



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

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Dec. 28, 2021

**2021 DCYF Child Care Market Rate Survey**

Welcome to the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) 2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey report. Within these pages, you will find important economic survey data and analysis regarding the licensed child care market in Washington State that will drive provider reimbursement for subsidized child care.

**Key Takeaways**

The findings of this year's survey clearly show that child care providers of all types reported increases in the rates they charge families for their services in every geographic area and child age category. While subsidized child care rates have increased substantially in recent years, they are not keeping pace with the increases providers are reporting in the private market.

In the 2021 budget, the Washington State Legislature funded subsidy rates at the 85th percentile of the market rate identified in what was at the time the latest report (2018). DCYF does not have the fiscal authority and is not funded to increase rates, according to the 2021 report. The legislature would need to include funding in a budget package to bring rates to the 85th percentile based on the 2021 Market Rate Survey. In the meantime, DCYF will continue paying subsidy rates according to the market rate established in the 2018 report, per direction and funding level in the 2021-23 biennial budget. DCYF is exploring a request to the legislature for funding to increase rates in the 2023-25 biennium budget.

Finally, DCYF is partnering with the Washington State Department of Commerce to convene the Child Care Collaborative Task Force. In 2022, the Task Force will focus on developing a Cost Study and Cost Estimation Model that will identify the cost to provide high-quality child care. Once approved by the Federal Administration for Children and Families, this methodology will replace the Market Rate Survey. DCYF will submit a rate model built on this new methodology for the 2025-27 biennium.

**Background**

As a condition of receiving millions of dollars in funding, Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) rules require states to conduct a statistically valid and reliable child care market rate survey or pre-approved alternative methodology every three years and to publish a report analyzing the findings of the survey. The study asks providers what they charge for the care of children of different ages, and responses are grouped by child age and geography. States are then required to set CCDF child care subsidy payment rates in accordance with the survey findings.

To meet these requirements, DCYF contracted with Western Washington University's Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) to survey Washington's licensed child care providers, including centers, family homes, and school-age only programs. DCYF consulted with the state's Early Learning Advisory Committee, Service Employees International Union Local 925, Voices

of Tomorrow, and others in developing the survey instrument, survey mediums, and provider outreach to support survey participation.

The report also provides useful information around child care provider characteristics, subsidy participation and barriers, and staffing costs, all of which are critical contexts for a discussion of reimbursement. We hope you feel compelled to read all the material presented, but quick takeaways can be found in the Executive Summary near the beginning of the report and the Percentile Rate Charts near the end.

In closing, we wish to thank the many child care providers whose dedicated work in this field supports strong Washington families and is a foundation of our economy. This report would not be possible without your willingness to participate in the survey.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Rose  
Assistant Secretary of Early Learning



## 2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



**CENTER FOR  
ECONOMIC AND  
BUSINESS RESEARCH**



*Prepared by the Center for Economic and Business Research | Author: Brianna Berkson, November 2021*

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## **Acknowledgements**

The Center for Economic and Business Research would like to thank all the providers who participated in this survey during the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also like to thank DCYF and their many partners who assisted with survey design and promotion.

DCYF would like to share their gratitude for the child care providers who continued to serve children and their families during this difficult time.

## Executive Summary

### Child Care Development Fund Requirements

To meet requirements set forth by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), states must conduct a statistically valid and reliable child care market rate survey (MRS) every three years to qualify for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The MRS gathers data on private pay rates for licensed child care throughout the state, which can then be used to set reimbursement rates through the state's child care subsidy program. Alternatively, a state can develop a different methodology to determine child care market rates.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) contracted with Western Washington University's Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) to survey Washington State's licensed child care providers. Out of the 5,401 providers in the state,<sup>1</sup> a total of 2,172 (40 percent) responded to the survey. This translates to a +/- 2 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level – highly statistically significant. By provider type, 45 percent of licensed centers and 37 percent of licensed family homes responded to the survey.

### Child Care Population

Survey respondents reported a total of 43,382 children enrolled in child care, with 84 percent in licensed centers and 16 percent in licensed family homes. More than 19,400 full-time equivalent vacancies were reported; however, this number may be an understatement due to COVID-19 restrictions that limited capacity to a fraction of the provider's licensed capacity.

Using population estimates from Washington's Office of Financial Management, enrollment as reported by survey respondents, and the 40% overall response rate, we estimate the total number of children enrolled in child care in Washington State. Overall, approximately 9 percent of children aged 12 or under are estimated to be enrolled in licensed child care. The highest level of enrollment is for toddlers (23 percent of all approximately 84,745 toddlers in Washington), followed by preschoolers (14 percent), infants (7 percent), and school-age children (5 percent).

Table 1: Estimated Child Care Enrollment in Washington

Age	Estimated 2021 Population <sup>2</sup>	Reported Enrollment (full-time + part-time)	Estimated Total Enrollment (full-time + part-time)	Estimated Total Enrollment as a % of the Population
Infant (0)	85,138	2,440	6,060	7%
Toddler (1)	84,745	7,939	19,716	23%
Preschool (2-5)	367,013	20,395	50,649	14%
School-Age (6-12)	680,069	12,608	31,311	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,216,965</b>	<b>43,382</b>	<b>107,736</b>	<b>9%</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of Dec. 17, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> WA Office of Financial Management. "[State Population Forecast](#)." Office of Financial Management, November 2020.

## Findings on Market Rates

As illustrated in the section “Comparing Washington Subsidies and Private Pay Rates,” Washington’s current subsidy rates – which were set based on the 85th percentile of the 2018 Market Rate Survey – are far below the 85th percentile reported within the 2021 survey. The following table shows both the current subsidy rate and the 85th percentile of reported 2021 market rates by provider type, region, and child age group.

Due to provider cost structures and the amount of supervision needed for younger children, licensed centers tend to have higher rates than licensed family homes and rates steadily decreasing as children age. The lowest rates are seen in Region 2 (South Central Washington), followed by Region 1 (North Central/Eastern Washington), Spokane, Region 5 (Kitsap and Pierce counties), Region 6 (Southwest/Olympic Washington), and Region 3 (Northwest Washington). King County (Region 4) has the highest private pay rates across age groups and provider types.

Table 2: Subsidy Rates and 85th Percentile Private Pay Rates

Licensed Center								
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Infant	Subsidy Rate	\$911	\$1,056	\$1,680	\$2,106	\$1,376	\$1,254	\$1,300
	85th Percentile	\$1,365	\$1,300	\$1,905	\$2,500	\$1,590	\$1,694	\$1,380
Toddler	Subsidy Rate	\$825	\$805	\$1,505	\$1,750	\$1,191	\$1,122	\$1,050
	85th Percentile	\$1,235	\$1,080	\$1,768	\$2,235	\$1,408	\$1,485	\$1,245
Preschool	Subsidy Rate	\$752	\$803	\$1,269	\$1,580	\$1,058	\$1,034	\$989
	85th Percentile	\$1,170	\$985	\$1,595	\$1,885	\$1,210	\$1,270	\$1,114
School-Age	Subsidy Rate	\$743	\$602	\$960	\$990	\$770	\$790	\$770
	85th Percentile	\$1,174	\$720	\$1,440	\$1,994	\$1,192	\$1,105	\$1,078
Licensed Family Home								
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Infant	Subsidy Rate	\$880	\$990	\$1,210	\$1,500	\$1,075	\$990	\$924
	85th Percentile	\$1,083	\$1,452	\$1,430	\$1,800	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,056
Toddler	Subsidy Rate	\$770	\$825	\$1,075	\$1,400	\$924	\$950	\$880
	85th Percentile	\$1,036	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,650	\$1,300	\$1,210	\$1,056
Preschool	Subsidy Rate	\$704	\$770	\$1,056	\$1,300	\$860	\$836	\$814
	85th Percentile	\$880	\$1,056	\$1,192	\$1,517	\$1,083	\$1,166	\$990
School-Age	Subsidy Rate	\$660	\$704	\$880	\$880	\$786	\$715	\$792
	85th Percentile	\$805	\$880	\$1,083	\$1,320	\$975	\$990	\$990

## Licensed Child Care Centers

The average licensed center had a capacity of 70 children. Small (capacity less than 50) providers made up 44 percent of the sample and respondents with capacities greater than 100 account for 18 percent of the sample. Vacancy rates ranged from 49 percent for those who serve school-age children to 66 percent for providers who serve toddlers. A typical licensed center reported having 1 director, 1 administrator, 1 program manager, 3 or more lead teachers, and 3 or more assistant teachers.

## Licensed Family Child Care Homes

Licensed family homes had an average capacity of 19 children. Approximately 37 percent of providers who serve infants or preschool children reported having vacancies. Providers who serve school-age children had the lowest probability of vacancies at 24 percent. Most licensed family homes reported having 1 family home owner involved in child care and 1 assistant.

## Child Care Support Services and Languages

Of those who responded to the survey, 32 percent of licensed family homes and 75 percent of licensed center were currently serving at least one child with special needs.

Turning to languages spoken, 66 percent of licensed centers and 46 percent of licensed family homes have staff who speak a language other than English. While licensed centers were more likely to have staff who speak a language other than English, only 31 percent provide instruction in a language other than English – compared to 51 percent of licensed family homes.

## Children Receiving or Accessing Subsidized Child Care

Most licensed centers (88 percent) and licensed family homes (79 percent) accept some type of subsidy. The most accepted subsidy is Washington State’s Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy – 82 percent of licensed centers and 68 percent of licensed family homes. The Seasonal Child Care Subsidy (26%), tribal subsidies, and other local subsidies were also often accepted. Common reasons for not accepting subsidies include low rates, lack of subsidy requests, unwillingness or inability to join Early Achievers, and high administrative costs.

## Staff Compensation

While many providers chose not to provide information on the number of employees they have and their wages, the report does attempt to estimate average staff salaries, median staff costs per full-time equivalent (FTE) child, and median total facility costs per FTE child. Further research is needed to better understand the true cost of providing child care by region, provider type, and child age.

- **Average Monthly Salaries:** \$2,887-\$3,782 (licensed family homes) | \$2,691-\$4,086 (licensed centers)
- **Median Monthly Staff Cost per FTE Child:** \$341-\$533 (LFH) | \$477-\$750 (LC)
- **Estimated Median Monthly Total Cost per FTE Child:** \$512-\$800 (LFH) | \$716-\$1,125 (LC)



## Introduction

Prior to submitting Washington State’s Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) plan every three years, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requires the Lead Agency (DCYF) to conduct a statistically valid and reliable survey of child care market rates.<sup>3</sup>

ACF identifies the following 5 benchmarks within 145 CFR §98.45 2 CCDF Final Rule, Statistical Validity, page 67509 3 CCDF Final Rule §98.45(f)(1):

1. The survey includes child care providers of all types within the priced market (i.e., providers that charge parents a price established through an arm’s length transaction). In an arm’s length transaction, the parent and the provider do not have a prior relationship that is likely to affect the price charged.
2. The survey provides complete and current data that fully capture the universe of providers in the priced child care market. The survey should use data from multiple sources to identify relevant and up-to-date information for a specific time period.
3. The survey represents geographic variation. This includes providers from all geographic parts of the state, territory, or tribal service area, if applicable. Data should also be collected and analyzed in a manner that links prices to local geographic areas.
4. The survey uses a rigorous data collection procedure. This includes a response from a high percentage of providers (generally 65 percent or higher is desirable and below 50 percent is suspect). Lead Agencies should consider surveying in multiple languages in addition to other strategies to ensure adequate responses from key populations.
5. The survey examines the price per child care slot, recognizing that all child care facilities should not be weighted equally.

