


Preschool For All

“Gap Analysis” and Outreach Plan Briefing

Seattle City Council
Education and Governance Committee

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/PreschoolforAll/default.html>

February 5, 2014



Preschool Enrollment “Gap” Analysis

Purpose:

- Identify how many 3- and 4-year-old children are not in formal preschool care in order to provide a basis for estimating costs of a universal preschool program.



Key Findings

- Because there is no comprehensive preschool system in Seattle, there is no single source of data about preschool enrollment and only estimates can be provided.
- There are approximately 12,280 3- and 4-year-old children in Seattle.
- The estimated number of children in care is between 7,800 and 9,000 – approximately 63% to 73% of 3- and 4-year olds.
- Conversely, between 4,480 and 3,280 3- and 4-year-olds are not in formal preschool care.



Key Findings - continued

Some Demographic Information:

- Higher income families are more likely than lower income families to have their children enrolled.
- For families earning less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, about 1,700 (54%) are in some formal care while 1,500 are not.
- Children with foreign-born parents were significantly less likely to be enrolled than those with U.S. born parents.

Key Findings - continued

Costs For Care:

- Federal, state, and city-subsidized programs provide care for approximately 2,000 3- and 4-year-olds, or about 17% of that age group.
- Average rates for center-based care range between \$11,300 per year for children in subsidized care and \$14,700 for children in unsubsidized programs while rates for family child care homes range between \$8,200 and \$10,600.

Missing Information

- Little is known about the overall quality of care provided by these programs.
- We don't have key information about dosage – how many attend full or part-time during the day, and how many days per week or year they are in session.
- There is no universal approach to assessing the development of these children so it is unknown how well children are being prepared to enter kindergarten.

Missing Information - continued

- Average rate charged to parents does not reflect the actual cost of care.
- Rates for subsidized care also are less than the costs of care. For a family at or below 110% of the federal poverty level:
 - The City's child care assistance provides \$11,405 for a full time student parent
 - Head Start pays \$9,500
 - The State's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) pays \$6,630
 - Step-Ahead, funded by the Families and Education Levy, pays \$7,820 for a slot at a program ranked in the mid-range of the quality assessment tiers.

Licensed by Department of Early Learning

Preschool-Age Care Licensed by DEL

- Regulations
- Inspections
- Background Checks

Child Care Centers

Family Child Care Homes

Differences in:

- Setting (center vs home-based)
- Total number of children served
- Age group mix
- Ratio of children to adults
- Provider certifications & training

Note: Programs that define themselves as “preschools” and operate more than four hours per day are generally included under either Child Care Centers or Family Child Care Homes.

