

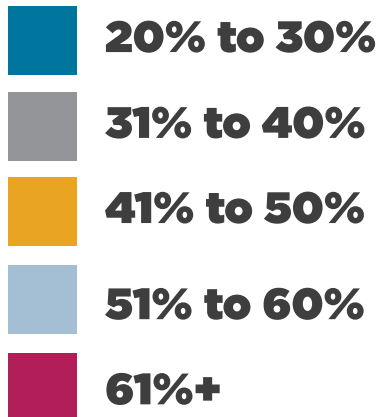
DECLINE OF REGULATED CHILD CARE IN FARMING COMMUNITIES

The number of regulated child care programs across the state of Wisconsin has steadily declined over the last decade. In **farming communities**, this sharp decline has placed a burden on 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.

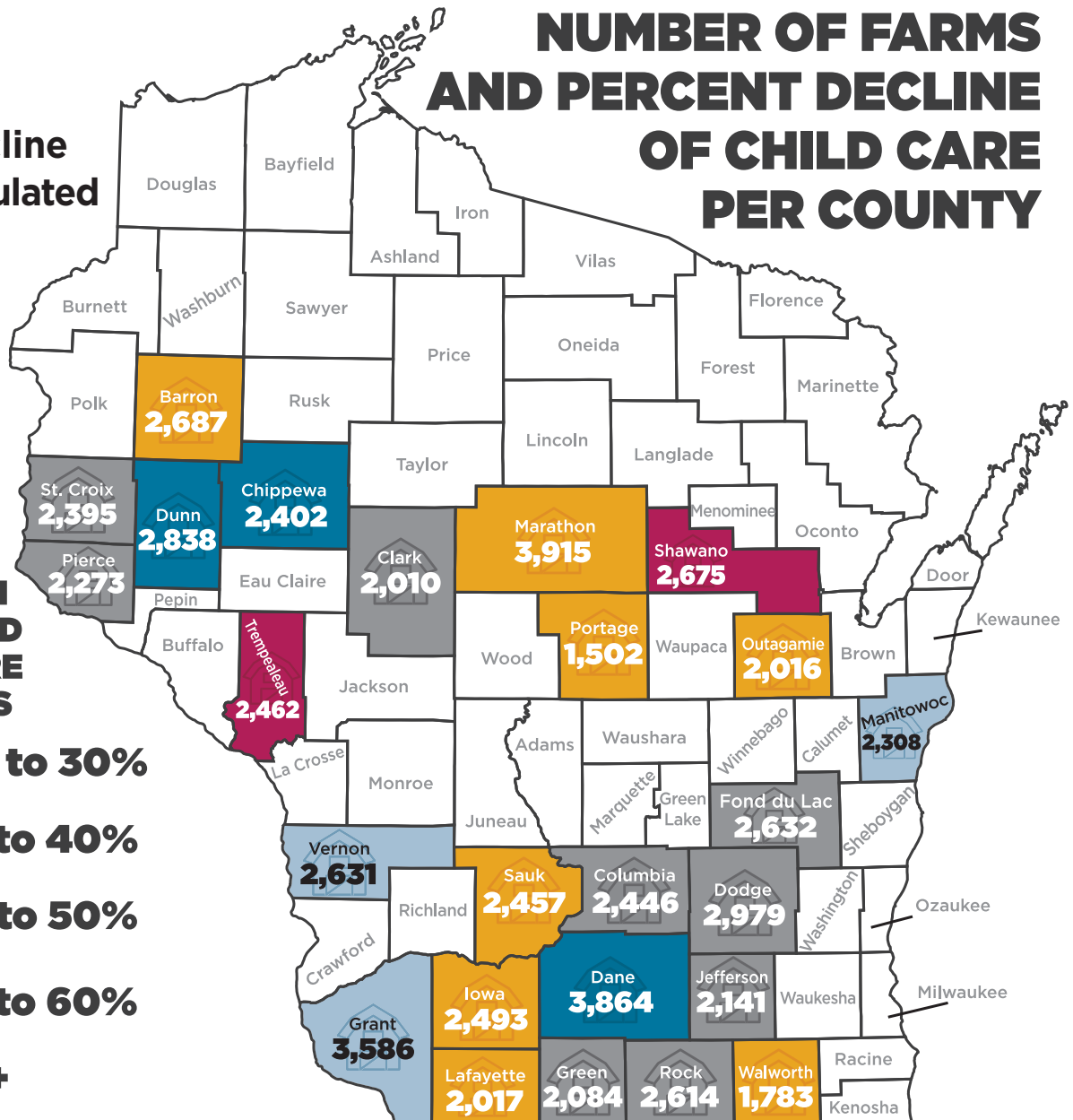
56%
overall decline
in total regulated
child care
programs
2013-2024

