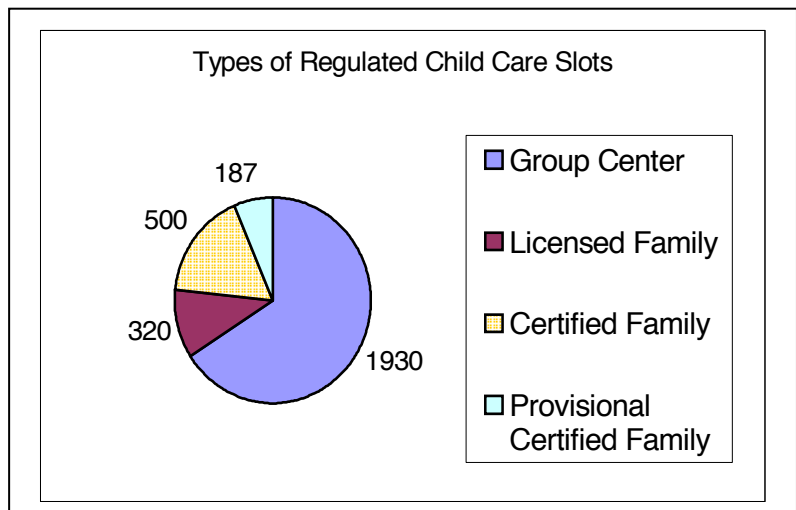


Capacity of Regulated Child Care Facilities in Wood County



Key Facts

- A family in Wood County with one child pays about \$5,875 annually for regulated child care.
- In 2004, 50% of the parents contacting Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Wisconsin, Inc. requested infant care.
- The child care profession experiences high turnover: 30% in Group Centers and 50% in Family Child Care Programs.
- In 2004, teachers at child care centers in Wood County reported earning an average wage of slightly over \$8.50 per hour.

Why is this Information Important?

The growing percentage of women in the workforce over the last 30 years has created an increased demand for child care arrangements. Communities that do not meet the demand for quality, affordable child care will negatively impact families, children and employers.

Regulated Child Care

While there is no single indicator that can accurately measure the demand for regulated child care, Wood County agencies typically run at nearly full capacity.

Wood County has a shortage of care for infants, flexible hours, special needs and rural care. Over 70% of Wisconsin women, age 16 and older, are in the workforce. Analysts predict child care demand will increase by 30 percent.

State and local funding is available to subsidize the cost of child care. Many families do not access state subsidies due to a lack of knowledge or because of paperwork involved.

Recruitment of child care providers is difficult due to low wages. High quality child care programs need resources to pay the full cost of quality child care to attract, train, and retain a competent work force.

Source: Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Wisconsin, Inc.