

Building a Better System:

The Need for Early Childhood Education in the City of Detroit and in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties

Executive Summary



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Building a Better System Executive Summary was conducted by the IFF Research Department and was funded by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in conjunction with The Kresge Foundation, the Colina Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

IFF is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to transform low-income and disinvested communities in the Midwest using the tools of community development finance, bolstered by data and place-based research. IFF brings capital from many sources, undertakes real estate investment and development, and forms partnerships with local leaders to improve decision-making and resource allocation for facilities-intensive programs including community health, affordable housing, and early childhood development.

IFF's research in the child care sector includes publications on statewide, regional, and community needs assessments; the history of federal and state child care legislation and programs for low-income children; and the economic impact of the early childhood care and education industry; and statewide, regional, and community needs assessments for child care. These publications inform systemic thinking about child care, education, and comprehensive planning.

Building a Better System Executive Summary identifies the communities with the greatest need for additional early childhood care and education (ECCE) slots. The spatial analysis of supply and demand makes IFF's early childhood care and education methodology distinctive. As a place-based needs assessment, IFF's studies guide ECCE stakeholders to focus their investments where they will reach the greatest number of underserved children. In previous studies, stakeholders have used IFF studies to develop strategic plans and inform actions that improve existing programs, modernize facilities, identify sites for new programs, and inform targeted neighborhoods or populations about their child care options.

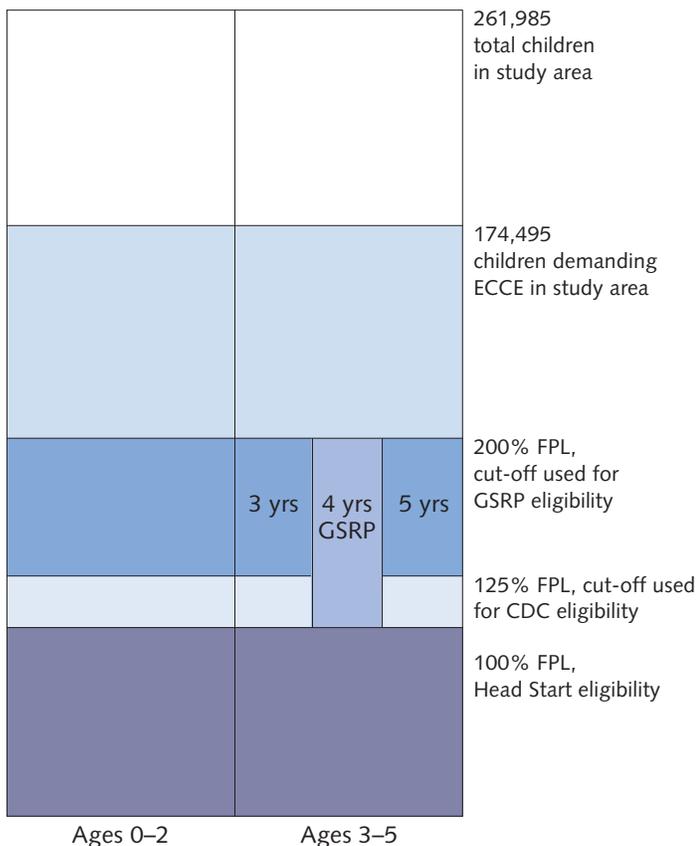
Supply, Demand and Service Gap

Building a Better System Executive Summary assesses need by comparing supply, which is the capacity of licensed and registered child care providers, against demand, which is the number of young children living in a community. After establishing how many children live in a neighborhood, demand is calculated using multipliers that capture the specific trends and patterns of demand based on age group, family structure, work status, and income, whether all-income care or subsidized care in Midwestern urban areas. This multiplier identifies children who are likely to enroll in a center or registered home. They are not cared for by their parent, unpaid relative, or live-in nanny.

Family Type	All-income Child Care		Subsidized Child Care	
	Infant & Toddler (ages 0-2)	Preschool (ages 3-5)	Infant & Toddler (ages 0-2)	Preschool (ages 3-5)
2 parent, both working	49%	64%	27%	47%
2 parent, one working	6%	66%	13%	42%
2 parent, neither working	0%	100%	0%	35%
1 parent, working	61%	67%	49%	73%
1 parent, not working	0%	17%	39%	55%

Finally, to estimate how many children are eligible for each program, social-economic proxies are used. When overall demand is calculated, children who are eligible for multiple programs are counted toward only one of the programs, as illustrated in the chart below.

Demand for ECCE



The difference between supply and demand is the service gap, which is calculated for each zip code-based geography in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties, and for each neighborhood in Detroit, hereafter referred to as communities.

