



Early Learning and Care: The Numbers Behind the Need

Editor's Note: The facts and statistics reported below are based on available data. Data at the local, state, and national levels are included for purposes of comparison.

Child Care Demand

King County

- In 2000 in King County, there were estimated to be 21,330 children full-time and 17,880 children part-time in child care centers. 22% of children in full-time were toddlers and 54% were preschool age.
- In 2000 in King County, there were estimated to be 6,410 children full-time and 4,930 children part-time in licensed family homes. 28% of children in full-time were toddlers and 40% were preschool age.
- In 2000, there were 105,300 children age 0-4 in King County.

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Page 30.

Washington State

- In WA State, approx. 1/4 of all toddlers and preschoolers were in licensed family homes or centers in 2000.

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Page 30.

- In WA state, more than 3 out of 5 children with employed mothers are in child care.
“State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Washington.” Snyder, K and Adams, G. February 2001. The Urban Institute.

- In WA state, 66% of children under age 6 live with working parents.
Anne E. Casey Foundation National KIDS COUNT website (www.aecf.org)

United States

- As of 2000, 65% of mothers with children under 6 years old were in the labor force.
“Labor force participation rates of women by presence and age of children, March 1980-2000.” Report on the American Workforce 2001. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/rtaw/pdf/table06.pdf>
- The employment rate for mothers with children under age 6 increased from 18% in 1960 to 60% in 1998. Further, the proportion of single-parent households in the U.S. has more than doubled over the past three decades. In 1970, 13% of households with children were headed by a single parent. In 2000, the proportion had grown to 31%.

U.S. Department of Labor, “Futurework – Trends and Challenges for Work in the 21st Century.”
<http://www.dol.gov/dol/asp/public/futurework/report.htm>. U.S. Bureau of the Census, (2001) “Current Population Reports: America’s Families and Living Arrangements 2000”. pg. 7. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p20-537.pdf>

Child Care Supply Seattle/King County

- 260 child care centers in Seattle.
 - 362 family child care providers in Seattle.
- Child Care Resources- King County. <http://www.childcare.org/community/stats-facilities-rates-kc.htm#Seattle>

- In 2000, there were 628 child care centers in King County.
 - In 2001, there were 1,377 family home providers in King County. This number has decreased 36% percent from 1996 to 2001.
 - 22% of children in licensed care in King County in 2000 attended licensed family homes.
- “Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Page 30.

Cost of Child Care Seattle/King County

Average rates in Seattle.

	Infant (0-1year)	Toddler (1-2 1/2 year)	Preschool (2 1/2-5 year)	School Age
Centers	\$223/week	\$181/week	\$154/week	\$79/week or \$3.95/hr
Family Child Care	\$166/week	\$152/week	\$137/week	\$103/week or \$5.15/hr
Combined	\$177/week	\$160week	\$143/week	\$92/week or \$4.60/hr

Child Care Resources- King County. <http://www.childcare.org/community/stats-trends.htm>

- A 1990 Seattle Department of Human Resources study provided information about average Seattle rates for infant, toddler, and pre-school care at that time. Comparing these with current rates in Seattle, it appears that the cost of child care outpaced wage inflation during the 1990.s. Rates for infant, toddler, and preschool licensed care in Seattle increased by 66 percent, 68 percent and 69 percent respectively between 1990 and 2000. Meanwhile the median household income in the Seattle area rose by a more modest 57 percent.

Child Care Resources, June 2000. <http://www.childcare.org/community/child-care-king-county-19990-2000-report.pdf>. US Department of Housing and Urban Development Current and Historical Median Family Incomes for the Seattle Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area as published in the State of Washington 1999 Data Book, Washington State Office of Financial Management.

- Working parents lose the equivalent of six days of work annually due to childcare issues or problems, costing Seattle businesses approximately \$112 million a year.
- June 20,2002. *Letter to the Editor, Peter Steinbrueck*. Seattle Times.

- The average annual cost of liability insurance per child in centers and family homes in King County in 2000 was \$53.
- Monthly Full Time Prices in King County, 2000- DSHS rates (58th percent of the market rate)

Age	Price
Infant	\$832
Toddler	\$695
Preschooler	\$583
5 years +	\$525
Average	\$659

Age	Price
Infant	\$660
Toddler	\$653
Preschooler	\$550
5 years +	\$528
Average	\$598

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. pg. 63.

