



STATEWIDE SURVEY OF CHILDCARE RATES IN RHODE ISLAND

Sponsored by

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

and

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Conducted by

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Section I. Introduction

This study is sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) on behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS), pursuant to section 40-6.2-1.1 of the General Laws of State of Rhode Island, as amended. The survey was conducted between October 1 and December 31, 2004 by the Schmidt Labor Research Center (SLRC) of the University of Rhode Island (URI). The questionnaire used in the survey was prepared jointly by SLRC researchers and employees of DLT and DHS with input from childcare providers.

This study was undertaken to determine childcare rates charged throughout Rhode Island and, particularly, to establish the 75th percentile rate. The 75th percentile rate indicates the rate at or below which 75% of respondents charge. For example, the 75th percentile weekly rate for toddler care in Family or Group Family Childcare Homes is \$160.00, which means that 75% of respondents who provide such care charge \$160.00 per week or less; or put another way, only 25% charge more than \$160.00 per week.

The ultimate purpose of this study is to assist DHS in determining the appropriate maximum reimbursement rates for childcare services provided to families participating in the DHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). However, the questionnaire also included items to aid in the interpretation of the data and to allow us to learn more about the concerns of providers. For example, questions concerning the types of care provided, age groups cared for, number of children subsidized, and hours of operation were included. Also, providers were given the opportunity to include written comments. A copy of the questionnaire is appended to this report.

It should be noted that the data reported here indicate the cost to consumers—that is, the rates (or prices) that providers charge for childcare—not the cost of providing the care.

Section II. Methodology

The survey

This research was conducted with a mail survey using a questionnaire modeled after the one used by the SLRC in 2002 (and also earlier versions used by URI's Research Center in Business and Economics). A few items were eliminated from the 2002 questionnaire and others reworded or reformatted.

Questionnaires were sent to all Family or Group Family Childcare Homes (hereinafter, homes) and Childcare Centers (hereinafter, centers) certified or licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). A "home" refers to a provider who is certified to care for up to 12 children in a family home setting. A "center" is a facility licensed to care for children in a group setting. The largest center in our study is licensed to care for 645 children.

A postcard in English and Spanish was sent several weeks before the survey informing providers that they would be receiving a questionnaire and urging them to participate in the study. A cover letter in English and Spanish was included in the survey packet along with both English and Spanish questionnaires and instructions for returning, in a self-addressed stamped envelope, whichever questionnaire the respondent chose to fill out. A contact phone number was included for individuals with questions.

Providers were given approximately eight weeks to respond to the survey before follow-up calls were made. All non-respondents received at least one follow-up call.

Terms used

The letter “N” used in tables in this report indicates the number of responses to a particular item. The term “mean” refers to the mathematical average. “Standard deviation” is a measure of dispersion about the mean. The “median” is the middle occurring value—that is, the 50th percentile. The “range” is the distance between the lowest and highest value.

Response rate and response bias

Two separate mailing lists were provided by DCYF. The list of homes contained 1,330 providers, while the list of centers contained 463 providers. Hence, a total of 1,793 questionnaires were sent. By December 31, 874 questionnaires were returned: 578 from homes and 294 from centers. The overall response rate, therefore, is 50.26%, with 43.47% of homes and 63.50% of centers responding. There were 248 Spanish questionnaires returned.

Compared to the 2002 survey, the number of responses increased by 91 or 10.41%. However, controlling for the increase in the number of providers, total response rate actually decreased by about 2.4%. Nonetheless, the number of Spanish-language responses increased dramatically, from 62 in 2002 to 248 in 2004.

Since questionnaires were sent to *all* homes and centers certified by DCYF, there is no concern with sampling error. But since a 100% response rate was not achieved, there remains the possibility of response bias—that is, the possibility that non-respondents *would have* replied differently than respondents. Although our ability to estimate response bias is limited, we can compare the respondent pool with the total population on at least two variables.

First, as Chart 1 shows, the overall response rate is higher for centers than for homes. (Although on an item-by-item basis, the response rate varies). Therefore, most aggregate statistics are likely to be biased toward centers. To address this issue, all data are presented in three ways: all respondents, homes only, and centers only. By separating the responses, the separate contributions of homes and centers to aggregate totals can be examined.

Chart 1. Homes and centers as percentages of the population and respondents.

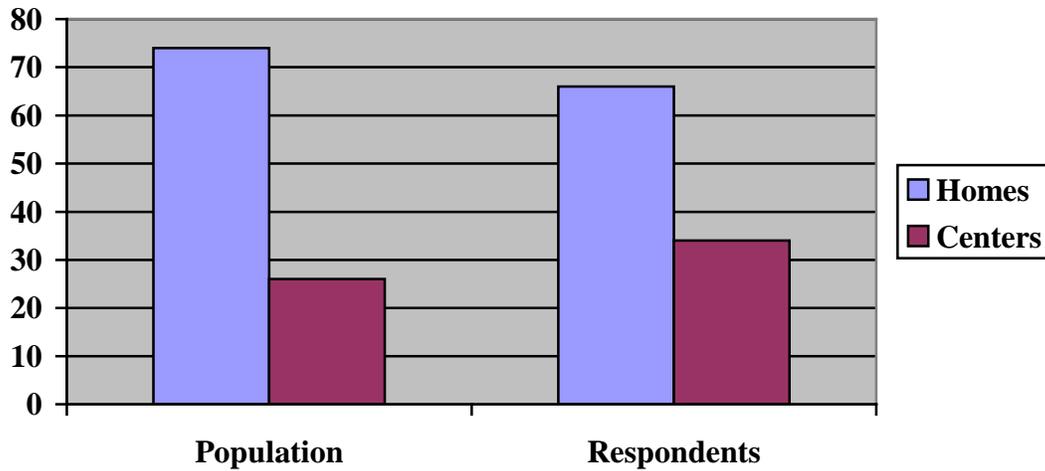


Table 1 compares the geographic dispersion of respondents with the childcare provider population. Most communities are represented in the pool of respondents in relatively close relation to their presence in the population. Negatively signed numbers in the right-hand column indicate the percent point value of under-representation, while positive values show the degree of over-representation.

Concern over geographical basis should be linked to hypotheses concerning the effects of geography. Would urban providers respond differently from suburban or rural providers, for example? Would providers in Northern RI respond differently from those in Southern RI?

The response rates indicate some difference between cities and towns. Of the 8 cities in RI, 3 are under-represented among respondents, while only 5 of 31 towns are under-represented.

