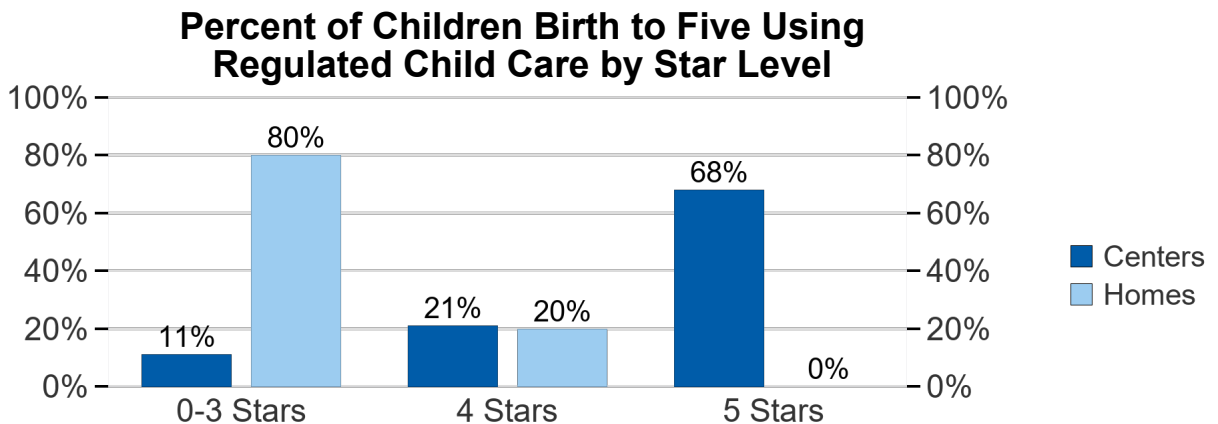




# Early Care & Education Use In Columbus County

## Did you know that...

- families sought consumer education and referrals for **58** children from birth to five years of age from a child care resource and referral agency in Columbus County in fiscal year 2023?
- **363** children from birth to three years of age and **690** children from three to five years of age are currently enrolled in a licensed early care and education center in Columbus County? Of these children under three years of age, **83%** are in 4- and 5-star centers. Of these children three to five years of age, **92%** are in 4 or 5-star centers.
- **10** children from birth to three years of age and **5** children from three to five years of age are currently enrolled in a licensed family child care home in Columbus County? Of these children under three years of age, **10%** are in 4- and 5-star homes. Of these children three to five years of age, **40%** are in 4 or 5-star homes.
- many families receive help paying for early care and education for their children through one of three major programs: Head Start/Early Head Start, NC Pre-K and child care subsidy?
- there was funding for enrollment for **20,560** children in Head Start and Early Head Start in 2022? This number does not include Migrant and Seasonal Head Start due to the transient nature of this program. Head Start uses federal funds and serves preschool children in families living in poverty.
- as of December 2023, **314** children in Columbus County participated in NC Pre-K in the past year? This program uses state funds and serves four-year-old children who are at risk for school failure.
- **461** children in Columbus County participated in the state subsidized child care program in February? This program uses federal and state funds and targets working families with low income and/or in crisis. Additional children may be served through the N.C. Smart Start subsidy program.
- of the **461** children who participated in the state subsidized child care program in Columbus County, **30%** were under three years of age and **43%** were three to five years of age?
- eligible children from birth to twelve years of age were on the state subsidized child care program waiting list in the county?



*While considering the data on this factsheet, please note that many of these data points may differ significantly from previous months or years. This may be due to the impacts of COVID-19 on both the information reported and the data collection process.*