



## CHILD CARE IN AMERICA

### IMPORTANCE:

More than 11 million children under age 5 in the United States are in some type of child care arrangement every week. On average, the children under age 5 of working mothers spend 36 hours a week in child care.

Child care allows families to earn more than one income—which is economically what many families need today to survive. For families with income under \$60,000 annually a mother's income accounts for more than half of household income. As income declines, the share of the mother's income as part of the total family income rises.

Research on the brain shows that the first years of life are crucial for intellectual, social and general development. In addition, research on the effect caregivers have on children during these early years clearly show that the caregivers' education, training, and ability to provide a safe and stimulating environment has an impact on children's cognitive and emotional development. As more than 6 in 10 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 to better understand what they look for when they select child care, the difficulties they experience and compromises they make, and what in their minds constitutes quality care.

Both NACCRRA's focus groups and a telephone poll with parents found that parents are concerned about the cost and quality of child care. The poll, especially, showed that there is a disconnect between what parents expect about the quality of care and what is actually going on.

- Nearly two-thirds of parents polled assume caregivers have training to work with children. But, only 12 states require training in early childhood education before someone can lead a classroom in a child care center.
- Over 95 percent of parents favor requiring training in child development and safety.
- Nearly 6 in 10 believe that most child care programs are inspected regularly. Yet, only 10 states require unannounced inspections for child care centers.
- Almost all (95 percent) of parents favor requiring regular inspections of child care.
- Nearly 2 in 3 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.

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 while there are 11.3 million children of working mothers under age 5 regularly using some type of child care, only 10.8 million legally-operating spaces exist 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 \$6,185, 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

Percentage of mothers with children under age 6 who are in the workforce <sup>1</sup>	64%
Percentage of mothers with children under age 1 who are in the workforce <sup>2</sup>	57%
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents <sup>3</sup>	73%
Percentage of children under 5 with working mothers (not self-employed), who work non-day shifts <sup>4</sup>	32% (3.6 million children)
Percentage of children under 5 with working mothers who are in multiple child care arrangements <sup>5</sup>	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 <sup>6</sup>	45%
Percentage of parents with access to paid parental leave <sup>7</sup>	< 5%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first six months of giving birth <sup>8</sup>	55%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first year of giving birth <sup>9</sup>	64%
Percentage of child care referral requests for infant/toddler care <sup>10</sup>	45%
Percentage of child care referral requests for pre-school care <sup>11</sup>	30%
Percentage of child care referral requests for school-age care <sup>12</sup>	25%

### CHILD CARE PATTERNS AND SUPPLY

Number of children under age 5 of working mothers who need care while their mothers are at work. <sup>13</sup>	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 <sup>14</sup>	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”) <sup>15</sup>	19% (4.2 million children)
Percentage of children under 5 of employed mothers in child care arrangements by primary caregiver <sup>16</sup>	
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 <sup>17</sup>	
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 <sup>18</sup>	36 hours
Number of child care centers <sup>19</sup>	118,947
Number of family child care homes <sup>20</sup>	232,923
Number of child care spaces <sup>21</sup>	≈ 10.8 million
Percent of accredited child care centers <sup>22</sup>	9%
Percent of accredited family child care homes <sup>23</sup>	0.86%

### COST OF CHILD CARE

Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for an infant <sup>24</sup>	\$4,542-\$14,591
Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-year old <sup>25</sup>	\$3,380-\$10,787
Average, annual fees paid for full-time care for an infant in a family child care home <sup>26</sup>	\$3,900-\$9,630
Average, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-years old in a family child care home <sup>27</sup>	\$3,380-\$9,164
Average, annual fees paid for before and after school care for a school-age child in a center <sup>28</sup>	\$2,500-\$8,600
Average, annual fees paid for before and after school care for a school-age child in a family child care home <sup>29</sup>	\$2,080-\$7,648
Average yearly tuition of public higher education <sup>30</sup>	\$6,185

### CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

Number of child care workers (excludes self-employed providers) <sup>31</sup>	572,950
Number of child care workers in family child care homes <sup>32</sup>	650,000
Number of child care workers who are paid relatives of the child <sup>33</sup>	804,000
Number of child care workers who are paid non-relatives, but regulated <sup>34</sup>	298,000
Average earnings of child care workers <sup>35</sup>	\$9.05 per hour (\$18,820 annually)
Average earnings of pre-school teachers <sup>36</sup>	\$12.45 per hours (\$25,900 annually)
Percentage of caregivers in family child care homes who are women <sup>37</sup>	99%
Percentage of caregivers in child care centers who are women <sup>38</sup>	97%
Number of states where teachers in child care centers do not need any training before working in a classroom <sup>39</sup>	28
Number of states where teachers in family child care homes do not need any training before working in a classroom <sup>40</sup>	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.<sup>41</sup>
- ❖ A child's development of social and emotional skills is related to the closeness of their relationship with their caregiver.<sup>42</sup>

## CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL (CCR&R) INFORMATION<sup>43</sup>

<b>CCR&amp;Rs Around the United States</b>	
Number of local and state CCR&Rs in the United States	847
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%
<b>Services Provided by CCR&amp;Rs</b>	
Percentage of local CCR&Rs coordinated by a statewide network	74%
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 <sup>44</sup>	≈ 7 million
Number of contacts with parents annually by CCR&Rs to provide services <sup>45</sup>	≈ 10 million
Number of consumer education materials on child care distributed <sup>46</sup>	≈ 11 million
Number of child care providers trained annually by CCR&Rs <sup>47</sup>	≈ 650,000
Number of child care programs receiving on-site technical assistance from CCR&Rs annually <sup>48</sup>	≈ 65,500
Number of new child care spaces created annually by CCR&R agencies <sup>49</sup>	≈ 450,000

## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> U.S Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> 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>)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> 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](http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10669#toc).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> 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>).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2008.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> 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>)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> 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>)

<sup>19</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2007.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2008.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> The average price for public college tuition and fees for a 4-year institution from the College Board, Trends in College Pricing, 2006

<sup>31</sup> Derived from 2006 data collected and reported by the 2006 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.

<sup>32</sup> 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.)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Derived from 2006 data collected and reported by the 2006 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.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. Does not include special education teacher.

<sup>37</sup> 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.)

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

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- <sup>39</sup> 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.
- <sup>40</sup> 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.
- <sup>41</sup> 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.
- <sup>42</sup> 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](http://www.psych-ed.org/Topics/Hart_and_Risley.htm)
- <sup>43</sup> Based on information provided by CCR&Rs and compiled by NACCRRA. Data were collected in 2005.
- <sup>44</sup> 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.
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in January 2007.
- <sup>48</sup> 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.
- <sup>49</sup> Number of new child care spaces created information was last collected in 2002.