



STATE SUMMARY

2010

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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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2010 Oklahoma Child Care Portfolio

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



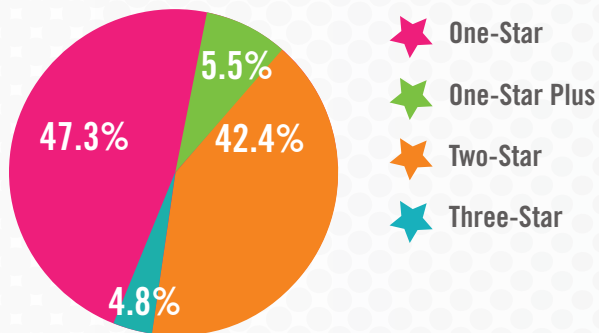
NEED

Children Needing Care while Parents Work (2006 Data)

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents	
	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
0-5	293,763	164,415	56.0%
6-12	348,662	169,743	48.7%
0-12	642,425	334,158	52.0%

QUALITY

Star Ratings for Child Care Facilities



89% of children receiving child care assistance from DHS receive care in a Two or Three Star facility.

AVAILABILITY

Licensed Child Care Capacity

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	Number of Spaces
Child Care Centers	1,751	111,948
Family Child Care Homes	2,810	24,586
STATE TOTAL	4,561	136,534

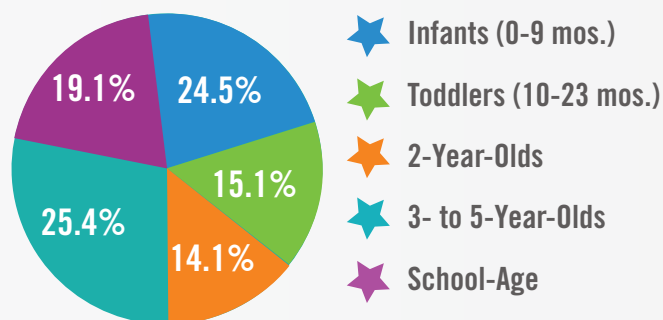
AFFORDABILITY

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

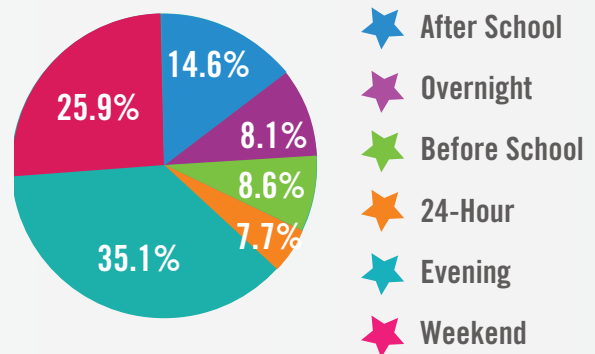
Type of Facility	0–1 yr	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4–5 yr	School Age
Child Care Centers	\$115.77	\$108.57	\$100.98	\$97.35	\$89.55	\$77.83
Child Care Homes	\$94.89	\$92.98	\$88.80	\$87.60	\$85.87	\$79.33

REQUESTS TO R&R

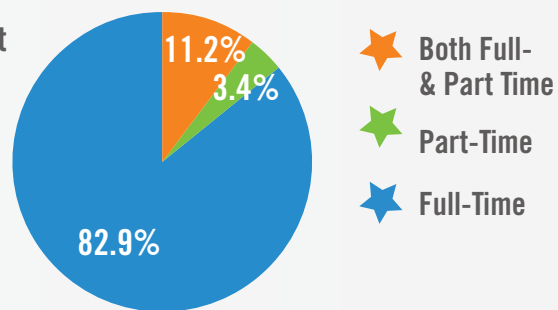
Ages for Whom Care is Sought



Non-Traditional Schedules Sought



Amount of Care Sought



EARLY EDUCATION

	Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds)		Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds)	
	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY
# Programs	122	432	31	515
Enrollment	15,735	21,420	4,095	46,868

70.3% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Pre-K program.

98.8% of 5-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Kindergarten program.

