

A child is riding a green tricycle on a paved surface. The child is wearing a yellow shirt with smiley faces and dark pants. The tricycle has a white handlebar and green wheels. The background is a blurred asphalt surface.

The State of Early Childhood Education in Texas

April 2026 Texas Tour

children
atRisk

Mission Statement

CHILDREN AT RISK serves as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through



Strategic
Research



Public Policy
Analysis



Education



Collaboration



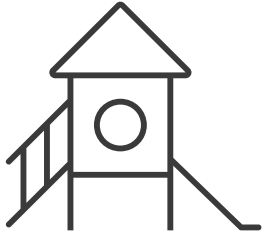
Advocacy



Child Care Deserts Data

children **atRisk**

What is a Desert?



Child Care Deserts

Zip codes (US Census ZCTAs) with at least 30 children (ages 0-5) where the demand for child care is three times greater or more than the supply of child care.



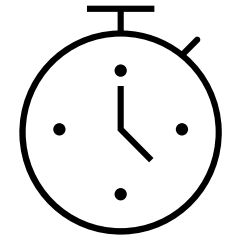
Subsidized Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of subsidized child care.



TRS Rising Star Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of Texas Rising Star-certified child care.



Chronic Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of care for that category for **three consecutive years**.

Child Care Deserts | Overall

Texas Overall Child Care Deserts

994,949 ↑

Total Number of Seats

413 ↓

Overall Desert Zip
Codes*

**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care Deserts | Subsidy

Texas Subsidy Child Care Deserts

148,675 ↑

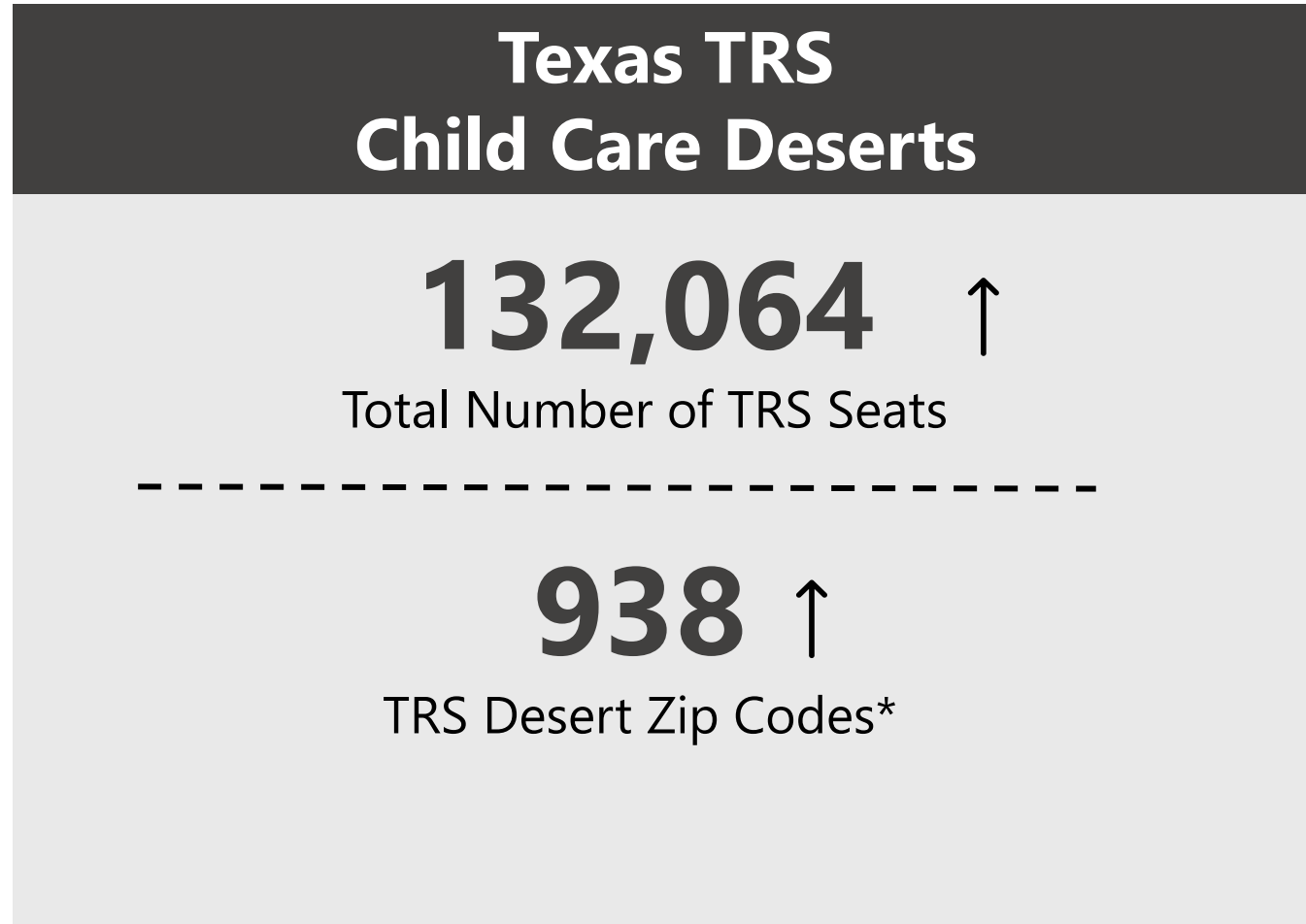
Total Number of Subsidy Seats

884 ↑

Subsidy Desert Zip Codes*

**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care Deserts | Texas Rising Star (TRS)



**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Chronic Child Care Deserts | Statewide

Chronic Overall Child Care Deserts (2023- 2025)

64%

Of Overall Deserts
Considered Chronic

263

Chronic Overall Desert Zip
Codes

Chronic Subsidy Child Care Deserts (2023-2025)

63%

Of Subsidy Deserts
Considered Chronic

558

Chronic Subsidy Desert
Zip Codes

Chronic TRS Child Care Deserts (2023-2025)

