

the condition of education 2004



INDICATOR 2

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Preprimary Education

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Thirty-five percent of public elementary schools had prekindergarten programs in 2000–01, serving over 800,000 children. Schools in the Southeast were more likely to have any prekindergarten programs and full-day programs than schools in other regions.

Participation in early childhood programs, such as prekindergarten, helps prepare children for school. In 2000–01, some 19,900 public elementary schools, or about 35 percent of all public elementary schools, offered prekindergarten classes (see supplemental table 2-1). Thirteen percent of public elementary schools offered full-day only classes, 19 percent offered half-day only classes, and 3 percent offered both full- and half-day classes. Schools in the Southeast were more likely than schools in other regions to offer prekindergarten classes. The majority of prekindergarten class offerings in the Southeast were full-day classes, while the majority of class offerings in the Northeast, Central, and West regions were half-day classes. Public schools with large enrollments (as defined by 700 or more students) and schools in central cities were more likely than schools with other enrollment sizes and in other locales to offer prekindergarten classes.

51 percent of schools with 75 percent or more minority enrollment. In addition, as the percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch increased, so did the percentage of schools offering prekindergarten—from 21 percent of low-poverty schools (less than 15 percent of children eligible for the school lunch program) to 51 percent of high-poverty schools (75 percent or more of children eligible).

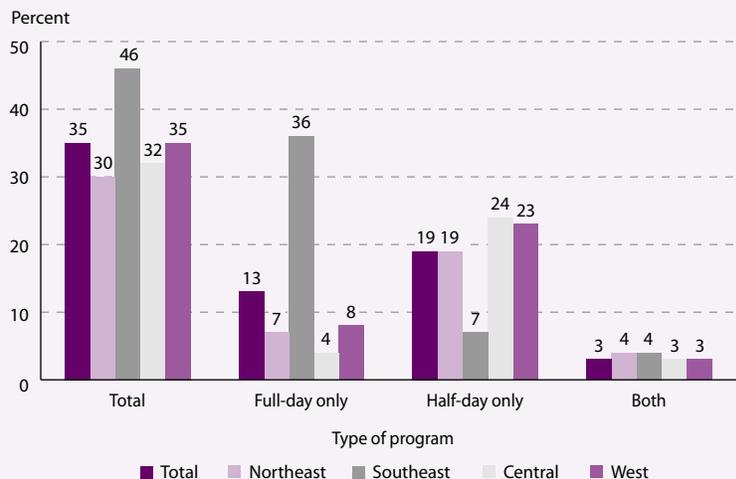
There were 822,000 children in prekindergarten classes in public schools in 2000–01 (see supplemental table 2-2). The majority (68 percent) were 4 years old. Sixty-one percent of children in prekindergarten were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Among children in prekindergarten classes, 39 percent were in high-poverty public schools and 11 percent were in low-poverty schools. White children represented 81 percent of students in prekindergarten classes in low-poverty public schools, compared with 4 and 8 percent for Black and Hispanic students. Conversely, White children made up 22 percent of students in high-poverty schools, compared with 36 and 39 percent for Black and Hispanic children, respectively.

The greater the percentage of minority students enrolled in a school, the greater was the likelihood of the school having prekindergarten programs—from 27 percent of schools with less than 10 percent minority enrollment to

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Survey includes special education and regular elementary and combined schools. Public elementary school is defined as a school with a lowest grade less than or equal to grade 3 and a highest grade less than or equal to grade 8. Combined school is defined as containing both elementary and secondary grades (e.g., K–12 or 1–9). Supplemental note 1 identifies the states in each region.

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables 2 and 3 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), “Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001,” FRSS 78, 2001.

PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS: Percentage of public elementary schools with prekindergarten classes, by type of program and region: 2000–01



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Supplemental Notes 1, 3
 Supplemental Tables 2-1, 2-2

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Table 2-1. Number and percentage of public elementary schools with prekindergarten classes, by type of program and selected school characteristics: 2000–01

