

Methodology and Interpretation of Data

Methodology

Data was collected from state and federal agencies, from agency records, interviews and census data, and reflects the current available data.

Data Sources

The data reported in the *2018 Child Care Supply Demand Report: The Landscape of Child Care in Kansas* was collected from state and federal agencies and compiled by staff at Child Care Aware® of Kansas. Data sources utilized for this report include: Child Care Aware® of Kansas; WorkLife Systems; Data USA; Kansas Action for Children, Kids Count State and County Data; Kansas Department for Children and Families; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Kansas Department of Labor; The Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Wichita State University; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Questions about the data sources should be directed to Child Care Aware® of Kansas 855-750-3343.

Presentation of Data

Data was presented to allow for multiple means of assessing the status of child care in Kansas.

Numbers presented reflect the actual number. For example, a value of 23 for Licensed Family and Group Day Care Homes indicates there are 23 Licensed Family and Group Day Care Homes in the specified county at the time the data was collected. Some data represents self-reported numbers of those voluntarily providing data. For example, a value of 3 for Programs that Provide Care During Nontraditional Hours indicates, of the programs in the specified county, there are 3 child care programs that report they offer care during nontraditional hours at the time the data was collected.

Percentages presented reflect the portion of the population that displays a given characteristic. For example, 8% of child care programs indicated they offered care during nontraditional hours at the time the data was collected.

How to use the Report and County Profiles

- *Obtain information about the State.* Access information about Kansas that defines statistics affecting child care.
- *Obtain information on a specific County.* Access individual county information that defines county statistics affecting child care.

Notes

Although the numbers and percentages reported in the *2018 Child Care Supply Demand Report* can provide useful information that allows counties to determine the status of child care in their locales, please note the following:

Comparing a specific county to other locales. When comparing a specific county to other locales (e.g., your county to another), it is important to ensure that each locale is comparable. Portion, percentages and rates, put groups of differing sizes on the same scale, making accurate comparisons across different locales possible. An accurate comparison, for example, is the extent desired capacity meets potential demand.

Counties with smaller populations. Constructing county-level percentages that fully portray a situation is difficult for counties with smaller populations. Because of the way percentages are calculated, smaller-populated counties are more susceptible to exaggerated percentages. For example, if a county reports 1 of the 4 facilities offer care during nontraditional hours, the county would show that 25% of the facilities offer care during nontraditional hours. Although accurate and useful (since it represents the portion of facilities that offer care during nontraditional hours and can be used for cross-site comparisons), the magnitude makes the percentage look dramatic. Because of this issue, it is important for counties with smaller populations to keep in mind what the portion actually represents – in the case of this example, only 1 facility offers care during nontraditional hours.

Timeliness of data. Although the most current data available is reported, the years reflected by the data vary (some data reflect 2012-2016 US Census American Community Survey (population characteristic) estimates, 2017 Census Population Division (county population) estimates, whereas other data represents actual data pulled from WLS (Child Care Aware® of Kansas) during a specific time period-2018).

License Exempt Facilities: License exempt facilities, while exempt from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) child care licensing regulations in regard to a predetermined licensed capacity, offer preschool and/or Head Start services to families. License exempt facilities will report data for Desired Capacity while excluding data for Licensed Capacity, resulting in a higher number of Desired Capacity slots than Licensed Capacity Slots in some counties.

Nontraditional Hours: Child care facilities self-report each type of care they offer during nontraditional hours (evenings, weekends or overnight). The facilities were counted only once whether they offered care during one setting or multiple settings.

Definitions

- **County Settlement:**
 - Urban: a population of greater than 150 residents per square mile.
 - Semi-Urban: a population density of 40.0 to 149.9 residents per square mile.
 - Densely Settled Rural: a population density of 20.0 to 39.9 residents per square mile.
 - Rural: a population density of 6.0 to 19.9 residents per square mile.
 - Frontier: a population density of 6 or fewer people per square mile.
- **Demand:** the number of children that need child care.
- **Desired Capacity:** the number of children that a facility is willing to accept.
- **Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand:** is determined by dividing the Desired Capacity by the number of children potentially needing care. The percentage will be more than 100% when the number of children potentially needing care is equal to or less than the number of Desired Capacity slots self-reported by child care programs.
- **Licensed Capacity:** the number of children a facility is allowed to provide care for as indicated by their Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Child Care License.
- **Nontraditional Hours:** child care provided in the evenings, weekends or overnight.
- **Number of Children Under 6 Years of Age Potentially Needing Care:** the number of children under 6 years of age with all parents in the workforce as reported by the U.S. Census.
- **Number of Children Under Age 6 Receiving Child Care Subsidy:** the number of children under age 6 receiving child care subsidy includes children enrolled in: Licensed Child Care Center, Licensed Family Child Care Home, Licensed Group Child Care Home, Out of Home Relative Provider, and In-Home Relative Provider.
- **Supply:** the availability of child care in a community.