2020-2021 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

EDUCATING CHILDREN

HEARTLAND HEAD START

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

Contents

Heartland Head Start Acronyms:

Child Care Assistance Program: CCAP

Child Care Resource Referral Network: CCRRN

ChildPlus: CP

Early Childhood Education: ECE

Early Head Start: EHS

Full-Day: FD

Full Working Day: FWD

Full-Year: FY

General Education Development: GED

Home-Based: HB

Heartland Head Start: HHS

Head Start: HS

Illinois Department of Child and Family Services: IDCFS

Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map: IECAM

Individualized Education Program: IEP

Individualized Family Service Program: IFSP

Local Education Agency: LEA

Preschool for All: PFA

Part-Year: PY

School-Year: SY

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: SNAP

Social Security Income: SSI

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: TANF

Women, Infant, and Children: WIC

Young Women's Christian Association: YWCA

Introduction

Heartland Head Start (HHS) is the Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) grantee for McLean and Livingston Counties.

Purpose

This document is an update of our comprehensive community assessment that was completed in year one of our five-year grant cycle. This community assessment is designed to reveal the most pressing community needs for those families in McLean and Livingston Counties we serve, focusing on families with pregnant mothers and children ages zero to five. The interim community assessment updates are to identify changes in community needs and to determine if any programmatic changes need to be implemented for our HS and EHS programs in response to the changing needs of the community, especially due to COVID-19. If no updates are necessary, they are not included in the assessment.

Every year, HHS uses the data from the comprehensive assessment, self-assessment, and other program data to evaluate its different program options and its service delivery models to ensure we are meeting the needs of the families in our service area to the best of our ability.

Program Overview

The 2020-2021 program year's funded enrollment was for 275 children with 88 in Early Head Start (EHS) and 187 in Head Start (HS). Due to COVID-19, enrollment was reduced for center-based options and remote learning was highly encouraged. The program year was set to start in August of 2020 but was pushed to early September of 2020 to determine safe procedures for children, families, and staff. Initial enrollment was 186 with 30 in-person and 156 remote learning including Home-Based (HB).

Program Options

HHS typically offers 6 different program options through 5 sites and a HB program. Due to COVID-19, we are only offering in-person services at 3 sites and 5 program options.

Center Locations

For the 2020-2021 program year, changes have been made to our center locations in response to COVID-19. Previously, HHS had 5 sites and a HB option that families could choose from based on their age level and preferred classroom. Due to changes this year, the table below indicates classroom size and location.

Sites	Options
Stillwell East 206 Stillwell St., Bloomington, IL	SEA EHS – Closed Classroom (OHS funded for 8 children) SEB HS – 8 children in-center (OHS funded for 18 children) SEC EHS – 6 children in-center (OHS funded for 8)
Stillwell West 1407 W. Washington St., Bloomington, IL	SWA HS – 20 children remote (OHS funded for 17) SWB HS – 8 children in-center (OHS funded for 17) SWC EHS – 6 children in-center (OHS funded for 8)
Trinity Lutheran Church 801 S. Madison St., Bloomington, IL	TA HS – 20 children remote (OHS funded for 17) TB HS – 20 children remote (OHS funded for 17)
YWCA	YA HS – 20 children remote (OHS funded for 17)

1201 N. Hershey Rd., Bloomington, IL	YB HS – 20 children remote (OHS funded for 17)
Pontiac (Boys & Girls Club)	PA HS – 8 children in-center (OHS funded for 17)
1303 E. Indiana Ave, Pontiac, IL	PB EHS – 6 children in-center (OHS funded for 8)
Home-Based	EHS – 56 children remote (OHS funded for 56)

During our relicensing for the Trinity Lutheran site, it was determined that HHS will no longer be able to operate as a face-to-face location due to new regulations and guidelines for the State of Illinois and DCFS monitored sites. The age and condition of the facility was not considered conducive to properly ensure the safety and well-being of the children and staff. After much discussion and review, it was determined that the cost to make this site licensable would be beyond what funding was available. Other considerations were that the church was in the process of being put up for sale so our future at this location would make any investment unreasonable. A search is underway to replace this location and the students who were at this site are currently being schooled remotely.

Methodology

Data was compiled from a variety of sources including the following: Fair Market Rent, Personal Interviews, American Red Cross, The Pantagraph, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Census, ChildPlus, Connect Transit, IECAM, FRED Economic Data, IDHS, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, Livingston County Health Department, McLean County Government, McLean County Health Department, McLean County Sheriff's Department, Pontiac Government, Regional Office of Education #17, Show Bus Public Transportation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Welcome to Benefits.

McLean County Demographics

Population

Compared to the previous assessment, McLean County has seen a slight decrease in overall population. As of 2019, the population of McLean County is 171,517 residents (Census profile: McLean County, IL).

Income/Poverty

In McLean County, a total of 14.4% of the population is currently living 100% under the federal poverty level. This is higher than the Illinois and national average, but a slight decrease compared to 2018.

Overall Poverty Percentages

	McLean County	Illinois	National
2018	15.60%	12.10%	13.10%
2019	14.40%	11.50%	10.50%
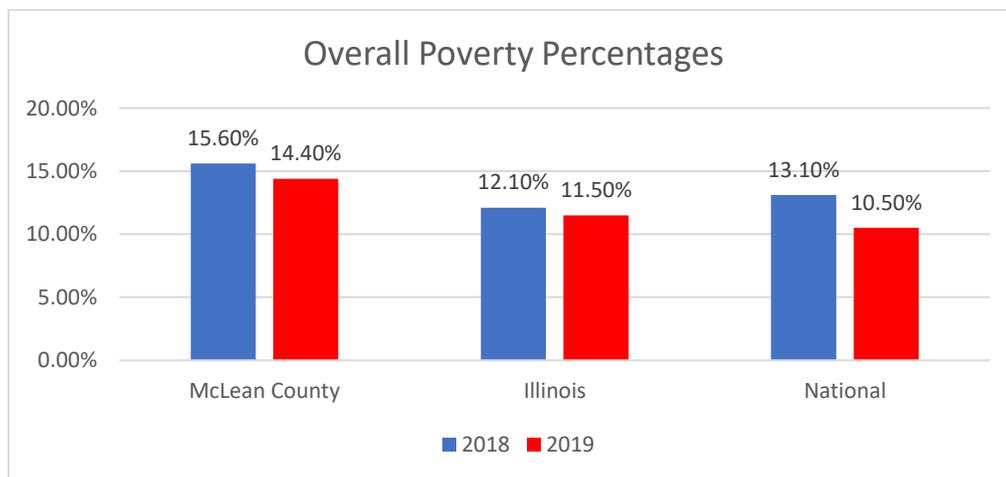
(IECAM, 2020)

The median household income has increased slightly between 2018 and 2019. Illinois has seen a small increase in median household income in 2019, but the national average has decreased by $2,094.

Median Household Income
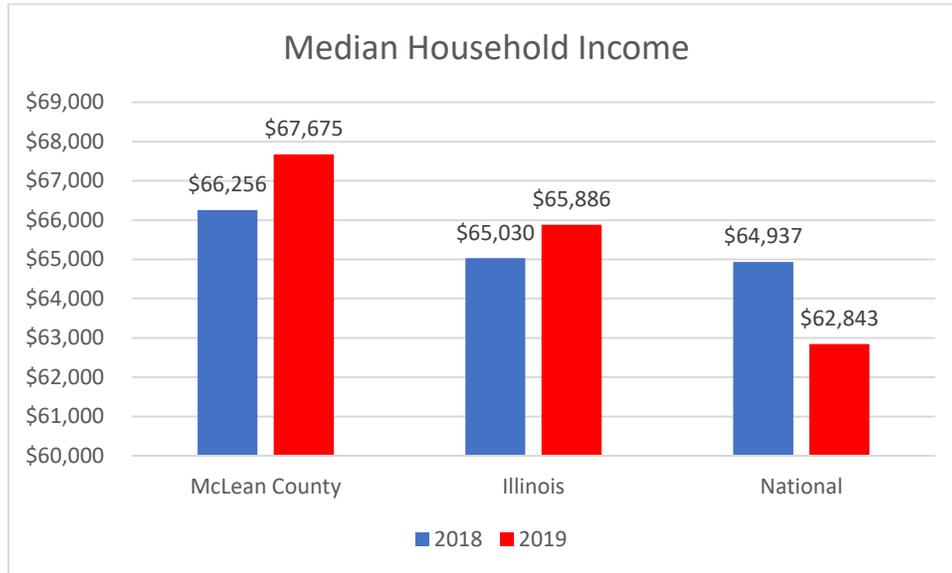
(*McLean County, Illinois, U.S.*, 2019)

Employment/Unemployment

The graph below indicates the unemployment rates for 2020. The large spike in April and May is due to COVID-19.

Unemployment Rates of 2020
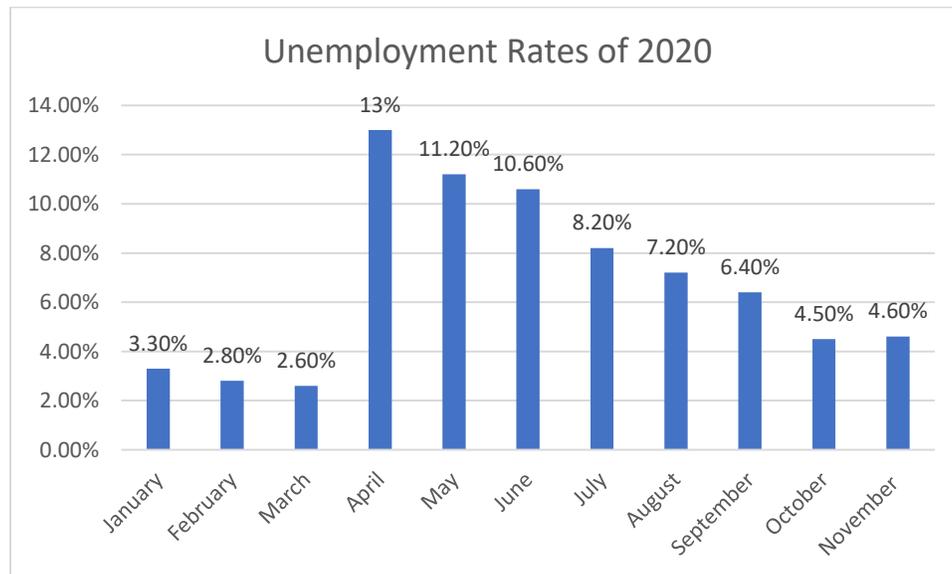
(*Bloomington-Normal, IL Economy at a Glance*, 2020)

(*FRED Economic Data*, 2020b)

Public Assistance

When reviewing data around public assistance, McLean and Livingston Counties consolidated their data in August of 2012. The graph below compares 2019 to 2020 in terms of households and person that utilized SNAP benefits as of November 2020. It is noted that 1,728 more households used benefits in 2020.

SNAP Benefits of McLean and Livingston Counties

Category	2019	2020
Households	11,950	13,678
Persons	23,743	25,615
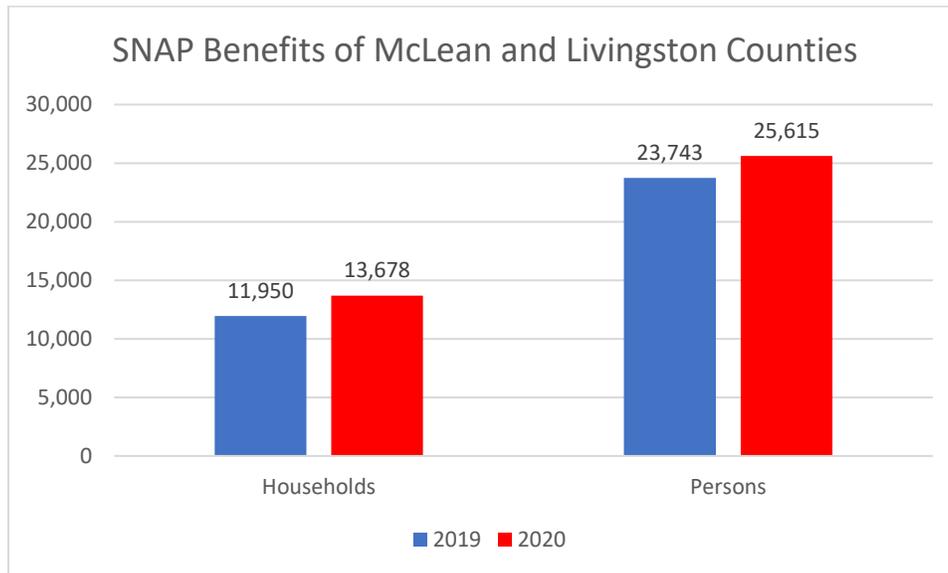
(*IDHS: November 2020 - SNAP Data by Servicing Office*, 2020)

Similar to SNAP benefits, TANF benefits are also tracked with McLean and Livingston Counties combined data. TANF is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. This program provides grant funds to states and territories to provide families with financial assistance and related support services. To qualify for TANF you have to be a resident of Illinois, a U.S. citizen, legal alien or qualified alien, underemployed or unemployed, and have low or very low incomes. You must also be one of the following:

- Have a child 18 years of age or younger, or
- Be pregnant, or
- Be 18 years of age or younger and the head of your household.

(*Welcome to Benefits.Gov | Benefits.Gov*, 2020)

The graph below compares data from 2019 and 2020. The 2020 data is from January to December.

TANF Benefits of McLean and Livingston Counties

Cases: 2019 = 194, 2020 = 274

Persons: 2019 = 461, 2020 = 798
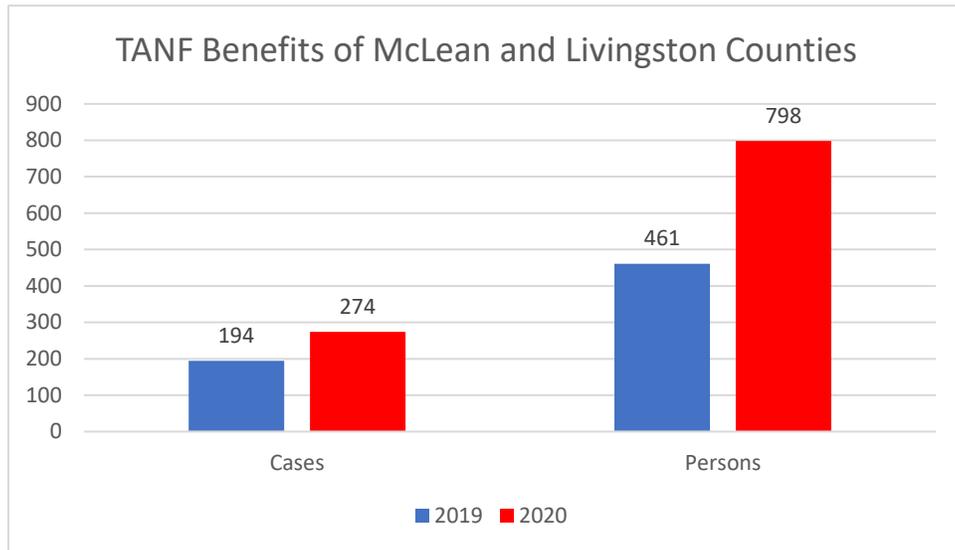
(*IDHS: TANF - Cases and Persons - December 2020*, 2020)

Homelessness

Homelessness continues to be an ongoing challenge in McLean County. However, the three shelters in town continue to provide services to adults and children in need.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is one of the homeless shelters in Bloomington that provides services. They do not serve any children in McLean County. As documented, there is a decrease in shelter clients, but an increase in clients receiving employment training. It is also documented in the graph that the number of clients served during COVID months (March to October) and the full year. Data was collected from the Salvation Army in late October of 2020.

Salvation Army Clients Served

Unduplicated Clients (Shelter): 2019 = 353, 2020 COVID-19 Months = 240, 2020 Full Year = 296

Transitioned to Permant Housing: 2019 = 132, 2020 COVID-19 Months = 74, 2020 Full Year = 96

Received Employment Training: 2019 = 165, 2020 COVID-19 Months = 150, 2020 Full Year = 265

Employment Placement: 2019 = 108, 2020 COVID-19 Months = 49, 2020 Full Year = 67
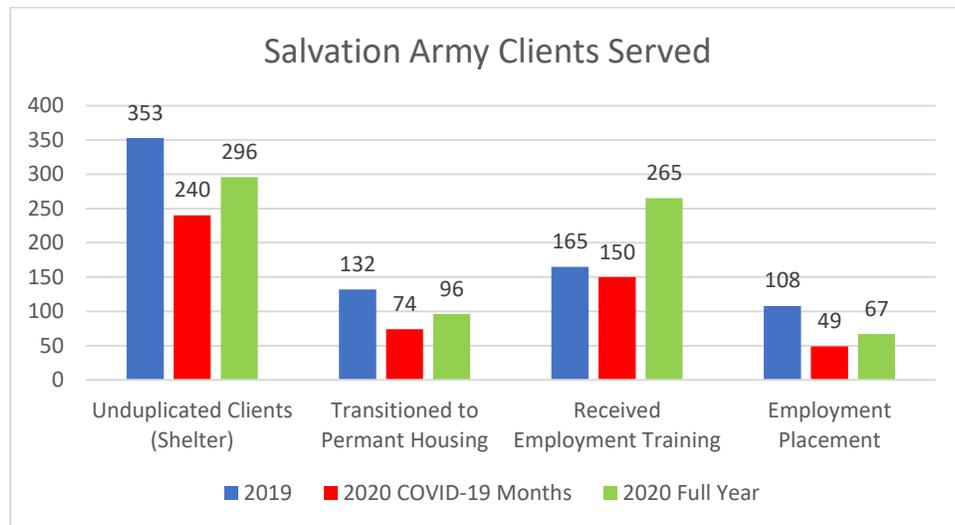
(J. Callahan, personal communication, October 29, 2020)

Neville House

The Neville House is the only domestic violence shelter in Bloomington, IL. The graph below has data from 2019, then compares data from March to October and January to October. As noted, there were less clients served overall between 2019 and 2020. However, there were more pregnant mothers served in 2020 compared to 2019.

The Neville House Clients Served

	Adults	Children	Children Under 5 Years	Pregnant Moms
2019	609	111	66	20
2020 COVID-19	393	35	12	17
2020 Full Year	465	53	21	24
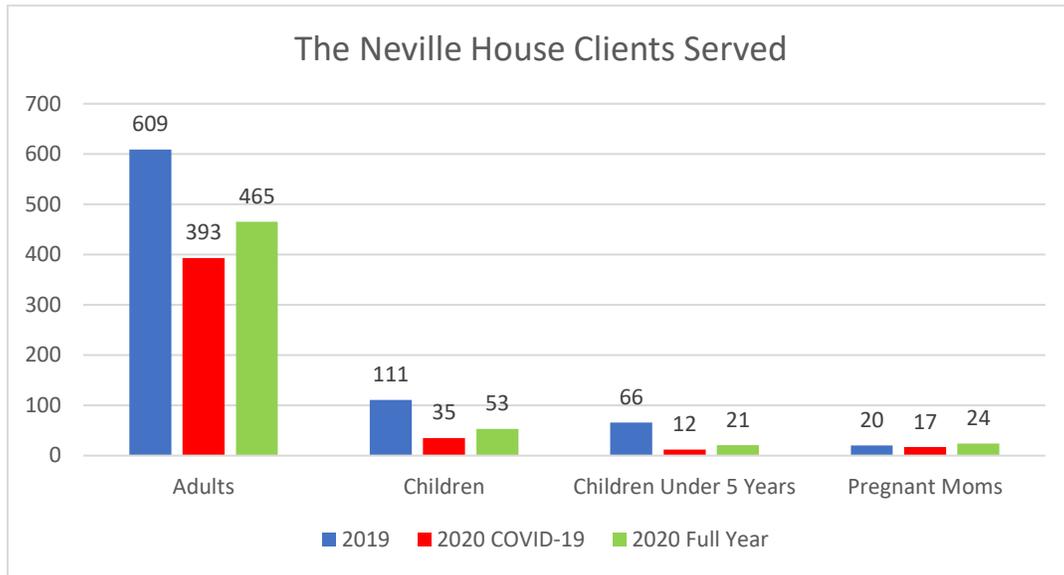
(S. Adjabeng, personal communication, October 29, 2020)

Home Sweet Home Ministries

The graphs below describe the data regarding the clients served at Home Sweet Home Ministries. The number of individuals include children served. Two graphs are presented to indicate the whole year and the months during COVID-19 to October. When comparing the two graphs, it is noted that 77% of adults served was during COVID, 76% of the children under 5 years of age was during COVID, and 67% of the total children served were during COVID.

