

WESTERN NEW YORK ECONOMIC REGION

CHILD CARE DESERTS SUMMARY

The Western New York Region is comprised of 8 counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming. Erie County is home to the second most populous city in the state, Buffalo. Top industries in the region include education, manufacturing and health care.

81,773

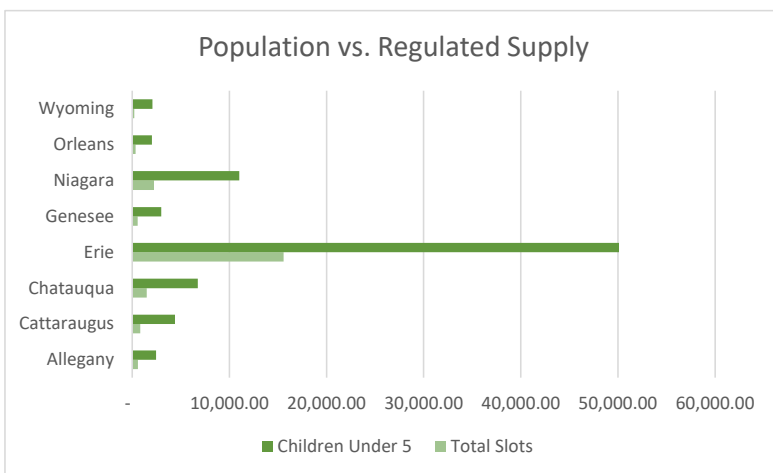
Children under 5 live in the region

21,809

Child care slots exist for children under 5

8,118

Slots are reserved for infants & toddlers specifically



Child Care Need vs. Supply

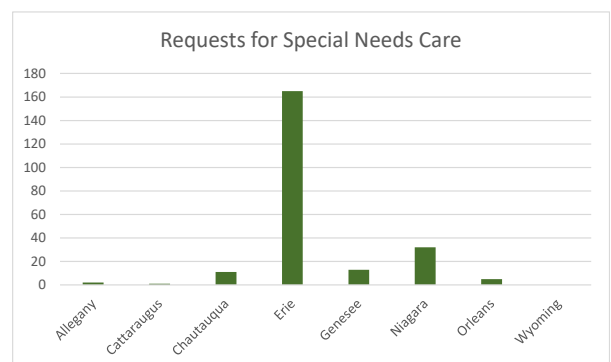
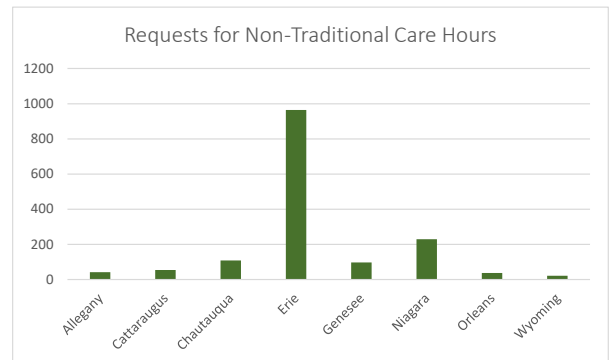
According to census estimates there are over 80,000 children under 5 years old living in the region, but less than 22,000 regulated child care slots are available for children birth to 5.

Care for infants and toddlers is requested more frequently than any other age group by caregivers, based on CCR&R referral data. Of the existing 21,809 child care slots in the region less than half are devoted to infants and toddlers.

Regional Priorities

Child care is vital for the continued success of the regional economy. The current supply of regulated care is unable to meet the population's need in all age groups, but specifically for infants and toddlers. The majority of the WNY region is considered a child care desert¹.

Our regions child care priorities are increased regulated programs or expanded capacity in existing child care deserts, increased care or expanded capacity to serve children with special needs (physical and developmental), and more care that provides flexible or non-traditional care options for shift workers.



¹A Child Care Desert is defined as a census tract with more than 50 children under 5 years old and either no child care or more than 3 children per licensed child care slot.

