EPISCOPAL CHILDREN’S SERVICES’
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS AND RESOURCES

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OF
Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau Counties

CONDUCTED IN MARCH 2012
UPDATED DECEMBER 2013

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PREFACE

This assessment was prepared by Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) on behalf of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties in Northeast Florida. The Community Assessment Team consisted of Raijah Hayes, Director of Grants and Research; Jenni Matusko, Director of Family and Community Partnerships; and Lashonda Hicks, Family Services and ERSEA Coordinator; ECS family support specialists also assisted in the assessment tasks, and completed surveys for their respective centers. In November 2012 the Community Assessment was updated for the 2012-13 year. Thanks to reviewers for the 2013-14 update: Connie Stophel, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start; Jenni Matusko, Director of Family and Community Partnerships; Karen Hartz, Director of Programs; and Amber Oliveira, Vice President Educational Services. We want to thank all of the parents and families and community partners for providing us with their honest opinions in an effort to help us improve our services. We would also like to thank our Head Start Policy Council for providing feedback on this project. As always, we give great thanks to our leadership staff at ECS and our Board who provide us with guidance and inspiration to complete every task to its fullest potential each day. We would like to offer our deepest appreciation to the community organizations that assist us in reaching our Head Start-eligible families, because without you, our job would never be complete. Finally, the Community Assessment team would like to thank the parents and families that participate in our Head Start program – thank you for allowing us to provide you with support, and sharing such a precious part of your life with us – your children.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Number of eligible children.
According to the data researched for the community assessment, there are currently an estimated 18,277 young children (ages 0-4) living in poverty in ECS’ five-county area (Baker – 425, Bradford – 556, Clay – 1,928, Duval – 14,522, and Nassau – 846) therefore making them eligible for the Early Head Start/Head Start programs. This population greatly outnumbers the available slots for the Head Start/Early Head Start program in all counties, which is approximately 3,000.

Race of eligible children.
The race of eligible children for each county reveals a wide diversity amongst the counties. In Baker county, 14.6% of children ages 0-4 are in poverty and White; Black – 2.0%; Hispanic – 0.0%; and Other – 6.1%. Bradford: White – 16.1%; Black – 14.5%; Hispanic – 0.0%; and Other – 2.6%. Clay: White – 10.8%, Black – 4.0%, Hispanic – 2.5%, and Other –2.0%. Duval: White – 7.5%, Black – 14.1%, Hispanic – 2.4%, and Other –3.0%. Nassau: White – 18.7%, Black – 2.7%, Hispanic – 0.7%, and Other – 0.7%.

Location of eligible children.
According to the map on page 7, there appear to be particular sections of each county that are more poverty stricken than others. ECS’s Head Start centers are located within these areas and therefore are placed appropriately to serve the neediest children. There are, however, additional areas of concentrated lower income that may benefit from the program.

Other area preschool programs.
In 2012, the total and capacity of licensed and exempt preschool programs for each county is as follows Baker: total – 24, capacity – 952; Bradford: total – 21, capacity – 980; Clay: total – 152, capacity – 9,252; Duval: total – 904, capacity – 45,742; Nassau: total – 48, capacity – 2,094; Union: total - 7, capacity - 456.

Children with disabilities.
Proportional to the population, each county generally has a similar amount of children with a disability, although this is a difficult number to ascertain. The totals of children with disabilities receiving Early Steps or Child Find services were as follows: Baker – 136, Bradford – 102, Clay – 833, Duval – 3,656, and Nassau – 258.

Family/child service needs.
Dental care, transportation, and additional child care were the most commonly mentioned health and human services needs, followed by services for mother/infants, parenting education, and adult education/job skills services to a lesser extent. Many discussed the need for additional support for employed parents, who have a prohibitively low income but do not qualify for many services.
Community resources.
Clay and Duval counties, being the most populous, industrialized counties of the five, have a significant amount of resources to service families’ needs. Although there are many resources in Baker, Bradford, and Nassau, there is still a lack of more specific needs, such as pediatric dentistry, etc. The greatest lack appears to be in the rural counties where residents must often travel to neighboring counties to receive services. Therefore, if a low-income family does not have accessibility to a vehicle it is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible for them to arrange the services needed most.
Episcopal Children's Services

Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) was founded in 1966 and began as one child care center in the Springfield area of Jacksonville, serving only 30 children. Throughout the years, we have progressively grown into a multi-faceted early education organization that is one of the largest of its kind in the state of Florida. With an annual budget of $38 million and a staff of nearly 300 professionals, the programs administered by ECS touch the lives of 27,000 children in Duval, Clay, Baker, Bradford, Nassau, St. Johns, and Putnam counties each day. ECS also reaches out to many families of the children served, and brings vital support to thousands of adults and older siblings. Our mission is to create opportunities for all children to reach their full potential; ECS strives to enable children and their families to build better communities and a better future for all.

Episcopal Children's Services operates the Exchange South child development center in Duval County. Exchange South offers valuable quality services such as a full day, high quality early education for children ages six weeks to five years, including Florida’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program, subsidized care to children under the Success By Six and School Readiness programs, and extended day. ECS organized the start-up and registration of children and providers for the state mandated Voluntary Pre-K program in five counties when the program began in 2005, and is the current provider in six counties. These efforts resulted in over 4,000 children enrolled each school year. ECS administers the USDA Child Care Food Program for our Head Start centers, which ensures that children receive two nutritionally balanced meals and one snack each day. ECS is involved in the JELP initiative founded by Mayor John Peyton to make a meaningful difference in Jacksonville’s literacy rate and impacting the development of language and literacy skills necessary for children to enter school ready to learn.

ECS works with Early Learning Coalition of North Florida to provide comprehensive Child Care Resource and Referral services. ECS also works as the School Readiness and VPK enrollment provider in these areas, bringing a unified approach to the region of Northeast Florida. ECS has developed a Regional Training Institute that provides professional development training for early childhood educators, preparing caregivers for mandatory state credentialing as a Child Development Associate (CDA). Episcopal Children's Services has also developed an innovative, comprehensive curriculum for reading readiness called Links to Literacy, which has been adopted by Kaplan Early Learning Company for purchase nationwide, and has recently been adopted by the State of Georgia as supported curriculum.

Episcopal Children's Services is a grantee of both Head Start and Early Head Start and runs 7 Head Start sites in Baker, Bradford, Clay, and Nassau counties, as well as five Early Head Start sites in Baker, Clay, and Duval counties.
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose
Head Start regulations require that each program provide its own vision and program philosophy, building upon Head Start performance standards. The Office of Head Start recognizes that there are needs and resources specific to the communities served by the program. Therefore, a community assessment must be conducted to obtain a clear image of the communities and their needs and resources. The main areas to be considered are as follows:

A. Children age 4 or younger below poverty level
   a. How many?
   b. What area do they live in?
   c. What is their race & ethnicity?

B. Other programs
   a. How many publicly funded State programs?
   b. How many Head Start eligible children are they serving?
   c. How many local preschool programs?
   d. How many Head Start eligible children are they serving?

C. Children with disabilities age four or younger
   a. How many?
   b. What types of disabilities are most prevalent?
   c. What services/resources are available to these children?

D. Family needs (as defined by supporting data)
   a. What are their educational needs?
   b. What are their health needs?
   c. What are their nutritional needs?
   d. What are their social service needs?

E. Family needs (as defined by the families & by community institutions that serve children)
   a. What are their educational needs?
   b. What are their health needs?
   c. What are their nutritional needs?
   d. What are their social service needs?

F. Community resources
   a. What resources are available to address the above mentioned needs?
   b. How available are they to these families?
   c. How accessible are they to these families?

As mentioned above, this information is then used to determine the short- and long- term program objectives as well as the vision and philosophy. It is also used to assess what component services are most needed, what program options can be implemented to meet these needs, and what service area/method is most appropriate. The information is also used to set criteria for prioritization of children and families for recruitment and selection. This community assessment will be reviewed each year to determine significant changes and re-conducted every 3 years. This version of the community assessment is a full assessment conducted for planning for the 2014-15 program year.
1.2. **Summary of methods**

Several research methods were used to determine the fullest picture of needs and opportunities of children and families eligible for Head Start including both research analysis and surveys.

*Secondary needs analysis*

Extensive research was conducted and several prominent sources of data were used to compile the information throughout, including: U.S. Census Data, Annie Casey Foundation Kids Count, Child Care & Early Education in Florida’s Charting the Progress, and [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com).

*Limitations of the data*

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the national Decennial Census every ten years; the latest enumeration took place in 2010. Much of the data in this assessment is derived from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), which is conducted every year in communities with 65,000 residents or more. Five-year estimates are available for each of our counties for this Community Assessment. The majority of data from the ACS included in this assessment is derived from 2008-2012 survey estimates.

*Surveys and focus groups*

The overall goals of the focus groups/surveys were: (1) to identify the health, social, and other family support service needs of low-income and Head Start-eligible families and their preferred patterns for using these services; (2) to determine the availability of needed services; (3) to discover barriers to accessing and receiving these services; and (4) to learn of any unmet family needs. Surveys distributed to Head Start and Early Head Start parents. Family Support Specialist staff, and community partners were surveyed using Survey Monkey.

Focus groups were conducted at Head Start and Early Head Start centers with parents during scheduled activities. The purpose of the focus groups was to explore the kinds of child care services needed and challenges faced by Head Start-eligible families throughout the county. This method of data collection allowed more detailed and contextual information to be gathered. The Assessment Team conducted focus groups in November and December 2013.
2. OVERVIEW OF OUR COMMUNITIES

The communities served by ECS’s Head Start program are five Northeast Florida counties: Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, and Nassau. In 2013 ECS ended services to 20 children in Union County in response to Federal budget cuts. The 10 Early Head Start/Head Start centers ECS operates are all situated in and around the region’s major urban area, Jacksonville (Duval County). The five counties comprise a large area; the primary city within Duval County, Jacksonville, is the largest city by land size in the U.S.

