



## Pennsylvania's Risk and Reach Assessment

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### What is the Risk and Reach Assessment?

A tool to...


- track OCDEL's progress in reaching all the Commonwealth's children from birth to 5 years
- assist communities to better understand/ identify their early childhood needs
- inform future policy decisions regarding early care and pre-k education investments
- determine appropriations based on community need and statewide representation
- use for advocacy and outreach to promote investment in early care and education programs



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## UNDERSTANDING THE RISK COMPONENT




### Identifying Risk Level by County


5 Family and 2 Educational Risk Indicators were used to determine the *Average Risk Level (ARL)* in this study:

Family Risk Indicators

1. % of families with related children under age 5 living below federal poverty level (FPL \$20,650) = 19% statewide
2. Rate of children under 5 living in low income families (2 x FPL= \$40,000) = 36.9% statewide = 1:3 children under 5 years
3. % of single mother headed families with children under age 5 living below poverty level
4. % of children receiving aid through TANF = 6.5% statewide
5. Rate of births to mothers with less than a high school degree = 16.3%




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### Identifying Risk Level by County

Educational Risk Indicators

1. PSSA: % of students below proficient in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math = 21.5% statewide
2. PSSA: % of students below proficient in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading = 27.5% statewide




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### Determining the *Average Risk Level (ARL)* by County

- Each risk factor was assigned a rating between 1 (low risk) and 4 (high risk) based on the % of children affected
- Ratings were divided into quartiles resulting in the top 25% of counties with the highest % of children affected by the risk factor received a rating of 4, lowest 25% received a rating of 1 etc.
- The 1-4 risk rankings for each risk factor were then averaged = ARL for each county



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**The Results: Average Risk Level by County**

High Risk (16 counties)	Moderate High Risk (31 counties)	Moderate Low Risk (18 counties)	Low Risk (2 counties)
Greene, Fayette, Venango, Philadelphia, Crawford, Clearfield, Mifflin, Mercer, McKean, Lawrence, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Clinton, Potter, Northumberland, Bradford	Indiana, Erie, Dauphin, Clarion, Montour, Blair, Warren, Susquehanna, Luzerne, Lebanon, Juniata, Armstrong, Wyoming, Somerset, Schuylkill, Fulton, Franklin, Berks, Bedford, Lycoming, carbon, Cambria, Allegheny, Tioga, Lehigh, Lancaster, Lackawanna, Forest, Columbia, Cameron, Beaver	York, Wayne, Perry, Adams, Washington, Union, Snyder, Delaware, Sullivan, Northampton, Monroe, Westmoreland, Elk, Cumberland, Chester, Pike, Centre, Butler	Bucks, Montgomery

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**Message on Risk**

70% of Pennsylvania's children are at risk for school failure – regardless of whether living in rural, urban, or suburban communities

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**UNDERSTANDING THE REACH COMPONENT**


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- Identifying the Reach of OCDEL's Programs by County**
- Reach data includes # of children currently served and \$ investment in our quality early care and education programs.
  - In this release (June 2007) of the R & R the following programs were used to determine reach:
    - Keystone STARS (67 counties)
    - Head Start (67 counties)
    - Pre-K Counts Public Private Partnership (25 SD in 18 counties)
    - Accountability Block Grant (ABG) – Pre-K only (28 counties)
    - Title 1 funding for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
    - Community Engagement Groups
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- Future Releases of the Risk and Reach Assessment**
- Fall 2008 release will include the following modifications to the Reach data:
- PA Pre-K Counts (approx 11,000 children)
  - Early Intervention (approx 78,000 children)
  - Nurse Family Partnership (approx 4,200 children)
  - Parent Child Home Program (approx 1,400 children)
- \*\*\*Special subsection for 3 & 4 year olds (Inform Pre-K specific needs).*
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- FINDINGS: Program Reach (June 07)**
- PA's early childhood programs are reaching 26% of children under age 5 (1 in 4 children)
  - Greatest reach is in moderate-high risk counties
  - Keystone STARS reaches the highest number of children under 5 at approx 19%
  - Sullivan is the only county serving more than 50% of their children under age 5 (57%) – it is a moderate low risk county and rural
  - Wyoming county has the lowest reach at 8% and is moderate high risk and a rural mix county
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**Findings: Public Investment**




Average statewide spending per child is \$1930

- Cumberland county = lowest spending per child at \$576 (moderate low risk & urban mix)
- Wyoming county = highest spending per child at \$6,092 (moderate high risk & rural mix) – note they also have the lowest reach


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**Program Specific Findings**




**Keystone STARS – (PA's QRS)**

- 42% of regulated providers statewide participate in STARS
- Counties with 100% of regulated facilities in STARS: Forest, Sullivan
- Counties with NO STAR 3 & 4 facilities: Armstrong, Cameron, Carbon, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Jefferson, Juniata, Lebanon, McKean, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Warren, Wyoming






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**Program Specific Findings**




**Head Start State & Federal**

- reaches all 67 counties
- 9 of the 10 counties serving the highest % of children were in rural / rural mix counties
- Sullivan served highest % (35.04%) in HS programs & Pike served the lowest 4.84%
- HSSAP reached 15 of 16 high risk counties



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**Program Specific findings**




**Child Care Works**

- Provides subsidies to 80,000 children under age 5 = 11% of children under 5 or 30% of children under five in low income families.
- % of Children receiving subsidies by provider type (includes TANF, Low income, Former TANF):
  - Center - 55.93%
  - Group - 4.26%
  - Family – 7.47%
  - In-home – 1.74%
  - R/N – 30.59%






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**Use of Risk and Reach**




1. Informs targeted allocation of state resources
2. Facilitates/ed geographical representation of resources to ensure statewide distribution
3. Provides information about the connections between various policy envelopes that encompass OCDEL's continuum of service model (education, child care, welfare, etc.) and demonstrates how these influence/ impact children birth to 5 years.
4. Informs public awareness and advocacy efforts to cultivate leadership stakeholders for early childhood education public investment






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**Use 1/2 – Resource Allocation**




- In start-up of new PA Pre-K Counts program, used reach and risk data to determine geographical representation and proportional distribution of the \$75 million funding across counties
- In proposed expansion of Nurse Family Partnership, used the risk and reach to target high risk counties that did not currently support this program

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### Use 3: Informing Connections in the Comprehensive Approach to ECE



- The varied data included is a reminder of the need for a comprehensive approach.
- This information can inform local stakeholders and others about local conditions and the continuum of services that can be developed to meet local needs.

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### Use 4: Informing Public Awareness & Advocacy Efforts (State and Local level)



- State Press Release (see slide)
- Welfare & Education Secretaries sent joint letter to all members of General Assembly with three messages:
  - Progress made in reaching more children with early childhood education programs, and benefits of these programs
  - Risk factors present throughout the Commonwealth, not geographically restricted
  - Investment level is not sufficient to assure quality

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### Example: Informing General Assembly



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
 400 THE BIRDS  
 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0001  
 PHONE: 717.787.3000 FAX: 717.787.3002

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 100 PENNSYLVANIA PLAZA  
 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0001  
 PHONE: 717.787.3000 FAX: 717.787.3002

November 6, 2007


As you know, providing quality early learning opportunities to Pennsylvania's young children has been a strong focus of this Commonwealth for a number of years. The creation of programs like Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Keystone STARS have helped to push Pennsylvania to near the top of the class for early learning. But the attached report will help to show why our current investments only scratch the surface of the tremendous need in all of our communities. Attached please find a report just released by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), "Program Reach and County Risk Assessment, June 2007." This report provides information by county on risk factors that can increase a child's chance of failing in school and numbers of children served by many of the programs that are administered through OCDEL.

Key findings of this report:

- In 70% of Pennsylvania's counties, our children are at moderate to high risk of school failure. According to this report, children in 14 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are at high risk for school failure. Those counties are in every part of the Commonwealth and represent urban and rural communities. Children in 31 counties are at moderate to high risk of school failure.
- On average, only about one in four children (25%) under age five in Pennsylvania had access to state and federally funded early childhood programs offered in FY 2006-07 (including Pre-K Counts, Public Private Partnerships, Keystone STARS, Head Start State and Federal, and Accountability Block Grants for Pre-K). In some counties, only 4% of children under five had access to these programs.

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### Example: State's Press Release



**PA Department of Education: New state report shows need for early childhood development programs.**

Text of Oct. 24 press release.

*Findings Will Help State Target Funding for Programs Like Pre-K Counts, Head Start*


HARRISBURG – More than two-thirds of Pennsylvania's counties have social and economic conditions that put young children at a higher risk of academic failure, according to a new state report.

The report, conducted by the state's Office of Child Development and Early Learning, will help state officials and educators better target funding for early childhood programs such as Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start, said Education Secretary Gerald L. Zahorchak and Public Welfare Secretary Estelle B. Richman.

"This information helps us gauge our efforts in reaching those children who face the greatest risks and shows that to maximize," Zahorchak said, "the use of our state's limited resources, it will..."

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### Example: Local Press Release



**Failing Our Children?**  
 By CHUCK HAYES, Staff Writer  
 Warren Times Observer, 12/11/2007

"Warren County's young children face a moderate to high risk of academic failure, according to a report from the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning. On a scale ranging from 1 for low risk to 4 for high risk, Warren County's risk factor is listed as 2.71. The state study looked at seven factors which may increase the risk for educational failure. The data used in compiling the risk factors is from this June. Among the factors which increased the risk factor for educational failure among


Warren County children are:

- 28 percent of third graders were ranked below proficient on the PSSA reading test.
- 47 percent of the single-mother families in Warren County with children under the age of five are living below the poverty level.
- 47 percent of children under the age five live in low-income families.
- Seventy percent of Pennsylvania's counties received moderate to high risk ratings and only two counties fell into the low risk category.

...The Economic Opportunity Council's Warren-Forest Early Care and Education Coalition is working to educate parents about the importance of early learning and its impact. More information about pre-K opportunities and funding is available by contacting Montgomery, 726-1361."

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### Example: Local Letter to Editor Published



04/19/2008  
 Children are future of county, country  
 Republican Herald

"To the Editor:

April 13-19 was the Week of the Young Child, the time set aside to celebrate and recognize the needs of young children and thank the adults involved in their education and care. Parents, teachers, early childhood education professionals and many others play important roles in children's lives...

...In Schuylkill County, 14.1 percent of children live in poverty, one baby in 11 is born to a single, teenage mother and 15 percent of babies are being born to a mother with less than a high school education. Of those children being raised in a single-female-headed household, 50 percent live in poverty.

Our children are our future. High quality early care and education helps all children, regardless of income level. It is central to children's personal growth and development, community health and safety and to our society's long-term economic growth and vitality..."

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Example:  
Local report Card Using Risk & Reach  
(Indiana County Community report card)

Taking a CLOSER look at:

## Facts and Numbers

**INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION**

Community Engagement Grant staff, the Department of Human Services VISTA worker, and Early Care and Education Committee members were busy during the 06-07 grant year providing written information (brochures, flyers, post cards, books) to the community at events, school functions, on brochure racks and via mail.

12,002 pieces of literature about quality early learning were distributed. This included information about Keystone STARS, kindergarten readiness, the Community Report Card, Family Fun Fest, and Pre-K Counts.

1,057 books and other resources from the US Dept. of Education were given to parents. Most of these were No Child Left Behind sponsored books about increasing children's success in school.

11,828 fact sheets and booklets about services available from Indiana County agencies (children's services, health info, support groups, volunteer opportunities, where to turn for help) were handed out.

Number of children under age five (2000 census):	4,424	Resident Live Births (2004)	955
Number of children under age five living in low income families (2000 census):	2525	Number of children under five served in Keystone STARS facilities(2006):	705
Percent of families with related children under age five living below the federal poverty level (2000 census):	21%	Number of students served in public school Pre-K(2006):	158

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Templates Offered by OCDEL:  
ECE County Profile

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COUNTY PROFILE

Quality early learning and child development play a major role in a child's future success in school and in life. Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives play a major role in providing our families with access to reliable, quality early learning opportunities. Listed below are some ways in which these programs touch your county.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ children under age five (\_\_\_\_%) live in households earning less than 200% of poverty.
- Go to 'ECE\_Analysis\_June 2007' and click on Tab 6 for info
- \_\_\_\_\_% of children under age five have access to high quality early childhood programs: Go to 'ECE\_Analysis\_June 2007' and click on Tab 1 for info
- \_\_\_\_\_% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in local school districts scored below proficient on PSSA in Reading in 2007. Go to 'ECE\_Analysis\_June 2007' and click on Tab 14, Column D for info. You may also want to include special education rates for local school districts if they are above the state average of 14%. You can find the percentage of children in K-12

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Templates Offered by OCDEL:  
Support Early Childhood Investment Flyer

Help our children and families reach their promise  
Support Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives

[county] needs YOU to speak out and fund high quality early learning!

Here's WHY:



Demographics in [county]:

- \_\_\_\_\_ children under age five (\_\_\_\_%) live in households earning less than 200% of poverty
- \_\_\_\_\_% of children (birth - five) are in high quality early childhood facilities
- \_\_\_\_\_% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are scoring below proficient on PSSA in Reading

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Templates Offered by OCDEL:  
Letter to Legislator

Dear [legislator]:

In the early childhood world, fall is a new beginning; new classes opening, children making their first steps into preschool or kindergarten. With all of these new beginnings, I thought now would be a great time to update you on how Pennsylvania's investments in early childhood education are making an impact in [county].

Pennsylvania's investment in early education is an investment in a better future:

- Quality early education can help offset risk factors like child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency or criminal behavior
- Quality early education increases a child's chances of succeeding in school, retaining high qualified employment, and contributing to Pennsylvania's economy
- The Committee for Economic development states that "annual rates of return on preschool investments are estimated at 10 percent or higher each year over the students' lifetimes, exceeding the 6 to 7 percent average rate of return typically expected of government programs and the stock market (source: The Economic Promise of Investing in high-quality preschool, 2006..."

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Our Contact Information

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Risk and Reach Assessment is available online at:  
[http://www.pakeys.org/reach\\_rpt.aspx](http://www.pakeys.org/reach_rpt.aspx)

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