



Department of  
Children & Youth

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Child Care Licensing

State Fiscal Year 2024



JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Child Care Licensing Report provides information regarding the licensing activities and inspections performed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Family Assistance, Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring and the newly created Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Division of Regulatory Compliance, Bureau of Early Care and Education Licensing, and Bureau of Quality Assurance as required by Section 5104.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

“The Department shall prepare an annual report on inspections conducted under this section. 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 of the house of representatives on or before the first day of January of each year, beginning in 1999.”

For the first half of the state fiscal year (SFY) 2024, licensing activities were performed by ODJFS Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring. The Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring was managed by a bureau chief, who oversaw all bureau operations. The bureau was structured with a central office and five regional offices throughout the state (Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo). Additionally, the 88 county departments of job and family services conducted licensing and monitoring of family child care homes.

Licensing activities transitioned to DCY for the second half of the SFY 2024. The Bureau of Early Care and Education Licensing and the Bureau of Quality Assurance are each managed by a bureau chief who oversees all bureau operations. The bureaus are structured with central office staff and regional teams throughout the state. The 88 county departments of job and family services still conduct licensing and monitoring for the family child care homes.

This report outlines licensing activities conducted during SFY 2024, between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, for licensed child care centers, Type A Homes, and Type B Homes. 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. A Type A Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for seven to 12 children. A Type B Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for one to six children. During SFY 2024, Ohio had 7,005 licensed child care programs. Of those, 4,468 were child care centers, 368 were Type A Homes, and 2,169 were Type B Homes.

## **INSPECTION SUMMARY**

ODJFS/DCY utilize 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, point values are assigned to rules that pose the greatest risk of harm to children if violated, and then programs are assessed points for each rule violation. Programs with more points are subject to additional inspections and enforcement actions.

State and county licensing specialists inspect child care centers, Type A Homes, and Type B Homes to assess minimum health and safety standards, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5104 and Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-12 and 5101:2-13. 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, the provisional license may be amended to a non-expiring continuous license.

After the initial license is approved, child care centers receive at least one unannounced inspection each year, and Type A and B Homes receive at least two inspections consisting of at least one unannounced inspection. In addition to routine inspections, ODJFS/DCY and county agency 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 Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) software application. They also 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.

## **CHILD CARE CENTER, TYPE A, AND TYPE B HOME INSPECTIONS**

During SFY 2024, a total of 19,854 inspections were completed at licensed Ohio child care programs. Of those, the ODJFS/DCY licensing specialists successfully performed 11,949

inspections at licensed child care centers and licensed 298 new child care centers. County agency licensing specialists conducted the remaining 7,905 inspections at licensed family child care homes. County agency licensing specialists also licensed 274 new Type A and Type B Home providers. Of the inspections completed, 1,972 were initiated due to child care center complaints, and 225 were initiated due to Type A and B Home complaints.

The table below reflects the number of inspections completed, including complaint investigations, during each of the past five state fiscal years for all licensed child care programs.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to monitoring and facilitating compliance through inspections and complaint investigations, licensing specialists offer technical assistance and training to child care 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 ODJFS/DCY licensing specialists provide targeted technical assistance to new administrators by contacting them via telephone upon hire to answer questions and provide resources. Routine trainings are also conducted for child care programs throughout Ohio. These trainings review all licensing requirements, so administrators have a clear understanding of the expectations. Additionally, ODJFS/DCY provides various technical assistance documents to programs regarding licensing and Step Up To Quality requirements.



## **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

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 OCLQS. The CAPs outline programs plans to correct the non-compliance and indicate how they will ensure continued compliance. All non-compliances are documented in the licensing inspection report and reviewed with the administrator, Type A or Type B Home provider, or designee upon completion of the inspection. Programs are given a deadline by which they must complete the CAP and submit the required documentation in OCLQS. The status of the CAP is displayed on the DCY website documenting the CAP resolution.

## **SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE FINDINGS**

During on-site inspections, licensing specialists verify program compliance with licensing rules by observing, conducting interviews, and reviewing documentation. If an inspection identifies multiple violations of the same rule, the program is cited for that non-compliance only once.

Non-compliances are categorized as serious, moderate, or low-risk and are assigned a point value based on the severity of the non-compliance. 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 and is a six-point violation. A moderate risk non-compliance, which is a three-point violation, also may lead to an elevated risk of harm, though not immediately endangering the health and safety of children while in care, must also be observed and not inferred by the licensing specialist. A low-risk non-compliance, a one-point violation, still poses a health or safety risk to children while in care.

The following tables illustrate the type and most frequent serious, moderate, and low-risk violations cited during SFY 2024 for child care centers and Type A and B Homes.

