

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 May 15 and July 15, 2015 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 \$180.00, which means that 75% of respondents who provide such care charge \$180.00 per week or less; or put another way, only 25% charge more than \$180.00 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 about 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 779 children (in multiple locations).

Every center received an English questionnaire. Homes received either English or Spanish questionnaire depending on DCYF's record of their preferred language. For the past two surveys (i.e. 2011 and 2013) we gave respondents the option of responding electronically. Since so few chose that option, it was discontinued for this year's survey.

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 558 providers, while the list of centers contained 413 providers, for a total of 971 potential respondents. By July 15, 2015, 370 responses were received: 159 from homes and 211 from centers. The overall response rate, therefore, was 38.1%, with 28.5% of homes and 51.1% of centers responding.

Compared to the 2013 survey, the number of responses increased by 1.4% (from 365 to 370). The response rate increased from 34.7% to 38.1% or approximately 9.8%. The number of Spanish responses increased from 87 in 2013 to 90 in 2015.

Since *all* homes and centers licensed 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 higher than for homes. Therefore, aggregate measures are biased toward centers. In this report, however, responses are disaggregated so that the results for home and centers can be seen separately.

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	43.08	33.06
Pawtucket	6.30	6.78
Cranston	5.17	5.69
Warwick	4.65	6.78
East Providence	4.13	5.69
Johnston	2.89	2.98
Central Falls	2.69	3.52
Smithfield	2.58	2.44
Woonsocket	2.27	3.52
Cumberland	2.17	1.08
South Kingstown	2.17	1.90
Middletown	1.86	1.90
Barrington	1.65	2.17
Coventry	1.55	2.17
Lincoln	1.45	1.36
Bristol	1.34	.54
East Greenwich	1.34	1.63
North Kingstown	1.34	1.90
West Warwick	1.14	1.36
Newport	1.03	1.08
Westerly	.93	1.63
North Providence	.83	.54
Warren	.83	.54
Burrillville	.72	.81
Charlestown	.62	.54
Hopkinton	.62	1.36
Portsmouth	.62	.54
Scituate	.62	.81
North Smithfield	.52	1.08
Richmond	.52	1.08
Tiverton	.52	.81
Exeter	.41	.54
Glocester	.31	..27
Jamestown	.31	.54
Narragansett	.31	.54
Little Compton	.21	.27
West Greenwich	.21	.27
Foster	.10	.27
New Shoreham	.00	.00

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

	Percent of population	Percent of respondents
Providence	61.40	54.55
Pawtucket	7.36	7.88
Cranston	4.85	4.85
Central Falls	3.77	6.06
Warwick	2.15	3.03
Smithfield	2.51	1.21
Johnston	1.80	1.21
Cumberland	1.44	.61
East Providence	1.44	1.82
South Kingstown	1.44	1.21
Middletown	1.08	1.21
Woonsocket	1.08	1.82
Barrington	.90	1.21
Bristol	.90	.00
Coventry	.90	.61
Scituate	.90	1.21
Lincoln	.72	1.21
Newport	.72	.61
North Kingstown	.54	1.82
North Smithfield	.54	1.21
Richmond	.54	1.82
West Warwick	.54	.00
Burrillville	.36	1.21
Hopkinton	.36	1.21
North Providence	.36	.00
Charlestown	.18	.00
Exeter	.18	.00
Jamestown	.18	.61
Portsmouth	.18	.61
Tiverton	.18	.61
Westerly	.18	.61
East Greenwich	.00	.00
Foster	.00	.00
Glocester	.00	.00
Little Compton	.00	.00
Narragansett	.00	.00
New Shoreham	.00	.00
Warren	.00	.00
West Greenwich	.00	.00

