Children in Connecticut

34,260
Births in 2019. 34,508 Births in 2018 and 35,012 Births in 2017.\textsuperscript{i}

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Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-4 years of age (2022): \textless 0.5\% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5\% Asian, 12\% Black, 30\% Hispanic or Latino, \textless 0.5\% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 47\% White, 4\% Two or more races.\textsuperscript{ii}

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Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-18 years of age (2022): \textless 0.5\% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5\% Asian, 12\% Black, 27\% Hispanic or Latino, \textless 0.5\% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 51\% White, 4\% Two or more races.\textsuperscript{iii}

34,821
Children enrolled in public school kindergarten in Connecticut in the 2022-2023 school year.\textsuperscript{iv}

17.2\%
of students in Connecticut public schools have special education status.\textsuperscript{iv}

42.4\%
of students in Connecticut public schools qualify for free/reduced lunch.\textsuperscript{iv}

12.5\%
of children (under age 18) in Connecticut are in households with income below Federal Poverty Level.\textsuperscript{v}

21.4\%
of children (under age 18) are in families that receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance Income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months.\textsuperscript{vi}

71,072
three- and four-year-olds in Connecticut (2018 + 2019 births).\textsuperscript{vii}

217,689
children aged birth to 5 in Connecticut (as of 2020).\textsuperscript{vii}

Early Care and Education

- **School Readiness:** 12,008 school readiness spaces – 76,991 full-day, 2,385 school-day, 1,433 part-day, and 491 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at 311 sites in 67 communities.\textsuperscript{viii}
  - 12,008 children participated in fiscal year 2023 (FY23).\textsuperscript{viii}
- **Child Day Care Centers:** 4,052 spaces – 1,646 Infant/Toddler, 2,095 Preschool, and 169 school-age spaces at 118 sites in 52 communities in FY23.\textsuperscript{viii}
  - 2,998 children participated\textsuperscript{viii}
- **Smart Start and Smart Start for Recovery:** 890 spaces (including 240 spaces funded by Smart Start for Recovery) for 3- and 4-year-old children in 60 classrooms in 33 districts.\textsuperscript{viii}
  - 890 children participated\textsuperscript{viii}
- **Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program:** 42 children and 35 adults (from 32 families) received comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success, provided by 3 grantees.\textsuperscript{viii}
- **Child Care Subsidies (Care 4 Kids):** 31,622 children in 22,206 families received Care 4 Kids (C4K) services by 5,174 providers in state fiscal year 2023 (SFY23). The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families pay for

\textsuperscript{1} Timeframes for data points vary depending on source and, where available, timeframe is noted.
child care. The monthly average number of children served by age group = 7,535 Infant/Toddlers; 7,168 Preschool Age; and 5,191 School Age. The monthly averages for SFY23 = 19,856 Children (14,256 Families). C4K Subsidy Expenditures in SFY2023= $185m. C4K Providers by unduplicated count (and monthly average): in SFY23, there were 1,030 (845) Licensed & License-Exempt Centers & Group Homes, including 328 accredited; 1,088 (900) Licensed Family, including 69 Accredited; and 3,596 (2,330) Unlicensed Family providers. In SFY23, 87 Youth Camps served 1,454 children funded with $1.3M in State funds.ix

- **Public School Preschool** (Local Education Agency funded): 19,014 children enrolled (2022-2023).iv

**Head Start and Early Head Start**

- **Head Start**: 4,346 children ages 3 to 5 in 20 federally funded programs during the 2022-2023 school year. These programs promote school readiness of children from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child, including connecting families with medical, dental, and mental health services and family support to ensure children are receiving all the services they need.
  - **State Head Start Supplement**: funds 37 sites in 25 communities to create 264 additional full-day/full-year spaces and 649 additional extended day/extended year spaces, serving 910 children as of FY24. Additional space types for added include 34 school day, school year spaces and 16 part-year, part-day spaces.
- **Early Head Start**: 1,300 children ages birth to 3 and 16 pregnant women in 14 programs (center-based, family child care, and/or home visiting).
  - **Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership** has 3 grant recipients who fund 38 providers to serve 212 children (monthly average).

*Note. The “Early Care and Education” and “Head Start and Early Head Start” spaces include duplicates across funding types. For example, Smart Start and School Readiness programs that are located in public schools are also in the Public School Preschool counts.*

**Services for Young Children and Families**

**Early Intervention** supports families with children under age 3 identified with developmental delays or disabilities.

- **Birth to 3 (IDEA Part C)**: 11,593 referrals, of which 11,151 children were evaluated, of which 7,498 (65%) were deemed eligible.
- 12,818 children under age 3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) were supported in SFY23.
- Upon exiting at age 3, 2,455 (36%) children were eligible for IDEA Part B.

**Information and Referral**

- **Help Me Grow/Child Development Info Line**: 3,397 Help Me Grow referrals, 529 new paper or online Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments, 8,025 new Sparkler ASQ enrollments, 18,424 inbound (English, Spanish, or voicemail) calls to 211 Child Development and 26,139 outbound calls made to parents/caregivers/providers by 211 Child Development in SFY23.
- **211 Child Care**: Fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referrals and requests – 1,026,802 service request referrals including and pertaining to: Infant (40,025), toddler (21,573), preschool (24,255), and school-age
(10,802) child care provider training (3,873), child care subsidies (1,424), and other service referrals (678) in FFY 2023.

Home Visiting

Home Visiting services improve outcomes for families with young children at-risk, in high-risk communities. Below are the numbers served for each home visiting program in calendar year 2023:

- **Parents as Teachers**: 1,807 children and 1,959 parents served (state- and federally-funded)
- **Child First**: 196 children and 203 parents served (state- and federally-funded)
- **Nurse Family Partnership**: 133 children and 176 parents served (state- and federally-funded)
- **Healthy Families America**: 493 children and 537 parents served (state-funded)

As of July 1, 2021, Minding the Baby and Family Check-Up models were no longer funded by the OEC. Healthy Families America was added as a home-visiting program after this date. Only one home visitor offers the Early Head Start program. Because this home visitor also uses the Parents as Teacher curriculum, they are included in the Parents as Teachers category.

Workforce

- **Workforce Registry**: 25,175 active registry account holders in SFY23. (active account holders refer to account holders who have done their annual account renewal and/or have activity on their account)
- **Registry Processing**: 515 Head Teacher applications; 3,472 scholarship applications; documents verified and uploaded – 22,593 participant documents and 795 program documents; 53,598 verified education and training entries; 170 ECTC applications in SFY23.
- **Scholarships**: 2,802 awards totaling $1,310,966 in SFY23.
- **Connecticut’s Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)**: 716 credentials approved in SFY 2023 – 354 Associate’s level and 362 Bachelor’s level.

Program Standards & Facilities

- **Licensed Child Care Programs**: 3,359 including: 1,736 family child care homes, 1,600 child care centers, and 23 group child care homes as of December 2023.
- **Licensed Child Care Capacity**: Child care centers had a licensed capacity of 119,102, and, of that, capacity for children under age 3 was 27,675. Family child care homes had an additional licensed capacity of 15,390 as of December 2023.
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**: 489 accredited programs.
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)**: 54 accredited providers.

Note. The numbers of NAEYC- and NAFCC-accredited providers were sourced from their respective websites on February 5, 2024. The websites did not specify when the numbers were last updated.
References


iv *Enrollment Report/Export (Legacy) (ct.gov)*.


ix Julie Bisi, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Early Care and Education Division.


xi Nicole Cossette, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Birth to Three.

xii Valerie Grant, United Way.

xiii Constance Heye, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Home Visiting Division.

xiv Margaret Gustafson, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Quality Improvement Division.


xvi Search for NAEYC Accredited Programs – Connecticut. https://nafcc.org/accreditation/?location=ct

Note. Where only one source was used for a particular section, the in-text citation is included after the header for that section.