

## Early care and education (ECE) facts

### Children age 5 and younger in Minnesota

Approximately 415,183 young children age 5 and younger reside in Minnesota in 303,883 families, representing 8 percent of the total population.

- 15 percent live in households with incomes at or below poverty; 18 percent in households at 101 to 200 percent of poverty; and 67 percent in households above 200 percent of poverty.
- 78 percent are white, 9 percent African or African American, 5 percent two or more racial groups, 4 percent Asian, 1 percent American Indian, and 3 percent some other group; 9 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino.
- Young children are more diverse and more likely to be in low-income households than Minnesotans generally (89% white and 8% in poverty).

*Source: 2006 American Community Survey.*

### Number of early care and education programs and providers

Minnesota has a mix of regulated and unregulated programs and providers that provide early care and education.

- About 10,491 licensed family child care homes
- 829 licensed child care centers
- 519 licensed preschools
- 338 School Readiness programs (primarily serving children identified through Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening)
- 36 Head Start programs
- About 150,000 family, friend, and neighbor (informal) caregivers

*Sources: CCR&R, Minnesota Department of Education, Wilder Research.*

### Children ages 0-2 and 3-5 enrolled in quality early childhood programs

Child care licensing supports a basic level of quality; determining higher levels of quality relies on information about the educational attainment of providers, the accreditation status of centers, and direct observation.<sup>1</sup>

- Infant and toddler enrollment in child care: 70,086
- Infant and toddler enrollment in child care with an indicator of quality: 10,788 (15%)
- Of sites caring for infants and toddlers, those with an indicator of quality: 1,294 (11%)
- Children age 2 and younger served by Head Start: 2,644
- Preschool-age enrollment in Head Start or child care: 157,267 (15,206 in Head Start)
- Preschool-age enrollment in Head Start or child care with an indicator of quality: 35,213 (22%)
- Of sites caring for preschoolers, those with an indicator of quality: 1,411 (11%)
- Children age 3 to 5 served by School Readiness programs: 9,989

*Sources: CCR&R; School Readiness Program and Participant Data FY 2007 (School Readiness); Minnesota Head Start Facts and Stats <<http://www.mnheadstart.org/facts.html>> (Head Start). For family child care providers, the quality indicator is a child-related bachelor's degree. For centers and preschools, accreditation is the indicator. All Head Start programs are considered quality programs.*

### Number of children served by Child Care Assistance Program

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial subsidies to help eligible low-income families pay for child care, with families making co-payments based on family income.

- About 17,464 children age 5 and younger are served in an average month.
- As of February 2008, 4,000 families (with children age 12 and younger) were on a waiting list for assistance.
- In 2003, the legislature cut the CCAP budget by \$86 million, reducing the total number of children served in 2004-05 by an estimated 10,000.

*Sources: Department of Human Services, Child Care Assistance Program Facts and Figures and Family Profile, 2007; Children's Defense Fund.*

<sup>1</sup> Minnesota's quality rating system, Parent Aware, lists sites rated higher for quality, but the system is not yet available on a statewide level. See <http://www.parentawareratings.org/> for more information.

### Minnesota kindergarten readiness results

These results are based on an assessment by kindergarten teachers observing children demonstrating knowledge, skills, and behaviors in varying ways over a period of time. Using a structured checklist of several indicators in six domains of development, teachers observe and assess if children are proficient, in process (inconsistently demonstrating proficiency), or are not yet developmentally proficient on each indicator. The study includes a 10 percent sample of children representing children statewide.

Results for two domains in 2007 (the state does not provide an overall assessment combining all domains) show that of the 6,493 children assessed:

- 52 percent are proficient in personal and social development, up from 39 percent in 2002.
- 50 percent are proficient in language and literacy, up slightly from 44 percent in 2002.
- 40 percent are “in process,” the same as in 2002.
- 8 percent are assessed as “not yet” in personal and social development, down from 13 percent in 2002.
- 10 percent are assessed as “not yet” in language and literacy, down from 18 percent in 2002.

These results have been fairly stable since 2003.

Readiness levels are related to income, but specific levels are not reported by income in this study.

*Source: Minnesota School Readiness Study: Developmental Assessment at Kindergarten Entrance, Fall 2007, Minnesota Department of Education.*

### Public and private spending on early care and education

Total public spending in 2008 was nearly \$399 million, an increase of about 6 percent since 2002 in real dollars, but about a 13 percent decrease in adjusted dollars according to the consumer price index.

- The proportion of total spending coming from Federal appropriations (for the Child Care Assistance Program and Head Start) has increased from 47 percent in 2002 to 55 percent in 2008.
- The largest state expenditures for education programs are for Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Head Start, \$21 million and \$20 million, respectively.
- 54 percent of the total spending goes for early care and education access (child care subsidies), 43 percent for early education programs, and 3 percent to improve quality.

In addition to these appropriations, in 2008, tax expenditures for Child and Dependent Care totaled \$13.9 million.

In 2007, early childhood grantmaking by Minnesota foundations totaled about \$23.6 million.

Private spending for early care and education is an estimated \$1.2 billion annually (Itasca Project).

*Sources: Minnesota Department of Health; Minnesota House Research Department; Survey of Early Childhood Funders Network.*

**Wilder  
Research**

[www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)

451 Lexington Parkway North  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104  
651-280-2700; FAX 651-280-3700



Author: Richard Chase  
November 2008