Matt Burgess, the Chief Operating Officer at Home Sweet Home Ministries, stated that "The Census we've seen over the past 7 months has been suppressed at a far lower level than is our norm. I attribute this largely to the pandemic and all the variables associated with it (i.e. eviction moratorium, additional financial assistance available, lower mobility from community to community, etc.)

HSH Clients Served January to October

Category	2019	2020
Individuals	256	169
Families	36	35
Children	56	49
Children Under 5 Years Old	34	21

HSH Clients Served During COVID-19

Category	January to October	March to October
Individual	169	133
Families	35	26
Children	49	33
Children Under 5 Years Old	21	16
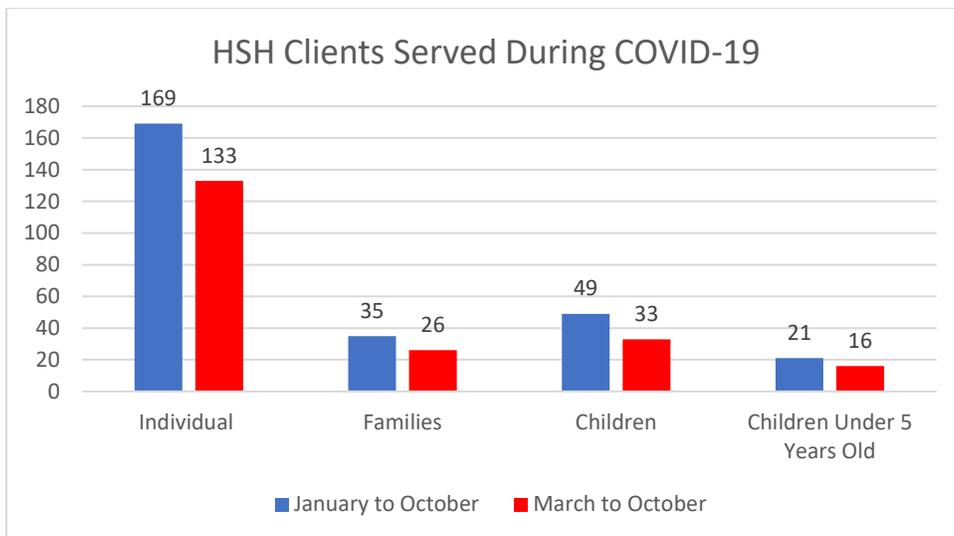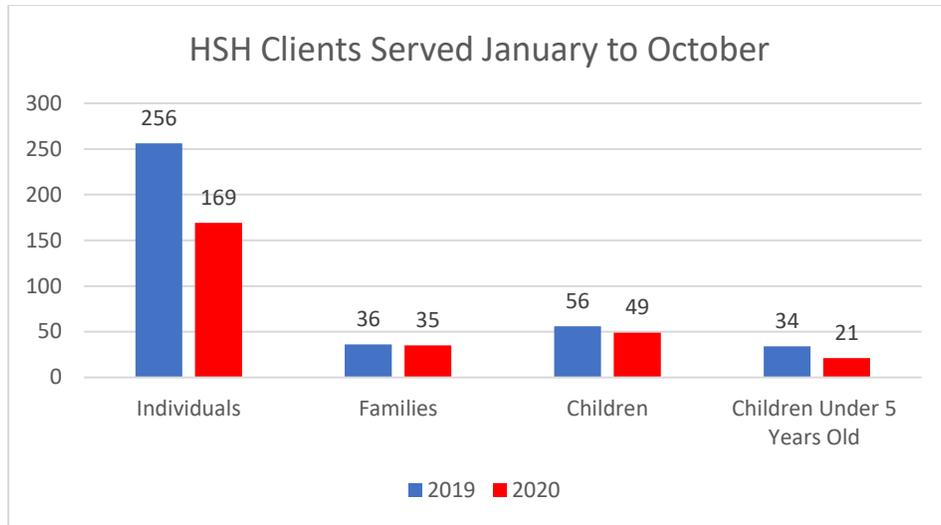
(M.Burgess, personal communication, October 29, 2020)

Child Abuse & Neglect

The data below describes the number of children that have been placed in either foster care, with a relative, or in a group home. The data for the 2020 year was last updated December 31, 2020. It should be noted that the data for 2019 was last collected on October 31, 2019.

Children in Care in McLean County

Category	2019	2020
Foster Care	82	134
Relative	114	141
Group/Institution	2	1
Other	0	3
Total	201	279
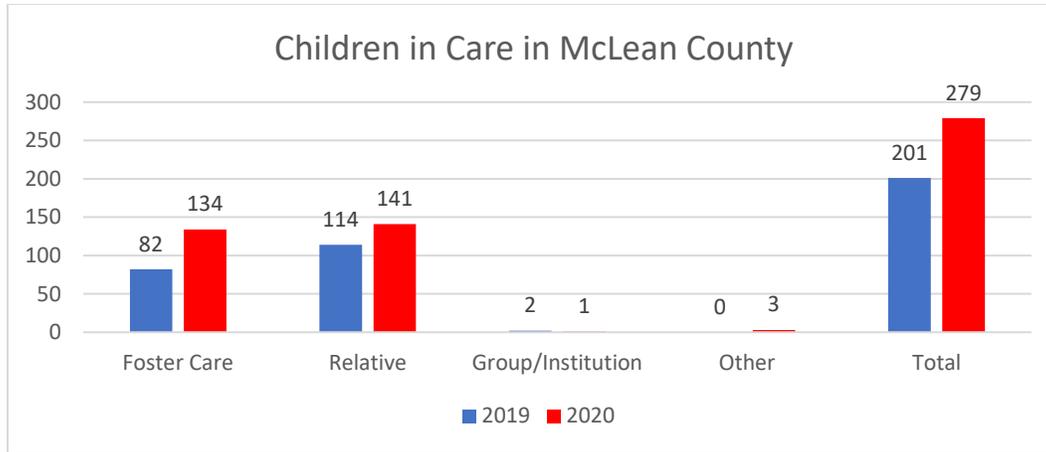
(Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, 2020)

Crime

Below are the number of incidents of criminal offenses that have impacted our community. No new updates have been made for 2020, however, there is updated information for the year of 2019. As seen in the table below, most categories have seen a decrease in number of incidents. Only four categories have seen a slight increase in incidents.

Criminal Offenses	Number of Incidents in 2018	Number of Incidents in 2019
Criminal Sexual Assault	13	9
Battery	22	16
Assault	9	7
Sexual Offenses	13	17
Endangering the Life or Health of a Child	5	1
DUI	249	176
DWI	31	23
Child Abuse/Neglect or Failure to Report	2	6
Child Abduction	N/A	1
Intimidation	7	1
Kidnapping	7	10
Domestic Dispute	136	137
Hit and Run	6	10
Attempted Suicide	23	16
Domestic Battery	63	60

(McLean County Sheriff's Department, 2020)

Transportation

Before the start of the pandemic, adult riders on Connect Transit paid $1 with free transfers from route to route. Children ages 5 and younger received a free ride while accompanied by a fare paying rider. In April of 2020, Connect Transit has canceled payments for rides. They vowed to continue to operate at a reduced service schedule to ensure proper cleaning of buses and facilities. Buses are cleaned and sanitized during the day and every night to ensure passenger safety while riding. Operating a reduced service schedule enables Connect Transit to continue reliable transit service safely for employees and customers.

The Connect Transit Board of Trustees voted to extend the suspension of fare collection on all transportation services until March 8th, 2021. This included Connect Transit fixed-route bus service and Connect Mobility paratransit service (*Connect Transit*, 2020).

An article posted by The Pantagraph on July 22, 2020 stated that COVID has cost Connect Transit an estimated $250,000 in revenue (Barlow, 2020).

Disability

According to the FY 2020 report from Child and Family Connections (CFC), there were 613 referrals in McLean County. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the CFC adopted new ways of communication with families. The table below indicates how services were continued at the start of the pandemic.

Month	Method
March	Phone contact was the only method of communication for families to talk with Service Coordinators and providers.
April	Live video services with families were used for assessments and services were approved.
May	Live video was approved to evaluate individual children.
June	Services for face-to-face were approved which included diagnostics, hearing/vision, and other assessments that could not be completed during live videos and would need in-clinic evaluations.
August	Face-to-face services begin; however, it was limited, and live video was encouraged.

(CFC #16 FY2020 Committee Report)

Mental Health

In the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the top three issues identified for McLean County are as follows:

1. Access to Care
2. Behavioral Health – Mental Health and Substance Use
3. Healthy Eating/Active Living – Exercise, Nutrition, Obesity, Food Access/Insecurity

"Behavioral health was selected as a significant health need to be addressed by the McLean County Community Health Council for several reasons. Behavioral health received the highest priority score (162.5) clearly indicating the need for further improvements in this area in McLean County. In addition, there are numerous health disparities in Bloomington ZIP code 61701 for both mental health and substance abuse. There has also been a great deal of public support and momentum behind mental health in the county for the last several years. McLean County is well situated to continue to collaborate on mental health due to the on-going efforts of numerous organizations and the McLean County Government. Mental health was also previously selected as a key health priority for the 2016 McLean County Community Health Needs Assessment, giving further momentum to the efforts of improving mental health for county residents."

The high-level goal identified is to "advance a systemic community approach to enhance behavioral health and well-being by 2023."

(McLean County CHIP 2020-2022 Plan)

Food Distributions

There are many agencies and organizations that have come together in McLean County to provide food for those in need. Those facilities include:

- Heartland Head Start
- Midwest Food Bank
- Eastern Illinois Food Bank
- American Red Cross
- United Way of McLean County
- St. Vincent de Paul Food and Clothing Pantry
- The Salvation Army of McLean County
- Eastview Christian Church
- Home Sweet Home Ministries
- Apostolic Pentecostal Church
- Center for Hope
- City of Refuge Food Pantry
- College Avenue Baptist
- Helping Hands Community Center
- House of Prayer
- LeRoy Christian Church
- Ministry & More
- Mount Pisgah Church
- Park United Methodist
- Saybrook Christian Church
- Temba Food Pantry
- United Church of Heyworth
- Veteran's Administration
- West Bloomington Revitalization Project

(McLean County Government, 2018)
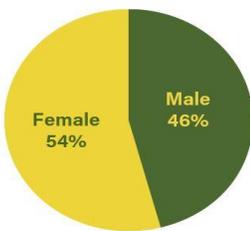(Henry, 2020)
(American Red Cross, 2020)

COVID-19

The chart below describes data surrounding COVID-19 statistic in McLean County in 2020. It is noted that the majority of those that have tested positive were in their 20's, however, most of the deaths due to COVID-19 were in the age ranges of 70's to 90's.

COVID-19 in McLean County

Current as of 12-31-2020

Total Cases	Deaths	Recovered	Hospitalized	Home Isolation
11,589	**101**	**10,489**	**24**	**975**

Gender

Female 54%
Male 46%

Age Range
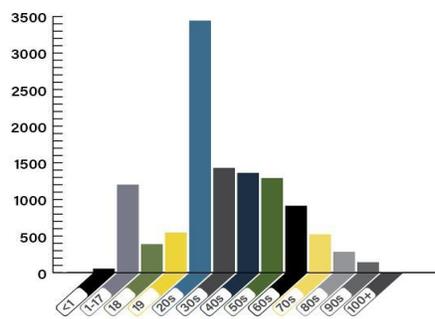
Cases By Race/Ethnicity

White	6,693
Black	869
Asian	169
Other	461
Unknown	3,377
Am. Indian/Alaskan Nat.	14
Nat. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	6
Hispanic or Latinx	705
Non-Hispanic or Latinx	7,295
Unknown	3,589

Deaths By Age

0	0
1-10	0
11-19	0
20's	0
30's	3
40's	0
50's	5
60's	10
70's	26
80's	34
90's	22
100+	1
Total	101

Cases Over Time
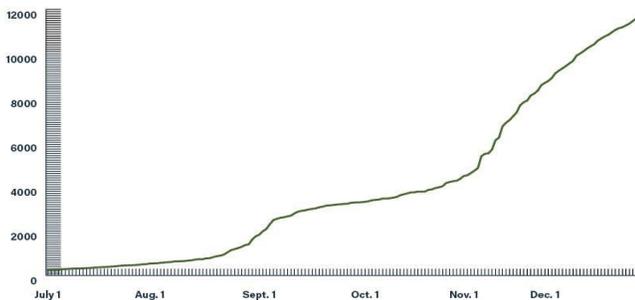
New Cases Per Day
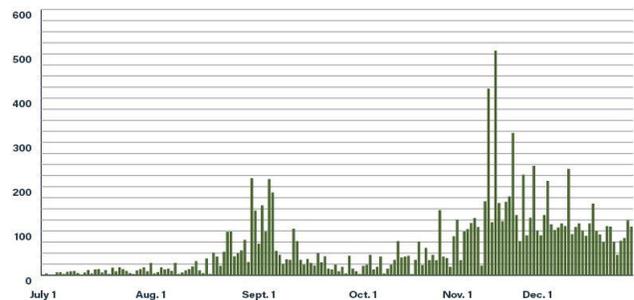
The provisional 7 day rolling positivity rate is 10.9% as of 12/30/2020.

(McLean County Health Department, 2020b)

In an article written by The Pantagraph on February 27, 2021, it gave statistics regarding the number of cases broken down by age range. The table below indicates those highest confirmed cases of COVID-10 in McLean County were in their 20s and 30s (Jones, 2021).

Younger than 1 year	67 cases	50s	1,644 cases
Ages 1-17	1,658 cases	60s	1,199 cases
18-19	1,154 cases	70s	645 cases
20s	4,031 cases	80s	352 cases
30s	1,827 cases	90s	184 cases
40s	1,704 cases	100s	9 cases

Livingston County Demographics

Income/Poverty

Livingston County has not seen a big decrease in the percentage of people living in poverty. However, as mentioned previously, the state of Illinois and the national percentage has decreased.
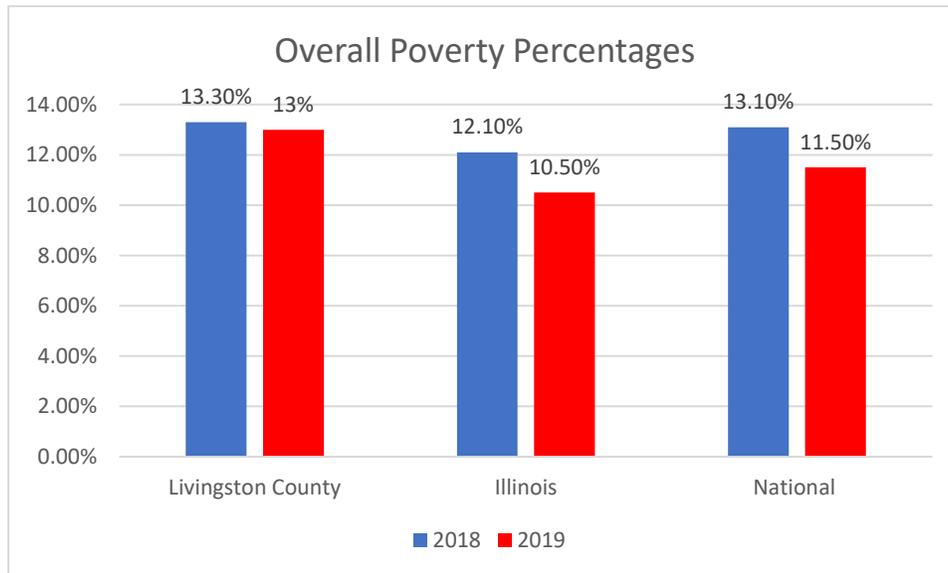
(United States Census Bureau, 2019)

The graph below relates children 5 years of age and younger living 100% below the poverty level. It compares 2018 to 2019 because the 2020 data is not available. It is observed that there was a 3.4% increase in Livingston County of children under 5 living in poverty.

Percentage of Children Under 5 in Poverty

Location	2018	2019
Livingston County	17.90%	21.30%
Illinois	21.50%	19.80%
National	19.50%	19%

■ 2018 ■ 2019
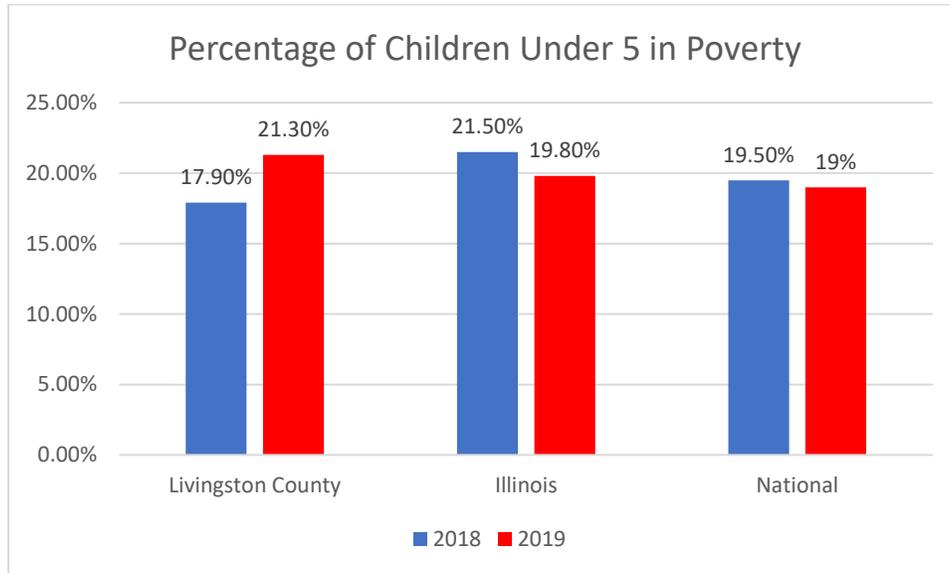
(2020)
(The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019)

The median household income in Livingston County is $55,160. The graph below compares 2018 to 2019 since no new data for 2020 is available. The county and state have seen a slight increase in household income while the national average has decreased.

Median Household Income

Location	2018	2019
Livingston County	$54,339	$55,160
Illinois	$65,030	$65,886
National	$64,937	$62,843

■ 2018 ■ 2019
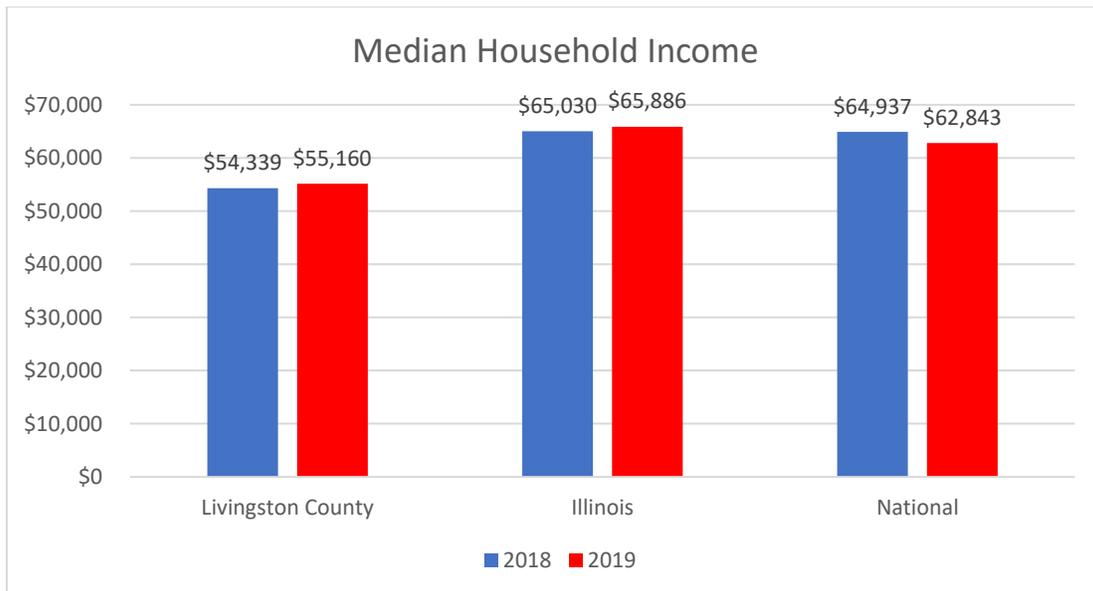
(United States Census Bureau, 2019)

The graph below compares the average rental prices from 2019 to 2020.

