

Child Care Factsheet for Saint Lawrence County

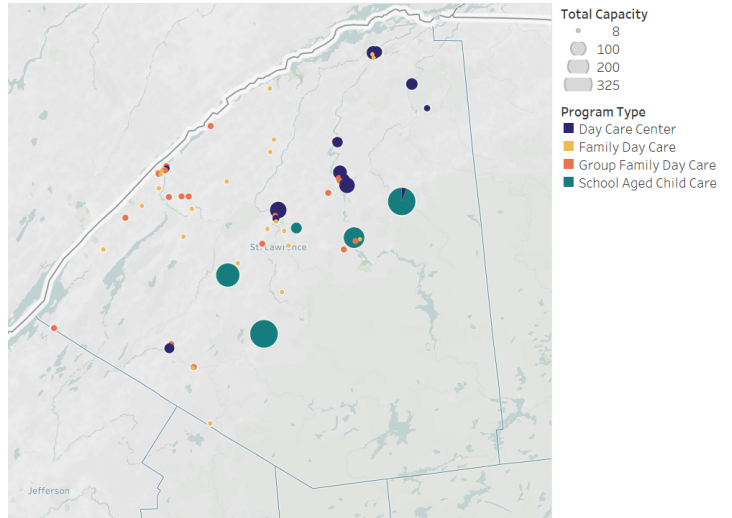
January 2024

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.

Saint Lawrence County has 5,310 children under the age of 5 and 9,906 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 108,670. In the county, 73% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 75% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Saint Lawrence County, there were 78 child care programs in 2020 and 75 programs in 2024, a change of -4% over four years.

Saint Lawrence County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity



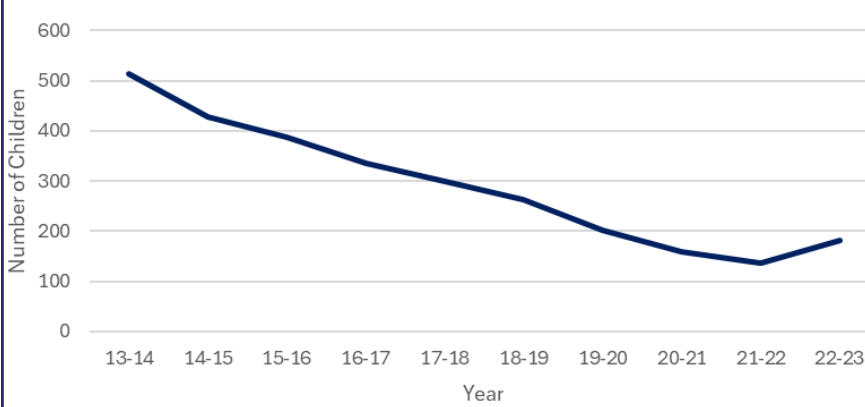
Capacity Change by Setting

| Year | Day Care Center | Family Day Care | Group Family Day Care | School Aged Child Care |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2020 | 628 | 344 | 317 | 285 |
| 2024 | 0 | 72 | 2,551 | 10,144 |
| Change | -628 | -272 | +2,234 | +9,859 |

Capacity by Age

| Age | # Children | Capacity | Ratio of Children-per-Slot |
|------|------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 0-5 | 5,310 | 1,063 | 5.0 - 1 |
| 6-12 | 9,906 | 1,380 | 7.2 - 1 |

Child Care Assistance Program Average Monthly Enrollment in Saint Lawrence County



162

child care workers in Saint Lawrence County earn an average of

\$14.54/hour

or

\$29,657

annually

99.6%

of all jobs earn more than the average child care provider

Child Care in Saint Lawrence County

Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Saint Lawrence County have increased 31% from 2020-2024, from \$1,198,035 to \$1,739,474.

Annual Child Care Assistance Program Rates for Toddlers

| Modality | 2020 | 2024 | % Change |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Day Care Center | \$10,712 | \$14,300 | 25% |
| Family Day Care | \$7,800 | \$13,104 | 40% |

Over 72% of children living in Saint Lawrence County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 1.9%** of eligible families were in enrolled in 2022-2023.

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 |

The annual copayment for a family of 4 making \$50,000 a year enrolled in the child care assistance program **decreased** from **\$5,000** a year to **\$200** a year **from 2020 to 2024**.

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

