

# NYC's Child Care Affordability Crisis Displaces Women and Households with Low Incomes from the Labor Force



## THE FACTS

- Three out of every four households with children living in poverty lost employment income since March 2020 in NY Metro Area.
- As New York's economy and schools reopened, 41% of women (ages 25 to 54) with children remained out of work.
- Women are two and a half times more likely than men to cite child care as their primary reason for being out of work.
- Child care for infant and toddlers is unaffordable for families across the income spectrum and particularly for households with low incomes
- Half of infants and toddlers in NYC live in households with low incomes, and yet only 16% of income-eligible infant and toddlers are receiving care through subsidized, publicly funded early education system.

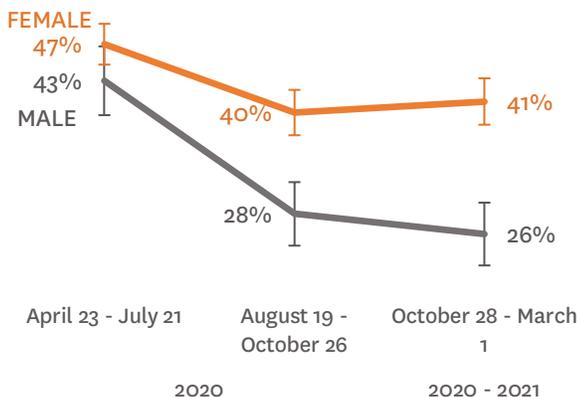
**75%** of NY Metro Area households with children earning less than the Federal Poverty Level (\$25,000 for a family of four) who report a loss of employment income since March 2020

Source: Household Pulse Survey, Public Use Files April 23, 2020 – March 1, 2021. MoE ± 4%

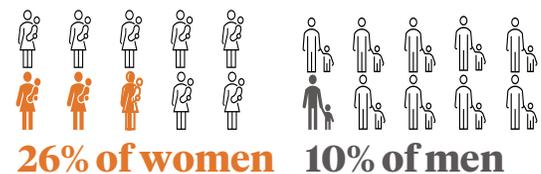
There was an alarming gender gap in returning to work following the peak of the pandemic in the New York Metro Area. Initially, men and women reported roughly the same rate of not working over the average week from April to July – 43% and 47%, respectively. However, as New York's economy and schools reopened, **41% of women with children remained out of work.**

A primary reason for not working is the child care burden that is falling disproportionately on mothers. From April 2020 to March 2021, **women were two and a half times more likely than men to cite child care as the primary reason for being out of work.**

Average share of adults (ages 25 to 54) living with children who reported not working the past week



Share of adults (ages 25 to 54) living with children who reported child care as their primary reason for being out of work

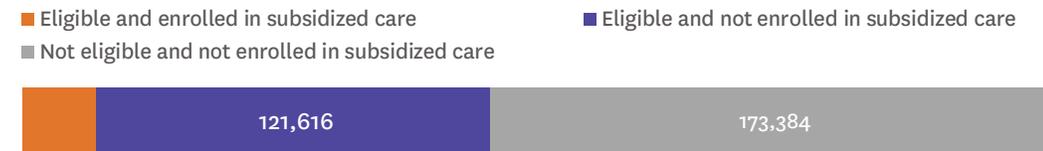


Source: Household Pulse Survey, Public Use Files.

**While the City has made strides towards universal care for four-year-olds and seeks to reach all 32 school districts with 3-K, the youngest children continue to be the least served. Infants and toddlers comprise 60% of the young child population but only 18% of subsidized seats.**

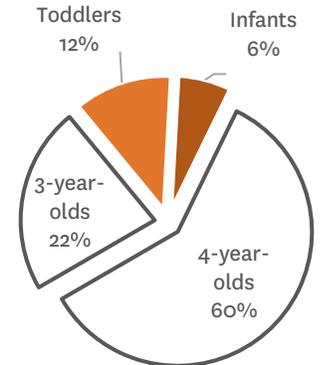
**16%** of income-eligible infant and toddlers receiving care through subsidized, publicly funded early education system.

Half of New York City’s 317,000 infants and toddlers live in households with low incomes and potentially eligible for child care subsidies that serve to alleviate child care cost burden. However, in 2019, there were **22,478 infants and toddlers enrolled**, which leaves out around **121,000 children** whose families are potentially eligible and not receiving subsidized care.



Source: Citizens’ Committee for Children analysis of ACS and DOE 2019 child care data.

Share of Age Groups Enrolled Publicly Funded Early Education in New York City



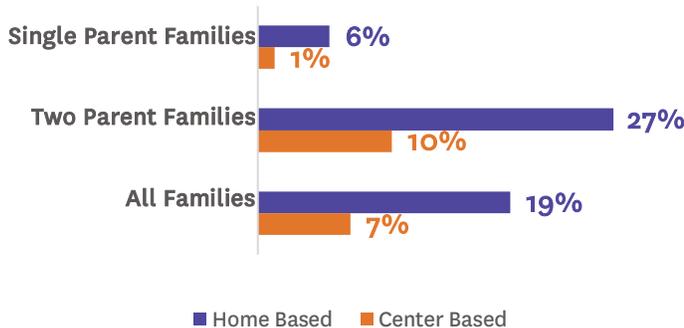
**Child care is unaffordable for families for across the income spectrum.**

The cost of one year of center-based child care for infants and toddlers is **\$18,746**, and one year of homebased-care costs **\$10,296**. These costs are most burdensome for single-parent families who, on average, have more limited incomes.

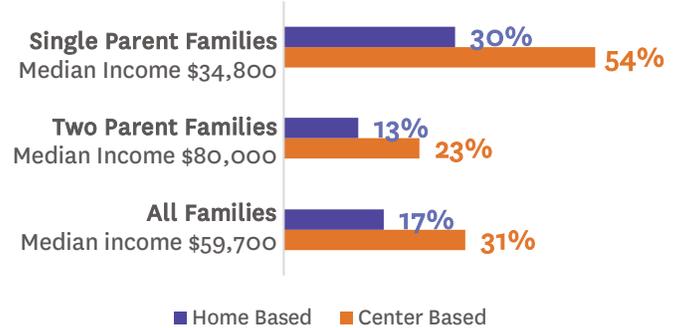
**93%** of families with young children cannot afford center-based care using a federally recommended threshold that costs be no more than 7% of income

**31%** of median income for families with young children would be consumed by the cost of center-based child care

Share of Families with Young Children Under Five Who Could Afford Market Rate Care for One Child



Share of Median Income for Families with Children Under Five That Market Rate Care for One Child Would Consume



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