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## ABSTRACT

This booklet provides information on the use and cost of child care for preschoolers. Tables and charts provide data on: (1) child care arrangements used by employed mothers for preschoolers; (2) the weekly cost of preschool child care from 1986 to 1993; (3) the percent of arrangements for which payments are made; (4) regional differences in child care costs; (5) the percent of preschoolers of employed mothers in frequently paid for child care arrangements by family income; (6) the percent of families paying for child care by family income and poverty status; (7) the cost of child care for families by family income and poverty status; and (8) the percent of monthly family income spent on child care by family income and poverty status. The data indicate that a family with a preschool-age child spent an average of 64 dollars per week for child care in 1986 and 79 dollars per week in 1993, that economic status plays a major part in the choice of child care, and that child care is more of a burden for poor families than for middle class families, because they pay a larger share of their monthly income for child care. The document consists mainly of graphs and illustrations. Two tables are attached. (MDM)

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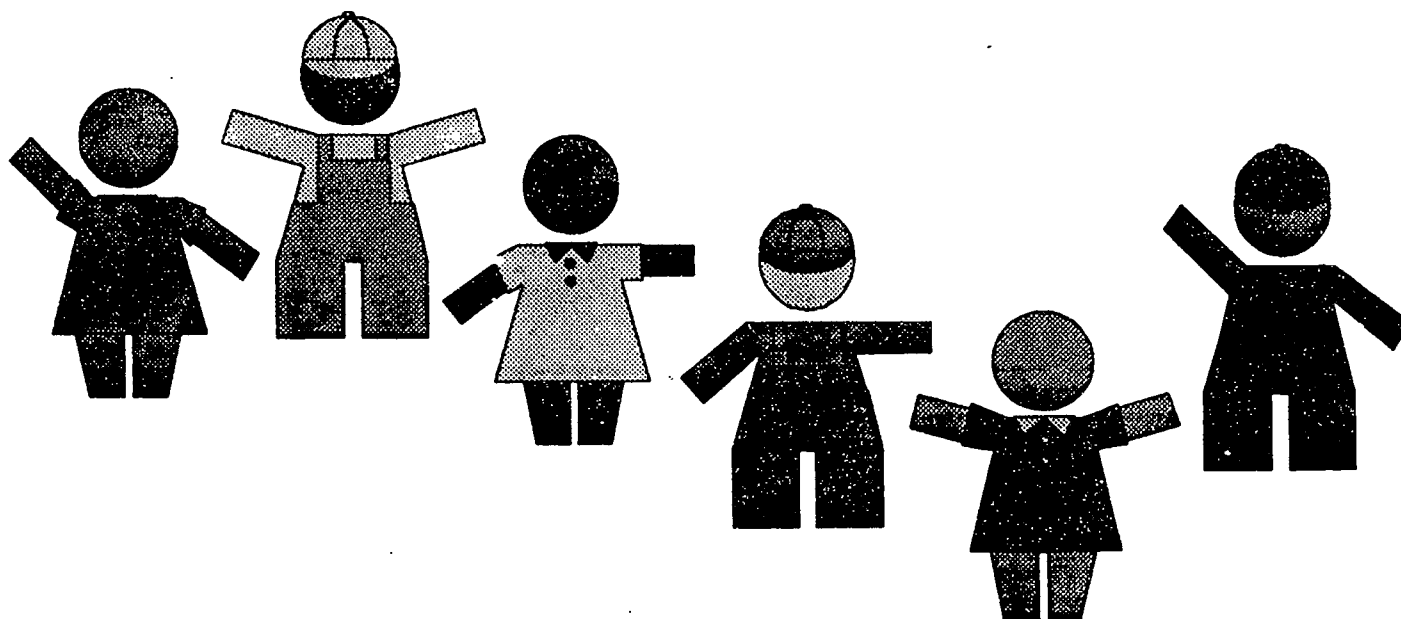
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# WHAT DOES IT COST TO MIND

## OUR PREZCHOOBERS?



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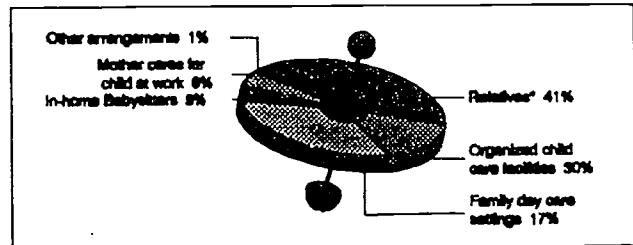
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The choice of child care arrangements for preschool-age children is one of the most important daily decisions parents make. It is an age where children are most dependent on a care provider's supervisory skills and often marks the time when children make their first prolonged social contacts with persons outside the immediate family.

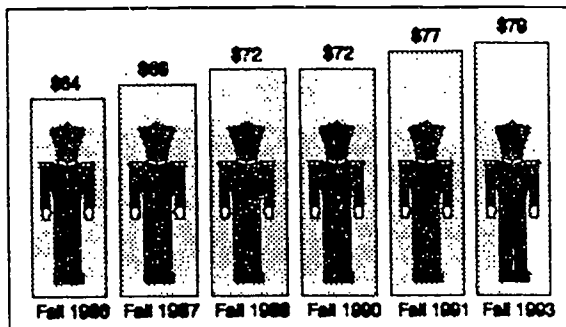
In 1993, there were 9.9 million children under 5 who were in need of care while their mothers were at work. Family members (41 percent), organized child care facilities (30 percent), and family day care settings (17 percent) were among the principal child care arrangements used for preschoolers while their mothers were at work.

**Care Arrangements Used by Families with Employed Mothers for Preschoolers: 1993**



\* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

**Weekly Cost of Child Care\***  
(in constant 1983 dollars)

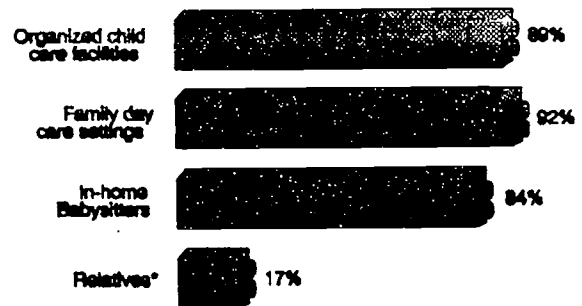


\* limited to families with a preschooler

One of the greatest concerns that a family must face is finding low-cost child care during the time parents are at work. Families with employed mothers are spending more today on child care than they did in the past. A family with a preschool-age child spent an average of \$79 per week on child care in 1993 compared with only \$64 per week in 1986.

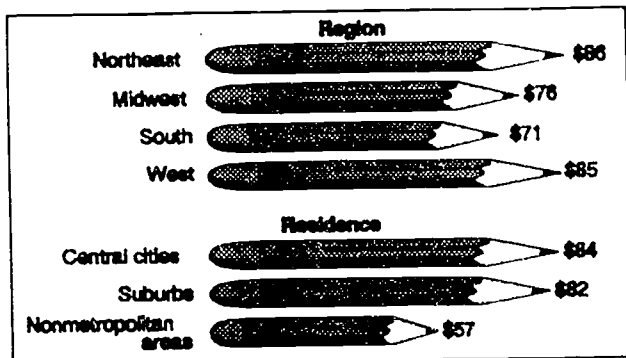
Parents are more likely to have to pay for child care when nonrelatives are used. When children are cared for in arrangements such as organized child care facilities, family day care settings, or by in-home babysitters, about 9 out of 10 families with employed mothers make payments. This is 5 times as many as when relatives are used.

**Percent of Arrangements for which Payments are Made\***



\* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

**Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Region and Residence\***

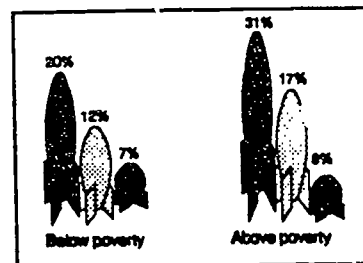


\* Limited to families with only preschoolers

Costs of child care vary geographically. Families with employed mothers living in the Northeast and West paid an average of \$85 per week for child care, while families in the Midwest and South paid about \$10 and \$15 less per week, respectively. Child care costs faced by families living in metropolitan areas averaged slightly over \$80 per week, about \$25 per week more than families living in nonmetropolitan America.

