

Return to school and COVID-19

Results on survey of Manitoba parents



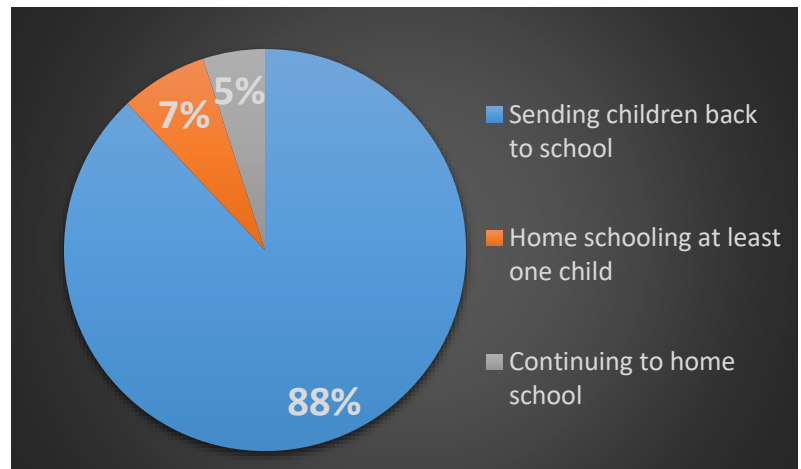
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Almost 1 in 10 parents not planning to send children to school this September

With just under a week prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year, we asked parents if they plan on sending their children back to school or if they will be home schooling their children. Overall, 88% of parents plan on sending their children back to school this September, while 12% will be home schooling. The 12% includes 7% who had previously been sending their children to school, but are choosing to home school instead. When those who had already been home schooling prior to the pandemic are removed, this increases to 8% of parents who plan to home school this September who had not been home schooling before the pandemic.

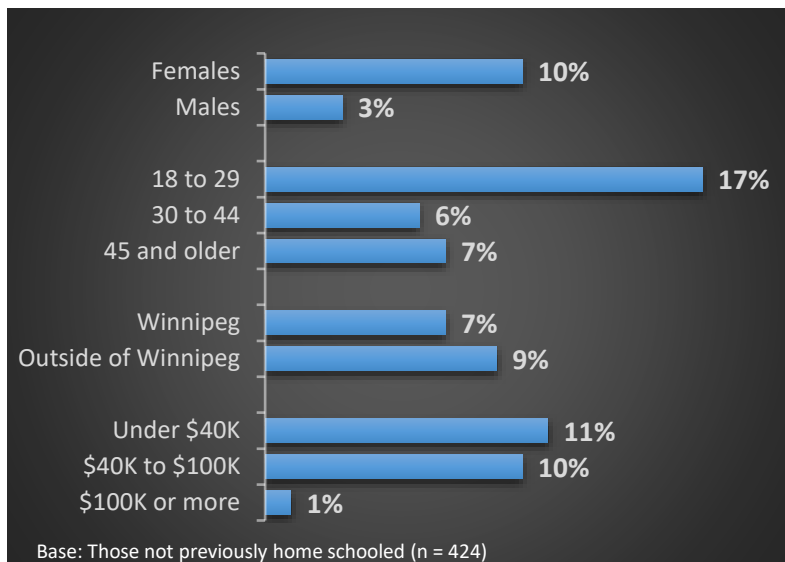
When asked what would convince them to send their children back to school in September rather than home schooling, the most common reasons given were related to having additional restrictions in place (most often smaller classroom sizes), having greater clarity from their school division about the policies being implemented related to COVID-19, or guarantees that in-person schooling would continue for the entire year.



Lower income, women, and younger parents most likely to be home schooling

When looking at those who had not been previously home schooling their children prior to the pandemic, results show significant differences between groups. The most noticeable is that parents who are 18 to 29 are about twice as likely as those 30 and older to say they will be home schooling their children. In addition, those in the highest income group (\$100,000 or more annually) are very unlikely to be home schooling their children.

These differences are likely due to a number of factors, most likely linked to employment, as those in the highest income households and over 30 are most likely to be employed, and may not be able to home school their children if they wanted.



METHODOLOGY

PRA conducted the survey from August 28 – September 1, 2020, using its Manitoba Panel. In total, 444 Manitobans completed the survey.

Because this sample is a non-probability sample, no error rate can be calculated. A random population survey of this size would yield an error rate of $\pm 4.6\%$ (19 times out of 20).

As any sample may not represent the population perfectly, PRA corrects statistically for discrepancies in gender, age, and income to ensure that the sample corresponds as closely as possible to Statistics Canada information.

CONTACT

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PRA is an independent research and consulting company. Its head office in Winnipeg houses a research call centre and focus group facilities. Founded in 1988, the company conducts large- and small-scale quantitative and qualitative research in both official languages.

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