

School-Age Child Care

DEFINITION

School-age child care is the number of licensed after-school child care programs and slots for children ages six and older. These numbers do not include certified family child care home slots, informal child care arrangements, summer day camps, or community programs that do not require licensing by the state.

SIGNIFICANCE

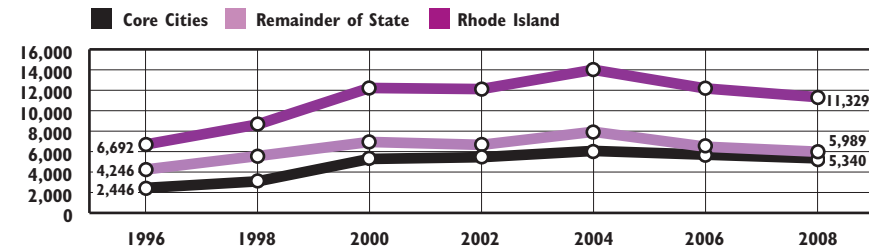
In 2007, 73% (111,956) of Rhode Island children ages six to 17 had all resident parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. average of 70%.¹ Children are typically in school for only about 64% of the time that full-time employed parents are at work. The gap between parents' work schedules and students' school schedules amounts to 15-25 hours per week during the school year.² Families often patch together different care arrangements to cover the hours before and after school and the days during school vacations and summer break.³ Concerns about their children's safety and the reliability of care arrangements can be a significant source of stress for working parents of school-age children.⁴

National research indicates that approximately 7% of children in grades one to five and 34% of children in grades six to eight are in self care,

defined as being left home unsupervised by an adult.⁵ When school is out and parents are at work, children and young adolescents need safe, structured programs with adequate adult supervision. Effective after-school programs also expose children to new experiences, give them a chance to build skills and increase their sense of competency, and offer children opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with both adults and peers.⁶

Children who are regularly left alone without adult supervision when school is out more likely to become involved with gangs, engage in criminal behavior, and use illegal substances. Research shows that children who participate in high-quality, well-designed after-school programs and extracurricular activities benefit socially, emotionally, and academically. They attend school more regularly, behave better in school, perform better academically, and have higher graduation rates.⁷ Students who are low-income, have poor school attendance, limited English proficiency or low test scores gain the most from participating in high-quality after-school programs.⁸

Licensed School-Age Child Care Slots, Rhode Island, 1996-2008



Source: Options for Working Parents, 1996-2006. Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2008. Data do not include slots in family child care settings.

- ◆ The number of licensed school-age child care slots in Rhode Island more than doubled between 1996 and 2004. After reaching a peak of 14,006 in 2004, the number of slots has been steadily decreasing.⁹
- ◆ In December 2008, 2,742 Rhode Island children ages six to 12 received a child care subsidy for before and/or after-school care. Of these children, 1,731 (63%) were enrolled in a licensed center-based program, 971 (35%) were enrolled in certified family child care, and 40 (1%) were in the care of a license-exempt family, friend or neighbor.¹⁰

Challenges Facing the School-Age Care Field

- ◆ Since 2006, the number of child care subsidies for school-age children has dropped 43% from 5,218 to 2,954.¹¹ In 2007, family income eligibility for a child care subsidy was reduced from 225% to 180% of the federal poverty level (\$32,958 for a family of three in 2009), eligibility for children over age 12 was eliminated, and family co-payments increased. In addition, the subsidy rates paid to before and after-school providers was decreased.
- ◆ Respondents to a national survey of school-age care professionals cited recruiting and retaining qualified staff as their top challenge. The part-time nature of after-school programs and prevailing low wages make finding skilled staff difficult.¹²

Table 35. Licensed School-Age Child Care for Children Ages 6 to 12, Rhode Island, 2008

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 12	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF SLOTS
Barrington	2,064	8	325
Bristol	1,784	4	126
Burrillville	1,672	3	213
Central Falls	2,190	5	398
Charlestown	717	1	26
Coventry	3,431	7	273
Cranston	7,115	18	618
Cumberland	3,135	4	270
East Greenwich	1,581	3	130
East Providence	4,292	13	637
Exeter	684	3	83
Foster	489	2	39
Glocester	1,105	1	10
Hopkinton	802	2	92
Jamestown	576	1	51
Johnston	2,490	5	75
Lincoln	2,206	7	335
Little Compton	322	1	26
Middletown	1,787	6	206
Narragansett	1,144	1	60
New Shoreham	69	0	0
Newport	2,056	7	378
North Kingstown	2,823	9	375
North Providence	2,444	4	196
North Smithfield	988	1	100
Pawtucket	7,477	12	1,047
Portsmouth	1,839	3	134
Providence	18,592	31	2,701
Richmond	830	1	52
Scituate	1,102	1	29
Smithfield	1,653	5	116
South Kingstown	2,630	3	160
Tiverton	1,452	2	95
Warren	1,032	2	92
Warwick	7,630	16	777
West Greenwich	592	2	28
West Warwick	2,618	5	285
Westerly	2,160	6	240
Woonsocket	4,373	10	531
Core Cities	37,306	70	5,340
Remainder of State	64,640	145	5,989
Rhode Island	101,946	215	11,329

Federal Financing

After-School Care

◆ The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the largest source of federal funding for child care. States receive funding based on an allocation formula and can use these funds for child care subsidies for low-income children ages 12 and under and to improve the quality of child care.¹³

◆ Rhode Island's Fiscal Year 2009 enacted budget included \$51.6 million for child care subsidies, of which \$44.5 million came from federal sources, primarily the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDGB) and TANF, and \$7.1 million from state general revenue.^{14,15} In 2008, about 39% of children receiving child care subsidies were school age.¹⁶

Expanded Learning Opportunities

◆ The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program provides funding for after-school programs primarily serving students attending Title I schools (schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students). In Federal Fiscal Year 2008, Rhode Island received almost \$5.3 million in 21st Century funds to serve approximately 5,300 children.¹⁷

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Number of children ages six to 12 years old is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1.

Department of Children, Youth and Families, number of licensed school-age child care programs and slots for children ages six to 12 as of December 2008. These numbers do not include certified family child care home slots, informal child care arrangements, and community programs for youth ages six and older that do not require licensing by the state. Licensed school-age child care programs also provide services to five year-old children who are enrolled in Kindergarten.

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