



Understanding the Data

The information below provides a description of the data sources contained in the *2023 Child Care Portfolio*. These data were collected from child care resource & referral agency databases in 2023 and combined with child care cost information and child and family demographic data.

People

Total number of residents (2021/2023) and number of children 0-12, by age (2021/2023):

California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail (2021).

California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-1A: Total Population Projections, California, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2024.

California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-1B: Population Projections by Single Year of Age, California, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2024.

California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, California Counties, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2024.

California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2B: Total Population Projections by Single Year of Age, California Counties, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2023 Population Projections; Vintage 2024 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2024.

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (NC-EST2023-SYASEXN).

Poverty

Number of people and children 0-5 living in poverty (2021/2023): U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 and 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) single 1-year estimates (Universe: Population for whom poverty status is determined). Poverty data from the 2020 and 2022 5-year estimates were used for counties where data were not available. Poverty is defined according to federal poverty guidelines.

Percent of families below federal poverty line: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) single 1-year estimates. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families. Poverty data from the 2022 5-year estimates were used for counties where data were not available.

Children enrolled in subsidized child care (2021/2023): California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Direct Service Contract Enrollments, October 2021 and October 2023; CDSS, CW115 Child Care Monthly Report, July 2021; California Department of Education, California State Preschool Program Enrollment, October 2021 and October 2023.

Family Budgets: Estimated Budgets for a Family of 4

Housing, Food, Health Care, Transportation, Taxes*, Other Necessities Costs: Economic Policy Institute (EPI) Family Budget Calculator, January 2024. Budget component data are in 2023 dollars. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>. Cost data are represented as a percentage of income. Family of 4 includes a married couple with two children.

*The EPI Family Budget Calculator does not include statewide estimates for California. The expenses included on the California page are based on estimates developed by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. For all variables excluding taxes, a weighted average of the county data was developed.

The tax cost is based on an estimate adapted from the EPI Family Budget Calculator method and uses the National Bureau of Economic Research's TAXSIM v35. The following inputs were used for the tax simulator:

- State
- Marital status (2)
- Dependent exemptions (2)
- Wage and salary income of tax payer (median income of family with own children under 18, 2023 ACS single 1 year estimates)
- Rent paid (weighted average of EPI county housing costs)
- Child care expenses (National Database of Childcare Prices 2019-2022, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor estimates of median full-time costs for one infant in a licensed family child care home and one preschooler in a licensed child care center)
- Number of dependents under 17 (2).

The final tax cost is estimated as a simple average of the post-tax income and pre-tax income tax liability.

Child care cost: National Database of Childcare Prices 2019-2022, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. Estimates are based on each state's Market Rate Survey. Figures reflect median full-time costs for one infant in a licensed family child care home and one preschooler in a licensed child care center. While the EPI provides child care cost estimates, its figures reflect the costs for a preschool-aged child and a school-age child. However, we aimed to represent a family with an infant, knowing that infant care can be more costly. Child care cost for the Income Eligible Family with a child care subsidy is based on the California Department of Social Services fiscal year 2022-23 Family Fee Schedule for a family of 4 at the income eligibility ceiling.

Family with an income that is eligible for child care subsidies: California Department of Social Services income eligibility ceiling for a family of four to qualify for child care assistance in fiscal year 2022-23.

Median family income: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) single 1-year estimate. Median family income in the past 12 months as utilized in Economic Policy Institute (EPI) Family Budget Calculator, January 2024.

Licensed Child Care Supply

About the data: The licensed child care supply data represent a snapshot in time of licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes maintained in child care resource & referral databases. Data on licensed child care facilities from the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division were used for counties where child care resource & referral data were not available. Care in a licensed center or a licensed family child care home represent a couple of options that are available to families to meet their needs. There are other care options outside of the licensed child care system that families may choose. At times, families may put together a "patchwork" of care that includes licensed and license-exempt programs to meet their child care needs.

Sites and Spaces by Age and Type: Includes active licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes. Data are from local child care resource & referral programs, 2023; compiled by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. CA Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division data were used for counties where child care resource & referral data were not available. This includes portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Child care programs participating in the Child Care Food Program:

Licensed child care centers and family child care homes that participate in the state and federally funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. Data are from local child care resource & referral programs, 2023. Child and Adult Care Food Program data were not available for portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Child care centers with one or more federal/state/local contracts: Licensed child care centers with at least one public subsidy contract. Contracts include: Head Start, CDE State Preschool, CDE all but State Preschool, and Other public contracts. Does not include providers who accept vouchers or family child care homes. Data from local child care resource & referral programs 2023. Contract data were not available for portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Schedule and Cost

Full-time/part-time spaces: Percentage of licensed spaces offering both full-time and part-time, full-time only, or part-time only spaces. Full-time is defined as 30 hours or more per week; part-time: less than 30 hours per week. Represents the percent of total licensed spaces. Schedule data were not available for portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Evening/weekend/overnight care: Percentage of licensed facilities offering evening, overnight and/or weekend care. Evening care is defined as care available after 7:00 p.m. Schedule data were not available for portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Monthly full-time infant, toddler, and preschool care cost: National Database of Childcare Prices 2019-2022, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. Estimates are based on each state's Market Rate Survey. Infant is defined as a child 0-23 months, toddler is defined as a child 24-35 months, and preschooler is defined as child 36-54 months.

Child Care Requests

About the data: Child care request data represent a snapshot in time only of families who contacted child care resource & referral agencies in search of child care. There is also a population of families that search for child care outside of the R&R system.

Child care requests: Child care referral request data from local child care resource & referral programs, April/May/June 2023 compiled by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. CA Department of Social Services, CD2504 R&R Child Care Service Data Report (April - June 2023). CD2504 R&R Services Data report was used for Alpine, Colusa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Trinity county.

Reasons families seek child care: Top three reasons a parent is requesting child care. Percentages may exceed 100% because more than one option may be selected.

Child Care Availability

Children aged 0-12 with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care space is available (2021/2023): Labor force data were calculated by KidsData using the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Microdata. Licensed child care data is from the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network Child Care Portfolio. Children with parents in the labor force include those in single-parent families with one working parent and those in two-parent families with two working parents. These data are calculated by dividing the total number of licensed child care spaces by an estimate of the number of children with parents in the labor force.

Language

Languages spoken at home: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) single 1-year estimate. Language Spoken at Home Estimates. 'Another language' was calculated by combining the 'Other Indo-European language' field and the 'Other language' field. Due to the way the U.S. Census bureau asks the question, people who speak both English and another language are counted as speaking the other language.

Centers with at least one staff speaking the following languages: Percentage of licensed center facilities with at least one staff speaking a language while caring for children. The top six most frequently spoken languages by providers in the county were reported.

Family child care providers speaking the following languages: Percentage of family child care providers speaking a language while caring for children. The top six most frequently spoken languages by providers in the county were reported.