THE 2010 OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE PORTFOLIO IS THE FOURTH BIENNIAL 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, 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 (OCCRRA), a private, not-for-profit corporation that contracts with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Office of Child Care Services (OKDHS-OCCS) to guide and administer the statewide 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.

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 2010 Portfolio focuses on the quality of care in our state and how Oklahoma can continue to lead the nation in quality standards.

What determines quality of care? OCCRRA and OKDHS have traditionally focused upon the importance of early learning environments, including more highly qualified and educated staff; small child to teacher ratios; access to developmental toys, games, books and crafts; and communication with, and involvement of, parents—all of which must exist within the context of safe, sanitary and healthy facilities that consistently maintain adequate records and documentation.

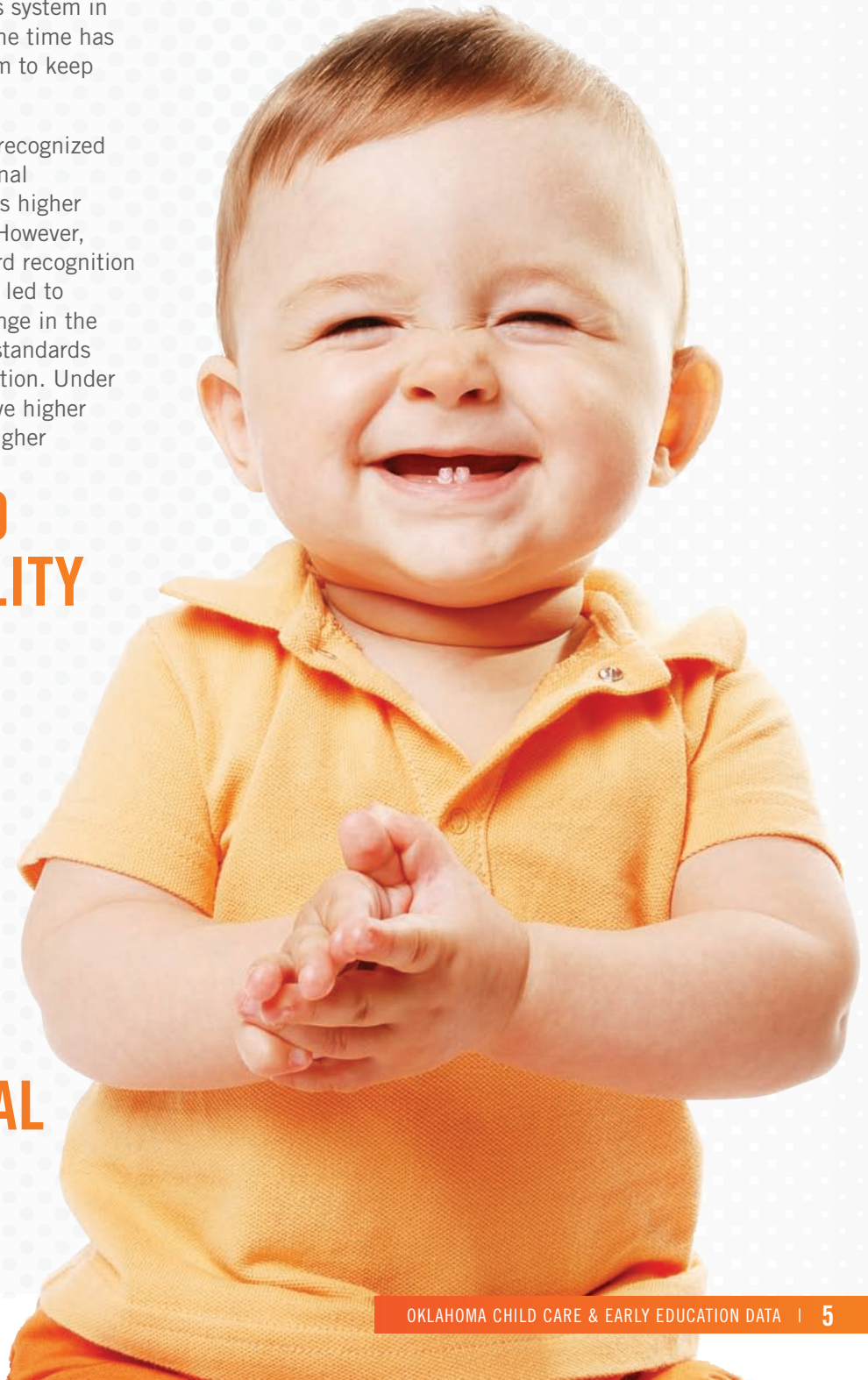
NEW FACE FOR OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services named Lesli D. Blazer director of the Oklahoma Child Care Services Division in January 2010. One focus for Blazer's administration is to update Oklahoma's nationally recognized Reaching for the Stars system. Created in 1999, the program was the first of its kind, and served as a model for other states. It encourages child care programs to increase quality by offering financial incentives such as higher reimbursements as well as helps parents assess the quality of their child's program. With the Stars system in operation for more than ten years, the time has come for a second generation system to keep Oklahoma in the forefront.

