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# Community Child Care Coverage in Alberta

Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade

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## Definitions & Methodology

This report summarizes child care coverage rates across Alberta to determine the proportion of non-school aged children in a given geographic area compared to the number of child care spaces available in licensed facility-based and home-based child care programs.

### Coverage rate

- In this document, coverage rate is calculated by dividing licensed spaces by the total zero to six child population.
- An adequate coverage rate is defined as one child care space per three children or 33 per cent coverage. Anything less than 33 per cent is identified as being a community in need.<sup>1</sup> This report defines varying coverage rates as follows:
  - o Extremely high need community – 0 per cent to 8.99 per cent
  - o High need community – 9.00 per cent to 15.99 per cent
  - o Moderate need community – 16.00 per cent to 32.99 per cent
  - o Adequate coverage – 33.00 per cent and higher
- Spaces includes total licensed spaces available for children between the ages of zero and six. These consist of facility-based child care (daycare and preschool) and home-based child care (open and active family day homes and group family child care). Space calculations exclude out-of-school care and innovative child care programs.
- This analysis does not account for available spaces and enrollment in the coverage rate. If a community has more than 33 per cent space coverage to its non-school-age child population it is considered to have adequate coverage, even if the enrollment to space ratio is 100 per cent and therefore, no spaces are available. While enrollment is not included in the coverage rate calculation, enrollment rate per community is provided in this report. Similar to space calculations, enrollment excludes out-of-school care and innovative child care programs.
- Numbers are rounded to whole numbers and numbers may change with methodology updates.
- Spaces required to achieve adequate coverage:  $(33\% * \text{community/LGA population}) - (\text{child care spaces} + \text{number of spaces under development})$ . Spaces required to meet adequate coverage and spaces under development include specific grant statuses. The former includes grant agreement end date after December 2023 and pending licensure or licensed after December 2023; the latter includes spaces expected to open in 12-18 months.

### Mapping Methodology

- Geographic boundary: the child care maps are composed of 132 Local Geographic Areas (LGAs), described as communities in this document. LGAs fall within Children and Family Services regional boundaries and have relatively stable populations (with a minimum population of 5,000 per LGA). As a result, LGAs are effective for local level child care service reporting, monitoring and analysis.
- Population: LGAs consist of Dissemination Areas (DAs). “DAs are the smallest standard geographical area to which all Statistics Canada census [population] data are disseminated.”<sup>2</sup> Each DA is characterized by the population number within it. Therefore, DAs within LGA boundaries provide a precise population size for a given LGA.
- Aggregation method:
  - o An Alberta Health file was used to place DAs into LGAs.
  - o Reported information is based on mappable data. Some programs are excluded because of address confidentiality (e.g., domestic violence shelters with child care programs).

### Sources

March 2024 internal ministry child care data, Statistics Canada 2021 Census data, Alberta Health DA to LGA file.

