

## SNAPSHOT

# CHILD CARE AND THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

Child care is a key support for the Illinois workforce.



**19%** of adults in Illinois have young children. That's approximately **915,000** people.

Child care is necessary for single parents to work.



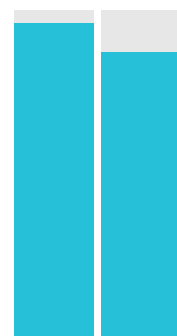
**28%** of Illinois mothers with young children and **16%** of Illinois fathers with young children are single parents.

Young parenthood boosts men's workforce participation but lessens women's workforce participation.



**70%** of Illinois women with young children and **82%** of Illinois women with no minor children participate in the labor force.

Corresponding figures are **96%** and **87%**, respectively, for Illinois men.



High child care costs challenge families with young children.



**\$10,000**  
per child per  
year on average

=



**10%** of median  
income for Illinois  
households with a  
young child

Despite high care costs, child care workers earn less than the typical Illinois worker.



The **median hourly wage** of an Illinois child care worker is **\$15.06**, and the **median for all workers** is **\$23.43**.

NOTES: Statistics are based on prime-age civilian adults ages 25 to 54. Adults are considered parents when a biological child, stepchild or adopted child under 18 is living with them. Young children are defined as ages 0 to 5. Single is defined as separated, divorced, widowed or never married. Average cost is rounded to the nearest hundred. Wage statistics include all full-time workers in a category, regardless of age. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' definition of affordable child care is no more than 7% of household income. Statistics on child care costs and worker wages are based on center-based care and omit subsidies. See Moosavian (2021) for the effect of parenthood on labor force participation.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey via IPUMS CPS (2023-24), U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey via IPUMS USA (2021-23), Child Care Technical Assistance Network, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (2023).



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