

STATEWIDE SURVEY OF CHILD CARE
RATES IN RHODE ISLAND

Sponsored by

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

and

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Conducted by

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Section I. Introduction

This study is sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) on behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS), pursuant to section 40-6.2-1.1 of the General Laws of State of Rhode Island, as amended. The survey was conducted between July 1 and July 31, 2013 by the Schmidt Labor Research Center (SLRC) at the University of Rhode Island (URI). The questionnaires used in the survey were prepared jointly by SLRC researchers and employees at DHS.

This study was undertaken to determine child care rates charged throughout Rhode Island and, particularly, to establish the 75th percentile rate. The 75th percentile rate indicates the rate at or below which 75% of respondents charge. For example, the 75th percentile weekly rate for toddler care in Family or Group Family Childcare Homes is \$185.00, which means that 75% of respondents who provide such care charge \$185.00 per week or less; or put another way, only 25% charge more than \$185.00 per week.

The ultimate purpose of this study is to assist DHS in determining the appropriate maximum reimbursement rates for child care services provided to families participating in the DHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The questionnaires, however, also included items to aid in the interpretation of the data, to assist in informing larger policy discussions, and to allow us to learn more about the concerns of providers. For example, questions concerning the types of care provided, age groups cared for, number of children subsidized, and hours of operation were included. Also, providers were given the opportunity to include written comments.

It should be noted that the data reported here indicate the cost to consumers—that is, the rates (or prices) that providers charge for childcare—not the cost of providing the care.

Section II. Methodology

The survey

All Family or Group Family Child Care Homes (hereinafter, homes) and Child Care Centers (hereinafter, centers) licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) were included in the survey. A "home" refers to a provider who is licensed to care for up to 12 children in a family home setting. A "center" is a facility licensed to care for children in a group setting. The largest center in our study is licensed to care for 462 children.

Every center received a questionnaire and every home received questionnaires in both English and Spanish with directions to return whichever providers felt most comfortable completing. This year all respondents were also given the choice of responding electronically. Website information was provided in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaires.

Terms used

The letter “N” used in tables in this report indicates the number of responses to a particular item. The term “Freq.” refers to the frequency of the choice of specific item. The term “mean” refers to the mathematical average. “Standard deviation” is a measure of dispersion about the mean. The “median” is the middle occurring value—that is, the 50th percentile. The “range” is the distance between the lowest and highest value.

Response rate and response bias

Two separate mailing lists were provided by DCYF. The list of homes contained 636 providers, while the list of centers contained 415 providers, for a total of 1,051 potential respondents. By August 15, 2013, 339 responses were received: 182 from homes and 183 from centers. The overall response rate, therefore, was 34.7%, with 28.6% of homes and 44.1% of centers responding.

Compared to the 2011 survey, the number of responses increased by 7.6% (from 339 to 365). The response rate increased from 29.9% to 34.7% or approximately 16%. The number of Spanish responses increased from 85 in 2011 to 87 in 2013. Only 21 or 5.8% of respondents chose to answer on-line, including only 5 homes (2.8%) and 16 (8.8%) centers. No respondents answered the Spanish version of the on-line questionnaire.

Since *all* homes and centers certified by DCYF were included in the survey, there is no concern with sampling error. But since a one hundred percent response rate was not achieved, there remains the possibility of response bias—that is, the possibility that non-respondents *would have* replied differently than respondents. Although our ability to estimate response bias is limited, we can compare the respondent pool with the total population on at least two variables.

As stated above, the response rate for centers is slightly higher than for homes. Therefore, aggregate measures are biased toward centers. On items that were asked of both homes and centers, however, the responses were disaggregated so that the individual contribution of each can be seen.

Tables 1a, 1b, and 1c compare the geographic dispersion of respondents with the child care provider population. Most communities are represented in the pool of respondents in relatively close relation to their presence in the population.

Table 1a. Geographic dispersion of the child care provider population and respondents.

	Percent of population	Percent of respondents
Providence	41.34	32.96
Cranston	8.52	9.70
Pawtucket	6.03	6.09
Warwick	4.78	7.20
East Providence	3.16	3.32
Central Falls	2.58	2.49
Johnston	2.49	2.77
Woonsocket	2.39	2.77
Coventry	2.11	3.05
North Providence	2.30	2.49
Cumberland	2.20	1.39
Middletown	1.82	2.77
South Kingstown	1.72	2.22
Barrington	1.63	2.22
Lincoln	1.44	1.11
Smithfield	1.34	1.11
North Kingstown	1.34	1.39
East Greenwich	1.34	1.11
West Warwick	1.15	.83
Bristol	1.05	1.66
Newport	.96	1.39
Tiverton	.96	1.39
Westerly	.86	1.11
Richmond	.77	1.11
Charlestown	.77	.55
Scituate	.77	.55
Portsmouth	.67	.83
Burrillville	.67	.55
Warren	.67	.83
North Smithfield	.57	1.11
Exeter	.38	.00
Jamestown	.29	.28
Little Compton	.19	.55
Foster	.19	.55
Narragansett	.19	.00
Hopkinton	.19	.28
West Greenwich	.10	.00
New Shoreham	.10	.28
Glocester	.00	.00

Table 1b. Geographic dispersion of the child care provider population and respondents, homes only.

