
Oregon's Child

Care Deserts:

Mapping Supply by Age
Group, Metropolitan Status,
and Percentage of Publicly
Funded Slots

Prepared for the **Oregon Early Learning Division**

Megan Pratt

Michaella Sektnan

Roberta B. Weber

Oregon's Child Care Deserts: Mapping Supply by Age Group, Metropolitan Status, and Percentage of Publicly Funded Slots

Abstract

Many families with young children live in what experts have defined as a *child care desert*, a community with more than three children for every regulated child care slot. Using this standard, families with infants and toddlers in every Oregon county live in a child care desert. The picture is only slightly better for families with preschool-age children; families in 25 of 36 counties live in a child care desert. In addition, higher percentages of preschool slots are publicly funded as compared to infant/toddler slots. Nonmetropolitan counties have higher percentages of publicly funded slots than do metropolitan counties. Total supply includes parent funded slots, which thrive where populations are large and incomes are relatively high. Solely building the child care supply is not an adequate solution. Families cannot use added slots unless they can afford them and quality is high enough to meet safety and developmental needs of their children. In Oregon, lack of affordability often prevents families from accessing quality care and education (Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, 2018). For one-pager overview of results, see [page 22](#).

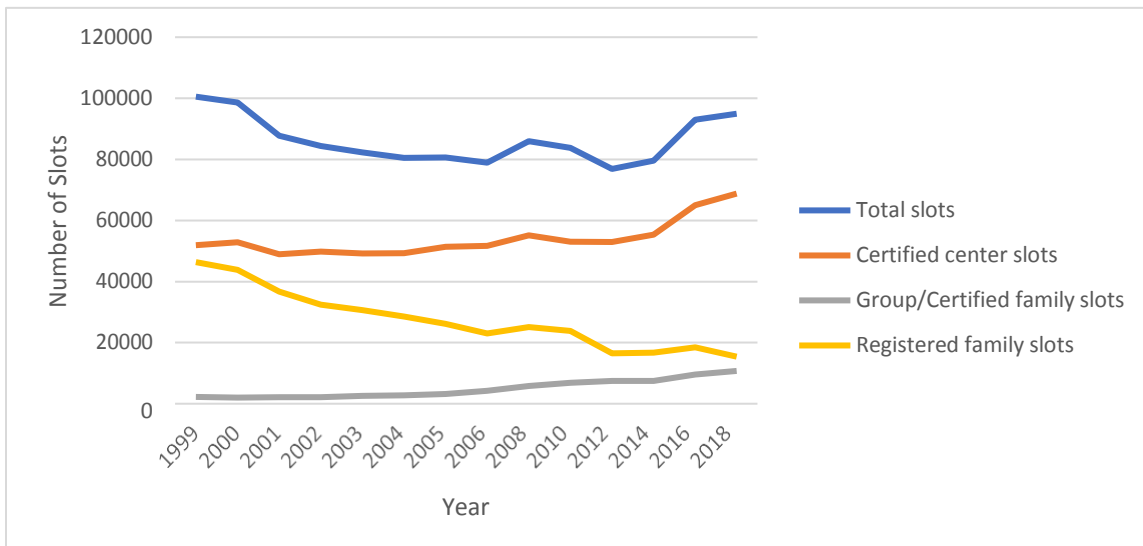
Introduction

Oregon families, especially those with infants and toddlers, struggle to find care and education for their children. In addition to their concerns about quality and affordability, parents often struggle just to find an arrangement. National experts (Malik, Hamm, Schochet, Novoa, Workman, & Jessen-Howard, 2018) define a child care desert as a community with more than three children for every regulated child care slot. That is, 33% or fewer children in a community have access to a slot. Policy makers have joined parents in expressing concerns about the adequacy of the child care supply.

In this report, we use the term *infants and toddlers* to refer to children ages 0, 1, and 2 years old (birth through the end of age 2) and *preschool-age children* to refer to children ages 3, 4, and 5 years of age (age 3 through the end of age 5).

An inadequate supply of child care is not a new problem in Oregon. The Oregon Child Care Research Partnership (OCCRP) has been studying child care supply since the 1990s. The following graph shows that, although the number of child care slots in centers and large family (certified) child care homes have been steadily growing since 1999, the number of slots in small family (registered) child care homes has steadily declined. Between 1999 and 2018, the total number of child care slots for children under age 13 declined by approximately 5,500 slots. The number of slots in centers and large family child care homes increased by approximately 25,000 slots, but the numbers in small family child care homes decreased by approximately 31,000 slots. The total number of slots was lowest in 2012 and has been steadily growing since that time. Growth in center and large home-based care has not made up for the decline in small home-based care. Families struggle to find care for their young children, and policy makers want to understand the child care supply as it will help identify strategies likely to be successful.

Figure 1: Regulated Oregon child care supply for children under age 13: 1999-2018



Oregon’s Early Learning Division (ELD) has been working with the Center for American Progress in their national effort to identify child care deserts. The Center’s recently released study (Malik et al., 2018) finds that 60% of Oregonians lived in a child care desert in 2018. The Center defined a desert as a census tract (if the tract had more than 50 children under age 5) with more than three children for every child care slot. Given OCCRP’s history of estimating child care supply, ELD asked the Partnership to examine deserts by age group (infant/toddler versus preschool-age children) and funding source (public versus non-public funding of slots). In defining deserts, Oregon researchers used the definition of more than three children per regulated child care slot at the county level. Fortunately, by working with partners, OCCRP was able to create a child care supply dataset that included information on the population of children in a county by age group and number of slots by age group, as well as data on whether or not slots were publicly funded.

In this report, we define a *child care desert* as a county with more than three children for each regulated child care slot.

Using this dataset, we set out to answer the following questions:

1. How adequate is Oregon’s child care supply for children ages five and under? Specifically, how many counties are child care deserts? How does the supply of preschool-age care compare with that for infants and toddlers?
2. Is the supply more adequate in metropolitan or nonmetropolitan¹ counties? Are there differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties based on age groups served?

¹ Metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties were defined using the Office of Management and Budget Core Based Statistical Area classification. Counties were classified as metropolitan if they include an urbanized area of 50,000 inhabitants or more, plus outlying counties with close economic or social ties to the central county. Nonmetropolitan counties include two groups: micropolitan and noncore. Micropolitan counties include at least one urban cluster of between 10,000 and 49,000 people, plus outlying counties. Noncore counties have no population cluster larger than 10,000

3. What percentage of child care slots are publicly funded? Does the percentage vary by age group served?
4. To what extent do these factors interact? How are metropolitan status, percentage of publicly funded slots, and age group served associated with whether or not a county is a child care desert?

Methods

The child care supply analyses reported here relied on numerous data sources, but the foundational dataset was the Estimating Supply (ES) dataset put together by Oregon State University (OSU). To create this dataset, OSU worked with Central Coordination at Western Oregon University. First, licensing data (Child Care Regulatory Information System) and Child Care Resource & Referral (NACCRRAware) databases were merged to ensure all child care facilities were included. Then Central Coordination managed a data update process in which data on capacity and price by age group were collected from all Oregon child care facilities within a three-month period to ensure all data were comparable and current. Central Coordination provided the updated data to OSU for use in multiple studies. Of relevance for these analyses, the dataset included data on each facility's regulatory status and desired capacity by age group as of January 1, 2018.

Data on capacity of publicly funded facilities by age group came from multiple sources. The Early Learning Division (ELD) administers several publicly-funded early learning programs: Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten (OPK), Early Head Start (EHS), and Preschool Promise (PP). ELD program managers provided lists of funded programs. Lists included facility identification information and numbers of children served or slots funded by each program. Oregon has a limited number of federally funded Head Start (HS) programs that did not receive either OPK or PP funding and were thus not on the ELD lists. These included federal HS, tribal HS, and Migrant and Seasonal HS programs. The Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) manages the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs. Many programs blended funding and hence were on ELD lists and also were federally funded. Thus, in addition to using the ELD lists, researchers identified programs that had OCDC or Head Start in their facility name but had not appeared on an ELD list.

Public slots included in this report do not include all public investments in child care. For instance, investments in the Employment-Related Day Care program (ERDC) are not included in this analysis of slots. Although ERDC, which is Oregon's child care subsidy program, helps parents pay for child care, it typically does not create child care slots¹. Parents who receive ERDC rely on the regulated and legally-operating unregulated slots in their community to find a slot into which they enroll their child. A subsidy voucher helps them purchase care in one of those slots. In addition, the number of publicly funded slots is likely underestimated. Local entities such as school districts or counties sometimes use their own public funds to deliver child care services, but that information was not in the available data and so those slots could have been missed. If a program that received only federal Head Start dollars did not have "Head Start" in its name, researchers may not have identified it as publicly funded. Head Start Child Care Partnerships use federal dollars to fund child

¹ The Oregon child care subsidy program has a small Contracted Slots program that contracts with providers. That program primarily funds Head Start programs to extend hours of services for eligible employed parents. This transforms part-day Head Start funded slots into full-day slots.

care slots within community facilities, but those community facilities were not identified in the dataset. Also, families receiving Relief Nursery services often participate in a publicly funded early learning program, but a reliable number of those who participated in an early learning program was not available.

Getting to credible values for facility capacity provided challenges. The ES dataset included counts of desired capacity, that is the number of slots that could be filled at a given time. Most programs were full day, so the desired capacity represented the number of children the program hoped to serve. But part-day programs often seek to fill that capacity more than once in a day, e.g., in the morning and afternoon. In those cases, the desired capacity reported in the ES dataset would be smaller than the number of children served. In some cases, the ELD lists included values for the number of children served. The ES dataset noted if facilities were full or part-day. Thus, by manually matching data from the ES dataset with that from the ELD lists, researchers were able to develop credible values for child care slots.

Researchers included counts aligned with their stated desired capacity only if the program offered a facility-based early learning program. In a few instances, ELD lists included numbers of children served with home visiting rather than in a center or home-based early learning program. When ELD lists included larger values of numbers served than the desired capacity values in the ES dataset, researchers checked to see if the program offered a home visiting program.

Population estimates from the Population Research Center at Portland State University were used to calculate the percent of children who had access to a slot. Estimates were from the 2017 Annual Population Report Tables, released April 15, 2018. In line with national practice, child care desert estimations used population estimates by age group. Attempting to estimate the number who “need” child care would be out of line with national efforts and would be likely to introduce error as there are no reliable estimates of child care need.

Findings

In examining the adequacy of the supply of child care and early education for young children in Oregon, we identified child care deserts and looked for association of deserts with metropolitan status and public funding. We asked four basic questions:

1. How adequate is Oregon’s child care supply for children ages five and under?
2. Is the supply more adequate in metropolitan or nonmetropolitan counties?
3. What percentage of child care slots are publicly funded?
4. To what extent do age group served, metropolitan status, and percentage of slots that are publicly funded interact?

For each basic question, we ask additional questions about differences based on age of child and size of differences. Below we summarize the answers to each question while also displaying the information in maps and tables.

How adequate is the child care supply for children ages five and under in Oregon? Specifically, how many counties are child care deserts?

A county is a child care desert if there are more than three children for every regulated child care slot. Another way of representing the desert definition is to show the percentage of children in the county with access to a slot. Having a slot for fewer than 33% of the county’s children is the same as having more than three children for every slot. Using the second definition facilitates county comparisons.

Overall, 21% of Oregon’s children age five and under have access to a regulated child care slot (12% of infants and toddlers and 29% of preschool-age children). This equates to roughly eight infants and toddlers for every infant/toddler slot and three preschool-age children for every preschool-age child care slot. See [Table 1](#) and [Map 1](#) to view the percentage of access to child care in each county.

Mapping the child care deserts tells a similar story. For all children age five and under, only three counties are not a child care desert ([Map 2](#)). For infants and toddlers, every county is a desert; whereas for preschool-age children, nine counties are not deserts ([Map 3](#)). Not being a child care desert does not necessarily mean that the supply is sufficient for all families that need care, as approximately two-thirds of Oregon children five and under have two employed or a single employed parent (Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, 2018). Nor does not being a desert mean that quality and affordability are not issues.

Is the supply more adequate in metropolitan or non-metropolitan counties?

The answer to this question is complicated. Deserts represent the relationship between the number of children in an age group and the number of slots available to those children. Both the number of children and number of slots are smaller in nonmetropolitan counties. A nonmetropolitan county may have a higher percentage of children with access, while still having a relatively small supply. In addition, the distinction between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties is blurred, as there are rural areas within almost all metropolitan counties.

Viewing the state as a whole, the percentage of all children age five and under with access to a child care slot is slightly higher in metropolitan (21%) than nonmetropolitan counties (18%) and the pattern of higher percentages of access in metropolitan counties is the same for infants and toddlers and preschool-age children. Although, the differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan supply are relatively small.

Percentage of Children with Access to Child Care in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

	0-2 year olds with access to a slot	3-5 year olds with access to a slot	0-5 year olds with access to a slot
Metro Counties	13%	30%	21%
Nonmetro Counties	9%	28%	18%

Maps graphically tell the same story. For all children five years of age and under, only three counties are not deserts and these are nonmetropolitan counties ([Map 4](#)). For preschool-age

children, seven of the nine counties that are not deserts are nonmetropolitan, and for infants and toddlers, all counties are deserts ([Map 5](#)).

What percentage of child care slots are publicly funded?

For this analysis, publicly funded slots are those slots funded by Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition. These slots are typically available only to children from very low-income families.

Overall, 19% of regulated slots for children ages five and under in Oregon are publicly funded, with the percentage of publicly funded slots varying substantially by age group. Of slots for infants and toddlers, only 7% of slots are publicly funded, whereas 24% of slots for preschool-age children are publicly funded. See [Table 2](#) for the percent of publicly funded slots by county.

A map displaying the percentage of publicly funded slots in each county shows that in the majority of counties, 25% or more of child care slots for children age five and under are publicly funded ([Map 6](#)). More specifically, eight counties have more than 50% of slots publicly funded, 16 counties have between 25-50% of slots publicly funded, and 12 counties have less than 25% publicly funded. Age groups matter, though. Substantially more counties have 25% or more of slots publicly funded for preschool-age children than for infants and toddlers ([Map 7](#)). It is important to note that a higher percentage of publicly funded slots does not equate to more public funding. Rather, it means that a higher percentage of the total supply in the county is publicly funded.

Publicly funded slots play an important role in supply adequacy. Examining the nine counties that are not preschool child care deserts, seven of the nine would become deserts without publicly funded slots². Public slots make up 29% to 65% of preschool slots in these counties. Only Benton and Wheeler counties would continue to not be deserts without publicly funded slots.

How are metropolitan status, percentage of publicly funded slots, and age of child associated with whether or not a county is a child care desert?

