

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

Early Childhood Programs
Community Needs
Assessment 2023



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OVERVIEW OF GRANTEE AND COMMUNITIES IN SERVICE AREA

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO) was established in 1966 as one of Iowa's sixteen Community Action Agencies (CAA). It serves the people and communities of 12 Northwest and North Central Iowa counties: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster, and Wright. The **geographic service area** for the UDMO Head Start and Early Head Start program encompasses eight counties and their respective communities located in rural Northwest Iowa: Buena Vista County – Storm Lake; Clay County – Spencer; Dickinson County – Milford; Emmet County – Estherville; O'Brien County – Hartley and Sheldon; Osceola County – Sibley; Palo Alto County – Emmetsburg; and Pocahontas County – Laurens.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The community assessment process for this document began when Irene Mayland, Early Childhood Programs Director, created a team consisting of:

- Early Childhood Program Coordinators: Angie Mitchell and Chantel Kloucek
- Family Services Coordinator/Early Childhood Program Coordinator: Denise Graettinger
- Health Services Coordinator: Alyssa Friesner
- Home Based Coaches: Maria Villalobos
- Education Coach: Jerilyn Stofferan
- Education Coordinator: Travis Hayenga
- Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting: Shakira Meyer
- Seasons Center for Behavioral Health: Sarah Wurm (Community Partner and Health Advisory Member)

The **requirements set forth by the Head Start Program Performance Standards** were addressed within the data gathering and data analysis process.

*Much of the data contained in this report is taken from the American Community Survey. While reviewing and analyzing the data, the team noticed unusual variations that may best be explained by the note from ACS below:

Increase to 5-Year Margins of Error Containing Data Collected in 2020

Note that, in general, margins of error for 5-year estimates containing data collected in 2020 increased compared to prior 5-year estimates. This was due to a reduced number of interviews resulting from the pandemic for the records collected in 2020. More information may be found in the data user note entitled "Increased Margins of Error in the 5-Year Estimates Containing Data Collected in 2020", which can be found at:

<https://www.census.gov/programssurveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2022-04.html>.

MAJOR FINDINGS: ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

This community assessment draws a picture of an area prone to problems commonly found in rural Iowa. In prior years, progress has been made to address these issues, yet there is still more work to be done.

The **four key issues** identified are:

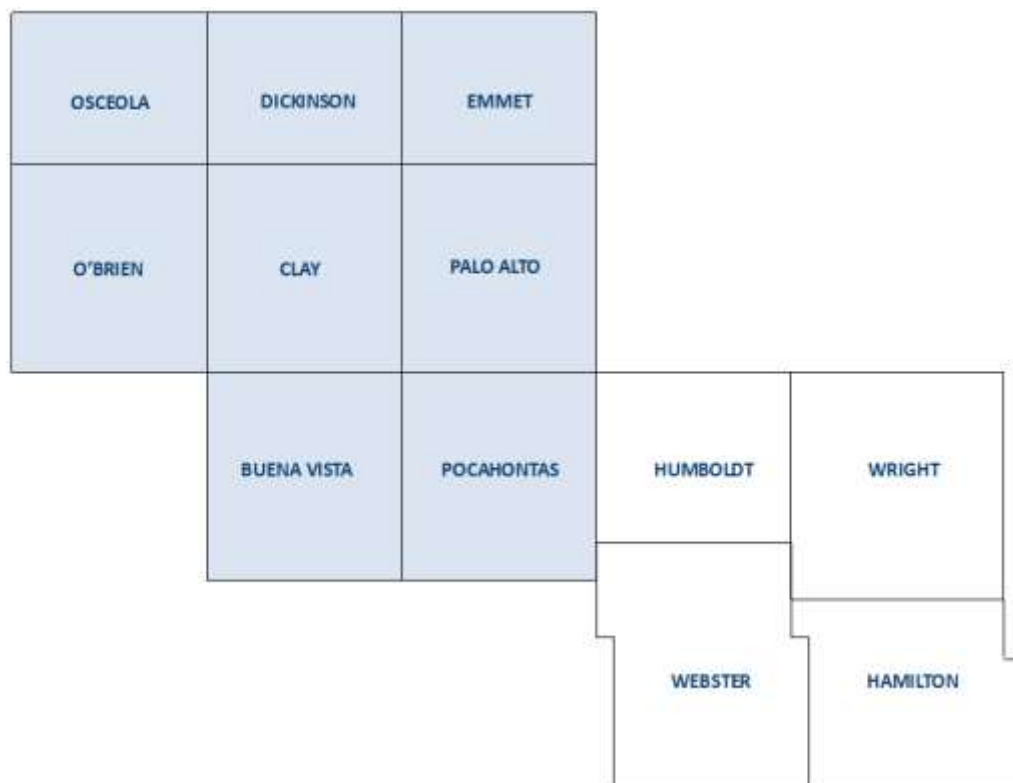
- (1) The impact of poverty on early childhood development extends beyond insufficient income.
- (2) Trauma informed care in early childhood can seriously impact brain development.
- (3) Decision makers must be intentional in their efforts to expand program services.
- (4) The value and benefits of expanding the use of social media merit further exploration.

Based on the findings of this community assessment process, **five priorities** were established:

- (1) revisit governance and leadership to strengthen capacity for expanding and sustaining quality programs and services,
- (2) re-examine policies, procedures and best practices to ensure personnel are supported within their current positions and have the skills and abilities to grow with program expansion,
- (3) continue to respond to current and emerging needs with best practices and research to create high quality services,
- (4) rethink the significance of purposeful community partnerships to enhance and expand resources, and
- (5) redesign methods of communication using new and emerging tools and technologies to enhance connectivity among staff and with families, partners and funders.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Service Area: Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.'s (UDMO) service area consists of twelve Northwest and North Central counties. The counties indicated in blue are representative of Head Start service counties and counties in white are other UDMO service counties.



Geographic Boundary Size: The counties are comprised of rural, farming communities surrounded by gently rolling hills, flat plains, as well as corn and bean fields. The area is a predominately agriculturally related industry consisting of farms, meat packing plants and factories.

Report Area	Land Area Size (mi ²)	County Seat/ Capital/ Central Office
Buena Vista	575	Storm Lake
Clay	567	Spencer
Dickinson	380	Spirit Lake
Emmet	396	Estherville
Hamilton	577	Webster City
Humboldt	434	Dakota City
O'Brien	573	Primghar
Osceola	399	Sibley
Palo Alto	564	Emmetsburg
Pocahontas	577	Pocahontas
Webster	716	Fort Dodge
Wright	580	Eagle Grove
HS/EHS Counties Total	4,031	Spencer
UDMO Total	6,338	Graettinger
State of Iowa	55,853	Des Moines
United States	3,533,041	Washington D.C.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Governing Structure: UDMO is also governed by a 16-member multi-county Board of Directors who are responsible for policymaking and program governance. The board structure meets the tripartite requirements, consisting of 1/3 public officials, at least 1/3 client representatives and the remainder composed of private sector representatives.

Dan Hartman	Buena Vista Public Official	Bruce Reimers	Humboldt Public Official
Jennifer Sammons	Buena Vista Client Representative	Mariah Martinez	O'Brien Client Representative
Kodie Borchers	Clay Client Representative	Lois Boersma	Osceola Client Representative
David Scott	Clay Private Sector	Ron Graettinger	Palo Alto Public Official
Tim Fairchild	Dickinson Public Official	Clarence Siepker	Pocahontas Private Sector
Glenn Bohmer	Emmet Private Sector	Nick Carlson	Webster Public Official
Amy Ouphachack	Hamilton Client Representative	Rick Rasmussen	Wright Private Sector
Jerry Kloberdanz	Hamilton Public Official	Vacancy	Humboldt Client Representative

As per the Head Start Act, the governing body must have background and experience in the areas of: fiscal management or accounting (Clarence Siepker), legal issues (David Scott) and early childhood education and development (Jennifer Sammons). Additional members shall reflect the community to be served and include parents of children who are currently, or formerly, enrolled in Head Start programs (Kodie Borchers and Mariah Martinez).

UDMO has a Policy Council Board who is responsible for the direction of the Head Start Program at the agency level. Parents of children currently enrolled in each program option must be proportionately represented on the Policy Council. Policy Council members are elected by the parents of children who are enrolled in Head Start.

Enrolled Students	Program Options	Delegates
120	EHS Home Base	3
56	EHS Center Base	1
306	HS Center Base	6
NA	Community Representative	2
	Totals	12

The program ensures members of Policy Council do not have a conflict of interest, receive compensation for serving on Policy Council or provide services to Head Start. Staff may not serve on Policy Council except parents who occasionally substitute as staff.

Policy Council is responsible for approving and submitting decisions to the governing board on:

- Activities which support the involvement of parents in the program that are responsive to community and parent needs
- Program recruitment, selection, and enrollment
- Applications for funding and amendments prior to submission
- Budget planning for program expenditures, including participation in Policy Council activities
- Policy Council Bylaws
- Head Start Program personnel policies and decisions, including employment and dismissal of program staff
- Policy Council election procedures
- Recommendations on delegates/service areas
- Develop procedures for how Policy Council members are elected
- Use ongoing monitoring results, data on school readiness goals, federal monitoring results and annual self-assessment information to conduct its responsibilities

Members of Policy Council will serve one year unless re-elected for another year, not to exceed five terms. Policy Council members have the option for reimbursement of mileage and child care.

**All charts contain UDMO’s twelve county service area with Head Start and Early Head Start’s eight counties highlighted in blue. The term Head Start is inclusive of Head Start and Early Head Start unless specified differently.*

Population: As reflective of the current grant cycle, the United States and the State of Iowa have increased in population. After years of population decline, both UDMO’s and Head Start’s service areas reported an increase in population in 2021.

Service Area	Population 2018	Population 2019	Population 2020	Population 2021
Buena Vista	20,260	20,058	19,950	20,723
Clay	16,313	16,211	16,138	16,410
Dickinson	17,056	17,127	17,260	17,536
Emmet	9,551	9,438	9,322	9,433
Hamilton	15,110	14,997	14,905	15,073
Humboldt	9,566	9,554	9,518	9,622
O’Brien	13,911	13,835	13,796	14,139
Osceola	6,115	6,052	6,016	6,168
Palo Alto	9,055	9,003	8,941	8,996
Pocahontas	6,898	6,797	6,725	7,091
Webster	36,757	36,545	36,348	37,114
Wright	12,804	12,739	12,644	12,978
HS Counties Total	99,159	98,521	98,148	100,496
UDMO Total	173,396	172,356	171,563	175,283
State of Iowa	3,132,499	3,139,508	3,150,011	3,179,090
United States	322,903,030	324,697,795	326,569,308	329,725,481

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Racial and Ethnic Composition: White/Non-Hispanics are the predominate population at 91.93% (over 160,000 individuals) in the Head Start service area compared to 93.61% State of Iowa and 81.56% nationally.

Service Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
Buena Vista	14,916	530	2,125	43	378	1486	1245	5,498	15,225
Clay	15,595	29	93	32	0	150	511	671	15,739
Dickinson	16,728	16	153	17	0	73	549	424	17,112
Emmet	8,498	234	4	18	3	270	406	932	8,501
Hamilton	13,947	225	401	20	65	58	357	977	14,096
Humboldt	9,185	20	85	4	52	81	195	462	9,160
O'Brien	13,134	228	93	61	0	328	295	778	13,361
Osceola	5,721	37	62	43	0	77	228	533	5,635
Palo Alto	8,442	132	41	4	0	30	347	285	8,711
Pocahontas	6,754	23	40	13	37	84	140	309	6,782
Webster	32,914	1,603	499	99	2	676	1321	2,122	34,992
Wright	11,856	32	19	23	0	312	736	1,696	11,282
HS Counties Total	89,788	1,229	2,611	231	418	2,498	3,721	9,430	91,066
UDMO Total	157,690	3,109	3,615	377	537	3,625	6,330	14,687	160,596
State of Iowa	2,795,319	119,036	79,188	10,889	4,182	46,711	123,765	203,048	2,976,042
United States	224,789,109	41,393,012	18,782,924	2,722,661	615,557	18,382,796	23,039,422	60,806,969	268,918,512

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Service Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
Buena Vista	71.98%	2.56%	10.25%	0.21%	1.82%	7.17%	6.01%	26.53%	73.47%
Clay	95.03%	0.18%	0.57%	0.20%	0.00%	0.91%	3.11%	4.09%	95.91%
Dickinson	95.39%	0.09%	0.87%	0.10%	0.00%	0.42%	3.13%	2.42%	97.58%
Emmet	90.09%	2.48%	0.04%	0.19%	0.03%	2.86%	4.30%	9.88%	90.12%
Hamilton	92.53%	1.49%	2.66%	0.13%	0.43%	0.38%	2.37%	6.48%	93.52%
Humboldt	95.46%	0.21%	0.88%	0.04%	0.54%	0.84%	2.03%	4.80%	95.20%
O'Brien	92.89%	1.61%	0.66%	0.43%	0.00%	2.32%	2.09%	5.50%	94.50%
Osceola	92.75%	0.60%	1.01%	0.70%	0.00%	1.25%	3.70%	8.64%	91.36%
Palo Alto	93.84%	1.47%	46.00%	0.04%	0.00%	0.33%	3.86%	3.17%	96.83%
Pocahontas	95.25%	0.32%	0.56%	0.18%	0.52%	1.18%	1.97%	4.36%	95.64%
Webster	88.68%	4.32%	1.34%	0.27%	0.01%	1.82%	3.56%	5.72%	94.28%
Wright	91.35%	0.25%	0.15%	0.18%	0.00%	2.40%	5.67%	13.07%	86.93%
HS Counties Total	90.90%	1.16%	7.50%	0.26%	0.30%	2.06%	3.52%	8.07%	91.93%
UDMO Total	89.96%	1.77%	2.06%	0.22%	0.31%	2.07%	3.61%	8.38%	91.62%
State of Iowa	87.93%	3.74%	2.49%	0.34%	0.13%	1.47%	3.89%	6.39%	93.61%
United States	68.17%	12.55%	5.70%	0.83%	0.19%	5.58%	6.99%	18.44%	81.56%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Home Languages: The chart below identifies the language spoken at home by the ability of individuals to also speak English. Dickinson and Buena Vista counties are the most diverse in terms of the number of different languages spoken in homes other than English. Emmet and Osceola counties, followed by Pocahontas and Buena Vista counties serve the highest number of Spanish speaking families.

Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
Buena Vista	Spanish	4,407	68%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	9	0.14%
	German or other West Germanic languages	45	0.69%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	0	0.00%
	Other Indo-European languages	2	0.03%
	Korean	4	0.06%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	40	0.62%
	Vietnamese	141	2.18%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	4	0.06%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	1,615	24.93%
	Other and unspecified languages	198	3.06%
Clay	Spanish	238	62.80%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	0	0.00%
	German or other West Germanic languages	63	16.62%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	0	0.00%
	Other Indo-European languages	7	1.85%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	48	12.66%
	Other and unspecified languages	23	6.07%
Dickinson	Spanish	283	47.80%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	9	1.52%
	German or other West Germanic languages	71	11.99%
	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	34	5.74%
	Other Indo-European languages	6	1.01%
	Korean	1	0.17%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	22	3.72%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	113	19.09%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	32	5.41%
	Arabic.	16	2.70%
Other and unspecified languages	5	0.84%	
Emmet	Spanish	567	88.73%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	12	1.88%
	German or other West Germanic languages	25	3.91%
	Russian, Polish and other Slavic Languages	11	1.72%
	Other Indo-European languages	2	0.31%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	4	0.63%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	1	0.16%
	Arabic	11	1.72%
Other and unspecified languages	6	0.94%	
Hamilton	Spanish	763	69.62%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	2	0.18%
	German or other West Germanic languages	47	4.29%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	0	0.00%
	Other Indo-European languages	4	0.36%
	Korean	0	0.00%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	2	0.18%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	1	0.09%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	236	21.53%
	Other and unspecified languages	41	3.74%
Humboldt	Spanish	352	70.68%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	2	0.40%
	German or other West Germanic languages	27	5%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	20	4%
	Other Indo-European languages	15	3%
	Korean	0	0%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	2	0.40%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	80	16%
	Other and unspecified languages	0	0%

Home Language Continued			
Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
O'Brien	Spanish	387	57.25%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	12	1.78%
	German or other West Germanic languages	34	5.03%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	6	0.89%
	Other Indo-European languages	8	1.18%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	2	0.30%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	9	1.33%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	136	20.12%
	Arabic	73	10.80%
Other and unspecified languages	9	1.33%	
Osceola	Spanish	425	86.56%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	8	1.63%
	German or other West Germanic languages	25	5.09%
	Other Indo-European languages	3	0.61%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	2	0.41%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	28	5.70%	
Palo Alto	Spanish	147	57.42%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	6	2.34%
	German or other West Germanic languages	19	7.42%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	10	3.91%
	Other Indo-European languages	3	1.17%
	Vietnamese	0	0.00%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
	Arabic	11	4.30%
	Other and unspecified languages	60	23.44%
Pocahontas	Spanish	230	69.28%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	17	5.12%
	German or other West Germanic languages	14	4.22%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	2	0.60%
	Other Indo-European languages	2	0.60%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	33	9.94%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	33	9.94%
	Other and unspecified languages	1	0.30%
Webster	Spanish	943	55.93%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	121	7.18%
	German or other West Germanic languages	159	9.43%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	2	0.12%
	Other Indo-European languages	85	5.04%
	Korean	89	5.28%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	107	6.35%
	Vietnamese	0	0.00%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	34	2.02%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	8	0.47%
	Arabic	12	0.71%
Other and unspecified languages	126	7.47%	
Wright	Spanish	1120	95.73%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	6	0.51%
	German or other West Germanic languages	12	1.03%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	3	0.26%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	14	1.20%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	15	1.28%	
State of Iowa	Spanish	48,782	27.34%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	8,808	4.94%
	German or other West Germanic languages	16,041	8.99%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	12,100	6.78%
	Other Indo-European languages	17,113	9.59%
	Korean	3,045	1.71%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	9,701	5.44%
	Vietnamese	9,083	5.09%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	3,392	1.90%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	25,447	14.26%
	Arabic	10,909	6.11%
	Other and unspecified languages	14,024	7.86%

Home Language Continued			
Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
United States	Spanish	41,157,140	61.24%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	2,078,267	3.09%
	German or other West Germanic languages	1,425,743	2.12%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	2,121,271	3.16%
	Other Indo-European languages	5,900,210	8.78%
	Korean	1,085,969	1.62%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	3,460,422	5.15%
	Vietnamese	1,528,461	2.27%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	1,723,342	2.56%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	3,108,569	4.63%
	Arabic	1,305,000	1.94%
Other and unspecified languages	2,309,016	3.44%	

Data Source: Iowa Data Center, <https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/acs/social/languagespoken/language-ability>
2017-2021 Source Language Spoken at Home by the Ability to Speak English:

Gender and Age Demographics: The data clearly shows females in the UDMO service area are more likely to live in poverty at 12.81% compared to males at 9.28%. Only one of Head Start’s counties (O’Brien) is above the State of Iowa’s rate for males in poverty, whereas four (Clay, Emmet, O’Brien, and Osceola) are above the State of Iowa’s rate for females in poverty.

Service Area	Male of all Ages			Female of all Ages		
	Total	Poverty	% in Poverty	Total	Poverty	% in Poverty
Buena Vista	10,923	984	9.01%	9,800	972	9.92%
Clay	8,074	747	9.25%	8,336	1,223	14.67%
Dickinson	8,781	595	6.78%	8,755	655	7.48%
Emmet	4,696	399	8.50%	4,737	690	14.57%
Hamilton	7,588	536	7.06%	7,485	630	8.42%
Humboldt	4,867	631	12.96%	4,755	729	15.33%
O’Brien	7,106	800	11.26%	7,033	932	13.25%
Osceola	3,160	270	8.54%	3,008	429	14.26%
Palo Alto	4,573	368	8.05%	4,423	416	9.41%
Pocahontas	3,533	270	7.64%	3,558	440	12.37%
Webster	19,353	1,811	9.36%	17,761	3,096	17.43%
Wright	6,648	880	13.24%	6,330	799	12.62%
HS Counties Total	50,846	4,433	8.72%	49,650	5,757	11.60%
UDMO Total	89,302	8,291	9.28%	85,981	11,011	12.81%
State of Iowa	1,590,001	151,946	9.56%	1,589,089	187,749	12.62%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Children in Poverty: This measure is relevant because research indicates that those who experience poverty during childhood are much more likely to become lower-income adults than those who do not. Additionally, children in poverty are more likely to have lower academic achievement, drop out of high school and later be unemployed, experience economic hardship, and be involved in the criminal justice system. Conversely, the tremendous amount of research behind the Head Start program demonstrates lifelong positive outcomes for children in poverty who participate in Head Start. (<https://nhsa.org/resource/facts-and-impacts/>)

The chart below illustrates the previous three years of data regarding the percent of children under age four who are living in poverty throughout the UDMO Head Start services area, as well as, across Iowa and the United States. A review of the trend data shows the UDMO service area, as a whole, continues to be above the State of Iowa average for children under age four living in poverty. All counties, except O’Brien and Palo Alto, had a decline in the percent of children under age four in poverty in the 2020 reporting, but the percentages increased in the 2021. Osceola County, at over 28%, is higher percentage than the state and national percentages. The continued higher percentages of poverty for children under age 4 indicate the ongoing need for UDMO’s Early Childhood Programs.

Service Area	Children Age 0 - 4 (2019)			Children Age 0 - 4 (2020)			Children Age 0 - 4 (2021)		
	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty
Buena Vista	1,494	368	24.63%	1,441	273	18.95%	1,479	184	12.44%
Clay	1,058	217	20.51%	964	96	9.96%	942	168	17.83%
Dickinson	785	79	10.06%	758	75	9.89%	757	125	16.51%
Emmet	504	139	27.58%	483	71	14.70%	490	73	14.90%
Hamilton	918	134	14.60%	884	113	12.78%	848	109	12.85%
Humboldt	564	79	14.01%	569	76	13.36%	582	73	12.54%
O’Brien	834	120	14.39%	849	110	12.96%	872	131	15.02%
Osceola	351	98	27.92%	337	109	32.34%	323	92	28.48%
Palo Alto	604	50	8.28%	615	63	10.24%	552	102	18.48%
Pocahontas	361	35	9.70%	367	25	6.81%	424	20	4.72%
Webster	2,114	366	17.31%	2,091	297	14.20%	2,157	287	13.31%
Wright	775	238	30.71%	817	250	30.60%	804	268	33.33%
HS Counties Total	5,991	1,106	18.46%	5,814	822	14.14%	5,839	895	15.33%
UDMO Total	10,362	1,923	18.56%	10,175	1,558	15.31%	10,230	1,632	15.95%
State of Iowa	193,219	30,945	16.02%	178,664	24,655	13.80%	191,488	28,244	14.75%
United States	19,430,702	3,948,405	20.32%	19,294,872	3,679,064	19.07%	19,064,128	3,535,591	18.55%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Service Area	Age 5-17			Age 18-64			Age 65+		
	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty
Buena Vista	3,861	514	13.31%	11,405	1,010	8.86%	2,969	248	8.35%
Clay	2,886	574	19.89%	9,000	1,068	11.87%	3,292	160	4.86%
Dickinson	2,626	223	8.49%	9,524	731	7.68%	4,436	171	3.85%
Emmet	1,337	248	18.55%	4,838	493	10.19%	1,977	275	13.91%
Hamilton	2,563	266	10.38%	8,432	558	6.62%	3,021	233	7.71%
Humboldt	1,713	442	25.80%	5,313	646	12.16%	1,915	199	10.39%
O’Brien	2,386	419	17.56%	7,831	977	12.48%	2,715	205	7.55%
Osceola	1,110	226	20.36%	3,386	340	10.04%	1,252	41	3.27%
Palo Alto	1,496	188	12.57%	4,805	352	7.33%	1,784	142	7.96%
Pocahontas	1,155	153	13.25%	3,874	436	11.25%	1,502	101	6.72%
Webster	5,602	1185	21.15%	20,001	2,780	13.90%	6,604	655	9.92%
Wright	2,370	314	13.25%	6,843	897	13.11%	2,769	200	7.22%
HS Counties Total	16,857	2,545	15.10%	54,663	5,407	9.89%	19,927	1,343	6.74%
UDMO Total	29,105	4,752	16.33%	95,252	10,288	10.80%	34,236	2,630	7.68%
Iowa	537,135	66,704	12.42%	1,835,310	206,598	11.26%	520,665	38,149	7.33%
United States	53,931,937	8,907,833	16.52%	197,195,974	23,280,096	11.81%	51,705,664	4,938,116	9.55%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Household Composition: Poverty is defined here using the Census Bureau poverty definition - Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). For more information see: [How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty](#)

Single mothers are one of the most disadvantaged groups in the United States, earning significantly less than single fathers. In the UDMO Head Start counties, there are a higher percentage of married couples living in poverty than the State of Iowa percentage.

Service Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	%	Families in Poverty Married Couples	%	Families in Poverty Male Householder	%	Families in Poverty Female Householder	%
Buena Vista	4,401	293	6.66%	134	3.04%	52	1.18%	107	2.43%
Clay	4,227	389	9.20%	130	3.08%	0	0.00%	259	6.13%
Dickinson	4,799	176	3.67%	114	2.38%	2	0.04%	60	1.25%
Emmet	2,162	193	8.93%	119	5.50%	1	0.05%	73	3.38%
Hamilton	3,782	242	6.40%	102	2.70%	8	0.21%	132	3.49%
Humboldt	2,525	217	8.59%	62	2.46%	15	0.59%	140	5.54%
O'Brien	3,572	252	7.05%	110	3.08%	0	0.00%	142	3.98%
Osceola	1,617	126	7.79%	41	2.54%	11	0.68%	74	4.58%
Palo Alto	2,144	132	6.16%	85	3.96%	6	0.28%	41	1.91%
Pocahontas	1,880	99	5.27%	71	3.78%	5	0.27%	23	1.22%
Webster	8,693	774	8.90%	356	4.10%	36	0.41%	382	4.39%
Wright	3,346	338	10.10%	150	4.48%	49	1.46%	139	4.15%
HS Counties Total	24,802	1,660	6.69%	804	3.24%	77	0.31%	779	3.14%
UDMO Total	43,148	3,231	7.49%	1,474	3.42%	185	0.43%	1,572	3.64%
State of Iowa	799,902	55,923	6.99%	20,126	2.52%	6,087	0.76%	29,710	3.71%
United States	80,755,759	7,181,779	8.89%	2,658,265	3.29%	774,828	0.96%	3,748,686	4.64%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Employment: Although the unemployment rates are low, the majority of families living in poverty are considered the “working poor”. The UDMO Head Start and UDMO service area unemployment rates are below state and national rates, which supports the statement that we serve the “working poor”.