	Percent of population	Percent of respondents
Providence	57.73	52.20
Cranston	8.52	9.34
Pawtucket	6.78	6.59
Central Falls	3.31	3.30
Warwick	2.68	3.30
North Providence	1.89	2.75
Coventry	1.58	2.75
Cumberland	1.58	1.65
Woonsocket	1.42	1.10
East Providence	1.42	1.10
Johnston	1.10	.55
South Kingstown	.95	1.10
Scituate	.95	1.10
Tiverton	.95	.55
Richmond	.95	2.20
West Warwick	.79	.55
Barrington	.79	.55
Middletown	.79	1.10
Lincoln	.63	1.10
Bristol	.63	.55
North Smithfield	.63	1.10
North Kingstown	.47	1.65
Smithfield	.47	.55
Burrillville	.47	.55
Newport	.47	1.10
Charlestown	.32	.00
East Greenwich	.32	.00
Westerly	.32	.55
Hopkinton	.16	.00
Warren	.16	.55
Portsmouth	.16	.00
Exeter	.16	.00
Jamestown	.16	.00
Little Compton	.16	.55
Narragansett	.16	.00
Glocester	.00	.00
West Greenwich	.00	.00
New Shoreham	.00	.00
Foster	.00	.00

Table 1c. Geographic dispersion of the child care provider population and respondents, centers only

	Percent of population	Percent of respondents
Providence	16.06	13.41
Cranston	8.52	10.06
Warwick	8.03	11.17
East Providence	5.84	5.59
Pawtucket	4.87	5.59
Johnston	4.62	5.03
Woonsocket	3.89	4.47
Middletown	3.41	4.47
Cumberland	3.16	1.12
South Kingstown	2.92	3.35
Coventry	2.92	3.35
East Greenwich	2.92	2.23
North Providence	2.92	2.23
Barrington	2.92	3.91
North Kingstown	2.68	1.12
Lincoln	2.68	1.12
Smithfield	2.68	1.68
West Warwick	1.70	1.12
Bristol	1.70	2.79
Newport	1.70	1.68
Westerly	1.70	1.68
Central Falls	1.46	1.68
Portsmouth	1.46	1.68
Charlestown	1.46	1.12
Warren	1.46	1.12
Burrillville	.97	.56
Tiverton	.97	2.23
Exeter	.73	.00
North Smithfield	.49	1.12
Jamestown	.49	.56
Scituate	.49	.78
Foster	.49	1.12
Richmond	.49	.00
Hopkinton	.24	.56
West Greenwich	.24	.00
Little Compton	.24	.56
Narragansett	.24	.00
New Shoreham	.24	.56
Glocester	.00	.00

Section III. Characteristics of respondents

Corporate status and affiliation of centers

We know from earlier surveys that nearly all homes are for-profit, independent (i.e. not part of a chain or multi-site organization) and not affiliated with a church or school.

Table 2. Homes and centers, selected characteristics.						
	All		Homes		Center	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
N	365	100.0	182	49.9	181	50.1
For-profit	222	65.3	139	82.7	83	48.3
Non-profit	118	34.7	29	17.3	89	51.7
Independent	297	84.6	172	97.2	125	71.8
Part of a chain	54	15.4	5	2.8	49	28.2
Church-affiliated	14	4.0	2	1.1	12	6.9
School-affiliated	16	4.5	1	.6	15	8.6
Unaffiliated	323	91.5	175	98.3	148	84.6

We can see in Table 2 that approximately 52% of centers are non-profit, approximately 28% are part of a chain or multi-site organization, and approximately 15% are affiliated with a church or school.

Programs offered

Table 3 displays programs offered by providers. As we can see, most respondents reported not offering any of the programs. However, approximately 15% of homes and one-quarter of centers reported offering nursery school programs.

Table 3. Programs offered.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Nursery school	68	18.9	27	15.1	41	24.6
Kindergarten	47	13.1	24	13.4	23	13.8
Head Start	41	11.4	28	15.6	13	7.8
State-funded pre-Kindergarten	14	3.9	6	3.6	8	4.8
Other	35	9.7	21	11.7	14	8.4

Age groups

Table 4 shows that homes provide care for very young children at a much higher rate than centers. Less than half of centers provide care for infants. However, more than half of centers do provide care for toddlers and preschoolers, and just under half for kindergarteners and school-age children.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Infants	227	62.2	156	85.7	71	38.8
Toddlers	275	75.3	171	94.0	104	56.8
Preschoolers	320	87.7	170	93.4	150	82.0
Kindergarteners	221	60.6	137	75.3	84	45.9
School-age children	208	57.0	135	74.2	73	39.9

