A woman with her hair in a bun and glasses, wearing a denim shirt, is smiling and holding a young child in a pink jacket. They are in a community setting, possibly a clinic or office, with a desk and various items like a hand sanitizer bottle and a cup visible in the foreground. The background shows a wooden door and a window.

mumsnet

by parents for parents

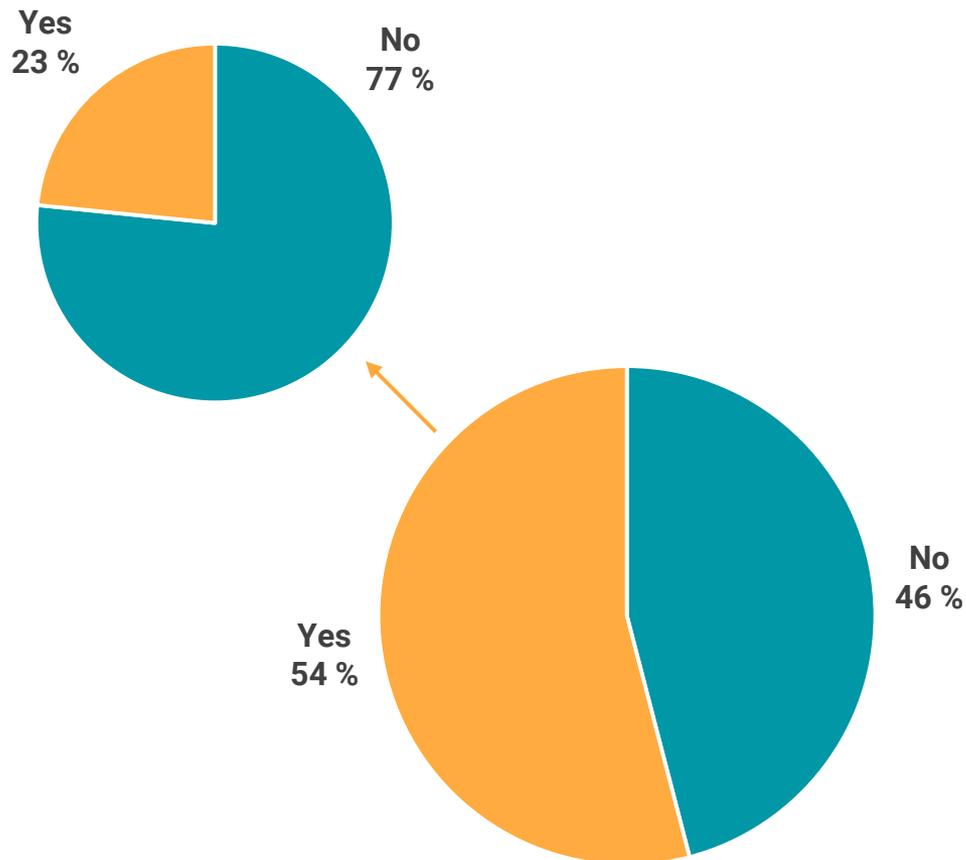
RMHC survey

Methodology

- Survey of 1,711 parents with at least one child under the age of 18.
- Respondents were asked to imagine how they would feel and/or react if they had a child who was hospitalised overnight, in some instances at a distance from their home.
- The survey was open from the 31st May 2019 to 3th June 2019.
- The data is not weighted and charts are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated.

Key findings

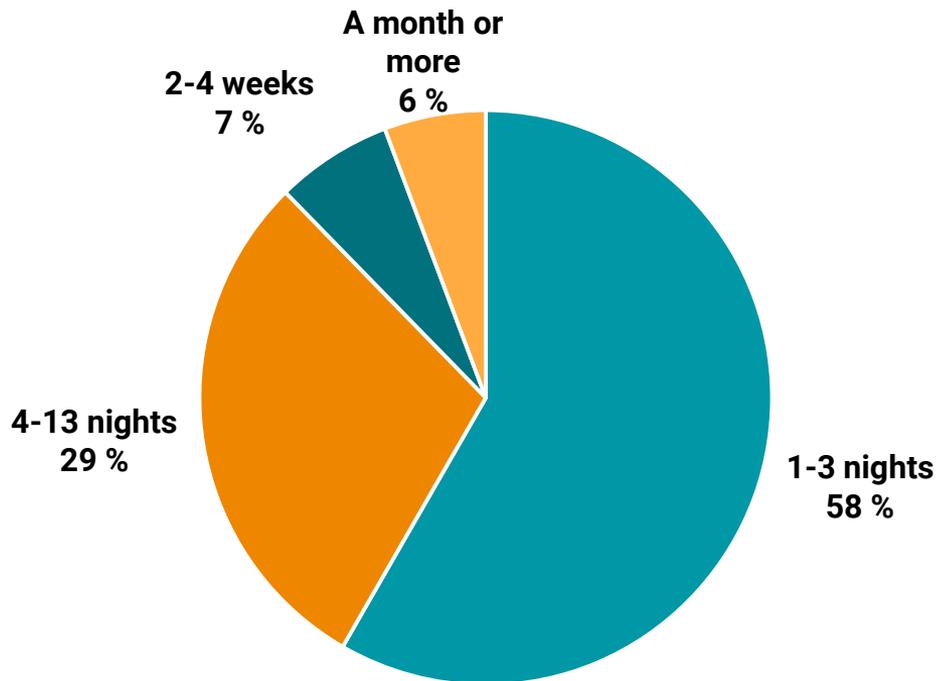
- Most respondents indicated that they would feel sympathy for any family who had left their child alone in hospital
- Leaving their child alone in hospital isn't something many parents can imagine, but many feel differently about this if they were to have a place to stay nearby
 - Those with an older child more likely to both be able to imagine leaving their child and feel differently if they had a place to stay nearby.
- Less than 1 in 5 reported having savings that would allow them to cover costs for an emergency situation like a child's illness

