

2023

Community Needs Assessment



West Central Community Action 712-755-7537 701 10th Street Harlan, Iowa

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2023 West Central Community Action Head Start Community Needs Assessment

Introduction

West Central Community Action (WCCA) is a 503(c)(3), nonprofit Community Action Agency that began in 1965, and serves ten counties in Southwest Iowa. WCCA offers a variety of self-sufficiency programs to assist in improving the lives of children and families. The agency served over 14,000 individuals in the ten-county area between October 2021 and September 2022. The mission of WCCA is *empowering* families and individuals to achieve their highest potential. The vision of the agency is enhanced quality of life for communities, families, and individuals. WCCA believes in dignity, self-sufficiency, service, organizational culture, quality performance, and collaboration. To ensure the agency is fulfilling its mission and vision, as well as ensuring financial accountability, WCCA is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is a tripartite board with low-income representatives, elected officials, and private citizens representing all ten counties. West Central Community Action administers eight core programs that include (but are not limited to):

- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- Outreach Offices
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Family Development and Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)

WCCA's Head Start and Early Head Start program services children and families in Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. Throughout the ten counties, the program operates three program options: Head Start center based, Early Head Start center based, and Early Head Start home based. Currently Head Start is offered in all ten counties

through standalone sites or public school district partnerships. WCCA Head Start currently partners with seven public school districts to service income-eligible children within their district. Early Head Start center-based options are in Crawford, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, and Shelby. The Early Head Start home based program option is available in Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, and Page. Overall, the program serves 341 children with 249 being Head Start children and 92 being expectant mothers, infants, and toddlers.

WCCA Head Start & Early Head Start's mission is to be caring, dedicated, and compassionate while nurturing and guiding families and children to be successful leaders within our communities. The vision of the program is: Head Start is a program of professional early childhood leaders that are determined to build, nurture, and encourage children and families to reach their full potential.

As specified in the Head Start Performance Standards, WCCA has included the required data to describe the community strengths, needs, and resources utilized.

Executive Summary

Methodology – The Community Assessment Process

The Community Needs Assessment is composed of a variety of data that shows trends in the communities, available resources, and challenges facing Head Start eligible children and families. The program utilized a variety of national, state, and local data from a variety of sources including Child Care Resource & Referral, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Kids Count, National Center for Education Statistics, State Data Center of Iowa, and U.S. Census Bureau. WCCA Head Start program data was also utilized, mainly from the 2023 Program Information Report. Survey results from Head Start staff, families, and school partnerships were utilized throughout the process.

Utilizing the Community Needs Assessment

West Central Community Action's Head Start Community Needs Assessment will be presented to the Policy Council in August of 2023. Following the Policy Council review, the Community Needs Assessment will then be reviewed by WCCA's Governing Board at the August 2023 meeting.

The Community Needs Assessment will serve as a guide for program staff, Policy Council, and the Governing Board in identifying both the needs of children and families in poverty and the available resources in the communities. The findings will impact WCCA's Head Start program planning, development, and evaluation.

Significant Findings

After reviewing the data presented in the Community Needs Assessment, it is noted the population continues to decrease in nine of the rural counties served by WCCA. An increase in overall population was noted in the more urban area in Pottawattamie County. Fremont and Monona Counties have had a decrease in their population density as well, which now sits at 13 (population per square mile), while Pottawattamie increased to a population density of 98. Fremont County's population decrease is significant to note as it decreased 11.24% from 2010 to 2020.

Another significant finding to note is the lack of child care in the service area and the large barrier it creates for children and families. There are large gaps in the need for child care in all counties, however, Crawford and Harrison have the largest difference in need verses what is available. Infant and toddler care is noted as the highest need for most of the counties. It was also interesting to see the State Wide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) slots have increased or remained the same in each county.

As for the poverty rates, Crawford County drastically stands out with a rate of 18.06%. The remainder of the counties are between 7.15%-13.91%. Crawford's poverty rate in children is also the highest at 26.58%, however Montgomery (19.70%) and Cass (17.79%) follow closely.

It is notable that the child abuse and neglect rates in Cass, Fremont, and Montgomery are higher than the average for Iowa. These counties also have higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse.

WCCA's Head Start program has had an issue the past three to five years with families not being able to find primary care physicians and dentists to ensure their children receive regular well child checks,

timely immunizations, and dental care/treatment. The data shows low provider to population ratios, which indicates why families are struggling.

General Area Description - Demographics

WCCA Head Start Service Area

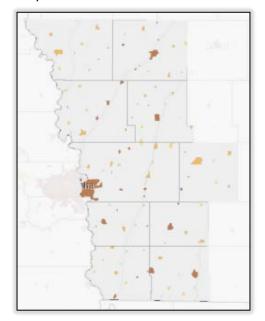
WCCA's Head Start program covers ten counties in Southwest Iowa: Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby. The service area has an estimated population of 205,292 people (as reported by the US Census Bureau) with WCCA's Head Start program covering 6,199 square miles. The territory covers mostly rural areas, with a larger urban area of Council Bluffs located in Pottawattamie County.

Population Density

county.

Population density is important when determining the needs of the community as it assists with

determining where people are located in each county. It also aids in allocation of funds, employment, school slots, housing, and public funding. The Population Density Map to the right, indicates the population density, or persons per square mile, through the ten-county service area. The clusters on this map indicate a higher population in an area. The Population Density Under 51 chart shows the total population, total land area, and population by



| Population Density | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| County | Total Population | Total Land Area (Square Miles) | Population Density (Per Square Miles) | | | | | |
| Cass | 13,158 | 565 | 23 | | | | | |
| Crawford | 16,555 | 715 | 23 | | | | | |
| Fremont | 6,701 | 517 | 13 | | | | | |
| Harrison | 14,589 | 702 | 21 | | | | | |
| Mills | 14,658 | 441 | 34 | | | | | |
| Monona | 8,732 | 699 | 13 | | | | | |
| Montgomery | 10,327 | 425 | 24 | | | | | |
| Page | 15,250 | 535 | 29 | | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 93,571 | 959 | 98 | | | | | |
| Shelby | 11,750 | 598 | 20 | | | | | |
| Total Service Area | 205,292 | 6,199 | 34 | | | | | |

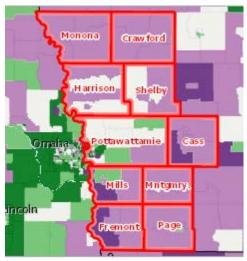
Source: US Census Bureau

Population Change

The population change information was obtained from the US Census Bureau from 2010-2020. Population growth is calculated by measuring the difference between the rate of birth and the rate of death in an area. The trends in the population change are consistent through 2000. Since 2000, WCCA's service area has experienced a significant population decrease of -2.0%. This trend is continuing as the overall change for the service area from 2010-2020 is -2.24%. The data also shows that Pottawattamie County's population has continued to increase since 2000.

| Population Change | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Total Population, 2010 Census | Total Population, 2020 Census | Population Change 2010-2020 | Population Change 2010- 2020 (Percent) | | | | |
| Cass | 13,956 | 13,127 | -829 | -5.94% | | | | |
| Crawford | 17,096 | 16,525 | -571 | -3.34% | | | | |
| Fremont | 7,441 | 6,605 | -836 | -11.24% | | | | |
| Harrison | 14,928 | 14,582 | -346 | -2.32% | | | | |
| Mills | 15,059 | 14,484 | -575 | -3.82% | | | | |
| Monona | 9,243 | 8,751 | -492 | -5.32% | | | | |
| Montgomery | 10,740 | 10,330 | -410 | -3.82% | | | | |
| Page | 15,932 | 15,211 | -721 | -4.53% | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 93,158 | 93,667 | +509 | +0.55% | | | | |
| Shelby | 12,167 | 11,746 | -421 | -3.46% | | | | |
| Total Service Area | 209,720 | 205,028 | -4692 | -2.24% | | | | |

Source: US Census Bureau



Source: US Census Bureau

Population Change, Percent by Tract, US Census Bureau 2010 - 2020

- Over 10.0% Increase (+)
- 2.0 10.0% Increase (+)
- Less Than 2.0% Change (+/-)
- 2.0 10.0% Decrease ()
- Over 10.0% Decrease ()
- No Population or No Data
- Report Location

Population by Age

Age is the single individual-level demographic characteristic that impacts the health statistics of a community most significantly. The table below shows the population of the service area by age groups.

| Population by Age, Percent | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Under 5 years old | Under 18 years old | 65 years and older | | | | |
| Cass | 5.3% | 22.6% | 23.5% | | | | |
| Crawford | 6.5% | 24.8% | 18.4% | | | | |
| Fremont | 4.8% | 22.0% | 24.6% | | | | |
| Harrison | 5.8% | 23.2% | 20.1% | | | | |
| Mills | 5.0% | 22.5% | 20.5% | | | | |
| Monona | 5.6% | 22.1% | 24.5% | | | | |
| Montgomery | 5.3% | 22.4% | 22.3% | | | | |
| Page | 4.2% | 17.3% | 24.0% | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 5.6% | 22.7% | 18.9% | | | | |
| Shelby | 5.4% | 22.5% | 23.8% | | | | |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2022

Race & Ethnicity

The service area population is predominantly white (92.1%), with the second highest proportion of the population being Hispanic/Latino. The rate of growth for the Hispanic/Latino population is slightly lower in the service territory compared to the State of Iowa and significantly lower than the United States average. Crawford County has a significantly higher Hispanic & Latino population which has been a common trend for the area for many years.

| Population by Race and Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Area | White | Black/ African American | Asian | American Indian/ Alaska Native | Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander | Multi- racial | Other Race | Hispanic/ Latino | |
| Cass | 12,725 | 98 | 46 | 13 | 0 | 170 | 106 | 408 | |
| Crawford | 13,072 | 602 | 380 | 28 | 1 | 1,010 | 1,462 | 4,828 | |
| Fremont | 6,349 | 31 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 226 | 79 | 201 | |
| Harrison | 14,163 | 22 | 28 | 15 | 5 | 295 | 61 | 293 | |
| Mills | 14,142 | 48 | 46 | 43 | 0 | 295 | 84 | 518 | |
| Monona | 8,345 | 20 | 0 | 82 | 33 | 244 | 8 | 186 | |
| Montgomery | 9,711 | 5 | 26 | 199 | 0 | 256 | 130 | 424 | |
| Page | 14,184 | 273 | 148 | 76 | 7 | 504 | 58 | 572 | |
| Pottawattamie | 85,207 | 1,352 | 630 | 313 | 30 | 4,225 | 1,814 | 7,717 | |
| Shelby | 11,239 | 125 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 222 | 153 | 375 | |
| Total Service Area | 189,137 | 2,576 | 1,304 | 797 | 76 | 7,447 | 3,955 | 15,522 | |

Total Population by Race Alone, Total

Report Location

Multiple Races: 3.6%

Some Other Race: 1.9%

Asian: 0.6%

Black: 1.3%

Source: US Census Bureau

The chart below shows the race and ethnicity of children who were enrolled in WCCA Head Start during the 2022-2023 school year. This data is from the Program Information Report (PIR).

White: 92.1%

| Race & Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in WCCA Head Start 2022-2023 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Asian | Black | Pacific Islander | White | Multiple/ Bi-Racial | Other | Unspecified |
| 10 | 7 | 19 | 0 | 215 | 40 | 10 | 1 |

Limited English Proficiency

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well". This indicator is relevant because an inability to speak English well creates barriers to healthcare, provider communications, and health literacy/education. 2.72% of the total population age 5 and older in the report area, have limited English proficiency.

| Limited English Proficiency | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Population Age 5+ | Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency | Population Age 5+ with Limited English Proficiency, Percent | | | | |
| Cass | 12,441 | 207 | 2.0% | | | | |
| Crawford | 15,560 | 2,205 | 14.0% | | | | |
| Fremont | 6,347 | 17 | 0.0% | | | | |
| Harrison | 13,737 | 39 | 0.0% | | | | |
| Mills | 13,901 | 81 | 1.0% | | | | |
| Monona | 8,261 | 36 | 0.0% | | | | |
| Montgomery | 9,714 | 25 | 0.0% | | | | |
| Page | 14,498 | 128 | 1.0% | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 87,735 | 2,383 | 3.0% | | | | |
| Shelby | 11,167 | 133 | 1.0% | | | | |
| Total Service Area | 19,3361 | 5,254 | 2.72% | | | | |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021

The chart to the right was collected through WCCA's 2022-2023 PIR report. It represents the languages

spoken by the children enrolled. 32 children, or 12% in the program are learning another language other than their home language. These children are considered Dual Language Learners (DLL's).

| Home Langu | age of WC | CA Head Start Chi | ildren 22-23 |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| English | 345 | Pacific | 0 |
| | | Islander | |
| Spanish | 29 | European | 0 |
| Central American | 0 | African | 0 |
| Caribbean | 0 | American Sign | 0 |
| Middle Eastern | 7 | Other | 0 |
| Far East | 0 | Unspecified | 0 |
| North American | 0 | | |

Economic Activity

Median Household Income

The report below shows the median household income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates (US Census Bureau). This includes the income of the head of household and all other individuals 15 years old and over, whether they are related to the head or household or not. In the service area, Mills County is the top earning county with a median household income of \$77,926. Page County is the lowest earning county with a medium income of only \$52,108.

| Median Household Income | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Total Households | Average Household | Median Household | | | | |
| | | Income | Income | | | | |
| Cass | 5,777 | \$74,546 | \$55,395 | | | | |
| Crawford | 6,159 | \$69,222 | \$55,552 | | | | |
| Fremont | 2,742 | \$77,897 | \$63,611 | | | | |
| Harrison | 5,932 | \$79,880 | \$67,950 | | | | |
| Mills | 5,301 | \$97,522 | \$77,926 | | | | |
| Monona | 3,786 | \$69,420 | \$56,107 | | | | |
| Montgomery | 4,380 | \$77,477 | \$56,971 | | | | |
| Page | 6,171 | \$62,199 | \$52,108 | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 36,964 | \$79,056 | \$63,840 | | | | |
| Shelby | 4,918 | \$86,043 | \$62,222 | | | | |

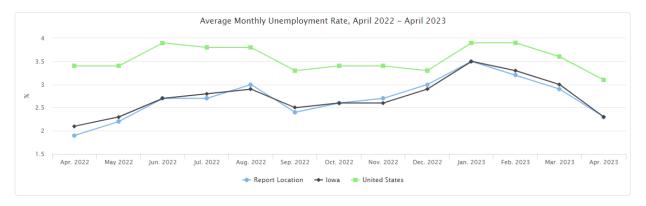
Source: US Census Bureau

Unemployment Rate

The total unemployment rate for the service area for April 2023, equals 2,402, or 2.3% of the civilian non-institutionalized population age 16 and older (non-seasonally adjusted). This indicator is relevant because unemployment creates financial instability and barriers to access insurance coverage, health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health. Low unemployment rates can also lead to staffing challenges for agencies.

