

MAPPING THE GAP™

EXPLORING CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND IN HAWAII



State Overview

Average child care costs in Hawaii makes up greater than 12 percent of the household median income, with single parents paying 45 percent of their income for infant care and married parents with two kids living at the poverty line paying 79 percent of their income on center-based care. In 2016, the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care is \$13,704 and \$8,112 for home-based care. The average annual cost of child care for a four year old is \$8,712 for center-based child care and \$8,172 for home-based child care. For more information on the cost of care in your state, see our [2017 Parents and the High Cost of Child Care Report](#).

In Hawaii, we examined three key issues around child care supply and demand: overall supply of child care slots compared to the number of working parents by zip code; the supply of infant/toddler slots and demand for children under two years old by zip code; and the cost of child care by region.

Data Collection

Demand:

The number of children under the age of 6 with both parents in the labor force in each zip code was obtained using the most up-to-date census data, specifically the "U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year-Estimates, B23008." We use this table to estimate the number of children who may be needing child care, as all available parents are participating in the labor force.

Supply:

The licensed child care programs and the number of slots per center were obtained using data from NACCRRAware with permissions from the license holder in July 2017.

Mapping Child Care Supply and Demand Gaps

Hawaii has 66,262 children under the age of 6 with all parents in the labor force. There are 983 center-based child care programs and 397 family child care homes in the state with overall combined total of 35,662 available slots for young children preschool-age and younger. This leaves a deficit of more than 30,000 licensed child care slots across the state of Hawaii. **Nearly half of children under the age of 6 with both parents in the workforce lack access to licensed child care.**

The points on the map on the next page show licensed child care programs. The gradients of purple across Hawaii are divided by zip code. The darkest blue areas illustrate zip codes with the largest gap of unmet need (the difference between number of children living in that area and number of child care slots available). Shades of grey indicate areas where there is no data – these could be state parks, wildlife preserves, or extremely rural areas with few residents.

CONTACT

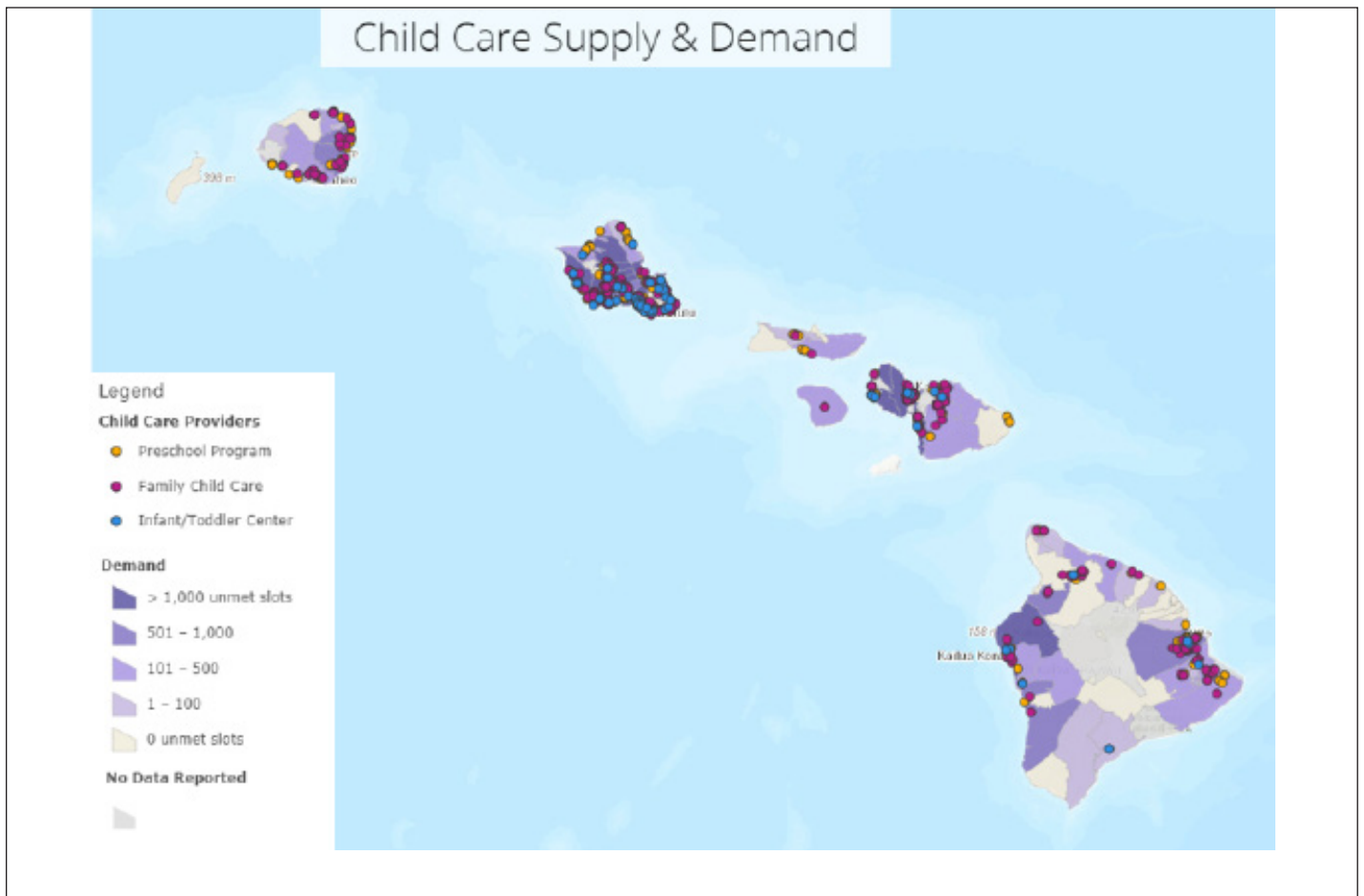
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Licensed child care programs in Hawaii are limited by the availability of resources on the island chain. Lack of physical space and the cost of expanding buildings, renting new facilities, and hiring staff prevent the expansion or introduction of child care centers.

