

Executive Summary Regional Data Book

FIRST EDITION 2019



“Adverse conditions... have a lasting detrimental effect on the developing brain, even if a child’s circumstances are improved later in childhood.”

— Raise Up Oregon

Our Charge

The Regional Data Book presents the resources and challenges facing our region's youngest children who are at risk of arriving at kindergarten unprepared. **This data will inform and support strategic decision-making** by the Governing Board of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, & Lincoln Counties to align with the EL Hub outcomes. This data provides a foundational understanding of our region for our Governing Board and community partners in serving children and families.

Children at Risk

Oregon Revised Statutes stipulate that **children who are at-risk experience chronic and persistent opportunity gaps due to family circumstances beyond their control**, such as poverty, drug abuse in the home, unsafe housing, racism or ethnic discrimination, unmet medical needs, parental mental illness, child abuse and/or neglect, or are involved with Department of Human Services (DHS), or families involved in juvenile and adult corrections.



Social and Economic Factors

Children at Risk

Approximately 11,800 children are at risk, which is 71 percent of the total number of young children (16,540) in our region: 9,250 in Linn County; 4,520 in Benton County; and 2,760 in Lincoln County.

Poverty

4,300 young children live below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 8,100 young children live below 200 percent of the FPL.

Race and Ethnicity

2,230 Hispanic/Latino children under age five live in our region.

- Hispanic/Latino children living in poverty are the largest non-White population living in poverty.
- Infants born to mothers who are Hispanic are the largest non-White demographic group.

Spanish Speakers

Spanish is the dominant non-English language, representing ten percent of the households with young children; **83 percent of households speak English** and seven percent speak another language.

Parental Employment

62.3 percent of young children in Linn County, 60.9 percent of young children in Lincoln County, and 52.6 percent of young children in Benton County live in families where all available parents are employed.

Rural Communities

All areas in our region located outside of metro Albany and Corvallis are identified as rural by the Office of Rural Health. Rural communities face barriers such as lack of transportation, limited access to healthcare, and reduced access to quality child care and education.

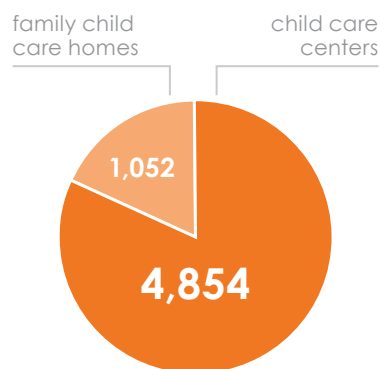
Early Childhood Care

Availability

Our region is considered a “child care desert” where access to regulated child care is limited for all children with the greatest need among 0–2 year old child care slots.

- There are **5,906** regulated child care slots for children: **4,854** slots in child care centers and **1,052** slots in family child care homes in our region.

Child Care Slots for Children



Affordability

“... lack of affordability often prevents families from accessing quality care and education.”

— Oregon Child Care Deserts

- Median annual price of toddler care in a child care center: **\$9,600** in Linn County, **\$14,400** in Benton County, and **\$7,380** in Lincoln County.

Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten Assessment (KA) Scores

- On average in 2018–2019, children in our region scored the following:
 - Recognized 6.8 of 26 English Letter Sounds; 13.5 Uppercase English Letter Names and 11.1 Lowercase English Letter Names.
 - Correctly answered 10.9 of 16 Early Mathematics questions.
 - Demonstrated a score of 3.5 on Approaches to Learning (1–5 scale).
- When comparing children in our region entering kindergarten to children in Oregon during 2014–2019:
 - Average KA Approaches to Learning and Early Mathematics scores are similar to state levels.
 - Average Early Literacy scores are consistently below state levels.
- The average scores of the following demographic groups are below the EL Hub average during 2014–2019:
 - Children with disabilities and children who are economically disadvantaged scored below the EL Hub averages on Approaches to Learning, Early Mathematics, and Early Literacy.
 - Hispanic children, Native American children and children with limited English proficiency, scored below the EL Hub average on Early Mathematics and Early Literacy.
 - **Boys scored below the EL Hub average on Approaches to Learning and Early Literacy.**





Kindergarten Readiness (continued)

Kindergarten Assessment — Approaches to Learning (KA–AL) and Third Grade Reading (TGR) Scores

- We conducted a statistical analysis that compared the 2014–2015 KA–AL scores and 2017–2018 TGR scores for the same cohort of children.
- TGR scores differed among the demographic groups:
 - Children with disabilities, children with limited English proficiency, and children who are economically disadvantaged scored lower than their counterparts.
 - Children in Benton County scored higher than in Linn County, who scored higher than in Lincoln County.
 - Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native children scored lower on average compared to White children.
 - White children scored lower on average compared to Asian children.
- There is a significant positive relationship between KA–AL scores and TGR scores.
- The effect of KA–AL scores on TGR scores is not the same for all groups of children. KA–AL on TGR score differences were observed among children with limited English proficiency, and children who are economically disadvantaged compared to other children. There are also differences across the counties.

Health and Well-being

Access to Prenatal Care

Younger mothers (under age 25) were less likely to access adequate prenatal care.

- There were **331 teen pregnancies** in our region in 2017.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Incentive Measure Benchmarks, 2016 and 2017

- InterCommunity Health Network (IHN-CCO) — the CCO for our region — achieved two of the five quality metrics related to pregnant women and children ages 0 to 5.
 - IHN-CCO met the 2016 and 2017 benchmarks for Developmental Screenings.
 - IHN-CCO met the 2017 benchmark for Timeliness of Prenatal Care.

Food Security

27 percent of children under age 18 live in food insecure households.

Homelessness

Nine of the region's 12 school districts have a higher proportion of students experiencing homelessness compared to the state average.

Child Abuse and Neglect in Our Region

51.1%

of all child abuse and neglect victims were six years old or younger in 2017

965

incidents of child abuse and neglect for all children under age 18

42

children under age six were sheltered in domestic violence programs

To view the full **Regional Data Book** go to: blearlylearninghub.org/our-region



Early Learning Hub
of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, LM-101
Albany, OR 97321