

## **Child Care and Out of School Time**

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### **Child Care**

#### **Licensed Child Care Facilities and Programs for Cape Cod and Islands**

|             | <i>Total Capacity</i> | <i>Vacancies</i> | <i>Waiting List<br/>Tuition Assistance</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| <i>2001</i> | 6165                  | 489              | 414 (2003)                                 |
| <i>2005</i> | 6486                  | 621              | 823  |

While capacity and vacancies in licensed programs are increasing, the waiting list for tuition assistance for child care is also increasing. These trends point to two issues: 1. the existing child care capacity to meet the actual needs of families with children; and 2. the cost of (licensed) child care and the ability of families to pay that price. If families cannot access child care due to costs and other circumstances (e.g., location of care, inability to use tuition assistance at the facility, etc.), even though the service exists, it is nonexistent to the families in need of the service. Anecdotally we know that more families use non-licensed child care as an alternative to high-priced care.

*Data from the Child Care Network of Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and Islands, Inc.*

### **Out of School Time**

Number of children returning home from school unattended (*Barnstable County "Monitoring the Human Condition, 2005"*):

(2005) 28%

(2001) 30%