

**SURVEY CONCERNING THE USE OF  
CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED BELOW 3 YEARS**

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***PREFACE***

In support of its policy, Kind en Gezin regularly conducts a survey concerning the use of Child-minding for children aged below 3 years. After a series of yearly surveys, from 1988 to 1991, the frequency of these surveys was reduced to one survey every two years. In 1999 the survey's original content was replaced by a more large-scale questionnaire concerning the use of child-minding conducted by the Higher Institute for Labour. In the autumn of 2001, the 'original' questionnaire was reintroduced. In order to be able to monitor the evolutions in the use of child-minding, Kind en Gezin decided to conduct a new survey in the autumn of 2002.

This current report presents the results of the 2002 survey and compares them with the results of the 2001 survey.

This report provides an answer to the following questions: How many parents make use of child-minding? How often and how many hours per week? Which type of child-minding is used (informal or formal, private or subsidized child-minding facilities)? What happens when a child suddenly becomes ill? What about child-minding at so-called difficult hours?

If you want to learn more about child care in Flanders, please consult the annual reports of Kind en Gezin, the annual reports concerning child care or the Kind en Gezin website (<http://www.kindengezin.be>).

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

From 7 to 31 October 2002 Kind en Gezin conducted a random sample survey concerning the use of child-minding for children aged between 1 month and 3 years in the Flemish Region. In this introduction we take a closer look at a number of technical aspects of the study.

### **1. Why a new Survey in 2002?**

During a period of more than ten years, the concise autumn surveys conducted by Kind en Gezin remained practically unchanged. Only in 1997, an additional section was added on child-minding of ill children and child-minding at difficult hours. Also the method of questioning remained unchanged, i.e. oral questionnaires conducted by regional health visitors of Kind en Gezin. In 1999 a more large-scale survey was conducted in writing which introduced a new definition of regular use of child-minding. The results of this 1999 survey demonstrated a strong increase of the use of child-minding. In the autumn of 2001 the 'original' survey was reintroduced in the form of a telephone questionnaire, except for the disadvantaged and ethnic minority families. The definition of regular use applied in the 1999 survey was left unchanged. The analysis showed that the use of child-minding had decreased in the meantime. Due to changes in the method of questioning during the last few years it has become very difficult or even impossible to compare the results throughout the years. In order to be able to follow-up the use of child-minding in an effective way, Kind en Gezin decided to conduct another survey in the autumn of 2002, with the same definition and according to the same method as the 2001 survey.

### **2. Method of Questioning**

Due to the positive experiences in 2001, Kind en Gezin again decided to conduct a telephone questionnaire, except for the disadvantaged and ethnic minority families. This telephone questionnaire was carried out by the MAS research agency of Leuven.

Since a low response level could be expected from the disadvantaged<sup>1</sup> and ethnic minority families<sup>2</sup> when using a telephone questionnaire, Kind en Gezin decided to question these groups by means of oral questionnaires carried out by regional health visitors as was done in the past. These regional health visitors interviewed the families at home. They could also appeal to intercultural co-workers or experiential experts in order to increase the response level and help clarify or translate the questions if necessary.

The same list of questions was used for both the telephone and oral questionnaire.

### **3. Target Group, Scope of the Random Sample Survey and Method of Drawing**

#### *Target Group*

Contrary to the previous autumn surveys where children aged from 3 months were questioned, the 2002 target group consists of children aged between 1 month and 3 years. The target group comprises all children of this age who live in the Flemish Region, including children from disadvantaged and ethnic minority families and children who are preventatively followed-up by the Kind en Gezin health centres as well as children who are not followed-up at these health centres.

#### *Scope of the Random Sample Survey and Method of Drawing*

In 2002, Kind en Gezin again opted for a larger number of respondents, i.e. 4.500; while in 2001 the number of respondents was limited to merely 2.500.

The sample survey was randomly drawn from IKAROS, a database containing a number of data with regard to children in Flanders. The sample survey was drawn per province and per sub-group ('standard group', disadvantaged and ethnic minority group) in proportion of the share in the total population. As a result, the initial sample survey constitutes a correct reflection of the total population with regard to these elements. Within each of these sub-groups an extra number of respondents was drawn as a reserve.

The initial sample survey for the telephone questionnaires consisted of 3.821 respondents, while 679 respondents were drawn for the oral questionnaire.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to determine whether a family is disadvantaged, the family is assessed by means of the following 6 criteria: monthly income of the family, employment situation of the parents, education of the parents, housing, development and health of the children. When a family experiences difficulties with 3 or more of these criteria it is considered as a disadvantaged family.

<sup>2</sup> Children whose mother did not have the Belgian nationality at birth or children where the field 'nationality of the mother at birth' is left blank.

#### 4. Response

*- for the telephone questionnaire*

Slightly more than the expected 3.821 questionnaires were filled in: in total 3.845 questionnaires. Keeping into account the fact that a number of addresses did not contain a telephone number, a telephone number without prefix or an incorrect telephone number, the response consisted of 74,4%, which is considerable.

With regard to the use of child-minding the reserve respondents do not differ significantly from the respondents in the initial sample survey<sup>1</sup>. The reserve respondents were taken from the same age category.

*- for the oral questionnaire*

Slightly more than the expected 679 questionnaires were filled in, i.e. 685. The response consisted of 80,6 %.

The differences in response between the oral and telephone questionnaires lead to a limited weighing in order to restore the proportions in the population. As a result the number of cases in the tables differ slightly.

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<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 6,826$  df = 2 p = 0,033 (ns.)

## ***PART I. CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 3 MONTHS AND 3 YEARS***

The 2002 survey also included children aged between 1 and 3 months. In order to be able to compare the previous reports and due to the specific situation of this group – a lot of mothers are still in maternity leave – Kind en Gezin decided to draw up a separate report on this (see part II).

### **A. USE OF CHILD-MINDING**

#### **1. To what Extent Do People Use Child-minding?**

##### **1.1. In the Flemish Region**

In the autumn of 2002 more than 63 % of the children aged between 3 months and 3 years made use of child-minding: 52,2 % are regularly cared for by third parties such as family members, a child-minding family or a day care centre, 11,1 % are cared for during a limited period of time (less than one continuous period of 5 hours per week for children who do not yet attend school and less than once per week for children aged between 2,5 and 3 years attending preschool) and 36,7 % do not make use of child-minding at all.

In comparison with the 2001 survey, both regular and limited use of child-minding has increased. The percentage of children who do not make use of child-minding has decreased. These changes are statistically significant<sup>1</sup>. Table 1 in the enclosures contains an overview starting from 1988.

**Table 1- Use of child-minding for children aged between 3 months and 3 years in the Flemish Region in 2001 and in 2002**

	2001 N = 2 555	2002 N = 4 358
Regular (1)	49,0	<b>52,2</b>
Limited	9,8	<b>11,1</b>
No	41,2	<b>36,7</b>

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children aged between 2,5 and 3 years attending preschool.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 13,934$  df = 2 p = 0,001 (s.)

## 1.2. According to the Province

The regular use of child-minding differs significantly according to the province<sup>1</sup>. In the province of Flemish Brabant the percentage of children who regularly use child-minding is highest and consists of 60,5 %. In the province of Antwerp (46,2 %) and especially in the province of Limburg (43,0 %) the regular use of child-minding is lowest.

**Table 2 - Percentage of children aged between 3 months and 3 years who regularly use child-minding facilities according to the province in 2001 and in 2002**

	2001 N = 2 544	2002 N = 4 359
Antwerp	43,7	<b>46,2</b>
Flemish Brabant	63,8	<b>60,5</b>
West Flanders	49,0	<b>57,7</b>
East Flanders	48,1	<b>53,9</b>
Limburg	43,1	<b>43,0</b>
Flemish Region	49,0	<b>52,2</b>

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children aged between 2,5 and 3 years attending preschool.

In comparison with the 2001 survey, the regular use of child-minding has increased in the provinces of Antwerp, West and East Flanders. This increase was highest in the province of West Flanders. In the province of Flemish Brabant the regular use has decreased in comparison with 2001 and in the province of Limburg the use did not change. Only in the province of West Flanders the difference in use between 2001 and 2002 has significantly changed statistically<sup>2</sup>. A significant increase of the use has been observed.

Just like in 2001, the province of Limburg has the lowest percentage of regular users, while the province of Flemish Brabant has the highest percentage of use. The difference between the province with the highest use and the province with the lowest use became smaller in 2002.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 94,365$   $df = 2$   $p = 0,001$  (s.)

<sup>2</sup> Antwerp  $\chi^2 = 1,561$   $df = 2$   $p = 0,458$  (ns.)

Flemish Brabant  $\chi^2 = 3,446$   $df = 2$   $p = 0,179$  (ns.)

West Flanders  $\chi^2 = 15,578$   $df = 2$   $p \leq 0,001$  (s.)

East Flanders  $\chi^2 = 5,028$   $df = 2$   $p = 0,081$  (ns.)

Limburg  $\chi^2 = 4,164$   $df = 2$   $p = 0,125$  (ns.)

### 1.3. According to the District

Also according to the district the regular use of child-minding differs significantly<sup>1</sup>. In the districts of Leuven and Bruges the regular use is more than 10 % higher than in the Flemish Region and in the districts of Kortrijk, Aalst, Dendermonde and Eeklo the regular use is 5 to 10 % higher. In the districts of Antwerp and Hasselt the use is more than 10 % lower than in the Flemish Region and in the districts of Ieper and Maaseik the use is 5 to 10 % lower.

The use in the other districts is situated between 5 % below and 5 % above the Flemish Region.

In comparison with 2001, the use of child-minding has not changed significantly in any district (see enclosure, table 2).

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<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 169,588$  df = 42 p  $\leq$  0,001 (s.)

