

NORTHEAST MINNESOTA CHILD CARE DATA UPDATE – APRIL 2021

In April 2021, Northspan provided an update to the child care data used to inform the Community Solutions Action Plans throughout the Northland. This data set compares the total number of currently active licensed child care slots to population estimates for children under the age of six with both parents in participating in the workforce. Below is a summary of changes throughout the Northland from July 2020, when the data was last gathered, to April 2021.

Overall, the Northland experienced modest gains (+57 children) in the population of children under six, as well as a reduction in available child care slots (-41 licensed slots). The total growth demand throughout the region increased slightly from 47.4% to 48.7%.

| Change in Child Care Demand by County: July 2020 - April 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| County | Total Children | | Change in Children | Total Child Care Slots | | Change in Slots Available | Child Care Slots Needed | | Change in Slots Needed | % Growth Needed | | % Change in Need |
| | 2020 | 2021 | | 2020 | 2021 | | 2020 | 2021 | | 2020 | 2021 | |
| Aitkin | 471 | 455 | -16 | 286 | 291 | 5 | 185 | 164 | -21 | 64.7% | 56.4% | -8.3% |
| Carlton | 1,503 | 1,582 | 79 | 1,015 | 1,057 | 42 | 488 | 525 | 37 | 48.1% | 49.7% | 1.6% |
| Cook | 210 | 220 | 10 | 64 | 106 | 42 | 146 | 114 | -32 | 228.1% | 107.5% | -120.6% |
| Itasca | 1,766 | 1,864 | 98 | 1,376 | 1,489 | 113 | 390 | 375 | -15 | 28.3% | 25.2% | -3.2% |
| Koochiching | 606 | 609 | 3 | 289 | 264 | -25 | 317 | 345 | 28 | 109.7% | 130.7% | 21.0% |
| Lake | 465 | 393 | -72 | 198 | 270 | 72 | 267 | 123 | -144 | 134.8% | 45.6% | -89.3% |
| St. Louis | 8,386 | 8,341 | -45 | 5,865 | 5,575 | -290 | 2,521 | 2,766 | 245 | 43.0% | 49.6% | 6.6% |
| Northland | 13,407 | 13,464 | 57 | 9,093 | 9,052 | -41 | 4,314 | 4,412 | 98 | 47.4% | 48.7% | 1.3% |

LARGEST CHANGES IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN

The following areas saw the greatest changes in number of children when analyzed by percentage of children relative to their geographic location.

- Loss of children in population
 - Bigfork Area, Itasca County: -48.9% (22 children)
 - Greater Quad Cities, St. Louis County: -32.9% (268 children)
 - Aitkin City, Aitkin County: -28.7% (31 children)
- Gain of children in population
 - Saginaw/Culver, St. Louis County: +18.4% (71 children)
 - Deer River Area, Aitkin County: +17.1% (40 children)
 - McGregor, Aitkin County: +16.1% (14 children)

LARGEST CHANGES IN NUMBER OF AVAILABLE CHILD CARE SLOTS

The locations below reported the greatest changes in available child care slots within their area.

- Loss of available slots
 - Ely, St. Louis County: -55.9% (38 slots)
 - Proctor, St. Louis County: -32.5% (55 slots)
 - Northern St. Louis County: -27.8% (16 slots)
- Gain of new slots
 - Silver Bay, Lake County: +76.6% (72 slots)
 - Northome Area, Itasca County: +25.0% (10 slots)

- Northeast (Nashwauk, Keewatin, Bovey, Marble, Coleraine) Itasca County, Itasca County: 10.4% (33 slots)

TOP DEMAND AREAS

The top areas showing a steady or increased demand for additional child care slots are:

- Western Carlton County (Cromwell)
- Isle, Aitkin County
- East Range (Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes, Town of White)
- Saginaw, Culver (rural Southern St. Louis County)

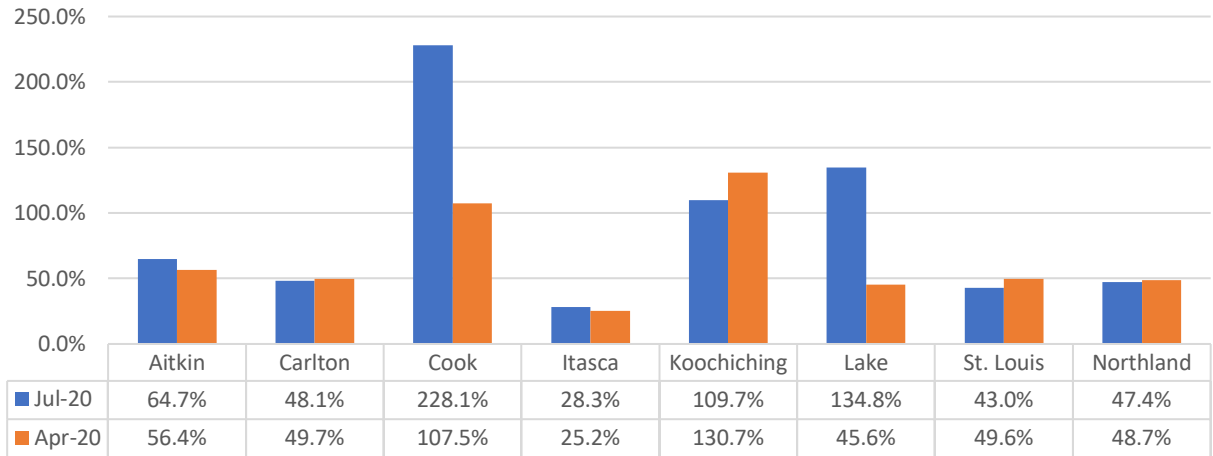
OTHER NOTABLES

Other areas to highlight include those gaining children in the population while losing child care slots. For example, the Deer River area gained 40 children (17.1% increase) and did not add any new child care slots. This increased their total demand from 19.8% in 2020 to 44.4% in 2021.

The East Range area also falls into this category showing a 15% increase in children with no net change in child care slots. This increases their demand from 360% in 2020 to 442% in 2021.

On the positive side, with the opening of a new child care center, the Silver Bay area has shown a reduction in demand from 500% in 2020 to 18.1% 2021. Another notable is Cook County, which has increased the available slots by 42, reducing their overall demand by 120.6%.

Change in Child Care Demand by County
July 2020 - April 2021



Data Sources: Minnesota Department of Health, Licensing Lookup (Active Licensees Only); US Census Data – Data Table DP03