By county, we see that Providence County has the most under-represented communities with 6. Two of Washington County's 9 communities are under-represented. All of the cities and towns of Bristol, Kent and Newport counties are over-represented. Again, while these variances are noted, none are so severe as to compromise the integrity of the study. For the most part, communities are represented in the respondent pool in relation to their presence in the population.

Table 1. Geographic dispersion of the childcare provider population and respondents.

	Percent of Population	Percent of Respondents	Percentage Point Difference
Providence	45.41	37.41	-8.00
Pawtucket	6.87	7.32	.45
Warwick	5.15	6.64	1.49
Cranston	3.12	7.09	3.97
Woonsocket	3.05	3.43	.38
East Providence	2.99	2.97	-.02
Central Falls	2.82	2.40	-.42
Coventry	1.99	2.17	.18
Johnston	1.99	2.17	.18
North Providence	1.94	2.17	.23
Cumberland	1.88	1.83	-.05
North Kingstown	1.66	2.29	.62
West Warwick	1.55	1.95	.40
South Kingstown	1.28	1.03	-.25
Smithfield	1.11	1.60	.49
Lincoln	1.05	.57	-.48
Barrington	1.05	1.83	.68
East Greenwich	1.00	1.26	.26
Newport	.94	1.37	.43
Westerly	.94	1.60	.66
Middletown	.94	1.14	.20
Bristol	.83	.92	.09
Burrillville	.72	.80	.08
Warren	.66	.92	.26
Portsmouth	.66	.92	.26
Tiverton	.66	1.03	.37
Glocester	.51	.69	.18
North Smithfield	.44	.69	.25
Richmond	.44	.57	.13
Scituate	.39	.34	-.05
Hopkinton	.28	.57	.29
Charlestown	.28	.34	.06
Exeter	.22	.00	-.22
West Greenwich	.22	.34	.12
Foster	.17	.34	.17
Jamestown	.17	.34	.17
Narragansett	.11	.23	.12
Little Compton	.06	.11	.05
New Shoreham	.06	.11	.05

Section III. Characteristics of respondents

Corporate status and affiliation

Nearly all homes are for-profit, independent (i.e. not part of a chain or multi-site organization) and not affiliated with a church or school (Table 2). In contrast, approximately 60% of centers are non-profit, just over 43% are part of a chain or multi-site organization, and approximately 30% are affiliated with a church or school.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
For-profit	572	72.13	446	90.98	108	38.16
Non-profit	221	27.87	46	9.02	175	61.84
Independent	685	83.74	524	97.94	161	56.89
Part of a chain	133	16.26	11	2.06	122	43.11
Church-affiliated	28	3.30	2	.36	26	9.12
School-affiliated	62	7.38	3	.54	59	20.70
Not-affiliated	750	89.29	550	99.10	200	70.18

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Infant	560	64.22	471	81.49	89	30.27
Toddler	633	72.59	505	87.37	128	43.45
Pre-school	679	77.87	500	86.51	179	60.88
Before/after kindergarten	559	64.11	404	69.90	155	52.72
School-age	550	63.07	372	64.36	178	60.54
Youth	159	18.23	123	21.28	36	12.24
Nursery school	82	9.40	15	2.60	67	22.79
Kindergarten	74	8.49	17	2.94	57	19.39
Headstart	38	4.36	26	4.50	12	4.08
Other	28	3.20	16	2.92	12	4.08

Types of programs offered

Homes are more likely than centers to provide programs for very young children (Table 3). Nearly all homes provide programs for infants (birth to 18 months), toddlers (18 to 36 months), and preschoolers (3 to 5 years). However, centers are much more likely than homes to provide nursery school and kindergarten programs, even though only about 20% provide either type of

program. Homes and centers provide programs for school-age children (6 to 12 years) in close proportion.

Age groups

Table 4 also shows that homes provide care for very young children at a higher rate than centers. While Table 3 indicated that very few homes have

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Infants	574	65.83	484	83.74	90	30.61
Toddlers	634	72.71	509	88.06	125	42.52
Preschoolers	698	80.05	522	90.31	176	59.86
Kindergarteners	626	71.79	415	71.80	211	71.77
School-age children	585	67.09	403	69.72	182	61.90

kindergarten programs, Table 4 shows that more than two-thirds of homes provide care for kindergarten-age children.

Providers' schedules and hours

According to Table 5, there are significant similarities in scheduled care between homes and centers. Homes and centers provide half-day, partial week, before school, after school, summer vacation, school year vacation, and single day out-of-school care in approximately the same proportion. There is more deviation on full-day care, which nearly all homes, but only two-thirds of centers provide. The largest differences are for weekend and evening care, which are offered by approximately 16 to 33% of homes, but are rarely offered by centers.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-day	717	82.22	537	92.91	180	61.22
Half-day	511	58.60	360	62.28	151	51.36
Partial week	454	52.06	333	57.61	121	41.16
Before school	587	67.32	425	73.53	162	55.10
After school	638	73.17	439	75.95	199	67.69
Weekend care	94	10.78	93	16.09	1	.34
Evening	197	22.59	196	33.91	1	.34
School age only						
Summer vacation	541	62.04	387	66.96	154	52.38
School year vacation	498	57.11	350	60.55	148	50.34
Single day, school out-of-session	471	54.01	340	58.82	131	44.56
Other	30	3.43	21	3.63	9	3.06

Tables 6a, 6b, and 6c display the days and hours of operation for homes and centers. The figures presented are the most frequently reported begin/end times and the range of reported times. In a few cases, two times were reported with the same frequency and are displayed in the table as 5:30 pm/6:00 pm, for example. During the week, most homes report a starting time of 6:00 am and closing time of 5:00 pm. For centers, both start and end times are, typically, an hour later: 7:00 am and 6:00 pm, respectively.

