

# PICKING UP THE PIECES

Building a Better Child Care  
System Post COVID-19

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# Presenters

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# *Why Picking up the Pieces?*

- We could not ignore COVID-19 and the impact on the child care system
- Combined State Fact Sheets, Price of Child Care Report and data as recently as July from partners, CCR&Rs, and Child Care Data Center
- Case studies from states
- Trends over the past 5 months
  - Price/Affordability
  - Access
  - Enrollment
  - Quality
- Economists' perspectives



# New Interactive Website

## Features:

- Summary of report online
- Videos of families and child care providers
- Quotes from economists
- Infographics and tables
- Photos
- A downloadable, expanded report
- And a map where users can explore their state's data



## Balancing Work and Remote Learning

Picking Up the Pieces

Pamela Steele has enough space to take on some school-age children in addition to the young children she serves. Other providers might have to make a trade-off. They could accept more school-age children and fewer infants and toddlers. It costs less for providers to care for older children. Reducing the number of infant and toddler slots could help providers who are in desperate need of income. But in the long run, this will worsen the supply crisis for children under age 3.

## How We Calculate Affordability

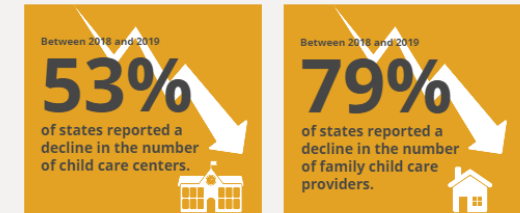


Let's calculate affordability for Cook County, Illinois, which includes Chicago. Start with the average price of full-time child care in the area, which is \$910 per month. Divide that number by the median household income for Cook County families with children under 18, or \$5,688. The result is a number representing the percentage of household income a family spends on child care for one child – in this case, 16%.



## 2019 Data

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19 and the associated closures of child care programs, the supply of child care was decreasing. Results from our 2019 survey results show that between 2018 and 2019, 53% of states reported a decline in the number of child care centers. More alarmingly, 79% of states reported a decline in family child care (FCC) providers.



The five states that had the biggest drops in the number of providers are:

- Washington DC
- Georgia
- Florida
- Colorado
- Wyoming

July 2020



9 children per preschool classroom

It will probably take a year or more to fully understand the impact of COVID-19 on our child care system, but some worrying trends are emerging. As of July 2020, we found that 40% of centers and 27% of family child care programs remain closed nationwide.



"When I saw the child care dataset, the first thing that stuck out to me was how little recovery there's been so far in many of the states in terms of the number of providers who have re-opened."

And so that really brings up concerns at this point that a lot of those providers are going to be permanently closed."

Dr. Jessica Brown, University of South Carolina

If these closures become permanent, it will pose a serious problem as our nation works to rebuild the economy. As currently unemployed parents find work, they will again need child care for their young children. And employers need a steady, reliable workforce that's not distracted by child care worries. In many communities, that was – and increasingly is – a problem.

**Poll: What have been  
most concerned with  
since COVID-19 hit?**

# The Affordability Story



# The Affordability/Cost Story

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2019:

**National Price Estimate** - \$9,200 to \$9,600 per year (all ages and provider types)

- 3 methodologies to calculate this estimate available in the Appendices

Mid-Pandemic 2020:

Why costs have increased for child care providers

- PPE
- Cleaning supplies
- Lower ratios, but same amount of staff members



How programs are faring, state relief and supports, how food and nutrition services have been affected



# The Access Story

# The Access Story

## 2019: Pre-Pandemic

- Between 2018 and 2019...
- 79% of states reported a loss in the number of **family child care providers**
- 53% of states reported a loss in the number of **center-based providers**

## 2020: Mid-Pandemic

- 35% of **centers** and 21% of **family child care** homes remain closed as of July 2020

