

# School Readiness Indicators Report, 2006

## Data Sources and Explanation

### Ready Communities and Families

#### **Children Living in Low Income Families**

The data on children in low-income families are from the SF 3 or "long form" from the U.S. Census of Population and Housing conducted in 2000. The data about income were collected in 2000 but refer to 1999 income levels. The 2006 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines for 200% of poverty for a family of four is \$40,000. The percent of children ages 0-4 is the number of children living under 200% of poverty divided by the number of children ages 0-4 for whom poverty status is determined.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

#### **Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Education**

The percentage of babies born to mothers with less than a high school education is the number of births to women with less than a high school education divided by the number of births with mothers' education status known, multiplied by 100. Rates based on fewer than 10 incidents should be used with caution.

**SOURCE:** Bureau of Health Statistics & Research, Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions

#### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

Substantiated abuse is defined as child abuse founded by a judge and also includes children that Child Protective Services determines were abused based on medical evidence, the investigation, or an admission by the perpetrator ("indicated"). Child abuse includes serious physical injuries, serious mental injury, sexual abuse, imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse, and serious physical neglect that endangers a child's life or development or impairs the child's functioning.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

#### **English Not the Primary Language Spoken In the Home**

This represents children ages 0-4 living in families where all parents have difficulty speaking English and do not speak English Very Well. In married-couple families, this means both parents speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well." In single-parent families, this means the single parent speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English less than "very well." The rate was calculated by a special tabulation examining language characteristics of children ages 0-4 in the U.S. Census Bureau PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area) data sets. \*\*\* Clinton, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, and Union values are higher and could be due to small sample sizes for those counties.

**SOURCE:** Population Reference Bureau, analysis of Census 2000 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample.

### Ready Services - Health

#### **Children Lacking Health Insurance**

The data on children ages 0-4 who are insured or uninsured comes from the 2004 Pennsylvania Household Insurance Survey. This is the only state level household health insurance survey conducted in Pennsylvania. The survey contained detailed questions about health insurance as well as the access to health care regardless of insurance status. The data result cited in this report was a special tabulation that specifically focused on the 0-4 age population. More detail about the survey can be found at The Pennsylvania Department of Insurance web site, <http://www.ins.state.pa.us/>. The designations of Rural, Urban and Suburban used to describe this information are specific to this indicator only and defined by the PA Department of Insurance as the following: Urban - A Central City of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is considered Urban. (A central city is a city with a population of 50,000 or more); SUBURBAN - Any portion of an MSA county that is not in a Central City is considered Suburban; RURAL - All non-MSA counties are considered Rural.

**SOURCE:** Special Tabulation of the 2004 Pennsylvania Household Insurance Survey, Pennsylvania Department of Insurance.

#### **Children in Public Health Insurance**

Children ages 0-4 covered by public insurance programs include those participating in Medicaid (MA) and the free or reduced price Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP.) These programs provide coverage based on income eligibility as measured by the Federal Poverty and Income Guidelines as well as family characteristics. The percent of children ages 0-4 covered by public programs is calculated by participation in CHIP & MA divided by the total number of children ages 0-4.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

### **Children Born at Low Birth Weight**

Babies born at low birth weight are babies weighing under 2,500 grams (or 5 pounds, 9 ounces) at birth. The percentage of low birth weight births is the number of births below 2,500 grams divided by the total births for which birth weight is known, multiplied by 100. Rates based on fewer than 10 incidents should be used with caution.

**SOURCE:** Bureau of Health Statistics & Research, Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions

## **Ready Services – Early Care and Education**

### **Early Intervention**

Early Intervention programs consist of programs offered by the state for children birth through the age of school entry or “beginner”. Program services are targeted to the education and physical needs of children with development delays or disabilities. Additionally, programs are designed to assist parents in managing their child’s issues. The data represents the number of children receiving early intervention services by county. The percent served is calculated by dividing the number early intervention children by the estimate of children needing early intervention services. The estimate of need is from a study conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

**SOURCE:** Early Intervention in Pennsylvania Annual Report, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

### **Head Start Enrollment**

The Head Start program serves children ages 3 and 4 who live in families below 100% of the Federal Income Poverty Guidelines. Programs can accept a small percentage of students who are over the poverty guideline or age breakout as well as special needs children. Services include education, parental involvement, social services, nutrition services and medical and dental care. The data represents the number of federal and state funded spaces distributed across Pennsylvania.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Head Start Association. Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children directly surveyed programs serving multiple counties in order to provide detailed breakdowns by county of Head Start spaces.

