

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

Between 2006 and 2008, an estimated 74% of Rhode Island children ages six to 17 had all resident parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. average of 71%.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 is a significant source of stress for working parents of school-age children.⁴

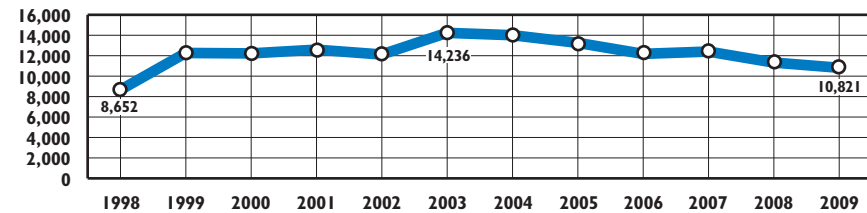
When school is out and parents are at work, children and young adolescents need safe, structured programs with adequate adult supervision. Effective after-school programs also engage

children in 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.⁵

In Rhode Island, 21% of elementary school students and 37% of middle school students reported that they are unsupervised after school on three or more days a week.⁶ Children and youth who are regularly left alone without adult supervision when school is out are more likely to become involved with gangs, engage in criminal behavior, and use illegal substances.⁷

Many school-age child care programs provide enrichment activities, homework help, and opportunities for children to develop positive relationships with peers. 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.⁸ 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.⁹

Licensed School-Age Child Care Center Slots, Rhode Island, 1998-2009



Source: Options for Working Parents, 1998-2006. Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2007-2009. Data do not include slots in family child care settings.

- ◆ In 2009 in Rhode Island, there were 10,821 licensed school-age child care slots in 204 center-based programs in Rhode Island.¹⁰ Five of these programs were accredited by the National AfterSchool Association.¹¹
- ◆ After reaching a peak of 14,236 in 2003, the number of licensed center-based slots for school-age children has been steadily decreasing. Licensed school-age child care capacity is now 24% below the high point.¹²

School-Age Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies

- ◆ In December 2009, 2,868 Rhode Island children ages six to 12 received a child care subsidy for before and/or after-school care. Of these children, 1,918 (67%) were enrolled in a licensed center-based program, 918 (32%) were enrolled in licensed family child care, and 32 (1%) were in the care of a license-exempt family, friend or neighbor.¹³
- ◆ Between 2006 and 2009, the number of child care subsidies for school-age children has dropped 45% from 5,218 to 2,868.¹⁴ 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 decreased.¹⁵

Table 39.

Licensed School-Age Child Care for Children Ages Six to 12, Rhode Island, 2009

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 12	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF SLOTS
Barrington	2,064	5	180
Bristol	1,784	4	162
Burrillville	1,672	3	213
Central Falls	2,190	4	319
Charlestown	717	1	26
Coventry	3,431	7	273
Cranston	7,115	19	666
Cumberland	3,135	4	270
East Greenwich	1,581	4	141
East Providence	4,292	10	503
Exeter	684	3	74
Foster	489	1	18
Glocester	1,105	1	10
Hopkinton	802	1	52
Jamestown	576	1	51
Johnston	2,490	5	65
Lincoln	2,206	6	301
Little Compton	322	1	26
Middletown	1,787	6	206
Narragansett	1,144	1	60
New Shoreham	69	0	0
Newport	2,056	4	260
North Kingstown	2,823	9	319
North Providence	2,444	8	545
North Smithfield	988	1	100
Pawtucket	7,477	9	836
Portsmouth	1,839	3	134
Providence	18,592	33	2,699
Richmond	830	1	52
Scituate	1,102	1	29
Smithfield	1,653	5	129
South Kingstown	2,630	3	139
Tiverton	1,452	2	95
Warren	1,032	2	92
Warwick	7,630	15	784
West Greenwich	592	2	28
West Warwick	2,618	6	323
Westerly	2,160	3	90
Woonsocket	4,373	10	551
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>37,306</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>4,988</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>64,640</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>5,833</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>101,946</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>10,821</i>

Federal Financing

After-School Care

◆ The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is a major 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. In 2008 in the U.S., approximately 34% of children receiving child care subsidies were school-age, compared with 40% in Rhode Island.¹⁶

◆ Rhode Island's Fiscal Year 2010 enacted budget included \$45.4 million for child care subsidies, of which \$38.9 million came from federal sources, primarily the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDGB) and TANF, and \$6.5 million from state general revenue.¹⁷

Expanded Learning Opportunities

◆ The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program provides funding for after-school programs serving primarily students attending Title I schools (schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students). In Federal Fiscal Year 2010, Rhode Island will receive \$5.7 million to serve approximately 5,700 children at 51 after-school centers.¹⁸

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 2009. 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.

References

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. *Selected Economic Characteristics, Rhode Island and United States, 2006-2008*.
- ²⁴ *After-school worries: Tough on parents, bad for business*. (2006). New York, NY: Catalyst.
- ³ Lawrence, S. & Kreader, J. L. (2006). *School-age child care arrangements*. Child Care & Early Education Research Connections, No. 4. Retrieved February 6, 2007, from www.childcareresearch.org
- ⁵ Hall, G., Yohalem, N., Tolman, J. & Wilson, A. (2003). *How afterschool programs can most effectively promote positive youth development as a support to academic achievement*. Wellesley, MA: National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College.
- ⁶ Felner, R. D. (2008). *2007-2008 Student reports of after school supervision, Rhode Island SALT Survey*. Rock Island, IL: National Center for Public Education and Prevention.
- ⁷⁸ *Making the case: A 2009 fact sheet on children and youth in out-of-school time*. (2009). Wellesley, MA: National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College.
- ⁹ Miller, B. M. (2003). *Critical hours: Afterschool programs and educational success*. Brookline, MA: Nellie Mae Education Foundation.
- ¹⁰ Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, school-age child care slots, 2009.
- ¹¹ National Afterschool Association, accredited programs, 2009.

(continued on page 170)