Pennsylvania's Risk and Reach Assessment

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NCCP Webinar – June 24th, 2008

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

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%

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

Educational Risk Indicators
1. PSSA: % of students below proficient in 3rd grade math = 21.5% statewide
2. PSSA: % of students below proficient in 3rd grade reading = 27.5% statewide
The Results: Average Risk Level by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Risk (16 counties)</th>
<th>Moderate High Risk (31 counties)</th>
<th>Moderate Low Risk (15 counties)</th>
<th>Low Risk (2 counties)</th>
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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.

UNDERSTANDING THE REACH COMPONENT

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 2nd grade
  - Community Engagement Groups

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)."

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
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

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

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

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%

Use of Risk and Reach

1. Informs targeted allocation of state resources
2. Facilitates 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

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.

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

Example: Informing General Assembly

Example: State's Press Release

Example: Local Press Release

Example: Local Letter to Editor Published

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

Templates Offered by OCDEL:
ECE County Profile

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…)

Our Contact Information

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Risk and Reach Assessment is available online at:
http://www.pakeys.org/reach_rpt.aspx