Gathering relevant information about children in your local community is a key factor for managing programs and informing policies. Get introduced to the new data tool on ECLDS that offer users more focused data for children under age 6.

**Longitudinal Census Data about America’s Youngest Kids**

Minnesota’s Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS) is the exclusive online source of more detailed American Community Survey (ACS) tables about kids ages 5 and under for all states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. The ECLDS now includes ACS estimates from 2006-10 and 2011-15 for a more longitudinal look at your state or county’s youngest kids and their families.

**Customized Content for Quick Access**

Unlike navigating and trying to interpret data from the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), ECLDS users can easily access customized ACS tables that offer more focused data about children under age 6. Data is provided on a variety of topics (surveyed elements) for a selected state or county. Information can be used to compare (county to county, county to state, state to state, state to nation) estimates on a specific element.

**The Census Data Tool can be helpful to organizations serving children and families, such as:**

- Head Start Agencies
- Preschools
- Child Care
- Elementary Schools
- County Health Boards
- Human Service Agencies
- Libraries
- Community Centers
- Associations and other non-profits

eclds.mn.gov/#census
Smaller Age Bands for Early Childhood

ACS data are reported in large groups for pre-kindergarten children, yet early childhood, health, and human services agencies often need estimates of children for age groups unique to early childhood. The age bands Minnesota has made available at the county level cover infants (0-1 year old), toddlers and early preschoolers (2-3 years old), and pre-kindergartners and kindergartners (4-5 years old). These smaller age bands align with eligibility for programs or estimates of needs for specific developmental age groups.

Topics Available

- Active Duty Status
- Education
- Employment Industry
- Employment Status
- Gross Rent
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Hearing/Vision Difficulties
- Home Attributes
- Home Language
- Household Size
- Independent Living
- Living in Tribal Areas
- Migration into Area
- Owner Costs
- Poverty
- Race/Ethnicity/Sex
- Risk Levels
- Travel Time
- Transportation
- Vehicles
- Weeks Worked

Comparison Function

A special feature on the tool allows users to compare the non-overlapping five-year estimate data sets available by using the Comparison option to determine if there is a statistically significant difference. This function shows whether the observed difference between estimates likely represents a true difference that exists within the full population (is statistically significant) or instead has occurred by chance because of sampling (is not statistically significant).