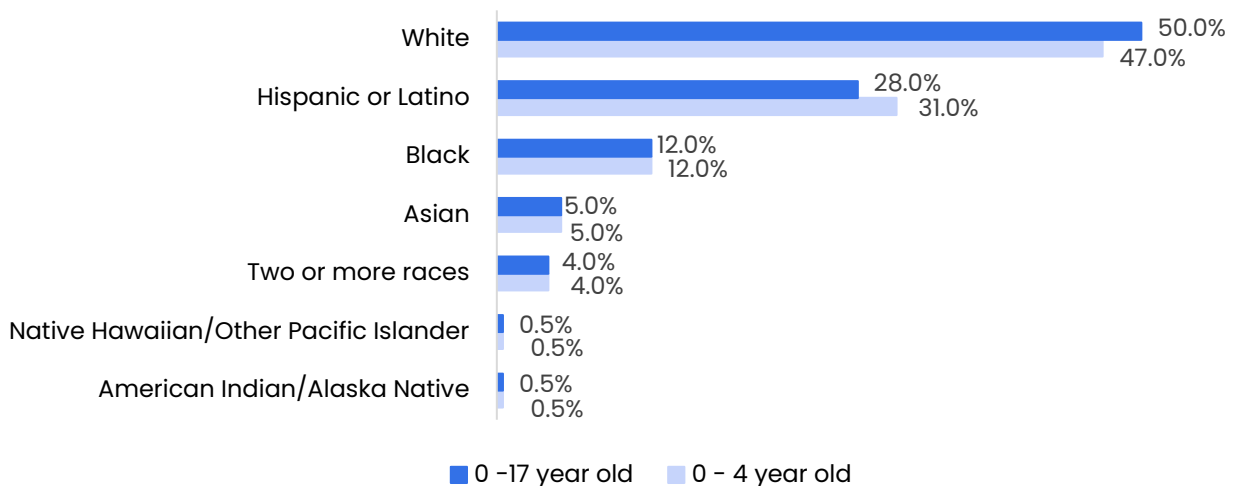


Overview of Early Childhood Services in Connecticut Office of Early Childhood & Other Early Childhood Partners, 2025¹

CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT

- ❖ **35,334** Births in 2021, **33,478** Births in 2020, and **34,260** Births in 2019.ⁱ
- ❖ **Children by Race & Ethnicity:**
 - ❖ 0-4 years of age (2023): <0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5% Asian, 12% Black, 31% Hispanic or Latino, <0.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 47% White, 4% two or more races.ⁱⁱ
 - ❖ 0-17 years of age (2023): <0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 5% Asian, 12% Black, 28% Hispanic or Latino, <0.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 50% White, 4% two or more races.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ❖ **34,565** children enrolled in public school kindergarten in Connecticut in the 2023-2024 school year.^{iv}
- ❖ **17.9%** of students in Connecticut public schools had special education status in the 2023-2024 school year.^{iv}
- ❖ **44.0%** of students in Connecticut public schools qualified for free/reduced lunch in the 2023-2024 school year.^{iv}
- ❖ **13.3%** of children (under age 18) in Connecticut are in households with income below Federal Poverty Level (as of 2023).^v
- ❖ **20.7%** 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 (as of 2023).^{vi}
- ❖ **73,514** three- and four-year-olds in Connecticut (as of 2023).^{vii}
- ❖ **217,716** children aged birth to 5 in Connecticut (as of 2023).^{vii}

Children by Race & Ethnicity



¹ Timeframes for data points vary depending on source and, where available, timeframe is noted. Where a year is listed, this year reflects the calendar year.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

School Readiness^{viii}

- ❖ **12,198** school readiness spaces: 7,764 full-day spaces (includes 161 infant/toddler full-day spaces), 2,420 school-day, 1,558 part-day, and 456 extended-day spaces for 3- and 4-year-old children at **311 sites** in **67 communities**.
- ❖ **12,198** children participated.

Child Day Care Centers^{viii}

- ❖ **5,234** spaces: 2,946 Infant/Toddler (including 1,290 expansion, 1,431 full-time, and 225 wraparound), 2,079 Preschool (including 1,782 full-time and 297 wraparound), and 209 school-age spaces at **198 sites** in **55 communities** in FY24.
- ❖ **5,234** children participated.

Smart Start and Smart Start for Recovery^{viii}

- ❖ **890** spaces (including 240 spaces funded by Smart Start for Recovery) for 3- and 4-year-old children in **60 classrooms** in **33 districts**; **890** children participated.

Connecticut Even Start Family Literacy Program^{viii}

- ❖ **35** children and **32** adults (from 31 families) received comprehensive family-centered education services for two generational academic & economic success, provided by **3 grantees**.

Child Care Subsidies (Care 4 Kids)

- ❖ **31,564 children** in **22,247 families** received Care 4 Kids (C4K) services by 5,921 providers in state fiscal year 2024 (SFY24).^{viii}
- ❖ The program provides vouchers to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care.
- ❖ The monthly average number of children served by age group: **8,418** Infant/Toddlers; **7,750** Preschool Age; and **5,798** School Age; The monthly averages for SFY24 = **21,968** Children (**15,575** Families).^{ix}
- ❖ C4K Subsidy Expenditures in SFY2024= \$217.6m.^{ix}
- ❖ C4K Providers by unduplicated count (& monthly average): In SFY24, there were 1,038 (921) Licensed & License-Exempt Centers & Group Homes, including 328 (32%) accredited; 1,108 (942) Licensed Family, including 76 (7%) Accredited; and 3,934 (2,781) Unlicensed Family providers.^{ix}
- ❖ In SFY24, 105 Youth Camps served 1,935 children funded with \$1.4M in State funds.^{ix}

Public School Preschool (Local Education Agency Funded)^{iv}

- ❖ **19,530** children enrolled (2023-2024).

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START^x

Head Start

- ❖ **4,332** children ages 3 to 5 in 20 federally funded programs during the 2023-2024 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 26 communities to create 211 additional full-day/full-year spaces and 631 additional extended day/extended year spaces, serving **842** children as of FY24. Additional space types include 34 school day, school year spaces and 16 part-year, part-day spaces.

Early Head Start

- ❖ **1,250** slots, including **1,236** children ages birth to 3 and 14 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):** **12,132** referrals, of which **11,758** children were evaluated, of which **7,470** (63.4%) were deemed eligible.
 - ❖ Upon exiting at age 3, **2,575** (35%) children were eligible for IDEA Part B.
 - ❖ **13,718** children under age 3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) were supported in SFY24.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Help Me Grow & Child Development Info Line^{xii}

- ❖ **4,198** Help Me Grow referrals, **314** new paper or online Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) enrollments, **10,059** new Sparkler ASQ enrollments, **15,685** inbound (English, Spanish, or voicemail) calls to 211 Child Development and **23,510** outbound calls made to parents/caregivers/providers by 211 Child Development in SFY24.

211 Child Care^{xiii}

- ❖ Fulfills the Child Care Resource and Referral mandate and handles child care referrals and requests.
- ❖ **96,902** service request referrals including and pertaining to: Infant (38,658), toddler (20,318), preschool (20,137), and school-age (10,598), child care provider training (3,795), child care subsidies (1,863), and other service referrals (1,533) in FFY 2024.

HOME VISITING^{xiv}

- ❖ **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 SFY24:
 - ❖ **Parents as Teachers:** **1,901** children and **2,080** parents served (state- and federally-funded).
 - ❖ **Child First:** **191** children and **193** parents served (state- and federally-funded)
 - ❖ **Nurse Family Partnership:** **144** children and **192** parents served (state- and federally-funded).
 - ❖ **Healthy Families America:** **594** children and **654** parents served (state-funded).

Note. 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^{xv}

- ❖ **Workforce Registry:** **34,869** active registry account holders in SFY24 (“active account holders” refers to account holders who have done their annual account renewal and/or have activity on their account).
- ❖ **Registry Processing:** **502** Head Teacher applications; **3,136** scholarship applications; documents verified and uploaded – **35,024** participant documents and **2,364** program documents; **55,850** verified education and training entries; **159** ECTC applications in SFY23.
- ❖ **Scholarships:** **3,069** awards totaling **\$1,429,400** in SFY23.
- ❖ **Connecticut’s Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC):** From FY13 to FY24, a grand total of **753** credentials approved in SFY 2023 – **375** Associate’s level and **377** Bachelor’s level.

PROGRAM STANDARDS AND FACILITIES

- ❖ **Licensed Child Care Programs:** **3,169** including: 1,795 family child care homes and 1,374 child care centers and group child care homes as of December 2024.^{xvi}
- ❖ **Licensed Child Care Capacity:** Child care centers and group child care homes had a licensed capacity of **104,312**, and, of that, capacity for children under age 3 was 30,152. Family child care homes had a total licensed capacity of **15,916** as of December 2024.^{xvi}
- ❖ **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):** **491** accredited programs.^{xvii}
- ❖ **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC):** **50** accredited providers as of October 2024.^{xviii}

Note. The numbers of NAEYC- and NAFCC-accredited providers were sourced on December 16, 2024. The NAEYC website did not specify when the numbers were last updated.

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