

Child Care Information - Usage Considerations

This data set comprises a point-in-time data pull – it includes 18 months of data on open child care programs that have an active license during the last month of the quarter. Data posted for the same time period may not necessarily be identical from one post to the next due to data entry modifications and/or program activity (e.g. an open program in one post is now closed and is not reflected in the next post).

Data prior to February 2021 included reflects child care programs in Alberta licensed under the *Child Care Licensing Act*. Program types under the *Child Care Licensing Act* included day care programs, out-of-school care programs, preschool programs, group family child care, family day homes (approved by a licensed family day home agency), and innovative child care programs.

In February 2021, child care licensing changed from program-based to facility-based under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. There are now four types of licenses: facility-based programs, group family child care programs, family day homes (approved by a licensed family day home agency), and innovative child care programs. A facility-based program can have any of the three program types under a single license: day care, out of school care and/or preschool programs. Following this change, no new licenses could be issued for innovative programs, however, existing programs were allowed to continue to operate indefinitely under the former *Child Care Licensing Act*. Family day home agencies and group family child care programs were not impacted by this change.

Please Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related mitigation measures, many of the listed child care programs were not open or able to operate at full capacity in all time periods.

- With the exception of family day home programs, inspections occur in licensed child care programs at a minimum of twice a year. Only 10 per cent of a family day agencies' individual family day home providers are required to be inspected under the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*.
- Licensing Officers inspect the program in accordance with the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*; if non-compliance to the Regulation is found, the Licensing Officer will give the program either a verbal warning or issue an enforcement action.
- Depending on the context of the situation, the Licensing Officer and the child care program will ensure that non-compliances are remedied, often through the development and implementation of an Action Plan.
- Child care programs have the ability to appeal any issued non-compliances that they feel are not warranted within 30 days.
- Prior to April 2020, accredited programs were required to complete a rigorous self-evaluation and quality enhancement process, and were required to have met accreditation standards of excellence set by the Association for Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS). Accreditation was available to all licensed day care centres and out-of-school care programs as well as approved family day home agencies in Alberta and participation was on a voluntary basis. Accreditation status is only provided for up to March 2020, as accreditation was discontinued in April 2020.