

Ohio Valley Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

2014 Community Assessment

Methods

Information relating to Jefferson, Jennings and Scott Counties was gathered through a variety of sources including Annual Reports and Needs Assessments from local service providers, U.S. Census data, Indiana Kids Count data, a number of reliable on-line sources, newspaper clippings, and surveys from both local providers and former and potential clients. Data was reviewed and summarized to describe the most pertinent details that relate to the general public and specifically, low-income families. References are documented for numerous resources throughout the Assessment; specific records are available upon request.

General Summary of Demographics

Jefferson, Jennings, and Scott Counties are all considered rural communities in Southern Indiana; although there are unique qualities of each county, many characteristics are similar. Of these three counties, Scott County is the smallest in total population (23,972), Jennings is the next largest (28,241), and Jefferson County is the largest (32,458). The median age of individuals in the counties is between 39 and 40 years old (www.stats.indiana.edu).

Population	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Indiana
Total	32,458	28,241	23,972	6,570,902
0-4	1,861	1,768	1,415	425,503
5-17	5,358	5,379	4,113	1,165,974
18-24	3,324	2,492	1,949	662,480
25-44	7,826	6,823	5,970	**
45-64	9,151	7,808	6,812	**
65 & older	5,034	3,891	3,352	889,148

(** total number of individuals 25-64 years is 3,394,229. Information not available for these specific categories.) (U.S. Census/Workforce Development)

Since 1990, all three communities have experienced steady population growth. Jennings County has experienced the largest growth overall at 19.4%. From 2012 to 2013, this same county grew primarily through a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 72, compared to only 14 in Jefferson County, and 10 in Scott County. Jefferson County is the only one to see a decrease over the last five years, primarily due to domestic migration (US Census Bureau) as many manufacturing businesses closed or reduced their workforce during the recession.

All counties are primarily white, non-Hispanic/non-Latino citizens. There are several other races represented in these communities including Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian. Jefferson County continues to have the largest number of individuals with two or more races (1.2% of total population) and the largest number of Hispanic/Latino individuals (2.4%); Jennings has 2.2%, and Scott County has 1.6% Hispanic/Latino citizens of their total population. Despite the close percentages between Jefferson and Jennings counties, this number relates to a much larger group as a result of a greater population. Within our own program, 11.5% of the population served is either Hispanic or Latino, which is a much more concentrated population than in the general community.

Hispanic/Latino Population	Percent of Population	Actual Number of individuals
Jefferson	2.4%	768
Jennings	2.2%	631
Scott	1.6%	379

Ethnicity

Race	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Total
Total population	32,458	28,241	23,972	84,671
White	31,192	27,485	23,324	82,001
Black/African American	623	258	79	960
American Indian/ Alaska Native	82	40	61	183
Asian	225	73	131	429
Native Haw/Other Pacific Isl.	10	7	20	37
2 or more races	406	298	176	880

(U.S. Census/Workforce Development)

Employment

Manufacturing is the largest employment opportunity for all three counties served. Other popular occupations include Health Care/social assistance, Retail trade, Transportation/warehousing, and Accommodation and food services (www.stats.indiana.edu). Across the state of Indiana, the rate of unemployment has gradually declined. In June 2014, the state unemployment rate was 6.1%; two of our three local counties remain above the state average.

Employment Characteristics

Employment Characteristics	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Total
Unemployed	5.8%	6.4%	6.2%	6.13% avg.
Total Labor Force	16,587	13,556	11,347	41,490

(www.stats.indiana.edu)

According to the Kids Count Data Center, 30% of Indiana's children have parents who lack secure employment, or were employed less than 35 hours per week; 29% of children younger than six years of age across the state are in low-income working families. Five percent of

children live in low-income households where no adult worked either full or part time in the last 12 months (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>).

Median Income

The median family income has increased the most in Jennings and Scott Counties from 2009 to 2012 (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>).

Median Family Income	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Average
2009	\$42,204	\$41,588	\$38,812	\$40,868
2012	\$43,104	\$46,023	\$40,299	\$43,202

Family Status and Poverty

In all three counties, the majority of families with children under age 18 are married couples; however, households where only a female parent is present in approximately one-quarter of all families. The average percentage of live births to unmarried parents in Indiana is 42.7%. In Jefferson County, the percentage is 44.5%, Jennings County is 50.1%, and Scott County is 51% (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>). This indicates that families need consistent, supportive networks to care for their children and give them the best opportunities possible.

