

2022 Community Assessment Annual Update

Geminus Corporation
Head Start, Early Head Start, and
Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership

December 2022



1. Introduction	2
2. Data Collection Methodology	3
3. Access	4
POPULATION	4
MEDIAN INCOME	4
Eligible Children and Families	7
POVERTY AND ELIGIBILITY INCOME CUT-OFF	7
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES	9
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	12
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE	13
YOUTH UNDER 18 WITH A KNOWN DISABILITY STATUS	13
Child Care Access	16
CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY	16
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HEAD START-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED	18
Prenatal Support Access	19
MATERNAL AND INFANT	19
OTHER HOME VISITING PROGRAMS	22
4. Quality	22
High Quality Child Care Availability	22
QUALITY	22
AFFORDABILITY	24
Family Child Care Needs	26
PART TIME VERSUS FULL TIME CARE NEEDS	27
5. Workforce	28
Economic Changes Impacting Employment	28
INFLATION AND WAGES	28
EARLY CHILD CARE WAGE TRENDS	29
DEGREE COMPLETION	31
BENEFITS	34
6. Community Needs - Overview	35
Population Demographics	35
GENDER	35
RACE/ ETHNICITY	35
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION	35
Education Needs of Eligible Families	36

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION	36
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	36
EMPLOYMENT	37
Health and Social Service Needs of Eligible Families	37
INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE	37
ACCESS TO INTERNET	37
NUTRITION	38
7. Geminus Meeting the Needs	39
PROFILE OF GEMINUS PROGRAMS	39
FUNDED ENROLLMENT	39
CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT	40
ELIGIBILITY	40
FAMILY	40
HEALTH	41
MATERNAL HEALTH	41
8. Stakeholder Feedback	42
STAFF FEEDBACK	42
PARENT/ GUARDIAN FEEDBACK	42
SCHOOL DISTRICT FEEDBACK	42
9. Recommendations	42
Appendix	43

1. Introduction

Based on the Head Start Program Performance Standards, Geminus is required to complete a comprehensive community needs assessment once within five years of a grant cycle. Annually for the remaining four years, Geminus needs to review and update their community needs assessment to identify changes in community data that may inform its Early Head Start (EHS), Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP), and Head Start (HS) federally funded grant programs and services in Lake and Porter Counties.

Geminus has contracted with Transform Consulting Group (TCG) for assistance in completing the five-year community needs assessment and annual community assessment update. These reports will help Geminus in strengthening its partnerships within the community, managing its programs and services, and providing high-quality comprehensive early childhood education services for children and families.

The annual community needs assessment update is structured similarly to the comprehensive report to more easily compare data and any changes. It includes information in three main sections:

Community Needs - provides the most recent data available regarding targeted geographic service delivery areas for access, quality, and workforce, including details on population, demographics, early learning programs, disabilities, health and nutrition, and social services for children and families.

Geminus Meeting the Needs - includes a profile of the services and activities that Geminus has provided through its EHS/HS and EHS-CCP programs to meet the community needs.

Recommendations - includes a summary of the recommendations previously outlined in the comprehensive assessment, how Geminus has begun to approach the recommendations, and any new recommendations based on the updated data outlined in this report.

2. Data Collection Methodology

Transform Consulting Group (TCG) completed a mixed methods assessment collecting both qualitative and quantitative data from multiple sources to complete the community assessment update. TCG sought publicly sourced data for Geminus' service area, Lake and Porter Counties. Publicly sourced population data was pulled from the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. Data related to young children not found through the ACS was drawn from the Indiana Family and Social Services and other government offices. Data from the 2021-22 PIR was utilized from Head Start grantees. Slight variation exists in this year's PIR data as compared to previous year due to changes in what was reported.

In order to further specify the needs of each county, TCG reviewed U.S. Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimate tables that held data at the census tract level. Lake County consists of 131 census tract boundaries, while Porter County has 43 tracts. With this level of detail, Geminus will be able to implement programming for communities that need it most, as well as determine the best locations for their services. It should be noted that this level of detail has a margin of error that should be reviewed and considered before making significant programming changes.

TCG also collected qualitative data from Geminus Head Start parents/ caregivers. The parent/ caregiver survey shared in spring 2021 returned 272 responses, which is a low response rate compared to 2020.

3. Access

POPULATION

Geminus Head Start programs, including Early Head Start (EHS), Head Start (HS), and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP), serve children and families in Lake and Porter Counties. Both counties are located in the furthest northwest corner of Indiana, just outside of Chicago. The communities represent one of the largest metropolitan areas in the state of Indiana.

Both Lake and Porter county's infant and one year old populations had slight fluctuations from the previous reporting period. There was an increase in both counties for the two year old population, and the three year old population decreased in both counties. The four year old population fluctuated in both Lake and Porter counties, while the five year old population decreased in both counties. Overall, both counties have similar, but slightly decreased, populations to the last reporting year.¹

Single Age Population for Children Under Six Years							
County	Infant	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total Ages 0-5
Lake	5,671 -	5,795 +	5,855 +	5,615 -	6,001 -	6,141 -	35,078 -
	17,321 +			17,757 -			
Porter	1,649 -	1,718 -	1,800 +	1,828 -	1,998 +	2,019 -	11,012 -
	5167 +			5,845 -			
+/- : Indicate if the population increased or decreased from 2019 to 2020.							
Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020.							

MEDIAN INCOME

The 2020 overall median income in Lake County is \$70,632, which is close to Indiana's overall median income at \$73,265. Porter County's overall median income is much higher at \$88,159. The median household income of families with children under 18 years is higher than the overall median income in Porter County and lower in Lake County and Indiana.

2020 Household Median Income

Overall	Indiana	\$73,265
	Lake	\$70,632
	Porter	\$88,159
Family with children under 18	Indiana	\$70,859
	Lake	\$64,423
	Porter	\$91,783

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1101

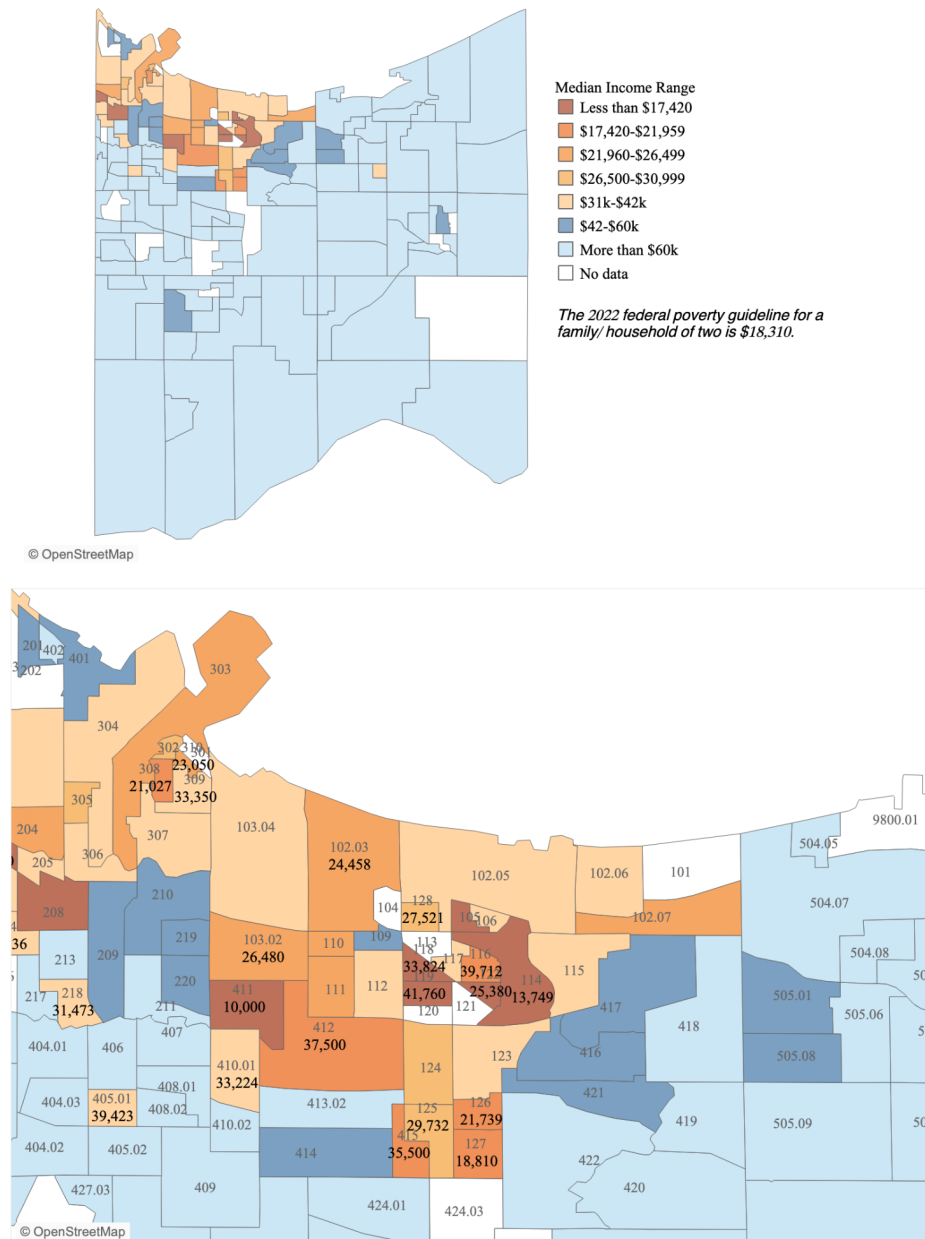
¹ Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020.

County Snapshot - Median Annual Income²

The median income for families with children under 18 years is mapped below by census tracts. All orange colors represent incomes below \$42,000. The orange color appears darker the lower the income is in the related area.

Areas in the northern part of Lake County are within the lowest income. See the zoomed in portion of the map at the bottom of the image.

Median Annual Income for Lake and Porter County Families with Children Under 18



² Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19125.

Eligible Children and Families

EHS/HS and EHS-CCP programs use various factors to determine need and eligibility for services. These factors include income level, participation in foster care, homelessness, disability, and other needs. Additional data for populations that are eligible for EHS/HS and EHS-CCP services is listed below based on these factors.

It is also important to note that the following data was pulled during the national pandemic of COVID-19, which we know has economically hit our most vulnerable populations. We anticipate an increase in these financial supports.

POVERTY AND ELIGIBILITY INCOME CUT-OFF

According to the 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines that went into effect on January 12, 2022, the federal poverty level (FPL) for an individual is an annual income of less than \$13,590. For households, each additional person adds \$4,720 to that number. This means a family of three would have an income below \$23,030 annually.³

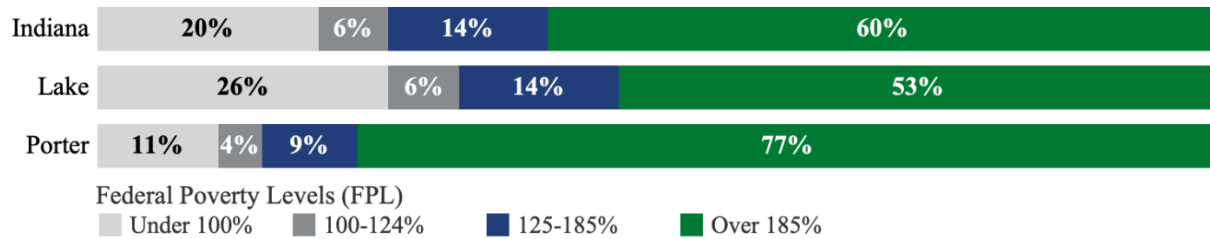
2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines			
	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4
100% FPL (Poverty)	\$18,310	\$23,030	\$27,750
125% FPL	\$22,888	\$28,788	\$34,688
133% FPL	\$24,352	\$30,630	\$36,908
Source: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines .			

The income eligibility cut-off for HS/EHS is at 100% FPL and 130% for the EHS-CCP. Programs have an initial allowance for 10% of enrolled children and pregnant women (in each program) who may be over-income at any level above 100% FPL, provided there is a justifiable need that our program may help meet. If our program is still not fully enrolled despite our best efforts at recruiting eligible families, there is an additional over-income allowance of 35% of enrollment for children and pregnant women whose annual incomes exceed 100% FPL but fall below 130% of the FPL.

When we look at children under 6 years in Lake County, the percentage living in poverty (26%) is much higher compared to the overall population (19%) and the state of Indiana (20%). Over a quarter (26%) of children in Lake County live in poverty, while less than a fifth (11%) in Porter County live in poverty. The total population poverty rate in Porter County is also lower at 9%.

³ Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Percentage of Children Under 6 by Federal Poverty Level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024

County Snapshot - Young Children Living Below 125% FPL

The median income county snapshot above shows that there are not a lot of low income areas across Lake and Porter counties, but when we look at the same boundaries and label the number of young children living below 125% FPL, we see there are still low-income children all across the counties.

The map below labels the number of children under six years living below 125% of the federal poverty level. The darker blue colors represent a denser area of young children.⁴

⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.

Total Children under 6 living under 125% FPL

0 502

© OpenStreetMap

DRAFT Geminus 2022 Community Needs Assessment Update, Page 9

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal government program that assists families and caregivers. Indiana distributes the funds to support families with children under 18 years by providing cash assistance and support services, ultimately helping them reach economic self-sufficiency. Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is responsible for the TANF program in the state.

As of May 2022 in Lake County, there were 456 families that were receiving TANF grants, with the majority (437, 96%) of them being single-parent families. Since May 2021, the number of families receiving grants decreased by 44% for single-parent families, a slightly higher rate than the state, which decreased by 41%. Grants decreased by 81% for two-parent families, which is about the same as the state (-79%).

