

Early Learning Alliance

Data Report

Quarter 3, 2023



EARLY LEARNING
ALLIANCE

Purpose

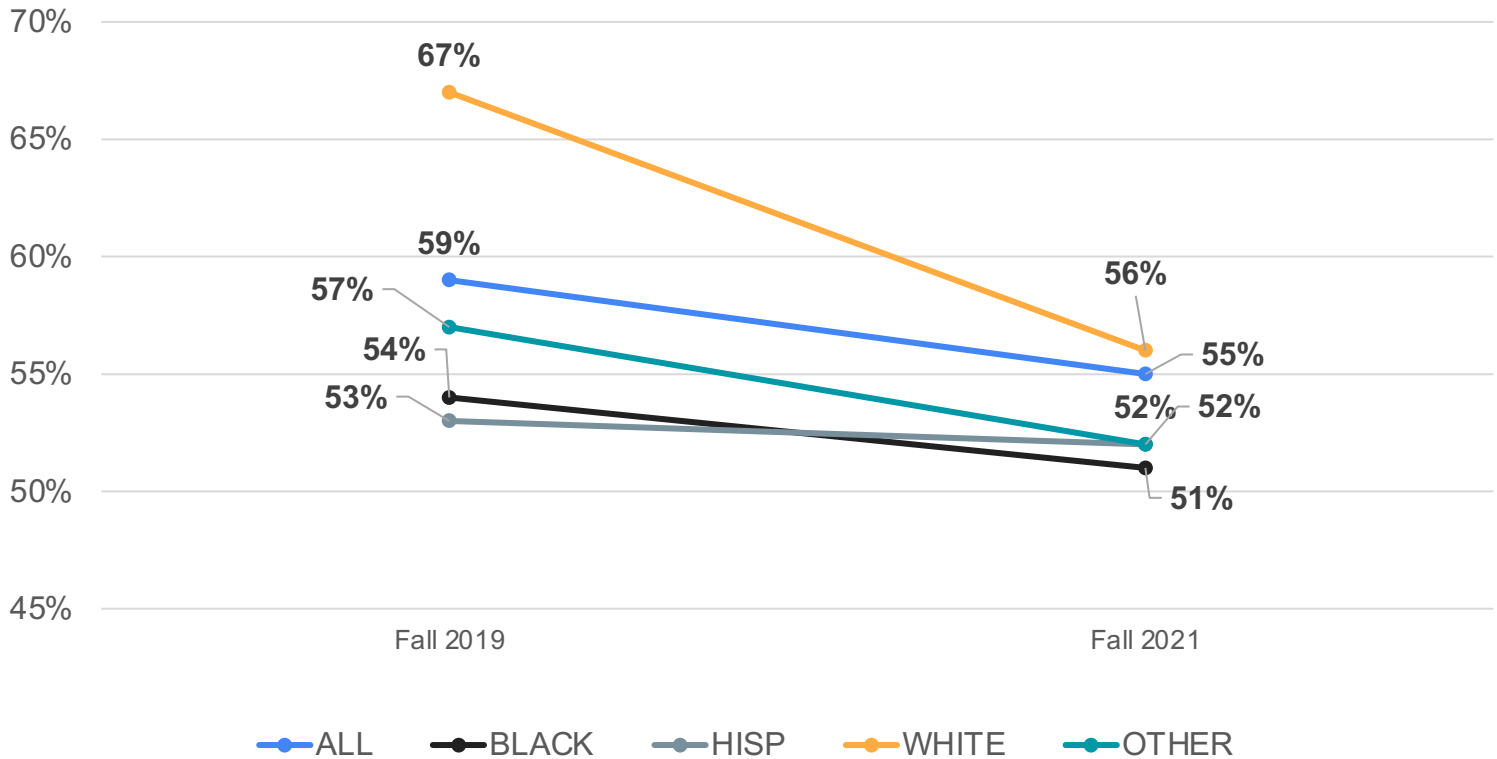
The current report provides Quarter 3, 2023 data for key aspects of early care and learning in Tarrant County. The report includes the following:

- Kindergarten Readiness and 3rd Grade Reading
- Number and Type of Early Childhood Programs
- Quality of Early Childhood Programs and Access to Quality Care
- Early Childhood Professionals' Use of the Workforce Registry
- Developmental Screening, and
- Families' Use of the HMG NTX Call Center

Where possible, the data are disaggregated by race and ethnicity. To show trends, the report also includes data from prior years.

01 Kindergarten Readiness

PERCENT OF TARRANT COUNTY CHILDREN RATED AS KINDERGARTEN READY (by race/ethnicity)



In Fall 2021, overall, 55% of Tarrant County children were rated as kindergarten ready on a Texas Education Agency approved assessment. The ratings decreased for all groups of children and were lowest for Black and Hispanic children.

