

# **NEW JERSEY CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY**

**2008**

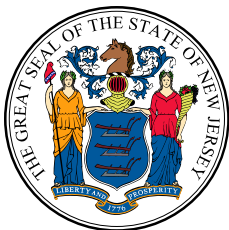
**Prepared by:**

**Office of Research and Evaluation  
New Jersey Department of Human Services**

**Prepared for:**

**Division of Family Development  
New Jersey Department of Human Services**

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**Jon S. Corzine**  
Governor



**New Jersey**  
**Department of Human Services**

**Jennifer Velez**  
Commissioner

## 2008 NEW JERSEY CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY

### *Executive Summary*

The Federal Government requires each state to conduct a survey every two years of child care prices. The results are one factor used in establishing rates that providers will be reimbursed for child care costs.

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Research and Evaluation worked with the Division of Family Development (DFD) in conducting New Jersey's child care market rate survey. Information was obtained for two types of regulated child care providers:

- Licensed child care centers are facilities maintained for the care, development or supervision of six or more children who are under 13 years of age.
- Registered family child care providers are individuals who deliver child care services in their own homes for from three to five children for no less than 15 hours per week.

The Department distributed surveys in the fall of 2008. Responses were received from 1,821 of the 3,429 qualifying child care centers and 1,723 of the 2,997 registered family child care providers.

Findings showed the highest median full-time rates for the care of infants, followed by toddlers, preschool and school age children. Centers charged substantially higher median rates than family child care providers for most types of care, ranging from about \$45 more per week for summer care to about \$83 per week more for infant care. These differences may reflect the different services available for children served in centers or the greater concentration of family child care in communities more apt to be low-income.

By contrast, median rates for before and/or after school care are either comparable or higher for family child care providers. This difference may reflect the rate increases negotiated in the October 1, 2009 agreement between the Child Care Workers' Union (CCWU) and the State of New Jersey. Median rates for special needs care are higher than comparable care for children without these needs.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Market Rate</b>	<b>Center Care*</b>	<b>Family Child Care</b>
Weekly Median for Infants	\$213.63	\$150.00
Weekly Median Toddlers	\$195.73	\$140.00
Weekly Median for Preschool	\$179.48	\$125.00
Weekly Median for Before School	\$30.02	\$60.00
Weekly Median for After School	\$60.00	\$60.00
Weekly Median for Before/After School	\$85.68	\$80.00
Daily Median Holiday (School-age)	\$40.00	\$30.00
Weekly Median for Summer School-Age	\$170.00	\$125.00
Median <i>Special Needs</i> Infants/Toddlers	-	\$165.00
Median <i>Special Needs</i> Preschool	-	\$160.00

\* Center weekly rates include monthly rates that have been converted to weekly rates.

<sup>1</sup> Information on rates for special needs care was only obtained for family child care providers, because few centers offer specialized, unsubsidized services.

# NEW JERSEY CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY: 2008

## Introduction

The Federal Government requires each state to conduct a survey every two years of prices community providers charge families for child care. This information is one consideration used to establish the rates that providers will be reimbursed for child care costs.

New Jersey collects fee data on two types of regulated providers: A licensed child care center is any facility which is maintained for the care, development or supervision of six or more children who are under 13 years of age. By contrast, a registered family child care provider is a caregiver who offers child care services in her own private residence to no fewer than three and no more than five children at any one time for no fewer than 15 hours per week. Whereas the licensing of child care centers is mandated by law, family child care registration is voluntary.

## Terminology

Throughout this report, the term “*market rate*” or “*rate*” is used consistent with federal nomenclature to describe *prices* that are set in the open market by child care providers. This must be distinguished from the *rate of payment* established by the Department of Human Services for reimbursing child care providers.

## The Instrument

The Department of Human Services’ (DHS) Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) worked with the Division of Family Development (DFD) to conduct New Jersey’s child

care market rate survey. The data collection instruments were central to this collaboration (see Appendix). Research and program staff generated questions about full-time rates charged for different age groups and program types based on different payment schedules, e.g., weekly or monthly. Additional questions captured information regarding additional fees or charges, discounts when more than one child was enrolled, acceptance of children with subsidies and hours of program operation. Information from the survey was augmented by additional descriptive information from existing child care provider databases. The survey for registered family child care providers was available in both English and Spanish.

## Methods

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) was the primary resource for information about licensed child care centers. The DCF maintains a database of all licensed child care centers. In October 2008, the DCF Office of Licensing provided DHS ORE with an unduplicated list of 4,291 current child care centers. A total of 3,429 qualifying child care centers received surveys. Not included were centers that did not charge families for child care, for example, publicly run programs within counties and municipalities, centers receiving Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars to provide child care services through a contract with the Division of Family Development, and all Head Start and Abbott programs.<sup>2</sup> In previous years it was possible to identify and exclude partial or half day only programs, which offer ser-

<sup>2</sup> Abbott v. Burke were a series of New Jersey Supreme Court decisions governing education in the state’s urban school districts. In 1998 (Abbott V), the court mandated that public education include high quality preschool for all three and four year olds residing in Abbott districts. These districts consist of low-income and predominantly urban communities with substantial numbers of minority children and youth. To date, a total of 31 school districts have been identified as Abbott.

vices for limited days and/or hours per day. These programs serve families who do not require full-time child care and should not be compared to full-time programs. Licensing no longer captures information about half day only programs and therefore the 2008 sample included a larger number of these ineligible centers than past studies.

Information about registered family child care providers is available from each county's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency formerly known as Unified Child Care Agencies (UCCA). These agencies provided lists of current family child care providers in November 2008; a total of 2,997 unduplicated registered providers appeared on these lists.

DHS ORE mailed surveys to child care centers in early November 2008; registered family providers received their surveys in mid to late December. Both surveys were accompanied by letters from the Director of the Division of Family Development and instructions for completing the survey. All materials sent to family providers included Spanish translations. The mailings included stamped, addressed envelopes to facilitate return of surveys to the Division of Family Development.

Two follow-up strategies were utilized. First, all providers received a postcard reminder to complete and return their surveys two weeks after the initial mailings. In addition, DFD engaged Braun Research, Inc. of Princeton, New Jersey to make follow-up calls to non-responding family child care providers. Calls were prioritized to counties with fewer providers and to those who contacted DFD to indicate they did not receive their surveys. DHS Research with assistance from DFD Child Care Operations contacted non-responding center providers. Effort was made to achieve a 65% response rate from eligible child care centers and family providers.

Braun Research, Inc. was responsible for data entry for family provider surveys, while ORE did all data entry for child care centers and logged surveys received from both centers and family providers prior to data entry. DHS research staff analyzed both center and family provider information, and a DHS research geographer developed analytical maps.

### **Limitations to the Data**

The Child Care Market Rate Survey identifies prices in the prevailing child care market. Despite efforts to exclude centers without fees from the working database, not all such centers could be identified. Some responding centers reported either that they did not charge families for child care or in a small number of instances offered sliding scales (i.e., prices contingent upon the family's ability to pay). In addition, a small number of programs indicated that their fees were set by a state program (and therefore not subject to market fluctuations); these programs were also excluded from the study.

A decision was made to exclude programs that are only available to employees of a corporation, hospital or other organization as their prices do not represent rates in the public child care market. These programs self-identified on the survey (see Appendix) and did not provide rate information.

Although the data were current, a small number of programs closed during the study and were excluded from the analysis. Researchers also excluded all partial day programs. Rates for partial day child care services are not comparable to full day and these programs are usually not suitable for working families. Rates for kindergarten and kindergarten only programs were excluded from the analysis, because these programs are not covered by child care subsidies. While it would have been desirable to obtain informa-

tion about the costs of before/after school care for children attending kindergarten as well as those attending 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades, space and time constraints precluded gathering this additional information.

An unavoidable limitation of these data is that while it is possible to determine the number of ineligible centers among those returning surveys, it is not possible to identify ineligible programs among the non-responding centers. This lowers the response rate, because the denominator includes an unknown number of ineligible centers. At the same time, a small number of centers could have been erroneously excluded from the sample. For example, the study excluded non-fee centers, including all Abbott child care programs for children under six years old. Some Abbott centers with free child care for 3 and 4 year olds may charge fees for younger children; these programs may have been excluded from the sample.

