



# Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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## Office of Child Care – Aggregate Data Report (2023)

### What does this information mean?

These tables show the annual number of serious injuries, deaths, and instances of substantiated child abuse that occurred in child care settings throughout the state.

Our goal is to keep children safe. We have rules in place for these child care settings, regularly inspect them, and provide training and support to help programs and providers understand and meet these rules. However, children are naturally curious explorers and sometimes get hurt, even under ideal conditions. Also, child care providers sometimes make mistakes and unknowingly or knowingly violate the rules, which may result in child injury.

### Where does this information come from?

Child care providers are required to report to the Office of Child Care Licensing Team ([dhs.childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:dhs.childcarelicensing@dhs.ri.gov), 401-462-3009) when a child is seriously injured or dies in care, even if it wasn't the result of a rule violation, and they are required to report to us when a child is abused in child care. We also receive complaints from parents or others regarding children's safety. Complaints can be shared by calling or emailing the number and email address above.

### What types of child care does this information apply to?

There are three basic types of licensed child care facilities in Rhode Island:

- A **Child Care Center** is child care provided outside of a home by a group of people or organization who serve children from six weeks of age up to 16 years old. Many child care programs operate all day and throughout the year while some run on a more typical school calendar schedule. If you have a child who is over the age of five and goes to school, a school age program is provided by a group of people or organization who serve children who are in kindergarten, but under the age of 16. Typically, these programs run before and/or after school, and sometimes offer vacation programming.
- A **Family Child Care Home** is child care provided by an individual, within his or her home, who serves no more than eight children, from six weeks old through school age.
- A **Group Family Child Care Home** is child care provided by an individual provider, with assistants, within his or her home, who serves eight to 12 children, from six weeks old through school age.

The following groups may provide child care that is not regulated by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS).

- **Licensed exempt providers:** non-licensed relatives who provide care of no more than six children to whom they are directly related. These relatives receive payment through DHS' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). License exempt providers must complete a CCAP application and attend an orientation prior to providing care. As part of this process, the provider is required to verify the relationship of the children in their care by submitting birth certificates and/or marriage licenses as needed. Acceptable degrees of relationship are limited to grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, and adult siblings. These providers are not regulated beyond the requirements of CCAP.
- **Non-licensed providers:** a person who is caring for fewer than four children in their home may do so without a license. These providers are unregulated and are not able to accept CCAP payment.

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

- A “serious injury” is defined as an injury sustained by a child at a licensed child care provider that results in the need for outside medical attention either immediately or within 24 hours of the injury.
- A child “death” is defined as any situation in which the death occurred while the child was attending a licensed child care program, even if the provider or caregiver is not responsible for the death or if a child death occurs directly due to an injury or incident that occurred while in care.
- The numbers reflected on the chart as “substantiated abuse” are based on indicated abuse findings by DCYF that were directly related to either a licensed child care provider or an employee of licensed child care center. These include allegations of abuse, neglect, or emotional maltreatment of a child.

This table displays the annual number of serious injuries and deaths that occurred in licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, and license-exempt child care homes, over a 3-year period. It also includes the total number of children in each type of care.

Provider Category and Licensing Status	2021			2022			2023		
	Total # of children in care	# of serious injuries	# of deaths	Total # of children in care	# of serious injuries	# of deaths	Total # of children in care	# of serious injuries	# of deaths
Licensed child care centers	30856	3	0	30579	5	0	31617	6*	0
Licensed child care homes	2605	1	0	2672	0	0	2626	0	0
Licensed child care Group homes	96	0	0	96	0	0	96	0	0
License-exempt providers	27	N/A	N/A	19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total:	33584	4	0	33366	5	0	34339	0	0

\*Serious injuries were all related to trips/falls while in child care that required outside medical care. None of these resulted in staff being indicated for abuse or neglect.

This table includes the annual total instances of substantiated child abuse that occurred in licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes and license-exempt child care homes over a three-year period.

All licensed and license-exempt providers	2021	2022	2023
Total:	12	7	4