Washington State

- In WA State, the average annual cost for full-time center care for pre-school children in 2000 was \$5,998. These costs claim over 11% of the 2000 median income of \$53,397 for a three-person household in WA state for child care for **one** child and up to 19% of the 2000 per capita income in WA state of \$31,230.

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Table A-5. pg. 86. Median income for a four-person household in Washington state in 2000 was \$63,568. www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Survey of Current Business. www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/spi/

- Working families who pay for child care spend approx. 1 out of every 12 dollars they earn on child care.
- Of families who pay for care, those at or below 200% FPL spend approx. 1 out of every 5 dollars on child care. These families spend almost 3x as much on child care as a percentage of their earnings as families above 200% FPL. (200% FPL for a family of 3: \$30,040)

“State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Washington.” Snyder, K and Adams, G. February 2001. The Urban Institute.

- Prices charged by child care centers in WA state during the last decade have increased by over 30% even though wages for child care teachers have increased only 16%.

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. pg. 63.

United States

- Parents pay 60% of the costs of child care, with the government paying approximately 39%, and business only contributing 1%.

Financing Child Care in the United States: An Illustrative Catalog of Current Strategies by Anne Mitchell, Louise Stoney and Harriet Dichter for The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts. 1997. http://www.emkf.org/youth_development/childcare/index.cfm

- Teacher turnover costs in a child care program can range from several hundred dollars per employee to as high as 1.5 times an employee's annual salary, depending on different pay rates and the time of year the turnover occurs.

Child Care Salaries and Staff Turnover: The Key to Child Care Quality Dawn Ramsburg and Dale Montanelli, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children <http://www.illinoisaeyc.org>

- U.S. employers lose \$3 billion a year due to child care related absences.

Building Blocks: A Legislator's Guide to Child Care Policy, National Conference of State Legislatures, 1997, p. vii

Child Care Quality

- “Quality of Care ultimately boils down to the quality of the relationship between the child care teacher and the child.”

Shonkoff, J.P., Phillips, D.A. (2000) *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Washington, D.C.: National Academy press. Pg. 314.

- There are strong positive relationships between the quality of child care and staff wages, levels of teacher education, and specialized training in child development.

Phillipsen, L., M.R. Burchinal, C. Howes, and D. Cryer. (1997). “The Prediction of Process Quality from Structural Features of Child Care.” *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* 12:281-304; Whitebook, M., C. Howes, D.A.

Phillips. 1990). *Who Cares? Child Care Teachers and the Quality of Care in America*, Final Report of the National Child Care Staffing Study. Oakland, CA.: Child Care Employee Project; Scarr, S., Eisenberg, M., K. Deater-Deckard. (1994) "Measurement of Quality in Child Care Centers." *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* 9:131-151; Helburn et al. (1995) *Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study* Executive Summary. Denver: University of Colorado. Howes, C. (1997) Children's Experiences in Center-Based Child Care as a Function of Teacher Background and Adult: Child Ratios. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly* 43:404-25. Lamb, M.E. (1998) "Nonparental Child Care: Context, Quality, Correlates." In *Handbook of Child Psychology*, Vol. 4: Child Psychology in Practice, 5th Edition. W. Damon, I.E. Sigel, K.A. Renniger, eds. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; NICHD Early Child Care Research Network. (in press). "Characteristics and Quality of Child Care for Toddlers and Preschoolers." *Journal of Applied Developmental Science*. Cited in National Research Council. 2000. pg. 316.

- The vast majority of children in child care centers in the U.S. receive mediocre care at best.
- 1 in 8 children in family homes were in such poor quality settings that their health and safety were threatened.

Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study Team. (1995). *Cost, quality, and child outcomes in child care centers, executive summary*. Denver, CO: Economics Department, University of Colorado at Denver.

Caregiver Issues Seattle/King County

- In 1997, the turnover rate for child care teachers in Seattle was 29% and for aides was 55%. "The Washington State Child Care Experience Since 1996: Implications for Federal and State Policy." Elizabeth Bonbright Thompson. Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Jan. 2002

- Project Lift-Off reports that in Seattle, on average, 31 percent of child care and out-of-school-time workers leave their programs every year.

