

FACTSCostly: Child Care for Young Children in California

A new report looks at the child care experiences of households with children ages 0-5, including unmet need for and household spending on child care.



Only

1 in 2

families had regular* child care arrangements in 2023.

*Child care for 10 or more hours per week

Latinx children and children living in households below the 200% FPL were less likely to use regular child care.

1 in 6
parents of children
ages 0–5 could not
find child care when
they needed it for
a week or longer
in 2023.

1 in 2 (49.8%)

of these parents who could not find child care for a week or more cited affordability as the main reason they could not find child care.

The percentage of families who spent \$200 or more per week on young children's care increased by 75% between 2019 and 2023.

71%
2023
40%
2019

Source: 2019–2023 California Health Interview Surveys Read the policy brief: https://ucla.in/3YhhDiH



