

Child Care Factsheet for Suffolk County

January 2024

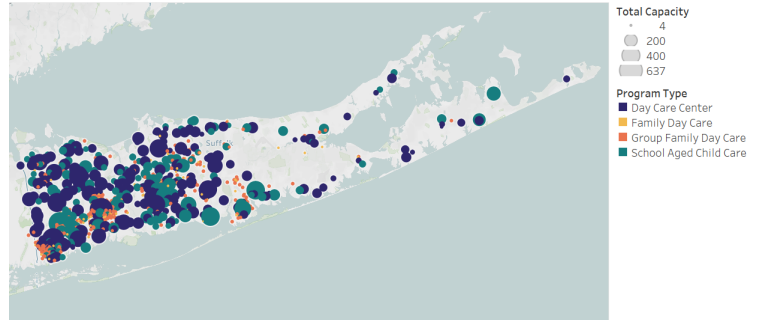
Child care is a critical support for families with young children, employers, and New York state's economy.

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.

Suffolk County has 79,505 children under the age of 5 and 138,654 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 1,524,486. In the county, 74% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 77% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Suffolk County, there were 792 child care programs in 2020 and 807 programs in 2024, a change of 2% over four years.

Suffolk County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity

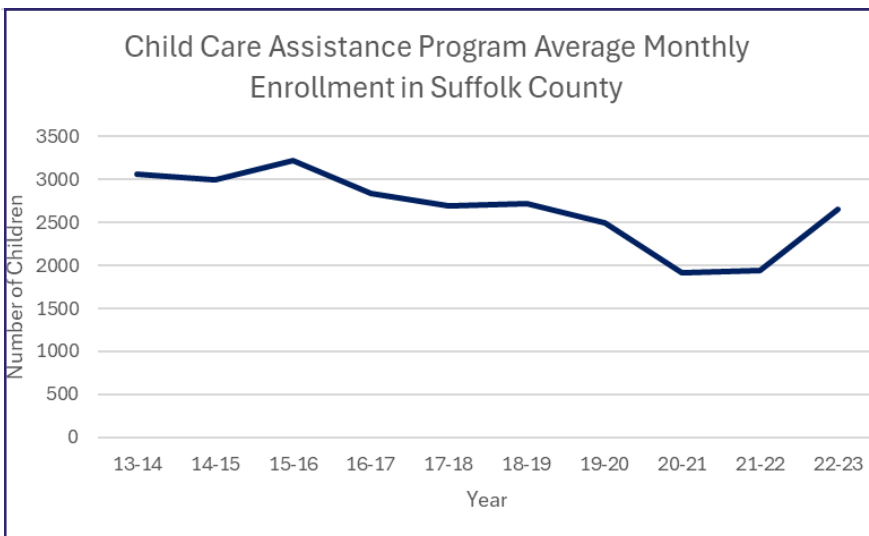


Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	24,030	956	5,082	10,739
2024	29,059	803	5,493	14,197
Change	+2,029	-153	+411	+3,458

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	79,505	28,529	2.8 - 1
6-12	138,654	17,989	7.7 - 1



5,694
child care workers in Suffolk County earn an average of
\$18.21/hour
or
\$37,153
annually
95.5%
of all jobs earn more than the average child care provider

Child Care in Suffolk County

Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Suffolk County have increased 16% from 2020-2024, from \$35,457,728 to \$42,229,728.

Over 36% of children living in Suffolk County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 4%** of eligible families were 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	\$17,576	\$19,760	11%
Family Day Care	\$15,340	\$17,940	14%

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