The MRS collected tuition information for both licensed centers and licensed family child care homes. In addition, the survey collected staff salary data as a factor related to the cost of providing care. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DCYF pushed data collection to 2021. Licensed child care providers were surveyed by CEBR and the resulting data was disaggregated by geography and regional rate groups.

Table 3: Regional Rate Groups (Licensed Center Rate Group Differences in Parentheses)

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Adams	Benton (6)	Island	King	Kitsap	Clallam	Spokane
Asotin	Columbia	San Juan		Pierce	Clark (3)	
Chelan	Franklin	Skagit			Cowlitz	
Douglas	Kittitas	Snohomish			Grays Harbor	
Ferry	Walla Walla (6)	Whatcom			Jefferson	
Garfield	Yakima				Klickitat	
Grant					Lewis	
Lincoln					Mason	
Okanogan					Pacific	
Pend Oreille					Skamania	
Stevens					Thurston	
Whitman (6)					Wahkiakum	

Source: DCYF. “Child Care Subsidy Rates Regional Map.” [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS\\_0004.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0004.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> National Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability. “[Ensuring a Statistically Valid and Reliable Market Rate Survey: A Checklist.](#)” *Early Childhood National Centers*, February 2020.

## Methodology

### Guidance

In keeping with guidance from ACF,<sup>4</sup> market rate percentiles are calculated by region using survey data that is weighted by reported enrollment. The weight is calculated as full-time enrollment plus ½ of half-time enrollment, to create a full-time equivalent (FTE) weight. This ensures a more accurate representation of the supply of child care in each region.

### Sampling Protocols

DCYF provided contact information for all licensed child care providers in Washington State. Using this data, CEHR took a census approach and conducted outreach to all providers regularly to encourage a higher response rate. As providers completed the survey, they were removed from the contact list.

### Survey Instrument

Using the 2018 instrument for reference, DCYF and CEHR worked in partnership with a variety of stakeholders to craft the 2021 Market Rate Survey. The instrument includes questions on:

- Licensed capacity, enrollment, and vacancies
- Private pay rates
- Subsidy acceptance
- Hours and months of operation
- Other provider attributes
- Staffing and compensation

The survey was made available online in English, Spanish, and Somali using Qualtrics software. Survey logic was used to guide providers to relevant questions based on their previous responses or facility type. Key questions including capacity, enrollment, and private pay rates were coded so respondents could not skip the required questions.

Providers were also given the option to take the survey by phone. CEHR's call center was able to support survey responses in English, Spanish, and Somali.

For the respondents' convenience, private pay rates could be entered as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly rates based on their billing structure. Full time rates were converted assuming 35 hours of care per week, 5 days of care per week, and 52 weeks of care per year to convert all reported rates to monthly rates. If respondents had multiple locations, there were given the option to complete the survey as a spreadsheet and submit their response via email.

### Outreach Efforts

Responses were collected from February 8, 2021 to June 8, 2021. Outreach was provided by DCYF, CEHR, and partner organizations. CEHR's outreach consisted of:

- A letter and postcard mailed to providers
- Weekly emails
- Multiple calls from the CEHR call center
- Posts on DCYF social media

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<sup>4</sup> National Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability. "[Ensuring a Statistically Valid and Reliable Market Rate Survey: A Checklist.](#)" *Early Childhood National Centers*, February 2020.

- Regular phone calls and email with Service Employees International Union Local 925, who represents licensed family home providers who accept subsidy
- Outreach to licensors, Child Care Aware, and other stakeholders with relationships with providers; and
- Emails sent via listservs

## Response Rates

Overall, the survey had a 40 percent response rate after duplicate and incomplete responses (responses that do not include market rates) were removed. This translates to a +/- 2 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level – a high level of statistical significance. Response rates by region varied from 53 percent in Region 2 to 36 percent in Regions 4 and 5. The 2018 report received a similar response rate of 42 percent. It is likely that the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted response rates.

Table 4: Response Rate by Region

Region	# Providers	# Responded	% Complete	Margin of Error (95% Confidence)
1	407	199	49%	+/- 5%
2	656	346	53%	+/- 4%
3	743	292	39%	+/- 4%
4	2,098	758	36%	+/- 3%
5	638	230	36%	+/- 5%
6	608	230	38%	+/- 5%
Spokane	244	117	48%	+/- 7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>+/- 2%</b>

Evaluated at a 95 percent confidence level, margins of error for a specific provider type in each region were generally below +/- 10 percent. The two exceptions are licensed center responses in Region 1 (+/- 12 percent) and licensed family home responses in Spokane (+/- 15 percent). These high margins of error occur because of the small number of providers in these regions. For example, regions with a higher number of providers and similar response rates have smaller margins of error. This is an outcome of the way the margin of error formula is designed.

Table 5: Response Rate by Region and Provider Type

Region	Licensed Centers				Licensed Family Homes			
	Providers	Responses	% Complete	Margin of Error	Providers	Responses	% Complete	Margin of Error
1	101	41	41%	+/- 12%	306	158	52%	+/- 5%
2	201	130	65%	+/- 5%	455	216	47%	+/- 5%
3	348	144	41%	+/- 6%	395	148	37%	+/- 6%
4	792	364	46%	+/- 4%	1,306	394	30%	+/- 4%
5	348	134	39%	+/- 7%	290	96	33%	+/- 8%
6	332	133	40%	+/- 7%	276	97	35%	+/- 8%
Spokane	163	90	55%	+/- 7%	81	27	33%	+/- 15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>+/- 2%</b>	<b>3,109</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>+/- 2%</b>

Most surveys (85 percent) were completed in English, with 15 percent being taken in Spanish and 5 responses in Somali. Licensed family homes were most likely to respond to the survey in a language other than English.

Table 6: Responses by Language

	Total	Licensed Centers	Licensed Family Homes
English	1,849	1,018	831
Spanish	318	18	300
Somali	5	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,135</b>

## Market Rate Survey Methodology

The methodology of the 2021 Market Rate Survey is consistent with the 2018 report:

- Reported rates are weighted by enrollment to determine percentiles
- Percentiles use subsidy regions rather than licensing regions for centers

The 85th percentile shown in this report can be seen as indicating that the private pay rate of 85% of child care slots in a region are less than or equal to that rate. In other words, a rate listed as the 85th percentile for center-based toddler care in Spokane means that an estimated 85 percent of families with toddlers in Spokane licensed centers pay the amount listed for the 85th percentile, or less.

## Data Cleaning

The data was cleaned to remove partial responses that did not include private pay rates and duplicate responses. Private pay rates were converted to monthly rates and other formatting was done to standardize text-entry responses. Consistent with the 2018 Market Rate Study, only full-time rates were considered due to their greater completion rate and consistency. To convert weekly, daily, and hourly rates to monthly rates, the following formulas were used:

- **Weekly:** (Weekly Rate \* 52 weeks/year) / (12 months/year) = Monthly Rate
- **Daily<sup>5</sup>:** (Daily Rate \* 22 days/month) = Monthly Rate
- **Hourly:** (Hourly Rate \* 35 hours/week \* 52 weeks/year) / (12 months/year) = Monthly Rate

## Child Care Population

Based on survey data, respondents cared for more than 33,500 children full time and more than 9,800 part time. More than 80 percent of these children were enrolled in licensed centers; however, licensed centers only account for 48 percent of respondents. This is likely due to licensed centers having more capacity than licensed family homes, on average.

Table 7: Enrollment and Number of Respondents by Provider Type

	Children in Licensed Care Full Time	Children in Licensed Care Part Time	Licensed Facilities
Licensed Centers	27,987	8,443	1,036
Licensed Family Homes	5,522	1,430	1,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,509</b>	<b>9,873</b>	<b>2,172</b>

<sup>5</sup> WCCC monthly rates are expressed as the daily rate multiplied by 22.

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The number of licensed family homes that responded was greater than the number of licensed centers in Regions 1 through 4. The opposite was true in Regions 5 and 6, as well as Spokane. Overall, the sample consisted of 100 more licensed family homes than licensed centers.

The greatest number of respondents was seen in Region 4 (King County), consistent with the large population and number of providers in the region. Spokane was the region with the lowest combined number of responses. Refer to the previous section on response rates to see how the number of respondents compares to the number of providers by region.

*Table 8: Number of Respondents by Region*

Region	Licensed Centers	Licensed Family Homes	Ratio of Homes to Centers
1	41	158	3.85
2	130	216	1.66
3	144	148	1.03
4	364	394	1.08
5	134	96	0.72
6	133	97	0.73
Spokane	90	27	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1.10</b>

In the following table, the reported enrollment, capacity, and vacancies are shown by provider type. It should be noted that total vacancies are calculated as full-time equivalents (FTE), with one part-time vacancy counting as 0.5 full-time vacancies. These reported vacancies account for 24 to 25 percent of reported capacity. However, subtracting reported FTE enrollment from reported capacity suggests that vacancy true rates may be more than 50%. Note that total capacity in this table represents reported licensed capacity; however, state, and local COVID-19 guidance may have led to reduced capacity and enrollment during the time this survey was being fielded. This would account for the difference in reported and implied vacancies.

*Table 9: Enrollment and Vacancies by Provider Type*

	Enrollment (# Children)	Average Capacity	Total Capacity	Reported Vacancies (FTE)	Vacancy (Reported)	Vacancy (Implied)
<b>Licensed Centers</b>						
<b>Full Time</b>	27,987			12,495		
<b>Part Time</b>	8,443			6,815		
<b>Total</b>	36,430	70	64,767	15,903	25%	50%
<b>Licensed Family Homes</b>						
<b>Full Time</b>	5,522			2,337		
<b>Part Time</b>	1,430			2,370		
<b>Total</b>	6,952	19	14,747	3,522	24%	58%
<b>All Providers</b>	43,382		79,514	19,425	24%	52%

The following table illustrates enrollment by provider type and child age. Most children accounted for in this sample were enrolled full-time in a licensed center.

