

# Idaho Head Start Association Statewide Community Assessment Report 2023 Update

PREPARED FOR:  
THE IDAHO HEAD START ASSOCIATION

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, the Idaho Head Start Association (IHSA) sponsored a community needs assessment update to provide its 13 member organizations with information for decision making and program planning to ensure that the services provided meet the diverse needs of Head Start-eligible children and families. The 2022 full assessment, also conducted by the Public Health Management Corporation's Research and Evaluation Group, included analyses of quantitative data about Head Start-eligible populations, their health and social service needs, prevalent social and economic conditions relevant to their well being, and community resources and strengths. Companion survey tools were provided for IHSA members to facilitate learning directly from families and community members in their local service areas. This 2023 report presents updated information on populations eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start and trends in relevant conditions, social service needs, and resources available to eligible children and their families.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS:

#### *Head Start-eligible Children and Families: Estimated Population and Unmet Need for Services*

The estimated percent of young children in Idaho who are eligible for Head Start based on family income below 130% of the federal poverty level is 24.5%. This percent, which is the estimated rate of children under age five who lived in families below 130% of the federal poverty level, was largely unchanged from 2022's estimate of 24.4%.

There were 3,310 funded slots for Head Start and 846 funded slots Early Head Start across the 13 IHSA members in 2022-2023, suggesting a substantial unmet need for services. Specifically, combining the number of funded slots across all of the 13 IHSA members and dividing by the estimated number Head Start-eligible children indicates that there were enough funded slots in 2022-2023 to serve 30% of 3 and 4 year old children and 5% of birth to 2 year old children. Compared to 2022, this is up slightly for Head Start, from 24.6%, but down slightly for Early Head Start, which was 6.8% in the prior program year.

#### *Identified Needs*

Statewide economic and social factors that affect Head Start eligible-children and their families suggest increasing challenges meeting basic financial and health needs. The number of households who do not earn enough to afford the basics in the communities in which they live increased by 23% from 2019 to 2021. Living wages, or the hourly amount one full-time worker must earn to help cover the cost of minimum basic needs while being self-sufficient, increased as well. For example, the average statewide living wage for an adult working full time who lived in a two-working-adult household with two children was \$23.34 per hour in 2022, up from \$19.27 in 2020. Families who are eligible for Head Start may not be able to access the services due to their work schedules, particularly center-based Head Start. More than half of Idaho children under age 6 had working parents, with one in three working in the mornings, evenings, nights, and/or weekends.

Many of the health indicators reported in 2022 did not see meaningful changes in the most recent available data. Several of these were areas of strength. For example, Idaho ranked well nationally on children's overall health status and low percentage of low birthweight infants. On other indicators, Idaho

remained in the lower half of national rankings, such as well visits and childhood immunizations, and stayed at the bottom for the number of pediatricians per 100,000 children. A few health indicators moved in an adverse direction. For example, a smaller percent of young children received developmental screenings, from 29% in 2019-2020 to 24% in 2020-2021. The rate of uninsured children under 6 increased from 3.6% in 2019 to 6.4% in 2021, and tens of thousands of Idaho children lost access to Medicaid as pandemic-era protections have ended.

### **Community Resources and Strengths**

The availability and usage of other child development programs – home visiting, preschool, child care, and child care financial assistance – varied by service. The number of counties served by home visitors funded by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) increased by eight, from 12 to 20 counties, though the increase in the number of children birth to age 6 served by MIECHV was small, from 528 to 612 from 2021 to 2022. Idaho remains one of five states without a state-funded prekindergarten program. The number of child care programs participating in Idaho’s voluntary quality rating and improvement system, *Steps to Quality*, remained fewer than 200; one-quarter of programs received the highest quality rating, many of which were Head Start programs. Fewer than 4,000 children birth to age four were in families receiving financial assistance to pay for child care statewide. Child care programs are in what has been called a state of crisis<sup>1</sup>, with inadequate staffing and lack of funding limiting the supply of quality, affordable, accessible child care services and half of all Idaho children living in child care deserts.<sup>2</sup> The September 2023 end to pandemic-era funds to stabilize the child care industry is projected to result in additional child care closures and job loss,<sup>3</sup> further exacerbating the twin challenges of low workforce wages, which contributes to high turnover and unstaffed positions, and limited funding support to help parents pay for child care.

Regarding nutrition services, the number of children under the age of five who received benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was 14,988 for the benefit month January 2023. Importantly, children qualifying for SNAP are now eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start as of April 2022 due to a federal policy change.

### **Using Community Needs Assessment Information**

Combined with other program data including surveys of families and community organizations in each program’s local service area, the updated data in this report can help Idaho’s Head Start and Early Head Start grantees make decisions about services and community relationships to ensure they provide appropriate services to their local populations. Internal program planning decisions may cover hours of operation, recruitment, selection, enrollment criteria and priorities, and other decisions about allocation of resources. External planning activities may include changing or expanding collaborative partnerships, seeking and mobilizing necessary resources, financial and otherwise, and more. Thoughtful planning and involvement of key stakeholders in data-based decision-making can support continuous cycles of quality improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> IdahoSTARS. (2022). Early Care and Education Workforce Report 2022. [https://idahostars.org/portals/61/docs/About-Us/WorkforceReport\\_2022.pdf](https://idahostars.org/portals/61/docs/About-Us/WorkforceReport_2022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Center for American Progress. (n.d.). U.S. Child Care Deserts: Idaho. Retrieved August 31, 2023 from <https://childcaredeserts.org/2018/?state=ID>

<sup>3</sup> Kashen, J., Valle Gutierrez, L., Woods, L., & Milli, J. (2023). Idaho Fact Sheet: Children in Idaho Set to Lose Child Care Due to Child Care Cliff. The Century Foundation. Retrieved August 30, 2023 from <https://tcf-ccs-map.netlify.app/assets/factsheets/Child%20Care%20State%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Idaho.pdf>

## SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

To provide effective services, Head Start programs need to understand the changing needs of eligible children and families and the community around them. The federal Office of Head Start requires grantees to conduct annual community assessments to gain that knowledge.

In 2021, the Idaho Head Start Association (IHSA) sponsored a single statewide community needs assessment for all of the state's 13 Head Start programs' use as part of their program planning, which was conducted by the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) Research & Evaluation Group and finalized in early 2022. In 2023, IHSA reached out to PHMC to update the community assessment in order to provide Head Start decision-makers with information that can help inform decisions and program planning, address changing priorities and policies, respond to changes in the community, and mobilize and maximize financial resources and community resources and partnerships. The goal is to help IHSA members meet federal regulations and ensure that the right services are provided to meet the diverse needs of Head Start-eligible children and families.

This report contains information about recent issues and trends in prevalent social and economic conditions relevant to Head Start-eligible children and families and to Head Start programs, updated data on populations eligible for Head Start, and additional recent information on the education and social service needs of, and resources available to, eligible children and their families.

## SECTION 2. OVERVIEW OF IHSA AND ITS MEMBERS

This section describes the Idaho Head Start Association's programs and service areas as of the summer of 2023.

### ABOUT IHSA

The Idaho Head Start Association (IHSA) is a statewide non-profit organization that supports Head Start programs through advocacy, partnerships, collaboration, recognition, and professional development to achieve high quality outcomes for Idaho's children, families, and communities. IHSA is composed of representatives of programs from Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant Head Start, and Native American Head Start.



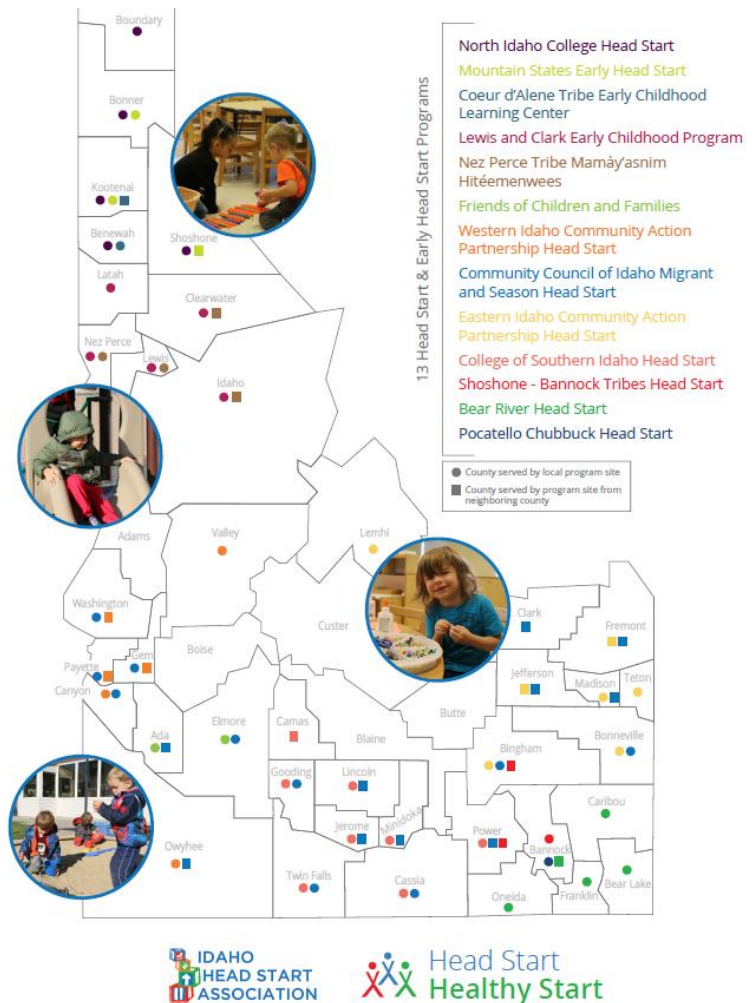
## HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS IN IDAHO

The 13 Head Start and Early Head Start programs continue to provide free services across most of the state (Figure 1). There are five counties that Head Start programs do not serve: Adams, Blaine, Boise, Butte, and Custer. All other counties in Idaho were served by at least one Head Start/Early Head Start program.

There have been some changes in the number of classrooms and locations served by IHSA members. Table 1 displays the number of locations each IHSA member serves by program type; changes from last year are noted where applicable. Among the 13 Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Idaho, there were 86 sites, down from 95 in 2022. Of these 86, 42 provided Head Start, 10 provided Early Head Start, and 16 sites across five grantees provided both Head Start and Early Head Start. One grantee's four sites only provided Early Head Start (Mountain States Early Head Start, at Jannus), and two grantees' multiple sites only provided Head Start (North Idaho College and Pocatello-Chubbuck School District). In addition, there were five American Indian and Alaska Native sites across the three Tribal grantees, and 13 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start sites provided by one grantee, the Community Council of Idaho.

Table A-1 in Appendix A displays the number of sites located in each county by program type. Note that each site may serve neighboring counties. The number of sites located in each county varied from zero to 11, with most counties containing one or two sites. Less than half of the counties have an Early Head Start Program; of Idaho's 44 counties, 20 contained an Early Head Start site.

