

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025



ANNUAL REPORT **EARLY CARE & EDUCATION LICENSING**

DECEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Early Care & Education Licensing Report provides information regarding the licensing activities and inspections performed by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Division of Regulatory Compliance, Bureaus of Early Care and Education Licensing and Family Child Care Licensing and Quality Assurance as required by Sections 3301.57 and 5104.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Department is required to prepare an annual report on inspections conducted under these sections. The report shall include the number of inspections conducted, the number and types of violations found, and the steps taken to address the violations. The department shall file the report with the governor, the president and minority leader of the senate, and the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives on or before the first day of January of each year. Any questions related to this report can be directed to info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

This report outlines State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 licensing activities conducted between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, for the following program types:

- **Child Care Centers** - A child care center is defined as any place that is not the permanent residence of the licensee or administrator in which child care is provided, with or without compensation, for seven to 12 children at one time, or any place in which child care is provided for 13 or more children at one time.
- **Family Child Care (FCC) Type A Homes** - An FCC Type A Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for seven to 12 children.
- **FCC Type B Homes** - An FCC Type B Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for one to six children.
- **Preschool** – A preschool is defined as a child care program for preschool children that is operated by a school district board of education or an eligible nonpublic school, or a child care program for preschool children age three or older that is operated by a county board of developmental disabilities or a community school.
- **School Age Child Care** – A school age child care program is defined as a child care program for only school children that is operated by a school district board of education, county board of developmental disabilities, or eligible nonpublic school, or a child care program operated by an authorized private before and after school care program.

During SFY 2025, Ohio had 8,950 licensed child care programs.

Program Setting Type	Total Programs	Number of New Programs Licensed in SFY25
Child Care Center	4,586	402
FCC - Type A Home	397	58
FCC - Type B Home	2,111	190
Preschool	1,539	40
School Age Child Care	317	13
Grand Total	8,950	703

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Licensing and monitoring activities for child care centers and preschool and school age child care programs are carried out by DCY staff located regionally across the state. The 88 county departments of job and family services (JFS) conduct licensing and monitoring activities for FCC homes.

DCY utilizes a hybrid child care inspection model, involving both differential and risk assessment monitoring. With differential monitoring, the frequency and depth of monitoring are based on each program's history of rule compliance. With risk assessment monitoring, rule violations are grouped into categories based on the potential risk of harm to children. Programs with serious risk, or an accumulation of other risk category, violations are subject to additional inspections and enforcement actions.

State and county licensing specialists inspect each program to assess minimum health and safety standards, as required by Ohio Revised Code Sections 5104 and 3301 and Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5180:2-12, 5180:2-13, 5180-32, and 5180-37. Announced pre-licensing inspections are conducted for new programs that have applied for licenses. Once licensed, new programs are issued a one-year provisional license. If a program demonstrates full compliance at the end of their provisional period, the provisional license may be amended to a non-expiring continuous license.

