

# SUMMARY

## *of 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey*

### **This Survey**

An up-to-date database of information about child care programs is necessary to inform child care policy planning and program development in the Province of British Columbia. Collecting similar information every few years since 1991, has enabled the government to track provincial and regional trends, such as changes in the number of child care facilities and spaces, fees, wages and use of government programs.

In February 2001, the Child Care Policy Branch, now with the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, contracted the Unit for Child Care Research, School of Child and

Youth Care, at the University of Victoria to undertake the fourth Provincial Child Care Survey.

Two separate surveys were developed, pilot-tested and distributed: one for licensed centre-based child care programs; and one for licensed family child care programs. These surveys focused on a variety of topics, including:

- number of facilities and spaces
- enrolment and fees
- number of children receiving the provincial child care subsidy, the \$107 Support Payment and the Supported Child Care Range Payment
- staffing, salaries and training
- involvement with Child Care Resource and Referral programs, and other provincial child care programs.

BC STATS was consulted to provide population statistics at the time of the 2001 provincial survey. There were an estimated 624,028 children aged 0 to 12 in the province in 2001, representing a decline of 4.2 per cent since 1997.

*The full 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey Report will be available on the ministry web site at:*

**[www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws)**

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## Licensed Centre-Based Child Care

In total, 1,224 (57.8 per cent) licensed centre-based child care programs returned the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. The overall precision of the provincial results for the licensed centre-based child care survey is  $\pm 2$  per cent, 19 times out of 20.

In April 2001, there were 2,116 licensed centre-based child care facilities (an increase of almost 15 per cent since

1997) with an estimated maximum licensed capacity of 56,053 spaces (an increase of 12 per cent since 1997).

Since some centres do not use all of the spaces for which they are licensed, it was determined that there were 51,914 offered spaces, representing 92.6 per cent of the 56,053 maximum licensed spaces. Approximately 28 per cent of licensed centre-based child care facilities were licensed for more than one type of service.

MAXIMUM LICENSED CAPACITY AND OFFERED SPACES		
Service Type	Licensed Capacity 2001	Offered Spaces*
Group Under 3	3,313	3,029
Group 3 to 5	14,051	12,988
Out of School	19,026	17,852
Special Needs	408	315
Child Minding	1,800	1,600
Total (Excl. Preschool)	38,598	35,698
Preschool	17,455	16,216
Total (Incl. Preschool)	56,053	51,914

\* new data for 2001

ENROLMENT COMPARISON FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES 2001 VERSUS 1997			
Type of Service	2001 Enrolment	1997 Enrolment	%Change
Group Under 3	3,310	2,983	+11.0
Group 3 to 5	14,265	15,046	-5.2
Out of School	18,252	13,959	+30.8
Childminding	2,340	3,694	-36.7
Special Needs	288	1,753	-83.6*
Total (Excl. preschool)	38,455	37,435	+2.7
Preschool	30,860	33,612	-8.2
Total (Incl. preschool)	69,315	71,047	-2.4

\*many special needs spaces are now counted as preschool spaces

Approximately 69,315 children were enrolled (full-time, part-time and drop-in) in the range of licensed centre-based child care programs during the first week of April 2001, representing a 2.4 per cent decrease in absolute overall enrolment since 1997. However, due to the declining number of children in the province, enrolment per 1,000 children was stable at 111 children enrolled per 1,000 children in the province, up slightly from 109 children in 1997. The overall drop in absolute enrolment was due to a drop in preschool enrolment. Excluding preschool care, absolute enrolment increased by 2.7 per cent.

Between 1997 and 2001, the percentage of licensed centre-based child care facilities with vacancies dropped for all types of care, except preschool. Group under 3 care

programs had the greatest decrease in vacancies, from 55.3 per cent with vacancies in 1997 to 38.2 per cent with vacancies in 2001, while preschools had a slight increase in vacancies. Preschools were the only type of centre-based care with both an increase in the percentage of centres with vacancies, and an increase in the average number of vacancies.