Schedules and hours

The tables below display the schedules and hours of childcare providers. As can be seen in Table 5, most providers offer both full- and half-day care, with homes more likely than centers also to provide before and after school care. Almost no centers and few homes offer weekend or evening care. Half or more of homes provide school vacation and school absence care, but only about one-third of centers report offering this service. Most providers offer half, three-quarter, and full-time care with somewhat fewer providing quarter-time care.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Full-day	298	81.6	167	91.8	131	71.6
Half-day	232	63.6	115	63.2	117	63.9
Before school	208	57.0	132	72.5	76	41.5
After school	226	61.9	141	77.5	85	46.5
Weekend care	38	10.4	38	20.9	0	0.0
Evening	50	13.7	48	26.4	2	1.1
<i>School age only</i>						
Summer vacation	190	52.1	126	69.2	64	38.0
School year vacation	184	50.4	119	65.4	65	35.5
Single day, school out-of-session	168	46.0	113	62.1	55	30.1
Full-time (30+ hour)	281	77.0	154	84.6	127	69.4
Three-quarter time (20- 29 hour)	258	70.7	141	77.5	117	63.9
Half-time (10-19 hours)	242	66.3	123	67.6	119	65.0
Quarter-time (1-9 hours)	166	45.5	94	51.7	72	39.3
Other	21	5.8	11	6.0	10	5.5

Tables 6a, 6b, and 6c display the days and hours of operation for homes and centers. The figures presented are the most frequently reported begin/end times and the range of reported times. During the week, most homes open at 7:00 am and close at 5:30 pm, while most centers open at 7:00 am and close at 6:00 pm.

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, all providers.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	21	6:30 am (6:30 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:30 am-12:00 am)
Monday	325	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (11:45 am-11:30 pm)
Tuesday	326	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (11:45 am-11:30 pm)
Wednesday	326	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (11:45 am-11:30 pm)
Thursday	326	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (11:45 am-11:30 pm)
Friday	326	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (11:45 am-11:30 pm)
Saturday	23	6:00 am (5:00 am-9:00 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)

Table 6b. Days and hours of operation, homes.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	21	6:30 am (6:30 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:30 am-12:00 am)
Monday	155	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (12:00 pm-11:30 pm)
Tuesday	155	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (12:00 pm-11:30 pm)
Wednesday	155	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (12:00 pm-11:30 pm)
Thursday	155	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (12:00 pm-11:30 pm)
Friday	155	7:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (12:00 pm-11:30 pm)
Saturday	22	6:00 am (5:00 am-9:00 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)

Table 6c. Days and hours of operation, centers.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	0	NA	NA
Monday	170	7:00 am (6:00 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:45 am-11:00 pm)
Tuesday	170	7:00 am (6:00 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:45 am-11:00 pm)
Wednesday	170	7:00 am (6:00 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:45 am-11:00 pm)
Thursday	170	7:00 am (6:00 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:45 am-11:00 pm)
Friday	170	7:00 am (6:00 am-2:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:45 am-11:00 pm)
Saturday	1	6:30 am	5:30 pm

Nearly all homes and centers operate for eight to 13 hours per day from Monday through Friday. Table 7b shows that the median hours of operation is eleven, with a range of two to 18 hours per day.

Table 7a. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
Hours	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-4	13	4.0	2	1.3	11	6.5
5-7	21	6.5	3	1.9	18	10.6
8-10	117	36.1	53	34.4	64	37.6
11-13	143	44.0	68	44.2	75	44.2
14-	30	9.3	28	18.1	2	1.2

Table 7b. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	10.7	11.5	9.9
Standard Deviation	2.5	2.3	2.4
Median	11.00	11	10.5
Range	2-18	2-18	3-16
N	324	154	170

Tables 8a and 8b provide statistics for the number of weeks in operation per year. Table 8a shows that more than half of all providers operate for 52 weeks per year.

Table 8a. Weeks per year in operation, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
Weeks	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0-49	65	19.8	27	16.7	38	23.0
50	44	13.5	30	18.5	14	8.5
51	27	8.3	12	7.4	15	9.1
52	191	58.4	93	57.4	98	59.4

Table 8b. Weeks per year in operation, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	49.3	49.9	48.7
Standard Deviation	6.1	6.0	6.2
Median	52	52	52
Range	7-52	7-52	23-52
N	327	162	165

Number of children

As expected, centers generally care for more children than do homes. Among respondents, the average number of children permitted by license is seven for homes and approximately 75 for centers.

Table 12a. Number of children permitted by license, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-5	11	3.3	8	4.7	3	1.8
6-12	168	49.9	162	95.3	6	3.6
13-49	51	15.1	0	0.00	51	30.5
50+	107	31.8	0	0.00	107	64.1

The frequency distribution in Table 12a shows that nearly all homes are licensed for between six and twelve children, while most centers may accommodate more than 50 children.