Average Rental Prices in Livingston County

	Studio	1-Bedroom	2-Bedroom	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom
2019	$458	$539	$713	$954	$1,048
2020	$463	$543	$710	$936	$1,058
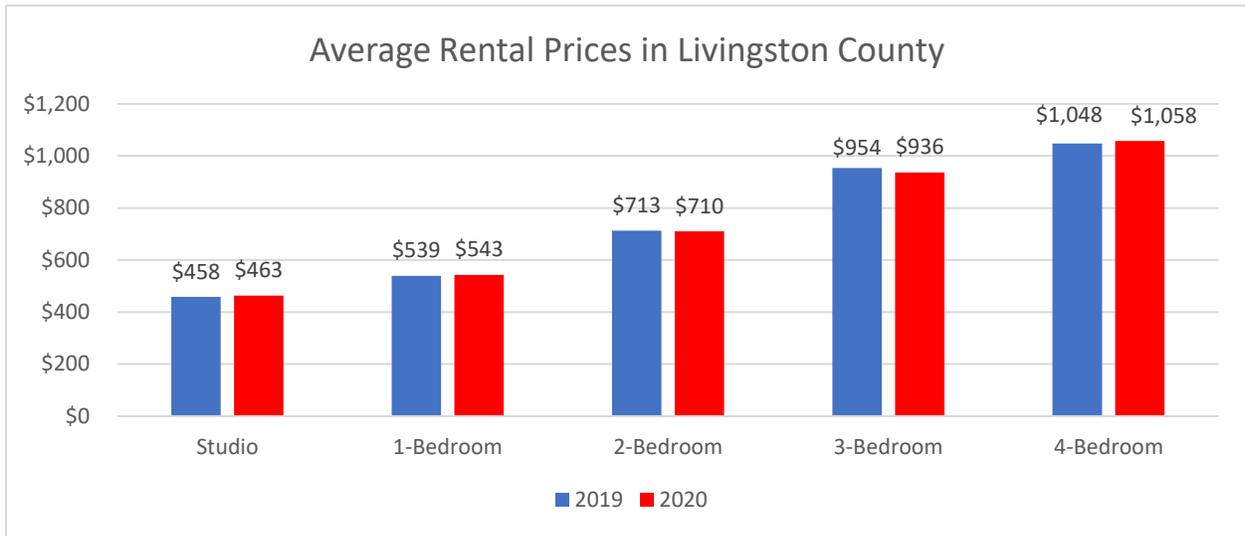
(*2020 Fair Market Rent in Livingston County | RentData.Org*, 2020)

Employment/Unemployment

Unemployment, like McLean County, had drastic changes throughout the 2020 year due to COVID-19. Below compares month to month unemployment percentages.

Unemployment Rates of 2020

Month	Rate
January	4.40%
February	3.60%
March	3.20%
April	12.10%
May	9.80%
June	10.70%
July	7.40%
August	6.90%
September	5.90%
October	4%
November	4.10%
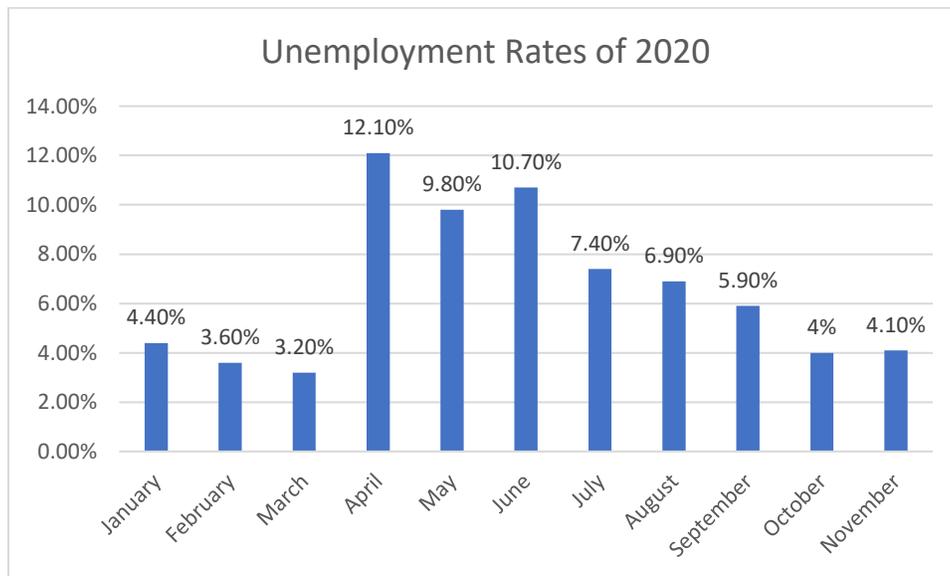
(*FRED Economic Data*, 2020)

Public Assistance

When reviewing data around public assistance, McLean and Livingston Counties consolidated their data in August of 2012. The graph below compares 2019 to 2020 in terms of households and person that utilized SNAP benefits as of November 2020. It is noted that 1,728 more households used benefits in 2020.

SNAP Benefits of McLean and Livingston Counties

	Households	Persons
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2020	13,678	25,615
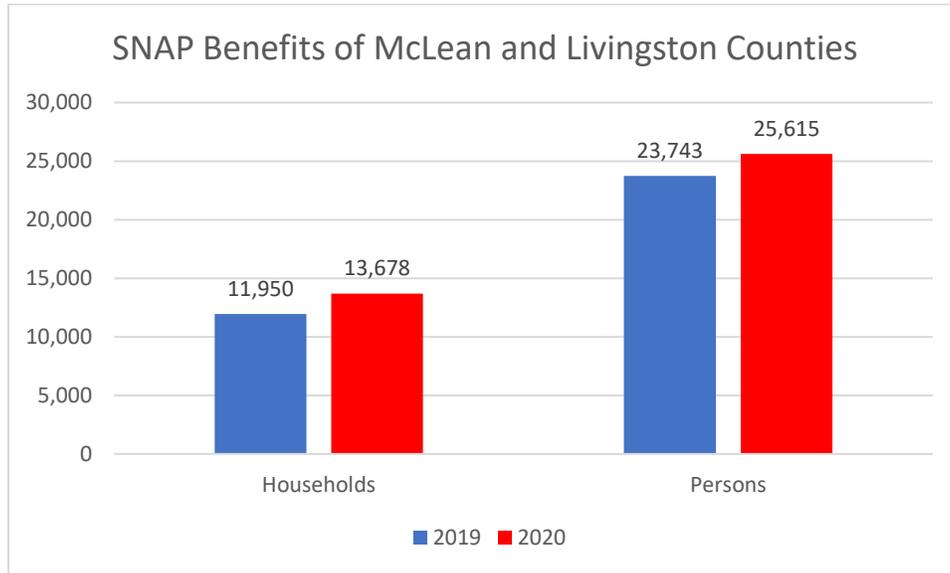
(*IDHS: November 2020 - SNAP Data by Servicing Office*, 2020)

Similar to SNAP benefits, TANF benefits combined McLean and Livingston Counties data. The graph below provides data from 2019 and 2020. The 2020 data is from January to December.

TANF Benefits of McLean and Livingston Counties

	Cases	Persons
2019	194	461
2020	274	798
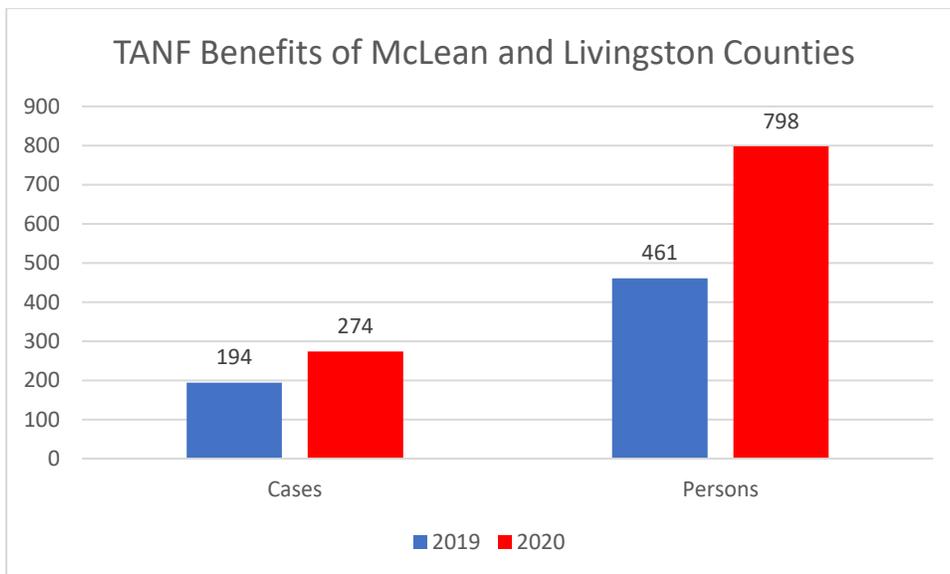
(*IDHS: November 2020 - SNAP Data by Servicing Office*, 2020)

Child Abuse & Neglect

The data below describes the number of children that have been placed in either foster care, with a relative, or in a group home. The data for the 2020 year was last updated December 31, 2020.

Children in Care in Livingston County

	Foster Care	Relative	Group/Institution	Other	Total
2019	23	33	0	0	56
2020	38	43	0	1	82

(Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, 2020)

Transportation

The Show Bus service in Livingston County has not made many changes to their services in response to COVID-19. They contin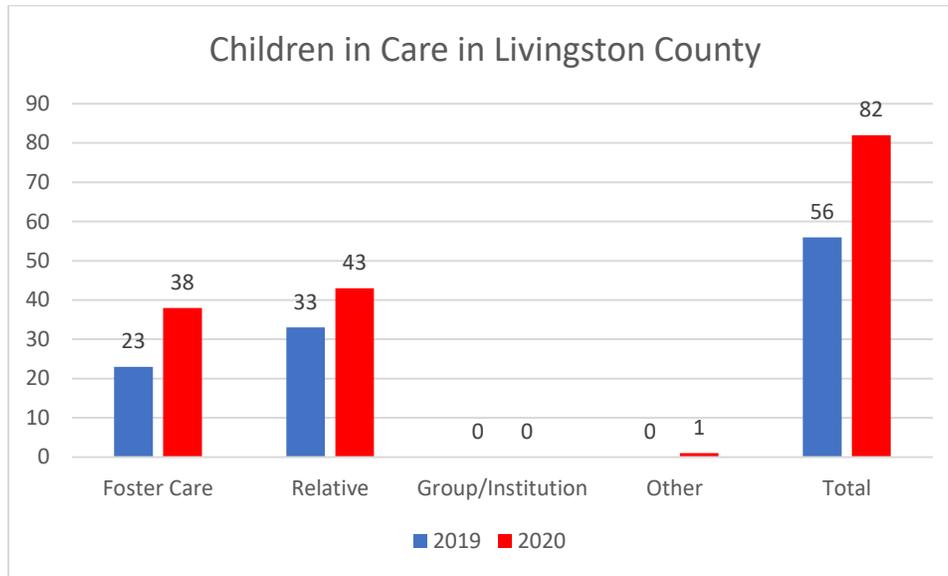ue to service all routes, asking riders to maintain social distancing and wearing a mask. The only route that has been suspended is the McLean-Livingston Intercity route (Show Bus Public Transportation, 2020).

Disability

Child and Family Connections (CFC) reported 109 referrals from the Livingston County FY2020 4th Quarter report. The number of referrals has also decreased from 133 referrals compared to the FY2019 CFC Report (CFC #16, FY2020 Sept 14,2020 Meeting).

Mental Health

In the Livingston County IPLAN 2020-2025 Report, there were 3 health problem areas identified. They are as follows in no order:

1. Healthy Behavior – defined as active living and health eating, and their impact on obesity.
2. Behavioral Health – including mental health.
3. Substance Abuse – specific focus not included in Behavioral Health.

(Livingston County Health Department, 2020)

Of those residents that participated in surveys for Livingston County, below is the percentages of "health problems" garnering the highest rates of "very concerned."

Drug/Opioid Addiction	Mental Health Problems	Cancers	Child/Abuse Neglect	Suicide
79%	62%	62%	56%	50%

(County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2019 Report)

The table below describes the resources with the highest indications of being "not at all accessible" by residents of Livingston County.

Substance Abuse Treatment	Specialist Care in a Timely Manner	Dental Care	Mental Health Care
19%	18%	17%	14%

(County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2019 Report)

It is reported that 2 goals of 2020 are:

- Improve mental health through prevention and by ensuring access to appropriate, quality mental health services.
- Improve the mental health of Livingston County adults and youth through prevention and by ensuring access to appropriate, quality mental health services.

(Page 32, Livingston County Goal)

Outcome Objectives:

Livingston County Outcome Objective MHMD-1 Reduce the suicide rate in Livingston County by 10% by 2020 *[Baseline: 4 suicides in 2019 – Livingston County Coroner]*
Healthy People 2020 Impact Objective MHMD-4.2 Reduce the proportion of adults aged 18 years and older who experience major depressive episodes (MDEs)

Livingston County Impact Objectives MHMD-1.1 Reduce to 10% the proportion of adults age 18 and over who report 8-30 Days of Mental Health Not Good in the past 30 days by 2025*. [Baseline: 14% of adults age 18 and over reported 8-30 Days of Mental Health Not Good in the past 30 days – BRFSS2015-2019].*

 MHMD-1.2 Reduce to 15% the proportion of adults age 18 and over who report 1-7 Days of Mental Health Not Good in the past 30 days by 2025*. [Baseline: 17.3% of adults age 18 and over reported 8-30 Days of Mental Health Not Good in the past 30 days – BRFSS2015-2019].*

Food Distributions

There are many agencies and organizations that have come together in Livingston County to provide food for those in need. Those facilities include:

- Livingston County Community Pantry
- First Baptist Church Food Pantry
- St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Pontiac
- Salvation Army – Pontiac
- Christian Fellowship Food Pantry
- Chad David Johnson Memorial Community Food Pantry
- Chatsworth Food Pantry
- Cullom Community Food Pantry
- Fairbury Community Food Pantry
- Forrest Community Food Pantry

(Pontiac Government, 2020)

COVID-19

As of December 31, 2020, the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) has received 45,501 COVID-19 test results. Of that, 3,129 (15%) COVID-19 tests have been positive, 42,372 tests were negative, 2,894 of the previously reported cases have been removed from isolation, 179 cases remain active, and 56 cases have results in death due to complications related to COVID-19 (Livingston County Health Department, 2020b).

Eligibility of Children

Federal Poverty Guidelines

HHS uses the Federal Poverty Guidelines provided ever year as one of the requirements that determines a family's eligibility for the program. Below is the updated 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Persons in Family/Household Size	Poverty Guidelines
2	$17,240
3	$21,720
4	$26,200
5	$30,680
6	$35,160
7	$39,640
8	$44,120

*Add $4,480 for each additional person.

Minimum Wage

HHS did not see an increase in families impacted by the minimum wage increase during the 2019-2020 term and beginning of the 2020-2021 enrollment. Minimum wage has since increased again on 1/1/21 to $11.00 for traditional minimum wage employees and $6.60 for tipped employees. Thus far, no impact has been recorded. HHS experienced a large decrease in new applicants due to the COVID-19 pandemic which may directly relate to no record of families being impacted by minimum wage increase.

Recruitment Area

HHS has had to find more creative ways of recruiting during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recruitment efforts were made include issuing HHS materials during community food distributions at local churches and agencies that served families impacted. We also created a QR code for interested families for a contactless way for families to access our website by scanning flyers and posters. These contactless flyers have been shared with local agencies, doctors' offices, resource centers, and churches. HHS also launched an "Are You Still Interested" campaign in the late Spring/early Summer of 2020 to recruit families that started the application process prior to COVID-19.

Waitlisted Children

According to ChildPlus, the EHS program had 8 students waitlisted and 9 HS students waitlisted at the end of the 2019-2020 program year (CP #2110). As of current in the 2020-2021 program year, there are 4 waitlisted children in EHS and 19 in the HS program.

Social Service Needs in Service Areas

McLean County

Several community services have adjusted their impact and reach due to COVID-19. Below are the agencies that are providing those changes and collaborations:

- Prairie State Legal Services and PATH

  These two agencies have linked together to provide McLean County residents with rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. Since May 2020, McLean County agencies have paid landlords, utility providers, and mortgage servicers over $1,000,000 in housing assistance. There is still over $1,000,000 of housing assistance available and funds to come as of October 16th, 2020. This assistance is available to citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders), and undocumented residents.

- Mid Central Community Action

  Partnered with the Town of Normal to offer aid through the COVID-19-Related Housing Assistance Program for people experiencing hardships related to housing. The grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. The town will use $100,000 of the funding for the housing program. Income-qualified Normal residents may receive assistance for up to two months, or $2,500 total in a single year, for housing costs, rent, mortgage and utility bills. This is specifically for Normal residents who have had a job or income loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic and who meet certain income qualifications.

Livingston County

Like McLean County, many community agencies adjusted their services to aid members of Livingston County during COVID-19.

- Township Supervisor

    Provided more funds to the community to assist residents in need of financial assistance including rent and utility bills.

- Salvation Army of Pontiac

    The Salvation Army was provided more financial assistance to help those in county that needed rental assistance.

- Mid Central Community Action

    MCCA opened their LiHEAP program all residents in Livingston County instead of waiting for certain months to meet criteria. Typically, our HHS families would be most eligible during November, but due to COVID-19 all residents were eligible any month they needed assistance.

Early Education Need and Capacity

McLean County

As of 9/30/2020, the Regional Office of Education provided updated information on pre-k enrollment. The data below indicates the number of children enrolled in McLean county comparing 2019 to 2020. There is a significant decreased in District #87 and Unit #5 enrollment.

McLean County Pre-K Enrollment

District	2019	2020
Bloomington District #87	298	168
Heyworth CUSD #4	65	51
LeRoy CUSD #2	39	35
Lexington CUSD #7	17	12
McLean County Unit #5	488	369
Olympia CUSD #16	34	48
Ridgeview CUSD #19	38	30
Tri-Valley CUSD #3	40	32
ISU Lab Schools	28	28
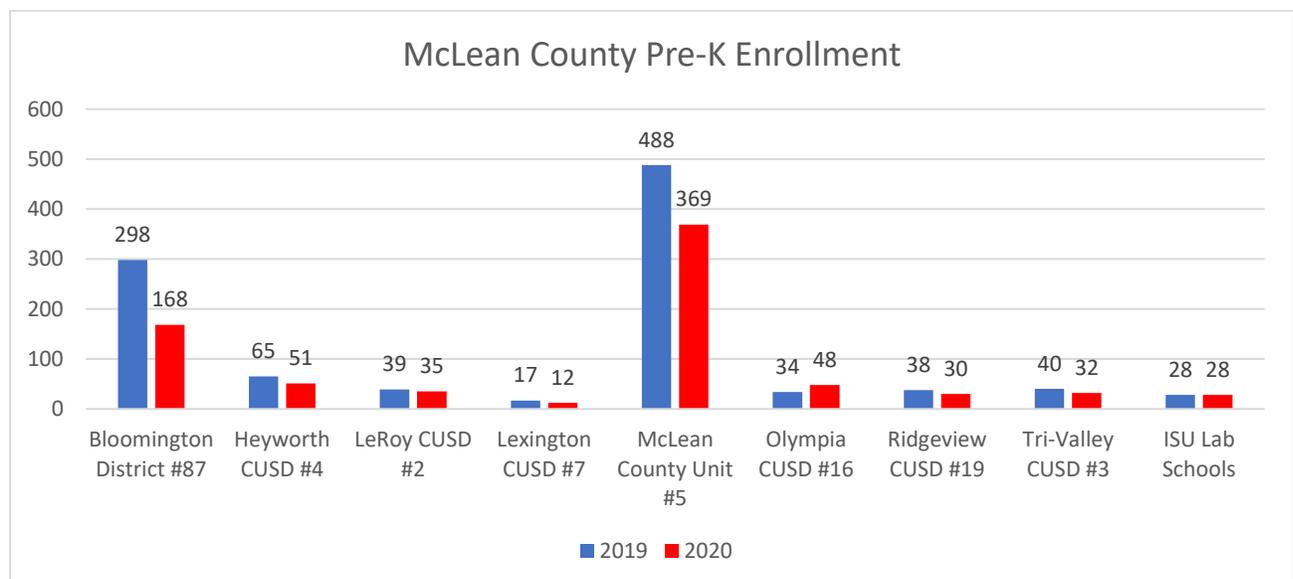
(Regional Office of Education #17, 2020)

The graph below indicates the number of certified teaching staff in McLean County between 2019 and 2020.