School characteristic	Number of elementary schools	Elementary schools with prekindergarten classes		Type of prekindergarten class		
		Number	Percent	Full-day only	Half-day only	Both
Total	56,400	19,900	35.3	12.5	19.3	3.4
Enrollment						
Less than 300	17,400	4,900	28.3	8.9	16.7	2.4
300–499	18,100	6,500	36.0	11.6	21.2	3.2
500–699	12,700	4,800	37.5	14.7	18.7	4.0
700 or more	8,100	3,700	45.5	18.9	21.8	4.9
Location						
Central city	13,800	6,300	45.4	15.7	24.3	5.2
Urban fringe/large town	21,200	6,400	30.1	9.6	17.4	3.0
Rural/small town	21,300	7,200	34.0	13.4	18.0	2.6
Region						
Northeast	10,900	3,300	29.9	7.1	19.2	3.5
Southeast	11,800	5,500	46.3	35.6	6.5	4.2
Central	16,700	5,300	31.9	4.3	24.4	3.2
West	16,900	5,900	34.5	8.0	23.3	3.0
Percent minority						
Less than 10	20,600	5,600	27.4	6.7	18.5	2.1
10–24	9,000	2,800	31.5	10.6	19.0	1.7
25–49	10,300	3,700	36.1	14.2	17.2	4.7
50–74	5,600	2,300	40.6	17.6	17.4	5.6
75 or more	10,200	5,200	50.8	22.3	23.3	5.1
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch						
Less than 15	10,300	2,100	20.9	2.9	14.0	3.7
15–29	8,800	2,500	28.9	8.0	19.7	1.2
30–49	12,000	3,800	32.1	8.8	21.4	1.9
50–74	12,600	5,000	39.8	16.8	19.5	3.3
75 or more	12,200	6,200	50.8	23.3	21.2	6.3

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data on some of the variables in this table are missing for some cases. For more information, see NCES 2003–019, tables 2 and 3. Survey includes special education and regular elementary and combined schools. Public elementary school is defined as a school with a lowest grade less than or equal to grade 3 and a highest grade less than or equal to grade 8. Combined school is defined as containing both elementary and secondary grades (e.g., K–12 or 1–9). See *supplemental note 1* for the states in each region and more information on location.

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables 2 and 3 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), “Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001,” FRSS 78, 2001.

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Table 2-2. Number and percentage distribution of prekindergarten children in public elementary schools, by age, race/ethnicity, and selected student and school characteristics: 2000–01

School characteristic	Number of children in pre-kindergarten	Age			Race/ethnicity ¹					Student characteristic		
		3 or younger	4	5 or older	American Indian	Asian	Black	White	Hispanic	LEP ²	Low income ³	IEP ⁴
Total	822,000	23.0	68.3	8.7	1.9	2.7	22.6	48.6	24.0	15.1	61.1	29.7
Enrollment												
Less than 300	193,000	28.7	61.4	9.9	2.6	2.6	17.7	60.8	16.2	9.7	54.4	32.7
300–499	233,000	21.0	69.1	9.9	2.0	2.4	21.9	56.2	17.4	11.4	58.2	27.9
500–699	211,000	22.6	69.6	7.8	1.3	2.8	28.9	44.8	22.1	13.4	62.3	31.3
700 or more	184,000	20.0	73.1	7.0	1.6	3.1	21.7	30.6	43.0	27.4	70.1	27.1
Location												
Central city	310,000	23.8	68.4	7.8	1.0	3.6	33.1	27.6	34.6	21.6	72.3	26.2
Urban fringe/large town	279,000	24.3	67.9	7.8	1.2	3.3	20.1	51.1	24.2	15.6	54.6	31.7
Rural/small town	233,000	20.3	68.8	10.8	3.9	0.8	11.7	73.7	9.9	5.7	53.2	32.1
Region												
Northeast	137,000	24.9	70.0	5.1	0.8 ¹	4.7	22.4	52.6	19.5	8.7	46.8	28.1
Southeast	191,000	19.4	72.8	7.8	1.7	1.7	38.0	49.3	9.2	6.5	70.7	33.5
Central	230,000	27.0	59.6	13.3	0.9	2.0	20.5	63.4	13.0	8.5	50.7	31.1
West	264,000	21.1	71.8	7.1	3.4	3.0	13.4	33.3	46.8	30.3	69.8	26.6
Percent minority												
Less than 10	181,000	24.8	63.2	11.9	1.7	0.9	1.9	92.6	2.9	0.9	34.5	37.0
10–24	109,000	30.2	60.5	9.2	1.6	2.9	9.8	77.8	7.8	4.1	47.3	39.0
25–49	150,000	19.4	72.8	7.8	2.4	4.0	18.8	56.5	17.9	13.1	54.0	29.4
50–75	106,000	24.9	65.7	9.4	3.1	5.8	29.9	34.9	26.3	12.3	70.3	29.2
75 or more	267,000	20.1	73.8	6.1	1.4	1.8	41.5	7.6	47.7	31.2	82.4	20.6
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch												
Less than 15	87,000	29.6	59.0	11.5	1.4	6.0	4.2	80.7	7.7	6.6	11.1	39.5
15–29	75,000	24.8	62.5	12.7	1.3	2.5	9.4	76.8	9.8	4.8	27.4	45.6
30–49	129,000	22.8	65.8	11.3	1.7	2.8	13.6	68.3	13.2	8.7	37.6	34.8
50–74	207,000	21.3	71.8	6.8	2.6	3.3	20.2	54.0	19.9	11.2	62.9	30.3
75 or more	318,000	21.5	71.7	6.8	1.7	1.6	36.3	21.7	38.7	24.9	86.7	19.6
Percent of students limited English proficient												
Less than 1	409,000	23.4	66.2	10.3	2.4	1.3	25.2	62.1	8.9	#	55.3	33.9
1–10	141,000	25.3	65.4	9.3	1.6	3.0	26.8	55.9	12.1	4.2	53.1	30.0
More than 10	263,000	20.7	73.7	5.6	1.3	4.6	17.0	22.5	54.6	44.4	74.1	23.3