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, all providers			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	37	8:00 am (5:00 am-3:00 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)
Monday	697	7:00 am (2:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:30 pm (1:00 am-12:00 am)
Tuesday	697	7:00 am (2:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:30 pm (3:00 am-12:00 am)
Wednesday	697	7:00 am (2:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:30 pm (3:30 am-12:00 am)
Thursday	698	7:00 am (2:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:30/6:00 pm (3:30 am-12:00 am)
Friday	692	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:30 pm (3:30 am-12:00 am)
Saturday	76	6:00/8:00 am (3:30 am-5:00 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, homes			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	36	8:00 am (5:00 am-3:00 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)
Monday	450	6:00 am (3:30 am-4:00 pm)	5:00 pm (1:00 am-12:00 am)
Tuesday	450	6:00 am (5:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:00 pm (3:00 am-12:00 am)
Wednesday	450	6:00 am (5:00 am-4:00 pm)	5:00 pm (3:30 am-12:00 am)
Thursday	450	6:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:00 pm (3:30 am-12:00 am)
Friday	445	6:00 am (5:00 am-3:30 pm)	5:00 pm (3:00 am-12:00 am)
Saturday	74	6:00 am (3:30 am-5:00 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-12:00 am)

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, centers			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	1	9:00 am	6:00 pm
Monday	247	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:15 pm)	6:00 pm (5:30 am-9:00 pm)
Tuesday	247	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:15 pm)	6:00 pm (5:30 am-9:00 pm)
Wednesday	247	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:15 pm)	6:00 pm (5:30 am-9:00 pm)
Thursday	247	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:15 pm)	6:00 pm (5:30 am-9:00 pm)
Friday	247	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:15 pm)	6:00 pm (3:30 am-9:00 pm)
Saturday	2	8:00/9:00 am	4:00/6:00 pm

Most homes and centers operate for between 11 to 13 hours per day from Monday through Friday. Table 7b shows that the average hours of operation is 10.38 overall, with homes, on average, operating approximately two more hours per day than centers. The median for all groups is approximately 10.5 hours. Very few providers (N=37) hold Sunday hours, and nearly all that do are homes. The average hours of operation on Sunday is approximately nine. Saturday hours are somewhat more common (N=78), but also not widespread. The average hours of Saturday operation is also about nine.

Table 7a. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, frequency distribution.

Hours	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2-4	46	6.65	2	.46	44	16.99
5-7	24	3.47	13	3.02	11	4.25
8-10	189	27.31	130	30.52	57	22.00
11-13	249	35.98	158	36.66	91	35.14
14-	58	8.38	50	11.60	8	3.09

Table 7b. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	10.38	11.02	9.29
Standard Deviation	2.99	2.72	3.13
Median	10.5	10.9	10.5
Range	2-18.5	3-18.5	2-17

Table 8a. Weeks per year in operation, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
Weeks	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-50	143	18.45	84	17.00	58	20.71
50	136	17.55	107	21.66	29	10.36
51	71	9.16	40	8.10	31	11.07
52	425	54.84	263	53.24	162	57.86

Tables 8a and 8b provide statistics for the number of weeks in operation per year. Table 8a shows that more than half of all providers operate

for 52 weeks per year. The relative frequencies of weeks of operations are quite comparable for both homes and centers.

Table 8b. Weeks per year in operation, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	49.77	50.10	49.20
Standard Deviation	5.17	5.07	5.32
Median	52	52	52
Range	5-52	5-52	13-52

Number of children

Centers, of course, generally care for more children than do homes. Among respondents, the average (or mean) number of children permitted by their license is 6.68 for homes and 67.60 for centers.

Table 9a. Number of children permitted by certificate or license, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
1-5	68	8.19	68	12.43	0	0.00
6-12	483	58.19	480	87.57	3	1.06
13-49	108	13.01	0	0.00	108	38.30
50+	171	20.60	0	0.00	171	60.64

The frequency distribution shows that a majority of homes are certified for between 6 and 12 children, while most centers may accommodate more than 50 children.

Table 9b. Number of children permitted by certificate or license, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	27.37	6.68	67.60
Standard deviation	42.12	1.33	52.65
Median	8.00	6	56
Range	2-645	0-12	7-645

While Tables 9a and 9b concern the number of children homes and centers are certified or licensed for, the following tables (10a and 10b) display statistics concerning the number of children for which providers

are willing to care.

Table 10a. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, frequency distribution.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-5	64	8.00	64	11.76	0	0.00
6-12	471	58.88	467	85.85	3	1.18
13-49	120	14.75	13	2.39	105	41.17
50-	145	18.37	0	0.00	147	57.65

We see that the average number of children homes are willing to care for is approximately 8, while the centers are willing to accept, on average, 69 children.

Table 10b. Number of children for which providers are willing to care, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	27.23	7.62	69.14
Standard deviation	42.95	2.85	56.53
Median	8	8	54
Range	1-645	1-31	9-645

Since homes, by definition, are certified to care for up to 12 children, it is not surprising that nearly all indicate caring for 12 children or fewer (Tables 11a and 11b).

Table 11a. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, frequency distribution.

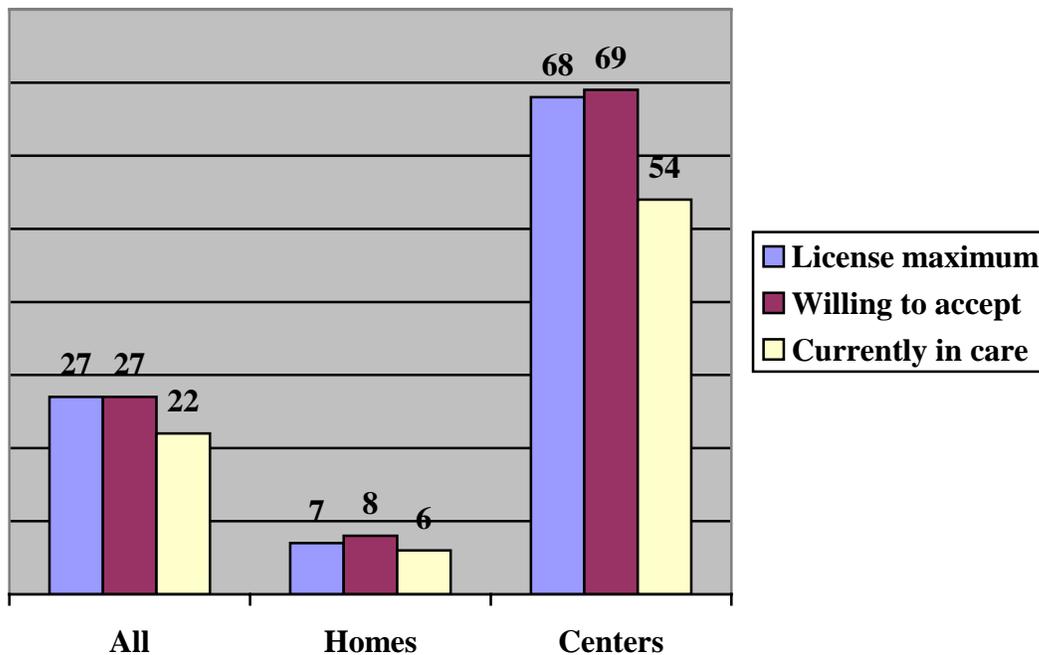
Number	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-5	266	33.42	263	49.62	2	.75
6-12	265	33.29	257	48.49	8	3.02
13-49	145	17.84	10	1.89	132	55.85
50-	120	15.45	0	0.00	123	40.38

Several of the 10 homes that care for more than 12 children included a marginal comment in the questionnaire indicating that the figure represented more than one session or shift. They may have one group of children in the morning and another in the afternoon, totaling more than 12 different children.

