

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 *2019 Child Care Supply Demand Report: Exploring the Infant Toddler Gap* was collected from state and federal agencies and compiled by staff at Child Care Aware® of Kansas. Data sources utilized for this report include: Center for American Progress; Child Care Aware® of America; Child Care Aware® of Kansas, WorkLife Systems; Kansas Department for Children and Families; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Kansas Department of Labor; Kansas Head Start and Early Head Start Programs; Kansas State Department of Education; The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; and U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Estimates.

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 627 for Child Care Centers indicates there are 627 Child Care Centers statewide at the time the data was collected. Some data represents self-reported numbers of those voluntarily providing data. For example, a value of 423 for the number of children a facility is willing to accept (desired capacity) in Allen county indicates the combined total number of children the Family and Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers in Allen county have self-reported they are willing to accept at the time the data was collected.

Percentages presented reflect the portion of the population that displays a given characteristic. For example, 8.5% of Group Child Care Homes offer care during evening hours indicates 8.5% of Group Child Care Homes offer care during evening hours at the time the data was collected. Percentages may also reflect a change, either an increase or decrease, for a specific category from one point in time to another point in time. For example, a 17% decrease in the number of Family Child Care Homes indicates data collected at two points in time, for this example 2017 and 2019, when calculated show a 17% decrease in the number of Family Child Care Homes.

Ratios presented reflect the relationship in quantity between two amounts. For example, 21-30 Children (under 3 years of age) Per ONE Child Care Opening indicates there are a minimum of 21 up to a maximum of 30 children under 3 years of age for a single child care opening at the time the data was collected. The counties are grouped together and listed alphabetically below the appropriate age category.

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 data, including numbers, percentages, tables and definitions, reported in the *2019 Child Care Supply Demand Report; Exploring the Infant Toddler Gap* can provide useful information that allows counties to determine the status of child care in their locales, please note the following:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Child Care License Types.

The KDHE child care program license types referenced in the *2019 Child Care Supply Demand Report; Exploring the Infant Toddler Gap* are exactly as titled by KDHE in the definitions on Page 2 of the report. Throughout the remainder of the report, the child care program license types titled, Licensed Day Care Home and Group Day Care Home, will be referred to as Family Child Care Homes and Group Child Care Homes.

The child care program license types for Child Care Centers, Preschools and Kansas Head Start and Early Head Start Programs will be used exactly as titled by KDHE.

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 2017 US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, The Early Childhood Workforce Index 2018, whereas other data represents actual data pulled from WLS (Child Care Aware® of Kansas) during a specific time period-2019).

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). Individual child care facilities may offer care during one, a combination of several or all of the nontraditional schedule categories. As a result, the child care facilities, if applicable, will be included in the count for each of the nontraditional schedule categories listed. For example, a Family Child Care Home may provide care during the evening and overnight so the individual Family Child Care Home will be included in total numbers child care programs offering care in the evening care schedule category and overnight schedule category.

Definitions

- **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 greater 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 available 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.