Table 12b. Number of children permitted by license, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	40.8	7.0	75.2
Standard deviation	55.5	1.6	62.2
Median	8.0	6.0	62.0
Range	0-462	0-12	0-462
N	337	170	167

While Tables 12a and 12b concern the number of children homes and centers are licensed to care for, tables 13a and 13b display statistics concerning the number of children for which providers are willing to provide care.

Table 13a. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, full-time, frequency distribution.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-5	32	12.2	26	19.0	6	4.8
6-12	119	45.2	111	81.0	8	6.4
13-49	43	16.4	0	0.0	43	34.1
50-	69	27.3	0	0.0	69	54.8

Table 13b. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, full-time, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	33.8	6.7	63.4
Standard deviation	48.7	2.2	57.3
Median	8	6	55
Range	0-462	1-12	0-462
N	263	137	126

We see that the median number of children that homes are willing to care for full-time is six, while centers are willing to accept 55 full-time children.

Tables 14a and 14b display statistics concerning the number of children for which providers are willing to care part-time.

Table 14a. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, part-time, frequency distribution.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-5	32	27.4	28	48.3	4	6.8
6-12	43	36.8	30	51.7	13	22.0
13-49	26	22.2	0	0.0	26	44.1
50-	16	13.7	0	0.0	16	27.1

The median number of children that providers are willing to care for part-time is 6 for homes and approximately 36 for centers.

Table 14b. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, part-time, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	20.3	5.0	35.5
Standard deviation	28.5	3.0	33.8
Median	8	6	25
Range	0-174	0-12	2-174
N	117	58	59

Table 15a shows that most homes currently provide full-time care for 0 to 5 children, while most centers caring for more than 13.

Table 15a. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, full-time, frequency distribution.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0-5	107	35.9	102	64.6	5	3.6
6-12	71	23.8	56	35.4	15	10.7
13-49	74	24.8	0	0.0	74	52.9
50+	46	15.5	0	0.0	46	32.9

Table 15b. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, full-time, descriptive statistics.

Table 15b shows that the median number of children in full-time care is 4 for homes and 32 for centers.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	24.6	4.6	47.2
Standard deviation	38.1	2.3	46.0
Median	8	4	32
Range	0-300	0-10	0-300
N	298	158	140

Table 16a and 16b display the number of children for which providers are currently caring part-time. We see that most homes are caring for zero to five children part-time and most centers care for 13 to 49 part-time children.

Table 16a. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, part-time, frequency distribution.

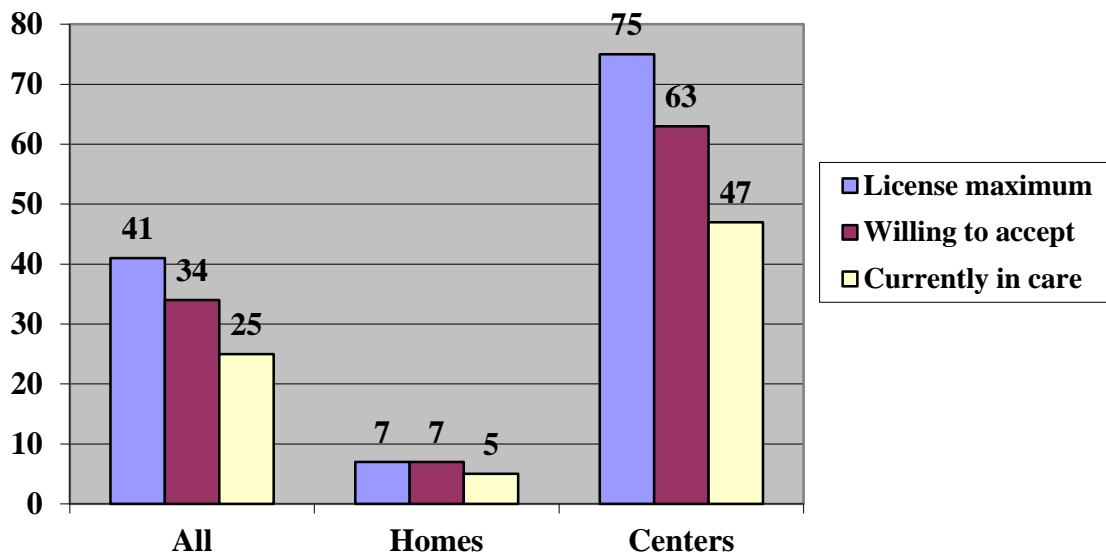
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0-5	90	48.9	70	87.5	20	19.2
6-12	28	15.2	9	11.3	19	18.3
13-49	56	30.4	1	1.2	54	51.9
50+	10	5.4	0	0.0	11	10.6

The median number of part-time children is three homes and 15 in centers.