Family Status	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott
Families with children under 18	7,229	7,236	5,366
Married couples with children under 18	67%	67%	61%
Male parent with children under 18	7%	5%	10%
Female parent with children under 18	26%	28%	29%

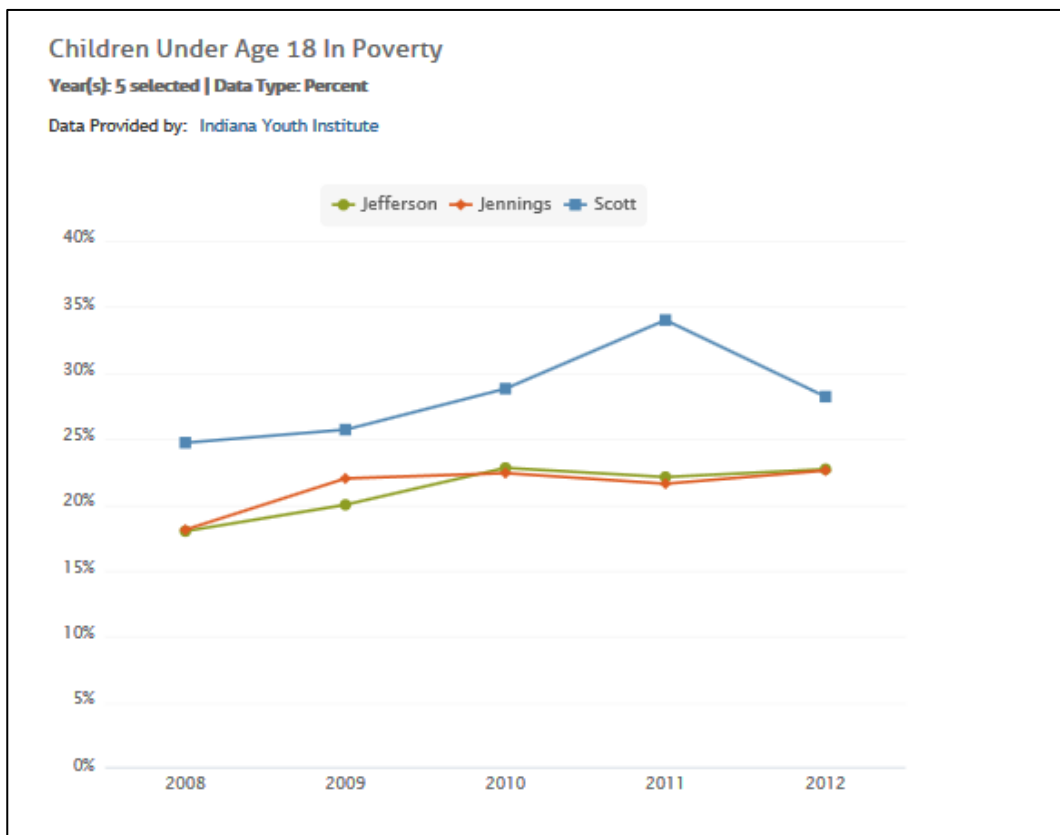
(U.S. Census 2008-2012 ACS, 5-year Estimates)

Families in Poverty	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott
Families with children under 18	1,228	1,374	1,574
Families with children under 5 only	435	419	300

Married families with children under 5 only	17%	33%	47%
Females with no husband present with children under 5 only	66%	53%	30%
Males with no wife present with children under 5 only	17%	14%	23%

(U.S. Census 2008-2012 ACS, 5-year Estimates)

According to the Indiana Youth Institute, there are 22.1% of children living in poverty across Indiana. The number of children in poverty has grown over the last five years. The chart below shows the growth by county. Scott County consistently has the highest percentage of children in poverty; however, Jennings County actually has a larger number of children in poverty as a result of a larger population overall.



(2014 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>)

Children in Poverty	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Indiana
Percent of Children 0-17 years in poverty	22.7%	22.6%	28.2%	22.1%
Total number of Children 0-17 years in poverty	1,631	1,637	1,597	297,780
Total Number of Children 0-4 years in poverty	450	465	313	98,342

The total number of children in poverty between zero and four years old (1,228) divided by five to represent each year of age, multiplied by two to include children in the three and four age group, totals 491 estimated children in poverty who are age-eligible for Head Start. Of this estimated amount, O.V.O. is able to serve roughly 41% of the eligible population through the funded enrollment amount (200 children). When considering the total number of children served throughout an entire school year, it is estimated that 46% of eligible children will receive services in Head Start.

County Health Rankings

According to recent figures in the 2014 County Health Rankings, all three of our counties are in poor health. Out of the 92 counties in Indiana, Jefferson County ranked number 53, Jennings County ranked number 87, and Scott County ranked number 92, the very worst in the state of Indiana. This well-respected research considers multiple health factors such as individual smoking habits, teen birth rates, mental health conditions, available health care, economic factors, air pollution, drinking water violations, and more. There continues to be a great need for improvement in individual and community health status in all three of the counties which we serve. *Indiana County Health Rankings, 2014*. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

Based on the information available in the table below, only 64.1% of pregnant moms in Scott County, and only 72.8% of pregnant moms in Jennings County are beginning prenatal care

during the first trimester of their pregnancy. In these counties, 26% to 36% of pregnant moms smoke during pregnancy. This data indicates a great need for prenatal education in these two particular counties. This further illustrates the fact of these counties ranking in the worst of the state with regards to overall community health, as indicated in the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings (2014)**. There is an enormous need for improvement in these counties to move towards a healthier community and healthy children.

Childhood related Information

Characteristic	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Indiana Averages
Number of births	344	349	304	83,750
% Low birth weight	9.9%	9.7%	9.5%	8.1%
% began PNC in 1 st trimester	77.9%	72.8%	64.1%	68.1%
% smoked during pregnancy	29.7%	26.6%	36.2%	16.6%
% of students receiving Free or Reduced Lunches	52.1%	57.1%	58.6%	48.2%
% of Children who are uninsured	8.7%	8.7%	7.4%	8.3%
Number of Children served by First Steps	120	88	65	20,056
Number of Children served by WIC	1,354	1,759	1,340	277,568
Number of Families served by Healthy Families Indiana*	28	32	28	10,747
Number of Children in Need of Services by DCS (CHINS)	70	251	176	13,035
Substantiated child neglect cases	103	228	136	14,802

Substantiated child physical abuse cases	9	54	23	1,992
Substantiated child sexual cases	18	57	29	3,214

(IYI – Kid’s Count in Indiana 2013 Data Book / www.datacenter.kidscount.org and www.iyi.org/databook);
 (*http://www.in.gov/dcs/files/2012_Healthy_Families_Annual_Report_v4.pdf)

The number of CHINS cases in Jennings County has more than doubled over the last five years. Scott County saw moderate increase and Jefferson County decreased in the number of CHINS cases. Among the three counties, two to three percent of children live in the household with their grandparent(s) and are under their direct care. This statistic is consistent with the families served at O.V.O., as 2% of children enrolled for the 2013-14 school year were being cared for by a grandparent. This circumstance is a result, in part, by the high usage of methamphetamines (meth) and prescription pills in Indiana, and particularly, these counties. In 2013, Indiana led the nation for most number of meth labs dismantled by law enforcement (<http://www.indystar.com>). Between 2009 and 2011, Jennings County consistently ranked among the top ten counties in the state for meth busts. Children involved in these families are removed by local authorities and often placed with next-of-kin when at all possible, instead of going to foster care. The rise of drug abuse has contributed to the number of neglect substantiations and the increasing number of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Child Care and Preschool Facilities

All three of our counties primarily have licensed home child care facilities available for families. Only a small number of Registered Ministries exist in Jefferson and Jennings Counties. In Jefferson County, O.V.O. offers the only licensed centers in the county; in Scott County and Jennings Counties, there is only one other licensed center besides O.V.O. Some preschool

programs are offered through local churches in all three communities; often they are offered two to three days per week, depending on the child's age. All of these preschool programs are available for a fee. All three of our counties have child care voucher programs; however, there is always greater need for vouchers, than there are available vouchers.

