

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

Early Childhood Programs  
Community Needs  
Assessment 2024



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW OF GRANTEE AND COMMUNITIES IN SERVICE AREA.....	5
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS.....	5
MAJOR FINDINGS: ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS .....	6
DEMOGRAPHICS .....	6
Service Area:.....	6
Geographic Boundary Size: .....	7
Governing Structure:.....	7
Population: .....	8
Racial and Ethnic Composition: .....	9
Home Languages: .....	10
Gender and Age Demographics: .....	13
Children in Poverty: .....	13
Household Composition: .....	14
Employment: .....	15
Median Income: .....	17
Below Poverty Level: .....	18
HEADSTART – ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES .....	19
Geographic Location:.....	19
Income Eligible Children: .....	19
Expectant Mothers: .....	20
Pregnant Women – Health Insurance Coverage .....	20
Children – Health Insurance Coverage: .....	21
Pregnant Women – Health Care: .....	21
Pregnant Women – Mental Health Care: .....	21
Pregnant Women – Oral Health Care: .....	22

Children Enrolled in WIC:.....	22
Foster Care: .....	22
Children in Poverty:.....	23
Race and Ethnicity: .....	24
English Language Learners (ELL): .....	25
EDUCATION NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES .....	26
Educational Attainment: .....	26
Dropout Rates: .....	27
Functional Literacy and Math Skills:.....	27
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES .....	28
Child Abuse and Neglect: .....	28
Number of Unique (Unduplicated) Children Abused:.....	28
Ages of Children Abused:.....	29
Types of Confirmed or Founded Abuse: .....	29
Infant Mortality:.....	30
Low-Birth Weight:.....	30
Immunizations: .....	31
Head Start and Early Head Start Children – 3 Year Trend Data: .....	31
Children Receiving Medical Services for Health Needs: .....	32
Health Behaviors:.....	33
Physical Inactivity:.....	33
Obesity: .....	33
Tobacco Use: .....	34
Physical and Mental Health: There is no new data.....	34
NUTRITION NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES .....	35
Free and Reduced Lunches: .....	35
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): .....	35
Low Food Access & Food Insecurity: .....	36

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS .....	37
Homelessness:.....	37
Housing:.....	37
CHILD CARE & PRE-KINDERGARTEN AVAILABILITY .....	38
Child Care: .....	38
Preschool:.....	38
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION .....	39
Transportation: .....	39
Communications: .....	40
RESOURCES AVAILABLE.....	41
Access to Health Care Providers (Mental, Dental and Primary Care):.....	41
COMMUNITY STRENGTHS .....	42
HEAD START ENROLLED CHILDREN & FAMILIES .....	43
Enrollment by Site: .....	43
Enrollment by Age Group:.....	43
Foster Care, Homeless and English Language Learners: .....	45
Disabilities: .....	46
Racial and Ethnic Demographics:.....	47
Attendance, Waiting List and Over-guides.....	48
Barriers to Attendance: .....	49
HEAD START STAFF.....	50
Race/Ethnicity and Language: .....	50
Education: .....	50
RELEVANT OPINIONS OF COMMUNITY NEEDS.....	51

## 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 Sarina Smith, Early Childhood Programs Director, created a team consisting of:

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

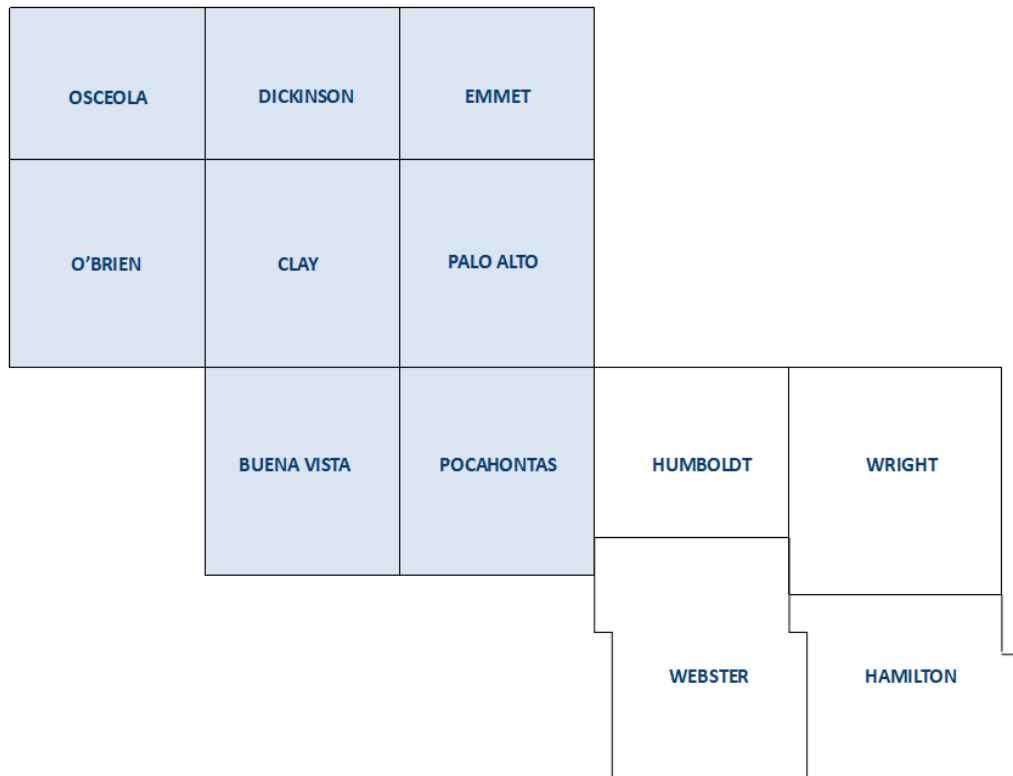
- (1) The impact of poverty on early childhood development extends beyond insufficient income.
- (2) Trauma informed care in early childhood can seriously impact brain development.
- (3) Decision makers must be intentional in their efforts to expand program services.
- (4) The value and benefits of expanding 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	County Seat/ Capital/ Central Office
	(mi <sup>2</sup> )	
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
<b>HS/EHS Counties Total</b>	<b>4,031</b>	<b>Spencer</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>6,338</b>	<b>Graettinger</b>
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
Travis Johnson	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 Klobberdanz	Hamilton Public Official	Jennifer Hansen	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 (Jennifer Hansen), legal issues (Travis Johnson) 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
135	EHS Home Base	3
48	EHS Center Base	1
289	HS Center Base	6
NA	Community Representative	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>

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 and remained fairly stable in 2022 data.

Service Area	Population 2018	Population 2019	Population 2020	Population 2021	Population 2022
Buena Vista	20,260	20,058	19,950	20,723	20,687
Clay	16,313	16,211	16,138	16,410	16,423
Dickinson	17,056	17,127	17,260	17,536	17,692
Emmet	9,551	9,438	9,322	9,433	9,349
Hamilton	15,110	14,997	14,905	15,073	14,979
Humboldt	9,566	9,554	9,518	9,622	9,606
O'Brien	13,911	13,835	13,796	14,139	14,138
Osceola	6,115	6,052	6,016	6,168	6,149
Palo Alto	9,055	9,003	8,941	8,996	8,938
Pocahontas	6,898	6,797	6,725	7,091	7,061
Webster	36,757	36,545	36,348	37,114	36,986
Wright	12,804	12,739	12,644	12,978	12,897
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>99,159</b>	<b>98,521</b>	<b>98,148</b>	<b>100,496</b>	<b>100,437</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>173,396</b>	<b>172,356</b>	<b>171,563</b>	<b>175,283</b>	<b>174,905</b>
State of Iowa	3,132,499	3,139,508	3,150,011	3,179,090	3,188,836
United States	322,903,030	324,697,795	326,569,308	329,725,481	331,097,593

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract*



**Racial and Ethnic Composition:** White/Non-Hispanics are the predominate population across the UDMO service area at 91.71% and at 91.39% (over 90,000 individuals) in the UDMO Head Start service area. This is just below the State of Iowa average of 93.46% of the population and above the national average of 81.35%.

Service Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American /Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Buena Vista	14,160	606	2,121	48	430	1791	1531	5,573	15,114
Clay	15,544	94	56	28	0	152	549	685	15,738
Dickinson	16,695	21	182	8	0	91	695	454	17,238
Emmet	8,083	340	23	23	8	186	686	922	8,427
Hamilton	13,597	207	263	10	125	163	614	997	13,982
Humboldt	9,024	36	67	16	70	53	340	485	9,121
O'Brien	12,933	197	98	36	0	231	643	813	13,325
Osceola	5,651	58	85	20	0	102	233	544	5,605
Palo Alto	8,262	183	50	0	0	61	382	326	8,612
Pocahontas	6,589	11	43	9	62	133	214	321	6,740
Webster	32,373	1,256	434	96	0	726	2,101	2,173	34,813
Wright	11,503	21	28	20	0	536	789	1,762	11,135
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>87,917</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>9,638</b>	<b>90,799</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>154,414</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>8,777</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>159,850</b>
State of Iowa	2,769,619	120,619	78,940	10,111	4,582	54,569	150,396	208,637	2,976,042
United States	218,123,424	41,288,572	19,112,979	2,786,431	624,863	20,018,544	29,142,780	61,755,866	268,918,512

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2018-2022. 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	68.45%	2.93%	10.25%	0.23%	2.08%	8.66%	7.40%	26.94%	73.06%
Clay	94.65%	0.57%	0.34%	0.17%	0.00%	0.93%	3.34%	4.17%	95.83%
Dickinson	94.36%	0.12%	1.03%	0.05%	0.00%	0.51%	3.93%	2.57%	97.43%
Emmet	84.46%	3.64%	0.25%	0.25%	0.09%	1.99%	7.34%	9.86%	90.14%
Hamilton	90.77%	1.38%	1.76%	0.07%	0.83%	1.09%	4.10%	6.66%	93.34%
Humboldt	93.94%	0.37%	0.70%	0.17%	0.73%	0.55%	3.54%	5.05%	94.95%
O'Brien	91.48%	1.39%	0.69%	0.25%	0.00%	1.63%	4.55%	5.75%	94.25%
Osceola	91.90%	0.94%	1.38%	0.33%	0.00%	1.66%	3.79%	8.85%	91.15%
Palo Alto	92.44%	2.05%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.68%	4.27%	3.65%	96.35%
Pocahontas	93.32%	0.16%	0.61%	0.13%	0.88%	1.88%	3.03%	4.55%	95.45%
Webster	87.53%	3.40%	1.17%	0.26%	0.01%	1.96%	5.68%	5.88%	94.12%
Wright	89.19%	0.16%	0.22%	1.60%	0.00%	4.16%	6.12%	13.66%	86.34%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>88.88%</b>	<b>1.48%</b>	<b>1.89%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	<b>2.24%</b>	<b>4.71%</b>	<b>8.29%</b>	<b>91.71%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>88.28%</b>	<b>1.73%</b>	<b>1.97%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>2.42%</b>	<b>5.02%</b>	<b>8.61%</b>	<b>91.39%</b>
State of Iowa	86.85%	3.78%	2.48%	0.32%	0.14%	1.71%	4.72%	6.54%	93.46%
United States	65.88%	12.47%	5.77%	0.84%	0.19%	6.05%	8.80%	18.65%	81.35%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2018-2022. 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. Buena Vista serves the highest number of Spanish speaking families, followed by Emmet, Osceola and O'Brien counties.

Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
<b>Buena Vista</b>	Spanish	4,336	64%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	14	0.21%
	German or other West Germanic languages	58	0.86%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	0	0.00%
	Other Indo-European languages	8	0.12%
	Korean	26	0.39%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	0	0.00%
	Vietnamese	185	2.75%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	5	0.07%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	1,765	26.25%
	Arabic	12	0.18%
	Other and unspecified languages	314	4.67%
<b>Clay</b>	Spanish	201	73.09%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	0	0.00%
	German or other West Germanic languages	36	13.09%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	0	0.00%
	Other Indo-European languages	3	1.09%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	16	5.82%
	Other and unspecified languages	19	6.91%
<b>Dickinson</b>	Spanish	279	47.05%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	4	0.67%
	German or other West Germanic languages	72	12.14%
	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	35	5.90%
	Other Indo-European languages	10	1.69%
	Korean	1	0.17%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	26	4.38%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	120	20.24%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	29	4.89%
	Arabic.	14	2.36%
	Other and unspecified languages	3	0.51%
<b>Emmet</b>	Spanish	541	86.28%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	13	2.07%
	German or other West Germanic languages	28	4.47%
	Russian, Polish and other Slavic Languages	13	2.07%
	Other Indo-European languages	13	2.07%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	11	1.75%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	5	0.80%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	2	0.32%
	Other and unspecified languages	1	0.16%
	Spanish	541	86.28%

Home Language Continued			
Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
Hamilton	Spanish	887	72.35%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	2	0.16%
	German or other West Germanic languages	99	8.08%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	4	0.33%
	Other Indo-European languages	6	0.49%
	Korean	0	0.00%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	4	0.33%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	142	11.58%
	Other and unspecified languages	82	6.69%
Humboldt	Spanish	368	70.63%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	3	0.58%
	German or other West Germanic languages	27	5%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	16	3%
	Other Indo-European languages	17	3%
	Korean	0	0%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	5	0.96%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	5	0.96%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	80	15%
O'Brien	Spanish	476	63.47%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	0	0.00%
	German or other West Germanic languages	41	5.47%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	4	0.53%
	Other Indo-European languages	10	1.33%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	3	0.40%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	13	1.73%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	108	14.40%
	Arabic	84	11.20%
Osceola	Other and unspecified languages	11	1.47%
	Spanish	522	84.33%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	7	1.13%
	German or other West Germanic languages	19	3.07%
	Other Indo-European languages	23	3.72%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	0	0.00%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	48	7.75%
Palo Alto	Spanish	131	50.38%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	5	1.92%
	German or other West Germanic languages	22	8.46%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	7	2.69%
	Other Indo-European languages	2	0.77%
	Vietnamese	4	1.54%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	5	1.92%
	Arabic	7	2.69%
	Other and unspecified languages	77	29.62%
Pocahontas	Spanish	226	64.39%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	14	3.99%
	German or other West Germanic languages	14	3.99%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	2	0.57%
	Other Indo-European languages	2	0.57%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	37	10.54%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	56	15.95%
	Other and unspecified languages	0	0.00%

Home Language Continued			
Service Area	Language Spoken at Home	Estimated Number	Percent
Webster	Spanish	896	52.43%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	140	8.19%
	German or other West Germanic languages	215	12.58%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	3	0.18%
	Other Indo-European languages	11	0.64%
	Korean	82	4.80%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	117	6.85%
	Vietnamese	5	0.29%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	36	2.11%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	4	0.23%
	Arabic	14	0.82%
	Other and unspecified languages	186	10.88%
Wright	Spanish	1272	93.60%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	3	0.22%
	German or other West Germanic languages	51	3.75%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	5	0.37%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	7	0.52%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	0	0.00%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	21	1.55%
State of Iowa	Spanish	128,384	48.97%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	9,087	3.47%
	German or other West Germanic languages	16,312	6.22%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	12,580	4.80%
	Other Indo-European languages	16,815	6.41%
	Korean	3,217	1.23%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	9,748	3.72%
	Vietnamese	8,460	3.23%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	3,586	1.37%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	26,888	10.26%
	Arabic	11,113	4.24%
	Other and unspecified languages	15,957	6.09%
United States	Spanish	41,434,050	61.06%
	French, Haitian, or Cajun	2,095,458	3.09%
	German or other West Germanic languages	1,441,044	2.12%
	Russian, Polish or other Slavic languages	2,134,180	3.14%
	Other Indo-European languages	6,026,538	8.88%
	Korean	1,091,912	1.61%
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	3,486,356	5.14%
	Vietnamese	1,537,182	2.27%
	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	1,728,450	2.55%
	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	3,169,522	4.67%
	Arabic	1,341,739	1.98%
	Other and unspecified languages	2,374,134	3.50%

Data Source: Iowa Data Center, <https://www.iowadatatcenter.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 11.73% compared to males at 8.64%. Two of Head Start’s counties (Emmet and O’Brien) are above the State of Iowa’s rate for males in poverty, whereas four counties (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	10,599	683	6.44%	10,088	708	7.02%
Clay	8,029	765	9.53%	8,394	1,080	12.87%
Dickinson	8,843	511	5.78%	8,849	575	6.50%
Emmet	4,635	484	10.44%	4,714	612	12.98%
Hamilton	7,637	528	6.91%	7,342	616	8.39%
Humboldt	4,857	590	12.15%	4,749	677	14.26%
O’Brien	7,007	776	11.07%	7,131	907	12.72%
Osceola	3,195	299	9.36%	2,954	461	15.61%
Palo Alto	4,526	412	9.10%	4,412	501	11.36%
Pocahontas	3,502	238	6.80%	3,559	388	10.90%
Webster	19,367	1,434	7.40%	17,619	2,717	15.42%
Wright	6,553	949	14.48%	6,344	861	13.57%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>50,336</b>	<b>4,168</b>	<b>8.28%</b>	<b>50,101</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>10.44%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>88,750</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>8.64%</b>	<b>86,155</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>11.73%</b>
State of Iowa	1,598,888	154,223	9.65%	1,590,281	188,918	12.62%
United States	164,200,298	18,109,332	11.03%	166,897,295	22,412,252	13.43%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. 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, as well as, above the national average in three of the counties. The rate of early childhood poverty decreased significantly in Buena Vista County over the three year period and it doubled in Emmet County from 2021 to 2022. There is also a 6% increase in Palo Alto County and a slight increase in Osceola County. The continued higher percentages of poverty for children under age 4 in the area, as compared to state and national data, indicate the ongoing need for UDMO’s Early Childhood Programs.

The second chart identifies the most recent year of data for those age five and older.

Service Area	Children Age 0 - 4 (2020)			Children Age 0 - 4 (2021)			Children Age 0 - 4 (2022)		
	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% In Poverty
Buena Vista	1,441	273	18.95%	1,479	184	12.44%	1,435	81	5.64%
Clay	964	96	9.96%	942	168	17.83%	976	146	14.96%
Dickinson	758	75	9.89%	757	125	16.51%	768	120	15.63%
Emmet	483	71	14.70%	490	73	14.90%	379	111	29.29%
Hamilton	884	113	12.78%	848	109	12.85%	789	96	12.17%
Humboldt	569	76	13.36%	582	73	12.54%	561	62	11.05%
O'Brien	849	110	12.96%	872	131	15.02%	889	130	14.62%
Osceola	337	109	32.34%	323	92	28.48%	289	86	29.76%
Palo Alto	615	63	10.24%	552	102	18.48%	547	134	24.50%
Pocahontas	367	25	6.81%	424	20	4.72%	407	14	3.44%
Webster	2,091	297	14.20%	2,157	287	13.31%	2,064	186	9.01%
Wright	817	250	30.60%	804	268	33.33%	797	264	33.12%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>5,814</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>14.14%</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>15.33%</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>14.45%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>10,175</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>15.31%</b>	<b>10,230</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>15.95%</b>	<b>9,901</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>14.44%</b>
State of Iowa	178,664	24,655	13.80%	191,488	28,244	14.75%	187,164	26,764	14.30%
United States	19,294,872	3,679,064	19.07%	19,064,128	3,535,591	18.55%	18,654,535	3,369,529	18.06%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract

Service Area	5-17 (2022)			18-64 (2022)			65+ (2022)		
	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty	Total	In Poverty	% in Poverty
Buena Vista	3,926	261	6.65%	11,108	755	6.80%	3,189	294	9.22%
Clay	2,807	547	19.49%	8,949	985	11.01%	3,377	167	4.95%
Dickinson	2,546	93	3.65%	9,527	674	7.07%	4,610	199	4.32%
Emmet	1,334	238	17.84%	4,916	496	10.09%	2,003	251	12.53%
Hamilton	2,452	210	8.56%	8,417	563	6.69%	3,045	275	9.03%
Humboldt	1,694	376	22.20%	5,277	663	12.56%	1,964	166	8.45%
O'Brien	2,460	353	14.35%	7,696	961	12.49%	2,823	239	8.47%
Osceola	1,073	271	25.26%	3,381	359	10.62%	1,270	44	3.46%
Palo Alto	1,482	216	14.57%	4,724	432	9.14%	1,784	131	7.34%
Pocahontas	1,143	112	9.80%	3,824	422	11.04%	1,532	78	5.09%
Webster	5,444	992	18.22%	19,942	2,365	11.86%	6,709	608	9.06%
Wright	2,341	360	15.38%	6,810	980	14.39%	2,730	206	7.55%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>16,771</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>12.47%</b>	<b>54,125</b>	<b>5,084</b>	<b>9.39%</b>	<b>20,588</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>6.81%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>28,702</b>	<b>4,029</b>	<b>14.04%</b>	<b>94,571</b>	<b>9,655</b>	<b>10.21%</b>	<b>35,036</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>7.59%</b>
Iowa	531,293	66,689	12.55%	1,835,717	208,437	11.35%	534,825	41,251	7.71%
United States	53,380,823	8,632,822	16.17%	197,887,727	23,209,781	11.73%	53,352,363	5,309,452	9.95%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-2022. 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	4,488	196	4.37%	105	2.34%	5	0.11%	86	1.92%
Clay	4,075	329	8.07%	59	1.45%	0	0.00%	270	6.63%
Dickinson	4,766	131	2.75%	83	1.74%	0	0.00%	48	1.01%
Emmet	2,229	220	9.87%	115	5.16%	18	0.81%	87	3.90%
Hamilton	3,781	243	6.43%	71	1.88%	6	0.16%	166	4.39%
Humboldt	2,571	207	8.05%	53	2.06%	19	0.74%	135	5.25%
O'Brien	3,578	252	7.04%	135	3.77%	5	0.14%	112	3.13%
Osceola	1,583	127	8.02%	11	0.69%	19	1.20%	97	6.13%
Palo Alto	2,134	145	6.79%	102	4.78%	5	0.23%	38	1.78%
Pocahontas	1,805	80	4.43%	50	2.77%	6	0.33%	24	1.33%
Webster	8,691	590	6.79%	293	3.37%	29	0.33%	268	3.08%
Wright	3,501	457	13.05%	142	4.06%	62	1.77%	253	7.23%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>24,658</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>6.00%</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>2.68%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0.24%</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>3.09%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>43,202</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>6.89%</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>2.82%</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>3.67%</b>
State of Iowa	803,276	55,923	6.96%	19,892	2.48%	6,852	0.85%	29,873	3.72%
United States	81,432,908	7,181,779	8.82%	2,666,469	3.27%	783,254	0.96%	3,701,444	4.55%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract

**Employment:** Although the overall unemployment rates across the service area 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	12,128	11,814	314	2.59%
Clay	8,556	8,334	222	2.59%
Dickinson	11,232	10,964	268	2.39%
Emmet	4,785	4,651	134	2.80%
Hamilton	6,899	6,716	183	2.65%
Humboldt	4,988	4,867	121	2.43%
O'Brien	8,172	8,007	165	2.02%
Osceola	3,682	3,604	78	2.12%
Palo Alto	4,447	4,325	122	2.74%
Pocahontas	3,910	3,803	107	2.74%
Webster	18,270	17,662	608	3.33%
Wright	6,515	6,364	151	2.32%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>56,912</b>	<b>55,502</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>2.48%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>93,584</b>	<b>91,111</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>2.64%</b>
State of Iowa	1,684,700	1,634,465	50,235	2.98%
United States	170,205,193	162,904,266	7,300,927	4.29%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract



A review of agency PIR data regarding employment of families enrolled in Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start, indicates a significantly higher rate of unemployment for parents enrolled in the programs.

Service Area	Total Number of Head Start Parents	Number HS Parents Employed	Number HS/EHS Parents Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Total Number of Early Head Start Parents	Number EHS Parents Employed	Number EHS Parents Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Buena Vista	108	80	28	25.93%	74	54	20	27.03%
Clay	71	61	10	14.08%	72	62	10	13.89%
Dickinson	16	14	2	12.50%	-	-	-	-
Emmet	54	45	9	16.67%	49	40	9	18.37%
Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humboldt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O'Brien	38	26	12	31.58%	-	-	-	-
Osceola	17	16	1	5.88%	-	-	-	-
Palo Alto	15	13	2	13.33%	-	-	-	-
Pocahontas	11	9	2	18.18%	-	-	-	-
Webster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wright	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20.00%</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20.00%</b>

Data Source: Child Plus Reports: 9730

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	883	284	-	54	553	3,802	352	1,361	264	71	571
Clay	738	-	-	68	675	683	719	1,682	524	219	447
Dickinson	431	-	-	-	916	1,756	302	1,786	-	105	765
Emmet	501	-	-	-	305	681	124	612	-	71	159
Hamilton	957	-	-	-	487	672	634	1003	-	83	437
Humboldt	523	-	-	102	386	895	298	584	253	49	261
O'Brien	846	-	-	-	410	782	605	898	-	95	484
Osceola	660	440	13	34	168	353	186	-	176	24	-
Palo Alto	884	209	12	19	301	552	143	560	165	45	255
Pocahontas	742	-	-	-	304	456	-	355	726	62	-
Webster	997	-	-	-	1,846	2,480	-	2,848	1,620	332	850
Wright	993	194	12	-	365	1,390	307	694	-	130	312
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>9,065</b>	<b>2,431</b>	<b>7,254</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>2,681</b>
<b>UDMO Counties Total</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>6,716</b>	<b>14,502</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>12,383</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>4,541</b>
State of Iowa	89,652	17,052	3,480	6,123	122,748	229,880	72,724	216,438	97,385	26,000	148,523
United States	2,567,000	966,800	1,050,200	605,600	11,867,800	13,523,700	6,757,300	19,510,300	11,473,500	3,861,900	12,982,300

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. 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	348	354	21	410	-	-	96	746	507	1,880
Clay	876	-	-	404	95	1,259	167	620	572	1,631
Dickinson	852	541	76	1,690	74	859	466	1,481	701	1,370
Emmet	163	139	-	-	-	-	22	208	307	746
Hamilton	342	221	57	213	-	-	88	303	435	1,299
Humboldt	310	178	-	-	-	-	-	-	301	803
O'Brien	336	305	-	-	82	1,302	77	425	452	1,152
Osceola	-	72	-	-	8	399	-	-	164	359
Palo Alto	152	94	45	95	-	-	35	388	245	1,041
Pocahontas	-	97	-	61	-	-	37	93	182	593
Webster	896	507	200	789	284	2,683	278	1,467	1,156	3,018
Wright	258	187	-	-	-	-	69	274	369	1,599
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>3,961</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>8,772</b>
<b>UDMO Counties Total</b>	<b>4,533</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>6,502</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>5,391</b>	<b>15,491</b>
State of Iowa	91,759	86,815	26,664	88,801	42,971	210,890	35,650	126,731	104,116	269,593
United States	11,832,200	15,978,400	2,953,800	13,058,300	4,885,700	23,545,500	4,457,300	14,750,300	11,616,100	24,198,000

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract

**Median Income:** The chart below signifies the median family income; it is noted that seven of the eight counties in the service area are below both the state and national median income. Buena Vista, Clay and Pocahontas 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	2022 Income
Buena Vista	\$ 54,556	\$ 57,125	\$ 54,014	\$ 53,645	\$ 62,662
Clay	\$ 47,874	\$ 50,521	\$ 51,259	\$ 52,307	\$ 61,756
Dickinson	\$ 58,099	\$ 59,969	\$ 60,975	\$ 65,215	\$ 72,446
Emmet	\$ 48,542	\$ 51,563	\$ 56,708	\$ 58,357	\$ 64,461
Hamilton	\$ 56,273	\$ 60,910	\$ 60,248	\$ 62,183	\$ 66,685
Humboldt	\$ 52,219	\$ 54,575	\$ 55,707	\$ 60,008	\$ 66,617
O'Brien	\$ 53,045	\$ 53,703	\$ 57,200	\$ 62,292	\$ 65,076
Osceola	\$ 58,125	\$ 59,725	\$ 61,167	\$ 65,242	\$ 67,561
Palo Alto	\$ 52,462	\$ 52,932	\$ 56,437	\$ 59,988	\$ 67,306
Pocahontas	\$ 49,877	\$ 52,448	\$ 53,337	\$ 56,530	\$ 61,434
Webster	\$ 44,261	\$ 47,466	\$ 51,909	\$ 56,934	\$ 65,335
Wright	\$ 50,198	\$ 53,333	\$ 51,221	\$ 55,395	\$ 58,240
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>\$ 52,823</b>	<b>\$ 54,748</b>	<b>\$ 56,387</b>	<b>\$ 59,197</b>	<b>\$ 65,338</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>\$ 52,128</b>	<b>\$ 54,523</b>	<b>\$ 55,849</b>	<b>\$ 59,008</b>	<b>\$ 64,965</b>
State of Iowa	\$ 58,580	\$ 60,523	\$ 61,836	\$ 65,429	\$ 70,571
United States	\$ 60,293	\$ 62,843	\$ 64,994	\$ 69,021	\$ 75,149

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract

**Below Poverty Level:** This indicates the total population as compared to those in poverty or below the 100% federal poverty guideline. In the UDMO Head Start service area, Clay, Emmet and O’Brien counties have higher rates of households in poverty than state levels. The percent of households at or below the federal poverty in Emmet County is equal to the national average; 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	19,658	1,391	7.08%	7,538	524	6.95%
Clay	16,109	1,845	11.45%	7,225	894	12.37%
Dickinson	17,451	1,086	6.22%	8,279	442	5.34%
Emmet	8,632	1,096	12.70%	3,881	482	12.42%
Hamilton	14,703	1,144	7.78%	6,203	624	10.06%
Humboldt	9,496	1,267	13.34%	4,213	558	13.24%
O’Brien	13,868	1,683	12.14%	5,700	641	11.25%
Osceola	6,013	760	12.64%	2,631	278	10.57%
Palo Alto	8,537	913	10.69%	3,635	352	9.68%
Pocahontas	6,906	626	9.06%	3,083	308	9.99%
Webster	34,159	4,151	12.15%	15,582	1,822	11.69%
Wright	12,678	1,810	14.28%	5,373	703	13.08%
<b>HS Counties Total</b>	<b>97,174</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9.67%</b>	<b>41,972</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>9.34%</b>
<b>UDMO Total</b>	<b>168,210</b>	<b>17,772</b>	<b>10.57%</b>	<b>73,343</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>10.40%</b>
State of Iowa	3,088,999	343,141	11.11%	1,290,139	144,551	11.20%
United States	323,275,448	40,521,584	12.53%	125,736,353	15,616,265	12.42%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract*

## HEADSTART – ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

\*The term Head Start is inclusive of Head Start Preschool 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
★ Denotes County Having Early Head Start as well	★ BUENA VISTA	POCAHONTAS

**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 Preschool Programs, Early Head Start and the total number of children enrolled in preschool. This helps identify places where Head Start Preschool and other Preschool opportunities are either abundant or lacking in the educational system. It is noted that Buena Vista County currently has more Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start slots for children in poverty than the US Census American Community Survey data indicates may be needed. Regarding Buena Vista County, 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 in chart S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age: 2018: 348 children; 2019: 368 children; 2020: 273 children; 2021: 184 children, 2022: 81 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 Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start enrollments and the data fluctuation, it is believed children may not be accurately reflected in the American Community Survey data in the chart below. It can be noted, there is a greater percentage of children in the UDMO Head Start Preschool program service area enrolled in preschool programs than there is across the state of Iowa or the nation.

