

Florida Families, You’re Not Alone: The Childcare Cost Crisis Hits Home

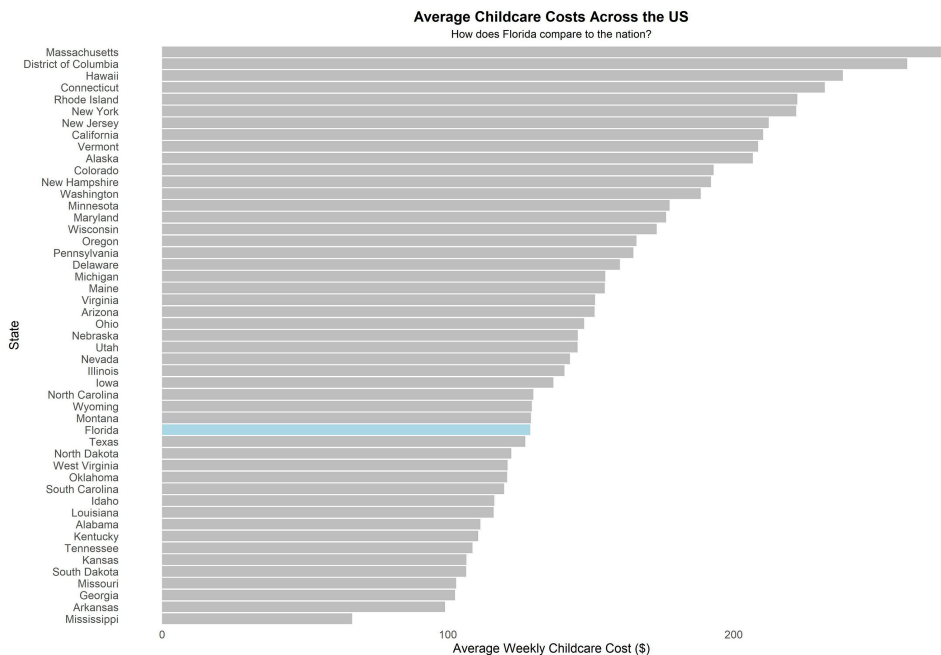
But don’t fear - we’re here to help

We all know that raising kids isn’t cheap, and lately, one of the biggest financial pressures has been the rising costs of center-based childcare around the country. And Florida certainly hasn’t been immune to these changes.

But how exactly is the landscape of childcare costs shifting in the Sunshine State? From Miami to Jacksonville, families are feeling the strain as prices continue to climb, making it harder to balance budgets. Let’s take a look at some of the latest data from the U. S. Department of Labor’s National Database of Childcare Prices to understand how rising costs are impacting Floridians and what you can do to secure the financial future of your family.

How does Florida compare to the rest of the US?

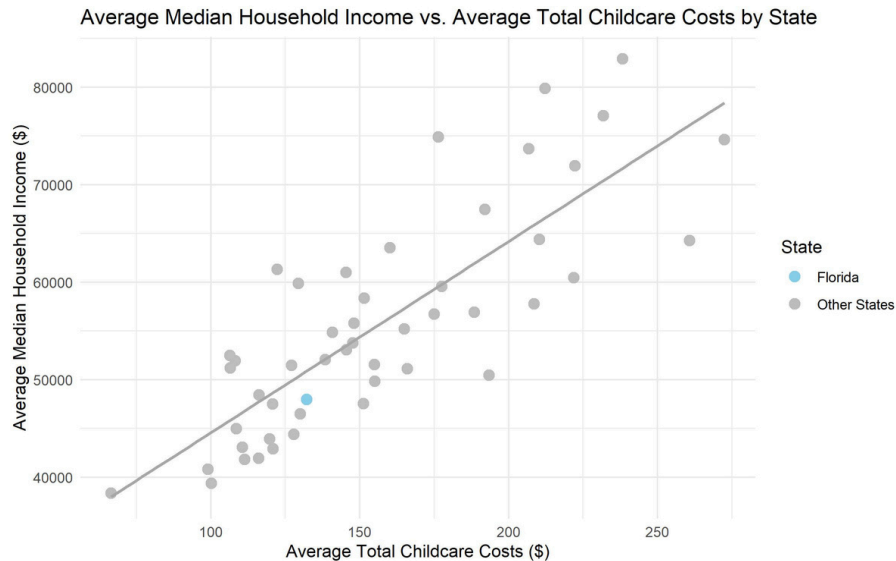
On the surface, Florida actually doesn’t seem to be the worst off when compared to the rest of the country. When comparing each state’s most recently available data on the costs of center-based care, Florida ranks 17th in the most affordable average weekly childcare cost. Not bad, right?



