

Child Care Provider Dashboard User Guide

September 2025

Division of Early Care and Education

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Early Care and Education at 608-422-6002. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.

Table of Contents

About this Guide	3
Overview	4
Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data	5
Selecting Map Boundaries	6
Viewing a Data Overview of a Section on the Map	7
Determining Factors to be Measured	8
Selecting Portion of Map for Data	9
Trends Over Time of Selected Data	10
Exporting Collected Data	11
Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time	14
What this Provides	15
Setting Data Field Attributes	16
Data Building Example	17
Data Building Example – Selecting Time Range	18
Data Building Example - Results	19
Data Building Example – Result tools	20
Adjusting Data to be Collected	21
Exporting Data Results	22
Resetting or Starting a New Search	23
Additional Assistance	24

About This Dashboard

Purpose

The Division of Early Care and Education created the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Dashboard** to provide publicly accessible and digestible data on the regulated child care landscape in Wisconsin. Its intended purpose is to share data with stakeholders, identify trends, and inform decisions. The dashboard is updated on a weekly basis, and recent months may have totals updated due to backdated data in our systems.

Scope of Data

Measures of Data

The dashboard presents four different choices of child care measures:

- Active regulated child care providers
- Regulated capacity for children
- Closed child care providers
- New child care providers

To better understand what these measures mean, see Definitions within the Wisconsin Regulated child Care Provider Dashboard.

Disaggregation of Data

The dashboard presents the child care measures in various ways:

- County
- Tribal nation
- Wisconsin Senate district
- Wisconsin Assembly district
- Licensing region
- YoungStar Rating
- Type of child care provider

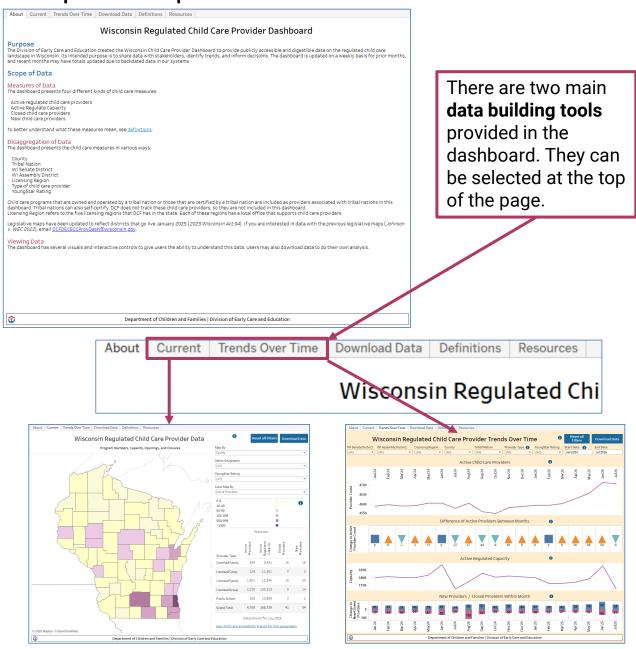
Child care providers that are owned and operated by a tribal nation or those that are certified by a tribal nation are included as providers associated with tribal nation in this dashboard. Tribal nations can also self-certify. DCF does not track these child care providers, so they are not included in the dashboard. Licensing Region refers to the five licensing regions that DCF has in the state. Each of these regions has a local office that supports child care providers.

Viewing Data

The dashboard has several visuals and interactive controls to give users the ability to understand this data. Users may also download data to do their own analysis.

Overview

When opening the dashboard, the initial page provides an overview on the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Dashboard**. This includes the **Purpose** and **Scope of Data** of the dashboard.



Selecting **Current** opens the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data tool**. This provides current data and is calculated for the last completed month.

Selecting **Trends Over Time** will open the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time tool**. This builds longer term provider data.

