

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

Matthew M. Bodah, Ph.D.
Charles T. Schmidt, Jr. Labor Research Center
University of Rhode Island
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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 March 1 and June 30, 2009 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 \$175.00, which means that 75% of respondents who provide such care charge \$175.00 per week or less; or put another way, only 25% charge more than \$175.00 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). The questionnaire, however, 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 English version 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 that was similar to the one used in previous survey years.

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 488 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.

Since our initial response rate from homes was lower than expected, we conducted a follow-up survey with this group.

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

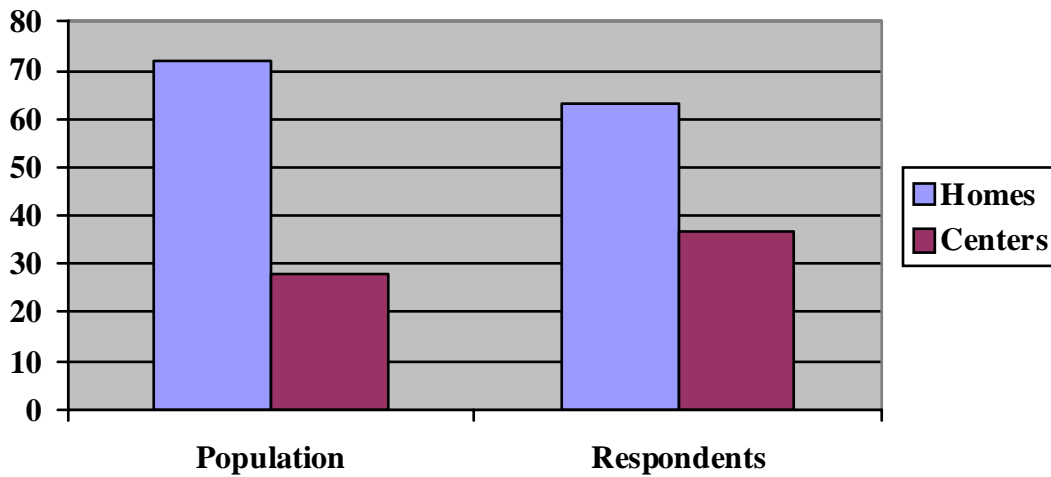
Two separate mailing lists were provided by DCYF. The list of homes contained 1,073 providers, while the list of centers contained 423 providers. Hence, a total of 1,496 questionnaires were sent. By June 30, 2009, 627 usable questionnaires were returned: 394 from homes and 233 from centers. The overall response rate, therefore, is 41.91% with 36.72% of homes and 55.08% of centers responding.

Compared to the 2006 survey, the number of responses decreased by 102 or 14.00%. The overall response rate, however, increased from 40.24% in 2006 to 41.91% in 2009, since there were 316 fewer providers in the population than there were in 2006 (1,496 versus 1,812). The number of Spanish responses increased from 179 to 196 or 9.50% from 2006 to 2009.

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.) However, 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.



Tables 1a, 1b, and 1c compare the geographic dispersion of respondents with the childcare provider population. For all respondents and for homes and centers considered separately, most communities are represented in the pool of respondents in relatively close relation to their presence in the population.

Concern over geographical bias 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, 5 are under-represented (although some barely) among respondents, while only 7 of 31 towns are under-represented.

By county, we see that Providence County has the most under-represented communities with 9. Two of Washington County's 9 communities are under-represented. Except for the City of Warwick, 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 1a. Geographic dispersion of the childcare provider population and respondents.

	Percent of Population	Percent of Respondents
Providence	48.65	41.87
Pawtucket	7.27	7.41
Warwick	5.52	5.48
Cranston	4.58	4.03
Woonsocket	3.16	3.06
East Providence	3.16	2.90
Central Falls	2.69	2.90
Smithfield	2.15	2.74
Coventry	2.02	2.58
Johnston	1.95	1.93
Cumberland	1.95	1.93
South Kingstown	1.62	2.58
North Kingstown	1.48	1.29
Lincoln	1.28	2.42
West Warwick	1.14	1.61
Middletown	1.14	1.77
Barrington	.94	1.29
Bristol	.87	1.13
North Providence	.81	.97
East Greenwich	.74	1.45
Newport	.74	1.13
Tiverton	.67	1.13
Westerly	.67	.64
Burrillville	.67	.81
Portsmouth	.54	.64
Warren	.47	.48
Hopkinton	.47	.48
Richmond	.40	.64
North Smithfield	.40	.64
Scituate	.34	.16
Charlestown	.34	.32
West Greenwich	.34	.48
Glocester	.20	.16
Jamestown	.20	.32
Exeter	.13	.16
Little Compton	.13	.32
Foster	.07	.00
Narragansett	.07	.16
New Shoreham	.00	.00

Table 1b. Geographic dispersion of the childcare provider population and respondents, homes only.

