

Complete with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



A major decline in the availability of affordable child-care options in South Dakota _____ (**prevent**) some parents from entering the workforce and created financial and emotional hardships for low-income families and single parents trying to balance work and daycare needs.

Thousands of available daycare slots for children in South Dakota _____ (**to be**) lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Early Learner South Dakota, a statewide child advocacy group. The resulting lack of affordable child care _____ (**to be**) a barrier for parents trying to return to the workforce during a time when the state and nation are experiencing vast labor shortages and businesses are in great need of employees.

Families unable to find child care, especially now that the school year _____ (**end**), are sometimes forced to limit or completely cut one parent's job, and single parents are stuck paying a large portion of their income on out-of-home care.

Women in South Dakota have disproportionately left the workforce and are rejoining at a slower rate than men, according to statistics from the state department of labor, in part because of a lack of child care.

"Without child care, people can't work," Pigeon Big Crow, program director for the Oglala Sioux Tribe Child Care and Development Program, _____ (**say**). "Without work, they rely more on social service programs. Having child care is vital to a local economy."

Affordable daycare _____ (**to be**) limited prior to the pandemic, but the scarcity _____ (**become**) far worse during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains so amid the pandemic

Choose the correct answer according to the article you've just read.

1. Childcare **is/is not** available throughout the US
2. Childcare needs **have intensified/have decreased** due to the school year ending.
3. The covid pandemic made the childcare services availability problem **better/worse**.

Source:

https://www.capjournal.com/news/daycare-shortage-strains-families-statewide/article_7e01bcb6-d81f-11eb-8409-c31a4c4d7374.html