



# Community child care coverage in Alberta

Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade

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## Definitions & Methodology

This report summarizes child care coverage rates across Alberta to determine the proportion of non-school aged children in a given geographic area compared to the number of child care spaces available in licensed facility-based and home-based child care programs.

### Coverage rate

- In this document, coverage rate is calculated by dividing licensed spaces by the total zero to six child population.
- An adequate coverage rate is defined as one child care space per three children or 33 per cent coverage. Anything less than 33 per cent is identified as being a community in need.<sup>1</sup> This report defines varying coverage rates as follows:
  - o Extremely high need community – 0 per cent to 8.99 per cent
  - o High need community – 9.00 per cent to 15.99 per cent
  - o Moderate need community – 16.00 per cent to 32.99 per cent
  - o Adequate coverage – 33.00 per cent and higher
- Spaces includes total licensed spaces available for children between the ages of zero and six. These consist of facility-based child care (daycare and preschool) and home-based child care (open and active family day homes and group family child care). Space calculations exclude out-of-school care and innovative child care programs.
- This analysis does not account for available spaces and enrollment in the coverage rate. If a community has more than 33 per cent space coverage to its non-school-age child population it is considered to have adequate coverage, even if the enrollment to space ratio is 100 per cent and therefore, no spaces are available. While enrollment is not included in the coverage rate calculation, enrollment rate per geographic area is provided in this report. Similar to space calculations, enrollment excludes out-of-school care and innovative child care programs.
- Numbers may change with methodology updates.

### Mapping Methodology

- Geographic boundary: the child care maps are composed of 132 Local Geographic Areas (LGAs), described as communities in this document. LGAs fall within Children and Family Services regional boundaries and have relatively stable populations (with a minimum population of 5,000 per LGA). As a result, LGAs are effective for local level child care service reporting, monitoring and analysis.
- Population: LGAs consist of Dissemination Areas (DAs). “DAs are the smallest standard geographical area to which all Statistics Canada census [population] data are disseminated.”<sup>2</sup> Each DA is characterized by the population number within it. Therefore, DAs within LGA boundaries provide a precise population size for a given LGA.
- Aggregation method:
  - o A Postal Code Translator File (PCTF) was used to aggregate (or place) DAs and child care program locations into LGAs. The PCTF “is a file that assigns postal codes to a variety of geographic boundaries used within the Government of Alberta” including LGAs. “Each postal code is assigned a latitude and longitude coordinates.”<sup>3</sup>
  - o Reported information is based on mappable data. Some programs are excluded because of address confidentiality (e.g., domestic violence shelters with child care programs).

### Sources

December 2023 internal ministry child care data, Statistics Canada 2021 Census data, Alberta Health 2023 Postal Code Translator File.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Internal Document.

<sup>2</sup> Alberta Health Services. (2018). *Official Standard Geographic Areas*. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/a14b50c9-94b2-4024-8ee5-c13fb70abb4a/resource/70fd0f2c-5a7c-45a3-bdaa-e1b4f4c5d9a4/download/official-standard-geographic-area-document.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Government of Alberta. PCTF Metadata. Internal Document.

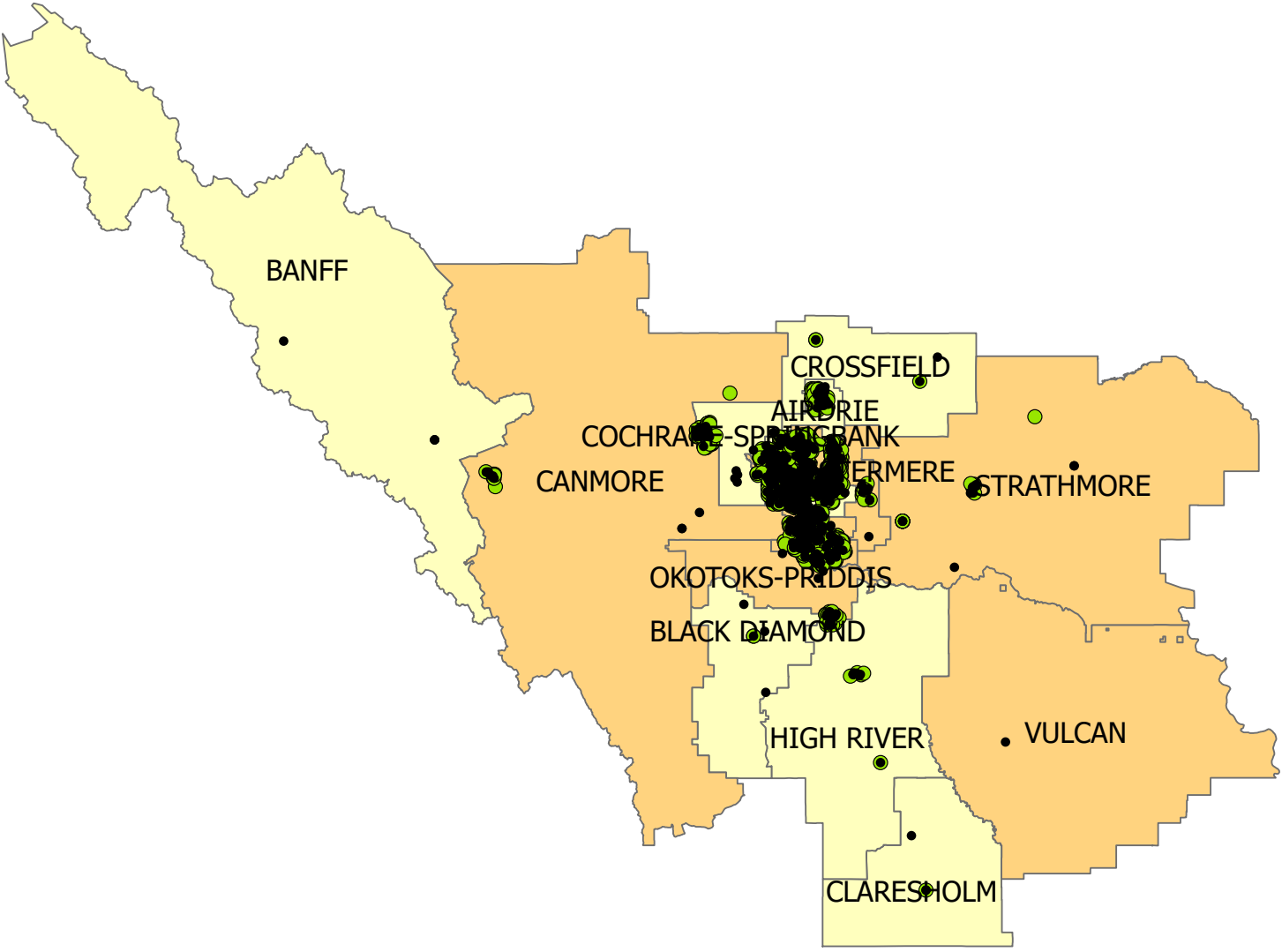
## Summary of Alberta-wide community coverage

Coverage Rates (December 2023)	Count	Percent
Extremely high need community (0% to 8.99% coverage)	9	6%
High need community (9.00% to 15.99% coverage)	3	2%
Moderate need community (16.00% to 32.99% coverage)	52	40%
Communities with adequate coverage (33.00% and higher)	68	52%
<b>Total all communities</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Summary of Calgary region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
AIRDRIE	2836	8225	97%	34%	-
BANFF	183	70	155%	261%	-
BLACK DIAMOND	191	385	80%	50%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE	2982	3035	96%	98%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE NORTH	1435	3000	87%	48%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE WEST	1775	5230	150%	34%	-
CALGARY - EAST	1779	5115	98%	35%	-
CALGARY - ELBOW	694	2435	102%	29%	110
CALGARY - FISH CREEK	3677	7555	86%	49%	-
CALGARY - LOWER NE	1637	7465	152%	22%	826
CALGARY - LOWER NW	1198	4310	90%	28%	224
CALGARY - NORTH	2941	10985	92%	27%	684
CALGARY - NOSE HILL	2557	5785	153%	44%	-
CALGARY - SE	3404	14340	88%	24%	1328
CALGARY - SW	3075	9475	86%	32%	-
CALGARY - UPPER NE	3545	12675	73%	28%	532
CALGARY - UPPER NW	3534	9570	87%	37%	-
CALGARY - WEST	2385	6845	107%	35%	-
CALGARY - WEST BOW	498	1665	94%	30%	-
CANMORE	392	1565	149%	25%	124
CHESTERMERE	641	2235	98%	29%	97
CLARESHOLM	117	90	80%	130%	-
COCHRANE-SPRINGBANK	1471	4110	103%	36%	-
CROSSFIELD	145	405	90%	36%	-
HIGH RIVER	478	1365	68%	35%	-
OKOTOKS-PRIDDIS	1122	4110	76%	27%	201
STRATHMORE	581	2590	87%	22%	199
VULCAN	51	195	69%	26%	13

