

Working with the Affordable Child Care Benefit data extract from BC Data Catalogue

Last Updated: July 2024

Supporting documents:

- Affordable Child Care Benefit – Number of Children and Families (Seasonally Adjusted) Over time DATA DICTIONARY
- [Child Care Public Portal](#)
- [Ministry of Education and Child Care Protection of Personal Information on Small Populations](#)
- Working with the csv file - [import or export text \(.txt or .csv\) files](#)

Standard formatting guidelines used in this document:

Text in Bold	Indicates a column name in the table (e.g., SD_Name)
'Text with single quotation marks'	Indicates a column value (e.g., 'Surrey' in the column SD_Name)

Steps:

1. Open local copy of the file.
2. Activate the AutoFilter option in your data. To accomplish this, select the first row (or header row) in the CSV file> then select the Data tab of the MS Excel Ribbon > then select Filter. This should bring the filter option (shown by the ▼ symbol for all the column headers in the table).
3. Use the auto-filter on either the **Year_Month** or **Month_Year_Label** to select the relevant month(s) based on your data requirement. You can also use **Fiscal_Year** to view annual results.
4. Use the auto-filter on the **Data_Level** column to select either 'District' or 'Province'.
5. **Optional:** Based on the selection made in step 4, users can view results for the [BC School Superintendents Association \(BCSSA\)](#) Chapters.
To do that, users must select **Data_Level** = 'District' in step 4, and then use the auto-filter on **Region** and select the preferred Chapter name. Only when **Data_Level** = 'Province', then **Region** will always be 'British Columbia', representing results for the entire province.
6. The next column (**SD_Number**) to work with depends on which value you selected in step 4:
 - If you select 'Province', the column **SD_Number** will show 'NA' (while the column **SD_Name** will be blank).
 - If you select 'District', use the auto-filter on either **SD_Number** or **SD_Name** to select the school district whose results you want to see.
7. Columns H and I represent seasonally adjusted number of children and families respectively who are receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit for specific categories based on selections made in the above steps.

Sample Questions:


Question 1) How many families (seasonally adjusted) are receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit in March 2023?

The following steps can provide the answer (please note: the word 'filter' below implies using auto-filter option in the header row):

1. Activate the AutoFilter option for the header row.
2. Either use the **Year_Month** column or the **Month_Year_Label** to filter the specific dates:
 - If you use **Year_Month**, then filter the value to '202303'.
 - If you use **Month_Year_Label**, then filter to 'Mar2023'.
3. Since the question does not specify any mention of school districts, we need to provide estimates for province level data. Therefore, use **Data_Level** to select the value 'Province'.
4. Now, using column I, we can see that 29,039 families were receiving Affordable Child Care Benefit in March 2023. This count has been adjusted to account for regular seasonal fluctuations.¹

Question 2) On average, how many children and families were receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit in fiscal year 2022/2023?

Steps to answer (please note: the word 'filter' below implies using auto-filter option in the header row):

1. Activate the AutoFilter option for the header row.
2. Refer to the **Fiscal_Year** column. Filter for the value '2022/2023'.
3. Use **Data_Level** filter and select the value 'Province'. You should be left with 12 rows of data.
4. Now, in column H, click at any blank cell. Using the Excel ribbon at the top, go to the Home tab. Then in the Editing group, select the drop-down arrow next to  AutoSum. Select the option Average.
5. You should see the AVERAGE formula appearing in the blank cell that was selected in step 4. To get the AVERAGE for the selected **Fiscal_Year** from step 2, please select the 12 cells of data from column H (NUMBER OF CHILDREN).
6. Press Enter. It should give you 38,103 as the average number of children who received Affordable Child Care Benefit in 2022/2023. Repeat the same process for column I (Seasonally Adjusted Number Of Families). We have 29,992 families on average receiving Affordable Child Care Benefit in 2022/2023. Both these numbers are seasonally adjusted.

(*Tip:* Instead of steps 4 to 6 above in answering Question 2, you can simply select the 12 cells of data in column H (and likewise for column I) after step 3 and look at the summary of data reported in the status bar below the spreadsheet to find the average number of children (and likewise for families) in 2022/2023).

¹ The estimates are based on Affordable Child Care Benefit data obtained as of June 2024. However, future updates to this table may incorporate revisions to these historical values as claims can be submitted months after the service date. Consequently, the values presented here may differ from future revised values.