| Unemployment Rate | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| County | Labor Force | Number | Number | Unemployment | | | |
| | | Employed | Unemployed | Rate | | | |
| Cass | 7,061 | 6,905 | 156 | 2.2% | | | |
| Crawford | 7,995 | 7,641 | 354 | 4.4% | | | |
| Fremont | 3,717 | 3,650 | 67 | 1.8% | | | |
| Harrison | 7,243 | 7,088 | 155 | 2.1% | | | |
| Mills | 7,208 | 7,067 | 141 | 2.0% | | | |
| Monona | 4,459 | 4,375 | 84 | 1.9% | | | |
| Montgomery | 5,061 | 4,954 | 107 | 2.1% | | | |
| Page | 6,519 | 6,389 | 130 | 2.0% | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 48,272 | 47,206 | 1,066 | 2.2% | | | |
| Shelby | 6,511 | 6,369 | 142 | 2.2% | | | |
| Totals | 104,046 | 101,644 | 2,402 | 2.3% | | | |

Source: US Department of Labor, April 2023

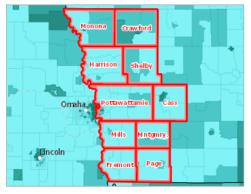


Source: US Department of Labor, 2022-2023, 10-county service area

Poverty

Within the service area 11.40% or 22,860 individuals for whom poverty status is determined are living in households with incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Crawford County shows a significantly higher poverty rate of 18.06%. The next highest overall in the area are Page (13.91%), Cass (13.87%), and Monona (13.11%).

| Poverty Rates by County | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| County | Total | Population in | Population in | | |
| | Population | Poverty | Poverty, Percent | | |
| Cass | 12,923 | 1,793 | 13.87% | | |
| Crawford | 16,384 | 2,959 | 18.06% | | |
| Fremont | 6574 | 526 | 8.00% | | |
| Harrison | 14,366 | 1,218 | 8.48% | | |
| Mills | 14,454 | 1,033 | 7.15% | | |
| Monona | 8,561 | 1,122 | 13.11% | | |
| Montgomery | 10,175 | 1,371 | 13.47% | | |
| Page | 14,232 | 1,979 | 13.91% | | |
| Pottawattamie | 91,268 | 9,922 | 10.87% | | |
| Shelby | 11,554 | 937 | 8.11% | | |
| Totals | 200,491 | 22,860 | 11.40% | | |



Source: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021

Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2017-21

Over 20.0%

10.1 - 15.0% Under 10.1%

No Data or Data Suppressed

Report Location

Head Start Eligible Children and Families

Households in Poverty by Family Type

The chart on page 17 demonstrates the number of families living in poverty in the ten-county area by household type. It is estimated that 5.3% of households in the service area are living in poverty. Of those households in the area that are living in poverty, it is notable that slightly over 50% are female-headed households.

| | | Poverty by | Household Type | e | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| County | Total | Households | Non-Family | Married | Male Head | Female |
| | Households | in Poverty | Households | Couples | of | Head of |
| | | | in Poverty | Poverty | Household | Household |
| | | | | | Poverty | Poverty |
| Cass | 3,428 | 896 | 529 | 131 | 52 | 184 |
| Crawford | 4,364 | 1,035 | 278 | 122 | 54 | 581 |
| Fremont | 1,752 | 218 | 136 | 26 | 11 | 45 |
| Harrison | 4,106 | 597 | 408 | 73 | 61 | 55 |
| Mills | 3,624 | 379 | 279 | 21 | 6 | 73 |
| Monona | 2,306 | 473 | 261 | 103 | 11 | 98 |
| Montgomery | 2,758 | 610 | 277 | 74 | 25 | 234 |
| Page | 3,695 | 919 | 573 | 167 | 45 | 134 |
| Pottawattamie | 23,546 | 4,228 | 2,460 | 569 | 231 | 968 |
| Shelby | 3,091 | 512 | 215 | 163 | 7 | 127 |
| Total | 52,671 | 9,867 | 5,416 | 1,449 | 503 | 2,499 |

Source: Community Action Partnership

Children in Poverty

In WCCA's Head Start service area, 14.39% or 6,758 children age 0-17 are living in households with income 100% or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Crawford County continues to stand out with the percent of children living in poverty at 26.85%. Montgomery (19.70%) and Cass (17.79%) follow closely.

| Children Living in Poverty | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--|
| County | Population | Population | Percent | |
| | under 18 | under 18 | under 18 | |
| | | living in | living in | |
| | | poverty | poverty | |
| Cass | 2,974 | 529 | 17.79% | |
| Crawford | 4,187 | 1,113 | 26.58% | |
| Fremont | 1,491 | 153 | 10.26% | |
| Harrison | 3,401 | 277 | 8.14% | |
| Mills | 3,392 | 260 | 7.67% | |
| Monona | 1,937 | 321 | 16.57% | |
| Montgomery | 2,502 | 493 | 19.70% | |
| Page | 2,825 | 470 | 16.64% | |
| Pottawattamie | 21,693 | 1,936 | 13.53% | |
| Shelby | 2,563 | 206 | 8.04% | |
| Total | 46,965 | 6,758 | 14.39% | |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021

Foster Children

The following table illustrates the number of children currently living in foster care within WCCA's Head Start service area. According to WCCA's PIR, the Head Start program served 17 children in foster care during the 2022-2023 school year.

| Number of Children in Foster Care | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| County | Number in | |
| | Foster Care | |
| Cass | 29 | |
| Crawford | 39 | |
| Fremont | 17 | |
| Harrison | 55 | |
| Mills | 24 | |
| Monona | 10 | |
| Montgomery | 37 | |
| Page | 50 | |
| Pottawattamie | 253 | |
| Shelby | 21 | |
| Totals | 535 | |

Source: Iowa Data Center, Iowa Department of Human Services, 2022

Teen Births

This indicator reports the seven-year average of number of births per 1,000 females, population age 15-19. Of the 44,397 total female population age 15-19, the teen birth rate is 21.7 per 1,000 in WCCA's service area, which is greater than the state's teen birth rate of 16.3. The highest number of teen births by county are Fremont (29.8), Montgomery (27.4), and Page (24.9). Currently the program serves prenatal mothers and young children in the Early Head Start home based program in the following counties: Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, and Page. During the 2022-2023 program year, the program did not serve any teen mothers. The program has ample resources and partnerships to assist in supporting teen parents.

| | Teen Births | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| County | Female Population Age 15-19 | Teen Births, Rate per 1,000 Female Population Age 15-19 |
| Cass | 2,508 | 19.9 |
| Crawford | 4,058 | 24.6 |
| Fremont | 1,307 | 29.8 |
| Harrison | 3,058 | 15.7 |
| Mills | 3,315 | 15.1 |
| Monona | 1,739 | 13.8 |
| Montgomery | 2,223 | 27.4 |
| Page | 2,731 | 24.9 |
| Pottawattamie | 21,029 | 22.9 |
| Shelby | 2,429 | 16.5 |
| Totals for 10 Counties | 44,397 | 21.7 |
| lowa | 729,476 | 16.3 |
| United States | 72,151,590 | 19.3 |

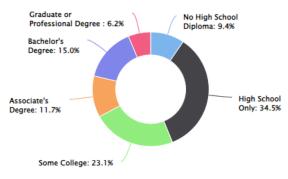
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics, 2014-2020

Education Needs of Eligible Families

Educational Attainment Overview

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the service area. It also helps the community to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce, training, or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021. For WCCA's Head Start territory, 15.03% have at least a college bachelor's degree, while 34.49% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school. According to WCCA's 2022-2023 PIR, 3% of families enrolled during the program year had a college bachelor's degree and 52.4% of families stopped their formal education after a high school diploma or a GED was achieved. Also, during the program year, it was noted that 18% stopped their education before obtaining their high school diploma or GED.