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

	Percent of population	Percent of respondents
Providence	18.25	15.69
Warwick	8.03	9.80
East Providence	7.79	8.82
Cranston	5.60	6.37
Pawtucket	4.87	5.88
Johnston	4.38	4.41
Woonsocket	3.89	4.90
Cumberland	3.16	1.47
East Greenwich	3.16	2.94
South Kingstown	3.16	2.45
Middletown	2.92	2.45
Barrington	2.68	2.94
Smithfield	2.68	3.43
Coventry	2.43	3.43
North Kingstown	2.43	1.96
Lincoln	2.43	1.47
Bristol	1.95	.98
Westerly	1.95	2.45
West Warwick	1.95	2.45
Newport	1.46	1.47
North Providence	1.46	.98
Warren	1.46	.98
Burrillville	1.22	.49
Central Falls	1.22	1.47
Charlestown	1.22	.98
Portsmouth	1.22	.49
Hopkinton	.97	1.47
Tiverton	.97	.98
Exeter	.73	.98
Glocester	.73	.49
Narragansett	.73	.98
Jamestown	.49	.49
Little Compton	.49	.49
North Smithfield	.49	.98
Richmond	.49	.49
West Greenwich	.49	.49
Scituate	.24	.49
Foster	.24	.49
New Shoreham	.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	370	100.0	159	43.0	211	57.0
For-profit	227	67.2	125	88.0	83	48.3
Non-profit	111	32.8	17	12.0	89	51.7
Independent	199	72.6	172	97.2	102	52.0
Part of a chain	75	27.4	5	2.8	94	48.0
Church-affiliated	10	2.9	0	0	10	5.0
School-affiliated	14	4.1	0	0	14	7.0
Unaffiliated	322	93.0	145	100.0	177	88.0

We can see in Table 2 that approximately 52% of centers are non-profit, approximately 48% are part of a chain or multi-site organization, and approximately 12% are affiliated with a church or school.

Programs offered

Table 3 displays programs offered by providers. As we can see, approximately 30% of respondents reported offering one of the listed programs and another 20% a program not included in the list. Nursery school and kindergarten were the most frequently reported. Examples of other programs include KidsConnect, Bright Stars, the Mother Goose curriculum, and Montessori.

Table 3. Programs offered.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Nursery school	60	16.2	20	12.6	40	19.0
Kindergarten	43	11.6	13	8.2	30	14.2
Head Start	33	8.9	21	13.2	12	5.7
State-funded pre-Kindergarten	14	3.8	1	.6	13	6.2
Other	75	20.3	41	25.8	34	16.1

Age groups

Table 4 shows that homes provide care for very young children at a much higher rate than do centers. Less than half of centers provide care for infants. However, more than half of centers do provide

care for toddlers and kindergartners and nearly 80% for preschoolers. Just under half of centers provide care for school-age children. Homes provides care in higher proportion than centers for all age groups.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Infants	215	58.1	130	81.8	85	40.3
Toddlers	261	70.5	143	89.9	118	55.9
Preschoolers	307	83.0	142	89.3	165	78.2
Kindergarteners	219	59.2	112	70.4	107	50.7
School-age children	211	57.0	110	69.2	101	47.9

Schedules and hours

The tables below display the schedules and hours of operation of respondents. As can be seen in Table 5, most child care providers offer both full- and half-day care, with homes more likely than centers to provide before and after school care. Almost no centers, but about 20% of homes, offer weekend or evening care. Close to 60% of homes provide school vacation and school absence care, but only about 40% centers report offering these services. 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	277	74.9	141	88.7	136	64.5
Half-day	210	56.8	84	52.8	126	59.7
Before school	214	57.8	107	67.3	107	50.7
After school	227	61.4	110	69.2	117	55.5
Weekend care	30	8.1	28	17.6	2	1.0
Evening	39	10.5	35	22.0	4	1.9
<i>School age only</i>						
Summer vacation	190	51.4	97	61.0	93	44.1
School year vacation	188	50.8	96	60.4	92	43.6
Single day, school out-of-session	172	46.5	92	57.9	80	37.9
Full-time (30+ hour)	270	73.0	129	81.1	141	66.8
Three-quarter time (20- 29 hour)	249	67.3	106	66.7	143	67.7
Half-time (10-19 hours)	235	63.5	95	59.8	140	66.4
Quarter-time (1-9 hours)	168	45.4	66	41.5	102	48.3
Other	13	3.5	4	2.5	9	4.8

Tables 6a, 6b, and 6c display the days and hours of operation for homes and centers. The figures presented include 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. Homes are also much more likely to provide evening care after 6:00pm.

