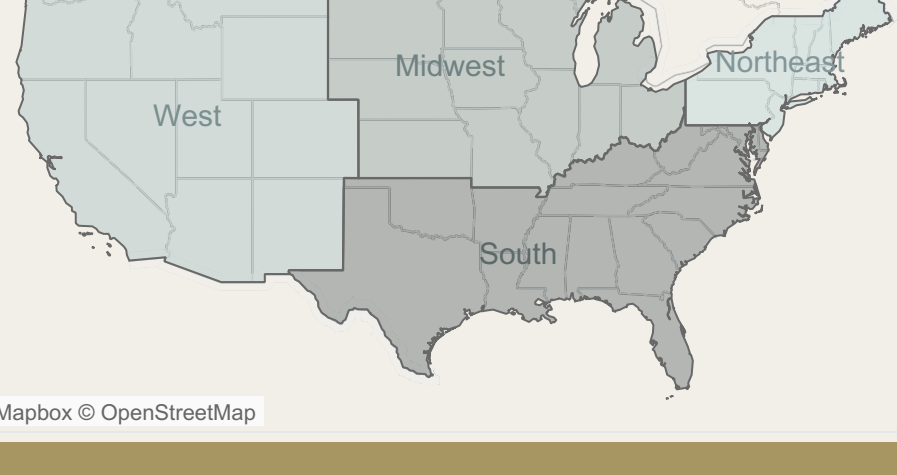


Visit the Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 survey page to find all program provider and parent surveys in this series, as well as related issue briefs and dashboards documenting the changing afterschool and summer landscape through the pandemic.

THEN AND NOW: A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE AFTERSCHOOL IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 SURVEY SERIES

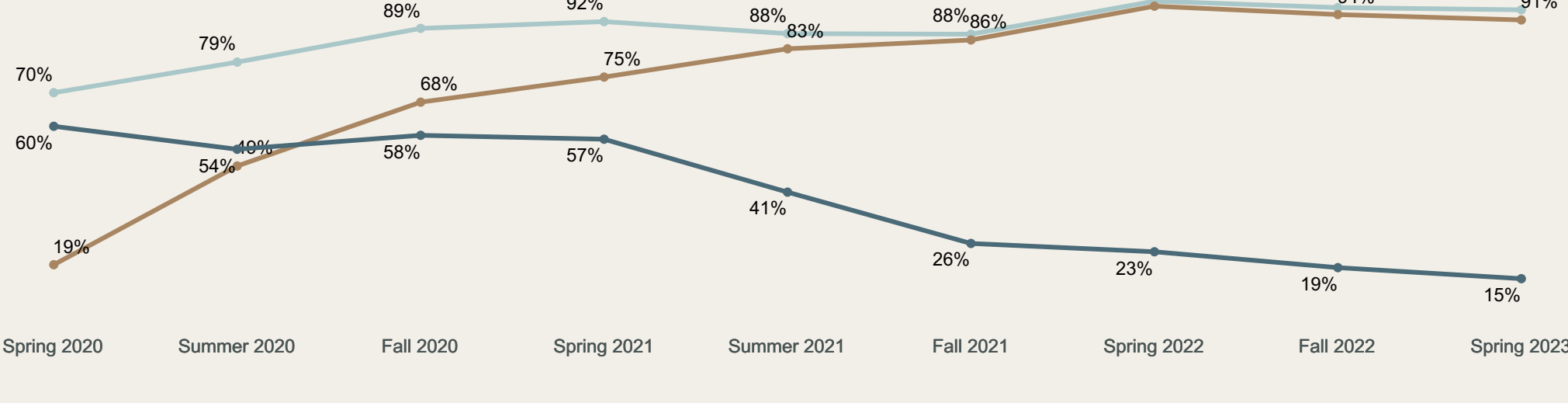
Over the course of the past three years, the U.S. has gone through a tumultuous time, from statewide stay-at-home orders in March 2020 to the recent end of the national and public health emergency declarations. We are grateful to the afterschool community for being generous with their time and responding to our series of surveys in the midst of this challenging time. This dashboard provides an overview of the afterschool field's changing landscape as it responded to the immediate needs of the children and families they served.



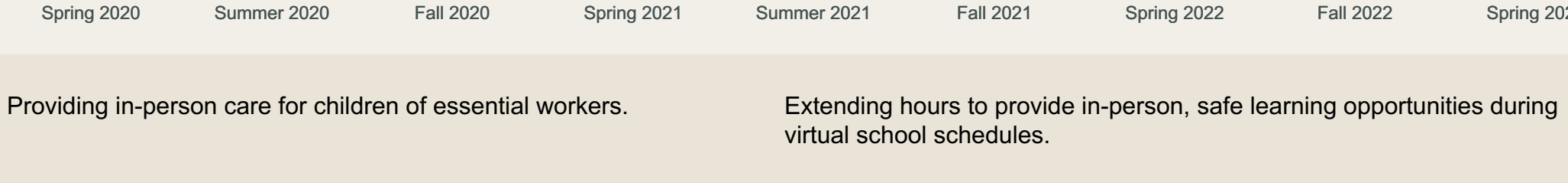
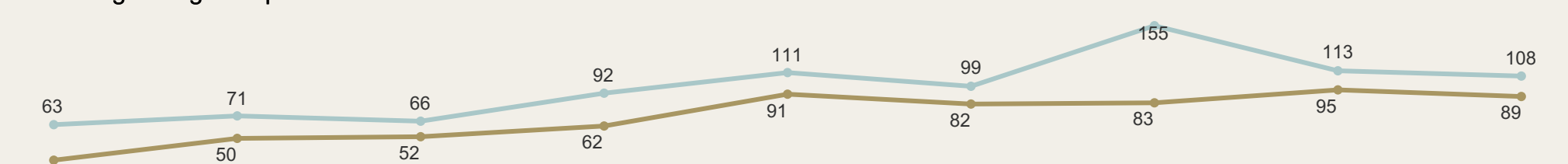
© 2023 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Responsive operations

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs found ways to stay open and continue to be a critical resource in their communities. In the early days of the pandemic, this took the shape of creating new online offerings and providing in-person care for the children of essential workers, and as schools began offering hybrid learning schedules, extending hours of operation to provide in-person, safe learning opportunities for student during virtual school schedules. Most programs stayed **open in some capacity**, while programs **open in-person** has **continued to increase** and **serving youth remotely** decreased.



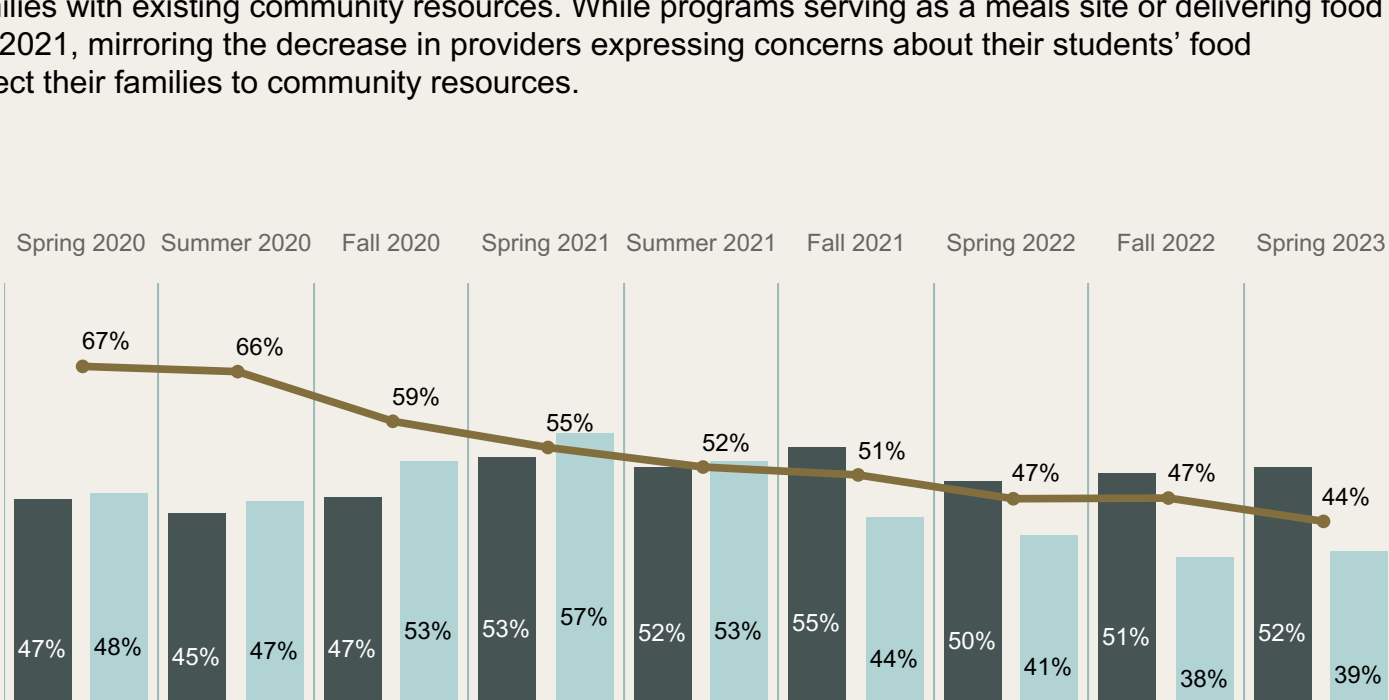
Similarly, the number of students served trended upwards, with the gap between the **total number of students** and **students served in-person** served closing through the pandemic.



