

CHILD CARE IN AMERICA

2010 State Fact Sheets



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Acknowledgements

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About NACCRRRA

NACCRRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 700 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies nationwide. These agencies help ensure that families in 99 percent of all populated ZIP codes in the United States have access to high-quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care professionals, undertake research and advocate child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. To learn more about NACCRRRA and how you can join us in ensuring access to high-quality child care for all families, visit us at www.naccrra.org.

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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 of working mothers spend 36 hours a week in child care. About one-third of these children are in multiple child care arrangements so that parents can meet the demands for child care during traditional and non-traditional working hours.

In today's economy, the number of parents losing jobs, working part time, taking pay cuts, or working two or more jobs is rising. Parents are forced to make difficult decisions about the care of their children. The high cost of child care is causing many parents to remove their children from organized child care and make do with whatever arrangements they can find and/or afford. Newspaper stories throughout the country describe parents removing their children from organized child care programs and at times leaving young children alone. Ironically, in a weakened economy, the stress placed on families makes high-quality child care settings even more important to the healthy development of children.

In May 2010, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) released a report that found that high-quality child care has a long-lasting impact on a child's development, behavior and cognitive abilities. 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.¹

It is essential for America's future economic prosperity that our children receive high-quality, developmentally appropriate care. However, as working families struggle with the costs of child care, they also find that the availability of the quality of care varies greatly.

NACCRRRA and individual state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) support parents as they make tough decisions about child care. CCR&Rs work within every state to help ensure that families have access to affordable, high-quality child care. CCR&Rs are uniquely positioned within communities to not only work with parents, but also with child care providers and state and local governments to strengthen the quality of care.

In the United States, about 90 percent of the cost of child care is assumed by parents. In addition, over \$10 billion in government funds is spent annually by the states for child care. For the most part, 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.

Since the nature of these funds is a block grant, states have wide discretion about how to spend this money. CCDBG is the primary source of federal funds for child care, but requirements in the law are subject to broad interpretation. As a result, each state crafts its own standards and oversight policies.

Over the past four years, NACCRRRA has reviewed and scored states' licensing regulations for child care centers and small family child care homes. The 2009 report about state laws and policies for child care centers found that states earned, on average, only 55 percent of all available points.² The 2010 report about state laws and policies for small family child care homes shows that states' requirements for this kind of care were even more minimal. On average, states earned only 45 percent of all available points.³

Our conclusion after four years of studying child care regulations and oversight is that we still cannot say with confidence that America's children are protected by states' licensing regulations and oversight systems. Nor can we say that regulations are in place to help young children learn and be ready for school.

This document provides information about key indicators that describe child care nationally and in individual states. The report is divided into two sections. The data in the first section document the need for and use of child care in the United States today. It includes information about the current cost, quality and impact of child care on America's children, families and the economy. It also provides key data from the nation's CCR&R system about services provided by CCR&Rs and the impact of CCR&Rs on parents and child care providers.

In the second section, the individual state child care fact sheets provide information about the number of children in the state and the number of families with low incomes; children younger than age 6 with parents in the labor force; women in the labor force; child care costs and family incomes; child care fee assistance; child care supply; child care demand; child care workforce numbers, training and technical assistance; and the number of CCR&R agencies.

Data were gathered from federal and national sources and from State CCR&R Networks and other CCR&Rs surveyed in early 2010. (In this update, data were not received from New Mexico. Instead, the state's 2008 data were used for the overall U.S. numbers. The New Mexico state pages were therefore not updated with information about child care costs and family income, child care demand, and workforce and training.)

In every state, child care can be hard to find, difficult to afford and is likely to be of mediocre quality. State licensing standards vary greatly with few states meeting the most basic standards to ensure that children are safe and learning while in child care. *Child Care in America: 2010 State Fact Sheets* is useful to program administrators, policymakers and child care advocates as they make decisions about child care programs and expenditures. It provides the data they need to 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.

