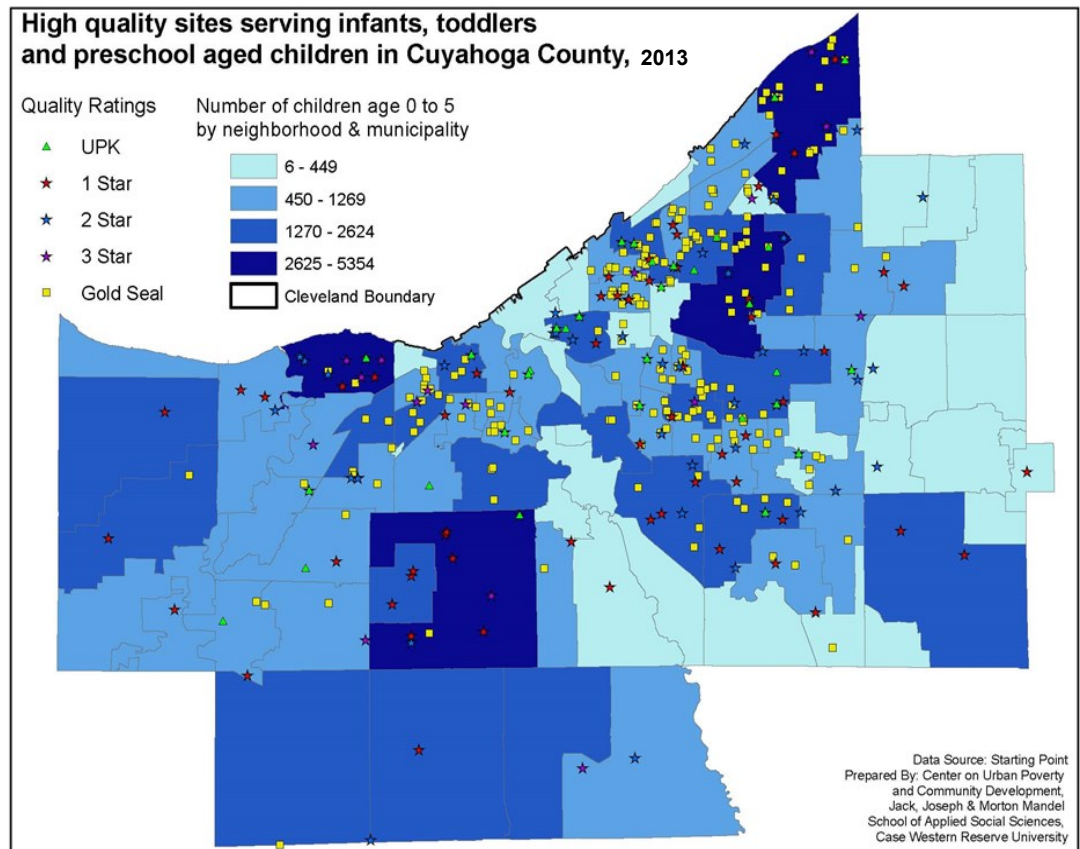


According to a report from the U.S. Census, nationally, young children spend an average of 32 hours a week in care settings<sup>1</sup>. This is a substantial amount of time during a critical period of brain development, making access to care, or more importantly, quality care, essential.

Cuyahoga County has a broad and diverse system of early care and education settings. As of 2012, there were a total of 1,367 licensed and registered providers serving infants, toddlers, and pre-school aged children in the County (423 center-based providers, 198 public and private preschool providers, and 746 home-based providers). These facilities served over 38,000 children birth to age five. Over 90% of these children were enrolled in center-based programs and over 70% of children were enrolled in full-day care (see Table 1, p. 2).