Child Care Resources, June 2000. <http://www.childcare.org/community/child-care-king-county-19990-2000-report.pdf>

Average Hourly wages for licensed child care center staff in King Co., 2000

Aides	\$7.91/hr
Teachers	\$9.45/hr
Supervisors	\$11.59/hr

Average % of licensed child care centers providing benefits in King Co., 2000

Medical Insurance	75%
Paid Sick Leave	82%
Paid Vacation	83%

- Twenty percent of the licensed family homes in King County have paid assistants. The average wage for this group is \$7.46.
- The average gross annual earnings of family home providers in King County in 1999 was \$30,265. "Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000" Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Table 27, Table 25. pg. 43

Washington State

- Turnover among early childhood education teachers in WA state exceeds 40%. Governor's Commission on Early Learning. 2000. "Early Learning: Birth to Age Five." Final Report. P. 21
- Fulltime early childhood education workers earn one-third as much as the typical wage earner. The Washington Wage Report. <http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea/sprepts/wagerpt/wawagrpt.htm>

Average Hourly wages for licensed child care center staff, 2000

Aides	\$7.33/hr
Teachers	\$8.66/hr
Supervisors	\$10.66/hr

Average % of licensed child care centers providing benefits, 2000

Medical Insurance	58%
Paid Sick Leave	66%
Paid Vacation	73%

“Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000” Laura Schrager and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. Table 27, Table 25. pg. 43

United States

- The average rate of departure from child care jobs (30% per year) is more than four times greater than that for elementary school teachers (7% per year).

Whitebook, M. & Bellm, D. (1999). *Taking on turnover: An action guide for child care center teachers and directors*. Washington, DC: Center for the Child Care Workforce.

Seattle Subsidy Program

Who is eligible?

- Families between 200% and 300% FPL. (Lower eligibility guideline is set to match the upper eligibility guideline used by DSHS Working Connections Subsidy Program.)
- | Family Size | 200% FPL | 300% FPL |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2 | \$23,880 | \$35,820 |
| 3 | \$30,040 | \$45,060 |
| 4 | \$36,200 | \$54,300. |
- In addition, students not eligible for DSHS sponsored child care are eligible if they are preparing for employment in training programs of 2 years or less duration. This is limited to 10% of the families.

Who are the providers?

- 170-180 contracted child care programs.
- Must meet criteria

Who is being served?

- Approximately 700 children/550 families per year (about 525 working, 25 employment training)
- Monthly services numbers vacillate between 350-425 children, depending upon funding available.

Age Group

Number	Percentage	Age Groups
302	63%	0-5
165	34%	6-10
16	3%	11-13

Income Group

Number	Percentage	Income Group
15	3.6 %	0-125% FPL
5	1 %	125.01-175% FPL
193	46 %	175.01-250% FPL
270	64%	250-300% FPL

Data from First Quarter 2002

Who is on the waiting list?

- 272 families, approximately 350 children
- Average wait of 7 months

What is the subsidy?

- Subsidies are issued in the form of a voucher that authorizes payment to any of the contracted programs.
- Families choose the site they prefer.

- Family Intake Representatives at the city determine what portion of the cost HSD will pay, depending upon the income and size of the family, the age of the child, and the number of hours of care needed. Generally, vouchers are issued for a period of one year.
- Voucher amounts range from \$850/month for an infant child from a family below 100% FPL (city paying 90% of cost of care) to \$175/month for a preschool child from a family with income between 293% and 300% FPL (city paying 25% of cost of care).

State DSHS Working Connection Subsidies

- Subsidies are for families whose income are at or below 200% FPL (This was reduced from 225% in Jan. 2002). 200% FPL for a family of 4: \$36,200
- In Washington State, the number of families using the child care subsidy program increased 86% from July 1997 to June 2000.
- The number of children receiving DSHS subsidies from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has risen substantially over the past decade and in 2000, child care costs were subsidized for one out of every four children in licensed care. 23,000 children served per month.
- 50% of family home providers and 77% of child care centers in King County served DSHS-subsidized children in 2000.
- 19% of children in licensed care in King County were DSHS-subsidized in 2000.
- There were 9,664 DSHS-Subsidized Children in Licensed Care in 2000.

Washington Department of Social and Health Services. (2000). "Economic Services Administration (ESA) Briefing Book 2000. Working Connections Child Care, pp.86-92. "Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000" Laura Schragger and Marna Geyer Miller. January 2002. Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis. pg. 68. "The Washington State Child Care Experience Since 1996: Implications for Federal and State Policy." Elizabeth Bonbright Thompson. Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Jan. 2002.

Statewide Polling Numbers

- Voters rank teachers, parents, and a safe learning environment as having the greatest impact on a child's ability to learn and develop over the long term.
- 93% agree that children's experiences in the first 5 years of life affect their ability to learn and be successful in school.
- 55% support more state and local govt. focus on early childhood development and education efforts.
- 77% agree that it is difficult for most families to find affordable, high-quality care.
- 76% agree that the government should help ensure the availability of quality child care.
- 78% agree that quality childhood education helps to prevent crime and juvenile delinquency later on.
- 60% disagree that government should just make sure kids are safe and not try to get involved in educating them.
- 80% favor raising standards for child care workers, providing money for more training and professional development, and increasing salaries.
- 75% favor providing funds to make voluntary, high quality pre-school available to all 3 and 4 year olds.
- 80% agree that tax dollars should be used to support learning programs for young children. About 50% feel that the state and local government should spend more on early childhood development and education efforts.
- 60% say that in general they would support a special tax to provide additional funding for early childhood development and education efforts. 61% say they would vote for a measure to fund voluntary pre-school for all children through a 10 cent per shot espresso tax.
- Seattle is the **most** supportive of greater state and local government involvement and spending, and of the espresso tax proposal.

Evans McDonough Incorporated, Jan/Feb 2002

Child Care Benefits

- For every \$1 of cost invested, taxpayers receive a \$7.16 return in benefits.

Schweinhart, L. J., Barnes, H. V., & Weikart, D. P. (1993). *Significant benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 27* (Monographs of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, 10). Ypsilanti: High/Scope Press.

- Above results confirmed: For every \$1 spent, \$7.14 returned. Preschoolers save school systems money by not being left back or placed in special education, pay more taxes because of higher earnings, and save society money in criminal justice costs due to lower arrest rates.

Reynolds, AJ, Temple, JA, Robertson, DL, Mann, EA. (2002) *Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title I Chicago Child-Parent Centers*. Madison, WI: Institute for Research on Poverty.

- High quality child care is an important element in achieving the national goal of having all children ready for school.
- High quality child care continues to positively predict children's performance well into their school careers.
- Children who have traditionally been at risk of not doing well in school are affected both positively and negatively more by the quality of child care experiences than other children.
- The quality of child care classroom practices was related to children's cognitive development, while the closeness of the child care teacher-child relationship influenced children's social
- development through the early school years.

Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study Team. (1995). *Cost, quality, and child outcomes in child care centers, executive summary*. Denver, CO: Economics Department, University of Colorado at Denver. Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study Team. (1999). *Linking child care quality and success in early learning and school readiness: Update to the Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers Study*. Denver, CO: Economics Department, University of Colorado at Denver.

- Children who received the high quality child care were also more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and delay having children.

The Abecedarian Project. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc>

Washington State Career and Wage Ladder Success

- The employee retention rate for employees hired at the beginning of the pilot project at career and wage ladder centers was 21% higher than at comparison centers.
- Educational attainment was significantly higher in the career and wage ladder centers than the comparison group. The rate of employees at ladder centers who completed STARS was 18% higher than the control group and the rate of employees who earned the CDA credential was 38% higher at the ladder centers compared to the control group.
- The average wage (\$8.94) of the career and wage ladder centers is significantly higher than that of the comparison centers (\$8.41) and than all centers in the state (\$8.22).
- The percentage of centers offering benefits is higher in career and wage ladder centers than in comparison centers. 85% of career and wage ladder centers offer health care benefits, as opposed to 49% of comparison centers.

Washington State Child Care Career and Wage Ladder Pilot Project Research and Evaluation Contract. Final Report Phase 1. February 2002. Brenda J. Boyd and Mary R. Wandschneider. Washington State University, Department of Human Development.