’s a recurrent problem, they can end up losing their jobs. It’s hard for single parents, young parents, or when both parents work odd hours.”

—Local supervisor

Employers see unmet demand for NTH care as a challenge for business

- Employers are concerned that limited NTH options reduce the qualified labor pool
- Employers face financial and informational barriers to addressing unmet demand themselves

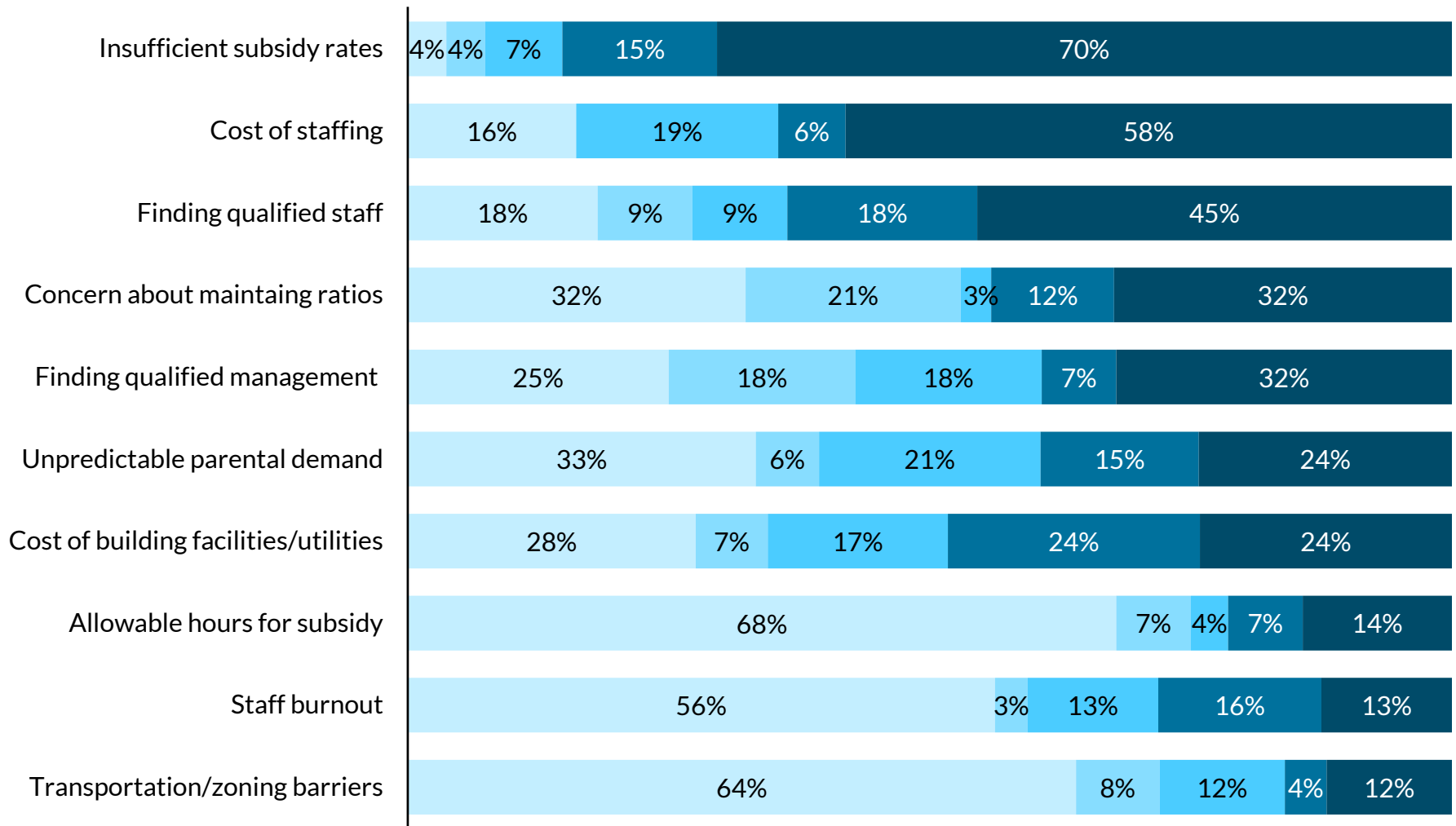
“Having more flexible [child care] hours would get us a larger pool of job candidates. I think our candidate pool is self-selecting because of the hours people have to work. A lot of people just cross off [this industry] because they know they can’t work those hours since they have no child care.”

—Local assistant manager

What challenges do providers face providing nontraditional-hour care?

Key challenges providing NTH care

1 (Not at all challenging) 2 3 4 5 (Extremely challenging)





For more information, see our full report, *Nontraditional-Hour Child Care in the District of Columbia*, February 2019, <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/nontraditional-hour-child-care-district-columbia> or contact Erica Greenberg at egreenberg@urban.org.