Family child care providers were asked to provide prices for care whether or not they currently had children in their care at these rates. Exclusionary criteria included providers only caring for relatives or children with subsidies. Rates for these children are not set in the public child care market. However, some providers indicated that because they did not have children in their care, they could not stipulate a price for child care services.

A total of 1,821 centers and 1,723 family child care providers provided information about their rates.

### **CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY**

Ideally, parents should not have to travel long distances for child care. Using address information and a geographic information system (GIS) shows family access to providers and the types of care available.

### **Methods**

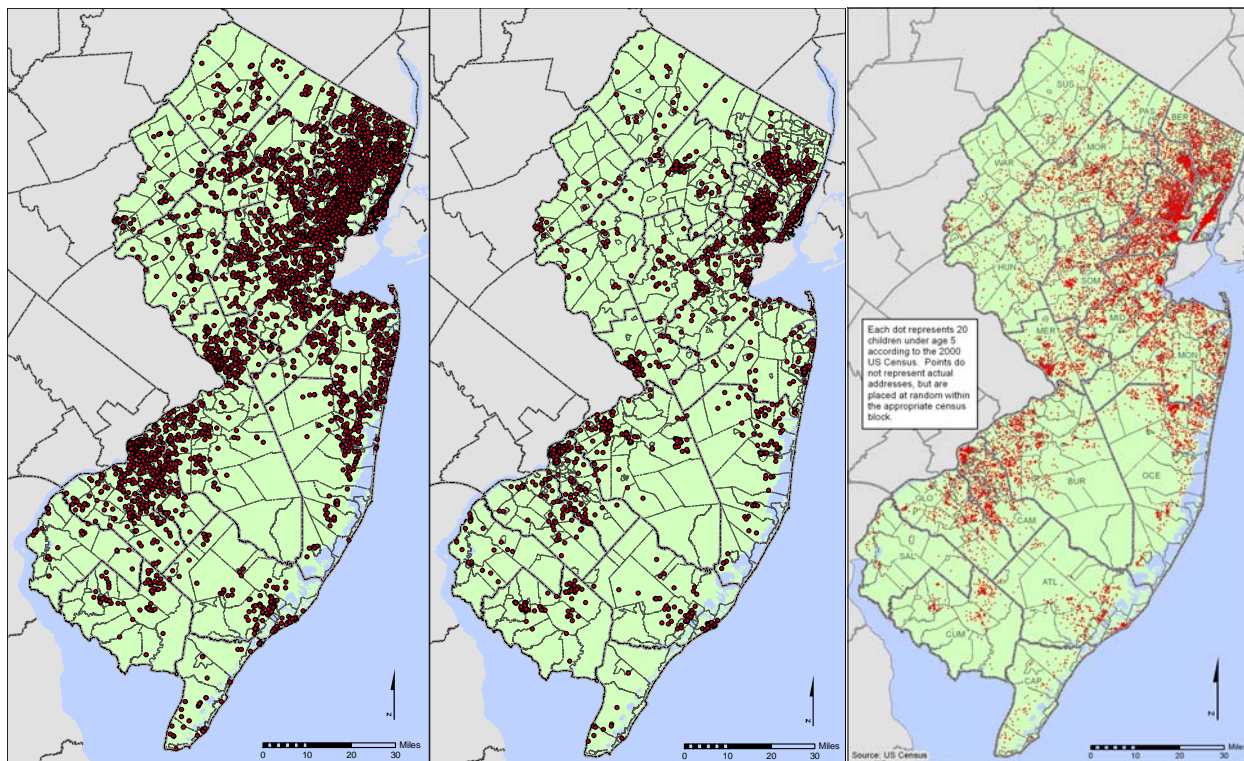
A DHS geographer used a GIS to map licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers. The street addresses for 4,291 licensed child care centers were drawn from the DCF Office of Licensing database, while the addresses of 2,997 registered family child care providers came from county-based Child Care Resource and Referral agencies. However, not all providers appear in the maps. GIS software must have a valid street address (not a post office box) and zip code in order to geocode or map a location, so a small number of providers (3 of the centers and one of the family child care providers) could not be geocoded.

Figure 1 (next page) shows the results of the GIS mapping. This figure consists of three maps; the first two display the geocoded locations of child care centers and family child care providers respectively, while the third, a dot density map, allows comparison of these child care locations to the 1999 distribution of children less than five years old.<sup>3</sup>

Some clear patterns are evident. The most noticeable aspect is the high concentration of both types of providers in northeastern New Jersey, particularly within Hudson, Essex, Union, Bergen and Passaic counties.

Visually, the distributions of child care centers and child population density are similar. Both radiate outward from the densely populated northeastern counties along major highway corridors and both also show secondary concentrations in Monmouth, Ocean and Camden counties. As one would expect, pro-

<sup>3</sup> Data were obtained at the census block level to facilitate comparison with the center and family child care provider data. 1999 was the most recent year for which there were block-level data on children under 5 years old.



**Figure 1** Locations of child care centers, family child care providers, and children

viders locate their child care centers where higher densities of children are present.

In the southern part of the state where population densities are lower, few areas with children are located more than ten miles from a child care provider. Still, access to child care may be more limited in rural southern New Jersey, particularly in Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May counties, because there are relatively few child care providers in these sparsely populated areas. Residents in these areas may have fewer choices or have to travel greater distances to find a suitable child care option.

A closer examination of Figure 1 suggests some distinct differences in the spatial arrangement of the two types of providers. The distribution of registered family child care providers is measurably more clustered, particularly in portions of the northeastern counties of Essex, Hudson and Passaic. The

disparity in the numbers of child care centers and family child care providers complicates a visual analysis; there are about 1,300 more child care centers overall.

Figure 2 (next page) helps to make a clearer distinction. In the line graph, the horizontal axis represents increasing population density thresholds (in persons per square mile according to the 2000 Census), with the number of NJ municipalities at or above each threshold shown in parentheses. As the figure shows, all 566 NJ municipalities have population densities greater than zero persons per square mile while only 31 have densities greater than or equal to 10,000. The vertical axis represents the percentage of providers present at a varying levels of population density. Because there are fewer and fewer municipalities as population density increases, the numbers of both types of providers decrease farther along the horizontal axis. What is noteworthy is that the percent-

age of child care centers drops off significantly more than the percentage of registered family care providers as population density increases. The disparity in providers is greatest (approximately 19.3%) at population densities in the range of 6,000-7,000 persons per square mile. The implication is that residents of highly urbanized areas will have fewer centers to choose from.

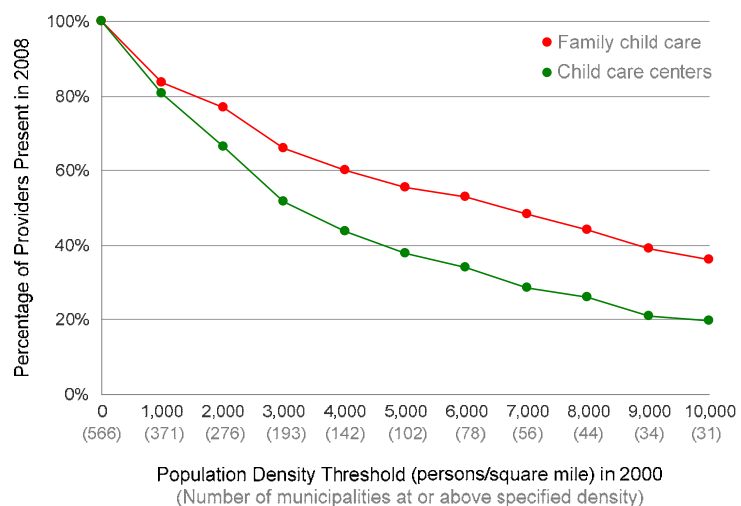
## CHILD CARE CENTERS

### Characteristics of Centers

#### Representativeness

The sample included 3,429 qualifying centers. Excluded were centers that were known to not charge fees for child care, including Head Start programs, child care in Abbott districts, a variety of no-fee recreational/municipal programs and Child Care Development Fund grantees. Based on surveys that were returned, an additional 460 centers were ineligible; the largest number (312 or 67.8%) being partial day only programs that served children under the age of 6 for less than six hours per day and/or less than five days per week.

As of April 6, 2009, rate information was obtained from 1,821 centers or 61.3% of the 2,969 centers that were qualifying and not known to be ineligible (3,429 – 460). It should be noted that some centers that did not return surveys may also be ineligible, increasing the response rate. The reasons that centers were ineligible are shown in Table 1.



