



May 26, 2021

Childcare costs increased in every state, spurring national debate

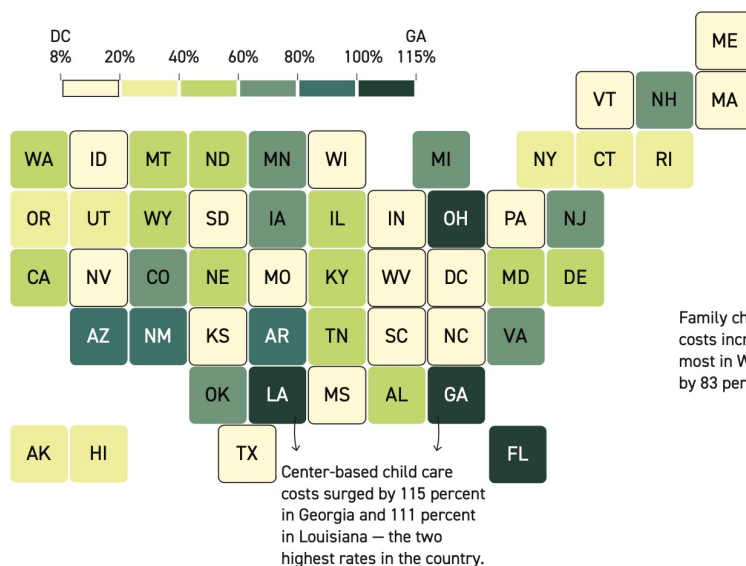
In the pandemic, the cost of center-based childcare jumped by 44 percent and home-based care increased by 70 percent, according to the Center for American Progress. The liberal think tank found that the increased costs were driven in part by the new health and safety protections for both children and staff. These include thermometers for temperature checking, additional sanitizer and disinfectant, and weekly deep cleanings.

Thousands of childcare providers closed their doors during the pandemic. And at the end of last year, one in four facilities remained closed. With the collapse of the childcare industry, the labor market took a big hit — with more than 10 percent of parents, primarily women, forced to leave their jobs to take care of their children. Although some facilities have reopened in the new year, many are operating on thin margins and decreased, unstable enrollment.

The higher demand for childcare, along with higher costs, has prompted a national debate over whether childcare should be considered infrastructure. Democrats describe it as a system that's critical for economic growth since without it, millions of workers can't do their jobs, but Republicans have widely rejected the idea. Biden's latest infrastructure package would funnel more than \$25 billion into upgrading and building out childcare facilities.

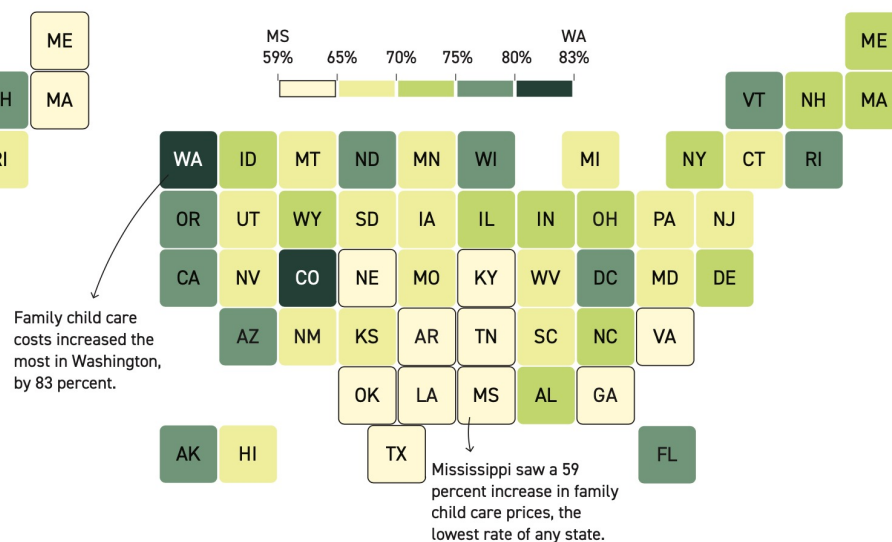
Center-based child care costs jumped 44 percent

PERCENT INCREASE IN CHILD CARE COSTS



Home-based child care costs were up by 70 percent

PERCENT INCREASE IN CHILD CARE COSTS



Source: Center for American Progress