**Figure 1. Idaho Counties Served by Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.**



Source: Idaho Head Start Association, 2022

**Table 1. Number of Sites and Population Served for Idaho’s Head Start/Early Head Start Programs in 2022-2023 and Changes from 2021-2022**

Program Name	Number of Locations by Population Served in 2022-2023 <sup>1</sup>					
	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Early Head Start	Head Start	HS and EHS	Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	Total
Bear River Head Start	0	1	3	1	0	5
Coeur D'Alene Tribe Early Childhood Learning Center	1	0	0	0	0	1
College of Southern Idaho Head Start	0	0	6	4	0	10
Community Council of Idaho Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	0	0	0	0	13	13
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	0	2 (3)	5 (6)	0	0	7 (9)
Friends of Children and Families	0	1	3	3	0	7
Mountain States Early Head Start	0	4	0	0	0	4
Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program	0	0	7	2	0	9
Nez Perce Tribe Mamáy’asnim Hitéemenwees	3	0	0	0	0	3
North Idaho College Head Start	0	0	9 (8)	0	0	9 (8)
Pocatello Chubbuck Head Start	0	0	2 (4)	0	0	2 (4)
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Head Start	1	0	0	0	0	1
Western Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	0	2 (6)	7 (10)	6 (5)	0	15 (21)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10 (15)</b>	<b>42 (47)</b>	<b>16 (15)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>86 (95)</b>

Source: Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Head Start Center Locator. Retrieved 8/28/2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator?latitude=44.068&longitude=-114.742&state=ID>

<sup>1</sup> Counts from 2022 are shown in parentheses if different from 2023.

Notes: HS = Head Start. EHS = Early Head Start.

Table 2 presents the number of funded slots for each grantee. The number of Head Start slots is the sum of the number of federally-funded and TANF slots both full day and half day and Migrant and Seasonal slots. The number of Early Head Start slots is the sum of center-based and home-based. The regions served by each grantee are noted.

**Table 2. Number of Head Start and Early Head Start funded slots at each of Idaho’s Head Start Programs in 2022-2023**

Program Name	Early Head Start	Head Start	Regions Served
Bear River Head Start	17	83	Southeast
Coeur D'Alene Tribe Early Childhood Learning Center	40	74	North
College of Southern Idaho Head Start	92	411	South Central
Community Council of Idaho Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	40	797	East, South Central, Southwest
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	56	162	East
Friends of Children and Families	76	385	Southwest
Mountain States Early Head Start	153		North Central
Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program	94	237	North
Nez Perce Tribe Mamáy’asnim Hitéemenwees	64	103	North Central
North Idaho College Head Start		299	North
Pocatello Chubbuck Head Start		203	Southeast
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Head Start		11	Southeast, East
Western Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	214	545	Southwest
<b>Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>3,310</b>	

Source: Enrollment and Services Table or data from each Idaho Head Start Site, n=13.

Notes: HS = Head Start. EHS = Early Head Start. The # of Head Start slots were calculated by adding the total # of federally funded and TANF HS slots for each region. Full Day and Half Day slots and Migrant and Seasonal slots are included in this value. The total # of EHS slots includes center- and home-based slots.





## SECTION 3. METHODOLOGY

To conduct this community needs assessment update, PHMC gathered secondary quantitative data sources and reviewed online reports and resources. Below is a summary of these data sources.

PHMC accessed data via data request or download from the following agencies:

- U.S. Census American Community Survey
- Centers for Disease Control
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Idaho State Department of Education
- March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, Peristats
- Kids Count Data Center

Researchers also examined online reports and data sources, including the following among others:

- United Health Foundation's American Health Rankings
- Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Published by University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute School of Medicine and Public Health with support from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- National Low Income Housing Coalition

Where appropriate and available, PHMC provides statistical breakdowns of data by county and region.



## SECTION 4. SERVICE AREA

In this section, to update the 2022 report, data are provided on young children who are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start based on family income or as part of one of the priority populations, namely those who are experiencing homelessness, in foster care, or who have disabilities. Before providing these data, trends and changes in the general population and economy of Idaho are described.

### RECENT POPULATION AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

In the last five years, Idaho has experienced notable demographic changes. As the cost of living (CoL) has grown nationwide, some people moved to states with a lower CoL. Idaho has seen migration from nearby California and Washington.<sup>4</sup> According to KTVB, in 2021, over 46% of migration to the Treasure Valley area of Idaho was from California.<sup>5</sup> Although there has been rapid growth, trends indicate that this is slowing down. According to a report from Move Buddha, in 2020, there were 320 moves into the state for every 100 moves out of state, but in 2022 this has decreased to 123 moves in for every 100 moves out.<sup>6</sup>

Idaho is experiencing rising housing costs, especially in its urban centers. Idaho's housing price increases were the third highest in the nation in 2021, and in the five years before then, it was the first in increasing housing prices. Between March 2020 and March 2022, rent prices grew an average of 36%.<sup>7</sup> According to Curbed, in 2014, the median home price in Ada County, which contains Boise, was just over 200,000. In 2019, the median house price was 325,000.<sup>8</sup> After the end of the pandemic-era eviction moratorium, one organization has seen a 25% increase in single mothers facing eviction in Idaho.<sup>9</sup>

### HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

Children from birth to age five or pregnant women are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start if the child or family meets any of these criteria:

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<sup>4</sup> Barringer, F. (2023, May 3). *Idaho is increasingly a bullseye for Californian migrants.* & the West. <https://andthewest.stanford.edu/2022/idaho-is-increasingly-a-bullseye-for-californian-migrants/>

<sup>5</sup> Stjepovic, K. (2021, March 3). *Idaho continues to attract out-of-staters, mainly from California.* KTVB. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/growing-idaho/idaho-attracts-californians-migration-growing/277-5c2a35b2-d3be-46fa-8565-faf024a16f7c>

<sup>6</sup> Robison, J. (2022, September 28). *Idaho, the place to go: The MOVEBUDDHA 2021-2022 Idaho Migration Report.* moveBuddha. <https://www.movebuddha.com/blog/moving-to-idaho-migration-report/>

<sup>7</sup> Pochop, K. (2022, May 19). *A snapshot of Idaho's rapidly growing cost of living.* Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy. <https://idahofiscal.org/a-snapshot-of-idahos-rapidly-growing-cost-of-living/>

<sup>8</sup> Sisson, P. (2019, January 22). *As Boise Booms, a city faces the curse of "Californiacation."* Curbed. <https://archive.curbed.com/2019/1/22/18193112/boise-real-estate-housing-downtown>

<sup>9</sup> Staff. (2021, September 9). *Intermountain Fair Housing Council sees increase in Idaho single mothers being evicted.* KTVB. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/growing-idaho/intermountain-fair-housing-council-has-seen-an-increase-evictions-for-single-mothers/277-f15e327e-be1c-4e94-8af4-c95ddf83d2b3>

- The family’s income is below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (which, for example, in 2023<sup>10</sup> is \$24,860 for a family of three and \$30,000 for a family of four).
- The family is receiving, or eligible for, public assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- The child is experiencing homelessness.
- The child is in foster care.

In addition, Head Start programs are required to ensure that at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment slots are occupied by children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).<sup>11</sup>

Programs can apply additional considerations to eligibility and enrollment in their program:

- Over one-third (35%) of program slots are able to be designated for children who do not meet one of these criteria whose incomes are above the federal poverty level but **below 130% FPL**.
- A **tribal program** may fill more than 10 percent of its enrollment with participants who are not eligible under the criteria if the tribal program has serviced all eligible pregnant women or children who wish to be enrolled from Indian and non-Indian families living within the approved service area of the tribal agency, the tribe has resources within its grant, and at least 51 percent of the programs’ participants meet an eligibility criteria.
- A child is eligible for **Migrant or Seasonal Head Start** if the family meets an eligible criterion and the family’s income comes primarily from agricultural work.

Updated data on each of these eligibility criteria are provided below, to the extent available. Then, we present the current number of Head Start and Early Head Start funded slots across all 13 Head Start grantees in Idaho and present estimates of the proportion of children eligible for Head Start services that *could be* served by IHSA members. Estimates are broken out by county, region, and/or child age where possible. Following estimates of eligibility based on income, we provide information on children and families in Idaho who are categorically eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start.

**Estimated number and proportion of young children who are income-eligible for Head Start.** We begin with estimates of the numbers of children under age five in Idaho who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start based on family income. Table 3 presents overall estimates of all young children in Idaho who lived in families at or below 130% of the federal poverty line (FPL) from analyses of data from the U.S. Census American Community Surveys 2017 - 2021. It also presents numbers of children by age

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<sup>10</sup> U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2023. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Accessed at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. Head Start Policy and Regulations. Head Start Program Performance Standards. Part 1302-Program Operations. 1302.12 Determining, Verifying, and Documenting Eligibility. Accessed at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-12-determining-verifying-documenting-eligibility>

<sup>11</sup> Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. Head Start Policy and Regulations. Information Memoranda. Inclusion of Children with Disabilities ACF-IM-HS-20-01. Accessed at: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-20-01>

and region. Table A-2 in Appendix A presents these estimates at 100% of the FPL at the individual county level.

**Table 3. Estimated 2017-2021 Number of Young Children Living in Families Up to 130% of the Poverty (<130% FPL) by Age and Region in Idaho**

Region	Children <5	Children 0-2	Children 3-4
<b>North</b> (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	3,878	2,336	1,542
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	1,217	733	484
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington)	9,911	5,971	3,941
<b>South Central</b> (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls)	4,890	2,946	1,944
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida)	1,909	1,150	759
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	5,874	3,539	2,335
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,680</b>	<b>16,675</b>	<b>11,005</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 2017-2021 County Child Poverty Estimates, Tables B1701 and B17024

Note: For 130% of poverty for children 0-4 and 0-2, the estimated numbers were based on multiplying the number of children ages 3-4 at the 130% poverty level by 2.5 and 1.5 respectively and rounded to a whole number.

Results show that, statewide, an estimated **27,680 children under age five** -- **16,675** infants and toddlers and **11,005** 3- and 4-year-olds -- lived at or below the Head Start-eligibility income level of 130% of FPL in Idaho. This means that, given that there were an estimated 113,051 children under age 5, an estimated **24.5% of young children were income-eligible for Head Start** in Idaho in 2021. The most populous Southwest region of the state held one-third of Head Start-eligible children, followed by another 28% in the East and 18% in the South Central regions of Idaho.

An estimated 7,396 3- and 4-year-old children in Idaho lived at or below the federal poverty line. The 11,005 preschool-aged children at 130% of FPL represent an estimated 24.3% of all 3- and 4-year-olds. In Table 4, we provide breakouts by region at various levels of family income for 3- and 4-year-old children. The individual county estimates are presented in Table A-3 in Appendix A. Because families move in and out of poverty and because many related services have higher income eligibility thresholds, we also provide the estimated numbers of 3- and 4-year-old children living at or below 185% of FPL, which was 18,736 children (41.4%).

The proportion of young children living in low-income families varied by geography. County-level percentages of three- and four-year-old children living in families below or near the federal poverty level are presented in Table A-2 in Appendix A. Below, Table 4 presents these county-level estimates aggregated to each of the six regions of Idaho. The county with the lowest percentage of children living at each poverty level is presented in the columns labeled “Lowest %”, and the county with the highest percentage in a given region is presented in the columns labeled “Highest %.” These datapoints are useful to understand the geographic variation of families with young children living in low-income families within a region.



