



## Maryland Child Care Resource Network

# Child Care Demographics

# 2022

## Maryland Report

Maryland is at the center of the Boston-Atlanta Corridor on the Atlantic seaboard, and borders Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. Among the 50 states Maryland ranks 42nd in size and 19th in population, with a diversified economy rooted in high technology, biosciences and services, as well as revitalized manufacturing and international trade. Major federal facilities based in Maryland are the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Security Agency, Social Security Administration, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup> It is home to four Foreign-Trade Zones<sup>2</sup>, 38 State Enterprise Zones<sup>3</sup>, and multiple transportation resources.

Maryland's public k-12 school system is ranked fourth in the nation. There are 55 institutions of higher education with 17 of those designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security as National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense education and research. Maryland also ranks nationally regarding their workforce, the state has the second highest concentration of employed doctoral scientists and engineers.<sup>4</sup> Maryland's 172,000 businesses employ nearly 2.2 million workers<sup>5</sup>; at least 127 of these businesses employ 1000 or more people.<sup>6</sup> Major employers in Maryland include BYK Gardner Inc, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins University, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems, Stephen James Association, the University of Maryland, and the University of Maryland Medical Center.<sup>6</sup>

1 <https://commerce.maryland.gov/Documents/ResearchDocument/BriefEconomicFactsMaryland.pdf> Source: Maryland Department of Commerce, Brief Economic Facts, 2019

2 <https://commerce.maryland.gov/Documents/ResearchDocument/maryland-international-fact-sheet.pdf> Source: Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland International Fact Sheet, 9/2019

3 <https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/programs-for-businesses/enterprise-zone-tax-credit> Source: Maryland Department of Commerce, Enterprise Zone Tax Credit (EZ), 12/20/2019

4 <https://commerce.maryland.gov/about/rankings-and-statistics> Source: Maryland Department of Commerce Rankings and Statistics, 2021

5 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD,US/PST045219> Source: United States Census Bureau, Quick Facts Maryland, United States, 2020

6 [https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/table\\_maker/v4/table\\_maker.htm#type=1&year=2020&tr=1&own=5&ind=10&sup=0](https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/table_maker/v4/table_maker.htm#type=1&year=2020&tr=1&own=5&ind=10&sup=0) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, March 2020.

7 <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/lmi/emplys/> Source: Maryland Department of Labor Major Employers List- Workforce Information & Performance, 2020

*The Maryland Child Care Resource Network and Maryland Family Network, Inc. are co-publishers of the Maryland Child Care Demographics Report series. The series includes reports for the State, for each of Maryland's 23 counties and the City of Baltimore.*

## Number of Maryland Children under 12 with Mothers in the Work Force<sup>1</sup>

896,912– 78.9%<sup>2</sup> of total 2021 child population under 12 (1,136,770).

<sup>1</sup>Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care. <sup>2</sup>Percent based on 2010 census data. Total population number based on GeoLytics, Inc. report, 2021.

## Child Population 2010

Age Group	Number in age group
0-1	143,558
2-4	220,930
5-9	366,868
10-11	151,023
Total	882,379

Source: Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), 2010 Census Summary File 1.

## Child Care Costs as Compared to Other Major Household Expenses

County	Estimated Child Care Cost <sup>1</sup>	Median Family Income <sup>2</sup>	%of Median Income Spent On Child Care	Child Care Cost Ranked w/Other Major Household Exp <sup>3</sup>
Allegany	\$15,305	\$ 54,527	28%	1
Anne Arundel	\$26,177	\$108,247	24%	1
Baltimore County	\$23,763	\$ 87,554	27%	1
Calvert	\$21,483	\$114,205	19%	3
Caroline	\$15,542	\$ 74,230	21%	2
Carroll	\$24,189	\$105,923	23%	2
Cecil	\$13,520	\$ 82,623	16%	2
Charles	\$24,199	\$107,296	23%	2
Dorchester	\$15,699	\$ 60,992	26%	2
Frederick	\$24,189	\$107,067	23%	2
Garrett	\$13,520	\$ 60,072	23%	2
Harford	\$24,865	\$ 95,764	26%	1
Howard	\$30,067	\$134,822	22%	1
Kent	\$18,828	\$ 67,836	28%	2
Montgomery	\$35,766	\$127,971	28%	1
Prince George's	\$24,574	\$ 89,494	27%	2
Queen Anne's	\$18,466	\$104,479	18%	3
St. Mary's	\$21,098	\$102,283	21%	2
Somerset	\$13,542	\$ 54,131	25%	2
Talbot	\$17,249	\$ 89,148	19%	2
Washington	\$16,620	\$ 70,465	24%	2
Wicomico	\$17,842	\$ 67,815	26%	2
Worcester	\$17,682	\$ 77,156	23%	2
Baltimore City	\$22,004	\$ 58,504	38%	1

NOTE: Child Care and other household expenses are based on a family of 4 that included a couple and two children ages 0-23 months and 2-4 years. The household expenses considered include housing, income taxes, and food.

