

CARING FOR THE DALLAS COMMUNITY'S LITTLEST LEARNERS

A CASE STUDY OF CHILD CARE SUPPLY, AFFORDABILITY, AND QUALITY



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INTRODUCTION

Child care plays a critical role for our state's families, economy, and future workforce. At its best, it does more than just provide parents with the help they need to support their families and be successful in the labor market. High quality early care also provides children with important skills and a rich, developmentally appropriate environment that helps kids enter school ready to learn and succeed later in life. However, not all parents have access to safe, affordable, high-quality care in our state. As state and local leaders work to improve access to child care, it is important to first understand the level of need, availability, affordability, and quality in the state.

This portfolio provides a snapshot of child care in the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex community. It includes information on the 12 counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):* Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise. Until 2008, the Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (TACCRRRA) produced county-level data on child care and demographics for every county in Texas. This year Texans Care for Children collaborated with the TACCRRRA network, and particularly ChildCareGroup of Dallas, to update and expand upon child care data in the DFW area.

This report also includes detailed county-by-county data on child population, demographics, and issues of early care and education in the Appendix. Throughout the portfolio are spotlights on Dallas County that provide a more in-depth examination of child care needs. Much of this data was obtained through a survey Texans Care for Children issued to child care providers in Dallas County. Due to the small sample size and voluntary nature of the survey, the data collected is not necessarily representative of all child care providers in Dallas. However, the information gathered does provide insight into some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing children, families, and child care providers in the broader Dallas community. As reflected in the report, many working families in the community rely on child care providers outside the home, but the availability of quality, affordable care that meets individual family needs is limited.



* MSA counties based on 2009 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineations.

THE NEED FOR CHILD CARE

With approximately 6.6 million residents, Dallas-Fort Worth–Arlington is the fourth largest metropolitan statistical area in the United States.ⁱ Between 2011 and 2012, the DFW metropolitan area added more people than any other MSA in the country. Among this population were 1.8 million children under age 18, an increase of almost 60,000 children since 2008.ⁱⁱ

As the population of young children has grown in this area, so has the need for child care. In the majority of families in Texas, all parents in the household work:

Children in the Dallas - Fort Worth - Arlington MSA With All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012*

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent of Total
0-5	627,274	378,217	60%
6-12	749,355	481,891	64%
0-12	1,376,629	860,108	63%

*Excludes Delta County, which accounts for less than one percent of total DFW population

Source: Population Reference Bureau Analysis of American Community Survey PUMS Data, 2012. See Source and Notes for county level data and standard errors

In DFW, approximately 63 percent of children age 0-12 and 60 percent of children under age six live in families with two working parents or in single-parent working households. Even if one parent works part-time, young children in particular will need care at some point during the day. Children old enough to be enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten or elementary school have access to care in the daytime, but parents still encounter gaps between the end of school and the end of the traditional workday, as well as challenges in finding care during summers, school breaks, and nontraditional hours. For single-parent families and parents with young children or more than one child, finding safe, affordable care can be particularly urgent.

TYPES OF CHILD CARE

Parents face a number of choices when their children require care out of the home. In Texas, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Child Care Licensing (CCL) Division is responsible for regulating child-care operations and child-placing agencies; monitoring compliance with licensing standards, rules, and laws; informing parents and the public about child care and compliance with minimum standards; and providing technical assistance to providers. There are four types of formal operations in Texas:ⁱⁱⁱ

- **Licensed Child Care Centers:** Licensed Child Care Centers provide care for children in a location other than the permit holder's home. Centers are licensed to care for seven or more children under 14 years old for less than 24 hours per day. DFPS inspects these facilities at least once every 12 months, and also investigates reports alleging violations of standards or child abuse/neglect.
- **Licensed Child Care Homes:** Licensed Child Care Homes provide care for less than 24 hours per day for 7-12 children under 14 years old in the permit holder's own home. These Homes are under the same inspection schedule as Licensed Centers.
- **Registered Child Care Homes:** Registered Child Care Homes provide care in the caregiver's home for up to six children under age 14, and may take in up to six more school-age children. The number of children allowed in a home is determined by the ages of the children, and the caregiver may provide care for no more than 12 children at any one time, including children of the caregiver. Registered homes are inspected every 1-2 years, and DFPS investigates reports alleging violations of standards or child abuse/neglect.

- **Listed Family Homes:** Caregivers who are compensated to provide regular child care (at least four hours per day, three or more days a week, for three or more consecutive weeks or four hours a day for 40 or more days in a 12 month period) in their own homes for 1-3 unrelated children are required to list their operations with DFPS. These homes receive a licensing background check, but there are no minimum standards, orientation, or training requirements for listed homes, as there are for Licensed Centers, Licensed Homes, and Registered Homes. They are not inspected unless a report is received alleging child abuse/neglect, an immediate risk of danger to the health or safety of a child, or if it is otherwise found that the provider's operation should be subject to regulation.

Parents may also choose to place their children with relatives or neighbors, in part because these informal networks can be more flexible and affordable than licensed and registered facilities. Nationally in 2011, almost 30 percent of children under age 5 living with a working mom were cared for primarily by a non-parent relative while their mother worked. Twenty-six percent of children this age were primarily cared for in a center-based arrangement such as a child care center, preschool, or Head Start classroom, while 14 percent spent most of their time with a non-relative in the child's or the caretaker's home.^{iv}

While relatives can be an important and necessary source of child care assistance for many working families, not all families can rely on these networks for consistent care during the hours they most need it. Parents who must work to provide for their families and do not have a close relative able to care for their child may resort to leaving their child with a neighbor or other individual without knowing that their child will receive safe, quality care. Whether or not these child care providers are listed with DFPS, they are not subject to the regulations or inspections of formal child care providers, and it remains difficult to assess the quality of such providers in terms of health, safety, and child development.