**Table 4. Estimated 2017-2021 Number of Children Ages 3-4 Years Old at Various Levels of Poverty and County Poverty Rates by Region**

Region	At or Below 100% Poverty			Up to 130% of Poverty Level			Up to 185% of Poverty Level		
	#	Lowest and Highest % of Counties within Region		#	Lowest and Highest % of Counties within Region		#	Lowest and Highest % of Counties within Region	
		Lowest %	Highest %		Lowest %	Highest %		Lowest %	Highest %
<b>North</b> (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	1,052	16.8%	32.0%	1,542	24.0%	33.9%	2,195	35.6%	53.4%
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	414	10.4%	35.8%	484	15.9%	40.8%	797	31.2%	57.2%
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington)	2,655	0.6%	31.7%	3,941	4.4%	39.7%	7,067	14.9%	75.2%
<b>South Central</b> (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls)	1,393	5.0%	31.1%	1,944	25.5%	41.3%	2,924	42.1%	73.1%
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida)	517	13.4%	23.0%	759	16.5%	32.9%	1,400	26.2%	58.3%
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	1,548	3.6%	42.9%	2,335	12.8%	48.8%	4,353	33.3%	77.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,396</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>11,005</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>18,736</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>77.1%</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 2017-2021 County Child Poverty Estimates, Tables B1701 and B17024

**Notes:** Poverty percentage at the 100% level for each County was available for children in the age range of 0-4. The number of Children ages 3-4 below the poverty line was estimated by applying this percentage to two-fifths of the total Children between the ages of 0-4. Nine counties were extracted because there were a very small number of 0-4 year olds and the margins of errors were too large based on U.S. Census standards.

For poverty at the 130% and 185% levels, only the percentage of families with Children 0-4 below these levels was available in the Census. This percentage was applied to two-fifths of the total Children between the ages of 0-4 to obtain an estimate. Small adjustments needed to be made for 13 typically small counties in applying this percentage to generate number of young children below 130%. These 13 counties received the same figure for 130% poverty as for 100% poverty, which is more accurate than the too low family poverty imputation figure for these counties. Only one small county (Valley) required the same adjustment for 185% poverty.

Less than 2% of young children had missing income data. A small proportional adjustment was made to account for these missing cases.

**Estimated unmet need for Head Start services.** As of August 2023, there were 3,310 funded Head Start slots and 846 funded Early Head Start slots in Idaho across 13 Head Start programs. Table 5 provides each grantee’s number of funded slots and the regions served by each program. Five of Idaho’s 44 counties are not served by any Head Start/Early Head Start grantee and therefore there are no Head Start services to meet the need. Two of these counties are in the Southwest region, two are in the East region, and the last is in the South Central region.

**Table 5. Funded Head Start and Early Head Start Slots by Grantee and Regions of Idaho Served**

Program Name	EHS Slots	HS Slots	Regions Served
Bear River Head Start	17	83	Southeast
Coeur D'Alene Tribe Early Childhood Learning Center	40	74	North
College of Southern Idaho Head Start	92	411	South Central
Community Council of Idaho Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	40	797	East, South Central, Southwest
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	56	162	East
Friends of Children and Families	76	385	Southwest
Mountain States Early Head Start	--	153	North
Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program	94	237	North Central
Nez Perce Tribe Mamáy’asnim Hitéemenwees	64	103	North Central
North Idaho College Head Start	--	299	North
Pocatello Chubbuck Head Start	--	203	Southeast
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Head Start	--	11	Southeast, East
Western Idaho Community Action Partnership Head Start	214	545	Southwest
<b>Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>3,310</b>	

Source: IHSA member Enrollment and Services tables or program data.

Notes: HS = Head Start. EHS = Early Head Start.

The # of Head Start slots were calculated by adding the total # of federally funded and TANF HS slots for each county. Full Day and Half Day slots and Migrant and Seasonal slots are also included in this value. The # of Early Head Start slots includes center- and home-based slots.

Table 6 presents the number of slots, the estimated number of eligible children (<130% FPL), and the calculated need for services that can be met by funded slots, grouped by region. As noted, the total estimated number of three- and four-year-old children from families at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in Idaho was 11,005 (based on American Community Survey 2017-2021 percentages). Accordingly, **Idaho had funded Head Start slots available for an estimated 30% of eligible three- and four-year-old children statewide.** In addition, the total estimated number of children birth to age two from families at or below 130% FPL was 16,675; therefore, there were **funded Early Head Start slots available for an estimated 5% of infants and toddlers in Idaho.**

The amount of services available to meet the need varied by region. Head Start services met between 18% and 70% of each region’s need; the median need met was 33%. Early Head Start services were able to meet between 1% and 22% of each region’s need; the median need met was 4%. The region with the highest percent of need met was the North Central region, which had a small population of an estimated 1,217 children 0-4 years old, served by 498 available slots.

**Table 6. Percentage of Potential Need for Services (2017-2021) Met by Funded Slots by Idaho Region Based on Number of Head Start and Early Head Start Slots and Estimated Number of Eligible Children (at or below 130% FPL)**

Region	# of HS Slots	Est. # of HS Eligible Children	% of Est. Need Met by Funded Slots	# of EHS Slots	Est. # of EHS Eligible Children	% of Est. Need Met by Funded Slots
<b>North</b> (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	373	1,542	24%	193	2,336	8%
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	340	484	70%	158	733	22%
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, Adams,* Boise,* Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington)	1,196	3,941	30%	304	5,971	5%
<b>South Central</b> (Blaine,* Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls)	677	1,944	35%	105	2,946	4%
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida)	297	759	39%	17	1,150	1%
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, Butte,* Clark, Custer,* Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	426	2,335	18%	69	3,539	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>11,005</b>		<b>846</b>	<b>16,675</b>	

Source: IHSA member Enrollment and Services tables or program data. American Community Survey, 2017-2021 County Child Poverty Estimates, Tables B1701 and B17024

Notes: HS = Head Start. EHS = Early Head Start.

The # of Head Start slots were calculated by adding the total # of federally funded and TANF HS slots for each county. Full Day and Half Day slots and Migrant and Seasonal slots are also included in this value. The # of Early Head Start slots includes center- and home-based slots. The number of slots at programs that serve more than one region were divided across regions to estimate regional slots.



## ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INCOME-ELIGIBLE EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Estimating the number of expectant mothers<sup>12</sup> who are income-eligible for Early Head Start in a state requires several data points, including estimates of the number of pregnant women and the percent living at or below 130% of the federal poverty line.

To estimate the number of pregnant women in Idaho, PHMC applied a process provided by the Centers for Disease Control.<sup>13</sup> The estimated total population of women of reproductive age (WRA; 15 – 44 years) in 2020 in Idaho was 339,349<sup>14</sup> drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey.

To estimate the pregnancy rate per 1,000 WRA, PHMC gathered data for the three pregnancy outcomes needed to for the estimation – live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses (deaths) – from March of Dimes Peristats and the Centers for Disease Control. The number of live births was 21,533,<sup>15</sup> the number of induced abortions was 2,048,<sup>16</sup> and the number of fetal deaths was 52.<sup>17</sup> Applying the CDC calculation,  $(21,533 * 0.75) + (2,048 * 0.167) + (52 * 0.25)$ , which adjusts the numbers for pregnancy outcomes to reflect the proportion of the 12-month period that each annual outcome represents (e.g., the average live birth lasts 9 months, or .75 of a year), 16,505 women in Idaho were pregnant at any given point in time during 2020 in Idaho.

The percent of children under age 5 who were estimated to be living in families under 130% of the federal poverty limit in 2021 was 24.5%. Applying this percent to pregnant women, an **estimated 4,044 expectant mothers were income-eligible for Early Head Start** in Idaho.

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<sup>12</sup> The terms used in this section such as “expectant mothers” or “pregnant women” are from the sources for the data utilized in these calculations (e.g., statistics from the Census Bureau or the CDC); while they are used here for consistency with sources, we recognize that pregnant persons may use a wider set of terms to describe their identity.

<sup>13</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Division of Reproductive Health. (2016). Estimating the Number of Pregnant Women in a Geographic Area. Retrieved August 7, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/emergency/pdfs/pregnancy-estimator-brochure-508.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Table S0101. Geography: Idaho; Topics: Age and Sex. Retrieved August 9, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?t=Age+and+Sex&g=040XX00US16&y=2020&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S0101>

<sup>15</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data. US Census Bureau. Population estimates based on bridged race categories released by the National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved August 9, 2023, from [www.marchofdimes.org/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats).

<sup>16</sup> Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control. Abortions Distributed by Area 2020. Retrieved August 9, 2023, from [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/ss/ss7110a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss7110a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/ss/ss7110a1.htm?s_cid=ss7110a1_w)

<sup>17</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, fetal mortality data. Retrieved August 9, 2023, from [www.marchofdimes.org/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats). Retrieved August 9, 2023, from [www.marchofdimes.org/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats).

## YOUNG CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

For this update, we attempted to find up to date numbers<sup>18</sup> on how many young children are experiencing homelessness in Idaho. One update is the annual Point-In-Time count organized by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This count does not provide specific numbers of children by age group, but it does provide a general idea of how many families could be in need of services. The most recent Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress found that there were an estimated 765 people who were experiencing homelessness who were part of a family with children in Idaho. While Idaho has a smaller number of people experiencing homelessness as part of a family than other states, Idaho has high rates at which families experiencing homelessness were unsheltered (47%), one of the highest rates of any state.<sup>19</sup>

Although it is difficult to find up to date numbers on how many young children are experiencing homelessness in Idaho, it is important for Head Start providers to understand the needs of this group. A 2015 report from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth surveyed ECE providers to understand the barriers to accessing care experienced by families with young children who are experiencing homelessness, identify successful strategies for reducing those barriers, and assess collaboration between ECE programs. The most commonly experienced barriers to accessing early childhood care for these families were a lack of transportation and a lack of sufficient slots in programs that serve children experiencing homelessness. Successful strategies to reduce barriers to ECE included having a dedicated staff person who works with early childhood issues, facilities assisting families in filling out paperwork, and the relationship between McKinney-Vento Liaisons in communities.<sup>20</sup>

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

PHMC obtained data about children under age five who received foster care placement services from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The point-in-time reports across Idaho's seven Public Health Districts<sup>21</sup> (Table 7; see map in Appendix B) showed that, at the end of the state's fiscal year on June 30 2023, there were 497 young children in foster care services.

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<sup>18</sup> The best data on this come from the U.S. Department of Education Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles, but there has not been an updated report since the report of data used for the 2022 Head Start needs assessment. The Idaho State Department of Education provided number of how many school-aged children experience homelessness in the last year, but they were not able to provide data on children younger than kindergarten age.

<sup>19</sup> The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2022. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2022-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>.

<sup>20</sup> Perlman, S. (2015). *Access to Early Childhood Programs for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Survey Report*. NAEHYC. Retrieved August 17 2023, from <https://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/naehcy-survey-report.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Please see Appendix B for a map of Idaho's public health districts.

**Table 7. Number of Children Age 0-4 in Foster Care by Public Health District, June 30, 2023**

Region	# Children in Foster Care
<b>Public Health District (PHD) 1</b> (Panhandle [North]: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	47
<b>PHD 2</b> (North Central: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	26
<b>PHD 3</b> (Southwest: Adams, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Washington)	138
<b>PHD 4</b> (Central: Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley)	131
<b>PHD 5</b> (South Central: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls)	49
<b>PHD 6</b> (Southeastern: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power)	49
<b>PHD 7</b> (Eastern: Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	57
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>497</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

### NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Data on young children with disabilities were obtained from two sources that serve children of different age groups: Idaho's Infant Toddler Program (ITP), which coordinates a system of early intervention services to assist Idaho children from birth to 3 years of age who have a developmental delay or who have conditions that may result in a developmental delay, and Idaho's Department of Education's department of Special Education (SPED), which coordinates services for students with disabilities from ages 3 to 21 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 618 Part B Educational Environment School Age.

As shown in Table 8, 4,650 infants and toddlers were served by ITP across all seven Public Health Districts in 2023. (PHD Map in Appendix B.)

**Table 8. Number of Children Served by the Infant Toddler Program by Public Health District, SFY 2023**

Region	# Children Served by ITP
<b>Public Health District (PHD) 1</b> (Panhandle [North]: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	664
<b>PHD 2</b> (North Central: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	213
<b>PHD 3</b> (Southwest: Adams, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Washington)	892
<b>PHD 4</b> (Central: Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley)	1,322
<b>PHD 5</b> (South Central: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls)	362
<b>PHD 6</b> (Southeastern: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power)	484
<b>PHD 7</b> (Eastern: Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	713
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,650</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

The unique count of preschool-aged children not yet in kindergarten active and receiving special education services on the first Friday in November was 2,303 (Table 9). These data are from the FY 2022 school year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). The majority of these young children with disabilities are not in any regular early childhood program, such as Head Start. Instead, they are in a separate special education class (60%) or attending a separate school (13%).<sup>22</sup> Of those children attending a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours a week, slightly more children receive the majority of hours of special education in the regular early childhood program (7% of total) than in some other location (6% of total). The numbers of children attending a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours a week showed a similar pattern in the location of special education (5% in the regular early childhood program, 3% in some other location). The remaining 7% of children received the majority of their hours of special education at the service provider location or some other location not in any category, and were not attending either a regular early childhood program or a special education program.

**Table 9. Number of Children Ages 3-5 with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Services from DOE, SY22**

Age	# of Students Receiving Services	% of total
<b>3 years</b>	717	31%
<b>4 years</b>	1,246	54%
<b>5 years Enrolled in Preschool</b>	340	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,303</b>	100%

Source: Idaho DOE Child Count Data, Tab "Subtotals", Table "Subtotal 5 – Children with Disabilities by Age"

<sup>22</sup> Idaho State Department of Education. (2023). *Child Count ages 3-21 2021-2022*. Tabs Referenced: Subtotals, Educational Environment by Age, Disability Age Environment EC.

## SECTION 5. IDENTIFIED NEED

This section first presents some statewide economic and social factors that affect the needs of Head Start eligible-children and their families, and then describes health, nutritional, and developmental needs of these children and their families.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS

#### *Wages and Cost of Living*

Head Start, like many programs, use the federal poverty threshold to determine eligibility for services, considering it an estimate of an individual's or family's ability to hold a certain standard of living. However, the poverty threshold does not account for many living costs beyond a basic food budget, nor does it account for geographic variation in the cost of essential expenses. Two alternative approaches to measuring basic needs and expenses provide important models to understand essential expenses such as health care, housing, transportation, and child care, and accounts for geographic variation in these costs. These two approaches, the ALICE model (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and a Living Wage, provide information about the minimum earnings necessary for a family to be self-sufficient. Next, we provide information on the ALICE Threshold and living wages for families in Idaho.

**ALICE.** Considering the number of Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) families shows that focusing alone on families below the federal poverty level undercounts the extent of financial hardship. Nearly three times as many Idaho households were living above the federal poverty line but not earning enough to afford the basics in the communities in which they live as were in poverty (based on the Household Survival Budget, which reflects minimum household costs to live and work in the modern economy including housing, child care, food, transportation, technology, health care, taxes, and other unanticipated costs), according to calculations from the United Way.<sup>23</sup> The rate of financial hardship was higher in rural counties (48%) compared to urban counties (41%). Single-parent families with children were more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold (80% of single-female-headed households and 59% of single-male-headed-households) than married-parent households (27%) or single/cohabitating households without children (41%).

From 2019 to 2021, the number of households below the ALICE Threshold increased by 23%. The largest counties experienced an increase in the total number of households and also saw a percentage increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold. Only six of Idaho's 47 counties saw no change or a decline in the percent change of households who were below ALICE Thresholds plus those below the federal poverty level (Bannock, Clark, Gooding, Jerome, Owyhee, and Payette); of these, one experienced no change and the rest had small declines (between 1% and 11%). Of the 42 counties which saw an increase in the percent of households below the FPL and ALICE Thresholds, many increases were substantial and ten had percent increases above 25% (Ada, Adams, Benewah, Jefferson, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Teton, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington).

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<sup>23</sup> United Way. (2023). *ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in Idaho*. Retrieved August 15, 2023 from <https://unitedforalice.org/state-overview-mobile/Idaho>

**Living wage.** The Living Wage Calculator has published updated calculations for the living wage – what one full-time worker must earn on an hourly basis to help cover the cost of their family’s minimum basic needs where they live while still being self-sufficient – using the best available data as of December 31 of 2022. The state minimum wage is \$7.25, the same as the federal minimum wage, which has not changed since the summer of 2009. The living wage for Idaho as a whole was \$23.34 per hour for an adult working full time and living in a household with another full-time working adult and two children (see the Living Wage Calculator website for living wages for other household compositions).<sup>24</sup> County living wages for a working adult in this household composition ranged a bit, from a low of \$21.79 (Bear Lake, Caribou, and Minidoka) to a high of \$24.44 - \$24.45 (Ada, Blaine, and Boise) in 2022 (Table 10).<sup>25</sup>

**Table 10. Living Wages by County, 2022, for an Adult in a Household with Two Working Adults and Two Children**

County	Living Wage
Ada	\$24.45
Adams	\$21.94
Bannock	\$22.04
Bear Lake	\$21.79
Benewah	\$22.79
Bingham	\$21.88
Blaine	\$24.44
Boise	\$24.45
Bonner	\$23.52
Bonneville	\$23.51
Boundary	\$22.37
Butte	\$22.04
Camas	\$22.07
Canyon	\$23.63
Caribou	\$21.79
Cassia	\$22.36
Clark	\$22.07
Clearwater	\$22.58
Custer	\$23.30
Elmore	\$22.72
Franklin	\$22.73
Fremont	\$21.85
Gem	\$23.08

County	Living Wage
Gooding	\$22.08
Idaho	\$22.17
Jefferson	\$22.19
Jerome	\$22.41
Kootenai	\$23.36
Latah	\$23.39
Lemhi	\$22.54
Lewis	\$23.10
Lincoln	\$22.04
Madison	\$22.07
Minidoka	\$21.79
Nez Perce	\$22.91
Oneida	\$22.88
Owyhee	\$23.63
Payette	\$22.67
Power	\$22.15
Shoshone	\$22.42
Teton	\$23.97
Twin Falls	\$22.31
Valley	\$23.40
Washington	\$22.00
<b>IDAHO STATE</b>	<b>\$23.34</b>

Source: Glasmeier, Amy K. (2023). *Living Wage Calculator*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Retrieved August 15, 2023 from <https://livingwage.mit.edu>

<sup>24</sup> Glasmeier, Amy K. (2023). *Living Wage Calculator*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Retrieved August 15, 2023 from <https://livingwage.mit.edu>

<sup>25</sup> Comparing the living wage across time is challenging. While the methodology remains relatively consistent year-over-year, changes in the underlying data sources and key variables can change year to year that can increase or decrease the estimates for the cost of basic needs or the living wage overall each year. For this reason, only the most recent data from 2022 is reported here, as per guidance from the calculator authors.

## Working Parents

While Head Start is a comprehensive “whole child” program for young children, it cannot be ignored that, as with other preschool programs, for many families Head Start also provides child care while parents work. In Idaho, the majority of children under age 6 in Idaho have working parents. For example, between 2015 and 2019, 53% of Idaho children under age 6 had working parents.<sup>26</sup> Moreover, many parents work early in the mornings, evenings, nights, and weekends. Of Idaho children under 6 with working parents, one in three worked nontraditional hours before 7:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. during the week or anytime on weekends.

These statewide numbers give a big-picture perspective on the large numbers of families for whom parents’ work schedules and Head Start operating hours may not align. Programs are encouraged to seek information in their local communities, making use of the parent survey tool that was provided as a companion to the 2022 IHSA Community Needs Assessment report. Based on the information gained, Head Start programs may seek ways to adjust their services to meet the needs of working parents in their service region, such as expanding hours of operation with partnerships with child care programs that would permit families to cover extended day hours of care with ICCP child care assistance dollars.

## Trends in Children’s Home and Neighborhood Contexts

**Adult education.** For the class of 2021, the overall four-year high school graduation rate was 80%,<sup>27</sup> down from 82.1% for 2020 but similar to 2019 (80.8%).<sup>28</sup> Updates were not available for other education indicators, like the college go on rate.

**Neighborhood quality.** Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents “definitely agree” that children 0-5 years old lived in a safe neighborhood from the 2020-2021 National Survey of Children’s Health, as opposed to 60% from the 2019-2020 survey, pushing Idaho’s state rank up from 43<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.<sup>29</sup> The majority of Idaho children 0-5 years old continue to live in a neighborhood without litter, rundown housing, or vandalism.<sup>30</sup> However, Idaho went from the lowest percentage in the entire country of children 0-5 years old who lived in neighborhoods with litter, rundown housing, and vandalism, to 34<sup>th</sup> (0.9% to 4.5%).<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.urban.org/projects/state-snapshots-potential-demand-and-policies-support-nontraditional-hour-child-care/idaho>

<sup>27</sup> Idaho State Department of Education. (2023). *Four Year Graduation Rate*. Retrieved August 1, 2023 from the response to a public records request.

<sup>28</sup> United Health Foundation. (2023). *Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, 2018-2019 School Year, America’s Health Rankings*. Americashealthrankings.org. Retrieved August 1, 2023 from [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Graduation\\_A/ID](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Graduation_A/ID)

<sup>29</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. (n.d.). *NSCH 2020 21: Safe neighborhood, All States, Definitely agree x Age in 3 groups*. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Retrieved August 9, 2023 from <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/allstates?q=9571&g=1002>

<sup>30</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. (n.d.). *NSCH 2020 21: Presence of detracting neighborhood elements, All States, Definitely agree x Age in 3 groups*. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Retrieved August 9, 2023 from <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/allstates?q=9571&g=1002>

<sup>31</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. (n.d.). *NSCH 2020 21: Presence of detracting neighborhood elements, All States, Neighborhood has all 3 detracting elements x Age in 3 groups*. Data Resource

## HEALTH NEEDS

A number of the health indicators identified in the 2022 Community Needs Assessment have not seen meaningful changes from comparison to the most recent available data. Since these data are mostly from 2019 or 2020, it is often not possible to see the full effects of the pandemic, a major change with far reaching effects.

For example, Idaho improved its state ranking for the percentage of infants with low birthweight (rank: 6 from 2020 data, rank: 8 from 2019 data), but the percentage remained around 7%.<sup>32</sup> Similar small effects were seen for young children's physical health indicators, including overall health, breastfeeding, childhood immunizations, well visits, low birthweight; dental health; and mental/behavioral/emotional health. Similar small differences were seen for several indicators for families of young children's health care access and insurance, physical health, substance use and misuse, and mental health.

