



2017 REPORT

PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE: COUNTY-LEVEL SUPPLEMENT

NEW HAMPSHIRE





Methodology

Child care costs are reported at the county-level for infant child care and child care for 4-year-olds where available across the state. To determine the affordability of child care costs by county, we compared the average cost of center-based child care to household median income by county. Affordability was calculated by dividing the average cost of care in that county by the county's median income as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Findings

Throughout New Hampshire, center-based infant child care is least affordable in the less populous *Sullivan, Carroll* and *Coos* counties. The same seems to be true for family child care for infants - costs in less populated areas of the state, with fewer child care options, have less affordable child care costs.

As in previous years, the costs of center-based care across counties follow a normal distribution compared to the statewide average cost of care, meaning half of counties

are more affordable than the statewide average and half are less affordable than the statewide average.

Affordability of family child care was relatively consistent throughout New Hampshire, meaning that county costs did not differ dramatically from the state average.

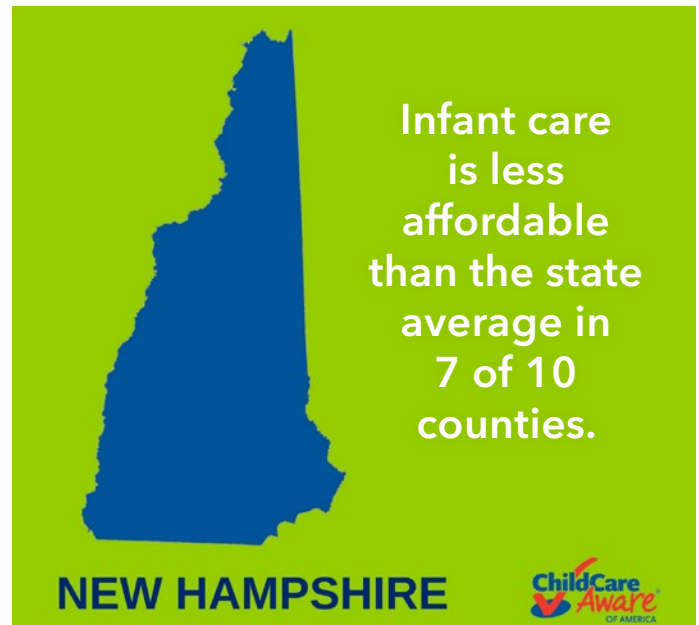


Table 1: Least Affordable Counties for Infant Child Care Costs by Type of Care

Rank	County	Average annual cost of infant care*	Percent median income	Difference between county-level and statewide affordability**
Statewide Center-Based Care Affordability: 12.0%				
1	Sullivan County	\$12,435	15.4%	-3.4%
2	Carroll County	\$10,248	14.4%	-2.4%
3	Grafton County	\$12,955	14.3%	-2.3%
4	Coos County	\$9,193	13.6%	-1.6%
5	Cheshire County	\$12,010	13.2%	-1.2%
Statewide Family Child Care Affordability: 9.0%				
1	Sullivan County	\$8,993	11.1%	-2.1%
2	Carroll County	\$7,800	10.9%	-1.9%
3	Strafford County	\$9,360	10.1%	-1.1%
4	Grafton County	\$8,602	9.5%	-0.5%
5	Cheshire County	\$8,466	9.3%	-0.3%

Note: NR = Not Reported (meaning that data is unavailable for a given county); NA = Not Applicable

*Source: Child Care Aware® of America; New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration

** Affordability, or Percentage Median Income, is a comparison of average cost against county median income

Table 2: County-Level Costs by Age and Type

County	Infant Care			4-Year-Old		
	Cost*	Percentage median income**	Difference to state average	Cost*	Percentage median income**	Difference to state average
Statewide Center-Based Care Affordability: 12.0%						
Belknap County	\$10,192	NA	NA	\$8,667	NA	NA
Carroll County	\$10,248	14.4%	-2.4%	\$8,609	12.1%	-2.4%
Cheshire County	\$12,010	13.2%	-1.2%	\$9,451	10.4%	-0.7%
Coos County	\$9,193	13.6%	-1.6%	\$8,060	11.9%	-2.2%
Grafton County	\$12,955	14.3%	-2.3%	\$9,853	10.9%	-1.2%
Hillsborough County	\$13,107	12.1%	-0.1%	\$10,390	9.6%	0.1%
Merrimack County	\$11,604	12.0%	0.0%	\$9,791	10.1%	-0.4%
Rockingham County	\$13,897	12.0%	0.0%	\$11,064	9.6%	0.1%
Strafford County	\$10,024	10.8%	1.2%	\$10,149	10.9%	-1.2%
Sullivan County	\$12,435	15.4%	-3.4%	\$12,351	11.3%	0.9%
Statewide Family Child Care Affordability: 9.0%						
Belknap County	\$9,122	NA	NA	\$9,304	NA	NA
Carroll County	\$7,800	10.9%	-1.9%	NR	NA	NA
Cheshire County	\$8,466	9.3%	-0.3%	\$7,457	8.2%	0.3%
Coos County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Grafton County	\$8,602	9.5%	-0.5%	\$10,245	11.3%	-2.8%
Hillsborough County	\$9,689	9.0%	0.0%	\$8,818	8.2%	0.3%
Merrimack County	\$7,993	8.3%	0.7%	\$9,504	9.8%	-1.3%
Rockingham County	\$10,600	9.2%	-0.2%	\$9,425	8.2%	0.3%
Strafford County	\$9,360	10.1%	-1.1%	\$7,432	8.0%	0.5%
Sullivan County	\$8,993	11.1%	-2.1%	\$7,387	9.1%	-0.6%

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