



STATE SUMMARY 2012

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.oklahomachildcare.org

toll free: 888-962-2772

LEAD AGENCY

Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association

Stephanie Lippert, Oklahoma Child Care Portfolio, Project Coordinator

Sharon Williams, Oklahoma Child Care Portfolio, Data Consultant

Paula K. Koos, Oklahoma Child Care Portfolio, Executive Director

DATA PARTNERS

Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Child Care Services

Lesli Blazer, Director

Joni Riley, Programs Administrator

Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Research and Economic Analysis Division

DESIGNER

Funnel Design Group

Bryan Ellison, Chief Visionary Officer

Sean Cobb, Chief Creative Officer

Sally Nichols-Sharpe, PRESIDENT, TULSA

Cheryl Bell, SECRETARY, ADA

Larry Rackliff, TREASURER, BARTLESVILLE

Sheila Clark, ALTUS

Brittany Wycoff, OKLAHOMA CITY

Denisia Deramus, ADA

Daniel Johnson, OKLAHOMA CITY

Charlee Lanis, ADA

Jonathan Rector, OKLAHOMA CITY

W. Carlene Hill, OKLAHOMA CITY



2012 OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE PORTFOLIO

A publication reporting on the quality, affordability and availability of child care and early education in Oklahoma. Data from the Oklahoma Child Care Portfolio is included on the website for the Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association at www.okchildcareportfolio.org

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TO VIEW THE COMPLETE COUNTY
DATA PROFILES AND DATA TABLES:
www.okchildcareportfolio.org

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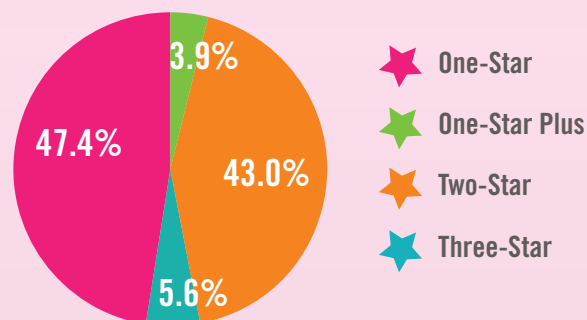
NEED

1) Children Needing Care while Parents Work

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents	
	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
0-5	316,500	183,461	58.0%
6-12	361,743	251,625	69.6%
0-12	678,243	435,086	64.1%

QUALITY

2) Star Ratings for Child Care Facilities



94.6% of children receiving child care assistance from DHS received care in a Two or Three Star facility.

AVAILABILITY

3) Licensed Child Care Capacity

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	Number of Spaces
Child Care Centers	1,709	113,511
Family Child Care Homes	2,372	20,962
STATE TOTAL	4,081	134,473

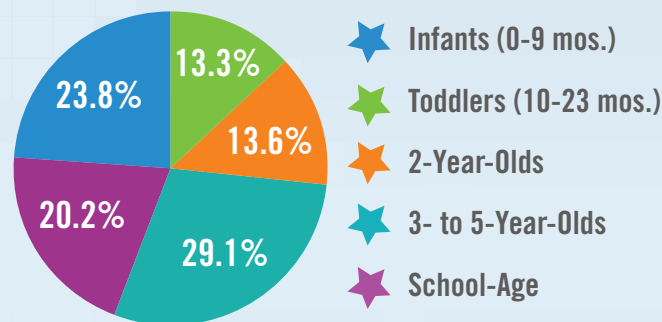
AFFORDABILITY

4) Average Costs of Child Care in Oklahoma (dollars per week)

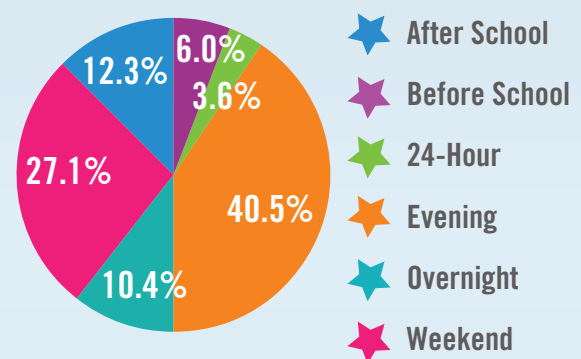
Type of Facility	under 1 yr	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4–5 yr	School Age
Child Care Center	\$120.00	\$113.45	\$104.66	\$101.21	\$93.90	\$82.68
Child Care Home	\$97.78	\$95.83	\$91.50	\$90.36	\$89.05	\$82.15

REQUESTS TO R&R

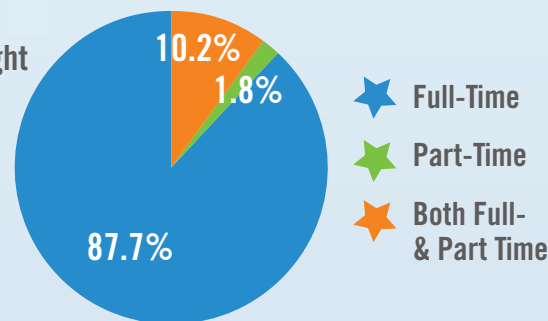
5) Ages for Whom Care is Sought



7) Non-Traditional Schedules Sought



6) Amount of Care Sought



EARLY EDUCATION

8) Enrollment

	Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds)		Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds)	
	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY
# Districts	105	444	19	515
Enrollment	13,342	26,391	2,305	50,682

76% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Pre-K program.

100% of 5-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Kindergarten program.

THE 2012 OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE PORTFOLIO IS THE SEVENTH COMPILATION OF DATA AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW OKLAHOMA IS CARING FOR ITS YOUNGEST RESIDENTS.

The project reports and analyzes Oklahoma licensed child care statistics by age group. It assesses child care supply, demand, quality and cost-per-child, and explores the economic factors that impact the status of child care in the state. The data includes licensed child care centers, family child care homes and Head Start programs. In addition, the Portfolio data also addresses public school kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs,



which sometimes collaborate with licensed child care providers to deliver early care and education to Oklahoma families.

The lead organization for the project is the Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, a private, not-for-profit corporation that receives contracted funds from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Child Care Services (OKDHS-OCCS) to guide and administer the state-wide network of resource and referral agencies.

The Association:

- helps parents find quality care that meets their needs and helps those eligible to locate and apply for assistance in paying for care
- assists child care providers in their efforts to offer age-appropriate learning experiences in a healthy, safe environment that meets the OKDHS licensing requirements, including training, technical assistance and consultation
- provides information to enable policy-makers and community members to advocate effectively for continuous improvements in Oklahoma's child care system

In the State of Oklahoma, child care must generally be licensed by OKDHS, unless it

- is provided by a relative of the child or by a nanny or housekeeper in the child's own home
- operates less than 15 hours per week
- takes children who attend on a drop-in basis while parents are nearby in the same building
- consists of informal arrangements which parents make with friends or neighbors to care for their children once in a while

For complete information on the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act—its requirements, enforcement and exemptions—please contact the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, 1-800-347-2273 or www.okdhs.org.