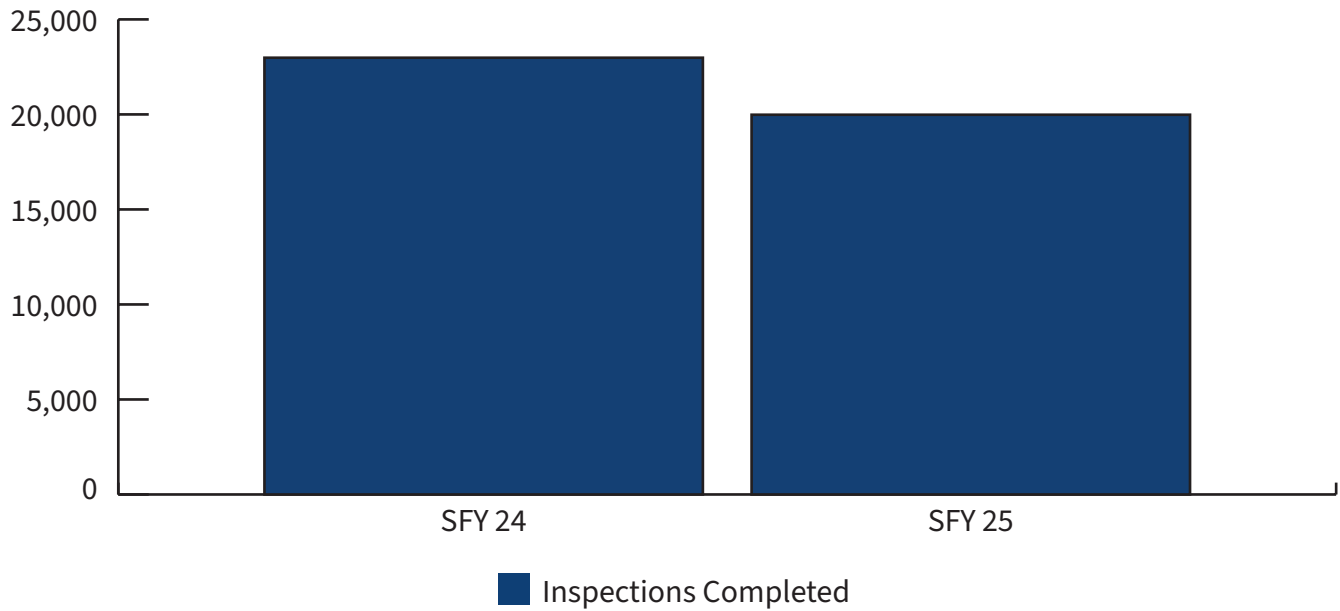
After the initial license is approved, child care centers, preschool and school age child care programs receive at least one unannounced inspection each fiscal year. FCC Type A and B Homes receive at least two inspections, one in each half of the state fiscal year, of which at least one is unannounced.

In addition to routine inspections, DCY and county JFS licensing specialists are mandated to investigate complaints regarding rule violations of Ohio's licensing regulations. After completing an investigation, the licensing specialist determines whether the allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unable to be determined for each allegation. A substantiated allegation is one in which there is enough evidence to support the allegation. An unsubstantiated allegation is one in which there is clear evidence that the allegation was false or did not occur. An allegation deemed "unable to be determined" means the licensing specialist could not determine whether the allegation was true or false.

During on-site inspections, licensing specialists document findings in the statewide licensing system, Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS). They generate reports with details of the on-site inspections. Any areas of non-compliance require corrective action to become compliant. At the conclusion of each inspection, the licensing specialist conducts an exit interview to review each finding and provide technical assistance to help support the program's compliance. Once the report and exit interview are complete, a copy of the report is electronically forwarded to the program, and the report is uploaded to the DCY website for review by the public at [Find Quality Rated Early Care and Education | Ohio Child Care Search](#).

During SFY 2025, a total of 19,983 inspections were completed at Ohio's licensed early care and education programs. The table below reflects the number of inspections completed for all licensed early care and education programs during each of the two state fiscal years since DCY was created. The decrease in inspections from SFY 24 to SFY 25 is a result of the transition year for Step Up To Quality (SUTQ), Ohio's quality rating improvement system (QRIS) for early care and education programs. During the transition year, ongoing SUTQ inspections were not conducted as programs adjusted to new standards and requirements.

Inspections Completed



Below is the breakdown of the inspections by setting type. Of the inspections completed, 2,080 were initiated due to child care center complaints, 21 preschool complaints, 3 school age child care complaints, 83 FCC Type A home complaints, and 151 FCC Type B home complaints, for a total of 2,338 complaints investigated.

Program Setting Type	Total Inspections SFY25	Completed by
Child Care Center	10,634	DCY
FCC - Type A Home	2,306	DCY
FCC - Type B Home	329	DCY
Preschool	1,096	County JFS
School Age Child Care	5,618	County JFS
Grand Total	19,983	

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to monitoring and facilitating compliance through inspections and complaint investigations, licensing specialists offer technical assistance and training to early care and education programs to promote compliance and educate providers on quality practices. Technical assistance consists of providing suggestions for reaching and maintaining compliance, explaining the intent of the rule, and sharing best practices. The DCY licensing specialists provide targeted technical assistance to new administrators by contacting them to answer questions and provide resources. Routine trainings are also conducted for early care and education programs throughout Ohio. These trainings review all licensing requirements, so administrators have a clear understanding of the expectations. Additionally, DCY provides various technical assistance documents to programs regarding licensing and SUTQ requirements.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

All non-compliances are documented in the licensing inspection report and reviewed with the administrator, director, FCC Type A or Type B Home provider, or program designee upon completion of the inspection. Licensed programs must submit a corrective action plan (CAP) for identified non-compliances cited during an inspection. Programs submit CAPs to their licensing specialist via the statewide licensing system, Ohio Child Licensing & Quality System (OCLQS). The CAP includes the program's response to the following:

- What short-term or immediate action has been taken to correct the area of noncompliance?
- Please explain the planned changes to the system(s) or procedure(s) to prevent this noncompliance in the future.
- Who will be responsible for the ongoing implementation of the planned changes to the system(s) or procedure(s) to continue to prevent this noncompliance?

