



Tracking Early Care and Education in Philadelphia

Access to affordable, high quality early care and education is a growing concern for families in Philadelphia and throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Part of the reason for this is that the number of children under the age of six with parents in the workforce has grown significantly since 1990.

Large numbers of our youngest children spend all or part of their days in child care settings. How well are we supporting the needs of parents and children? Is high quality child care affordable to parents? Is public investment in early childhood education growing? The following is a brief synopsis of the status of early care and education programs in Philadelphia.

NEED:

This data set shows the number of children under age five living in Philadelphia County, the number of children under age 6 with both parents in the workforce and the percentage of those children under age five living in poverty.

Children in Philadelphia

- 113, 966 children under age 6^[1]
- 66,830 (59%) children under age 6 have both parents in the workforce^[2]
- 37% of children under age 5 live in poverty^[3]

AFFORDABILITY:

The cost of full-time child care is a challenge to all families and a particular burden to low income families.

Philadelphia County Cost of Care ^[4]	Median Household Income ^[5]	Cost of Care as % of Median Household Income	Cost of Care as % of 100% Poverty (\$22,050) ^[6]	Cost of Care as % of 200% Poverty (\$44,100) ^[7]
\$18,750	\$33,365	56%	85%	43%

SUBSIDIZED CARE:

Child Care subsidies are available to families that currently or formerly received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and to low-income working families earning up to 200% of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four) at the time of enrollment.

Children 0-5 Enrolled in Subsidized Care	May 05	May 06	May 07	May 08
Center	9,988	13,087	14,022	19,008
Family	396	492	566	898
Group	1,260	1,729	1,993	2,541
Relative/Neighbor	8,948	10,725	10,059	9,276
Total	20,592	26,033	26,640	31,723

Informal Care

Rules for the state's child care subsidy program changed in 1999, making it easier for families to pay for relative and informal caregivers with public funds. This has had a negative impact on young children, as the percentage of low and moderate income children in informal settings (which are not required to meet basic health and safety standards) peaked in the middle of this decade. Since 2005 the percentage of children in Relative/Neighbor care has decreased by more than 10 percent, while the absolute number has increased somewhat.^[8]

Children 0-5	May 05	May 06	May 07	May 08
Percent of Children in Relative/Neighbor Care	43%	41%	38%	29%
Number of Children in Relative/Neighbor Care	8,948	10,725	10,059	9,276

Subsidy Waiting List

Subsidies for low-income working families are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. There are not enough child care subsidies to meet the need in Philadelphia and the waiting list continues to grow.

Waiting List for Subsidized Child Care⁹	September 05	September 06	September 07	December 08
Philadelphia	1,224	2,422	3,013	4,370

ADDITIONAL PUBLICLY-FUNDED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

School District of Philadelphia Early Education Spaces 2008-09^[10]:

<i>Comprehensive Early Learning Centers</i>	395
<i>Bright Futures</i>	980
<i>Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Community Child Care Partners 2008-09</i>	2,163
<i>Head Start (includes federally-funded and state-funded)¹⁰</i>	<u>6,269</u>
	9,897

Additional Federal Head Start Spaces	2,426
Early Head Start Spaces	514

QUALITY:

Philadelphia is making progress toward meeting quality standards. Participation in the Keystone Stars program, a voluntary quality improvement system in the state, has increased since its inception in 2003. Today more than 27,000 children in Philadelphia are enrolled in Keystone Stars programs. However, most participants are clustered below Star 3. Pennsylvania defines good quality care as Star 3 and above.

Keystone Stars Participation^[11]

Star Level	Providers Enrolled As Of June 07	Providers Enrolled As Of August 08
Start with Stars	162	400
Star 1	177	411
Star 2	89	114
Star 3	8	13
Star 4/Accred.	60	50
Total # enrolled	496	988

Indicators such as national accreditation and participation in Keystone Stars are proxy measures to designate programs that meet more rigorous standards, with better educated teachers, richer programs and lower staff-child ratios.

^[1] Philadelphia County Pennsylvania, Selected Economic Characteristics: 2007, 2007 American Community Survey

^[2] Ibid.

^[3] Survey 1-Year Estimates Number of Children Under Five Years of Age Below Poverty: 2007, 2007 American Community Survey

^[4] Estimate based on a family of four. 2008 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, *Federal Register*, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199-4201

^[5] Median Household Income: 2007 American Community Survey Summary

^[6] Estimate based on a family of four. 2008 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, *Federal Register*, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199-4201

^[7] Ibid.

^[8] Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), May 2008

^[9] Ibid., October 2008

^[10] School District of Philadelphia, October 2008

^[11] Southeast Regional Key, September, 2008