For the most part, the Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association concerns itself with licensed child care. However, some tribal resource and referral agencies also serve relative providers who are exempt from licensing requirements.

The 2012 Portfolio focuses on the economic impact of care in our state and how Oklahoma can continue to lead the nation in quality standards. ■

OCCRRA COMMISSIONED MARK SNEAD, PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST FOR REGIONTRACK, INC., TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF CHILD CARE ON OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMY IN 2012.

The newest report is an update to *The Economic Role of Oklahoma's Child Care Industry*, first published by Dr. Snead in 2003.

Child care continues to play a vital role in Oklahoma's economy. Child care allows parents to work and provide for their families. Small child care businesses employ workers and purchase goods. While the short term economics of the child care industry are important, the role of long term effects is even greater. Children who receive quality early care and learning experiences are more likely to hold a job, go to college and be married. They are less likely to go to jail, have substance abuse problems and depend on welfare. The impact of quality early learning environments is most dramatic for children from low-income families.

Dr. Snead's research shows the direct revenue generated by the child care industry has increased in the last decade by \$90 million with a total of nearly \$500 million in 2012. Child care has become a sizeable part of the state economy, comparable in revenue to the printing business or to ready-mix concrete manufacturing. Child care is a labor intensive sector which employees about 20,500 people. This level of employment is similar to the separate industries of legal services, home health care, and accounting, bookkeeping and payroll services.

In addition, economic activity in the child care sector indirectly supports an estimated \$367 million of spillover economic output in other state industries and 3,900 additional jobs with earnings of \$133 million annually.

More than 112,000 children are enrolled in formal child care in our state which equals about one in five children of child care age, birth–12. This is an increase of more than 75 percent over the past two decades. The updated study noted a consolidation in the child care industry over the last decade. Fewer programs are caring for the same overall total number of children. There are almost 2,000 fewer child care facilities in operation, with a trend toward programs licensed for larger numbers.

Child care is a major expense for families. It costs an average of \$6,250 a year for full time care for an infant in an Oklahoma child care center. Low-income working families simply cannot afford the cost. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services offers child care subsidy benefits to families who meet income guidelines so that children can be cared for in licensed, high quality settings while their parents work or attend school or training. Child care subsidies provide net economic benefits to the Oklahoma economy even after accounting for the cost of subsidy¹ according to new research; the program pays for itself and adds to economic growth.

The study suggests that maintaining access to quality, affordable child care has the potential to serve as a viable economic development policy agenda going forward. The child care industry yields positive economic benefits in three areas; early childhood investment, families in the workforce and the growth of small child care business. The child care industry in Oklahoma indisputably has created a positive economic impact on our state. ■

A NEW FACE FOR OKDHS

IN FEBRUARY 2012, Howard Hendrick, longtime Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services announced his resignation. Director Hendrick was a champion for quality child care and the child care subsidy so families could work or go to school. In November 2012, Edward Lake started as Director of the largest state agency in Oklahoma. Director Lake brings with him 38 years of working at the Tennessee DHS at almost every level.

Although a change in leadership for Oklahoma's DHS may also bring changes at the program level, Director Lake has expressed his continuing support for high quality child care in Oklahoma. ■

¹The Economic Role of Oklahoma's Child Care Industry. Report by: Region Track, Inc., January 31, 2013. Page 10.

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF 2012 PROVED TO BE AN EXCITING ONE RELATING TO CHILD CARE.

Many pieces of legislation were introduced that could have had a direct impact on the child care industry. The Child Care Resource & Referral network across the state mobilized to educate legislators and other local leaders about the lasting impacts particular pieces of legislation could have on the child care system and ultimately, the children of our state.

Ultimately, SB1800 was the only piece of legislation regarding child care that passed the Oklahoma Legislature and was signed by Governor Mary Fallin. SB1800 added language to existing legislation that pertains to the Child Care Advisory Committee of OKDHS, whose role is to carry out the provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Act, prepare and recommend minimum requirements and standards for child care facilities, advise on the development of quality child care programs, and educate the public regarding quality child care. *The committee now has the responsibility for creating a Child Care Facility Peer Review Board.*

At the federal level, the network continues its work for the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the federal law that allocates funding to states for child care and has guidelines for how states operate their child care systems. It's been more than 20 years since the law was first enacted and we've learned that without stronger protections for children in the federal law, states vary greatly in their standards and oversight of child care. States have failed to protect children in too many cases. Nail and veterinarian technicians receive more pre-service training than a child care worker watching children. Child Care Aware of America, formerly the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), has spent the last few years focused on a few key policy items that would have an impact on the quality and standards for child care across the nation. The Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral network meets yearly with its Congressional and Senate members to discuss the following policy items in the reauthorization of the CCDBG:

- **Require complete background checks** for all paid providers who regularly care for unrelated children. This includes fingerprint checks.
- **Require quarterly unannounced inspections of licensed providers.** This is the same as what Congress requires for military child care. *Oklahoma already meets this standard.*
- **Require all paid providers to complete adequate training.** This means 40 hours of initial training and 24 hours of annual training. This is a modest requirement compared to the hundreds to training hours states require for manicurist or barbers who have important jobs but aren't caring for the lives of children. Initial training should include CPR, first aid, child abuse detection and reporting, basic safety and health, and child behavior and development. More than a checklist, training is intended to strengthen behavior and promote quality care.
- **Increase the quality set aside to 12 percent** and further increase it to 25 percent over time. This would bring child care on par with Head Start. Quality set aside funds can be used for compensation projects, training and technical assistance efforts, and development and support of innovative strategies, all of which can improve quality of care. ■



WHILE NATIONALLY, CHILD CARE STANDARDS ARE WEAK, OKLAHOMA HAS CONTINUED

to maintain its ranking at the top for its standards and oversight of child care homes and centers. Child Care Aware of America, formerly NACCRRA, reports biennially on child care homes and centers. Oklahoma consistently earns high marks in comparison with the other fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense.

OVERSIGHT OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

In the updated 2012 study,² Oklahoma ranks number 1 with 120 out of a possible 150 points (80 percent) based upon 15 factors including a licensing requirement for providers caring for even one unrelated child; pre-licensing inspections; surprise inspections after licensing and when complaints have been filed; criminal background investigations of child care workers; access to learning materials; and training/educational requirements for providers.