The counties vary in significant ways. In terms of per capita income among Florida’s 67 counties, Duval (#6), Clay (#24), and Nassau (#11) rank in the top half, while Baker (#42) and Bradford (#47), rank in the bottom half. Union County (#66) is next to lowest per capita income in the state. The six counties’ density per square mile are as follows:

- Baker: 46.3 persons per square mile
- Bradford: 97.0 persons per square mile
- Clay: 315.8 persons per square mile
- Duval: 1,133.9 persons per square mile
- Nassau: 113.0 persons per square mile
- Union: 63.8 persons per square mile
- Florida Average: 350.6 persons per square mile

Between 5% and 7% of the population in these counties are children under the age of 5. In total, there are nearly 80,000 young children under the age of five and 46,000 under the age of three living in the five counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>HS Total</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>27,010</td>
<td>28,404</td>
<td>190,891</td>
<td>866,431</td>
<td>73,303</td>
<td>1,186,039</td>
<td>18,885,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HS 5-county area</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from last assessment</td>
<td>-.4%</td>
<td>-.4%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>+.25%</td>
<td>-.0%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>+.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>11,623</td>
<td>59,736</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>78,810</td>
<td>1,076,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Population</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of HS 5 county area</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 3 years</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>6,545</td>
<td>35,423</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>46,087</td>
<td>621,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Population</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
<td>4.11%</td>
<td>3.43%</td>
<td>4.09%</td>
<td>2.68%</td>
<td>3.89%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of HS 5 county area</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
<td>2.53%</td>
<td>14.20%</td>
<td>76.86%</td>
<td>4.27%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baker, Bradford, and Nassau counties are largely rural, while Duval and Clay counties are predominantly urban. There are challenges inherent in the rural counties that directly affect the families we serve. Statewide, the child care market has remained relatively stable. However, it is difficult to accurately assess local care availability because the specific age groups of children in care is not reported. Major problems in rural areas include lack of public transportation, fewer employment opportunities close to home, few social service agencies and local support for needy families, limited (if any) medical, dental and mental health options available, and high levels of adult functional illiteracy with less public awareness of the problem and insufficient community support for literacy programs.
The urban areas ECS serve also present challenges that impact the target population. While the size and diversity of these areas means more available resources, this diversity also has an isolating effect, concentrating need by geography. Many neighborhoods exist where child care quality and resources are low. This problem is especially apparent in Duval County, where disparity varies by zip code.

There is strong evidence that poverty is associated with diminished levels of school readiness and increased levels of risk to children’s well-being. Because income status is associated with future academic success, it is especially important that children living in low-income neighborhoods have access to high-quality early care and learning services.8
3. ELIGIBILITY FOR HEAD START
IN BAKER, BRADFORD, CLAY, DUVAL, & NASSAU COUNTIES

Eligibility for Head Start and Early Head Start is dependent upon children meeting one or more criteria. All children must meet the age requirement to attend; after that enrollment is based on the number of risk factors a child demonstrates and available slots. By mandate, at least 90% of enrolled children must be in poverty as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services and 10% must be disabled. Head Start eligibility is determined by the following factors:

- Child age: 3 or 4 at enrollment (0-2 for Early Head Start)
- Poverty or low income

3.1. Demographics of the children in each county—Income and age

The incidence of poverty among children varies widely among the five-county area. As seen in the chart below, Clay County has the lowest poverty rates for children within the Head Start service area. —Clay and Nassau County rates are below the state average. Bradford County remains the county with the highest poverty. Two trends to note: Baker County’s poverty rate for children under age 5 fell this year (although other poverty indicators have remained relatively constant. In addition, Duval and Nassau rates have increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>HS Total</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Ages in Poverty 2012</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Ages in Poverty 2013</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families in Poverty 2012</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families in Poverty 2013</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt;5 in Poverty 2012</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>1,873</td>
<td>12,421</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>16,093</td>
<td>239,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt;5 in Poverty 2013</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>1,928</td>
<td>14,522</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>18,277</td>
<td>272,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Age &lt;5 in Poverty 2012</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Age &lt;5 in Poverty 2013</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generally, the poverty rate is even higher for children under the age of 5 than for other ages. Bradford County has the highest rate among this age group, with 33% of all children aged 0-5 living in poverty. However, there are significantly more children living in poverty in Duval County, with more than 14,000 children under 5 in this category. In total, 18,277 children in these counties are Head Start or Early Head Start eligible based on age and poverty status, which is well over the current ECS funded capacity of 585. There are 2,100 more children under age 5 who were in poverty in 2013 than were reported during the last community assessment.
The graph following shows the percentages of children under 5 in poverty over the past five years. Bradford, Nassau, and Clay have all seen increases in poverty since 2009, but Duval’s increase is much more pronounced. The Duval rate of poverty for children under 5 has more than doubled since 2009. Baker County has seen a reduction in poverty for this age group, and has now fallen to below the state average.

### 3.2. Demographics of the children in each county—Race/ethnicity

The racial/ethnic makeup of eligible children varies throughout the ECS service area. In Baker, Clay, and Nassau counties, the majority of children in poverty under age 5 are White (although in Baker and Clay counties 6-8% is Black or some other race). In Bradford, half are White, and half are Black or some other race. The majority of children under 5 in poverty in Duval County are Black, and about 10% are White or some other race. Between 2-3% of children under 5 in Clay and Duval counties are Hispanic and in poverty. The variation throughout our service area underscores the need to be sensitive to the unique needs of each community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnicity of children under age 5 in poverty</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% White&lt;5 in poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Black&lt;5 in poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Other&lt;5 in poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic&lt;5 in poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Data in this table represent children under 5 in poverty by race, and children of Hispanic ethnicity in poverty under 5. Race is calculated separately from ethnicity, and children with Hispanic ethnicity are also included in the race calculations. The percentages by category are out of all children under 5.
3.3. In what area do eligible children live?
The counties served by ECS’ Head Start program are in the Northeast region of Florida and contain communities that range widely in the percentage of residents living in poverty. These areas of highly-concentrated poverty represent the areas of greatest need in each county. ECS has strived to provide our services in the neediest communities. ECS has strategically chosen locations for Head Start and Early Head Start centers based on the need determined by eligibility criteria, and income in particular. All centers are located in areas of lowest income in their counties.

Section summary: Eligibility
- Poverty rates for children are highest in Bradford County, while Duval County has the most children in poverty.
- Approximately half of eligible children are Black, while the other half are White or some other race. About 2% of children under 5 are Hispanic and in poverty.
- Centers are located in the lowest income areas of their counties.
4. OTHER PROGRAMS

4.1. Number of preschool programs in ECS's Head Start area

In these five counties the majority of families with young children live in households where parents in the household work. Therefore, most of these families are regularly faced with finding secondary child care. This trend continues to increase, with all counties experiencing gains in the percentage of parents in the workforce since 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>HS Total</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children under age 6 with all parents in the household in labor force</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children under age 6 living with both parents, who are both in the labor force</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children under age 6 living with one parent, who is in the labor force</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of employed women age 18-60 with children under 6</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>3,252</td>
<td>14,464</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>19,612</td>
<td>276,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of preschool programs in ECS's Head Start area

Families with young children have a number of different options for child care that vary from county to county. All of the options listed are licensed or registered with the Department of Children and Families, and are subject to periodic monitoring. The following refers to programs that serve all children, and not only those from low income families. It is important to note that while there might be many child care options presented in a county, there are fewer low-cost or free child care options available.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker County Availability</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Programs</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td># of Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Programs (total)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Centers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Programs (total)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License-Exempt Centers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered FCCH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Pre-K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs (total)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1,004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Bradford County Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Programs</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td># of Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Programs (total)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Centers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Programs (total)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License-Exempt Centers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered FCCH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Pre-K</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs (total)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clay County Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Programs</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td># of Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Programs (total)</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>6,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Centers</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>6,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Programs (total)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License-Exempt Centers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered FCCH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Pre-K</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs (total)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>7,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Duval County Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Programs</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td># of Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Programs (total)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Centers</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Programs (total)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License-Exempt Centers</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered FCCH</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Pre-K</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs (total)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>45,742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nassau County Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Programs (total)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>1,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Centers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>1,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt Programs (total)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License-Exempt Centers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered FCCH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Pre-K</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs (total)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>2,235</td>
<td>2,094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. Number of children receiving subsidized/government-funded care

Low income children and families often have limited options for child care because they cannot afford the increasing costs. An option in addition to Head Start for some families is subsidized child care and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK); both programs are funded by the Florida Agency of Workforce Innovation’s Office of Early Learning. These programs provide free or low-cost child care to many children whose families meet income and/or employment requirements. However, the ECS Head Start program serves many non-employed and unemployed families, who would not be eligible for this service. ECS administers both programs in Baker, Clay, Nassau, and Bradford Counties. Some children receiving income-eligible subsidized care are also eligible for Head Start services, if their income falls below 100% of poverty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>1,788</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>1,778</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>1,823</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>12,646</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>12,937</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>13,165</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>16,496</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>16,753</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>17,111</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>247,315</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>240,883</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>236,251</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation from Florida CHARTS
While the VPK program is free to children who will enter kindergarten the following year, VPK hours are typically limited to three hours each day during the school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2008 Number</th>
<th>2008 Percent</th>
<th>2009 Number</th>
<th>2009 Percent</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>9.80%</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>9.60%</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Agency for Workforce Innovation from Florida CHARTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>8.70%</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>7.50%</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>1,773</td>
<td>7.90%</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>7.50%</td>
<td>1,854</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>9,322</td>
<td>7.10%</td>
<td>9,605</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
<td>10,583</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>7.10%</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>12,259</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
<td>12,547</td>
<td>7.30%</td>
<td>13,664</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>147,759</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>156,885</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>165,384</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An indicator of unmet need for low-cost or free child care services is the number of children waiting for School Readiness services. School Readiness serves families whose income is below 150% of poverty, and who are fully employed—some of these children may be Head Start eligible. Availability varies widely; Clay and Duval counties have the greatest number waiting for subsidized care, while Baker, Bradford, and Nassau counties have effectively nonexistent wait lists. Many children in these counties may never receive subsidized care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children on the wait list for School Readiness services</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section summary: Other programs

- The need for child care has risen across our communities in recent years.
- There are many care options throughout these counties; however, not all serve children whose families have low incomes.
- Clay and Duval counties have the greatest need for additional low-cost child care options.
5. DISABILITIES

5.1 Disability and risk

Children with disabilities are a main focus of Head Start and Early Head Start services. According to Head Start regulations, at least 10% of enrolled children at any center must have a diagnosed disability. In January 2014, 43 children at ECS’s centers had a diagnosed language or developmental delay. Research shows that children with disabilities improve their school readiness when participating in integrated educational programs.

