

# COOK COUNTY

**Total Population: 5,376,741**

- Children under age 5: 388,201
- Children ages 5 to 9: 406,508
- Children ages 10 to 14: 380,589

**Cook County** is an ethnically diverse and mostly urban county that includes Chicago as its primary city. Recent census data in Cook County marks a decline in the Caucasian population and in increase in all other ethnic backgrounds (most notably African American and Latino). The Day Care Action Council of Illinois incorporates programming that acknowledges these population changes, not only through its centralized programs, but through its newly redeveloped comprehensive network of Community Partners that offer training, resources and technical assistance to child care providers in communities most affected by these population changes.

According to the 2000 Census, the percentage of children living in poverty in Cook County rose from 17.5% to 22.7% and persons below poverty rose from 11.3% to 14%. The Day Care Action Council of Illinois works primarily with low-income families that face difficult decisions when it comes to their child care choices. The DCACI is addressing these issues by offering specialized referrals through our Teen Parent Project and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Projects.

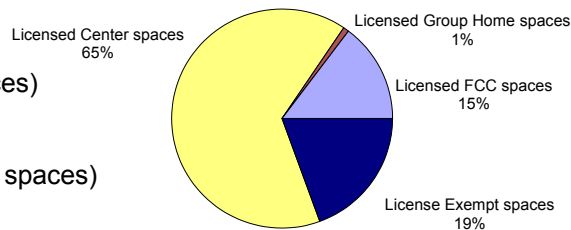
The DCACI has also embarked upon several initiatives designed to improve the quality of license exempt care. These initiatives include the Quality Counts project (with van outreach component) and a comprehensive training and outreach initiative for license exempt. In addition, the DCACI continues its work with the Illinois Department of Public Aid in the promotion of KidCare, as well as other organizations in advancing the personal and work-lives of low-income families and child care providers serving them.

## Child Care Capacity

There are a total of 3,654 child care facilities listed with the local CCR&R with a capacity to serve 106,746 children.

Of those facilities, there are a total of:

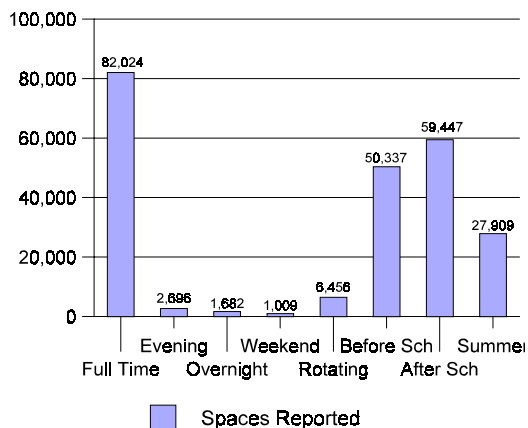
- 2,052 Licensed Family Child Care (15,887 spaces)
- 51 Licensed Group Homes (733 spaces)
- 1,033 Licensed Centers (69,652 spaces)
- 518 License Exempt Centers & Homes (20,474 spaces)



## Child Care Capacity by Age Group and Schedule

Child care programs listed with the local CCR&R report the potential capacity by age group and schedule, as shown below. The actual enrollment or available spaces may vary.\*

Age Group	Spaces Reported
Infants	5,208
Toddlers,	6,215
2 Years	12,943
3 & 4 Years	34,714
5 & Ks	28,866
School-Age B/A School	18,679
School-Age Summer Care	221



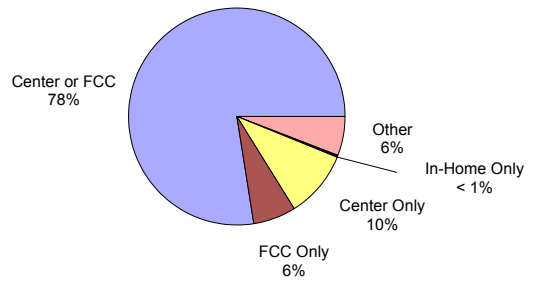
\* For more information about these data, please refer to "Understanding The County Data Pages" at the beginning of this section.

## Child Care Requests

In Cook County, 15,323 families called the CCR&R to request care for 23,082 children.

Of those requests:

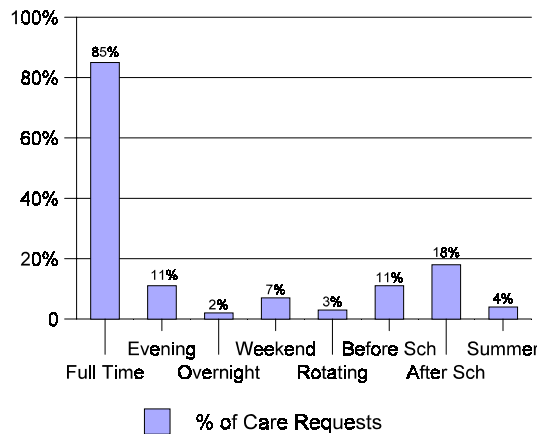
- 17,941 were for either Center or Family Child Care
- 1,484 were for Family Child Care Only
- 2,260 were for Center Only
- 108 were for In-Home Only
- 1,289 were for Other types of care



### Requests by Age Group and Schedule

Individuals calling the local CCR&R requested the types of care by the ages and schedules shown below.

Age Group	% Requested
Infants	23%
Toddlers	15%
2 Years	15%
3 & 4 Years	21%
5 & Ks	7%
School-Age	19%

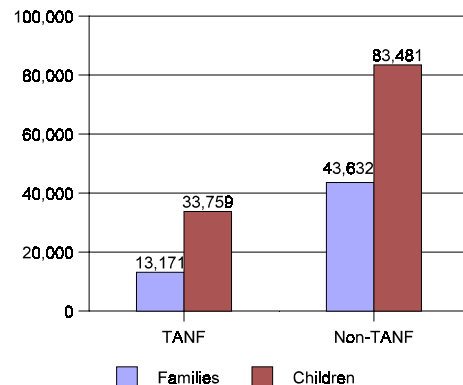


## Assistance Paying for Care

The average provider rate for full-time care for an infant in Cook County is \$130.28 per week, which is about 13% of the state median weekly family income of \$997.

Assistance in paying for child care is provided through subsidies by DHS. In June 2001, there were a total of 56,803 families receiving subsidies for 117,240 children in care. This figure includes both TANF and non-TANF recipients.

Out of the 3,654 child care facilities in Cook County, 2,811 (77%) report that they accept DHS child care subsidies.



For more information about child care in Cook County, contact the Day Care Action Council of Illinois office:  
773-769-8000

Data is from Fiscal Year 2001  
(July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001)