To understand the adequacy of child care supply, it helps to view metropolitan status, percentage of slots publicly funded, and age of child together. Metropolitan counties have more slots, but they also have more children. Taken as a whole, metropolitan counties have higher levels of access to a regulated child care slot (21% of children in metropolitan counties versus 18% of children age five and under in nonmetropolitan counties). Yet, a higher percentage of metropolitan than nonmetropolitan counties are child care deserts for children ages five and under (100% of metropolitan versus 85% of nonmetropolitan). For the vast majority of nonmetropolitan counties, large percentages (25% or more) of slots are publicly funded. One-third of nonmetropolitan counties have over 50% of their supply publicly funded ([Map 8](#)). Although this remains the case when we view the supply by age groups ([Map 9](#)), the percentage of publicly funded slots is a much smaller proportion of the supply for infants and toddlers than for preschool-age children.

² Counties that would become deserts without publicly funded slots include: Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Morrow, Multnomah, and Sherman. Only Benton and Wheeler continue to not be deserts if publicly funded slots were not included.

Discussion

Most Oregon families with children age five and under live in a child care desert. If their child is an infant or toddler, all families live in a desert. Having an inadequate supply is not a new problem in Oregon. The decline in slots in small home-based care is associated with a decline in the total supply in regulated care. The decline in small family (registered) slots had begun prior to 1999 and the number of slots has continuously declined since that time. The number of slots available in centers and large family (certified) child care homes continues to increase. However, the child care supply has not kept up with the growth in the population of children age five and under.

Three characteristics of child care supply provide insight into the adequacy of the supply. Age group served is the first. Every Oregon county is a child care desert for infants and toddlers. Providers struggle to provide infant/toddler care due to the high staffing levels needed to meet safety and developmental needs of very young children. Public funding has been primarily directed to preschool due to its proximity to kindergarten entrance. Yet the early years are critical to development, and many argue that waiting until preschool is not an effective way to support kindergarten readiness. It is important to note that the supply is inadequate for preschool-age children also; 25 of 36 counties are deserts for preschool-age children. It is just that the supply is the least adequate for infants and toddlers, with only one slot for every eight infant/toddler.

Two additional characteristics are associated with the adequacy of the child care supply: metropolitan status and percentage of slots that are publicly funded. Nonmetropolitan counties are less likely to be a child care desert than are metropolitan counties, despite having much smaller child care supplies. The total supply in any county is made up of both publicly funded and non-publicly funded (market) slots. A larger market funded supply of child care is associated with larger populations and higher levels of household income and maternal education. These characteristics are associated with metropolitan counties and thus, numbers of market care slots are larger in metropolitan than in nonmetropolitan counties. In metropolitan counties, providers find it easier to fill slots, can charge higher fees to parents, and thus operate sustainable market programs. Public funding is typically directed to areas where conditions for market care are weak. These targeted areas are in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, but they make up a greater percentage of the slots in nonmetropolitan counties where the conditions to support market care are especially weak and thus the number of market slots is small. It is not surprising that when looking at the nine counties that are not child care deserts for preschooler-age children ([Map 8](#)), there is a substantial difference in the percentage of slots that are publicly funded. In the seven nonmetropolitan counties that are not deserts, 25% or more of their slots are publicly funded. In the two metropolitan counties that are not deserts, less than 25% of their slots are publicly funded. In general, publicly funded slots make up a larger percentage of total supply in nonmetropolitan than metropolitan counties. Child care markets are stronger in metropolitan counties and thus the total number of slots is larger, and the percentage of publicly funded slots is smaller. When we add consideration of age group along with metropolitan status and percentage of slots publicly funded, we find fewer infant and toddler than preschool child care slots and smaller percentages of public funding for infant/toddler slots, regardless of metropolitan status.

This study focuses on availability of child care and education; that is, how many slots does Oregon have in relationship to the number of children in an age group. As important as availability is, it is only one of a set of interrelated child care characteristics that are critical to making child care work for children and families. Accessibility, affordability, and quality are also important. Child care slots may be available and not be accessible because a parent cannot afford the price or because services are offered at times or locations that do not align with parent's employment or school schedules. Finally, it may be available but not meet a child's safety or developmental needs. Having an adequate supply is not enough. Parents need child care to be affordable, accessible, and of high enough quality that it meets the child's needs.

Limitations

The major limitation of this study is the geographical unit used. County was used because data were available on both supply and population for that geographical unit. But as almost 30 years of market price surveys has demonstrated, a county typically contains multiple child care markets (a market is defined as a geographic area that includes both those who seek and those who provide care) (Grobe, Weber, Davis, Kreader, & Pratt, 2008). Multiple child care communities typically exist within a county. Future studies should explore use of clusters of either zip codes or census tracts so as to better approximate child care communities.

In addition, the number of publicly funded slots is likely underestimated. Although the number of publicly funded slots not identified in the study is relatively small, it would be important that future studies include efforts to identify as many publicly funded slots as possible. It is also worth noting that number of slots does not equal the number of children served. Some programs fill a slot with more than one child, as is the case of part-time or part-day enrollments. Available data capture the number of slots a program hopes to fill at any given moment, not the total number of children they hope to reach, or the number they actually serve. Thus, it is important to recognize that these findings address availability of *slots* and may not reflect the total number of children who can be served in Oregon regulated child care and early education programs.

Study Implications and Next Steps

The study confirms parent reports of supply inadequacies and supports the findings of other studies. It also clarifies that issues of supply and public funding are greater for infant/toddler than for preschool-age child care supply. It is important to note that the majority of Oregon counties are deserts for preschool-age children as well as for infants and toddlers. Increasing supply will not meet family needs unless the added slots are affordable, accessible, and high enough quality to meet safety and developmental needs of children. Child care is local; there is a limit to how far a family can travel to obtain child care and the majority of families find care near their home. There are multiple child care communities within a county. If decision makers are to have the information needed to identify effective strategies, it will be important to do these analyses at a smaller geographical level.

