

Child Care Access: Measurement Challenges

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Child Care Research Team
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funded by SC DSS: Division of Early Care & Education



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SC Child Care
EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

OVERVIEW

01

NEED FOR NUMERICAL MEASUREMENT OF
CHILD CARE ACCESS

02

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN MEASURING
SUPPLY AND DEMAND

03

WHAT GETS INCLUDED AND EXCLUDED FOR
ACCURATE ESTIMATES

NEED FOR A NUMERICAL MEASURE OF CHILD CARE ACCESS



01

GOAL SETTING in STATE STRATEGIC PLANS

Most state ECE strategic plans aim to improve child care access in the state



02

BASELINE, PROGRESS MONITORING, EVALUATION

Expected to assign numerical values as a percentage of children served, viewing childcare as a gap in demand and supply, etc.



03

COMMUNICATING WITH LEGISLATORS

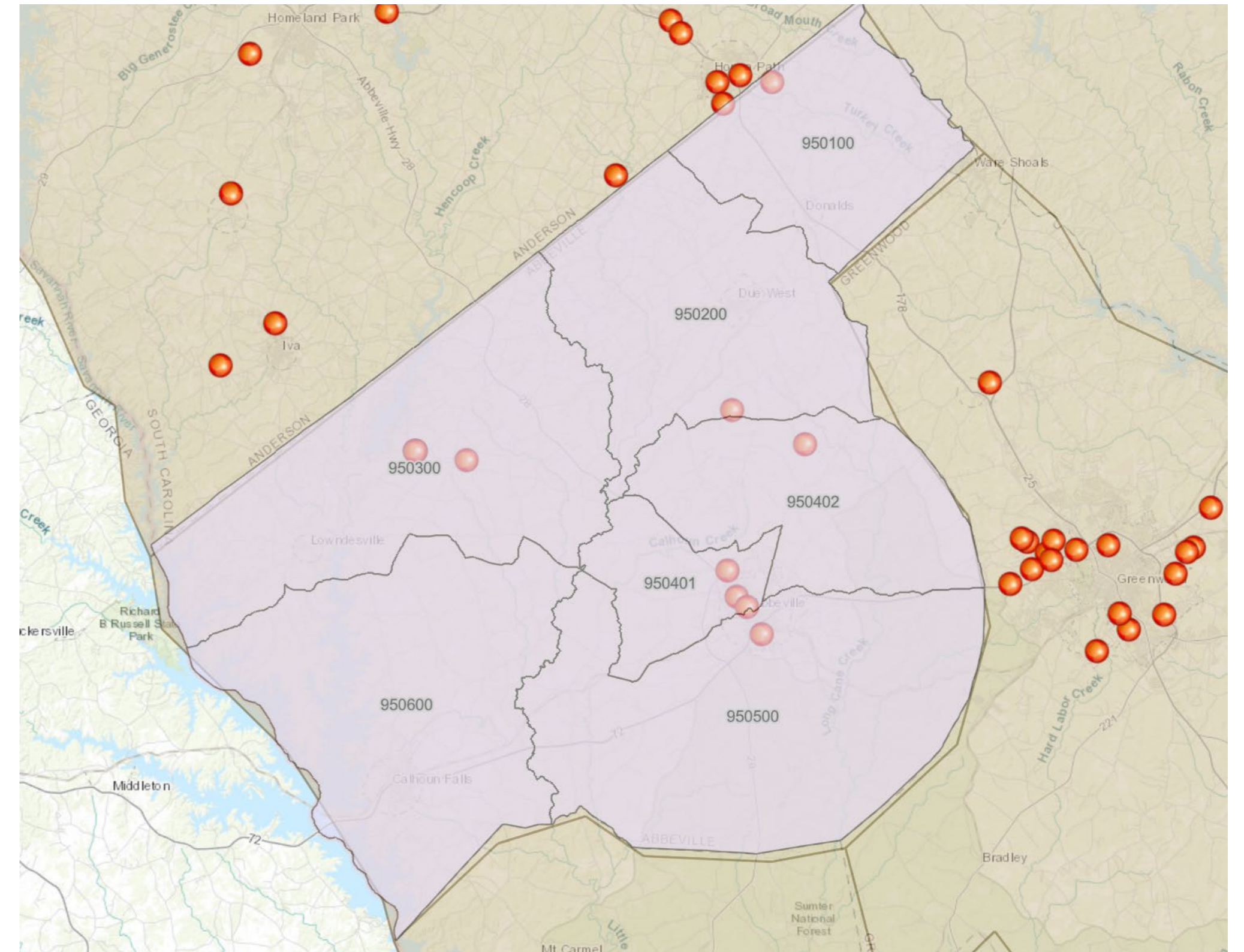
Quick, effective communication on the impact of the significant investments and interventions

What Geographical Area to Use?

66% low-access
Census Tracts

Surplus supply
at County Level

Census Tracts Area Range
0.9 sq. miles to 319.32 sq. miles



Estimated Percentage Child Care Demand

33%

2008 Survey of
Income and Program
Participation (SIPP)

46%

2012 National Survey
of Early Care and
Education (NSECE)
Survey

59%

2019 National
Household Education
Surveys Program
(NCES-IES)

64%

2020 ACS Community
Survey estimates all
available parents are
at work

Including Relative Care – child care demand

42%

2008 Survey of
Income and Program
Participation (SIPP)

23-29%

2012 National Survey
of Early Care and
Education (NSECE)
Survey

38%

2019 National
Household Education
Surveys Program
(NCES-IES)

(64%-42%)?