Evidence about the incidence of disability among children ages 0 – 5 is difficult to obtain. Most children this age are not enrolled in school district child care, and therefore are not subject to regular screenings such as those that occur after children enter kindergarten. One way to measure the number of young children with disabilities is to review the incidence of children receiving services for a disability from a state funded source. In the counties that ECS serves, young children with disabilities are supported by Early Steps and Child Find programs. There were five thousand children in the ECS service area who have been served by either program. However, these numbers may be an underreporting of the true level of disability because they only represent children who have been identified and are receiving treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children receiving Early Steps or Child Find services for developmental delays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving early steps services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving Child Find services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2 Disability by type

While data is not available describing types of disability for all children under 5, the school system collects this information about the children enrolled from prekindergarten to 12th grade. Following is a breakdown of the types of disabilities children throughout Florida are faced with in the school system.
Table 1: Unduplicated Membership in Exceptional Student Programs, Fall 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedically Impaired (OI included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>3,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Impaired (SI)</td>
<td>48,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Impaired (LI)</td>
<td>40,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DEAF included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>4,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visually Impaired (VI included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>1,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (EBD)</td>
<td>18,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Learning Disabled (SLD)</td>
<td>134,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted (GIFTED)</td>
<td>150,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital/Homebound (HH included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>2,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Sensory Impaired (DSI included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</td>
<td>24,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traumatic Brain Injured (TBI included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmentally Delayed (DD)</td>
<td>17,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Conditions (EC included in Other in Figure 2)</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Health Impaired (OHI)</td>
<td>24,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disabilities** (ID)</td>
<td>26,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Disabled (All exceptionalities excluding Gifted)</td>
<td>347,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>497,927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section summary: Disability
- More than 5,000 children throughout the service area received Early Steps or Child Find services.
6. FAMILY/CHILD NEEDS (AS DEFINED BY DATA)

6.1. Economy

Poverty

Children living in poverty face disproportionately high chances of negative outcomes later in life including abuse and neglect, delinquency, mental illness, violent death and joblessness. Poverty is the single greatest predictor of school and social failure among America’s children. Children and families in persistent poverty have decreased access to food, housing, health care, social support and transportation.30

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is the most widely cited standard for poverty, and is frequently the threshold level of income for qualifying for public programs. The current FPL for a family of four is $23,550.31

The effects of poverty on school readiness are pervasive. Research has shown that children from low-income families arrive at kindergarten with a vocabulary of about 500 words, while their peers from middle- and upper-class homes will have vocabularies of 2,500 to 3,000 words.32 By age three, low-income children hear 30 million fewer words than higher-income children.33 These deficits are extremely difficult to overcome; public schools incur substantial costs in the form of remedial and special education trying to close such achievement gaps.

The poverty rate for children in these counties fluctuates greatly, with a high of 28% in Bradford County. A notable difference is that the Duval County rate is now the second highest within the ECS service area and is higher than the state average. This is troubling because Duval County is the largest county in the region—more than 14,000 children under age 5 are in poverty there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty44</th>
<th>Income Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>HS Total</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt;5 in Poverty</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>1,928</td>
<td>14,522</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>18,277</td>
<td>272,078</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Age &lt;5 in Poverty</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt;18 in Poverty</td>
<td>1,519</td>
<td>1,564</td>
<td>6,114</td>
<td>46,315</td>
<td>2,332</td>
<td>57,844</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Age &lt;18 in Poverty</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low income

The incidence of children receiving free/reduced lunch shown in the graph below is an important indicator because it brings to light the numbers of children who live slightly over the poverty level and face many of the same problems as children in poverty. The percentages of children who receive reduced lunch (185% of poverty or less) are nearly double that of children under the age of 18 in poverty. These children who are slightly above poverty are at times in need of, but not eligible for community services. Overall, 45% of the children in the counties ECS serves are...
eligible for free or reduced lunch. Across the service area 47% of children in School Readiness programs (that serve primarily low income children ages 0-5) receive free lunch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (all ages)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of eligible children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of eligible children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in School Readiness Programs Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of eligible children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of eligible children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment and transportation**

The local economic conditions have an enormous impact on the stability and well being of children and their families. Steady, accessible employment allows families to be comfortable financially. Beginning in 2008 as the result of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the unemployment rate began to rise nationwide. The counties in the ECS service area also experienced an increase in unemployment—the rate has tripled by county. Duval County continues to have the highest rate of unemployment overall amongst the counties ECS serves. While the rate appears to continue to decline overall, unemployment remains as high as it was in 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income Data</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Families who are unemployed are not eligible for subsidized child care from the state program, and generally are eligible only for the Head Start/Early Head Start program for free child care. This is a problem for many families who want to look for employment or pursue education to become self-sufficient but cannot because they lack adequate child care. The ECS Head Start/Early Head Start program serves a large number of families who are unemployed.
ECS surveyed parents of children currently enrolled in our programs to determine their work situations and their perceived barriers to employment. Amongst the respondents:

- Have a job (full or part time): 57.3%
- Work full time: 35.3%
- Are unemployed and looking for a job: 26.0%
- Have a job but are looking for a different job: 21.3%

We asked parents what they felt were barriers for employment in their communities. The majority reported that work hours are not good for children, followed by that there are not enough jobs in the community, and they apply for jobs but are not hired.

Transportation is an important consideration in the counties served by Head Start/Early Head Start because many lack a reliable public system to provide rides. Transportation poses an additional problem for our families, who at times are unable to afford private or public options. As a result, many families may not be able to travel to important places and events such as the
Head Start center or the doctor. A small percentage of residents are reported to have no vehicle available—however, these residents are more likely to have difficulty meeting everyday needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation[^3]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of workers with no vehicle available (ages 16 and over)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of workers traveling to work by public transportation (ages 16 and over)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of workers traveling to work by public transportation below 100 percent of poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Homelessness

Homeless children and families are often an overlooked but high risk population. Each year a census is taken in each county to determine the number of homeless persons. According to the 2013 Florida Annual Homeless Census Report form the Florida Coalition for the Homeless, there are 45,364 people who were homeless in Florida in early 2013. The chart below shows the 2013 homeless population for each county in ECS’s Head Start service area. The Department of Children and Families reported that 3,013 children across the service area were homeless for the 2011-12 school year.[^39] Often children and families who are homeless are not conspicuously so; they often secure temporary or transitional shelter and are not visible in annual censuses, which target more traditional homeless shelters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homelessness[^40]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Enumerated Daily Homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Enumerated Daily Homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12 Homeless students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bradford County and Clay County homeless persons receive services through the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry and the Emergency Services Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville respectively. Duval, Clay, Nassau, and Baker county residents receive services from the Jacksonville Emergency Services Coalition.

**Section summary: Economy**

- Bradford County continues to have high poverty rates. Duval County’s poverty rate has increased since last year’s community assessment.
- Fifty percent of children across the service area are eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- While unemployment continues to be high, the rate is slowly decreasing.
- Many Head Start parents struggle to find employment.
- There are thousands of homeless children in the Head Start/Early Head Start service area, but they may be difficult to identify.
6.2. Education

Educational attainment

Adults who complete higher levels of education are more likely to achieve economic success than those who do not. This creates greater access to resources that benefit young children. In addition, the most important indicator of educational attainment in children is their own parents’ attainment. A parent who does not complete high school is more likely to have a child who does not complete high school, therefore perpetuating the cycle. Enhanced education protects against unemployment and the family stress that goes with a parent being out of work.

Bradford and Baker counties have low high school graduation rates with more than 21% of adults not graduating. Clay and Nassau counties have much higher graduation rates with 10.0% and 11.9% not graduating, respectively. In Duval County 12.5% of adults do not have a high school education; however there is a proclaimed crisis situation with only 23% of black males graduating in 2007-08. In Baker and Bradford counties, only 8% of adults have a Bachelor’s degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th Grade</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th - 12th Grade</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Grad or GED</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad or prof degree</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Less than HS</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% HS grad or higher</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Bach or higher</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literacy

The Jacksonville Community Council, Inc report identified adult literacy as a serious problem in Northeast Florida that undermines the quality of life for the individual, their family, and the community as a whole. The causes of illiteracy include poverty, learning disabilities, physical or mental problems, inadequate education, low parental educational attainment, and home environments in which parents are unable to instill basic literacy skills, especially reading, in their children. Inadequate literacy skills, in turn, perpetuate other problems, which affect a community’s economic and social well-being, such as unemployment, crime, reliance on public assistance, poor nutritional choices, and drug and alcohol addictions. Our communities must break the cycle of illiteracy by improving the literacy skills of parents and their children.

The National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) and the companion State Adult Literacy Survey (SALS) measure functional literacy in adults. The indicator that is reported in this assessment is the percentage of respondents who lack Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS). People who lack BPLS are unable to read and understand more than simple written words. As expected, literacy is lowest for adults who did not complete high school. Over 60 percent of adults without a high school degree have Below Basic literacy. The results of this survey for the six counties are found below.
A growing concern among ECS’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs is the increase in the numbers of children and families we serve who are not proficient in English. ECS’s challenge is to support these families as well as we serve English-speaking families. While it is difficult to determine how many children in our communities do not speak English, data exists for adults and for children enrolled in the public school system. While the proportions of non-English speakers are relatively small compared with the total population, significant numbers do exist, especially in Clay and Duval counties where 3.6% and 4.9% of residents speak English “less than very well”.

### English as a Second Language

Following selected counts of the highest reported populations who speak English less than “very well”, by which language is spoken.

#### Baker:
- Spanish: 66
- Korean: 15
- Russian: 8

#### Bradford:
- Spanish: 187
- French Creole: 43
- Serbo Croatian: 26

#### Clay:
- Spanish: 3,546
- French Creole: 452
- Chinese: 377
- Tagalog: 361
- German: 213
- Vietnamese: 190
- Mon-Khmer, Cambodian: 167
- Gujarati: 157

#### Duval:
- Spanish: 17,198
- Tagalog: 3,436
- Serbo Croatian: 2,252
- Vietnamese: 2,133
- Arabic: 1,814
- French Creole: 1,773
- Other Indo-European languages: 1,181
- Other Asian languages: 1,076

#### Nassau:
- Spanish: 180
- Tagalog: 54
- Chinese: 43
The school system in Clay and Duval counties enrolls 550 and 4,185 English language learners, respectively. These data demonstrate that ECS must be prepared to find solutions to support children for whom English is a barrier to development and resources.

### English Language Learners in the School System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of English Language Learners (ELL) PK-12 students</td>
<td>Fewer than 10</td>
<td>Fewer than 10</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>4,185</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>251,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of English Language Learners (ELL) PK-12 students</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children’s educational indicators

Children are tested according to statewide standards periodically after entering kindergarten. Children who attended VPK as preschoolers are assessed at kindergarten for their school readiness. Scores were fairly uniform across counties, with Baker County with the highest rates of children who scored ready for kindergarten. Baker, Clay, and Nassau counties all had more than 90% of entering children ready, while Bradford and Duval counties were below the state average.

The FCAT assessment is used to assess the knowledge and skills of older children at various grade levels. Bradford and Duval counties had the lowest percentages of children who read at grade level in the third grade according to the FCAT, while Baker and Nassau scored the highest.