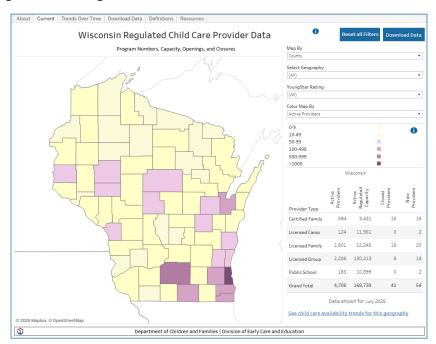
Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data

With the Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data tool, you can access data on the:

- Number of Active Providers
- Regulated Capacity for Children
- New Providers
- Closed Providers
- YoungStar Rating

This data will also be divided down further by the **provider type**:

- Licensed Group
- Licensed Family
- Licensed Camp
- Certified Family
- Public School



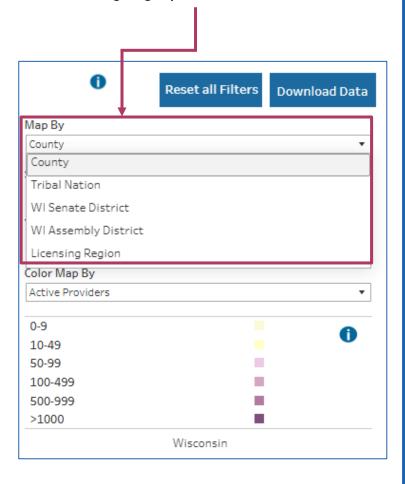
The interior borders of the map can be changed to provide status data in different **geographic areas**, including:

- County
- Tribal Nation
- Wisconsin Senate District
- Wisconsin Assembly District
- Licensing Region

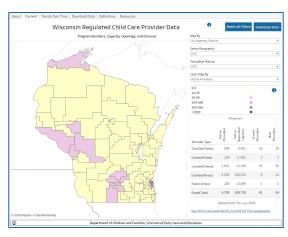
When you have selected the desired border category, you can then select the portion(s) of the map that you would like data from.

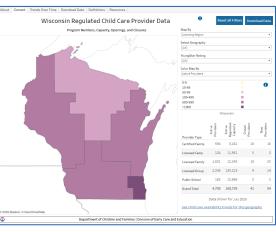
Selecting Map Boundaries

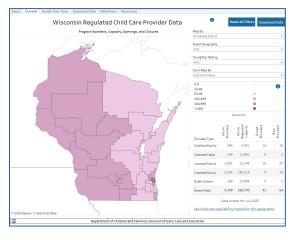
To the right of the map there is a section with a down arrow titled **Map By**. Selecting the down arrow provides the ability to divide the Wisconsin map into different internal geographical boundaries.



Here are some examples of the results:



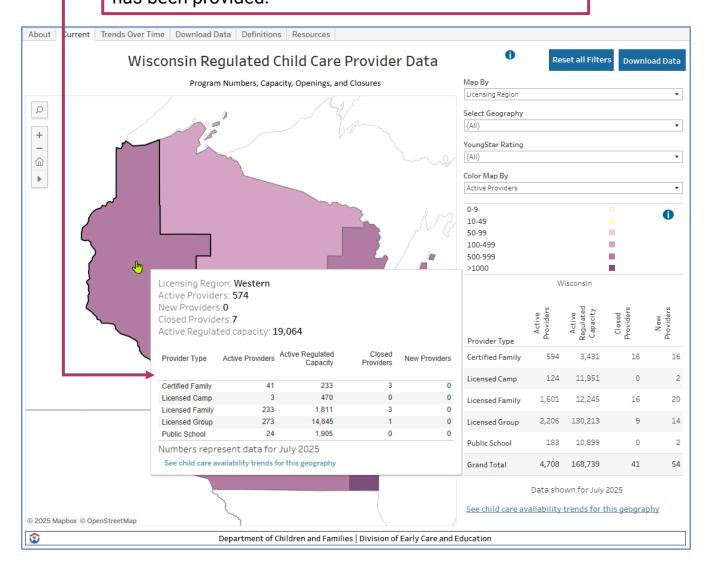




Viewing Data Overview on a Map Section

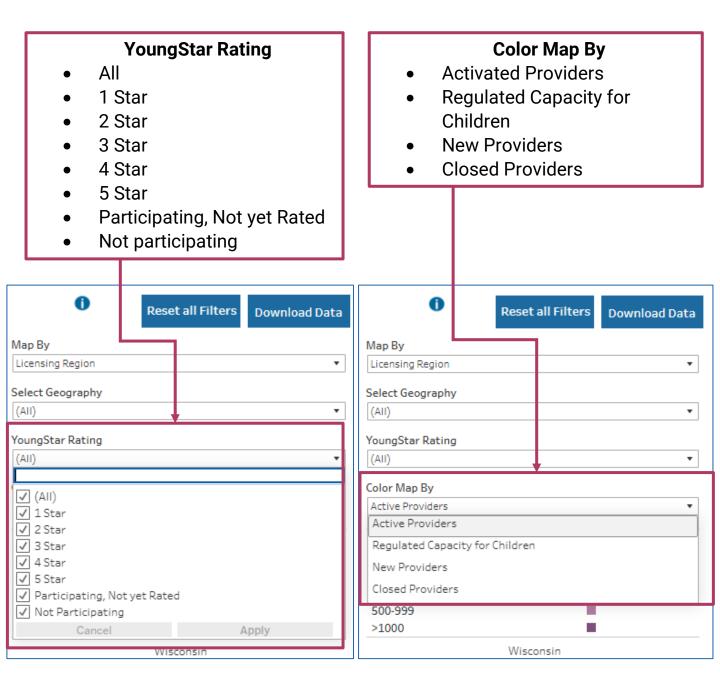
When you have selected the preferred borders for the map, you can hover the mouse over a section of the map. An information bar will then appear providing an overview of data for that section.

In this example, data for the Western Licensing Region has been provided.



Determining Factors to be Measured

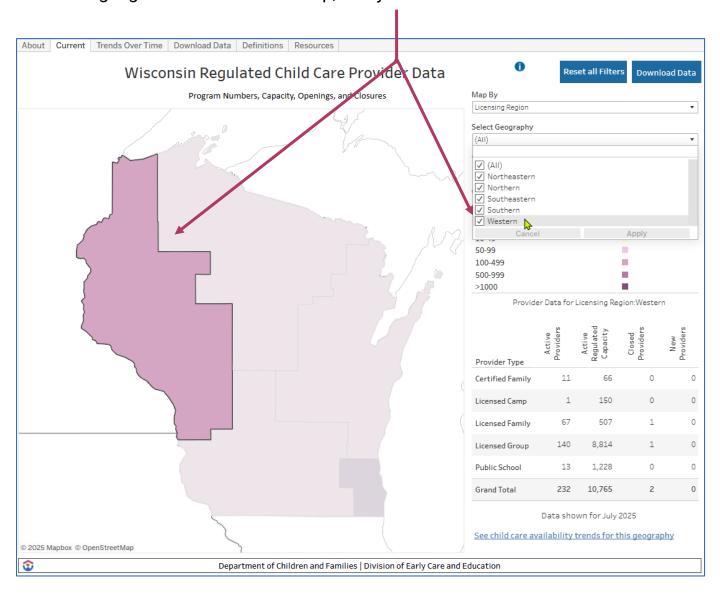
You can adjust what data measured on the map by selecting the drop-down arrow at the **Color Map By** section and/or the **YoungStar Rating** section.



Selecting a Portion of Map for Data

When you have established the maps internal boundaries and determined the information to be collected, you can also select the portion(s) of the map you would like to acquire data from.

To do so, you can either click a section directly on the map, or open the **Select Geography** drop down arrow, then click on the desired area. This will highlight that area on the map, and you can then click on that area.

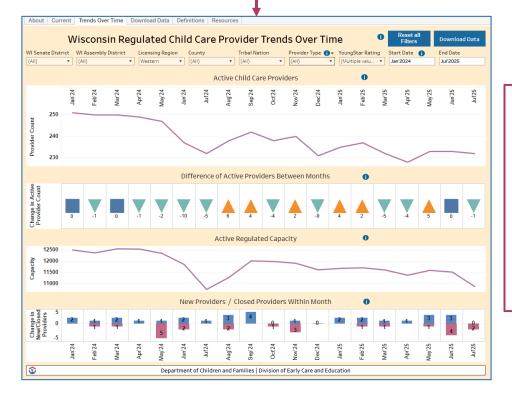


Trends Over Time of Selected Data

When you have established the current data you wish to collect, you also have the ability to dive in deeper and view changes over time in that category.

On the lower right side of the screen there is a link. Selecting this will open the Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time tool. This will provide the trends over time for the selected geographical portion and measurements you have selected.

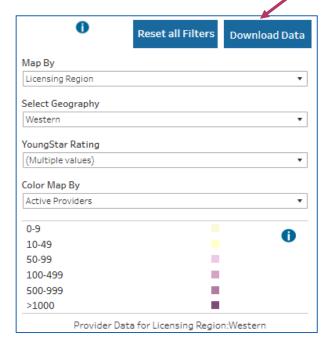
Wisconsin							
Provider Type	Active Providers	Active Regulated Capacity	Closed	New Providers			
Certified Family	197	1,150	3	10			
Licensed Camp	21	1,515	0	1			
Licensed Family	652	5,073	7	14			
Licensed Group	1,223	87,855	5	12			
Public School	69	4,699	0	2			
Grand Total	2,162	100,292	15	39			
Data shown for July 2025							
See child care availability trends for this geography							



We take a more in-depth look at using this tool in the next section. First, you will learn how to export and save the data that you have collected for the current time period.

Exporting Collected Data

Once you have formed your intended data, you have the option of exporting the data by clicking the **Download Data** button on the upper right of the screen.



The Wisconsin Regulated Child
Care Provider Data Download page
is then provided. It shows the
selections you have made to build
the collectable data. You can make
further adjustments before
exporting the data.

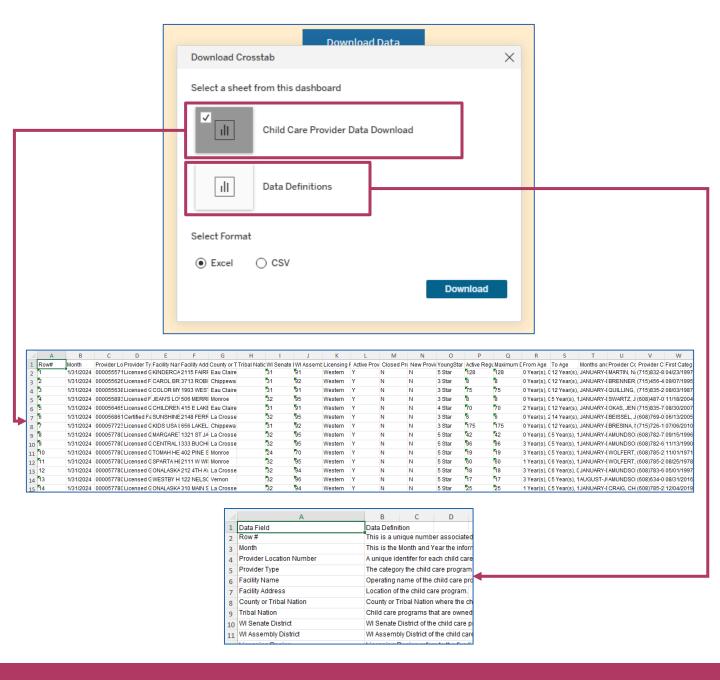
When ready, select **Download Data**.



Data Download Options

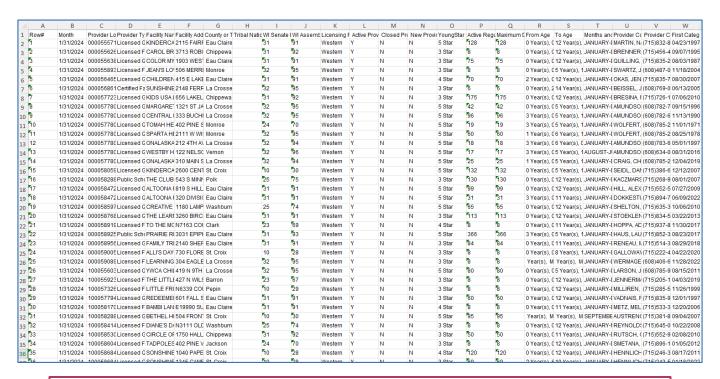
After selecting **Download Data**, the **Download Crosstab** will open. Here you can select **Child Care Provider Data Download** to collect the data. You can also select **Data Definitions** for an explanation of the terminology within the data.

Both are available in **Excel** or **CSV** format.



Measurements in the Data

After selecting **Child Care Provider Data Download** and choosing **Download** the data will be available.