	Percent of Population	Percent of Respondents
Providence	61.27	56.12
Pawtucket	7.76	9.95
Cranston	4.02	3.83
Central Falls	3.27	3.32
Cumberland	2.78	2.30
Warwick	2.71	2.55
Woonsocket	2.62	2.04
Smithfield	2.15	2.04
East Providence	1.68	1.28
Coventry	1.68	1.79
Johnston	1.40	1.02
South Kingstown	.94	1.79
West Warwick	.94	1.53
North Kingstown	.84	.51
Lincoln	.65	1.02
Barrington	.65	1.02
Bristol	.65	.77
Tiverton	.56	1.02
Middletown	.47	.77
Burrillville	.47	.51
Hopkinton	.47	.51
North Providence	.37	.26
North Smithfield	.37	.77
Scituate	.37	.26
East Greenwich	.28	.77
Warren	.28	.51
Richmond	.28	.77
Glocester	.19	.00
Portsmouth	.19	.00
Charlestown	.19	.26
Newport	.09	.26
West Greenwich	.09	.00
Exeter	.09	.00
Jamestown	.09	.26
Little Compton	.09	.26
Westerly	.00	.00
Foster	.00	.00
Narragansett	.00	.00
New Shoreham	.00	.00

Table 1c. Geographic dispersion of the childcare provider population and respondents, centers only

	Percent of Population	Percent of Respondents
Providence	16.31	17.47
Warwick	12.71	10.48
East Providence	6.95	5.68
Pawtucket	6.00	3.06
Cranston	6.00	4.37
Woonsocket	4.56	4.80
Johnston	3.36	3.49
South Kingstown	3.36	3.93
North Kingstown	3.12	2.62
Coventry	2.88	3.93
Lincoln	2.88	4.80
Middletown	2.88	3.49
Cumberland	2.40	1.31
Newport	2.40	2.62
Westerly	2.40	1.75
Smithfield	2.16	3.93
North Providence	1.92	2.18
East Greenwich	1.92	2.62
West Warwick	1.68	1.75
Barrington	1.68	1.75
Bristol	1.44	1.75
Portsmouth	1.44	1.75
Central Falls	1.20	2.18
Burrillville	1.20	1.31
Warren	.96	.44
Tiverton	.96	1.31
West Greenwich	.96	1.31
Richmond	.72	.44
Charlestown	.72	.44
North Smithfield	.48	.44
Hopkinton	.48	.44
Jamestown	.48	.44
Glocester	.24	.44
Scituate	.24	.00
Exeter	.24	.44
Foster	.24	.00
Narragansett	.24	.44
Little Compton	.24	.44
New Shoreham	.00	.00

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 55% of centers are non-profit, just over 34% are part of a chain or multi-site organization, and approximately 18% are affiliated with a church or school.

Table 2. Homes and centers, selected characteristics.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
For-profit	376	68.86	275	85.67	100	44.64
Non-profit	170	31.14	46	14.33	124	55.36
Independent	487	85.59	338	98.26	147	65.92
Part of a chain	82	14.41	6	1.74	76	34.08
Church-affiliated	8	1.37	0	0.00	8	3.56
School-affiliated	37	6.36	5	1.41	32	14.22
Not-affiliated	537	92.27	350	98.59	185	82.22

Table 3. Types of programs						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Infant	397	63.32	306	85.47	90	39.65
Toddler	449	71.61	325	90.78	123	54.19
Pre-school	496	79.11	331	92.46	163	71.81
Before/after kindergarten	393	62.68	265	74.02	126	55.51
School-age	374	59.65	274	68.99	126	55.51
Youth	53	8.45	37	10.34	16	7.05
Nursery school	81	12.92	19	5.31	62	27.31
Kindergarten	60	9.57	20	5.59	40	17.62
Headstart	50	7.97	37	10.34	13	5.73
Other	19	3.03	9	2.51	10	4.41

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). Centers, however, are more likely than homes to provide nursery school and kindergarten programs, even though only about 15-30% provide either type of

program. Homes and centers provide programs for school-age children (6 to 12 years) in relatively close proportion, approximately 70% to 55%, respectively.

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

kindergarten programs, Table 4 shows that roughly three-quarters of homes provide care for kindergarten-age children.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Infants	404	64.43	314	87.71	90	39.65
Toddlers	460	73.37	336	93.85	123	54.19
Preschoolers	508	81.02	342	95.53	164	77.25
Kindergarteners	418	66.67	266	74.30	150	66.08
School-age children	387	61.72	256	71.51	129	56.83

Providers' schedules and hours

According to Table 5, centers offer half-day care at a slightly higher rate than homes. All other schedules of care, however, are more likely to be found in homes. Perhaps the most notable differences are for weekend and evening care, which are offered by approximately one-quarter to one-third of homes, but by very few centers.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-day	512	81.66	341	95.25	169	74.46
Half-day	368	58.69	223	62.29	145	63.88
Before school	412	65.71	278	77.65	132	58.15
After school	430	68.58	284	79.33	144	63.44
Weekend care	95	15.15	89	24.86	6	2.64
Evening	115	18.34	112	31.28	3	1.32
School age only						
Summer vacation	374	59.65	248	69.27	125	55.07
School year vacation	358	57.10	234	65.36	123	54.19
Single day, school out-of-session	337	53.75	229	63.97	107	47.14
Full-time (30+ hrs)	480	76.56	317	88.55	162	71.37
Three-quarter time(20- 29 hrs)	423	67.46	267	74.58	155	68.28
Half-time (10-19 hrs)	381	60.77	232	64.80	148	65.20
Quarter-time (1-9 hrs)	279	44.50	179	50.00	99	43.61
Other	30	4.78	20	5.59	10	4.41