In the rest of this section, we highlight meaningful changes in certain indicators, as well as issues that remain important to address but have not seen a major status change.

### *Young Children: Health Care Access and Health Insurance*

**Health Care Access.** Idaho remains at the bottom of the states in the ranking of number of pediatricians available. In 2021, Idaho was ranked 49 of 50 states with 45.1 pediatricians per 100,000 children ages 0-21, and 50 in 2020 (43.8 pediatricians per 100,000 children ages 0-21).<sup>33</sup> While 2022 data were not available, given the prior two years' rankings it seems unlikely the number of pediatricians would have changed substantially.

**Health Insurance.** Idaho's number of uninsured children increased from 5% of children in 2019 to 7% of children in 2021. Uninsured rates just among children under 6 were consistent, with 3.6% uninsured in 2019 rising to 6.4% in 2021.<sup>34</sup>

As pandemic-era protections have ended, states have disenrolled people from Medicaid health insurance. Between April and July 2023, at least 55,300 Idaho children lost access to Medicaid, as per reports of analyses of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare data conducted by Idaho Voices for

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Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Retrieved August 9, 2023 from <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/allstates?q=9578&g=1002&a=18442>

<sup>32</sup> United Health Foundation. (2023). *Analysis of CDC WONDER, Natality Public Use Files, America's Health Rankings*. Retrieved August 2, 2023 from <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/birthweight/ID>

<sup>33</sup> United Health Foundation. (2023). *Analysis of U.S. HHS, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Plan and Provider Enumeration System, September 2021, America's Health Rankings*. Retrieved August 1, 2023 from <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PED/ID>

<sup>34</sup> Center for Children & Families of the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. (2021). *Children's Health Care Report Card: Idaho*. Retrieved August 1, 2023 from <https://kidshealthcarereport.ccf.georgetown.edu/states/idaho/>



Children.<sup>35</sup> About 22,978 were disenrolled for non-replies to the state’s requests for information, 10,133 were confirmed to be ineligible, and the removal reason for the remainder was unknown.

Children can remain eligible for Medicaid at higher household income levels than adults (190% FPL, compared to 138% FPL for an adult). Children who are disenrolled from Medicaid should be moving to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but Idaho’s CHIP numbers also dropped between April to the end of July 2023, from 39,307 to 22,547 enrollees.

### **Young Children: Physical Health**

**Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NAS/NOWS).** The state’s Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program is exploring “methods for collecting data related to” NAS, but comprehensive statewide recent data are unavailable (the most recent data remains 2013).<sup>36</sup>

**Developmental Screenings.** Idaho’s state rank of 40 has decreased to 45 for the percentage of children ages 9-35 months whose parent completed a standardized developmental screening tool in the past 12 months (two-year estimate; 29% from 2019-2020 data, 24% from 2020-2021 data; U.S. average value 35%).<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/08/15/nearly-23000-idaho-children-lost-health-insurance-for-not-filling-out-paperwork-data-shows/>

<sup>36</sup> Idaho State Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program. (2022). *Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant, Idaho, FY 2023 Application/FY2021 Annual Report*. Retrieved August 8, 2023 from <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Admin/FileUpload/DownloadStateUploadedPdf?filetype=PrintVersion&state=ID&year=2023>

<sup>37</sup> United Health Foundation (2023). *Analysis of National Survey of Children’s Health, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), 2020-2021, America’s Health Rankings*. Retrieved August 8, 2023 from <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/devscreen/ID>

## SECTION 6. COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND STRENGTHS

Community resources in various areas are strengths for residents and potential referral or service partners for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This section begins with information on other child development services in Idaho. Recent trends are described, and data on the numbers served or participating are presented where relevant and available. Then, data on participation in food assistance programs which share overlapping eligibility with Head Start services are provided.

### OTHER CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Other child development services in Idaho that serve Head Start-eligible children and families include federally-funded home visiting services, other publicly-funded preschool programs, child care centers and family child care programs, child care programs participating in quality improvement and professional development programs (*Idaho Steps to Quality*), and availability of financial assistance to qualifying families through child care subsidies (Idaho Child Care Program). These services reach limited numbers of children and, in particular, the supply of child care that is high quality, affordable, and accessible is low and declining due to inadequate staffing and lack of funding.

#### *Home Visiting Services*

PHMC obtained and analyzed information about children receiving home visiting services from the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), operated by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the MIECHV Program supports pregnant people and parents with young children who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive maternal and child health outcomes. Each of the two available home visiting programs, Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers, are provided in different areas of the state.

The number of MIECHV counties served by MIECHV-funded home visitors employed by Idaho's seven public health districts (PHD; map in Appendix B)<sup>38</sup> increased by eight; in FFY2021, 12 out of Idaho's 44 counties provided eligible children with MIECHV services, which increased to 20 counties in FFY2022. Table 11 presents the data provided by Idaho's MIECHV program, which comprises families who reside in the 20 MIECHV counties. Counties listed in grey, italicized text do not have MIECHV-funded services. Table C-1 in Appendix C presents county-level data.

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<sup>38</sup> The public health districts with one or more of the 27 counties identified as high-risk in the 2020 MIECHV Needs Assessment but where MIECHV services are not funded do receive state general funds to provide home visiting services, but families who live in non-MIECHV counties are not included in the data as the count of families served by PHDs is based on the entire caseload regardless of funding source and does not separate non-MIECHV families from MIECHV families.

**Table 11. Number of Children in 20 MIECHV-funded Counties Receiving MIECHV by Age, FFY2022**

Region (County)	Age			Total Children Served
	0-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-6 yrs	
<b>North</b> (Benewah <sup>1</sup> , Bonner <sup>1</sup> , Boundary <sup>1</sup> , Kootenai <sup>1</sup> , Shoshone <sup>1</sup> )	80	-	-	80
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, <i>Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce</i> )	35	30	5	70
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, <i>Adams</i> , Boise, Canyon <sup>1</sup> , Elmore, <i>Gem</i> , Owyhee <sup>1</sup> , <i>Payette, Valley, Washington</i> )	134	35	10	179
<b>South Central</b> ( <i>Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome</i> <sup>2</sup> , <i>Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls</i> <sup>2</sup> )	77	21	-	98
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock <i>Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida</i> )	42	24	5	71
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, <i>Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton</i> )	58	44	12	114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>612</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

Note: Counties in grey italicized text are not included in table as they are not MIECHV funded. County-level data are reported as part of each of 6 regions.

FFY: Federal Fiscal Year

<sup>1</sup> Nurse-Family Partnership is the home visiting model in PHD1 and PHD3. Services end when the children reach two years of age.

<sup>2</sup> This program ends service when children reach five years of age.

### Preschool Programs

Idaho continues to be one of only a few states that does not have a state-funded preschool program.<sup>39</sup> As noted in the 2022 report, some school districts provide pre-kindergarten programs, funded via mechanisms such as school district levies or revenues, grants, or private funding.<sup>40</sup> In addition, Idaho dedicates money from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to Head Start for early education.

An opportunity to receive federal funding to strengthen preschool programs was initiated and ended in early 2021. The federal Preschool Development Grant program provides funds to states for the purpose of improving and expanding preschools. Idaho first received a 3.3 million grant in 2019, which was administered by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) and used for a

<sup>39</sup> Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Hodges, K. S., Garver, K. A., Weisenfeld, G., Gardiner, B. A., Jost, T. M. (2023). The State of Preschool 2022: State Preschool Yearbook. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research. Retrieved August 17, 2023, from [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/YB2022\\_FullReport.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/YB2022_FullReport.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Whitney, G., Callahan, C. and Himes, K. (2021). *Early Childhood Care and Education in Idaho: Idaho Preschool Development Grant Birth-Age 5 Needs Assessment*. Report submitted to Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children and Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council.

statewide early education needs assessment.<sup>41</sup> In January 2021, an additional three-year \$6 million grant that would have been used by the State Board of Education was announced.<sup>42</sup> However, in March 2021, the Idaho State House of Representatives voted against approving these funds and turned down the grant.<sup>43</sup>

### **Child Care Services and Access**

Childcare is in a state of crisis in Idaho.<sup>44</sup> Inadequate staffing and lack of funding mean that the supply of quality, affordable, accessible child care is limited and declining. The steep drop off in federal child care investment when stabilization funds expire on September 30, 2023, is projected to make the crisis even worse.<sup>45</sup> The median hourly wage for Idaho child care professionals is \$12.98, and 34% of child care workforce respondents to IdahoSTARS' 2022 survey qualified for government assistance. Turnover is high; 81% of programs experienced retention issues, and 56% of programs needed more staff immediately, according to child care owner and director respondents. The majority of Idaho's ECCE workforce have low levels of education and experience, and 48% of the workforce questioned if they will remain in child care after the pandemic-era wage enhancements end. Families cannot find child care to meet their and their children's needs. Because of inadequate staffing or space, almost all responding Idaho programs reported no available space for infants (95%), and four in ten programs had no openings for any age range. Although compensation is low, but programs cannot afford to raise wages, as payroll expenses are greater than revenue in many programs. Raising rates is necessary but many parents are already struggling to pay.

According to an executive director of childcare centers in Idaho in an opinion article, over 200 Idaho childcare providers closed between September 2020 and April 2021.<sup>46</sup> In May 2023, the *Idaho Press* interviewed daycare owners about the struggle to maintain adequate staffing; one owner said that she had not had this kind of difficulty finding staff in the 15 years she had been in the industry. She was quoted as saying, "Centers are having to close because if you can't maintain the ratio and you don't have enough workers on site, you cannot legally care for those children. If you have no workers, you have no business." Another stopped trying to hire new staff entirely because the wages were too high. As a result, she dropped her licensed capacity from 30 to 12. Another daycare owner closed her business

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<sup>41</sup> Richert, K. (2019, December 20). *Idaho receives first-ever federal grant for pre-K*. IdEdNews. <https://www.idahoednews.org/kevins-blog/idaho-receives-first-ever-federal-grant-for-pre-k/>

<sup>42</sup> Richert, K. (2021, January 8). *State receives \$6 million Federal Preschool grant*. IdEdNews. <https://www.idahoednews.org/kevins-blog/state-receives-6-million-federal-preschool-grant/>

<sup>43</sup> Corbin, C. (2021, March 2). *House Republicans kill bill for a \$6 million Federal Preschool grant*. IdEdNews. <https://www.idahoednews.org/top-news/house-republicans-kill-bill-for-a-6-million-federal-preschool-grant/>

<sup>44</sup> IdahoSTARS. (2022). *Early Care and Education Workforce Report 2022*. [https://idahostars.org/portals/61/docs/About-Us/WorkforceReport\\_2022.pdf](https://idahostars.org/portals/61/docs/About-Us/WorkforceReport_2022.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> Kashen, J., Valle Gutierrez, L., Woods, L. & Milli, J. (2023). *Child Care Cliff: 3.2 Million Children Likely to Lose Spots with End of Federal Funds*. The Century Foundation. Retrieved August 30, 2023, from [https://tcf.org/content/report/child-care-cliff/?utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=272184170&hsenc=p2ANqtz-IBlg\\_O0FygyRajXBUj5o4UntfPRgo7aPQe0rmq39oCsMJmtQydAbUImjyfSqPMPGKpwvA\\_jDNXocFnLoBTYWdiELOeg&utm\\_content=272184170&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://tcf.org/content/report/child-care-cliff/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=272184170&hsenc=p2ANqtz-IBlg_O0FygyRajXBUj5o4UntfPRgo7aPQe0rmq39oCsMJmtQydAbUImjyfSqPMPGKpwvA_jDNXocFnLoBTYWdiELOeg&utm_content=272184170&utm_source=hs_email)

<sup>46</sup> Fascilla, L. (2021, April 9). *Idaho's childcare industry cannot be left behind*. Idaho State Journal. [https://www.idahostatejournal.com/opinion/columns/idahos-childcare-industry-cannot-be-left-behind/article\\_3bae4c6f-aaf4-5852-9e15-3e3baf2f64d5.html](https://www.idahostatejournal.com/opinion/columns/idahos-childcare-industry-cannot-be-left-behind/article_3bae4c6f-aaf4-5852-9e15-3e3baf2f64d5.html)

of 30 years due to being unable to hire adequate new employees.<sup>47</sup> According to a professor at North Idaho College, the childcare workforce experiences 50% turnover every year; it is common for people to leave childcare for better-paying jobs or jobs with better benefits and growth opportunities.<sup>48</sup>

The looming cliff in the abrupt end of stabilization funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will force the child care sector to contract even more unless there is legislative action. Recent projections for Idaho<sup>49</sup> warn that the steep drop-off in federal child care investment beginning September 30, 2023, will result in nearly 16,000 children losing their child care and 276 child care programs expected to close. An additional 1,232 child care jobs are projected to be lost, at a minimum. The ripple effects of parents forced to cut work hours or leave the workforce means Idaho parents will lose \$27.3 million in earnings, and the state will see \$41 million less in employer productivity and \$21 million less in state income tax.

