

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, INC.

2020 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables..... 3

List of Figures..... 4

MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA) and how is it completed?5

Introduction..... 5

Methodology: The Community Assessment Process 7

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?9

State of the Grantee 9

Geography 13

Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2019 PIR) 14

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?18

Population and Demographic Data..... 18

Population Growth and Change 18

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics..... 21

Immigrants and Refugees..... 23

Language 25

Religion..... 26

Sex and Age 27

Households 27

Grandparents and Grandchildren..... 29

Socioeconomic Status..... 30

Education..... 30

Employment Status and Income..... 33

Poverty..... 36

Federal Assistance Benefits 42

Economic Features and Trends..... 44

Housing and Homelessness..... 47

Fair Market Rent..... 47

Public Housing 48

Homelessness 49

Communication and Transportation..... 52

Access to Internet and Computer Devices 52

Vehicle Ownership 53

Public Transportation 53

Disabilities 54

Florida Department of Education 54

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 55

Health and Wellness..... 56

Environmental Factors..... 56

Health Insurance..... 57
Health Professional Shortage Areas 58
Immunizations 58
Prevalent Health Problems 59
Leading Causes of Death 61
Maternal and Infant Health..... 62
Nutrition..... 64
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)..... 64
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)..... 64
National School Lunch Program 64
Food Insecurity 65
Food Deserts..... 66
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)..... 67
Safety and Crime 67
Prevalence of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse..... 68
Opioid Epidemic..... 69
Child Abuse and Neglect..... 71
Foster Care 71
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?..... 73
Federal and/or State Funded Preschool Programs 73
Florida Licensed Child Care Programs 76
Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements and Partnerships..... 79
MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations? 81
Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families..... 81
MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?..... 83
Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families 83
Parent Survey Responses..... 83
Key Informant Responses 87
Consultant Observations and Conclusions..... 93
Appendices..... 94
Appendix A: Family Needs Survey..... 95
Appendix B: Key Informant Questions..... 96
End Notes..... 97

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Table of Contents

Introduction

List of Tables

Table 1: U.S. Census Data: ACS 1-year and 5-year Estimate Features	8
Table 2: EOC Center Locations	10
Table 3: EOC Service Area Counties	13
Table 4: Population Change (2010-19).....	18
Table 5: Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (2010-19)	18
Table 6: Languages Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	25
Table 7: Languages Spoken by Population Age 18+ in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	25
Table 8: Linguistic Isolation (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	25
Table 9: Population by Sex and Age (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	27
Table 10: Total Households (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	27
Table 11: Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Own Grandchildren (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	29
Table 12: Age of Grandchildren Living with Grandparent Householder (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	29
Table 13: Educational Attainment Population Age 25+ Bachelor’s Degree+ by Gender (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	30
Table 14: Public School Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (2019-20).....	31
Table 15: Public School ELL Student Membership (2019-20).....	31
Table 16: Graduation Rates (2018-19)	32
Table 17: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	33
Table 18: Average Annual Wages: All Industries & Ownerships (2018).....	34
Table 19: Living Wages (2019)	35
Table 20: Poverty (2018).....	36
Table 21: Women Who Had a Birth in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	38
Table 22: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	40
Table 23: Racial Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	41
Table 24: Ethnic Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	41
Table 25: SSI Recipients by Age (2018)	42
Table 26: Indian River County, FL Top Employers (2019).....	46
Table 27: Okeechobee County, Florida Top Employers (2019)	46
Table 28: Out of Reach – Fair Market Rental Value vs. Income (2019).....	47
Table 29: HUD Programs (2019)	48
Table 30: Florida Homeless Point-In-Time Count (2018-19)	49
Table 31: Homeless Students Served (2017-18)	50
Table 32: Vehicle Ownership (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	53
Table 33: Special Education (2019-20).....	54
Table 34: IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2017-18)	55
Table 35: IDEA Part B: Assistance for Children with Disabilities, Ages 3-5 (2017-18)	55
Table 36: Public Water Systems (2020)	57
Table 37: Kindergarten Immunization (2019)	58
Table 38: Asthma Hospitalization Ages 1-5 (2018)	59
Table 39: Dental Services (Children Ages 2 - 21) (2017-18)	60
Table 40: Leading Causes of Death by Rate per 100,000 Residents (2018)	61
Table 41: Birth Rates per 1,000 Women (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	62
Table 42: Teen Births (2017-18).....	62
Table 43: Prenatal Health Care (2018).....	63
Table 44: Babies with Low Birthweight (2018)	63
Table 45: Infant Mortality Count and Rate per 1,000 Live Births (2018)	63
Table 46: Food Stamp Clients (May 2020)	64
Table 47: National School Lunch Program Report (2019-20).....	64
Table 48: Food Insecurity in EOCIRC, Inc. Service Area (2018)	65
Table 49: Number of Reported Crimes by Type of Crime (2018).....	67
Table 50: Drug- and Alcohol-Induced deaths (2018)	68
Table 51: Opioid and Overdose Deaths and Suspected Nonfatal Overdoses (2018)	70
Table 52: Children Subjects of Maltreatment Reports (2018-19)	71

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Table 53: Children in Foster Care (10/2018-9/2019)	71
Table 54: Victim Reports in Foster Care (10/2018-9/2019)	72
Table 55: VPK Eligibility and Enrollment Data (2017-18)	75
Table 56: VPK Children Served by Provider Type (2017-18)	75
Table 57: Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	77
Table 58: School Readiness Enrollments (2017-18)	77
Table 59: Indian River County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)	78
Table 60: Okeechobee County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)	78
Table 61: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	81
Table 62: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty by CCD (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	81
Table 63: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty by ZCTA (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	82

List of Figures

Figure 1: Natural Increase vs. Net Migration (2010-19).....	18
Figure 2: Percent Population Change by Race (2010-18).....	19
Figure 3: Percent Population Change by Ethnicity (2010-18)	19
Figure 4: Inbound/Outbound Migration Flows: Indian River County (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	20
Figure 5: Inbound/Outbound Migration Flows: Okeechobee County (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	20
Figure 6: Population Estimates by Race and Ethnicity (2018).....	21
Figure 7: Hispanic/Latino Population by Specific Origin (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	22
Figure 8: Overall Religiosity by State (2014)	26
Figure 9: Religious Composition of Adults in Florida	26
Figure 10: Households with Children Under Age 18 (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	28
Figure 11: Public School Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (2019-20).....	31
Figure 12: Unemployment Rates, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2020.....	33
Figure 13: Average Annual Wage Disparity: Florida vs. U.S. (2018).....	34
Figure 14: Poverty Guidelines (2020).....	36
Figure 15: Poverty by Race/Ethnicity (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	37
Figure 16: Poverty by Educational Attainment (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	37
Figure 17: Population in Poverty by Employment Rates (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	38
Figure 18: Poverty for Select Family Characteristics (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	39
Figure 19: Poverty for Select Family Characteristics with Children Under Age 5 (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	39
Figure 20: Racial Proportion of Children of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	40
Figure 21: Florida Job Losses Claims (Jan 2019 – Feb 2020)	44
Figure 22: Indian River County: People in Workforce (2018).....	45
Figure 23: Okeechobee County: People in Workforce (2018).....	46
Figure 24: Out of Reach (2019)	47
Figure 25: Point-In-Time Count (2019)	49
Figure 26: Broadband Coverage in Florida (2017)	52
Figure 27: Household Internet Access (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	52
Figure 28: Household Computer Device Ownership (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates).....	52
Figure 29: Leading Student Disabilities (2019-20)	54
Figure 30: Air Quality Index Levels.....	57
Figure 31: Health Insurance Coverage (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	58
Figure 32: Food Insecurity in United States (2018).....	65
Figure 33: Food Insecurity in Florida (2018)	65
Figure 34: Percentage of Reported Crimes by Type of Crime (2018).....	67
Figure 35: Opioid Prescription Rates (2018)	69
Figure 36: Number of Pills Distributed (2006-14)	69
Figure 37: Top Five Pharmacies Supplying Prescribed Pain Pills (2006-2014)	69
Figure 38: Children & Young Adults in Out-of-Home Care (2020)	72