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 3:00 pm/7:00 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	30	6:00 am (2:00 am-12:00 pm)	3:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Monday	492	6:30 am (1:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Tuesday	493	6:30 am (1:00 am-11:00 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Wednesday	492	6:30 am (1:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Thursday	492	6:30 am (1:00 am-11:00 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Friday	492	6:30 am (1:00 am-9:30 pm)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Saturday	49	6:00 am (1:00 am-12:00 pm)	3:00 pm/5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, homes

	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	26	6:00 am (2:00 am-12:00 pm)	3:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Monday	271	6:00 am (1:00 am-9:00 pm)	5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Tuesday	272	6:00 am (1:00 am-11:00 am)	5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Wednesday	271	6:00 am (1:00 am-9:15 am)	5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Thursday	272	6:00 am (1:00 am-11:00 am)	5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Friday	271	6:00 am (1:00 am-9:15 am)	5:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)
Saturday	44	6:00 am (1:00 am-12:00 pm)	3:00 pm (12:00 pm-11:45 pm)

Table 6a. Days and hours of operation, centers			
	N	From (Range)	To (Range)
Sunday	4	6:00 am (2:30 am-10:00 am)	NA (2:00 pm-8:30 pm)
Monday	219	7:00 am (2:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Tuesday	219	7:00 am (2:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Wednesday	219	7:00 am (2:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Thursday	219	7:00 am (2:00 am-9:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Friday	219	7:00 am (2:00 am-3:30 am)	6:00 pm (12:00 pm-10:30 pm)
Saturday	4	6:00 am (6:00 am-(9:00 am)	NA (2:30 pm-8:30 pm)

Most homes and centers operate for 11 to 13 hours per day from Monday through Friday. Table 7b shows that the average hours of operation is 11.

Table 7a. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, frequency distribution.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
Hours	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-4	2	.41	0	.00	2	.91
5-7	22	4.48	13	4.81	9	4.11
8-10	111	22.61	73	27.04	38	17.35
11-13	310	63.14	156	57.78	152	69.41
14-	46	9.37	28	10.37	18	8.22

Table 7b. Hours of operation, Monday through Friday, descriptive statistics.			
	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	11.00	11.06	10.93
Standard Deviation	2.16	2.30	1.99
Median	11.00	11.00	11
Range	3.5-21	4-21	3.5-17
N	491	270	219

Table 8a. Weeks per year in operation, frequency distribution.

Weeks	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-50	100	19.72	50	17.30	49	22.58
50	76	14.99	58	20.07	18	8.29
51	37	7.30	19	6.57	18	8.29
52	294	57.99	162	56.06	132	60.83

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.

Table 8b. Weeks per year in operation, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	49.18	49.26	49.06
Standard Deviation	6.90	7.78	5.55
Median	52	52	52
Range	4-52	4-52	20-52
N	507	289	217

Number of children

Centers, of course, generally care for more children than do homes. Among respondents, the average number of children permitted by their license is 6.89 for homes and 77.96 for centers.

Table 9a. Number of children permitted by certificate or license, frequency distribution.

	All		Homes		Centers	
1-5	19	3.37	18	5.13	0	0.00
6-12	341	60.57	333	94.87	8	3.79
13-49	58	10.30	2	0.00	58	27.49
50+	145	25.75	0	0.00	145	68.72

The frequency distribution shows that nearly all 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	33.52	6.89	77.96
Standard deviation	49.94	1.15	59.16
Median	8.00	6	65
Range	3-488	3-12	6-488

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	32	5.85	30	8.80	1	0.49
6-12	316	57.77	307	90.03	8	3.92
13-49	60	10.97	4	1.17	56	27.45
50-	139	25.41	0	0.00	139	68.14

We see that the average number of children homes are willing to care for is about 7, while the centers are willing to accept about 82, on average.

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

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	35.13	7.42	81.75
Standard deviation	54.21	2.24	66.44
Median	8	8	61
Range	0-488	0-20	3-488

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	%
0-5	184	33.45	174	52.25	8	3.72
6-12	156	28.36	150	45.05	6	2.79
13-49	103	18.73	9	2.70	94	43.72
50-	107	19.45	0	0.00	107	49.77