Highest-need Communities

After determining the service gap for each community, the communities are ranked by the service gap's size. The community with the largest service gap is represented by the highest ranking, number 1, and the community with the smallest service gap is represented by the lowest ranking, number 54. In Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne, the highest-need communities are ranked from 1 to 13 (see Map 1). In Detroit, the highest-need communities are ranked from 1 to 10 (see Map 2).

Program Types

In addition to calculating an overall service gap, as presented in this document, a service gap is calculated for each age group—birth to 2-year-olds and 3- to 5-year-olds—and for each program type. This document presents the age group details, but not the program-type details. The analysis by program can be found in the full reports. The program type analysis includes child care for families of all incomes, referred to as general care; child care for subsidy-eligible families, based on income; child care for families eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start, a comprehensive child development program funded by the federal government that promotes the school readiness of children in low-income families; and child care for families eligible for the Great Start Readiness Program, Michigan's state-funded school readiness program for 4-year-olds who are at risk for low educational attainment.

Study Geography

The geography used for spatial analysis of need should reflect locally recognized communities. In Detroit, the Master Plan Neighborhoods, which were created by the city of Detroit's Planning and Development Department, are used for the study. For Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties, geographies were constructed out of zip codes and municipal boundaries. Although some of the geographies are single zip codes, most combine zip codes with respect to municipal boundaries and in consideration of the density of 0- to 5-year-olds. By striving to balance the density of children in a geography, the analysis presents a clearer picture of need, as opposed to simply a picture of density.

Data Sources

Data on early childhood care and education providers was collected from the Michigan Department of Human Services; the Michigan Department of Education; and the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. In verifying the accuracy of the data, numerous organizations in the Tri-county provider community gave valuable input, including Great Start Macomb and Macomb Intermediate School District, the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, Oakland Schools, Wayne County Health & Family Services Head Start, and Wayne County Great Start Collaborative.

The Tri-county data was collected in January 2015; the Detroit data was collected in July 2015.

Demographic data came from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey (five-year estimates) and ESRI 2014 Single Year Age data. Shapefiles for mapping and geographic analysis came from ESRI, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the city of Detroit's Planning and Development Department.

For a more detailed methodology, visit iff.org/childcare.

Introduction

Building a Better System Executive Summary compares and integrates the key findings of two separate early childhood supply and demand needs assessments: one for the city of Detroit, and one for Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties (hereafter, referred to as Tri-county). The Detroit analysis is an update of the 2013 study on early childhood care and education in the city of Detroit, commissioned by the Kresge Foundation. The Tri-county analysis is an extract of *Building a Better System: The Need for Early Childhood Education in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties*, commissioned by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This summary presentation juxtaposes the key findings in the Detroit and Tri-county studies to provide an integrated view of the regional early childhood education landscape. It purposefully promotes a regional vision of early childhood care and education need.

Essentially, this document is about children and access to quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs. At the heart of this analysis lies the question, “What areas in the region have the greatest need for child care slots?”

Overall Findings

- The entire Tri-county region has approximately 262,000 children from birth to 5 years old, 67 percent of whom need child care (174,495). Of these children, 61 percent have access to a slot in a licensed or registered child care facility (105,889).
- Overall, the region needs approximately 69,000 additional slots to serve all of its children who need access to early childhood care and education.
- Fifty-five percent of the need for additional slots is concentrated in the top 13 highest-need areas in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne (see Map 1), and the top 10 highest-need areas in Detroit (see Map 2).
- Across the highest-need areas, there is a gap of approximately 23,000 slots for infants and toddlers, and 15,000 for 3- to 5-year-olds in licensed centers or registered child care homes.

Table 1. Overall Service Gap: Tri-county Region

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap
Ages 0-2	134,695	74,402	14,977	-59,425	87%
Ages 3-5	127,290	100,093	90,912	-9,181	13%
Total	261,985	174,495	105,889	-68,606	100%

Top 13 Highest-need Areas, Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties

1. East Dearborn
2. Pontiac
3. Hamtramck and Highland Park
4. South Warren
5. Taylor
6. Dearborn Heights
7. Wayne and South Westland
8. Garden City and Inkster
9. Lincoln Park and Ecorse
10. Flat Rock and Romulus
11. Waterford
12. Mount Clemens
13. Southgate, Wyandotte, and Riverview

