



This document provides an update to information in the *Community Action Network Early Education and Care Community Assessment* report released in November of 1999.

Highlights

Child Care Costs More Than Attending Public Universities

The average annual cost of center-based child care for children ages 0 to 5 in Travis County is \$6,342 compared to the University of Texas at Austin annual tuition and fees of \$4,226.

Infant Slots Are Rare in Licensed Centers

In Travis County, only 7% of licensed child care center spaces (1,275) are for infants (children under 1 year). There are 10,973 licensed child

care center spaces for children under 3 years which accounts for 22% of Travis County's 49,231 children under 3 years.

Child Care Teacher Wages Barely Cover Basic Necessities

The average monthly salary of a full-time child care teacher is \$1,315 (\$7.83 per hour) in a non-accredited licensed child care center and \$1,502 (\$8.94) in an accredited licensed center. The total monthly income needed for a single adult with no children to live in Travis County is \$1,663 (\$9.90 per hour).

Overview

The child care staffing crisis is currently evident. The average child care teacher turnover rate was 31% in December 2000. Child care centers were challenged with child care teacher retention and recruitment. In January 2002, the child care community benefited from the massive layoffs as more applicants expressed interest in child care jobs when the unemployment rate grew to 5.7% from 1.6% in December 2000. Although more people are applying for child care positions, centers are still struggling with recruiting and retaining qualified staff and training new teachers without child care experience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the average cost of child care in Travis County?

Licensed Centers

<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Monthly Average</i>
Newborn-11mos	\$615.68
12mos-17mos	\$576.32
18mos-23mos	\$530.08
2yrs	\$504.62
3yrs	\$474.09
4yrs-5yrs	\$469.98
6yrs-12yrs	\$251.23
6-12yrs summer	\$541.25-\$649.50

(Austin Families, Inc., March 2002)

Registered/Licensed Homes

<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Monthly Average</i>
Newborn-11mos	\$495.66
12mos-17mos	\$491.41
18mos-23mos	\$468.51
2yrs	\$459.15
3yrs	\$448.72
4yrs-5yrs	\$444.47
6yrs-12yrs	\$221.52
6-12yrs summer	\$433-\$541.25

According to Austin Families, Inc. (March 2002) the average monthly cost of child care is \$528.50. When compared with a survey conducted in November of 2001 by The Center for Public Policy Priorities, this makes child care the most expensive item next to rent.

Q: What is the child care demand?

The most recent data on child care demand indicated that nationally 64% of three to five year olds now go to some kind of day care center (Business Week, April 29, 2002).

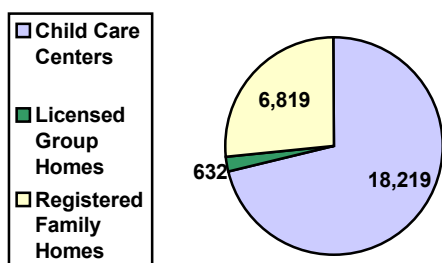
The total number of children under age 5 in Travis County is 97,396.

- Of which 78,834 are children in married-couple families;
- Of which 4,535 are children in male householders (no wife present); and
- Of which 14,027 are children in female householders (no husband present).
(U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000)

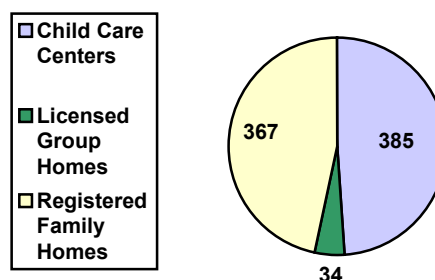
Q: What is the child care supply in Travis County (both in number of spaces and facilities)?

Austin has a total of **25,670 child care spaces** and **786 child care facilities**.

Child Care Spaces by Austin Families, Inc., March 2002



Child Care Facilities by Austin Families, Inc., March 2002



The number of child care spaces was calculated by using the number of spaces child care directors desired to fill.

Q: What are the Current Waiting Lists for Subsidized Care

1,750 children are waiting for **Head Start** early childhood comprehensive services (April 2002).

1,513 children are waiting for child care assistance from **WorkSource-Child Care Solutions** (April 2002).

Q: How many children receive early education and care subsidies?

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Ages Served</u>	<u>Number of Facilities</u>
Head Start	1,500	0-5 years	17
Prekindergarten	3,693	4 years	58
Child Care Solutions	3,467	0-12 years	301

Sources: Child, Inc., Texas Education Agency, and WorkSource-Child Care Solutions.

The City of Austin also subsidizes child care spaces through General Revenue funds and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Q: What are current family concerns around child care?

Austin Families, Inc., Austin's child care resource and referral agency, collected the following information from the 10,680 callers last year:

- 11% decided not to look for care and stay home with new infant
- 59% had trouble finding care – either too costly, hours not accessible
- 79% wanted assistance in paying for child care
- 85% were at or below 200% of poverty guidelines
- 87% wanted information on parenting issues
- 98% wanted information on quality child care

Q: Who sets the standards for quality child care?

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), and the National School-Age Care Alliance (NSACA) created national, voluntary accreditation systems for early childhood centers, family child care, and school-age care using some of the criteria listed below. The Texas Workforce Commission’s “Texas Rising Star Provider Program Criteria” is used by local workforce development board contracted child care providers. The program assesses facilities using standards that are midway between the low child care licensing and national accreditation standards.