# The Quality Story

# The Quality Story

## 2019:

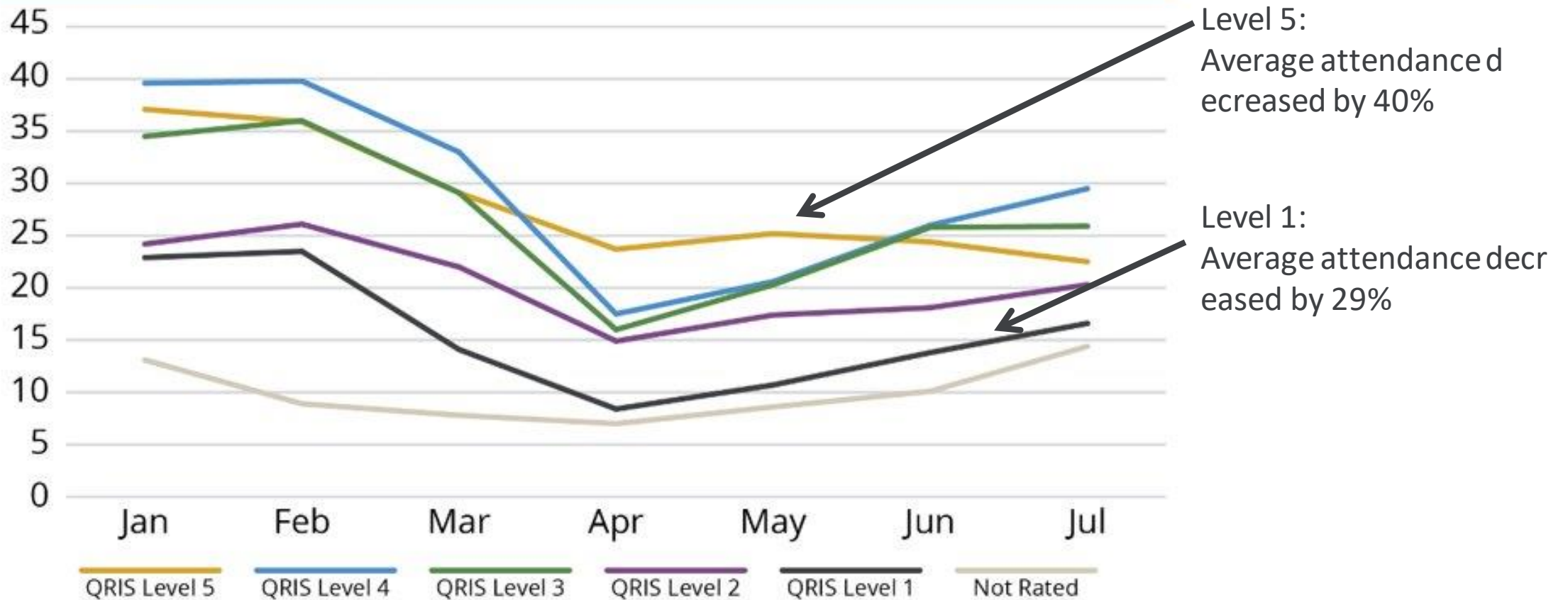
- Annual survey results, nationally
- Average rate of QRIS participation: 63% for centers and 52% for FCCs
- On average, 9% of center-based programs and 2% of FCCs are nationally accredited

## 2020: Mid-Pandemic

- Closures among child care providers by quality rating (Early Learning Ventures, Colorado)

# The Quality Story

**Figure 9:** Average Monthly Attendance by Quality Level, Early Learning Ventures, Colorado Providers



# Key Takeaways

- Providers can't survive for long with these overwhelming losses
- Although pandemic ratio rules are temporary, they are likely cause long-term damage
- Without significant public investment in our child care system, providers will likely have to pass along extra costs related to COVID-19 to parents who are already struggling to stay afloat during this economic downturn.
- Quality may suffer as child care providers focus on ways to stay in business.

## Pre-Pandemic (between 2018 and 2019)

- **79%** of states reported a loss in the number of **family child care providers**
- **53%** of states reported a loss in the number of **center-based providers**

## As of July 2020

- **35%** of child care centers remained closed nationwide
- **21%** of family child care programs remained closed nationwide.

Child care attendance and enrollment remain significantly lower than they were at the start of 2020.

- **17 of 32** states that submitted data for July 2020 lost more than **25%** of their child care capacity.

The cost to provide quality child care is also likely to increase due to lower provider-child ratios and increased costs for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies.

Attendance is lower in higher quality centers

# Child Care Data Center (CCDC)

## Features:

- 6 Pilot States (IL, MN, MO, OR, WA, WI) worked with CCAoA.
- Data from pilot states feeds interactive visualizations.
- 3 stories: access, affordability, and health (exposure to lead).
- In some states, data from 2020 is available and included in a COVID-19 story.

