PART 2
NYC’S CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS:
AN ANALYSIS OF THE MOST RECENT DATA

Citizens’ Committee for Children of NEW YORK
DEFINITION

CHILD CARE COST BURDEN

The cost of child care for one child as a percentage of median household income for families with at least one children between ages 6-12. School-Age child care cost estimate refers to any before school/afterschool care as well as care during school vacation time that families need to use even if their child attends NYC public school.
The share of families with children ages 6–12 who pay less than 7% of their annual income on the estimated cost of child care. The threshold for child care affordability is based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Child Care and Development Fund benchmark that family copayments should not exceed 7% of a family’s income.
DATA SOURCES

Data on child care costs come from the 2022 Child Care Market Rate Survey Report from the New York State Office of Children and Families, which surveyed providers during 2021 and 2022. The report documents the 80th percentile of market-related payment rates for child care services by New York regions, which is used to reimburse providers as required by state law every two years. The 2022 report offers the most recent data available.

Estimates of median family income come from the US Census Bureau’s 2021 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Area Sample File, 5-year Estimates. We provide calculations for child care cost burden and affordability at the citywide, borough/county-level, and for NYC’s 59 Community Districts, including disaggregated estimates for households with children headed by a Married Couple or Single Parent. Some estimates for Community Districts should be interpreted with caution due to sample sizes smaller than 200 households.
ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHILD CARE COSTS BY SETTING

Center-Based Care for School-Age Children

Home-Based Care for School-Age Children

$11,760

$10,840

Note: The cost estimates by setting for school age children are derived from categories provided in the 2022 Market Rate Survey. Afterschool and youth programs in New York City will not necessarily be identified by this setting distinction.

Source: CCC analysis of 2022 Child Care Market Rate Survey Rates

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KEY FINDINGS - CHILD CARE COST BURDEN

- A family with one child between ages 6-12 might spend between 11% and 26% of their income on child care alone. In 14 NYC communities, in the Bronx and Brooklyn, as well as Elmhurst/Corona in Queens, the range is even higher: center-based child care would consume 20% or more of median income for families; and could consume up to 59% of median family income among single parent-headed households.

- In these same communities, less expensive home-based care would still consume between 19% and 33% of median income for families with school-age children.
KEY FINDINGS – CHILD CARE COST AFFORDABILITY

• Among all families with school-age children citywide, only 21% of families can afford center-based care for one child age 6-12, and only 8% of single parent families can afford care for one school age child in center-based settings.

• In less expensive home-based child care settings, more families in the city can afford care, but still more than 76% of families would NOT be able to truly afford after-school and school vacation care for one child age 6-12.
SUMMARY DISCUSSION

The cost of afterschool and school vacation child care for school-age children is a significant burden on families living in NYC. A family with one toddler and one school age child earning the median income for families ($78,000) would spend 38% of their annual income on center-based child care alone. And a family with one preschool age child (3-5) and one school age child earning the median income for families would spend 34% of their annual income on center-based child care. Child care costs are simply unaffordable for the vast majority New York City families.
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