



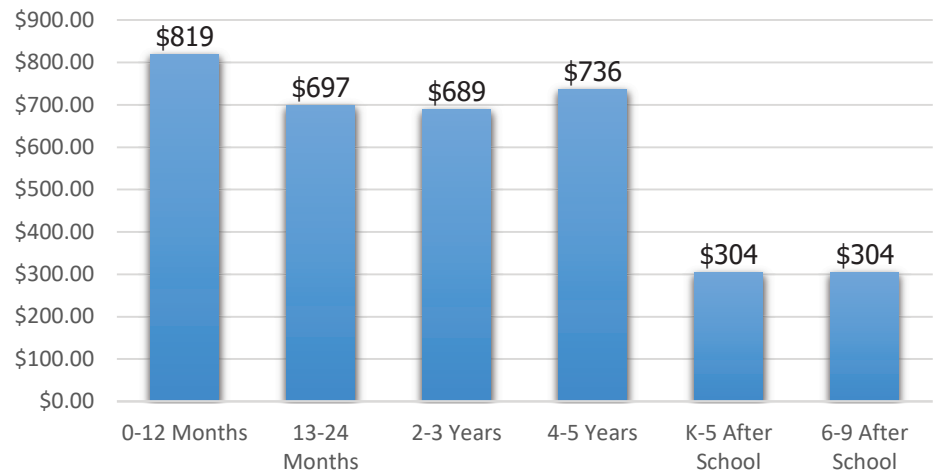
Child Care in Missoula



The results of a survey released by the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce in late 2018 display the need for increased access to quality, affordable child care in the Missoula area. With over 550 responses, more than 70% reported that they are currently utilizing child care services, the majority being for children under 5 years of age. Most respondents reported needing care full-time during the standard Monday through Friday work week, with over 50% utilizing a child care center as the primary source of care. Respondents averaged paying \$637.41 per month for care, with infant care being the most expensive at \$819 per month. At \$637.41, child care is the fourth highest expense for a family behind housing, transportation and food. During infant years (0-2) it is the second highest expense behind only housing.

According to the Missoula Organization of Realtors' 2018 Housing Report, the average cost to rent a 3-bedroom house in Missoula in 2017 was \$1,130, which combined with the average child care cost equals over 50% of pre-tax income. Cost and availability are the top reasons why respondents

COST PER MONTH FOR CHILD CARE BY AGE



EMPLOYERS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS





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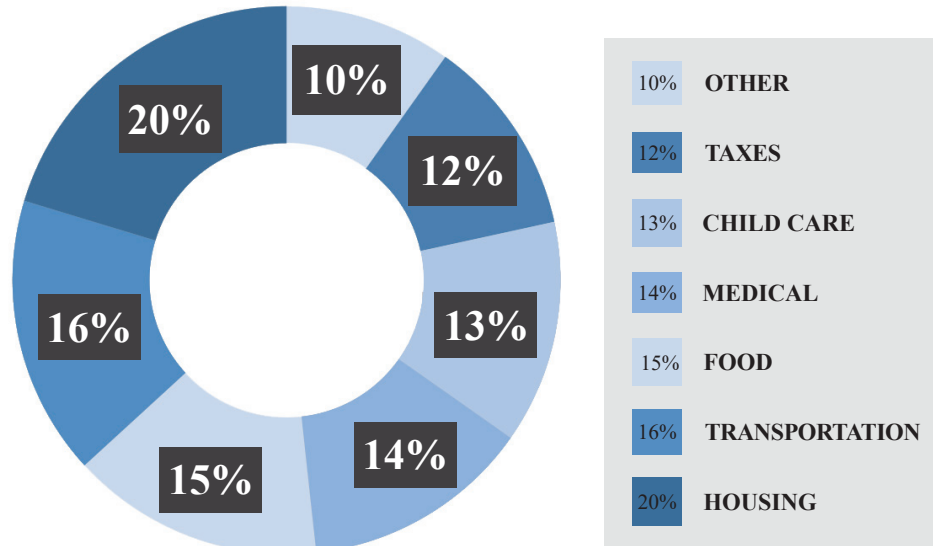
are currently utilizing alternatives to child care centers, such as grandparents or in-home facilities. Notably, over 47% of respondents indicated that they have scaled back or abandoned their career (or expect to) due to child care issues.

While most of those responding indicated the need for child care during normal business hours, the survey showed significant demand for options that covered non-traditional hours as well as days when schools are not in session.

The cost of child care was listed as the top complaint with child care in Missoula with nearly 82% of respondents saying the costs were too high. Finding care for a sick child ranked second with half of those taking the survey responding. Forty-seven percent of those taking the survey said scheduling care to match a work schedule was difficult and 43% said the quality of child care was a problem.

The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with our community partners to improve these conditions as part of our mission to build a stronger economy and foster a healthy, attractive environment for business. These survey results will guide our next steps, which include the advancement of seven models of opportunity for increasing access to quality, affordable child care in our community. If you or your business would like to be a part of this ongoing initiative, please contact the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce today at (406) 543-6623.

DISTRIBUTION OF LIVING EXPENSES



MISSOULA INCOME AND EXPENSES

Housing	\$11,100
Transportation	\$9,011
Food	\$8,154
Child care	\$7,650
Medical	\$7,384
Taxes	\$6,417
Other	\$5,375

+ Numbers based on a household with 2 working adults and 1 child.

Income needed to afford basic expenses:

\$57,661*

Missoula median income

\$41,968*

*Pre-tax household income (2 adults)

COMMENTS FROM THE SURVEY

“We were forced to change work schedules to part time due to lack of options.”

“We love our child care providers but spend too much on care. The cost of high quality childcare in Missoula is extremely high.”

“As a single parent it is extremely expensive. Also, in months like December I still need to pay even though service is only provided half the month.”