Top 10 Highest-need Areas, Detroit

1. Chadsey
2. Rouge
3. Burbank
4. Finney
5. Brooks
6. Denby
7. Mt. Olivet
8. Nolan
9. Pershing
10. Vernor Junction

Program Quality

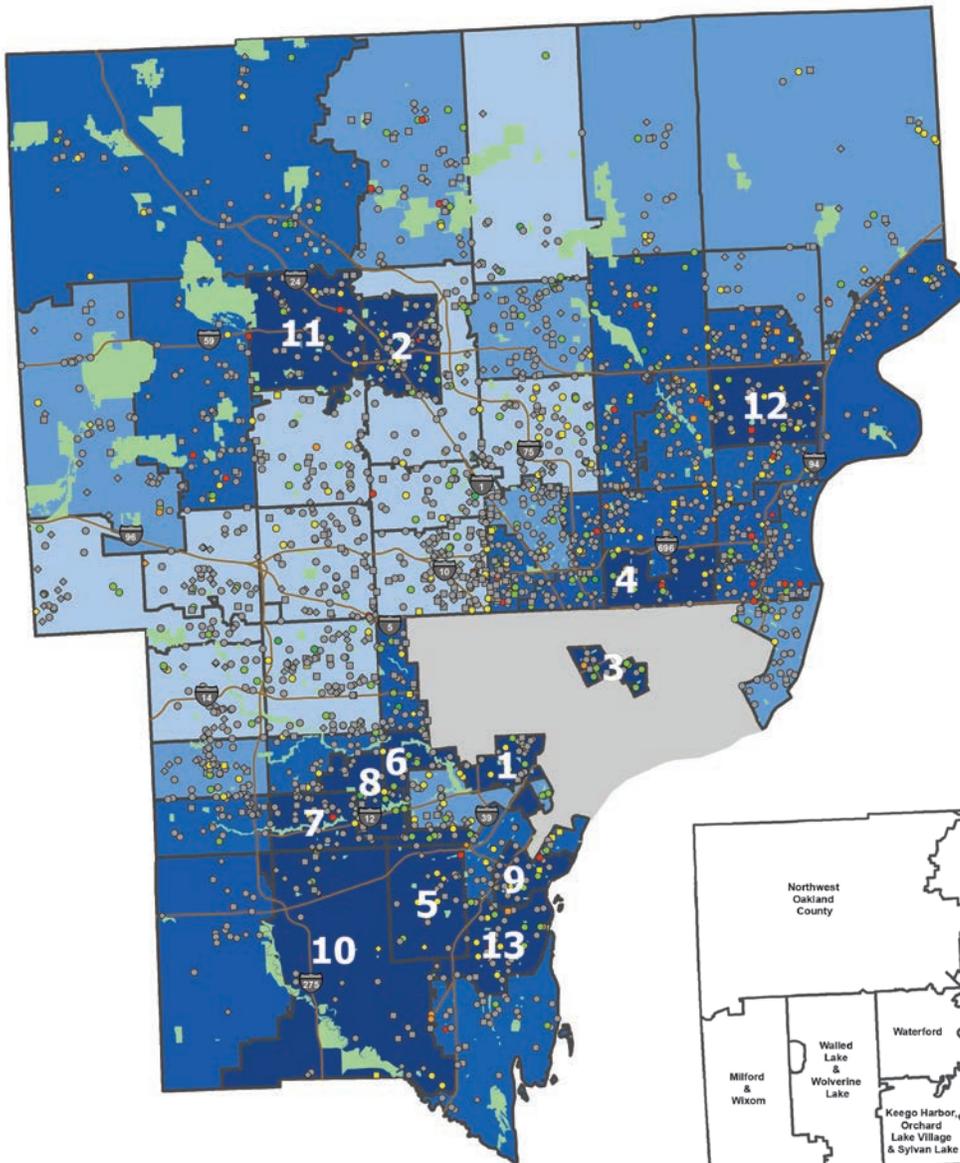
- Michigan evaluates provider quality with a Quality Rating and Improvement System: Great Start to Quality. Providers funded through the Great Start Readiness Program are required to participate in GSQ and receive three stars or better on the rating system. Otherwise, GSQ is a voluntary and largely a self-reporting accountability system. For all providers eligible for a four- and five-star rating, based on their self-assessment, there is a required on-site assessment to confirm quality.
- Across the Tri-county region, including Detroit, 24 percent of licensed and registered providers have been rated by GSQ. Thirty-six percent are GSRP providers; 64 percent are voluntary participants. Of all participants in GSQ, 86 percent have a three-star rating or better.
- Detroit has a higher rate of participation (48 percent) than the Tri-county region, (19 percent), but 77 percent of the Detroit participants are Great Start to Readiness Program providers and therefore required to participate. In Tri-county, only 30 percent of the rated providers receive GSRP funding. The rest of the providers voluntarily participate in the accountability system.