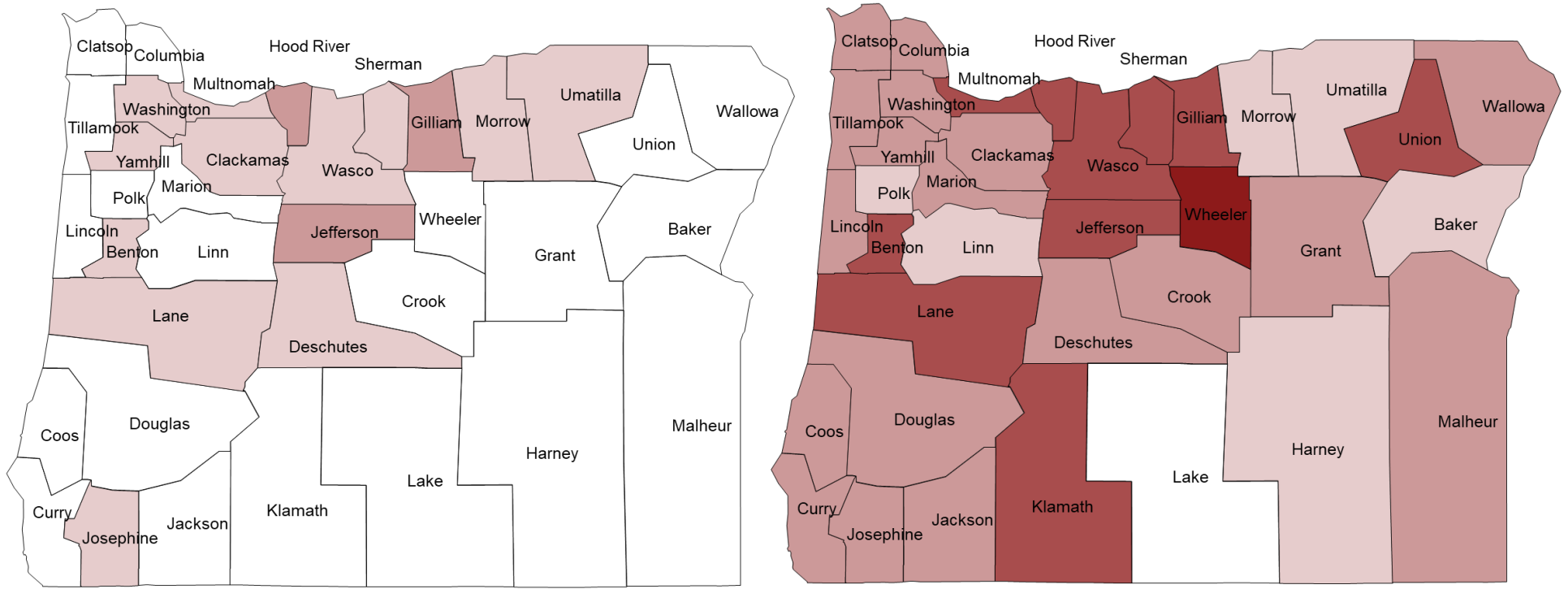
References

Grobe, D., Weber, R. B., Davis, E. E., Kreader, J. L., & Pratt, C. C. (2008). *Study of market prices: Validating child care market rate surveys*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. Retrieved from <https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/sbhs/pdf/Validity-Study-FINAL-1-27-09.pdf>

Malik, R., Hamm, K., Schochet, L., Novoa, C., Workman, S., & Jessen-Howard, S. (2018, December 6). *America's child care deserts in 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/12/06/461643/americas-child-care-deserts-2018/>

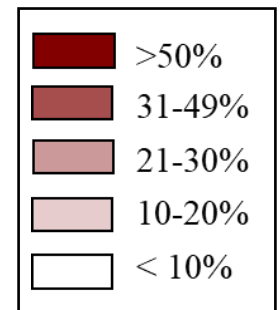
Oregon Child Care Research Partnership. (2018). *State profile: 2018 Early care and education in Oregon*. Retrieved from Oregon Early Learner: Facts and Findings website: <https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/oregon-early-care-education-profile-2018.pdf>

Map 1. Percent of Oregon Young Children with Access to Regulated Child Care Slot by Age



0-2 year olds

3-5 year olds

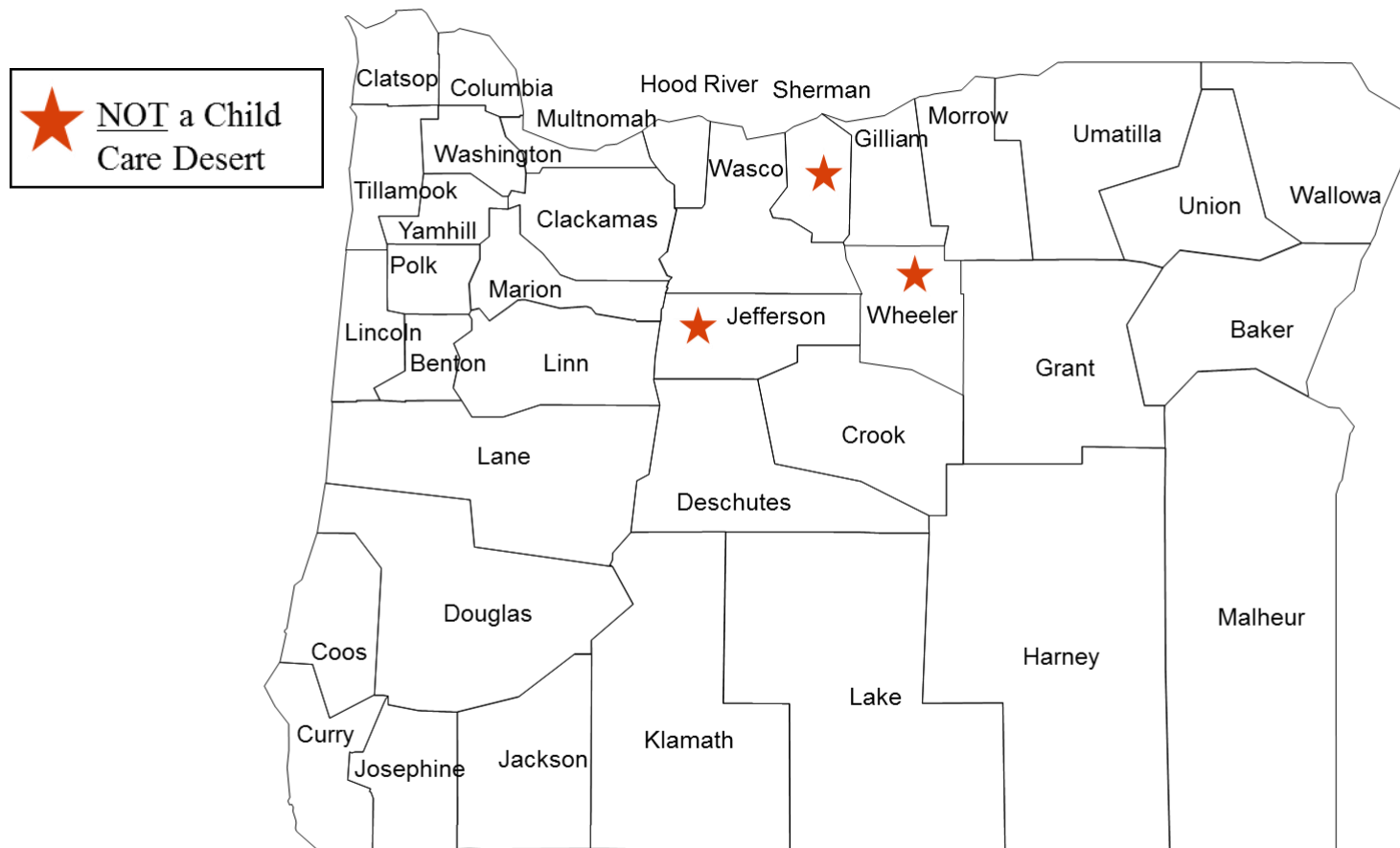


0-2 year olds includes children birth through age 2. 3-5 year olds includes children 3 through the end of age 5.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center).

Map 2. For children age five and under, only 3 out of 36 counties are *not* child care deserts in Oregon.



A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

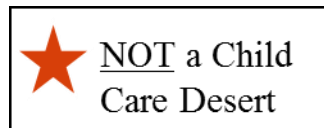
Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center).

Map 3. For 0-2 year olds, every county is a desert. For 3-5 year olds, nine counties are *not* a desert.