Service Area	Total Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Buena Vista	11,873	11,521	352	2.96%
Clay	8,590	8,330	260	3.03%
Dickinson	11,722	11,421	301	2.57%
Emmet	4,891	4,719	172	3.52%
Hamilton	7,048	6,836	212	3.01%
Humboldt	4,941	4,798	143	2.89%
O'Brien	8,262	8,039	223	2.70%
Osceola	3,776	3,689	87	2.30%
Palo Alto	4,504	4,368	136	3.02%
Pocahontas	4,250	4,144	106	2.49%
Webster	19,101	18,464	637	3.33%
Wright	6,898	6,704	194	2.81%
HS Counties Total	57,868	56,231	1,637	2.83%
UDMO Total	95,856	93,033	2,823	2.95%
State of Iowa	1,727,915	1,670,594	57,321	3.32%
United States	169,244,028	162,549,093	6,694,935	3.96%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Individuals from the UDMO Head Start area are primarily employed in manufacturing and retail jobs, which is reflective of the trend across the State of Iowa. Many of the Head Start counties have minimal or no opportunities for many of the job categories listed. Job categories listed below are based on US Census data.

Service Area	Farm Jobs	Forestry, Fishing & Related Activities	Mining Jobs	Utilities Jobs	Construction Jobs	Manufacturing Jobs	Wholesale Trade Jobs	Retail Trade Jobs	Transportation & Warehousing	Information Jobs	Finance & Insurance
Buena Vista	876	268	-	56	548	3,691	421	1,374	262	64	520
Clay	731	-	-	60	734	620	691	1,658	506	200	453
Dickinson	429	-	-	-	953	1,713	309	1,806	-	84	669
Emmet	495	-	-	-	302	646	125	613	-	65	161
Hamilton	942	-	-	-	504	833	649	968	-	77	389
Humboldt	521	-	-	103	400	953	274	545	256	49	213
O'Brien	838	-	-	-	405	802	590	915	-	89	479
Osceola	646	364	12	35	175	344	187	-	178	24	-
Palo Alto	874	201	10	20	324	550	197	554	158	43	230
Pocahontas	732	-	-	-	297	413	-	349	737	57	150
Webster	992	-	-	-	1,752	2,386	-	2,841	1,557	306	784
Wright	977	-	-	-	356	1,545	321	674	-	112	273
HS Counties Total	5,621	833	22	171	3,738	8,779	2,520	7,269	1,841	626	2,662
UDMO Counties Total	9,053	833	22	274	6,750	14,496	3,764	12,297	3,654	1,170	4,321
State of Iowa	89,036	15,856	3,327	6,362	122,115	224,733	69,676	215,443	91,530	23,106	138,931
United States	2,588,000	927,600	923,600	598,200	11,673,300	13,081,600	6,309,900	19,120,800	10,403,700	3,414,000	11,721,200

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Service Area	Real Estate	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	Management of Companies & Enterprises	Administrative & Waste Management Services	Educational Services	Health Care & Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	Accommodation & Food Services Jobs	Other Services, Except Public Admin	Government Jobs
Buena Vista	310	337	14	417	-	-	86	709	492	1,824
Clay	804	-	-	402	92	1,263	156	627	562	1,649
Dickinson	744	511	72	1,267	66	830	470	1,430	716	1,357
Emmet	140	133	-	-	-	-	23	197	302	739
Hamilton	285	196	32	213	-	-	86	274	416	1,286
Humboldt	266	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	290	839
O'Brien	287	302	-	-	75	1,388	80	373	458	1,137
Osceola	-	61	-	-	8	397	-	-	160	348
Palo Alto	144	-	-	88	-	-	32	385	227	1,024
Pocahontas	117	82	-	60	-	-	-	-	187	597
Webster	744	462	208	792	264	2,750	262	1,486	1,058	3,004
Wright	214	183	-	-	23	504	63	269	360	1,542
HS Counties Total	2,546	1,426	86	2,234	241	3,878	847	3,721	3,104	8,675
UDMO Counties Total	4,055	2,427	326	3,239	528	7,132	1,258	5,750	5,228	15,346
State of Iowa	79,892	82,226	24,397	86,330	42,376	211,041	33,733	121,034	100,403	267,731
United States	10,100,700	14,812,500	2,754,000	12,426,500	4,684,400	22,880,500	4,157,100	13,554,000	10,963,000	24,048,000

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Median Income: The chart below signifies the median family income; it is noted that all counties in the service area are below both the state average and national median income. Buena Vista and Clay counties have the lowest median incomes in our Head Start service area. This data is considered by decision makers as we review the vast impact of poverty on families in our service area and intentionally evaluate the need for program expansion.

Service Area	2018 Income	2019 Income	2020 Income	2021 Income
Buena Vista	\$ 54,556	\$ 57,125	\$ 54,014	\$ 53,645
Clay	\$ 47,874	\$ 50,521	\$ 51,259	\$ 52,307
Dickinson	\$ 58,099	\$ 59,969	\$ 60,975	\$ 65,215
Emmet	\$ 48,542	\$ 51,563	\$ 56,708	\$ 58,357
Hamilton	\$ 56,273	\$ 60,910	\$ 60,248	\$ 62,183
Humboldt	\$ 52,219	\$ 54,575	\$ 55,707	\$ 60,008
O'Brien	\$ 53,045	\$ 53,703	\$ 57,200	\$ 62,292
Osceola	\$ 58,125	\$ 59,725	\$ 61,167	\$ 65,242
Palo Alto	\$ 52,462	\$ 52,932	\$ 56,437	\$ 59,988
Pocahontas	\$ 49,877	\$ 52,448	\$ 53,337	\$ 56,530
Webster	\$ 44,261	\$ 47,466	\$ 51,909	\$ 56,934
Wright	\$ 50,198	\$ 53,333	\$ 51,221	\$ 55,395
HS Counties Total	\$ 52,823	\$ 54,748	\$ 56,387	\$ 59,197
UDMO Total	\$ 52,128	\$ 54,523	\$ 55,849	\$ 59,008
State of Iowa	\$ 58,580	\$ 60,523	\$ 61,836	\$ 65,429
United States	\$ 60,293	\$ 62,843	\$ 64,994	\$ 69,021

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Below Poverty Level: This indicates the total population as compared to those in poverty or below the 100% poverty guideline. In the UDMO Head Start service area, Clay and Emmet counties have higher rates of households in poverty than state and national levels, indicating the poverty-stricken service area.

Service Area	Total Population	Individuals in Poverty	% Individuals in Poverty	Total Households	Households in Poverty	% Households in Poverty
Buena Vista	19,714	1,956	9.92%	7,506	668	8.90%
Clay	16,120	1,970	12.22%	7,137	926	12.97%
Dickinson	17,343	1,250	7.21%	8,096	458	5.66%
Emmet	8,642	1,089	12.60%	3,856	488	12.66%
Hamilton	14,864	1,166	7.84%	5,993	608	10.15%
Humboldt	9,523	1,360	14.28%	4,189	592	14.13%
O'Brien	13,804	1,732	12.55%	5,670	604	10.65%
Osceola	6,071	699	11.51%	2,659	258	9.70%
Palo Alto	8,637	784	9.08%	3,685	319	8.66%
Pocahontas	6,955	710	10.21%	3,121	340	10.89%
Webster	34,364	4,907	14.28%	15,659	2,147	13.71%
Wright	12,786	1,679	13.13%	5,343	600	11.23%
HS Counties Total	97,286	10,190	10.47%	41,730	4,061	9.73%
UDMO Total	168,823	19,302	11.43%	72,914	8,008	10.98%
State of Iowa	3,084,598	339,695	11.01%	1,275,893	140,621	11.02%
United States	321,897,703	40,661,636	12.63%	124,010,992	15,381,768	12.40%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

HEADSTART – ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*The term Head Start is inclusive of Head Start and Early Head Start unless specified differently.

Geographic Location: The Head Start service area consists of eight counties within UDMO’s twelve counties including: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O’Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas. The counties labeled with a star indicates Early Head Start sites.

OSCEOLA	DICKINSON	EMMET
O'BRIEN	CLAY	PALO ALTO
	BUENA VISTA	POCAHONTAS

★ Denotes County Having Early Head Start as well

Income Eligible Children: This indicator represents the total number of children in poverty, as compared to the total number of children enrolled in Head Start Programs and the total number of children enrolled in preschool. This helps identify places where Head Start and Preschool opportunities are either abundant or lacking in the educational system. It is noted that Emmet County currently has more Head Start and Early Head Start slots for children in poverty than the US Census American Community Survey data indicates may be needed. A review of American Community Survey over the past 5 years shows a significant fluctuation in the reported number of 0–4-year-old children in poverty. (American Community Survey Five- year estimates 2017: 88 children; 2018: 105 children; 2019: 139 children; 2020: 71 children; 2021: 73 children). The Margin of Error in the data is also of significance.

As noted previously:

The American Community Survey also provided the follow information: **Increase to 5-Year Margins of Error Containing Data Collected in 2020** Note that, in general, margins of error for 5-year estimates containing data collected in 2020 increased compared to prior 5-year estimates. This was due to a reduced number of interviews resulting from the pandemic for the records collected in 2020. More information may be found in the data user note entitled “Increased Margins of Error in the 5-Year Estimates Containing Data Collected in 2020”, which can be found at: <https://www.census.gov/programssurveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2022-04.html>.

Therefore, based on UDMO HS/EHS enrollments and the data fluctuation, it is believed children may not be accurately reflected in the American Community Survey data in the chart below.

Service Area	Children Under 5	Children in Poverty Under 5	Total Early Head Start Slots	Total Head Start Slots	# of unserved children in Poverty	% of unserved children in Poverty	Population 3-4-year old	Population 3-4-year old Enrolled in Preschool	% 3-4-year old Enrolled in Preschool
Buena Vista	1,479	184	57	110	17	9.24%	624	305	48.88%
Clay	942	168	70	55	43	25.60%	413	258	62.47%
Dickinson	757	125	0	16	109	87.20%	369	116	31.44%
Emmet	490	73	49	52	-28	-38.36%	174	51	29.31%
O'Brien	872	131	0	32	99	75.57%	307	203	66.12%
Osceola	323	92	0	16	76	82.61%	147	70	47.62%
Palo Alto	552	102	0	16	86	84.31%	294	151	51.36%
Pocahontas	424	20	0	9	11	55.00%	160	76	47.50%
HS Area Total	5,839	895	176	306	413	46.15%	2,488	1,230	49.44%
State of Iowa	191,488	28,244	1,703	5,445	21,096	74.69%	80,651	35,076	43.49%
United States	19,064,128	3,535,591	193,806	675,734	2,666,051	75.41%	8,100,136	3,719,992	45.93%

Data Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-21.
<https://www.iowaheadstart.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-Iowa-Head-Start-Profile.pdf>
 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021. Source geography: Tract

Expectant Mothers: UDMO Head Start has strong collaborative partnerships with the Public Health Departments in our service area and engages in reciprocal referrals to ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of children and families. It should be noted, that the expectant mother data in the 2023 Community Needs Assessment largely includes Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Data due to county level data not being available at this time from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

Pregnant Women – Health Insurance Coverage: It is notable that there is a percentage increase of pregnant mothers insured from 2020 to 2023, likely due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. During the COVID 19 Public Health Emergency, Iowa Medicaid was required to keep continuous health care coverage for all members and expand Medicaid benefits to support the Medicaid population. In March 2023, the end of the Public Emergency was announced and Medicaid programs across the country returned to normal operations. The uninsured individuals identified here were ineligible for insurance.

Health Insurance Coverage	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13
Medicaid/CHIP	15	11	11
Private Insurance	1	1	1
Total # Insured	16	12	12
% of Insured	84%	57%	92%
Uninsured	3	9	1
% of Uninsured	16%	43%	8%

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Children – Health Insurance Coverage: In 2021, 3.3% of children under six years of age in Iowa were without insurance. The chart below is PIR data from the UDMO Head Start program which indicates more children enrolled in the program are without insurance than the state average. The program continues to address this concern. Last year’s PIR notes a remarkable improvement in EHS children being insured.

Type of Insurance	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Medicaid/CHIP	305	192	289	197	298	193
Private	11	6	20	9	20	12
Total Children Insured	316	198	309	206	318	205
% of Children Insured	95%	93%	89%	94%	94%	99%
None	19	16	38	14	20	3
Total Children Insured	335	214	347	220	338	208
% of Children Uninsured	5%	7%	11%	6%	6%	1%

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Pregnant Women – Health Care: Access to health care as an expectant mom is critical to positive birth outcomes. Early Head Start prides it’s self in supporting women to access prenatal, postnatal and ongoing continuous access to health care. Recent, PIR data is included in the chart below indicating the program’s outstanding achievements in this area.

