

**Pennsylvania**  
**Partnerships for Children**  
***School Readiness in Southeastern PA***  
***2007***



**Pennsylvania**  
**Partnerships for Children**

# School Readiness - 2007

- **Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children**
  - Advocacy organization
  - Independent, non-profit
  - Prevention-focused, research-based
- *Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is a strong, effective and trusted voice for improving the health, education and well-being of the Commonwealth's children.*



# School Readiness - 2007

- PPC's School Readiness Report details 14 of the most significant indicators of a child's capacity to enter school ready to learn and prepared to succeed. The indicators are used as benchmarks and to show progress.
- Modeled after a project in 17 other states.
- The report provides policymakers a tool to review progress and evaluate the efficacy of current investments in early education.



# School Readiness - 2007

- This year's report: improvements in a number of key early education indicators including:
  - number of children attending pre-kindergarten (from 12,023 in 2006 to 14,743 in 2007)
    - Does not include Pre-K Counts – additional 3,306
  - number of kindergartners in full-day programs (from 55 percent in 2006 to 57 percent in 2007);
  - number of children with public health insurance (MA/CHIP increase of almost 7,000 children from 43.4% to 44.3%)



# School Readiness - 2007

	2006	2007
Pre-K Enrollment	12,023	14,743
Full-Day Kindergarten	54.6%	56.7%
Public Health Insurance	43.4%	44.3%
Births <HS diploma	16.4%	15.8%
Child Care Subsidy	78,388	83,952
Low Birth Weight	8.7%	8.3%
Early Intervention	63,020	66,549
Head Start	67.8%	70.9%



# School Readiness - 2007

- 34% of all children ages 0-4 in Pennsylvania live in the 5-county region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia)
- 248,788 children ages 0-4 live in these counties.



# Children Living in Low-Income Families

- Statewide, 1 child in 3 ages 0-4 lives in a low-income family:
  - 200% Poverty = \$41,300 family of four
  - 100% Poverty = \$20,650 family of four
  - *Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor nutrition, chronic health problems, be less prepared for and have more difficulty in school.*



# Children Living in Low-Income Families

Bucks	16.0%	1 in 6
Chester	15.3%	1 in 7
Delaware	25.9%	1 in 4
Montgomery	15.0%	1 in 7
Philadelphia	57.4%	3 in 5
SE Region	33.4%	1 in 3



# Health Coverage

- Statewide, 3.9% of children 0-4 are uninsured.
  - *Children who are uninsured are less likely to access primary health care services that can prevent or address chronic or acute health conditions. Lack of health care or delays in treatment can negatively impact cognitive, emotional, behavioral and physical development.*

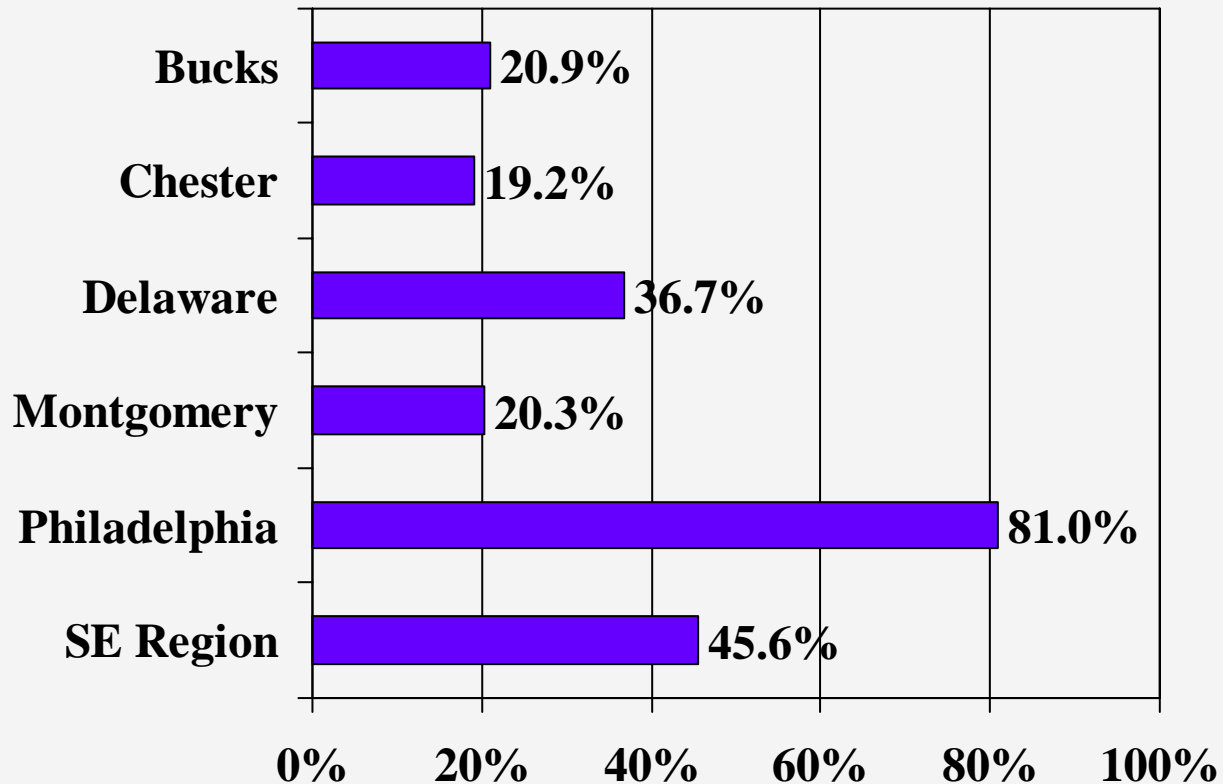


# Health Coverage

- 45.6% of children ages 0-4 are covered by CHIP/MA in these 5 counties;
- 113,449 in the region are covered by CHIP/MA:
  - 6.1% or 6,891 are covered by CHIP
  - 93.9% or 106,558 are covered by MA
  - Statewide – 6.6 % are covered by CHIP and 93.4% by MA



# Health Coverage



# Health Coverage

	CHIP	MA	Ratio
Bucks	963	6,961	1 in 5
Chester	803	5,529	1 in 5
Delaware	957	11,415	1 in 3
Montgomery	1,109	8,918	1 in 5
Philadelphia	3,059	73,735	4 in 5
SE Region	6,891	106,558	1 in 2



# Births to mothers with less than a high school education

- Statewide, 15.8% of all births where education level is known were to mothers with less than a high school degree
  - *Children living with mothers with low education level are less likely to receive cognitive stimulation and high-quality child care and are more likely to have diminished reading skills*

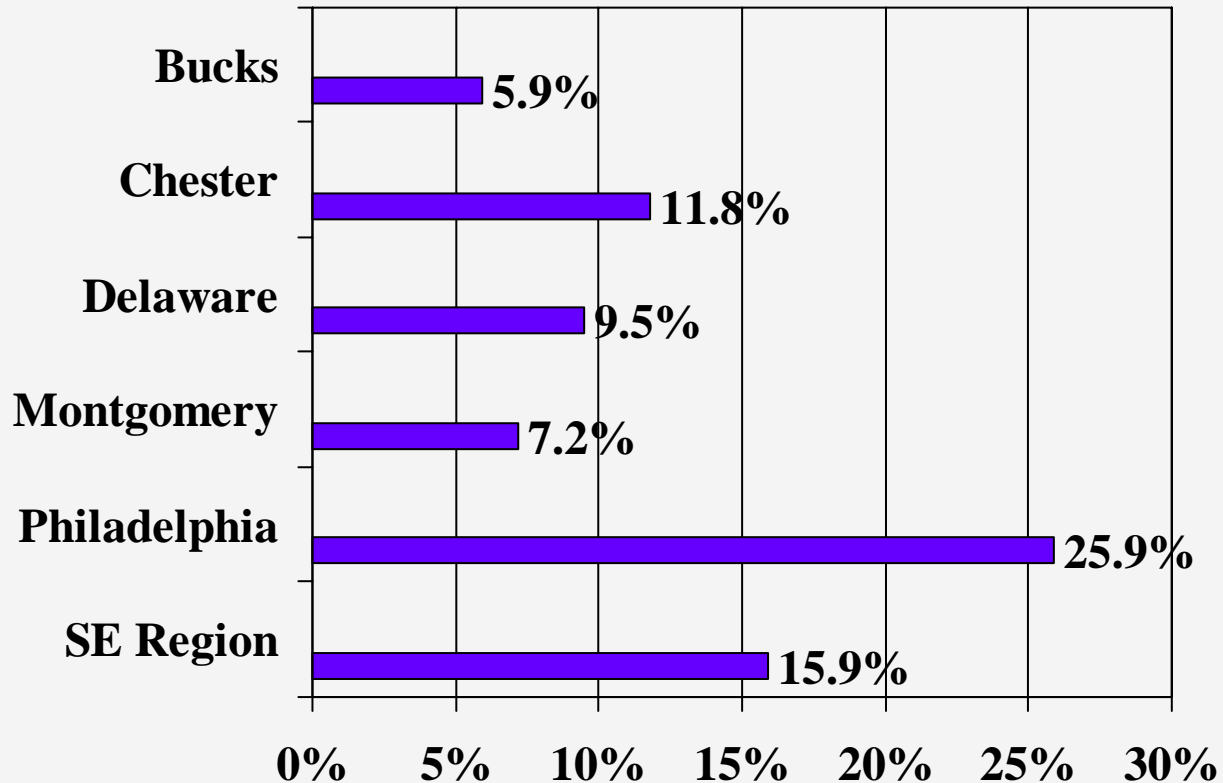


# Births to mothers with less than a high school education

- Bucks County: 5.9%
- Chester County: 11.8%
- Delaware County: 9.5%
- Montgomery County: 7.2%
- Philadelphia County: 25.9%
- Combined region rate: 15.9% (1 in 6)



# Births to mothers with less than a high school education



# Child Care Subsidy

- Statewide, there are 83,952 slots for infants, toddlers, and preschool children in the state's subsidized child care system.
  - *The availability of child care subsidies to low-income families increases the opportunity for them to access high-quality care for their children thereby enhancing their school readiness.*



# Child Care Subsidy

- 37,166 children in SE PA are enrolled in subsidized child care.
- More than 12,000 children across the state are on the waiting list for child care subsidy.
  - 1/3 or more are oftentimes from the Southeast



# High-Quality Child Care

- Statewide, 4.1% of the child care slots are deemed high-quality as defined by accreditation or Keystone Star-4 rating.
  - *Children who receive high-quality child care show better literacy skills and score higher on tests of both cognitive and social skills than children cared for in other arrangements.*



# High-Quality Child Care

- Bucks: 4.8%
- Chester: 3.5%
- Delaware: 3.2%
- Montgomery: 4.3%
- Philadelphia: 4.5%



# Keystone STARS

- When the pilot program began in 2003
  - 868 child care providers where enrolled
- In May 2007 there were
  - 4,369 providers participating
- In June 2007 there were
  - 3,766 providers participating
- *While this is a giant step forward, the reality is 96% of child care slots in Pennsylvania are not of high-quality.*



# Keystone STARS

- In Southeast PA – your pipeline is very strong...
  - June 2006: 1,373 providers (41% of regulated facilities) are participating in STARS
  - May 2007: 1,442 providers (43% of regulated facilities) are participating in STARS
  - June 2007: 994 providers (29% of regulated facilities) are participating in STARS



# Keystone STARS

	June 2006	May 2007	June 2007
Start w/STARS	474	409	237
STAR 1	517	600	360
STAR 2	206	212	203
STAR 3	47	54	51
STAR 4	129	167	143
Total	1,373	1,442	994



# Pre-K Enrollment

- Statewide, 14,743 children (in 2006-07 school year) were attending pre-K in public schools
  - *High-quality pre-K helps improve the school readiness of young children by enhancing their social, emotional and cognitive development. Children who attend high-quality pre-K enter school more prepared and achieve greater success, including fewer grade retentions and higher standardized test scores.*



# Pre-K Enrollment

	Kids	School Districts	Comments
Bucks	103	2 of 13	Bristol Borough & Centennial
Chester	0		
Delaware	100	1 of 15	Chester Upland
Montgomery	145	1 of 22	Pottstown SD
Philadelphia	7,064	1 of 1	Philadelphia & 5 Charters
SE Region	7,412		



# Pre-K Counts

	Grantees	Grant Amount	Children
Bucks	4	\$1,188,800	240
Chester	5	\$549,000	80
Delaware	2	\$2,504,150	319
Montgomery	5	\$1,725,756	220
Philadelphia	1	\$18,675,700	2,447
SE Region	17	\$24,643,406	3,306



# Full-Day K

- Statewide, 56.7% of kindergartners in district and charter schools attend full-day programs
  - *Students who attend full-day kindergarten score higher on achievement tests, experience fewer grade retentions, require less remediation and special education and make more successful transitions to first grade.*



# Full-Day K

- Bucks County: 1,065 kids (18.8%) in 8 of 13 districts & charters; 100% of kids in 4 districts and 2 charter schools. Morrisville Borough SD and New Hope-Solebury SD went to 100% this past year.
- Chester County: 1,343 kids (26.9%) in 6 of 12 school districts; Coatesville and 6 charter schools are 100% full-day.
- Delaware County: 1,611 kids (33.9%) in 11 of 15 districts



# Full-Day K

- Montgomery County: 3,239 kids (44.5%) in 16 of 22 districts and charters; 9 districts and 1 charter are 100% full-time
- Philadelphia County: 100% (14,546 kids) in Philadelphia SD and 31 charters; Family Charter School added 100% full-day K this past year.



# Full-Day K

	Kids		School Districts	100%
Bucks	1,065	18.8%	8 of 13	4 SD & 2 CS
Chester	1,343	26.9%	6 of 12	1 SD & 6 CS
Delaware	1,611	33.9%	11 of 15	4 SD & 2 CS
Montgomery	3,239	44.6%	16 of 22	9 SD & 1 CS
Philadelphia	14,546	100%	1 of 1	1 SD & 31 CS
SE Region	21,804	58.6%	42 of 63	19 SD & 42 CS



# Class Size

- Statewide, 15.8% of students in pre-K through third grade were in classes with 17 or fewer students (2005/06 school year)
  - *Children who are in classes of 17 or fewer students score better on standardized achievement tests than their peers in larger classes.*



# Class Size

- 8.9% or 13,867 pre-K through third grade students in districts and charters in the 5-county region were in classes of 17 or fewer students (2006/07 school year)
- Suburban students are more likely to experience smaller classes: 14.7% or 1 in 11 students
- Only 8.8% (1 in 11) of students in urban districts are in smaller classes



# Class Size – Pre-K 3<sup>rd</sup> 17 or less

Bucks	25,407	7.0%
Chester	21,360	7.6%
Delaware	20,230	20.2%
Montgomery	29,598	13.5%
Philadelphia	59,402	4.0%
SE Region	155,997	8.9%



# Class Size

- 100% of pre-K through third grade students in Bucks Co Montessori CS, Erin Dudley Forbes CS (Chester), Widener Partnership CS (Delaware) & Philadelphia Montessori CS.
- Belmont CS (Philadelphia): 76.5%
- Village CS of Chester-Upland (Delaware): 58.9%
- Springfield SD (Delaware): 57.6%
- Garnet Valley SD (Delaware): 54.3%
  - These are the only districts with more than 50% of pre-K through third grade students in classes with 17 or fewer students

