


Executive Summary Regional Data Book

2021 EDITION



“Overwhelming evidence tells us that investing in young children and their families has a lasting, positive impact across their lifetime.”

— 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 guide and support strategic decision-making** by the Governing Board of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties in order to increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, and ensure service coordination that is equitable and culturally and linguistically competent for our region. In addition, we designed this data book to assist our community partners and stakeholders in serving local children and families.

Children at Risk

Oregon Revised Statute OAR 414 900-010 stipulates 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, involvement with Department of Human Services (DHS), and families involved in juvenile and adult corrections.



Social and Economic Factors

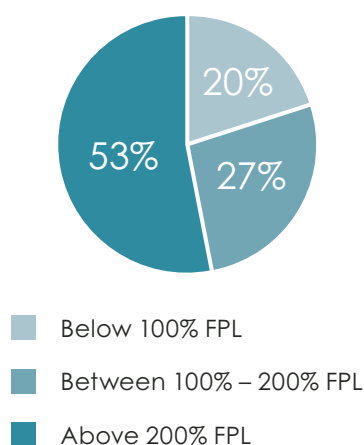
Children at Risk

Approximately 8,705 children under age six are at risk, which is 53.8 percent of the total number of young children (16,177) in our region, in 2018: 5,248 in Linn County; 1,602 in Benton County; and 1,855 in Lincoln County.

Poverty

Twenty percent (3,139) of young children live below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 27 percent (4,212) of young children live between 100 percent and 200 percent of the FPL.

Young Children Living Near Federal Poverty Level



Children in poverty (< 6 years) in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties in 2018. Data from 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

Race and Ethnicity

- Twenty-six percent (893) of children under age six living in poverty are Hispanic/Latino
- Hispanic/Latino young 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.
- The largest racial/ethnic group of young children living in poverty is White Alone (64.1 percent)

Spanish Speakers

Ten percent of households with young children speak Spanish; Spanish is the dominant non-English language in our region.

Parental Employment

Over half of young children (61.9 percent) of young children live in families where all available parents are employed; in our region: 67.8 percent in Linn County, 53.8 percent in Benton County, and 56.1 percent in Lincoln County.

Rural Communities

The Oregon Office of Rural Health identifies all areas in our region outside of the urban areas of Albany and Corvallis as rural.

Rural communities face more disparities including higher poverty rates, higher unemployment rates, lack of transportation, limited access to healthcare, lower education levels, and reduced access to quality child care and education.

Health and Well-being

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Incentive Measure Benchmarks, 2018 and 2019

InterCommunity Health Network (IHNCCO) – the CCO for our region – achieved three of the five quality metrics related to pregnant women and children ages 0 to 5 years.

- IHN-CCO met the 2018 and 2019 Improvement Targets for Developmental Screenings.
- IHN-CCO met the 2019 Improvement Targets for Childhood Immunizations.

Two-Year Old Immunization Rates

Across our region, from 2016 to 2018, Two-Year Old Immunization rates were lower than Oregon's rate.

In January 2019, the LBL Hub and Samaritan Health Services collaborated to offer a Boost Oregon training in our region. Medical providers learned how to communicate effectively with vaccine-hesitant parents; Two Year Old Immunization rates improved to 70 percent in Linn County and 68 percent in Lincoln County.

Food Security

Children living in food insecure households have limited or uncertain availability to nutritionally adequate food.

Children under age 18 living in food insecure households include 22.4 percent of children in Lincoln County, 18.5 percent of children in Linn County, and 12.9 percent of children in Benton County.

Homelessness

In our region, 285 young children were without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence while receiving SNAP services.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Forty-six percent of all child abuse and neglect victims were six years old or younger in 2018.

Of children under age 18, 883 were victims of child abuse and neglect

Seventy-two children under age six were sheltered in domestic violence programs.





Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten Assessment (KA)

Scores

- On average in 2019-2020, children entering kindergarten in our region scored the following:
 - Recognized 7.4 of 26 English Letter Sounds
 - Recognized 13.7 of 26 Uppercase English Letter Names
 - Recognized 11.3 of 26 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 over five years from 2015–2020:
 - Average Approaches to Learning (total) scores and Early Mathematics scores dropped below the state in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
 - Average Early Literacy scores are consistently below state levels.
- Average scores of the following groups are below the LBL Hub average during 2015-2020:
 - Children with Disabilities and children who are Economically Disadvantaged scored below the LBL Hub

averages on Approaches to Learning, Early Mathematics, and Early Literacy.

- Native American children, Hispanic children and children with limited English proficiency, scored below our Hub average on Early Mathematics and Early Literacy.
- Boys scored below the LBL Hub average on Approaches to Learning and Early Literacy.

Analysis of the association between Kindergarten Assessment — Approaches to Learning (KA-AL) scores and Third Grade Reading (TGR)

- The LBL Hub Epidemiology Intern analyzed KA-AL and TGR scores for a group of children entering kindergarten in 2015-2016. Findings indicate that, on average, scores can differ significantly based upon demographic differences:
 - Students in Benton County have KA-AL scores significantly higher on average from students in Lincoln and Linn counties; there is no difference between KA-AL scores in Linn and Lincoln counties. By third grade, scores are different among all three counties.
 - Scores for boys and girls are significantly different; on average, boys score lower.

The magnitude of difference is greater for KA-AL scores than for TGR scores.

- There is a significant relationship between KA-AL scores and TGR scores: each unit increase in KA-AL scores is associated with a linear increase in TGR scores.
- English Language Learner, Economic Disadvantage, and Special Education status score lower on KA-AL assessments and on the TGR assessment, and the relationship between KA-AL scores and TGR scores was not as strong as other groups.

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.

Affordability

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

To view the full
Regional Data Book go to:
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