One attempt to address staffing shortages was a Child Care Task Force created by the city of Boise. The task force identified low wages as one reason potential workers are not drawn to childcare. Another reason is that childcare workers are required to obtain background checks, licenses, and training, including CPR, all of which cost money. Completing this paperwork can take up to eight weeks, which is unpaid time that may motivate workers to seek other employment. In response to these findings, the city of Boise waived fees for background checks and licensing for childcare workers starting in March 2022. Additionally, they began offering temporary licenses so workers could work while they waited for paperwork to be completed.<sup>50</sup> Another initiative in Boise was a one-time cash award of \$1,500 to childcare staff who applied for the funds. These funds came from ARPA and were administered by IAEYC. According to BoiseDev, the average childcare worker in Boise makes \$24,000 a year, so an extra 1,500 would increase a worker's income by 6%.<sup>51</sup>

Parents and caregivers face long wait lists and the high cost of childcare. Statewide, 49 percent of Idaho residents live in a child care desert with licensed child care too far away or lacking available slots, and 65

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<sup>47</sup> White, E. (2023, May 12). *Are daycares dying out? A dive into Boise Child Care*. Idaho Press.

[https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/are-daycares-dying-out-a-dive-into-boise-child-care/article\\_bc949a9e-ed3-11ed-8ebf-07bd593b8ac9.html](https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/are-daycares-dying-out-a-dive-into-boise-child-care/article_bc949a9e-ed3-11ed-8ebf-07bd593b8ac9.html)

<sup>48</sup> Snow, J. (2022, December 4). *Child care conundrum an economic issue*. Coeur d'Alene Press.

<https://cdapress.com/news/2022/dec/04/editing-access-daycare-pros-economy/>

<sup>49</sup> Kashen, J., Valle Gutierrez, L., Woods, L. & Milli, J. (2023). *Child Care Cliff: 3.2 Million Children Likely to Lose Spots with End of Federal Funds*. The Century Foundation. Retrieved August 30, 2023, from

[https://tcf.org/content/report/child-care-cliff/?utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=272184170&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-IBlg\\_O0FygyRajXBUj5o4UntfPRgo7aPQe0rmq39oCsMJmtQydAbUImjyfSqPMPGKpwwA\\_jDNXocFnLoBTYWdIELOeg&utm\\_content=272184170&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://tcf.org/content/report/child-care-cliff/?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=272184170&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-IBlg_O0FygyRajXBUj5o4UntfPRgo7aPQe0rmq39oCsMJmtQydAbUImjyfSqPMPGKpwwA_jDNXocFnLoBTYWdIELOeg&utm_content=272184170&utm_source=hs_email)

Kashen, J., Valle Gutierrez, L., Woods, L., & Milli, J. (2023). *Idaho Fact Sheet: Children in Idaho Set to Lose Child Care Due to Child Care Cliff*. The Century Foundation. Retrieved August 30, 2023 from <https://tcf-ccs-map.netlify.app/assets/factsheets/Child%20Care%20State%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Idaho.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> Lehr, K. (2021, December 17). *Boise amends city code in effort to address staffing shortages at child care facilities*. Idaho News 6. [https://www.kivitv.com/news/boise-amends-city-code-in-effort-to-address-staffing-shortages-at-child-care-facilities?fbclid=IwAR1CDKRU7Ta\\_kjWwLHMukLV\\_LjM2g7UOWa4qqRkDsQaccuQ-PiYubq-Q7r0](https://www.kivitv.com/news/boise-amends-city-code-in-effort-to-address-staffing-shortages-at-child-care-facilities?fbclid=IwAR1CDKRU7Ta_kjWwLHMukLV_LjM2g7UOWa4qqRkDsQaccuQ-PiYubq-Q7r0)

<sup>51</sup> Carmel, Margaret. (2022, November 17). *City of Boise to spend \$5.5 million in federal dollars on childcare worker payments, grants to small businesses, treasure valley YMCA*. BoiseDev. <https://boisedev.com/news/2022/11/17/city-of-boise-to-spend-5-5-million-in-federal-dollars-on-childcare-worker-payments-grants-to-small-businesses-treasure-valley-ymca/>

percent of rural families live in areas without enough licensed child care providers.<sup>52 53</sup> The BoiseDev reported on one family who began the search for childcare as soon as they found out they were expecting a child. Every center they called had a waitlist, and many required a deposit to join the waitlist.<sup>54</sup> An Idaho Voices for Children associate said that some families may be on waitlists for one to two years. They also claimed that single mothers in Idaho spend up to 25% of their income on childcare, while the national recommendation is that no more than 7% of a monthly budget go to childcare. One perspective on childcare is that it is an economic investment as it allows parents to return to work rather than leaving the workforce to care for young children. This view is gaining popularity, and an example of this is the development of a childcare center by Micron Technology, a major manufacturer and employer in Idaho. In May 2023, a new childcare center associated with the headquarters of Micron Technology broke ground as part of the company's Idaho Community Investment Framework.<sup>55</sup>

As COVID-era funds are lost, childcare providers and parents have fewer options for accessing and financing childcare. The federal government enacted three programs to provide funding and development in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first, in March 2020, was the CARES Act. Next, CRRSAA was passed in December 2020 as part of the budget bill. Most recently, in March 2021, The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed into law and designated \$1.9 trillion in funding to respond to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2020, Idaho has received over \$100 million for the childcare industry, but as of February 2023, \$43 million of ARPA money had not been spent.<sup>56</sup> The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare would have been responsible for managing the unspent \$43 million, but on February 27, 2023, they passed a budget without the inclusion of those funds. This generated pushback from childcare providers as well as parents.<sup>57</sup> In response to this public outcry, the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee voted to accept the funds in late March 2023 but decided that the Idaho Department of Labor would be responsible for distributing the \$28 million in accepted funds.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Center for American Progress. (n.d.). U.S. Child Care Deserts: Idaho. Retrieved August 31, 2023 from <https://childcaredeserts.org/2018/?state=ID>

<sup>53</sup> Burnham, M. A. (2023, July 6). *Idaho's lack of child care has the potential to affect the state's economy*. Idaho Capital Sun. <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/07/06/idahos-lack-of-child-care-has-the-potential-to-affect-the-states-economy/>

<sup>54</sup> Carmel, M. (2021, March 15). *"It's a punishment": Childcare shortages squeezing wallets and Idaho's economy*. BoiseDev. <https://boisedev.com/news/2021/03/08/idaho-daycare-shortage/>

<sup>55</sup> Micron Technology Inc. (2023, May 31). *Micron breaks ground on Childcare Center in Idaho as part of Idaho Community Investment Framework*. Micron. <https://investors.micron.com/news-releases/news-release-details/micron-breaks-ground-childcare-center-idaho-part-idaho-community>

<sup>56</sup> Davis, A. (2023, February 28). *Federal funding for Idaho Child Care Providers up in the Air*. KTVB. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/local-idaho-child-care-funding-up-in-the-air/277-58407553-402e-4840-9b3f-1b5fb4de2941>

<sup>57</sup> Baertlein, A. (2023, March 9). *Childcare advocates rally at Idaho Statehouse Against Cuts on Federal Support Dollars*. KTVB. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/208/local-childcare-advocates-rally-at-idaho-statehouse-against-cuts-on-federal-support-dollars/277-51a80d7e-d9dd-4b59-8cf9-789b886a4799>

<sup>58</sup> Guido, L. (2023, March 21). *JFAC votes to accept millions in federal grants for Idaho Child Care Providers*. Idaho Press. [https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/jfac-votes-to-accept-millions-in-federal-grants-for-idaho-child-care-providers/article\\_955c5308-c7f6-11ed-a0df-735f0bfffcc66.html](https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/jfac-votes-to-accept-millions-in-federal-grants-for-idaho-child-care-providers/article_955c5308-c7f6-11ed-a0df-735f0bfffcc66.html)

Federal funds for childcare have been controversial in Idaho. In March 2023, the Idaho Attorney General, Raul Labrador, began an investigation into how nonprofits, school districts, and youth centers used COVID-19 relief funds.<sup>59</sup> The grants in question were distributed by the IDHW as part of the ARPA-funded community partner grant program to address gaps in learning caused by the pandemic. The AG suspects that some of this funding was used for purposes that lie outside the scope of funding guidelines. The funding guidelines state that these funds are only for services provided to children between ages 5 and 13, but the AG alleges that funds were used for services for children under age 5. In response to this investigation, the IDHW sued the office of the AG to halt the investigation<sup>60</sup>, but in April 2023, this lawsuit failed, and all organizations were ordered to comply with this investigation.<sup>61</sup> On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the same Judge who ordered the organizations to comply ruled that in order to pursue this investigation further, the AG must appoint a special prosecutor in this case due to the conflict of interest between the office of the AG and the IDHW.<sup>62</sup> The situation is ongoing.

### **Quality Rating and Improvement System, IdahoSTARS**

A small portion of licensed early care and education providers participate in Idaho's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System, *Steps to Quality* administered by IdahoSTARS. *Steps to Quality* ranks the quality of child care programs on a six-step system, and offers consultation, training, and incentives to help programs achieve higher quality levels and help parents identify quality programs.

Few child care providers in Idaho are rated by *Steps to Quality*, with 181 programs participating, up from 170 in 2022.<sup>63</sup> For the remaining providers, data on quality are hard to come by. Participating programs represent a small fraction of licensed providers, and an even smaller number are rated at the highest quality level, Step 6. Step 6 programs are "nationally accredited," including Head Start. 46 of the participating providers (25%) are at Step 6.