Table 10: Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment by Provider Type and Child Age

	Full-Time Enrollment	Part-Time Enrollment	Total Children
<b>Licensed Centers</b>			
<b>Infant</b>	1,441	190	1,631
<b>Toddler</b>	5,571	989	6,560
<b>Preschool</b>	13,647	3,671	17,318
<b>School-Age</b>	7,328	3,593	10,921
<b>Total</b>	27,987	8,443	36,430
<b>Licensed Family Homes</b>			
<b>Infant</b>	682	127	809
<b>Toddler</b>	1,141	238	1,379
<b>Preschool</b>	2,423	654	3,077
<b>School-Age</b>	1,276	411	1,687
<b>Total</b>	5,522	1,430	6,952
<b>All Providers</b>	33,509	9,873	43,382

### Distribution of Respondents by Enrollment

While nearly 90 percent of licensed center respondents reported full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of 75 or less, only 63 percent of enrolled (FTE) children were in facilities of this size. Similarly, for licensed family homes, 92 percent had FTE enrollment of 12 children or less, but these providers only accounted for 75 percent of enrolled (FTE) children. By definition, facilities with higher enrollment serve more children, therefore these findings are to be expected.

Figure 1: Percent of Licensed Centers and Enrollment by Provider Capacity

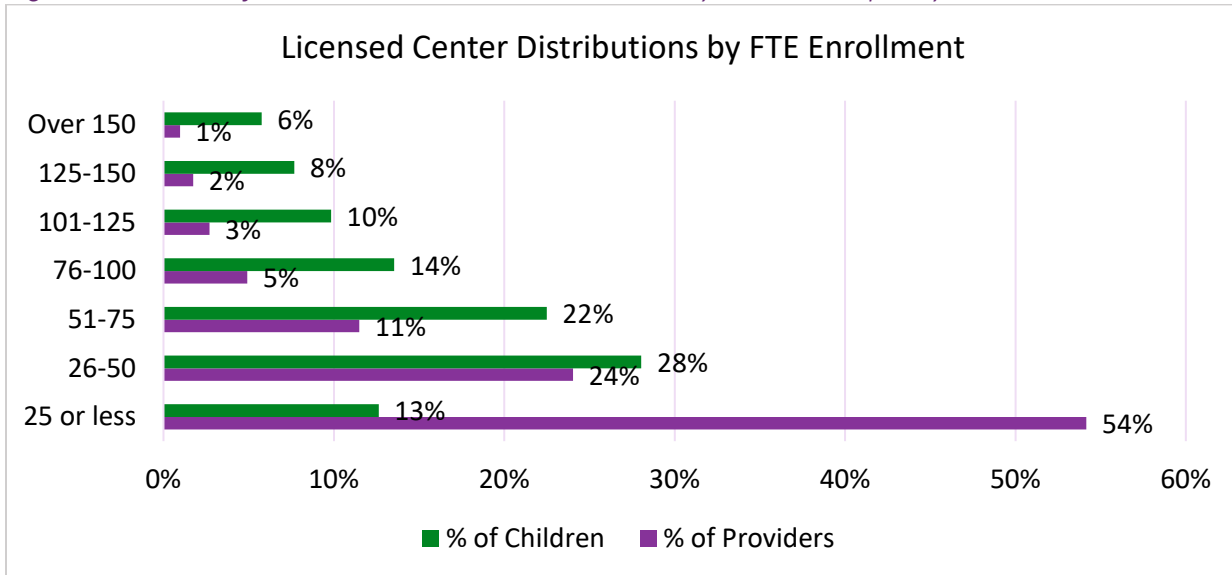
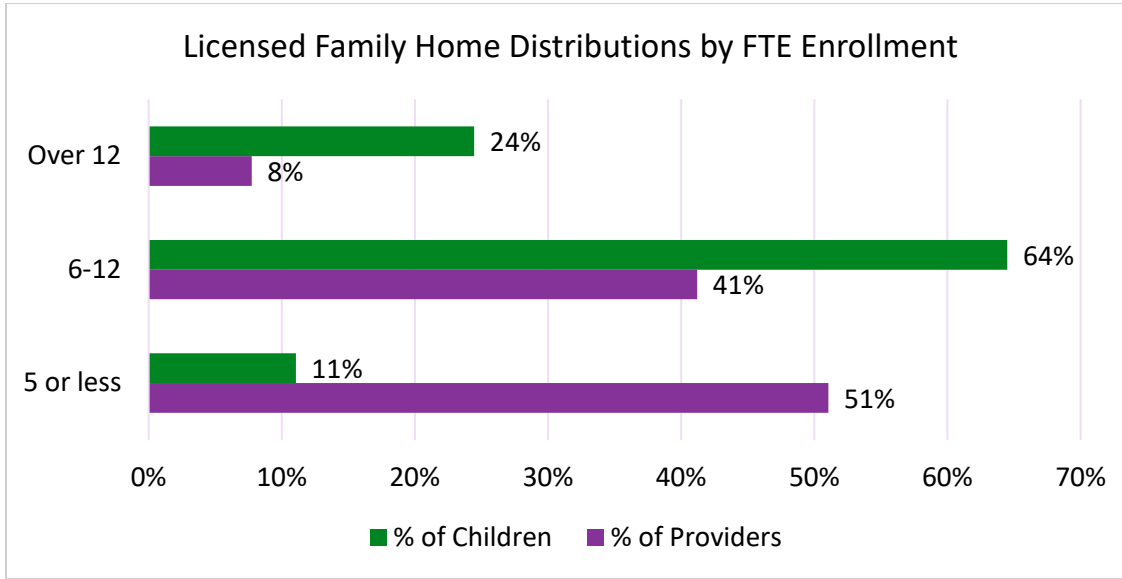


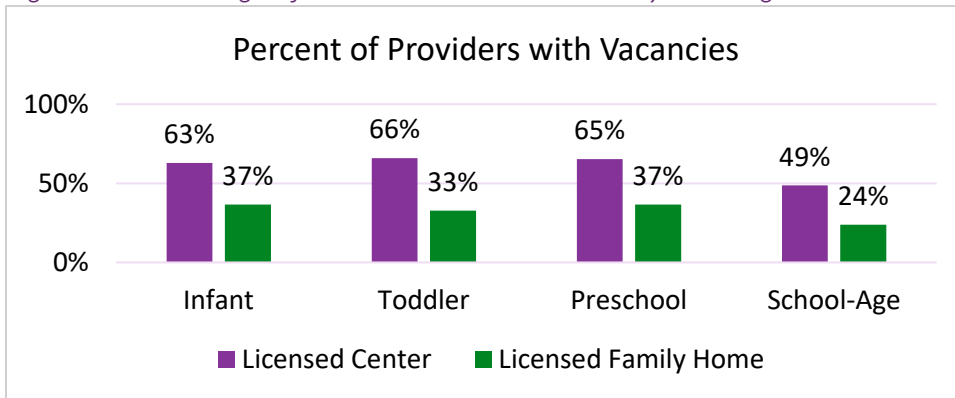
Figure 2: Percent of Licensed Family Homes and Enrollment by Provider Capacity



### Respondent Vacancy Rates

Looking at the percentage of providers that reported current vacancies, licensed centers were generally more likely to have vacancies than licensed family homes. For both provider types, respondents were least likely to have school-age vacancies.

Figure 3: Percentage of Providers with Vacancies by Child Age and Provider Type



The following table shows the number of full-time and part-time vacancies reported by provider type and region. In general, there were more full-time vacancies than part-time vacancies and more licensed center vacancies than licensed family home vacancies.

Table 11: Number of Vacancies by Region and Provider Type

Child Care Vacancies								
Region	Licensed Centers				Licensed Family Homes			
	Full-Time Vacancies		Part-Time Vacancies		Full-Time Vacancies		Part-Time Vacancies	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1	363	3%	211	3%	214	9%	59	2%
2	550	4%	198	3%	174	7%	64	3%
3	1,751	14%	1,029	15%	432	18%	207	9%
4	3,584	29%	1,331	20%	990	42%	1,829	77%
5	3,432	27%	2,505	37%	204	9%	63	3%
6	1,817	15%	858	13%	271	12%	140	6%
Spokane	998	8%	683	10%	52	2%	8	0%
<b>Total</b>	12,495	100%	6,815	100%	2,337	100%	2,370	100%

### Provider Detail and Specialization

The following section explores provider attributes including months of operation, languages spoken, schedules, and support services.

#### Type of Facility

Responses were roughly evenly split between licensed family homes and licensed centers. Most respondents are open year-round, with 13 percent of licensed center respondents only being open during the school year.

Figure 4: Share of Respondents by Provider Type

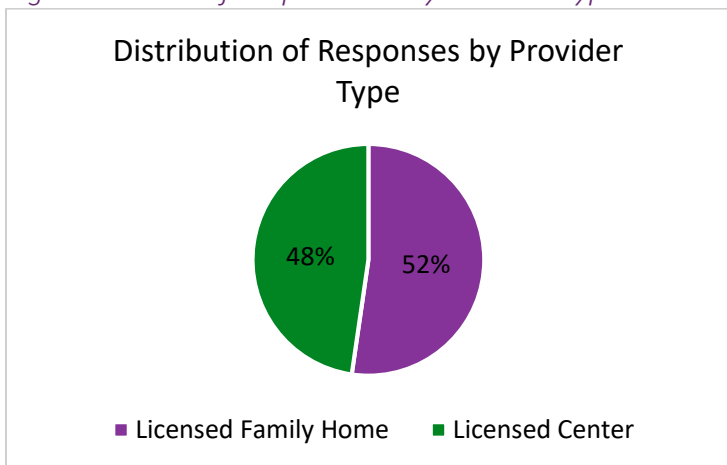
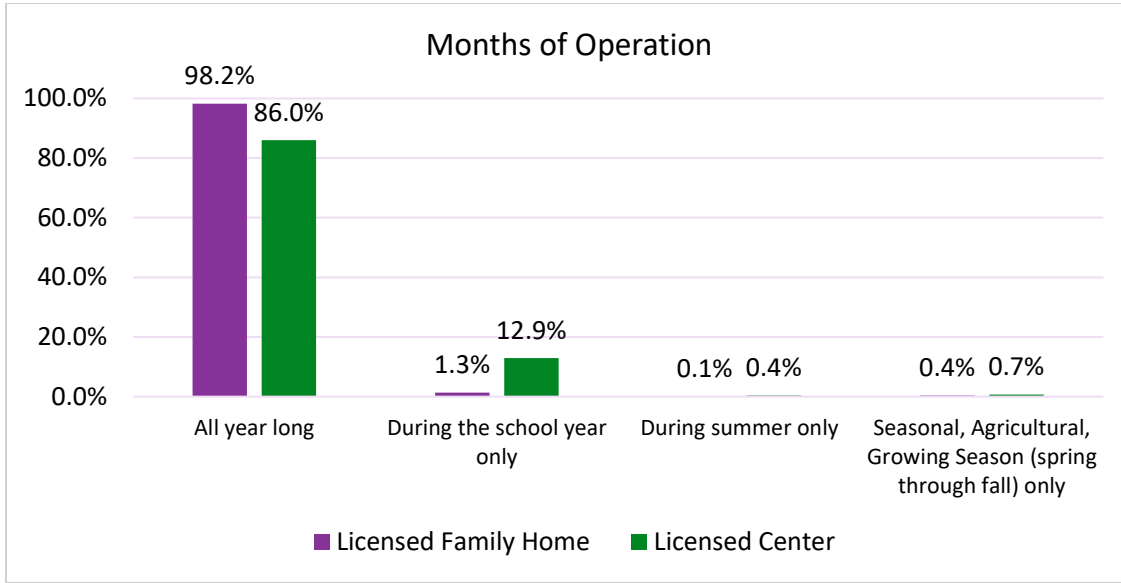




