

# *Early Care and Learning in Anchorage: Survey of Anchorage Families*

*Prepared for:*

**Cook Inlet Tribal Council**

In association with

**Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council**

*September 2015*



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*Juneau • Anchorage*

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# Executive Summary

In April 2015, McDowell Group contracted with Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) to conduct a telephone survey to better understand utilization of early learning and care services by Anchorage households with children under 13 years of age. This sample of Anchorage households was part of a larger statewide survey with the same purpose and methodology as the survey conducted for the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council. Survey results are presented for all Anchorage households, as well as Anchorage households with Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) youth. The survey inquired about types of early care and learning services used, as well as frequency of use, spending on services, ease of finding services, and impacts of early care and learning needs on household member employment. The survey also queried whether and how the household benefited from child care assistance. For purposes of this study, early care and learning services are defined as any care of children, other than that provided by parents or guardians, at any time of day. The following results refer to early care and learning services for households in March 2015.

## Use of Early Care and Learning Services

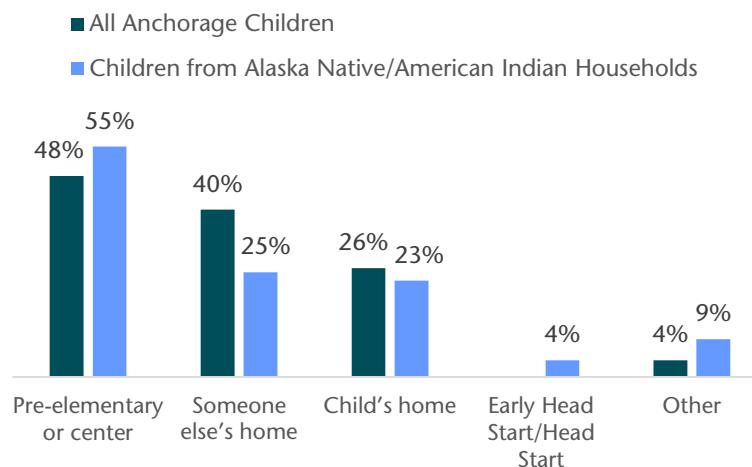
### Children Under Six Years of Age

- Just under two-thirds (62 percent) of Anchorage children under six years of age received early care and learning services. This includes 54 percent of Anchorage children under six years of age who received services in the month prior to the survey plus eight percent that did not receive services in the month prior to the survey, but typically do.
- A slightly higher percentage (68 percent) of Anchorage children under six years of age from households with AN/AI children typically receive early care and learning services, including 62 percent who received services in the month prior to the survey and six percent who did not receive services in the month prior to the survey, but typically do.

#### TYPE OF CARE

- Forty-eight percent of Anchorage children under six years of age, and 55 percent of children from households with AN/AI children, who received early care and learning services in the month prior to the survey, were in pre-elementary or center-based care.
- Forty percent of Anchorage children who received care were in someone else's home, as were 25 percent of children from households with AN/AI children.

#### Types of Early Care and Learning Services, Children Under 6 Years of Age



## TIME IN CARE

- Children under six years of age receiving care in Anchorage spent an average of 115 hours, or 26 hours per week, in care in the month prior to the survey.
- Children this age from households with AN/AI children spent an average 126 hours in the month, or 29 hours per week in care.

## SPENDING ON CARE

- Spending on early care and learning services for Anchorage children under six years of age averaged \$408 in the month preceding the survey, compared to \$470 for AN/AI children.
- Fourteen percent of Anchorage children under six years of age, and 13 percent of children from households with AN/AI children received financial assistance for early care and learning services from the government or an employer.

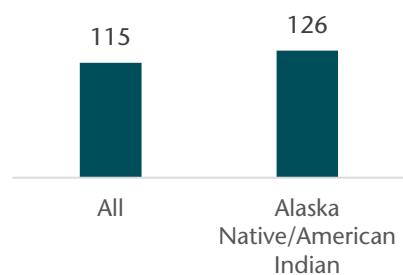
## EASE OF FINDING EARLY CARE AND LEARNING SERVICES

- Anchorage families with children under six years of age reported finding early care and learning services difficult or very difficult for 54 percent of children, and easy or very easy for 44 percent.
- For Anchorage children for whom finding care was difficult or very difficult, availability of care/lack of a provider was a factor for 54 percent, as was quality of care. Cost was a factor for 44 percent.
- For children in households with AN/AI children, finding early care and learning services was difficult or very difficult for 51 percent, and easy or very easy for 46 percent.
- Among children from AN/AI households for which finding early care and learning services was difficult, availability/lack of a provider was a factor for 56 percent, while cost was a reason for 44 percent.

## Children 6 through 12 Years of Age

- Forty-two percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age typically receive early care and learning services, including 41 percent who received care in the month prior to the survey.
- Fifty percent of children six through 12 years of age from Anchorage households with AN/AI children typically receive early care and learning services, including 48 percent who received care in the month prior to the survey.
- Eighty percent of children in Anchorage six through 12 years of age who are not in early care and learning services are in the care of a parent, while 90 percent of children not in early care and learning services from households with AN/AI were in parent care.
- Nineteen percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age, and 15 percent of children from homes with AN/AI children, stay home alone without a parent.

Average Hours per Month in Care,  
Children Under 6 Years of Age



Average Spending per Month on  
Care, Children Under 6 Years of Age



## TYPE OF CARE

- Forty-seven percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age who received care in the month prior to the survey were in care in the child's own home, while 16 percent were in care in someone else's home.
- Fifty-five percent of children from households with AN/AI children were in care in the child's own home and 16 percent were in care in someone else's home.
- Twenty-four percent of Anchorage children in this age group were in a school-sponsored before or after school program, while 14 percent were in another before or after school program.
- Twenty-nine percent of children from households with AN/AI children were in a school-sponsored before or after school program, while 18 percent were in another before or after school program.

## TIME IN CARE

- Anchorage children six through 12 years of age spent an average of 55 hours in care, or 13 hours per week, in the month prior to the survey.
- AN/AI children in this age group spent an average of 61 hours in care, or 14 hours per week.

## SPENDING ON CARE

- Spending on early care and learning services for Anchorage children six through 12 years of age averaged \$166 in the month prior to the survey, 40 percent of that spent on children younger than six years of age.
- Spending on care for AN/AI children this age averaged \$190 in the month prior to the survey, one third of the average amount spent for AN/AI children under six years of age.
- Eight percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age received financial assistance for early care and learning services, while 16 percent of children from households with AN/AI children received assistance.

## EASE OF FINDING EARLY CARE AND LEARNING SERVICES

- Finding early care and learning services was easy or very easy for 60 percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age and difficult or very difficult for 33 percent.
- Cost was a reason for difficulty finding early care and learning services for 61 percent of Anchorage children in this age group, while quality was an issue for 39 percent, and availability/lack of a provider for 30 percent.
- For children from AN/AI households, finding care was easy or very easy for 48 percent and difficult or very difficult for 45 percent.
- Availability/lack of a provider was a reason for difficulty finding care for 60 percent of children from households with AN/AI children.

Average Hours per Month on Care, Children 6 through 12 Years of Age

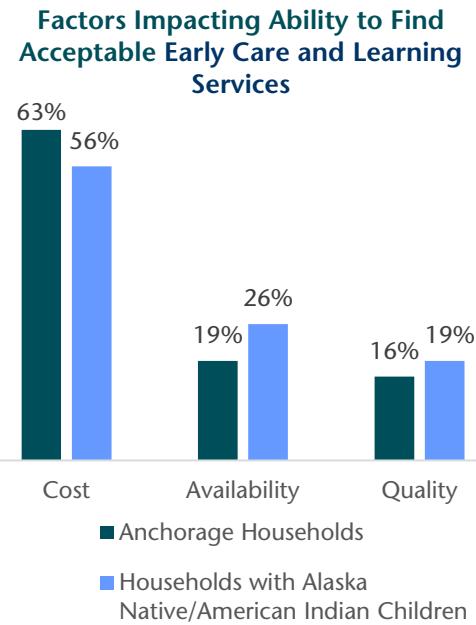


Average Spending per Month on Care, Children 6 through 12 Years of Age



## Impacts of Access to Early Care and Learning Services on Employment

- Difficulty finding early care and learning services prevented a parent or guardian from seeking employment or restricted the number of hours worked in the past year in 25 percent of Anchorage households and 27 percent of Anchorage households with AN/AI children.
- Access to care was affected by cost for 63 percent of Anchorage households and 56 percent of households with AN/AI children.
- Over half of employed respondents, 55 percent from Anchorage households and 56 percent from households with AN/AI children, described their employer as very accommodating of early care and learning service needs, while approximately one-third described their employer as somewhat accommodating.



# Introduction and Methodology

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## Introduction

With support from the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council, and the Alaska early care and learning services resource and referral network, **thread**, McDowell Group conducted a statewide telephone survey on early care and learning services. The purpose of the survey was to identify types of early care and learning services used by Alaska families, and understand household expenditures on early care and learning services. The Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), with an interest in measuring early care and learning needs in Anchorage specifically, provided supplemental funding for an augmented Anchorage sample, including a targeted sample of Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) households. This report presents survey results for Anchorage respondents.

The survey inquired about types of early care and learning services (termed “child care” in the survey instrument) used by Anchorage families, as well as frequency of use, spending on services, ease of finding services, and impacts of early care and learning needs on household member employment. The survey also queried whether and how the household benefits from child care assistance.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted in April 2015 and focused exclusively on households with children under 13 years of age. The statewide survey sample included 574 households. This report focuses on the 250 Anchorage households in the sample, including 149 supplemental surveys funded by CITC. These 250 households represented a total of 460 children under age 13. The Anchorage survey sample has a maximum margin of error of  $\pm 6.2$  at the 95 percent confidence level. The Anchorage sample of 250 households included 43 with AN/AI children. A separate survey of 57 Anchorage households with AN/AI children was conducted to bring the total sample to 100 households with 181 AN/AI children. The maximum margin of error for the sample of 100 households with AN/AI children is  $\pm 10$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level. Caution is urged in interpreting survey results where subsample sizes (reported as the “n” value in the tables) are less than 25, as these results may or may not be representative of the overall population. Where survey subsamples are below 25, results are presented in this report for informational purposes only.

Readers are cautioned to consider the tolerance levels (error margins) around survey results based on small subsamples. The following table provides tolerances (plus or minus) for various sample sizes. Survey results approach the minimum margin of error when responses represent a strong majority/minority finding (90 percent/10 percent). Survey results approach the maximum margin of error when responses represent an evenly balanced finding (50 percent/50 percent).

### Survey Sample Size Tolerance Ranges

Sample Size	Minimum Margin of Error	Maximum Margin of Error
574*	0.83%	4.2%
400	0.89%	5.0%
300	1.1%	5.8%
200	1.4%	7.1%
100	2.0%	10.0%
50	2.8%	14.2%
25	4.0%	20.0%

\*2015 survey statewide sample size.

The following report presents results for the total Anchorage sample, as well as AN/AI households specifically. Results are presented separately for children under six years of age and children six through 12 years of age, as care often differs between the two age groups. Several questions focus on early care and learning activity in March 2015, the month prior to the survey.

For purposes of this study, the terms child care and “early care and learning” services are generally defined as any care of children by anyone other than the child’s parent or guardian at any time of day. This includes Early Head Start/Head Start programs, pre-elementary (pre-Kindergarten), center-based care, before and after school care, care in someone else’s home or care in the child’s own home. It includes babysitting by family, friends, or neighbors whether paid or unpaid.

# Survey Results

## Utilization of Early Care and Learning Services

### Children Under Six Years of Age

Just over half, 62 percent, of all children under six years of age in Anchorage households typically receive some form of early care and learning services (termed “child care” in the survey instrument), including 54 percent who received care in the month prior to the survey. In comparison, 68 percent of Anchorage AN/AI children under six years of age received care, including 62 percent who received care in the month preceding the survey.

**Percentage of Children Under 6 Years of Age Who Received Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey (%)**

	All Anchorage (n=214)	Anchorage AN/AI (n=85)
Received early care and learning services	54	62
Did not receive early care and learning services (typically do <i>not</i> in other months)	38	32
Did not receive early care and learning services (but typically do in other months)	8	6

### BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Utilization of early care and learning services for children under six years of age varied by household income level for all Anchorage households in general and also for households with AN/AI children; children in households with higher incomes were more likely to receive services. Among children under six years of age, 73 percent of AN/AI children and 66 percent of the overall Anchorage sample in households with incomes over \$100,000 received early care and learning services in the month prior to the survey. Within this age group, 39 percent of all Anchorage children and 57 percent of children from households with AN/AI children from households with incomes \$50,000 or less received care.

**Percentage of Children Under 6 Years of Age Who Received Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey, by Household Income Level (%)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less (n=79)	\$50,001 to \$100,000 (n=52)	Over \$100,000 (n=61)
<b>Total Anchorage Households</b>			
Received care	39	63	66
Did not receive care	61	37	34
<b>Households with AN/AI Children</b>			
Received care	57	68	73
Did not receive care	43	32	27

## Six through 12 Years of Age

Forty-one percent of all children six through 12 years of age in Anchorage households, and almost half (48 percent) of AN/AI children this age, received early care and learning services in the month prior to the survey. An additional one percent of the all Anchorage children, and two percent of children in this age group in households with AN/AI children, who did not receive care in that month typically do.

**Percentage of Children 6 through 12 Years of Age Who Received Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey (%)**

	All Anchorage (n=214)	Anchorage AN/AI (n=85)
Received early care and learning services	41	48
Did not receive early care and learning services (typically do <i>not</i> in other months)	58	50
Did not receive early care and learning services (but typically do in other months)	1	2

Care utilization for children six through 12 years of age did not vary by household income level for all Anchorage households overall.

## Alternatives to Early Care and Learning Services

Among children under 6 years of age, all AN/AI children and almost all children in Anchorage (99 percent) who were not in early care and learning services in the month prior to the survey were cared for by a parent who stayed home. Eighty percent of all children six through 12 years of age in Anchorage households and 90 percent of children from Anchorage households with AN/AI children of this age who did not receive early care and learning services in the month prior to the survey were cared for by a parent at home. Also, 19 percent of all children in Anchorage households and 15 percent of AN/AI children in the older age group who did not receive care stayed at home by themselves rather than receiving care.

**Children Cared for at Home by a Parent Rather than Receiving Early Care and Learning Services, by Age (%)**  
*(Base: Children who did not receive child care services in March 2015)*

Age Group	All Anchorage Households (n=92)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=30)
<b>Under 6 Years of Age</b>		
Yes	99	100
No	1	--
Don't know/refused	-	-
<b>6 through 12 Years of Age</b>	(n=142)	(n=49)
Yes	80	90
No	20	6
Don't know/refused	-	4

# Type of Early Care and Learning Services Utilized

## All Anchorage Households

Approximately half (48 percent) of all children under six years of age in Anchorage households were in pre-elementary (termed “pre-school” in the survey instrument) or center-based care. Forty percent received care in their own home, while 26 percent were cared for in someone else’s home, and 4 percent were in another form of care. No children in this sample were enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start programs.

Forty-seven percent of all children six through 12 years of age in Anchorage received care in their own home, while 24 percent were in school-sponsored before or after school programs, 16 percent in care at someone else’s home, 14 percent in other before or after school programs, and six percent in center-based care.

## Households with AN/AI Children

Over half (55 percent) of AN/AI children under six years of age who received care in the month prior to the survey were enrolled in pre-elementary or center-based care. One-quarter (25 percent) received care in someone else’s home, while another quarter (23 percent) received care in their own home. Four percent were enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start programs, and 9 percent received another form of care.

Forty-four percent of AN/AI children six through 12 years of age received care in their own home from a family member, friend, or other provider. Twenty-nine percent of AN/AI children in this age group were in a school-sponsored before or after school program, and 18 percent received care in another type of before or after school program. Sixteen percent of AN/AI children this age received care in someone else’s home, and seven percent were in another form of care. Some of the children in both age groups received several different forms of care within the month.

**Types of Early Care and Learning Services Received in the Month Prior to the Survey,  
Under 6 Years of Age (%)**

(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015)

Type of Care	All Anchorage Households (n=115)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=53)
Pre-elementary or center-based care	48	55
Care at someone else’s home	40	25
Care in child’s home	26	23
Early Head Start/Head Start programs	-	4
Other	4	9

**Types of Early Care and Learning Services Received in the Month Prior to the Survey,  
6 through 12 Years of Age (%)**  
*(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015)*

Type of Care	All Anchorage Households (n=102)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=45)
Care in child's home	47	44
School sponsored before or after school program	24	29
Other before or after school program	14	18
Care at someone else's home	16	16
Pre-elementary or center-based care	6	--
Other	4	7

## Length of Time in Early Care and Learning Services

Anchorage children under six years of age spent an average 115 hours in care in the previous month, while children of this age from households with AN/AI children spent 126 hours on average in care during that time. This equates to approximately 26 hours per week for all of Anchorage and 29 hours per week for AN/AI children.

All Anchorage children six through 12 years of age spent an average of 55 hours in care in the month prior to the survey, or 13 hours per week. AN/AI children in this age group spent an average of 61 hours in care, or 14 hours per week.

Children in both samples could be in multiple types of care during the month.

### All Anchorage Households

Among all children under six years of age in Anchorage households who received care in the month prior to the survey, those in pre-elementary or center-based care spent an average of 23 hours per week, those in care in their own home spent 24 hours per week on average, those in someone else's home spent 21 hours on average, and those in other forms of care spent 24 hours per week on average.

**Estimated Time in Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey,  
All Anchorage Children Under 6 Years of Age**  
*(Base: Children ages under 6 years old who received child care services in March)*

Type of Care	Average Hours/Month	Average Hours/Week
Pre-elementary or center-based care (n=54)	101	23
Care in child's own home (n=28)	105	24
Care at someone else's home (n=41)	90	21
Other (n=5)	105	24

Note: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week.

All Anchorage children six through 12 years of age who were in center-based care spent a weekly average of 13 hours in that type of care, while those in care in their own home spent 11 hours on average, those in before

or after school programs (school-sponsored or otherwise) spent an average of 10 hours per week, and those in care in someone else's home spent a weekly average of 9 hours per week.

**Estimated Time in Early Care and Learning Services by Type of Care In the Month Prior to the Survey,  
All Anchorage Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**  
*(Base: Children ages 6 – 12 who received child care services in March 2015)*

Type of Care	Average Monthly Hours	Average Weekly Hours
Center-based care (n=6)	55	13
Care in child's own home (n=41)	46	11
School-sponsored before or after school program (n=23)	42	10
Other before or after school program (n=14)	44	10
Care at someone else's home (n=15)	43	9
Other (n=4)	125	29

Note: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week. Due to small sample sizes, differences between averages may not be statistically significant.

## Households with AN/AI Children

Among AN/AI children under six years of age, those in pre-elementary or a center spent a weekly average of 28 hours in that type of care. Those in care in their own home received care for an average of 24 hours per week, and those in care at someone else's home were in care for an average of 22 hours per week.

**Estimated Time in Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey,  
AN/AI Children Under 6 Years of Age**  
*(Base: Children ages under 6 years of age who received child care services in March)*

Type of Care	Average Hours/Month	Average Hours/Week
Pre-elementary or center-based care (n=29)	123	28
Care in child's own home (n=12)	106	24
Care at someone else's home (n=13)	96	22
Early Head Start/Head Start programs (n=2)	52	12
Other (n=5)	102	23

Note: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week. Due to small sample sizes, differences between averages may not be statistically significant.

AN/AI children six through 12 years of age who were in school-sponsored before or after school programs spent an average of 11 hours per week in this type of care, while children in other before or after programs spent an average of 12 hours. AN/AI children in care in their own home received care an average of 11 hours per week, while those in care in someone else's home spent approximately 9 hours per week. The survey sample did not include any AN/AI children six through 12 years of age in center-based care.

**Estimated Time in Early Care and Learning Services by Type of Care,  
AN/AI Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**  
*(Base: Children ages 6 – 12 who received child care services in March 2015)*

Type of Care	Average Monthly Hours	Average Weekly Hours
School-sponsored before or after school program (n=12)	50	11
Care in child's own home (n=18)	47	11
Care at someone else's home (n=7)	41	9
Other before or after school program (n=6)	52	12
Other (n=4)	116	27

Notes: An average of 4.35 weeks per month was used to calculate average hours per week.  
 Due to small sample sizes, differences between averages may not be statistically significant.

## By Household Income

Length of time in care did not vary markedly by household income level for the total Anchorage sample. However, it did vary for households with AN/AI children under six years of age. AN/AI children from households with incomes over \$100,000 spent more time in early care and learning services, an average of 156 hours in the previous month, versus 118 hours on average for AN/AI households with incomes between \$50,001 and \$100,000, and 115 hours for AN/AI households with incomes \$50,000 or less.

**Time in Early Care and Learning Services for Children Under 6 Years of Age Who Received Care in the Month Prior to the Survey, by Household Income Level (Hours)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
All Anchorage Households (n=31)	(n=31)	(n=30)	(n=40)
Average Number of Hours in Care in Month Prior to the Survey	111	118	113
Households with AN/AI Children (n=20)	(n=20)	(n=15)	(n=16)
Average Number of Hours in Care in Month Prior to the Survey	115	118	156

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences between averages may not be statistically significant.

All children six through 12 years of age from Anchorage households with lower household incomes spent more time on average in care than those from households with higher incomes. For AN/AI children in this age group, average hours in early care and learning services in the month were also higher for children from AN/AI households with lower incomes: 43 hours in care for households with incomes over \$100,000, 74 hours for incomes between \$50,001 and \$100,000, and 65 hours for incomes \$50,000 or less.

**Time in Early Care and Learning Services for Children 6 through 12 Years of Age Who Received Care in the Month Prior to the Survey, by Household Income Level (Hours)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
All Anchorage Households	(n=30)	(n=28)	(n=28)
Average Number of Hours in Care in Month Prior to the Survey	67	53	41
Households with AN/AI Children	(n=15)	(n=15)	(n=10)
Average Number of Hours in Care in Month Prior to the Survey	65	74	43

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences between averages may not be statistically significant.

## Spending on Early Care and Learning Services

Spending on early care and learning services for all Anchorage children under six years of age averaged \$408 in the month preceding the survey, while spending on care for AN/AI children averaged approximately \$470 during that month.

Spending on early care and learning services for all Anchorage children six through 12 years of age averaged \$166 in the month prior to the survey. Spending for care for AN/AI children six through 12 years of age averaged \$190 in the month prior to the survey, only one-third of the average amount spent on services for AN/AI children under six years of age.

### Children Under Six Years of Age

Spending on early care and learning services for AN/AI children under six years of age in pre-elementary or center-based care averaged \$510, more than average spending for all Anchorage children of this age overall on this type of care, \$513. Care for all Anchorage children of this age in the child's own home averaged \$283 in the month prior to the survey, while this type of care cost \$365 on average for AN/AI children. In the month prior to the survey, care in someone else's home averaged \$405 for AN/AI children and \$414 for Anchorage children overall.

**Average Spending in the Month Prior to the Survey on Early Care and Learning Services, by Type of Care, Children Under 6 Years of Age**

*(Base: Children under 6 years old who received child care services in March 2015)*

Type of Care	Anchorage AN/AI Households
Pre-elementary or center-based care (n=26)	\$510
Care in child's home (n=12)	\$365
Care at someone else's home (n=13)	\$405
Other (n=5)	\$280

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences may not be statistically significant.

**Average Spending in the Month Prior to the Survey on Early Care and Learning Services, by Type of Care, Children Under 6 Years of Age**

(Base: Children under 6 years old who received child care services in March 2015)

Type of Care	All Anchorage Households
Pre-elementary or center-based care (n=49)	\$513
Care in child's home (n=39)	\$283
Care at someone else's home (n=27)	\$414
Other (n=5)	\$330

**Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**

Spending for all Anchorage children six through 12 years of age involved in school-sponsored before and after school programs averaged \$267 in the previous month, while spending on this type of care for AN/AI children of this age averaged \$241. Spending data for other forms of care are provided in the following tables, however, small sample sizes warrant caution in extrapolating results to the total population.

**Average Spending on Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey, By Type of Care, Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**

(Base: Children ages 6 – 12 who received child care services in March 2015)

Type of Care	Anchorage AN/AI Households
School-sponsored before or after school program (n=12)	\$241
Other before or after school program (n=4)	\$208
Care at someone else's home (n=7)	\$187
Care in child's home (n=20)	\$88
Other (n=3)	\$267

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences may not be statistically significant.

**Average Spending on Early Care and Learning Services in the Month Prior to the Survey, By Type of Care, Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**

(Base: Children ages 6 – 12 who received child care services in March 2015)

Type of Care	All Anchorage Households
Center-based care (n=6)	\$226
School-sponsored before or after school program (n=23)	\$267
Other before or after school program (n=13)	\$276
Care at someone else's home (n=15)	\$133
Care in child's home (n=44)	\$28
Other (n=3)	\$267

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences may not be statistically significant.

## By Household Income

Time in early care and learning services varies by household income, as does average amount of spending on care. Anchorage children under six years of age from households with incomes over \$100,000 spent more time on average in care than households with lower incomes. Therefore, average spending for households with incomes over \$100,000 was higher: \$730 in the month prior to the survey for AN/AI children and \$651 for all Anchorage children this age. For Anchorage children, \$448 on average was spent on care among households with incomes between \$50,001 and \$100,000, while \$515 was spent by AN/AI households in this income level. An average of \$290 was spent on Anchorage children in households with incomes of \$50,000 or less spent in the month, while the average was \$215 for children from households in this income level with AN/AI children.

Some of the difference in spending on early care and learning services also derives from whether or not the child's care is supported by child care assistance, for which households with higher incomes do not qualify. Almost one-third (32 percent) of Anchorage children in households with incomes \$50,000 or less, and one quarter of AN/AI children in this age and income category, received child care assistance in the month prior to the survey, whereas few of the households with incomes more than \$100,000 did.

**Spending on Early Care and Learning Services for Children Under 6 Years of Age,  
by Household Income Level (\$)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
All Anchorage Households (n=25)	(n=25)	(n=31)	(n=36)
Average Spending per Month on Care	290	448	651
Households with AN/AI Children (n=17)	(n=17)	(n=15)	(n=16)
Average Spending per Month on Care	215	515	730

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences may not be statistically significant.

The same trends held true for children six through 12 years of age, amount spent on early care and learning services varied with amount of time in services. Spending on care for AN/AI children from households with incomes between \$50,001 and \$100,000 was higher, at \$300 for the month on average, than for children from households with over \$100,000 in income (\$204 in spending on average) or households with \$50,000 or less in income (\$81 on average). For Anchorage children overall, average spending on care for children from households in the highest income level totaled \$246, spending in households with income between \$50,001 and \$100,000 averaged \$165, and \$81 for children in households with incomes of \$50,000 or less.

**Spending on Early Care and Learning Services for Children 6 through 12 Years of Age,  
by Household Income Level (\$)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Total Anchorage Households (n=30)	(n=30)	(n=30)	(n=26)
Average Spending/Month on Care	290	165	246
Households with AN/AI Children (n=14)	(n=14)	(n=14)	(n=11)
Average Spending/Month on Care	81	300	204

Note: Due to small sample sizes, differences may not be statistically significant.

## **Financial Assistance**

The cost of care was supported by some amount of financial assistance for 14 percent of all Anchorage children in care, and 13 percent of AN/AI children under six years of age who received care of any type in the month prior to the survey. Eight percent of all Anchorage children six through 12 years of age, and 16 percent of AN/AI children in this age group, were supported by financial assistance for early care and learning services expenses.

**Child Care Financial Assistance Received from  
the Government or Employer (%)**  
*(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=115)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=53)
<b>Under 6 Years of Age</b>		
Received assistance	14	13
No assistance	86	83
Don't know/refused	-	4
<b>6 through 12 Years of Age</b>	<b>(n=101)</b>	<b>(n=45)</b>
Received assistance	8	16
No assistance	90	82
Don't know/refused	2	2

The sample size for survey respondents who provided information on the amount of child care financial assistance received is too small to draw firm conclusions. Among those who did answer, all Anchorage children under six years of age (n=9) received an average of \$501 in the month prior to the survey, while AN/AI children this age (n=5) received an average of \$670. All Anchorage children six through 12 years of age (n=5) received an average of \$266 and the one respondent who reported an amount of assistance for a six through 12 year old AN/AI child reported \$650 in assistance for the month.

## **Access to Early Care and Learning Services**

Finding early care and learning services was difficult or very difficult for approximately half of children under six years of age in Anchorage, including 54 percent of Anchorage children overall and 51 percent of AN/AI children. Ease of finding early care and learning services increased for older children, with respondents reporting difficulty finding services for a smaller proportion of all children six through 12 years of age (33 percent) and among AN/AI children of this age (45 percent). Survey respondents report finding early care and learning services as easy or very easy for 44 percent of Anchorage children under six years of age, and 46 percent of AN/AI children in that age group. Finding early care and learning services was reported as easy or very easy for 60 percent of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age overall and 48 percent of AN/AI children in that age group.

**Ease of Finding Early Care and Learning Services, by Age (%)**  
*(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=115)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=53)
<b>Under 6 Years of Age</b>		
Very easy	10	8
Easy	34	38
Difficult	40	40
Very difficult	14	11
Don't know/refused	2	4
<b>6 through 12 Years of Age</b>	<b>(n=102)</b>	<b>(n=46)</b>
Very easy	17	11
Easy	43	37
Difficult	18	28
Very difficult	15	17
Don't know/refused	6	7

Ease of finding early care and learning services did not vary significantly by household income level for Anchorage children under six years of age overall. For Anchorage children six through 12 years of age, finding care was difficult for a larger proportion of children from households with lower incomes.

Respondents were more likely to report finding early care and learning services easy for AN/AI children under six years of age in households with incomes over \$100,000: 75 percent of these households reported it was easy, versus 20 percent of households with incomes between \$50,001 and \$100,000, and 25 percent of households with incomes \$50,000 or less.

**Ease of Finding Early Care and Learning Services for Children Under Six Years of Age, by Household Income Level (%)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less (n=31)	\$50,001 to \$100,000 (n=33)	Over \$100,000 (n=40)
<b>All Anchorage Households</b>			
Very Easy	10	21	-
Easy	32	27	43
Difficult	35	39	45
Very Difficult	23	12	10
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	3
<b>Households with AN/AI Children</b>	<b>(n=20)</b>	<b>(n=15)</b>	<b>(n=16)</b>
Very Easy	10	7	6
Easy	25	20	75
Difficult	45	67	13
Very Difficult	20	7	-
Don't Know/Refused	4	-	6

Finding services for AN/AI children from households with incomes \$50,000 or less was difficult for 45 percent of the children under six years of age, and very difficult for 20 percent. A similar trend held true for AN/AI children six through 12 years of age.

**Ease of Finding Early Care and Learning Services for Children 6 through 12 Years of Age,  
by Household Income Level (%)**

	Household Income		
	\$50,000 or less	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000
<b>All Anchorage Households</b>	(n=33)	(n=32)	(n=29)
Very Easy	15	19	14
Easy	33	31	69
Difficult	12	34	7
Very Difficult	33	3	10
Don't Know/Refused	6	13	-
<b>Households with AN/AI Children</b>	(n=16)	(n=15)	(n=14)
Very Easy	19	13	-
Easy	25	20	64
Difficult	31	47	7
Very Difficult	2	20	7
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	21

Those who reported difficulty in finding early care and learning services were asked why. The most common reasons cited among households with children under six years of age were availability/lack of provider (54 percent), quality (54 percent), and cost (44 percent). Among respondents who reported difficulty finding care for AN/AI children under six years of age, the most cited reason was lack of a provider or service (56 percent), while cost was a barrier for 44 percent, quality for 41 percent, and convenience for 26 percent. Twenty-two percent reported other reasons for the difficulty. Respondents often identified more than one reason.

**Reasons for Difficulty Finding Early Care and Learning Services (%)**

*(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015;  
those who found it difficult or very difficult to find child care)  
Multiple responses accepted.*

	All Anchorage Households	Anchorage AN/AI Households
<b>Under 6 Years of Age</b>	(n=61)	(n=27)
Availability/lack of provider	54	56
Quality	54	41
Cost	44	44
Convenience	15	26
Other	16	22

Cost was a reason for difficulty for a larger percentage (61 percent) of Anchorage children six through 12 years of age, while quality was a factor for 39 percent and availability/lack of a provider for 30 percent. Reasons for difficulty finding care were similar for AN/AI children under six years of age and those six through 12 years of age. For AN/AI children six through 12 years of age for which it was difficult or very difficult to find care, lack of a provider or availability of care was a reason for 60 percent. Cost was also a factor for 45 percent of AN/AI children, quality for 40 percent, and convenience for 15 percent. Twenty-five percent cited other reasons for difficulty finding care.

#### **Reasons for Difficulty Finding Early Care and Learning Services (%)**

*(Base: Children who received child care services in March 2015;  
those who found it difficult or very difficult to find child care)  
Multiple responses accepted.*

	All Anchorage Households (n=33)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=20)
6 through 12 Years of Age		
Cost	61	45
Quality	39	40
Availability/lack of provider	30	60
Convenience	21	15
Other	21	25

#### **Impacts of Access to Early Care and Learning Services on Employment**

Difficulty finding early care and learning services prevented an adult within the household from seeking employment or restricted the number of hours they could work at some point in the past year in 25 percent of all Anchorage households and 27 percent of Anchorage households with AN/AI children.

#### **Percentage of Households in Which the Quality, Availability, or Cost of Early Care and Learning Services Prevented Someone from Seeking Employment or Restricted Their Employment (%)**

*(Base: Households with children who received child care services in March 2015)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=250)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=100)
Yes	25	27
No	71	74
Don't know/refused	4	--

Respondents who said their employment had been affected by early care and learning needs were asked what factors impacted them. Cost had the greatest impact on the ability to find care for 63 percent of Anchorage households, and for 56 percent of households with AN/AI children. Availability of care had the greatest impact on 19 percent of Anchorage households' ability to find care, and on 26 percent of households with AN/AI children. Quality of care had the greatest impact on 16 percent of Anchorage households and 19 percent of households with AN/AI children.

**Factors Impacting Ability to Find Acceptable Early Care and Learning Services (%)**  
*(Base: Households in which the quality, availability, or cost of child care prevented anyone from seeking employment or restricted the number of hours they could work)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=63)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=27)
Cost	63	56
Availability	19	26
Quality	16	19
Don't Know/Refused	2	-

Cost of early care and learning services had a major impact on employment for 68 percent of all Anchorage households (it was not necessarily the greatest impact for all of these households) and 74 percent of households with AN/AI children. Availability of care in the area had a major impact on 41 percent of all Anchorage households in which employment was affected, and quality of care had a major impact on 27 percent. Among households with AN/AI children, availability of care had a major impact on 59 percent, and quality of care in the area on 33 percent.

**Impact of Early Care and Learning Services Factors on Household Member Employment (%)**  
*(Base: Households in which the quality, availability, or cost of child care had prevented anyone from seeking employment or restricted the number of hours they could work)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=63)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=27)
<b>The cost of care in the area</b>		
Major impact	68	74
Minor impact	14	7
No impact	16	19
<b>The availability of care in the area</b>		
Major impact	41	59
Minor impact	14	7
No impact	40	33
<b>The quality of care in the area</b>		
Major impact	27	33
Minor impact	32	37
No impact	37	30

## **Employer Accommodation of Early Care and Learning Service Needs**

Employed respondents were asked how accommodating their employer is of their need for early care and learning services. More than half (55 percent) of all employed respondents (not including self-employed) and 56 percent of respondents from households with AN/AI children, reported their employer is very accommodating of their needs. Another 31 percent from Anchorage households overall, and 34 percent from households with AN/AI children, reported their employer as somewhat accommodating.

**Employer Accommodation around Early Care and Learning Service Needs (%)**  
*(Base: Those employed, excluding those self-employed)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=172)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=62)
Very accommodating	55	56
Somewhat accommodating	31	34
Not accommodating	9	5
Don't know/refused	5	5

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Eighty percent of all Anchorage respondents and 81 percent of respondents from households with AN/AI children were in the labor force (either employed or unemployed and looking for work). The remaining respondents were a mix of retired individuals, unemployed people who were not looking for work, homemakers, disabled individuals, and students.

**Employment Status of Survey Respondents (%)**

	All Anchorage Households (n=250)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=100)
Full-time year-round	60	63
Part-time year-round	12	7
Full-time seasonally	4	5
Part-time seasonally	2	1
Unemployed, not looking for work	4	6
Unemployed, looking for work	2	5
Student	2	1
Homemaker	8	3
Retired	3	8
Disabled	2	1

Thirteen percent of all Anchorage respondents and 18 percent of respondents from households with AN/AI children were self-employed.

**Percent of Self-Employed Survey Respondents (%)**  
*(Base: Those employed full-time, part-time, year-round, and seasonally)*

	All Anchorage Households (n=196)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=76)
Self-Employed	13	18
Not Self-Employed	87	82

Five percent of all Anchorage respondents and four percent of respondents from households with AN/AI children were employed in the early care and learning industry or paid to care for children.

**Percentage of Respondents Employed in the Early Care and Learning Industry or Paid to Care for Children? (%)**

	All Anchorage Households (n=250)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=100)
Yes	5	4
No	92	93
Don't know/refused	3	3

## Demographics

Forty-seven percent of children in the sample were under six years of age, while 53 percent were six through 12 years of age.

**Age of Children in the Survey Sample (%)**

	All Anchorage Children (n=460)	Anchorage AN/AI Children (n=181)
<b>Under 6 Years of Age</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>
Under 1	6	3
1	5	4
2	8	9
3	9	6
4	10	13
5	8	12
<b>6 through 12 years of Age</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>53%</b>
6	11	9
7	10	8
8	6	8
9	6	8
10	7	7
11	7	4
12	7	8
<b>Average age</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Among Anchorage households with AN/AI children, 79 percent contained Alaska Native children and 24 percent included American Indian children. Respondents could choose more than one race and some had both Alaska Native and/or American Indian children.

**Sub-Sample of AN/AI Children  
in Anchorage Households, by Ethnicity (%)**

	Total (n=100)
Alaska Native	79
American Indian	24

Fifty-eight percent of respondents from Anchorage households overall were female, while 61 percent were female from AN/AI households. Average age among Anchorage household respondents was 39 years old, and average age from households with AN/AI children was 42 years old. Household income for Anchorage households overall averaged \$74,000; income averaged \$66,000 for households with AN/AI children.

**Household Demographics**

	All Anchorage Households (n=250)	Anchorage AN/AI Households (n=100)
<b>Gender</b>	<b>(n=250)</b>	<b>(n=100)</b>
Female	58	61
Male	42	39
<b>Age</b>	<b>(n=250)</b>	<b>(n=100)</b>
18 – 24 years	6	5
25 – 34 years	31	29
35 – 44 years	37	32
45 – 54 years	15	13
55 – 64 years	6	10
65+	4	11
<b>Average age</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>42.4</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>(n=248)</b>	<b>(n=100)</b>
Married	67	59
Divorced/separated	7	10
Widowed	<1	2
Single	24	29
Don't know/refused	2	-
<b>Income</b>	<b>(n=250)</b>	<b>(n=100)</b>
Less than \$15,000	6	8
\$15,001 – \$25,000	7	10
\$25,001 – \$35,000	12	13
\$35,001 – \$50,000	9	10
\$50,001 – \$75,000	11	13
\$75,001 – \$100,000	16	14
Over \$100,000	29	23
Don't know/refused	11	9
<b>Average household income</b>	<b>\$74,100</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>(n=250)</b>	<b>(n=100)</b>

White	62	31
Alaska Native	10	54
American Indian	4	12
Black or African-American	2	3
Hispanic or Latino	4	2
Asian	9	1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	1
Other	1	-
Refused	5	1

## Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning

Statewide, Alaska families spend approximately \$223 million on early care and learning services for their children under 13 years of age. This includes \$174 million for children under six years of age and \$49 million for children six through 12 years of age. Government spending on early care and learning programs and services in Alaska totaled \$120 million in FY 2014, including \$84 million in federal spending and \$36 million in state expenditures. In total, Alaska's early care and learning sector accounts for \$343 million in annual spending.

Based on economic modeling of spending impacts, Alaska's early care and learning sector accounted for 6,500 direct jobs in 2014, as measured in terms of annual average full and part-time employment. Annual labor income totaled an estimated \$170 million.

The estimated \$343 million in direct spending, including household and public sector expenditures on early care and learning, translates into \$512 million in total output. Including all multiplier effects, the early care and learning sector is a half billion dollar industry in Alaska.

While it is beyond the scope of this study to model in detail the economic impact of early care and learning in Anchorage, it is possible to describe the scale of that impact. In 2014, Anchorage was home to 25,893 children under six years of age and 29,255 six through 12 years of age, about 41 percent of the statewide total.

**Statewide and Anchorage Population of Children Under 13 Years of Age, 2014**

Age	Statewide	Anchorage	%
Under 6 Years of Age	64,173	25,893	40%
6 through 12 Years of Age	71,233	29,255	41%
Totals	135,406	55,148	41%

Source: Statewide data from ADOLWD, Anchorage data are McDowell Group estimates based on ADOLWD data.

If spending on care for these children also equaled 41 percent of the statewide total, Anchorage spending would total approximately \$90 million annually. Actual spending may be somewhat higher or lower than these estimates, as the cost of early care and learning services may vary around the state. In any case, to the extent that the economic impacts of early care and learning services are proportional to population, the impact in Anchorage would be approximately 2,600 jobs (annual average full and part-time jobs) and \$68 million in annual labor income.

The total number of people earning income from providing early care and learning services in Anchorage is higher than the annual average. For example, State of Alaska licensing data indicates 855 providers in Anchorage have total staff of 3,569.

### Anchorage Early Care and Learning Service Providers, by Type and Staffing

Type of Provider	No. of Providers	Total Staff
Approved In-home	108	233
Approved Provider	62	63
Approved Relative	338	342
Licensed Center	108	2,520
Licensed Home	145	313
Pass 1 In-Home	85	85
Military Providers	9	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>3,854</b>

Source: Alaska HSS Child Care Program Office and military providers

## AN/AI Early Care and Learning Services Usage Estimates

Based on ADOLWD data, in 2014, Anchorage was home to approximately 4,950 AN/AI children under six years of age and 5,070 AN/AI children six through 12 years of age. Anchorage's AN/AI population accounts for 19 percent of the city's children under six years of age and 17 percent of children six through 12 years of age.

### Total and AN/AI Population in Anchorage of Children Under 13 Years of Age, 2014

Age	Total	AN/AI*	% AN/AI
Under 6 years of age	25,893	4,950	19.1%
6 through 12 years of age	29,255	5,070	17.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,148</b>	<b>10,020</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

\*Alone or in combination with other races. Source: McDowell Group estimates based on extrapolations from ADOLWD 2014 population estimates.

In Anchorage, 68 percent of the AN/AI children under six years of age typically receive care, while 50 percent of the children six through 12 years of age typically receive care. Based on those percentages, approximately 3,366 AN/AI children under six years of age in Anchorage receive early care and learning services of one form or another, along with 2,535 children six through 12 years of age. The following tables provide estimates of the number of AN/AI children in various forms of care (some children receive more than one form of care).

### Estimated Number of Children in Various Forms of Early Care and Learning Services, Children Under 6 Years of Age

Under 6 Years of Age	% of Anchorage AN/AI Children in Care	Number pf Anchorage AN/AI Children in Care
Pre-elementary or center-based care	55	1,850
Care at someone else's home	25	840
Care in child's home	23	775
Early Head Start/Head Start/Other	13	435

**Estimated Number of Children in Various Forms of Early Care and Learning Services  
Children 6 through 12 Years of Age**

<b>6 through 12 Years of Age</b>	<b>% of Anchorage AN/AI Children</b>	<b>Number of Anchorage AN/AI Children in Care</b>
Care in child's home by family, friend, or other provider	47	1,190
School sponsored before or after school program	24	610
Care at someone else's home	16	405
Other before or after school program	14	355
Pre-elementary or center-based care/Other	10	250