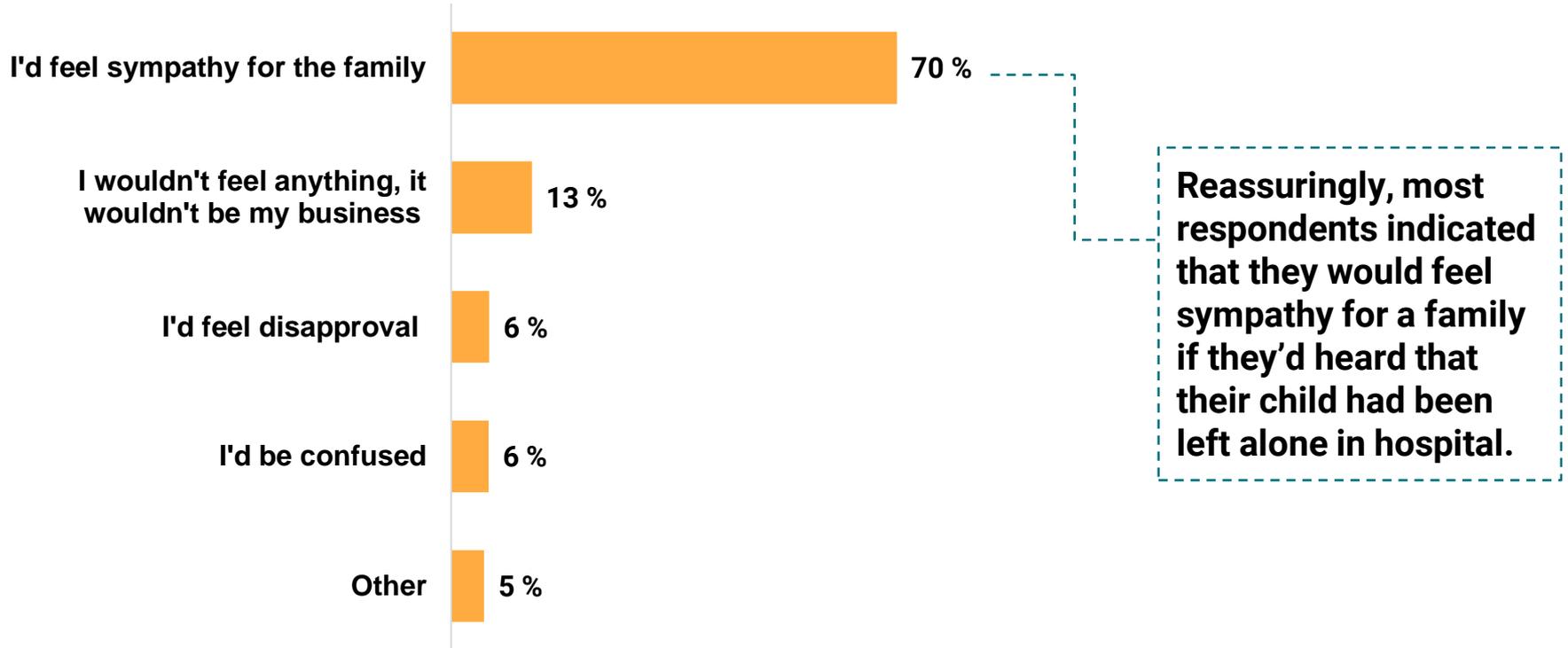


Overnight hospitalisation of children has affected a significant number of Mumsnet users, with more than half of respondents indicating they've had a child who has been hospitalised overnight.