Family Characteristics and Need For Child Care

Number of children under age 6 ⁴	23,509,010
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents ⁵	68%
Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents, where both parents work ⁶	56% (8,913,970 children)
Number of children under age 6 living with a single parent ⁷	7,563,926
Percentage of children under age 6 living with a single, working parent ⁸	79% (5,964,671 children)
Number of children under age 6 requiring child care, as parent works ⁹	14,878,641
Percentage of mothers with children under age 6 who are in the workforce ¹⁰	64%
Number of women in the labor force who gave birth in last 12 months ¹¹	2,496,652
Percentage of mothers with children under age 1 who are in the workforce ¹²	58%
Percentage of children under 5 with working mothers (not self-employed), who work nonday shifts ¹³	32% (3.6 million children)
Percentage of children under 5 with working mothers who are in multiple child care arrangements ¹⁴	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 ¹⁵	45%
Percentage of parents with access to paid parental leave ¹⁶	< 5%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first six months of giving birth ¹⁷	55%
Percentage of all mothers returning to work within the first year of giving birth ¹⁸	64%
Percentage of child care referral requests for infant/toddler care ¹⁹	35%
Percentage of child care referral requests for preschool-age care ²⁰	30%
Percentage of child care referral requests for school-age care ²¹	35%

Child Care Patterns and Supply

Number of children under age 5 of working mothers who need care while their mothers are at work. ²²	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 ²³	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") ²⁴	19% (4.2 million children)
Percentage of children under age 5 of employed mothers in child care arrangements by primary caregiver ²⁵	
> Grandparent	19%
> Other relative	6%
> Child care centers	18%
> Nursery/Preschool	5%
> Nonrelative in child's home	4%
> Family child care homes	7%
> Other nonrelative	5%
Percentage of children under 5 of employed mothers in multiple child care arrangements by primary caregiver ²⁶	
> Grandparent	30%
> Child care centers	21%
> Nursery/Preschool	7%
> Nonrelative in child's home	5%
> Family child care homes	9%
> Other nonrelative	7%
Number of hours per week, on average, preschool-age children of working mothers spend in child care or nonparental care ²⁷	36 hours
Number of child care centers ²⁸	120,529
Number of family child care homes ²⁹	238,226
Percent of accredited child care centers ³⁰	9.6%
Percent of accredited family child care homes ³¹	0.94%

Cost Of Child Care

Range, annual fees paid for full-time center care for an infant ³²	\$4,560-\$18,773
Range, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-year-old child ³³	\$4,460-\$13,158
Range, annual fees paid for full-time care for an infant in a family child care home ³⁴	\$3,582-\$11,940
Range, annual fees paid for full-time center care for a 4-year-old child in a family child care home ³⁵	\$3,780-\$11,475
Range, annual fees paid for before- and after-school care for a school-age child in a center ³⁶	\$2,451-\$10,400
Range, annual fees paid for before- and after-school care for a school-age child in a family child care home ³⁷	\$12,160-\$9,240
Average yearly tuition of public higher education ³⁸	\$7,020

Child Care Workforce

Number of child care center workers ³⁹	577,000
Number of child care workers in family child care homes ⁴⁰	650,000
Number of child care workers who are paid relatives of the child ⁴¹	804,000
Number of child care workers who are paid nonrelatives, but regulated ⁴²	298,000
Total number of individuals who earn a living caring for children under age 5	2,330,000
Average earnings of child care workers ⁴³	\$9.70 per hour (\$20,350 annually)
Average earnings of preschool teachers ⁴⁴	\$12.80 per hour (\$26,610 annually)
Percentage of caregivers in child care centers who are women ⁴⁵	97%
Percentage of caregivers in family child care homes who are women ⁴⁶	99%
Percentage of center teachers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁷	20%
Percentage of assistant teachers in centers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁸	43%
Percent of family child care providers with only a high school diploma or less ⁴⁹	44%
Number of states where teachers in child care centers are not even required to take orientation training before working in a classroom ⁵⁰	6
Number of states where providers in family child care homes do not need any training before being licensed as small family child care home providers. ⁵¹	11

