In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers declined from 2008-2013, becoming more stable from 2014-2020 although still in decline at a lesser rate. Capacity for children declined from 2008-2013, however due to more family child care closures than center-based care, capacity has risen from 2014-2019. Since the pandemic there has been a net loss of nearly 150 providers and around 1,500 slots. This decline has disproportionally impacted communities based on location. In the net loss of providers, nearly 40% are center-based, representing 60% of the capacity lost.

In Whatcom County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 110 with capacity for 3,277 children in 2017, to 106 providers with capacity for 3,686 children in December of 2021.*

### Early Achievers
Early Achievers is Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), which gives training, technical assistance, coaching, awards, scholarships, and other benefits to child care providers to improve the quality of their care.

Statewide, 3,926 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 62% of licensed child care providers in Whatcom County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.
### Demographics

**Population**
- Total Population in 2020: 228,000
- Change since 2015: 18,210
- Children under 5 yrs: 11,258
- Children under 15 yrs: 38,556
- K-12 Enrollment: 27,577

**Economics**
- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 11.3%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 58.9 to 65.9%
- Median Household Income: $67,533
- Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

### Compensation in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$27,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$40,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$32,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
<td>$79,524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$1,460</td>
<td>$1,668</td>
<td>$1,654</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,413</td>
<td>$1,517</td>
<td>$1,482</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$1,181</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$1,249</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$628</td>
<td>$689</td>
<td>$946</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.383.1735

Data Sources:
Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at https://www.childcareawarewa.org.
*Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only
1 Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2020
2 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2017-2018
3 U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2019
4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2019
6 Department of Early Learning Washington State 2018 Child Care Survey
7 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2017-2018

For more information, go to https://www.childcareawarewa.org