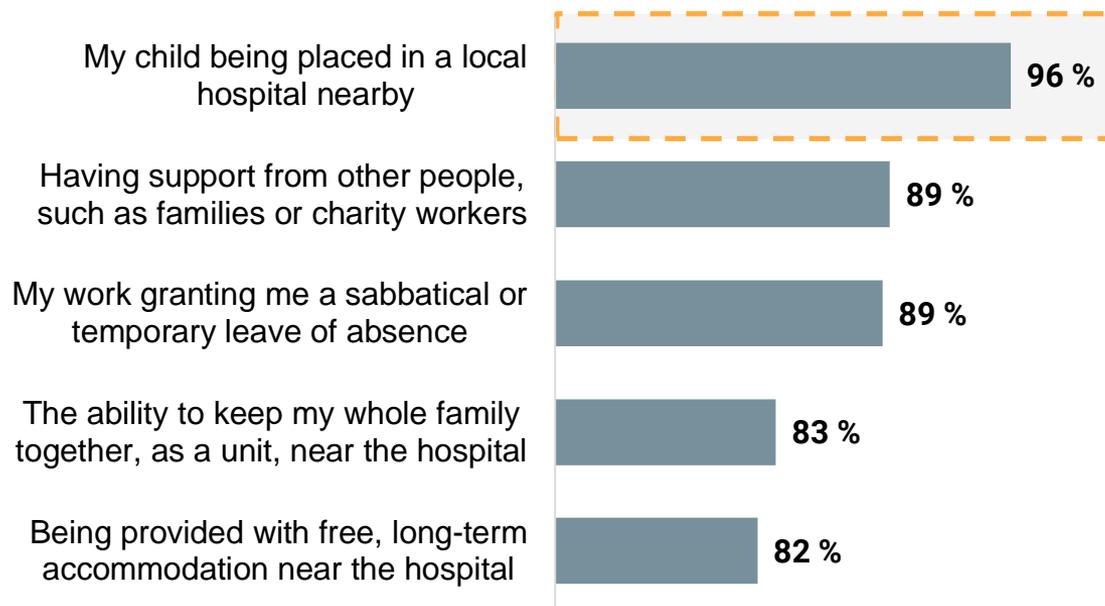
Of those, almost quarter (23%) had needed to leave their child alone in hospital.

Most parents who had experienced having a child hospitalised overnight reported this being for a shorter period of time, with just 12% saying their children had been hospitalised for two weeks or more.





Respondents indicated they would imagine needing a lot of support available to be able to cope emotionally and financially in the event their child needed to be hospitalised for weeks or months.



Almost all parents suggested they would rely on their child being placed in a nearby hospital to cope

Note: chart is based on net of those who responded “a lot” or “somewhat”

89% likely to put their career on hold to be there for their sick child

86% have friends, relatives or a partner they believe willing to help out

Putting my career on hold to be there for my sick child



My friends, relatives or partner helping out with childcare if I needed to stay far away from home to look after an ill child

