

Number and Share of Children in California Eligible for Subsidized Child Care and Development Programs by County or County Group, 2017

County or County Group*	Number of Eligible Children		Share of Eligible Children		Number of Children Enrolled in a State Program**	Share of Eligible Children Who Are Enrolled in a State Program	
	Initial Certification (70% of SMI)	Recertification (85% of SMI)	Initial Certification (70% of SMI)	Recertification (85% of SMI)		Initial Certification (70% of SMI)	Recertification (85% of SMI)
Alameda	55,700	63,400	22.9%	26.1%	7,300	13.1%	11.5%
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne	18,000	20,200	36.7%	41.1%	2,100	11.9%	10.6%
Butte	14,400	16,800	46.3%	54.3%	1,500	10.2%	8.7%
Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity	23,700	28,700	50.2%	60.6%	2,000	8.6%	7.1%
Contra Costa	45,500	50,900	25.1%	28.1%	4,600	10.1%	9.0%
Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, and Siskiyou	15,200	18,400	33.3%	40.2%	2,400	15.8%	13.1%
El Dorado and Placer	13,300	16,900	16.1%	20.5%	1,800	13.7%	10.7%
Fresno	87,600	98,400	44.0%	49.4%	9,000	10.2%	9.1%
Imperial	12,300	14,800	35.0%	42.2%	2,000	16.2%	13.4%
Kern	78,600	87,000	42.8%	47.3%	6,800	8.7%	7.8%
Kings	15,000	16,100	50.9%	54.7%	1,200	8.2%	7.6%
Lake and Mendocino	8,700	9,900	41.8%	47.2%	1,100	13.0%	11.6%
Los Angeles	539,900	617,200	34.9%	39.9%	73,900	13.7%	12.0%
Marin, Napa, and Sonoma	30,600	38,500	24.1%	30.3%	3,400	11.1%	8.8%
Merced	26,400	27,500	47.8%	49.7%	2,200	8.4%	8.1%
Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz	54,900	63,600	33.1%	38.4%	5,500	10.1%	8.7%
Orange	136,900	152,600	27.9%	31.1%	8,300	6.1%	5.5%
Riverside	147,900	167,300	35.2%	39.8%	10,800	7.3%	6.5%
Sacramento	76,600	92,200	29.8%	35.9%	10,800	14.1%	11.7%
San Bernardino	154,000	173,500	38.8%	43.7%	13,700	8.9%	7.9%
San Diego	149,600	170,700	29.2%	33.4%	14,000	9.4%	8.2%
San Francisco	15,100	18,300	17.2%	20.8%	7,500	49.5%	40.9%
San Joaquin	49,000	54,800	34.2%	38.3%	5,600	11.5%	10.3%
San Mateo	17,100	22,100	14.9%	19.3%	2,200	13.1%	10.1%
Santa Barbara	27,300	29,600	38.8%	42.2%	2,100	7.8%	7.2%
Santa Clara	57,900	67,500	18.9%	22.0%	7,200	12.5%	10.7%
Solano	22,800	28,300	32.1%	39.9%	2,600	11.5%	9.3%
Stanislaus	36,600	41,100	35.1%	39.4%	2,900	7.9%	7.0%
Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba	16,900	23,100	25.2%	34.4%	2,400	14.2%	10.4%
Tulare	44,500	48,900	44.2%	48.6%	6,400	14.3%	13.0%
Ventura	39,900	47,200	29.7%	35.2%	3,600	8.9%	7.5%
Total	2,031,900	2,325,400	32.2%	36.8%	227,100***	11.2%	9.8%

SMI = State Median Income

* Estimates for certain counties were deemed unreliable due to data limitations. In these cases, counties were grouped to improve reliability of the data.

** Figures reflect children enrolled in the full-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP) or in one of the following subsidized child care programs: Alternative Payment Program; CalWORKs Stages 1, 2, or 3; Family Child Care Home Network; General Child Care; and the Migrant Child Care and Development Program. Enrollment is for children from birth through age 12 in October 2017. This analysis also includes the full-day CSPP, which consists of part-day preschool and “wraparound” child care, because it accommodates many – although not all – families’ work schedules throughout the year, and thus approximates the experience that a child would have in a subsidized child care program. In contrast, this analysis excludes roughly 97,000 children who were enrolled in the part-day CSPP, without access to wraparound child care, in October 2017. This is because most families with low and moderate incomes likely need wraparound care in order to supplement the CSPP’s part-day, part-year schedule. This analysis reports enrollment data for a single month – as opposed to a monthly average for 2017 – because the CDE does not typically separate part-day and full-day CSPP enrollment when reporting monthly averages for a single fiscal year. The CDE also states, “Caution should be used when interpreting monthly averages as some programs do not operate at full capacity throughout the entire year (e.g., State Preschool) while other programs have seasonal fluctuations in enrollment (e.g., Migrant Child Care).” Finally, the data are for October 2017 because the CDE’s point-in-time reports are only available for the month of October. See Kristin Schumacher, Millions of Children Are Eligible for Subsidized Child Care, but Only a Fraction Received Services in 2017 (California Budget & Policy Center: January 2019).

*** Figure is different than the total number of children enrolled in a state program published in other Budget Center fact sheets due to data limitations.

Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Families are eligible for subsidized child care if the child who would receive care is under the age of 13; the family establishes an appropriate eligibility status, such as by having an income below the limit set by the state; and the family demonstrates a need for care, such as parental employment. Families generally must meet the same income guidelines applicable to child care to qualify for the CSPP, which is funded solely with state dollars. State law, however, allows up to 10 percent of families in the state preschool program to have incomes up to 15 percent above the income eligibility limit, but only after all other eligible children have been enrolled. The CSPP is a part-day program offered for roughly nine months of the year. Some children receive “wraparound” services that provide subsidized child care for remainder of the day and throughout the entire year. To be eligible for the full-day CSPP, families generally must meet the same guidelines regarding eligibility status that are applicable to subsidized child care.

Source: Budget Center analysis of California Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and US Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey data

