



Young Children and their Families in North Carolina

Did you know that...

- **721,779** children under six live in North Carolina?
- **483,591** children under six in North Carolina live in a household where the sole parent or both parents in the household are working? This number represents **67%** of all children under six.
- **26%** of children five years old or younger in the State live in a family whose income is below the federal poverty level?
- **8%** of children in North Carolina participated in the state subsidized child care program in February to help offset the high cost of child care?
- **10,929** children age birth to three and **5,857** children age three to five years old in the State had a parent or guardian who received consumer education and referrals for child care programs through one of North Carolina's Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in fiscal year 2023?
- **1,247** children (ages birth through 12) whose families received referrals through child care resource and referral agencies in fiscal year 2023 were given that referral in a language other than English in North Carolina?
- **180,366** children age birth to five are in licensed child care centers in North Carolina? This number includes children in NC Pre-K and Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Of these children, **65,639** are birth to three years old and **114,727** are children age three to five years old.
- **4,611** children age birth to five are in licensed family child care homes in North Carolina? Of these children, **2,615** children are birth to three years old and **1,996** children are age three to five years old.
- there was funding 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 its transient nature. Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive preschool program designed to meet emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs of three and four year olds. Early Head Start serves families with children ages birth to three and low-income pregnant women. Most programs in the state are licensed.
- As of December 2023, **29,031** children were served in a North Carolina Pre-K (NC Pre-K) program in North Carolina? The NC Pre-K Program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. Most NC Pre-K programs are licensed.
- **5%** of children in the State were held back in kindergarten and **4%** were held back in first grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

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.