

Licensed Child Care Provider Changes (2022 to Today) (Updated December 2024)

Data was collected at four different points in time: September 2022, September 2023, September 2024, and today. A provider's license number, capacity per age served, and number of slots is determined for each time and compared. These comparisons allow us to estimate licensed child care slots by year and licensed child care providers at different times. Licensed child care providers are classified by different license types. A center is a provider operating outside of a home, while group and family homes operate within a home setting. Group homes are licensed to serve up to 12 children and family homes are licensed for up to six children. The estimated number of slots is calculated by a licensed provider's capacity per age served (i.e., its total licensed capacity divided by the number of ages served between 0 to 11). The ages served are based on what ages a provider is licensed to serve.

Limitations of the available data have led to assumptions and limitations that affect the accuracy of the map. Even with these limitations, the map provides a baseline picture of Michigan's child care situations.

1. To capture how many children were competing for one slot, we assumed that all families in the ACS data who have children of the specified age need and want child care from licensed providers. The number of children competing for slots is therefore overestimated.
2. Licensed child care providers that served children in multiple age groups were assumed to have slots evenly distributed across age groups. All providers were assumed to be operating at full capacity. These assumptions result in an overestimation of available slots, especially for younger age groups, as many providers did not serve at full capacity due to staffing and other challenges.
3. Unlicensed, license-exempt, and informal child care providers are not captured in the data. These providers do increase the capacity of the child care ecosystem as a whole. However, the Child Care Desert Map was designed to track the availability specifically of licensed providers.

These estimates depend on which 'Select Age Served' is chosen; Overall looks at slots for 0 to 11YOs, Infants/Toddlers 0 to 2YOs, Preschoolers 3 to 5YOs, and School Age Kids 6 to 11YOs. The estimated number of providers calculates the number of providers that are licensed to serve a specific age group. This information is provided by the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs daily. Below are sample calculations for 0 to 11YOs:

Capacity Per Ages Served = $(Total\ Licensed\ Capacity) / [(1\ if\ serves\ 0YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 1YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 1YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 2YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 3YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 4YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 5YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 6YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 7YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 8YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 9YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 10YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 11YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0)]$.

Number of Slots = $(Capacity\ for\ Ages\ Served) * [(1\ if\ serves\ 0YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 1YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 1YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 2YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 3YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 4YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 5YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 6YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 7YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 8YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 9YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 10YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0) + (1\ if\ serves\ 11YOs;\ if\ not,\ 0)]$.

Number of Providers = *Distinct Count of Providers Whose Capacity Per Ages Served > 0.*

Counties are classified as 'Urgent' or 'High Priority' based on their Child Care Urgency Level. These classifications were determined in September 2022 by MSU's Community Evaluation Programs. To learn more, visit the **Areas with High Needs and Urgency Map** at cep.msu.edu/projects/child-care-mapping-project/maps-and-charts/areas-with-high-needs-and-urgency.