Although our state was deemed better than all others, including Washington, DC and the Department of Defense, Child Care Aware of America's report noted that a score of 80 percent left room for improvement. Because "care offered in a family child care home is one of the largest segments of the child care industry," it is imperative that these environments be safe, healthful and developmentally appropriate. This can only be assured with adequate state licensing requirements, continual monitoring and quick, effective enforcement actions when problems are discovered. Child Care Aware has an ongoing presence on Capitol Hill for the federal reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant to establish basic requirements and standards for all states regarding family child care homes.

OVERSIGHT OF CHILD CARE CENTERS

In an updated report issued in 2011,³ NACCRRA reviewed states' policies, standards and oversight of child care centers, ranking Oklahoma first among the 50 states (or second behind the Department of Defense's independent system). Oklahoma moved up one spot, in front of the District of Columbia, but maintained its number one ranking among the states. Our state earned 114 out of a possible 150 points (76

percent) to beat the national average of only 87 points (58 percent). Rankings were based on 15 separate criteria. Ten relate to basic state standards. The other five relate to oversight of compliance with the standards.

Although 76 percent leaves much to be desired, Oklahoma's rank, when compared with the other 50 states, reflects continual progressive leadership and commitment to improving the quality of care for its children.

PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE

Parents who pay for child care know too well the burden the large expense can have on their finances. The updated report⁴ shows national child care costs far exceeds the amount a family spends on food. In 40 states and the District of Columbia, center based infant care was higher than 10 percent of median income for a two-parent family. In Oklahoma, infant care in a child care center is 14 percent of the median household income.

Daily, low and middle income families sacrifice the quality of care for cheaper substandard care in order to make ends meet. The economy over the past couple of years has done nothing to improve this situation for parents but has pushed them further into a corner, making quality care for their children further out of reach.

PARENTS PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD CARE

NACCRRA spent a year, from 2009 to 2010, conducting a scientific poll on the perception of child care in America and gathering parents' stories. The stories in the report⁵ are from just a few of the millions of parents across the nation who face daily child care challenges. Studies have repeatedly shown that high-quality child care helps children enter school ready to learn. The bottom line conclusion is that families expect safe, high quality, affordable child care that prepares children for success in school and in life. Unfortunately, the reality is often much different. NACCRRA estimates less than 10 percent of the nation's child care is of high quality even though studies have repeatedly shown that high-quality child care helps set the foundation for future success. ■

² *Leaving Children to Chance: 2012 Update: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes.* For the full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/lcc_report_full_april2012.pdf

³ *We Can Do Better: 2011 Update: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Standards and Oversight.* For the full report, see: <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/we-can-do-better-2011.php>

⁴ *Parents and the High Price of Child Care: 2012 Update.* For the full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/cost_report_2012_final_081012_0.pdf

⁵ *The Economy's Impact on Parents' Choices and Perceptions About Child Care.* For the Full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/publications/naccrra_publications/2012/economyimpactonparentschoices.pdf

SOME 11 MILLION U.S. CHILDREN UNDER AGE FIVE SPEND TIME IN SOME FORM OF CHILD CARE EVERY WEEK WHILE THEIR PARENTS WORK.

On average, that time comes to 35 hours a week.⁶ Furthermore, 64 percent of American mothers of children under six years old are in the workforce.⁷



In Oklahoma, as in the rest of the nation, child care is a necessity for families who need two incomes in order to make ends meet, as well as for single parents working to support their children. Over 180,000 (58 percent) of Oklahoma children under six need care because both parents work or because a single head-of-household parent works. In addition, more than 250,000 (69.9 percent)⁸ of Oklahoma's children aged six to 12 live in families where all parents work. These children may need care before and/or after school and during holidays and breaks from school.

Whether care is provided by a relative, a friend or a licensed facility, it is a fact of life that working parents must find arrangements for their children during at least part of the week. When a child regularly spends time with a non-relative caregiver, the provider must be licensed and should furnish a safe, loving and educational environment. The more time spent with a non-parental caregiver, the greater the impact of the caregiver on the child's development.

To assist parents in finding a child care provider that meets their needs, the Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association maintains a presence in all 77 counties to offer information and referrals, along with consumer education that helps families make knowledgeable selections. From their personal, telephone and electronic contacts with parents who seek child care, the community

9) Children Needing Care while Parents Work

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents	
	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
0-5	316,500	183,461	58.0%
6-12	361,743	251,625	69.6%
0-12	678,243	435,086	64.1%

10) Counties with Greatest Need (children under 13 with working parents)

County	Percent
Carter County	71.8%
Noble County	72.1%
Nowata County	77.3%
Tillman County	78.7%
Love County	80.9%

11) Counties with Least Need (children under 13 with working parents)

County	Percent
Cimarron County	46.7%
Harmon County	47.1%
Okfuskee County	48.4%
Washita County	48.8%
Beckham County	52.3%

agencies maintain records about what types of child care parents need. A majority of the requested referrals were for full time care (87.7 percent) and infant or toddler care (50.7 percent).

In addition to the typical Monday through Friday daytime work schedule, many parents need care while they work non-traditional shifts at nights and on weekends. Thirty-eight percent of parents who sought assistance finding child care needed an atypical schedule; this is a five percent increase in two years.

While there is still disparity in levels of need from county to county in our state, the overall need for child care has decreased since 2008. This could be attributed in part to the sluggish economy. An increase in unemployment means a decrease in the need for child care.

Single working parents are perhaps the group with the most urgent need for child care because the wellbeing of the family depends on only one wage earner. In Oklahoma County, 30 percent of children under 13 live with a single parent in the workforce. Seminole and Tillman Counties have higher numbers of single parents, with 36.8 percent and 38.0 percent, respectively. ■

⁶Child Care in America: State Fact Sheets. NACCRRA. For full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/2012nationalsummaryfactsheets.pdf

⁷Employment Characteristics of Families Summary, 2011. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.nr0.htm>

⁸Oklahoma Early Care & Education Portfolio: 2012 Updated Data. To view the data and it's sources, see: <http://www.okchildcareportfolio.org>

WHEN PARENTS NEED CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHILE THEY WORK, MOST HAVE A NUMBER OF OPTIONS, INCLUDING RELATIVE CARE, A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, A LARGE CHILD CARE CENTER, a

local Head Start center or even a nanny or housekeeper who will provide care in the child's own home. Some will turn to care by a friend or neighbor—which may or may not be a legal option.

