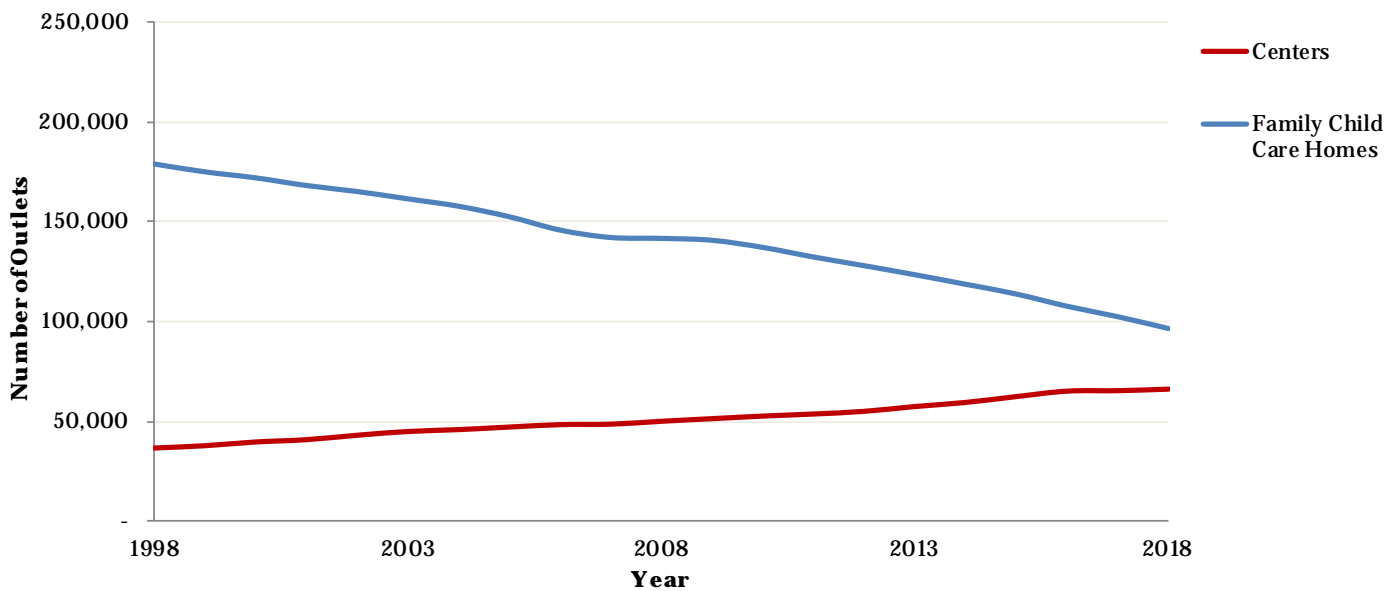


Each year, the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) analyzes participation data in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). FRAC uses U.S. Department of Agriculture data to develop a picture of participation trends in the U.S as a whole, each of the 50 states, and the District of Columbia. This report discusses changes in the number of CACFP child care centers and family child care homes over the past 20 years from fiscal year (FY) 1998 to 2018, the more recent changes from FY 2017 to FY 2018, and the overall increase in average daily attendance.

**Figure 1. Child and Adult Care Food Program:
Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Home Participation Change**



Source: FRAC CACFP Participation Trends Report

Figure 1 (above) depicts the change in number of CACFP child care centers and family child care homes from FY 1998 to FY 2018. In the last 20 years, the number of centers has almost doubled, with an increase of 82 percent. However, the number of family child care homes has decreased by 46 percent, largely due to a means test implemented in FY 1996, which changed the way family child care homes were reimbursed.