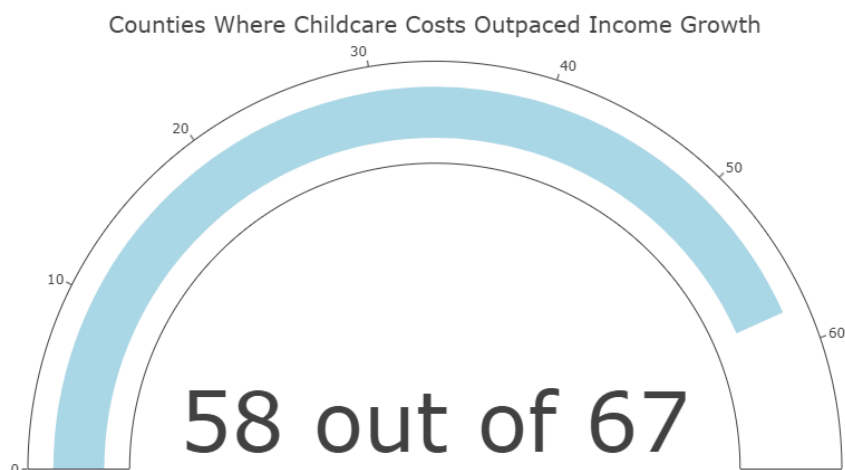
But wait, there’s more to this story. While it may seem like Florida is holding its own, a deeper dive into the data reveals a troubling trend. When we examine the relationship between average

median household income and average childcare costs, Florida tells a different story.

As the scatter plot below illustrates, Florida falls below the line - in other words, compared to other states, Floridians are spending a larger chunk of their income on childcare. For many families, this translates to financial strain, where essential costs like housing and groceries are being squeezed by high childcare expenses.

