



State Summary 2014

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO
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2014 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

State Profile 2014

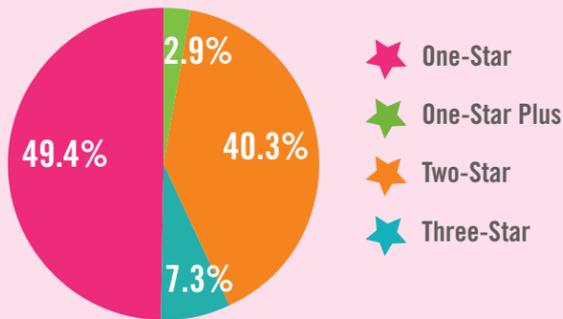
NEED

1) Children Needing Care while Parents Work

| Age | Child Population | Children with Working Parents | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | NUMBER | NUMBER | PERCENT |
| 0-5 | 316,500 | 187,427 | 59.2% |
| 6-12 | 361,743 | 249,677 | 69.0% |
| 0-12 | 678,243 | 437,104 | 64.4% |

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 | 1,627 | 111,615 |
| Family Child Care Homes | 2,101 | 18,548 |
| STATE TOTAL | 3,728 | 130,163 |

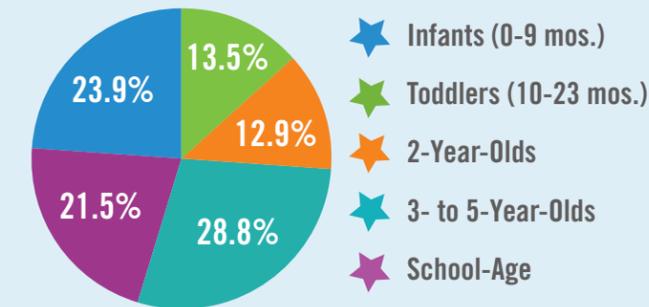
AFFORDABILITY

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

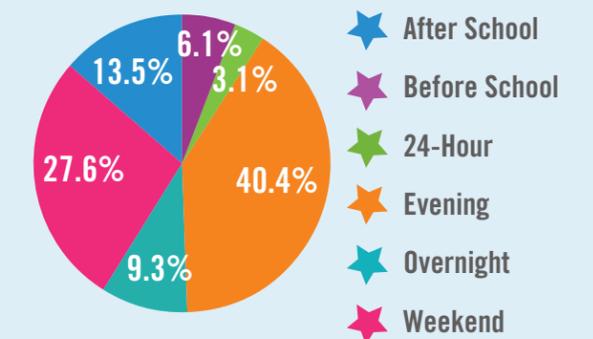
| Type of Facility | under 1 yr | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr | 4-5 yr | School Age |
|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|------------|
| Child Care Center | \$126.61 | \$118.56 | \$110.61 | \$105.99 | \$97.00 | \$85.54 |
| Child Care Home | \$103.40 | \$101.42 | \$97.48 | \$96.22 | \$95.62 | \$88.86 |

REQUESTS TO R&R

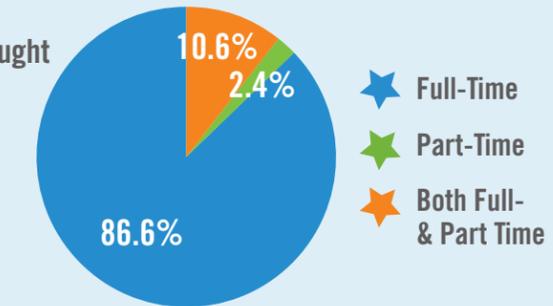
5) Ages for Whom Care is Sought



7) Non-Traditional Schedules Sought



6) Amount of Care Sought



PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION

8) Enrollment

| | Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds) | | Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds) | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY |
| # Districts | 82 | 481 | 9 | 525 |
| Enrollment | 8,033 | 31,700 | 1,222 | 53,490 |

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 2014 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, Child Care Services (OKDHS-CCS) 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, 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 2014 State Summary focuses on the data and the child care system over the past decade in Oklahoma, 2004–2014. ■



CHILD CARE CONTINUES TO BE AT THE FORE-FRONT OF EACH

state legislative session with laws to continue to improve the safety of children in licensed care. In 2013, Oklahoma strengthened its background checks by passing SB 971 that details the federal fingerprint and criminal background checks process. All child care professionals must have their fingerprints checked against the FBI database with the rap back feature. The fingerprints will also be used to check state records, such as the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) including counties served by the Oklahoma Court Information System (OCIS) and counties not served by OCIS, the Child Care Restricted Registry (Joshua's List), Oklahoma

Department of Corrections (DOC), and communication with the District Attorneys' offices, court clerks and local law enforcement.

While many bills do not make it through the entire legislative process to become law, there is always legislation for child care advocates to track so they can educate policy makers on the impact of proposed legislation.

After almost 20 years, the Child Care Development Block Grant legislation was reauthorized in 2014 by Congress to establish minimum protections for children across all states. In 1996, when funding for child care was consolidated into the Child Care Development Block grant, the federal government did little to ensure states would create child care systems that would be safe, healthy and establish quality early learning environments for children.

November 2014, S. 1086 was passed by Congress and signed into law by

President Obama. Changes to the new law that will impact the safety and quality of care being provided in states include:

- States must provide pre-service health & safety training to all CCDBG providers. *Oklahoma currently requires initial training to be done within the first twelve weeks of employment.*
- States must develop health & safety standards relating to things such as first aid & CPR, prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and child abuse prevention. *Oklahoma has high standards for health & safety and works to ensure thorough oversight of the standards.*
- States must perform at least one annual inspection and at least one pre-licensure inspection of CCDBG providers. *Oklahoma does one pre-licensure inspection and three unannounced visits per year to all licensed providers.*
- Individuals who provide care for children with the support of CCDBG funding must undergo a comprehensive background check. *Any new provider in Oklahoma must complete a comprehensive background check, all existing providers before 2014 have until 2016 to complete a federal fingerprint check.*
- States must fund a resource and referral system to help families connect with quality child care. *Child care resource and referral in Oklahoma is the Voice for Child Care, serving thousands of providers and families each year.*
- Families who initially qualify for subsidy get care for at least a year, regardless of changes in income or work, training, or education status. *Previously, child care assistance would immediately stop if a change occurred in employment, income, etc. causing further disruption to a child's daily routine and overall well-being.*
- States must increase the quality set aside from four percent to eight percent. *Oklahoma currently puts more than 8% toward quality initiatives.* ■

WHILE NATIONALLY, CHILD CARE STANDARDS ARE WEAK, OKLAHOMA HAS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN ITS RANKING NEAR THE TOP FOR its standards and oversight of child care homes and centers. Child Care Aware of America last reported on child care centers in 2013. In the updated report¹, CCA of America reviewed states' policies, standards and oversight of child care centers, ranking Oklahoma fourth among the 50 states. Oklahoma lost ground from 2011, when it was ranked number one among the 50 states. Oklahoma earned 112 out of a possible 150 points (75 percent), two points

less than the previous report. Rankings were based on 15 separate criteria. Eleven criteria related to basic health, safety and educational standards. The other four criteria relate to oversight of compliance with those standards.

Oklahoma has been a national leader for many years when it comes to policies and systems for its youngest children. Our state needs the continued commitment from policy makers and administrative leaders to continue to improve or other states have and will surpass us. ■

THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN, BIRTH TO 12, WHO NEED CARE WHILE THEIR PARENT(S) WORK OR GO TO SCHOOL HAS increased in the last 10 years by almost 70,000 or six percent. At the same time, the number and percent of available child care slots has decreased by nine percent.

While every child who falls into the category of needing care may not end up in licensed care, all parents struggle with the decision of where to place their child so they can work or go to school. Many times families adjust schedules so one parent can work while the other

stays home or they reach out to grandparents or other licensed exempt care. Based on a research study OCCRRA conducted in 2007, approximately half of all children who need care utilize licensed care. There are more than 430,000 children, birth–12, who need some kind of care arrangement for a period of time; however, there is just not enough licensed care available to meet this need. This means there are children who are in licensed exempt or unlicensed, unregulated care that often times does not meet basic health and safety standards. ■



9) Need for Care 2014

| Age | Child Population | Children with Working Parents | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | NUMBER | NUMBER | PERCENT |
| 0–5 | 316,500 | 187,427 | 59.2% |
| 6–12 | 361,743 | 249,677 | 69.0% |
| 0–12 | 678,243 | 437,104 | 64.4% |

10) Need for Care 2004

| Age | Child Population | Children with Working Parents | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | NUMBER | NUMBER | PERCENT |
| 0–5 | 291,786 | 156,107 | 53.5% |
| 6–12 | 335,283 | 205,955 | 61.4% |
| 0–12 | 627,069 | 368,364 | 58.7% |

¹ We Can Do Better: 2013 Update: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Standards and Oversight. For the full report, see: <http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy/reports-research/we-can-do-better-2013-update/>.

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

| 2004 | | 2014 | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| County | Percent | County | Percent |
| Woods County | 72.7% | Canadian County | 74.6% |
| Alfalfa County | 70.9% | Woods County | 74.0% |
| Ellis County | 70.5% | Harper County | 73.5% |
| Roger Mills County | 69.7% | Texas County | 72.0% |
| Grant County | 67.6% | Love County | 72.0% |

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

| 2004 | | 2014 | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| County | Percent | County | Percent |
| Latimer County | 50.1% | Cimarron County | 38.1% |
| Haskell County | 51.3% | Washita County | 45.9% |
| Okfuskee County | 52.3% | Okfuskee County | 46.9% |
| Atoka County | 52.7% | Adair County | 49.8% |
| McCurtain/Tillman County | 53.1% | Harmon County | 50.3% |

THERE ARE ALMOST 2,000 FEWER LICENSED HOME PROVIDERS IN 10 YEARS, WITH 15,600 LESS SLOTS FOR CHILDREN IN HOME SETTINGS.

What's interesting is even though the number of child care centers has decreased minimally over the 10 year period, the number of available slots has increased by more than 3,000. The child care industry has lost more than a third (37%) of its programs over the past decade but the loss in child care slots is only nine percent. This is due to existing programs expanding to be able to serve more children.

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 definitive records are available to indicate how many parents choose this option. Based on the report commissioned by OCCRRRA in 2007, approximately a quarter of all families needing care utilize relative care.

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. Since there are individuals providing child care who are either not aware of or have chosen to not comply with the regulations, special attention must be given to educating parents about quality child care and licensing

13) Licensed Child Care Capacity 2014

| Type of Facility | Number of Facilities | Number of Spaces |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Child Care Centers | 1,627 | 111,615 |
| Family Child Care Homes | 2,101 | 18,548 |
| STATE TOTAL | 3,728 | 130,163 |

14) Licensed Child Care Capacity 2004

| Type of Facility | Number of Facilities | Number of Spaces |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Child Care Centers | 1,843 | 108,558 |
| Family Child Care Homes | 4,048 | 34,155 |
| STATE TOTAL | 5,891 | 142,713 |

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

requirements. Child care licensing is important to help ensure children are cared for in safe, healthy environments that help them prepare for success in school and life.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

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 operate legally, all such homes must be licensed and are subject to periodic, unannounced inspections. 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. Even though the total number of centers has decreased since 2004, 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 2014 that translates to \$24,250 for a family of four²).

STATE FUNDED PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Children who are age four on or before September 1, are eligible for the voluntary public school pre-kindergarten program. Currently, 70% of Oklahoma's four-year-olds attend public school and have access to an Early Childhood Certi-

fied Teacher; full-day or half-day programs; a 10:1 child to teacher ratio; state adopted curriculum standards; comprehensive school services; and a school readiness program.

Children who are age five on or before September 1 are eligible for the public school Kindergarten program. Full-day Kindergarten is currently offered in every school district in Oklahoma (some exceptions apply). Kindergarten children have access to a maximum class size of 20; an Early Childhood Certified Teacher, a school readiness program, and state-adopted curriculum standards.

VARIATIONS IN AVAILABILITY

Demand exceeds supply in certain requested hours of child care. In Fiscal Year 2014, more than one-third (1,656) of all parental requests for child care referrals fielded by Oklahoma's child care resource and referral agencies concerned care during non-traditional times, such as evenings (40.4%), overnight hours (9.3%), or weekends (27.6%). 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 a quarter of all licensed child care programs choose not to serve infants.

Sixty-seven percent of all licensed child care spaces in Oklahoma are available for families who need assistance in order to pay for care, and almost a third (29%) of licensed care slots are used by children who receive a subsidy. Furthermore, 95 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. ■

15) Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment in 2014

| | Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds) | | Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds) | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY |
| # Districts | 82 | 481 | 9 | 525 |
| Enrollment | 8,033 | 31,700 | 1,222 | 53,490 |

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.

16) Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment in 2004

| | Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds) | | Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds) | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY | 1/2 DAY | FULL DAY |
| # Districts | 420 | 412 | 342 | 604 |
| Enrollment | 17,263 | 14,449 | 18,735 | 28,409 |

66.9% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Pre-K program.

98.9% of 5-year-olds are enrolled in a full or part-day Kindergarten program.



² US Department of Health and Human Services, 2014 Poverty Guidelines; <http://aspe.hhs.gov/2015-poverty-guidelines>.

Affordability of CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE IS EXPENSIVE. IN FACT, CARE FOR CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS WORK FULL TIME REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL FAMILY BUDGET ITEM, often rivaling housing costs. In 2014, the average cost of rent in Oklahoma City was \$765/month,³ just \$35 more than the average cost of child care per month of \$730/month.

This means a disproportionate share of family income is going to pay the high cost of child care. The USDA recommends 30% of a household budget be spent on housing, and just 18% be spent on child care and education.⁴ The balance has shifted over time with the share spent on child care growing rapidly. From 1960 to 2013, housing expenses have remained essentially the same recommended percent of a family's budget, 31%. vs. 30%, respectively. The percent spent on child care has increased eight times from the amount spent in 1960.⁵

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. Quality of care is 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.

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. Participation in the subsidy program has dropped off by 30 percent in the last nine years, from nearly 47,600 children in 2005 to 33,322 in 2014. Oklahoma families are incurring the large financial child care burden on their own.

There are contributing factors to the decline which include; cost to families, the changing nature of work, provider participation and demographic shifts. However, cost is the greatest factor cited in the subsidy participation drop off.⁶ Oklahoma's income eligibility cutoff for subsidized child care has not been adjusted since 2004, when the cut off for a single mother with one child was \$2,425 per month, even though Oklahoma families have seen three minimum wage increases and inflation over the past decade. Essentially, families have to be poorer to qualify for child care subsidy today than they did in 2004.

17) Cost of Child Care in Oklahoma 2014 (dollars per week average)

| Type of Facility | under 1 yr | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr | 4-5 yr | School Age |
|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|------------|
| Child Care Center | \$126.61 | \$118.56 | \$110.61 | \$105.99 | \$97.00 | \$85.54 |
| Child Care Home | \$103.40 | \$101.42 | \$97.48 | \$96.22 | \$95.62 | \$88.86 |

18) Cost of Child Care in Oklahoma 2010* (dollars per week average)

| Type of Facility | under 1 yr | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr | 4-5 yr | School Age |
|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Child Care Center | \$115.77 | \$108.57 | \$100.98 | \$97.35 | \$89.55 | \$77.83 |
| Child Care Home | \$94.89 | \$92.98 | \$88.80 | \$87.60 | \$85.87 | \$79.33 |

*cost comparison using the same source in 2014 was not available in 2004, only in 2010. This will be a five year comparison.

19) Licensed Capacity Accepting Subsidies 2014

| Type of Facility | Accept Subsidies (number/percent) | Spaces w/Subsidies (number/percent) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Family Child Care Homes | 1,102 / 52.5% | 10,656 / 57.5% |
| Child Care Centers | 1,064 / 65.4 % | 76,576 / 68.6% |
| STATE TOTAL | 2,166 / 58.1% | 87,858 / 68.3% |

20) Licensed Capacity Accepting Subsidies 2004

| Type of Facility | Accept Subsidies (number/percent) | Spaces w/Subsidies (number/percent) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Family Child Care Homes | 2,886 / 71.3% | 25,309 / 74.1% |
| Child Care Centers | 1,246 / 67.6 % | 78,596 / 72.4% |
| STATE TOTAL | 4,130 / 70.1% | 103,895 / 72.8% |

21) 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. |

Garfield, Pottawatomie and Logan Counties have the largest percentages of child care slots that are subsidized by the state at 44.7 percent, 41.0 percent and 39.4 percent, respectively. These percentages have grown since 2012 when the county with the highest percent of child care slots subsidized was 38.3 percent.

Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, and Jefferson Counties have no child care slots paid for with child care assistance.

Over a ten year period there has been a significant reduction in the number and percent of family child care homes who accept child care assistance. This constricts the access low-income working families have to family child care homes.

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. ■

³ Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, <http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/clientuploads/pdf/EconomicIndicators/Oct2014OKCEconIndicators.pdf>

⁴ Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion of the USDA, page 11, http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/expenditures_on_children_by_families/crc2013.pdf

⁵ Center of Nutrition Policy and Promotion of the USDA, page 23, http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/expenditures_on_children_by_families/crc2013.pdf

⁶ The Oklahoma Policy Institute, Child Care is Getting Less Accessible for Oklahoma's Working Parents. <http://okpolicy.org/child-care-getting-less-accessible-oklahomas-working-parents>

Quality of CHILD CARE

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.

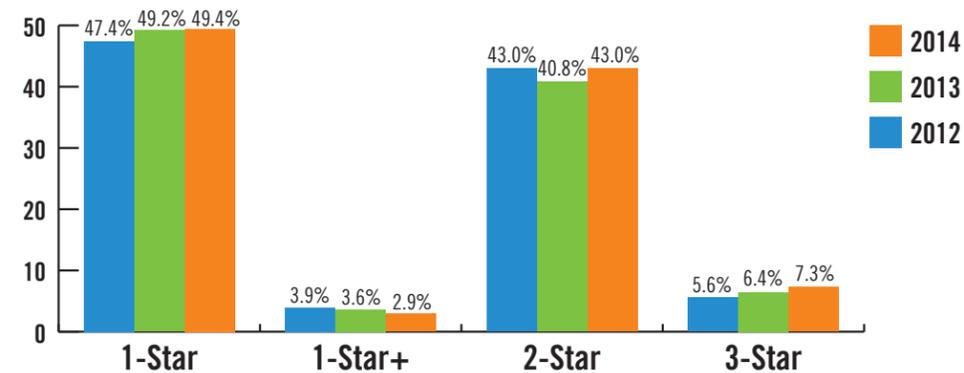
Oklahoma, unlike many states, goes beyond the minimum to encourage high quality care. Incentives are offered for child care providers to obtain continuing professional development, offer age-appropriate learning activities, and involve parents in their child's care. Targeted quality improvement programs 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.

While the percent of One Star facilities has remained consistent, the number of One Star Plus has decreased and Two and Three Star facilities have increased. This can be attributed to OKDHS's consistent focus on going above what the federal law requires and putting additional dollars into the child care system for quality enhancement initiatives. The initiatives are highlighted below:

- *Oklahoma Reaching for the Stars*, a quality criteria and tiered reimbursement program aimed at improving child care beyond the basic licensing criteria, especially for children receiving state-subsidized care.

