
Center on Wisconsin Strategy

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CHILD CARE MATTERS

Every day, 3 out of 5 young children are in childcare in the U.S.

- *Children's Defense Fund 2001*

Every day, 3 out of 4 children under 6 are in childcare in Wisconsin.

- *National Child Care Information Center 1999*

In Wisconsin, there are a little over 2,000 licensed childcare centers and almost 7,000 licensed or regulated family childcare providers for almost 700,000 children, toddlers, and infants.

- *National Child Care Information Center 1999*

CHILD CARE WORKERS: HARD WORK, LOW WAGES

In the U.S., childcare workers earn less than bus drivers, parking attendants, or garbage collectors.

- *Children's Defense Fund 2001*

70% of the childcare work force earns poverty level wages in the U.S.

- *National Center for Early Childcare Workforce 1996*

In Dane County, a starting childcare worker's pay can be as little as \$5.50 an hour and childcare director's pay can be as little as \$7.00 an hour. The pay doesn't get much better as worker's experience increases; in Dane County, the average childcare worker's pay is \$7.35 and the average childcare director's pay is \$12.90.

- *Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) 2000*

Research consistently finds that there are severe child care staff shortages and hiring problems in Madison and Dane County.

- *Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) 2000*

In Dane County, each year one in three staff in childcare centers turnover.

- *Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) 2000*

QUALITY JOBS FOR WORKERS MEANS QUALITY CARE FOR KIDS

The most important determinant of childcare quality is the presence of consistent, sensitive, well-trained and well-compensated caregivers.

- *National Center Early Childcare Workforce 1997*

Childcare affects the way that children think, learn, and behave and can have long-term impacts for children, parents, and ultimately society at large.

- *Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral Network 2001*