

A DEVASTATING DECLINE: REGULATED CHILD CARE IN SENATE DISTRICT 32

The number of regulated child care programs across the state of Wisconsin has steadily declined over the last decade. In the **senate district 32**, this sharp decline has placed a burden on working families with young children who rely on access to care to maintain employment. It, in turn, has significant effects on local employers and businesses, which need a reliable workforce for productivity and growth. See the other side of this document for a chart with regulated care data for each of the counties in the northwest region.

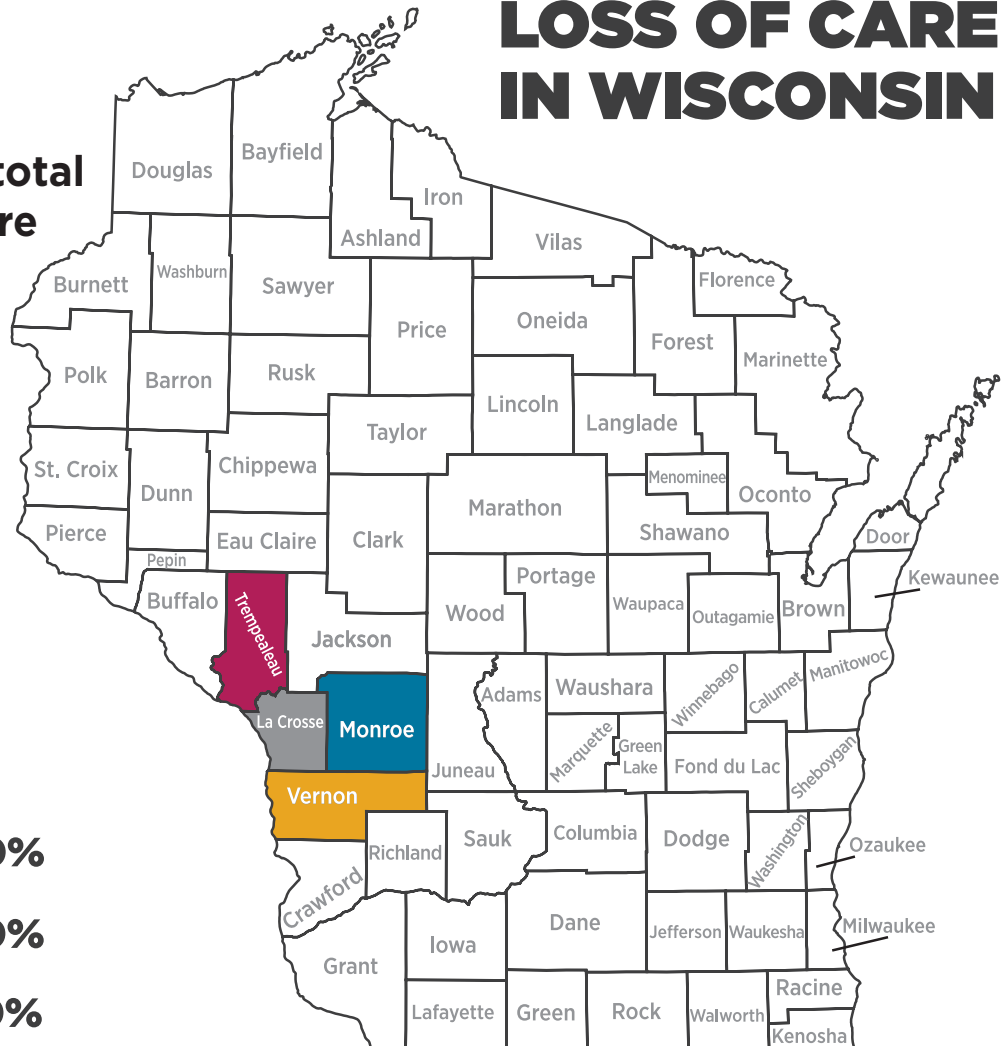
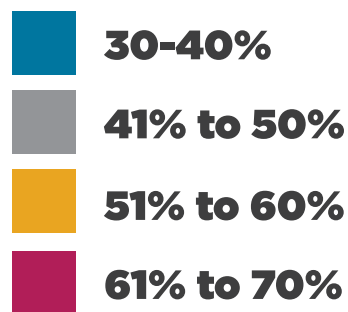
46%

overall decline in total regulated child care programs

2013-2024

LOSS OF CARE IN WISCONSIN

PERCENT DECLINE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



At the same time, child care deserts are prevalent across Wisconsin – 50% overall and 70% in rural areas. A desert is defined as an area where there are three or more children under age 5 for every regulated child care slot.

For more information on child care deserts, scan the code with your smartphone’s camera for a visualization from Center for American Progress. Or, visit <https://weca.info/ccdeserts>.



Regulated care data source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

County	Number of Programs (Feb. 2013)	Number of Programs (Jan. 2024)	Change in Number of Programs	% Change (+/-)
La Crosse	164	94	-70	-43%
FCC	101	39	-62	-61%
Group	63	55	-8	-13%
Monroe	49	30	-19	-39%
FCC	36	20	-16	-44%
Group	13	10	-3	-23%
Trempealeau	47	18	-29	-62%
FCC	34	10	-24	-71%
Group	13	8	-5	-38%
Vernon	32	15	-17	-53%
FCC	27	8	-19	-70%
Group	5	7	2	40%
TOTAL	292	157	-135	-46%