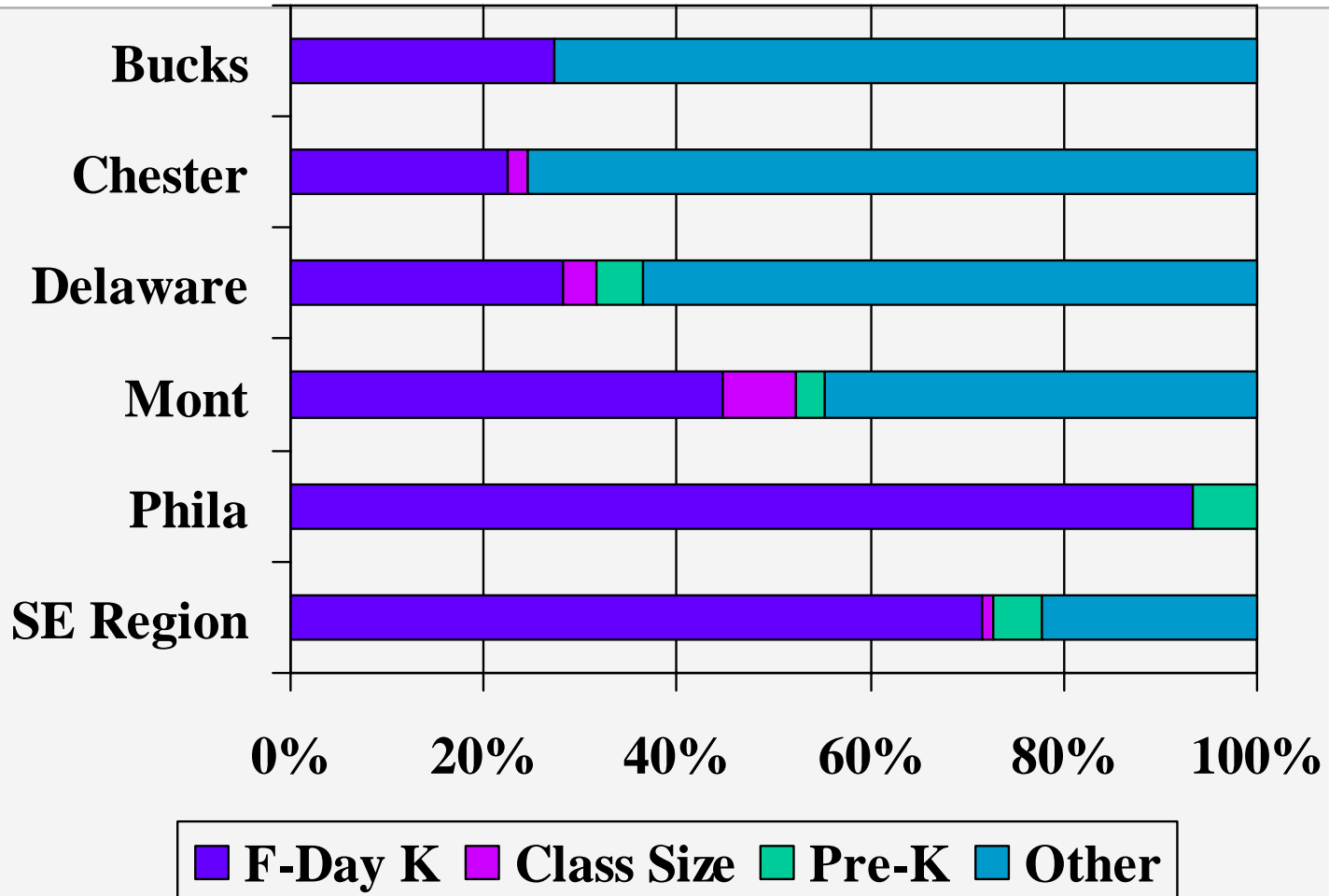


# Accountability Block Grant

- **ABG : \$77,388,015 to SE PA**
  - Nearly 72% in the region was used for FDK – 17,278 students. (Philadelphia uses 93% of its ABG funding for full-day K programs)
  - Chester\Delaware\Montgomery used over \$853,000 to reduce class size K-3 class size reduction for 1,901 students.
  - Philadelphia\Montgomery\Delaware used over \$4 million of the ABG funding for quality pre-K programs.



# Accountability Block Grant



# Accountability Block Grant

	Students		
	Full-Day K	Class Size	Pre-K
Bucks	720		
Chester	267	276	
Delaware	1,064	680	80
Montgomery	2,009	945	66
Philadelphia	13,218		790
SE Region	17,278	1,901	936



# What's next...

- School readiness was a major issue during the gubernatorial election five years ago.
- PA has made strides the past few years by passing Cover All Kids and Pre-K Counts along with additional funds for child care and family support



# What's next...

- What will improve school readiness of children in PA?
  - Passage of SCHIP – NO VETO!!!
  - More equitable and adequate school funding
  - Continued increases in Accountability Block Grant
  - Better supports for pregnant and parenting teens
  - Increased funding for pre-K



# What's next...

- What will improve school readiness of children in PA?
  - Increased funding for child care subsidy
  - Increased funding for Keystone STARS
  - Increased investments in family support, child abuse prevention, and child welfare systems reform
  - Enhanced family economic security



# What's next...

## ■ What you can do:

- Join PPC's Children's Advocacy Network to stay abreast of policy matters affecting children in PA.
- For more information go to:

[www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org)



# School Readiness - 2007

*Our Vision - By 2014, PPC has helped Pennsylvania move into position as one of the top 10 states in the nation to be a child and to raise a child.*



# School Readiness -2007

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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