

Arkansas Early Childhood Care and Education Funding Dataset (2018–2023)

ReadMe

Overview

This dataset compiles funding details from numerous federal, state, and local early childhood programs, as well as relevant child population data at the state-level. Where possible, the data reflect actual or awarded amounts rather than estimates. Some amounts come by grant year (GY), while others are reported by fiscal year (FY). The dataset is intended to help researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders analyze trends in funding, compare state funding levels, and assess the financial landscape of early childhood education programs across the United States.

Key Features

- Covers multiple funding streams (for example, Child Care Development Fund, Head Start, State Pre-K).
- Aggregates data to the state–year level.
- Data sources are publicly available government reports and databases, with links provided in the References.

Methodology

Data Cleaning and Processing

- Multiple raw tables were collected from the original sources listed below.
- Funding amounts were aggregated to an annual, state-level format as needed.
- Dollar-based variables were converted to represent millions (e.g., \$1,100,000 = \$1.1 million), except for per-child variables, which remain untransformed. Raw tables with unconverted dollar values, separate by program, are available upon request.
- The “_real” variables in the dataset contain dollar values adjusted to 2023 using an inflation calculator, ensuring accurate comparisons across years. Specifically, the inflation-adjusted values are calculated using the “inflate” command in Stata, which applies CPI-based adjustments.
- After final cleaning, the dataset was saved in an Excel format (.xlsx) for broad accessibility. A Stata (.dta) file is also available upon request.

Important Points and Limitations

- Data prior to 2018 and beyond 2023 is not included in this version.
- Where possible, awarded or actual amounts were used, but in some cases, only allocations or estimates were available.
- Differences between grant years and fiscal years are noted in the original source documents. We use whichever version was available from the original source.
- If local or sub-state data were provided by the original source, these were summed to the state level.
- This dataset reflects funding amounts but does not include details on the policy decisions behind them, specific policies, or the reasons behind funding differences. As a result, the full impact of legislative changes, such as new policies, phased funding increases, or shifts in program allocations, may not be fully captured.

Data Dictionary

Below is a sample of the key variables, prefixes, and suffixes you will see in the final dataset. *(Note that the actual file includes more variables).*

- **year**: Numeric year for the funding or data observation (e.g., 2018).
- **year_abb**: Two-digit abbreviation of the year (e.g., 18).
- **state**: State abbreviation (e.g., AR).
- **state_id**: Unique numeric identifier for each state (e.g., AR = 4).
- **state_name**: Full state name (e.g., Arkansas).
- **ccafp_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from CACFP data.
- **ccampis_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from CCAMPIS data.
- **ccdf_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from CCDF data.
- **ehs_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from Early Head Start (only) data
- **hs_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from Head Start (only) data
- **hsehs_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from combined Head Start/Early Head Start data
- **ideab_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from IDEA Part B, Section 619 data
- **ideac_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from IDEA Part C data
- **miechv_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from MIECHV data
- **pdg_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from state PDG B-5 data
- **statepk_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from state Pre-K data
- **tanf_**: Prefix indicating variable comes from TANF data
- **under6_childcount**: Child Count including children age 0 through age 5.
- **totalwcov_funding**: Total funding across programs with CCDF-COVID funds, and without State TANF funds.

- **totalnocov_funding**: Total funding across programs without CCDF-COVID funds, and without State TANF funds.
- **perpupilwcov_funding**: Per Pupil Funding with CCDF-COVID funds (totalwcov_funding / under6_childcount)
- **perpupilmocov_funding**: Per Pupil Funding without CCDF-COVID funds (totalnocov_funding / under6_childcount)
- **_real**: Suffix indicating that the value has been adjusted for inflation that represents 2023-dollar value using the “inflate” Stata command (McCulloch, 2024).

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Contact Information

If you have questions or need support using the dataset, you can reach out to:

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