Not Licensed by Department of Early Learning

Preschool-Age Care Not Licensed by DEL

Programs Operating less than 4 hrs/day

Programs Operated by Public Entities

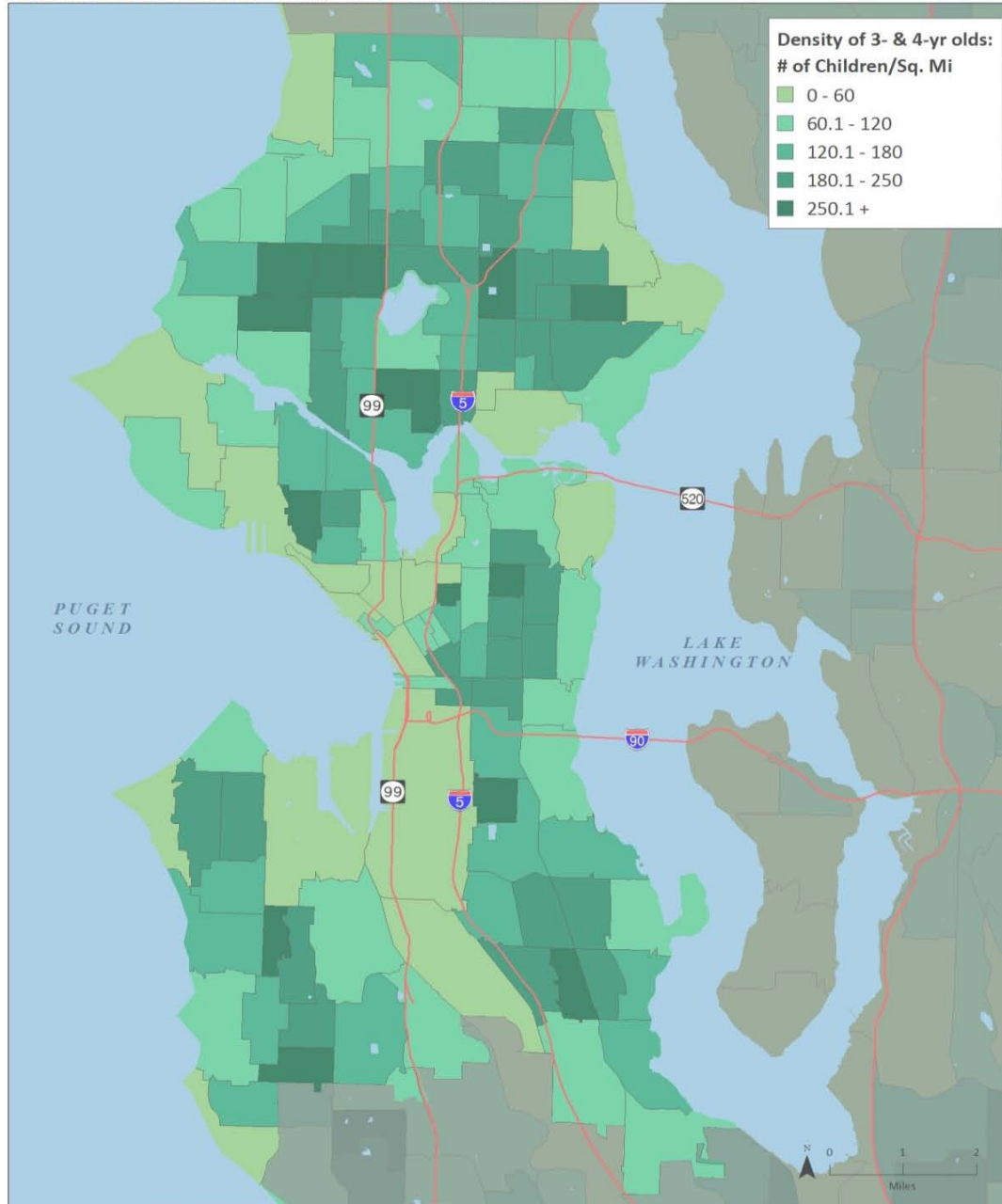
Family, Friends & Neighbors (FFN)

Nannies and Au Pairs

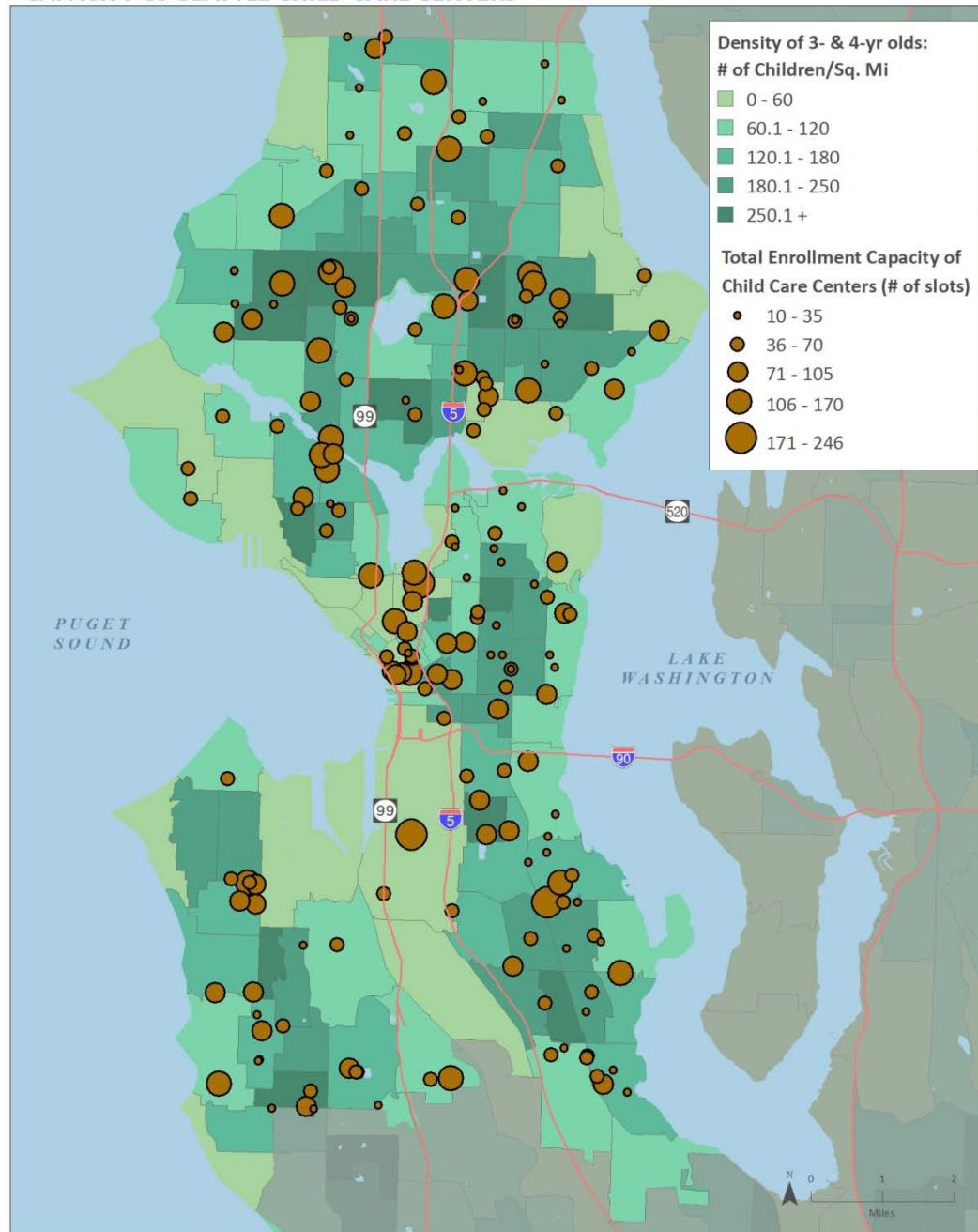
Major Data Sources

- **Demographic and socio-economic population data**
 - **U.S. Census Bureau** - including American Community Survey (ACS) data, and 2012 Early Childhood Program Participation (ECPP) Survey
- **Providers**
 - **Department of Early Learning** - only those providers that are licensed by DEL.
 - **Child Care Resources (CCR)** - while CCR verifies certain information with DEL, much of the data is self-reported by the providers.