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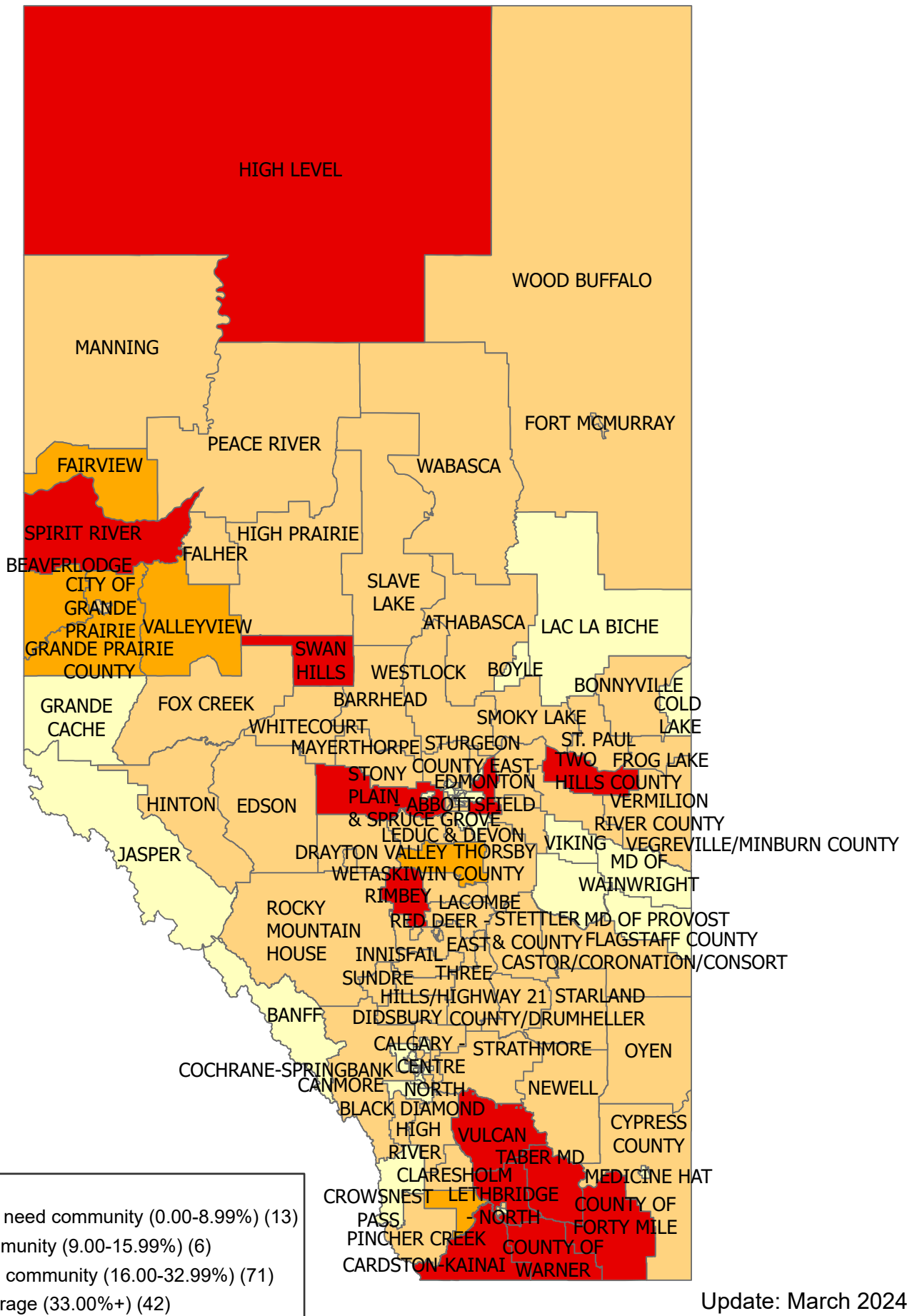
<sup>1</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Internal Document.

<sup>2</sup> Alberta Health Services. (2018). *Official Standard Geographic Areas*. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/a14b50c9-94b2-4024-8ee5-c13fb70abb4a/resource/70fd0f2c-5a7c-45a3-bdaa-e1b4f4c5d9a4/download/official-standard-geographic-area-document.pdf>

## Summary of Alberta-wide community coverage

Coverage Rates (March 2024)	Count	Percent
Extremely high need community (0% to 8.99% coverage)	13	10%
High need community (9.00% to 15.99% coverage)	6	5%
Moderate need community (16.00% to 32.99% coverage)	71	54%
Communities with adequate coverage (33.00% and higher)	42	32%
<b>Total All Communities</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Alberta child care coverage map