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

As noted earlier, approximately 860,000 children under age 12, including nearly 380,000 children under age six, are likely to need some form of child care in the DFW area because all parents in their household are in the labor force. Yet providers in the region only have a total official capacity for approximately 300,000 children.

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care in DFW Counties*

Type of Care	Number of Facilities	DFPS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers**	2,267	271,952
Licensed Child Care Homes	461	5,514
Registered Child Care Homes	1,705	19,186
Listed Homes	1,411	4,234
Total	5,844	300,886

*Excludes Delta County, which accounts for less than one percent of total DFW population

**Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs

Source for Licensed Centers and Licensed Homes: DFPS Data Book FY 2013, data for August 31, 2013

Source for Registered Homes: DFPS Search for Listed Family Home, http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp, data retrieved December 2013

Source for Listed Homes: DFPS Search for Listed Family Home, https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchListedHome.asp, data retrieved December 2013

Although this data gives some sense of the child care capacity in the state, the numbers reported in the DFPS database do not reflect the true capacity of facilities within Texas, but instead the maximum official capacity facilities are able to accommodate at any one time. A provider's true capacity is frequently significantly smaller than its official capacity, as the building may be able to house more children than caregivers are comfortable caring for. In addition, no database exists with comprehensive child care enrollment numbers for Texas.

In 2012, the Ray Marshall Center at the University of Texas at Austin produced a statewide early childhood needs assessment. Among

the issues they addressed in their report was the true availability of early care and education (ECE) in the state. Using Texas child care market rate survey data and limiting themselves to facilities serving infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, they estimated the capacity of formal early care and education in the state.*

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE Slots for Dallas-Fort Worth- Arlington MSA, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Military Installation CDCs	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total			
Slots	159,067	2,790	9,151	2,006	173,014	44,807	104	217,501

Source: Deanna Schexnayder, Cynthia Juniper, Anjali Gupta, Daniel Schroeder, Vanessa Morales, Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment: Supply and Quality of Early Care and Education and School-Age Care, August 2012

With the addition of Pre-K and Military Installation Child Care Development Centers, the ECE Report estimated there were 217,501 formal early care and education slots in the DFW MSA for 2010. In comparison, an estimated 378,217 children under age 6 needed care in 2012. However, it is difficult to accurately estimate how closely these numbers track due to differing age ranges and the two-year gap between the two data sets. Though the exact difference between need and supply is difficult to determine, it is clear that the number of children needing care is higher than the number enrolled in formal settings.

SPOTLIGHT ON DALLAS COUNTY

In Dallas County, an estimated 334,605 children under the age of 13 live in families where all parents work, including 155,468 children under age six.^v The total official capacity in Dallas is approximately 92,833.^{vi} However, this number does not necessarily reflect the true capacity within the county due to the gap between maximum official capacity and actual capacity.

With the assistance of TACCRRRA and ChildCareGroup in Dallas, as well as other community partners, Texans Care for Children surveyed child care providers in Dallas County to gain a better sense of child care needs and capacity in the state. Responses were voluntary and not necessarily representative of the county as a whole due to the limited sample size. However, responses do provide important information on a number of data points related to child care in Dallas.

Percent Difference Between Listed and Actual Capacity for Sampled Dallas Providers

Type of Facility	Licensed Center	Licensed and Registered Homes
Percent Difference Between Listed and Actual Enrollment	80%	69%

Source: Survey of Dallas County Child Care Providers, Texans Care for Children, December 2013-February 2014

As the chart above illustrates, the actual enrollment of the facilities surveyed was substantially lower than their listed capacity. It is important to note that many providers offered full- and part-time care. As a result, some facilities were able to serve more children than their official capacity by staggering part-time slots. In total, licensed centers served only 80 percent of their listed capacity, while family homes served only 69 percent. This further underscores the need for an ongoing evaluation of the true availability of child care in the state so that the areas of greatest need can be addressed.

An issue central to availability of care, beyond total capacity, is the availability of care for specific age groups:

* See "Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment: Supply and Quality of Early Care and Education and School-Age Care," Appendix A for detailed methodology.

Capacity of Providers Surveyed by Age

Age	Average Capacity in Licensed Centers	Percent of Centers Offering No Care for This Age	Average Capacity in Licensed and Registered Homes	Percent of Licensed and Registered Homes Offering No Care for this Age
0-11 months	6.2	44%	1.2	27%
12-23 months	10.7	26%	1.3	18%
2 years	15.3	13%	1.2	24%
3 years	22.5	0%	1.0	21%
4 years	22.4	2%	1.0	30%
5 years	10.3	28%	0.8	42%
6 years and older	14.1	51%	1.3	62%

Source for provider data: Survey of Dallas County Child Care Providers, Texans Care for Children, December 2013-February 2014

Of particular interest are the age groups with the lowest average capacity and largest percentage of facilities that offer no care for that age group. In the child care centers surveyed, the age groups for which the largest proportion of facilities offered no care were ages 0-11 months, 12-23 months, 5-year-olds, and children ages 6 and older. In family child care homes surveyed, the age groups for which the largest proportion of facilities offered no care were ages 0-11 months, 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds, and children 6 and older. Though family child care homes may offer care for younger children more frequently, they also have less capacity than centers. These survey results suggest that some parents in the Dallas area may particularly struggle to find care for children under age one and children ages five and older.

Another way to approach the issue of capacity is to assess the ability of parents to find an immediate placement for their children, particularly if unexpected circumstances require them to find care quickly. Providers in the Dallas area were asked if they would have spaces open for children if a parent were to call them that day asking for an opening.

Same-Day Availability of Surveyed Dallas County Providers

Age	Percent of Licensed Centers with Openings	Percent of Family Homes with Openings
0-11 months	26%	31%
12-23 months	44%	25%
2 years	47%	39%
3 years	61%	36%
4 years	65%	33%
5 years	40%	17%
6 years and older	44%	19%

* Availability was recorded as zero for age groups that facilities did not serve

Source: Survey of Dallas County Child Care Providers, Texans Care for Children, December 2013-February 2014

Many centers had a significant number of openings—some reported having more than 20 openings in certain age groups. However, many others reported having no openings for new children. While these numbers do not give a comprehensive view of availability in Dallas, they do illustrate the difficulties many parents face when they must call multiple facilities to find a space for their child. Lack of openings can contribute to a working parent making a decision based purely on availability rather than quality of care.

Another challenge facing working parents is finding care at the right time of day, particularly if they work during nontraditional hours. According to the Dallas area CCR&R, eight percent of requests from parents are for weekend care and two percent are for evening care. In the Dallas Local Workforce Development Board Area (LWDA),* non-traditional hours were available in 8 percent of licensed

* Local Workforce Development Board Areas (LWDA) divide Texas into 28 areas overseen by the 28 Local Workforce Development Boards in the state. LWDA's pertinent to the DFW area are LWDA 4: North Central Texas (Collin, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Wise, Erath, Hood, Navarro, Palo Pinto, and Somervall Counties), LWDA 5: Tarrant County (Tarrant County), LWDA 6: Greater Dallas (Dallas County), and LWDA 7: Northeast Texas (Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties).

child care centers surveyed, 5.3 percent of licensed child care homes surveyed, and 34.2 percent of registered child care homes surveyed.^{vii} A family's ability to find care for nontraditional hours is often dependent on their proximity to a provider offering the needed schedule of care.

Related to the issue of location, many families do not have the ability to pick up and drop their children off for care, particularly if they rely on public transportation or if their work schedule falls outside of the provider's schedule. In the Dallas LWDA, 61 percent of centers, 16 percent of licensed homes, and 21 percent of registered homes surveyed in the 2012 Market Rate Survey offered transportation.^{viii} Those parents unable to access a facility providing transportation face additional barriers in terms of balancing work and quality of care for their children.

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Even if parents are able to find child care near their home or within easy reach of public transportation, they must also consider the cost of child care, which is often one of the largest—if not the largest—expenditure in a family's budget. Because of its size, the DFW Metroplex is diverse in terms of income and poverty. Some areas have median household incomes higher than \$80,000, as in Collin and Rockwall Counties. Others, like Delta and Hunt Counties, have median incomes closer to \$40,000. Similarly, the poverty rate ranges from 6.7% in Rockwall County to 19.5% in Hunt County (see Appendix for county-level details).^x The overall poverty rate in DFW has increased over the past decade, including in suburban neighborhoods.^x For parents with young children or more than one child, financial strain can be particularly high.

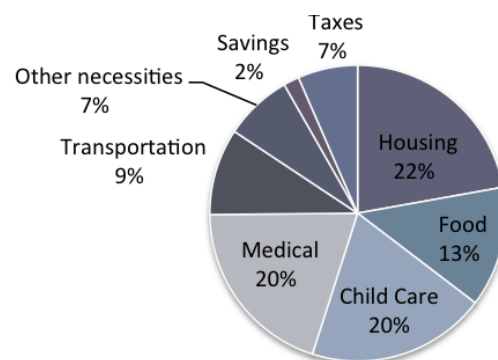
Cost of care is an obvious deterrent for low-income families seeking formal, high-quality child care. Families eligible for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) can receive important high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education. However, according to the Ray Marshall Center's early care and education needs assessment, "Texas EHS and HS served only 5 percent of eligible 0-2-year-olds, 31 percent of eligible 3-year-olds and 39 percent of eligible 4-year-olds in 2010."^{xi} Nationally in 2011, only 18 percent of children in families in poverty were in center-based care, compared to 26 percent of families at or above the poverty line.^{xii} Statewide in 2012, the average annual tuition for full-time care for an infant was \$8,495 in a center and \$6,528 in family child care.^{xiii}

Child care rates vary considerably across the state, including across the counties within the DFW area. For instance, the median weekly market rate for an infant in care full-time in a child care center ranges from \$146 in the Dallas LWDA to \$174 in the North Central Texas LWDA (see Appendix for county-specific data). According to the 2012 Market Rate Survey, parts of the DFW region (including Tarrant County and those counties within the North Central Texas LWDA) have some of the most expensive child care in Texas.^{xiv}

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has developed a family budget tool examining what it takes to live in each Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Texas. The budget below describes a family of one adult and two children, ages 3-5 and 6-8, in the DFW MSA.

Basic Monthly Expenses for a Family of Three in DFW, 2011

Housing	\$891
Food	\$529
Child Care	\$787
Medical	\$799
Transportation	\$380
Other necessities	\$298
Savings	\$69
Taxes	\$263
Total	\$4,016



Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities, *Build a Better Texas Family Budget for 2011*, <http://www.familybudgets.org/>
 Family criteria: Dallas-FW-Arlington, household pays entire family health insurance premium, 1 adult and 2 children (one preschooler in day care and one school-age child with after school care), savings only for emergencies

As this graph indicates, for families with young children, child care can be one of the largest expenses in a family's budget. Families who meet certain eligibility requirements may be eligible for child care subsidies, though eligibility criteria vary widely for different areas of Texas based on which Workforce Development Board a county falls under. In Texas, the annual income limit for subsidies in 2013 ranged from \$28,635 to \$47,190.^{xv} Even if a family is eligible for subsidies, however, it may face additional challenges both in finding a provider that accepts child care subsidies, and in receiving subsidies. In the North Central Texas LWDA, for instance, only 52 percent of licensed child care centers, 7 percent of licensed child care homes, and 21 percent of registered child care homes surveyed for the 2012 Texas Market Rate Survey served any subsidized children in 2012. When the capacity of each sampled provider was considered, only 11 percent of all enrollment was subsidized.^{xvi} Another challenge with the subsidy program is that over 16,800 children were on the waiting list to receive subsidies in Texas in 2013, leaving many parents unable to return to the workforce.^{xvii}

Child care subsidies have been a vital work support program for low-income families, but the low rate of reimbursement to child care providers has created barriers in ensuring these child care placements are providing quality environments for children. The federal government recommends that the state reimburse providers at the 75th percentile of market rate. However, most of the 28 Local Workforce Development Boards are not meeting this recommendation. Average reimbursement rates in Texas range from the 17th to the 75th percentile of market rates.^{xviii} Given the low level of reimbursement, many providers report that it makes bad business sense to serve subsidized children, leading to fewer high quality child care options for families. Unfortunately, many of the centers that can afford to implement quality measures and initiatives cannot afford to take subsidized children. Some boards allow parents to pay the difference when they find a quality provider, but this policy is inconsistent across the 28 boards.^{xix}



SPOTLIGHT ON DALLAS COUNTY

Although lower than in some nearby counties, child care costs in Dallas county can represent a substantial portion of a family's budget.

Average Weekly Cost for Full-Time Care in Dallas County

Age and Facility Type	Average Weekly Cost of Full-Time Care
Children under age 3 in Licensed Child Care Centers	\$142
Children ages 3-5 in Licensed Child Care Centers	\$116
Children in Child Care Homes	\$101

Source: ChildCareGroup, Dallas Child Care Resource and Referral Agency

In context, annual child care for one child under age three in centers would be about \$7,100, or 17 percent of the median income of a family in Dallas with children.^{xx} For families with more than one child or those below the median income in Dallas, child care represents an even more substantial portion of their annual budget.

To qualify for subsidies in Dallas County, single parents must be employed, in job training, or enrolled in an educational program for a minimum of 25 total hours per week, or 50 hours combined for a two-parent household. The child must be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant, and must be under the age of 13. The gross monthly income for a family of three cannot exceed \$3,011 per month, which is equivalent to \$36,132 per year.^{xxi} Many families do not receive subsidies because they are placed on a waitlist or because nearby providers do not accept subsidized child care. The 2012 Market Rate Survey used statistically representative samples of facilities in the state, including Dallas, to determine the proportion that provide services to subsidized children:

Facilities in Dallas LWDA Serving Subsidized Children, 2012

Facility Type	Percent of Serving Any Subsidized Children	Percent of All Enrollment That is Subsidized
Licensed Child Care Centers	63.9%	18.7%
Licensed Child Care Homes	42.1%	15.7%
Registered Child Care Homes	26.3%	10.5%
All Facility Types	48.3%	18.3%

Source: Child and Family Research Institute at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, 2012 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey: Final Report, 2012

Those families on waitlists or those struggling to find providers that accept subsidized care may be forced to sacrifice quality of care for more affordable options.

QUALITY OF CHILD CARE

Accessibility and affordability of child care are central to parents' ability to work and support their families. However, ensuring that children have access to high-quality care is also important, both for keeping children safe and for ensuring their development during critical early years. Texas establishes the minimum health and safety standards with which licensed child care centers and homes must comply. In order to be considered a quality center, a provider must generally go above and beyond the minimum standards. Quality of child care can be assessed in a number of ways, including child-to-caregiver ratios; use of best practice curriculum; and teacher experience, education, and training.

Quality can make all the difference for children in child care.^{xxii} Research shows that 80 percent of brain development occurs in the first three years of life.^{xxiii} This finding points to the limited window we have to ensure that children are on target with social/emotional development, pre-literacy, and pre-numeracy, as well as other developmental domains. Addressing development in this way facilitates school readiness. When kids enter kindergarten ready to learn, they are more successful throughout their K-12 years and later in life.^{xxiv} For every dollar invested in quality care, the state saves at least \$3.50 by avoiding costly interventions later on.^{xxv}

An additional challenge for many parents is identifying which programs are of high quality. While some centers display that they are accredited by national associations like the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Accreditation Commission (NAC), or the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), or by certification with state-level programs such as Texas School Ready! (TSR!) or Texas Rising Star, most centers do not have these and similar designations. Furthermore, many parents do not know what the components of a quality center include, or even why it is important for their child to be placed in one.

Child Care Resource & Referral agencies serve as important sources of information about availability and quality of care. These local nonprofit entities, available in some local communities, provide parenting education and connect parents to available child care. The Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (TACCRRA) is the statewide network of member agencies that represents CCR&R agencies, early childhood education programs, and other agencies and organizations promoting the development, maintenance, and expansion of quality child care services in Texas. Within DFW, ChildCareGroup provides critical early care and education services to Dallas County, including parent education resources and child care referrals. Another CCR&R, Camp Fire First Texas, serves Tarrant, Denton, Parker, Johnson, Hood, and Wise Counties.

SPOTLIGHT ON DALLAS COUNTY

The 193 child care providers in Dallas County with a national accreditation or a certification through Texas Rising Star or Texas School Ready! represent only a small fraction of the total child care supply.

Quality Rated Providers in Dallas County

Type of Quality Rating	Number of Providers
Texas Rising Star	168
Texas School Ready! Grant	19
National Accreditation*	27

*Includes National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Accreditation Commission, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, National After School Association, National Association for Family Child Care, Council for Professional Recognition

Source: The Workforce Information System of Texas, Quality Child Care Provider Report, as of 01.01.2014, retrieved from ChildCareGroup, <http://cca.childcaregroup.org/content/themes/ccg/ccguploads/quality-cc-provider-report.pdf>

Though accreditations are only one means of identifying quality, they are generally a reflection of a child care provider having invested in aligning its practices with nationally recognized standards in a variety of domains.

Major research studies on infant and toddler care have shown that small group size and low child-to-caregiver ratios in particular are key components of quality care.^{xxvi} Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child reports that four decades of program evaluation research indicate that small class sizes and low child-to-adult ratios are key "effectiveness factors" that can improve outcomes for children at a young age.^{xxvii} In addition, Texas's own Department of Family and Protective Services has stated that when caregivers have fewer children to supervise and the group size is limited, the likelihood of injuries and illness in children decreases and opportunities for positive interaction with children increase.^{xxviii} However, Texas minimum standards rank poorly in terms of acceptable ratios. Texas is one of only three states that allows up to eleven two-year-olds per caregiver and has the highest allowable ratios for three-year-olds, with up to fifteen three-year-olds permitted per caregiver.^{xxix} In both standards for ratios and for group sizes, Texas does not meet national standards.

Average Ratios and Minimum Standards for Dallas County Centers Surveyed

Age	Average Child-to-Caregiver Ratio	DFPS Ratio Minimum Standards	Average Group Size	DFPS Group Size Minimum Standards
0-11 months	3.9	4	7.5	10
12-17 months	4.6	5	7.3	13
18-23 months	6.0	9	9.1	18
2 years	7.5	11	11.2	22
3 years	9.8	15	13.3	30

Source for averages: Survey of Dallas County Child Care Providers, Texans Care for Children, December 2013-February 2014

Source for minimum standards: DFPS, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers, March 2014 version

As reflected in the table above, many child care centers in Dallas County already exceed minimum standards for ratios and group sizes. Since we know that lower ratios contribute to increased safety and a higher quality learning environment, policymakers should consider implementing best practice standards for ratios so all children in child care have the benefit of this safer, higher quality environment.

Child care providers striving to provide the best environment for children in their care often struggle to find resources that support their efforts to improve quality of care. Providers surveyed in Dallas County were asked what subjects they would like to learn more about through training and other resources. Some of the most common responses were:

- Classroom behavior, conflict resolution, positive discipline, and social emotional development
- Resources for children with special needs
- Classroom transitions
- Age-appropriate lesson plans, developmentally appropriate practices, and cognitive development
- Parent/teacher relationships, parent outreach, and parental support
- Free trainings to meet state requirements and minimum standards

As these responses indicate, access to adequate training is important for child care providers eager to continue improving their services. Though the state requires child care providers to have 24 hours of pre-service training, many organizations report that inconsistent and substandard training is an issue for the field. The Texas Trainer Registry, a statewide system that approves early childhood trainers and their trainings, has been a step forward in recent years, but it remains voluntary, and trainers are not regulated by DFPS.^{xxx}

High quality child care programs help children learn how to deal with their emotions, manage their behavior, and cooperate with others. This requires providers to be equipped in dealing with challenging behaviors as they arise. Unfortunately, some young children experience being “expelled” from a child care program due to challenging behavior, a result which does little to prepare a child for kindergarten. Of those facilities surveyed in Dallas, 35 percent of child care centers and 16 percent of child care homes reported having terminated child care due to a child’s behavioral issues in the past year. When early childhood caregivers and teachers have access to training, technical assistance, consultations, and strategies to promote children’s healthy social and emotional development and address challenging behaviors, children’s behavior improves, expulsions can be avoided, and positive development is fostered.

CONCLUSION

This portfolio explores some of the key challenges working parents with young children in DFW face: finding accessible, high-quality child care that fits their family’s budget and schedule. These are universal challenges for families across Texas, but knowing the specifics of smaller populations in the state enables community stakeholders and policymakers to identify areas of greatest need. Although the Appendix provides county-level data for the DFW area, there is a clear need for ongoing data collection on child care in Texas. Without funding, TACCRRRA has been unable to continue to track the true capacity of child care across the state, making it difficult to determine where gaps in services are in terms of geography, economic needs, and families’ schedules. **To help address the issue of access to care, the state should collect regular data on the true capacity of child care facilities in Texas.**

The state can also take important steps towards increasing access to affordable care by **reducing subsidy wait lists and increasing reimbursement rates to providers of subsidized children.** Low reimbursement rates remain a barrier to the provision of high-quality care to low-income families, as do wait lists for subsidized care. Texas must take every step available to increase access to quality child care services in the state and join many of its sister states in supplementing federal funding with state dollars.

Access to care is critical for working families, but it is also important that children receive high-quality care. Recent efforts at the state level to improve quality include HB 376, which provides reimbursement incentives for providers to increase quality through

participation in the Texas Rising Star Program. One workgroup formed through HB 376 is working toward better parent education on quality, but the state can take additional steps to educate parents beyond the TRS program. Policymakers in the state should continue to evaluate ways to encourage more providers to increase the quality of their services and participate in programs that enhance quality. **Texas can continue to improve quality by reducing ratios, better coordinating and ensuring quality training to providers, and improving parent education on quality care.**

It is clear that child care is a vital resource for children and families in Texas and is a big player in our economy. As survey results from Dallas County indicate, child care providers want to provide the best care possible and address the specific developmental and social/emotional needs of the children in their care. Parents, communities, local entities and organizations, and the state can all play a part in strengthening the current system and setting children on a lifelong path to successful relationships and learning.



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COLLIN COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	68,363
6-12 years	95,793
0-12 years	164,156

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	33,157	20%
Anglo	87,690	53%
Black	14,367	9%
Other	28,942	18%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	71,424	44,858	63%
6-12 years	92,953	62,316	67%
0-12 years	164,377	107,174	65%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	346	51,045
Licensed Child Care Homes	93	1,112
Registered Child Care Homes	185	2,093
Listed Child Care Homes	178	538

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	30,367	701	855	168	32,091	2,968	35,059

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	2,886
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	3,224
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	487
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	5

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.27
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	18.0%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$81,992
Poverty, 2012	7.8%
Child Poverty, 2012	9.8%
Unemployment, 2012	6.1%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

DALLAS COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	233,543
6-12 years	258,353
0-12 years	491,896

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	261,966	53%
Anglo	89,460	18%
Black	105,334	21%
Other	35,136	7%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	257,648	155,468	60%
6-12 years	282,572	179,137	63%
0-12 years	540,220	334,605	62%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	778	88,124
Licensed Child Care Homes	131	1,564
Registered Child Care Homes	580	6,496
Listed Child Care Homes	558	1,674

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	45,780	686	3,187	836	50,488	20,288	70,776

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	22,693
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	25,405
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	4,303
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	814
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	41

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.47
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	35%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$47,343
Poverty, 2012	19.3%
Child Poverty, 2012	29%
Unemployment, 2012	7.2%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 6: Dallas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$29.28	\$26.75	\$24.61	\$25.16	\$23.61	\$22.49	\$24.49	\$22.73	\$21.31

DELTA COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	353
6-12 years	438
0-12 years	791

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	81	10%
Anglo	587	74%
Black	65	8%
Other	58	7%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

*Population of Delta County was too small for accurate calculations of children ages 0-12 with all parents in the labor force.

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	1	21
Licensed Child Care Homes	0	0
Registered Child Care Homes	1	12
Listed Child Care Homes	0	0

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	0	0	0	5	5	88	93

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	86
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	14
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	54
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	1

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.24%
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	25.8%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$37,515
Poverty, 2012	19.0%
Child Poverty, 2012	30.3%
Unemployment, 2012	7.6%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 7: North East Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$20.62	\$18.99	\$17.62	\$17.97	\$16.97	\$16.24	\$17.54	\$16.40	\$15.48

DENTON COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	59,580
6-12 years	77,754
0-12 years	137,334

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	35,359	26%
Anglo	75,010	55%
Black	11,053	8%
Other	15,912	12%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	61,119	37,968	62%
6-12 years	75,269	47,262	63%
0-12 years	136,388	85,230	63%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	247	33,294
Licensed Child Care Homes	94	1,124
Registered Child Care Homes	192	2,223
Listed Child Care Homes	163	486

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	24,486	654	959	235	26,334	2,738	29,072

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	3,149
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	3,880
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	193
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	0

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	37.27
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	20.4%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$71,338
Poverty, 2012	8.8%
Child Poverty, 2012	10.5%
Unemployment, 2012	6.0%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

ELLIS COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	12,535
6-12 years	17,061
0-12 years	29,596

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	10,179	34%
Anglo	15,841	54%
Black	2,672	9%
Other	904	3%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	13,518	8,514	63%
6-12 years	18,133	11,061	61%
0-12 years	31,651	19,575	61%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	56	6,300
Licensed Child Care Homes	10	120
Registered Child Care Homes	25	290
Listed Child Care Homes	41	123

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	2,968	48	204	69	3,288	1,153	4,441

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	1,196
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	1,148
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	90
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	1,196
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	2

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.29
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	25.5%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$58,016
Poverty, 2012	10.9%
Child Poverty, 2012	16.0%
Unemployment, 2012	6.8%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

HUNT COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	6,635
6-12 years	8,571
0-12 years	15,206

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	3,666	24%
Anglo	9,484	62%
Black	1,353	9%
Other	703	5%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force in Hunt and Rockwall Counties, 2012*

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	12,829	8,498	66%
6-12 years	18,409	11,490	62%
0-12 years	31,238	19,988	64%

*Hunt/Rockwall Counties data could not be disaggregated.

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	24	2,419
Licensed Child Care Homes	4	48
Registered Child Care Homes	12	141
Listed Child Care Homes	20	60

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	1,584	30	51	28	1,691	771	2,462

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	876
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	697
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	161
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	0

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.35
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	28.4%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$42,821
Poverty, 2012	19.5%
Child Poverty, 2012	26.6%
Unemployment, 2012	7.8%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

JOHNSON COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	12,595
6-12 years	16,541
0-12 years	29,136

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	7,923	27%
Anglo	19,413	67%
Black	712	2%
Other	1,088	4%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	13,082	8,818	67%
6-12 years	16,696	12,211	73%
0-12 years	29,778	21,029	71%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	37	4,432
Licensed Child Care Homes	5	60
Registered Child Care Homes	11	132
Listed Child Care Homes	25	75

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	3,355	46	62	26	3,490	973	4,463

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	1,024
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	998
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	251
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	2

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.26
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	24.5%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$56,659
Poverty, 2012	12.9%
Child Poverty, 2012	18.8%
Unemployment, 2012	6.6%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

KAUFMAN COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	8,856
6-12 years	12,105
0-12 years	20,961

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	5,506	26%
Anglo	12,560	60%
Black	2,050	10%
Other	845	4%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	9,594	4,968	52%
6-12 years	11,858	7,475	63%
0-12 years	21,452	12,443	58%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	35	4,267
Licensed Child Care Homes	7	84
Registered Child Care Homes	19	202
Listed Child Care Homes	35	105

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	1,907	26	79	32	2,044	927	2,971

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	902
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	771
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	384
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	0

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.31%
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	25.1%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$55,044
Poverty, 2012	14.1%
Child Poverty, 2012	18.9%
Unemployment, 2012	7.1%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

PARKER COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	8,604
6-12 years	11,893
0-12 years	20,497

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	3,532	17%
Anglo	16,058	78%
Black	230	1%
Other	677	3%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	7,251	3,921	54%
6-12 years	12,514	7,480	60%
0-12 years	19,765	11,401	58%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	42	3,886
Licensed Child Care Homes	1	12
Registered Child Care Homes	11	132
Listed Child Care Homes	12	36

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	2,583	0	169	71	2,823	2,289	5,112

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	451
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	714
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	62
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	294
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	1

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.17
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	20.4%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$63,720
Poverty, 2012	10.8%
Child Poverty, 2012	15.9%
Unemployment, 2012	6.1%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

ROCKWALL COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	6,505
6-12 years	9,868
0-12 years	16,373

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of all children age 0-12
Hispanic	3,704	23%
Anglo	10,804	66%
Black	958	6%
Other	907	6%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force in Hunt and Rockwall Counties, 2012*

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	12,829	8,498	66%
6-12 years	18,409	11,490	62%
0-12 years	31,238	19,988	64%

*Hunt/Rockwall Counties data could not be disaggregated.

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	24	3,469
Licensed Child Care Homes	7	84
Registered Child Care Homes	3	36
Listed Child Care Homes	19	57

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	1,938	44	23	16	2,021	402	2,423

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	414
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	302
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	139
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	0

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.31
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	17.6%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$85,164
Poverty, 2012	6.7%
Child Poverty, 2012	9.0%
Unemployment, 2012	6.2%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

TARRANT COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	170,850
6-12 years	205,928
0-12 years	376,778

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	142,856	38%
Anglo	143,431	38%
Black	58,763	16%
Other	31,728	8%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	170,326	100,253	59%
6-12 years	206,086	135,537	66%
0-12 years	376,412	235,790	63%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	654	73,113
Licensed Child Care Homes	109	1,306
Registered Child Care Homes	662	7,381
Listed Child Care Homes	349	1,047

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	44,101	650	3,503	540	48,794	13,766	62,560

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	13,670
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	2,217
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	2,530
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	192
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	43

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.34
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	29.7%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$56,030
Poverty, 2012	15.5%
Child Poverty, 2012	22.6%
Unemployment, 2012	6.6%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 5: Tarrant, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.03	\$31.24	\$28.88	\$29.48	\$27.77	\$26.53	\$28.75	\$26.80	\$25.22

WISE COUNTY

CHILD POPULATION

Child Population by Age Group, 2012*

Age	Number
Under 6 years	4,670
6-12 years	6,059
0-12 years	10,729

*"Child Population by Age Group" and "Child Population by Race/Ethnicity" will not match with population in "Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force" due to differing data sources. See Sources and Notes for sources.

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Race	Number	Percent of children age 0-12
Hispanic	2,992	28%
Anglo	7,349	69%
Black	85	1%
Other	303	3%

NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Age	Child Population	Children in Households Where All Parents Work	
		Number	Percent
Under 6 years	10,483	4,951	47%
6-12 years	14,865	7,922	53%
0-12 years	25,348	12,873	51%

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	DPFS Official Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers*	24	1,603
Licensed Child Care Homes	0	0
Registered Child Care Homes	5	60
Listed Child Care Homes	11	33

*Includes Small Employer Based Child Care and Temporary Shelter Programs.

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE from the Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment, 2010

Type of Care	DFPS Registry Data					Public Pre-K	Total
	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Registered Homes	Listed Homes	Total		
Slots	1,00	0	43	14	1,057	284	1,341

Early Care and Education

Children age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013	324
Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012*	249
Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013	219
Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012	0
Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014	2

*Unduplicated count of children 0-12 (up to 19 with disabilities) receiving subsidized child care for CY 2012 by county (includes Choices/FSE&T and Transition/At-Risk Populations).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Family and Household

Average family size, 2008-2012	3.28
Single-parent families, 2008-2012	16.4%
Median Household Income, 2012	\$53,927
Poverty, 2012	11.9%
Child Poverty, 2012	16.5%
Unemployment, 2012	6.3%

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in LWDA 4: North Central Texas, 2012

Licensed Child Care Centers			Licensed Child Care Homes			Registered Child Care Homes		
Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
\$34.73	\$31.95	\$29.60	\$30.19	\$28.48	\$27.24	\$29.46	\$27.52	\$25.94

HOME VISITING IN THE DFW AREA, 2012



TexProtects

Estimated Number of Families In Need of Services in DFW Area (includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Tarrant, and Wise counties)

- **94,169 High-Need Families** = Number of Families with Children under age 6 Living in Poverty (below 100% Federal poverty line)
- **56,728 Highest-Need Families** = Number of Families with Children under age 6 Living in Extreme Poverty (below 50% Federal poverty line)

County	High-Need Families	Highest-Need Families
Collin	6,165	3,714
Dallas	49,454	29,792
Denton	6,083	3,665
Tarrant	30,389	18,307
Wise	681	410
TOTAL:	94,169	56,728

Families Served by Home Visiting Programs in the DFW area (as of fall 2012)

Counties Served	HV Program	HV Provider	Families Served
Collin	Parents and Children Together	Plano ISD	50
Collin, Grayson, Rockwall	Early Head Start	Region 10 Education Service Center	88
Dallas	AVANCE	AVANCE	1,107
Dallas	Early Head Start	East Dallas Community Schools	2
Dallas	Early Head Start	Head Start Of Greater Dallas, Inc.	64
Dallas	Early Head Start	Neighbors United for Quality Education, Inc.	136
Dallas	Exchange Parent Aide	Family Compass	100
Dallas	Healthy Start	Dallas County Hospital	398
Dallas	Healthy Families	Family Compass	100
Dallas	Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youth (HIPPY)	Dallas Independent School District	400
Dallas	HIPPY	Irving ISD	300
Dallas	HIPPY	Richardson ISD Family Literacy Program	70
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	Child Care Group	66
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	East Dallas Community Schools- Bachman Lake	54
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	Family Compass	45
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	Family Outreach (east) Dallas	34
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	Garland ISD	123
Dallas	Parents as Teachers	Richardson ISD Family Literacy Program	20
Dallas, Tarrant	Nurse-Family Partnership	Parkland Health and Hospital System	100
Dallas, Tarrant	Nurse Family Partnership	Tarrant County Health Department	
Dallas, Tarrant	Nurse-Family Partnership	YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas	300
Tarrant	Healthy Start	Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	302
Tarrant	Parents as Teachers	Child Care Associates	24
Tarrant	Parents as Teachers	Fort Worth ISD	850
Tarrant	Positive Parenting Program	Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	95
Tarrant, Wise, Denton	Parents as Teachers	Northwest ISD	95

TOTAL: 5,073

SOURCES AND NOTES

Child Population

Child Population by Age Group, 2012

Source: Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, University of Texas at San Antonio, Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity Population Estimates, State and All Counties, 2012

Child Population (Age 0-12) by Race/Ethnicity, 2012

Source: Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, University of Texas at San Antonio, Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity Population Estimates, State and All Counties, 2012

Need for Child Care

Children 0-12 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of American Community Survey PUMS data, 2012

Children by Age Group Who Have All Available Parents in the Labor Force for Dallas-Ft Worth MSA and comprising counties: ACS 2012

Geography	Children Under 6 with All Available Parents in the Labor Force					Children 6 to 12 with All Available Parents in the Labor Force				
	Numerator	Std Error of the Estimate	Denominator	Percent	Std Error of the Percent	Numerator	Std Error of the Estimate	Denominator	Percent	Std Error of the Percent
Collin County	44,858	2348.80	71,424	62.8	3.06	62,316	2892.23	92,953	67	2.61
Dallas County	155,468	4814.94	257,648	60.3	1.50	179,137	4548.08	282,572	63.4	1.29
Denton County	37,968	2098.91	61,119	62.1	2.76	47,262	2267.92	75,269	62.8	3.03
Ellis County	8,514	1144.35	13,518	63	7.28	11,061	978.37	18,133	61	5.32
Johnson County	8,818	947.60	13,082	67.4	5.42	12,211	1057.95	16,696	73.1	5.14
Kaufman County	4,968	766.88	9,594	51.8	9.51	7,475	779.99	11,858	63	5.85
Parker County	3,921	724.94	7,251	54.1	9.76	7,480	905.16	12,514	59.8	6.19
Rockwall/ Hunt Counties	8,498	961.88	12,829	66.2	6.29	11,490	1172.60	18,409	62.4	4.71
Tarrant County	100,253	3336.68	170,326	58.9	1.81	135,537	5015.63	206,086	65.8	1.89
Wise County	4,951	692.47	10,483	47.2	6.10	7,922	876.79	14,865	53.3	5.22

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of American Community Survey PUMS data, 2012

Availability of Child Care

Number and Official Capacity of Formal Child Care, 2013

Source for Licensed Centers and Licensed Homes: DFPS Data Book FY 2013, data for August 31, 2013

Source for Registered Homes: DFPS Search for Listed Family Home, http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp, data retrieved December 2013

Source for Listed Homes: DFPS Search for Listed Family Home, https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchListedHome.asp, data retrieved December 2013

Estimated Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE, 2010

Source: Deanna Schexnayder, Cynthia Juniper, Anjali Gupta, Daniel Schroeder, Vanessa Morales, Texas Early Childhood Education Needs Assessment: Supply and Quality of Early Care and Education and School-Age Care, August 2012.

Early Care and Education

Children Age 3-4 in Public Pre-K, 2012-2013

Source: Texas Education Association, Student Enrollment Reports, SY 2012-2013

Children 0-12 in state subsidized child care, 2012

Source: Texas Workforce Commission Information Request, October 2013.

Number of Head Start and Early Head Start slots, 2013

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Program Information Report Download, data downloaded 11/26/2013.

Notes: This number represents the number of Head Start and Early Head Starts slots funded for children and pregnant women at a point in time (11/26/2013) during the program year, rather than the cumulative enrollment for the year. As a result, this number does not reflect demand throughout the year.

Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3), 2011-2012

Source: Kids Count Data Center: Texas, Early Head Start Enrollment (Ages 0-3)

Number of TSR! Schools, 2013-2014

Source: Children's Learning Institute, <http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/tsr-locations/>

Affordability of Child Care

Average family size, 2008-2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States

Single-parent families, 2008-2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B09002: Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Type and Age

Median Household Income, 2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

Poverty, 2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

Child Poverty, 2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

Unemployment, 2012

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE)

Median Daily Market Rate for Full-Time Care in County's LWDA, 2012

Child and Family Research Institute at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, 2012 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey: Final Report, 2012.

SURVEY DESIGN

Survey Design

Texans Care for Children created two versions of the Dallas County Child Care Survey: one online Survey Monkey version and one paper version. The survey indicated that responses were voluntary and confidential, and that all who responded would be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card. The survey description included a paragraph in Spanish indicating how responders could contact Texans Care for Children if they would prefer to be asked questions in Spanish.

The survey included questions regarding the following: type of child care facility, cost of child care, total slots available for certain age ranges, availability of same-day slots for certain ages, child-caregiver ratios, group sizes, schedule type, instances of terminating child care due to a child's behavioral issues, and an open-ended question on desired resources and training.

Survey Distribution

Texans Care for Children used the list of all licensed child care centers, registered child care homes, and licensed child care homes in Dallas County provided through the DFPS Child Care Search database in November 2013. Child care providers with emails registered with DFPS were sent the Survey Monkey survey and follow-up calls were made between December 2013 and February 2014. The remaining providers were sent a paper survey with a pre-paid return envelope. Additionally, partner organizations in the Dallas area were provided with the link to the Survey Monkey survey and encouraged to distribute it to their stakeholders.

Survey Response and Follow Up

Texans Care for Children conducted follow-up calls with providers whose survey responses were unclear. In total, 58 responses from licensed child care providers and 38 responses from family child care homes (28 registered child care homes and 10 licensed child care homes) were analyzed.



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Research and primary authorship:

Alice Bufkin

Contributing writer:

Andrea Brauer

Photography and graphic design:

Liz Moskowitz

Survey support:

Bria Moore

Apryl Rosas

Cecile Zelinsky