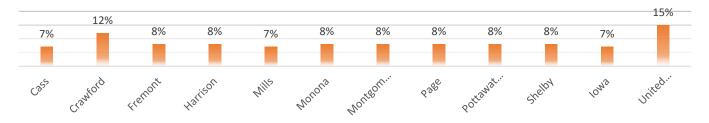
| | | Educa | ation Attainn | nent | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| County | No High | High | Some | Associate | Bachelor's | Graduate or |
| | School | School | College | degree | Degree | Professional |
| | Diploma | Diploma | | | | Degree |
| | | Only | | | | |
| Cass | 10.7% | 33.9% | 24.7% | 9.8% | 15.1% | 5.9% |
| Crawford | 18.7% | 36.6% | 19.7% | 8.1% | 12.7% | 4.1% |
| Fremont | 5.3% | 36.6% | 25.4% | 14.8% | 14.8% | 3.2% |
| Harrison | 7.8% | 38.9% | 23.4% | 10.6% | 13.9% | 5.4% |
| Mills | 4.8% | 31.4% | 23.3% | 11.9% | 19.6% | 9.0% |
| Monona | 7.2% | 39.8% | 26.1% | 11.8% | 11.1% | 4.0% |
| Montgomery | 7.8% | 34.7% | 23.9% | 14.9% | 14.3% | 4.4% |
| Page | 7.9% | 38.8% | 23.8% | 12.2% | 12.3% | 5.0% |
| Pottawattamie | 10.0% | 32.5% | 22.8% | 11.8% | 15.6% | 7.3% |
| Shelby | 6.5% | 34.9% | 22.5% | 14.1% | 16.6% | 5.4% |
| Totals for 10 | 9.4% | 34.5% | 23.1% | 11.7% | 15.0% | 6.2% |
| Counties | | | | | | |
| Iowa | 7.2% | 30.6% | 20.5% | 12.0% | 20.0% | 9.7% |
| United States | 11.1% | 26.5% | 20.0% | 8.7% | 20.6% | 13.1% |



Source: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021

Adult Literacy Rates

ADULT RATES OF ILLITERACY



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2003

Adult illiteracy is defined as the percentage of the population (over 15 years old) who cannot read and write with understanding. As you can see in the illiteracy charts, all areas of the service territory fall between 7-12% of illiteracy. We remain below the United States average of 15%. Crawford County is the highest within the area at 12%.

Health and Social Service Needs of Eligible Families

Child Abuse and Neglect

Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments enable health and development.

Unfortunately, some children suffer physical, sexual, and emotional abuse/neglect. Child abuse and neglect have severe effects on children's cognitive, social-emotional, language, mental health, and behavioral development that can last well into adulthood. Adults who were neglected or abused as children are at a greater risk of substance abuse, eating disorders, mental health issues, and chronic disease.

Young children under the age of four are at the greatest risk for the most severe consequences of abuse and neglect. Negative outcomes include disrupted brain development, improper development of the nervous system, and serious physical injury or death. Individual, family, and community factors also contribute to the risk of child abuse and neglect.

According to the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, five of WCCA's Head Start service area counties have higher rates of child abuse than the State of Iowa (15.8): Cass County (19.4), Fremont County (19.7), Montgomery County (25.0), Page County (19.9), and Pottawattamie County (19.4).

| Child Abuse and Neglect Rate | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| County | Child Abuse Rate per 1000 | | |
| Cass | 17.2 | | |
| Crawford | 10.9 | | |
| Fremont | 19.7 | | |
| Harrison | 14.2 | | |
| Mills | 9.4 | | |
| Monona | 6.6 | | |
| Montgomery | 25.0 | | |
| Page | 19.9 | | |
| Pottawattamie | 19.4 | | |
| Shelby | 9.9 | | |
| lowa | 14.5 | | |

Source: Kids County Data Center, 2020

Drug and Alcohol Use

In WCCA's Head Start service area, 38,168, or 24.36% of adults self-report excessive drinking in the last 30 days, which is less than the state rate of 24.66%. Data for this indicator is based on survey responses to the 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) annual survey and are used for the 2023 County Health Rankings.

Excessive drinking is defined as the percentage of the population who report at least one binge drinking episode involving five or more drinks for men and four or more for women over the past 30 days, or heavy drinking involving more than two drinks per day for men and more than one per day for women, over the same time period. Alcohol use is a behavioral health issue that is also a risk factor for several negative health outcomes, including: physical injuries related to motor vehicle accidents, stroke, chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer, and mental health conditions such as depression and suicide.

Even though the average of the service territory falls below the state average, the program has six counties that are above the average for the State of Iowa: Fremont (25.18%), Harrison (25.11%), Mills (24.69%), Monona (24.75%), Pottawattamie (24.70%), and Shelby (24.60%).

| Adult Excessive Drinking | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| County | Percentage of Adults | |
| | Reporting Excessive | |
| | Drinking | |
| Cass | 24.34 | |
| Crawford | 21.54 | |
| Fremont | 25.18 | |
| Harrison | 25.11 | |
| Mills | 24.69 | |
| Monona | 24.75 | |
| Montgomery | 24.59 | |
| Page | 23.43 | |
| Pottawattamie | 24.70 | |
| Shelby | 24.66 | |
| Service Area | 24.36 | |
| Iowa | 24.66 | |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020

| Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| County | Percent of | |
| | driving deaths | |
| | with alcohol | |
| | involvement | |
| Cass | 17% | |
| Crawford | 8% | |
| Fremont | 33% | |
| Harrison | 7% | |
| Mills | 52% | |
| Monona | 35% | |
| Montgomery | 17% | |
| Page | 33% | |
| Pottawattamie | 15% | |
| Shelby | 36% | |
| United States | 27% | |
| lowa | 27% | |

Source: County Health Rankings, 2023

Half of the counties in the service area are above the National (27%) and State (27%) percentages of driving deaths with alcohol involvement: Fremont (33%), Mills (52%), Monona (35%), Page (33%), and Shelby (36%).

Health Outcomes

| | 1 | Health Factors | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| County | Poor or Fair | Adult Smoking | Adult Obesity | Uninsured |
| | Health, | | | Adults |
| | Percentage | | | |
| Cass | 13% | 19% | 34% | 7% |
| Crawford | 16% | 19% | 43% | 11% |
| Fremont | 12% | 19% | 38% | 6% |
| Harrison | 12% | 19% | 40% | 6% |
| Mills | 11% | 17% | 34% | 5% |
| Monona | 13% | 20% | 36% | 6% |
| Montgomery | 13% | 20% | 42% | 6% |
| Page | 13% | 19% | 40% | 6% |
| Pottawattamie | 13% | 21% | 41% | 5% |
| Shelby | 11% | 18% | 39% | 6% |
| United States | 12% | 16% | 32% | 10% |
| Iowa | 12% | 17% | 37% | 6% |

Source: County Health ranking, 2023

| Clinical Care | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|--|--|
| County | Primary Care Physicians | Dentist | | |
| Cass | 1,600:1 | 930:1 | | |
| Crawford | 8,420:1 | 2,020:1 | | |
| Fremont | 6,730:1 | 6,570:1 | | |
| Harrison | 2,790:1 | 2,100:1 | | |
| Mills | 1,850:1 | 2,410:1 | | |
| Monona | 1,070:1 | 2,860:1 | | |
| Montgomery | 1,660:1 | 2,580:1 | | |
| Page | 2,150:1 | 1,010:1 | | |
| Pottawattamie | 2,220:1 | 1,670:1 | | |
| Shelby | 1,910:1 | 1,680:1 | | |
| Iowa | 1,360:1 | 1,430:1 | | |
| United States | 1,310:1 | 1,380:1 | | |

Source: County Health ranking 2023

Children and prenatal mothers finding primary care physicians and dentists in the area are a continual concern not only with the low number of primary care physicians and dentists in the service area, but also with providers that don't take the insurance of the enrolled children and families. As you see in the chart above, almost every county is falling below the averages for the State and Nation in the ratio of primary care physicians and dentists.

There are troubling disparities regarding health in the service area across several factors. Child abuse, substance abuse, and domestic violence are closely related problems. These factors also contribute to the likelihood that children are exposed to adverse early childhood experiences (ACEs). Population and program data indicate that several factors are associated with ACEs within the service area.

Children with Disabilities

The chart on page 25 shows the number of children under 5 years old in Iowa with disabilities, as defined by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) in 2019. IFSP's are utilized for children under the age of 3, where IEP's are for children 3 and older.

| Children with Disabilities in Iowa | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Type of Disability State of Iowa Total (2019) | | | |
| Hearing Difficulty | 912 children under 5 | | |
| Vision Difficulty | 662 children under 5 | | |
| Cognitive Difficulty | 2,696 children under 18 | | |
| Self-Care Difficulty | 2,696 children under 18 | | |

Source: Iowa Data Center

The data below is from WCCA's Head Start 2022-2023 program year. WCCA Early Head Start served 15 infants and toddlers who had a disability through Part C Early Intervention Services (IFSP). Head Start served 31 children aged 3 and 4 who had a disability. The following table demonstrates the number of children served who had a disability by the type of disability.

| WCCA Head Start Children by Disability Type- PIR | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Primary Disability | Number of children | |
| Emotional Disturbance | 1 | |
| Speech or Language Impairment | 21 | |
| Intellectual Disabilities | 4 | |
| Specific Learning Disability | 2 | |
| Autism | 3 | |
| Non-categorical/Developmental Delay | 12 | |
| Multiple Disabilities | 3 | |

Source: WCCA Head Start 2022-2023 PIR

Total Receiving Supplemental Security Income

| Individuals Receiving SSI | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| County | Number Receiving Benefit | |
| Cass | 280 | |
| Crawford | 188 | |
| Fremont | 99 | |
| Harrison | 262 | |
| Mills | 185 | |
| Monona | 157 | |
| Montgomery | 267 | |
| Page | 329 | |
| Pottawattamie | 2155 | |
| Shelby | 189 | |

Source: Iowa Data Center

Supplemental Security Income or SSI is a monthly benefit to people with limited income and resources who are blind, over 65 years old, or have a qualifying disability. SSI is currently a part of the programs selection criteria, falling under the Public Assistance section.

Other Health Factors

The chart of page 27 looks at three additional health factors in the service territory: low birth weight in infants, child immunization records, and the number of women receiving prenatal health care. Low birthweight is the most significant factor in impacting the health of newborn babies and a significant determinant of post-neonatal mortality. Low birthweight is used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs. 8 oz.). Low birthweight increases the likelihood that infants will develop health issues such as respiratory disorders, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and issues related to future school achievement. In WCCA's service area, the percentage of babies born with a low birthweight is similar to the rate for lowa (7.0%).

Prenatal care is the first step to keeping women and their newborns healthy. Babies of mothers who do not get prenatal care are three times more likely to have a low birthweight and five times more likely to die than those born to mothers who do get care. Early diagnosis of many health problems that occur during pregnancy can lead to successful treatment. In regards to the number of women in the service area receiving prenatal care, Crawford and Montgomery Counties have the lowest rates of women receiving prenatal care at 75.6% and 77.8%.

Children receiving and staying up to date on their immunizations is essential for positive health outcomes. The chart on page 27 shows the percentage of assessments conducted at public sector clinics where the children were fully immunized at age 24 months following the Iowa EPSDT (Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment). Crawford County (45.85%), Page County (38.5%), and Pottawattamie County (62.5%) fall below Iowa's percentage of 72.8%

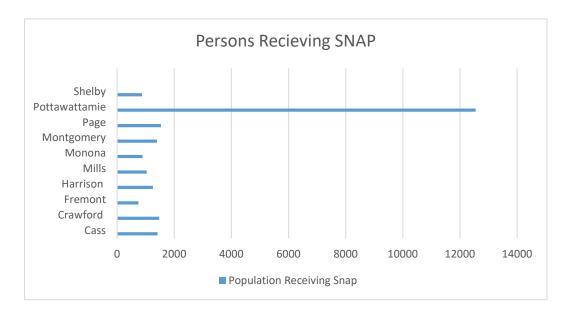
| Other Health Factors | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| County | Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants | Child Immunization in Iowa (following EPSDT) | Number of Women Receiving Prenatal Health Care |
| Cass | 7% | 84.5% | 83.3% |
| Crawford | 6% | 45.8% | 75.6% |
| Fremont | 6% | 100% | 82.1% |
| Harrison | 7% | 100% | 90.9% |
| Mills | 8% | 70.0% | 90.1% |
| Monona | 7% | 75.5% | 83.1% |
| Montgomery | 8% | 100% | 77.8% |
| Page | 8% | 39.5% | 80.8% |
| Pottawattamie | 8% | 62.5% | 85.5% |
| Shelby | 6% | 80.0% | 84.3% |
| lowa | 7% | 72.8% | 83.9% |

Source: County Health Rankings (2014-2020), Data Center (2008)

Nutrition Needs of Eligible Families

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is a federal program that provides food benefits to low-income individuals and families to supplement their grocery budget. The chart shows the average percentage of the population receiving SNAP benefits during the month of July during 2020. In the ten-county area, Mills (7.2%) and Shelby (7.4%) have the lowest percentage of families receiving SNAP.



| County | Population Receiving SNAP Benefits | Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Percent |
| Cass | 1,417 | 10.8% |
| Crawford | 1,471 | 8.9% |
| Fremont | 746 | 11.3% |
| Harrison | 1,252 | 8.6% |
| Mills | 1,037 | 7.2% |
| Monona | 888 | 10.2% |
| Montgomery | 1,391 | 13.5% |
| Page | 1,532 | 10.1% |
| Pottawattamie | 12,551 | 13.4% |
| Shelby | 873 | 7.4% |
| Totals | 23,158 | 11.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020

Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), 45.2% of students in WCCA's combined service area the counties of Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby are all eligible for free/reduced price lunches. This indicator is relevant as it assesses vulnerable populations are more likely to have multiple health access, health status, and social support needs. Additionally, when

| Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility in Iowa | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| County | 2020 | 2015 | |
| Cass | 48.1% | 45.8% | |
| Crawford | 67.8% | 60.1% | |
| Fremont | 41.1% | 44.0% | |
| Harrison | 34.6% | 37.6% | |
| Mills | 39.7% | 36.6% | |
| Monona | 56.2% | 52.5% | |
| Montgomery | 49.4% | 52.8% | |
| Page | 49.5% | 40.8% | |
| Pottawattamie | 54.0% | 41.6% | |
| Shelby | 41.3% | 33.2% | |
| | | | |

combined with poverty data, food service assistance providers can use this measure to identify gaps in eligibility and enrollment.

Children Receiving Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Iowa

WIC safeguards the health of low-income pregnant, post-partum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious food to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care and breastfeeding promotion/support. To be eligible for WIC, an applicant's gross income must fall at or below 185% of the U.S. Poverty Guidelines.