0-2 year olds

3-5 year olds



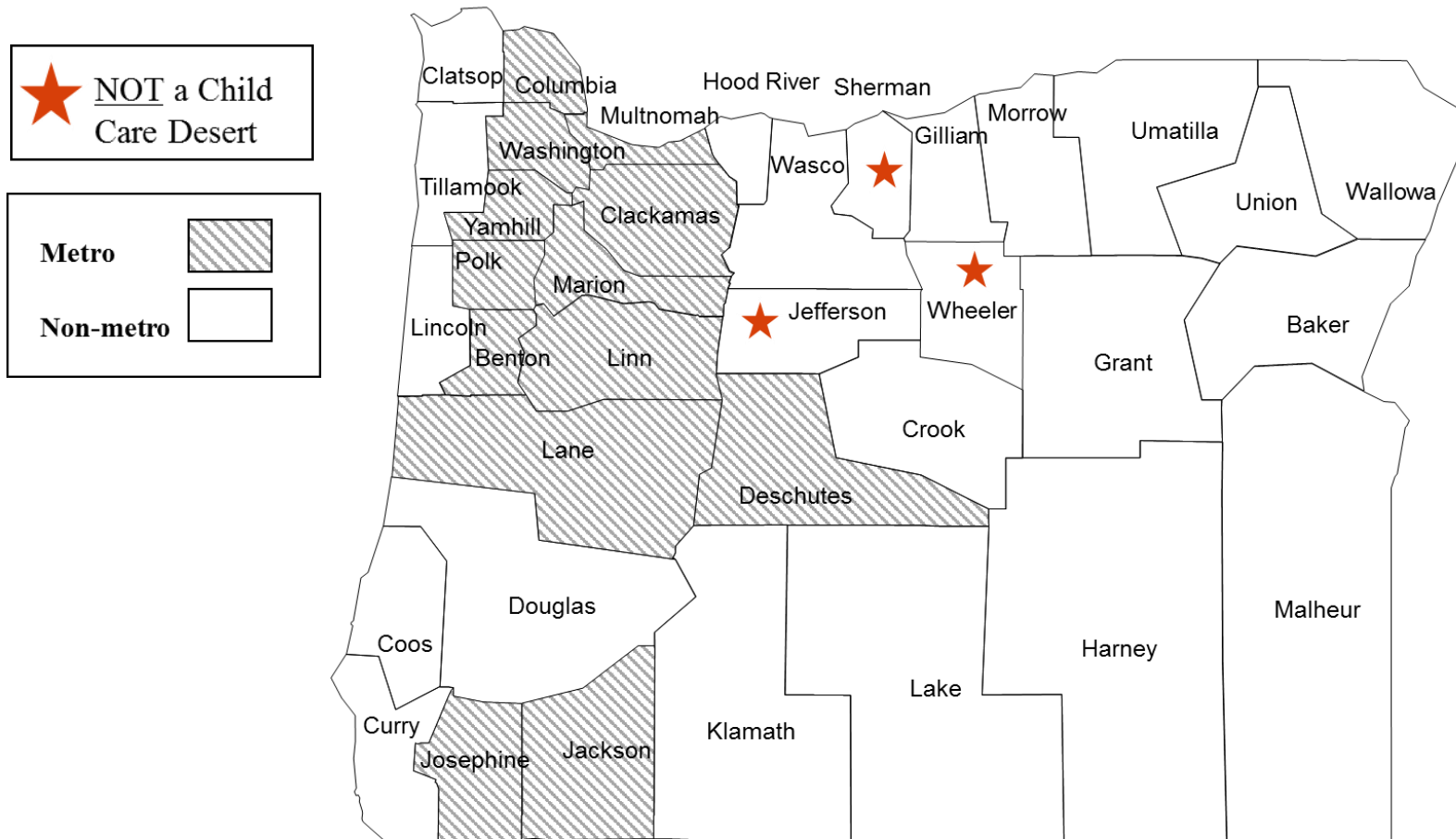
0-2 year olds includes children birth through age 2. 3-5 year olds includes children 3 through the end of age 5.

A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center).

Map 4. For children age five and under, three non-metropolitan counties are *not* child care deserts.



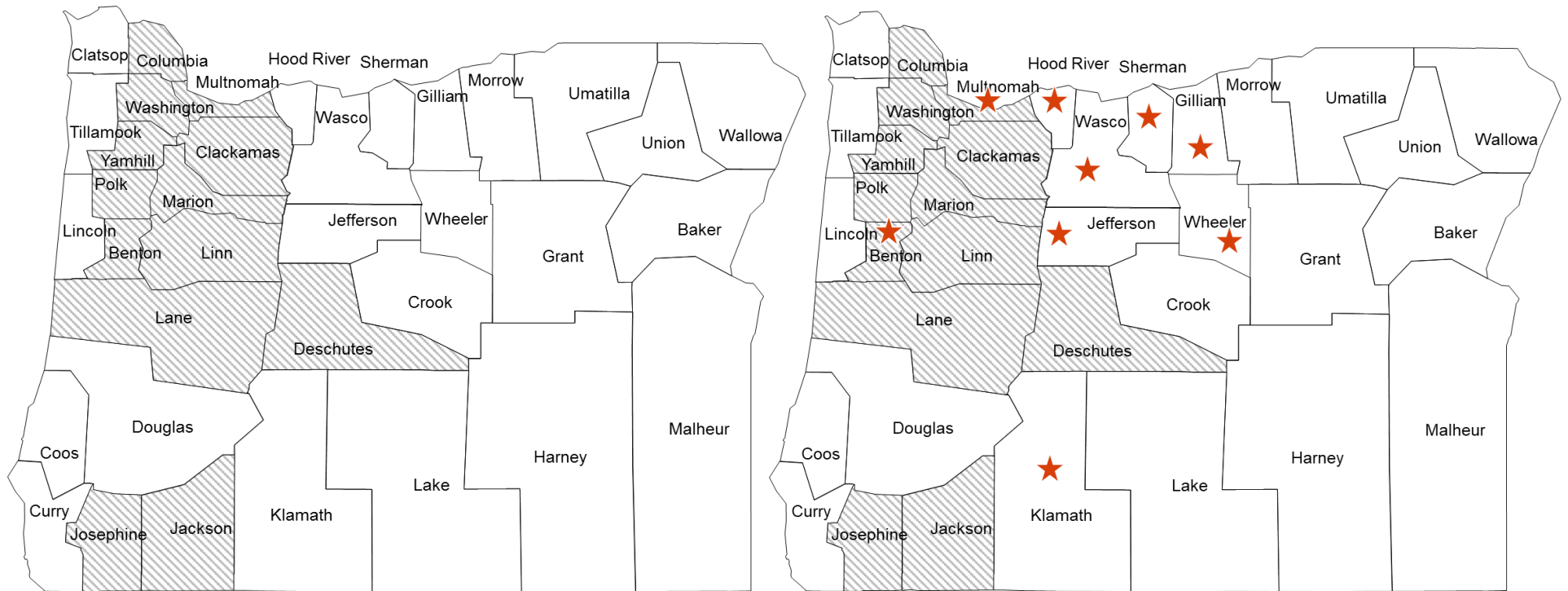
A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Metropolitan & non-metropolitan counties are defined using the US Office of Management and Budget Core Based Statistical Area classification.

Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center).


Map 5. For 3-5 year olds, seven non-metropolitan and two metropolitan counties are *not* child care deserts.




0-2 year olds

3-5 year olds

★ NOT a Child Care Desert

Metro 

Non-metro 

0-2 year olds includes children birth through age 2. 3-5 year olds includes children 3 through the end of age 5.