### Children’s Educational Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School readiness at kindergarten (ECHOS)</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third graders reading at grade level (FCAT)</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florida Department of Education

### Section summary: Education

- Baker and Bradford, counties have the highest percentages of adults without a high school diploma, although black males in Duval county are significantly more likely not to graduate than to graduate.
- More than 90,000 adults through the Head Start/Early Head Start service area lack basic literacy skills.
- While the proportion of English Language Learners is low across the service area, there are small and potentially isolated families who would very much benefit from Head Start or Early Head Start services.
- Fewer than 90% of children in Bradford and Duval counties are assessed as ready for kindergarten; less than 70% of third graders in all counties are reading at grade level.
6.3. Health and nutrition

General and Environmental Health

There are a great number of indicators that reflect the general health of a community’s residents. Both the average health of area residents and the built environment impact how likely children are to themselves become healthy adults. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has compiled a number of indicators to rank counties by the health of their residents nationwide. These indicators include many that are considered in this Community Assessment such as infant mortality, social health indicators such as teen pregnancy, and survey results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The counties in ECS’s service area span the health spectrum in Florida. Clay County is relatively healthy overall according to Robert Wood Johnson, as the 7th healthiest county in the state. Baker County is ranked very low at 62nd, and Bradford is 60th (out of 67 counties). An interesting point is that nearby St. Johns County is ranked first, and nearby Union County is ranked last in Florida. Bradford and Duval counties are ranked in the lower half, while Nassau County is closer to the middle of the rankings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Health Ranking (of 67 counties)53</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank of county out of 67 Florida counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor physical health days54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income and low access to store55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor health days54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another indicator of health is self-reported health, and the percentage of people reporting poor health can indicate the need for services in the community. Twenty percent or more of respondents in Baker, Bradford, Duval, and Nassau counties reported fair or poor health. Overall the data reflects a need for widespread health interventions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of adults who classify their overall health as “fair” or “poor” 56</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
Children who live in homes with older pipes or paint are at risk for lead exposure. Even small levels of lead can lead to developmental delay in young children. The percentages of children tested for lead varies widely from county to county, with 30% tested in Bradford, but only 10.8% tested in Baker. These data are difficult to interpret since health departments only suggest that children living in high lead-risk situations be tested—the therefore a low testing rate might be an indicator of newer housing or less perceived risk in a community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children born in the same year tested for Lead prior to 36 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>County</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Year indicates the birth year.

**Nutrition**

Access to health services and proper nutrition are often limited for low income children. Conversely, poor health indicators often exacerbate and perpetuate problems of low income. Children perform poorly when their health suffers, and they are more likely to have reduced educational outcomes, which often leads to low income. The following indicators of health highlight the problems that come with poor health and nutrition.

A possible indicator of unfulfilled nutritional need can be seen in the table below of the proportion of eligible people served by the WIC program. This program provides nutritional services to children under the age of five, and pregnant or nursing women. While essentially all eligible people were served in Baker, Bradford, and Nassau counties, there were percentages of underserved women and children in families in all other counties. In Clay and Duval counties, fewer than 80% of eligible people were served.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIC Eligibles Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>County</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, WIC & Nutrition Services’ WIC Potentially Eligible Population 2012
An issue that impacts our children is childhood obesity. Children who are overweight or obese are at a significantly higher risk for chronic problems throughout life. More than 24% of children in each of our counties are overweight. Baker has the highest rate, with nearly 30% of children on WIC who are overweight. A number of factors in a community could lead to higher obesity rates. One indicator is mother’s weight at birth. Bradford County has the highest percentage of births to obese mothers, and all counties are well above state average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIC children &gt;1 who are overweight</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, WIC & Nutrition Services’ WIC Potentially Eligible Population from Florida CHARTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births to Obese Mothers at the Time Pregnancy Occurred</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>2,819</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>2,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>3,643</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>3,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>42,510</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>44,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

One potential reason for high rates of overweight in the counties ECS serves is that most children do not receive sufficient activity, as defined by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. A potential solution to this is to support more physical activity within our Head Start programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Middle School Students Without Sufficient Vigorous Activity</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Youth Risk Behavior Survey from Florida CHARTS
The built environment also has an effect on health. Available healthy food and opportunities for activity can lead to a healthier population. Bradford County has the lowest percentage of people who live within walking distance of a park. Baker County has the lowest percentage of people who live within range of both fast food and healthy food, primarily because it is a community that is not dense. It is clear that residents in our communities have as easy or easier access to fast food, compared with their access to healthy food.

Noteworthy is the percentage of residents in Duval who live within ½ mile of a park. Jacksonville has the largest urban park system in the United States, which may lend to greater health. However, Jacksonville is not a walkable city, with a walkability score of 26 (out of 100). Please note that the walkability scores below reflect conditions within the cities listed. Many communities, such as Baker County, have residents who live many miles from the city centers listed. In addition, parents at Starke reported in focus group that although the city appears walkable, its busy streets and perceived high crime discourage walking with young children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Data</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Population that Live within a ½ Mile of a Healthy Food Source</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Population that Live within a ½ Mile of a Fast Food Restaurant</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>37.19%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Population that Live within a Ten Minute Walk (½ Mile) of a Park</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Walk Score: The score below indicates the “walkability” of a community (out of 100).

Baker County:
- MacClenny: 55
Bradford County:
- Starke: 77
Clay County:
- Orange Park: 62
- Green Cove Springs: 77
Duval County:
- Jacksonville: 26
- 32209: 35
- 32254: 22
Nassau County:
- Callahan: 9
- Fernandina Beach: 88

Health and dental care access

Having access to health care is crucial to school readiness. Preventive health measures, such as immunizations, play an important role in the safety and development of a young child. Health care providers also are in a position to offer anticipatory guidance and support to parents, and to make referrals to community resources that can provide needed help before a problem escalates. Families are not likely to have regular health care providers if their children are not insured.
Immunization levels are a good indicator of if young children have access to the most basic of health services. As seen below, the majority of children in our counties are immunized at kindergarten entry, while the rate is slightly lower in Nassau County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>2,491</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>2,503</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
<td>2,423</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>11,532</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
<td>11,762</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>11,953</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>15,599</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>15,790</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>15,825</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>200,264</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
<td>208,766</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>216,027</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Department of Children and Families

Dental care, however, appears to be a large concern in these counties, with less than 55% of low income residents in all counties who have sufficient access to dental care. Note the increase in Baker County, which in 2008 only served 9.7% of low income persons, but has increased to serving 53.4% in 2010. This increase is likely due to improved access to dental services through the Health Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2008 Number</th>
<th>2008 Percent</th>
<th>2009 Number</th>
<th>2009 Percent</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
<td>2,034</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>3,256</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>3,256</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>4,429</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>35,540</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>37,136</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>41,614</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>3,824</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>3,911</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>3,519</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>44,897</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>44,035</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>52,898</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>675,575</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>689,062</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>855,659</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Public Health Dental Program

**Data Notes:** Percent and number of low income persons with access to dental care

**Mental health**

Children ages 1-5 are not generally at risk for mental health concerns, but their relatively low numbers makes this concern difficult to identify and treat in many children. ECS understands that mental health is as important to school readiness as physical health, and provides support to children in our programs who need such intervention.
## Children Ages 1-5 Receiving Mental Health Treatment Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.6%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>.5%</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>.8%</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>11,584</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>11,806</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>12,339</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Agency for Health Care Administration from Florida Charts

### Section Summary: Health

- Bradford and Baker counties are near the lowest ranked in Florida for health, at 60 and 62 out of 67.
- Nutritional health varies widely across the service area, with Baker, and especially Bradford counties ranking as the unhealthiest communities.
- Walkability and access to healthy food is limited in many of our communities.
- Access to health services varies. Immunization levels are high, while dental care access is low. While it is difficult to know how many children need mental health services, utilization is low and availability is limited.
6.4. Women and infants

Indicators of women and infant health are evidence of Early Head Start service needs, and are presented below. Currently, ECS provides Early Head Start services in Baker, Clay, and Duval counties only and serves 226 children and pregnant women.

Low income mothers

Low income new mothers are potential clients for EHS services. An indicator of low income status is participation in the Medicaid program, where health and medical services are provided to low-income pregnant women, and children. More than two-thirds of births in Bradford County were covered by Medicaid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>6,260</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>6,135</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>18,696</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>7,992</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>7,707</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>23,597</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>104,937</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>106,337</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>319,709</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Birth Certificate

Denominator: Total Births

High school completion

Parents who choose not to complete high school after giving birth are at an increased risk for poverty and other negative outcomes. Parents with less than a high school education are therefore possible clients of an EHS home visiting program. 2012 rates continued their downward trend, and Baker County had the highest incidence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>2,668</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>2,668</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>2,295</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>36,712</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>36,712</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>32,409</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Birth Certificate from Florida CHARTS

Denominator: Total births
Infants and infant births

Babies born too small and too soon are disproportionately at risk for chronic health problems and developmental delay, which place extra demands of family resources and increase parental stress levels. Infant health is a strong indicator of community health, and often infant health reflects a larger embedded community disparity. Annual costs for underweight babies have been placed at $25,000 per child from birth through age 18.62 Bradford County saw the highest rates of low birth weight in 2012.

### Live Births Under 2500 Grams to All Mothers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>1,222</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>1,409</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>18,719</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>18,558</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>18,291</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics from Florida CHARTS

Many factors contribute to a baby’s starting out life at a disadvantage, even if born at full term. Having no prenatal care or having late or inconsistent prenatal care puts a woman at risk of having her child born with problems. A small percentage of women receive very late or no prenatal care; these are potentially women who could be supported by Early Head Start services.

### Births With 3rd Trimester or no Prenatal Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>8,496</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>8,543</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>9,543</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Birth Certificate

**Denominator:** Total Births

A rarer, but no less important occurrence of prenatal issues is women receiving emergency Medicaid for their births. These women are likely to be undocumented immigrants and to receive limited prenatal and postnatal care. While these numbers are small, they reflect individuals who may need services but do not receive them, and who may be difficult to identify in a community.
## Births Covered by Emergency Medicaid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2009 Number</th>
<th>2009 Percent</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>18,220</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>17,695</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>17,080</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Infants born to mothers who use tobacco are disproportionately likely to have disabilities and need additional care. The need for such treatment adds additional stress to the family and increases the consumption of health care resources allocated to care for children. Substance exposure in utero has been linked to developmental delay and increased behavior problems in young children, both factors that hinder school readiness. According to the Florida Department of Health, preventing smoking during pregnancy can reduce SIDS, low birth weight, and other infant health issues. The rate of mothers who smoked during pregnancy exceeds the state average in all counties, with a high of 25% in Bradford County (a trend that has been increasing over the past few years). A possible way to alleviate this is to educate women on the risks of smoking while pregnant.

## Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>1,499</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>14,964</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>14,232</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>14,150</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Birth Certificate

Breastfeeding is important to babies’ overall health—it reduces illness and lowers the risk of later obesity. The Centers for Disease Control set a goal for 75% of mothers to initiate breastfeeding. Throughout ECS’s service area Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties have met this goal, and Baker and Bradford counties fall short. The CDC reports that, nationwide, breastfeeding rates drop by the time babies are six months old, so it is important to continue to encourage breastfeeding throughout the first year following birth.
Mothers Who Initiate Breastfeeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>63.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
<td>1,637</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>9,786</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td>9,820</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>10,036</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>12,530</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>12,482</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>12,753</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>172,812</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>170,554</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>172,427</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics

Section summary: Women and Infants

- More than two-thirds of Bradford County births were to women covered by Medicaid.
- More than 15% of births in Baker, Bradford, and Duval counties were to mothers who did not have a high school diploma. Baker County has the highest incidence of births to mothers who did not graduate.
- Some pregnant women throughout the service area are not receiving adequate prenatal care; some may be undocumented immigrants who have limited visibility in the community.
- More than 25% of women in Bradford County smoked while pregnant.
- While initiation of breastfeeding is lower than CDC goals in Baker and Bradford counties, all counties would benefit from encouragement to breastfeed through the first year of a baby’s life.
6.5. Social-Emotional

Indicators in this domain reflect family stability and adolescent births. Stable, positive family settings promote school readiness and minimize the risk of school failure that might be attributable to a disruptive family setting.

Unwed mothers

In Baker and Bradford counties 50% or more births were to unwed mothers. The risk factors associated with single-family households are largely economic—one less income often means lower socioeconomic status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>6,080</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>6,080</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>6,060</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>7,603</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>7,603</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>7,496</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>101,810</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>101,810</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>102,135</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics

Teenage mothers

Teen mothers frequently give birth to at-risk infants. The birth rate for young teenaged mothers ages 10-17 is less than 3% in all counties; however, it is important to note that these families are at very high risk for health, economic, and educational concerns. The birth rate to mothers aged 18-19 exceeds the state average in all counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>5,648</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4,917</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>4,411</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics from Florida CHARTS
Births to Mothers Ages 18-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>12,154</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>12,403</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>11,731</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics from Florida CHARTS

**Domestic violence**

Domestic violence is disruptive to all family members, and can have lasting effects on preschool aged children. Young children often do not fully understand violence they witness or experience, and they often are unable to verbalize or cope with their feelings. Family violence can be exhibited through behavior concerns in young children, and undermines the overall stability of a family.\(^{66}\)

In the six-county Head Start/Early Head Start area, Duval County demonstrated high levels of domestic violence that is well above the state average. Baker rates, on the other hand, are well below state rate. This indicator is often subject to underreporting, however, as there is evidence that there are many more offenses than are reported.\(^{67}\) There were more than 8,000 domestic violence offences reported in the ECS service area.

**Total Domestic Violence Offenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
<th>2011 Number</th>
<th>2011 Percent</th>
<th>2012 Number</th>
<th>2012 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>.12%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>.11%</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>.33%</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>.53%</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>.49%</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>.47%</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>7,798</td>
<td>.86%</td>
<td>7,604</td>
<td>.88%</td>
<td>6,970</td>
<td>.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>.60%</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>.66%</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Total</td>
<td>9,289</td>
<td>.76%</td>
<td>9,166</td>
<td>.77%</td>
<td>8,452</td>
<td>.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>113,378</td>
<td>.60%</td>
<td>111,681</td>
<td>.59%</td>
<td>108,046</td>
<td>.57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement from Florida CHARTS

**Foster care**

Children in foster care receive additional eligibility points when applying to ECS programs, because they have a higher risk of social-emotional and other concerns. The numbers of children enrolled in foster care is relatively low throughout the service area; however, ECS has support services available for children in foster care who are enrolled into the program. Most recently, ECS has partnered with Family Support Services and other community agencies to become certified to enroll children recently placed in foster care.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foster Care</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Duval</th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>HS Total</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants in foster care 2012</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>2,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ages 1-5 in foster care 2012</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>6,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source:** Florida Department of Children and Families from Florida CHARTS

**Section summary: Social-emotional**

- More than half of the births in Bradford County were to single mothers.
- 12-12% of births in Baker and Bradford counties were to teenagers younger than 20.
- While domestic violence rates are relatively low, more than 1,000 incidents were reported in 2012.
- Four hundred and eighteen children ages 5 and under were in foster care in 2012.
6.6. Early Head Start Duval County

Analysis by zip code

ECS extended Early Head Start services to Duval County for the first time in 2010. Previously the service was not available in this community of 864,000. Because it is such a large and diverse city, ECS has identified some of the most at-risk areas by zip code upon which to focus services. While a county-level analysis of Duval County is essential to this Community Assessment, a zip code-level analysis is also important to ensure that ECS is focusing Early Head Start services on the areas that most need them. Therefore, following is a brief analysis of identified indicators that demonstrate conditions in zip codes served by the program.68

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Indicators for Duval County 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32206 32208 32209 32210 32221 32244 32254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population age 3 and under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32206 32208 32209 32210 32221 32244 32254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population age 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32206 32208 32209 32210 32221 32244 32254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32206 32208 32209 32210 32221 32244 32254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very low birth weight infants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5% 4.3% 3.3% 2.4% 2.0% 2.3% 3.9% 2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers who smoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1% 8.1% 8.0% 10.8% 7.8% 8.4% 11.0% 9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants with a Healthy Start score &gt;4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.7% 14.2% 15.2% 11.4% 9.2% 9.7% 12.8% 12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother with less than a HS education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.9% 22.7% 32.3% 19.5% 12.0% 15.8% 32.7% 22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers participating in WIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.8% 78.0% 79.9% 62.4% 51.1% 54.6% 79.7% 66.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to unwed mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.1% 74.6% 87.2% 62.2% 42.5% 51.9% 80.1% 65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers ages 10-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1% 2.6% 4.0% 2.9% 2.0% 2.5% 5.3% 3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers ages 18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1% 12.6% 12.2% 8.6% 5.6% 6.6% 11.0% 5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese (BMI ≥30)mothers at the time of pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.9% 37.7% 41.7% 30.5% 31.0% 32.3% 37.0% 34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers who initiated breastfeeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.0% 71.3% 60.2% 75.4% 83.5% 79.0% 67.3% 72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births covered by Medicaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.0% 75.4% 86.1% 63.3% 44.4% 51.2% 83.6% 66.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number births covered by Medicaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209 318 578 611 159 468 235 2,578</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Duval County Health Department Center for Health Statistics December 2013.

ECS provides Early Head Start services to zip codes 32206, 32208, 32210, 32221, 32244, and 32254; the Jacksonville Urban League/Community Development Inc. provided services in 32209. In the ECS service area zip codes 32206, 32208, and 32254.

In the ECS service area zip codes 32206, 32208, and 32254 have the most at-risk indicators overall, with more 20% of birth mothers without a high school education, more than 75% of birth mothers participating in WIC, and 75% or more mothers participating in Medicaid. There were 2,000 babies born in 2012 in the ECS service area in Duval County who were covered by Medicaid, and potentially eligible for Early Head Start services.
7. Family Needs (as defined by surveys/focus groups)

In surveys and focus groups, Head Start parents were asked to describe their unmet health care, child care, and social service needs, as well as those areas where their needs were met. Head Start staff and community partners were asked to describe the service needs of their clients. Results of the surveys and focus groups varied from county to county; however, some general themes prevailed.

Need by respondent:
Parents:
Dental care was identified as a need in many counties, and again was the highest need presented overall in surveys. This problem has endured for years in our communities, where many adults are not insured for dental care. Even children, who most often receive Medicaid, often must travel far to receive their services.

Transportation was listed as the second-highest need this year in surveys, and could be considered the highest need item identified in focus groups. Thirty-six percent of parents responding said that they had troubles with consistent transportation, particularly to and from school. Even in communities where public transportation exists, parents reported that it often was not sufficient due to long rides or lack of safety.

Child care was the third-highest identified need from parent surveys. Most parents in focus groups referred to the lack of extended-day care, particularly for working parents. Many parents were also not happy with the shortened hours on teacher training days.

Parenting education was a surprising request by parents throughout the service area, and by staff. This service has not been considered a high need in recent years, so its emergence to one of the top service requests may indicate a change in our populace. In focus groups many parents stated that there are fewer parenting education opportunities in their communities now than in the past. Many parents spoke specifically about problems that they had with their children that they needed help or feedback with.

Adult education was at times referred to at the same time as parenting education—parents indicated a need for parents to have more information and services to improve their knowledge and understanding in ways that would lead to better futures for their families. Sometimes respondents referred to parenting education to reduce interactions with children that undermine their social-emotional health. Respondents also referred to educational opportunities that would help parents to become self-sufficient, such as tuition assistance or job training skills.

Disabilities: While the need for help for people with disabilities was not at the top of our lists, it was listed by a small number of respondents throughout our services area. It is likely that few people need information or support to help with their disabilities, but those who do need it have trouble finding it.
Services for mothers and infants: This request was made in Bradford, Clay, and Nassau counties, where Early Head Start services are limited or non-existent. These may be areas to where Early Head Start services can be expanded if funding becomes available.

Barriers and access to assistance: Respondents were asked what the barriers were to receiving the services and help they needed. The most often stated barriers were lack of education or knowledge among parents, lack of communication and advertising by community providers, and language barriers. Additionally, many parent respondents reporting that they were not eligible for some services because they worked or their income was too high to qualify. When asked what facilitated access to services, respondents listed their Family Support Specialist most often; other sources included the internet, the phone book, Community Resource Guides, the local Department of Health, and communication among parents.

Program staff: Head Start and Early Head Start services and staff were widely regarded as exceptional by the respondents. Caring teachers and staff were noted as the program’s most valuable assets. Parents had almost no complaints about the Head Start program; most complaints reflected a need for longer hours or transportation to the centers. Some parents in focus groups stated that the new hours implemented this year were not burdensome; however, focus groups were help during the school day and many attendees had more flexible schedules.

Staff
- ECS staff reported transportation as the biggest issue in need of intervention. This is a need that staff identify as a barrier to services.
- Education/literacy for adults: Staff reported that education was often a barrier to families’ improving their situations.
- Help with parenting skills: Hand-in-hand with the need for education for adults, staff reported that parents often need support in understanding their children’s development. Staff report that parents often have unrealistic expectations of their children, and interact in a way that does not promote positive well-being.
- Mental health/behavior services: Staff listed mental health and behavior services as the fourth most needed service. According to staff, there are simply not sufficient services to meet need.

Community Partners
Community partners ranked the majority of service choices as being needed in the community. However, the very highest ranked services were:
- Help with healthy food/eating: Unlike parents, who rarely mention healthy eating, the community partners find this to be the highest need in our communities. Partners feels that our community needs information on healthy eating and how to prepare healthy meals.
- Education/literacy for adults: This need spans the scope from literacy support to GED classes to parent involvement support.
- Mental health/behavior services: Community partners note that there is a wide need for services, including substance abuse and autism support.
- Child care services: Community partners feel there need to be more child care that is easier to access, including expanding Early Head Start and Head Start.
Transportation: Community partners state that the community needs more reliable public transportation, and clients should be matched with permanent transportation options.

Need by county: Each county had different needs as expressed by parents.

Baker County
- Highest needs: Transportation, education for adults, help with parenting
- In surveys, Baker County parents report few needs overall. The top 5 needs reported were education for adults, education for children, child care, transportation, and parenting help.
- The majority of Baker County parents responding to survey report using a number of community services, including child education, help getting food, and health and dental services.
- In the focus group parents cited an issue with adult dental care, particularly for those who have more severe needs. At times many parents felt that the only care available was emergency extractions at the hospital. Parents cited a need for parenting/adult education opportunities and computer classes. They perceive a reduction in what once were ample resources for parent and adult education. The highest stated need was transportation for residents who did not live centrally in MacClenny, and also for those who could not reach services in adjoining counties.

Bradford County
- Highest needs: Transportation, opportunities that would lead to employment, mental health, dental services, additional services
- Bradford County parents reported in surveys needing more transportation mental health, and dental health services.
- Few parents responding reported using existing services. They most utilized services reported were food and dental assistance, by 36% of the survey respondents.
- Parents in focus groups discussed the need for a wide range of services. Overall, the challenge they perceived in Bradford County was a very real divide among residents in poverty and those who are not, and a resulting low level of social support. The ensuing economic situation in the community also provides few job opportunities and options for improvement. Educational opportunities for adults are few, but would also provide little in advancement.
- The parents in focus groups reported a high need for transportation. Even though the community is viewed as walkable (see Walk Score), residents felt that the traffic and the low quality of the neighborhoods made walking unsafe for young children.
- Parent in focus groups also reported needing additional social services, including homeless shelters and support for victims of domestic violence.

Clay County
The response rate for surveys in Clay County was lower than usual, and results may not reflect the full picture.
- Highest needs: Dental services, mother and infant services, services targeting people who do not speak English language, mental health/behavior
- Clay parents reported a high utilization rate for services, especially for child educational services, food services, and dental and health services. More than 50% of respondents reported using these services.
• In surveys, parents reported needing more dental care, services for mothers and infants, services for the disabled, and child care.
• Parents in Clay focus groups reported on the need for support for parents who would like to work or improve their employment situations, but cannot afford to. The cost of pursuing schooling is prohibitive, as well as the cost for child care during all of working and school hours.
• Parents in all focus group spoke about the need for more parenting help, so that they better understood how to support their children’s development. Parents also requested help with mental health services for their children, and behavior management support for problem behaviors. Many parents felt their children had behavior issues and did not know how to best address them. Respondents also felt that help for new mothers with infants was especially lacking.
• Parents in two Clay County focus groups stated the need for strategies to make healthier food available to children and their families.
• There is a relatively large number of residents of Clay County who do not speak fluent English. Parents in focus groups said (sometimes through an interpreter) that this language barrier often prevents parents from getting the help they need.

Duval County
• Highest needs: Transportation, parenting skills, services to help working parents
• The majority of Duval County respondents used dental services and transportation services.
• Duval County survey respondents reported a fairly even need for all services listed, with more than 20% in each category. Parents reported needing dental and transportation services above all else, with more than 50% expressing a need for these services.
• Focus group parents discussed a need for services to better benefit, and not penalize parents who work. Often getting a job costs more than surviving on benefits, and is a disincentive to long-term sustainability. Parents described a need for support services to bridge these gaps as income grows.
• Transportation: Parents often cited a need for transportation, especially to bring their child to school daily. Although buses are available, they are often difficult to use. The bus ride is long for many, requiring more than an hour each way daily. Parents also discussed the difficulty of taking young children on the bus, and that many parents do not like using this mode of transportation.
• Additional focus group requests were for longer hours and additional take-home educational activities for children.

Nassau County
• Highest needs: Transportation, health care for children (pediatricians in area), services for mothers and infants, transportation
• The highest needs represented by survey are services in one’s own culture, services for mothers and infants, and transportation.
• In focus groups parents said that there are services available, but often travel to Jacksonville is necessary. Even locally, for travel beyond walking distance, there are essentially no options for transportation for children.
- Nassau County has a large community of non-English speaking families, but limited resources to help. This is a barrier for navigating and finding needed support.
- Parents in focus groups stated that there are a lot of services available, but they are often run by smaller agencies and are not well advertised.
8. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

8.1. What is available?

Baker County

Education/Employment
- Adult Literacy/Tutoring
- Baker County School District
- Baker County Student Services
- Community Action Agency
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Florida First Start Program
- Florida State College/Jacksonville
- Jacksonville University
- Job Junction
- Jones College
- Lake City Community College
- Learn to Read
- Public Library
- University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- University of North Florida
- Work Source

Food/Nutrition
- American Red Cross
- Baker County Extension Program
- Baker County Service Center
- Council on Aging
- Food Stamps
- Healthy Families
- Healthy Start
- Neighbors in Need
- Northeast Florida Community Action Agency
- Samaritan Ministries
- WIC

Rent, Utilities, and Housing
- American Red Cross
- Baker County SHIP Program
- Community Action Agency
- Clay Electric
- Florida Power and Light
- Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Copr.
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hubbard House
- MacClenny Housing Authority
- NEFCOM-Northeast Florida Telephone Company
- Salvation Army
- Safe Link
- Section 8 Program
Financial Assistance
- Child Support
- Community Action Agency
- Federal Student Aid
- Florida Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program
- Social Security Administration
- TANF/Cash Assistance

Health/Mental Health
- ABBA Ministries
- AIDS Hotline
- Al Anon-Alateen
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Baker County Health Department
- Baker County Youth Hope Center
- Baker County Service Center
- Child Abuse Hotline
- Child Guidance Center
- Children's Medical Services
- Clay & Baker Kids Net, Inc.
- Cocaine Anonymous
- Community Behavioral Services
- Council on Aging
- Family Service Center
- First Assembly of God
- Florida Kid Care
- Gateway Community Services
- Healthy Families
- Hubbard House
- Narcotics Hotline
- Nemours Children's Clinic
- Parents Anonymous
- Poison Control Hotline
- Rape Crisis Center Hotline

Legal Assistance
- Child Support Enforcement
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Juvenile Alternative Services Program
- Legal Aid
- Three Rivers Legal Service

Clothing/Household Items
- American Red Cross
- Goodwill Industries
- Salvation Army
- The Hospice Treasure Chest
Special Needs/Disabilities
ADHD Support Group
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
All Saints Early Learning and Community Care Center
Alzheimer's National Hotline
ARC
Aslan House/Aslan's Kids Castle of Hope
Autistic Society
Brain Injury Association of Florida
Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
Cerebral Palsy of NE Fla
Child Cancer Fund
Child Find
Children's Medical Services
Cleft Palate Parent Support Group
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreting Service
Diabetes Association
Division of Blind Services
Down Syndrome Association
Dyslexia Association
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation of NE Florida
FDLRS/NEFEC
Florida Respite Coalition
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Florida Spinal Cord Injury
Hope Haven Children's Clinic
Hope Therapy
Independent Living Resource Center of NE Florida
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America
March of Dimes
Nemours Children's Clinic
Spina Bifida Association

Relative Caregiver
AARP
Child Support
Florida Kinship Center
Grandparents Rights
Grandparents/Relatives Raising Children
Grands/RAPP JAX
TANF/Cash Assistance

Child Care Referrals
Episcopal Children’s Services

Transportation
Council on Aging
Miscellaneous
   Baker County Health Department
   Chamber of Commerce
   County Commissioners
   Driver’s License
   Humane Society/Animal Control
   Poison Control

Bradford County
Education/Employment
   Bradford Area Vocational Tech Center
   Bradford County Public Library
   Bradford County School District
   Communities in School
   Even Start
   Head Start
   Santa Fe College
   WIA/Work Enforcement Act

Food/Nutrition
   American Red Cross
   Bradford County Food Bank/Clothes Closet
   Bradford County Public Health Department
   Bradford Ecumenical Ministry Food Pantry
   Catholic Charities
   Central Florida Community Action Agency
   Department of Children & Families
   Lake Area Ministries
   Outreach Tri-County
   Suwannee River Economic Council
   WIC

Rent, Utilities, and Housing
   Bradford County Community Development
   Bradford County Ministerial Alliance
   Catholic Charities
   Central Florida Community Action Agency
   Florida Power and Light
   City of Starke
   Habitat for Humanity
   I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless
   Lake Area Ministries
   Peaceful Paths
   Section 8 Program
   Starke First Baptist Church
   Suwanee River Economic Council
Financial Assistance
Bradford County Ministerial Alliance
Child Support
Florida Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program
TANF/Cash Assistance

Health/Mental Health
AIDS-Hotline
Al-Anon/Alateen
Alcoholics Anonymous
Bradford County Health Department
Child Abuse Hotline
Children's Crisis Center
Department of Children & Families
Florida Kid Care
Lake Area Ministries
Narcotics Hotline
Parents Anonymous
Peaceful Paths
Poison Control Hot Line
Rape Crisis Center Hotline
Suwannee River Economic Council

Legal Assistance
Child Support Enforcement
Legal Aid

Special Needs/Disabilities
ARC of Bradford County
Alzheimer's National Hotline
Alzheimer's Association
Autistic Society
CCAR Services Inc.
Cerebral Palsy of NE Fla
Child Cancer Fund
Child Find
Cleft Palate Parent Support Group
Department of Developmental Disabilities
Diabetes Association
Division of Blind Services
Down Syndrome Association
Dyslexia Association
Easter Seals at Altrusa House
Epilepsy Foundation of NE Florida
FDLRS/NEFEC
Florida Respite Coalition
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Hospice of North Central Florida
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America
March of Dimes
Spina Bifida Association

Relative Caregiver
  AARP
  Child Support
  Florida Kinship Center
  Grandparents Rights
  Grandparents/Relatives Raising Children
  TANF/Cash Assistance

Child Care Resource and Referral
  Episcopal Children’s Services

Transportation
  Center for Independent Living
  Suwanee River Economic Council

Miscellaneous
  Bradford County Public Health Department
  Bradford County Board of Commissioners
  Bradford County Chamber of Commerce
  Bradford County Sheriff’s Office
  Driver’s License
  Poison Control
  United Way First Call for Help

Clay County

Education/Employment
  Bannerman Learning Center
  Clay County Cooperative Extension Center
  Clay County Literacy Coalition
  Clay County Public Library
  Clay County School Board/Adult Education
  Clay County School District
  Community Action Agency
  Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
  Florida State College/Jacksonville
  Head Start/Early Head Start
  Jacksonville Job Corps
  Jacksonville University
  Jones College
  Learn To Read
  University of North Florida
  Work Source

Food/Nutrition
  American Red Cross
  Catholic Charities
  Clay County Cooperative Extension Services
  Clay County Council on Aging
Community Action Agency
Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs
Food Stamps
Healthy Start
Healthy Families
Jewish Family & Community Services
Keystone Heights Public Health Department
Lake Area Ministries
La Leche League
Pinewood Presbyterian Church
Salvation Army of Clay County
St. Luke's Parish Outreach
The Olde Farm, Inc
United Methodist Church
WIC

Rent/Utilities/Housing
American Red Cross
Catholic Charities
Clay County SHIP Program
Community Action Agency
Community Connections
Department of Children and Families
Economic Opportunity Council
Electric, Water & Gas Companies
Green Cove Springs Public Housing Agency
Habitat for Humanity
Hubbard House
I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless
Jewish Family & Community Services
Love Ministries
Pinewood Presbyterian Church
Phone Companies
Public Housing Agency
St. Lukes Parish Outreach
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Sacred Heart Outreach Program
Safe Link
Salvation Army
Quigley House
United Methodist Church

Financial Assistance
Catholic Charities
Child Support
Child Support Enforcement
Clay County Clothes Closet
Clay County Cooperative Extension Center
Community Action Agency
Consumer Credit Counseling
Federal Student Aid
Florida Corporate Tax & Scholarship Program
Jewish Family & Community Services
Pinewood Presbyterian Church
Sacred Heart Outreach Program
Salvation Army of Clay County
Social Security Administration
TANF/Cash Assistance

Health/Mental Health
AIDS/Hotline
Al Non-Al Teen
Alcoholics Anonymous
Association of Special Kids
Child Abuse Hotline
Children's Crisis Center
Children's Medical Services
Clay Action Coalition
Clay & Baker Kids Net
Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc.
Clay County Public Health Department
Cocaine Anonymous
Community Action Agency
Compassionate Friends
Council on Aging
Daniel Memorial
Department of Children & Families
Florida Kid Care
Gateway Community Services
Hope Haven Children's Clinic
Hope Therapy
Hubbard House
Keystone Heights Public Health Department
Lions Club
N. E. Florida Community Action Center
Narcotics Hotline
Nemours Children's Clinic
Oasis Women's Center
Parents Anonymous
Poison Control Hot Line
Quigley House
Rape Crisis Center Hotline
United Methodist Church

Legal Assistance
Child Support Enforcement
Guardian Ad Litem
Justice Coalition
Public Defenders Office
Three Rivers Legal Service
Victim’s Advocate
Clothing
Agape House Food & Clothes Closet
American Red Cross
Clothes Closet of Clay County
St. Lukes Parish Outreach
Salvation Army
The Hospice Treasure Chest
The Olde Farm, Inc.

Special Needs/Disabilities
ADHD
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Association of Special Kids
All Saints Early Learning & Comm. Care Center
Alzheimer's National Hotline
Alzheimer's Association
ARC
Aslan House/Aslan's Kids Castle of Hope
Autistic Society
BASCA
CCAR Services, Inc.
Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
Cerebral Palsy of N. E. Fl.
Challenge Enterprises of NE Florida
Child Cancer Fund
Child Find
Clarke Auditory/Oral Center
Clay County Council on Aging
Clay County Special Olympics
Cleft Palate
Daystar Center
Diabetes Association
Division of Blind Services
Down Syndrome Association
Dyslexia Association
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation of N. E. Fl.
FDLRS/NEFEC
Florida Respite Coalition
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Grove House
Haven Hospice
Henderson Haven Inc.
Hope Haven Children's Clinic
Hope Therapy
Independent Living Resource Center of N.E. FL.
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America
March of Dimes
N. E. Florida Community Hospice
Nemours Children's Clinic
Orange Park Lions Club
SEDNET
Spina Bifida Association

Recreation/Mentoring
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boy Scouts of America
- Clay County Home Extension Services
- Clay County Police Athletic League
- Clay County Special Olympics
- Daniel Memorial
- First Coast Family Center/Mentoring Program
- Girl Scouts of America
- Green Cove Springs Kiwanis Club
- Salvation Army
- YMCA

Relative Caregiver
- AARP
- Child Support
- Child Support Enforcement
- Department of Children & Families
- Florida Kinship Center
- Grandparent's Rights
- Grandparent's/Relatives Raising Children
- Grands/RAPPJAX
- TANF/Cash Assistance
- Three Rivers Legal Service

Child Care Referrals
- Episcopal Children's Services

Transportation
- Community Action Agency
- Council on Aging

Miscellaneous
- Animal Control
- Animal Shelter of Orange Park
- Clay County Health Department
- Chamber of Commerce
- Clay County Sheriff’s Office
- County Commissioners
- Driver’s License
- Poison Control
**Duval County**

**Education/Employment**
- Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Office of Early Learning
- Children’s Home Society
- Clara White Mission
- Daniel/Youth Build
- Duval County Title 1 Program
- Emmett Reed Center
- Florida State College of Jacksonville
- Head Start
- Healthy Families
- Job Corp
- Omni Community Development Corporation
- St. Paul Community Empowerment
- Unemployment Compensation
- Women’s Center
- WorkSource

**Food/Nutrition**
- Arlington Community Service
- Catholic Charities
- Christ Church of Peace Food Pantry
- Clara White Mission
- Department of Children and Families
- Downtown Ecumenical Services
- Duval County Extension Services
- House of Refuge Ministries
- Jewish Family and Community Services Food Pantry
- Lutheran Social Services
- Mandarin Food Bank
- North East Florida Community Action Agency (NEFCAA)
- Salvation Army
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen
- United Community Outreach Ministry
- Westside Christian Outreach

**Rent, Utilities, and Housing**
- Ability Housing
- Angel Aid
- Arlington Community Services
- Beachwood Apartments
- Catholic Charities
- Circle of Love Ministries
- Clara White Mission
- Community Connections
- Downtown Ecumenical Services
- Family Foundations
- Family Promise
- Florida Christian Apartments
- Fort Caroline Arms
Hollybrook
Housing Partnership of Jacksonville
HUD-Section 8 Locator
IM Sulzbacher Center
Jacksonville Housing Authority
Jewish Family and Community Service
Liberty Center for the Homeless
Mission House
Nia Terrace
Regina Mundi, Inc
St. Paul Community Development
The Inn Ministry
The Salvation Army, Red Shield Lodge
Trinity Rescue Mission
United Community Outreach Ministry
Washington Heights

Health/Mental Health
Agency for Healthcare Administration
Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Office of Early Learning
Bridge Adolescent and Pediatric Health
CHDD
Child Find
Child Guidance Center
Children’s Home Society
Children’s Medical Services
Community Connections
Community Hospice of NE Florida
Community Rehabilitation Center
Daniel
Diocesan Center for Family Life
Duval County Extension Services
Duval County Health Department
Duval County Public Schools
Early Learning Coalition of Duval
Episcopal Children’s Services
Family Foundations
Family Support Services
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Health: Center for Women and Children
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
Florida KidCare
Gateway Community Services
Healthy Families
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
Helping at Risk kids
Hubbard House
IM Sulzbacher
Jacksonville Legal Aid Mental Health Services
Jacksonville Children’s Commission
Jacksonville Marine Institute
Jacksonville Public Library
Jacksonville Urban League Head Start
Jax Health and Transition Services
Jax Care
Jericho School
Magnolia Project
Mental Health Association of NE Florida
Mental Health Resource Center
MHRC
MomCare
Monique Burr Foundation
NAMI Florida
NE Behavioral Services
Nemours Children’s Clinic
Northwest Behavioral Health Systems
OCD Foundation
Pace Center for Girls
Rainbows
River Region Human Services
Salvation Army
Shriners Hospital for Children
Sutton Place Behavioral Health
Ten Broeck
The Azalea Project
The Bridge of NE Florida
Vision is Priceless
Volunteers in Medicine
We Care Jacksonville
Wekiva Springs
Women’s Center of Jacksonville Rape Recovery Team
Youth Crisis Center

Legal Assistance
Child Support Enforcement
Florida Coastal School of Law
Jacksonville Legal Aid
Three Rivers Legal Services

Special Needs/Disabilities
All Saints Early Learning
Angelwood
ARC Jacksonville
Autism Association of NE Florida
BASCA
Boys and Girls Club
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Cerebral Palsy of NE Florida
CHADD
Child Find
Child Guidance Center
Children’s Home Society
Children’s Medical Services
Clark School for the Deaf
Daniel Inc. Independent Living Program
DePaul School
Developmental Disabilities
DLC Nurse and Learn
Early Steps
Family Support Network
Family Village
Fathers Make a Difference
First Tee
Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource
Florida Directory of Early Childhood Services
GRANDS
Healthy Families
Healthy Start
Hope Haven Children’s Clinic and Family Center
IM Sulzbacher Homeward Bound
Inclusion Warm Line
Jacksonville Family Literacy Initiative
Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families
JASMYN
Magnolia Project
Morning Star
Nemours Bright Start
Northwest Behavioral Services
Parent Aid
Parent Education Network
Parenting Counts Family Workshop and Classes
Pediatric Day Treatment Center
Speech and Hearing Center
Speech Language and Hearing Services
Spina Bifida Association
The ridge of Northeast Florida
The Jacksonville School for Autism
The Jericho School
US Department of Justice

Relative Caregiver
Children’s Home Society
Community Hospice of NE Florida
Duval County Extension—Family and Consumer Sciences Program
Duval County Public Schools
Early Learning Coalition of Duval
Episcopal Children’s Services
Family Education Network
Florida Kinship Center
Grandparent Again
Grands-Rap-Jax
Episcopal Children's Services
Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, & Nassau Counties Head Start Community Assessment

January 2014

Jacksonville Urban League Head Start
Jax4Kids.com
National Parent Information Network
Parenthood.com
Parents Without Partners
Relatives as Parents Program
Single Parents Association

Child Care Referrals
   Early Learning Coalition of Duval

Transportation
   Community Transportation System

Miscellaneous
   All Saints
   Angelwood
   Cribs for Kids
   Fleet and Family Support
   Florida Love Line
   Helping Hands Diaper Center of Jacksonville
   Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
   New Parent Support Program
   Project Moses

