

INFRASTRUCTURE

FAST FACTS

Joint Economic Committee

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Child Care in the United States Is Unaffordable

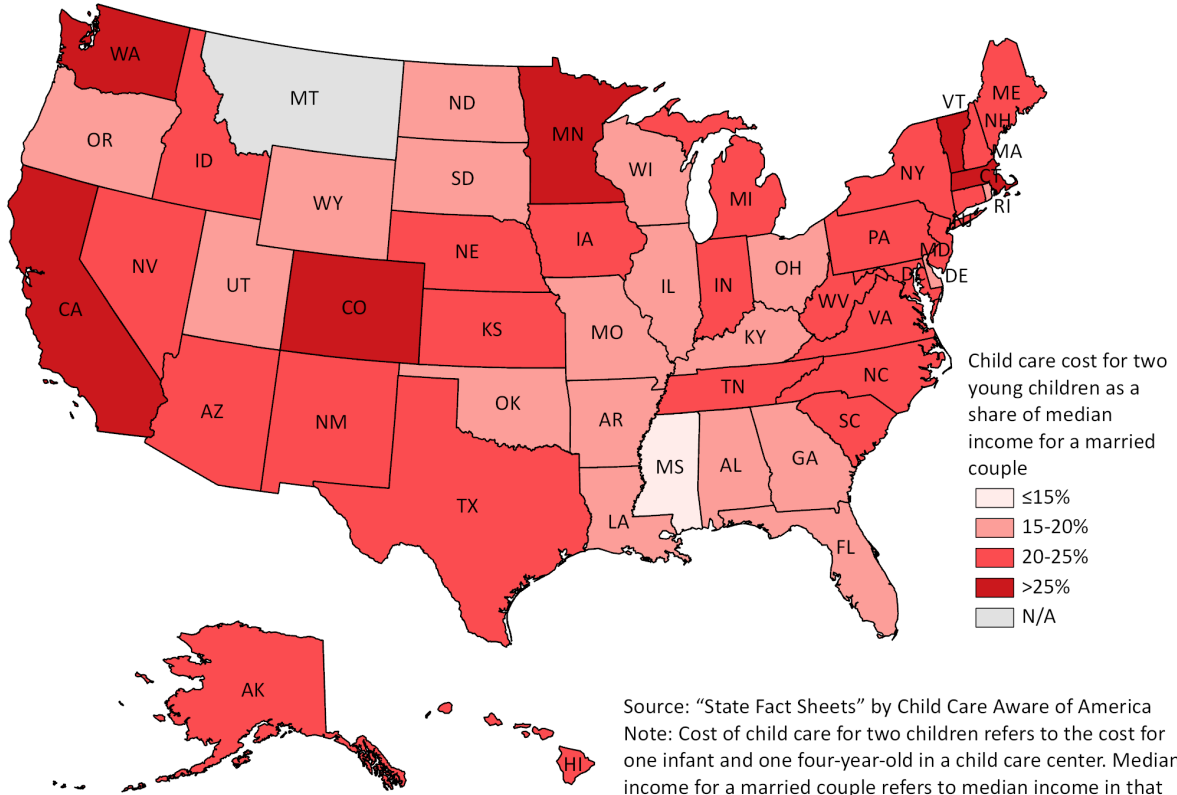
- Nearly 12 million children under age five are in some form of child care in the United States.¹
- More than four out of five (83 percent) parents of young children report that finding quality, affordable child care in their area was a serious problem.²
- In 31 states, a typical married couple with two children (an infant and a four-year-old) in child care spends on average more than 20 percent of their income on child care. In six states, a typical married couple with two young children in child care spends more than 25 percent of their income on child care.
- In every state, the average cost of child care for a typical family with two young children exceeds the median cost of rent.³

¹ Strauss, Valerie, “Advice from two experts on how Biden and Harris can tackle America’s child-care crisis,” The Washington Post, January 24, 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/01/24/childcare-crisis-biden/>.

² Malik, Rasheed et al., “America’s Child Care Deserts in 2018,” Center for American Progress, December 6, 2018, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/12/06/461643/americas-child-care-deserts-2018/>.

³ “The US and the High Price of Child Care: An Examination of a Broken System,” Appendix Table XI, Child Care Aware, 2019, <https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/2019%20Price%20of%20Care%20State%20Sheets/Final-TheUSandtheHighPriceofChildCare-AnExaminationofaBrokenSystem.pdf>

Across the Country, Child Care is Unaffordable



Child Care in the United States Is Unaffordable

Cost of Child Care		
State	Cost of Child Care for Two Children (USD)	Share of Median Income for a Married Couple
Alabama	14,370	17%
Alaska	21,679	21%
Arizona	19,898	24%
Arkansas	14,170	18%
California	29,552	30%
Colorado	27,792	27%
Connecticut	29,224	23%
Delaware	20,557	20%
D.C.	43,061	23%
Florida	16,871	20%
Georgia	15,080	17%
Hawaii	23,760	23%
Idaho	16,594	22%
Illinois	17,700	17%
Indiana	19,656	22%
Iowa	20,343	22%
Kansas	21,704	24%
Kentucky	14,415	17%
Louisiana	16,674	18%
Maine	20,505	23%
Maryland	26,353	21%
Massachusetts	37,010	28%
Michigan	19,829	21%
Minnesota	28,611	26%
Mississippi	11,239	14%
Missouri	16,605	19%
Montana	Not reported	Not reported
Nebraska	23,400	25%
Nevada	20,269	25%
New Hampshire	24,281	21%
New Jersey	29,470	23%
New Mexico	17,801	24%
New York	24,564	23%
North Carolina	17,909	21%
North Dakota	17,616	17%
Ohio	17,879	19%
Oklahoma	15,964	20%
Oregon	17,628	19%
Pennsylvania	21,679	22%
Rhode Island	21,121	20%
South Carolina	18,031	21%
South Dakota	14,103	16%
Tennessee	19,539	24%
Texas	19,008	21%
Utah	15,936	18%
Vermont	26,750	28%
Virginia	26,376	24%
Washington	29,268	29%
West Virginia	17,290	22%
Wisconsin	19,200	20%
Wyoming	17,624	19%

Source: "State Fact Sheets" by Child Care Aware of America

Note: Cost of child care for two children refers to the cost for one infant and one four-year-old in a child care center. The cost tends to decrease as the child ages. Median income for a married couple refers to the median income in that state.