### Fees

The average monthly fees for centre-based child care were slightly higher in 2001 compared with fees in 1997, except for out-of-school care where fees dropped by an average of \$45 per month (a 19 per cent decline). Preschool fees had the largest percentage increase, followed by group 3 to 5 care.

Type of Service	Average Monthly Fee 2001	Average Monthly Fee 1997	% Change
Group Infant Care (under 18 mos. )	\$705	\$679	+3.8
Group Toddler Care (18 to 35 mos.)	\$662	\$638	+3.8
Group Care (3 to 5 years)	\$494	\$453	+9.1
Kindergarten children in Group Child Care (3 to 5 years)	\$419	Not asked	--
Out-of-School (a.m. only)	\$103	Not reported	--
Out-of-School (p.m. only)	\$157	Not reported	--
Out-of-School (a.m. and p.m.)	\$194	\$239	-18.8
Childminding	\$61	Not reported	--
Preschool (2 x per week)	\$78	\$67	+16.4
Preschool (3 x per week)	\$107	\$92	+16.3

CHILD CARE CENTRES WITH SUBSIDIZED CHILDREN					
Type of Care	% of Facilities with Subsidized Children	# of Enrolled Children with Max. Subsidy	# of Enrolled Children with Part. Subsidy	Total # of Subsidized Children	% of All Enrolled Children
Infants (0 to 18 months)	94.5	572	132	704	57.0
Toddlers (19 to 36 months)	(All Group Under 3)	918	266	1,184	
Group 3 to 5 excluding kindergarten children	96.4	3,645	1,425	5,070	40.3
Group 3 to 5 kindergarten children	(All Group 3 – 5)	492	175	667	
Preschool	85.4	1,657	1,343	3,000	9.7
Out-of-School excluding kindergarten children	93.4	3,251	1,399	4,650	29.6
Out-of -School kindergarten children	(All Out-of-School)	572	175	747	
Special Needs	100	193	62	255	88.5
Total	--	11,300	4,977	16,277	23.5

Almost all centre-based facilities had at least one subsidized child enrolled. Overall, 23.5 per cent of all enrolled children received a subsidy, an increase from 20.1 per cent in 1997. Provincially, three-quarters (75.7 per cent) of centres charged parents all of the difference between the subsidy amount and their actual fee; 12 per cent charged some of the difference, while 12.4 per cent typically did not charge any of the difference.

All of the 22 special needs centres had at least one child who was receiving the \$107 Support Payment. Between 40 and 50 per cent of all other types of centre-based child care centres had at least one child who was receiving this payment. Overall, approximately 1,890 children received the \$107 Support

Payment and 1,752 children received the Supported Child Care Range Payment.<sup>1</sup>

#### Staff

There was a narrow range of average hourly wages across all service types, excluding special needs care. The overall average hourly wages by type of care were:

- Group Under 3 \$14.39

<sup>1</sup> The provincial government provides funding for the extra supports children with special needs require to participate in child care settings. The \$107 Support Payment is for parents to use towards the cost of child care. The Supported Child Care Range Payment pays for consultation, training and extra staffing in the child care program. (Information is current as of survey date, April 2001.)

- Group 3 to 5 \$13.63
- Out-of-School \$12.82
- Special Needs \$18.29
- Childminding \$13.25
- Preschool \$14.18

The average hourly wages for each of the top five job categories were:

- administration only \$17.08
- child care and administration \$15.43
- supervisors \$14.61
- child care only \$13.28
- assistants \$11.68

Overall, 41 per cent of paid staff worked part-time (less than 30 hours per week), with the highest percentages in part-day services, such as out-of-school care, childminding and preschool.