Several of the 9 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

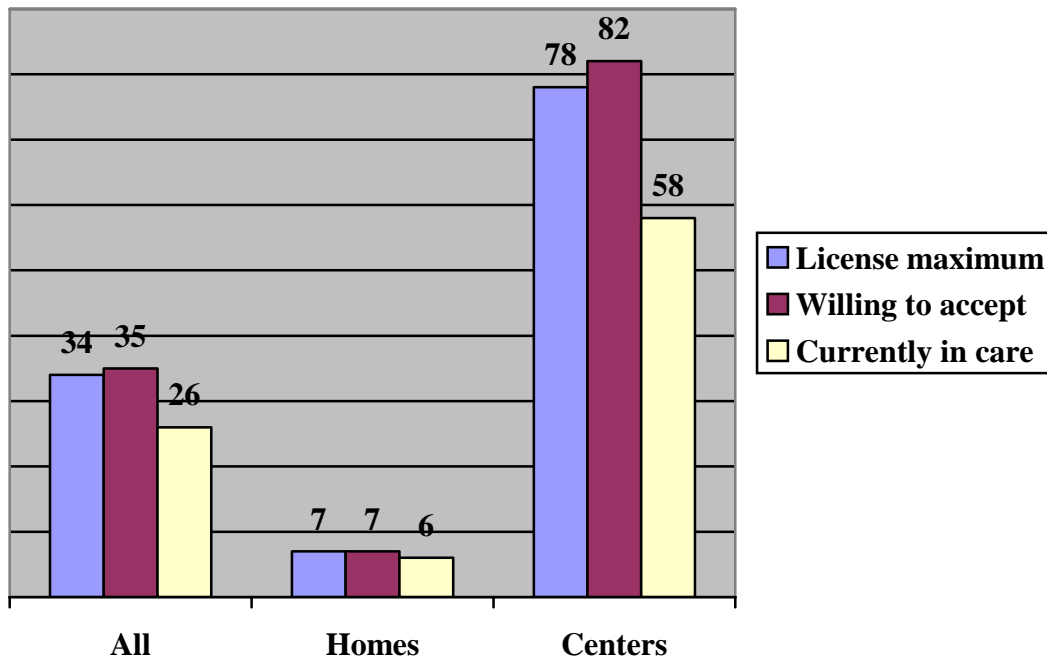
shift. They may have one group of children in the morning and another in the afternoon, totaling more than 12 different children.

Table 11b. Number of children for which providers are currently caring, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	26.06	5.51	58.12
Standard deviation	35.29	2.97	38.55
Median	8	5	49
Range	0-220	0-17	0-220

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 1 more child than they currently care for and centers 24 more children.

Section IV. Rates and subsidies

Ways of charging

Approximately 80% of both homes and centers indicate that they charge 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	16	2.75	12	3.40	4	1.77
Daily	23	3.96	15	4.25	8	3.54
Weekly	464	79.86	281	79.60	181	80.09
Monthly	54	9.29	27	7.65	27	11.95
Semester/Year	4	.69	1	.28	3	1.33
Other	20	3.44	17	4.82	3	1.33

Months for increases

Table 13 below shows that September is the month when rate increases usually occur, though this is particularly true for centers. The bottom half of the table indicates the months during the past year when rates were raised.

Table 12b. Most common way of charging, school age only.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hourly	22	6.15	16	6.96	6	4.72
Daily	14	3.91	8	3.48	5	3.94
Weekly	287	80.17	188	81.74	99	77.95
Monthly	24	6.70	10	4.35	14	11.02
Semester/Year	1	.28	0	.00	1	.79
Other	10	2.79	8	3.48	2	1.57

Table 13. Months when rates are raised.

Month when rates are normally raised.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
September	168	44.21	64	32.65	104	56.83
January	66	17.37	49	25.00	17	9.29
June	53	13.95	31	15.82	22	12.02
May	35	9.21	31	15.82	4	2.19
July	22	5.79	8	4.08	13	7.10
All other	36	9.47	13	6.63	23	12.58
Month when rates were raised during the past year.						
September	58	46.03	21	40.38	37	50.00
June	21	16.67	10	19.23	11	14.86
January	20	15.87	9	17.31	11	14.86
May	12	9.52	6	11.54	6	8.11
August	5	3.97	0	0.00	5	6.76
All other	10	7.94	6	11.55	4	5.40

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 hours	276	\$66.15 (31.07)	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$101.00
School age, after school hours	297	79.96 (30.56)	75.00	95.00	120.00
School age, before and after school hours	295	122.53 (38.22)	125.00	150.00	163.00
School age, summer vacation	310	154.54 (25.55)	150.00	165.00	175.00
School age, school year vacations	299	153.44 (27.43)	150.00	165.00	180.00
Infant care	406	178.93 (35.91)	170.00	198.00	220.00
Toddler care	443	174.31 (34.45)	170.00	191.00	220.00
Preschool care	465	164.51 (30.28)	160.00	176.00	200.00
Kindergarten care	387	146.82 (34.05)	150.00	165.00	180.00

Table 14b. Reported weekly rates, homes only

	N	Mean (S.D.)	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
School age, before school hours	171	\$70.09 (\$35.53)	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$135.00
School age, after school hours	179	75.18 (33.67)	75.00	90.00	125.00
School age, before and after school hours	191	119.49 (40.51)	122.00	142.00	155.00
School age, summer vacation	203	152.85 (24.49)	150.00	160.00	175.00
School age, school year vacations	188	151.51 (27.96)	150.00	160.00	175.00
Infant care	313	167.32 (24.75)	160.00	175.00	200.00
Toddler care	325	164.53 (25.98)	160.00	175.00	200.00
Preschool care	317	159.68 (26.52)	155.00	170.00	185.00
Kindergarten care	264	146.07 (32.73)	150.00	160.00	175.00

Table 14c. Reported weekly rates, centers only.