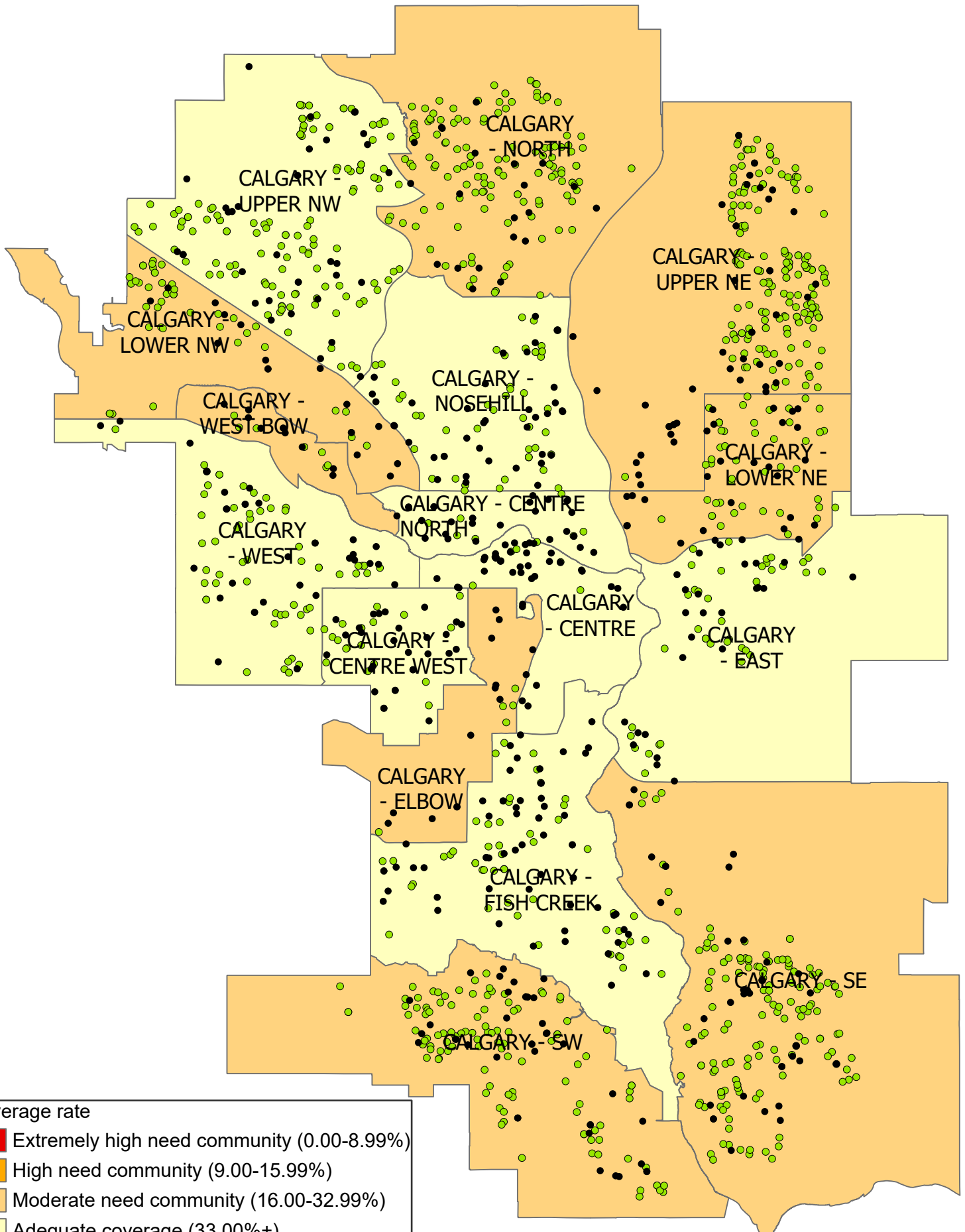
# Child care coverage map: Calgary region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

# Child care coverage map: Calgary, Calgary region



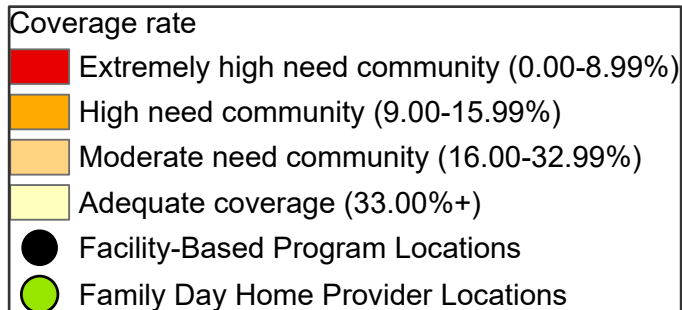
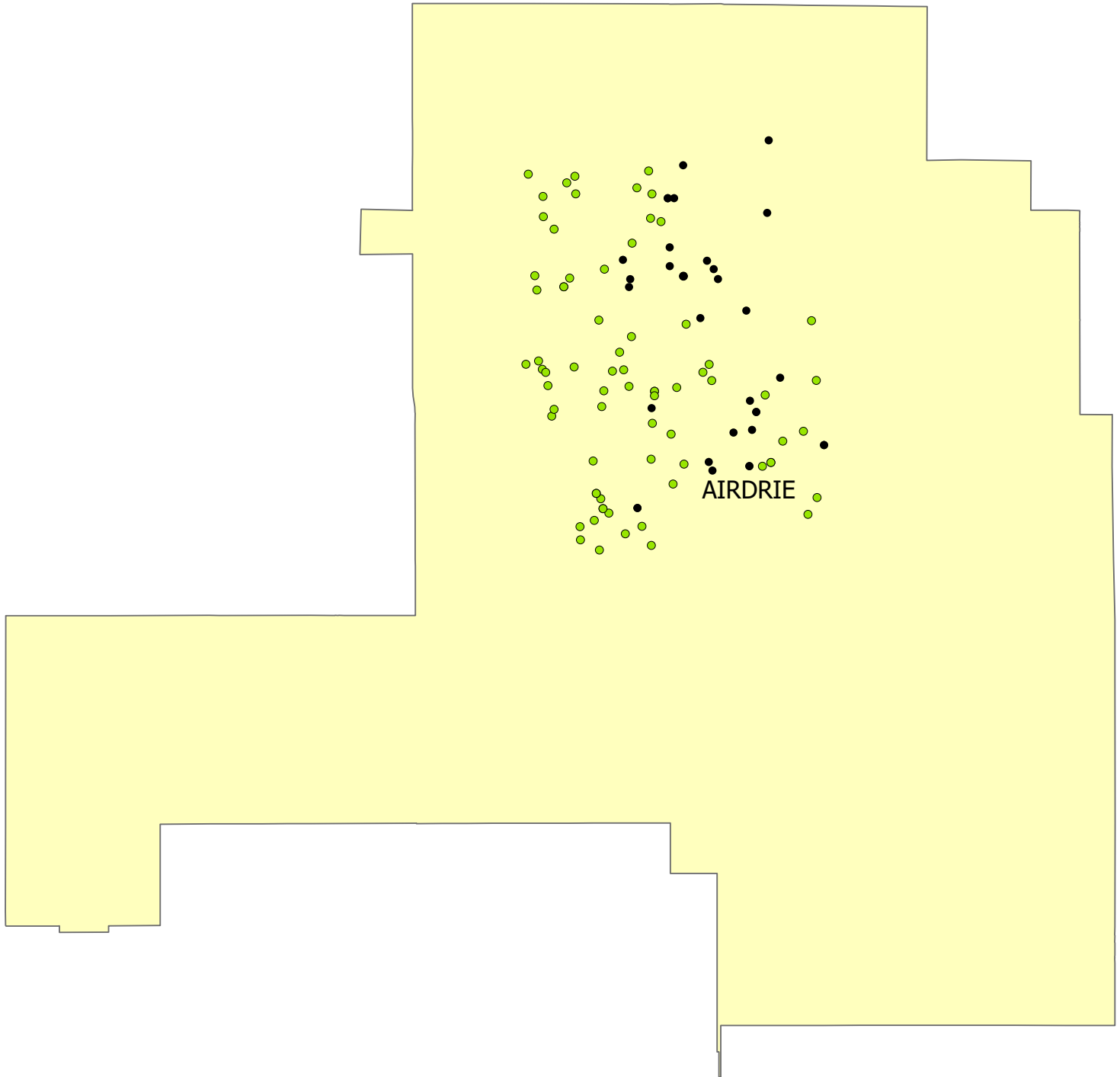
Coverage rate

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● Facility-Based Program Locations

● Family Day Home Provider Locations

# Child care coverage map: Airdrie, Calgary region



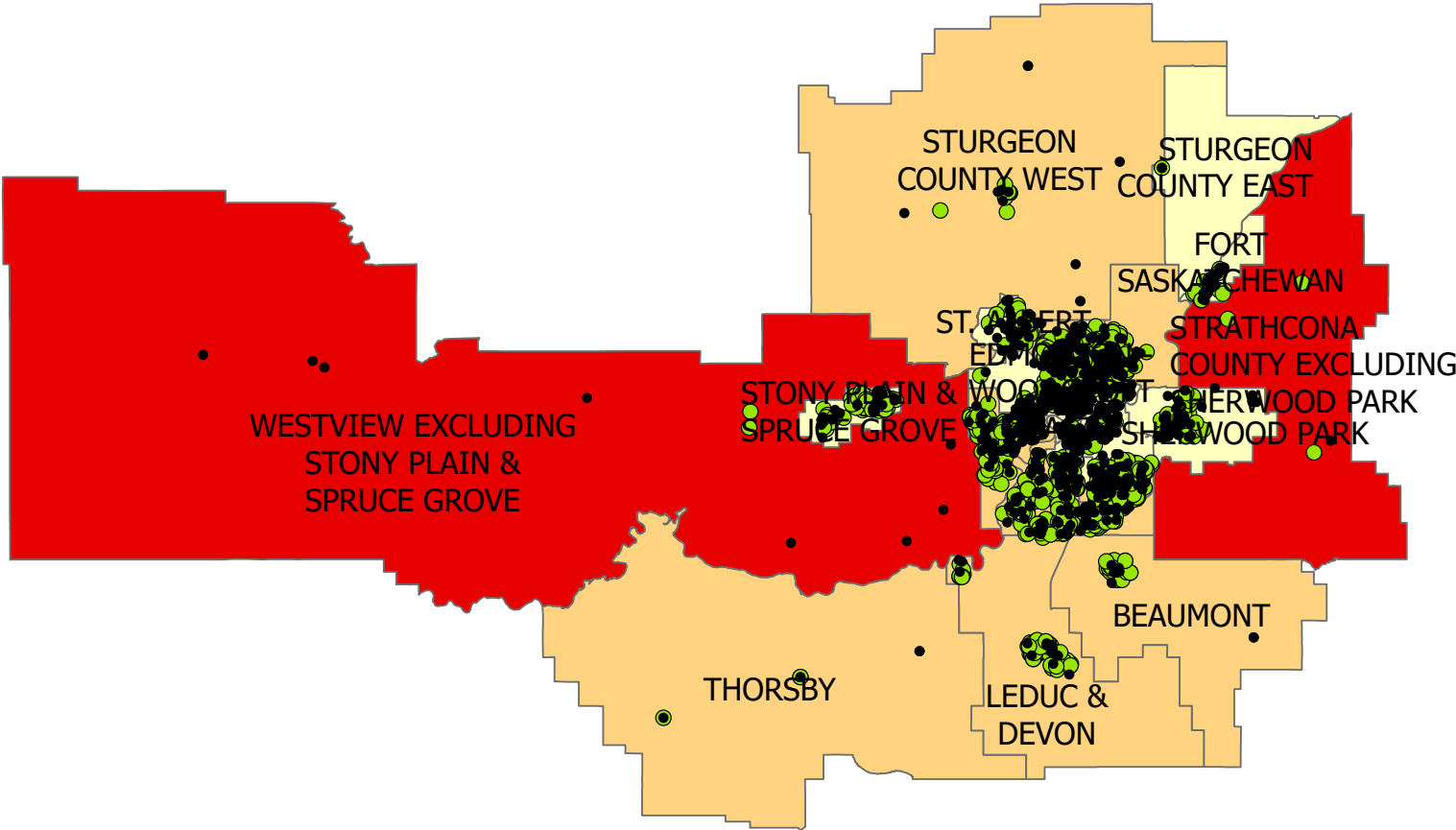


## Summary of Edmonton region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
BEAUMONT	922	2800	103%	33%	2
EDMONTON - ABBOTTSFIELD	570	1105	75%	52%	-
EDMONTON - BONNIE DOON	3802	5465	90%	70%	-
EDMONTON - CASTLE DOWNS	1883	6855	92%	27%	379
EDMONTON - DUGGAN	1388	2595	92%	53%	-
EDMONTON - EASTWOOD	2714	3410	71%	80%	-
EDMONTON - JASPER PLACE	1704	3225	89%	53%	-
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS SOUTH & EAST	1729	7825	72%	22%	853
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS WEST	1687	3975	88%	42%	-
EDMONTON - NE	2116	9110	89%	23%	870
EDMONTON - NORTHGATE	2390	6690	133%	36%	-
EDMONTON - RUTHERFORD	5077	16345	87%	31%	257
EDMONTON - TWIN BROOKS	1479	4910	107%	30%	141
EDMONTON - WEST JASPER PLACE	2952	9940	80%	30%	328
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT EAST	1684	3665	131%	46%	-
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT WEST	1333	2935	114%	45%	-
FORT SASKATCHEWAN	1139	2685	97%	42%	-
LEDUC & DEVON	1115	4050	74%	28%	138
SHERWOOD PARK	2607	5680	134%	46%	-
ST. ALBERT	2412	4900	87%	49%	-
STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	1914	5035	108%	38%	-

STRATHCONA COUNTY EXCLUDING SHERWOOD PARK	38	2975	11%	1%	944
STURGEON COUNTY EAST	104	250	94%	42%	-
STURGEON COUNTY WEST	529	2480	70%	21%	289
THORSBY	132	505	68%	26%	35
WESTVIEW EXCLUDING STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	234	2810	51%	8%	693

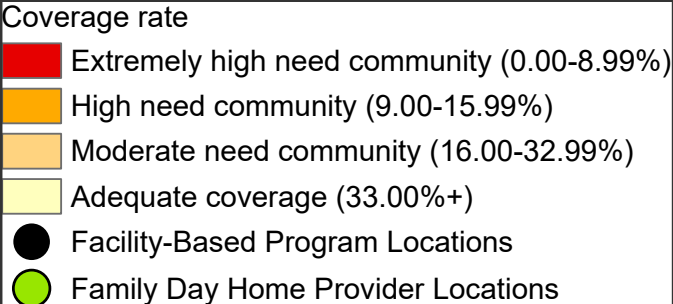
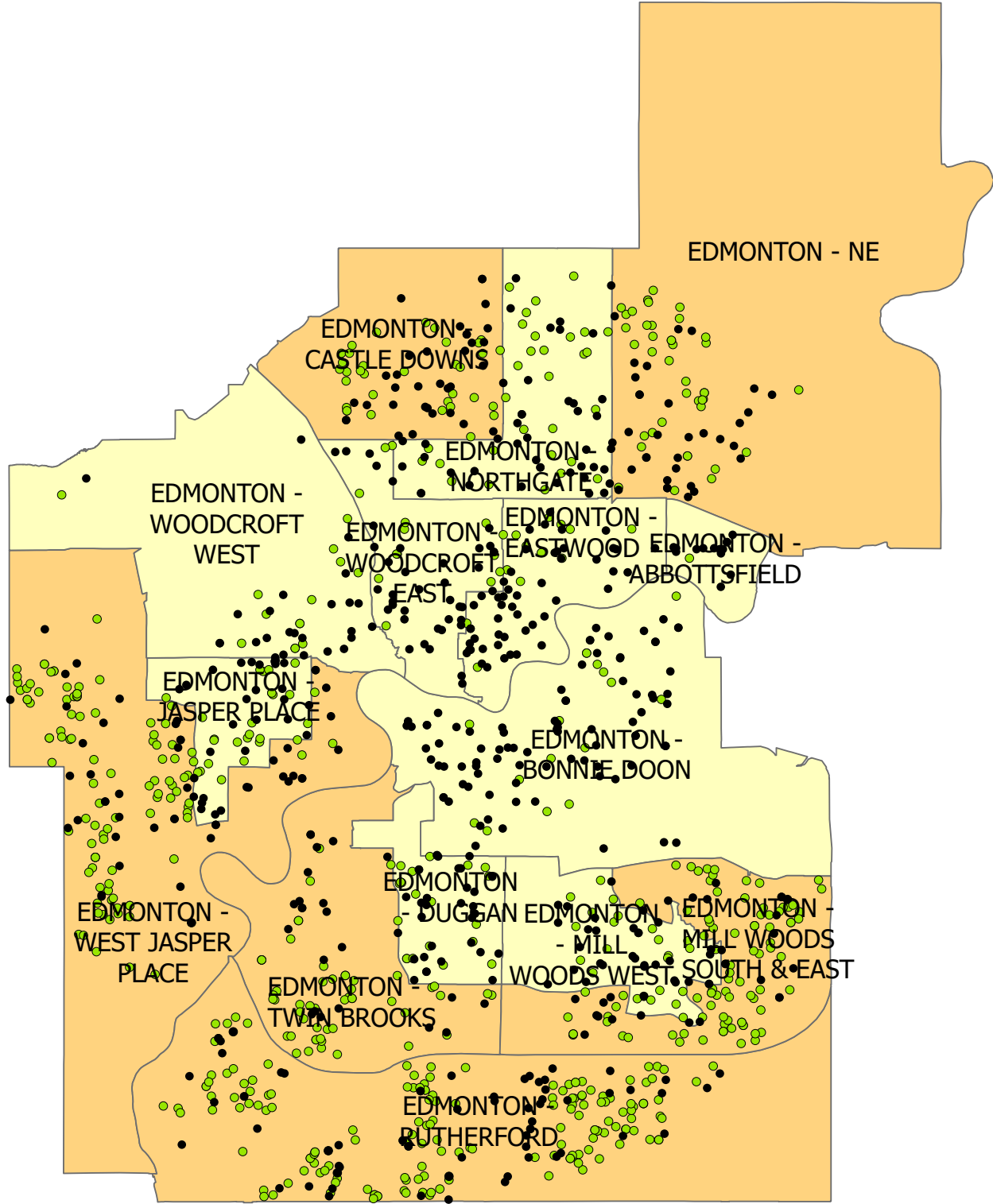
# Child care coverage map: Edmonton region



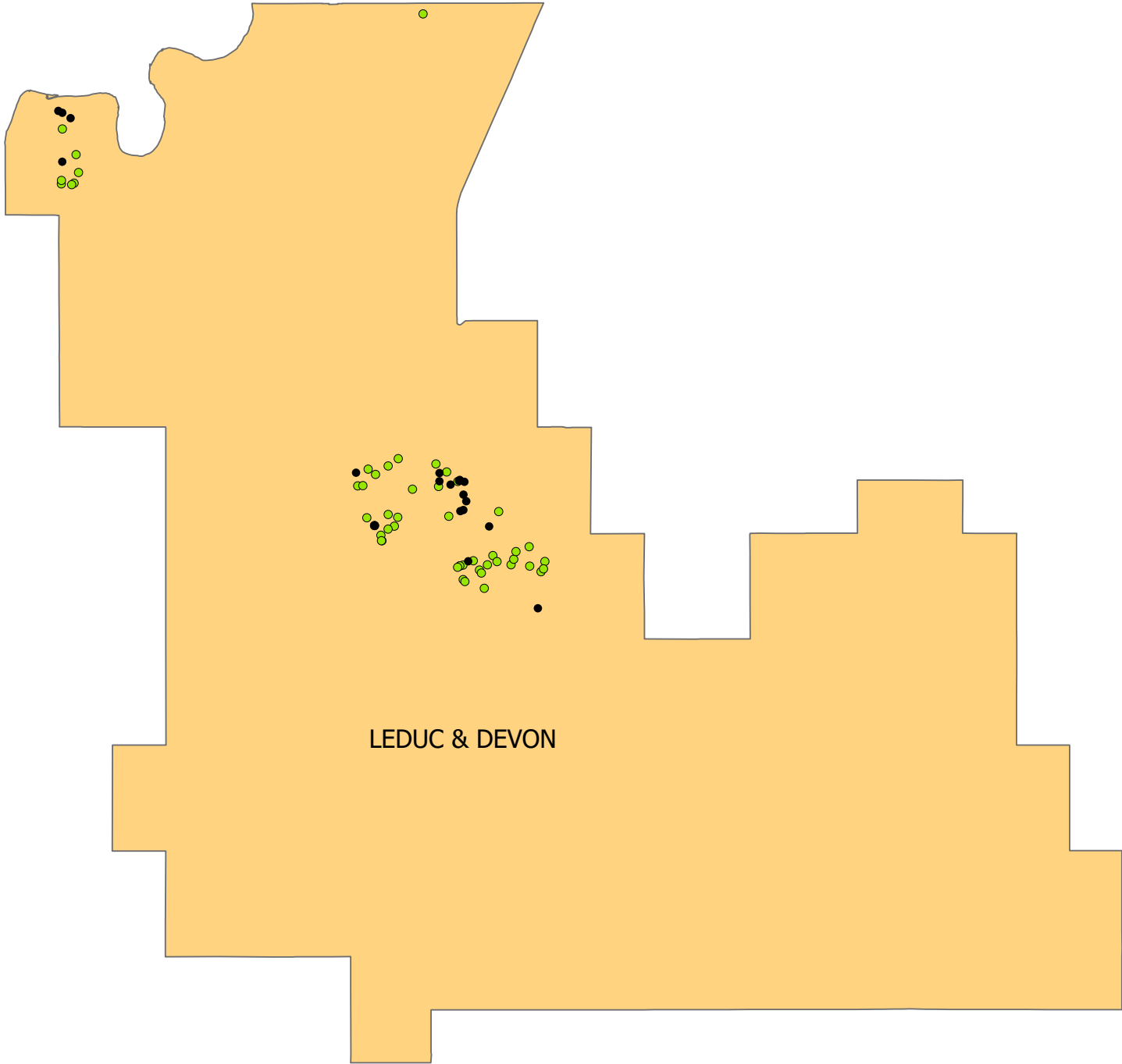
**Coverage rate**

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

# Child care coverage map: Edmonton, Edmonton region



# Child care coverage map: Leduc, Edmonton region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)

● Facility-Based Program Locations

● Family Day Home Provider Locations

# Child care coverage map: Sherwood Park and Strathcona County, Edmonton region



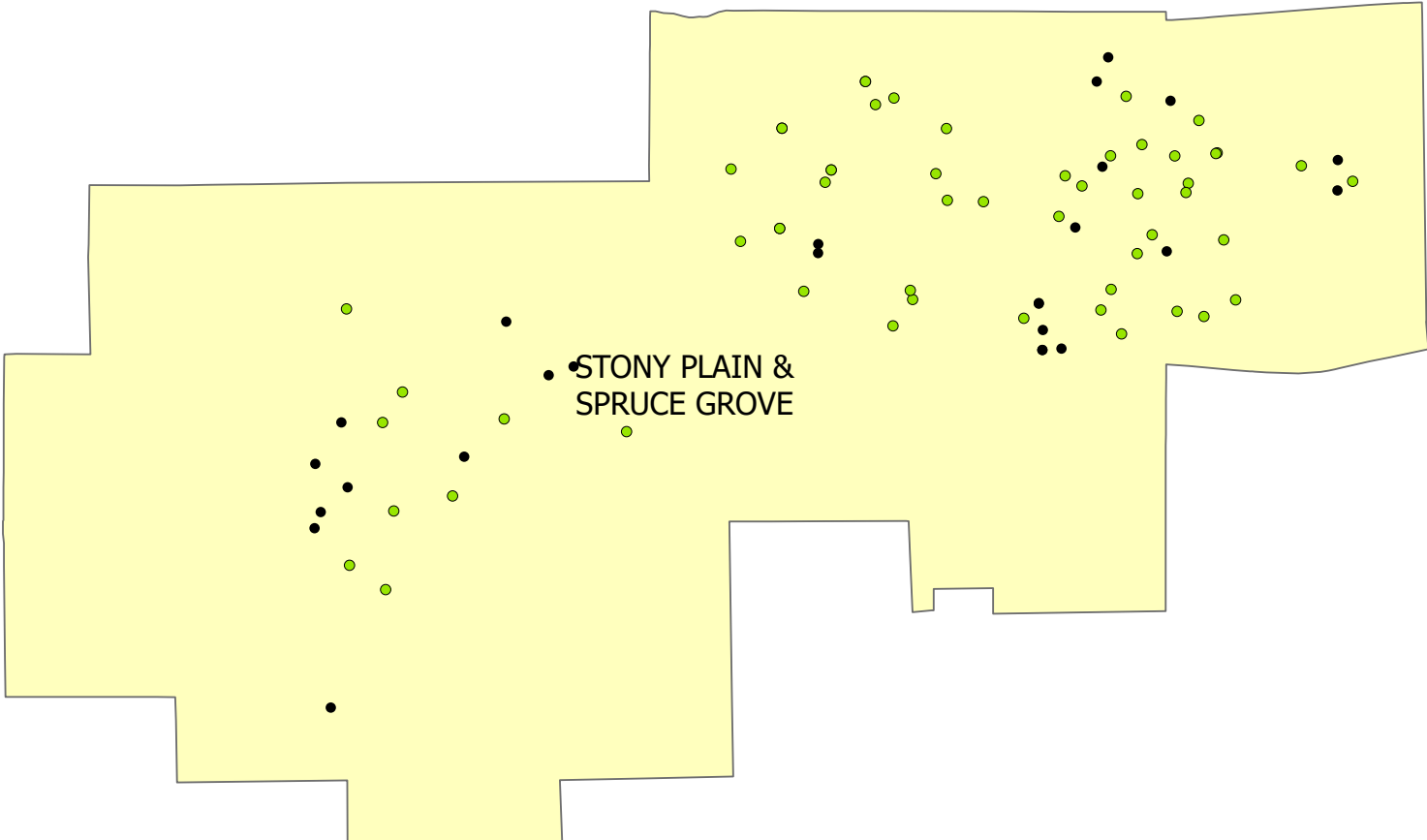
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● Facility-Based Program Locations

● Family Day Home Provider Locations

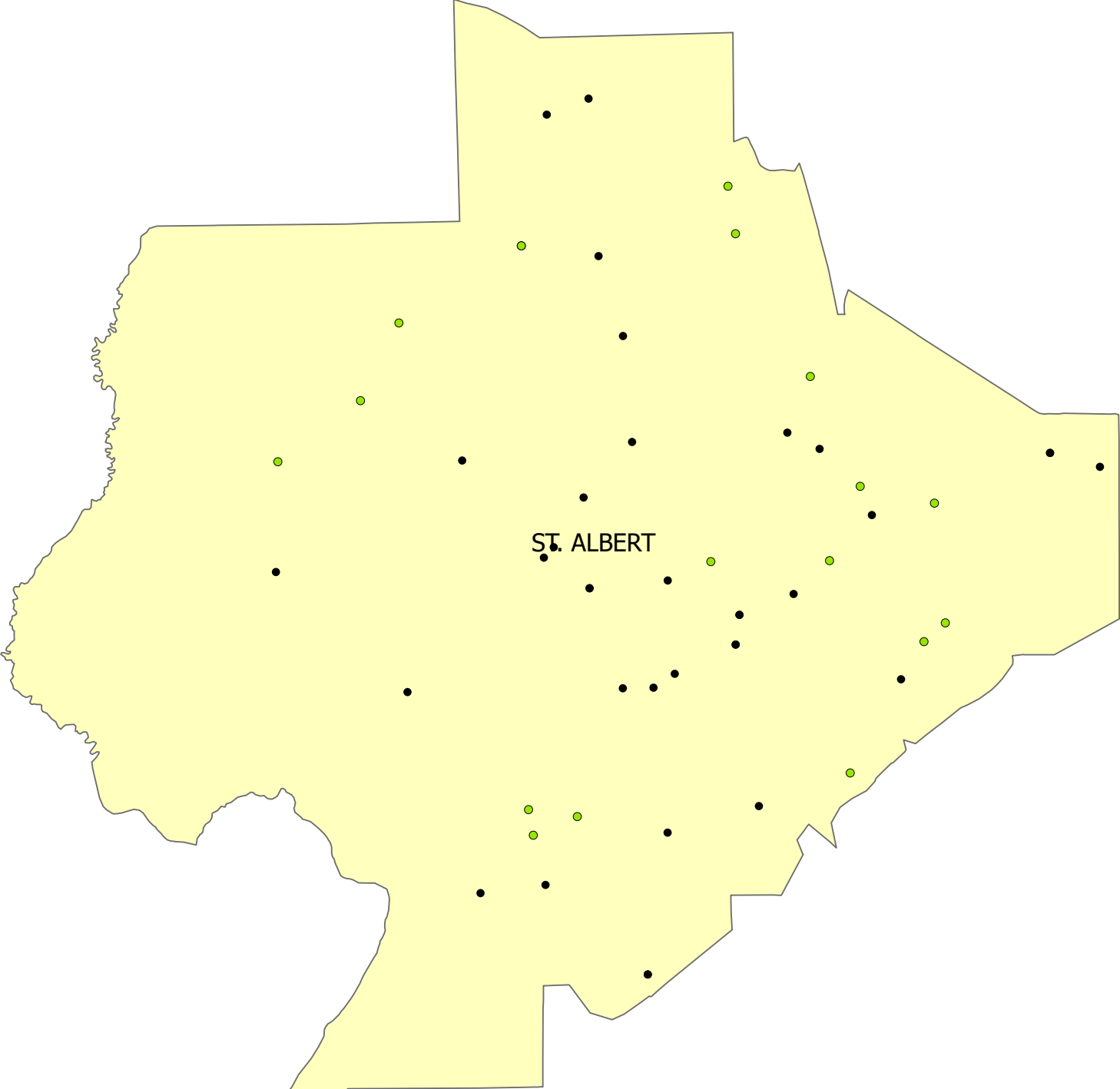
# Child care coverage map: Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, Edmonton region



Coverage rate

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- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

# Child care coverage map: St. Albert, Edmonton region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)

● Facility-Based Program Locations

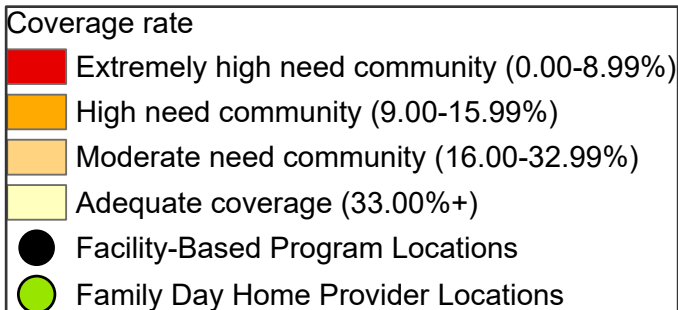
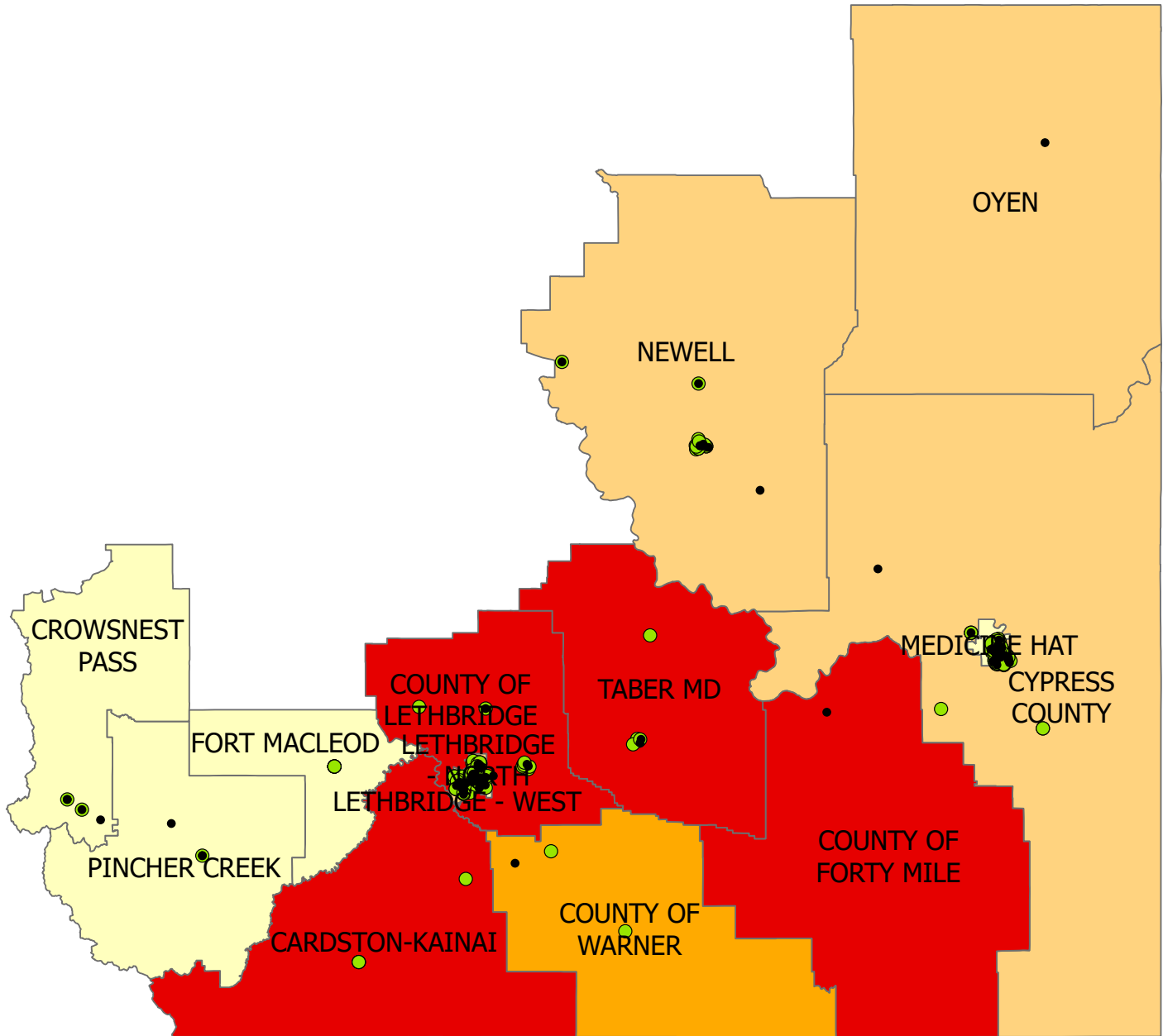
● Family Day Home Provider Locations



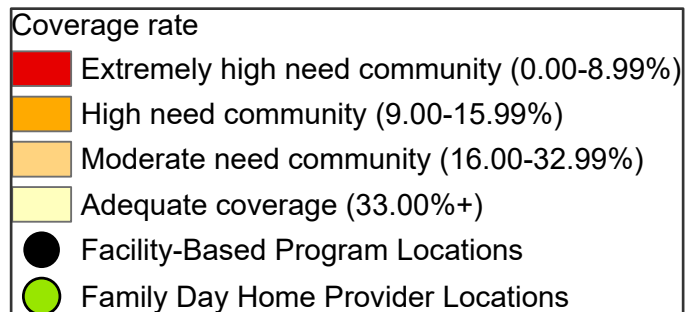
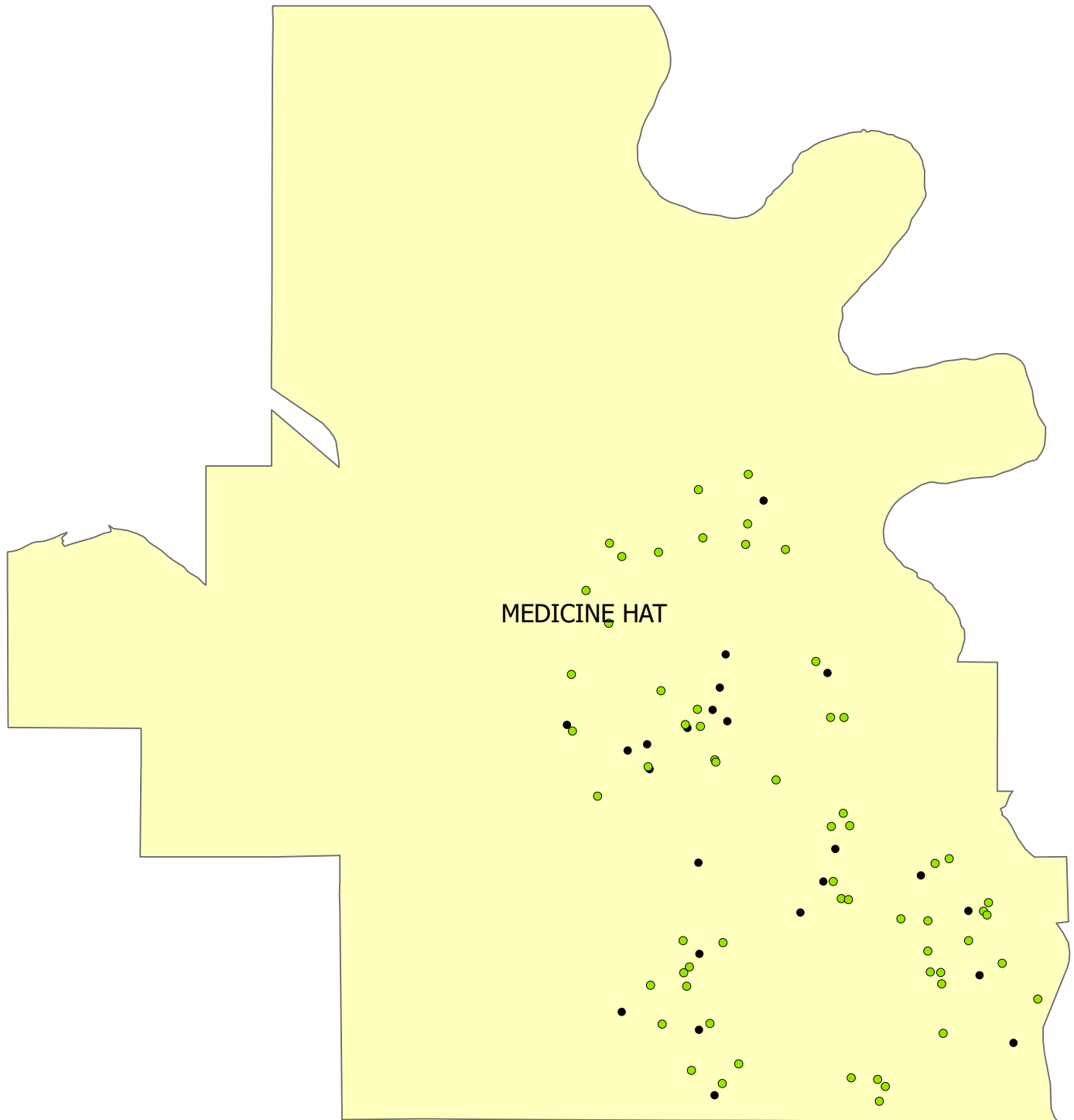
## Summary of south region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
CARDSTON-KAINAI	24	495	0%	5%	139
COUNTY OF FORTY MILE	24	620	0%	4%	181
COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE	173	2525	56%	7%	660
COUNTY OF WARNER	50	490	104%	10%	112
CROWSNEST PASS	119	110	107%	108%	-
CYPRESS COUNTY	192	690	65%	28%	36
FORT MACLEOD	96	115	123%	83%	-
LETHBRIDGE - NORTH	550	2130	162%	26%	153
LETHBRIDGE - SOUTH	1468	1970	93%	75%	-
LETHBRIDGE - WEST	688	3560	75%	19%	487
MEDICINE HAT	1653	4510	105%	37%	-
NEWELL	455	2180	87%	21%	264
OYEN	50	210	60%	24%	19
PINCHER CREEK	153	290	56%	53%	-
TABER MD	140	1870	119%	7%	477

