

School Readiness Indicators Report, 2008

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 and Children in Foster Care Placement

Suspected child abuse reports from all sources are reported through the Department of Public Welfare's ChildLine and Abuse Registry. 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. Pennsylvania utilizes a differentiated response to child abuse reports. This leads our state to have a lower rate of substantiation (the number of substantiated cases divided by the number of reported cases) than most states. While priority is given to children who are victims of substantiated child abuse, child welfare services are also provided through our general protective services system where child abuse is unfounded. Most children aged 0-4 enter foster care placement as a result of a child abuse report, although some of the reports may not have been substantiated. The number of children in foster care was not readily available for individual ages. The estimate of the number of children aged 0-4 is derived by adding the number of children in foster care ages 0-1 to the number of children in foster care ages 2-5 multiplied by a factor of .75.

SOURCE: 2007 Annual Child Abuse Report, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families. **Statewide Data Package: Outcome Measures and Performance Indicators, April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2008** Prepared for Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families by Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.

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. Pennsylvania State Data Center.

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 of 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: Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Public-Funded Pre-K

The following three programs provide high-quality public-funded pre-K to children. Percentages of total child population ages 3-4 are included on the table.

SOURCE for population estimates: Pennsylvania State Data Center and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Head Start Enrollment

The Head Start program serves children ages 3 and 4 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level or eligible for public assistance. As a result of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, up to 35% of children enrolled may come from families with incomes up to 130% of the poverty line. Programs may enroll a small percentage of students who are over the poverty and age limits, including children with special needs. Children in foster care are also categorically eligible for Head Start, regardless of their foster family's income. 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. Percent of children aged 3-4 in poverty is included for this indicator.

SOURCE: Federal Office of Head Start and State Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 2000. 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. The public school pre-K enrollment figures are preliminary as of 9/16/08. The final enrollment report has not been released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. 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.

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Education.

PA Pre-K Counts

PA Pre-K Counts is a new program that began in fiscal year 2007-08 to serve children between age 3 and until the entry age for kindergarten who are at risk of school failure, either because of income (300% of the federal poverty level, or a family of four earning \$63,600), language (English is not your first language), cultural or special needs issues. The providers are school districts, Head Start programs, and Keystone Stars (STAR 2 or above) child care providers.

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

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), the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC), The National Afterschool Association (NAA) and the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). Average provider capacity for children ages 0-4 in centers was estimated to be 36 children, the average (ages 0-4) in group day care homes is 8 and the average capacity for children ages 0-4 in family setting was estimated at 3 children. This is a change from last year's capacity estimate and the numbers were applied to both years. 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. These numbers cannot be compared to local sources that use actual enrollment figures instead of the average estimates noted above.

SOURCE: NAFCC, NAEYC, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, 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 number of children receiving services and the funded slots for infants, toddlers and preschool children in the subsidized child care system. The number of funded slots was determined by dividing the number of children receiving services in a given month divided by 1.84 (a turnover factor determined by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning).

SOURCE: PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

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

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 Education.

3rd 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/browse.asp?a=3&bc=0&c=27525&a_and_tNav=\[633\]&a_and_tNav=\(\)](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/a_and_t/cwp/browse.asp?a=3&bc=0&c=27525&a_and_tNav=[633]&a_and_tNav=())). The percent of students scoring in the below basic or basic category, for each school district and participating charter school are reported. The school years 2004-05 and 2007-08 were chosen to show the change in proficiency from the first year that state funding for full-day kindergarten through the Education Accountability Block Grant (2004-05) may have impacted 3rd grade PSSA scores. 2007-08 third grade students were enrolled in kindergarten in 2004-05 or first year that full day-K begin with block grant funding.

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Education.