

SPOTLIGHT ON STATS

IECAM Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Distribution of Head Start Programs Across Illinois

The importance of providing high-quality early childhood services to children cannot be overstated, particularly in terms of the benefits potentially experienced by the children, their families, and their communities. [1] For those children who live in poverty or are experiencing other risk factors that may be detrimental to future academic success, high-quality early childhood programming may make all the difference for many of these children. [2]

Head Start is a federally funded program serving preschool children (ages 3–5) living in families making incomes below 100% the federal poverty level (FPL). Head Start programs typically partner with community agencies to provide the most comprehensive services and

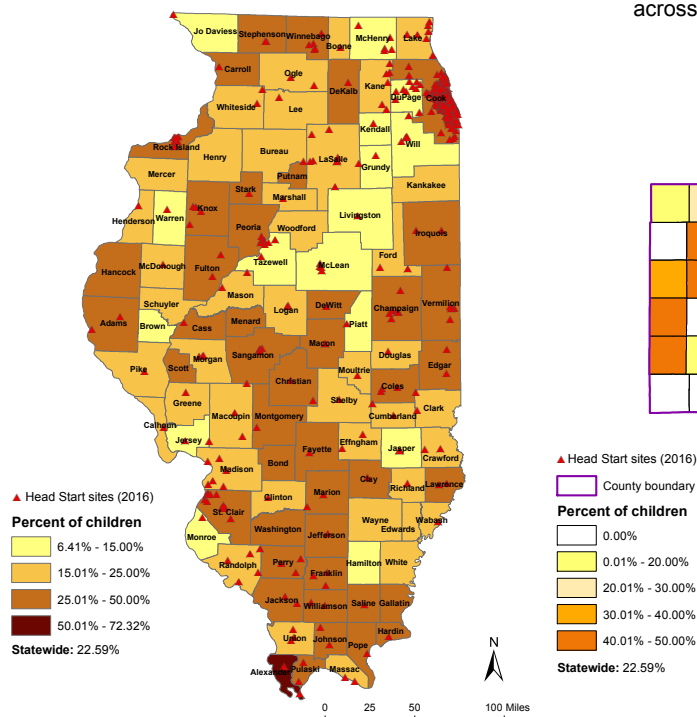
resources for children and families. These partnerships may include collaborating with school districts, child care centers, health care clinics, and mental health entities. Head Start serves children and families in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories. Most Head Start preschool services are provided in center-based settings that, based on local design, vary in the number of days per week and hours per day classes are in session. [3]

The following maps show the percent of children ages 3 and 4 living in families with income below 100% FPL. Overlaid are locations of Head Start programs. For more detail, check out the demographic theme maps and the tabular data pages on IECAM at www.iecam.illinois.edu

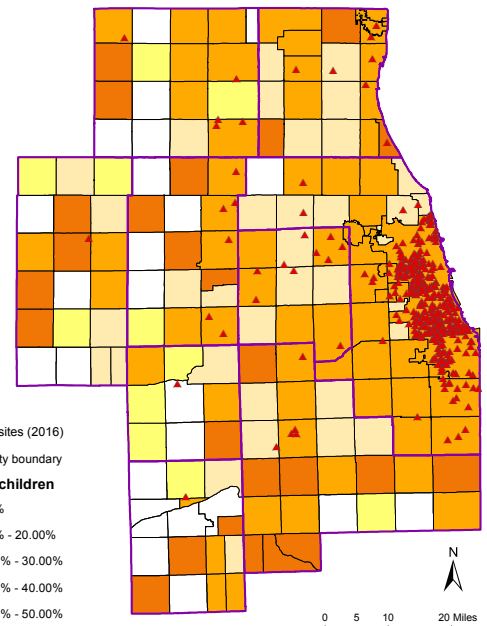
IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining demographic data (population, language use, poverty level, characteristics) and early childhood program data (Preschool for All, Head Start, Child Care).

Spotlight on Stats is a periodic data resource that will highlight particular demographic data (e.g., languages, risk factors, population characteristics) on the state as a whole.

Percent of children age 3 and 4 living in families with income below 100% FPL (2015)



Percent of children age 3 and 4 living in families with income below 100% FPL (2015) across Chicago Metro Area's townships (2015)



- [1] Bartik, T. J. (2011). *Investing in kids: Early childhood programs and local economic development*. Kalamazoo, MI: W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
- [2] Zigler, E., Gilliam, W. S., & Barnett, W. S. (Eds.). (2011). *The pre-k debates: Current controversies and issues*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.
- [3] Head Start. (n.d.). Head Start program facts fiscal year 2016. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2016.pdf>

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@