A substantial number of child care providers in Cuyahoga County meet objective quality standards. Center-based child care programs can voluntarily participate in *Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)*, Ohio's quality rating and improvement system for providers licensed through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Public preschool programs operated by schools are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. *SUTQ* ratings range from 1 to 3 (expanded to 1 to 5 as of October 2013) and are based on aspects of structural quality. In Cuyahoga County, 138 centers have received at least 1 star. Star-rated centers serve 28% of the children attending center-based programs. Home-based providers in the county can voluntarily participate in the *Care For Kids* quality enhancement program. These providers receive ongoing technical support and are rated using a standardized assessment tool. Home-based providers who achieve a high score on the tool are considered "Gold Seal" providers. In Cuyahoga County, there are 209 Gold Seal providers, serving 31% of the children in home-based care. Lastly, Invest in Children launched a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) pilot program in August 2007. All UPK sites meet a series of standards including increased teacher qualifications and commensurate compensation, lower staff to child ratios, use of approved curricula, engagement of families, and family linkages to necessary supportive services. In 2013-2014, there are 36 providers participating in the UPK program, serving 4% of all children in child care settings.

The map above shows the location of *SUTQ* rated child care centers, Gold Seal homes, and UPK sites across the county. Though center-based programs are geographically dispersed, high-quality home-based providers are most heavily clustered on the eastern side of Cleveland and in the eastern inner-ring suburbs. Also depicted on the map are neighborhoods and municipalities with high concentrations of young children. Some potentially high demand areas (e.g., Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Parma) have relatively few child care providers.





# Early Care and Education

**Table 1. Number of Children Enrolled in Regulated Child Care by Age Group and Setting; Cuyahoga County, 2012.** (Data source: Starting Point)

|                                  | Infant<br>0-17 mos. | Toddler<br>18-35 mos. | 3-5 yrs old, not<br>in kindergarten | Total         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>4,053</b>        | <b>7,521</b>          | <b>26,445</b>                       | <b>38,019</b> |
| <b>All Centers</b>               | <b>3,410</b>        | <b>6,623</b>          | <b>25,351</b>                       | <b>35,384</b> |
| Private Daycare                  | 3,364               | 6,228                 | 12,111                              | 21,703        |
| Private Preschool                | 0                   | 329                   | 7,255                               | 7,584         |
| Head Start                       | 46                  | 66                    | 3,052                               | 3,164         |
| Public Preschool                 | 0                   | 0                     | 2,933                               | 2,933         |
| <b>Centers with SUTQ Ratings</b> | <b>801</b>          | <b>1,912</b>          | <b>7,303</b>                        | <b>10,016</b> |
| 1 Star                           | 413                 | 1,001                 | 3,061                               | 4,475         |
| 2 Stars                          | 305                 | 655                   | 2,111                               | 3,071         |
| 3 Stars                          | 83                  | 256                   | 2,131                               | 2,470         |
| UPK                              | 0                   | 0                     | 1,435                               | 1,435         |
| <b>Home-based Providers</b>      | <b>643</b>          | <b>898</b>            | <b>1,094</b>                        | <b>2,635</b>  |
| Type B*                          | 560                 | 768                   | 935                                 | 2,263         |
| Type A**                         | 83                  | 130                   | 159                                 | 372           |
| <b>Gold Seal Homes</b>           | <b>202</b>          | <b>272</b>            | <b>353</b>                          | <b>827</b>    |
| <b>Shift</b>                     |                     |                       |                                     |               |
| Full Day                         | 4,053               | 7,192                 | 15,810                              | 27,055        |
| Part Day AM                      | 0                   | 242                   | 6,561                               | 6,803         |
| Part Day PM                      | 0                   | 87                    | 4,074                               | 4,161         |

\*Type B homes are County certified, meaning the home is inspected for health and safety and caregivers have undergone child care training and criminal background checks. In this type of home, there can be one adult caring for no more than six children.

\*\*Under Ohio law, Type A homes can have one or two caregivers and may serve up to 12 children, including caregivers' children under age six.