**Table 3 - Percentage of children aged between 3 months and 3 years who regularly make use of child-minding facilities according to the province and the district – 2002**

Antwerp	46,2	Antwerp	41,1
		Mechelen	50,7
		Turnhout	53,8
Flemish Brabant	60,5	Halle- Vilvoorde	57,0
		Leuven	63,9
West Flanders	57,7	Brugge	67,0
		Diksmuide	50,0
		Ieper	45,7
		Kortrijk	60,3
		Oostende	52,4
		Roeselare	57,0
		Tielt	55,8
		Veurne	51,6
East Flanders	53,9	Aalst	59,8
		Dendermonde	60,6
		Eeklo	58,1
		Gent	50,1
		Oudenaarde	54,4
		Sint-Niklaas	49,1
Limburg	43,0	Hasselt	36,1
		Maaseik	45,1
		Tongeren	50,5
Flemish Region	52,2		

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children aged between 2,5 and 3 years attending preschool.

#### 1.4. According to the Child's Age

Children aged between 1 year and 6 months and 2 years make most frequently use of child-minding. In the age categories of 3 months up to 6 months and 2 years and 6 months up to 3 years the regular use of child-minding is lowest: i.e. respectively 34,8 % and 41,8 %. The differences with regard to the use of child-minding according to the age category are significant<sup>1</sup>.

In 2002, the regular use of child-minding in the group of children aged between 3 months and 2 years and 6 months consisted of 54,2 % and the limited use consisted of 10,0%.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 132,168$  df = 10 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

**Table 4 - Use of child-minding according to the child's age category – 2002 (N = 4 359)**

	Regular Use	Limited Use	No Use	Total
3 m – 6 m	34,8	11,5	53,8	100,0
6 m – 1 years	52,5	10,6	37,0	100,0
1 years – 1 y 6 m	56,9	9,5	33,6	100,0
1 y 6 m – 2 years	61,4	8,9	29,7	100,0
2 years – 2 y 6 m	56,1	10,5	33,5	100,0
Total 3 m – 2 y 6 m	54,2	10,0	35,7	100,0
2 y 6 m – 3 years	41,8	16,5	41,7	100,0
Total 3 m – 3 years	52,2	11,1	36,7	100,0

When comparing the 2001 and the 2002 results, the regular use of child-minding has increased in all age categories. The most significant increase is observed in the eldest group of children: the regular use increased with circa 10 %.

Table 3 of the enclosures contains an overview starting from 1988.

In comparison with 2001, both regular and limited use of child-minding has increased in the group of children younger than 2 years and 6 months. These differences are not significant<sup>1</sup> (see also enclosures, table 4).

**Table 5 – Regular use (1) of child-minding (in %) for children aged between 3 months and 3 years in the Flemish Region 2001 and in 2002**

	2001 N = 2 553	2002 N = 4 359
3 m – 6 m	29,3	<b>34,8</b>
6 m – 1 years	52,2	<b>52,5</b>
1 years – 1 y 6 m	53,5	<b>56,9</b>
1 y 6 m – 2 years	57,2	<b>61,4</b>
2 years – 2 y 6 m	55,1	<b>56,1</b>
Total 3 m – 2 y 6 m	51,2	<b>54,2</b>
2 y 6 m – 3 years	31,7	<b>41,8</b>
Total 3 m – 3 years	49,0	<b>52,2</b>

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children aged between 2,5 and 3 years attending preschool.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 6,903$  df = 2 p = 0,032 (ns.)

### 1.5. Preschool and Child-minding

Child-minding is less frequently used for children aged from 2,5 years. From the age of 2,5 years a lot of children already attend preschool: 40,5 % attend preschool during the entire school week and 29,0 % attend preschool, but not every day of the week or not yet the entire day. Together this means that 7 out of 10 children aged between 2,5 years and 3 years attend preschool. In comparison with 2001, the number of children aged between 2,5 and 3 years who do not yet attend school has increased with more than 10 %. These differences are statistically significant<sup>1</sup>.

Table 7 shows to what extent children who do and who do not attend school in this age category make use of child-minding. Children who do not yet attend school make more regularly use of child-minding than schoolgoing children. The difference is significant<sup>2</sup>. In comparison with 2001, the regular use of child-minding for schoolgoing children who attend school on a full-time or part-time basis has increased. The regular use of child-minding for children who do not yet attend school has remained unchanged. This difference is significant neither for full-time schoolgoing children<sup>3</sup>, nor for part-time schoolgoing children<sup>4</sup>, nor for children who do not yet attend school<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 6 - Percentage of schoolgoing children aged between 2,5 years to 3 years in 2001 and in 2002**

	2001 N = 269	2002 N = 705
Entire week	43,8	<b>40,5</b>
Part of the school week	37,7	<b>29,0</b>
Do not attend school	18,5	<b>30,5</b>
Total	100,0	<b>100,0</b>

**Table 7 - Attending school and use of child-minding in 2001 (N = 269) and in 2002 (N = 705)**

	Regular Use (1)		Limited or No Use	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Entire week	28,0	<b>35,3</b>	72,0	<b>64,7</b>
Part of the school week	23,8	<b>35,1</b>	76,2	<b>64,9</b>
Do not attend school	56,0	<b>57,9</b>	44,0	<b>42,1</b>

(1) At least once per week

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 15,114$  df = 2 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

<sup>2</sup>  $\chi^2 = 30,898$  df = 2 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

<sup>3</sup>  $\chi^2 = 2,035$  df = 2 p = 0,154 (ns.)

<sup>4</sup>  $\chi^2 = 4,055$  df = 2 p = 0,044 (ns.)

<sup>5</sup>  $\chi^2 = 0,047$  df = 2 p = 0,829 (ns.)

### 1.6. According to the Intensity of Child-minding

Most children make use of child-minding on a part-time basis: seven out of ten children are cared for on a part-time basis and three out of ten children are cared for during 5 full days per week. Children who make use of child-minding on a part-time basis are mainly cared for during full days or during partly full and partly half days. Child-minding during only part of the day is less common. In comparison with 2001, the share of full-time child-minding has increased minimally. The differences are not statistically significant<sup>1</sup>. The Kind en Gezin surveys show that in the period of 1988 up to 1997 a shift of 10 % occurred from full-time to part-time child-minding (see enclosure, table 5). However, during the last 5 years the share of full-time and part-time child-minding has remained relatively stable.

**Table 8 - Intensity of child-minding – 2002**

	Percentage of all children aged between 3 months and 3 years (N = 4 336)	Percentage of regular users of child-minding (N = 2 252)
Full-time	15,5	29,8
Part-time	36,4	70,2
<i>Only full days</i>	22,3	43,0
<i>Part of the day during 5 days</i>	0,5	0,9
<i>Part of the day during a few days</i>	1,6	3,1
<i>Partly full and partly half days</i>	12,0	23,2
Total regular use	52,2	100,0
Limited use	11,1	
No use	36,7	
Total	100,0	

### 1.7. Use of Child-minding per Day per Week<sup>2</sup>

On Wednesdays, the number of children who do not use child-minding is higher than on other days of the week. The number of children using less than 5 hours of child-minding on Wednesdays is also higher than on other days. On Tuesdays, most children make use of child-minding; this is the case both for the total group and the group of regular users.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 0,226$  df = 2 p = 0,634 (ns.)

<sup>2</sup> The use of child-minding on Saturdays and Sundays is discussed under the section of atypical child-minding

**Table 9 - Use of child-minding per day per week - 2002**

Children aged between 3 months and 3 years				
	More than 5 hours	Less than 5 hours	No Use	Total
Monday (N=4356)	36,7	3,9	59,4	100,0
Tuesday (N=4355)	37,8	4,2	58,0	100,0
Wednesday (N=4355)	28,3	7,3	64,4	100,0
Thursday (N=4352)	36,6	4,5	58,8	100,0
Friday (N=4354)	33,4	5,2	61,4	100,0
Regular users of child-minding				
	More than 5 hours	Less than 5 hours	No Use	Total
Monday (N=2287)	69,9	7,4	22,6	100,0
Tuesday (N=2286)	72,1	8,1	19,6	100,0
Wednesday (N=2286)	54,1	13,9	31,8	100,0
Thursday (N=2283)	69,8	8,7	21,3	100,0
Friday (N=2284)	63,8	9,9	26,1	100,0

## 2. Which Facility is Responsible for Child-minding?

In this paragraph we first take a closer look at the types of child-minding used for children who regularly use child-minding. What is the main type of child-minding? How many children make use of more than one type of child-minding and which group of children does this? Secondly, we take a closer look at the types of child-minding used for children who make limited use of child-minding.

### 2.1. Regular Users of Child-minding

#### 2.1.1. Types of Child-minding Used

##### 2.1.1.1. Main Type of Child-minding

Child-minding of young children mainly occurs outside their home: 6,7 % of the children is cared for at home. Child-minding at home has slightly increased in 2002 in comparison with 2001, but the difference is not statistically significant<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 2,202$   $df = 1$   $p = 0,138$  (ns.)

**Table 10 – Regular users: Place of child-minding in 2001 and in 2002**

Percentage of regular users of child-minding		
	2001 N = 1 253	2002 N = 2 271
At home	5,4	6,7
Outside the home	94,6	93,3
Total	100,0	100,0

Child-minding for young children mainly occurs by means of the informal network: 34,3 % of these children is taken care of by grandparents and 1,8 % by other family members. Hence, more than one third of the children (36,1 %) are taken care of by family. The second most important child-minding facility consists of child-minding families affiliated to a service. Their share currently consists of 26,3 %. Subsidized day nurseries take up 15,6% of child-minding and hence constitute the third most important child-minding facility.

Private child-minding families take up 9,8 % of child-minding. 9,1 % of the children are taken care of by a private day care centre, which in most cases is supervised by Kind en Gezin. The share of child-minding carried out by third parties outside the home and not reported to Kind en Gezin constitutes 0,4 %.

Out-of-school care provided by preschools or Out-of-school Care Initiatives are seldom used (1,2%). Within the group of children aged between 2,5 and 3 years 9,6 % is taken care of in school or in Out-of-school Care Initiatives.