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	All Child Dev Options	Total Number of Slots Listed with CCR&R
Buena Vista	1,435	81	57	95	-71	-87.65%	661	329	49.77%	20	780
Clay	976	146	73	59	14	9.59%	446	233	52.24%	18	771
Dickinson	768	120	0	12	108	90.00%	304	80	26.32%	19	674
Emmet	379	111	53	51	7	6.31%	151	68	45.03%	13	389
O'Brien	889	130	0	34	96	73.85%	307	199	64.82%	28	809
Osceola	289	86	0	16	70	81.40%	144	70	48.61%	5	180
Palo Alto	547	134	0	13	121	90.30%	266	141	53.01%	17	462
Pocahontas	407	14	0	9	5	35.71%	177	100	56.50%	6	214
HS Area Total	5,690	822	183	289	350	42.58%	2,456	1,220	49.67%	126	4279
State of Iowa	187,164	26,764	1,703	5,422	19,639	73.38%	79,792	34,459	43.19%	4,151	177,053
United States	18,654,535	3,369,529	188,179	572,705	2,608,645	77.42%	7,958,841	3,631,021	45.62%	NA	NA

Data Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022. Source geography: Tract; ChildPlus PIR

**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, beginning with the 2023 Community Needs Assessment and going forward largely includes Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data due to county level data not being available any longer 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	2023-2024
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13	15
Medicaid/CHIP	15	11	11	12
Private Insurance	1	1	1	0
Total # Insured	16	12	12	12
% of Insured	84%	57%	92%	80%
Uninsured	3	9	1	3
% of Uninsured	16%	43%	8%	20%

Data Source: ChildPlus PIR

## Children – Health Insurance Coverage:

According to the Children’s Health Report Card from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (<https://kidshealthcarereport.ccf.georgetown.edu/states/iowa/>), 6.5% of Iowa children in poverty (at or below 137.99% FPL) are uninsured. The UDMO Early Childhood program continues to address this concern. The PIR data over the previous four years notes an increase in coverage during the 2022-2023 school year and a slight decrease in coverage in the 2023-2024 school year.

Type of Insurance	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Medicaid/CHIP	305	192	289	197	298	193	270	204
Private	11	6	20	9	20	12	33	10
Total Children Insured	316	198	309	206	318	205	303	214
% of Children Insured	95%	93%	89%	94%	94%	99%	93%	96%
No Insurance	19	16	38	14	20	3	24	8
Total Children Insured	335	214	347	220	338	208	303	214
% of Children Uninsured	5%	7%	11%	6%	6%	1%	7%	4%

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	2023-2024
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13	15
Prenatal Care	18	20	13	15
Postnatal Care	18	18	11	11
Continuous Ongoing Care	18	13	12	15

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 combination 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	2023-2024
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13	15
Mental Health Interventions & follow-up	9	1	9	7
% of Pregnant Women needing Intervention & Follow-Up	47%	5%	39%	47%

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 more than half of 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	2023-2024
# of Enrolled Pregnant Women	19	21	13	15
Professional Oral Health Assessment Exam &/or Treatment	9	12	6	9
% of Pregnant Women Receiving Oral Health Care	47%	57%	46%	60%

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. In the 2023-2024 school year there were more children enrolled in WIC than in the previous three school years.

WIC	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Buena Vista	49	36	52	40	50	40	48	55
Clay	22	68	22	52	20	45	34	49
Dickinson	11	0	9	0	9	0	9	0
Emmet	25	39	2	40	30	35	32	40
O'Brien	11	0	12	0	14	0	13	0
Osceola	8	0	10	0	8	0	9	0
Palo Alto	7	0	6	0	3	0	8	0
Pocahontas	3	0	5	0	4	0	5	0
Totals	136	143	118	132	138	120	158	144

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
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>9,884</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>7,972</b>	<b>7,274</b>	<b>6,586</b>

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

\*Data only available through 2022 at the time of this reporting.

**Children in Poverty:** The chart below identifies the number of children aged 0-4 living below the 100% poverty guideline. Recent data shows a shift from prior years. Across the service area, the percentages of female children in poverty is now slightly below the state and national percentages and percentages of male children is now higher than the state and national percentages. County by county, Emmet, Osceola and Palo Alto counties have higher percentages of young children living in poverty, while Buena Vista and Pocahontas have much lower percentages of children living in poverty. Additionally, in Dickinson (76%) and Osceola (79%) counties there are significantly higher percentages of male children living in poverty and in Palo Alto (66%) and Pocahontas (79%) counties there are significantly higher percentages of female children living in poverty. *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	1,435	81	5.6%	40	49%	41	51%
Clay	976	146	15.0%	80	55%	66	45%
Dickinson	768	120	15.6%	91	76%	29	24%
Emmet	379	111	29.3%	48	43%	63	57%
O'Brien	889	130	14.6%	65	50%	65	50%
Osceola	289	86	29.8%	68	79%	18	21%
Palo Alto	547	134	24.5%	45	34%	89	66%
Pocahontas	407	14	3.4%	3	21%	11	79%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>187,164</b>	<b>26,764</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>13,883</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>12,881</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>18,654,535</b>	<b>3,369,529</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>1,716,029</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>1,653,500</b>	<b>49%</b>

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022.

**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	28	-	4	13	1	10	10	39	42
Clay	40	-	-	-	-	106	-	-	146
Dickinson	113	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	120
Emmet	65	-	-	-	-	46	-	4	107
O'Brien	58	33	-	-	-	8	30	31	99
Osceola	51	-	-	-	-	-	35	30	56
Palo Alto	134	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134
Pocahontas	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>718</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>15,110</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>4,262</b>	<b>22,502</b>
United States	984,325	865,048	53,748	97,155	10,157	527,307	357,918	1,174,395	2,195,134

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey: 2018-2022.

Service Area	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Multi-Race	Some Other Race	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Buena Vista	5.62%	No Data	100%*	5.68%	1.30%	6.76%	8.55%	6.26%	5.17%
Clay	4.81%	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	75.71%	0%	0%	15.04%
Dickinson	16.33%	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	11.29%	0%	0%	16.28%
Emmet	28.76%	0%	No Data	No Data	No Data	80.70%	No Data	33.33%	29.16%
O'Brien	8.07%	80.49%	No Data	No Data	No Data	8.33%	100%*	25.62%	12.89%
Osceola	20.99%	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	100%*	73.17%	22.58%
Palo Alto	30.18%	0%	No Data	No Data	No Data	0%	0%	0%	27.13%
Pocahontas	4.07%	No Data	No Data	No Data	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.76%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>12.58%</b>	<b>21.43%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5.68%</b>	<b>1.12%</b>	<b>30.46%</b>	<b>33.33%</b>	<b>11.29%</b>	<b>15.06%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>10.95%</b>	<b>39.73%</b>	<b>38.57%</b>	<b>9.11%</b>	<b>21.32%</b>	<b>20.33%</b>	<b>17.32%</b>	<b>19.82%</b>	<b>13.58%</b>
United States	11.14%	34.10%	32.22%	9.97%	25.95%	18.55%	26.84%	24.23%	15.90%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey: 2018-2022.

\*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) (also identified in some reports as Dual Language Learners DLL) in all school districts within each county and the total number of ELL enrolled in Iowa schools. Buena Vista serves the greatest number of the English Language Learners (ELL) at 65.06% of the total English Language Learners (ELL) in the service area. It should be noted, the Storm Lake CSD (Buena Vista County) reports forty different languages spoken within their student population over the past five years.

(Note: This data is from the Iowa Department of Education and actually is reporting the English proficiency of English Language Learners - <https://www.iowadatacenter.org/index.php/data-by-source/state-agencies/english-language-learners> and <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/english-learners-el>

Service Area	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	# of ELL	% of ELL	# of ELL	% of ELL	# of ELL	% of ELL	# of ELL	% of ELL	# of ELL	% of ELL
Buena Vista	1,289	62.10%	1,283	61.60%	1,331	73.33%	1,305	71.08%	1,678	65.06%
Clay	38	3.50%	46	4.40%	51	2.81%	63	3.43%	100	3.88%
Dickinson	15	1.30%	23	1.90%	22	1.21%	24	1.31%	42	1.63%
Emmet	139	17.40%	141	17.80%	151	8.32%	172	9.37%	281	10.90%
O'Brien	124	11.30%	122	11.30%	135	7.44%	149	8.12%	268	10.39%
Osceola	58	15.30%	63	17.30%	71	3.91%	66	3.59%	125	4.85%
Palo Alto	14	1.80%	18	2.30%	19	1.05%	15	0.82%	16	0.62%
Pocahontas	27	6.40%	32	7.70%	35	1.93%	42	2.29%	69	2.68%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>5.24%</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>5.53%</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>5.49%</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>5.36%</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>4.47%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>32,528</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>33,077</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>34,258</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>57,695</b>	<b>NA</b>

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

## 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	392	239	133	44
Clay	39	287	329	122
Dickinson	44	222	299	187
Emmet	117	252	334	2
O'Brien	141	532	203	133
Osceola	69	170	128	4
Palo Alto	65	202	176	36
Pocahontas	43	142	122	16
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>2046</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>30,331</b>	<b>72,502</b>	<b>54,914</b>	<b>24,045</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>5,683,249</b>	<b>8,003,553</b>	<b>6,062,192</b>	<b>3,368,325</b>

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2018-2022.

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 Bachelors Degree	EHS Parents Bachelors Degree	All Adults at 100% FPL Bachelors Degree
Buena Vista	49	36	392	33	22	239	15	9	133	10	7	44
Clay	15	21	39	39	31	287	15	17	329	2	3	122
Dickinson	4		44	7		222	4		299	1		187
Emmet	27	28	117	18	12	252	7	7	334	1	2	2
O'Brien	16		141	13		532	6		203	3		133
Osceola	8		69	4		170	2		128	3		4
Palo Alto	2		65	5		202	7		176	1		36
Pocahontas	1		43	4		142	4		122	2		16
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	-	-	<b>30,331</b>	-	-	<b>72,502</b>	-	-	<b>54,914</b>	-	-	<b>24,045</b>
<b>United States</b>	-	-	<b>5,683,249</b>	-	-	<b>8,003,553</b>	-	-	<b>6,062,192</b>	-	-	<b>3,368,325</b>

Data Source: ChildPlus Report 9730 and US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*. 2018-2022.

**Dropout Rates:** High school dropout rates have fluctuated the previous three school years in the eight counties served by Head Start. School districts in four counties, Buena Vista, O'Brien, Osceola and Pocahontas counties, are above the state average percentage of student dropping out. Three counties, Buena Vista, O'Brien and Pocahontas have documented increased dropout rates from 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school years.

Service Area	Total Enrollment 2020-2021	Dropout Number 2020-2021	% of Dropouts	Total Enrollment 2021-2022	Dropout Number 2021-2022	% of Dropouts	Total Enrollment 2022-2023	Dropout Number 2022-2023	% of Dropouts
Buena Vista	2,180	68	3.12%	2,139	58	2.71%	2,155	78	3.62%
Clay	1,062	14	1.32%	1,116	10	0.90%	1,078	12	1.11%
Dickinson	1,242	20	1.61%	1,241	18	1.45%	1,269	19	1.50%
Emmet	791	16	2.02%	788	20	2.54%	748	15	2.01%
O'Brien	1,086	20	1.84%	1,093	15	1.37%	1,092	32	2.93%
Osceola	374	9	2.41%	334	8	2.40%	329	7	2.13%
Palo Alto	785	10	1.27%	778	18	2.31%	781	12	1.54%
Pocahontas	414	11	2.13%	402	5	1.24%	410	15	3.66%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>1.97%</b>	<b>7,891</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1.87%</b>	<b>7,862</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2.31%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>229,023</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>1.97%</b>	<b>230,384</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>2.12%</b>	<b>230,697</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>2.12%</b>

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

**Functional Literacy and Math Skills:** Studies have shown that children who are not grade level equivalent in Reading by 4<sup>th</sup> grade or Math by 8<sup>th</sup> grade are at an increased risk at being in the low-income sector.

Comparing data from 2020 to 2023 there has been a decrease in the number of children reading at 4<sup>th</sup> grade level across the region. Specifically, children in four Head Start counties, Buena Vista, Emmet, Palo Alto and Pocahontas, fall below state averages in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.

Math scores are more variable from 2020 to 2023 in terms of improving or declining.

Of note, children in Buena Vista County fall below state averages in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading 2023	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math 2020	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math 2023
Buena Vista	66.9	60	70.6	69.5
Clay	80.3	76.2	85.1	82.4
Dickinson	81.4	74.5	83.1	82.7
Emmet	70.1	67.3	59.3	76.3
O'Brien	85.7	87.3	78.2	73.8
Osceola	87	86.4	88.5	87.2
Palo Alto	68.2	71.3	64.4	76.5
Pocahontas	74.5	68	74.1	79.6
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>76.76</b>	<b>73.88</b>	<b>75.41</b>	<b>78.50</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>72</b>

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

### Child Abuse and Neglect:

At the close of each calendar year, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services generates a Child Maltreatment Statistical Report of child abuse/neglect statistics by county and is found at:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/CPS/child-abuse-statistics>.

*Types of Abuse Findings Defined by Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Source:*

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/4999/download?070520191837=#:~:text=TYPES%20OF%20ABUSE%20FINDINGS%3A,on%20the%20Central%20Abuse%20Registry>.

**Founded (Confirmed and Placed)** means that more than half of the available evidence shows that abuse occurred, and the abuse DOES meet the criteria for placement on the Central Abuse Registry.

**Confirmed** means that more than half of the available evidence shows that abuse occurred, that the abuse was minor and isolated and not likely to reoccur; and the perpetrator is not placed on the Central Abuse Registry.

**Not Confirmed** means that it was not possible to determine, by more than half of the available evidence, that abuse occurred.

**Number of Unique (Unduplicated) Children Abused:** This data counts each child who is a victim of child abuse once, no matter how many times they may have been reported or victimized. The count is the total unique individual children within the year. Any child reported more than once will be categorized under the "highest" (most adverse) outcome that child experienced during the year. If the child resided in multiple counties, the child will be categorized with the county he or she resided in at the time of the most adverse outcome.

Buena Vista and Clay counties have the greatest number of reported cases of abuse and neglect, with Buena Vista County having the greatest number of Confirmed and Founded cases.

County	Family Assessment	Not Confirmed	Confirmed	Founded	Total
Buena Vista	96	101	16	116	329
Clay	67	123	9	47	246
Dickinson	44	41	3	46	134
Emmet	33	41	6	47	127
O'Brien	32	70	15	46	163
Osceola	8	36	2	30	76
Palo Alto	17	28	2	33	80
Pocahontas	17	28	8	27	80
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>1,235</b>
State of Iowa	7,980	18,239	1,828	8,632	36,679

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services 2023. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/CPS/child-abuse-statistics>

**Ages of Children Abused:** This data counts the age of each child at the time of a confirmed or founded assessment of abuse or neglect. If a child had multiple assessments, age is counted into the age category the child meets at the time the most adverse assessment was reported. The county is also determined according to the child's county of residence for the most adverse report outcome. These data may not balance against the unique child report because age information is unavailable for a very small number of children.

Of note, in Buena Vista, Clay, Emmet and Pocahontas counties, more than 50% of the children in Confirmed or Founded abuse or neglect cases are under the age of five. Buena Vista County has more than double the number of children under age five victimized.

County	5 or Younger	6 to 10	Older than 11	Total	% Age 5 or Younger
Buena Vista	80	25	27	132	60.6%
Clay	30	16	10	56	53.6%
Dickinson	14	20	15	49	28.6%
Emmet	27	17	9	53	50.9%
O'Brien	26	15	20	61	42.6%
Osceola	7	12	13	32	21.9%
Palo Alto	12	11	12	35	34.3%
Pocahontas	18	7	10	35	51.4%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>47.2%</b>
State of Iowa	4,822	2,686	2,951	10,459	46.1%

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services 2023. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/CPS/child-abuse-statistics>

**Types of Confirmed or Founded Abuse:** This data counts each confirmed or founded type of abuse. This data does not count children - it counts all confirmed or founded allegations of neglect and abuse for each child. Each child may be confirmed of multiple types of abuse on a single report, and may have multiple reports.

Across all counties served by UDMO Head, the most common type of abuse confirmed or founded is Denial of Critical Care (Neglect), followed by exposure to Dangerous Substances and Physical Abuse. Buena Vista County also has a high number of cases involving Sexual Abuse.

County	Denial of Critical Care (Neglect)	Dangerous Substance	Physical Abuse	Presence of Illegal Drugs in Child's System (PID)	Sexual Abuse	Allows Access by Registered Sex Offender	Allows Access to Obscene Materials	Mental Injury	Child Sex Trafficking	Prostitution of a Child	Bestiality in the Presence of a Minor	Total
Buena Vista	123	22	20	9	32	4		1				211
Clay	52	8	5	3	3			1				72
Dickinson	73	14	9	1								97
Emmet	51	14	10	2	3	12						92
O'Brien	64	24	9	8	2							107
Osceola	41	10	6	6	9	1						73
Palo Alto	26	20	3	4	3		1					57
Pocahontas	43	10	6	1	2							62
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>771</b>
State of Iowa	10,169	3,353	1,196	1,548	709	133	40	19	16	2	3	17,188

Data Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services 2023. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/CPS/child-abuse-statistics>

**Infant Mortality:** There is no new data available regarding 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
<b>Total Area Total</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5.42</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>199,795</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>4.64</b>
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:** There is no new data available regarding 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%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
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 2023-2024 school year. It should be noted, that Valid Certificates include Provisional, Medical Exemption, and Religious Exemptions.

All counties, with the exception of Dickinson County, exceed state immunization rates for children in child care. All counties, except Buena Vista and Dickinson counties, exceed state immunization rates for school agers. Emmet, Osceola and Palo Alto counties have 100% valid certificates.

#### Immunizations – Child Care (Birth thru age 5)

Service Area	Total Enrollment	# Certificate of Immunizations	% Immunized	# Valid Certificates	% Valid Certificates
Buena Vista	664	631	95.0%	655	98.6%
Clay	456	435	95.4%	447	98.0%
Dickinson	636	586	92.1%	629	98.9%
Emmet	278	265	95.3%	278	100.0%
O'Brien	673	640	95.1%	669	99.4%
Osceola	159	151	95.0%	159	100.0%
Palo Alto	99	98	99.0%	99	100.0%
Pocahontas	160	151	94.4%	159	99.4%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>94.6%</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>102,531</b>	<b>95,756</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>99,219</b>	<b>96.8%</b>

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 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Service Area	Total Enrollment	# Certificate of Immunizations	% Immunized	# Valid Certificates	% Valid Certificates
Buena Vista	4,574	4,218	92.2%	4,474	97.8%
Clay	2,413	2,304	95.5%	2,410	99.9%
Dickinson	2,806	2,588	92.2%	2,794	99.6%
Emmet	1,275	1,229	96.4%	1,275	100.0%
O'Brien	2,514	2,359	93.8%	2,514	100.0%
Osceola	638	616	96.6%	638	100.0%
Palo Alto	1,519	1,451	95.5%	1,515	99.7%
Pocahontas	879	826	94.0%	874	99.4%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>16,618</b>	<b>15,591</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>16,494</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>524,961</b>	<b>491,124</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>519,428</b>	<b>98.9%</b>

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:** Families continue to be up-to-date with immunizations.

Immunizations	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Up-to-Date on all immunizations appropriate for age	284	188	324	192	320	207
Received all immunizations possible at time but not all appropriate for age	35	8	5	4	3	2
Meets state guidelines for an exemption from immunizations	4	3	7	2	4	4

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 over the past three program years. Of note is the total number of children reported annually who are up-to-date according to EPSDT.

Medical Services	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children	HS Children	EHS Children
Children Up-to-date according to EPSDT	333	163	318	144	316	210
Children with Anemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children with Asthma	3	0	11	4	8	3
Children with Hearing Difficulties	15	6	18	8	23	6
Children with Vision Problems	62	10	68	8	61	17
Children with High Lead Levels	2	2	1	0	1	0
Children with Autism	2	0	1	0	2	0
Children with ADHD	6	0	4	1	4	0
Children with Diabetes	1	0	1	0	1	0
Children with Life Threatening Allergies	1	0	3	1	3	0
Children with Seizures	0	0	3	2	5	0

*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 following charts indicate where UDMO service area residents compare to the state and national levels in regards to a number of health-related behaviors.

**Physical Inactivity:** The following charts 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?”

All eight counties in the UDMO Head Start service area surpass the state and national rates for self-reported physical inactivity. The 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. Also, from the CDC, “Active people generally live longer and are at less risk for serious health problems such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and some cancers. For people with chronic diseases, physical activity can help manage these conditions and complications.”

Service Area	Total Population of Adults Age 20+	Adults Age 20+ with No Leisure Time Physical Activity	%
Buena Vista	14,524	3,631	25.0%
Clay	12,331	2,984	24.2%
Dickinson	14,101	2,919	20.7%
Emmet	7,178	1,529	21.3%
O'Brien	10,324	2,168	21.0%
Osceola	4,575	1,002	21.9%
Palo Alto	6,612	1,534	23.2%
Pocahontas	5,303	1,225	23.1%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>74,948</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>22.7%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>2,366,312</b>	<b>489,670</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
United States	232,759,569	47,072,403	20.2%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 2021

**Obesity:** The following chart identifies the percent of the population that self-reported their height and weight. Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk of further health issues.

All UDMO Head Start counties, except Palo Alto County, are below the state obesity rates. As a whole, Iowa is above the national rate for obesity, and four Head Start counties, Clay, Dickinson, Osceola and Palo Alto are above the national obesity rates.

Service Area	Total Population Age 20+	BMI > 30 Obese	%
Buena Vista	14,515	4,253	29.3%
Clay	12,310	4,050	32.9%
Dickinson	14,091	4,509	32.0%
Emmet	7,177	1,988	27.7%
O'Brien	10,335	2,780	26.9%
Osceola	4,579	1,447	31.6%
Palo Alto	6,604	2,219	33.6%
Pocahontas	5,303	1,453	27.4%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>74,914</b>	<b>22,699</b>	<b>30.3%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>2,366,320</b>	<b>789,480</b>	<b>33.4%</b>
United States	232,757,930	70,168,831	30.1%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 2021

**Tobacco Use:** The chart below identifies the trends of adult tobacco usage by adults age 18 or older who self-report currently smoking cigarettes some days or every day. There is no new data available.