Providing fundamental supports

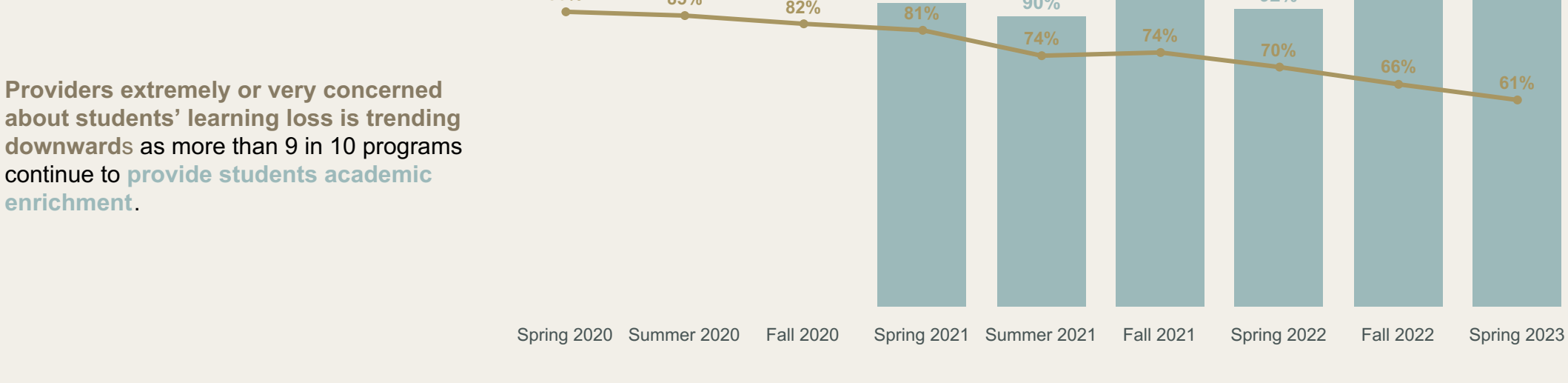
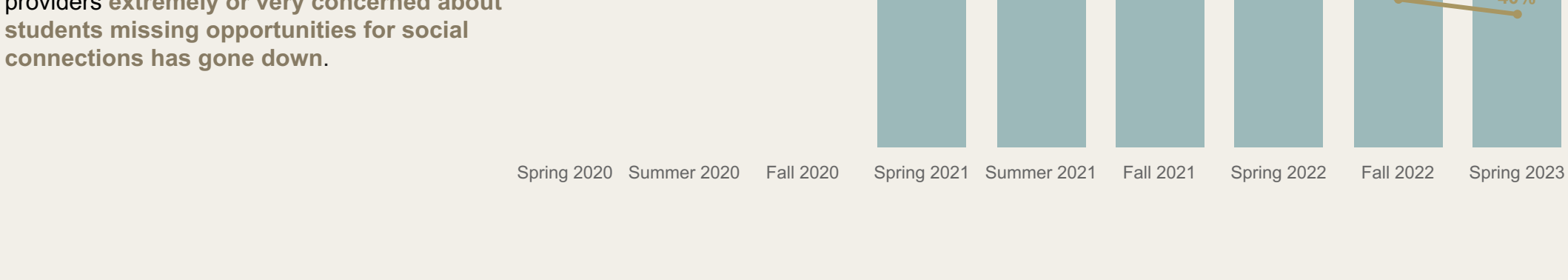
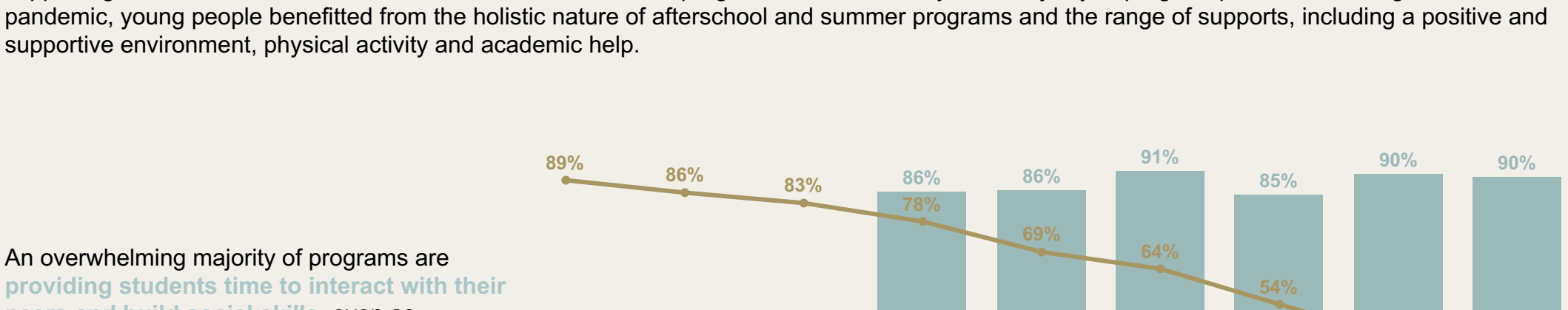
Afterschool and summer program providers saw families in their communities struggle with food insecurity, housing and job instability, and physical and mental health challenges during the pandemic. In response, many programs expanded their services to serve as a meals site or deliver food or other resources to families and helped connect families with existing community resources. While programs serving as a meals site or delivering food to families has decreased since the peak in Spring 2021, mirroring the decrease in providers expressing concerns about their students' food insecurity, a majority of programs continue to connect their families to community resources.

Providers serving as a meals site or delivering food or other resources to families largely correspond to the level of providers expressing high levels of concern about students' food insecurity. A majority of providers continue to connect families to community resources.



