

SPOTLIGHT ON STATS

IECAM Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) 2015

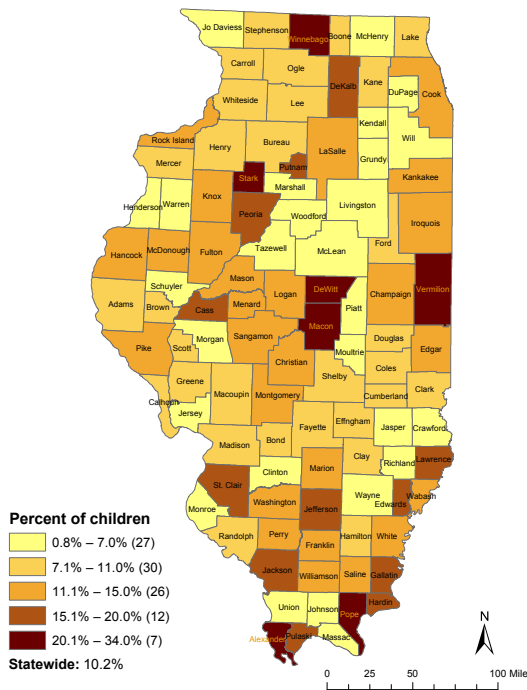
The most common measures of poverty in the United States is the poverty threshold set by the U.S. government. IECAM presents data at various percentages of the federal poverty level (FPL) based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau on individuals living in families at those percentages of FPL. To put this in context, a family of four earning \$25,100 lives at 100% of the federal poverty level. Children under 5 living in this family would be eligible for the Early Head Start or Head Start programs. Families with incomes at or lower than 185% FPL (approx. \$46,500 in 2018) are eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and free/reduced lunch in school districts. A family of four with an income less than \$13,000 per year is considered to be living in extreme poverty. [1]

Research has consistently shown that poverty has significant and lasting impact on a child's development. Poor children are more hungry, are read to less often, and are less likely to have health insurance and receive needed care. Poor children are more likely to start school behind more affluent peers and have a greater chance of not graduating from high school. [2] Impacts such as these cost our nation hundreds of billions of dollars every year. [3] Although poverty is only one of many risk factors experienced by children, the maps below show the percentage of children (5 and younger) in Illinois who live in families with incomes below 50% and 100% FPL by county. For more information, visit IECAM at iecam.illinois.edu/characteristics-demographics/poverty-level/

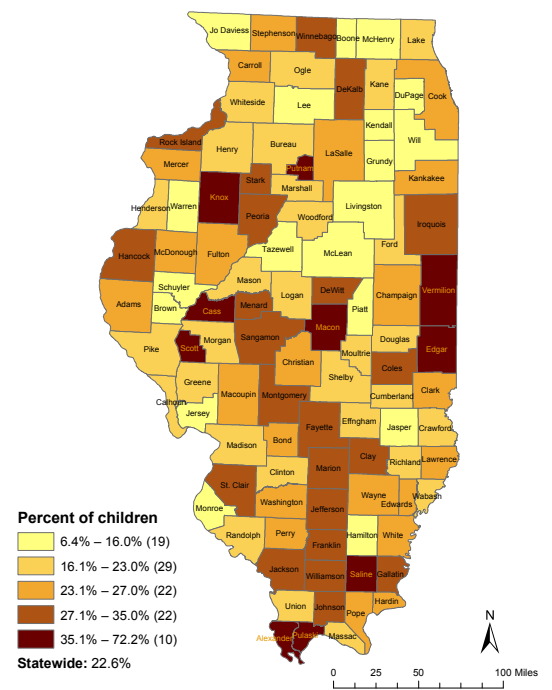
IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining demographic data (population, language use, poverty level, characteristics) and early childhood program data (Preschool for All, Head Start, Child Care).

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 5 and under living in families with income below 50% FPL (2015)



Percent of children age 5 and under living in families with income below 100% FPL (2015)



- [1] Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). *Poverty guidelines*. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
- [2] Children's Defense Fund. (2014). *The state of America's children 2014*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/state-of-americas-children/2014-soac.pdf>
- [3] Holzer, H. J., Schanzenbach, D. W., Duncan, G. J., & Ludwig, J. (2007). *The economic costs of poverty in the United States: Subsequent effects of children growing up poor*. Washington, DC: Center for American Progress. Retrieved from http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/01/poverty_report.html

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