



# Child Care in America

2013 State Fact Sheets





# **Child Care in America**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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## **About Child Care Aware® of America**

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Child Care Aware® of America is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and other community partners to help ensure that all families have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research and advocate child care policies that improve the lives of children and families. To learn more, visit [www.usa.childcareaware.org](http://www.usa.childcareaware.org).

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# Child Care in America Today

## Introduction

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For America to participate fully in the 21st-century global economy, it needs to think of child care as both a workforce support for parents and early education for young children.

*Child Care in America: 2013 State Fact Sheets* is useful to child care advocates, policymakers and program administrators as they make decisions about child care programs and expenditures. It provides the data to better understand America's working families and the circumstances families face as they balance working to support their families with providing their children with child care that is safe, healthy and promotes early learning.

This annual report uses federal and national data and information from state Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies and other state agencies to look at:

- » Family characteristics related to the need for child care.
- » The use of child care.
- » The supply of child care.
- » The cost of child care.
- » The child care workforce.
- » Services provided by CCR&Rs.

The first section documents the need for and use of child care on a national level. The second section lists facts about individual states, including the District of Columbia.

## The Child Care Pattern and Supply

Every week in the United States, nearly 11 million children younger than age 5 whose mothers are working are in some type of child care arrangement. On average, these children spend 36 hours a week in child care. Almost 3 million (27 percent) of these children are in multiple child care arrangements so their parents can meet their need for child care during traditional and nontraditional working hours.<sup>1</sup>

## The Cost of Child Care

Child Care Aware® of America asked CCR&Rs for information about the average cost of child care in child care centers and family child care homes for infants, 4-year-old children and school-age children.

The average annual cost of full-time care for an infant in center-based care ranges from about \$4,850 in Mississippi to \$16,450 in Massachusetts. For an infant in a family child care home the cost ranges from about \$3,950 in Mississippi to \$11,050 in New York.

For a 4-year-old, center-based care ranges from about \$4,300 in Mississippi to \$12,350 in Massachusetts. Care in a family child care home for a 4-year-old ranges from about \$3,700 in Mississippi to about \$10,250 in Massachusetts.

In the United States, almost 60 percent of the cost of child care is assumed by parents.<sup>2</sup> The percentage is much higher for middle-income families.

Annually, more than \$10 billion in government money is spent by the states for child care. For the most part, public funding for child care comes from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG or Title XX) and state funds.

CCDBG is the primary source of federal funds for child care, and states have wide discretion about how to spend this money. The regulations that govern CCDBG spending were originally written in 1998. In May 2013, the Office of Child Care in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed amending the regulations. The new rules would strengthen health and safety requirements, improve quality and expand accountability measures in programs that accept children funded through CCDBG.



Anecdotal evidence from CCR&Rs across the country shows families are struggling with the costs of child care. Unlike the mortgage or the cost of utilities, child care expenses are one area where parents feel they can economize – and hope that their children’s future will not be sacrificed.

## **The Child Care Workforce**

**Approximately 2.2 million individuals earn a living caring for children under age 5.**

Like many service industries, approximately 80 percent of the cost in a child care program is for payroll and payroll-related expenses. Despite their tremendous responsibilities, the average income for a full-time child care professional in 2012 was only \$21,310, making child care one of the lowest paying professional fields.<sup>3</sup>

It is hard to recruit child care professionals who have education credentials when compensation is so low. In addition, more than half of the states do not require any education beyond high school.

- » Thirty-one states require a high school diploma or less for child care center lead teachers.
- » Forty-one states require a high school diploma or less for regulated family child care providers.

## **The Quality of Child Care**

Over the past seven years, Child Care Aware® of America has reviewed and scored state licensing regulations for child care centers and small family child care homes. The 2013 report about state laws, policies and oversight for child care centers shows that state requirements were minimal. The average score out of 150 points was 92, 61 percent of all possible points.<sup>4</sup> The 2012 report about state laws, policies and oversight for small family child care homes found states earned an average of 69, only 46 percent of all available points.<sup>5</sup>

We cannot say with confidence that America’s children are protected by state licensing and oversight systems. Nor can we say that child care policies are in place to help young children learn and be ready for school. Child Care Aware® of America supports the efforts at the federal level to improve the quality of child care in America.

## **Children Suffer because of Low Licensing Requirements**

Quality child care is important to the healthy development of children. During the critical years of birth through age 5, essential learning patterns are established that affect children’s school-readiness and their future productivity.

