

# A RETURN TO NORMAL? NOT QUITE. WHAT SUMMER PROGRAMMING LOOKS LIKE FOR 2021.

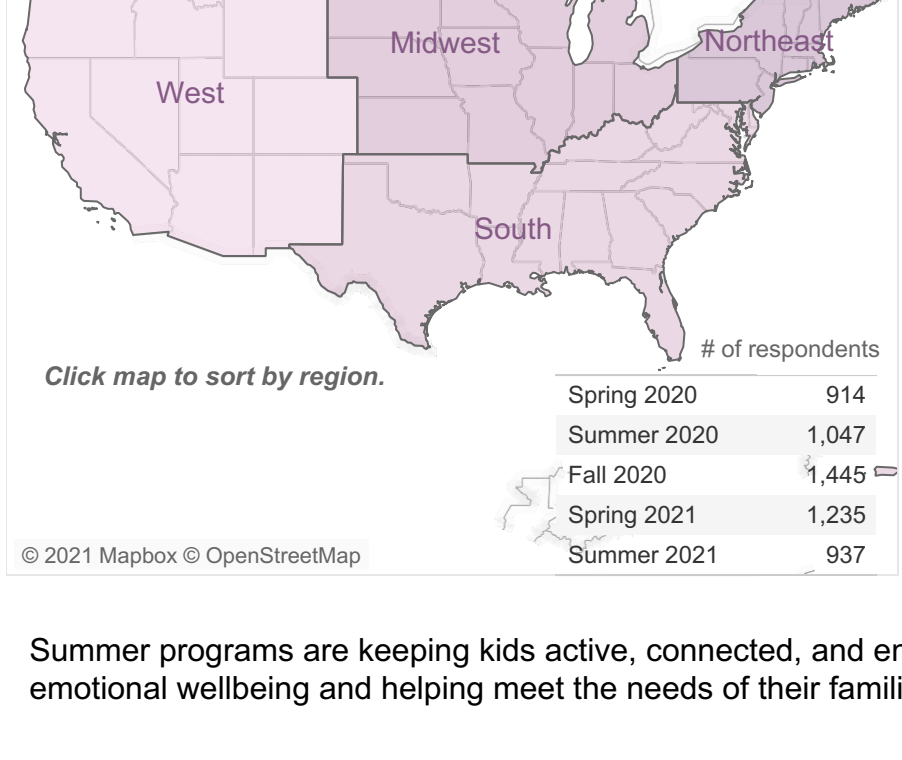
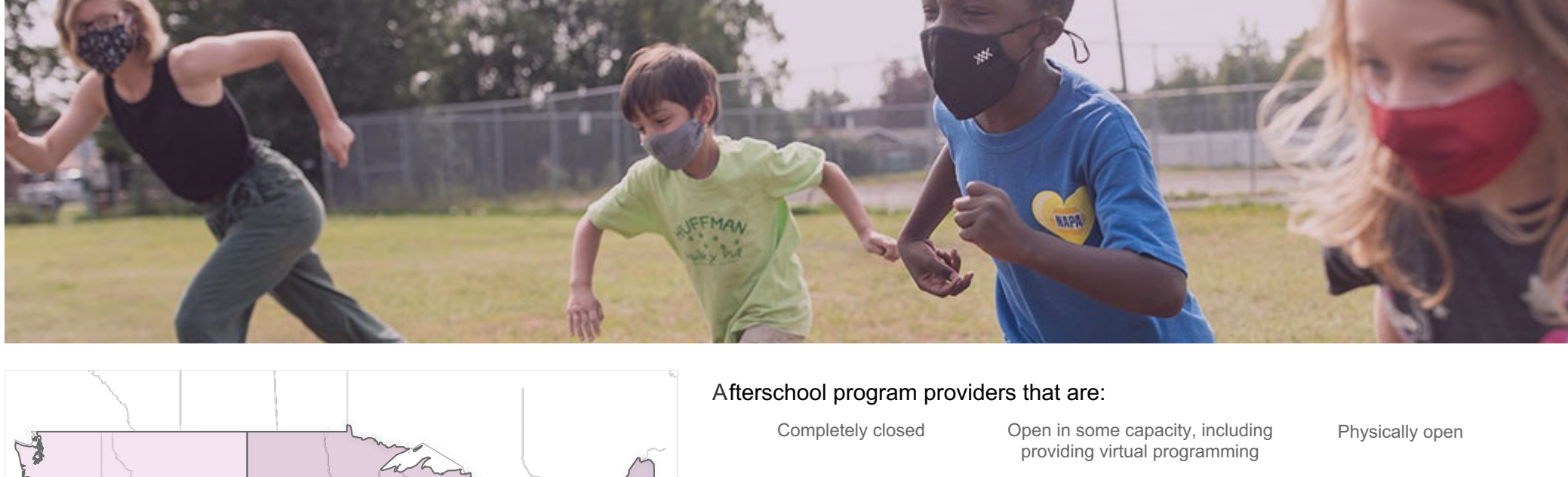
This summer, as most states lift COVID-19 restrictions and families ease back into public life, summer programs also report moving toward a return to normal, with a nearly 70 percent increase in programs opening their doors and serving student in-person in some capacity compared to the summer of 2020 and 8 in 10 providers reporting optimism about the future of their program. However, issues remain, with more than half of providers serving students in-person report having a waitlist and operating at reduced capacity due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Staffing, increased costs of programming, and worries about long-term sustainability are additional concerns program providers grapple with this summer. Wave 5 of the *Afterschool..*

