

Child Care in Pierce County



April 2022

In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers declined from 2008-2013, becoming more stable from 2014-2020 although still in decline at a lesser rate. Capacity for children declined from 2008-2013, however due to more family child care closures than center-based care, capacity has risen from 2014-2019. Since the pandemic there has been a net loss of nearly 150 providers and around 1,500 slots. This decline has disproportionately impacted communities based on location. In the net loss of providers, nearly 40% are center-based, representing 60% of the capacity lost.

Child Care Aware of Washington

Child Care Aware of Washington provides thorough and independent information and support:

- For families seeking quality child care
- For child care programs seeking to improve quality and
 - For effective policymaking

Since 1989, our regional member programs and statewide Family Center have enhanced the quality of child care and helped families by:

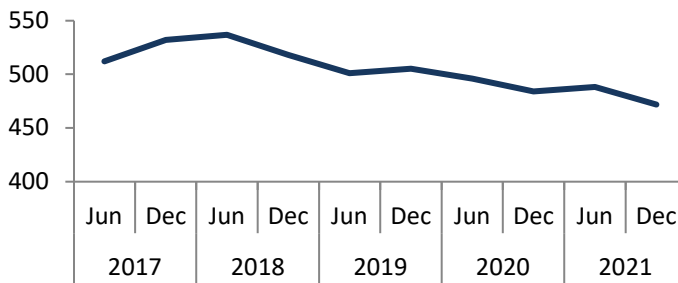
- Delivering training, technical assistance, & consultation to child care providers
- Supplying families with consumer education & referrals for child care

Pierce County

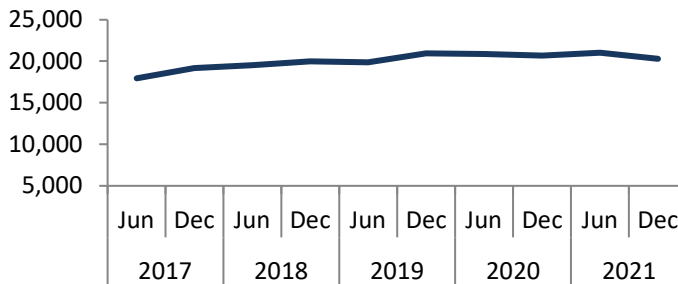
is served locally by
Child Care Aware of Tacoma-Pierce County
a program of
Child Care Resources
1501 Pacific Ave Ste 305
<http://www.childcare.org/>
253.272.8000

In Pierce County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 512 with capacity for 17,934 children in 2017, to 472 providers with capacity for 20,290 children in December of 2021.*

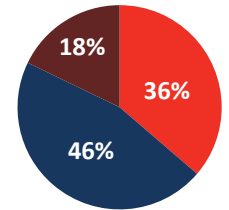
Number of Child Care Providers



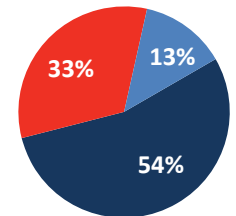
Total Child Care Capacity



Child Care Provider Type



State Subsidy



- Accept all ages
- Do not accept
- Accept school age only

Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington's **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**, which gives training, technical assistance, coaching, awards, scholarships, and other benefits to child care providers **to improve the quality of their care.**

Statewide, 3,926 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 73% of licensed child care providers in Pierce County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

Total	340
Child Care Centers	137
Family Child Care	158
Head Start & State Preschool Sites	45
Enrollment as of	12/1/21

Demographics

Population¹

Total Population in 2020	900,700
Change since 2015	70,580
Children under 5 yrs	60,030
Children under 15 yrs	182,109
K-12 Enrollment ²	134,387

Economics

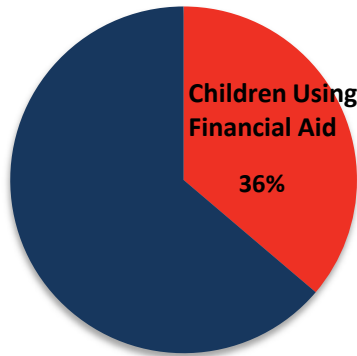
% of children under 18 living in poverty ³	11.8%
% of children under 6 w/ all parents working ⁴	55. to 61.8%
Median Household Income ¹	\$74,774
Unemployment Rate ⁵	5.4%

Helping Families Find Child Care in 2021

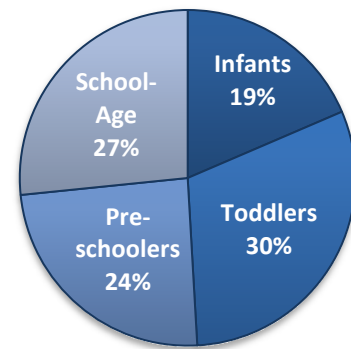
In 2021, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 12,580 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Pierce County alone, we helped 2126 families with 2816 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 3015 times.

Children Using Subsidies



Referral Demand by Child Age



Compensation in 2018

Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income ⁶	
Child Care Center Teacher	\$29,292
Child Care Center Director	\$37,032
Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)	\$27,372
K-12 Teacher (Statewide) ⁷	\$79,524

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2021

Centers	Median Cost	75th Percentile Cost	State Subsidy Rate	Median Cost as a % of Median Income
Infant	\$1,300	\$1,484	\$1,355	21%
Toddler	\$1,077	\$1,270	\$1,173	17%
Preschool	\$953	\$1,111	\$1,042	15%
School Age	\$542	\$622	\$758	9%

Family Child Care	Median Cost	75th Percentile Cost	State Subsidy Rate	Median Cost as a % of Median Income
Infant	\$975	\$1,171	\$1,059	16%
Toddler	\$867	\$1,030	\$910	14%
Preschool	\$823	\$963	\$847	13%
School Age	\$433	\$650	\$774	7%

Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.383.1735

Data Sources:

Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at <https://www.childcareawarewa.org>.

*Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only

¹ Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2020

² Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2017-2018

³ U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2019

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2019

⁵ Washington State Employment Security Department; U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2021 (not seasonally-adjusted)

⁶ Department of Early Learning Washington State 2018 Child Care Survey

Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Pierce County is in DEL Region 5 which includes: Kitsap, Pierce.

⁷ Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2017-2018

For more information, go to <https://www.childcareawarewa.org>