Update: March 2024

## Summary of Calgary region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
AIRDRIE	3087	8165	89%	38%	-
BANFF	175	355	223%	49%	-
BLACK DIAMOND	191	585	85%	33%	2
CALGARY - CENTRE	3012	2870	105%	105%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE NORTH	1429	2785	92%	51%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE WEST	1823	5230	150%	35%	-
CALGARY - EAST	1785	4980	106%	36%	-
CALGARY - ELBOW	700	2115	120%	33%	-
CALGARY - FISH CREEK	3808	7025	83%	54%	-
CALGARY - LOWER NE	1647	6900	155%	24%	630
CALGARY - LOWER NW	1222	4130	91%	30%	141
CALGARY - NORTH	3074	10640	96%	29%	437
CALGARY - NOSE HILL	2626	5615	152%	47%	-
CALGARY - SE	3667	14240	87%	26%	1032
CALGARY - SW	3236	9375	90%	35%	-
CALGARY - UPPER NE	3686	12675	78%	29%	205
CALGARY - UPPER NW	3596	8780	94%	41%	-
CALGARY - WEST	2487	6815	116%	36%	-
CALGARY - WEST BOW	516	1450	94%	36%	-
CANMORE	398	1355	155%	29%	49
CHESTERMERE	653	2155	111%	30%	58
CLARESHOLM	117	395	76%	30%	13
COCHRANE-SPRINGBANK	1592	4060	102%	39%	-
CROSSFIELD	151	720	91%	21%	87
HIGH RIVER	490	1625	73%	30%	46
OKOTOKS-PRIDDIS	1194	3170	80%	38%	-
STRATHMORE	581	2875	97%	20%	368
VULCAN	51	580	71%	9%	140

## Summary of Edmonton region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
BEAUMONT	934	2710	107%	34%	-
EDMONTON - ABBOTTSFIELD	570	1105	83%	52%	-
EDMONTON - BONNIE DOON	3836	5365	94%	72%	-
EDMONTON - CASTLE DOWNS	1889	6855	101%	28%	373
EDMONTON - DUGGAN	1391	2565	102%	54%	-
EDMONTON - EASTWOOD	2749	3305	74%	83%	-
EDMONTON - JASPER PLACE	1698	3025	92%	56%	-
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS SOUTH & EAST	1731	7780	76%	22%	836
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS WEST	1728	3555	91%	49%	-
EDMONTON - NE	2143	9135	91%	23%	860
EDMONTON - NORTHGATE	2447	6575	139%	37%	-
EDMONTON - RUTHERFORD	5099	16265	93%	31%	268
EDMONTON - TWIN BROOKS	1513	4925	114%	31%	112
EDMONTON - WEST JASPER PLACE	3074	9895	85%	31%	191
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT EAST	1740	3635	138%	48%	-
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT WEST	1326	2765	130%	48%	-
FORT SASKATCHEWAN	1127	2685	105%	42%	-
LEDUC & DEVON	1140	3975	70%	29%	86
SHERWOOD PARK	2864	5640	128%	51%	-
ST. ALBERT	2470	4900	90%	50%	-
STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	1920	4950	112%	39%	-
STRATHCONA COUNTY EXCLUDING SHERWOOD PARK	38	995	11%	4%	290

STURGEON COUNTY EAST	104	460	98%	23%	48
STURGEON COUNTY WEST	565	2800	70%	20%	359
THORSBY	162	690	67%	23%	66
WESTVIEW EXCLUDING STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	246	2795	60%	9%	676



## Summary of south region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
CARDSTON-KAINAI	24	1545	0%	2%	486
COUNTY OF FORTY MILE	24	850	0%	3%	257
COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE	185	3065	53%	6%	826
COUNTY OF WARNER	65	1175	80%	6%	323
CROWSNEST PASS	119	295	107%	40%	-
CYPRESS COUNTY	192	1110	70%	17%	174
FORT MACLEOD	96	665	126%	14%	123
LETHBRIDGE - NORTH	550	2130	166%	26%	153
LETHBRIDGE - SOUTH	1533	1860	96%	82%	-
LETHBRIDGE - WEST	686	3560	79%	19%	489
MEDICINE HAT	1751	4510	103%	39%	-
NEWELL	467	2500	91%	19%	358
OYEN	50	250	68%	20%	33
PINCHER CREEK	159	710	69%	22%	75
TABER MD	146	2280	125%	6%	606

