

Child Care Factsheet for Erie County

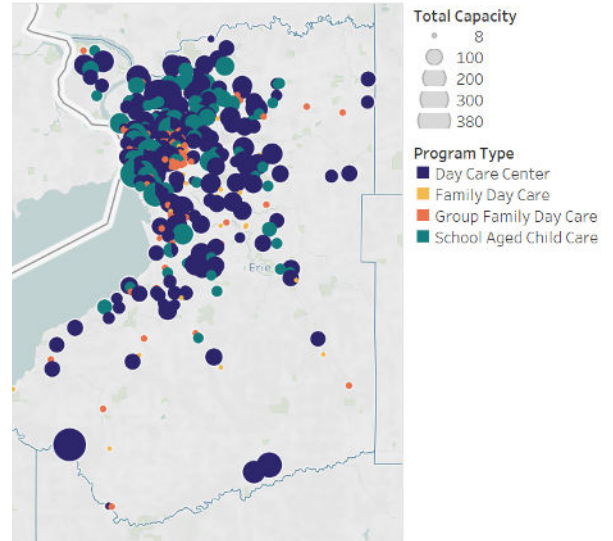
January 2024

Child care is a critical support for families with young children, employers, and New York state's economy. New York has made substantial investments in the child care system over the past few years, but more is needed to help the sector thrive. The supply of child care is not large enough to meet the needs of families, care is too expensive for many families to afford out-of-pocket, and the child care workforce is underpaid.

Erie County has 50,381 children under the age of 5 and 85,989 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 951,232. In the county, 76% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 79% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Erie County, there were 504 child care programs in 2020 and 468 programs in 2024, a change of -7% over four years.

Erie County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity



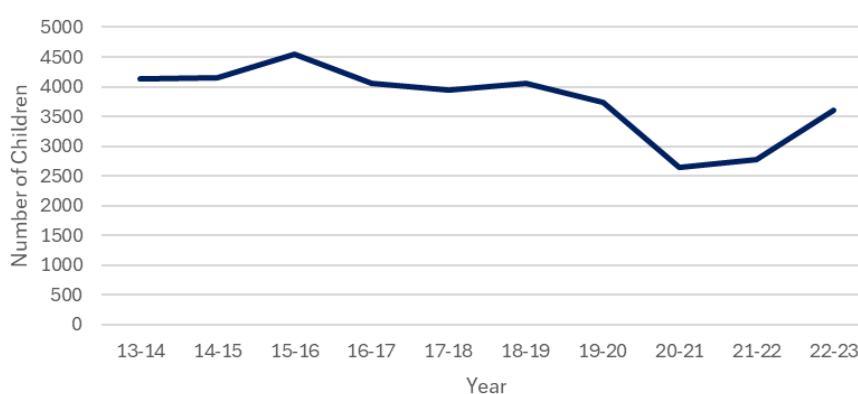
Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	18,403	551	2,034	7,329
2024	18,780	455	1,882	6,301
Change	+377	-96	-152	-1,028

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	50,381	17,782	2.8 - 1
6-12	85,989	9,667	8.9 - 1

Child Care Assistance Program Average Monthly Enrollment in Erie County



3,882

child care workers in Erie County earn an average of

\$15.23/hour

or

\$31,070

annually

97.1%

of all jobs earn more than the average child care provider

Child Care in Erie County



Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Erie County have increased 31% from 2020-2024, from \$26,567,598 to \$38,540,444.



Over 59% of children living in Erie County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 4.9%** of eligible families were in enrolled in 2022-2023.



The annual copayment for a family of 4 making \$50,000 a year enrolled in the child care assistance program **decreased** from **\$7,000** a year to **\$200** a year **from 2020 to 2024**.

Annual Child Care Assistance Program Rates for Toddlers

Modality	2020	2024	% Change
Day Care Center	\$13,780	\$16,640	18%
Family Day Care	\$9,620	\$14,820	35%

Child Care Assistance Eligibility Level by Family Size

Family Size	Income Level (85% of State Median Income)
2	\$67,490.17
3	\$83,370.21
4	\$99,250.25
5	\$115,130.29

Average Cost of Infant Care

Day care center **\$18,574**
Family day care **\$15,776**



SUNY Tuition
\$7,070



In New York, it is cheaper to go to college than to pay for child care.

Notes and References

Data to inform this fact sheet was derived a number of different sources, including the US Census Bureau, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Department of Labor, and from national child care researchers. All references and methodologies are available upon request.

To learn more about child care in your region and statewide, visit: <https://thechildrensagenda.org/reports/> or scan the QR code