Decades of research indicate the quality of child care has a lasting impact. A National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) report found that children who received high-quality care in the first few years of life scored higher in measures of academic and cognitive achievement when they were 15 years old and were less likely to misbehave than those who were enrolled in lower quality child care. Even 10 years after children left child care, experiences in quality settings were still related to higher academic achievement.<sup>6</sup>

Conversely, poor quality care has a negative impact on children’s futures, and the negative effects of low-quality child care may be worse for low-income children than for children from higher-income families.<sup>7</sup> It is sobering that a recent report found that 75 percent of young Americans ages 17-24 (26 million) cannot join the U.S. military – most often because they are poorly educated, involved in crime, or physically unfit.<sup>8</sup>

**Methodology:** Early in 2013, Child Care Aware® of America surveyed State CCR&R Networks and other CCR&Rs and asked questions about child care capacity, requests for referrals, training and technical assistance provided by CCR&Rs, and the average price for full time care child care centers and family child care homes for three age groups. For school-age, CCR&Rs reported on the price of before- and after-school care for a nine-month school year. We defined child care centers as all center-based programs, including Head Start programs, state-funded prekindergarten, license-exempt, school-based, etc. Information about school-age-only programs was asked in a separate question. CCR&Rs work with parents, child care providers and local and state governments within communities in every state to strengthen the quality of care and are uniquely positioned to provide this data.



Additional national and state data were gathered in the spring of 2013 from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; the Office of Child Care, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor; and the College Board Annual Survey of Colleges.

For some states, the cost of care was derived from the latest market rate survey available. Rates based on information collected prior to 2012 were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index; i.e., reported in 2012 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator. National totals are rounded estimates.

All missing information is reported as "NR". Alabama and Pennsylvania did not respond to our survey. In those two states, the number of programs and cost of care data were pulled from our 2012 survey and were adjusted for inflation where applicable.

**Summary:** In every state, child care can be hard to find, difficult to afford and is often of mediocre quality. State licensing standards vary greatly, making it difficult for families to ensure that children are safe and learning while in child care.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013, April). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2011: Detailed tables*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p70-135.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Mitchell, A., Stoney, L., & Dichter, H. (2001). *Financing child care in the United States: An expanded catalog of current strategies*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation at <http://sites.kauffman.org/pdf/childcare2001.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013, March 29). *Occupational employment and wages - May 2012* [News Release]. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ocwage.pdf>. Does not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers

<sup>4</sup> Child Care Aware® of America. (2013). *We can do better: Child Care Aware® of America's ranking of state child care center regulations and oversight: 2013 update*. Retrieved May 20, 2013, from <http://www.naccrra.org/node/3025>

<sup>5</sup> National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). (2012). *Leaving children to chance: NACCRRA's ranking of state standards and oversight of small family child care homes: 2012 update*. Retrieved May 20, 2013, from [http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default\\_site\\_pages/2012/lcc\\_report\\_fullapril6.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/lcc_report_fullapril6.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Vandell, D.L., Belsky, J., Burchinal, M., Steinberg, L., Vandergrift, N., & NICHD Early Child Care Research Network. (2010, May-June). Do effects of early child care extend to age 15 years? Results from the NICHD study of early child care and youth development. *Child Development*, 81(3), 737-756. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.gse.uci.edu/docs/VandelletalNICHD.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Dearing, E., McCartney, K., & Taylor, B.A. (2009). Does higher quality early child care promote low-income children's math and reading achievement in middle school? *Child Development*, 80(5) 1329-1349. The Society for Research in Child Development, Inc.

<sup>8</sup> Mission Readiness: Military Leaders for Kids. (2009). *Ready, willing and unable to serve: 75 percent of America's young adults cannot join the military: Early education is needed to ensure national security*. Retrieved July 2, 2013, from <http://cdn.missionreadiness.org/NATEE1109.pdf>