McLean County Certified Teaching Staff

District	2019	2020
Bloomington District #87	412	441
Heyworth CUSD #4	70	70
LeRoy CUSD #2	72	1
Lexington CUSD #7	45	44
McLean County Unit #5	1,071	1,027
Olympia CUSD #16	120	124
Ridgeview CUSD #19	50	51
Tri-Valley CUSD #3	85	95
ISU Lab Schools	109	110
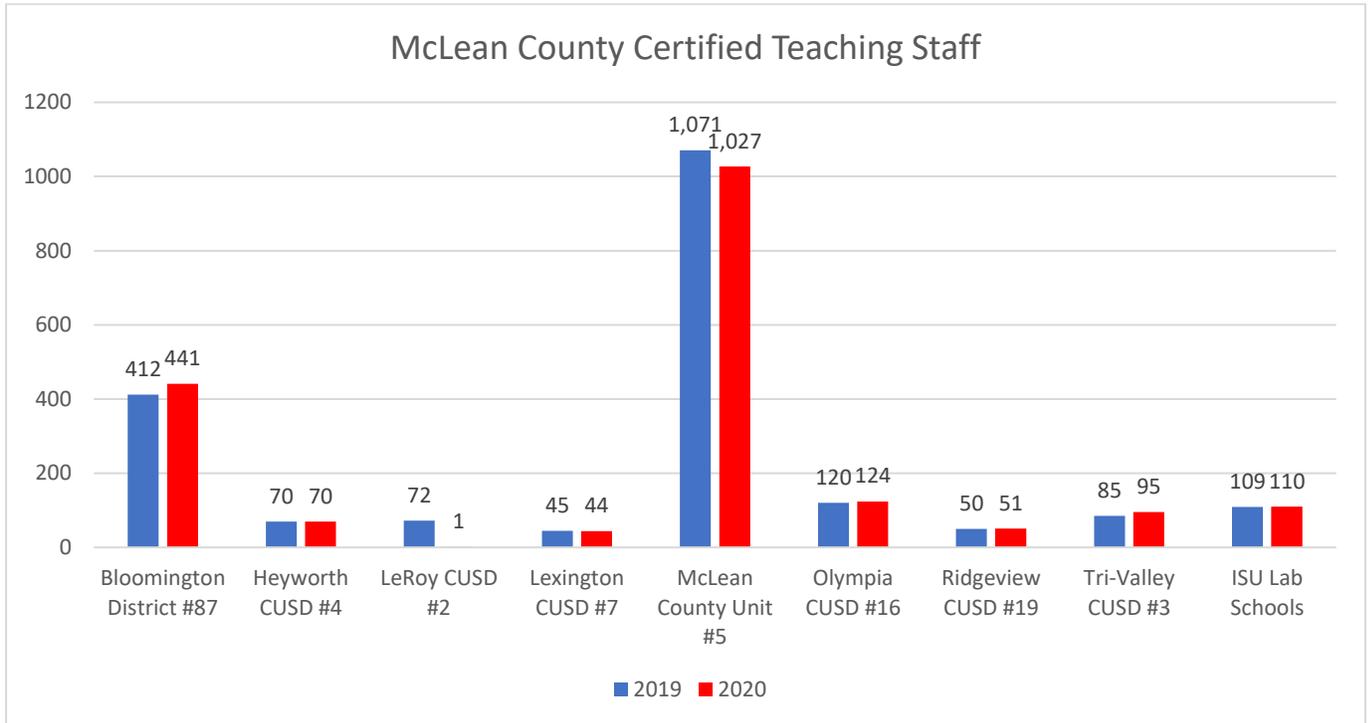
(Regional Office of Education #17, 2020)

There are 3 early childhood centers that are included in the approved public-school enrollment. They are Brigham Early Learning Center, Sugar Creek Early Learning Center, and Sarah Raymond Early Learning Center.

Below is a list of childcare centers not previously mentioned in the 2019-2020 Community Assessment. *Note that some centers have multiple locations and will indicate if they accept CCRRN.)*

- Bright Horizons Childcare and Early Education (accepts CCRRN)
- Cadence Academy Preschool (accepts CCRRN)
- Calvary Christian
- Child Care Connection Learning Center Inc. (accepts CCRRN)
- Cornerstone Christian Preschool & Before/After School
- Corpus Christi (Holy Trinity) Preschool & B/A Program
- Epiphany – Kathryn Albee Learning Center & B/A School
- Graceful Beginnings Preschool
- God's Little Acre Preschool
- HIS Kids
- Katies Kids Learning Center (accepts CCRRN)
- Katies Kids 2 (accepts CCRRN)
- Kid Connection Preschool
- Kindercare Learning Center (accepts CCRRN)

- La Petite Academy (accepts CCRRN)
- Little Lamb Preschool
- Little Jewels Learning Center (accepts CCRRN)
- Montessori Children's Center
- Mulberry School
- Noah's Ark Nursery School
- Playmates Preschool
- Scott Early Learning Center (accepts CCRRN)
- Scribbles Center for Learning, Inc. (accepts CCRRN)
- Second Presbyterian Church Preschool
- Sharing Tree Preschool
- Shining Lights Preschool
- SonShine Day Care (accepts CCRRN)
- St. Mary's Preschool & School Age After School
- St. Paul Lutheran Preschool
- Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Preschool
- Wesley's Bright Beginnings Preschool
- YWCA Young Wonders (accepts CCRRN)

There are several centers in McLean county that offer childcare service that include in-center and family childcare homes.

Livingston County

Like McLean County, the most current data for pre-k enrollment in Livingston county was updated 9/30/2020. It should be noted that in 2019 no data was given regarding pre-k enrollment with Livingston County Special Services.
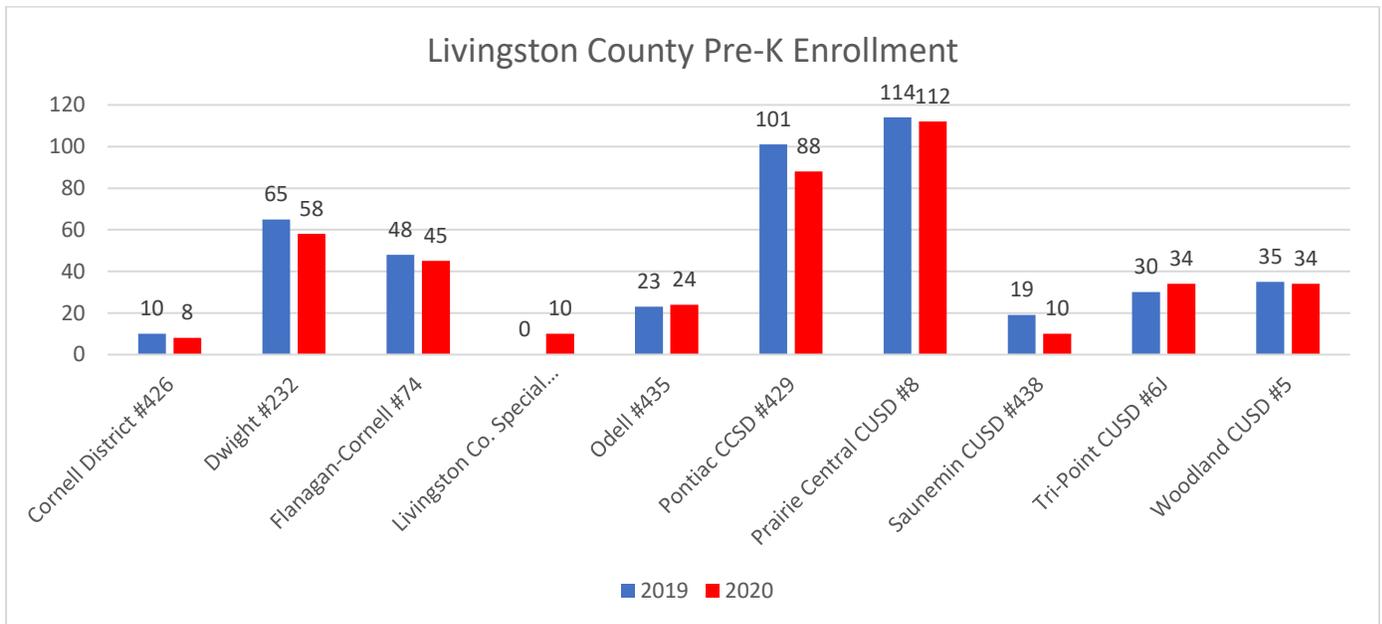
(Regional Office of Education #17, 2020)

The graph below compares the number of certified teaching staff in Livingston County.
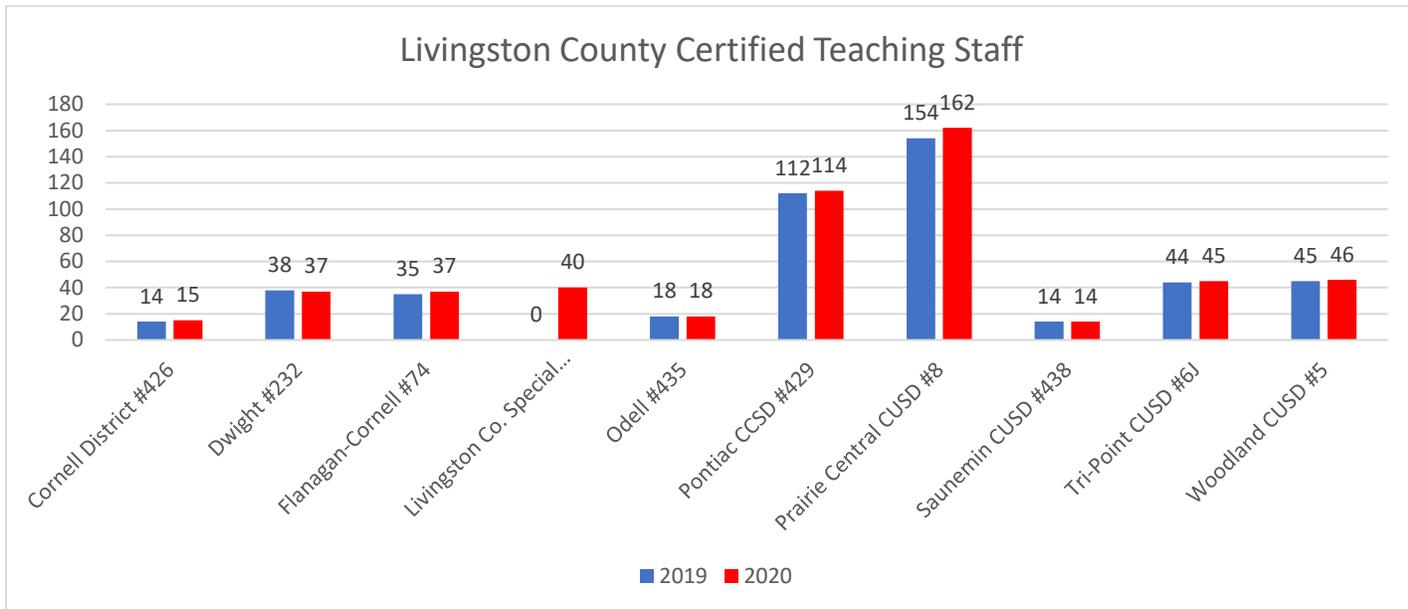
Livingston County Certified Teaching Staff

Below is a list of childcare centers not previously mentioned in the 2019-2020 Community Assessment.

- Faithful Friends Christian Preschool
- Just Kiddin' Around Child Care Center, Inc. (accepts CCRRN)
- New Hope Even Start
- Noah's Ark Preschool
- Pontiac Christian Preschool
- St. Paul Preschool
- St. Paul School

Characteristics of Heartland Head Start Children

The information provided in this section will compare the statistics of children and families in the HHS program from the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 program year. In the 2019-2020 program year, 279 children were served when data was collected. In the current 2020-2021 year, a total of 125 were being served during data collection.

Race/Ethnicity

This graph indicates the race and ethnicity of children in the program. In the 2019-2020 program year the other was identified as Arabic and Indian. In the current program year, no data was provided regarding the other category.

Race & Ethnicity of Early Head Start Children

	White	Black	Biracial/Multi-racial	Other	Hispanic/Latino
2019-2020	45%	38%	10%	5%	29%
2020-2021	42%	42%	9%	4%	25%

Race — Ethnicity
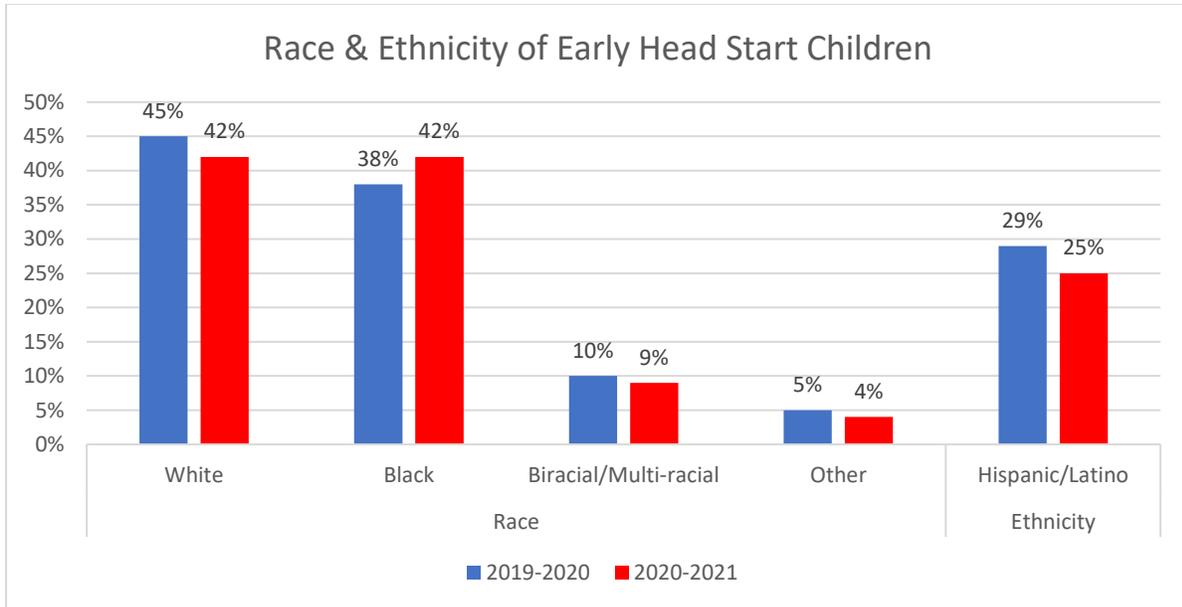
CP Report #9700

Similar to EHS, the HS program is represented below.

Race & Ethnicity of Head Start Children

	White	Black	Biracial/Multi-racial	Hispanic/Latino
2019-2020	37%	47%	16%	12%
2020-2021	49%	32%	18%	8%

Race — Ethnicity
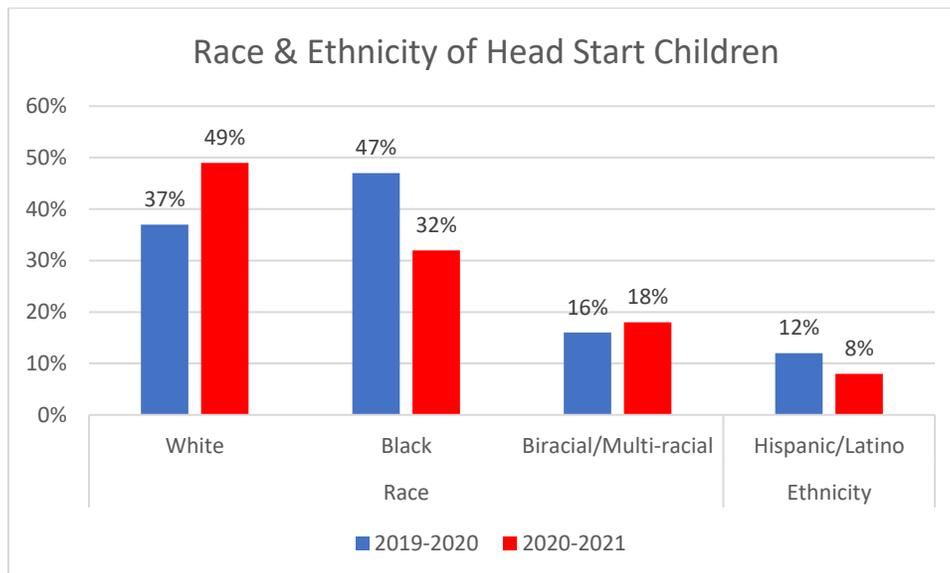
CP Report #9700

Combined below is both programs. It is noted as the whole the percentages have not had significant increases or decreases.

Race & Ethnicity of Heartland Head Start Children

Race/Ethnicity	2019-2020	2020-2021
White	40%	36%
Black	44%	46%
Biracial/Multi-racial	14%	14%
Other	2%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	15%
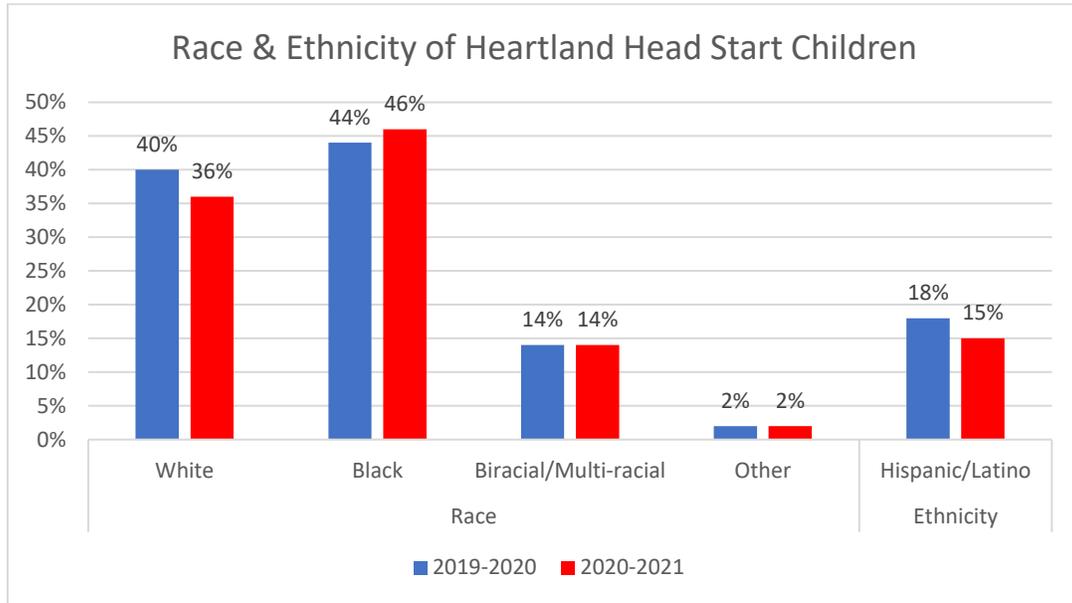
CP Report #9700

Age

HHS serves pregnant women and children ages birth through 5. The chart provides percentages in the EHS program based on their age. Although children typically transfer to HS when they turn 3, if they are in the HB program and there are no openings for them, they can stay in HB until there is an opening. There are also no documented pregnant women enrolled in the program this current year.

