

## Early Care and Education in California

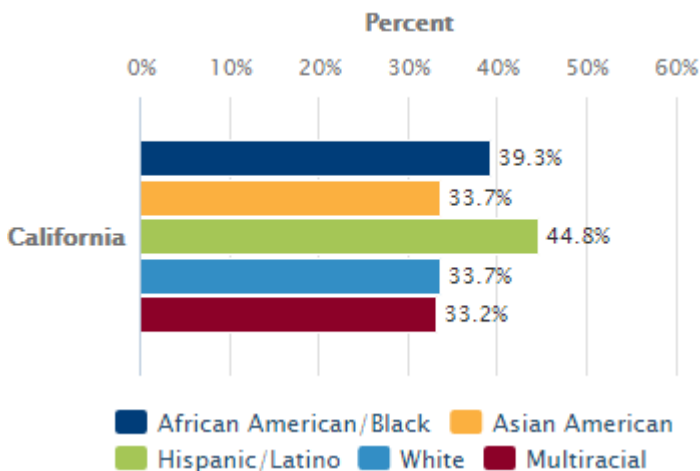
### Children Ages 3-5 Not Enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten: 2014

| Locations             | Percent |
|-----------------------|---------|
| California            | 39.6%   |
| Alameda County        | 33.0%   |
| Contra Costa County   | 33.2%   |
| Fresno County         | 49.0%   |
| Kern County           | 48.5%   |
| Los Angeles County    | 35.5%   |
| Orange County         | 37.6%   |
| Riverside County      | 50.0%   |
| Sacramento County     | 45.6%   |
| San Bernardino County | 47.2%   |
| San Diego County      | 38.6%   |
| Santa Clara County    | 34.7%   |

**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 3-5 not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten (e.g., in 2014, an estimated 39.6% of California children ages 3-5 were not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten).

**Data Source:** Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey microdata files (Nov. 2015).

### Children Ages 3-5 Not Enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten, by Race/Ethnicity: 2014



**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 3-5 not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2014, an estimated 39.3% of African American/black children in California ages 3-5 were not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten).

**Data Source:** Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey microdata files (Nov. 2015).

### Availability of Child Care for Potential Demand: 2014; Showing Counties

### What It Is

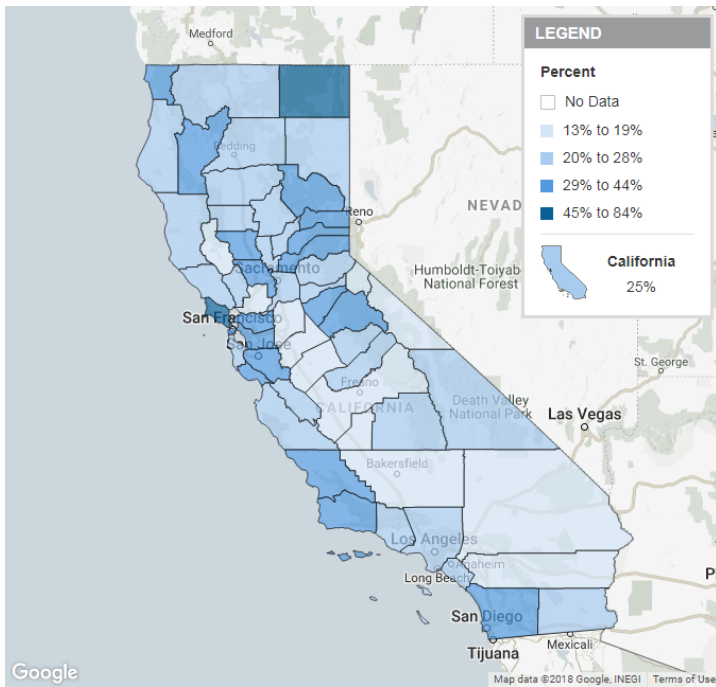
Kidsdata.org includes the following measures of early care and education:

- [Children Ages 3-5 Not Enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten, for regions with 65,000+ residents as 1-year estimates, by Age, and by Race/Ethnicity](#); 5-year estimates are also provided for regions with 10,000+ residents and for Legislative Districts
- [Young Children Whose Parents Read Books with Them, by Frequency](#)
- [Annual Cost of Child Care, by Age Group and Type of Facility](#)
- [Availability of Child Care for Potential Demand](#)
- [Availability of Child Care, by Facility's Schedule and Type of Facility](#)
- [Number of Child Care Slots in Licensed Facilities, by Type of Facility](#)
- [Number of Licensed Child Care Facilities, by Type of Facility](#)
- [Parent Requests for Child Care, by Age](#)
- [Parent Requests for Evening/Weekend/Overnight Child Care](#)

### Why This Topic Is Important

Child care is a critically important need for many families in the United States (1). High-quality child care centers and homes deliver consistent, developmentally sound, and emotionally supportive care and education (1, 2). Research indicates that high-quality early care and education can have long-lasting positive effects. Specifically, high-quality child care before age 5 is related to higher levels of behavioral/emotional functioning, school readiness, academic achievement, educational attainment, and earnings (1, 2, 3), and the gains are particularly pronounced for children from low-income families and those at risk for academic failure (1, 3).

However, finding affordable, high-quality child care is a major challenge for many families, and access differs based on geography, race, and income (3). In 2014, licensed child care was available for an estimated 25% of potential demand in California (i.e., children ages 0-12 with working parents) (4). And the cost is high. For example, center-based infant care costs in



**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children with parents in the labor force for whom licensed child care is available and unavailable. Figures for 2000-2008 cover children ages 0-13, but 2010-2014 figures cover children ages 0-12.

**Data Source:** California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, [California Child Care Portfolio](#) (Nov. 2015).

#### Annual Cost of Child Care, by Age Group and Type of Facility: 2014

| California             | Amount   |             |
|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Type of Facility       | Infant   | Preschooler |
| Child Care Center      | \$13,327 | \$9,106     |
| Family Child Care Home | \$8,462  | \$7,850     |

**Definition:** Average annual cost of licensed child care, by facility type and age group of child (e.g., in 2014, child care for an infant under 2 years old in a child care center cost \$13,327 annually).

**Data Source:** California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, [California Child Care Portfolio](#) (Nov. 2015); cost data are from the Child Care Regional Market Rate Survey, 2014.

California made up an estimated 14% of the median annual income for married couples and 45% for single parents in 2014 (1). In 2014, California was ranked the 8th least affordable state for center-based infant care in the nation (1).

#### How Children Are Faring

An estimated 40% of California children ages 3-5 were not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten in 2014. Percentages varied by racial/ethnic group and age. For example, in 2014, 45% of 3-5-year-old Hispanic/Latino children were not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten, compared to 34% of 3-5-year-old white and Asian American children.

In 2014, licensed child care was available for an estimated 25% of children ages 0-12 with working parents in California, but in some counties, availability was as low as 13%. And the total number of slots available has declined in recent years. Additionally, many child care providers do not fill all of their slots due to shortages of qualified staff or other issues, and providers' schedules do not always meet the needs of families. For example, in 2014, only 2% of licensed child care centers offered child care during non-traditional hours. While family child care homes are more likely to provide care during non-traditional hours, they represent only about a third of the licensed child care slots in the state, and their numbers are on the decline as well.

In 2014, the average annual cost of licensed infant care was more than \$13,000 in child care centers and nearly \$8,500 in family child care homes. Care for preschool-age children was less expensive, but still over \$9,000 in child care centers and almost \$8,000 in family child care homes.

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/19/early-care-and-education/summary>



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