**Figure 2** Proportion of registered family child care providers and child care centers by municipal population density (2000 Census). The percentage of both types of providers show declines with increasing population density but the percentage of centers in New Jersey's denser municipalities is always lower than the percentage of registered family child care provid-

**Table 1** Reasons for ineligibility or exclusion.

Reason	N
Duplication in database	1
Employees only	39
Kindergarten only	5
No fee for child care	69
Not set own fees (e.g., DCF or TANF)	10
Partial day only	312
Program closed	18
Sliding scale	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>

The responding centers were compared to the full sample and the total population of providers on a number of dimensions, including licensed capacity, program type, and geography. At 60 children, the median licensed capacity for all centers (N=4,291), eligible centers (N=3,429) and responding centers (N=1,821) was identical.

The distribution by program type was similar for all categories except half and full day programs, which comprised 11.8% of all centers, 12% of eligible centers and only 3.7% of responding centers. This category may include many of the partial day only programs that

were excluded based on their survey responses but could not be identified as partial day only on the licensing database.

As shown in Table 2, the geographic distribution of all child care centers differs somewhat from those with fees. In particular, counties with substantial numbers of urban districts with Abbott programs, such as Hudson and Essex counties comprise a larger proportion of all centers than of those with fees. Centers that responded and completed surveys closely resemble the sample of fee centers from which they were drawn. More than half of the centers could be found in 6 counties: Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris and Union, a finding consistent with the total database.

**Table 2** Geographic distribution of child care centers.

COUNTY	ALL CENTERS		CENTERS WITH FEES		RESPONDING CENTERS WITH FEES	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Atlantic	110	2.6%	85	2.5%	56	3.1%
Bergen	438	10.2%	413	12.0%	214	11.8%
Burlington	156	3.6%	143	4.2%	77	4.2%
Camden	256	6.0%	180	5.2%	86	4.7%
Cape May	33	0.8%	26	0.8%	15	0.8%
Cumberland	61	1.4%	29	0.8%	15	0.8%
Essex	555	12.9%	347	10.1%	179	9.8%
Gloucester	142	3.3%	134	3.9%	66	3.6%
Hudson	299	7.0%	159	4.6%	83	4.6%
Hunterdon	84	2.0%	78	2.3%	50	2.7%
Mercer	215	5.0%	165	4.8%	87	4.8%
Middlesex	325	7.6%	248	7.2%	148	8.1%
Monmouth	281	6.5%	253	7.4%	122	6.7%
Morris	282	6.6%	261	7.6%	126	6.9%
Ocean	171	4.0%	155	4.5%	108	5.9%
Passaic	238	5.5%	184	5.4%	109	6.0%
Salem	23	0.5%	21	0.6%	12	0.7%
Somerset	187	4.4%	176	5.1%	81	4.4%
Sussex	77	1.8%	70	2.0%	39	2.1%
Union	302	7.0%	255	7.4%	123	6.8%
Warren	53	1.2%	44	1.3%	22	1.2%
Missing	3	0.1%	3	0.1%	3	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Ages Served and Program Type

Table 3 (next page) gives some indication of the ages of the children served by responding child care centers. Centers typically served more than one age group; 38.4% of the centers served one age group, while 32.5% served all four age groups. While centers serving all four age groups were the most numerous (32.5%), they were closely followed by centers only serving the

<sup>4</sup> Ages served is based upon the age groups for which rates were provided.



school-age population (32.2%). Programs serving only children under 6 years old constituted 12.8% of the responding centers. The average number of age groups served was 2.4.

The school-age population was served by the largest proportion (78%) of the responding centers. School age children were most likely to be served by before and after school programs (65.1%) and less apt to have access to holiday-specific programs (25.9%).

### Hours of Program Operation

The survey asked child care centers the hours they offer full-time child care (i.e., care for infants, toddlers and preschool age children). There were a total of 1,218 responses. Figure 3 shows that child care centers that provide full-day programming begin offering care around 6:00 AM. However, the majority open between 6:30 and 7:30 AM, with the largest proportion opening at 7 AM (530 or about 44%). Services typically end between 5:30 and 6:30 PM with the largest number ending at 6 PM (621 or 51%).

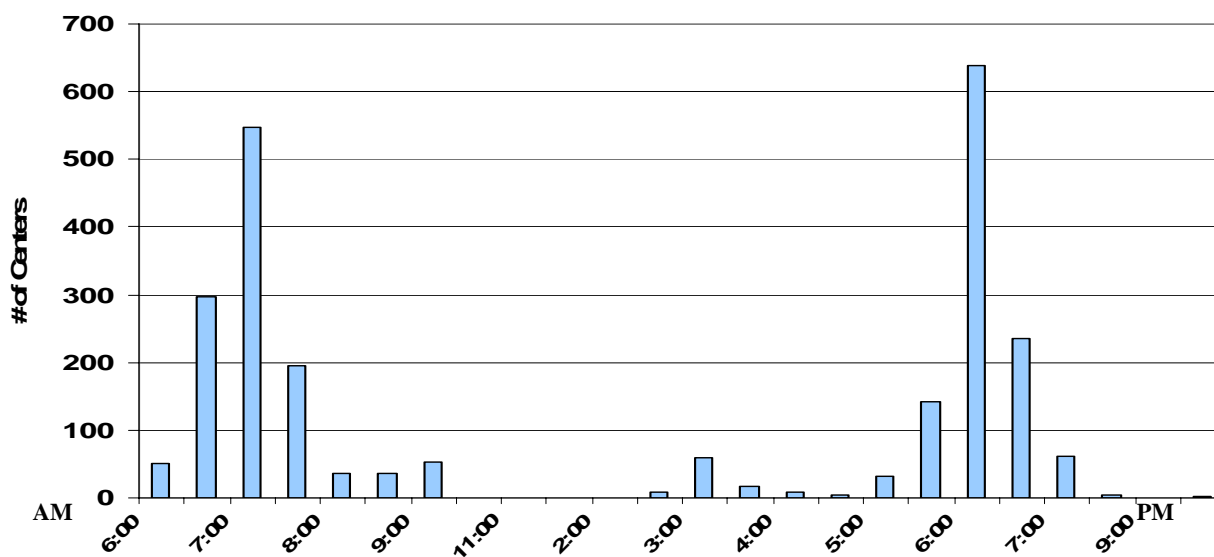
**Table 3** Ages of children served

Ages Served	N *	% *
Infants	840	46.1
Toddlers	955	52.4
Preschool	1,221	67.1
School-Age (any)	1,420	78.0
Before/After	1,186	65.1
Summer	878	48.2
Holiday	472	25.9

\* Numbers sum to more than the 1,821 centers and percentages sum over 100 percent due to multiple responses.

Median hours of operation for programs serving infants, toddlers and preschool age children is 11 hours, although families may not necessarily require child care coverage for this amount of time.

Of the 1,105 programs for children under 6 years of age indicating their months of operation, 978 or 88.5% operate year-round, an additional 13 or 1.2% operate for 11 months of the year. Only 114 or 10.3% operate exclusively during the school year.



**Figure 3** Center hours of operation (for children less than 6 years old)

## Child Care Center Market Rates

The primary purpose of the Child Care Market Rate Survey was to obtain fee information for different age groups and program types. Centers were asked to report rates for the different age groups that they serve. Rates were averaged for the following age categories:

- Infants (0 – 18 months old)
- Toddlers (19 months to 2 ½ years old)
- Preschool Children (2 ½+ - 6 years old)

It should be noted that some centers charged the same rate for all children under 6 years old, while others had as many as 4 different rates within each of these three age categories. If there was overlap in a rate, for example, if there was one rate for children up to 3 years old and another for children older than 3, then the preschool rate was an average of the rate from 0 to 3 years old and the rate for children older than 3 years old.

Centers were asked to record the different rates that they charged, for example, hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or some other rate.

Information about these different rates is reported separately. In addition, conversions are made to a weekly rate to examine the cost increase or reduction resulting from different payment schedules.

Table 4 displays statewide market rates for infants, toddlers, preschool children and three different types of school-age programs (before and after school, holiday care and summer camp). With the exception of the daily holiday rate, the table presents weekly rates. The younger the child the higher the rate for child care. Families paid a median of \$200 per week for infant care and \$160 per week for preschool age care.