	N	Mean (S.D.)	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
School age, before school only	104	\$59.99 (\$20.50)	\$60.00	\$74.00	\$85.00
School age, after school only	117	87.67 (23.02)	85.00	105.00	115.00
School age, before and after school	103	128.67 (32.73)	132.00	156.00	163.00
School age, summer vacation	106	157.82 (27.40)	150.00	175.00	185.00
School age, school year vacations	110	156.76 (26.40)	150.00	170.00	185.00
Infant care	92	218.74 (39.56)	215.00	228.50	263.00
Toddler care	117	201.70 (40.07)	200.00	220.00	240.00
Preschool care	146	175.36 (34.92)	175.00	199.00	215.00
Kindergarten care	121	148.74 (40.47)	163.00	180.00	205.00

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 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	17.5
School age, before and after school	25	25	29
School age, summer vacation	40	40	45
School age, school year vacations	40	40	45
Infant care	40	40	42.5
Toddler care	40	40	43.25
Preschool care	40	40	41.75
Kindergarten care	40	40	40

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 2006 survey. The increase in the average of the 75th percentile rate across all programs is 4.00%. For school age care, the increase in the average of the 75th percentile rate is 4.84% and for infant and toddler care it is 6.87%. For preschool and kindergarten programs, there was a decrease of 0.58%. For homes, the school age average of the 75th percentile increased 3.64%, while the infant and toddler and preschool and kindergarten averages remained the same. For centers, the school age average of the 75th percentile increased by 7.94%; the infant and toddler average by 22.09%; and the preschool and kindergarten average by 20.00%

Table 16. Comparison of 75th percentile weekly rates, 2006 and 2009.

	All		Homes		Centers	
	2006	2009	2006	2009	2006	2009
School age, before school only	\$70.00	\$75.00	\$70.00	\$75.00	\$70.00	\$74.00
School age, after school only	90.00	95.00	85.00	90.00	100.00	105.00
School age, before and after school	150.00	150.00	150.00	142.00	150.00	156.00
School age, summer vacation	155.00	165.00	150.00	160.00	155.00	175.00
School age, school year vacations	155.00	165.00	150.00	160.00	155.00	170.00
<i>School age average</i>	124.00	130.00	121.00	125.40	126.00	136.00
Infant care	182.00	198.00	175.00	175.00	212.00	228.50
Toddler care	182.00	191.00	175.00	175.00	200.00	220.00
<i>Infant and toddler average</i>	182.00	194.50	175.00	175.00	206.00	251.50
Preschool care	173.00	176.00	170.00	170.00	175.00	215.00
Kindergarten care	170.00	165.00	160.00	160.00	175.00	205.00
<i>Preschool and kindergarten average</i>	171.50	170.50	165.00	165.00	175.00	210.00
<i>All program average</i>	147.44	153.33	142.77	145.22	154.66	178.11
Note: Averages indicate the average of the 75 th percentile rates.						

The following charts provide a visual comparison of 75th percentile rates in the 2006 and 2009 surveys.

Chart 3a. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2006-2009, all providers.

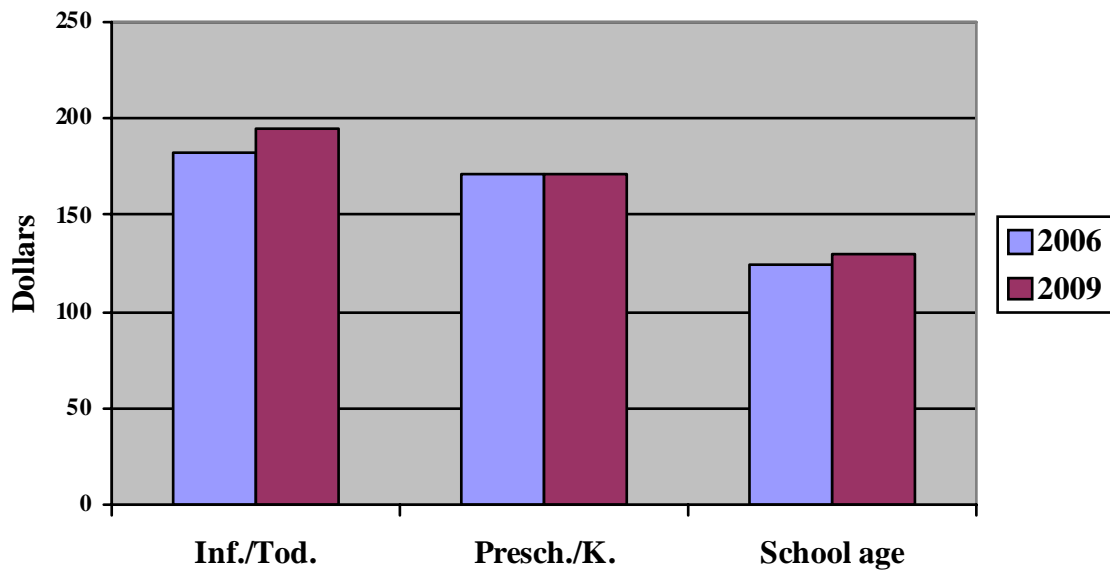


Chart 3b. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2006-2009, homes.