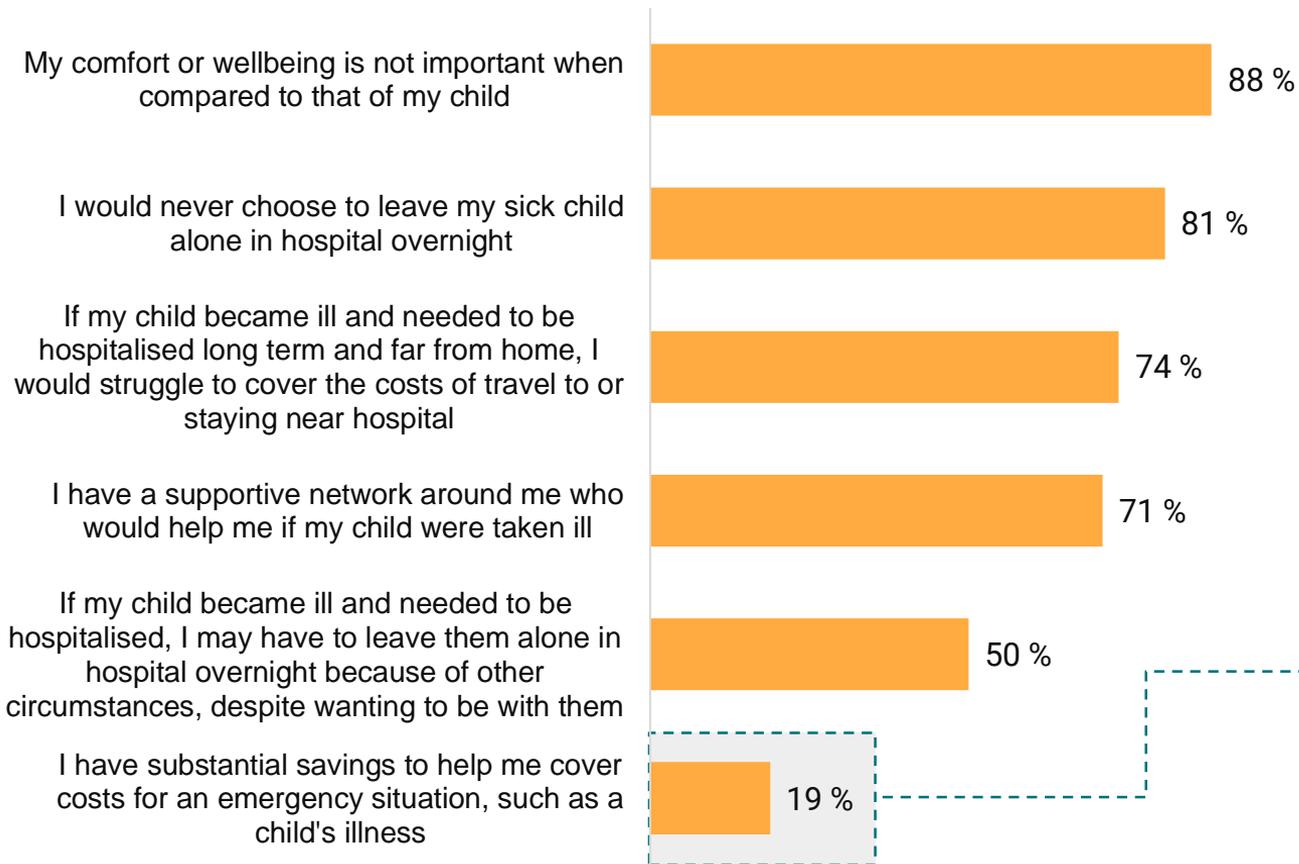


My work granting me a sabbatical or temporary leave of absence if I needed to look after my child for a period of weeks or months



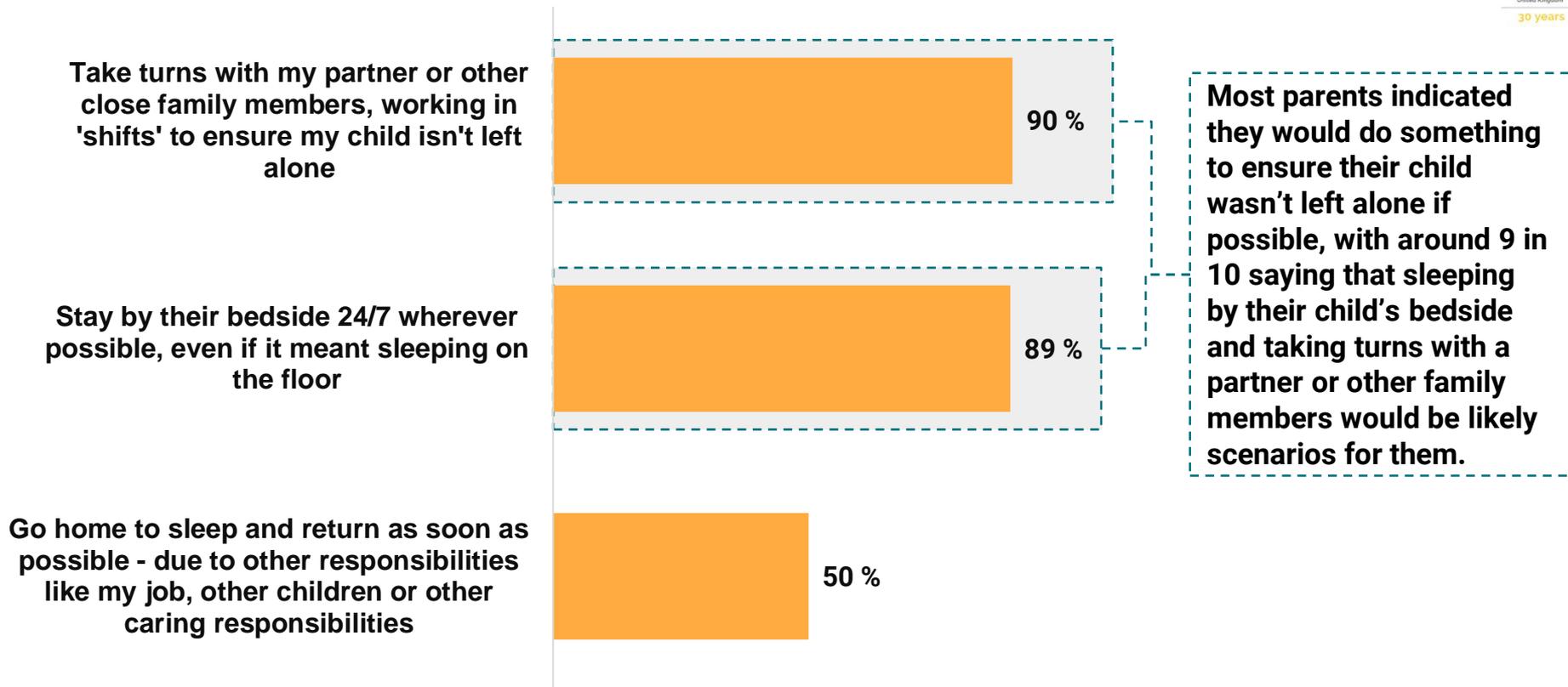
■ Very likely
 ■ Quite likely
 ■ Neither likely nor unlikely
 ■ Quite unlikely
 ■ Very unlikely

