



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

2015 Child Care Market Rate Survey

June 30, 2015

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) would like to thank the many providers and individuals that contributed to this year's Market Rate Survey and final report. In particular, we greatly appreciate the time and effort of the providers that completed the survey, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) staff, and all of EEC's outreach partners invested in this project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Child Care Market Rate Survey

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is federally mandated by the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to conduct a study of child care market rates in each region of the state and across all program types. Results are submitted as part of the Commonwealth's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) state plan. This study will evaluate the adequacy of rates for the purpose of demonstrating equal access to child care for low-income families and will assist EEC in establishing maximum reimbursement rates for children served through the Department's child care assistance program. In November 2014, the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reiterated its original emphasis on parental choice and equal access to high quality child care services by modifying and strengthening some of the requirements surrounding the market rate survey mandate. Key changes include:

- Focus on the importance of high quality child care and associated cost
- Emphasis on examining variations of rates within geographic regions
- Focus on cost of care for special needs populations

EEC contracted with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) to conduct the 2015 Child Care Market Rate survey. The survey questions were drafted in collaboration with EEC and provider stakeholder groups. Survey questions covered all new research questions from the new CCDF state plan requirements as well as priority areas for EEC and EEC stakeholders.

A statistically significant random sample of providers by the state's 6 regions was selected to ensure a representative sample by geography, provider type, and age served. The outreach sample was pulled assuming a 70% response rate. To gather a better understanding of the landscape of the true market rates charged, this year the private pay only providers (providers that do not serve any children receiving state subsidy) were oversampled in towns identified in each region that have the highest household income disparity.

The survey was conducted using a web-based survey with outreach conducted by email, phone, and through EEC stakeholders. The overall response rates for family child care was 39.2% (1,695 total family child care responses) while center-based providers were much higher at 61.9% (1,222 total center-based responses). Despite the low response rates this year, the overall margin of error of 3.7% and 3.0% respectively yields a high level of confidence that the results of the survey are statistically representative of the population.

Key Findings

MA EEC Child Care Access Rates

The focus of the market rate survey was to determine the child care market rates and state subsidy access rates by region and type of care. For the purposes of this survey and analysis, the 75th percentile serves as the market rate and refers to what rate is found to cover 75% of prices offered by child care providers within a particular region. The federal rule states that maximum rates "established at least at the 75th percentile would be regarded as providing equal access." The federal government views the 75th percentile as a benchmark rather than a requirement. In other words, the 75th percentile describes the subsidy payment rate that would enable a parent to afford 75% of the options for privately purchased care of a certain type within a specific region of the state.

- **Center-Based Providers:** Across all regions except Region 5, the EEC subsidy access rate is the highest for infant child care. For all age groups Region 6 has the lowest access market rate of 12.1-21.1%. In Regions 1-5 the rates of providers that accept private pay only is lower than the overall market rate (except for preschool-age care in regions 1, 3 and 5). In region 6 all private pay only market rates are above the overall market rate.

- **Family Child Care Providers:** The market access rate is lower than 25% among the majority of regions and age groups. The highest market access rate is for Toddler 1 in Region 1, while Region 4 has the lowest market access rate across all age groups with both Infant and Toddler 1 with 0% market access rate compared to the 75th percentile. Note that Toddler 1, in regards to family child care providers in Massachusetts, refers to toddlers ages 15 months to under two years; this matches the appropriate rate category for family child care for the Commonwealth (children under two years of age).
- **School-Age Care:** When comparing the market rates of school age care (before school, after school, and full day) the market access rate is consistently lower than 50% among all regions.

Child Care Quality

The survey also asked providers whether they participated in any type of accreditation or QRIS, and if they did not participate, explain what the challenges they saw as a barrier to participate. Challenges cited for not participating in accreditation or QRIS: The two options related to provider staff (professional development and/or workforce qualifications and finding and/or retaining qualified staff) were selected most often by both provider types, with over a third of center-based respondents having selected both and 10% of family child care respondents having cited professional development and/or workforce qualifications. Center-based respondents not currently participating in accreditation most often indicated they already felt they have a high quality program and thus do not participate.

Discounts

Additionally, the survey reviewed types of discounts offered by private pay providers. Sibling discounts are most prevalent among both center-based programs and family child care homes with 45% or higher of all center-based programs throughout each region providing sibling discounts. Between 17%-40% of all family child care homes also provide sibling discounts. It should be noted that Massachusetts law prohibits providers from charging the Commonwealth a higher rate than they charge the general public, which includes discounted rates.

State Child Care Subsidy Participation

Finally, the survey asked providers about their participation in state child care subsidy. The majority of respondents from both center-based and family child care (83% for both) indicated they are familiar with the State Subsidy programs.

For both center-based and family child care respondents (13% and 25% respectively), those that do not participate in the program stated the reason that the provider's capacity is already full with private pay children. The second most cited reason by both provider types was the program's indication that there was no need or demand for serving State Subsidy children in their area (11% of center-based and 15% of family child care respondents). There was not a clear incentive that would encourage provider to participate (accept subsidy children).

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is federally mandated to conduct a study of child care market rates in each region of the state and across all program types. This study will evaluate the adequacy of rates for the purpose of demonstrating equal access to child care for low-income families and will assist EEC in establishing maximum reimbursement rates for children served through the Department's child care assistance program.

The passage of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) in 1996, as part of federal welfare reform, focused on providing child care subsidies to ensure equal access to child care and parental choice. To ensure state child care payment rates are high enough to enable families receiving child care assistance to participate in the child care market in a competitive position to find and afford care, the law requires that states conduct a child care market rate survey within two years of the effective date of their currently approved CCDF State Plan. In November 2014, the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reiterated its original emphasis on parental choice and equal access to high quality child care services by modifying and strengthening some of the requirements surrounding the market rate survey mandate. Key changes include:

- Focus on the importance of high quality child care and associated cost
- Emphasis on examining variations of rates within geographic regions
- Focus on cost of care for special needs populations

In Massachusetts, the federal child care subsidy funds are disbursed through the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). To address the federal mandate, EEC contracted with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) to conduct the survey and analysis for the 2015 Market Rate Survey (MRS). The survey's purpose was to evaluate the adequacy of EEC's state child care subsidy rates for slots and vouchers in ensuring equal access to high quality child care for low-income families and inform EEC in state reimbursement rate-setting for the future. Rate information was collected by provider type, as established by Massachusetts child care licensing standards: licensed center-based providers and family child care homes. In addition, data was collected by age groups served for each provider type. For center-based, data was collected for infant (birth to 15 months), toddler (15 months to two years nine months), preschool (two years nine months to five years), and school age (five-13 years or 15 if special needs). The same age groups were surveyed for family child care, although the toddler age groups were further delineated into two: 15 months to under two years, and two years to two years nine months.

In light of the recent reauthorization of CCDBG, PCG worked closely with EEC to crosswalk all new changes in the proposed CCDF State Plan to the 2015 MRS to ensure compliance. In addition to the new requirements for the MRS in the CCDBG reauthorization, Massachusetts's 2015 survey explored provider participation in the State Subsidy program. EEC was interested in collecting data on the differences, if any, in rates for providers who provide care for children from private pay families only and comparing their rates to overall market rates across the state. This reports analyzes the 75th percentile of the rates charged by the sample. The federal rule states that maximum rates "established at least at the 75th percentile would be regarded as providing equal access." The federal government views the 75th percentile as a benchmark rather than a requirement. In other words, the 75th percentile describes the subsidy payment rate that would enable a parent to afford 75% of the options for privately purchased care of a certain type within a specific region of the state. In addition to rate analysis, to better understand participation in the subsidy program, questions around motivating factors and incentives to participate were also included.

The results of this survey are very timely for Massachusetts's families. The extension on the CCDF State Plan to March 2016 provides EEC additional time to analyze findings and inform policy decisions or changes before

submission of Massachusetts's FFY 2016-2018 State Plan.^[1] At the time of writing this report, the federal Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care had not yet issued a final rule on the CCDF State Plan requirements, therefore, the methodology and survey analysis in this report was prepared using reauthorization language.^[2] This report provides both the data analysis and key findings for the State Plan, but also provides EEC and interested stakeholders insight on whether subsidy rates are adequately ensuring equal access to high quality child care in the Commonwealth.

^[1] <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/guidance-on-extension-and-submission-requirements-for-the-fy-20162018-ccdf-plans-for-states-and-territories>

^[2] https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/fy2016_2018_ccdf_plan_preprint_public_comment.pdf

METHODOLOGY

The research team conducted this year’s survey using a statistically representative random sample of programs stratified by program type and EEC region for the market rate survey. The final sample plan included outreach to 4,596 family child care homes and center-based programs; 2,663 of which were family child care homes, and 1,906 were center-based programs.

EEC provided the research team with information on each of the state’s licensed child care programs including program name, address, telephone number, email address, program identification number, program type, license status, and EEC rate region assignment. From this information, the research team generated a list of randomly selected programs to be included in the final outreach sample for the survey. The randomly selected providers were pulled from the full population of licensed child care programs at the time of the survey (March 2015) which included 6,691 family child care providers and 2,798 center-based providers. The sample was pulled to meet a 95% confidence level. The following table provides the targeted sample size to meet the representative sample by region at the 95% confidence level.

Table 1. Targeted Sample Size 95% Confidence Level

Region	Family Child Care revised targeted sample revised	Center Based and School Aged targeted sample revised
1 Western	279	185
2 Central	288	153
3 Northeastern	315	217
4 Metro	283	263
5 Southeastern	270	220
6 Boston	260	184
Total	1,695	1,222

This initial sampling methodology assumed a 70% response rate. It was stratified by geographic region, using EEC’s six rate regions, and by the type of care. Additionally, the sample was constructed in an effort to capture a representative sample by the age groups served by center-based and out-of-school-time programs within each region. Below are descriptions of each of EEC’s geographic regions, as described by the Urban Institute’s “Review of Child Care Needs of Eligible Families.”^[3]

- Region 1 (Western): The Western region encompasses most of the western half of the state, including Springfield, Greenfield, Holyoke, Pittsfield, and many smaller towns and rural areas.
- Region 2 (Central): The Central region is the area between greater Boston and Western Massachusetts. Its biggest city is Worcester.
- Region 3: (Northeastern): The Northeast is the region that lies between Boston and the New Hampshire border.
- Region 4: (Metro): Greater Boston includes the suburbs of Boston that are located to the west and south of the central city.

^[3] Isaacs, Julia B.; Michael Katz; Sarah Minton; Molly Michie (January 2015) Review of Child Care Needs of Eligible Families. (pp. 100-103) *Urban Institute*: Washington, DC.

