

Early care and education services and systems

This fact sheet is one in a series of six that make up Minnesota's Statewide School Readiness Report Card. The report card is developed to monitor the state's progress toward the goal that all children are ready for kindergarten by the year 2020. The report card includes indicators of progress for both systems and child outcomes. Together, the fact sheets provide a comprehensive picture of Minnesota children under age six. Trends are examined in the early childhood population, early care and education, health and development, and family support. Data are reported for the most recent year available. Disparities based on race/ethnicity are noted when data are available. This third fact sheet provides information on early care and education services and systems.

Early Childhood Screening

Three-year-old children who received early childhood health and developmental screening

Early Childhood Screening is offered throughout the year by local school districts as well as by others such as Head Start, Child and Teen Checkups, and health care providers. Screening is required within 30 days of enrollment into kindergarten and recommended prior to kindergarten.

Screening a young child's hearing, vision, speech, coordination, immunizations, and development identifies problems that may interfere with learning and connects families with needed specific resources.

Screening earlier at age three provides an opportunity to intervene for better readiness at school entry.

About a third of three-year-olds are receiving health and developmental screening.

The proportion of all three-year-olds receiving health and developmental screening has gradually increased since 2007, from 32 percent to 34 percent.



Number and percentage of three-year-old children who received an early childhood health and development screening

Calendar years				
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
18,240	22,705	23,156	24,087	24,796
26%	32%	33%	34%	34%

Children under age six

Income-eligible children age zero to two who participate in Early Head Start and age three to five who participate in Head Start or School Readiness

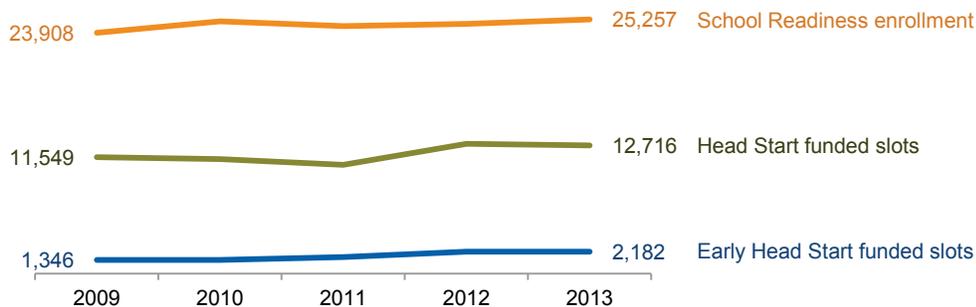
Early Head Start, Head Start, and School Readiness are Minnesota’s public early learning programs described in Fact Sheet Two.

Early Head Start and Head Start are serving more children than ever before but cannot keep up with the growth of eligible children in poverty.

In 2013, Early Head Start and Head Start had funding for 2,182 and 12,716 program slots, respectively. Funded slots for these two programs together cover fewer than one in five income-eligible children under age six.

In 2013, 25,257 children participated in School Readiness programming for 30 hours or more. The program now reaches 13 percent of the target population. In 2012, as many as 28,286 children participated in a broad continuum of School Readiness programming (duplicated).

Early Head Start and Head Start funded slots and School Readiness enrollment



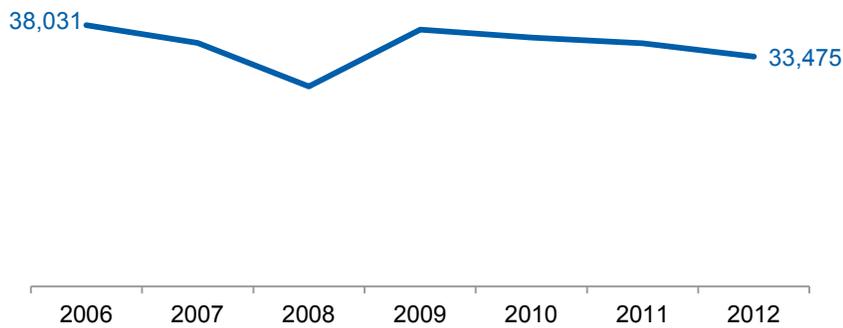
Eligible children under age six who receive child care subsidies

Subsidies through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) help parents attain and retain employment and education. When used to pay for care that is in safe, stimulating, and developmentally appropriate homes and center-based programs, they also contribute to healthy child development. Receipt of child care subsidies and continuity of care are dependent upon parental work schedules. The continuity of child care is also disrupted for some children when parents do not comply with program requirements. In addition, in some counties, wait lists for CCAP subsidies are long.

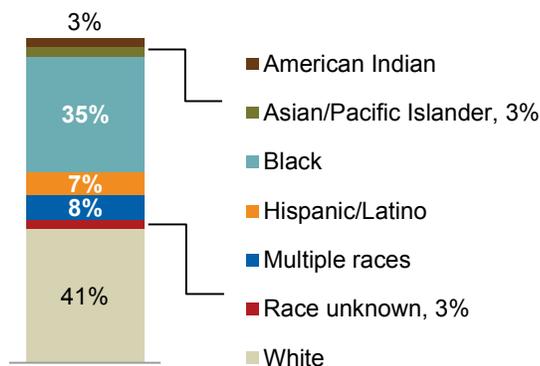
In 2012, 33,475 children under age six received child care subsidies, 59 percent of whom were children of color.

As of 2010, the age distribution of children served relies on a statewide eligibility and payment system. Prior to then, age information was based on a sample.

Children under age six receiving subsidies from Child Care Assistance Program (FFY)



CCAP recipients under age six by race, 2012



Early care and education providers and programs

Early care and education providers and programs that meet the definition of high quality

As Minnesota devotes more attention to the importance of school readiness and access to early learning opportunities for more low-income children, an adequate supply of high-quality early care and education providers and programs is essential to meet the growing demand.

Providers and programs with the following characteristics meet the definition of high quality:

- Three or four-star rated in Parent Aware, Minnesota's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System, indicating they use best practices for kindergarten readiness
- Accreditation by a nationally-recognized accrediting body
- Licensed family child care providers with adequate degrees or credentials to qualify for a higher CCAP reimbursement rate

Eight percent of Minnesota early care and education providers and programs are formally recognized to be high quality.

As of 12/31/2012, 994 out of about 13,000 of the early care and education providers and programs in Minnesota, including licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, school-based Pre-K sites, and Head Start sites, met any of the definitions of high quality.

Right now, Parent Aware ratings are available statewide for accredited child care, Head Start, and school-based pre-kindergarten and Early Childhood Special Education programs. Ratings are also available in a growing number of Minnesota counties for licensed family child care programs and child care centers. Until all programs are eligible and volunteer to be rated in 2015, the total number of high-quality programs is unknown.

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For more information

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