## Use CCDC to:

- Learn more about child care in the pilot states.
- Take action!

## Child Care Slots In High-Risk Locations By County

Filter By:

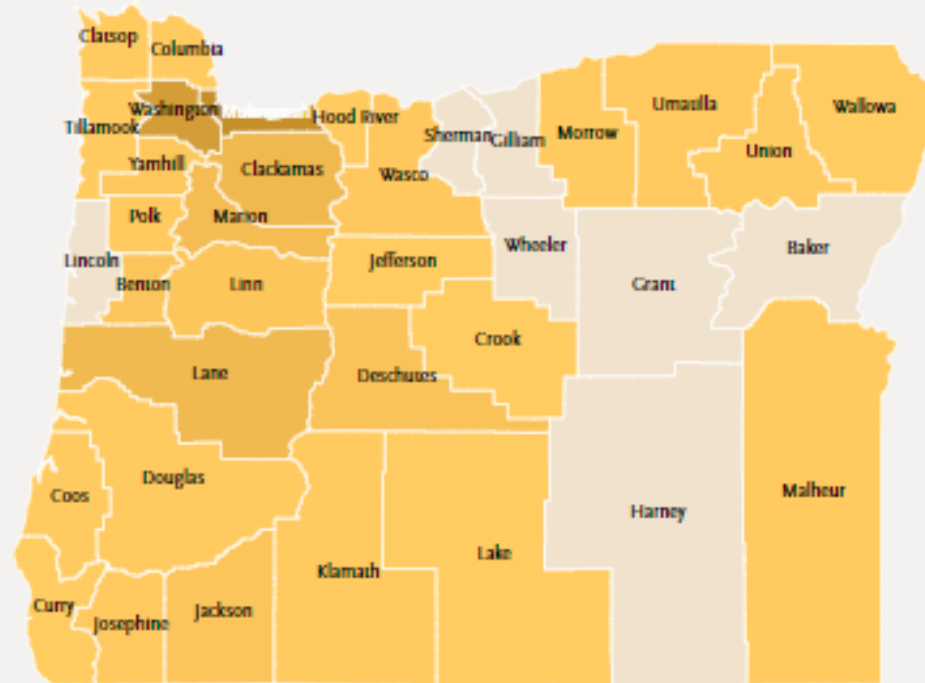
Sorting Type

All

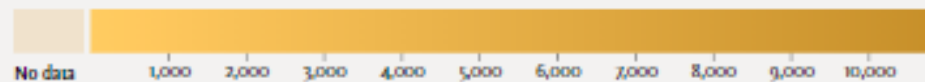
Accept Subsidies

Accept subsidies

Click on a county below to see additional data



The darker the color, the greater the number of children who attend child care programs in high-risk locations and that accept subsidies



## County Comparison Table

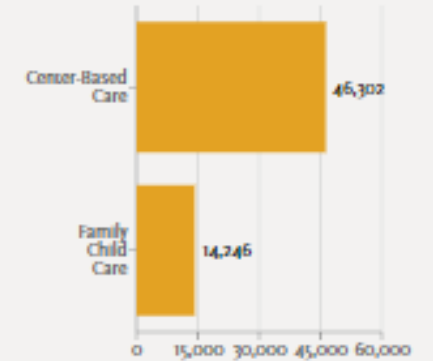
County

ADD TO TABLE

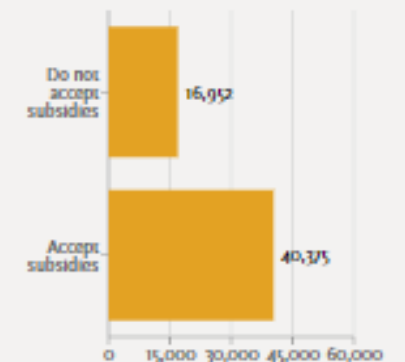
Select a county from the menu to add to the comparison table

County	Number of slots in child care programs in high-risk locations that accept subsidies
Oregon (State)	40,375

By sorting type



By subsidy





# Health Related Costs

- PPE
- Cleaning supplies
- Extra staff
- Less children, Lower Ratios
- Procedures for sick children
- Testing
- Quarantine of staff

## Case Study: The Effects of COVID-19 on child care in Washington State

Deeann Puffert, executive director of Child Care Aware® of Washington, created a tool that providers can use to determine how much it costs to run their business, given the increased restrictions due to COVID-19. The tool demonstrates how lower provider/child ratios translate into higher costs for providers.