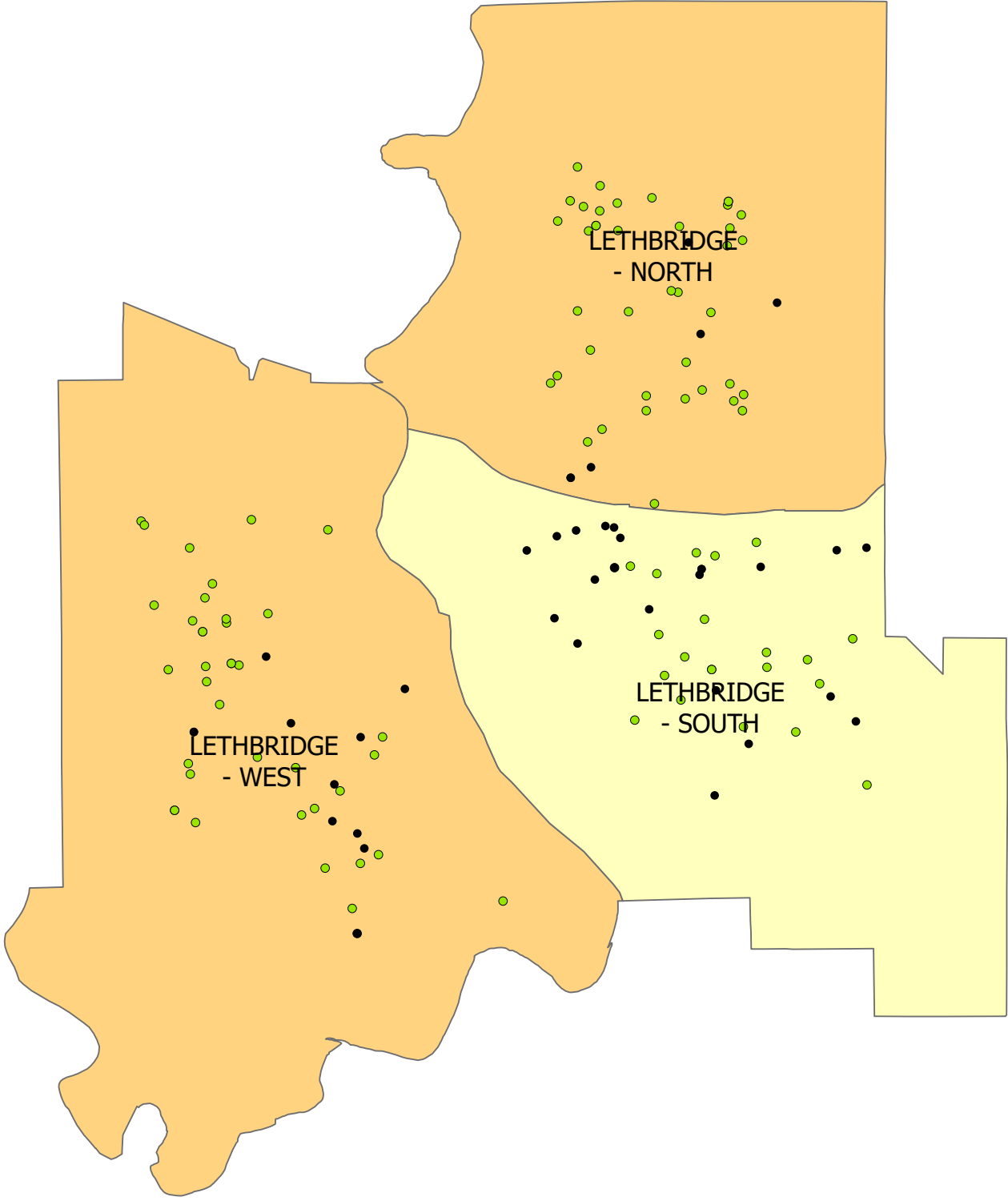
# Child care coverage map: south region



# Child care coverage map: Medicine Hat, south region



# Child care coverage map: Lethbridge, south region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
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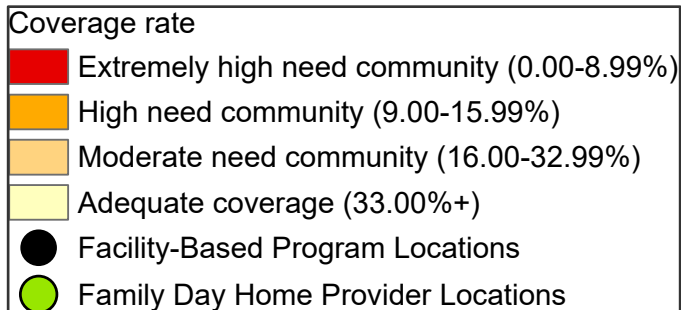
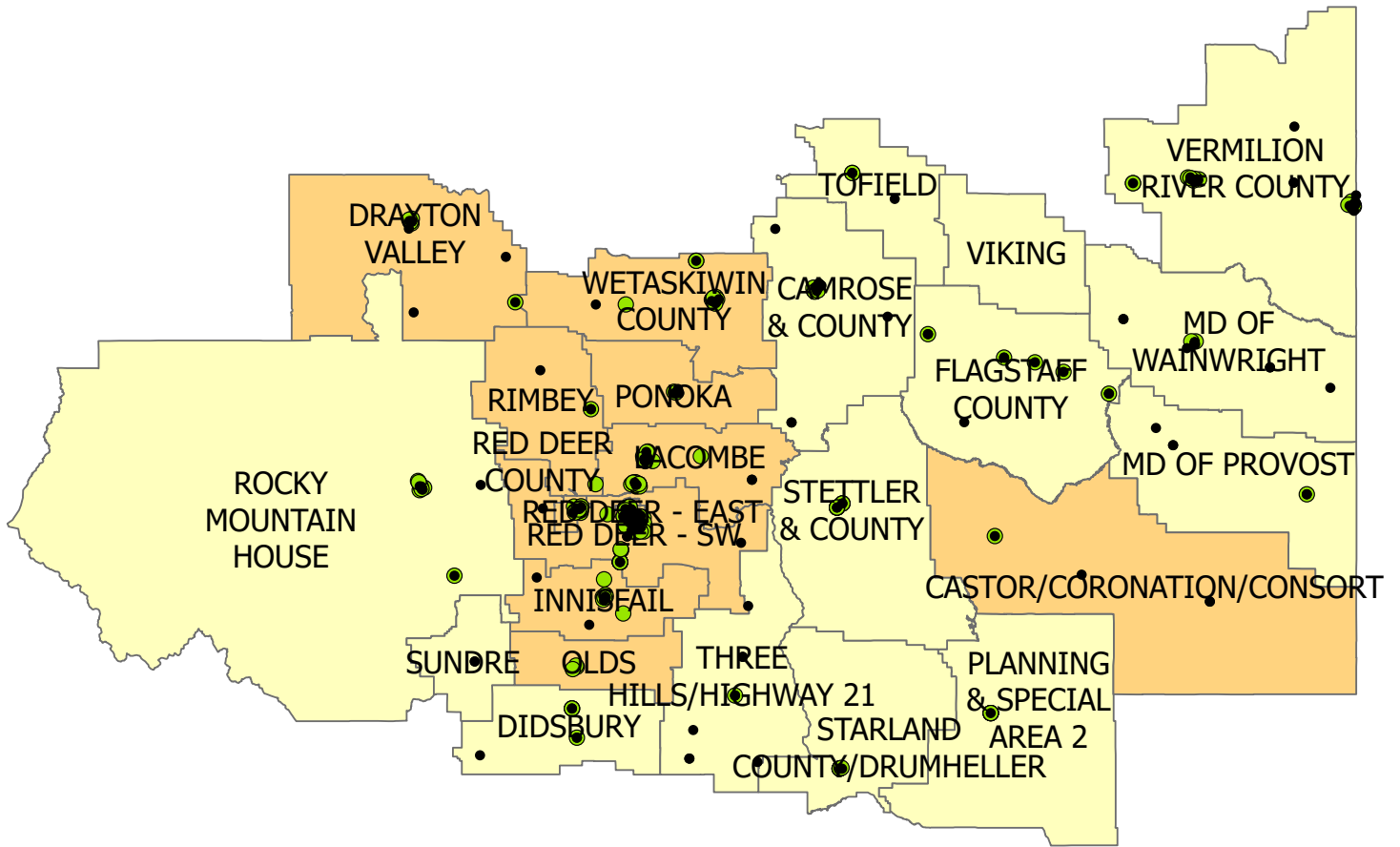
● Facility-Based Program Locations

● Family Day Home Provider Locations

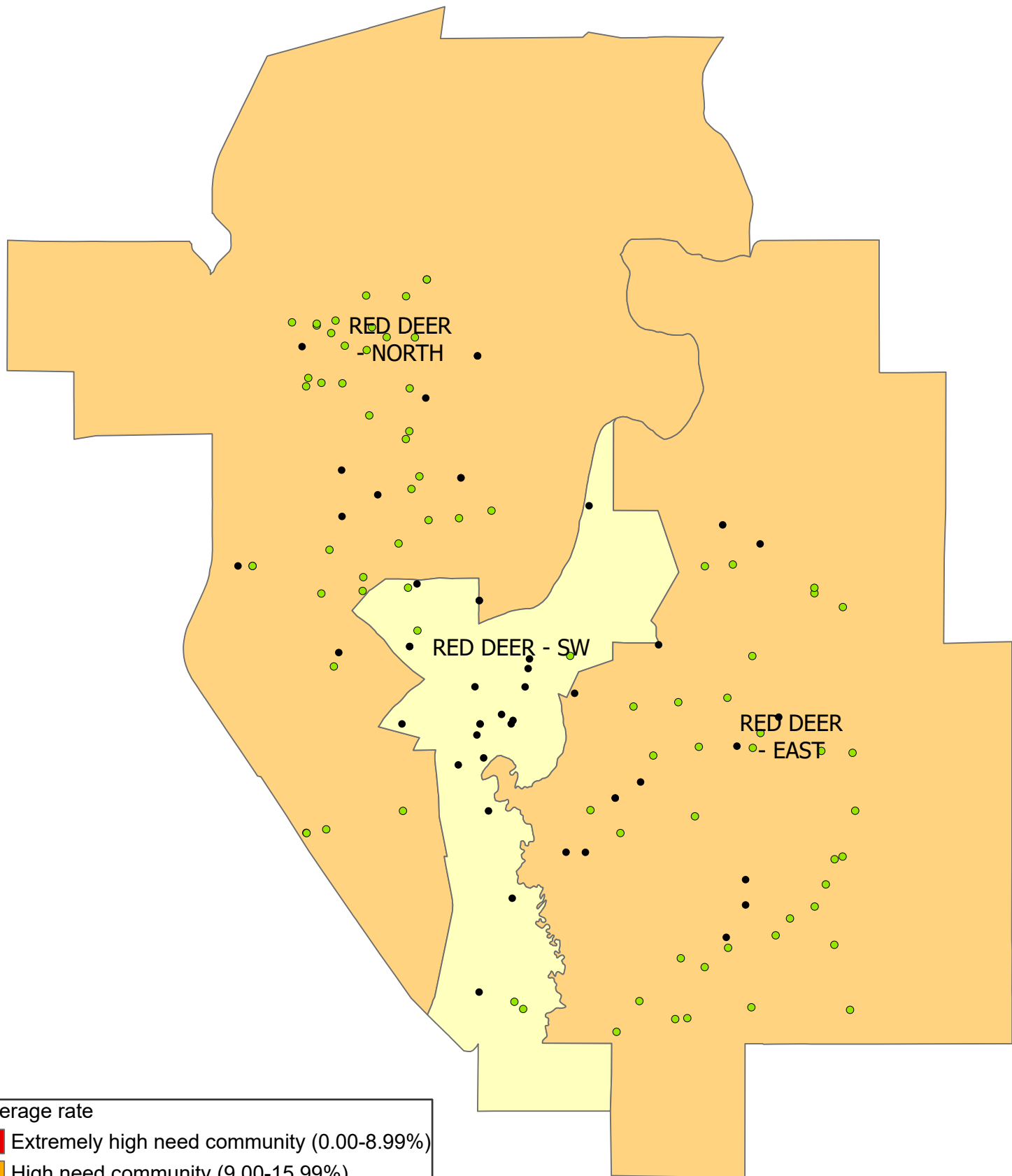
## Summary of central region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
CAMROSE & COUNTY	723	1805	97%	40%	-
CASTOR/CORONATION/CONSORT	92	285	114%	32%	2
DIDSBURY	339	370	139%	92%	-
DRAYTON VALLEY	264	1365	88%	19%	186
FLAGSTAFF COUNTY	257	185	68%	139%	-
INNISFAIL	245	970	139%	25%	75
LACOMBE	467	1615	118%	29%	66
MD OF PROVOST	214	210	109%	102%	-
MD OF WAINWRIGHT	668	960	64%	70%	-
OLDS	220	720	114%	31%	18
PLANNING & SPECIAL AREA 2	60	20	145%	300%	-
PONOKA	220	670	70%	33%	1
RED DEER - EAST	932	4220	84%	22%	461
RED DEER - NORTH	794	2700	115%	29%	97
RED DEER - SW	821	1165	98%	70%	-
RED DEER COUNTY	567	2565	101%	22%	279
RIMBEY	73	315	84%	23%	31
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE	322	975	119%	33%	-
STARLAND COUNTY/DRUMHELLER	178	305	88%	58%	-
STETTLER & COUNTY	232	455	103%	51%	-
SUNDRE	157	110	100%	143%	-
SYLVAN LAKE	314	1620	143%	19%	221
THREE HILLS/HIGHWAY 21	253	430	73%	59%	-
TOFIELD	144	225	83%	64%	-
VERMILION RIVER COUNTY	1513	2670	66%	57%	-
VIKING	76	110	51%	69%	-
WETASKIWIN COUNTY	435	1570	68%	28%	83

