

# Understood YouGov parents survey

## Research summary – August 2020

### Comprehensive Survey Reveals Parents Now Noticing Changes in Children's Behavior

With many families spending more time together during the COVID-19 pandemic, parents and caregivers may notice things about their children's behavior that they don't fully understand.

The Understood/YouGov survey of more than 2,000 parents of 5- to 17-year-olds found that 69% of these parents have become more aware of the challenges their child faces in school than before the pandemic, and more than a third (37%) report noticing changes in their child's behavior. Yet among the parents who noticed changes in their child's behavior, fewer than 1 in 3 (28%) sought guidance or support from a health care provider. The survey also found that 57% of parents of children diagnosed with a learning and thinking difference report that it took a long time for their child to be diagnosed. And among these same parents, 62% wish they'd had a tool or resource to help them track changes in their child's behavior before the diagnosis.

## Survey methodology

YouGov, on behalf of Understood, conducted an online survey among parents of children ages 5–17 in the United States (referred to throughout as “parents”). A total of 2,049 parents were surveyed about:

- Impact of COVID-19 and distance learning
- Challenges at home and with school
- Changes in behavior and attitude

For the purposes of this survey, parents of “typical” children are defined as those whose children have not exhibited signs of learning differences or have not been diagnosed with a learning difference. This is in contrast to parents of children who are symptomatic or have been diagnosed with a learning disability or ADHD.

The survey was conducted between July 22 and August 3, 2020.

For more information, access to our experts, and additional research from Understood, please contact the communications team at: [media@understood.org](mailto:media@understood.org)

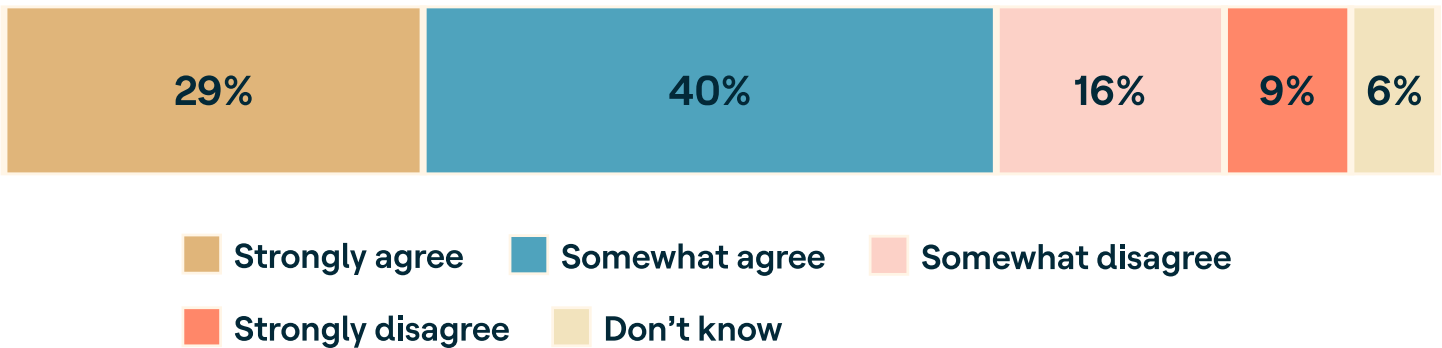
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A majority (69%) of parents are more aware of the challenges their child faces in school.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

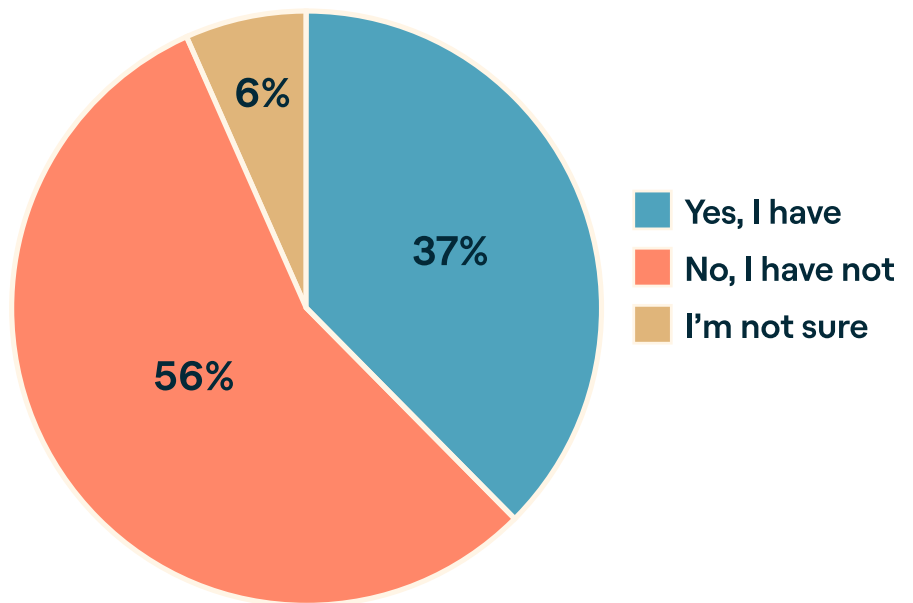
**“While at home, I’ve become more aware of the challenges my child faces.”\***

\* Multiple statements were shown to each respondent, but we are reporting on a specific statement for this chart.



More than 1 in 3 parents noticed their child having new or different types of behaviors.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak has made so many families spend way more time with their children (24/7 for some in total lockdown), have you noticed your child having new or different types of behaviors?

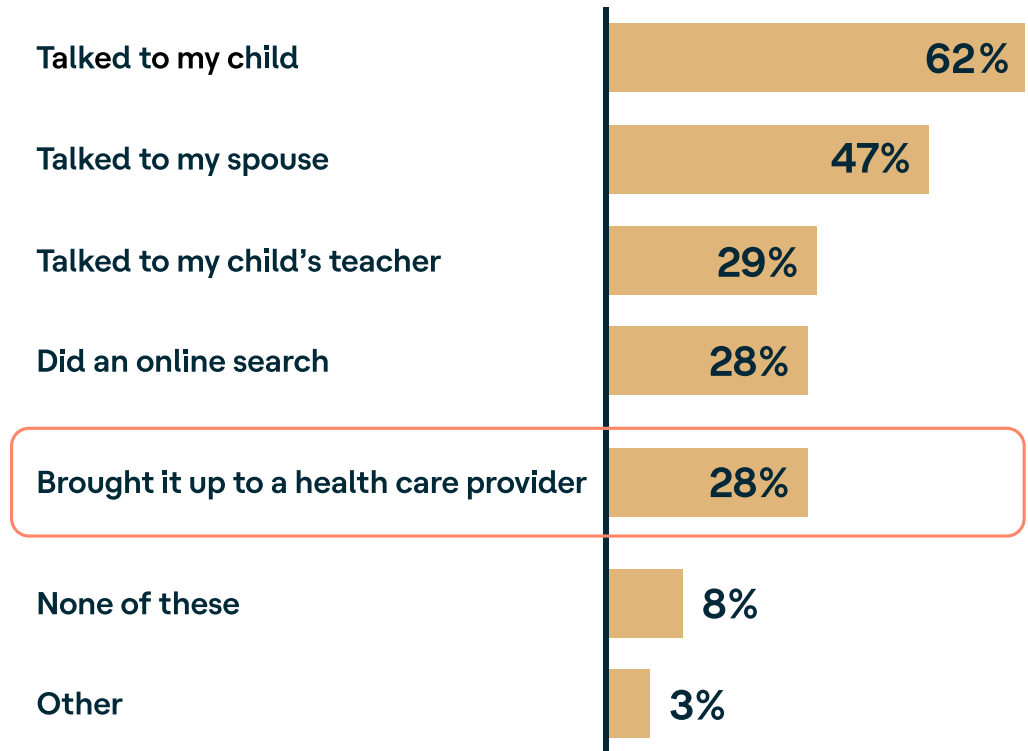


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**Only 28% of parents sought guidance from a health care provider.**

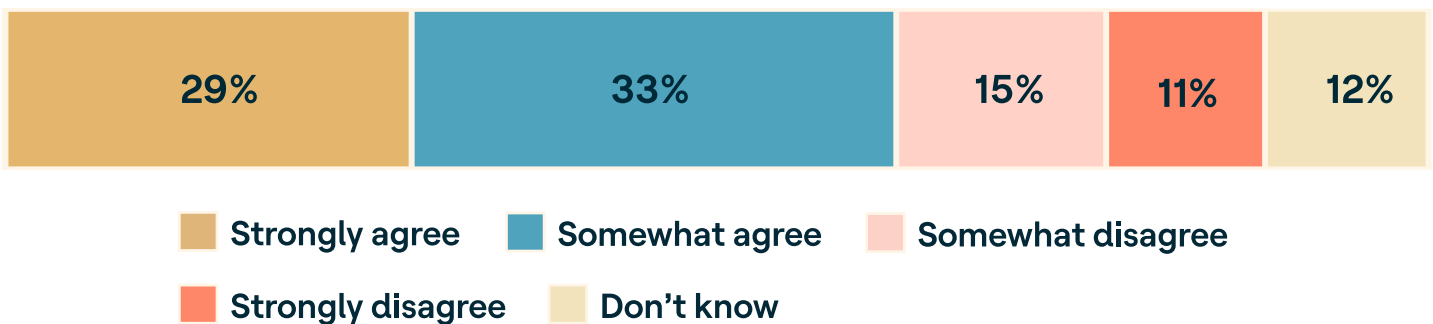
*Which, if any, of the following did you do when you noticed changes in your child's behavior? Please select all that apply.*



**More than half (62%) of parents with diagnosed kids wish they'd had a tool to track changes in their child's behavior prior to their diagnosis.**

*How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I wish I had a tool or resource that helped me track changes in my child's behavior prior to their diagnosis."\**

*\* Multiple statements were shown to each respondent, but we are reporting on a specific statement for this chart.*



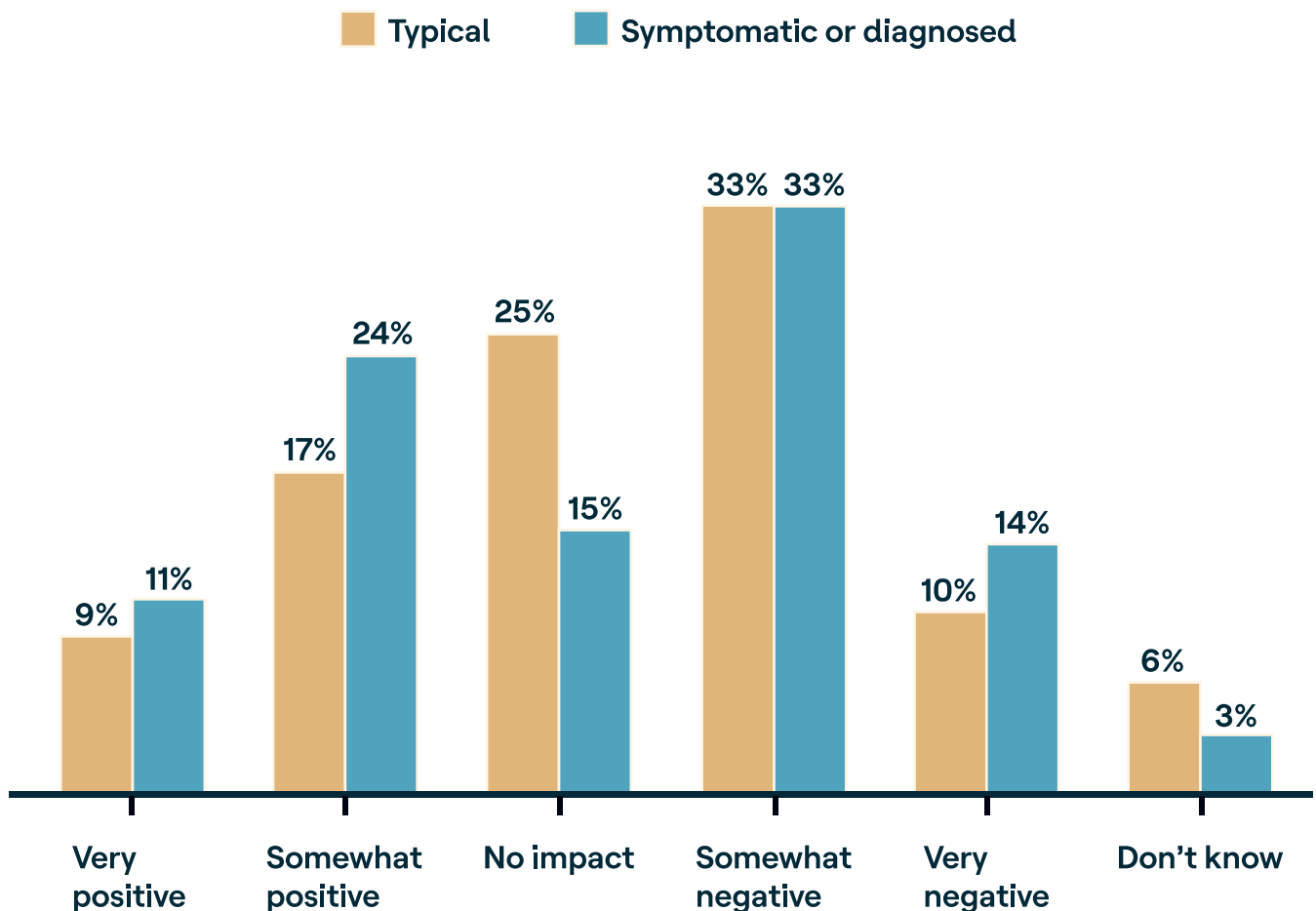
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## Distance learning

When it comes to the impact of distance learning, parents of symptomatic or diagnosed children are more likely to report either a somewhat positive or very negative impact on their child's education.

*Thinking about the past few months and education moving to distance learning, how positive or negative of an impact has distance learning had on your child's education?*



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They are also much more likely to agree that it's been difficult to get their child's teachers' attention and that their child has struggled with distance learning.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Note: Percentages shown represent the total of those who strongly agree or somewhat agree with each statement.

■ Typical     ■ Symptomatic or diagnosed

The way kids feel can have a big impact on how well they learn



I wish I had access to resources to help me continue my child's education



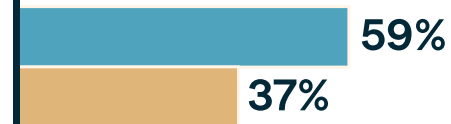
My child has been extremely successful because of distance learning



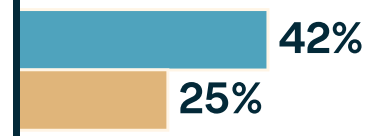
My child has struggled with distance learning



I am worried my child will be left behind due to COVID-19



It has been difficult to get my child's teachers' attention



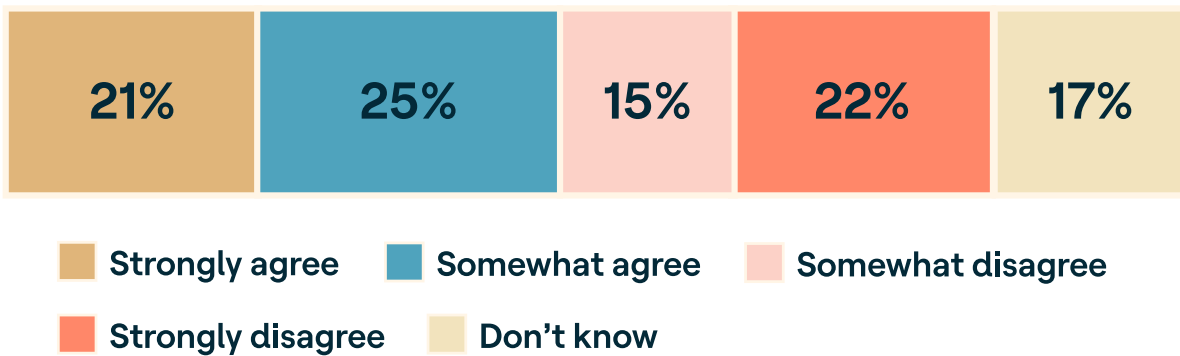
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Less than half (46%) of parents with diagnosed children report that services provided under their child's IEP have continued at the same rate.

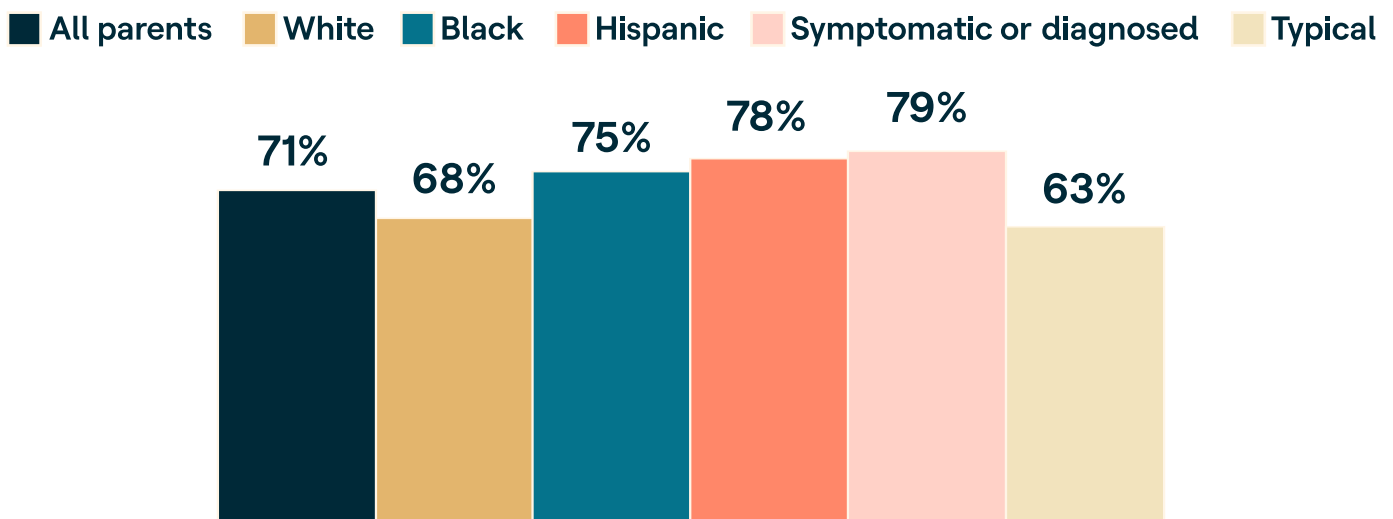
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Services provided under my child's IEP have continued at the same rate as before the COVID-19 outbreak." \*

\* Multiple statements were shown to each respondent, but we are reporting on a specific statement for this chart.



All parents are concerned for this school year, but parents of children with diagnosed learning differences are most worried.

How concerned are you that your child will face challenges this upcoming school year because they did not have the same education due to the COVID-19 outbreak?



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