## Learn More

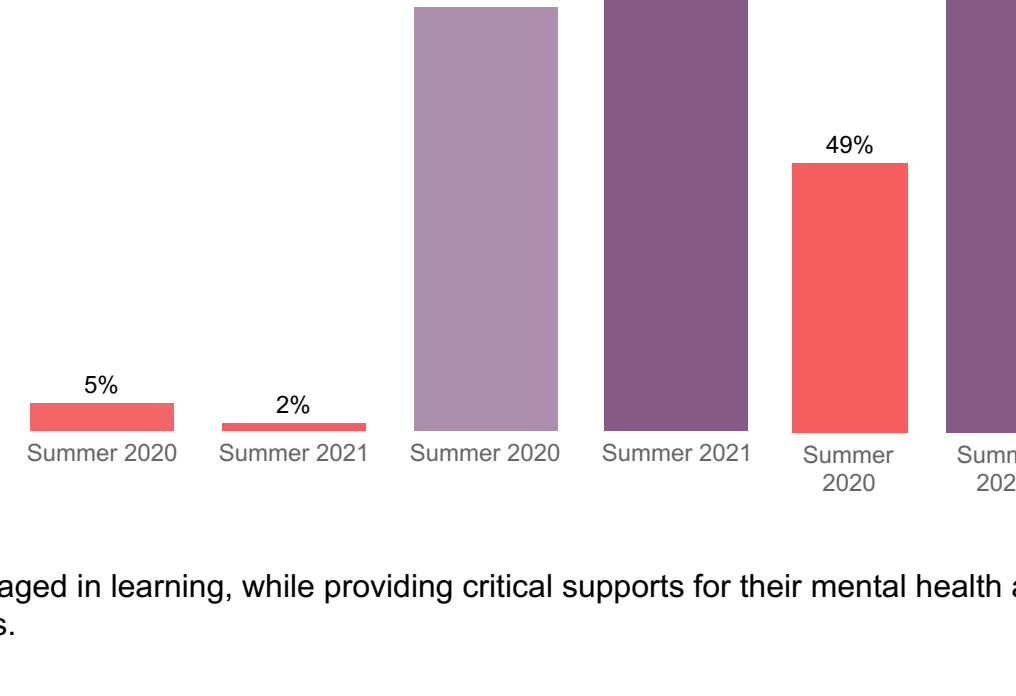
Visit the Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 survey page to find all program provider and parent surveys in this series, as well as related issue briefs and dashboards documenting the changing afterschool and summer landscape through the pan..

## OPEN FOR THE SUMMER

Almost all summer program providers are open in some capacity this year, with programs that are physically open at the national level increasing 69 percent compared to last summer.

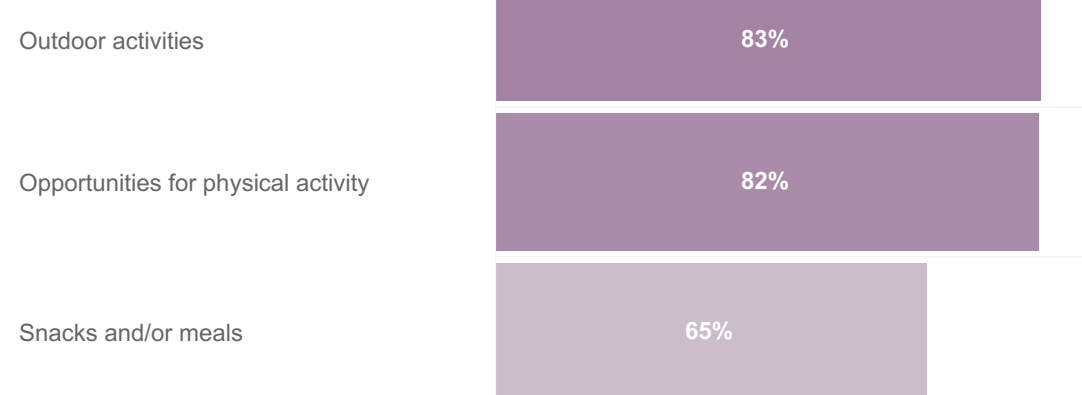


## Afterschool program providers that are:

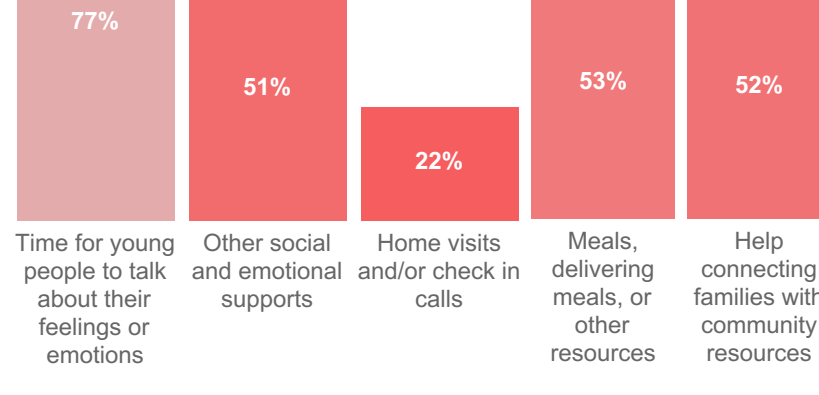


Summer programs are keeping kids active, connected, and engaged in learning, while providing critical supports for their mental health and emotional wellbeing and helping meet the needs of their families.