# Child care coverage map: central region



# Child care coverage map: Red Deer, central region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)

● Facility-Based Program Locations

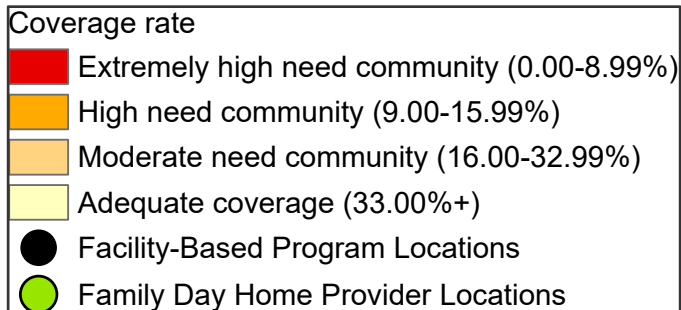
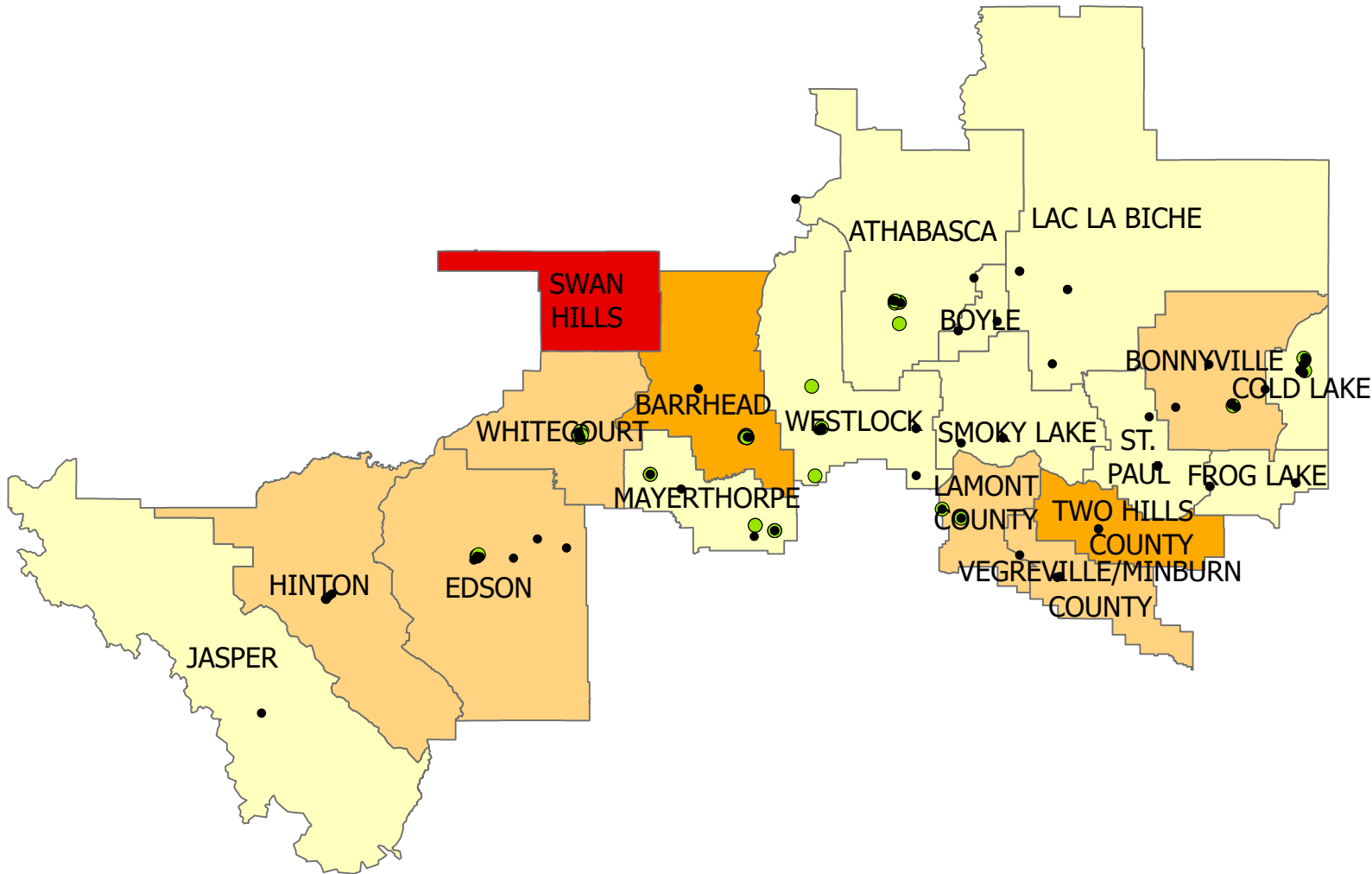
● Family Day Home Provider Locations

## Summary of north central region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
ATHABASCA	159	420	52%	38%	-
BARRHEAD	146	945	147%	15%	166
BONNYVILLE	306	1115	85%	27%	32
BOYLE	93	120	49%	78%	-
COLD LAKE	917	1875	81%	49%	-
EDSON	352	1220	77%	29%	51
FROG LAKE	122	130	57%	94%	-
HINTON	208	905	97%	23%	91
JASPER	119	45	75%	264%	-
LAC LA BICHE	385	190	59%	203%	-
LAMONT COUNTY	73	280	138%	26%	19
MAYERTHORPE	287	770	111%	37%	-
SMOKY LAKE	109	235	71%	46%	-
ST. PAUL	312	410	70%	76%	-
SWAN HILLS	0	10	-	0%	3
TWO HILLS COUNTY	45	455	69%	10%	105
VEGREVILLE/MINBURN COUNTY	176	595	38%	30%	20
WESTLOCK	316	845	74%	37%	-
WHITECOURT	280	1080	83%	26%	76



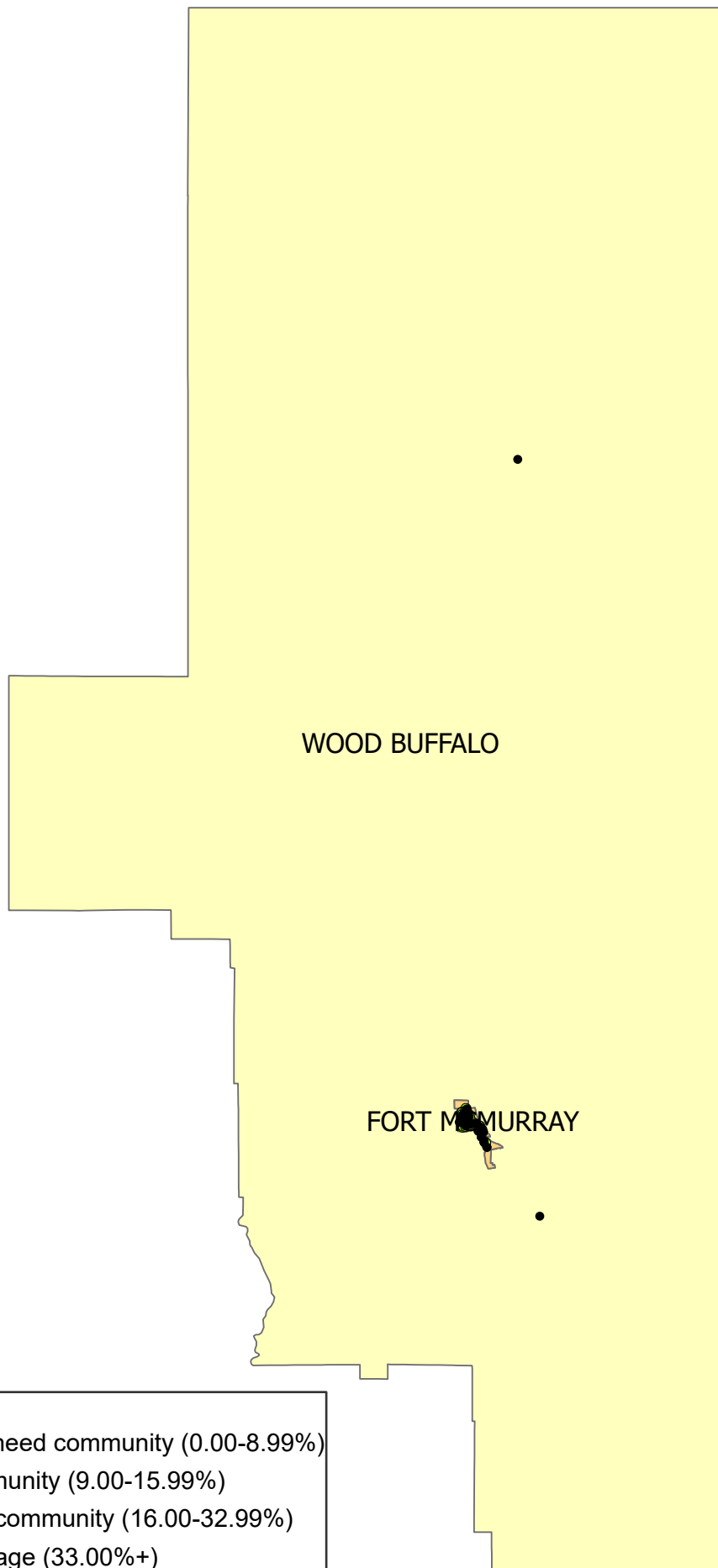
# Child care coverage map: north central region



## Summary of northeast region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
FORT MCMURRAY	1862	8125	84%	23%	819
WOOD BUFFALO	49	125	57%	39%	-