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, all providers.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	13	7:00 am (6:00 am-12:00 pm)	6:00 pm (3:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Monday	293	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Tuesday	291	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Wednesday	291	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Thursday	292	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Friday	291	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:00 pm)	6:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Saturday	22	7:00 am (6:00 am-12:00 pm)	5:00 pm/6:00 pm (3:00 pm-10:30 pm)

Table 6b. Days and hours of operation, homes.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	12	7:00 am (6:00 am-12:00 pm)	6:00 pm (3:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Monday	116	7:00 am (5:00 am-11:30 am)	5:00 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Tuesday	115	7:00 am (5:00 am-1:00 pm)	5:30 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Wednesday	114	7:00 am (5:00 am-11:30 am)	5:30 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Thursday	115	7:00 am (5:00 am-9:00 am)	5:00/5:30 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Friday	114	7:00 am (5:00 am-9:00 am)	5:30 pm (9:00 am-10:30 pm)
Saturday	19	6:00 am/7:00 am (6:00 am-12:00 pm)	5:00 pm (3:00 pm-10:30 pm)

Table 6c. Days and hours of operation, centers.			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	1	6.45 am	6:00 pm
Monday	177	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-6:30 pm)
Tuesday	176	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:15 am-6:30 pm)
Wednesday	177	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-6:30 pm)
Thursday	177	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	6:00 pm (11:15 am-6:30 pm)
Friday	177	6:30 am (5:00 am-3:00 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-6:30 pm)
Saturday	3	6:30 am-7:00 am (6:30 am-7:00 am)	6:00 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 16 hours per day.

Table 7a. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, frequency distribution.						
Hours	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-4	18	6.1	4	3.4	14	6.5
5-7	16	5.4	3	2.6	13	10.6
8-10	60	20.4	34	29.1	26	37.6
11-13	186	63.3	62	53.0	124	44.2
14-	14	4.8	14	12.0	0	1.2

Table 7b. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	10.2	10.75	9.9
Standard Deviation	2.5	2.4	2.4
Median	11.00	11	11
Range	2-16	2-16	3-13
N	294	117	177

Although we did not ask about split shifts, 21 providers, including two homes and 19 centers, indicated in their responses that they operate on split shifts. The most frequent split shifts were 6:30 am to 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

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	69	21.1	26	20.2	43	21.8
50	37	11.4	26	20.2	11	5.6
51	28	8.6	12	9.2	16	8.1
52	192	58.9	65	50.4	127	64.5

Table 8b. Weeks per year in operation, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	49.2	49.4	49.0
Standard Deviation	6.5	6.8	6.3
Median	52	52	52
Range	5-52	12-52	5-52
N	326	129	197

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 7 for homes and approximately 73 for centers.

Table 12a. Number of children permitted by license, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-5	10	2.9	7	4.6	3	1.5
6-12	148	42.6	144	95.4	6	3.1
13-49	66	19.0	0	0.00	65	33.2
50+	123	35.6	0	0.00	122	62.2

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

Table 12b. Number of children permitted by license, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	44.6	7.0	72.9
Standard deviation	62.3	1.6	70.6
Median	20	6.0	57.0
Range	0-779	0-12	0-779
N	347	151	196

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 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	18	7.1	15	13.5	3	2.1
6-12	101	39.9	95	85.6	6	4.2
13-49	51	20.3	1	0.9	50	35.2
50-	83	32.8	0	0.0	83	58.5

Table 13b. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, full-time, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	29.4	4.3	54.8
Standard deviation	51.5	2.1	63.7
Median	8	4	36
Range	0-578	1-8	0-578
N	259	130	129

We see that the median number of children that homes are willing to care for full-time is 4, while the median for centers is 36 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	18	16.4	16	40.0	2	2.9
6-12	28	25.5	24	60.0	7	10.0
13-49	37	33.6	0	0.0	36	51.4
50-	29	26.3	0	0.0	25	35.7

The median number of children that providers are willing to care for part-time is 6 for homes and approximately 39 for centers.

