

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

The following presents a step-by-step explanation of the methodology for data analysis used in this website, how and where each estimate was calculated, and the assumptions used in its calculation.

I. Estimating the general population of children under 6

Our base population of children in each community comes from the 2000 Census. Two analyses were conducted to adjust the Census figures:

A. Possible Census undercount

To address the concern that there might be undercounts of young children in the Census, we compared the number of infants born and infant mortality in each community in 2000 compared to the number of infants that the 2000 Census data reported. In most communities there is good agreement on these numbers. Therefore, no adjustments were made to adjust for possible undercounts.

B. Population estimates

Because decennial Census data is soon out of date, we calculated population estimates for the years 2000-2006. Specifically, we used trend extrapolation methods to generate estimates for each five year age group in each CCA using census data and a rate of change calculated from the Chicago Public Schools enrollment data over the same time period. Specific age estimates were derived using the Sprague multiplier method. For more information on our methods, please contact Robert Goerge at rgoerge@chapinhall.org.

Child care and early education is usually considered in two age categories: Infants and Toddlers, children 0-2, and Preschoolers, children 3-5. We calculated percents of total for each age category (under 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) to use in separate analyses of these two age categories.

II. Estimating the Head Start eligible population

Children are eligible for different kinds of early care and education as a function of their parents' income, employment or training status, and the child's age. Head Start is an income-eligible program; currently, children living in families at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible. We developed estimates of Head Start eligible populations separately for 0-2 year-olds and 3-5-year-olds as follows:

1. We began with the 2000 Census figures on the number of children 0-5 by ratio of income to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2000 the FPL was \$17,050, and ratios of the FPL used in this report are as follows:

Ratio of FPL	Income
0.00-0.49	\$0 – 8,524
0.50-0.74	\$8,525 – 12,789
0.75-0.99	\$12,788 – 17,049
1.00-1.24	\$17,050 – 21,312
1.25-1.29	\$21,313 – 22,164
1.30-1.49	\$22,165 – 25,574
1.50-1.74	\$25,575 – 29,667

2. We took the total number of children at or below 1x the FPL
3. We then separated the children into two age categories according to the percentage of children of each age in each community. We also adjusted the numbers by the population change from 2000-2006 described above.

III. Estimating the child care subsidy eligible population

We developed estimates of child care subsidy eligible populations separately for 0-2 year-olds and 3-5-year-olds as follows:

1. We began with the 2000 Census figures on the number of children 0-5 by ratio of income to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2000 the FPL was \$17,050, and ratios of the FPL used in this report are as follows:

Ratio of FPL	Income
0.00-0.49	\$0 – 8,524
0.50-0.74	\$8,525 – 12,789
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1.00-1.24	\$17,050 – 21,312
1.25-1.29	\$21,313 – 22,164
1.30-1.49	\$22,165 – 25,574
1.50-1.74	\$25,575 – 29,667

2. We then separated the children into two age categories according to the percentage of children of each age in each community. We also adjusted the numbers by the population change from 2000-2006 described above.
3. From this figure, we subtracted the number of children who lived in single parent families where the parent was not working, a number also obtained from the 2000 Census.
4. Next, we subtracted the number of children from two-parent families in which one parent was not working. In analyzing national data from the Current Population Survey—the only source of this information—we found that nearly 9% of all two-parent families has an income of less than \$25,000

and has less than two parents working. We applied this percentage to the number of children in two-parent families below 1.74x FPL.

These calculations do not account for children from families where a parent was receiving education or training approved for purposes of receiving a child care subsidy.