

## Child Care

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## **Study Area**

Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs

## **Methodology**

In Georgia, the Department of Human Resources inspects, monitors, licenses, registers, and certifies day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes and learning centers that house lottery funded Pre-K programs. For the purposes of this study, only licensed facilities were considered.

All facilities' names, addresses, and licensing data were obtained from the Department of Human Resources website ([www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us)). The data was current as of August 9, 2003. The capacity, vacancy, and waiting list data was collected through a telephone interview during the months of October and November 2003 by volunteers and Middle Georgia Regional Development Center staff. Information collected was entered into a Microsoft Access database specifically created for this project.

## **Classifications**

According to the Department of Human Resources, the following determinations are used for classifications: *Infant* – 0 to 12 months, *Toddler* – 13 months to 2 years, *Preschool* – 3 to 4 years, and *School Age* – 5 to 13 years.

## **Types of Day Care Facilities**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Day Care Centers</i>	Licensed day care centers that take care of 19 or more children and do <b>not</b> operate a Georgia pre-kindergarten program.
<i>Group Day Care</i>	Licensed day care programs that take care of 7 to 18 children. These day cares may be provided in either a home setting or a small day care center setting.
<i>Family Day Care</i>	These homes are registered to provide care to 3 to 6 children. Day care is usually delivered in the home of the family day care operator.
<i>OSR Facilities</i>	These facilities are for infant through school age children in private (not public) centers or classrooms.

Source: Department of Human Resources

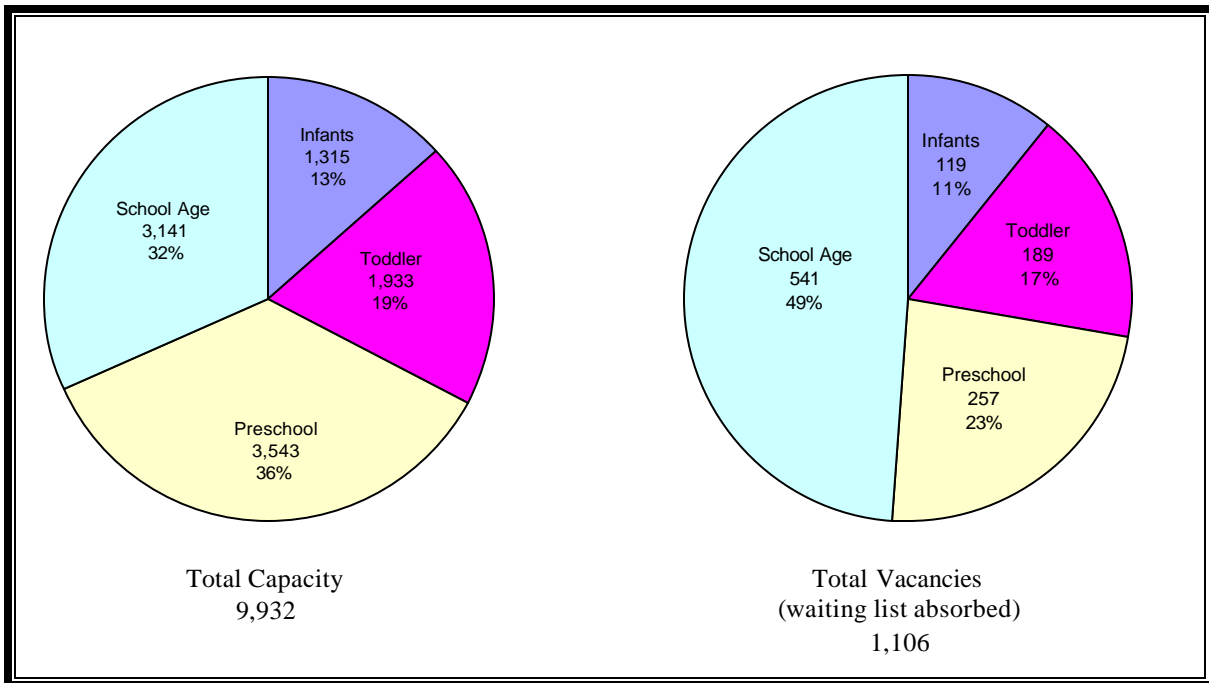
## **Responses**

There are 297 licensed child care facilities in the study area, of which 221 responded resulting in a 74.41% response rate. The lowest response rate from an individual community was 50%; however, this community only has two (2) facilities.

## **Results - Summary**

In the study area there is presently enough capacity for 9,932 children, infant to school age. There are currently 1,575 vacancies and 469 children listed on a waiting list. If the waiting lists are absorbed into the vacancies, there are currently 1,106 vacancies in the study area. This translates to an 11% vacancy rate. The largest percentage of vacancies is in the school age category with a 17.22% vacancy rate (waiting lists absorbed).

## Capacity and Vacancies in Study Area



Source: Middle Georgia RDC Survey

### Results – Bibb County

Bibb County has 139 child care facilities, which are 46.8% of the total facilities available in the study area. Of the 139 facilities, 99 responded (71.2%). These facilities have an overall capacity of 5,271, an overall vacancy of 880, and an overall waiting list of 235.

### Results – Houston County

Houston County has 94 child care facilities, which are 31.65% of the total facilities available in the study area. Of the 94 facilities, 74 responded (78.72%). These facilities have an overall capacity of 3,212, an overall vacancy of 463, and an overall waiting list of 151.

### Results – Peach County

Peach County has 26 child care facilities, which are 8.75% of the total facilities available in the study area. Of the 26 facilities, 16 responded (61.54%). These facilities have an overall capacity of 636, an overall vacancy of 90, and an overall waiting list of 26

### Results – Jones, Twiggs, Crawford, and Monroe County

Jones, Twiggs, Crawford, and Monroe Counties have been aggregated and account for 12.79% of the overall capacity in the study area. There are 38 child care facilities in the aggregated area. Of the 38 facilities, 32 responded (84.2%). These facilities have an overall capacity of 813, an overall vacancy of 142, and an overall waiting list of 57.

### **Analysis**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nationally the average mean family size in a household is 3.15, and there are .054 children under the age of 13 per household. Based on these figures, day care facilities in the study area could absorb new missions with approximately 6,500 new personnel before maximizing their current capacity.

Recognizing the majority of Base personnel live in Houston County, one must look at its vacancy rate independent of the rest of the study area. Currently, Houston County has 312 (waiting lists absorbed) vacancies. Based on the aforementioned Census information, Houston County could absorb approximately 1,800 new personnel before maximizing its current capacity.

# Houston County Child Care Availability with Distribution of RAFB Employees by Residence

