

Child Care Aware® of America

Emergency Child Care & Technical Assistance Center™



Viewing the COVID-19 Crisis from the Provider's Perspective:

Ramifications for Child Care Programs

Today's Facilitator

Courtney Penn, M.S.

TA Specialist

Emergency Child Care &
Technical Assistance Center

Child Care Aware® of America



Session Goals

- Discuss the *Picking Up the Pieces* report and key takeaways
- Share information about the Child Care Data Center
- Identify critical child care system policy recommendations

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Building a Better Child Care
System Post COVID-19

<https://www.childcareaware.org/picking-up-the-pieces/>

Picking Up the Pieces Includes:

The report is organized into three sections that explore the impact of COVID-19 on child care:

- Access
- Affordability
- Quality

Each section features:

- Key findings of our 2019 survey of states about child care, as well as updated child care supply data from July 2020.
- Case studies featuring different aspects of this crisis and how families and child care providers are struggling.

How We Calculate Affordability



Let's calculate affordability for Cook County, Illinois, which includes Chicago. Start with the average price of full-time child care in the area, which is \$910 per month. Divide that number by the median household income for Cook County families with children under 18, or \$5,688. The result is a number representing the percentage of household income a family spends on child care for one child – in this case, 16%.



Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the associated closures of child care centers, the supply of child care was decreasing. Results from our 2019 survey show that between 2018 and 2019, 53% of states reported a decline in the number of child care centers. More alarmingly, 79% of states reported a decline in family child care (FCC) providers.



The five states that had the biggest drops in the number of providers are:

Washington DC

Illinois

July 2020



9 children per preschool classroom

It will probably take a year or more to fully understand the impact of COVID-19 on our child care system, but some worrying trends are emerging. As of July 2020, we found that 40% of centers and 27% of family child care programs remain closed nationwide.



"When I saw the child care dataset, the first thing that stuck out to me was how little recovery there's been so far in many of the states in terms of the number of providers who have re-opened."

And so that really brings up concerns at this point that a lot of those providers are going to be permanently closed."

Dr. Jessica Brown, University of South Carolina

If these closures become permanent, it will pose a serious problem as our nation works to rebuild the economy. As currently unemployed parents find work, they will again need child care for their young children. And employers need a steady, reliable workforce that's not distracted by child care worries. In many communities, the increasing need for child care is a problem.

Work and Remote Learning | Picking Up the Pieces



Balancing Work and Remote Learning

Picking Up the Pieces

Pamela Steele has enough space to take on some school-age children in addition to the young children she serves. Other providers might have to make a trade-off. They could accept more school-age children and fewer infants and toddlers. It costs less for providers to care for older children. Reducing the number of infant and toddler slots could help providers who are in desperate need of income. But in the long run, this will worsen the supply crisis for children under age 3.

New Interactive Website

- Features:
 - Summarizes full report
 - Includes videos of families and child care providers
 - Quotes from economists
 - Infographics and tables
 - Downloadable, expanded report and appendices
 - Map where users can explore their state's data

Key Takeaways

- Programs may have to close due to lack of funding
- Temporary pandemic ratio rules may have lasting effects
- Without proper investment in the child care system providers will have to pass on the additional costs due to COVID-19 onto parents
- Quality may be compromised as programs are focusing on ways to keep their business open

Child Care Challenges



FINDING AND OBTAINING
AMPLE AMOUNTS OF PPE
SUPPLIES



IMPLEMENTING OR
UPDATING PROGRAM
PROTOCOLS



FEAR OF GETTING THE
VIRUS OR SPREADING IT
TO OTHERS

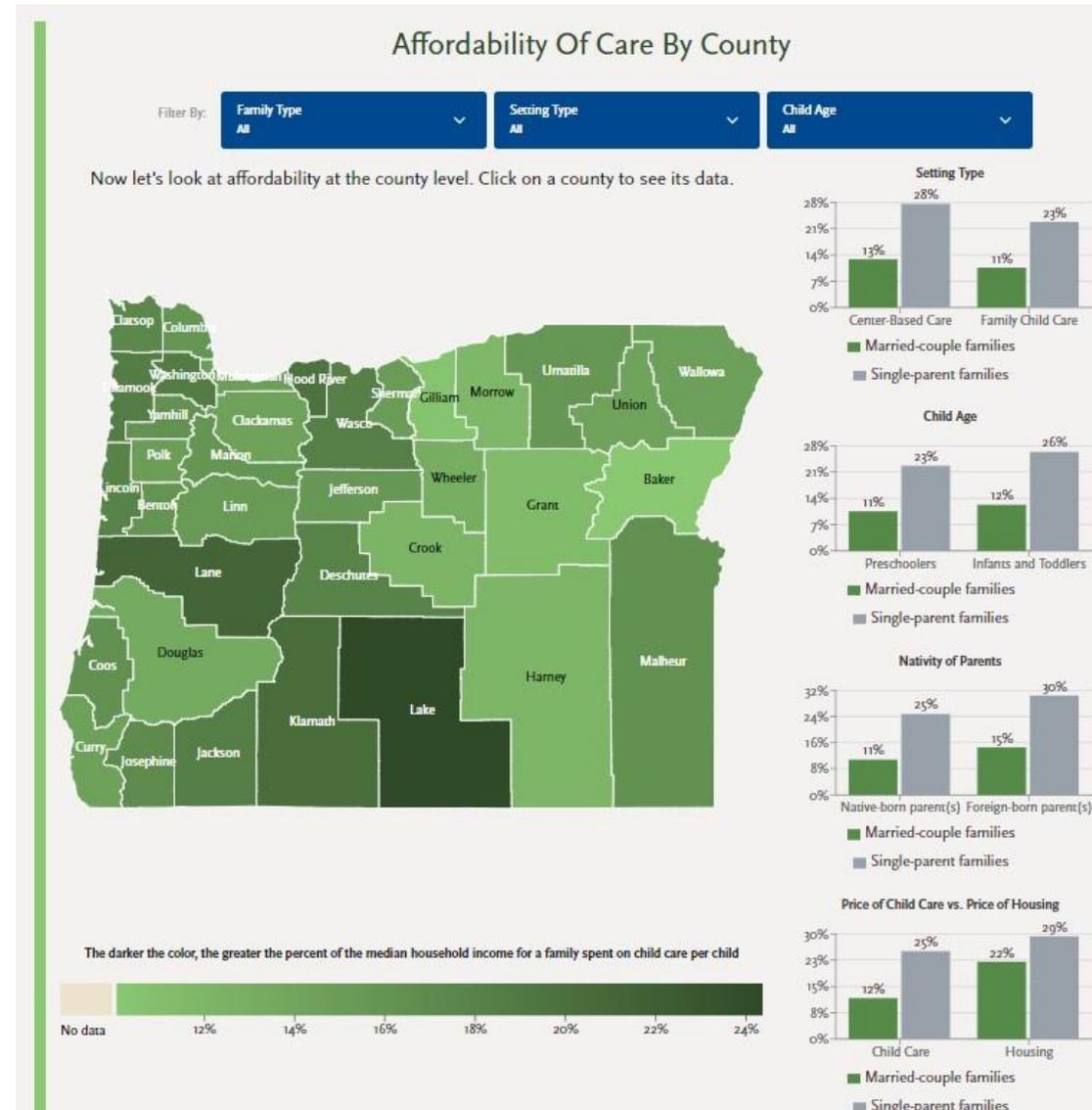


IMMEDIATE FUNDING
NEEDS TO REMAIN IN
BUSINESS

Child Care Data Center (CCDC)

Features:

- 6 Pilot States (IL, MN, MO, OR, WA, WI) worked with CCAoA.
- Data from pilot states feeds interactive visualizations.
- Explore fact sheets for each state
- Take Action Information



<https://info.childcareaware.org/ccdc-form>

Policy Recommendations

Accessibility for All

- Prioritize policies that make the early childhood education profession more attractive to new entrants.
- Provide grants to encourage more new programs to open, stabilize programs in current situation.



Affordability for All

- Expand access to subsidies and tax credits.
- Implement or extend COVID-19 payment policies that provide families flexibility and support.



Quality for All

- Ensure funding is tied to health and safety standards, with support and resources to implement.
- Develop and update pandemic health guidance regularly.
- Support funding for child care health consultants.
- Incentivize quality.
- Invest in Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

What's Next? What Can You Do?

- Think about how you can help advocate for child care programs
- Long-term change: transforming the future of child care.
- Building partnerships

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Thank You

Email: Courtney.Penn@usa.childcareaware.org