

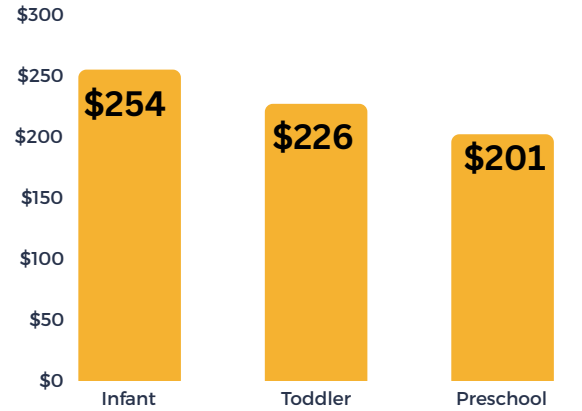
Early Childhood Education & Universal Pre-K Benefits

- ✓ More prepared academically for later grades
- ✓ More likely to graduate from high school
- ✓ Higher earners in the workforce

Source: Nea.org

Cost of early childhood education and childcare can be a challenge for families, particularly those with low to middle incomes. Children in these families may miss out on the benefits offered through center based care and education.

WEEKLY CHILDCARE PAYMENT RATES



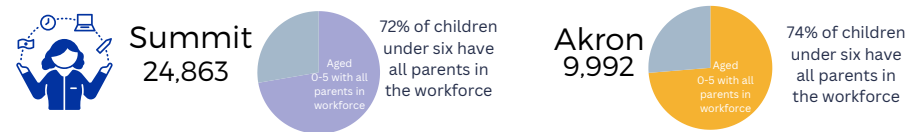
Payment rates for publicly funded child care participating in Step Up to Quality are highest for infants (\$250 per week) and decrease with age. Families who private pay typically have higher rates than the publicly funded reimbursement rates.

Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Children under age six



Children under age six with all parents in workforce



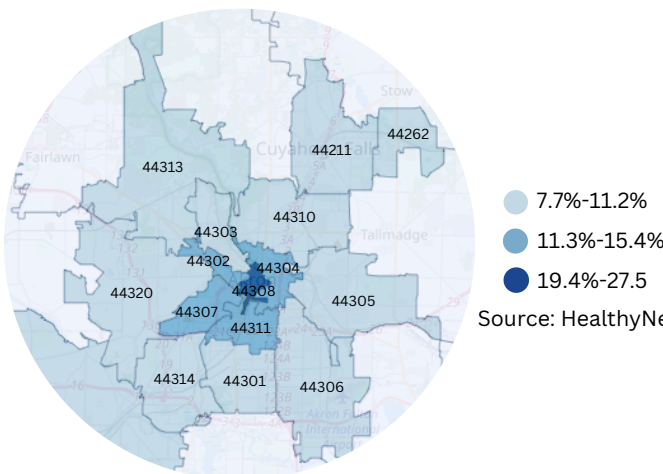
Children under age six living in poverty



Source: American Community Survey

INCOME GOING TOWARDS CHILDCARE COSTS

In Summit County, **8.3% of a family's income is spent on childcare.** Families living in Akron spend a higher percentage of their income on childcare than other areas of the county. Residents of central Akron spend the highest percentage of their income (25%) on childcare costs. **State and federally funded programs can help alleviate the cost of early child education** for those that qualify. In Ohio, 30% of children eligible for Head Start and 12% eligible for Early Head Start are enrolled in the programs.



Source: HealthyNeo.org

Summit County

95

Enrolled in Early Head Start in 2022/23

122

Enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start who are homeless or in foster care

726

Enrolled in Head Start in 2022/23

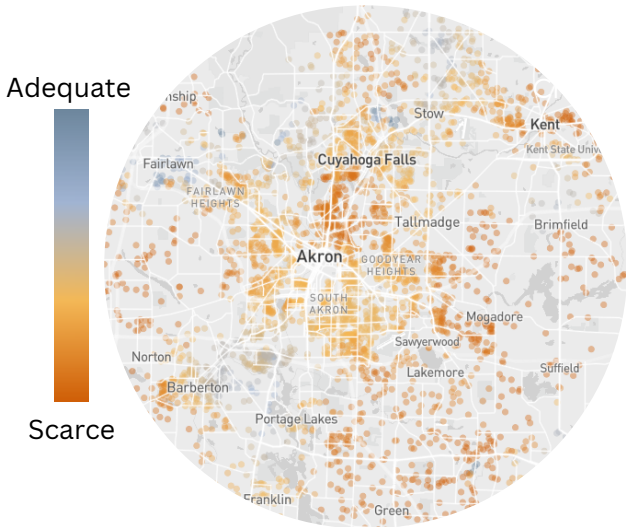
2,024

Children aged 3-5 enrolled in Public School Preschool

About 5% of Summit County children aged three to five years old are enrolled in either Head Start or preschool offered at a public school. Additional opportunities through Universal Pre-K programs would be of great benefit to Summit County families.