Table 11b. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	21.66	5.51	54.05
Standard deviation	30.91	2.30	35.79
Median	7	6	44
Range	0-215	0-30	1-215

Chart 2 provides a visual display of the differences between the number of children providers are certified or licensed to care for, the number they are willing to care for, and the number for which they currently care. The figures presented on top of the columns are rounded averages.

Chart 2. Average number of children allowed by certificate or license, willing to accept, and currently in care.



There appears to be some underutilization of current capacity. On average, homes are willing to accept 2 more children than they currently care for and centers 15 more children.

Section IV. Rates and subsidies

Ways of charging

Approximately two-thirds of homes and 70% of centers indicate that they charge families on a weekly basis. This holds true overall and for school age children only.

Table 12a. Most common way of charging.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hourly	52	6.15	36	6.43	16	5.61
Daily	64	7.57	46	8.21	18	6.32
Weekly	557	65.84	357	63.75	200	70.18
Monthly	154	18.20	112	20.00	41	14.39
Semester/Year	9	1.06	2	.36	7	2.46
Other	10	1.18	7	1.25	3	1.05

Months for increases

Table 13 below shows that January and September are when rate increases usually occur. For homes, rates are typically raised in January, while for centers rate increases usually occur in September. No

Table 12b. Most common way of charging, school age only.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hourly	50	8.33	35	8.58	15	7.85
Daily	49	8.17	30	7.35	19	9.95
Weekly	381	63.50	258	63.24	123	64.40
Monthly	115	19.17	83	20.34	31	16.23
Semester/Year	4	.67	1	.25	3	1.57
Other	1	.17	1	.25	0	.00

doubt, this reflects the fact that centers are more likely to care for school-age children, while homes have a higher percentage of infants and toddlers. The distribution is approximately the same for the month when rates were raised during the past year.

Table 13. Months when rates are raised.

Month when rates are normally raised.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
September	260	43.70	103	30.84	157	60.38
January	207	34.79	177	52.99	30	11.54
June	52	8.74	24	7.19	28	10.77
July	29	4.87	9	2.69	20	7.69
August	20	3.36	3	.90	17	6.54
All other	27	4.53	18	2.70	9	3.06
Month when rates were raised during the past year.						
September	153	43.71	50	31.45	103	52.55
January	80	22.86	60	39.52	20	10.20
June	49	14.00	18	4.84	31	15.82
July	19	8.33	2	9.68	17	8.67
August	16	3.26	3	4.03	13	6.63
All other	33	13.64	23	10.48	20	6.12

Weekly rates

The following three tables (14a, 14b, and 14c) provide data on weekly rates for all respondents and for homes and centers separately.

Table 14a. Reported weekly rates, all providers					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
School age, before school only	442	\$53.23 (\$16.27)	\$55.00	<i>\$60.00</i>	\$70.00
School age, after school only	492	75.14 (18.83)	80.00	<i>85.00</i>	90.00
School age, before and after school	476	122.15 (28.75)	135.00	<i>135.00</i>	145.00
School age, summer vacation	489	142.75 (19.63)	140.00	<i>150.00</i>	160.00
School age, school year vacations	467	142.64 (20.18)	135.00	<i>150.00</i>	160.00
Youth, before school only	39	58.65 (20.67)	55.00	<i>65.00</i>	80.00
Youth, after school only	41	76.62 (23.61)	80.00	<i>83.00</i>	85.00
Youth, before and after school	40	121.63 (37.48)	135.00	<i>135.50</i>	162.50
Youth, summer vacation	46	139.02 (35.35)	135.00	<i>150.00</i>	165.00
Youth, school year vacations	46	138.26 (41.02)	135.00	<i>150.00</i>	165.00
Infant care	580	162.30 (27.47)	150.00	<i>175.00</i>	193.50
Toddler care	638	159.34 (27.82)	150.00	<i>170.00</i>	186.00
Preschool care	683	152.25 (25.65)	150.00	<i>155.00</i>	175.00
Kindergarten care	510	140.57 (29.06)	150.00	<i>150.00</i>	165.00

Table 14b. Reported weekly rates, homes only					
	N	Mean (S.D.)	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
School age, before school only	301	\$54.44 (15.40)	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$70.00
School age, after school only	308	73.62 (19.28)	80.00	80.00	85.00
School age, before and after school	323	123.72 (29.05)	135.00	135.00	150.00
School age, summer vacation	332	141.89 (19.23)	135.00	150.00	155.00
School age, school year vacations	316	142.05 (19.59)	135.00	150.00	155.00
Youth, before school only	36	59.93 (20.98)	55.00	65.00	80.00
Youth, after school only	38	75.95 (24.42)	80.00	80.00	90.00
Youth, before and after school	37	122..03 (38.84)	135.00	135.00	170.00
Youth, summer vacation	42	139.05 (36.98)	135.00	150.00	165.00
Youth, school year vacations	42	138.21 (42.92)	135.00	150.00	165.00
Infant care	471	156.17 (18.82)	150.00	160.00	180.00
Toddler care	491	153.40 (19.21)	150.00	160.00	175.00
Preschool care	489	150.38 (18.90)	150.00	150.00	170.00
Kindergarten care	359	143.38 (22.53)	150.00	150.00	160.00

Table 14c. Reported weekly rates, centers only.