More than half of staff in all service types received some type of benefit, such as medical, extended medical, and/or other benefits. All staff in special needs centres had some type of benefit, with 81.7 per cent receiving extended medical, while less than 40 per cent of staff in childminding facilities had any type of benefit, and only 18.3 per cent had extended medical. In programs where benefits were offered, 44 per cent of all staff had access, while in the remaining 56 per cent of facilities, eligibility depended on factors such as full-time/part-time status, probationary periods, and union contracts.

**Almost 70 per cent of staff in centre-based child care programs were registered Early Childhood Educators (ECE).**

Of the facilities that responded to the 2001 survey, 15.9 per cent were unionized. This is a small increase from 1997, when 14.3 per cent of reporting facilities had unionized staff. The

proportion of unionized facilities was highest for special needs centres (72.3 per cent), followed by group under 3 (32.2 per cent), group 3 to 5 (16.3 per cent), out-of-school (14.5 per cent), preschools (8.5 per cent), and childminding (2.9 per cent).

### Education

Almost 70 per cent of staff in centre-based child care programs were registered Early Childhood Educators (ECE). The proportion of registered ECE staff was highest in group under 3 care (82.4 per cent), group 3 to 5 care (77 per cent) and preschools (74.9 per cent). Childminding and out-of-school care had the lowest percentage of staff with ECE or related training. Thirty-seven per cent of staff in group under 3 centres had their registered Post-basic Infant/Toddler qualifications, while 53.1 per cent of staff at special needs centres had Post-basic Special Needs qualifications.

### Operations

The most common types of operations were: non-profit, operated by parent or community boards (38.9 per cent), and private operators (37 per cent). The percentage of facilities operated by Aboriginal governments or by post-secondary institutions together made up less than 5 per cent of all centre-based facilities. A total of 44 centres that responded to the survey indicated that they were located on reserves.

Evening, overnight, or weekend child care were not commonly offered by centre-based programs. Transportation was provided by 28 per cent of centres overall, most often by out-of-school care at 52 per cent. Meal programs were offered by 21 per cent of centres overall, most often by special needs and group under 3 programs.

**Approximately 18,551 children were enrolled in licensed family child care in April 2001, up 9 per cent, or 1,551 children since 1997.**

Provincially, 70 per cent of centres had been licensed for over five years. Over half of the licensed facilities had been visited by a licensing officer within the past six months. (Please see the full report for more information about the results of the Licensing Section of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey.)

### **Licensed Family Child Care**

A total of 1,410 licensed family child care programs (59.2 per cent) returned the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. The overall precision of the provincial results for the licensed family child care survey is  $\pm 2$  per cent, 19 times out of 20.

In April 2001, there were 2,382 licensed family child care facilities in B.C., an increase of 5 per cent since 1997. The overall licensed capacity of family child care programs was 16,555 child care spaces, an increase of 5 per cent since 1997. In B.C. as a whole, there were 27 licensed family child care spaces per 1,000 children in the province in 2001, up from 24 per 1,000 in 1997.

Approximately 18,551 children were enrolled in licensed family child care in April 2001, up 9 per cent, or 1,551 children since 1997. Enrolment increases were highest for infants aged 12 to 18 months (34.7 per cent) and infants aged 0 to 11 months (17.1 per cent). Similar to 1997, 50 per cent of children were enrolled full-time (30 or more hours per week), 37 per cent part-time (10 to 29 hours per week), and 13 per cent short stay (under 10 hours per week). Just over half (51 per cent) of licensed family child care providers reported that they had one or more of their own children enrolled in the program during the first week of April 2001.

Forty per cent of licensed family child care facilities reported that they had vacant spaces during the first week of April 2001. There was an average of 3.1 vacant spaces for each facility with vacancies.