It is important to note that rates reflect the hours of center operation. Many programs offer families the option of enrolling for fewer full-time hours, e.g., 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM rather than 7 AM to 6 PM. Therefore, the costs reported here tend to reflect maximum utilization; families may pay less than the rates indicated.

**Table 4** Statewide weekly child care center market rates<sup>5</sup>

Age/Program	N	Mean	Median	50% Between: *	
Weekly Infant	488	\$212.39	\$200.00	\$170.00	and \$241.00
Weekly Toddler	527	\$197.33	\$185.00	\$160.50	and \$220.00
Weekly Preschool	131	\$166.04	\$160.00	\$140.00	and \$185.00
Weekly School Age					
Before/After	250	\$110.15	\$100.00	\$85.00	and \$131.00
Before Separately/Only	189	\$67.86	\$60.00	\$40.00	and \$93.50
After Separately/Only	282	\$82.99	\$75.00	\$60.00	and \$100.00
Daily Holiday - School Age	443	\$42.95	\$40.00	\$30.00	and \$50.00
Weekly Summer - School Age	592	\$180.59	\$165.00	\$135.00	and \$214.25

\* This is the middle 50% falling between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

<sup>5</sup>The *mean* is the average of the provider rates; when there are some extreme values, either very low or very high, the average will not be as typical of the overall distribution as the median. The *median* rate is the exact midpoint dividing the distribution in half or in other words it represents the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Half of the reported rates fall below the median and half are above the median rate.

**Table 5** Statewide monthly child care center market rates

<b>Age/Program</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>50% Between: *</b>		
Monthly Infant	330	\$1,021.44	\$1,001.50	\$850.00	and	\$1,175.00
Monthly Toddler	392	\$926.86	\$918.75	\$769.25	and	\$1,056.50
Monthly Preschool	549	\$811.11	\$798.00	\$671.00	and	\$934.17
Monthly School Age						
Before/After	256	\$332.57	\$300.00	\$260.00	and	\$375.75
Before Separately/Only	426	\$134.77	\$120.00	\$100.00	and	\$150.00
After Separately/Only	620	\$246.36	\$235.00	\$199.25	and	\$294.00
Monthly Summer - School Age	165	\$742.43	\$745.00	\$600.00	and	\$860.25

\* This is the middle 50% falling between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

Table 5 presents monthly rates. As is the case for weekly rates, monthly rates for full-time care (6+ hours per day) are inversely related to the child's age. Full-time monthly rates for infants are the highest followed in order by full-time rates for toddlers, preschoolers and summer care for school-age children.

Monthly rates were divided by 4.33 to yield estimated weekly costs. While families using family providers save when they pay a monthly rate, the same is not true for all types of center-based care (see Table 6 below). Families paying on a monthly basis spend about \$24-\$30 more per week than families paying weekly for children under six years old. By contrast, school age care costs about \$20-\$30 per week less when paid monthly. These lower costs benefit families who pay monthly for school-age care.

**Table 6** Comparison of statewide median monthly and weekly child care center market rates

<b>Age/Program</b>	<b>Monthly Rates Converted to Weekly Rates</b>		<b>Weekly Rates</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Median</b>
Infant	330	\$231.29	488	\$200.00
Toddler	392	\$212.18	527	\$185.00
Infant/Toddler	391	\$219.17	529	\$190.00
Preschool	549	\$184.30	131	\$160.00
School Age				
Before/After	256	\$69.28	250	\$100.00
Before Separately/Only	426	\$27.71	189	\$60.00
After Separately/Only	620	\$54.27	282	\$75.00
Summer - School Age	165	\$172.06	592	\$165.00

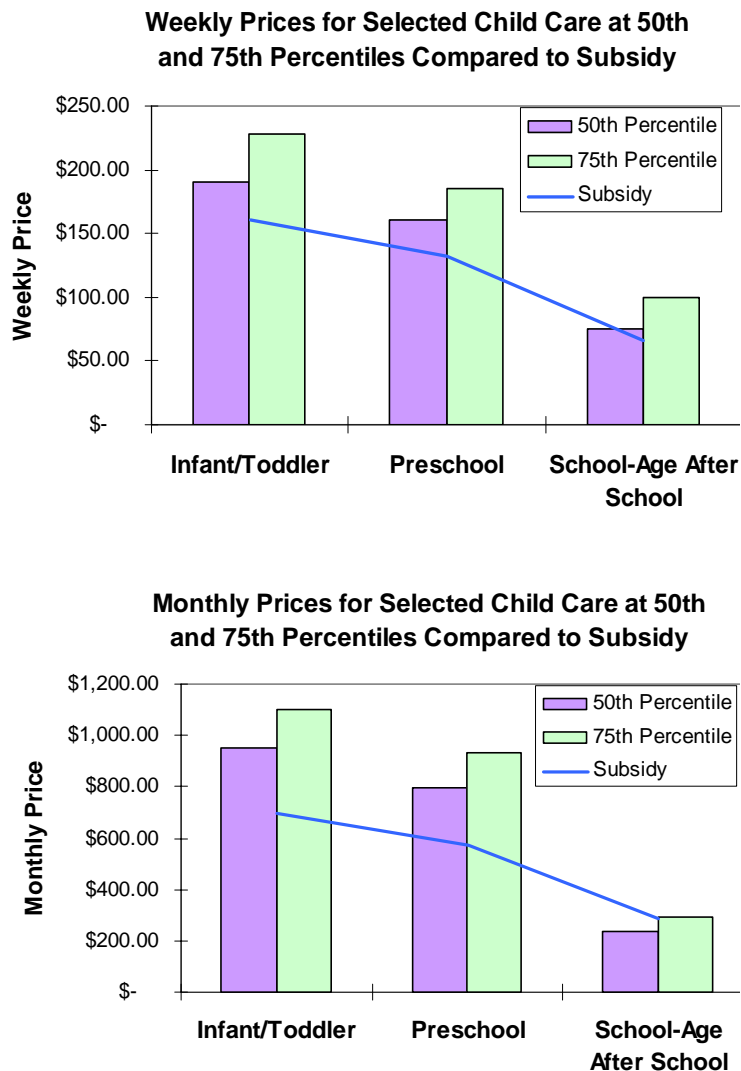
Less than 0.5% of programs charge hourly rates for infants, toddlers, preschool or school-age summer programs. However, from 2.8% to 6% charge hourly rates for either before and/or after school or holiday care. When offered in combination, median before/after school rates were \$6 per hour with the middle 50% ranging from \$5 to \$8 per hour. Median holiday rates were \$6.00 per hour with the middle 50% ranging from \$5 to \$8 per hour.

**Table 7** Statewide hourly school-age child care center market rates\*

Age/Program	N	Mean	Median	50% Between: *		
Before School Only	103	\$7.22	\$6.10	\$5.00	and	\$8.00
After School Only	95	\$7.30	\$6.00	\$5.00	and	\$8.00
Combined Before/After School	51	\$7.14	\$6.00	\$5.00	and	\$8.00
Holiday - School Age	52	\$6.33	\$6.00	\$5.00	and	\$8.00

Figure 4 shows weekly and monthly rates at the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles for infants/toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children enrolled in an after-school program in comparison to the state's child care subsidy in SFY 2009. Compared to family child care (see Figure 7), center median child care rates are well above the subsidy for the care of children under 6 years of age, but monthly rates compare favorably to the subsidy for school-age after-care for 2-3 hours per day, while weekly after school rates are well above the subsidy.

For providers who charge weekly rates, the state subsidy falls between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> percentiles for infant/toddler care and slightly over the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile for preschool care. In terms of statewide market rates, the subsidy falls between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> percentiles for providers that charge on a monthly basis for infant/toddler child care, and slightly over the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for those charging monthly for preschool care. The state subsidy covers a smaller proportion of centers

*Figure 4* Weekly and monthly rates at the 50th and 75th percentiles

than of family providers (see Figure 7). Subsidies for after care offer better access to center care especially for

those offering monthly rates; the subsidy represents the 37<sup>th</sup> percentile of weekly rates for after care and about the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile for monthly rates.

