



Support for Working Parents: The State of Missouri Child Care

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The state of Missouri is home to **at least 8,486 facilities**¹ providing the services of:

- Full-day child care
- Part-day preschool or pre-k, including Head Start (some part-week and/or part-year)
- Early Head Start
- Before- and after-school care for children and youth in kindergarten through middle school
- Nontraditional hour care for employees on 2nd or 3rd shift, or weekend work

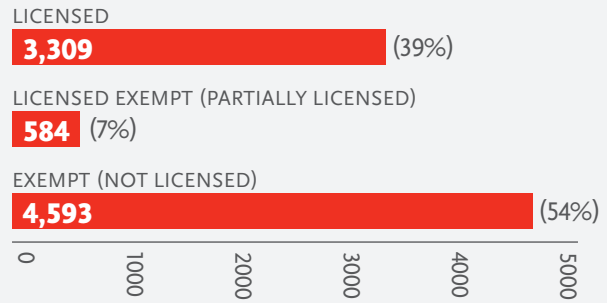
Across all these categories (except for programs operated by Head Start agencies and public schools which do not charge tuition), the vast majority of these facilities are **small and micro-businesses**² **selling a service** to customers for a fee and/or accepting fee assistance (subsidy) payments from the Department of Social Services Children's Division for their income-eligible customers.³

Of these known facilities, **3,309 (39%) are licensed** by the Section for Child Care Regulation in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. An additional **584 (7%) facilities are in a category called licensed exempt**, mostly operated by faith organizations, and required to pass only sanitation and fire inspections.⁴ Of the rest, **4,593 (54% of all known facilities) are exempt from licensing**, and most—about 3,900 of those unregulated facilities—are family child care homes that serve four or fewer children not related to the business operator, registered with the Department of Social Services to receive subsidy payments for low-income children.

A Sample County

All Missouri counties but one support some licensed programs. With 308 children who are under the age of 6 and have working parents,⁵ Daviess County has six (6) facilities; four (4) exempt and two (2) licensed exempt. Data on the capacity of those facilities are not gathered as part of the state's monitoring role, so the percentage of the County's young children being served is not known. Data are collected on children whose tuition is paid

Child Care Regulation Types



through the state's fee assistance (subsidy) program and some of these six Daviess County businesses receive government funding, serving 16 children in December 2012 and nine (9) children in July 2013.⁶ Other facilities in the Exempt category may also be available to parents in Daviess County but, unless they receive state fee assistance, there is no official record of their operation.

Available Capacity Compared to Demand

Comparing the number of young children who have working parents to the capacity of licensed facilities available in all counties reveals a **wide range of availability**.⁷ Employed parents of children under age six in Ray County will find that the permitted child capacity of licensed facilities is sufficient to serve just 7.1% of this age group. The licensed capacities in St. Louis City and Pettis County are sufficient to serve 81% and 106%, respectively, of children under age six whose parents are employed.

Statewide, 113 counties have a licensed capacity sufficient to serve no more than 75% of the population of young children whose parents are employed. In 89 of those counties (77% of the state), the licensed capacity is sufficient to serve less than 50% of these children, and in 26 counties, the licensed capacity is sufficient for less than 25% of this population.

In most of the state, licensed capacity is sufficient to serve between 25% and 50% of children under age six whose parents are in the workforce.



Licensed Capacity as Percentage of Population of Children Under Age 6 with All Parents in the Workforce

<25%	25% to 49.99%			50% to 74.99%	75% +
Barry	Andrew	Holt	Phelps	Adair	Pettis
Barton	Atchison	Howard	Platte	Benton	St. Louis City
Caldwell	Audrain	Howell	Polk	Boone	
Carroll	Bates	Iron	Pulaski	Cape Girardeau	
Cedar	Bollinger	Jasper	Putnam	Carter	
Clinton	Buchanan	Jefferson	Randolph	Cass	
Dade	Butler	Laclede	Ste. Genevieve	Cole	
Dallas	Callaway	Lafayette	Saline	Dunklin	
Daviess	Camden	Linn	Schuyler	Greene	
DeKalb	Chariton	Livingston	Scotland	Henry	
Douglas	Christian	Macon	Stoddard	Hickory	
Lawrence	Clark	Mercer	Stone	Jackson	
Lewis	Clay	Miller	Sullivan	Johnson	
Lincoln	Cooper	Mississippi	Taney	Knox	
Maries	Crawford	Moniteau	Vernon	Madison	
McDonald	Dent	Monroe	Warren	Marion	
Montgomery	Franklin	Morgan	Washington	Nodaway	
Ozark	Gasconade	New Madrid	Wayne	Osage	
Reynolds	Gentry	Newton	Webster	Perry	
Ripley	Grundy	Oregon	Worth	Pike	
St. Clair	Harrison	Pemiscot	Wright	St. Charles	
Shannon				St. Francois	
Shelby				St. Louis County	
Ralls				Scott	
Ray					
Texas					

Counties are listed in alphabetical order, rather than by numeric rankings

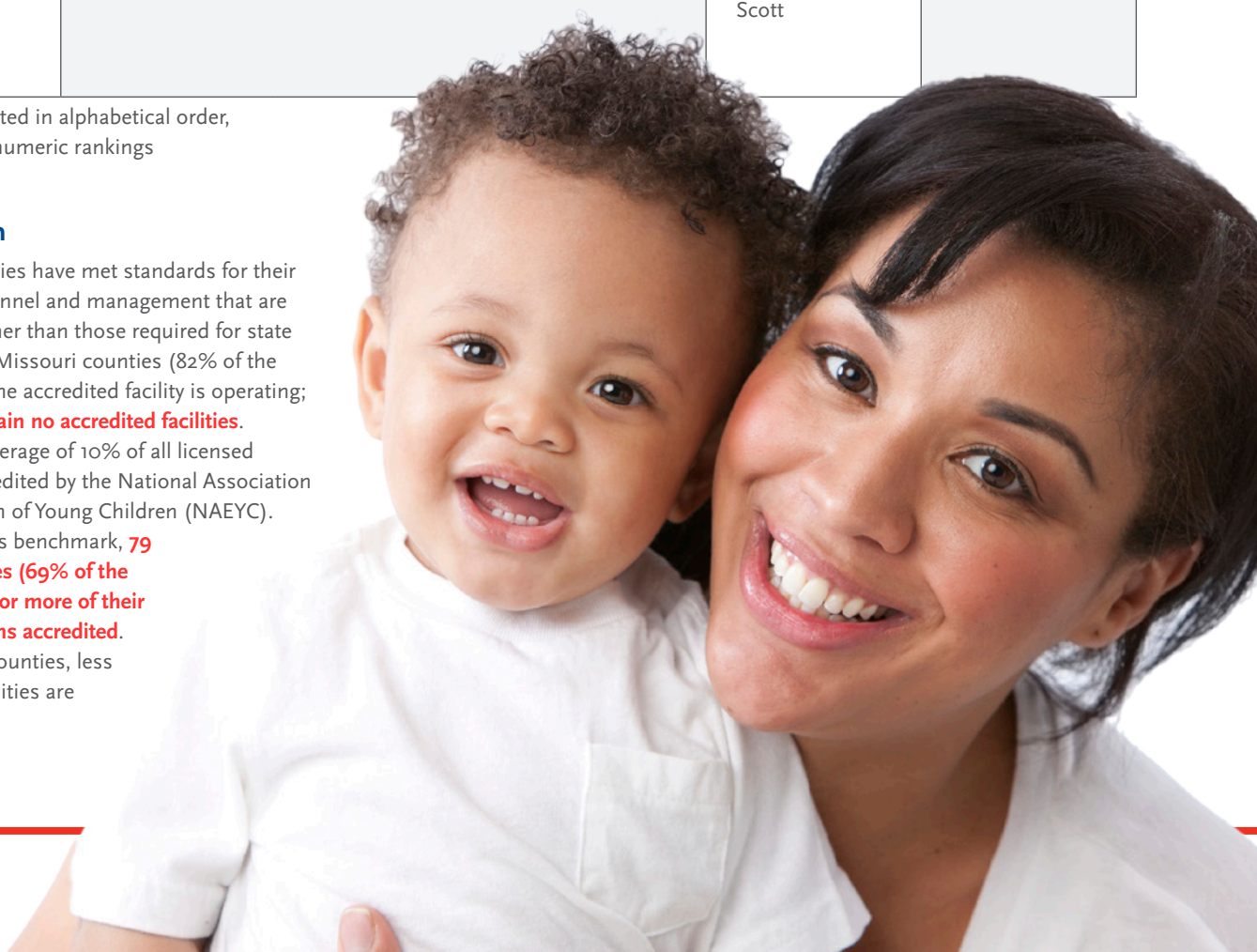
Accreditation

Accredited facilities have met standards for their programs, personnel and management that are significantly higher than those required for state licensing. In 94 Missouri counties (82% of the state), at least one accredited facility is operating; **21 counties contain no accredited facilities.**

Nationally, an average of 10% of all licensed centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Compared to this benchmark, **79 Missouri counties (69% of the state) have 10% or more of their licensed programs accredited.**

In 36 Missouri counties, less than 10% of facilities are accredited.



DATA SOURCES

Data in this report are from the following sources:

2011 Population - Data from U.S. Census Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Missouri: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011.

Population Under 6 - Data from the census report - POPULATION UNDER 18 YEARS BY AGE Universe: Population under 18 years, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Census (ACS_10_5YR B09001).

Population Under 6 with Both Parents Working + Single Parents Working - Data from B23008: AGE OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS IN FAMILIES AND SUBFAMILIES BY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENTS - Universe: Own children under 18 years in families and subfamilies, 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables.

Number of Facilities: Active & Inactive, Licensed, Licensed Exempt & Exempt, from the Work Life System (WLS) database at Child Care Aware® of Missouri, as of June 15, 2013.

Number of LICENSED Facilities (WLS) - Programs that are active or inactive and licensed.

LICENSED Capacity (WLS) - Total Capacity field from facilities that are active or inactive and licensed.

Number of ACCREDITED Facilities (WLS) - Programs that are active or inactive and licensed or licensed exempt, with any accreditation checked.

ENDNOTES

¹ There are more facilities, often known only to their neighbors and their customers, which are not licensed and do not receive fee assistance payments from the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division.

² Most micro-businesses in this industry are family child care facilities operated in an individual's home, employing only one or two workers.

³ Fee assistance payments from the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division are funded with a mix of federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) dollars, transferred funds from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, and state general revenue.



⁴ Licensed Exempt facilities are not required to meet program or personnel standards, including age-appropriate limits on group size and the number of children per each adult (adult:child ratio).

⁵ Includes children under age 6 with a single mother or single father who works out of the home and those with two parents, both of whom work outside the home.

⁶ Data are from a December 2012 Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division data import to the Work Life System (WLS) database at Child Care Aware® of Missouri and from an August 5, 2013 personal communication from Cindy Burks, Child Care Program Administrator in the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division

⁷ The permitted child capacity of licensed facilities is the only data available on community capacity; permitted capacities at Licensed Exempt and Exempt facilities are not established and, therefore, not recorded by any organization.

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