You can see from the table below that:

- Washington's provider/child ratio for infants did not change, so there's no additional staffing costs for an infant classroom.
- Lower ratios resulted in a 60% increase in the monthly cost of providing care for every toddler, and a 95% increase in the cost for a preschooler.
- For all children who receive vouchers, the subsidy amount paid to providers is less than the cost of providing care.
- The provider's monthly shortfall exceeds \$25,000.

### Restricted Ratios Lead to Higher Costs for Providers



Due to COVID-19 restricted ratios it costs providers **\$876** more per month to care for children.

The bottom line: A child care center in the state of Washington could not survive long under these new ratios.

**Take Action: Contact Your Member of Congress**

# CCR&Rs provide critical supports for families during COVID-19

67% are supporting the emotional needs of families by answering their questions, validating their concerns and customizing responses based on the needs of each family

64% are helping parents who are essential workers find child care

38% are providing parents with consumer education and resources to help them understand the complicated policies related to reopening

37% are helping parents secure financial assistance for child care

## CCR&RS — AND — COVID-19



In May 2020,  
Child Care Aware® of America heard from

**163**  
agencies



representing

**41**  
states

about how they're  
responding to the  
coronavirus pandemic.



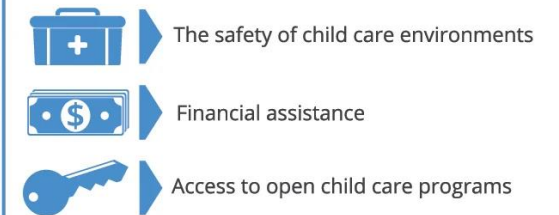
### THE TOP 5 CONCERNS CCR&RS HEAR FROM PROVIDERS



### WHAT IS A CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL AGENCY?

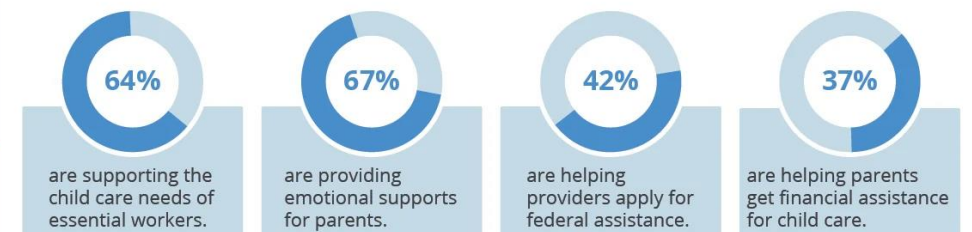
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies, located in almost every state, focus on increasing access to high-quality, affordable care by serving as a resource hub for families, child care professionals and communities. They connect families to child care assistance, help build the supply of quality care, and provide training and technical assistance to enhance the quality of child care.

### THE TOP 3 ISSUES PARENTS ARE SEEKING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON



67% of CCR&Rs feel prepared to provide training and TA on topics related to cleaning and disinfecting facilities.

### HOW CCR&RS ARE HELPING PARENTS AND PROVIDERS





# Healthy Child Care

- Kansas intentional messaging between child care and CACFP services
- Child Care Health Consultant Network
- Quality Initiatives



## Child Care Health Consultant Network

SEP 15, 2020

Child Care Aware of Kansas is excited to partner closely with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment team to launch NEW supports for licensed child care programs! Child Care Health Consultants are available to help child care programs analyze the results of... [read more](#)

# Policy Recommendations

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***Invest in child care: \$50 billion in emergency relief is needed to stabilize the system; dependable, robust, sustainable funding needed in the long term.***

## Accessibility for all

- Prioritize policies that make the early childhood education profession more attractive to new entrants
- Provide facility grants to encourage more new centers and programs to open.
- Continue emergency grants
- Adjust reimbursement payment policies
- Encourage child care/school system collaboration

## Affordability for all

- Expand access to subsidies and tax credits
- Implement or extend COVID-19 payment policies

## Quality for all

- Ensure funding is tied to health and safety standards
- Support funding for health consultants
- Develop and update health and safety guidance regularly
- Incentivize quality
- Invest in Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies