

Inventory of Mississippi Licensed Childcare Options

April 2023

Childcare Seats

There are approximately
185,000
 children under 5 in Mississippi

These children have access to

122,412

licensed childcare seats, meaning there are enough seats for about 66% of the children in our state.

122,027
 are licensed center-based seats

385
 are licensed home-based seats

There are 7 counties in Mississippi with enough seats to accommodate all children under 5 years of age in their county:

Table 1

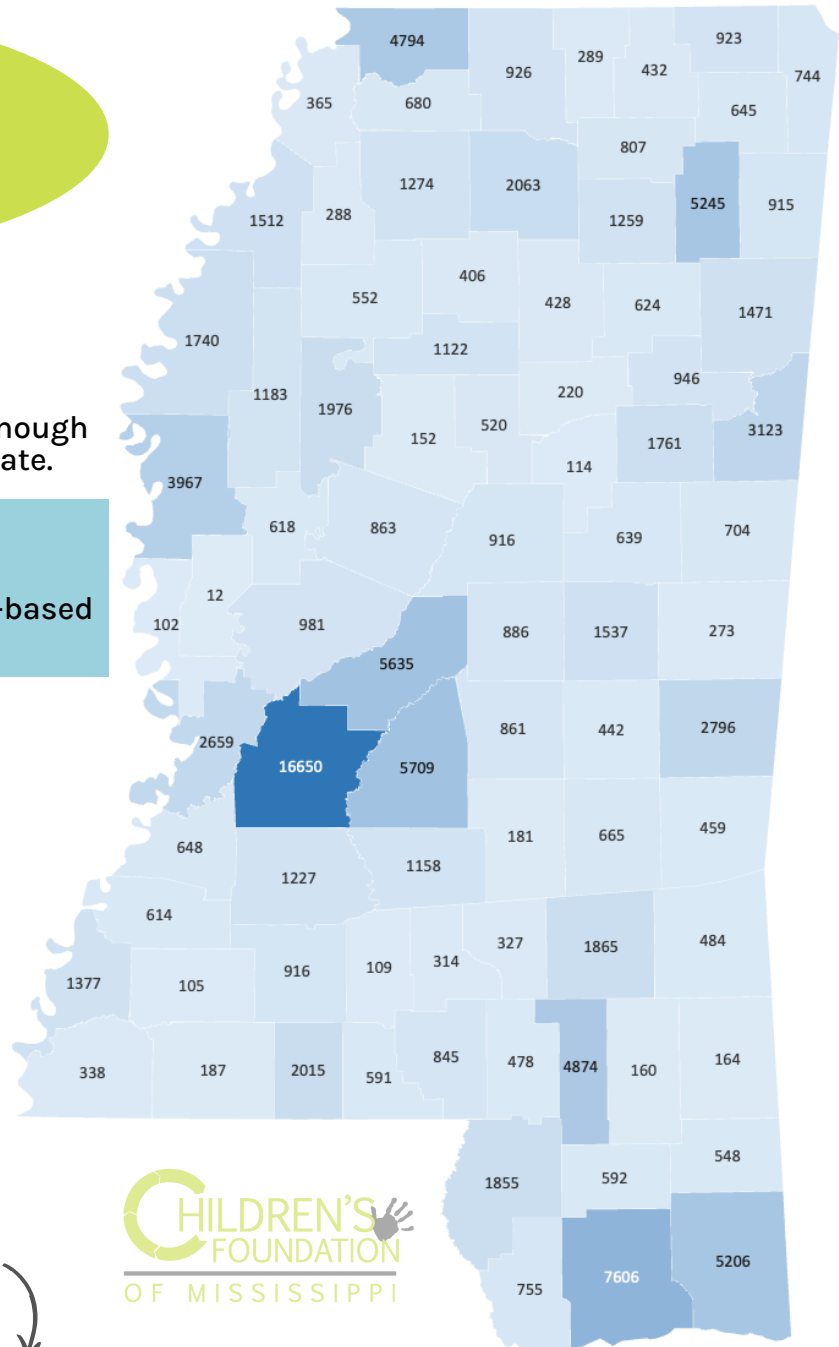
County	Children	Seats	Seats per Child
Benton	284	289	1.02
Hinds	15,170	16,650	1.1
Issaquena	92	102	1.11
Washington	3283	3967	1.21
Claiborne	525	648	1.23
Humphreys	470	618	1.31
Jefferson	430	614	1.43

How do we use this?

"Seats per Child" indicates the total capacity of center-based and home-based childcare providers in each county divided by the number of children living there. The higher the number is, the more seats are available in that county. The counties in Table 1 have at least one seat for each child in their county. In comparison, the counties in Table 2 have far fewer seats than they have children.

