



# Parent Voices Give Children Choices

Be in the Know!

New Jersey Child Care Fact Sheet #1

## The High Price of Child Care in New Jersey

### Did You Know?

- Child care prices vary by the type of child care (e.g., a child care center or family child care home) and location (e.g., child care is more expensive in some counties in New Jersey than in others).
- In 2019, the most expensive child care for infants in a licensed child care center was in Essex county where parents paid \$19,690 per year on average. For family child care homes, the annual price for infant care was \$8,225. In Camden County, the average annual price of licensed center-based child care for infants was \$12,313 per year. The average price for infant care was \$8,981 per year.
- The Census Bureau surveys parents to ask what they pay for child care. Parents are not asked about whether they pay for “licensed” care – only if they pay for child care. Among children under age 5 in New Jersey, [the share of children under age 5 in paid care](#) declined from 32.9% in 2019 to 15.5% in 2020.
- NJ families with children in paid care had [average income](#) of \$227,726 in 2020 and \$195,191 in 2019. For families specifically with children under age 5, the average income of families using paid care was \$205,286 in 2019 and \$188,251 in 2020.
- In 2020, [the average income for NJ families](#) with children under age 5 using paid care was \$66,084 higher than families with children under age 5 not using paid care. In 2019, the income gap was \$73,855.
- NJ Parents with children under age 5 [reported spending](#) about \$11,365 on child care in 2019 (about 5.5% of household income for those using paid care) and \$10,634 in 2020 (about 5.6% of household income for those using paid care).

### What You Can Do To Be In The Know:

- Visit the Child Care Aware of New Jersey website ([www.ccanj.org](http://www.ccanj.org)) to learn more about the availability and affordability of child care throughout the state.
- Become a friend of CCANJ on Facebook and follow us on Twitter;
- Send regular messages via email, regular mail, or by phone to elected officials regarding your concern about the high cost of child care;
- Visit with your representatives to discuss child care issues and concerns;
- Testify before legislative and budget committees;
- Participate in Town Hall meetings;
- Write letters to the editor on issues related to child care to get more people informed and involved; and
- Urge that New Jersey legislators support working families by helping to make child care more affordable!