

Child Care

Definition

Regulated providers is the total number of licensed centers, licensed homes, and certified homes. *Regulated capacity* is the total number of spaces available for children at these regulated providers. *STAR-rated providers* is the number of licensed centers, licensed homes, and certified homes participating in Kentucky's voluntary Quality Rating System.

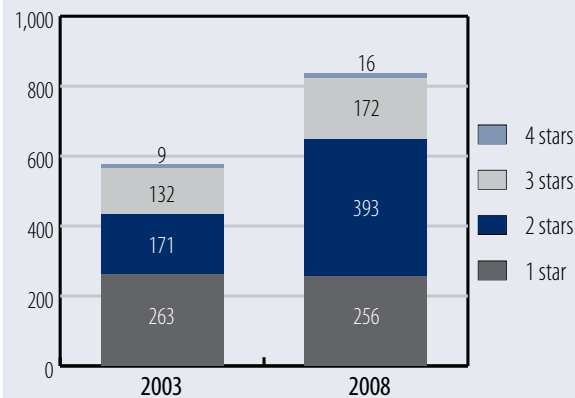
Data in context

All children need nurturing, stimulating environments to grow and learn in their early years. Child care allows parents to work or attend school while children learn and interact with others. Quality child care can also support the rapidly developing architecture of the human brain during the early years of life. During 2005, 61 percent of children under 6 in the United States spent time in care away from their home, either with a relative or non-relative caregiver in a home or with a pre-K program, preschool, or Head Start program.¹

In Kentucky, licensed centers, which care for 13 or more children in a residential setting or 4 or more children in a non-residential setting, represented 71 percent of regulated providers as of July 2008, as well as most of regulated child care capacity statewide (97 percent).² Certified homes, which care for 4 to 6 children in a home, are the second most common type of regulated provider (25 percent of all providers) and offer 3 percent of the regulated capacity statewide.³

Child care providers participating in Kentucky's STARS for KIDS NOW voluntary Quality Rating System earn a rating of one to four stars based on components such as teacher-child ratios, family involvement, curriculum, and teacher training.⁴ Participants are eligible for a one-time financial incentive, as well as technical assistance to continue increasing quality. As of June 30, 2008, only eleven providers received the highest rating (4 stars) statewide,

Child Care Providers Participating in STARS by Rating, 2003 and 2008



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Division of Child Care.

and those providers served Boone, Fayette, Grayson, Henry, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, and McCracken Counties.⁵ Statewide, 837 regulated child care providers were STAR-rated, serving all but 10 of Kentucky's 120 counties. Nearly all STAR-rated providers (83 percent) were licensed centers.⁶

Parents and caregivers often look to family members, friends, or neighbors to help care for their children for reasons such as convenience and affordability.⁷ Research suggests that while families at all income levels use family, friend, and neighbor care, low-income families are more likely to utilize this type of care.⁸ Home-based caregivers served a critical role for an estimated 88,000 Kentucky children in 2003 (27 percent of all children under age 6 in child care), yet many could use more supportive training to fully prepare children for future success.⁹ Communities can offer "learning hubs" with shared resources, create neighborhood gathering sites where families and caregivers can interact, and provide training materials through home visitation programs to increase the quality of care.¹⁰

Improving child care quality can increase school

readiness among all children, especially those who are more likely to begin kindergarten with less preparation and lag behind at the end of first grade (including low-income children, children of color, children whose parents are not native English speakers, and children with disabilities).¹¹ Kentucky can build on efforts of the KIDS NOW initiative to improve quality by concentrating public policy efforts on providers serving children receiving subsidies, continuing to highlight the benefits of participating in the program, focusing training and technical assistance towards programs serving children of color and those receiving subsidies, and continuing to focus on increasing the educational attainment of child care workers and directors.¹²

Data Source: Number of providers and capacity data from Kentucky Child Care Resource and Referral agencies. STARS data from Kentucky Division of Child Care.

Data Note: Number of providers and capacity reports July 2008 data. Capacity data is rounded to the nearest ten. STARS participation data reflect participation as of June 30, 2008.

- 1 Child Trends Data Bank. *Child Care*. Available at <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 2 Data obtained from Kentucky Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, July 2008.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Kentucky Department of Education (2007). *STARS for KIDS NOW (Quality Rating System)*. Available at <http://education.ky.gov>. Accessed September 2008.
- 5 Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Division of Child Care, July 2008.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Susman-Stillman, A., and Banghart, P. (2008). "Demographics of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care in the United States." *Research Connections*. Available at <http://www.researchconnections.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Annie E. Casey Foundation (2006). *2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Vandivere, S., Pitzer, L., Halle, T., and Hair, E. (2004). "Indicators of Early School Success and Child Well-Being." *Cross Currents*, Issue 3, October 2004. Publication # 2004-24. Child Trends. Available at <http://www.childtrends.org>. Accessed September 2007.
- 12 Grisham-Brown, J., Gravil, M., and Gao, X. (2008). *KIDS NOW Evaluation*. University of Kentucky. Available at <http://www.education.ky.gov>. Accessed September 2008.

Regulated providers (number & capacity) and STAR-rated providers

	2008		
	Number of regulated providers	Regulated capacity (number of children)	STAR-rated providers
Kentucky	2,996	178,630	837
Adair	11	570	6
Allen	7	410	3
Anderson	16	830	6
Ballard	4	220	3
Barren	24	1,110	7
Bath	7	380	1
Bell	17	660	5
Boone	86	6,880	26
Bourbon	11	1,070	5
Boyd	26	1,980	11
Boyle	16	890	4
Bracken	5	140	1
Breathitt	3	130	2
Breckinridge	14	580	2
Bullitt	47	3,440	11
Butler	7	220	4
Caldwell	7	300	1
Calloway	30	2,110	16
Campbell	78	4,200	31
Carlisle	1	20	1
Carroll	3	250	1
Carter	14	380	3
Casey	6	300	3
Christian	63	2,700	33
Clark	35	2,520	18
Clay	5	290	4
Clinton	7	240	3
Crittenden	3	210	2
Cumberland	9	220	3
Daviess	67	5,290	13
Edmonson	3	140	1
Elliott	3	90	1
Estill	6	270	2
Fayette	225	16,740	51
Fleming	10	380	4
Floyd	13	430	4
Franklin	41	3,320	8
Fulton	2	60	2
Gallatin	5	140	1
Garrard	5	180	1

	2008		
	Number of regulated providers	Regulated capacity (number of children)	STAR-rated providers
Grant	21	750	5
Graves	25	1,340	15
Grayson	15	990	4
Green	5	210	3
Greenup	18	900	3
Hancock	2	70	0
Hardin	106	5,890	36
Harlan	12	320	9
Harrison	11	580	4
Hart	4	150	2
Henderson	25	1,650	8
Henry	17	760	6
Hickman	3	130	3
Hopkins	25	1,250	3
Jackson	5	80	2
Jefferson	658	43,200	108
Jessamine	26	1,810	8
Johnson	14	620	8
Kenton	159	9,200	59
Knott	11	430	3
Knox	36	1,130	9
LaRue	13	540	4
Laurel	23	1,030	8
Lawrence	2	150	1
Lee	3	150	1
Leslie	5	160	0
Letcher	9	450	2
Lewis	9	260	1
Lincoln	5	250	2
Livingston	2	60	0
Logan	8	330	1
Lyon	2	70	2
McCracken	40	3,020	13
McCreary	15	530	6
McLean	6	160	0
Madison	46	3,400	10
Magoffin	4	120	3
Marion	11	650	4
Marshall	13	680	8
Martin	3	90	3
Mason	14	760	0

	2008		
	Number of regulated providers	Regulated capacity (number of children)	STAR-rated providers
Meade	20	710	0
Menifee	2	100	1
Mercer	15	770	3
Metcalfe	2	130	2
Monroe	9	290	7
Montgomery	19	1,380	6
Morgan	9	260	2
Muhlenberg	13	630	0
Nelson	26	2,470	11
Nicholas	7	440	1
Ohio	7	340	5
Oldham	37	3,950	15
Owen	3	110	1
Owsley	2	150	2
Pendleton	11	330	2
Perry	18	720	8
Pike	15	1,130	7
Powell	12	380	1
Pulaski	46	2,160	14
Robertson	1	50	0
Rockcastle	7	170	3
Rowan	26	1,040	2
Russell	16	520	6
Scott	43	2,830	6
Shelby	33	1,650	7
Simpson	8	460	0
Spencer	8	820	2
Taylor	17	650	4
Todd	5	220	3
Trigg	7	360	6
Trimble	5	110	2
Union	10	460	3
Warren	67	4,540	13
Washington	13	510	3
Wayne	28	620	8
Webster	3	60	0
Whitley	27	980	4
Wolfe	4	150	2
Woodford	22	1,480	4