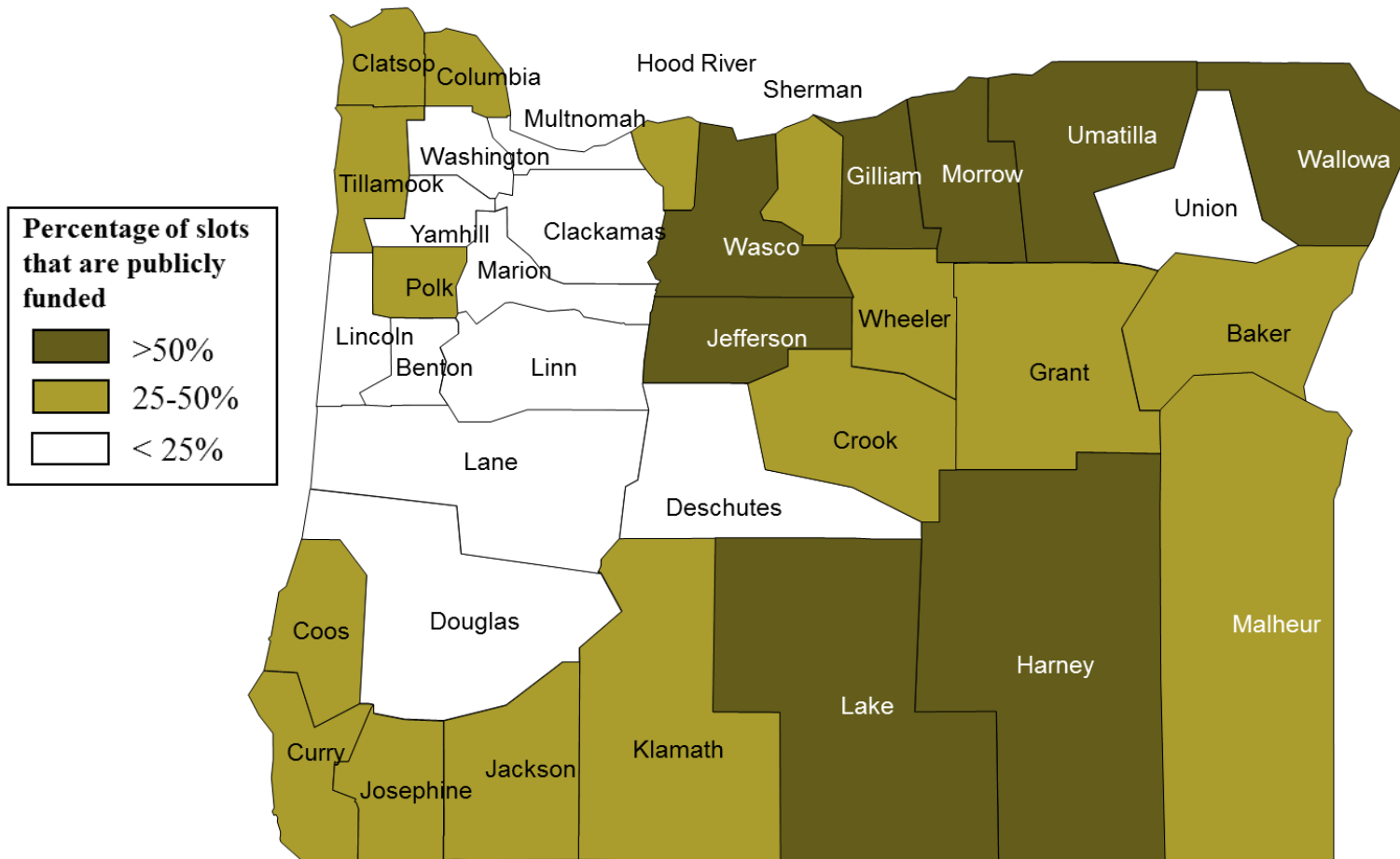
A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Metropolitan & non-metropolitan counties are defined using the US Office of Management and Budget Core Based Statistical Area classification.

Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center).

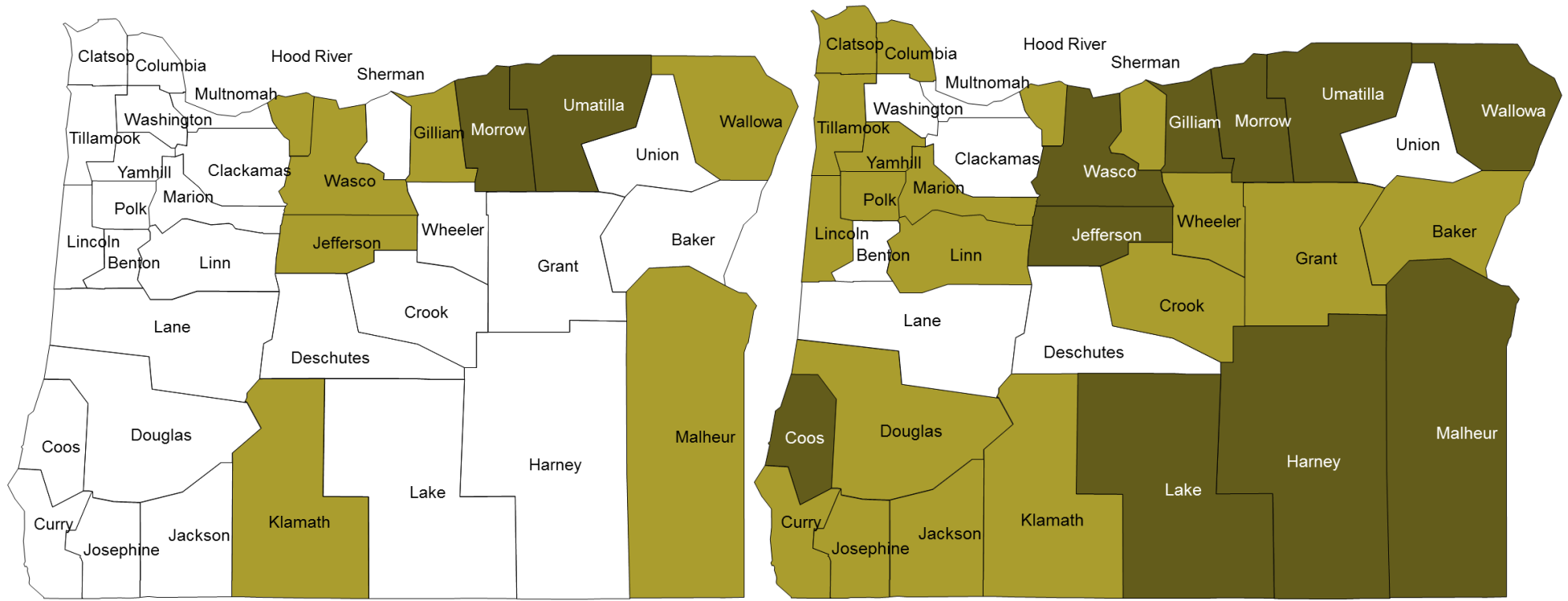
Map 6. Public funding plays a major role in creating the supply in the majority of Oregon counties.



Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

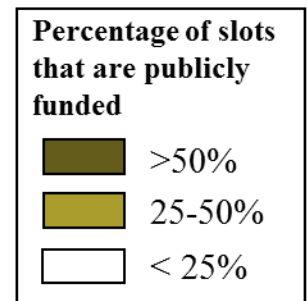
Data sources: Public slots for ages 0-5 include Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Percentage of slots that are publicly funded is calculated by dividing the number of public slots by the total number of regulated slots (Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018; Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the CCR&R system).

Map 7. The percentage of publicly funded slots is greater for 3-5 year olds than for 0-2 year olds.



