COMMON SENSE INSTITUTE

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THE CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITY INDEX

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Tamra is a former partner and board member for Social Venture Partners-Denver and Social Enterprise Alliance. Congressman Mike Coffman (R-CO) recognized Tamra's servant leadership and entered it into the Congressional Record of the 115th Congress in May 2018. She was honored by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Colorado and in 2022 and 2023 as a Titan100 CEO and Social Entrepreneur of the Year by the Colorado Institute for Social Impact. She was a presenter at TEDxMileHigh and is a highly sought-after speaker on topics such as compassionate leadership and social enterprise.

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Cole Anderson is Common Sense Institute's Deputy Director of Policy & Research. Prior to CSI, he attended the University of Denver where he double majored in economics and public policy. His work at CSI has covered a variety of topics including crime, healthcare, foster care, and workforce issues.

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ABOUT COMMON SENSE INSTITUTE

Common Sense Institute is a non-partisan research organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado's economy. CSI is at the forefront of important discussions concerning the future of free enterprise and aims to have an impact on the issues that matter most to Coloradans. CSI's mission is to examine the fiscal impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws so Coloradans are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives. CSI employs rigorous research techniques and dynamic modeling to evaluate the potential impact of these measures on the economy and individual opportunity.

TEAMS & FELLOWS STATEMENT

CSI is committed to independent, in-depth research that examines the impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws so that Coloradans are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives. CSI's commitment to institutional independence is rooted in the individual independence of our researchers, economists, and fellows. At the core of CSI's mission is a belief in the power of the free enterprise system. Our work explores ideas that protect and promote jobs and the economy, and the CSI team and fellows take part in this pursuit of academic freedom. Our team's work is informed by data-driven research and evidence. The views and opinions of fellows do not reflect the institutional views of CSI. CSI operates independently of any political party and does not take positions.

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INTRODUCTION

Child care represents an increasingly large portion of parents' household income in America. Despite the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' benchmark that affordable child care is not greater than 7% of household income[i], the national average exceeds this amount, and in Colorado ranges between 10.5% (Cheyenne County) and 38.2% (San Juan County) depending on the county. In dollars, for those same two counties, monthly costs range between $554 and $1,193 per child, but there are counties in which the average monthly cost is as high as $1,645. Colorado ranks 5th in the country for the most expensive infant care.[ii]

The low availability of licensed child care spots adds to the headache for parents seeking care. Overall, 51% of Colorado is in a child care desert, meaning there is a scarcity of spots compared to the number of children needing care. A desert is defined as a census tract with more than 50 children under five years old that contains either no child care options or so few that there are three times as many children as licensed spots.[iii]

The combination of high cost and low access can lead parents to leave work until their children are older, leading to lost wages and career setbacks due to time out of the labor force. Younger adults are considering child care challenges as a major deterrent to having children, leading to lower birthrates and demographic shifts over time. Businesses can struggle to keep employees when they struggle with child care.

Addressing child care challenges will require multi-sector community involvement. Because affordability and availability look different across the state, communities should consider their specific conditions to develop the best solutions for families in their area.

KEY FINDINGS

Child Care is a Major Financial Burden

- The **average monthly cost** of child care across the 10 most populous counties in Colorado ranges from **$911 (Pueblo County)** to **$1,645 (Boulder County) per child.**
- In the 10 most populous counties, the share of income required for child care **exceeds the federal affordability benchmark of 7%,** reaching up to **25% of income in Weld County** and **18% in Denver.** In the city of Denver, that's equivalent to a family of four's groceries for a year and a quarter, at $288.38 per week.
- Parents earning minimum wage in Denver must work over **two full days per week** just to cover monthly child care costs.
- The cost of child care is outpacing inflation. From 2020 to 2024, the price of child care and preschool rose 29%, while overall prices rose 22%.

Widespread Shortage of Licensed Child Care

- Only **four of Colorado's 64** counties have enough licensed child care slots for the number of children under age six.

Child Care Affordability Index

- Out of the 62 counties included in the index, **no** counties had **both affordable and available child care.**
- Twenty-three out of the 62 counties had neither affordable nor available child care.

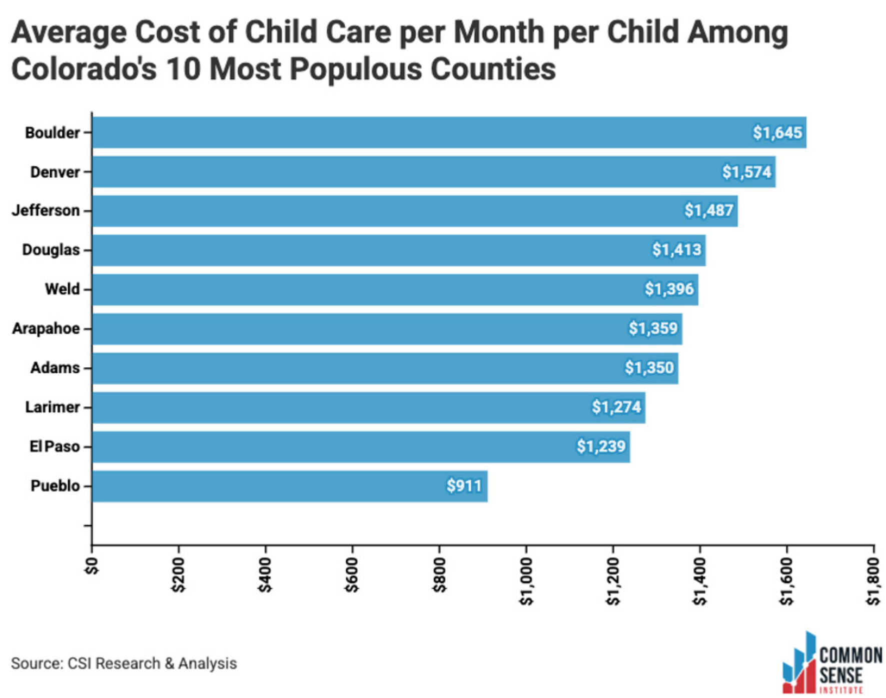
WHAT CHILD CARE COST PARENTS

Data gathered across all counties in Colorado suggests a monthly cost range per child between $486 in Otero County to $1,645 in Boulder County, with an average of $1,001 and a median cost of $950 per month.

Figure 1 below shows the average monthly cost of child care across the state's ten largest counties. Annualized, these figures equate to an average of 20.3% of average wage spent on child care for the state's 10 largest counties. **Even the lowest percentage of household income spent on child care—18.3% in Denver County—is more than double the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation that to be considered affordable, child care cost should not exceed 7% of a family's income.** The Center for American Progress reports that across the U.S, more than half of working families with children under the age of five pay for child care, and across all families, 10% of monthly income is spent on child care. When family income is less than 200% of the poverty level (less than $50,000 for a family of four), the share of income going to child care reaches 35%.[iv] This problem is not unique to Colorado.

Though this report primarily looks at the cost of child care, and the number of licensed child care slots, it is important to note that the geography and setting of child care significantly impacts the cost. In counties with larger populations, child care costs are higher for younger children. Additionally, child care centers overseeing large numbers of children grouped by age cost more.[v] This is likely due to the higher costs, such as real estate and labor, associated with operating child care centers in more highly populated areas.

FIGURE 1



CHILD CARE COSTS COMPARED TO INCOME BY COUNTY

In recent years, attention has been focused on the cost of child care because costs are rising at a rate greater than inflation. From 2020 to 2024, the price of child care and preschool rose 29%, while overall prices rose 22%.[vi]

According to the Economic Policy Institute, Colorado is one of 38 states in which child care exceeds the cost of in-state tuition for a four-year public college.[vii] The cost of child care also exceeds that of regular monthly expenses such as rent, transportation, basic utilities, and food. Figure 2 below shows what percentage of the average monthly wage is necessary to cover one month of child care across the largest counties in the state.

FIGURE 2

Share of Monthly Wage Spent on Childcare

County	Average Monthly Child Care Cost Per Child*	Average Monthly Wage	Percent of Monthly Wage Income Spent on Child Care
Adams	$1,350	$6,497	20.8%
Arapahoe	$1,359	$7,226	18.8%
Boulder	$1,645	$8,211	20.0%
Denver	$1,574	$8,589	18.3%
Douglas	$1,413	$7,452	19.0%
El Paso	$1,239	$5,907	21.0%
Jefferson	$1,487	$6,822	21.8%
Larimer	$1,274	$6,289	20.3%
Pueblo	$911	$4,891	18.6%
Weld	$1,396	$5,638	24.8%

*The average depicted is a weighted average that accounts for child care enrollment varying widely between centers. Cheaper child care options often offer fewer enrollment slots and face higher demand. Additionally, the cost depicted encompasses all care for children under six years old including both home and center care.

One way to measure the cost of child care is to consider how many hours of weekly work go toward paying for care. For comparison, Figure 3 below shows the number of hours a parent must work at minimum wage and the average wage to afford care in the state's most populous counties. For a parent working at minimum wage in Jefferson County, over half of each week—23.1 hours—are required to cover the cost. At the minimum wage in Denver, more than two days of each week (19.3 hours) are required to cover the cost of care.

At the average wage across the ten most populous counties, 7.3 to 9.9 of the hours worked each week are needed to cover the cost of child care. Weld County has the highest child care burden, requiring 9.9 hours of work per week at the average wage to cover the cost.

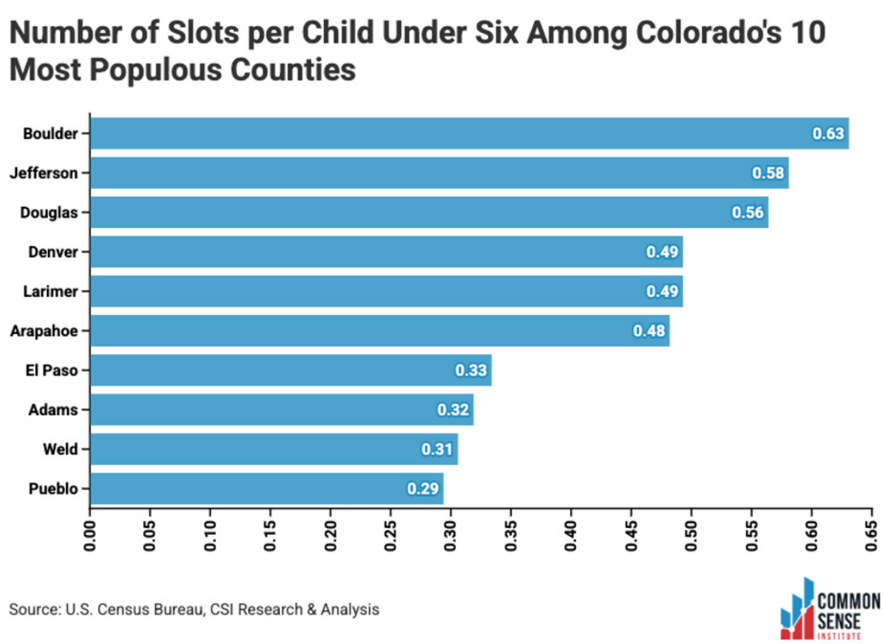
FIGURE 3

Number of Hours Worked per Week to Afford Child Care			
City	Minimum Wage	Number of Hours at Minimum Wage	Number of Hours at Average Wage
Adams	$14.81	21	8.3
Arapahoe	$14.81	21.1	7.5
Boulder	$16.57	22.9	8
Denver	$18.81	19.3	7.3
Douglas	$14.81	22	7.6
El Paso	$14.81	19.3	8.4
Jefferson	$14.81	23.1	8.7
Larimer	$14.81	19.8	8.1
Pueblo	$14.81	14.2	7.5
Weld	$14.81	21.7	9.9

While it is well established that child care is expensive and burdensome for families with young children, availability is also a significant challenge. Fifty-one percent of Colorado is in a child care desert, with too few child care slots for the number of children needing them.[viii]

Figure 4 shows the slots relative to the number of children for the largest counties in Colorado. None of them have enough slots for children six and under. Despite having the lowest average cost of the counties listed, Pueblo also has the lowest supply.

FIGURE 4



CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITY INDEX BY COUNTY

Figure 5 displays an index that shows the relative challenge of child care in both affordability and availability for counties in Colorado.[ix]

The Affordability portion of the Index is constructed relative to the average, so, for instance, Adams County's value is:

$$Affordability\ Part\ of\ the\ Child\ Care\ Opportunities\ Index_{Adams\ County} = \frac{Percent\ of\ Wages\ Devoted\ to\ Child\ Care_{Average\ Across\ Counties}}{Percent\ of\ Wages\ Devoted\ to\ Child\ Care_{Adams\ County}} = \left(\frac{21.09\%}{21.94\%}\right) \cdot 100 = 96$$

This indicates that Adams County's affordability is less than average (Residents in Adams County spend more of their wages on child care). Essentially, a lower affordability index value (e.g., below 100) indicates more expensive child care costs relative to wages and above 100 indicates less expensive relative to other counties.

Additionally, the Availability portion of the Index is calculated as the number of slots per children under age six. An index value less than 100, say 90, means that there are fewer than one slot per every child under age six.

In the Adams County example below, the county has low availability, which is indicated by an index value of 32, well below the average of 57.

$$Availability\ Part\ of\ Child\ Care\ Opportunities\ Index_{Adams\ County} = \frac{Licensed\ spots_{Adams\ County}}{Children\ under\ 6_{Adams\ County}} \cdot 100 = \frac{12{,}633}{39{,}650} \cdot 100 = 32.$$

Figure 5 below helps to tell the story of the child care challenges across the state by showing all counties in Colorado relative to affordability and availability of child care. Counties to the left on the chart are generally less affordable than average; to the right are more affordable than average. On the y-axis, the higher the index value, the more availability. An index value of 100 means that there is one slot per child under age six in the county. Generally, where affordability is greater, availability of slots suffers.

Top Right Quadrant – Most desirable, child care is more affordable and available

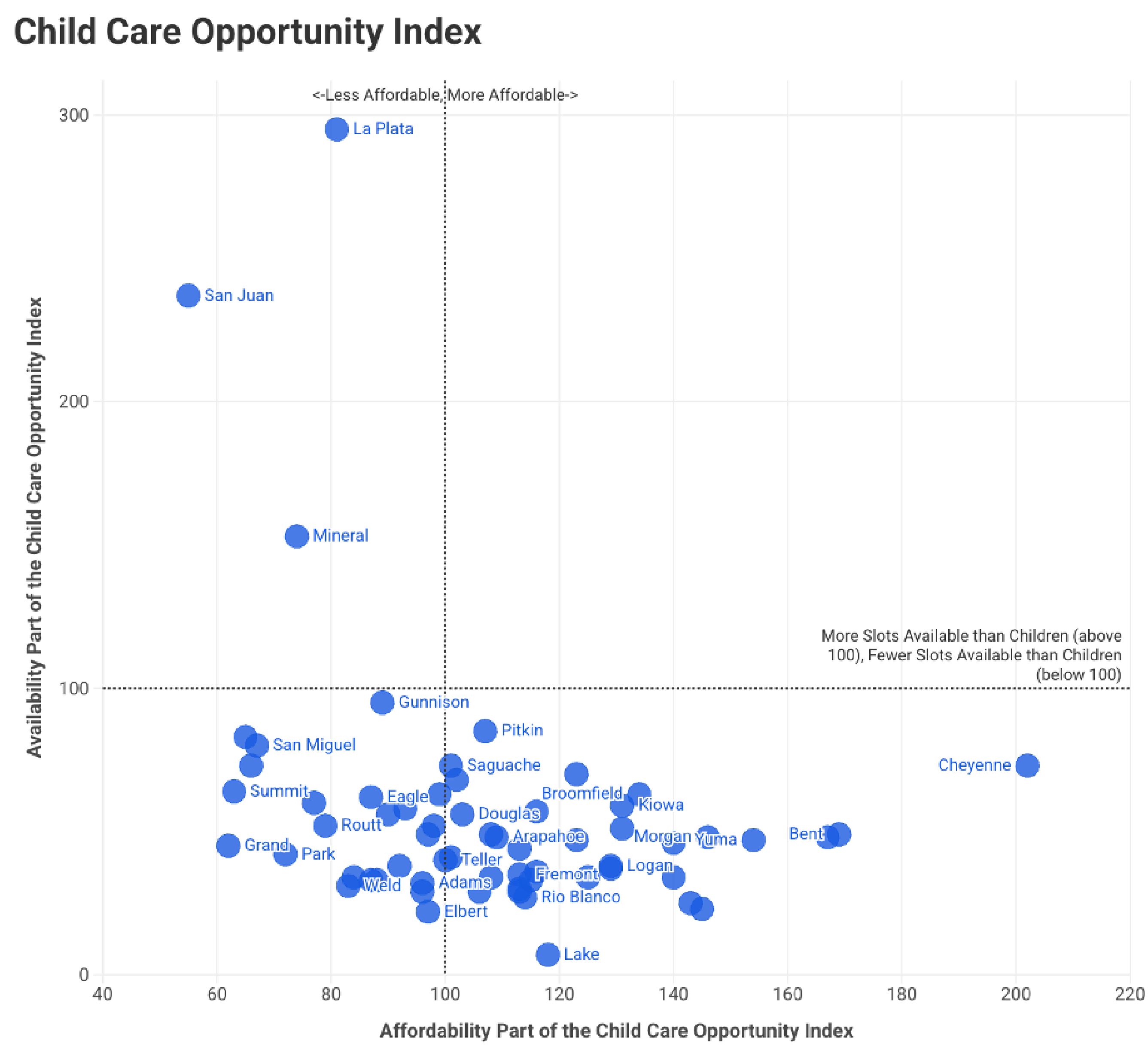
Top Left Quadrant – Child care is more available but less affordable

Bottom Right Quadrant – Child care is more affordable but less available

Bottom Left Quadrant – Least desirable, child care is less available and less affordable

No county plots into the desirable upper right-hand quadrant as having ample availability and affordable child care.

FIGURE 5



Source: Common Sense Policy Institute Research and Analysis • Hinsdale and Jackson counties are not included due to insufficient data

Figure 6 depicts the child care opportunity index score for affordability and availability among Colorado's ten most populous counties and ranks them best to worst. The counties are ranked by summing each county's affordability and availability index scores. Boulder performs the best, with a score of 162, while Weld county ranks last with a score of 114.

The remaining counties' scores can be viewed in the appendix of this report.

FIGURE 6

Child Care Opportunity Index by County

On the Affordability part, 100 is average. A county with a value above 100 is less expensive than average, while a value less than 100 is more expensive than average. On the Availability part, a value less than 100 means that there are fewer than 1 slot per child under age six, while a value greater than 100 means there are more than 1 slot per child under age six.

County	Affordability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Availability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Status Compared to Average
Boulder	99	63	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Douglas	103	56	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Arapahoe	109	48	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Denver	108	49	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Jefferson	93	58	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Larimer	97	49	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Pueblo	106	29	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Adams	96	32	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
El Paso	87	33	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Weld	83	31	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six

SOURCE: Common Sense Institute

WHY IT MATTERS

Lack of affordable and available child care can lead parents, particularly mothers, to leave the workforce. 60,000 more moms with children under six would be in the labor force if they had the same participation rate as moms with children over six. These mothers represent both the near-term economic impact of unrealized wages as well as a longer-term impact on career advancement and increased earnings throughout their careers. This can be particularly true for single mothers who face greater challenges in balancing work and child care needs.

Employers report the impact of insufficient child care on their employees leads to decreased productivity and potential revenue loss as a result. The challenge of keeping parents as employees can mean higher turnover and increased cost of hiring, as well as the risk of insufficient staff to operate.

Additionally, the challenge of child care is reported by young adults as a prime reason for not having children. In a 2018 survey, 64% reported the cost of child care as a reason to have no children or fewer than they might like. Lower fertility rates mean that while the population ages, fewer workers will move into the labor force to support the needs of the entire population.

OPTIONS TO ADDRESS THE AVAILABILITY-AFFORDABILITY ISSUE

While future reports will look at this issue and possible solutions in greater depth, the challenge across the state is clear. Communities must find a balance between affordability and availability of child care. Using a systems approach to examine each community's child care needs may present solutions that are not immediately obvious. For instance, rural communities may benefit from a mix of friends, family, and neighbor care, home-based and center-based care.

To create a better environment for families, urban communities may need help from the business community and local municipalities to increase affordability and availability through operational subsidies, real estate, and other forms of tax credits to ensure the state has the workforce it needs. Regardless, the workers sidelined from the labor force due to child care issues present a lost GDP opportunity that must be addressed.

APPENDIX

Child Care Cost by County

Figure 7 below shows the share of the average wage spent on child care in each county across the state. Even the least expensive counties, Bent, Cheyenne, and Otero, exceed 10% of the average wage.

FIGURE 7

Child Care Costs, Average Wage, and Share of Wage for Child Care by County

County	Cost per Child per Month	Average Monthly Wage	% of Wage Devoted to Child Care
Alamosa	$727	$4,229	17.2%
Arapahoe	$1,359	$7,037	19.3%
Baca	$497	$3,310	15.0%
Bent	$495	$3,973	12.5%
Broomfield	$1,433	$9,138	15.7%
Cheyenne	$554	$5,295	10.5%
Clear Creek	$1,096	$5,299	20.7%
Conejos	$635	$3,406	18.7%
Crowley	$725	$4,498	16.1%
Delta	$666	$3,934	16.9%
Denver	$1,574	$8,055	19.5%
Douglas	$1,413	$6,911	20.4%
Fremont	$868	$4,654	18.7%
Huerfano	$555	$3,809	14.6%
Kiowa	$605	$3,748	16.1%
Kit Carson	$754	$4,047	18.6%
Lake	$956	$5,356	17.8%
Las Animas	$556	$3,765	14.8%
Lincoln	$750	$4,368	17.2%

County	Cost per Child per Month	Average Monthly Wage	% of Wage Devoted to Child Care
Logan	$693	$4,233	16.4%
Mesa	$875	$4,818	18.2%
Moffat	$946	$4,849	19.5%
Montezuma	$810	$3,882	20.9%
Montrose	$805	$4,307	18.7%
Morgan	$721	$4,979	14.5%
Otero	$486	$3,839	12.7%
Phillips	$789	$4,311	18.3%
Pitkin	$1,381	$6,976	19.8%
Prowers	$608	$3,713	16.4%
Pueblo	$911	$4,597	19.8%
Rio Blanco	$953	$5,148	18.5%
Rio Grande	$844	$4,636	18.2%
Saguache	$740	$3,553	20.8%
Sedgwick	$573	$3,791	15.1%
Yuma	$612	$4,472	13.7%
Teller	$933	$4,424	21.1%
La Plata	$1,146	$4,420	25.9%
Mineral	$1,031	$3,627	28.4%
San Juan	$1,193	$3,120	38.2%
Adams	$1,350	$6,153	21.9%
Archuleta	$1,004	$4,021	25.0%
Boulder	$1,645	$7,743	21.2%
Chaffee	$1,195	$4,376	27.3%
Costilla	$729	$3,384	21.5%
Custer	$869	$3,692	23.5%
Dolores	$846	$3,523	24.0%
Eagle	$1,352	$5,564	24.3%
El Paso	$1,239	$5,091	24.3%
Elbert	$1,219	$5,581	21.8%
Garfield	$1,247	$5,447	22.9%
Gilpin	$1,193	$5,421	22.0%
Grand	$1,418	$4,199	33.8%
Gunnison	$1,065	$4,472	23.8%
Jefferson	$1,487	$6,577	22.6%
Larimer	$1,274	$5,858	21.8%

County	Cost per Child per Month	Average Monthly Wage	% of Wage Devoted to Child Care
Ouray	$1,319	$4,134	31.9%
Park	$1,311	$4,489	29.2%
Routt	$1,336	$5,000	26.7%
San Miguel	$1,564	$4,983	31.4%
Summit	$1,594	$4,732	33.7%
Washington	$1,157	$3,579	32.3%
Weld	$1,396	$5,499	25.4%

Child Care Slots and Children by County

Of the 64 counties across the state, only four report more than one slot per child under six years of age. 94% have fewer than one licensed slot per child under age six. This means that many parents needing child care have to find alternatives to licensed care.

FIGURE 8

Licensed Child Care Slots and Number of Children Under Age Six by County

County	Number of Licensed Spots	Number of Children Under Six	Slots per Child Under Six
Grand Total	164,218	371,355	0.44
Adams	12,633	39,650	0.32
Alamosa	487	1,045	0.47
Arapahoe	21,644	44,913	0.48
Archuleta	226	660	0.34
Baca	100	219	0.46
Bent	121	249	0.49
Boulder	10,026	15,879	0.63
Broomfield	2,688	4,277	0.63
Chaffee	534	887	0.60
Cheyenne	75	103	0.73
Clear Creek	208	305	0.68
Conejos	159	541	0.29
Costilla	97	186	0.52
Crowley	74	146	0.51
Custer	52	93	0.56

County	Number of Licensed Spots	Number of Children Under Six	Slots per Child Under Six
Delta	505	1,507	0.34
Denver	22,503	45,599	0.49
Dolores	41	125	0.33
Douglas	13,509	23,972	0.56
Eagle	1,886	3,041	0.62
El Paso	17,892	53,549	0.33
Elbert	339	1,508	0.23
Fremont	734	2,119	0.35
Garfield	1,794	4,722	0.38
Gilpin	80	279	0.29
Grand	319	710	0.45
Gunnison	525	553	0.95
Hinsdale	30	29	1.03
Huerfano	84	359	0.23
Jackson	15	47	0.32
Jefferson	19,208	33,064	0.58
Kiowa	41	70	0.59
Kit Carson	234	535	0.44
La Plata	1,166	395	2.95
Lake	215	3,123	0.07
Larimer	9,727	19,713	0.49
Las Animas	173	702	0.25
Lincoln	193	275	0.70
Logan	489	1,272	0.38
Mesa	3,372	9,261	0.36
Mineral	49	32	1.53
Moffat	325	961	0.34
Montezuma	590	1,444	0.41
Montrose	736	2,418	0.30
Morgan	1,091	2,271	0.48
Otero	594	1,235	0.48
Ouray	93	127	0.73
Park	227	545	0.42
Phillips	141	431	0.33
Pitkin	593	697	0.85
Prowers	389	1,039	0.37

County	Number of Licensed Spots	Number of Children Under Six	Slots per Child Under Six
Pueblo	3,144	10,701	0.29
Rio Blanco	145	530	0.27
Rio Grande	360	636	0.57
Routt	641	1,239	0.52
Saguache	322	439	0.73
San Juan	45	19	2.37
San Miguel	315	394	0.80
Sedgwick	72	209	0.34
Summit	952	1,481	0.64
Teller	420	1,062	0.40
Washington	234	282	0.83
Weld	8,186	26,725	0.31
Yuma	356	756	0.47

Child Care Opportunity Index by County

Figure 9 shows the data plotted above in color-coded form. Data is sorted by the combined values of the Child Care Opportunities index, which equally accounts for both affordability, and availability. Of the state's counties, more than one-third (37%) fall into the less affordable-less available quadrant. Only 5% are less affordable but more available. And 56% of the counties have more affordable-less available child care options. **No counties are more affordable and more available.**

FIGURE 9

Child Care Opportunity Index by County On the Affordability part, 100 is average. A county with a value above 100 is less expensive than average, while a value less than 100 is more expensive than average. On the Availability part, a value less than 100 means that there are fewer than 1 slot per child under age six, while a value greater than 100 means there are more than 1 slot per child under age six.			
County	Affordability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Availability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Status Compared to Average
La Plata	81	295	Less Affordable, More than One Slot per Child Under Six
San Juan	55	237	Less Affordable, More than One Slot per Child Under Six
Cheyenne	202	73	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six

County	Affordability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Availability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Status Compared to Average
Mineral	74	153	Less Affordable, More than One Slot per Child Under Six
Bent	169	49	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Otero	167	48	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Yuma	154	47	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Broomfield	134	63	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Lincoln	123	70	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Morgan	146	48	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Pitkin	107	85	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Kiowa	131	59	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Baca	140	46	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Gunnison	89	95	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Crowley	131	51	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Saguache	101	73	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Sedgwick	140	34	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Rio Grande	116	57	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Alamosa	123	47	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Clear Creek	102	68	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Huerfano	145	23	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Las Animas	143	25	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Logan	129	38	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Prowers	129	37	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Boulder	99	63	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Douglas	103	56	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six

County	Affordability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Availability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Status Compared to Average
Arapahoe	109	48	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Delta	125	34	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Denver	108	49	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Kit Carson	113	44	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Mesa	116	36	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Jefferson	93	58	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Costilla	98	52	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Eagle	87	62	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Fremont	113	35	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Phillips	115	33	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Washington	65	83	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Custer	90	56	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Larimer	97	49	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
San Miguel	67	80	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Montrose	113	30	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Conejos	113	29	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Moffat	108	34	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Montezuma	101	41	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Rio Blanco	114	27	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Teller	100	40	Average Affordability, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Ouray	66	73	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Chaffee	77	60	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Pueblo	106	29	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six

County	Affordability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Availability Part of the Child Care Opportunity Index	Status Compared to Average
Garfield	92	38	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Routt	79	52	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Adams	96	32	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Summit	63	64	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Lake	118	7	More Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Gilpin	96	29	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Dolores	88	33	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
El Paso	87	33	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Elbert	97	22	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Archuleta	84	34	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Park	72	42	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Weld	83	31	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six
Grand	62	45	Less Affordable, Fewer than One Slot per Child Under Six

SOURCE: Common Sense Institute · Hinsdale and Jackson are not included due to data availability.

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