Age of Early Head Start Children

Age	2019-2020	2020-2021
Pregnant Moms	9%	0%
Under 1 Year	18%	6%
1 Year	26%	34%
2 Years	45%	47%
3 Years	2%	13%
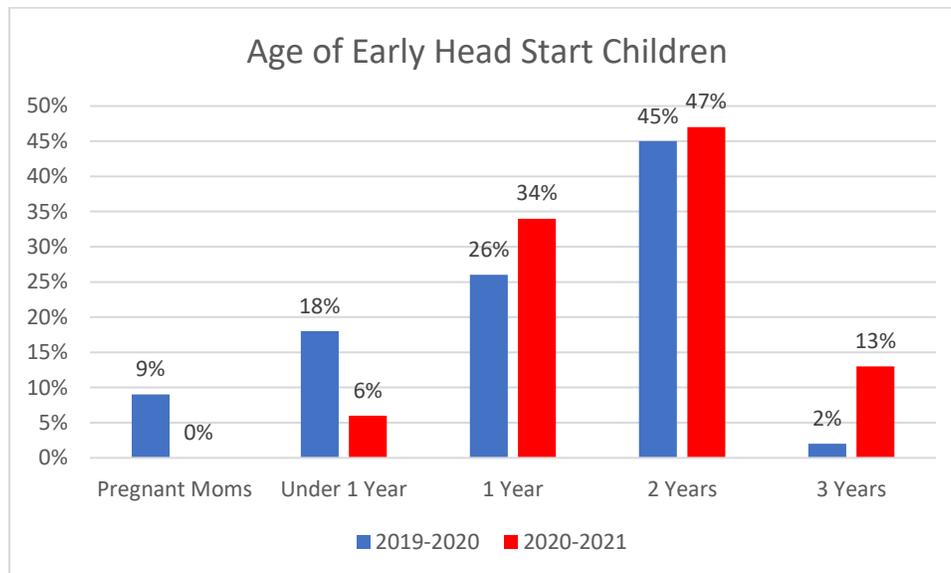
CP Report #9700

The percentage of HS children in the program compared to the previous year has increased by 14%. Although 2-year-olds are in the Head Start program, they are identified on the PIR due to their birthdays. If a child is two and awaiting placements in a HS classroom before the cutoff date of September 1st, they will be identified as a two-year-old in the Head Start PIR report.

Age of Head Start Children

Age	2019-2020	2020-2021
2 Years	3%	0%
3 Years	43%	32%
4 Years	54%	68%
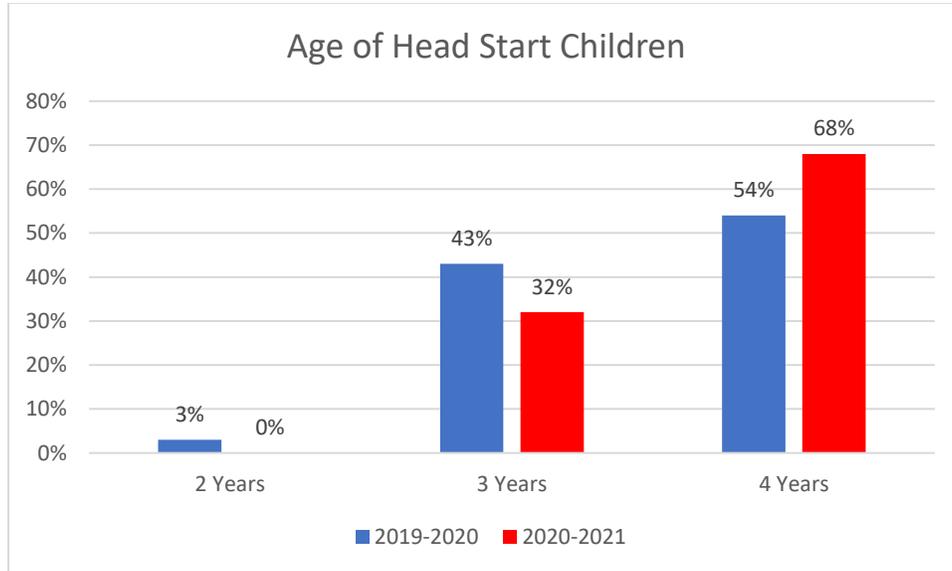
CP Report #9700

Below compares the last two program years with data from EHS and HS.

Age of Hearland Head Start Children

Age	2019-2020	2020-2021
Pregnant Moms	3%	0%
Under 1 Year	6%	2%
1 Year	9%	14%
2 Years	17%	20%
3 Years	29%	24%
4 Years	36%	39%
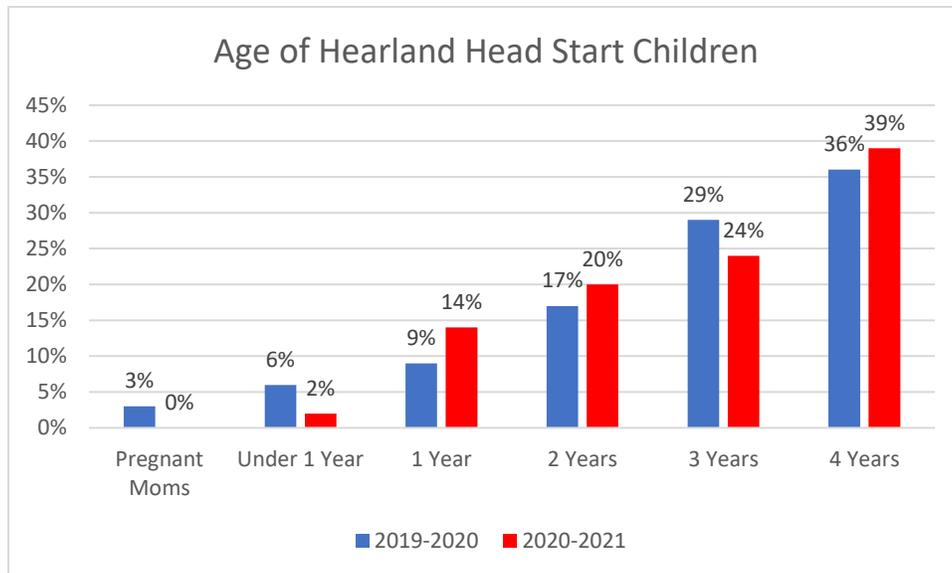
CP Report #9700

Language

It is noted that 60% of the children in EHS speak English compared to the previous year when 73% spoke English. The 2% in unspecified is not reported in the PIR.

Language of Early Head Start Children

Language	2019-2020	2020-2021
English	73%	60%
Spanish	16%	19%
African Languages	11%	19%
Unspecified	0%	2%
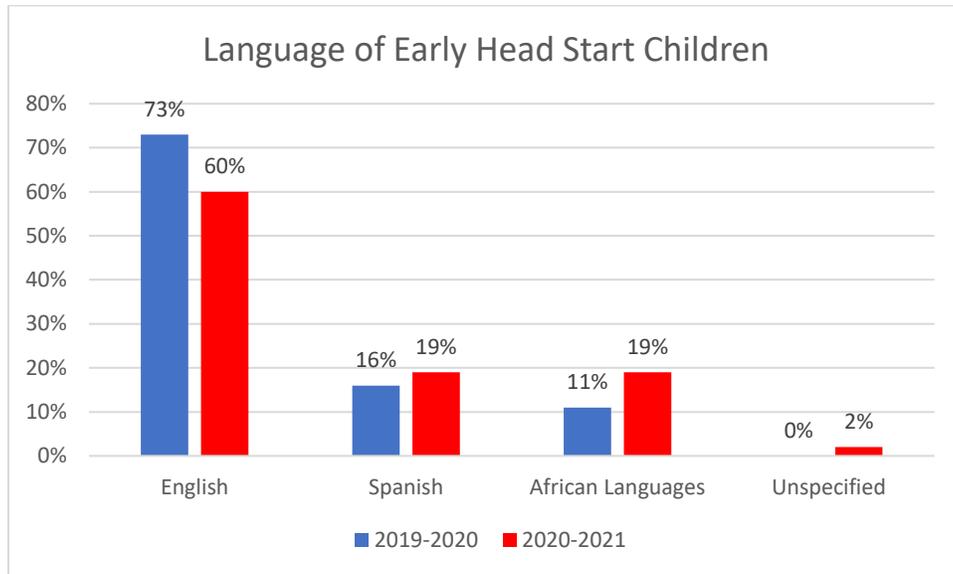
CP Report #9700

In Head Start, the primary language spoke is English. There is also a 4% increase in families speaking African languages. The 1% in unspecified is not reported in the PIR report.

Language of Head Start Children

Language	2019-2020	2020-2021
English	91%	88%
Spanish	3%	3%
African Languages	4%	8%
European & Slavic	1%	0%
Unspecified	1%	1%
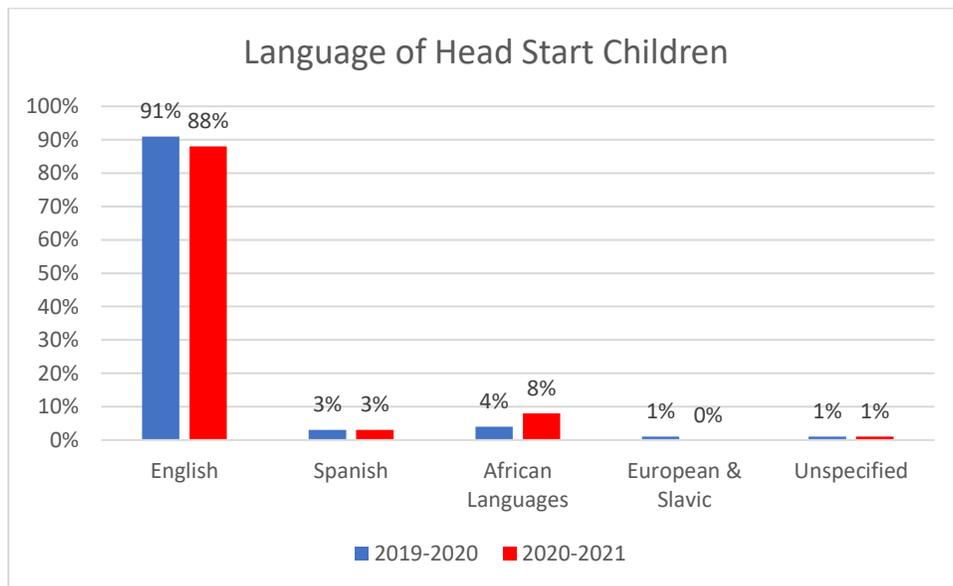
CP Report #9700

Below combines the EHS and HS data.

Primary Language of Heartland Head Start Children

Bar chart showing Primary Language of Heartland Head Start Children, comparing 2019-2020 (blue) and 2020-2021 (red):

- English: 85%, 76%
- Spanish: 8%, 10%
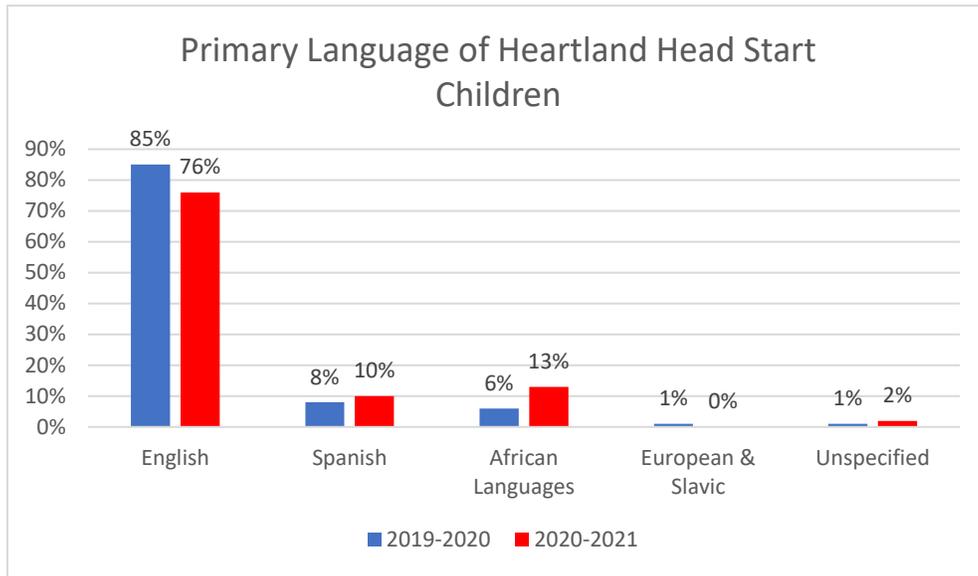- African Languages: 6%, 13%
- European & Slavic: 1%, 0%
- Unspecified: 1%, 2%

Legend: 2019-2020, 2020-2021

CP Report #9700

Households/Families

The graph compares single-parent families to two-parent households.

Family Households of Early Head Start Children

Bar chart showing Family Households of Early Head Start Children, comparing Single-Parent Families (blue) and Two-Parent Households (red):

- 2019-2020: Single-Parent Families 62%, Two-Parent Households 38%
- 2020-2021: Single-Parent Families 52%, Two-Parent Households 46%

Legend: Single-Parent Families, Two-Parent Households
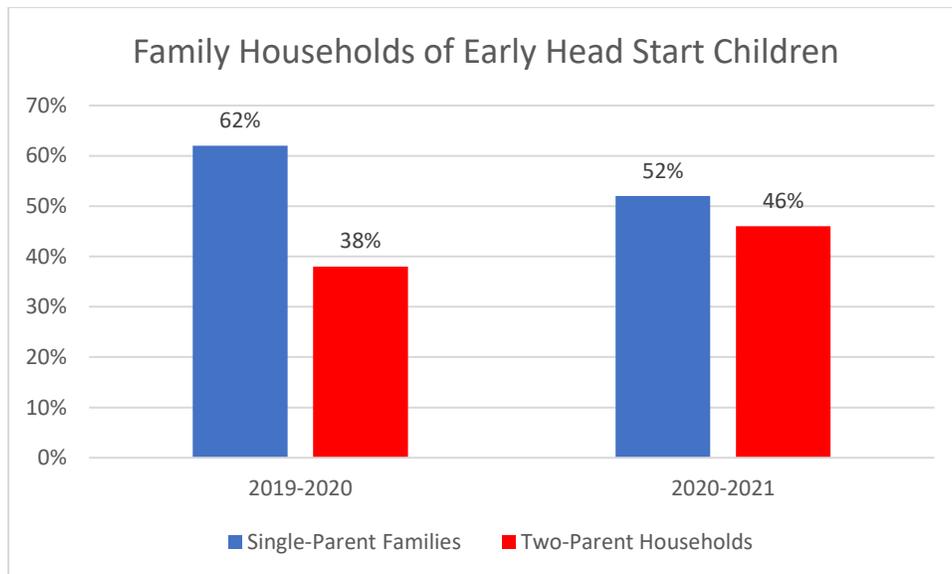
CP Report #9700

As seen in the graph below is a slight increase in single-parent families in HS.

Family Households of Head Start Children

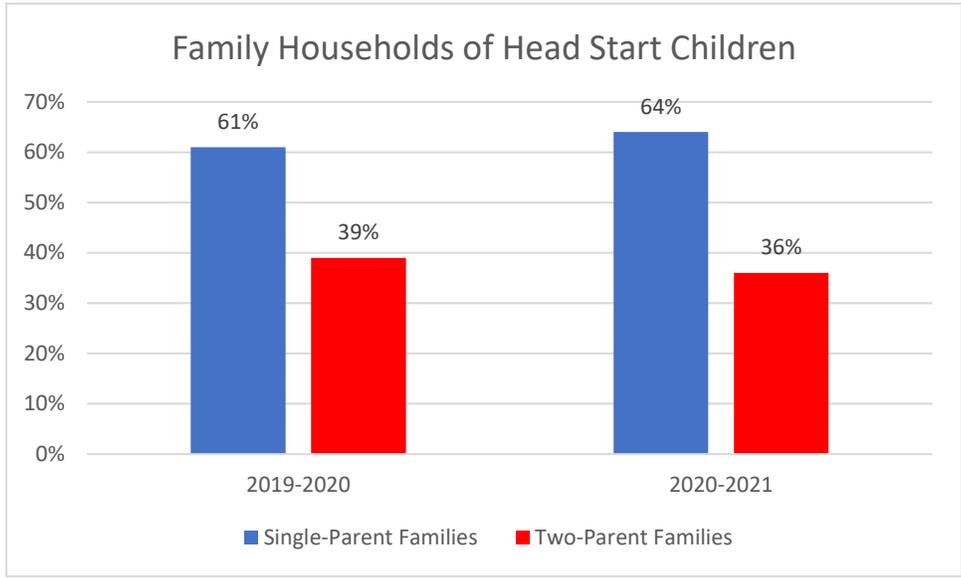|	2019-2020	2020-2021
Single-Parent Families	61%	64%
Two-Parent Families	39%	36%

CP Report #9700

The table describes the percentage of who makes up a single-parent family in EHS, HS, and in the program as a whole.

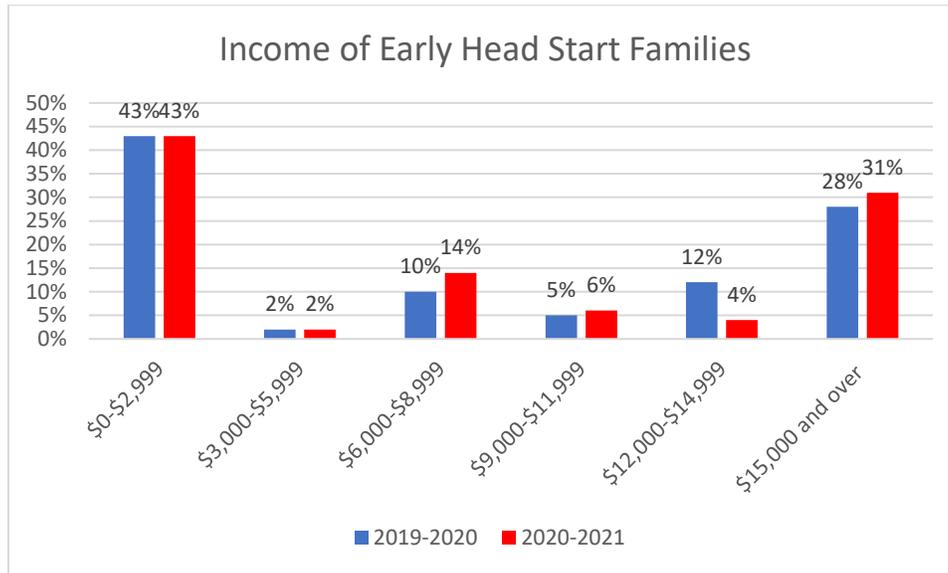|	Year	Mother	Father	Grandparent	Relative	Foster Parent	Other
EHS	2019-2020	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	2020-2021	92%	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%
HS	2019-2020	95%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%
	2020-2021	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
HHS	2019-2020	97%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%
	2020-2021	96%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%

CP Report #9700

The table below provides percentages of two-parent families in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 program year.

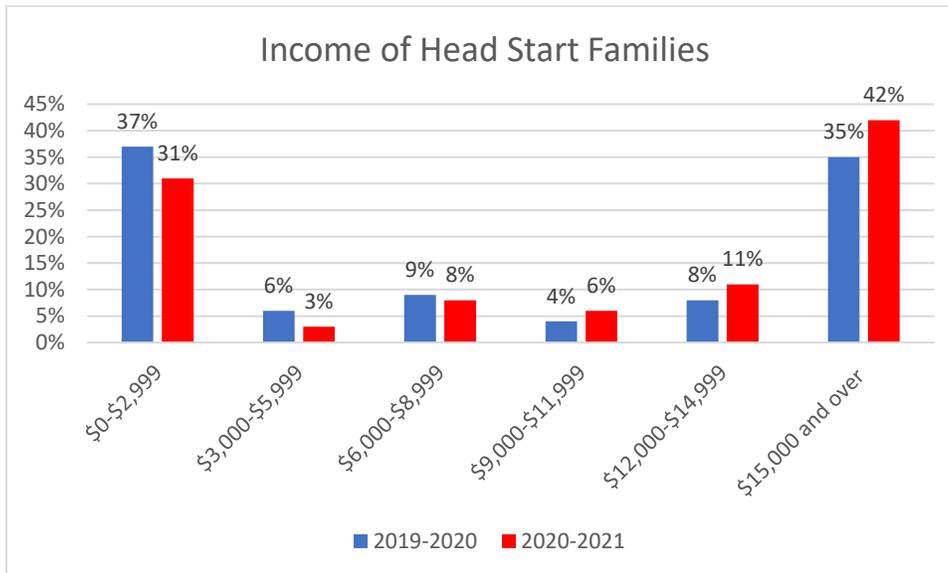|		Parents	Grandparents	Relatives	Foster Parents	Other
EHS	2019-2020	92%	4%	4%	0%	0%
	2020-2021	90%	5%	5%	0%	0%
HS	2019-2020	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
	2020-2021	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
HHS	2019-2020	96%	3%	2%	0%	0%
	2020-2021	96%	2%	2%	0%	0%

CP Report #9700

Income

Heartland Head Start tracks the income of enrolled families. To qualify for the program, families must submit documentation of income or no income. The chart below compares the 2019-2020 program year to the 2020-2021 program year for EHS.
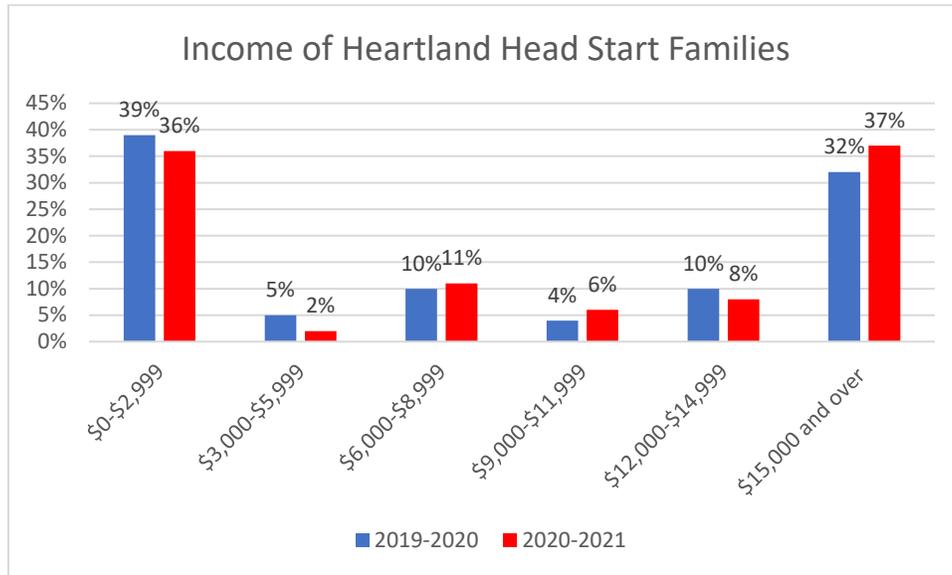
Income of Early Head Start Families

Income Range	2019-2020	2020-2021
$0-$2,999	43%	43%
$3,000-$5,999	2%	2%
$6,000-$8,999	10%	14%
$9,000-$11,999	5%	6%
$12,000-$14,999	12%	4%
$15,000 and over	28%	31%

CP Report #9700

It is observed in the graph below that there was a significant increase in families making over $15,000 in the Head Start program.