Three islands, Kauai, Lanai, and Molokai, have very few options for child care and until recently had no infant-toddler care centers at all.

Mapping Infant & Toddler Supply and Demand Gaps

Our state partners at PATCH expressed interest in examining the supply and demand for infant and toddler care in Hawaii. There are approximately 37,000 infants and toddlers (children under 2) across the Hawaiian Islands. **Of Hawaii's more than 35,000 licensed child care slots, only 11 percent are available to infants and toddlers.** The map on the next page shows the gap in supply and demand for infant toddlers. The gradients of green across Hawaii are divided by zip code. The darkest green areas illustrate zip codes with the largest gap of unmet need (the difference between number of children living in that area and number of child care slots

available). Shades of grey indicate areas where there is no data – these could be state parks, wildlife preserves, or extremely rural areas with few residents.

Data Collection

Supply:

Our state partners at PATCH track the number of slots by age across programs, including age 0-18 months and 18 months-2 years.

Demand:

To determine approximate demand, we used the "Census table B13012: Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status, 5-Year Estimates." Using estimates for years 2014-2015, we approximate the number of children under 2 years old in a given zip code. This table was used to approximate the data because the census does not provide data for children under 2 years old with parents in the workforce.

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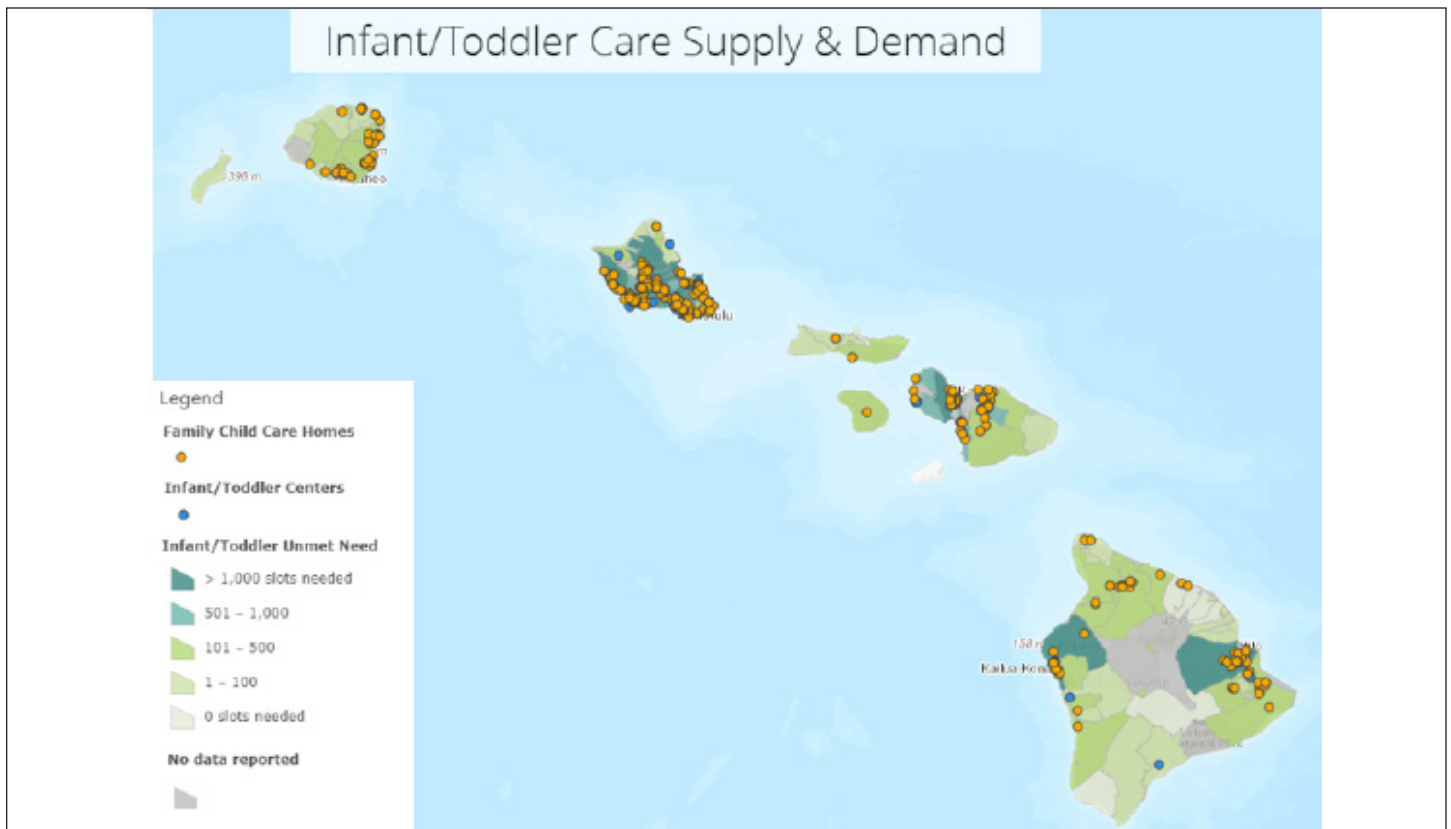
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Policy Recommendations

Like families in many states, Hawaiian families are struggling to find high-quality child care. Since gaps between the supply and demand for licensed child care exist across the state, many working families in Hawaii may not have the options for the type of care that they want and need.

For Federal policy recommendations that support child care and working families, see [Child Care Aware® of America's 2018 Policy Agenda](#)

