

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

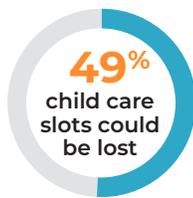
### Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation



**68%** of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.<sup>2</sup>

**79%** of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.<sup>3</sup>

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



#### Capacity is declining in U.S.<sup>4</sup>

**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.

### The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

#### Child care workers struggled to make ends meet

**17%** of child care workers in U.S. lived in poverty.<sup>5</sup>



**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.<sup>7</sup>



#### Costs of providing care were high in U.S.<sup>6</sup>

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



### Child Care Is Important to the Economy

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

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## Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey: 2009 (1-Year Estimate) and 2019 (1-Year Estimate).
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 3 Black racial category consists of Non-Hispanic individuals. U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 4 "Child Care Slots Could Be Lost Forever as Pandemic Progresses," April 24, 2020. <https://www.americanprogress.org/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/>
- 5 White, Black and Asian racial categories consist of Non-Hispanic individuals. U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 6 Workman, Simon and Steven Jessen-Howard. "Understanding the True Cost of Child Care for Infants and Toddlers." Center for American Progress, November 15, 2018. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/11/15/460970/understanding-true-cost-child-care-infants-toddlers/>
- 7 "Do You Live in a Child Care Desert?" Center for American Progress, 2018. <https://childcaresdeserts.org/2018/index.html>
- 8 Estimated percentage of eligible families receiving subsidies through the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant based on state eligibility parameters. Ullrich, Rebecca, Stephanie Schmit, and Ruth Cosse. "Inequitable Access to Child Care Subsidies." The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), April 2019. [https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019/04/2019\\_inequitableaccess.pdf](https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019/04/2019_inequitableaccess.pdf)

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