Table 2. Service Gap: Highest-need Areas, Tri-county Region

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap [^]
Ages 0-2	40,592	25,610	2,485	-23,125	39%
Ages 3-5	36,705	31,061	16,426	-14,635	159%
Total	77,297	56,671	18,911	-37,760	55%

[^]when percent of overall service gap is greater than 100%, it is due to surpluses in study area as a whole

Map 1: Overall Service Gap, Licensed and Registered Providers Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties, MI



Map Reading Tip

This map presents the Tri-county region's 54 areas ranked by the size of their service gap. These areas are ranked in order of greatest to least need, across age groups and program types. The area with the largest service gap is ranked number 1, and the area with the smallest service gap is ranked number 54. The 13 areas most in need of licensed and registered child care slots are shown on the map with bold, white numbers from 1 through 13.

Geography Rankings by Service Gap

- 1-13 (Highest need)
- 14-23
- 24-33
- 34-43
- 44-54 (Lowest need)

Provider Type

- Child Care Center
- Group Child Care Home
- ◇ Family Child Care Home
- IFF Study Geography
- Park

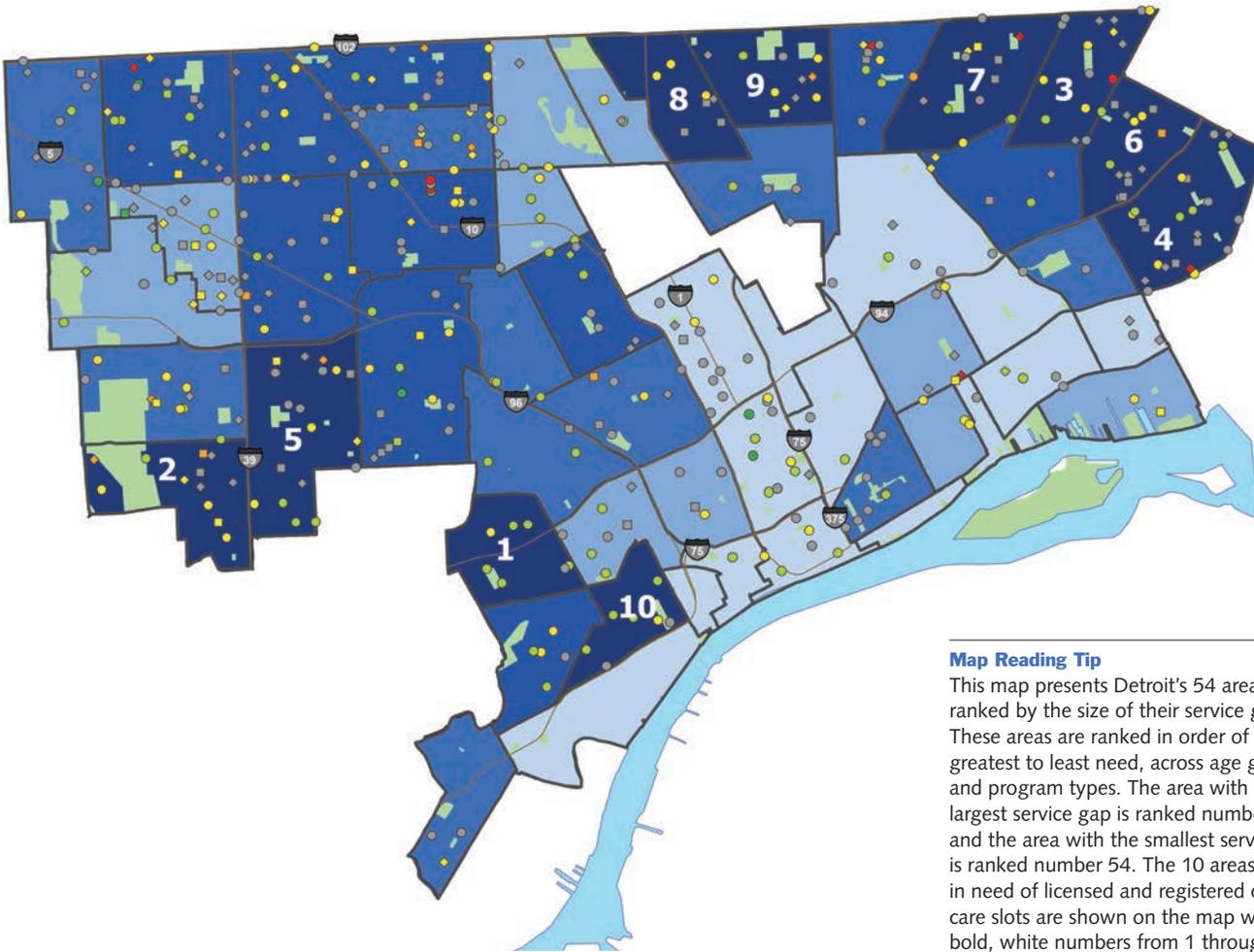
Great Start to Quality Rating

- Five Stars
- Four Stars
- Three Stars
- Two Stars
- One Star or Rating in Progress
- Licensed or registered but without a rating



Sources: Esri Single Year Age Data 2014. US Census. US Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan Department of Human Services. Michigan Department of Education.