68%

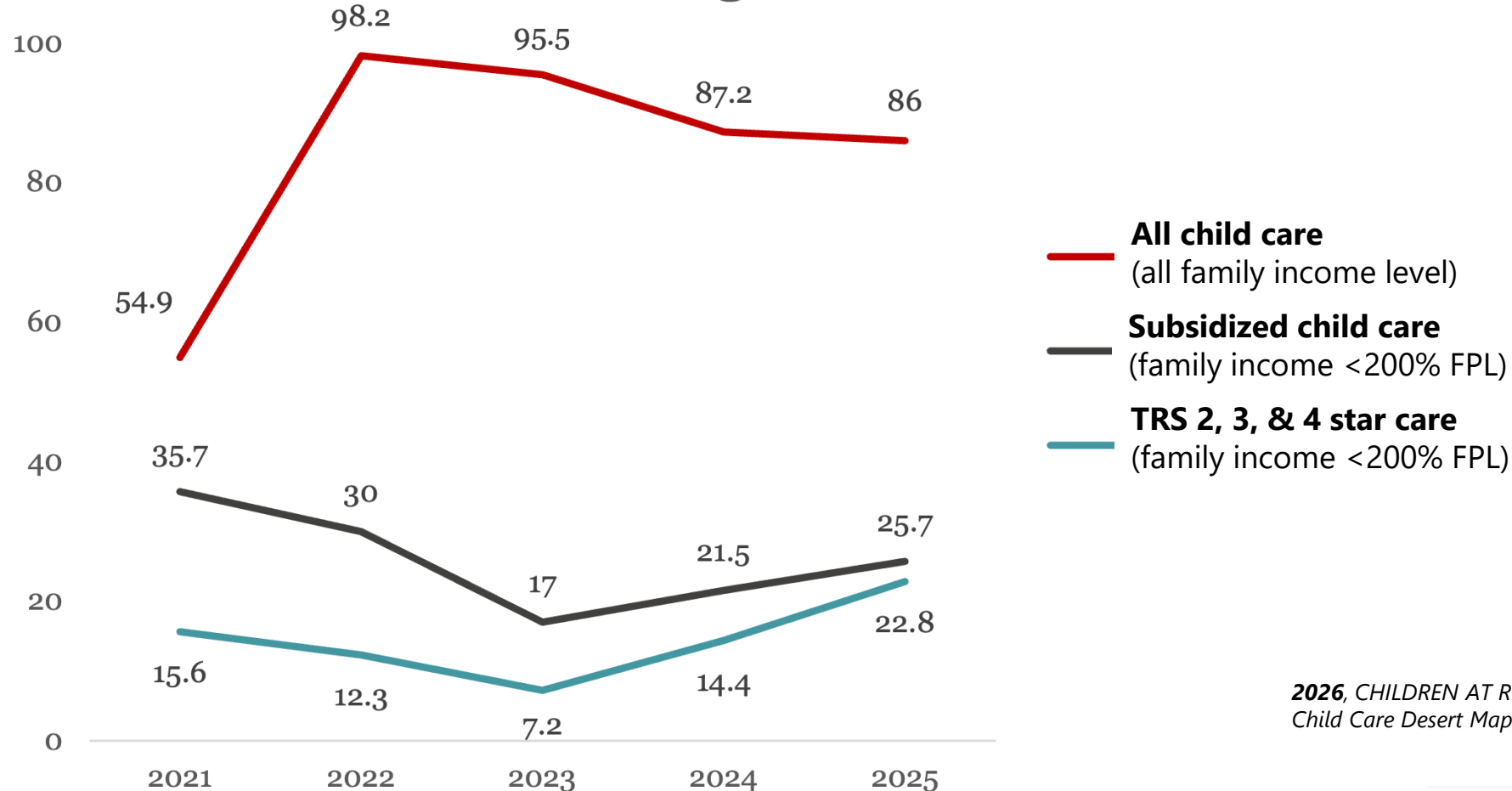
Of TRS Deserts
Considered Chronic

635

Chronic TRS Desert Zip
Codes

Child Care Seats | The Last Five Years in Texas