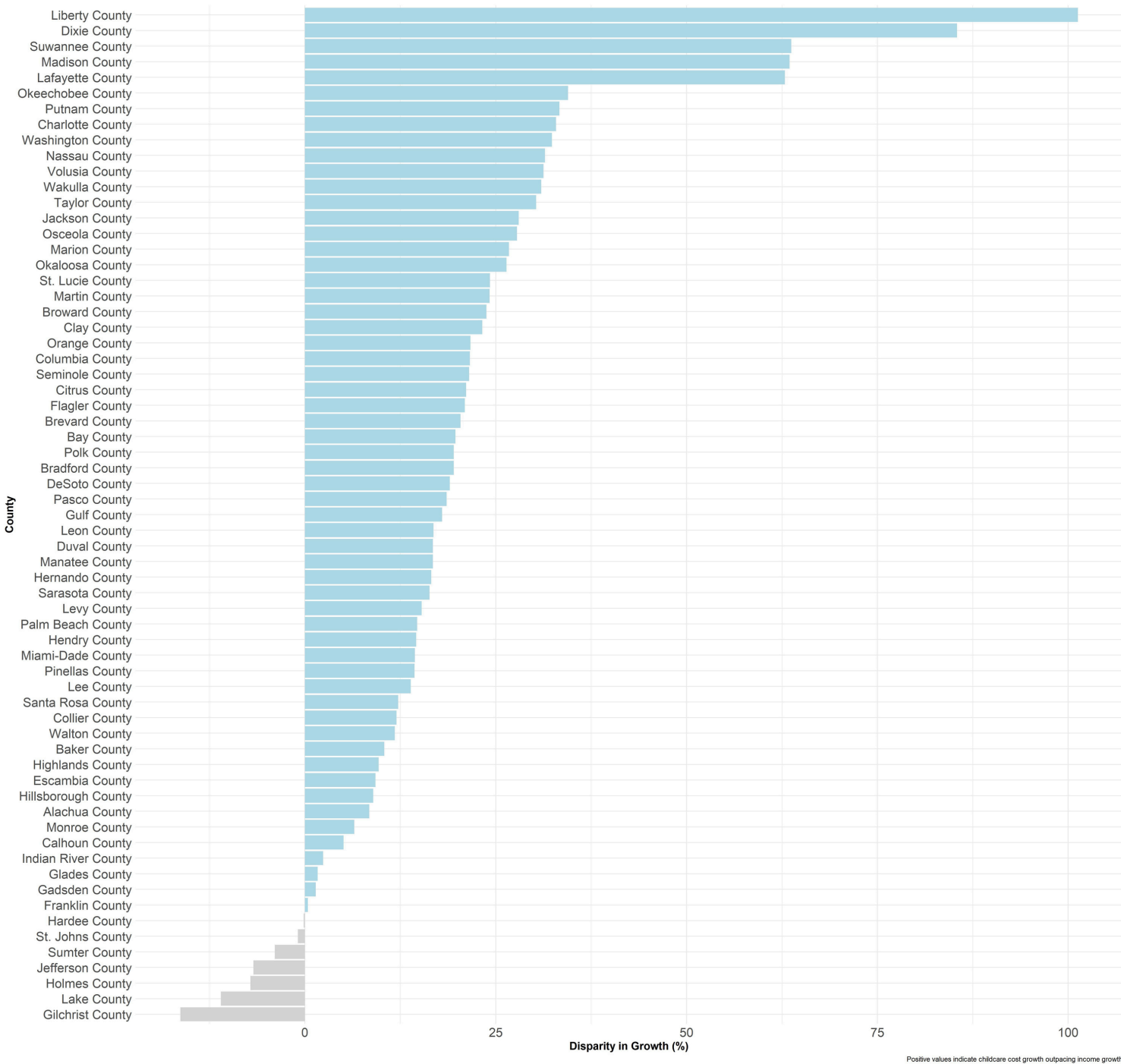


And it doesn't appear to be slowing down. In fact, between 2007-2017, **58 out of 67 of Florida's counties experienced rises in childcare costs that outpaced the rate of median income increases.** This stark reality underscores a troubling trend: even in a state known for its sunny skies, many families are facing darker financial clouds as they navigate the escalating costs of childcare.



Where are Childcare Cost Increases Outpacing Income Increases the Most?

Disparity ■ Income Growth > Childcare Cost Growth ■ Childcare Cost Growth > Income Growth



Positive values indicate childcare cost growth outpacing income growth

Is there a path forward?

What does this mean for families across the Sunshine State? It’s a clear signal that while childcare may be more affordable than in some states, it’s still not aligning with what families are earning. For parents juggling work and family life, the pressure to pay for quality care can feel overwhelming.

As childcare costs continue to outpace wage growth, it’s crucial for families to come together and advocate for change. The rising costs of care are not just numbers on a page; they represent

real struggles faced by real families every day. We must unite to bring attention to this issue, pushing for policies that support affordable childcare solutions and advocate for funding that prioritizes families.

What Can You Do?

- **Raise Your Voice:** Contact your local officials and let them know how rising childcare costs are affecting your family. Share your experiences and advocate for legislation that promotes affordable childcare options.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated on state and local initiatives aimed at addressing childcare affordability. Knowledge is power, and understanding your rights can help you navigate the system more effectively.
- **Let Us Help You:** The Florida Families for Affordable Care is here to help you! With our large network of resources, our advisors are well equipped to help you find affordable childcare solutions that work for your family. Contact us today to see how we can help your family secure a strong financial future!