

Child Care Aware of Washington

2020 Child Care Crisis Impact

Washington is experiencing a child care crisis with far-reaching impacts for children, families, businesses and communities.

- Child care breakdowns cost Washington employers \$2.08 billion per year¹
- Child care issues cost Washington's economy \$6.5 billion in opportunity costs¹
- 61% of Washington's children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work²
- Over 54% of all entering kindergartners are not ready for school when they enter³
- 49% of working parents find it difficult or very difficult to find and keep child care⁴
- 67% of WA's employers report that child care issues caused employee absenteeism⁵
- 27% of working parents left their job or school due to child care issues¹
- WA's child care educators earn so little they often qualify for public assistance and earn less than pet groomers
- 63% of Washingtonians live in a "child care desert" where there is no child care or only one available child care space for every three children who need care⁴
- State child care subsidy rates are so low they do not cover the costs of quality child care
- Between 26%- 30% of child care programs report having an opening for a lead teacher⁶



Notes:

1. The Washington State Child Care Collaborative Task Force report "The Mounting Costs of Child Care", 2019 http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MountingCostsReport_FINAL.pdf
 2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015
 3. Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2018/19 Report Card- <https://washing-tonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/103300>

4. Center for American Progress 2019- <https://www.childcaredeserts.org/>
 5. Association of Washington Business, 2019
 6. 2018 State of Washington Child Care Market Rate Survey, https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/2018_Washington_State_Market_Rate_Survey.pdf