



# Analysis of Census Community Microdata to Show Child Care Capacity by County

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Prepared by the Mississippi State University Social  
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for the Mississippi Early Learning Alliance



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# Child Care Capacity as a Percent of Demand from Children Under 6 by County in 2023

## Child Care Availability Across Mississippi Counties

The following map illustrates the relative availability of child care slots compared to the population of children aged 0-5 in each Mississippi county. The availability percentage for each county is calculated by dividing the total number of available child care slots by the child population.

## Interpreting the Data

- A 0% availability indicates a complete absence of child care slots.
- A 100% availability suggests that there is at least one child care slot for every child in the county.
- Counties with less than 33% availability are classified as "child care deserts," indicating that there are more than three children for every available child care slot.

## Significance

The identification of child care deserts is crucial as it highlights areas with insufficient child care supply. This scarcity can have profound implications for families and local economies, potentially affecting workforce participation, child development, and overall community well-being.

Population estimates are from the National Institutes of Health, SEER, U.S. County Population Data,<sup>1</sup> while child care capacity data are from the Mississippi Department of Health, Child Care Provider Search.<sup>2</sup>

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### Sources:

1. National Institutes of Health, SEER, U.S. County Population Data - 1969-2022
2. Mississippi Department of Human Services, Child Care Provider Search





# Underutilized Parent Workforce

## Labor Force Participation of Mississippi Parents

Figure 1 presents an analysis of labor force participation among Mississippi parents, defined as individuals with at least one child under 18 residing in their household. The data, sourced from IPUMS Current Population Survey (CPS), focuses on parents who are either not active or not fully active in the labor force.

## Categories of Analysis

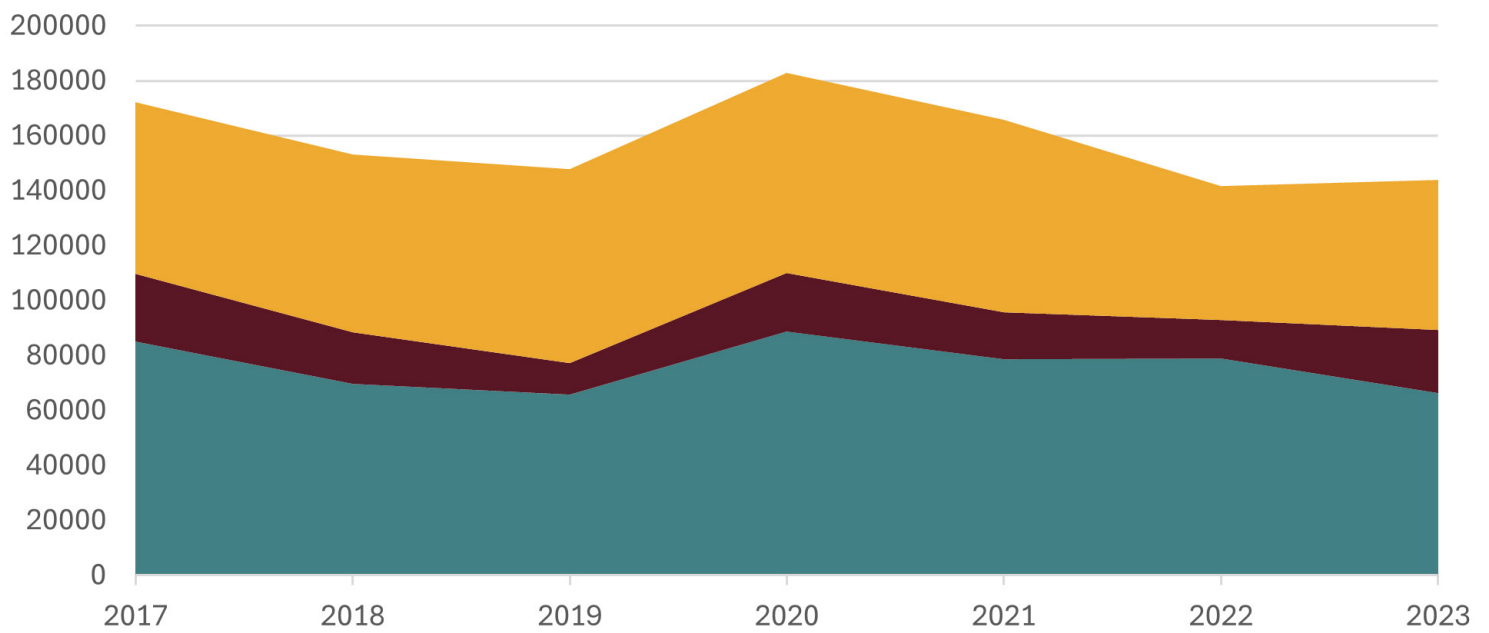
1. Parents Not in the Labor Force: This category is specifically limited to parents who cite family responsibilities as the primary reason for their non-participation in the labor force.
2. Parents Working Part-Time: This group is further subdivided into two categories:
  - a) Those working part-time due to family responsibilities
  - b) Those working part-time for reasons other than family obligations

## Significance

This analysis provides valuable insights into the impact of family responsibilities on labor force participation among Mississippi parents. It highlights the proportion of parents whose workforce engagement is affected by childcare and other family-related factors, offering insight into the challenges faced by working parents in the state.

**Figure 1**

### Underutilized Parent Workforce



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Sources: Source: IPUMS, March CPS, 2017-Present

# Labor Force Participation Rates of Mississippi Parents

## Historical Labor Force Participation Trends of Mississippi Parents (1995-2023)

Figure 2 illustrates the historical labor force participation rates among Mississippi parents from 1995 through 2023. For this analysis, parents are defined as individuals with at least one child under 18 residing in their household.

### Key Components

1. Labor Force Participation Rate:

Defined as the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

2. Demographic Breakdown:

The data is disaggregated by gender (i.e., mothers and fathers).

3. Data Source:

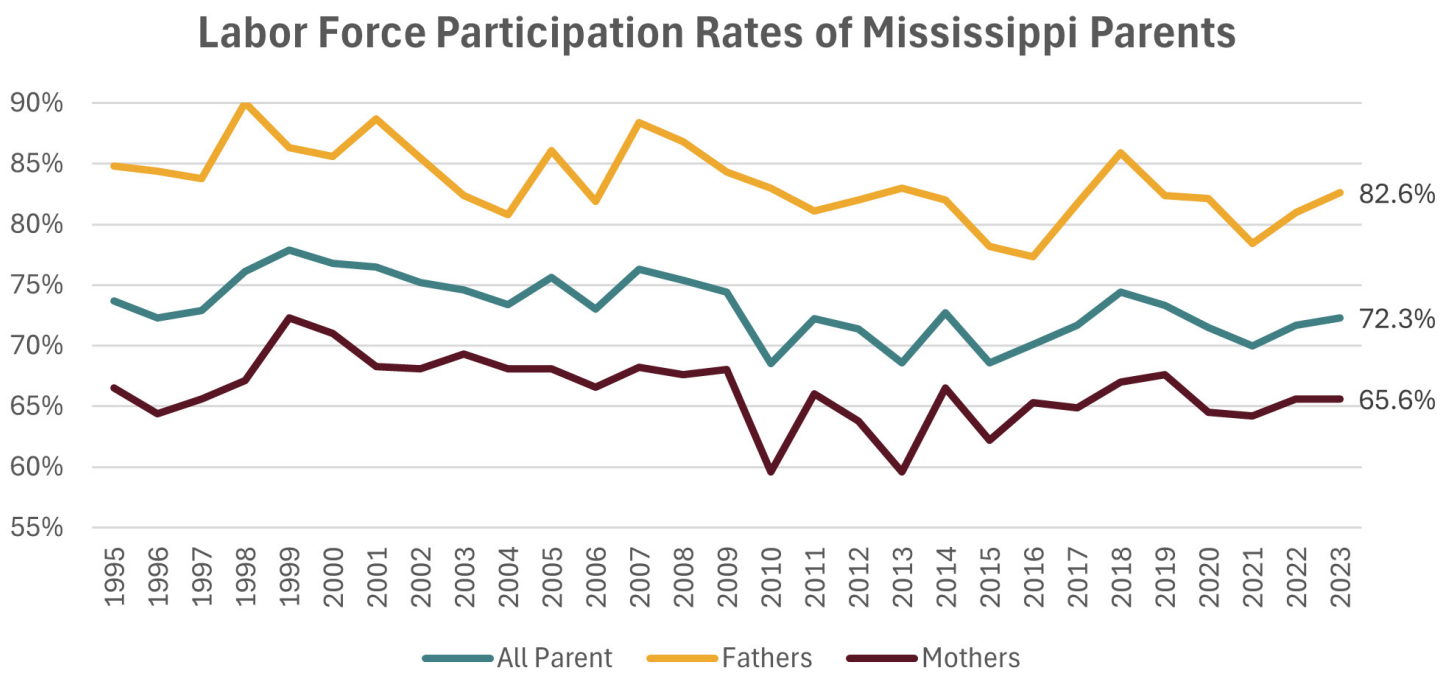
These rates are derived from the IPUMS Current Population Survey (CPS).

### Significance

This historical analysis provides valuable insights into:

- Gender-specific patterns in labor force participation among parents
- Potential impacts of economic, social, and policy changes on parental employment over nearly three decades

**Figure 2**



Sources: Source: IPUMS, March CPS, 1995-Present