

# METHODS FOR SURVEYING FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, AND CAREGIVERS

December 2020

Brief 6

To understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Massachusetts, we launched three COVID-19 focused surveys in Spring 2020 with samples of 1) parents and guardians of young children, 2) early education and care providers, and 2) early elementary school teachers across the state. The samples were drawn from participants in the Early Learning Study at Harvard (ELS@H), a longitudinal, population-based study of early education and care, which has, since 2017, been following a representative group of families with young children in Massachusetts and their education and care providers and schools.

This brief describes the methodological approach we adopted in conducting the three surveys.

	When was the survey conducted?	How was the survey conducted?	Who completed the survey?
Parents and Guardians	April to June 2020	<p>2,719 parents/guardians of consented study children were invited to complete COVID-related questions via electronic survey.</p> <p>Parents/guardians received up to 3 email reminders to complete the survey during the field period.</p>	<p>1,172 parents and guardians of 1,209 5- to 7-year old ELS@H-participating children completed the survey, for a response rate of 43%.</p>
Early Educators and Caregivers	April to June 2020	<p>925 early education and care programs, including community-based child care, family child care, Head Start, and public school pre-kindergarten programs associated with ELS@H study children in the first two years of the study, were contacted to complete the survey.</p> <p>Of the 925 programs contacted, 788 were included in the survey efforts as 137 were non-responsive or their administrative agency refused to participate.</p> <p>Program-level contacts were asked to send the survey link to the center director (if applicable) or public school principal (if they directly managed the public school prekindergarten programs) and to all lead teachers of 3- and 4-year old children.</p>	<p>693 educators and caregivers in 310 early education and care settings completed the survey, for a provider-level response rate of 34%.</p>

	When was the survey conducted?	How was the survey conducted?	Who completed the survey?
Early Elementary School Teachers	May to July 2020	<p><b>473 teachers</b> (primarily kindergarten and 1st grade) across Massachusetts with ELS@H study children in the third year of the study were invited to complete the survey.</p> <p>Most schools required initial administrative agency recruitment (i.e., obtaining approval for the effort from public/charter school districts, etc.) prior to contacting individual schools.</p>	<p><b>252 teachers</b>, primarily kindergarten/1st grade teachers, in 125 schools, for a response rate of 54%.</p> <p>Respondent sample represents 21% (67) of public/charter school districts in Massachusetts that enroll kindergarten and/or 1st grade students, plus an additional 24 independent schools not governed by public/charter districts.</p>

Timeline of Survey Completion for Three ELS@H COVID Surveys

