



Alberta Child Care Survey 2016

In an effort to learn more about the challenges in the child care sector, Public Interest Alberta coordinated a survey of child care centres, day homes, and after-school care programs.

Main Findings

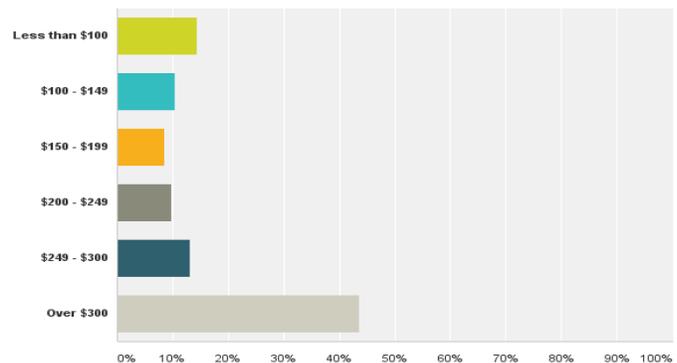
1. Costs are high, even for many low-income families receiving government subsidies.

Low-income families in nearly half (44%) of the facilities surveyed are paying over \$300 per month above subsidy for child care.

The majority of respondents (67%) feel that provincial subsidy rates for lower-income families are not sufficient.

Q12 On average, approximately how much do low-income families have to pay above subsidy per child, per month at your centre?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0

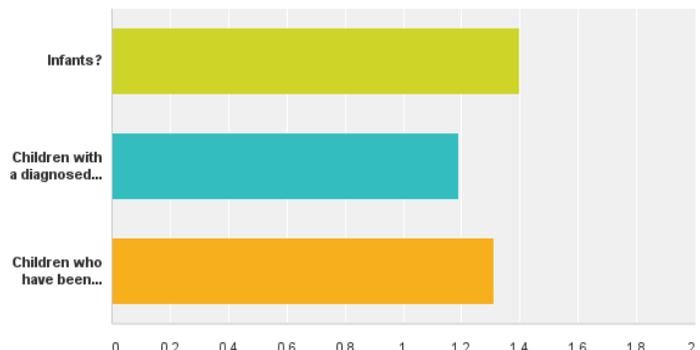


2. Access to child care is insufficient for care of infants and children with special needs.

40% of child care operators surveyed do not offer care to infants, while 19% are unable to support children who have a diagnosed disability, and 31% do not accept children who have been expelled from other educational programs.

Q11 Do you provide care for

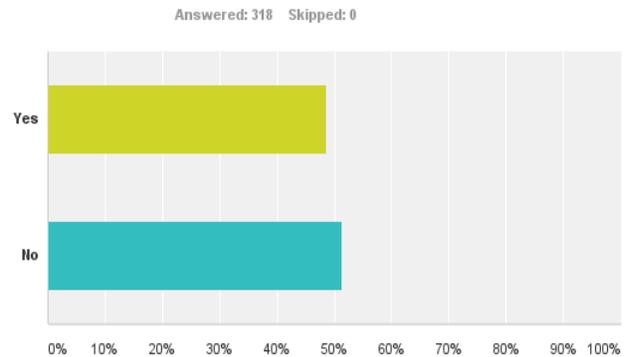
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3. Child care operators with waiting lists have an average of 59 children waiting for a space.

Half of the operators surveyed (49%) have waiting lists, with an average of 59 children waiting for care per program.

Q8 Do you currently have a waiting list?



4. Child care operators have a high proportion of staff with minimal training.

More than one-third (36%) of workers employed by child care operators surveyed were trained to the minimal level of Child Development Assistant (requires a 45-hour course). Child Development Workers (requires a one-year certificate) made up the smallest proportion of workers at less than one in five (18%).

Child Development Assistants	Child Development Workers	Child Development Supervisors
1,423 (36%)	713 (18%)	1,843 (46%)

5. A high number of child care operators are able to offer limited or no professional development opportunities to their staff.

More than one in ten child care operators offer no professional development opportunities, including reading material. Post-secondary education courses and paid time to attend conferences or workshops are offered only by a minority of child care operators.

Professional development opportunities offered	
On-site workshops	70%
Funding to attend workshops or conferences	67%
Paid time to attend workshops or conferences	43%
Post-secondary education courses	34%
Reading material	73%
None of the above	11%

6. Non-profit operators have more highly-trained staff and offer more professional development opportunities than for-profit providers.

The majority (52%) of workers employed by non-profit operators surveyed were trained to the highest level (Child Development Supervisor). Just 40% of workers employed by for-profit operators were trained to the same level.

Number of workers by training level employed by non-profit and for-profit operators surveyed

	Child Development Assistants	Child Development Workers	Child Development Supervisors
Non-profit operators	610 (31%)	319 (16%)	1,013 (52%)
For-profit operators	793 (40%)	383 (19%)	792 (40%)

In all categories surveyed, non-profit operators provided more professional development opportunities than for-profit operators, including significantly more operators providing staff with funding or paid time to attend workshops or conferences.

What professional development opportunities, if any, do you offer your staff? (please select all that apply)

Answer Options	Non-profit operators	For-profit operators
On-site workshops	79.5%	62.5%
Funding to attend workshops or conferences	81.9%	57.6%
Paid time to attend workshops or conferences	63.8%	28.8%
Post-secondary education courses	38.6%	31.0%
Reading material	77.2%	69.0%
None of the above	3.1%	15.8%

Background information

The survey, which ran between August 29 and October 7, 2016, invited over 1,100 child care providers across the province to participate. We were pleased to receive responses from over 300 providers. The survey was conducted by Ryan MacIntyre, a member of Public Interest Alberta's Child Care and Early Learning Task Force.

Overview of the Participants

1. 90 respondents were from Calgary (28%), 92 respondents were from Edmonton (29%), and 136 (43%) of those surveyed were from smaller cities, towns, and rural areas of the province.
2. Among those surveyed: 26% were day home operators, 61% were daycare operators, 16% operated pre-schools, 38% operated school-age care programs, and 1% reported that they offered all of the above.
3. Amongst those surveyed: 3% were for-profit, publicly traded corporations, 55% were for-profit privately-held businesses, 40% were non-profit organizations, and 2% were municipally-run.
4. 78% were accredited, 17% were not accredited, and 4% are in the process of becoming accredited.