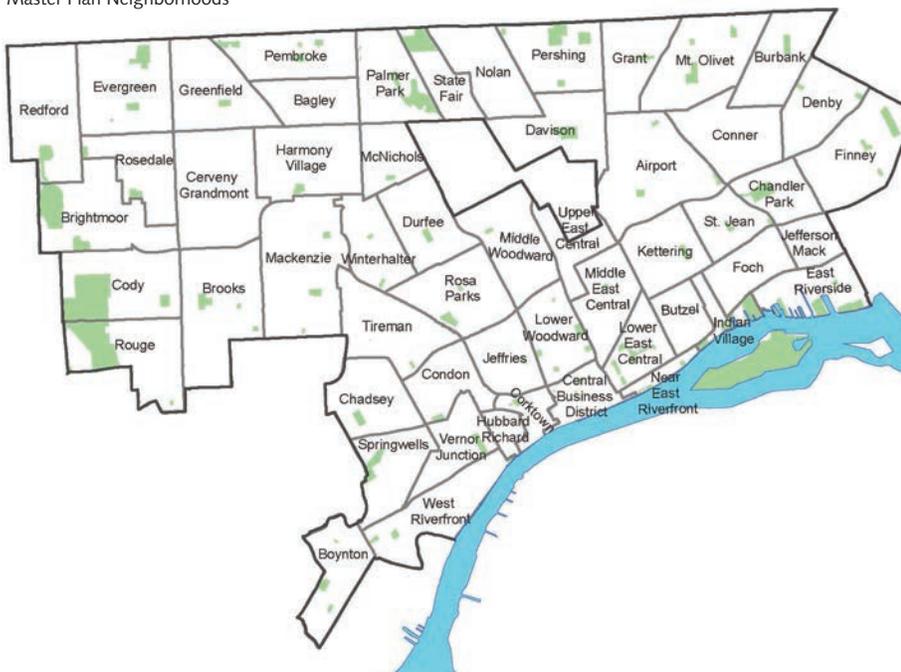
Map 2: Overall Service Gap, Licensed and Registered Providers, Detroit, MI



Map Reading Tip

This map presents Detroit's 54 areas ranked by the size of their service gap. These areas are ranked in order of greatest to least need, across age groups and program types. The area with the largest service gap is ranked number 1, and the area with the smallest service gap is ranked number 54. The 10 areas most in need of licensed and registered child care slots are shown on the map with bold, white numbers from 1 through 10.

Master Plan Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Rankings by Service Gap

- 1-10 (Highest need)
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-54 (Lowest need)

Great Start to Quality Rating

- Five Stars
- Four Stars
- Three Stars
- Two Stars
- One Star or Rating in Progress
- Licensed or registered but without a rating

Provider Type

- Child Care Center
- Group Child Care Home
- Family Child Care Home
- Master Plan Neighborhoods
- Detroit River
- Park

Sources: Esri Single Year Age Data 2014. US Census. US Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan Department of Human Services. Michigan Department of Education. City of Detroit, Planning & Development Department.

Recommendations

The findings presented in *Building a Better System* Executive Summary provide a starting point for discussing the need for ECCE services across the region and the challenges and opportunities inherent in addressing such an important issue for such a large geographic space. To have the greatest impact on increasing and improving the services of the ECCE sector, a regional approach should consider the following recommendations:

1. Focus on expanding capacity in the highest-need areas.

Across the region, roughly 69,000 children need early childhood care and education services. Based on the distribution of this need, focusing on the 10 highest-need areas in Detroit and the 13 highest-need areas in the Tri-county region will reach the majority of children: a service gap of about 38,000 across the region, or 55 percent of need.

2. Continue to support policies and efforts that improve program quality.

High-quality early learning opportunities enriches a child's social, emotional, and educational development throughout his learning career. To promote quality programming, Michigan instituted a Quality Rating and Improvement System, Great Start to Quality, which has expanded significantly. In 2013, Detroit providers participating in GSQ represented one-third of licensed and registered capacity for 3- to 5-year-olds. Now that number has risen to two-thirds. Infant and toddler provider participation has increased similarly. In Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties,

participation is around 36 percent of licensed and registered capacity. Build on existing momentum to increase participation in GSQ and maintain a policy focus on quality programs.

