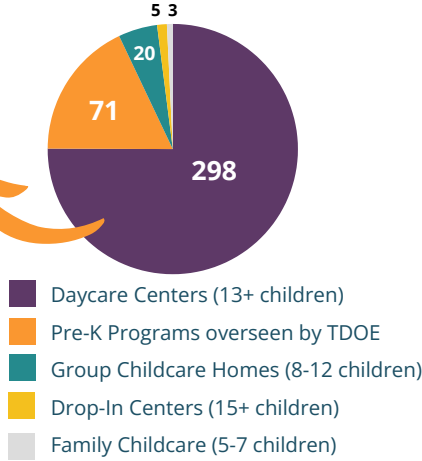


Exploring Barriers to Childcare in Nashville

In Nashville, 34% (44,880) of children are under 5, and many lack access to high-quality care. Childcare deserts, increasing costs, significant range in quality, and staffing struggles all contribute to families' struggles with childcare in Nashville.

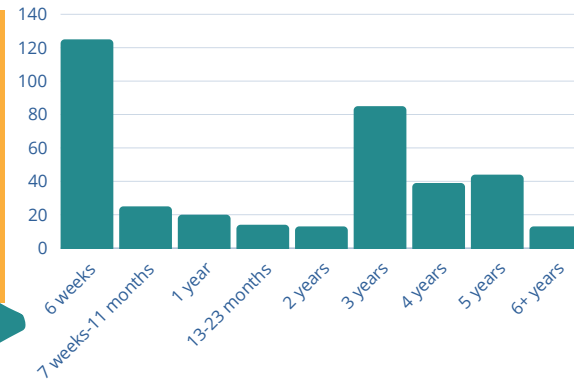
Childcare Facilities by Type in Nashville

The vast majority of facilities in Nashville are daycare centers, meaning they provide at least 3+ hours of care per day for 13+ children



Roughly half of Nashville's childcare facilities serve children under 3 years; a third of facilities serve children at 6 weeks

Age of Youngest Children Served by Nashville's Childcare Facilities

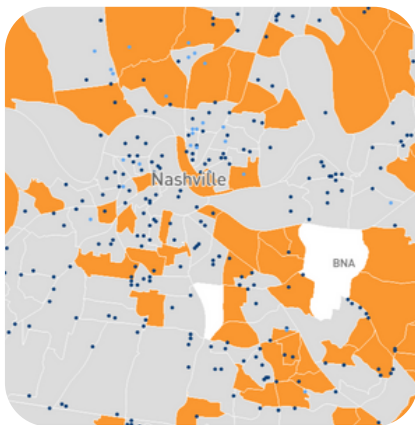


Source: TN Department of Human Resources, 2024

What are the main barriers to high-quality childcare in Nashville?

1 Access

Childcare deserts are predominately located in the north and southeast of the county.



Just 22% of centers provide transportation

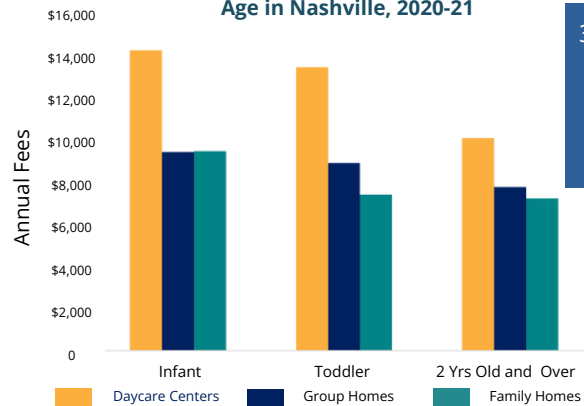
- Childcare Desert
- Childcare Center
- Family Childcare Provider

Source: Center For American Progress, 2020

2 Affordability

The average childcare costs for infants in Nashville is higher than the average college tuition.

Average Annual Childcare Costs by Type and Age in Nashville, 2020-21

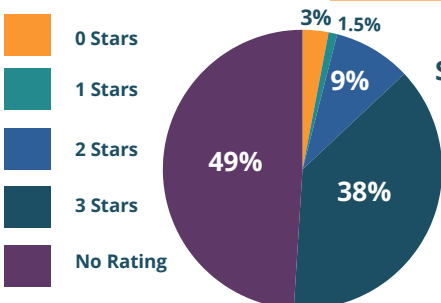


35% of centers participate in Payment Assistance Programs

Source: TN Department of Human Services, 2023, THEC 2023

3 Quality

While optional, nearly half of childcare agencies in Davidson County lack a quality rating under the Childcare Report Card 1-3-star system, complicating parents' ability to assess quality despite it not being a licensing requirement.



Some indicators of quality care include:

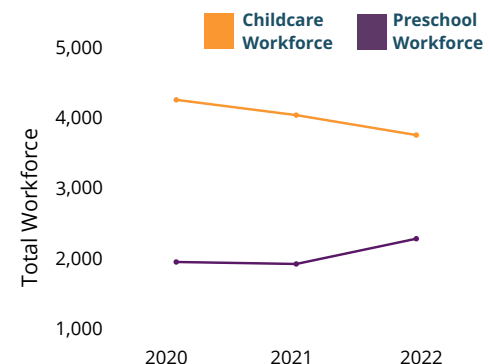
- ★ Low staff turnover
- ★ Staff/student Ratio
- ★ Curriculum and Training

4 Retention

The childcare workforce remains below pre-pandemic levels and continues to decline compared to other early education professions.



Child workers earn approximately 36% below the estimated cost of living in Nashville



Source: Tennessee Department of Human Resources, 2023, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2023, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023