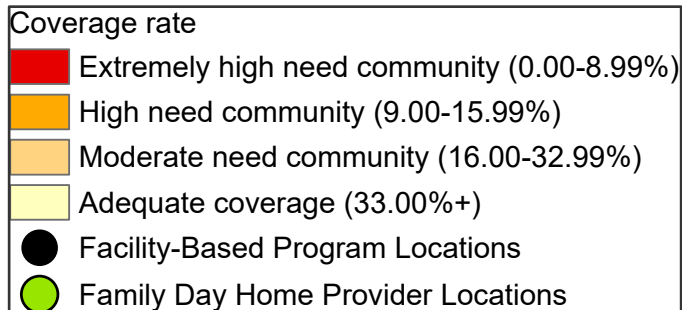
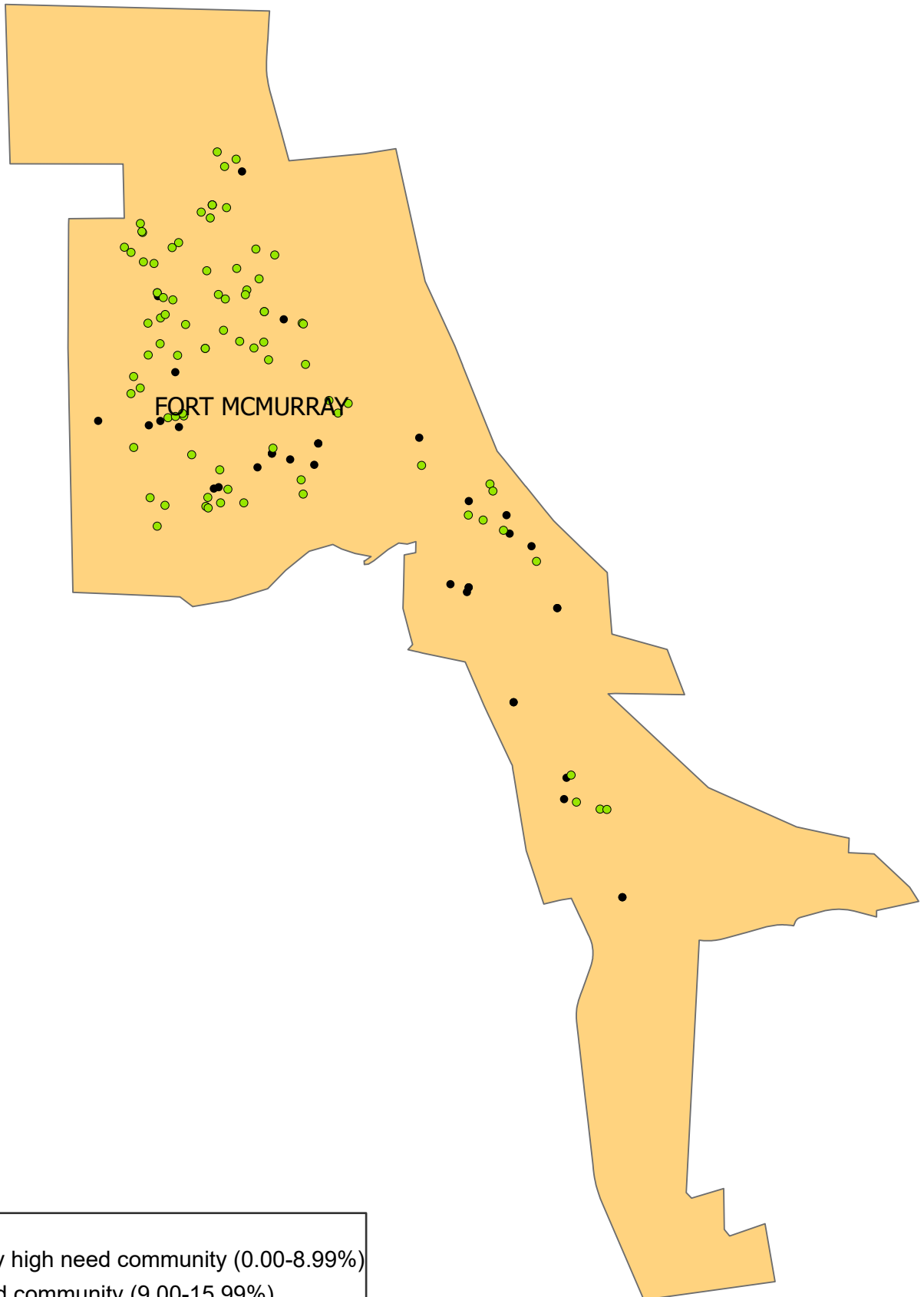
# Child care coverage map: northeast region



Coverage rate

- Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
- High need community (9.00-15.99%)
- Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

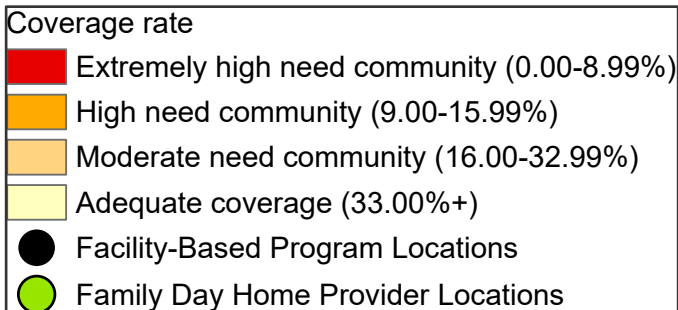
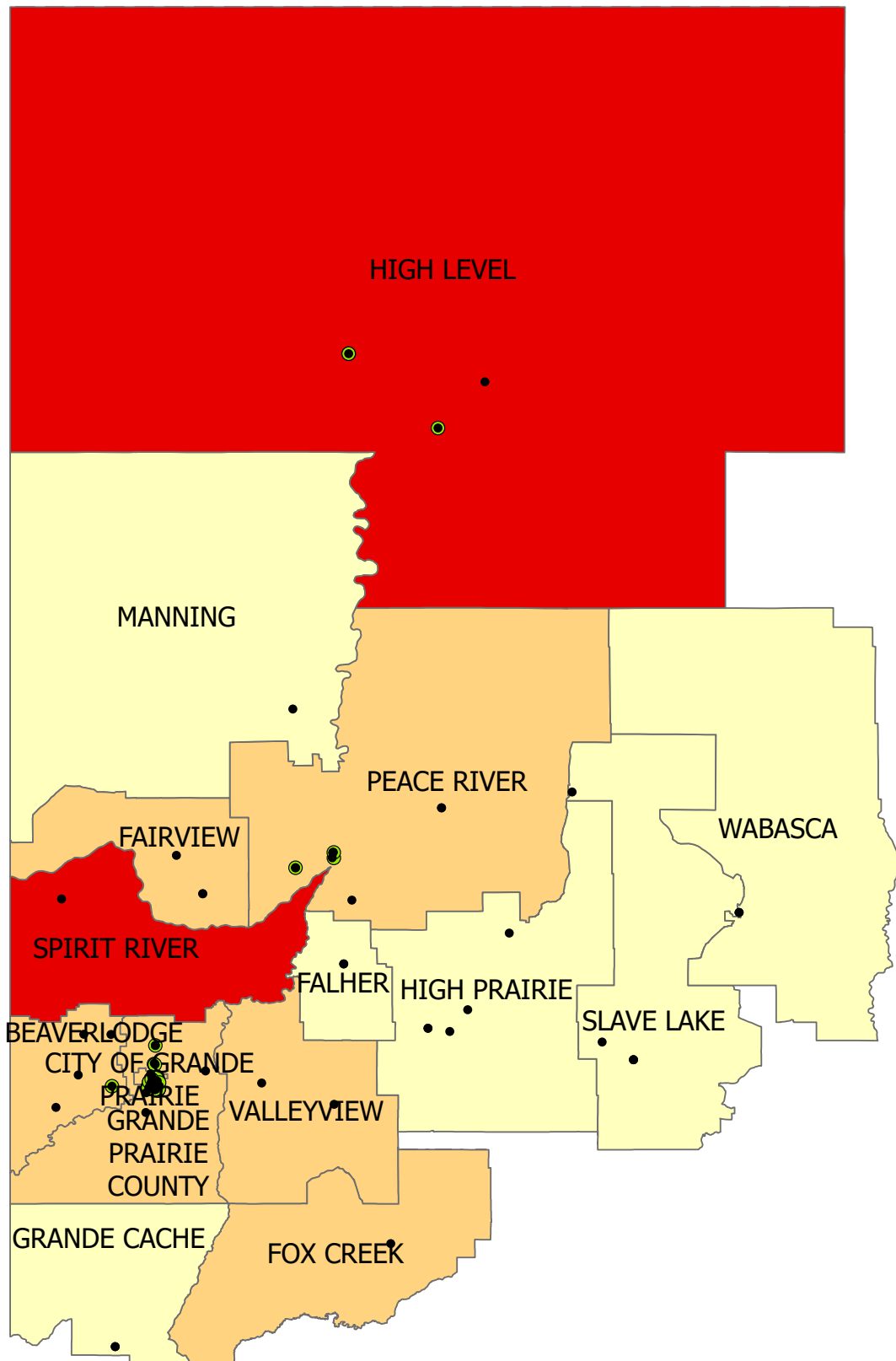
# Child care coverage map: Fort McMurray, northeast region



## Summary of northwest region community coverage

Community	Child Care Spaces (Dec 2023)	Total Child Population (Age 0-6)	Enrollment Rate (%)	Coverage Rate (%)	Spaces Required to Achieve 33%
BEAVERLODGE	122	535	71%	23%	55
CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	1484	6630	96%	22%	704
FAIRVIEW	102	320	133%	32%	4
FALHER	83	235	72%	35%	-
FOX CREEK	23	120	96%	19%	17
GRANDE CACHE	99	70	105%	141%	-
GRANDE PRAIRIE COUNTY	322	1845	95%	17%	287
HIGH LEVEL	97	2035	103%	5%	575
HIGH PRAIRIE	181	425	43%	43%	-
MANNING	78	185	85%	42%	-
PEACE RIVER	360	1290	79%	28%	66
SLAVE LAKE	226	595	69%	38%	-
SPIRIT RIVER	16	320	125%	5%	90
VALLEYVIEW	66	275	74%	24%	25
WABASCA	110	200	46%	55%	-

# Child care coverage map: northwest region



# Child care coverage map: Grande Prairie, northwest region