Pregnancy Health Care	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13
Prenatal Care	18	20	13
Postnatal Care	18	18	11
Continuous Ongoing Care	18	13	12

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Pregnant Women – Mental Health Care: According to the Rural Health Information Hub, 100% of the Head Start counties are in a Mental Health Professional shortage area. It is unknown if there were longer waiting lists. All participants are screened before and after delivery using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression scale (EPDS). This information is self-reported by participants. PIR data included in the chart below indicates it is common for enrolled pregnant women to need support and follow-up in the area of mental health. A combinations of the program’s staff development, utilization of nurses and collaborative partnerships assist in securing the needed assistance.

Mental Health Services	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	23
Mental Health Interventions & follow-up	9	1	9
% of Pregnant Women needing Intervention & Follow-Up	47%	5%	39%

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Pregnant Women – Oral Health Care: According to the Iowa Dental Association, the Head Start counties do not have providers actively accepting Medicaid patients. As noted above, a large majority of the pregnant women have Medicaid or are uninsured. PIR data shows that almost half enrolled pregnant women need dental treatment. In order to assist pregnant women to access such treatment, our program has relied upon Community Health Centers, the generous donations of Dentists to perform treatment at a reduced cost, and funding assistance from the family and donors in our communities.

From the Centers for Disease Control: *“Group disparities around oral health, identified 20 years ago, have not been adequately addressed, and greater efforts are needed to tackle both the social and commercial determinants that create these inequities and the systemic biases that perpetuate them.”*

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/federal-agency-reports/OHA2021.html>

Oral Health Services	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13
Professional Oral Health Assessment Exam &/or Treatment	9	12	6
% of Pregnant Women Receiving Oral Health Care	47%	57%	46%

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Children Enrolled in WIC: It is noted, in October 2022, the WIC program moved to be a program under another agency through a competitive grant by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Despite this change, UDMO HS staff continue to assist families to enroll in WIC.

WIC	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Buena Vista	49	36	52	40	50	40
Clay	22	68	22	52	20	45
Dickinson	11	-	9	-	9	-
Emmet	25	39	2	40	30	35
O'Brien	11	-	12	-	14	-
Osceola	8	-	10	-	8	-
Palo Alto	7	-	6	-	3	-
Pocahontas	3	-	5	-	4	-
Totals	136	143	118	132	138	120

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Foster Care: UDMO Head Start has a long-standing collaboration with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and Head Start staff attend regular Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings to ensure a comprehensive network of assistance can be afforded to children and families engaged in the foster care system. The chart below indicates the number of children in foster care, this is not inclusive of relative or kinship placement. The numbers are indicative of where the child abuse case originated rather than where foster care placement occurred. The impact of abuse and resulting trauma is far reaching and supports the need for an all-inclusive trauma informed approach in early childhood services.

Also, note the 2020 numbers in most counties are lower due in part to limited reporting during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) went into effect in 2021. FFPSA aims to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their family of origin. *Foster care placement can also result from reasons other than child abuse.*

Service Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Buena Vista	93	87	59	60	49
Clay	61	56	68	47	45
Dickinson	51	41	28	23	24
Emmet	69	67	25	23	18
O'Brien	62	57	57	61	48
Osceola	25	20	13	22	16
Palo Alto	37	33	7	8	11
Pocahontas	19	17	26	16	17
HS Area Total	417	378	283	260	228
State of Iowa	9,884	9,530	7,972	7,274	6,586

Data Source: Iowa Data Center: <https://www.iowadatecenter.org/data/dhs/foster-care>

Children in Poverty: The chart below identifies the number of children aged 0-4 living below the 100% poverty guideline. In total, UDMO falls between the state and national poverty levels, with percentages of female children extremely higher and percentages of male children significantly lower. This aligns with the total number of people in poverty in the previous section. *Numbers do not include undocumented children.*

Service Area	Total # Children Under Age 4	Number of Children Under 4 in Poverty	% of Children Under 4 in Poverty	# Males	% Males	# Females	% Females
Buena Vista	1,479	184	12.4%	41	22%	143	78%
Clay	942	168	17.8%	45	27%	123	73%
Dickinson	757	125	16.5%	93	74%	32	26%
Emmet	490	73	14.9%	26	36%	47	64%
O'Brien	872	131	15.0%	69	53%	62	47%
Osceola	323	92	28.5%	36	39%	56	61%
Palo Alto	552	102	18.5%	53	52%	49	48%
Pocahontas	424	20	4.7%	5	25%	15	75%
HS Area Total	5,839	895	15.3%	368	41%	527	59%
State of Iowa	191,488	28,244	14.7%	14,722	52%	13,522	48%
United States	19,064,128	3,535,591	18.5%	1,804,943	51%	1,730,648	49%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021.

Race and Ethnicity: The following charts indicate the total number of children aged 0-4 living in poverty by race or ethnicity and the percentages of the total number of children. *Numbers do not include undocumented children.*

*Definition from the American Community Survey: **Some Other Race.** Includes all other responses not included in the “White,” “Black or African American,” “American Indian or Alaska Native,” “Asian,” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” race categories described above. Respondents reporting entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Spanish) in response to the race question are included in this category.*

Service Area	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Multi-Race	Some Other Race	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Buena Vista	59	-	2	8	1	6	69	116	68
Clay	118	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	168
Dickinson	120	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	125
Emmet	66	-	-	-	-	7	-	3	70
O’Brien	54	38	-	-	-	8	29	32	99
Osceola	67	2	-	-	-	-	23	23	69
Palo Alto	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
Pocahontas	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
HS Area Total	606	40	2	8	1	76	121	174	721
State of Iowa	15,979	4,530	213	401	144	3,548	651	4,607	23,637
United States	1,048,840	908,711	56,826	102,624	10,179	456,248	349,322	1,228,017	2,307,574

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021.

Service Area	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Multi-Race	Some Other Race	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Buena Vista	11.32%	No Data	100%*	3.14%	1.72%	4.55%	60.00%	18.74%	7.99%
Clay	13.80%	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	64.94%	0%	0%	18.03%
Dickinson	16.74%	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	14.29%	No Data	0%	17.08%
Emmet	20.25%	0%	No Data	No Data	No Data	25.00%	No Data	3.75%	17.07%
O’Brien	7.59%	82.61%	No Data	No Data	No Data	0%	100%*	29.63%	12.96%
Osceola	25.28%	100%*	No Data	No Data	No Data	41.67%	100%*	41.07%	25.84%
Palo Alto	22.27%	0%	No Data	No Data	No Data	10.13%	0%	0%	19.77%
Pocahontas	5.59%	No Data	No Data	No Data	0%	0%	No Data	0.00%	5.06%
HS Area Total	14.39%	33.06%	100%	3.14%	1%	16.89%	66.12%	17.90%	14.81%
State of Iowa	11.22%	40.23%	31.28%	8.70%	39.56%	22.13%	19.61%	21.62%	13.89%
United States	11.44%	35.00%	33.46%	10.24%	25.72%	18.70%	27.51%	25.04%	16.30%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-2021.

**Only 1 child was identified as the Race and that child also lives in poverty, thus the percentage is 100%.*

English Language Learners (ELL): The following chart indicates the number of English Language Learners (ELL) in all school districts within each county. As you can see, Buena Vista is the most diverse, including 71.08% of the English Language Learners (ELL) in the total service area. It should also be noted, the Storm Lake CSD (Buena Vista County) reports thirty-two different languages spoken within their student population. (Note: This data is from the Iowa Department of Education and actually is reporting the English proficiency of English Language Learners - <https://www.iowadatatcenter.org/index.php/data-by-source/state-agencies/english-language-learners> and <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/english-learners-el>

Service Area	# of ELL 2018-2019	% of ELL 2018-2019	# of ELL 2019-2020	% of ELL 2019-2020	# of ELL 2020-2021	% of ELL 2020-2021	# of ELL 2021-2022	% of ELL 2021-2022	# of ELL 2022-2023	% of ELL 2022-2023
Buena Vista	1,297	62.40%	1,289	62.10%	1,283	61.60%	1,331	73.33%	1,305	71.08%
Clay	37	3.50%	38	3.50%	46	4.40%	51	2.81%	63	3.43%
Dickinson	15	1.30%	15	1.30%	23	1.90%	22	1.21%	24	1.31%
Emmet	110	13.60%	139	17.40%	141	17.80%	151	8.32%	172	9.37%
O'Brien	115	10.80%	124	11.30%	122	11.30%	135	7.44%	149	8.12%
Osceola	59	15.90%	58	15.30%	63	17.30%	71	3.91%	66	3.59%
Palo Alto	16	2.10%	14	1.80%	18	2.30%	19	1.05%	15	0.82%
Pocahontas	22	5.20%	27	6.40%	32	7.70%	35	1.93%	42	2.29%
HS Area Total	1,671	5.16%	1,704	5.24%	1,728	5.53%	1,815	5.49%	1,836	5.36%
State of Iowa	32,372	NA	32,528	NA	31,236	NA	33,077	NA	34,258	NA

Data Source: Iowa Data Center English Language Learners <https://www.iowadatatcenter.org/data/idoel>

EDUCATION NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

*Eligible families are considered those that fall within the income guidelines as specified in the Head Start Performance Standards.

Educational Attainment: The charts below indicate most families in poverty have at least a high school diploma or some college/Associate degree. This data indicates that families are educated and are considered the “working poor”. The UDMO Head Start parent data is depicted in the second chart as compared to the State data.

Service Area	Less than H.S. Graduate	HS Graduate	Some College, Associate	Bachelor's Degree
Buena Vista	451	275	159	112
Clay	48	399	284	135
Dickinson	54	191	396	160
Emmet	167	173	366	30
O'Brien	169	472	224	125
Osceola	64	178	102	3
Palo Alto	89	172	144	31
Pocahontas	82	178	109	22
HS Area Total	1,124	2,038	1,784	618
State of Iowa	32,611	73,572	54,813	27,200
United States	5,630,757	8,428,536	6,334,984	3,705,914

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021.

Service Area	HS Parents Less than H.S. Graduate	EHS Parents Less than H.S. Graduate	All Adults at 100% FPL with Less than H.S. Graduate	HS Parents H.S. Graduate	EHS Parents H.S. Graduate	All Adults at 100% FPL HS Graduate	HS Parents Some College, Associate	EHS Parents Some College, Associate	All Adults at 100% FPL Some College, Associate	HS Parents Bachelor's Degree	EHS Parents Bachelor's Degree	All Adults at 100% FPL Bachelor's Degree
Buena Vista	42	26	451	27	21	275	13	7	159	9	6	112
Clay	17	16	48	31	33	399	10	18	284	4	4	135
Dickinson	8	-	54	7	-	191	4	-	396	0	-	160
Emmet	36	26	167	11	8	173	6	7	366	1	2	30
O'Brien	20	-	169	9	-	472	8	-	224	2	-	125
Osceola	7	-	64	7	-	178	1	-	102	1	-	3
Palo Alto	4	-	89	5	-	172	6	-	144	1	-	31
Pocahontas	4	-	82	4	-	178	2	-	109	1	-	22
HS Area Total	138	68	1,124	101	62	2,038	50	32	1,784	19	12	618

Data Source: ChildPlus Report 9730

Dropout Rates: High school dropout rates increased from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year in six of the eight counties served by Head Start, more than doubling in some counties. However, from 2020-2021 to the 2021-2022 school year there is more variability. Two counties, Emmet and Palo Alto have an increased dropout rate. Whereas, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien and Pocahontas have decreased. Osceola County has stayed nearly the same. Thus, more students are graduating high school. Emmet and Palo Alto counties dropout rates have dramatically increased over the past three school years.

Service Area	Total Enrollment 2019-2020	Dropout Number 2019-2020	% of Dropouts	Total Enrollment 2020-2021	Dropout Number 2020-2021	% of Dropouts	Total Enrollment 2021-2022	Dropout Number 2021-2022	% of Dropouts
Buena Vista	2,084	44	2.10%	2,180	68	3.12%	2,139	58	2.71%
Clay	1,048	6	0.60%	1,062	14	1.32%	1,116	10	0.90%
Dickinson	1,217	5	0.40%	1,242	20	1.61%	1,241	18	1.45%
Emmet	794	5	0.60%	791	16	2.02%	788	20	2.54%
O'Brien	1,077	16	1.50%	1,086	20	1.84%	1,093	15	1.37%
Osceola	365	13	3.60%	374	9	2.41%	334	8	2.40%
Palo Alto	792	5	0.60%	785	10	1.27%	778	18	2.31%
Pocahontas	415	12	2.90%	414	11	2.13%	402	5	1.24%
HS Area Total	7,792	106	1.40%	7,934	168	1.97%	7,891	152	1.87%
State of Iowa	227,508	3,371	1.50%	229,023	4,513	1.97%	230,384	4,878	2.12%

Data Source: Educate Iowa: Graduation Rate and Dropout Rates: <https://educateiowa.gov/graduation-rates-and-dropout-rates>

Functional Literacy: Studies have shown that children who are not grade level equivalent in Reading by 4th grade or Math by 8th grade are at an increased risk at being in the low-income sector. Children in three Head Start counties, Buena Vista, Emmet, and Palo Alto, fall below state averages in 4th grade reading. Children in Emmet and Palo Alto counties also fall below state averages in 8th grade math. A correlation may exist between the high English language learner (ELL) percentages for Buena Vista County and the lower percentage of students reaching grade level equivalency.