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%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>100,537</b>	<b>16.58%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>3,193,079</b>	<b>15.78%</b>
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 and Mental Health:** There is no new data. 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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,537</b>	<b>11.18%</b>	<b>13.79%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>3,193,079</b>	<b>10.10%</b>	<b>14.42%</b>
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.

As a whole, the UDMO Head Start service area has a higher percentage of children receiving free or reduced priced lunches as compared to the state, but is below the national average. Across the service area, Buena Vista, Emmet and Pocahontas counties exceed the national average and have the highest percentages of children receiving free and reduced priced lunches and Dickinson County has the lowest percentage of children receiving free and reduced priced lunches.

Service Area	Total Students	Free Lunches	% Free Lunches	Reduced Lunches	% of Reduced Lunches	% of Free or Reduced Lunches
Buena Vista	4,585	2,229	48.62%	376	8.20%	56.82%
Clay	2,302	908	39.44%	146	6.34%	45.79%
Dickinson	3,027	857	28.31%	138	4.56%	32.87%
Emmet	1,383	585	42.30%	130	9.40%	51.70%
O'Brien	2,366	832	35.16%	179	7.57%	42.73%
Osceola	729	284	38.96%	77	10.56%	49.52%
Palo Alto	1,536	560	36.46%	132	8.59%	45.05%
Pocahontas	836	439	52.51%	36	4.31%	56.82%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>16,764</b>	<b>6,694</b>	<b>39.93%</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>7.24%</b>	<b>47.17%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>504,940</b>	<b>182,288</b>	<b>36.10%</b>	<b>28,205</b>	<b>5.59%</b>	<b>41.69%</b>
United States	46,791,755	21,117,358	45.13%	2,275,791	4.86%	49.99%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data 2022-2023 <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.

Of note, Clay, Emmet and Palo Alto counties exceed the state percentages of households receiving SNAP.

Service Area	Total Households	Total Households Receiving SNAP	% of Households Receiving SNAP
Buena Vista	7,538	694	9.21%
Clay	7,225	780	10.80%
Dickinson	8,279	378	4.57%
Emmet	3,881	375	9.66%
O'Brien	5,700	445	7.81%
Osceola	2,631	193	7.34%
Palo Alto	3,635	371	10.21%
Pocahontas	3,083	244	7.91%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>41,972</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>8.29%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>1,290,139</b>	<b>120,912</b>	<b>9.37%</b>
United States	125,736,353	14,486,880	11.52%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2018-2022.

### Low Food Access & Food Insecurity:

There is now new data in this area. 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 Head Start 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 Head Start 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%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>101,487</b>	<b>30,916</b>	<b>5,823</b>	<b>21.00%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>3,046,355</b>	<b>884,904</b>	<b>172,826</b>	<b>19.53%</b>
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:** There is no new census data available, however PIR data from the 2023-2024 school year has been added. 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	Head Start Enrollment	# of HS Children Experiencing Homelessness	% of Homeless Students	Early Head Start Enrollment	# of EHS Children Experiencing Homelessness	% of Homeless Students
Buena Vista	3,106	92	2.96%	95	32	33.68%	57	20	35.09%
Clay	2,411	1	0.04%	59	10	16.95%	73	15	20.55%
Dickinson	2,412	23	0.95%	12	4	33.33%	-	-	-
Emmet	1,295	No Data	0.00%	51	7	0.00%	53	17	32.08%
O'Brien	No Data	No Data	0.00%	34	14	0.00%	-	-	-
Osceola	779	No Data	0.04%	16	1	0.04%	-	-	-
Palo Alto	269	No Data	0.13%	13	4	0.13%	-	-	-
Pocahontas	940	5	0.53%	9	1	11.11%	-	-	-
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>11,212</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1.08%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>25.26%</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28.42%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>394,402</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>5,422</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

Data Source: US Department of Education, EDData and ChildPlus PIR

**Housing:** The service area is predominately rural, resources are few and far between, which impacts the severity of the housing challenges. No counties exceed the State in spending over 30% of their income on housing, however Clay and Dickinson are the highest in the region. Dickinson the highest rate of severe housing challenges; 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.

**Note:** No new eviction data available. 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	16.32%	6.58%	No Data	No Data	19.21%
Clay	21.81%	8.68%	14	11	21.40%
Dickinson	22.43%	9.06%	17	11	23.17%
Emmet	18.89%	7.70%	3	3	20.25%
O'Brien	19.14%	8.05%	16	16	20.60%
Osceola	15.74%	8.06%	1	1	17.03%
Palo Alto	17.88%	6.11%	3	3	18.82%
Pocahontas	17.06%	7.30%	5	5	16.35%
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>18.66%</b>	<b>8.16%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>19.60%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>23.04%</b>	<b>9.92%</b>	<b>14,520</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>23.41%</b>
United States	30.51%	14.06%	2,350,042	898,479	31.70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2018-2022.

## 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 Head Start 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 choose to not participate or 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	6	3	4	7
Clay	6	5	1	6
Dickinson	3	5	2	9
Emmet	7	1	1	4
O'Brien	5	7	2	14
Osceola	0	2	1	2
Palo Alto	5	2	4	6
Pocahontas	1	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>2,237</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1,498</b>

Data Source: Real-Time County Data August 2024 <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 Preschool is the only **free full day 5 day per week** preschool option in our service area, some programs do offer four full days. 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	0	1	0	6	1
Clay	1	4	3	2	3
Dickinson	1	6	4	2	4
Emmet	0	0	3	1	1
O'Brien	8	7	1	2	1
Osceola	1	0	0	1	0
Palo Alto	1	2	1	3	1
Pocahontas	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>

Data Source: Iowa Health & Human Services [https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs\\_titan\\_public/ChildCare/ComplianceReport](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. Transportation is also being reviewed as a barrier for families to enroll in and attend the UDMO Head Start program.

The chart below identifies a number of transportation barriers impacting households across the Head Start service area; the number of households without a motor vehicle, the percent of individuals carpooling, using public transportation, walking or biking to work. All counties, except Clay and Palo Alto, are far below the state rate for use of public transportation. Buena Vista, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto and Pocahontas have higher percentages of individuals carpooling to work. 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	Average Commute Time to Work (Minutes)	% 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	321	4.26%	14.85	17.30%	0.30%	6.30%	0.40%	6.0%
Clay	8,259	288	3.99%	17.64	8.80%	0.90%	3.60%	0.10%	7.7%
Dickinson	9,231	324	3.91%	16.19	6.80%	0.00%	1.60%	0.50%	9.5%
Emmet	4,843	148	3.81%	20.31	7.80%	0.00%	4.50%	0.60%	7.2%
O'Brien	6,811	453	7.95%	No data	9.80%	0.10%	1.80%	0.00%	5.2%
Osceola	3,035	80	3.04%	No data	9.00%	0.10%	7.90%	1.00%	6.3%
Palo Alto	4,401	137	3.77%	17.23	10.80%	0.70%	2.80%	0.70%	6.2%
Pocahontas	3,283	124	4.02%	19.36	12.80%	0.00%	3.20%	0.50%	6.7%
<b>Total HS Area</b>	<b>50,034</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>4.34%</b>	<b>17.60</b>	<b>10.39%</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>3.96%</b>	<b>0.48%</b>	<b>6.85%</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>1,598,658</b>	<b>72,379</b>	<b>5.61%</b>	<b>19.65</b>	<b>7.90%</b>	<b>0.80%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
United States	160,577,736	10,474,870	8.33%	26.66	8.50%	3.80%	2.40%	0.50%	11.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 2018-2022.



**Communications:**

The UDMO Head Start program added the Autoose two-way real-time AI language translator devices to classroom and home visiting services in 2024-2025. The voice translator supports more than 138 languages and is available for classroom and home visiting staff. These devices are portable and are being used to facilitate smooth communication across multiple languages with children and families. The Head Start program has also implemented the use of Seesaw to support children's learning through two-way text and audio communication with families and offers text translation in over 100 languages.

Home visiting staff and rural standalone Head Start Preschool classrooms 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 and Mental 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 the majority of the Head Start counties, with the exception of Buena Vista, the dentist to client rate is below the state rate; notably Clay, Palo Alto, Pocahontas and Osceola 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	11	52.83	10	48.02	15	72.04
Clay	16,384	50	305.18	2	12.21	16	97.66
Dickinson	17,703	12	67.79	5	28.24	14	79.08
Emmet	9,388	2	21.30	2	21.30	8	85.22
O'Brien	14,182	5	35.26	4	28.20	10	70.51
Osceola	6,192	No Data	No Data	1	16.15	5	80.75
Palo Alto	8,996	10	111.16	0	0.00	6	66.70
Pocahontas	7,078	3	42.38	1	14.13	6	84.77
<b>HS Area Total</b>	<b>100,746</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>83.55</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24.81</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82.39</b>
<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>3,190,369</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>135.19</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>30.78</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>108.86</b>
United States	334,735,155	610,813	182.48	130,568	39.01	369,170	110.29

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 and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee, among other informal partnerships within communities. Major partnerships include: local public health offices; community action agency programs, local churches, dentists; hospitals; behavioral health organizations; AEA (Area Education Agency); school districts; Department of Natural Resources Naturalists, libraries 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 enrolled in each location. Annually, the classrooms are fully enrolled.

Service Area	Center Location	Head Start Enrollment 2021-2022	Early Head Start Enrollment 2021-2022	Head Start Enrollment 2022-2023	Early Head Start Enrollment 2022-2023	Head Start Enrollment 2023-2024	Early Head Start Enrollment 2023-2024
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	95	53	96	57	95	57
Buena Vista	Alta	12	-	14	-	-	-
Clay	Spencer	58	72	55	70	59	73
Dickinson	Milford	17	-	16	-	12	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	51	52	49	51	53
O'Brien	Hartley	13	-	15	-	17	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	17	-	17	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	16	-	16	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	16	-	13	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	9	-	9	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>183</b>

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	2023-2024						
		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	66	13	32	21	53	42
Buena Vista	Alta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clay	Spencer	59	66	22	20	24	31	28
Dickinson	Milford	12	-	-	-	-	8	4
Emmet	Estherville	51	51	12	21	18	28	23
O'Brien	Hartley	17	-	-	-	-	8	9
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	5	12
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	-	-	-	5	11
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	13	-	-	-	-	9	4
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	-	-	-	2	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>140</b>

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
Emmet	Estherville	52	49	15	17	20	21	32
O'Brien	Hartley	15	-	-	-	-	8	12
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	8	11
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	-	-	-	8	9
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	16	-	-	-	-	5	11
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	-	-	-	1	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>211</b>

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
Emmet	Estherville	52	51	25	20	21	23	40
O'Brien	Hartley	13	-	-	-	-	8	6
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	6	11
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	-	7	13
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	-	-	-	12	5
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	-	-	-	3	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>206</b>

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9702 Age Eligibility Prior 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
Emmet	Estherville	52	48	20	6	12	27	25
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	-	4	12
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	8	9
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	-	6	12
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	-	-	-	6	8
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	-	-	-	1	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>175</b>

Data Source: Child Plus Report 9702 Age Eligibility Prior Enrollment

**Foster Care, Homeless and English Language Learners:** A review of trend data indicates Head Start Preschool children in foster care and English Language Learners remained consistent from 2020-2024. The number of children enrolled in Head Start Preschool experiencing homelessness has increased annually from the 2020-2024.

Early Head Start has previously shown a steady rise in homelessness from 2018-2021. The rate of homelessness for Early Head Start children then decreased, but increased again in 2023-2024.

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	2023-2024							
		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	66	1	1	32	20	90	83
Buena Vista	Alta		-		-		-		-
Clay	Spencer	59	66	0	3	10	15	14	7
Dickinson	Milford	12	-	0	-	4	-	0	-
Emmet	Estherville	51	51	1	0	7	17	28	25
O'Brien	Hartley	17	-	0	-	4	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	3	-	10	-	6	-
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	0	-	1	-	2	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	13	-	0	-	4	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	1	-	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>115</b>

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	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	49	0	0	6	15	26	29
O'Brien	Hartley	15	-	1	-	5	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	2	-	6	-	11	-
Osceola	Sibley	16	-	0	-	1	-	7	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	16	-	0	-	2	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	2	-	3	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>101</b>

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	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	51	1	0	10	20	27	31
O'Brien	Hartley	13	-	1	-	2	-	4	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	0	-	5	-	14	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	0	-	5	-	8	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	4	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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	-
Emmet	Estherville	52	48	2	-	9	7	20	23
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	1	-	2	-	11	-
Osceola	Sibley	18	-	-	-	5	-	7	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	2	-	1	-	0	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>89</b>

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		2023-2024	
		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	HS Number of Children with Disabilities	EHS Number of Children with Disabilities
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	10	5	12	6	5	10	4	11
Buena Vista	Alta	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clay	Spencer	7	4	8	7	6	7	5	5
Dickinson	Milford	2	-	4	-	4	-	4	-
Emmet	Estherville	8	3	7	1	3	6	7	0
O'Brien	Hartley	5	-	4	-	4	-	4	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Osceola	Sibley	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	4	-	1	-	3	-	4	3
Pocahontas	Laurens	3	-	2	-	1	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>

**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	2023-2024											
		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	50	5	5	6	3	7	1	1	0	0	7
Buena Vista	Alta		-		-		-		-		-		-
Clay	Spencer	56	38	1	0	1	6	0	0	1	0	0	22
Dickinson	Milford	12	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Emmet	Estherville	48	46	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	15	-	1	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Osceola	Sibley	14	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	11	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	1	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	9	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>257</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>

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	-
Emmet	Estherville	45	46	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	4
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	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	7	-	0	-	1	-	1	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>

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	-
Emmet	Estherville	59	58	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	6	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	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	14	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	11	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>

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

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emmet	Estherville	55	51	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
O'Brien	Hartley	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
O'Brien	Sheldon	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Osceola	Sibley	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>290</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

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			2023-2024		
		Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	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	86.99%	54	44
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	87.52%	7	4
Dickinson	Milford	92.81%	3	-	89.35%	5	8	86.57%	1	4	87.80%	6	5
Emmet	Estherville	92.40%	21	-	89.05%	6	11	89.12%	10	6	89.76%	10	7
O'Brien	Hartley	92.38%	3	4	84.56%	1	5	88.26%	0	6	90.46%	5	3
O'Brien	Sheldon	90.17%	14	-	86.94%	5	10	88.84%	7	16	86.91%	15	7
Osceola	Sibley	91.80%	6	-	90.80%	2	8	89.11%	0	6	92.63%	4	4
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	91.94%	5	-	90.47%	0	4	86.86%	8	0	89.77%	5	5
Pocahontas	Laurens	89.77%	6	-	85.54%	0	1	89.45%	4	3	84.82%	4	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>91.37%</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>87.71%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>88.86%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>79.67%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>81</b>

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			2023-2024		
		Average Daily Attendance	Waiting List	Over-guides	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	86.99%	94	50
Clay	Spencer	88.94%	49	-	85.03%	13	13	85.78%	17	10	88.71%	27	9
Emmet	Estherville	86.76%	21	-	86.32%	10	3	84.50%	17	7	90.33%	30	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>87.65%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85.56%</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>83.97%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>88.68%</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>65</b>

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



**Barriers to Attendance:** Transportation is a barrier across the rural service area. The charts below identify the number of times Transportation was listed as the reason a child was absent from school during the school year. This data is documented in Child Plus for tracking and reporting.

### Head Start Preschool

Service Area	Center Location	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	142	196	186
Clay	Spencer	119	76	68
Dickinson	Milford	22	39	4
Emmet	Estherville	81	66	31
O'Brien	Hartley	27	16	11
O'Brien	Sheldon	32	19	47
Osceola	Sibley	8	12	1
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	0	11	19
Pocahontas	Laurens	10	2	36
<b>Total</b>		441	437	403

Data Source: Child Plus Reports:

### Early Head Start

Service Area	Center Location	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	19	29	23
Clay	Spencer	13	15	5
Emmet	Estherville	23	54	20
<b>Total</b>		55	98	48

Data Source: Child Plus Reports:

## HEAD START STAFF

**Race/Ethnicity and Language:** 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	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	English	Spanish
Head Start	36	12	0	36	12
Early Head Start	23	4	1	19	9

**Education:** The data presented in the table below indicates the education level of staff from the 2023-2024 school year. Based on the data below, 50% of Head Start classroom teachers have a Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood education, meeting 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	EHS Assistant 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.	1	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.	11	0	1	0
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.	4	4	6	0
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, state awarded certification, credential, or licensure that meets or exceeds CDA requirements.	3	21	5	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.	3	21	0	0
None of the above qualifications	0	6		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

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. Access to dental care, and
3. Transportation, and

Parents identify the 4<sup>th</sup> greatest need as Employment. Staff identify Housing as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest need, followed by Access to dental care and transportation. Community partners identified access to dental care and child care, followed by 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, staff and community partners identify different top three reasons why families do not access services they need.

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

1. Not aware of existing resources
2. Lack of personal financial resources, and
3. Waiting lists too long

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

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

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

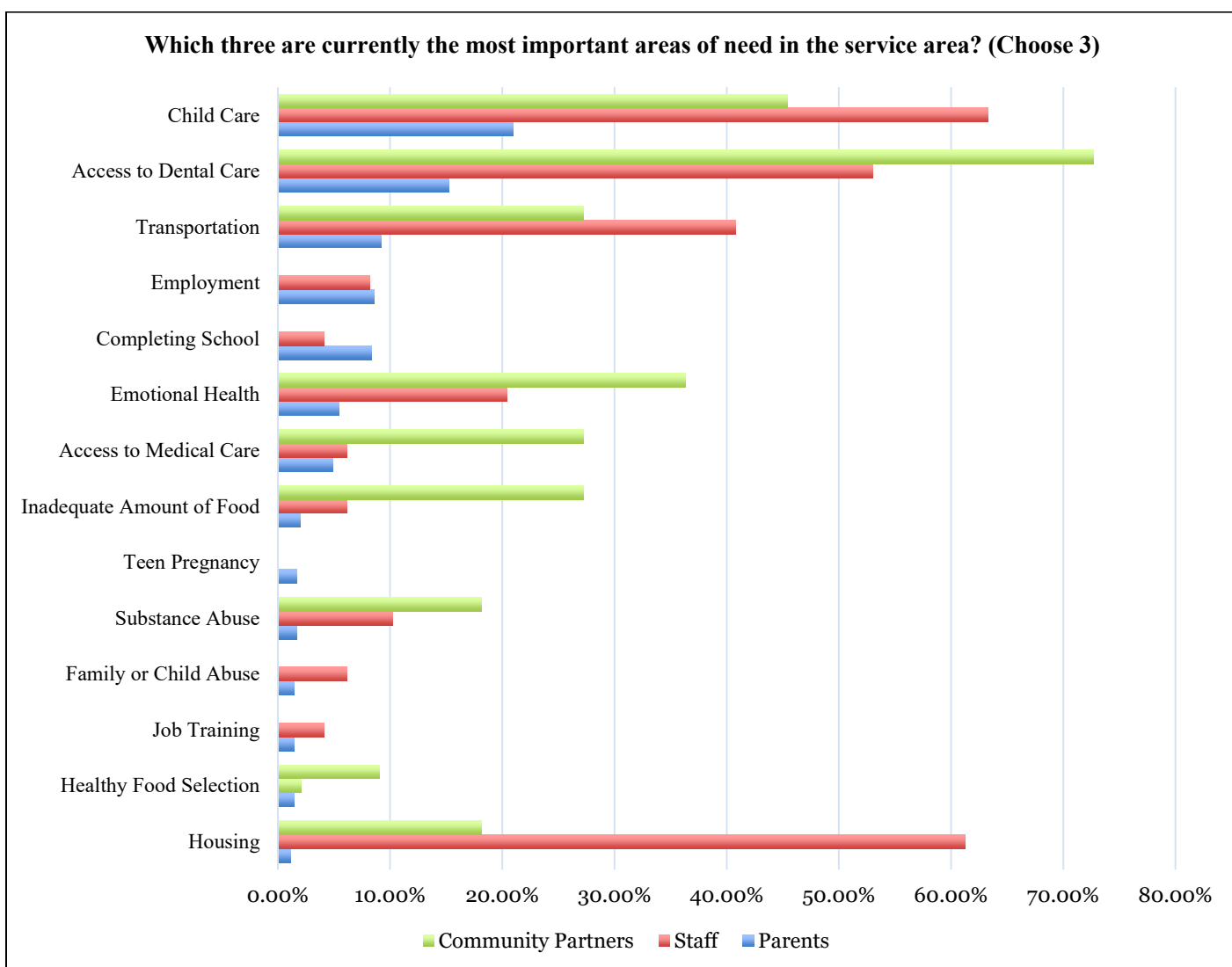
1. Lack of government reimbursement for medical/dental aid,
2. Not aware of existing resources, and
3. Transportation not available

**Greatest Strengths:** Families identify school completed, steady employment, and access to medical care as the greatest strengths. Staff identify access to health care, access to healthy food selection and steady employment as top areas of strength. Community partners identify access to medical care and access to job training as strengths.

**Reasons Why Families Do Access Services:** Parents and staff identify similar top reasons why families do access services they need as:

1. Families are aware of existing services,
2. Agencies are close enough, and
3. Transportation available
4. Agency does provide clear expectations of services available

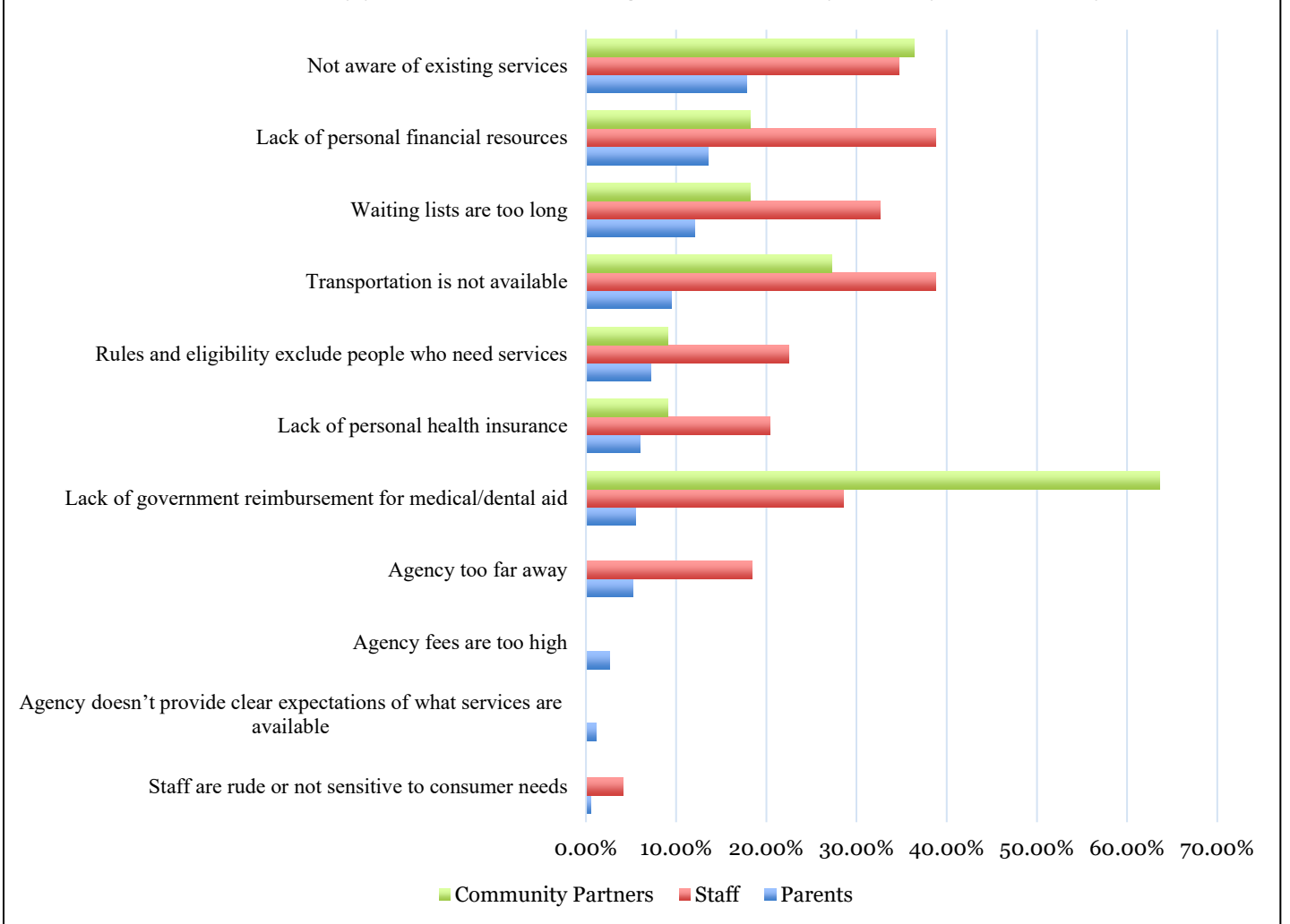
<b>Which three are currently the most important areas of need in the service area? (Choose 3)</b>			
<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>% of Parent Responses</b>	<b>% of Staff Responses</b>	<b>% of Community Partner Responses</b>
Child Care	20.98%	63.27%	45.45%
Access to Dental Care	15.23%	53.06%	72.73%
Transportation	9.20%	40.82%	27.27%
Employment	8.62%	8.16%	0.00%
Completing School	8.33%	4.08%	0.00%
Emotional Health	5.46%	20.41%	36.36%
Access to Medical Care	4.89%	6.12%	27.27%
Inadequate Amount of Food	2.01%	6.12%	27.27%
Teen Pregnancy	1.72%	0.00%	0.00%
Substance Abuse	1.72%	10.20%	18.18%
Family or Child Abuse	1.44%	6.12%	0.00%
Job Training	1.44%	4.08%	0.00%
Healthy Food Selection	1.44%	2.04%	9.09%
Housing	1.15%	61.22%	18.18%



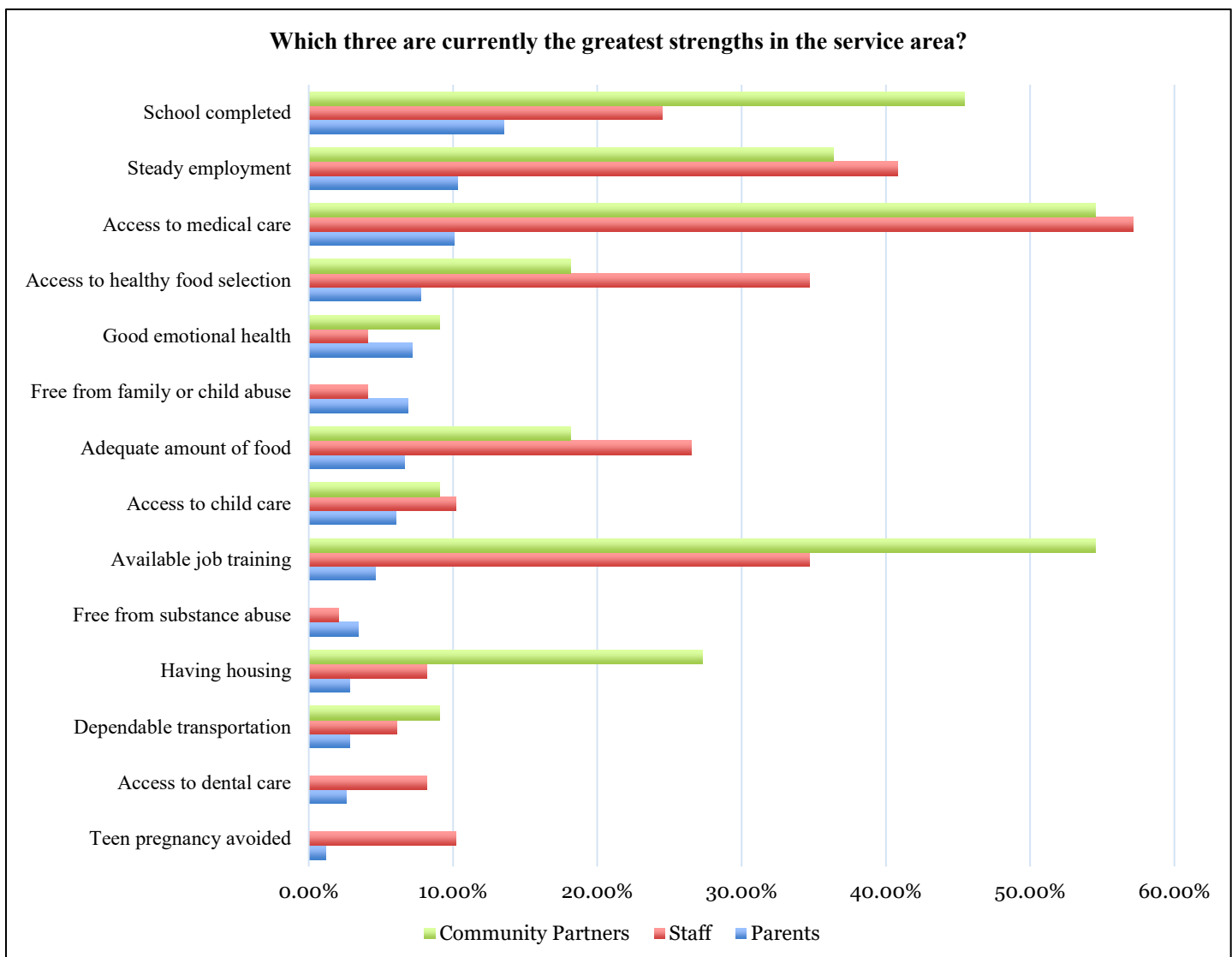
**Please check why you think families don't get the services they need in your community.**

Answer Choices	% of Parent Responses	% of Staff Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
Not aware of existing services	17.82%	34.69%	36.36%
Lack of personal financial resources	13.51%	38.78%	18.18%
Waiting lists are too long	12.07%	32.65%	18.18%
Transportation is not available	9.48%	38.78%	27.27%
Rules and eligibility exclude people who need services	7.18%	22.45%	9.09%
Lack of personal health insurance	6.03%	20.41%	9.09%
Lack of government reimbursement for medical/dental aid	5.46%	28.57%	63.64%
Agency too far away	5.17%	18.37%	0.00%
Agency fees are too high	2.59%	0.00%	0.00%
Agency doesn't provide clear expectations of what services are available	1.15%	0.00%	0.00%
Staff are rude or not sensitive to consumer needs	0.57%	4.08%	0.00%

**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 Parent Responses	% of Staff Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
School completed	13.51%	24.49%	45.45%
Steady employment	10.34%	40.82%	36.36%
Access to medical care	10.06%	57.14%	54.55%
Access to healthy food selection	7.76%	34.69%	18.18%
Good emotional health	7.18%	4.08%	9.09%
Free from family or child abuse	6.90%	4.08%	0.00%
Adequate amount of food	6.61%	26.53%	18.18%
Access to child care	6.03%	10.20%	9.09%
Available job training	4.60%	34.69%	54.55%
Free from substance abuse	3.45%	2.04%	0.00%
Having Housing	2.87%	8.16%	27.27%
Dependable transportation	2.87%	6.12%	9.09%
Access to dental care	2.59%	8.16%	0.00%
Teen pregnancy avoided	1.15%	10.20%	0.00%



Please check the reason why you think families are able to access the services they need.			
Answer Choices	% of Parent Responses	% of Staff Responses	% of Community Partner Responses
Are aware of existing services	18.97%	42.86%	27.27%
Agencies are close enough	8.91%	34.69%	18.18%
Transportation is available	7.18%	22.45%	9.09%
Sufficient personal health insurance	6.61%	12.24%	0.00%
Agency does provide clear expectations of services available	6.61%	30.61%	45.45%
Sufficient personal financial resources	5.17%	6.12%	0.00%
Rules and eligibility don't exclude people who need services	4.02%	12.24%	18.18%
Waiting lists are not too long	3.74%	10.30%	0.00%
Agency fees are reasonable	2.87%	12.24%	18.18%
Staff are polite and sensitive to consumer needs	2.30%	42.86%	63.64%
Government does reimburse for medical/dental aid	2.01%	4.08%	9.09%

