

STATE SUMMARY 2016

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO



OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO
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2016 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

2016

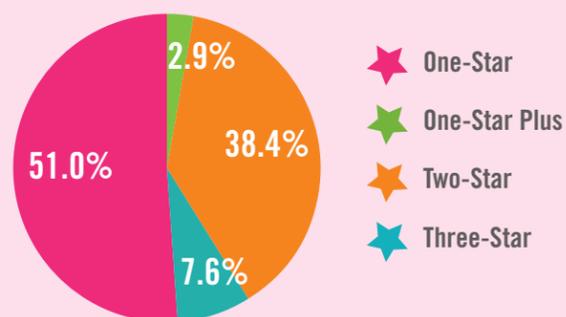
NEED

Children Needing Care while Parents Work

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents	
	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
0-5	316,500	189,499	59.9%
6-12	361,743	248,190	68.6%
0-12	678,243	437,689	64.5%

QUALITY

Star Ratings for Child Care Facilities



96.3% of children receiving child care assistance from DHS received 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	1,539	107,434
Family Child Care Homes	1,899	16,766
STATE TOTAL	3,438	124,200

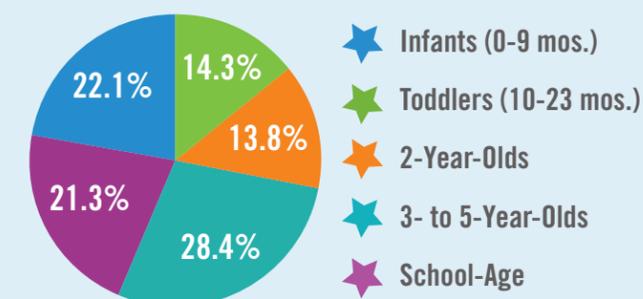
AFFORDABILITY

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

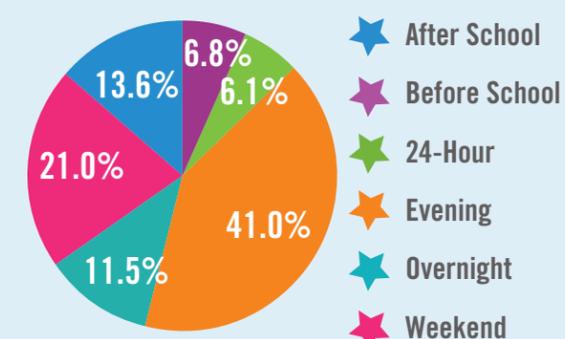
Type of Facility	under 1 yr	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4-5 yr	School Age
Child Care Center	\$128.20	\$119.61	\$111.69	\$120.20	\$102.50	\$81.94
Child Care Home	\$106.38	\$106.24	\$102.67	\$101.27	\$98.79	\$88.12

REQUESTS TO R&R

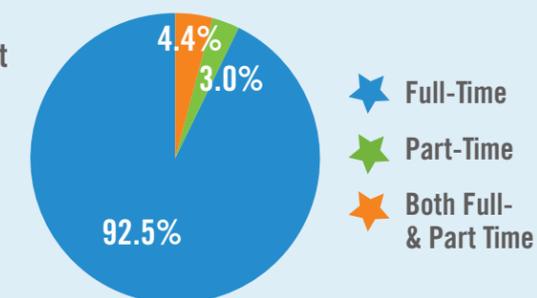
Ages for Whom Care is Sought



Non-Traditional Schedules Sought



Amount of Care Sought



PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION

Enrollment

	Pre-Kindergarten (4-Year-Olds)		Kindergarten (5-Year-Olds)	
	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY	1/2 DAY	FULL DAY
# Districts	164	716	40	862
Enrollment	6,261	33,144	1,064	53,455

75.3% 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.

OVERVIEW

THE 2016 OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE PORTFOLIO IS THE EIGHTH 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. ■



LEGISLATIVE

CHANGE

CHILD CARE CONTINUES TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EACH STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH LAWS TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE

safety of children in licensed care. 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.

The following bills from the 2016 legislative session were signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin:

- SB1211—relates to the minimum requirements of licensed facilities in Oklahoma. The bill added four different subcommittees of the Child Care Advisory Committee to make recommendations of best practices in licensing requirements. The subcommittees represent all facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services; residential facilities, child care centers, child care homes and facilities participating in the Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS).
- SB1273, also known as Shepard's Law or the Safe Sleep Law, requires licensed child care centers and homes to place infants on hard, flat surfaces with no toys, blankets, soft or loose bedding. Infants can only be placed in spaces approved by the Department of Human Services. This law was championed by Shepard Dodd's mother, Ali. Shepard died in a licensed child care home at 11 weeks old because of an unsafe sleep practice.
- SB1274, strengthened Demarion's Law from 2008 which requires licensed facilities to carry liability insurance or notify the parents when they do not. SB1274, also championed by Ali Dodd in partnership with Demarion Pittman's mother, Edna, specifies what the facility has to do to notify parents if the provider does not carry liability insurance.

The revised law states a facility that does not carry liability insurance has to post a sign in a conspicuous place near the front door with specific type and size of font telling clients they do not carry liability insurance. The Department of Human Services, Child Care Services has created a form for providers to use to meet this requirement of the law.

Furthermore, providers who do not carry liability insurance must keep a signed form from each child's parent stating they have been notified the facility does not carry liability insurance.