The program may also be required to upload documentation as part of the CAP response. Programs are given a deadline by which they must complete the CAP and submit the required documentation in OCLQS.

Licensing specialists review the CAP response to determine if it adequately addresses the noncompliance. The status of the CAP is displayed on the DCY website documenting the CAP resolution. Licensing specialists verify corrective action plans have been implemented during each program's next licensing compliance visit.

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During on-site inspections, licensing specialists verify program compliance with licensing rules by observing, conducting interviews, and reviewing documentation. Rule violations are documented in the licensing inspection report.

Non-compliances for child care centers and FCC Type A and B homes are categorized as serious, moderate, or low risk. Preschool and school age child care programs do not contain any value less than serious risk non-compliances in Ohio Administrative Code. Serious risk non-compliances are rule violations that may lead to the greatest risk of harm, immediately endangering the health and safety of children while in care, and/or potentially causing death. A serious risk non-compliance must be observed or determined, not inferred, by the licensing specialist. A moderate risk non-compliance must also be observed and not inferred by the licensing specialist. All non-compliances not identified as a moderate or serious risk are considered a low risk non-compliance.

CHILD CARE CENTER NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During the 10,634 inspections at licensed child care centers in SFY 2025, 267 violations resulted in serious risk non-compliances. The five most frequently cited findings are included in the table below.

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
At least one child was left unattended when outside the program's building, offsite on a field or routine trip, during a swimming activity, or alone inside the building with no other adults present.	150
A prohibited guidance and management technique was used, or a child was left unattended, and the incident resulted in a finding of substantiated abuse or neglect by a public children services agency.	45
The owner or administrator misrepresented, withheld or provided inaccurate information to the Department.	25

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Program staff did not protect or remove a child from a situation or person determined to be unsafe, which resulted in a serious incident or injury to the child.	16
The program failed to immediately notify the local public children services agency of suspicions that a child had been abused, neglected or endangered.	10
Other serious risk non-compliance findings cited.	21

During the 10,634 inspections at licensed child care centers in SFY 2025, 5,254 violations resulted in moderate risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited moderate risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Moderate Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
A medical/physical care plan was not on file, incomplete, not followed, unable to be implemented for a child with a health condition, or staff trained to implement the plan were not present when the child was present.	1,220
Background checks were not requested, renewed timely, or the individual was engaged in assigned duties or near children without preliminary approval on file.	911
The program did not maintain the required staff to child ratio.	613
Children were left unattended while inside the program.	323
Toxic chemicals or unsafe equipment (lawn mowers, power tools, etc.) were accessible to children.	322
The program did not have documentation of a fire inspection completed within the previous 12 months without any uncorrected violations or used a space that had not been approved by the fire department for child care.	278
Meals or snacks provided at the program were missing required food groups.	146
A child care staff member used a prohibited technique when managing a child's unacceptable behavior.	136
The program did not have adequate fall surface to soften the impact of a fall under and/or around outdoor play equipment.	131
Infants were placed in something other than an approved crib to rest or sleep.	128
Other moderate risk non-compliance findings cited.	1,046

During the 10,634 inspections at licensed child care centers in SFY 2025, 33,579 violations resulted in low risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited low risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Low Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Training in first aid, CPR, management of communicable disease and/or child abuse recognition and prevention had not been completed as required.	2,371
The child enrollment and health information form was not on file, incomplete or not updated annually.	2,247
Staff medical statements were not on file, were incomplete, or did not have a date of exam within 12 months of the first day of employment.	2,012
Child medical statements were not on file, incomplete, or were not updated every 13 months.	1,276
Employment records in the Ohio Professional Registry were not created or maintained as required.	1,167
Children were not protected from an item or condition which posed a threat to their health, safety or well-being.	1,136
Child care staff members did not complete at least six hours of professional development annually or documentation of completed training did not meet the requirements in rule.	1,113
Child care staff members did not complete the required staff orientation training, as required, or had sole responsibility of children prior to completing the training.	921
The program did not provide a clean and healthy environment, furniture, materials and/or equipment.	745
Verification of completion of a high school education for a child care staff member was not on file as required or documentation of early care and education training was missing or incomplete for a high school junior or senior.	705
Other low risk non-compliance findings cited.	19,886

FCC TYPE A HOME NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During the 1,096 inspections at licensed FCC Type A homes in SFY 2025, 16 violations resulted in serious risk non-compliances. The findings are included in the table below.

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
The provider denied Department staff access to the home.	4
At least one child was left unattended offsite on a field or routine trip, during a swimming activity, or alone inside the home with no other adults present, or a child younger than school-age was left unattended outside the home.	3
Children in care were permitted to use the pool located at the home.	3
Program staff did not protect or remove a child from a situation or person determined to be unsafe, which resulted in a serious incident or injury to the child.	2
The provider or child care staff failed to immediately notify the local public children services agency of suspicions that a child had been abused, neglected or endangered.	2
The provider used a prohibited technique when managing a child's unacceptable behavior.	2

During the 1,096 inspections at licensed child FCC Type A homes in SFY 2025, 377 violations resulted in moderate risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited moderate risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Moderate Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Background checks were not requested, renewed timely, or the individual was engaged in assigned duties or near children without preliminary approval on file.	71
A medical/physical care plan was not on file, incomplete, not followed, unable to be implemented for a child with a health condition, or staff trained to implement the plan were not present when the child was present.	50
Toxic chemicals or unsafe equipment (lawn mowers, power tools, etc.) were accessible to children.	40
Children were not protected from a hazardous item or condition which posed a threat to their health, safety or well-being.	39
The program did not maintain the required staff to child ratio.	19
The outdoor play space was not protected from traffic or other hazards by a continuous fence in good condition, or natural barrier, that ensured children were not able to leave the playground area.	19
The program did not have adequate fall surface to soften the impact of a fall under and/or around outdoor play equipment.	18

Moderate Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
The program did not have documentation of a fire inspection completed within the previous 12 months without any uncorrected violations or used a space that had not been approved by the fire department for child care.	15
The program cared for more children than the approved license capacity.	13
Infants were placed in something other than an approved crib or playpen to rest or sleep.	12
Other moderate risk non-compliance findings cited.	81

During the 1,096 inspections at licensed FCC Type A homes in SFY 2025, 3,547 violations resulted in low risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited low risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Low Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
The child enrollment and health information form was not on file, incomplete or not updated annually.	388
Child medical statements were not on file, incomplete, or were not updated every 13 months.	276
Employment records in the Ohio Professional Registry were not created or maintained as required.	190
Children were not protected from an item or condition which posed a threat to their health, safety or well-being.	129
Attendance records were not being maintained, were incomplete, or were not kept on file at the home for one year.	121
Training in first aid, CPR, management of communicable disease and/or child abuse recognition and prevention had not been completed as required.	103
Child care staff members did not complete at least six hours of professional development annually or documentation of completed training did not meet the requirements in rule.	94
The program's written emergency preparedness and response plan had not been completed, was incomplete, was not updated annually, or staff had not been trained on the plan.	94
Child care staff members did not complete the required staff orientation training, as required, or had sole responsibility of children prior to completing the training.	94
Written parental permission for field or routine trips was not secured, was incomplete, was not maintained on file for one year, or not updated annually for a routine trip.	93
Other low risk non-compliance findings cited.	1,965

FCC TYPE B HOME NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During the 5,618 inspections at licensed FCC Type B homes in SFY 2025, 42 violations resulted in serious risk non-compliances. The five most frequently cited findings are included in the table below.