Table 16b. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, part-time, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	15.8	3.2	25.6
Standard deviation	28.1	2.6	34.3
Median	6	3	15
Range	0-210	0-14	1-210
N	184	80	104

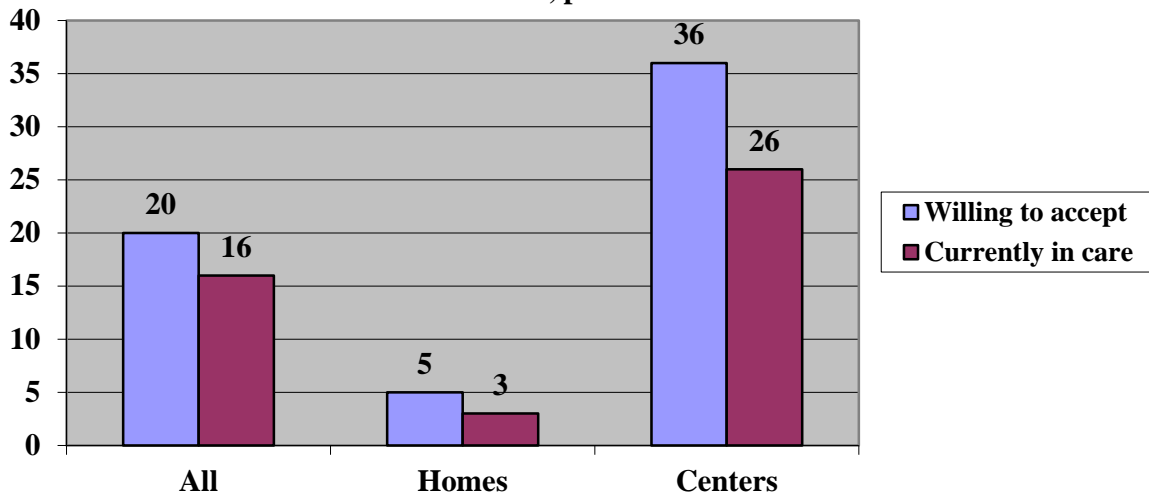
Chart 1a provides a visual display of the differences between the number of children providers are licensed to care for, the number they are willing to care for, and the number for which they currently care. The figures presented on top of the columns are rounded averages.

Chart 1a. Average number of children allowed by license, willing to accept, and currently in care, full-time.



There appears to be some underutilization of current capacity. On average, homes are willing to accept two more children than they currently care for and centers 16 more children. Chart 1b shows that homes are willing to accept two more children in part-time care, while centers willing to accept ten more part-timers.

Chart 1b. Average number of children willing to accept and currently in care, part-time.



Section IV. Rates and subsidies

Ways of charging

Approximately two-thirds of both homes and centers indicate that they charge families on a weekly basis.

Table 17. Most common way of charging.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Hourly	9	2.6	7	3.9	2	1.2
Daily	28	8.0	18	10.0	10	5.8
Weekly	239	67.9	116	64.4	123	71.5
Monthly	29	8.2	11	6.1	18	10.5
Semester/Year	7	2.0	2	1.1	5	2.9
Other	40	11.4	26	14.4	14	8.1

Months for increases

Table 18 shows that September is clearly the most popular month for rate increases. Eleven respondents, including three homes and eight centers, indicated that they lowered rates during the past year.

Table 18. Months when rates are raised.

Month when rates are normally raised.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
September	128	55.2	43	46.7	85	60.7
January	45	19.4	21	22.8	24	17.1
June	17	7.3	12	13.0	5	3.6
August	17	7.3	2	2.2	15	10.7
April	6	2.6	5	5.4	1	0.7
All other	19	8.2	9	3.3	10	7.2tab
Month when rates were raised during the past year.						
September	35	48.0	16	69.6	19	38.0
August	9	12.3	0	0.0	9	18.0
January	8	11.0	2	8.7	6	12.0
June	6	8.2	3	13.0	3	6.0
All other	15	20.5	2	8.7	13	26.0
Note: The frequencies and percentages under the heading "Month when rates were raised during the past year" are for those who reported raising rates only. Eighty-four respondents (25%) who answered this item indicated that they raised rates during the past year. Twenty-five of these were homes and 52 were centers. Therefore, approximately 15% of homes and 25% of centers indicated raising rates during the past year.						

Weekly rates

The following three tables (19a, 19b, and 19c) provide data on weekly rates for all respondents and for homes and centers separately.

Table 19a. Reported weekly rates, all providers.					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50 th percentile	75 th <i>percentile</i>	90 th percentile
School age, before school hours	148	\$65.74 (30.41)	\$60.00	\$74.00	\$100.00
School age, after school hours	165	78.53 (29.61)	77.00	90.00	112.00
School age, before and after school hours	172	120.38 (39.17)	120.00	145.00	155.00
School age, summer vacation	185	162.08 (32.66)	155.00	180.00	200.00
School age, school year vacations	172	163.79 (35.81)	155.00	185.00	200.00
Infant care	232	192.66 (47.11)	182.50	219.36	245.00
Toddler care	274	188.36 (43.52)	182.50	210.00	230.00
Preschool care	316	175.34 (42.37)	170.00	195.00	225.00
Kindergarten care	219	157.25 (38.81)	153.60	175.00	200.00

