

2021 Delaware Local Child Care Market Rate Survey

Final Report

for

*The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services,
Division of Social Services*

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GENERAL FINDINGS

- The daily market prices for full time care at the 75th percentile range from \$30 to \$64.88; part-day school-age prices range from \$15 to \$25.
- At the 75th percentile, the daily market prices for full-time family child care range from \$30 to \$41.25.
- At the 75th percentile, the daily market prices for full-time center care range from \$35 to \$64.88.
- At the 75th percentile, the daily market prices for part-day school-age care in family child care range from \$15 to \$20.
- At the 75th percentile, the daily market prices for part-day school-age care in center care range from \$24.25 to \$25.
- 75th percentile prices in center care are higher than 75th percentile prices in family child care in all market segments.
- Full-time prices, in general, are higher for infant care and lower for preschool-age care. (Only part-day school-age prices were reported.)
- At the 75th percentile, prices in New Castle County are higher than prices in Sussex County and Kent County.
- The 75th percentile FCC state-wide price for odd-hour care is \$14.38/hour.
- In all, 42% of the providers interviewed reported having a child or children diagnosed with special-needs enrolled in their program. The majority of these providers (85%) reported that there were no additional costs to serve these children.
- A majority of the providers reporting private payers (73% of Centers and 53% of Family Child Care providers) had some children enrolled that were subsidized by Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus.
- At the 75th percentile, the overall average price increase among the 24 market segments was 6.3%. This was determined by averaging the price changes, since the 2018 rate study, for infant, toddler, preschool-age and school-age care for all

three counties. For center care, the overall average increase is 7.2%; for FCC care it is 5.4%.

- Sussex and Kent Counties had the largest price increase overall for center care (8.3%), averaging the price changes for infant, toddler, preschool-age and school-age care.
- Sussex County had the largest price increase overall for family child care (9.5%), averaging the price changes of infant, toddler, preschool-age and school-age care.
- The effect of COVID-19 on Center child care markets is as follows. The majority (58%) of centers reported that their tuition prices had not changed due to COVID, while a majority (80%) reported that enrollments had declined due to COVID. Hence, total revenues may have declined for a majority of centers. This likely caused a contraction in the number of providers doing business. The enrollment changes primarily affected Preschool and School Age enrollments for center care.
- The effect of COVID-19 on family child care markets is as follows. The majority (83%) of family child care providers reported that their tuition prices had not changed due to COVID, while a majority (53%) reported that enrollments had declined due to COVID. Hence, total revenues have declined for a majority of family care providers. This likely caused a contraction in the number of providers doing business. The enrollment changes primarily affected Toddler and School Age enrollments for family care.

SYNOPSIS OF RESULTS

Prices are generally higher for center care, for younger children, and in New Castle County. Prices are generally lower for family child care, for older children, and in Sussex County and in Kent County.

OVERVIEW

The goal of the 2021 Delaware Local Child Care Market Rate Survey was to develop statistically credible information of the present market prices charged by providers in Delaware and to provide confidence intervals that indicate the accuracy of the estimated percentiles. “Market prices” are prices providers charge parents for the care of private-paying children. They are prices charged by the providers to unrelated and unaffiliated parents that have not been reduced for special circumstances (e.g., low-income, employees children, etc.).

The Delaware Division of Social Services planned to utilize the information obtained from the survey to inform state decisions regarding reimbursement rates for child care services purchased by the state. Information from the study would help ensure that reimbursement rates allow subsidized low-income children equal access to early education and care. This survey complies with federal requirements of 45 Code of

Federal Regulations for conducting a child care market rate survey (45 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 98 & 99, referring to “Equal Access”).

The Delaware Division of Social Services (the Division) contracted with the consulting firm to undertake this study. The consultants had conducted 11 previous child care rate studies for the Division (from the 1996 market rate study to the 2018 market rate study) and has significant theoretical and field experience with these studies in Delaware and in other states. The consulting group consisted of William Horrace (Ph.D., Economics), Distinguished Professor of Economics, Syracuse University; Christopher Parmeter (Ph.D., Economics), Associate Professor of Economics, University of Miami.

The outline of the report follows. The following section describes the findings of the survey including: estimates of the 75th percentiles of prices by age group and county; full-time and part-day prices; family child care and center prices; provider and purchase prices; odd-hour care and care for children with special needs.

The final 75th percentile price estimates are included in 12 tables. The final tables present: (1) the 75th percentiles of prices, including comparisons of the distribution of prices charged by providers (“provider prices”), (2), the distribution of prices paid by Delaware families (“weighted” or purchase prices), (3) a study of the costs and prices associated with the care of children with special needs, and (4) the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on prices charges and enrollments. This section also provides the estimates of the accuracy of the 75th percentiles of prices reported in the study.

The Appendix includes a description of the methodology used for the Market Rate Survey. This includes the surveys, provider outreach tools, and a description of how the data were analyzed.

Prices Throughout the State

12 tables present the results of the 2021 Child Care Market Rate Study. Table 1, 2, and 3 report the 75th percentile prices for the full-time daily rates for infant, toddler and preschool-age center care and family child care throughout the state. These tables also report the 75th percentile prices for part-day school-age care for children throughout the state. Table 4 presents the 75th percentile for the FCC state-wide hourly rate for odd-hour care. These tables present a 95% confidence interval for provider prices that allow one to assess the accuracy with which the 75th percentiles have been estimated. One can be 95% confident that the 75th percentile lies within these confidence intervals.

Tables 5 through 8 present the findings of the special-needs study. Tables 9 and 10 present the prices for the daily rates for center care and for family child care throughout the state, as well as the prices ‘weighted’ by the number of reported private-paying children in each age category. These are prices paid by private-paying families in Delaware and are considered to be purchase prices. They are different from the prices generally discussed in the report, which are the prices charged by the providers (‘provider prices’). Tables 11 and 12 report survey responses related to the effects of COVID-19 on child care markets.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 contain, for each cell: 1) cell definition; 2) population size N, where known. Since COVID-19 may have affected the supply of child care providers throughout the state in unknown ways, N was taken as unknown for both center and family child care providers, so it was set at infinity. This is a conservative approach that yields wider confidence intervals than if N were known; 3) n = number of price observations utilized to develop the percentiles; 4) the maximum price reported for the cell; 5) the minimum price reported for the cell; 6) the sample 75th percentile price; 7) the standard error of the sample 75th percentile price, from Sheather-Jones bandwidth choice rule and Epanechnikov kernel; 8) kernel-based 95% confidence interval; 9) non-parametric 95% confidence interval, based on the hypergeometric distribution when N is known, and on the binomial distribution when N is not known. The researchers recommend that the parametric (kernel-based) confidence intervals be used when the sample size (n) is greater than or equal to 40 and that the non-parametric intervals be used when the sample size is less than 40.

Full-Time Care

"Full time" care in this study refers to a daily price for a full week, 30 hours or more per week and at least 6 hours per day. Daily prices for full-time care at the 75th percentile are reported for center child care and family child care for infant, toddler and preschool-age children. The study obtained 1,081 full-time prices used to calculate the 75th percentile prices. The range of prices reported by the Delaware providers for full-time care is \$15.40/day to \$90/day. (Note: these are not prices at the 75th percentile.)

Part-Day Care

"Part-day" care for this study refers to care for less than 4 hours per day for school-age children. This can be for 'after-school' care or for 'before-school' care or for 'before & after-school' care. Part-day school-age prices at the 75th percentile are reported for center care and for family child care. The study obtained 158 part-day prices used to calculate the 75th percentiles of school-age prices. The range of part-day prices reported by Delaware providers of school-age care is \$9.50 to \$25. (Note: these are not prices at the 75th percentile.)

The Range of 75th Percentile Prices

The 75th percentiles of prices, including confidence intervals and standard errors, are reported in Tables 1-10 of this report. At the 75th percentiles, results of the study reveal that the market price* for full-time care range from \$30 per day to \$64.88 per day. Thus, full-time prices can vary widely in the state, by over 100% among different segments of the market. The 75th percentiles of prices for part-day school-age care range from \$15 to \$25. (*Prices discussed in this section are unweighted provider prices. 'Weighted' or purchase prices are discussed later in the report.)

The 75th Percentiles of Prices by Age of Child

The 75th percentile of daily market prices of full-time care in centers decreases as the age of the child increases. For example, for center infant care in New Castle, the 75th percentile price is \$64.88 per day, the toddler price is \$56.40 per day and the preschool-age price is \$49 per day. This is also true for family child care: in Kent and Sussex

County (combined): infant care is \$35.00 per day, toddler care is \$31.50 per day, and preschool-age care is \$30.00 per day.

At the 75th percentile, for full-time center care and for full-time family child care, infant care is generally the highest priced care.

Full-Time Center Care in New Castle County

Age Group	75 th Percentile Price
Infant Care	\$64.88 per day
Toddler Care	\$56.40 per day
Preschool Care	\$49.00 per day

School-age Care

For this study, providers reported school-age prices only for part-day care for less than four hours per day. Since the reported prices for these children are for part-day care and for older children, they are the lowest priced care in the study.

At the 75th percentile, part-day school-age care in centers is higher priced than in family child care. For example, Kent County part-day school-age center care is \$24.25 compared to \$15 for part-day school-age family child care.

Part-day* School-age Care at the 75th Percentiles

County	Family Child Care	Center Care
Kent & Sussex	\$15.00	\$24.25
New Castle	\$20.00	\$25.00

* less than 4 hours per day

The 75th Percentiles of Prices by County

Prices vary by geographic region in Delaware. For center and family child care, prices are higher in New Castle County than in Kent County and Sussex County. Prices in New Castle are higher for all of the market segments (type of care and age categories).

For center and family child care, Sussex and Kent cells have been combined at the 75th percentile for infant, toddler, preschool and school-age market segments. This has been done in previous studies to increase the accuracy of estimated 75th percentile prices. New Castle prices are higher than Sussex/Kent prices for all four age categories.

For family child care there is approximately a 38% price difference for full-time care between the lowest priced FCC full-time care at the 75th percentile (\$30) and the highest priced full-time care (\$41.25) at the 75th percentile. For center care, there is about an 85% price difference for full-time care between the lowest priced full-time care at the 75th percentile (\$35.00) and the highest priced full-time care at the 75th percentile (\$64.88).

Selected 75 th Percentile Prices		
Centers	Kent & Sussex	New Castle
Infants	\$43.50	\$64.88
Preschool	\$35.00	\$49.00

FCC	Kent & Sussex	New Castle
Infants	\$35.00	\$41.25
Preschool	\$30.00	\$36.00

Family Child Care Prices

In all, 200 family child-care providers completed the survey. The family child care providers reported 623 prices for private-paying children. This includes 593 prices for full-time care and 30 prices for part-day school-age care.

The FCC respondents reported prices for approximately 2 private-paying children that were attending their program full time (average). For FCC providers who were serving private-paying school-age children, they generally had two such school-age children enrolled part-day (average). The median number of private-paying children enrolled was 4 (full-time and part day), as was the median number of subsidized children.

The vast majority of the prices reported were weekly rates. FCC providers also quoted hourly prices, daily prices, and monthly prices. The researchers used the prices for development of the 75th percentiles of prices. The range of full-time daily prices reported by these providers was \$15 to \$53. The range of part-day school-age prices was \$9.50 to \$33.

The 75th percentile full-time price for Kent County for combined infant, toddler and preschool-age care (ITP) is \$33/day. For Sussex County it is \$30 for combined infant, toddler and preschool age care (ITP). For New Castle it is \$38/day. The 75th percentiles of prices are also reported for full-time family child care by age groupings for each county. At the 75th percentiles, FCC full-time daily prices by age category range from \$30 to \$41.25. Part-day school-age care at the 75th percentile range from \$15 to \$20.

To improve the level of accuracy of FCC 75th percentiles for Kent and Sussex Counties, the data from these counties were combined. These counties had been combined in previous market rate studies. For full-time infant care, the 75th percentile prices range from \$35/day to \$41.25/day, depending upon the county. For full-time toddler care, the 75th percentile prices range from \$31.50 to \$38.00. For full-time preschool-age care, the 75th percentile prices range from \$30 to \$38. For part day school-age care, the 75th percentile prices range from \$15 to \$20.

In general, infant care is the highest priced full-time care and preschool-age care is the lowest priced. New Castle County has the highest priced care for all age categories.

Center Child Care Prices

In all, 284 child-care center and school-age providers completed the survey. These providers reported 488 prices for full-time care. In all, they reported 117 infant prices, 159 toddler prices, 212 preschool-age prices and 128 school-age prices.

The range of enrolled children was 2 to 260. On average, centers had about 59 children enrolled. The median number of enrolled children was 48. On average centers had about 32 private-paying children enrolled at the time of the interview.

Centers generally reported prices for 28 private-paying children enrolled full time (average). For Sussex County, they reported prices for 23 private-paying children enrolled full time (average). New Castle County averaged 17 and Kent County averaged 27 private-paying children enrolled full time. For those centers with school-age children enrolled, they generally reported a price for 10 private-paying school-age children enrolled part-day (average).

The vast majority of these prices were quoted as weekly rates. Center providers also quoted hourly rates, daily rates, monthly rates and school-year rates. The range of full-time daily prices reported by these providers is \$15.40 to \$90. The range of part-day school-age prices reported is \$10 to \$45.

Rates at the 75th Percentile: The 75th percentiles of prices are reported for center care by age category for each county in Delaware. Sussex and Kent center prices have been combined to improve the level of accuracy at the 75th percentile and thus these percentile prices are the same for infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age care. Full-time daily prices at the 75th percentiles range from \$35 to \$64.88, depending on the age category and the county. Thus, the range in price for full-time center care is greater than the range in price for full-time FCC providers. Part-day school-age prices at the 75th percentile range from \$24.25 to \$25, depending upon the county.

For full-time center care, the 75th percentiles for the daily-market prices for infant care range from \$43.50 to \$64.88. For full-time toddler care, the daily prices at the 75th percentiles range from \$40 to \$56.40. For full-time preschool-age care, the daily prices at the 75th percentiles range from \$35 to \$49. New Castle County has the highest priced care at the 75th percentile for all age categories.

The 75th Percentiles of Prices and Types of Care

At the 75th percentiles, the price of care is lower for family child care than for center care for all age categories for each county (see below). For some county/age-categories there is a smaller price difference (Kent & Sussex preschool: FCC is \$30/day, center care is \$35/day.) For other county/age categories the price difference is greater between family child care and center care (New Castle toddlers: FCC \$38/day, Center \$56.40/day).

Daily Rate 75 th Percentiles		
Infant	Centers	FCC
Kent & Sussex	\$43.50	\$35.00
New Castle	\$64.88	\$41.25

Daily Rate 75 th Percentiles		
Toddler	Centers	FCC
Kent & Sussex	\$40.00	\$31.50
New Castle	\$56.40	\$38.00

Daily Rate 75 th Percentiles		
Preschool	Centers	FCC
Kent & Sussex	\$35.00	\$30.00
New Castle	\$49.00	\$36.00

Daily Rate 75 th Percentiles		
School Age**	Centers	FCC
Kent & Sussex	\$24.25	\$15.00
New Castle	\$25.00	\$20.00

** part-day

Comparing the FCC results with the center results, it is apparent that the prices for family child care are lower and less variable than prices for center care. The greatest overall difference between FCC prices and center prices at the 75th percentile occurs in New Castle County. The range in New Castle County price differences, between FCC prices and center prices at the 75th percentile, is 25% to 57% depending upon the age category.

Prices Paid by Delaware’s Families (Purchase Prices)

The Delaware 2021 Local Child Care Market Rate Study provides a snapshot of what providers are charging at the 75th percentiles and the price at which parents are purchasing their child care services. ‘Weighted’ prices reflect actual child care purchases being made by families in Delaware. To obtain these prices, the researchers weighted the 75th percentile prices by the number of private-paying children reported for each age category. These prices are referred to as ‘weighted’ prices and reflect all market transactions by private-paying parents.

Up to this point, the prices generally discussed in this report have been prices charged by the providers for the private-paying children in their care. Weighted prices are reported separately. Throughout this study, consultants planned and implemented the research methodology to estimate provider prices and weighted prices. This report concentrates on the standard 75th percentiles of provider prices, but also presents the estimates of the 75th percentiles of weighted prices. All prices referenced in this report are provider prices unless specified as ‘weighted’ prices or ‘purchase’ prices.

Calculation of Per Provider Prices

To calculate the ‘per provider’ price, consider an example of full-time toddler care in centers. Each center respondent who has at least one full-time private-paying toddler enrolled reports their rate for full-time private-paying toddlers. Thus any sample provider who has any number of private-paying toddlers enrolled full-time reports one full-time toddler rate. All of the respondent providers who report a price for this toddler care have their price counted once in determining the toddler 75th percentile ‘provider’ price (the price charged). A provider with two private-paying toddlers enrolled full time is given as much emphasis as a provider with 14 private-paying toddlers enrolled full time. Each of these providers has their full-time toddler rate counted once in determining the 75th percentile (provider) price, since the researchers are determining what a provider is charging.

Calculation of Weighted Prices (Purchase Prices)

Another way to look at prices is to weight ‘provider price’ by the number of private-paying toddlers enrolled at the time of the interview. So, to determine the weighted prices, a provider with two private-paying toddlers enrolled full time actually has their price for this toddler care counted twice (weighted by their number of private-paying toddlers enrolled full time) and a provider who has 14 private-paying toddlers enrolled full time has their price counted 14 times (weighted by their number of full-time private-paying toddlers). Using weighted prices allows one to estimate the prices at which private-paying parents are actually purchasing the care. If the weighted prices are higher, this tells one that the private-paying parents are purchasing more care from the programs charging above the 75th percentile provider prices (more private-paying children are enrolled in the higher priced programs) and/or that the larger providers are charging above the 75th percentiles of provider prices.

Purchase Prices for the 2021 Study

Overall, the weighted or purchase prices are higher than provider prices by an average of 2% (averaging all 24 market segments in the study). The purchase prices for family child care are less than provider prices on average, and they are less than or equal to the provider prices for 9 of the 12 center market segments. The remaining family care markets have purchase prices higher than the provider prices. The purchase prices for center child care are greater than provider prices on average, and they are greater than or equal to the provider prices for 9 of the 12 center market segments. The remaining markets have purchase prices less than the provider prices.

75 th Percentile Prices		
FCC	Per Provider Prices	Weighted Prices
Kent and Sussex Infants	\$35.00	\$31.00
New Castle Preschool	\$36.00	\$39.00

Centers	Per Provider Prices	Weighted Price
New Castle Toddlers	\$56.40	\$63.60
Kent & Sussex School Age	\$ 24.25	\$24.00

Odd-Hour Care

The Division requested the researchers report 75th percentiles of prices for odd-hour care. Odd-hour care includes evening care, overnight care and weekend care, for example:

Evening care: Care during any evening hours, for example from 8pm to 11pm.

Overnight care: Care for any overnight hours, for example 11pm to 6am.

Weekend care: Saturday care, Sunday care, or Saturday through Sunday care.

As part of the survey, providers were asked if they had provided odd-hour care within the past month for any private-paying child and received a payment for that care. FCC providers reported 6 prices for types of odd-hour care. The most frequently reported odd-hour care was evening care. No overnight-care prices were reported. This was not sufficient to allow for development of price percentiles for all three categories of odd-hour care. It also was not sufficient to allow for development of prices by county. Instead, the researchers developed an FCC state-wide 75th percentile of price for one category: "odd-hour" care. Since only one center providers reported offering odd-hour care, no odd-hour 75th percentile prices are reported for center/school-age care. The state-wide 75th percentile of prices for FCC odd-hour care is \$14.38/hour. The range of odd-hour prices reported is \$3 per hour to \$25 per hour.

Odd-Hour Care		
	75 th Percentile	Price Range
State-wide	\$14.38/hour	\$3-\$25/ hour

Care for Children with Special Needs

As part of the survey, providers were asked:

Are you presently serving any child with special needs in your program, private paying or state subsidized? For this survey, "special needs" means a child from infancy through 18 years of age who is diagnosed with physical, emotional, or developmental needs requiring special care." [PROBE: "any" child with special needs can be private paying or state-subsidized child, and can be full time or part time."]

In all, 42% of providers completing the survey indicated that they were serving a child or children with special-needs in their program. Of the center providers, 62% reported that they were serving a child or children diagnosed with special needs. For family child care providers, only 17% reported that they were currently providing services to a child diagnosed with special needs.

Additional Costs of Serving Children with Special Needs

The survey asked the providers about any additional costs for serving children that had been diagnosed with special needs. Because of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA), providers in general cannot charge higher prices for children with special needs.

Although providers could not charge higher prices, the Division wanted to know if it actually costs the providers more to serve these children. Providers who reported that they did have a child or children diagnosed with special needs in their program were asked:

Are there any additional costs to you for serving this child or children with special needs? [PROBE: Does it cost you more to have the child or children diagnosed with special needs in your program than to have the other children in your program?]

In all, 85% of the providers in the study who reported serving a child or children with special needs also reported that there were no additional costs incurred to serve these children. Of providers who answered this question, 74% of the FCC providers and 88% of the center providers reported that there were no additional costs to serve children with special needs. Thus, the vast majority of providers who were serving children with special needs stated that there were no additional costs for them to serve these children.

A total of 6% (28) of providers who were serving children with special needs reported that there were additional costs to have these children in their program. The average additional cost for Centers was 15%, while that for FCC was 8%. Tables 5 & 6 report the breakdown of providers responding to these questions.

Pricing Differential Analysis

The Division requested that the researchers also conduct a differential analysis to determine if providers who were serving children with special needs charged higher prices overall than providers who had no children enrolled with special needs. Because of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA), providers in general cannot charge higher prices for children with special needs. They can, however, charge higher prices to all of the children enrolled to off-set any higher costs for serving these children with special needs, or they can absorb the higher costs themselves if they do occur.

To determine this, the researchers compared the prices charged by providers who had children with special needs enrolled, in relation to the prices charged by providers who had no children enrolled with special needs. Therefore, the researchers sought to determine whether a price differential existed between the following two categories of providers:

Providers serving children that had been diagnosed with special needs and serving children that had not been diagnosed with special needs. (SNC)

Providers who had no children enrolled that had been diagnosed with special needs (RC)

To determine if a statistically significant price difference existed between these two categories of providers, the researchers calculated the 75th percentile of prices, by cell, of these two groups (SNC, RC). If a statistically significant difference in price did exist, this

would support the hypothesis that SNC providers were passing along (possible) additional costs for serving children with special needs to all of the children in their program. The researchers utilized the information collected from all of the providers to conduct this analysis.

In determining a pricing differential, the researchers were not only interested in calculating a price differential but also determining whether or not the reported differential was significantly different from zero (was the difference statistically significant). To do this, the researchers needed to derive 75th percentile prices, standard errors and confidence intervals for providers serving children with special needs (SNC) and for providers who had no children enrolled that had been diagnosed with special needs (RC). The prices provided the numerical basis for the differential while the standard errors allowed the consultants to consider if the differentials are meaningful in a statistical sense.

For the 2021 study, the researchers developed two sets of differentials: (1) one for full-time care (infant, toddler, and preschool care), and (2) one for part-day care (school-age care). The 75th percentiles of prices were reported for the following 20 cells: (1) New Castle ITP (SNC) center, (2) New Castle ITP (RC) center, (3) Kent & Sussex ITP (SNC) center, (4) Kent & Sussex ITP (RC) center, (5) New Castle SA (SNC) center, (6) New Castle SA (RC) center, (7) Kent & Sussex SA (SNC) center, (8) Kent & Sussex SA (RC) center, (9) Kent & Sussex ITP (SNC) family child care, (10) Kent & Sussex ITP (RC) family child care, (11) New Castle ITP (SNC) family child care, (12) New Castle ITP (RC) family child care, (13) Kent & Sussex SA (SNC) family child care, (14) Kent & Sussex SA (RC) family child care, (15) New Castle SA (SNC) family child care, (16) New Castle SA (RC) family child care. (ITP = infant, toddler, and preschool full-time care; SA = part-day school-age care. SNC = providers serving a child/children diagnosed with special needs as well as children who had not been diagnosed with special needs. RC = no children enrolled who had been diagnosed with special needs.)

Results of the Differential Analysis

The results of this analysis are presented in Tables 7 and 8. There is generally no statistically significant difference in prices between providers who serve children with special needs (SNC) and those who do not (RC). More specifically, the asymptotically normal test statistic indicates that the SNC differential is generally statistically insignificant (95% level). The exception is New Castle, ITP, family child care which had a significant differential of \$6.25 between Regular Care (\$37/day) and Special Needs Care (\$43.25/day), but this is likely due to sampling variability.

Special needs findings: Thus the vast majority of providers who had children with special needs enrolled reported that there were no additional costs to have these children in their program. In addition, the differential analysis did not generally support the hypothesis that providers who had children enrolled with special needs were passing along possible higher costs to their total enrollment of children.

Change in Prices Since the 2018 Market Rate Study

To identify price trends, 2021 prices are compared with 2018 prices as reported in the 2018 Local Child Care Market Rate Study. Percentage changes quoted in this section are for the period between 2018 and 2021. They are not percentage changes on an annual basis. All changes in prices noted are prices at the 75th percentile.

The 2021 prices for child care in Delaware have increased for all market segments since the last rate study in 2018. The only exception is Kent and Sussex Preschool care in centers where the 75th percentile price dropped from \$36 per day in 2018 to \$35 per day in 2021 (but this is likely due to sampling variability). In both the 2021 and the 2018 study there were 24 market segments or cells. Examples of a market segment include New Castle Center toddler care and Sussex FCC infant care.

Overall, there has been a 6.3% increase in prices since 2018 (averaging the change in prices of all 24 market segments).

Center Change in Prices

For center care overall there has been a 7.2% average increase in price at the 75th percentile since the 2018 study (averaging the change in all 12 center cells). This was primarily driven by larger average price increases in Kent & Sussex counties (8.3%) than in New Castle county (5.2%).

FCC Change in Prices

Overall, there was a 5.4% average increase in prices at the 75th percentile since 2018 (averaging the change in all 12 FCC cells). Again, this was primarily driven by larger average price increases in Kent (4%) and Sussex (9.5%) counties than in New Castle county (2.5%).

Observations of time: The overall average price increase among the 24 market segments, between 2018 and 2021, is 6.4%. The overall average price increase among the 24 market segments, between 2015 and 2018, is 10.6%. The overall average price increase among the 24 market segments, between 2013 and 2015, was 7%.

The Impact of POC and POC Plus on the Child Care Market

As part of the study, the survey asked providers to report the number of children enrolled at their site at the time of the interview. They were next asked if they had any children enrolled that were subsidized through Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus. For those that replied “yes”, they were asked how many of their enrolled children were subsidized by either Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus.

In reviewing the information provided by these questions, it becomes apparent that the state-subsidized program has a major impact on the child care market in Delaware. A majority of the providers interviewed (73% of centers and 53% of Family Child Care providers) had some children enrolled that were subsidized by Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus.

Centers: The range of children enrolled at centers was 2 to 260 children. The average enrollment was 59 children. The median number of enrolled children was 48. Among providers that had subsidized children enrolled, the range of subsidized children was 1 to 230 children. The average number of subsidized children enrolled in center programs was 33. The average number of subsidized children in center programs by county was: Kent (32), New Castle (36), and Sussex (24).

Family Child Care: The range of children enrolled by the FCC providers was 1 to 27. Approximately one third of the 200 FCC respondents (38%) had a subsidized child or children enrolled at the time of the interview. Among providers that had subsidized children enrolled, the range of subsidized children was 1 to 22. The median enrollment of the FCC providers was 5 children (full-time and part-day). For FCC provider with some number of subsidized children enrolled, the median number of subsidized children was 4; by county it was: Kent (4), New Castle (3), and Sussex (5).

The Effects of COVID-19 on the Study

The goal of the 2021 Local Child Care Market Rate Study was to perform a census of approximately 1000 licensed providers in the state. This is in contrast to previous studies where we designed a stratified sample of 50% the providers in the state (about 500 providers). Unfortunately, the onset of COVID-19 seems to have had a detrimental affect on the supply and demand of child care throughout the state (see Tables 11 and 12). Ultimately the researchers were only able to make contact with about 70% of licensed providers statewide. Of these, only 447 providers completed the survey. Reasons for not completing the survey included: not serving children in the last month (a sign of decreased demand), serving only subsidized children (disqualified for no private payers), or too busy to complete the survey. In fact, a handful of providers discussed how COVID-19 had made it difficult to conduct business while keeping all employees and children safe from the virus. A few providers were angered at our attempts to conduct the survey and the associated outreach performed by the state.

Results of the Covid-19 questions are in Tables 11 and 12 and suggest that demand for child care dropped throughout the state with the onset of the pandemic. This is reflected in the fact that the majority of providers reported decreased enrollments. However, most providers also reported that the pandemic did not caused them to change tuition prices. The implication is that the pandemic caused total child care revenues to decreasing, causing some providers to leave the market by closing down or postponing business activities.

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 1. Family Child Care Daily Rates - 75%ile and Confidence Intervals

							Parametric	Non-Parametric
Region	N	n	Max	Min	75%ile	Std Err	Conf. Int.	Conf. Int.
K, ITP	**	49	37.00	23.00	33.00	1.5503	[29.96, 36.04]	[30.00, 36.00]
NC, ITP	**	193	53.00	18.00	38.00	0.6303	[36.76, 39.24]	[37.00, 40.00]
S, ITP	**	84	45.00	15.00	30.00	0.7330	[28.56, 31.44]	[29.00, 32.00]

Table 2. Family Child Care Daily Rates Per Age - 75%ile & Confidence Intervals

								Parametric	Non-Parametric
Region	Type	N	n	Max	Min	75%ile	Std Err	Conf. Int.	Conf. Int.
K&S	I	**	19	45.00	24.00	35.00	2.2307	[30.63, 39.37]	[30.00, 45.00]
K&S	T	**	49	38.00	17.00	31.50	1.7280	[28.11, 34.89]	[30.00, 36.00]
K&S	PS	**	65	45.00	15.00	30.00	0.7365	[28.56, 31.44]	[28.00, 32.00]
K&S	SA	**	18	25.00	9.50	15.00	1.0341	[12.97, 17.03]	[13.00, 25.00]
NC	I	**	27	53.00	18.00	41.25	2.4985	[36.35, 46.15]	[38.00, 50.00]
NC	T	**	86	50.00	20.00	38.00	0.8714	[36.29, 39.71]	[36.00, 40.00]
NC	PS	**	80	50.00	18.00	36.00	0.9379	[34.16, 37.84]	[35.00, 40.00]
NC	SA	**	12	33.00	12.00	20.00	1.6196	[16.83, 23.17]	[18.00, ***]
S&K	I	**	19	45.00	24.00	35.00	2.2307	[30.63, 39.37]	[30.00, 45.00]
S&K	T	**	49	38.00	17.00	31.50	1.7280	[28.11, 34.89]	[30.00, 36.00]
S&K	PS	**	65	45.00	15.00	30.00	0.7365	[28.56, 31.44]	[28.00, 32.00]
S&K	SA	**	18	25.00	9.50	15.00	1.0341	[12.97, 17.03]	[13.00, 25.00]

Prices are daily, full time rates except for School age (SA) which is part-day care (less than 4 hours per day). 75%ile = 75th Percentile.

** N = Population size treated as unknown. n = number of prices, based on the median price per age category. We recommend use of non-parametric confidence intervals for n < 40, and the use of the parametric confidence intervals based on standard errors for n ≥ 40.

Tables contain only prices for private paying children (no Purchase of Care prices or Purchase of Care Plus prices).

K = Kent County, NC = New Castle County, S = Sussex County.

I = Infant Family Child Care, T = Toddler Family Child Care, PS = Preschool Family Child Care, SA = School age Family Child Care. ITP = Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Child Care.

K&S = S&K: Kent & Sussex cells are combined in Table 2 to improve their level of accuracy (standard errors).

*** Non-parametric bound undefined. 97.5% lower bound provided.

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 3. Child Care Centers Daily Rates - 75%ile and Confidence Intervals

Region	Type	N	n	Max	Min	75%ile	Std Err	Parametric Conf. Int.	Non-Parametric Conf. Int.
K&S	I	**	42	63.33	18.00	43.50	1.3932	[40.77, 46.23]	[42.00, 50.00]
K&S	T	**	56	56.00	27.00	40.00	1.9809	[36.12, 43.88]	[36.00, 43.00]
K&S	PS	**	75	56.00	15.40	35.00	1.2755	[32.50, 37.50]	[33.00, 39.00]
K&S	SA	**	47	45.00	10.00	24.25	1.7189	[20.88, 27.62]	[20.00, 26.00]
NC	I	**	75	90.00	33.00	64.88	2.9211	[59.15, 70.60]	[58.80, 69.42]
NC	T	**	103	88.67	24.00	56.40	2.8300	[50.85, 61.95]	[50.40, 64.15]
NC	PS	**	137	88.67	19.62	49.00	1.8682	[45.34, 52.66]	[46.00, 54.80]
NC	SA	**	80	38.00	10.00	25.00	0.9989	[23.04, 26.96]	[24.00, 30.20]
S&K	I	**	42	63.33	18.00	43.50	1.3932	[40.77, 46.23]	[42.00, 50.00]
S&K	T	**	56	56.00	27.00	40.00	1.9809	[36.12, 43.88]	[36.00, 43.00]
S&K	PS	**	75	56.00	15.40	35.00	1.2755	[32.50, 37.50]	[33.00, 39.00]
S&K	SA	**	47	45.00	10.00	24.25	1.7189	[20.88, 27.62]	[20.00, 26.00]

Prices are daily, full time rates except for School age (SA) which is part-day care (less than 4 hours per day).

Tables contain only prices for private paying children (no Purchase of Care prices or Purchase of Care Plus prices).

** N = Population size treated as unknown.

n = number of prices obtained from survey respondents.

We recommend the use of non-parametric confidence intervals for $n < 40$, and the use of the parametric confidence intervals based on standard errors for $n \geq 40$.

I = Infant Child Care Centers, T = Toddler Child Care Centers, PS = Preschool Child Care Centers, SA = School-age Child Care Centers.

K = Kent County, NC = New Castle County, S = Sussex County.

K&S = S&K: Kent & Sussex cells are combined in Table 3 to improve their level of accuracy (standard errors).

75%ile = 75th Percentile

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

**Table 4. Family Child Care Odd-Hour Care Hourly Rates
- 75%ile and Confidence Intervals**

							Parametric	Non-Parametric
Region	N	n	Max	Min	75%ile	Std Err	Conf. Int.	Conf. Int.
State	**	6	25.00	3.00	14.38	9.2358	[-3.73, 32.48]	[3.30, ***]

Prices are hourly rates

Table contains only prices for private paying children (no Purchase of Care prices or Purchase of Care Plus prices).

** N = Population size treated as unknown.

*** Non-parametric upper bound undefined. 97.5% lower bound provided.

n = number of prices obtained from survey respondents. The sample size is too small for credible inference.

We recommend use of non-parametric confidence intervals for $n < 40$, and the use of the parametric confidence intervals based on standard errors for $n \geq 40$.

There were insufficient center odd-hour care prices reported to determine a 75th percentile, so all observations are for odd-hour care reported by family child care providers.

State = Entire State of Delaware.

75%ile = 75th Percentile

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 5. Centers, Special Needs Care, and Costs by County

Cell	Number of Providers Responding To Survey Question	Number of SNC Providers	Are there any additional costs to you in caring for these children with SN?		Average Higher Cost of SNC (Estimated)
			No	Yes	
K, CTR	40	26 (65%)	26 (100%)	0 (0%)	--
NC, CTR	161	98 (61%)	84 (85%)	14 (14%)	14%
S, CTR	46	28 (61%)	23 (82%)	5 (18%)	14%
Total, CTR	247	152 (62%)	133 (88%)	19 (12%)	14%

Table 6. Family Child Care, Special Needs Care, and Costs by County

Cell	Number of Providers Responding To Survey Question	Number of SNC Providers	Are there any additional costs to you in caring for these children with SN?		Average Higher Cost of SNC (Estimated)
			No	Yes	
K, FCC	27	4 (15%)	4 (100%)	0 (0%)	--
NC, FCC	123	16 (13%)	10 (62%)	6 (38%)	6%
S, FCC	50	14 (28%)	11 (79%)	3 (21%)	12%
Total, FCC	200	34 (17%)	25 (74%)	9 (26%)	8%

K = Kent County, NC = New Castle County, S = Sussex County.
 FCC = Family Child Care, CTR = Child Care Centers.

SNC = special needs care. SN = special needs

Special Needs Care (SNC) providers = Answered "yes" to serving children with special needs. Note: Some providers did not respond to the special needs questions.

Note: A small numbers of providers may not respond to the question "Are there any additional costs to you in caring for these children with SN (special needs)." Therefore, the sum of respondents answering "Yes" and "No" may not equal the entry in the "Number of SNC Providers" column in the tables.

Average Higher Cost of SNC (Estimated) = providers who reported serving children with special needs and who reported that it did cost their program more to serve these children. These providers then estimated their percentage of a higher cost for serving these children.

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 7. Special Needs Care - 75%ile and Confidence Intervals

Cell	Type	N	n	Max	Min	75%ile	Std Err	Parametric Conf. Int.	Non-Parametric Conf. Int.
K&S, ITP, SNC	CTR	**	112	63.33	15.40	40.00	1.0583	[37.93, 42.07]	[38.00, 42.00]
K&S, ITP, RC	CTR	**	60	60.00	21.00	40.00	1.4487	[37.16, 42.84]	[37.00, 43.00]
NC, ITP, SNC	CTR	**	198	90.00	19.62	55.69	1.5984	[52.56, 58.82]	[53.00, 60.00]
NC, ITP, RC	CTR	**	117	88.67	22.73	55.84	2.3863	[51.17, 60.52]	[50.40, 64.00]
K&S, SA, SNC	CTR	**	33	34.00	11.00	24.00	1.5761	[20.91, 27.09]	[18.00, 26.00]
K&S, SA, RC	CTR	**	13	37.50	10.00	20.00	2.4504	[15.20, 24.80]	[16.29, 37.50]
NC, SA, SNC	CTR	**	53	37.00	12.00	25.00	1.0923	[22.86, 27.14]	[24.00, 32.00]
NC, SA, RC	CTR	**	27	38.00	10.00	24.50	2.0322	[20.52, 28.48]	[22.00, 31.00]
K&S, ITP, SNC	FCC	**	27	38.00	18.00	30.25	1.3752	[27.55, 32.95]	[29.00, 36.00]
K&S, ITP, RC	FCC	**	102	45.00	15.00	30.00	0.1993	[29.61, 30.39]	[30.00, 33.00]
NC, ITP, SNC	FCC	**	25	50.00	20.00	43.25	2.1311	[39.07, 47.43]	[40.00, 50.00]
NC, ITP, RC	FCC	**	168	53.00	18.00	37.00	0.6332	[35.76, 38.24]	[36.00, 39.00]
K&S, SA, SNC	FCC	**	5	22.00	10.00	15.25	2.7505	[9.86, 20.64]	[12.00, ***]
K&S, SA, RC	FCC	**	13	25.00	9.50	14.75	1.0455	[12.70, 16.80]	[13.00, 25.00]
NC, SA, SNC	FCC	**	2	24.00	12.00	18.00	****	****	****
NC, SA, RC	FCC	**	10	33.00	12.00	20.00	1.4623	[17.13, 22.87]	[18.00, ***]

** Population size treated as unknown.

*** Non-parametric upper bound undefined. 97.5% lower bound provided.

**** Sample size (n) too small for credible inference.

Prices are daily, full time rates except for School age (SA), which is part day care (less than 4 hours per day). Tables contain only prices for private-paying children (no Purchase of Care prices or Purchase of Care Plus prices).

K = Kent County, NC = New Castle County, S = Sussex County, SNC = Special Needs Care, RC = Regular Care, FCC = Family Child Care, CTR = Center Child Care.
ITP = Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Child Care. SA = School-Age Child Care.

Special Needs Care program = Answered "yes" to having children with special needs enrolled. Regular Care program = Answered "no" to children with special needs enrolled.

We recommend use of non-parametric confidence intervals for $n < 40$, and the use of the parametric confidence intervals based on standard errors for $n \geq 40$.

K&S = combined cells.

Note: A small numbers of providers did not respond to the special needs questions. Therefore, the countywide totals here may not equal the countywide totals reported elsewhere in this report.

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 8. Special Needs Care Differentials and Conversion Factors

Cell Definition	SNC Differential	SNC Conversion Factor *	Statistically Significant? ***
K&S, ITP, CTR	0.00	1.000	N
NC, ITP, CTR	-0.15	0.9973	N
K&S, SA, CTR	4.00	1.2000	N
NC, SA, CTR	0.50	1.0204	N
K&S, ITP, FCC	0.25	1.0083	N
NC, ITP, FCC	6.25	1.1689	Y
K&S, SA, FCC	0.50	1.0339	N
NC, SA, FCC	-2.00	0.9000	N

* SNC differential is SNC price minus RC price. SNC conversion is SNC price divided by RC price. To convert RC prices to SNC prices, multiply RC price by the conversion factor.

*** Asymptotically normal test statistics (95% level) indicate that the SNC differential is always insignificant except for Family Child Care in New Castle county for Infants, Toddlers, or Preschoolers.

K = Kent County, NC = New Castle County, S = Sussex County

SNC = Special Needs Care, RC = Regular Care

FCC = Family Child Care, CTR = Center Child Care

ITP = Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Child Care; SA = School Age Child Care

Special Needs Care program = Answered "yes" to having children with special needs enrolled. Regular Care program = Answered "no" to children with special needs enrolled.

Note: Some providers did not respond to the special needs questions.

K&S = combined cells.

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 9. Family Child Care - Per Provider and Weighted 75%ile Prices

		Per Provider	Weighted*
Region	Type	75%ile	75%ile
K&S	I	35.00	31.00
K&S	T	31.50	31.00
K&S	PS	30.00	30.00
K&S	SA	15.00	15.00
NC	I	41.25	39.00
NC	T	38.00	39.00
NC	PS	36.00	39.00
NC	SA	20.00	22.00
S&K	I	35.00	31.00
S&K	T	31.50	31.00
S&K	PS	30.00	30.00
S&K	SA	15.00	15.00

Table 10. Child Care Centers - Per Provider and Weighted 75%ile Prices

		Per Provider	Weighted*
Region	Type	75%ile	75%ile
K&S	I	43.50	46.80
K&S	T	40.00	41.00
K&S	PS	35.00	39.00
K&S	SA	24.25	24.00
NC	I	64.88	68.20
NC	T	56.40	63.60
NC	PS	49.00	54.80
NC	SA	25.00	24.00
S&K	I	43.50	46.80
S&K	T	40.00	41.00
S&K	PS	35.00	39.00
S&K	SA	24.25	24.00

* Weighted by the number of private-paying children in the cell. Weighted prices are considered to be *purchase prices* of private-paying families in Delaware. Provider prices are considered to be the *prices charged* by the Delaware providers.

Infant, toddler and preschool-age prices are for full-time care, for 30 hours or more per week and at least 6 hours per day. School-age are prices for part-day care, for less than 4 hours per day.

K&S; S&K = combined cells.

75%ile = 75th Percentile

Delaware 2021 Child Care Rate Study

Table 11. Child Care Centers - Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic.

County	Number of Respondents	COVID Prices		COVID Enrollments		Age Group with Largest Enrollment Change			
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Kent	40	7 (18%)	2 (5%)	3 (8%)	34 (85%)	3 (9%)	5 (15%)	10 (29%)	16 (47%)
New Castle	161	24 (15%)	4 (2%)	4 (2%)	132 (82%)	24 (18%)	18 (14%)	47 (36%)	43 (33%)
Sussex	46	5 (11%)	0 (0%)	4 (9%)	32 (70%)	2 (6%)	5 (16%)	7 (22%)	18 (56%)
Total	247	36 (15%)	6 (2%)	11 (4%)	198 (80%)	29 (15%)	28 (14%)	64 (32%)	77 (39%)

COVID Prices – Answers the question, since the pandemic began have your tuition prices increased, decreased or stayed the same?

COVID Enrollments – Answers the question, since the pandemic began have your enrollments increased, decreased or stayed the same?

Age Group with Largest Enrollment Change – Answers the question, since the pandemic which age group has seen the largest change in enrollments?

Numbers are respondent counts along with their percentages where applicable.

Table 12. Family Child Care- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic.

County	Number of Respondents	COVID Prices		COVID Enrollments		Age Group with Largest Enrollment Change			
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Kent	27	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	15 (56%)	2 (13%)	5 (33%)	3 (20%)	5 (33%)
New Castle	123	14 (11%)	10 (8%)	6 (5%)	76 (62%)	4 (5%)	32 (42%)	20 (26%)	20 (26%)
Sussex	50	3 (6%)	3 (6%)	5 (10%)	24 (48%)	1 (4%)	5 (21%)	5 (21%)	13 (54%)
Total	200	18 (9%)	14 (7%)	11 (6%)	115 (58%)	7 (6%)	42 (37%)	28 (24%)	38 (33%)

COVID Prices – Answers the question, since the pandemic began have your tuition prices increased, decreased or stayed the same?

COVID Enrollments – Answers the question, since the pandemic began have your enrollments increased, decreased or stayed the same?

Age Group with Largest Enrollment Change – Answers the question, since the pandemic which age group has seen the largest change in enrollments?

Numbers are respondent counts along with their percentages where applicable.

Appendix

Methods for the 2021 Delaware Market Rate Study

The aim of the project is to estimate the 75th percentile of child care prices for each of a set of populations, and to provide confidence intervals that indicate the uncertainty associated with these estimated percentiles. The populations are defined by a region (e.g., Sussex County), a type of care (e.g., family child care) and an age grouping (e.g., toddlers). This document will refer to the populations as *cells*.

The 75th Percentile, Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

Suppose that the population size in cell i ($i = 1, \dots, 24$) is N_i , and one obtains data on a simple random sample (drawn without replacement) of size $n_i \leq N_i$. Calculating the 75th percentile (75thile) is a straight-forward exercise in ranking the data in each cell and selecting the price observation that lies 75% of the way up from the lowest price in the rank statistic. When the 75thile falls between two price observations, standard practice is to take an average of the two price observations, where the average is weighted based on the fractional portion of $0.75n_i$. For example, if $n_i = 42$, then $0.75n_i = 31.5$ and the fractional portion is 0.5, so the 75thile price is halfway between the 31st and 32nd prices (in rank order).

All the difficulty is in calculating the standard error of the percentile, which is a measure of the uncertainty of the 7th percentile estimate and a function of the square of the population price density at the 75thile in the cell. This density may be estimated with standard kernel density estimation techniques using the data in each cell i .¹ Suppose that f_{75i} is our estimate of the population density in cell i evaluated at the 75th percentile. A standard formula gives the variance of the estimated 75th percentile (or *sampling variance*) in the cell as:

$$\sigma_{75i}^2 = \{(0.75)(0.25)/[n_i(f_{75i})^2]\}[1-n_i/N_i].$$

Since the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused licensed providers to permanently or temporarily suspend services, we cannot know *ex ante* the value of N_i in each cell. That is, we only collect prices from child care providers that are currently serving children. Therefore, we treat N_i as infinite and the formula for the sampling variance becomes:

¹ For this study we used the Epanechnikov kernel and the Sheather-Jones plug-in method to calculate the optimal bandwidth in each cell.

$$\sigma_{75i}^2 = \{(0.75)(0.25)/[n_i(f_{75i})^2]\},$$

and the standard error for the purpose of constructing confidence intervals is simply the square-root of σ_{75i}^2 . Standard errors and their *parametric* confidence intervals are reported in the tables in the final report. We also calculated non-parametric confidence intervals based on the binomial distribution. Details on how to construct non-parametric confidence intervals can be found in Horrace et al. (1998).² Non-parametric confidence intervals are the preferred method of quantifying uncertainty when $n_i < 40$.

Outliers

While the beauty of a percentile estimate is that it is robust to exceptionally high or low prices (outliers), for practical purposes it is useful to identify price observations that are outliers. Outliers during a survey can occur for a variety of reasons (e.g., reporting errors or coding errors), and it is standard practice to delete them. Doing so often has no effect on the 75th percentile price. Since we are determining outliers for prices (which must be positive), we set the lower bound for outliers in and sell to those below \$10 per day (full-time or part-day care). There were no prices that were below \$10 in the study. The formula for determining the upper bound for outliers in cell i is:

$$\text{Upper bound} = \text{Median}_j(p_{ji}) + 10 \times \text{Median}_s\{|\text{Median}_j(p_{ji}) - p_{ji}|_s\},$$

where Median_j is the median operator over prices p_{ji} in cell i and $|\cdot|$ is the absolute value operator. That is, we delete prices that are above the median plus 10 times the median of the absolute deviation from the cell median. For this study we identified two such outliers for school age part-day pricing. In Kent centers, there was a \$45 school age price that was initially identified as an outlier, but it ultimately was not deleted when the cell was combined with the Sussex centers school age cell in Table 3. The other outlier was a New Castle center school age price of \$88.36 per part-day, calculated as \$19,438 per school year at 220 days per year. This was the only outlier removed from the data in the entire study.

² Horrace WC, P Schmidt, AD Witte (1998). Sampling errors and confidence intervals for order statistics: Implementing the family support act and welfare reform. *Journal of Economic & Social Measurement*, 24, 181-207.

Examples of Empirical Price Distributions

We provide results for child care center infant and toddler care in New Castle county and in Kent and Sussex counties (combined). For Kent and Sussex counties infant and toddlers, we present the actual ranked data, identifying the 75thile price in **red**. For New Castle county infant and toddlers, we present kernel density plots using Sheather-Jones plug-in and the Epanechnikov kernel.

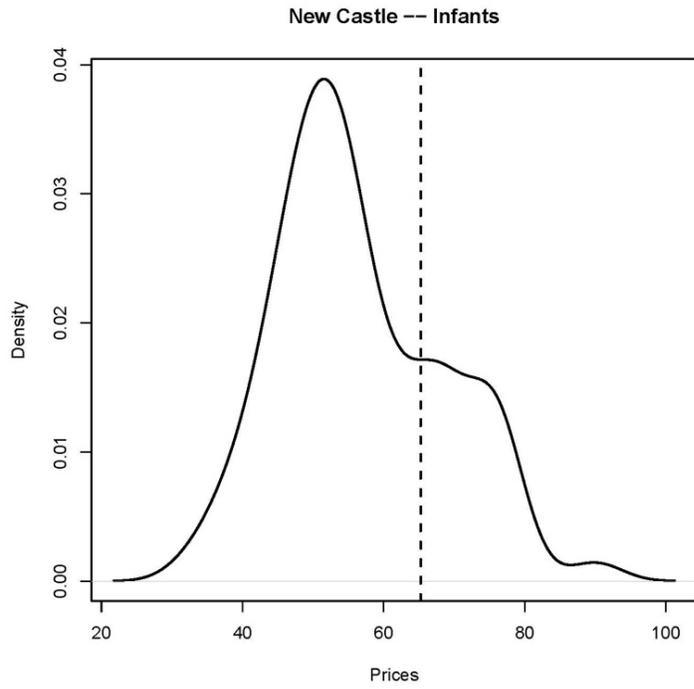
Centers, Kent & Sussex, Infants (n = 42, 75thile = \$43.50 between the 31st and 32nd prices)

\$18.00, \$30.00, \$33.00, \$34.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$35.55, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$37.00, \$37.40, \$38.00, \$38.00, \$38.00, \$38.00, \$39.00, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$42.00, \$42.00, \$42.00, \$42.00, \$43.00, \$43.00, **\$43.00, \$44.00**, \$44.00, \$45.00, \$46.80, \$47.00, \$49.60, \$50.00, \$50.00, \$52.80, \$60.00, \$63.33.

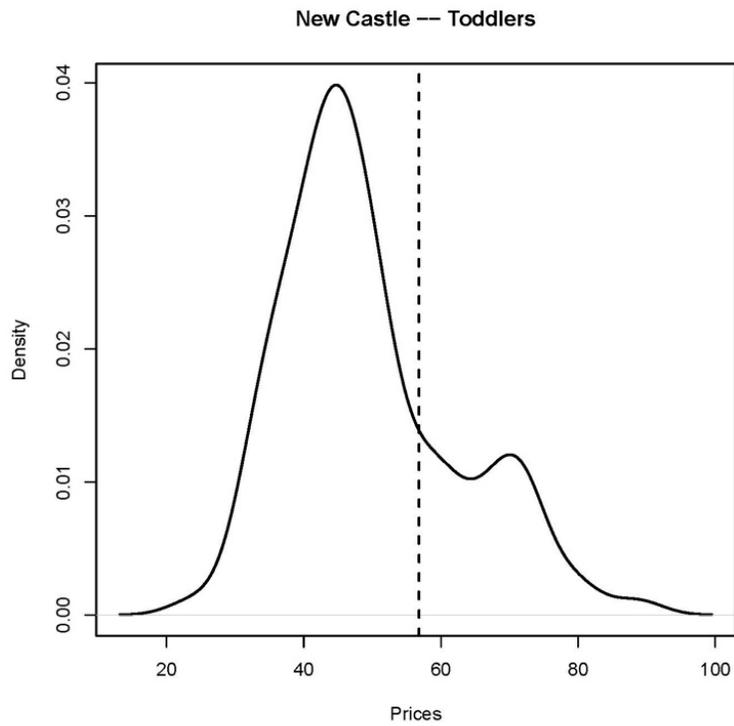
Centers , Kent & Sussex, Toddlers (n = 56, 75thile = **\$40.00**)

\$27.00, \$29.00, \$29.00, \$29.80, \$30.00, \$30.00, \$30.40, \$31.80, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$32.00, \$33.00, \$33.00, \$33.00, \$33.80, \$34.00, \$34.00, \$34.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$35.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$36.00, \$38.00, \$40.00, **\$40.00**, \$40.00, \$40.00, \$41.00, \$42.00, \$42.00, \$42.80, \$43.00, \$43.00, \$45.80, \$46.00, \$46.00, \$46.00, \$50.00, \$56.00.

Centers, New Castle, Infants (n = 75, 75%ile = \$64.88 at dashed line)



Centers New Castle, Toddlers (n = 103, 75%ile = \$56.40 at dashed line)



2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey
for Delaware Centers
(9/30/20)

1. BEFORE WE BEGIN, I NEED TO ASK: Are you presently providing Early Care and Education or School-age center services to children at this site? (confirm site address) [PROBE: These services include types of programs such as: child development programs, after-school programs, before & after school programs, extended day-care services, child-care center programs, early-learning programs, infant/toddler programs, school-age programs, early-childhood education programs, etc.]

1. NO _____

If NO, continue to 1A

2. YES _____

If YES, Go to 1B

1A. Have you served any children within the past month or do you expect to serve any children within the next month?

1. NO _____

If NO, READ:

Thank you for participating in this survey. That's all I need to ask you at this time. END

2. YES _____

If YES, READ:

Please refer to these children when I ask you about children you are presently serving. GO to 1B

1B. In your program at this site, are any of the children enrolled 30 hours or more per week? [PROBE: this usually means 6 hours or more per day.]

1. NO _____

If NO, Go to 1C

2. YES _____

If YES, GO to 1D

1C. Do any school-age children attend your program at this site? For this survey, "school-age children" are from first grade through 12 years of age. [PROBE: This does not include kindergarten care.]

1. NO _____
If NO, END

2. YES _____
GO to 1D

1D. How many children in TOTAL are presently enrolled in your program at this site? (Please estimate)

[PROBE: This does not mean your licensed capacity, but the TOTAL number of children enrolled in your center program over the course of a week. This includes infants, toddlers, preschoolers, kindergarten and school-age children at this site, as well as children who attend full time and part time. It also includes both state-subsidized and private-paying children. "Children" can be from 1 month through 12 years of age.]

_____ # of children

2. Of these "X" children, please estimate how many are subsidized by Purchase of Care and Purchase of Care Plus. [PROBE: This means that the state directly pays the provider through an authorization. This does NOT include "self-arranged" care.]

_____ # of children

INTERVIEWER: CALCULATE PERCENTAGE Q2/Q1D
(interviewers CATI system will do this.)

2A. 0% NONE 2B. Between 1% - 99% 2C. 100% (ALL)

If NONE:
If 1B =
"Yes", Go
to Q3;
If 1B =
No", Go to
Q7

READ:
When I ask you questions
in this survey about your
rates, please tell me what
you charge the GENERAL
PUBLIC for children
that are not subsidized.
We only want information
about "private-paying"
children that can include
"self-arranged" care.
(If 1B = "Yes", Go
to Q3; If 1B = "No" Go to Q7

READ:
That's all I
need to ask.
Thank you.

END

FULL-TIME PRESCHOOL-AGE

3. The definition we will be using for full-time is 30 hours or more per week. For the (*private paying*) children enrolled in your program full-time, are any of these children pre-school age, that is 3 years through 5 years, including the kindergarten age?

1. NO _____

IF "NO" Go to Q4

2. YES _____

IF "YES" Continue

3a. Using our definition of full-time as 30 hours or more per week, what rate do you charge for your basic full-time rate (*for private paying*) preschool-age children 3 through 5 years of age? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any fees above your regular rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies. Subsidies include a "sibling discount" or a "sliding-fee scale".

\$ _____._____(per) (b)_____(unit)

[TO INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has *more* than one full-time program or full-time rate at this site, ask for the rate for the full-time program that is *most commonly used* by the parents of the preschoolers. If Respondent replies that there is no one full-time rate that is most commonly used, ask for the highest rate.]

[TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit" ask: "What unit is that?" and ask question next to the unit reported.]

3b.

01.) PER HOUR How many hours per day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these preschoolers are enrolled?]

02.) PER 1/2 DAY: How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these preschoolers are enrolled for the 1/2 day?]

How many hours per full day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day preschoolers are enrolled for a full day?]

03.) PER DAY

04.) PER WEEK How many days per week? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of day/week these preschoolers are enrolled?]

05.) PER MONTH How many days per week? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of day/week these preschoolers are enrolled?]

06.) PER SEMESTER How many weeks in a SEMESTER?
(estimate) _____ . _____

How many days per week? (average) _____ . _____
[PROBE: What is the average number of day/week these preschoolers are enrolled?]

07.) PER SCHOOL YEAR How many days per school year? (estimate)
[PROBE: how many days are the children in the program during the school year?]
_____ . _____

08.) PER YEAR How many days per year? (estimate)
[PROBE: how many days are the children in the program during the year?]
_____ . _____

09.) PER OTHER: _____
How many days in this unit? (av) _____ . _____
[PROBE: How many days do you provide these services for this fee?]

3C. How many (private-paying) preschool-age children, 3 through 5 years of age, are presently enrolled full-time program at this site? (Please estimate) [PROBE: Preschool-age children are from 3 years through 5 years, including kindergarten. "Full time" is 30 hours or more per week.]

FULL-TIME TODDLERS

4. For the (*private-paying*) children presently enrolled in your program full-time, 30 hours or more per week, are any of these children toddlers. Toddlers are one and two-year-olds.

1. NO _____ 2. YES _____

IF NO, GO to Q5

IF YES, Continue

- 4a. Using our definition of full-time as 30 hours or more per week, what rate do you charge for your basic full-time rate for (*private paying*) toddlers? [PROBE: Please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular rate and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies. Subsidies include a "sliding-fee scale" or a "sibling discount".]

\$____.____(per) (b)_____(unit)

[TO INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has *more than* one full-time program or full-time rate, ask for the rate for the full-time program that is *most commonly used* by the parents of the toddlers. If Respondent replies that there is no one full-time rate that is most commonly used, ask for the highest rate.]

[TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit" ask: "What unit is that?" and then ask the question next to the unit reported.]

4b.

- 01.) PER HOUR How many hours per day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these toddlers are enrolled?]

- 02.) PER 1/2 DAY: How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these toddlers are enrolled for the 1/2 day?]

How many hours per full day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day toddlers are enrolled for a full day?]

- 03.) PER DAY

FULL-TIME INFANTS

5. For the (*private paying*) children presently enrolled in your program full-time, 30 hours or more per week, are any of these children infants, under 12 months of age?

1. NO _____ IF NO, GO to Q6
2. YES _____ IF YES, Continue

- 5a. Using our definition of full-time as 30 hours or more per week, what rate do you charge for your basic full-time rate for (*private paying*) infants? [PROBE: Please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular rate and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies. Subsidies include a "sliding-fee scale" or a "sibling discount".]

(a) \$_____._____(per) (b)_____(unit)

[TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit" ask: "What unit is that?" and then ask the question next to the unit reported.]

5b.

- 01.) PER HOUR How many hours per day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these infants are enrolled?]

- 02.) PER 1/2 DAY: How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day these infants are enrolled for the 1/2 day?]

How many hours per full day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours/day infants are enrolled for a full day?]

- 03.) PER DAY

04.) PER WEEK How many days per week? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
day/week these infants are enrolled?]

05.) PER MONTH How many days per week? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
day/week these infants are enrolled?]

06.) PER
SEMESTER How many weeks in a SEMESTER?
(estimate) ____ . ____

How many days per week? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
day/week these infants are enrolled?]

07.) PER SCHOOL
YEAR How many days per school year? (estimate)
[PROBE: how many days are the children
in the program during the school year?] ____ . ____

08.) PER YEAR How many days per year? (estimate)
[PROBE: how many days are the children
in the program during the year?] ____ . ____

09.) PER OTHER: _____

How many days in this unit? (av) ____ . ____
[PROBE: How many days do you provide
these services for this fee?]

5C. How many (private paying) infants are presently
enrolled full-time at this site? (Please estimate)
[PROBE: Infants are under 12 months of age.
"Full time" is 30 hours or more per week.] _____

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

6. Now, at this site, do you provide services for any (*private-paying*) school-age children? For this survey, school-age children are from first grade through 12 years of age. [PROBE: This can be for "after-school care", or for "before-school care" or for "before AND after-school care" at this site. This does NOT include kindergarten care. "Private-paying" means that the parents pay for the services, it is not paid by the state.]

1. NO _____

IF NO, GO to Q8

2. YES _____

IF YES, Continue

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: The "site" is identified by the name of the program, the site address or the telephone number. If Respondent reports that school-age children are served only at a different site, go to Q8.]

7. For the (*private-paying*) school-age children, do you provide care for *less than 4 hours per day*? This can be for "after-school care", for "before-school care" or for "before AND after-school care" at this site. [PROBE: "School-age children" are from first grade through 12 years of age.]

1. NO _____

IF NO, GO to Q8

2. YES _____

IF YES, Continue

- 7a. What rate do you charge for (*private-paying*) school-age children who attend your program less than 4 hours per day? In quoting your rate, please do not "add-on" any additional fees above your regular rate and please do not deduct for any discounts such as a "sibling discount". [PROBE: A discount may also be called a "sliding-fee" scale.]

\$_____._____(unit)

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has more than one rate for less than 4 hours per day, ask for the MOST

COMMONLY USED rate for these children. If the Respondent cannot give one rate, ask for the highest rate.]

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent reports a "full day" rate, say that we are only asking for a rate for *less than 4 hours per day*, and re-read Question 7a. If R. does not have a rate for less than 4 hours a day, go to Q8]

7b. [TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit" ask: "What unit is that?" and then ask question next to the unit reported.]

01.) PER HOUR How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? [PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours per day.]

_____ . _____ HOURS

IF RESPONDENT CANNOT GIVE THIS, ASK:

How many hours-per-week are these school-age children in your program? (average)

_____ . _____ HOURS

How many days-per-week are the school-age children in your program? (average)

_____ . _____ DAYS

02.) PER 1/2 DAY How many hours per 1/2 day? (av) _____ . _____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours per 1/2 day for these children.]

03.) PER DAY or AFTERNOON How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)
_____ . _____

04.) PER WEEK

How many days per week?

[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week these children are enrolled?]

____.____

How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)

____.____

05.) PER MONTH

How many days per week? ____ . ____ DAYS

[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week these children are enrolled?]

How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)

____ . ____

06.) PER

SEMESTER

How many weeks in a SEMESTER?

(estimate)

____. ____

How many days per week? ____ . ____

[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week these children are enrolled?]

How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)

____ . ____

07.) PER SCHOOL
YEAR

How many days per school year? (estimate)

____. ____

How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)

____ . ____

08.) PER OTHER Please explain: _____

How many days in this unit?
[PROBE: How many days do you provide services for this fee?] _____

How many hours-per-day are these school-age children in your program? (average)

7C. How many (private-paying) school-age children are presently enrolled, for less than 4 hours per day, in your program at this site? (Please estimate.)

[PROBE: This could be for 'after-school' care and for 'before school care' and for "before AND after school care" "School-age" children are from first grade through 12 years of age.]

ODD-HOUR CARE

8. Now I will be asking you about "odd-hour" care, that is evening care, overnight care, and weekend care. Within the past month, have you provided evening care, overnight care, or weekend care for any (private paying) child? [PROBE: Evening care could be care for any evening hours, for example from 8 P.M. - 11 P.M, for any evening Monday to Friday. Overnight care could be care for any overnight hours, for example 11 P.M. - 6 A.M., for any evening Monday to Friday. Weekend care is Saturday care, Sunday care, or Saturday through Sunday care]

If "YES" go to Q9 If "NO" go to Q16

9. Were you paid for providing this odd-hour care? _____
[PROBE: "Paid" means that you received a payment specifically for the odd-hour care, that you do not provide this odd-hour care for free, or as part of your rate for your regular child care. Odd-hour care does not include "late pick-up" fees.]

If "YES" go to Q10 If "NO" go to Q16

EVENING CARE

10. Did you provide evening care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care? [PROBE: "evening care" is care during evening hours, for example from 8 P. M. to 11 P.M, for any evening Monday through Friday.]

1. YES _____
IF "YES" GO TO Q11

2. NO _____
IF "NO" GO TO Q12

11. What rate did you charge for this evening care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular evening-care rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: This should be a rate for only one child.]

11b.

01.) hour

02.) 1/2 day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per 1/2 day for this evening care? (average)]

_____ · _____

03.) day How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-day for this evening care? (average)]

_____ . _____

04.) evening How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-evening for this care? (average)]

_____ . _____

05.) week How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-week for this evening care?]

_____ . _____

06.) other Explain _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours in this unit? (av)]

_____ . _____

OVERNIGHT CARE

12. Did you provide overnight care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care? [PROBE: "overnight care" is care for any overnight hours, for example 11 P.M. - 6 A.M., for any night Monday to Friday.]

1. YES _____
IF "YES" GO TO Q13

2. NO _____
IF "NO" GO TO Q14

13. What rate did you charge for this overnight care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular "overnight" rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: This should be a rate for only one child.]

13b.

01.) hour

02.) 1/2 day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per 1/2 day for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ . _____

03.) day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ . _____

04.) night or evening

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-night or evening for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ . _____

05.) week

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-week for this overnight care?]

_____ . _____

06.) other

Explain _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours in this unit?]

_____ . _____

WEEKEND CARE

14. Did you provide weekend care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care? [PROBE: Weekend care includes Saturday care, Sunday care, or Saturday through Sunday care.)

1. YES _____
GO TO Q15

2. NO _____
GO TO Q16

15. What rate did you charge for this weekend care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular weekend rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: This should be a rate for only one child.]

15b.

01.) hour

02.) 1/2 day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per 1/2 day for this weekend care? (average)]

_____ · _____

03.) day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-day for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ · _____

04.) day and evening

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours for this care? (average)]

_____ · _____

05.) week-end

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-weekend for this care?]

_____ · _____

If R. cannot give this:

How many days for this weekend care?

_____ · _____

How many hours per day?

_____ · _____

06.) other

Explain _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours in this unit?]

_____ . _____

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

16. Are you presently serving ANY child with special needs in your program, private paying or state subsidized?

For this survey, "special needs" means a child from infancy through 18 years of age who is diagnosed with physical, emotional, or developmental needs...that requires special care.

[PROBE: "ANY" child with special needs can be a private-paying or state-subsidized child, and can be full time or part time.]

1. NO _____

If "NO" go to END

2. Yes _____

If "YES" go to Q17

[DIRECTION TO INTERVIEWER: If Respondent questions if a type of illness or situation is "special needs" ...tell the Respondent she should decide if the child has 'special needs'. If necessary, re-read the definition for special needs.]

17. Are there any additional costs to you for serving this child or children with special needs? {PROBE: Does it cost you any more to have the child or children with special needs in your program than to have the other children in your program?}

1. NO _____

If "NO" go to END

2. Yes _____

If "YES" go to Q18

18. Please estimate how much of an additional cost it is to you to have the child or children with special needs in your program? Would you estimate that the higher cost to you is 5% more, 10% more, 15% more, 20% more, or another amount:

1.) 5% 2.) 10% 3.) 15% 4.) 20%

5.) another amount (explain) _____

THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

19. Now I just have a question or two remaining to ask. During the current pandemic have the prices you charge generally increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1.) increased 2.) decreased or 3.) stayed the same

20. During the current pandemic have your enrollments generally increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1.) increased 2.) decreased or 3.) stayed the same

21. **If your enrollments have changed** which age category has been most effected by the pandemic: infant, toddler, preschool or school age enrollments?

1.) infants 2.) toddlers 3.) preschooler or 4.) school age

Thank you for participating in this survey.

**Delaware Family Child Care
2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey**

(9/30/20)

1. As a family child care provider, are you presently serving children in your program and receiving payment for your services?

1. no ____
If "No, continue to 1B

2. yes ____
If Yes, go to 1A.

- 1A. How many children are enrolled in your daytime program, for whom you receive payment? [PROBE: This does not mean your licensed capacity, but the total number of children enrolled over the course of a week, for the program that you operate during day-time hours. "Day-time hours" means *any hours* between 6 A.M. and 7 P.M.

"total number of children" means private-paying children and children subsidized by the state.]

_____ # of children (GO TO Q2)

- 1B. In your child care program held during the day, have you served any children within the past month or do you expect to serve any children within the next month? [PROBE: "during the day" means *any hours* between 6 A.M. and 7 P.M.]

1. no ____ If "No", READ 2. yes ____ If "YES", go to 1C.

Thank you for participating
in this survey. That's all I need
to ask of you. Have a nice day.

1C. Were you paid for the children you served during the past month... or will you be paid for the children you will serve within the next month?

1. no ___

If NO, READ

2. yes ___

If YES, go to 1D.

Thank you for participating in this survey. That's all I need to ask of you. Have a nice day.

END FINAL DISPOSITION

1D. How many children is this altogether? _____
[PROBE: Please give me the number of children you served within the past month or will serve within the next month... for which you are paid.]

READ: "Throughout this survey please refer to this child or these children when I ask you questions about the children you are serving in your program."

CONTINUE to Q2

2. Do you have the worksheet that we sent to you handy?
(If NO, "Let's go ahead anyway. These questions are straightforward.")

Are any of the "X" children in your program subsidized by the state through Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus?

[PROBE: This means that the state directly pays the provider through a contract or voucher. This does not include "self arranged" care.]

1. no ___

GO to Q 2B3

2. yes ___

GO to Q2A

2A. How many children are subsidized by Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus? [PROBE: subsidies can be referred to as contracted care. This does not include 'self-arranged' care]

_____ # of CHILDREN
(IF "0" go to Q2B3)

2B1. Between 1-99%
READ:

"For the questions I will be asking you in this survey, please give me information and rates ONLY for the children that are not subsidized by Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus. We only want rate information about private-paying children, which can include "self-arranged" care.

Now, if you eliminate the subsidized children from your enrollment, how many children are left?"

_____ # of children
GO to Q2B3

2B3. Of these "X" (private-paying) children, how many attend your program 30 hours or more per week? [PROBE: this generally means 6 hours or more per day.]

_____ # of children
(IF > "0", GO to Q3
= "0", GO to Q19)

2B2. 100% (ALL)
READ:

Thank you.
That's all I
need to ask.
END.

2. SELECT APPROPRIATE CATEGORY:

1. IF "8" CHILDREN OR LESS

2. IF "9" OR MORE

READ:

For the first part of this survey, please select eight of the children who attend your program full time, 30 hours or more per week, and give me information for those eight children. If possible, also select children of different ages.

I will now be asking you questions about your enrollment and rates for the children who attend your program full time, 30 hours or more per week, for whom you receive payment. PLEASE do not give me information about any child that you serve for free. In addition, for the first part of this survey, please do not give me information about any school-age child. School-age children are from first grade and up.

(If you have your worksheet handy, this would be a good time to use it.)

(IF respondent has over three children, READ:

("If you don't have the worksheet handy, you might want to jot down the names of the children and check off each child as you give me the information.")

PART 1: YOUR REGULAR CHILD CARE PROGRAM

CHILD 1

4. Let's start with the first (private paying) child attending your program full time, 30 hours or more per week. What is this child's age?
[PROBE: "Private paying" means that the parents pay for the care, not the state through Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus.]

____.____MONTHS,____.____YEARS

- 4a. What rate do you charge for care for this child? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any fees that are above your basic rate...and please do not deduct for any discounts. If you have already deducted for a "sibling discount" or a sliding-fee scale, please tell me what the full rate is without the discount.

\$(a)_____per_____(b) (unit)

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has two or more children in care from one family and the family pays in one lump sum, say: "Please estimate an amount for this child."]

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent reports that she has more than one rate for this child, ask for the *most commonly used rate* for this child. If Respondent cannot do this, ask for the highest rate that the provider charges for this child.]

- 4b. [PROBE: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GIVE A "UNIT", BY SAYING: "Is this amount": then, ASK QUESTION NEXT TO THE UNIT QUOTED BY THE RESPONDENT.

If "unit" is given in 4a ... ask question next to the unit reported.)

01) Per hour How many hours-per-day does this child usually attend your program? [PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours per day.] _____._____HOURS

GO TO Q4C

IF RESPONDENT CANNOT GIVE THIS,
ASK:

"How many hours was this child in your care last week?"

_____ . _____HOURS

"How many days did child attend last week?"

_____ . _____DAYS

02) Per 1/2 day How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours per 1/2 day.]

How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-full day.]

GO TO Q4C

03) Per day How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q4C

04) Per week How many days-per-week?____.____DAYS

[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____

[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

05) Per month

How many days-per-week?____.____DAYS

[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____

[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

06) Per other

Please explain: _____

How many days in this unit?____.____DAYS

How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____

[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q4C

4C. Does this child attend your program 30 hours or more per week? (average) [PROBE: This usually means 6 hours or more per day.]

_____ YES

_____ NO

5. DOES RESPONDENT HAVE A SECOND CHILD IN HER PROGRAM?

NO _____
If NO, Go to Q19

YES _____
If YES, CONTINUE

CHILD 2

6. For the second (private paying) child attending your program full time. What is this child's age?
[Full time = 30 hours or more per week.]

____.____MONTHS,____.____YEARS

- 6a. What rate do you charge for care for this child? [PROBE: In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any fees that are above your basic rate...and please do not deduct for any discounts. If you have already deducted for a "sibling discount" or a sliding-fee scale, please tell me what the full rate is without the discount.]

\$(a)_____per_____(b) (unit)

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: IF Respondent has two or more children in care from one family and the family pays in one lump sum, say: "Please estimate an amount for this child."]

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent reports that she has more than one rate for this child, ask for the *most commonly used rate* for this child. If Respondent cannot do this, ask for the highest rate that the provider charges for this child.]

- 6b. [PROBE: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GIVE A "UNIT", BY SAYING: "Is this amount": then, ASK QUESTION NEXT TO THE UNIT QUOTED BY THE RESPONDENT.

If, "unit" is given in 6a ask question next to the unit reported.)

- 01) Per hour How many hours-per-day does this child usually attend your program? [PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours-per-day.] _____HOURS

GO TO Q6C

IF RESPONDENT CANNOT GIVE THIS, ASK:

"How many hours was this child in your care last week?"

_____HOURS

"How many days did this child attend last week?"

_____DAYS

- 02) Per 1/2 day How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours per 1/2 day.]

How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-full-day.]

GO TO Q6C

- 03) Per day How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____

[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q6C

04) Per week How many days-per-week? ____ . ____ DAYS
[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours-per-day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

05) Per month How many days-per-week? ____ . ____ DAYS
[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours per day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

06) Per other Please explain: _____

How many days in this unit? ____ . ____ DAYS

How many hours-per-day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q6C

6C. Does this child attend your program 30 hours or more per week? (average) [PROBE: This usually means 6 hours or more per day.]

_____ YES

_____ NO

7. DOES RESPONDENT HAVE A THIRD CHILD IN HER PROGRAM?

NO _____

If NO, Go to Q19

YES _____

If YES, CONTINUE

CHILD 3

8. Now for the third (private paying) child attending your program full time, 30 hours or more per week. What is this child's age?

____.____MONTHS,____.____YEARS

- 8a. What rate do you charge for care for this child? [PROBE: In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any fees that are above your basic rate...and please do not deduct for any discounts. If you have already deducted for a "sibling discount" or a "sliding-fee scale", please tell me what the full rate is without the discount.

\$(a)_____per_____ (b) (unit)

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: IF Respondent has two or more children in care from one family and the family pays in one lump sum, say: "Please estimate an amount for this child."]

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent reports that she has more than one rate for this child, ask for the *most commonly used rate* for this child. If Respondent cannot do this, ask for the highest rate that the provider charges for this child.]

- 8b. [PROBE: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GIVE A "UNIT", BY SAYING: "Is this amount": then, ASK QUESTION NEXT TO THE UNIT QUOTED BY THE RESPONDENT.

If, "unit" is given in 8a ... ask question next to the unit reported.)

- 01) Per hour How many hours-per-day does this child usually attend your program? [PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours-per-day.]

_____ . _____ HOURS

GO TO Q8C

IF RESPONDENT CANNOT GIVE THIS, ASK:

"How many hours was this child in your care last week?"

_____ . _____ HOURS

"How many days did child attend last week?"

_____ . _____ DAYS

- 02) Per 1/2 day How many hours per 1/2 day? (av)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours per 1/2 day.]

How many hours per day? (average)____.____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-full-day.]

GO TO Q8C

- 03) Per day How many hours-per-day? (average)____.____

[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q8C

04) Per week How many days-per-week? ____ . ____ DAYS
[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours-per-day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

05) Per month How many days-per-week? ____ . ____ DAYS
[PROBE: What is the average number of days-per-week the child attends.]

How many hours-per-day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

06) Per other Please explain: _____

How many days in this unit? ____ . ____ DAYS

How many hours-per-day? (average) ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of hours-per-day the child attends.]

GO TO Q8C

8C. Does this child attend your program 30 hours or more per week? (average) [PROBE: This usually means 6 hours or more per day.]

_____ YES

_____ NO

9. DOES RESPONDENT HAVE A FOURTH CHILD IN HER PROGRAM?

NO _____

If NO, Go to
Q19

YES _____

If YES, CONTINUE

CHILD 4 - 8

(Q 10-18)

SCHOOL AGE

19. Now, I'd like to ask you a question about "school-age" children. For this survey, "school-age" children are from first grade through 12 years of age.

Do any (private paying) school-age children come to your program for *less than 4 hours per day*. This can be for 'after-school care', or for 'before school care', or for 'before AND after school care'.

[PROBE: This does NOT include kindergarten care. "Private-paying" means that the parents pay for the child care, it is not paid by the state through Purchase-of-Care or Purchase-of-Care-Plus.]

1. NO _____

IF NO, Go to Q21

2. YES _____

If YES, Go to Q20

20. What rate do you charge for (private-paying) school-age children who attend your program less than 4 hours per day? In quoting your rate, please do not "add-on" any additional fees above your regular rate and please do not deduct for any discounts such as a "sibling discount". [PROBE: A discount may also be called a "sliding-fee" scale.]

[DIRECTION TO INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has more than one rate for school-age children for *less than 4 hours per day*, ask for the rate MOST COMMONLY USED for these children. If the Respondent cannot give one rate, ask for the highest rate for *less than 4 hours per day*.]

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent reports a rate for "full day" care for school-age children, say that we are only asking for a rate *for less than 4 hours per day* and re-read Question 20. If Respondent does not have a school-age rate for *less than 4 hours per day*, skip to Q21]

- 20b. [PROBE: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GIVE A "UNIT", BY SAYING: "Is this amount": then, ASK QUESTION NEXT TO THE UNIT QUOTED BY THE RESPONDENT.

If, "unit" is given in Q20. ask question next to the unit reported.)

- 01) Per hour How many hours-per-day is the school-age child in this program?
[PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours-per-day for this program.]

_____ . _____ HOURS

IF RESPONDENT CANNOT GIVE THIS, ASK:

How many hours-per-week are the school age children in your program? (average)

_____ . _____ HOURS

How many days-per-week are the school-age children in your program? (average)

_____ . _____ DAYS

02) Per 1/2 day How many hours per 1/2 day? (av) _____ . _____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
hours per 1/2 day for this care.]

03) Per afternoon How many hours per afternoon is the
school-age child in your program? [PROBE:
Please estimate an average number of hours-
per-day for this program.]

_____ . _____

04) Per day How many hours-per-day is the school-age
child in this program? [PROBE: Please
estimate an average number of hours-per-day
for this program.]

_____ . _____

05) Per week How many days per week? ____ . ____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
days-per-week the school age child attends
this program.]

How many hours-per-day is the school-age
child in this program? [PROBE: Please
estimate an average number of hours- per-day
for this program.]

_____ . _____

06) Per month How many days per week? _____ . _____
[PROBE: What is the average number of
days-per-week the school age child attends
this program.]

How many hours-per-day is the school-age
child in your program? [PROBE: Please

estimate an average number of hours-per-day for this program.]

____.____

07) Per other

Please explain: _____

How many days in this unit?
[PROBE: How many days do you provide services for this fee?]

____.____

How many hours-per-day is the school-age child in your program? [PROBE: Please estimate an average number of hours- per-day for this program.]

____.____

20C. How many (private paying) school-age children come to your program for less than four hours per day? (Please estimate). [PROBE: This can be for 'after school' care, and for 'before-school care' and for 'before AND after school' care. 'School-age children' are from first grade through 12 years of age.]

[DIRECTION TO INTERVIEWER: During Spring school-vacation weeks, when schools are closed for vacations, the school-age children may come for *full day* child care. We are not looking for that. We want the number of school-age children who are coming for less than 4 hours per day, when the schools are not closed for vacation weeks.]

ODD HOUR CARE

21. Now I will be asking you about what we call "odd-hour" care, that is evening care, overnight care, and weekend care. Within the past month, have you provided evening care, overnight care, or weekend care for any private-paying child?

[PROBE: "Private paying" children are those who are not subsidized by the state through "Purchase of Care" or "Purchase of Care Plus". Instead, the parents pay the full rate.]

Evening care could be care for any evening hours, for example from 8 P.M. - 11 P.M, for any evening Monday to Friday.

Overnight care could be care for any overnight hours, for example 11 P.M. - 6 A.M., for any evening Monday to Friday.

Weekend care is Saturday care, Sunday care, or Saturday through Sunday care]

If "yes" go to Q22 If "no" go to Q29

22. Were you paid for providing this odd-hour care? _____
[PROBE: "Paid" means that you received a payment specifically for the odd-hour care, that you do not provide this odd-hour care for free, or as part of your rate for your regular child care. Odd-hour care does not include "late pick-up" fees.]

If "yes" go to Q23

If "no" go to Q29

EVENING CARE

23. Did you provide evening care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care? [PROBE: "evening care" is care during evening hours, for example from 8 P. M. to 11 P.M, for any evening Monday through Friday.]

a. YES _____
IF "YES" GO TO Q24

b. NO _____
IF "NO" GO TO Q25

24. What rate did you charge for this evening care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular evening-care rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has more than one evening-care rate, ask for the rate *most commonly used*. If Respondent cannot give you one rate, ask for the highest evening care rate that is charged to the parents.

This should be a rate for only one child. If a parent pays in a lump sum for more than one child, please ask the Respondent to estimate an amount for one child.}

[DIRECTIONS TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit", say "is this the amount per ____" then ask the question next to the unit quoted by the Respondent. For those who do quote a unit, ask the question next to the unit quoted.]

24b.

01. hour

02. 1/2 day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per 1/2 day for this evening care?] (average)

_____ · _____

03. day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-day for this evening care? (average)]

_____ · _____

04. evening

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-evening for this care? (average)]

_____ · _____

05. week

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per week for this evening care? (average)]

06. other

Explain _____ · _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-of-care in this unit?]

_____ · _____

OVERNIGHT CARE

25. Did you provide overnight care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care?
[PROBE: "overnight care" is care for any overnight hours, for example 11 P.M. - 6 A.M., for any evening Monday to Friday.]

a. YES _____
IF "YES" GO TO Q26

b. NO _____
IF "NO" GO TO Q27

26. What rate did you charge for this overnight care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular overnight rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has more than one overnight-care rate, ask for the rate *most commonly used*. If Respondent cannot give you one rate, ask for the highest rate that is charged to the parents.

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: This should be a rate for only one child. If a parent pays in a lump sum for more than one child, please ask the Respondent to estimate an amount for one child.]

[DIRECTIONS TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit", say "is this the amount per ____" then ask the question next to the unit quoted by the Respondent. For those who do quote a unit, ask the question next to the unit quoted.]

26b.

01. hour

02. 1/2 day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:
How many hours per 1/2 day for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ · _____

03. day

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:
How many hours-per-day for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ · _____

04. night or evening

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:
How many hours-per-night or evening for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ · _____

05. week

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:
How many hours-per-week for this overnight care? (average)]

_____ · _____

06. other

Explain _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:
How many hours in this unit?]

_____ · _____

WEEKEND CARE

27. Did you provide weekend care for any (private paying) child within the past month and receive a payment for that care?
[PROBE: Weekend care includes Saturday care, Sunday care, or Saturday through Sunday care.)

a. YES _____
IF "YES" GO TO Q28

b. NO _____
IF "NO" GO TO Q29

28. What rate did you charge for this weekend care? In quoting your rate, please do not "add on" any additional fees above your regular weekend rate, and please do not deduct for any discounts or subsidies.

\$(a)____.____per (b)____

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: If Respondent has more than one weekend-rate, ask for the rate *most commonly used*. If Respondent cannot give you one rate, ask for the highest weekend care rate that is charged to the parents.

[DIRECTION FOR INTERVIEWER: This should be a rate for one child. If a parent pays in a lump sum for more than one child, please ask the Respondent to estimate an amount for one child.]

[DIRECTIONS TO INTERVIEWER: for those who don't give a "unit", say "is this the amount per ____" then ask the question next to the unit quoted by the Respondent. For those who do quote a unit, ask the question next to the unit quoted.]

- 28b.
01. hour

02. 1/2 day How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per 1/2 day for this weekend-care? (average)]

_____ · _____

03. day How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours-per-day for this week-end care? (average)]

_____ · _____

04. per day and evening How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours for this care?] (average)

05. week-end How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE: How many hours per weekend for this care?]

_____ · _____

IF R. cannot give this:

How many days for this weekend care?

_____ · _____

How many hours per day?

_____ · _____

06. other Explain _____

How many hours of care did you provide for this fee? [PROBE:

How many hours-of-care in this unit?] _____

PART 2: CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

29. Are you presently serving any child with special needs in your program, private paying or state subsidized?

For this survey, "special needs" means a child from infancy through 18 years of age who is diagnosed with physical, emotional, or developmental needsthat requires special care. [PROBE: "any" child with special needs can be a private paying or state-subsidized child, and can be full time or part time.]

1. NO _____ 2. Yes _____
If "NO" go to END If "YES" go to Q30

[DIRECTION TO INTERVIEWER: If Respondent questions if a type of illness or situation is "special needs"tell the Respondent she should decide if the child has "special needs". You may want to re-read the definition of 'special needs' if the Respondent is unclear about the question or answer.]

30. Are there any additional costs to you for serving the child or children with special needs? {PROBE: Does it cost you any more to have the child or children with special needs in your program than to have the other children in your program?}

1. NO _____ 2. Yes _____
If "NO" go to END If "YES" go to Q31

31. Please estimate how much of an additional cost it is to you to have the child or children with special needs in your program? Would you estimate that the higher cost to you is 5% more, 10% more, 15% more, 20% more, or another amount?

1.) 5% 2.) 10% 3.) 15% 4.) 20%

or

5. another amount (explain) _____

THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

32. Now I just have a question or two remaining to ask. During the current pandemic have the prices you charge generally increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1.) increased 2.) decreased or 3.) stayed the same

33. During the current pandemic have your enrollments generally increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1.) increased 2.) decreased or 3.) stayed the same

34. **If your enrollments have changed** which age category has been most effected by the pandemic: infant, toddler, preschool or school age enrollments?

1.) infants 2.) toddlers 3.) preschooler or 4.) school age

**Thank you for participating in this survey.
Your answers have been very helpful. Have a nice day.**

Early Care and Education and School-Age Worksheet

This worksheet will prepare you for the telephone interview for the child care market rate survey. **DO NOT MAIL IT TO US.** Instead, please fill it out and keep it available for the phone interview.

For children below first grade, please answer only for children enrolled **30 hours or more per week**. For school-age children (first grade through 12 years of age) please provide information about part-day care (less than 4 hours per day), if you offer that care at this site.

	Infants < 12 months	Toddlers 12 months up to 36 months	Preschoolers 3-5 years including kindergarten	School-age First grade through 12 years <i>(for less than 4 hours/day)</i>
Your basic rate (without discounts or subsidies)*				
Average # of hours per day the children are enrolled				
Estimate the number of private-paying children in this age category at this site				

* If you have multiple rate structures (for example both by week and by day), answer with the rate most typically used by the parents in the relevant age group above. If some of the parents in your program have government subsidies (Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus) and some do not, use the rate for the private-paying parents.

Family Child Care Worksheet

This worksheet will prepare you for the child care telephone interview. **DO NOT MAIL THIS TO US.** Instead, please fill it out and keep it available for the interview.

Please list information about children who attend your program 30 hours or more per week. For school-age children (from first grade through 12 years of age), please list your rate for care for *less than 4 hours per day* if you are providing that care. This can be for 'after-school care', for 'before school care', or for 'before & after-school care'.

If you have children subsidized by Purchase of Care or Purchase of Care Plus, only list the private-paying children. "Private-paying children" can include *self-arranged* care. Please do not include any information about weekend, overnight or evening care.

Child's first Name (We will not ask you for this.)	Age of child	Rate you charge for this child	Average # of hours per day the child attends your program
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			