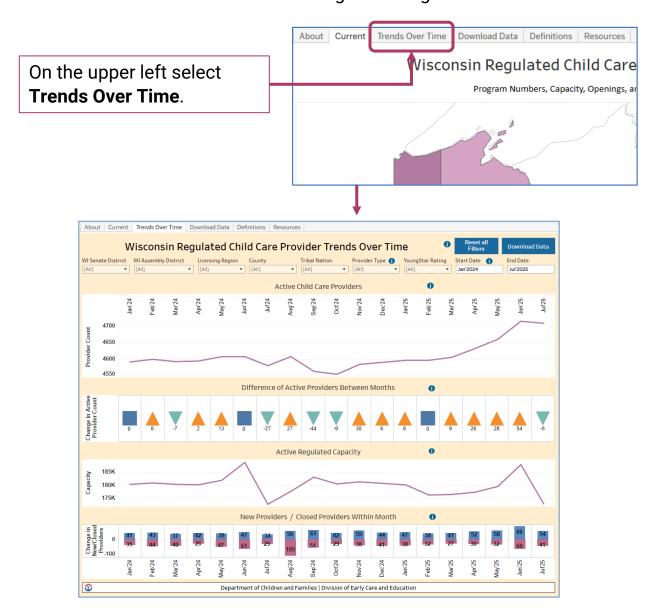
The following status points of each provider will include:

•	Month	Tribal Nation	New Provider	Months and Hours of Operation	
•	Provider Location Number	WI Senate District	YoungStar Rating	Provider Contact Name	
•	Provider Type	WI Assembly District	Active Regulated Capacity	Provider Contact Phone Number	
•	Facility Name	Licensing Region	Maximum Daytime Capacity/Group Size	First Category Issued Date	
•	Facility Address	Active Provider	From Age	Remember: You can Download Data Definitions for explanation of each section in the data.	
•	County or Tribal Nation	Closed Provider	• To Age		

Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time

As shown, you have the ability to view changes over time from what you collected in the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data** tool by selecting a link in the lower right.

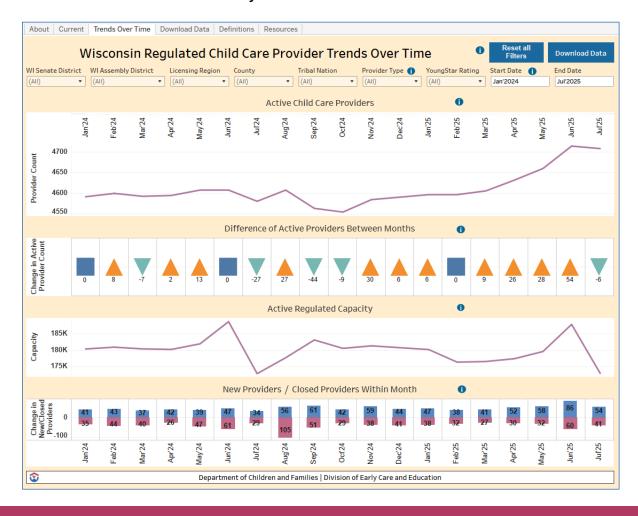
You can also go directly into the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time** tool and begin building data from there.



What This Provides

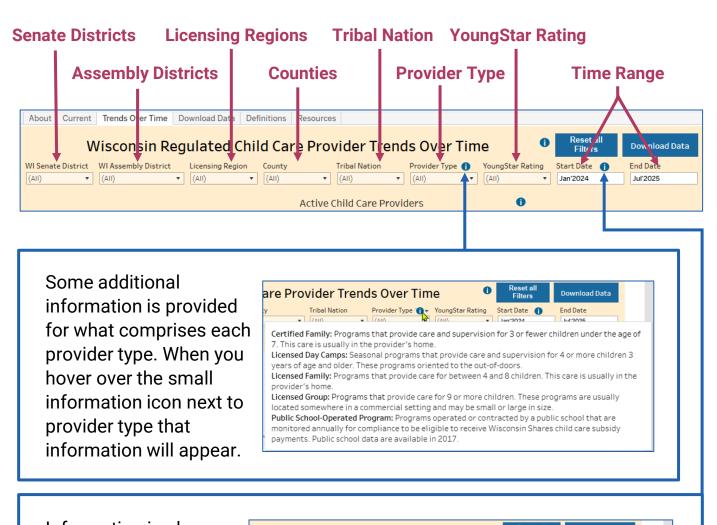
The Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time tool can establish regulated child care provider data over a selected location and time period. You have the options of seeing time-based data changes related to active child care providers, difference of active providers between months, the regulated capacity for children, the amounts of new providers and the amounts of closed providers. This data can be statewide or separated by Wisconsin Senate Districts, Wisconsin Assembly Districts, Licensing Regions, Counties, Tribal Nations, Provider Types or YounStar Ratings.

The information collected can also be adjusted by time. Data is available starting in January 2013 to the last completed month. It is consolidated to show monthly totals.



Setting Data Field Attributes

On the top of the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time** tool you can select options for the data you would like to build.

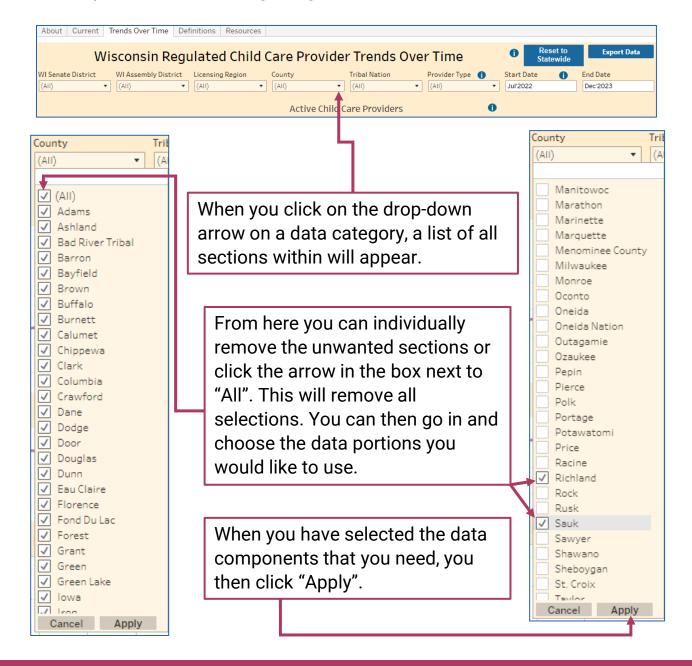


Information is also provided regarding changes to public school data collection by DCF.



Data Building Example

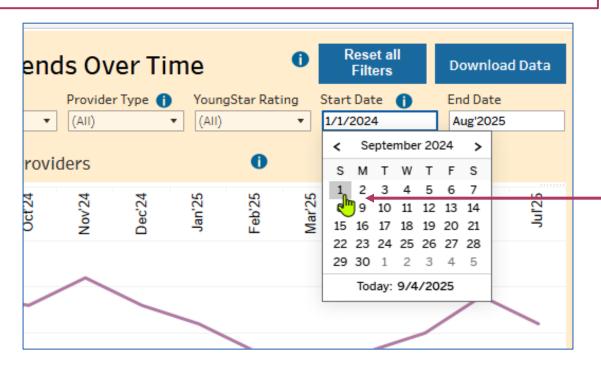
Here is an example of the steps you would take to produce data with the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time**. In this example the intended results are to produce data on the counties of Columbia, Dane, Iowa, Richland, and Sauk, over the chronological months of September 2024 through August 2025.



Data Building Example – Selecting Time Range

The data processing is done by full months. This is available in any range of consecutive months from January of 2013 to the last complete month. In this example we will be collecting data from the month of September 2024 through the month of August 2025 in the counties selected on the previous slide.

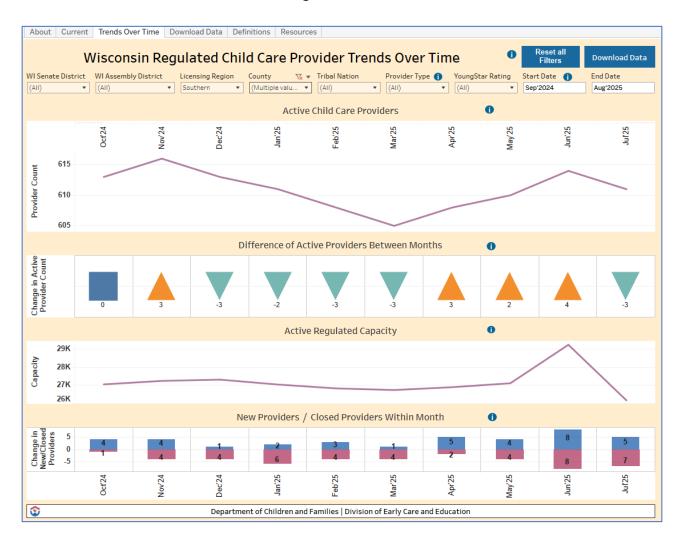
You can adjust the months to include by selecting any date within a **Start Date** month to initiate collection for that entire month, then do the same for the **End Date** month.



The date range can be selected before or after adding other variables.

Data Building Example - Results

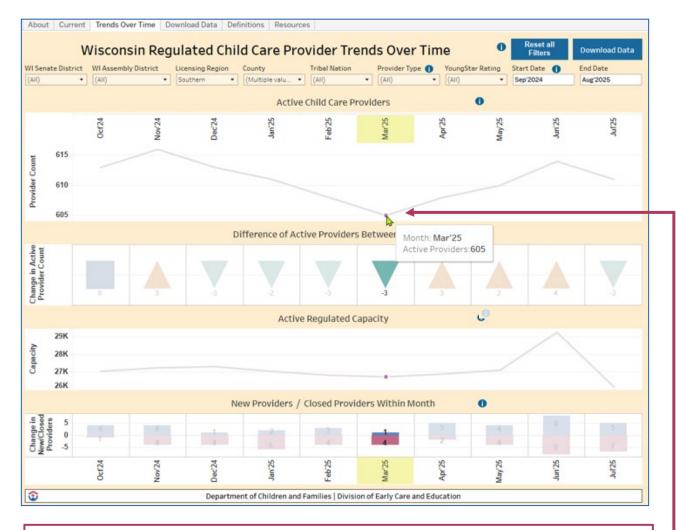
After adjusting the beginning and end dates, or selecting areas and clicking apply, the updated data in the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time** will generate.



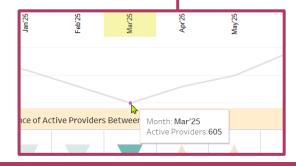
With the results generated, you are able to view data on:

- Number of active child care providers
- Difference of active providers between months
- Regulated capacity for children
- Number of new and closed providers

Data Building Example - Result Tools

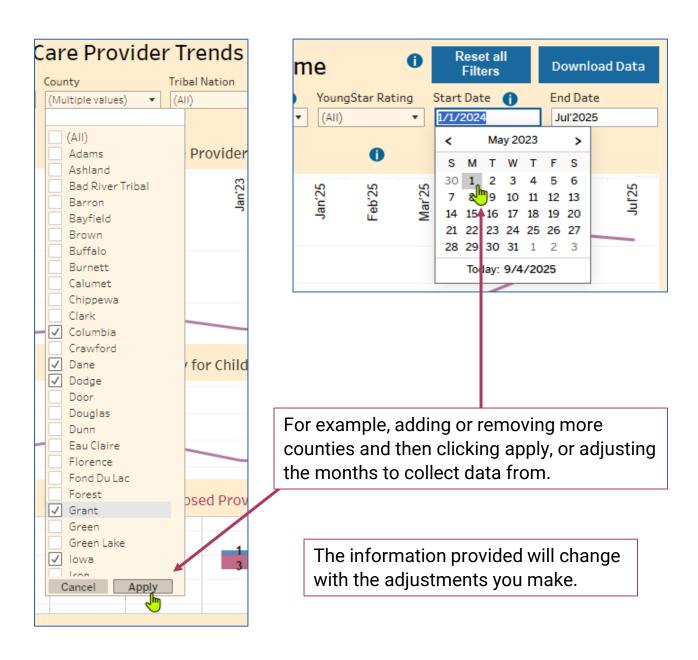


On the results page you can hover over segments and gain more specific information regarding that particular month. In this case the user is finding the amount of active child care providers, in the selected counties, during the month of March 2025.