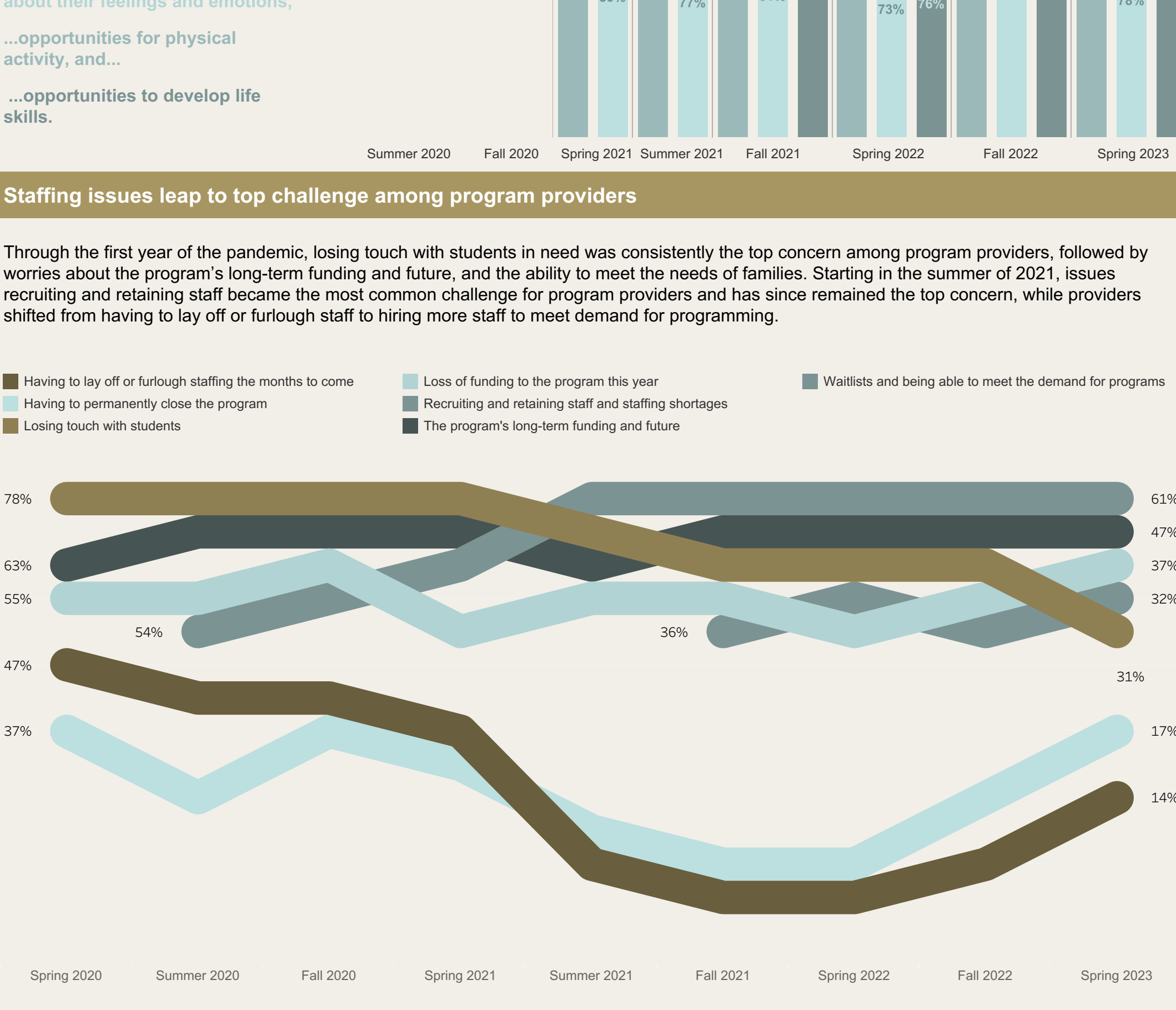
Shifting concerns about students' well-being

Young people missing out on opportunities for social connections, experiencing learning loss, and their mental and emotional health were top concerns among program providers at the start of the pandemic. Today, providing opportunities for social connections is less of a concern, while supporting student's mental and emotional health and academic progress remains a worry for a majority of program providers. Throughout the pandemic, young people benefitted from the holistic nature of afterschool and summer programs and the range of supports, including a positive and supportive environment, physical activity and academic help.