### Additional Fees

In addition to rates for child care, most child care centers also charged additional fees, particularly registration and trip fees (see Table 8). A total of 89.1% of the centers charged at least one of the following types of fees:

- One-time application processing fee
- Annual registration fee
- Meals fee
- Trips fee
- Membership fee

One-time application fees were charged by 43.1% of the programs, while 49.1% charged annual registration fees. Recreation or trip fees charged per activity or event were reported by 421 centers or 23.1%. Other fees were less common. Meal fees were charged by fewer than 10% of the centers, most often on a daily (55.8%) or weekly (24.8%) basis, but were often optional (i.e., families could elect to not sign their children up for meals). Preschool, before and after school programs and summer camps might be sponsored by a local YMCA, YWCA or similar organization charging an annual membership fee. A total of 17.1% of the centers required families to pay membership fees. Of the 311 with membership fees, 90.7% are before and/or after school programs (N=282).

About 10.3% or 188 centers had other fees. These were sometimes optional or refundable, including annual, refundable security deposits and optional fees for enrichment activities or classes, e.g., computer class, swimming, gymnastics, and music, or other programming. Some centers levied mandatory fees for summer activities or registration and books and/or materials fees.

*Table 8* Additional fees

<b>Fees</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Median</b>
One-time application	784	43.1	\$50.00
Annual registration	895	49.1	\$50.00
Meals	156	8.6	\$3.00
Recreation or trips	421	23.1	\$15.00
Membership	311	17.1	\$55.00

### Discounts

The Child Care Market Rate Survey included questions about the availability of discounts for additional children from the same household. Findings show that most programs (1,459 or 80.1%) offered discounts for additional children; percentages ranged from 1 to 100% with the median discount at 10% for an additional child. Some programs (N=137) reported dollar discounts with a median monthly discount of \$20.

The application of these discounts varied. A total of 7.6% of the centers reduced the cost of care for each child from the family when two or more children were enrolled. However, more typically (1,173 centers or 80.4%) the discount was only applied to the cost of care for additional children who enrolled. In some cases, centers indicated that the discount applied to the lowest rate or the oldest child.

### Voucher Subsidy Payments in Centers

The survey asked about subsidies to families through targeted state programs. These subsidies make child care accessible to low-income families. Most child care centers reported that they would be willing to accept children who receive subsidies through Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) or the New Jersey Cares for Kids (NJCK) programs. More than 83% (N=1,518) of the centers indicated that

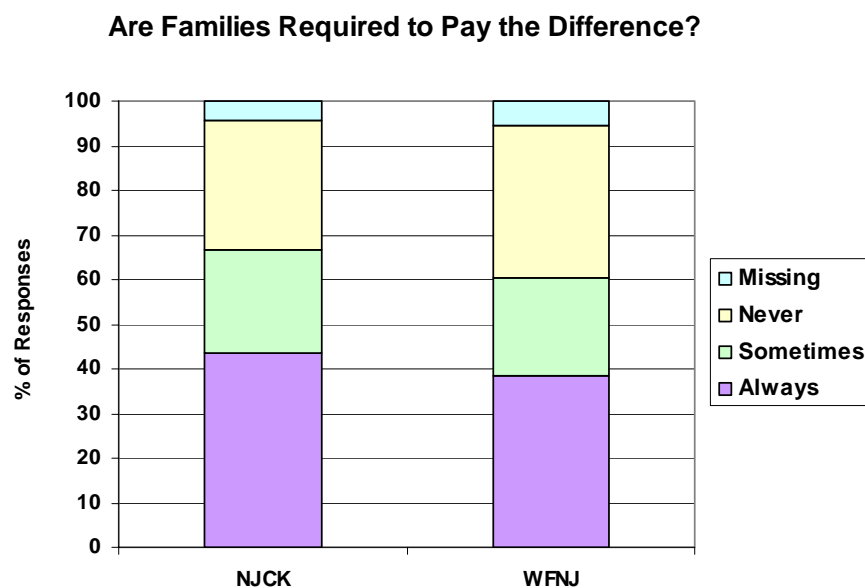
they would accept children with these subsidies. While a total of 1,131 centers or 62.1% currently enrolled children receiving a NJCK subsidy and 53.3% enrolled children with a WFNJ subsidy. These percentages may actually be higher, since some programs enrolled children with subsidies received through their Child Care Resource and Referral agency; these subsidies include NJCK and WFNJ subsidies.

Families that are awarded subsidies make a mandatory co-payment for child care. The survey asked whether families are required to make monetary contributions in addition to the co-payment when there is a difference between the child care subsidy and what the center charges and . Of the 1,131 centers with children receiving subsidies, more than 40% would require that families pay the additional difference (679 or 44.7%), while 337 would require families in some cases to pay the difference (22.2%), and 367 or 24.2% would not expect families to pay anything beyond the mandatory co-payment.

It should be noted that some centers may offer discretionary scholarships to some low-income families and that other programs may be available, for example, at the local or county-level. This market rate study did not capture information about these programs.

### Comparison of Rates over Time

A comparison of rates prior to 2006 with 2006 and 2008 is complicated by the use of different survey methods beginning in 2006. In 2004 (and prior years), a random sample of providers was drawn, while in 2006 and 2008 all qualifying licensed child care centers were sent mail surveys. Apparent rate changes may partly reflect the different methods employed in the bi-annual surveys. These not only include sampling, but also changes in the wording of questions or in the instructions that were given. In addition, the response rate while very good still allows for some selectivity that may contribute to the observed differences. These comparisons should therefore be interpreted with caution.



**Figure 5** Monetary contributions of families when child care costs exceed subsidies

The Federal Government requires bi-annual surveys of child care market rates. The New Jersey Department of Human Services collected rate information from 2000 to 2008 (corresponding to state fiscal years 2001 to 2009). Comparisons showed weekly rate increases of about 37% to 50% from 2000 to 2008 (see Table 9). Daily holiday rates increased 60% over that time. These changes may reflect actual differences or may

**Table 9** Comparison of weekly child care center market rates: 2000—2008

Median Market Rates	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	Rate Increase
Weekly Infants/Toddler	\$145.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$190.00	\$201.25	38.8%
Weekly Preschool	\$120.00	\$145.00	\$150.00	\$164.67	\$179.48	49.6%
Weekly Before/After School	\$62.36	\$74.91	\$75.00	\$87.00	\$85.68	37.4%
Holiday (Daily)	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	60.0%
Weekly Summer (School-age)	\$120.00	\$132.50	\$146.00	\$155.00	\$170.00	41.7%

be the result of sampling and other modifications to the survey methodology and data col-

lection instruments. Figure 6 provides a graphics display of these increases.

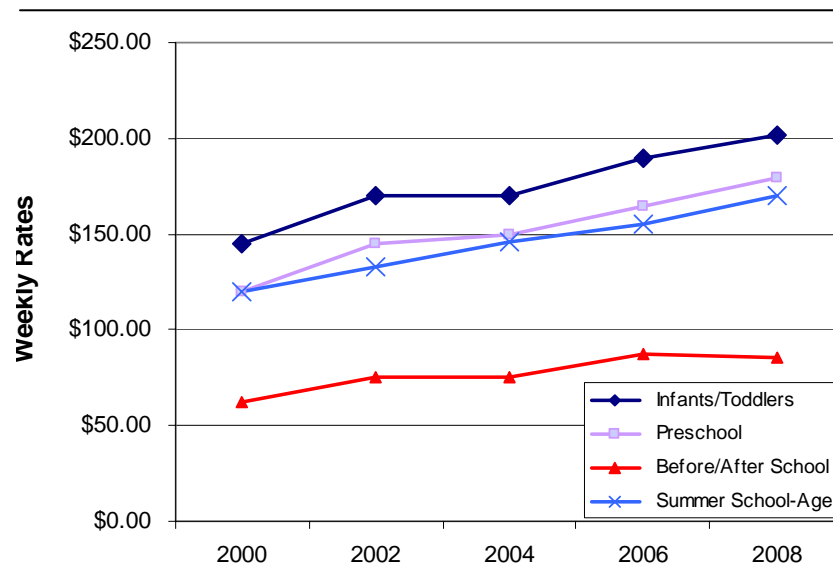


Figure 6 Changes in selected weekly child care center market rates over time

## FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

### Characteristics of Family Providers

Family child care providers are individuals offering child care services in their homes to between three to five children. Compared to child care centers, there will be less continuity in the provision of services. Some family providers may offer child care only while

their own children are at home. For others, change of residence, finances, health or other personal circumstances may lead them to discontinue their provision of care. In addition, changes of residence may result in difficulty tracking providers who remain on

the registry, and individuals who provide care may elect not to register, since their participation is voluntary. For all these reasons, determining the total number of providers and obtaining high rates of response to a survey are difficult.