<sup>1</sup>Combined average of full-time care for an infant in a family child care home and a preschooler in a child care center (LOCATE, 2021). <sup>2</sup>Current income as shown in the GeoLytics Report dated July 2021. This data cannot be compared to previous data. <sup>3</sup>Housing costs based on U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010 median selected owner costs with a mortgage; included mortgage, taxes, insurance and utilities. State and local taxes per Comptroller of Maryland (2021). Medicare and FICA taxes per moneychimp.com (2021). Taxes do not reflect Earned Income Credit.

### Population Information

#### Child Population<sup>1</sup>

	2000	2010
0-3 years	209,218	217,560
3-4 years	144,175	146,928
5 years	74,546	72,700
6-9 years	316,772	294,168
10-11 years	162,481	151,023
Total	907,192	882,379

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010.

#### Female Population (selected ages)

Age Group	2000	2010
20-24	157,643	193,775
25-29	176,396	199,325
30-34	209,334	189,215
Total	543,373	582,315

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010.

#### Work Force Information

##### Total Population Ages 16+ in Work Force

	Maryland
<b>2010</b>	
Female	1,570,193
Male	1,623,215
<b>2000</b>	
Female	1,351,034
Male	1,418,491
<b>Change</b>	
Female	16.2% (+)
Male	14.4% (+)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010 American Community Survey (ACS).

#### Females (16+) with Children

Age Group	2000	2010	Change
Total females (16+) with children under 6	160,214	419,077	N/A*
Total females (16+) with children under 6 in the work force	112,065	N/A*	N/A*
Total females (16+) with children 6-17	383,095	865,139	N/A*
Total females (16+) with children 6-17 in the work force	304,898	N/A*	N/A*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 ACS.

\* Comparable data not available for 2010 census.

#### Total Population

	Maryland
2010	5,773,552
2000	5,296,486
1995	5,046,079
1990	4,780,753
1980	4,216,975

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010, 2000, 1990, 1980.

#### Male Population (selected ages)

Age Group	2000	2010
20-24	156,486	199,923
25-29	166,474	194,223
30-34	196,317	179,279
Total	519,277	573,425

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010.

#### Households

	2000	2010
Total household population	5,162,430	5,635,177
Total # of households	1,980,859	2,156,411
Average household size	2.61	2.61

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010.

## Census Information

### Families and Poverty

	2000	%	2010	%	%Change
All Families	1,359,318	100%	1,447,002	100%	6.5%(+)
Families Below Poverty Level	83,232	6.1%	95,502	6.6%	14.7%(+)
All Families w/Children Under 6**	150,011	N/A*	144,836	100%	N/A*
Families w/Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level	30,328	N/A*	N/A*	10.6%	N/A*
All Families w/Children Under 18	662,172	100%	651,028	100%	1.7%(-)
Families w/Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level	64,063	9.7%	67,056	10.3%	4.7%(+)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010. Prepared by MDP.  
\*Comparable data not available from 2010 Census.

### Educational Attainment

	Maryland	% Adult pop. over 25 Yrs
High School Grad or Higher	3,410,847	88.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,396,843	36.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 ACS.

### Children and Poverty

	2000	%	2010	%	%Change
Total Related Children Under 18	1,194,489	100%	1,170,334	100%	2.0%(-)
Total Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level	141,877	11.9%	148,632	12.7%	4.8%(+)
Total Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level	40,331	13.3%	N/A*	15.4%	N/A*
Total Children 5-17 Below Poverty Level	101,546	11.4%	N/A*	11.7%	N/A*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010. Prepared by MDP.  
\*Comparable data not available from 2010 Census.

### Families

#### Maryland

	Total	Total # of All Families With Related Children Under Age 6	Total # of All Families With Related Children Under Age 18
2000	1,359,318	150,011	662,172
2010	1,447,002	170,870	728,045
Change	6.5%(+)	13.9%(+)	9.9%(+)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010. Prepared by MDP.