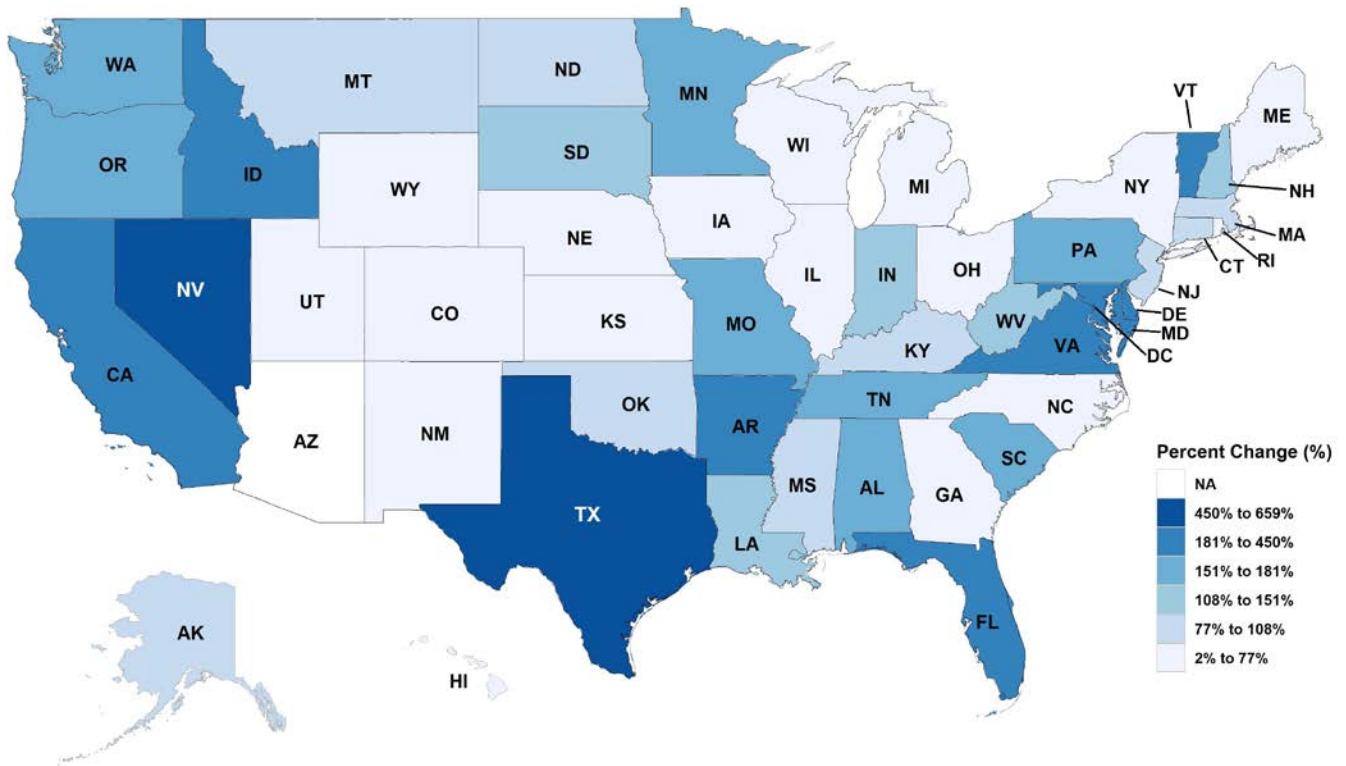
The growth in the number of CACFP centers has led to a 140 percent increase in the number of children being served each day through CACFP centers since FY 1998. Center participation is consistently rising each year. Nearly 3.8 million children enrolled in child care centers benefited daily from CACFP in FY 2018, a 4 percent increase from FY 2017. Table 1 (to the right) shows the five states with the highest average daily attendance percent increase from FY 2017 to FY 2018.

Table 1

**Top 5 States: CACFP Centers
Increase in Number of Children Served
Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2018**

State	Percent Increase in Center Average Daily Attendance
South Carolina	30.3%
Minnesota	25.9%
Maine	20.4%
Missouri	17.9%
Texas	15.1%

**Figure 2. Child and Adult Care Food Program:
Change in Center Participation in CACFP from FY 1998 to FY 2018**



Source: FRAC CACFP Participation Trends Report

CACFP Centers

Nationally, 66,112 child care centers participated in CACFP in FY 2018, an 82 percent increase since FY 1998. Figure 2 (above) depicts the change in the number of CACFP centers by state from FY 1998 to FY 2018. At-risk afterschool programs have contributed significantly to this growth.