In order to address these gaps and help working families, some next steps should include:

- **Funding designated for early childhood education** – Nearly one half of children under 6 with all parents in the work force in Hawaii do not have access to licensed care, leaving working parents without a safe place to take their children while they are at work. Offering support to providers so they can receive specialized training, especially for those caring for infants and toddlers, can help improve the overall child care system. Investment in QRIS can improve access to quality care, as additional funding could allow providers to expand their slots as they meet the steps to increase the overall quality of the programs.

- **Workforce support and recruitment** – Quality education begins early! Child care providers have a tough, but extremely important job caring for the youngest in Hawaii. Workforce recruitment, supports, and retention efforts should be targeted toward areas of greatest supply and demand gap
- **Monitor the issues** – These maps are a baseline to get a better understanding of what is happening across Hawaii. Demand for infant and toddler care may be far out-pacing the current supply. As policy, strategy and funding changes, this unique issue, as well as overall the overall quality of child care supply in Hawaii, should be re-visited to best serve Hawaii families.

Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) are uniquely positioned to support the study of and address child care supply and demand issues across the state. In fact, CCR&Rs are specifically called out in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 legislation to help identify supply and demand issues and share information with the state to help target funding to address the issues. An increase in funding for CCR&Rs to do this work is crucial. PATCH and Child Care Aware® of America are at the forefront of exploring and pursuing possibilities to expand quality and improve access for all families throughout Hawaii.

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