### Representativeness

Of the 2,997 registered family providers, 1,723 or 57.5% provided rate information. This does not take into consideration providers who either returned surveys or were contacted by phone but were ineligible to participate. As shown in Table 10, the 217 ineligible providers included 50 who were caring for relatives and thus might not charge market rates, 7 who only had children with subsidies, and 160 who did not provide child care, including four who had registered but had not yet started accepting children.

In addition, there were 273 who had either moved or did not respond to the survey and their phone had been disconnected. Additional ineligible providers might also be included among those who were not reached by phone (e.g., answering machine, no answer after repeated call backs). It is therefore reasonable to assume that the

*Table 10* Reasons for ineligible surveys

<b>Reason Ineligible</b>	<b>N</b>
No child care	156
Relatives only	50
Subsidies only	7
Not yet active	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>

response rate was at least 62% (discounting the 217 known to be ineligible) but could have been much higher. It should be noted that the rate obtained for this survey is higher than results for family providers in previous New Jersey market rate surveys most likely due in part to the involvement of the CCWU in encouraging the providers to complete and return the surveys.

Table 11 shows family child care providers and respondents by the county in which they were registered. County response rates ranged from about 47% to 75%. This variation may be due to a variety of factors, including provider mobility.

*Table 11* Geographic distribution of family child care providers

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>SAMPLE</b>		<b>RESPONDENTS</b>		<b>RESPONSE RATE</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Atlantic	121	4.0	70	4.1	57.9
Bergen	168	5.6	80	4.6	47.6
Burlington	158	5.3	114	6.6	72.2
Camden	205	6.8	136	7.9	66.3
Cape May	15	0.5	10	0.6	66.7
Cumberland	138	4.6	63	3.7	45.7
Essex	484	16.1	282	16.4	58.3
Gloucester	76	2.5	50	2.9	65.8
Hudson	359	12.0	188	10.9	52.4
Hunterdon	38	1.3	23	1.3	60.5
Mercer	102	3.4	64	3.7	62.7
Middlesex	145	4.8	94	5.5	64.8
Monmouth	149	5.0	70	4.1	47.0
Morris	103	3.4	63	3.7	61.2
Ocean	137	4.6	76	4.4	55.5
Passaic	253	8.4	120	7.0	47.4
Salem	36	1.2	24	1.4	66.7
Somerset	51	1.7	38	2.2	74.5
Sussex	42	1.4	28	1.6	66.7
Union	158	5.3	102	5.9	64.6
Warren	58	1.9	27	1.6	46.6
Missing	1	0.0	1	0.1	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.5</b>



## Ages Served

Family child care providers served all age groups (see Table 12). More than 90% of family child care providers served infants and toddlers and 80% served preschool age children. More than three-fourths (76.1%) served school-age children, primarily in before and after school and summer care. Less than half (42.7%) provided holiday care.

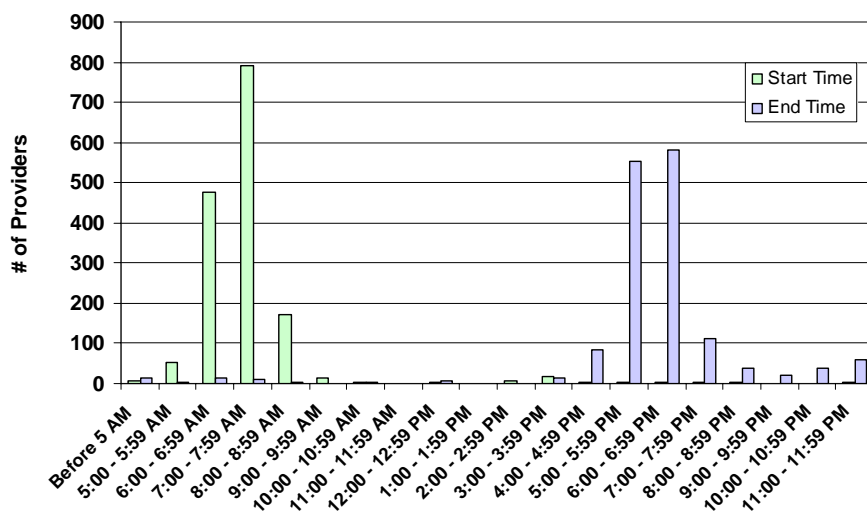


Figure 7 Family child care hours of operation

## Hours of Program Operation

Table 12 Ages of children served

Ages Served	N*	%*
Infants	1,597	92.7
Toddlers	1,604	93.1
Preschool	1,378	80.0
School-age	1,312	76.1
Before/After	1,104	64.1
Summer	1,023	59.4
Holiday	736	42.7

\* Numbers sum to more than 1,723 and percent-ages exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

The survey asked family providers the hours they offer child care. There were a total of 1,562 providers who indicated both start and end times for child care. As Figure 7 shows, most family child care providers open between 6:00 AM and 7:59 AM. Services typically end between 6:00 and 7:59 pm. However, some providers allow children to remain later, accommodating parents who work evening shifts. In addition, 50 providers or 3.1% indicated 24 hour availability

and thus could not provide start and end times. As a result, start times are more clustered than end times. The total hours of care per day averages almost 12 hours.

The vast majority (1,042 or 60.5%) of family providers do not offer care on weekends. Of the 646 or 37.5% offering weekend care, such care is not necessarily available on a regular basis. Some indicate that they are only available for Saturday care or as needed. Some of those who do not provide routine weekend care, make exceptions, for example, if the parents “are really stuck” or “only for emergencies.”

## **Family Child Care Market Rates**

Table 13 (next page) displays weekly family child care provider rates for different age groups. As is the case for centers, median rates for family child care were higher for younger children. The weekly median cost for infants was \$150 per week, while the median cost for preschool age children was \$125 per week, a difference of \$25 per week. Toddler rates were \$140 per week.

Compared to children without special needs, median rates for special needs infants and toddlers were about \$22.50 per week more and about \$35 per week more for special needs preschool/school-age children

cared for by family providers. However, it is unclear how many family child care providers actually had such children in their care, particularly since they are not permitted to charge different rates unless they provide a different service for these children.

*Table 13* Statewide weekly family child care provider market rates

<b>Age/Program</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>50% Between: *</b>		
Infant	1,406	\$152.46	\$150.00	\$130.00	and	\$170.00
Toddler	1,396	\$143.09	\$140.00	\$125.00	and	\$155.00
Infant/Toddler	1,443	\$147.58	\$142.50	\$125.00	and	\$162.50
Preschool	1,174	\$131.72	\$125.00	\$100.00	and	\$150.00
Before/After School Combined	560	\$89.24	\$80.00	\$70.00	and	\$100.00
Before School Separately/Alone	461	\$68.34	\$60.00	\$45.00	and	\$80.00
After School Separately/Alone	599	\$68.16	\$60.00	\$50.00	and	\$80.00
Holiday	134	\$114.09	\$120.00	\$90.00	and	\$140.00
Summer	841	\$128.48	\$125.00	\$100.00	and	\$150.00
<i>Special Need</i> Infant/Toddler	537	\$170.34	\$165.00	\$150.00	and	\$190.00
<i>Special Need</i> Preschool	475	\$167.86	\$160.00	\$140.00	and	\$185.00

In addition to weekly rates, providers were asked to indicate other rates that they charged such as daily, monthly, or other rates, most commonly hourly. While weekly rates were inversely related to the age of the child with care for younger children costing more, daily rates did not show similar variability (see Table 14). Median daily rates for infant through preschool age children were the same, \$30.00 per day. Median rates for full-time school-age care (holiday and summer) were also the same as daily rates for younger children. Rates do vary by the type of care with special needs care costing from \$5 to \$10 per day more while before and after school care costs less since they typically involve fewer hours of care. It should be noted that on a weekly basis, the daily rate is more costly for toddlers and preschool age children. Families paying the daily rate on a weekly basis would pay \$10 to \$12 more per week.

