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 disproportionately 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 111 with capacity for 3,305 children in 2018, to 105 providers with capacity for 3,793 children in December of 2022.*

Child Care Aware of Washington provides thorough and independent information and support:
- For families seeking quality child care
- For child care programs seeking to improve quality
- For effective policymaking

Since 1989, our regional member programs and statewide Family Center have enhanced the quality of child care and helped families by:
- Delivering training, technical assistance, & consultation to child care providers
- Supplying families with consumer education & referrals for child care

**Whatcom County**

is served locally by

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington

a program of

The Opportunity Council

1201 Cornwall Ave

https://www.ccanorthwest.org/

888.444.1862 x1227

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**Number of Child Care Providers**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Age Only</td>
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**Total Child Care Capacity**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accept all ages</td>
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<td>Do not accept</td>
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</table>

**Early Achievers**

Early Achievers is Washington's **Quality Recognition 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, 4,225 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 69% 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.

**Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 1/5/2023
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2022

In 2022, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 13,579 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Whatcom County alone, we helped 476 families with 592 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 645 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2022

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
1Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2022
2Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Report Card Enrollment, 2021-2022
3U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2021
4U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2021
6Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies, Cost of Quality Survey, 2022
Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Whatcom County is in Northwest Washington which includes: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom.
7Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2022-23

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