May 2022 Lake County TANF Recipients					
Child-Only and One-Parent Families					
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Annual Change	Indiana Annual Change
Number of families receiving TANF Grants	437	437	776	-44%	-41%
Total number of grant recipients	960	960	1,850	- 48%	-47%
Number of adult grant recipients	129	132	445	-71%	-76%
Number of child grant recipients	831	828	1,405	-41%	-39%
Two-Parent Families					
Number of families receiving TANF Grant	19	20	100	-81%	-79%
Total number of grant recipients	58	66	295	-80%	-74%
Number of adult grant recipients	15	19	95	-84%	-70%
Number of child grant recipients	43	47	200	-79%	-75%
Source: https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/files/MMR-Lake-en-us.pdf					

As of May 2022 in Porter County, there were 46 families that were receiving TANF grants, with the majority (44, 96%) of them being single-parent families. Since May 2021, the number of families receiving grants has decreased by 51% for single-parent families, which is a higher rate

than the state (-41%). Grants decreased by 92% for two-parent families, which is also a higher rate than the state (-79%).

May 2022 Porter County TANF Recipients					
Child-Only and One-Parent Families					
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Annual Change	Indiana Annual Change
Number of families receiving TANF Grants	44	42	90	-51%	-41%
Total number of grant recipients	78	70	184	-58%	-47%
Number of adult grant recipients	7	8	46	-85%	-76%
Number of child grant recipients	71	62	138	-49%	-39%
Two-Parent Families					
Number of families receiving TANF Grant	2	4	25	-92%	-79%
Total number of grant recipients	2	9	78	-97%	-74%
Number of adult grant recipients	0	3	27	-100%	-70%
Number of child grant recipients	2	6	51	-96%	-75%
Source: https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/files/MMR-Porter-en-us.pdf					

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal program that helps low to no income families and individuals by providing food assistance. In Indiana, FSSA is responsible for the program.

As of May 2022 in Lake County, there were 30,202 households receiving SNAP benefits, which equated to 64,449 individuals. This is a small 1% decrease since the previous year, which is close to the overall state decrease of 2%

May 2022 Lake County SNAP Benefit Recipients					
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Annual Change	Indiana Annual Change

Number of households receiving SNAP benefits	30,202	30,262	30,399	-1%	-2%
Number of recipients	64,449	64,662	65,500	-2%	-3%
Source: https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/files/MMR-Lake-en-us.pdf					

As of May 2022 in Porter County, there were 4,549 households, including 9,304 individuals who were receiving SNAP benefits. This is a 4% decrease since the previous year which is above the state's rate at -2%.

May 2022 Porter County SNAP Benefit Recipients					
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Annual Change	Indiana Annual Change
Number of households receiving SNAP benefits	4,549	4,570	4,758	-4%	-2%
Number of recipients	9,304	9,341	9,766	-5%	-3%
https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/files/MMR-Porter-en-us.pdf					

The **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** is a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health assessments, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, referrals to other related support and social services, and supplemental healthy foods to meet needs. There is no updated data available since the previous needs assessment update. For reference, at the end of the 2019 fiscal year, Indiana had a monthly average of 138,611 total participants in the WIC program, including 70,738 children.

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

A homeless point-in-time count was completed in December 2021 for Indiana. At that time there were 3,985 homeless households, which equals 4,975 individuals. Though this is a decrease from reported numbers in 2020, it is important to note in 2021 due to COVID-19 Indiana did not report on unsheltered persons (those not living in a shelter or transitional housing). Given this, it is likely the true number of homeless households and individuals is greater than the reported numbers for 2021. The majority of homeless households reported to be without children, but

4,391 homeless households, which equals 5,625 individuals. This is more reported households and individuals since 2019. The majority of homeless households reported to be without

children, but 16% of homeless households have at least one child, which is up (11%) from 2020. Nearly one-fifth (17%) of homeless individuals are under 18 years old.⁵

The most recent Point-in-Time Homeless Counts for Lake and Porter Counties reported through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority were held in January of 2021. In Lake County, there were 9 households with at least one adult and one child who were homeless. Of these households, there were 31 homeless people, 22 of them children under the age of 18.

During the January 2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count for Porter County, 14 households had at least one adult and one child who were homeless, which equaled 50 people, 32 of whom were children under the age of 18.⁶

The most recent Indiana Department of Education data shows 692 homeless children in Lake County schools in 2020, and 314 in Porter County. Lake County represented 4% of the state's homeless student population while Porter County was 2%. Note, this data has not been updated since our last needs assessment update.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The prevalence of children in Indiana experiencing abuse and neglect is over the national average (14.7 children per 1,000 in Indiana, 8.4 children per 1,000 nationally). According to the Children's Bureau's Child Maltreatment report, Indiana has the tenth highest rate in the nation. Indiana's rate has steadily decreased since 2017. Half (50%) of children who were reported as victims of maltreatment in Indiana in 2020 were young children (ages 0-5) and 22% were under the age of one.

The Indiana Department of Child Services releases regular Practice Indicator Reports sharing data about the conditions of children. The "CHINS [Child in Need of Services] Placements by County" reports the placement of children who are in need of services. As of May 2022, Lake County had over 800 children in need of services, while Porter County had 96 children. In Lake and Porter counties, nearly three quarters of these children are placed in out-of-home placements.

May 2022 Children in Need of Services (CHINS)					
	Total CHINS	In Home		Out-Of-Home Placement	
Indiana	13,357	3,246	24%	10,111	76%
Lake	818	233	29%	585	72%
Porter	96	26	27%	70	73%
Source: https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/PI_CHINS_Placements_5-22.pdf					

⁵ Source: HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_State_IN_2021.pdf

⁶Source: <https://www.in.gov/ihcda/indiana-balance-of-state-continuum-of-care/point-in-time-and-housing-inventory-chart/>

YOUTH UNDER 18 WITH A KNOWN DISABILITY STATUS

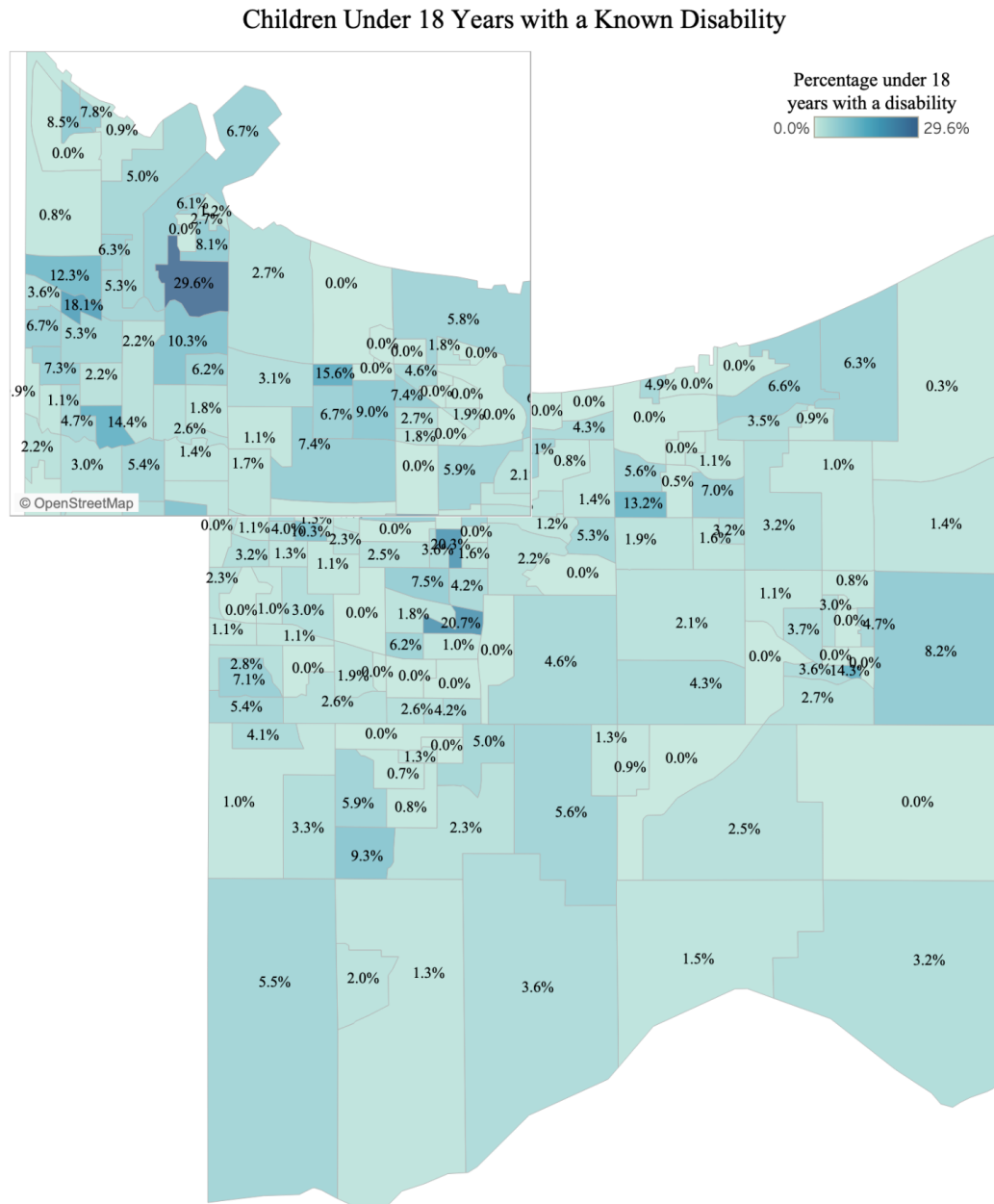
In Lake County, 4.0% of youth under 18 have a known disability and 2.9% of youth in Porter County have a disability status; slightly less than youth under 18 in Indiana overall (4.8%). As youth become older, the more likely they will be diagnosed with a disability. The most common known disability type for youth under 18 in Lake and Porter counties is ambulatory difficulty. Individuals with ambulatory difficulty have unique requirements to accessibility due to the severe difficulty of walking or climbing stairs.

Disability Type By Detailed Age			
Disability Type	Lake County	Porter County	Indiana
Any Known Disability			
Population under 18 years	4.0%	2.9%	4.8%
Population under 5 years	0.6%	0%	0.6%
Population 5 to 17 years	5.2%	3.9%	6.3%
With a hearing difficulty	3.5%	2.9%	3.9%
Population under 18 years	0.5%	0%	0.6%
Population under 5 years	0.5%	0%	0.4%
Population 5 to 17 years	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%
With a vision difficulty	2.3%	1.8%	2.4%
Population under 18 years	0.9%	0.2%	0.8%
Population under 5 years	0%	0%	0.3%
Population 5 to 17 years	1.1%	0.3%	0.9%
With a cognitive difficulty	5.4%	4.2%	5.6%
Population under 18 years	3.7%	3.5%	4.9%
With an ambulatory difficulty	7.6%	6.1%	7.3%
Population under 18 years	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
With a self-care difficulty	2.7%	2.3%	2.6%
Population under 18 years	0.6%	1.5%	1.1%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 - 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1810.			

County Snapshot - Children Under 18 Years With a Known Disability

The percentage of youth with a known disability varies greatly across Lake and Porter counties. The map by Census Tract below shows ranges up to 29.6%. Data at this geographic detail is limited for young children under 5 years, but see the appendix for more information on the number and percentage of children under 18 years with a disability.

Geminus Head Start does assess all newly enrolled children to determine potential developmental delays. For those children with identified potential delays, subsequent referrals are made to the local responsible Part B or Part C agencies for further evaluation.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1810

Child Care Access

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY

In 2020, it is estimated that 29,301 young children in Lake and Porter County need care because all of their parents are in the workforce (both parents in a two-parent household or one in a single-parent household). Over two thirds of Lake (65%) and Porter (71%) counties young children need care, similar to the need in Indiana (68%).⁷

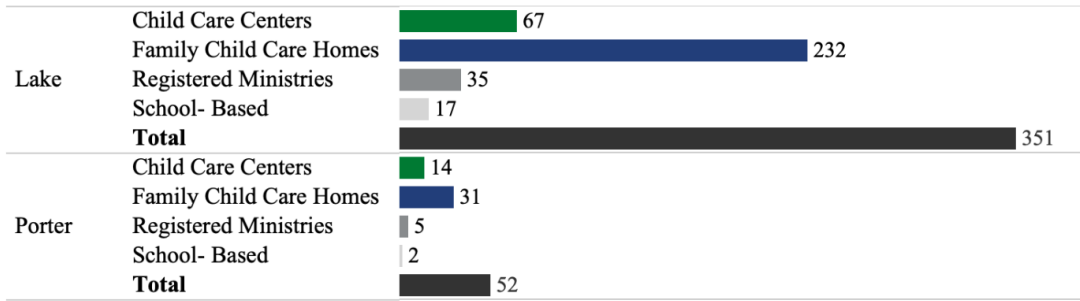
Capacity in Early Care and Education for Children in Need of Care				
Location	Children Under 6 Years Who Need Care		Capacity to Serve Young Children in Known Care	Capacity Available to Children That Need Care
Indiana	323,446	68%	168,483	52%
Lake County	21,793	65%	11,691	54%
Porter County	7,508	71%	2,360	31%
Service Area Total	29,301	67%	14,051	48%
	Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.		Source: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, 6/30/22.	

In Indiana, capacity in known early care and education programs is available to serve around half (52%) of young children in need of care because parents work. This is similar for Lake County (54%), but Porter County's capacity has the capacity to serve around one third (31%) of young children in need. The remaining percentage of young children who need care are being cared for by a family member, friend, or neighbor.

In Indiana, early care and education programs include child care centers, family child care homes, registered ministries, and school-based programs. As of June 2022, Lake County has 351 known programs, which is a decrease from previous years. Porter County has 52 programs.

⁷ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.

Early Care and Education Programs



Source: Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee, 2022 Annual Report Dashboard, 4/27/2022

In Lake County, nearly half of capacity is in child care centers (42%), followed by child care homes (23%), registered ministries (19%), and school-based programs (8%). The capacity makeup is similar in Porter County, with over half of capacity in child care centers (62%), nearly one fifth (15%) in registered ministries, followed by family child care homes (19%), and school-based programs (4%).⁸

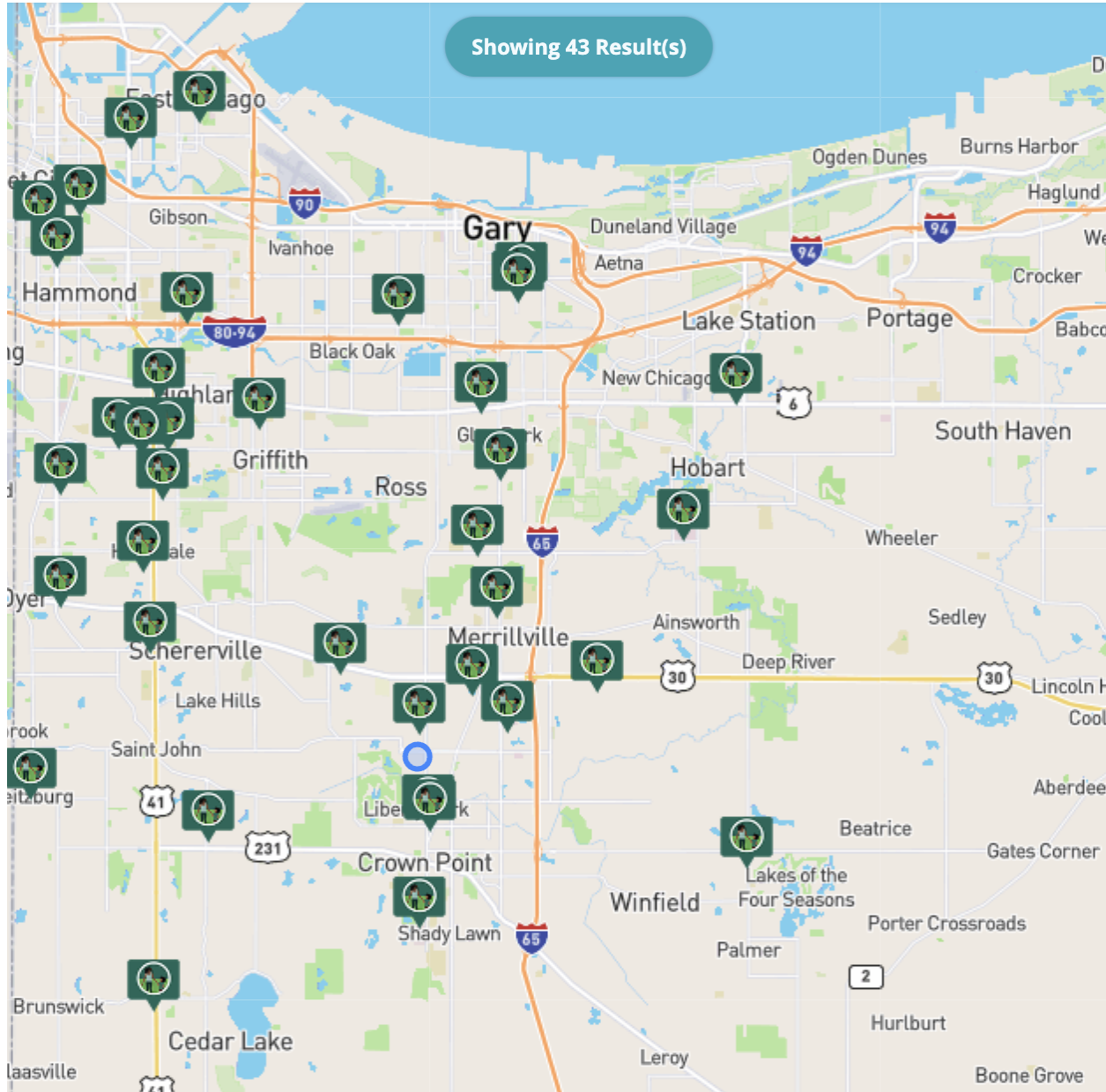
Capacity in Early Care and Education Programs									
Location	Child Care Centers		Family Child Care Homes		Registered Ministries		School-Based		Total
Lake County	5,889	42%	2,651	23%	2,230	19%	921	8%	14,051
Porter County	1,465	62%	440	19%	355	15%	100	4%	2,563
Source: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, 6/30/22.									

The map below is a snapshot from FSSA Child Care Finder, showing licensed centers registered to serve children under 3 years of age in Lake and Porter counties.

⁸ Enrollment may vary from actual capacity.

Map of Early Care and Education Sites in Lake and Porter Counties

Image snapshot from FSSA Child Care Finder



APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HEAD START-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lake County has over 8,000 children under six living below 100% FPL (poverty) and an additional 2,161 living between 100% and 125% FPL. Porter County has 1,155 children living in poverty and an additional 414 living between 100% and 125% FPL.⁹

⁹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.

Young Children within the Federal Poverty Guidelines			
Location	<100% FPL (poverty)	<125% FPL	<185% FPL
Lake	8,925	11,086	15,982
Porter	1,155	1,569	2,480
Service Area Total	10,080	12,655	18,462
% Geminus has Capacity to Serve (funded enrollment)	15%	12%	8%
% Geminus Serves (cumulative enrollment)	19%	13%	9%

Based on Geminus Head Start program's funded enrollment of 1,544 children, Geminus has the capacity to serve 15% of children living at or below poverty in Lake and Porter Counties, with a majority of the funded enrollment located in Lake County.

Based on the cumulative enrollment of 1,665 children served in Geminus Head Start programs, Geminus served 19% of children in poverty.

Prenatal Support Access

MATERNAL AND INFANT

Number of Expectant Mothers

In 2020, there were over 5,000 births in Lake County and over 1,600 in Porter County. Births to Mothers by Age has not been updated since 2017 when half or over half of all births in Lake and Porter counties and the state are to mothers ages 20 to 29. In all locations, more than a third of births are to mothers ages 30-39, followed by teenage mothers aged 15 to 19, and women over 40 years.

2017 Births to Mothers by Age						
	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19	Ages 20-29	Ages 30-39	Ages 40+	Total Births
Indiana	58	5,094	45,986	29,444	1,664	82,251
	0.1%	6%	56%	36%	2%	
Lake	7	350	2,996	2,116	141	5,610
	0.1%	6%	53%	38%	3%	
Porter	0	63	825	723	39	1,652
	0%	4%	50%	44%	2%	

Note: Indiana has 5 births to mothers of an unknown age.
Source: <http://www.stats.indiana.edu/vitals/>

Over the last five years, the birthing rate declined in Lake and Porter counties by over 5%, which is slightly lower than the state decline at 5.4%.

5-Year Change in Live Births						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Five Year % Change
Indiana	83,063	82,251	81,651	81,651	78,566	-5.4%
Lake	5,649	5,610	5,765	5,684	5,410	-4.2%
Porter	1,757	1,652	1,707	1,642	1,622	-7.7%
Source: Indiana Department of Health, Office of Data Analytics, Data Analysis Team; Vital Records Variable ID: 'BIRTH009'						

Health Outcomes

In five of the six maternal and infant health outcomes, Lake County is higher (worse) compared to Indiana, while Porter County is lower (better) than Indiana in all six outcomes. The percentage of mothers that smoke during pregnancy in Porter County is higher than the percentage in Lake County, but still lower than the state average.

Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes, 2020						
	% Low Birth Weight (<2,500 G)	% Preterm (<37 weeks gestation)	% No Early Prenatal Care (1st Trimester)	% Smoking	% Not Breastfeeding	% Mother on Medicaid
Indiana	8.1	10.4	30.7	10.9	18.0	38.5
Northwestern Region	8.4	10.5	33.3	6.2	19.2	46.5
Lake	8.8	10.8	35.1 ^S	5.9 ^S	21.4 ^S	51.0 ^S
Porter	6.9	9.6	27.3	7.3 ^S	11.5 ^S	31.4 ^S
S = County significantly different from the state. Northwest Region: Lake and Porter counties Source: https://www.in.gov/isdh/26292.htm						

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care helps prevent complications and inform parents of the appropriate steps to take during pregnancy. Timely prenatal care helps with three main areas: (1) reduce the risk of pregnancy complications, (2) reduce the fetus' and infant's risk for complications, and (3) help ensure the medications women take are safe.¹⁰ With the research to support the importance of prenatal care, there were still about one third of pregnant women in Indiana in 2019 who

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care>

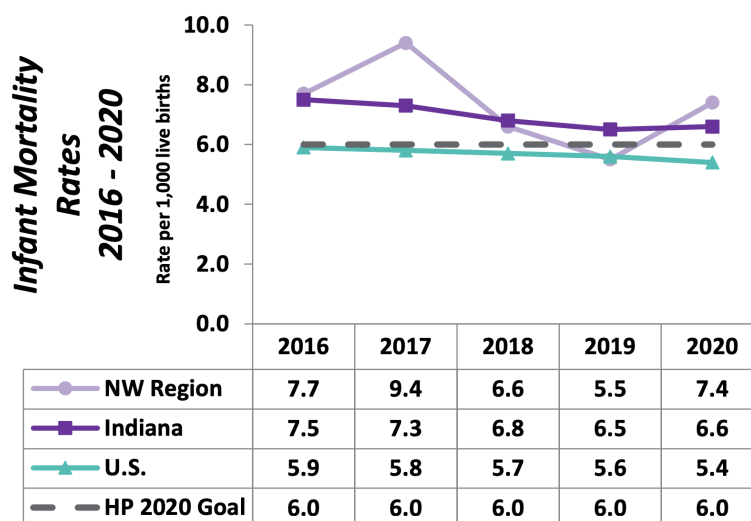
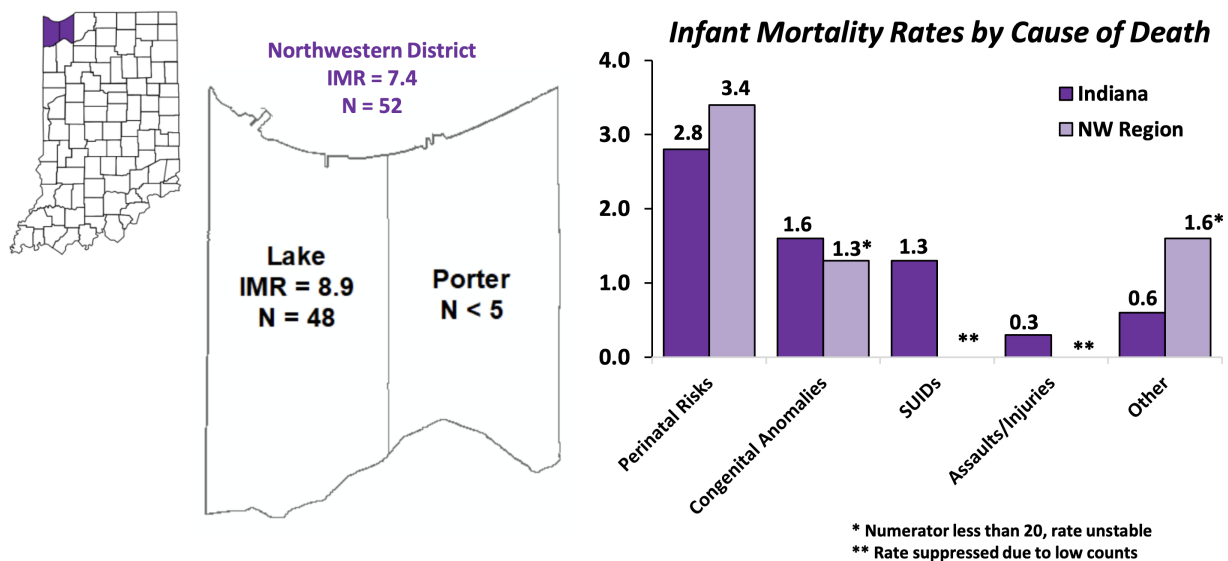
received no prenatal care in the first trimester. The NW region was higher than the overall state percentage with Lake County at over a third (35.1%).

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate in Lake county is 8.9 while in Porter County the rate was too low to measure in 2020, though the 2019 rate was 3.7 in Porter County.¹¹ The infant mortality rates have decreased in both Lake and Porter counties, where they were 7.1 and 4.7, respectively, in 2018. Indiana's 6.6 rate is similar to the previous rate of 6.5 in 2019. Lake County's infant mortality rate was lower than Indiana's in 2019 but the 2020 rate is higher.

Infant Mortality Rates in Lake and Porter Counties

Images originally from the Indiana State Department of Health Division of Maternal and Child Health, Infant Mortality Fact Sheets 2020.



¹¹ Source: Indiana State Department of Health Division of Maternal and Child Health, Infant Mortality Fact Sheets 2020.

OTHER HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

Evidence-based home visiting services are offered to families and children across Indiana through Healthy Families Indiana. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is offered to a few select counties, including Lake County. The My Healthy Baby program (formerly OB Navigation pilot) also provides support to coordinate home visiting service providers.