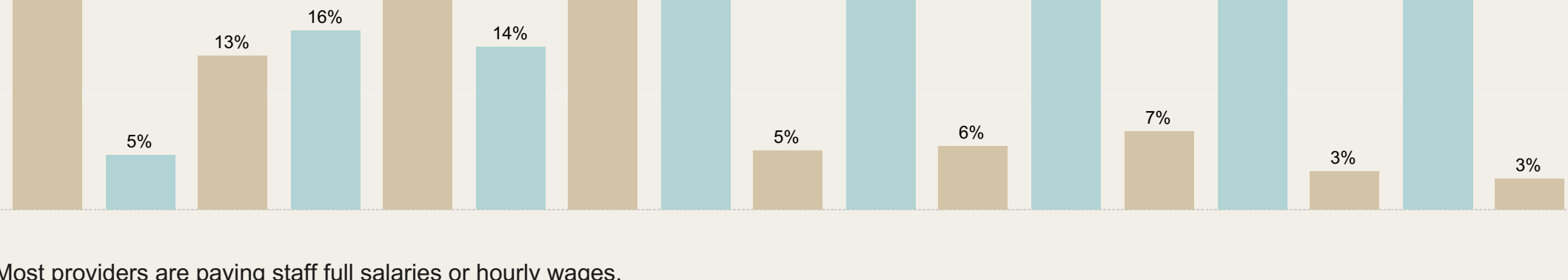
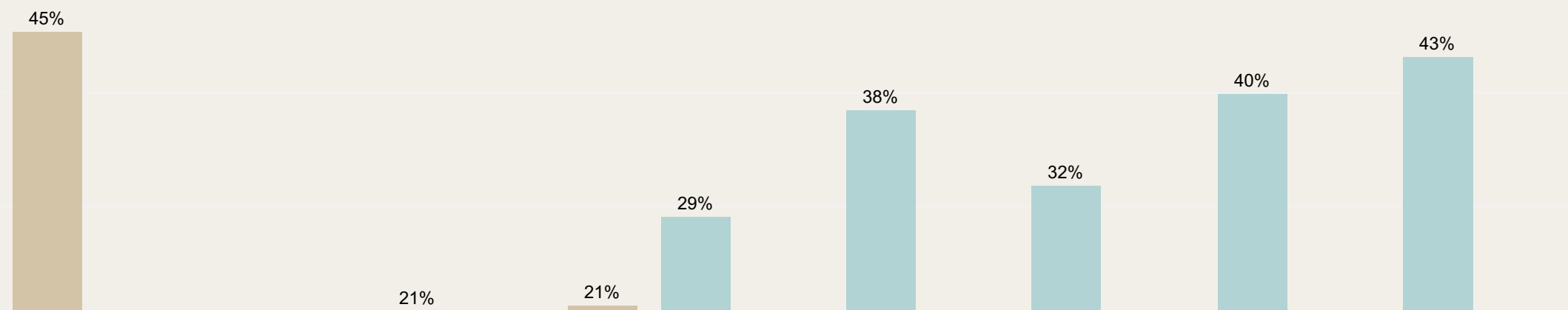


Staffing issues leap to top challenge among program providers

Through the first year of the pandemic, losing touch with students in need was consistently the top concern among program providers, followed by worries about the program's long-term funding and future, and the ability to meet the needs of families. Starting in the summer of 2021, issues recruiting and retaining staff became the most common challenge for program providers and has since remained the top concern, while providers shifted from having to lay off or furlough staff to hiring more staff to meet demand for programming.

