



# CHILD CARE BY THE NUMBERS: NOVA SCOTIA

Child-care policies should be equitable for all families, regardless of the type of care they choose. Universal child-care systems fail to recognize the diverse care needs of Nova Scotia parents and their reasons for the type of care they choose.

**Type of child-care arrangement among children in non-parental child care, household population aged 0 to 5 years, Nova Scotia**

Type of child care arrangement	Percentage
Daycare centre, preschool, or childcare centre (CPE)	55.4
Care by a relative other than parent	27.2
Care by a non-relative in the child's home	6.4 E
Family child-care home	21.4
Before- or after-school program	8.2 E
Other child-care arrangement	3.3 E

Of Nova Scotia children under age six, about **39 percent** are in parental care only.<sup>1</sup>

The majority of Nova Scotia children under age six will receive no benefit from funds designated for centre-based spaces.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0005-01: Type of Child Care Arrangement, Household Population Aged 0 to 5 Years."  
E: use with caution  
Respondents selected all that applied, resulting in a sum that exceeds 100 percent.

**Top five reasons for using main child-care arrangement, household population aged 0 to 5 years, Nova Scotia**

Parent and/or guardian's reasons for using main child-care arrangement	Percentage
Location	60.6
Characteristics of the individual providing care	52.4
Affordable Cost	41.2
Hours of operation	39.0
Program characteristics	32.8

Of Nova Scotia parents who use non-parental child care, about **64 percent** report that they have no problem finding the care.<sup>1</sup>

Of **all** Nova Scotia children under age six (those in non-parental child care and those who are not), about **34 percent** are in centre-based care or preschool.<sup>2</sup>

Source: Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0006-01: Parent/Guardian Reasons for Using Main Child Care Arrangement, Household Population Aged 0 to 5 Years."  
Respondents selected all main reasons from twelve options.

**Nova Scotia should take a neutral, evidence-based approach and respect the diversity of care that parents use.**

1. Source: Statistics Canada, "Early Learning and Child Care for Children aged 0 to 5 years: A Provincial/Territorial Portrait." <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019013-eng.htm>.  
2. Calculations based on Statistics Canada, "Table 42-10-0004-01 & Table 42-10-0005-01: Early Learning and Child Care for Children aged 0 to 5 years: A Provincial/Territorial Portrait." <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019013-eng.htm>.