Alexander County is located in the southwestern part of Illinois, with a population of 7,492. Alexander County is home to persons identifying themselves as White (60.3%), Black (36.6%), or Hispanic/Latino (2.1%). According to the U.S. Census, 35.6% of residents live at or below the federal poverty level (FPL), compared with the state rate of 14.4%. The median household income is $25,495, compared with the state level of $57,166.

Children under the age of 5 years constitute approximately 6% of the population of Alexander County. Early care and education in the county are provided by Head Start, Preschool for All (PFA), and child care settings (licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, and license-exempt child care centers or homes).

The Illinois Early Intervention Program (funded by IDHS) provides services in the home to children with disabilities, birth to age 3. Preschoolers with special needs (ages 3-5) may be served in PFA sites, Head Start programs, child care settings, early childhood special education classrooms, or the home.

For this resource, IECAM used the U.S. Census Bureau’s QuickFacts, which compiles demographic statistics based on various data programs (e.g., Population Estimates Program, American Community Survey 5-year estimates). The data presented above was retrieved in February 2016 from www.census.gov/quickfacts.
According to population estimates reported on IECAM (2013 census estimates), 81% of 3- and 4-year-old children in Alexander County are living in families at or below 185% FPL (first PFA priority level).

The map (top right) shows the distribution of **publicly funded preschool** sites in Alexander County (divided into townships). The green squares represent PFA sites and the red triangles Head Start sites. The color ramp (in the legend) indicates the percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children who live in households with an income at or below 185% FPL. Note that those townships in the darker shades of brown reveal a higher percentage of poverty. The map highlights the importance of locating PFA and Head Start sites in areas of highest need. The gray striped areas have no children living in households at or below 185% FPL.

**Child Care in Alexander County**

The map (bottom right) shows the distribution of **child care settings** superimposed on the county (divided into townships). Note that the green dots represent family child care homes. According to IECAM, there are no licensed child care centers and licensed-exempt child care centers in the county.

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For more information (or to create a more detailed Standard Report), visit [www.iecam.illinois.edu](http://www.iecam.illinois.edu)

Developed in 2006, IECAM is located in the College of Education 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). For more information or for training, please contact Dawn Thomas at 877-275-3227 or dthomas3@illinois.edu.