

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

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CHILDCARE

- In June 2005, 46% of Australian children aged 0-12 years used some form of childcare during the reference week.
- Formal care, defined as regulated care that takes place away from the child's home, was used by 21% of children aged 0-12 either on its own or in combination with informal care.
- Informal care, defined as non-regulated care that takes place at the child's home or elsewhere (such as that provided by family members, neighbours, friends, nannies and babysitters) was used by 33% of children aged 0-12 years either alone or in combination with formal care.
- While use of informal childcare has remained steady since 2002, there has been an increase in participation in formal childcare from 19% of 0-11 years olds during the reference week in 2002 to 23% of children aged 0-11 during the reference week in 2005. More dramatically, there was a 33% increase in the proportion attending before and/or after school care between 2002 and 2005.
- The most common type of formal childcare was long day care which was used by 10% of 0-12 year olds followed by before and/or after school care (7%), family day care (3%) and occasional care (2%).
- Grandparents were the most common providers of informal care providing care to as many as 20% of children.
- Use of formal care was relatively low for those under aged 12 months (7%) gradually increasing to 53% for 3-year olds before gradually declining again to just 8% of 9-12 year olds.
- The median number of hours for use of childcare for those who used either formal or informal care during the reference week was 10 hours. The percentage who used over 35 hours a week of childcare (either formal or informal) was only 13%.
- As many as 79% of all children who used any childcare used it on weekdays only. However, with respect to those who used only formal care, 99% used this during weekdays only.
- 17% of children who used any childcare used it for five weekdays during the reference week.
- "Work-related" was cited by parents as the main reason for using formal childcare by 65% and it was the main reason cited for using informal care by 48%.
- After taking into account the Child Care Benefit, the median cost to parents of formal childcare was \$31 a week during the reference week. The most expensive form of childcare was long day care for which the median cost was \$50 a week.
- In respect of 6% of Australian children aged 0-12 years, parents indicated a desire for additional formal childcare. This figure has remained steady since earlier surveys in 1999 and 2002. Of these, 43% reported that they were not using this additional care due to a lack of places or lack of services in their area. A further 16% cited the expense as the reason for not being able to access the additional care required.

SOURCE:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2006). *Childcare, Australia, June 2005*. ABS Catalogue 4402.0. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.