Figure 5: Months of Operation by Provider Type

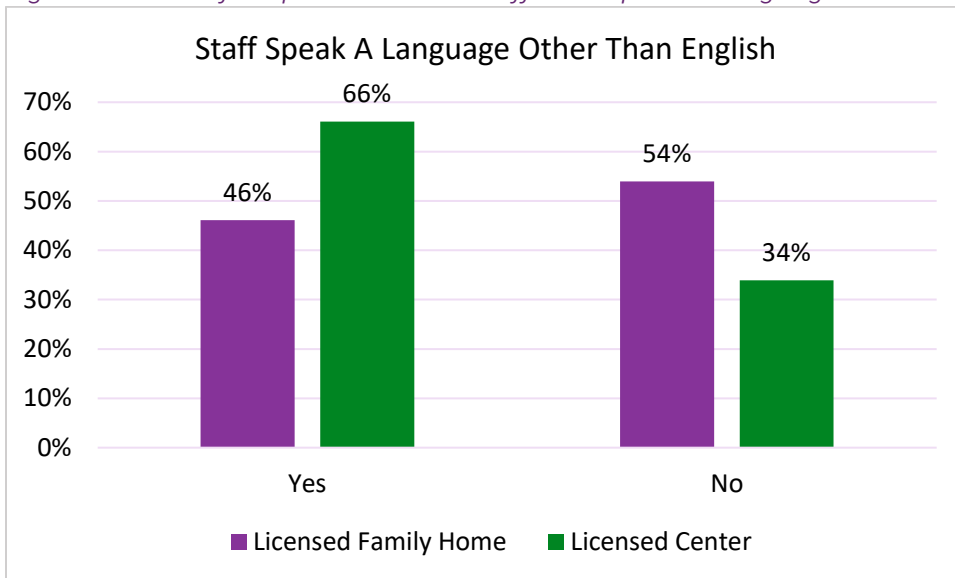


### Language Used by Providers

Licensed centers were more likely than licensed family homes to have staff that speaks a language other than English. The most common languages include:

- Spanish (54%)
- American Sign Language (4%)
- Russian (4%)
- Tagalog (3%)
- Arabic (3%)
- Hindi (3%)
- Somali (2%)
- Chinese – Language Unspecified (2%)
- Mandarin (2%)
- French (2%)
- Amharic (2%)
- Vietnamese (2%)

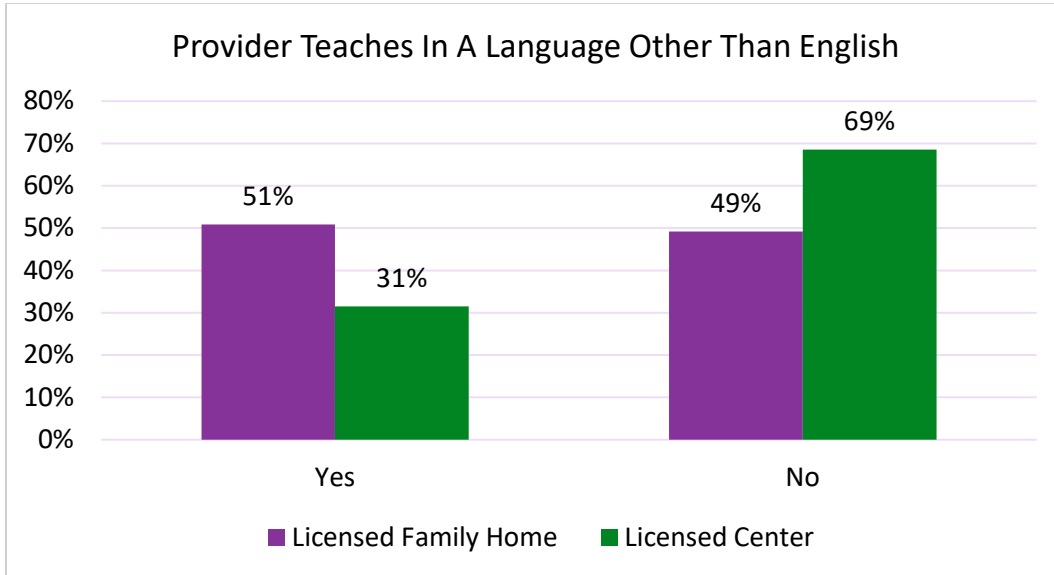
Figure 6: Share of Respondents with Staff Who Speak a Language Other Than English



While licensed centers are more likely to have staff that speak a language other than English, licensed family homes are more likely to provide instruction in a language other than English. Common languages taught include:

- Spanish (66%)
- American Sign Language (12%)
- Chinese – Language Unspecified (2%)
- Russian (2%)
- Somali (2%)
- French (2%)

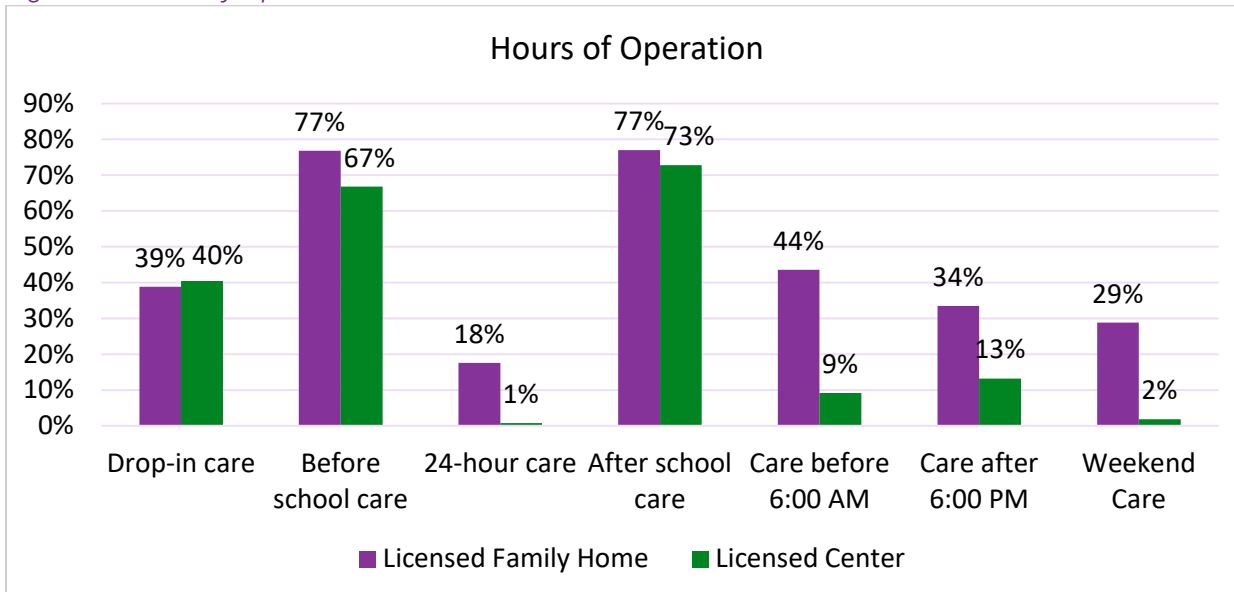
Figure 7: Share of Respondents Teaching in a Language Other Than English



### Hours of Operation

Before and after school care are the most common offerings and 24-hour care is the least common. In general, licensed family home respondents offer more flexible schedules than licensed center respondents.

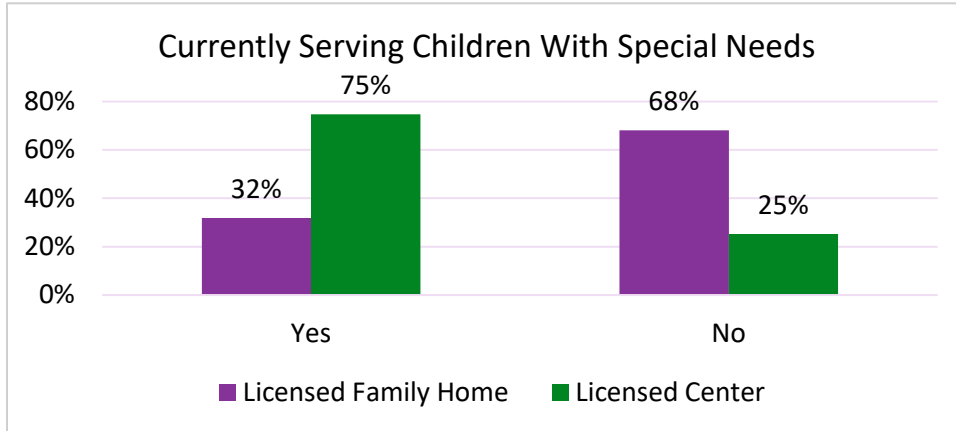
Figure 8: Hours of Operation and Non-Traditional Hours



### Support Services

Overall, 75 percent of licensed center respondents currently are caring for a child with special needs compared to 32 percent of licensed family home respondents.

Figure 9: Share of Providers Currently Serving Children with Special Needs



### Staffing and Compensation

This section explores the staffing patterns and compensation reported within the survey, disaggregated by licensed family homes and licensed centers. To separate full-time salaries from part-time salaries, a 40-hour work week at minimum wage (\$13.69)<sup>6</sup> leads to a full-time minimum monthly salary of \$2,373. All reported wages greater than or equal to \$2,373 were considered full-time and all those less than \$2,373 were considered part-time.

#### Licensed Family Homes

Licensed family homes generally have a business owner/operator and at least one assistant on their payroll. Among respondents, 78 percent had one home owner involved with child care and 90 percent had 1 to 2 assistants. Compared to licensed center respondents, a relatively small share of licensed family homes reported having a staffing vacancy in the past year.

Table 12: Licensed Family Home Respondent Staffing

	Number of Staff Per Position				Openings	
	1	2	3+	N	Count	% With Openings
<b>Family Home Owners</b>	78%	18%	4%	696	160	8%
<b>Assistants</b>	61%	29%	10%	388	156	25%

Full-time staff were compensated at approximately twice the rate of part-time staff. Some of the minimum salaries for part-time workers may be for those working very few hours or may represent weekly wages that were accidentally input for monthly wages. For full-time family home owners, there were two high-salary outliers (\$12,000 and \$10,000 monthly), with the third highest monthly salary being \$7,500.

