Researchers have demonstrated that the level of maternal education impacts a wide range of factors, from parenting practices to predicting children’s future academic success. [1] Researchers have studied the impact of maternal education on child health (e.g., infant mortality, height-for-age, and immunization status) and found correlations, but no strong causal relationship. [2] Some researchers have even looked at how the level of mothers’ education influenced the choice of child care for their children. What they found were strong relationships between higher education levels and configurations of child care characteristics, such as type, quality, and quantity. [3] Still other researchers have looked at relationships between the quality of the family literacy environment and the level of maternal education. [4]

The maps below show 2 of 11 levels of mother’s education by PUMA. [5] Although we may not be familiar with the PUMA in which we live and work, areas within the state (e.g., Chicago metro area, central Illinois) can be found fairly easily, thus giving us a general idea of the different levels of maternal education. You can also visit our Risk Factor page for information on parents’ education levels. For more, see go.illinois.edu/IECAMmomsed

IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining demographic data (population, language use, poverty level, risk factors) and early childhood program data (Preschool for All, Head Start, Child Care). IECAM is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services. For more information, contact Dawn Thomas at dthomas3@illinois.edu