Service Area	4 th Grade Reading 2020	8 th Grade Math 2020
Buena Vista	66.9	70.6
Clay	80.3	85.1
Dickinson	81.4	83.1
Emmet	70.1	59.3
O'Brien	85.7	78.2
Osceola	87	88.5
Palo Alto	68.2	64.4
Pocahontas	74.5	74.1
HS Total	76.76	75.41
Iowa	73.3	68.2

Data Source: Kids Count Data Center, Student Math Test Score 2020, Student Reading Test Scores 2020: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#IA/2/0/char/0>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

*The following charts may contain the terms No Data or Suppressed. This is defined by CARES HQ based out of the University of Missouri, a group responsible for this data analysis. (<https://careshq.org/>)

No Data means that no data were collected and/or reported for the selected geography.

Suppressed is used when a value is less than 5, or in some cases a threshold set is used by the data collection agency. Data are suppressed when there is a risk of individuals being personally identifiable in the data.

Child Abuse and Neglect: Child abuse and neglect rates in our service area are exceptionally higher than the national rate. All Head Start counties except two exceed state rates; Emmet and Pocahontas counties are alarmingly higher. These high rates of abuse confirm the need for continued strong community partnerships and implementation of best practices to address the impacts of trauma on children and families.

Note: This chart depicts the rate of children who are confirmed to have been abused or neglected during the year per 1,000 children age 0 to 17.

Service Area	Child Population 2020	2018 Rate	2019 Rate	2020 Rate
Buena Vista	5,430	15	12	16
Clay	3,847	17	19	16
Dickinson	3,423	16	17	13
Emmet	1,935	43	31	23
O'Brien	3,405	19	19	18
Osceola	1,462	22	9	15
Palo Alto	2,131	22	18	16
Pocahontas	1,604	15	25	27
Total	23,237	21	19	18
State of Iowa	742,175	16	16	15
United States	74,234,075	9	9	8

Data Source: Kids Count Data Center, Child Abuse and Neglect Scores:

<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/1236-child-abuse-and-neglect>

<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/9903-children-who-are-confirmed-by-child-protective-services-as-victims-of-maltreatment>

Infant Mortality: The Infant Mortality rate is relevant across our area and is an indicator of broader issues pertaining to access to health care and maternal and child health. The rates are higher than the state levels in five of the eight counties served by Head Start. Our collaborative partnerships with local public health departments can influence positive change and may contribute to decreasing the rates of infant mortality.

Service Area	Total Births	Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births 2018-2022
Buena Vista	1,455	8	6.13
Clay	1,030	4	5.67
Dickinson	855	2	1.29
Emmet	640	7	7.83
O'Brien	885	5	6.87
Osceola	350	2	6.41
Palo Alto	545	2	3.85
Pocahontas	390	4	5.32
Total	6,150	34	5.42
State of Iowa	199,795	1,039	4.64
United States	3,605,201	20,513	-

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Infant-Mortality/Infant-Mortality-Data>

Low-Birth Weight: The available trend data shows a decline and then an increase in the rate of low-birth weight births from 2017 to 2020 in Dickinson and Emmet counties. O’Brien County has an upward trend in the rate of low-birth weight births. Buena Vista and Clay counties recorded a decline in 2020, after 3 years of increased rates. Despite the county level fluctuations, with the exception of Emmet and Pocahontas, all counties are below state and national low-birth weight rates in the data reported for 2020, the most recent available.

*Rates are not available as incidences of five or less have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

*The World Health Organization defines Low Birth Weight as under 5.5 pounds at birth.

Service Area	2017 Rate	2018 Rate	2019 Rate	2020 Rate
Buena Vista	6.3%	7.2%	7.4%	5.0%
Clay	6.4%	7.6%	8.0%	4.4%
Dickinson	8.8%	5.4%	4.8%	5.7%
Emmet	6.9%	5.4%	5.5%	7.6%
O’Brien	4.8%	5.5%	5.4%	5.7%
Osceola	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Palo Alto	Suppressed	12.5%	13.1%	Suppressed
Pocahontas	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	8.0%
Total	4.2%	5.5%	5.5%	4.6%
State of Iowa	6.6%	6.9%	6.9%	7.0%
United States	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.2%

Data Source: Kids Count Data Center, Low Birth Rate: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Immunizations: The charts below reflect the child care (Birth thru age 5) and school age (K-12) immunization certificates for the 2022-2023 school year. All counties, with the exception of Buena Vista and Palo Alto counties, exceed state immunization rates for school agers. All counties, with the exception of Emmet County, exceed state immunization rates for children in child care.

Immunizations - Child Care (Birth thru age 5)

Service Area	Total Enrollment	# Certificate of Immunizations	% Immunized
Buena Vista	671	671	100.0%
Clay	440	437	99.3%
Dickinson	673	667	99.1%
Emmet	268	241	89.9%
O’Brien	606	599	98.8%
Osceola	135	134	99.3%
Palo Alto	157	156	99.4%
Pocahontas	145	142	97.9%
Total	3,095	3,047	98.4%
State of Iowa	93,161	89,869	96.5%

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/School-and-Child-Care-Audits/Child-Care-Immunization-Audits-Data>

Immunizations - School Age Kindergarten thru 12th Grade

Service Area	Total Enrollment	# Certificate of Immunizations	% Immunized
Buena Vista	4,265	3,964	92.9%
Clay	2,502	2,441	97.6%
Dickinson	2,643	2,529	95.7%
Emmet	1,388	1,352	97.4%
O'Brien	2,541	2,496	98.2%
Osceola	730	708	97.0%
Palo Alto	1,466	1,436	98.0%
Pocahontas	1,254	1,097	87.5%
Total	16,789	16,023	95.4%
State of Iowa	525,515	502,286	95.6%

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/School-and-Child-Care-Audits/Child-Care-Immunization-Audits-Data>

Head Start and Early Head Start Children – 3 Year Trend Data: The spike in immunizations in 2021-2022 may be attributed to the COVID-19 Pandemic and some families got behind on immunizations for their children and later caught back up.

Immunizations	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Up-to-Date on all immunizations appropriate for age	323	197	284	188	324	192
Received all immunizations possible at time but not all appropriate for age	3	3	35	8	5	4
Meets state guidelines for an exemption from immunizations	3	2	4	3	7	2

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Children Receiving Medical Services for Health Needs: The Chronic Conditions reported in the chart below are required by Head Start Performance Standards to be reported in PIR. These are the number of children with each reported condition.

Medical Services	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Children Up-to-date according to EPSDT	323	167	333	163	318	144
Children with Anemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children with Asthma	4	0	3	0	11	4
Children with Hearing Difficulties	3	5	15	6	18	8
Children with Vision Problems	70	12	62	10	68	8
Children with High Lead Levels	1	2	2	2	1	0
Children with Autism	3	0	2	0	1	0
Children with ADHD	4	1	6	0	4	1
Children with Diabetes	1	0	1	0	1	0
Children with Life Threatening Allergies	1	1	1	0	3	1
Children with Seizures	4	0	0	0	3	2

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

Health Behaviors: US Census data identifies many factors relevant to health behaviors. Poverty is a leading cause of health-related issues and a barrier to accessing health care when it is needed. The charts below indicate where UDMO compares to the state and national levels in regards to a number of health-related behaviors.

Obesity: As a whole, Iowa is above the national rate for obesity, but all UDMO Head Start counties are below the state obesity rates. Unfortunately, three counties, O’Brien, Osceola and Palo Alto are above the national obesity rates.

Service Area	Total Population Age 20+	BMI > 30 Obese	%
Buena Vista	13,965	3,156	22.6%
Clay	12,038	3,443	28.6%
Dickinson	13,647	3,944	28.9%
Emmet	7,039	1,999	28.4%
O’Brien	10,154	3,036	29.9%
Osceola	4,457	1,404	31.5%
Palo Alto	6,603	2,093	31.7%
Pocahontas	4,996	1,369	27.4%
Total	72,899	20,444	28.0%
State of Iowa	2,339,100	759,769	32.5%
United States	239,867,275	69,961,348	29.2%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), 2019

Tobacco Use: The charts below identify the trends of adult tobacco usage by adults age 18 or older who self-report currently smoking cigarettes some days or every day. All counties surpass the national rates for self-reported smoking and Buena Vista, Clay, Emmet, O’Brien, Osceola and Pocahontas counties surpass the state rate of self-reported smoking. These indicators are relevant because tobacco use is linked to leading causes of death such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Service Area	Adult smokers who self-report currently smoking cigarettes some days or every day	
	Total Population of Adults Age 18+	%
Buena Vista	20,771	16.50%
Clay	16,440	16.60%
Dickinson	17,851	14.30%
Emmet	9,321	17.50%
O’Brien	14,015	17.50%
Osceola	6,159	16.90%
Palo Alto	8,906	15.40%
Pocahontas	7,074	17.90%
Total	100,537	16.58%
State of Iowa	3,193,079	15.78%
United States	331,893,745	13.50%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via the [PLACES Data Portal](#), 2021.

Physical Inactivity: The charts below identify adults age 20 or older who self-report no leisure time physical activity based on the question, “During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercise such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise?” Five counties surpass the state and national rates for self-reported physical inactivity including Buena Vista, Dickinson, Emmet, O’Brien, and Pocahontas counties. This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

Service Area	Total Population of Adults Age 20+	Adults Age 20+ with No Leisure Time Physical Activity	%
Buena Vista	13,927	3,649	26.2%
Clay	12,062	2,726	22.6%
Dickinson	13,690	3,313	24.2%
Emmet	7,053	1,848	26.2%
O’Brien	10,148	2,669	26.3%
Osceola	4,471	921	20.6%
Palo Alto	6,600	1,485	22.5%
Pocahontas	4,990	1,427	28.6%
Total	72,941	18,038	24.7%
State of Iowa	2,338,989	532,286	22.8%
United States	239,878,217	54,200,862	22.6%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 2019

Physical and Mental Health: The following chart identifies:

The percentage of adults age 18+ that self-reported 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their physical health was not good.

The percent of adults age 18+ that self-reported 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.

All eight Head Start counties exceed the State of Iowa percentage of people reporting poor physical health, but only one county, Emmet County, exceeds the State of Iowa percentage of people reporting poor mental health. The topics of physical and mental health continue to be top priorities of the Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee to explore available options for families we serve. Our program continues to network with area physical and mental health service providers to enhance and expand community partnerships to meet the needs of children and families in our program.

Service Area	Total Population Age 18+	% Self-Report Poor Physical Health	% Self-Report Poor Mental Health
Buena Vista	20,771	10.90%	13.80%
Clay	16,440	11.10%	13.80%
Dickinson	17,851	10.30%	12.60%
Emmet	9,321	11.60%	14.60%
O’Brien	14,015	11.40%	14.20%
Osceola	6,159	11.40%	13.60%
Palo Alto	8,906	10.50%	13.60%
Pocahontas	7,074	12.20%	14.10%
Total	100,537	11.18%	13.79%
State of Iowa	3,193,079	10.10%	14.42%
United States	331,893,745	10.90%	14.70%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via the [PLACES Data Portal](#). 2021

NUTRITION NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Free and Reduced Lunches: Free or reduced-price lunches are served to qualifying students in families with income under 185 percent (reduced price) or under 130 percent (free lunch) of the US federal poverty threshold as part of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP). During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all school lunches were no cost through 2022-2023 school year and families may not have completed eligibility paperwork.

Service Area	Total Students	Free Lunches	% Free Lunches	Reduced Lunches	% of Reduced Lunches
Buena Vista	4,577	2,280	49.81%	486	10.62%
Clay	2,291	832	36.32%	147	6.42%
Dickinson	2,957	728	24.62%	180	6.09%
Emmet	1,425	567	39.79%	197	13.82%
O'Brien	2,358	729	30.92%	193	8.18%
Osceola	730	276	37.81%	88	12.05%
Palo Alto	1,522	526	34.56%	142	9.33%
Pocahontas	825	413	50.06%	54	6.55%
Total	16,685	6,351	38.06%	1,487	8.91%
State of Iowa	504,006	174,788	34.68%	31,255	6.20%
United States	40,249,650	19,950,407	49.57%	1,952,641	4.85%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data 2020-2021 <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): These benefits are available to families at or below 130% of poverty. These indicators, coupled with the Free and Reduced lunch data above are relevant because they assess vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs.

Service Area	Total Households	Total Households Receiving SNAP	% of Households Receiving SNAP
Buena Vista	7,506	769	10.25%
Clay	7,137	881	12.34%
Dickinson	8,096	397	4.90%
Emmet	3,856	338	8.77%
O'Brien	5,670	416	7.34%
Osceola	2,659	231	8.69%
Palo Alto	3,685	382	10.37%
Pocahontas	3,121	295	9.45%
Total	41,730	3,709	8.89%
State of Iowa	1,275,893	122,182	9.58%
United States	124,010,992	14,105,231	11.37%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2017-2021.

Low Food Access & Food Insecurity:

Low access to food is defined as living more than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter or large grocery store. These indicators are relevant because they highlight populations facing limited access to grocery stores and food insecurity. Additionally, food insecurity contributes to trauma for children and families. In the HS service area, Emmet, Osceola, Palo Alto and Pocahontas counties have a higher percentage of population that report low-income and low food access. Low income and low food access are more prevalent across the HS service area than across the state of Iowa and across the United States. This is attributed to the ruralness of our service area.

Service Area	Total County Population 2021	Total # Individuals Reporting Low Income	Total # of Individuals Reporting Low Income and Low Food Access	% of County Population Reporting Low Income and Low Food Access
Buena Vista	20,260	7,705	1,138	14.77%
Clay	16,667	5,198	761	14.64%
Dickinson	16,667	4,014	314	7.82%
Emmet	10,302	3,284	1,141	34.74%
O'Brien	14,398	3,914	674	17.22%
Osceola	6,462	2,117	529	24.76%
Palo Alto	9,421	2,364	672	28.43%
Pocahontas	7,310	2,320	594	25.60%
HS Area Total	101,487	30,916	5,823	21.00%
State of Iowa	3,046,355	884,904	172,826	19.53%
United States	308,745,538	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture; Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness: The UDMO Head Start administrative team is mindful of homelessness as a current and emerging need throughout the service area and includes the information in expansion discussions. Head Start defines homelessness using the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are: sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; staying in motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative; staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings.

Service Area	Total Student Population	Homeless Students	% of Homeless Students
Buena Vista	3,106	92	2.96%
Clay	2,411	1	0.04%
Dickinson	2,412	23	0.95%
Emmet	1,295	No Data	0.00%
O'Brien	No Data	No Data	0.00%
Osceola	779	No Data	0.04%
Palo Alto	269	No Data	0.13%
Pocahontas	940	5	0.53%
HS Area Total	11,212	121	1.08%
State of Iowa	394,402	6,067	1.54%

Data Source: US Department of Education, EDFacts

Housing: Our service area is predominately rural, resources are fewer and far between, which impacts the severity of the housing challenges. Clay and Dickinson counties exceed the State in spending over 30% of their income on housing. Dickinson County is above the state rate of severe housing challenges. These housing challenges are an indicator of need.

This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. Of the 41,730 total occupied housing units in the report area, 8,690 or 20.82% have one or more substandard conditions.

Note: Not all counties have data that has been provided. Indicator data do not include information about "informal evictions", or those that happen outside of the courtroom.

Service Area	Housing Cost Burden (% spending over 30% income on housing)	Housing Cost Burden (% spending over 50% income on housing)	# of Eviction Filings	# of Evictions	Severe Housing Problems (% of households with one or more issue)
Buena Vista	17.27%	6.47%	No Data	No Data	20.16%
Clay	22.91%	10.06%	14	11	22.85%
Dickinson	23.57%	9.51%	17	11	24.44%
Emmet	20.15%	9.36%	3	3	21.73%
O'Brien	18.87%	8.17%	16	16	19.95%
Osceola	15.23%	7.22%	1	1	16.25%
Palo Alto	17.99%	5.48%	3	3	18.43%
Pocahontas	16.08%	6.82%	5	5	15.60%
HS Area Total	19.01%	8.16%	59	50	19.93%
State of Iowa	22.73%	9.68%	14,520	7,358	23.10%
United States	30.34%	13.85%	2,350,042	898,479	31.49%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2017-2021.

CHILD CARE & PRE-KINDERGARTEN AVAILABILITY

*Pre-Kindergarten is referenced throughout this document as preschool.

Child Care: Having enough child care, including high quality and affordable child care, to meet the unique needs of families is a concern across the entire UDMO service area and across the State of Iowa. The lack of child care, let alone quality and affordable child care, often leads families to have one parent stay home. This impacts the family's ability to make financial ends meet. Therefore, UDMO HS home visiting staff collaborate with community partners to assist families to access childcare to meet their unique needs; with the goal to help them access the highest quality child care that is most affordable for them. It should be noted that Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) offers child care providers training, certifications and resources; yet some providers don't know this is available.

The data in the chart below is from Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) – note, there could be more child care programs available that are not recorded here. This is the case particularly in the category of Child Care Homes which are not required to register with the State of Iowa, but can care for children who qualify for public assistance with child care costs.

Service Area	Registered Homes (Category A, B, C or C2 under HHS)	Child Care Homes (Can care for up to 5 children)	Dept. of Ed Preschools	HHS Licensed Centers/Preschools
Buena Vista	7	5	4	7
Clay	7	7	1	7
Dickinson	4	6	2	9
Emmet	7	1	1	5
O'Brien	5	9	2	14
Osceola	0	3	1	2
Palo Alto	4	2	4	6
Pocahontas	0	2	1	3
Total	34	35	16	53
State of Iowa	2,237	564	362	1,498

Data Source: Real-Time County Data October 2023 <https://iowaccrr.org/data/>

Preschool: Families seeking preschool for their three-year-old or four-year-old child have the options of half-day or full day preschool in all of the UDMO service area counties. Head Start is the only **free full day 5 day per week** preschool option in our service area. Wrap around child care services are available to eligible Head Start families in Storm Lake, Spencer, Sibley and Emmetsburg.

Many communities offer half-day preschool (both free and fee-based options) and families then need to make arrangements for child care for the other half of the day. There are some school districts across the service area that have begun offering limited free full day preschool for four-year-old child, but it is not available 5 days per week. The chart below indicates the programs with data and/or information available on their program or school district websites. Further information gathering should be done in future years to determine the most accurate number of preschool programs by type in each county.

The availability of free full day preschool continues to be a driving force as the UDMO Head Start Leadership team reviews expansion needs across the service area.

Service Area	Free Half-Day Preschool	Fee-based Half- Day Preschool	Part-Day Preschool Part-Day Childcare	Free Full Day Preschool	Fee-based Full Day Preschool
Buena Vista	1	0	0	5	3
Clay	1	4	3	2	3
Dickinson	3	2	3	2	5
Emmet	1	0	1	1	2
O'Brien	7	6	1	2	0
Osceola	1	0	0	1	0
Palo Alto	0	3	0	2	1
Pocahontas	0	1	0	1	0
Total	14	16	8	16	14

Data Source: Iowa Health & Human Services https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs_titan_public/ChildCare/ComplianceReport and independent survey of area programs.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Transportation:

Families need reliable, affordable and available transportation. Within the rural areas, resources are spread throughout our counties and communities requiring a means of transportation to access them. Due to the lack of public transportation in rural areas, individuals without vehicles rely on extended family members or friends for rides. Additionally, UDMO Head Start home visiting staff are instrumental in assisting families with transportation challenges. Staff often assist families with transportation to health-related appointments. All counties, except Clay and Palo Alto, are far below the state rate for use of public transportation. Five Head Start counties exceed state rates for those that use walking and six Head Start counties exceed state rates for biking for transportation.

Service Area	Total Employed Population Age 16+	Households with no motor vehicle	% Households with no motor vehicle	% of Employed Carpooling to Work	% of Employed Using of Public Transportation to Get to Work	% of Employed Walking to Work	% of Employed Biking to Work	% of Employed who Work from Home
Buena Vista	10,171	365	4.86%	17.30%	0.30%	6.30%	0.40%	6.00%
Clay	8,259	393	5.51%	8.80%	0.90%	3.60%	0.10%	7.70%
Dickinson	9,231	327	4.04%	6.80%	0.00%	1.60%	0.50%	9.50%
Emmet	4,843	113	2.93%	7.80%	0.00%	4.50%	0.60%	7.20%
O'Brien	6,811	492	8.68%	9.80%	0.10%	1.80%	0.00%	5.20%
Osceola	3,035	81	3.05%	9.00%	0.10%	7.90%	1.00%	6.30%
Palo Alto	4,401	164	4.45%	10.80%	0.70%	2.80%	0.70%	6.20%
Pocahontas	3,283	113	3.62%	12.80%	0.00%	3.20%	0.50%	6.70%
Total HS Region	50,034	2,048	4.64%	10.39%	0.26%	3.96%	0.48%	6.85%
State of Iowa	1,598,658	71,746	5.62%	7.90%	0.80%	3.00%	0.30%	3.00%
United States	156,703,623	10,349,174	8.35%	8.50%	3.80%	2.40%	0.50%	2.40%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2017-2021.

Communications:

Head Start classroom and home visiting staff have been issued work cellphones to more efficiently connect with families. Text messaging is a valuable tool when families have limited minutes. Also, the work cellphones allow staff to connect with families through a variety of free messaging apps. Ongoing communication challenges drive efforts to expand methods used to connect with families, including the use of social media and the need to provide a greater amount of resources in Spanish and other languages prominent in our area.

To minimize communication barriers, there are two programs available for low-income families, Safelink and Iowa Phones for Families. Staff share this information with families.

SAFELINK WIRELESS® is a program provided by TracFone Wireless, Inc. serving eligible households. To participate in the SAFELINK WIRELESS® service, certain eligibility requirements must be met, which are set by each State where the service is provided. These requirements are based on a person's participation in state, Federal support programs, or by meeting the Income Poverty Guidelines as defined by the U.S. Government. SAFELINK WIRELESS® service is limited to one person per household.

The Iowa Lifeline Cell Phone Service offers government assisted wireless services to low-income families and individuals in Iowa. Qualified customers receive Free cell phone service. Certain residents may be eligible for a Free cell phone. The program offers Lifeline discounts to qualified Iowa customers who meet certain eligibility requirements such as government assistance or a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Data related to the usage of these programs is not available.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Access to Health Care Providers (Mental, Dental and Primary Care): Access to all forms of health care is an asset to communities and vulnerable populations. The following chart identifies the number of providers per 100,000 population. Note, the oral health care and mental health providers identified in the data report are those with a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Provider Identifier (NPI). As mentioned previously in this report, the topics of health care and dental health continue to be top priorities of the Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee.

Mental Health Providers: In the majority of Head Start counties, the mental health provider to client rate is below the state rate; the exception is Clay County.

Dental Providers: In fifty percent of the Head Start counties, the dentist to client rate is below the state rate; notably Osceola and Palo Alto are exceedingly below. In all counties, regardless of the dentist to client rate, most dentists take a low allotted number of Title XIX clients. This indicates that families accessing Title XIX have minimal to no dental home options in the area.

Primary Health Providers: Although all counties are still below the state rate for providers to client, there are many more primary care physicians accepting Medicaid throughout the Head Start counties.

Note regarding the data in the table below and the source: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvIdentStand/DataDissemination>

***Mental health providers** include licensed clinical social workers and other credentialed professionals specializing in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, or child, adolescent, or adult mental health.

***Dental health providers** included in this summary are those who list "dentist", "general practice dentist", or "pediatric dentistry" as their primary practice classification, regardless of sub-specialty.

***Primary health providers** include practicing physicians specializing in general practice medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics.

Service Area	Total Population	# of Mental Health Providers	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population	# of Dentists	Dentist, Rate per 100,000 Population	Primary Care Physicians	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population
Buena Vista	20,823	9	43.22	9	43.22	16	76.84
Clay	16,384	46	280.76	1	6.10	17	103.76
Dickinson	17,703	8	45.19	7	39.54	15	84.73
Emmet	9,388	2	21.30	3	31.96	7	74.56
O'Brien	14,182	4	28.20	4	28.20	11	77.56
Osceola	6,192	No Data	No Data	0	0.00	5	80.75
Palo Alto	8,996	10	111.16	0	0.00	7	77.81
Pocahontas	7,078	0	0.00	1	14.13	5	70.64
HS Area Total	100,746	79	83.55	25	24.81	83	82.39
State of Iowa	3,190,369	3,897	122.15	942	29.53	3,488	109.33
United States	334,735,155	521,379	155.76	124,930	37.32	366,013	109.34

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). July 2023. Source geography: Address

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

The following characteristics across the UDMO Head Start service area have had positive impacts on our programs and services within the communities we serve:

- **Community Partnerships** – through partnerships with a variety of community organizations, agencies, and systems, the UDMO Head Start team is able to work collaboratively to address children’s needs, connect with parents, and gather support, feedback, and partnership through a variety of means including Policy Council participation, Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee, among other informal partnerships within communities. Major partnerships include: local public health offices; dentists; hospitals; behavioral health organizations; AEA (Area Education Agency); school districts; and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).
- **Family-Friendly Activities** – throughout our communities, many local schools, businesses, organizations, and other entities participate in and host a variety of family-friendly activities and events; kid’s carnivals, youth sports, parks and recreation, recreation centers (ex. YMCA), movie nights, etc.
- **School Relationships** – through partnerships with several school districts in our service area, we have opportunities for utilizing school space, making referrals, and other program support, providing a unique and beneficial approach to serving families through the program.

Overall, given the rural area, we have been able to build and strengthen partnerships, access a variety of programs and services for families in different situations, and work together to provide necessary programming and services to the at-risk populations we serve.

HEAD START ENROLLED CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Enrollment by Site: The Head Start service area consists of eight counties within UDMO's twelve counties including: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas. The chart below states the number of children in each location. Annually, the classrooms are fully enrolled.

Service Area	Center Location	Head Start Enrollment 2020-2021	Early Head Start Enrollment 2020-2021	Head Start Enrollment 2021-2022	Early Head Start Enrollment 2021-2022	Head Start Enrollment 2022-2023	Early Head Start Enrollment 2022-2023
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	93	53	95	53	96	57
Buena Vista	Alta	16	-	12	-	14	-
Clay	Spencer	52	75	58	72	55	70
Dickinson	Milford	18	-	17	-	16	-
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	13	-	15	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	17	-	17	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	18	-	16	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	48	52	51	52	49
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	15	-	16	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	9	-	9	-
Total		306	176	306	176	306	176

Data Source: Child Plus Funded Enrollment

Enrollment by Age Group: Head Start enrollment consists of the categories of 3 & 4-year-olds. Early Head Start enrollment consists of the categories of under 1, 1 and 2-year-olds. The following charts identify the number of children enrolled at each site and their ages at enrollment.