*Table 14* Statewide daily family child care provider market rates

<b>Age/Program</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>50% Between:</b>		
Infant	318	\$35.60	\$30.00	\$30.00	and	\$40.00
Toddler	313	\$34.11	\$30.00	\$25.00	and	\$40.00
Infant/Toddler	318	\$34.84	\$32.50	\$27.50	and	\$40.00
Preschool	300	\$33.03	\$30.00	\$25.00	and	\$40.00
Before/After School (Combined)	171	\$24.78	\$20.00	\$17.00	and	\$30.00
Before School Separately/Alone	188	\$15.75	\$15.00	\$10.00	and	\$20.00
After School Separately/Alone	215	\$16.97	\$15.00	\$10.00	and	\$20.00
Holiday	592	\$31.22	\$30.00	\$25.00	and	\$35.00
Summer	243	\$33.19	\$30.00	\$25.00	and	\$36.00
<i>Special Need</i> Infant/Toddler	133	\$39.40	\$35.00	\$30.00	and	\$45.00
<i>Special Need</i> Preschool	128	\$40.94	\$40.00	\$30.00	and	\$50.00

Hourly rates which were listed by fewer than 50 providers also tended to be more costly on a daily or weekly basis. At \$5 to \$6 per hour – 8 hours of care would cost \$40 to \$48 per day and

**Table 15** Statewide monthly family provider child care market rates

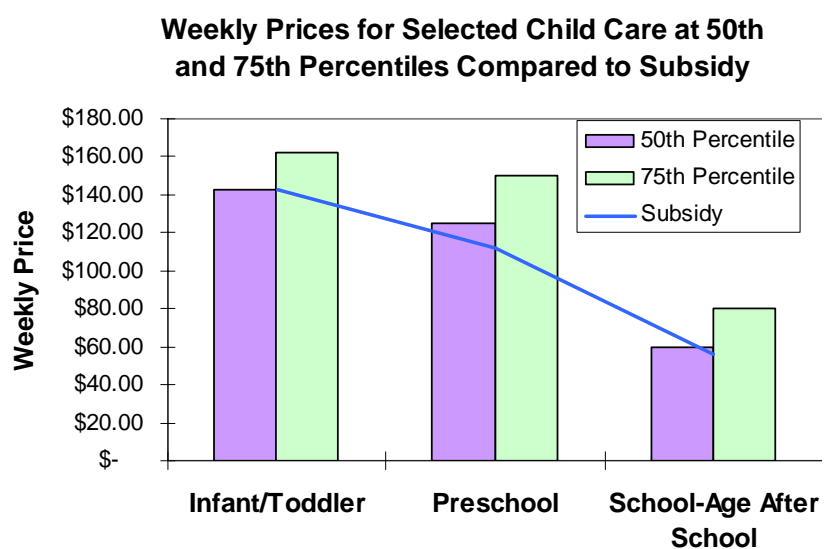
Age/Program	N	Mean	Median	50% Between:		
Infant	147	\$617.93	\$600.00	\$526.00	and	\$700.00
Toddler	153	\$575.86	\$573.00	\$480.00	and	\$650.00
Infant/Toddler	168	\$592.04	\$600.00	\$486.51	and	\$677.50
Preschool	134	\$531.78	\$500.00	\$400.00	and	\$625.00
Before/After School Combined	71	\$341.66	\$340.00	\$242.00	and	\$440.00
Before School Alone	65	\$299.10	\$260.00	\$200.00	and	\$400.00
After School Alone	74	\$291.45	\$255.00	\$200.00	and	\$400.00
Holiday	---	---	---	---	and	---
Summer	83	\$477.79	\$484.96	\$400.00	and	\$600.00
<i>Special Need</i> Infant/Toddler	60	\$721.52	\$747.00	\$600.00	and	\$815.00
<i>Special Need</i> Preschool	63	\$689.08	\$640.00	\$500.00	and	\$800.00

\$200 to \$240 per week; 10 hours would cost \$50 to \$60 per day and \$250 to \$300 per week. In some cases, providers also listed daily, weekly and in some cases, monthly rates; in others, the hourly rate was the only rate given. It may be that these hourly rates represent fees for families who do not use child care on a full-time basis or who may vary their daily use.

While daily rates tended to be more costly on a weekly basis, median monthly rates on a weekly basis were apt to be less costly than median weekly rates. As an example, median monthly infant rates of \$600 represented weekly rates of \$138.57 or about \$12 less per week than the median weekly price of \$150.

Statewide, subsidies provide broader access to family than center care (see Figure 7 and Figure 3). Figure 7 shows weekly

rates at the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles for infants/toddlers, preschool and after school care in comparison to the state's child care subsidies for registered family providers in SFY 2009. Subsidies are at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for infant/toddler rates, the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile for preschool rates, and the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile for after school care.



**Figure 7** Weekly prices for selected child care at the 50th and 75th percentiles compared to subsidy

## Additional Fees

Where almost 90% of centers charge additional fees, only 37.7% of family providers charged any fees in addition to the cost of child care. Fewer than 30% (N=444) charged for registration and only 10% charged an application processing fee. A total of 142 providers (8.2%) charged for trips and recreation, while 90 (5.2%) charged for meals. Registration fees and application processing fees, if charged, typically occurred on a one-time basis (84.7% for registration charges and 89.8% for application processing fees).<sup>7</sup> Trip fees were by the event, while meal fees were either charged daily (35.1%) or weekly (49.4%).

*Table 16* Additional fees

Fees	N	%	Median
Registration	444	25.8	\$50.00
Application Processing	172	10.0	\$30.00
Recreation	142	8.2	\$10.00
Meals	90	5.2	\$10.00

## Discounts

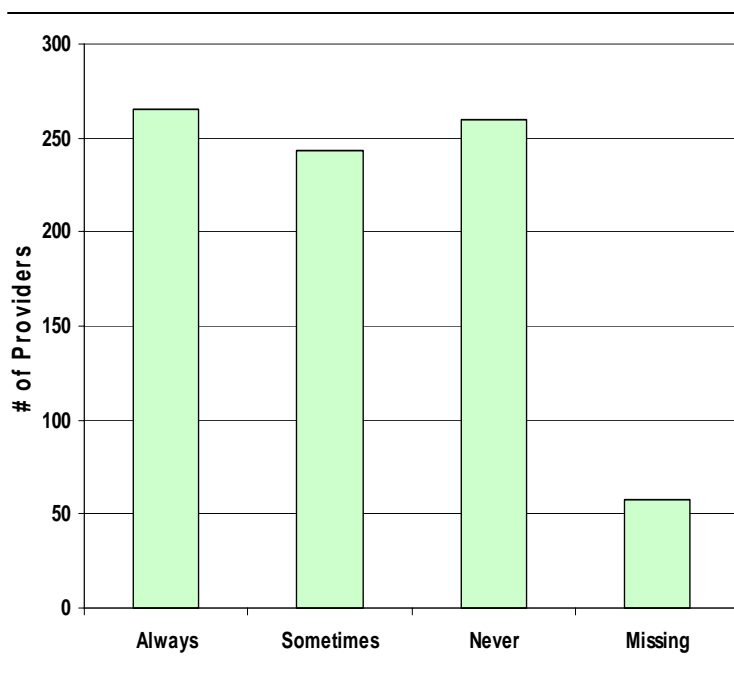
While child care rates are lower, fewer family providers than child care centers offer discounts when more than one child from a family enrolls. A total of 1,040 or about 60.4% of the family child care providers offered discounts when there was more than one child from the family receiving care, while the proportion of child care centers offering these discounts was about 80%. The median percent discount offered by family providers was 10%, similar to the center discount; the median dollar discount was \$77.50 if payment occurred monthly and \$25 if weekly. For 77.8% of the

providers offering discounts, the discount only applied to additional children. For about 20%, the discount applied to every child.

## Voucher Subsidy Payments

The survey asked about subsidies to families through targeted state programs. Most family providers reported that they would be willing to accept children who receive subsidies through Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) or the New Jersey Cares for Kids (NJCK) programs. More than 90% (N=1,510) of the family child care providers indicated that they would accept children with these subsidies. A total of 826 providers or 47.9% currently enroll children who receive subsidies.

Families receiving child care subsidies contribute to child care. The survey asked whether families are required to make monetary contributions in addition to the mandatory co-payment when there



*Figure 8* Monetary contributions of families when child care costs exceed subsidies

is a difference between what the family provider charges and the child care subsidy (see Figure 8 previous page). Of the 826 providers with children receiving subsidies, similar numbers of providers would expect that families always, sometimes or never pay anything beyond the mandatory co-payment when there is a difference between what the provider charges and the state subsidy .

