

Office of Economic Assistance **Child Care Subsidy Program** **Serious Injuries, Deaths, and Child Abuse Data**

What does this information mean?

These tables show the total cases over the past three years of serious injuries, deaths, and substantiated child abuse cases that occurred in child care settings throughout the state.

The Department of Health and Human Services' goal is to keep children safe. Every child care provider in Nebraska is required to complete annual inspections and compliance reviews to keep their license and/or child care subsidy enrollment. These inspections are publicly available at any time. Children are naturally curious explorers and sometimes get hurt, even under ideal conditions. Also, child care providers sometimes make mistakes or violate the rules, either unknowingly or knowingly, which may result in child injury.

Inspections & Monitoring Compliance: [Licensed](#) / [License Exempt](#)

Where does this information come from?

Child care providers are required to report to the Division of Public Health – Licensure Unit, Children's Services Licensing (dhhs.childcarelicensing@nebraska.gov; (800) 600-1289 or (402) 471-9205) when a child is seriously injured, abuse, neglect or if a child dies in care, even if it wasn't the result of a rule violation. The Department also receive complaints from parents or others regarding children's safety. Complaints can be shared by calling (800) 600-1289 or visiting <https://dhhswebsiteauthoring/Pages/Child-Care-Complaint.aspx>.

What types of child care does this information apply to?

There are five license types in Nebraska:

- Licensed Child Care Center - a child care program licensed to provide child care for thirteen or more children.
- Licensed Family Child Care Home I - a child care program in the licensee's residence which is licensed to serve at least four but not more than eight children, except that a licensee may be approved to serve up to two additional school-age children during non-school hours if no more than two of the other children in care are under 18 months of age.
- Licensed Family Child Care Home II - a child care program in the licensee's residence or another location which is licensed to serve at least four but not more than twelve children.
- Licensed School Age Only Center - a child care center licensed to provide a child care program for thirteen or more children who attend kindergarten or above. A school-age center may be in the licensee's residence or another location.
- Licensed Preschools - provide a partial-day early child care program of primarily education services to any number of children aged three or older, and where children do not nap and are not served a meal. A preschool may be in the licensee's residence or another location.

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The following types of child care programs are exempt from licensing but are regulated by the Department through the Child Care Subsidy program.

- License Exempt Family Child Care Home - a provider who is providing care in the provider's own home, serving a maximum of three children from different families, or six children from one family.
- License Exempt In-Home Child Care - care provided to a child in the child's own home.

What do serious injury, death, and substantiated child abuse in child care mean?

- Serious injury is defined as a death of a child or any accident or injury to a child which requires hospitalization or treatment at a medical facility.
- Death in child care is the death of a child that occurred while the child was in care.
- Substantiated child abuse cases are cases that have received final determination by Children and Family Services. Pending child abuse cases are not reflected in these numbers.

The tables on the next page display the annual number of serious injuries, deaths, and substantiated instances of child abuse that occurred in child care programs in Nebraska over a 3-year period. They also include the total license capacity in each type of care.

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Total Number of License Capacity, Serious Injuries, and Deaths, by Provider Category and Licensing Status									
	2022			2023			2024		
Provider Category and Licensing Status	Total Number of Children in Care*	Serious Injuries	Deaths	Total Number of Children in Care*	Serious Injuries	Deaths	Total Number of Children in Care*	Serious Injuries	Deaths
Licensed Child Care Center	68,535 (12/8/22)	14	0	69,008 (12/22/23)	16	0	71,588 (12/19/24)	264	0
Licensed Family Child Care Home I	11,001 (12/8/22)	9	0	10,335 (12/22/23)	12	X	9,906 (12/19/24)	10	X
Licensed Family Child Care Home II	6,569 (12/8/22)	203	0	6,900 (12/22/23)	283	X	6,969 (12/19/24)	9	X
Licensed School Age Only Center	37,281 (12/8/22)	65	0	36,227 (12/22/23)	64	0	36,289 (12/19/24)	61	0
Licensed Preschool	3,266 (12/8/22)	Not available	0	2,996 (12/22/23)	0	0	124,752 (12/19/24)	X	0
License Exempt Family Child Care Home	Not available	0	0	312 (9/1/23)	0	0	360 (12/31/24)	0	0
License Exempt In-Home Child Care	Not available	0	0	Not available	0	0	59 (12/31/24)	0	0

Total Instances of Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect by Year	2022	2023	2024
All Licensed and License Exempt Providers	X	X	X

*The total number of children in care for licensed programs represents the capacity of all programs in that category, regardless of their Subsidy eligibility. License Exempt program numbers represent only Subsidy eligible children.

Values of 1-5 have been suppressed for privacy protection and are indicated as "X" on the chart.