

Northeastern Regional Snapshot of the Early Care and Education Landscape (Pre-COVID-19)



Background Indicators

The overall health and well-being of Wisconsin impacts the needs of children and families and the providers caring for them.

Disparities (racial/ethnic, geographic, socioeconomic) exist across all measures

Health	Employment	Education	Poverty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Uninsured: 7% • % Uninsured ranges from 4% in Ozaukee Co to 13% in Menominee • % Vaccination: 73% • % Vaccination ranges from 58% in Marquette Co to 82% in Calumet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Unemployment: 3% • % Unemployment ranges from 2.5% in Sheboygan Co to 5.7% in Menominee • Household Median Income: \$60,041 • Household Median Income ranges from \$40,682 in Menominee Co to \$83,014 in Ozaukee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Grade Reading Proficiency, % Proficient: 46% • Reading Proficiency ranges from 12% in Menominee Co to 67% in Ozaukee • High School Completion: 92% • High School Completion ranges from 78% in Menominee Co to 96% in Ozaukee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Poverty: 10% • % Poverty ranges from 4% in Ozaukee to 27% in Menominee Co • % Child Poverty: 13% • % Child Poverty ranges from 4% in Ozaukee Co to 43% in Menominee Co • % of Households Struggling to Meet Basic Needs: 36% • % of Households Struggling to Meet Basic Needs ranges from 27% in Ozaukee County to 62% in Menominee County

Early Care and Education (ECE)

Wisconsin Departments of Children and Families (DCF), Health Services (DHS) and Public Instruction (DPI) all support families and young children along the continuum of care from 0-5. Through public, non profit and private partnerships, Wisconsin strives to provide a seamless system of support during this critical period in a child's development. Programs include **home visitation, parent support, early intervention, Head Start, 4K and child care.**

Home Visiting

In 2019, 36% of Family Foundations Home Visiting participants were in the SER. Milwaukee County accounted for 14% of participants. Other programs available include Safe Babies Healthy Families, Empowering Families of Milwaukee and Family Connects Racine.



Parent Support & Service Navigation

Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, Family Resource Centers, Wisconsin Well Badger, 2-1-1 and the [Northeastern Regional Center](#) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs all support families.

Health Programs

Every county has a [WIC](#) office. County Health Departments offer [Prenatal Care Coordination](#). The Menominee Tribal Clinic offers community health nursing.

Early Intervention

Children who qualify have access to public early intervention through Part C ([Birth to 3 Program](#)) and Part B ([Early Childhood Special Education](#)) programs.

Head Start

Early Head Start serves children birth-3 and Head Start serves 3-5 year olds in 16 out of 19 counties in the NER.

4K

Publicly funded 4-year-old kindergarten is available through schools and community approaches to 4K through child care programs, preschools and/or Head Start.

Child Care

The **Preschool Development Grant** uses **Access**, **Affordability**, **Quality** and **Workforce** through the **Lens of Equity and Inclusion** as a framework for evaluating early care and education across the state.

Access

 There are 83,000 children zero to 5 in the NER, but only 48,500 child care slots.

 Families receiving Wisconsin Shares child care assistance must enroll children in a YoungStar participating provider—75% of providers in the NER participate in YoungStar.

Affordability

 The federal government defines affordable child care as spending no more than 7% of yearly income. In the NER, this would mean parents should spend between \$2,600 in Menominee County and \$5,600 in Ozaukee County. Actual costs far exceed this.

 In 2019, half the number of children in the NER received Wisconsin Shares as in 2018.

Quality

 Quality is defined as a YoungStar rating of 3-5 Stars—47% of YoungStar participants in the SER are high quality.

 56% of YoungStar providers in the NER were 3-5 Stars. In February 2020, there were 328 regulated YoungStar participating providers with a 3-5 Star rating.

Workforce

 Information specific to the NER is currently unavailable. See the statewide report and PDG website for more information about child care workforce.

As part of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), Wisconsin is building a comprehensive Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan to provide a holistic picture of Early Care and Education in WI.