Table 19b. Reported weekly rates, homes only.					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50 th percentile	75 th <i>percentile</i>	90 th percentile
School age, before school hours	93	\$70.54 (35.39)	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$112.00
School age, after school hours	104	74.79 (33.07)	75.00	82.50	102.00
School age, before and after school hours	108	121.78 (43.30)	120.00	150.00	160.00
School age, summer vacation	115	158.49 (32.79)	150.00	170.00	200.00
School age, school year vacations	104	161.22 (35.21)	150.00	175.00	200.00
Infant care	160	174.66 (31.59)	165.00	190.00	225.00
Toddler care	169	172.52 (32.53)	160.00	185.00	217.25
Preschool care	170	167.59 (38.90)	155.00	175.00	210.00
Kindergarten care	144	153.39 (35.63)	150.00	162.50	200.00

Table 19c. Reported weekly rates, centers only.					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50 th percentile	75 th <i>percentile</i>	90 th percentile
School age, before school only	55	\$57.61 (16.60)	\$52.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
School age, after school only	61	84.92 (21.27)	85.00	90.00	112.00
School age, before and after school	64	118.03 (31.79)	115.00	136.50	150.00
School age, summer vacation	70	167.99 (31.15)	170.00	190.00	199.00
School age, school year vacations	68	167.71 (36.62)	162.50	190.00	200.00
Infant care	72	232.64 (51.32)	220.00	243.50	300.00
Toddler care	105	213.86 (46.88)	210.00	230.00	265.00
Preschool care	146	184.36 (44.54)	185.00	200.00	235.00
Kindergarten care	75	164.66 (43.57)	166.00	190.00	220.00

Number of hours per week

The weekly rates are displayed above in Tables 19a, 19b, and 19c. Table 20 shows the median number of hours covered by the weekly rates. Overall, the median number of hours used in calculating the weekly rates is usually somewhat higher for centers than for homes.

Table 20. Median number of hours connected to weekly rate.			
	All	Homes	Centers
School age, before school only	10	10	10
School age, after school only	15	12	15
School age, before and after school	25	22	25
School age, summer vacation	40	40	50
School age, school year vacations	40	40	50
Infant care	40	40	45
Toddler care	40	40	45
Preschool care	40	40	45
Kindergarten care	40	40	40

Comparisons with the previous survey

Table 21 shows comparisons between the current survey data and figures from the 2011 survey.

Table 21. Comparison of 75th percentile weekly rates 2011 and 2013.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
School age, before school only	\$75.00	\$74.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$65.00	\$70.00
School age, after school only	88.00	90.00	85.00	82.50	95.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	145.00	145.00	140.00	150.00	150.00	136.50
School age, summer vacation	175.00	180.00	173.00	170.00	175.00	190.00
School age, school year vacations	175.00	185.00	162.50	175.00	175.00	190.00
Infant care	205.00	219.36	180.00	190.00	227.50	243.50
Toddler care	200.00	210.00	180.00	185.00	220.00	230.00
Preschool care	185.00	195.00	175.00	175.00	191.00	200.00
Kindergarten care	175.00	175.00	160.00	162.50	190.00	190.00

Table 21a. Percent change of 75th percentile from 2011 to 2013.

	All	Homes	Centers
School age, before school only	-1.4%	0.0%	7.7%
School age, after school only	2.3	-2.9	-5.3
School age, before and after school	0.0	7.1	-9.0
School age, summer vacation	2.9	-1.2	8.6
School age, school year vacations	5.7	7.7	8.6
Infant care	10.7	5.6	7.0
Toddler care	5.0	2.8	4.5
Preschool care	5.4	0.0	4.7
Kindergarten care	0.0	1.6	0.0

Table 21a displays the percentage changes for each of the categories of care above. We see that there were declines in the cost of a number of categories of care.

Subsidies

We asked providers a series of questions about the subsidies that children in their care receive. Table 22 shows that the rate of acceptance of DHS subsidized children is very high in both homes and

centers at about 90%. In addition, approximately 75% of homes and 79% of centers accept children during the period that their subsidized status is pending.

The table also shows that centers are more likely than homes to receive other sorts of government or private subsidies. About one-fifth of centers receive some other form of government subsidy, and more than one-third receive some sort of private subsidy. Such subsidies are virtually nonexistent for home providers.

Table 22. Information concerning subsidies.

		All		Homes		Centers	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Accepts DHS subsidized children.	Freq.	307	50	157	24	150	26
	%	86.0	14.0	86.7	13.3	85.2	14.8
Accepts DHS subsidized children during the pending period.	Freq.	224	68	109	38	115	30
	%	76.7	23.3	74.2	25.9	79.3	20.7
Receives private subsidies.	Freq.	40	305	2	173	38	132
	%	11.6	88.4	1.1	98.9	22.4	77.3
Receives government subsidies (other than DHS or CACFP)	Freq.	37	308	5	172	32	136
	%	10.7	89.3	2.8	97.2	19.1	81.0

According to Table 23, most homes and centers accept DHS subsidized children during the “pending period”. Table 23 shows that about two-thirds of homes and centers are likely to charge full rates during the pending period. Table 23 also displays the amount charged if a child goes to pending status during re-certification.

