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## New Englanders' Use of Child Care Varies by Income, Even Among Working Households

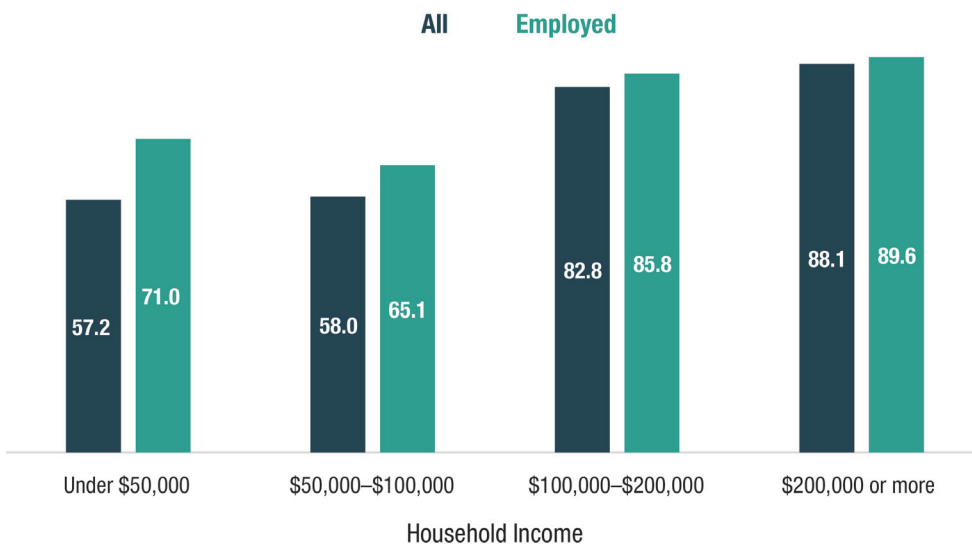
Jess Carson

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau collected between January and May 2023 show that access to child care remains uneven. Among New England households with a child under age five, 71.1 percent had used at least some child care, paid or unpaid, in the past seven days. However, use varied with income: 88.1 percent of households with young children and incomes over \$200,000 used child care, compared with 57.2 percent of those with incomes under \$50,000 (Figure 1). Although low-income households where the survey respondent is employed more often used child care than low-income households overall, employment status does not fully close the income gap in use. That is, lower-income working households are 18.6 percentage points less likely to use care than their higher-income counterparts. These findings suggest that in low-income New England households, access to early care opportunities—as a learning environment for kids and a work support for parents—is falling short.



**Child care use in New England varies by income: among households with a child under age five, higher-income households more often report using child care than their lower-income counterparts, regardless of employment status.**

**FIGURE 1. PERCENT OF NEW ENGLAND HOUSEHOLDS WITH A CHILD UNDER AGE FIVE WHO USED CHILD CARE IN THE PAST SEVEN DAYS**



**Note:** Estimates are calculated using household-level replicate weights. Child care use includes both paid and unpaid nonparental care, including child care center, relative, non-relative, home-based provider, or a combination of any.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phases 3.7–3.8 (partial), Weeks 53–57

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### About the Author

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