

California

Family & Child Data

The 2023 California Child Care Portfolio, the 14th edition of this biennial report, offers a comprehensive look at licensed child care supply, demand, and costs across the state and within each county. It also includes data on population, poverty, and family budgets. Local child care Resource and Referral programs (R&Rs) played a key role in collecting these data. R&Rs assist parents in finding child care that meets their family's needs while also supporting child care providers with resources and licensed capacity-building efforts in their communities. To access the full report summary and county data, visit www.rrnetwork.org.

POPULATION	CALIFORNIA ¹			UNITED STATES ²		
	2021	2023	CHANGE	2021	2023	CHANGE
Total number of residents	39,246,702	39,109,070	-0.4%	332,048,977	334,914,895	1%
Number of children 0-12	6,328,862	6,077,962	-4%	51,740,335	50,971,194	-1%
Under 2 years	861,008	830,631	-4%	7,280,655	7,342,876	1%
2 years	460,224	407,630	-11%	3,770,533	3,611,883	-4%
3 years	469,378	443,300	-6%	3,859,993	3,747,807	-3%
4 years	484,018	455,053	-6%	3,939,127	3,808,594	-3%
5 years	493,582	464,560	-6%	4,043,522	3,896,077	-4%
6-10 years	2,525,290	2,476,740	-2%	20,370,832	20,340,124	-0.2%
11-12 years	1,035,362	1,000,048	-3%	8,475,673	8,223,833	-3%

POVERTY ³	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES			% OF FAMILIES BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LINE	
	2021	2023	CHANGE	2021	2023	CHANGE	CA	US
Number of people living below federal poverty line	4,733,036	4,588,687	-3%	41,393,176	40,763,043	-2%		
Number of children 0-5 living below federal poverty line	406,369	361,465	-11%	4,032,057	3,646,395	-10%		
Children enrolled in subsidized child care ⁴	372,938	389,213	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	12%	13%

FAMILY BUDGETS: ESTIMATED MONTHLY BUDGETS FOR A FAMILY OF 4

Budget for a family with an income that is eligible for child care subsidies ⁵ but is not enrolled in a child care subsidy program.	Budget for a family with an income that is eligible for child care subsidies ⁵ and is enrolled in a child care subsidy program.	Budget for a family with an income at the state median. ⁶
<p>Family Income: \$7,941</p> <p>Deficit⁷: \$2,960</p> <p>Expenses: 27% Housing⁸, 14% Food⁸, 28% Child Care^{9,10}, 17% Healthcare⁸, 19% Transportation⁸, 18% Taxes¹¹, 14% Other Necessities⁸</p>	<p>Family Income: \$7,941</p> <p>Deficit⁷: \$1,348</p> <p>Expenses: 27% Housing⁸, 14% Food⁸, 7% Child Care^{9,10}, 17% Healthcare⁸, 19% Transportation⁸, 18% Taxes¹¹, 14% Other Necessities⁸</p>	<p>Family Income: \$8,697</p> <p>Deficit⁷: \$2,204</p> <p>Expenses: 25% Housing⁸, 12% Food⁸, 25% Child Care^{9,10}, 16% Healthcare⁸, 18% Transportation⁸, 16% Taxes¹¹, 13% Other Necessities⁸</p>

1. California Department of Finance Population Projections (2021 & 2023).

2. United States Census Bureau Annual Estimate of the Resident Population (2021 & 2023).

3. American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Poverty Estimates (2021 & 2023).

4. California Department of Social Services (CDSS), CDD 801A Monthly Child Care Report (July 2021); CDSS, CW115 Child Care Monthly Report (July 2021); CDSS, Direct Service Contract Enrollments (October 2023); California Department of Education (CDE), California State Preschool Program Enrollment (October 2021 & 2023).

5. CDSS income eligibility ceiling for a family of 4 (July 2022 – June 2023).

6. ACS 1-Year Median Income Estimates (2023).

7. Deficit refers to the additional income required to cover the total cost of all expenses.

8. Economic Policy Institute (EPI) Family Budget Calculator (2024). Figures reflect the weighted average of EPI county data.

9. CDSS Family Fee for a family of 4 at the income eligibility ceiling (July 2022 – June 2023).

10. National Database of Childcare Prices, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor (2019-2022). 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.

11. California Child Care Resource & Referral Network estimate based on the EPI Family Budget Calculator (2024).

LICENSED CHILD CARE SUPPLY AND CHILD CARE REQUESTS

SITES AND SPACES BY AGE AND TYPE ¹²	CHILD CARE CENTERS			FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES			CHILD CARE REQUESTS ¹³	
	2021	2023	CHANGE	2021	2023	CHANGE		
Total number of sites	10,492	10,552	0.6%	25,205	25,284	0.03%	Under 2 years	33%
Total number of spaces	695,172	718,815	3%	267,902	271,517	1%	2-5 years	46%
Under 2 years	47,881	54,433	14%				6 years and older	22%
2-5 years	518,875	539,912	4%					
6 years and older	128,416	124,470	-3%					

38%

Licensed child care programs participating in the **Child Care Food Program**¹²

30%

Licensed child care centers with **one or more federal, state, or local contracts**¹²

LICENSED CHILD CARE SCHEDULES, COSTS, AVAILABILITY, AND CHILD CARE REQUESTS

SCHEDULE ¹² AND COST ¹⁴	CHILD CARE CENTERS	FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES	CHILD CARE REQUESTS ¹³	
Full-time and part-time spaces	61%	75%	AGES	FULL-TIME
Only full-time spaces	27%	23%	Under 2 years	87%
Only part-time spaces	13%	1%	2 years	88%
Sites offering nontraditional hours of care ¹⁵	2%	35%	3 years	87%
Infant care	\$1,643	\$1,232	4 years	84%
Toddler care	\$1,024	\$1,032	5 years	79%
Preschool care	\$975	\$969	REQUESTS FOR CARE DURING NONTRADITIONAL HOURS ¹³	
MAJOR REASONS FAMILIES SEEK CHILD CARE ^{13,15}			Evening/weekend/overnight care	8%
77% Employment	15% Parent seeking employment	10% Parent in school or training		

LICENSED CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY ¹⁶	CALIFORNIA		
	2021	2023	CHANGE
Children age 0-12 with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care space is available	25%	26%	1%

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY AT LEAST ONE CENTER STAFF ^{12,15}	LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME ¹⁷	
English 99%, Spanish 48%, Chinese 6%, Tagalog 3%, Vietnamese 2%, Farsi 2%	English only	55%
LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER ^{12,15}	Spanish	29%
English 90%, Spanish 41%, Chinese 4%, Farsi 3%, Russian 2%, Tagalog 1%	Asian/Pacific Island Language	10%
	Other	6%

12. Resource and Referral (R&R) databases (2021 & 2023). CDSS, Community Care Licensing Division, Open Child Care Facilities List as of August 9, 2023.

13. R&R child care referrals (April – June 2023).

14. National Database of Childcare Prices, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor (2019-2022). Figures reflect median full-time monthly estimates based on each state's Market Rate Survey.

15. Percentages may exceed 100% when multiple options are chosen.

16. ACS Microdata and R&R databases (2021 & 2023), calculated by KidsData.

17. ACS 1-Year Language Spoken at Home Estimates (2023).

For more information about child care in **CALIFORNIA**:

California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

415-882-0234 www.rrnetwork.org