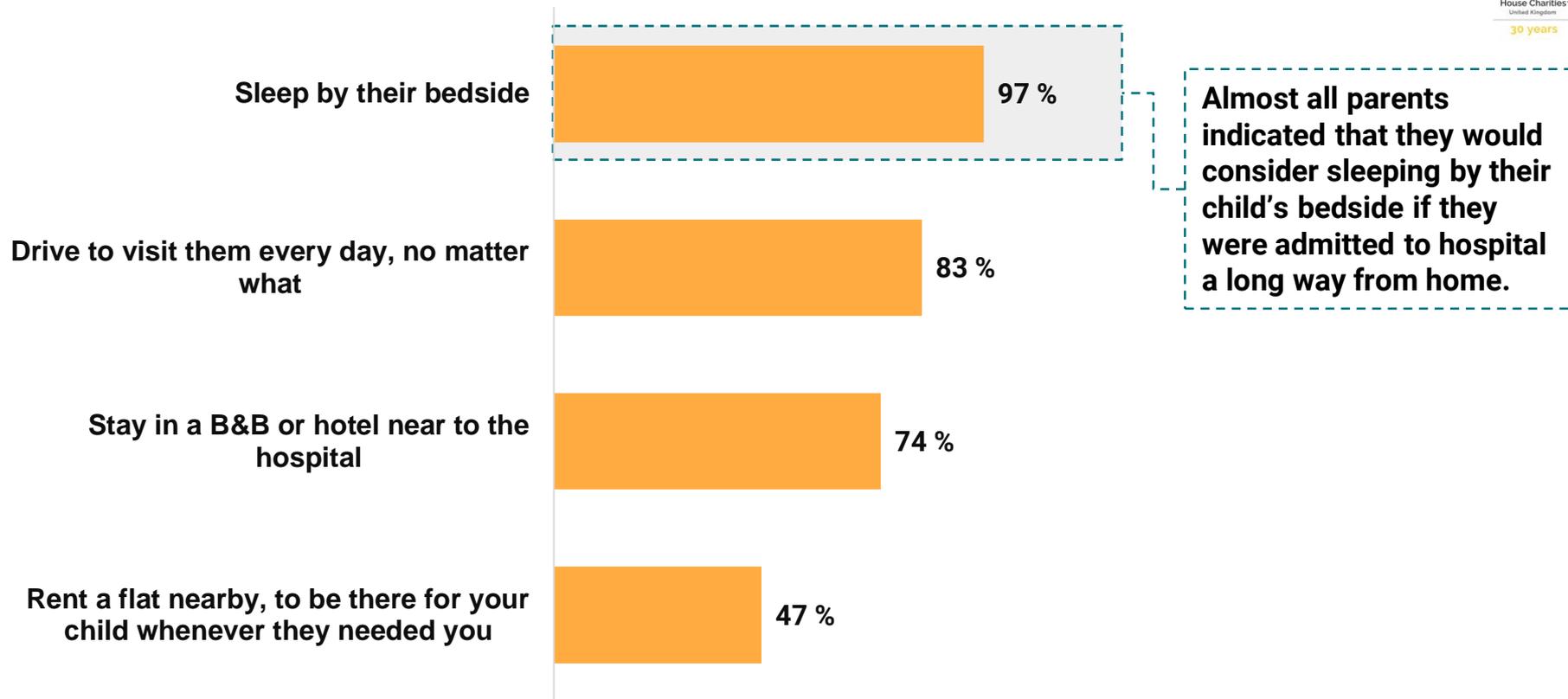
7 in 10 think their work would be likely to grant them a sabbatical or temporary leave of absence if they needed to look after their child long term.



Parents were asked to imagine how they would feel if their child was hospitalised far from home. This chart shows the net of respondents who agree with each statement in this scenario.