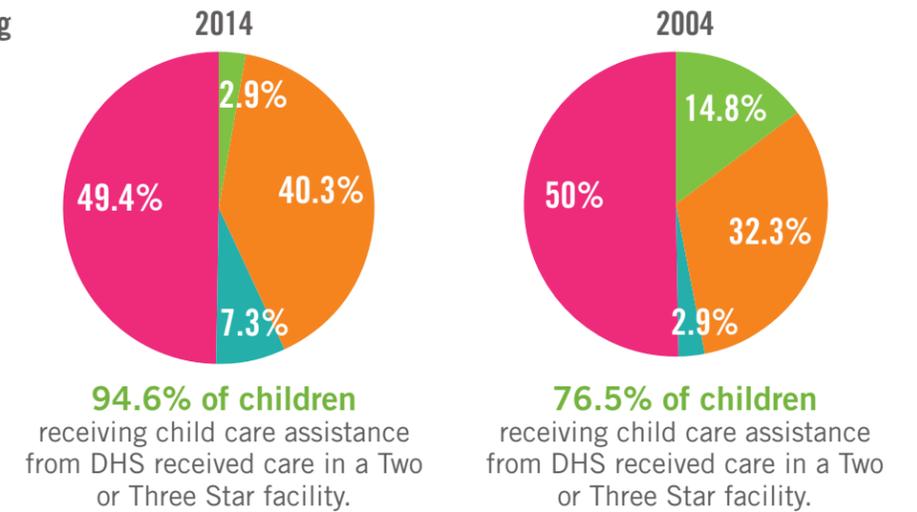
- *Child Care Resource & Referral's* expansion of training and on-site technical assistance to child care programs.
- *Consultant and Technical Support Specialist (CATTS)* to provide on-site technical assistance to child care programs.
- *Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines* were created and implemented to 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 providers and Master Teachers at centers must complete the ELG training.
- *The Oklahoma Professional Development Registry* is a clearing house of all training to be approved to ensure it meets specific core competency and Early Learning Guidelines for child care providers.
- *Entry Level Child Care Training (ELCCT)* was developed and implemented as a course required of all new child care teachers working at a child care center.
- *Reward Oklahoma* which supplements the salaries of child care providers who continue their education in early childhood care and education. ■

22) Star Ratings (Quality Indicators) for Child Care Facilities (2012-2014)



23) Slots by Star Rating

- ★ One-Star
- ★ One-Star Plus
- ★ Two-Star
- ★ Three-Star



OKLAHOMA'S CHILD CARE

Resource & Referral Network

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. 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, 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 FY 2014, the phone referral center answered 3,259 calls from families seeking referrals to child care for over 4,276 children. Just over half of these children (50.3 percent) were under three years of age, while another 28.2 percent were from three to five years. Eighty-five 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 1,736 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 2014 with a statewide average assessment score of 91 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

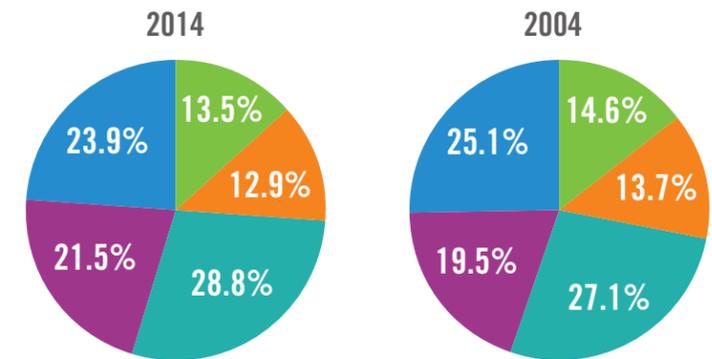
Helping providers become better educated and skilled, not only in child related requirements but also in business related requirements, is another vital role of resource and referral agencies. From informing and advising people who are thinking of launching a child care business, to referring families 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 FY2014, the regional agencies responded to 3,476 requests from providers for technical assistance and administered 1,417 hours of formal training. Altogether, the eight agencies served well over 6,500 providers.

Although CCR&R services has historically focused on parents, a shift in focus will be to provide more intensive, onsite, one-on-one technical assistance to providers. Research shows that training alone does not increase the quality of a child care program. Child care professionals need follow up through technical assistance and modeling of the training content.

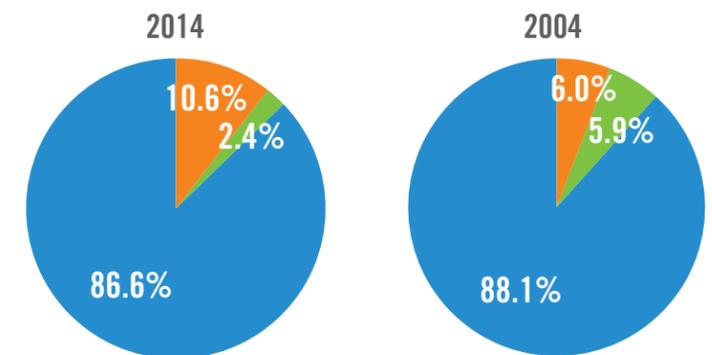
24) Ages for Whom Care is Sought

- ★ Infants (0-9 mos.)
- ★ Toddlers (10-23 mos.)
- ★ 2-Year-Olds
- ★ 3- to 5-Year-Olds
- ★ School-Age



25) Amount of Care Sought

- ★ Full-Time
- ★ Part-Time
- ★ Both Full- & Part Time



While the increase is small for Part Time and Both Full & Part Time care requested, this is an area that can grow with more young families having flexibility in their work schedule and location.

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.

An overhaul of the Association's website is on the horizon so families, child care professionals and community members can have a one stop place to search for child care, get training information, connect with a local CCR&R expert or get up to date numbers on different parts of the child care system.

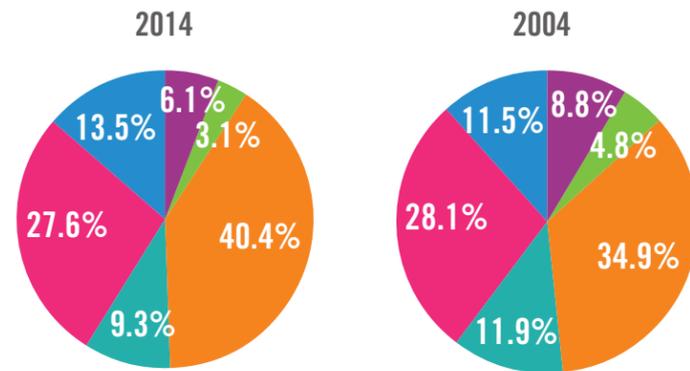
HISPANIC OUTREACH

For almost a decade 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. One hundred child care providers participated in the annual Hispanic Child Care Conference in June 2014. Carol Montealegre was the keynote speaker that provided information on developing Kindergarten readiness skills; self-regulation, social competency and language acquisition, and the role providers have to support these developments in children. ■

26) Non-Traditional Schedules Sought

- ★ After School
- ★ Before School
- ★ 24-Hour
- ★ Evening
- ★ Overnight
- ★ Weekend



DATA AND INFORMATION USED TO UPDATE THE 2014 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. All comparison data from 2004, came from the 2005 Oklahoma Child Care & Early Education Portfolio.

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: Under 1, 1 Year, 2 Years, 3 Years, 4-5 Years, and Kindergarten +. 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 2014.

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 CALCULATES EVERY LICENSED CHILD CARE SLOT two different ways to report child care need for the state and individual counties:

- Children 0-12 Needing Care - 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 unlicensed, exempt care.
- Children 0-5 Needing Care - 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 2014. Table 7: Child Care Services Provided, By Age 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. If payment is made to multiple facilities for a child, the child is counted in each facility. Payments may include service provided in prior months and will include payments to facilities no longer open if payment was made during the month. The data does not reflect payments to facilities on military bases not licensed by OKDHS.

SOURCE: Data from Office of Policy, Planning and Research, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS Statistical Bulletin: June 2014. 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 2009-2013 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 data 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 2009-2013 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%.

Due to Oklahoma House Bill 1989 creating additional restrictions on student data, the Oklahoma State Department of Education was only able to release data with redactions. Any enrollment below 10 children at a particular site has been redacted and reported as zero. A # symbol notates where redactions were made.

SOURCE: Data *from* Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), 2013 – 2014 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 2014. 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 2014. 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 2014. 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 2014. 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 phone calls and internet searches to their 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 2014.

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 2013.

SOURCE: Data *from* Oklahoma Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). *OKDHS June 2014 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 2014 moment in time data; Child Care Facilities By Stars, Capacity, and County*.

quick facts

437,104 (64.4%) Oklahoma children, from birth to age 12 **need some form of child care** while their parent(s) work.

3,728 licensed Oklahoma facilities offer **130,163 licensed slots** for children.

\$126.61 per week or \$6,584 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 2014), \$8,685 per year and \$4,1528 per year, respectively.

94.5% 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.

58.1% of Oklahoma's license child care facilities **accept children who need child care assistance**.



Oklahoma Child Care
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