

Laying *the* Foundation

- ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

During a child's first five years, Ohio has a critical opportunity to lay a strong foundation for the state's most-at risk children by investing in enriching early experiences. Quality early childhood programs have the ability to close gaps between at-risk kids and their more advantaged peers by the time they enter Kindergarten. Identifying barriers to children's success and providing interventions must happen in the first five years of life to give all children the best shot at reaching their full potential. Children in Ohio are facing unimaginable levels of trauma and adversity before they even enter school. Ohio must do better to reach families and children through quality home visiting, child care and preschool programs. In order to improve kindergarten readiness and lifelong success for Ohio kids, the state needs to ensure early development is happening in high-quality learning environments.



Access to Early Childhood Experiences



This summary combines the early childhood education experiences of children to determine how many 0-4 year olds are participating in the following early childhood programs in Ohio:

1. Publicly funded childcare (PFCC)
2. Head Start
3. Public preschool (Early Childhood Education grants and Special Education preschool)

The analysis below provides an overview of the early childhood services discussed in earlier sections of this report—showing the number of children served and the percentage of children served relative to the total number of 0-4 year old children eligible for these services at 130% FPL.

FY17 Children Age 0-4 Receiving PFCC, Head Start, and ODE Pre-K Early Childhood Services, by Region

Region	# Children 0-4 Age in PFCC*	# Children 0-4 Age in Head Start**	# Children Receiving PFCC & Head Start	Est. ECE & Special Ed Preschool 130% FPL***	Total # ECE Children Served	# Children 0-4 Age Less Than 130% FPL	% Children 0-4 Age Served of Eligible
Cuyahoga	12,675	3,956	-1,084	1,975	17,522	28,723	61.0%
Franklin	14,304	3,710	-764	1,580	18,830	31,329	60.1%
Hamilton	10,295	2,870	-317	1,249	14,097	19,951	70.7%
Montgomery	4,556	2,820	-858	1,146	7,664	14,322	53.5%
Summit	3,193	1,363	0	543	5,099	9,293	54.9%
Appalachia	7,350	11,028	-187	3,142	21,333	43,299	49.3%
STATEWIDE	76,276	34,869	-3,709	13,135	120,571	238,159	50.6%

*PFCC Child Care Children 0-4 includes some 5 year olds who may have been 4 years old at some point during FY17. Additionally, there are some families accessing PFCC above 130% FPL given Ohio's two-tiered eligibility system (i.e. you continue to receive PFCC if you remain continuously eligible up until the point your income reaches 300% FPL). Only about 10% of the whole PFCC population of children (not just 0-4 year olds) who are utilizing PFCC are above 130% FPL.

**Head Start Children 0-4 include 652 pregnant women, some of whom may have given birth during FY17, and 610 five year olds who may have been 4 years old at some point during FY17.

***Early Childhood Education grants (200% FPL eligibility) and Special Education Preschool Program (eligibility not based on income) participant numbers have been adjusted to reflect only those children in these programs at or below 130% FPL.

Note: This analysis does not include utilization overlap between Head Start and ECE. This overlap is not known at the time of this report. The analysis also does not include utilization overlap between PFCC and ECE, however, there are an estimated 2,000 kids double-counted in PFCC and ECE which likely inflates the percentages accessing these programs by about 12%.

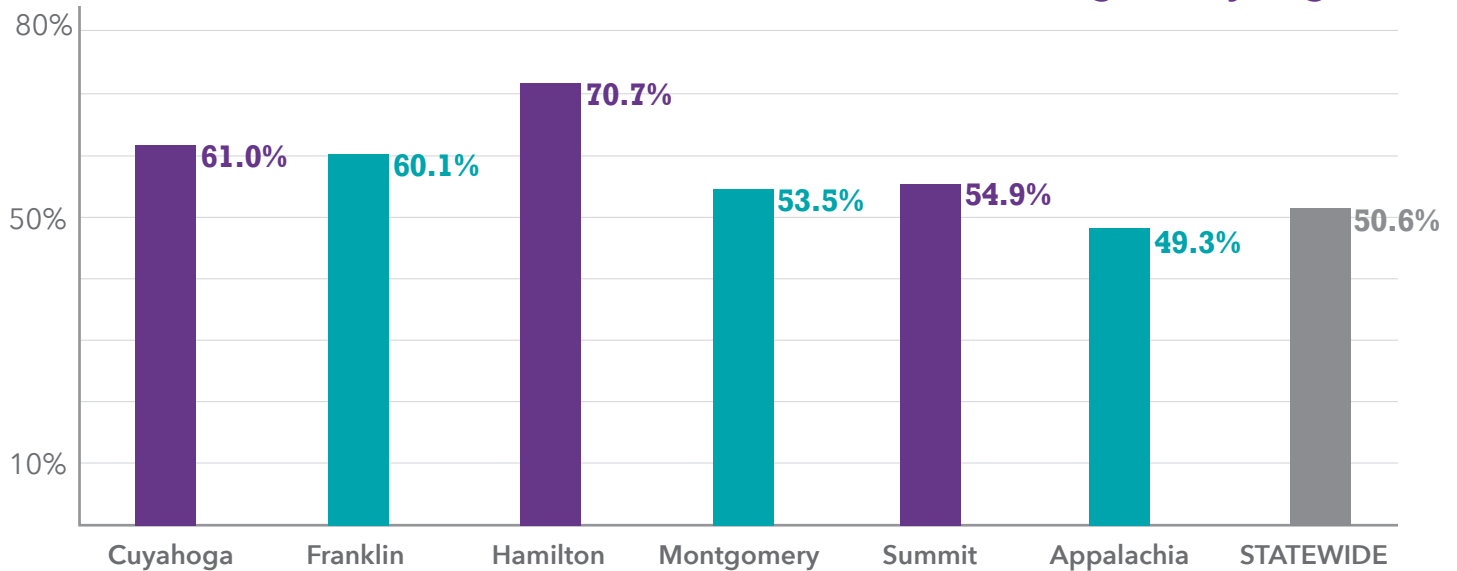
Access to

Early Childhood Experiences

ONLY 50.6% OF OHIO CHILDREN AT OR BELOW 130% FPL HAVE ACCESS TO AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE.

Access does not equal quality. Our largest state-funded program serving the most children (PFCC) primarily serves children in unrated settings, so Ohio cannot ensure these children have access to the high-quality learning environments that are driving positive child outcomes.

FY17 % of 0-4 Year Olds Receiving PFCC, Head Start, and ODE Pre-K Early Childhood Services Relative the Number of Children Eligible, by Region



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education

Reflections

GIVEN THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ACCESSING EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN THE URBAN COMMUNITIES ANALYZED ABOVE ARE ALL HIGHER THAN THE STATE PERCENTAGE, **WHAT MUST BE OCCURRING IN THE REMAINDER OF THE STATE THAT LOWERS THE STATEWIDE PERCENTAGE? HOW SHOULD OHIO CONSIDER HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ABOVE 130% FPL WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR STATE FUNDED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS?**

Access to Early Childhood Experiences:

SOURCES

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
American Community Survey

DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Education



Join Us.

Groundwork
OHIO



Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report

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