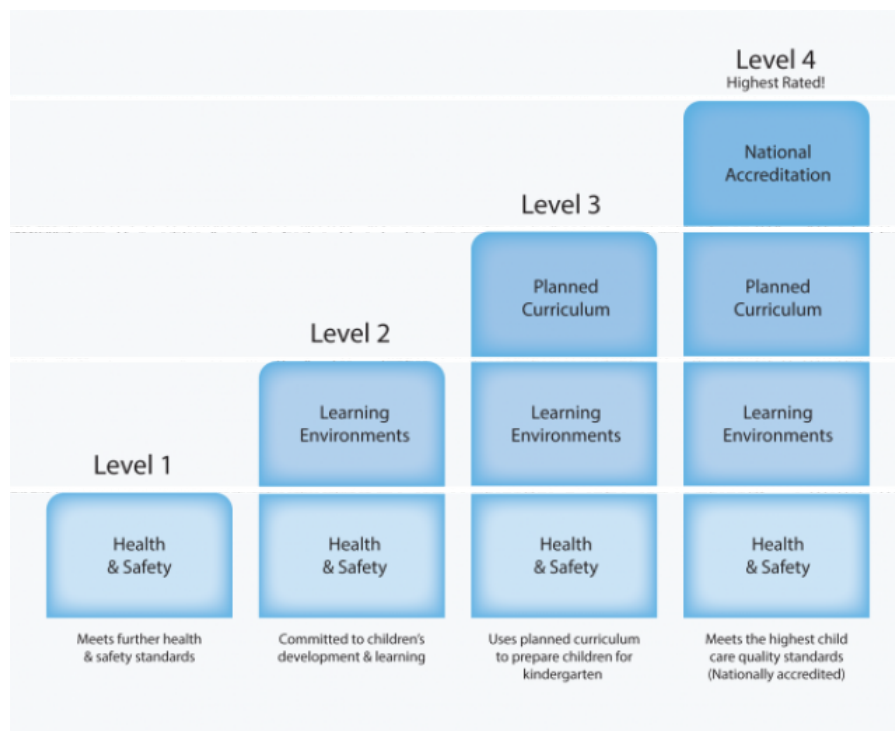
My Healthy Baby is a collaboration between the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). The program works with pregnant women to provide guidance during pregnancy and through the baby's first year of life at no cost to families. Lake County was identified as one of twenty at-risk counties that received assistance as part of the pilot program. Now, additional counties are being added with the goal of reaching all 92 Indiana counties by the summer of 2023

4. Quality

High Quality Child Care Availability

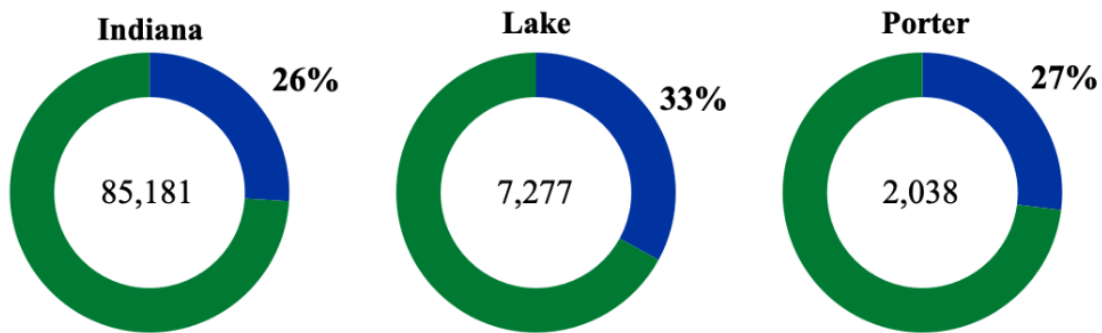
QUALITY

High-quality child care in Indiana is defined as a program rated at Paths to QUALITY™ Levels 3 or 4 or an approved nationally accredited program. As of June 30, 2022 Lake County had 165 high-quality programs and Porter County had 34 high-quality programs.



One third (33%) of high-quality capacity is available to children in need of care in Lake County, which is a slightly higher percentage compared to Indiana (26%). Porter County has less capacity to serve children in need of care, with the ability to serve a little over one quarter (27%) of children in need of care.

Access to High-Quality Early Learning Care and Education

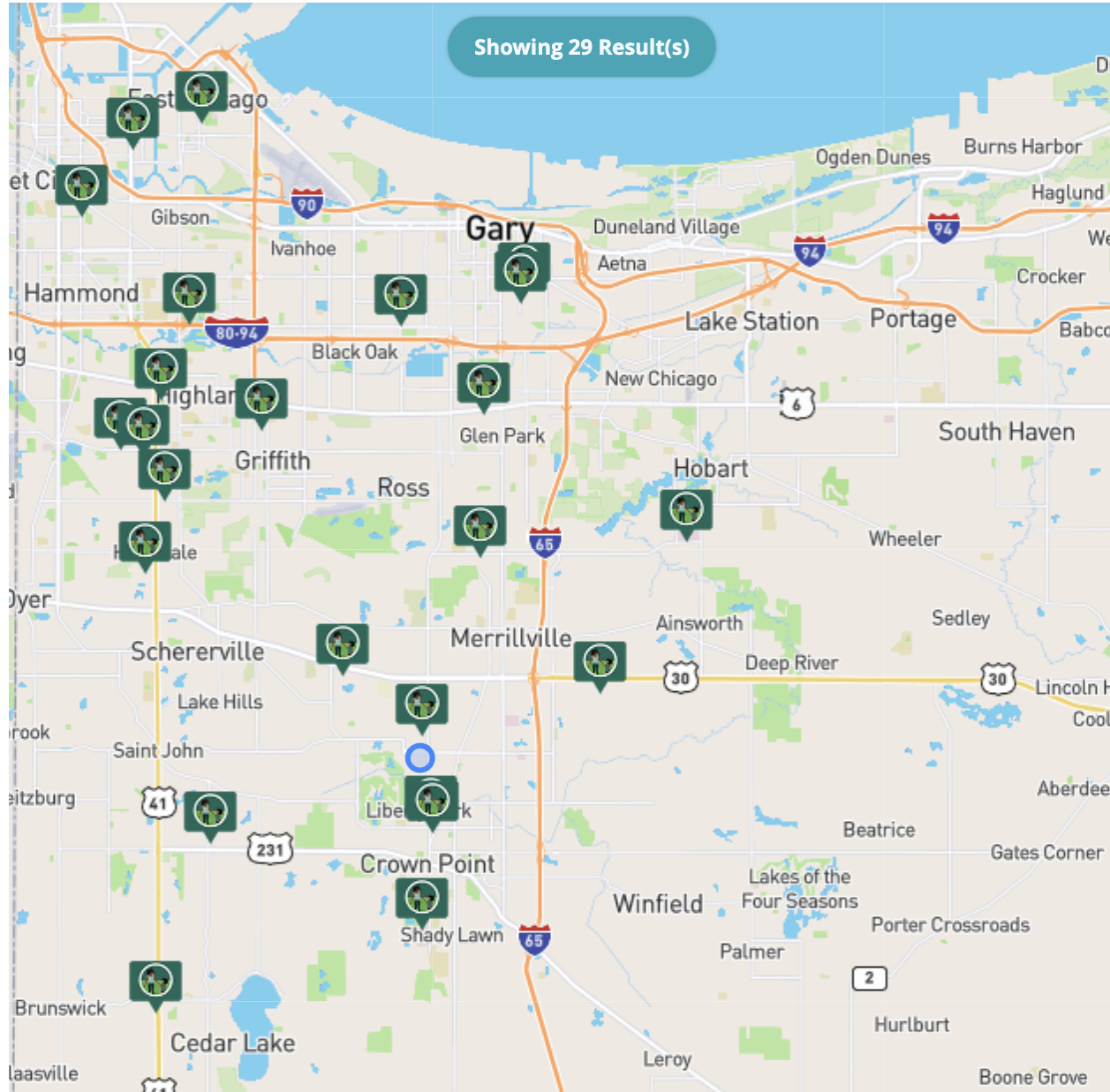


Source: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, 6/30/22.

The map below is a snapshot from FSSA Child Care Finder, showing licensed centers registered to serve children under 3 years of age with a Paths to Quality Level of 3 or 4 in Lake and Porter counties.

Map of High-Quality Early Care and Education Sites in Lake and Porter Counties

Image snapshot from FSSA Child Care Finder



AFFORDABILITY

The average tuition cost of high-quality early childhood education in Indiana as of 2021 is \$7,337, down from \$9,156 in 2018. Lake County's annual cost is above the state average at \$9,026 and Porter County is above at \$9,833. Affordability is a common barrier for parents who want to enroll their child in an early childhood education program. The costs in Lake and Porter County are well above 20% of a family's income living in poverty.¹²

¹² Source: Early Learning Indiana, National Data System (NDS), 2021.

There are assistance programs available to help families afford care. In Indiana, the two main publicly funded early care and education programs outside of EHS and HS are the Child Care Development Fund vouchers and On My Way Pre-K.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) provides voucher assistance to low-income families for child care so they can work or attend school. In 2020-2021, half (50%) of vouchers went to older children ages three through five, while half (50%) went to children under three years of age with infants being the smallest recipients of vouchers.

Over the last three years, the total number of vouchers has decreased statewide. In Lake County, the number is 15% lower in 2021 than in 2020, while in Porter County, the number of vouchers increased 14% since last year.

Figure 26: Children Served in Early Care and Education with a CCDF Voucher									
	Infant	Ones	Twos	Threes	Fours	Fives	Total Under 6 (2021)	Total Under 6 (2020)	Total Under 6 (2019)
Indiana	3,019	4,363	5,282	5,522	4,116	3,215	25,517	27,266	26,848
	12%	17%	21%	22%	16%	13%			
Lake	239	409	508	482	377	265	2,280	2,688	2,692
	10%	18%	22%	21%	17%	12%			
Porter	64	76	102	117	83	51	493	431	360
	13%	15%	21%	24%	17%	10%			
Source: FSSA OECOSL, 7/1/20-6/30/21 via ELAC.									

On My Way Pre-K

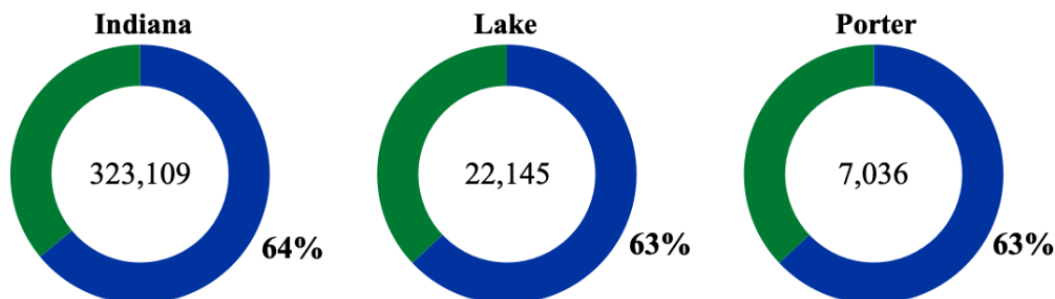
On My Way Pre-K (OMWPK) awards grants to low-income families with children 4 years of age, so that they may have access to high-quality pre-K the year before they begin kindergarten. In order to qualify, a parent must also be working or enrolled in school. In the 2021-2022 program year, over 4,000 children were served in an OMWPK program across Indiana, a significant increase of 94% over the 2020-21 program year. In Lake County, 336 children were served in an OMWPK program, which is an increase of 82% since the 2020-21 program year. Porter County enrolled 94 children in OMWPK, which is an increase of 161% over last year. To monitor OMWPK participation in the 2022-23 program year, visit <https://www.in.gov/fssa/5688.htm>.

Figure 27: Children with On My Way Pre-K Vouchers				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Indiana	2,926	3,517	2,476	4,793
Lake	276	297	184	336
Porter	0	20	36	94
Source: ELAC 2020 Annual Report; https://www.in.gov/fssa/5688.htm .				

Family Child Care Needs

Children under six years old need care when all parents at home work. In Lake County, over 22,000 children under six need care because all parents work, in Porter county over 7,000 children need care, both representing 63% of the overall population of children under 6 in these counties, which is similar to the comparable percentage in Indiana (64%).

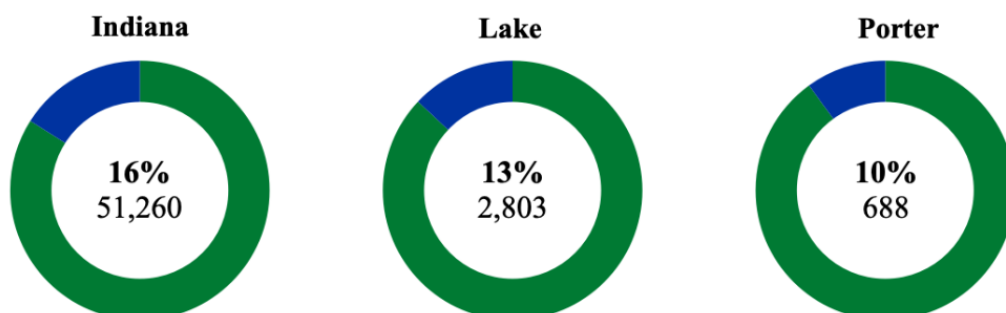
Young Children Who Need Care Because all Parents Work



Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2019). Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020. Online; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.

Of children who need care, less than one fifth (13%) in Lake County are being served by a high-quality program. In Porter County, only one tenth (10%) of children needing care are being served by a high-quality program. Both of these percentages are lower than the Indiana percentage at 16%.

Young Children Who Need Care Because All Parents Work Being Served by a High-Quality Program



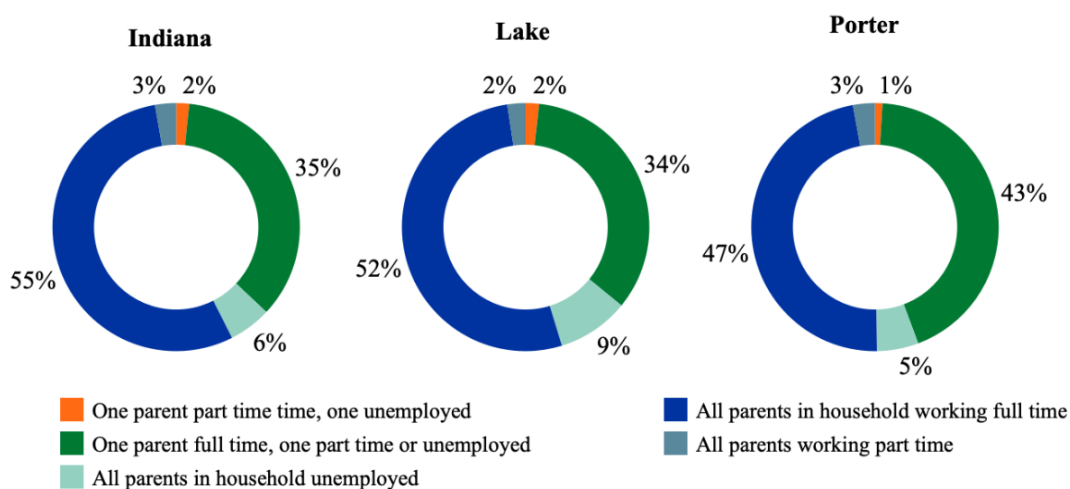
Source: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, 6/30/22. U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.

PART TIME VERSUS FULL TIME CARE NEEDS

In Lake County, over half (52%) of families with children under 18 reported all parents in the household working full time, meaning those in need of child care would likely need full-time care. This rate was slightly lower in Porter County, with less than half (47%) of families reporting all parents working full time.

In Lake county, only 2% of families with children under 18 reported that all parents in the household were working part-time. Similarly, in Porter County, 3% of families reported all parents working part time.

Detailed Employment Characteristics of Families



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2302.

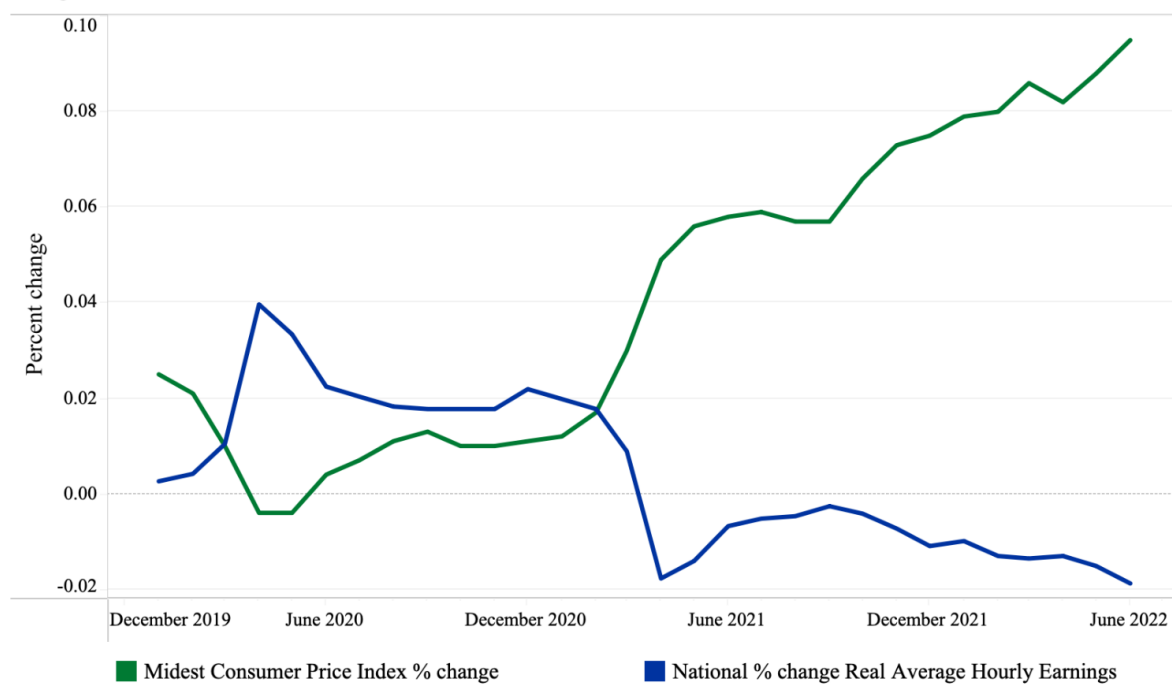
5. Workforce

Economic Changes Impacting Employment

INFLATION AND WAGES

As the figure below demonstrates, in recent years growth in prices for consumers has been outpacing growth in wages. As the Consumer Price Index which measures average cost to consumers increased from June 2020 to June 2022, wages have decreased since April 2021.

Percent change in Consumer Price Index Compared With Percent Change in Average Real Hourly Wages Jan 2020 - June 2022



The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) reports in general as inflation increases, workers' pay expectations are rising.¹³ A survey of 5,000 U.S. workers conducted by Grant Thornton LLP in April 2022 found that:

- 40% of respondents said they expect pay raises greater than 6% in 2022, while nearly a third (31%) said they expect pay raises of more than 8%, and an additional fifth (20%) of respondents expected more than 10%¹⁴

These expectations are pushing employers to increase pay budgets to keep qualified staff. The U.S. Compensation Planning Survey conducted by consulting group Mercer in March 2022

¹³ Source: Miller, Stephen; The Society for Human Resource Management. (2022). "High inflation means resetting pay strategies."

¹⁴ Source: Grant Thornton LLP. (2022). "The State of Work in America: American workers find their voice."

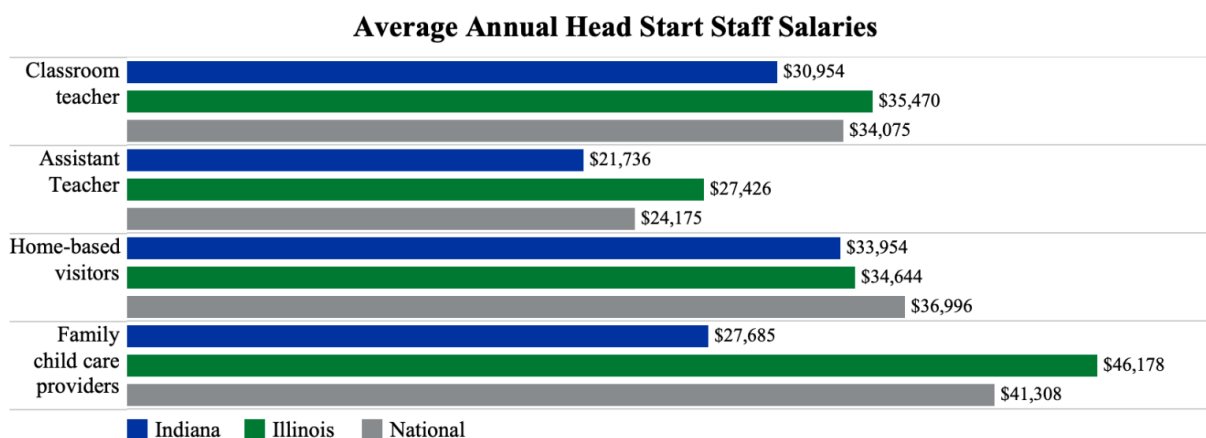
found of the 949 responding companies, 37% had increased their pay budgets for the year.¹⁵ Pay analytics firm Salaray.com also conducted a survey of 1,173 compensation decision-makers in March 2022 and found almost three quarters (73%) of respondents expected to raise pay budgets by at least 4% in 2022.¹⁶

Grant Thornton's "The State of Work in America" survey found of responding workers who took a job in the last year, over a third (37%) did so due to insufficient base pay, which was the most common reason respondents cited.

Global business research group The Conference Board predicts wage growth is likely to continue into the future after the first half of 2021 saw wages grow at the fastest pace in over 20 years, predicting accelerated wages through 2023 and beyond especially in manual and trade jobs.¹⁷

EARLY CHILD CARE WAGE TRENDS

Annual average Head Start staff salaries in Indiana ranged from \$21,736 to \$33,954 in the 2021 program year, depending on position. On average, Indiana Head Start staff earned lower wages than the national average, and lower wages than Head Start staff peers in the neighboring state of Illinois.



Source: Indiana, Illinois, and National 2021 Program Information Report.

According to the results of a survey conducted by the National Head Start Association at the 2022 Annual Head Start conference, which took responses from over 900 attendees, the mean hourly wage for Head Start teachers nationally is \$19.10, or \$34,073 per year.¹⁸ According to salary research from Salary.com, this is just under the average salary for Head Start Teachers in Indiana as of July 2022, which was \$36,367.¹⁹

Head Start Teacher pay is above median pay for preschool workers in general (except special education) in Lake and Porter Counties, which in 2018 was \$21,567 and \$21,398 respectively,

¹⁵ Source: Mercer. (2022) "U.S. Compensation Planning Survey."

¹⁶ Source: Salary.com. (2022) "COLA: Cost of Living Adjustment Survey."

¹⁷ Source: The Conference Board. (2022). "Why wages are growing rapidly now - and will continue to in the future"

¹⁸ Source: National Head Start Association. (2022). Workforce brief: Confronting Head Start's Workforce Crisis."

¹⁹ Source: Salary.com. (2022) "Head Start Teacher Salary in Indiana."

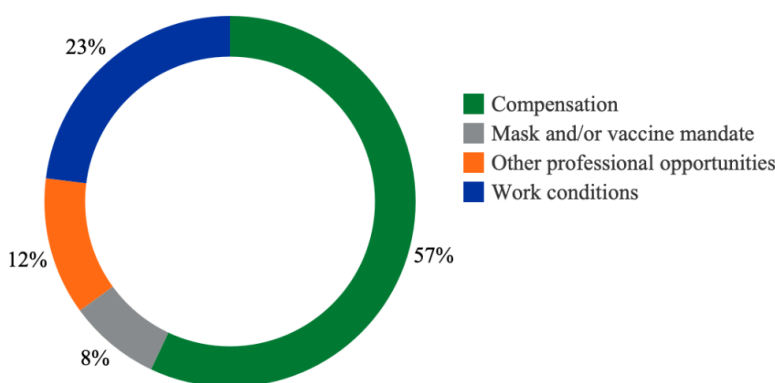
less than the state median of \$23,980. Statewide, this represents a 9% decrease in median wages since 2013.

The Head Start Workforce Crisis

In summarizing their 2022 National Conference survey, the National Head Start Association claimed the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce is in crisis, emphasizing the following findings:

- 57% of respondents indicated compensation is the number one reason for staff leaving
- 85% of respondents indicated staff turnover is higher than in a typical year
- 90% of respondents' programs had closed classrooms permanently or temporarily due to lack of staff
- An estimated average of 30% of staff positions were open as of the survey

What is the top reason Head Start staff are leaving?



Source: National Head Start Association. (2022). Workforce brief: Confronting Head Start's Workforce Crisis."

Not only was compensation the top reported reason for staff leaving Head Start programs, but respondents reported understaffing as the main driver of poor working conditions, the second most common reason for leaving.²⁰

Along these same lines, in an Information Memo released to Head Start grants recipients September 12, 2022, the Office of Head Start (OHS) addressed strategies to stabilize the Head Start workforce. This memo encouraged all grant recipients to consider the following actions:

- Permanently increase staff compensation, advising organizations to use the OHS Wage Comparability Survey guide to aid decision making
- Offer bonuses, short term pay increases, or other financial incentives
- Compensate staff during closures and transitions
- Provide information to staff on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program
- Promote a positive and empowering work environment
- Provide supports for educational attainment and career advancement

²⁰ Source: National Head Start Association. (2022). Workforce brief: Confronting Head Start's Workforce Crisis."

- Consider, where appropriate, utilizing qualification waivers for Head Start preschool teachers

Competition for Qualified Staff

Other education professionals serving children K-8 make on average much more than early child care and education professionals. In 2019, Indiana early education professionals with a bachelor's degree were paid over one third (35%) less than educators teaching children K-8 on average. The average hourly median wage for kindergarten teachers in Indiana in 2019 (\$28.48) was more than double the average hourly wage for a preschool teacher (\$12.84).²¹

Indiana early care and education employers also face competition from neighboring states. As the table below outlines, early childhood workers make on average 10% more hourly in Illinois than they do in Indiana.

Early Child Care Professionals - Average Hourly Earnings by Occupation, 2019			
Occupation	Indiana	Illinois	% Difference
Child care worker	\$10.31	\$11.16	7%
Preschool teacher	\$12.84	\$14.29	10%
Center director	\$19.51	\$24.44	20%
Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. (2019). State Profiles. https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/states/indiana/			

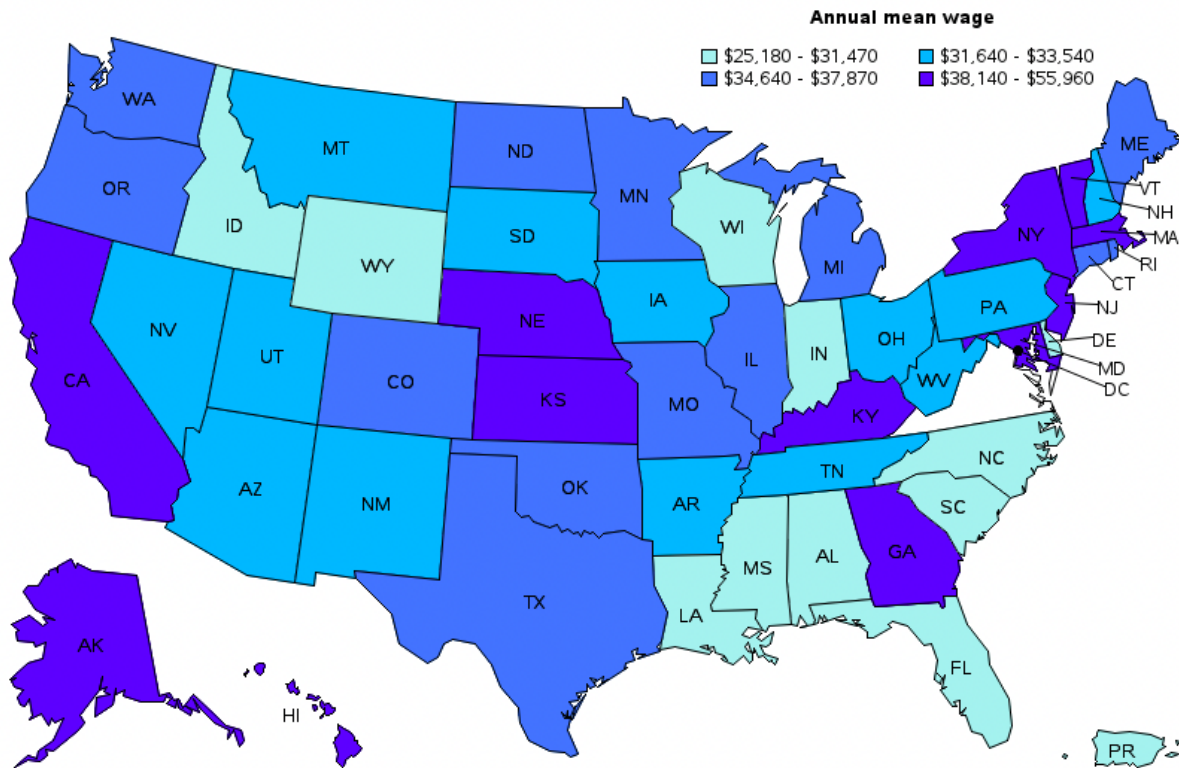
Nationally, pay for preschool teachers in Indiana is low in comparison to other neighboring states, as the map below from the Bureau of Labor Statistics illustrates.

²¹ Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. (2019). State Profiles.
<https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/states/indiana/>

Map of the Annual Mean Wage of Preschool Teachers

Image snapshot from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational and Wage Statistics Occupation Profiles

Annual mean wage of preschool teachers, except special education, by state, May 2021



Blank areas indicate data not available.

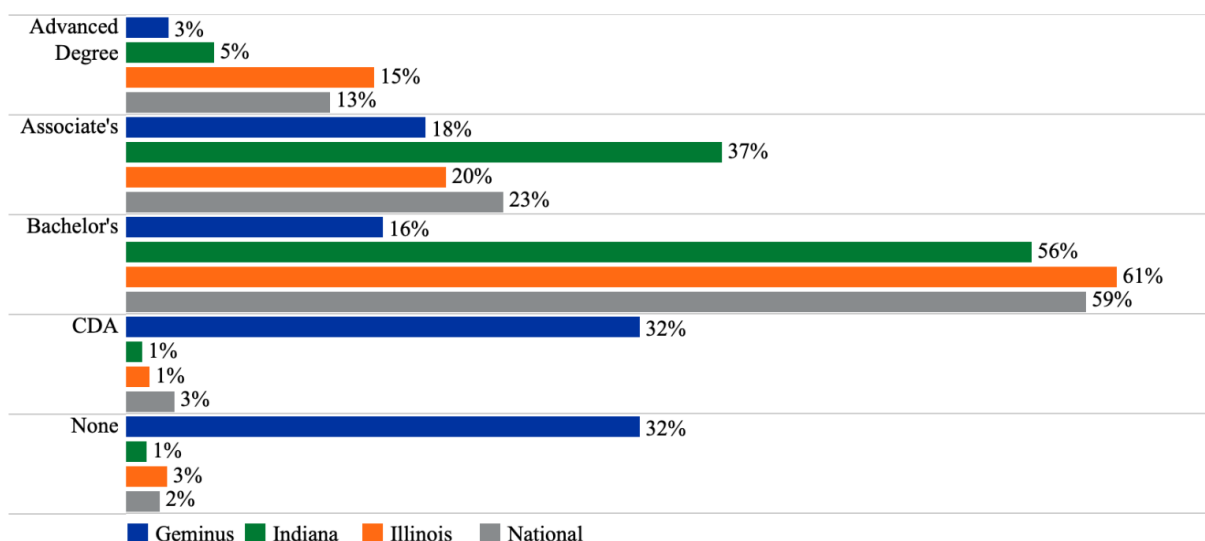
Competition is also coming from the private sector as more entry level jobs raise base pay rates. As of October 2021 Target was offering wages up to \$24 an hour for entry level positions, and Costco was paying all starting employees \$16 an hour, with over half making \$25 an hour.²²

DEGREE COMPLETION

In the 2021-22 program year, Geminus reported lower degree completion rates (as defined by the Program Information Report) for Head Start classroom teachers as compared with state, national, and peer state (Illinois) averages with the exception of CDA credentials, which Geminus Head Start classroom teachers completed at a much higher rate than state and national averages.

²² Source: Smith, K. A. (2021). 8 Big Companies Raising their Minimum Wages During Covid. Forbes Advisor. forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/companies-paying-15-an-hour.

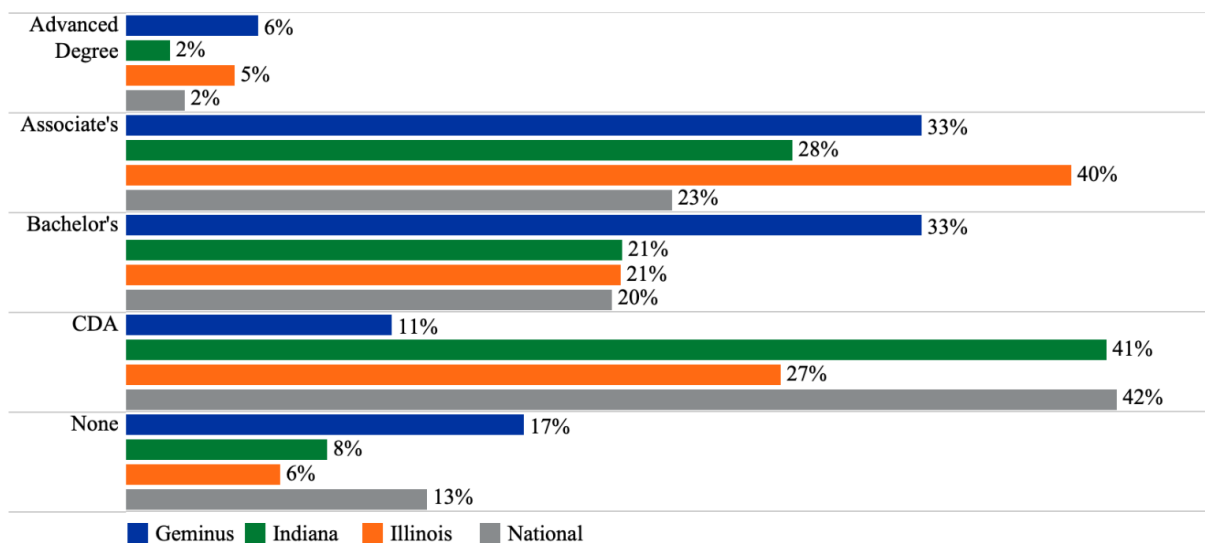
Head Start Classroom Teacher Education Levels



Source: Indiana, Illinois, and National 2021 Program Information Report, Geminus 2021-2022 Program Information Report.

In contrast, on average Geminus Early Head Start classroom teachers reported higher rates of degree completion than state, national, and peer averages with the exception of CDA credential compilation which was lower for Geminus Early Head Start classroom teachers than for their peers on average.

Early Head Start Classroom Teacher Education Levels

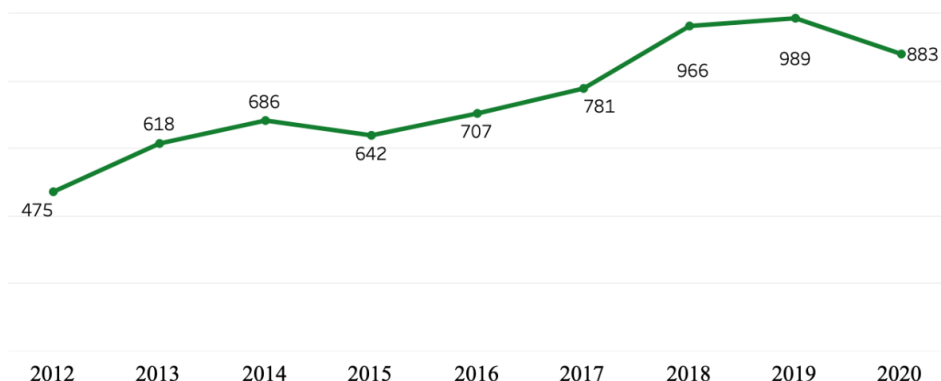


Source: Indiana, Illinois, and National 2021 Program Information Report, Geminus 2021-2022 Program Information Report.

Degrees earned in Early Childhood Education and Teaching have increased in Indiana every year since 2012, except 2020, though this is possibly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In every year since 2012, over three fourths of completed Early Childhood Education and Teaching degrees have been completed in Marion County. Beginning in 2017, degrees in Early Childhood Education and Teaching began being reported in Lake County, with an average of 9 degrees per

year and a total of 34 degrees in the years 2017-2020. There were no degrees reported as completed in Porter County in the years 2012-2020.²³

Early Childhood Education & Teaching Degrees Earned in Indiana 2012-2020

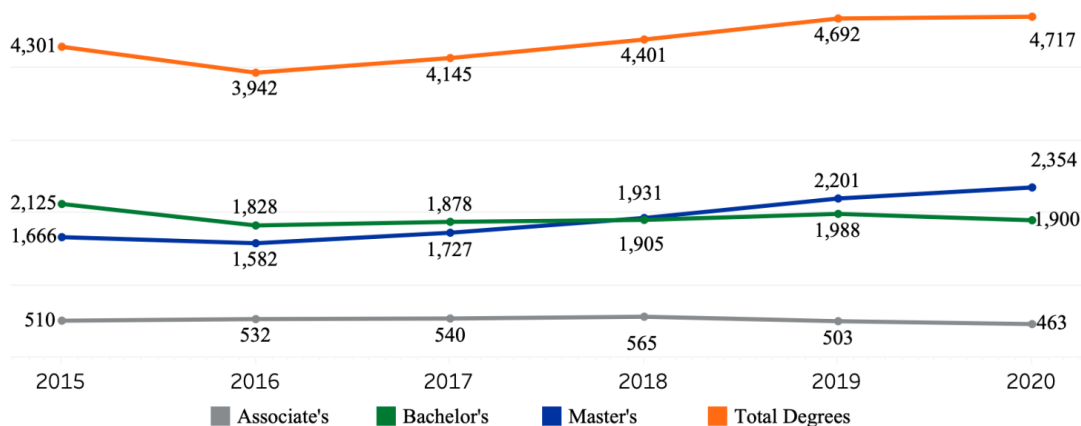


Source: U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Completions.

Education degrees earned at public institutions overall in Indiana have increased since 2016, with the number of Bachelor's degrees declining slightly after 2018, while the number of Master's degrees increased 2018-2020.

As of 2020, the public institution in Indiana reporting the most degree completions in Education was Ball State University with 2,316 completions, Followed by Purdue West Lafayette at 698 completions, and Indiana University Bloomington at 624 completions.

Education Degrees Earned in Public Indiana Schools (Associate's to Master's) 2015-2020



Source: Indiana Commission for Higher Education. (2021). Public Enrollment and Degree Facts Dashboard.

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials

²³ Source: U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Completions.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program was established officially when the first CDA was administered in 1985 and has awarded nearly one million CDA credentials to date. The CDA was born out of an effort by early childhood educators in the 1970s to improve the quality of early care and education. It was established through a partnership between the then-named U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Administration on Children Youth, and Families (ACYF) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Since the program's inception in 1985,²⁴ a total of 26,565 CDA credentials have been awarded in Indiana. This is less than neighboring states Illinois and Michigan, though when taking population into account, Indiana actually saw a greater number of credentials awarded as a percentage of the total population than Michigan or Illinois.²⁵

Total CDA Credentials Awarded by Type Since Program's Inception (1985-2021)					
State	Total CDAs	Infant-Toddler	Preschool	Family Child Care	Home Visitor
Indiana	26,565	5,712	13,346	4,155	321
Illinois	28,717	9,095	15,759	3,387	495
Michigan	33,479	7,016	24,491	1,209	798
Source: Council for Professional Recognition. (2021). State Fact Sheets.					

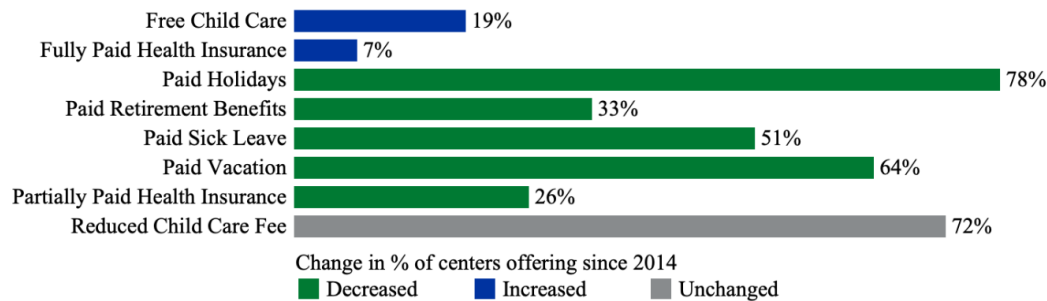
BENEFITS

According to the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children's 2019 Indiana Child Care Workforce Study, fewer child care centers and registered ministries reported offering benefits in 2019 as compared with 2014, with the exception of free child care (increased by 3%), fully paid health insurance (increased by 3%), and reduced fee child care (remained unchanged).

²⁴ Only aggregate data since the program's inception is accessible, no year-over-year comparisons are available.

²⁵ Source: Council for Professional Recognition. (2021). State Fact Sheets.

Percentage of Indiana Child Care Centers/Ministries Offering Benefits, 2019 (As Reported by Directors)



Source: Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020). 2019 Indiana Child Care Workforce Study: Working in Child Care in Indiana.