### Income, Unemployment and Housing Information

#### Annual Wage Rate Information

Public School Teacher Salary Average (MD) <sup>1</sup>	\$63,849
Nonpublic School Teacher Average (Maryland)	\$60,500
Family Child Care Provider (Maryland)	\$41,177
Child Care Center Director (Maryland)	\$40,539
Center Senior Staff/Teacher (Maryland)	\$25,537
Center Aide (Maryland)	\$17,889

<sup>1</sup>Maximum teacher salary with Bachelor's and Standard Professional Certificate (SPC). Sources: MSDE, Sept 2021, Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS), 2020-21 school year, and MFN's 2021 Statewide Survey of Family Child Care Providers and Child Care Centers.

#### Family Income

##### Median Family Income, 2010 Census

Maryland	\$83,137
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Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 ACS.

##### Median Household Income<sup>1</sup>:

Maryland	\$85,454
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Income Distribution	Percent Households Maryland
under \$25,000	13.2%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	16.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15.3%
\$75,000 +	55.5%

Source: <sup>1</sup>GeoLytics, Inc. report, 2021. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Data is not directly comparable to 2010 or earlier reports.

NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding

#### Average Weekly Cost of Full-time Child Care

Maryland		
Programs	Family Child Care	Child Care Centers
0-23 months	\$241.67	\$341.81
2-4 years	\$206.48	\$259.25
5 years <sup>1</sup>	\$187.80	\$239.62
School Age Full <sup>2</sup>	\$171.54	\$224.62
School Age B/A <sup>3</sup>	\$114.56	\$136.61

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/21.

<sup>1</sup>Average cost of full time care for a 5 year old. Defined as child being in full time child care or being in kindergarten and out-of-school child care, i.e., holidays, school closures and summers. <sup>2</sup>Average cost of full time care for a 6+ school age child (out-of-school child care, i.e., holidays, school closures and summers).

<sup>3</sup>Average cost of before and after school child care.

#### Unemployment Rate

##### Maryland

2000	3.4%
2001	4.0%
2002	3.9%
2003	4.1%
2004	3.9%
2005	3.9%
2006	3.7%
2007	3.6%
2008	4.5%
2009	7.1%
2010	7.3%
2011	7.2%
2012	6.5%
2013	6.2%
2014	5.6%
2015	5.0%
2016	4.5%
2017	4.3%
2018	4.5%
2019	3.9%
2020	8.3%
2021	6.2%

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) 6/2021.

#### Housing Information

Maryland	
Owner-Occupied housing	1,426,267 (67%)
Renter-Occupied housing	701,172 (33%)

Note: Percentage is based on total occupied housing units.

Maryland	
Mean value of Owner-Occupied Housing	\$301,400
Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs With a Mortgage	\$2,016
Median Gross Residential Monthly Rent	\$1,131

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 ACS.

## Supply of Regulated Early Childhood Programs and Education

Children's Programs by Type with Capacity/  
Enrollment

	# of Programs	Capacity <sup>1</sup>
Family Child Care Providers	4,455	34,801
*OCC Licensed Group Programs	2,285	158,347
8-12 Hour Child Care Centers	1,426	106,266
Infant/Toddler	851	9,865
Part-Day	277	N/A
Before/after School (School & Center-Based)	1,514	106,493
Employer-Sponsored Centers	42	3,474
Nursery Schools	528	N/A
Private Kindergarten	163	N/A
**Head Start	92	9,211
***Public Pre-Kindergarten Sites	6	N/A

<sup>1</sup>Some providers may still be closed due to COVID 19 considerations.  
<sup>2</sup>Public Pre K Closure due to COVID-19.

\*Note: Numbers do not total because facilities may have more than one type of program. Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are privately funded.

\*\* Federally funded programs which include Head Start, Early Head Start and Home-based Head Start.

\*\*\*State funded.

Source: MFN/LOCATE Child Care, 6/21; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

## Education

## Public and Private Schools (Elementary and Middle)

	Public	Private*
Elementary Schools	787	69
Middle Schools	213	3
Combined	85	414

## Elementary School Enrollment

	Public	Private*
Pre-Kindergarten	23,616	18,760
Kindergarten	58,391	7,373
Grades 1 - 6	393,455	40,911
Total	475,462	67,044

Source: MSDE, 2020-21 school year. Enrollment figures are for September 30, 2020. Private schools include MSDE approved schools and those operated by a tax-exempt religious organization which hold a letter of exemption from approval in accordance with State law.

\*Self reported data from Maryland Nonpublic Schools as reported to MSDE.\*Self reported data from Maryland Nonpublic Schools as reported to MSDE.