Among Head Start families, the WIC participation rate is 41.4%.

| Percentage Receiving WIC | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| County | Percentage of Children receiving WIC in | Percentage of Children receiving WIC in | |
| - | 2020 | 2015 | |
| Cass | 24.7% | 30.0% | |
| Crawford | 41.3% | 45.6% | |
| Fremont | 11.1% | 22.0% | |
| Harrison | 13.8% | 16.0% | |
| Mills | 9.4% | 15.1% | |
| Monona | 23.7% | 26.4% | |
| Montgomery | 31.1% | 34.4% | |
| Page | 33.2% | 33.1% | |
| Pottawattamie | 30.3% | 33.1% | |
| Shelby | 25.7% | 26.9% | |

Source: The Annie E Casey Foundation Kids Count 2015 & 2020

Housing and Homelessness

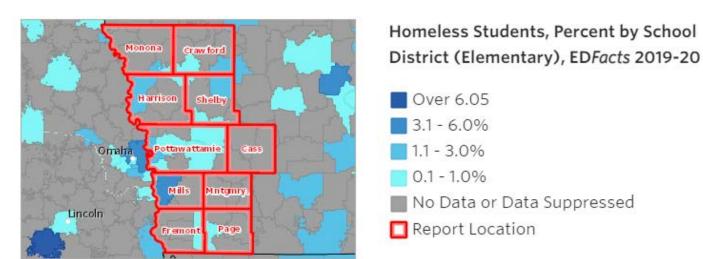
Homelessness

Homeless children are particularly vulnerable and experience poor health, disruption in services due to mobility, lack of access to adequate nutrition, and exposure to trauma at a rate that exceeds that of children that live in families with secure housing. Difficulty in accounting for the homeless population makes it challenging to estimate the number of homeless children eligible for Head Start. The Early Childhood Homeless State Profile for Iowa states that 1 in every 35 children are homeless. Below are the

estimated rates of homelessness per county. Pottawattamie County experiences the largest percent of homelessness in the area.

| Number of People Experiencing Homelessness | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| County | Population Total | Number Experiencing | Percent of |
| | | Homelessness | Population |
| | | | Experiencing |
| | | | Homelessness |
| Cass | 12,923 | 73 | 0.56% |
| Crawford | 16,384 | 47 | 0.29% |
| Fremont | 6,574 | 16 | 0.24% |
| Harrison | 14,366 | 31 | 0.22% |
| Mills | 14,454 | 21 | 0.14% |
| Monona | 8,561 | 50 | 0.58% |
| Montgomery | 10,175 | 81 | 0.80% |
| Page | 14,232 | 98 | 0.69% |
| Pottawattamie | 91,268 | 19,424 | 21.3% |
| Shelby | 11,554 | 67 | 0.58% |
| Totals | 200,491 | 19,908 | 9.93% |

Source: Iowa Homelessness County Level Data Book 2019-2022



Evictions

This indicator reports information about formal evictions based on court records from 48 states and the District of Columbia, compiled by the Eviction Lab. The number of evictions and eviction filings within the report area is shown on the next page. The "filing rate" is the ratio of the number of evictions filed in

an area over the number of renter-occupied homes in that area. An "eviction rate" is the subset of those homes that received an eviction judgment in which renters were ordered to leave. For the year 2016, the Eviction Lab reports that, of 24,592 rental homes in the report area, there were 529 eviction filings, for an eviction filing rate of 2.15%. 488 of the eviction filings ended in an eviction, for an eviction rate of 1.98%.

| Evictions | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|
| County | Renter Occupied Households | Eviction Filings | Evictions | Eviction Filing Rate | Eviction Rate |
| Cass | 1,707 | 18 | 18 | 1.05% | 1.05% |
| Crawford | 1,827 | 9 | 9 | 0.49% | 0.49% |
| Fremont | 782 | 3 | 3 | 0.38% | 0.38% |
| Harrison | 1,420 | 11 | 11 | 0.77% | 0.77% |
| Mills | 1,193 | 4 | 3 | 0.34% | 0.25% |
| Monona | 1,064 | 1 | 1 | 0.09% | 0.09% |
| Montgomery | 1,316 | 25 | 23 | 1.9% | 1.75% |
| Page | 1,876 | 20 | 18 | 1.07% | 0.96% |
| Pottawattamie | 12,207 | 425 | 389 | 3.48% | 3.19% |
| Shelby | 1,200 | 13 | 13 | 1.08% | 1.08% |
| Iowa | 365,324 | 14,520 | 7,358 | 3.97% | 2.01% |
| United States | 38,372,860 | 2,350,042 | 898,479 | 6.12% | 2.34% |

Source: Sparkmap, 2016

Housing Costs - Cost Burden

Cost burden reports the percentage of households where housing costs are 30% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serves to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels. Of the 82,130 total households in the report area, 17,869 or 21.76% of the population live in cost burdened households.

| Housing Cost – Cost Burden | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| County | Total Households | Cost-Burdened Households | Cost-Burdened Households |
| Cass | 5,777 | 1,414 | 24.48% |
| Crawford | 6,159 | 1,081 | 17.55% |
| Fremont | 2,742 | 496 | 18.09% |
| Harrison | 5,932 | 1,100 | 18.54% |
| Mills | 5,301 | 1,061 | 20.02% |
| Monona | 3,786 | 725 | 19.15% |
| Montgomery | 4,380 | 776 | 17.72% |
| Page | 6,171 | 1,238 | 20.06% |
| Pottawattamie | 36,964 | 8,964 | 24.25% |
| Shelby | 4,918 | 1,014 | 20.62% |
| Total Service Area | 82,130 | 17,869 | 21.76% |
| Iowa | 1,275,893 | 290,032 | 22.73% |
| United States | 124,010,992 | 37,625,113 | 30.34% |

Source: Sparkmap, 2016

Housing Quality- Substandard Housing

Housing quality and substandard housing reports the number and percentage of owner- and renteroccupied 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%. The 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. Of the 82,130 total
occupied housing units in the service area, 18,159 or 22.11% have one or more substandard conditions.

| Housing Quality | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| County | Total Occupied | Occupied Housing | Occupied Housing |
| | Housing Units | Units with one or | Units with one or |
| | | more substandard | more substandard |
| | | conditions | conditions, |
| | | | percentage |
| Cass | 5,777 | 1,398 | 24.20% |
| Crawford | 6,159 | 1,279 | 20.77% |
| Fremont | 2,742 | 526 | 19.18% |
| Harrison | 5,932 | 1,143 | 19.27% |
| Mills | 5,301 | 1,077 | 20.32% |
| Monona | 3,786 | 676 | 17.86% |
| Montgomery | 4,380 | 807 | 18.42% |
| Page | 6,171 | 1,202 | 19.48% |
| Pottawattamie | 36,964 | 9,016 | 24.39% |
| Shelby | 4,918 | 1,035 | 21.05% |
| Total Service Area | 82,130 | 18,159 | 22.11% |
| Iowa | 1,275,893 | 294,737 | 23.10% |
| United States | 124,010,992 | 39,049,569 | 31.49% |

Source: Sparkmap, 2016

Early Child Care & Education

Child Care Availability

The early care and education landscape in the service area is complex with several different programs designed to serve different populations. There are significant gaps in the data that make it challenging to create an estimate for the need of care. Specifically for infants and toddlers and child care subsidies disseminated to children under five according to the age of the child receiving the subsidy. It does continue to be a trend that there are not enough licensed child care slots to serve the amount of children in the area. This creates "child care deserts" where there are not enough slots for the number of children in need of care. Child care data is important to note for the purposes of not only the children and families, but also for staff. If staff do not have care, they are unable to work.

| Child Care Availability | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County | Population of children ages 0-5 | % of Families where all parents work and have children under age 6 | Estimated Number of Children Needing Child Care | Number of Children without a Registered Child Care Space |
| Cass | 841 | 70% | 589 | 56 |
| Crawford | 1,341 | 71% | 952 | 491 |
| Fremont | 478 | 69% | 330 | 133 |
| Harrison | 988 | 87% | 890 | 395 |
| Mills | 983 | 70% | 688 | 235 |
| Monona | 597 | 79% | 472 | 144 |
| Montgomery | 711 | 66% | 469 | 3 |
| Page | 897 | 71% | 637 | 76 |
| Pottawattamie | 7,034 | 77% | 5,416 | 83 |
| Shelby | 728 | 87% | 633 | 183 |

Source: Iowa CCR & R Data Sheets

As you see from the chart, Crawford, Harrison, and Mills have the largest discrepancy when it comes to not having enough slots for children in registered child care.