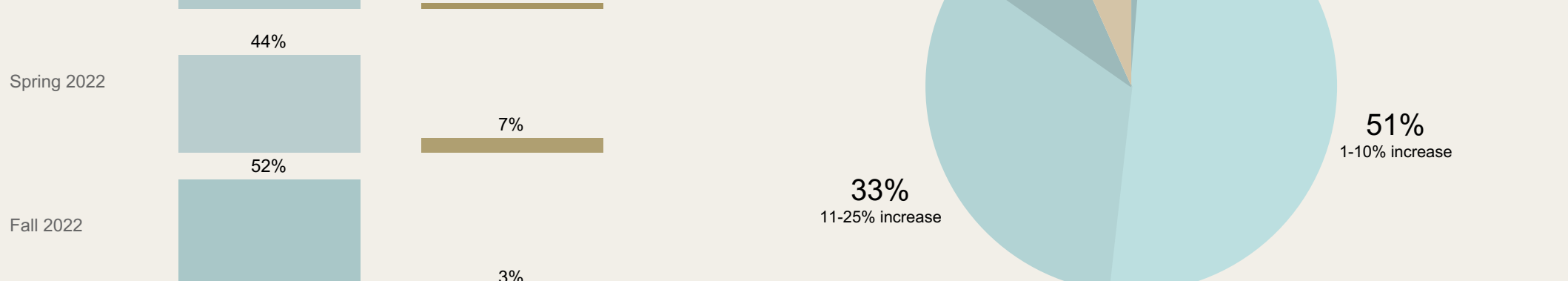
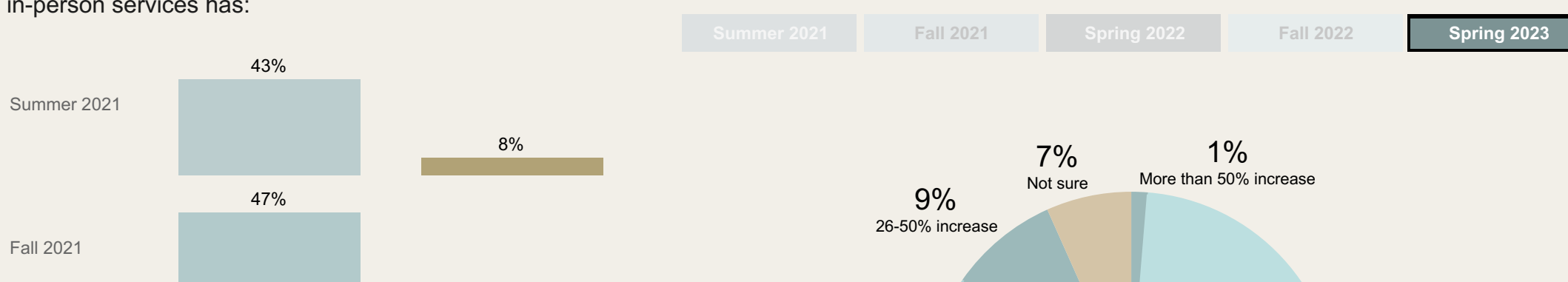
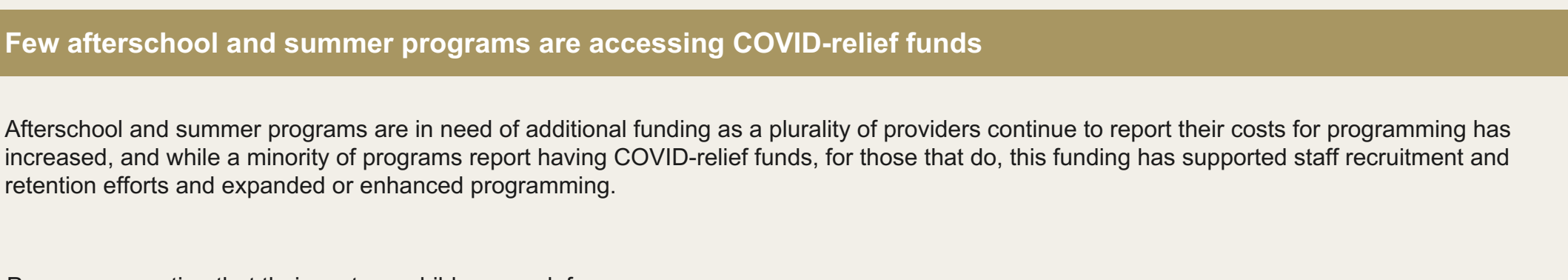


Programs hiring more staff has increased, while programs laying off, furloughing, or suspending work for staff is at a minimum.