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<sup>59</sup> Guido, L. (2023a, March 6). *Idaho attorney General's Office serves community grant applicants and awardees*. Idaho Press. [https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/idaho-attorney-generals-office-serves-community-grant-applicants-and-awardees/article\\_f7dea8e4-bc72-11ed-a55e-e7d42b7cb0e8.html](https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/idaho-attorney-generals-office-serves-community-grant-applicants-and-awardees/article_f7dea8e4-bc72-11ed-a55e-e7d42b7cb0e8.html)

<sup>60</sup> Duggan, A. (2023, March 23). *IDHW files suit to stop Idaho attorney general from pushing civil investigative demands onto childcare funding*. KTVB. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/capitol-watch/the-idaho-ags-office-began-an-investigation-into-childcare-grants-so-idhw-is-suing-law/277-8755fe03-5aad-47bc-a7c4-22dd58870831>

<sup>61</sup> Blanchard, N. (2023b, April 29). *Idaho nonprofits, schools ordered to comply with Ag Labrador's investigation*. East Idaho News. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2023/04/idaho-nonprofits-schools-ordered-to-comply-with-ag-labradors-investigation/>

<sup>62</sup> Pfannenstiel, K. (2023, August 11). *Idaho AG can't pursue civil demands in child care grant case due to conflict, judge rules*. Idaho Capital Sun. <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/08/10/idaho-ag-cant-pursue-civil-demands-in-child-care-grant-case-due-to-conflict-judge-rules/>

<sup>63</sup> IdahoSTARS. (2023). *Steps to Quality*. Retrieved on August 11, 2023 from <https://idahostars.org/Parents/Choosing-Quality-Child-Care/STQ-Regions?page14035=1&size14035=12&sort14035=STQCentered&sortdir14035=asc>

## Child Care Subsidies

The Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) serves families with children under the age of 13 (or over 13 if a child has a disability) by providing financial assistance to working families for child care services, operated by the Department of Health and Welfare. Statewide, 3,736 children birth to age four receive financial assistance to pay for child care, as shown in Table 12 which summarizes the number of children served by the ICCP during the 2022 federal fiscal year statewide and by region. Contrasting this to the number of young children who live near or below poverty and the rate of working parents -- 28,000 are in families below 130% of the federal poverty level and over half of parents of young children are in the workforce themselves -- implies a large unmet need for child care financial assistance. Table 13 presents the number of children served by the ICCP by demographic groups: age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

**Table 12. Children 0-4 Served by Idaho Child Care Program in January 2023, by Region**

Region	Children 0-4
<b>North</b> (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	412
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	147
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington)	1,635
<b>South Central</b> (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls)	576
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida)	282
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	684
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,736</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

**Table 13. Children Served by Idaho Child Care Program in January 2023, by Demographic Group**

	# of Children
<b>Age</b>	
0-4 years old	3,736
5-17 years old	2,813
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	3,227
Male	3,322
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	147
Asian	51
Black or African American	694
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	13
White	5,162
Other or Unknown	482
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic	1,612
Non-Hispanic	4,937
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,549</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023



## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### *Food Assistance*

Due to a federal policy change from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, children qualifying for SNAP will now be also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start, as of April 2022.<sup>64</sup>



PHMC obtained information about SNAP utilization from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Table 14 shows that a total of 14,988 children under the age of five received SNAP benefits in the month of January 2023. According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, to be eligible for SNAP benefits in Idaho, one must be a citizen or legal immigrant, a resident of Idaho, meet the income requirements, and (with some exceptions) be employed or

participate in an employment training program. Income requirements vary by family size, but for most households monthly income must be under \$5,000 to qualify.

**Table 14. Child SNAP Recipients (Age 0-4) by Region, January 2023**

Region	Count	% of Total
<b>North</b> (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone)	1,645	11.0%
<b>North Central</b> (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce)	791	5.3%
<b>Southwest</b> (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington)	6,343	42.3%
<b>South Central</b> (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power, Twin Falls)	2,183	14.6%
<b>Southeast</b> (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida)	1,151	7.7%
<b>East</b> (Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton)	2,875	19.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

<sup>64</sup> Idaho Head Start Association. (2022). *Policy change means more Idaho families qualify for Head Start*. Retrieved on August 11, 2023 from <https://www.idahohsa.org/head-start-news/2022/7/28/policy-change-means-more-idaho-families-qualify-for-head-start>

### Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Benefits

WIC is a nutrition education program that provides growth and health assessments, referrals to community resources and breastfeeding support. WIC also provides fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains to help build positive eating habits for families. There is no cost to eligible families for participation in WIC.



According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, in order to qualify for WIC, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a resident of Idaho
2. Meet income guidelines (To be eligible on the basis of income, an applicant’s gross income (e.g., before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185% of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines.)
3. Pregnant women
4. Breastfeeding women
5. Women who had a baby within the last six months
6. Parents, step-parents, guardians, and foster parents of infants and children up to their fifth birthday

Idaho’s seven Public Health Districts (map in Appendix B) and two Native American Health Agencies provide WIC services throughout Idaho with over 50 WIC office locations statewide. The number of WIC recipients by month in 2023 is shown in Table 15.

**Table 15. Number of WIC recipients per month in 2023<sup>65</sup>**

	01/23	02/23	03/23	04/23	05/23	06/23	07/23
<b>Women</b>	6,655	6,701	6,835	6,723	6,733	6,718	6,751
<b>Infants</b>	6,308	6,314	6,492	6,401	6,454	6,441	6,502
<b>Children</b>	17,155	17,258	17,574	17,630	17,688	17,607	17,331

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

<sup>65</sup> Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. 2023. Retrieved August 11, 2023 from <https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=25669&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS&cr=1>

## SECTION 7. USING THE INFORMATION IN THIS COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Idaho's 13 Head Start and Early Head Start programs can use the information provided in this 2023 update to the community needs assessment in conjunction with other program data to ensure that the correct services are provided to their local populations through internal planning and external relationships with the community. As a foundation for program planning, the community assessment and regular updates provide information to serve eight purposes, paraphrased here from the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center's summary of the reasons to conduct community assessments<sup>66</sup>:

1. **Meet federal regulations** by providing the Office of Head Start with information about the changing needs of eligible children and families.
2. **Make decisions about program planning** such as program options, program calendar, locations of centers, types of services, collaborative partnerships, recruitment areas, recruitment and selection priorities, and enrollment criteria (e.g., what ages of children will be served/prioritized, whether higher-income private pay families will be enrolled in non-Head Start slots); **Allocation of resources** to ensure equity and optimal child outcomes; **Determination of professional development needs**.
3. **Educate** staff, parents, advisory groups, the governing body, community members, and consultants about the needs, strengths, and characteristics of families, trends in the community, and design of grantee services; **Orient** new staff and volunteers to plan training; **Help other local agencies and organizations** to ensure their services are responsive to community needs; May contribute to establishment of agreements between the Head Start program and other organizations as a way to support continuity of service delivery.
4. **Support strategic responses to changing priorities and policies** or federal or state legislation and policy initiatives.
5. **Respond to community trends and changes**, including the impact of demographic, social, and environmental changes on the Head Start program and eligible children and families; Anticipate and successfully address the impact of changes, such as identifying potential new partners and designing daily activities and experiences.
6. **Mobilize community resources**, identify gaps in available services, and use information to better coordinate programs and services to support low-income children and families.
7. **Maximize community partnerships and collaborative relationships** to facilitate access to community services that are responsive to the needs of children and families, improve service delivery, optimize use of existing resources, and expand or create new services.
8. **Support funding applications and requests** to private, state, or federal funders that require demographic and needs assessment results, requests to local businesses for funds, supplies, or other in-kind contributions, and identify and reinforce the need for new programs.

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<sup>66</sup> Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC). (2020). Community Assessment: The Foundation for Program Planning in Head Start. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/program-planning/community-assessment-foundation-program-planning-head-start/community-assessment-foundation-program-planning-head-start>

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Images credited to IHSA or member programs.

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APPENDIX A: SERVICE AREA

LOCATION OF SITES BY COUNTY AND PROGRAM TYPE

**Table A-1. Number of Head Start Sites of Each Program Type located in each of Idaho’s Counties in 2022-2023**

	American Indian and Alaska Native	Early Head Start	Head Start	Head Start and Early Head Start	Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	TOTAL
Ada	0	0	2	3	0	5
Adams	-	-	-	-	-	0
Bannock	1	0	2	0	0	3
Bear Lake	0	0	1	0	0	1
Benewah	1	0	1	0	0	2
Bingham	0	1	1	0	1	3
Blaine	-	-	-	-	-	0
Boise	-	-	-	-	-	0
Bonner	0	1	1	0	0	2
Bonneville	0	1	2	0	2	5
Boundary	0	0	1	0	0	1
Butte	-	-	-	-	-	0
Camas	-	-	-	-	-	0
Canyon	0	1	4	3	3	11
Caribou	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cassia	0	0	1	0	1	2
Clark	-	-	-	-	-	0
Clearwater	0	0	2	0	0	2
Custer	-	-	-	-	-	0
Elmore	0	1	1	0	2	4
Franklin	0	1	1	0	0	2
Fremont	-	-	-	-	-	0
Gem	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gooding	0	0	1	0	1	2
Idaho	1	0	2	0	0	3
Jefferson	-	-	-	-	-	0
Jerome	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kootenai	0	2	5	0	0	7
Latah	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lemhi	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lewis	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	1
Madison	0	0	1	0	0	1
Minidoka	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nez Perce	2	0	2	1	0	5

	American Indian and Alaska Native	Early Head Start	Head Start	Head Start and Early Head Start	Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	TOTAL
<b>Oneida</b>	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Owyhee</b>	0	1	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Payette</b>	0	0	1	1	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Power</b>	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Shoshone</b>	0	1	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Teton</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>Twin Falls</b>	0	0	3	1	2	<b>6</b>
<b>Valley</b>	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Washington</b>	0	0	1	0	1	<b>2</b>

Source: Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Head Start Center Locator. Retrieved 8/28/2023 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator?latitude=44.068&longitude=-114.742&state=ID>

## ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INCOME-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

### *Estimated Number and Proportions of Young Children who were Income-Eligible for Head Start in Idaho by County*

Table A-2. Estimated 2017-2021 Number and Percent of Young Children Living in Families Up to 100% of Poverty in Idaho by County

County Name	% Children under 5	Number of Children 0-2	Number of Children 3-4
Ada	11.28%	1790	1194
Adams	31.65%	25	17
Bannock	15.15%	503	335
Bear Lake	22.95%	67	44
Benewah	18.25%	58	38
Bingham	11.60%	243	162
Blaine	26.79%	173	115
Boise	26.69%	40	27
Bonner	16.80%	224	149
Bonneville	14.16%	831	554
Boundary	32.00%	144	96
Butte	42.86%	38	25
Camas	15.79%	1432	955
Canyon	15.02%	6	4
Caribou	13.44%	34	23
Cassia	14.65%	168	112
Clark	3.61%	2	1
Clearwater	15.52%	32	22
Custer	13.85%	14	9
Elmore	20.54%	271	180
Franklin	22.73%	143	95
Fremont	20.81%	102	68
Gem	23.57%	139	92
Gooding	22.76%	137	92
Idaho	16.56%	76	50
Jefferson	13.46%	197	131
Jerome	31.13%	347	231
Kootenai	17.97%	1019	679
Latah	10.38%	126	84
Lemhi	22.88%	49	32
Lewis	35.81%	41	27
Lincoln	23.11%	55	36
Madison	29.21%	804	536
Minidoka	24.63%	239	159
Nez Perce	25.08%	347	231
Oneida	19.35%	30	20
Owyhee	16.06%	61	40
Payette	17.44%	170	113
Power	4.98%	18	12
Shoshone	26.58%	134	89



County Name	% Children under 5	Number of Children 0-2	Number of Children 3-4
<b>Teton</b>	10.39%	44	30
<b>Twin Falls</b>	25.94%	947	632
<b>Valley</b>	0.61%	2	1
<b>Washington</b>	16.30%	53	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11373</b>	<b>7579</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 2017-2021 County Child Poverty Estimates, Tables B1701 and B17024

Notes: Poverty percentage at the 100% level for each County was available for children in the age range of 0-4. The number of Children ages 0-2 below the poverty line was estimated by applying this percentage to three-fifths of the total and for children ages 3-4 below the poverty line was estimated by applying this percentage to two-fifths of the total. Children between the ages of 0-4 and rounded to a whole number. Nine counties were extracted ages 0-5 ratio file because there were a very small number of 0-4 year olds and the margins of errors were too large based on U.S. Census standards.

**Table A-3. Estimated 2017-2021 Percent of Children Under 5 or 6 Years Old at Three Levels of Poverty by County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Percent of Children Under Age 5 At or Below 100% Poverty</b>	<b>Percent of Children Under Age 6 Up to 130% of Poverty Level</b>	<b>Percent of Children Under Age 6 Up to 185% of Poverty Level</b>
<b>Ada</b>	11.3%	15.3%	26.7%
<b>Adams</b>	31.7%	32.3%	43.7%
<b>Bannock</b>	15.2%	23.3%	44.5%
<b>Bear Lake</b>	23.0%	32.9%	48.1%
<b>Benewah</b>	18.3%	24.0%	37.8%
<b>Bingham</b>	11.6%	24.2%	46.5%
<b>Blaine</b>	26.8%	37.2%	45.8%
<b>Boise</b>	26.7%	30.3%	48.4%
<b>Bonner</b>	16.8%	26.8%	41.1%
<b>Bonneville</b>	14.3%	22.5%	43.2%
<b>Boundary</b>	32.0%	30.5%	43.8%
<b>Butte</b>	42.9%	48.0%	72.6%
<b>Camas</b>	15.8%	25.5%	42.1%
<b>Canyon</b>	15.0%	25.2%	46.6%
<b>Caribou</b>	13.4%	16.5%	26.2%
<b>Cassia</b>	14.7%	26.6%	58.3%
<b>Clark</b>	3.6%	25.8%	77.1%
<b>Clearwater</b>	15.5%	25.5%	48.1%
<b>Custer</b>	13.9%	44.1%	50.0%
<b>Elmore</b>	20.5%	25.8%	49.5%
<b>Franklin</b>	22.7%	30.8%	58.3%
<b>Fremont</b>	20.8%	29.8%	51.5%
<b>Gem</b>	23.6%	28.8%	44.5%

County	Percent of Children Under Age 5 At or Below 100% Poverty	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Up to 130% of Poverty Level	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Up to 185% of Poverty Level
Gooding	22.8%	26.7%	54.6%
Idaho	16.6%	23.6%	45.4%
Jefferson	13.5%	21.6%	44.0%
Jerome	31.1%	41.3%	57.6%
Kootenai	18.0%	26.0%	35.6%
Latah	10.4%	15.9%	31.2%
Lemhi	22.9%	32.8%	43.9%
Lewis	35.8%	40.8%	57.2%
Lincoln	23.1%	38.9%	55.0%
Madison	29.2%	36.9%	64.6%
Minidoka	24.6%	36.5%	52.1%
Nez Perce	25.1%	25.3%	34.8%
Oneida	19.4%	19.7%	28.7%
Owyhee	16.1%	29.0%	39.5%
Payette	17.4%	28.2%	51.7%
Power	5.0%	37.6%	73.1%
Shoshone	26.6%	33.9%	53.4%
Teton	10.4%	12.8%	33.3%
Twin Falls	25.9%	31.7%	42.4%
Valley	0.6%	4.4%	14.9%
Washington	16.3%	39.7%	75.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 2017-2021 County Child Poverty Estimates, Tables B1701 and B17024

Notes: Poverty percentage at the 100% level for each County was available for children in the age range of 0-4. Nine counties were extracted from ages 0-5 ratio file because there were a very small number of 0-4 year olds and the margins of errors were too large based on U.S. Census standards. Poverty percentage at the 130% and 185% level for each County were estimated for children in the age range of 0-5.

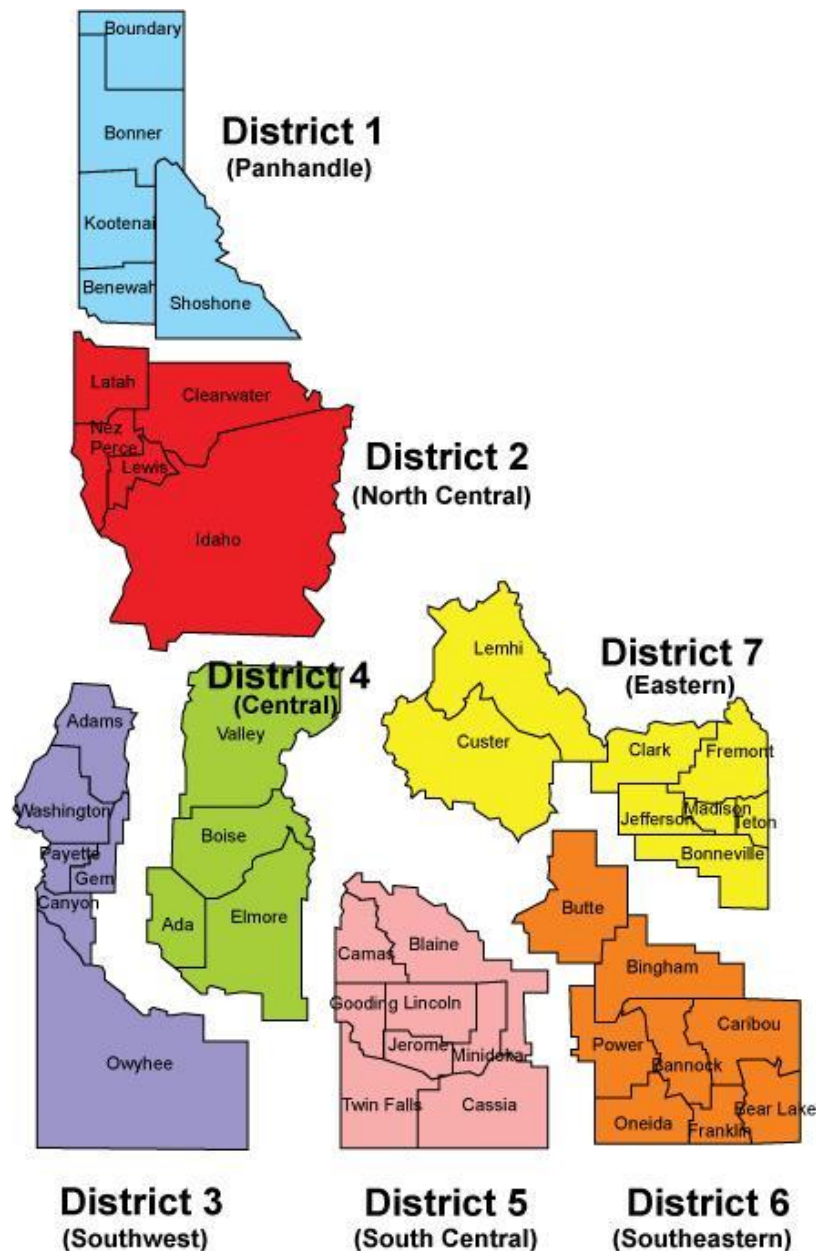
## APPENDIX B: IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS MAP

Data for several programs under the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare were provided by Public Health District. These programs included:

- Foster Care by Public Health District
- Infant Toddler Program by Public Health District
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

The map below shows the state's seven Public Health Districts and the counties within each PHD.

**Figure 1: Idaho Public Health Districts**



APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND STRENGTHS: OTHER PROGRAMS SERVING HEAD START-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HOME VISITING SERVICES

**Table C-1. Number of Children in MIECHV-funded Counties in Idaho Receiving MIECHV by Age, FFY2022**

Public Health District	County	Age of Children			Total Children
		0-2 years	3-4 years	5-6 years	
PHD1 <sup>(1)</sup>	Benewah	1	-	-	1
	Bonner	16	-	-	16
	Boundary	7	-	-	7
	Kootenai	51	-	-	51
	Shoshone	5	-	-	5
PHD2	Clearwater	3	1	1	5
	Idaho	4	2		6
	Nez Perce	28	27	4	59
PHD3 <sup>(1)</sup>	Canyon	76	-	-	76
	Owyhee	1	-	-	1
PHD4	Ada	53	30	7	90
	Boise	3	1		4
	Elmore	1	4	3	8
PHD5 <sup>(2)</sup>	Jerome	14	4	-	18
	Twin Falls	58	16	-	74
PHD6	Bannock	42	24	5	71
	Bingham	10	10	1	21
	Power	5	1	-	6
PHD7	Bonneville	43	34	10	87
	Madison	5		1	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>612</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Note: MIECHV = Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program  
Counties that are not included in the table are not MIECHV funded.

<sup>1</sup> Nurse-Family Partnership is the home visiting model in PHD1 and PHD3. Services end when the children reach two years of age.

<sup>2</sup> This program ends service when children reach five years of age.

## SNAP RECIPIENTS

Table C-2: Child SNAP Recipients (Age 0-4) by County, January 2023

County	County Pop.	% of Pop. On SNAP
Ada	494,967	4.97%
Adams	4,379	6.60%
Bannock	87,018	10.20%
Bear Lake	6,372	5.02%
Benewah	9,530	8.70%
Bingham	47,992	8.56%
Blaine	24,655	1.59%
Boise	7,610	5.62%
Bonner	47,110	5.92%
Bonneville	123,964	8.06%
Boundary	12,056	8.05%
Butte	2,574	10.64%
Camas	1,077	5.39%
Canyon	231,105	8.82%
Caribou	7,027	4.80%
Cassia	24,655	7.96%
Clark	790	5.32%
Clearwater	8,734	7.69%
Custer	4,275	5.96%
Elmore	28,666	7.94%
Franklin	14,194	4.10%
Fremont	13,388	6.32%
Gem	19,123	7.02%

County	County Pop.	% of Pop. On SNAP
Gooding	15,598	8.23%
Idaho	16,541	6.23%
Jefferson	30,891	5.21%
Jerome	24,237	9.06%
Kootenai	171,362	5.64%
Latah	39,517	4.69%
Lemhi	7,974	7.20%
Lewis	3,533	11.89%
Lincoln	5,125	6.83%
Madison	52,913	5.27%
Minidoka	62,613	2.65%
Nez Perce	42,090	6.70%
Oneida	4,564	6.11%
Owyhee	11,913	10.40%
Payette	25,386	9.15%
Power	7,878	9.38%
Shoshone	13,169	12.12%
Teton	11,630	2.17%
Twin Falls	90,046	9.11%
Valley	11,746	3.15%
Washington	10,500	10.01%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,880,487</b>	

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 2023

NOTE: SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program