



OVERVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS, 2024¹

Children in Connecticut

34,260	Births in 2019. 34,508 Births in 2018 and 35,012 Births in 2017. ⁱ
-----	Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-4 years of age (2022): <0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5% Asian, 12% Black, 30% Hispanic or Latino, <0.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 47% White, 4% Two or more races. ⁱⁱ
-----	Children by Race & Ethnicity, 0-18 years of age (2022): <0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5% Asian, 12% Black, 27% Hispanic or Latino, <0.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 51% White, 4% Two or more races. ⁱⁱⁱ
34,821	Children enrolled in public school kindergarten in Connecticut in the 2022-2023 school year. ^{iv}
17.2%	of students in Connecticut public schools have special education status. ^{iv}
42.4%	of students in Connecticut public schools qualify for free/reduced lunch. ^{iv}
12.5%	of children (under age 18) in Connecticut are in households with income below Federal Poverty Level. ^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. ^{vi}
71,072	three- and four-year-olds in Connecticut (2018 + 2019 births). ^{vii}
217,689	children aged birth to 5 in Connecticut (as of 2020). ^{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.^{viii}
 - o **12,008** children participated in fiscal year 2023 (FY23).^{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.^{viii}
 - o **2,998** children participated^{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.^{viii}
 - o **890** children participated^{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.^{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

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 (& 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^x

- **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^{xi}

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^{xii}

- **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^{xiii}

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.^{xiv} (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.^{xiv}
- **Scholarships: 2,802** awards totaling **\$1,310,966** in SFY23.^{xiv}
- **Connecticut's Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC): 716** credentials approved in SFY 2023 – 354 Associate's level and 362 Bachelor's level.^{xiv}

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.^{xv}
- **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.^{xv}
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): 489** accredited programs.^{xvi}
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC): 54** accredited providers.^{xvii}

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

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- ii Kids Count Data Center. (2022). *Child population by race and age group in Connecticut*. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/8446-child-population-by-race-and-ethnicity-and-age-group?loc=8&loct=2#detailed/2/8/false/1095,574,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36/68,69,67,12,70,66,71,13|62,63,30/17077,17078>
- iii Kids Count Data Center. (2022). *Child population by race in Connecticut*. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/103-child-population-by-race-and-ethnicity?loc=8&loct=2#detailed/2/8/false/1095,2048,574,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36/68,69,67,12,70,66,71,72/423,424>
- iv [Enrollment Report/Export \(Legacy\) \(ct.gov\)](#)
- v U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Table S1701. *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months*. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1701?q=children%20below%20federal%20poverty%20line%20in%20Connecticut>
- vi U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Table B09010. *Receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance Income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the Past 12 Months by Household Type for Children Under 18 Years in Households American Community Survey 1-year estimates*.
- vii U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Table B09001. *Population Under 18 Years by Age in 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables*. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2022.B09001?q=connecticut%20children%20by%20Age%20and%20Sex>
- viii Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. (2023). *Administrative Digest Fiscal Year 2022-2023*. <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/oec-digest-of-administrative-reports-fy-2022-2023.pdf>
- ix Julie Bisi, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Early Care and Education Division.
- x Karen Pascale and Jennifer Jones, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Head Start.
- 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.
- xv The United Way of Connecticut. *Omnibus Report*. December 2023. Received January 5, 2023.
- xvi Search for NAEYC Accredited Programs – Connecticut.
- xvii Nationally Accredited Providers Map – 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.