There is a broadening effort to promote quality in early care and educational settings. In 2014, a targeted initiative to increase the availability of high quality care in the City of Cleveland, "Pre4Cle," was announced. Collectively, these efforts, along with helping families identify and choose high quality care will greatly enhance

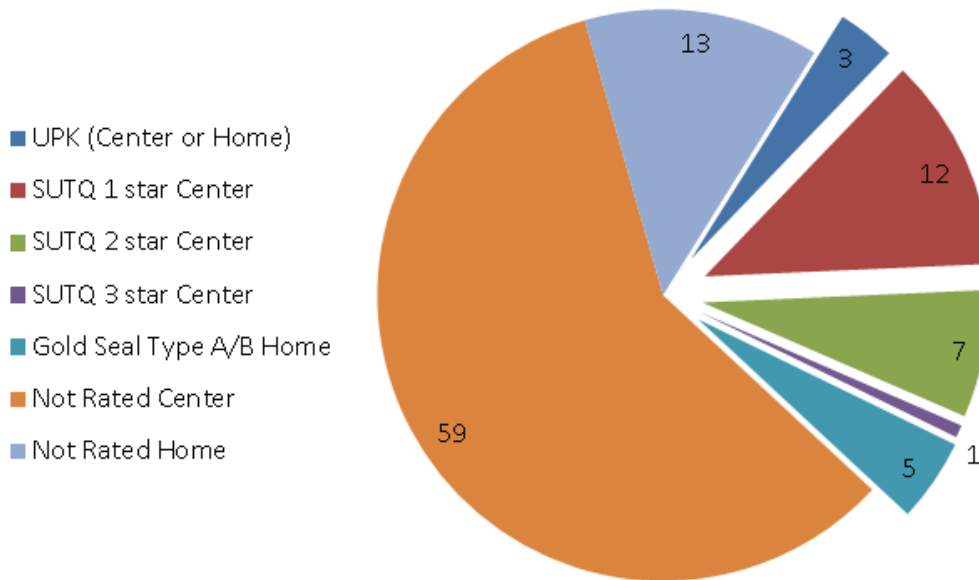
children's access to experiences that promote their early development. This is important because of the approximately 35,000 3- to 5-year old children living in Cuyahoga County in 2013, there were 5,280 high quality preschool slots available. Yet, only 82% of these high quality slots were actually in use (see Table 2 table).

**Table 2. Preschool Need and Supply in Cleveland and the County, 2013.** (Data source: Starting Point)

|                              | City of Cleveland | Cuyahoga County |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 3- to 5-year olds            | 12,590            | 34,963          |
| Likely demand (70%)          | 8,813             | 24,474          |
| High quality slots available | 2,790             | 5,280           |
| High quality slots in use    | 2,251             | 4,338           |

# Early Care and Education

**Figure 1. Types of settings attended by children receiving child care subsidies, 2013**



The State of Ohio also provides financial assistance for child care based on family income and household size. Figure 1 to the left illustrates the distribution of child care setting quality for children whose family receives publicly subsidized child care. The majority of these children (72%) are attending unrated centers and homes. The State of Ohio will require all facilities serving children using public child care subsidies to have a quality rating of 3 stars (on a 5-point scale) by 2020.

Socio-economic conditions do not predetermine a neighborhood's quality of early

learning opportunities. To the contrary, research shows that structural indicators of quality, including staffing ratios and teacher qualifications, tend to be high in centers serving poor families as compared to centers in middle-class communities where families can neither afford high fees nor qualify for subsidies<sup>2</sup>. While interventions involving continued access to Head Start and other federally-backed programs are needed in poorer communities, the data also show that more access is needed in suburban neighborhoods that are not traditionally associated as being areas of need.

<sup>1</sup>Laughlin, L. (2010) Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2005/Summer 2006. *US Census Bureau Household Economic Studies* <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p70-121.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Fuller, B, Kagan, S., Loeb, S, and Chang, Y. (2004) Child care quality: centers and home settings that serve poor families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 19, pg 505-527.