The original Reaching for the Stars recognized that programs which achieved national accreditation typically met standards higher than basic licensing requirements. However, different accreditation systems award recognition for different achievements, and this led to inconsistency and confusion. A change in the Stars system would create specific standards at each level regardless of accreditation. Under the changes, programs which achieve higher standards will be rewarded with a higher reimbursement rate.

**THE GOAL IS TO
CREATE A QUALITY
RATING AND
IMPROVEMENT
SYSTEM THAT
WILL DRIVE
QUALITY AND
BE EASILY
INTERPRETED
BY THE GENERAL
CONSUMER.**

The Department has also created a new position, Consultation and Technical Support Specialists (CATSS). Twelve CATSS work statewide with child care providers who participate in the Stars program. CATSS support providers working to improve quality through on-site technical assistance, training and connecting providers to training. This position compliments the work of child care resource & referral to enhance the quality of child care provided in Oklahoma.



OKLAHOMA HAS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN ITS RANKING AT THE TOP FOR STANDARDS, POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT OF CHILD CARE HOMES AND CENTERS.

The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies – the premier advocacy group of child care in the U.S. – updates and releases reports annually on child care homes and centers. In comparison with the other fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense, Oklahoma consistently earns high marks.

OVERSIGHT OF CHILD CARE CENTERS

In an updated report issued in 2011¹, NACCRRRA 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 four spots from number five to one among the 50 states. Earning 114 out of a possible 150 points (76 percent), Oklahoma beat the national average of only 87 points (58 percent) based on 15 separate criteria, ten of which relate to basic state standards, with the other five relating 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.

¹ *We Can Do Better: 2011 Update: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight.* For the full report, see: <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/we-can-do-better-2011.php>

² *Leaving Children to Chance: 2010 Update: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes.* For the full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/854-0000_Lvng%20Children%202%20Chance_rev_031510.pdf

³ *Parents and the High Price of Child Care: 2010 Update.* For the full report, see: http://www.naccrra.org/docs/Cost_Report_073010-final.pdf

OVERSIGHT OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

In the updated 2010 study², Oklahoma ranks number 2, behind Delaware, with 108 out of a possible 140 points (77 percent) based upon 14 factors including a licensing requirement for providers caring for even one unrelated child; pre-licensing inspections; execution of no-notice monitoring visits 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 ranked number two, NACCRRRA's report noted that a score of 77 percent left much room for improvement. "Care offered in a family child care home is one of the largest segments of the child care industry," said Linda K. Smith Executive Director of NACCRRRA. 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. NACCRRRA also advocates for the federal reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant to establish basic requirements and standards for all states regarding family child care homes.

PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE

Parents who have to make the weekly or monthly payment to their child care provider, they know too well the burden the large expense can have on their finances. The updated report³ revealed throughout the entire country child care costs far exceed the amount a family spends on food and in 40 states it is more expensive than college tuition at a four year public university.

For many low and middle income families, sacrificing the quality of care for substandard care is a choice they are making daily. 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 child further out of reach.

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 36 hours a week⁴. Furthermore, 64 percent of American mothers of children under six years old are in the workforce.

All parents need child care at some point, if only to go to the doctor. 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 164,000 (56 percent) of our children under six need care because both parents work or because a single head-of-household parent works. In addition, almost 170,000 (49 percent)⁵ 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.