Density of Family Providers and Center Programs  
by Jurisdiction

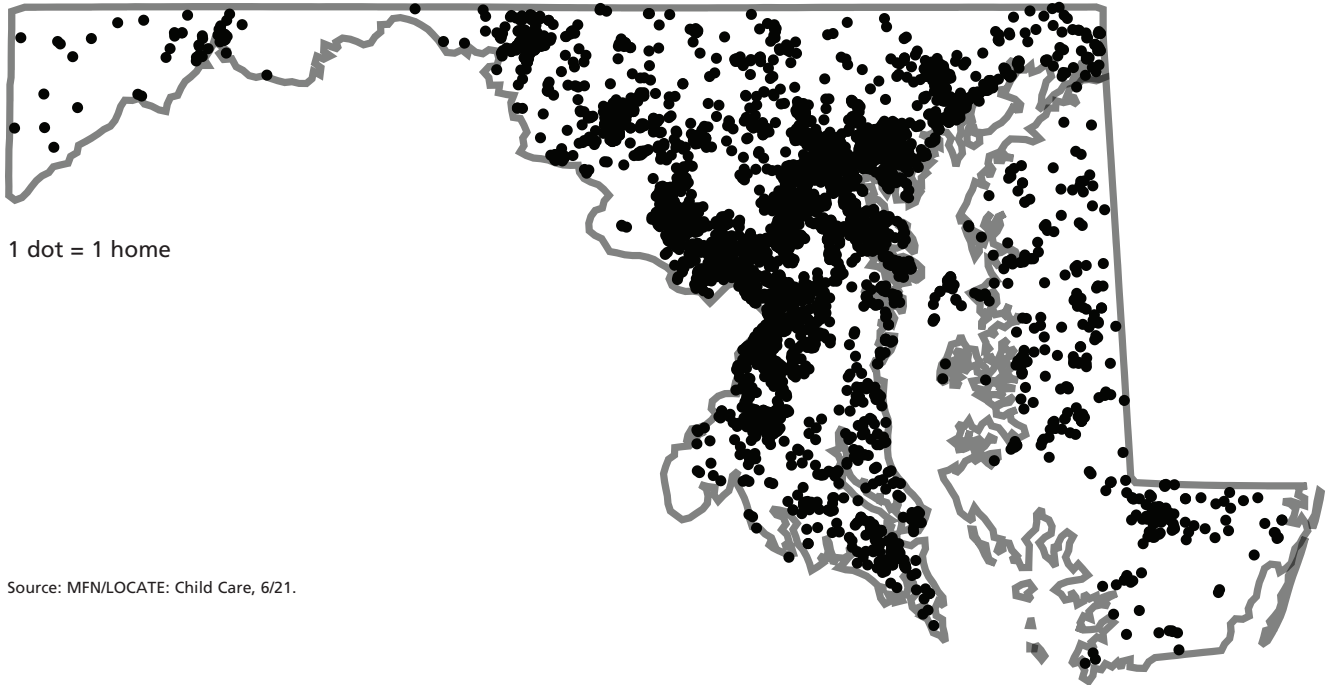
The following chart shows the number of registered family child care providers and licensed full-day child care centers in Maryland as of June 30, 2021.

Jurisdiction	Family Providers	Capacity	8-12 Hour Centers	Capacity
Allegany	42	331	14	925
Anne Arundel	363	2,773	113	10,046
Baltimore City	374	2,995	157	7,639
Baltimore County	567	4,437	213	15,953
Calvert	82	643	32	1,865
Caroline	57	437	4	248
Carroll	108	817	44	3,903
Cecil	71	564	21	1,305
Charles	166	1,248	38	2,870
Dorchester	41	325	8	249
Frederick	275	2,088	61	5,091
Garrett	12	105	9	189
Harford	217	1,697	44	4,234
Howard	249	1,921	94	8,570
Kent	19	141	3	181
Montgomery	743	5,874	259	21,120
Prince George's	588	4,694	209	14,171
Queen Anne's	61	453	8	703
St. Mary's	131	1,021	18	1,295
Somerset	15	113	5	199
Talbot	37	292	12	668
Washington	137	1,066	23	1,740
Wicomico	82	627	27	2,314
Worcester	18	139	10	788
Totals	4,455	34,801	1,426	106,266