As centers report reducing benefits in Indiana, workers nationally are seeking improved benefits. Grant Thornton LLP’s State of Work in America Report found that of responding workers who left their jobs in the prior 12 months, 18% did so in search of better benefits, and of those who turned down an offer, 33% did so because of insufficient benefits.²⁶

Nationally, benefits like sign-on bonuses are becoming more common as employers compete for workers. In fact, the GlobalData Job Analytics database found that job postings referencing “sign-on bonus” increased over four times (454%) between August 2020 and August 2021.²⁷

Similarly, demand for remote or hybrid work options has also increased since 2020. Grant Thornton LLP’s State of Work in America Report found that of responding workers, 77% enjoyed working from home, three fourths (75%) felt working from home had improved their work-life balance, and over three fourths (80%) wanted flexibility on where and when they conducted their work going forward. Only around a third (38%) reported looking forward to going back to the office. Nearly half (46%) of respondents said they would look for another job if asked to return to in-office work full time.²⁸

6. Community Needs - Overview

²⁶ Source: Grant Thornton LLP. (2022). “The State of Work in America: American workers find their voice.”

²⁷ Source: GlobalData Job Analytics Database. (2021). Job trends of companies referencing “sign on bonus” 2020-2021.

²⁸ Source: Grant Thornton LLP. (2022). “The State of Work in America: American workers find their voice.”

Population Demographics

GENDER

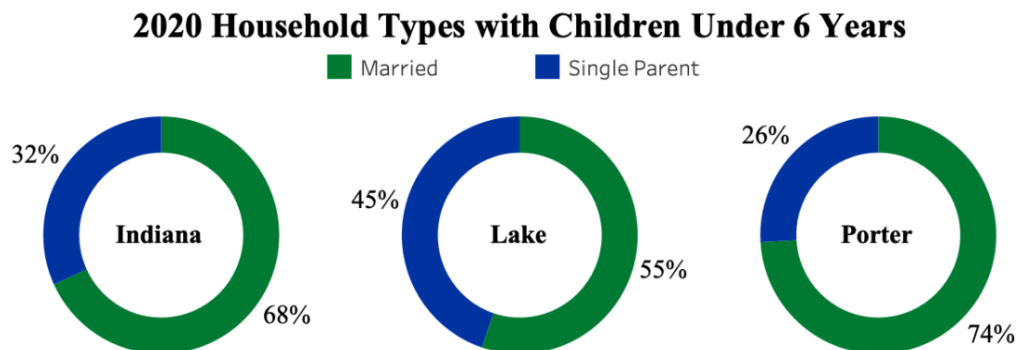
Lake and Porter counties are split evenly between the male and female population in children under six years old. Porter county's population under 6 is 50% male, 50% female, and Lake county's is 51% male, 49% female.

RACE/ ETHNICITY

Lake County's population of children is mostly White (65%) with Black children making up most of the rest (32%) of the population. American Indians make up 1% with Asian children filling in the remaining 2%. Porter County is also mostly white (90%). Black children make up 7% of the population, with Asian children at around 2%. American Indians again make up less than 1%.²⁹

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Lake County has almost 22,000 families with children under six years, while Porter County has over 7,000 families. In Indiana, over two-thirds (68%) of these families with children under 6 years are married couple households. Lake County is below the state at 55% of households, while Porter County is slightly above the state at 74% of households.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1101.

Education Needs of Eligible Families

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

According to the 2021-22 Indiana Department of Education school directory, there are 23 corporations across Lake and Porter Counties.³⁰ There are 16 corporations in Lake County, which

²⁹ Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020.

³⁰ Find the school directory under the "General School Information" section here:
<https://www.in.gov/doe/it/data-center-and-reports/>.

include 118 public schools and an additional 27 non public schools. There are 7 corporations in Porter County, which include 53 public schools and an additional 9 non public schools.

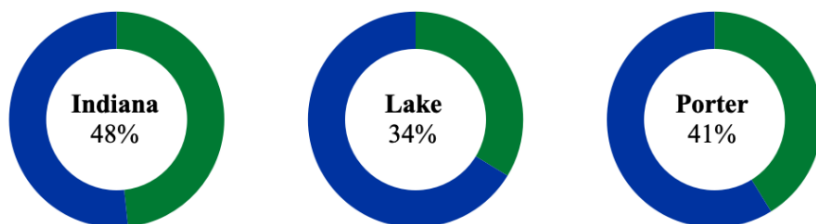
As of 2020, within Lake County schools, over half (44,941; 52%) of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. This is significantly more than Porter County, where a third (9,900; 35%) of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch.³¹

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT³²

Lumina's Stronger Nation reported nationally the adult educational attainment has been on the rise. Educational attainment is determined by adults ages 25 to 64 with a certification or college degree beyond high school graduation. In 2019, the educational attainment was 52% in the United States. While Indiana's attainment is also rising overtime, it is 48%, slightly lower than the national rate. Note, this data has not been updated since the last needs assessment update.

Lake and Porter counties adult educational attainment is also below the nation along with the state. In 2019, a third (34%) of Lake County's adults ages 25 to 64 hold a certification or college degree beyond high school graduation. More adults in Porter County hold a certification or college degree beyond high school graduation with 41% attainment.

2019 Educational Attainment of Adults Ages 25-64



Source: Lumina Foundation, 2022 A Stronger Nation Report (2019)

EMPLOYMENT

Across Indiana, including Lake and Porter counties, the unemployment rate increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but in 2021 has started to normalize. In 2021, Indiana had a 3.6% unemployment rate which is down from 7.2% in 2020. In Lake County, the rate was higher than the State's rate at 6.1%. Porter County's rate is also slightly higher than the state average at 3.9%. Lake county unemployment levels remain higher than they were pre-COVID-19 (6.1% in 2021 versus 4.9% in 2019) while Porter county levels are similar to those in 2019 (3.9% in 2021 versus 3.7% in 2019). This seems to indicate employment levels in

³¹ Source: The Anne E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, "Public school students receiving free or reduced price lunches in Indiana" 2020.

³² Source: <https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/2021/#state/IN>

Lake and Porter counties may be stabilizing after both counties saw their highest unemployment rates in 2020 since 2009 and 2010, following the 2008 housing crisis.³³

Health and Social Service Needs of Eligible Families

INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE

In 2021, Indiana Department of Health reported 2,554 deaths due to any drug. Lake County had 192 fatal overdose cases while Porter had significantly less fatal overdose cases at 45. A majority of all fatal overdoses come from opioid use. Approximately 81% of Lake County and 87% of Porter County's fatal overdose cases were related to any opioid. The majority of fatal cases of drug overdose include opioids at the state level as well, and the percentage of deaths due to opioid overdose has risen slightly by 6% for Indiana from 2020 (1,875) to 2021 (1,995).

ACCESS TO INTERNET

Over three-quarters (83%) of Lake County households have an internet subscription, which is the same as the statewide average (83%). In Porter County, 87% of households have an internet subscription, which is higher than the national average (86%) of households.³⁴

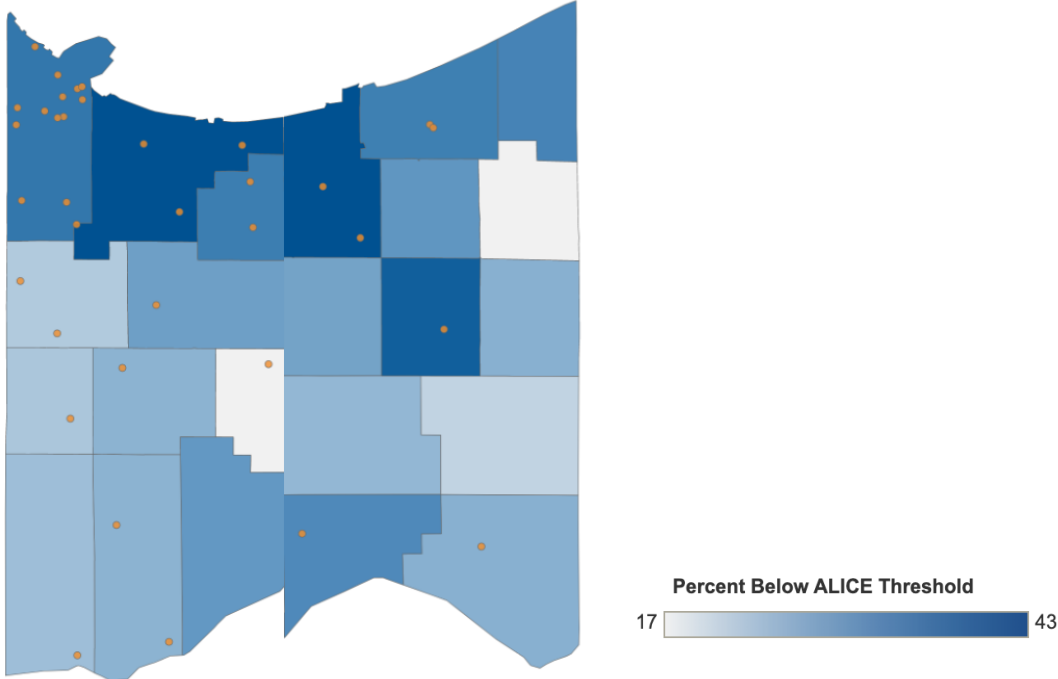
For families that do not have internet access at home, libraries can be a helpful resource. If families are able to get to libraries, they have access to computers, internet, and other free resources available to the public. The yellow dots on the map below show where libraries are located throughout Lake and Porter counties.

Figure 29: Lake and Porter County Households Below the ALICE Threshold and the Location of Libraries³⁵

³³ Source: STATS Indiana. (2022). Labor Force Time Series Report.
https://www.stats.indiana.edu/laus/laus_view3.html

³⁴ Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2801

³⁵ ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed



Source: <https://unitedforalice.org/resource-gaps/indiana>

NUTRITION

According to the most recent data available from Feeding America, over a tenth (12%) of people in Indiana are food insecure and even a higher percentage (15%) of children are food insecure. Lake County's numbers for food insecurity are similar at 12% for the overall population and 19% for children. Porter County's numbers are lower than Indiana and Lake County's rate with the overall population at 10% and children at 12%.³⁶ The percentage of the population in Indiana who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store is 9%. This ranges across Indiana's counties between 0% in Carroll, Harrison, Orange, Owen, Spencer, and White Counties, and 20% in Vigo county. Lake County's percentage of population that are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store (10%) is slightly above the state overall (9%) while Porter County is slightly below (8%).³⁷

³⁶ Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2019/overall/indiana>

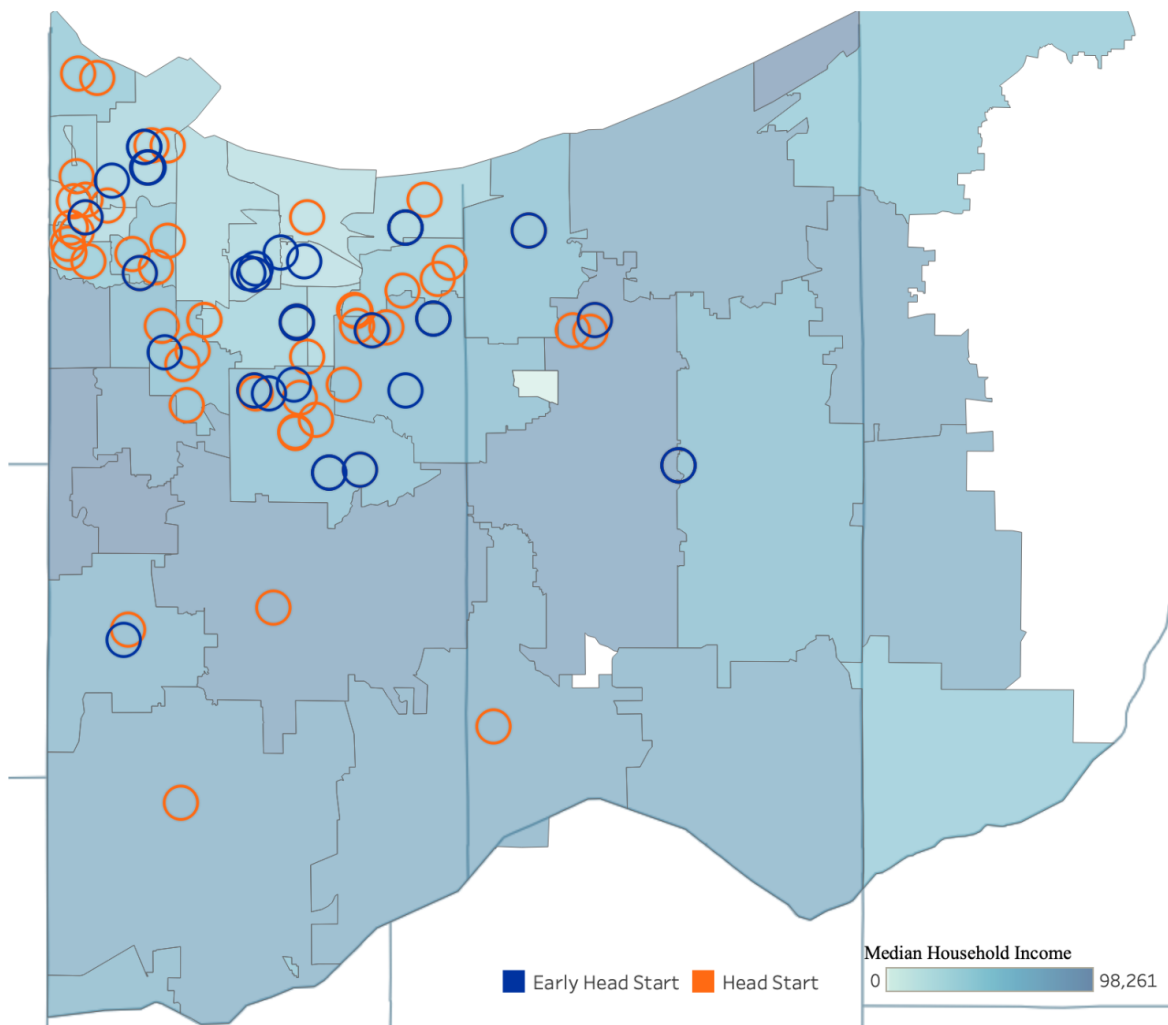
³⁷ Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2022). County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2022. www.countyhealthrankings.org

7. Geminus Meeting the Needs

PROFILE OF GEMINUS PROGRAMS

In the 2021-22 program year, Geminus Corporation offered Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) services in 28 locations and EHS-Child Care Partnership Program services in 12 locations throughout Lake and Porter counties. In addition, home based services are provided to children and pregnant women.

Map of Geminus Head Start, Early Head Start Locations



FUNDED ENROLLMENT

Geminus Head Start's total funded enrollment is 1,544 children and 20 pregnant women. This total funded enrollment did not change from the previous year. Early Head Start has the capacity to serve 148 children ages birth through two and pregnant women; Head Start has the capacity to serve 1,216 children ages three through five; and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership locations have the capacity to serve 200 children.

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

Due to turnover of enrollment, Geminus Head Start cumulatively served 1,665 children and 37 pregnant women in the 2021-22 program year. A tenth (138 children and 37 pregnant women; 10%) of children and women were served in Early Head Start, and nearly one fifth (309; 19%) were served in EHS-CCP, and the remaining three quarters (1,218; 73%) were served in Head Start programs.

ELIGIBILITY

Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5 (age determined as of the state's kindergarten entry date) while Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers to age 3. Federal eligibility guidelines state that (most) children and pregnant women must also fall into one of the following categories:

- Children from families with incomes below U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines (100% Federal Poverty Level [FPL])
- Children from homeless families
- Children from families receiving public assistance (such as TANF or SSI)
- Foster children are eligible regardless of foster family's income

FAMILY

In the 2021-22 program year, Geminus Head Start programs served 1,608 families. This is more families served compared to the previous year by 300, this is likely due to recovering the reduction in families served in 2020-2021 (327 families) most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the 2021-22 program year, nearly all (95%) of total families received at least one service through the Geminus Head Start programs. The top five and lowest five services families received were the following:

Figure 37: Percentage of Families that Received Family Services

Top Five Services Received		Lowest Five Services Received	
Research-based parenting curriculum	81.5%	Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	3.23%

Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	70.4%	Education on postpartum care	3.73%
Supporting transitions between programs	59.5%	English as a Second Language (ESL) Training	9.76%
Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.)	57.6%	Substance Misuse Prevention	16.17%
Housing assistance	53.3%	Education on preventive medical and oral health	28.86%

HEALTH

Per performance standard requirements, EHS/HS and EHS-CCP programs are required to review the accessibility of healthcare and insurance for children enrolled in a program. Nearly all students had health insurance and accessible healthcare by the end of the program year. Over 80% of Head Start students were up-to-date with immunizations, while only about half of Early Head Start and EHS-CCP students were up-to-date. Although nearly all Head Start students were up-to-date on immunizations, less than three fourths (74%) were up-to-date on age-appropriate preventive and primary health. Most Head Start children had a dental home, but less EHS and EHS-CCP students reported having a dental home.

Figure 38: 2020-21 Student Health Services Percentage of Students By the End of the Enrollment Year					
	% with accessible healthcare	% with Health Insurance	% with up-to-date on immunizations	% were Up-to-date on age-appropriate preventive and primary health care	% with a Dental Home
Head Start	99%	98%	87%	Unknown	93%
Early Head Start	91%	93%	59%	68%	56%
EHS-CCP	98%	89%	51%	75%	83%
Source: 2021-22 Program Information Report.					

MATERNAL HEALTH

Geminus Head Start is funded to serve 20 pregnant women, but was able to serve 37 pregnant women during the 2021-22 program year. Geminus Head Start partners with other maternal health organizations, such as My Healthy Baby, to provide services and support to pregnant women. Since the partnership began in 2019, Geminus provided/ received xx referrals.

8. Stakeholder Feedback

STAFF FEEDBACK

PARENT/ GUARDIAN FEEDBACK

SCHOOL DISTRICT FEEDBACK

9. Recommendations

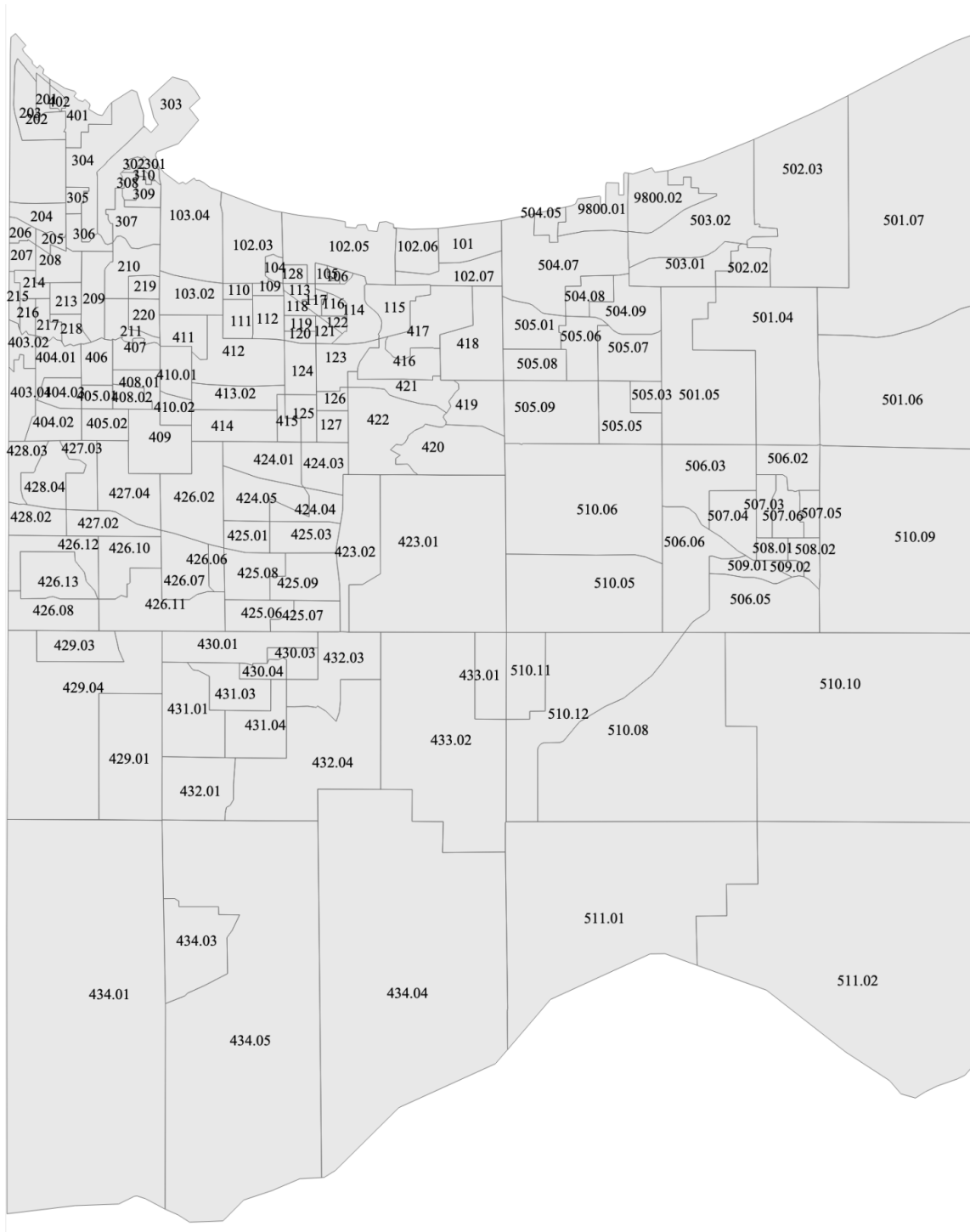
Based on this community needs assessment update and analysis, we recommend the following areas for Geminus Head Start to consider. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and the recommendations are meant to provide insight on program decisions that will lead to strengthened programs and services available to children and families in Lake and Porter counties.

1. Work to increase involvement in family engagement events. Only about half of families reported on the parent survey that they participated in family engagement nights (FEN), Parent University, and/or other family engagement events.
2. Offer and educate families on available food resources. Families reported food being the top resource utilized and needed last program year. Lake County's food insecurity is higher than the state at 14% for overall population and 20% for children. Porter County's numbers are lower than Indiana and Lake County's rate with the overall population at 11% and children at 14%. The percentage of the population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store is 10% in Lake County and 8% in Porter County.
3. Educate on the importance of being up-to-date with immunizations early on as possible during a child's life. In Early Head Start and EHS-CCP, the percentage of children who were up-to-date on immunizations ranged between 42% and 53%. Childhood vaccinations and preventive care often detect and prevent conditions and diseases in their earlier, more treatable stages, significantly reducing the risk of potential illness, disability, early death, and expensive medical care.

4. Incentivize program participants to share about Geminus with a friend or other family member to continue the growth of enrollment numbers. Last year, over one third (35%) of survey respondents indicated they learned about Geminus Head Start through a friend or family member. This has been true for the previous year as well.

Appendix

Appendix A: Census Tracts in Lake and Porter Counties



Appendix B: Median Annual Income for Families with Children Under 18 Years and Population of Children Under 6 Years Under 125% FPL: Lake County

Tract	Median Income (with Children Under 18)	Population Under 6 Years Living Under 125% FPL	Tract	Median Income (with Children Under 18)	Population Under 6 Years Living Under 125% FPL	Tract	Median Income (with Children Under 18)	Population Under 6 Years Living Under 125% FPL
101	0	227	218	31,473	153	424.05	84,125	58
102.03	24,458	100	219	43,750	155	425.01	74,828	61
102.05	32,399	47	220	59,818	140	425.03	93,125	30
102.06	35,727	122	301	0	260	425.06	0	0
102.07	22,917	222	302	26,806	126	425.07	76,477	0
103.02	26,480	373	303	25,156	100	425.08	0	22
103.04	32,212	169	304	32,679	96	425.09	86,633	0
104	0	248	305	27,234	174	426.02	110,225	15
105	15,833	114	306	33,125	185	426.06	66,484	86
106	33,177	80	307	31,976	16	426.07	107,365	30
109	45,703	52	308	21,027	153	426.08	133,779	0
110	25,208	95	309	33,350	137	426.1	136,985	0
111	25,337	502	310	23,050	232	426.11	160,074	0
112	31,661	153	401	50,652	69	426.12	102,250	14
113	0	85	402	80,536	32	426.13	159,550	25
114	4,583	199	403.01	112,438	0	427.02	97,708	45
115	37,778	126	403.02	75,725	84	427.03	118,929	67
116	19,856	167	404.01	114,375	0	427.04	85,724	56
117	31,944	21	404.02	188,375	0	428.02	118,942	0
118	16,912	13	404.03	107,457	28	428.03	87,115	16
119	10,440	191	405.01	39,423	195	428.04	0	273
120	0	113	405.02	72,400	54	429.01	120,042	20
121	0	0	406	64,300	30	429.03	141,635	0
122	12,690	79	407	79,803	39	429.04	105,208	20
123	40,842	24	408.01	74,875	0	430.01	100,227	9
124	30,054	151	408.02	84,896	121	430.03	71,250	22
125	29,732	110	409	95,119	124	430.04	0	26
126	21,739	101	410.01	33,224	59	431.01	55,313	35
127	18,810	78	410.02	93,485	58	431.03	141,250	23
128	27,521	232	411	2,500	31	431.04	116,000	0
201	50,284	66	412	18,750	159	432.01	72,386	35
202	0	72	413.02	62,708	18	432.03	96,875	0
203	38,906	125	414	45,469	116	432.04	128,859	0
204	24,966	279	415	17,750	86	433.01	100,023	36
205	41,607	111	416	54,559	71	433.02	118,497	22
206		97	417	43,404	79	434.01	103,375	35
207	36,563	129	418	98,333	0	434.03	79,605	11
208	14,074	96	419	72,083	5	434.04	82,803	0
209	53,839	140	420	93,963	119	434.05	98,842	14
210	44,363	297	421	50,997	213	9900	0	0
211	75,607	67	422	69,866	36			
213	72,000	60	423.01	105,000	44			
214	40,536	81	423.02	0	0			
215	64,100	36	424.01	69,310	79			
216	0	11	424.03	0	130			
217	65,200	113	424.04	72,035	0			

Porter County

Tract	Median Income (with Children Under 18)	Population Under 6 Years Living Under 125% FPL
501.04	121,189	29
501.05	90,491	23
501.06	130,000	0
501.07	113,542	28
502.02	76,197	113
502.03	119,792	76
503.01	101,450	99
503.02	96,875	13
504.05	194,000	0
504.07	82,022	17
504.08	90,288	0
504.09	78,010	110
505.01	48,021	98
505.03	38,155	8
505.05	75,250	11
505.06	88,921	10
505.07	64,615	126
505.08	51,441	64
505.09	68,237	29
506.02	109,120	37
506.03	166,750	0
506.05	109,481	0
506.06	97,604	0
507.03	133,750	0
507.04	113,427	76
507.05	0	120
507.06	58,333	66
508.01	0	59
508.02	64,000	91
509.01	78,721	114
509.02	0	0
510.05	146,696	0
510.06	87,292	39
510.08	107,222	0
510.09	104,512	24
510.1	109,471	0
510.11	101,497	0
510.12	97,375	7
511.01	90,724	78
511.02	91,402	4
9800.01	0	0
9800.02	0	0
9900	0	0