

NEW HAMPSHIRE EARLY CARE & EDUCATION MARKET RATE SURVEY 2016 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

Federal regulations mandate that states conduct a survey of child care market rates (MR) and utilize this information in establishing scholarship rates. This MR survey included 30 questions about 12/2/2015.

Key Findings & Trends

1. There has been continual, gradual decline in the number of licensed programs, from a high of 1,207 in 2001 to 902 in 2015, a reduction of 25%. For remaining programs, the Mean Licensed Capacity increased from 38.5 children in 2001 to 51 in 2015.
2. The percentage of center-based programs has grown substantially, from 32% in 2001 to 51% in 2015. The percentage of licensed family based programs continues to fall, and is now just 1 in every 5 licensed programs.
3. Mean attendance was 83% of enrollment, nearly the same as in 2014. Mean enrollment was 41. Of those attending on December 2, 2015, 76% were full fee paying (not scholarship) children, compared to 82% in 2014.
4. Of those programs responding, 25% indicated their programs were Licensed Plus, and 11% were NAEYC accredited.
5. Very few licensed programs offered care from 7:00-9:00 pm (N=9), 9:00-11:00 pm (N=3), or overnight (N=2). Only 2 were open Saturday or Sunday, down from 5 in 2014.

Program Types

The highest percentage was Centers (51%), followed by School Age (13%), Nursery Schools/ Preschools (11%), Family Child Care Homes (10%), Family Group Care (10%), and Head Start (6%). Three in five (61%) licensed facilities identified themselves as *proprietary*.

Schedules

Over half (56%) of NH programs offer parents full and part-time options, about the same as in 2001 (58%). 22% offered only a partial day option, and 22% only a full-day only option.

Rates

Weekly rates were the most common way of charging for full time (78%) and for School Age programs (57%), while daily rates were most common (74%) for part-time care. The four tables below show the increase in rates over the past six years.

2015 FULL-TIME WEEKLY RATES

AGE	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
0-12 mos.	\$220 wk.	\$255 wk.
13-24 mos.	\$205 wk.	\$236 wk.
25-35 mos.	\$200 wk.	\$225 wk.
36-59 mos.	\$183 wk.	\$200 wk.
60-72 mos.	\$176 wk.	\$198 wk.

2009 FULL-TIME WEEKLY RATES

AGE	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
0-12 mos.	\$192 wk.	\$220 wk.
13-24 mos.	\$182 wk.	\$200 wk.
25-35 mos.	\$175wk.	\$195 wk.
36-59 mos.	\$160 wk.	\$180 wk.
60-72 mos.	\$155 wk.	\$175 wk.

2015 PART-TIME SCHOOL AGE RATES

	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
All	\$80 wk.	\$95 wk.
SA Only	\$77 wk.	\$77 wk.

2009 PART-TIME SCHOOL AGE RATES

	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
All	\$65 wk.	\$80 wk.
SA Only	\$65 wk.	\$77 wk.

Scholarships

Nearly two-thirds of licensed programs have an arrangement with DHHS to receive scholarships for eligible enrolled children, slightly greater than in 2014 (62%), and 2003 (61%). Half of these programs (51%) charged the DHHS assigned cost share to parents, and 55% charged parents the difference between the maximum weekly standard rate (WSR) and the actual charge.

Regional Variations

The Final Report contains several graphs and tables showing rate variations in five regions, based on child age, type of facility, and geographic location. The highest overall full-time rates were generally in the Eastern and Southern region and the lowest in the Northern region, with the exception of care for 60-71 month olds (Western). However, rate details by age continue to be more variable than expected.

Confidentiality & Verification

Individual surveys were not shared with DHHS. Child Care Aware of NH verified 5% of responses, but did not access individual responses.

Poverty and Access

A recent policy brief recommended that states “make high-quality child care and early education programs accessible and affordable for low income families, particularly those in underserved areas or in areas with concentration of poverty”. This current project reviewed census data and other information in order to try and better understand these issues within our state, and found the following:

Population Projections: The NH population is aging, with the fourth highest state median age in 2010. Those over 65 are projected to double in the next two decades, while the child population is projected to decline. Any population increase is likely to be due to an increase from immigration. The diversity of our child population is increasing more rapidly than our adult population with children from minority backgrounds currently nearly one in nine.

Poverty: NH had the fifth highest state per capita income in 2014, but pockets of poverty continue to exist. Poverty levels vary by location, and tend to be higher along the Maine border, the North Country, and Manchester. As just one example, more than 1 in every 5 children in Rochester (22%) lives below the poverty line. Three counties with the highest poverty rates are Coos (13.2%), Cheshire (12.8%), and Strafford (12.2%). Poverty levels are highest across the state for children (14%), and single mothers with children under five have a poverty rate of 46.9%.

Coos county has a poverty rate (14.9%) one and one-half times the overall NH rate, a declining population and birth rate, and the fewest licensed child care facilities (18). Five are Licensed Plus and three are Accredited.

Sullivan county had the second slowest rate of growth, a 9.1% poverty rate, the second highest rate of single-parent families, 36 licensed facilities, no Licensed Plus, and only two NAEYC accredited facilities.

Manchester, our largest city, and the tenth largest in New England, has the highest concentration of children with minority backgrounds in the state, and 56 licensed facilities. One in every four children lives below the poverty line, a number that has increased significantly in the last 15 years. Nearly 42% of families with children are single-parent families.

The report reviewed a few options to consider in addressing poverty and access.

Completion Rate

The final completion rate was 64.30% (N=580), which exceeded the 60% response rate target.

Incentives

Providers returning surveys by mail prior to the deadline were entered in a MR prize drawing for a variety of gift cards. Gift cards were also awarded in a drawing at the public forum.

Limitations

Since the response rate target was less than 100%, slight caution is suggested when interpreting these results.