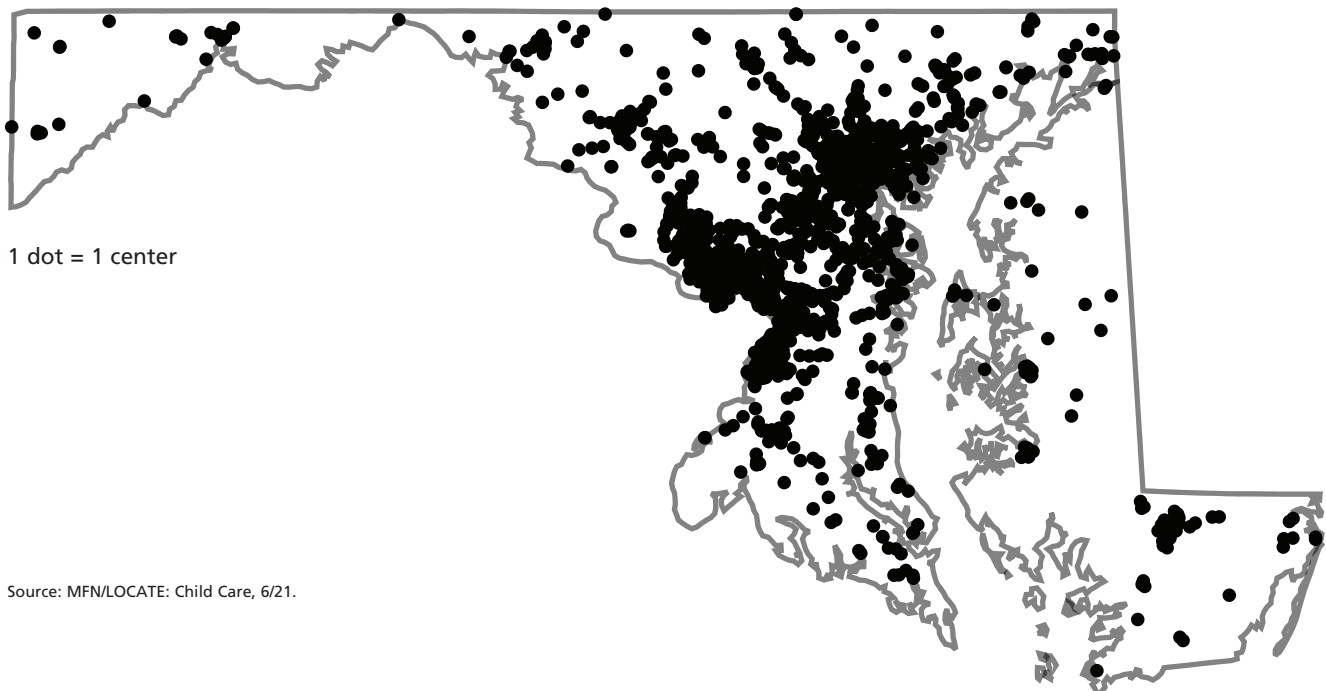
Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/21.