### **Public School Pre-K Enrollment**

This report includes enrollments for all publicly-funded schools in Pennsylvania as reported by school districts, area vocational-technical schools, charter schools, special program jointures, and state-operated educational facilities. Local education agencies (LEAs) were asked to report those students who were enrolled and attending as of October 1 each year. The pre-K data may include children who also are counted as Head Start and subsidized child care children elsewhere in this report as some school districts are also Head Start Grantees. For purposes of this report, enrollments reported by LEAs as pre-K and K-4 (kindergarten for four-year-olds) were combined and are reported as pre-K students. PPC used the latest data available at the time this report was prepared and is not responsible for discrepancies between the data as reported and the existing status of an indicator, except insofar as any calculations performed by PPC that are described below.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Public Education.

### **High-Quality Child Care**

The availability of high quality child care was derived by estimating the number of spaces for children ages 0-4 in high quality child care providers. High quality child care providers were defined as those meeting the Department of Public Welfare Keystone Star 4 designation, those accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and those accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). Average provider capacity for children ages 0-4 in NAEYC and Star 4 centers was estimated to be 43 children, while average capacity for children ages 0-4 for NAFCC accredited providers was estimated at 4 children. Data on the need for high quality child care was estimated by using information on children under age 6 who live in families where both or all available parents in the household are in the labor force. That percentage was applied to the number of children ages 0-4 to estimate a need for high quality child care. The estimated capacity was divided by the number of children estimated to need high quality child care to derive an estimated availability of high quality child care.

**SOURCE:** NAFCC, NAEYC, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

### **Access to Child Care Subsidy**

Child care subsidies are available to low income, working families to increase the opportunity for their children to obtain high-quality child care while their parents work. Eligibility requirements specify that parents must work at least part time (20 hours per week). The data represents the funded slots for infants, toddlers and preschool children in the subsidized child care system.

**SOURCE:** PA Department of Public Welfare.

## Ready Schools

Except as noted in the notations for Full-Day Kindergarten, Public School Pre-K Enrollment and K-3 Class Size, education data for this report come from three sources at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Full-day Kindergarten, Public School Pre-K Enrollment and K-3 Class Size were reported by school districts to PDE. Third grade Reading and Math PSSA scores were reported by the state's test administrators directly to PDE. PPC used the latest data available at the time this report was prepared and is not responsible for discrepancies between the data as reported and the existing status of an indicator, except insofar as any calculations performed by PPC that are described below.

### **Full-day Kindergarten and Public School Pre-K Enrollment**

This report includes enrollments for all publicly-funded schools in Pennsylvania as reported by school districts, area vocational-technical schools, charter schools, special program jointures, and state-operated educational facilities. Local education agencies (LEAs) were asked to report those students who were enrolled and attending as of October 1, 2004. Additionally, counts of students attending special education classes on a full-time basis outside their parents' district of residence were obtained from the Instructional Support System of Pennsylvania (PENNDATA 2004), these children are included in the state total, but not in their home districts. The percentage of full-day kindergarten students was calculated by dividing the number of children enrolled in full-day K-5 (kindergarten for five-year-olds) by the total K-5 enrollment.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Public Education.

### **K-3 Class Size**

Included are data from all publicly-funded schools in Pennsylvania. However, unlike the ESPE 240, this report includes only students in self-contained classes and therefore includes fewer students than the ESPE 240 used for public school pre-k enrollment and full day kindergarten. For each such class, LEAs were asked to report the number of students by grade and the number of full-time equivalent teachers in the class. From this data, PDE determined if the student-teacher ratio was 1-17 or more than 17 students per teacher and the number of students educated in classes with ratios of 1-17 or more than 17 students per teacher by grade. For each LEA and the state as a whole, PPC calculated the number of all reported children in pre-K through third grade in classes of 1-17 as a percentage of the total number of students in those grades reported for class size purposes. 2004-05 was the first year that PDE collected class size data in this manner.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Public Education.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading and Math PSSA**

Third-grade PSSA results come from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment ([http://www.pde.state.pa.us/a\\_and\\_t/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=121446](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/a_and_t/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=121446)). Reported are the percent of students scoring in the below basic or basic category, for each school district and participating charter school.

**SOURCE:** Pennsylvania Department of Public Education.