- Region 5: (Southeastern): The Southeast region is comprised of areas south of Boston, including New Bedford, Fall River, Cape Cod, and the surrounding islands.
- Region 6: (Boston): The Metro Boston region includes Boston proper and most adjoining cities.

Additionally, to gain a more accurate representation of the true market rate of child care in each region, a 10% oversample of private pay only programs was randomly selected from designated “high priority” towns. Providers that do not accept any state subsidy and thus only receive private payments from families are in this study characterized as “private pay only” providers. Private pay only provider rates are not directly influenced by state subsidy rates and therefore provide a more accurate reflection of the market rates charged. EEC’s regional subsidy rate structure groups counties and towns together based on geography, and thus for the purposes of subsidy rate payments, treats the cost of care within those geographies equally. EEC understands that the reality of the child care market is that rates vary within regions and are linked to demand for child care (i.e., families’ ability to pay for child care). PCG and EEC selected “high-priority” towns by analyzing the average median income as the measure for family’s ability to pay across all towns in the state by region. A total of 10 neighboring towns and cities were identified as having the largest disparity in income as well as the whole city of Boston (which includes neighborhoods with wide income disparity). Table 2 below lists each of the “high priority” towns, and the number of programs selected for oversampling from each town. Note this is just the count of private pay programs for the oversample, the random stratified sample includes a statistically representative mix of private pay only programs and programs that receive state subsidy.

Table 2. Targeted Outreach with a 10% Oversample for Private Pay Only “High Priority” Towns

Region	Oversampled towns	Family Child Care Targeted Sample	Center Based and School Aged Targeted Sample
1 Western	Springfield, Wilbraham	40	26*
2 Central	Worcester, Shrewsbury	41*	8*
3 Northeastern	Andover, Lawrence	45*	31*
4 Metro	Natick, Framingham	40	38*
5 Southeastern	East Bridgewater, Brockton	39*	31*
6 Boston	10% Oversample of whole region	37	26
Total	10 towns plus all of Boston	242	63

**In some towns, the full 10% oversample of private pay only providers could not be pulled since the maximum number of licensed child care providers in the town was lower than the 10% targeted oversample. In those cases, the maximum number of private pay providers was pulled. The total number of private pay providers included in the oversample reached 94.6% of the targeted oversample.*

Table 3. Final Sample

Region	Family Child Care Full Sample	Center Based and School Aged Full Sample
1 Western	438	290
2 Central	452	227
3 Northeastern	495	341
4 Metro	444	414
5 Southeastern	425	345
6 Boston	408	289
Total	2,663	1,906

The research team worked closely with EEC and provider stakeholders including the Provider Working Team (PWT) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 509 to develop the survey questions. The survey included questions catered to each type of program: center-based programs, out-of-school-time programs and family child care providers. To test the survey questions and design, the research team conducted a pilot survey with a small sample of providers and incorporated feedback from providers on the survey question language and format. The survey questions collected in this year's market rate survey were similar to those collected in the 2013 and 2011 market rate studies. Based on the team's experience with previous market price surveys, as well as additional requirements from the reauthorization of CCDBG, certain questions were added or revised to further clarify intent and reduce response errors. In particular, some major changes that were included in this year's survey included:

- Collection of the minimum and maximum rates charged by providers for each rate type
- Information on providers serving children with special needs
- Information on additional program fees charged
- Information around quality including, accreditation, participation in QRIS, and barriers to quality
- Information on acceptance of subsidy children, and motivation to participate in the state child care subsidy program
- Information on additional rates charged for variations in school age (summer break, early release days, federal/state holidays, school closure days)
- Removal of questions on the provider's workforce

Using the questions described above, the team developed a web-based survey questionnaire. For programs that did not respond on-line, a Data Collection Call Team (led by PCG) followed up with providers to collect information by phone. The survey questions included logic to filter specific questions for each type of program so only questions that only pertained to the program's type of care or age group served were prompted. The guided-logic questions allowed responses to be screened during the data analysis process – e.g., guidance to correct provider type, and questions on school aged care. To further minimize data entry errors, the on-line survey instrument included several features including requirements for mandatory responses and validated fields. The questionnaire was designed to allow programs to enter rate information in the minimum and maximum units they use to quote and charge parents – i.e., hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly. During the data analysis phase, the research team removed data entry errors and converted all useable rates into daily rates.

Data Collection

The research team collaborated with EEC to design a comprehensive outreach campaign to notify selected programs in the sample. Initially, the survey collection period spanned a five week period from March 30, 2015-May 1, 2015 however, due to low response rates, EEC and the research team extended the collection period by two weeks with a total collection period of seven weeks ending May 15, 2015. The research team coordinated all initial contact with the programs in the sample by sending announcement postcards and e-mails on behalf of the EEC Commissioner on March 30, 2015. The letters and e-mails incorporated background information about the survey, a link to the on-line survey, a link to frequently asked questions (FAQ), an email address to send questions or concerns, and a dedicated phone number to call PCG for more information or for assistance in taking the survey. The announcement postcards, e-mails and on-line survey instruments were also made available in Spanish. Selected providers were also notified through EEC child care licensing staff, on the EEC billing system, through the PWT, and through SEIU Local 509, and the family child care systems. Reminder e-mails were sent to all programs that had not responded throughout the survey collection period. In addition, as a best practices for increasing response rates, the research team offered a survey incentive of two \$100 gift cards for providers that entered.

The on-line link enabled programs to complete the survey on their own. For those programs that did not complete the survey two weeks after the initial contact, a series of reminders were used to increase response rates or to conduct the surveys by phone. PCG dedicated a three staff Data Collection Call Team to collect survey data by phone from providers that did not enter data into the on-line questionnaire. These staff members made multiple call attempts between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily to providers that had not yet completed the survey throughout April 6 to May 15. PCG developed a survey administration guide and a webinar to train staff on the purpose of the survey, overview the sample plan, review the survey scripts, review data collection protocols, review survey disposition protocols and discuss frequently asked questions. Throughout the data collection phase, the research team collaborated closely with the call staff members to deploy different strategies and techniques to increase response rates. Over the course of the survey collection period, a total of 4,215 separate calls were made that connected with a working number. Of these calls, 8% ended with the provider taking the survey directly over the phone call, and in 12% of calls, providers refused to take the survey. All other calls ended with either that the provider requesting a call back at a later time, that they would take the survey online, or that they had already completed the survey.

Sample Set Data

As noted previously, approximately 4,500 licensed child care programs were included in the sample, with 1,400 providers participating in this survey. This represents a response rate of 42% for center-based and out-of-school-time programs and 25% for family child care providers. Programs that were identified as closed or were not currently providing care when the survey was conducted were excluded from the survey analysis.

Once the data collection phase was complete, the research team conducted a series of data cleaning steps including:

- Converting data entry errors of hours of operation into correct A.M. and P.M. designations
- Moving partial responses that were not duplicate entries into the final data set
- Moving clear data entry errors for rate data into the correct unit (hourly, daily, weekly, monthly)
- Editing data entry errors on town/city names

All rates that were quoted in the survey were converted into daily rates using data collected on hours and days of operation. Following the methodology in the 2012 Market Rate Survey, the rate conversion methodology illustrated in “Table 3. Price Conversion Methodology” was used to convert reported rates into daily rates. Daily rates that were more than two standard deviations from the mean in their corresponding categories were considered to be outliers and removed from the percentile calculations.

Table 4. Price Conversion Methodology

Reported Rate Units	Conversion Methodology
Hourly	(Hourly Rate) x (Hours Open Per Day)
Daily	None
Weekly	(Weekly Rate) ÷ (Days Open Per Week)
Monthly	(Monthly Rate) ÷ 4.33 weeks ÷ (Days Per Week)

After all minimum and maximum rates for each respondent (provider) were converted into standard daily rates, the minimum of the minimum rates was identified and the maximum of the maximum rates was identified and used for analysis.

Accuracy of Results

Based on the final sample of eligible responses collected with the exclusion of outliers and anomalies, the research team approximated the “universe” of eligible programs. The “universe” is the ratio of eligible survey responses and was applied to the total number of programs in each region.

The confidence intervals reflect the strength of the sample size in relation to the universe for each region at a 95% confidence level. Despite the statistical strength of these results, it should be noted that confidence intervals are meant to capture a certain margin of error that should be taken into account when analyzing survey data. This could include random error or unknown biases captured in the response data. The following table provides the margin of error for each region.

Table 5. Margin of Error for Family Child Care Respondents

	Provider Universe	Target Sample	Final Sample	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Region 1	1,017	279	111	39.8%	8.8%
Region 2	1,145	288	95	32.9%	9.6%
Region 3	1,747	315	132	41.9%	8.2%
Region 4	1,079	283	90	31.8%	9.9%
Region 5	902	270	102	37.8%	9.1%
Region 6	801	260	115	44.2%	8.5%
Unidentified Region	-	-	20	-	N/A
All	6,691	1,695	665	39.2%	3.7%

The confidence level is cited as 95 percent plus or minus 4% (3.7%). This information means that we are 95% confident that the (75th percentile) market rate falls within + or – 4%. (If this were conducted 100 times the market rate would be + or – 4 %).

For margin of error for non-numeric answers example: A margin of error of 4% (3.7%) means that if 50% of respondents answered choice “A”; we are 95% confident that between 46% - 54% of respondents would answer choice A (if we conducted the survey 100 times).

Table 6. Margin of Error for Center-Based and School-Age Respondents

	Provider Universe	Target Sample	Final Sample	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Region 1	357	185	105	56.8%	8.0%
Region 2	254	153	94	61.4%	8.0%
Region 3	497	217	131	60.4%	7.4%
Region 4	828	263	140	53.2%	7.6%
Region 5	511	220	167	75.9%	6.2%
Region 6	351	184	118	64.1%	7.4%
Unidentified Region	-	-	2	-	N/A
All	2,798	1,222	757	61.9%	3.0%

The confidence level is cited as 95 percent plus or minus 3%. This information means that we are 95% confident that the (75th percentile) market rate falls within + or – 3%. (If this was were conducted 100 times the market rate would be + or – 3 %).

For margin of error for non-numeric answers example: A margin of error of 3 means that if 50% of respondents answered choice "A"; we are 95% confident that between 47% - 53% of respondents would answer choice A (if we conducted the survey 100 times).

75th percentile & EEC Access Rate Calculations

The project team conducted the following steps to analyze the daily rates for child care providers across the state. The analysis focused on understanding the 75th percentile of rates, however, the 50th and 25th were also considered to provide a more in-depth picture of the landscape of EEC's reimbursement rates as compared market rates. The 75th Price Percentile term is used to describe the subsidy payment rate that would enable a parent to afford 75% of the options for privately purchased care of a certain type within a specific region of the state.

Step 1: Compiled survey responses

Step 2: Filtered survey responses by region, provider type, and ages served

Step 3: Removed data entry errors, outliers, and provider rates that were not full-time care

Step 4: Ranked rates for each region, provider type and age served and identified the 75th percentile

Step 5: Identified the relative position of EEC rates

Example

Rates	Analysis
\$25	
\$33	\$30 (EEC Rate)= 6th Percentile
\$39	\$30= 25th Percentile
\$40	
\$40	
\$40	\$40= 50th Percentile
\$40	
\$41	\$41 = 75th Percentile
\$42	
\$44	

In the example, the percentile of \$30 (EEC rate) means that the reimbursement rate is only able to cover the market price of about 6% of providers in the region that charge for that age group and provider type. The project team understands that many providers accept the EEC reimbursement rate even if it is below their standard private-pay market rate. As with previous surveys, this analysis simply uses the percentile calculation as a proxy for measuring the level of access that EEC reimbursement rates provides to families.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The section that follows provides key findings and analysis of the 2015 Market Rate Study. Results are broken out into six topic areas: 1) Landscape of Childcare Services in Massachusetts, 2) Distribution of Rates, 3) Market Rates Compared to Massachusetts Subsidy Rates, 4) Program Quality, 5) Program Capacity, and 6) Increasing Number of Subsidized Slots. Each section contains a call out box description of the CCDF State Plan requirements (as described in the version published by the Administration for Children and Families at the time of writing of this report) for which the research questions and key findings correspond. For full data tables of findings please see the Appendix section of this report.

Landscape of Childcare Services in Massachusetts

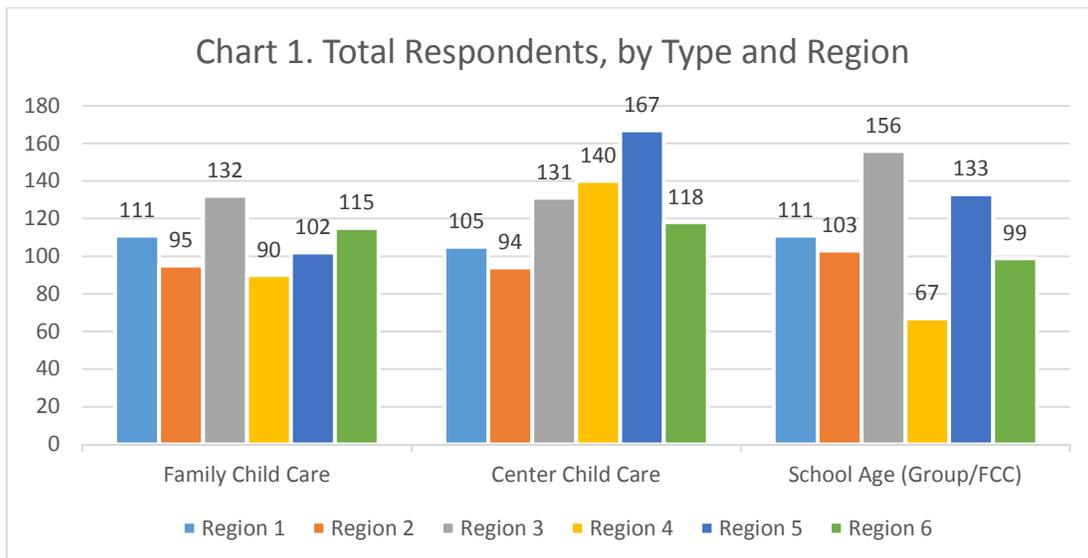
CCDF State Plan Requirements:

Describe how the market rate survey reflects variations in the price of child care services by geography, provider type, and child age.

1. What is the distribution of respondents by type of provider and region?

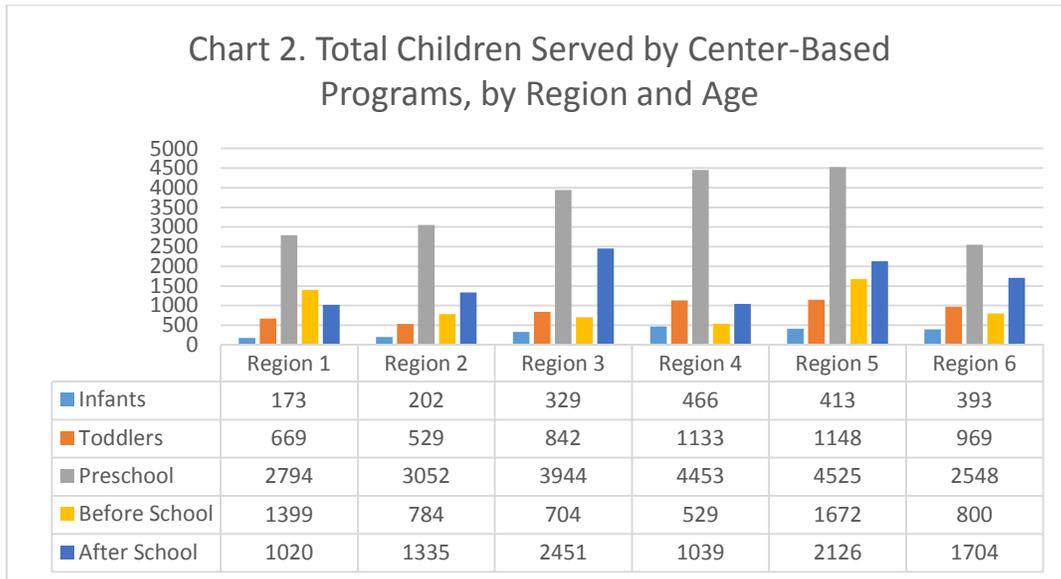
This section describes the demographics and distribution of providers who responded to the 2015 survey, in addition to the populations they serve. The survey requested that providers identify as either family child care providers or a center-based programs (small and large group). References to school-aged child care providers are a mix of center-based programs and family child care providers. Analysis was performed on providers in all six EEC geographic regions of the state. In the charts and tables that follow throughout this section, the reader will be informed about: 1) the count of providers who responded, by region and by type; 2) the total amounts of children that are served in each region; 3) how many children receive state subsidy by region and provider type; and 4) whether providers who responded serve children with special needs.

In Chart 1 below, the total count of respondents of the sample of providers (or *n*) is expressed, showing distribution between each of the geographic regions and type of provider. Based on the distribution of respondents, each of the geographic regions is represented well in this survey, in addition to provider types. Of the 1,427 total respondents, about 45% of providers were family child care homes, and 55% were center-based programs. Additionally, about 50% of total respondents provide school-aged care. Additional information may be found in Appendix 1, Table 27.

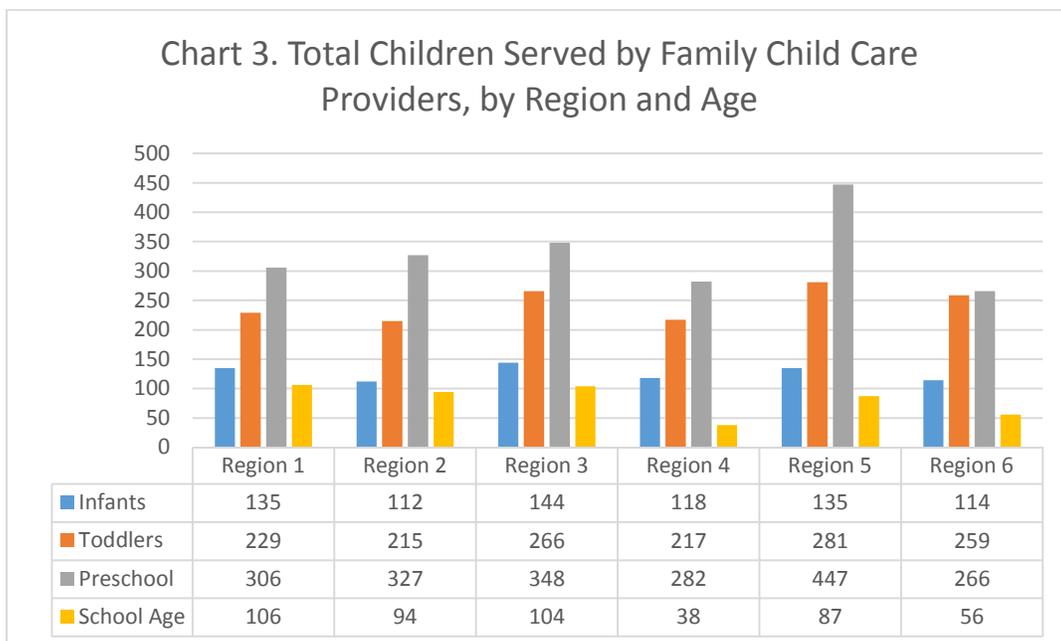


3. How many children are served by survey respondents?

The 2015 survey also reviewed the total amount of children that are served by both center-based programs and family child care homes in the state, detailed in Charts 2 and 3, respectively. In regards to center-based programs, preschool-aged children take up the vast majority of children served by center-based programs, followed by after-school/school-aged children. The smallest portion of children served by these programs is infants.



Similarly to center-based programs, preschool-age children are the majority of children served by family child care providers, although throughout all regions there was a more even distribution of children among each region than when compared with center-based respondents. Proportionally, children in all age categories were better represented than with center-based programs. In further contrast to center-based programs, school-age children are the smallest portion of children served by family child care homes who responded to the 2015 survey.



4. How many children receive subsidies for care?

In Table 1 below, the total amount of children that receive a subsidy are tallied by region and provider type. Broadly speaking, family child care and center-based programs share the same distribution of children that receive subsidy in comparison to children that do not. In regards to family child care providers, of the children who are in a program that accepts subsidy, 73% of the children receive subsidy; and of total children served by programs, 38% receive state subsidy. In regards to center-based programs, of the children who are in a program that accepts subsidy, 61% of the children receive subsidy; and of total children served by programs, 40% receive subsidy.