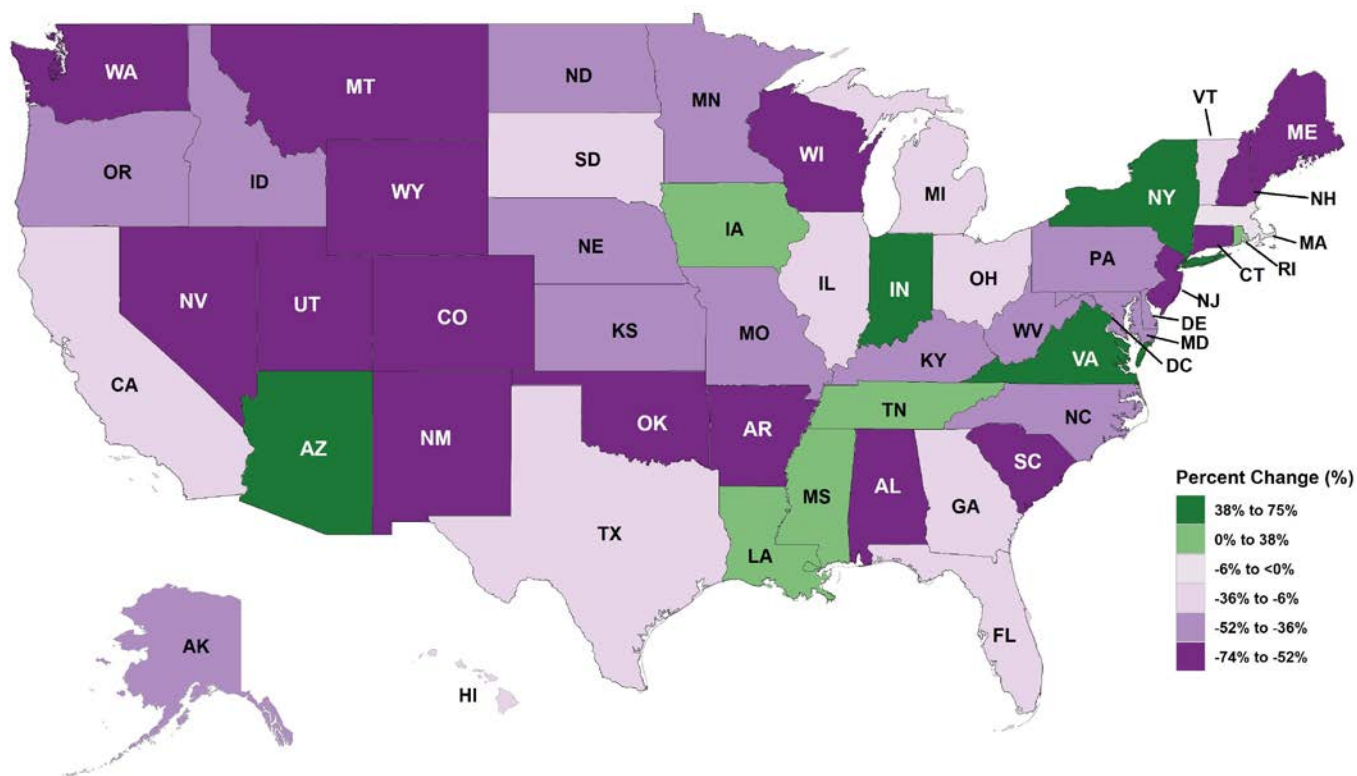
The number of CACFP centers increased 1 percent from FY 2017 to FY 2018, continuing decades of steady increases. Overall, 30 states had more CACFP centers in FY 2018 than in FY 2017. Table 2 (to the right) depicts the five states with the highest percent increase in number of CACFP centers.

Table 2

**Top 5 States: CACFP Centers' Growth
Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2018**

State	Percent Increase in Number of Participating Centers
South Carolina	15.7%
Minnesota	13.4%
Connecticut	12.2%
Kentucky	8.0%
Virginia	7.4%

**Figure 3. Child and Adult Care Food Program:
Change in Family Child Care Homes Participation in CACFP from FY 1998 to FY 2018**



Source: FRAC CACFP Participation Trends Report

Family Child Care Homes

Since FY 1998, CACFP family child care homes have declined by 46 percent. The map above (*Figure 3*) depicts the percent change in CACFP family child care homes by state. While the map depicts change over the last 20 years, the past fiscal year also has a declining trend in the number of participating family child care homes. Nationally 96,766 family child care homes participated in CACFP in FY 2018, a six percent decrease from the previous year.

The Impact of the CACFP Means Test

One part of welfare reform, which was undertaken in 1996, mandated major changes in the way family child care homes are reimbursed in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). A means test was instituted which effectively cut in half the federal reimbursement for meals and snacks for providers serving children in moderate-income households.

These changes have had negative consequences that continue to affect the program. Between FY 1996 and FY 2018 the number of family child care homes participating in CACFP dropped by 50 percent, while the number of children served fell by 255,619. This is in contrast to the growth of child care centers (and Head Start programs) using CACFP over that time. During the same 20-year period, the participation of centers in CACFP grew by 97 percent and the number of children served by those centers grew by nearly 2.4 million.

