

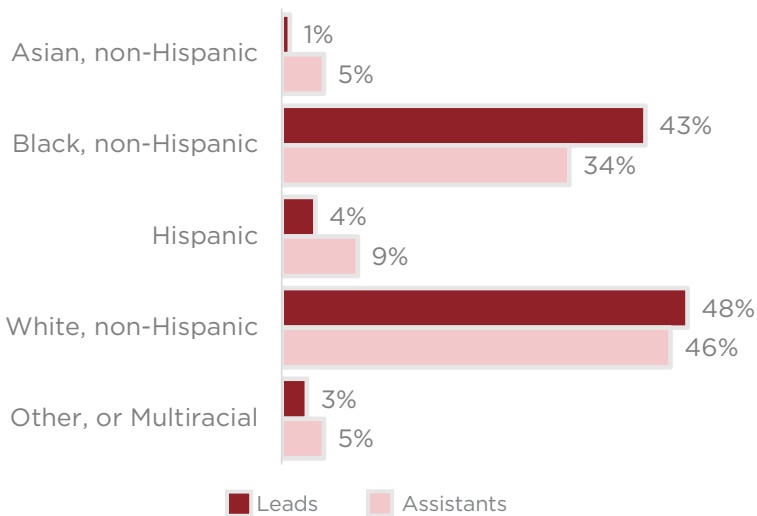
# Head Start Teachers

In May & June 2022, the Study of Early Education through Partnerships conducted a survey of early educators in Virginia working with children ages 0-5. Over two-thirds of teachers working in surveyed Head Start classrooms<sup>1</sup> (69%) completed the 2022 survey, including 590 lead teachers and 348 assistant teachers. This profile describes those teachers.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### RACE/ETHNICITY

About half of Head Start teachers are people of color.



### TEACHER GENDER

Nearly all lead (99%) and assistant (99%) Head Start teachers are female.

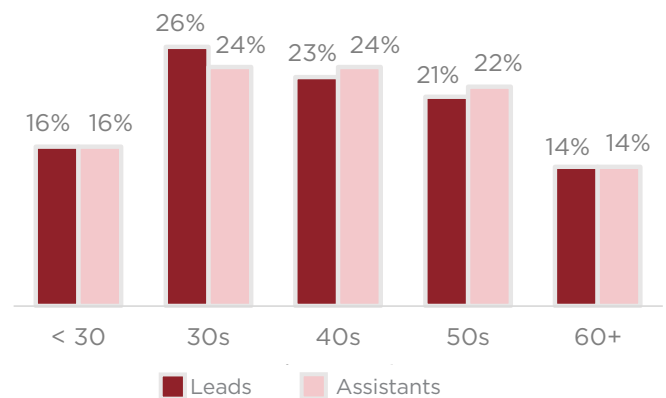
### LANGUAGES SPOKEN

**11%**

of lead teachers & 23% of assistant teachers speak a language besides English.

### TEACHER AGE

Most Head Start teachers are over 40 years of age.



### HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

**60%**

of lead teachers and 56% of assistant teachers are married or living with partner.

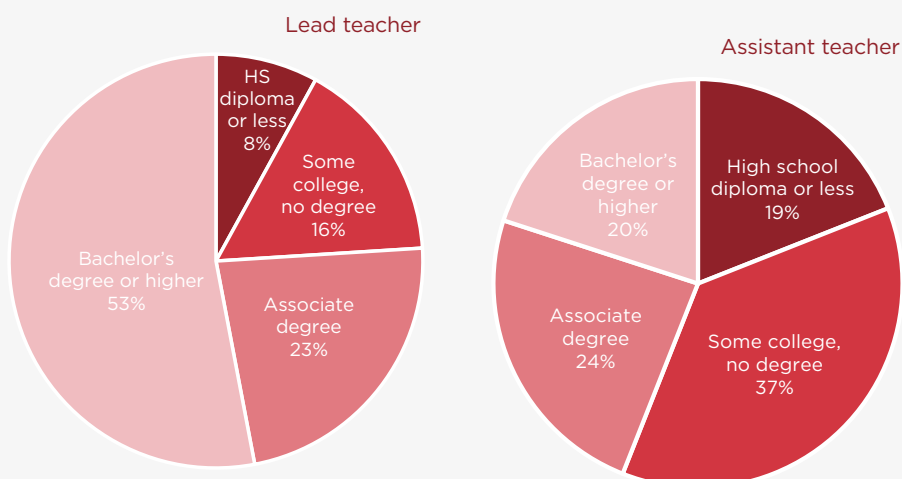
**50%**

of lead teachers and 56% of assistant teachers have children under the age of 18.

## EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

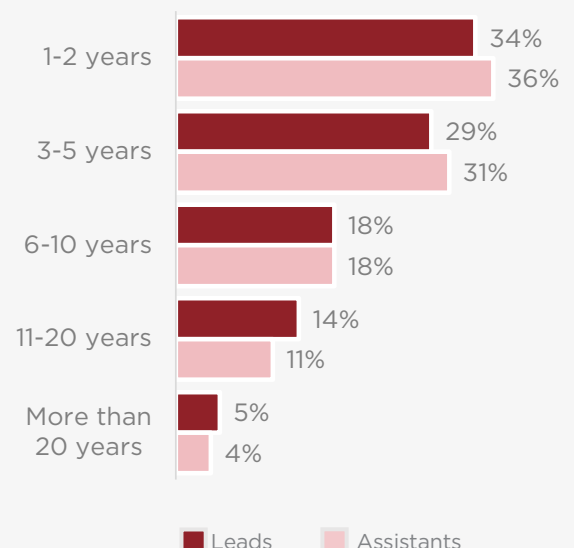
### EDUCATION LEVEL

Most Head Start teachers have an associate or bachelor's degree.



### YEARS AT SITE

Lead and assistant teachers have been teaching and caring for children at their site for an average of 6 years.



### CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

**45%**

of lead teachers and 47% of assistant teachers hold a CDA credential.



**5%**

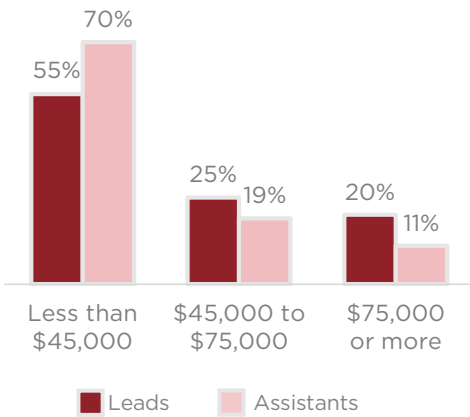
of lead teachers and 16% of assistant teachers are working towards one.

# Head Start Teachers

## EDUCATOR WELLBEING

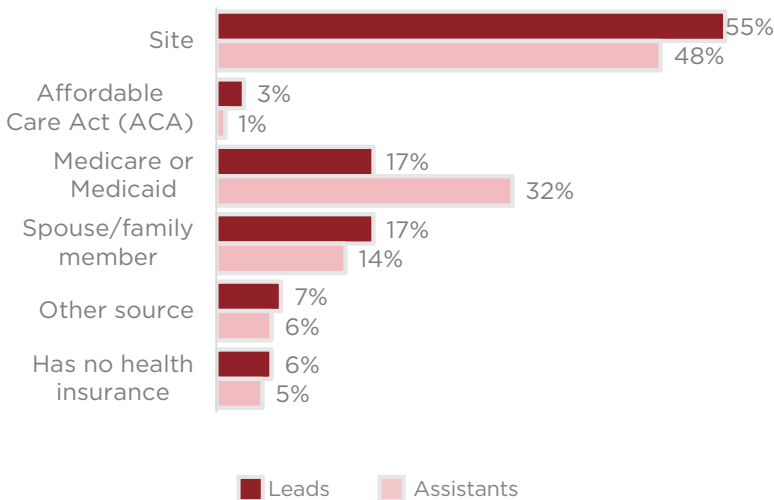
### HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Over half of lead teachers (55%) and assistant teachers (70%) in Head Start classrooms have total household incomes (pre-tax) below \$45,000 per year.



### HEALTH INSURANCE

About half of Head Start teachers have health insurance from their site.



### PAY PER HOUR

**\$20.40**

On average, lead teachers earn \$20.40 per hour and assistant teachers earn \$14.21 per hour.