Table 7. Amount of Children Receiving Subsidy, by Region and Provider Type

Family Child Care Providers			
	# of Subsidy Children	Total Children Served by Programs that Accept Subsidy	Total Children Served
Region 1	275	387	776
Region 2	290	277	747
Region 3	524	617	861
Region 4	92	174	654
Region 5	261	478	949
Region 6	338	500	695
Center-Based Providers			
	# of Subsidy Children	Total Children Served by Programs that Accept Subsidy	Total Children Served
Region 1	2,119	3,582	6,055
Region 2	1,910	3,495	5,903
Region 3	7,033	7,009	8,269
Region 4	600	3,610	7,620
Region 5	3,088	6,473	9,884
Region 6	2,701	4,554	6,414

5. Do providers serve children with special needs?

In the 2015 Market Rate Survey, respondents were asked whether they served children of special needs. Specifically, providers were asked whether they served children of the following populations: physical disability, behavioral disability, dual language learners, and children of teen parents. Upon analysis, it can be concluded that responding center-based programs were generally more equipped to serve children with special needs than family child care programs; in regards to all populations (excluding children of teen parents), around 75% of center-based programs served these populations, while 50% or less of family child care homes served them. The population of children of teen parents is comparable between program types.

Table 8. Providers that Serve Special Populations, by Region and Provider Type

	Physical Disability	% Disability	Behavioral Disability	% Behavioral	Dual Language Learners	% Dual Language	Teen Parents	% Teen Parents
Region	Family Child Care Programs							
1	53	48%	39	35%	34	31%	36	32%
2	45	47%	35	37%	27	28%	32	34%
3	68	52%	70	53%	68	52%	67	51%
4	34	38%	32	36%	38	42%	32	36%
5	53	52%	55	54%	40	39%	51	50%
6	51	44%	55	48%	61	53%	54	47%
	Center-Based Programs							
1	82	78%	78	74%	77	73%	48	46%
2	74	79%	69	73%	60	64%	44	47%
3	98	75%	99	76%	87	66%	60	46%
4	98	70%	92	66%	102	73%	45	32%
5	135	81%	133	80%	120	72%	102	61%
6	93	79%	93	79%	94	80%	47	40%

Distribution of Rates

CCDF State Plan Requirements:

Describe how the market rate survey reflects variations in the price of child care services by geography, provider type, and child age.

Differential payment rate data (location, age, needs, non-traditional hours of care, quality)

Describe how the State set payment rates for child care services in accordance with the results of the MRS.

What facts did the State use to determine equal access?

1. What is the distribution of childcare prices based on:

- a. Geography (statewide and regionally, as well as within a region)?**
- b. By provider type (family child care, center-based, school-based preschool, school-based school age)?**
- c. By age group (infant, toddler, preschool, school age)?**

Family Child Care

The table below details the number of valid family child care survey responses which were analyzed after calculating the standard deviation and average and subsequently removing outliers, and their distribution across regions and age groups. Note: although EEC's subsidy rates for family child care providers delineates only between under two years and over two years of age, the 2015 Massachusetts Child Care Market Rate Survey gave additional age group options for respondents:

- Infant: Birth to 15 months
- Toddler 1 (15 months to under 2 years)
- Toddler 2 (2 years to 2 years 9 months)
- Preschool (2 years 9 months to 5 years)

For the purposes of this report, EEC's family child care subsidy rate for under two years of age is compared to the survey's Infant and Toddler 1 (15 months to under 2 years) responses, and EEC's family child care subsidy rate for over two years of age is compared to the survey's Toddler 2 (2 years to 2 years 9 months) and Preschool responses.

Table 9. Rate Distribution for Family Child Care Programs, Minimum Daily Rates Charged

Family Child Care		Whole Sample Minimum Rates				
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	# of Respondents (Excluding Outliers)	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Infant	\$32.24	76	9.17	\$35.11	5
	Toddler 1	\$32.24	79	9.68	\$33.39	5
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	75	9.76	\$33.51	5
	Preschool	\$28.28	80	10.40	\$33.08	7
2	Infant	\$34.06	55	8.72	\$39.85	3
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	57	9.04	\$39.83	5
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	52	9.67	\$38.79	3
	Preschool	\$28.28	58	10.13	\$37.47	7
3	Infant	\$33.74	59	10.77	\$41.77	4
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	59	11.04	\$40.76	2
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	51	10.30	\$38.49	2
	Preschool	\$29.83	65	11.38	\$38.23	10
4	Infant	\$36.79	39	15.77	\$60.02	2
	Toddler 1	\$36.79	38	16.21	\$58.92	2
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	33	16.90	\$57.43	0
	Preschool	\$29.83	32	17.54	\$55.57	0
5	Infant	\$34.06	55	8.47	\$42.97	3
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	57	8.77	\$41.72	0
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	54	9.14	\$41.04	0
	Preschool	\$28.28	57	9.16	\$40.12	0
6	Infant	\$33.74	27	10.81	\$44.73	3
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	28	11.54	\$40.55	2
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	27	11.11	\$40.01	1
	Preschool	\$29.83	29	10.87	\$38.25	2

Center-based (Large & Small Group) Child Care

The table below details the number of valid center-based child care survey responses which were analyzed after calculating the standard deviation and average and subsequently removing outliers, and their distribution across regions and age groups.

Table 10. Rate Distribution for Child Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged

Center-Based Child Care			Whole Sample Minimum Rates			
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	# of Respondents (Excluding Outliers)	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Infant	\$49.88	16	21.38	\$11.14	7
	Toddler	\$45.74	36	66.89	\$24.63	2
	Preschool	\$34.79	62	54.16	\$27.73	2
2	Infant	\$51.24	25	24.93	\$15.86	4
	Toddler	\$46.79	31	24.22	\$16.94	2
	Preschool	\$34.79	59	21.90	\$25.08	2
3	Infant	\$57.23	26	26.82	\$15.07	8
	Toddler	\$52.36	41	25.13	\$16.90	3
	Preschool	\$37.13	71	185.11	\$36.52	1
4	Infant	\$61.97	34	31.89	\$18.97	7
	Toddler	\$55.80	47	31.57	\$22.46	6
	Preschool	\$38.22	83	47.32	\$30.00	1
5	Infant	\$49.88	49	23.94	\$15.15	4
	Toddler	\$46.79	58	23.16	\$16.47	4
	Preschool	\$34.79	99	19.94	\$21.21	3
6	Infant	\$56.81	28	37.18	\$22.34	6
	Toddler	\$51.15	42	40.19	\$27.39	3
	Preschool	\$38.22	53	31.96	\$25.09	3

School Age Child Care

Analysis for school-age care combined both family child care home and center-based program responses. The following table details the total responses received of providers who provide before school care, after school care, and full day school-age care. In general, there was a fairly even distribution among all regions; additionally, before-school had the least amount of responses, followed increasingly by after-school care and full day care.

Table 11. Rate Distribution for School-Age Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged

School-Age		Whole Sample Minimum Rates				
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	# of Respondents (Outliers Excluded)	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Before School	\$7.55	56	18.4	\$15.80	3
	After School	\$15.88	70	28.0	\$20.80	3
	Full Day	\$31.98	80	18.0	\$33.70	1
2	Before School	\$7.55	57	26.9	\$24.40	6
	After School	\$15.88	72	20.1	\$23.60	6
	Full Day	\$31.98	82	14.7	\$39.60	3
3	Before School	\$8.02	40	16.0	\$19.30	1
	After School	\$17.75	93	13.4	\$22.60	4
	Full Day	\$33.07	106	13.3	\$34.30	6
4	Before School	\$8.23	15	39.9	\$36.70	7
	After School	\$18.22	46	32.2	\$33.10	2
	Full Day	\$34.00	34	23.6	\$49.10	17
5	Before School	\$7.55	82	30.7	\$24.00	7
	After School	\$15.88	88	26.0	\$24.10	6
	Full Day	\$31.98	101	15.3	\$32.90	3
6	Before School	\$8.23	21	10.8	\$15.40	2
	After School	\$18.22	62	5.9	\$19.90	5
	Full Day	\$34.00	68	21.6	\$34.90	1

4. What is included in the full rate (meals, transportation, etc.)?

The 2015 Market Rate Survey asked additional questions on the types of additional fees that providers may charge that are not included in their standard rates. Speaking generally, most providers do not charge fees in addition to their regular rates. Providers were allowed to list and detail the following types of additional fees in the survey:

- Specified additional fees
- Registration fees
- Waitlist fees
- Deposits
- Application fees
- Field trips
- Special activity fees
- Optional services fees

- Food Fees
- Late payment fees
- Transportation fees
- Late-pickup fees
- Bank fees (e.g. bounced checks)
- Other
- Nontraditional hour fees

Of the above types of fees, a majority of providers charge a late payment fee, ranging between 50%-60% of providers throughout the different regions. Other fees that ranked higher than most others were related to transportation, food, and registration fees, ranging between 35% of providers to 50% of providers. All other types of fees, however, did not surpass 25% of responding providers. For more detailed tables and data on additional fees, see Appendix 3.

Market Rates Compared to Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

CCDF State Plan Requirements:

Provide the payment rates and percentiles for specific categories.

What facts did the State use to determine equal access?

Does the State certify that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access either based on the current MRS?

- 1. To what extent do payment rates for subsidized childcare ensure equal access and parental choice?**
- 2. What is the range of rates charged? What is the difference between minimum and maximum rates? (For those providers who did not list a minimum rate, it can be assumed that the rate they did provide is both their minimum and maximum rate since those programs may only have one rate that they use for all children.)**
- 3. How do rates of providers that accept subsidy compare to private pay only?**

Family Child Care

In Table 12 (in the Market Access Rate column), when comparing the reported market rates of family child care to the state subsidy rate provided by Massachusetts EEC, the market access rate is lower than 25% among the majority of regions and age groups. The highest market access rate is for Toddler 1 in Region 1, while Region 4 has the lowest market access rate across all age groups with both Infant and Toddler 1 with 0% market access rate compared to the 75th percentile.

Table 12. Family Child Care Minimum Daily Market Rates Compared to Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

Family Child Care			Whole Sample Outliers Removed (Includes Private Pay Only)			EEC Market Access Rate (Percent Rank)	Private Pay Only 75th Percentile
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile		
1	Infant	\$32.24	\$32.00	\$35.00	\$39.72	32.8%	\$36.95
	Toddler 1	\$32.24	\$29.61	\$33.33	\$38.25	44.0%	\$40.00
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$29.28	\$33.00	\$36.98	18.1%	\$40.00
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$29.14	\$32.00	\$36.99	19.8%	\$40.00
2	Infant	\$34.06	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	16.6%	\$40.50
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	17.6%	\$40.50
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	12.0%	\$40.50
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$30.00	\$36.00	\$45.00	16.0%	\$45.00
3	Infant	\$33.74	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$48.50	19.5%	\$47.00
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$30.54	\$40.00	\$48.00	36.8%	\$47.00
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	11.7%	\$38.02
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$45.00	15.1%	\$55.00
4	Infant	\$36.79	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	0.0% ²	\$60.00
	Toddler 1	\$36.79	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	0.0% ³	\$56.25
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$47.50	\$60.00	\$65.00	1.6%	\$50.00
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$42.50	\$55.00	\$65.00	5.1%	\$65.00
5	Infant	\$34.06	\$35.06	\$40.00	\$47.00	5.5%	\$45.00
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$47.50	18.4%	\$45.00
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	5.8%	\$45.00
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	9.8%	\$45.00
6	Infant	\$33.74	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	16.3%	\$50.00
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$45.00	37.3%	\$48.75
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$30.00	\$36.00	\$46.25	10.4%	\$47.50
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$30.00	\$34.00	\$45.00	20.8%	\$47.50

The research team conducted an analysis of the rate distribution of family child care in high priority towns identified for the oversample. However, the count (n) of the rate data for each town was too low to conduct a statically significant analysis. Data on the counts and the 75th percentile can be found in the appendix in Table 36. Rate Distribution for Family Child Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, “High Priority Towns.”