#Rounds to zero.

¹Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

²American Indian includes Alaska Native, Asian includes Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian, Black includes African American, and Hispanic includes Latino. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin.

³LEP refers to limited English proficient students, or "English language learners."

⁴Low income is defined as eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

⁵IEP refers to students with Individualized Education Programs and includes children in special education and general education classes.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data on some of the variables in this table are missing for some cases. For more information see NCES 2003–019, tables 5, 6, and 7. Survey includes special education and regular elementary and combined schools. Public elementary school is defined as a school with a lowest grade less than or equal to grade 3 and a highest grade less than or equal to grade 8. Combined school is defined as containing both elementary and secondary grades (e.g., K–12 or 1–9). See *supplemental note 1* for the states in each region and more information on location.

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables 5, 6, and 7 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001," FRSS 78, 2001.

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Table S2. Standard errors for the percentage of public elementary schools with prekindergarten classes, by type of program and region: 2000–01

Type of prekindergarten class	Total	Region			
		Northeast	Southeast	Central	West
Total	1.0	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.0
Full-day only	0.5	1.3	2.1	0.9	0.8
Half-day only	0.7	2.3	1.2	1.8	1.7
Both	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables B-2 and B-3 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001," FRSS 78, 2001.

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Table S2-1. Standard errors for the number and percentage of public elementary schools with prekindergarten classes, by type of program and selected school characteristics: 2000–01

School characteristic	Number of elementary schools	Elementary schools with prekindergarten classes		Type of prekindergarten class		
		Number	Percent	Full-day only	Half-day only	Both
Total	201	529	0.96	0.50	0.69	0.35
Enrollment						
Less than 300	298	274	1.46	0.85	1.40	0.56
300–499	146	330	1.76	1.09	1.56	0.67
500–699	379	271	2.08	1.64	1.53	1.01
700 or more	362	251	2.88	2.13	2.43	0.92
Location						
Central city	600	376	2.43	1.52	1.83	0.86
Urban fringe/large town	626	362	1.89	1.13	1.37	0.54
Rural/small town	603	370	1.82	0.97	1.32	0.64
Region						
Northeast	310	287	2.59	1.31	2.27	0.90
Southeast	334	269	2.32	2.11	1.20	0.83
Central	462	391	2.02	0.91	1.83	0.68
West	509	449	1.95	0.77	1.72	0.61
Percent minority						
Less than 10	709	370	1.99	0.86	1.79	0.57
10–24	455	231	2.34	1.67	1.88	0.58
25–49	553	315	2.36	1.63	1.81	1.18
50–74	483	244	3.63	2.47	2.65	1.77
75 or more	487	332	2.73	2.02	2.17	1.04
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch						
Less than 15	481	229	2.17	0.83	1.74	0.98
15–29	419	241	2.32	1.52	2.09	0.52
30–49	629	321	2.18	1.27	1.83	0.67
50–74	534	342	2.47	1.44	1.88	0.75
75 or more	452	332	2.27	1.80	1.69	0.96

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables B-2 and B-3 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001," FRSS 78, 2001.

Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools

Table S2-2. Standard errors for the number and percentage distribution of prekindergarten children in public elementary schools, by age, race/ethnicity, and selected student and school characteristics: 2000–01

School characteristic	Number of children in pre-kindergarten	Age			Race/ethnicity					Student characteristic		
		3 or younger	4	5 or older	American Indian	Asian	Black	White	Hispanic	LEP	Low income	IEP
Total	40,000	0.99	1.01	0.53	0.29	0.24	1.28	1.56	1.53	1.35	1.49	1.52
Enrollment												
Less than 300	19,600	2.65	2.16	1.48	0.84	0.55	2.26	4.00	3.16	2.09	4.07	3.08
300–499	16,300	1.23	1.41	1.24	0.36	0.50	3.00	2.75	2.29	1.71	3.38	2.09
500–699	16,500	1.76	2.08	1.23	0.59	0.44	3.74	3.31	3.54	2.60	3.23	2.84
700 or more	23,100	3.10	3.35	1.18	0.58	0.54	2.58	2.89	3.34	3.35	4.36	5.10
Location												
Central city	28,000	1.83	1.94	1.13	0.31	0.41	2.68	2.13	2.70	2.07	2.34	3.37
Urban fringe/large town	18,100	1.86	1.87	0.96	0.51	0.50	2.29	3.17	3.21	2.49	3.02	2.38
Rural/small town	18,500	1.14	1.59	1.30	0.73	0.17	1.45	2.09	1.83	1.42	2.93	1.97
Region												
Northeast	14,500	1.71	2.02	1.09	0.63	0.71	3.35	4.06	3.08	1.70	4.44	2.42
Southeast	12,500	1.85	1.92	1.07	0.55	0.28	2.45	2.74	1.49	1.33	2.49	2.10
Central	26,100	1.84	1.80	1.69	0.25	0.53	3.05	3.41	1.83	1.60	3.82	2.64
West	33,900	2.68	2.78	1.01	0.62	0.39	2.06	1.92	3.37	3.40	2.54	4.23
Percent minority												
Less than 10	15,600	1.52	1.86	1.37	0.76	0.20	0.24	1.04	0.64	0.19	3.02	2.55
10–24	17,100	3.74	3.38	1.50	0.44	0.56	1.00	1.58	1.18	0.98	5.41	5.04
25–49	15,200	1.74	2.25	1.48	0.61	0.62	1.72	1.77	2.10	2.03	4.22	2.70
50–75	13,700	2.48	2.35	2.72	1.19	1.33	3.49	1.76	2.85	2.56	4.34	4.21
75 or more	26,200	2.41	2.67	0.98	0.44	0.33	2.89	1.62	3.28	3.16	2.65	4.39
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch												
Less than 15	10,700	2.26	2.95	2.02	0.67	1.23	0.86	2.83	1.70	2.24	3.51	4.43
15–29	8,200	2.03	2.20	1.51	0.42	0.52	1.42	2.31	1.58	1.07	3.17	3.51
30–49	14,100	1.83	2.67	2.06	0.71	0.47	3.30	3.47	2.65	2.29	3.24	2.96
50–74	25,400	2.24	2.16	0.94	0.68	0.56	2.97	2.35	2.13	1.33	2.50	5.28
75 or more	27,200	2.04	2.09	1.03	0.46	0.30	2.83	3.20	3.41	2.91	1.48	1.88
Percent of students limited English proficient												
Less than 1	29,300	1.51	1.40	0.80	0.46	0.15	2.32	2.13	1.10	0.02	2.87	2.00
1–10	17,200	1.54	2.52	2.29	0.69	0.50	3.38	3.95	2.72	0.32	4.13	2.67
More than 10	23,300	2.37	2.55	0.68	0.44	0.67	2.01	1.92	2.62	2.86	2.75	4.04

SOURCE: Smith, T., Kleiner, A., Parsad, B., and Farris, E. (2003). *Prekindergarten in U.S. Public Schools: 2000–2001* (NCES 2003–019), tables B-5, B-6, and B-7 and previously unpublished tabulation (November 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey of Classes That Serve Children Prior to Kindergarten in Public Schools: 2000–2001," FRSS 78, 2001.