### **Fees**

Since 1997, licensed family child care fees have increased by approximately 10 per cent for all age groups, except school aged children, whose fees have increased by over 25 per cent. The average daily fees for licensed family child care in 2001 were:

<b>ENROLMENT COMPARISON FOR LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE 2001 VERSUS 1997</b>			
<b>Age of Child</b>	<b>2001 Enrolment</b>	<b>1997 Enrolment</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Infants (0-11 months)	870	743	+17.1
Infants (12-18 months)*	1,511	1,122	+34.7
Toddlers (19-35 mos.)*	3,983	4,206	-5.3
Preschoolers (3-5 yrs.)	6,382	6,690	-4.6
Kindergarten children	1,988	Not asked	--
School Age (6-12 yrs.)	3,818	4,239	-9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,551</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>+9.1</b>

\* Age definitions changed slightly for the 2001 survey. In 1997, toddlers were defined as 18-35 months.

**Forty per cent of licensed family child care facilities reported that they had vacant spaces during the first week of April 2001. There was an average of 3.1 vacant spaces for each facility with vacancies.**

- Infant care (0 to 18 months) \$29.00/day
- Toddler care (19 to 35 months) \$28.00/day
- Preschoolers care (3 to 5 years) \$26.74/day Kindergarten children (5-6 years) \$24.37/day
- School-age care (6 to 12 years) \$3.94/hour

### **Operations**

Almost all licensed family child care programs were open from Monday to Friday. Only 6.3 per cent were open more than five days per week, compared to 3.7 per cent open less than five days and 90 per cent open five days per week.

Licensed family child care programs were open for an average of 10.13 hours per day, slightly less than the average of 10.25 hours per day in 1997. The majority of facilities were open between 45 and 50 hours per week; however, 39 per cent were open more than 50 hours per week.

Approximately 66.7 per cent of licensed family child care facilities reported they had at least one child enrolled who was receiving the Provincial Child Care Subsidy, up 1 per cent from 1997. Of the 4,261 children receiving subsidy, 65 per cent received maximum subsidy and 35 per cent received partial subsidy. Almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of licensed family child care providers reported that they charged

parents all of the difference between the subsidy amount and their actual fee, while 13.9 per cent charged some of the difference, and 11.9 per cent did not charge any of the difference.

Eighty-two per cent of licensed family child care providers reported that they were aware of Supported Child Care (up from 75 per cent in 1997) and 77 per cent reported that they knew who to call in the local community to obtain information about Supported Child Care.

Only 7.8 per cent of licensed family child care programs reported that they had children receiving either the \$107 Support Payment or the Supported Child Care Range Payment. In total, 88 children were receiving only the \$107 Support Payment, 85 children were receiving only the Supported Child Care Range Payment, and 92 were receiving both payments.

Thirty-one per cent of all licensed family child care programs reported that they had paid staff in addition to themselves, which was similar to the results in 1997. Of those providers with paid staff, 66 per cent had one other staff member, and 34 per cent had two or more. Approximately 48 per cent of paid staff were members of the providers' families, and 4.5 per cent were parents of enrolled children. Only 6.3 per cent of paid staff worked full-time, compared to 31.3 per cent that worked part-time, and 62.4 per cent that worked casually.

Almost 73 per cent of providers' revenues came from parent fees. Additionally, 22.0 per cent of revenues came from subsidies, 3.3 per cent from grants such as the Infant Toddler Incentive Grant, and 1.8 per cent from other sources. Licensed family child care providers estimated that on average they used about 57 per cent of

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their revenue to pay for program expenses. Approximately 86 per cent of licensed family child care providers owned their homes.

**Education**

Almost all licensed family child care providers had First Aid certificates. About three quarters (75 per cent) had taken some CCRR workshops or courses. Over 65 per cent had taken either an introductory family child care

course, such as Good Beginnings, or the 150 hour family child care training course. Seventeen per cent of licensed family child care providers were Registered ECE, with another 9.2 per cent either in the process of taking courses or needing to complete the required 500 hours of work experience. On average, licensed family child care providers had 11.1 years of work experience as a professional in the child care field, up from 9.6 years in 1997.