Early Childhood Landscape in the Service Territory

Below, is a graph that shows the landscape of Early Childhood in the area. The number of slots for each type of care or education are listed below.

| Service Area Early Childhood Landscape | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Indicator | Number | | |
| Number of Head Start Slots in Service Area | 249 | | |
| Number of Early Head Start Slots in Service | 167 | | |
| Area | | | |
| Number of Pre-K Slots in State of Iowa in | 2,145 | | |
| Service Area | | | |
| Child Slots in Registered Child Development | 1,780 | | |
| Homes in Service Area | | | |
| Child Care Homes Slots in Service Area | 310 | | |
| Department of Education Operated | 1,558 | | |
| Preschool Slots in Service Area | | | |
| Slots in DHS Licensed Centers/Preschools | 6,374 | | |

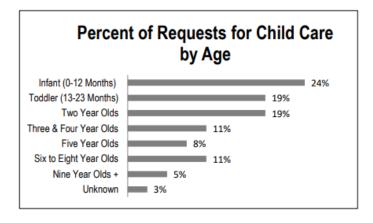
Source: Iowa Department Education, Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Requests by Age

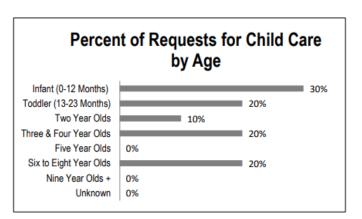
The charts below represent the number of requests for care made to Child Care Resource and Referral

(CCR&R) by the age group of the child. This illustrates the need for care by county and age group.

Cass County

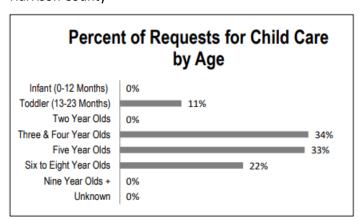


Crawford County

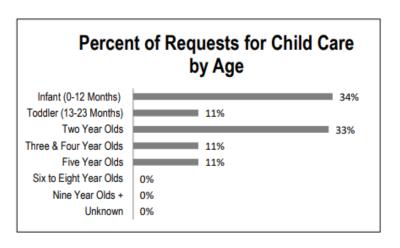


Fremont County

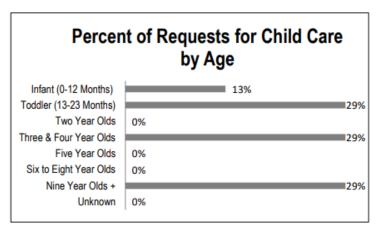
Harrison County



Mills County



Monona County

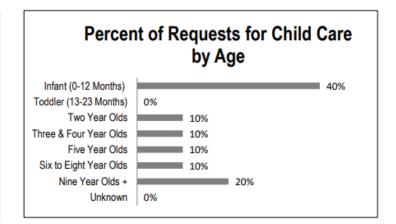


Montgomery County

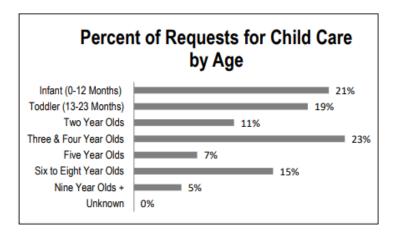
Percent of Requests for Child Care by Age

Infant (0-12 Months)
Toddler (13-23 Months)
Two Year Olds
Three & Four Year Olds
Five Year Olds
Six to Eight Year Olds
Nine Year Olds +
Unknown
O%

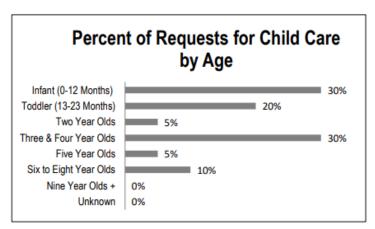
Page County



Pottawattamie County



Shelby County



As you can see above, the largest need or request for a majority of the service area is infant care, however, they all have their own specific needs for child care.

Slots by School District

According to the Iowa Department of Education's 2022-2023 enrollment data, the table on page 37 demonstrates the number of PreK slots provided by the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program by school district.

| Statewide Voluntary Preschool Slots by School District | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Area | PreK Slots | Area | PreK Slots | | |
| Cass | | Monona | | | |
| Atlantic | 119 | Maple Valley-Anthon Oto | 36 | | |
| CAM | 26 | West Monona | 40 | | |
| Griswold | 52 | Whiting | 11 | | |
| Crawford | | Montgomery | | | |
| Are-We-Va | 19 | Red Oak | 75 | | |
| Charter Oak-Ute | 19 | Stanton | 25 | | |
| Denison | 121 | Villisca | 19 | | |
| Schleswig | 16 | Page | | | |
| Fremont | | Clarinda | 34 | | |
| Fremont-Mills | 51 | Essex | 10 | | |
| Hamburg | 19 | Shenandoah | 69 | | |
| Sidney | 47 | South Page | 5 | | |
| Harrison | | Pottawattamie | | | |
| Boyer Valley | 45 | AHSTW | 44 | | |
| Logan-Magnolia | 54 | Council Bluffs | 519 | | |
| Missouri Valley | 49 | Lewis Central | 76 | | |
| West Harrison | 16 | Riverside | 52 | | |
| Woodbine | 73 | Tri-Center | 42 | | |
| Mills | | Underwood | 40 | | |
| Glenwood | 137 | | | | |
| East Mills | 27 | | | | |
| Shelby | | | | | |
| Exira-Elk Horn-Kimbolton | 23 | | | | |
| Harlan | 92 | | | | |
| IKM-Manning | 55 | | | | |

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Statewide Voluntary Preschool

The purpose of Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the State of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary access to quality preschool curriculum for all four-year-old children. The program is currently slated to expand to serve three-year olds. The chart on the next page shows the number of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Slots by County for the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 school year.

| Statewide Voluntary Preschool Slots by County | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Pre-K Slots 2020- | Pre-K Slots 2022-2023 | | | | |
| | 2021 | | | | | |
| Cass | 172 | 197 | | | | |
| Crawford | 172 | 175 | | | | |
| Fremont | 108 | 117 | | | | |
| Harrison | 237 | 237 | | | | |
| Mills | 140 | 164 | | | | |
| Monona | 100 | 87 | | | | |
| Montgomery | 86 | 119 | | | | |
| Page | 148 | 118 | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 658 | 773 | | | | |
| Shelby | 147 | 170 | | | | |

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Home Visiting Programming

West Central Community Action Early Head Start serves children and families in five of the ten counties within the service area. This program option services prenatal mothers and children age birth to three.

Below is a breakdown of the service territory and the home visitation programs that are available in each county:

<u>Cass</u>: WCCA Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers (PAT), HCCMS Family Health 1st Five Program, Parent Partners, Pediatric Integrated Health Program, Cass County Health, Human, and Veteran Services

<u>Crawford</u>: Parent Partners, Family STEPS to Success, 1st Five

<u>Fremont</u>: WCCA Early Head Start, Parent Partners, Growing Strong Families

<u>Harrison</u>: Parent Partners, Harrison County Home Health, Learning for Life

Mills: WCCA Early Head Start, Parent Partners, Parents as Teachers (PAT), Maternal Child Health

Monona: Parent Partners, Learning for Life

Montgomery: WCCA Early Head Start, Parent Partners, Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Page: WCCA Early Head Start, Parent Partners, Growing Strong Families

<u>Pottawattamie</u>: Family Inc, Parent Partners

Shelby: Pediatric Integrated Health Program, Parent Partners, Learning for Life

There are a variety of home-based visitation program options for prenatal mothers and young children in the service area. All the programs have a variety of eligibility criteria. WCCA Early Head Start works with Thriving Families Alliance to ensure that all families within the service area are serviced with the program that best meets their needs.