MODULE 1: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (CA) AND HOW IS IT COMPLETED?

Introduction

This Community Assessment is a tool to make better program decisions, to determine the types of services most needed by families and children, and to help set long- and short-term program objectives. Head Start leadership staff studies the most important changes in the communities and counties they serve on a regular basis. However, the Community Assessment is the formal and far-reaching process performed every five years and updated annually.

Head Start promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through agencies in their local community. The Head Start program is authorized by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services. Head Start services are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

Head Start encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Head Start began as a program for preschoolers. Three- and 4-year-olds made up over 80 percent of the children served by Head Start last year.

Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Early Head Start programs are available to the family until the child turns 3 years old and is ready to transition into Head Start or another pre-K program. Early Head Start helps families care for their infants and toddlers, providing early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive services.

Local services are delivered by about 1,700 public and private nonprofit and for-profit agencies. These agencies receive grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Head Start agencies design services for children and families that meet the needs of their local community and the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Some cities, states, and federal programs offer funding to expand Head Start and Early Head Start to include more children within their communities.

Both Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer a variety of service models, depending on the needs of the local community. Programs may be based in centers, schools, or family child care homes. Early Head Start services are provided for at least six hours per day, whereas Head Start preschool services may be half-day (four hours) or full-day. Another program option is home-based services, in which a staff person visits children once a week in their own home and works with the parent as the child's primary teacher. Children and families who receive home-based services meet twice monthly with other enrolled families for a group learning experience facilitated by Head Start staff.

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office. The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office (MSHSCO) promotes high quality, direct service delivery through collaboration, coordination, and alignment of high-quality services for all MSHS grantees and delegate agencies. The MSHSCO serves a vital role in facilitating opportunities for and fostering new partnerships to build a sustainable, comprehensive early learning system for MSHS children, families, and communities.

MSHS children and their families are represented in key policies in all 38 states where MSHS programs are located, including at national, state, and local levels. Policy areas include school transitions; child care and early learning systems; professional development; and Regional Office priorities. Regional priorities include, but are not limited to, family and community partnerships; health, mental health, and oral health; and disabilities.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/about>

Head Start Performance Standards

[1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources.](#)

(b) Community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment). (1) To design a program that meets community needs, and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:

(A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));

(B) Children in foster care; and

(C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;

(ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;

(iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;

(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;

(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,

(vi) Strengths of the community.

(2) A program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes, including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten- (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.

(3) A program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program's eligible funded enrollment. A program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

Methodology: The Community Assessment Process

This Community Assessment offers detailed information about numerous topics, as well as an examination of the Head Start/Early Head Start service area's strengths and barriers relative to early childhood development. This is a comprehensive collection and analysis of key indicators to evaluate the needs and characteristics of eligible EOC Head Start children and families. This report not only fulfills EOC Head Start's federal requirement, but it becomes an integral part of the program's planning, implementation, and evaluation process.

Every five years the program conducts a comprehensive collection and analysis of key indicators to evaluate the needs and characteristics of eligible Head Start children and families. Every year after the comprehensive analysis, a follow-up assessment becomes the latest baseline to identify current community needs, design new plans, choose additional community partners, develop strategic collaborations, evaluate progress of past interventions, and make relevant decisions about program improvement changes expeditiously.

The Community Assessment methodology focuses on different levels of analysis. The following components of the Community Assessment represent key methods utilized to complete this report:

1. *Review of most recent secondary data on indicators that have an impact on the program and its service delivery model(s). (Below we offer a rationale and brief description for the use of Census Data: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates).*

The Community Assessment includes all the necessary and required topics established by the [Office of Head Start](#). Data collection and analysis may include, but is not limited to, the Program Information Report (PIR) data, family partnership agreements, child/family application data, child screening and outcomes data, census data, local and state planning department reports, state department data, local interagency committee reports, data from local school districts, child care resource and referral agencies, agencies serving children with disabilities, health care providers, and social service providers.

2. *Development and utilization of additional assessments, to include data observed or collected directly from firsthand experience using such methods as attitude / perception surveys, key informant interviews, community forums and/or focus group interviews.*

The Head Start program staff identifies and puts into action other methods to collect data from different sources and service areas. These include family needs assessment surveys and key informant surveys. The *Parent Community Needs Survey* is administered to identify needs and strengths of eligible Head Start families in the service area (see *Appendix A: Family Needs Survey*). The Head Start program staff also identifies and provides names of key informants to participate in surveys that will provide additional support to secondary data analysis findings. These key informant surveys support data findings, generate important implications and connections to program needs, and serve to generate strategic discussions in relation to program improvement based on empirical data (see *Appendix B: Key Informant Questions*).

This year's Community Assessment enhances and updates recent program assessment efforts that collected and reached groups of selected county and community experts and organizations. A consulting team, [Nolo Consulting](#), facilitated the Community Assessment process, which focused on promoting the effective participation of all Head Start staff members, as well as helping in the identification and

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 1: What is a Community Assessment (CA) and how is it completed?

Methodology: The Community Assessment Process

organization of the best data sources to comply with [Head Start Performance Standards](#). Prior to the collection and analysis of the required data, consultants and the Head Start director agreed to strategic priorities on data collection and analysis that are relevant to current issues and program priorities.

After completion of the data collection and analysis, leadership team members received a draft Community Assessment report. This provided an opportunity for staff of the EOC Head Start program to ask questions, clarify information presented, and offer additional feedback. Finally, Policy Council members must review and approve the final version of the Community Assessment.

Census Data: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate. A predominant data source used for this report is the [U.S. Census Bureau's](#) 2018 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimate. *“The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides data every year -- giving communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$450 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. In order to support local governments, communities, and federal programs, data was collected on the following topics: age and sex, race and ethnicity, family and relationships, income and benefits, health insurance, education, veteran status, disabilities, where you work and how you get there, and where you live and how much you pay for some essentials.”*¹

Table 1 is a chart describing the difference between 1-year and 5-year Estimates. Although the 5-year Estimate is the “least current” data set, it is the *most reliable*, and it allows for comparison and analysis of all counties, townships, or census tracts, which are geographic levels necessary when conducting an analysis of various populations, and/or other needs and indicators for Head Start programs.

1-year Estimates	5-year Estimates
12 months of collected data	60 months of collected data
Data for areas with populations of 65,000+	Data for all areas
Smallest sample size	Largest sample size
Less reliable than 3-year or 5-year	Most reliable
Most current data	Least current
Annually released: 2005-present	Annually released: 2009-present
Best used when	Best used when
Currency is more important than precision; Analyzing large populations	Precision is more important than currency; Analyzing very small populations; Examining tracts and other smaller geographies; Because 1-year Estimates are not available

Table 1: U.S. Census Data: ACS 1-year and 5-year Estimate Features

NOTE: Several reports refer to the *number or percent of women who had a birth in the past 12 months*. The ACS 5-year Estimates data set used in this Community Assessment provides an average of women who had a birth in the past 12 months from 2014 to 2018.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

State of the Grantee

MODULE 2: WHO DOES THIS CA BELONG TO AND WHICH COMMUNITIES DO THEY SERVE?

State of the Grantee

The [Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County \(EOC\)](#) is a private, non-profit 501c(3) organization chartered in 1965 for the purpose of improving the lives of low-income individuals and families in Indian River County. EOC began providing some services in Okeechobee County in 1995.



EOC is the official Community Action Agency for Indian River County. Community Action Agencies were part of the original War on Poverty programs which began in the mid-1960s. EOC is a member of the National Community Action Partnership and the State of Florida Association for Community Action (FACA).

Prior to the evolution that created the social service agencies now available in the community, EOC was the mainstay for providing health care, food, nutrition, education and other services for low-income children, families and the elderly in Indian River County. Throughout its 55-year history, EOC has demonstrated community action efforts by providing educational services to low-income children and their parents, advocating for the development of low-income housing, establishing food programs for migrant workers, providing seed dollars through federal funding to develop a residential rehabilitation program for those with substance abuse issues and helping to establish food programs and health care for low-income elderly.

Today, EOC operates the Head Start Program, Early Bird Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), REACH Family Self-Sufficiency Program, and Emergency Assistance Program in Indian River County. EOC provides Head Start and LIHEAP in Okeechobee County. EOC was the recipient of the United Way of Indian River County's Agency Excellence Award in 2018.

Mission:

To transition at-risk individuals and families from poverty to self-sufficiency through our agency programs and public/private partnerships.

Vision:

To be a partner in the creation of a community wherein low-income individuals and families, especially at-risk populations, will have the opportunity to become educated, self-sufficient, improve the conditions in which they live, and achieve their full potential.

Program Descriptions:

HEAD START: Head Start is a full-day, full-school-year, holistic early childhood development program for at-risk children, ages 3-5, from low-income families. Head Start prepares children for school readiness and is a Florida VPK (voluntary pre-kindergarten) provider. The program offers comprehensive education, health, nutrition, disability, and family engagement services to improve the physical, social, emotional, literacy, and cognitive development of children. EOC currently operates six Head Start Centers – five centers with 14 classrooms in Indian River County, and one center in Okeechobee County with five classrooms. Each of EOC's centers is licensed by the State of Florida and has earned the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. The program has a proven track

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

State of the Grantee

record of kindergarten readiness. Last year, Head Start served 374 children from 353 families. Head Start funds 340 slots.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County (ECO) Head Start Centers					
Center	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Funded Enrollment
Northside Head Start	1798 NW 9th Ave	Okeechobee	FL	34973	94
Fellsmere Head Start	1339 North Willow St	Fellsmere	FL	32948	36
Douglas Head Start	8445 64th Ave	Wabasso	FL	32970	94
St. Helens Head Start	3550 41st St	Vero Beach	FL	32967	54
Citrus Head Start	2771 4th St	Vero Beach	FL	32968	40
Indian River Academy Head Start	500 SW 20th St	Vero Beach	FL	32962	37

Table 2: EOC Center Locations

EARLY BIRD: The Early Bird Program mirrors the Head Start Program and was created in 2016 to meet a documented need in South Indian River County for additional early childhood development opportunities. EOC brought together community partners and leveraged funds to bring a portable classroom to the campus of Indian River Academy to serve 17 3-year-old children for whom there were no Head Start-funded slots available.

Two years later, in 2018, EOC raised additional funding to open a second Early Bird Classroom for 3-year-olds on the campus of Dodgertown Elementary School in Gifford—a school struggling with low achievement scores.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

State of the Grantee

In 2019, EOC was able to reallocate Head Start-funded slots to make Early Bird-Indian River Academy an official Head Start Classroom. EOC will do the same for the Dodgertown Classroom for the 2020-21 school year.

EOC is now in the process of raising funds to establish its first classroom to serve 2-year-olds at our St. Helen's Head Start Center in Gifford. The classroom capacity will be eight children. This privately funded program will be known as Early Bird-St. Helens.

REACH FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM: REACH is an employment training program which provides individual/family case management, money management, education, and short-term vocational training. Clients living at or near the poverty level learn to recognize their barriers to self-sufficiency and how to overcome them. The REACH Program helps determined, hard-working people achieve their educational and vocational goals, earn a living wage, and move away from poverty and public assistance to financial self-sufficiency. REACH helps put an end to generational poverty one family at a time.

REACH is a multi-step program. One of the last steps is attending the two-day workshop, "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World." The workshop is based on the works of Ruby Payne, Ph.D. It covers understanding poverty, self-assessment, hidden rules of economic class, the importance of language, potential resources, budgeting, money management, and developing a personal plan for building resources.

The final step is working with the Program Case Manager to develop and execute a self-sufficiency plan. A typical plan includes educational, professional, financial, and personal/ family goals. Financial assistance is provided for tuition and other costs related to short-term vocational training and college education. Based on needs identified in the self-sufficiency plan, assistance may also be provided for child care, housing, utility bills, and food. Due to limited resources, participation in this final step is offered only to workshop participants who desire to continue their education and demonstrate the highest ability to have a successful outcome. Participants work closely with the Case Manager to stay on track and meet their goals. REACH is funded primarily with Florida Community Service Block Grant funds. Last year the program provided services to 78 people, 19 of whom completed the two-day seminar and qualified for financial assistance with their education and case management.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Program: The LIHEAP Program assists high-energy, burdened, low-income households pay for home heating and cooling costs. LIHEAP offers two programs: Home Energy and Crisis Energy. Home Energy funds are provided once a year and are based on the client's gross income and household size. Crisis funding is available when a client experiences a financial crisis. LIHEAP is funded with Florida LIHEAP Block Grant Funds. Last year we provided non-emergency assistance to 1,459 households and emergency assistance to 1,069 households.

Emergency Assistance Program: The Emergency Assistance Program provides assistance to people experiencing a financial crisis. Assistance is provided for rent, mortgage, food, and obtaining a state identification card. Funding is provided by Florida Community Service Block Grant Funds. Last year, we provided rent/mortgage assistance to 152 households and food assistance to 37 households.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: As a community action agency, it is our business to work with community partners to make sure that needs of the low-income community are being met and to encourage economic self-sufficiency. We work with, or have worked with, the majority of organizations serving the

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

State of the Grantee

needs of low-income people in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. We are members of the Chamber of Commerce in both counties. Our staff and board members serve in a variety of volunteer capacities and are members of local service organizations.

Partnerships are key to our success. EOC relies on partnerships to realize substantial savings in the delivery of services and to meet the needs of low-income individuals and families. EOC partners with other agencies in the community to improve participation of eligible women, children and their families in programs such as Medicaid; Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT); Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Food Stamps, and public housing.

Rather than directly providing needed services to children and/or families, we embrace collaboration to develop a community with a stronger support service system for families since resources are scarce. A team approach provides a better utilization of funding resources and eliminates duplication of services. Many of these community partners also have representatives serving on our advisory councils.

Key partners for our REACH Program include Indian River State College, the Treasure Coast Technical College, and Career Source Research Coast.

Our Head Start Program partners with the school districts. The Indian River County School District has welcomed us to locate portable classrooms on their school campuses. They also provide meals to our students at those locations. We provide the District with an office for their Speech Therapist, and the Therapist provides services to our children. We are also working with the Okeechobee County School District, which has agreed to host two of our Head Start classrooms at their elementary school.

Other Head Start partners include Treasure Coast Community Health, which provides health and dental services; Treasure Coast Food Bank, which provides food to supplement the children at home on weekends and school vacations; The Lions Club, which provides vision and hearing screenings; and Tykes and Teens, which provides mental health services for children.

Head Start partners with parents in the education of their children. We connect them with resources and help them achieve family goals. Parents volunteer in the classroom and on field trips. Some also take advantage of leadership opportunities and serve on the Head Start Policy Council.

Our volunteers are also valued partners. Volunteer hours count toward our local match. We are a PNC Foundation Grow Up Great Partner. PNC Bank employees volunteer over 100 hours a year. They help in the classroom, in the office, and with fundraising events. They provide educational materials for the classroom. They also hold book, food, and clothing drives to benefit our clients. Each year, we hold a two-week-long Community Read. During this time, approximately 100 community members volunteer to come read to our Head Start Students. Many of these volunteers become regular classroom volunteers. United Way provides us with volunteers every year on United Way Day of Caring. We also have a number of businesses, homeowner association groups, and civic clubs that support our students by providing backpacks, holiday parties, and gifts for our children.

We work with a number of private funders in our area to enhance the services provided under state and federally funded programs with private community dollars and serve additional people.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

Geography

Geography

Florida is in the Southeastern region of the United States, bordered by Alabama, Georgia, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico. The state has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States. Florida has a total area of 65,755 square miles, which makes it the 22nd largest state. The state is divided into 67 counties; the state capital is Tallahassee, and the largest city by population and area is Jacksonville, located 165 miles east of Tallahassee. Below are characteristics of the current EOC service area:

Geographic

- Wetlands, mangroves, salt marshes
- Lake Okeechobee is the largest freshwater lake in the state; it is fed by the Kissimmee River
- Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge is part of the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Everglades Headwaters, which protect egrets and other birds from plume hunting

Natural Resources/Economy

- Ecotourism
- Lake Okeechobee is one of Audubon’s most unique animal sanctuaries
- Home to Piper Aircraft and Velocity Aircraft
- Headquarters for Indian River Citrus, locally harvested

Weatherⁱⁱ

- Annual rainfall – 53 inches
- Annual high temperature – 82 F
- Annual low temperature – 64 F

County	County Seat	Area	Bordering Counties	Cities / Municipalities
Indian River	Vero Beach	617 sq mi	Brevard, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Osceola	Fellsmere, Sebastian, Vero Beach, Indian River Shores, Orchid, Florida Ridge, Gifford, Roseland, South Beach, Vero Beach South, Wabasso, Wabasso Beach, West Vero Beach Corridor, Windsor, Winter Beach
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	892 sq mi	Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Polk, Osceola	Okeechobee, Cypress Quarters, Taylor Creek

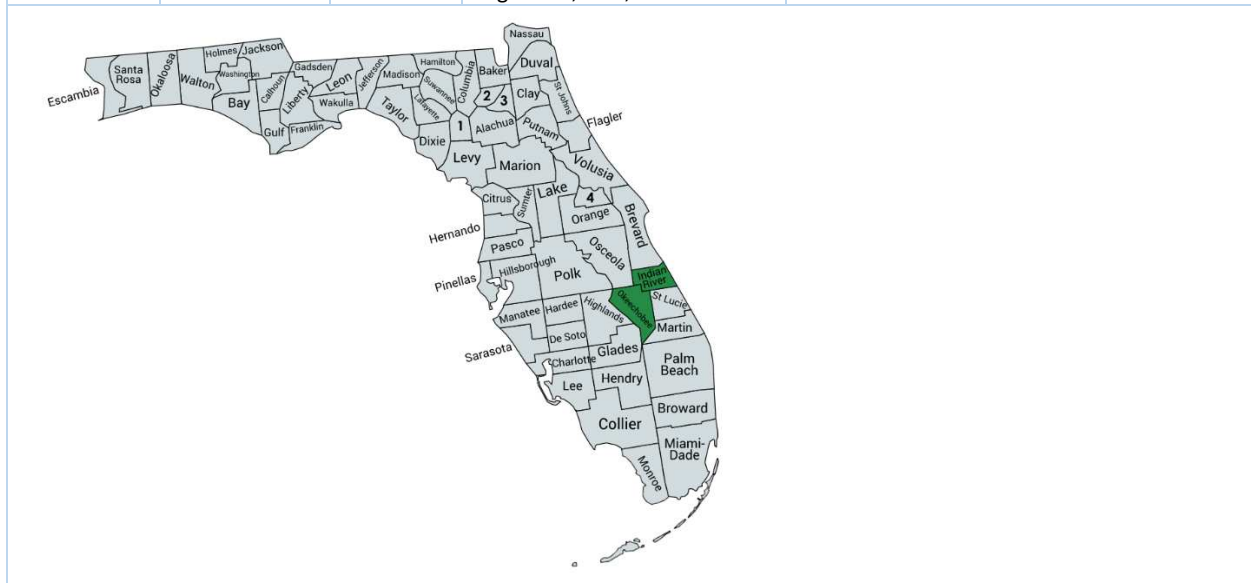


Table 3: EOC Service Area Counties

Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2019 PIR)