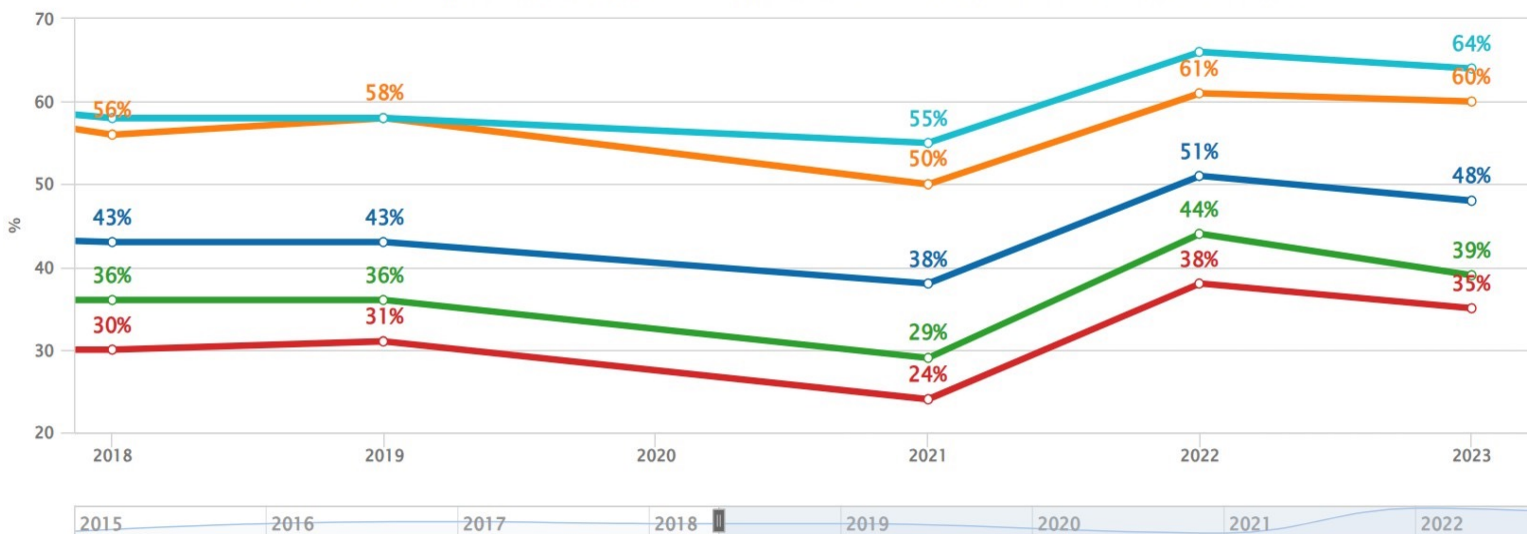
NOTES: Fall 2020 data are not included because, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Tarrant County school districts did not submit data. Fall 2022 data are not yet available from the Texas Education Agency.

3rd Grade Reading 02

PERCENT OF TARRANT COUNTY 3RD GRADE STUDENTS READING AT GRADE LEVEL (2018-2023, by race/ethnicity)

% of All 3rd grade children in Tarrant County on grade level in Reading - Comparison

Data Source: TEA STAAR data for all Tarrant County Schools - % at Recommended Level. CLICK ON COMPARISON TO SEE ETHNICITY COMPARISONS.



- [3GR] % of All 3rd grade children in Tarrant County on grade level in Reading
- [3GR] % of White 3rd grade children on grade level in Reading
- [3GR] % of Other 3rd grade children on grade level in Reading
- [3GR] % of Hispanic 3rd grade children on grade level in Reading
- [3GR] % of Afr. Amer. 3rd grade children on grade level in Reading

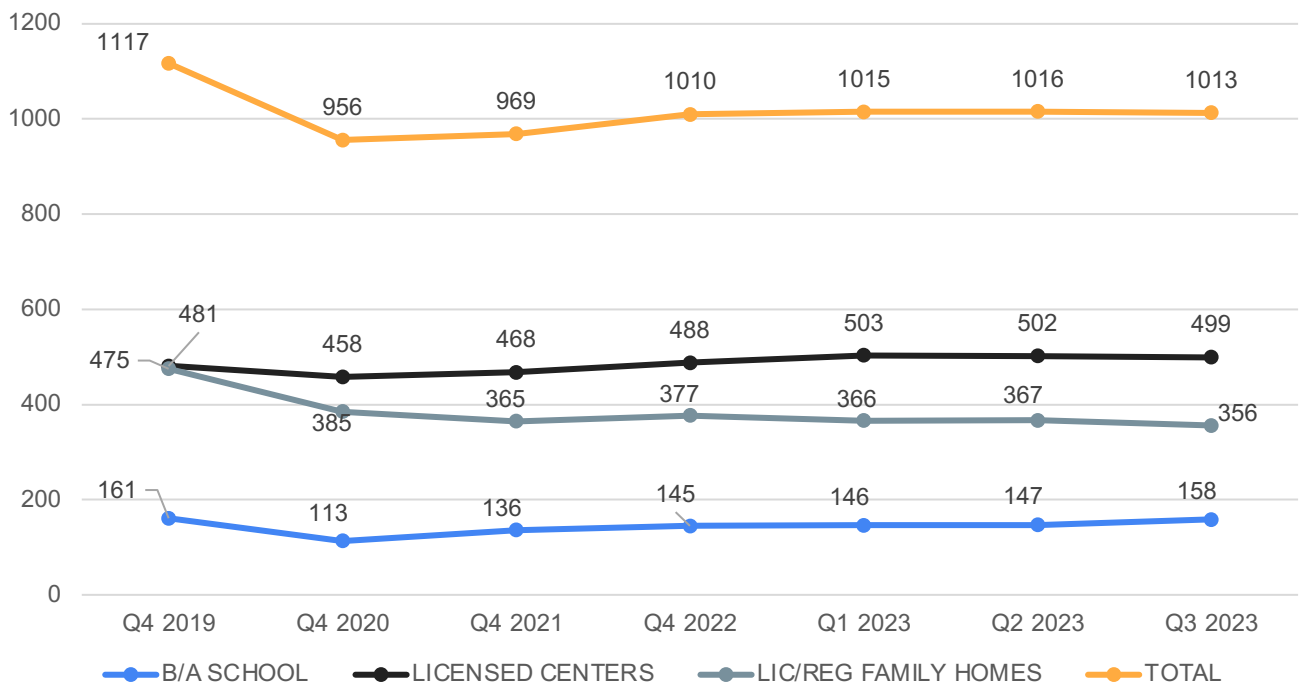
The percent of all 3rd grade students reading on grade level decreased by 3 percentage points from 2022 to 2023. The decrease was similar for White and Black students but greater for Hispanic students (5 percentage points).

With a performance gap of 25 to 29 percentage points, the percent of third graders reading on grade-level continues to be lowest for Black and Hispanic students, as compared to White students and students of other races.

NOTES: These data are from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), administered in all Texas public and charter schools in the Spring of each school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the assessment was not administered in Spring 2020.