⁴ *Child Care in America: State Fact Sheets. NACCRRA.* For full report, see: <http://www.naccrra.org/policy/docs/childcareinamericafactsheet.pdf>

TABLE 1: Children Needing Care while Parents Work (2010 Data)

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents	
	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
0–5	293,763	164,415	56.0%
6–12	348,662	169,743	48.7%
0–12	642,425	334,158	52.0%

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. 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 agencies maintain records about what types of child care parents need. A majority of the requested referrals were for full time (82.9 percent) and infant or toddler (53.6 percent) care.

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-four percent of parents who sought assistance finding child care needed an atypical schedule.

While there is still disparity in levels of need from county to county in our state, the overall need has decreased since 2008. This could lend itself to the economy and the increase in unemployment which translates to a decrease in the need for child care.

⁵ *Oklahoma Early Care & Education Portfolio: 2010 Updated Data.* To view the data and it's sources, see: http://www.naccrra.org/docs/Cost_Report_073010-final.pdf

TABLE 2: Counties with Greatest Need (children under 13 with working parents)

County	Percent
Blaine	61.9%
Coal	60.7%
Hughes	59.9%
Okfuskee	59.1%
Beckham	58.9%

TABLE 3: Counties with Least Need (children under 13 with working parents)

County	Percent
Alfalfa	36.8%
Greer	37.6%
Nowata	40.8%
Latimer	41.5%
Kingfisher	41.6%

Single working parents are perhaps the group with the most urgent need for child care. In Oklahoma County, 30.2 percent of children under 13 live with a single parent in the workforce. Blaine and Hughes Counties also have significantly higher numbers, with 41.1 percent and 42.4 percent, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

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 many who provide this type of care are not licensed, parents need to be advised of the potential hazards of this type of arrangement. Without training, inspections and standards to meet, 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 entire responsibility for the child's health, safety and development of the child on the parent's shoulders.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

When a provider cares for one or more unrelated children in his or her own home, the provider is regulated as a family child care home. Many parents prefer this type of small, home-like setting for their child. The number of children allowable 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 2,810 licensed family child care homes, making 24,586 spaces available statewide.

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 1,751 licensed child care centers (inclusive of Head Start Centers), offering a total of 111,948 spaces.

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 2010, that translates to \$22,050 for a family of four).

VARIATIONS IN AVAILABILITY

Demand exceeds supply for certain child care schedules. In Fiscal Year 2010, more than one-third (2,644) 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 (927), overnight hours (215), or weekends (685). Because of the nature of employment in Oklahoma, the demand for child care during swing and night shifts will no doubt continue to present a challenge to both parents and providers.

While slots for infants have increased, demand continues to run high, constituting over 24 percent of requests to resource and referral agencies. Caring for infants requires more staff, as well as more specialized supplies and equipment. Because of these additional expenses, many facilities choose not to serve infants. The Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association has, since 2006, offered an array of technical services and support systems to help providers. Infant Toddler Enhancement Programs offers assistance with high-quality care for 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 almost 31 percent of all Oklahoma children in licensed care receive subsidies. Furthermore, over 68 percent of spaces in two-star facilities are occupied by subsidized children, as are 20 percent of spaces in three-star facilities. The large number of subsidized spaces in high-quality facilities may be attributed to Oklahoma's groundbreaking incentive program for providers, Reaching for the Stars. Higher star ratings can mean higher subsidy reimbursements as providers acquire more professional development, create more stimulating learning environments and involve parents in their children's care.

TABLE 4: Licensed Child Care Capacity

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	Number of Spaces
Child Care Centers	1,751	111,948
Family Child Care Homes	2,810	24,586
STATE TOTAL	4,561	136,534

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 toddlers. In Oklahoma, full-time care for an infant averages \$115.77 per week in a child care center. Care for an infant averages \$94.89 per week statewide in a family child care home.

For a child older than 12 months but younger than 24 months, the state average for a center is \$108.57 per week. The state's average cost for a child this age in a family child care home is \$92.98 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 \$77.83 per week for care in a center statewide and \$79.33 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 over \$5,325, using the statewide average. If the infant is placed in a family home, the cost can be \$4,365 that first year.