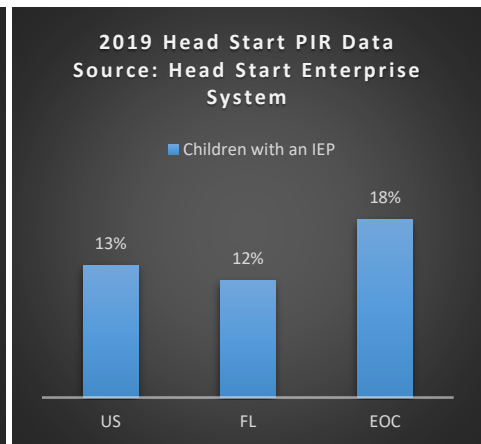
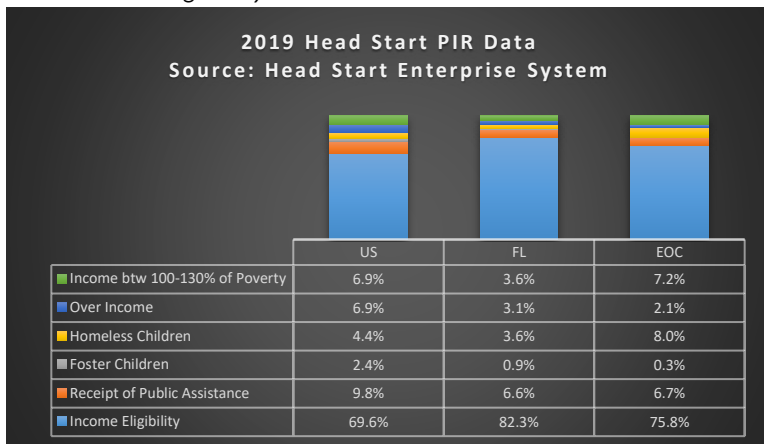
Office of Head Start / Head Start Enterprise System

The following graphs illustrate select 2019 Program Information Report (PIR) data, comparing EOC Head Start data with data for programs in Florida and the United States.

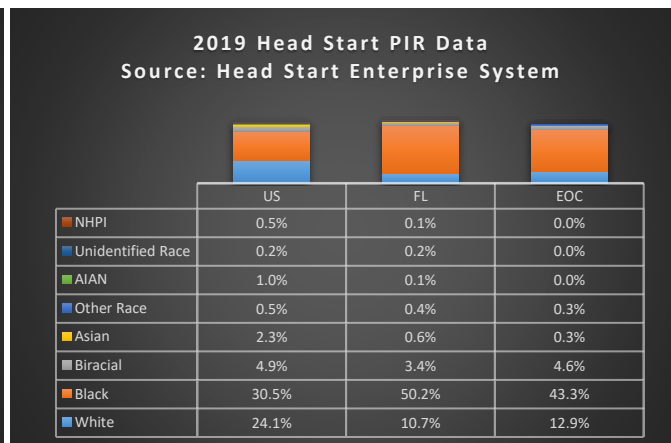
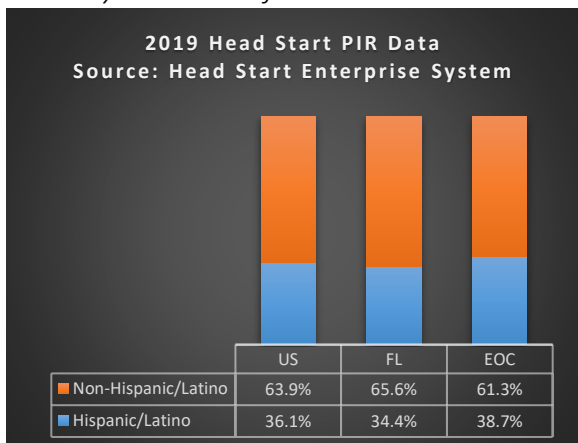
Note: All data was collected from the [HSES Enterprise System](#); some discrepancies are noted between the PDF reports released and the Excel Zip File Download. Data reflected in this section of the CA is collected from the 2019 excel Zip File Download.

	United States	Florida	Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County (EOC)
Total ACF Funded Enrollment	652,422	31,661	340
Cumulative Enrollment	755,709	35,942	388

Enrollment Eligibility and Children with Disabilities



Ethnicity and Race of Children and Families



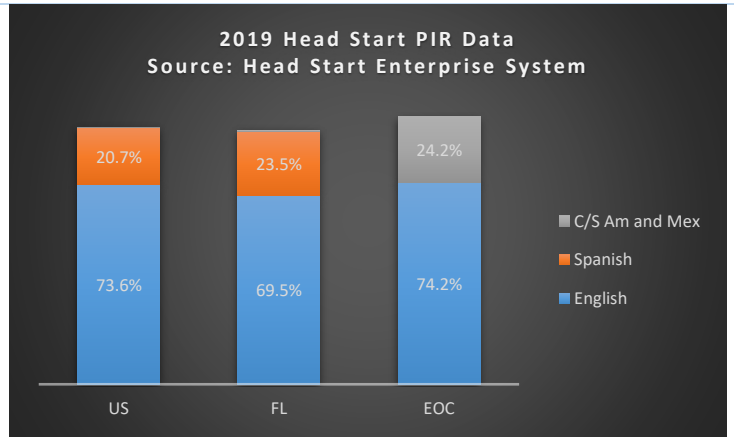
Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

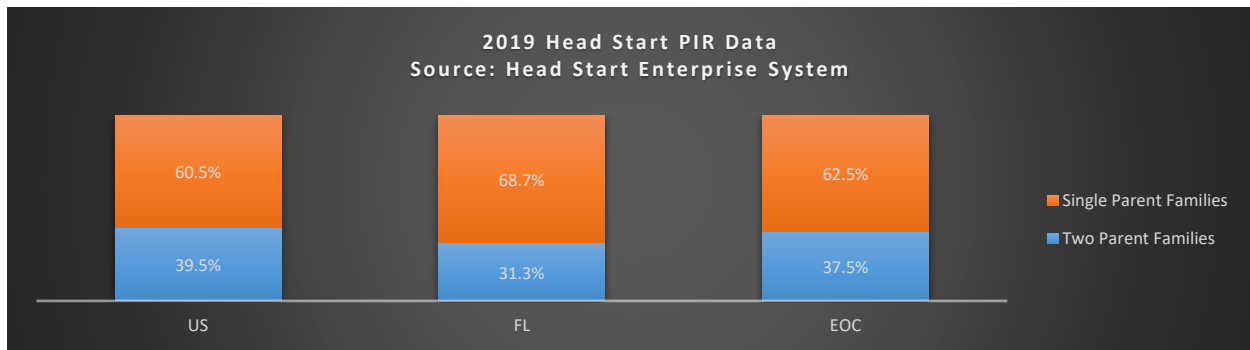
Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2019 PIR)

Languages Spoken by Children and Families

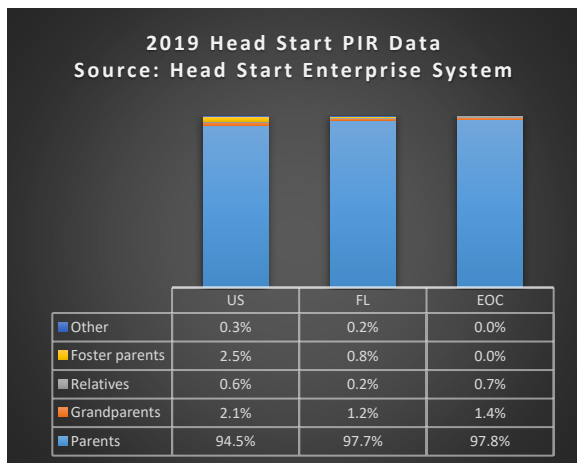
Languages Spoken by Children and Families			
	United States	Florida	EOC
English	556,043	24,987	288
Spanish	156,552	8,447	0
C/S Am and Mex	1,112	156	94
Caribbean	3,236	1,848	2
Mid-Eastern / S Asian	10,815	256	3
E Asian	8,797	54	1
Native N Am / Alaska Native	148	0	0
Pac Island	2,356	2	0
European / Slavic	5,804	125	0
African	7,451	25	0
Unspecified	2,532	31	0
Other	863	11	0



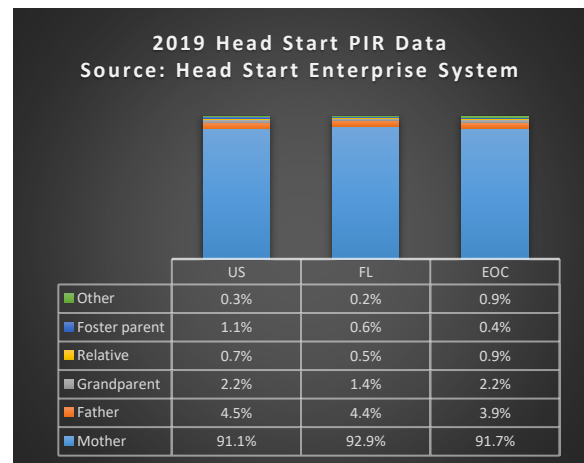
Families



Of the number of two-parent families, the number in which the parent/guardian figures are best described as:



Of the number of single-parent families, the number in which the parent/guardian figures are best described as:

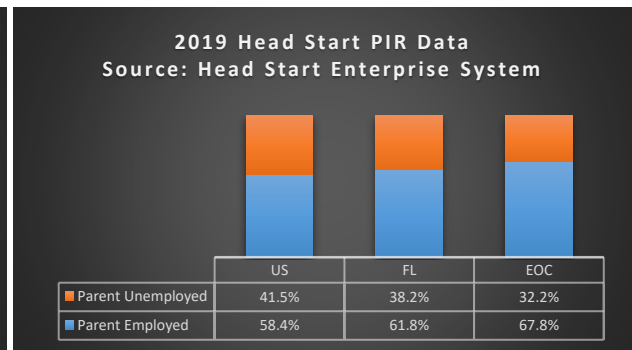
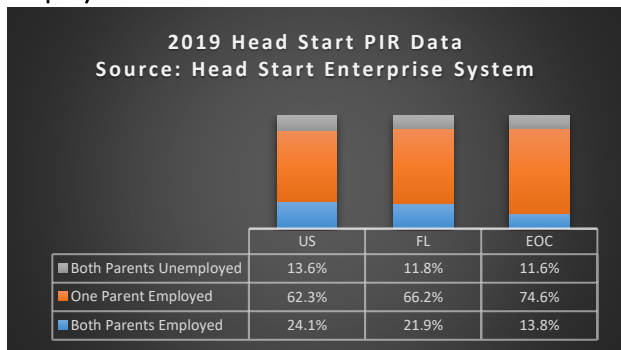


Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

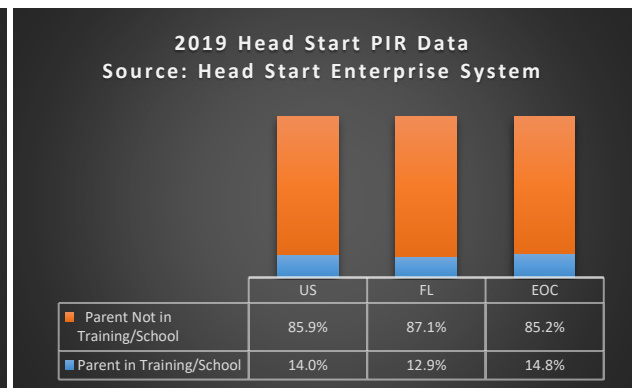
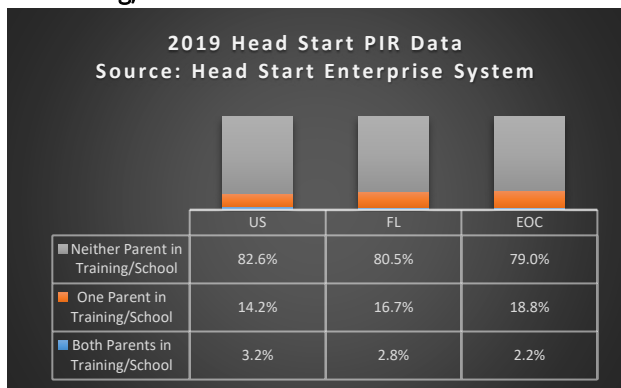
MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2019 PIR)

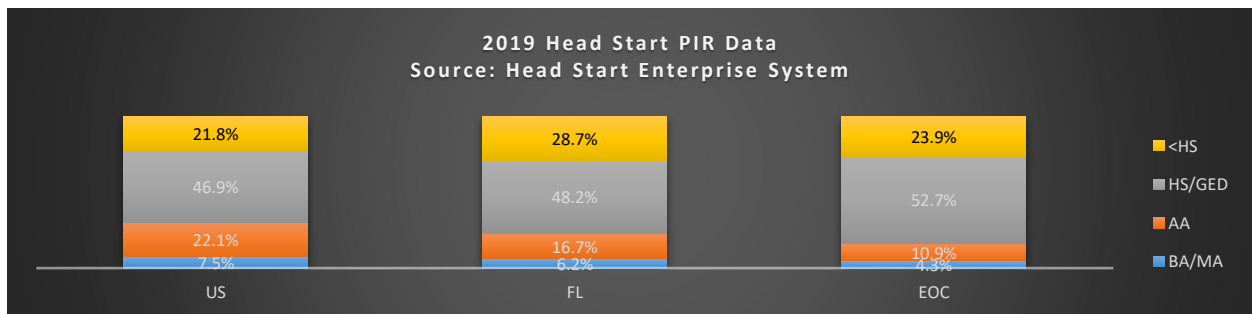
Employment



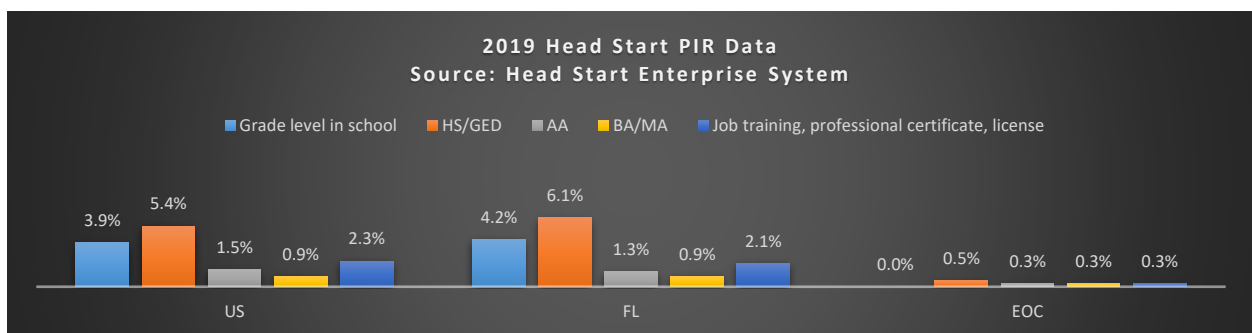
In Training/School



Educational Attainment



Of the total number of all families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian completed:

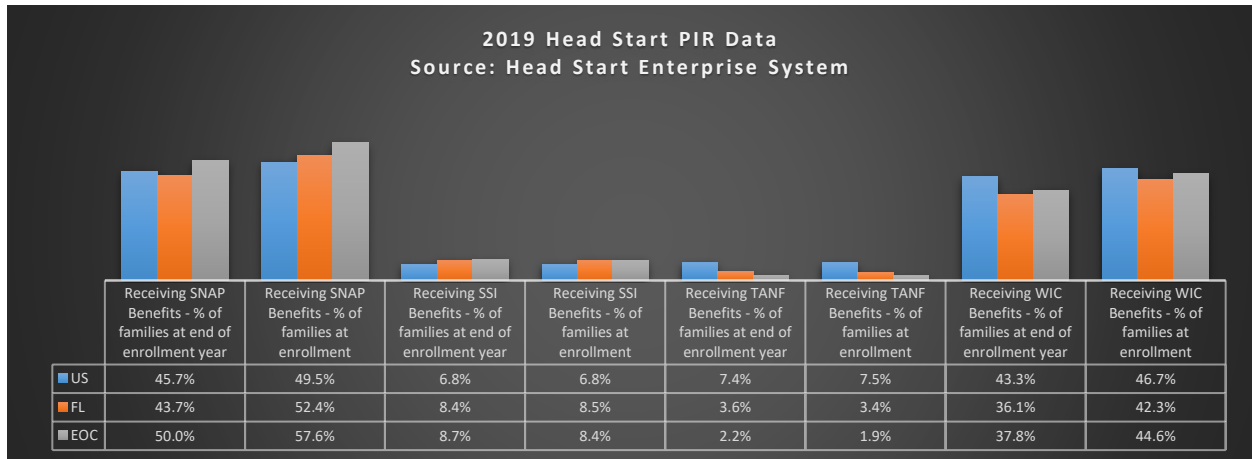


Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

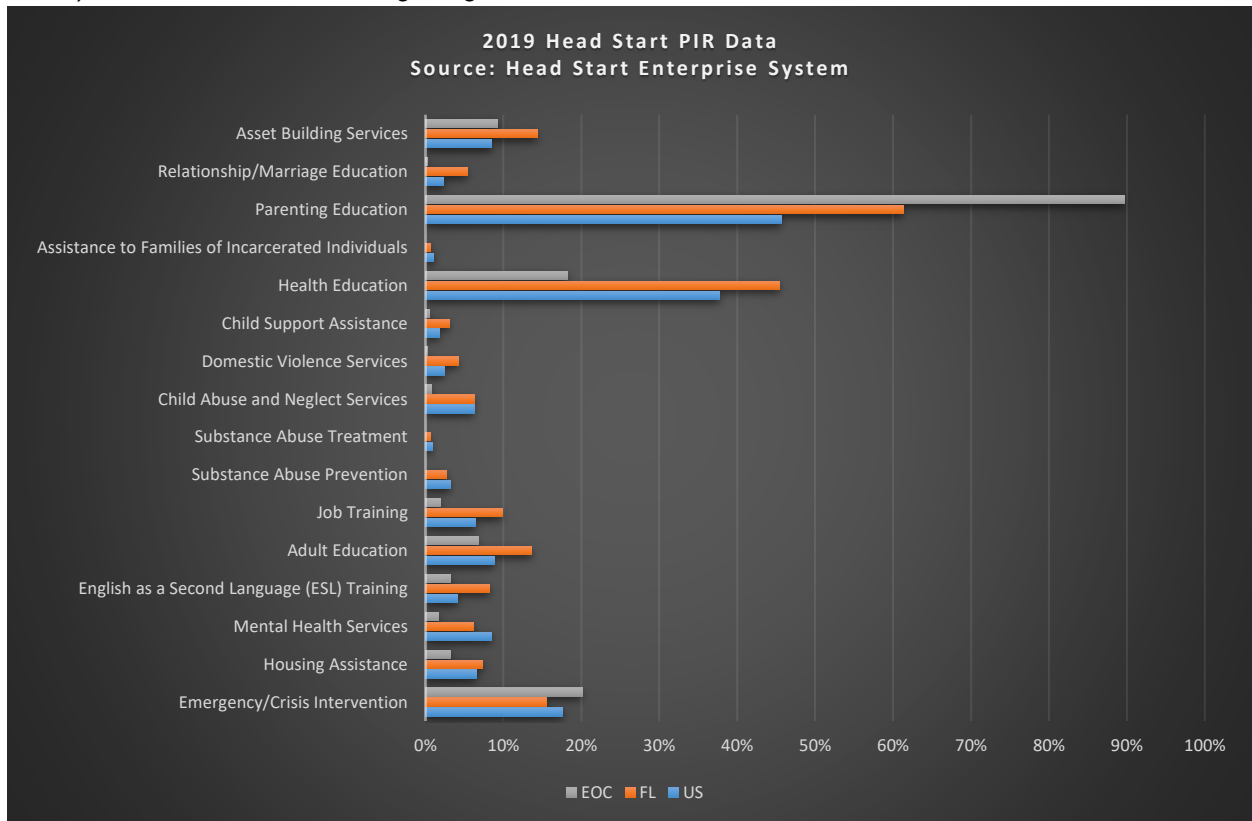
MODULE 2: Who does this CA belong to and which communities do they serve?

Characteristics of HS/EHS Families (2019 PIR)

Public Assistance



Family Services Received During Program Year



MODULE 3: WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITIES?

Population and Demographic Data

Population Growth and Change

Based on the 2010 Census, the total population of Florida was 18,801,310, up 17.6 percent from 15,982,378 in 2000. Census estimates from 2019 indicate that Florida’s population grew by an additional 14.2 percent (compared with 6.3 percent for the United States) from 2010 to 2019, reaching more than 21 million residents (Table 4). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, the population increased by 15.9 and 5.4 percent, respectively.

Percent Population Change (2010-19) Source: U.S. Census			
	Total Population (2010 Census)	Population Estimate (Jul 1, 2019)	Percent Change
United States	308,745,538	328,239,523	6.3%
Florida	18,801,310	21,477,737	14.2%
Indian River County	138,028	159,923	15.9%
Okeechobee County	39,996	42,168	5.4%

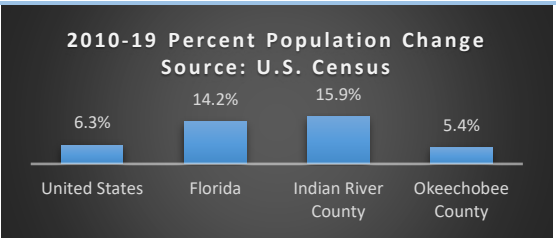


Table 4: Population Change (2010-19)

The nine-year population change in the United States was mostly due to a natural increase (births minus deaths), 59.7 percent. The population change in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties was mostly due to net in-migration (Fig 1 and Table 5). *NOTE: The percentages of natural increase and net migration do not add up to 100 for Florida due to data reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.*

In demographics, the rate of **natural increase** is the crude birth rate minus the crude death rate of a population.