RELATIVE CARE

If they have extended family members available and willing to care for their child, parents may prefer relative care over other options, primarily because they are familiar with the relative and share common values, and because the care may be more affordable. Even the most loving aunt, uncle or grandparent may not be qualified to provide an age-appropriate learning environment or opportunities for the child to interact with peers. On the other hand, this type of care can build and strengthen generational ties and cultural affiliations. Unfortunately, in our modern, mobile society, extended family members may not live nearby, or may, themselves, be employed outside the home. Because relative care is not licensed, no records are available to indicate how many parents choose this option.

FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE

In Oklahoma, a friend or neighbor who cares for an unrelated child as much as 15 hours per week must be licensed by OKDHS. Because there are providers of this type of care that choose to ignore the law and are not licensed, parents need to be advised of the potential hazards of this type of arrangement. Without training, inspections

and minimum standards, the friend or neighbor may not be able to provide the basics of health and safety. Financial considerations may entice a parent to choose an unlicensed home that is operating illegally, but this places the child in a potentially dangerous situation where there is no outside oversight.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

When a provider cares for one or more unrelated children in his or her own home, the provider must be licensed as a family child care home. Many parents prefer this type of small, home-like setting for their child. The number of children allowed in a home can vary from one to as many as twelve in a large family child care home. The caregiver to child ratio is generally smaller than in a center and depends upon the mix of ages in the home. To be legal, all such homes must be licensed and are subject to periodic, unannounced inspection. Throughout Oklahoma, there are 2,372 licensed family child care homes, making 20,962 spaces available statewide. These numbers have continued to decrease over the last decade. The recession made its mark in Oklahoma and small businesses, such as family child care homes, were not spared.

CHILD CARE CENTER

A child care center typically offers more structured activities, a greater variety of learning materials and equipment, more children of like ages and multiple caregivers. They are typically more costly to operate and, therefore, must charge higher fees. Many parents prefer this type of setting precisely because it is larger and offers a wider range of services. In Oklahoma, there are 1,709 licensed child care centers (inclusive of Head Start Centers), offering a total of 113,511

12) Licensed Child Care Capacity

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	Number of Spaces
Child Care Centers	1,709	113,511
Family Child Care Homes	2,372	20,962
STATE TOTAL	4,081	134,473

spaces. Even though the number of centers has decreased since 2010, the capacity of the centers has increased.

HEAD START CENTER

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development program serving low-income children and their families. Head Start actually consists of two programs: Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS), with the first serving pre-school-aged children and the second serving children from prenatal to age three, including pregnant women. To be eligible for a Head Start or Early Head Start placement, a family's income must be at or below the Federal Poverty Level (for 2012 that translates to \$23,050 for a family of four⁹).

VARIATIONS IN AVAILABILITY

Demand exceeds supply in certain requested hours of child care. In Fiscal Year 2012, more than one-third (2,415) of all parental requests for child care referrals fielded by Oklahoma's resource and referral agencies concerned care during

non-traditional times, such as evenings (40.5%), overnight hours (10.4%), or weekends (27.1%). The need for child care during swing and night shifts will no doubt continue to present a challenge to both parents and providers. No matter the total number of referrals, the number of requests for this type of care has remained consistent in recent years.

Slots for infants have increased over the years, but the demand is consistently high. Twenty-four percent of requests to resource and referral agencies are for infant care. Caring for infants requires more staff, as well as more specialized supplies and equipment. These additional expenses may explain why some child care centers (16%) choose not to serve infants.

Sixty-eight percent of all licensed child care spaces in Oklahoma are available for families who need assistance in order to pay for care, and 28 percent of all Oklahoma children in licensed care receive subsidies. Furthermore, over 94 percent of children receiving child care assistance are located in a two-star or three-star facility. The large number of subsidized spaces in higher quality facilities may be attributable to Oklahoma's groundbreaking incentive program for providers, Reaching for the Stars. Higher star ratings mean higher subsidy reimbursements as providers acquire more professional development, create more stimulating learning environments and involve parents in their children's care. ■



⁹US Department of Health and Human Services, 2012 Poverty Guidelines; <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/12poverty.shtml#guidelines>

CHILD CARE IS EXPENSIVE. IN FACT, CARE FOR CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS WORK FULL TIME REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL FAMILY BUDGET ITEM, OFTEN RIVALING HOUSING COSTS.

Fees vary depending on the child care setting; the age of the child; the geographic location of the facility; the care schedule used; and the quality of care (as indicated by the provider's level of professional development, the quality of the learning environment and the degree to which parents are involved in their children's care).

CHILDREN UNDER TWO

Care for an infant (under one year old) is the most costly category, followed closely by care for children under two. In Oklahoma, full-time care for an infant averages \$120.00 per week in a child care center. Care for an infant averages \$97.78 per week statewide in a family child care home. While the cost of care for an infant in a child care home has remained about the same over the past four years, the cost in a center has increased 15 percent.

For a child older than 12 months but younger than 24 months, the state average for a center is \$113.45 per week. The state's average cost for a child this age in a family child care home is \$95.83 per week. Costs may vary from county to county.

OLDER CHILDREN

Costs drop as children's ages increase, largely because staff-to-child ratios can be higher with older children. Care for a school-aged child averages \$82.68 per week for care in a center statewide and \$82.15 per week for care in a family home. From ages 0-3, rates are generally higher

in a center. Beginning with school ages, however, a family home setting is generally more expensive.

CHILD CARE COSTS AND FAMILY INCOME

Assuming that a family needs care for an infant in a child care center for 46 weeks (52 weeks minus six weeks for maternity leave) during its first year of life, the fees could run \$5,520, using the statewide average. If the infant is placed in a family home, the cost can be \$4,365 that first year. Oklahoma City or Tulsa Metro parents can expect to pay \$7,130 to \$7,447, respectively for center care in the first year of a baby's life.

If a single mother has two children, ages 2 and 6, in a center for 52 weeks of care, her expenses will come to almost \$9,700. The median housing cost per year is \$8,544.¹⁰ According to the most recent self-sufficiency study¹¹ for Oklahoma, child care is the largest expense for a single parent family who has more than one child.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

For many single parent families, as well as some two parent families, licensed child care is not possible without state or tribal assistance. And yet, only a little less than nine percent of Oklahoma's children whose parents work utilize such a subsidy. Oklahoma families are incurring the large financial child care burden on their own.

Logan, Garfield and Oklahoma Counties have the largest percentages of child care slots that are subsidized by the state at 38.3 percent, 38.1 percent and 37.8 percent, respectively.

Cimarron, Ellis, Tillman, and Washita have fewer than five percent of their child care slots paid for with child care assistance.