² The 0% market access rate calculations were based on the sample data collected. While some rates collected yielded a higher market access rate, they were excluded as outliers. In this case less than 5 responses were excluded.

³ See above.

Center-based Child Care

The Market Access Rate findings in Table 13 below indicate that across all regions except Region 5, EEC subsidy covers infant child care in center-based programs at a higher percentage than any other age group. For all age groups, Region 6 has the lowest access market rate of 12.1-21.1%. In Regions 1-5 the private pay only (75th percentile) is lower than the overall market rate (75th percentile) except for preschool-age care in regions 1, 3 and 5). In Region 6 all private pay only market rates are above the overall market rate.

Table 13.Center-Based Child Care Minimum Daily Market Rates Compared to Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

Center-Based Child Care			Whole Sample Outliers Removed (Includes Private Pay Only)			EEC Market Access Rate (Percent rank)	Private Pay Only 75 th Percentile
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile		
1	Infant	\$49.88	\$46.38	\$50.64	\$51.73	43.9%	\$50.05
	Toddler	\$45.74	\$43.70	\$48.00	\$49.70	36.5%	\$49.20
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$32.66	\$36.00	\$40.00	27.8%	\$45.00
2	Infant	\$51.24	\$44.00	\$50.40	\$55.00	60.3%	\$56.41
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$41.50	\$45.00	\$51.50	57.7%	\$49.64
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$34.90	\$37.00	\$45.00	24.1%	\$43.65
3	Infant	\$57.23	\$48.43	\$54.86	\$63.20	57.3%	\$60.86
	Toddler	\$52.36	\$45.54	\$51.96	\$58.00	50.9%	\$52.42
	Preschool	\$37.13	\$31.00	\$40.05	\$46.68	33.8%	\$47.20
4	Infant	\$61.97	\$43.77	\$64.31	\$73.77	46.9%	\$73.15
	Toddler	\$55.80	\$38.62	\$59.12	\$69.92	44.0%	\$69.84
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$31.73	\$44.00	\$58.71	41.5%	\$57.96
5	Infant	\$49.88	\$43.40	\$51.00	\$52.40	40.4%	\$46.72
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$36.85	\$47.50	\$49.90	47.3%	\$45.32
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$30.70	\$35.00	\$40.00	34.6%	\$40.00
6	Infant	\$56.81	\$57.30	\$68.31	\$75.62	14.8%	\$89.56
	Toddler	\$51.15	\$53.00	\$63.68	\$78.00	12.1%	\$90.00
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$38.22	\$46.00	\$60.00	21.1%	\$72.24

The research team conducted an analysis of the rate distribution of center-based child care in high priority towns identified for the oversample. However, the count (n) of the rate data for each town was too low to conduct a statically significant analysis. Data on the counts and the 75th percentile can be found in the appendix in Table 37. "Rate Distribution for Center-Based Child Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, "High Priority Towns"."

School Age Child Care

When comparing the market rates of school age care (before school, after school, and full day) with the subsidy rate provided by Massachusetts EEC, the market access rate is consistently lower than 50% among all regions; this is seen in the Table 14 EEC Market Access Rate column. This indicates that the EEC subsidy would only provide access for children to half or less of providers in each region.

Table 14. School Age Child Care Minimum Market Rates Compared with Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

School Age		Whole sample outliers removed (includes private pay only)						
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	EEC Market Access Rate (Percent Rank)	Private Pay Only 75 th Percentile	
1	Before School	\$7.55	\$5.88	\$8.75	\$14.14	36.3%	\$12.89	
	After School	\$15.88	\$7.00	\$13.93	\$17.00	57.9%	\$14.43	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$30.00	\$33.13	\$38.00	34.1%	\$40.00	
2	Before School	\$7.55	\$8.40	\$11.55	\$18.48	20.5%	\$15.00	
	After School	\$15.88	\$11.32	\$18.24	\$20.20	43.4%	\$16.74	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$32.78	\$36.95	\$42.20	20.3%	\$42.20	
3	Before School	\$8.02	\$9.81	\$14.50	\$20.25	21.1%	\$20.25	
	After School	\$17.75	\$17.00	\$19.40	\$24.75	26.0%	\$29.25	
	Full Day	\$33.07	\$25.25	\$36.00	\$40.00	37.6%	\$47.75	
4	Before School	\$8.23	\$5.35	\$9.15	\$16.50	43.0%	\$28.00	
	After School	\$18.22	\$15.45	\$21.65	\$35.00	31.1%	\$64.75	
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$26.31	\$38.20	\$47.00	33.3%	\$30.02	
5	Before School	\$7.55	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$27.00	15.0%	\$44.69	
	After School	\$15.88	\$13.00	\$16.00	\$22.00	34.4%	\$39.26	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$28.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	33.0%	\$40.00	
6	Before School	\$8.23	\$8.00	\$9.24	\$17.00	40.0%	\$22.50	
	After School	\$18.22	\$18.22	\$19.40	\$20.00	21.3%	\$25.00	
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$20.00	\$34.00	\$40.00	38.8%	\$40.00	

The research team conducted an analysis of the rate distribution of center-based child care in high priority towns identified for the oversample. However, the count (n) of the rate data for each town was too low to conduct a statically significant analysis. Data on the counts and the 75th percentile can be found in the appendix in Table 38. Rate Distribution for School Age Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, “High Priority Towns”

Program Quality

CCDF State Plan Requirements:

Describe how the market rate survey reflects variations in the price of child care services by geography, provider type, and child age.

Differential payment rate data (location, age, needs, non-traditional hours of care, quality).

1. *Is program accredited, and if so, by whom?*

The highest reported accreditation by survey respondents was Massachusetts QRIS, with 65% of center-based and 67% of family child care respondents indicating participation. The next most often selected option was National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC), from 28% of center-based respondents. Besides Massachusetts QRIS participation, there was not a significant indication of accreditation from any other quality initiatives or organizations.

Table 15. Reported Program Accreditations by Program Type

Accreditation	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	209	28%	45	7%
Council on Accreditation (COA)	6	1%	21	3%
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)	-	-	59	9%
Massachusetts Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS)	496	65%	449	67%
My program is not participating in a quality accrediting system	110	14%	116	17%

2. *Does program participate in State QRIS, and if so, what is designation?*

For the respondents who had indicated participation in Massachusetts QRIS, they were then asked to report their self-assessed and granted QRIS levels. The average self-assessed and granted QRIS levels reported were under Level 2 for both center-based and family child care respondents.

Table 16. Reported QRIS Participation and Designation by Program Type

	Center-Based	Family Child Care
Average self-assessed QRIS Level	1.76	1.76
Average granted QRIS Level	1.83	1.84

3. *What are providers' challenges to advancing to higher levels of accreditation?*

Respondents who indicated participation in a quality accreditation system were asked to specify challenges they faced to advancing to higher levels of accreditation or increasing their QRIS Level. The two options related to provider staff (professional development and/or workforce qualifications and finding and/or retaining qualified staff)

were selected most often by both provider types, with over a third of center-based respondents having selected both and 10% of family child care respondents having cited professional development and/or workforce qualifications.

Table 17. Challenges to Advancing to Higher Levels of Accreditation or Increasing QRIS Level by Program Type

	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
Physical environment	111	15%	28	4%
Assessment and Curriculum Requirements	58	8%	31	5%
Family and Community Engagement Requirements	67	9%	27	4%
Professional Development and/or Workforce Qualifications (ex. trainings, college coursework, and degrees)	252	33%	67	10%
Finding and/or retaining qualified staff	230	30%	27	4%
Program Administration (ex. staff benefits, staff salaries, staff supervisions, child tracking systems, etc.)	86	11%	21	3%
Not enough information on the tools and resources needed to participate	31	4%	19	3%
Not enough support or tools to participate	35	5%	17	3%
Not enough funding available to assist with cost	148	19%	62	9%
Other	76	10%	30	5%

4. Why do providers not want to participate in a quality accrediting system?

Respondents who indicated they do not participate in a quality accrediting system were asked to select reasons that best describe why they choose not to participate. Center-based respondents⁴ most often indicated they already felt they have a high quality program and thus do not participate.

⁴ EEC requires that all providers receiving state subsidy participate in QRIS. Although this is the case out of the 51 center-based respondents who said they do not participate in QRIS, 48 indicated that they are not currently serving subsidy children and 1 did not respond.

Table 18. Reasons for Not Participating in a Quality Accrediting System by Program Type

	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
We already have a high quality program and do not need to be accredited	51	19%	24	11%
We do not have time to go through the process	20	8%	16	7%
We cannot afford to make changes to the program to meet the program quality requirements	10	4%	5	2%
We plan to pursue accreditation in the future	33	13%	13	6%
It is too complicated	10	4%	19	9%
There are too many requirements for staff	22	8%	0	0%
There are too many programmatic requirements	0	0%	0	0%
Not enough information on the tools and resources needed to participate	9	3%	11	5%
Not enough support or tools to participate	6	2%	7	3%
Not enough funding available to assist with the cost	27	10%	8	4%
Compensation not aligned with program requirements	11	4%	12	6%
Other	29	11%	37	17%

5. Is there a relationship between accreditation, QRIS rating, and cost of care?

While the 2015 Massachusetts Child Care Market Rate Survey intended to explore this research question, there was not a statistically valid amount of responses for analysis. Raw data was provided to EEC.

Program Capacity

Describe how the State set payment rates for child care services in accordance with the results of the MRS. (Data on the proportion of children being served over time).

1. How many children can programs serve (capacity)?

Following in Tables 19 and 20, the stated capacity of survey respondents is listed by program type, region, and - in the case of center-based programs - child age. As shown in Table 19, in center-based programs, capacity for preschool and school age children dominates other age groups, similarly to the amount of children actively enrolled with center-based programs. Distribution is fairly even among all regions. Note that “count” indicates the number of responding providers who responded indicating that they care for the particular age group.