3. Improve facilities to ensure a safe, clean, and comfortable learning space for children.

Safe, clean, and child-centered spaces support and enhance high-quality early learning programming. Many providers serving low-income communities face significant facilities challenges including heavy reliance on leased space and significant deferred maintenance issues. Invest in facility assessments and technical support to develop and implement cost effective and impactful facilities plans that support high-quality programs. Efforts in Detroit have led to growth in the provision of Early Head Start space with roughly 400 slots added since 2014. Improving and expanding existing facilities will increase the number of children provided high-quality learning opportunities.

4. Tailor early childhood care and education programs based on the needs of each community.

Cultural competency is key to building relationships with families and communities, as well as offering high-quality programs to diverse communities throughout the region. It can be a barrier, or gateway, to access. Recognizing the influence of poverty, first language, country of origin, cultural assumptions, mobility, and other considerations deepens and strengthens the impact of early childhood care and education providers. In-depth neighborhood analysis is available in the full studies.

Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties

Key Findings

- Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties have approximately 206,000 children from birth to 5 years old, 63 percent of whom need child care (128,742). Of these children, 68 percent have access to a slot in a licensed or registered child care facility (87,686).
- There exists an overall need for approximately 41,000 total slots, of which families with children from birth to 2 years old need 39,560.

Table 3. Service Gap: Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne Counties*

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap
Ages 0-2	105,109	52,337	12,777	-39,560	96%
Ages 3-5	100,557	76,405	74,909	-1,496	4%
Total	205,666	128,742	87,686	-41,056	100%

*excludes Detroit

- In Macomb County, the greatest need for additional service is in infant and toddler care with a service gap of -11,267. This gap represents 28 percent of the need for infant and toddler care across Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties. The service gap for 3- to 5-year-olds is -3,644.

Table 4. Service Gap, Macomb County

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap [^]
Ages 0-2	27,946	13,958	2,691	-11,267	28%
Ages 3-5	26,784	20,419	16,775	-3,644	244%
Total	54,730	34,377	19,466	-14,911	36%

[^]when percent of overall service gap is greater than 100%, it is due to surpluses in study area as a whole

- In Oakland County, the greatest need for additional service is also in infant and toddler care with a service gap of 11,439. This gap represents 29 percent of the need for infant and toddler care across Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties. In contrast, the number of spaces available for 3- to 5-year-olds in Oakland County surpasses the estimated number of children who are likely to need care—based on family work status, parental marital status and income—by 7,369 slots.
- Based on regional patterns of demand, there appear to be 7,369 more slots for 3-to 5-year olds than are likely to be needed. This statistical surplus might suggest that the county's residents enroll in pre-school at a higher rate than regional averages or that nonresidents, such as parents commuting to work in Oakland, enroll their children in Oakland centers or both. To the degree to which Oakland's surplus of seats are occupied by residents, the need for slots in the other counties remains unchanged.

- Parents tend to choose early care and education providers based on perceived quality and convenience. In Oakland, 89 percent of the centers participating in GSQ have three stars or better. If parents from neighboring counties are bringing their children to Oakland because of perceived higher quality, this pattern does not negate the need for additional high-quality slots in Macomb and Wayne—to give parents more choices close to home.

Table 5. Service Gap, Oakland County

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap [^]
Ages 0-2	38,707	18,111	6,672	-11,439	29%
Ages 3-5	37,808	27,856	35,225	7,369	-493%
Total	76,515	45,967	41,897	-4,070	10%

[^]when percent of overall service gap is negative, this reflects that the "gap" is actually a surplus

- In Out Wayne County, the service gap for infant and toddler care is -16,854. This gap represents 43 percent of the need for infant and toddler care across Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties. The service gap for 3- to 5-year-olds is -5,221.

Table 6. Service Gap, Out Wayne County*

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap [^]
Ages 0-2	38,456	20,268	3,414	-16,854	43%
Ages 3-5	35,965	28,130	22,909	-5,221	349%
Total	74,421	48,398	26,323	-22,075	54%

*excludes Detroit

[^]when percent of overall service gap is greater than 100%, it is due to surpluses in study area as a whole

- The large majority (62 percent) of slots needed in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties is concentrated in 13 areas. These areas are mostly in Out Wayne County, with Macomb and Oakland County each having two areas that fall in the top 13.

Table 7. Service Gap: Top 13 Highest-need Communities

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children in Need of Care	Available Licensed & Registered Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap [^]
Ages 0-2	30,261	18,101	2,057	-16,044	41%
Ages 3-5	27,393	22,781	13,502	-9,279	620%
Total	57,654	40,882	15,559	-25,323	62%

[^]when percent of overall service gap is greater than 100%, it is due to surpluses in study area as a whole

- The top 13 highest-need areas had higher percentages of children who were living in poverty, moved more frequently, or who spoke English less than very well—all demographic indicators that are closely tied to school readiness.