<sup>6</sup> WA Department of Labor & Industries. [“History of Washington State’s Minimum Wage.”](#)

## 2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 13: Licensed Family Home Respondent Monthly Wages - Full Time

Full Time	# Respondents	Min	Max	Average
Family Home Owners	166	\$2,400	\$12,000	\$3,782
Assistants	117	\$2,400	\$5,500	\$2,887

Table 14: Licensed Family Home Respondent Monthly Wages - Part Time

Part Time	# Respondents	Min	Max	Average
Family Home Owners	74	\$200	\$2,300	\$1,501
Assistants	119	\$75	\$2,320	\$1,479

### Licensed Centers

Most licensed center respondents had one director (89 percent), one administrator (73 percent), one program manager (91 percent), three or more lead teachers (61 percent), and 3 or more assistant teachers (58 percent). Respondents were most likely to have had vacancies for their lead teacher or assistant teacher position in the last year.

Table 15: Licensed Center Respondent Staffing

	Number of Staff Per Position				Openings	
	1	2	3+	N	Count	% With Openings
Director	89%	9%	2%	840	115	10%
Administrator	73%	19%	9%	363	112	21%
Program Manager	91%	8%	1%	493	76	13%
Lead Teacher	30%	10%	61%	842	1291	38%
Assistant Teacher	29%	14%	58%	724	1543	30%

Directors were the most highly compensated at \$4,086 per month, on average. Full-time assistant teachers had the lowest average compensation at \$1,691 per month. Similar to licensed family home responses, some part-time salaries may reflect a very small number of hours per month or weekly rates.

Table 16: Licensed Center Respondent Monthly Wages - Full Time

Full Time	# Respondents	Min	Max	Average
Director	501	\$2,400	\$10,000	\$4,086
Administrator	209	\$2,400	\$7,750	\$3,649
Program Manager	377	\$2,400	\$6,250	\$3,550
Lead Teacher	572	\$2,375	\$5,250	\$2,933
Assistant Teacher	396	\$2,375	\$4,833	\$2,691

Table 17: Licensed Center Respondent Monthly Wages - Part Time

Part Time	# Respondents	Min	Max	Average
Director	40	\$1,000	\$2,300	\$1,735
Administrator	39	\$400	\$2,320	\$1,533
Program Manager	50	\$900	\$2,300	\$1,790
Lead Teacher	154	\$800	\$2,360	\$1,797
Assistant Teacher	235	\$218	\$2,360	\$1,662

## Estimated Provider Costs per FTE Child

In this section, we aim to estimate providers' cost to serve a full-time equivalent (FTE) child. Past research by DCYF suggests that approximately 2/3 of a program's total costs – rent, utilities, staff, supplies, etc. – can be attributed to staff costs. As such, reported staff costs are used to estimate total costs on an FTE child basis. We find that staff costs are generally higher at licensed centers, as well as in regions with a higher cost of living.

**Note:** Many respondents did not report complete staff information (number of employees and their monthly salary) within the survey, thus leading to a small sample size. In addition, some staff costs per child were more than \$10,000 per month. These responses were excluded because it seemed likely that the respondent either had not reported their full enrollment or were experiencing unusually low enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some minimums in the table below are very low, which may be a result of not reporting all staff and their full-time monthly salary. Staff cost estimates are likely most accurate toward the middle of the percentile distribution.

Table 18: Estimated Monthly Staff Compensation per FTE Child

Estimated Monthly Staff Compensation per FTE Child							
Licensed Centers							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Max	\$1,513	\$1,284	\$3,094	\$4,200	\$4,133	\$2,330	\$3,782
90%	\$927	\$1,061	\$1,041	\$1,326	\$876	\$855	\$1,377
85%	<b>\$830</b>	<b>\$1,038</b>	<b>\$970</b>	<b>\$1,173</b>	<b>\$844</b>	<b>\$814</b>	<b>\$1,041</b>
80%	\$824	\$755	\$878	\$1,087	\$753	\$758	\$853
70%	\$817	\$624	\$771	\$952	\$676	\$692	\$725
60%	\$785	\$604	\$724	\$789	\$625	\$625	\$701
50%	\$750	\$477	\$654	\$743	\$587	\$586	\$627
40%	\$671	\$417	\$607	\$667	\$472	\$559	\$539
30%	\$553	\$327	\$522	\$601	\$391	\$466	\$502
20%	\$491	\$261	\$477	\$471	\$324	\$380	\$425
10%	\$388	\$229	\$379	\$336	\$243	\$292	\$338
Min	\$388	\$88	\$103	\$74	\$137	\$162	\$51
Licensed Family Homes							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Max	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$3,120	\$3,200	\$3,250	\$1,733	\$1,844
90%	\$800	\$733	\$900	\$1,127	\$1,050	\$781	\$1,333
85%	<b>\$625</b>	<b>\$621</b>	<b>\$844</b>	<b>\$1,039</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$703</b>	<b>\$1,056</b>
80%	\$533	\$621	\$756	\$929	\$750	\$642	\$907
70%	\$500	\$392	\$661	\$829	\$667	\$582	\$633
60%	\$470	\$392	\$589	\$683	\$519	\$508	\$526
50%	\$444	\$341	\$478	\$533	\$455	\$429	\$507
40%	\$353	\$240	\$433	\$375	\$376	\$367	\$420
30%	\$350	\$167	\$359	\$329	\$282	\$250	\$415
20%	\$252	\$138	\$208	\$250	\$267	\$186	\$288
10%	\$200	\$107	\$171	\$133	\$176	\$167	\$220
Min	\$143	\$100	\$102	\$67	\$64	\$127	\$142

Next, we assume that staff costs account for 2/3 of a provider’s total facility costs to estimate total costs by provider type and region. Looking at the 85th percentile of licensed centers, we see that Region 4 is the most expensive to operate in (\$1,759 per FTE child), followed by Spokane (\$1,561), Region 2 (\$1,556), Region 3 (\$1,454), Region 5 (\$1,266), Region 1 (\$1,245), and Region 6 (\$1,221). For licensed family homes, the 85th percentile is highest in Spokane (\$1,583), followed by Region 4 (\$1,559), Region 3 (\$1,267), Region 5 (\$1,125), Region 6 (\$1,054), Region 1 (\$938), and Region 2 (\$931).

Again, it is important to note that the sample size of respondents to staffing questions is small and the methodology is for rough estimation purposes only. In order to better understand the costs of operating child care programs, further research and data collection would be needed.

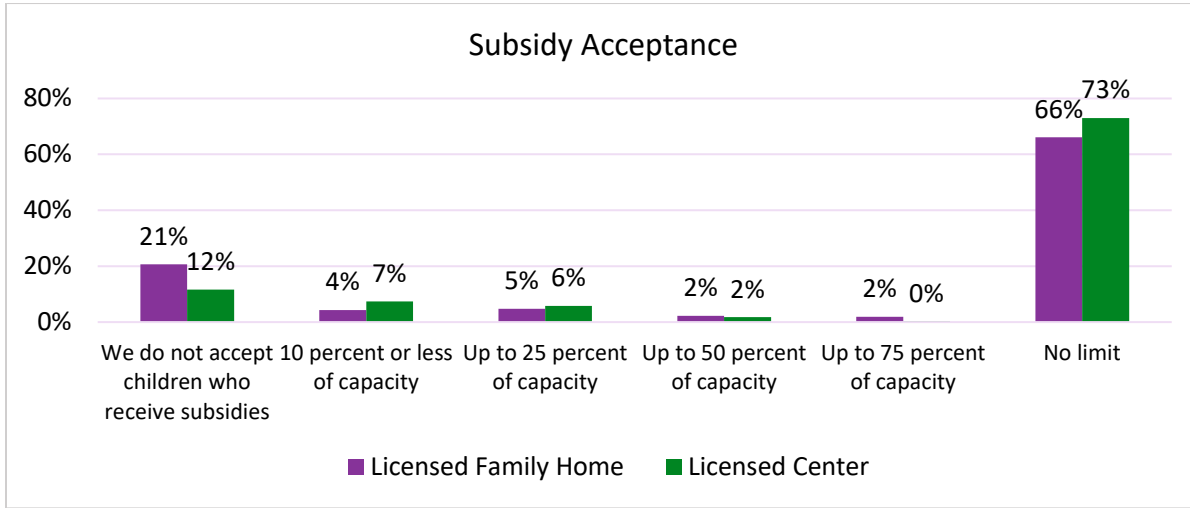
Table 19: Estimated Total Facility Cost per FTE Child

Estimated Facility Costs per FTE Child (Assumes Staffing Cost = 2/3 Total Facility Cost)							
Licensed Centers							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Max	\$2,269	\$1,926	\$4,641	\$6,300	\$6,200	\$3,494	\$5,673
90%	\$1,390	\$1,592	\$1,561	\$1,989	\$1,314	\$1,283	\$2,066
85%	<b>\$1,245</b>	<b>\$1,556</b>	<b>\$1,454</b>	<b>\$1,759</b>	<b>\$1,266</b>	<b>\$1,221</b>	<b>\$1,561</b>
80%	\$1,235	\$1,133	\$1,317	\$1,631	\$1,129	\$1,138	\$1,280
70%	\$1,226	\$936	\$1,156	\$1,429	\$1,015	\$1,038	\$1,087
60%	\$1,177	\$907	\$1,086	\$1,183	\$938	\$937	\$1,052
50%	\$1,125	\$716	\$981	\$1,114	\$880	\$879	\$940
40%	\$1,006	\$626	\$911	\$1,001	\$708	\$838	\$808
30%	\$830	\$490	\$782	\$902	\$587	\$700	\$753
20%	\$737	\$391	\$715	\$707	\$485	\$570	\$637
10%	\$582	\$344	\$568	\$503	\$364	\$438	\$508
Min	\$582	\$132	\$154	\$111	\$206	\$243	\$76
Licensed Family Homes							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Max	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$4,680	\$4,800	\$4,875	\$2,600	\$2,765
90%	\$1,200	\$1,100	\$1,350	\$1,690	\$1,575	\$1,172	\$2,000
85%	<b>\$938</b>	<b>\$931</b>	<b>\$1,267</b>	<b>\$1,559</b>	<b>\$1,125</b>	<b>\$1,054</b>	<b>\$1,583</b>
80%	\$800	\$931	\$1,135	\$1,393	\$1,125	\$963	\$1,360
70%	\$750	\$588	\$992	\$1,243	\$1,000	\$873	\$950
60%	\$705	\$588	\$883	\$1,025	\$778	\$762	\$789
50%	\$667	\$512	\$717	\$800	\$682	\$643	\$760
40%	\$529	\$360	\$650	\$563	\$563	\$550	\$630
30%	\$525	\$251	\$538	\$494	\$424	\$375	\$622
20%	\$378	\$208	\$313	\$375	\$400	\$279	\$432
10%	\$300	\$160	\$257	\$200	\$265	\$250	\$330
Min	\$214	\$150	\$153	\$100	\$96	\$191	\$213