Another way of reading this would be that Sharkey County (right) has enough childcare capacity for roughly 5% of the children living there. In comparison, Benton County (above) has more seats than the number of children living there.

Distribution of Licensed Center-Based and Home-Based Childcare Seats, April 2023



Counties with Lowest Available Seats per Child

Table 2

County	Children	Seats	Seats per Child
Sharkey	234	12	.05
Lamar	4,019	478	.12
Lawrence	782	109	.14
Smith	931	181	.19
Greene	781	164	.21

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Licensed Center-Based and Home-Based Childcare Centers by County, April 2023

County	Children	Centers	Home-Based Providers	Seats per Child	County	Children	Centers	Home-Based Providers	Seats per Child
Adams	1,875	15	2	0.73	Jasper	1,006	6	0	0.66
Alcorn	2,136	12	0	0.43	Jefferson	430	5	1	1.43
Amite	658	2	0	0.28	Jefferson Davis	614	2	1	0.51
Attala	1,182	10	0	0.77	Jones	4,712	19	0	0.40
Benton	284	2	0	1.02	Kemper	438	3	0	0.62
Bolivar	2,126	18	1	0.82	Lafayette	2,772	16	0	0.74
Calhoun	741	8	0	0.58	Lamar	4,019	7	0	0.12
Carroll	442	4	0	0.34	Lauderdale	4,618	31	0	0.61
Chickasaw	1,227	12	2	0.51	Lawrence	782	3	1	0.14
Choctaw	342	3	0	0.33	Leake	1,334	11	0	0.66
Claiborne	525	6	0	1.23	Lee	5,760	63	4	0.91
Clarke	914	6	0	0.50	Leflore	2,334	25	6	0.85
Clay	1,007	11	0	0.94	Lincoln	2,068	10	1	0.44
Coahoma	1,793	20	2	0.84	Lowndes	3,909	40	3	0.80
Copiah	1,765	16	0	0.70	Madison	6,668	43	1	0.85
Covington	1,238	3	0	0.26	Marion	1,423	11	0	0.59
Desoto	11,028	40	5	0.43	Marshall	2,083	10	0	0.44
Forrest	5,061	56	0	0.96	Monroe	2,028	16	1	0.73
Franklin	429	1	0	0.24	Montgomery	622	8	0	0.84
George	1,845	7	0	0.30	Neshoba	1,989	16	0	0.77
Greene	781	2	1	0.21	Newton	1,317	7	0	0.34
Grenada	1,325	9	2	0.85	Noxubee	787	5	2	0.89
Hancock	2,684	10	0	0.28	Oktibbeha	2,501	14	0	0.70
Harrison	13,465	83	3	0.56	Panola	2,322	13	1	0.55
Hinds	15,170	184	13	1.10	Pearl River	3,101	21	0	0.60
Holmes	1,162	12	2	0.74	Perry	614	2	0	0.26
Humphreys	470	13	0	1.31	Pike	2,606	33	2	0.77
Issaquena	92	1	0	1.11	Pontotoc	2,260	9	0	0.56
Itawamba	1,267	14	0	0.72	Prentiss	1,551	9	0	0.42
Jackson	8,214	56	3	0.63	Quitman	432	4	1	0.67

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Licensed Center-Based and Home-Based Childcare Centers by County, April 2023 (cont.)

County	Children	Centers	Home-Based Providers	Seats per Child
Rankin	8,999	57	1	0.63
Scott	2,017	7	0	0.43
Sharkey	234	1	0	0.05
Simpson	1,535	10	0	0.75
Smith	931	2	0	0.19
Stone	971	7	0	0.61
Sunflower	1,429	19	4	0.83
Tallahatchie	776	7	0	0.71
Tate	1,707	8	0	0.40
Tippah	1,402	6	0	0.31
Tishomingo	1,046	12	0	0.71
Tunica	874	5	0	0.42
Union	1,955	8	0	0.41
Walthall	830	9	2	0.71
Warren	2,944	30	1	0.90
Washington	3,283	52	5	1.21
Wayne	1,336	5	1	0.36
Webster	623	4	0	0.35
Wilkinson	542	7	0	0.62
Winston	942	8	0	0.68
Yalobusha	760	6	0	0.53
Yazoo	1,790	15	2	0.55

Sources

MDHS Child Care Provider Database (<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/eccd/parent-information/find-child-care/>).

KIDS COUNT Data Center. 2018-2020 projections of children under the age of 5 (<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/7694-age-distribution?loc=26&loct=2#detailed/5/3914-3995/false/2026/3979/14858>).

Mississippi Department of Education State Funded Pre-K Maps (https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/mde_state_funded_pre-k_program_map.pdf)

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This product was conceptualized by:



Data analysis and design by:



For more information and resources, visit the Children's Foundation website at: childrensfoundationms.org