Income of Head Start Families

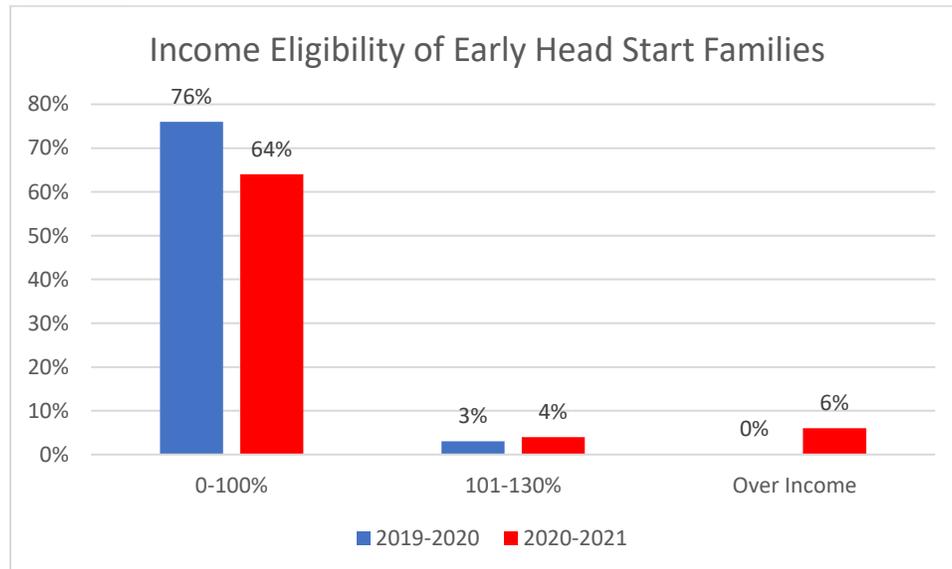| Income Range	2019-2020	2020-2021
$0-$2,999	37%	31%
$3,000-$5,999	6%	3%
$6,000-$8,999	9%	8%
$9,000-$11,999	4%	6%
$12,000-$14,999	8%	11%
$15,000 and over	35%	42%

CP Report #9700

As a program there is a 5% increase, compared to last year, of families making over $15,000 a year or more.

Income of Heartland Head Start Families

| Income Range	2019-2020	2020-2021
$0-$2,999	39%	36%
$3,000-$5,999	5%	2%
$6,000-$8,999	10%	11%
$9,000-$11,999	4%	6%
$12,000-$14,999	10%	8%
$15,000 and over	32%	37%

CP Report #9700

Income eligibility is determined through a family's monthly income and based off the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Heartland Head Start reviews all sources of income and verifies if they are over income and/or qualify for the program. Families can also be deemed eligible if they are homeless, on public assistance, or the child is currently in foster care. In EHS there is a 6% increase in enrolled families that are over income.

Income Eligibility of Early Head Start Families

| Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
0-100%	76%	64%
101-130%	3%	4%
Over Income	0%	6%

CP Report #9700

When comparing Head Start data, it is noted that there is a 5% increase in families meeting or falling below 100% of the poverty level.

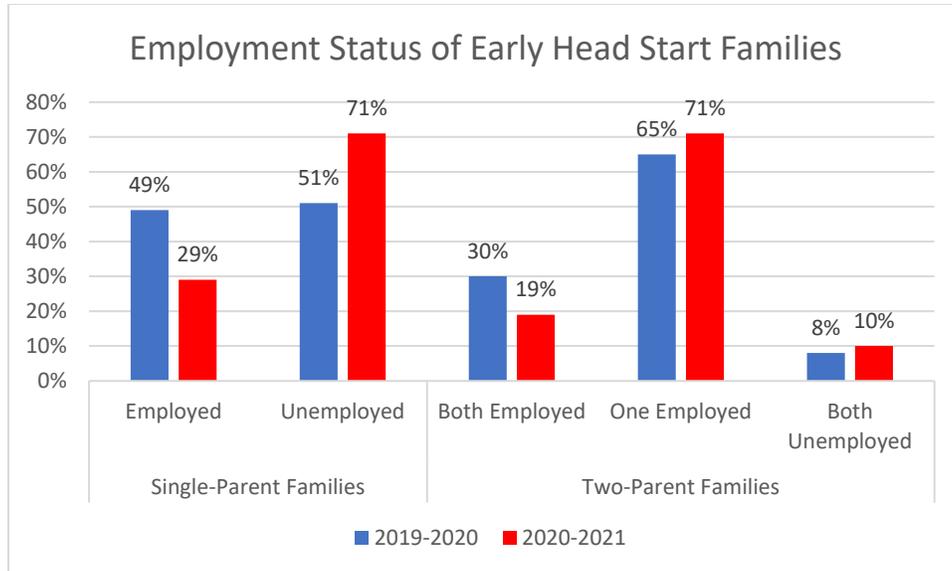Income Eligibility of Head Start Families
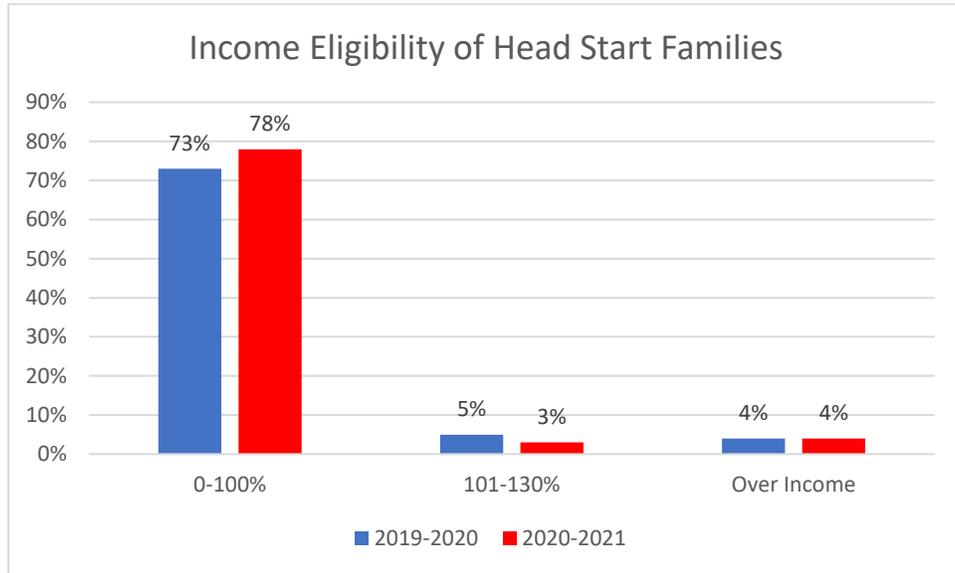
It is observed that there was a 3% increase in over income families when comparing the two program years.

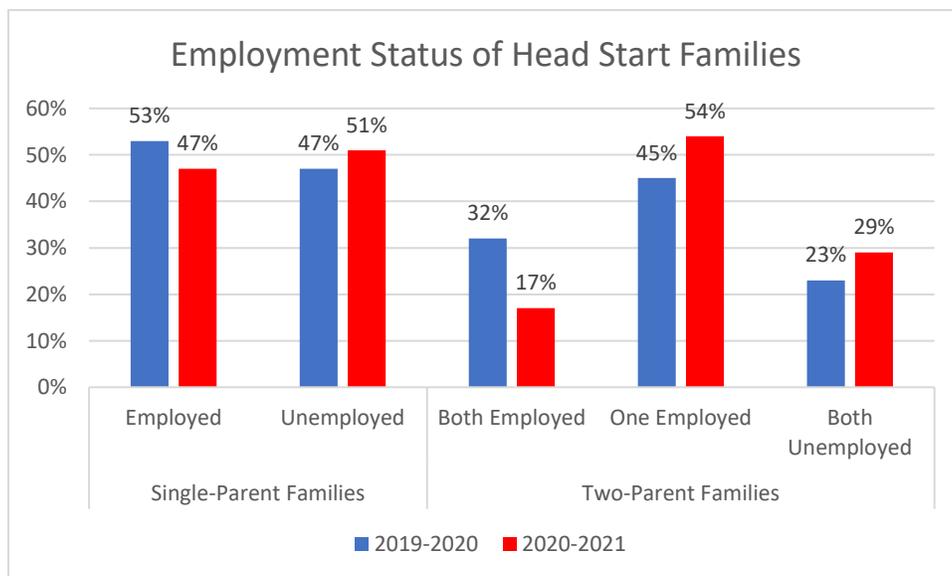Income Eligibility of Heartland Head Start Families
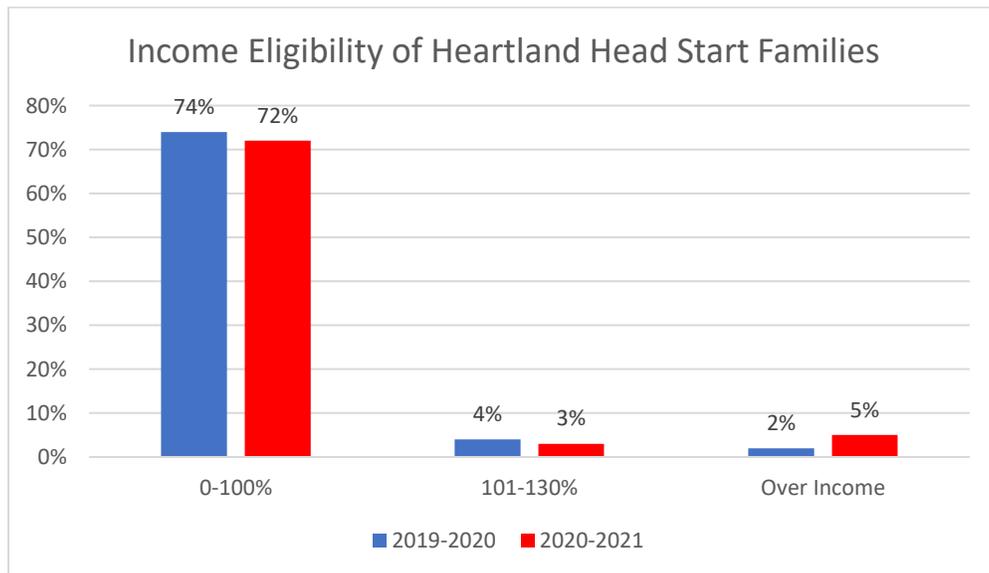
Employment Status

When reviewing the data presented below, it is noted that there is a 20% increase in unemployed single-parent families in EHS compared to the previous program year. There is also an 11% decrease in both parents being employed in two-parent families compared to the previous program year.

Employment Status of Early Head Start Families

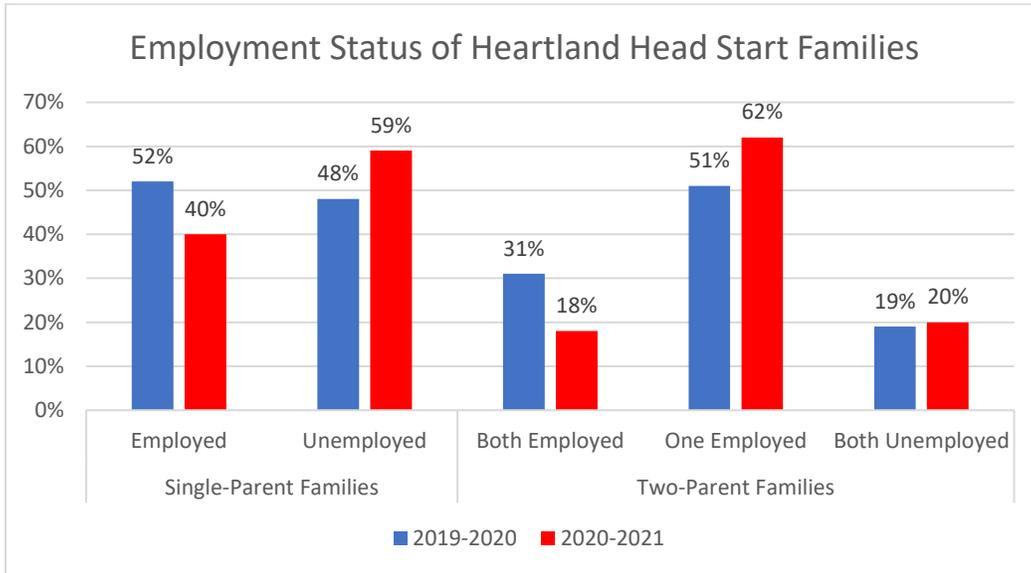| Category		2019-2020	2020-2021
Single-Parent Families	Employed	49%	29%
Single-Parent Families	Unemployed	51%	71%
Two-Parent Families	Both Employed	30%	19%
Two-Parent Families	One Employed	65%	71%
Two-Parent Families	Both Unemployed	8%	10%

CP Report #9700

Similar to the data in EHS, there are noted increases in family unemployment in the current 2020-2021 program year compared to the previous year.

Employment Status of Head Start Families

| Category		2019-2020	2020-2021
Single-Parent Families	Employed	53%	47%
Single-Parent Families	Unemployed	47%	51%
Two-Parent Families	Both Employed	32%	17%
Two-Parent Families	One Employed	45%	54%
Two-Parent Families	Both Unemployed	23%	29%

CP Report #9700

When averaging both EHS and HS data, it is seen that there is an 11% increase in unemployed single-parent families and an 11% increase in two-parent households where only one parent is working.

Employment Status of Heartland Head Start Families

	Single-Parent Families		Two-Parent Families		
	Employed	Unemployed	Both Employed	One Employed	Both Unemployed
2019-2020	52%	48%	31%	51%	19%
2020-2021	40%	59%	18%	62%	20%

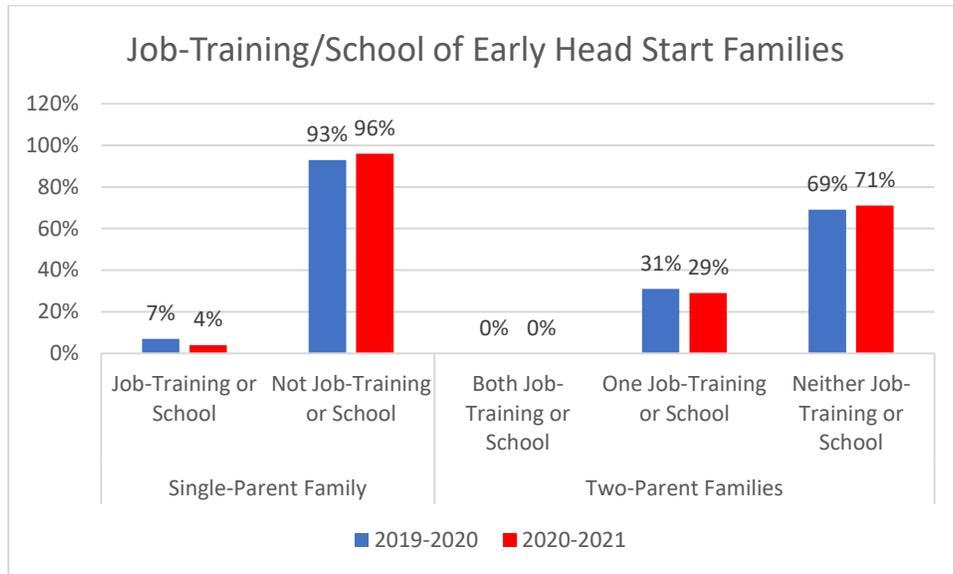CP Report #9700

Homelessness

During the last program year there were a total of 21 homeless families enrolled. In the current 2020–2021-year, HHS documents only serving 7 homeless families.

Homeless Families

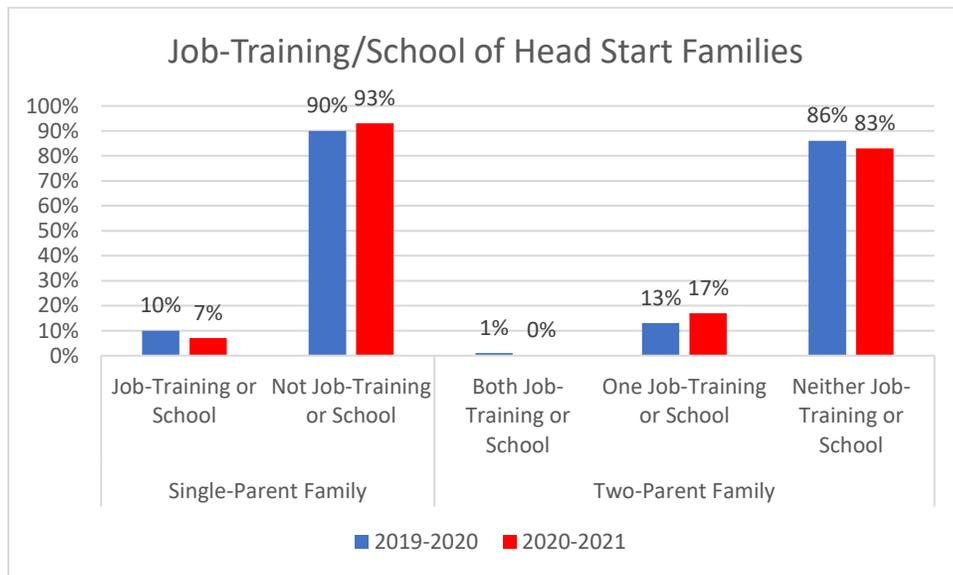|	EHS	HS	HHS
2019-2020	15	6	21
2020-2021	4	3	7
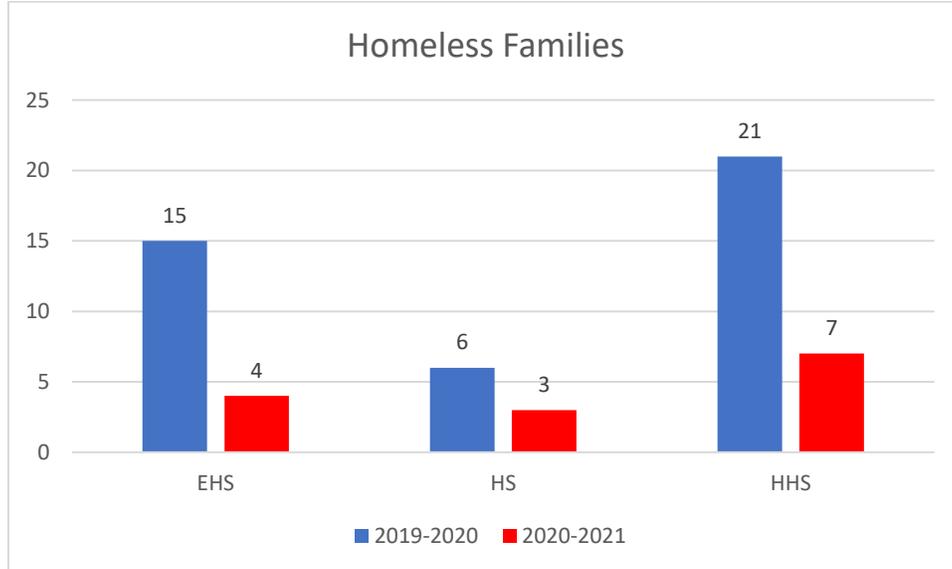
CP Report #9700

Job Training/School

At HHS, job-training and attendance of school is tracked in the PIR. The graph below indicates the single-parent and two-parent families in the EHS program.
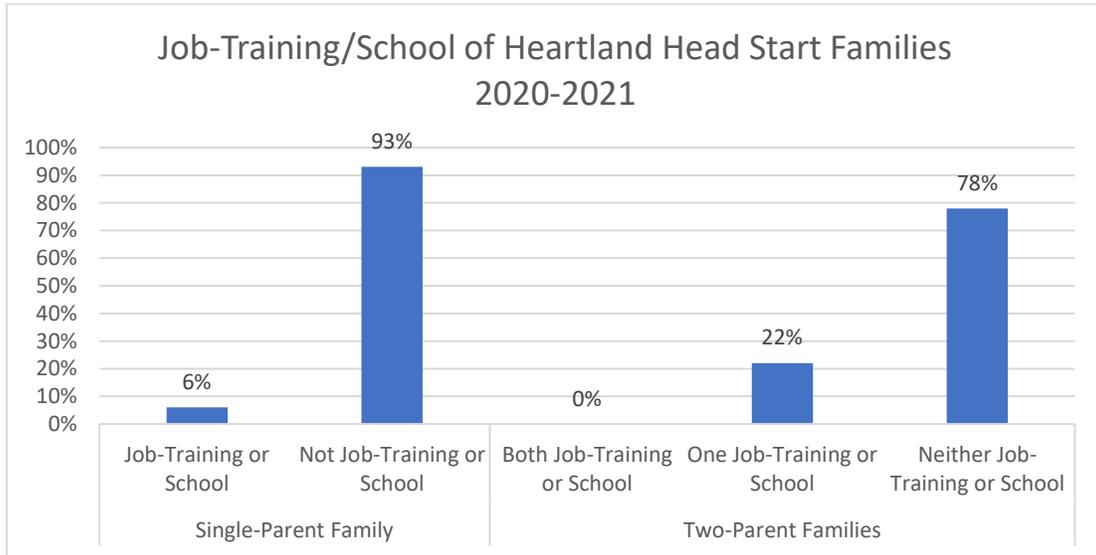
Job-Training/School of Early Head Start Families

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
Job-Training or School (Single-Parent Family)	7%	4%
Not Job-Training or School (Single-Parent Family)	93%	96%
Both Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Families)	0%	0%
One Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Families)	31%	29%
Neither Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Families)	69%	71%

CP Report #9700

Below is the data for Head Start families.

Job-Training/School of Head Start Families

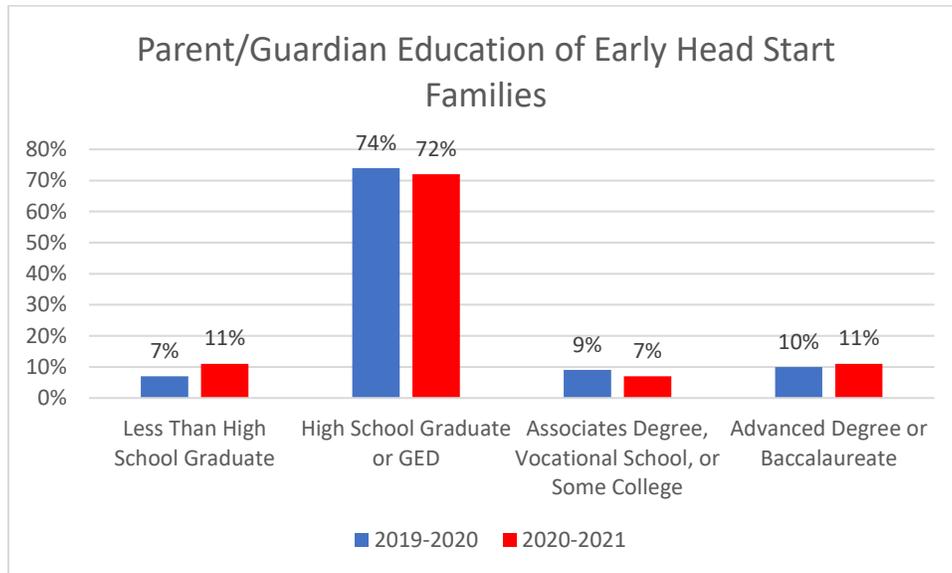| Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
Job-Training or School (Single-Parent Family)	10%	7%
Not Job-Training or School (Single-Parent Family)	90%	93%
Both Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Family)	1%	0%
One Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Family)	13%	17%
Neither Job-Training or School (Two-Parent Family)	86%	83%

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No data was provided for the 2019-2020 program year. The only data available is for the current program year around job-training/school.

Job-Training/School of Heartland Head Start Families 2020-2021

	Single-Parent Family		Two-Parent Families		
Category	Job-Training or School	Not Job-Training or School	Both Job-Training or School	One Job-Training or School	Neither Job-Training or School
Percentage	6%	93%	0%	22%	78%

The information below provides the percentages of parents/guardians at HHS and the highest level of education they have completed. There are small changes between the last and current program year.

Parent/Guardian Education of Early Head Start Families

	Less Than High School Graduate	High School Graduate or GED	Associates Degree, Vocational School, or Some College	Advanced Degree or Baccalaureate
2019-2020	7%	74%	9%	10%
2020-2021	11%	72%	7%	11%

It is observed that there is a 6% increase in parents/guardians that have an advanced degree or baccalaureate compared to the previous year.

Parent/Guardian Education of Head Start Families
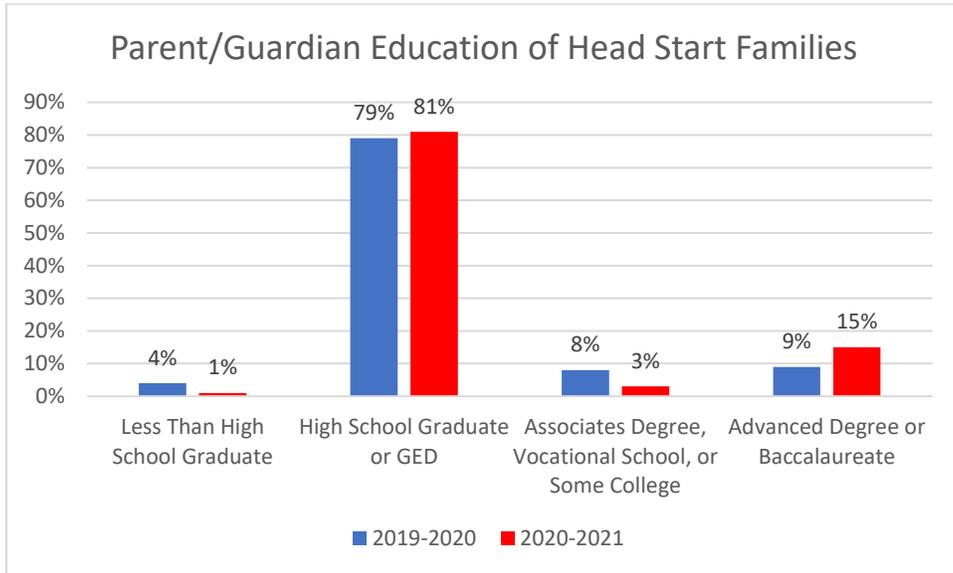
Percentages and data were only documented for the current program year. The data below combines HS and EHS data.


Parent/Guardian Education of HHS Families
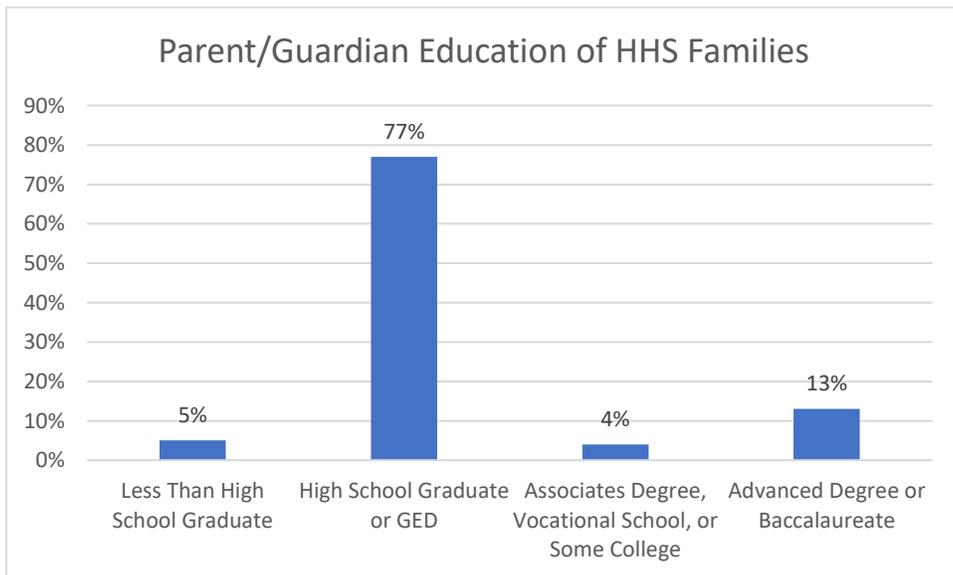
Child Abuse & Neglect

When looking at the number of children in foster care, there are only 3 more children this current year compared to previous.
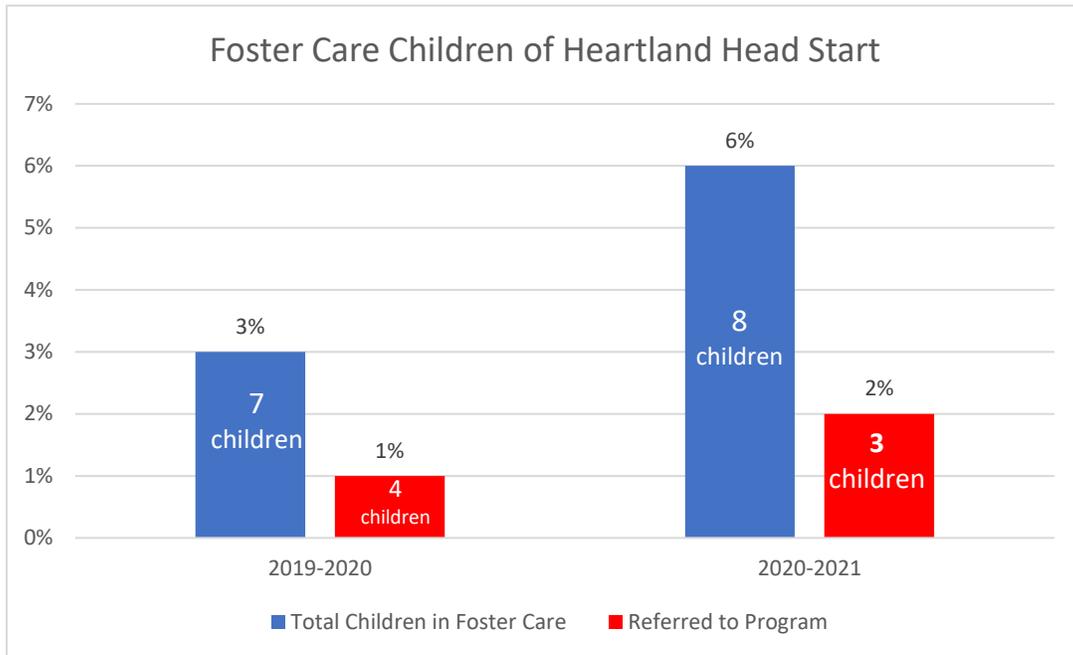
Foster Care Children of Early Head Start
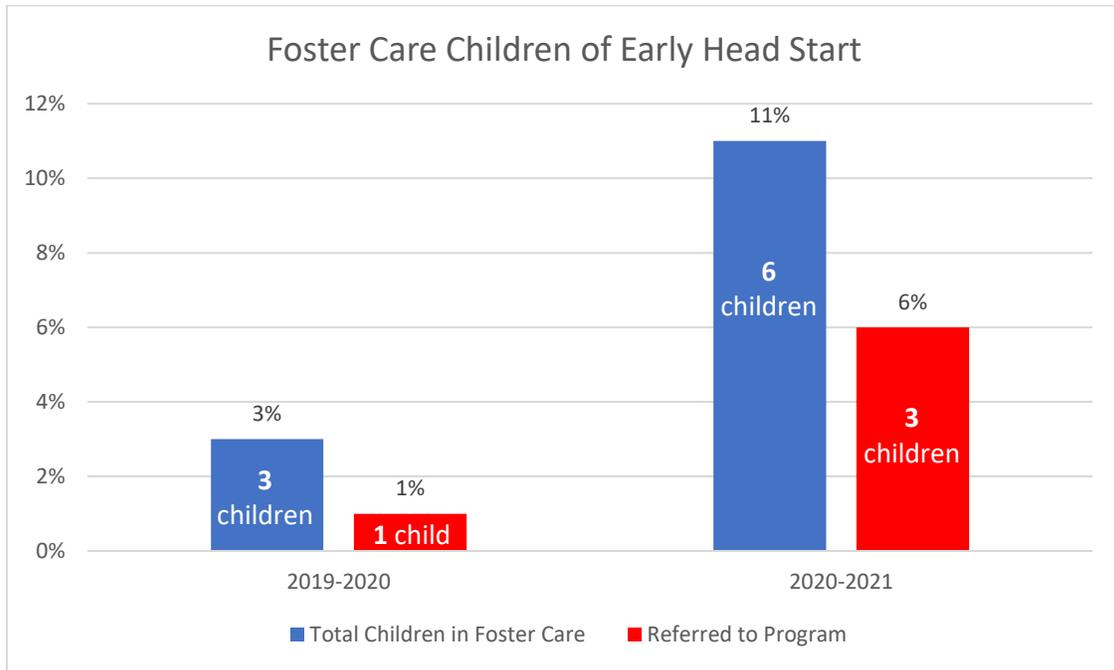
CP Report #9700

It is noted that none of the children currently in foster care in the HS program were referred to the program.

Foster Care Children of Head Start
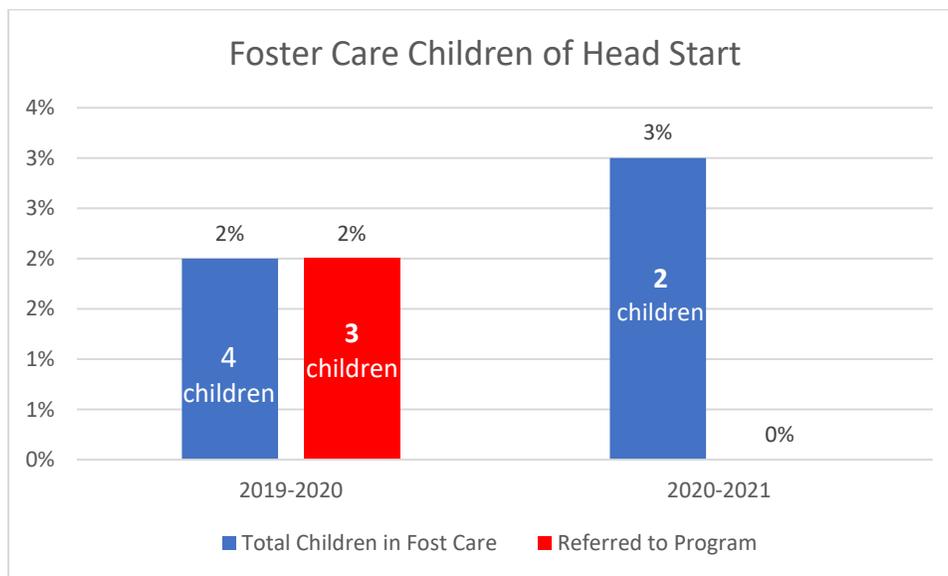
CP Report #9700

It is observed that only 3 of the 8 children in the program were referred to the program.

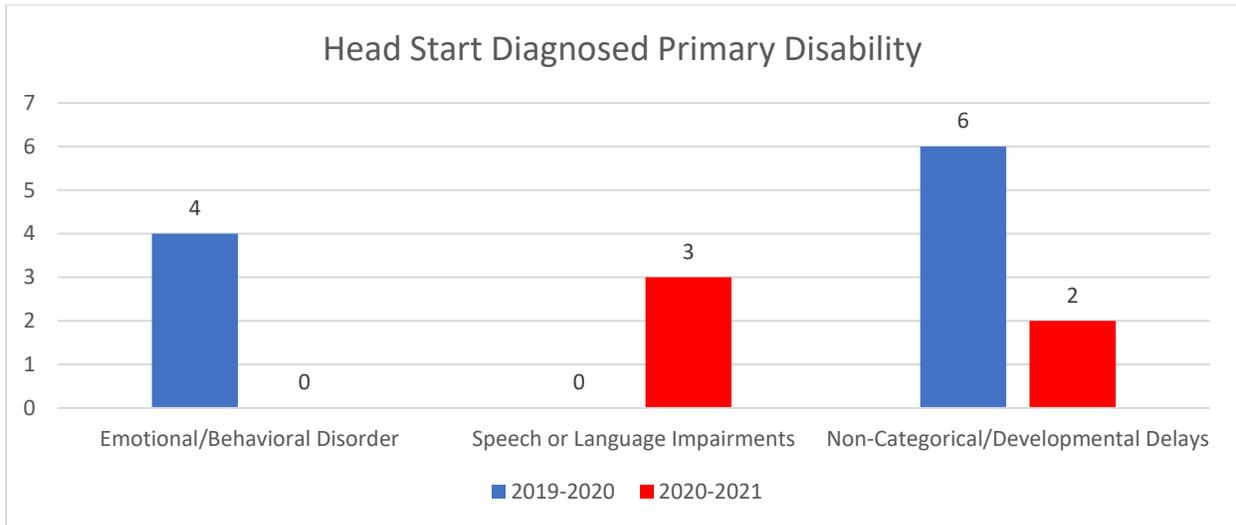## Foster Care Children of Heartland Head Start

CP Report #9700

Transportation

Due to COVID-19, HHS has opted to not provide transportation to those students that are in-center. Typically, there would be students transported at Stillwell West, the YWCA, and Pontiac. Due to class sizes and social distancing, no transportation is provided to keep families and staff safe.

Disability

In the Head Start program there are a total of 5 children with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Of those 5, 4 had an IEP prior to enrollment and 1 child was determined eligible during the program year. It is documented that 1 child in the HS program has not received special education or related services. That primary disability is under speech or language impairments. The graph below compares the previous year's diagnoses to the current program year.

Head Start Diagnosed Primary Disability

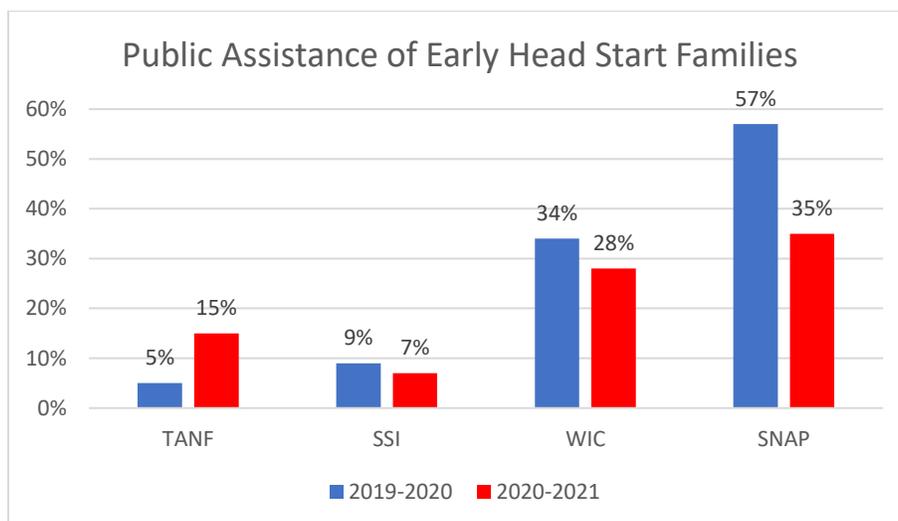| Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
Emotional/Behavioral Disorder	4	0
Speech or Language Impairments	0	3
Non-Categorical/Developmental Delays	6	2

CP Report #9700

In the EHS program, there are a total of 4 children enrolled who have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). All children entered the program with an IFSP.

