

SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE AND THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMY

Child care is a key support for the Mississippi workforce.



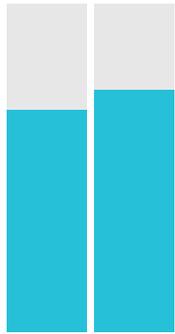
18% of adults in Mississippi have young children. That's approximately **187,000** people.

Child care is necessary for single parents to work.



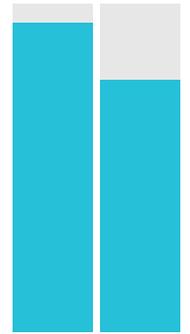
36% of Mississippi mothers with young children and **16%** of Mississippi fathers with young children are single parents.

Young parenthood boosts men's workforce participation but lessens women's workforce participation.



68% of Mississippi women with young children and **74%** of Mississippi women with no minor children participate in the labor force.

Corresponding figures are **94%** and **77%**, respectively, for Mississippi men.



High child care costs challenge families with young children.



\$4,900 = **6%** of median per child per year on average income for Mississippi households with a young child

Despite high care costs, child care workers earn less than the typical Mississippi worker.



The **median hourly wage** of a Mississippi child care worker is **\$10.17**, and the **median for all workers** is **\$18.03**.

NOTES: Statistics are based on prime-age civilian adults ages 25 to 54. Adults are considered parents when a biological child, stepchild or adopted child under 18 is living with them. Young children are defined as ages 0 to 5. Single is defined as separated, divorced, widowed or never married. Average cost is rounded to the nearest hundred. Wage statistics include all full-time workers in a category, regardless of age. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' definition of affordable child care is no more than 7% of household income. Statistics on child care costs and worker wages are based on center-based care and omit subsidies. See Moosavian (2021) for the effect of parenthood on labor force participation.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey via IPUMS CPS (2023-24), U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey via IPUMS USA (2021-23), Child Care Technical Assistance Network, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (2023).