

Child Care in America:

2009 State Fact Sheets





Importance

More than 12 million children under age 6 in the United States are in some type of child care arrangement every week. On average, the children under age 6 of working mothers spend 37 hours a week in child care. About one-third of these children are in multiple child care arrangements cobbled together by parents to meet the demands of working hours. The quality of care varies greatly and many working families struggle with the costs. In a weakened economy, the stress placed on families makes high-quality child care settings even more important to the healthy development of children.

Child care keeps taxpayers working. In today's economy, parents are forced to make difficult decisions about the care of their children. The number of parents losing jobs, cutting back hours, working part-time or taking pay cuts is rising. Many of these parents are taking their children out of organized child care and making do with whatever arrangements they can find. Newspaper stories throughout the country describe parents pulling their children from child care and, at times, leaving young children alone.

Research on the brain shows that the first years of life are crucial for intellectual, social and general development - 80 percent of the brain develops by age 3. It is essential that our children receive high-quality, developmentally-appropriate care. As more than 6 in 10 young children are cared for regularly by someone other than their parents, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) conducted a series of focus groups and surveyed parents, grandparents and voters to better understand their views on child care.

Quality and cost head the list of parents' concerns regarding child care. Parents and grandparents strongly support public funding to increase the quality and affordability of child care.

- More than 6 in 10 parents and grandparents were willing to pay an extra \$10 per year in taxes to improve child care quality, and 54 percent of parents were willing to pay \$50 extra per year extra in taxes.
- Almost three-quarters of parents (74 percent) favored providing public funding to make child care more affordable. In addition, 70 percent of parents and 64 percent of grandparents were willing to pay an extra \$10 per year in taxes to make child care more affordable, and 60 percent of parents were willing to pay \$50 extra per year extra in taxes.

But there is a disconnect between what parents expect about the quality of care and what is actually happening.

- Almost 8 in 10 parents polled assume caregivers have training to work with children. But, only 13 states require training in early childhood education before someone can lead a classroom in a child care center.
- More than three-quarters of parents believe that most child care programs are inspected regularly. Yet, only 11 states license all child care programs and eight states inspect licensed programs (including building and fire safety inspections) less than one time a year.

Most parents believe that child care programs are licensed and that caregivers undergo a background check and are trained in first-aid, CPR, and in recognizing and reporting signs of child abuse. Unfortunately, this is too often not the case and the situation varies widely state by state.

A recent poll of grandparents also shows that grandparents hold similar beliefs about state regulations and oversight of child care, and are even stronger supporters of initiatives to improve child care quality.

Parents, grandparents and voters, however, strongly support initiatives that would improve the quality of child care.

- More than 9 in 10 parents, grandparents and voters favor requiring training in child development and safety.
- More than 9 in 10 parents, grandparents and voters favor requiring regular inspections of child care programs. One-third of parents, in fact, think that child care programs should be inspected at least four times year, the standard used by the Department of Defense for child care on all military installations.
- Almost all parents and voters favor requiring comprehensive background checks using a fingerprint of all child care workers.

Given the importance parents and grandparents place on high-quality child care, NACCRRA reviewed and scored states' licensing regulations for child care centers and small family child care homes. States' requirements for child care centers earned, on average, only 55 percent of all available points; and their requirements for small family child care homes were even more minimal, earning only 41 percent, on average, of all available points.

The following data profiles the need for and use of child care in the United States today, as well as its current cost, quality and impact on America's children, families and the economy. It also provides key data on the nation's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) system, which helps families, child care providers and communities find, provide and plan for affordable, quality care.

Overall, the data show that there are almost 14.5 million children under age 6 who need child care because their parents work. But there are only 10.8 million legally-operating spaces to service not only these young children, but also older school-age children. Given this dearth of supply, it is probably not surprising that the cost of child care can be higher than the cost of attending a public university. For example, the average annual tuition at a public university is \$6,585, while parents often may pay more than double that amount for the full-time care of an infant in a child care center.

