

# State of Child Care

Early Childhood Education and Development Fund Committee

January 2024



Buncombe  
Partnership  
for Children

a partner in the  
smart start network



# EARLY CARE & EDUCATION



All care is regulated by NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (NC DCDEE):

- Licensed programs (more than 4 hours)
- Part-day, unlicensed regulated programs (4 hours or less)

## As of September 2024...

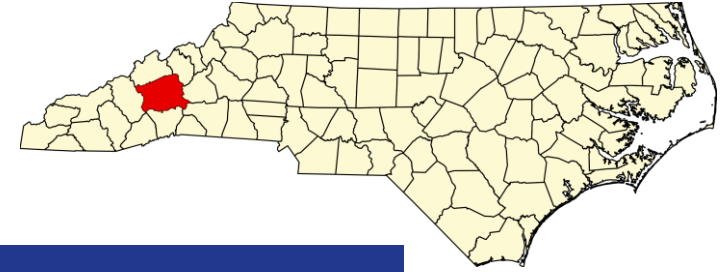
Types of licensed programs:

- Child Care Centers – 100 (92 serving 0-5)
- Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) – 7
- Afterschool only licensed programs (ages 5-12) – 15
- Total licensed programs (ages 0-12) - 107

Publicly-funded programs that make care more affordable for parents:

- Head Start (3- to 5-year-olds)
- Early Head Start (0- to 2-year-olds)
- NC Pre Kindergarten (4-year-olds)

# Buncombe children in care



Children in Care	Infants	1 yr olds	2 yr olds	3 yr olds	4 yr olds	5 yr old PS	Total
A Children in licensed care	173	355	644	855	1084	649	3,760
B Total available child population	2410	2393	2411	2374	2384	813	12,785
C % of all children served (A/B)	7%	15%	27%	36%	45%	80%	29%
D # of children not being served (does not imply need) B-A	2,237	2,038	1,767	1,519	1,300	164	9,025

# Over Time – ECE Staff, Children, Facilities (ages 0-12)

	Center			Home					
Report Date	Employees	Children Served	# of facilities	Employees	Children Served	# of facilities	Total Employees	Total Children	Total Facilities
Sep-05	860	6261	125	63	292	47	923	6553	172
Sep-06	788	5041	121	57	281	48	845	5322	169
Sep-07	938	5583	120	51	248	43	989	5831	163
Sep-08	1144	5753	117	44	247	44	1188	6000	161
Sep-09	1057	5761	116	47	235	38	1104	5996	154
Sep-10	1028	5666	114	38	221	34	1066	5887	148
Sep-11	994	5444	113	43	213	33	1037	5657	146
Sep-12	1043	5720	113	49	210	34	1092	5930	147
Sep-13	1010	5432	109	40	186	30	1050	5618	139
Sep-14	1087	5521	108	44	192	31	1131	5713	139
Sep-15	1003	5380	106	41	166	27	1044	5546	133
Sep-16	1101	5408	107	37	161	27	1138	5569	134
Sep-17	984	5376	105	27	130	21	1011	5506	126
Sep-18	995	5282	101	18	97	16	1013	5379	117
Sep-19	1008	5497	99	17	81	15	1025	5578	114
Sep-20	927	5239	99	16	79	14	943	5318	113
Sep-21	848	4971	101	14	59	13	862	5030	114
Sep-22	823	4637	100	13	62	11	836	4699	111
Sep-23	980	4640	99	11	60	11	991	4700	110
Sep-24	1033	4840	100	7	51	7	1040	4891	107

# Covid Impact

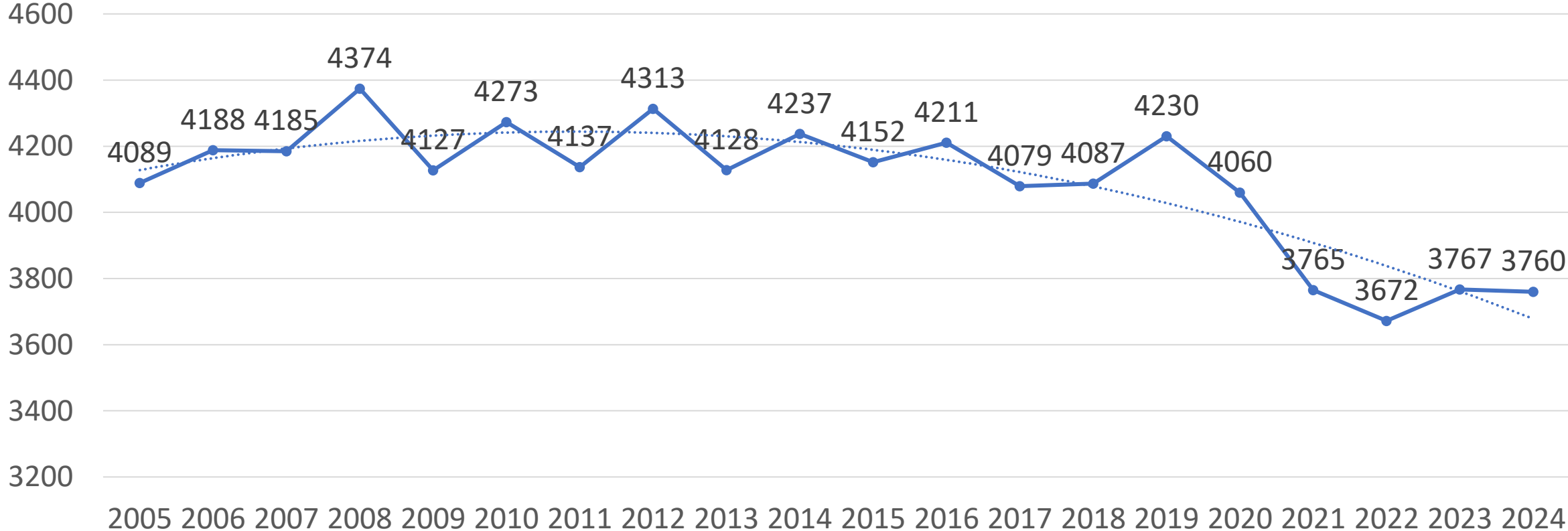


The closure of child care facilities, the high cost of providing care, and a workforce shortage continue to impact child enrollment. Stabilization grants to support teacher salaries put