Child Care and Preschool Facilities

Child Care Programs	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Total in Indiana
Licensed Centers	2	2	2	598
Licensed Homes	26	14	8	2,874
Registered Ministries	3	0	1	721
Number of Children receiving Child Care Vouchers	96	135	83	53,041
Monthly Avg. Number of Children on a Waiting List for Vouchers	13	29	8	7,358

(<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Rankings.aspx>)

Scott County has one established preschool program through their school district which is free to residents and provides transportation on their public school buses. Approximately sixty-two children are expected to be served during the 2014-15 school year. This program serves primarily four year old children. O.V.O. has maintained a positive working relationship with the school officials and coordinated services for children to access both the preschool in this district for half of the day, and Head Start the opposite half day. Several children are able to benefit from the combination of these programs to help them get on track for kindergarten.

A small, rural community in Scott County has established a free, part-time preschool program for four year olds through the support of local churches and community donations.

Other than these two options in Scott County, the only other preschool programs available are for private pay through churches, schools, and child care providers, or those provided by LEAs for children with diagnosed disabilities. Indiana does not currently offer state-funded preschool; however, five counties have been identified across the state to host a pilot project beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Our three service counties are not identified counties in the pilot project.

Graduation Rates

The overall graduation rate in Indiana for 2013 is 88.4%. In Jefferson County there are two school districts, Madison Consolidated graduation rates reached 89.7%; Southwestern-Jefferson County Consolidated Schools only reached 78%. Jennings County only has one school district and their rate for 2012 was 85.6%, a little below the state-average. Scott County has two school districts; District I only achieved a 64.8% graduation rate while District II climbed a bit higher to 77.5% (Retrieved at www.iyi.org/databook).

Education Data	Jefferson	Jennings	Scott	Indiana
% High School Graduation Rates for 2012	83.9	85.6	71.2	88.4
% of H.S. Graduation Rates (4-Year Cohort)	86.3	85.6	73.5	n/a
% of Special Education Students	15.6	19.7	17.3	14.9
% of Graduates taking the SAT	58	45.1	58.2	62.5

(Retrieved at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org> and www.iyi.org/databook)

Both Jennings and Scott Counties have a high percentage of special education students which correlates with O.V.O. statistics; Jennings County served the largest number of children with a diagnosed disability (34%). Twenty percent of children enrolled in Jefferson County, and 17% of children enrolled in Scott County were identified with a disability or special need.

Head Start Eligible Children and Families

Community Assessment surveys were distributed to approximately 229 people and returned by 42. Although this was small response, the data collected is consistent with the overall data gathered from other sources. The following diagrams display the data gathered through the public surveys.

General Demographics of Survey Respondents

The following percentages are adjusted according to the number of respondents who answered each question; some survey questions were left blank by the participant.

Marital Status

Married	Separated	Divorced	Living Together	Single	Widowed
59%	0	14%	4%	16%	4%

Age Distribution

14-18 years	19-40 years	41-64 years	65+ years
0%	64%	31%	5%

The majority of respondents are in the 19-40 year old category; this is slightly younger than the general population which is closer to the 41-64 year range; however, considering the targeted population of respondents, most are parents of pre-school-aged children.

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
12%	88%

The percentage of Hispanic/Latino respondents is much greater than the typical population, 12% versus 2% overall among the three counties. This does, however, closely reflect the percentage of Hispanic/Latino children served by the program (11.5%).

Race

White	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Some other Race	Two or more races
88%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

Primary Language

English	Spanish	Caribbean Languages	Mid-Eastern & South Asian	East Asia (Chinese / Vietnamese)	Native North American/Alaskan	Other
95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The number of respondents varies slightly from the general population, but again closely reflects the population served by the program.

Community Strengths and Needs

The survey participants ranked the following characteristics of their community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a strength and 5 as the most needed. Characteristics identified as the top three strengths include Police and Fire Services, Quality Preschools, and Dental Care for Children. The greatest needs identified were Recreational Programs, Services for Children with Disabilities, and Affordable Housing. The chart below shows the percentage of respondents for each characteristic as they were ranked strength to need.

