

# School Readiness in Pennsylvania

Significance		Indicator		Allegheny (Urban)					
				COUNTY		URBAN		STATE	
				2013 Report	Current Report	2013 Report	Current Report	2013 Report	Current Report
<b>[READY COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES]</b>									
Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor nutrition, chronic health problems, be less prepared for and have more difficulty in school.	<b>Children Living in Low-Income Families</b>	25,246	25,357	171,163	178,967	304,407	318,812		
	Children ages 0-4 who live in households earning less than 200% of the federal income poverty guidelines (FPIG) or \$47,700 for a family of four.	37.8%	39.8%	39.9%	41.7%	41.6%	43.7%		
Children living with mothers with low education levels are less likely to receive cognitive stimulation and high-quality child care and more likely to have diminished reading skills.	<b>Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Degree</b>	1,001	975	12,431	11,918	20,777	20,291		
	Of all births where education is known.	7.7%	7.5%	14.6%	14.1%	14.7%	14.5%		
Children who have experienced abuse and neglect, or are in foster care placement, are more likely to perform poorly in school, have lower IQ scores, and have difficulty with language ability. They are likelier to have social, emotional and physical health problems.	<b>Child Abuse and Neglect -- Reports</b>	276	325	2,287	2,672	4,461	5,260		
	Reported incidents of suspected child abuse of children ages 0-4 through the ChildLine and Abuse Registry. Does not include General Protective Services reports which include less severe general neglect reports. (Number and rate per 1,000 children ages 0-4)	4.3	5.1	5.3	6.2	6.1	7.2		
	<b>Child Abuse and Neglect -- Substantiations</b>	3.6%	5.8%	11.8%	13.5%	12.8%	14.4%		
	Founded or indicated reports of child abuse of children ages 0-4. Does not include the number of children determined to need General Protective Services.	11.8	11.5	9.2	9.3	9.0	8.9		
Children living in homes where English is not the primary language spoken are more likely to enter school with lower math, reading and general knowledge assessments.	<b>Children in Foster Care Placement -- Ages 0-4</b>	752	733	3,959	3,980	6,555	6,477		
	(Rate per 1,000 children ages 0-4)	11.8	11.5	9.2	9.3	9.0	8.9		
	<b>English Not the Primary Language Spoken in the Home</b>	829	1,279	---	---	30,722	23,130		
	Children ages 0-4 living in families where English is not the primary language spoken at home and English is not spoken "very well."	1.3%	2.0%	---	---	4.3%	3.3%		
<b>[READY SERVICES -- HEALTH]</b>									
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. Uninsured children are more likely to miss school and have diminished academic achievement.	<b>Children Lacking Health Insurance</b>	2,196	1,780	---	---	41,434	37,456		
	Children ages 0-4 who are uninsured.	3.4%	2.8%	---	---	5.8%	5.3%		
	<b>Children Funded by Public Health Insurance</b>	29,658	27,358	219,223	204,259	363,229	337,863		
	Ages 0-4.	46.6%	43.0%	51.1%	47.6%	49.8%	46.3%		
Babies born at low birth weight are likelier to die in the first year of life, have disabilities and health problems that can include developmental delays, visual and hearing impairments, and chronic respiratory ailments. They may have trouble with social skills and show higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, physical disabilities and hyperactivity and aggression.	<b>Children Born at Low Birth Weight</b>	1,010	986	7,369	7,213	11,568	11,381		
	Babies born weighing under 2,500 grams.	7.7%	7.6%	8.6%	8.5%	8.2%	8.1%		
<b>[READY SERVICES -- EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION]</b>									
Early Intervention is designed to assist children with developmental delays or disabilities before they enter school by working with their parents, caregivers and communities to build on the child's strengths and maximize their experiences and opportunities. Early Intervention services help improve children's school readiness.	<b>Early Intervention</b>	8,879	8,856	53,796	53,389	89,810	88,527		
	Children birth to the age they begin school enrolled in the state's Early Intervention program.	21.0%	22.1%	16.7%	18.1%	17.8%	18.9%		
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, less special education placement and higher standardized test scores.	<b>Publicly Funded, High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten</b>	5,316	5,584	28,928	31,288	52,933	56,206		
	Percent of children 3 and 4 enrolled in public school pre-K, Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, or Keystone STARS 3 or 4 through the child care subsidy program.	21.0%	22.1%	16.7%	18.1%	17.8%	18.9%		
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 early care and education programs have demonstrated a strong return on investment.	<b>High-Quality Child Care</b>	3,837	4,080	23,373	24,546	36,681	37,156		
	Availability of high-quality child care (NAEYC, NAFCC, NECPA or COA accredited or Keystone STARS 3 and 4) for children ages 0-4 in need of child care services.	8.9%	9.3%	8.2%	8.6%	7.5%	7.5%		
The availability of child care subsidies to low-income families increases the opportunity for them to access high-quality care for their children, enhancing their school readiness and increasing the likelihood that parents remain employed.	<b>Access to Child Care Subsidy</b>	4,056	3,951	28,368	29,689	38,936	40,369		
	<b>Children in Child Care Subsidy by Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG)</b>	Less than or equal to 100% FPIG	3,033	2,887	24,752	24,528	32,886	32,576	
		50.0%	50.2%	56.4%	54.9%	54.4%	53.5%		
		101% to 200% FPIG	2,908	2,713	18,070	18,960	26,032	26,648	
		47.9%	47.2%	41.2%	42.5%	43.1%	43.8%		
	201% to 235% FPIG	131	150	1,039	1,158	1,494	1,664		
2.2%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%	2.5%	2.7%				
<b>Children on Child Care Subsidy Waiting List</b>	179	145	4,993	2,534	6,230	3,259			
<b>Child Care Subsidy Waiting List Duration</b>	9.3	8.8	22.1	14.0	19.6	13.3			
	Average time (in weeks) between enrollment on waiting list and service provision for younger children receiving child care subsidy.								

County type data cannot be displayed for 'English Not the Primary Language Spoken in the Home' and 'Children Lacking Health Insurance' due to the use of microdata samples.