Number of Centers			
State	FY 1998	FY 2018	Percent Change
Alabama	491	1,011	106.0 %
Alaska	166	216	30.4 %
Arizona	710	804	13.4 %
Arkansas	443	1,081	144.2 %
California	3,570	7,866	120.4 %
Colorado	485	814	68.1 %
Connecticut	293	345	17.7 %
Delaware	111	380	241.8 %
District of Columbia	95	233	145.6 %
Florida	1,434	4,585	219.8 %
Georgia	1,106	2,109	90.8 %
Hawaii	225	209	-7.2 %
Idaho	92	253	174.0 %
Illinois	1,888	2,395	26.9 %
Indiana	650	1,024	57.5 %
Iowa	500	594	18.9 %
Kansas	464	613	32.1 %
Kentucky	809	1,171	44.7 %
Louisiana	536	863	61.2 %
Maine	202	186	-8.2 %
Maryland	401	1,352	237.3 %
Massachusetts	767	918	19.6 %
Michigan	1,010	1,627	61.1 %
Minnesota	592	799	35.1 %
Mississippi	356	807	126.5 %
Missouri	666	1,265	90.0 %
Montana	178	238	33.8 %
Nebraska	363	520	43.4 %
Nevada	65	360	453.1 %
New Hampshire	145	193	33.3 %
New Jersey	972	1,303	34.1 %
New Mexico	386	622	61.2 %
New York	3,032	4,079	34.5 %
North Carolina	1,707	2,289	34.1 %
North Dakota	121	199	64.1 %
Ohio	1,443	1,998	38.5 %
Oklahoma	698	1,014	45.3 %
Oregon	511	766	50.0 %
Pennsylvania	1,401	3,513	150.7 %
Rhode Island	116	204	76.4 %
South Carolina	361	670	85.5 %
South Dakota	161	241	49.8 %
Tennessee	712	1,499	110.6 %
Texas	1,856	6,753	263.8 %
Utah	275	364	32.6 %
Vermont	100	226	127.4 %
Virginia	785	1,536	95.7 %
Washington	829	1,359	64.1 %
West Virginia	357	683	91.4 %
Wisconsin	695	953	37.2 %
Wyoming	91	129	42.3 %
US	36,418	66,112	81.5 %

Number of Family Child Care Homes			
State	FY 1998	FY 2018	Percent Change
Alabama	2,754	633	-77.0 %
Alaska	611	213	-65.1 %
Arizona	4,128	1,974	-52.2 %
Arkansas	1,100	285	-74.1 %
California	21,926	13,241	-39.6 %
Colorado	4,158	989	-76.2 %
Connecticut	1,759	780	-55.6 %
Delaware	1,221	497	-59.3 %
District of Columbia	128	32	-75.3 %
Florida	2,681	1,742	-35.0 %
Georgia	3,035	1,240	-59.1 %
Hawaii	468	212	-54.7 %
Idaho	506	159	-68.5 %
Illinois	6,849	5,737	-16.2 %
Indiana	1,855	1,914	3.2 %
Iowa	2,170	1,588	-26.9 %
Kansas	5,192	2,672	-48.5 %
Kentucky	743	244	-67.2 %
Louisiana	7,273	8,621	18.5 %
Maine	1,763	753	-57.3 %
Maryland	4,779	2,342	-51.0 %
Massachusetts	6,675	3,661	-45.2 %
Michigan	8,682	3,507	-59.6 %
Minnesota	11,501	5,881	-48.9 %
Mississippi	781	870	11.4 %
Missouri	2,478	966	-61.0 %
Montana	1,236	491	-60.3 %
Nebraska	3,308	1,797	-45.7 %
Nevada	402	110	-72.6 %
New Hampshire	313	70	-77.6 %
New Jersey	1,057	357	-66.3 %
New Mexico	6,759	1,833	-72.9 %
New York	8,226	8,538	3.8 %
North Carolina	3,601	1,450	-59.7 %
North Dakota	1,966	845	-57.1 %
Ohio	4,046	1,727	-57.3 %
Oklahoma	2,317	1,413	-39.0 %
Oregon	5,226	1,767	-66.2 %
Pennsylvania	2,625	1,312	-50.0 %
Rhode Island	232	214	-7.9 %
South Carolina	1,155	427	-63.0 %
South Dakota	839	391	-53.4 %
Tennessee	1,848	1,255	-32.1 %
Texas	8,526	4,256	-50.1 %
Utah	3,755	1,416	-62.3 %
Vermont	816	365	-55.2 %
Virginia	3,372	1,857	-44.9 %
Washington	5,266	1,502	-71.5 %
West Virginia	1,637	726	-55.7 %
Wisconsin	4,002	1,608	-59.8 %
Wyoming	636	219	-65.7 %
US	178,515	96,766	-45.8 %

Data Source: USDA: 2018 data remain subject to change.