
Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2016

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**CHILDCARE RESOURCE
AND RESEARCH UNIT**

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Canada

■ ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Early childhood education and care in Canada 2016 is a compilation of cross-Canada data on child care, kindergarten, maternity/parental leave, and more information relevant to the early childhood education and care landscape in Canada. It has been published approximately every two years since the early 1990s (1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010¹, 2012 and 2014). Earlier publications (up until 2008) are available in print, and all editions from 1998 onwards are available for download at no charge on the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) [website](#).

The availability of these longitudinal and cross-Canada data, collected using consistent methods, have made it possible to identify trends and reflect on similarities and differences in early childhood education and care (ECEC) within Canada and over time.

The *Early childhood education and care in Canada 2016* report represents a return to the longer, more detailed resource that the CRRU had historically developed when funding from the federal government was available from the early 1990s until 2006. The 2008 and 2010 versions of this report were developed under contracts with the federal government, while the shorter 2012 and 2014 editions had no federal funding. Thus, we are pleased to acknowledge the federal funding supporting this 2016 data collection, synthesis, and publication.

The core source of data in this report are the provincial/territorial administrative information provided by provincial/territorial officials. These data are supplemented from a variety of other sources including Statistics Canada, other research and reports, and online sources of data and information about federal, provincial/territorial and Indigenous ECEC. References for the main data sources are included in the DATA SOURCES section or are identified in the text.

We have made every effort to ensure that the data and information in this report is as accurate and consistent as we can make it. Readers' comments or corrections are most welcome.

■ ABOUT THE CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) is an independent, non-partisan, policy research institute that focuses on early childhood education and care (ECEC) and social and family policy. CRRU has a mandate to work towards to a universal, high quality, publicly funded, and inclusive ECEC system. We work collaboratively with other researchers, NGOs, advocacy groups, and government policy makers across multiple levels of government and the early childhood education community on ECEC and family policy.

CRRU operates on the premise that the best possible evidence about policy and practice, drawn from multidisciplinary research and policy analysis, has a key role to play in informing, developing, and interpreting public policy.

All CRRU publications may be downloaded at no cost from the CRRU [website](#). Our publications may be freely used for personal, educational, and other public uses when fully attributed and cited. Please contact us to arrange permissions for commercial uses.

¹ Note that the 2010 version of *ECEC in Canada* was published by the federal government as *Public investments in early childhood education and care in Canada 2010*. The report was developed by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit under a contract awarded by the federal government, and used the same methodology as this report. The content is substantially the same as versions of *ECEC in Canada*.

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METHODS

Information pertaining to regulated child care and kindergarten in this report was largely provided by provincial/territorial government officials. The method used to collect and verify the data from each province/territory followed a series of steps. First, written templates were sent to various governmental officials who are responsible for ECEC within their jurisdictions province/territory. These templates included all the existing information that we could compile about ECEC in each province/territory for the officials to review, modify, edit and return.

The researchers then reviewed the data collected from the provincial/territorial officials, and clarification was sought where necessary. This process generally required several communications. A final draft was then compiled using the material provided by the government officials as well as data from other sources where applicable. The final report was sent to the provincial/territorial officials before publication. Statistics Canada sources were used for demographic data, including special data runs. Other research was also incorporated where appropriate. These sources are identified below in the DATA SOURCES section or in notes in the text.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the data provided in this publication, and to use accurate and consistent terminology and categories across provinces/territories. This was not always possible due to the use of different terminologies, categories (for example age-defined categories), and provincial/territorial data collection methods, as well as information gaps across Canada. In some instances, consistent dates or definitions were not available. Where this has occurred, the varying dates and explanations thereof have been provided in the text or in footnotes.

DATA SOURCES

Number of children 0-12 years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2016 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Children 0-12 years with employed mothers

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2016 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2016 annual), CANSIM Table 282-0211.

Median family income by family type

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue number 98-400-X2016105.

Children 0-14 years Identifying with an Indigenous group

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016154.

Children 0-14 years by marital status of family

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016040.

Children 0-14 years by language spoken most often at home

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016070.

Parent fees

Macdonald, D. and Friendly, M. (2016). *A growing concern: Child care fees in Canada's biggest cities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Macdonald, D. and Friendly, M. (2017). *Time out: Child care fees in Canada's biggest cities and selected rural communities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Public spending per pupil on K-12

MacLeod, A. and Emes, K. (2017). *Education spending and public student enrolment in Canada, 2017 Edition*. Calgary: Fraser Institute. Table 3.