### FOOD INSECURITY

**46%**

of lead teachers and 50% of assistant teachers are experiencing food insecurity.

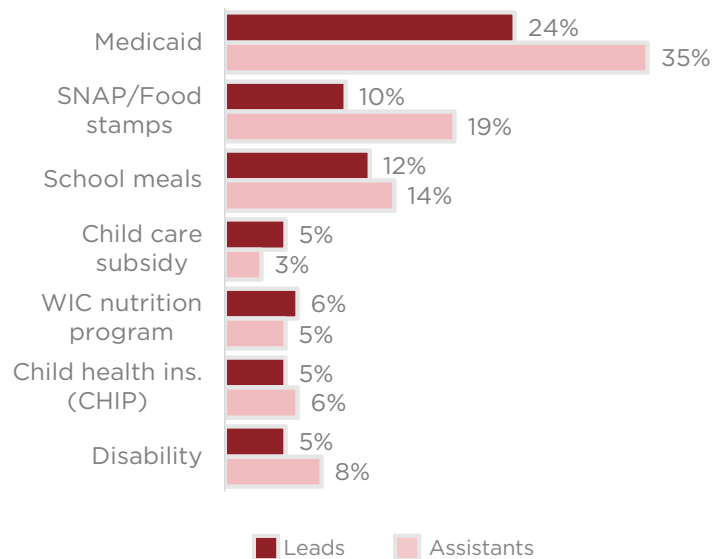
### MENTAL HEALTH

**36%**

of lead teachers and 32% of assistant teachers are exhibiting clinically relevant symptoms of depression.

### SOCIAL SUPPORTS AND BENEFITS RECEIVED

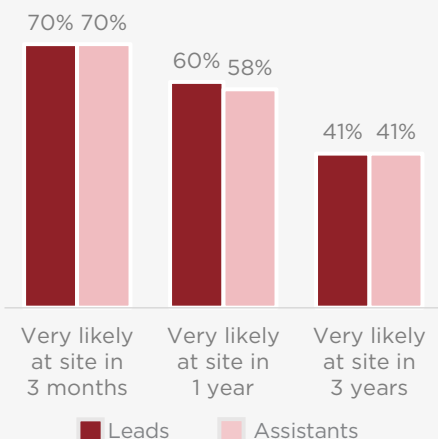
41% of lead teachers and 51% of assistant teachers received some kind of social support or benefit in the past month, including...



## JOB SATISFACTION

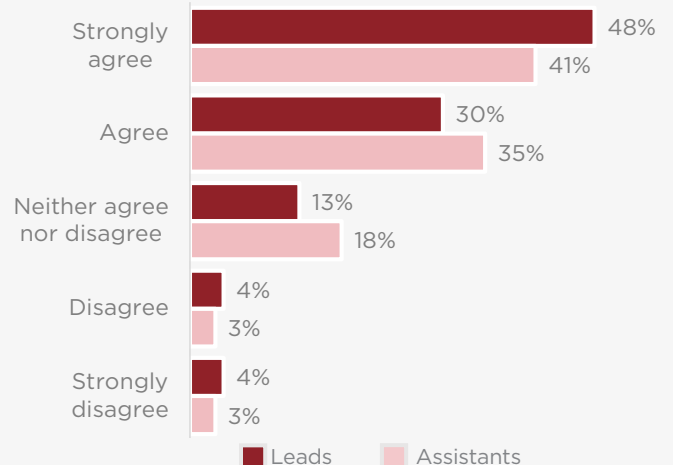
### TEACHER RETENTION

Over two-thirds of Head Start teachers said it was very likely they would still be at their site in 3 months, and about two-fifths said they expected to still be there in 3 years.



### CAREER GOALS

About three-quarters of lead and assistant Head Start teachers view being an early childhood educator as their long-term career.



This survey was conducted as part of Virginia's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) initiative, which aimed to improve the quality of early childhood care and education across Virginia. In this third and final pilot year before PDG B-5 was expanded statewide, early childhood sites in 86% of Virginia's cities and counties participated in PDG B-5.

<sup>1</sup> Head Start teachers are defined as any teacher working in a classroom that receives any Head Start funding. In Virginia, Head Start classrooms can be located in both school buildings and child care centers.