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**Ensuring
Montana's Child
Care is Affordable,
Accessible, & Safe:**

Distribution of the
Child Care &
Development
Fund





Objective

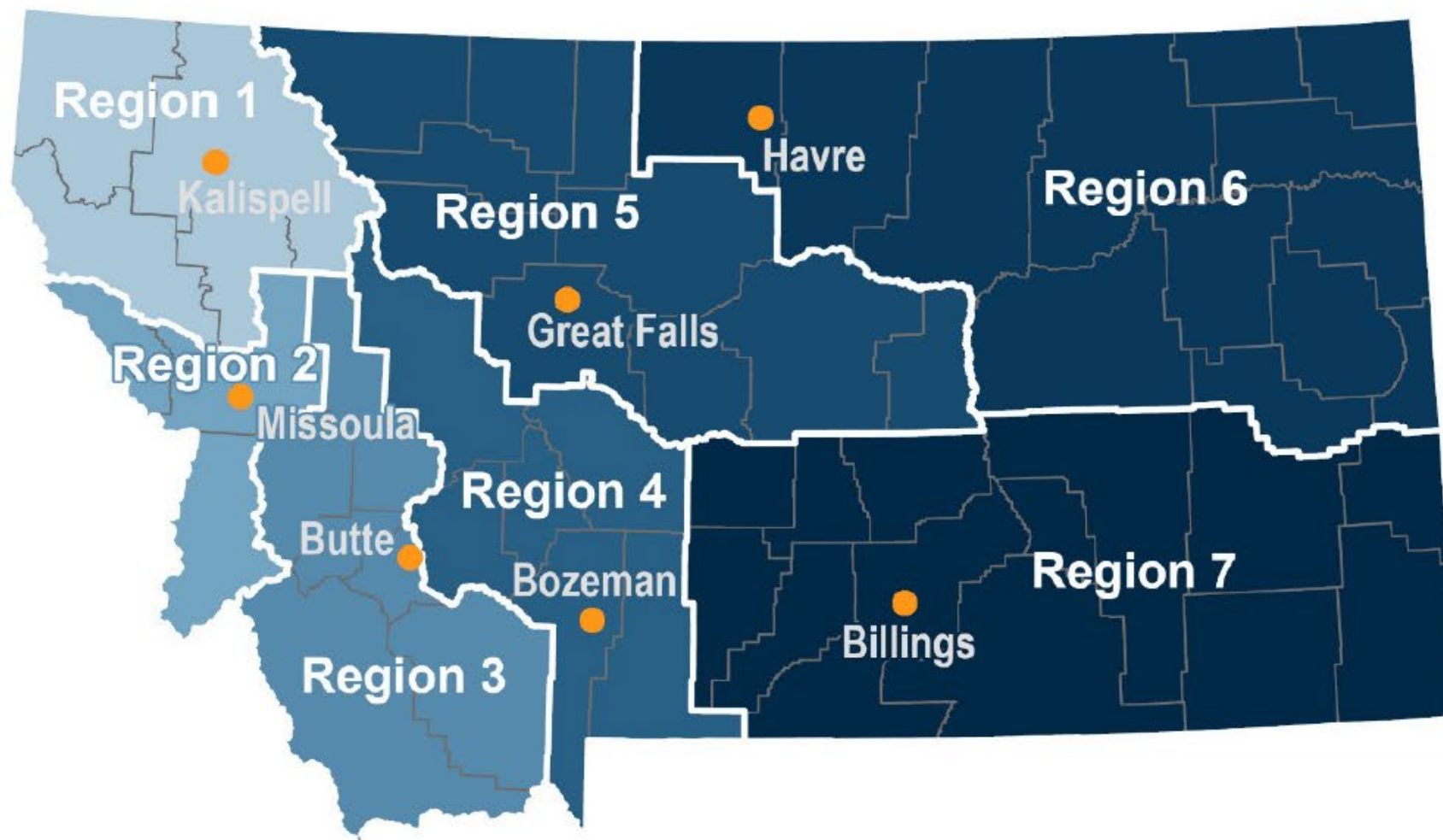
Does the DPHHS
efficiently & effectively
distribute Child Care &
Development Fund
resources to support
Montanans' **access** to
affordable and **safe**
child care of their
choice?

Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF)

- Federal
- Largest Funding Source
- Block Grant
- \$30 Million per year for Montana
- \$10 Million State Match

Figure 2

Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Organization Boundaries



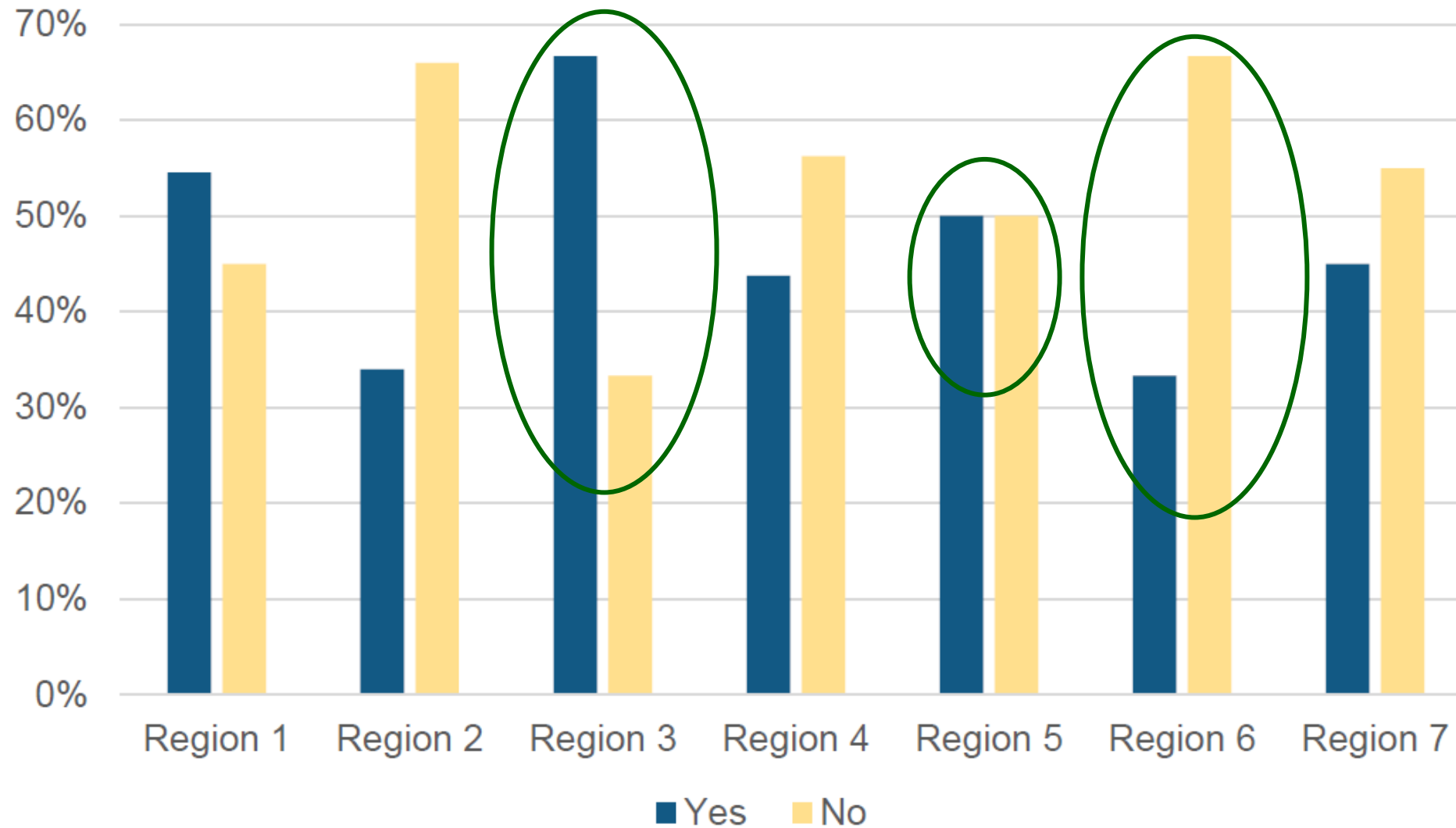
Source: Department records.

**“PARENTS CANNOT HAVE
CHOICE IN CHILD CARE
UNTIL THEY HAVE ACCESS.”**

-Audit Interviewee

Figure 3

Parents' Inability to Use Preferred Child Care Facility Affects All Regions

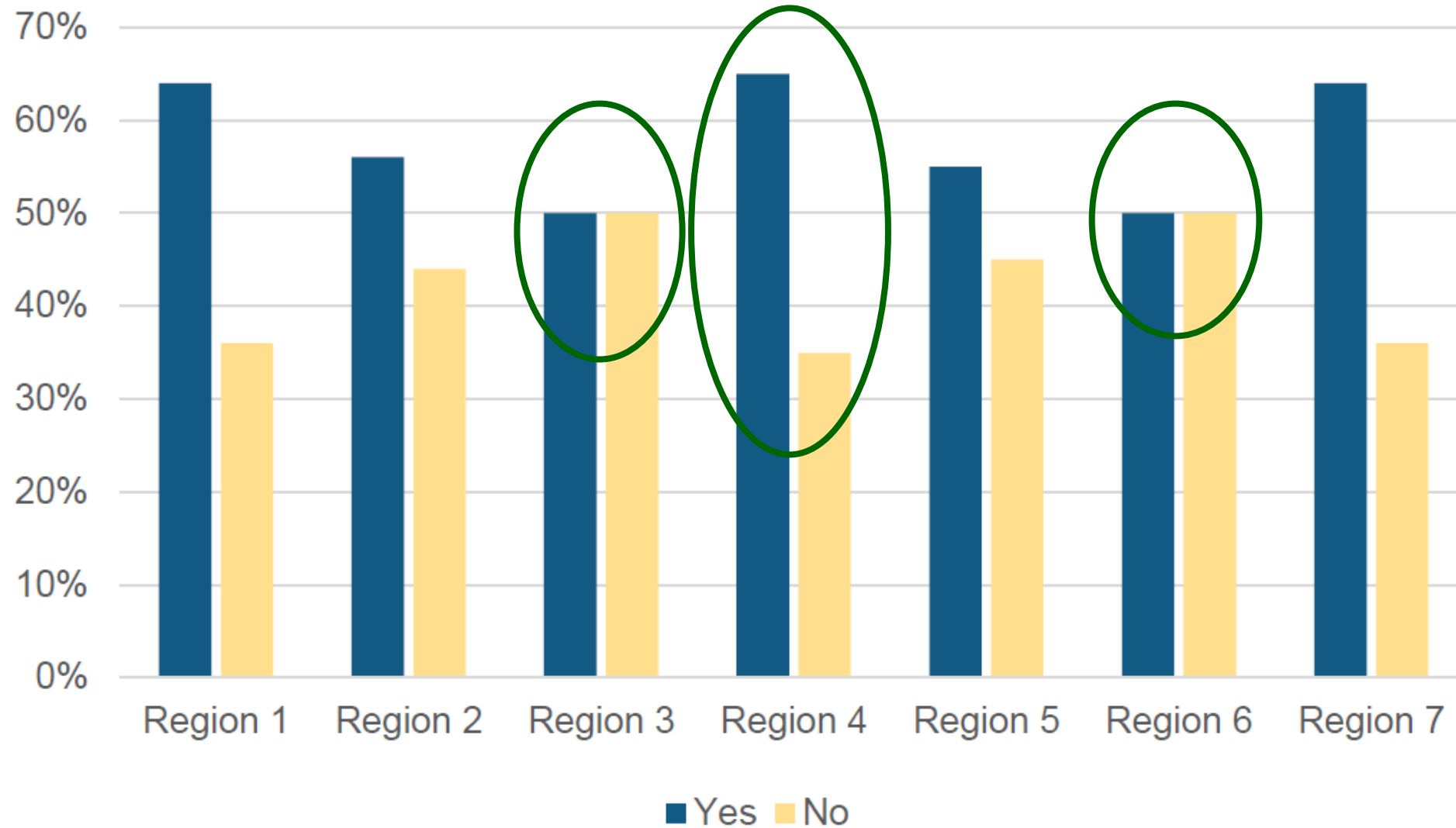


Source: Compiled by the Legislative Audit Division from Parent Child Care Survey responses.

Figure 6

Providers Increased Rates in all Regions

Regions 3 and 6 Have Equal Number Not Increasing Rates



Source: Compiled by the Legislative Audit Division from Child Care Provider Survey responses.

Child Care Funding Decision-Making

- Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Plan
- Criteria/Checklist
- Needs not being met
- Best Beginnings Scholarship (Subsidies) 70%

Table 3
Population of Children 0-11 by County

| County | Population Kids 0-11 | % of State Population |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Yellowstone | 24,566 | 16.30% |
| Gallatin | 15,044 | 9.98% |
| Flathead | 14,907 | 9.89% |
| Missoula | 14,491 | 9.62% |
| Cascade | 12,375 | 8.21% |
| Lewis & Clark | 9,961 | 6.61% |

Table 4
Median Income by County

| County | Median Income |
|---------------|---------------|
| Gallatin | \$73,731 |
| Jefferson | \$70,929 |
| Richland | \$69,095 |
| Stillwater | \$68,186 |
| Lewis & Clark | \$66,075 |
| Fallon | \$65,651 |

Source: Compiled by the Legislative Audit Division from Kids Count and Census Bureau records.

Table 5

Child Care Subsidy Payments per Child 0-11

| County | Subsidy Dollar per Child 0-11 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Silver Bow | \$380 |
| Yellowstone | \$373 |
| Cascade | \$309 |
| Daniels | \$302 |
| Missoula | \$250 |
| Lake | \$240 |

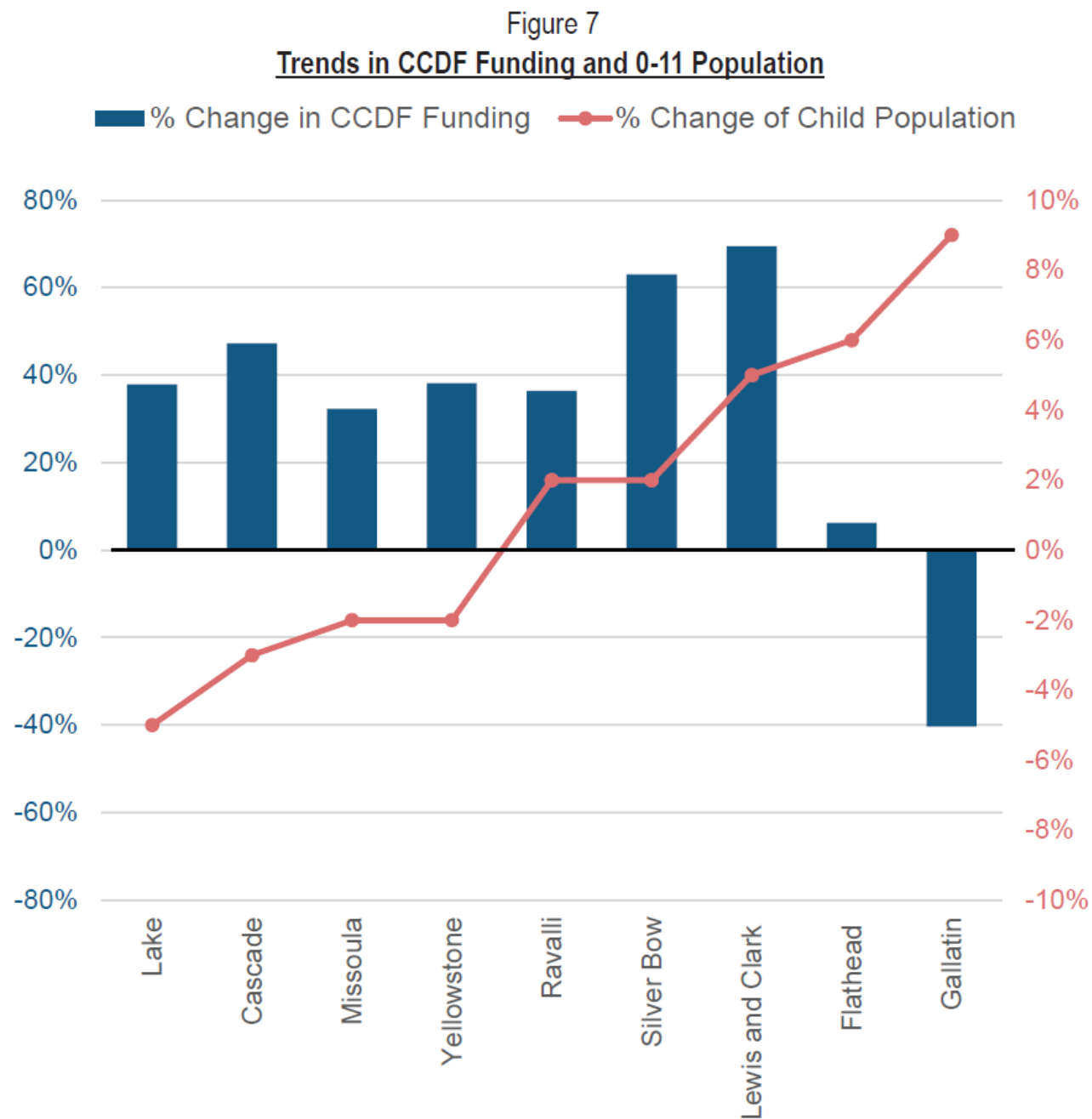
| | |
|--------------|------|
| Roosevelt | \$27 |
| Blaine | \$19 |
| Madison | \$13 |
| Chouteau | \$12 |
| Powder River | \$3 |
| Broadwater | \$1 |

**11 counties receive
no subsidy funding**

Source: Compiled by the Legislative Audit Division from Kids Count and Census Bureau records.


Trendline Comparison

- Change in CCDF Funding
- Change in 0-11 Population
- 2014-20 Percentage Change
- Nine Large CCDF Counties



Recommendation #1

DPHHS conduct and document annual **assessments** of child care **needs** based on **demographic** information and **use** this data to **inform funding** distribution decisions.




CCDF Success Measurement

- Goals, Timelines
- Plans and Reports
- Unable to measure progress
- Management Prioritizing

Recommendation #2

DPHHS develop and document **measurable goal** of CCDF-funded child care programs using the most recent county-level risk **assessment** and other inputs, including **timelines**, **measurement tools**, and **target** levels indicating **success**.



**“HAVING A SAFE PLACE
TO LEAVE KIDS.”**


-Parent survey response about priorities in funding

More Work Needed to Protect Kids

- Montana Sexual or Violent Offender Registry (SVOR)
- Found 3 Address Matches
- Currently Depend on Self-Attestation
- Cannot have a Registrant at Child Care
- Check disclosed names, not address of Child Care
- SVOR Addresses Available on Public-Facing Website

Recommendation #3

We recommend the DPHHS:

- A. **Change** the license/renewal **process** to include a **check** of child care **addresses** against the Sexual or Violent Offender **Registry**.
 - B. Develop and document **training** on the **correct action** to take when information is received regarding a **dangerous situation** at a child care.
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Questions?