## An overwhelming majority of summer programs are offering:



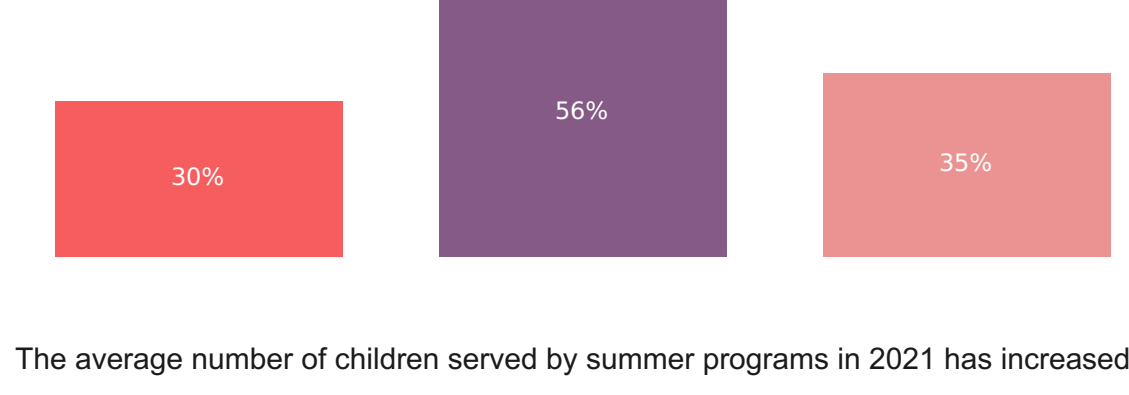
## Programs are also providing:



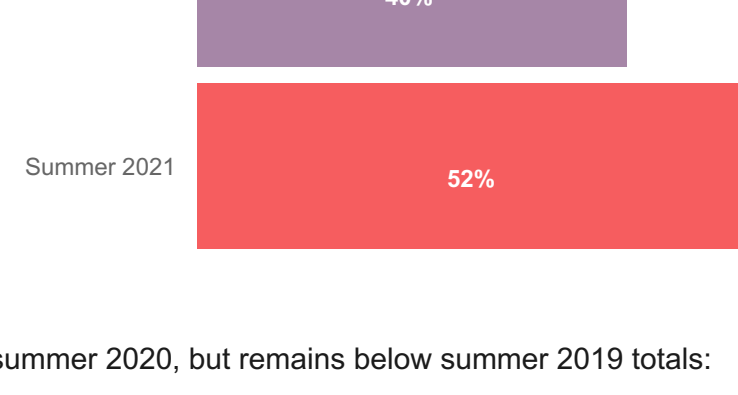
## NOT A COMPLETE RETURN TO NORMAL - CHALLENGES REMAIN

Although most summer programs report being open, more than half of providers serving students in-person have a waitlist and are operating at reduced capacity due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Staffing and increased costs of programming are additional challenges progra..

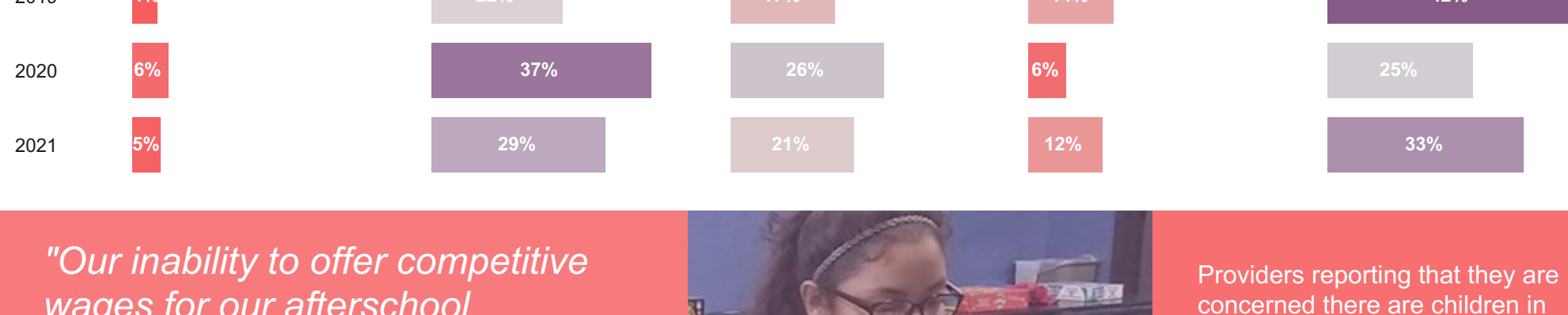
## Most summer programs physically open are operating at reduced capacity:



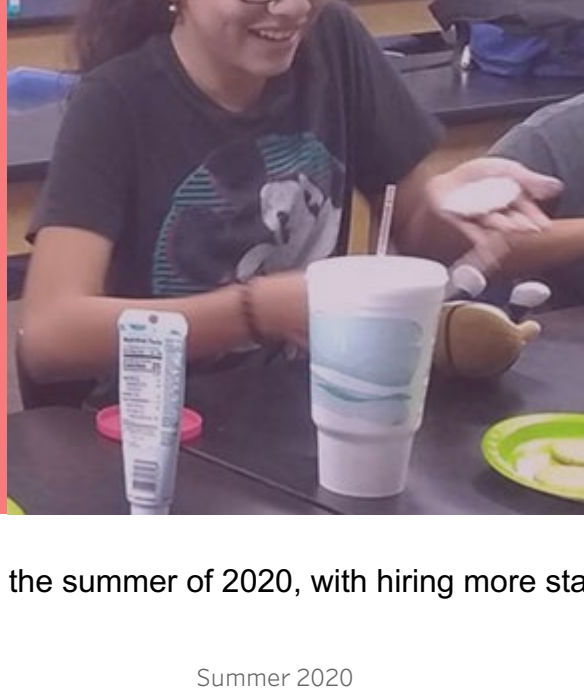
## More programs report a waitlist:



## The average number of children served by summer programs in 2021 has increased from summer 2020, but remains below summer 2019 totals:



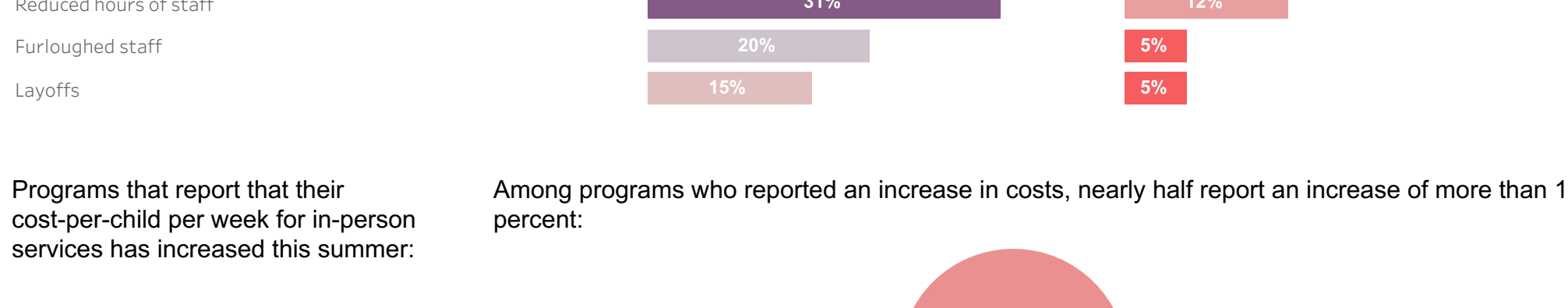
*"Our inability to offer competitive wages for our afterschool programs is due to stagnant funding and rising cost of living standards. This impacts our ability to recruit and retain high-quality staff. Without access to a high-quality and consistent staff our ability to serve students is directly affected."*



Providers reporting that they are concerned there are children in their community who need summer program, but not able to access it.

80%

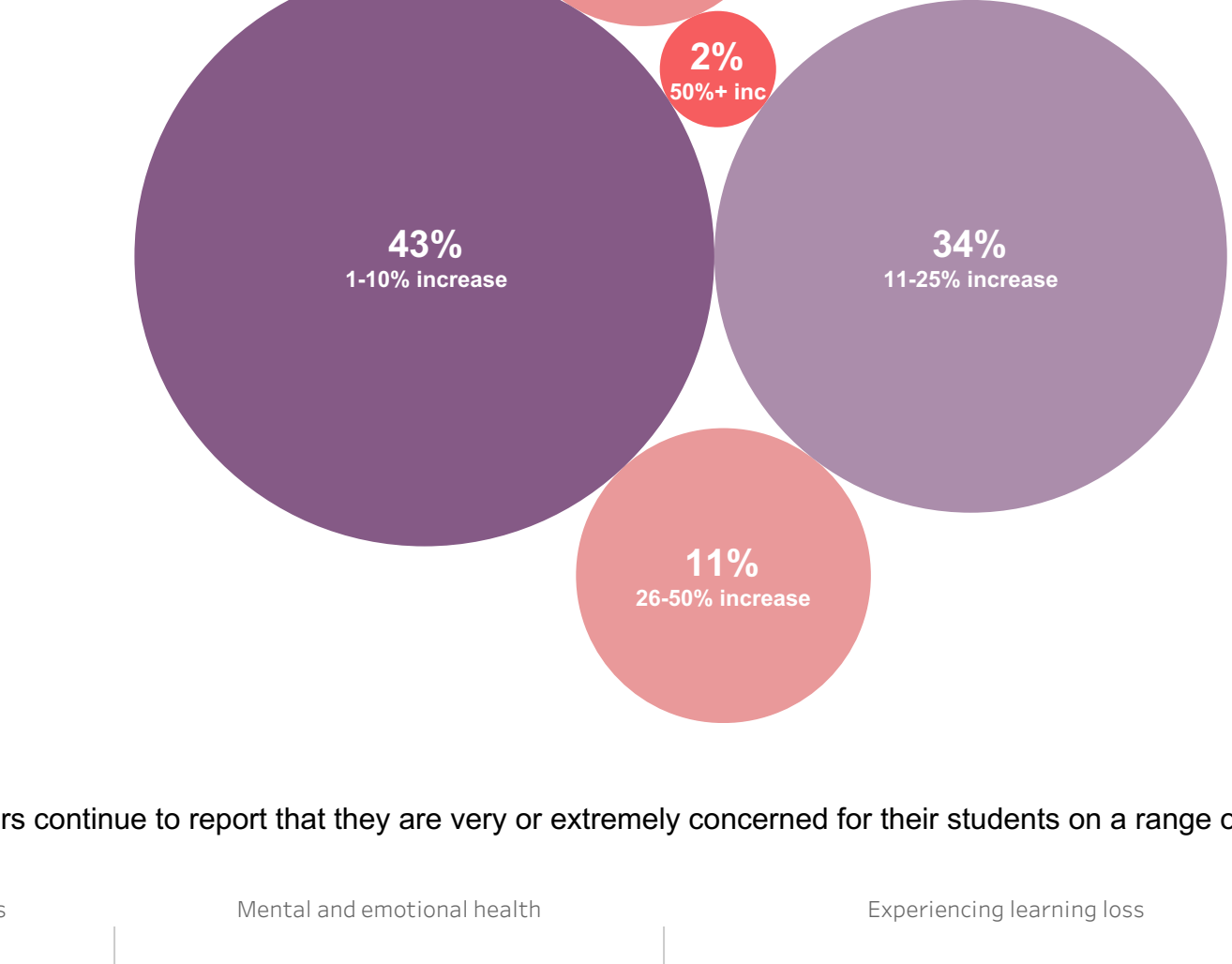
## Summer programs' staffing needs have shifted compared to the summer of 2020, with hiring more staff and increasing staff hours taking precedent:



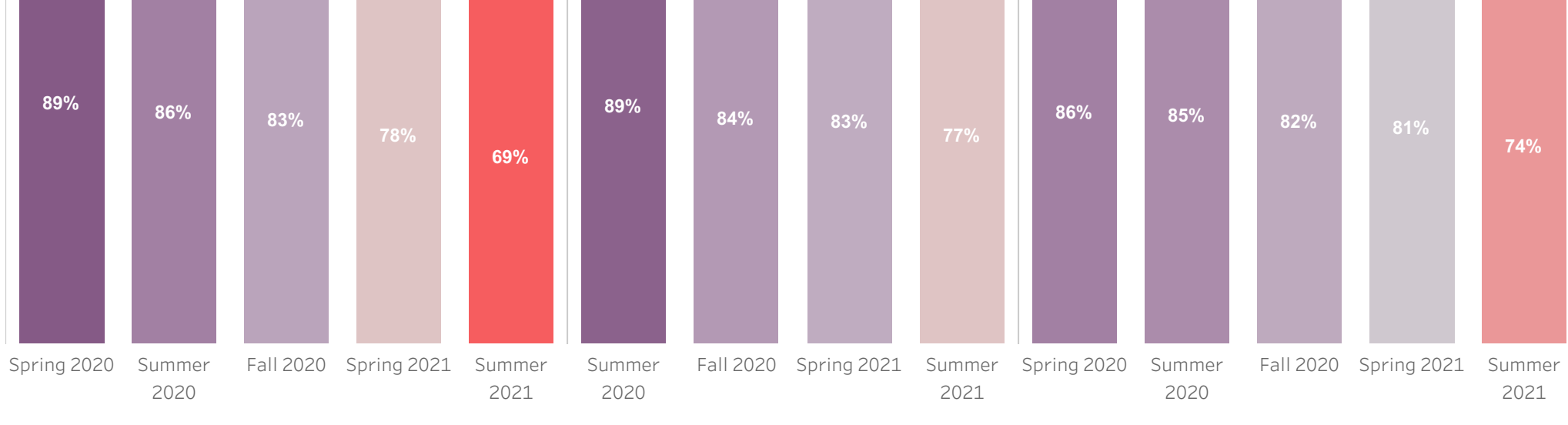
## Programs that report that their cost-per-child per week for in-person services has increased this summer:



## Among programs who reported an increase in costs, nearly half report an increase of more than 10 percent:

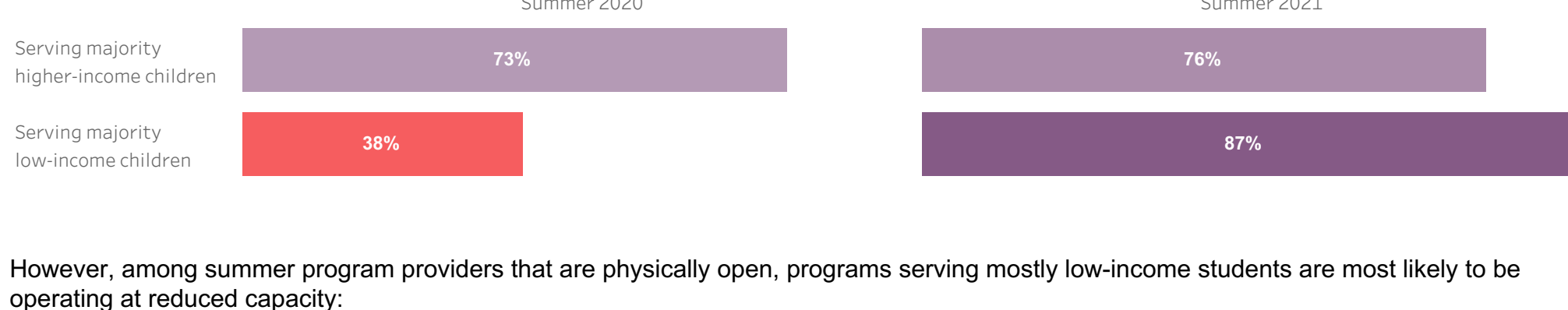


## While down slightly, most program providers continue to report that they are very or extremely concerned for their students on a range of issues:

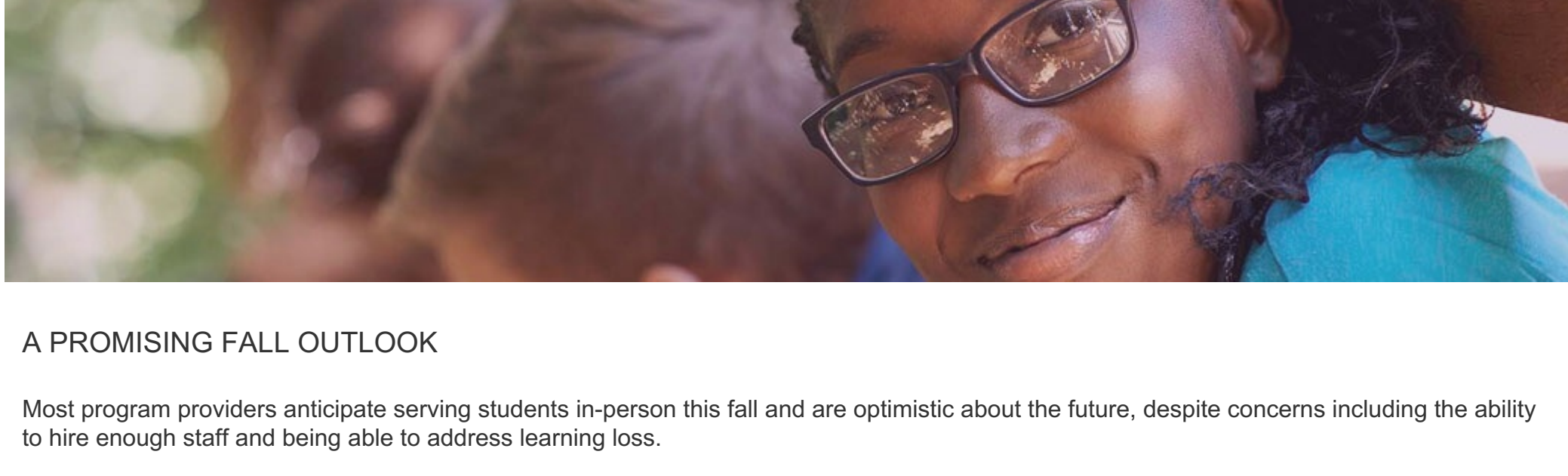
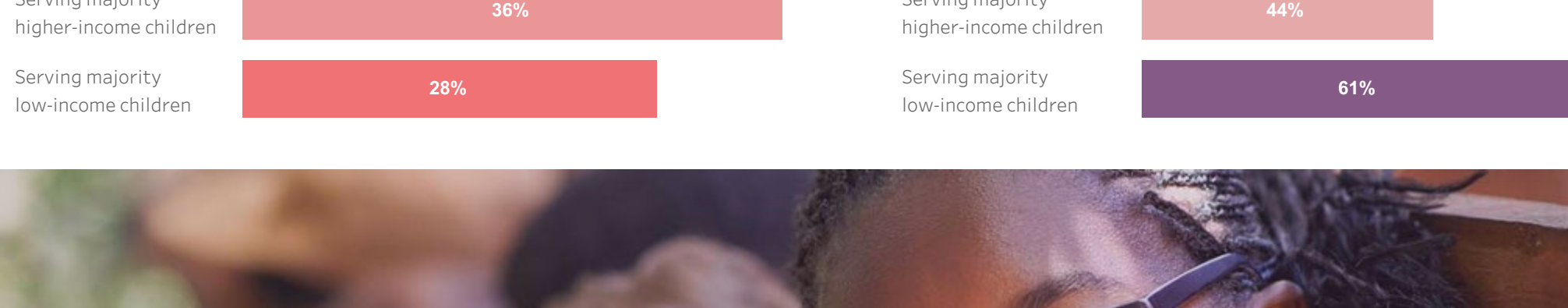