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.⁵²
- A child's development of social and emotional skills is related to the closeness of their relationship with their caregiver.⁵³

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Information⁵⁴

CCR&Rs Around the United States

Number of local and state CCR&Rs in the United States	613
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%

CCR&R Impact

Number of parents served annually by CCR&Rs with child care referrals, consumer education, training workshops, subsidy administration and other services ⁵⁵	7 million
Number of contacts with parents annually by CCR&Rs to provide services ⁵⁶	10 million
Number of consumer education materials on child care distributed ⁵⁷	11 million
Number of child care providers trained annually by CCR&Rs ⁵⁸	650,000
Number of child care programs receiving on-site technical assistance from CCR&Rs annually ⁵⁹	65,500
Number of new child care spaces created annually by CCR&R agencies ⁶⁰	450,000

Notes

¹ 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.

² National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2009). *We Can Do Better: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight: 2009 Update*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/We%20Can%20Better%202009_MECH-screen.pdf

³ National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2010). *Leaving Children To Chance: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes: 2010 Update*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/leaving-children-to-chance-2010.php>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2008, March). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2005: Detailed tables*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/pp1-2005.html>

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ National Resource Council and Institute of Medicine; Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Behavioral Sciences and Education; Committee on Family and Work Policies; Smolensky, E., & Gootman, J.A. (Eds.). (2003). *Working families and growing kids: Caring for children and adolescents*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from the National Academies Press at http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10669#toc

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2008, February). *Maternity leave and employment patterns of first time mothers: 1961-2003*. Retrieved April 15, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p70-113.pdf>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in 2009/2010.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² U.S. Census Bureau. (2008, March). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2005: Detailed tables*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/pp1-2005.html>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2005, November). *Who's minding the kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 2002*. Retrieved April 15, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p70-101.pdf>

²⁸ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in 2009/2010.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in 2009/2010.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Baum, S., & Ma, J. (2010). *Trends in college pricing: 2009*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from the College Board at http://www.trends-collegeboard.com/college_pricing/pdf/2009_Trends_College_Pricing.pdf

- ³⁹ 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. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>. They do not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers.
- ⁴⁰ Center for the Child Care Workforce. (2002, May). *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 April 19, 2010, from http://hspsc.org/publications/pdf/ccw_May_2002.pdf
- ⁴¹ Ibid.
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Derived from 2008 data collected and reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2009, May). Table 1: Occupational Employment Statistics Survey by Occupation, May 2008. Retrieved April 15, 2010, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>. They do not include preschool teachers and assistant teachers.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid. Does not include special education teacher.
- ⁴⁵ Center for the Child Care Workforce. (2002, May). *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 April 19, 2010, from http://hspsc.org/publications/pdf/ccw_May_2002.pdf
- ⁴⁶ Ibid.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid.
- ⁴⁹ Ibid.
- ⁵⁰ National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2009). *We Can Do Better: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Standards and Oversight: 2009 Update*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/We%20Can%20Better%202009_MECH-screen.pdf
- ⁵¹ National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2010). *Leaving Children To Chance: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes: 2010 Update*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/leaving-children-to-chance-2010.php>
- ⁵² 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* 42(3), 537-570.
- ⁵³ Hart, B., & Risley T. R. (1995). *Meaningful differences in the everyday experience of young American children*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
- ⁵⁴ Based on information provided by CCR&Rs and compiled by NACCRRRA. Data were collected in 2005.
- ⁵⁵ National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2008). *Covering The Map: Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies Providing Vital Services To Parents Throughout The United States*. Retrieved April 19, 2010, from http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/Parent%20Svc%20Report_MECH_screen.pdf
- ⁵⁶ Ibid.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid.
- ⁵⁸ Estimate based on data provided by Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in January 2007.
- ⁵⁹ National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2007). *Knowledge into Practice: NACCRRRA's Survey of Child Care Resource & Referral On-Site Technical Assistance*. Arlington, VA: Author.
- ⁶⁰ Number of new child care spaces created information was last collected in 2002.