## Subsidy Saturation

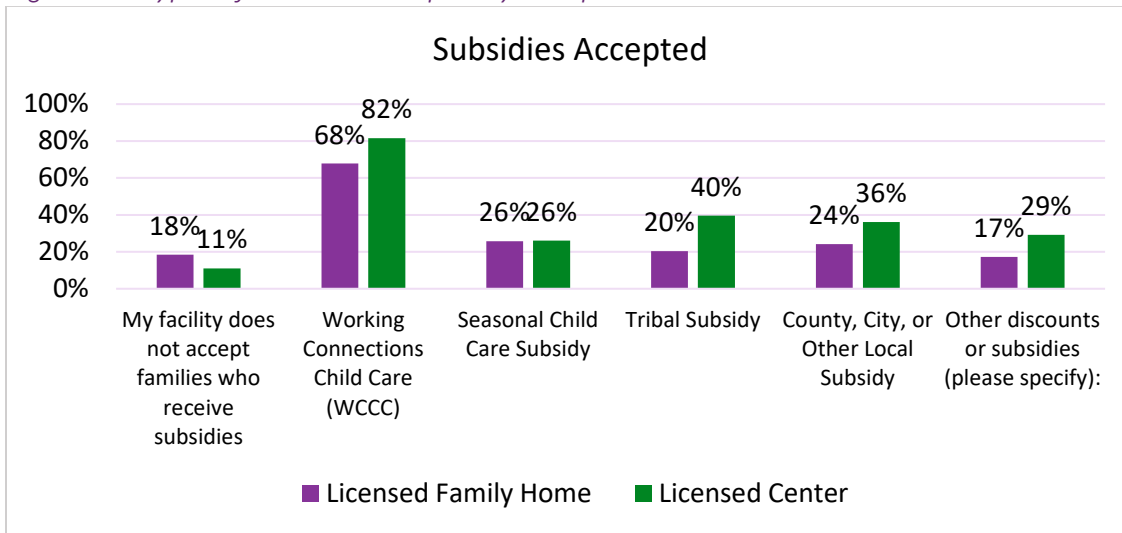
Among respondents, most licensed family homes (79 percent) and licensed centers (88 percent) reported that they accept children who receive subsidies. Only 13 percent of licensed family home respondents and 15 percent of licensed center respondents put limits on the number of subsidized slots they offer.

Figure 10: Subsidy Acceptance by Provider Type



The most accepted subsidy is Washington’s Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy. In general, licensed centers are more likely to accept each type of subsidy than licensed family homes.

Figure 11: Types of Subsidies Frequently Accepted



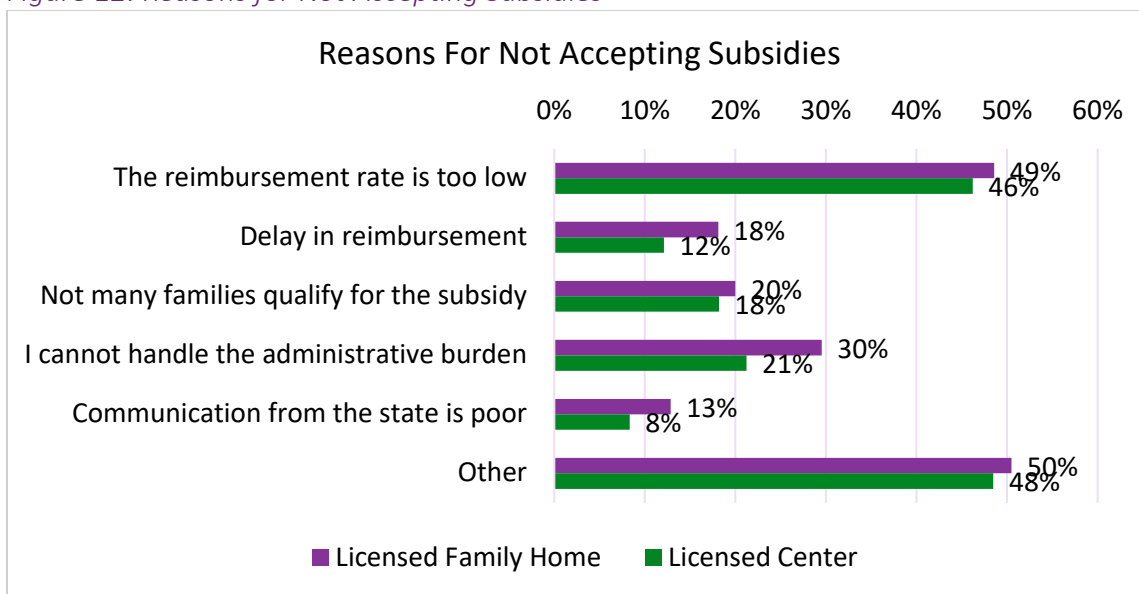
### Providers Who Do Not Accept Subsidies

Looking at why providers do not accept subsidies, the most common reason is the reimbursement rate being lower than they will accept. The administrative burden – including tracking attendance and completing required paperwork – was the second most common reason. Overall, licensed family home respondents were more likely to select each barrier than their licensed center counterparts.

For those who chose *Other*, common reasons include:

- Few requests and/or enough private pay families to fill slots (33%)
- Unwilling or unable to participate in Early Achievers (30%)
- Administrative costs of accepting WCCC or difficulty working with the state (21%)
- Did not know about WCCC or have not investigated how to qualify (14%)
- Low rates (12%)
- Private or religious provider (6%)

Figure 12: Reasons for Not Accepting Subsidies



## Comparing Washington Subsidies and Private Pay Rates

For this comparison, we use survey data on private pay rates and the most recent Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy rates. WCCC rate increases for both [licensed family homes](#) and [licensed centers](#) went into effect July 1, 2021.

To convert weekly, daily, and hourly rates to monthly rates, the following formulas were used for both licensed centers and licensed family homes:

- **Weekly:** (Weekly Rate \* 52 weeks/year) / (12 months/year) = Monthly Rate
- **Daily<sup>7</sup>:** (Daily Rate \* 22 days/month) = Monthly Rate
- **Hourly:** (Hourly Rate \* 35 hours/week \* 52 weeks/year) / (12 months/year) = Monthly Rate

Private pay percentiles are calculated using survey responses that are weighted by reported enrollment. The enrollment weight is calculated as full-time enrollment plus ½ of half-time enrollment, to proxy full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment.

For both licensed centers and licensed family homes, the subsidy rate was less than the 85th percentile for all age groups and regions. Note that the 2018 Market Rate Study determined percentiles by using tiered reimbursement for Early Achievers Level 2, given that providers are required to participate in Early Achievers and reach a Level 2 rating to accept the subsidy. With that being said, providers have a month to start participating in Early Achievers, thus making it better to look at the percentile of subsidy rates without tiered reimbursement.

The subsidy percentile was determined by comparing the WCCC subsidy rate to the private pay percentile tables presented later in this report. Subsidy percentiles are displayed in 5 percentage point increments and rounded down. For instance, if the subsidy falls between the 60th and 65th percentile of private pay rates, the subsidy would be reported as the 60th percentile.

<sup>7</sup> WCCC monthly rates are expressed as the daily rate multiplied by 22.



## Licensed Centers: Subsidy Rate vs. 85th Percentile

For licensed centers, subsidy rates ranged from the 15th percentile of private pay rates for toddler providers in Region 2, to the 70th percentile of private pay infant and toddler rates in Region 3. This suggests that the Region 3 toddler and infant subsidy rates are most in alignment with the 85th percentile benchmark established by the Fair Start for Kids Act.

Table 20: Licensed Center Subsidy Rates and 85th Percentile Private Pay Rates

Licensed Center (Subsidy Base Rates 7/1/2021)								
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Infant	Subsidy Rate	\$911	\$1,056	\$1,680	\$2,106	\$1,376	\$1,254	\$1,300
	85th Percentile	\$1,365	\$1,300	\$1,905	\$2,500	\$1,590	\$1,694	\$1,380
	Subsidy Percentile	40th	25th	70th	65th	60th	30th	60th
Toddler	Subsidy Rate	\$825	\$805	\$1,505	\$1,750	\$1,191	\$1,122	\$1,050
	85th Percentile	\$1,235	\$1,080	\$1,768	\$2,235	\$1,408	\$1,485	\$1,245
	Subsidy Percentile	30th	15th	70th	40th	50th	50th	45th
Preschool	Subsidy Rate	\$752	\$803	\$1,269	\$1,580	\$1,058	\$1,034	\$989
	85th Percentile	\$1,170	\$985	\$1,595	\$1,885	\$1,210	\$1,270	\$1,114
	Subsidy Percentile	20th	35th	60th	45th	55th	50th	65th
School-Age	Subsidy Rate	\$743	\$602	\$960	\$990	\$770	\$790	\$770
	85th Percentile	\$1,174	\$720	\$1,440	\$1,994	\$1,192	\$1,105	\$1,078
	Subsidy Percentile	40th	30th	60th	40th	20th	50th	30th

## Licensed Family Homes: Subsidy Rate vs. 85th Percentile

Subsidy rates for licensed family homes ranged from the 25th percentile of private pay toddler rates in Regions 2 and 5, to the 70th percentile of private pay infant rates in Region 1. Thus, the greatest alignment between the 85th percentile benchmark established by the Fair Start for Kids Act and private pay rates for licensed family homes is in Region 1 for infant providers.

Table 21: Licensed Family Home Subsidy Rates and 85th Percentile Private Pay Rates

Licensed Family Home (Subsidy Base Rates 7/1/2021)								
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
Infant	Subsidy Rate	\$880	\$990	\$1,210	\$1,500	\$1,075	\$990	\$924
	85th Percentile	\$1,083	\$1,452	\$1,430	\$1,800	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,056
	Subsidy Percentile	70th	50th	65th	60th	50th	45th	50th
Toddler	Subsidy Rate	\$770	\$825	\$1,075	\$1,400	\$924	\$950	\$880
	85th Percentile	\$1,036	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,650	\$1,300	\$1,210	\$1,056
	Subsidy Percentile	40th	25th	40th	55th	25th	55th	40th
Preschool	Subsidy Rate	\$704	\$770	\$1,056	\$1,300	\$860	\$836	\$814
	85th Percentile	\$880	\$1,056	\$1,192	\$1,517	\$1,083	\$1,166	\$990
	Subsidy Percentile	45th	45th	60th	55th	40th	50th	65th
School-Age	Subsidy Rate	\$660	\$704	\$880	\$880	\$786	\$715	\$792
	85th Percentile	\$805	\$880	\$1,083	\$1,320	\$975	\$990	\$990
	Subsidy Percentile	60th	40th	55th	40th	45th	35th	55th

## Percentile Rate Charts

The following tables highlight the distribution of private pay rates by region, provider type, and child age. Subsidy rates are also provided for comparison.

### Percentile Analysis for Licensed Child Care Centers

Table 22: Full-Time Monthly Infant Percentiles - Licensed Center

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Infants - Licensed Center							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,550	\$1,427	\$2,253	\$3,726	\$1,645	\$1,842	\$1,689
<b>95%</b>	\$1,550	\$1,427	\$2,253	\$2,695	\$1,620	\$1,775	\$1,689
<b>90%</b>	\$1,550	\$1,301	\$2,054	\$2,535	\$1,603	\$1,705	\$1,620
<b>85%</b>	\$1,365	\$1,300	\$1,905	\$2,500	\$1,590	\$1,694	\$1,380
<b>80%</b>	\$1,365	\$1,300	\$1,895	\$2,410	\$1,495	\$1,694	\$1,365
<b>75%</b>	\$1,300	\$1,268	\$1,798	\$2,362	\$1,495	\$1,615	\$1,365
<b>70%</b>	\$1,273	\$1,268	\$1,660	\$2,300	\$1,480	\$1,615	\$1,339
<b>65%</b>	\$1,273	\$1,258	\$1,585	\$2,250	\$1,473	\$1,540	\$1,339
<b>60%</b>	\$1,273	\$1,148	\$1,520	\$2,090	\$1,387	\$1,512	\$1,325
<b>55%</b>	\$1,080	\$1,140	\$1,520	\$2,085	\$1,366	\$1,430	\$1,222
<b>50%</b>	\$925	\$1,100	\$1,520	\$1,950	\$1,342	\$1,430	\$1,200
<b>45%</b>	\$925	\$1,100	\$1,520	\$1,930	\$1,322	\$1,350	\$1,200
<b>40%</b>	\$902	\$1,081	\$1,520	\$1,930	\$1,322	\$1,322	\$1,195
<b>35%</b>	\$900	\$1,081	\$1,500	\$1,930	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,192
<b>30%</b>	\$900	\$1,075	\$1,475	\$1,892	\$1,300	\$1,200	\$1,145
<b>25%</b>	\$867	\$1,040	\$1,460	\$1,845	\$1,300	\$1,166	\$1,125
<b>20%</b>	\$865	\$1,040	\$1,460	\$1,800	\$1,275	\$1,160	\$1,105
<b>15%</b>	\$855	\$1,034	\$1,425	\$1,700	\$1,170	\$1,120	\$1,100
<b>10%</b>	\$814	\$975	\$1,365	\$1,670	\$1,020	\$1,089	\$1,083
<b>5%</b>	\$776	\$971	\$1,232	\$1,560	\$710	\$1,067	\$1,083
<b>Min</b>	\$550	\$953	\$1,150	\$1,275	\$536	\$880	\$981
<b>Enrollment</b>	59	93	246	540	185	209	150
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$911	\$1,056	\$1,680	\$2,106	\$1,376	\$1,254	\$1,300
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$454	\$244	\$225	\$394	\$214	\$440	\$80

2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 23: Full-Time Monthly Toddler Percentiles - Licensed Center

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Toddlers - Licensed Center							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,450	\$1,373	\$2,037	\$3,640	\$2,225	\$1,675	\$1,900
<b>95%</b>	\$1,400	\$1,191	\$1,907	\$2,565	\$1,585	\$1,600	\$1,595
<b>90%</b>	\$1,400	\$1,191	\$1,845	\$2,300	\$1,408	\$1,517	\$1,331
<b>85%</b>	\$1,235	\$1,080	\$1,768	\$2,235	\$1,408	\$1,485	\$1,245
<b>80%</b>	\$1,235	\$1,060	\$1,697	\$2,113	\$1,326	\$1,430	\$1,220
<b>75%</b>	\$1,121	\$990	\$1,575	\$2,050	\$1,320	\$1,365	\$1,170
<b>70%</b>	\$1,121	\$990	\$1,463	\$1,970	\$1,310	\$1,339	\$1,160
<b>65%</b>	\$1,038	\$970	\$1,408	\$1,947	\$1,295	\$1,320	\$1,101
<b>60%</b>	\$1,020	\$968	\$1,370	\$1,908	\$1,255	\$1,278	\$1,100
<b>55%</b>	\$990	\$956	\$1,360	\$1,879	\$1,200	\$1,235	\$1,100
<b>50%</b>	\$956	\$920	\$1,356	\$1,842	\$1,189	\$1,122	\$1,082
<b>45%</b>	\$880	\$888	\$1,270	\$1,767	\$1,135	\$1,108	\$1,050
<b>40%</b>	\$865	\$865	\$1,257	\$1,704	\$1,083	\$1,100	\$1,040
<b>35%</b>	\$858	\$859	\$1,245	\$1,655	\$1,083	\$1,066	\$990
<b>30%</b>	\$802	\$826	\$1,232	\$1,600	\$1,083	\$1,034	\$990
<b>25%</b>	\$770	\$823	\$1,225	\$1,560	\$1,056	\$1,025	\$975
<b>20%</b>	\$765	\$814	\$1,219	\$1,500	\$1,034	\$995	\$938
<b>15%</b>	\$765	\$781	\$1,183	\$1,430	\$984	\$970	\$938
<b>10%</b>	\$750	\$781	\$1,144	\$1,350	\$929	\$927	\$925
<b>5%</b>	\$685	\$758	\$1,024	\$1,325	\$554	\$886	\$924
<b>Min</b>	\$440	\$705	\$758	\$1,100	\$536	\$825	\$769
<b>Enrollment</b>	273	416	945	2067	745	945	477
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$825	\$805	\$1,505	\$1,750	\$1,191	\$1,122	\$1,050
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$410	\$275	\$263	\$485	\$217	\$363	\$195

2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 24: Full-Time Monthly Preschool Percentiles - Licensed Center

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Preschool - Licensed Center							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,250	\$1,213	\$1,842	\$2,500	\$2,060	\$1,560	\$1,540
<b>95%</b>	\$1,250	\$1,167	\$1,760	\$2,090	\$1,408	\$1,420	\$1,510
<b>90%</b>	\$1,170	\$996	\$1,655	\$1,925	\$1,327	\$1,335	\$1,402
<b>85%</b>	\$1,170	\$985	\$1,595	\$1,885	\$1,210	\$1,270	\$1,114
<b>80%</b>	\$1,055	\$950	\$1,560	\$1,795	\$1,192	\$1,235	\$1,110
<b>75%</b>	\$1,030	\$920	\$1,515	\$1,763	\$1,150	\$1,232	\$1,050
<b>70%</b>	\$1,030	\$895	\$1,348	\$1,725	\$1,122	\$1,183	\$1,025
<b>65%</b>	\$940	\$895	\$1,273	\$1,650	\$1,100	\$1,144	\$975
<b>60%</b>	\$940	\$880	\$1,210	\$1,613	\$1,080	\$1,100	\$962
<b>55%</b>	\$880	\$867	\$1,200	\$1,595	\$1,040	\$1,062	\$953
<b>50%</b>	\$875	\$850	\$1,185	\$1,582	\$1,018	\$1,012	\$945
<b>45%</b>	\$855	\$805	\$1,170	\$1,540	\$992	\$990	\$945
<b>40%</b>	\$825	\$805	\$1,143	\$1,517	\$975	\$953	\$940
<b>35%</b>	\$825	\$757	\$1,105	\$1,490	\$975	\$925	\$925
<b>30%</b>	\$814	\$748	\$1,080	\$1,430	\$924	\$910	\$900
<b>25%</b>	\$814	\$737	\$1,078	\$1,400	\$890	\$900	\$900
<b>20%</b>	\$750	\$737	\$1,062	\$1,350	\$867	\$885	\$863
<b>15%</b>	\$700	\$722	\$946	\$1,251	\$837	\$850	\$845
<b>10%</b>	\$700	\$715	\$880	\$1,200	\$802	\$800	\$769
<b>5%</b>	\$660	\$693	\$709	\$1,075	\$765	\$770	\$640
<b>Min</b>	\$440	\$660	\$450	\$495	\$295	\$524	\$560
<b>Enrollment</b>	586	905	2347	5162	1826	2800	1459
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$752	\$803	\$1,269	\$1,580	\$1,058	\$1,034	\$989
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$418	\$182	\$326	\$305	\$152	\$236	\$125

2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 25: Full-Time Monthly School Age Percentiles - Licensed Center

Full-Time Monthly Rate for School Age - Licensed Center							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,174	\$807	\$1,760	\$2,341	\$1,875	\$1,560	\$1,188
<b>95%</b>	\$1,174	\$805	\$1,760	\$2,341	\$1,192	\$1,300	\$1,078
<b>90%</b>	\$1,174	\$789	\$1,500	\$1,994	\$1,192	\$1,188	\$1,078
<b>85%</b>	\$1,174	\$720	\$1,440	\$1,994	\$1,192	\$1,105	\$1,078
<b>80%</b>	\$1,174	\$672	\$1,148	\$1,650	\$1,192	\$1,062	\$1,078
<b>75%</b>	\$1,174	\$648	\$1,095	\$1,580	\$1,192	\$1,000	\$975
<b>70%</b>	\$880	\$628	\$1,020	\$1,436	\$1,192	\$910	\$949
<b>65%</b>	\$800	\$620	\$986	\$1,340	\$1,192	\$880	\$949
<b>60%</b>	\$792	\$616	\$910	\$1,192	\$1,192	\$836	\$949
<b>55%</b>	\$770	\$607	\$867	\$1,147	\$995	\$800	\$949
<b>50%</b>	\$748	\$607	\$825	\$1,100	\$975	\$763	\$900
<b>45%</b>	\$748	\$607	\$825	\$1,000	\$970	\$731	\$900
<b>40%</b>	\$715	\$607	\$825	\$986	\$880	\$693	\$812
<b>35%</b>	\$715	\$607	\$775	\$986	\$867	\$672	\$812
<b>30%</b>	\$700	\$600	\$758	\$986	\$814	\$650	\$723
<b>25%</b>	\$671	\$550	\$744	\$986	\$780	\$650	\$660
<b>20%</b>	\$671	\$550	\$744	\$975	\$675	\$607	\$650
<b>15%</b>	\$671	\$550	\$650	\$900	\$640	\$569	\$596
<b>10%</b>	\$660	\$525	\$379	\$840	\$536	\$550	\$575
<b>5%</b>	\$379	\$520	\$370	\$684	\$442	\$550	\$477
<b>Min</b>	\$320	\$484	\$314	\$415	\$295	\$325	\$380
<b>Enrollment</b>	51	670	1646	2556	1432	1698	849
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$743	\$602	\$960	\$990	\$770	\$790	\$770
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$432	\$118	\$480	\$1,004	\$422	\$315	\$308

## Percentile Analysis for Licensed Family Child Care Homes

Table 26: Full-Time Monthly Infant Percentiles - Licensed Family Home

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Infants - Licensed Family Home							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,517	\$1,760	\$2,400	\$3,960	\$1,500	\$1,864	\$1,100
<b>95%</b>	\$1,517	\$1,452	\$1,733	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,864	\$1,100
<b>90%</b>	\$1,113	\$1,452	\$1,733	\$1,900	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,056
<b>85%</b>	\$1,083	\$1,452	\$1,430	\$1,800	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,056
<b>80%</b>	\$920	\$1,162	\$1,400	\$1,760	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,056
<b>75%</b>	\$900	\$1,100	\$1,320	\$1,700	\$1,244	\$1,210	\$1,056
<b>70%</b>	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$1,550	\$1,150	\$1,210	\$1,056
<b>65%</b>	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$1,540	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$1,056
<b>60%</b>	\$867	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$1,500	\$1,083	\$1,100	\$1,056
<b>55%</b>	\$836	\$1,083	\$1,188	\$1,500	\$1,083	\$1,100	\$1,056
<b>50%</b>	\$836	\$990	\$1,144	\$1,430	\$1,050	\$1,000	\$900
<b>45%</b>	\$820	\$968	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,040	\$990	\$900
<b>40%</b>	\$803	\$968	\$1,100	\$1,320	\$990	\$950	\$900
<b>35%</b>	\$803	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$975	\$905	\$867
<b>30%</b>	\$770	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$900	\$900	\$867
<b>25%</b>	\$770	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,274	\$880	\$880	\$858
<b>20%</b>	\$758	\$841	\$1,100	\$1,257	\$850	\$867	\$858
<b>15%</b>	\$758	\$836	\$1,100	\$1,127	\$850	\$836	\$858
<b>10%</b>	\$750	\$770	\$1,012	\$1,083	\$850	\$758	\$858
<b>5%</b>	\$550	\$770	\$990	\$990	\$792	\$715	\$836
<b>Min</b>	\$550	\$650	\$850	\$802	\$531	\$675	\$836
<b>Enrollment</b>	127	87	123	261	58	70	14
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$880	\$990	\$1,210	\$1,500	\$1,075	\$990	\$924
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$203	\$462	\$220	\$300	\$225	\$310	\$132

2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 27: Full-Time Monthly Toddler Percentiles - Licensed Family Home

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Toddlers - Licensed Family Home							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,320	\$1,760	\$2,300	\$2,427	\$1,440	\$1,650	\$1,430
<b>95%</b>	\$1,300	\$1,540	\$1,430	\$1,870	\$1,350	\$1,276	\$1,430
<b>90%</b>	\$1,100	\$1,500	\$1,320	\$1,733	\$1,300	\$1,210	\$1,100
<b>85%</b>	\$1,036	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,650	\$1,300	\$1,210	\$1,056
<b>80%</b>	\$990	\$1,276	\$1,300	\$1,600	\$1,150	\$1,100	\$999
<b>75%</b>	\$902	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$1,550	\$1,148	\$1,083	\$990
<b>70%</b>	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$990	\$990
<b>65%</b>	\$880	\$1,066	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$990	\$990
<b>60%</b>	\$840	\$1,034	\$1,192	\$1,430	\$1,083	\$975	\$990
<b>55%</b>	\$836	\$990	\$1,127	\$1,400	\$1,000	\$900	\$932
<b>50%</b>	\$814	\$948	\$1,100	\$1,386	\$1,000	\$880	\$932
<b>45%</b>	\$778	\$924	\$1,083	\$1,320	\$1,000	\$867	\$900
<b>40%</b>	\$770	\$880	\$1,056	\$1,300	\$990	\$867	\$832
<b>35%</b>	\$758	\$867	\$1,025	\$1,300	\$975	\$850	\$832
<b>30%</b>	\$755	\$858	\$990	\$1,250	\$966	\$814	\$832
<b>25%</b>	\$716	\$792	\$990	\$1,210	\$924	\$800	\$814
<b>20%</b>	\$700	\$770	\$975	\$1,100	\$850	\$780	\$770
<b>15%</b>	\$688	\$770	\$924	\$1,078	\$850	\$757	\$770
<b>10%</b>	\$660	\$755	\$880	\$924	\$792	\$750	\$770
<b>5%</b>	\$647	\$616	\$800	\$900	\$737	\$704	\$700
<b>Min</b>	\$550	\$550	\$650	\$758	\$531	\$550	\$700
<b>Enrollment</b>	165	130	178	431	143	176	39
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$770	\$825	\$1,075	\$1,400	\$924	\$950	\$880
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$266	\$475	\$225	\$250	\$376	\$260	\$176

2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 28: Full-Time Monthly Preschool Percentiles - Licensed Family Home

Full-Time Monthly Rate for Preschool - Licensed Family Home							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,320	\$1,540	\$1,733	\$2,427	\$1,320	\$3,250	\$1,430
<b>95%</b>	\$1,150	\$1,540	\$1,390	\$1,735	\$1,100	\$1,251	\$990
<b>90%</b>	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,250	\$1,625	\$1,100	\$1,166	\$990
<b>85%</b>	\$880	\$1,056	\$1,192	\$1,517	\$1,083	\$1,166	\$990
<b>80%</b>	\$836	\$924	\$1,127	\$1,500	\$1,031	\$1,100	\$990
<b>75%</b>	\$792	\$890	\$1,100	\$1,430	\$1,000	\$990	\$932
<b>70%</b>	\$770	\$880	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$975	\$935	\$880
<b>65%</b>	\$758	\$880	\$1,083	\$1,364	\$924	\$880	\$800
<b>60%</b>	\$750	\$836	\$1,034	\$1,320	\$905	\$880	\$800
<b>55%</b>	\$726	\$823	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$880	\$850	\$800
<b>50%</b>	\$716	\$814	\$980	\$1,257	\$867	\$836	\$780
<b>45%</b>	\$704	\$770	\$975	\$1,210	\$867	\$830	\$770
<b>40%</b>	\$661	\$770	\$924	\$1,200	\$850	\$790	\$770
<b>35%</b>	\$660	\$750	\$900	\$1,192	\$850	\$770	\$770
<b>30%</b>	\$660	\$725	\$880	\$1,100	\$836	\$770	\$704
<b>25%</b>	\$660	\$682	\$867	\$1,083	\$802	\$758	\$700
<b>20%</b>	\$650	\$679	\$867	\$1,062	\$800	\$750	\$693
<b>15%</b>	\$607	\$660	\$850	\$980	\$780	\$715	\$693
<b>10%</b>	\$594	\$616	\$836	\$900	\$770	\$660	\$660
<b>5%</b>	\$550	\$589	\$750	\$867	\$715	\$625	\$660
<b>Min</b>	\$303	\$550	\$540	\$550	\$477	\$550	\$660
<b>Enrollment</b>	314	260	486	759	300	527	100
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$704	\$770	\$1,056	\$1,300	\$860	\$836	\$814
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$176	\$286	\$136	\$217	\$223	\$330	\$176



2021 WASHINGTON STATE CHILD CARE MARKET RATE STUDY

Table 29: Full-Time Monthly School Age Percentiles - Licensed Family Home

Full-Time Monthly Rate for School Age - Licensed Family Home							
Percentile	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Spokane
<b>Max</b>	\$1,320	\$1,540	\$1,517	\$1,800	\$1,320	\$2,150	\$1,430
<b>95%</b>	\$1,300	\$990	\$1,349	\$1,540	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$990
<b>90%</b>	\$880	\$924	\$1,100	\$1,450	\$1,083	\$1,000	\$990
<b>85%</b>	\$805	\$880	\$1,083	\$1,320	\$975	\$990	\$990
<b>80%</b>	\$770	\$867	\$1,056	\$1,276	\$975	\$880	\$990
<b>75%</b>	\$770	\$814	\$1,056	\$1,192	\$950	\$867	\$990
<b>70%</b>	\$748	\$770	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$900	\$836	\$924
<b>65%</b>	\$700	\$770	\$975	\$1,062	\$880	\$836	\$924
<b>60%</b>	\$660	\$758	\$924	\$1,000	\$850	\$803	\$880
<b>55%</b>	\$660	\$748	\$880	\$1,000	\$802	\$775	\$770
<b>50%</b>	\$660	\$748	\$880	\$975	\$800	\$770	\$770
<b>45%</b>	\$650	\$710	\$867	\$913	\$770	\$770	\$770
<b>40%</b>	\$649	\$693	\$836	\$880	\$758	\$750	\$770
<b>35%</b>	\$616	\$679	\$792	\$867	\$750	\$704	\$750
<b>30%</b>	\$607	\$660	\$770	\$780	\$715	\$690	\$660
<b>25%</b>	\$601	\$660	\$770	\$758	\$693	\$660	\$660
<b>20%</b>	\$550	\$650	\$758	\$744	\$693	\$650	\$650
<b>15%</b>	\$550	\$638	\$693	\$670	\$650	\$625	\$599
<b>10%</b>	\$506	\$578	\$660	\$660	\$600	\$600	\$599
<b>5%</b>	\$440	\$550	\$484	\$550	\$594	\$594	\$542
<b>Min</b>	\$245	\$440	\$400	\$550	\$400	\$450	\$542
<b>Enrollment</b>	269	205	237	336	159	230	34
<b>Current Subsidy (7/1/2021)</b>	\$660	\$704	\$880	\$880	\$786	\$715	\$792
<b>Difference Between 85th Percentile and Current Subsidy</b>	\$145	\$176	\$203	\$440	\$189	\$275	\$198

## About the Authors

The Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) is an outreach center at Western Washington University located within the College of Business and Economics. In addition to publishing the Puget Sound Economic Forecaster, the Center connects the resources found throughout the University to assist for-profit, non-profit, government agencies, quasi-government entities, and tribal communities in gathering and analyzing useful data to respond to specific questions. We use a collaborative approach to help inform our clients so that they are better able to hold policy discussions and craft decisions.

The Center employs students, staff, and faculty from across the University as well as outside resources to meet the individual needs of those we work with. Our work is based on academic approaches and rigor that not only provides a neutral analytical perspective but also provides applied learning opportunities. We focus on developing collaborative relationships with our clients and not simply delivering an end product.

The approaches we utilize are insightful, useful, and are all a part of the debate surrounding the topics we explore; however, none are absolutely fail-safe. Data, by nature, is challenged by how it is collected and how it is leveraged with other data sources. Following only one approach without deviation is ill-advised. We provide a variety of insights within our work – not only on the topic at hand but also the resources (data) that inform that topic.

We are always seeking opportunities to bring the strengths of Western Washington University to fruition within our region. If you have a need for analysis work or comments on this report, we encourage you to contact us at 360-650-3909 or by email at [cebr@wwu.edu](mailto:cebr@wwu.edu).

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