SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Child Care is Critical for U.S. Workforce

68% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 64% ten years ago.¹

Costs of providing care were high in U.S.

$1,230/month for center-based infant care
$910/month for center-based toddler care
$800/month for family-based care

Child care workers struggled to make ends meet

17% of child care workers in U.S. lived in poverty.⁵

14% of White workers
23% of Black workers
13% of Asian workers
20% of Hispanic workers

Child care is hard to find for many families

51% of people in U.S. were living in a child care desert.⁷

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector

Capacity is declining in U.S.⁴

49% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in U.S. there were 2.6 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 4.2.

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation

68% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.²

79% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.³

Child Care is Important to the Economy

Yet only 12% of low-income eligible families in U.S. receive federal subsidies.⁸

For additional state profiles and more on this topic, visit Investing in the Future of Child Care: sffed.us/childcare
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Endnotes


Author
Bina Patel Shrimali

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