

CAPITAL REGION

child care deserts summary

Demographic Overview: The Capital District Regional Economic Development Council serves Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington Counties. According to the US Census ACS 2019 estimates, there are 177,421 children under the age of 14 years in the Capital Region. The percentage of children living in poverty in the region is on average 11%, with the highest level of poverty in Green County at 14% and the lowest in Saratoga County at 5.84%.

Child Care Landscape: There are 771 regulated child care programs in the region: 206 child care centers, 219 family child care homes, 185 group family child care homes, 161 school-age programs. There is licensed capacity to serve 29,981 children; only 17% of children residing in the region. This represents 2,237 infant slots, 3,573 toddler slots, 11,475 preschool slots, and 12,696 school-age slots. Few programs offer care during non-traditional hours. Only 11% of regulated programs in the region offer care on weekends, overnight, or during the evening.

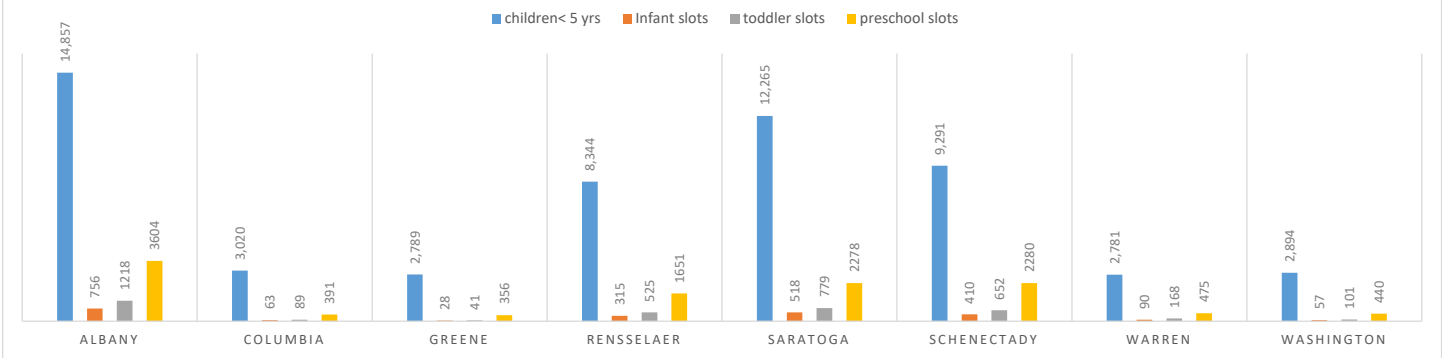
Covid-19 has negatively impacted school-age programs across the region, resulting in closures as they were required to move out of district buildings. Many family and group family child care providers who retain their license are not currently enrolling children. Child care centers are currently struggling to find qualified staff and have closed classrooms as a result.

Referral Requests by Type of Care: Over the past year 55% of requests for child care were for school-age care or summer recreation, 30% were from families seeking infant and toddler care, 15% were for preschool care. 25% of parents specified the need for special education supports. Approximately 18.5% of families seeking child care referrals requested care during non-traditional hours.

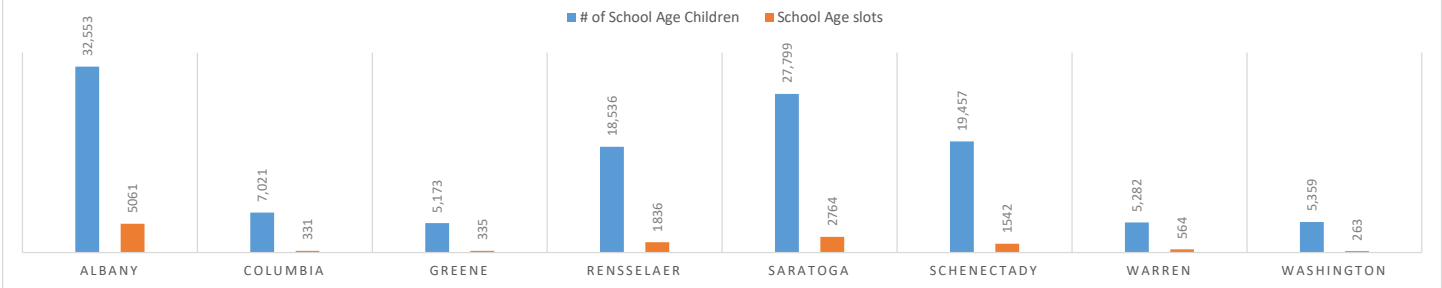
Major Industry: Manufacturing, technology, hospitality, education, health services, and government are the top employers in the region. Industries such as health, manufacturing, and hospitality offer employment across three shifts; it is particularly difficult for these working families to secure child care.

Conclusion: High quality school-age care, summer recreation, infant, and toddler opportunities are in high need throughout the region. Locations in the region with little or no available child care are: Cohoes, Menands, Coeymans, Ravena, Westerlo, Canaan, Livingston, Copake, Ancram, Coxsackie, Athens, Hoosick, Rensselaer, Berlin, Stephentown, Hadley, Edinburg, Lake Luzerne, Chestertown, Warrensburg, North Creek, Johnsbury, Lake George, Bolton Landing, Brant Lake, Whitehall, Fort Ann, Hartford, Salem, Cambridge, and Greenwich.

CURRENT CHILD CARE CAPACITY BY COUNTY



CURRENT SCHOOL AGE CARE CAPACITY BY COUNTY



CHILD CARE DURING NON TRADITIONAL HOURS

	WEEKEND	OVERNIGHT	EVENING
ALBANY	6	7	13
COLUMBIA	1	0	2
GREEN	0	0	1
RENSSELAER	1	4	7
SARATOGA	3	1	4
SCHENECTADY	10	8	13
WARREN	0	0	1
WASHINGTON	3	0	5