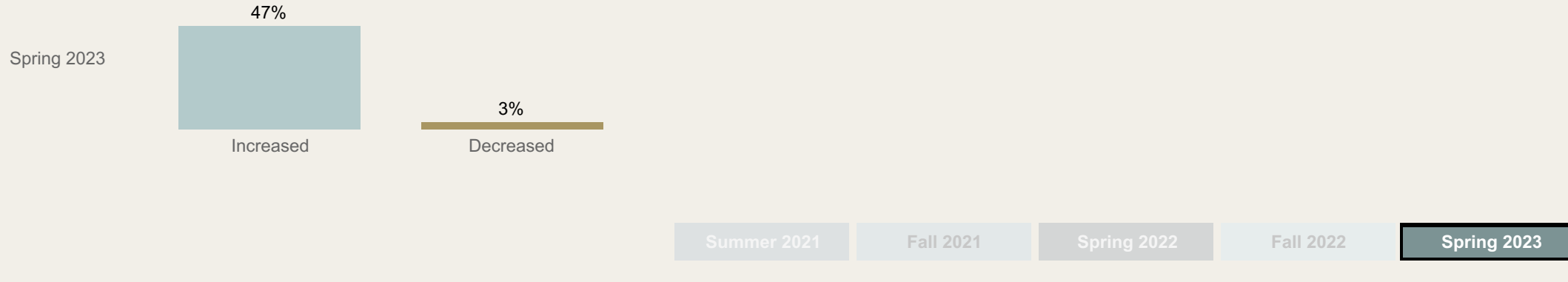


Few afterschool and summer programs are accessing COVID-relief funds

Afterschool and summer programs are in need of additional funding as a plurality of providers continue to report their costs for programming has increased, and while a minority of programs report having COVID-relief funds, for those that do, this funding has supported staff recruitment and retention efforts and expanded or enhanced programming.

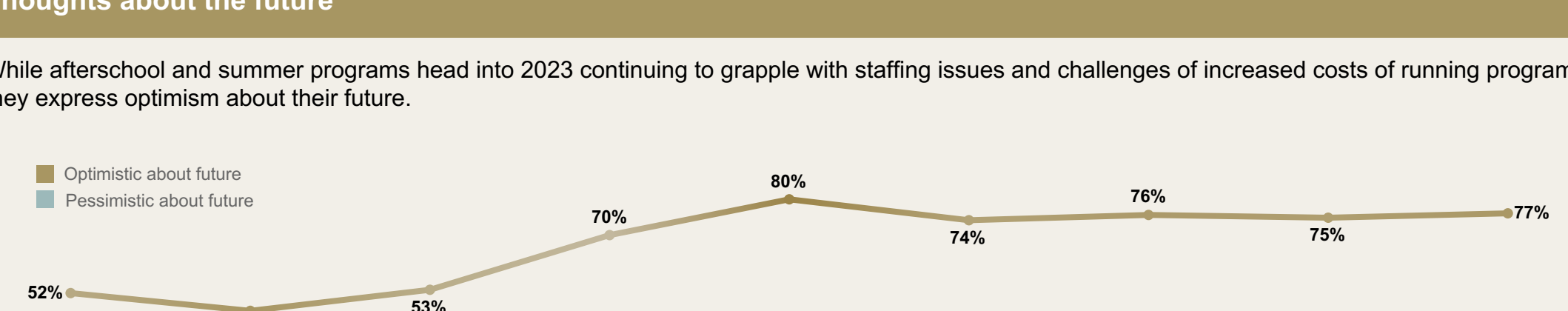


17% of providers received COVID-relief funds in Spring 2023.



Thoughts about the future

While optimism and summer programs head into 2023 continuing to grapple with staffing issues and challenges of increased costs of running programs, they express optimism about their future.



Learn More

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Spring 2020	914
Summer 2020	1,047
Fall 2020	1,445
Spring 2021	1,235
Summer 2021	937
Fall 2021	1,048
Spring 2022	948
Spring 2023	1,199

Wave 1 of the survey was conducted May 28-Jun. 30, 2020 of 914 program providers; Wave 2 was conducted Jul. 20-Aug. 31, 2020 of 1,047 program providers; Wave 3 was conducted Sep. 28-Oct. 27, 2020 of 1,445 program providers; Wave 4 was conducted Feb. 19-Mar. 15, 2021 of 1,235 program providers; Wave 5 was conducted Jun. 2-28, 2021, of 937 program providers; and Wave 6 was conducted Nov. 1-Dec. 13, 2021, of 1,048 program providers.