Adjusting Data to be Collected

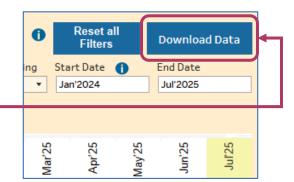
After receiving the selected data, you can continue to adjust what variables you would like implemented on the results page.



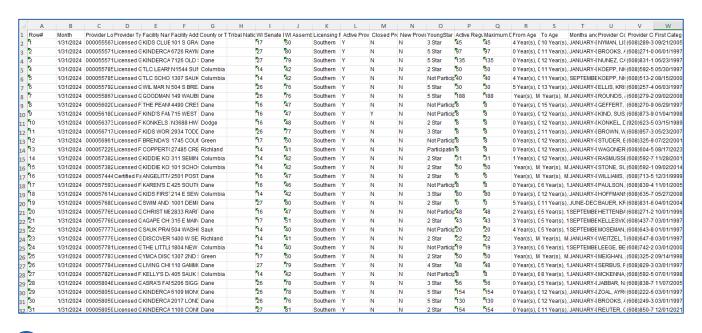
Exporting Data Results

The data you have built in **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Trends Over Time** can be exported.

When desired data options have been chosen, select **Download Data** and follow the same steps in the **Wisconsin Regulated Child Care Provider Data Download** page.



A downloadable data sheet is then offered. It shows all providers that match your input selections and **separates the data by months**.

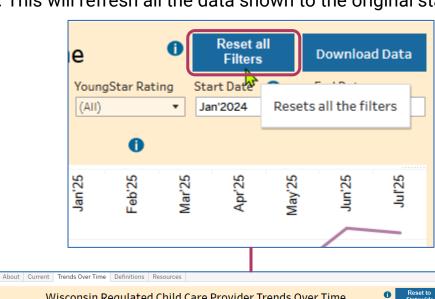


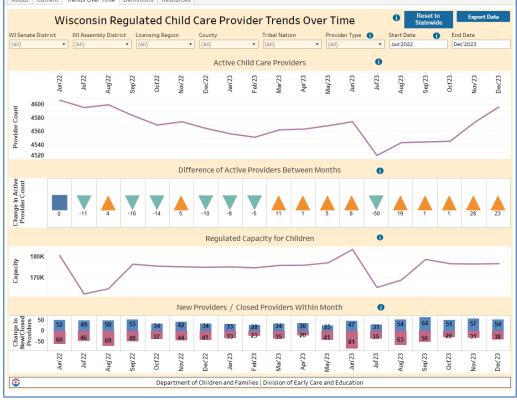


Tip: If you need to export large amounts of data, export multiple sets of data in 3-year periods. Depending on system resources, large data exports may fail.

Resetting or Starting a New Search

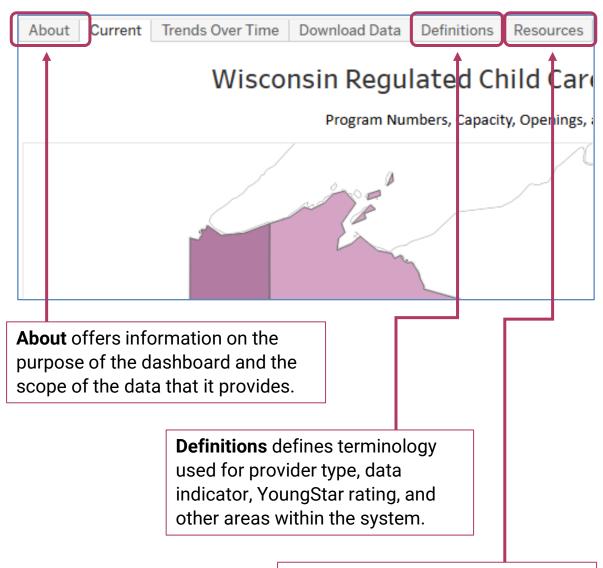
When you feel you have acquired the information you were looking for and would like to start a new search, or, if you need to start the current search over again, simply click the **Reset all Filters** button on the upper right of the screen. This will refresh all the data shown to the original starting point.





Additional Assistance

For additional assistance, in the upper left there are three selections.



The **Resources** selection offers links to the **User Guide**, **Child Care Data**, and an email address that can be used for **technical questions** about the data.