

COST OF CHILD CARE FOR AN INFANT AND THREE-YEAR OLD IN A CLASS A CHILD CARE CENTER

DEFINITION: *Median Cost:* Median cost for child care for an infant and a three-year-old in a Class A center.

Child Care Cost as a Percentage of Median Income: Median cost for child care for an infant and a three-year-old in a Class A center divided by the parish's median income.

SIGNIFICANCE

Many parents rely on child care so that they can work to support their families. Parents who have difficulty affording child care may be forced to choose lower-quality care.¹ While child care tends to be a major expense for all families who need it, the cost of high quality, licensed child care can be especially burdensome for families with more than one child in need of child care.

In 2007, a Louisiana family with an infant and a three year-old earning the state's median household income would spend nearly a quarter (23%) of their income on child care costs alone. This figure varied widely among parishes. Parents earning the median income in four parishes — East Carroll, Madison, Tensas, and Washington — would have spent more than a third of their income on child care costs for an infant and a three year-old in 2007. By contrast, child care was much more affordable for families earning the median income in Ascension, St. Charles and St. Tammany parishes. In these parishes, such families would have spent 17% of their income on child care costs. Statewide, the cost of child care for two children exceeds the average annual cost of rent (\$7,812).²

DATA SOURCE

Child Care Costs: Agenda for Children's analysis of data from the "Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2005" and "Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2007," which were produced by Care Solutions, Inc. and Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support. The full reports are available at <http://www.dss.state.la.us/>



Median Income Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch, Washington D.C. Final release date for 2005 estimates: January 2008 Final release date for 2007 estimates: December 2008.

DATA NOTE

Because data on the cost of child care is not available at the parish level, this data reflects the median cost of child care in that parish's DSS region. The annual cost was determined by multiplying the median weekly weekday rate by 50, on the assumption that a typical family will need 50 weeks of care. Note that the median cost is that point at which half of the child care centers in that region are more expensive, and half are less expensive.

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{median annual cost of child care for one infant} + \text{median annual cost of child care for one 3-year old in a class A center}) \div \text{median household income}$

¹ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, "Parents and the High Cost of Child Care," National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, 2009, retrieved from www.naccrra.org on 8/1/2009.

² *ibid.*

MEDIAN ANNUAL COST OF CARE FOR AN INFANT AND A 3-YEAR-OLD IN A CLASS A CHILD CARE CENTER

COST AND COST AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEDIAN INCOME

LOUISIANA	2005		2007		CHANGE 2005-07
	Cost	Cost as %	Cost	Cost as %	Increase in cost
LOUISIANA	\$8,598	24	\$9,250	23	\$652
Acadia	\$8,500	30	\$9,000	27	\$500
Allen	\$8,250	26	\$8,900	25	\$650
Ascension	\$8,500	18	\$9,500	17	\$1,000
Assumption	\$8,500	24	\$9,500	24	\$1,000
Avoyelles	\$7,750	29	\$8,625	29	\$875
Beauregard	\$8,250	23	\$8,900	22	\$650
Bienville	\$8,375	32	\$8,875	30	\$500
Bossier	\$8,375	19	\$8,875	19	\$500
Caddo	\$8,375	25	\$8,875	25	\$500
Calcasieu	\$8,250	23	\$8,900	21	\$650
Caldwell	\$8,500	27	\$9,000	27	\$500
Cameron	\$8,250	22	\$8,900	22	\$650
Catahoula	\$7,750	31	\$8,625	29	\$875
Claiborne	\$8,375	29	\$8,875	28	\$500
Concordia	\$7,750	31	\$8,625	30	\$875
De Soto	\$8,375	26	\$8,875	25	\$500
East Baton Rouge	\$8,750	22	\$9,750	23	\$1,000
East Carroll	\$8,500	38	\$9,000	38	\$500
East Feliciana	\$8,750	24	\$9,750	27	\$1,000
Evangeline	\$8,500	35	\$9,000	31	\$500
Franklin	\$8,500	34	\$9,000	32	\$500
Grant	\$7,750	23	\$8,625	23	\$875
Iberia	\$8,500	24	\$9,000	23	\$500
Iberville	\$8,750	27	\$9,750	26	\$1,000
Jackson	\$8,375	26	\$8,875	25	\$500
Jefferson	\$9,000	22	\$10,500	22	\$1,500
Jefferson Davis	\$8,250	26	\$8,900	25	\$650
Lafayette	\$8,500	21	\$9,000	20	\$500
Lafourche	\$8,500	21	\$9,500	23	\$1,000
La Salle	\$7,750	25	\$8,625	24	\$875
Lincoln	\$8,500	28	\$9,000	28	\$500
Livingston	\$8,750	19	\$10,300	19	\$1,550
Madison	\$8,500	37	\$9,000	35	\$500
Morehouse	\$8,500	31	\$9,000	31	\$500
Natchitoches	\$8,375	29	\$8,875	29	\$500
Orleans	\$9,000	30	\$10,500	28	\$1,500
Ouachita	\$8,500	25	\$9,000	24	\$500
Plaquemines	\$9,000	22	\$10,500	23	\$1,500
Pointe Coupee	\$8,750	26	\$9,750	26	\$1,000
Rapides	\$7,750	23	\$8,625	23	\$875
Red River	\$8,375	33	\$8,875	30	\$500
Richland	\$8,500	30	\$9,000	31	\$500
Sabine	\$8,375	26	\$8,875	25	\$500
St. Bernard	\$9,000	24	\$10,500	32	\$1,500
St. Charles	\$8,500	17	\$9,500	17	\$1,000
St. Helena	\$8,750	30	\$10,300	32	\$1,550
St. James	\$8,500	22	\$9,500	21	\$1,000
St. John the Baptist	\$8,500	20	\$9,500	22	\$1,000
St. Landry	\$8,500	34	\$9,000	32	\$500
St. Martin	\$8,500	25	\$9,000	24	\$500
St. Mary	\$8,500	26	\$9,000	25	\$500
St. Tammany	\$8,750	16	\$10,300	17	\$1,550
Tangipahoa	\$8,750	26	\$10,300	30	\$1,550
Tensas	\$8,500	36	\$9,000	40	\$500
Terrebonne	\$8,500	22	\$9,500	21	\$1,000
Union	\$8,500	26	\$9,000	26	\$500
Vermilion	\$8,500	26	\$9,000	24	\$500
Vernon	\$7,750	21	\$8,625	21	\$875
Washington	\$8,750	32	\$10,300	34	\$1,550
Webster	\$8,375	27	\$8,875	26	\$500
West Baton Rouge	\$8,750	22	\$9,750	23	\$1,000
West Carroll	\$8,500	30	\$9,000	31	\$500
West Feliciana	\$8,750	21	\$9,750	20	\$1,000
Winn	\$7,750	27	\$8,625	27	\$875