13) Average Costs of Child Care in Oklahoma (dollars per week)

Type of Facility	under 1 yr	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4-5 yr	School Age
Child Care Center	\$120.00	\$113.45	\$104.66	\$101.21	\$93.90	\$82.68
Child Care Home	\$97.78	\$95.83	\$91.50	\$90.36	\$89.05	\$82.15

14) Licensed Capacity Accepting Subsidies

Type of Facility	Accept Subsidies (number/percent)	Spaces w/Subsidies (number/percent)
Family Child Care Homes	1,349 / 56.9%	12,884 / 61.5%
Child Care Centers	1,131 / 66.2%	78,974 / 69.6%
STATE TOTAL	2,480 / 60.8%	91,858 / 68.3%

15) Subsidy Eligibility (as of 6/1/2008)

When a family of five members or less are working or in school they are eligible for some type of child care assistance if they fall within these income guidelines. This is just a sample of income eligibility requirements; OKDHS has more guidelines for larger families.

Children in Care	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1 Child	0–\$2,425 / mo.	0–\$29,100 / yr.
2 Children	0–\$2,925 / mo.	0–\$35,100 / yr.
3 or more Children	0–\$3,625 / mo.	0–\$43,500 / yr.



WHEN CHILD CARE IS OUT OF REACH

Is child care in Oklahoma affordable? For many people in the state the answer is no. Parents cope in a variety of ways. Some arrange their work schedules in alternate shifts, allowing one parent to be home with the children while the other works. Some have an extended family member available. Too many must turn to unlicensed, sub-standard care arrangements or even leave their children unattended at too early an age. ■

¹⁰US Census, 2011 American Community Survey, Table B25105

¹¹University of Washington: The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oklahoma 2009, Prepared for the Oklahoma Asset Building Coalition. http://www.okacaa.org/OK09_SSS_Web_111909.pdf

OKLAHOMA HAS ESTABLISHED A BASE LINE OF MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING A LICENSE TO OPERATE A CHILD CARE FACILITY.

Basic standards include the safety and cleanliness of the child care setting, the provision of nutritious meals and snacks, low child to staff ratios, the enforcement of immunization requirements and the appearance of caring attitudes and behaviors from attending child care workers.

Oklahoma, unlike many states, goes beyond the minimum to encourage high quality care. Incentives are offered for child care providers to obtain continuing professional development, offer age-appropriate learning activities, and involve parents in their children's care. Targeted quality improvement programs enhance services to infants and toddlers, connect children with physical and mental health issues to appropriate services and educate parents about quality as they select child care for their families.

REACHING FOR THE STARS

Since February 1998, Oklahoma has used a quality criteria and tiered reimbursement program aimed at improving child care beyond the basic licensing criteria, especially for children receiving state-subsidized care. The program involves four distinct levels, designated by "stars," including one-star—the basic licensing level; one-star plus—in which a provider progresses toward two stars; two-star—in which a facility *either* attains national accreditation *or* fully meets additional quality criteria including provider qualifications, enhanced learning environment, increased parental involvement and program assessment; and

three-star—in which a provider fully meets all the enhanced quality criteria *and* achieves national accreditation.

Although participation beyond the one-star tier is voluntary, subsidy reimbursement rates are tied to providers' star ratings, encouraging them to aspire to enhanced quality of care. This is especially significant for lower-income families whose children are in subsidized care, given that almost 95 percent of those children receiving assistance are in a two- or three-star facility.

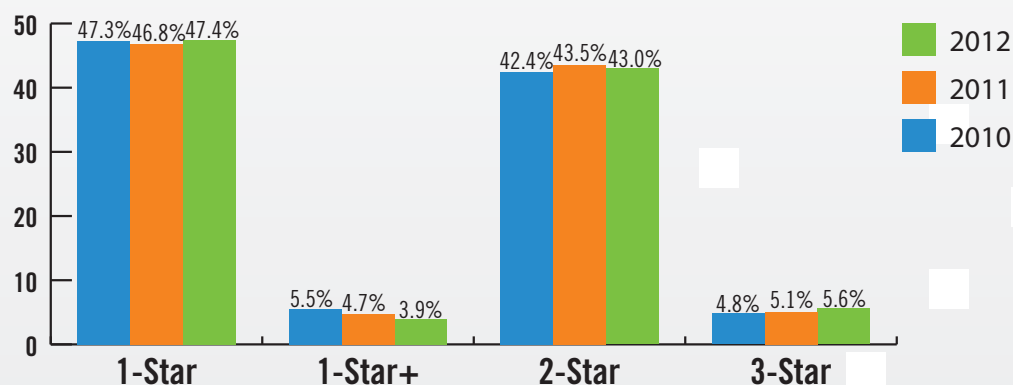
The Stars Program has operated more than thirteen years. The State Child Care Administrator, Lesli Blazer, is leading the child care system in a comprehensive review of the program to ensure it enhances the quality of children's daily experiences in early childhood programs based on the latest research and best practices. The redesigned Stars system is expected to have five Star levels with set criteria for the first two levels and then a point system for criteria at the higher levels, including points for accreditation. The new and enhanced program criteria are expected in the next few years.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

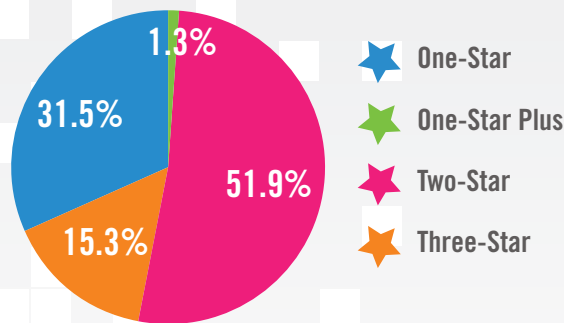
Providers who seek continuing education and training in order to improve the quality of their care have a number of options, from formal course work at Oklahoma's institutions of higher learning, to workshops and conferences within and outside the state, to distance learning opportunities, and membership in professional associations.

The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, a service of the University of Oklahoma, is a centralized statewide program that

16) Star Ratings (Quality Indicators) for Child Care Facilities (2010-2012)



17) Slots by Star Ratings (2012)



coordinates the training of early childhood professionals, including child care center directors and teachers, as well as family child care providers. Among other functions, the Center:

- Manages the Early Care and Education Professional Development Ladder which tracks the educational progress of directors and teachers.
- Implements and maintains the Oklahoma Director's Credential.
- Recruits and maintains a registry of educators approved to offer training for child care providers.
- Develops and implements the Entry Level Child Care Training (ELCCT) course required of all new child care teachers working at centers.
- Offers a variety of training opportunities for child care providers across the state.
- Administers the Reward Oklahoma program, which supplements the salaries of child care providers who continue their education in early childhood care and education.