Family Characteristics and Need For Child Care

Number of children under age 6 ¹	23,480,451
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents ²	68%
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents, where both parents work ³	55% (8,776,879 children)
Percentage of children under age 6 living with single parent, where parent works ⁴	76% (5,721,836 children)
Number of children under age 6 requiring child care, as parent works ⁵	14,498,715
Percentage of mothers with children under age 6 who are in the workforce ⁶	65%
Number of women in the labor force who gave birth in last 12 months ⁷	2,377,973
Percentage of mothers with children under age 1 who are in the workforce ⁸	57%
Percentage of children under age 5 with working mothers (not self-employed), who work non-day shifts ⁹	32% (3.6 million children)
Percentage of children under age 5 with working mothers who are in multiple child care arrangements ¹⁰	25% (2.8 million children)
Percentage of parents who work in the private sector that have guaranteed unpaid parental leave through the Family and Medical Leave Act ¹¹	45%
Percentage of parents with access to paid parental leave ¹²	< 5%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first six months of giving birth ¹³	55%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first year of giving birth ¹⁴	64%
Percentage of child care referral requests for infant/toddler care ¹⁵	45%
Percentage of child care referral requests for pre-school care ¹⁶	31%
Percentage of child care referral requests for school-age care ¹⁷	24%

Child Care Patterns And Supply

Number of children under age 5 of working mothers who need care while their mothers are at work. ¹⁸	11.3 million
Percentage of school-age children between ages 5 to 14 with working mothers who have no regular child care arrangement every week ¹⁹	37% (9.6 million children)
Percentage of school-age children between ages 5 and 14 with working mothers who are home alone after school ("self care") ²⁰	19% (4.2 million children)
Percentage of children under 5 of employed mothers in child care arrangements by primary caregiver ²¹	
Grandparent	19%
Other relative	6%
Child care centers	18%
Nursery/Preschool	5%
Non-relative in child's home	4%
Family child care homes	7%
Other non-relative	5%
Percentage of children under 5 of employed mothers in multiple child care arrangements ²²	
Grandparent	30%
Child care centers	21%
Nursery/Preschool	7%
Non-relative in child's home	5%
Family child care homes	9%
Other non-relative	7%
Number of hours per week, on average, pre-school age children of working mothers spend in child care or non-parental care ²³	36 hours
Number of child care centers ²⁴	119,174
Number of family child care homes ²⁵	238,103
Number of child care spaces ²⁶	≈ 11.08 million
Percent of accredited child care centers ²⁷	9.4%
Percent of accredited family child care homes ²⁸	0.97%

Cost Of Child Care

Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for an infant ²⁹	\$4,560-\$15,895
Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-year old ³⁰	\$4,056-\$11,678
Average, annual fees paid for full-time care for an infant in a family child care home ³¹	\$3,582-\$10,324
Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-year old in a family child care home ³²	\$3,380-\$9,805
Average, annual fees paid for before and after school care for a school-age child in a center ³³	\$2,160-\$10,719
Average, annual fees paid for before and after school care for a school-age child in a family child care home ³⁴	\$1,820-\$7,124
Average yearly tuition of public higher education ³⁵	\$6,585

Child Care Workforce

Number of child care workers (excludes self-employed providers) ³⁶	576,680
Number of child care workers in family child care homes ³⁷	650,000
Number of child care workers who are paid relatives of the child ³⁸	804,000
Number of child care workers who are paid non-relatives, but regulated ³⁹	298,000
Average earnings of child care workers ⁴⁰	\$9.46per hour (\$19,670 annually)
Average earnings of pre-school teachers ⁴¹	\$12.40 per hr (\$25,800 annually)
Percentage of caregivers in child care centers who are women ⁴²	97%
Percentage of caregivers in family child care homes who are women ⁴³	99%
Percentage of center teachers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁴	20%
Percentage of assistant teachers in centers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁵	43%
Percent of family child care providers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁶	44%
Number of states where teachers in child care centers are not even required to take orientation training before working in a classroom ⁴⁷	6
Number of states where teachers in family child care homes do not need any training before working in a classroom ⁴⁸	17

Child Care Impact

On Our Children:

- A study of interactions concluded that the words spoken by primary caregivers to children in their early years account for 59 percent of the cognitive accomplishments of preschool-age children.⁴⁹
- A child's development of social and emotional skills is related to the closeness of their relationship with their caregiver.⁵⁰

