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Preface

With the increased awareness that children need to start school ready to learn, we continue to track the School Readiness Indicators that were developed in 2003 by the Arkansas School Readiness Initiative Team. As part of a 17 state initiative, these indicators were identified in order to change policies so we may have ready children, families, schools, and communities. The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative was sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

Arkansas’ School Readiness Indicators are continually collected and updated. The regular tracking of these indicators enables policymakers and community leaders to identify areas most in need of intervention, track the results of investments, and monitor trends over time. These indicators are presented as a dynamic and ever-improving set of measurements to monitor child outcomes and tell the story of successes as well as areas that need improvement.

These data provide reliable measures with which the state’s families, legislative leaders, educators, and communities may continue to track and pursue strategies that will move us toward the goal of Getting Ready for School.
Births to Teens, Age 11-17, by County: 2014
(rate per 1000 females age 11-17)

Source: Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
No Prenatal Care During First Trimester, Percent of All Births, by County: 2014
(first three months of pregnancy)

Source: Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
ARKids First Enrollment as a Percent of Population, Age 0-19, by County: 2014

State: 44.5%

- 32.7% - 43.3%
- 43.4% - 52.1%
- 52.2% - 63.4%

ARKids First Enrollment,
Percent Change,
by County: 2009–2014

Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of County Operations, Report IM2414, Monthly Statistical Report on Number of Cases Eligible for Medicaid
Percent of Children, Age 0-5, Served by State and Federally Funded Programs, by County: 2014–2015

(Early Special Education, Early Intervention, ABC, CCDF, Head Start, Early Head Start)

State: 28.6%

- 13.4% - 25.2%
- 25.3% - 42.0%
- 42.1% - 68.4%

Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education: Arkansas Head Start Association-State Collaboration Project; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research partnership with UALR College of Education; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute for Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2014
**Children, Age 0-3, Per Infant/Toddler Slot in Center Based Licensed Child Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards, by County: 2014**

**Sources:** Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Licensing and Accreditation Unit; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute for Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2014
Children, Age 3–5, Per Preschool Slot in Center Based Licensed Child Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards, by County: 2014

Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Licensing and Accreditation Unit; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute for Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2014
Capacity of Licensed Child Care Providers, Percent Meeting Quality Approval Standards, by County: 2014

Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Licensing and Accreditation Unit
READY FAMILIES
Percent of Children Under Five Years of Age in Poverty, by County: 2014

True Reports of Child Maltreatment, by County: 2014

Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services
Percent of Overweight or Obese Students, by County: 2014-2015

BMI by County (Grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)

Source: Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas Year Ten (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015), Little Rock, AR: ACHI, December 2015
Change in Percentage of Overweight or Obese Students, by County: 2009-2010 to 2014-2015

Source: Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas: Year 12 and Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas Year Seven
READY SCHOOLS

Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research Partnership with UALR College of Education

Source: Arkansas Department of Education

Source: Arkansas Department of Education
Percent of Children in Poverty, 5-17 Years of Age, by School District: 2014

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
Grade 4 Math Proficiency, by School District: 2015

Source: Arkansas Department of Education

*Note: RV = Restricted Value. Values are restricted when one or more categories has fewer than 10 students in order to protect student privacy.
Grade 4 English Language Arts Proficiency, by School District: 2015

Source: Arkansas Department of Education

*Note: RV = Restricted Value. Values are restricted when one or more categories has fewer than 10 students in order to protect student privacy.
READY COMMUNITIES
Unemployment Rate, by County: 2014

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information, downloaded 6/08/15
Median Household Income, by County: 2014

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
4–5 ARKids First Enrollment: The number of children enrolled in ARKids First, an insurance program provided by the state of Arkansas for children coming from working poor families without insurance. The ARKids First waiver program and SOBRA Medicaid, the largest category of children's Medicaid, were combined under the ARKids umbrella. SOBRA became ARKids A and the waiver program became ARKids B. June of current year.

6 Children, Age 0-5, Served by State and Federally Funded Programs: The number of children served in various early childhood programs during the program year divided by the population 0-5 years of age. The programs are:

- **Early Childhood Special Education:** Early Childhood Special Education services are defined as “special education and related services provided to eligible children with disabilities age 3-5, inclusive” in the federal law Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Arkansas Department of Education is designated as the agency for administering and providing general supervision of education programs statewide for children with disabilities ages 3–5. The federal law “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA) defines Early Intervention Services as services designed to meet the developmental needs of each child birth to three with disabilities and the needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development. The Lead Agency in Arkansas for Early Intervention is DHS/Developmental Disabilities Services.

- **Arkansas Better Chance Program:** The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC) and Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABC/SS). The ABC program is intended to serve educationally deprived children, birth to 5 years of age while the ABC/SS serves children ages 3 and 4 from families up to 200% of federal poverty level. State fiscal year.

- **Child Care and Development Fund:** The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Child Care and Development Fund, which assists low-income families and those transitioning off welfare to obtain child care so that they can work or attend training or education. Eligible children are those under age 13 (or up to age 19, if disabled). The state currently serves families at 60 percent of the state median income. State fiscal year.

- **Head Start:** Each Head Start program is funded to provide services to a designated number of children and exists to provide and promote a high quality, developmentally appropriate child development program for economically deprived children ages 3–5 and/or 0–3 years of age, thus reducing the potential for school failure. State fiscal year.

- **Early Head Start:** Head Start programs for age 0-3, State fiscal year.

- **Children, Age 0-3, Per Infant/Toddler Slot in Center Based Licensed Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards:** The total number of children, age 0-3, divided by the total capacity of centers licensed for preschool meeting the state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards. These standards ensure quality programs for young children. State fiscal year.

- **Children, Age 3-5, Per Preschool Slot in Center Based Licensed Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards:** The total number of children, age 3–5, divided by the total capacity of centers licensed for preschool meeting the state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards. These standards ensure quality programs for young children. State fiscal year.