Oklahoma has approved the Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines which serve as a foundation to connect what is taught with what is appropriate for very young children. The guidelines also provide a framework to encourage consistency among early childhood programs across Oklahoma. The guidelines are intended to assist parents, child care teachers and other caring adults regarding what children may know and be able to do.

All Family Child Care Home (FCCH) providers and Master Teachers at Child Care Centers must attend at least one fourteen hour session of Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) Train-

ing no later than January 1, 2014. There are two session from which to choose: *ELG for Infants, Toddlers & Twos* OR *ELG for Ages Three to Five*.

INFANT TODDLER SERVICES

For six years, 2006–2011, the child care resource and referral network was able to provide enhanced service to providers around Infant Toddler development through consultants in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Metros and the Statewide Coordinator. Going into FY2012, the Association's budget was cut by 25% and this project could no longer be funded. While the requests have continued from providers needing technical assistance around components essential to infant and toddler development care such as child/caregiver interaction, supporting language and literacy development, supporting gross motor and fine motor development through play, and other important topics, the remaining network staff has stepped up to fill this void. From years of scientific research, we know the majority of vital brain functions are developed—or wired—during these critical years. Assistance to providers around Infant Toddler development is necessary to improve the quality of care of our youngest children and the additional effort by network staff has insured that resources remain available during difficult budget years.

CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

While child care providers were able to receive consultation from Registered Nurses through the Health and Safety Enhancement Project for six years, it was a program that ended in June 2011. To benefit from quality care, a child must be healthy enough to be present, attentive and involved in the learning environment. Furthermore, parents expect their child's care provider to maintain a clean, healthful environment, as indicated by a survey conducted by NACCRRRA in 2010.

Even though the need and importance of health and safety for programs does not go away when funding does, staff from CCR&R agencies once again worked diligently to meet the needs of providers. CCR&Rs have been providing guidance on a variety of topics essential to child care health and safety such as food handling and preparation, outdoor playground hazards, basic infant and toddler care, medication administration and poisons. ■

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE CONNECTING WORKING FAMILIES WITH CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS.

From educating parents about how to evaluate their options and select quality child care that fits their needs, to documenting and reporting on services requested, local agencies form the basis for understanding and improving child care in America. All services provided to parents are done at no cost and most services to child care providers are no to low-cost through a funded contract the Association has with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Child Care Services.

The Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association provides technical support to the eight regional agencies, establishing and administering their contracts and assessing their performance against established criteria. With eight strategically located regional agencies, Oklahoma's network serves parents, providers and communities in all 77 counties.

Through first-hand data supplied by these agencies, a picture can be painted of what parents need and what is available in each location.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

The primary function of child care resource and referral agencies is to help families find quality child care. Extensive consumer education and referrals are offered to every family who contacts a child care resource and referral agency for help. The goal is for parents to be informed consumers who are better equipped to make wise choices for their children.

In FY2012, the agencies answered 4,365 calls from families seeking referrals to child care for over 6,365 children. Just over half of these children (50.7 percent) were under three years of age, while another 29.1 percent were from three to five years. Seventy-eight percent of the families who called are either receiving or are interested in receiving state or tribal financial assistance to help them pay for child care. More than one-third of them needed care during non-traditional work schedules (evening hours, overnight or on weekends). In addition, another

3,207 families called for general information or searched for child care online.

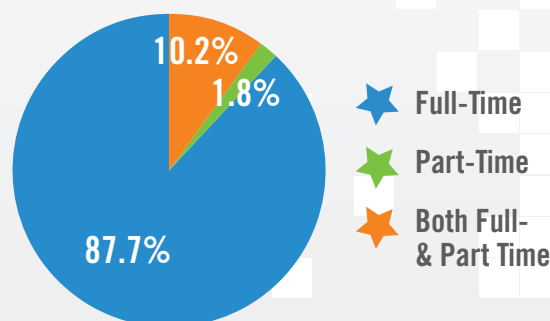
OCCRRA is committed to delivering outstanding customer service to families. Consumer education and referral is conducted in accordance with Best Practice standards set forth in Child Care Aware of America's Quality Assurance Criteria. In order to meet national standards, agencies must score at least 70% on a standardized assessment instrument. Oklahoma sets the bar even higher, exceeding the standards in FY 2012 with a state-wide average assessment score of 90 percent.

Many states regard Oklahoma as a model for training referral specialists to work with parents. Oklahoma's Parent Services Manager, Marti Nicholson, is the author of training curriculum that is used across the nation, and she continues to travel to different states to conduct training with regional and statewide CCR&R staff on how to conduct a client referral call.

POWERFUL PROVIDER SERVICES

A vital role of resource and referral is to help child care providers become better educated and more skilled. This matters because the training and education of caregivers is the single most important predictor of high quality care. Resource and referral agencies conduct workshops, provide individual technical assistance, offer teaching resources and consult with providers on topics ranging from dual language learners to special health and behavioral needs. Training is offered in both child related and business requirements. From guiding people who are thinking of launching a child care business, to referring families to established providers, the agencies provide a valuable service to their local child care industries.

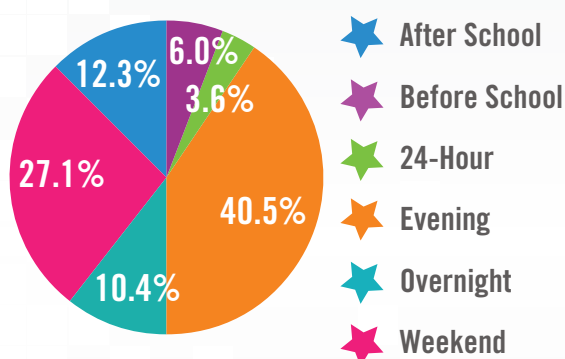
18) Amount of Care Sought



In FY2012, the regional agencies responded to 7,682 requests from providers for technical assistance and administered 1,480 hours of formal training. Altogether, the eight agencies served well over 7,600 providers.

Since OKDHS, OCCS partner agencies (OCCRRA, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholars Program, Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, and Career Tech) started collectively using the same data tracking instrument for child care provider training, OCCRRA consistently serves a significant portion of Oklahoma's child care providers.

19) Non-Traditional Schedules Sought



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

OCCRRA is a strong advocate for high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care. The state network has developed a public policy agenda at both the state and federal levels. Regional CCR&R agencies connect and build relationships with the policy-makers that serve in their districts. Child Care Resource & Referral maintains its presence at the state and federal capitols through one-on-one meetings with legislators and their staff to share updated child care supply and demand data and best public policy for access to affordable, quality child care.