## Summary of central region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
CAMROSE & COUNTY	723	2230	104%	32%	3
CASTOR/CORONATION/CONSORT	86	450	105%	19%	63
DIDSBURY	333	1380	142%	24%	61
DRAYTON VALLEY	264	1405	91%	19%	200
FLAGSTAFF COUNTY	257	575	84%	45%	-
INNISFAIL	245	970	159%	25%	75
LACOMBE	473	1750	99%	27%	105
MD OF PROVOST	245	350	104%	70%	-
MD OF WAINWRIGHT	428	1120	103%	38%	-
OLDS	250	880	103%	28%	40
PLANNING & SPECIAL AREA 2	60	185	175%	32%	1
PONOKA	226	1155	64%	20%	155
RED DEER - EAST	1056	4220	80%	25%	242
RED DEER - NORTH	800	2635	116%	30%	70
RED DEER - SW	859	850	84%	101%	-
RED DEER COUNTY	590	2865	101%	21%	355
RIMBEY	73	815	96%	9%	196
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE	321	1715	109%	19%	245
STARLAND COUNTY/DRUMHELLER	178	680	88%	26%	46
STETTLER & COUNTY	238	995	101%	24%	90
SUNDRE	103	360	158%	29%	16
SYLVAN LAKE	391	1525	131%	26%	34
THREE HILLS/HIGHWAY 21	253	820	84%	31%	18
TOFIELD	152	505	76%	30%	15
VERMILION RIVER COUNTY	899	3040	119%	30%	24
VIKING	76	220	61%	35%	-
WETASKIWIN COUNTY	429	2835	80%	15%	507

## Summary of north central region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
ATHABASCA	159	640	61%	25%	52
BARRHEAD	192	965	130%	20%	74
BONNYVILLE	308	1405	90%	22%	126
BOYLE	93	120	56%	78%	-
COLD LAKE	917	2120	85%	43%	-
EDSON	372	1220	80%	30%	31
FROG LAKE	122	435	58%	28%	22
HINTON	208	930	71%	22%	99
JASPER	119	260	85%	46%	-
LAC LA BICHE	385	875	61%	44%	-
LAMONT COUNTY	93	525	83%	18%	80
MAYERTHORPE	306	1190	115%	26%	54
SMOKY LAKE	109	360	82%	30%	10
ST. PAUL	306	1150	71%	27%	74
SWAN HILLS	0	95	0%	0%	31
TWO HILLS COUNTY	45	605	78%	7%	155
VEGREVILLE/MINBURN COUNTY	176	755	61%	23%	73
WESTLOCK	322	1245	62%	26%	89
WHITECOURT	280	1240	89%	23%	129

## Summary of northeast region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
FORT MCMURRAY	1909	8125	88%	23%	772
WOOD BUFFALO	56	320	48%	18%	50

## Summary of northwest region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child Care Spaces (Mar 2024)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
BEAVERLODGE	122	1100	78%	11%	241
CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	1484	6630	105%	22%	594
FAIRVIEW	102	790	155%	13%	159
FALHER	83	340	71%	24%	29
FOX CREEK	23	140	100%	16%	-
GRANDE CACHE	99	275	106%	36%	-
GRANDE PRAIRIE COUNTY	322	2015	67%	16%	343
HIGH LEVEL	142	4160	41%	3%	1231
HIGH PRAIRIE	181	890	56%	20%	113
MANNING	78	275	91%	28%	13
PEACE RIVER	360	1730	81%	21%	211
SLAVE LAKE	226	1145	76%	20%	152
SPIRIT RIVER	13	500	0%	3%	152
VALLEYVIEW	66	690	74%	10%	162
WABASCA	110	360	47%	31%	9