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

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	34.0	5.5	49.1
Standard deviation	41.4	3.4	44.1
Median	18	6	39
Range	0-260	0-12	1-260
N	110	40	70

Table 15a shows that most homes currently provide full-time care for 0 to 5 children, while most centers are caring for 13 to 49 children full-time.

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

	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0-5	96	37.1	91	70.0	5	3.8
6-12	54	20.8	39	30.0	11	8.5
13-49	64	24.7	0	0.0	62	51.7
50+	45	17.5	0	0.0	46	39.5

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

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

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	29.4	4.3	54.8
Standard deviation	51.5	2.1	63.7
Median	8	4	36
Range	0-578	0-8	0-578
N	259	130	129

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 5 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.

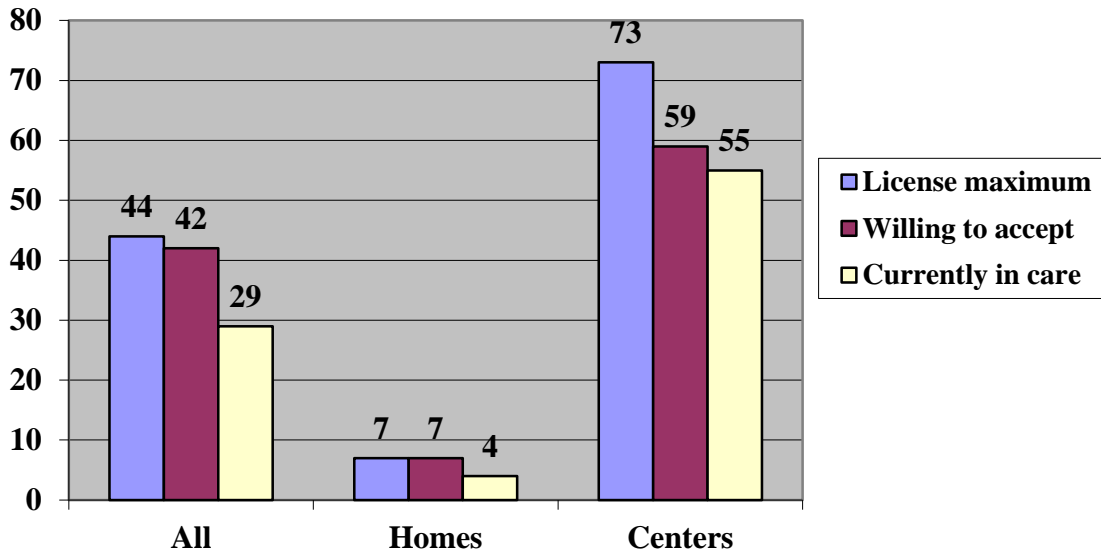
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0-5	80	38.8	68	80.0	12	9.9
6-12	31	15.0	17	20.0	17	14.0
13-49	74	35.9	0	0.0	72	59.5
50+	21	10.2	0	0.0	20	16.5

The median number of part-time children is 3 for homes and 24 for centers.

Table 16b. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, part-time, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	20.2	3.8	31.7
Standard deviation	26.2	2.6	29.1
Median	10	3	24
Range	0-170	0-12	1-170
N	206	85	121

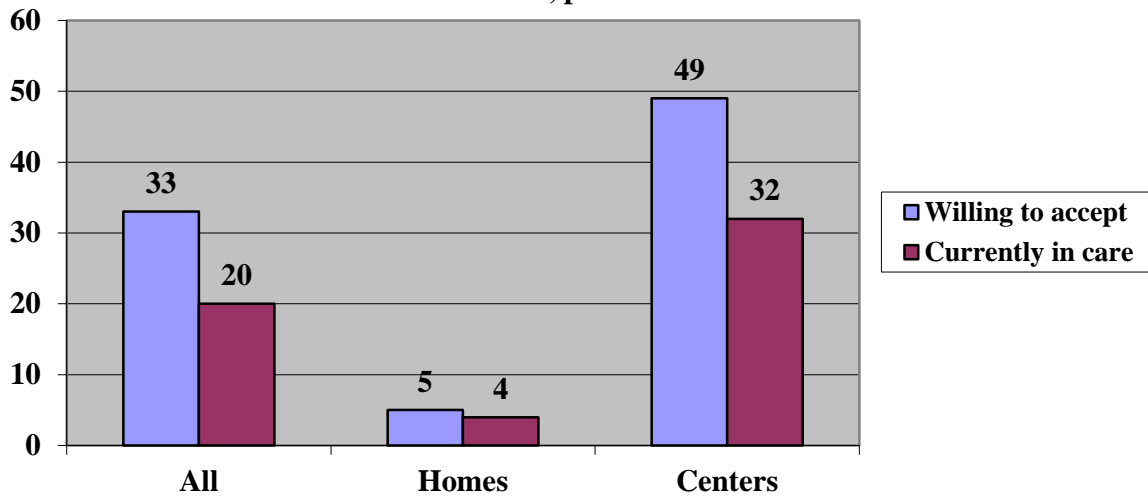
Chart 1a provides a visual display of the differences between the number of children providers are licensed to care for, the number they are willing to care for, and the number for which they currently care. The figures presented on top of the columns are rounded averages.

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 3 more children than they currently care for and centers 4 more children. Chart 1b shows that homes are willing to accept 1 more child in part-time care, while centers willing to accept 17 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 three-quarters 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	7	2.1	6	4.2	1	0.5
Daily	22	6.5	11	7.7	11	5.6
Weekly	252	74.6	106	74.1	146	74.9
Monthly	29	8.6	9	6.3	20	10.3
Semester/Year	13	3.9	2	1.4	11	5.6
Other	15	4.4	9	6.3	6	3.1

Timing of rate increases

Table 18 shows that September is clearly the most popular month for rate increases. Twelve respondents, including 3 homes and 9 centers, indicated that they lowered, rather than increased, 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	126	53.2	37	56.9	89	51.7
January	45	22.5	17	26.2	28	16.3
July	20	8.4	4	6.2	16	9.3
August	18	7.6	2	3.1	16	9.3
June	12	5.1	5	7.7	7	4.1
All other	16	6.8	0	0.0	16	9.3
Month when rates were raised during the past year.						
September	33	34.4	5	38.5	28	33.7
January	26	27.1	3	23.1	23	27.7
February	7	7.3	0	0.0	7	8.4
July	6	6.3	2	15.4	4	4.8
All other	24	25.0	3	23.1	21	25.3
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. One hundred and thirteen respondents (33.4%) who answered this item indicated that they raised rates during the past year. Sixteen of these were homes and 97 were centers. Therefore, approximately 11% of homes and 50% 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	75th percentile	90 th percentile
School age, before school hours	159	\$68.02 (27.70)	\$60.00	\$81.00	\$105.00
School age, after school hours	166	85.37 (29.86)	89.00	105.00	112.00
School age, before and after school hours	161	127.82 (37.22)	125.00	150.00	170.00
School age, summer vacation	173	173.80 (38.53)	160.00	200.00	231.00
School age, school year vacations	163	167.87 (34.40)	160.00	185.00	222.60
Infant care	220	200.01 (50.14)	190.00	225.00	252.50
Toddler care	262	195.55 (43.75)	193.50	225.00	245.00
Preschool care	294	182.03 (45.04)	175.00	200.00	234.00
Kindergarten care	191	158.90 (48.29)	150.00	175.00	220.00

Table 19b. Reported weekly rates, homes only.					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50 th percentile	75th percentile	90 th percentile
School age, before school hours	71	\$72.51 (33.94)	\$70.00	\$85.00	\$115.00
School age, after school hours	70	75.21 (32.75)	75.00	90.00	113.50
School age, before and after school hours	72	115.30 (36.69)	112.00	140.00	165.00
School age, summer vacation	76	158.93 (28.61)	150.00	167.50	200.00
School age, school year vacations	83	159.75 (31.56)	150.00	170.00	200.00
Infant care	128	176.65 (34.79)	165.00	182.50	225.00
Toddler care	139	175.03 (35.34)	165.00	180.00	225.00
Preschool care	137	166.45 (41.24)	155.00	175.00	225.00
Kindergarten care	111	144.55 (39.88)	150.00	165.00	175.00

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	88	\$64.40 (20.91)	60.00	\$81.00	\$85.00
School age, after school only	96	92.79 (25.26)	92.50	105.00	112.00
School age, before and after school	89	137.96 (34.63)	132.00	165.00	170.00
School age, summer vacation	90	186.75 (39.97)	182.50	225.00	235.00
School age, school year vacations	87	175.68 (37.19)	170.00	200.00	230.00
Infant care	92	232.52 (50.26)	225.00	248.00	298.00
Toddler care	123	218.74 (40.75)	220.00	231.00	270.00
Preschool care	157	195.61 (43.92)	195.00	215.00	250.00
Kindergarten care	80	178.81 (51.99)	170.00	204.50	245.00

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	24	25
School age, summer vacation	40	40	45
School age, school year vacations	40	40	45
Infant care	40	40	45
Toddler care	40	40	45
Preschool care	40	40	45
Kindergarten care	40	40	35

Comparisons with the previous survey

Table 21 shows comparisons between the current survey data and figures from the 2013 survey.

Table 21. Comparison of 75th percentile weekly rates 2013 and 2015.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	2013	2015	2013	2015	2013	2015
School age, before school only	\$74.00	\$81.00	\$75.00	\$85.00	\$70.00	\$81.00
School age, after school only	90.00	105.00	82.50	90.00	90.00	105.00
School age, before and after school	145.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	136.50	165.00
School age, summer vacation	180.00	200.00	170.00	167.50	190.00	225.00
School age, school year vacations	185.00	185.00	175.00	170.00	190.00	200.00
Infant care	219.36	225.00	190.00	182.50	243.50	248.00
Toddler care	210.00	225.00	185.00	180.00	230.00	231.00
Preschool care	195.00	200.00	175.00	175.00	200.00	215.00
Kindergarten care	175.00	175.00	162.50	165.00	190.00	204.50

Table 21a. Percent change of 75th percentile from 2013 to 2015.			
	All	Homes	Centers
School age, before school only	9.5%	13.3%	15.7%
School age, after school only	16.6	9.1	16.6
School age, before and after school	3.5	-7.1	20.9
School age, summer vacation	11.1	-1.5	18.4
School age, school year vacations	0.0	-2.9	5.3
Infant care	2.6	-4.1	1.8
Toddler care	7.1	-2.8	0.4
Preschool care	2.5	0.0	7.5
Kindergarten care	0.0	1.5	7.6

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

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 84%. In addition, approximately 75% of homes and centers accept children during the period that their DHS subsidized status is pending.

The table also shows that centers are more likely than homes to receive other sorts of government or private subsidies. Just over 10% centers receive some other form of government subsidy, and approximately more than one-fifth 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.	309	59	130	27	179	32
	%	84.0	16.0	82.8	17.2	84.8	15.2
Accepts DHS subsidized children during the pending period.	Freq.	227	79	96	32	131	47
	%	74.2	25.8	75.0	25.0	73.6	26.4
Receives private subsidies.	Freq.	48	303	3	148	45	155
	%	13.7	86.3	2.0	98.0	22.5	77.5
Receives government subsidies (other than DHS or CACFP)	Freq.	26	312	4	140	22	172
	%	7.7	92.3	2.8	97.2	11.3	88.7