Child Care Resource And Referral (CCR&R) Information⁵¹

CCR&Rs Around the United States

Number of local and state CCR&Rs in the United States	712
Number of states with CCR&R services	All 50 states plus the District of Columbia
Percentage of populated ZIP codes served by CCR&Rs	99.33%

Services Provided by CCR&Rs

Percentage of local CCR&Rs coordinated by a statewide network	78%
Percentage of CCR&Rs conducting community needs assessments	88%
Percentage of CCR&Rs involved in market rate surveys	75%
Percentage of CCR&Rs providing training and technical assistance	97%
Percentage of CCR&Rs providing consumer and parent education	97%
Percentage of CCR&Rs recruiting providers	88%

Child Care Resource And Referral Impact

Number of parents served annually by CCR&Rs with child care referrals, consumer education, training workshops, subsidy administrations and other services ⁵²	≈ 7 million
Number of contacts with parents annually by CCR&Rs to provide services ⁵³	≈ 10 million
Number of consumer education materials on child care distributed ⁵⁴	≈ 11 million
Number of child care providers trained annually by CCR&Rs ⁵⁵	≈ 650,000
Number of child care programs receiving on-site technical assistance from CCR&Rs annually ⁵⁶	≈ 65,500
Number of new child care spaces created annually by CCR&R agencies ⁵⁷	≈ 450,000

Notes

¹ U.S Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ U.S Census Bureau. *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005: Detailed Tables*. March 2008. (<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/ppl-2005.html>)

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ National Resource Council and Institute of Medicine (2003). *Working Families and Growing Kids: Caring for Children and Adolescents*. Committee on Family and Work Policies. Eugene Smolensky and Jennifer A. Gootman, Eds. Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Washington, D.C: The National Academy Press. Available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10669#toc.

¹² Ibid

¹³ U.S Census Bureau. *Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns of First Time Mothers: 1961-2003*. February 2008. (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p70-113.pdf>).

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2008.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ U.S Census Bureau. *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005: Detailed Tables*. March 2008. (<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/ppl-2005.html>)

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ U.S Census Bureau. *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 2002*. November 2005. (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p70-101.pdf>)

²⁴ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2008.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2008.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ The average price for public college tuition and fees for a 4-year institution from the College Board, *Trends in College Pricing, 2008*.

³⁶ Derived from 2007 data collected and reported by the 2007 Occupational Employment Statistics survey by occupation at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>). They do not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers.

³⁷ Center for the Child Care Workforce, Washington, D.C. Human Services Policy Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. *Estimating the Size and Components of the U.S. Child Care Workforce and Caregiving Population: Key Findings from the Child Care Workforce Estimate, Executive Summary*. (Preliminary Report, May 2002.)

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

- ⁴⁰ Derived from 2007 data collected and reported by the 2007 Occupational Employment Statistics survey by occupation at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>). They do not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers.
- ⁴¹ Ibid. Does not include special education teacher.
- ⁴² Center for the Child Care Workforce, Washington, D.C. Human Services Policy Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. *Estimating the Size and Components of the U.S. Child Care Workforce and Caregiving Population: Key Findings from the Child Care Workforce Estimate, Executive Summary*. (Preliminary Report, May 2002.)
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid.
- ⁴⁵ Ibid.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid.
- ⁴⁷ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *We Can Do Better: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Standards and Oversight*. February, 2007.
- ⁴⁸ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes*. February, 2008.
- ⁴⁹ NICHD Early Child Care Research Network. (2005). Early Child Care and Children's Development in the Primary Grades: Follow-Up Results from the NICHD Study of Early Child Care. *American Educational Research Journal*.
- ⁵⁰ Hart, B. & Risley T. R. (1995). *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*. Summary Available: http://www.psych-ed.org/Topics/Hart_and_Risley.htm
- ⁵¹ Based on information provided by CCR&Rs and compiled by NACCRRA. Data were collected in 2005.
- ⁵² National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *Covering the Map: Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies Providing Vital Services to Parents Throughout the United States*. March, 2008.
- ⁵³ Ibid.
- ⁵⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵⁵ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2007.
- ⁵⁶ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *Knowledge Into Practice: NACCRRA's Survey of Child Care Resource & Referral On-Site Technical Assistance*. 2007.
- ⁵⁷ Number of new child care spaces created information was last collected in 2002.