Much of FY2012 was spent collaborating with Child Care Aware of America and the Child Care Council of Kentucky to launch a new version of the child care search application for smart phones. Since OCCRRA invested time working with the software developer to enhance the smart phone app to be intuitive to a parent's search, Oklahoma was chosen to be the first state to

pilot the app statewide. OCCRRA worked to make revisions from the initial app created by the Child Care Council of Kentucky. The application became available for download in 2013.

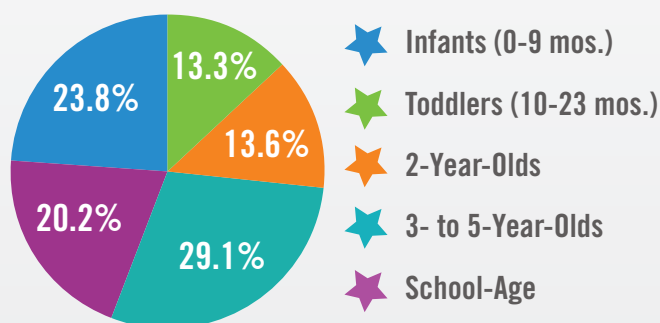
HISPANIC OUTREACH

OCCRRA has continued its commitment to diversity by providing services to both the largest and second-largest language groups in Oklahoma. Our Hispanic Services Project provides referrals in Spanish for parents across the state. Bilingual referral specialists are employed in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa to cover the metropolitan areas, and referral services for the rural areas are provided by the state coordinator.

Hispanic Services continues to provide vital help to child care providers across our state. More than 120 child care providers participated in the annual Hispanic Child Care Conference in June 2012. Phyllis Yargee and Marsha White from Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource & Referral were the keynote speakers on nutrition and movement.

Commitment to professional development for the Hispanic community is evident through a multitude of projects. Many partner organizations and state agencies use the expertise of the Association's Hispanic Services Coordinator to translate a variety of information into Spanish. The Coordinator also continues with 18 Hispanic providers completing their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential through an online Spanish curriculum. The Hispanic Coordinator conducted four bilingual assessments for Hispanic providers who have applied for their CDA. OCCRRA is proud to serve Oklahoma's largest and fastest growing minority group. ■

20) Ages for Whom Care is Sought



DATA AND INFORMATION USED TO UPDATE THE 2012 OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO COMES FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES IN OKLAHOMA AND AROUND THE NATION.

This section identifies the sources for the information found in this document and the method used for computations where applicable.

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY — see [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#).

CHILD CARE COSTS displays the average weekly cost of full time licensed care in child care centers and family child care homes. For child care centers and homes, state and individual county costs are reported for the following age groups: Infants, Toddlers, Two Year Olds, Three Year Olds, Four and Five Year Olds, and Six and Over (school age). *To view individual county child care cost please visit www.okchildcareportfolio.org.*

SOURCE: Data from NACCRRAware provider updates completed by local child care resource and referral agencies, and report generated by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, Inc., FY 2012.

CHILD CARE SLOTS — see [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#).

CHILD POPULATION is the total resident population, including dependents of Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. In the *Need* section state and county counts are displayed for two age groups (birth through 5; 6 through 12) and the combination of those ages (birth through 12). Ages displayed in the *Need* section omits older children for whom child care is not likely to be sought. There is a margin of error calculated for each county and the state by the different age groups. The margin of error can be found at the top of the *Need* table in the Data Table Section.

SOURCE: Data provided by Oklahoma State Data Center, Policy, Research and Economic Analysis Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using data from the 2010 US Census, Sex by Age for the Population under 20 years; Universe: Population under 20 years. (Census Summary File-1 detailing population data has remained unchanged, therefore calculations are from 2010)

CHILDREN NEEDING CARE FOR EVERY LICENSED CHILD CARE SLOT is calculated two different ways to report child care need for the state and for individual counties:

1. **Children 0-12 Needing Care for Every Licensed Child Care Slot** takes the total number of **Children With Working Parents** (birth through age 12) by the **Licensed Child Care Capacity** for the state and for each county. This number may be larger than the number of children actually needing care since many families needing care may use relative care or unlicensed care of a friend or neighbor.
2. **Children 0-5 Needing Care for Every Licensed Child Care Slot** approximates the child care need which is met in Oklahoma. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of **Children With Working Parents** (birth through age five) by the **Licensed Child Care Capacity** for the state and for each county.

SOURCE: See [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#) and [Children With Working Parents](#).

CHILDREN RECEIVING SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

measures the number of children by state and by individual counties who receive child care services (swipes) through the child care subsidy program during a particular month. This number counts each child only once no matter how many facilities or counties he receives care in. The percent of children with working parents who receive a child care subsidy is reported for the state and for individual counties.

SOURCE: Data from Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2012. Table 7: Child Care Services Provided, By Age and County. Facilities and Subsidies by Type, Stars and County.*

CHILDREN RECEIVING SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE BY STAR LEVEL

counts the number of children by state and by individual counties for whom a child care subsidy payment was made during the month. Some payments cover services provided in prior months and counts each child in each facility they received care in.

SOURCE: Data from Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2012. Table 9: Child Care Facilities and Subsidies by Type, Stars and County.*

CHILDREN WITH WORKING PARENTS counts the children under the age of 13 who live in two-parent families in which both parents work outside the home and children who live in single-parent households in which the only parent works outside the home. **Children under the age of 13 living with working parents approximate those for whom child care is most likely to be needed.** The percent of children with working parents displays the proportion of all children in each age group who live in two-parent families in

which both parents work outside the home and children who live in single-parent households in which the only parent works outside the home. State and individual county information is displayed for two age groups (birth through 5; 6 through 12) and the combination of those ages (birth through 12). Percentage of children living in homes with working parents from the US Census Bureau's 2007-2011 American Community Survey is used in conjunction with 2010 child population Census estimates (Census Summary File-1 detailing population data has remained unchanged, therefore calculations are from 2010) to calculate recent numbers of children living with working parents. Calculated totals may vary from the sums of their components due to rounding. There is a margin of error calculated for each county and the state by the different age groups with working parent. The margin of error can be found at the top of the Need table in the Data Table Section.

SOURCE: Percentage of children living in homes with working parents *from* data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Policy, Research and Economic Analysis Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using data from the US Census Bureau.

