

JACKSON COUNTY

Total Population: 59,612

- Children under age 5: 3,001
- Children ages 5 to 9: 3,075
- Children ages 10 to 14: 3,161

Jackson County is the largest county in Southern Illinois. The city of Carbondale is located in this county and is the home of Southern Illinois University, the county's largest employer. Because of the transient nature of a university population, parents depend on state agencies such as the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois State Fire Marshall and the County Health Department to inspect and regulate child care facilities. Licensed child care is the preferred care for the majority of parents requesting referrals in this county. John A. Logan College's Child Care Resource and Referral has worked closely with Southern Illinois Healthcare, another of the county's large employers, to provide enhanced referral services to the corporations employees. Although the most requested care is licensed centers or homes, many parents are unable to afford high quality child care. Low-income families can access quality child care with assistance from the IDHS Child Care Subsidy program.

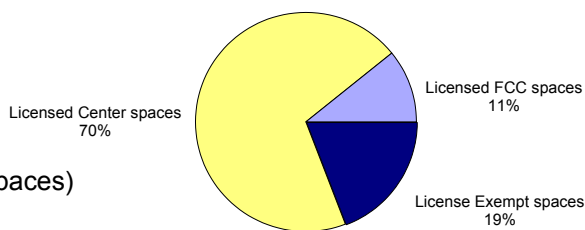
Child Care Resource and Referral staff have worked closely with community leaders to address the child care needs of this county. A focus in this county has been working to retain the current supply of child care. The large number of child care providers operating in the county has resulted in high demand for training and technical assistance. CCR&R, in cooperation with Unity Point Pre-kindergarten programs, operates a Family and Early Education Resource Center in Carbondale which acts as a training center, college extension center for early childhood classes and offers resources for loan to parents and professionals. In collaboration with other county agencies, CCR&R also co-sponsors the annual Children's Day at Turley Park, annual Child Find screenings and participates in Kids Fair each year at University Mall.

Child Care Capacity

There are a total of 70 child care facilities listed with the local CCR&R with a capacity to serve 2,320 children.

Of those facilities, there are a total of:

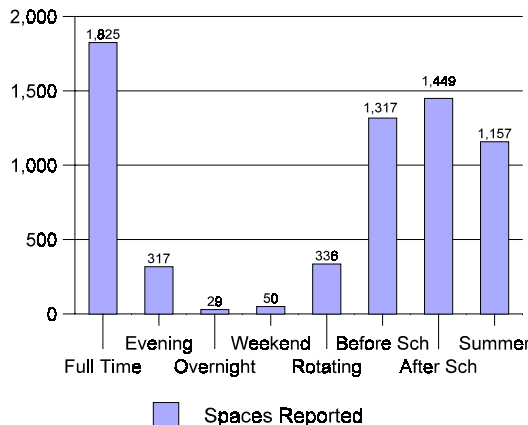
- 34 Licensed Family Child Care (257 spaces)
- 0 Licensed Group Homes (0 spaces)
- 23 Licensed Centers (1,623 spaces)
- 13 License Exempt Centers & Homes (440 spaces)



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 | 185 |
| Toddlers | 197 |
| 2 Years | 239 |
| 3 & 4 Years | 774 |
| 5 & Ks | 480 |
| School-Age B/A School | 408 |
| School-Age Summer Care | 197 |



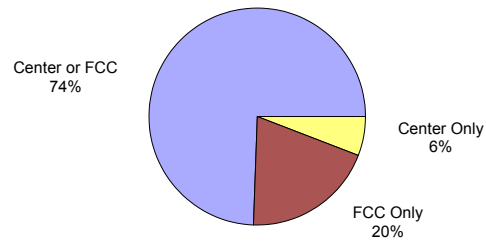
* For more information about these data, please refer to "Understanding The County Data Pages" at the beginning of this section.

Child Care Requests

In Jackson County, 230 families called the CCR&R to request care for 335 children.

Of those requests:

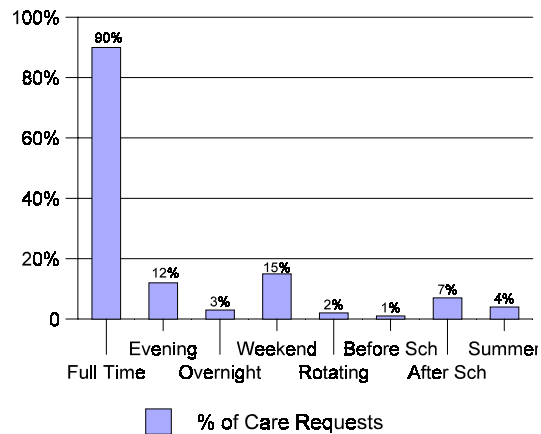
- 250 were for either Center or Family Child Care
- 66 were for Family Child Care Only
- 19 were for Center Only
- 0 were for In-Home Only
- 0 were for Other types of care



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 | 25% |
| Toddlers | 14% |
| 2 Years | 13% |
| 3 & 4 Years | 18% |
| 5 & Ks | 8% |
| School-Age | 22% |

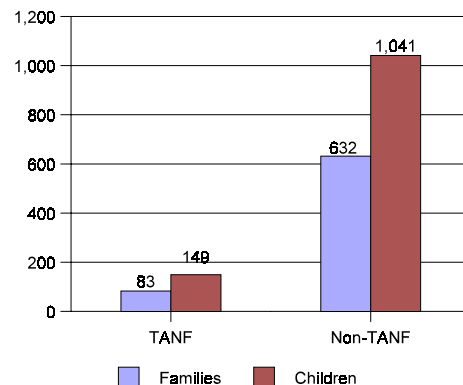


Assistance Paying for Care

The average provider rate for full-time care for an infant in Jackson County is \$93.48 per week, which is about 9% 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 715 families receiving subsidies for 1,190 children in care. This figure includes both TANF and non-TANF recipients.

Out of the 70 child care facilities in Jackson County, 51 (73%) report that they accept DHS child care subsidies.



For more information about child care in Jackson County, contact the Child Care Resource & Referral office: 800-232-0908

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