According to Table 22, most homes and centers accept DHS subsidized children during the “pending period”. Table 23 shows that about 70% 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	159	72.0	64	68.8	95	74.2
No	62	28.0	29	31.2	33	25.8
If so, how much?						
Full rates	88	55.0	34	52.3	54	56.8
Partial rates	72	45.0	31	47.7	41	43.2
Amount charged if child goes to pending status during re-certification.						
Full rates	82	39.6	38	45.8	44	35.5
Partial rates	60	29.0	21	25.3	39	31.4
Do not charge	65	31.4	24	28.9	41	33.1

Table 24a shows the number and percentage of providers caring for DHS subsidized children. While Table 23 indicates that 84% of all providers accept DHS-subsidized children, about 6% of homes and 8% 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	20	6.9	7	5.7	13	7.7
1	14	4.8	10	8.2	4	2.4
2	23	7.9	16	13.1	7	4.2
3	17	5.9	12	9.8	5	3.0
4	22	7.6	16	13.1	6	3.6
5	22	7.6	14	11.5	8	4.8
6	22	7.6	17	13.9	5	3.0
7	15	5.2	8	6.6	7	4.2
8	26	9.0	18	14.8	8	4.8
9	5	1.7	0	0.0	3	1.8
10	10	3.5	0	0.0	10	5.6
11-25	44	15.2	2	1.6	43	25.6
26-100	46	15.9	0	0.0	45	26.8
101+	4	1.4	0	0.0	4	2.4

Table 24b. Subsidized children, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	15.6	4.7	23.5
Standard deviation	24.3	3.2	29.4
Median	7	4	12
Range	0-201	0-20	0-201
N	290	122	168

Table 24b contains descriptive statistics and shows that the median number of DHS-subsidized children enrolled is 4 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. Over 66% of homes report that more than half of their enrollment consists of DHS subsidized children, while almost 69% of centers report that DHS subsidized children make up less than half of their enrollment.

Table 25. Providers by percentage of children subsidized by DHS.						
Percentage of children	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0	17	7.5	6	5.9	11	8.7
>0-25%	61	26.8	8	7.9	52	40.9
>25-50%	55	24.1	20	19.8	35	27.6
>50-75%	18	7.9	5	5.0	13	10.2
>75-100%	77	33.7	62	61.3	16	12.6

Table 26 displays the 75th percentile rate by percentage of children subsidized.

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	\$50.00	\$76.00	\$81.00	\$72.50	\$83.00
School age, after school only	117.50	105.00	105.00	105.00	99.50
School age, before and after school	120.00	150.00	170.00	146.00	145.00
School age, summer vacation	237.50	225.00	228.00	200.00	195.00
School age, school year vacations	230.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	175.00
Infant care	223.00	250.00	235.00	230.00	215.00
Toddler care	200.00	245.00	229.00	235.00	220.00
Preschool care	196.00	232.50	225.00	234.00	204.00
Kindergarten care	195.00	230.00	200.00	234.00	175.00

Other fees charged

We asked providers to indicate other fees that they charge families. About half of homes and 76% of centers charge for the early drop off or late pick up of children. Charges for late payments are also levied by approximately 30% of homes and two-thirds of centers. Centers frequently charge registration/application fees, though very few homes charge these fees.

Table 27. Other fees charged.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Registration/Application	171	49.1	14	9.9	157	75.9
Transportation	30	9.9	21	15.3	9	5.4
Meals	17	5.7	4	3.1	13	7.6
Late pick up/ Early drop off	219	64.6	71	49.0	148	76.3
Late payment	155	47.8	43	30.9	112	60.5
Diapers/Wipes	24	8.1	16	11.9	8	4.9
Art/Activity Supplies	10	3.4	2	1.5	8	4.9
Extended day	94	30.0	45	32.6	49	28.0
Security deposit	55	18.0	18	12.9	37	22.3
Event/Field Trip	159	48.62	29	21.0	130	68.8

Appendix A – Survey

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**2015 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.) If you are a Childcare Center, 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 ITEMS.

1.) Please provide the usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate you charge private pay families 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 ITEMS 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 the usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate you charge private pay families 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.) Do you accept new families during the "pending" period, when DHS support is not guaranteed?

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

