
Community child care coverage in Alberta

Children and Family Services

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Definitions and methodology

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

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.¹ 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 in facility-based programs (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.
- This analysis does not account for available spaces and enrollment. 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. 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.”² 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 latitude and longitude coordinates.”³
 - o Some licensed family day home spaces are aggregated into the LGA of their corresponding family day home agency due to limited availability of individual home provider postal code information.
 - 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) or issues linking a postal code to a known geographic area.

Sources

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

¹ Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Internal Document.

² 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>

³ Government of Alberta. *PCTF Metadata*. Internal Document.

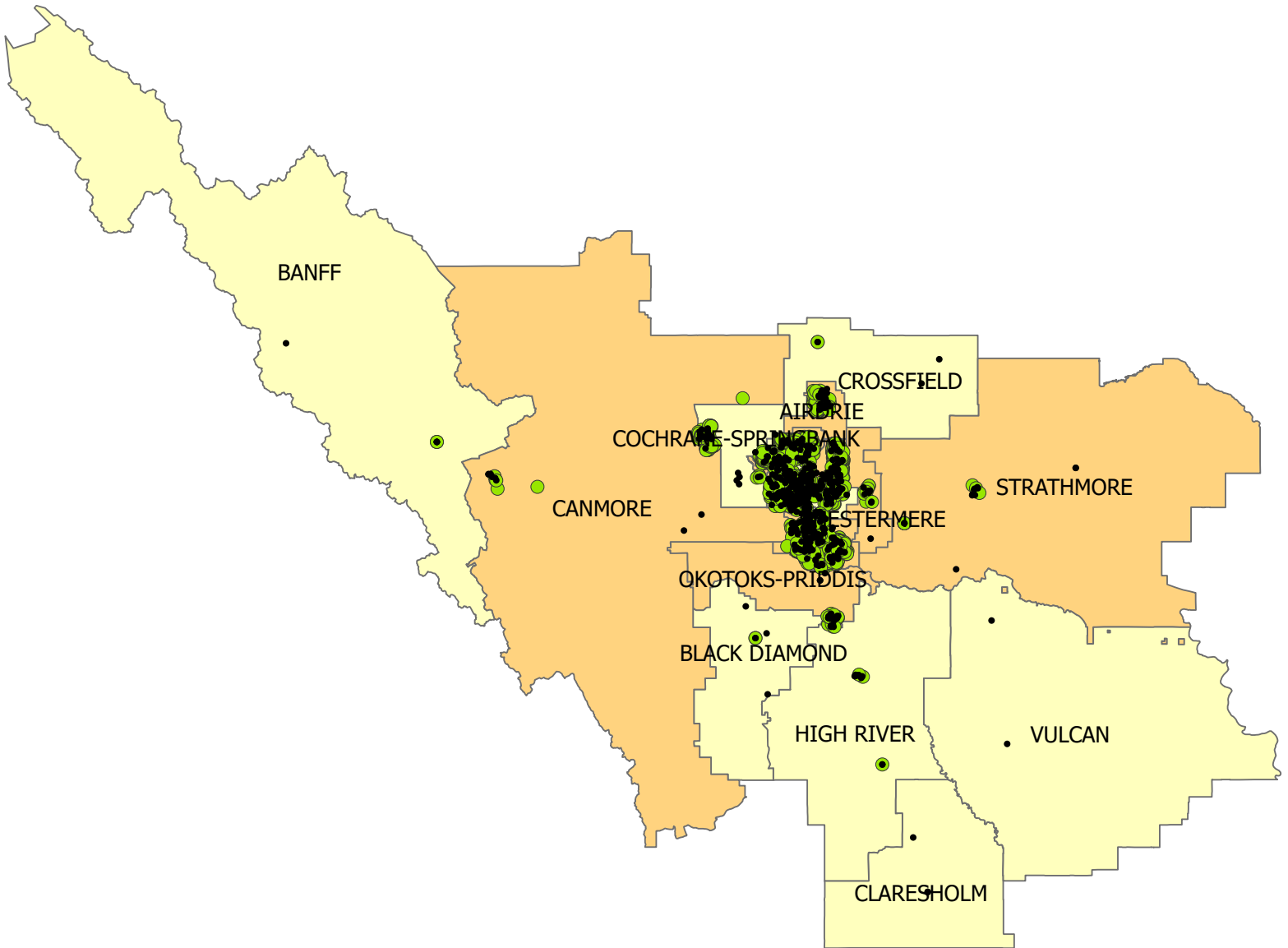
Summary of Alberta-wide community coverage

Coverage rates	Count	Percent
Extremely high need community (0% to 8.99% coverage)	10	8%
High need community (9.00% to 15.99% coverage)	2	2%
Moderate need community (16.00% to 32.99% coverage)	56	42%
Communities with adequate coverage (33.00% and higher)	64	48%
Total all communities	132	100%

Summary of Calgary region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
AIRDRIE	CALGARY	2705	8225	32.89%	9
BANFF	CALGARY	189	70	270.00%	-
BLACK DIAMOND	CALGARY	186	385	48.31%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE	CALGARY	3107	3035	102.37%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE NORTH	CALGARY	1336	3000	44.53%	-
CALGARY - CENTRE WEST	CALGARY	1721	5230	32.91%	5
CALGARY - EAST	CALGARY	2153	5115	42.09%	-
CALGARY - ELBOW	CALGARY	688	2435	28.25%	116
CALGARY - FISH CREEK	CALGARY	3384	7555	44.79%	-
CALGARY - LOWER NE	CALGARY	1587	7465	21.26%	876
CALGARY - LOWER NW	CALGARY	1107	4310	25.68%	315
CALGARY - NORTH	CALGARY	2763	10985	25.15%	862
CALGARY - NOSE HILL	CALGARY	3029	5785	52.36%	-
CALGARY - SE	CALGARY	3367	14340	23.48%	1365
CALGARY - SW	CALGARY	2731	9475	28.82%	396
CALGARY - UPPER NE	CALGARY	3051	12675	24.07%	1132
CALGARY - UPPER NW	CALGARY	3201	9570	33.45%	-
CALGARY - WEST	CALGARY	2371	6845	34.64%	-
CALGARY - WEST BOW	CALGARY	476	1665	28.59%	73
CANMORE	CALGARY	376	1565	24.03%	140
CHESTERMERE	CALGARY	618	2235	27.65%	120
CLARESHOLM	CALGARY	117	90	130.00%	-
COCHRANE-SPRINGBANK	CALGARY	1464	4110	35.62%	-
CROSSFIELD	CALGARY	139	405	34.32%	-
HIGH RIVER	CALGARY	451	1365	33.04%	-
OKOTOKS-PRIDDIS	CALGARY	1055	4110	25.67%	301
STRATHMORE	CALGARY	522	2590	20.15%	333
VULCAN	CALGARY	71	195	36.41%	-

Child care coverage map: Calgary region



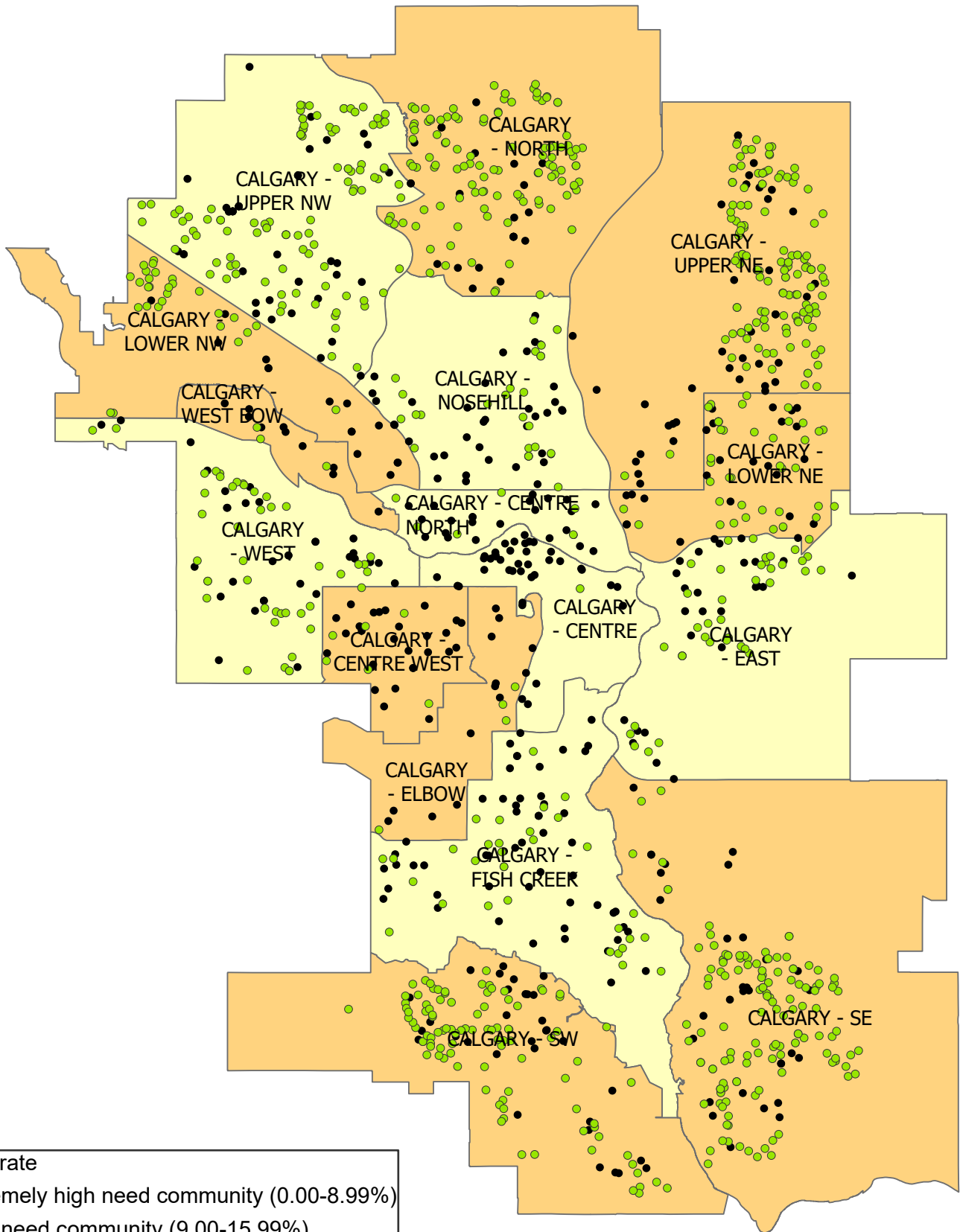
Coverage rate

- 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

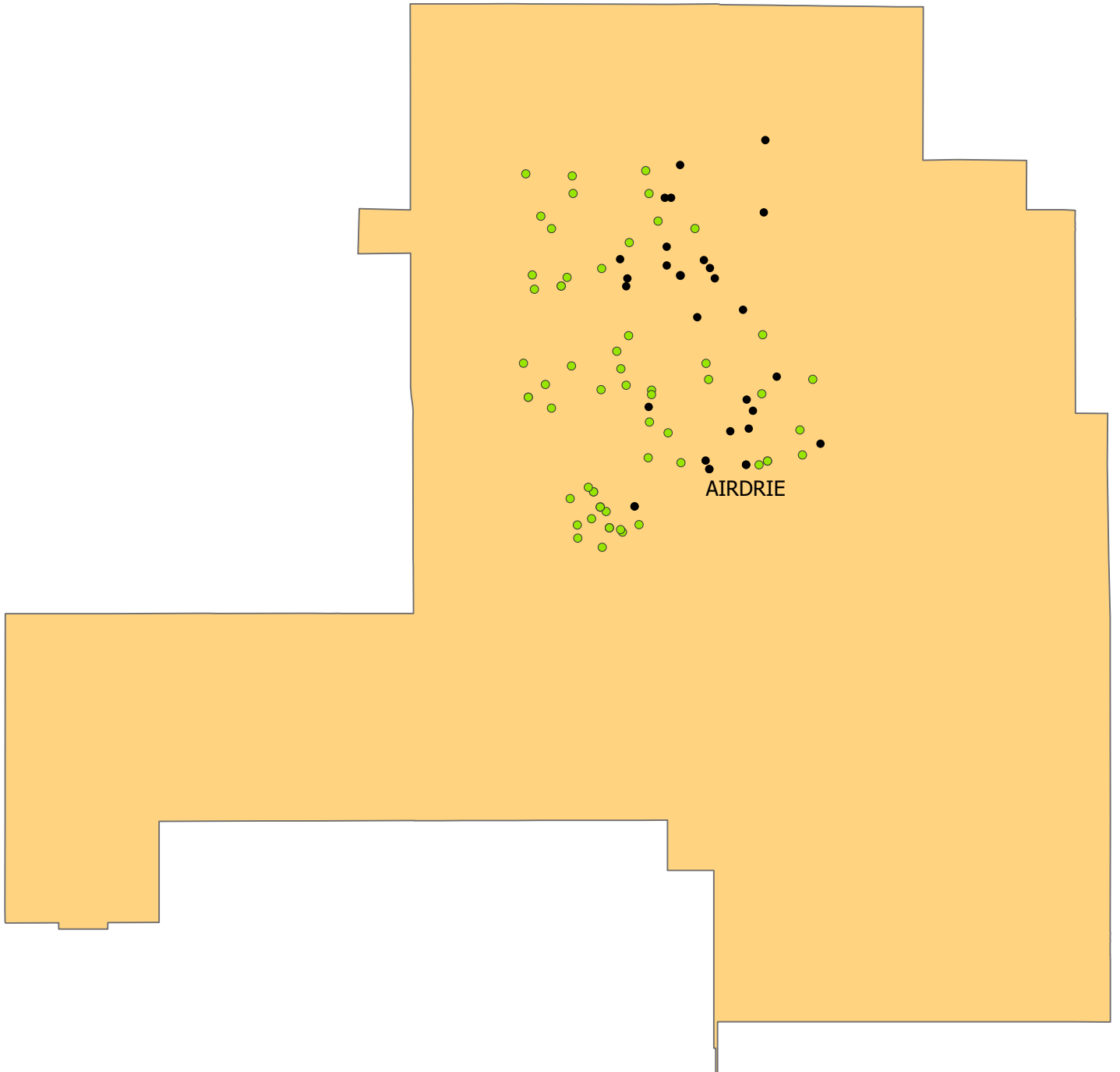
Child care coverage map: Calgary, Calgary region



Coverage rate

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

Child care coverage map: Airdrie, Calgary region



Coverage rate

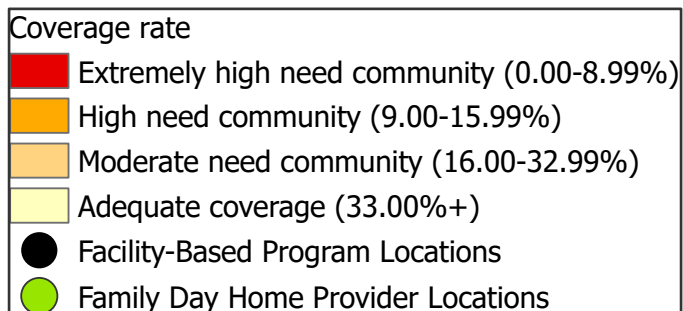
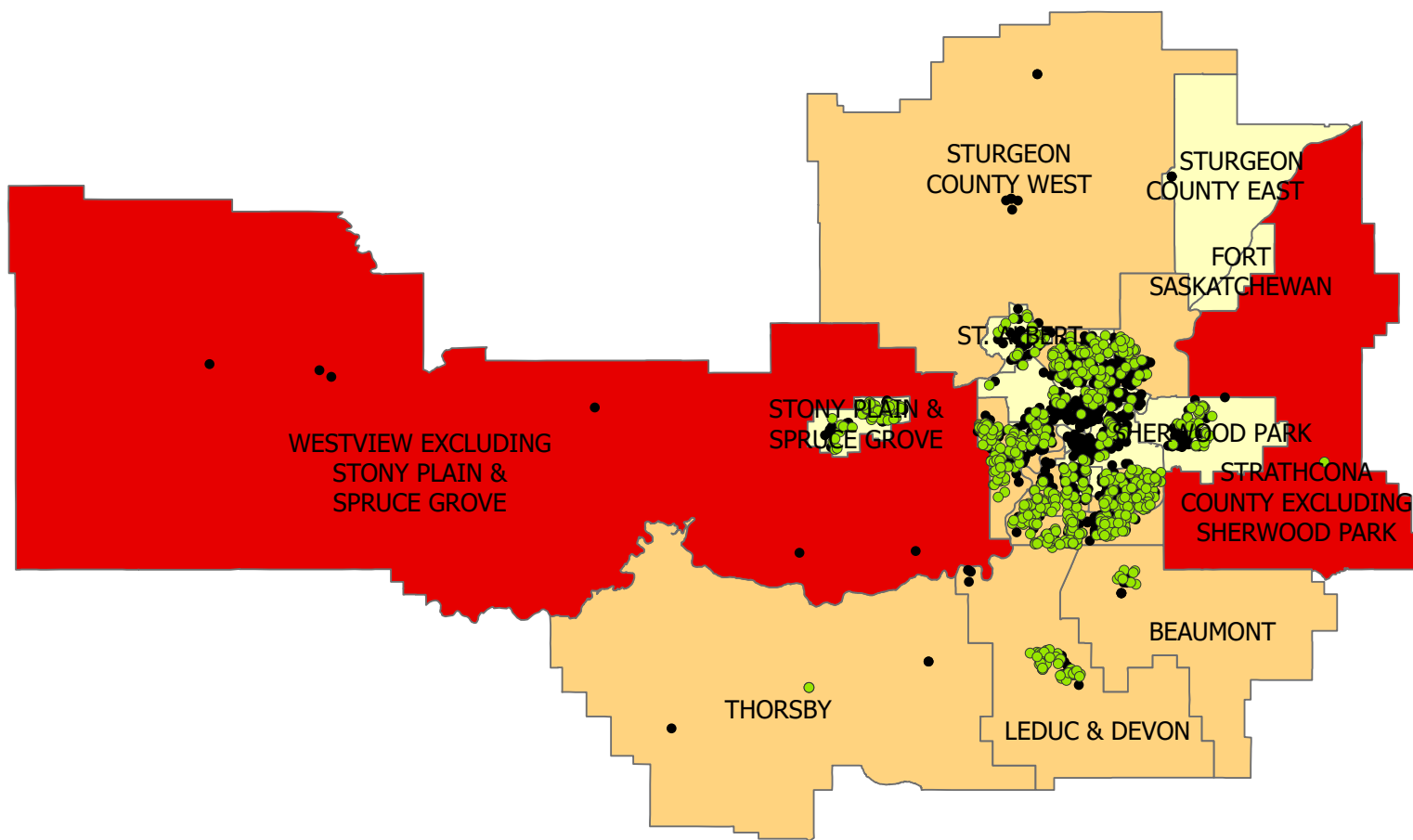
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- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

Summary of Edmonton region community coverage

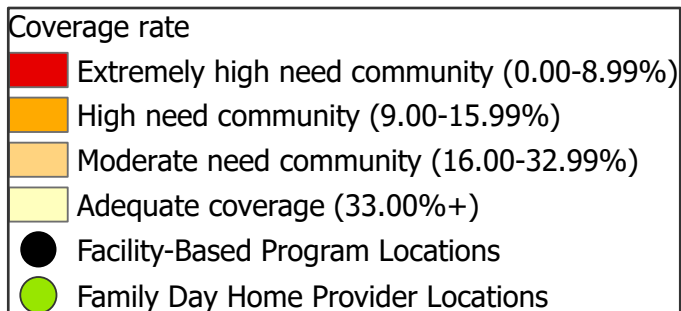
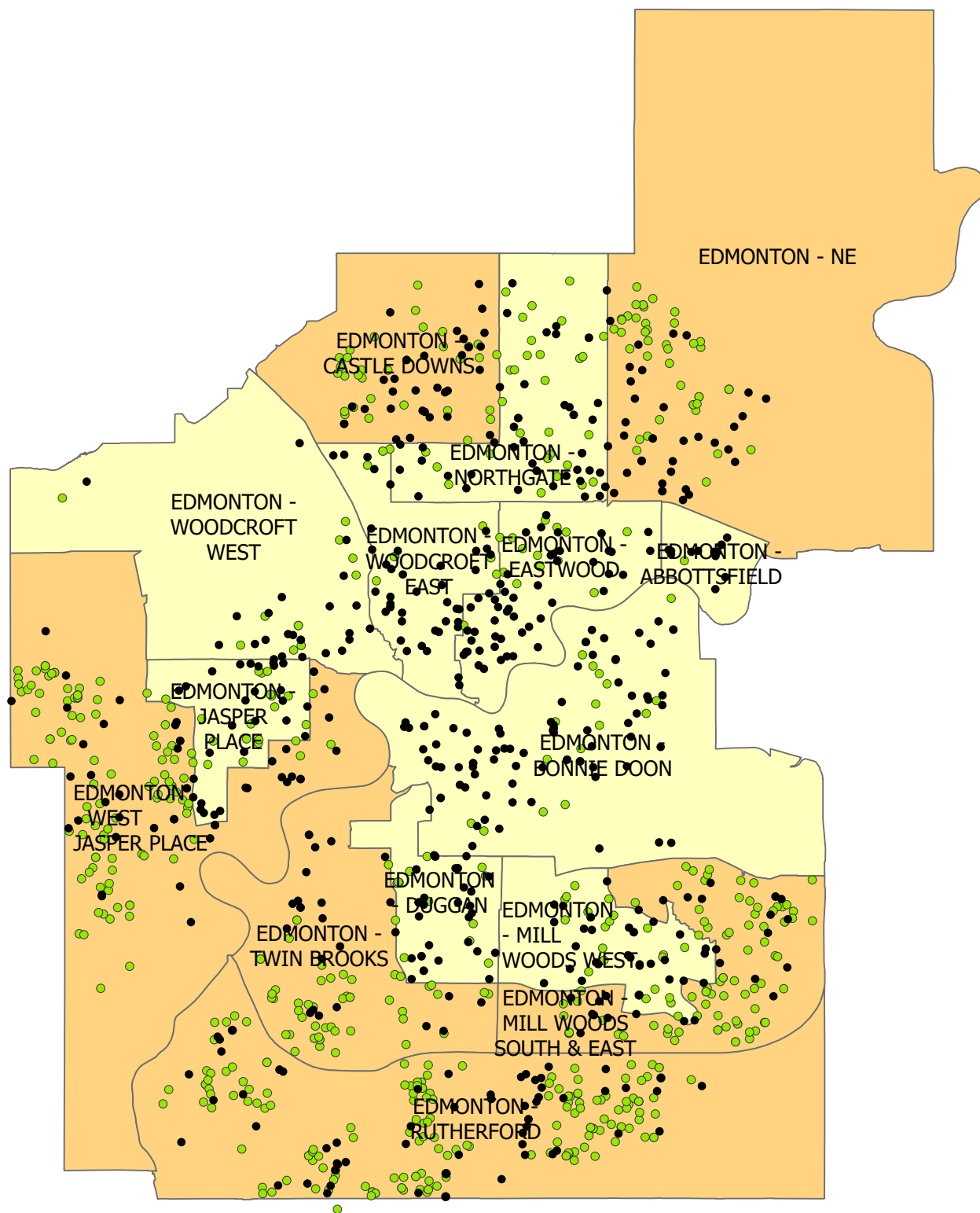
Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
BEAUMONT	EDMONTON	916	2800	32.71%	8
EDMONTON - ABBOTTSFIELD	EDMONTON	477	1105	43.17%	-
EDMONTON - BONNIE DOON	EDMONTON	3603	5465	65.93%	-
EDMONTON - CASTLE DOWNS	EDMONTON	1831	6855	26.71%	431
EDMONTON - DUGGAN	EDMONTON	1363	2595	52.52%	-
EDMONTON - EASTWOOD	EDMONTON	2776	3410	81.41%	-
EDMONTON - JASPER PLACE	EDMONTON	1641	3225	50.88%	-
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS SOUTH & EAST	EDMONTON	1670	7825	21.34%	912
EDMONTON - MILL WOODS WEST	EDMONTON	1687	3975	42.44%	-
EDMONTON - NE	EDMONTON	2159	9075	23.79%	836
EDMONTON - NORTHGATE	EDMONTON	2301	6690	34.39%	-
EDMONTON - RUTHERFORD	EDMONTON	4865	16345	29.76%	529
EDMONTON - TWIN BROOKS	EDMONTON	1480	4910	30.14%	140
EDMONTON - WEST JASPER PLACE	EDMONTON	2874	9940	28.91%	406
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT EAST	EDMONTON	1676	3665	45.73%	-
EDMONTON - WOODCROFT WEST	EDMONTON	1277	2935	43.51%	-
FORT SASKATCHEWAN	EDMONTON	976	2685	36.35%	-
LEDUC & DEVON	EDMONTON	950	4050	23.46%	387
SHERWOOD PARK	EDMONTON	2377	5680	41.85%	-
ST. ALBERT	EDMONTON	2191	4900	44.71%	-
STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	EDMONTON	1926	5035	38.25%	-
STRATHCONA COUNTY EXCLUDING SHERWOOD PARK	EDMONTON	38	2975	1.28%	944

STURGEON COUNTY EAST	EDMONTON	104	250	41.60%	-
STURGEON COUNTY WEST	EDMONTON	483	2480	19.48%	335
THORSBY	EDMONTON	113	505	22.38%	54
WESTVIEW EXCLUDING STONY PLAIN & SPRUCE GROVE	EDMONTON	214	2810	7.62%	713

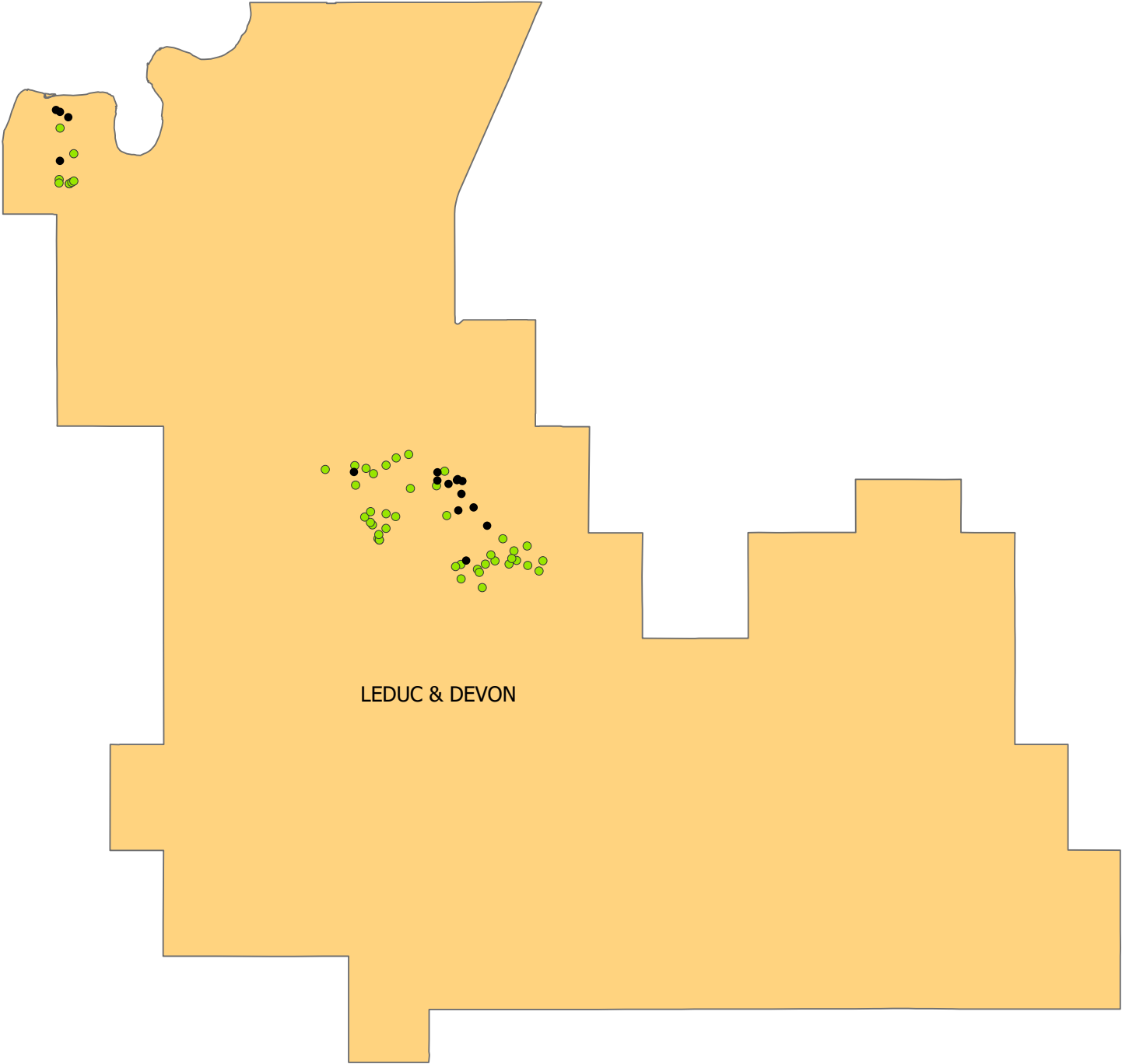
Child care coverage map: Edmonton region



Child care coverage map: Edmonton, Edmonton region



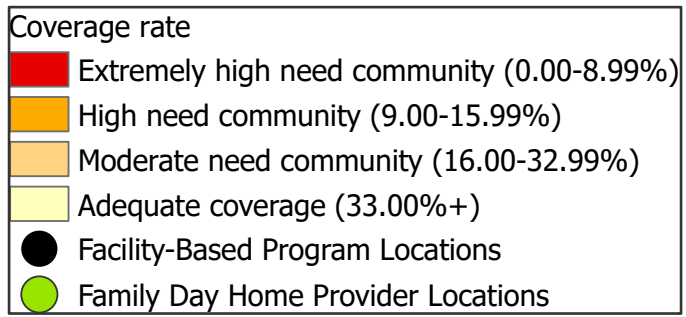
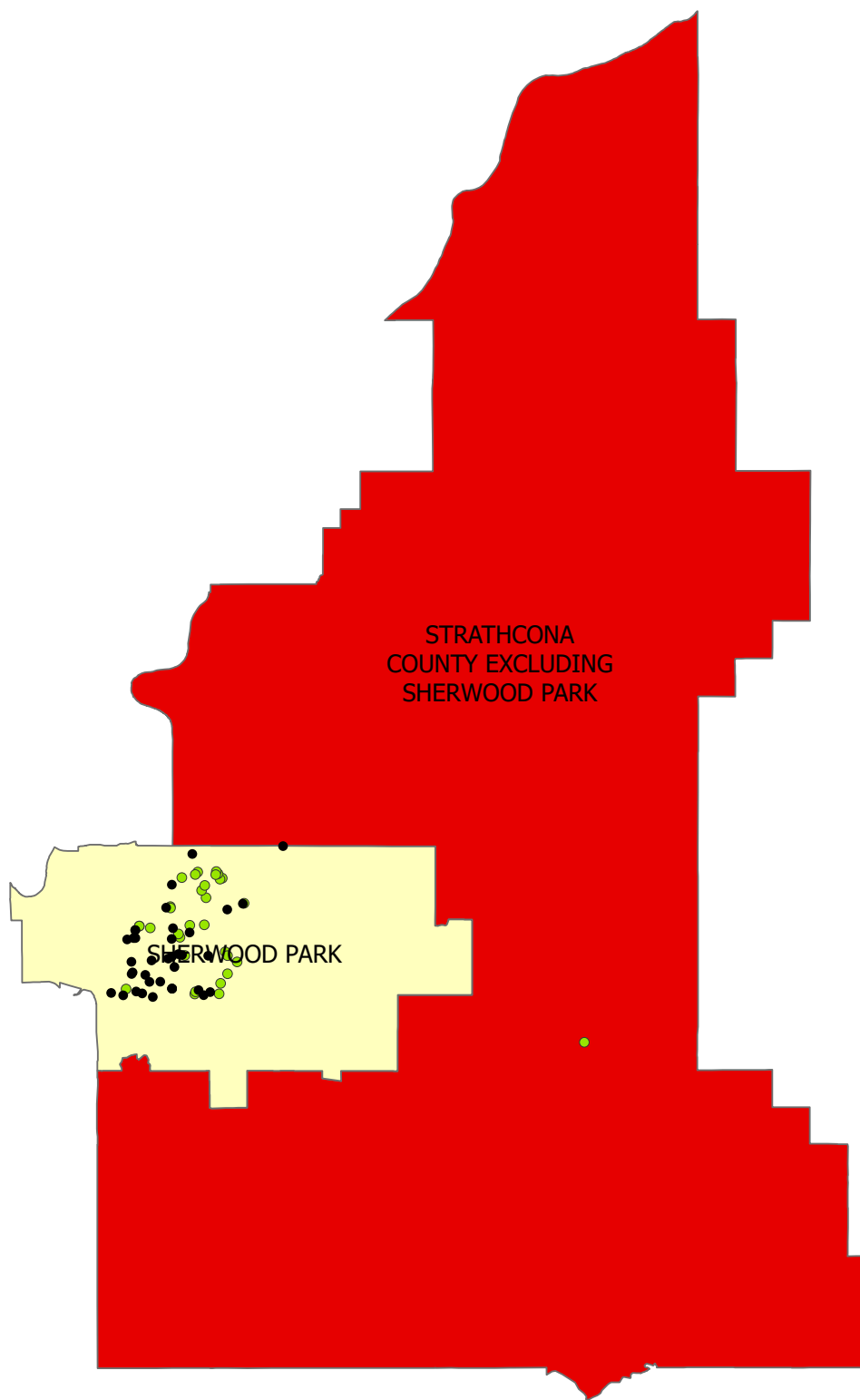
Child care coverage map: Leduc, Edmonton region



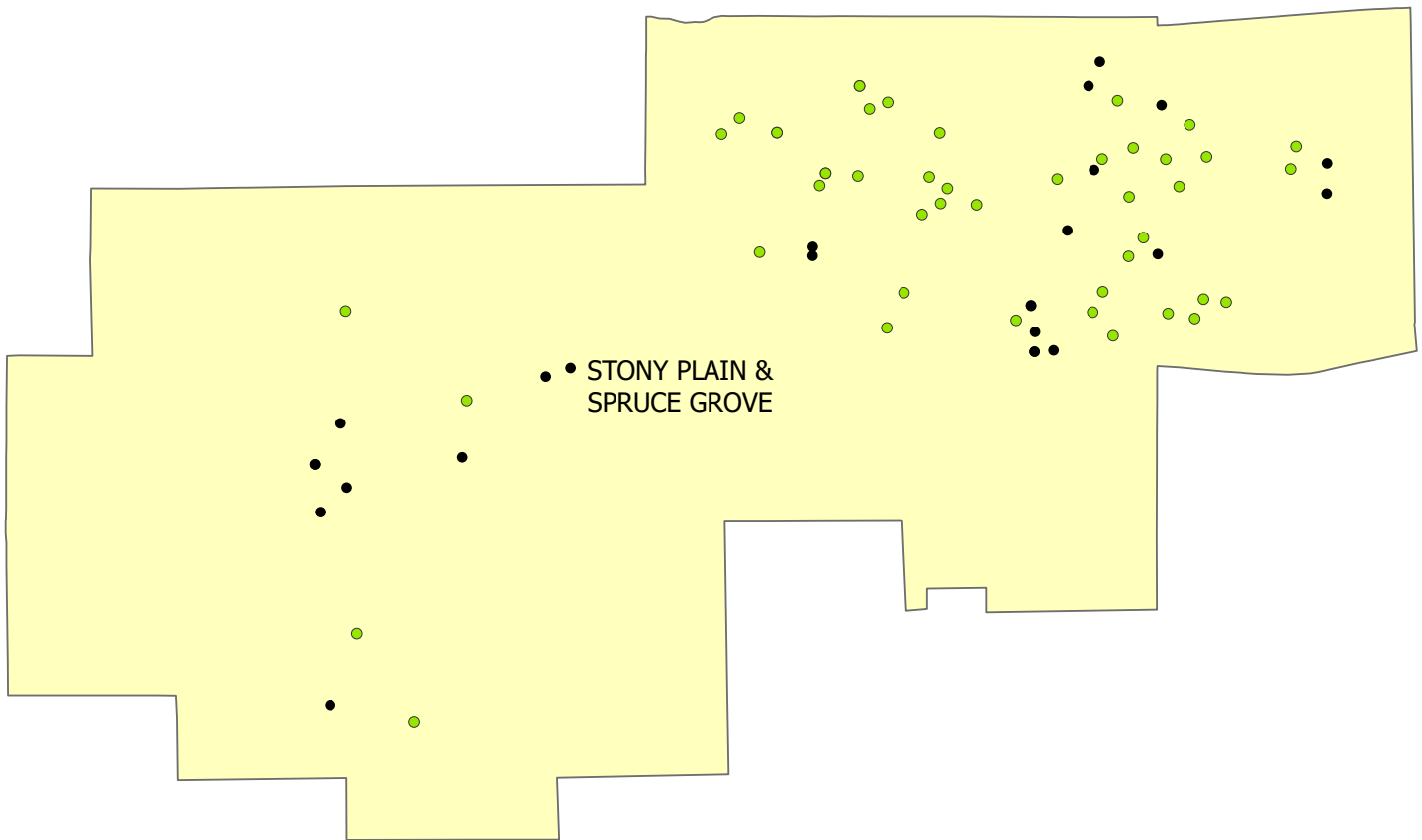
Coverage rate

- 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



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



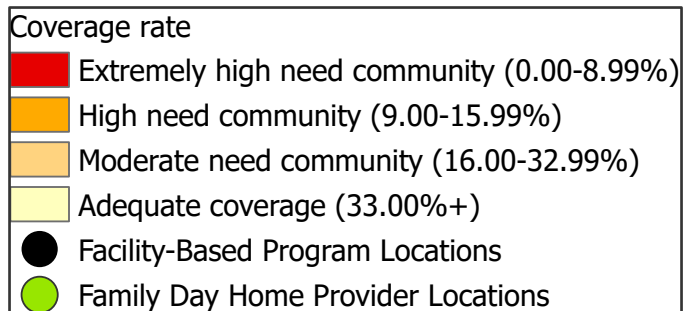
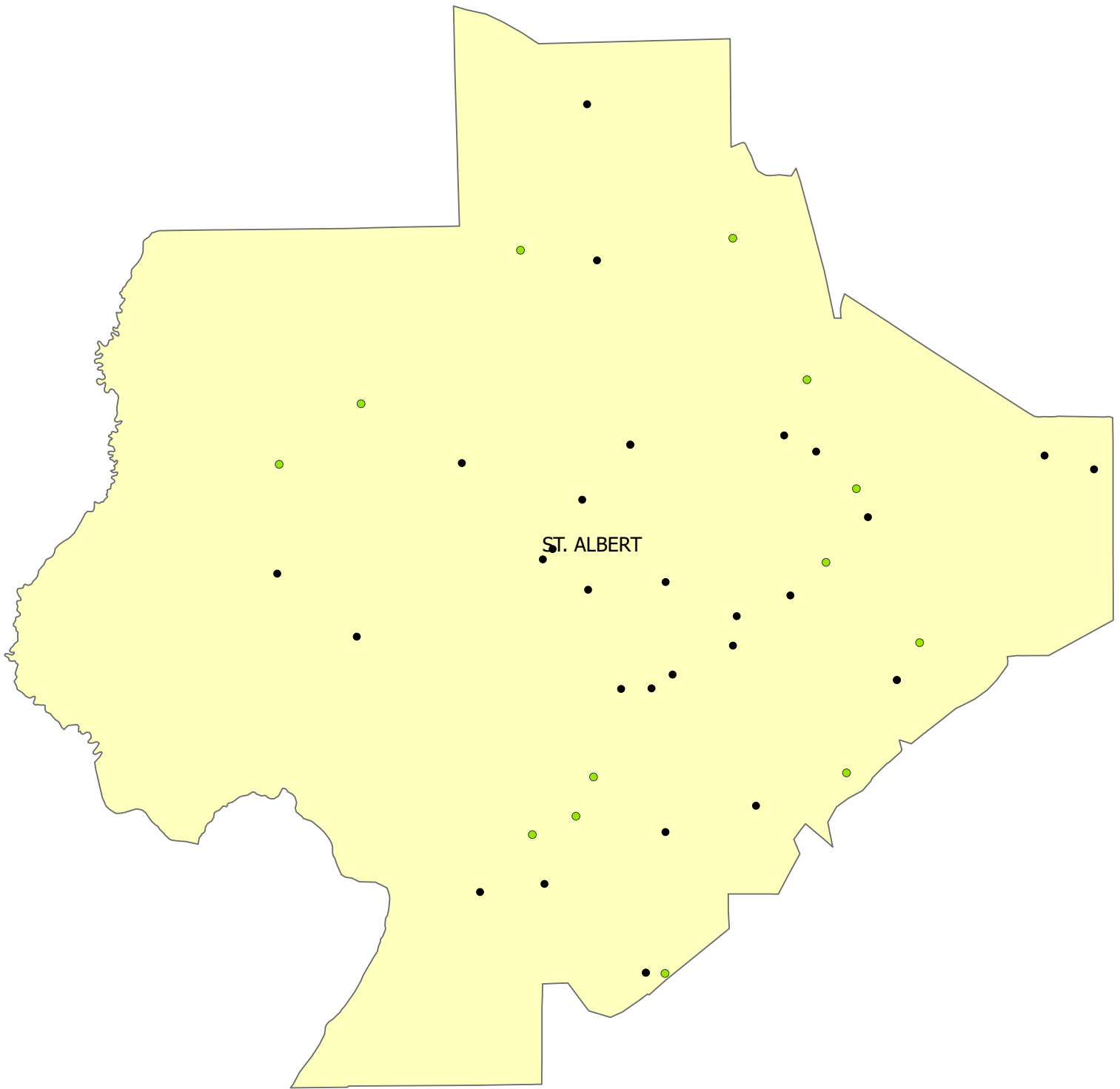
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● Facility-Based Program Locations

● Family Day Home Provider Locations

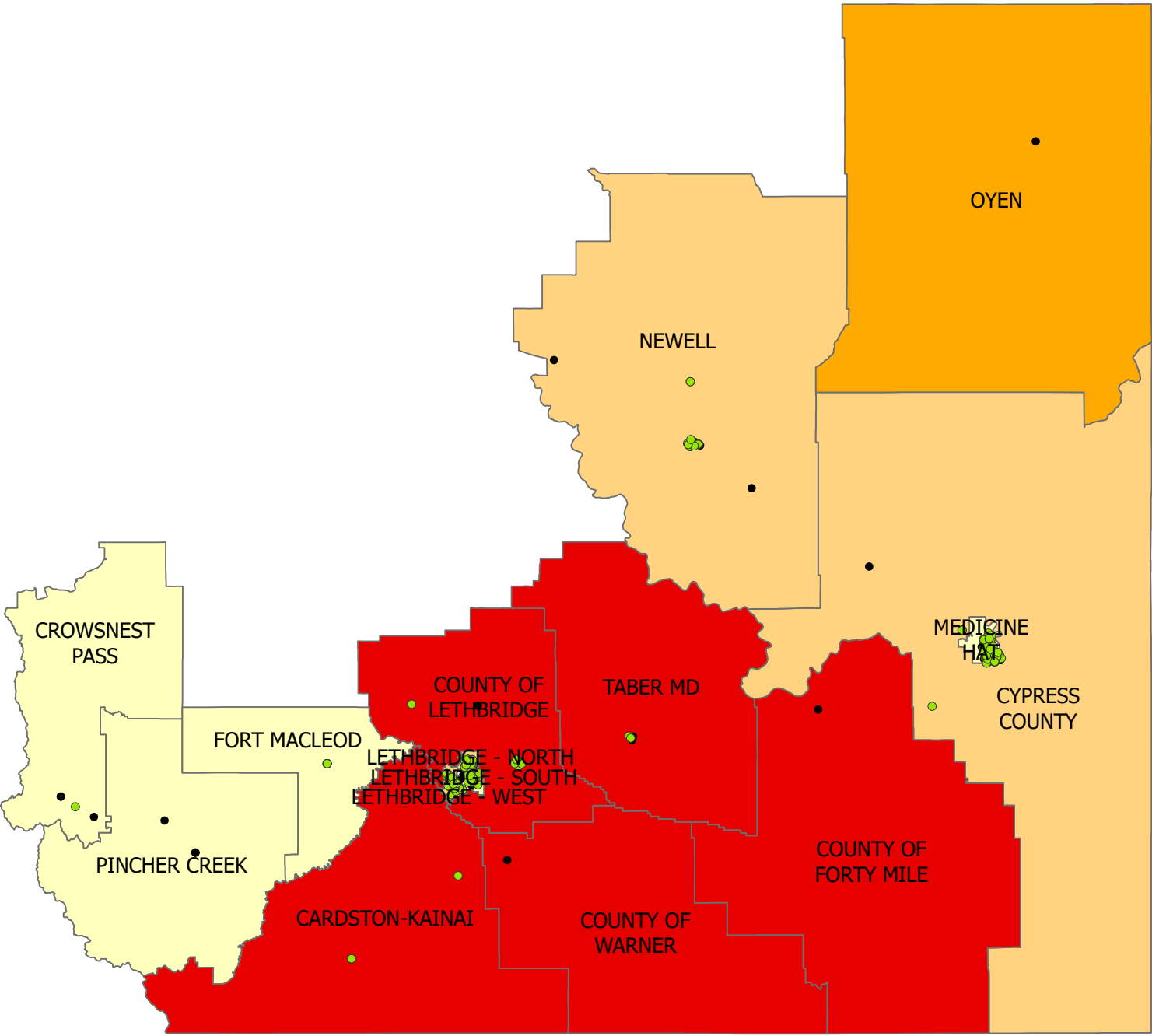
Child care coverage map: St. Albert, Edmonton region



Summary of south region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
CARDSTON-KAINAI	SOUTH	24	495	4.85%	139
COUNTY OF FORTY MILE	SOUTH	24	620	3.87%	181
COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE	SOUTH	124	2525	4.91%	709
COUNTY OF WARNER	SOUTH	38	490	7.76%	124
CROWSNEST PASS	SOUTH	113	110	102.73%	-
CYPRESS COUNTY	SOUTH	166	690	24.06%	62
FORT MACLEOD	SOUTH	96	115	83.48%	-
LETHBRIDGE - NORTH	SOUTH	538	2130	25.26%	165
LETHBRIDGE - SOUTH	SOUTH	1411	1970	71.62%	-
LETHBRIDGE - WEST	SOUTH	662	3560	18.60%	513
MEDICINE HAT	SOUTH	1755	4510	38.91%	-
NEWELL	SOUTH	418	2180	19.17%	301
OYEN	SOUTH	25	210	11.90%	44
PINCHER CREEK	SOUTH	147	290	50.69%	-
TABER MD	SOUTH	140	1870	7.49%	477

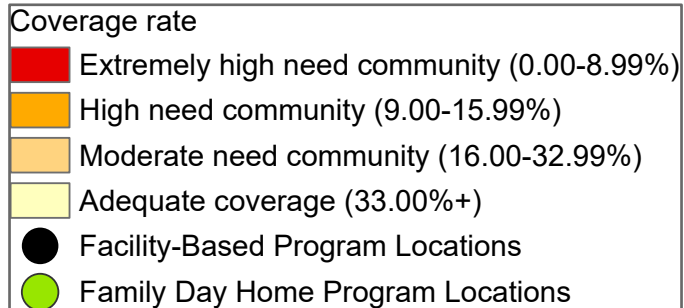
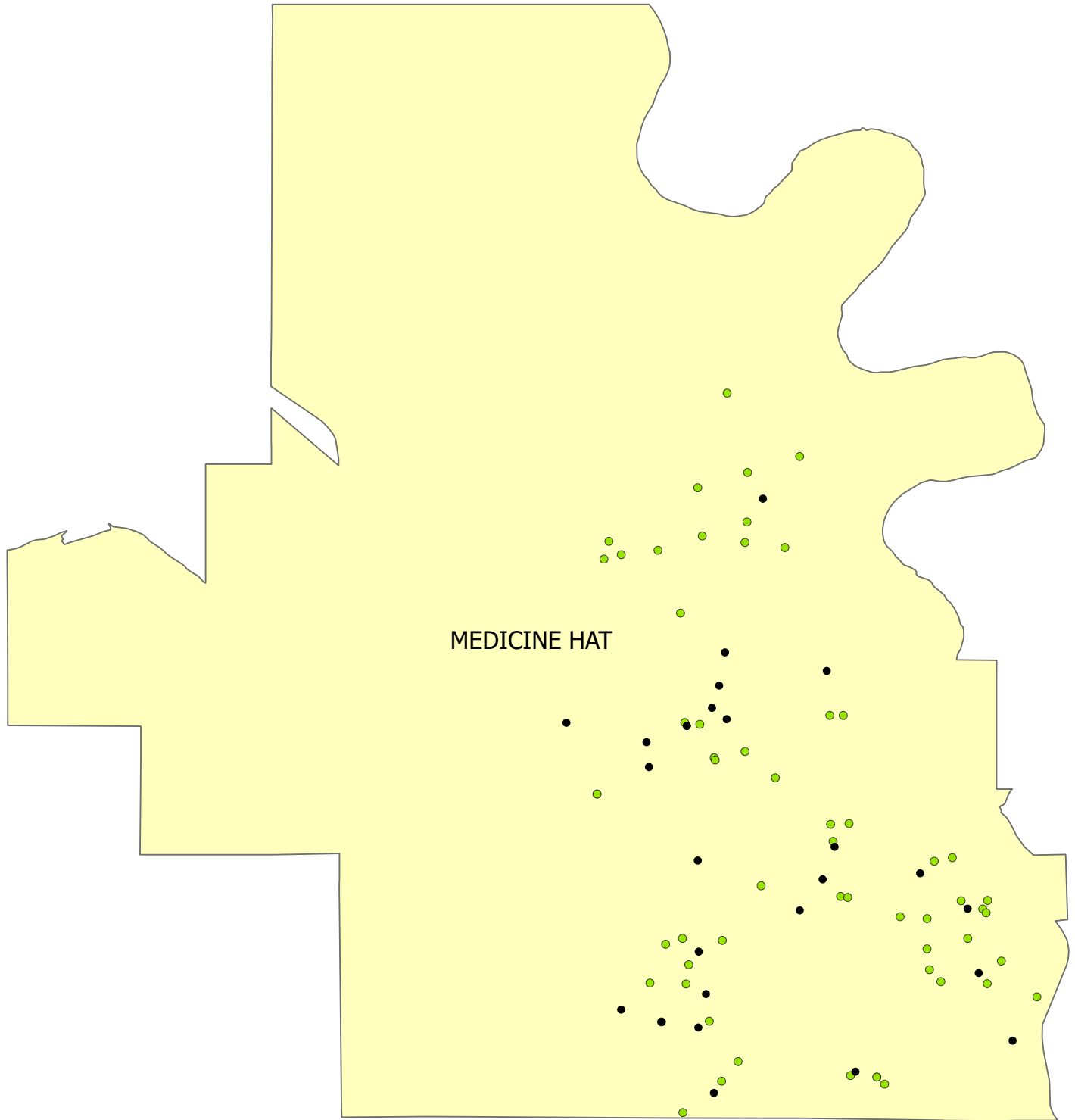
Child care coverage map: south region



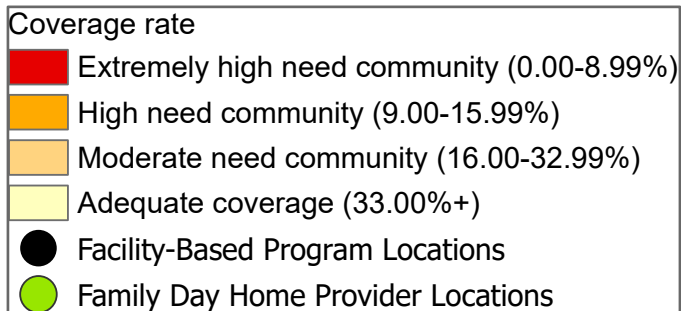
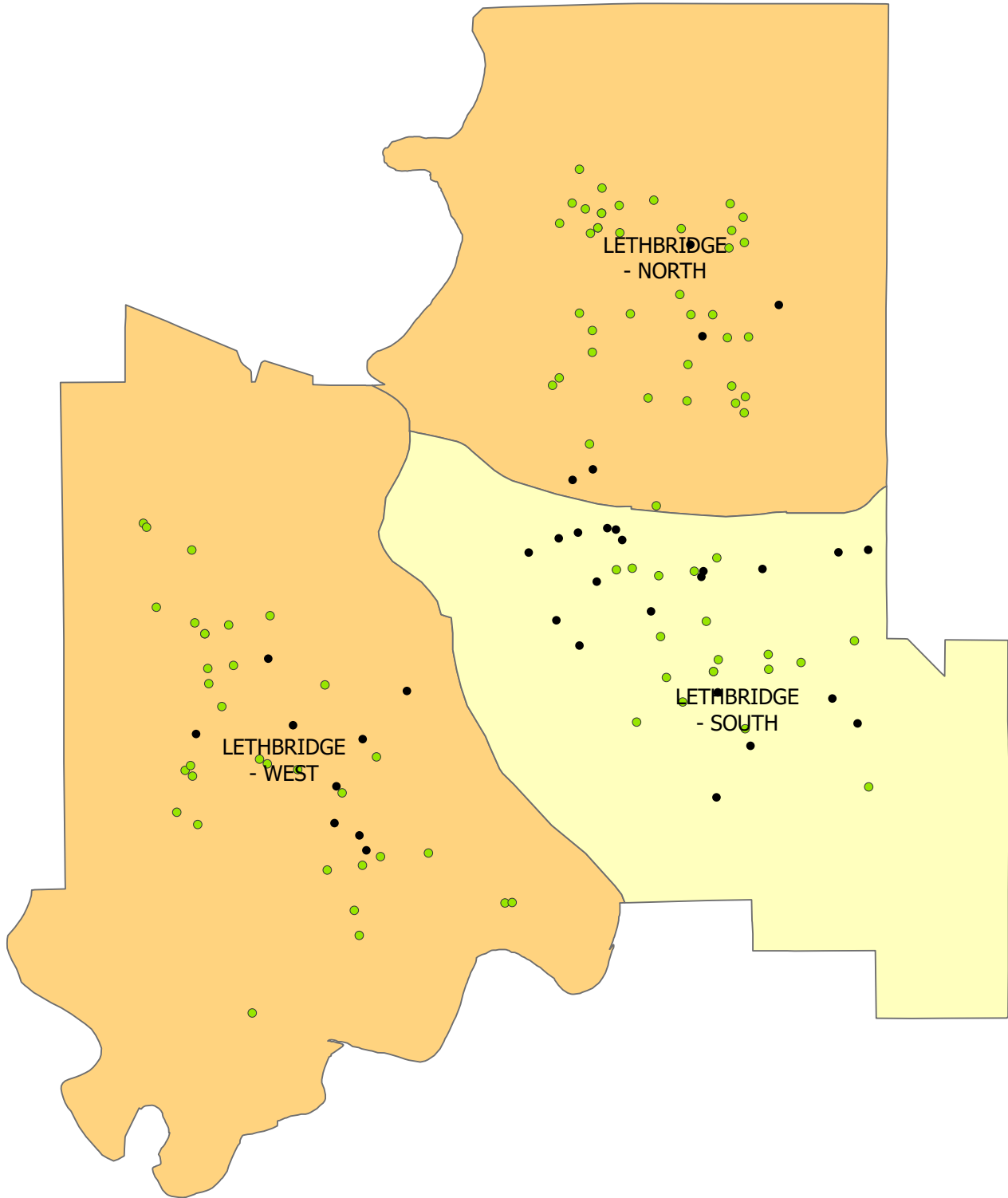
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- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

Child care coverage map: Medicine Hat, south region



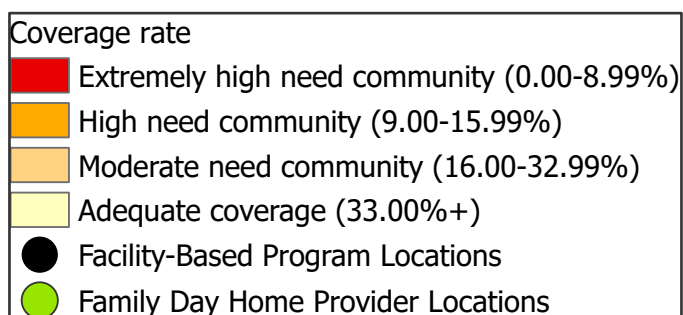
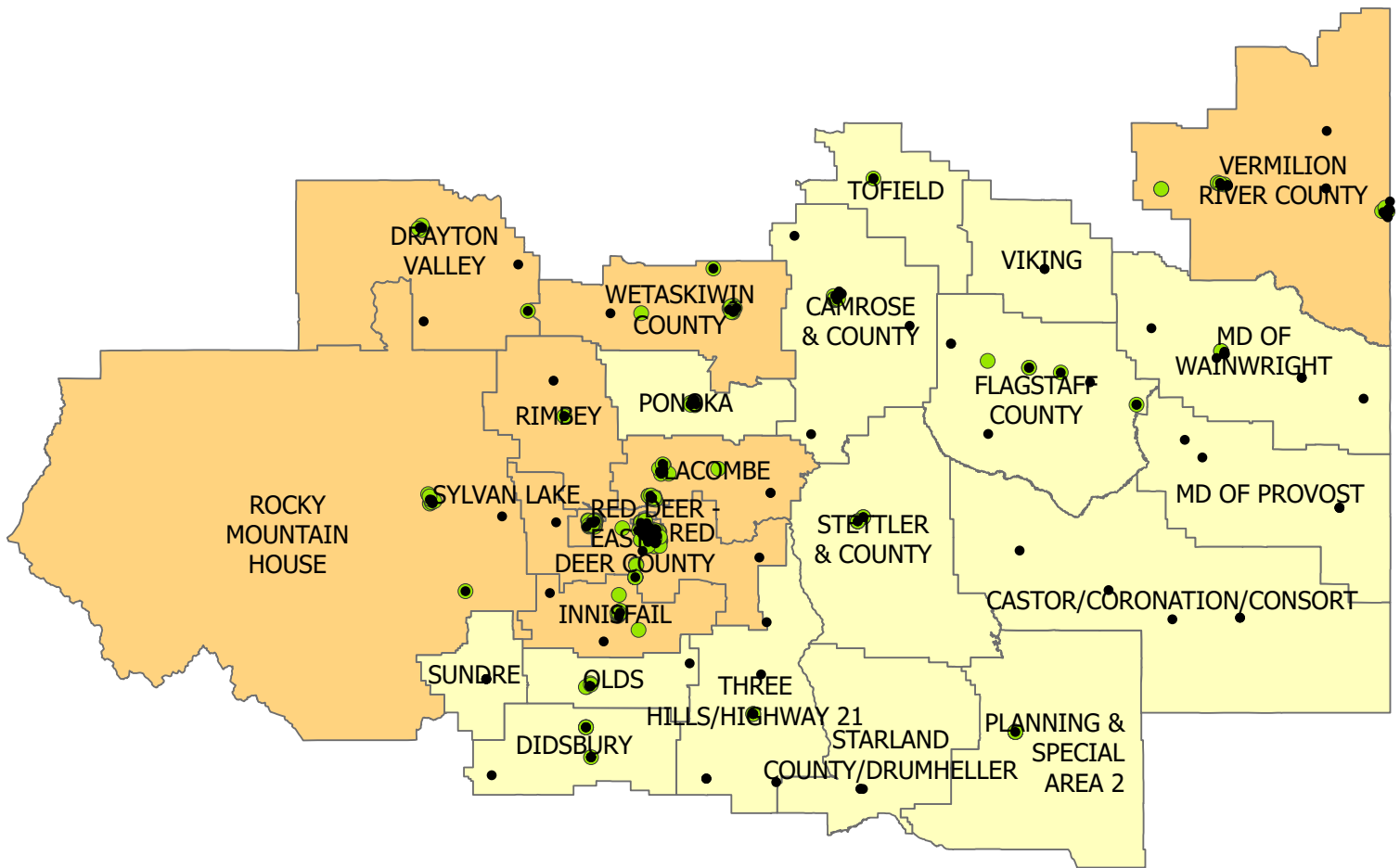
Child care coverage map: Lethbridge, south region



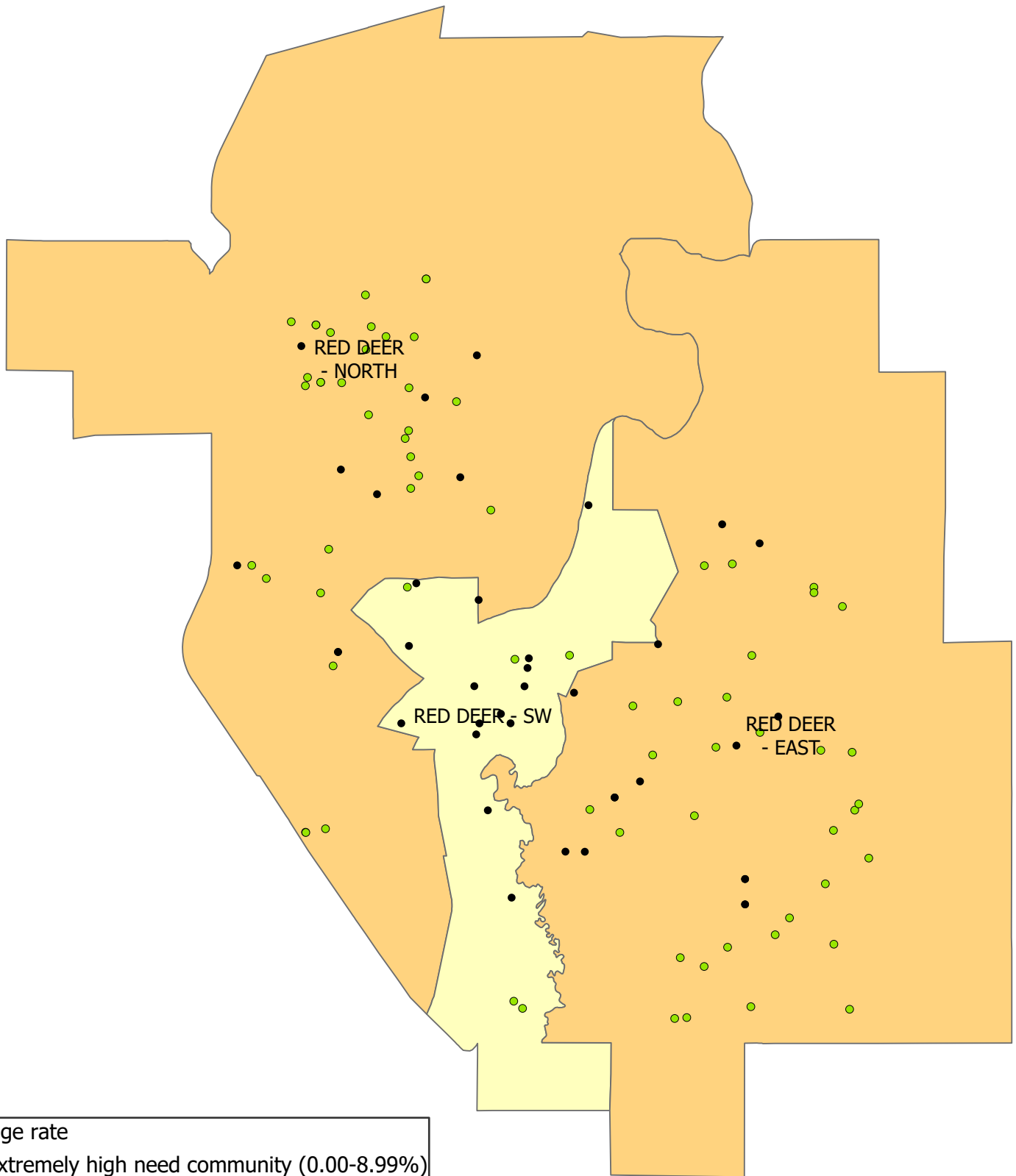
Summary of central region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
CAMROSE & COUNTY	CENTRAL	689	1805	38.17%	-
CASTOR/CORONATION/CONSORT	CENTRAL	98	285	34.39%	-
DIDSBURY	CENTRAL	284	370	76.76%	-
DRAYTON VALLEY	CENTRAL	252	1365	18.46%	198
FLAGSTAFF COUNTY	CENTRAL	252	185	136.22%	-
INNISFAIL	CENTRAL	179	970	18.45%	141
LACOMBE	CENTRAL	466	1575	29.59%	54
MD OF PROVOST	CENTRAL	158	210	75.24%	-
MD OF WAINWRIGHT	CENTRAL	391	960	40.73%	-
OLDS	CENTRAL	238	720	33.06%	-
PLANNING & SPECIAL AREA 2	CENTRAL	60	20	300.00%	-
PONOKA	CENTRAL	223	670	33.28%	-
RED DEER - EAST	CENTRAL	888	4220	21.04%	505
RED DEER - NORTH	CENTRAL	763	2700	28.26%	128
RED DEER - SW	CENTRAL	571	1165	49.01%	-
RED DEER COUNTY	CENTRAL	510	2565	19.88%	336
RIMBEY	CENTRAL	67	340	19.71%	45
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE	CENTRAL	316	975	32.41%	6
STARLAND COUNTY/DRUMHELLER	CENTRAL	140	305	45.90%	-
STETTLER & COUNTY	CENTRAL	226	455	49.67%	-
SUNDRE	CENTRAL	103	110	93.64%	-
SYLVAN LAKE	CENTRAL	326	1620	20.12%	209
THREE HILLS/HIGHWAY 21	CENTRAL	201	430	46.74%	-
TOFIELD	CENTRAL	113	225	50.22%	-
VERMILION RIVER COUNTY	CENTRAL	787	2670	29.48%	94
VIKING	CENTRAL	76	110	69.09%	-
WETASKIWIN COUNTY	CENTRAL	397	1570	25.29%	121

Child care coverage map: central region



Child care coverage map: Red Deer, central region



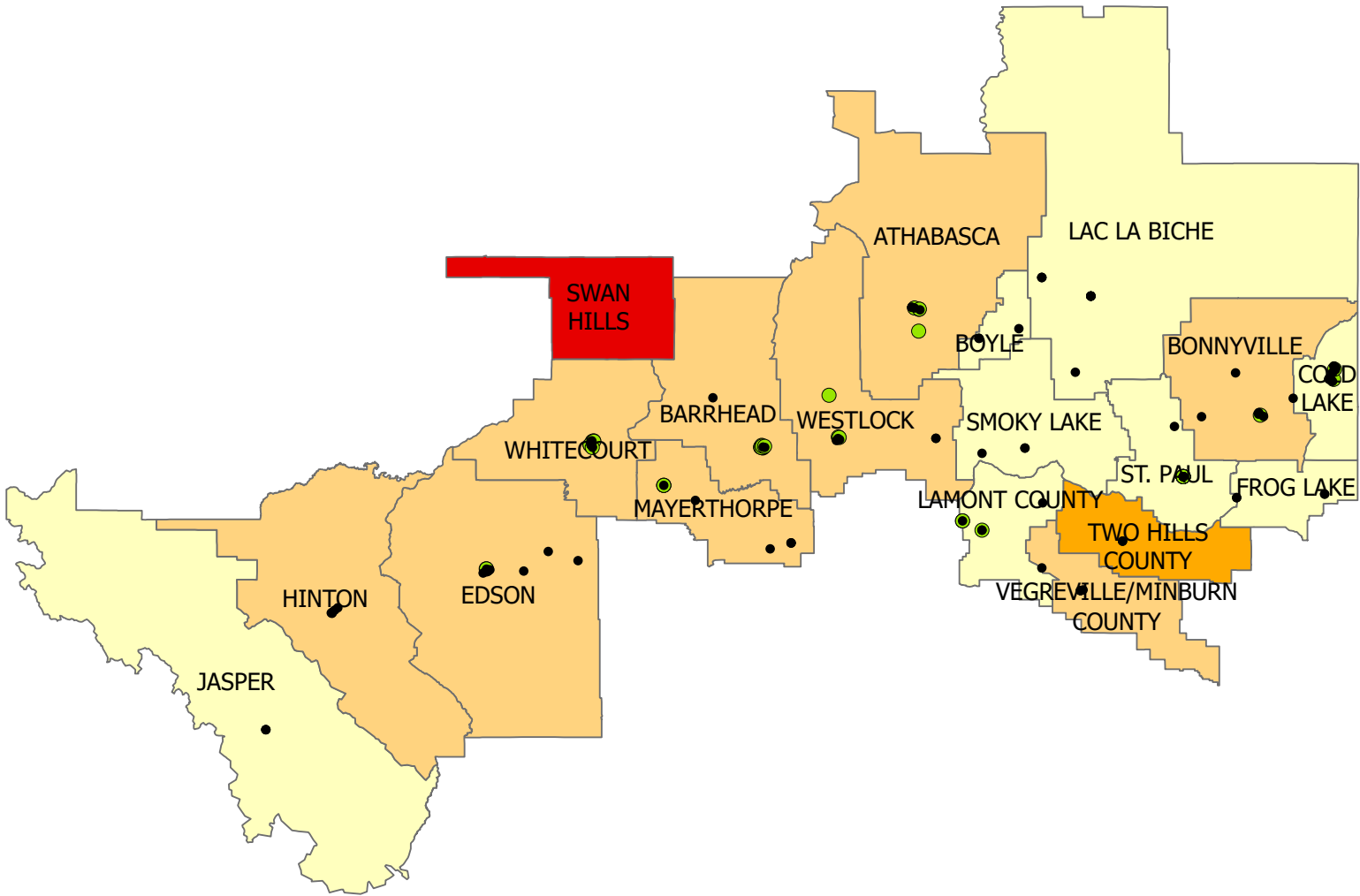
Coverage rate

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- Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
- Facility-Based Program Locations
- Family Day Home Provider Locations

Summary of north central region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
BARRHEAD	NORTH CENTRAL	152	945	16.08%	160
BONNYVILLE	NORTH CENTRAL	306	1115	27.44%	62
BOYLE	NORTH CENTRAL	93	120	77.50%	-
COLD LAKE	NORTH CENTRAL	893	1875	47.63%	-
EDSON	NORTH CENTRAL	346	1220	28.36%	57
FROG LAKE	NORTH CENTRAL	122	130	93.85%	-
HINTON	NORTH CENTRAL	208	905	22.98%	91
JASPER	NORTH CENTRAL	119	45	264.44%	-
LAC LA BICHE	NORTH CENTRAL	408	190	214.74%	-
LAMONT COUNTY	NORTH CENTRAL	109	280	38.93%	-
MAYERTHORPE	NORTH CENTRAL	173	770	22.47%	81
SMOKY LAKE	NORTH CENTRAL	106	180	58.89%	-
ST. PAUL	NORTH CENTRAL	275	410	67.07%	-
SWAN HILLS	NORTH CENTRAL	0	10	0.00%	3
TWO HILLS COUNTY	NORTH CENTRAL	45	455	9.89%	105
VEGREVILLE/MINBURN COUNTY	NORTH CENTRAL	166	595	27.90%	30
WESTLOCK	NORTH CENTRAL	241	845	28.52%	38
WHITECOURT	NORTH CENTRAL	286	1080	26.48%	70

Child care coverage map: north central region



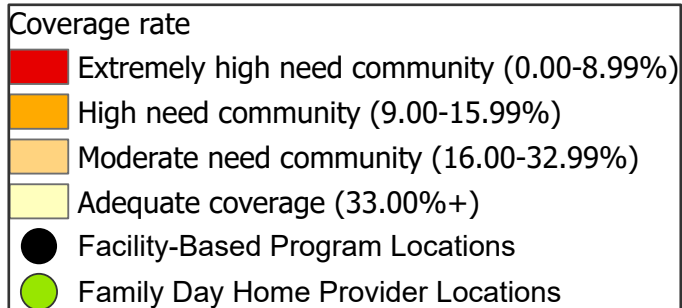
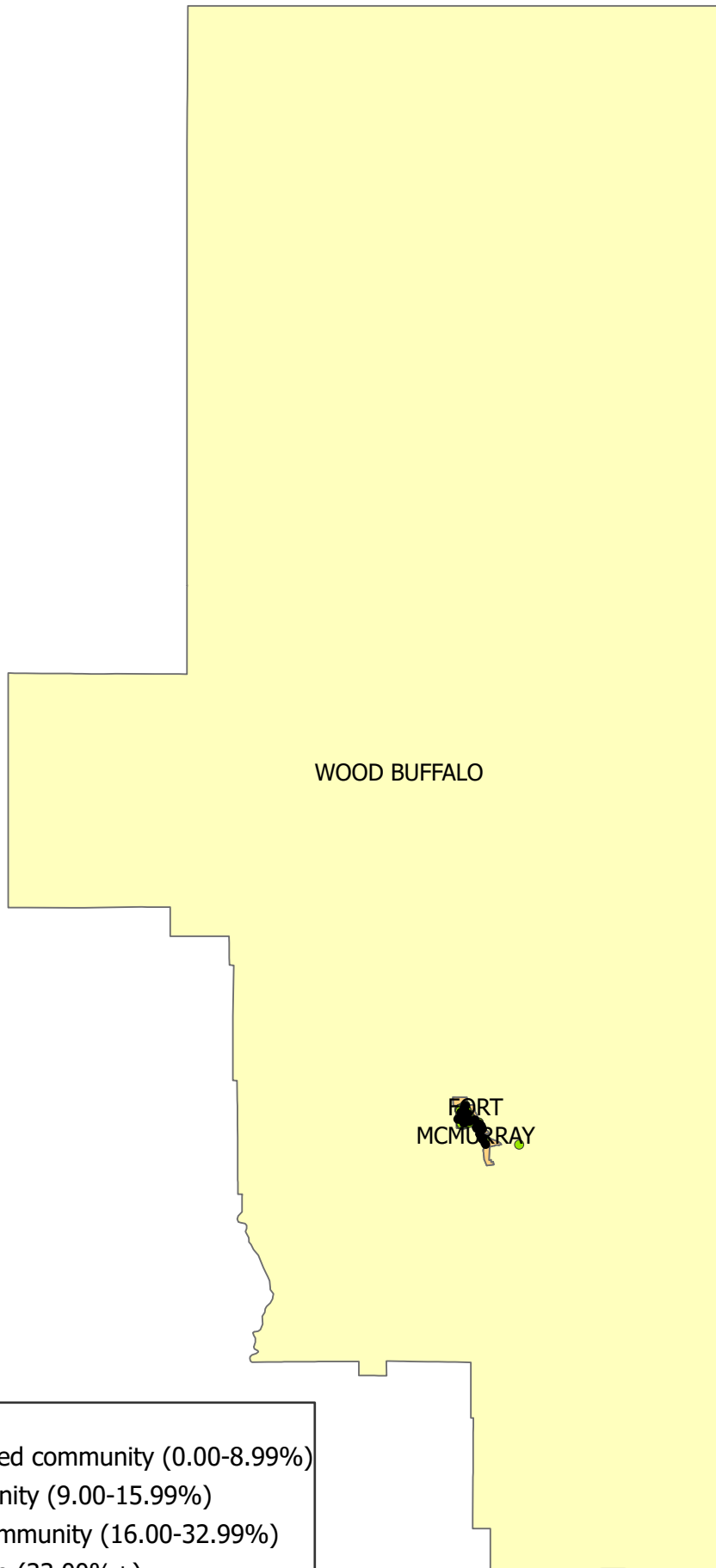
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- Facility-Based Program Locations
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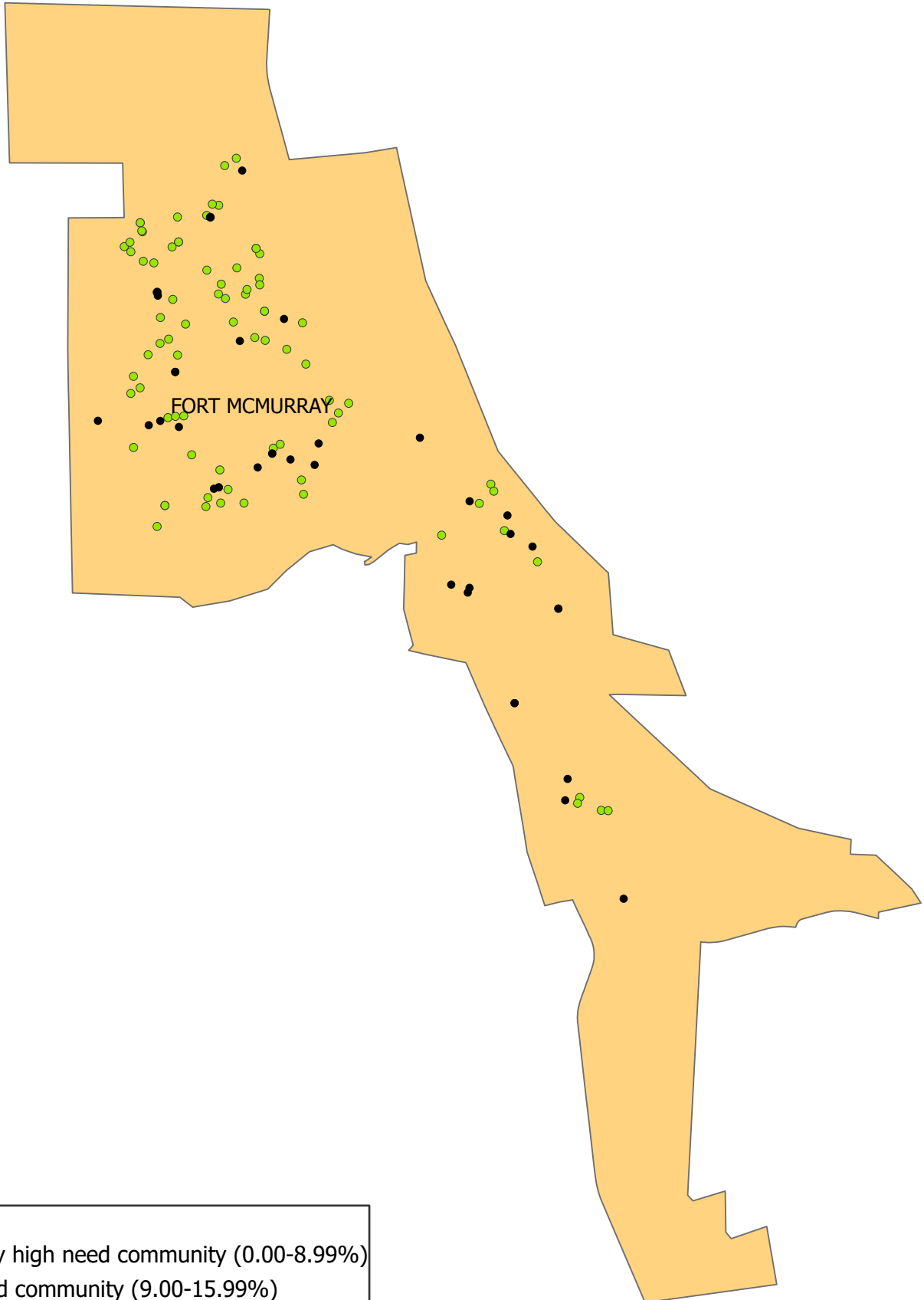
Summary of northeast region community coverage







Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
FORT MCMURRAY	NORTHEAST	1801	8125	22.17%	880
WOOD BUFFALO	NORTHEAST	46	125	36.80%	-

Child care coverage map: northeast region



Child care coverage map: Fort McMurray, northeast region

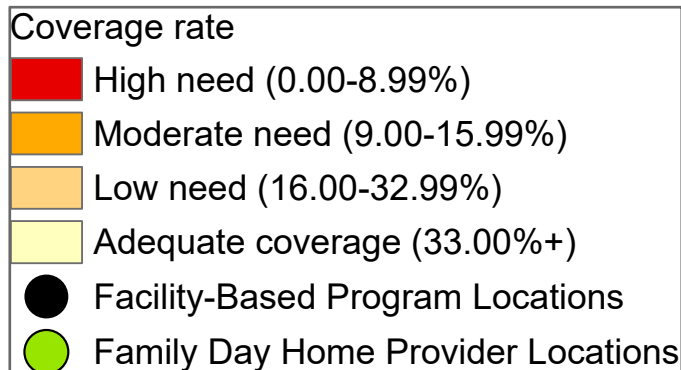
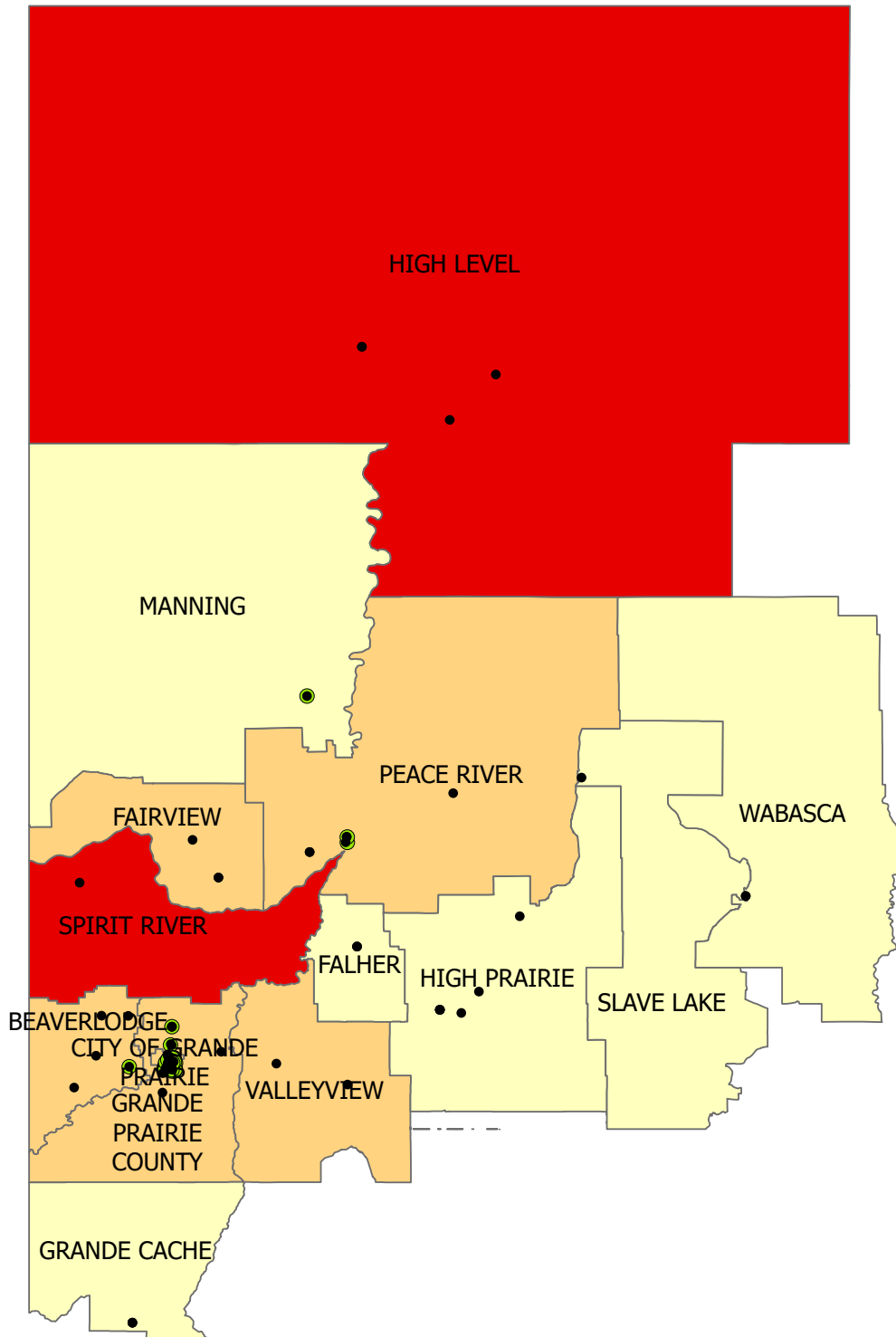


Coverage rate	
	Extremely high need community (0.00-8.99%)
	High need community (9.00-15.99%)
	Moderate need community (16.00-32.99%)
	Adequate coverage (33.00%+)
	Facility-Based Program Locations
	Family Day Home Provider Locations

Summary of northwest region community coverage

Community (LGA)	Child care region	Child care spaces (June 2023)	Total child population (Age 0-6)	Coverage rate (%)	Spaces required to achieve 33%
ATHABASCA	NORTHWEST	132	420	31.43%	7
BEAVERLODGE	NORTHWEST	122	535	22.80%	55
CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	NORTHWEST	1355	6630	20.44%	833
FAIRVIEW	NORTHWEST	83	320	25.94%	23
FALHER	NORTHWEST	83	235	35.32%	-
FOX CREEK	NORTHWEST	23	120	19.17%	17
GRANDE CACHE	NORTHWEST	99	70	141.43%	-
GRANDE PRAIRIE COUNTY	NORTHWEST	301	1845	16.31%	308
HIGH LEVEL	NORTHWEST	91	2035	4.47%	581
HIGH PRAIRIE	NORTHWEST	172	425	40.47%	-
MANNING	NORTHWEST	84	185	45.41%	-
PEACE RIVER	NORTHWEST	299	1290	23.18%	127
SLAVE LAKE	NORTHWEST	246	595	41.34%	-
SPIRIT RIVER	NORTHWEST	16	320	5.00%	90
VALLEYVIEW	NORTHWEST	66	275	24.00%	25
WABASCA	NORTHWEST	110	200	55.00%	-

Child care coverage map: northwest region



Child care coverage map: Grande Prairie, northwest region

