

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 *2023 Child Care Supply Demand Report: Exploring Child Care Availability: Signs of Growth for 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: Kansas Department for Children and Families, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Center for American Progress, Child Care Aware of Kansas WorkLife Systems, Center for Disease Control and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and Child Care Aware of America.

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 660 for Child Care Centers (as shown in the 'Licensed Programs by Type' chart on page 2) indicates there are 660 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 425 for the number of children a facility is willing to accept (desired capacity, as shown in the Child Care Supply Demand by County table starting on page 9) 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, 58% of children in Kansas attend child care at a licensed child care center (as shown on page 2) indicates that 58% of children in Kansas attending child care, were enrolled in a licensed child care center at the time the data was collected.

Ratios presented reflect the relationship in quantity between two amounts. For example, on page 8, 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.

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 *2023 Child Care Supply Demand Report: Exploring Child Availability: Signs of Growth for Child Care in Kansas*, 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 *2023 Child Care Supply Demand Report: Exploring Child Availability: Signs of Growth for Child Care in Kansas* 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.

In the Supply Demand Table, Head Starts, Preschools, and School Age Programs are not included. In the remainder of the report, Head Starts are included but not Preschools or School Age Programs.

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.

Timeliness of data. Although the most current data available is reported, the years reflected by the data vary (some data reflect 2020 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, whereas other data represents actual data pulled from WLS (Child Care Aware® of Kansas) during a specific time period-2023). Child Care Aware® of Kansas makes a conscious effort to use the most up-to-date data available.

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. License exempt facilities (Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Homes, or Group Child Care Homes) are included in the total desired capacity

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 but will be included once in the total number of child care programs offering care during nontraditional hours.

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. This number is reported by the Department for Children and Families for the year 2021.
- **Supply:** the availability of child care in a community.