Number of Child Care Seats per 100 Children of Working Families

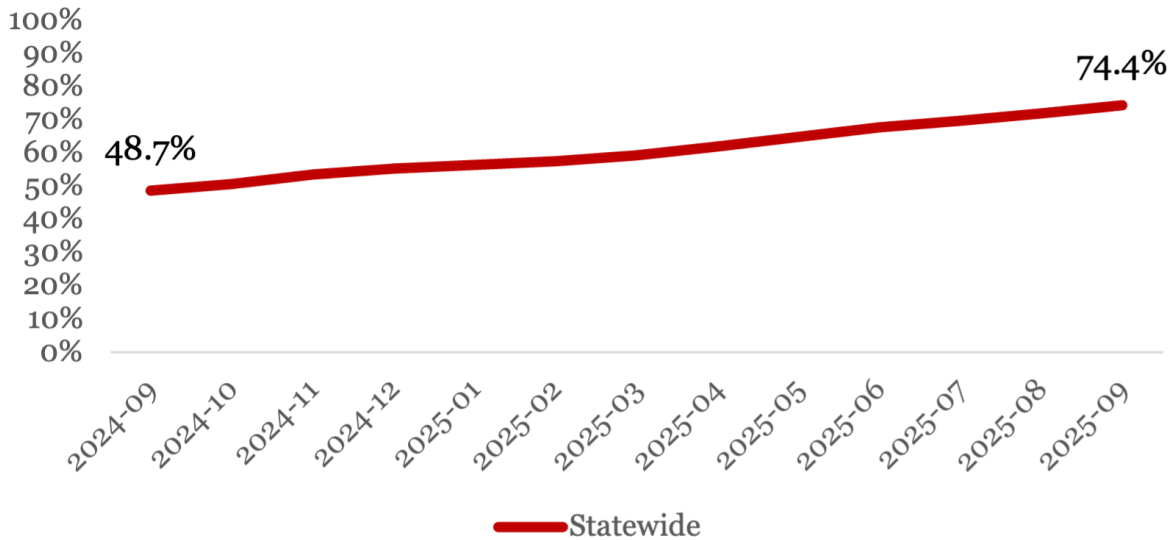


2026, CHILDREN AT RISK
Child Care Desert Map

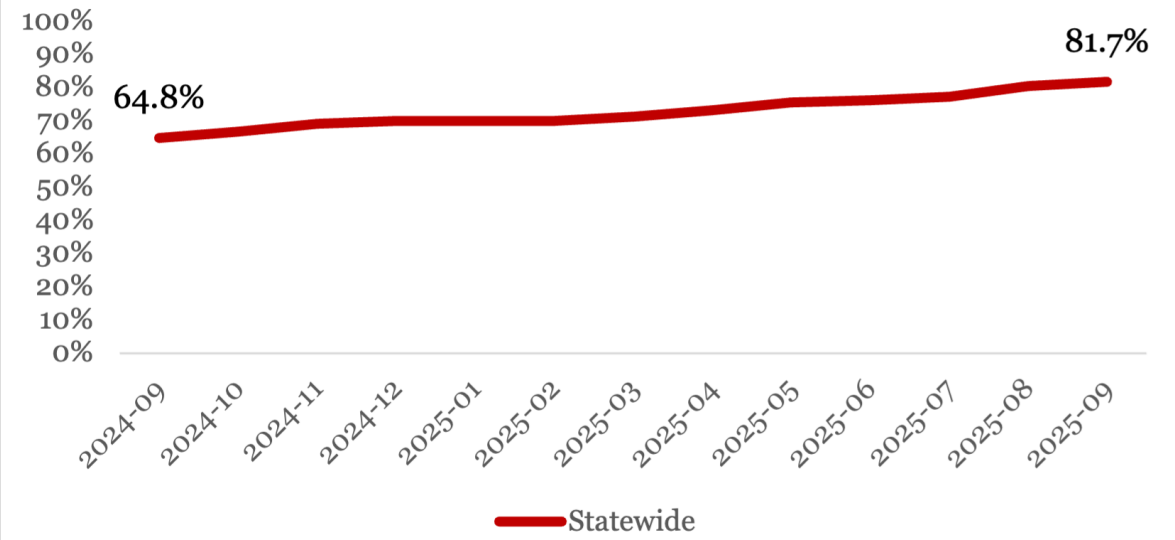