03 Access to Early Childhood Programs

NUMBER OF TARRANT COUNTY LICENSED CHILD CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY PROGRAM SETTING (Q1, Q2, Q3 2023 and 4 Prior Years)

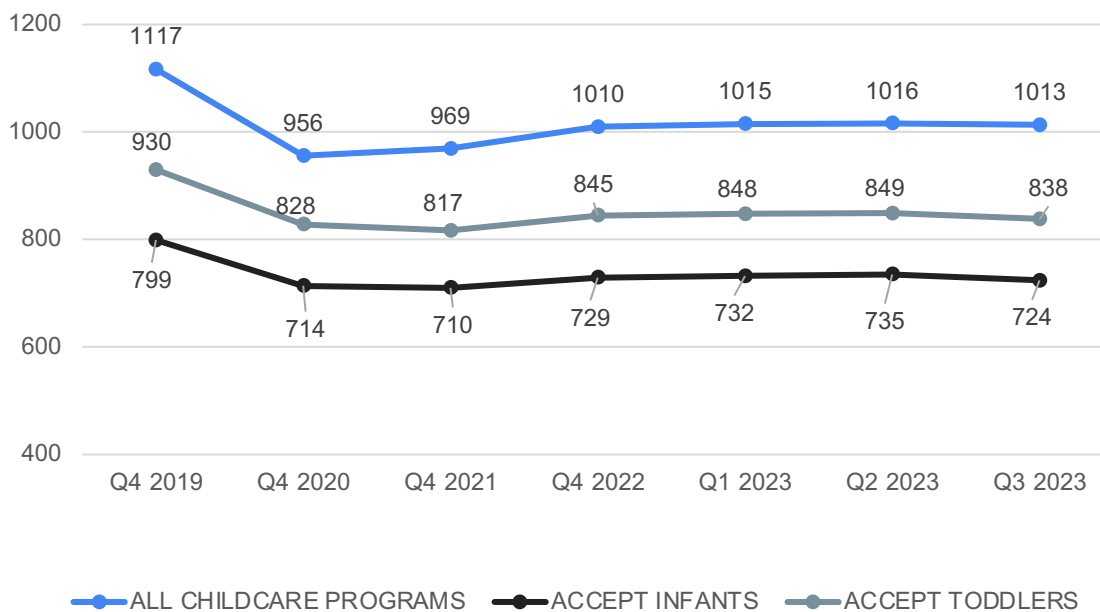


Overall, the number of licensed or registered early childhood programs decreased from the end of 2019 through 2023, with approximately 100 fewer programs now than in 2019. A slight, additional decrease occurred from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023, with the largest decrease occurring for licensed/registered family homes.

SOURCE: [DFPS - Texas Child Care Licensing \(CCL\)](#)

04 Access to Early Childhood Programs (cont.)

NUMBER OF TARRANT COUNTY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR *INFANTS AND TODDLERS* (Q1, Q2, Q3 2023 and 4 Prior Years)

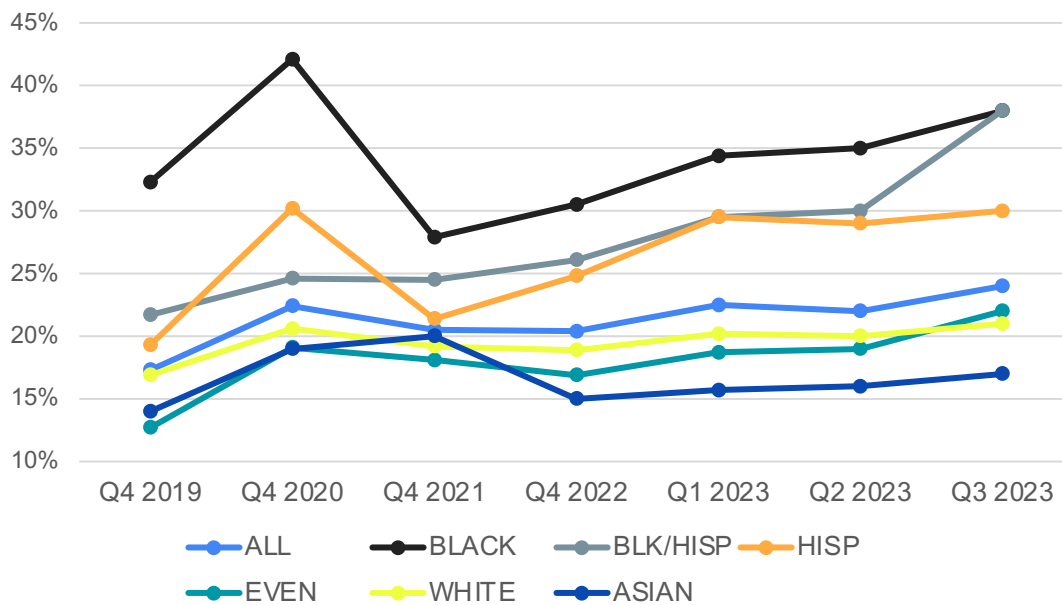


As with the overall trends, the number of child care programs in Tarrant County that accept infants and toddlers has decreased since the end of 2019. After the initial decrease in 2020, the numbers increased or remained steady each quarter until Q3 2023. From Q2 to Q3 2023, there were 11 fewer programs accepting infants and/or toddlers.

SOURCE: [DFPS - Texas Child Care Licensing \(CCL\)](#)

Quality Care & Education 05

PERCENT OF LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN TARRANT COUNTY WITH A QUALITY RATING (Q1,Q2, Q3 2023 & 4 Prior Years)



NEIGHBORHOOD ETHNICITY	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
ALL NEIGHBORHOODS	17%	22%	21%	20%	23%	22%	24%
BLACK	32%	42%	28%	31%	34%	35%	38%
BLK/HISP	22%	25%	25%	26%	30%	30%	38%
HISP	19%	30%	21%	25%	30%	29%	30%
EVEN	13%	19%	18%	17%	19%	19%	22%
WHITE	17%	21%	19%	19%	20%	20%	21%
ASIAN (>8%)	14%	19%	20%	15%	16%	16%	17%

The percent of child care programs with a quality rating increased in all neighborhoods from Q2 to Q3 2023. The greatest increase occurred in neighborhoods where the majority of residents were Black or Hispanic.

