

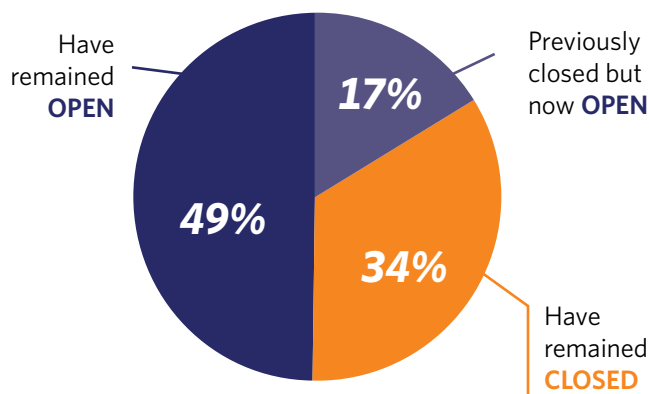
# Arizona can't get back to work without child care.

Child care is crucial to Arizona's economy. Yet, one-third of licensed and regulated child care providers — businesses that Arizona families count on to care for their young children while they work — have been forced to close due to the pandemic. And those providers who remain open are serving significantly fewer children than they did before the crisis.

Child Care Resource & Referral recently surveyed licensed child care providers statewide about their current and future status. The resulting data — from 831 providers across all 15 counties — reveals an industry on the brink of collapse and presents an opportunity for Arizona leaders from all sectors to preserve child care so Arizona can get back to work.

The following is based on responses of 831 licensed child care providers (of the nearly 3,000 in Arizona) given at the time of the survey, between May 26 and June 19, 2020, including family child care homes, child care centers and school district programs.

**1/3** of licensed and regulated child care providers have been forced to close.



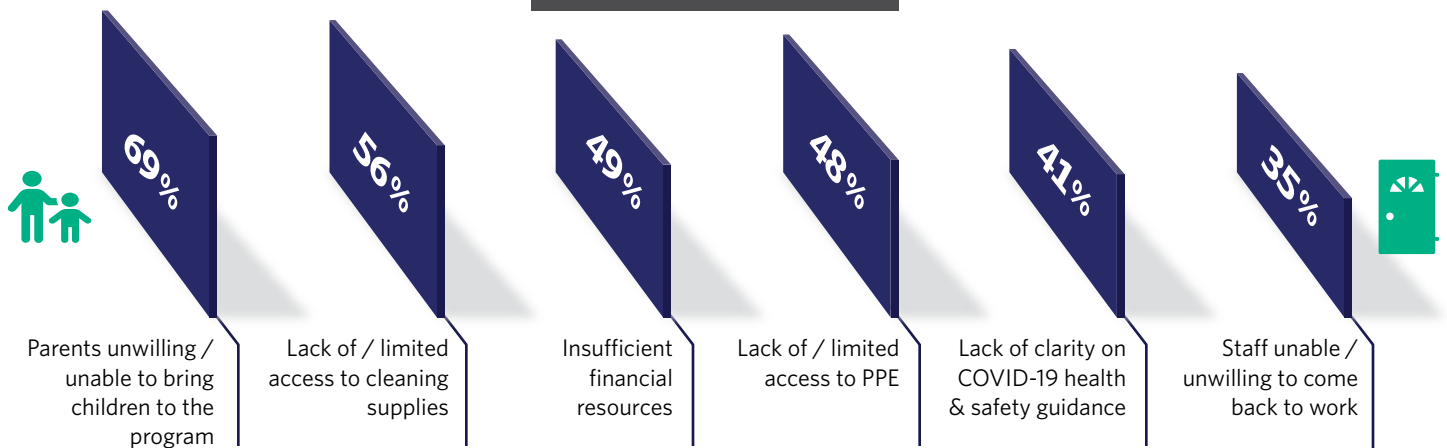
Programs now serving just **38%** of the total number of children they were prior to COVID-19.



**40%** of programs have had to lay off or furlough staff.

<b>36%</b> planned to open by the end of July.	<b>62%</b> planned to open in Aug. or Sept., with the start of school.	<b>2%</b> are permanently closed.
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## BARRIERS TO REOPENING



### STAFF CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO WORK\*

- Potential for getting sick
- Risk to vulnerable family members
- Access to PPE
- Meeting health and safety guidelines in my program



\*From a separate survey of child care providers conducted by the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry

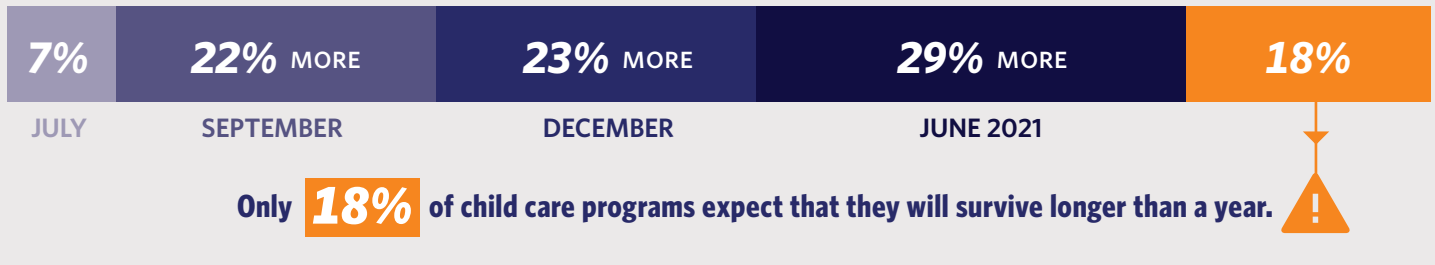
## Child care providers nationwide are holding on until help comes.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) surveyed more than 5,000 child care providers across the country between June 19 and June 30, 2020. The findings further illustrate the growing concern about the child care industry's ability to weather the pandemic without significant help. Visit [NAEYC.org/pandemic-surveys](https://naeyc.org/pandemic-surveys) to read the full report.

### PROGRAM CLOSURES IN THE U.S.

**18%** of child care centers and **9%** of child care homes remained CLOSED.

Additional program closures are expected as the crisis continues.



### INCREASED MONTHLY COSTS

Increased monthly costs to operate during the pandemic for staff, cleaning supplies and PPE:



**2** OUT OF **5** providers are certain they will close permanently without additional public assistance.

## Arizona's economy can't rise if our child care industry falls.

The loss of enrollment, coupled with the increased operating costs associated with enhanced safety measures, is forcing many providers out of business. Those that do survive the COVID-19 pandemic may be able to serve only a fraction of the children they did before, depending on ongoing health and safety considerations, available staff and family choices. At the same time, prolonged school closures will drive up the demand for care. Without plentiful, safe and reliable care options, families will be forced to choose between returning to work or staying home to care for their children.

**Arizonans across all sectors must act now to preserve the child care industry that keeps our families working and our kids learning.**

An alliance of 40 cross-sector partners statewide, AZECA is Arizona's shared and unified voice on early childhood. Our goal is to ensure all Arizona's children are prepared for kindergarten and are ready to succeed in school, the workforce, and in life. Learn more at [AZECA.org](https://azeca.org).