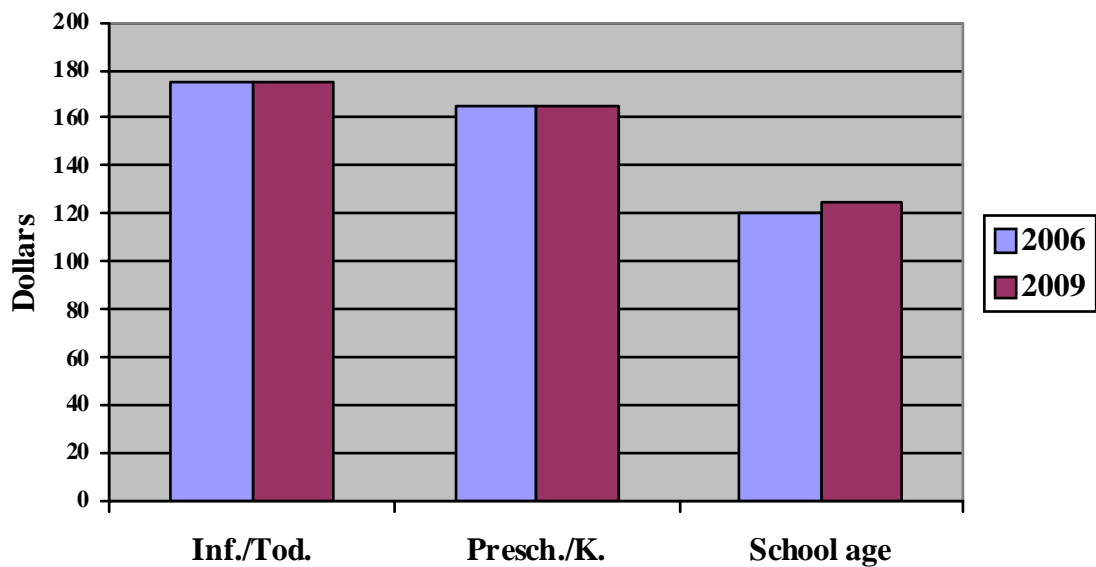
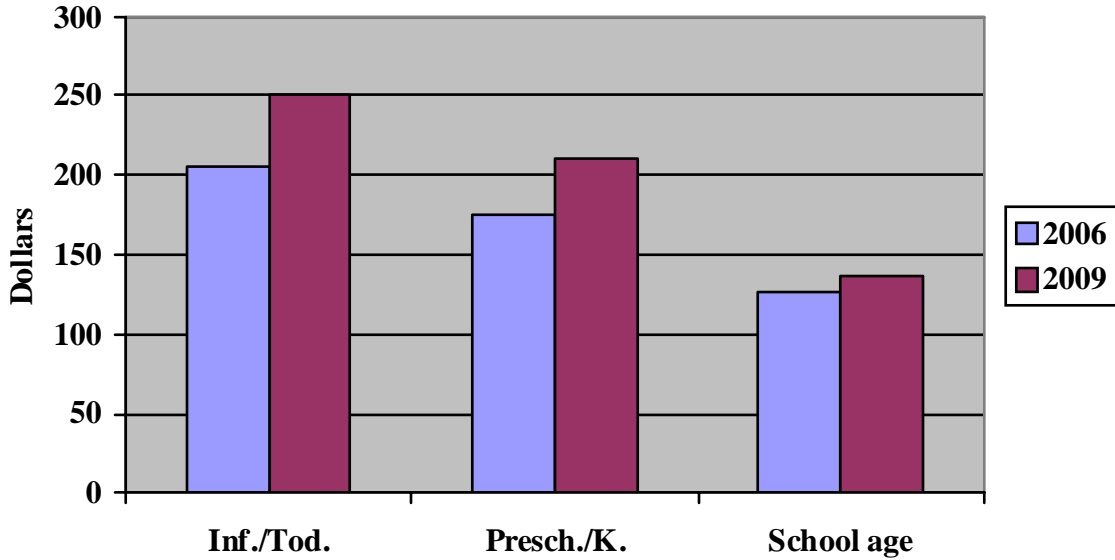


Chart 3c. Comparison of average 75th percentile rates, 2006-2009, centers only.



Weighted averages

One problem with simply averaging increases across programs is that doing so gives all programs equal weight. Our data tell us, however, that certain programs (e.g. toddler care) appear with greater frequency than other programs (e.g. school-age programs). Therefore, increases in toddler care rates would have a stronger *total* effect on the market than increases in school age programs. Hence, if we weight the 75th percentile rates by program frequency, a somewhat different picture emerges as to the magnitude of rate increases. We see in Table 17 that overall percentage change in 75th percentile rate is 7.14% rather than 4.00%. For home the change in the weighted average is 3.85% and for centers 12.60%.

Table 17. Average 75th percentile rates, weighted by program frequency, 2006 and 2009.			
	2006	2009	Percentage change
All	\$148.13	\$158.70	7.14%
Homes	146.11	151.74	3.85
Centers	149.38	168.20	12.60

Subsidies

We asked providers a series of questions about the subsidies that children in their care receive. Table 18 shows that the rate of acceptance of DHS subsidized children is very high in both homes and centers, 90% and above. In addition, approximately 76% of

homes and 84% of centers accept children during the period that their subsidized status is pending.

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-third receive some sort of private subsidy. Such subsidies are virtually nonexistent for home providers.

Table 18. Information concerning subsidies.							
		All		Homes		Centers	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Accepts DHS subsidized children.	N	518	47	309	35	209	11
	%	91.68	8.32	89.83	10.17	95.00	5.00
Accepts children during the pending period.	N	403	106	233	73	170	33
	%	79.17	20.83	76.14	23.86	83.74	16.26
Receives private subsidies.	N	73	504	6	347	67	155
	%	12.65	87.35	1.70	98.30	30.18	69.82
Receives government subsidies.	N	50	524	4	349	46	173
	%	8.71	91.29	1.13	98.87	21.00	79.00

According to Table 18, most homes and centers accept children during the “pending period”. Table 19 shows that about two-thirds of homes and 60% of centers are likely to charge full rates during the pending period. Table 19 also displays the amount charged if a child goes to pending status during re-certification.

Table 19. Charges during pending period.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Are families charged during the pending period?						
Yes	298	69.79	168	66.93	130	73.86
No	129	30.21	83	33.07	46	26.14
If so, how much?						
Full rates	198	63.06	115	65.71	83	59.71
Partial rates	116	36.94	60	34.29	56	40.29
Amount charged if child goes to pending status during re-certification.						
Full rates	189	46.21	117	50.43	72	40.68
Partial rates	102	24.94	54	23.28	48	27.12
Do not charge	118	28.85	61	26.29	57	32.20

Table 20a. DHS subsidized children, frequency distribution.

Number of children	All		Home		Center	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	69	14.47	56	19.79	13	6.70
1	49	10.27	36	12.72	13	6.70
2	55	11.53	40	14.13	15	7.73
3	39	8.18	27	9.54	12	6.19
4	56	11.74	46	16.25	10	5.15
5	24	5.03	21	7.42	3	1.55
6	28	5.87	17	6.01	11	5.67
7	17	3.56	15	5.30	2	1.03
8	28	5.87	19	6.71	9	4.64
9	7	1.47	4	1.41	3	1.55
10	12	2.52	2	.71	10	5.15
11-25	43	9.01	0	0.00	43	22.16
26-100	47	9.85	0	0.00	47	24.23
101+	3	.63	0	0.00	3	1.55

Table 20b. Subsidized children, descriptive statistics.

	All	Homes	Centers
Mean	9.20	3.18	17.97
Standard deviation	17.14	2.61	24.17
Median	4	3	10
Range	0-176	0-10	0-176

The percentage of providers by the number of subsidized children is displayed in Table 20a. Approximately 20% 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 18, but with a median of 10, indicating that the average is skewed by larger facilities.

Table 21. Providers by percentage of children subsidized by DHS.

Percentage of children	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	68	14.62	55	19.50	13	7.10
+0-25%	165	35.48	55	19.50	110	60.11
+25-50%	107	23.01	67	23.76	40	21.86
+50-75%	57	12.26	43	15.25	14	7.65
+75-100%	68	14.62	62	21.99	6	3.38

Table 21 shows the number of providers by the percentage of children in their care subsidized by DHS. The table reveals

that homes are fairly evenly dispersed across categories, while, for centers, nearly all have between zero and 50% of children subsidized.

With Tables 22a, 22b and 22c we can examine whether rates affect 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.

Table 22a. 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	\$60.00	74.00	75.00	80.00	82.50
School age, after school only	75.00	105.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	137.50	150.00	147.50	150.00	150.00
School age, summer vacation	175.00	175.00	165.00	162.50	155.00
School age, school year vacations	177.50	175.00	164.00	162.50	155.00
Infant care	185.00	220.00	195.00	175.00	175.00
Toddler care	185.00	212.00	190.50	175.00	175.00
Preschool care	185.00	185.00	175.00	165.00	165.00
Kindergarten care	175.00	175.00	170.00	160.00	155.00

Table 22b. 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	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$76.00
School age, after school only	75.00	81.25	85.00	90.00	90.00
School age, before and after school	140.00	140.00	150.00	146.00	150.00
School age, summer vacation	165.00	165.00	165.00	162.50	155.00
School age, school year vacations	175.00	165.00	160.00	162.50	155.00
Infant care	185.00	200.00	175.00	170.00	175.00
Toddler care	185.00	182.50	175.00	170.00	175.00
Preschool care	185.00	175.00	170.00	160.00	165.00
Kindergarten care	175.00	165.00	160.00	160.00	155.00

Table 22c. 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	\$66.00	\$74.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
School age, after school only	105.00	105.00	105.00	60.50
School age, before and after school	135.00	153.00	145.00	135.00
School age, summer vacation	200.00	175.00	165.00	138.50
School age, school year vacations	200.00	175.00	165.00	138.50
Infant care	200.00	230.00	220.00	188.00
Toddler care	222.50	220.00	220.00	188.00
Preschool care	240.00	195.00	200.00	153.50
Kindergarten care	205.00	182.50	190.00	150.00

Other fees charged

We asked providers to indicate other fees that they charge. 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. Centers frequently charge registration/application fees, though few homes charge these fees. Centers are also much more likely than homes to charge for field trips.

Table 23. Other fees charged.						
	All		Homes		Centers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Registration/Application	183	33.46	25	7.69	158	71.49
Field trips	178	32.66	51	15.79	126	57.01
Transportation	54	9.93	31	9.54	23	10.55
Meals	29	5.37	15	5.31	12	5.48
Late pick up	349	62.88	170	51.20	178	80.18
Late payment	191	34.98	91	28.09	100	45.25
Diapers/Wipes	41	7.55	36	11.18	5	2.27
Art/Activity Supplies	11	2.02	6	1.86	5	2.27
Extended day	153	27.82	112	34.25	40	18.02
Security deposit	57	10.46	26	8.02	31	14.09

Written comments

The questionnaire includes a section where respondents could provide written comments. Many respondents did make additional comments on a variety of topics. These were

recorded and summarized and are available from the Department of Human Services as an addendum to this report.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

***2009 STATEWIDE SURVEY OF
CHILD CARE 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 child care 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 Child Care 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. ___ Child Care 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 through 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: 13 and over
 - g. ___ Nursery school programs (i.e. you are licensed by the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) 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 child care services? (**check all that apply**)
- a. ___ Infants: Birth to 18 months old
 - b. ___ Toddlers: 18 to 36 months old
 - c. ___ Preschoolers: 3 through 5 years old
 - d. ___ Kindergarteners: 5 year olds
 - e. ___ School-age children: in first grade or above

- 8) Which type(s) of child care program(s) do you provide? (**check all that apply**)
- a. ___ Full-day: 8 or more hours
 - b. ___ Half-day
 - c. ___ Before school care
 - d. ___ After school care
 - e. ___ Weekend care
 - f. ___ Evening care
 - g. ___ School-age, summer vacation
 - h. ___ School age, school year vacation
 - i. ___ School age, single days, school out-of-session
 - j. ___ Full-time, 30 or more hours per week
 - k. ___ Three-quarter time, 20-29 hours per week
 - l. ___ Half-time, 10-19 hours per week
 - m. ___ Quarter-time, 1-9 hours per week
 - n. ___ 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	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End

Section 2. RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS *ONLY IF YOU CARE FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN (I.E. THOSE 6 THROUGH 12 YEARS OLD AND IN AT LEAST FIRST GRADE).*

IF YOU *DO NOT* CARE FOR CHILDREN OF THIS AGE GROUP *SKIP TO SECTION 3.*

- 1) For school-age children, what is the most common way that you charge?
- a. ___ Hourly
 - b. ___ Daily
 - c. ___ Weekly
 - d. ___ Monthly
 - e. ___ Semester/Year
 - f. ___ Other (please specify)

- 2) Please provide your usual, full-time, maximum weekly rate for school-age children. 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— School Age Children Only (in first grade or above).				
Before School Hours	After School Hours	Both Before & After School Hours	Summer Vacation	School Year Vacations
For each weekly rate you included above, 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 to 18 mos.)	Toddler (18 to 36 mos.)	Preschool (3 to 5 yrs.)	Kindergarten (5 yrs.)
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 7 BELOW

- 2) How many DHS subsidized children are currently in your care? _____
- 3) During the "pending period," when DHS support is not guaranteed, do you accept children who are not already in your care?
 a. ___ Yes
 b. ___ No

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, SKIP TO ITEM 7 BELOW

- 4) Do you charge families during the pending period?
 a. ___ Yes
 b. ___ No

- 5) If you answered Yes on item 4, do you charge full or partial rates to families during the pending period?
- a. ___ Full rates
 - b. ___ Partial rates

- 6) When child care 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

7) 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		

8) Please list any other special fees that you charge that were not included in item 7:

9) 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

10) 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

11) If you answered yes to either question 9 or 10, how many children currently in your care are subsidized by private and/or government sources? (Skip if you answered no to both question 9 and 10) _____

- 12) During which month do you (or would you) normally raise rates? _____
- 13) Did you raise rates during the past year?
a. ___ Yes (If yes, during which month? _____)
b. ___ No
- 14) How many weeks per year does your program operate? _____ weeks.
- 15) How many children are you licensed/certified to care for? _____
- 16) What is the maximum number of children you would be willing to care for in your current space? Include both full- and part-time _____
- 17) How many children are you currently caring for? Include both full- and part-time _____
- 18) If future versions of this survey were done electronically (e.g. via email or the internet) would you be able to respond?
a. ___ Yes
b. ___ No

19) Please include any additional comments you wish to make:

Thank you for participating in the 2009 Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Child Care Rate Survey!