	N	Mean (S.D.)	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
School age, before school only	134	\$50.23 (17.87)	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$62.00
School age, after school only	176	77.95 (17.95)	82.50	90.00	95.00
School age, before and after school	145	118.80 (27.96)	125.64	140.00	145.00
School age, summer vacation	148	144.95 (20.83)	140.00	150.00	170.00
School age, school year vacations	142	144.07 (21.95)	139.00	150.00	165.00
Youth, before school only	2	45.00 (7.07)	45.00	50.00	50.00
Youth, after school only	2	85.00 (0.00)	85.00	85.00	85.00
Youth, before and after school	2	112.50 (17.67)	112.50	125.00	125.00
Youth, summer vacation	2	135.00 (0.00)	135.00	135.00	135.00
Youth, school year vacations	2	135.00 (0.00)	135.00	135.00	135.00
Infant care	101	190.61 (41.07)	185.00	200.00	225.00
Toddler care	138	180.20 (41.11)	182.00	190.00	220.00
Preschool care	186	157.27 (38.05)	152.50	165.00	190.00
Kindergarten care	143	134.15 (40.24)	140.00	160.00	180.00

Number of hours in a week

The weekly rates are displayed above. Table 15 shows the median number of hours covered by the weekly rates. Overall, the median number of hours used in calculating the weekly rates is usually a somewhat higher for centers than for homes.

Table 15. Median number of hours covered by weekly rate.			
	All	Homes	Centers
School age, before school only	10	10	10
School age, after school only	15	15	17
School age, before and after school	25	25	27
School age, summer vacation	40	40	49
School age, school year vacations	40	40	50
Youth, before school only	10	10	Too few observations
Youth, after school only	15	15	Too few observations
Youth, before and after school	25	25	Too few observations
Youth, summer vacation	40	40	Too few observations
Youth, school year vacations	40	40	Too few observations
Infant care	40	40	45
Toddler care	40	40	45
Preschool care	40	40	45
Kindergarten care	35	35	37.5

Comparisons with the previous survey

Table 16, as well as Charts 3a, 3b, and 3c, show comparisons between the current survey data and figures from the 2002 survey. The overall increase from 2002 is 5.33%. Increases for school age and youth care, have been just under 4.00%, but the increase for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners was 8.33%. In a couple of cases—home school age care and center youth care—prices decreased.

Table 16. Comparison of 75th percentile weekly rates, 2002 and 2004.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	2002	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004
School age, before school only	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
School age, after school only	83.00	85.00	80.00	80.00	85.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	140.00
School age, summer vacation	140.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	135.00	150.00
School age, school year vacations	140.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	135.00	150.00
<i>School age average</i>	<i>111.60</i>	<i>116.00</i>	<i>118.00</i>	<i>115.00</i>	<i>108.00</i>	<i>118.00</i>
Youth, before school only	60.00	65.00	80.00	65.00	50.00	50.00
Youth, after school only	80.00	83.00	80.00	80.00	85.00	85.00
Youth, before and after school	132.50	135.50	120.00	135.00	135.00	125.00
Youth, summer vacation	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	135.00	135.00
Youth, school year vacations	140.00	150.00	140.00	150.00	135.00	135.00
<i>Youth average</i>	<i>112.50</i>	<i>116.70</i>	<i>114.00</i>	<i>116.00</i>	<i>108.00</i>	<i>106.00</i>
Infant care	170.00	175.00	150.00	160.00	185.00	200.00
Toddler care	160.00	170.00	150.00	160.00	180.00	190.00
<i>Infant and toddler average</i>	<i>165.00</i>	<i>172.50</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>160.00</i>	<i>182.50</i>	<i>195.00</i>
Preschool care	130.00	155.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	165.00
Kindergarten care	140.00	150.00	135.00	150.00	150.00	160.00
<i>Preschool and kindergarten average</i>	<i>135.00</i>	<i>152.50</i>	<i>142.50</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>162.50</i>
Note: Averages indicate the average of the 75 th percentile rates.						

The following charts provide a visual comparison of 75th percentile rates in the 2002 and 2004 surveys.

Chart 3a. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2002-2004, all providers.

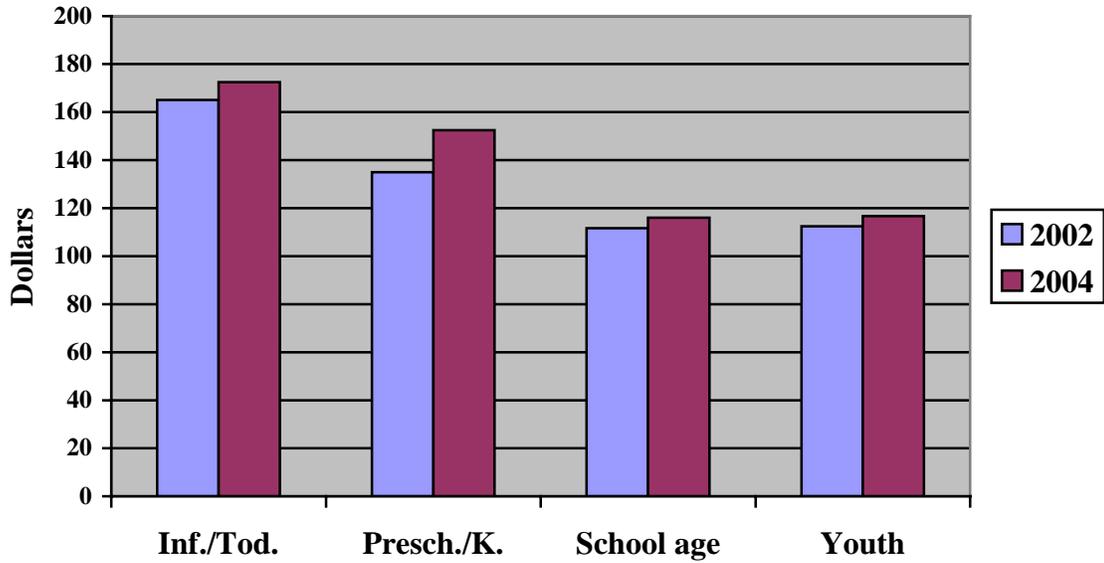


Chart 3b. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2002-2004, homes only.

