SNAPSHOT
CHILD CARE AND MISSISSIPPI’S ECONOMY IN 2021

Child care is a key support for Mississippi’s workforce.

- 56% of those working in Mississippi are parents.
- 33% of those parents have young children.

Access to child care is especially critical for Black mothers.

- 70% of Black mothers with young children are single parents, compared with 41% of Latina mothers and 21% of white mothers with young children.

Young parenthood boosts men’s labor force participation but depresses women’s labor force participation.

- 69% and 76% of childless Mississippian women and men, respectively, participate in the labor force.
- Corresponding figures are 64% for mothers with young children and 91% for fathers with young children.

High child care costs challenge families with young children.

- The child care workforce has decreased by 8% in Mississippi since the start of the pandemic.
- 800 workers have left the industry.

- $4,600 per child per year = 9% of median household income

NOTES: This fact sheet was prepared by Samantha Evans, Charles Gascon, Ana Kent and Ngân Trần of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Statistics are based on prime-age civilian adults ages 25-54. Young children are defined as ages 0-5. “Single” is defined as married with spouse absent, separated, divorced, widowed or never married/single. Average cost and child care workers are rounded to the nearest 100. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ definition of affordable child care is no more than 7% of household income. See Zeytoon Nejad Moosavian (2017) for the effect of parenthood on labor force participation.