Capital Area Texas Rising Star



Percent of Providers Participating in TRS Statewide



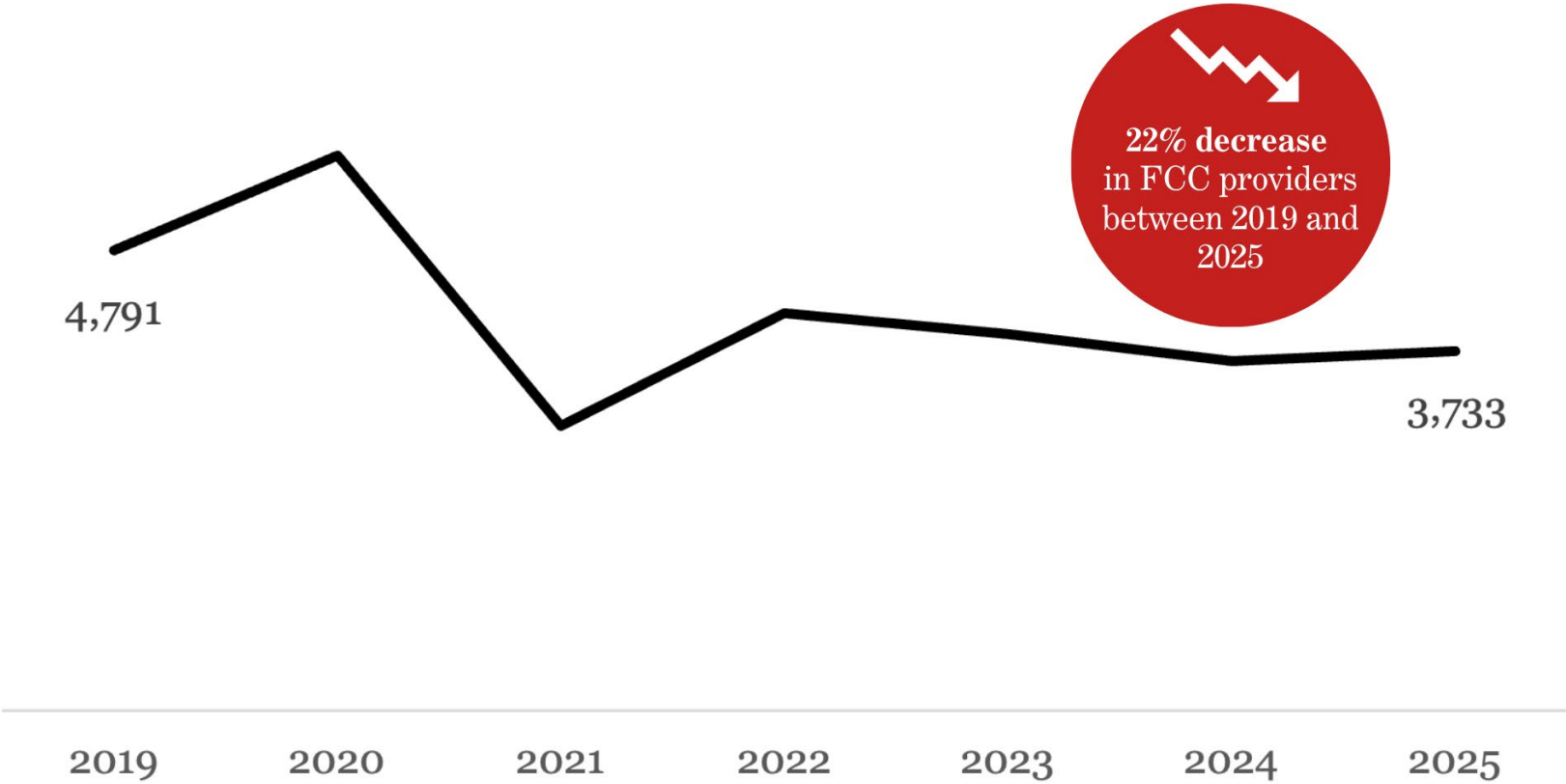
Percent of Children Receiving TRS Quality Care Statewide