Transportation and Communication

The chart below displays four domains that can impact accessibility for the population: driving alone to work, long- commute (more than 30 minutes one way), number of households with a computer, and number of households with broadband internet.

| Travel & Communication | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| County | % Driving | Long Commute- Households with | | Households with | | | |
| | Alone to | Driving Alone | a Computer | Broadband | | | |
| | Work | | | Internet | | | |
| | | | | Subscription | | | |
| Cass | 80% | 13% | 90.1% | 80.9% | | | |
| Crawford | 81% | 16% | 90.1% | 82.5% | | | |
| Fremont | 81% | 31% | 90.4% | 80.6% | | | |
| Harrison | 81% | 31% | 90.5% | 78.9% | | | |
| Mills | 80% | 42% | 93.6% | 88.8% | | | |
| Monona | 80% | 28% | 87.7% | 80.2% | | | |
| Montgomery | 84% | 21% | 88.9% | 81.0% | | | |
| Page | 79% | 20% | 89.7% | 81.4% | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 82% | 25% | 90.8% | 91.7% | | | |
| Shelby | 74% | 21% | 87.8% | 80.4% | | | |
| lowa | 79% | 21% | 91.7% | 84.9% | | | |
| United States | 73% | 37% | 93.1% | 87.0% | | | |

Source: County Health Rankins 2017-2021, U.S. Census

The ten-county service area has similar percentages to the state and national averages in most areas.

Head Start Enrolled Children and Families (2022-2023 PIR Results)

Enrolled Children and Families Demographics

The chart below shows the slot allocation for WCCA Head Start during the 2022-2023 school year. The only change slated for the 2023-2024 school year is that eight Early Head Start slots for Pottawattamie County will be moving to Montgomery County. This is due to staffing issues that have been ongoing for more than two years.

| Current Program Design & Slot Allocation | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| County | Number of 0-3 Number of 0- Center Based 3 Home Slots Available Based Slots Available | | Number of 3-5 Slots Available | | | | |
| Cass | 0 | 7 | 16 | | | | |
| Crawford | 16 | 0 | 26 | | | | |
| Fremont | 0 | 7 | 4 | | | | |
| Harrison | 0 | 0 | 10 | | | | |
| Mills | 0 | 7 | 10 | | | | |
| Monona | 0 | 0 | 21 | | | | |
| Montgomery | 0 | 8 | 32 | | | | |
| Page | 0 | 7 | 16 | | | | |
| Pottawattamie | 24 | 0 | 86 | | | | |
| Shelby | 16 | 0 | 28 | | | | |
| Total | 56 | 36 | 249 | | | | |

Ages of Children Enrolled 2022-2023

Below are ages of children at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, or at the beginning of their enrollment if they started after the start date.

| Ages of Enrolled Children | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|---|--|--|--|
| Under 1 year old | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 43 | 47 | 108 | 158 | 0 | | | |

Eligibility of Children Enrolled during the 2022-2023 School Year

This chart shows the type of eligibility that each child had during the 2022-2023 school year. As you see, children and families that are income eligible and/or on public assistance make up the majority of enrolled students' eligibility.

| Eligibility | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------|---------|--|
| Income | Public | Foster Child | Homeless | Other | 101-130 | |
| Eligible | Assistance | | | Need | | |
| 160 | 146 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 14 | |

Head Start Staff

Staff Race and Ethnicity

The chart below shows race and ethnicity of Head Start employees through the 2022-2023 school year.

This data is from the PIR.

| American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Asian | Black | Pacific Islander | White | Multiple/ Bi-Racial | Other | Unspecified |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 80 | 12 | 4 | 3 |

| Hispanic/Latino | Non Hispanic/ Latino |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 8 | 108 |

Languages Other than English Spoken by Staff

The primary language spoken by WCCA Head Start staff is English, however, the program has a few staff that speak Spanish, German, Native American, and American Sign Language.

| Spanish | German | Native American | Sign Language | |
|---------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

During this program year, the program employed 15 Head Start and 6 Early Head Start staff members who are current or past Head Start parents.

Staff Education Qualifications

| | Staff Qualifications | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|----|----|----------|--|--|
| Position | None | Enrolled in a Program | CDA Preschool | CDA Infant/ | AA | ВА | Advanced | | |
| | | | | Toddler | | | | | |
| Head Start | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 14 | 16 | | |
| Teacher | | | | | | | | | |
| Head Start | | 18 | 8 | | 11 | 3 | | | |
| Assistant | | | | | | | | | |
| Teacher | | | | | | | | | |
| EHS | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Center | | | | | | | | | |
| Based | | | | | | | | | |
| Teacher | | | | | | | | | |
| EHS Home | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | |
| Visitors | | | | | | | | | |

Source: 2022-2023 PIR

Recommendations

The population in the rural areas of WCCA's service area continue to decline except for Pottawattamie County which continues to show a slight increase. This trend will need to be continually monitored to ensure we are meeting the needs of the families in the service area.

There continues to be an increased need for child care in almost every county. The data shows there are huge gaps in all areas, however, infant and toddler care looks to be the highest need in almost all areas. The program should continue to monitor the need for infant and toddler care in the service territory and adjust slot allocations as needed.

Over the last year, there has been a slight increase in the number of four years being served through local Public School Districts. It is recommended the program continue to partner with local school districts to resolve many of the challenges that face all early childhood programs such as recruitment of children and qualified staff, low salaries, and quality issues. We need to work together to ensure all three- and four-year-olds in the service area can be served. This may be through formal contracts, referral agreements, or serving the three-year-olds, so the districts can serve the four-year-olds through Statewide Voluntary Preschool Funding.

Fremont County stands out due to its drastic decrease in population of 11.24%. WCCA Head Start currently partners with a local school district to service four income eligible students in Fremont County. The program should continue to monitor this decrease in population and shift slot allocations as necessary or possible. Regardless, the county will continue to be monitored for opportunities to enroll children and families through the annual Community Needs Assessment and more often as appropriate or necessary.

Throughout the past five years, the program has struggled to recruit and keep classrooms fully enrolled in Crawford County. The data however demonstrates a high need of services for children in this

area. Crawford County has a high concentration of Hispanic/Latino children and families with limited English Proficiency. The program should ensure that bilingual staff are made available for recruitment, enrollment, and family engagement of children and families. Crawford County also has the highest unemployment rate, poverty rate, rate for children in poverty, percent of families without a high school diploma, and other factors that contribute to poverty. The program should continue to build and expand its recruitment plan for Crawford County.

WCCA has struggled to recruit and retain qualified staff for the Head Start program. One of the challenges of the rural geography is the declining size of the population which influences our ability to attract qualified, high performing talent that meet the needs of the Head Start Program Performance Standards. The program should continue to invest in professional development for staff, review the wage and salary scales periodically, create strong onboarding practices to reduce staff turnover, and review the staff recruitment plan as needed to ensure we are adjusting to changes in the workforce.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau

CARES Engagement Network

Spark Map

U.S. Department of Labor

Iowa Data Center within the Iowa Department of Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

National Center for Health Statistics

County Health Rankings

The Annie E Casey Foundation- Kids Count

Iowa Homelessness County Level Data Book

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral