

## ENROLLMENT IN FAMILY CHILD CARE:

Out of nearly 11 million young children with working mothers, 40% spent more time in family child care than in any other child care setting. [i] Here's a look at the details:

- Over 90% (94.2%) of listed, home-based providers were caring for at least one child under three years of age, while 85.5% were caring for at least one preschooler (ages 3 through 5 years). [ii] Almost two-thirds (63.2%) reported serving at least one school-age child. [iii]
- Nationally, about one in four children (24%) receiving child care funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program are cared for in family child care. [iv]
- Family child care providers care for 27% of infants younger than age 1, and 24% of toddlers ages 1-3, in CCDF-supported child care. [v]

## AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY CHILD CARE:

According to the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), there are one million paid providers caring for children in a home of the provider, caring for three million children from birth to age five in these settings [vii]. NSECE classified about 118,000 of the one million paid providers as licensed, regulated, exempt from licensure, or registered - the states use different terms with different definitions. As a group, these 118,000 paid providers are referred to as "listed" by the NSECE, who also categorized 919,000 as unlisted, paid home-based providers.

ACF data from 2017 shows 123,816 licensed family child care. That includes 86,309 small family child care programs, which ACF defines as a solo person/no other workers. And it includes 37,507 large family child care programs (not a term or a category used in every state) which ACF defines as having two or more people providing child care there.

The number of licensed family child care homes fell by 52% from 2005 to 2017 [viii]. From 2014 to 2017, the drop was 22% and family child care educators share that it's a challenging job to navigate and carry out standards without sufficient dollars/resources, as well as difficulty with economics, the costs, and aging/retirement.

## COMMITMENT TO THE PRACTICE AND THE PROFESSION

- 61% of listed, paid home-based providers have more than 10 years of experience and 42% intend to continue for 10 or more years. [ix] 47% say this work is a personal career or a calling. [x]
- Predictors of quality in family child care include licensing, professional support, training, financial resources, and provider experience. [xi]
- One-third of listed providers have a degree in ECE or an ECE-related major. [xii] Among listed, paid home-based providers who cared for at least one child under age 3 [xiii], 43% had a Child Development Associate (CDA) or a state certification.

## AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY CHILD CARE:

### COMMITMENT TO THE PRACTICE AND THE PROFESSION

- Three-quarters of listed providers have participated in a workshop in the previous 12 months and among those providers, one-third of them reported participating in a series. [xiv] 30% are taking a college course and 34% are receiving coaching. [xv]
- Family child care programs can be a learning environment with activities and experiences that are safe, healthy, and allow for children to work at their own pace. More than half (54.9%) of listed, home-based providers are using a curriculum or prepared set of learning and play activities.
- 30% of listed, paid home-based providers note their main responsibility is to provide for children's basic needs. 44% of listed, paid home-based providers have helped at least one family to find services.

### OPPORTUNITIES RIGHT IN OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS

- The opportunity for one-on-one relationships and responsive and nurturing care in a family setting has the potential for positive outcomes for children. [xvi]
- High-quality family child care has been linked to improvements in children's cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development. [xvii]
- 70% of poor children in regular, non-parental care receive that care within three miles of their home. [xviii] In communities where price, location and transportation barriers limit child care options, family child care is a critical need for families.

### RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTINUITY

- There is evidence that consistent and reliable caregiving supports early neurological development. [xix]
- Having the same family child care provider for several years provides the opportunity for a responsive relationship between the infant or toddler and the adult caregiver. [xx]
- Family child care provides children an opportunity to be cared for in smaller groups and to be cared for by a provider who is responsible for fewer children than in a center setting. [xxi] These small group sizes facilitate the strengths of relationships and interactions.

**SOURCES:**

- [i] Laughlin, L., 2013, Table 3. Primary Child Care Arrangements of Preschoolers with Employed Mothers: Selected Years, 1985 to 2011, Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2011, Current Population Reports, P70-135, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. The 40-percent figure includes relative and nonrelative care given in the provider's home or child's home. A primary child care arrangement is defined as the arrangement used for the most hours per week.
- [ii] National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team (2016). Characteristics of Home-based Early Care and Education Providers: Initial Findings from the National Survey of Early Care and Education. OPRE Report #2016-13, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- [iii] Ibid.
- [iv] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2016). FY 2015 Preliminary Data Table 3 - Average Monthly Percentages of Children Served by Types of Care. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/fy-2015-preliminary-data-table-3>.
- [v] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2016). FY 2015 Preliminary Data Table 13 - Average Monthly Percentages of Children in Child Care by Age Category and Care Type. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/fy-2015-preliminary-data-table-13>.
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- [x] Ibid.
- [xi] Raikes, H., Torquati, J., Jung, E., Peterson, C., Atwater, J., Scott, J., and Messner, L. (2013). Family child care in four Midwestern states: Multiple measures of quality and relations to outcomes by licensed status and subsidy participation. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28(4), 879–892; Forry, N., Iruka, I., Tout, K., Torquati, J., Susman-Stillman, A., Bryant, D., and Daneri, M.P. (2013). Predictors of quality and child outcomes in family child care settings. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28(4), 893–904.
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