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
The provider denied Department staff access to the home.	8
Weapons or firearms were on the premises and were accessible to children or not secured as required.	6
The owner or administrator misrepresented, withheld or provided inaccurate information to the Department.	6
Program staff did not protect or remove a child from a situation or person determined to be unsafe, which resulted in a serious incident or injury to the child.	4
An open container of alcohol was accessible to children or was in a space approved or used for child care.	4
Other serious risk non-compliance findings cited.	14

During the 5,618 inspections at licensed FCC Type B homes in SFY 2025, 1,635 violations resulted in moderate risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited moderate risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Moderate Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Background checks were not requested, renewed timely, or the individual was engaged in assigned duties or near children without preliminary approval on file.	279
Children were not protected from a hazardous item or condition which posed a threat to their health, safety or well-being.	214
The outdoor play space was not protected from traffic or other hazards by a continuous fence in good condition, or natural barrier, that ensured children were not able to leave the playground area.	192
Toxic chemicals or unsafe equipment (lawn mowers, power tools, etc.) were accessible to children.	184
The home did not have a working carbon monoxide detector in the basement, or on each floor where care was provided, or the detector was not installed or maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations.	154
A medical/physical care plan was not on file, incomplete, not followed, unable to be implemented for a child with a health condition, or staff trained to implement the plan were not present when the child was present.	146
The program did not have adequate fall surface to soften the impact of a fall under and/or around outdoor play equipment.	92

Moderate Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Medication was within reach of children.	63
Flammable or combustible materials or substances were not stored away from heaters, furnaces, water heaters and gas appliances.	34
Children were not within sight or hearing of the provider.	33
Other moderate risk non-compliance findings cited.	244

During the 5,618 inspections at licensed FCC Type B homes in SFY 2025, 16,562 violations resulted in low risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited low risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Low Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
The child enrollment and health information form was not on file, incomplete or not updated annually.	1,597
Child medical statements were not on file, incomplete, or were not updated every 13 months.	1,175
Employment records in the Ohio Professional Registry were not created or maintained as required.	747
The program's written emergency preparedness and response plan had not been completed, was incomplete, was not updated annually, or staff had not been trained on the plan.	672
Children were not protected from an item or condition which posed a threat to their health, safety or well-being.	660
The program did not have a first aid kit or it was missing required items.	655
Training in first aid, CPR, management of communicable disease and/or child abuse recognition and prevention had not been completed as required.	627
Attendance records were not being maintained, were incomplete, or were not kept on file at the home for one year.	595
Written parental permission for field or routine trips was not secured, was incomplete, was not maintained on file for one year, or not updated annually for a routine trip.	483
The weekly menu was not posted in a place readily accessible to parents, was not currently dated, or did not match the meal or snack served.	429
Other low risk non-compliance findings cited.	8,922

SCHOOL-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During the 2,306 inspections at licensed school-based preschool programs in SFY 2025, 38 violations resulted in serious risk non-compliances. The findings are included in the table below.

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
A child was left unattended inside or outside the facility	33
A child care staff member used a prohibited technique when managing a child's unacceptable behavior.	4
A prohibited guidance and management technique was used, or a child was left unattended, and the incident resulted in a finding of substantiated abuse or neglect by a public children services agency.	1

During the 2,306 inspections at licensed school-based preschool programs in SFY 2025, 2,922 violations resulted in non-serious risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited non-serious risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Individuals used in ratio did not have evidence of a signed medical statement on or before the first day of employment.	318
At least one person onsite did not have current age-appropriate first aid training from an approved provider.	263
At least one person onsite did not have current age-appropriate CPR training from an approved provider.	256
Individuals used in ratio did not have documentation of required orientation training completed within 30 days of the start date.	230
Documentation of a current fire inspection was not on file.	129
Individuals used in ratio did not have a non-guilty non-conviction statement signed annually.	87
Cleaning and sanitizing supplies were stored in a space accessible to children.	84
Individuals used in ratio did not have evidence of criminal background checks that meet the requirements.	77
Child medical statements were not updated every 13 months from the date of exam.	68
Individuals used in ratio did not have documentation of a high school diploma or equivalent on file and available for review.	67
Other non-serious risk non-compliance findings cited.	1,343

SCHOOL-BASED SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

During the 329 inspections at licensed school-based school age child care programs in SFY 2025, 0 violations resulted in serious risk non-compliances. The most frequently cited findings are included in the table below.

