

# FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

**DEFINITION:** Number of family child care homes registered with their local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. Capacity was estimated by multiplying the number of registered homes by 6 (the maximum number of children a family child care provider can legally care for).

## SIGNIFICANCE

Family child care providers use their own homes to care for up to six children. Laws regulating family child care vary from state to state, differing in both the level of regulation and in the number of children that a provider can care for at any given time. In Louisiana, a family child care provider can legally care for up to 6 children in her home at any given time. Louisiana law does not require family child care providers to be licensed, though providers may choose to register with the Department of Social Services' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and/or with the Department of Education's Child and Adult Care Food Program (more commonly known as the Food Program). By law, family child care providers that receive CCAP payments must attend a four-hour orientation, have their homes inspected by the state's Fire Marshall, and receive the same amount of annual training as is required of teachers in Class A centers. Providers who receive subsidies from the Food Program must also attend trainings, as well as provide meals that conform to program nutrition guidelines.

Family child care is an important, if often overlooked, component of the child care industry. The 2003 National Survey of Children's Health estimated that approximately 135,000 Louisiana children under the age of 6 regularly attended family-based child care. The same survey estimated that nearly 142,000 children ages 0-5 attend center-based care, just 7,000 more than attend family-based child care.<sup>1</sup> Many parents choose family child care because it offers a home-like environment. Additionally, the schedule may be more flexible, and in some cases the parents may have a family relationship with the provider.

Family child care homes are often a more affordable



option for families. The 2007 Louisiana Market Rate Survey found that the median weekly cost for family child care was \$78 a week, while the same figure was \$91 for care in a Class A center.<sup>2</sup>

## DATA SOURCE

Agenda for Children (New Orleans and Thibodaux), Excellence for Children (Lafayette), NSU Child and Family Network (Shreveport), Partnerships in Child Care (Baton Rouge), and Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana (Monroe)

## DATA NOTE

Because family child care providers are not required to register with any agency, it is difficult to estimate the true number of family child care homes in Louisiana. The numbers presented here reflect the number of providers who were registered with their local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency. This particular data source was selected because CCR&R's databases include providers who have registered with CCAP and/or the Food Program.

<sup>1</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, "Early Childhood," 2003 National Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, retrieved from [www.nschdata.org](http://www.nschdata.org) on 7/30/2009.

<sup>2</sup> Care Solutions Inc., "Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2007," Louisiana Department of Social Services, 2007, retrieved from [www.dss.state.la.us](http://www.dss.state.la.us) on 5/1/2009.

# REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES NUMBER AND CAPACITY

**2006**

	No. of registered providers	Capacity of registered providers
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>3,472</b>	<b>20,832</b>
Acadia	45	270
Allen	4	24
Ascension	250	1,500
Assumption	47	282
Avoyelles	56	336
Beauregard	2	12
Bienville	3	18
Bossier	60	360
Caddo	234	1,404
Calcasieu	48	288
Caldwell	25	150
Cameron	0	0
Catahoula	7	42
Claiborne	4	24
Concordia	12	72
De Soto	22	132
East Baton Rouge	539	3,234
East Carroll	26	156
East Feliciana	2	12
Evangeline	13	78
Franklin	110	660
Grant	11	66
Iberia	101	606
Iberville	37	222
Jackson	10	60
Jefferson	51	306
Jefferson Davis	16	96
Lafayette	75	450
Lafourche	106	636
La Salle	3	18
Lincoln	65	390
Livingston	6	36
Madison	33	198
Morehouse	41	246
Natchitoches	52	312
Orleans	25	150
Ouachita	199	1,194
Plaquemines	0	0
Pointe Coupee	20	120
Rapides	74	444
Red River	7	42
Richland	35	210
Sabine	13	78
St. Bernard	0	0
St. Charles	1	6
St. Helena	1	6
St. James	236	1,416
St. John the Baptist	310	1,860
St. Landry	67	402
St. Martin	48	288
St. Mary	58	348
St. Tammany	12	72
Tangipahoa	23	138
Tensas	6	36
Terrebonne	110	660
Union	8	48
Vermilion	27	162
Vernon	5	30
Washington	10	60
Webster	13	78
West Baton Rouge	21	126
West Carroll	11	66
West Feliciana	5	30
Winn	11	66