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021						
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	Under 1	1-year old	2-year old	3-year old	4-year old
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	93	53	21	12	20	41	52
Buena Vista	Alta	16	-	-	-	-	6	10
Clay	Spencer	52	75	27	21	27	22	30
Dickinson	Milford	18	-	-	-	-	10	8
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	-	4	12
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	8	9
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	-	6	12
Emmet	Estherville	52	48	20	6	12	27	25
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	-	-	-	6	8
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	-	-	-	1	9
Total		306	176	68	39	59	131	164

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Service Area	Center Location	2021-2022						
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	Under 1	1-year old	2-year old	3-year old	4-year old
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	95	53	17	25	27	35	73
Buena Vista	Alta	12	-				8	6
Clay	Spencer	58	72	27	21	37	32	30
Dickinson	Milford	17	-	-	-	-	7	13
O'Brien	Hartley	13	-	-	-	-	8	6
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	6	11
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	-	7	13
Emmet	Estherville	52	51	25	20	21	23	40
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	-	-	-	12	5
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	-	-	-	3	9
Total		306	176	69	66	85	141	206

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Service Area	Center Location	2022-2023						
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	Under 1	1-year old	2-year old	3-year old	4-year old
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	96	57	23	19	30	35	70
Buena Vista	Alta	14	-	-	-	-	3	11
Clay	Spencer	55	70	23	30	31	29	37
Dickinson	Milford	16	-	-	-	-	9	9
O'Brien	Hartley	15	-	-	-	-	8	12
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	8	11
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	-	-	-	8	9
Emmet	Estherville	52	49	15	17	20	21	32
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	16	-	-	-	-	5	11
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	-	-	-	1	9
Total		306	176	61	66	81	127	211

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Foster Care, Homeless and English Language Learners: Head Start children in foster care and English Language-learners remained consistent from 2020-2023. The number of children experiencing homelessness increased from the 2020-2021 school year to 2021-2022 school year and remained higher in 2022-2023.

Early Head Start has previously shown a steady rise in homelessness from 2018-2021. Since 2021, the rate of homelessness for Early Head Start children has decreased.

Head Start defines homelessness using the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are: sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; staying in motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative; staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings.

English language learners are identified in the following tables based on children whose first language is not English.

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021							
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	HS Foster Care	EHS Foster Care	HS Homeless	EHS Homeless	HS ELL	EHS ELL
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	93	53	4	1	9	11	87	57
Buena Vista	Alta	16	-	2	-	-	-	9	-
Clay	Spencer	52	75	1	2	8	36	4	9
Dickinson	Milford	18	-	-	-	7	-	1	-
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	1	-	2	-	11	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	5	-	7	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	48	2	-	9	7	20	23
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	2	-	1	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Total		306	176	13	3	43	54	146	89

Data Source: Child Plus Report Language 9704; 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Service Area	Center Location	2021-2022							
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	HS Foster Care	EHS Foster Care	HS Homeless	EHS Homeless	HS ELL	EHS ELL
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	95	53	1	1	17	9	86	63
Buena Vista	Alta	12	-	2	-	1	-	6	-
Clay	Spencer	58	72	0	0	7	20	6	6
Dickinson	Milford	17	-	0	-	5	-	0	-
O'Brien	Hartley	13	-	1	-	2	-	4	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	0	-	5	-	14	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	0	-	5	-	8	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	51	1	0	10	20	27	31
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	4	-	1	-
Total		306	176	5	1	56	49	152	100

Data Source: Child Plus Report Language 9704; 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Service Area	Center Location	2022-2023							
		Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment	HS Foster Care	EHS Foster Care	HS Homeless	EHS Homeless	HS ELL	EHS ELL
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	96	57	1	2	24	18	86	55
Buena Vista	Alta	14	-	1	-	1	-	5	-
Clay	Spencer	55	70	0	1	9	7	5	17
Dickinson	Milford	16	-	0	-	4	-	1	-
O'Brien	Hartley	15	-	1	-	5	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	2	-	6	-	11	-
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	0	-	1	-	7	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	49	0	0	6	15	26	29
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	16	-	0	-	2	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	2	-	3	-
Total		306	176	5	3	60	40	145	101

Data Source: Child Plus Report Language 9704; 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

Disabilities: UDMO Head Start consistently meets or exceeds the required 10% disability mandate.

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
		HS Number of Children with Disabilities	EHS Number of Children with Disabilities	HS Number of Children with Disabilities	EHS Number of Children with Disabilities	HS Number of Children with Disabilities	EHS Number of Children with Disabilities
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	10	5	12	6	5	10
Buena Vista	Alta	3	-	-	-	-	-
Clay	Spencer	7	4	8	7	6	7
Dickinson	Milford	2	-	4	-	4	-
O'Brien	Hartley	5	-	4	-	4	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	1	-	1	-	2	-
Osceola	Sibley	1	-	1	-	2	-
Emmet	Estherville	8	3	7	1	3	6
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	4	-	1	-	3	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	3	-	2	-	1	-
Total		44	12	40	14	30	23

Disabilities Types: Speech, Intellectual, Autism, Health Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Developmental Delays and Non-categorical

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9710 - Disability Services (C.23, C.24, C.26)

Racial and Ethnic Demographics: Head Start and Early Head Start serve a diverse group of children. Following is enrollment documented by self-reported race and ethnicity.

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021											
		White		Asian		Black		Pacific Islander		Indian Alaskan		Multi-racial	
		HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	73	48	13	5	3	8	5	3	-	-	4	-
Buena Vista	Alta	18	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Clay	Spencer	51	95	1	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	7	11
Dickinson	Milford	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Osceola	Sibley	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Emmet	Estherville	55	51	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		290	194	14	7	5	13	6	4	3	0	17	17

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9703 Race and Ethnicity (A.25)

Service Area	Center Location	2021-2022											
		White		Asian		Black		Pacific Islander		Indian Alaskan		Multi-racial	
		HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	76	56	9	4	9	3	8	9	0	0	9	1
Buena Vista	Alta	11	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
Clay	Spencer	56	75	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	8
Dickinson	Milford	17	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
O'Brien	Hartley	12	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	1	-	0	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
Emmet	Estherville	59	58	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	6	3
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	11	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Total		289	189	10	5	12	9	8	9	3	1	31	12

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9703 Race and Ethnicity (A.25)

Service Area	Center Location	2022-2023											
		White		Asian		Black		Pacific Islander		Indian Alaskan		Multi-racial	
		HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS	HS	EHS
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	74	57	7	5	7	4	11	6	1	0	4	0
Buena Vista	Alta	10	-	0	-	1	-	1	-	0	-	2	-
Clay	Spencer	60	59	0	1	3	3	0	0	2	0	1	20
Dickinson	Milford	14	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	0	-	2	-	0	-	1	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Osceola	Sibley	14	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	-
Emmet	Estherville	45	46	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	4
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	7	-	0	-	1	-	1	-	0	-	0	-
Total		271	162	11	6	17	9	13	6	4	0	20	24

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9703 Race and Ethnicity (A.25)

Attendance, Waiting List and Over-guides: This data is documented in Child Plus for tracking and reporting.

Head Start

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023		
		Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	87.06%	68	1	85.78%	11	61	85.96%	11	46
Buena Vista	Alta	89.83%	4	2	88.44%	16	2	96.27%	0	7
Clay	Spencer	91.33%	7	9	86.17%	2	7	88.16%	2	5
Dickinson	Milford	92.81%	3	-	89.35%	5	8	86.57%	1	4
O'Brien	Hartley	92.38%	3	4	84.56%	1	5	88.26%	0	6
O'Brien	Sheldon	90.17%	14	-	86.94%	5	10	88.84%	7	16
Osceola	Sibley	91.80%	6	-	90.80%	2	8	89.11%	0	6
Emmet	Estherville	92.40%	21	-	89.05%	6	11	89.12%	10	6
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	91.94%	5	-	90.47%	0	4	86.86%	8	0
Pocahontas	Laurens	89.77%	6	-	85.54%	0	1	89.45%	4	3
Total		91.37%	137	16	87.71%	48	117	88.86%	43	99

Data Source: Child Plus Reports: 2301 Average Daily Attendance, 2006 Waitlist and 2025 Over guides

Early Head Start

Service Area	Center Location	2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023		
		Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	87.26%	80	-	85.34%	53	61	81.64%	67	51
Clay	Spencer	88.94%	49	-	85.03%	13	13	85.78%	17	10
Emmet	Estherville	86.76%	21	-	86.32%	10	3	84.50%	17	7
Total		87.65%	150	0	85.56%	76	77	83.97%	101	68

Data Source: Child Plus Reports: 2301 Average Daily Attendance, 2006 Waitlist and 2025 Over guides

HEAD START STAFF

Race/Ethnicity: In rural Iowa there is an ongoing workforce shortage and an increasing need for diverse staff which is representative of the families we serve. Therefore, recruitment of qualified early childhood staff to meet the cultural diversity of families continues to be a priority for the UDMO Head Start program.

	White / Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	English	Spanish
Head Start Classroom Teachers	42	7	42	7
Early Head Start Classroom and Home Base Teachers	23	6	23	6

Education: The data presented in the table below indicates the education level of staff from the 2022-2023 school year. Based on the data below, 68% of Head Start classroom teachers have a Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood education, exceeding the Head Start Performance mandate of 50%.

HSPS 1302.91 Head Start center-based teacher qualification requirements. (i) The Secretary must ensure no less than fifty percent of all Head Start teachers, nationwide, have a baccalaureate degree in child development, early childhood education, or equivalent coursework.

Head Start and Early Head Start Staff Education Level:	HS Classroom Teacher	HS Assistant Teacher	EHS Classroom Teacher	Homebased Teacher
Advanced degree in Early Childhood Education or any field and coursework equivalent to a major relating to Early Childhood Education with experience teaching preschool age children.	2	0	0	0
Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood education or any field and coursework equivalent to a major relating to Early Childhood Education with experience teaching preschool age children or any field and is part of the Teach for America program and passed a rigorous Early Childhood content exam.	15	0	1	15
Associate degree in Early Childhood Education or any field and coursework equivalent to a major relating to Early Childhood Education with experience teaching preschool age children.	5	2	4	0
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, state awarded certification, credential, or licensure that meets or exceeds CDA requirements.	0	14	6	0
A CDA credential or state awarded certification, credential, or licensure that meets or exceeds CDA requirements and that is appropriate to the option in which they are working.	0	0	0	0
None of the above qualifications	0	11	2	1
Totals	22	27	13	16

Data Source 2022-2023 PIR Head Start Program Information Report
 9722 Infant Toddler Classroom Teachers EHS
 9721 Preschool Classroom & Assistant Teachers
 9723 Home Visitor and Family Child Care Staff Qualifications

RELEVANT OPINIONS OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

The following charts include data from staff, families and community partners.

Important Areas of Need:

Based on the data presented in the charts that follow, the top areas of need identified by parents with children enrolled in Head Start and by Head Start staff include:

1. Access to child care,
2. Housing,
3. Transportation, and
4. Access to dental care

Community partners identified access to dental care and emotional health as the most important areas of need. These top five areas of need are reflective of the primary areas of focus Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee.

Reasons Why Families Don't Access Services: Parents and staff identify the same top three reasons why families do not access services they need as:

1. Transportation not available
2. Not aware of existing resources, and
3. Waiting lists too long

Community partners identify the top three reasons why families do not access services they need as:

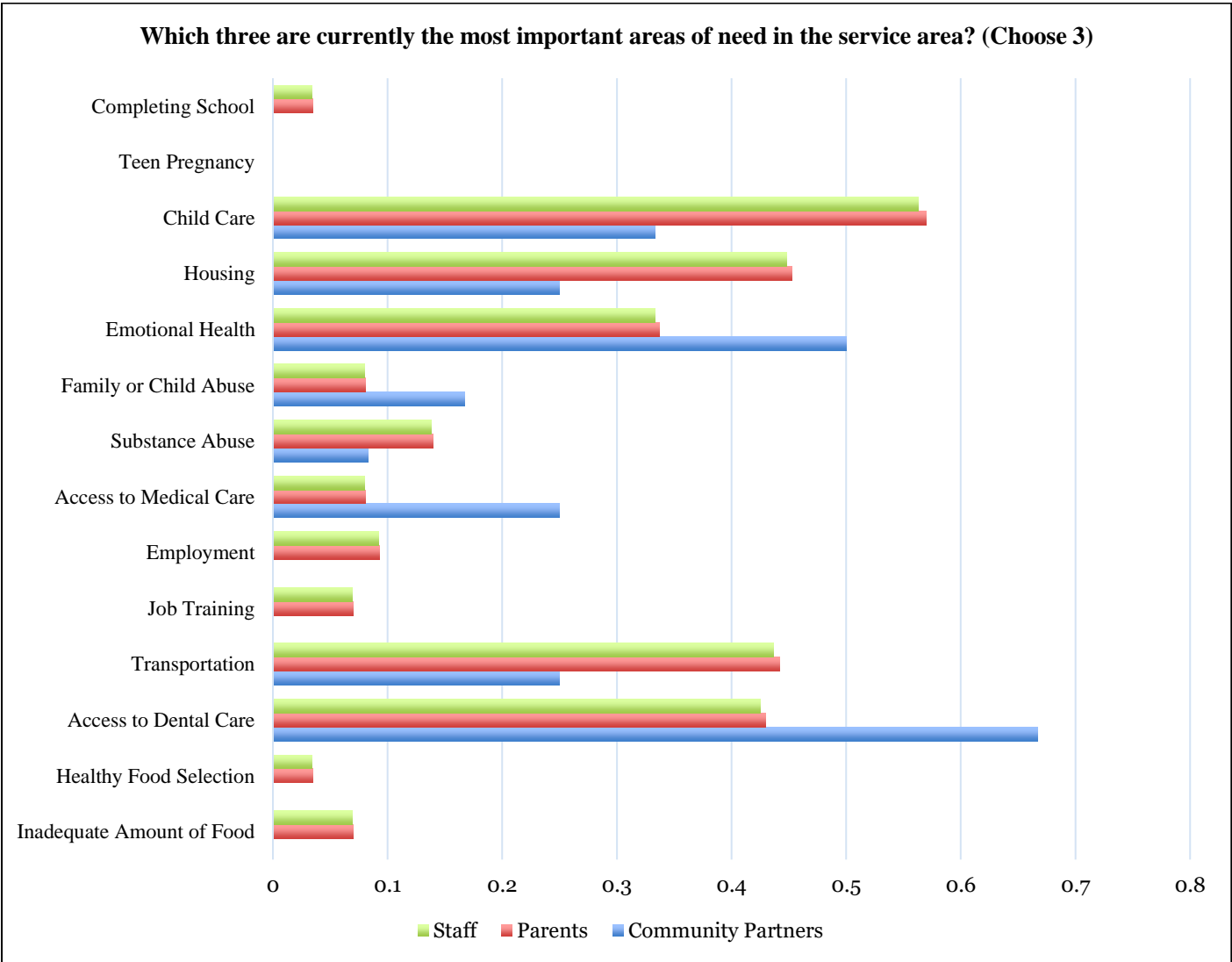
1. Transportation not available
2. Lack of personal financial resources, and
3. Not aware of existing resources

Greatest Strengths: Families and staff identify access to medical care, access to healthy food selection and steady employment as areas of strength. Community partners identify school completion as a strength.