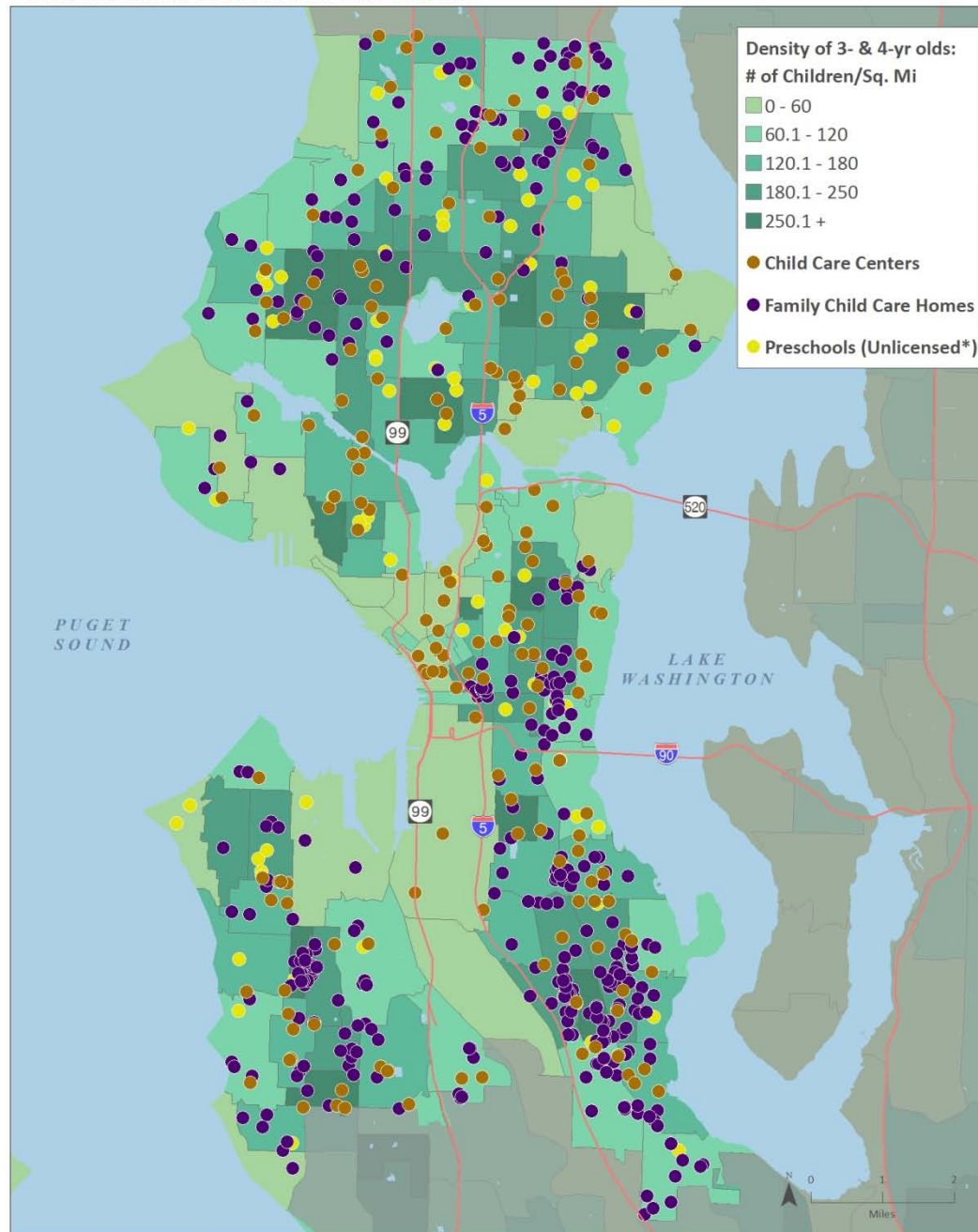
DENSITY OF 3- and 4- YEAR OLDS IN SEATTLE



CAPACITY OF SEATTLE CHILD CARE CENTERS



SEATTLE EARLY EDUCATION PROVIDERS



Action Plan and Financial Model - Outreach Plan

- A comprehensive gap analysis would also estimate the costs of improving the quality of care in existing programs.
- The preschool for all action plan and financial model will provide the basis for this additional estimate.

Consultant Team

- BERK Consulting
 - Experts in project management
 - Local knowledge of early learning – completed the Gap Analysis and Mapping Report for OFE
 - Seamless transitions for the city's Preschool for All efforts
- John Bancroft of Columbia City Consulting
 - A Head Start and Child Care Director in Seattle and King County for 30 years
 - Appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire to the state Early Learning Advisory Council
 - Participated on two early learning task forces created by the Washington Legislature to improve the quality of child care and make affordable preschool available to all Washington families
- Tracey Yee of Columbia City Consulting
 - 15 years in leadership positions at the Puget Sound Educational Service District
 - Led efforts to expand Head Start and develop Head Start-Child Care partnerships

Consultant Team - continued

- Dr. W. Steven Barnett
 - Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)
 - An expert in the economics of early care and education and the long-term effects of preschool programs on children's learning and development
- Dr. Ellen Frede
 - Experience implementing high-quality, universal preschool in districts and cities throughout the United States
 - Senior Vice President of Early Learning, Research, and Training at Acelero Learning, a multi-state Head Start grantee serving over 4500 children in four states
 - Formerly was the Co-Director of NIEER

Current Status of Project

- Contracted with BERK team
- Negotiating contract for a Parent/Guardian survey
- Conducting outreach to local stakeholders and communities
- Engaging Office for Education workgroups

Key Dates

- September 18, 2013: City Council adopted Resolution 31478 endorsing Preschool For All
- February 5: Presentation of the “Gap Analysis” to the Council Education and Governance Committee
- April 14: Final Action Plan and Interactive Financial Model due
- April 30: Outreach Summary Report due