

To get a sense of the potential need for child care, we begin by looking at the number of families and children and, in particular, children of working parents by using the 2000 Census of population of 14 upstate counties¹ in South Carolina.

We also report information on the kinds of child care that parents seek. Many parents looking for child care may ask their local Child Care Resource and Referral programs to locate child care providers who meet their families' needs. Child Care Resource & Referral of Upstate SC is the program for this area.

Data collected by Child Care Resource and Referral agencies can shed light on the type of child care that parents commonly request². While these data represent only a portion of parents needing child care, they can provide useful information on determining the greater child care demand in South Carolina.

Families and Children³	Upstate	South Carolina
Families with children under age 18		
Number of Families	185,254	495,276
Single Parent Families	55,523	161,325
Children		
Ages Birth through 2	59,069	159,387
Ages 3 through 5	59,453	159,156
Ages 6 through 8	62,698	170,746
Ages 9 through 12	87,698	238,102
Ages 13 through 17	99,144	282,250
Children Under 6 with Parents in Labor Force		
Two Parent Family, Both Parents in Labor Force	44,551	112,189
Two Parent Family, One Parent in Labor Force	30,611	76,243
Single Parent, Parent in Labor Force	26,957	73,824

Families Seeking Child Care through the Resource & Referral Program⁴

Families Seeking Child Care Referrals	1,396
Children Represented in Requests for Referrals	1,951
Percent Requests For:	
Infant/Toddler Care (Birth – 2)	59%
Preschool Age Care (3 – 5)	26%
School Age Care (6 and over)	15%
Full-time Care	94%
Part-Time Care	15%

¹Child Care Resource & Referral serves the following counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union, and York.

²While referral information can tell us about child care demand in Upstate SC, parents requesting child care referrals are not necessarily representative of all parents. We would not be justified, in simply attributing their child care preference to all parents.

³2000 Census. Families refer to those with "own" children.

⁴Child Care Resource & Referral of Upstate SC, 2006

Child Care Supply 2006

With more and more parents working outside of the home, the need for child care is increasing. South Carolina has 3 main types of child care for parents to choose – child care center, family child care, and group child care.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing Division defines these types:

- **Child Care Center** – facilities operating with a capacity of 13 or more children. Must be licensed or approved if the program operates more than four hours a day and more than two days a week. Programs that operate less than four hours a day may keep children during school vacations and holidays and be exempt from licensing.
- **Family Child Care** – in-home programs providing care for up to six (6) children at any given time. Registration or licensure is required if a person provides care to more than one unrelated family of children on a regular basis (more than two days a week and more than four hours a day).
- **Group Child Care** – facilities operating with a capacity from seven (7) to twelve (12) children. May care for eight (8) children without an additional caregiver. When the attendance reaches nine or there are more than three children under the age of 24 months, an additional caregiver must be present at all times. In addition, there must be an emergency backup person available that is not included in the staff to child ratio.

Child Care Availability*	Upstate	South Carolina
Type of Care		
Child Care Center	56,799	159,980
Family Child Care	2,451	9,062
Group Child Care	646	2,832
Average Child Care Annual Cost**	Upstate	South Carolina
Full-time Infant Care		
Child Care Center	\$5,565	\$5,720
Family/Group Child Care	\$4,328	\$4,160
Full-time 4 yr old Care		
Child Care Center	\$4,873	\$4,940
Family/Group Child Care	\$4,025	\$3,536

*Capacity data are derived from SC Child Care Licensing Division data.

**These data are derived from SC Child Care Resource & Referral.