

What is the global childcare crisis?

Millions of children around the world don't get the care they need, and the problem exists in both the developed and developing worlds. The following statistics illustrate the problem.

The global crisis

- Globally, researchers estimate that 35 million children under five are left on their own or with a very young sibling.
 - Source: [Women's Work: Mothers, children and the global childcare crisis](#)
- The childcare gap affects 129 million women around the world.
 - Source: [Women's Work: Mothers, children and the global childcare crisis](#)
- 14% of children live in single parent households worldwide. Women head more than 80% of these households.
 - Source: [Global Issues](#)
- One billion additional women will enter the workforce between 2020 and 2030.
 - Source: [Booz & Company](#)

The crisis in the United States

- 35% of children live in single-parent families.
 - Source: [KIDS COUNT data center](#)
- 71% of mothers with children are in the labor force.
 - Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- In the US, mothers often end up on waiting lists for daycares for months. A third of families report difficulty finding care.
 - Source: [Center for American Progress](#)
- Infant care in the US is more expensive than college, and the cost of childcare is equal to 53% of the average median family income.

- [New America](#)
- 61% of children under five spend at least part of their week in the care of someone other than a parent.
 - [US Census Bureau](#)
- 54% of low income families and 47% of above-average income families live in childcare deserts.
 - [Childcare Deserts Tool](#)