





### Methodology

Child care costs are reported at the county-level for infant child care and child care for 4-year-olds where available across the state. To determine the affordability of child care costs by county, we compared the average cost of center-based child care to household median income by county. Affordability was calculated by dividing the average cost of care in that county by the county's median income as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

### Findings

Families in Maricopa County, the most populated county in Arizona and home to state capital Phoenix, pay on average nearly 14 percent of median income for child care for one infant. Families in other highly populated counties like Pinal County, abutting the city of Tucson, see similarly unaffordable child care costs. Costs in four of five of the least affordable counties for infant child care did not differ greatly from statewide affordability, which may indicate a pattern of unaffordability for working families across the state.

Of note, center-based infant care costs was least affordable in La Paz county and also differed considerably from the statewide average, both for infant care (+7.0%) and for care for 4-year olds (+4.4%). Although it is one of the least

populated areas in Arizona, working families may pay, on average, nearly 21 percent of median household income to cover the cost of an infant in center-based care.

Affordability of family child care did not differ from the statewide affordability percentage for married families by more than 3 percent, except in Gila County, located in the central part of the state. In Gila County, families of an infant accessing family child care may pay nearly 13 percent of their household income for child care.



**Table 1: Least Affordable Counties for Infant Child Care Costs by Type of Care**

Rank	County	Average annual cost of infant care*	Percent median income	Difference between county-level and statewide affordability**
<b>Statewide Center-Based Care Affordability: 13.9%</b>				
1	La Paz County	\$8,320	20.9%	7.0%
2	Pinal County	\$9,416	14.1%	0.2%
3	Yuma County	\$7,378	14.0%	0.1%
4	Maricopa County	\$11,339	13.9%	0.0%
5	Cochise County	\$9,251	13.9%	0.0%
<b>Statewide Family Child Care Affordability: 9.4%</b>				
1	Gila County	\$7,571	12.7%	3.3%
2	Yuma County	\$6,424	12.2%	2.8%
3	Navajo County	\$6,260	11.8%	2.4%
4	Santa Cruz County	\$6,079	11.5%	2.1%
5	Greenlee County	\$7,800	11.3%	1.9%

Note: NR = Not Reported (meaning that data is unavailable for a given county); NA = Not Applicable

\*Source: Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral

\*\* Affordability, or Percentage Median Income, is a comparison of average cost against county median income

**Table 2: County-Level Costs by Age and Type**

County	Infant Care			4-Year-Old		
	Cost*	Percentage median income**	Difference to state average	Cost*	Percentage median income**	Difference to state average
	Statewide Center-Based Care Affordability: 13.9%					
Apache County	\$6,496	13.6%	-0.3%	\$6,205	13.0%	2.0%
Cochise County	\$9,251	13.9%	0.0%	\$7,552	11.3%	0.3%
Coconino County	\$9,395	11.4%	-2.5%	\$7,893	9.5%	-1.5%
Gila County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Graham County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Greenlee County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
La Paz County	\$8,320	20.9%	7.0%	\$6,110	15.4%	4.4%
Maricopa County	\$11,339	13.9%	0.0%	\$9,093	11.2%	0.2%
Mohave County	\$6,960	12.5%	-1.4%	\$5,928	10.7%	-0.3%
Navajo County	\$6,463	12.1%	-1.8%	\$6,272	11.8%	0.8%
Pima County	\$9,982	13.9%	0.0%	\$7,877	10.9%	-0.1%
Pinal County	\$9,416	14.1%	0.2%	\$7,385	11.0%	0.0%
Santa Cruz County	NR	NA	NA	\$6,708	12.7%	1.7%
Yavapai County	\$8,034	12.9%	-1.0%	\$6,719	10.8%	-0.2%
Yuma County	\$7,378	14.0%	0.1%	\$6,590	12.5%	1.5%
County	Statewide Family Child Care Affordability: 9.4%					
Apache County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Cochise County	\$6,588	9.9%	0.5%	\$6,244	9.4%	0.6%
Coconino County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Gila County	\$7,571	12.7%	3.3%	\$6,993	11.7%	2.9%
Graham County	\$7,193	10.2%	0.8%	\$7,540	10.7%	1.9%
Greenlee County	\$7,800	11.3%	1.9%	\$7,800	11.3%	2.5%
La Paz County	NR	NA	NA	NR	NA	NA
Maricopa County	\$7,783	9.6%	0.2%	\$7,158	8.8%	0.0%
Mohave County	\$5,757	10.4%	1.0%	\$5,237	9.4%	0.6%
Navajo County	\$6,260	11.8%	2.4%	\$6,276	11.8%	3.0%
Pima County	\$6,895	9.6%	0.2%	\$6,927	9.6%	0.8%
Pinal County	\$7,483	11.2%	1.8%	\$6,916	10.3%	1.5%
Santa Cruz County	\$6,079	11.5%	2.1%	\$6,006	11.3%	2.5%
Yavapai County	\$6,803	11.0%	1.6%	\$6,477	10.4%	1.6%
Yuma County	\$6,424	12.2%	2.8%	\$6,221	11.8%	3.0%

Note: NR = Not Reported (meaning that data is unavailable for a given county); NA = Not Applicable

\*Source: Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral

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