

HOW CHILDREN AND WORKING FAMILIES IN MONTANA ARE FARING DURING COVID

KIDS
COUNT
MONTANA



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CHILDREN IN MONTANA

- **164,539** children ages 0-12 in Montana¹
 - **74,016** children ages 0-5
 - **90,523** children ages 6-12
- Children with all parents working:²
 - Children ages 0-5: **66%**
 - Children ages 6-12: **68%**
- These two numbers can help estimate the potential need for child care, although not a perfect estimate
 - Potentially: **48,851** children ages 0-5 need care
 - Potentially: **61,556** children ages 6-12 need out-of- school care

1. U.S. Census populations with bridged race categories from the National Center for Health Statistics. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm

2. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, Table B23008, 1-year estimates from 2018

BARRIERS TO CHILD CARE BEFORE COVID-19

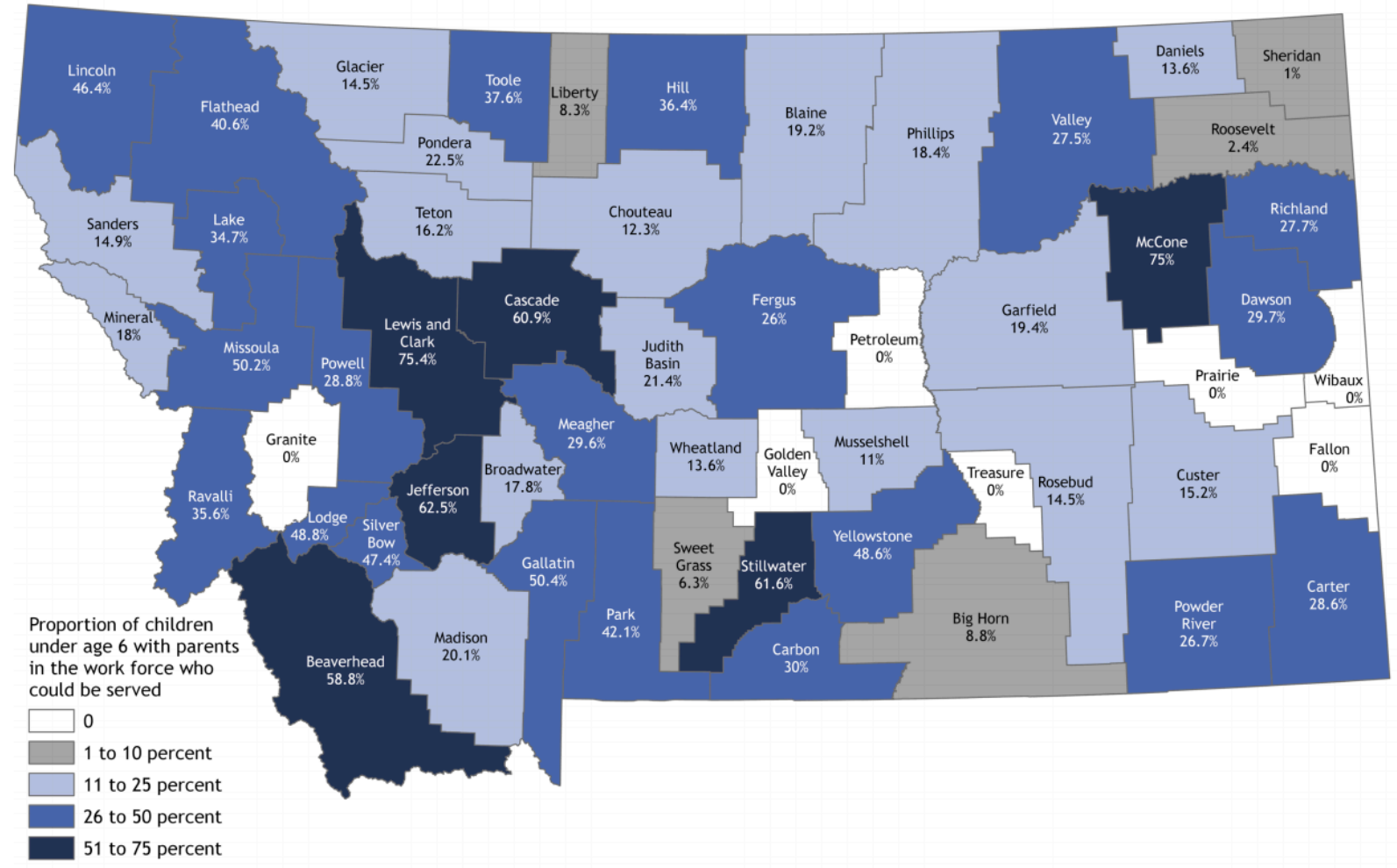
- For children ages 0-5, child care demand was not met before COVID-19
 - Sept. 2018 licensed child care capacity³: **19,982**
 - 2018 capacity served **44%** of children ages 0-5 with all parents working³

3. Montana's Early Childhood System A Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, September 2019, Figure 9.
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/hcsd/documents/ChildCare/PDGB-5system/MTEarlyChildhoodNeedsAssessment.pdf>

BARRIERS TO CHILD CARE BEFORE COVID-19

- Child care capacity varies across the state⁴
- Highest performing counties only meet 75% of demand
- 8 counties have no licensed child care

Percent of Children with All Parents in the Labor Force that Can Be Served by Existing ECE Capacity⁴



Source: Montana Early Childhood Service Bureau capacity data and US Census Bureau population figures

4. Montana's Early Childhood System A Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, September 2019, Figure 10. <https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/hcsd/documents/ChildCare/PDGB-5system/MTEarlyChildhoodNeedsAssessment.pdf>

BARRIERS TO CHILD CARE BEFORE COVID-19

- Greatest barriers to child care before COVID-19⁵
 - Lack of availability for infants and toddlers
 - Lack of availability for children with special needs
 - Cost

5. Montana's Early Childhood System A Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, September 2019, Figure 11.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON CHILD CARE ARE EMERGING

For children under age 6:⁶

- 48.4% reported their child care center had closed
- 22.5% reported they were required to pay regardless of attendance
- 22.5% reported concern whether they could afford the cost

State of child care:

- After the April 1 stay-at-home order, licensed child care was reduced by over 10,000 slots⁷
- Changing practices – lower class sizes, health and safety practices
- \$50 million in funding from the state to maintain and expand child care in Montana

6. University of Montana Center for Children, Families, and Workforce Development and Zero to Five. Montana COVID-19 Family Impact Survey Report. April 2020. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c90fe4716b640613581ddff/t/5eb0861bfa6fc466f06b0602/1588626974194/COVID19_FamilyImpactSurveyReport.pdf

7. Montana Budget & Policy Center. The Coronavirus and Child Care: Montana Must Do More for Workers and Families. July 2020. https://montanabudget.org/report/the-coronavirus-and-child-care-montana-must-do-more-for-workers-and-families#_edn14

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FAMILIES ARE EMERGING

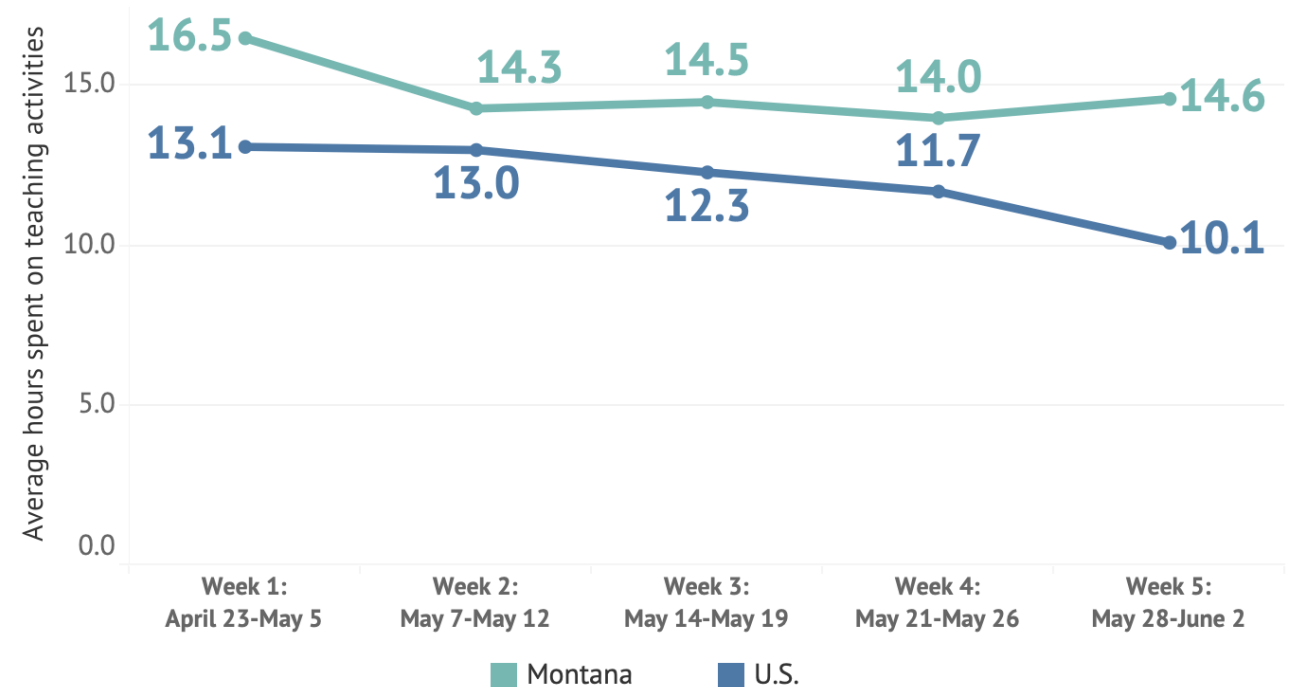
For school age children (K-12):

- 100% households with children reported a disruption/change in education during May 2020⁸
- On average, adults are spending around 14-15 hours per week on teaching activities with children during May 2020

8. U.S. Census Bureau. Household Pulse Survey, Weeks 1-5, Education Table 2. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>

Montana Families are Spending Time on Teaching Activities Each Week

Montana families spent about three hours a day on children's teaching activities during May 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, Weeks 1-5