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 \$9,300. The median housing cost per year is \$8,088⁶. According to an updated self-sufficiency study⁷ for Oklahoma, child care is the largest expense for a single parent family who has more than one child.

The study calculated that a single parent with one school-aged child and one pre-schooler needed a wage of \$16.74 per hour (\$35,356/year) to be self-sufficient in Oklahoma City⁸.

Even for a family of four with both parents working and earning the Oklahoma median income of \$64,820, the price of care for two children, ages two and six, is more than 14 percent of their before-tax income.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

For most single parents, as well as some working couples, licensed child care is not possible without state or tribal assistance. And yet, only 12 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.

Garfield, Oklahoma and McClain Counties have the largest percentages of children whose care

⁶US Census, 2009 American Community Survey, Table B25105

⁷University 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

⁸University 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

is subsidized, at 44.6 percent, 43.1 percent and 42.1 percent respectively.

Cimarron, Tillman, Ellis, Okfuskee, Adair, and Grant Counties have fewer than seven percent of their children in subsidized care.

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.



TABLE 5: Average Costs of Child Care in Oklahoma (dollars per week)

Type of Facility	0–1 yr	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4–5 yr	School Age
Child Care Centers	\$115.77	\$108.57	\$100.98	\$97.35	\$89.55	\$77.83
Family Child Care Homes	\$94.89	\$92.98	\$88.80	\$87.60	\$85.87	\$79.33

TABLE 6: Licensed Capacity Accepting Subsidies

Type of Facility	Accept Subsidies (number/percent)	Spaces w/Subsidies (number/percent)
Family Child Care Homes	1,565 / 55.7%	14,868 / 60.5%
Child Care Centers	1,166 / 66.6%	78,381 / 70.0%
STATE TOTAL	2,731 / 59.9%	93,249 / 68.3%

TABLE 7: Subsidy Eligibility (as of 6/1/2008)

Children in Care	Monthly Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1 Child	0–\$2,245 / 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.

OKLAHOMA PROVIDES INCENTIVES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO OBTAIN CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT,

offering age-appropriate learning activities, and involving 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.

In some states, quality of care is measured by the safety and cleanliness of the child care setting, the provision of nutritious meals and snacks, low staff to child ratios, the enforcement of immunization requirements and the appearance of caring attitudes and behaviors from attending child care workers. In Oklahoma, however, these factors are viewed as minimum requirements for obtaining and maintaining state licenses.

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 90 percent of those children receiving assistance are in a two- or three-star facility.

As mentioned previously, the Stars Program has operated more than ten years. The State Child Care Administrator, Lesli Blazer, will continue to lead staff in a comprehensive review of the program to ensure it's up to date and meeting the needs of children, providers and parents.

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 such as videos and printed materials, 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 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.

INFANT TODDLER SERVICES

In 2010, resource and referral agencies reported that well over half (54 percent) of their requests from parents for child care referrals came from parents seeking care for children under three. From years of scientific research, we know that the majority of vital brain functions are developed—or wired—during these critical years. To improve the availability and quality of care for these youngest children, OCCRRA, with additional funding from OKDHS, implemented an Infant Toddler Enhancement Project (ITEP) in 2006 and expanded it in 2007.

Specialized infant/toddler consultants in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas use the Quest Environment and the Quest Caregiver Assessments to measure the progress of each center or child care home involved in the project. These cover key components essential to infant and toddler development such as child/caregiver interaction, supporting language and literacy development, supporting gross motor and fine motor development through play, and other important topics. The average improvement was 26% and 13.7% for providers in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas, respectively.

Although the ITEP consultants are located in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas, statewide assistance in providing quality care and education for infants and toddlers is

available through local child care consultants in each resource and referral agency and through the state's Special Project Coordinator.

CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

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.

As another special project, resource and referral agencies in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City regions hire Registered Nurses to serve as consultants to providers, parents and children in child care facilities located in those areas. The Health and Safety Enhancement Project (HSEP) provides intensive, hands-on services in assessment, training and technical assistance to enrolled providers. The project uses the Oklahoma Health and Safety Checklist to measure the progress of each child care center involved in the project. The checklist covers key components essential to child care health and safety such as food handling and preparation, outdoor playground hazards, basic infant and toddler care, medication administrations and poison control. The overall average improvement for the 20 child care programs involved in this project was 26% and 25%, respectively in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas.

TABLE 8: Star Ratings (Quality Indicators) for Child Care Facilities (2008–2010)

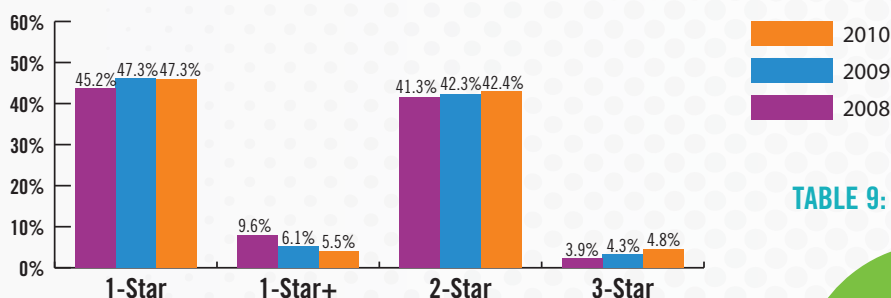
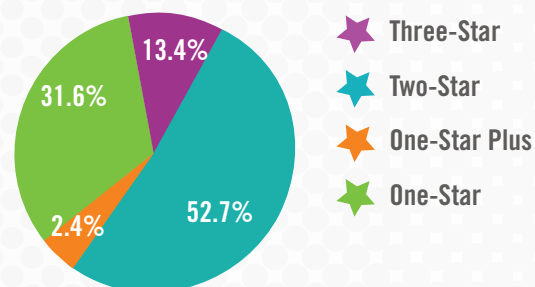


TABLE 9: Slots by Star Ratings (2010)



Although any licensed facility may contact a health care consultant for advice, assistance or information, to be eligible for these intensive services, a facility must have earned a rating of one-star plus or two-star. For programs outside the two metropolitan areas, the state Special Project Coordinator is available for assistance.

THROUGHOUT THE U.S., 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.

In some states, these agencies have formed loosely organized or voluntary unfunded associations to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices. 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. Oklahoma has achieved, for the second time, network-wide certification from the Child Care Aware quality assurance program of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, or NACCRRA. 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 resource and referral agencies is to help families find quality child care. Extensive consumer education and referrals are offered to every family who contacts us for help. Our goal is for parents to be informed consumers who are better equipped to make wise choices for their children.

In FY2010, the agencies answered 5,466 calls from families seeking referrals to child care for over 6,959 children. Over half of these children (54 percent) were under three years of age, while another 26 percent were from three to five years. Fifty-three percent of the families who called needed either state or tribal financial assistance to help them pay for child care. Almost one-third of them needed care during non-traditional work schedules (evening hours, overnight or on weekends). In addition, another 3,842 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 NACCRRA's Quality Assurance Criteria. In order to meet the rigorous national standards, agencies must score at least 70% on a standardized assessment instrument. Oklahoma sets the bar even higher, exceeding the standards in FY2010 with a statewide average assessment score of 89%.

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 has traveled to a number of states to conduct training with regional and statewide CCR&R staff on how to conduct a client referral call.

POWERFUL PROVIDER SERVICES

Helping providers become better educated and skilled, not only in child related requirements but also in business related requirements is another vital role of resource and referral agencies. From informing and advising 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. Services include offering training

opportunities, teaching resources, providing individual technical assistance and consulting services on special age groups, Spanish-speaking families, and children with special health and behavioral needs.

In FY2010, the regional agencies responded to 7,885 requests from providers for technical assistance and administered 1,107 hours of formal training. Altogether, the eight agencies served well over 6,750 providers.

This year was the first year that the OKDHS-OCCS partner agencies (OCCRRA, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholars Program, Center for Early Childhood Education, and Career Tech) collectively used the same data tracking instrument so that child care provider training would be counted uniformly. The change means that OCCRRA and all other DHS partners now use the same method for collecting provider training data. Results for FY2010 show that OCCRRA provided 42% of the training offered to providers throughout our state.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

OCCRRA has spent time developing a public policy agenda, both at the state and federal levels, and working to become a stronger advocate for high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care. The state network has encouraged the regional CCR&R agencies to connect and build relationships with the policy-makers that serve in their districts. Child Care Resource & Referral has maintained a presence at our state and federal capitol each year, meeting one-on-one with legislators and their staff to share updated child care supply and demand data and advocate for child care subsidy and higher standards for child care.