Source: Community Action Akron Summit & Ohio Department of Education

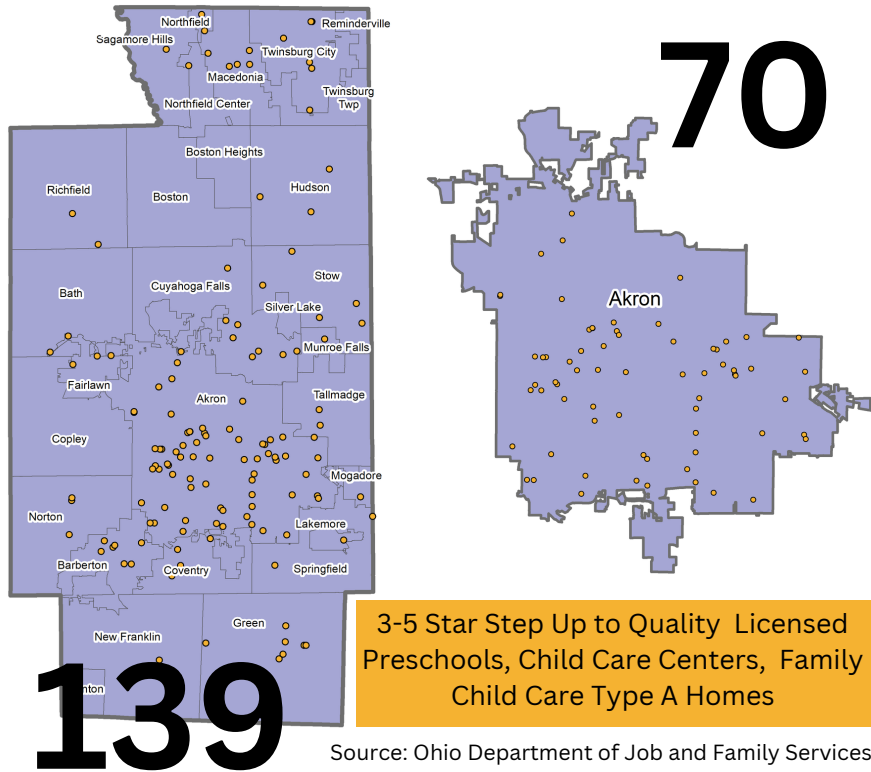
Childcare Deserts



Available childcare options are scarce for families with children living in Summit County, particularly those who live in or near Akron. **In 2018, approximately 5,900 children under five lived in a childcare desert.**

Source: Center for American Progress

There are 139 three to five star child care options in Summit County, seventy of which are located in Akron



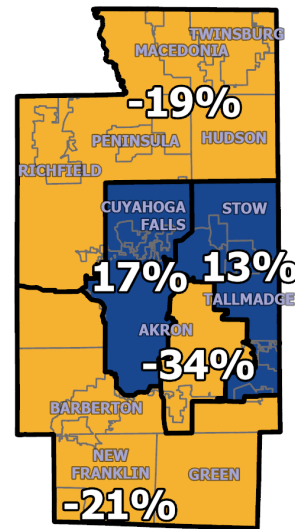
3-5 Star Step Up to Quality Licensed Preschools, Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Type A Homes

Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

CHILDCARE WORKERS

Between 2019 and 2021 Summit County saw a 21% decrease in people employed as childcare workers. However, decreases varied within the county. In some areas of the county, the number of workers actually increased including in West Akron, Stow, Tallmadge and Cuyahoga Falls. In contrast, **Twinsburg, Hudson, Macedonia, East & Central Akron, and Barberton saw decreases in the number of people employed as childcare workers.** Childcare centers must meet minimum staffing requirements in order to offer safe and high quality services to families.

Source: American Community Survey Microdata



2019 to 2021 percent change in number of employed childcare workers

- ↓ communities that experienced a **decrease** in childcare workers
- ↑ communities that experienced an **increase** in childcare workers

Social Determinants of Health in Akron and Summit County

According to the CDC, social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.

15% of children in Summit County experience food insecurity. **Food insecurity in young learners is associated with poor overall health, putting them at developmental risk.** Preschool programs often provide for much of young children's nutritional needs during the school year.

43% of Akron residents and 41% of Summit County residents utilize quick service restaurants frequently. **Providing children with highly nutritious food in an early childhood education setting helps busy families ensure their children have access to healthy foods.**

14% of households in Akron do not have a vehicle, compared to 7% of households in Summit County. **Consistent and reliable transportation provided by early childhood education programs can ease transportation challenges for families without a vehicle.**

60% of children under 6 years in Akron and 38% of children under 6 in Summit County live in single parent households. **Single parent households with affordable & accessible early childcare programs are able to achieve and maintain employment.**

Source: HealthyNeo, American Community Survey