- SB1554, changed the director qualifications. Previously directors had to have a Bachelor's Degree in the field of early care and education or child development. SB1554 allows a director to have a degree in any subject. Early childhood advocates worry the quality of care may decrease when a director does not have the background or experience to develop staff to ensure the environment and interactions meet early education and child development best practice standards. ■

OKLAHOMA

AND THE NATION

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. Oklahoma has been a national leader for many years when it comes to policies and systems for its youngest children. However, with the reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), all states will be required to raise their basic standards to a level Oklahoma has operated at for many years.

Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) is creating an online database of all 50 states and their licensing

requirements around different topics; staffing, infectious disease, program activities, nutrition and food services, play area and transportation and policies. This dynamic database will serve as a place to compare Oklahoma against other states and will be continually updated as states change requirements in their child care systems. This database will replace the previous reports done by CCAoA. Our state needs the continued commitment from policy makers and administrative leaders to continue to improve or other states have and will surpass us. ■



OKLAHOMA'S CHILD CARE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK

IN OKLAHOMA, 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 Oklahoma. All services provided to parents are done at no cost and most services to child care provider 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.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

In FY 2016, the phone referral center answered 2,316 calls from families seeking referrals to child care for over 3,026 children. Almost half of these children (49 percent) were under three years of age, while another 27 percent were from three to six years of age. Seventy-one percent of the families who called were either receiving or were 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 1,536 families called for general information or searched for child care online.

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 industry. 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 FY2016, the regional agencies provided 2,238 hours of on-site technical assistance to licensed child care providers and delivered nearly 1,400 hours of formal training. Altogether, the eight agencies served well over 7,700 providers.

CCR&Rs 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.

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.

HISPANIC OUTREACH

For over a decade OCCRRA has continued its commitment to diversity by providing services 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 Program Services Manager.

Hispanic Services continues to provide vital help to child care providers across our state. Almost one hundred child care providers participated in the annual Hispanic Child Care Conference in June 2016. Dr. Wilma Melendez-Robles from Florida was the keynote speaker and presented on topics of bilingualism and how to create an environment that respects culture and language. ■

METHODOLOGY

AND SOURCES

DATA AND INFORMATION USED TO UPDATE THE

2016 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. To view individual county data please visit www.okchildcareportfolio.org.

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 +.

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 2016.

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 for the state and individual counties:

1. **Children 0-12 Needing Care—Every Licensed Child Care Slot** takes the total number of [Children With Working Parents](#) (birth through age 12) and divides 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 license exempt or unlicensed care.

2. **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. For counties with less than 25 swipes no data is available.

SOURCE: Data from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report Tables. Table 8: Child Care Services Provided, http://www.okdhs.org/library/rpts/Pages/s16_okdhsannualreport_tables.aspx.

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 Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). June 2016 Report; Child Care Facilities By Stars, Capacity, 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 2011-2015 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 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Data Set.

1. Used table data as provided to arrive at breakdown for 0-5 age group.
2. Table provides breakdown for 6-17 age group but not for 6-12 age group
3. Assumed ratios for 6-12 age group were consistent with ratios for 6-17 age group.
4. Multiplied ratios against child population reported by 2010 Census data to get final results for 6-12 age group. (Census Summary File-1 detailing population data has remained unchanged, therefore calculations are from 2010)

EARLY EDUCATION details public school programs and enrollment for preschool age children. State and individual county data displays the number of public pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs and the number of children enrolled in each. Information is displayed by all programs, by full-day programs and by half-day programs. The levels of participation are recorded as a percent of all four-year olds who are enrolled in either a full-day or part-day pre-kindergarten program and as a percent of all five-year olds who are enrolled in either a full-day or part-day kindergarten program. In some cases single year population estimates fell below the actual preschool enrollment in a given county. In such an event, the level of participation was recorded as 100%.

SOURCE: Data from Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), 2015-2016 School Year. FY2015/2016 School Sites Totals w Ethnicity and Gender, <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/documents/state-student-public-enrollment>. 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 2016. 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: Data from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report Tables. Table 11: Child Care Licensed Facilities and Capacity, http://www.okdhs.org/library/rpts/Pages/s16_okdhsannualreport_tables.aspx.

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 Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). June 2016, Ten Percent Report; Number of Subsidy Payments by Star Level.

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 the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report Tables. Table 11: Child Care Licensed Facilities and Capacity, http://www.okdhs.org/library/rpts/Pages/s16_okdhsannualreport_tables.aspx.

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 2016.

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 2016.

SOURCE: Data from Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), June 2016 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 at www.okchildcareportfolio.org. The ranking was calculated using the average [Star Rating](#) by county and weighted against county [Licensed Child Care Capacity](#). Six counties having the least amount of quality, based on capacity at star rated facilities, tied at the 72nd place.

SOURCE: Data from Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), June 2016 moment in time data; Child Care Facilities By Stars, Capacity, and County. ■

QUICK FACTS

437,689 (64.5%) Oklahoma children, from birth to age 12 **need some form of child care** while their parent(s) work.

3,438 licensed Oklahoma facilities offer 124,200 licensed slots for children.

\$128.20 per week or \$6,670 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 2016), \$8,974 per year and \$4,560 per year, respectively.

96.3% 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 licensed child care facilities **accept children who need child care assistance**.



Oklahoma Child Care
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