### Comparisons over Time

One important finding is the dramatic reduction from 4,088 to 2,997 in the number of registered family child care providers from 2004 to 2008, a drop of 26.7%. This may not reflect a change in the number of providers offering care, but fewer who are choosing to register. Also, new regulations implemented by the Department of Children and Families require registering agencies to issue six month temporary certificates to providers who do not have children enrolled. If after six months, the provider still has no children in his or her care, the certificate is not renewed. Previously, a provider could be without children for three years, never care for children, but be counted as registered.

A comparison of rates prior to 2006 with 2008 is complicated by the use of different survey methods in 2006 and 2008. In 2004 (and prior years), a random sample of providers was drawn, while in 2006 and 2008 all registered family child care providers were sent surveys in the mail. Rate changes over time may therefore partly reflect the different methods employed.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services collected rate information from 2000 to 2008 (corresponding to state fiscal years 2001 to 2009). Comparisons showed rate increases that ranged from 14% (for infants and toddlers) to more than 30% for certain types of school age care (see Table 17). These increases may reflect actual differences and the impact of the Child Care Worker's Union negotiated fee increases for family child care providers, as well as the result of sampling and other differences in the survey methodology over time.

*Table 17* Comparison of median weekly family child care market rates: 2000-2008

<b>Median Market Rates</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Rate Increase</b>
Infants/Toddlers	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$130.00	\$142.50	14.0%
Preschool	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$125.00	25.0%
Before/After School	\$58.50	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$80.00	36.8%
Holiday (Daily)	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	36.4%
Summer School-Age	\$86.20	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$125.00	45.0%
<i>Special Needs</i> Infants/Toddlers	\$125.00	\$145.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$165.00	32.0%
<i>Special Needs</i> Preschool	\$125.00	\$135.00	\$140.00	\$150.00	\$140.00	12.0%

Notes: With the exception of holiday programs, all rates are weekly.

# **APPENDIX**

## CHILD CARE CENTER MARKET RATE SURVEY – 2008

Center Name:

ID:

Address:

<b>1. Do you charge families for child care?</b>	YES	NO	
<b>2. Does your program set the fees for at least some children?</b>	YES	NO	
<b>3. If you are an employer-sponsored program, is the program open to the public?</b>	YES	NO	NA

- If you circled "NO" (rather than "YES" or "NA") to any of the above, please stop and return your survey

<b>4. Full-time Prices for Infants, Toddlers and Preschool-Age Children - as of September 2008</b> <i>Only complete this question if children can attend 5 days per week for 6 or more hours each day. Do not include prices for Kindergarten.</i>	Hour (only if you charge by the hour)	Week (only if you charge by the week)	Month (only if you charge by the month)	Other (e.g., day, year, term)	Hours of Care per Day for this Price
<b>List each age group with a separate rate and prices</b>					
A. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
B. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
C. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
D. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
E. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
F. Ages: _____ to _____	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs

<b>5. Prices for Full-Day School-Age Children for:</b>	Hour (only if you charge by the hour)	Day (only if you charge by the day)	Week (only if you charge by the week)	Month (only if you charge by the month)	Hours of Care per Day for this Price
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before/After School &amp; Holiday Care as of 9/08</li> <li>Do <i>not</i> include Before/After school for ½ day Kindergarten</li> </ul>					
A. Before School <i>Only</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
B. After School <i>Only</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
C. Before and After School <i>Combined</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
D. <i>Daily Care</i> during Holidays	\$	\$	----	----	hrs

<b>6. Prices for School-Age Children for:</b>	Day (only if charge by the day)	Week (only if charge by week)	Month (only if charge by month)	Other (e.g., session, summer)	Hours of Care per Day for this Price
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Care as of Summer 2008</li> </ul>					
A. Summer Care for Summer 2008	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs

**Comments about child care prices:**

**CHILD CARE CENTER MARKET RATE SURVEY – 2008**

Center Name:  
Address:

ID:

**7. Discounts**

- A. Are rates discounted for families with more than one child enrolled?     Yes     No
- B. If yes, please write the percent of the discount \_\_\_\_\_%    or \$\_\_\_\_\_ off per month.
- C. Is the discount applied to (circle one):    **EVERY CHILD**    **ONLY ADDITIONAL CHILDREN**    **OTHER**

**8. Additional Charges or Fees per Child** – Enter the amount; use the following codes to indicate how often the fee is charged: (a) one-time only (b) daily (c) weekly (d) monthly (e) annually (f) per event/trip or (g) other.

Additional Charges or Fees	One-time application / registration	Annual Registration	Meals	Trips (Average per trip)	Membership (e.g., YMCA)	Other
Amount	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Frequency (use codes above)	A	E		F		
Description						

**9. Voucher Payments** (Y=Yes; No=No; DK=Don't Know or Unsure)

Subsidies for Child Care (Circle one answer in each column)	Would you accept a child with this subsidy?	Would you charge families the difference between the State's maximum payment and your price (excluding co-pay)?	Do you currently have children with this subsidy?
New Jersey Cares for Kids (NJCK)	Y   N   DK	ALWAYS   SOMETIMES   NEVER	YES   NO
Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)	Y   N   DK	ALWAYS   SOMETIMES   NEVER	YES   NO
Other subsidy (describe):	Y   N   DK	ALWAYS   SOMETIMES   NEVER	YES   NO

**10. Program Information**

A. What hours does your center provide the following types of child care? How many months do you operate?

Infant/Toddler/Preschool	Start: ____ AM PM	until: ____ AM PM		____ months
Before School	Start: ____ AM PM	until: ____ AM PM		____ months
After School	Start: ____ AM PM	until: ____ AM PM		____ months

B. What hours does your center provide Summer Program/Camp?

Start: \_\_\_\_ AM PM    until: \_\_\_\_ AM PM

C. What were the start and end dates of your camp session in Summer 2008?

Start Date (Mo/Day): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_    to    End Date (Mo/Day): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**



**FAMILY CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY – 2008**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey #: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you ONLY provide care to relatives, please STOP and return the survey in the enclosed envelope.**

**1. Do any children in your care receive child care subsidies? Yes, all Yes, some No NA**

<b>2. Price for Services as of September 2008</b> For each type of care, indicate price that you charge. Full-time care (2A, 2B and 2C) refers to care provided at least 6 hours per day for 5 days a week	<b>Day</b> (only if charge by day)	<b>Week</b> (only if charge by week)	<b>Month</b> (only if charge by month)	<b>Other</b> (e.g., hour) (Describe) _____	<b>Hours of Care per Day for this Price</b>
A. Full-time Care for Infants (birth to 18 months)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
B. Full-time Care for Toddlers (19 months to 2 ½ years)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
C. Full-time Care for Preschool Age (2½ up to 6 years)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
D. Before School (School-age)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
E. After School (School-age)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
F. Both Before and After School (School-age)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
G. Daily Care During Holidays (School-age)	\$	-----	-----		hrs
H. Full-time Summer Care for 2008 (School-age)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
I. Full-time Care-Special Needs Infants/Toddlers (< 2 ½ yrs)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs
J. Full-time Care-Special Needs Children (2 ½ - 19 yrs)	\$	\$	\$	\$	hrs

**3. Discounts**

- A. Are rates discounted for families with more than one child enrolled?  Yes  No
- B. If yes, please write the percent of the discount \_\_\_\_\_% or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month.
- C. Is the discount applied to (circle one): EVERY CHILD ONLY ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OTHER

**4. Additional Charges or Fees per Child** – Enter the amount; use the following codes to indicate how often the fee is charged: (a) one-time only (b) daily (c) weekly (d) monthly (e) annually (f) special event or (g) other.

<b>Additional Charges or Fees</b>	<b>Application Processing</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Meals</b>	<b>Trips</b> (Average per trip)	<b>Other</b> (transportation)
Amount	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Frequency (use letter codes above)				F	
Description (use another page if needed)					

**5. Voucher Payments** (Y=Yes; N=No; DK=Don't Know)

<b>Subsidies for Child Care</b> (Circle one answer in each column)	<b>Would accept a child with a subsidy?</b>	<b>Would you charge families the difference between the State subsidy and your price?</b>	<b>Do you have children now on subsidies?</b>
New Jersey Cares for Kids (NJCK) or Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)	Y N DK	ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER	YES NO

**6. Program Information**

- a. What hours do you provide child care? Start: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM until: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM
- b. Do you ever offer care on weekends? (circle one) YES NO

*Please return this questionnaire to the NJ Division of Family Development by January 5, 2009.  
Use the enclosed addressed and stamped envelope.*