Nassau County

Education/Employment
   Callahan Adult Education Program
   Community Action Agency
   Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
   Even Start
   Fernandina Adult Education
   Florida State College of Jacksonville
   Head Start
   Hilliard Adult Education
   Jacksonville Job Corps
   Jacksonville University
   Jones College
   Learn to Read
   Nassau Community Academy
   Nassau County Public Library
   Nassau County School District
   Teen Parent Program
   University of North Florida
   Work Source
**Food/Nutrition**
- Barnabas Center
- Catholic Charities
- Council on Aging
- Community Action Agency
- Food Stamps
- Gray Gables Church
- Gleeners
- Le Leche League
- Salvation Army
- WIC

**Rent/Utilities/Housing**
- American Red Cross
- Barnabas Center
- Catholic Charities
- Community Action Agency
- Florida Power and Light
- Florida Public Utilities
- Okefenokee Rural Electric
- Habitat for Humanity
- Housing Authority
- Micah’s Place
- N.E. Florida Community Action Agency
- Bell South
- Safe Link
- Salvation Army

**Financial Assistance**
- Catholic Charities
- Child Support
- Federal Student Aid
- Social Security Administration
- TANF/Cash Assistance

**Health/Mental Health**
- AIDS-Hotline
- Al Anon-Al Teen
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Barnabas Center
- Child Abuse Hotline
- Children's Medical Services
- Community Action Agency
- Council on Aging
- Daniel Memorial
- Department of Children & Families
- Family Support Services of North Florida
- Florida Kid Care
- Gateway Community Services
- Healthy Families
Hilliard Medical Center
Hope Haven Children’s Clinic
Lutheran Social Services
MePherson Training Center
Micha’s Place
N.E. Florida Community Action Agency
Narcotics Hotline
Nassau County Public Health Department
Nassau County Public Health Unit
Nemours Children’s Clinic
Parents Anonymous
Poison Control
Rape Crisis Center Hotline
Salvation Army
Sutton Place

Legal Assistance
Child Support Enforcement
Guardian Ad Litem
Legal Aid Association
Three Rivers Legal Service
Victim’s Advocate

Clothing/Household Items
American Red Cross
Goodwill of North Florida
Gray Gables Church
Salvation Army
The Hospice Treasure Chest

Special Needs/Disabilities
ADHD Support Group
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Alcoholics Anonymous
All Saints Early Learning and Community Care Center
Alzheimer's National Hotline
Alzheimer's Association
ARC
Aslan House/Aslan's Kids Castle of Hope
Autistic Society
Brain Injury Association of Florida
Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
Cerebral Palsy of NE Fla
Child Cancer Fund
Child Find
Children's Medical Services
Cleft Palate Parent Support Group
Diabetes Association
Division of Blind Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Down Syndrome Association
Dyslexia Association
Early Steps
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation of NE Florida
FDLRS/NEFEC
Florida Respite Coalition
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Florida Spinal Cord Injury
Grove House
Haven Hospice
Hope Haven Children's Clinic
Independent Living Resource Center
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America
March of Dimes
Nassau County Patient Services Support
Nemours Children's Clinic
Spina Bifida Association

Relative Caregiver
AARP
Child Support
Department of Children and Families
Family Support Services of North Florida
Florida Kinship Center
Grandparents Rights
Grandparents/Relatives Raising Children
Grands/RAPP JAX
TANF/Cash Assistance
Three Rivers Legal Service

Child Care Resource and Referral
Episcopal Children’s Services

Miscellaneous
Birth/Death Certificates
Chamber of Commerce
Driver’s License
Fire Department
Humane Society/Animal Control
Nassau County Board of Commissioners
Poison Control
8.2. **Do they meet the needs of the family?**

The resources are far more abundant in Duval and Clay Counties than the rest of the counties due to its size and population and, therefore, there appear to be more than an adequate amount of resources to meet each family’s needs in that county. Because Baker, Nassau, and Bradford are smaller, more rural counties, there are not as many accessible resources; however, what is available seems to be adequate enough to meet the many needs.

In many cases services may be available but are often too far for families to travel to take advantage. Families residing in Baker, Bradford, and Nassau counties must travel to a nearby county before being able to utilize these resources. As mentioned in the services cited by families, one of the biggest needs of families is not being met is transportation. Many low-income families served by Head Start do not have access to transportation, and therefore are often unable to use their community resources in the maximum way they would like.
9. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Findings 2013-14

Poverty
In total, 18,277 children in the five counties are Head Start or Early Head Start eligible based on age and poverty status. The incidence of poverty continues to increase in most counties, and has done so consistently throughout the counties served since the last community assessment. Duval, in particular, has experienced a rapid increase in the number and percentage of children in poverty. Baker County poverty rates, on the other hand, have improved. This data suggests that additional Head Start and Early Head Start services are needed. There is justification for expanding the number of existing slots in all counties if funding exists.

Disability
Absolute numbers of young children with identified disabilities are relatively low in the counties ECS serves. However, for children this young with disabilities are sometimes difficult to identify. ECS will continue to reach out to serve as many children with disabilities as possible, and will reach out to different sources to enroll eligible children.

Child Care
The availability of child care options has increased steadily in all counties as more than 50% of mothers with children under age 6 work, and 50% of children under age 6 have parents who work. However, in focus groups and surveys the need for extended child care services was widely reported primarily for Early Head Start programs. Respondents were clear to note that child care services they currently received were of good quality.

Low Income
The incidence of poverty in these communities is growing, particularly among young children. Duval County in particular has seen a significant increase in poverty among children under age 5. Baker County, however, has seen a decrease. The difficult economic times are undoubtedly one catalyst for this increase. Additionally, there are many children whose family income is above poverty, but who may still be at risk. The percentages of children who receive reduced lunch (185% of poverty or less) are more than double that of children under the age of 18 in poverty. These children who are slightly above poverty are at times in need of, but not eligible for community services. ECS can explore additional opportunities to reach out to address issues of poverty and low income.

Nutrition
There is somewhat of a disconnect apparent related to information collected about childhood obesity. Data indicates obesity is a very large issue, with up to 31% of children who are overweight, and more than 30% not receiving adequate physical activity. However, the majority of parents did not cite this as an issue. ECS will continue to explore the need and possibilities for addressing nutrition within our communities.
Teenage Birth Rate
The birth rate to mothers aged 18-19 exceeds the state average in all counties. While there is less incidence of births to mothers who are younger than 18, there is a need and ECS will continue to work to provide services to teenage parents.

Literacy and Education
Overall, an estimated 92,000 adults in the five-county area are below-literate. These findings are consistent with the fact that up to 25% of adults in some counties did not finish high school, putting these families at risk of continued negative outcomes. An additional growing concern is of limitations that non-English speakers face within our communities. While in many counties the numbers of non-English speakers does not appear to be large, there are few resources for them. In Clay and Duval counties we find that language barriers are significant. ECS will seek out resources to address both areas, which are directly tied to economic well-being.

Dental Care
Dental care is a continuing major concern in these counties. Thirty-nine percent of low income people have access to dental care across the service area. An interesting trend is seen in Baker County, where residents appear to have more options than in the other counties.

Mothers and Infants
Mother and infant data are a good indicator of the needs of our Early Head Start families. Data continues to indicate a need for mothers and infants services in our counties. Duval County data, in particular, demonstrates a high risk for this population, with 2,000 babies born in the current Duval ECS service area alone who are potentially eligible for Early Head Start services.

Transportation
Transportation was widely noted as a lacking service. This community assessment showed that urban dwellers are perhaps more likely to find lack of transportation as a need. However, data shows that there are many who report having a lack of transportation but do not utilize public services. Lack of transportation was often cited as a barrier to procuring other services, such as dental care. Respondents often stated that a particular service may exist, but that these services existed so far that lack of transportation or gas money prevented the use of the service.

Bradford County
Indicators for Bradford County are overall most troubling within the Head Start/Early Head Start service area. A combination of high poverty, few employment opportunities, and few services has led to a high number of children with negative outcomes. Perhaps most troubling is the large proportion of children who are born into families with low income and low education.
10. REFERENCES

1 The number of slots available in Duval County is unknown because a portion of the grant formerly operated by the Jacksonville Urban League is in transition.
2 U.S. Census Bureau
3 Florida Education and Community Data Profiles, Florida Dept. of Education 2007-08.
4 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-20012.
5 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-20012.
6 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-20012
7 Charting the Progress of Child Care in Florida, Florida Children’s Forum, 2005.
8 Report on Year One Activities of the Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership, Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida, October 2005.
9 Department of Health and Human Services
10 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
11 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
12 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
13 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
14 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
15 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
16 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2010
17 For example, “2.5% of children under age 5 in Clay County are Hispanic and in poverty.”
18 Detailed geographic poverty data are not available from the 2005-2007 American Community Survey. The data presented here are from the 2000 U.S. Census.
19 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012.
20 Duval County data from the Early Learning Coalition of Duval and the Department of Children and Families website; Baker, Bradford, Clay, and Nassau county data from Episcopal Children’s Services and the Department of Children and Families website; Union County data from the Department of Children and Families website. School district prekindergarten data from Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services, 2011-12 http://www.fldoe.org/eias/ eiaspubs/pubstudent.asp.
21 2009 data is not included for Duval County because ECS did not operate Head Start or Early Head Start programs in this county at that time; therefore this data was not collected.
22 Percentages for 2010 were unavailable at writing.
23 Percentages for 2010 were unavailable at writing.
32 Marilyn Jaegar Adams.
33 Hart and Risley.
34 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012.
38 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012.
42 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-20012.
44 Improving Adult Literacy, Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., 1999.
47 Florida Literacy Coalition, 2003 http://www.floridaliteracy.org/?gclid=CJTr9dCI0jCrFRahnAodSyxPuQ
48 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-20012.
50 2011 Florida Department of Education via JCCI Indicators, accessed December 2012.
53 Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days, originally from the Centers for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2010.
54 Percent of low income persons who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store, USDA Food Environment Atlas. Close proximity for metro areas is one mile or less, for non-metro areas is 10 miles or less. http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas.aspx#.UsbsHftIM7U
55 Florida Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, accessed November 2012
58 Florida Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, accessed November 2012
60 Florida Department of Children and Families http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/docs/fammedfactsheet.pdf .
ECS does not serve zip code 32209; however the Jacksonville Urban League holds the contract for service to this zip code for Early Head Start services and it is recognized as one of the highest need zip codes in Jacksonville. Therefore, ECS will include data from this zip code in analysis.

Reduced hours during the day and periodic half-days.

Resources from the Community Resources Guides of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval and Episcopal Children’s Services.