Table 19. Program Capacity, Small and Large Group, by Region

	Infant	Infant Count	Toddler	Toddler Count	Pre-school	PreK Count	School Age	SA Count	Other	Other Count
Region 1	207	30	646	41	2934	75	2382	43	228	15
Region 2	231	31	494	36	3162	77	1780	37	217	16
Region 3	325	39	726	45	4426	86	3689	68	482	29
Region 4	543	49	1131	63	5125	114	1984	38	534	27
Region 5	523	57	961	63	4927	123	3697	70	990	47
Region 6	395	38	823	50	2940	69	2627	58	269	21

In Table 20, only total capacity is asked for all age groups together with family child care homes. The responses collected yielded an even distribution, with about the same number of capacity and number of providers responding from each region.

Table 20. Program Capacity, Family Child Care, by Region

	Total Capacity	Count of providers
Region 1	853	106
Region 2	834	93
Region 3	1075	131
Region 4	892	90
Region 5	1021	100
Region 6	974	113

2. How many children are programs serving (enrollment)?

The 2015 survey also reviewed the total amount of children that are served by both center-based programs and family child care homes in the state, detailed in Tables 21 and 22, respectively. In regards to center-based programs, preschool-aged children take up the vast majority of children served by center-based programs, followed by after-school/school-aged children. The smallest portion of children served by these programs are infants. Distribution is relatively even throughout the regions.

Table 21. Amount of Children Served Large/Small Group & School Age, by Region

Region	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	Before School	After School	Sum
Region 1	173	669	2,794	1,399	1,020	6,055
Region 2	202	529	3,052	784	1,335	5,903
Region 3	329	842	3,944	704	2,451	8,269
Region 4	466	1,133	4,453	529	1,039	7,620
Region 5	413	1,148	4,525	1,672	2,126	9,884
Region 6	393	969	2,548	800	1,704	6,414

Similarly to center-based programs, preschool-aged children are the bulk of children served by family child care programs, although throughout all regions there was a more even distribution of children among each region. In contrast to center-based programs, however, school-aged children are the smallest portion of children served by family child care programs who responded to the 2015 survey.

Table 22. Amount of Children Served Family Child Care, by Region

Region	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Sum
Region 1	135	229	306	106	776
Region 2	112	215	327	94	747
Region 3	144	266	348	104	861
Region 4	118	217	282	38	654
Region 5	135	281	447	87	949
Region 6	114	259	266	56	695

3. What percentage of providers provide each type of discounted rate?

Detailed in Table 23, sibling discounts are most prevalent among both center-based programs and family child care programs, 45% or higher of all center-based programs throughout each region provide sibling discounts, while between 17%-40% of all family child care homes also provide sibling discounts. Center based programs, however, have a higher rate of use of sliding scale rates, employee discounts, and scholarships than family child care homes. Other than sibling discounts, most family child care homes do not provide any other type of discounted rate. It should be noted that Massachusetts law prohibits providers from charging the Commonwealth a higher rate than they charge the general public, which includes discounted rates.

Table 23. Count and Percent of Providers that Provide Discounts and Scholarships

	Sliding Scale Rates	%	Employee Discounts	%	Sibling Discount	%	Scholarships	%	Other	%
Region	Center Care Providers									
1	24	23%	43	41%	52	50%	18	17%	10	10%
2	14	15%	47	50%	58	62%	17	18%	5	5%
3	15	11%	61	47%	82	63%	30	23%	21	16%
4	20	14%	89	64%	95	68%	56	40%	20	14%
5	21	13%	89	53%	76	46%	44	26%	16	10%
6	47	40%	58	49%	73	62%	45	38%	6	5%
Region	Family Child Care Providers									
1	4	4%	0	0%	40	36%	1	1%	1	1%
2	4	4%	2	2%	38	40%	1	1%	4	4%
3	4	3%	4	3%	37	28%	1	1%	2	2%
4	3	3%	2	2%	36	40%	3	3%	3	3%
5	4	4%	2	2%	39	38%	1	1%	6	6%
6	3	3%	3	3%	20	17%	2	2%	5	4%

Increasing Number of Subsidized Slots

1. Are programs familiar with EEC subsidy programs?

To understand provider community awareness of and participation in EEC's state subsidy programs, survey participants were asked whether they are familiar with the programs. The majority of respondents from both center-based and family child care (83% for both) programs indicated they are familiar with the state subsidy programs. If respondents reported they were familiar with the programs, they were then asked whether they are currently providing care to children paid through the state subsidy program. Again, a majority of respondents from both provider types reportedly are currently providing care to state subsidy children (61% of center-based and 51% of family child care). For respondents that indicated they did not currently provide care to state subsidy children, they were then asked if they had ever provided care for these children in the past.

Table 24. Provider Familiarity with EEC's State Subsidy Program by Program Type

	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
Familiar with State Subsidy Program	628	83%	554	83%
Currently providing care to State Subsidy children	460	61%	337	51%
Have provided care for State Subsidy children in the past	65	9%	97	15%

2. For those familiar with EEC subsidy programs, why do programs choose not to accept subsidy?

Survey respondents that indicated they are familiar with the state subsidy program yet do not currently provide care to state subsidy children were asked to select why they do not currently provide care to these children. For both center-based and family child care respondents (13% and 25% respectively), the most selected option was that the provider's capacity is already full with private pay children. The second most selected by both types was the program's indication that there was no need or demand for serving state subsidy children in their area (11% of center-based and 15% of family child care respondents).

Table 25. Reasons Why Providers Do Not Currently Provide Care to State Subsidized Children by Program Type

	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
Capacity is full with private pay	96	13%	164	25%
Program has a long waitlist of private pay families	35	5%	67	10%
No need/no demand in the program's area	81	11%	101	15%
Subsidy rates are not sufficient	34	4%	82	12%
Required participation in QRIS	18	2%	19	3%
Required NAEYC accreditation	30	4%	11	2%
Reimbursement received too long after service is provided	9	1%	31	5%
Too much administrative work involved	21	3%	42	6%
Disagree with policies associated with the subsidy program	4	1%	10	2%
Just don't want to participate	15	2%	18	3%

3. How can EEC incentivize programs not currently accepting subsidy to serve low-income families?

Survey respondents that indicated they are familiar with the state subsidy program but do not currently provide care to State Subsidy children were asked to specify what incentives would most likely encourage them to accept state subsidies and serve low-income families. There was no significant indication from respondents that any of the given survey options would incentivize providers to begin accepting state subsidies.

Table 26. Incentives that Would Encourage Providers to Provide Care to State Subsidy Children

	Center (# of Respondents)	Center (% of Respondents)	Family (# of Respondents)	Family (% of Respondents)
More information or education about the program and its processes	22	3%	27	4%
Increased subsidy rates	11	1%	38	6%
Opportunity for additional supportive services	11	1%	12	2%
Opportunity for additional resources including professional development	15	2%	12	2%
Increase in transportation reimbursement rate	0	0%	5	1%

RECOMMENDATIONS

PCG submits the following recommendations for consideration by EEC leadership for future market rate surveys:

- To increase response rates, continue to engage provider stakeholder partners including the SEIU union, family child care systems, and other provider work groups or focus groups.
- Consider gathering a larger sample or alternative methodology to collect rate information by QRIS level to understand how quality rating relates to market rates. This will inform policies discussions around incentivizing higher quality providers through tiered reimbursement.
- Consider alternative methodology to gathering rate information including
 - A cost model methodology, an option presented by the Administration for Children and Families through CCDBG reauthorization.
 - A cluster methodology which allows EEC to analyze variations between child care market rates outside of geographic (regional) boundaries and instead rate information by characteristics of towns or providers based on similarity (i.e. towns with similar median household income analyzed as a cluster regardless of EEC regional boundaries).
- Consider additional survey questions to understand discounts offered by programs with a focus on providers participating in the subsidy system (given that the Massachusetts law prohibits providers from charging us more than they charge the general public).

APPENDICES

The following section includes additional data on the child care landscape, maximum rate data, and additional fees charge by providers by region and provider type.

Appendix 1. Additional Information on Child Care Landscape

Table 27. Distribution of Respondents, by Region & Provider Type

	Family Child Care	% of Total Respondents (1427)	Center Child Care	% of Total Respondents (1427)	School Age (Group/FCC)	% of Total Respondents (1427)
Region 1	111	8%	105	7%	111	8%
Region 2	95	7%	94	7%	103	7%
Region 3	132	9%	131	9%	156	11%
Region 4	90	6%	140	10%	67	5%
Region 5	102	7%	167	12%	133	9%
Region 6	115	8%	118	8%	99	7%
Sum	645	45%	755	53%	669	47%

Table 28. Amount of Children Served Center-Based & School Age, by Region

Region	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	Before School	After School	Sum
Region 1	173	669	2794	1399	1020	6055
Region 2	202	529	3052	784	1335	5903
Region 3	329	842	3944	704	2451	8269
Region 4	466	1133	4453	529	1039	7620
Region 5	413	1148	4525	1672	2126	9884
Region 6	393	969	2548	800	1704	6414

Table 29. Amount of Children Served Family Child Care, by Region

Region	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Sum
Region 1	135	229	306	106	776
Region 2	112	215	327	94	747
Region 3	144	266	348	104	861
Region 4	118	217	282	38	654
Region 5	135	281	447	87	949
Region 6	114	259	266	56	695

Appendix 2. Additional Information on Rates

Table 30. Rate Distribution for Family Child Care, Maximum Daily Rates Charged

Family Child Care		Whole Sample Maximum Rates						
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Count with Outliers Excluded	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Infant	\$32.24	\$25.00	\$73.50	76	17.94	\$41.18	1
	Toddler 1	\$32.24	\$10.00	\$65.00	79	17.09	\$39.10	2
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$24.40	\$73.50	75	25.55	\$41.39	2
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$10.00	\$73.50	80	18.06	\$38.49	1
2	Infant	\$34.06	\$30.00	\$60.00	55	8.96	\$44.75	3
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$30.00	\$60.00	57	9.21	\$44.14	2
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$28.00	\$60.00	52	11.31	\$42.07	3
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$25.00	\$68.25	58	10.75	\$42.47	2
3	Infant	\$33.74	\$25.00	\$65.00	59	10.80	\$44.13	1
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$25.00	\$65.00	59	11.17	\$42.64	2
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$25.00	\$63.00	51	10.47	\$41.43	2
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$17.90	\$72.00	65	11.51	\$40.66	4
4	Infant	\$36.79	\$36.79	\$95.00	39	14.83	\$64.32	2
	Toddler 1	\$36.79	\$36.79	\$90.00	38	14.92	\$64.02	1
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$28.00	\$90.00	33	59.85	\$72.14	0
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$28.00	\$90.00	32	15.51	\$62.12	0
5	Infant	\$34.06	\$34.00	\$65.00	55	9.03	\$46.04	4
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$28.00	\$60.00	57	9.48	\$44.72	0
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$28.00	\$60.00	54	9.57	\$43.56	0
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$28.00	\$60.00	57	9.68	\$42.87	0
6	Infant	\$33.74	\$30.00	\$65.00	27	11.13	\$47.19	1
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$24.74	\$65.00	28	12.33	\$44.72	1
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$23.00	\$65.00	27	12.19	\$43.56	1
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$23.00	\$65.00	29	12.21	\$42.87	1

Table 31. Family Child Care Maximum Market Rates Compared with Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

Family Child Care			Whole Sample Outliers Removed (Includes Private Pay Only)				
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	EEC Market Access Rate for 75 th Percentile	Private Pay Only 75 th Percentile
1	Infant	\$32.24	\$32.91	\$35.00	\$44.16	23.1%	\$43.56
	Toddler 1	\$32.24	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	38.7%	\$44.63
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$30.02	\$35.00	\$40.00	9.4%	\$43.56
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	13.5%	\$44.63
2	Infant	\$34.06	\$35.54	\$45.00	\$50.00	1.8%	\$46.25
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$35.08	\$45.00	\$50.00	8.9%	\$50.00
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	5.8%	\$45.00
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$42.00	\$50.00	8.7%	\$50.00
3	Infant	\$33.74	\$34.74	\$47.00	\$50.00	13.5%	\$50.00
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$33.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	25.6%	\$50.00
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$31.54	\$45.00	\$47.50	7.6%	\$47.00
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$30.83	\$40.00	\$47.00	10.9%	\$58.75
4	Infant	\$36.79	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$77.50	0.0%	\$65.00
	Toddler 1	\$36.79	\$51.25	\$65.00	\$75.00	0.0%	\$62.75
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$50.00	\$62.00	\$75.00	0.7%	\$56.25
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$50.00	\$61.00	\$75.00	0.7%	\$75.00
5	Infant	\$34.06	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	0.1%	\$50.00
	Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$50.00	6.8%	\$50.00
	Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$42.00	\$50.00	0.5%	\$50.00
	Preschool	\$28.28	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	1.7%	\$45.00
6	Infant	\$33.74	\$36.12	\$50.00	\$52.50	3.5%	\$43.00
	Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$34.07	\$40.00	\$50.00	21.7%	\$18.00
	Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$33.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	7.0%	\$22.50
	Preschool	\$29.83	\$30.18	\$37.60	\$50.00	13.6%	\$36.00

Table 32. Rate Distribution for Center-Based Child Care, Maximum Daily Rates Charged

Center-Based Child Care		Whole Sample Maximum Rates						
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Count with Outliers Excluded	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Infant	\$49.88	\$40.00	\$65.00	27	25.30	\$15.18	2
	Toddler	\$45.74	\$32.00	\$88.13	40	33.57	\$21.95	1
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$8.64	\$175.00	64	151.07	\$52.11	4
2	Infant	\$51.24	\$40.00	\$78.00	26	29.74	\$19.73	4
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$35.00	\$78.00	34	28.63	\$21.75	2
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$16.43	\$70.00	62	25.92	\$32.43	2
3	Infant	\$57.23	\$52.36	\$91.20	30	37.48	\$21.34	5
	Toddler	\$52.36	\$8.00	\$85.22	41	35.80	\$24.26	5
	Preschool	\$37.13	\$7.80	\$126.56	69	351.59	\$58.67	1
4	Infant	\$61.97	\$60.00	\$166.00	42	71.48	\$36.78	4
	Toddler	\$55.80	\$39.12	\$230.00	57	100.04	\$47.62	3
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$14.32	\$138.00	84	71.41	\$53.51	6
5	Infant	\$49.88	\$45.00	\$110.00	57	59.62	\$26.53	2
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$45.00	\$85.64	61	33.87	\$23.88	5
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$11.55	\$82.50	107	31.20	\$31.72	2
6	Infant	\$56.81	\$55.80	\$102.77	28	40.62	\$24.84	7
	Toddler	\$51.15	\$10.00	\$112.75	45	42.38	\$30.14	2
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$7.60	\$95.57	55	34.03	\$27.65	2

Table 33.Center-Based Child Care Maximum Market Rates Compared with Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

Center-Based Child Care			Whole Sample Outliers Removed (Includes Private Pay Only)				
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	EEC Market Access Rate for 75 th Percentile	Private Pay Only 75 th Percentile
1	Infant	\$49.88	\$ 50.00	\$52.00	\$55.00	22.6%	\$ 62.20
	Toddler	\$45.74	\$ 46.00	\$49.00	\$54.41	19.9%	\$ 57.80
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$ 35.00	\$39.00	\$46.65	9.5%	\$ 50.99
2	Infant	\$51.24	\$ 50.00	\$56.00	\$65.63	28.9%	\$ 66.20
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$ 45.00	\$55.00	\$63.00	29.9%	\$ 64.54
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$ 39.01	\$45.23	\$50.00	6.5%	\$ 50.00
3	Infant	\$57.23	\$ 64.38	\$72.60	\$79.20	8.8%	\$ 84.56
	Toddler	\$52.36	\$ 56.00	\$63.20	\$70.00	10.9%	\$ 71.49
	Preschool	\$37.13	\$ 40.00	\$50.00	\$61.75	11.7%	\$ 62.78
4	Infant	\$61.97	\$ 73.11	\$86.00	\$98.68	4.8%	\$ 98.68
	Toddler	\$55.80	\$ 67.60	\$79.00	\$95.06	4.2%	\$ 95.06
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$ 50.00	\$64.22	\$79.68	9.8%	\$ 78.59
5	Infant	\$49.88	\$ 51.60	\$57.00	\$64.60	5.3%	\$ 60.16
	Toddler	\$46.79	\$ 49.00	\$52.00	\$58.00	15.0%	\$ 57.00
	Preschool	\$34.79	\$ 38.80	\$42.36	\$53.17	7.5%	\$ 50.25
6	Infant	\$56.81	\$ 59.63	\$72.00	\$82.68	3.7%	\$ 81.25
	Toddler	\$51.15	\$ 54.50	\$67.67	\$87.76	6.8%	\$ 105.00
	Preschool	\$38.22	\$ 39.00	\$54.50	\$64.00	9.2%	\$ 78.16

Table 34. Rate Distribution for School Age Care, Maximum Daily Rates Charged

School Age		Whole Sample Maximum Rates						
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Count with Outliers Excluded	Standard Deviation	Average	Count of Outliers Excluded
1	Before School	\$7.55	\$4.06	\$80.00	59	28.0	24.2	2
	After School	\$15.88	\$4.00	\$70.00	70	35.9	32.8	4
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$6.00	\$69.00	80	23.6	40.4	2
2	Before School	\$7.55	\$4.62	\$80.00	55	37.5	39.3	8
	After School	\$15.88	\$7.00	\$58.75	72	32.2	36.9	6
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$9.88	\$73.50	78	23.3	47.6	7
3	Before School	\$8.02	\$5.00	\$96.00	38	30.8	36.6	3
	After School	\$17.75	\$10.00	\$50.00	90	20.9	32.6	7
	Full Day	\$33.07	\$15.00	\$100.00	108	18.3	42.5	4
4	Before School	\$8.23	\$6.67	\$75.25	16	44.4	46.9	6
	After School	\$18.22	\$14.76	\$95.00	45	34.1	43.8	3
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$14.76	\$75.25	41	27.5	63.3	10
5	Before School	\$7.55	\$4.62	\$220.00	86	43.6	39.2	3
	After School	\$15.88	\$5.00	\$176.00	88	56.0	43.5	6
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$10.00	\$192.00	101	22.7	42.4	3
6	Before School	\$8.23	\$4.00	\$70.00	21	28.5	26.0	2
	After School	\$18.22	\$8.00	\$30.00	63	18.3	27.5	4
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$10.00	\$70.00	67	39.4	45.0	2

Table 35. School Age Child Care Maximum Market Rates Compared with Massachusetts Subsidy Rates

School Age		Whole Sample Outliers Excluded (Includes Private Pay Only)						
Region	Age Group	EEC Rate	25th Percentile MAX	50th Percentile MAX	75th Percentile MAX	EEC Market Access Rate MAX	Private pay only 75th percentile MAX	
1	Before School	\$7.55	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$31.00	18.9%	\$46.89	
	After School	\$15.88	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$40.00	57.9%	\$49.25	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$31.66	\$36.00	\$43.92	25.3%	\$49.63	
2	Before School	\$7.55	\$10.00	\$18.40	\$44.00	7.5%	\$48.75	
	After School	\$15.88	\$15.00	\$21.13	\$38.50	43.4%	\$37.75	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	10.3%	\$50.00	
3	Before School	\$8.02	\$12.51	\$19.50	\$45.09	6.1%	\$45.03	
	After School	\$17.75	\$18.17	\$25.00	\$36.00	26.0%	\$50.63	
	Full Day	\$33.07	\$33.34	\$40.00	\$50.00	24.3%	\$65.00	
4	Before School	\$8.23	\$8.98	\$13.58	\$27.50	14.0%	\$49.25	
	After School	\$18.22	\$20.32	\$25.64	\$40.00	31.1%	\$72.10	
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$61.60	\$66.00	15.0%	\$70.00	
5	Before School	\$7.55	\$8.00	\$16.20	\$66.00	7.0%	\$75.03	
	After School	\$15.88	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$42.00	34.4%	\$70.58	
	Full Day	\$31.98	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	20.7%	\$57.25	
6	Before School	\$8.23	\$8.23	\$12.00	\$25.00	20.0%	\$25.00	
	After School	\$18.22	\$18.96	\$23.00	\$25.72	21.3%	\$25.00	
	Full Day	\$34.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	30.3%	\$50.00	

Table 36. Rate Distribution for Family Child Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, “High Priority Towns”