Table 23. Charges during pending period.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Are families charged during the pending period?						
Yes	162	69.5	84	71.2	78	67.8
No	71	30.5	34	28.8	37	32.2
If so, how much?						
Full rates	107	62.9	54	63.5	53	62.4
Partial rates	63	37.1	31	36.5	32	37.6
Amount charged if child goes to pending status during re-certification.						
Full rates	96	41.6	48	41.4	48	41.7
Partial rates	51	22.1	27	23.3	24	20.9
Do not charge	84	36.4	41	35.3	43	37.4

Table 24a shows the number and percentage of providers caring for DHS subsidized children. While Table 23 indicates that 86% of all providers accept DHS-subsidized children, about 17% of homes and 7.5% of centers have no DHS-subsidized children in their care.

Table 24a. DHS subsidized children, frequency distribution.						
Number of children	All		Home		Center	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0	35	12.4	25	16.9	10	7.5
1	18	6.4	11	7.4	7	5.2
2	21	7.5	14	9.5	7	5.2
3	25	8.9	19	12.8	6	4.5
4	27	9.6	22	14.9	5	3.7
5	18	6.4	12	8.1	6	4.5
6	25	8.9	17	11.5	8	6.0
7	13	4.6	9	6.1	4	3.0
8	16	6.7	12	8.1	7	5.2
9	10	3.6	2	1.4	8	6.0
10	10	3.6	3	2.0	7	5.2
11-25	33	11.7	2	1.4	31	23.1
26-100	30	9.3	0	0.0	30	22.4
101+	1	.4	0	0.0	1	.7

Table 24b. Subsidized children, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	10.3	3.9	17.4
Standard deviation	16.7	2.8	22.0
Median	5	4	9
Range	0-147	0-11	0-147
N	282	148	134

Table 24b contains descriptive statistics and shows that the median number of DHS-subsidized children enrolled is 3 for homes and 12 for centers.

Table 25 shows the number of providers by the percentage of children in their care that are subsidized by DHS. The table reveals that homes tend toward the extreme—i.e. either zero or a high percentage of subsidized children—while the modal category for centers is greater than zero to 25%.

Table 25. Providers by percentage of children subsidized by DHS.						
Percentage of children	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0	29	12.1	21	16.8	8	7.0
>0-25%	67	27.9	12	9.6	55	47.8
>25-50%	44	4.1	15	12.0	29	25.2
>50-75%	24	10.0	16	12.8	8	7.0
>75-100%	76	31.7	61	48.8	15	13.0

With Table 26 we can examine whether rates affect subsidies. There may be some evidence for this: as the percent of subsidized children increases, generally, but not uniformly, the rates decline and come closer to the present levels of subsidy provided by DHS.

Table 26. Weekly rates by percentage of children subsidized, 75th percentile, all providers.					
	Percent of DHS subsidized children in care				
	0	+0 to 25%	+25 to 50%	+ 50 to 75%	+75 to 100%
School age, before school only	\$75.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$65.00	\$75.00
School age, after school only	80.00	95.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	112.00	130.00	130.00	142.00	150.00
School age, summer vacation	178.50	195.00	162.50	175.00	155.00
School age, school year vacations	182.00	200.00	175.00	175.00	155.00
Infant care	225.00	236.00	222.00	200.00	180.00
Toddler care	210.00	230.00	212.50	200.00	180.00
Preschool care	213.75	204.00	190.00	175.00	170.00
Kindergarten care	182.00	200.00	188.00	170.00	155.00

Other fees charged

We asked providers to indicate other fees that they charge families. About half of homes and 70% of centers charge for the early drop off or late pick up of children. Charges for late payments are also levied by approximately 40% of homes and two-thirds of centers. Centers frequently charge registration/application fees, though few homes charge these fees.

Table 27. Other fees charged.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Registration/Application	157	49.4	25	16.4	132	80.0
Transportation	37	13.3	31	20.3	6	4.8
Meals	21	7.8	13	8.9	8	6.5
Late pick up/ Early drop off	163	52.9	53	34.6	110	70.1
Late payment	166	54.3	63	41.2	103	67.3
Diapers/Wipes	34	12.8	26	18.1	8	6.6
Art/Activity Supplies	14	5.3	6	4.3	8	6.6
Extended day	80	29.0	41	28.3	39	29.8
Security deposit	69	24.7	38	25.2	31	24.2

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**2013 STATEWIDE SURVEY OF
CHILD CARE RATES**

Conducted by

**Schmidt Labor Research Center
University of Rhode Island**

The information you provide is needed by the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine the usual rate charged for child care in Rhode Island. Although your participation is voluntary, collecting this information is required by state law.