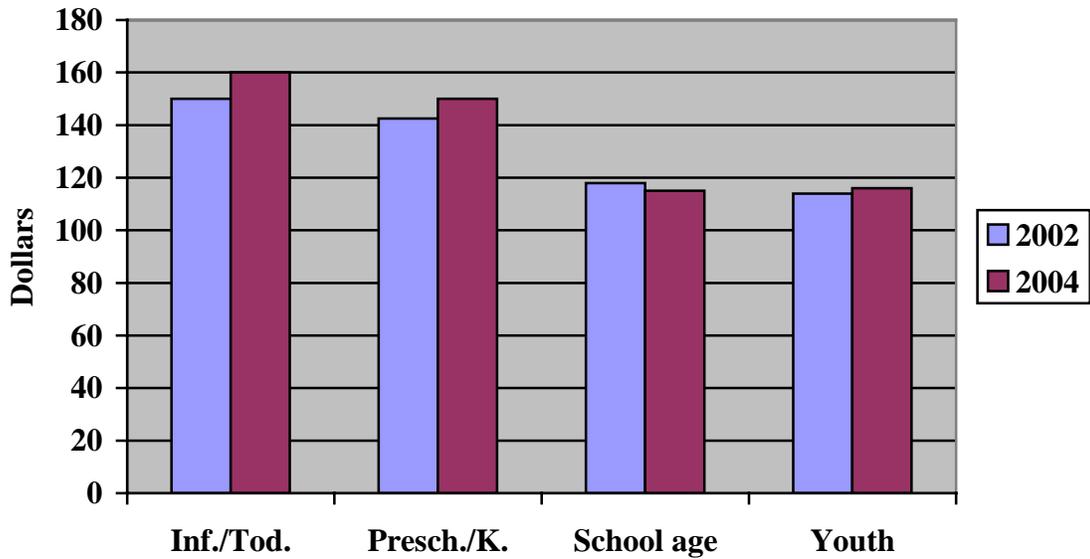
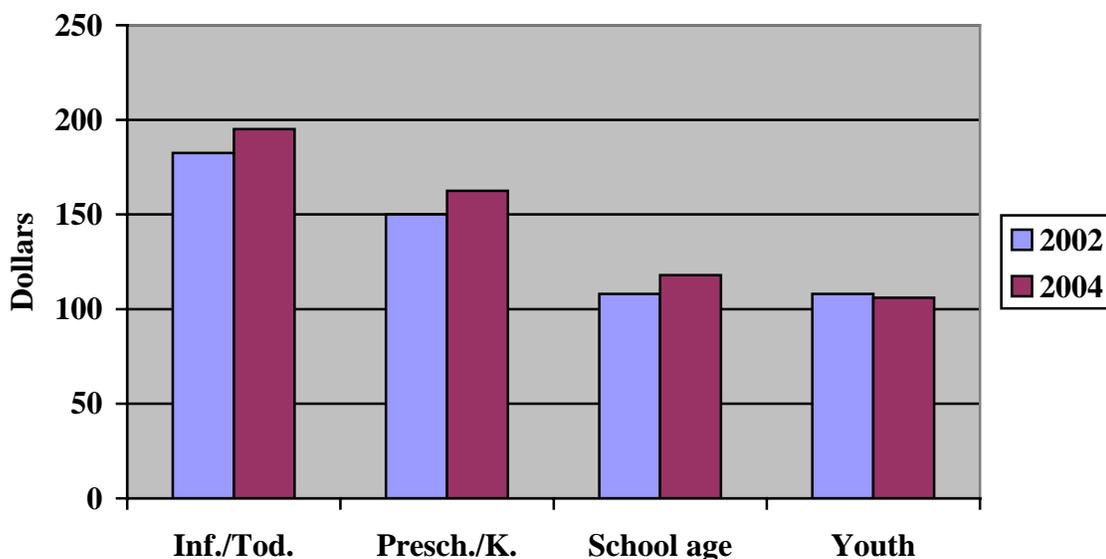


Chart 3c. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2002-2004, centers only.



Youth differentials

Only 27 respondents (4.91%) indicate that they charge a different rate for youths. Two hundred and forty (240) respondents (43.64%) indicate that they do not charge a different rate, and 283 respondents indicate that the item “does not apply.” All the respondents who indicate a different youth rate are homes.

Subsidies

Providers were asked a series of questions about the subsidies that children in their care receive. Table 17 shows that the rate of acceptance of DHS subsidized children is very high in both homes and centers, 90% or above. However, the table also reveals that homes are much more likely than centers to limit the number of DHS subsidized children. This is likely due to the limited capacity of homes. However, approximately 57% of homes, but only about 18% of centers increased the number of subsidized children in their care. The table also shows that centers are more likely than homes to receive other sorts of government or private subsidies. About one-fifth of centers receive some other form of government subsidy, and approximately one-quarter receive some sort of private subsidy.

Table 17. Information concerning subsidies.							
		All		Homes		Centers	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Accepts DHS subsidized children.	N	776	67	502	53	273	14
	%	92.05	7.95	90.45	9.55	95.12	4.88
Limits the number of DHS subsidized children.	N	292	467	272	217	20	249
	%	38.47	61.53	55.62	44.38	7.43	92.57
Increased the number of DHS subsidized children last year.	N	198	188	187	141	10	47
	%	51.30	48.70	57.01	42.99	17.54	82.46
Accepts children during the pending period.	N	521	219	304	176	216	43
	%	70.41	29.59	63.33	36.67	83.40	16.60
Receives private subsidies.	N	74	761	2	549	72	211
	%	8.86	91.14	.36	99.64	25.44	74.56
Receives government subsidies.	N	65	760	12	534	53	225
	%	7.88	92.12	2.20	97.80	19.06	80.94

According to Table 17, most homes and centers accept children during the “pending period”. This is the period during which DHS is deciding on a child’s eligibility for a subsidy. Table 18 shows that both homes and centers are likely to charge full rates during the pending period. Table 18 also displays the amount charged if a child goes to pending status during re-certification.

Table 18. Charges during pending period.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Are families charged during the pending period?						
Yes	427	74.78	248	71.68	178	79.46
No	144	25.22	98	28.32	46	20.54
If so, how much?						
Full rates	316	73.15	199	79.28	116	64.44
Partial rates	116	26.85	52	20.72	64	35.56
Amount charged if child goes to pending status during re-certification.						
Full rates	420	58.91	298	65.49	121	47.08
Partial rates	127	17.81	53	11.65	74	28.79
Do not charge	166	23.28	104	22.86	62	24.12

Table 19a. DHS subsidized children, frequency distribution.						
Number of children	All		Home		Center	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	86	12.13	75	16.23	11	4.07
1	60	8.46	50	10.82	10	4.07
2	77	10.86	62	13.42	15	6.10
3	74	10.44	58	12.55	16	6.50
4	51	7.19	42	9.09	9	3.66
5	47	6.63	36	7.79	11	4.47
6	63	8.89	54	11.69	9	3.66
7	33	4.65	27	5.84	6	2.44
8	41	5.78	37	8.01	4	1.63
9	15	2.12	8	1.73	7	2.85
10	17	2.40	7	1.52	10	4.07
11-25	73	9.89	6	1.30	68	27.64
26-100	67	9.45	0	0.00	67	26.83
101+	4	.56	0	0.00	4	1.63

Table 19b. Subsidized children, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	10.53	3.72	23.37
Standard deviation	19.01	2.89	27.84
Median	5	3	13
Range	0-211	0-15	0-211

The percentage of providers by the number of subsidized children is displayed in Table 19a. Approximately 16% of homes have no subsidized children, but otherwise the number of homes caring for

between 1 and 8 subsidized children is fairly evenly dispersed. Approximately half of the centers have between 11 and 100 subsidized children. The table of descriptive statistics shows that the average and median number of subsidized children for homes is approximately 3. The average for centers is 23, but with a median of 13, indicating that the average is skewed by larger facilities.

Table 20. Providers by percentage of children subsidized by DHS.						
Percentage of children	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	74	11.49	64	14.99	10	4.61
+0-25%	132	20.49	45	10.54	87	40.09
+25-50%	93	14.44	38	8.90	55	25.35
+50-75%	72	11.18	39	9.13	33	15.21
+75-100%	275	42.70	241	56.44	34	15.67

Table 20 shows the number of providers by the percentage of children in their care subsidized by DHS. The table reveals

that homes tend more toward the extremes, while centers toward the middle. Most homes have either no subsidized children or more than 75% subsidized. Centers, on the other hand mainly fall in the positive range up to 50%.

With Tables 21a, 21b and 21c we can examine whether rates are affected by subsidies. Overall, there does not appear to be a uniform trend suggesting any impact of subsidies on rates. For the most part, rates rise and fall randomly. The only obvious trend is the rates charged for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners by homes. Here, there appears to be a negative correlation between the rate charged and the level of subsidy. The likely explanation is that homes receiving no subsidies have wealthier clientele and are, therefore, able to charge higher rates, while homes with an increasing number of subsidized children must charge lower rates.

Table 21a. Weekly rates by percentage of children subsidized, 75th percentile, all providers.					
	Percent of DHS subsidized children in care				
	0	+0 to 25%	+25 to 50%	+ 50 to 75%	+75 to 100%
School age, before school only	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$58.00	\$60.00
School age, after school only	75.00	85.00	85.00	90.00	85.00
School age, before and after school	130.00	140.00	137.50	135.00	135.00
School age, summer vacation	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
School age, school year vacations	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Infant care	175.00	195.00	185.00	180.00	160.00
Toddler care	175.00.	185.00	182.00	175.00	160.00
Preschool care	170.00	175.00	155.00	155.00	150.00
Kindergarten care	150.00	160.00	155.00	150.00	150.00
Note: Youth care data are not presented. Nearly all youth care is provided by homes and centers where 75-100% of children are subsidized. Therefore, there are too few observations in lower categories to allow for valid interpretation.					

Table 21b. Weekly rates by percentage of children subsidized, 75th percentile, homes only.					
	Percent of DHS subsidized children in care				
	0	+0 to 25%	+25 to 50%	+ 50 to 75%	+75 to 100%
School age, before school only	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
School age, after school only	75.00	80.00	75.00	80.00	80.00
School age, before and after school	130.00	122.50	130.00	135.00	135.00
School age, summer vacation	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
School age, school year vacations	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Infant care	175.00	175.00	170.00	160.00	150.00
Toddler care	175.00	170.00	150.00	157.50	150.00
Preschool care	170.00	160.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Kindergarten care	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Note: Youth care data are not presented. Nearly all youth care is provided by homes and centers where 75-100% of children are subsidized. Therefore, there are too few observations in lower categories to allow for valid interpretation.					

Table 21c. Weekly rates by percentage of children subsidized, 75th percentile, centers only.				
	Percent of DHS subsidized children in care			
	+0 to 25%	+25 to 50%	+ 50 to 75%	+75-100%
School age, before school only	\$57.50	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
School age, after school only	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	145.00	145.00	135.00	140.00
School age, summer vacation	155.00	155.00	150.00	145.00
School age, school year vacations	155.00	155.00	150.00	138.00
Infant care	216.00	206.00	192.50	195.00
Toddler care	196.00	200.00	185.00	195.00
Preschool care	180.00	164.00	162.50	161.00
Kindergarten care	165.50	160.00	160.00	160.00
Note: Youth care data are not presented. Nearly all youth care is provided by homes and centers where 75-100% of children are subsidized. Therefore, there are too few observations in lower categories to allow for valid interpretation. Also, there are too few centers that have no subsidized children to allow for valid interpretation.				

Other fees charged

Providers were asked to indicate other fees that they charge. We can see in Table 22 that many providers charge for registration/application and field trips, although the tendency to do so is much higher with centers than with homes. Most homes and nearly all centers charge for the late pick up of children. Late payment charges are also levied by approximately one-third of homes and over half of centers. Other charges appearing with some frequency are extended day fees and security deposits.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Registration/Application	230	30.91	49	10.10	181	70.16
Field trips	268	37.48	90	19.07	178	73.55
Transportation	67	10.53	52	11.45	15	8.29
Meals	39	6.16	28	6.15	11	6.21
Late pick up	539	68.49	303	58.72	236	87.41
Late payment	299	42.35	180	37.58	119	52.65
Diapers/Wipes	77	12.58	70	15.73	7	4.22
Art/Activity Supplies	21	3.29	13	2.84	8	4.44
Extended day	210	33.33	173	37.61	37	21.89
Security deposit	102	16.04	52	11.58	50	26.88

Written comments

The questionnaire includes a section where respondents could provide written comments indicating other factors (in addition to those mentioned elsewhere in the questionnaire) that would affect their rates and a section for any other comments respondents wished to make. Many respondents did make additional comments on a variety of topics. These were recorded and summarized and are available from RI DHS upon request as an addendum to this report.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

***2004 STATEWIDE SURVEY OF
CHILDCARE RATES***

Conducted by

***Schmidt Labor Research Center
University of Rhode Island***

The information you provide is needed by the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine the usual rate charged for childcare in Rhode Island. Although your participation is voluntary, collecting this information is required by state law.

Individual responses will be kept completely confidential and will not be identified with a particular center or program. Only summary statistics will be reported. No respondents will be identified by name to any state or federal agency.

Please fill out a separate questionnaire for each site you operate. This is important in order to obtain accurate information on response rates and childcare capacity. You may photocopy all answers that are the same across all sites. However, please be sure to provide all code numbers for all sites.

Section 1. ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

- 1) For which type of facility are you responding?
 - a. ___ Family or Group Family Childcare Home (i.e. you are certified by the RI Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to care for up to 12 children in a family home setting)
 - b. ___ Childcare Center (i.e. you are licensed by DCYF to care for children in a group setting)

- 2) Is your program classified as for-profit or not-for-profit?
 - a. ___ For-profit
 - b. ___ Not-for-profit (i.e. a 501(c)(3) corporation)

- 3) Does your facility operate as an independent, stand-alone program or is it a part of a multi-site organization or chain?
 - a. ___ Independent, stand alone program
 - b. ___ Part of a multi-site organization or chain

- 4) Is your facility affiliated with a church or school?
 - a. ___ Church
 - b. ___ School
 - c. ___ Neither

- 5) What is the most common way that you charge?
 - a. ___ Hourly
 - b. ___ Daily
 - c. ___ Weekly
 - d. ___ Monthly
 - e. ___ Semester/Year
 - f. ___ Other (please specify)

- 6) Please check the program(s) that you provide (**check all that apply**):
- a. ___ Infant programs: birth to 18 months old
 - b. ___ Toddler programs: 18 to 36 months old
 - c. ___ Pre-school programs: 3 to 5 years old
 - d. ___ Before and after kindergarten care
 - e. ___ School-age programs: 6 to 12 years old and in at least first grade (i.e. you are licensed by DCYF to care for school-aged children in a group setting before and/or after school)
 - f. ___ Youth programs: 12 to 15 years old
 - g. ___ Nursery school programs (i.e. you are licensed by the Department of Education (DOE) to provide educational programs for young children)
 - h. ___ Kindergarten programs (i.e. you are licensed by RIDE to provide educational programs for kindergarten children)
 - i. ___ Head Start programs (i.e. you are an accredited Head Start provider)
 - j. ___ Other program(s) (please specify) _____

- 7) For which age groups do you provide childcare services? (**check all that apply**)
- a. ___ Infants: Birth to 18 months old
 - b. ___ Toddlers: 18 to 36 months old
 - c. ___ Preschoolers: 3 to 5 years old
 - d. ___ Kindergarteners: 5 year olds
 - e. ___ School-age children: in first grade or above

- 8) Which type(s) of childcare program(s) do you provide? (**check all that apply**)
- a. ___ Full-day: 8 or more hrs.
 - b. ___ Half-day
 - c. ___ Partial week
 - d. ___ Before school care
 - e. ___ After school care
 - f. ___ Weekend care
 - g. ___ Evening care
 - h. ___ School-age, summer vacation
 - i. ___ School-age, school year vacation
 - j. ___ School-age, single days, school out-of-session
 - k. ___ Other (please specify):

9) What are your usual hours of operation? Cross out the days you are closed.

Sun		Mon		Tues		Wed		Thurs		Fri		Sat	
Start	End												

- 4) Please provide your usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate for youth. Do not include discounts, subsidies, sliding-scale rates, or scholarships. Answer only for the type(s) of care you provide. Even if you normally do not charge on a weekly basis, please estimate what your weekly rate *would* be.

Usual, Full-time, Maximum Weekly Rates— Youth Only (12 to 15 years old).				
Before School Only	After School Only	Both Before & After School	Summer Vacation	School Year Vacations
For each weekly rate you included, in the row below indicate how many hours are covered by this weekly rate.				

Section 3. ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

- 1) Please provide your usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate for each age group listed below. Do not include discounts, subsidies, sliding-scale rates, or scholarships. Answer only for the type(s) of care you provide. Even if you normally do not charge on a weekly basis, please estimate what your weekly rate *would* be.

Usual, Full-time, Maximum Weekly Rates by Age Group.			
Infant (Birth-18 mos.)	Toddler (18-36 mos.)	Preschool (3 to 5 yrs.)	Kindergarten
For each weekly rate you included, in the row below indicate how many hours are covered by this weekly rate.			

Section 4. ALL PROVIDERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

- 1) Do you accept DHS subsidized children in your facility?
a) Yes
b) No

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, SKIP TO ITEM 8 BELOW

- 2) How many DHS subsidized children are currently in your care? _____
- 3) Do you have limits on the number of DHS subsidized children you will accept?
a) Yes
b) No
- 4) If yes, have you increased the number of DHS subsidized children you will accept since January 2004?
a) Yes
b) No
- 5) During the "pending period," when DHS support is not guaranteed, do you accept new children?
a) Yes
b) No

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, SKIP TO ITEM 8 BELOW

- 6) Do you charge families during the pending period?
a) Yes
b) No
- 7) If you answered Yes on item 6, do you charge full or partial rates to families during the pending period?
a) Full rates
b) Partial rates
- 8) When childcare assistance is being re-certified, if a child's case goes to pending status, how much do you charge?
a) Full rates
b) Partial rates
c) Do not charge

9) Do you charge any special fees in addition to your base rate? Check proper boxes.

	Yes	No
Registration/Application		
Field trips		
Transportation fee		
Meals		
Late pick-up		
Late payment		
Diapers/Wipes		
Art/Activity Supplies		
Extended day		
Security deposit		

10) Please list any other special fees that you charge that were not included in item 9:

11) Do you receive any **private** money from sources other than children's families (e.g. United Way grants, church sponsorships, employer subsidies)?

- a) Yes
- b) No

12) Do you receive any **government** money (e.g. subsidies from school systems for special needs children, subsidies from early intervention agencies, or Medicaid)? **Do not include DHS CCAP assistance payments or Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) payments.**

- a) Yes
- b) No

13) If you answered yes to either question 11 or 12, how many children currently in your care are subsidized by private and/or government sources? (Skip if you answered no to both question 11 and 12) _____

14) During which month do you (or would you) normally raise rates? _____

15) Did you raise rates during the past year?

- a) Yes (If yes, during which month? _____)
- b) No

16) How many weeks per year does your program operate? _____ weeks.

17) How many children are you licensed/certified to care for? _____

18) What is the maximum number of children you would be willing to care for in your current space? Include both full- and part-time _____