# Child Care In America Today: Facts

Family Characteristics and Need for Child Care	
Number of children under age 6 in the United States <sup>9</sup>	24,200,315
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents <sup>10</sup>	62%
Percentage of children under age 6, living with two parents, whose parents are both working <sup>11</sup>	58%
Number of children under age 6 living with a single parent <sup>12</sup>	8,331,869
Percentage of children under age 6, living with a single parent, whose parent is working <sup>13</sup>	76%
Number of children under age 6 requiring child care, as both parents are working <sup>14</sup>	15,077,268
Percentage of mothers in the labor force with children under age 6 <sup>15</sup>	65%
Number of women in the labor force who gave birth in last 12 months <sup>16</sup>	2,600,379
Percentage of mothers in the labor force with children under age 1 <sup>17</sup>	62%
Percentage of children under age 5 with mothers (not self-employed) working non-day shifts <sup>18</sup>	34%
Percentage of children under age 5 who are in multiple child care arrangements while their mothers work <sup>19</sup>	27%
Percentage of children under age 5 who live in poverty and have working mothers <sup>20</sup>	15%
Percentage of new mothers returning to work within the first three months of giving birth <sup>21</sup>	44%
Percentage of new mothers returning to work within the first six months of giving birth <sup>22</sup>	57%
Percentage of new mothers returning to work within the first year of giving birth <sup>23</sup>	64%
Percentage of child care referral requests for infant/toddler care <sup>24</sup>	51%
Percentage of child care referral requests for preschool-age care <sup>25</sup>	29%
Percentage of child care referral requests for school-age care <sup>26</sup>	21%

## Child Care Patterns and Supply

Number of children under age 5 who are in some type of child care while their mother works <sup>27</sup>	10.9 million
Percentage of children under age 5 in child care arrangements while their mother works by primary caregiver <sup>28</sup>	
» Center-based care (centers, nurseries, preschools, Head Start)	35%
» Grandparent	32%
» Other relative (not including fathers)	10%
» Family child care homes	8%
» Other nonrelative	10%
<i>Note: Percentages do not total 100 percent due to children being in multiple child care arrangements</i>	
Number of children under age 5 with no regular child care arrangement whose mothers are in the labor force <sup>29</sup>	1.3 million
Number of children under age 5 with multiple child care arrangements whose mothers are in the labor force <sup>30</sup>	2.9 million
Number of hours per week, on average, preschool-age children of working mothers spend in child care or nonparental care <sup>31</sup>	36 hours
Number of child care centers <sup>32</sup>	113,000
Number of family child care homes <sup>33</sup>	178,000
Number of other child care programs (Head Start, etc.) <sup>34</sup>	5,000
Percent of child care centers that are nationally accredited <sup>35</sup>	11%
Percent of family child care homes that are nationally accredited <sup>36</sup>	1%

## Cost of Child Care

Range, average annual fees for full-time care for an infant in a center <sup>37</sup>	\$4,850 - \$16,450
Range, average annual fees for full-time care for a 4-year-old child in a center <sup>38</sup>	\$4,300 - \$12,350
Range, average annual fees for full-time care for an infant in a family child care home <sup>39</sup>	\$3,950 - \$11,050
Range, average annual fees for full-time care for a 4-year-old child in a family child care home <sup>40</sup>	\$3,700 - \$10,250
Range, average annual fees for before- after-school care for a school-age child in a center <sup>41</sup>	\$1,050 - \$11,700
Range, average annual fees for before- and after-school care for a school-age child in a family child care home <sup>42</sup>	\$1,800 - \$10,150
Average yearly tuition and fees for public higher education <sup>43</sup>	\$8,655

## Child Care Workforce

Number of individuals who earn a living caring for children under age 5 <sup>44</sup>	2.2 million
Number of child care workers all center-based settings <sup>45</sup>	1.1 million
Number of child care workers in family child care homes <sup>46</sup>	250,000
Number of child care workers who are paid relatives of the child <sup>47</sup>	589,000
Number of child care workers who are paid nonrelatives, but unregulated <sup>48</sup>	229,000
Average earnings of child care workers <sup>49</sup>	\$21,310
Average earnings of preschool teachers <sup>50</sup>	\$30,750
Percentage of child caregivers who are women <sup>51</sup>	97%
Percentage of center teachers with only a high school diploma or less <sup>52</sup>	20%
Number of states that require a high school diploma or less for lead teachers <sup>53</sup>	31
Percent of family child care providers with a high school diploma or less <sup>54</sup>	44%
Number of states that require a high school diploma or less for regulated family child care providers <sup>55</sup>	41
Number of states where teachers in child care centers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check (State and federal fingerprint checks and a check of both the sex offender and child abuse registries) before working in a classroom <sup>56</sup>	13
Number of states where regulated family child care providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check <sup>57</sup>	9

## Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Information

### CCR&Rs Around the United States

Number of local and state CCR&Rs in the United States <sup>58</sup>	Approximately 650
Number of states with CCR&R services <sup>59</sup>	All 50 states plus the District of Columbia

### Services Provided by CCR&Rs<sup>60</sup>

Percentage of CCR&Rs providing training and technical assistance for child care providers	97%
Percentage of CCR&Rs providing consumer and parent education	95%
Percentage of CCR&Rs providing referrals for child care	89%
Percentage of CCR&Rs conducting community needs assessments	80%
Percentage of CCR&Rs involved in market rate surveys	79%
Percentage of CCR&Rs administering provider professional development initiatives	52%
Percentage of CCR&Rs administering child care subsidies for low-income families	41%

## CCR&R Impact

Number of parents served annually by CCR&Rs with child care referrals, consumer education, training workshops, subsidy administration and other services <sup>61</sup>	7 million
Number of contacts with parents annually by CCR&Rs to provide services <sup>62</sup>	10 million
Number of consumer education materials about child care distributed <sup>63</sup>	11 million
Number of child care providers trained annually by CCR&Rs <sup>64</sup>	309,000
Number of child care programs receiving on-site technical assistance from CCR&Rs annually <sup>65</sup>	97,000

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *American Community Survey, 2009-2011 three-year estimates*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013, April). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2011: Detailed tables*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p70-135.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2011, October). *Maternity leave and employment patterns of first time mothers: 1961-2008*. Retrieved May 24, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p70-128.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware® of America's 2013 State Fact Sheet Survey.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013, April).

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2005, November). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Winter 2002*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p70-101.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware® of America's 2013 State Fact Sheet Survey.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware® of America's 2013 State Fact Sheet Survey. Some states reported based on their last available market rate survey (2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012). These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$21,948

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$16,908

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$15,240

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$12,012

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$13,211

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. These numbers do not include the District of Columbia as it is entirely an urban area. The cost of care in the District of Columbia is \$9,159

<sup>43</sup> Average price of 2012-2013 in-state tuition and fees for public four year colleges is from the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center. (2012). *Trends in college pricing: 2012*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/college-pricing-2012-full-report-121203.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> Brandon, R.N., Stutman, T.J., & Maroto, M. (2010). The economic value of the U.S. early childhood sector. In E. Weiss & R.N. Brandon (Eds.) *Economic analysis: The early childhood sector* (pp 19-41). Washington, DC: Partnership for America's Economic Success.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013, March 29). *Occupational employment and wages - May 2012* [News Release]. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ocwage.pdf>. Does not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. Does not include special education teachers.

<sup>51</sup> Brandon, R.N., Stutman, T.J., & Maroto, M. (2010).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Child Care Aware® of America. (2013). *We can do better: Child Care Aware® of America's ranking of state child care regulations and oversight: 2013 update*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from <http://www.naccrra.org/node/3025>

<sup>54</sup> Burton, A., Whitebook, M., Young, M., Bellm, D., Wayne, C., Brandon, R., & Maher, E. (2002). *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*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from [http://www.ccw.org/storage/ccworkforce/documents/publications/ccw\\_exec\\_final.pdf](http://www.ccw.org/storage/ccworkforce/documents/publications/ccw_exec_final.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA). (2012). *Leaving children to chance: NACCRRRA's ranking of state standards and oversight of small family child care homes: 2012 update*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from [http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default\\_site\\_pages/2012/lcc\\_report\\_fullapril6.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/lcc_report_fullapril6.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> Child Care Aware® of America. (2013).

<sup>57</sup> NACCRRRA. (2012).

<sup>58</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware® of America's 2013 State Fact Sheet Survey.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> NACCRRRA's 2011 CCR&R Profile Survey. See *Child care training and technical assistance: Improving the quality of child care: White Paper*, (2012). Retrieved May 24, 2013, from [http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default\\_site\\_pages/2012/trainingwhitepapermay24.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/trainingwhitepapermay24.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> NACCRRRA. (2008). *Covering the map: Child care resource & referral agencies providing vital services to parents throughout the United States*. Retrieved May 24, 2013, from [http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/publications/naccrra\\_publications/2012/coveringthemap.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/publications/naccrra_publications/2012/coveringthemap.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware® of America's 2013 State Fact Sheet Survey.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.



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