Individual responses will be kept completely confidential and will not be identified with a particular center or program. Only summary statistics will be reported. No respondents will be identified by name to any state or federal agency.

Please fill out a separate questionnaire for each site you operate. This is important in order to obtain accurate information on response rates and child care capacity.

SECTION 1. PROGRAM INFORMATION - ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

- 1.) For which type of facility are you responding?
 - a. ___ Family or Group Family Childcare Home (i.e. you are licensed by the RI Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to care for up to 12 children in a family home setting)
 - b. ___ Childcare Center (i.e. you are licensed by DCYF to care for children in a group setting)

- 2.) Is your program classified as for-profit or not-for-profit?
 - a. ___ For-profit
 - b. ___ Not-for-profit (i.e. a 501(c)(3) corporation)

- 3.) Does your facility operate as an independent, stand-alone program or is it a part of a multi-site organization or chain?
 - a. ___ Independent, stand alone program
 - b. ___ Part of a multi-site organization or chain

- 4.) Is your facility operated in affiliation with a church or school?
 - a. ___ Church
 - b. ___ School
 - c. ___ Neither

- 5.) What is the most common way that you charge?
 - a. ___ Hourly
 - b. ___ Daily
 - c. ___ Weekly
 - d. ___ Monthly
 - e. ___ Semester/Year
 - f. ___ Other (please specify):

SECTION 2. RATES - ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

1.) Please provide your usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate for **EACH AGE GROUP** listed below. Do not include discounts, CCAP subsidies, sliding-scale rates, or scholarships. Answer only for the types of care you provide. If you normally do not charge on a weekly basis, please estimate what your weekly rate *would* be.

Usual, Full-time, Maximum Weekly Rates by Age Group			
Infant (Birth to 18 mos.)	Toddler (18 to 36 mos.)	Preschool (3 to 5 yrs.)	Kindergarten (5 yrs.)
For each weekly rate you included, in the row below indicate how many hours are covered by this weekly rate.			

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEM ONLY IF YOU CARE FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN (I.E. THOSE 6 THROUGH 12 YEARS OLD AND IN AT LEAST FIRST GRADE).

2.) Please provide your usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate for **SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**. Do not include discounts, CCAP subsidies, sliding-scale rates, or scholarships. Answer only for the types of care you provide. If you normally do not charge on a weekly basis, please estimate what your weekly rate *would* be.

Usual, Full-time, Maximum Weekly Rates School Age Children ONLY (in first grade or above)				
Before School Hours	After School Hours	Both Before/After School Hours	Summer Vacation	School Year Vacations
For each weekly rate you included above, in the row below indicate how many hours are covered by this weekly rate.				

**SECTION 3. SUBSIDIES, RATE SETTING, AND CAPACITY –
ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.**

1.) Do you accept DHS subsidized/CCAP children at your facility?

a. Yes

b. No

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, PLEASE SKIP TO ITEM 7 BELOW

2.) How many DHS subsidized/CCAP children do you currently have enrolled? _____

3.) During the "pending" period, when DHS support is not guaranteed, do you accept children who are not already in your care?

a. Yes

b. No

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, PLEASE SKIP TO ITEM 7 BELOW

4.) Do you charge families during the "pending" period?

a. Yes

b. No

5.) If you answered Yes on item 4, do you charge full or partial rates to families during the pending period?

a. Full rates

b. Partial rates

6.) When child care assistance (CCAP) eligibility is being re-certified, if a child's case goes to "pending" status, how much do you charge?

a. Full rates

b. Partial rates

c. Do not charge

7.) Do you charge any special fees in addition to your base rate? Check the appropriate boxes.

	Yes	No
Registration/Application		
Transportation fee		
Food / Meals		
Late Pick-up/Early Drop-Off		
Late payment		
Diapers/Wipes		
Art/Activity Supplies		
Extended day		
Security deposit		
Event/Field Trip		

8.) Please list any other special fees that you charge that were not included in question 7:

9.) Do you receive any **private** money from sources other than children's families (e.g. United Way grants, church sponsorships, employer subsidies)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

10.) Do you receive any **government** money (e.g. subsidies from school systems for special needs children, subsidies from early intervention agencies, or Medicaid)? Do not include DHS CCAP assistance payments or Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) payments.

- a. Yes
- b. No

11.) If you answered yes to either question 9 or 10, how many children currently in your care are subsidized by private and/or government sources? (Skip if you answered no to both question 9 and 10) _____

12.) During which month do you (or would you) normally raise rates? _____

13.) Did you raise rates during the past year?

- a. Yes (If yes, during which month? _____)
- b. No

14.) Did you decrease rates during the past year?

- a. Yes (If yes, during which month? _____)
- b. No

15.) How many weeks per year does your program operate? _____ weeks.

16.) How many children are you licensed by DCYF to care for? _____

17.) What is the maximum number of children you would be willing to care for in your current space?

- a. Full-time
- b. Part-time

18.) How many children are you currently caring for?

- a. Full-time
- b. Part-time

