



Cost of child care

Fundamental facts from the
2004 Minnesota child care survey



Seventy percent of families pay for child care.

- 70 percent of families with children age 12 or younger pay at least some out-of-pocket costs for child care during a typical week, up from 59 percent in 1999.
- The average weekly out-of-pocket cost for these families, for all their children, is \$111, or \$5,781 yearly.
- The average weekly cost of all child care per household is higher in the metro area than in Greater Minnesota (\$127 versus \$90).
- Over half (53 percent) of families with incomes below \$20,000 per year do not pay for child care.

Child care costs go down as the age of the child goes up.

The average weekly costs go down as the age of the child goes up:

- Age 2 and younger—\$110 per week, about \$5,700 per year.
- Ages 3 to 5—\$95 per week, about \$4,900 per year.
- Ages 6 to 9—\$68 per week, about \$3,600 per year.
- Ages 10 to 12—\$64 per week, about \$3,300 per year.
- For perspective, state college tuition is about \$3,400 per year, and state university tuition is about \$4,500 per year.

For those who pay for child care, child care expenses take a bigger share of gross income for families with low incomes.

By annual household income:

- Under \$20,000—28 percent of income goes for child care expenses.
- \$20,000 to under \$45,000—15 percent of income goes for child care expenses.
- \$45,000 to under \$75,000—8 percent of income goes for child care expenses.
- \$75,000 or more—7 percent of income goes for child care expenses.
- 10 percent of gross income going for child care expenses is considered affordable.

Reasonable cost is a “very important” factor in choosing child care.

- When considering the role of cost in choosing child care, almost all parents say that reasonable cost is “very important” (67 percent) or “somewhat important” (30 percent). Less than 4 percent say cost is “not important” in choosing child care.

continued

Out-of-pocket child care expenses take a bigger share of gross income for families with low incomes, although about half do not pay for child care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Download fact sheets and full research reports—*Child Care Use in Minnesota and Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers*—at www.wilderresearch.org. 2004 Minnesota statewide household child care survey funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and conducted by Wilder Research, Richard Chase study director.

JUNE 2006

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