FY2009, Issue 1

A new feature has been added to IECAM that enables users to search the GIS for multiple years of data (2006, 2007, 2008).

PreK/PFA FY08 data from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), FY08 data from Head Start, and child care data for FY07 may now be accessed by municipalities and zip codes.

If you have used IECAM, please contact Dawn Thomas at dthomas3@illinois.edu to share how you have used IECAM and your thoughts and impressions about the Web site.


Developed in 2006, IECAM is located in the Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative (ECAP) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. IECAM is currently funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).
What Is a Standard Report?

A Standard Report enables users to quickly and efficiently download tabular data for a requested geographic area. In a few days, users will be able to utilize two new standard reports:

- Publicly funded Preschool and Head Start FY2007 Standard Report
- Building Blocks Community Assessment Data Sheet

The first Standard Report on publicly-funded preschool includes pertinent textual information about PreK/Preschool for All and Head Start programs serving children 3-5 years of age—including definitions of related terms, data methodology, and enrollment criteria.

The second Standard Report has been completed collaboratively with the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF), as a part of their Building Blocks Initiative. This report combines data on early care and education with demographic data on poverty level and on children living in working families.

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FY2009, Issue 3

Check out the Standard Report titled Response to PFA Request for Proposals (RFP) on IECAM!

The new IECAM Standard Report enables users to quickly and efficiently download tabular data on child population and poverty demographics, Preschool for All and Head Start capacity, and language isolation for a selected geographic area. It also provides up-to-date links to other resources pertinent to the most recent Preschool for All RFP from ISBE.

On the IECAM home page (http://iecam.illinois.edu/), you will find the following links:

- GIS search page (http://ecap-iecam.ad.uiuc.edu/iecam_Yr2010/default.aspx)  (the Standard Report is in the task bar on the left) and

The REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP): Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 Years: 2010 (http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/preschool_rfp_10.pdf) was released in late February 2009.

As a part of the proposal, respondents are required to include a “statement of need.” This statement must document the need for the Preschool for All Children initiative in the community. The need must be based on current statistical, demographic, or descriptive information regarding the community in which the families and children reside. The following points must be described in the narrative:

- education and income levels of parents
- employment conditions
- rates of infant mortality, birth trauma, low birth weight, or prematurity
- rates of dropouts, retention, truancy, teenage pregnancies, and homeless students in the school district(s)
- number of families in which a language other than English is spoken
- rates of poverty, child abuse, and neglect
- prevalence of homelessness as defined by Title X, Part C, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (http://www.isbe.net/homeless/pdf/definition.pdf)
- prevalence of drug/alcohol abuse

Let the IECAM tools assist you!

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IECAMNEWS-L is a periodic newsletter that announces new developments on the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) Website.

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It is important to have ongoing conversations with other groups and agencies in your local community that serve young children and their families. Data are more than numbers and demographic information. Behind each number, estimate, or projection is a child, a family, a provider, a teacher, or a program.

Communities across Illinois have recognized the value of completing a formal assessment of their child care and early education needs—and of developing coordinated plans for building a stronger system of care.

The Building Blocks Community Assessment (BBCA) is a free, interactive tool designed to help Illinois communities complete a quantitative assessment of their need for child care and early education services and to initiate a community-wide process to evaluate the availability, accessibility, quality, and community awareness of local child care and early education programs. The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) is used as a primary data source for this tool.

The BBCA can be accessed at [http://www.buildingblockscommunityassessment.org](http://www.buildingblockscommunityassessment.org).

When you use IECAM, you are getting a snapshot of what a specific geographic area might look like, but it is important to get the whole picture. Each community is made up of programs, agencies, and individuals who are making a difference for young children and their families. IECAM is one resource dedicated to helping bring the early childhood community into better focus. Be sure to continue your conversations at the local level to see the entire picture!

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What kind of data can users find on IECAM?

- IECAM provides two distinct types of data related to early care and education in Illinois:
  - Location based
  - Non-location based
- IECAM also combines early childhood data with demographic information, including population, number of children living at various poverty levels, working families data, and linguistically isolated families.

What kinds of data can users find that are location based?

- Prekindergarten/Preschool for All (PreK/PFA)
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Licensed Child Care Centers
- License-exempt Child Care Centers
- Licensed Family Child Care Homes

What kinds of data can users find that are non-location based?

- Programs funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
  - Early Intervention
  - Child and Adolescent Health

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Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)
http://iecam.illinois.edu

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Education Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative