

# Access to childcare interim report 1: Who has difficulty accessing affordable childcare?

**Motu** economic & public policy research

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## Document information

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### Disclaimer

This report uses Growing Up in New Zealand (GUiNZ) data collected by the University of Auckland. The data have been accessed and used in accordance with the GUiNZ Data Access Protocol. The views and interpretations in this report are those of the researchers and are not the official position of Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women or NACEW.

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**Abstract**

This is the first in a series of five reports that together use Growing Up in New Zealand data to explore how the inability to access affordable childcare affects the long run labour market outcomes of mothers. This report investigates how commonly mothers experience difficulty accessing affordable childcare and the characteristics of the mothers most likely to face these issues. We find large ethnic disparities in access to childcare remain even after controlling for a wide range of parental characteristics, with Māori and Pasifika substantially more likely to experience access issues than Europeans. Similarly, access issues have a strong socioeconomic gradient, measured both by household income and deprivation index, and antenatal unemployment and benefit receipt in particular predict a lack of access to childcare.

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## **1 Introduction**

When New Zealand parents are unable to find suitable, affordable childcare, it is disproportionately the mothers who takes time out of the labour force to care for the children. This inevitably reduces mothers' contemporaneous labour supply, and has the potential to negatively affect their careers in the long term, for instance, if their human capital erodes while they are not working.

This is the first in a series of five reports that together use Growing Up in New Zealand data to explore how the inability to access affordable childcare affects the long run labour market outcomes of mothers. This report investigates how commonly mothers experience difficulty accessing affordable childcare and the characteristics of the mothers most likely to face these issues. Subsequent reports will explore how persistent issues with access to childcare are, the use of and experiences with childcare faced by those who previously experienced issues accessing childcare, how access to childcare issues are related to mothers' contemporaneous work, and how access issues are related to mothers' labour market outcomes in the long term.

The next section outlines the policy environment faced by the cohort of children studied. Section 3 gives a brief description of the data, construction of the sample used in this report, and main variables of interest. Section 4 begins by presenting graphs of the frequency of various access to childcare issues for the full population, then explores how the frequency of these issues vary for different subpopulations and ethnic groups. The numbers used to create these figures and some additional information are tabulated in Appendix Tables 1 and 2. Appendix Tables 3 and 4 present the results of regressions of having an issue accessing childcare on various personal characteristics to explore what parental characteristics are associated with issues with access to childcare once other relevant characteristics are controlled for. These results of these regressions are discussed in the context of the uncontrolled plots.

## **2 Policy setting**

The children studied in this report were born between April 2009 and March 2010. The focuses of the report are their childcare situations at 9 months old, which was approximately during the 2010 calendar year, and 2 years old, which was between April 2011 and March 2012.

The parents of these children were eligible for a maximum of 14 weeks of paid parental leave (PPL), the value of which was equal to their pre-birth weekly earnings, capped at the

average New Zealand wage.<sup>1</sup> PPL has subsequently increased, reaching 26 weeks in June 2020.<sup>2</sup> These changes may have affected the parental leave decisions of later cohorts of mothers, but because PPL is still only 6 months, their effect on mothers' work and childcare at 9 months is likely to be limited.

At both the ages of focus, the children were too young to be receiving the universal 20 Hours ECE subsidy for attending early learning services; this is available for children aged three to five only. However, low income parents in the cohort studied could have been eligible for MSD's Childcare Subsidy, which is administered through Work and Income. This income-tested subsidy is available for children who are not yet of school age who attend an approved early childhood programme for at least three hours per week.<sup>3</sup> While the 20 Hours ECE subsidy is automatically applied, parents must know about the MSD Childcare Subsidy and manually apply for it. Prior studies show not all eligible parents know about this subsidy, and among those who do, the bureaucracy that must be dealt with to get it can be a major barrier.<sup>4</sup>

## 3 Data

### 3.1 Growing Up in New Zealand longitudinal survey

This report uses data from the Growing Up in New Zealand (GUiNZ) survey run out of the University of Auckland. This longitudinal survey focuses on 6,846 children born in the Auckland, Waikato, and Counties-Manukau regions in April 2009 to March 2010 and their families. The participating families were selected to be roughly ethnically and socioeconomically representative of the overall New Zealand population. Further details of the study can be found in Morton et al. (2013).

### 3.2 Sample construction

Because the focus of this research is mothers, all analysis is at the family level, meaning multiple births to one mother are combined into one observation. Analysis is limited to the sample of families that meet several criteria:

- the mother was present in the antenatal survey (conducted approximately 3 months before the child's due date);
- the same mother was present in the antenatal, 9-month, and 2-year surveys; and

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<sup>1</sup> Forbes (2009).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.business.govt.nz/news/paid-parental-leave-changing-2020/> accessed 21 September 2021.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/childcare-subsidy.html> accessed 21 September 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics New Zealand (2017).

- the childcare situation at 9 months and 2 years is fully known (whether the child was in regular childcare, if so then the number of hours of care each week, and if not then the main reason why not).

Table 1: Characteristics of full GUiNZ population and analysis sample

	All GUiNZ mothers	Mothers present in antenatal, 9-month, and 2-year surveys	
		All	With non-missing childcare information
Mother's age	30.0	30.3	30.3
First child	41.8%	42.2%	42.1%
Mother's self-prioritised ethnicity: European	52.9%	56.5%	57.0%
Maori	13.9%	13.2%	13.0%
Pasifika	14.7%	12.9%	12.8%
Asian	14.7%	13.7%	13.6%
MELAA	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Other ethnicity	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
New Zealander	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Missing ethnicity	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Mother lives with a partner	90.4%	91.3%	91.3%
Partnership status missing	9.6%	9.7%	9.6%
Deprivation Index	6.0	5.9	5.9
Observations	6,821	6,071	5,971

Notes: Antenatal characteristics of mothers in the full GUiNZ sample, sample linked between survey waves, and analysis sample.

Table 1 compares the characteristics of mothers in this analysis sample (third column) with GUiNZ mothers in all three surveys waves of interest (second column) and all GUiNZ mothers (first column). The 6,821 mothers in the full GUiNZ sample fall by 750 to 6,071 mothers who are present in the first three survey waves, and by another 100 to the analysis sample of 5,971 for whom full information on childcare situation at 9 months and 2 years is available.

The table shows mothers in the analysis sample are similar in terms of age, whether the GUiNZ child was their first child, and deprivation index. However, the ethnic breakdown of the samples is quite different. Mothers who identify most strongly as European constitute 52.9% of the full GUiNZ population compared with 57.0% of the analysis sample, those who identify as Māori constitute 13.9% of all GUiNZ mothers and 13.0% of analysis mothers, and those who identify as Pasifika constitute 14.7% of all GUiNZ mothers and 12.8% of analysis mothers. Mothers in the analysis sample are also disproportionately likely to live with a partner, 91.3% compared with 90.4% of the full population.

### 3.3 Main variables of interest

The main variables of interest in this report are the childcare situation at 9 months, constructed from information in the 9-month survey, and the childcare situation at 2 years, constructed from information in the 2-year survey. In each survey wave, children are classified as being in regular childcare, not in regular childcare due to parental preferences, or not in regular care due to access issues. The regular childcare can be formal or informal, and includes care by relatives or friends. It excludes only care by the mother or her partner. For some of the analysis, the group in childcare is decomposed into those in part-time childcare (under 30 hours per week) and those in full-time childcare (30 or more hours per week). Similarly, children not in childcare due to access issues are decomposed into those not in childcare due to cost and those not in childcare due to other access issues. For the full population and ethnic groups, other access issues are further decomposed into (i) no spare places/not available when I need it, (ii) transport difficulties/not available locally, and (iii) other reasons (poor quality of care, does not suit our beliefs, or health concerns). This last decomposition is not conducted for other subpopulations due to small sample sizes.

Three main differences should be noted between the variables for childcare situation at 9 months and at 2 years. First, at 9 months, weekly hours in childcare are in total whereas at 2 years they are in the main care agreement. Second, at 9 months, a child is classified as not being in care due to other (non-cost) access issues if their main reason for not being in regular childcare is (i) no spare places, (ii) not available when I need it, (iii) transport difficulties, (iv) not available locally, (v) poor quality of care, or (vi) does not suit our beliefs. At 2 years, the wordings on some of these options have been cosmetically altered, and health concerns is an additional option.

Third, in the 9-month survey, a child is classified as not in care due to preferences if the main reason for not being in care is (i) does not need it or (ii) do not want baby cared for by strangers. At 2 years, (i) too young and (ii) mother does not want/need it are additional options.

This report uses two different measurements of ethnicity to examine differences in issues with access to childcare by ethnic group. Both are based on information gathered on the mother's ethnicity in the antenatal survey. The figures by ethnicity use total response ethnicities. In some cases, information is presented separately for those who report a single ethnicity, such as Māori, and those who report multiple ethnicities, such as Māori and any other ethnicity. The regression analysis instead uses self-prioritised ethnicity to allocate each individual to just one ethnic group, the one with which they identify most strongly.

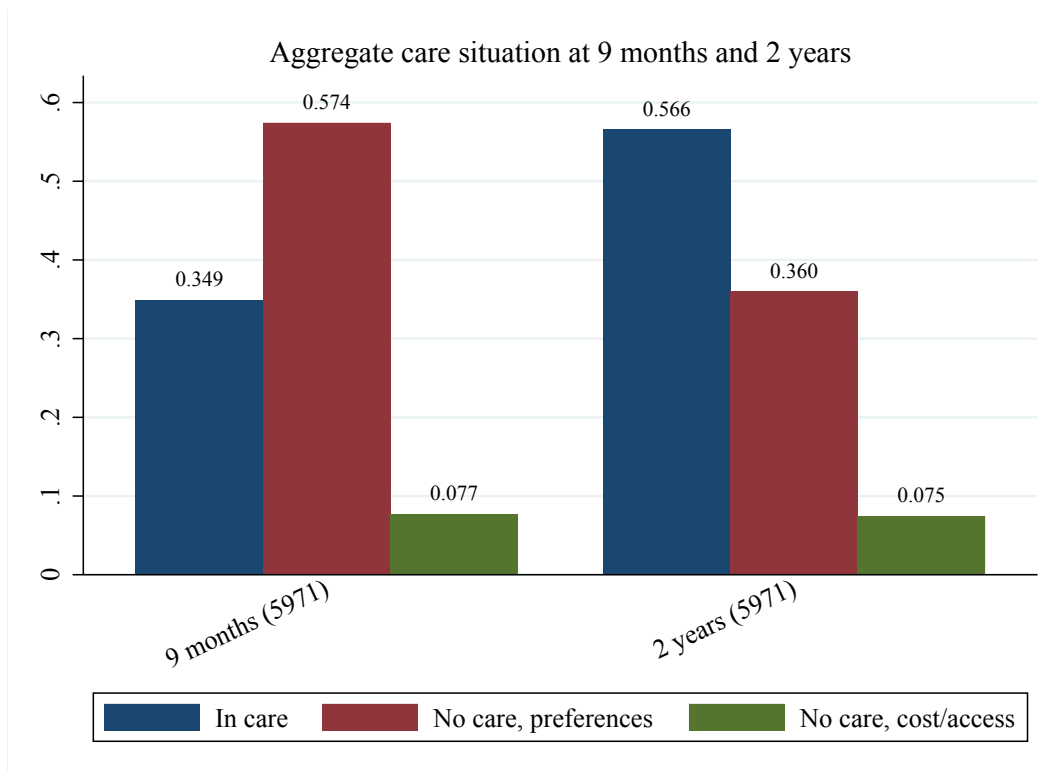


## 4 Results

### 4.1 How common are issues with access to childcare at 9 months and 2 years?

The left side of Figure 1 shows that at 9 months, a third of children are in regular childcare, over half are not in care due to parental preferences, and 7.7% are not in care due to cost or other access issues. Use of childcare increases as the children get older, with over half of children in regular childcare at 2 years. The percentage not in care due to cost or other access issues is very similar at 7.5%.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1: Childcare situation



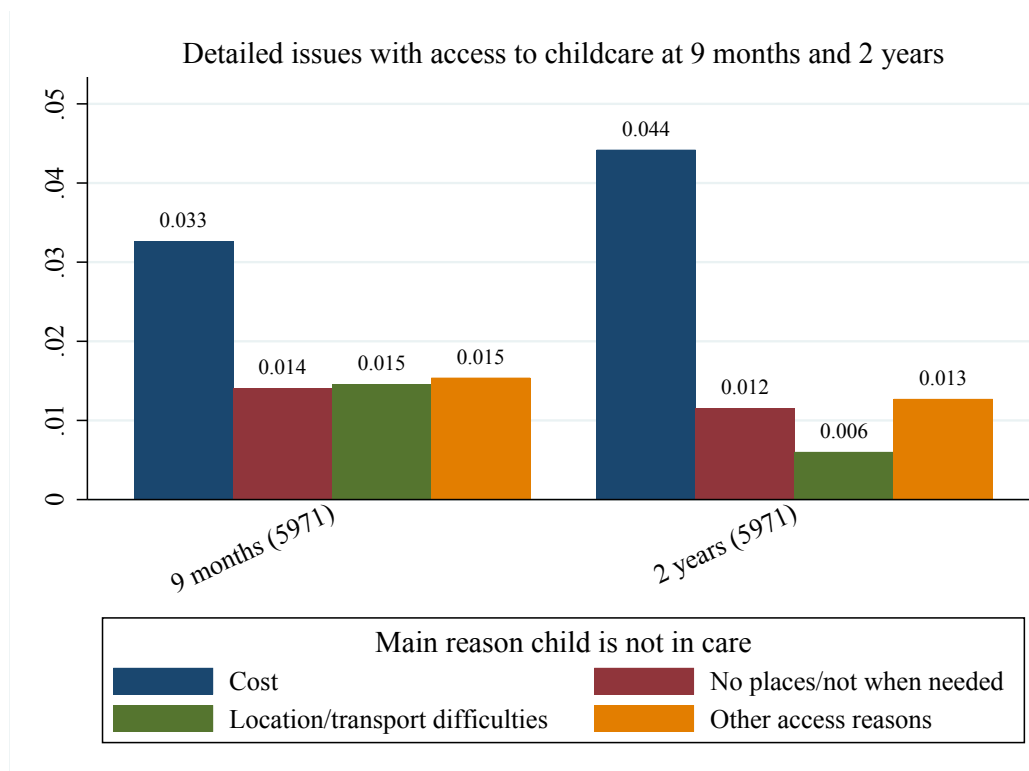
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 2 decomposes the children who are not in care due to cost or other access issues by the detailed reason they are not in care. At 9 months and 2 years, the most common reason is cost, with 3.3% of children not in care for this reason. Cost is even more of a constraint at 2

<sup>5</sup> Breakdowns of care into full-time care and part-time care are provided in Appendix Tables 1 and 2. The percentage of children in each increased between 9 months and 2 years, and the balance shifted somewhat in favour of full-time care.

years, when 4.4% of children are not in care due to cost. At 9 months, a lack of childcare places or childcare not being available when it is needed, childcare not being available locally or transport difficulties, and other reasons each keep 1.4 to 1.5% of children out of childcare. By 2 years, the location of childcare/transport difficulties is less common as a reason children are not in childcare (0.6% compared with 1.5% at 9 months). Lack of spaces/childcare not being available when needed and other access reasons are both similarly common at 2 years as at 9 months.

Figure 2: Issues with access to childcare



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are not in childcare due to each access-related reason. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

The 2017 Childcare in New Zealand Survey, a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey, is an alternative source of data on the extent of parents' difficulties securing childcare. It surveyed parents with children aged 13 or under and found 16 percent of parents (23 percent of mothers) who worked or wanted to work had difficulties getting childcare.<sup>6</sup> In that survey, the most common issue was childcare not being available at the times it was needed, and cost was the second most common issue.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/childcare-a-challenge-for-1-in-6-working-parents>

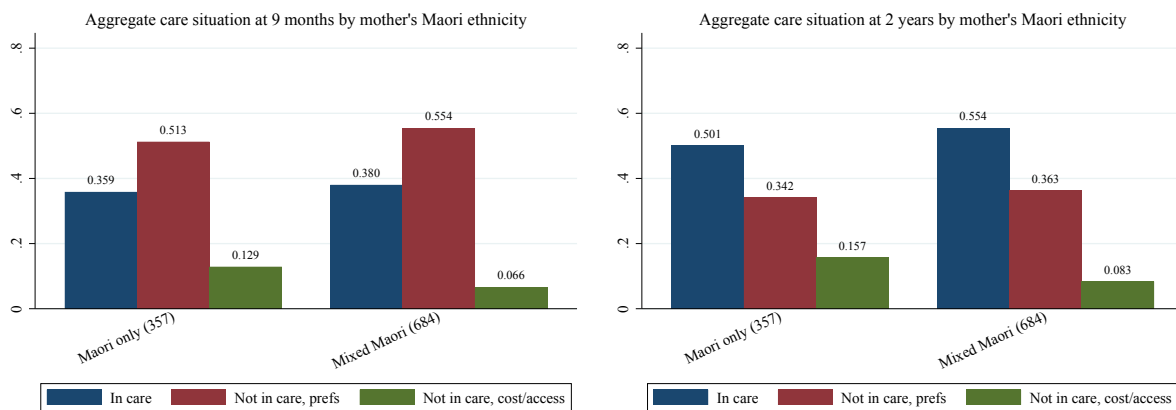
These Childcare Survey results are expected to differ from results using GUINZ data for a number of reasons. First, the Childcare Survey numbers are expressed as the percentage of parents (or mothers) who worked or wanted to work in the previous 12 months, whereas GUINZ numbers are expressed as a percentage of all mothers. Second, children in the Childcare Survey were any age up to 13, whereas GUINZ surveyed parents of children aged 9 months or 2 years. The differences between GUINZ results for 9 months and 2 years, and factors such as older children attending school, suggest child age matters for the difficulty of securing childcare. Third, the birth cohorts of children and survey dates for the two studies differ. Finally, GUINZ children were born in just three North Island DHBs, whereas the Childcare Survey was conducted on a nationally representative sample.

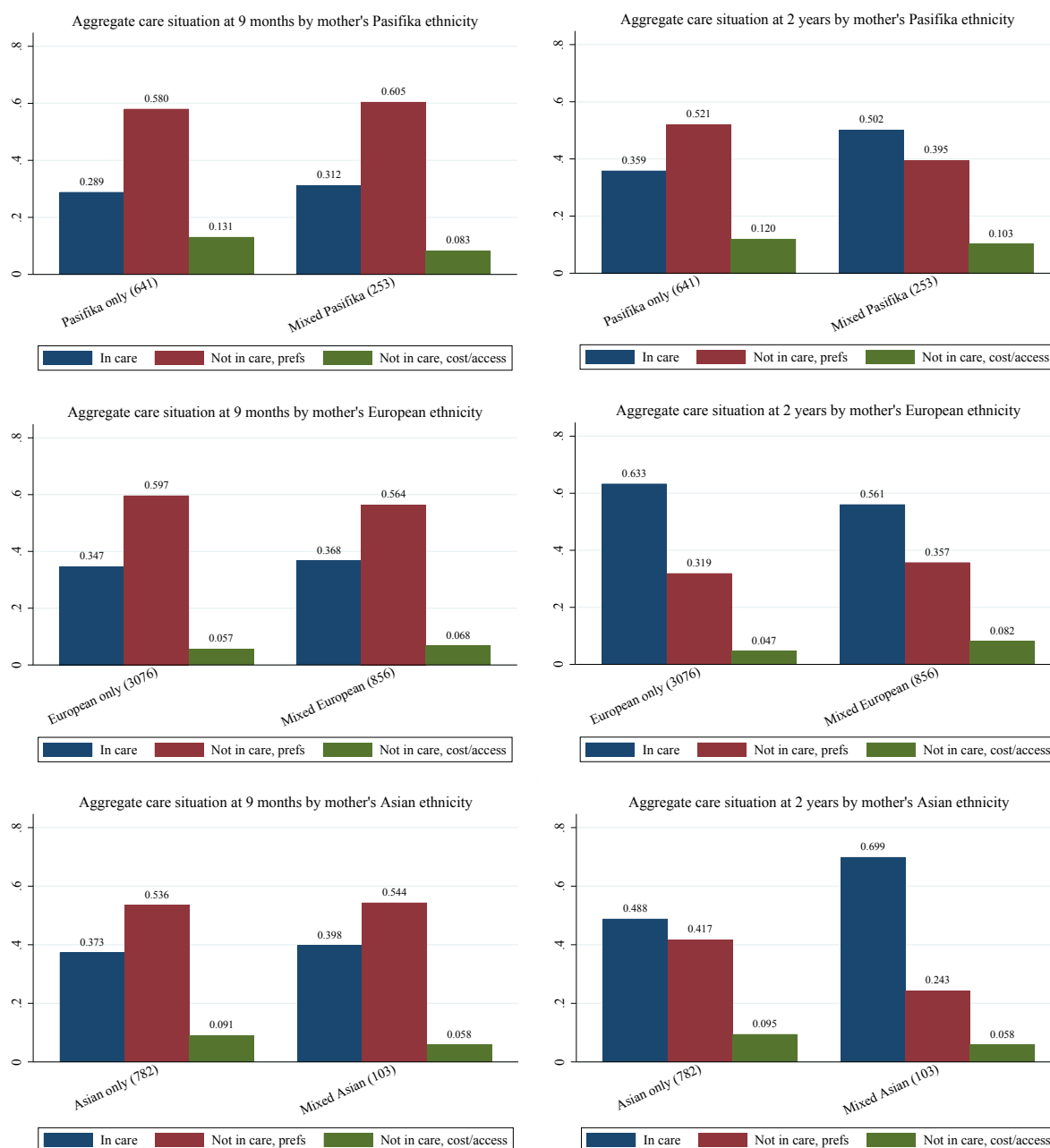
#### 4.2 Ethnic differences in issues with access to childcare

This section shows how access to childcare differs by the mother's total response ethnicity. See also Appendix Tables 1 and 2 for information by self-prioritised ethnicity and a breakdown of care into part time and full time.

Figure 3 presents for each common ethnicity whether the child is in childcare at 9 months and 2 years, and if not whether the reason is parental preferences or cost or other access reasons.

Figure 3: Childcare situation by ethnicity





Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by mother's total response ethnicities. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category. Results for less common ethnicities are not presented.

This figure reveals stark differences in use of childcare and issues with access to childcare between ethnic groups, particularly among those who identify with a single ethnicity. At 9 months, single-ethnicity Māori mothers and single-ethnicity Pasifika mothers are more than twice as likely as single-ethnicity European mothers to report their child is not in regular childcare due to cost or access issues, at 12.9% and 13.1% respectively compared with 5.7%. Asian mothers are substantially more likely than European mothers, at 9.1%.

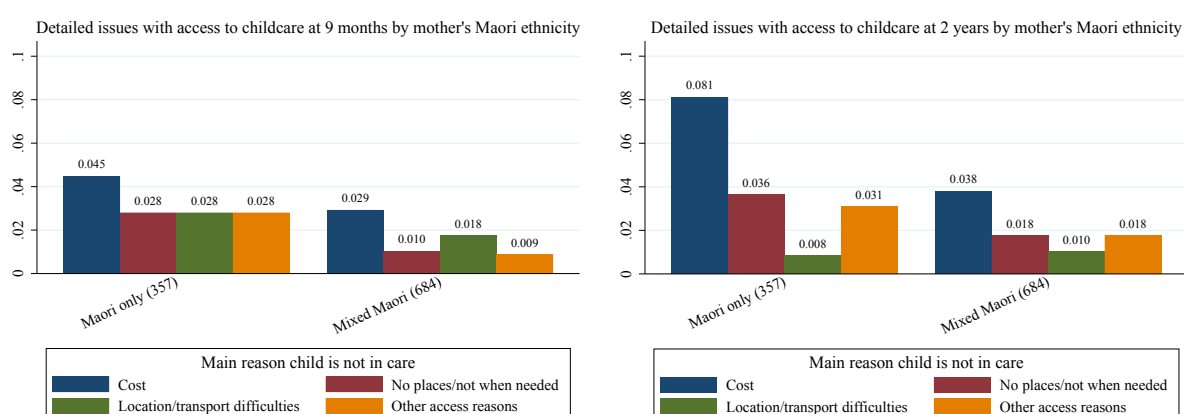
Issues with access to childcare increase between 9 months and 2 years for Pasifika, but fall slightly for Māori and Europeans. Ethnic disparities remain large. Māori mothers are now more than three times as likely as European mothers to face access issues, 15.7% compared with 4.7%, and Pasifika mothers are two-and-a-half times as likely. Among Asian mothers, 9.5% now report their child is not in care due to access issues, twice the rate for Europeans.

In every case, mixed-ethnicity Māori and Pasifika mothers report lower rates of access issues than sole-ethnicity Māori and Pasifika.

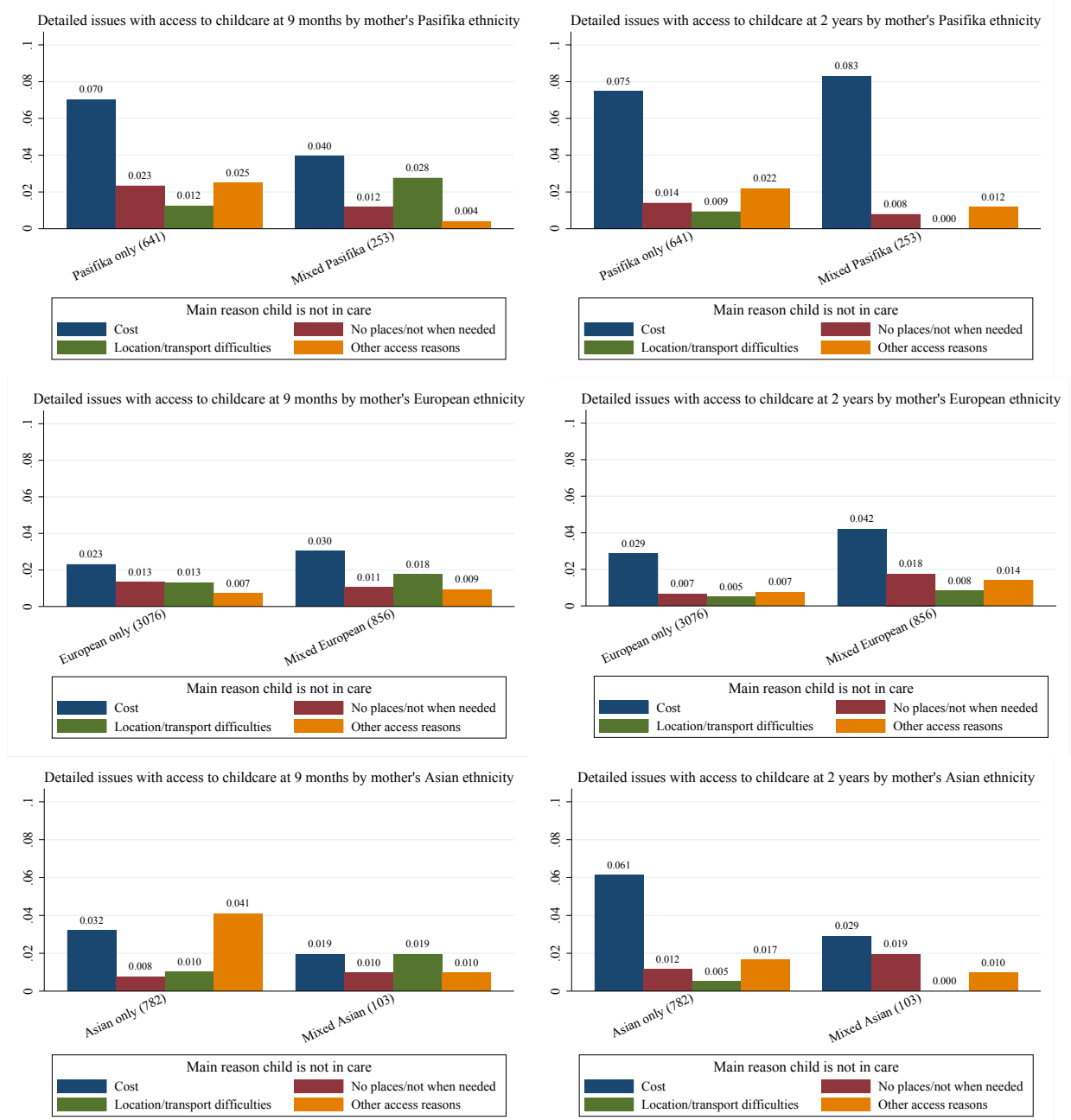
The proportion of children in childcare at 9 months is lowest for single-ethnicity Pasifika, at 28.9%, and slightly higher at 34.7% to 37.3% for single-ethnicity Māori, Europeans, and Asians. Differences are greater at 2 years. Pasifika are still least likely to use childcare, at 35.9%, whereas around half of Asians and Māori and 63.3% of Europeans use it.

Figure 4 breaks down for each common ethnicity the types of access issues that prevent children being in childcare. The category “other access reasons” includes “poor quality of care” and “does not suit our (ethnic/cultural) beliefs”, and at 2 years also “health concerns”. The decision to hand over responsibility for their child to a childcare provider is a big one for any parent, and parents reporting these access issues are saying they don’t have access to childcare that is of acceptable quality and meets the cultural or health needs of their child.<sup>7</sup> Different ethnicities may have different motivations for responding in this way. For instance, Māori, Pasifika, and Asians may be concerned that childcare providers don’t provide the desired language environment, can’t support the cultural development of their child, or don’t provide culturally appropriate care, whereas such concerns are much less likely for Europeans.

Figure 4: Issues with access to childcare by ethnicity



<sup>7</sup> This cohort of children were 9 months old and 2 years old well before the Covid-19 outbreak began; if asked the same question today, health concerns might be substantially more widespread among parents.



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are not in childcare due to each detailed access issue by mother's total response ethnicities. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category. Results for less common ethnicities are not presented.

There are substantial differences between ethnicities in the reasons they are unable to use childcare. For all groups except Asians at 9 months, cost is the most common barrier to childcare.

At 9 months, single-ethnicity Māori mothers are twice as likely as single-ethnicity European mothers to report their child is not in regular childcare due to cost, at 4.5% compared

with 2.3%. Pasifika mothers are nearly three times as likely as European mothers, at 7.0%. Asian mothers are slightly more likely than European mothers, at 3.2%.

Cost is more of an issue for every ethnic group at 2 years than at 9 months, and ethnic disparities remain large. Māori mothers are now nearly three times as likely as European mothers to face cost issues, 8.1% compared with 2.9%, and Pasifika mothers are two-and-a-half times more likely. Cost has also become more problematic for Asian mothers, with 6.1% reporting their child is not in care due to cost, twice the rate for Europeans.

The ethnic differences in children not being in childcare due to access issues other than cost are also large. A lack of access to places at the times they are needed is most commonly reported by Māori both at 9 months (2.8%) and at 2 years (3.6%). Pasifika report these issues somewhat less commonly (2.3% at 9 months and 1.4% at 2 years), and Europeans and Asians report them even more rarely (1.3% or less in each case).

Māori at 9 months are also particularly likely to report location or transport issues (2.8%) compared with 1.3% or less for other ethnic groups. By 2 years, the percentage reporting these issues has fallen below 1% for every ethnicity.

At 9 months other access reasons are very common for Asians (4.1%), somewhat common for Māori and Pasifika (2.8% and 2.5% respectively), and uncommon for Europeans (0.7%). Ethnic differences remain large at 2 years: Māori are nearly four-and-a-half times as likely as Europeans to report these issues, Pasifika over three times as likely, and Asians nearly two-and-a-half times as likely.

These ethnic differences show the existing childcare system does not serve children of all ethnicities equally well, and suggests targeted solutions may be required to address the different challenges faced by families with different ethnic identities.

The remainder of this section draws back to consider access issues overall including cost, and investigates the extent to which the ethnic differences in these issues can be explained by differences in other parental characteristics such as age, education, and income. Appendix Table 3 presents the results of regressions of an indicator for the child not being in care due to cost or access of any sort at either 9 months or 2 years on mother's ethnicity and various other parental characteristics. This approach allows examining the extent to which ethnic differences in issues with access to childcare remain once other parental characteristics are controlled for. The first column presents results for the 9-month survey when we control only for self-prioritised ethnicity, the mother's age, the mother's education, and whether the child is the mother's first. Europeans are the omitted category, so all ethnicity coefficients should be interpreted as differences relative to Europeans. This specification shows that, relative to European mothers of

the same age and education having their same child, Māori mothers are 2.9 percentage points, Pasifika mothers 5.7 percentage points, and Asian mothers 3.8 percentage points more likely to report their child is not in childcare due to cost or other access issues. All these differences are statistically significant at the 1% level.

The second column adds controls for the mother's migration status, partnership status, and whether the pregnancy was planned. The coefficients on ethnicities decrease slightly in magnitude, but all remain large and significant at the 10% level or better. Adding a linear control for contemporaneous deprivation index and a dummy for contemporaneous rurality in the third column again decrease the coefficients on ethnicity slightly. Finally, the fourth column adds controls for the mother's antenatal labour force status, antenatal household income, and whether the mother received a benefit antenatally. With all these other characteristics controlled for, Maori are 1.5 percentage points, Pasifika 4.4 percentage points, and Asians 2.0 percentage points more likely than similar Europeans to report issues with access to childcare, though the difference for Pasifika is the only one that remains statistically significant.

The right hand side of Appendix Table 3 replicates these regressions for the 2-year survey. The most parsimonious regression shows that relative to European mothers of the same age and education and having the same number of children, Maori mothers are 4.5 percentage points, Pasifika mothers 4.6 percentage points, and Asian mothers 4.8 percentage points more likely to report their child is not in care due to access issues. All these differences are statistically significant at the 1% level. In the most controlled regressions, the differences have decreased to 2.8, 2.3, and 2.7 percentage points for Maori, Pasifika and Asians respectively, and remain significant at the 5% or 10% level.

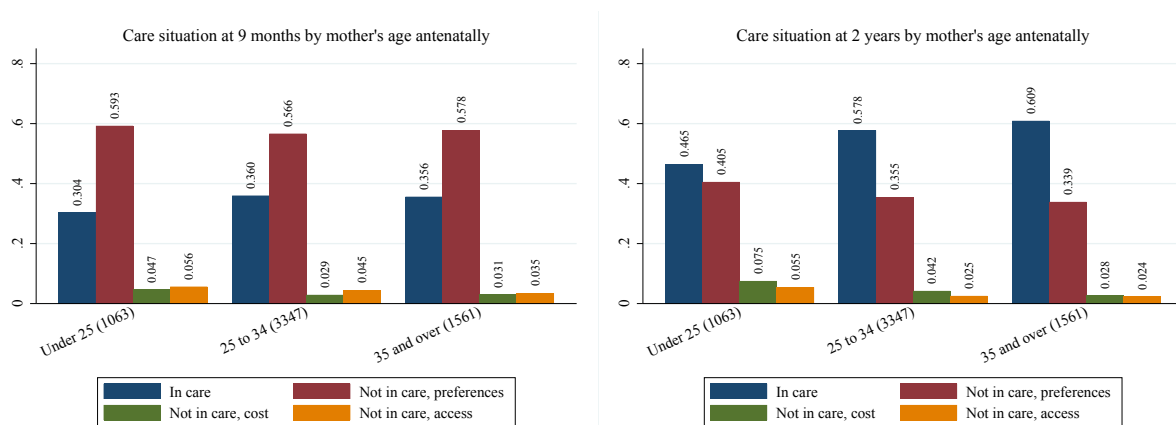
Overall, these regressions show the greater issues accessing childcare faced by Māori, Pasifika, and Asians relative to Europeans cannot be fully explained by differences in parental characteristics. Rather they likely reflect inequities in the system that disadvantage non-Europeans in their access to childcare.

### 4.3 Differences in issues with access to childcare by other parental characteristics

This section shows how childcare situation at 9 months and 2 years differs by parental characteristics. The figures graphically present differences by a single parental characteristic; this information is also available in Appendix Tables 1 and 2. Appendix Table 3 presents the results of regressions of issues with access to childcare on a range of parental characteristics, showing the extent to which each characteristic matters once other characteristics are controlled for.



Figure 5: Childcare situation by mother's age



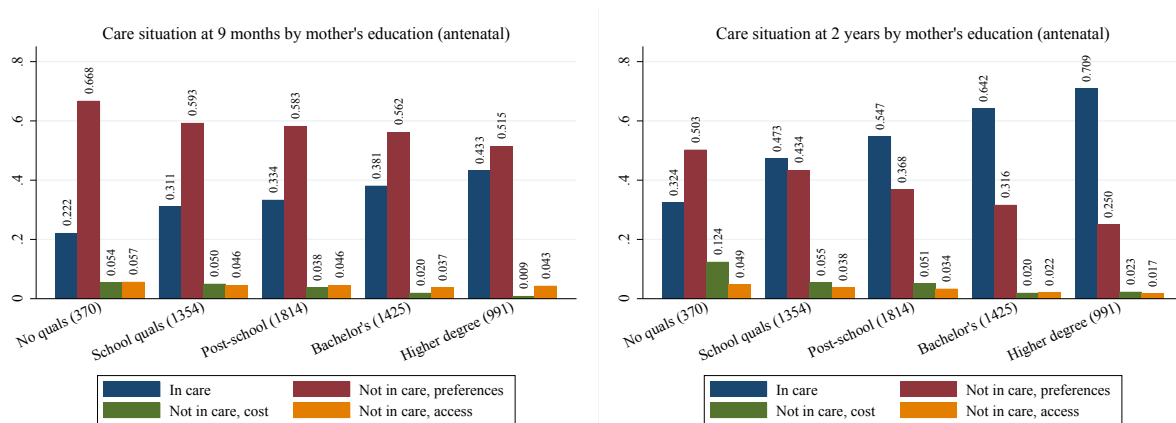
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by mother's age. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 5 shows younger mothers are more likely than older mothers to not have their child in childcare either due to cost or to other access issues, and the age differences tend to be larger at 2 years than at 9 months. At 2 years, 7.5% of mothers under 25 do not have their child in care due to cost compared with 2.8% of mothers 35 and over, and 5.5% of young mothers do not have their child in care due to access issues compared with 2.4% of mothers 35 and over.

Younger mothers differ from their older counterparts in many ways that might affect their access to childcare. For instance, they tend to be less established in their careers and lower-earning, and to have younger partners who are also lower-earning if they have partners at all. They are less likely to have planned their pregnancy, their parents are less likely to be of retirement age (which might make them more available to provide childcare), they are more likely to be having their first child, and they are more likely to Māori or Pasifika.

Appendix Table 3 shows how mother's age is associated with difficulty accessing childcare once a range of other characteristics are controlled for. It shows at 9 months younger mothers are weakly more likely to have difficulty accessing care, but this effect is only borderline statistically significant and disappears when more controls for parental characteristics are added. However, the relationship between age and access issues is stronger at 2 years and remains statistically significant even when a wide range of parental characteristics are included. In the most complete specification, mothers under 25 are 1.8 percentage points more likely than mothers aged 25 to 34 and 2.5 percentage points more likely than mothers 35 and over to not have their child in care due to cost or access issues.

Figure 6: Childcare situation by mother's education



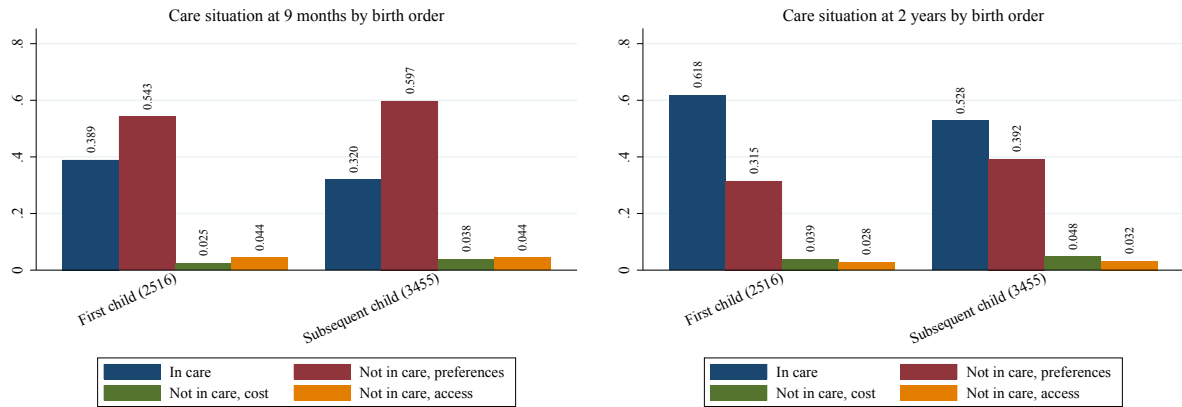
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by mother's education measured at the antenatal interview. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 6 shows how childcare situation varies with the mother's education. Use of childcare increases strongly with mother's education, while cost issues decrease strongly and other access issues decrease modestly with education. Issues with cost are particularly high at 2 years for mothers with no qualifications (12.4% compared with 2.3% for mother with higher degrees).

Higher education is likely to be associated with characteristics such as greater financial resources, a stronger interest in career, and European or Asian ethnicity. The regressions in Appendix Table 3 show the relationship between education and lack of access to childcare disappears at 9 months once other characteristics are controlled for, but remains strong at 2 years. In particular, as suggested by the figure, mothers with no qualifications struggle with access at 2 years.

Figure 7 shows mothers face similar access issues regardless of whether the child is their first or not, but are about 1 percentage point more likely to not have their child in care due to cost if they have prior children. This is consistent with families with multiple children facing the higher cost of paying for care for all of them. Notably, the figure also shows first children are considerably more likely than subsequent children to be in childcare at the same age.

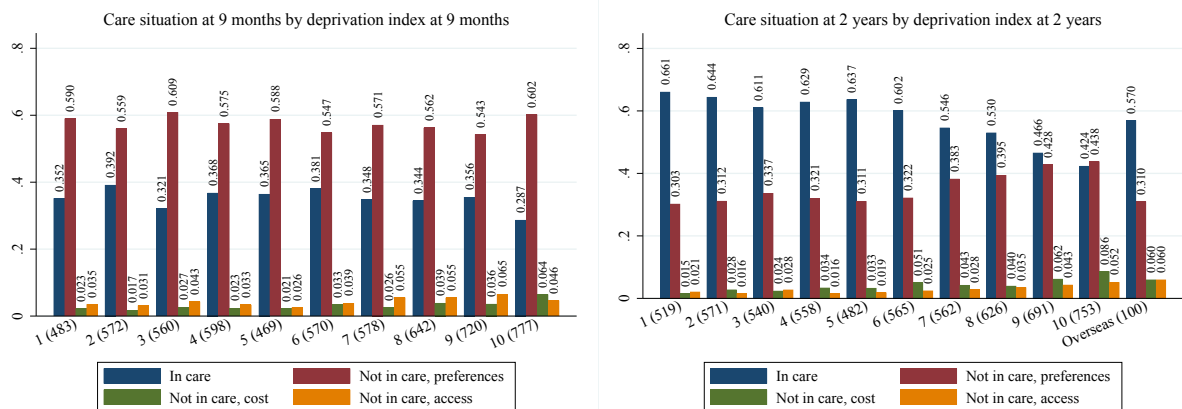
Figure 7: Childcare situation by birth order



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by whether the child is the mother’s first. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

The gap between overall access issues for first children and subsequent children decreases in the regressions where we control for parental characteristics and becomes statistically insignificant.

Figure 8: Childcare situation by deprivation index



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by contemporaneous deprivation index in the area where the mother lives. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

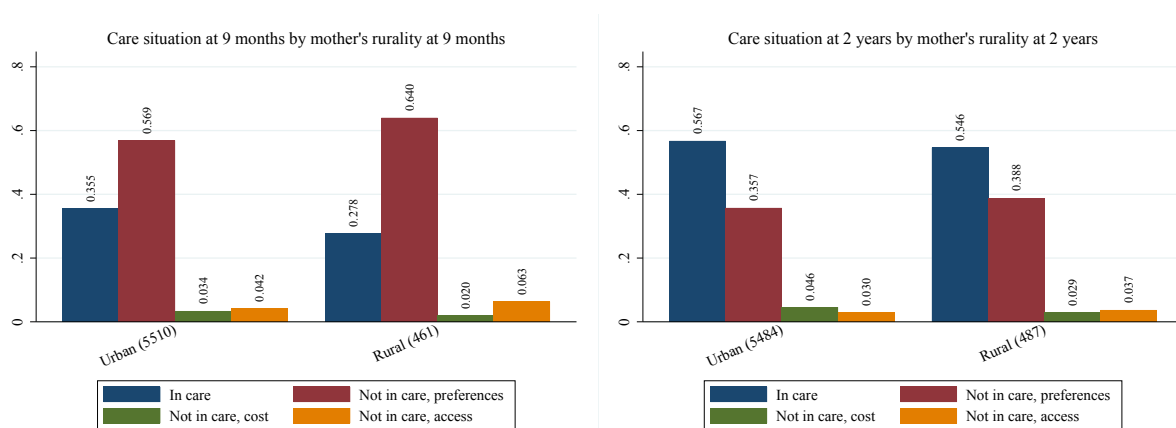
Figure 8 shows cost and other access issues are higher for mothers living in more deprived areas. For instance, at 2 years, 8.6% of mothers in the most deprived areas compared with only 1.5% of mothers in the least deprived areas report their child is not in care due to cost. For others access issues these values are 5.2% compared with 2.1%. The figure also shows the

proportion of children in childcare decreases at deprivation levels above 5 at 2 years but not at 9 months.

Living in a deprived area is often associated with various other measures of disadvantage such as low household income, single parenthood, unstable accommodation, and being a young mother with an unplanned pregnancy. Deprived areas may be less safe, less well served by public transport, and offer poorer options for childcare. Such factors are likely to add to parents' difficulty accessing appropriate, affordable childcare.

The regressions presented in Appendix Table 3 show how deprivation index is associated with issues accessing childcare once other parental characteristics are controlled for. In the most complete specification, the regression results show higher deprivation is still associated with more difficulty accessing childcare, though the relationship is statistically significant (at the 5% level) only at 2 years. The magnitude of the coefficient in the 2-year regression suggests mothers in the most deprived areas are 2.7 percentage points more likely than similar mothers in the least deprived areas to report their child is not in care due to cost or access issues.

Figure 9: Childcare situation by urban/rural location



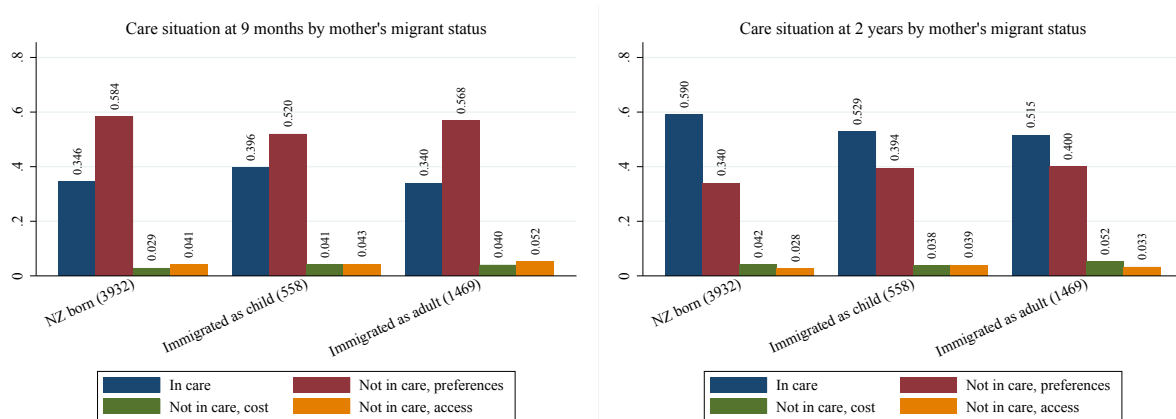
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by whether the mother lives in an urban or rural area at the time of the survey. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 9 shows the association between current urban/rural location and issues with access to childcare. At both 9 months and 2 years, living in a rural area is associated with a lower probability of reporting not using childcare due to cost, but a higher probability of reporting not using it due to other access issues. The urban/rural divide is unusual in that these two types of issue move in opposite directions. Particularly at 9 months, children in rural areas are less likely to be in childcare than are children in urban areas.

The lower cost issues but higher access issues in rural areas are consistent with childcare in rural areas being cheaper, potentially because land is cheaper and living costs are lower, but further away on average from parents' homes and less well served by public transport.

Unsurprisingly, the regression analysis shows living in a rural area is not statistically significantly associated with higher or lower total issues with access to childcare once other parental characteristics are controlled for.

Figure 10: Childcare situation by mother's migration status



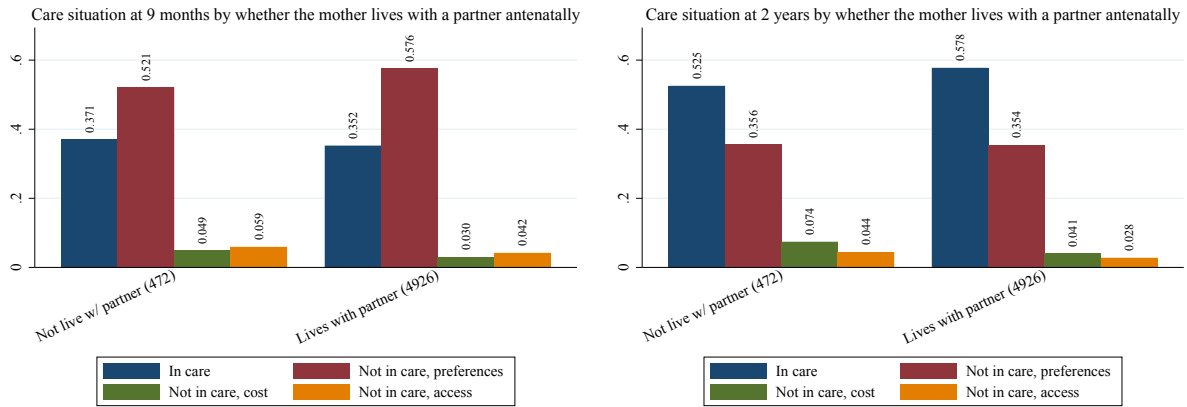
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by mother's migration status. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 10 shows how childcare situation varies by whether the mother was born in New Zealand and, if not, whether she migrated to the country when aged under 18. In most economic and social outcomes, migrants who arrived at younger ages fall between NZ born and those who migrated as adults because child migrants retain some of the culture of their origin countries and partially adopt New Zealand culture, whereas adult migrants tend to retain much more of the culture of their previous home. However, the figure does not show strong differences between mothers of different migrant status, nor do the weak differences observed follow this pattern. Natives do not seem to universally experience more or fewer issues with access to childcare than do migrants. This may be due to a high level of heterogeneity between migrants from different source countries, but the sample sizes are too small to explore this issue and detail on country of birth is limited.

The weak relationship between migrant status overall and issues with access to childcare does not preclude particular migrant groups, for example those with limited English skills, from experiencing large issues with access.

The regressions of issues with access to childcare in Appendix Table 3 confirm there is no statistically significant relationship between migrant status and access issues.

Figure 11: Childcare situation by mother’s partnership status



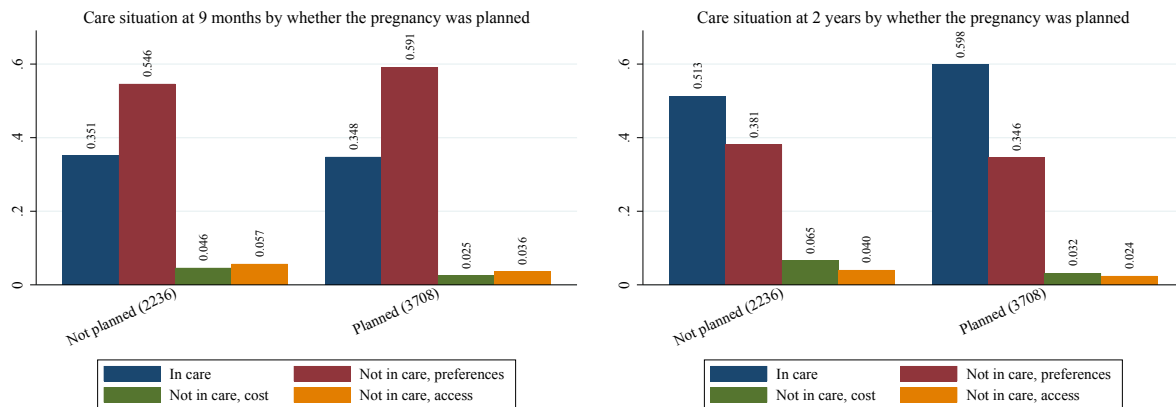
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by mother’s antenatal partnership status. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 11 shows the relationship between the mother’s partnership status, measured antenatally, and childcare situation at 9 months and 2 years. It reveals unpartnered mothers, though relatively few in number, experience considerably higher issues with access to childcare. At 2 years they are 1.8 times as likely to report their child is not in care due to cost and 1.6 times as likely to report their child is not in care due to other access issues. However, their use of childcare overall is fairly comparable to that of partnered mothers, slightly higher at 9 months, and slightly lower at 2 years.

Unpartnered mothers experience the distinct challenge that they do not have a partner who can support them financially when they are not working or care for their child when they are working. They are also more likely to have other characteristics that are associated with increased difficulty securing affordable childcare, such as being young and not having planned their pregnancy (see Figures 5 and 12).

The regression analysis in Appendix Table 3 shows that, once other parental characteristics are controlled for, being unpartnered is not associated with a statistically significant difference in issues with access to childcare.

Figure 12: Childcare situation by whether pregnancy was planned



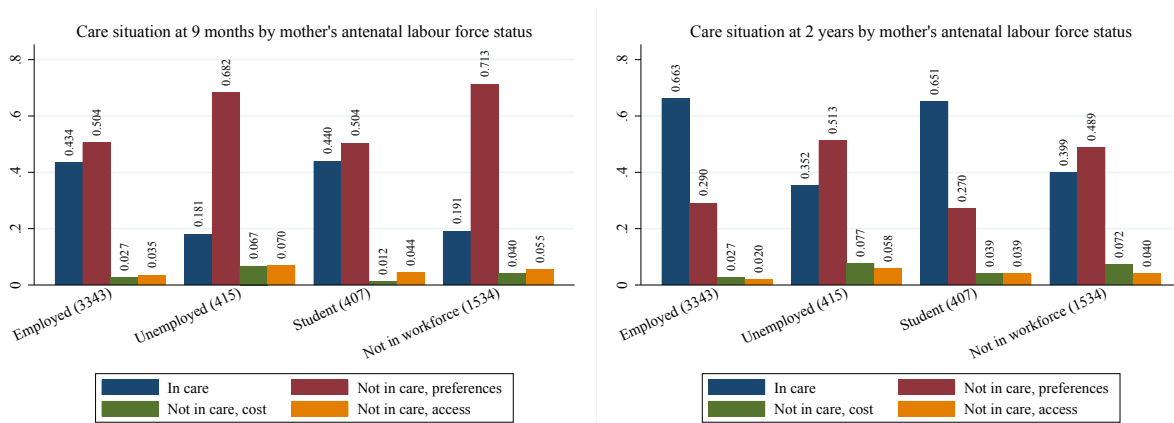
Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by whether the pregnancy was planned. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 12 shows how childcare situation is associated with whether the pregnancy was planned. Mothers who did not plan their pregnancies are substantially more likely to report issues with access to childcare. At 2 years, they are twice as likely to report cost issues and 1.7 times as likely to report other access issues.

Mothers with unplanned pregnancies are more likely to be young, single, and have lower household income. They are also less likely to have timed the arrival of their child for a point in their life when they are financially secure and their career can survive them taking time away from work to care for their child. When we control for a full set of parental characteristics, as in the fourth and eighth columns of Appendix Table 3, an unplanned pregnancy is statistically significantly associated with a greater likelihood of childcare access issues at 9 months, when the difference is 1.9 percentage points, but not at 2 years.

Figure 13 shows how childcare situation is associated with the mother's labour force status at the antenatal survey. Use of childcare at both 9 months and 2 years varies dramatically with antenatal labour force status: mothers who were employed or students have high use of childcare whereas mothers who were unemployed or not in the labour force have much lower use of childcare. These groups also differ substantially in their likelihood of reporting issues with access to childcare. The unemployed and those not in the labour force are much more likely to report their child not being in care due to cost and somewhat more likely to report their child not being in care due to access issues. At 2 years, cost is reported as a barrier by 2.7% of employed mothers, 3.9% of student mothers, 7.2% of mothers not in the workforce, and 7.7% of unemployed mothers. The percentage reporting other access issues varies from 2.0% for employed mothers to 5.8% for unemployed mothers.

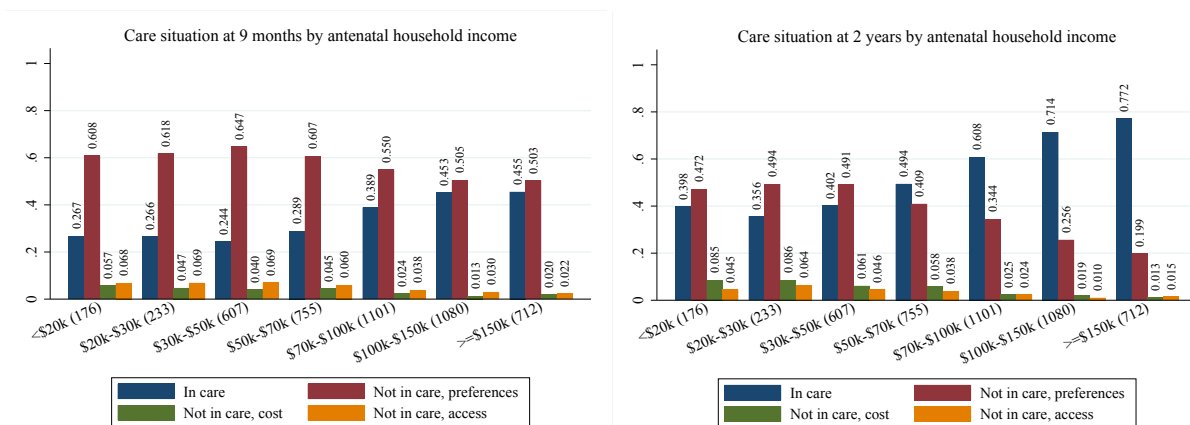
Figure 13: Childcare situation by mother's antenatal labour force status



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by the mother's antenatal labour force status. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

The mother's labour force status before the birth of her child is likely to be related to other characteristics such as her age, whether she has previous children, and her education, other skills, and broader employability. When we use regressions to control for other differences in parental characteristics, we find at both 9 months and 2 years mother's antenatal labour force status is significantly correlated with issues accessing childcare: at 2 years, mothers who were unemployed are 2.9 percentage points and mothers who were not in the labour force are 3.0 percentage points more likely than mothers who were employed to report not having their child in childcare due to cost or access issues.

Figure 14: Childcare situation by antenatal household income

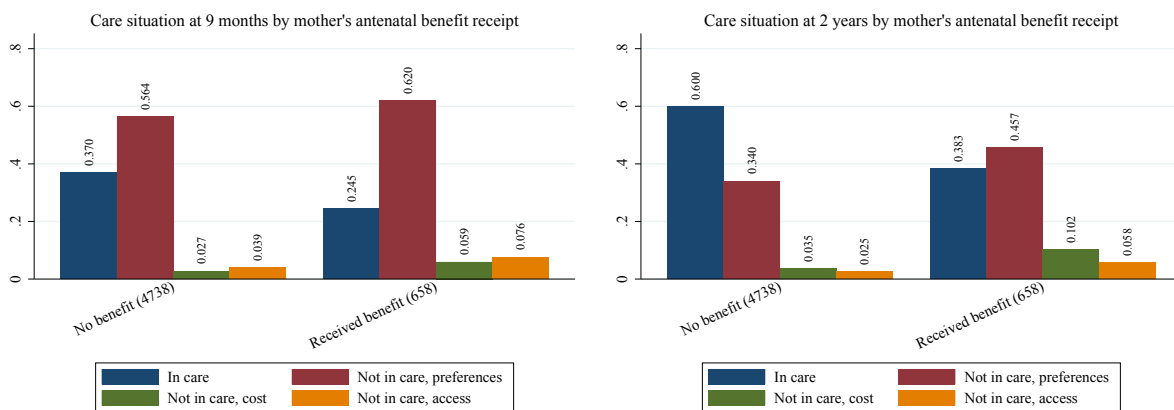


Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by the mother's antenatal household income. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.



Figure 14 shows how household antenatal income is related to childcare situation at 9 months and 2 years. A strong relationship is evident: childcare use increases with income and cost and other access issues decrease with income. Appendix Table 3 shows this relationship remains statistically significant once a full set of controls for parental characteristics are included. At 2 years, an increase in household income of \$50,000 is associated with a 1.1 percentage point decrease in the probability the child is not in childcare due to cost or access issues. The magnitude of the relationship at 9 months is similar.

Figure 15: Childcare situation by mother’s antenatal benefit receipt

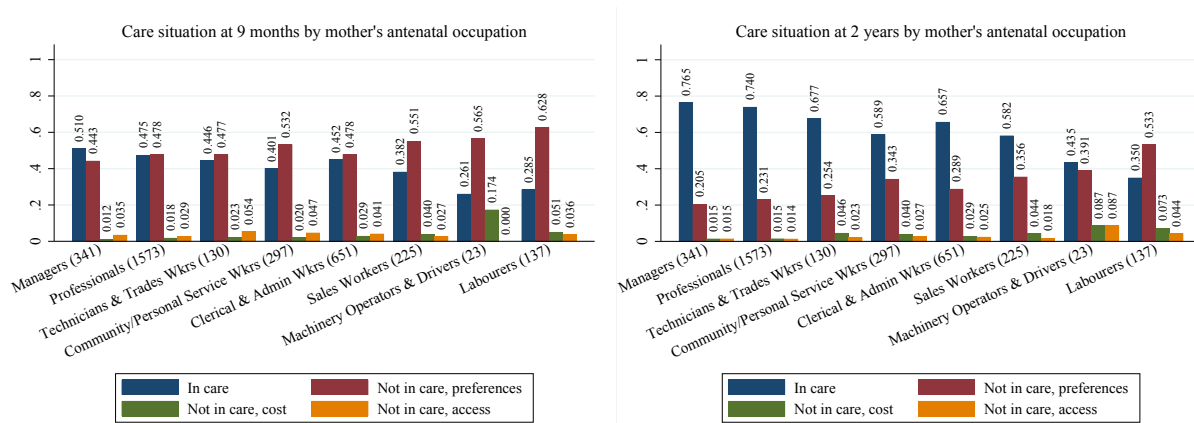


Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by whether the mother received a benefit antenatally. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 15 shows how childcare situation varies depending on whether the mother was a beneficiary before her child was born. Beneficiaries are much more likely to report cost or access issues keep their child from being in childcare at both 9 months and 2 years. At 2 years, 10.2% of beneficiaries report their child is not in care due to cost, three times the rate among non-beneficiaries (3.5%). Beneficiaries also report other access issues at over twice the rate of non-beneficiaries.

Similarly to labour market status, benefit receipt tends to be associated with other characteristics that increase barriers to accessing childcare, such as low income, low education, limited employability, and young age. Regression analysis shows that even after controlling for a full set of parental characteristics receiving a benefit is associated with a much higher likelihood of reporting issues accessing childcare. The conditional difference is 3.5 percentage points at 9 months and 4.2 percentage points at 2 years.

Figure 16: Childcare situation by mother's antenatal occupation



Notes: The proportion of children at 9 months (left) and 2 years (right) who are in each childcare situation by the mother's antenatal occupation. The population count for each group is given below the horizontal axis and bars are labelled with the fraction of the sample that falls into the category.

Figure 16 shows how childcare situation varies with the mother's antenatal occupation. It shows managers and professionals have low rates of issues with access to childcare whereas labourers, the least skilled and lowest paid occupational group on average, tend to have high rates. Note the number of machinery operators and drivers is very low, so their rates of access issues should not be over-interpreted.

Occupation is closely correlated with education and personal income, but it is also related to characteristics such as job flexibility, job satisfaction, and level of career orientation that might affect a mother's desire and ability to return to work. Indeed, the more skilled occupations are more likely to use childcare, which is likely related to return to work.

Because the large number of categories makes statistical power problematic, mother's occupation is not included in the regression analysis.

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- Statistics New Zealand (2017), "Childcare in New Zealand 2017: September 2017 quarter – tables," [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz).

**Appendix Table 1: Childcare situation at 9 months by subpopulation**

Subpopulation	% In care at 9 months			% Not in care due to preferences at 9 months	% Not in care due to cost or access at 9 months			Observations
	Total	>=30 hours per week	<30 hours per week		Total	Cost	Access	
Full population	34.9	13.1	21.8	57.4	7.7	3.3	4.4	5,971
Mother's antenatal ethnicity:								
European (single ethnicity)	34.7	9.6	25.1	59.7	5.7	2.3	3.3	3,076
European (multiple ethnicity)	36.8	12.9	23.9	56.4	6.8	3.0	3.7	856
European (self-prioritised ethnicity)	34.7	9.8	24.9	59.8	5.5	2.2	3.3	3,401
Maori (single ethnicity)	35.9	18.5	17.4	51.3	12.9	4.5	8.4	357
Maori (multiple ethnicity)	38.0	15.2	22.8	55.4	6.6	2.9	3.7	684
Maori (self-prioritised ethnicity)	37.0	16.9	20.1	53.2	9.8	4.0	5.8	776
Pacific (single ethnicity)	28.9	15.8	13.1	58.0	13.1	7.0	6.1	641
Pacific (multiple ethnicity)	31.2	11.1	20.2	60.5	8.3			253
Pacific (self-prioritised ethnicity)	30.2	15.3	14.9	57.1	12.7	6.7	6.0	764
Asian (single ethnicity)	37.3	21.1	16.2	53.6	9.1	3.2	5.9	782
Asian (multiple ethnicity)	39.8	11.7	28.2	54.4	5.8			103
Asian (self-prioritised ethnicity)	37.2	20.8	16.4	53.6	9.1	3.2	5.9	811
Other ethnicities (self-prioritised ethnicity)	31.3	11.7	19.5	55.5	13.3			128
Mother's age antenatally:								
Under 25	30.4	10.3	20.0	59.3	10.3	4.7	5.6	1,063
25 to 34	36.0	14.2	21.8	56.6	7.3	2.9	4.5	3,347
35 and over	35.6	12.4	23.2	57.8	6.5	3.1	3.5	1,561
Mother's highest qualification antenatally								
No qualifications	22.2	10.3	11.9	66.8	11.1	5.4	5.7	370
School qualifications	31.1	12.6	18.5	59.3	9.6	5.0	4.6	1,354
Post-school qualifications	33.4	13.1	20.3	58.3	8.4	3.8	4.6	1,814
Bachelor's degree	38.1	13.7	24.4	56.2	5.7	2.0	3.7	1,425
Higher degree	43.3	13.8	29.5	51.5	5.2	0.9	4.3	991
First child	38.9	14.5	24.4	54.3	6.8	2.5	4.4	2,516
Subsequent child	32.0	12.0	19.9	59.7	8.3	3.8	4.4	3,455
Deprivation index at 9 months								
1	35.2	10.6	24.6	59.0	5.8			483
2	39.2	11.4	27.8	55.9	4.9			572
3	32.1	12.3	19.8	60.9	7.0	2.7	4.3	560
4	36.8	13.4	23.4	57.5	5.7	2.3	3.3	598
5	36.5	13.4	23.0	58.8	4.7			469
6	38.1	14.0	24.0	54.7	7.2	3.3	3.9	570
7	34.8	12.5	22.3	57.1	8.1	2.6	5.5	578
8	34.4	14.5	19.9	56.2	9.3	3.9	5.5	642
9	35.6	15.6	20.0	54.3	10.1	3.6	6.5	720
10	28.7	12.1	16.6	60.2	11.1	6.4	4.6	777
Mother lives in an urban area at 9 months	35.5	13.7	21.8	56.9	7.6	3.4	4.2	5,510
Mother lives in a rural area at 9 months	27.8	5.6	22.1	64.0	8.2	2.0	6.3	461
Mother's migration status:								
NZ born	34.6	11.5	23.1	58.4	7.0	2.9	4.1	3,932
Migrated to NZ as child	39.6	14.5	25.1	52.0	8.4	4.1	4.3	558
Migrated to NZ as adult	34.0	16.7	17.3	56.8	9.2	4.0	5.2	1,469
Mother does not live with a partner antenatally	37.1	14.6	22.5	52.1	10.8	4.9	5.9	472
Mother lives with a partner antenatally	35.2	13.2	22.1	57.6	7.2	3.0	4.2	4,926
Pregnancy was not planned	35.1	14.6	20.5	54.6	10.3	4.6	5.7	2,236
Pregnancy was planned	34.8	12.2	22.6	59.1	6.1	2.5	3.6	3,708
Mother's antenatal labour force status:								
Employed	43.4	17.6	25.8	50.4	6.2	2.7	3.5	3,343
Unemployed	18.1	5.3	12.8	68.2	13.7	6.7	7.0	415
Student	44.0	16.0	28.0	50.4	5.7			407
Not in workforce	19.1	4.2	14.9	71.3	9.6	4.0	5.5	1,534
Antenatal household income:								
<\$20k	26.7	9.1	17.6	60.8	12.5			176
\$20k-\$30k	26.6	8.6	18.0	61.8	11.6			233
\$30k-\$50k	24.4	8.9	15.5	64.7	10.9	4.0	6.9	607
\$50k-\$70k	28.9	9.4	19.5	60.7	10.5	4.5	6.0	755
\$70k-\$100k	38.9	17.3	21.5	55.0	6.2	2.4	3.8	1,101
\$100k-\$150k	45.3	17.5	27.8	50.5	4.3	1.3	3.0	1,080
>=\$150k	45.5	14.7	30.8	50.3	4.2	2.0	2.2	712
Mother did not receive benefit antenatally	37.0	14.3	22.7	56.4	6.6	2.7	3.9	4,738
Mother received benefit antenatally	24.5	6.5	17.9	62.0	13.5	5.9	7.6	658
Mother's antenatal occupation:								
Managers	51.0	21.7	29.3	44.3	4.7			341
Professionals	47.5	17.7	29.8	47.8	4.7	1.8	2.9	1,573
Technicians & Trades Workers	44.6	15.4	29.2	47.7	7.7			130
Community & Personal Service Workers	40.1	15.8	24.2	53.2	6.7			297
Clerical & Admin Workers	45.2	23.0	22.1	47.8	7.1	2.9	4.1	651
Sales Workers	38.2	17.3	20.9	55.1	6.7			225
Machinery Operators & Drivers	26.1			56.5	17.4			23
Labourers	28.5	9.5	19.0	62.8	8.8			137

Notes: Breakdowns are not presented where the group to be broken down consists of fewer than 30 individuals.

**Appendix Table 2: Childcare situation at 2 years by subpopulation**

Subpopulation	% In care at 2 years			% Not in care due to preferences at 2 years	% Not in care due to cost or access at 2 years			Observations
	Total	>=30 hours per week	<30 hours per week		Total	Cost	Access	
Full population	56.6	22.6	34.0	36.0	7.5	4.4	3.0	5,971
Mother's antenatal ethnicity:								
European (single ethnicity)	63.3	19.2	44.1	31.9	4.7	2.9	1.9	3,076
European (multiple ethnicity)	56.1	25.8	30.3	35.7	8.2	4.2	4.0	856
European (self-prioritised ethnicity)	62.7	19.4	43.3	32.5	4.8	2.9	1.9	3,401
Maori (single ethnicity)	50.1	27.5	22.7	34.2	15.7	8.1	7.6	357
Maori (multiple ethnicity)	55.4	27.2	28.2	36.3	8.3	3.8	4.5	684
Maori (self-prioritised ethnicity)	53.4	28.9	24.5	34.3	12.4	5.8	6.6	776
Pacific (single ethnicity)	35.9	19.5	16.4	52.1	12.0	7.5	4.5	641
Pacific (multiple ethnicity)	50.2	30.4	19.8	39.5	10.3			253
Pacific (self-prioritised ethnicity)	38.1	21.6	16.5	49.7	12.2	8.0	4.2	764
Asian (single ethnicity)	48.8	29.4	19.4	41.7	9.5	6.1	3.3	782
Asian (multiple ethnicity)	69.9	24.3	45.6	24.3	5.8			103
Asian (self-prioritised ethnicity)	49.9	29.3	20.6	40.8	9.2	6.0	3.2	811
Other ethnicities (self-prioritised ethnicity)	58.6	30.5	28.1	32.0	9.4			128
Mother's age antenatally:								
Under 25	46.5	20.7	25.8	40.5	13.0	7.5	5.5	1,063
25 to 34	57.8	23.8	33.9	35.5	6.8	4.2	2.5	3,347
35 and over	60.9	21.2	39.7	33.9	5.2	2.8	2.4	1,561
Mother's highest qualification antenatally								
No qualifications	32.4	14.1	18.4	50.3	17.3	12.4	4.9	370
School qualifications	47.3	20.4	26.9	43.4	9.4	5.5	3.8	1,354
Post-school qualifications	54.7	22.3	32.4	36.8	8.4	5.1	3.4	1,814
Bachelor's degree	64.2	25.5	38.7	31.6	4.1	2.0	2.2	1,425
Higher degree	70.9	25.0	45.9	25.0	4.0	2.3	1.7	991
First child	61.8	25.7	36.1	31.5	6.7	3.9	2.8	2,516
Subsequent child	52.8	20.3	32.5	39.2	8.0	4.8	3.2	3,455
Deprivation index at 2 years								
1	66.1	18.3	47.8	30.3	3.7			519
2	64.4	23.5	41.0	31.2	4.4			571
3	61.1	21.3	39.8	33.7	5.2			540
4	62.9	23.3	39.6	32.1	5.0			558
5	63.7	25.7	38.0	31.1	5.2			482
6	60.2	24.6	35.6	32.2	7.6	5.1	2.5	565
7	54.6	21.0	33.6	38.3	7.1	4.3	2.8	562
8	53.0	22.5	30.5	39.5	7.5	4.0	3.5	626
9	46.6	22.7	23.9	42.8	10.6	6.2	4.3	691
10	42.4	23.1	19.3	43.8	13.8	8.6	5.2	753
Overseas	57.0	20.0	37.0	31.0	12.0			100
Mother lives in an urban area at 2 years	56.7	23.6	33.2	35.7	7.5	4.6	3.0	5,484
Mother lives in a rural area at 2 years	54.6	11.5	43.1	38.8	6.6	2.9	3.7	487
Mother's migration status:								
NZ born	59.0	21.4	37.6	34.0	7.0	4.2	2.8	3,932
Migrated to NZ as child	52.9	21.9	31.0	39.4	7.7	3.8	3.9	558
Migrated to NZ as adult	51.5	25.9	25.6	40.0	8.4	5.2	3.3	1,469
Mother does not live with a partner antenatally	52.5	27.1	25.4	35.6	11.9	7.4	4.4	472
Mother lives with a partner antenatally	57.8	22.4	35.3	35.4	6.8	4.1	2.8	4,926
Pregnancy was not planned	51.3	24.6	26.7	38.1	10.6	6.5	4.0	2,236
Pregnancy was planned	59.8	21.4	38.5	34.6	5.6	3.2	2.4	3,708
Mother's antenatal labour force status:								
Employed	66.3	27.6	38.6	29.0	4.7	2.7	2.0	3,343
Unemployed	35.2	14.0	21.2	51.3	13.5	7.7	5.8	415
Student	65.1	30.7	34.4	27.0	7.9	3.9	3.9	407
Not in workforce	39.9	12.0	27.9	48.9	11.2	7.2	4.0	1,534
Antenatal household income:								
<\$20k	39.8	15.9	23.9	47.2	13.1			176
\$20k-\$30k	35.6	12.9	22.7	49.4	15.0	8.6	6.4	233
\$30k-\$50k	40.2	16.6	23.6	49.1	10.7	6.1	4.6	607
\$50k-\$70k	49.4	17.2	32.2	40.9	9.7	5.8	3.8	755
\$70k-\$100k	60.8	26.0	34.8	34.4	4.8	2.5	2.4	1,101
\$100k-\$150k	71.4	28.6	42.8	25.6	3.0	1.9	1.0	1,080
>=\$150k	77.2	28.9	48.3	19.9	2.8			712
Mother did not receive benefit antenatally	60.0	23.8	36.2	34.0	6.1	3.5	2.5	4,738
Mother received benefit antenatally	38.3	16.0	22.3	45.7	16.0	10.2	5.8	658
Mother's antenatal occupation:								
Managers	76.5	36.7	39.9	20.5	2.9			341
Professionals	74.0	29.1	44.9	23.1	2.9	1.5	1.4	1,573
Technicians & Trades Workers	67.7	23.1	44.6	25.4	6.9			130
Community & Personal Service Workers	58.9	21.9	37.0	34.3	6.7			297
Clerical & Admin Workers	65.7	33.8	32.0	28.9	5.4	2.9	2.5	651
Sales Workers	58.2	19.6	38.7	35.6	6.2			225
Machinery Operators & Drivers	43.5			39.1	17.4			23
Labourers	35.0	19.0	16.1	53.3	11.7			137

Notes: Breakdowns are not presented where the group to be broken down consists of fewer than 30 individuals.

**Appendix Table 3: OLS regressions of access to care issues**

<i>Dependent variable: Child is not in care due to cost or access</i>								
	9 months	9 months	9 months	9 months	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
<b>Mother's self-prioritised ethnicity (omitted category: European)</b>								
Maori	0.029*** (0.011)	0.023** (0.011)	0.020* (0.012)	0.015 (0.012)	0.045*** (0.011)	0.042*** (0.011)	0.035*** (0.011)	0.028** (0.011)
Pacific	0.057*** (0.011)	0.048*** (0.012)	0.044*** (0.013)	0.039*** (0.013)	0.046*** (0.011)	0.039*** (0.012)	0.029** (0.012)	0.023* (0.012)
Asian	0.038*** (0.010)	0.026* (0.013)	0.025* (0.013)	0.020 (0.013)	0.048*** (0.010)	0.036*** (0.013)	0.033*** (0.013)	0.027** (0.013)
MELAA	0.064** (0.025)	0.053** (0.026)	0.054** (0.026)	0.050* (0.026)	0.047* (0.024)	0.036 (0.026)	0.035 (0.026)	0.025 (0.026)
Other	0.224*** (0.080)	0.217*** (0.080)	0.217*** (0.080)	0.220*** (0.080)	0.053 (0.078)	0.047 (0.078)	0.043 (0.078)	0.046 (0.078)
New Zealander	0.019 (0.031)	0.018 (0.031)	0.019 (0.031)	0.019 (0.031)	0.010 (0.030)	0.010 (0.030)	0.011 (0.030)	0.008 (0.030)
<b>Mother's age antenatally (omitted category: Under 25 years)</b>								
25 to 34	-0.015 (0.010)	-0.009 (0.011)	-0.008 (0.011)	0.002 (0.011)	-0.038*** (0.010)	-0.036*** (0.010)	-0.035*** (0.010)	-0.018* (0.011)
35 and over	-0.020* (0.012)	-0.015 (0.012)	-0.012 (0.012)	0.001 (0.013)	-0.049*** (0.012)	-0.048*** (0.012)	-0.044*** (0.012)	-0.025** (0.012)
<b>Mother's education antenatally (omitted category: No qualifications)</b>								
School qualifications	-0.008 (0.016)	-0.004 (0.016)	-0.002 (0.016)	0.005 (0.016)	-0.066*** (0.015)	-0.063*** (0.016)	-0.061*** (0.016)	-0.051*** (0.016)
Post-school qualifications	-0.014 (0.016)	-0.009 (0.016)	-0.007 (0.016)	-0.001 (0.016)	-0.067*** (0.015)	-0.064*** (0.015)	-0.061*** (0.015)	-0.051*** (0.015)
Bachelor's degree	-0.033** (0.016)	-0.025 (0.017)	-0.021 (0.017)	-0.009 (0.017)	-0.098*** (0.016)	-0.093*** (0.016)	-0.088*** (0.016)	-0.070*** (0.017)
Higher degree	-0.032* (0.017)	-0.024 (0.018)	-0.019 (0.018)	-0.005 (0.018)	-0.092*** (0.017)	-0.088*** (0.017)	-0.082*** (0.017)	-0.062*** (0.018)
Child is mother's first	-0.014* (0.007)	-0.014* (0.007)	-0.013* (0.007)	-0.006 (0.008)	-0.015** (0.007)	-0.015** (0.007)	-0.015** (0.007)	-0.008 (0.008)
<b>Mother's migration status (omitted category: NZ born)</b>								
Migrated to NZ as child		-0.001 (0.013)	-0.001 (0.013)	-0.001 (0.013)		-0.001 (0.013)	-0.002 (0.013)	-0.004 (0.012)
Migrated to NZ as adult		0.014 (0.011)	0.014 (0.011)	0.011 (0.011)		0.015 (0.011)	0.013 (0.011)	0.009 (0.011)
Mother partnered antenatally		-0.009 (0.014)	-0.008 (0.014)	0.009 (0.015)		-0.005 (0.014)	-0.003 (0.014)	0.023 (0.014)
Pregnancy was planned		-0.023*** (0.008)	-0.022*** (0.008)	-0.019** (0.008)		-0.014* (0.008)	-0.013 (0.008)	-0.008 (0.008)
Deprivation Index (contemporaneous, scale of 1-10)			0.003* (0.001)	0.002 (0.001)			0.004*** (0.001)	0.003** (0.001)
Mother lives in a rural area (contemporaneous)			0.026* (0.013)	0.024* (0.013)			0.011 (0.013)	0.009 (0.013)
<b>Mother's antenatal labour force status (omitted category: Employed)</b>								
Unemployed				0.038** (0.015)				0.029** (0.015)
Student				-0.016 (0.014)				0.013 (0.014)
Not in workforce				0.010 (0.009)				0.030*** (0.009)
Antenatal household income (\$00,000s)				-0.021** (0.010)				-0.022** (0.010)
Mother received a benefit antenatally				0.036*** (0.013)				0.042*** (0.013)
R-Squared	0.014	0.017	0.018	0.023	0.029	0.030	0.032	0.040
Observations	5,971	5,971	5,971	5,971	5,971	5,971	5,971	5,971
% not in care due to cost/access issues	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5

Notes: Each column in an OLS regression where the dependent variable is a dummy for the child not being in regular childcare due to cost or access issues. The first four columns are for childcare at 9 months and the second four are for childcare at 2 years. The sample is all mothers who are present antenatally, at 9 months, and at 2 years, for whom at both 9 months and 2 years the child is either in care with known hours or not in care for a known main reason. Dummies are included for missing controls. Household income is converted from categorical to continuous using midpoints of the categories, with \$150k+ coded as \$175k. Standard errors are in parentheses. Asterisks denote: \* p<0.10, \*\* p<0.05, \*\*\* p<0.01.



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