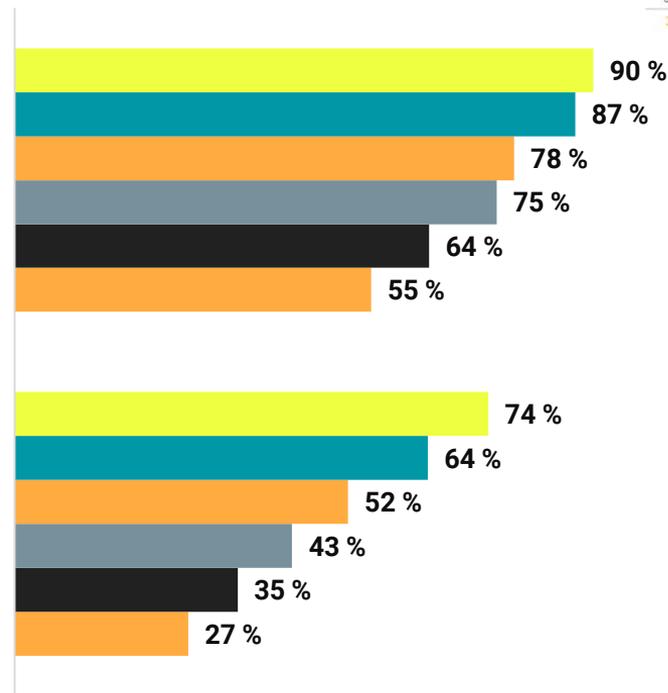
Less than 1 in 5 said that they have savings available to cover costs for an emergency situation like a child's illness





Those with higher incomes were much more likely to indicate that they would or might rent a flat nearby or stay in a hotel or B&B near to the hospital, likely because these are options they would consider possible for them.

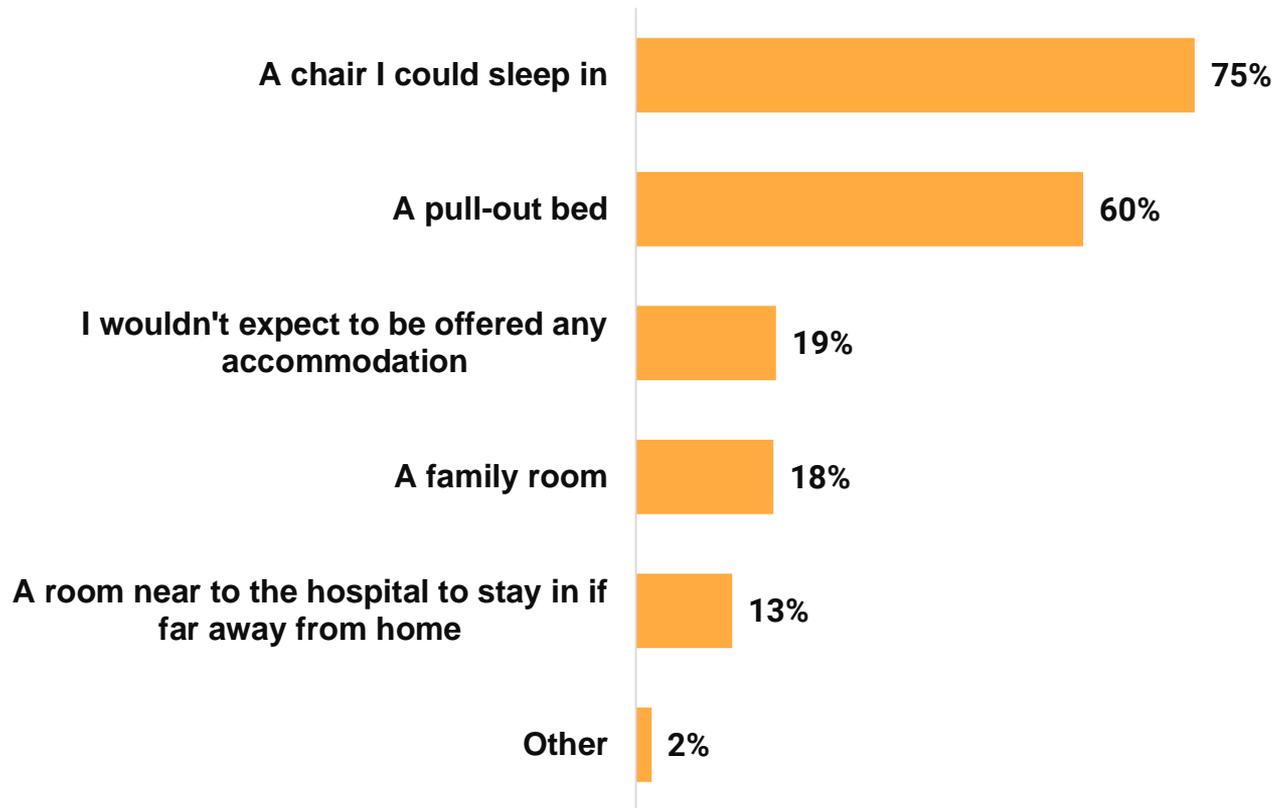
Stay in a B&B or hotel near the hospital



Rent a flat nearby, to be there for your child whenever they needed you

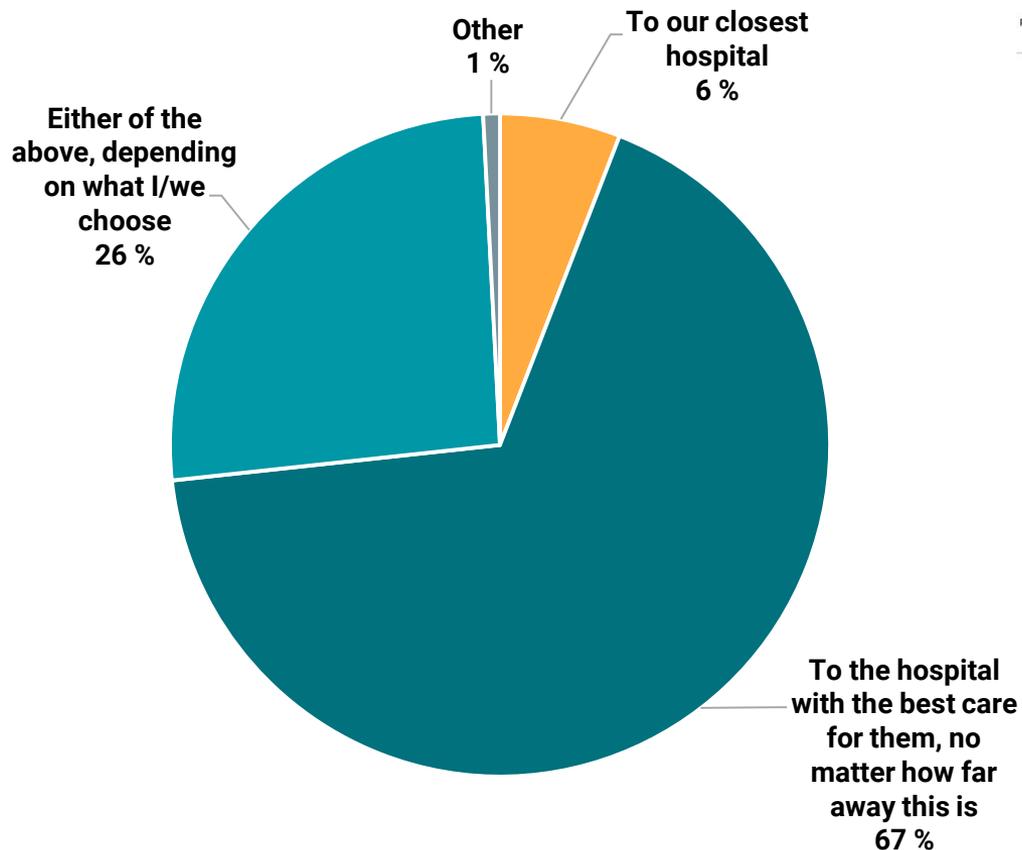
- £100,000 or more
- £75,000 - £99,999
- £50,000 - £74,999
- £35,000 - £49,999
- £20,000 - £34,999
- Under £20,000

Note: chart is based on those who said they would or might do each thing only

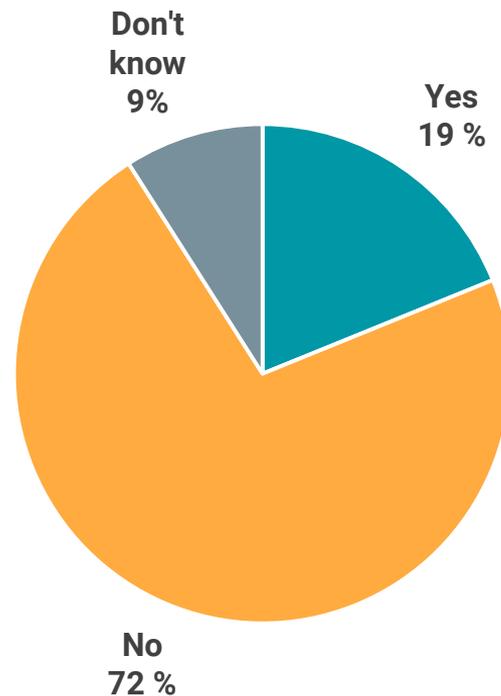


Most parents would expect some kind of accommodation to be offered to them if their child was hospitalised overnight, even if this was just a chair they could sleep in

Most parents indicated that they would expect their child to go to the hospital with the best care for them, though around one quarter would expect the decision to lie with their family.

