Child Care in Missoula

2020 Survey Results

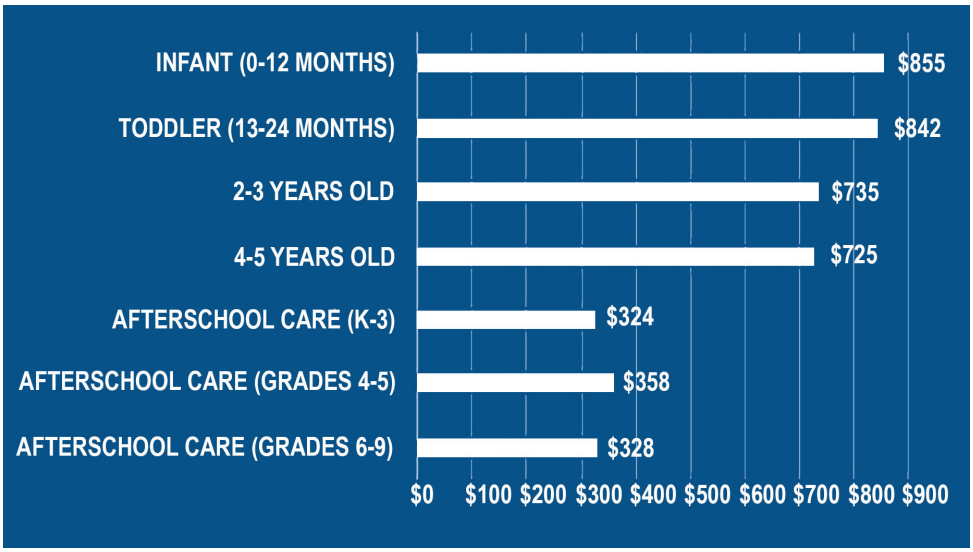
MISSOULA CHAMBER
MISSOULA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Engaging Business and Community

In 2018, the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce identified child care as a critical workforce issue. Two years later, that issue continues to be a challenge for the community. The need for increased access to affordable, quality child care has been complicated by new challenges arising from Covid-19 and the related impacts that has had on schools and the business community.

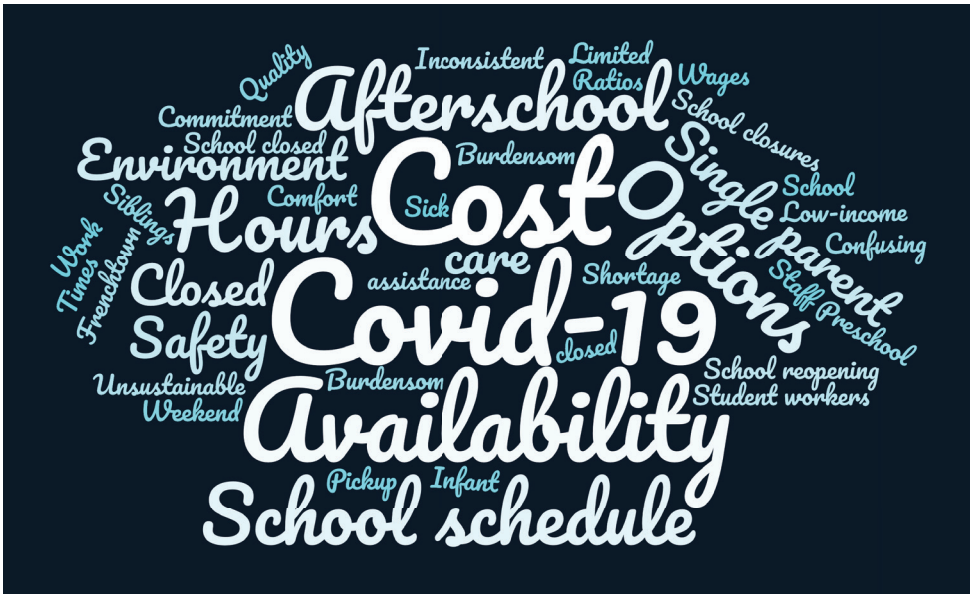
The Chamber conducted its second Child Care Needs Assessment Survey during the months of July and August of 2020. The survey revealed new concnerns and challenges due to uncertainty in the community due to Covid-19.

In the Chamber's 2018 survey, cost was identified as one of the biggest hurdles for parents accessing child care in Missoula. Two years later, cost remains a significant challenge. Survey responses indicate the price of full-time child care has seen a small increase and remains one of the highest expenses in a family's monthly budget. For families with multiple children, the costs of child care can be prohibitive and be a reason for one parent to exit the workforce.

AVERAGE COST, BY AGE, PER MONTH, PER CHILD FOR CHILD CARE



CHILD CARE CHALLENGES



Child Care in Missoula 2020

In the 2020 survey, the Chamber found the percentage of respondents who claim to have scaled back or abandoned their career due to child care isssues rose 3% over 2018's survey, increasing from 47% to 50%.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has created new challenges for working parents looking for child care. The 2020 survey indicates an increased demand for care of school-aged children. Public schools returning with a hybrid schedule (Some in-class learning paired with some remote-learning) has created additional need for child care.

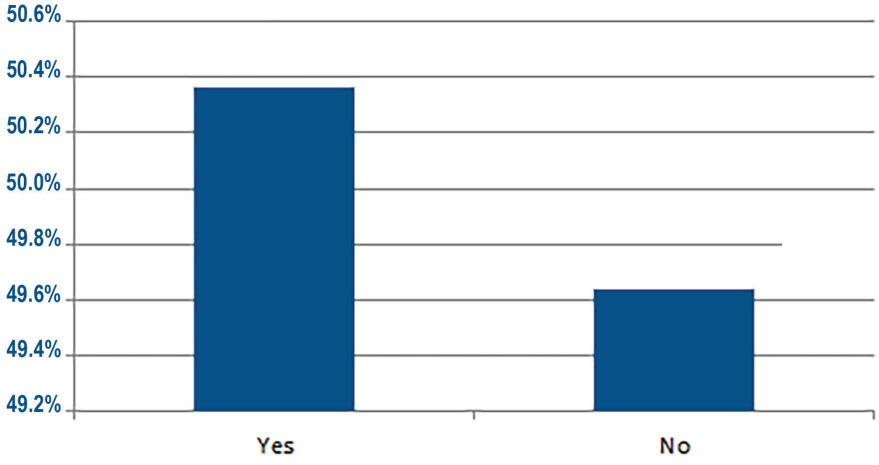
Additionally, the global pandemic caused the closure of some child care operations. While most of those closures were temporary as providers worked to establish new protocols for providing care during a pandemic, some respondents indicated their provider had closed their doors permanently, leaving them with no options for their child.

Cost, availability and health concerns were the top three reasons respondents indicated for choosing not to utilize child care in Missoula. Many indicated that the economics of care for multiple children made it impossible for them to return to the workforce.

The Chamber will continue to work with its partners to address the needs of this survey to create better access to affordable, quality child care.

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HAVE YOU SCALED BACK OR ABANDONED YOUR CAREER DUE TO CHILD CARE ISSUES?



MISSOULA INCOME AND EXPENSES

Housing	$12,190
Transportation	$10,742
Food	$8,169
Child care	$7,142[1]
Medical	$8,722
Taxes	$4,073
Other	$7,170

+ Numbers based on a household with 2 working adults and 1 child.
1. Per child

Income needed to afford basic expenses:

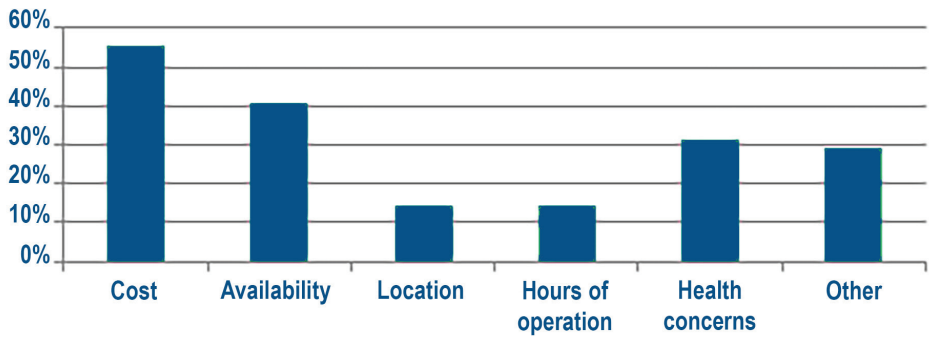
$58,208[1]

Missoula median income

$43,602[2]

1. Household income (2 adults)
2. Pre-tax income

REASONS PARENTS ARE CHOOSING NOT TO USE CHILD CARE



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