

QUALITY CHECK

Do young children in U.S. metropolitan areas live in neighborhoods with quality early childhood education?

A diversitydatakids.org
Data-For-Action
Fact Sheet

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Quality early education helps kids to succeed

Quality early childhood education (ECE) plays a crucial role in school readiness and later success, especially for children from some racial/ethnic groups that, on average, lag behind in school readiness. "Quality" refers to ECE that is not only healthy and safe but also offers a developmentally rich learning environment.

While consensus builds about the need to expand quality ECE for all children, one key factor—neighborhood availability—has received little attention

Since children are typically educated in their neighborhoods, expanding quality ECE requires a comprehensive, neighborhood-level picture of where quality early education opportunities are (or are not) available for children of all racial and ethnic groups. Until now, no data have been available to create this picture.

diversitydatakids.org
data for a diverse and equitable future

Visit diversitydatakids.org to explore data about early childhood education, neighborhoods, health and more. All data are available by race/ethnicity.

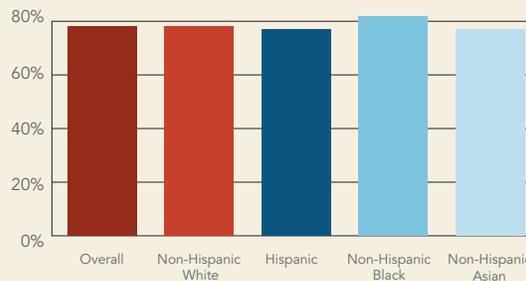
New data highlight the existing neighborhood ECE infrastructure on which to build...

New diversitydatakids.org indicators for the 100 largest metropolitan areas (home to 13.4 million young children under five) provide the first systematic picture of the existing neighborhood-based ECE system. These data allow us to identify both gaps in quality ECE and opportunities to improve the existing infrastructure.



A neighborhood-based ECE center infrastructure exists on which to build

Percent of young children in neighborhoods with at least one licensed ECE center



Across racial/ethnic groups, over 75% of young children in metropolitan areas live in a neighborhood with at least one licensed ECE center.

Source: diversitydatakids.org Early Childhood Database, U.S. Census Bureau (2010 Decennial Census)

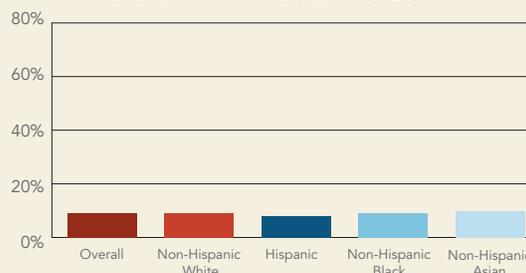
...But show we have a long way to go to achieve quality ECE for all children

Despite the large number of ECE centers nationally, the vast majority of children—across all racial/ethnic groups—live in neighborhoods with limited availability of quality ECE. However, there is potential to expand quality ECE for all children by improving the existing ECE infrastructure. Below are the average percentages of children living in neighborhoods with at least one quality ECE center in the 100 largest metropolitan areas. Go to diversitydatakids.org to explore ECE indicators by child race/ethnicity for your metro area.



Across racial/ethnic groups, less than 10% of children live in neighborhoods with quality ECE

Percent of young children in neighborhoods with at least one licensed NAEYC center



Based on the best nationally available quality measure: accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Source: diversitydatakids.org Early Childhood Database, U.S. Census Bureau (2010 Decennial Census)