## CHILD CARE CENTER FREQUENTLY CITED NON-COMPLIANCES BY FINDING AND RISK LEVEL

Center Serious Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2024
Supervision Absent - Left Outside/ Offsite/ Swimming Activity/Alone in Building	170
Prohibited Technique/Abuse, Endanger, Neglect – PCSA Substantiated Finding	44
Children Not Protected – Resulted in Serious Incident/Injury	20
Admin/Owner Misleading/False Information	13
No Abuse/Neglect Reporting	11

Center Moderate Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2024
No Plan/Not Complete/Not Followed/Staff Trained	1,208
Background Check – Not OK	923
Ratio Determined Out	508
Toxic Chemicals/Equipment/Machinery Accessible	305
Supervision Absent Indoors	294
No Fire Inspection/Violations/Inspection Not Scheduled Within 30 Days	204
Meal/Snack Requirements Not OK	175
Prohibited Technique Used – Child Care Staff Member	151
Ratio Out More Than Once/Same Group or Different Group	143
Not Sleeping in Cribs	139

Center Low Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2023
Health & Safety Training Not Complete	2,288
Enrollment Form Not Compliant	2,249
Staff Medical Not OK	1,960
Child Medical Not Compliant	1,267
Employment Records in OPR – NOT OK	1,216
General Hazards	1,103
PD Not Enough/Not Acceptable	1,011
No Orientation	935
Attendance Records Not OK	675
Educational Verification Not OK	661



## TYPE A AND B HOME MOST FREQUENTLY CITED NON-COMPLIANCE BY FINDING AND RISK LEVEL

Type A and B Home Serious Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2024
Provider Misleading/False Information	10
Children Not Protected – Resulted in Serious Incident	9
Child Left Unattended Offsite/Alone/Outside	8
Alcohol/Open Container – Children Present	7
Prohibited Technique Used by Provider	6

Type A and B Home Moderate Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2024
Background Checks Not OK	323
Toxic Chemicals/Equipment/Machinery Accessible – Children Present	278
Hazardous Items/Conditions/Situations	263
No plan/Not complete/Not followed/Staff Trained	174
Carbon Monoxide Detector- Absent/Manufacturer's Guidelines	173
No Fence, Natural Barrier, etc. – Immediate Risk	171
Fall Surface Missing/Inadequate	98
Resident Over 18 Years/Not Requested	87
Medication in Reach	68
License Capacity Exceeded	50

Type A and B Home Low Risk Non-Compliances	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2024
Enrollment Form Not Compliant	1,788
Medical Not Compliant	1,429
Employment Records in OPR – Not OK	853
General Indoor Hazards	830
First Aid Kit Not OK	802
Provider Health & Safety Training	768
Attendance Records Not OK	639
No Drills	523
Policies/Procedures Information Missing – List	505
Field/Routine Permission Not OK	503

## CENTER AND TYPE A AND B HOME ENFORCEMENT

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

The table below shows the number of license revocations, settlement agreements, and license suspensions during SFY 2024.

Licensing Enforcement			
Program Type	License Revocation	Settlement Agreement	License Suspension
Centers	9	0	0
Type A Homes	2	0	0
Type B Homes	11	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

## SERIOUS INCIDENTS AND INJURIES

All serious incidents or injuries – even when seemingly accidental or unintentional – must be reported to ODJFS/DCY so that further investigation may be conducted. In addition, allegations of child abuse or neglect must be reported and jointly investigated by ODJFS/DCY or the county agency and 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 ODJFS/DCY.

Reported Serious Incidents/Injuries, Child Fatalities, Substantiated Abuse/Neglect			
Program Type	Serious Incident/Injury	Child Fatalities	Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect
Centers	5,605	2*	44
Type A Homes	49	0	1
Type B Homes	105	0	3
Day Camps	3	0	0
In-Home Aides	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,763</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>

\*Both children were unresponsive after naptime. In each case, it was determined the program was not at fault.

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

The number of children served by ODJFS/DCY programs are captured during annual inspections. Likewise, the number is a point-in-time number which reflects the children enrolled at the time of the current 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.

During SFY 2024, a total of 152,252 children receiving publicly funded child care subsidy were served. The table below illustrates the number of publicly funded children served by all program types licensed/certified/approved by ODJFS/DCY. Note the data is unduplicated at the program level for the SFY, but children can be served by multiple program types.

Total Number of Children Receiving Publicly Funded Child Care	
Program Type	Number of Children Served
Centers	124,809
Type A Homes	6,976
Type B Homes	18,043
Approved Day Camps	708
Certified In-Home Aides	44
Out of State Registration	215
Preschool Child Care	846
School-Age Child Care	611
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,252</b>