

Helping parents get back to work helps our state's economy, children, and families.

Employment status and access to child care are closely related: to find, get, and hold a job, parents of young children need access to quality, affordable child care.



West Virginia has the **fourth largest child care desert** of any state.



Unemployment rates are directly related to a lack of child care that parents need to work.



13.8%

of West Virginians outside of the workforce (roughly 87,000 people) report not working because they are at home caring for family.

To help children thrive and our economy grow, **lawmakers should fund child care so families can work, and protect unemployment insurance, so families can stay afloat during economic downturns and layoffs.**

Flip for new data about **the overlap between unemployment rates across West Virginia and the gap in child care access**



TEAMWV.ORG

For more information, contact Jim McKay at jim@teamwv.org.

New data from Child Care Aware of America and TEAM for WV Children shows the overlap between unemployment rates across West Virginia and the gap in child care access vs. need.



No county in the state has enough supply of child care to meet the demand for working parents. Rural counties with chronically high unemployment often have the highest gap.

County	Average Unemployment Rate 2011-2021 In order of ranking	Child Care Gap (demand - supply = number of slots needed to fully serve county)
West Virginia	2011-2021 In order of ranking	(demand - supply = number of slots needed to fully serve county)
Calhoun	11.66%	181
McDowell	11.04%	544
Clay	10.27%	203
Roane	10.15%	130
Mingo	10.13%	611
Wirt	9.14%	88
Logan	8.94%	605
Braxton	8.82%	207
Wetzel	8.68%	346
Tyler	8.6%	160
Lincoln	8.49%	510
Wyoming	8.48%	82
Nicholas	8.13%	238
Boone	8.11%	320
Webster	7.99%	128
Mason	7.93%	290
Pleasants	7.88%	187
Fayette	7.66%	608
Pocahontas	7.64%	152
Hancock	7.52%	581
Marshall	7.4%	732
Gilmer	7.36%	184
Lewis	7.19%	262
Brooke	7.16%	427
Hardy	7.13%	299
Upshur	7.13%	196
Mercer	7.11%	7
Randolph	6.92%	139

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West Virginia	2011-2021 In order of ranking	(demand - supply = number of slots needed to fully serve county)
Barbour	6.88%	169
Summers	6.81%	83
Mineral	6.71%	515
Grant	6.7%	233
Jackson	6.68%	443
Wayne	6.59%	232
Raleigh	6.5%	1006
Ritchie	6.5%	167
Tucker	6.45%	108
Greenbrier	6.24%	480
Wood	6.23%	1483
Marion	6.14%	721
Kanawha	5.9%	2024
Preston	5.88%	890
Ohio	5.67%	722
Taylor	5.66%	113
Harrison	5.65%	450
Monroe	5.53%	456
Cabell	5.47%	745
Putnam	5.46%	566
Hampshire	5.44%	627
Morgan	5.3%	163
Doddridge	5.16%	125
Berkeley	4.96%	2921
Pendleton	4.66%	244
Monongalia	4.49%	611
Jefferson	4.21%	1114