



## Data Definitions

**Licensed Child Care Center:** A facility licensed by the Office of Early Childhood that offers full- or part-time care for more than twelve related or unrelated children. Child Care Centers also include Group Child Care Homes that provide care for 7 to 12 children. Child Care Centers are operated in commercial rather than residential facilities, distinct from Family Child Care Homes (see below). Does not include Nursery School (part-day enrichment programs) and other partial day programs

**Exempt Child Care Centers:** Child care programs administered by a public school system, municipality and/or private school. These programs are exempt from licensing requirements in the state of Connecticut. Does not include Nursery School (part-day enrichment programs) and other partial day programs

**Family Child Care Home:** Child Care program licensed to care for up to 9 children in the program owner's home.

**Legally Authorized Capacity:** Number of child care slots that a center, group day care, or family child care home is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood to provide. Also includes slots offered by license-exempt center-based programs (see above, "Exempt Child Care Centers").

**Actual Capacity:** The sum of reported openings and reported enrollment, or total slots for child care actually offered by a given child care program. Actual capacity is less than or equal to Legally Authorized Capacity.

**% Actual vs Authorized Capacity:** The percentage of legally authorized child care slots actually offered by a given program as a percentage of the legally authorized capacity.

**Enrollment:** The number of child care slots actually offered by a program into which a child is enrolled.

**Openings:** Child Care slot(s) available for enrollment for a child/ren of the corresponding age(s).

**Openings %:** Openings as a percentage of actual capacity.

### Age Groups and Age Range:

- **Infant/Toddler:** 0 to 35 months in Center-based programs, 0-17 months in Family Child Care programs
- **Preschool:** 3 years to 5 years in Center-based programs, 18 months to 5 years in Family Child Care programs
- **School Age:** 5 years to 12 years in Center-based programs and in Family Child Care programs
- **Nursery School:** Part Day Enrichment program for 3 years to 5 years



## Data Collection

Data for the 2024 Child Care snapshot is based largely on data collected through 211 Child Care's annual survey of Connecticut child care providers. 63% of the state's programs provided enrollment and openings information in response to the 2023-2024 survey, administered from September 1, 2023 to January 2024 via telephone and electronic survey and data providers reported directly into the in 211 Child Care Data System. Survey data was used together with reported enrollments gathered through Office of Early Childhood licensing inspection visits to a subset of providers. Actual reported capacity distribution, enrollment and openings information was used to develop projections of capacity distribution, enrollment and openings for programs that did not respond to the survey.

## Data Capacity Calculations

We used actual age-specific capacity when programs reported this data in response to the 2024 survey. For programs that did not respond to the survey, we used the assumptions below to generate age-specific and facility-specific capacity estimates.

### Exempt Child Care Centers

- Exempt child care centers are not regulated by OEC licensing and determine their own program level and age group capacity, which is self-reported by the program.

### Child Care Center Infant and Toddler Capacity

- Child Care Center Infant Capacity
  - 50% licensed under 3 years program capacity. We assumed that 50% of the licensed under 3 years program capacity is available for infants.
- Child Care Center Toddler Capacity
  - 50% licensed under 3 years program capacity. We assumed that 50% of the licensed under 3 years program capacity is available for toddler
  - If program did not serve infants, total licensed capacity authorized for children under 3 years of age was assigned to toddler age group (18 to 35 months).



## **Child Care Center Preschool Capacity**

- If program serves preschool only, total capacity was assigned to preschool age group. .
- If program serves infant, toddlers, and preschool only, preschool capacity was calculated from total capacity minus licensed capacity for children under 3 years of age.
- If a program serves infant, toddler, preschool and school age, preschool capacity was calculated from total capacity minus licensed capacity for children under 3 years of age. We then assigned 56% of remaining capacity to the pre-school age group, based on pre-school capacity data.

## **Child Care Center School Age Capacity**

- If a program serves school age only, total capacity was assigned to school age group.
- If a program serves preschool and school age, we assigned 44% of capacity to the school age group, based on historical school age group capacity data.
- If program serves infant, toddlers, and preschool, and school age populations, we calculated from the total capacity minus licensed capacity for children under 3 years of age. We then assigned 44% of capacity to the school age group, based on historical school age group capacity data.

## **Family Child Care Home Capacity**

- Family Child Care Home Infant Capacity
  - 2 slots were assigned for infants.
- Family Child Care Home Preschool Capacity
  - 4 slots were assigned for pre-school children.
- Family Child Care Homes School Age Capacity
  - 3 slots were assigned for school-age children.



## Data Approximations

211 Child Care used a methodology developed in partnership with DataHaven to project enrollment and openings data for programs that did not respond to the 2024 survey. This methodology was based on reported enrollment/openings by care type, age group and setting size.

- The following approximations were used and are shown in the table below.

### Projected Percentage of Enrollment and Openings for Programs with No Response

Care Type	Setting Size	Age Group	Projected % of Enrollment*	Projected % of Openings **
Center Based	Large	Infant	49%	8%
Center Based	Large	Preschool	74%	12%
Center Based	Large	School Age	38%	6%
Center Based	Large	Toddler	91%	12%
Center Based	Medium	Infant	52%	12%
Center Based	Medium	Preschool	74%	14%
Center Based	Medium	School Age	51%	12%
Center Based	Medium	Toddler	86%	13%
Center Based	Small	Infant	59%	11%
Center Based	Small	Preschool	79%	13%
Center Based	Small	School Age	75%	11%
Center Based	Small	Toddler	79%	14%
Family Child Care	Small	Infant	54%	38%
Family Child Care	Small	Preschool	62%	33%
Family Child Care	Small	School Age	29%	29%
Nursery School	Large	Nursery School	99%	5%
Nursery School	Medium	Nursery School	92%	3%
Nursery School	Small	Nursery School	90%	7%

\*Percentages were calculated by taking total enrollment of reported programs with same care type, setting size, age group and dividing by total legally authorized age group capacity.

\*\*Percentages were calculated by taking total openings of reported programs with same care type, setting size, age group and dividing by total legally authorized age group capacity.