in place during the pandemic by DCDEE are also coming to an end.

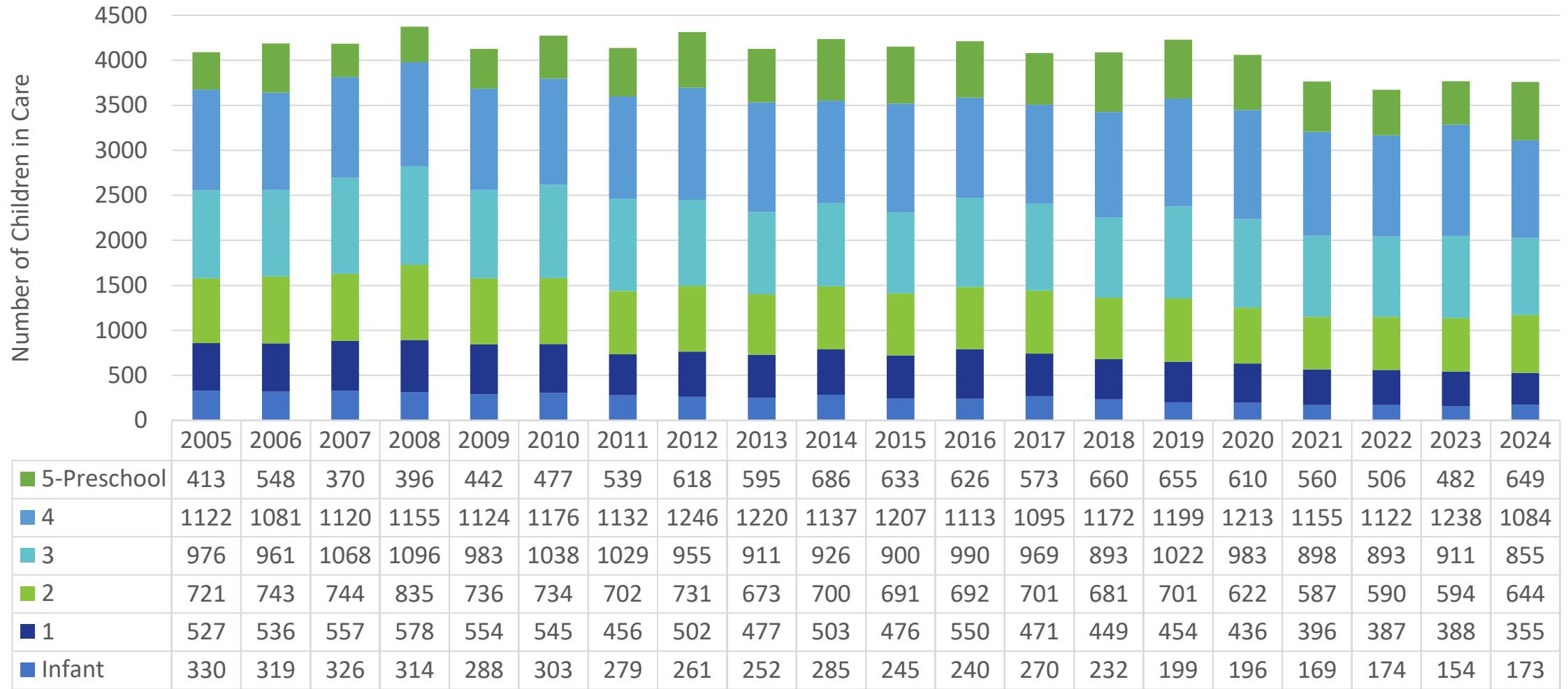
	Feb. 2020	May 2020	Sept. 2024	% change
Children enrolled (ages 0-12)	5473	921	4891	-11%
# facilities (serving ages 0-12)	113	54	107	-5%

# Buncombe ENROLLMENT over time in licensed facilities (ages 0-5)

Total Children Served (0-5)

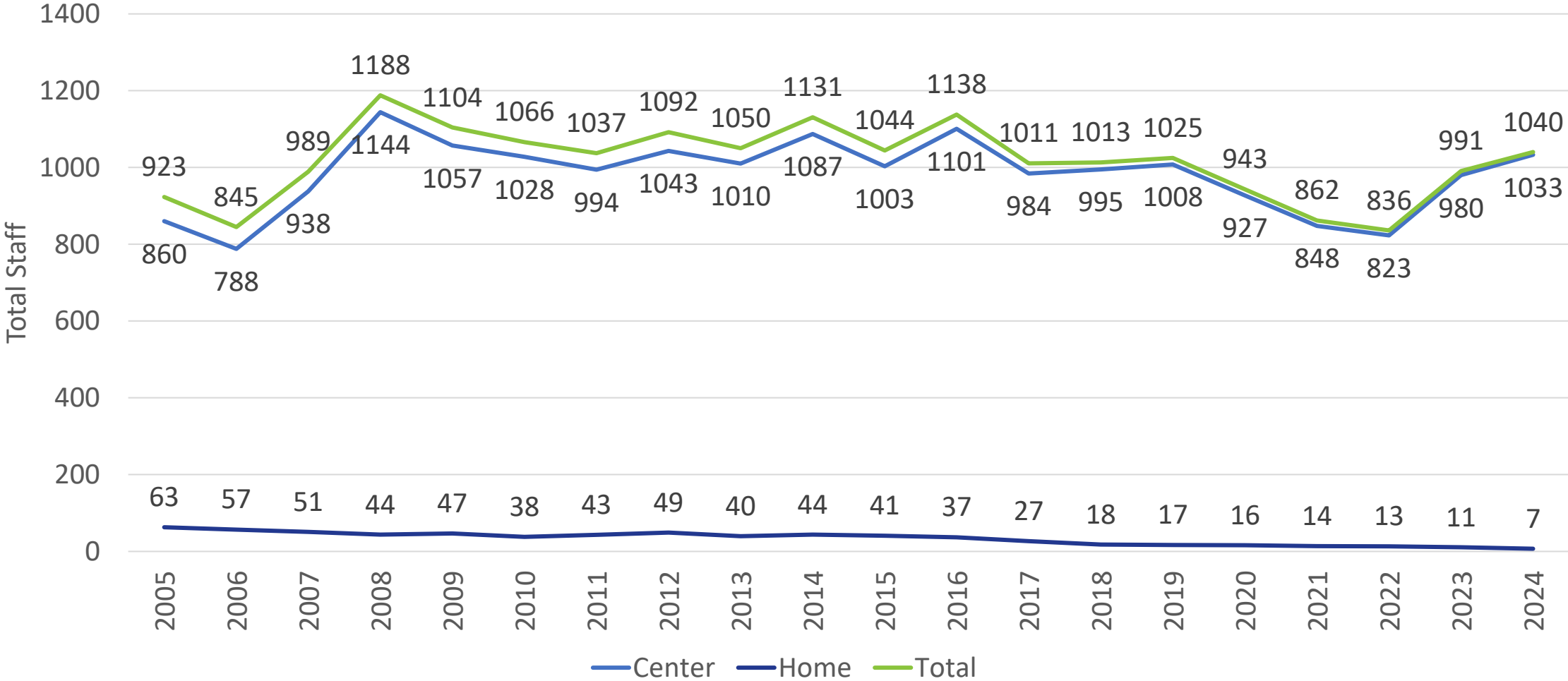


### Buncombe County Children in Care (0-5) by age



■ Infant 
 ■ 1 
 ■ 2 
 ■ 3 
 ■ 4 
 ■ 5-Preschool

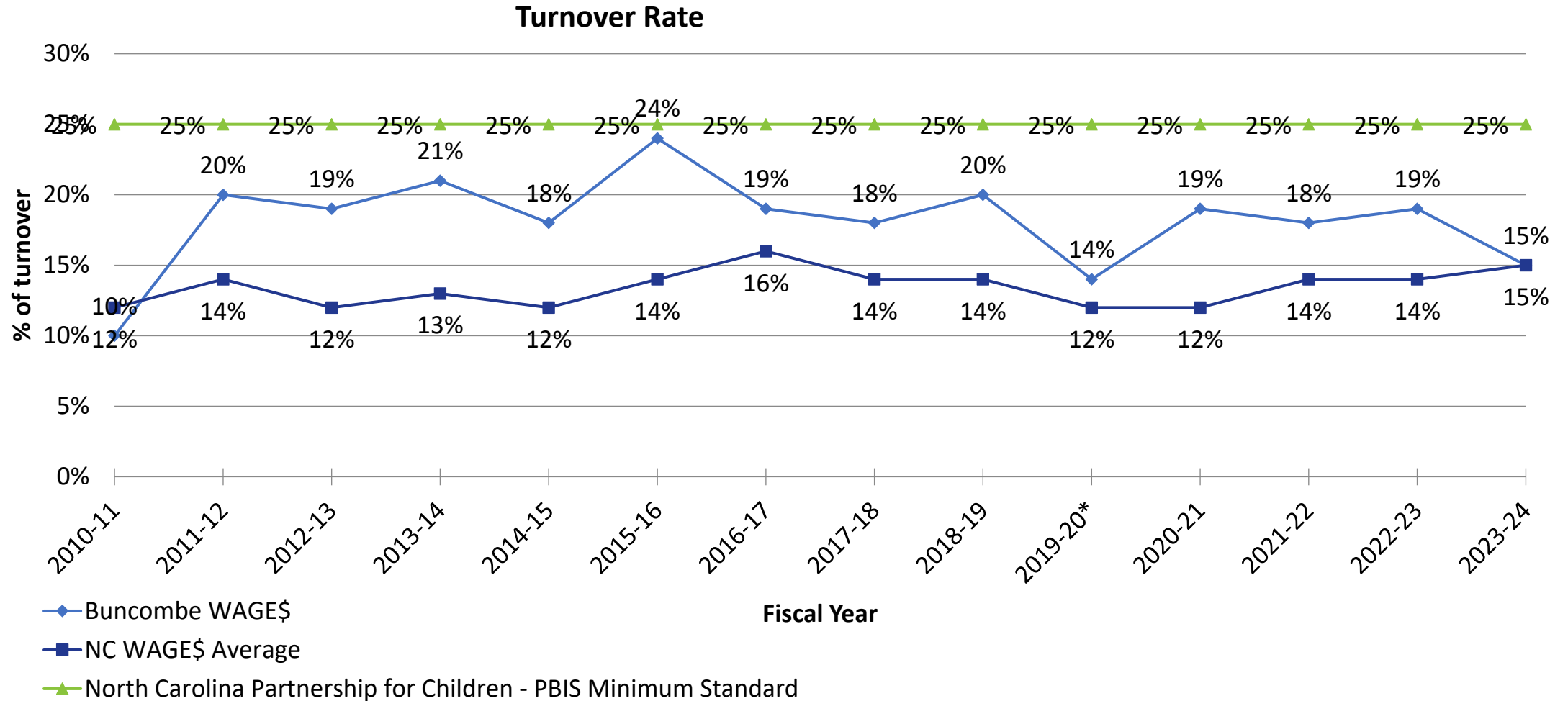
# ECE Workforce





# WAGE\$ & Teacher Turnover

Statewide ECE  
turnover rate = 38%



# Helene's impacts on local ECE

- Most programs closed for a month+
- 8 locations with significant physical damage; 3 still closed
- Reopening with make-shift handwashing stations and water bottles
- Little guidance from DCDEE
- Loss of staff and students





# Helene Data from Recovery Grant Application

- BPFC grant application open Dec 20 - Jan 10
  - 52 unique responses, covering **82** licensed centers and homes
  - 90% response rate
- All data reported by directors
- Purpose: to understand lost revenue and expenses incurred due to hurricane

# Lost Revenue

- **Total reported lost revenue Sept 27-Jan 10:**  
**\$1,544,522.14**
  - 9 programs reported being closed past Nov 1
  - 7 programs reported NO lost revenue
  - Range: \$0-\$117,000
  - Average loss per enrolled child: \$416
- **Recovery funds disbursed (DHT funds):**  
**\$1,310,193 (84.4% of total)**
  - PLUS \$530 retention bonus direct to *every* staff

## Expenses (incurred or anticipated)

- **Total reported expenses: \$769,900**
  - Demolition/construction, furniture, equipment, playground repairs & equipment, classroom materials, food, etc.
- **Recovery funds disbursed to 8 centers (CFWNC funds): \$244,000**
  - Plus \$1,000 to all 9 home-based programs (BPFC private funds)
  - *Anticipate* using state funds (\$2.3? million) for this too.

# ECE ENROLLMENT Impacts

Sept 26	Jan 10
3710	3688

- **11 programs lost more than 10% enrollment:**
  - 6 home-based programs
  - Building Blocks (closed)
  - Christine Avery (Valley still closed)
  - Kathy's Kiddyland
  - All God's Children
  - East Avl Academy



# ECE STAFFING Impacts

Sept 26	Jan 10
924	910

31 respondents had NO change;  
17 lost staff; 6 gained staff

- # staff lost homes: 25
- # staff temporarily displaced: 57
- # staff in homes, but extensive damage: 103
- # staff unsure about: 147



# Building Capacity in Buncombe County to Expand NC Pre-K Availability & Accessibility

YEAR 2 OUTCOMES







**We increased NC  
Pre-K's Capacity  
to GROW**

**84%** Lead  
teacher  
retention

Compared to 51.9% retention  
the two years pre-COVID

**97%** Average  
monthly child  
enrollment

**4** new private sites applied  
and approved to provide  
NC Pre-K

# 46 families received transportation supports

Most opted for gas cards, as few child care centers are on a bus line. Seven car seats requested.

# 5 families received wrap-around support

# 18 children received summer care and education before starting kindergarten

10 in new YMCA pre-k summer site

8 in regular NC Pre-K site



We helped families access NC Pre-K



**We advanced  
teacher's ECE  
education**

**20** Teachers increased their education by at least 12 credit hours

Eight participants completed more than 20 credit hours

**13** credit hours (avg) per participant completed since fall 2022

Minimum: 3 Maximum: 38

**15** Teachers met their education goal  
Achieving their ECE Certificate, AA, BA, or BK