Reasons Why Families Do Access Services: Parents and staff identify the same top three reasons why families do not access services they need as:

1. Families are aware of existing services,
2. Agencies are close enough, and
3. Staff are polite and sensitive to consumer needs

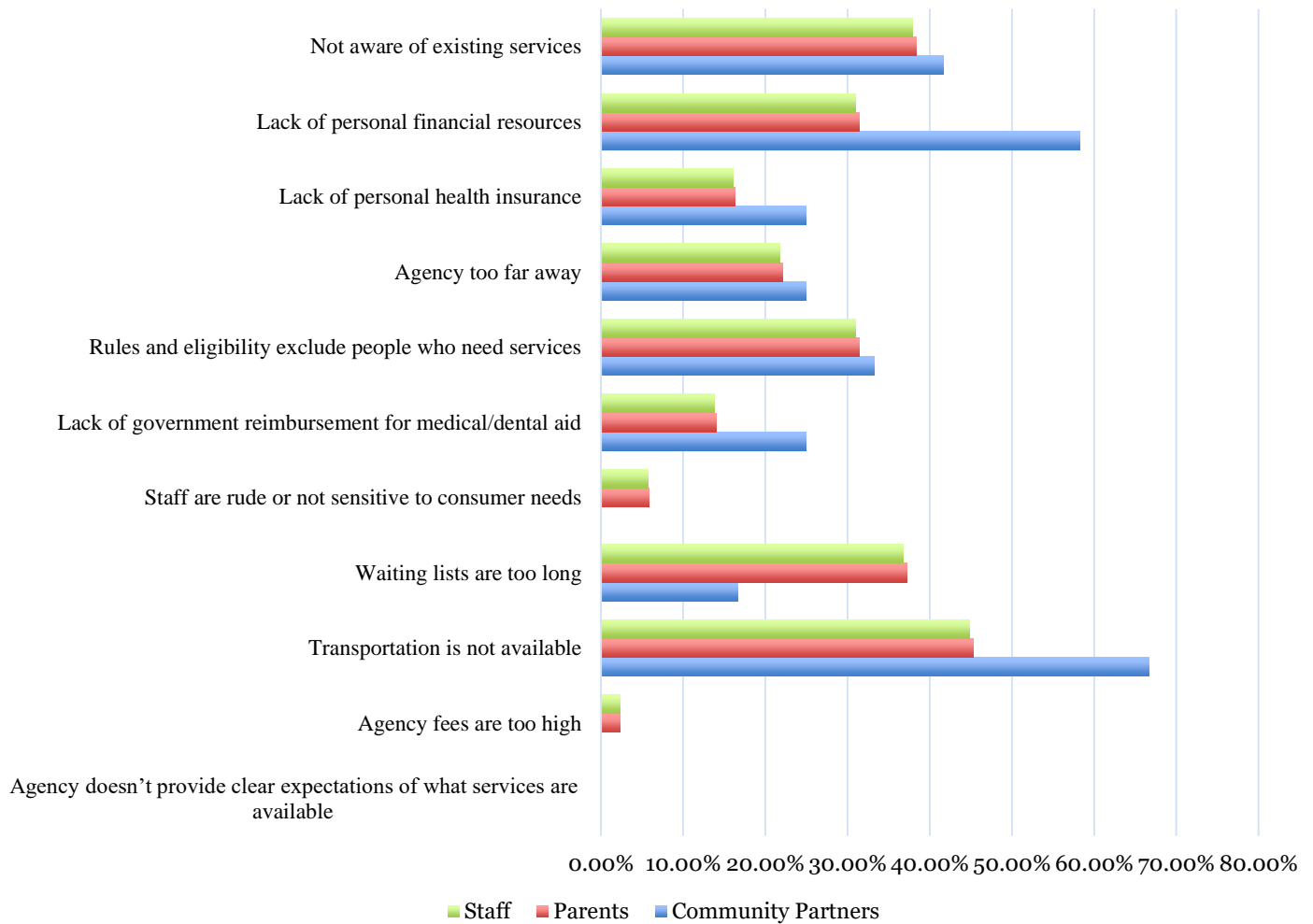
Which three are currently the most important areas of need in the service area? (Choose 3)			
Answer Choices	% of Staff Responses	% of Parent Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
Completing School	3.4 %	3.5%	0.00%
Teen Pregnancy	0.0 %	0.0%	0.00%
Child Care	56.3%	57.0%	33.3%
Housing	44.8%	45.3%	25.0%
Emotional Health	33.3%	33.7%	50.0%
Family or Child Abuse	8.0%	8.1%	16.7%
Substance Abuse	13.8%	14.0%	8.3%
Access to Medical Care	8.0%	8.1%	25.0%
Employment	9.2%	9.3%	0.00%
Job Training	6.9%	7.0%	0.00%
Transportation	43.7%	44.2%	25.0%
Access to Dental Care	42.5%	43.0%	66.7%
Healthy Food Selection	3.4%	3.5%	0.00%
Inadequate Amount of Food	6.9%	7.0%	0.00%



Please check why you think families don't get the services they need in your community.

Answer Choices	% of Staff Responses	% of Parent Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
Not aware of existing services	37.9%	38.4%	41.7%
Lack of personal financial resources	31.0%	31.4%	58.3%
Lack of personal health insurance	16.1%	16.3%	25.0%
Agency too far away	21.8%	22.1%	25.0%
Rules and eligibility exclude people who need services	31.0%	31.4%	33.3%
Lack of government reimbursement for medical/dental aid	13.8%	14.0%	25.0%
Staff are rude or not sensitive to consumer needs	5.7%	5.8%	0.00%
Waiting lists are too long	36.8%	37.2%	16.7%
Transportation is not available	44.8%	45.3%	66.7%
Agency fees are too high	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Agency doesn't provide clear expectations of what services are available	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

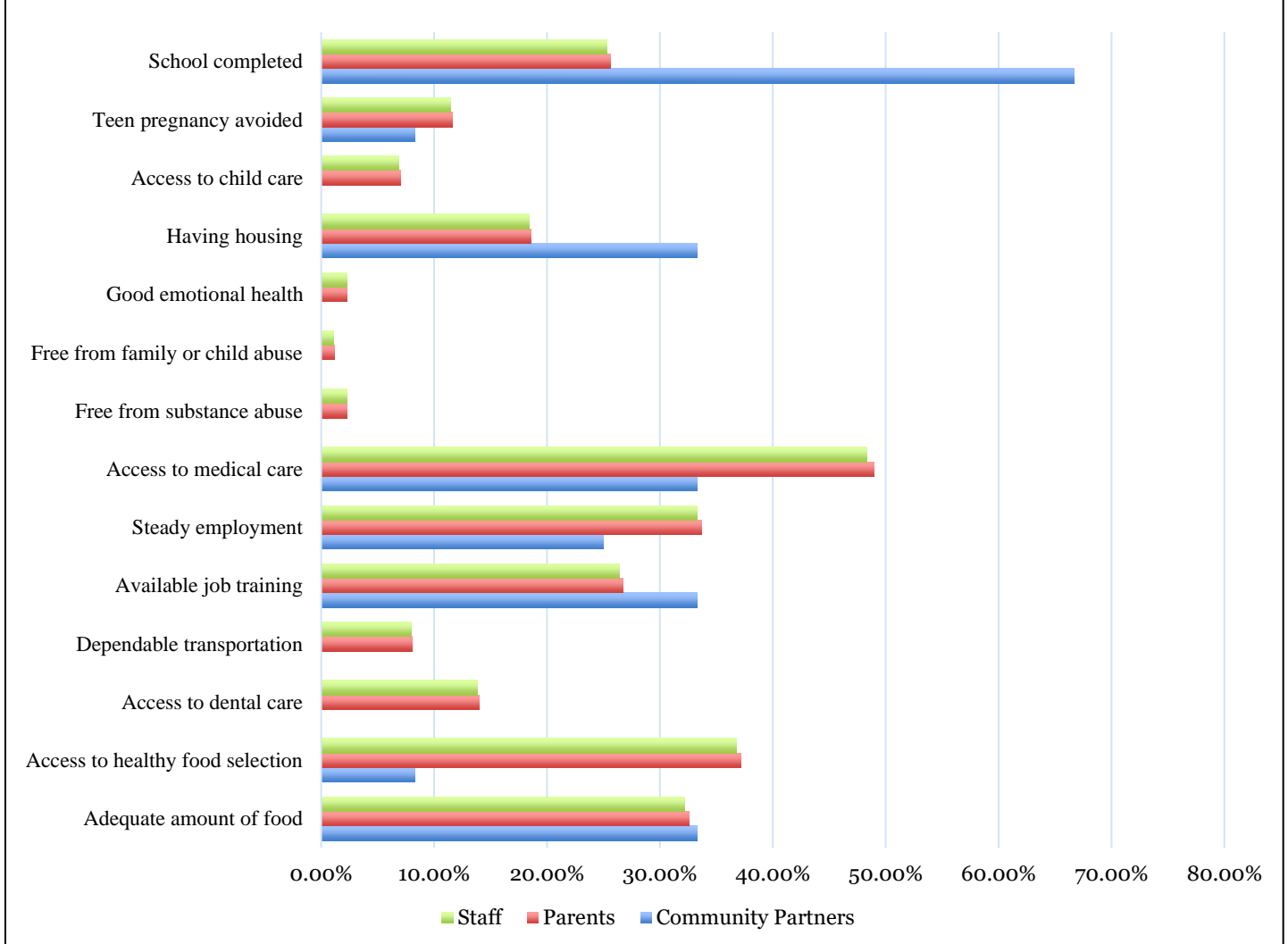
Please check why you think families don't get the services they need in your community.



Which three are currently the greatest strengths in the service area?

Answer Choices	% of Staff Responses	% of Parent Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
School completed	25.3%	25.6%	66.7%
Teen pregnancy avoided	11.5%	11.6%	8.3%
Access to child care	6.9%	7.0%	0.00%
Having housing	18.4%	18.6%	33.3%
Good emotional health	2.3%	2.3%	0.00%
Free from family or child abuse	1.1%	1.2%	0.00%
Free from substance abuse	2.3%	2.3%	0.00%
Access to medical care	48.3%	49.0%	33.3%
Steady employment	33.3%	33.7%	25.0%
Available job training	26.4%	26.7%	33.3%
Dependable transportation	8.0%	8.1%	0.00%
Access to dental care	13.8%	14.0%	0.00%
Access to healthy food selection	36.8%	37.2%	8.3%
Adequate amount of food	32.2%	32.6%	33.3%

Which three are currently the greatest strengths in the service area?



Please check the reason why you think families are able to access the services they need.

Answer Choices	% of Staff Responses	% of Parent Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
Are aware of existing services	50.6%	51.2%	16.7%
Sufficient personal financial resources	10.3%	10.5%	0.0%
Sufficient personal health insurance	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Agencies are close enough	40.2%	41.0%	16.7%
Rules and eligibility don't exclude people who need services	14.9%	15.1%	25.0%
Government does reimburse for medical/dental aid	10.3%	10.5%	8.3%
Staff are polite and sensitive to consumer needs	39.1%	39.5%	50.0%
Waiting lists are not too long	10.3%	10.5%	0.0%
Transportation is available	12.6%	12.8%	8.3%
Agency fees are reasonable	12.6%	12.8%	8.3%
Agency does provide clear expectations of services available	19.5%	19.8%	41.7%

Please check the reason why you think families are able to access the services they need.