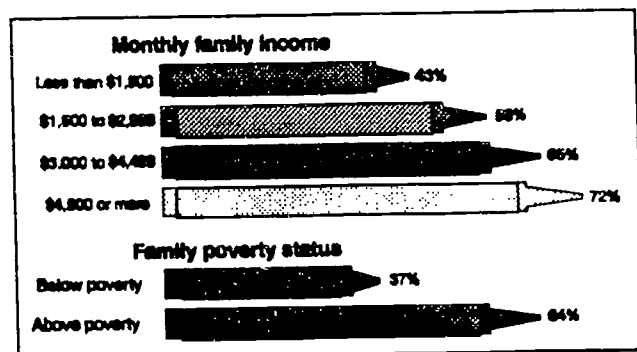
Economic status plays a major part in the choice of child care. Families with employed mothers living above the poverty line tend to choose arrangements which are more likely to require cash payments. About one-half of preschoolers living above the poverty line are in these arrangements compared with 4 out of 10 preschoolers living below poverty. This results in greater proportions of upper income families paying for child care.

**Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Family Poverty Status**



Organized child care facilities      Family day care settings      In-home daykeepers

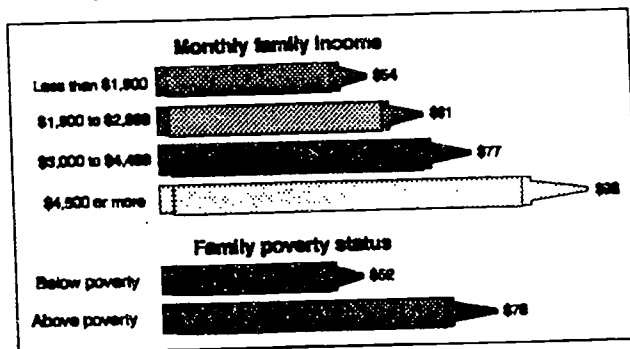
**Percent of Families Paying for Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status\***



\* Limited to families with only preschoolers

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### Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Family Income and Poverty Status\*

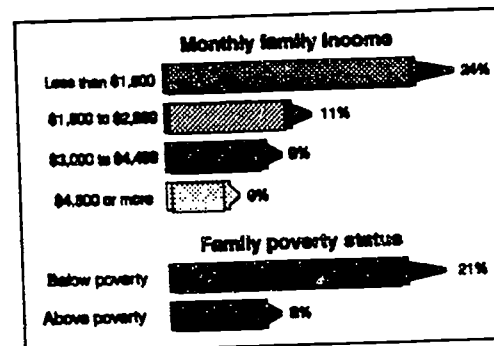


\* Limited to families with only preschoolers

Poor families pay less for child care than nonpoor families. Child care costs averaged about \$50 per week for poor families with employed mothers in 1993 compared with \$79 per week for families above the poverty line.

Child care is more of an economic burden for poor families because they pay a larger share of their monthly income for child care. Among families with employed mothers who pay for child care, poor families spent 21 percent of their monthly income in 1993 on child care, about 2-1/2 times the proportion of monthly income spent on child care by nonpoor families. If current welfare proposals make benefit recipience contingent upon labor force participation, then child care costs may prove a difficult barrier to overcome in securing employment if provisions are not included for affordable child care arrangements.

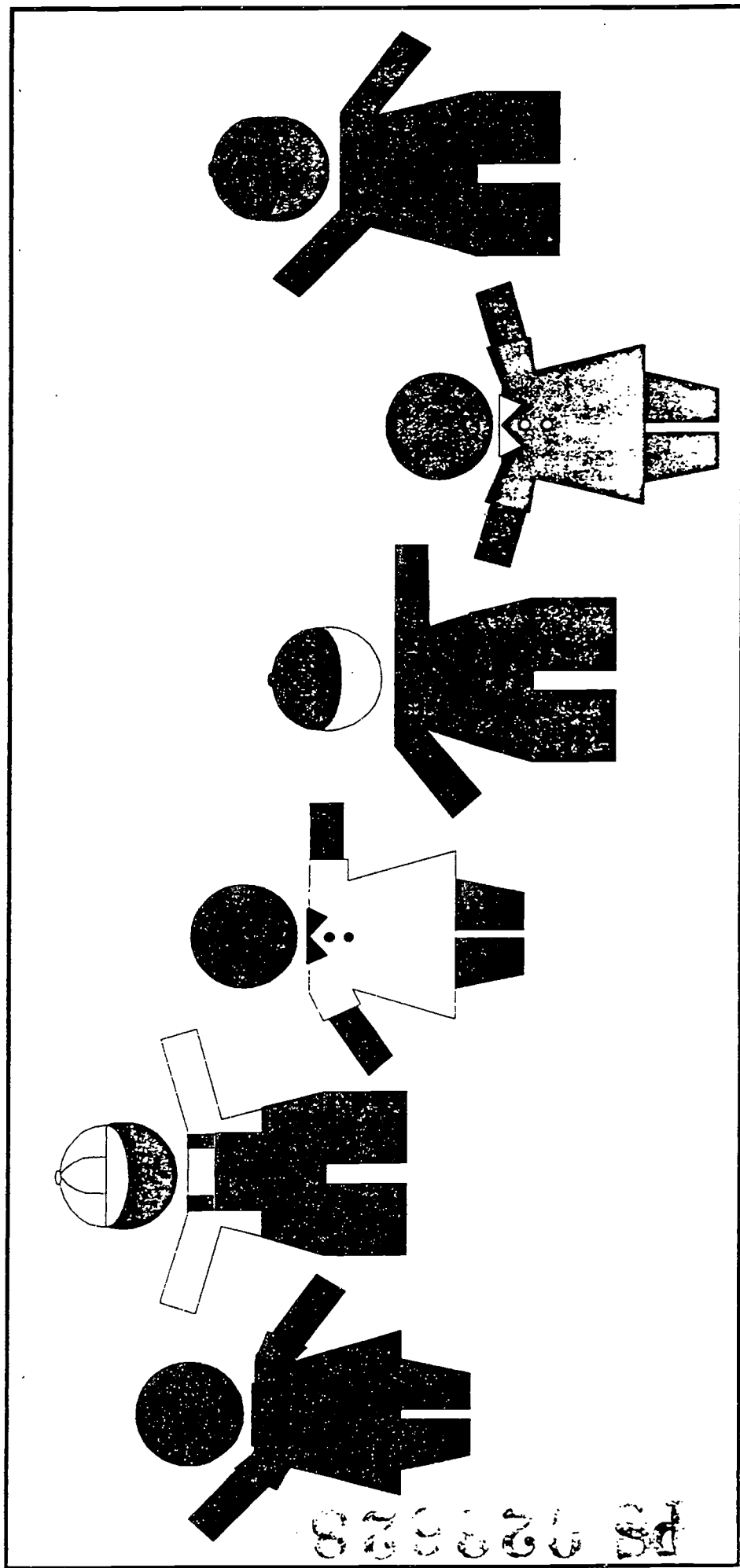
### Percent of Monthly Family Income Spent on Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status\*



\* Limited to families with only preschoolers

# WHAT DOES IT COST TO MIND

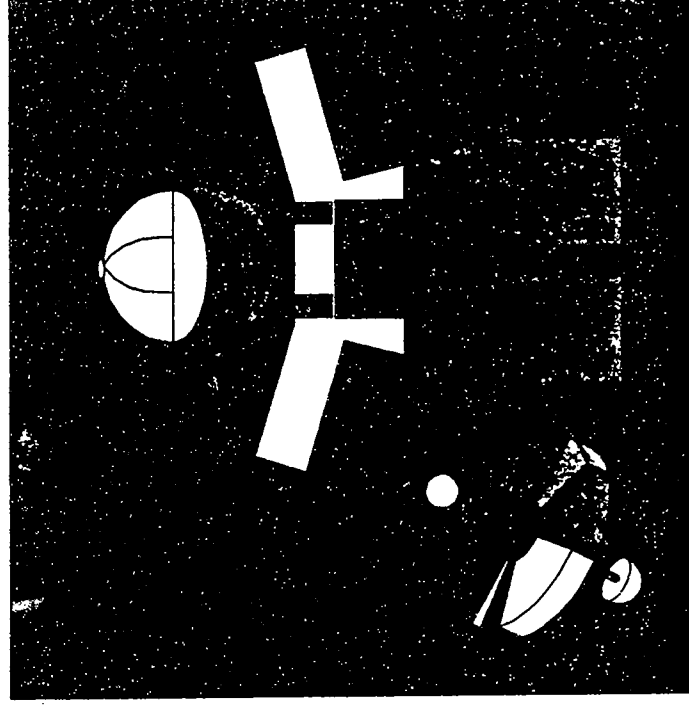
# OUR PRESCHOOLERS?



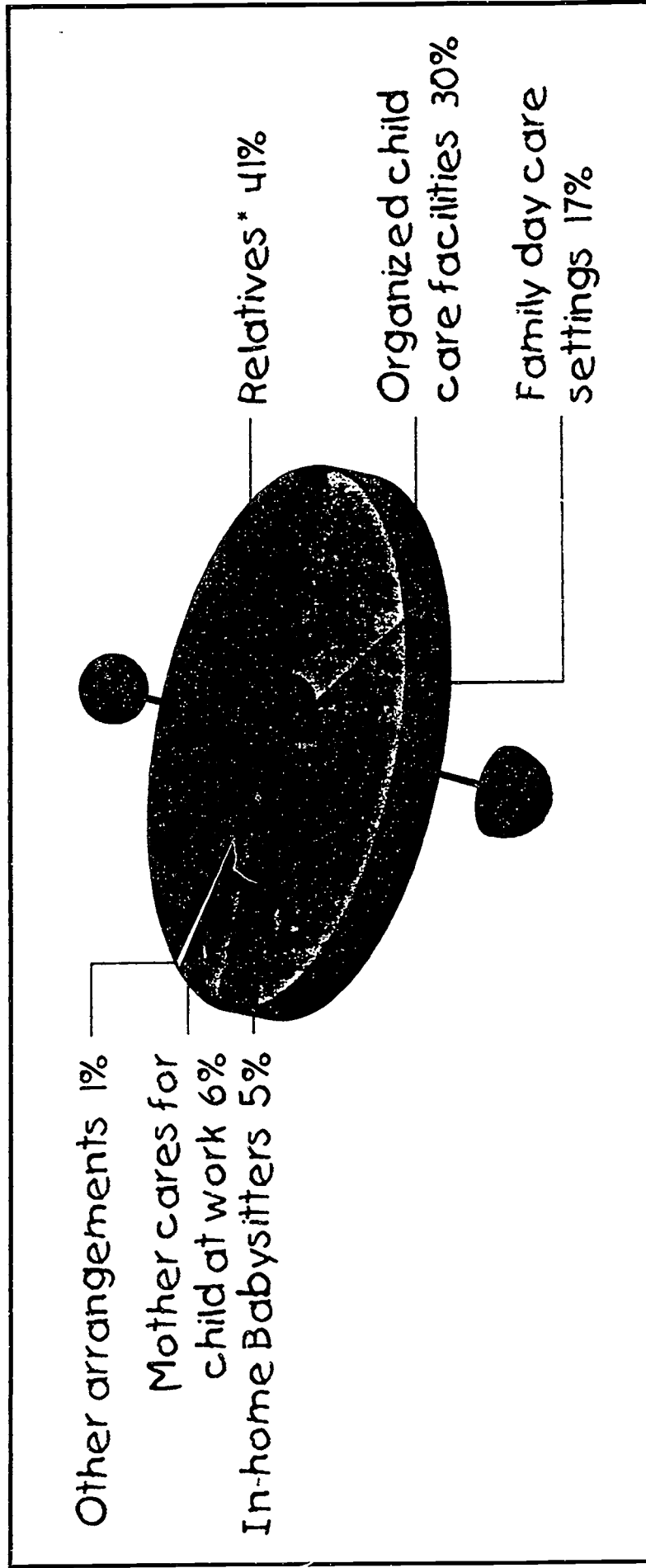
By: Lynne M. Casper and Martin O'Connell  
Graphics prepared by: Pam Sadowski  
Source: Surveys of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

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Family members, organized child care facilities and family day care settings were the principal providers of child care for preschoolers while mothers were working in 1993.



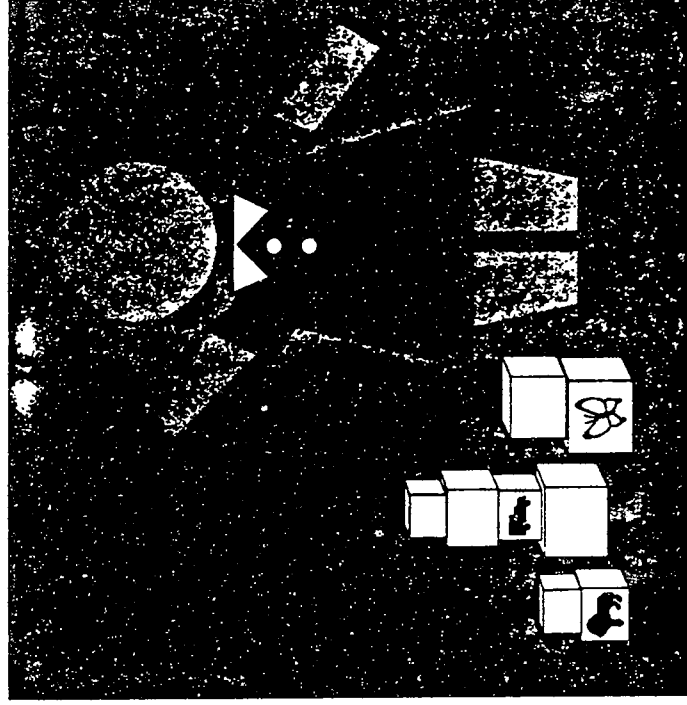
# Care Arrangements Used by Families with Employed Mothers for Preschoolers: 1993



\* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

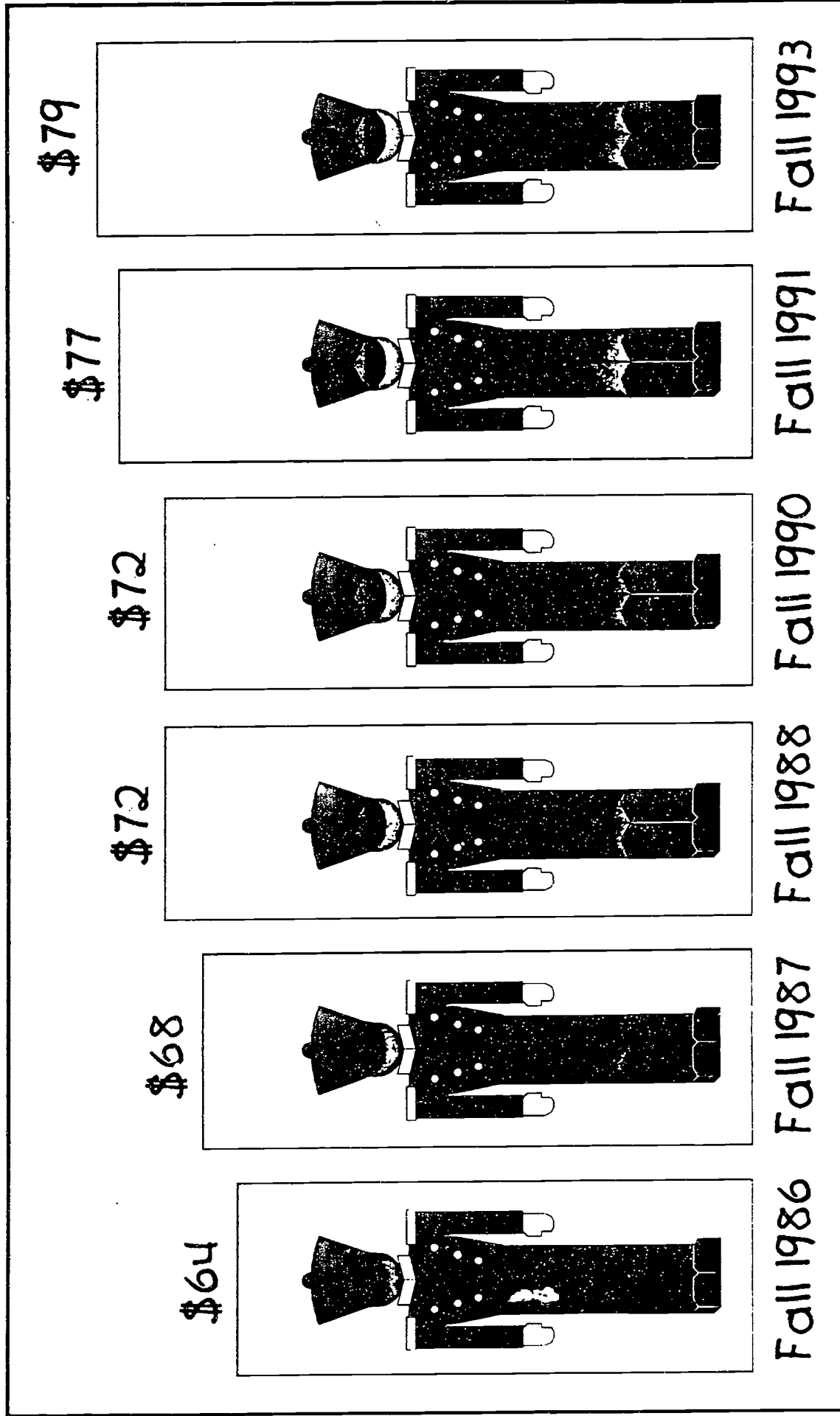


Families with employed mothers  
are spending more  
on child care.



# Weekly Cost of Child Care\*

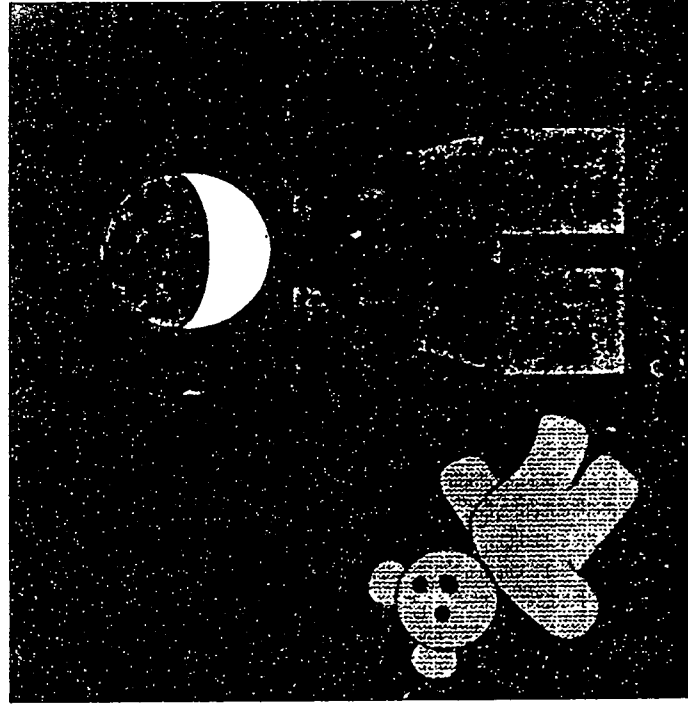
(In constant 1993 dollars)



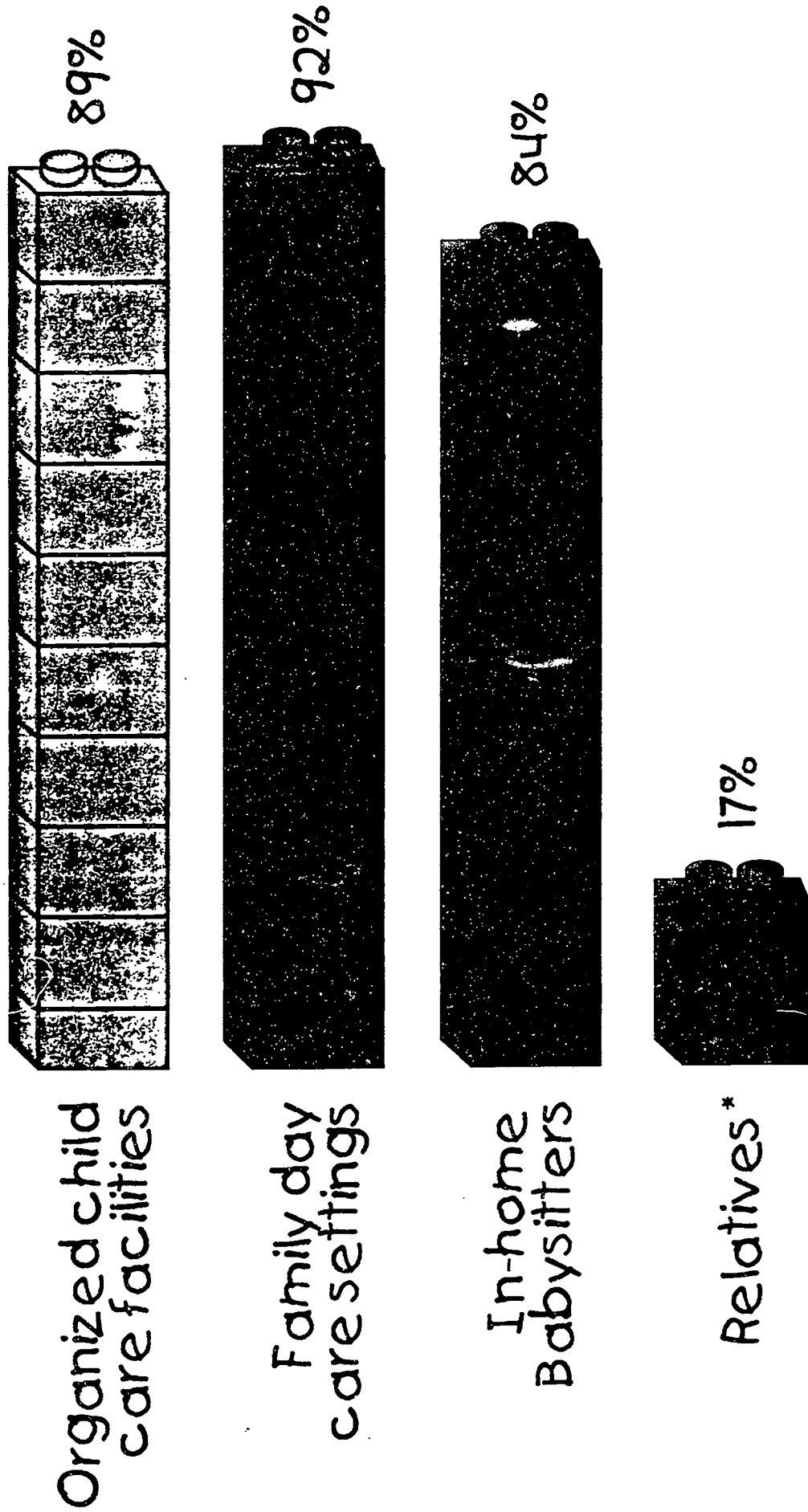
\* limited to families with a preschooler

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Parents are more likely to have  
to pay for child care when  
nonrelatives are used.

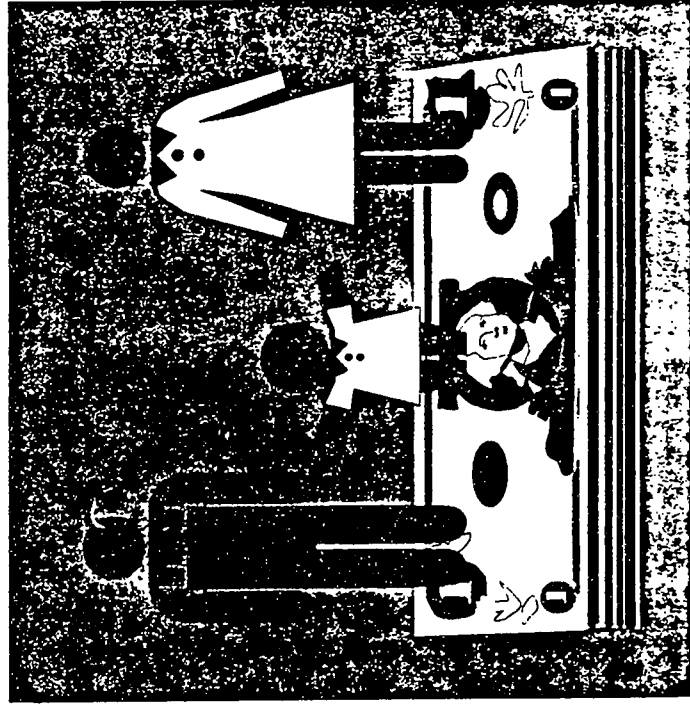


# Percent of Arrangements for which Payments are Made\*

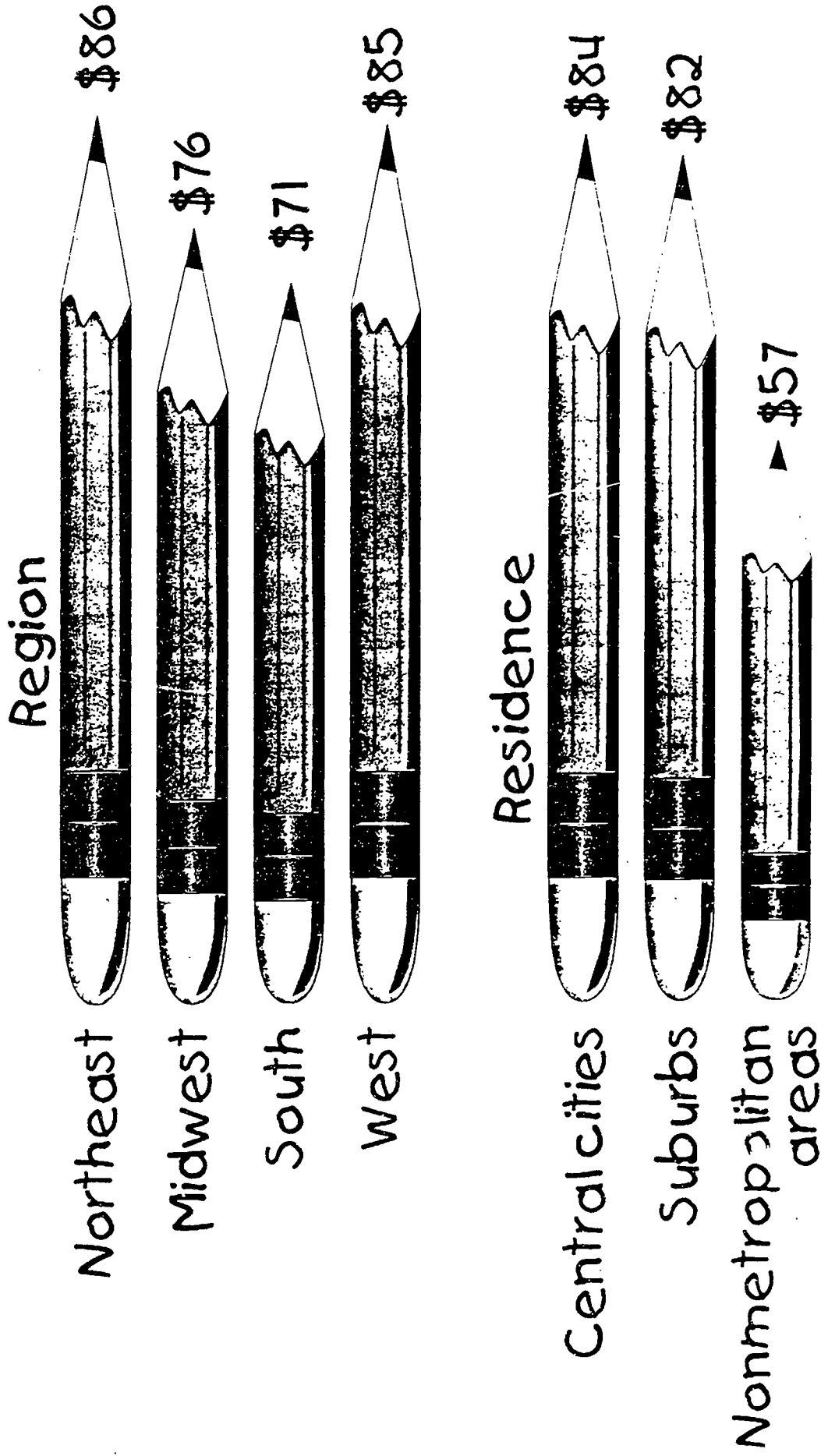


\* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

# Families pay more for child care in the Northeastern and Western regions and in Metropolitan areas

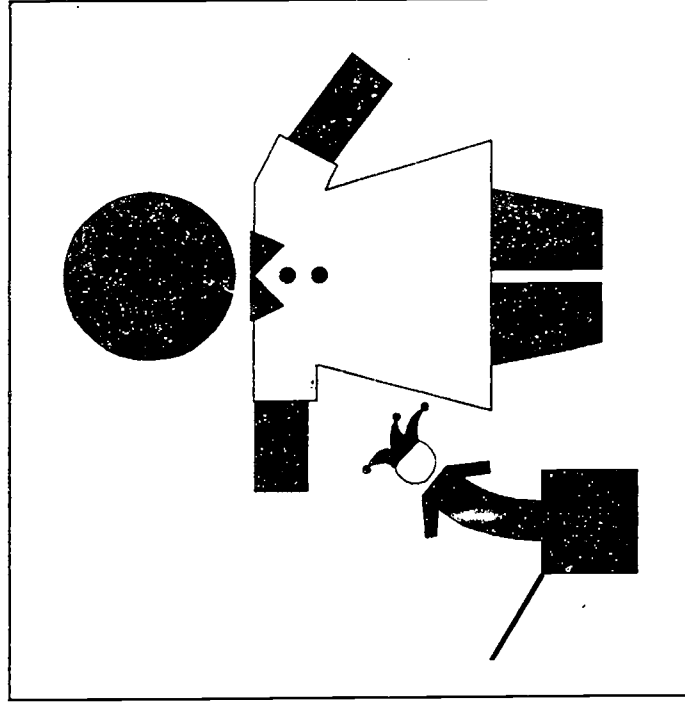


# Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Region and Residence\*

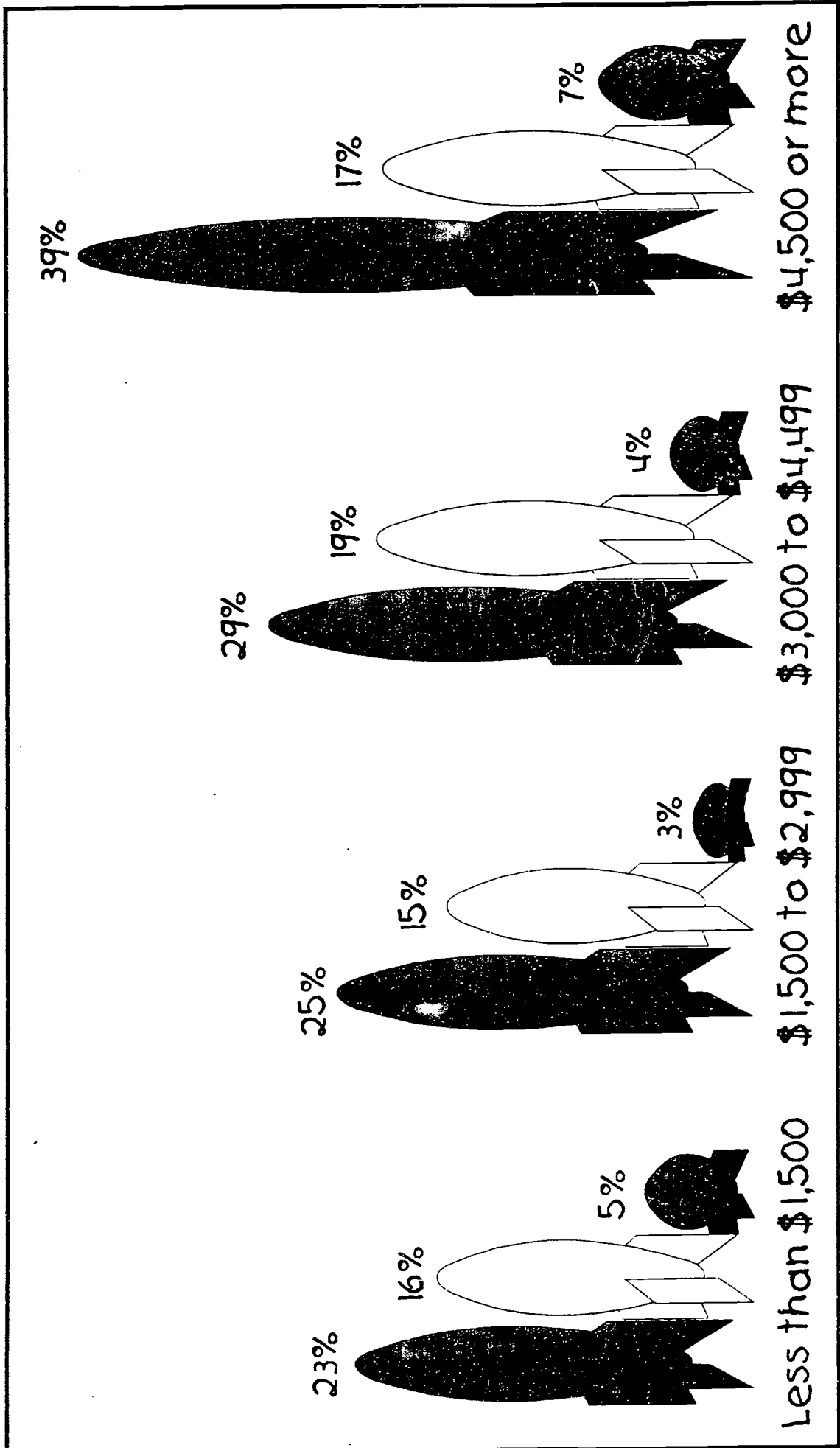


\* limited to families with only preschoolers

Economic status plays  
a major part in  
the choice of  
child care.



# Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Monthly Family Income



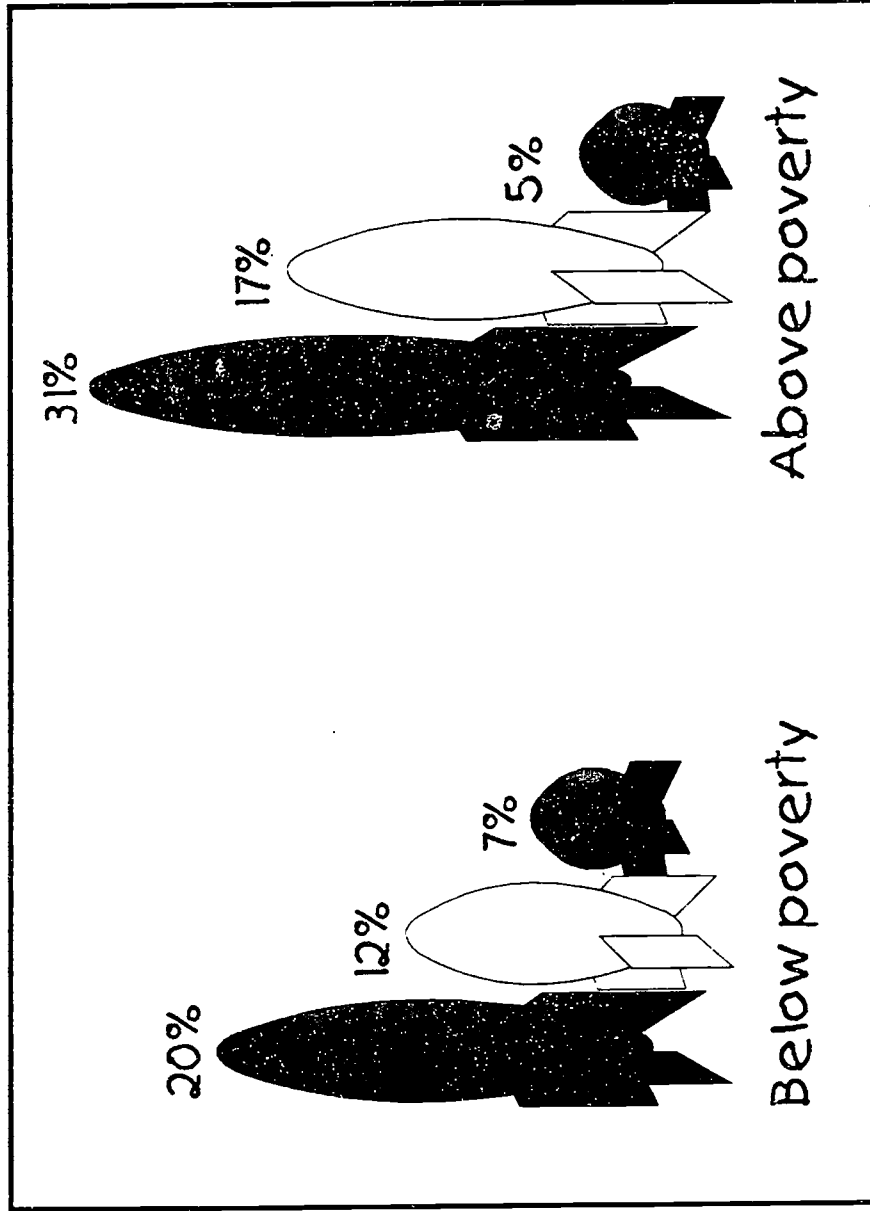
Organized child care facilities

Family day care settings

In-home Babysitters



# Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Family Poverty Status

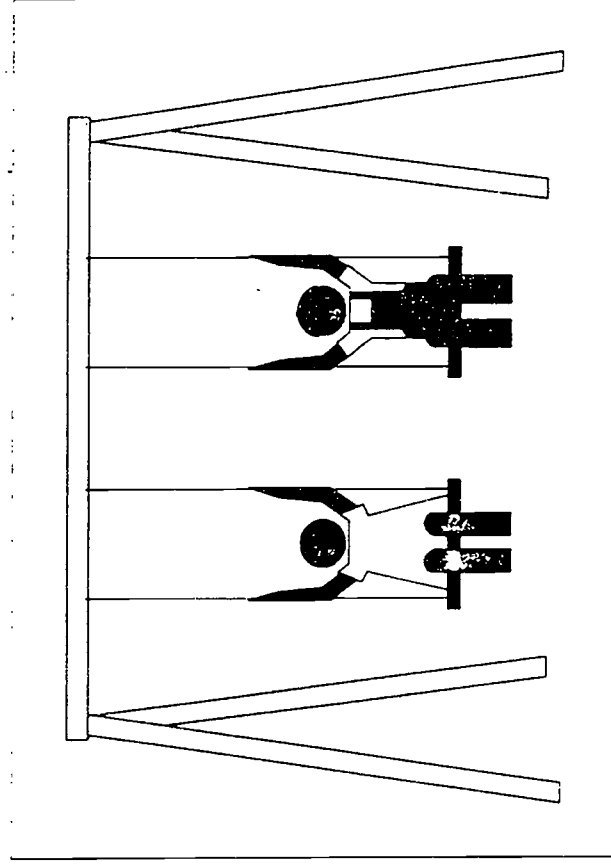


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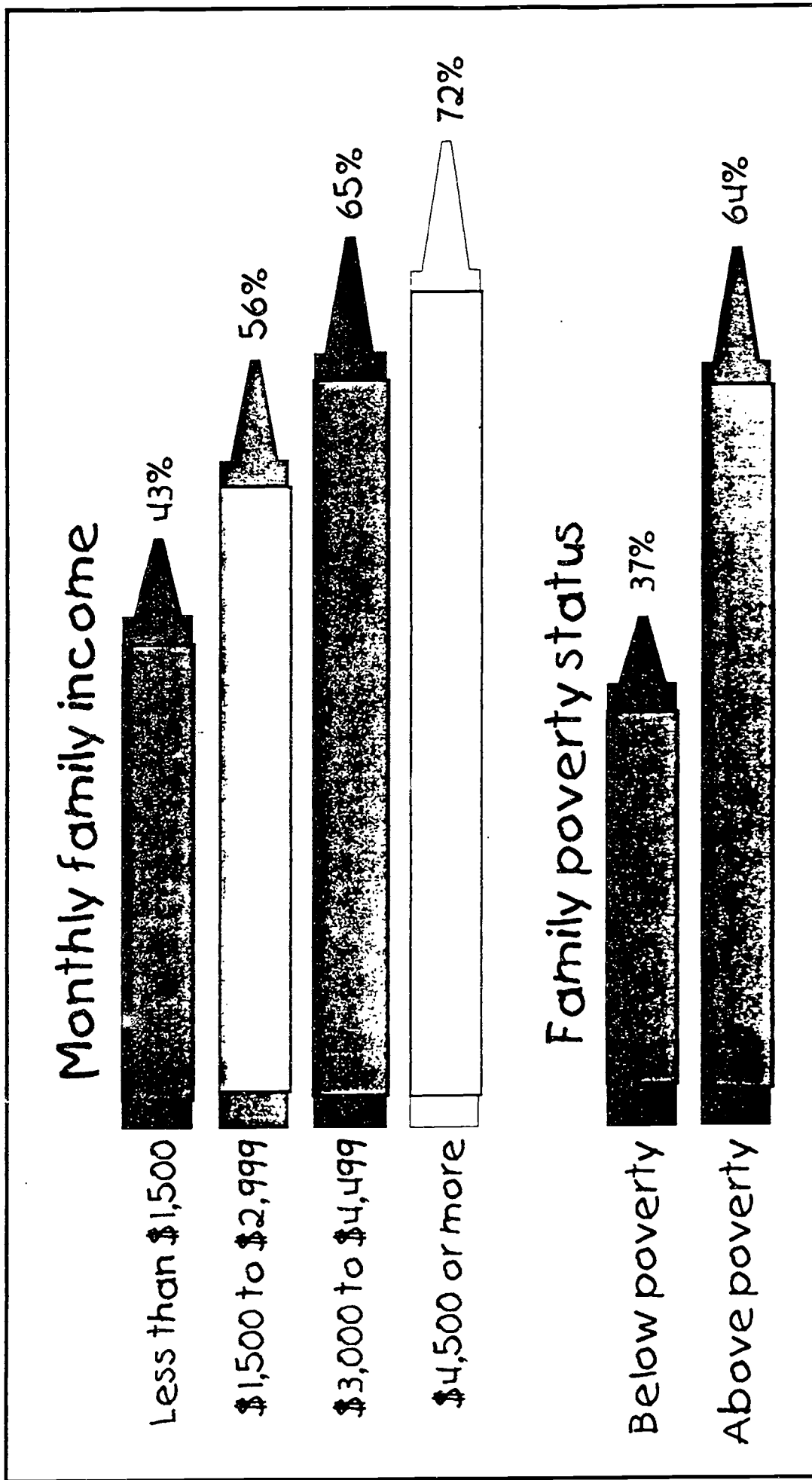
-  Organized child care facilities
-  Family day care settings
-  In-home Babysitters

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Poor families are less likely  
to pay for child care than  
other families.

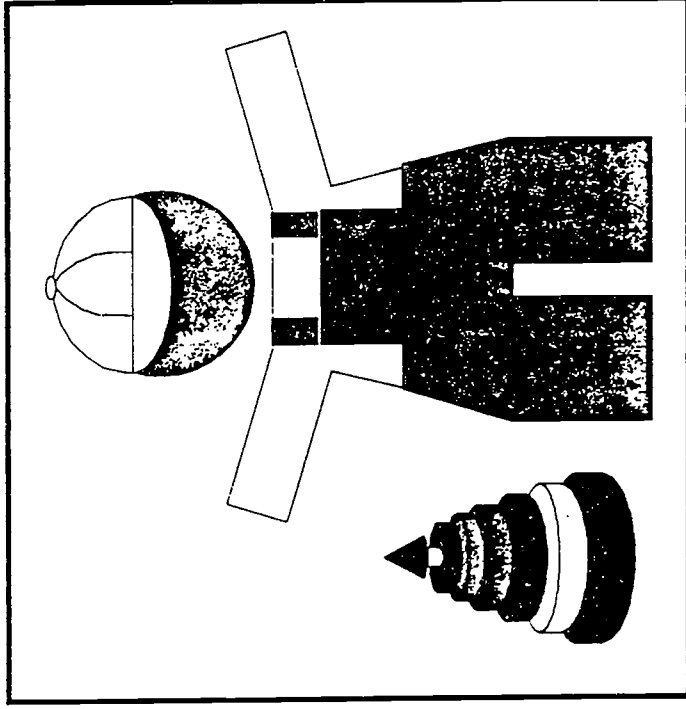


# Percent of Families Paying for Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status\*

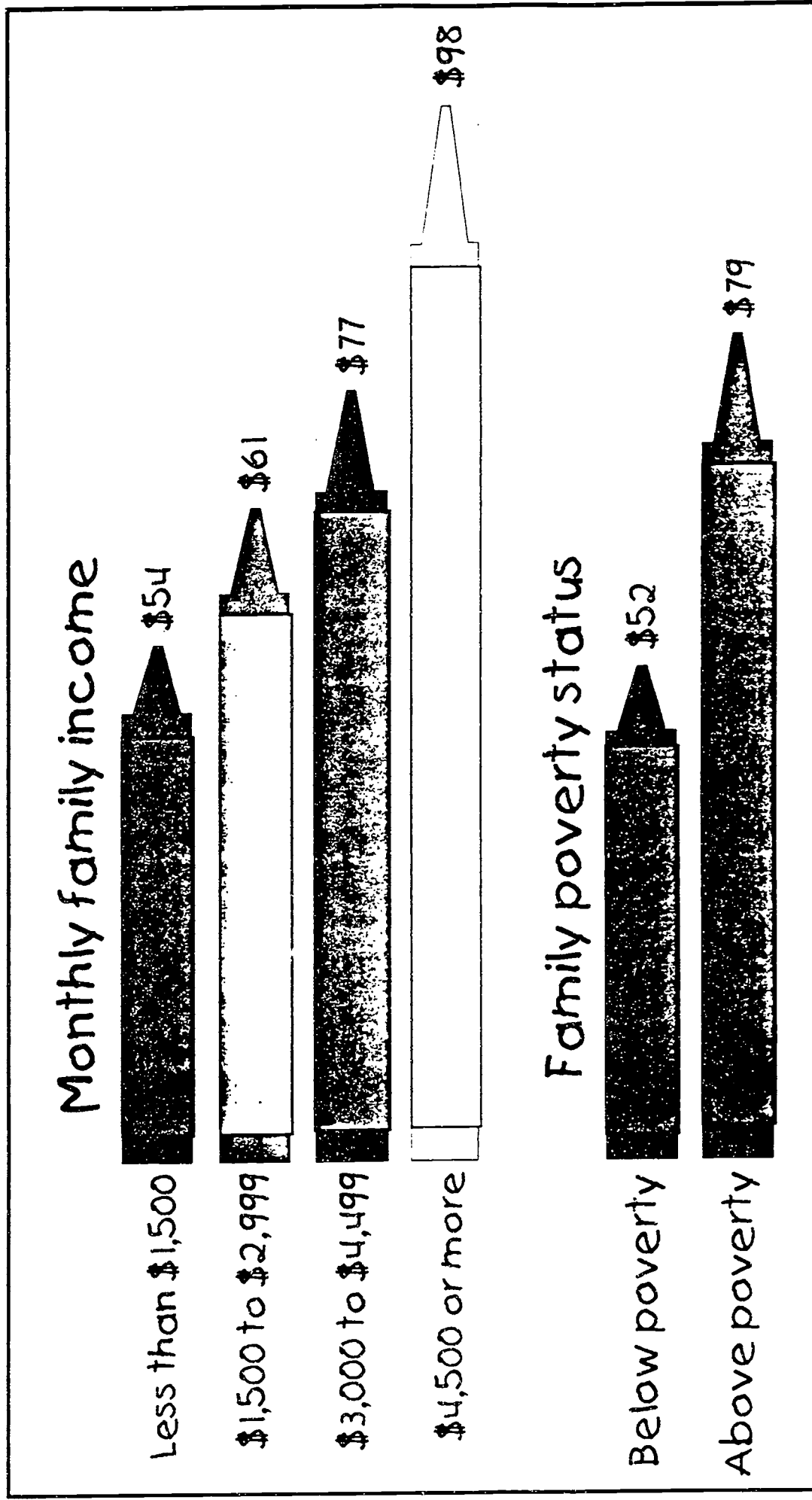


\* limited to families with only preschoolers

Poor families pay less  
for child care than  
nonpoor families.

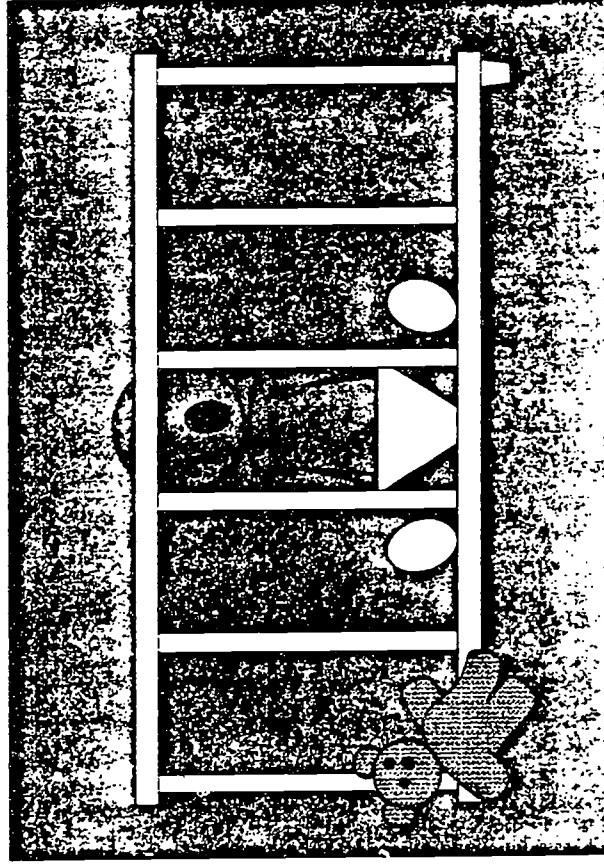


# Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Family Income and Poverty Status\*

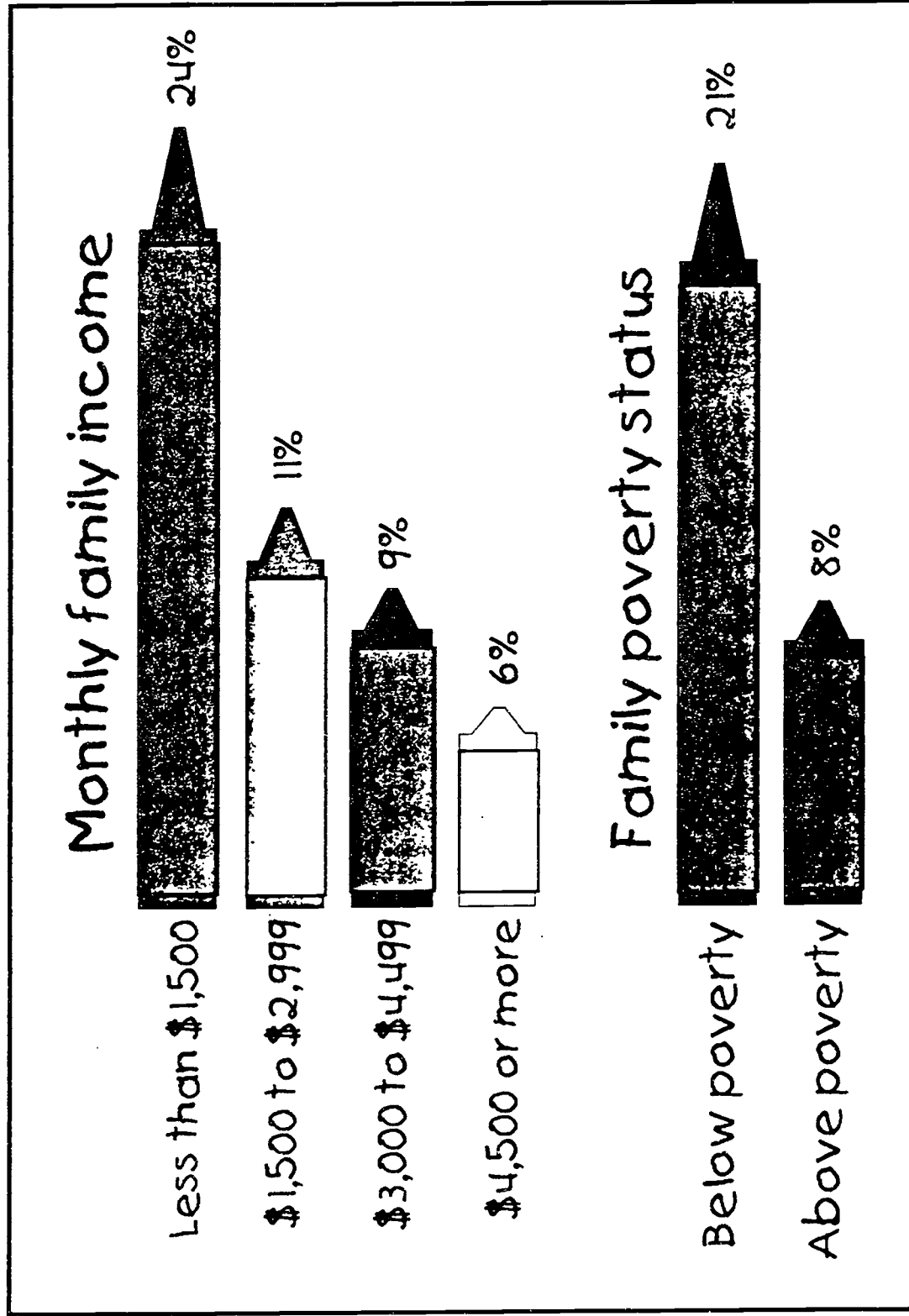


\* limited to families with only preschoolers

Poor families pay a  
larger share of their  
monthly income for  
child care.



# Percent of Monthly Family Income Spent on Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status\*

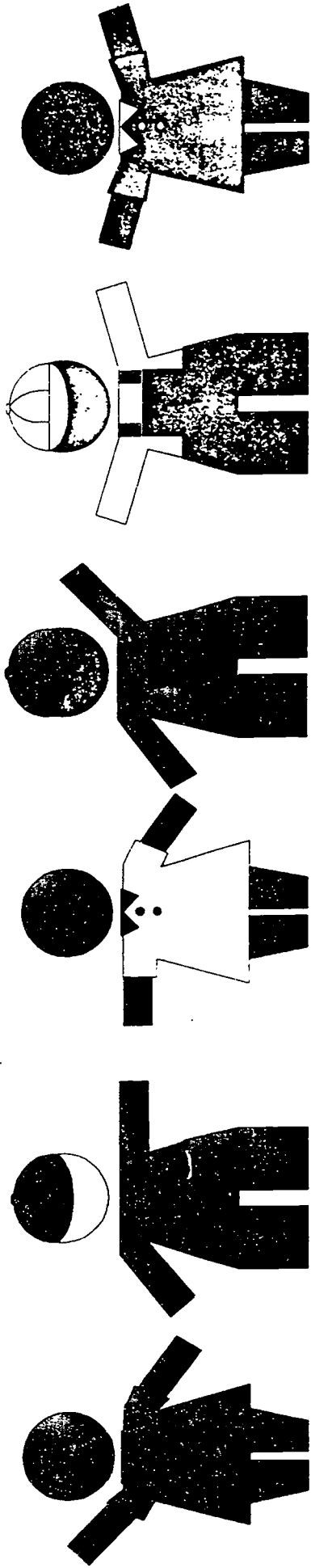


\* limited to families with only preschoolers

# For Further Information Contact:

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DETAILED TABLE

Distribution of Primary Child Care Arrangements  
of employed mothers (Weighted numbers)

13-23 Tuesday, February 28, 1995 6

	DCC												
	Father CH	Grand CH	Orel CH	Nonrel CH	Grand PH	Orel PH	Nonrel PH	Day care	Nurse- rery	Sch- lactiv- ity	In school	Self care	Mother care
ALL	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM	SUM
CH - Child's home	3184	1010	857	713	1314	708	2037	2179	1316	695	16579	619	1002
PH - Provider's home													
Day care/Nursery - Organized facilities	1585	649	328	492	996	543	1645	1823	1149	16	95		616
Kid<5 (Children under 5 yrs)	1599	362	529	220	318	165	391	356	167	679	16484	619	386
Kid 5-14 (Children 5-14 yrs)													
PFTIME													
Full time	21466	1477	617	590	443	914	487	1403	1693	924	471	11452	502
Part time	10747	1707	394	267	269	400	220	634	485	393	224	5127	117
MARST													
Married	24723	3068	555	535	483	901	433	1523	1677	1055	526	12707	397
Other marital	7490	117	456	322	230	413	274	514	502	262	169	3872	223
IKSA													
IPFTIME													
Full time	6410	680	390	217	302	691	382	1162	1408	807	6	74	290
Part time	3527	905	259	111	191	305	161	483	414	342	9	21	326
Kid 5-14	15056	797	227	373	142	223	105	240	285	116	464	11378	502
Part time	7220	803	135	157	79	95	59	151	71	51	215	5105	117
MARST													
Married	15945	1438	323	356	318	608	318	1078	1301	729	332	8419	319
Part time	8778	1630	232	179	165	293	115	445	376	326	194	4288	77
Other marital	5521	39	294	233	125	306	169	325	393	195	139	3033	183
Part time	1969	78	162	89	104	107	105	189	109	67	30	839	40
IKSA													
IMARST													
IFid-5	7841	1514	378	183	394	750	360	1282	1429	924	9	75	543

ABBREVIATED TABLE

Distribution of Primary Child Care Arrangements  
of employed mothers (Weighted numbers)

13:23 Tuesday, February 28, 1995

(Numbers in 1,000s)

	MCC															
	ALL	WT	Childs home	WT	Other home care	WT	Organ care	WT	Sch activity	WT	In school	WT	Self care	WT	Mother care	SUM
ALL	32213	5765	4058	3495	695	16579	619	1002								
KSA																
Kid<5	9937	3054	3184	2972	16	95		616								
Kid 5-14	22276	2711	874	523	679	16484	619	386								
PFTIME																
Full time	21466	3127	2804	2617	471	11452	502	493								
Part time	10747	2638	1254	878	224	5127	117	509								
MARST																
Married	24723	4640	2857	2731	526	12707	397	865								
Other marital	7490	1124	1201	764	169	3872	223	138								
KSA																
PFTIME																
Full time	6410	1589	2235	2216	6	74		290								
Part time	3527	1465	949	756	9	21		326								
Kid 5-14	15056	1538	569	401	464	11378	502	203								
Part time	7220	1173	505	122	215	5105	117	183								
MARST																
PFTIME																
Full time	15945	2435	2004	2029	332	3419	319	406								
Part time	8778	2205	853	702	194	4288	77	458								
Other marital	5521	691	800	588	139	3033	183	87								
Part time	1969	433	401	176	30	839	40	51								
KSA																
MARST																
Kid<5	7841	2468	2392	2353	9	75		543								

(CONTINUED)