

# Southeastern 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"> <li>• % Uninsured: 7%</li> <li>• % Uninsured ranges from 4% in Waukesha Co to 10% in Milwaukee Co</li> <li>• % Vaccination: 72%</li> <li>• % Vaccination ranges from 67% in Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties to 81% in Waukesha</li> <li>• In 2016, 15% (6) of the hate crimes that year were in Milwaukee County.</li> <li>• Milwaukee County has high rates of violence &amp; trauma that impact health. Historic &amp; systemic racism also contribute to health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % Unemployment: 3.4%</li> <li>• % Unemployment ranges from 2.6% in Waukesha Co to 3.6% in Milwaukee and Racine</li> <li>• Median Household Income: \$65,617</li> <li>• Median Household Income ranges from \$49,771 in Milwaukee Co to \$87,333 in Waukesha Co</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4th Grade Reading Proficiency, % Proficient: 43%</li> <li>• Reading proficiency ranges from 33% in Milwaukee Co to 60% in Waukesha Co</li> <li>• High School Completion: 86%</li> <li>• High School Completion ranges from 77% in Milwaukee Co to 95% in Waukesha Co</li> <li>• Black males have the highest rates of chronic absenteeism in high school, with 47% absenteeism in Milwaukee schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % Poverty: 12%</li> <li>• % Poverty ranges from 5% in Waukesha Co to 19% in Milwaukee Co</li> <li>• % Child Poverty: 16%</li> <li>• % Child Poverty ranges from 5% in Waukesha Co to 27% in Milwaukee Co</li> <li>• Households Struggling to Make Ends Meet: 39%</li> <li>• Households Struggling to Make Ends Meet ranges from 31% in Waukesha Co to 48% in Milwaukee Co</li> </ul>

## 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 [Southeastern Regional Center](#) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs all support families in the SER.

## Health Programs

Every county has a [WIC](#) office. All health departments offer [Prenatal Care Coordination](#).

## Early Intervention

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

## Head Start

Early Head Start serves children 0-3 and Head Start 3-5 year olds in all SER counties.

## 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



110,000 children 0-5 live in the SER but only 104,000 child care slots are available. This is the smallest discrepancy between number of children and child care spots in the state. However, child care gaps exist throughout the City of Milwaukee.



Families struggle to find nonstandard hours of care, with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation reporting only 30% of ECE providers offer early morning or evening hour care.



Families receiving Wisconsin Shares child care assistance must enroll children in a YoungStar participating provider—89% of providers in the SER are YoungStar participants.

### Affordability



The federal government defines affordable child care as 7% of yearly income. In the SER, this would mean parents should spend between \$3,000 in Milwaukee County-\$5,600 in Waukesha County. Care in Milwaukee County actually costs on average \$12,750.



Despite children in Milwaukee County accounting for more than half of all Shares participants, this is less than half of eligible families.

### Quality



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



In 2019, 10,000 children 0-5 in the SER receiving WI Shares were enrolled in high quality care.

### Workforce



The SER has more racial/ethnically diverse child care professionals compared to the rest of the state. In Milwaukee, 41% of child care professionals identify as Black or African American and 11% identify as Hispanic.

**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.**