Region	Town	Age Group	EEC Rate	75 th Percentile Minimum Rate	# of Valid Responses
1	Springfield	Infant	\$32.24	\$35.14	8
		Toddler 1	\$32.24	\$32.50	8
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$30.03	9
		Preschool	\$28.28	\$30.00	9
1	Wilbraham	Infant	\$32.24	\$35.00	1
		Toddler 1	\$32.24	\$35.00	1
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	-	0
		Preschool	\$28.28	\$35.00	1
2	Worcester	Infant	\$34.06	\$40.00	14
		Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$40.00	13
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$40.00	13
		Preschool	\$28.28	\$40.00	10
2	Shrewsbury	Infant	\$34.06	\$48.75	2
		Toddler 1	\$34.06	\$51.00	3
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	\$51.00	3
		Preschool	\$28.28	\$51.00	3
3	Andover	Infant	\$33.74	-	0
		Toddler 1	\$33.74	-	0
		Toddler 2	\$29.83	-	0
		Preschool	\$29.83	-	0
3	Lawrence	Infant	\$33.74	\$48.00	8
		Toddler 1	\$33.74	\$48.00	12
		Toddler 2	\$29.83	\$45.00	11
		Preschool	\$29.83	\$45.00	12
4	Natick	Infant	\$36.79	\$71.75	2
		Toddler 1	\$36.79	\$68.75	2
		Toddler 2	\$29.83	-	0
		Preschool	\$29.83	-	0
4	Framingham	Infant	\$36.79	-	0
		Toddler 1	\$36.79	-	0
		Toddler 2	\$29.83	-	0
		Preschool	\$29.83	-	0
5	East Bridgewater	Infant	\$34.06	\$47.50	3
		Toddler 1	\$34.06	-	0
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	-	0
		Preschool	\$28.28	-	0
5	Brockton	Infant	\$34.06	\$41.25	4
		Toddler 1	\$34.06	-	0
		Toddler 2	\$28.28	-	0
		Preschool	\$28.28	-	0

Table 37. Rate Distribution for Center-Based Child Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, “High Priority Towns”

Region	Town	Age Group	EEC Rate	75 th Percentile Minimum Rate	# of Valid Responses
1	Springfield	Infant	\$49.88	\$50.95	2
		Toddler	\$45.74	\$45.24	8
		Preschool	\$34.79	\$37.25	12
1	Wilbraham	Infant	\$49.88	\$26.50	1
		Toddler	\$45.74	\$26.50	1
		Preschool	\$34.79	\$23.31	2
2	Worcester	Infant	\$51.24	\$33.26	1
		Toddler	\$46.79	\$46.88	2
		Preschool	\$34.79	\$37.30	11
2	Shrewsbury	Infant	\$51.24	\$8.55	1
		Toddler	\$46.79	\$7.39	1
		Preschool	\$34.79	\$31.55	3
3	Andover	Infant	\$33.74	\$62.60	1
		Toddler	\$33.74	\$58.40	1
		Preschool	\$29.83	\$29.56	3
3	Lawrence	Infant	\$33.74	\$54.50	1
		Toddler	\$33.74	\$54.00	3
		Preschool	\$29.83	\$37.18	3
4	Natick	Infant	\$36.79	\$32.31	2
		Toddler	\$36.79	\$31.15	2
		Preschool	\$29.83	\$51.04	5
4	Framingham	Infant	\$36.79	\$70.26	5
		Toddler	\$36.79	\$64.30	5
		Preschool	\$29.83	\$61.95	9
5	East Bridgewater	Infant	\$34.06	-	0
		Toddler	\$34.06	-	0
		Preschool	\$28.28	-	0
5	Brockton	Infant	\$34.06	\$51.50	2
		Toddler	\$34.06	\$51.50	2
		Preschool	\$28.28	\$35.00	3

Table 38. Rate Distribution for School Age Care, Minimum Daily Rates Charged, “High Priority Towns”

Region	Town	Age Group	EEC Rate	75 th Percentile Minimum Rate	# of Valid Responses
1	Springfield	Before School	\$7.55	\$22.25	10
		After School	\$15.88	\$20.75	12
		Full Day	\$31.98	\$35.00	13
1	Wilbraham	Before School	\$7.55	-	0
		After School	\$15.88	-	0
		Full Day	\$31.98	-	0
2	Worcester	Before School	\$7.55	\$20.00	5
		After School	\$15.88	\$22.49	18
		Full Day	\$31.98	\$40.00	20
2	Shrewsbury	Before School	\$7.55	\$25.00	3
		After School	\$15.88	\$25.80	4
		Full Day	\$31.98	\$53.75	4
3	Andover	Before School	\$8.02	\$3.46	1
		After School	\$17.75	\$18.48	5
		Full Day	\$33.07	\$40.39	5
3	Lawrence	Before School	\$8.02	\$18.75	2
		After School	\$17.75	\$20.00	15
		Full Day	\$33.07	\$36.00	17
4	Natick	Before School	\$8.23	-	0
		After School	\$18.22	\$51.66	3
		Full Day	\$34.00	-	0
4	Framingham	Before School	\$8.23	\$9.15	1
		After School	\$18.22	\$75.82	2
		Full Day	\$34.00	\$47.00	1
5	East Bridgewater	Before School	\$7.55	-	0
		After School	\$15.88	-	0
		Full Day	\$31.98	-	0
5	Brockton	Before School	\$7.55	\$20.00	5
		After School	\$15.88	\$20.00	5
		Full Day	\$31.98	\$41.75	6

Appendix 3. Additional Fees

Family Child Care

Table 39.a Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Specified Extra Fee	%	Registration Fee	%	Waitlist Fee	%	Deposits	%	Application Fees	%
Region 1	23	21%	5	5%	3	3%	26	23%	3	3%
Region 2	14	15%	22	23%	13	14%	38	40%	13	14%
Region 3	15	11%	27	20%	24	18%	43	33%	22	17%
Region 4	14	16%	23	26%	15	17%	31	34%	16	18%
Region 5	14	14%	25	25%	15	15%	39	38%	13	13%
Region 6	4	3%	11	10%	6	5%	24	21%	7	6%

Table 39.b Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Special Activity Fees	%	Optional Services	%	Food Fees	%	Materials/Supplies Fees	%	Late Payment Fees	%
Region 1	5	5%	4	4%	4	4%	4	4%	30	27%
Region 2	11	12%	12	13%	11	12%	11	12%	36	38%
Region 3	20	15%	20	15%	21	16%	22	17%	29	22%
Region 4	14	16%	14	16%	15	17%	16	18%	29	32%
Region 5	13	13%	12	12%	12	12%	12	12%	23	23%
Region 6	7	6%	5	4%	6	5%	6	5%	11	10%

Table 39.c Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Transportation Fees	% of Providers	Late Pick-up fees	% of Providers	Bank Fees (bounced checks)	% of Providers
Region 1	2	2%	44	40%	28	25%
Region 2	11	12%	46	48%	48	51%
Region 3	24	18%	43	33%	38	29%
Region 4	15	17%	33	37%	27	30%
Region 5	13	13%	43	42%	43	42%
Region 6	6	5%	26	23%	15	13%

Table 40. Non Traditional Fees

	Count of Providers	% of Providers
Region 1	23	21%
Region 2	29	31%
Region 3	32	24%
Region 4	21	23%
Region 5	36	35%
Region 6	25	22%

Center-Based Care

Table 41.a Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Specified Extra Fee	%	Registration Fee	%	Waitlist Fee	%	Deposits	%	Application Fees	%
Region 1	17	16%	46	44%	4	4%	22	21%	8	8%
Region 2	21	22%	57	61%	2	2%	30	32%	4	4%
Region 3	21	16%	84	64%	5	4%	36	27%	12	9%
Region 4	24	17%	82	59%	6	4%	83	59%	31	22%
Region 5	32	19%	111	66%	1	1%	49	29%	7	4%
Region 6	14	12%	38	32%	8	7%	56	47%	12	10%

Table 41.b Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Special Activity Fees	%	Optional Services	%	Food Fees	%	Materials/Supplies Fees	%	Late Payment Fees	%
Region 1	18	17%	4	4%	14	13%	3	3%	2	2%
Region 2	27	29%	11	12%	10	11%	7	7%	4	4%
Region 3	21	16%	15	11%	13	10%	2	2%	7	5%
Region 4	24	17%	19	14%	24	17%	5	4%	1	1%
Region 5	22	13%	15	9%	19	11%	6	4%	3	2%
Region 6	6	5%	4	3%	9	8%	1	1%	2	2%

Table 41.c Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Transportation Fees	% of Providers	Late Pick-up fees	% of Providers	Bank Fees (bounced checks)	% of Providers
Region 1	6	6%	80	76%	59	56%
Region 2	8	9%	66	70%	58	62%
Region 3	17	13%	99	76%	75	57%
Region 4	10	7%	100	71%	78	56%
Region 5	22	13%	109	65%	103	62%
Region 6	11	9%	84	71%	33	28%

Table 42. Non Traditional Fees

	Count of Providers	% of Providers
Region 1	11	10%
Region 2	17	18%
Region 3	24	18%
Region 4	26	19%
Region 5	33	20%
Region 6	13	11%

Programs that Serve School-Age Children

Table 43.a Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Specified Extra Fee	%	Registration Fee	%	Waitlist Fee	%	Deposits	%	Application Fees	%
Region 1	21	19%	30	27%	10	9%	17	15%	12	11%
Region 2	23	22%	43	42%	19	18%	29	28%	20	19%
Region 3	19	12%	60	38%	35	22%	42	27%	33	21%
Region 4	11	16%	39	58%	17	25%	18	27%	18	27%
Region 5	24	18%	54	41%	19	14%	25	19%	23	17%
Region 6	6	6%	37	37%	7	7%	9	9%	8	8%

Table 43.b Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Special Activity Fees	%	Optional Services	%	Food Fees	%	Materials/Supplies Fees	%	Late Payment Fees	%
Region 1	12	11%	11	10%	38	34%	13	12%	67	60%
Region 2	18	17%	17	17%	44	43%	21	20%	65	63%
Region 3	32	21%	34	22%	49	31%	41	26%	86	55%
Region 4	14	21%	14	21%	35	52%	17	25%	43	64%
Region 5	17	13%	17	13%	39	29%	35	26%	80	60%
Region 6	6	6%	6	6%	31	31%	10	10%	61	62%

Table 43.c Additional Fees Charged by Providers, by Region

	Transportation Fees	% of Providers	Late Pick-up fees	% of Providers	Bank Fees (bounced checks)	% of Providers
Region 1	51	46%	5	5%	8	7%
Region 2	60	58%	8	8%	10	10%
Region 3	59	38%	23	15%	23	15%
Region 4	35	52%	18	27%	17	25%
Region 5	77	58%	11	8%	11	8%
Region 6	20	20%	29	29%	28	28%

Table 44. Count and Percent of Providers that Charge Non Traditional Hour Fees

	Non Traditional Hour Fees?	% of Providers
Region 1	22	20%
Region 2	27	26%
Region 3	25	16%
Region 4	15	22%
Region 5	34	26%
Region 6	17	17%



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