NUMBER OF FARMS AND PERCENT DECLINE OF CHILD CARE PER COUNTY

PERCENT DECLINE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



**Number of farms
in county**



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.

Farming data: United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency | Child care data: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FARMLAND AND CORRESPONDING COUNTY SPECIFIC CHILD CARE DATA

County	Child Care Available in County (Feb. 2013)	Child Care Available in County (Jan. 2024)	Change in Number of Programs	% Change (+/-)
Grant	74	32	-42	-57%
Group	23	18	-5	-22%
FCC	51	14	-37	-73%
Dane	640	469	-171	-27%
Group	264	268	4	2%
FCC	376	201	-175	-47%
Rock	139	93	-46	-33%
Group	77	68	-9	-12%
FCC	62	25	-37	-60%
Dodge	60	36	-24	-40%
Group	34	27	-7	-21%
FCC	26	9	-17	-65%
Lafayette	22	11	-11	-50%
Group	5	4	-1	-20%
FCC	17	7	-10	-59%
Marathon	177	79	-98	-55%
Group	45	37	-8	-18%
FCC	132	42	-90	-68%
Dunn	28	22	-6	-21%
Group	12	10	-2	-17%
FCC	16	12	-4	-25%
Fond du Lac	54	34	-20	-37%
Group	34	6	-28	-82%
FCC	20	28	8	40%
Green	50	32	-18	-36%
Group	15	18	3	20%
FCC	35	14	-21	-60%
Barron	58	30	-28	-48%
Group	40	18	-22	-55%
FCC	18	12	-6	-33%
Portage	79	41	-38	-48%
Group	30	22	-8	-27%
FCC	49	19	-30	-61%
Iowa	31	16	-15	-48%
Group	6	8	2	33%
FCC	25	8	-17	-68%
St. Croix	88	53	-35	-40%
Group	33	30	-3	-9%
FCC	55	23	-32	-58%

COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FARMLAND AND CORRESPONDING COUNTY SPECIFIC CHILD CARE DATA

County	Child Care Available in County (Feb. 2013)	Child Care Available in County (Jan. 2024)	Change in Number of Programs	% Change (+/-)
Columbia	58	35	-23	-40%
Group	28	27	-1	-4%
FCC	30	8	-22	-73%
Chippewa	70	51	-19	-27%
Group	25	28	3	12%
FCC	45	23	-22	-49%
Sauk	70	40	-30	-43%
Group	17	16	-1	-6%
FCC	53	24	-29	-55%
Trempealeau	47	17	-30	-64%
Group	13	8	-5	-38%
FCC	34	9	-25	-74%
Manitowoc	51	24	-27	-53%
Group	29	18	-11	-38%
FCC	22	6	-16	-73%
Outagamie	161	94	-67	-42%
Group	76	61	-15	-20%
FCC	85	33	-52	-61%
Walworth	56	30	-26	-46%
Group	38	22	-16	-42%
FCC	18	8	-10	-56%
Vernon	32	15	-17	-53%
Group	5	7	2	40%
FCC	27	8	-19	-70%
Pierce	50	32	-18	-36%
Group	7	8	1	14%
FCC	43	24	-19	-44%
Shawano	27	10	-17	-63%
Group	12	7	-5	-42%
FCC	15	3	-12	-80%
Clark	33	20	-13	-39%
Group	12	8	-4	-33%
FCC	21	12	-9	-43%
Jefferson	56	38	-18	-32%
Group	30	33	3	10%
FCC	26	5	-21	-81%
Total	4422	2708	-1714	-39%