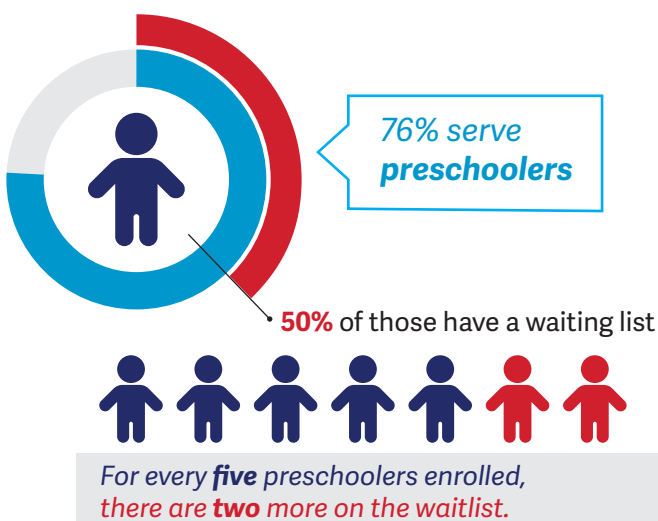
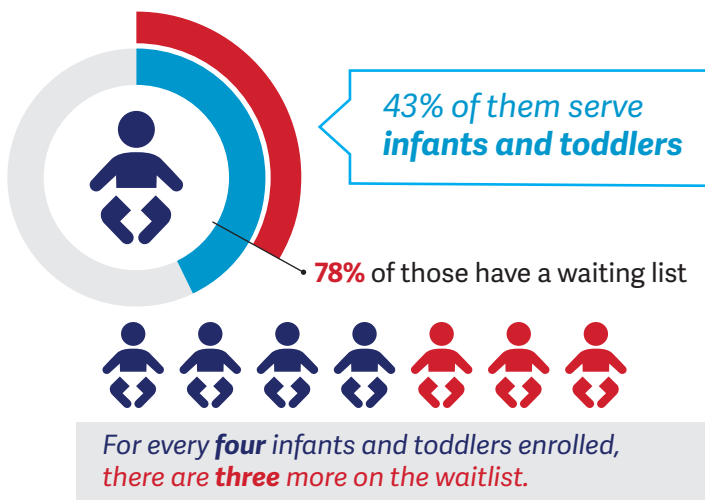


THEMES IN IOWA'S CHILD CARE CONVERSATION:

STRENGTHS & PARTNERSHIPS – STRONG FOUNDATIONS

A healthy, engaged Iowa workforce is inextricably linked to child care. The pandemic has elevated this challenge, but it's always been there.

STATEWIDE, IOWA HAS ONLY 1,500 LICENSED CARE CENTERS:



CENTERS ARE CHALLENGED IN MANY WAYS:



Staff recruitment and retention: low wages and lack of benefits



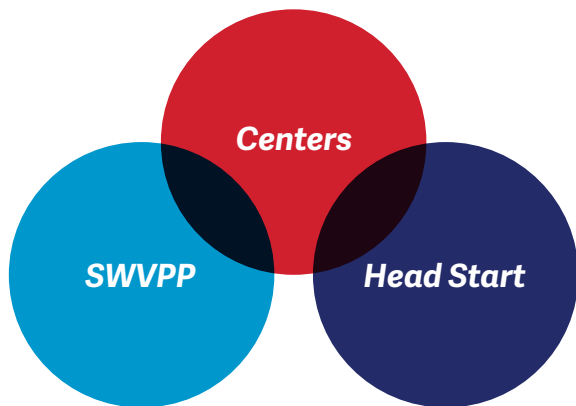
Facilities: centers lack sufficient outdoor space, indoor gross motor space, and storage



Child to staff ratio: costs and demand make limiting enrollment to maximize quality difficult

THEMES IN IOWA'S CHILD CARE CONVERSATION:

CHILD CARE COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGES



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS CAN HELP IOWA MEET THE CHILD CARE CHALLENGE.

Centers report sharing both space and children with SWVPP and Head Start programs, and 36 percent report children in their centers participating in early intervention or special education services.

DEDICATED CHILD-CARE PROFESSIONALS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTNERS OF ALL.

Coming from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, Iowa's child care workforce is highly dedicated. The average 12-month retention rate, as reported by participating centers, was 84 percent.

This report is provided by I2D2, a program of Iowa State University and Early Childhood Iowa committed to putting the state's most informed, passionate, and data-driven resources to work ensuring all Iowa children are successful from birth. For methods, resources, and citations: <https://i2d2.iastate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Rouse-Sept2019-ECI-Statewide-Needs-Assessment.pdf>



"And, like, legit, I'm here because child care is my passion. It really is, but I left because I could make \$5 more an hour with a Monday through Friday, eight to five job [at HyVee]."

– Northwest Iowa former child care provider

"Benefits many times is what takes them [former child care providers] elsewhere."

– Southwest Iowa provider

"We want a quality program, low child to staff ratio."

– Central Iowa provider

"Outdoor space needs shade structures. Storage space is full."

– Eastern Iowa provider