Serious Risk Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
No serious risk non-compliance findings were cited.	0

During the 329 inspections at licensed school-based school age child care programs in SFY 2025, 614 violations resulted in non-serious risk non-compliances. The ten most frequently cited non-serious risk non-compliance findings are included in the table below.

Non-Compliance Cited	Total Number of Violations
Individuals used in ratio did not have evidence of a signed medical statement on or before the first day of employment.	57
At least one person onsite did not have current age-appropriate first aid training from an approved provider.	54
At least one person onsite did not have current age-appropriate CPR training from an approved provider.	50
Individuals used in ratio did not have documentation of required orientation training completed within 30 days of the start date.	48
At least one person onsite did not have a current course on the recognition and prevention of child abuse from an approved provider.	47
Documentation of a current fire inspection was not on file.	36
No staff onsite had completed a current course on the recognition of common signs of communicable disease from an approved provider.	35
Individuals used in ratio did not have documentation of a high school diploma or equivalent on file and available for review.	29
Individuals used in ratio did not have evidence of criminal background checks that meet the requirements.	20
The program did not have documentation of emergency drill practice at least once quarterly.	16
Other non-serious risk non-compliance findings cited.	222

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

When a program is unable to achieve and maintain compliance or places children at imminent risk of harm without correcting the issue immediately, DCY may suspend or revoke the program's license, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 119., 3301., and 5104. After a program is recommended for the license to be revoked, a settlement may be reached that includes an agreement of terms between DCY and the program.

The table below shows the number of license revocations, settlement agreements, and license suspensions during SFY 2025.

LICENSING ENFORCEMENT			
Program Setting Type	License Revoked	Settlement Agreement	License Suspension
Child Care Center	11	0	1
FCC - Type A Home	8	0	2
FCC - Type B Home	14	0	4
Preschool	0	0	N/A*
School Age Child Care	0	0	N/A*
Grand Total	33	0	7

*DCY does not have the authority to suspend a Preschool or School Age Child Care license.

SERIOUS INCIDENTS AND INJURIES

A serious incident is defined in rule as an incident that involves or requires any of the following:

- Death of a child while in the care of the program
- An incident, injury or illness that requires professional medical consultation or treatment for a child
- An unusual or unexpected incident which jeopardizes the safety of a child, staff member or employee of the program
- An incident that would be cited as a serious risk non-compliance

All serious incidents or injuries – even when seemingly accidental or unintentional – must be reported to DCY so that further investigation may be conducted. In addition, allegations of child abuse or neglect must be reported and are then investigated by DCY or the county JFS. These may be jointly investigated with the county public children services agency.

The table below indicates the number of serious incidents, injuries, fatalities, and substantiated abuse or neglect findings for all program types licensed and monitored by DCY.

REPORTED SERIOUS INCIDENTS/INJURIES, CHILD FATALITIES, SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE/NEGLECT			
Program Setting Type	Serious Incident/ Injury	Child Fatalities	Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect
Child Care Center	4,621	0	45
FCC - Type A Home	45	0	1
FCC - Type B Home	74	0	4
Preschool	142	0	0
School Age Child Care	6	0	0
Grand Total	4,888	0	51

NUMBER OF CHILD SERVED

During annual inspections, DCY captures the number of children served by programs. This number is a point in time reflection of the children enrolled at the time of the inspection. Enrollment at programs fluctuates, therefore, children receiving a publicly funded child care subsidy must utilize the subsidy (at some point in the fiscal year) to count as a child served.

The table below illustrates the number of children served by all program types licensed/certified/approved by DCY. It also includes the number of children served whose family qualifies for publicly funded child care (PFCC), the child care choice program (CCCP) or the early childhood education grant program. Note the data is unduplicated at the program level for the SFY, but children can be served by multiple program types.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY SETTING TYPE (JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)				
Program Setting Type	Total Enrollment	PFCC Utilization	CCCP Utilization	ECE Utilization
Child Care Center	260,717	125,691	6,991	1,719
Day Camp	2,389	817	0	0
FCC - Type A Home	5,349	7,203	299	26
FCC - Type B Home	14,115	16,961	767	30
In-Home Aide	26	40	0	0
Out of State Registration	N/A	208	14	0
Preschool	83,734	964	81	216
School Age Child Care	17,044	636	40	4
Grand Total	383,374	152,520	8,192	1,995

*Not all ECE utilization is available