Compared to the summer of 2020, program providers are closing the opportunity gap, but inequities remain.

## Summer program providers serving mostly low-income children are now more likely to be physically open in some capacity compared to programs serving mostly higher-income children:



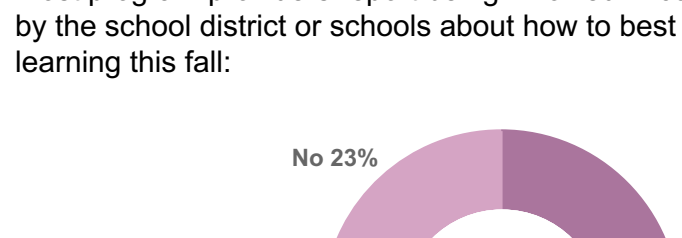
## However, among summer program providers that are physically open, programs serving mostly low-income students are most likely to be operating at reduced capacity:



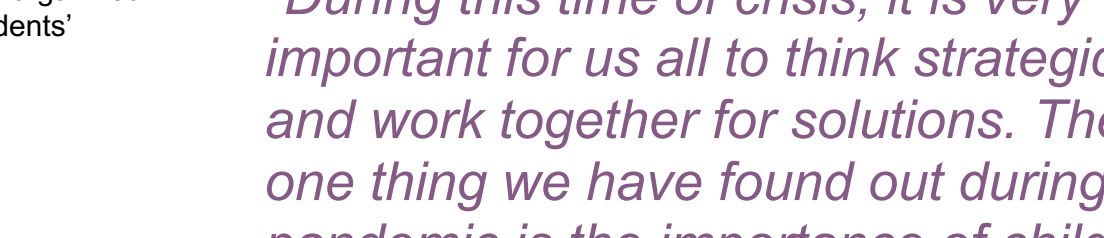
## A PROMISING FALL OUTLOOK

Most program providers anticipate serving students this fall and are optimistic about the future, despite concerns including the ability to hire enough staff and being able to address learning loss.

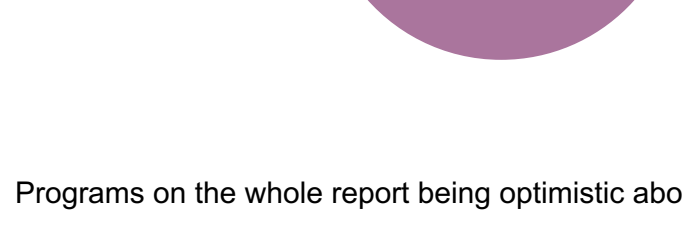
## Providers planning to offer programming in the fall:



## Among providers planning to serve students in the fall, they will be operating:



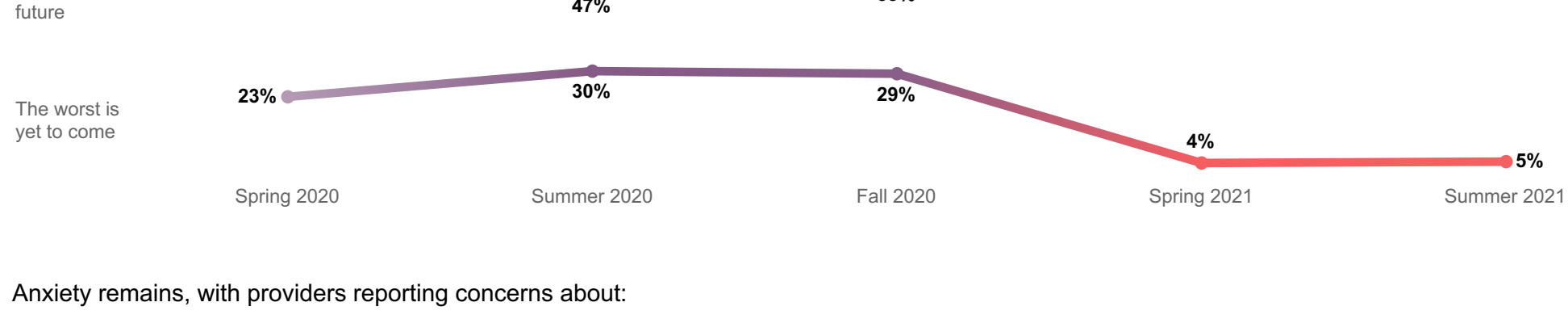
## Most program providers report being involved in conversations organized by the school district or schools about how to best support students' learning this fall:



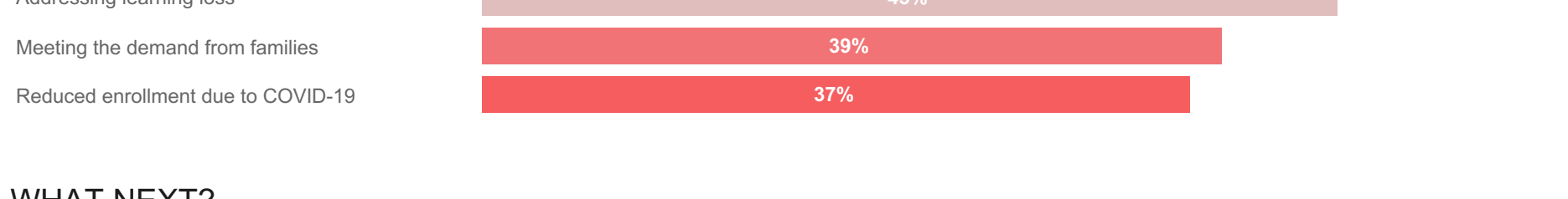
*"During this time of crisis, it is very important for us all to think creatively and work together for solutions. The one thing we have found out during the pandemic is the importance of child care and particularly afterschool for working parents."*

– Survey respondent, MO

## Programs on the whole report being optimistic about the future and that the worst is over:



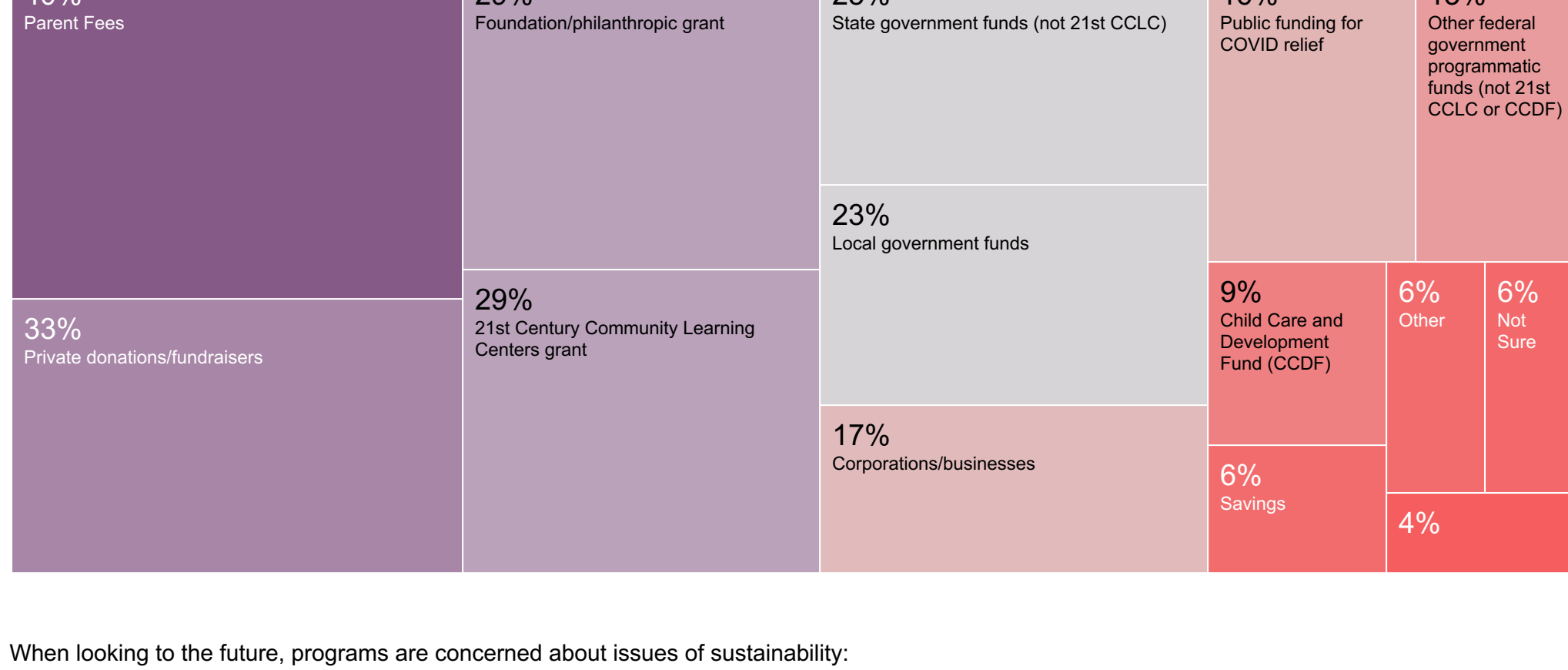
## Anxiety remains, with providers reporting concerns about:



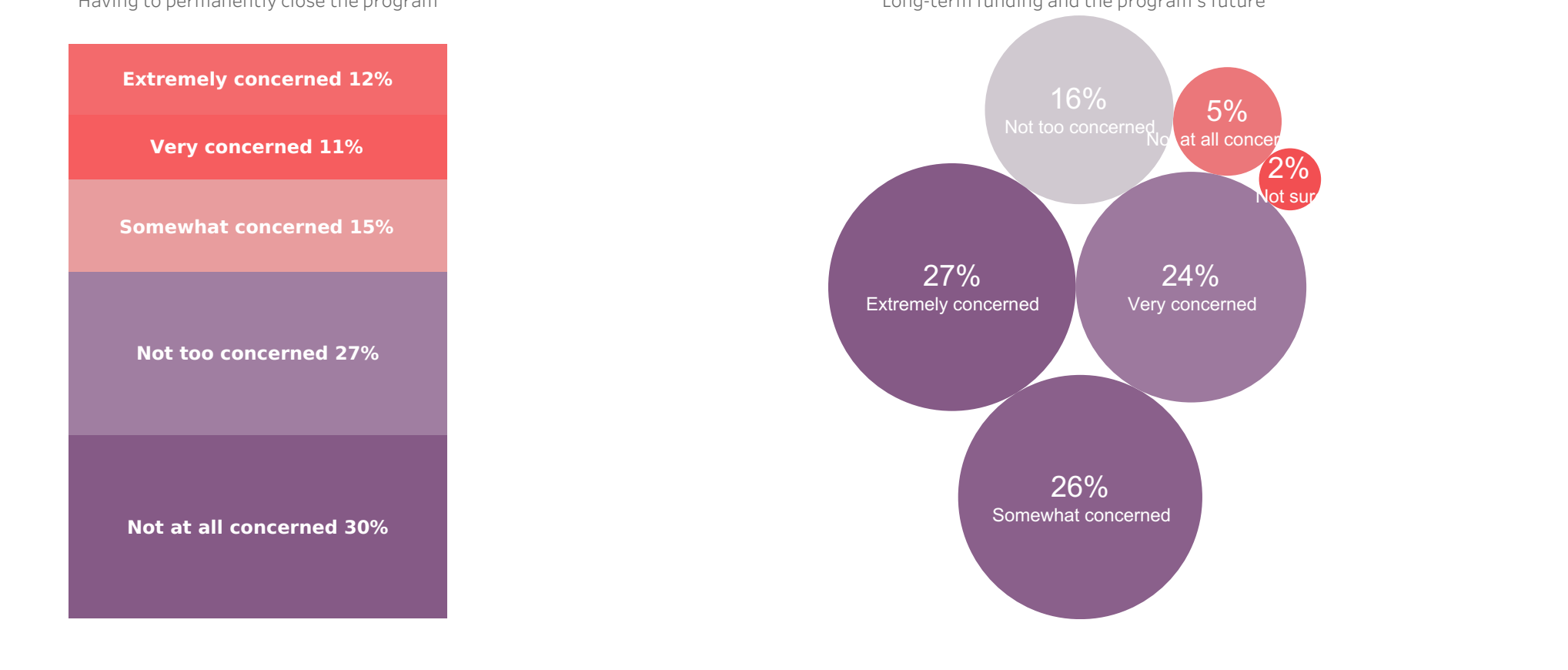
## WHAT NEXT?

Among program providers surveyed, fewer than 1 in 5 report receiving public funding for COVID-19 relief, such as the American Rescue Plan. As providers report waiting lists and express concerns regarding being able to meet the needs of the kids in their community and their programs' sustainability, more work needs to be done to connect afterschool and summer programs to federal funding flowing to states.

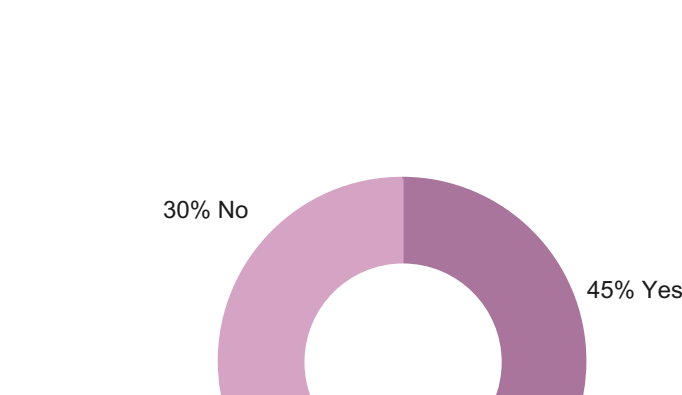
## Programs' primary funding sources are varied:



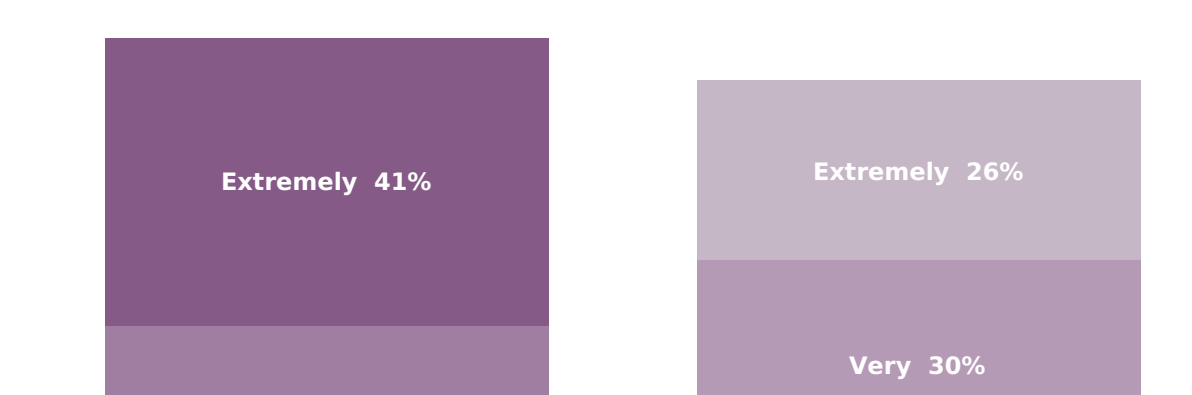
## When looking to the future, programs are concerned about issues of sustainability:



## A number of programs report that they have not been reached out to or been in conversations with local education leaders about receiving funding through federal COVID relief funds:



## Most programs that funding sources and guidance on how to access COVID relief funding is most important to them:



\* Also referenced in this dashboard are earlier waves of the survey: Wave 1 of the survey was conducted from May 28 to June 30, 2020 with 914 program providers; Wave 2 was conducted from July 20 to August 31, 2020 with 1,047 program providers; Wave 3 was conducted from September 28 to October 27, 2020 with 1,445 program providers; and Wave 4 was conducted from February 19 to March 15, 2021 with 1,235 program providers.