0-2 year olds

3-5 year olds

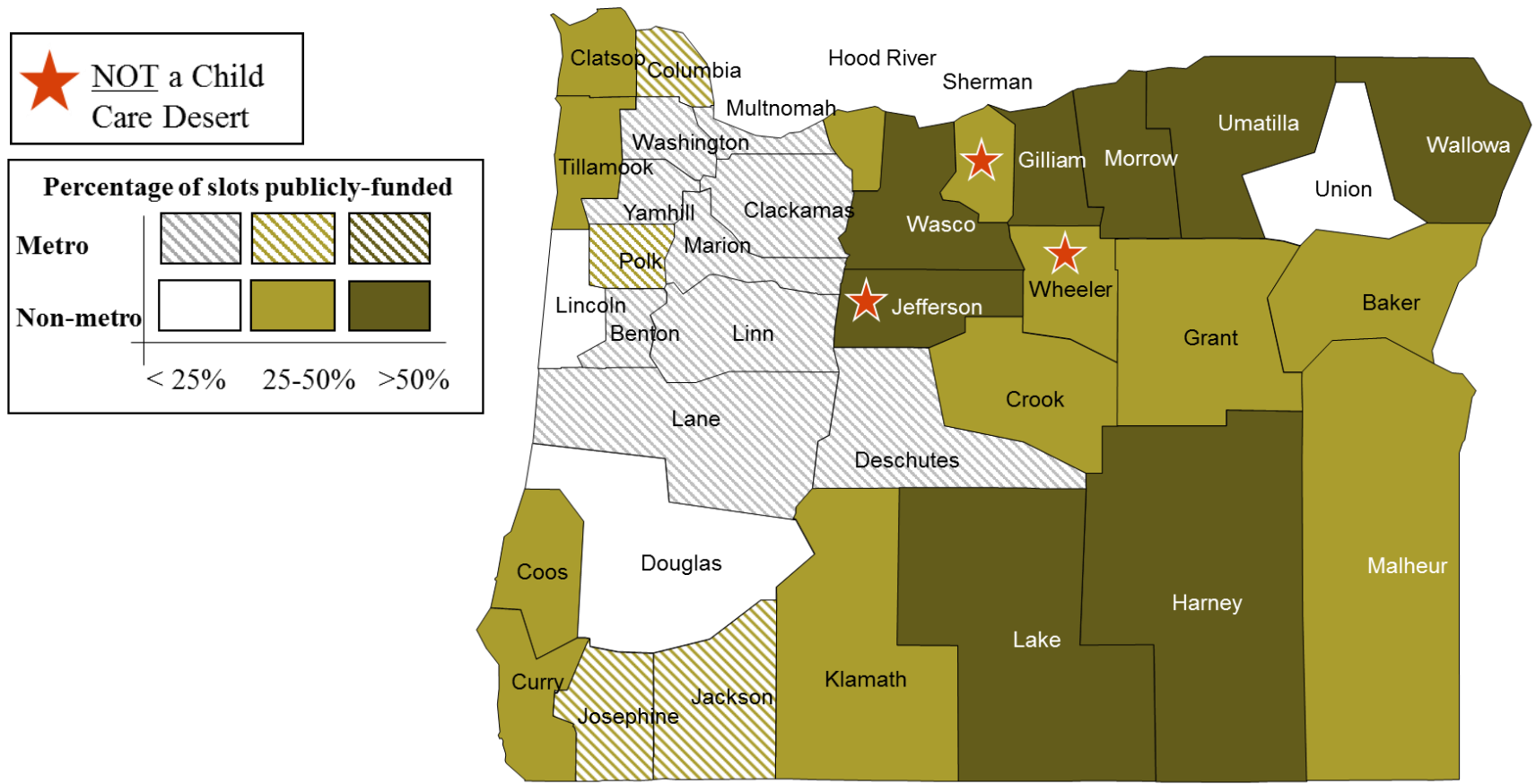


0-2 year olds includes children birth through age 2. 3-5 year olds includes children 3 through the end of age 5.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Data sources: Public slots include Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Percentage of slots that are publicly funded is calculated by dividing the number of public slots by the total number of regulated slots for age group (Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018; Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the R&R system).

Map 8. For children age five and under, three non-metropolitan counties are *not* child care deserts and 25% or more of their slots are publicly funded.



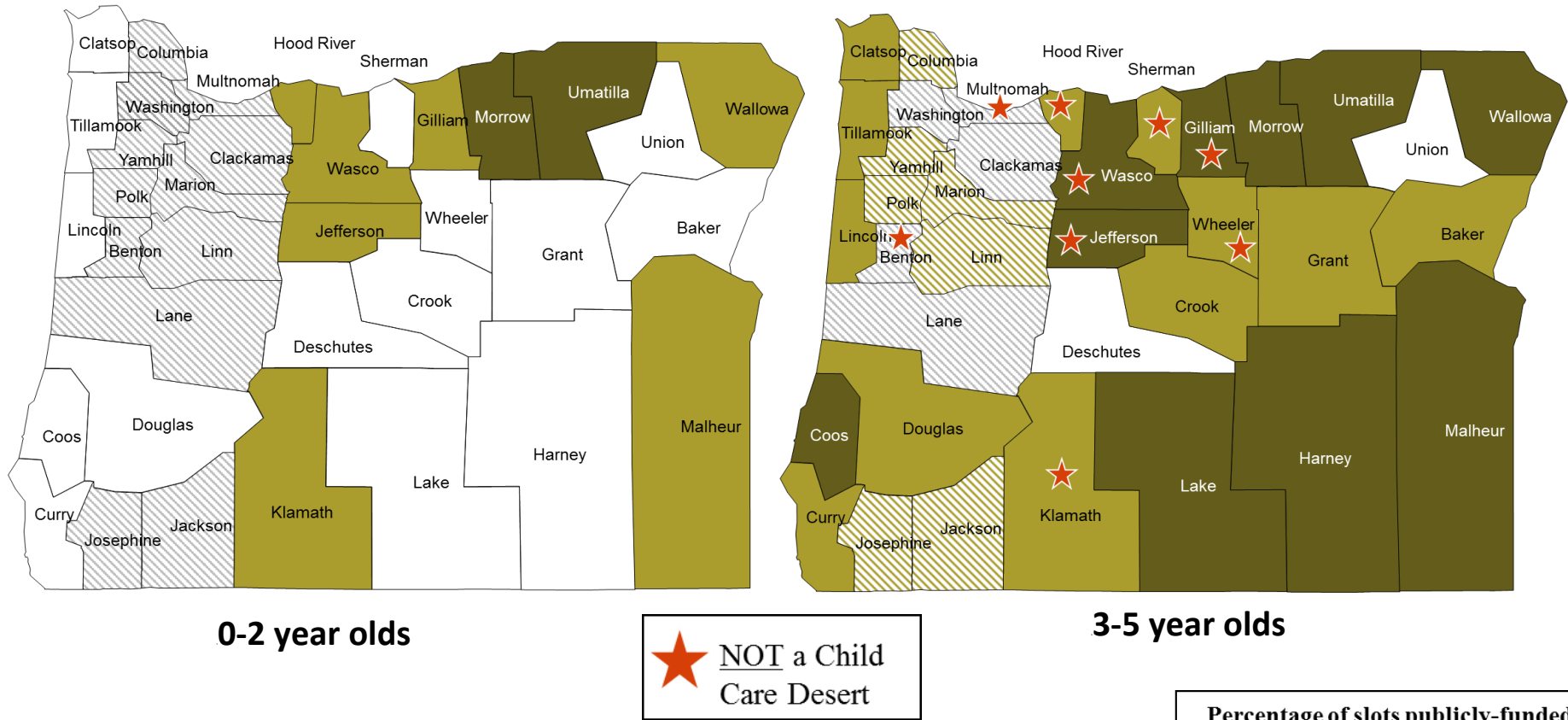
A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Metropolitan & non-metropolitan counties are defined using the US Office of Management and Budget Core Based Statistical Area classification.

Data sources: Public slots include Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Percentage of slots that are publicly funded is calculated by dividing the number of public slots by the total number of regulated slots for age group (Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018; Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the R&R system).

Map 9. For 0-2 year olds, every county is a desert, and the percentage of publicly funded slots is substantially lower than for 3-5 year olds.



0-2 year olds includes children birth through age 2. 3-5 year olds includes children 3 through the end of age 5.

A child care desert is defined as a county with more than three young children for every child care slot.

Slots are defined as regulated child care slots, including Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers.

Metropolitan & non-metropolitan counties are defined using the US Office of Management and Budget Core Based Statistical Area classification.

Data sources: Public slots include Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Percentage of slots that are publicly funded is calculated by dividing the number of public slots by the total number of regulated slots for age group (Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018; Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the R&R system).

