

PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE

Child care costs are burdening families while quality child care options are not widely available

Child care is a major expense in family budgets, often **exceeding** the cost of housing, college tuition, and food.



HOUSING

Average cost for infant care in Cumberland County is the same as the annual cost of housing.



COLLEGE TUITION

Average cost for infant care in Cumberland County is more than the annual in-state tuition for USM School of Law.



FOOD

Average cost for infant care in Cumberland County is \$5,000 more than the annual cost of food.

*Based on a family with 2 working adults and 2 children for Cumberland County. Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator

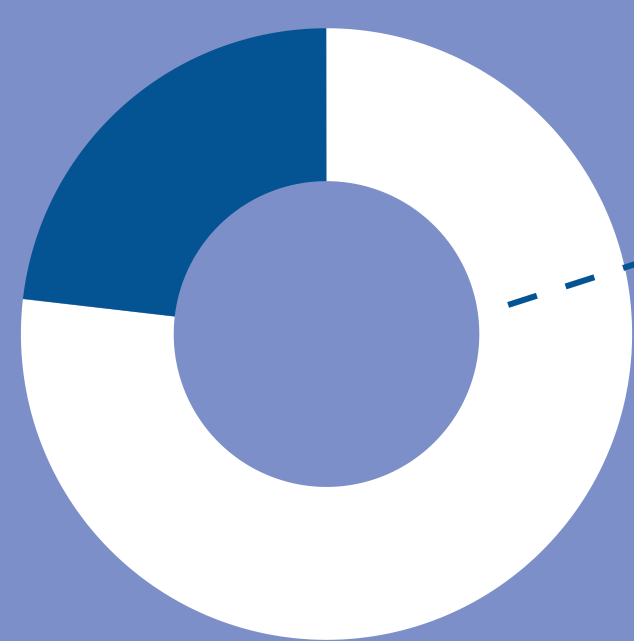


\$15,756

average cost for infant care in Cumberland County

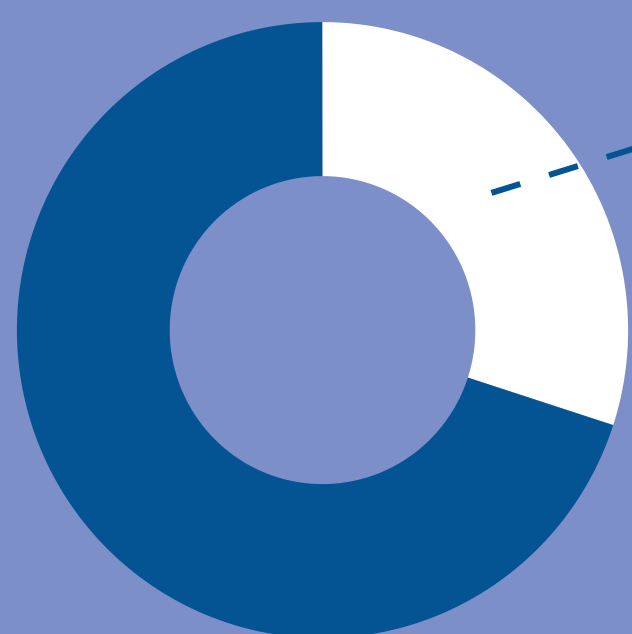
\$26,200

the federal poverty level for a family of four



73%

the percentage of Maine children under age 6 live in a household with all parents in the workforce



30%

the number of center-based child care sites in Maine declined by 30% between 2011 and 2018

Source: Maine Children's Alliance

Research shows 90% of a child's critical brain development happens by age 5.



3,500

the number of children in Portland under the age of 5

Unreliable child care also hurts business.



Lack of child care options lead to employee absences - costing businesses **\$4.4 billion** annually in the United States.

Source: ChildCare Aware



45%

of employed parents experienced some kind of child care breakdown in the past three months which were associated with absenteeism, tardiness, and reduced concentration at work.

Source: ChildCare Aware