

A DEVASTATING DECLINE: REGULATED CHILD CARE IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

The number of regulated child care programs across the state of Wisconsin has steadily declined over the last decade. In **Fond du Lac County**, 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.

37%

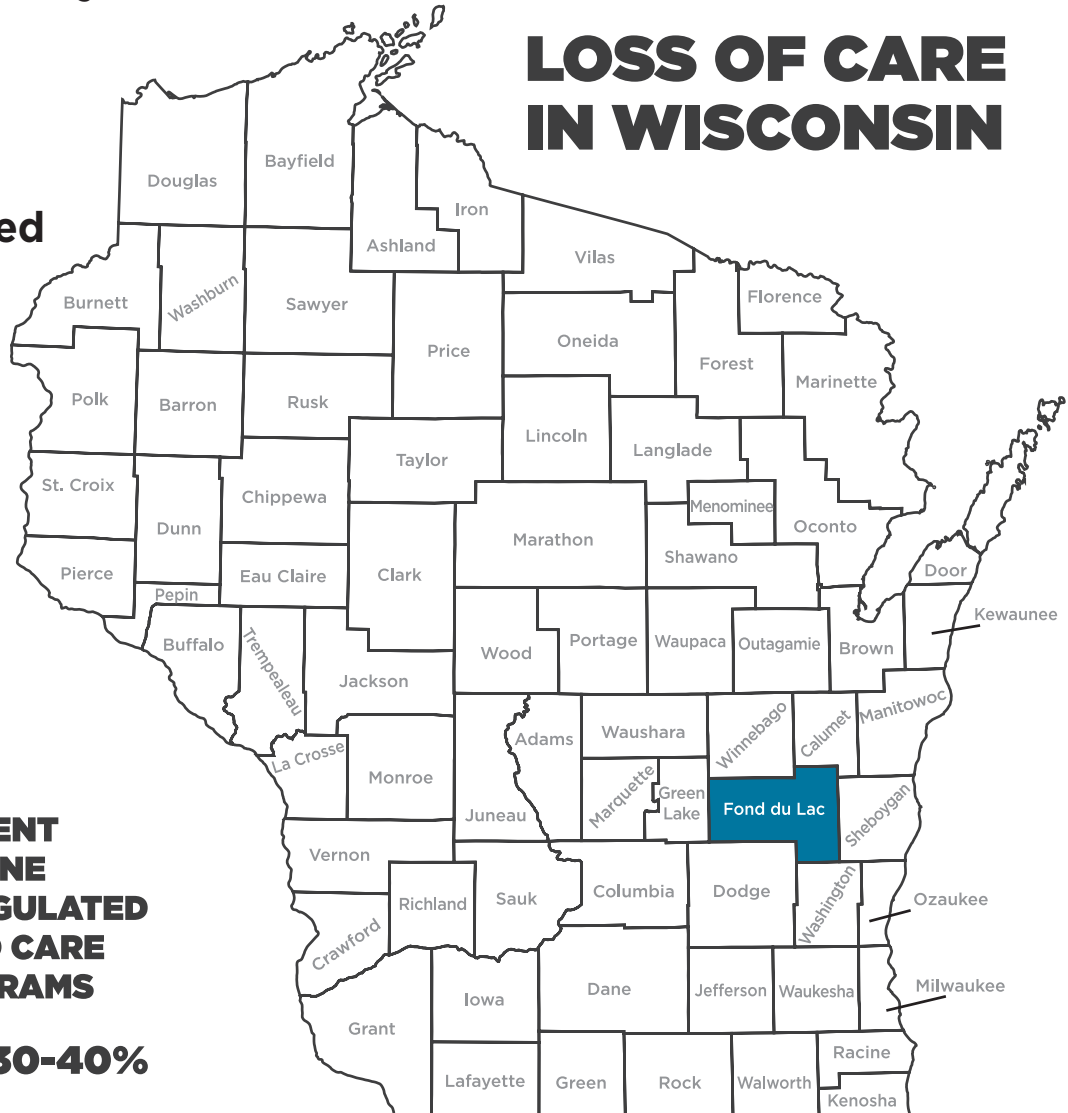
overall decline
in total regulated
child care
programs
2013-2024

LOSS OF CARE IN WISCONSIN

**PERCENT
DECLINE
IN REGULATED
CHILD CARE
PROGRAMS**



30-40%



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 (+/-)
Fond du Lac	54	34	-20	-37%
FCC	20	6	-14	-70%
Group	34	28	-6	-18%