2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care by the Numbers

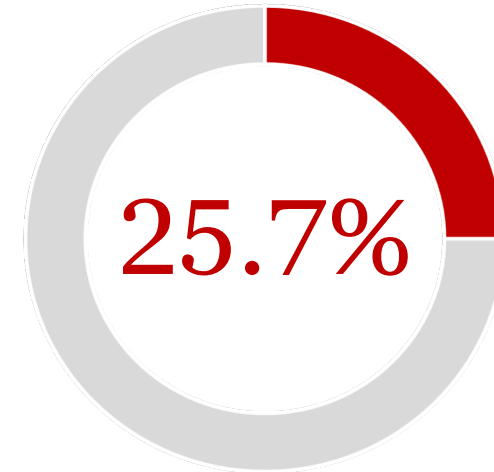
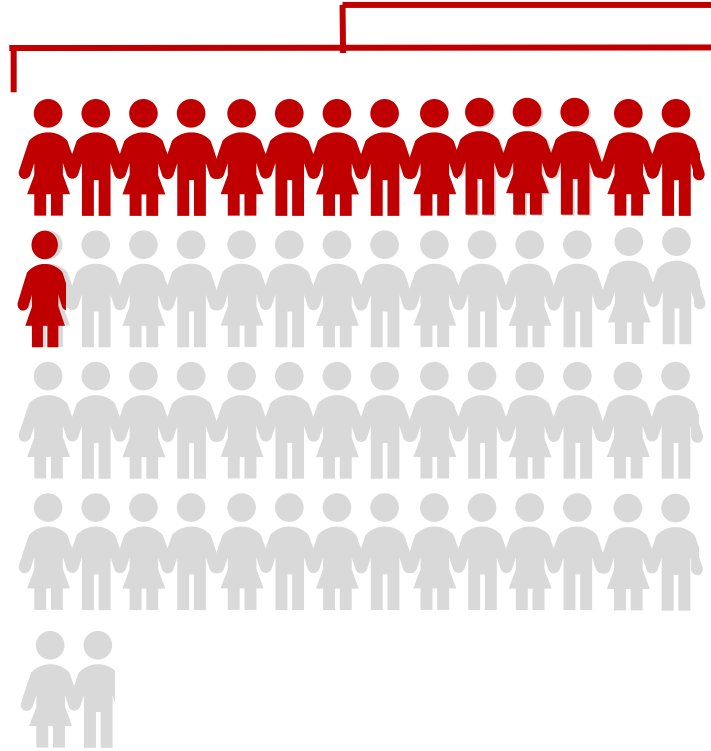
Family Child Care Homes

Number of Child Care Home Providers
Registered and Licensed Family Child Care Homes, 2019-2025




2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care Data

Children Served with Funding vs Need



Just over **one in four** low-income children ages 0-5 with working parents **receive subsidies for child care.**

 = 10,000 low-income children ages 0-5 with working parents

 = children ages 0-5 served by CCS

2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care Data

Kim Kofron M.Ed.

*Executive Director of Early Childhood
Education, CHILDREN AT RISK*

kkofron@childrenatrisk.org

www.childrenatrisk.org

childrenatRisk



Thank you!