Q: What are some of the criteria for quality child care?

- Both smaller group size and low adult-child ratios
- Responsive interpersonal relationships with teachers
- Cognitive, social-emotional, and motor development are complementary
- Adequate physical space
- Qualified staff qualifications and professional development
- Adequate staff compensation

Q: How many child care centers and registered family homes provide quality care in our community?

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Accredited</u>	<u>Texas Rising Star Provider</u>
Child Care Centers	16.4% (63 of 385)	19.6% (59 of 301 CCS providers (30 overlap))
Registered Family Homes	2.5% (9 of 367)	10.8% (4 of 37 CCS providers)

Q: What is the education level of child care teachers and directors?

While 65% percent of full-time teachers completed an education level beyond high school, only 29% completed education with a focus on early education and care. Similarly while 97% of full-time directors completed an education level beyond high school, only 49% completed education with a focus on early education and care.

Child Care Worker Highest Education Levels (by percent of workers at each level)

	Less than High School	High School	CDA*	Associate Degree (ECE**)	Some College	Bachelor Degree	Master Degree	Ph.D
FT Teachers (N=1048)	<1%	35%	6%	7% (5% ECE)	27% (9% ECE)	22% (9% ECE)	1.5% (<1% ECE)	<1%
FT Directors (N=174)	<1%	3%	2%	9%	23% (14% ECE)	46% (17% ECE)	15% (7% ECE)	2%

*CDA= Child Development Associate (credential) ** ECE or CD = Early Childhood Education or Child Development
 Source: Child Care Report: Compensation and Staffing, Austin/Travis County Department of Health and Human Services, December 2000. Austin Families, Inc. will collect this information beginning in 2002.

Q: What is the average annual salary earned by a child care teacher?

The average annual salary is between \$12,480 and \$18,720, or between \$6 and \$9 per hour. The average hourly wage for full-time teachers in NAEYC-accredited centers is \$8.94 per hour; for non-accredited centers it is \$7.83.

Hourly Overall Wages for Child Care Centers

	Average	Mode	Minimum	Maximum
FT Teacher – Average Wage	\$8.97	\$6.50	\$5.43	\$34.00
PT Teacher – Average Wage	\$9.62	\$10.10	\$5.50	\$20.00
FT Aide – Average Wage	\$7.71	\$7.00	\$6.18	\$9.50
PT Aide – Average Wage	\$7.82	\$8.10	\$5.45	\$17.00
FT Director –Average Wage	\$14.57	\$13.72	\$8.07	\$30.00
PT Director –Average Wage	\$14.66	N/A	\$9.00	\$23.06

Q: What is the annual turnover rate for child care teachers and directors?

In 2000, the average turnover rate for local teachers was 31% and for directors it was 21%. (Child Care Report: Compensation and Staffing, Austin/Travis County Department of Health and Human Services, December 2000. The Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project will collect data for 2002.) The national turnover rate for child care professionals hovers between 30% and 40% (Current Data on Child Care Salaries and Benefits in the United States, Center for the Child Care Workforce, 2002).

Q: What can I do to help?

- Please see the CAN Urgent Issues Action Plan at www.caction.org for additional information about specific and Community-Wide approaches to addressing child care needs in our community.

Additional Information

To access the 1999 CAN Early Education and Care Community refer to: www.caction.org. To obtain a copy of this or any other CAN report, please visit the CAN offices, email Brenda Ahrns at bahrns@austin.isd.tenet.edu, call 512-414-8203, or write to The Community Action Network, 1111 W. 6th Street, Suite B220, Austin, Texas 78703.

For regularly updated current statistics across all issue areas please see *The CAN Community Overview* document at www.caction.org.

For information on child care assistance, contact *WorkSource-Child Care Solutions* at 512-302-0710.

For information on Head Start, contact Child, Inc. at 512-451-7361.

For child care resource and referral, contact Austin Families, Inc. at 512-327-7878 or refer to the web site at <http://www.austinfamilies.org>.

If you are an employer interested in learning more about employer-sponsored child care benefits, refer to the Austin Area Employers' Collaborative web site at <http://www.austinfamilies.org>.

If you are interested in volunteering in child care planning, please contact Angelica Santacruz at 512-972-5028 to learn how you can participate in the Austin Child Care Council's Committee work and Ron Hubbard at 512-972-5034 regarding the CAN Early Education and Care working group.

For information on child care data collected from the Central Texas Indicators Annual Report on the Economic, Environmental, and Social Health of the Central Texas Region, contact Jim Walker at 512-223-774 or email at jhwalker@austin.cc.tx.us.

This FAQ was created by members of the following organizations:

Austin Families, Inc.
Austin/Travis County Department of Health and Human Services
Central Texas Indicators Project
Child, Inc.
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
WorkSource-Child Care Solutions.



For information about this document, please contact Angelica Santacruz at the City of Austin, 512-972-5028 or email at Angelica.Santacruz@ci.austin.tx.us.

CAN Partners: Austin Area Research Organization ~Austin Independent School District ~Austin Area Human Services Association ~ Austin Area Interreligious Ministries ~ Austin Travis County MHMR Center ~ Capital Metro ~ City of Austin ~ Community Justice Council ~ Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce ~ Health Partnerships 2010 ~ Higher Education Coalition ~ Travis County ~ United Way Capital Area ~ WorkSource- Greater Austin Area Workforce Board