



# Do These Numbers Add Up? Early Childhood in America

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International rank of U.S. child well-being<sup>1</sup>: **26<sup>th</sup>**

Portion of five-year-olds in the U.S. not ready to learn when entering kindergarten<sup>2</sup>: **40%**

Portion of Americans age 17-24 not qualified for military service in 2012 because they were overweight, too poorly educated, had emotional problems, or had a criminal record<sup>3</sup>: **3/4**

Rank of U.S. high school graduation rate among rich nations in 1970 and 2014<sup>4,5</sup>: **1<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Percentage of new mothers in the U.S. who return to work by the time their infants are 3 months old<sup>6</sup>, some because they want to, most because they have to<sup>7</sup>: **40%**

Number of months of paid parental leave in Hungary, Germany and France by law<sup>8,9</sup>: **24, 14, 10**

Number of months of paid parental leave in the U.S. under federal law<sup>10</sup>: **0**

Rank of U.S. among 45 rich nations for quality, affordability and availability of childcare<sup>11</sup>: **22<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>**

Average cost for center-based childcare per child per year<sup>12</sup>: **\$10,000**

Portion of childcare centers in the U.S. that are accredited<sup>13</sup>: **1 in 10**

Annual median wage for childcare workers in the U.S.<sup>14</sup>: **\$19,600**  
**(less than poverty level for family of three)**

Portion of children age 0-5 living in poverty<sup>15,16</sup>: **1 in 4**

Portion of children age 0-5 living in poverty who are White, Black, and Hispanic<sup>15,16</sup>: **31%, 24%, 36%**

Number of rich nations that do NOT guarantee workers any paid vacations, paid holidays, paid sick leave, or paid maternity leave by federal law<sup>17,18</sup>: **1 (the United States)**

Rank of U.S. in GDP in the world<sup>19</sup>: **1<sup>st</sup>**

- <sup>1</sup> Peter Adamson, Innocenti Report Card 11 (Florence, Italy: The Unicef Office of Research, 2013), 2.
- <sup>2</sup> Jen Brown, The Link Between Early School Learning and Care and School Readiness (Seattle, WA: Economic Opportunity Institute, October 2002), 1, accessed January 6, 2012, <http://www.eoionline.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/early-learning/ELCLinkSchoolReadiness-Oct02.pdf>.
- <sup>3</sup> Mission: Readiness, Ready, Willing, And Unable to Serve (Washington, DC: Mission: Readiness Military Leaders for Kids, 2009), Introduction.
- <sup>4</sup> Henry M. Levin and Cecilia E. Rouse, “The True Cost of High School Dropouts,” The New York Times, January 25, 2012, accessed February 13, 2013, [www.nytimes.com/2012/01/26/opinion/the-true-cost-of-high-school-dropouts.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/26/opinion/the-true-cost-of-high-school-dropouts.html).
- <sup>5</sup> OECD, Education at a Glance 2014 (Paris, France: OECD, 2014), 67.
- <sup>6</sup> Wen-Jui Han et al, Monthly Labor Review: The timing of mothers’ employment after childbirth, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2008), 17.
- <sup>7</sup> Demos, State of Young America: Raising a Family (New York: Demos, 2011), 6.
- <sup>8</sup> Sonja Blum and Daniel Erler, Germany (Vienna, Austria: International Network on Leave Policies & Research, 2014), 2.
- <sup>9</sup> “Choice of Benefit Plan,” Québec Parental Insurance Plan, Gouvernement du Québec, accessed February 25, 2013, [http://www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca/travailleur\\_salarie/choix\\_en.asp](http://www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca/travailleur_salarie/choix_en.asp).
- <sup>10</sup> “Family and Medical Leave Act,” United States Department of Labor, accessed July 20, 2015, <http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/>.
- <sup>11</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, Starting well: Benchmarking early education across the world (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2012), 22.
- <sup>12</sup> United States Office of Personnel Management, 2010 Federal Child Care Subsidy Program Call for Data Results (Washington, DC: United States Office of Personnel Management, 2012), 2.
- <sup>13</sup> Child Care Aware of America, Child care in America: 2014 State Fact Sheets (Washington, DC: Child Care Aware of America, 2014), 8.
- <sup>14</sup> “Childcare workers,” National Employment and Wages, May 2013, Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed November 25, 2014, <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm>.
- <sup>15</sup> NOTE: 25% of children 0-5 live in poverty; 22% of children 0-17 live in poverty. “Children in Poverty by Age Group,” Kids Count Data Center, accessed March 27, 2015, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5650-children-in-poverty-by-age-group?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/1/any/false/36,868,867,133,38/17,18,36/12263,12264>.
- <sup>16</sup> Yang Jiang, Mercedes Edono and Curtis Skinner, “Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Children under 6 Years, 2013”; National Center for Children in Poverty: January 2015 accessed September 13, 2015. [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_1097.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_1097.pdf)
- <sup>17</sup> Rebecca Ray, Milla Sanes, and John Schmitt, No-Vacation Nation Revisited (Washington, D.C.: Center for Economic and Policy Research, May 2013), 19, accessed July 20, 2015, <http://www.cepr.net/documents/no-vacation-update-2014-04.pdf>.
- <sup>18</sup> “Family and Medical Leave Act,” United States Department of Labor, accessed July 20, 2015, <http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/>.
- <sup>19</sup> “GDP (current US\$)” (PDF). World Development Indicators. World Bank. Retrieved 2 July 2015, <http://data-bank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>