

Southern 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: 8% • % Uninsured ranges from 5% in Sauk Co to 11% in Walworth Co • % Vaccination: 67% • % Vaccination ranges from 53% in Lafayette Co to 82% in Green Co • Dane County had the highest number of hate crimes in the state in 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Unemployment: 3% • % Unemployment ranges from 2% in Dane Co to 5% in Adams Co • Median Household Income: \$59,546 • Median Household Income ranges from \$44,740 in Walworth Co to \$82,253 in Sauk Co • Dane County has the lowest % unemployment in the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Grade Reading Proficiency, % Proficient: 44% • Reading proficiency ranges from 31% in Adams Co to 56% in Crawford • High School Completion: 93% • High School Completion ranges from 90% in Dodge Co to 97% in Iowa Co 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Poverty: 11% • % Poverty ranges from 7.6% in Columbia Co to 15% in Adams & Juneau Cos • % Child Poverty: 14% • % Child Poverty ranges from 9% in Dane Co to 25% in Adams Co • Households Struggling to Make Ends Meet: 39% • Households Struggling to Make Ends Meet ranges from 30% in Columbia Co to 45% in Adams & Juneau

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, 11% of Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) participants were in the SR. Non-FFHV programs available include Early Childhood Zones in Dane County and Great Beginnings in Walworth County.



Parent Support & Service Navigation

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

Health Programs

Every county in the SR has a [WIC](#) office. County Health Departments offer [Prenatal Care Coordination](#) and other healthy pregnancy support.

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 14 of 15 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

 In the SR, there are 73,000 children birth to 5, but only 51,600 child care slots.

 Families receiving Wisconsin Shares child care assistance must enroll children in a YoungStar participating provider. As of February 2020, 74% of providers in the SR were participating in YoungStar.

Affordability

 The federal government defines affordable as no more than 7% of yearly income. That would mean \$3,000 in Adams County-\$4,700 in Dane County. Annual child care costs \$10,000 more.

 The number of children receiving Wisconsin Shares has been in decline. Dane County accounts for the second highest number of children 0-5 receiving Shares.

Quality

 A YoungStar rating of 3-5 Stars is considered high quality—58% of SR YoungStar participating providers have a 3-5 Star rating.

Workforce

 Information specific to the SR is currently unavailable. See the statewide report for more information about child care workforce.