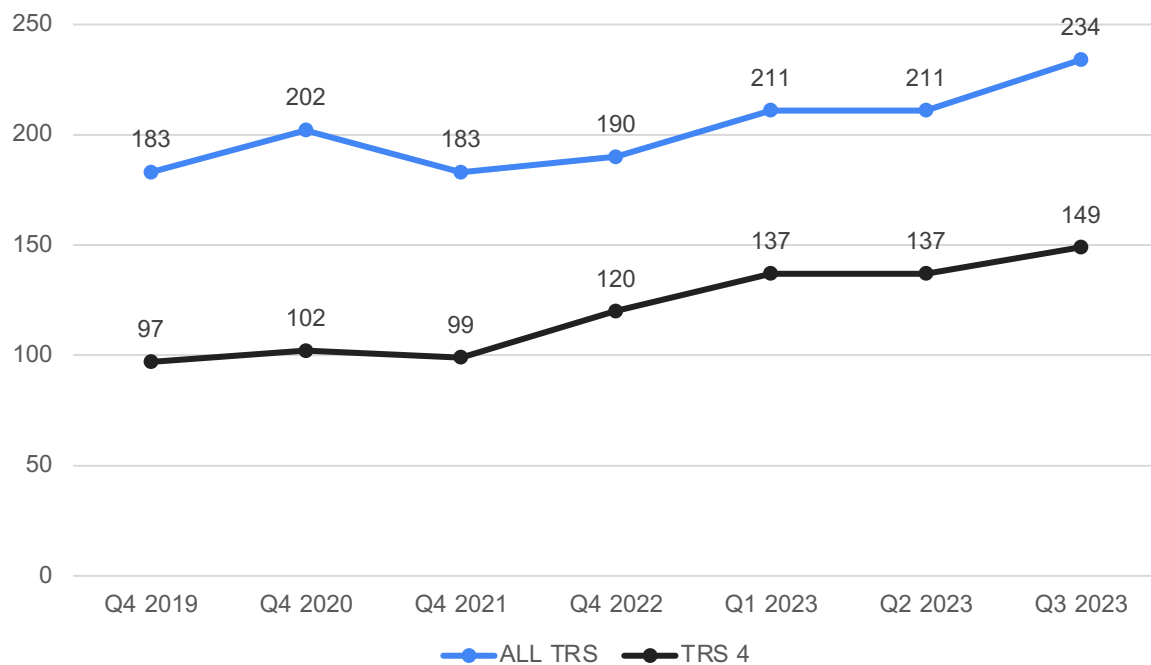
Neighborhoods with high Asian populations continue to have the lowest percentage of child care programs with quality ratings.

Neighborhoods with >8% Asian population are not mutually exclusive with other neighborhood race/ethnicity categories.

NOTES: Quality ratings include TRS, NAEYC, NAC, and AMS or AMI Certification.

06 Quality Care & Education (cont.)

NUMBER OF ALL ELIGIBLE TARRANT COUNTY PROGRAMS WITH A TRS RATING (Q1, Q2, Q3 2023 and 4 Prior Years)



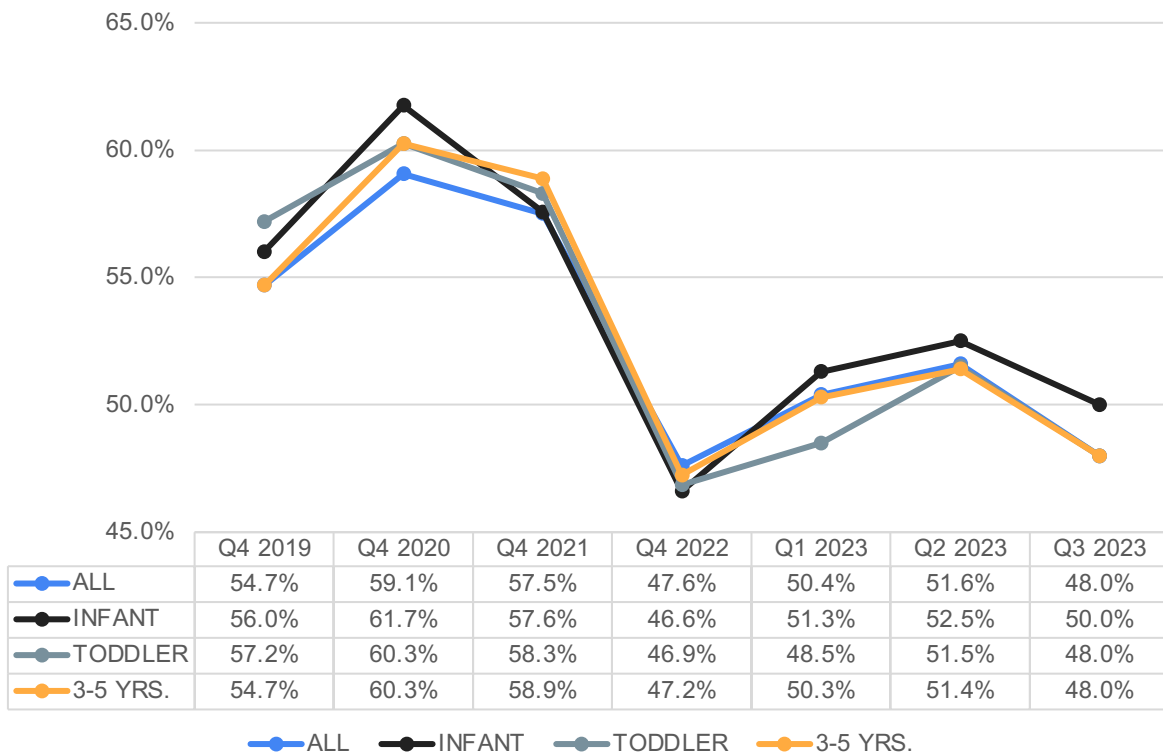
The number of eligible Tarrant County programs with a Texas Rising Star (TRS) rating *and* the number with a rating of 4 have increased since the end of 2019. Of note is the large increase in the numbers from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023 with 23 additional TRS programs and 12 additional programs with a TRS rating of 4.

NOTES: Data can be disaggregated by child care program setting upon request.

Quality Care & Education (cont.)

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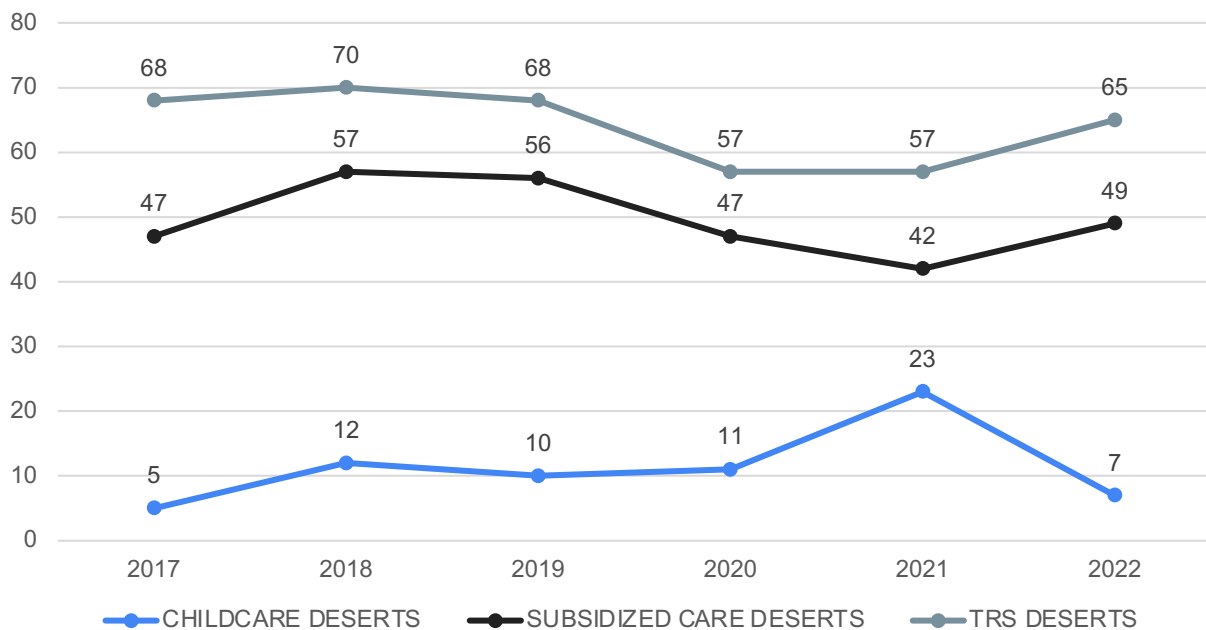
PERCENT OF CCMS SCHOLARSHIP CHILDREN IN TARRANT COUNTY ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM WITH A TRS RATING (Q1, Q2, Q3 2023 and 4 Prior Years)



Forty-eight to fifty percent of Tarrant County children who utilize a CCMS scholarship are enrolled in a TRS program. Following a steady increase from Q4 2022 to Q2 2023, the percentages decreased in Q3 2023.

08 Quality Care & Education (cont.)

NUMBER OF TARRANT COUNTY NEIGHBORHOODS (Zip codes) DESIGNATED AS CHILDCARE DESERTS

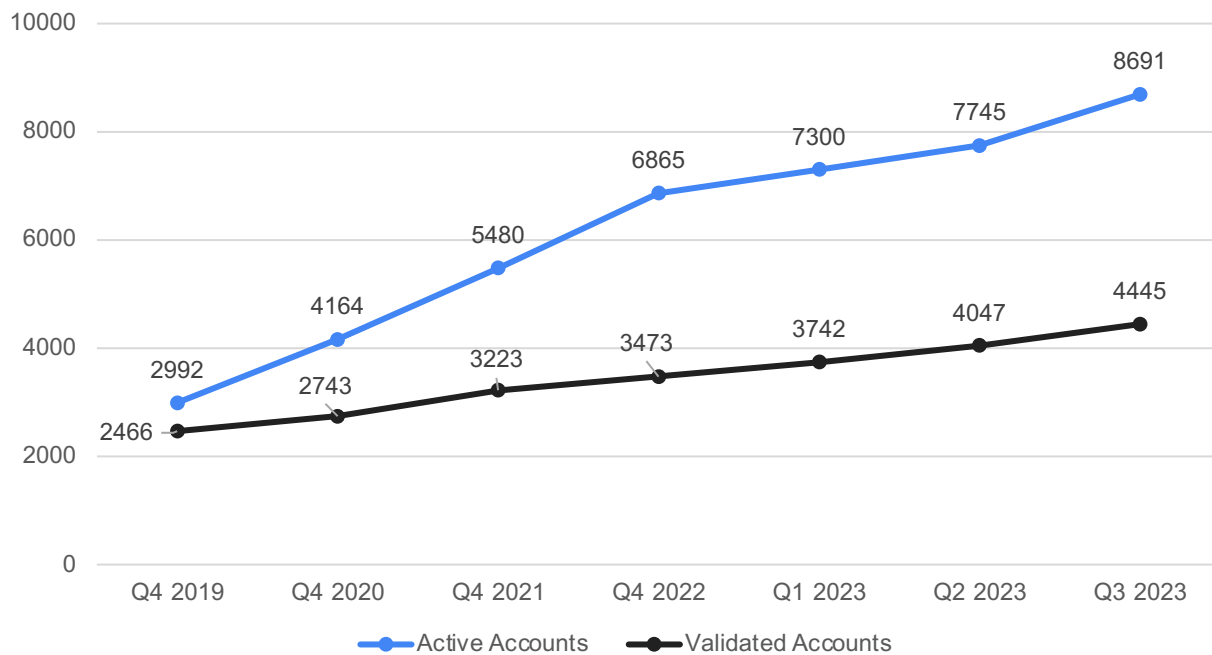


Childcare deserts are zip code areas with insufficient numbers of childcare seats to serve children ages 0-5 with working parents. In Tarrant County, there are 7 seven childcare deserts overall. However, there are 49 zip codes with insufficient space to serve children of low-income working parents (subsidized deserts) and 65 zip codes with insufficient seats in *quality* childcare centers (TRS deserts).

[Source: Child Care Deserts Landing Page - CHILDREN AT RISK](#)

09 Workforce Registry

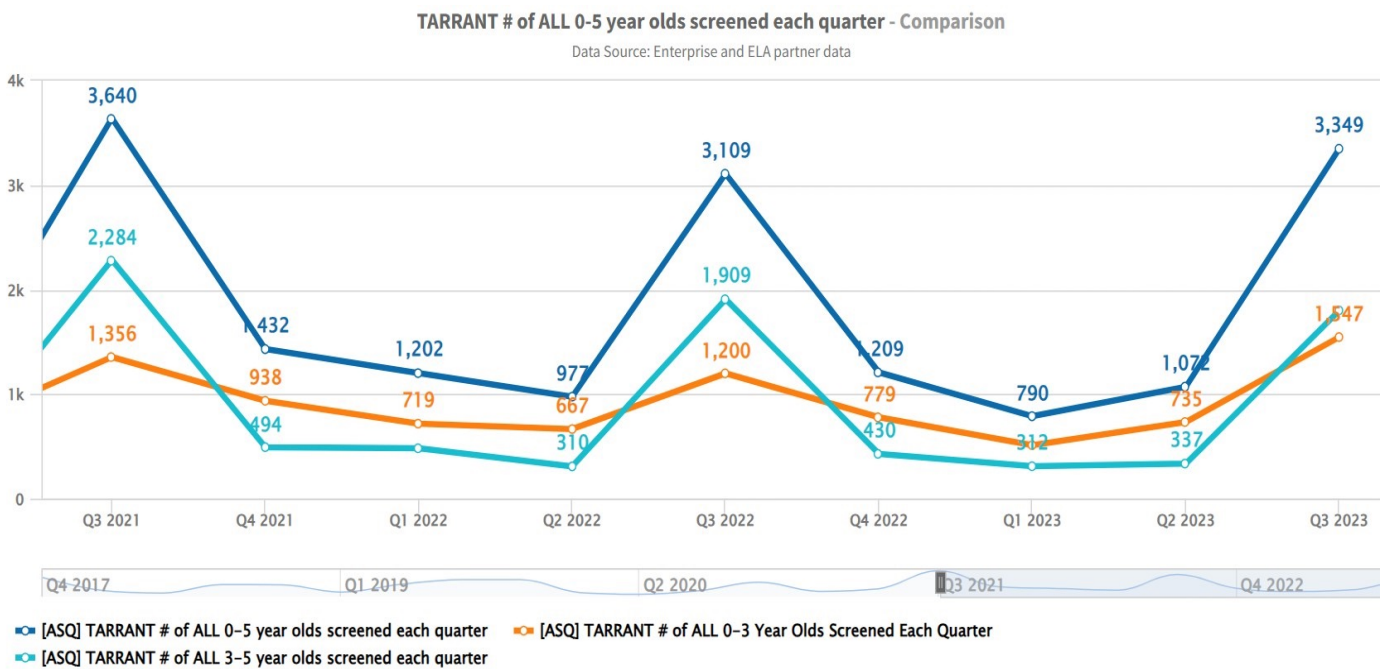
NUMBER OF ACTIVE AND VALIDATED REGISTRY USERS IN TARRANT COUNTY (Q1, Q2, Q3 2023 and 4 Prior Years)



The number of early care and education professionals in Tarrant County with active and validated registry accounts continues to increase. Of note, 100% of TRS centers in Tarrant County are participating in the Registry Program.

Developmental Screenings 10

NUMBER OF TARRANT COUNTY CHILDREN SCREENED, BY AGE (Q3 2021-Q3 2023)



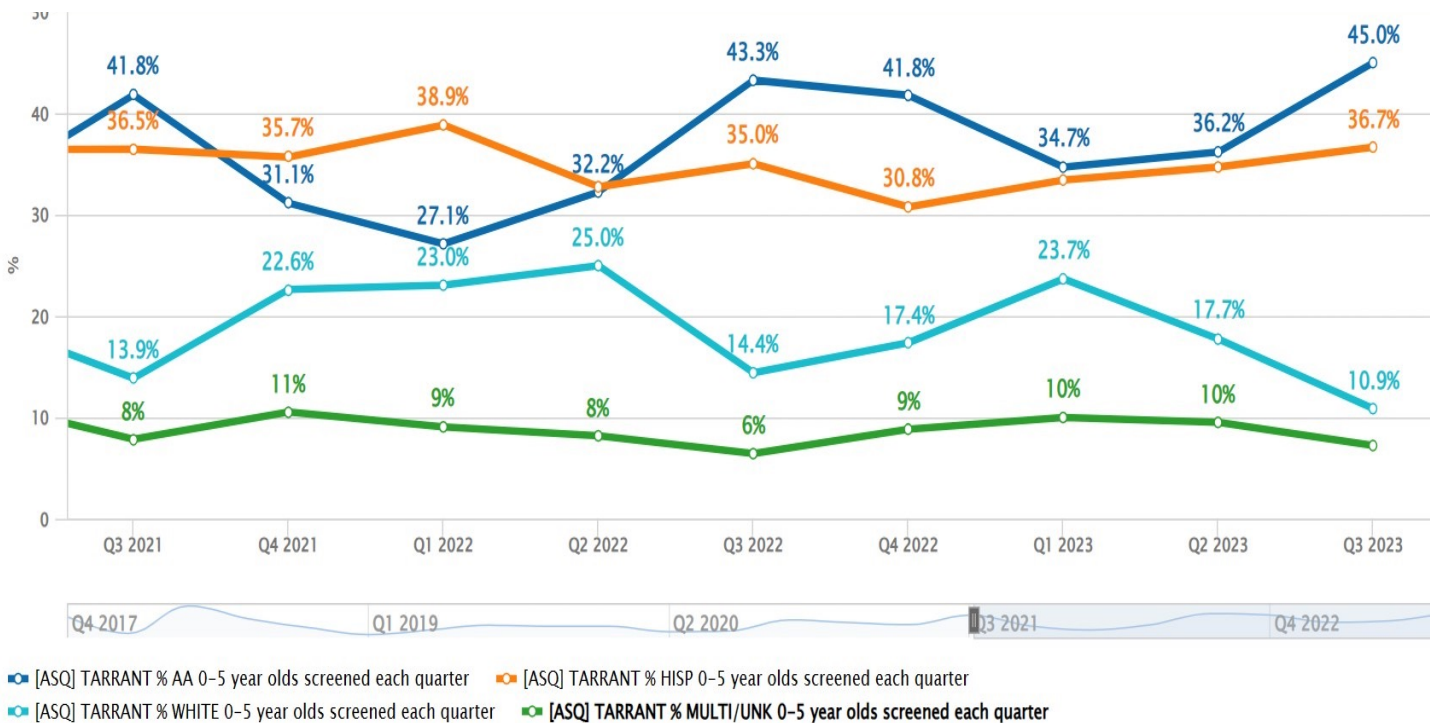
In partnership with Help Me Grow North Texas, ELA supports the increased use of developmental screening for earlier identification of developmental concerns.

- The highest number of screenings are conducted in Q3 of each year. This quarter includes the beginning of the school year when many child care providers assess the children enrolled in their programs.
- The largest increase from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023 was in the 3-5-year-old age group.

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Developmental Screenings (cont.)

PERCENT OF TARRANT COUNTY 0-5 YEAR OLDS SCREENED, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (Q3 2021-Q3 2023)



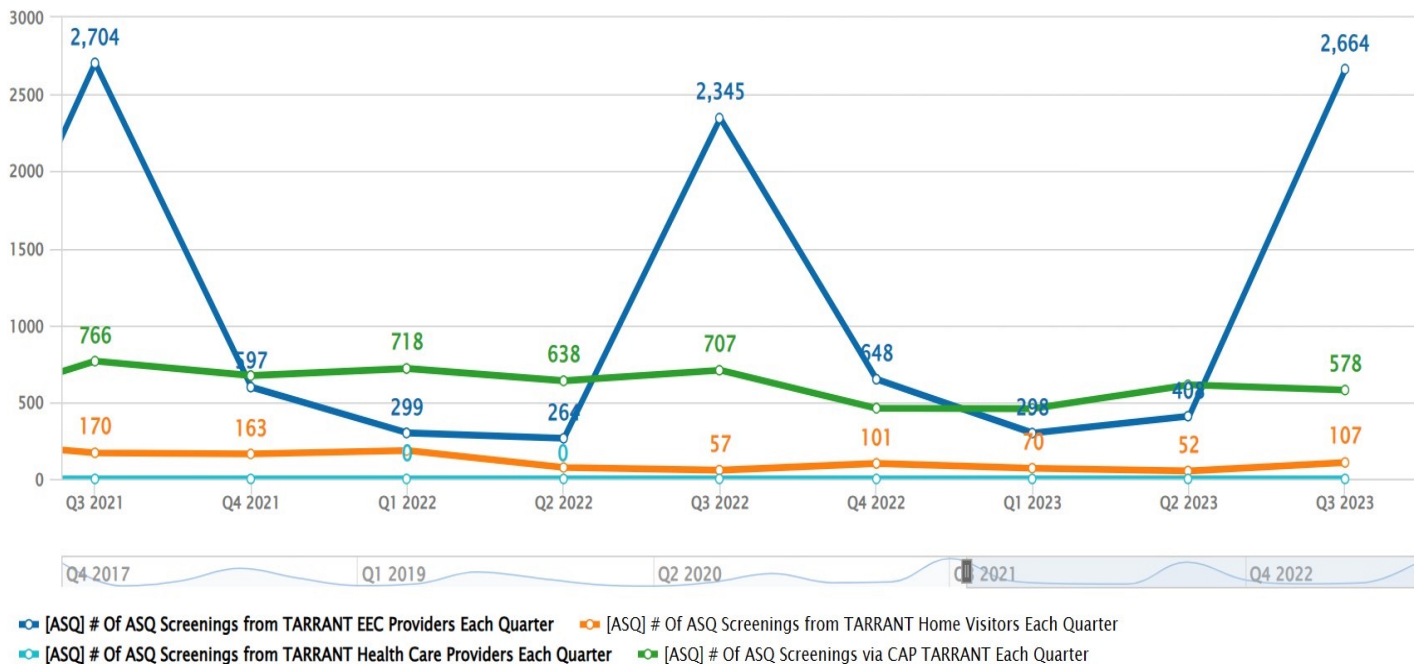
Each year, the highest percentage of children screened are Black or Hispanic.

Of note is the large percentage of Black children screened (45%), relative to the percent of 0-5-year-old Black children in Tarrant County (20%).

Developmental Screenings (cont.)

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NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS CONDUCTED FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES (Q3 2021-Q3 2023)

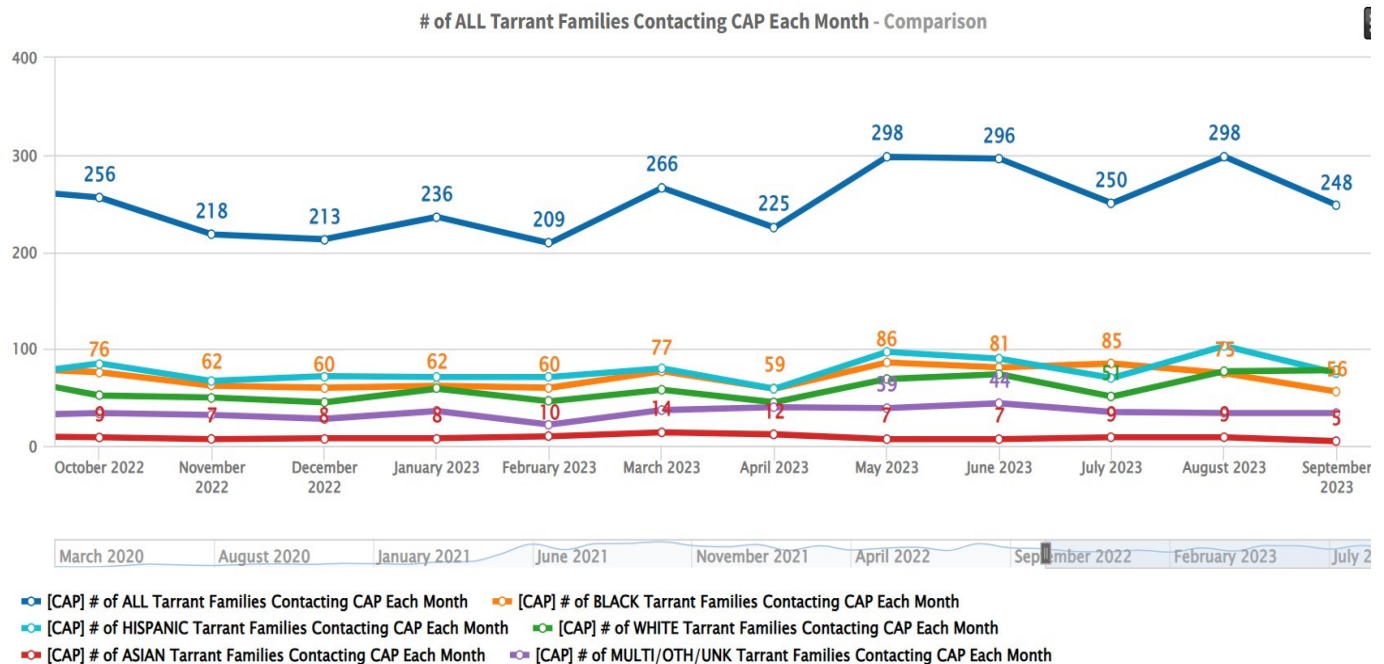


Early Education and Care Programs continue to be a primary source of developmental screenings in Tarrant County.

NOTES: The number of screenings from health care providers is likely underestimated due to difficulty accessing the data.

13 Central Access Point (CAP)

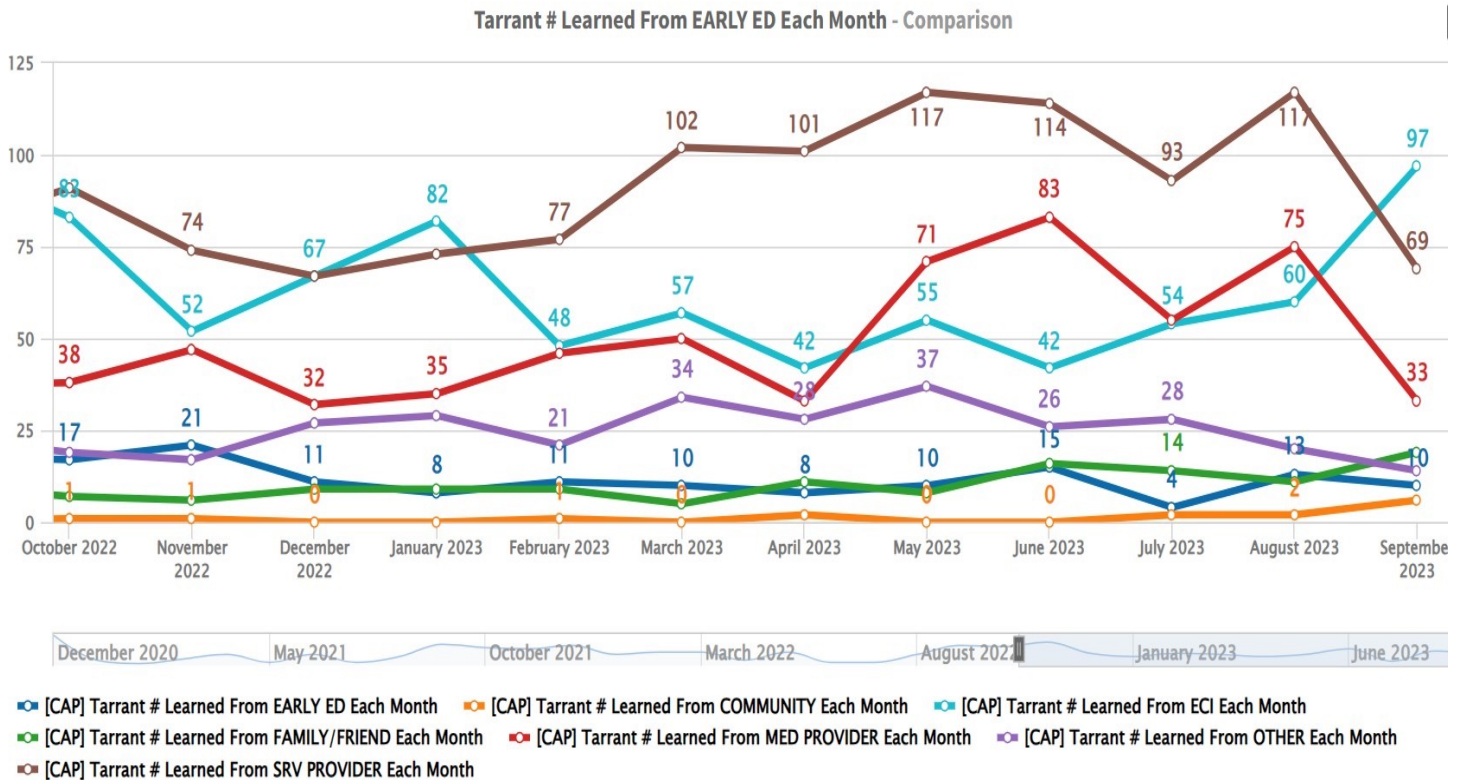
NUMBER OF TARRANT COUNTY FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE CAP FINDCONNECT SYSTEM BY RACE (Monthly Since Oct. 2022)



ELA also supports the HMG-NTX Call Center (CAP), designed to link families to services for their children.

- Between 200 and 300 Tarrant County families contact CAP each month
- In September 2023, most families reported their race/ethnicity as Hispanic or White. In previous months, most were Hispanic or Black.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT LEARN ABOUT THE HMG CALL CENTER (CAP) FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES (Monthly Since Oct. 2022)



Tarrant County families continue to learn about the HMG-NTX call center primarily from their service provider or from ECI.



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