### Supply of Regulated Child Care

#### Density of Regulated Family Child Care Homes in Maryland

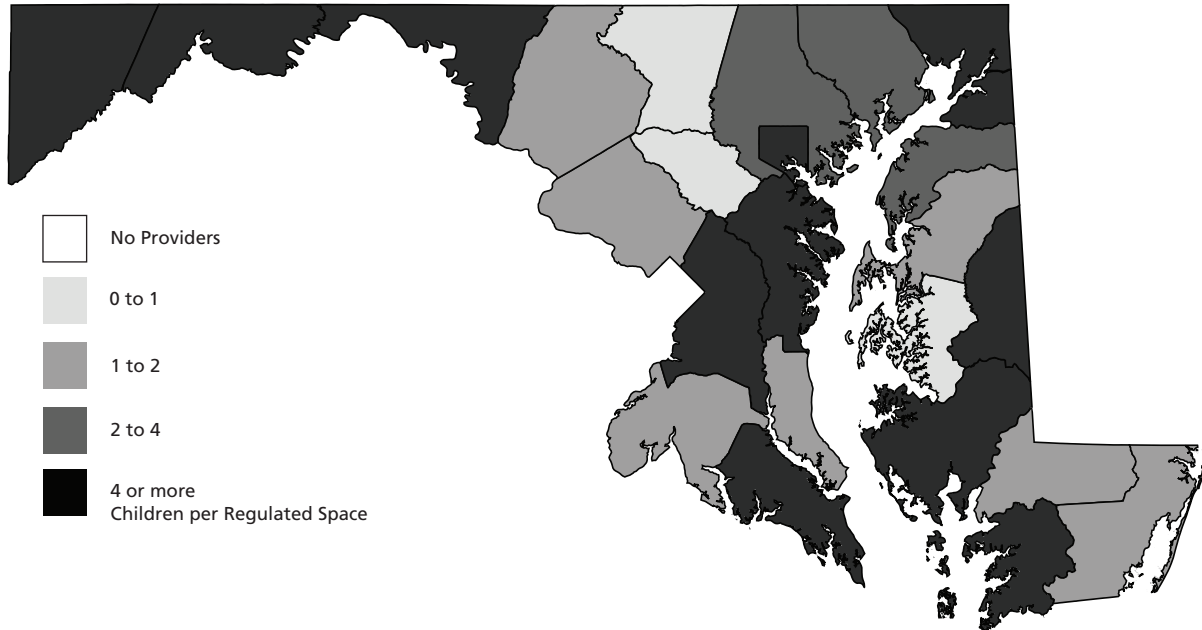


#### Density of Licensed 8-12 Hour Child Care Centers in Maryland



## Supply of Regulated Child Care

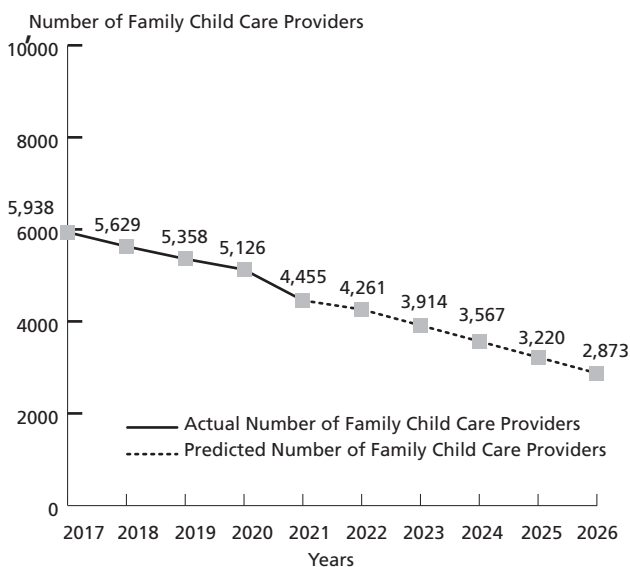
### Number of Children 0-5 Years Per Regulated Child Care Space by Census Tract



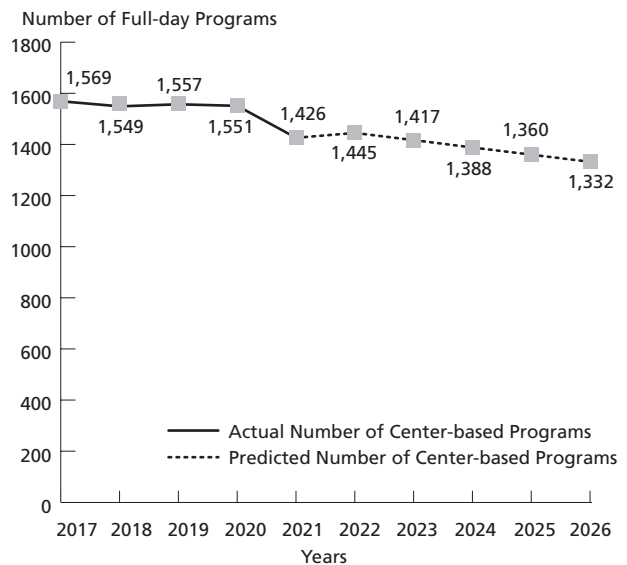
This map is based on census tracts defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. It does not accurately delineate land/water boundaries in some census tracts.  
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010. MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/21.

## Past and Anticipated Growth Patterns for Family/Center Providers

### Family Child Care Providers in Maryland 2017-2026



### Center-based Programs in Maryland 2017-2026 Full-day (8 to 12 hours)

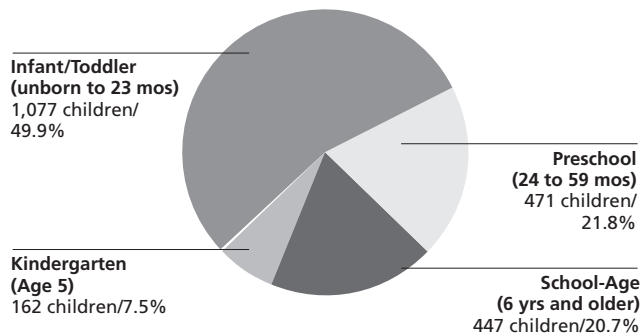


These predictions were generated with the use of the Multiple Regression Analysis and Forecasting template. The predictions generated by the Model do not reflect the effects of current changes to social programs affecting child care.  
Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/21.