Characteristic	Strength		Sufficient		Need
	1	2	3	4	5
Arts / Cultural Events	19%	7%	29%	16%	29%
Affordable Housing	2%	5%	33%	29%	31%
Recreational Programs	5%	7%	25%	28%	35%
Child Care facilities	10%	14%	31%	21%	24%
Medical Care for Adults	7%	19%	33%	19%	22%
Medical Care for Children	15%	17%	38%	15%	15%
Legal Aid Services	5%	10%	35%	25%	25%
Quality Education	10%	11%	50%	10%	19%
Quality Preschools	26%	10%	29%	14%	21%
Police & Fire Services	27%	19%	29%	15%	10%
Dental Care for Adults	24%	16%	34%	18%	8%
Dental Care for Children	19%	7%	38%	24%	12%
Services for Children w/ Disabilities	9%	12%	16%	30%	33%
Services for Mental Health/Counseling	14%	14%	22%	28%	22%
Parent Support Services (support groups, workshops)	14%	10%	26%	29%	21%

In another question about Community Issues, survey participants rated the following issues as they relate to their community as “No Problem” with a number 1, “Minor Problem” with a number 3, and “Serious Problem” as a number 5. Respondents ranked the most serious problems in their community as Drug Abuse, Poverty, and Teen Pregnancy. These issues are similar to concerns identified through state and county research. The participants identified minor problems to be Racial/Ethnic Discrimination, Access to Utilities, and Job Skills/Training. The results are shown in the table below.

Issue	No Problem		Minor Problem		Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5
Unemployment	7%	2%	23%	33%	35%
Teen Pregnancy	0%	8%	19%	24%	49%
Homelessness	2%	14%	29%	26%	29%
Alcoholism	0%	3%	28%	33%	36%
Drug Abuse	0%	0%	11%	21%	68%
Poverty	0%	0%	10%	39%	51%
Public Transportation	5%	9%	17%	26%	43%
Lack of Medical/Dental Insur.	5%	5%	37%	21%	32%
Racial/Ethnic Discrimination	10%	18%	50%	4%	18%
Illiteracy	10%	12%	41%	27%	10%
Child Abuse & Neglect	0%	10%	32%	23%	35%
Crime	0%	2%	31%	31%	36%
Family Violence	2%	5%	32%	38%	23%
Substandard Housing	5%	12%	37%	22%	24%
Job Skills Training	10%	17%	34%	29%	10%
Access to Utilities	15%	15%	42%	18%	10%

A portion of the survey for community members related specifically to participants with children ages birth to five years old. In determining the greater need for Part Day Preschool versus Full Day Preschool, of the respondents who submitted their surveys, 51% stated they would chose Part Day Preschool, while 49% reported they would chose Full Day Preschool services. The surveys also asked participants to indicate the reason for their choice of Part Day or Full Day Preschool; the majority of respondents indicated Bus Services for Part Day and Parent Employment for Full Day. Despite the extra costs of providing transportation to children,

it is obvious from these results that the bus service provided by O.V.O. Head Start is a significant factor in parents enrolling their child in preschool services. This is consistent with our rural area and the responses of Public Transportation being a significant need indicated in the survey.

Community Partner Surveys

Seventy-six surveys were sent to community service providers via webmail; only fifteen (20%) were returned in time for information to be compiled. Sixty percent of respondents are collaborative partners with O.V.O. Head Start, 33% are a referral source only, and 7% have no current relationship. Of all respondents, 90% have referred clients to O.V.O. Head Start during the past year.

Ages of clients served

Children (0-8)	Youth (9-18)	Adult (19-65)	Elderly (66+)
38%	29%	33%	0%

Income Levels of clients served

Lower (\$0-\$15,000)	Middle (\$15,001 - \$35,000)	Upper (\$35,000 +)
44%	17%	6%

The majority of respondents serve clients in the \$0 to \$15,000 income range. Thirty-three percent of respondents did not reply to this question.

Community Strengths and Needs

Similar to that of former and potential clients, the community service providers were asked to rank the following characteristics of their community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a strength and 5 as the most needed. Service providers identified Parent Support Services, Services for Children with Disabilities, and Legal Aid Services as the highest need. The chart below shows the percentage of respondents for each characteristic as they were ranked strength

to need. Arts/Cultural Events, Quality Education, and Medical Care for Children were ranked as being strong characteristics in these communities. The table below provides response information.

