

Federal Reporting Data 2024 fiscal year (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Beginning October 1, 2018, the Lead Agency’s definition of serious injury is defined for licensed providers as:

A death or an incident requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a child while in the care of the provider that that was the result of a substantiated intentional or gross negligent act on behalf of the provider and or staff that indicates a deficiency in the operation and or management of the program. Any case of serious injury that was substantiated by the Lead Agency will be deemed as Extreme Harm and Imminent Danger according to the Lead Agency's Integrated Enforcement and Compliance System. ***

Fiscal Year 2024 Serious Injury Data
Substantiated Investigations Deemed Extreme Harm and Imminent Danger

Provider Type		Serious Injury	Physical Abuse	Child Death	Total
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC)	# Sites	1	0	1	2
	# of Children Present	136	0	17	153
	# of Children In Care	297,362	297,362	297,362	297,362
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH)	# Sites	0	0	0	0
	# of Children Present	0	0	0	0
	# of Children In Care	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913
Exempt	# Sites	0	0	0	0
	# of Children Present	0	0	0	0
	# of Children In Care	2,126	2,126	2,126	2,126
Informal	# Sites	0	0	0	0

	# of Children Present	0	0	0	0
	# of Children In Care	113	113	113	113
Total	# Sites	1	0	1	2
	# of Children Present*	136	0	17	153
	# of Children In Care**	306,514	306,514	306,514	306,514

*Number of children present – the aggregate number of children present at the program during the regulatory visit or investigation conducted related to the serious injury, physical abuse or child death.

**Number of children in care – the estimated total number of children enrolled in licensed child care programs plus the number of children in care with exempt and informal care providers through the Childcare and Parent Services Program (CAPS). Per the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 98.33(a)(5), Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agencies must report an estimate of children in care to provide additional context when considering the number of incidents of serious injury, physical abuse, and child deaths each year. The estimated number of children in care is an estimate based on administrative data available to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning meant to represent the typical number of children in care.

***The Lead Agency cannot legally determine if child abuse is substantiated. The agency in Georgia that determines if child abuse is substantiated is the Department of Children and Families (DFCS). DFCS is bound by O.C.G.A. 19-15-1, which defines child abuse as (A) Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means; provided, however, that physical forms of discipline may be used as long as there is no physical injury to the child; (B) Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent or caretaker thereof; (C) Sexual abuse of a child; or (D) Sexual exploitation of a child. If DFCS has made a determination under the law that child abuse has occurred, then the Lead Agency may use such a determination in its findings, however, DECAL tries to refrain from using a term not under the agency's umbrella. Instead, DECAL uses the term physical abuse which is identical to substantiated child abuse.