

## Reading the Child Care Profile

CCR&R generates an updated Child Care Profile for each county each year. CCR&R is unique in its ability to gather information through contacts with those seeking care and those providing the care and to turn this information into reports on the supply, demand, cost and gaps in child care. These profiles can be used by:

- Families looking for child care or currently using child care to plan for the cost of child care and to determine if there is an ample supply of care in their community.
- Community planners and economic developers requiring information on the local supply and demand for care so that community development activities in their communities are directed in a way that will support livability.
- Employers need locally-driven information to ensure there will be sufficient care for children to allow a stronger employee base.
- Policy decision-makers need child care data to make informed decisions around public policy. Legislators want to be able to quickly and easily assess whether or not the efforts to make improvements in the system through governmental interventions are making a difference.
- Child care center directors, family child care providers, and other individuals to inform decisions around whether or not to expand their programs, offer additional hours, evaluate their rates, assess how they are meeting the needs of families and develop market-responsive strategies.

### 1. Children Potentially Needing Child Care

- This section reports the total number of children in a county, broken out by age group. It includes children through age 12 since elementary age children frequently need care before and after school and during the summer months.
- Children potentially needing child care is calculated by multiplying the number of children times the percentage of mothers in the workforce. CCR&R acknowledges that some families have the father, extended family, friends or neighbors who may care for their children informally while the mother works.
- The capacity of licensed child care programs comes from the actual license issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Capacity is most often determined by square footage of the child care facility. Not all programs enroll children to their full capacity.
- The number of children currently receiving child care assistance averages to 10% statewide.
- The chart depicts the difference between the number of children potentially needing care and the current licensed capacity.

### 2. Referral Requests

- This section indicates the number of children by age needing care as reported by their parents who contacted CCR&R to find child care.
- It also reports the number of children who need care during non-traditional hours (already counted in the total)
- The chart depicts the percentage of children needing care by age group.

### 3. Licensed Early Childhood Program Type and Capacity

- This section breaks out the number of programs in the county by DHS license type, reporting the number of programs and their capacity, or total children they could care for at one time.
- School-age programs include only those licensed by DHS. Before and after school programs operated in a school building are not required to be licensed. Many school-age children attend family, group or center programs before and after school or during the summer.
- The number of programs open non-traditional hours is reported in this section.
- The size of the child care workforce is reported by programs to CCR&R as part of its annual update survey.
- The chart depicts the licensed capacity by program type.

### 4. Annual Cost of Licensed Child Care

- This section reports aggregated rates charged by licensed child care programs by age group and by program type. Licensed programs report their current rates to CCR&R as part of the annual update survey. More than 90% of programs respond to this annual survey.
- The average rate is calculated by converting all rates, whether charged hourly, daily or monthly, to a weekly rate and multiplying it by 52 weeks.
- The highest rate is reported to show readers the current highest rate in the county. This assists parents and programs in determining how their programming and rates compare.

### 5. Median Income of Families with Children Ages 0-17

- Two sources were used on this year's Profiles.
  - The majority of Profiles use the income reported in 2000 Census Data
  - Since the 2000 Census Data is dated, Profiles for seven counties use a 2007 inflation-adjusted amount available for only these counties from the U.S. Census Bureau.