Chart 1. Percent of 0- to 5-year-olds below 100% FPL, average within ranking group

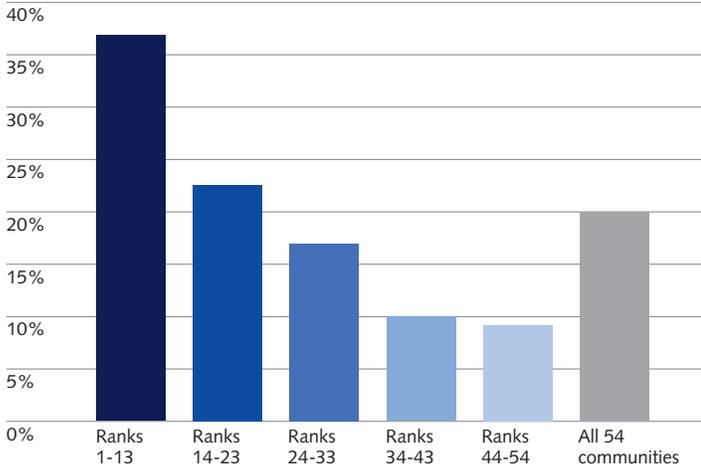


Chart 3. Percent of children, ages 5-17, who speak English less than very well, average within ranking groups

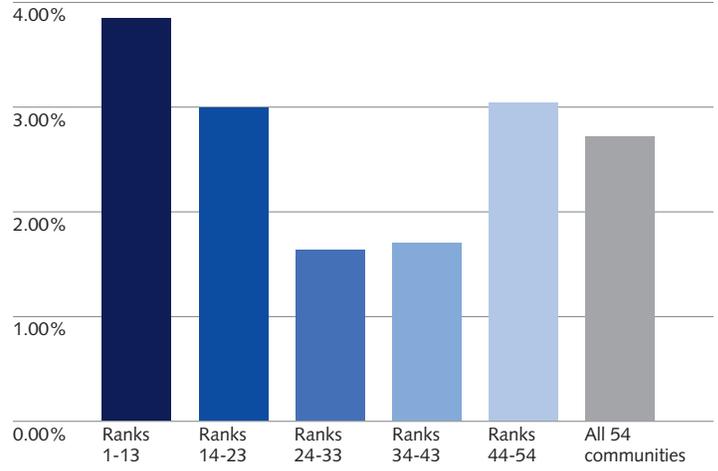
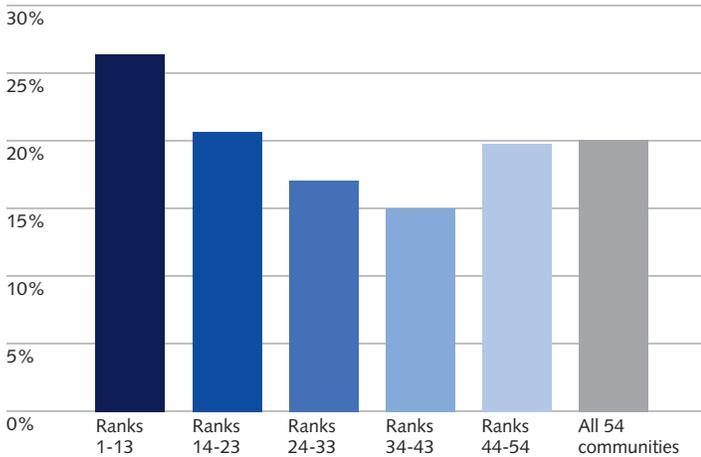


Chart 2. Percent of 1- to 4-year-olds who moved in the last 12 months, average within ranking groups



Program Quality

- Although 49 percent of licensed providers in Macomb, Oakland, and Out Wayne counties participate in Great Start to Quality, only about 19 percent of combined licensed and registered ECCE providers participate. These providers contribute 36 percent (31,348) of the region's licensed and registered slots. Of all participating providers, 85 percent received a rating of three stars or better.

Key Findings

- Detroit has approximately 56,000 children from birth to 5 years old, 81 percent of whom need child care (45,753). Of these children, 40 percent have access to a slot in a licensed or registered child care facility (18,203).
- In Detroit, there is a gap of approximately 28,000 slots in licensed care and registered homes. This is the overall service gap.