Public Assistance

Heartland Head Start tracks the number of families enrolled in the program who utilize public assistance. As noted in the EHS graph below, there was a decrease in the number of families utilizing SSI, WIC, and SNAP benefits compared to the previous year.

Public Assistance of Early Head Start Families

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
TANF	5%	15%
SSI	9%	7%
WIC	34%	28%
SNAP	57%	35%

CP Report #9700

Similar to the EHS data, there is a significant decrease in Head Start families utilizing SSI, WIC, and SNAP benefits.

Public Assistance of Head Start Families

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
TANF	5%	4%
SSI	9%	3%
WIC	34%	22%
SNAP	57%	43%
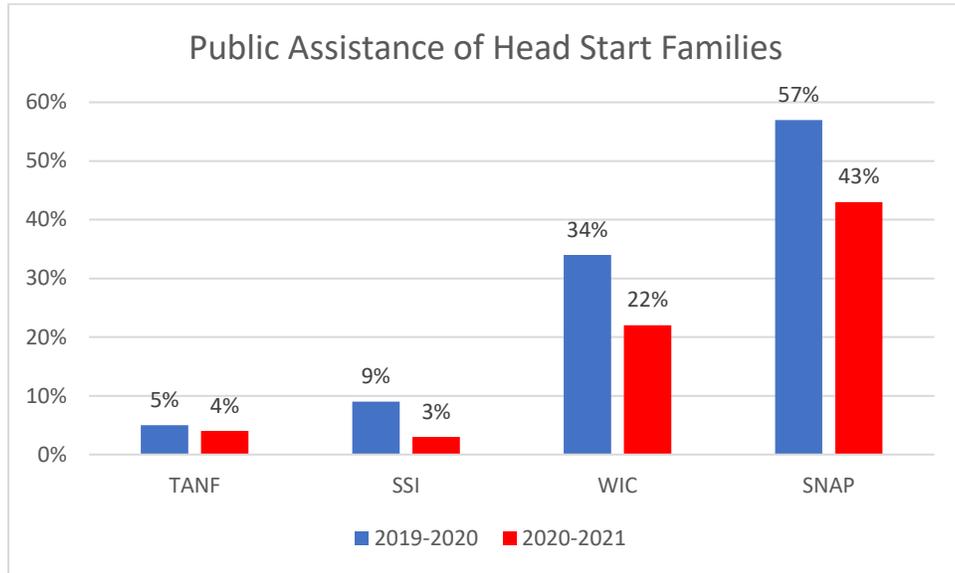
CP Report #9700

The graph below combines EHS and HS data while comparing to the previous program year.

Public Assistance of Heartland Head Start Families

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
TANF	7%	9%
SSI	7%	4%
WIC	34%	25%
SNAP	51%	40%
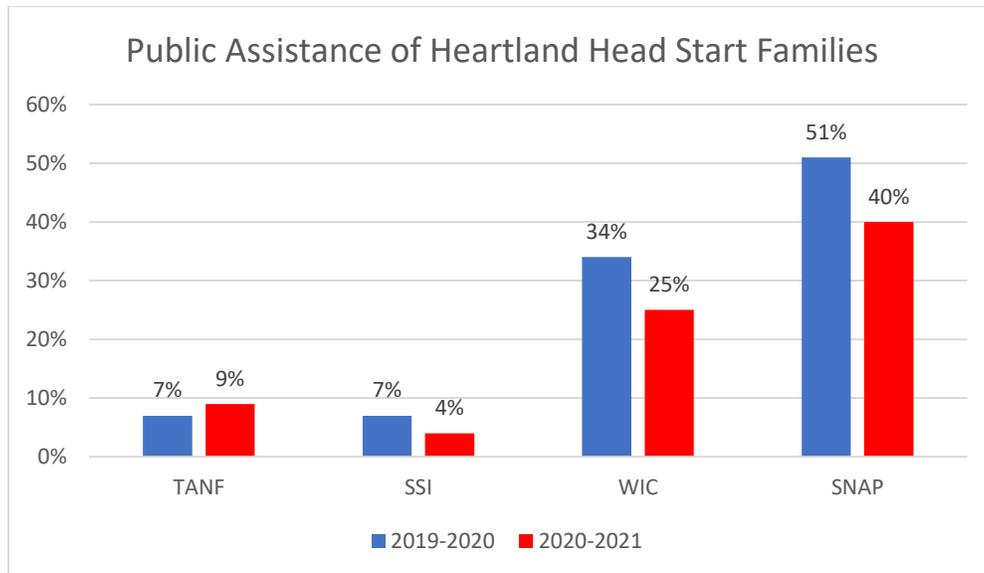
CP Report #9700

Mental Health

HHS provides mental health services to staff, children, and families from student professionals at Illinois State University. A mental health professional spends on average 40 hours a month on site between EHS and HS. The information below relates to the labels on the chart.

A – Number of children for whom the MH professional consulted with program staff about the child's behavior/mental health.

A1 – Of these, the number for whom MH professional provided three or more consultations with program staff since the last year's PIR was reported.
B – Number of children for whom the MH professional consulted with the parent(s)/guardian(s) about their child's behavior/mental health.

B1 – Of these, the number for whom the MH professional provided three or more consultations with the parent(s)/guardian(s) since last year's PIR was reported.

C – Number of children for whom the MH professional facilitated an individual mental health assessment.
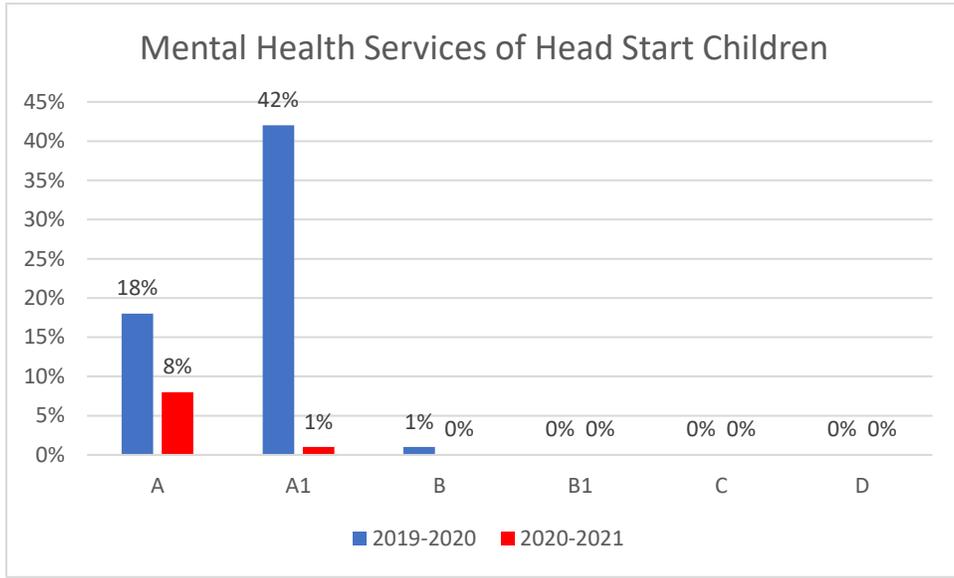
D – Number of children for whom the MH professional facilitated a referral for mental health services.

E – Number of children who were referred by the program for mental health services outside of HHS since last year's PIR were reported.

E1 – Of these, the number who received mental health services since last year's PIR.
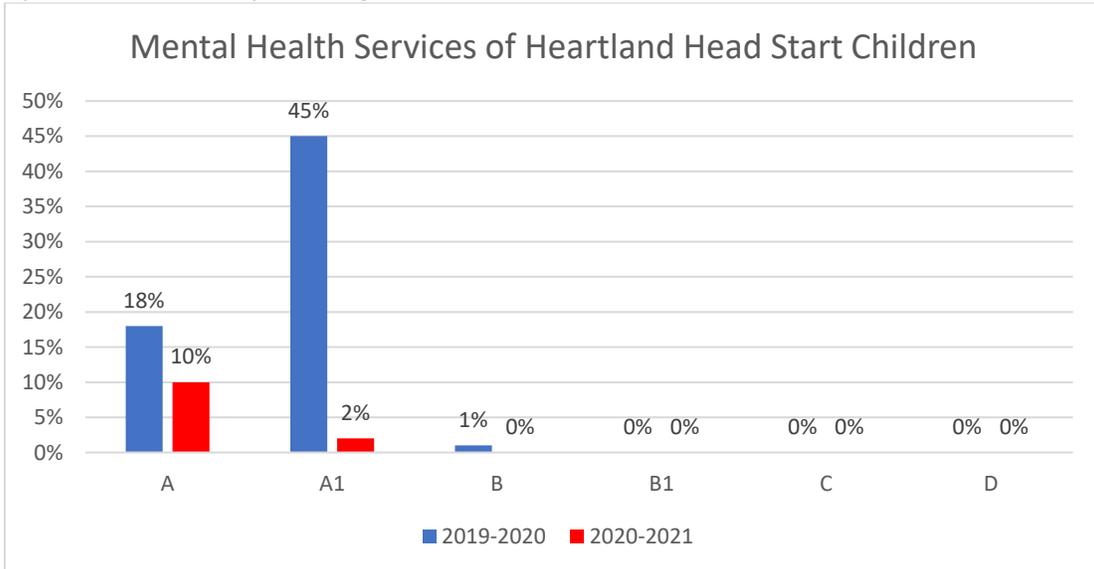The graph below describes EHS data.
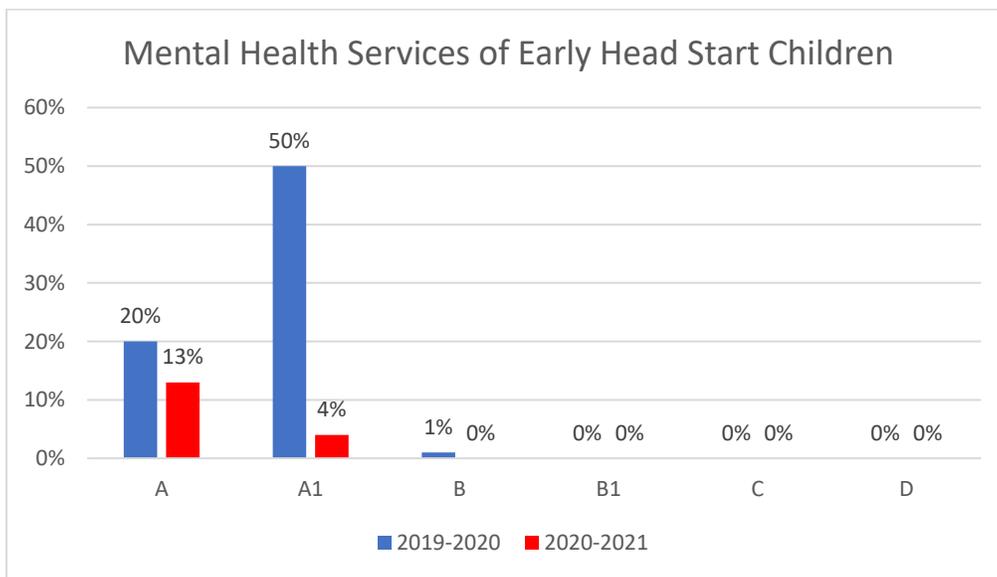
CP Report #9700

Similar to EHS, there is decrease in Head Start data.

Mental Health Services of Head Start Children

The graph below indicates percentages tracked about HHS mental health services.
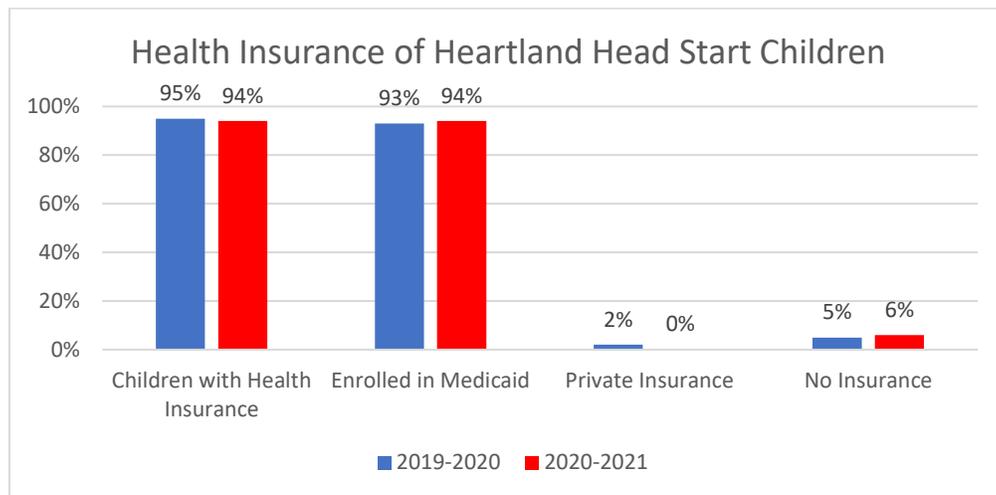
Mental Health Services of Heartland Head Start Children

Health

HHS tracks a variety of different information based around the child and family's health including insurance, body mass index, and dental services. It is written in Head Start Performance Standards that a program must provide high-quality health, oral health, and
nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and which will support each child's growth and school readiness.
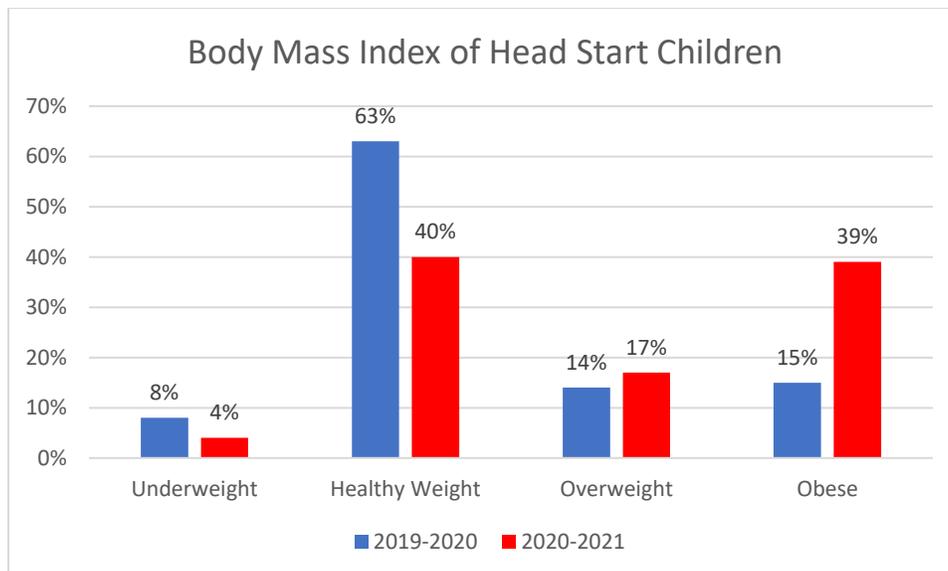
Health Insurance

Due to no pregnant women enrolled as a pregnant mother in the program, there is no data for health insurance regarding pregnant women. Below describes the program.

Health Insurance of Heartland Head Start Children

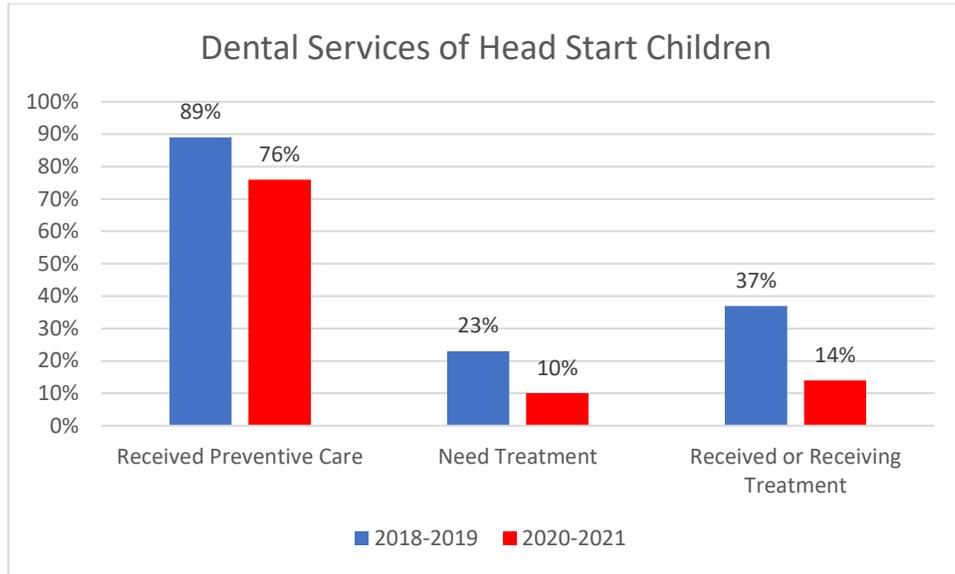| Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
Children with Health Insurance	95%	94%
Enrolled in Medicaid	93%	94%
Private Insurance	2%	0%
No Insurance	5%	6%

CP Report #9700

Body Mass Index

BMI is not collected for EHS children. The data below is only for Head Start children. It is noted that there is a 24% increase of children being identified as obese compared to the previous program year.

Body Mass Index of Head Start Children

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021
Underweight	8%	4%
Healthy Weight	63%	40%
Overweight	14%	17%
Obese	15%	39%

CP Report #9700

Dental Services

Of the children that needed dental treatment, only 14% (1 child of 7) have received treatment thus far.

Dental Services of Head Start Children

Category	2018-2019	2020-2021
Received Preventive Care	89%	76%
Need Treatment	23%	10%
Received or Receiving Treatment	37%	14%

Legend: ■ 2018-2019 ■ 2020-2021

CP Report #9700

It is documented in the 2020-2021 PIR that 3 children are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary oral health care.

Conclusions

Community Strengths

- In McLean County there are 22 childcare facilities and 20 preschools.
- Many food pantries and agencies/churches were able to provide locations and easy access for residents in need of food during COVID-19.
- Between April to November, McLean County saw an 8.4% decrease in the unemployment rate and Livingston County saw an 8% decrease in unemployment.
- When looking at all three homeless shelters in McLean County, there was an overall decrease in those utilizing services, especially at the Neville House.
- Connect Transit offered free rides/services to residents of McLean County throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HHS saw a decrease in enrolled homeless families during the 2020-2021 program year.

Community Challenges

- In Livingston County there is only 1 childcare center.
- With the increase in minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, if one parent in a 2-parent household worked full-time, 40 hours a week, at 52 weeks a year they would be over-income according to the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- With the minimum wage increasing yearly, this will directly impact our families making minimum wage and working full-time. They could no longer qualify for the program based off the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- HHS has seen an increase in unemployed parents/families.
- There was an overall decrease in HHS families utilizing WIC and SNAP services.
- In both counties, there were an increase of children in care with DCFS. McLean County saw an increase of 78 children and Livingston County saw an increase of 26 children.
- Livingston County saw an increase (3.4%) of children 5 years of age and younger living in poverty.
- Trinity Lutheran is no longer an in-person location to host two classrooms due to the Fire Marshall not finding the building safe.

Considerations

- More discussion and communication with The Department of Human Services for eligible families since the number of SNAP and TANF benefit users have increased.
- Brainstorm new opportunities for recruitment if COVID-19 continues to impact the communities we serve.

Recommendations

- Securing a classroom(s) to cover the closed classrooms at Trinity Lutheran.
- Look into childcare partnerships within the community for EHS classrooms.
- More communication with DCFS regarding children in foster care and intact care to enroll those in the program.
- Increase the enrollment of pregnant women at HHS as there were none enrolled thus far for the 2020-2021 program year.

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