Reason/Methodology:

- Started with Table B23008 Age of Own Children Under 18 Years In Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5 Year Data Set.
- 1. Used table data as provided to arrive at breakdown for 0-5 age group.
- 2. Table provides breakdown for 6-17 age group but not for 6-12 age group
- 3. Assumed ratios for 6-12 age group were consistent with ratios for 6-17 age group.
- 4. Multiplied ratios against child population reported by 2010 Census data to get final results for 6-12 age group. (Census Summary File-1 detailing population data has remained unchanged, therefore calculations are from 2010)

EARLY EDUCATION details public school programs and enrollment for preschool age children. State and individual county data displays the number of public pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs and the number of children enrolled in each. Information is displayed by all programs, by full-day programs and by half-day programs. The levels of participation are recorded as a percent of all four-year olds who are enrolled in either a full-day or part-day pre-kindergarten program and as a percent of all five-year olds who are enrolled in either a full-day or part-day kindergarten program. In some cases single year population estimates fell below the actual preschool

enrollment in a given county. In such an event, the level of participation was recorded as 100%.

SOURCE: Data *from* Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), 2011 – 2012 School Year. See also **Child Population**.

HEAD START is a federal program for preschool children primarily from low-income families. Most children enrolled in Head Start are between the ages of three and five years old. Services are also available to infants and toddlers in selected sites. Children enrolled in Head Start typically attend either a full-day or half-day center-based program. Head Start programs and slots are included in the count of Oklahoma's licensed child care center-based programs. See **Licensed Child Care Capacity**.

LICENSED CHILD CARE CAPACITY (frequently referred to as **Child Care Slots** or **Child Care Availability**) displays the number and capacity for the state and by county of child care facilities licensed by the State of Oklahoma in June 2012. State and individual county percents are reported for all facilities, by center-based programs and by family child care homes. Center-based programs are comprised of Head Start and regular child care centers. Counts exclude child care not required to be licensed or child care operating in violation of licensing requirements. While **Licensed Child Care Capacity** is used in this report as a measure of child care availability, it is not precise. Capacity overstates available child care when facilities operate at less than full capacity, keeping some licensed slots unavailable to children. Capacity also understates available child care because not all child care is required to be licensed.

SOURCE: Number of facilities and total capacity of centers and homes *from* Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2012. Table 10: Child Care Licensed Facilities and Capacity by Type and County*.

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE FACILITIES LICENSING ACT requires most child care facilities to be licensed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Licensing is designed to ensure that minimum standards for the care of Oklahoma children are met and maintained. The specific standards address a wide variety of issues, including staff qualifications and training, programming, safe environment, sanitation, health and record keeping. Exemptions allow some types of child care to operate without being licensed by the state. Child care exempted from licensing primarily includes that provided in a child's own home or by relatives, informal arrangements made by parents with friends or neighbors for occasional care (babysitting), home school programs, pre-school programs operated by school districts, accredited summer youth camps for school age children, and so on. Unlicensed child care programs and providers not falling within a

listed exemption violate the law. The examples provided are illustrative only. For a full explanation of licensing requirements and exemptions contact OKDHS or review the cited Oklahoma Statutes.

SOURCE: Oklahoma Statutes Annotated, Title 10, Section 401 et seq. (2004). See also [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#).

PERCENT OF CHILDREN ON OKDHS CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES RECEIVING CARE IN 2- OR 3-STAR FACILITIES

measures the proportion of low-income children from working families receiving subsidies to help pay for child care who receive that care in a facility (includes both centers and homes) which is Two- or Three-Star rated, indicating the facility provides a higher quality of care. Percents are reported for the state and for individual counties.

SOURCE: Data from Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2012. Table 9: Child Care Facilities and Subsidies, By Type, Stars and County.*

PERCENT OF FACILITIES ACCEPTING OKDHS SUBSIDIES

displays the proportion of licensed facilities reporting a willingness to serve low-income children whose care is subsidized by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). State and individual county percents are reported for all facilities, by center-based programs and by family child care homes.

SOURCE: Data from Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2012. Table 10: Child Care Licensed Facilities and Capacity, By Type and County: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS—see [Early Education](#).

PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR PRE-K (4-YEAR OLDS)—see [Early Education](#).

QUALITY OF CHILD CARE—see [Star Ratings for Child Care Facilities](#).

REQUESTS TO RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS

displays information about care sought by families through local child care resource and referral programs. State and individual county data include the number and proportion of families seeking full-time or part-time child care (or both), the ages of the children for whom care is being sought and the types of non-traditional schedules needed. Ages of the children are reported

by categories, including infants (birth through nine months), toddlers (ten through 23 months), two-year olds (24 through 35 months), three- through five-year olds (36 through 60 months), and school age children (over 60 months), and are reported as a number and as the percent of all requests each age category represents. Types of non-traditional schedules requested include after-school, before-school, 24-hour care, evening care, overnight care and weekend care, and are reported as a number and as the percent of all requests each schedule represents. County data indicates whether or not the local resource and referral program received requests for providers serving children with special needs, speaking a specific non-English language or using sign-language (includes both phone and internet referrals).

SOURCE: Data from NACCRRAware compliance reports completed by local resource and referral agencies, then submitted to and tabulated by Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, Inc., FY 2012.

STAR RATINGS FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES display the proportion of licensed child care centers and homes and their capacity at each level of the *Reaching for the Stars* rating system created by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Star ratings are reported for the state and for individual counties. Absence of one or more of the Star ratings from the pie chart means that county had no facilities licensed for that Star rating in June 2012.

SOURCE: Data from Oklahoma Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS June 2012 moment in time data; Child Care Facilities By Star Level, Capacity, and County.*

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE—see [Children Receiving Subsidized Child Care](#).

QUALITY RANKING displays the ranking of all 77 counties based on the [Star Rating](#) and [Capacity](#) of facilities. The ranking was calculated using the average [Star Rating](#) by county and weighted against county [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#).

SOURCE: Data from Oklahoma Child Care Services (OKDHS), *June 2012 moment in time data; Child Care Facilities By Stars, Capacity, and County.*



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

TO VIEW THE COMPLETE COUNTY
DATA PROFILES AND DATA TABLES:

www.okchildcareportfolio.org

QUICK FACTS

435,086 (64.1%) Oklahoma children, from birth to age 12 need some form of child care while their parent(s) work.

4,081 licensed Oklahoma facilities offer 134,473 licensed slots for children.

\$120.00 per week or \$6240 per year is the average cost of care for an infant in a child care center in Oklahoma.

The cost of child care for an Oklahoma family typically equals or exceeds other major family budget items such as mortgage or rent.

The cost of center based care for an infant in Norman, OK exceeds tuition at the University of Oklahoma (Fall 2012), \$8,380 per year and \$3,957 per year, respectively.

94.6% of all Oklahoma children who receive child care assistance are receiving their care in a two- or three- star facility.

46.1% of Oklahoma's licensed facilities provide high quality care, as indicated by a two or three star rating in the state's "Reaching for the Stars" ratings.

60.8% of Oklahoma's licensed child care facilities accept children who need child care assistance.



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Toll Free 888.962.2772
www.oklahomachildcare.org