Table 8. Service Gap: Detroit

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children Needing Care	Available Licensed Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap
Ages 0-2	29,586	22,065	2,200	-19,865	72%
Ages 3-5	26,733	23,688	16,003	-7,685	28%
Total	56,319	45,753	18,203	-27,550	100%

- A large portion of slots needed (45 percent) is concentrated in 10 communities. For 3- to 5-year-olds, 70 percent of slots needed are located in these 10 communities. These are the highest-need communities and are numbered from 1-10 on Map 2.

Table 9. Service Gap: Top 10 Highest-need Areas—Detroit

2015	Total Number of Children	Number of Children Needing Care	Available Licensed Slots	Service Gap	Percent of Service Gap
Ages 0-2	10,331	7,509	428	-7,081	36%
Ages 3-5	9,312	8,280	2,924	-5,356	70%
Total	19,643	15,789	3,352	-12,437	45%

Change Over Time

In 2014, IFF previously completed an ECCE study for Detroit that used 2013 Esri data and 2014 state and federal data.

- Since 2014, the population of children ages 0-5 increased by 4 percent, or 2,042 children; and, the number of children in need of care subsequently increased to 1,840 children.
- As in the previous analysis, the highest-need areas are mostly located in northeast and southwest Detroit. In fact, eight of the 10 areas that were highest need in 2014 remain highest need in 2015.
- Two neighborhoods, Evergreen and Springwells, fell to 11 and 12, respectively; and two neighborhoods not previously in the highest-need areas, Nolan and Pershing, entered the top 10.
- Nolan and Pershing entered the top 10 in part because of significant increases in their 0- to 5-year-old population. Other neighborhoods with a significant increase in 0- to 5-year-old population, relative to most Detroit neighborhoods, included Pembroke, Grant, Palmer Park, and Burbank. These neighborhoods are all located along the northern border of Detroit.

Table 10. Detroit's Changing Demand and Service Gap

	Ages 0-2					Ages 3-5						Total	
	Population	Overall	Early Head Start	General Care	Subsidized Care	Population	Overall	Great Start	Head Start	General Care	Subsidized Care	Population	Overall
Demand													
2013	28,510	21,082	16,196	11,192	7,341	25,767	22,831	7,633	14,556	14,502	10,381	54,277	43,913
2015	29,586	22,065	16,533	11,062	7,425	26,733	23,688	7,503	14,876	14,256	10,484	56,319	45,753
Difference	1,076	983	337	-130	84	966	857	-130	320	-246	103	2,042	1,840
% Change	4%	5%	2%	-1%	1%	4%	4%	-2%	2%	-2%	1%	4%	4%
Service Gap													
2013	na	-16,947	-16,036	-8,470	-5,751	na	-6,289	-3,252	-11,838	-6,482	-8,842	na	-23,236
2015	na	-19,865	-15,967	-10,358	-5,424	na	-7,685	614	-11,823	-11,058	-8,541	na	-27,550
Difference	na	-2,918	69	-1,888	327	na	-1,396	3,866	15	-4,576	301	na	-4,314
% Change	na	17%	-0.4%	22%	-6%	na	22%	-119%	-0.1%	71%	-3%	na	19%

- Early Head Start slots increased by 254 percent (406 slots) through the Early Head Start conversion. Head Start slots increased by 12 percent (335 slots) through the Head Start rebid process, and the Great Start Readiness Program expansion led to an 85 percent increase in slots (3,736).
- Although Early Head Start programs grew by 406 slots, demand for those slots increased by 337 children. As a result, the net gain of Early Head Start slots was 69.
- Ultimately, roughly 16,000 children needed access to Early Head Start then, and roughly 16,000 children need access to Early Head Start now.

Program Quality

- Forty-eight percent of licensed and registered providers in Detroit participate in Great Start to Quality. Of all participating providers, 89 percent received a rating of three stars or better.
- In infant and toddler care in 2014, 14 percent of licensed and registered providers (57 providers) were participating in Great Start to Quality. These providers offered 782 slots to the Detroit community,

- representing 18 percent of capacity. Now, 37 percent of licensed and registered providers (96) offer 953 slots (43 percent of capacity).
- This represents a 68 percent increase in the number of participating providers and a 22 percent increase in the capacity of participating providers.
- Of participating infant and toddler providers, 78 percent received a three star rating or better.
- In 3- to 5-year-old care in 2014, 23 percent of licensed and registered providers (112) were participating in Great Start to Quality. These providers offered 5,564 slots, representing 33 percent of capacity. Now, 50 percent of licensed and registered providers (221) offer 10,577 slots (66 percent of capacity).
- This represents an amazing 97 percent increase in the number of participating providers and a 90 percent increase in the capacity of participating providers.
- Of participating providers for 3- to 5-year-olds, 89 percent received at least three stars.