### Demand for Child Care

#### Children Served by Age

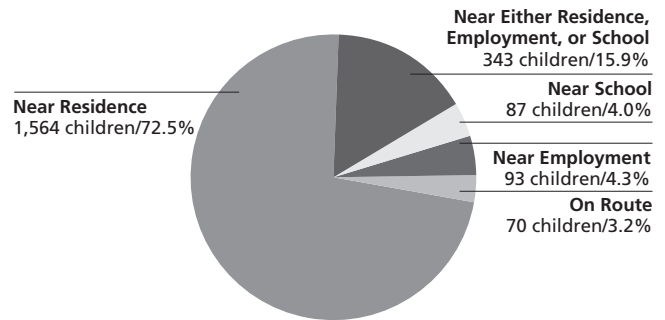
N=2,157



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).  
NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

#### Children Served by Locational Preferences for Care

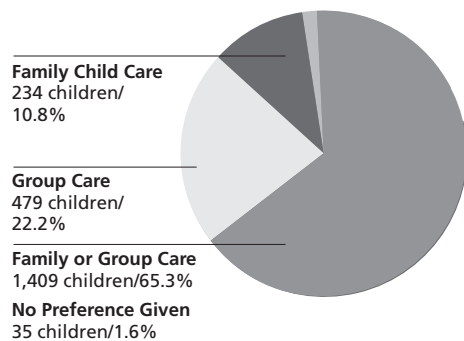
N=2,157



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).  
NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

#### Children Served by Type of Care Preferred

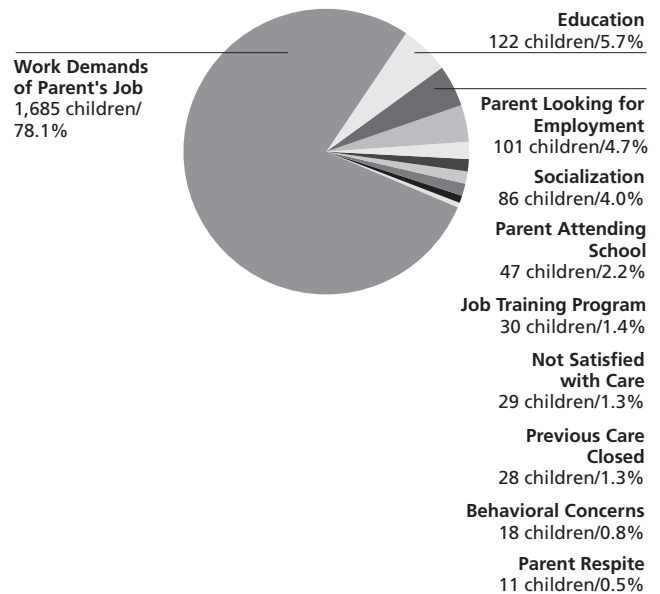
N=2,157



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).  
NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

#### Reason Child Care is Needed

N=2,157



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).  
NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.



## Demand for Child Care

**Number of Children Served by LOCATE: Child Care**  
2,157 children (7/1/20-6/30/21)

**Full-time or Part-time Care Needs of Children Served** N=2,157

Full-time: 1,772 children (82.2%)

Part-time: 336 children (15.6%)

Other\*: 49 children (2.3%)

\* Includes requests for sick, backup and temporary care.

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).

### Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*

**LOCATE Calls received from parents with children eligible for or receiving CCS**  
1,688 (78.3%)

Note: The Child Care Scholarship Program (\*formerly Child Care Subsidy Program) is a statewide subsidy program funded with federal and state dollars and administered by the Maryland State Department of Education through the local Department of Social Services. The Working Parents Assistance Program is a separate county-wide child care subsidy program funded and administered by Montgomery County Government for eligible working families.

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

### Major Reasons Parents Could Not Find Child Care in Maryland

Reason	Count
Other	32
Cost	11
No vacancies for preschool	9
No vacancies for infant	7
Combination of ages	5
No vacancies for school age	5
Schedule	5
Hours of operation /no part time	2
No vacancies for Head Start	2
Location	1
Quality of care	1
Special Needs	1

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).

### Major Factors Important to Parents Who Found Child Care in Maryland

Factor	Count
Educational program	186
Caregiver	169
Environment	143
Proximity to home, school, work	138
Cost	81
Hours of operation/part time	47
Only program/provider with vacancy	39
Transportation	6
Escort	4

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).