2020 ACS Community
Survey estimates all
available parents are
at work

Non-Work Reasons – child care demand

For the child's educational or social enrichment

(64%)
work

+ 19-41%
non-work

- 19-42 %
relative care

= child care
demand

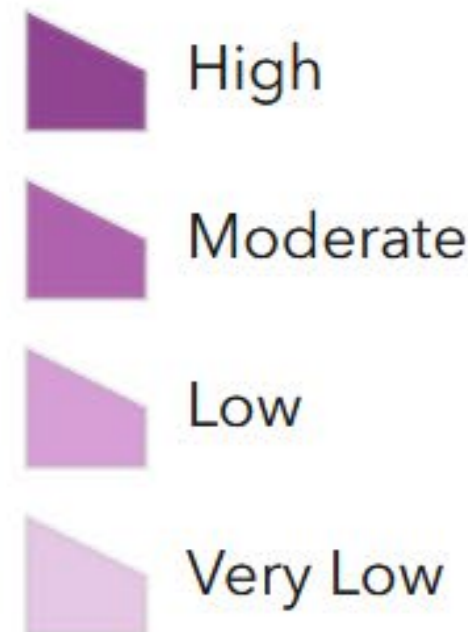
2020 ACS Community
Survey estimates all
available parents are
at work

**What estimate did
South Carolina use?**

Equity Index

Child Care Availability

Gap in Licensing Capacity

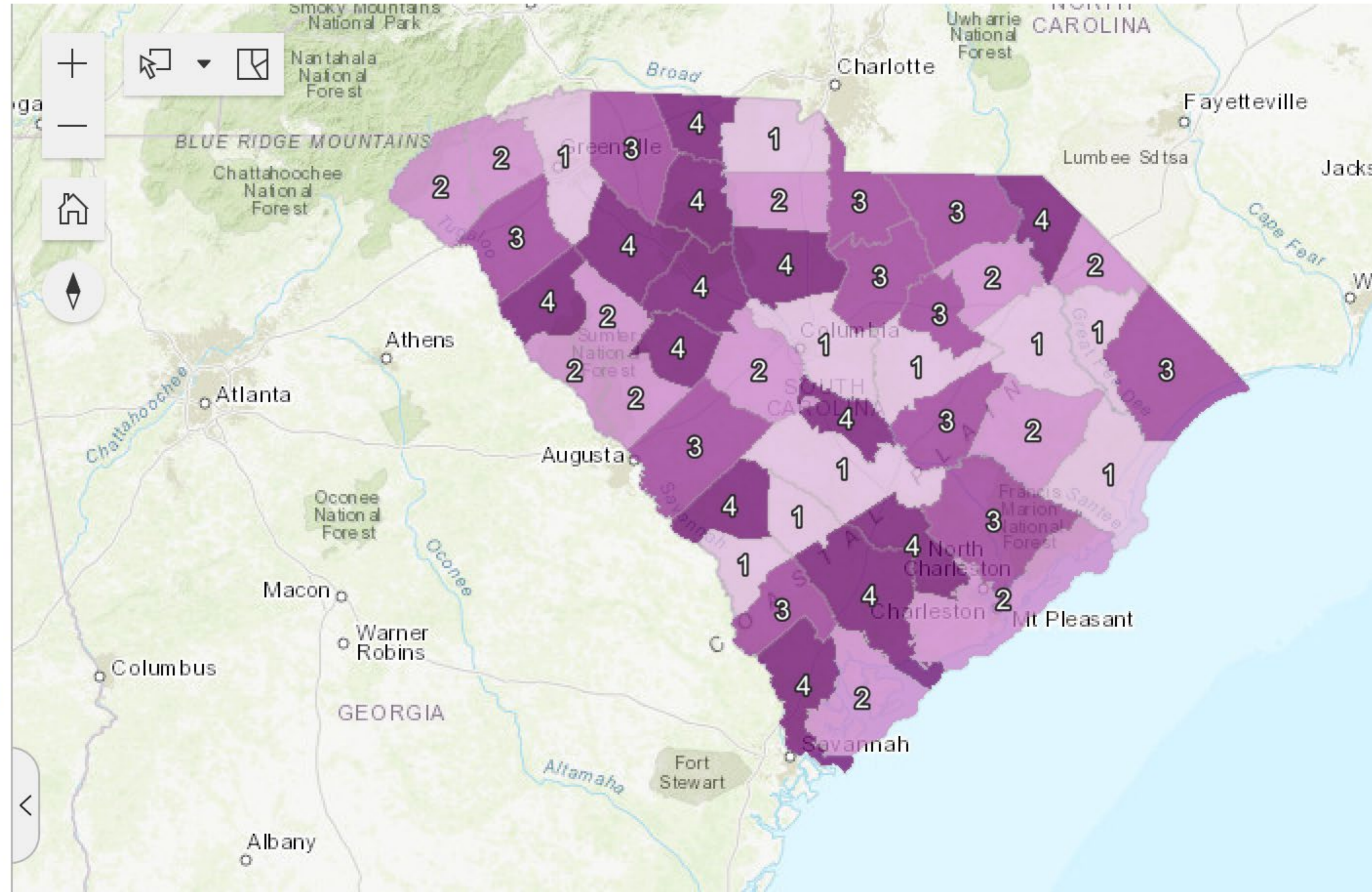


Child Care Availability

Child care availability is the intersection off the supply of child care and the demand for it.

The demand for child care is estimated using the number of births in the county. It is estimated at 64% of the births based on Census data indicating that 64% of children living with their own parents are in households where both parents work.

Note: Enrollment data collection is in-progress.





Need to place a numerical value to measure child care access (standard)



Need for consistent measures across states for state-level comparisons



Need for state-level estimates at kindergarten entry point

SUMMARY