The Community Services Manager, who oversees the community outreach efforts and public policy work for the state network, was selected to be part of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies' (NACCRRRA) Leadership Development Program. This honor is a three year commitment from the staff person and the OCCRRA organization. A large part of the Leadership Development Program is creating a project that can benefit child care resource & referral in some way at a state or national level.

TABLE 10: Amount of Care Sought

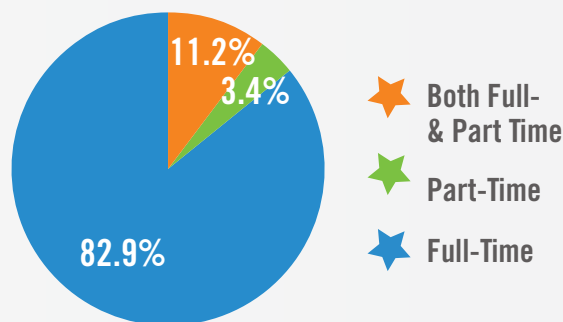


TABLE 11: Non-Traditional Schedules Sought

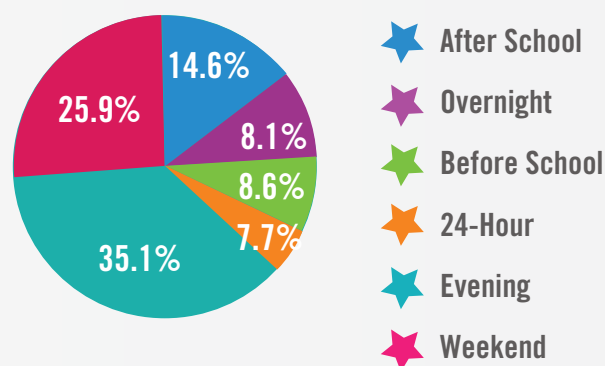
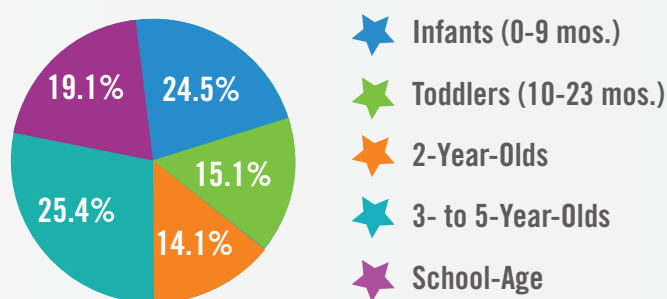


TABLE 12: Ages for Whom Care is Sought



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 Hispanic Coordinator. In FY2010, OCCRRA

responded to 128 requests for referrals in Spanish.

For Spanish speaking child care providers, the project offers technical assistance and professional development opportunities, throughout the year. These include an annual provider conference for Hispanic caregivers and workshops in Spanish.

DATA AND INFORMATION USED IN THE 2010 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 display 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 2010.

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 bottom 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 US Census Bureau and Missouri Census Data Center. http://mcdc.missouri.edu/websas/estimates_by_age.shtml

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 2010. Table 7: Child Care Services Provided, By Age and County. 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 2005-2009 American Community Survey is used in conjunction with 2009 child population Census

estimates 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 and Missouri Census Data Center.

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 2005-2009 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 Missouri Census Data Center to get final results for 6-12 age group.

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), 2010 – 2011 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 2010. 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 2010. 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 2010. 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., FY2010.

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 2010.

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 2010 moment in time data; Child Care Facilities By Stars, Capacity, and County.



419,173 Oklahoma children, from birth to age 12 need some form of child care while their parent(s) work.

4,561 licensed Oklahoma facilities offer 136,534 licensed slots for children.

\$115.77 per week or \$6020 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.

89% 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.

68% of Oklahoma's licensed child care slots accept subsidized children.

QUICK FACTS



Oklahoma Child Care
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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
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