## Supply of Child Care

### Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*

**Family Child Care Providers willing to care for CCS children in Maryland**  
1,734 (38.8% of total family child care providers)

**Child Care Centers willing to care for CCS children in Maryland**  
1,063 (74.16% of total child care centers)

LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network Baltimore, June 2021.

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

**Maryland FY21 Allocation (estimated)**  
\$154,763,904 = 17,258 estimated number of children enrolled

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care.

### Special Needs Child Care

**Family providers who serve/have served children with special needs**  
2,559 (57.2% of total family child care providers in Maryland)

**Centers who serve/have served children with special needs**  
954 (66.5% of total child care centers in Maryland)

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/20-6/30/21).

### Definitions

**Before/After-School Care:** School-Age child care offers care to children enrolled in Kindergarten or above. Care is provided before and/or after school and during school holidays/vacations. Programs are licensed by the Office of Child Care. Programs may operate from a school building or other licensed facility.

**Census of Population and Housing:** There are two versions of the Census questionnaire: a short form which asks a limited number of population and housing questions of all households, and a long form questionnaire which asks additional social and economic questions of a sample of all households. The user should note that data obtained from a sample are subject to sampling variability, and that there are limitations to many of these data.

**Child Care:** The care or supervision of a child when the child's parent has given the child's care over to another for some portion of a 24-hour-day as a supplement to the parent's primary care of the child. (OCC)

**Child Care Center:** Child care provided in a facility that, for part or all of the day, provides care to children in the absence of the parent. Centers are licensed by the Office of Child Care.

**Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*:** Provides financial assistance to eligible families in securing care for their children in registered family child care homes or licensed child care centers while parents/guardians are attending school, working, or in job training.

**Children with Special Needs:** Children who, because of a disability or other special educational, developmental, physical, emotional, behavioral, or medical condition, require additional care, or whose activities are restricted by a certain condition. (OCC)

**Current Median Family Income:** Current median family income is the value shown in a Geolytics report dated July 2021.

**Current Population Estimates:** Current population estimates are based on GeoLytics, Inc. Reports.

**Educational Attainment:** The highest level of school completed or the highest degree received. Educational attainment figures were used for persons over 25 years of age. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Employer-Sponsored Centers:** A child care center located on-site or off-site which is sponsored by a corporation, business, or other employer. Employees are given priority for enrollment slots.

**Family Child Care:** The care given to a child younger than 13 years old or to a developmentally disabled person younger than 21 years old, in place of parental care for less than 24 hours a day, in a residence other than the child's residence and for which the provider is paid. Regulations allow a family child care provider to care for as many as eight children at any time. (OCC)

**Family Household Income:** Family includes a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Head Start:** Project Head Start provides comprehensive developmental services for children from low-income families. Head Start is comprised of four components including Education, Health, Parent Involvement, and Social Services. Head Start Centers serve children from age 3 to school entry age from income eligible families.

**Infant/Toddler:** In the State of Maryland, "infant" means a child under 18 months old. "Toddler" means a child 18 months old or older but younger than 2 years old. (OCC) MFN reports "infant" as a child birth through 23 months of age.

**Kindergarten:** An instructional program for children who are 5 years old by September 1st of each academic year. Programs may be operated by a private or public school. Kindergarten is the year of school which precedes entrance to first grade.

**Nursery Schools:** An instructional program approved or exempted by the Maryland State Department of Education for children who are two through four years old. The maximum length of the program is 6 hours per day, however most operate only a few hours per day and may meet only two or three times per week for a nine month period.

**Owner Costs with Mortgage (Selected Monthly):** The sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fees or mobile home costs. A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

## Definitions

**Part Day:** A program regulated by OCC with an educational focus for children one or two years before entering kindergarten. These programs are usually 2-3 hrs/day, 2-3 days/week, nine months/year.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** These are publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs for eligible 4-year-old children administered by local boards of education or qualified vendors. The programs have the overall goal of providing learning experiences to help children develop and maintain school readiness skills necessary for successful school performance. Local school systems shall enroll all 4-year-old applicants from economically disadvantaged or homeless families.

**Poverty Level:** The poverty guideline for a family of four persons was \$26,500 in 2021. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jan 2021)

**Renter Occupied Gross Monthly Rent:** Monthly contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels, if these are paid by the renter. All occupied housing units which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter-occupied. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Unemployment Rate:** Civilians 16 years old and over are classified unemployed if they (1) were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, and (2) were looking for work during the last four weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job. Also included were civilians who did not work at all during the reference week and were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

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