(Re)Building Boston’s Early Education and Care Sector: Supply, Affordability and Quality Needed
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Data Presentation
Authors

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Birth to Eight Collaborative Data Committee
Data Committee | A Collective Impact Approach

2017
Initial Questions

2019
First S&D Report

2020
First COVID Brief

2021
Second COVID Brief
Demand

- All children ages birth to 5 living in Boston in 2020 (2016–2020 ACS)
- Methodology used by the Center for American Progress (2008)

“Ultimately, sufficient formal early education and care seats in a community is an equity indicator.”
In 2020, Boston had approximately 39,992 children aged 0–5 years old.
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53% of them (21,222) were 0-2 years old.
Supply

• All seats for children 0 to 5 years of age in licensed early education and care programs and in schools

“Statewide survey data showed that staffing limitations have reduced actual capacity in many programs.”
In June 2022, Boston had approximately 747 early education and care providers.
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With an estimated capacity of 24,276 formal early education and care seats for children ages 0 to 5
In June 2022, Boston had approximately 747 childcare providers.

Estimated capacity: 24,276 formal early education & care seats for children ages 0 to 5 years.

Only 21% of the seats available are for children 0 to 2 years of age.
Early Education and Care Access Gap for Children Ages 0 to 5 years in Boston, by neighborhood (2022)
Access Gap by Age Group and Neighborhood [Boston, 2022]
Access Gap

- Boston had an average 39% access gap for children ages 0 to 5 years.
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- For preschoolers, there were 19,115 seats to serve 18,770 children.
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- But this 2% surplus of seats for 3-5 year olds masks gaps in 8 neighborhoods.
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- The citywide gap is driven by the lack of seats for infants and toddlers.
- If all children ages 0 to 2 needed to be enrolled in a formal setting, 76% would not have a seat.
- For preschoolers, there were 19,115 seats to serve 18,770 children.
- This 2% surplus of preschool seats masks gaps in 8 neighborhoods.
Only 1 in 4 infants and toddlers would find a seat in a formal child care setting.
BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

SUPPLY

TRENDS

IN

BOSTON
SUPPLY

Between 2017 and 2022 Boston lost 15% of its licensed early education and care providers.

TRENDS

IN

BOSTON
Supply

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Trends

Equivalent to a decrease of 6% of licensed seats, which went from 15,991 to 15,071.

In

Boston
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This is a trend driven by the 17% loss of FCCs.
### Supply
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### Trends
Equivalent to a decrease of 6% of licensed seats, which went from 15,991 to 15,071

This is a trend driven by the loss of FCCs, which saw a decrease of 17% of their capacity

### In
In the past nine years, the city lost nearly 36% of its FCCs
BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

Access

Quality

Affordability
“Centers and FCCs without these indicators may offer high quality seats that are not captured by currently available indicators used in our analyses.”
### Quality Gap by Age Group and Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>0 to 5 years</th>
<th>0 to 2 years</th>
<th>3 to 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allston/Brighton</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Bay/Beacon Hill</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlestown</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Boston</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenway/Kenmore</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyde Park</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattapan</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Hill/Jamaica Plain</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roslindale</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxbury</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Boston</td>
<td>-40%</td>
<td>-40%</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South End</td>
<td>-50%</td>
<td>-50%</td>
<td>-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Roxbury</td>
<td>-60%</td>
<td>-60%</td>
<td>-60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>-70%</td>
<td>-70%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [Boston, 2022]
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BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

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BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

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• Gaps for children ages 0 to 5 years old were identified across all neighborhoods. Back Bay/Beacon Hill, Roxbury, and Downtown had the lowest gaps
• 95% of families with children ages 0 to 2 years old would not find a high quality seat.
• In 12 neighborhoods, there were 90% more children 0-2 years than quality seats available
BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

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- Gaps for children ages 0 to 5 years were identified across all neighborhoods. Back Bay/Beacon Hill, Roxbury, and Downtown had the lowest gaps.
- 95% of families with children ages 0 to 2 years would not find a high-quality seat.
- In 12 neighborhoods, there were 90% more children 2 years and under than quality seats available.
- Compared to a gap of 42% for children ages 3 to 5 years and 3 neighborhoods with more seats than children.
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Only 1 in 20 infants and toddlers would find a seat in a high-quality formal child care setting.
Child-care financial assistance (Subsidies)

- Financial support (EEC) for families that meet certain requirements and need assistance to pay for child care.

  “Subsidies aim to help families access child care by making it more affordable”

Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Grants

- Grants awarded by the EEC since September 2021 for all eligible EEC-licensed and funded early education and care providers serving families in Massachusetts through a non-competitive grant application.

  “C3 grants aim to stabilize the licensed child care providers by supporting operational and workforce costs, without increasing the costs for families.”
Remain Open
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FUNDING

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PUBLIC
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IS
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CRUCIAL
Many families need subsidies to access child care
BOSTON OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

Recommendations
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PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

01 Advocate for increased and sustained public investment in the early education and care field

- Continuation of the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grants program for ALL providers.
- Increase in the current subsidy rate and the continuation and expansion of the state’s Early Childhood Educator Pilot program.
- Provide no-cost education opportunities to rebuild and expand the early education workforce.
INVEST IN UPK

02

Continue to invest in and expand UPK for 3- and 4-year-olds

- The City needs to continue the investment in UPK to achieve universal access to high-quality early education and care at a faster pace.
Recommendations

ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CARE

03

Building on UPK’s work, create a Boston initiative for infants and toddlers that expands access high-quality

- Develop a common, city-wide definition of high-quality early education and care indicators for Boston’s children ages birth to 5.
- To meet indicators, public investment in professional development, early education curricula, physical infrastructure and expansion.
Recommendations

DATA COLLECTION

04  Leverage the new City of Boston’s OEC to define indicators and house data for tracking and improving Boston’s early education and care field

- More accurate quantitative and qualitative data to make policy decisions.
- Advance equity in data collection, access, and utilization to create a robust data system.
- Partner across agencies and with local community organizations to increase participation in the Boston Childcare Survey.
- Explore what is influencing changes in the distribution of the population of children ages birth to 5 years in Boston.
Recommendations

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

05 Coordinate with state-level advocacy to help fund and sustain city-level efforts

- Birth to Eight Collaborative partners should continue to participate in the Early Childhood Agenda, and advocacy efforts to increase public investments in early education and care through the state budget and legislation.
Scan to read the report

Thank you!

2023 Early Education and Care Report