



Child Care in Asotin County

September 2008

Child Care Resource & Referral Across Washington State

Since established by state statute in 1989, the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Network) has been a key component of the child care infrastructure. The Network is charged with helping parents find child care; educating parents, providers and the community about what quality child care looks like; supporting providers through training and technical assistance; strengthening the child care system at all levels; and collecting data about child care supply and demand in Washington State.

During 2007, the Network's member agencies:

- Handled 121,327 calls;
- Processed 33,247 public referral calls;
- Served 25,078 families and 35,289 children; and
- Assisted 21,954 low-income families find child care.

Child Care Resource & Referral Supports Communities by:

- Helping parents find child care and financing options;
- Improving the quality of child care, early learning and after school programs;
- Advocating for children, parents, and child care providers;
- Increasing the availability of child care;
- Bridging child care and K-12 education; and
- Supporting families to raise healthy children.

Child Care Resource & Referral In Asotin County

Family Care Resources hosts the child care resource and referral (R&R) program that serves Asotin County, in collaboration with Washington State University. In 2007, staff responded to 9,664 calls in the region from parents, providers and community members seeking information and assistance navigating the child care system. R&R staff and consultants are also out in the field: conducting training, collaborating with community partners, and reaching out to families across income levels, geographic barriers, and ethnic identities to provide them with vital child care consumer education.

Notable highlights of this report:

- Over the last 5 years, Asotin County has seen a net loss of 3 family child care businesses and a net gain of 1 child care center facility; resulting in a gain of 17 potential child care slots.
- The greatest demand for care is among families with pre-school aged children; care for this age group is primarily available in center settings.
- For a family with an infant and a preschooler in full-time care, the median cost represents 28% to 30% of the county's median household income for 2007.



Local Resource & Referral Contact Information:

**Family Care Resources
Community-Minded Enterprises
25 W Main St., Suite 310
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 484-0048 1-800-446-2229
<http://www.community-minded.org/>**

Our mission: to facilitate and enhance community well being.

Proud Member of the:





People

Population	21,300
Change since 2003	700
Children under 5 years	1,389
Children under 13 years	3,521
% of Children under 13 living in poverty	28%
Ranking among WA Counties in rate of child poverty	5
K-12 enrollment	3,358
Children in Care Zone ¹	2,532
Average number children on child care subsidy	293/month
Head Start/ECEAP Slots	155

Economics

Living Wage ²	\$41,300/yr
Median Household Income	\$42,984/yr
Unemployment Rate	4.6%

Notes:

¹Care Zone is defined as the number of children who live in a single-parent or two-parent home where the parent or both parents are working.

²The living wage measure is based on a family of four and represents twice the federal poverty level income. Twice the federal poverty level is the income cut off for families receiving child care subsidies.

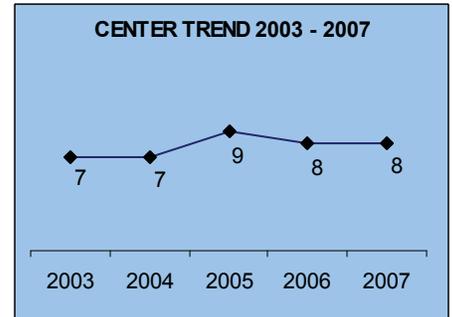
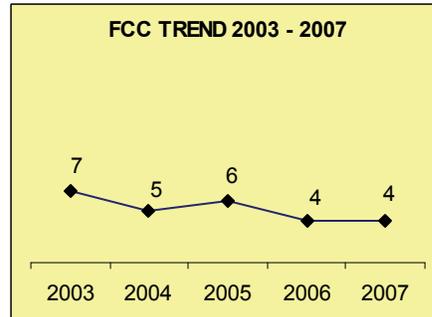
Data Sources for the Report:

American Federation of Teachers, Children's Defense Fund, WA Dept of Early Learning, WA Employment Security Dept, WA Head Start State Collaboration Office, WA Office of Financial Management, WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, US Census Bureau, US Dept of Health & Human Services, US Federal Registry and the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network.

Licensed Child Care in Our Community

How many providers are there in my area by type?

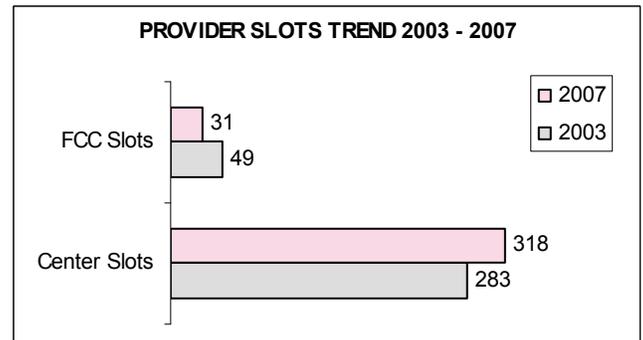
Over the last five years, the net number of licensed child care facilities has fallen from 14 to 12.



The number of family child care (FCC) businesses has dropped from 7 to 4 (43%), while the number of centers has increased from 7 to 8.

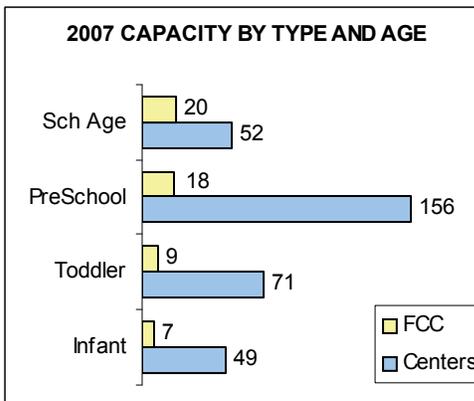
How has the number of child care slots changed over the last five years?

Over the past five years, the county has experienced a net loss of 18 potential family child care slots. With the



increase in the number of center facilities, the number of center slots has increased by 35. As a result, there has been a total gain of 17 potential child care slots since 2003, from 332 to 349.

What is the distribution of slots by type of care and by age?



Because of a higher required ratio of adults to children under 2 years old in licensed care, there are fewer slots for infants and toddlers than for other age groups.

Unlike most counties, in Asotin County there are far more center-based infant and toddler slots than in family child care businesses.

Note: This chart does not represent actual enrollment of children in care. The number of slots for all children is overstated in this comparison. It shows each age group filled as if there were no other children in the other age group. If a slot is filled for one age group it cancels out the potential slot for the other age group.

What languages are spoken?

Of the 13 providers in the community, all speak English, and in one facility, one caregiver speaks Spanish.

Languages Spoken by Providers	
English	100%
Spanish	8%

How much non-standard care is available in my community?

Almost all providers offer full- and part-time care during weekdays only. One regularly offers care past 6:30 PM; no providers offer weekend or overnight care.

Economics of Child Care Providers

What do child care providers earn compared to kindergarten teachers?

2006 Average Salary Comparisons: Kindergarten Teachers and Child Care Providers			
Public School Kindergarten Teacher (2005)	Director Child Care Center	Teacher Child Care Center	Family Child Care Provider Business Gross Income
\$45,722/yr \$3,810/mo	\$28,860/yr \$2,405/mo	\$19,406/yr \$1,617/mo	\$23,698/yr \$1,975/mo

Washington’s kindergarten teachers earn 58% more than center directors, over double what child care teachers earn, and 93% more than family child care providers’ gross earnings in the region. The substantial wage differential can be attributed to higher educational requirements for kindergarten teachers and relatively low turnover in public schools. The lack of competitive wages makes it difficult to recruit and retain educated child care workers and can have a negative impact on the quality of care.

How does the child care subsidy reimbursement rate affect provider profitability?

Current state child care subsidy reimbursement rates are one constraint on wages, quality, and financial solvency for providers.

2007 Ranges: Monthly Full-Time Subsidy Reimbursement Rates			
	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
Centers	\$600	\$505	\$477
Family Child Care Homes	\$511	\$444	\$444

To support the average salary of a teacher, aide and part of the cost of the director for an infant classroom in a center, a program would need to enroll at least **6.1** of the licensed maximum of 8 subsidized full-time infants. Income generated from the other **1.9** infants would have to cover all other classroom costs including benefits, training, rent and supplies.

In a typical family child care home, one provider might have two infants and four preschoolers. A provider’s gross earnings if all the children are on subsidy would be **\$2,798 per month**. Out of these earnings, the provider must for pay all expenses, including salaries, benefits, taxes, rent, meals, training, equipment and supplies.

Professional Development for the Child Care Workforce

Training and Scholarships

Family Care Resources provides state-mandated training for providers. **In 2007, the R&R offered 76 trainings for the child care workforce in the region averaging 34 students each.**

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals (formerly T.E.A.C.H.) is a scholarship program that provides financial support for center and school-age staff and family child care providers to enroll in community and technical college degree programs. In Asotin County, **5** scholarships were awarded in 2007.

National Standards for Quality

Training, education, experience and applied knowledge are important to child care quality. Accreditation recognizes facilities who have achieved national quality standards:

- Center-based Accredited Programs** 0
National Association for the Education of Young Children
- School-Age Accredited Programs** 0
National AfterSchool Association
- Accredited Family Child Care Homes** 0
National Association for Family Child Care
- Accredited Montessori Programs** 0
American Montessori Society

Professional Associations

Association for the Education of Young Children Chapter: Palouse AEYC

Family Child Care Association Chapter(s): No Chapters

Providers say R&Rs help:

- 1) Increase parent referrals to fill my openings**
- 2) Increase my quality of care**
- 3) Increase my ability to operate my child care business**

About the Families

Callers to the referral lines are regularly surveyed by the R&R Network in order to enhance our services and inform policymakers. Parents report that R&Rs significantly increase their knowledge of:

- 1) How to choose child care that fits their family's needs; and
- 2) How to identify a quality child care setting.

Families consider a variety of factors when seeking a child care, including practical considerations such as the accessibility of programs to their workplace or home, the cost of care and the hours of operation.

Parents seek child care where:

- 1) The center/home is clean and safe
- 2) The provider really likes children
- 3) Parents feel comfortable with the provider
- 4) Children's individual needs are met

Top three challenges parents identify when seeking child care:

- 1) Affordability
- 2) Inconvenient locations
- 3) Hours that match parents' needs



95% of families surveyed indicate that child care resource and referral staff responded helpfully to their individual questions and concerns.

Affordability for Families

How much does child care cost in my community?

Countywide, the annual median household income in 2007 was **\$42,984**. The tables below indicate the annual median price of full-time care for one child by age group and type of care. The median price indicates that half the providers in the area charge more and half charge less than the prices quoted here.

Centers	2007 Median Annual Cost for 1 Child	% of 2007 Med. Household Inc.
Infant	\$7,020	16%
Toddler	\$7,137	17%
Preschool	\$6,084	14%
School Age	\$2,938	7%

Family Child Care	2007 Median Annual Cost for 1 Child	% of 2007 Med. Household Inc.
Infant	\$6,370	15%
Toddler	\$6,370	15%
Preschool	\$5,785	13%
School Age	\$3,224	8%

While the median cost of family child care can be 10% less than the cost of care in a center, child care continues to represent a substantial expense for families. The median cost of full-time care for an infant represents 15% to 16% of the median income. Care for an infant and a preschool child would represent 28% to 30% of median income in the county.

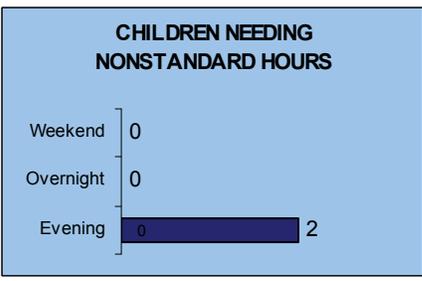
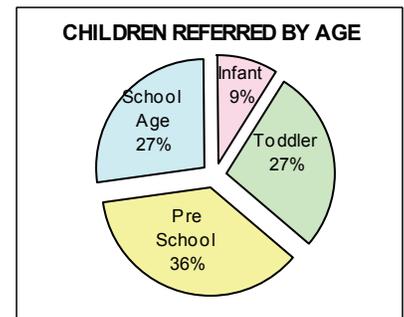
Families Using R&R Services

Who are families that call the R&R Line?

Families in rural counties like Asotin have few options for licensed child care and rarely request R&R assistance; R&R staff focus services on recruiting, training, and retaining providers to meet the needs of the community. In 2007, 8 families received referrals. Five families served were low income, and five were headed by a single parent.

What ages of children are referred?

Although the largest population of children *eligible* for licensed care are school-age (5-12 years old), most (73%) of the children *referred* are birth through four years old.



How many children need non-standard care?

There were only 2 requests for referrals to licensed facilities offering non-standard hour care, each of these for evening care (extending past 6:30 PM).