The relative share of the various types of child-minding has changed in 2002 with regard to 2001, but these differences are not statistically significant<sup>1</sup>.

The share of child-minding done by grandparents and other family members has increased: in 2002 this share is 3,6 % higher than in 2001. Child-minding carried out by services for child-minding families (- 2,4 %) and subsidized day nurseries (- 1,3 %) has decreased. The use of child-minding in private day nurseries has increased (+ 0,9 %), while child-minding in private child-minding families has remained more or less unchanged (+ 0,2 %).

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 19,756$  df = 12 p = 0,072 (ns.)

**Table 11 – Regular users: the use of child-minding according to the type of child-minding in 2001 and in 2002 (1)**

Percentage of regular users of child-minding				
	2001		2002	
	N = 1 253		N = 2 274	
Grandparents	29,9	= 32,5	<b>34,3</b>	= <b>36,1</b>
Family member	2,6		<b>1,8</b>	
Third parties/no family members at home	0,7		<b>1,0</b>	
Third parties/no family members outside the home	0,4		<b>0,4</b>	
Child-minding families affiliated to a service	28,7		<b>26,3</b>	
Subsidized day care centre	16,9		<b>15,6</b>	
Private child-minding family registered with Kind en Gezin	1,3	= 9,6	<b>1,1</b>	= <b>9,8</b>
Private child-minding family supervised by Kind en Gezin	8,3		<b>8,7</b>	
Private day care centre registered with Kind en Gezin	0,2	= 8,2	<b>0,3</b>	= <b>9,1</b>
Private day care centre supervised by Kind en Gezin	8,0		<b>8,8</b>	
Childcare and Family Support Centre	0,3		<b>0,2</b>	
Out-of-school care (2)	1,4		<b>1,2</b>	
Child-minding family, day care centre, not known which type	0,8		<b>0,4</b>	
Other	0,3		<b>0,0</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>		<b>100,0</b>	

(1) Main type of child-minding

(2) In preschool or in Out-of-school Care Initiatives

Slightly more than 4 out of 10 children are taken care of by a child-minding facility subsidized by Kind en Gezin.

The relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin has decreased with 4,2 % with regard to 2001. This difference is not statistically significant<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 6,251$  df = 3 p = 0,100 (ns.)

**Table 12 – Regular users: relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin in 2001 and in 2002 (1)**

	2001 N = 1 241	2002 N = 2 265
Subsidized	46,4	42,2
Private	18,0	19,0
Informal (2)	34,2	37,5
Out-of-school Care (3)	1,4	1,3
Total	100,0	100,0

(1) The 'other' child-minding facilities were included in the corresponding category based on the description.

(2) Local Employment Agency, domestic staff, nanny, au-pair, babysit were included in this category, since this kind of child-minding is not formally regulated by Kind en Gezin

(3) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

Nearly three quarters of the children are taken care of in a family environment. The relative share of child-minding in a family environment has increased slightly with regard to 2001. This difference is not statistically significant <sup>1</sup>.

**Table 13 – Regular users: relative share of child-minding in a family environment and in a group environment in 2001 and in 2002 (1)**

	2001 N = 1 253	2002 N = 2 273
Family environment	72,9	73,7
Group environment	25,7	25,0
Out-of-school care (2)	1,4	1,3
Total	100,0	100,0

(1) The 'other' child-minding facilities were included in the corresponding category based on the description.

(2) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 0,452$  df = 2 p = 0,798 (ns.)

### 2.1.1.2. Second and Third Most Important Types of Child-minding

Slightly more than 4 children out of 10 who regularly use child-minding make use of an additional child-minding facility. For nearly 80 % of the families the grandparents or other family members fulfill this additional child-minding role. 5,8 % of the families make use of a third child-minding facility.

For about two third of the parents who regularly make use of child-minding, i.e. 64 %, the grandparents fulfill a child-minding role, i.e. as main type of child-minding or rather as an additional second or third type of child-minding.

### 2.1.2. Use of the Various Types of Child-minding: Geographical Differences

Apart from the differences in the extent of use according to the province and districts (see 1.2. and 1.3) the survey also examined whether there are differences with regard to the type of child-minding used.

The share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin differs significantly according to the province<sup>1</sup>.

The share of subsidized child-minding is lowest in West Flanders (34,7 %) and highest in Limburg (54,4 %).

**Table 14 – Regular users: relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin according to the province – 2002 (N = 2265)**

	Subsidized by Kind en Gezin	Private	Informal (1)	Out-of-school care (2)	Total
Antwerp	44,3	13,8	41,1	0,7	100,0
Flemish Brabant	42,0	23,4	33,3	1,3	100,0
West Flanders	34,7	27,5	36,4	1,3	100,0
East Flanders	41,4	19,8	37,2	1,6	100,0
Limburg	54,4	4,2	39,7	1,7	100,0
Flemish Region	42,2	19,0	37,5	1,3	100,0

(1) Local Employment Agency, domestic staff, nanny, au-pair, babysit were included in this category, since this kind of child-minding is not formally regulated by Kind en Gezin

(2) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

In comparison with 2001, the relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin has increased in the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg and has decreased in the other provinces. These differences are not statistically significant (see enclosures, table 6).

The share of child-minding in a family environment or in a group environment differs

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 79,985$  df = 12 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

significantly according to the province<sup>1</sup>. Hence, child-minding in a group environment takes up only 19,7 % in the province of Limburg as opposed to 33,8 % in Flemish Brabant.

In comparison with 2001, the share of child-minding in a family environment has dropped in the provinces of Antwerp, East Flanders and Limburg. This difference is not significant for any of the provinces (see table 7, enclosures).

**Table 15 – Regular users: relative share of child-minding in a family environment and in a group environment according to the province – 2002 (N = 2272)**

	Family environment	Group environment	Out-of-school care (1)	Total
Antwerp	75,7	23,6	0,7	100,0
Flemish Brabant	64,9	33,8	1,3	100,0
West Flanders	77,3	21,4	1,3	100,0
East Flanders	74,0	24,4	1,6	100,0
Limburg	78,6	19,7	1,7	100,0
Flemish Region	73,7	25,0	1,3	100,0

(1) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

## 2.2. Limited Users of Child-minding

### 2.2.1. Types of Child-minding Used

Nearly two third of the limited users of child-minding are taken care of by grandparents or other family members. More than one tenth are taken care of by a child-minding family affiliated to a service.

In comparison with the regular users of child-minding, nearly twice as much children are taken care of by their grandparents.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 28,605$   $df = 8$   $p \leq 0,001$  (s.)

**Table 16 – Limited users: use of child-minding according to the type of child-minding – 2002 (1)**

	2002 N = 482	
Grandparents	59,7	= 64,2
Family members	4,5	
Third parties/no family members at home	2,0	
Third parties/no family members outside the home	3,3	
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	14,0	
Subsidized day care centre	3,3	
Private child-minding family registered with Kind en Gezin	0,7	= 4,4
Private child-minding family supervised by Kind en Gezin	3,7	
Private day care centre registered by Kind en Gezin	1,6	= 4,2
Private day care centre supervised by Kind en Gezin	2,6	
Childcare and Family Support Centre	0,4	
Out-of-school care (2)	3,9	
Child-minding family, day care centre not known which type	0,2	
Other	0,3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>	

(1) Main type of child-minding

(2) In preschool or in Out-of-school Care Initiatives

Nearly 7 out of 10 limited users are taken care of by the informal network. Nearly 9 out of 10 are taken care of in a family environment. The limited users clearly make more use of informal child-minding facilities.

**Table 17 – Limited users: relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin - 2002 (1)**

	2002 N = 482
Subsidized	17,9
Private	8,6
Informal (2)	69,5
Out-of-school care (3)	3,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>

(1) The 'other' child-minding facilities were included in the corresponding category based on the description.

(2) Local Employment Agency, domestic staff, nanny, au-pair, babysit were included in this category, since this kind of child-minding is not formally regulated by Kind en Gezin

(3) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

**Table 18 – Limited users: relative share of child-minding in a family environment and in a group environment -2002 (1)**

	2002 N = 482
Family environment	87,7
Group environment	8,4
Out-of-school care (2)	3,9
Total	100,0

(1) The 'other' child-minding facilities were included in the corresponding category based on the description.

(2) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

## B. CHILD-MINDING AND CHILDREN FROM A DISADVANTAGED FAMILY <sup>1</sup> AND AN ETHNIC MINORITY FAMILY <sup>23</sup>

### 1. To what Extent Do People Use Child-minding?

Disadvantaged families make less regularly use of child-minding in comparison with families who are not disadvantaged. The limited use of child-minding is similar. The differences in use of child-minding are significant<sup>4</sup>. In comparison with 2001, the use of child-minding by disadvantaged families did not change significantly<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 19 - Use of child-minding by children from a disadvantaged family and from a non-disadvantaged family in 2001 and in 2002**

	2001		2002	
	Disadvantaged N=115	Not disadvantaged N=2439	Disadvantaged N=198	Not disadvantaged N= 4160
Regular use	17,4	50,6	<b>18,8</b>	<b>53,8</b>
Limited use	9,6	9,8	<b>10,9</b>	<b>11,1</b>
No use	73,0	39,7	<b>70,3</b>	<b>35,1</b>

Also ethnic minority families make less use of child-minding in comparison with the native Belgian population; both the regular and limited use is lower. This difference is significant<sup>6</sup>. In comparison with 2001, the use of child-minding by ethnic minority families has remained more or less the same<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 20 - Use of child-minding by ethnic minorities and native Belgian families in 2001 and in 2002**

	2001		2002	
	Ethnic minority N=330	Belgian N= 2225	Ethnic minority N=683	Belgian N= 3676
Regular use	20,9	53,2	<b>19,6</b>	<b>58,2</b>
Limited use	5,3	10,4	<b>5,7</b>	<b>12,1</b>
No use	73,8	36,4	<b>74,7</b>	<b>29,7</b>

<sup>1</sup> In order to determine whether a family is disadvantaged, the family is assessed by means of the following 6 criteria: monthly income of the family, employment situation of the parents, education of the parents, housing, development and health of the children. When a family experiences difficulties with 3 or more of these criteria it is considered as a disadvantaged family.

<sup>2</sup> Children whose mother did not have the Belgian nationality at birth

<sup>3</sup> Both categories overlap

<sup>4</sup>  $\chi^2 = 107,951$  df = 2 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

<sup>5</sup>  $\chi^2 = 0,314$  df = 2 p = 0,855 (ns.)

<sup>6</sup>  $\chi^2 = 504,987$  df = 2 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

<sup>7</sup>  $\chi^2 = 0,287$  df = 2 p = 0,866 (ns.)

## 2. Which Facility is Responsible for Child-minding?<sup>1</sup>

Slightly more than half of the children from disadvantaged families who make regular use of child-minding are taken care of by their grandparents or other family members. Slightly more than a quarter are taken care of by a child-minding family affiliated to a service. None of the disadvantaged families make use of a subsidized or private day care centre. The share of types of child-minding used by disadvantaged families differs significantly from the families which are not disadvantaged<sup>2</sup>. Disadvantaged families make more use of the informal network. When they do use the formal network, they mainly use subsidized child-minding facilities.

**Table 21 - Use of child-minding by children from a disadvantaged family according to the type of child-minding – 2002 (1)**

	2002 N = 37	
Grandparents	42,7	= 50,2
Family members	7,5	
Third parties/no family members	2,9	
Private child-minding families supervised by Kind en Gezin	6,4	
Child-minding families affiliated to a service	26,6	
Childcare and Family Support Centre	10,4	
Out-of-school care (2)	3,5	
Total	100,0	

(1) Main type of child-minding

(2) In preschool or in Out-of-school Care Initiatives

More than one third of the ethnic minority children are cared for by their grandparents. One fifth are cared for by a subsidized day care centre and another one fifth are cared for by a supervised day care centre. About one tenth are cared for by a child-minding family affiliated to a service, while another one tenth are cared for by a supervised child-minding family.

The share of types of child-minding used by ethnic minority families differs significantly from the native Belgian population. The share of the informal network is slightly higher, but ethnic minority families mainly use both subsidized and supervised day nurseries.

<sup>1</sup> Only for the regular users and for the main type of child-minding.

<sup>2</sup>  $\chi^2 = 226,284$  df = 17 p  $\leq$  0,001 (s.)

**Table 22 - Use of child-minding by ethnic minority children according to the type of child-minding - 2002 (1)**

	2002 N = 133
Grandparents	39,6
Third parties/no family members at home	1,4
Third parties/no family members outside the home	3,0
Private child-minding family supervised by Kind en Gezin	9,4
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	10,9
Subsidized day care centre	22,7
Private day care centre supervised by Kind en Gezin	11,5
Day care centre, not known which type	0,8
Other	0,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>

(1) Main type of child-minding

(2) In preschool or in Out-of-school Care Initiatives

## C. USE OF ATYPICAL CHILD-MINDING <sup>1</sup>

### 1. Definition of Atypical Child-minding

Atypical child-minding refers to child-minding early in the morning (before 7 a.m.) and/or late in the evening (after 6 p.m.) and/or long periods of child-minding (more than 11 hours per day, child-minding at night) and/or child-minding on non-working days (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). All 4 aspects were questioned.

### 2. Use of Atypical Child-minding

First, we take a closer look at the use of atypical child-minding in general. Table 23 shows that nearly one third of the children who regularly use child-minding make use of at least one aspect of atypical child-minding. This means that 31,4 % of the children are cared for at least 1 day per week before 7 a.m. and/or after 6 p.m. and/or during more than 11 hours per day and/or during the night and/or during the weekend. The use of atypical child-minding has not changed significantly with regard to 2001<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 23 - Use of atypical child-minding in 2001 and in 2002**

Type of child-minding	2001 N = 1 253	2002 N = 2 259
Atypical child-minding	28,9	<b>31,4</b>
Typical child-minding	71,1	<b>68,6</b>
Total	100,0	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The figures mentioned in this chapter only refer to children who regularly use child-minding.

<sup>2</sup>  $\chi^2 = 2,534$  df = 1 p = 0,111 (ns.)

### 3. Atypical Child-minding in Detail

First, we take a closer look at the use of atypical child-minding according to the child's age and according to the province. Then, we focus on the child-minding facilities used.

#### 3.1. According to the Child's Age

In the age category between 2 years 6 months and 3 years the use of atypical child-minding is highest, but there are no significant changes with regard to the use of atypical child-minding according to the child's age<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 24 - Use of atypical child-minding according to the child's age – 2002 (N = 2 259)**

Age Category	% of users of atypical child-minding	% of users of typical child-minding	Total
3 m – 1 years	30,7	69,3	100,0
1 years - 1 years 6 m	28,6	71,4	100,0
1 years 6 m - 2 years	31,0	69,0	100,0
2 years - 2 years 6 m	31,5	68,5	100,0
2 years 6 m - 3 years	38,0	62,0	100,0
Total	31,4	68,6	100,0

#### 3.2. According to the Province<sup>2</sup>

The differences between the provinces in the use of atypical child-minding are small and insignificant<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 8,054$  df = 4 p = 0,090 (ns.)

<sup>2</sup> The use of atypical child-minding according to the district is included in the enclosures (table 8).

<sup>3</sup>  $\chi^2 = 2,547$  df = 4 p = 0,636 (ns.)

**Table 25 - Use of atypical child-minding according to the province – 2002 (N = 2 261)**

Province	% of users of atypical child-minding	% of users of typical child-minding	Total
Antwerp	30,7	69,3	100,0
Flemish Brabant	30,1	69,9	100,0
West Flanders	34,4	65,6	100,0
East Flanders	30,8	69,2	100,0
Limburg	31,6	68,4	100,0
Total	31,4	68,6	100,0

### 3.3. According to the Child-minding Facility and the Child-minding Environment

There is a significant difference with regard to the use of atypical child-minding according to the child-minding facility used<sup>1</sup>. Children who are cared for by the informal network make more use of atypical child-minding. With regard to the other types of facilities about one out of five to one out of four children makes use of atypical child-minding.

There is a significant difference with regard to the use of atypical child-minding in a group or a family environment<sup>2</sup>. Children who are cared for in a family environment more frequently make use of atypical child-minding (32,2 %).

In the informal network relatively more children make use of atypical child-minding. In the subsidized network the share of atypical child-minding is smallest. These differences are significant<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 208,736$  df = 6 p  $\leq$  0,001 (s.)

<sup>2</sup>  $\chi^2 = 36,228$  df = 2 p  $\leq$  0,001 (s.)

<sup>3</sup>  $\chi^2 = 205,774$  df = 3 p  $\leq$  0,001 (s.)

**Table 26 - Use of atypical child-minding according to the child-minding facility and according to the child-minding environment – 2002 (N = 2 259)**

Child-minding facility	% of users of atypical child-minding	% of users of typical child-minding
Informal	49,0	51,0
Subsidized day care centre	18,1	81,9
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	18,6	81,4
Private day care centre	26,6	73,4
Private child-minding family	24,2	75,8
Preschool and Out-of-school Care Initiatives	17,2	82,8
Other	50,0	50,0
Subtotal group environment	21,8	78,2
Subtotal family environment	34,9	65,1
Subtotal subsidized	18,6	81,4
Subtotal private	25,5	74,5
Subtotal informal	49,2	50,8

#### **4. Studied Aspects of Atypical Child-minding**

##### **4.1. Duration of the Longest Day of Child-minding**

The survey shows that nearly all children are cared for less than 11 hours per day. Only 2,5% are cared for for more than 11 hours per day. For nearly three quarters of the children the longest day of child-minding was between 6 and 10 hours.

The longest day of child-minding for children aged between 3 months and 3 years is averagely 8 hours and 30 minutes.

**Table 27 - Duration of the longest day of child-minding – 2002 (N = 2 054)**

Interval	Percentage of regular users of child-minding	
	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
More than 12 hours	0,6	0,6
11 to 12 hours	1,9	2,5
10 to 11 hours	6,2	8,7
9 to 10 hours	23,6	32,3
8 to 9 hours	27,6	59,9
6 to 8 hours	28,0	87,9
4 to 6 hours	10,3	98,2
2 to 4 hours	1,1	99,3
Less than 2 hours	0,7	100,0
Total	100,0	
<i>% of regular users of child-minding using atypical child-minding with regard to the aspect of duration</i>	2,5	

Which child-minding facility is used most often for children who are cared for more than 11 hours once or several times per week? Nearly 60 % of the children are cared for by their grandparents and 3,9 % by other family members. Child-minding families affiliated to a service and subsidized day nurseries each take up 6,9 % of child-minding longer than 11 hours. One tenth of these children are taken care of by a private day care centre and 12,7 % by a private child-minder supervised by or registered with Kind en Gezin.

A classification according to the type of child-minding environment shows that 83,2 % of these children are taken care of in a family environment and 16,9 % in a group environment.

**Table 28 - Main child-minding facility for children who are taken care of for more than 11 hours once or several times per week – 2002 (N = 52)**

Child-minding facility	Percentage of users of long periods of child-minding (more than 11 hours)
Grandparents	58,0
Other family members	3,9
Third parties, no family members	1,7
Private child-minding family, registered or supervised	12,7
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	6,9
Subsidized day care centre	6,9
Private day care centre, registered or supervised	10,0
Total	100,0

#### 4.2. Child-minding before 7 a.m.

For most of the children, child-minding starts after 7 a.m.. 9,1 % use child-minding before 7 a.m. once or several times per week; 2,5 % use child-minding before 7 a.m. every weekday.

**Table 29 - Child-minding before 7 a.m. – 2002 (N = 2 274)**

Number of days of child-minding	Percentage of regular users of child-minding
0	90,9
1	2,7
2	1,8
3	1,2
4	0,9
5	2,4
More than 5	0,1
Total	100,0
<i>% of regular users of child-minding using atypical child-minding with regard to the aspect of starting hour</i>	
	9,1

Which child-minding facility is most often used for children who are taken care of before 7 a.m. once or several times per week? Again the largest group of children is taken care of by grandparents or by other family members (65,2 %). An important share of the children is taken care of by a child-minding family affiliated to a service (14,6 %).



A classification according to the type of child-minding environment shows that 87,1% of the children are taken care of in a family environment and 12,9 % in a group environment.

**Table 30 - Main child-minding facility for children who are taken care of before 7 a.m. once or several times per week – 2002 (N = 207)**

Child-minding Facility	Percentage of users of child-minding before 7 a.m.
Grandparents	62,4
Other family members	2,8
Third parties, no family members	2,4
Private child-minding family, registered or supervised	5,0
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	14,6
Subsidized day care centre	4,4
Private day care centre, supervised	5,9
Out-of-school care (school and Out-of-school Care Initiatives)	1,4
Childcare and Family Support Centre	1,2
Total	100,0

#### 4.3. Child-minding after 6 p.m.

Most children do not use child-minding after 6 p.m.. Nearly one fifth of the children uses child-minding after 6 p.m. once or several times per week; 3,1 % use child-minding after 6 p.m. every weekday.

**Table 31 - Child-minding after 6 p.m. – 2002 (N = 2 274)**

Number of child-minding days	Percentage of regular users of child-minding
0	80,4
1	7,1
2	4,4
3	3,2
4	1,8
5	2,8
6 or 7	0,3
Total	100,0

<i>% of regular users of child-minding using atypical child-minding with regard to the aspect of end hour</i>	<i>19,6</i>
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Which child-minding facility is used most often for children who are cared for after 6 p.m. once or several times per week? Slightly more than half of these children are taken care of by their grandparents. More than 10% of these children are taken care of by a child-minding family affiliated to a service.

A classification according to the type of child-minding environment shows that 81,9 % of the children are taken care of in a family environment and 18,1 % in a group environment.

**Table 32 - Main child-minding facility for children who are taken care of after 6 p.m. once or several times per week – 2002 (N = 446)**

Child-minding Facility	Percentage of users of child-minding after 6 p.m.
Grandparents	54,3
Other family members	3,1
Third parties, no family members	2,3
Private child-minding family, registered or supervised	8,7
Child-minding family affiliated to a service	13,5
Subsidized day care centre	7,9
Private day care centre, registered or supervised	9,0
Day care centre, not know which type	0,2
Out-of-school care, in and by the school	0,4
Childcare and Family Support Centre	0,6
Total	100,0

#### **4.4. Child-minding during Weekends**

11,2 % of the children who regularly make use of child-minding are also cared for during weekends (Saturday or Sunday). For two third of these children the grandparents constitute the main type of child-minding and for nearly 15 % a child-minding family affiliated to a service constitutes the main type of child-minding.

#### **4.5. Child-minding at Night**

Nearly one tenth of the children who regularly use child-minding also use child-minding at night. This means that the child does not spend the night at home or that the child-minder spends the night in the child's home. For more than half of the children who use child-minding at night the grandparents constitute the main type of child-minding

facility. For nearly 15% of these children the main type of child-minding facility consists of a child-minding family affiliated to a service.

## D. PAID CHILD-MINDING?

The survey also studied whether the parents pay for child-minding. The cost price of one full day of child-minding was asked. These questions were only asked with regard to the regular users of child-minding and only for the main type of child-minding.

In the discussion of the results of these questions a difference is made between the children who use child-minding in a family environment (grandparents and other family members) and children who use child-minding outside a family environment.

### 1. Cost of Child-minding in a Family Environment

Only 2,8 % of the families whose children are taken care of by their grandparents pay for this type of child-minding. When child-minding is paid, the average cost is 5,36 euros per full day of child-minding.

The number of parents that has to pay for child-minding by family members other than grandparents is clearly much higher, i.e. 30,7 %. Here, the average cost is 10,06 euros per day.

**Table 33 - Cost of child-minding in a family environment (in euros) – 2002**

	Child-minding by grandparents N = 740	Child-minding by other family members N = 38
Percentage of paid child-minding	2,80	30,70
Average cost per full day in euros	5,36	10,06

### 2. Cost of Child-minding outside the Family Environment

Due to the high non-response, 31,5 % for child-minding in day nurseries, 34,7 % for child-minding in services for child-minding families, 16,6 % for child-minding in private child-minding families and 16,0 % for child-minding in private day nurseries, no accurate figures are available with regard to the cost of child-minding outside the family environment.

## ***PART II. CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 1 MONTH AND 3 MONTHS***

### **1. To what Extent Do People Use Child-minding?**

The 2002 survey again incorporated children aged between 1 and 3 months. Only a limited percentage of these young children, i.e. 8,6 % regularly use child-minding. Three quarters do not make use of child-minding.

**Table 34 - Use of child-minding for children aged between 1 and 3 months - 2002**

	2002 N = 172
Regular Use (1)	8,6
Limited Use	16,0
No Use	75,4

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week

### **2. Which Facility is Responsible for Child-minding?<sup>1</sup>**

Three quarters of these children are taken care of by their grandparents. The other child-minding facilities consist of a private child-minding family, a private day care centre, a subsidized day care centre or a babysit.

Hence, most children are taken care of by a non-subsidized type of child-minding, most of the time in a family environment.

All these children use part-time child-minding, especially during full days.

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<sup>1</sup> Only children for whom regular care is used. Only with regard to the main type of child-minding.

**Table 35 - Use of child-minding according to the type of child-minding for children aged between 1 and 3 months - 2002 (1)**

Percentage of regular users of child-minding	
	2002
	N = 15
Grandparents	74,2
Private child-minding family, supervised by Kind en Gezin	6,5
Subsidized day care centre	5,6
Private day care centre, supervised by Kind en Gezin	6,5
Babysit	7,2
Total	100,0

(1) Main type of child-minding

### ***PART III. USE OF CHILD-MINDING IN CASE OF ILLNESS***

#### **1. Illness Situation: the Occurrence of Illness in Children Aged between 1 Month and 3 Years in the Flemish Region**

In the autumn of 2002, 17,5 % of the children in the Flemish Region were ill during the week previous to the survey.

Half of the children were ill 1 to 3 days. Nearly one third of the children were ill during the entire week.

**Table 36 – Duration of the illness – 2002 (N = 791)**

Duration	Percentage of all ill children
1 to 3 days	48,1
4 to 5 days	20,9
6 to 7 days	30,9
Total	100,0
Percentage of ill children (N = 4530)	17,5

#### **1.1. According to the Child's Age**

**Table 37 – Illness according to the Child's Age - 2002**

Age Category	% of ill children	% of healthy children	Total
1 month - 1 years	20,6	79,4	100,0
1 years - 1 y 6 m	19,6	80,4	100,0
1 y 6 m - 2 years	16,3	83,7	100,0
2 years - 2 y 6 m	12,7	87,3	100,0
2 y 6 m - 3 years	16,1	83,9	100,0
Total (N = 4530)	17,5	82,5	100,0

The younger children, children younger than 1 year and children aged between 1 and 1,5 years, are most often ill. Children aged between 2 and 2,5 years are least often ill. The differences in illness according to the child's age are statistically significant<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 26,923$  df = 4 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)



## 1.2. According to the Type of Child-minding Most Commonly Used

The survey also examined whether the illness differs according to whether the child normally uses child-minding and/or attends school.

Schoolgoing children who do not make use of child-minding and children who do not yet attend school and regularly use child-minding are most often ill. The other categories show a similar percentage of illness<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 38 – Health of the child according to whether the child normally uses child-minding and/or attends school – 2002**

Condition of the child with regard to child-minding and school	% of ill children	% of healthy children	Total
Schoolgoing and no use of child-minding	21,7	78,3	100,0
Schoolgoing and limited use of child-minding	15,8	84,2	100,0
Schoolgoing and regular use of child-minding	14,5	85,5	100,0
Not schoolgoing and no use of child-minding	15,8	84,2	100,0
Not schoolgoing and limited use of child-minding	15,9	84,1	100,0
Not schoolgoing and regular use of child-minding	19,0	81,0	100,0
Total (N = 4 530)	17,5	82,5	100,0

## 2. Child-minding in Case of Illness

### 2.1. Changes in the Child-minding Situation

The regular users of child-minding were asked whether the child-minding situations changed due to the fact that the child was ill. For 60,6 % of the parents the child-minding situations remained unchanged, despite their child's illness. With regard to the total group of regular users of child-care this means that in the course of one week 7,4 % of the children's child-minding situations changed due to their illness.

Most changes occur in the group of children who are taken care of by a subsidized day care centre. The least changes occurred for children who are taken care of by the

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 11,248$  df = 5 p = 0,047 (ns.)

informal network. This difference is significant <sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 36,050$   $df = 4$   $p \leq 0,001$  (s.)

**Table 39 - Degree of changes in the child-minding situation according to the type of child-minding outside periods of illness – 2002 (N = 415)**

	% of child-minding remained unchanged	% of child- minding changed	Total
Informal network	77,9	22,1	100,0
Child-minding families affiliated to a service	59,2	40,8	100,0
Private child-minding family	63,3	36,7	100,0
Subsidized day care centre	38,6	61,4	100,0
Private day care centre	55,0	45,0	100,0
Total (1)	60,6	39,4	100,0

(1) The following answer categories were only incorporated in the total score due to the low frequency: out-of-school care in school, out-of-school care in an Out-of-school Care Initiative, Childcare and Family Support Centre, Local Employment Agency, domestic staff and babysit

For slightly more than two third of the children taken care of in a family environment, the illness has no consequences for the child-minding situation and there are no changes. For children taken care of in a group environment the percentage of children for whom child-minding does not change due to the illness is much lower. This difference is significant<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 40 - Degree of changes in the child-minding situation in case of illness according to child-minding in a group or a family environment – 2002 (N = 427)**

	% of child-minding remained unchanged	% of child-minding changed	Total
Group environment	44,8	55,2	100,0
Family environment	68,4	31,6	100,0
Out-of-school care	0,0	100,0	100,0
Total	60,6	39,4	100,0

For exactly half of the children taken care of by a subsidized facility the child-minding situation changed in case of illness. In the informal network only less than one third of the children's child-minding situations changed due to illness; while in the private sector less than half of the children's child-minding situation changed. This difference is significant<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 31,185$  df = 3 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

<sup>2</sup>  $\chi^2 = 28,245$  df = 2 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)



**Table 41 - Degree of changes in the child-minding situation in case of illness according to whether or not the child-minding facility is subsidized – 2002 (N = 426)**

(1)

	% of child-minding remained unchanged	% of child-minding changed	Total
Subsidized child-minding	50,0	50,0	100,0
Private child-minding	59,6	40,4	100,0
Informal network (2)	76,0	24,0	100,0
Out-of-school care (3)	0,0	100,0	100,0
Total	60,6	39,4	100,0

(1) The 'other' child-minding facilities were included in the corresponding category based on the description.

(2) Local Employment Agency, domestic staff, nanny, au-pair, babysit were included in this category, since this kind of child-minding is not formally regulated by Kind en Gezin

(3) In preschool or in an Out-of-school Care Initiative

Whether or not the used type of child-minding changed does not significantly differ according to the number of days the child was ill<sup>1</sup>.

For the group of children whose child-minding situation does not change due to illness the average number of illness days constitutes 4,15. For the group whose child-minding situation does change the number of illness days constitutes 3,83.

## 2.2. Nature of the Changes

When a child's child-minding situation changes due to illness, more than 40 % of the children are taken care of by their grandparents. About one fifth of the parents take time off from work and another one fifth takes social leave. Slightly more than 10 % of the families appeal to more than one solution (averagely 1,15 solutions).

<sup>1</sup>  $\chi^2 = 10,253$  df = 6 p = 0,114 (ns.)

**Table 42 - Nature of the changes in the child-minding situation in case of illness – 2002 (N = 168)**

Nature of the change (1)	
Non-working partner takes care of the child	8,7
Parent worked at home	7,0
Parent took social leave	22,0
Parent took time off	20,7
Grandparents took care of the child	43,0
Family, neighbours, friends took care of the child	4,6
Child-minding service for ill children	1,1
Babysit	1,0
Child-minding instead of school	0,8
Other	5,3

(1) Several answers possible

Slightly more than half of the parents who have to change the child-minding situation due to their child's illness, finds (a) solution(s) within the family. One-third appeals to the grandparents.

**Table 43 - Nature of the changes in the child-minding situation in case of illness grouped according to the type of solution – 2002**

Nature of changes grouped	Percentage of ill children with changed child-minding situation (N=168)	Percentage of regular users of child-minding (N = 2 274)
Solution(s) within the home environment	52,1	3,9
Child-minding by grandparents	32,6	2,4
Solution(s) within the home environment combined with grandparents	7,2	0,5
Other	4,9	0,4
Child-minding by grandparents combined with other	3,2	0,2
Total	100,0	7,4



## ***CONCLUSION***

In the autumn of 2002, more than 63 % of the children aged between 3 months and 3 years made use of child-minding: 52,2 % are regularly taken care of by family, a child-minding family or a day care centre. This means at least one continuous period of 5 hours per week for children who do not yet attend school or at least once per week for schoolgoing children aged between 2,5 and 3 years. 11,1 % make limited use of child-minding. The percentage of regular users has increased with regard to the 2001 survey, as well as the percentage of limited users. The percentage of children who do not use child-minding has dropped.

Children aged between 1,5 and 2 years make most frequently use of child-minding. The lower use of child-minding for children aged between 3 and 6 months is significant. Only 34,8 % regularly use child-minding; 53,8 % do not use child-minding at all.

From the age of 2,5 years a lot of children go to preschool and therefore the regular use of child-minding is lower. The regular use of child-minding for this age category constitutes 41,8 %. However, the regular use for this group has increased with about 10 % with regard to the 2001 survey.

The degree of use of child-minding differs significantly according to the province and according to the district. Children in Flemish Brabant make most frequently use of child-minding with 60,5 %. The provinces of Limburg and Antwerp have the lowest share of users. The differences between the provinces have however become smaller with regard to the 2001 survey.

7 out of 10 children who regularly use child-minding, make use of part-time child-minding. In comparison with 2001 the share of full-time child-minding has increased minimally. On Wednesdays the number of children who do not use child-minding is higher than on other days of the week. On Tuesdays the largest number of children uses child-minding.

For the group of regular users the main type of child-minding are family members: 34,3 % of the children are taken care of by their grandparents and 1,8 % by another family member, together 36,1 %. The child-minding families affiliated to a service constitute the second most important type of child-minding and take up 26,3 %. The subsidized day nurseries take up the third place (15,6 %).

The relative share of the various types of child-minding has changed, but not significantly. The survey shows an increase in child-minding by grandparents and other family members and a decrease of child-minding by child-minding families affiliated to a service, while the share of private child-minding families remains unchanged. Child-minding by subsidized day nurseries has dropped slightly, while child-minding by private day nurseries has increased.

The relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin constituted 42,2 % in 2002, i.e. an insignificant decrease with regard to 2001. The strong provincial differences remain with regard to the share of child-minding facilities subsidized by Kind en Gezin.

The relative share of child-minding in a family environment has increased with regard to 2001 and constitutes in 2002 73,7 %. Again the differences according to the province remain.

Children who make rather limited use of child-minding are mainly taken care of by their grandparents. In comparison with the regular users this group consists of twice as much children.

Both children from a disadvantaged family and ethnic minority children make less frequently use of child-minding with regard to the respective families that are not disadvantaged and the Belgian families. Both groups constitute slightly less than 20 %. Children from a disadvantaged family are mainly taken care of by their grandparents or a child-minding family affiliated to a service. For ethnic minority children the main types of child-minding facilities consist of grandparents and subsidized day nurseries.

31,4 % of the children aged between 3 months and 3 years who regularly use child-minding make use of atypical child-minding: 2,5 % of the children are taken care of for more than 11 hours once or several days per week, 9,1% are taken care of before 7 a.m. once or several times per week and 19,6 % are taken care of after 6 p.m. once or several times per week, 9,7 % are taken care of at night and 11,2 % during weekends.

The use of atypical child-minding does not significantly differ according to the child's age or according to the province. There is however a significant difference according to the type of child-minding facility used: children who are taken care of by the informal network more frequently make use of atypical child-minding. Children who are taken care of in a family environment also make more frequently use of atypical child-minding.

Only a very limited number of families whose children are taken care of by their grandparents pay for child-minding, averagely 5,36 euros per full day. The number of parents that has to pay for child-minding by other family members than the grandparents is much higher. These families pay an average of 10,06 euros per full day.

Only a very limited number of children aged between 1 and 3 months regularly uses child-minding, i.e. 8,6 %. Three quarters of these children are taken care of by their grandparents. This concerns part-time child-minding.

17,5 % of the children were ill in the week previous to the survey. In nearly half of the cases the children were ill during 1 to 3 days. Children younger than 1,5 years are most often ill. However, there is no significant difference in illness according to the child-minding situation.

For 60 % of the parents the child-minding situation remained unchanged during their child's illness. Most of the changes occur for children who are taken care of by a subsidized day care centre. For children who are taken care of by the informal network, the least changes occur. This difference is significant.

The child-minding situations does also change more often in case of illness for children who are taken care of in a group environment with regard to children who are taken care of in a family environment. Also the number of children whose child-minding situation changes in case of illness is highest in subsidized facilities and lowest in the informal network.

Slightly more than half of the parents who change the child-minding situation due to their child's illness find a solution within the family environment. In most cases the parent takes time off or takes social leave. One third of these children are taken care of by their grandparents.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Date of birth :  Date of interview: .....

2. NIS-code of the municipality :

3. Nationality of the mother at birth :

4. Name and telephone number of the regional health visitor of Kind en Gezin : .....

***IF THE CHILD WAS BORN ON THE 30th OF APRIL 2000 OR BEFORE: START  
HERE***

***(child is between 2,5 (on 30th of October 2002) and 3 years)***

This questionnaire is for a *Kind & Gezin* study into the use of child care in Flanders. We are going to ask you questions about ... (child's first name).

5. Does ... (child's name) go to nursery school; and if so, does he/she normally go for a full school week (whole day every day), or only for part of the week and/or half days ?

***Int.: 1. we talk about the 'normal', the 'usual' situation.***

- yes, the full school week (every day)  
 yes, but not every school day and/or only for half days  
 no, not at all

***GO TO QUESTION 6***

***IF THE CHILD WAS BORN AFTER 30<sup>th</sup> OF APRIL 2000: START HERE***  
***(child is younger than 2,5 years on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2002)***

***Int.: 1. the introduction should not be repeated if question 5 was asked.***

This questionnaire is for a *Kind & Gezin* study into the use of child care in Flanders. We are going to ask you questions about ... (child's first name).

6. Was your child ill on one or more days during the last week, from Monday to Sunday of last week inclusive ?

yes → question 7

no → question 8

*Int.: 1. last week = week previous to the survey  
2. we leave the interpretation of 'being ill' to the mother/father; the child doesn't have to be that ill that it couldn't go to school or childcare, it could also be a cold,...*

7. Last week, how many weekdays and how many days at the weekend was your child ill?

..... weekdays (0,1,2,3,4 or 5)

..... days at the weekend (0,1 or 2)

*Int.: 1. it doesn't have to be a continuous period of illness.*

**Interviewer**

*The following questions 8 to 20 refer to the week previous to the survey (Monday to Sunday)*

*If the child has been ill during one of these days (during the week or week-end) the following questions refer to the last week during which the child has not been ill (not even in the week-end), and then you say:*

*The following questions refer to the last week (week-end included) in which the child has not been ill.*

*If the child has been ill for longer than one month continuously, the survey stops here.*

8. Either: Did you use child care last week that is between Monday and Sunday of last week?

Or: About the last whole week in which your child was not ill on any day. Did you use child care in that week that is between Monday and Sunday of that week inclusive?

Child care means that your child was being looked after by someone other than yourself or your partner. (It does not matter whether your child was being looked after at home or somewhere else.) This does not include attending school during school hours.

yes → question 9

no = not at all → STOP SURVEY

*Int. 1. including childcare by the grandparents at the child's home  
2. Also including: before and after school hours  
3. Also including: babysit*

***IF THE CHILD DOES NOT GO TO SCHOOL YET OR NOT YET FULLTIME (child is younger than 2,5 years or child is between 2,5 and 3 years: see question 5)***

9a. About the child care you used last week, did it include at least one continuous period of care of 5 hours or more ?

*Int.: 1. it has to be at least one continuous period of at least 5 hours, it cannot be the sum of various periods (ex. 2 + 3 hours on one day)*

- yes, at least one continuous period of care of 5 hours or more  
 no → go to question 15, then question 16 and then STOP survey.

***IF THE CHILD GOES TO SCHOOL FULLTIME (see question 5)***

9b. About the child care you used last week, did it include at least one period of care before or after school or on Wednesday afternoon, or a continuous period of care of 5 hours or more on another day ?

*Int.: 1. note 'yes' if one of the four possibilities is met (before school, after school, Wednesday afternoon, 5 hours continuous).*

- yes, at least one period of care before or after school, on Wednesday afternoon or 5 hours' continuous  
 no → go to question 15, then question 16 and then STOP survey.

10. Now I would like to go through the different days of the week. For each day can you say whether you used child care for 5 hours or more on that day. It need not be a continuous period of 5 hours; it can be several shorter periods added together. You can also add together different types of child care. Put a cross in the appropriate column for each day.

*Int.: 1. it can be the sum of several different types of child care (ex. sum of (a) grandparents before school + (b) after school in preschool + (c) neighbor in the evening).*

	5 hours or more	less than 5 hours
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

---

11. From Monday to Sunday of last week inclusive, did you use child care during the night? By this we mean either that your child stayed overnight somewhere else, or that the person taking care of your child stayed overnight at your home in order to look after your child.

**Int.:** *1. it is important that the person staying overnight had the responsibility during the night.*

- yes → question 13  
 no → question 12

---

**Int. :** *if there was no child care during the night, then :*

12. How long was the longest child care day in hours and, if possible, minutes ?

It need not be one continuous period; it can be several shorter periods added together. You can also add together different types of child care.

..... hours / ..... minutes

---

13. How many days did your child go to child care before 7 o'clock in the morning?

**Int.:** *1. this refers to the time that the child arrives at the care facility.*

..... days

---

14. How many days did your child stay at child care until after 6 o'clock in

the evening?

**Int.:** 1. . *this refers to the time that the child leaves at the care facility.*

..... days

---

15. *When we look at the number of hours that your child was looked after last week, who provided the most care or where was your child looked after the most ? (Put cross in the right column)*

**Int.:** 1. *open questions.*  
2. *let the parent answer and then ask the question :*

*Who or which facility came in second and third place? (Put cross in columns that apply, if any)*

**Int.:** 1. *there doesn't have to be a second or a third facility.*

		most important = most hours	2 <sup>nd</sup> most important	3 <sup>rd</sup> most important
1	grandparents			
2	other relatives, not grandparents			
3	other adults such as friends, neighbors or acquaintances			
4	<b>child minding family</b>			
	<u><i>child minding family affiliated to a child-minding service</i></u> the contribution you pay depends on your income and is paid <b>to the service</b> , not to the child minder			
5				
	<u><i>private child minding family supervised by Kind &amp; Gezin</i></u> you agree a price with the child minder, you pay the child minder and you get a <b>tax certificate</b> to deduct your child care costs on your tax return			
6				
	<u><i>private child minding family only registered with Kind &amp; Gezin</i></u> you agree a price with the child minder, you pay the child minder, but you <b>do NOT get a tax certificate</b> to deduct your child care costs on your tax return (a)			
7	<b>crèche, kindergarten, day care centre</b>			
	<u><i>subsidized crèche, kindergarten, day care centre</i></u> the contribution you pay depends on your income			
8				
	<u><i>private crèche, kindergarten, day care centre supervised by Kind &amp; Gezin</i></u> you agree a price with them, you pay them and you get a <b>tax</b>			

	<b>certificate</b> to deduct your child care costs on your tax return			
9	<u>private crèche, kindergarten, day care centre only registered with Kind &amp; Gezin</u> you agree a price with them, you pay them but you <b>do NOT get a tax certificate</b> to deduct your child care costs on your tax return			
10	Out-of-school care IN (and provided by) the school or nursery school. This is child care provided before and after school and on Wednesday afternoon			
11	Out-of-school Child Care Initiative (IBO): for children who already go to school, but this child care is provided outside the structures of the school			
12	Local employment agency (PWA)			
13	Live-in staff (including via the black economy), Belgian or foreign domestic staff, nanny, au-pair etc.			
14	Child care and family support centre, subsidized by <i>Kind &amp; Gezin</i> (b)			
15	Babysitter			
16	other : specify : .....			

**Int. Question 16 should only be asked if the main type of child care is**

- 1 grandparents
- 2 other relatives, not grandparents
- 3 other adults, such as friends, neighbours, acquaintances
- 15 babysitter
- 16 other

16. Where did ... (*Int.: name the main type of child care*) look after your child? Was it at your home or somewhere else ?

- at the parent's home
  - somewhere else (home of the grandparent, other relative, other person)
- 

**Int. The questions 17, 17b en 18 refer to the main type of child care, whoever this may be**

17. Was your child cared for last week by/at ... (*Int.: name the main type of child care*) for at least one day for a continuous period of at least 5 hours ?

- yes → go to question 17b
  - no → or STOP survey or go to question 19
- 

17b. Did you have to pay for the child care provided last week by .... (*Int.: name the main type of child care*)?

- yes → go to question 18
  - no → or STOP survey or go to question 19
-

18. How much did you pay for the child care provided by ... (*Int.: name the main type of child care*) for a full day?

..... BEF for a full day

..... euros for a full day

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***Int. The following questions should only be asked if the child has been ill in the week previous to the survey ('yes' to question 6) AND when also question 9a or question 9b was answered with 'yes'.***

19. On the days when your child was ill last week, was he/she looked after as usual or did you change your child care arrangements on account of your child's illness (this also includes the child not going to school as usual)?

yes, everything stayed the same as usual; nothing changed → STOP survey

***Int.: if the parents take care of the child during the weekend and the child has only been ill during the weekend, this answer should be marked.***

no, I had to change my child care arrangements → go to question 20

***Int. 1. either for part of the week or for the whole week  
2. this change of arrangements has to be the direct result of the illness of the child and not because for instance the grandparents planned a trip.***

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20. What did you do, who looked after your child?

***Int. 1. Several answers are possible.***

- my partner does not work and looked after my child
- I (or my partner) worked at home (work to be understood here as to do with the parent's occupation/profession)
- I (or my partner) took leave for social or family reasons
- I (or my partner) took one or more days' holiday or day(s) off in lieu
- grandparents looked after my child

- others (relatives, friends, neighbors etc.) looked after my child
- I used an organization that provides child care for sick children
- I arranged a babysitter
- my child went to his/her child care (child minder, day care centre) instead of school
- other solution, specify .....

## ***ENCLOSURES***

**Table 1 - Use of child-minding for children ages between 3 months and 3 years in the Flemish Region - Period 1988-2002**

	1988 (N=4334)	1989 (N=4735)	1990 (N=4599)	1991 (N=4735)	1993 (N=4957)	1995 (N=4635)	1997 (N=5060)	2001 (N=2555)	2002 N = 4358)
Regular (1)	52,8	53,7	53,5	53,3	53,7	53,7	54,4	49,0	52,2
Limited (2)	4,9	3,7	3,9	3,5	3,4	3,9	3,4	9,8	11,1
No	42,3	42,7	42,6	43,2	42,9	42,4	42,2	41,2	36,7

(1) Till 1997 defined as 'At least once per week' ; From 2001 defined as 'At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week' for children who do not attend school and as 'At least once per week' for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

(2) Till 1997 defined as 'Less than once per week'; from 2001 defined as 'Less than one continuous period of 5 hours per week' for children who do not attend school and as 'Less than once per week' for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

**Table 2 - Percentage of children aged between 3 months and 3 years who regularly use child-minding facilities (1) according to the province and the district in 2001 and in 2002**

District	2001 (N = 2 544 )	2002 N = 4 357)	Evolution 2001 - 2002
Antwerp	44,6	<b>41,1</b>	ns
Mechelen	41,4	<b>50,7</b>	ns
Turnhout	43,6	<b>53,8</b>	ns
Antwerp	43,7	<b>46,2</b>	ns
Halle-Vilvoorde	62,4	<b>57,0</b>	ns
Leuven	64,8	<b>63,9</b>	ns
Flemish Brabant	63,8	<b>60,5</b>	ns
Brugge	56,3	<b>67,0</b>	ns
Diksmuide	29,4	<b>50,0</b>	ns
Ieper	43,4	<b>45,7</b>	ns
Kortrijk	53,5	<b>60,3</b>	ns
Oostende	44,4	<b>52,4</b>	ns
Roeselare	44,9	<b>57,0</b>	ns
Tielt	42,9	<b>55,8</b>	ns
Veurne	43,8	<b>51,6</b>	ns
West Flanders	49,0	<b>57,7</b>	s
Aalst	48,0	<b>59,8</b>	ns
Dendermonde	51,4	<b>60,6</b>	ns
Eeklo	63,2	<b>58,1</b>	ns
Gent	46,6	<b>50,1</b>	ns
Oudenaarde	54,2	<b>54,4</b>	ns
Sint-Niklaas	43,4	<b>49,1</b>	ns
East Flanders	48,1	<b>53,9</b>	ns
Hasselt	47,8	<b>36,1</b>	ns
Maaseik	36,7	<b>45,4</b>	ns
Tongeren	38,5	<b>50,5</b>	ns
Limburg	43,1	<b>43,0</b>	ns
Flemish Region	49,0	<b>52,2</b>	s

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

Differences between the districts  $\chi^2 = 169,588$   $df = 42$   $p \leq 0,001$  (s.)  
Differences between the provinces  $\chi^2 = 94,365$   $df = 8$   $p \leq 0,001$  (s.)

*Evolution:*

Differences between the districts:

Antwerp	$\chi^2 = 1,350$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,509$ (ns.)
Mechelen	$\chi^2 = 3,881$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,144$ (ns.)
Turnhout	$\chi^2 = 5,629$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,060$ (ns.)
Halle-Vilvoorde	$\chi^2 = 2,503$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,286$ (ns.)
Leuven	$\chi^2 = 2,180$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,336$ (ns.)
Brugge	$\chi^2 = 4,803$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,091$ (ns.)
Diksmuide	$\chi^2 = 5,222$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,073$ (ns.)
Ieper	$\chi^2 = 0,071$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,965$ (ns.)
Kortrijk	$\chi^2 = 7,107$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,029$ (ns.)
Oostende	$\chi^2 = 5,381$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,068$ (ns.)
Roeselare	$\chi^2 = 3,452$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,178$ (ns.)
Tielt	$\chi^2 = 2,358$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,308$ (ns.)
Veurne	$\chi^2 = 0,595$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,743$ (ns.)
Aalst	$\chi^2 = 4,009$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,135$ (ns.)
Dendermonde	$\chi^2 = 1,718$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,424$ (ns.)
Eeklo	$\chi^2 = 0,860$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,651$ (ns.)
Gent	$\chi^2 = 1,592$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,451$ (ns.)
Oudenaarde	$\chi^2 = 1,369$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,504$ (ns.)
Sint-Niklaas	$\chi^2 = 1,291$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,524$ (ns.)
Hasselt	$\chi^2 = 8,924$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,012$ (ns.)
Maaseik	$\chi^2 = 2,104$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,349$ (ns.)
Tongeren	$\chi^2 = 4,816$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,090$ (ns.)

Differences between the provinces:

Antwerp	$\chi^2 = 1,561$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,458$ (ns.)
Flemish Brabant	$\chi^2 = 3,446$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,179$ (ns.)
West Flanders	$\chi^2 = 15,578$	$df = 2$	$p \leq 0,001$ (s.)
East Flanders	$\chi^2 = 5,028$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,081$ (ns.)
Limburg	$\chi^2 = 4,164$	$df = 2$	$p = 0,125$ (ns.)

**Table 3 – Regular use of child-minding (in %) (1) for children between 3 months and 3 years - Period 1988 - 2002**

Use of child-minding	1988 (N=4334)	1989 (N=4735)	1990 (N=4599)	1991 (N=4735)	1993 (N=4957)	1995 (N=4635)	1997 (N=5063)	2001 (N=2555)	2002 (N = 4359)
3 m - 1 year	51,0	52,9	52,3	52,2	53,8	56,4	53,9	43,5	46,5
1 year - 1 y 6 m	51,6	56,2	54,3	57,8	59,6	61,3	59,9	53,5	56,9
1 y 6 m – 2 years	54,5	52,7	57,0	53,5	51,2	58,7	59,1	57,2	61,4
2 years - 2 y 6 m	57,5	56,4	55,7	55,3	53,2	55,0	57,5	55,1	56,1
2 y 6 m – 3 years	49,8	50,3	48,3	47,8	48,7	33,2	40,0	31,7	41,8

(1) Till 1997 defined as ‘At least once per week’ ; From 2001 defined as ‘At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week’ for children who do not attend school and as ‘At least once per week’ for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

**Table 4 – Use of child-minding for children between 3 months and 2,5 years in 2001 and in 2002**

Use of child-minding	2001 (N=2 268)	2002 (N=3 646)
Regular (1)	51,2	<b>54,2</b>
Limited (2)	9,6	<b>10,0</b>
No	39,2	<b>35,7</b>

(1) At least 1 continuous period of at least 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and at least once per week for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

(2) Less than one continuous period of 5 hours per week for children who do not attend school and less than once per week for children between 2,5 years and 3 years attending preschool

**Table 5 – Intensity of child-minding - Period 1988 - 2002**

	Percentage of regular users of child-minding								
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1995	1997	2001	2002
N =	2 290	2 542	2 460	2 522	2 662	2 490	2 752	1 253	2 269
Full-time	39,8	41,3	39,1	40,6	37,3	34,1	29,3	28,8	29,6
Part-time	58,7	56,9	59,4	57,8	61,3	64,8	69,1	71,2	70,4
Day and night/night/weekend	1,6	1,8	1,6	1,6	1,5	1,2	1,6	(1)	(1)
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

(1) Not seen as a separate category in 2001 and 2002

**Table 6 – Relative share of child-minding subsidized by Kind en Gezin, according to the province in 2001 (N = 1234) and in 2002 (N = 2265)**

		Subsidized	Private	Informal	Out-of-school care	Total
Antwerp	2001	44,1	16,0	38,7	1,3	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>44,3</b>	<b>13,8</b>	<b>41,1</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Flemish Brabant	2001	51,1	17,3	30,9	0,7	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>42,0</b>	<b>23,4</b>	<b>33,3</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>
West Flanders	2001	40,4	30,5	26,0	3,1	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>34,7</b>	<b>27,5</b>	<b>36,4</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>
East Flanders	2001	45,5	16,5	36,6	1,4	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>41,4</b>	<b>19,8</b>	<b>37,2</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Limburg	2001	52,4	8,4	39,2	0,0	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>54,4</b>	<b>4,2</b>	<b>39,7</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Flemish Region	2001	46,3	18,1	34,2	1,4	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>42,2</b>	<b>19,0</b>	<b>37,5</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Evolution Flemish Region:

$\chi^2 = 6,251$  df = 2 p = 0,100 (ns.)

Evolution in the provinces:

Antwerp  $\chi^2 = 1,657$  df = 2 p = 0,646 (ns.)

Flemish Brabant  $\chi^2 = 7,072$  df = 2 p = 0,070 (ns.)

West Flanders  $\chi^2 = 9,392$  df = 2 p = 0,025 (ns.)

East Flanders  $\chi^2 = 1,881$  df = 2 p = 0,597 (ns.)

Limburg  $\chi^2 = 5,166$  df = 2 p = 0,160 (ns.)

**Table 7 – Relative share of child-minding in a family environment and in a group environment according to the province in 2001 (N=1247) and in 2002 (N=2272)**

		Family Environment	Group Environment	Out-of-school care	Total
Antwerp	2001	76,0	22,7	1,3	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>75,7</b>	<b>23,6</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Flemish Brabant	2001	62,7	36,6	0,7	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>64,9</b>	<b>33,8</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>
West Flanders	2001	68,0	28,9	3,1	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>77,3</b>	<b>21,4</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>
East Flanders	2001	78,4	20,2	1,4	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>74,0</b>	<b>24,4</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Limburg	2001	84,0	16,0	0,0	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>78,6</b>	<b>19,7</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Flemish Region	2001	72,9	25,7	1,4	100,0
	<b>2002</b>	<b>73,7</b>	<b>25,0</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Evolution Flemish Region:

$\chi^2 = 0,452$  df = 2 p = 0,798 (ns.)

Evolution in the provinces

Antwerp  $\chi^2 = 0,751$  df = 2 p = 0,687 (ns.)

Flemish Brabant  $\chi^2 = 1,077$  df = 2 p = 0,584 (ns.)

West Flanders  $\chi^2 = 7,907$  df = 2 p = 0,019 (ns.)

East Flanders  $\chi^2 = 1,966$  df = 2 p = 0,374 (ns.)

Limburg  $\chi^2 = 3,449$  df = 2 p = 0,178 (ns.)

**Table 8 - Percentage of children between 3 months and 3 years who use atypical child-minding according to the district/the province – 2002 (N = 2 259)**

District	% of users of atypical child-minding	% of users of typical child-minding
Antwerp	27,4	72,6
Mechelen	28,7	71,3
Turnhout	37,6	62,4
Antwerp	30,7	69,3
Halle-Vilvoorde	31,3	68,9
Leuven	28,9	71,1
Flemish Brabant	30,1	69,9
Brugge	30,6	69,4
Diksmuide	45,8	54,2
Ieper	35,1	64,9
Kortrijk	32,0	68,0
Oostende	32,6	67,4
Roeselare	38,5	61,5
Tielt	34,9	65,1
Veurne	50,0	50,0
West Flanders	34,4	65,6
Aalst	34,0	66,0
Dendermonde	26,8	73,2
Eeklo	30,6	69,2
Gent	29,9	70,1
Oudenaarde	36,7	63,3
Sint-Niklaas	28,2	71,8
East Flanders	30,8	69,2
Hasselt	40,6	59,4
Maaseik	28,5	71,4
Tongeren	26,7	73,3
Limburg	31,6	68,4
Flemish Region	31,4	68,6

Differences between the districts  $\chi^2 = 18,821$   $df = 21$   $p = 0,597$  (ns)

Differences between the provinces  $\chi^2 = 2,547$   $df = 4$   $p = 0,636$  (ns)