Characteristic	Strength 1	2	Sufficient 3	4	Need 5
Arts/Cultural Events	25%	25%	34%	8%	8%
Affordable Housing	0%	27%	64%	0%	9%
Recreational Programs	10%	20%	40%	0%	30%
Child Care Facilities	0%	0%	46%	31%	23%
Medical Care for Adults	0%	17%	58%	25%	0%
Medical Care for Children	23%	15%	38%	23%	0%
Legal Aid Services	0%	0%	56%	33%	11%
Quality Education	25%	8%	67%	0%	0%
Quality Preschools	15%	23%	62%	0	0%
Police & Fire Services	0%	54%	46%	0%	0%
Dental Care for Adults	9%	18%	73%	0%	0%
Dental Care for Children	0%	14%	57%	22%	7%
Services for Children w/ Disabilities	0%	8%	31%	38%	23%
Services for Mental Health/Counseling	0%	0%	64%	22%	14%
Parent Support Services	0%	0%	28%	36%	36%

Again, similar to the surveys for clients, the service providers were questioned about Community Issues. Survey participants rated the following issues as they relate to their community as “No Problem” with a number 1, “Minor Problem” with a number 3, and “Serious

Problem” as a number 5. Service providers identified the most serious problems as Drug Abuse, Alcoholism, and Teen Pregnancy. Concerns of both Drug Abuse and Teen Pregnancy are consistent in both Client and Service Provider Surveys.

Characteristic	No Problem 1	2	Minor Problem 3	4	Serious Problem 5
Unemployment	0%	0%	31%	46%	23%
Teen Pregnancy	0%	0%	40%	20%	40%
Homelessness	0%	8%	63%	22%	8%
Alcoholism	0%	0%	20%	33%	47%
Drug Abuse	0%	0%	0%	22%	78%
Poverty	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%
Public Transportation	0%	0%	50%	14%	36%
Lack of Medical/Dental Insurance	0%	0%	54%	38%	8%
Racial/Ethnic Discrimination	7%	50%	43%	0%	0%
Illiteracy	0%	25%	75%	0%	0%
Child Abuse & Neglect	0%	8%	38%	23%	31%
Crime	0%	15%	47%	23%	15%
Family Violence	0%	14%	50%	22%	14%
Substandard Housing	0%	10%	27%	36%	27%
Job Skills Training	0%	15%	15%	31%	39%
Access to Utilities	0%	29%	29%	6%	36%

Although there were fewer respondents than anticipated, the data remains consistent with other sources gathered. The communities have serious concerns about the drug abuse. It seems

that law enforcement is pushing forward with reducing the issue; however, the long term effects on children, families, and the entire community will be a struggle for a long while. Family case management, mental health and health services, special education, and parenting support are some of the systems which will be in great need moving forward. In at least two communities, there are Children’s Consortium councils meeting regularly to share resources and develop new initiatives towards creating healthier children.

Head Start Services Data

The *2013 Program Information Report* (O.V.O. Head Start) indicates that 61% of enrolled children were four years old at the time of enrollment. Of 289 children, 13% of children served were either Hispanic or Latino in origin; this is a large concentration of Hispanic/Latino families considering the overall population includes only 2% on average of individuals from this culture. The population of Head Start children served is otherwise typical of the general population. The following table displays children’s ethnicity and race.

Ethnicity

Total number of children served	289
Hispanic or Latino origin	13%
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin	87%

Race

American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	>1%
Black or African American	1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%

White	90%
Biracial/Multi-racial	9%

Primary Language

The majority of Head Start children speak English (92%); 8% speak Spanish as their primary language, and less than 1% of children speak East Asian Languages. Only one staff member is proficient in a language other than English; therefore, local interpreters and translators are utilized to communicate with families who speak alternate languages.

Other Significant Characteristics

Only 10% of the children enrolled were recipients of TANF or SSI and 8% held the status of a foster child. The number receiving TANF has significantly dropped over the last few years, while the number in Foster Care is gradually rising. The majority of children's chronic health issues were documented as asthma, vision problems, and hearing difficulties. The primary disability diagnosed was speech or language impairment, with non-categorical/developmental delay as the second highest diagnosis. Of the number of families served (266), 37% were two-parent and 63% were single-parent families. Sixty percent of the families received support from the WIC nutritional program and 67% received SNAP/Food Stamps.

Conclusion

Reliable data indicates that the three counties served by O.V.O. have been affected by the high rate of drug usage in the State. The environment in these counties does not support the healthy development of young children; the overall health of the communities is poor compared to the rest of the state. The majority of public school graduation rates remain below the state average, and the rates of children needing special education are above the state average. Head

Start plays a crucial role in supporting children and families as they struggle to push past the cycle of poverty, drug abuse, and other factors. Head Start will provide a foundation for each enrolled child to begin their educational career and support parents to be their child's first teacher. O.V.O. is committed to providing quality services to these communities.