**Table 1. Percent of Children in County with Access to a Regulated Slot*
By Age Group**

A county is considered a child care desert if fewer than 33% of the county's children have access to a slot.

County	0-2 year olds	3-5 year olds	Total 0-5 year olds
Baker	4%	18%	11%
Benton	19%	42%	31%
Clackamas	13%	29%	21%
Clatsop	8%	26%	17%
Columbia	7%	29%	18%
Coos	6%	25%	16%
Crook	5%	24%	14%
Curry	9%	26%	17%
Deschutes	11%	28%	20%
Douglas	9%	24%	17%
Gilliam	25%	33%	29%
Grant	5%	25%	15%
Harney	0%	13%	7%
Hood River	21%	42%	32%
Jackson	9%	26%	17%
Jefferson	24%	44%	34%
Josephine	11%	28%	19%
Klamath	8%	40%	24%
Lake	0%	9%	5%
Lane	12%	31%	22%
Lincoln	4%	27%	15%
Linn	6%	17%	12%
Malheur	8%	21%	15%
Marion	8%	24%	16%
Morrow	12%	16%	14%
Multnomah	18%	38%	28%
Polk	8%	16%	12%
Sherman	18%	48%	33%
Tillamook	4%	21%	12%
Umatilla	11%	22%	16%
Union	7%	31%	19%
Wallowa	6%	22%	14%
Wasco	17%	39%	27%
Washington	15%	29%	22%
Wheeler	4%	98%	49%
Yamhill	10%	21%	16%
Oregon	12%	29%	21%

*Regulated includes Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers

*0-2 includes children birth through the end of age 2; 3-5 includes children age 3 through the end of age 5.

Data sources: Access to child care is calculated by taking the Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018 (Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the R&R system) and dividing it by the population of children in the county who fall in the age group (2017 Annual Population Report Tables, Portland State University Population Research Center)

**Table 2. Number and Percent of Public Slots By Age Group
for Regulated Programs***

Public slots for ages five and under include Oregon Pre-kindergarten, Early Head Start, Federal and Tribal Head Start, Oregon Child Development Coalition, and Preschool Promise.

County	0-2 year olds			3-5 year olds			Total 0-5 year olds		
	Total Slots	Public Slots	Percent Public	Total Slots	Public Slots	Percent Public	Total Slots	Public Slots	Percent Public
Baker	23	0	0%	96	46	48%	119	46	39%
Benton	406	8	2%	948	101	11%	1,354	109	8%
Clackamas	1,715	27	2%	4,063	541	13%	5,778	568	10%
Clatsop	104	0	0%	347	117	34%	451	117	26%
Columbia	124	0	0%	490	174	36%	614	174	28%
Coos	137	0	0%	533	268	50%	670	268	40%
Crook	31	0	0%	159	60	38%	190	60	32%
Curry	45	0	0%	131	60	46%	176	60	34%
Deschutes	764	0	0%	1,947	200	10%	2,711	200	7%
Douglas	323	0	0%	844	273	32%	1,167	273	23%
Gilliam	18	8	44%	20	12	60%	38	20	53%
Grant	9	0	0%	46	20	43%	55	20	36%
Harney	0	0	0%	32	32	100%	32	32	100%
Hood River	201	72	36%	412	120	29%	613	192	31%
Jackson	708	56	8%	1,989	642	32%	2,697	698	26%
Jefferson	225	106	47%	396	218	55%	621	324	52%
Josephine	303	32	11%	731	250	34%	1,034	282	27%
Klamath	202	56	28%	930	449	48%	1,132	505	45%
Lake	0	0	0%	20	20	100%	20	20	100%
Lane	1,344	8	1%	3,404	810	24%	4,748	818	17%
Lincoln	54	0	0%	374	100	27%	428	100	23%
Linn	291	8	3%	851	230	27%	1,142	238	21%
Malheur	120	32	27%	293	170	58%	413	202	49%
Marion	1,291	116	9%	3,582	976	27%	4,873	1,092	22%
Morrow	54	46	85%	77	40	52%	131	86	66%
Multnomah	5,375	273	5%	11,037	2,266	21%	16,412	2,539	15%
Polk	277	56	20%	540	241	45%	817	297	36%
Sherman	12	0	0%	29	11	38%	41	11	27%
Tillamook	42	0	0%	190	84	44%	232	84	36%
Umatilla	401	222	55%	812	438	54%	1,213	660	54%
Union	81	8	10%	343	77	22%	424	85	20%
Wallowa	17	8	47%	58	37	64%	75	45	60%
Wasco	185	88	48%	417	272	65%	602	360	60%
Washington	3,770	114	3%	7,369	953	13%	11,139	1,067	10%
Wheeler	2	0	0%	41	16	39%	43	16	37%
Yamhill	425	0	0%	860	214	25%	1,285	214	17%
Oregon	19,079	1,344	7%	44,411	10,538	24%	63,490	11,882	19%

*Regulated includes Certified Centers, Certified Family, and Registered Family Providers

Data sources: The percentage of slots that are publicly funded is calculated by dividing the number of public slots in the programs listed above by the total number of regulated slots (Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of January 2018; Analysis by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University using data collected by 211 and the R&R system)

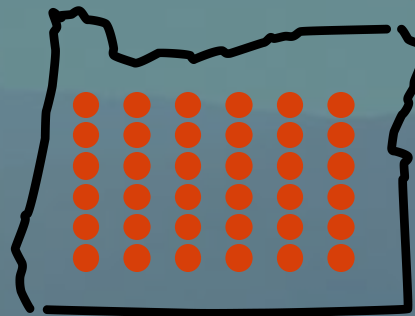
Across Oregon, there is inadequate regulated child care supply - especially for infants & toddlers

Public funding plays a major role in creating Oregon's child care supply - especially for preschoolers

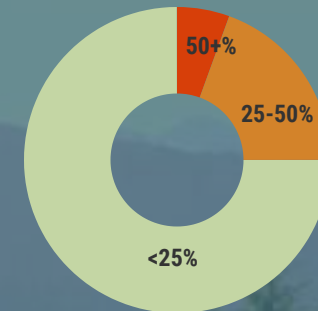


There are 8 infants & toddlers for a single child care slot in Oregon

A child care desert is a community with 3 or more children for a single child care slot



All 36 Oregon counties are child care deserts for infants & toddlers



3/4 of Oregon counties have fewer than 25% publicly funded regulated infant/toddler slots

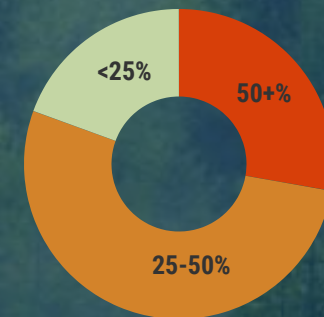


There are 3 preschool-age children for a single child care slot in Oregon



All but 9 Oregon counties are child care deserts for preschool-age children

Without publicly funded slots, 7 additional counties would be child care deserts.



All but 9 Oregon counties have at least 25% publicly funded regulated preschool-age slots

Definitions: **Infants & toddlers** are 0-2 year olds. **Preschool-age children** are 3-5 year olds. **Regulated child care** includes certified centers, and registered or certified family child care homes. **Publicly funded slots** include Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Federal and Tribal Head Start, and Federal Migrant and Seasonal Head Start managed by OCDC.

Reference: Oregon's Child Care Deserts: Mapping Supply by Age Group, Metropolitan Status, and Percentage of Publicly Funded Slot, 2018 Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. Full report can be found at <https://health.oregonstate.edu/early-learners/early-care-education>. For more information contact Megan Pratt at megan.pratt@oregonstate.edu