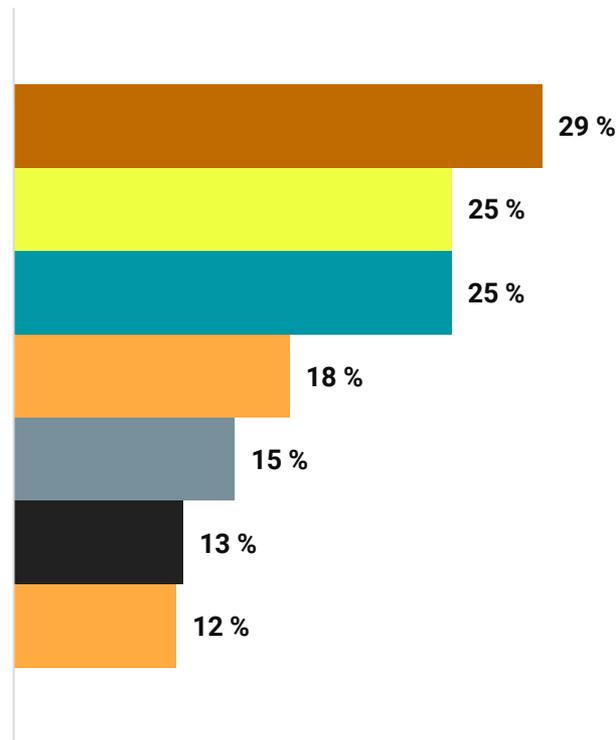


Just **one fifth** of parents indicated that they could imagine leaving their child in hospital overnight.



Those with older children were more likely to indicate that leaving their child alone in hospital overnight is something they could imagine.

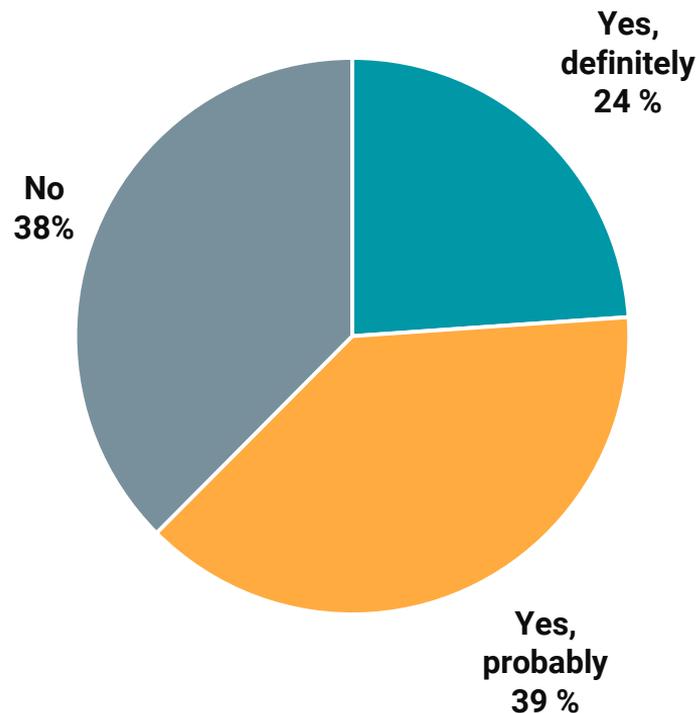
Can imagine leaving their child alone in hospital overnight



■ 16 or over
 ■ 13 to 15
 ■ 10 to 12
 ■ 7 to 9
 ■ 4 to 6
 ■ 1 to 3
 ■ Under 1

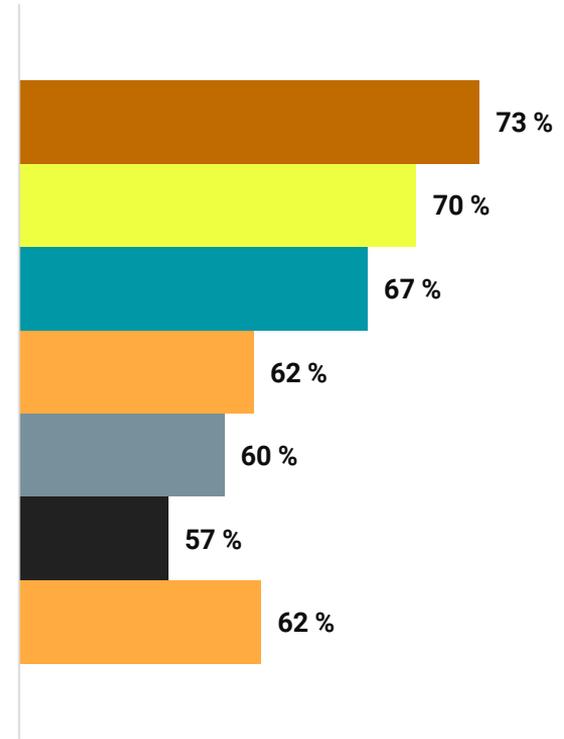
More than 6 in 10 indicated that they would definitely or probably feel differently about leaving their child alone in hospital overnight if they had a place to stay nearby.

This was a more common attitude for parents with children aged 13 or older, with 70% of those with a child aged 13 to 15 and 73 % of those with a child aged 16 or over indicating they would feel differently.



Those with older children were also more likely to indicate that they would feel differently about leaving their child alone in hospital if they had a place to stay close to their child.

Would feel differently if they had a place to stay close to their child



■ 16 or over ■ 13 to 15 ■ 10 to 12 ■ 7 to 9 ■ 4 to 6 ■ 1 to 3 ■ Under 1