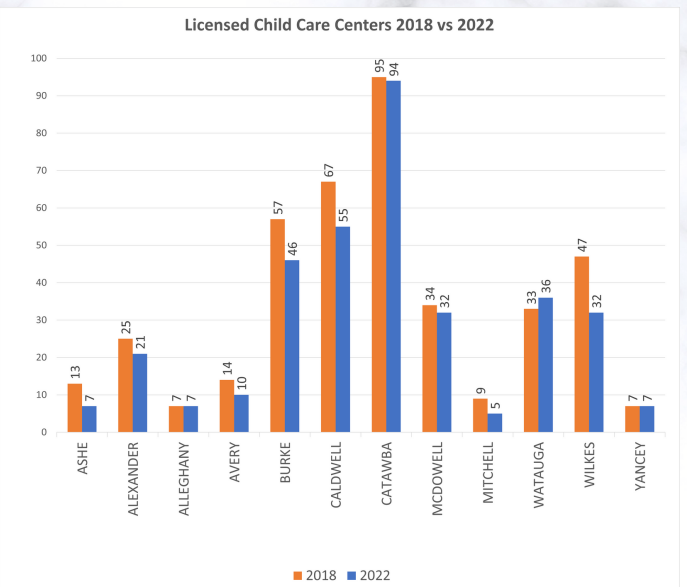
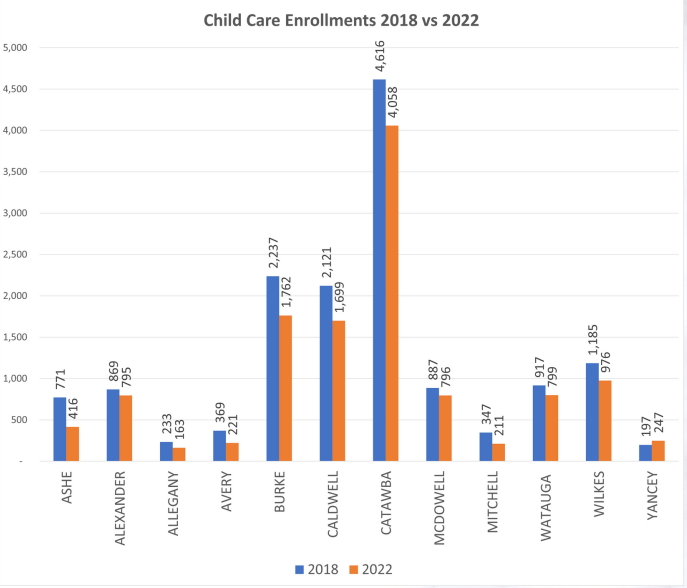


The number of Northwest North Carolina Licensed Child Care Centers decreased over the past 4 years. This decrease also reduced the number of available child care slots.



# THE CHILD CARE CRISIS IS REAL!

For the sake of our county, our region, and our nation, we need to combat this crisis. Our economy depends upon child care. Our families depend upon childcare. Can we depend on YOU to make a difference?



For more information, contact the Partnership of Ashe (336) 982-4588 [www.ashechildren.org](http://www.ashechildren.org)





# Ashe County parents and businesses were surveyed and reported:

82% of parents feel that the lack of childcare has impacted their livelihood

80% of parents would seek full/part time employment if they had childcare

61% of parents would be willing to pay more for high quality child care

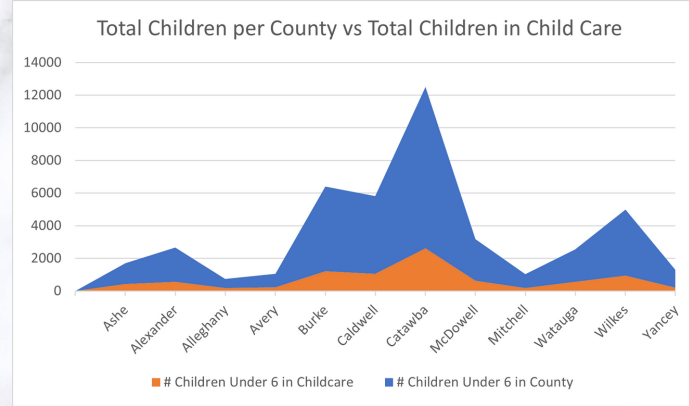
86% of parents and businesses would be willing to see county funding/taxes raised to support child care

65% of businesses reported on-going employee absences due to child care

80% of businesses reported that the lack of child care was having a negative effect on their business

57% of businesses reported lost employees and/or potential applicants due to lack of child care

There are not enough child care centers or family homes in Northwest NC to accommodate the number of children needing care.



There are currently 300 children on waiting lists in Ashe County for child care. This means there are 300 parents who are unable to work.



To combat the overwhelming wait list, more than 50 educators would need to be hired. However, the wages are not enticing to potential teachers.

	Hourly	Yearly
NW NC Average	\$11.00	\$22,000
US Average	\$13.66	\$27,320

Early Child Care Educators make an average of \$24,000/year.

Their salary is below the poverty line and qualifies them for public assistance.