

MACON COUNTY

Total Population: 114,706

- Children under age 5: 7,301
- Children ages 5 to 9: 7,941
- Children ages 10 to 14: 8,146

Macon County is an urban county with the focus on Decatur, which is an industrial and grain processing community. Companies such as Caterpillar, Firestone, ADM and Staley have long dominated the workforce and provided thousands of union, blue-collar jobs. However, the closing of the Firestone plant and substantial downsizing at many other mid-sized industrial plants have eliminated about 10% of the jobs in the community. This has put a severe economic stress on Decatur. While Macon County includes some of the most productive farmland in Illinois, the depressed agricultural economy has forced many farmers to seek off-farm employment and that has exacerbated the local employment problems.

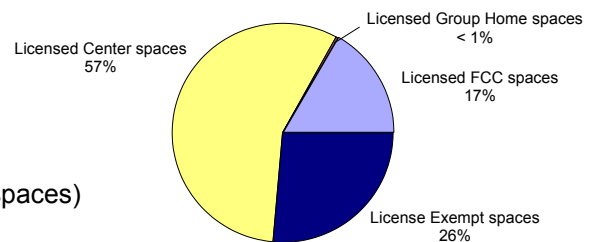
Child care options are varied throughout the county and parents most frequently request infant and preschool care. Twenty eight percent of children receiving subsidies are in family child care homes, with 26% in centers. Baby Talk is a community agency in Decatur that supports parents of infants, educates child care providers and collaborates with other child related agencies.

Child Care Capacity

There are a total of 168 child care facilities listed with the local CCR&R with a capacity to serve 4,845 children.

Of those facilities, there are a total of:

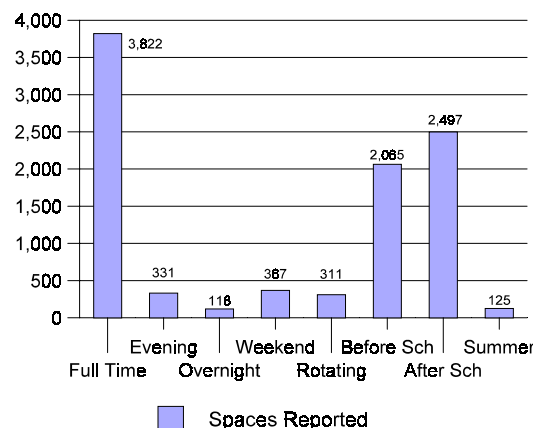
- 107 Licensed Family Child Care (818 spaces)
- 1 Licensed Group Homes (12 spaces)
- 37 Licensed Centers (2,740 spaces)
- 23 License Exempt Centers & Homes (1,275 spaces)



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	222
Toddlers	296
2 Years	471
3 & 4 Years	1,862
5 & Ks	439
School-Age B/A School	935
School-Age Summer Care	400



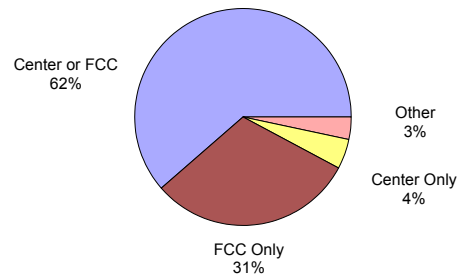
* For more information about these data, please refer to "Understanding The County Data Pages" at the beginning of this section.

Child Care Requests

In Macon County, 383 families called the CCR&R to request care for 630 children.

Of those requests:

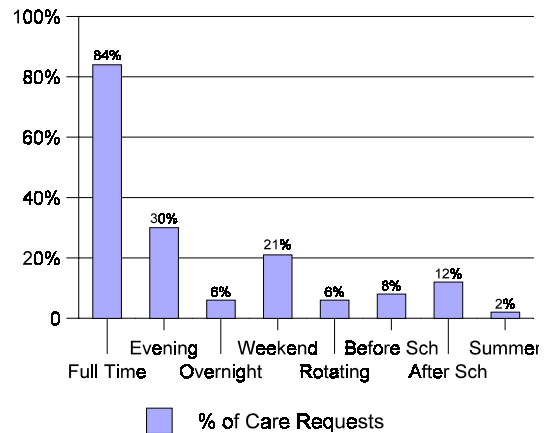
- 388 were for either Center or Family Child Care
- 194 were for Family Child Care Only
- 28 were for Center Only
- 0 were for In-Home Only
- 20 were for Other types of care



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	24%
Toddlers	15%
2 Years	13%
3 & 4 Years	17%
5 & Ks	8%
School-Age	23%

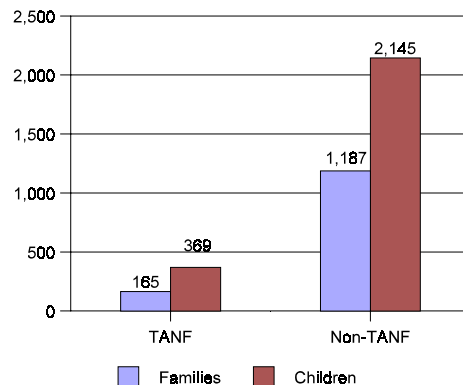


Assistance Paying for Care

The average provider rate for full-time care for an infant in Macon County is \$91.37 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 1,352 families receiving subsidies for 2,514 children in care. This figure includes both TANF and non-TANF recipients.

Out of the 168 child care facilities in Macon County, 102 (61%) report that they accept DHS child care subsidies.



For more information about child care in Macon County, contact the Child Care Resource Service office: 800-325-5516

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