Net migration rate is the difference of immigrants and emigrants of an area in a period of time, divided (usually) per 1,000 inhabitants (considered on midterm population). A positive value represents more people entering the area than leaving it, while a negative value means more people leaving than entering.

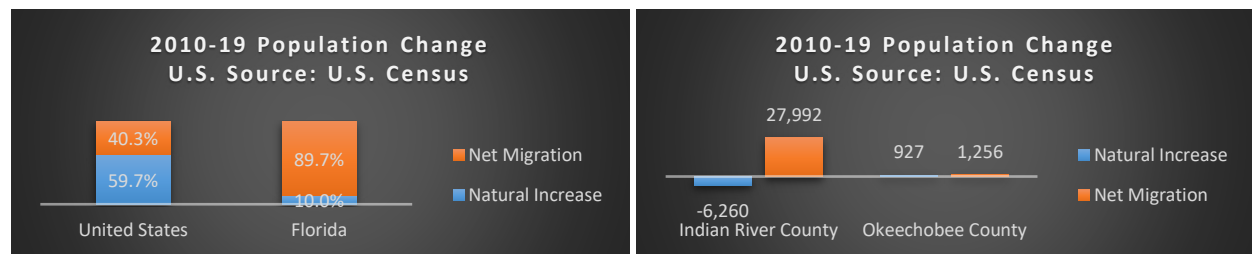


Figure 1: Natural Increase vs. Net Migration (2010-19)

Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019) Source: U.S. Census							
	Population Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
United States	19,481,418	11,621,558	36,275,313	24,653,755	7,859,860	7,859,860	(X)
Florida	2,673,173	266,255	2,025,141	1,758,886	2,396,653	1,107,039	1,289,614
Indian River County	21,895	-6,260	11,703	17,963	27,992	2,343	25,649
Okeechobee County	2,172	927	4,912	3,985	1,256	666	590

Table 5: Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change (2010-19)

Population Change by Race/Ethnicity

NOTE: Population Change by Race/Ethnicity from 2010 to 2019 will be released June 2020.

From 2010 to 2018, the overall population increased by 6 percent in the United States. However, there are significant differences in the percentage increases for different races and ethnicities. For example, in the United States from 2010 to 2018, the white population increased by only 3.4 percent, and the black/African American population increased by 8.8 percent. The Asian and biracial (two or more) populations increased by 27.5 and 28.1 percent, respectively (Fig 2).

In Florida and Okeechobee County, the biracial population grew the most, by 39.6 and 34.5 percent, correspondingly. In Indian River County, the Asian population grew the most, by 44.7 percent. In Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, the white population grew the least, by 11.2, 12.7, and 1.9 percent respectively.

NOTE: Although the biracial and Asian populations appear to have increased significantly in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, the actual populations, or specific numbers, are small (see section: [Racial and Ethnic Characteristics](#)). The growth of the American Indian Alaskan Native (AIAN) and Native Hawaiian Pacific Island (NHPI) populations are not depicted, due to the small population size in the geographic location studied.

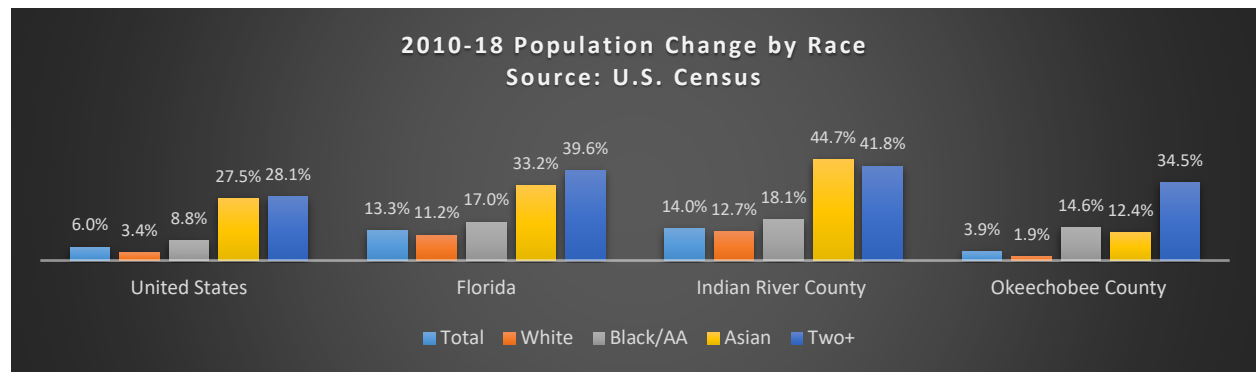


Figure 2: Percent Population Change by Race (2010-18)

In the United States, the non-Hispanic/Latino population grew by 3.5 percent over the eight-year period, and the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 18.6 percent (Fig 3). In Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties the non-Hispanic population grew by 8, 12.1, and 1.7 percent, respectively; the Hispanic/Latino population grew by 31.7, 29.1, and 10.6 percent, correspondingly.

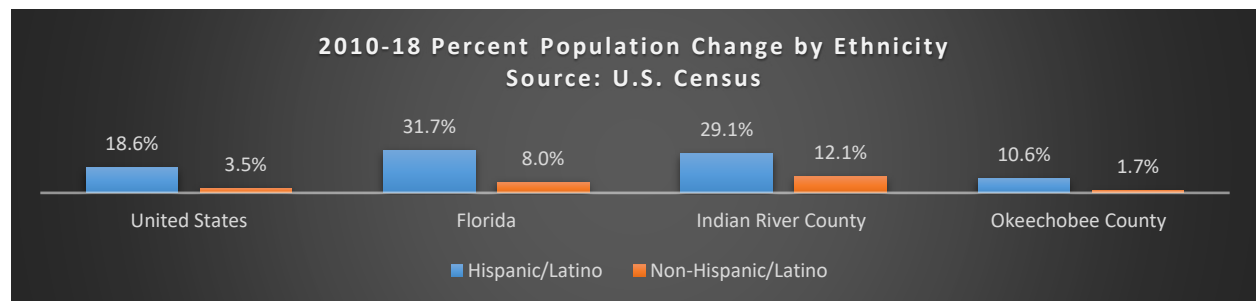


Figure 3: Percent Population Change by Ethnicity (2010-18)

Inbound and Outbound Migration Flows

The following figures show the inbound and outbound flows of Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. The following data source allows for deeper analysis or exploration of the migration patterns:

<https://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov>

Based on 2013-17 data, inbound migration to Indian River County was primarily from St. Lucie, Hillsborough and Brevard Counties, Florida. Outbound migration from Indian River County was predominantly to St. Lucie, Brevard and Broward Counties, Florida.

County Statistics (2013-2017)	
Indian River County, Florida	
Population (1 yr and over):	146,730
Movers from a different state:	5,344
Movers to a different state:	2,742
Movers from a different county, same state:	5,444
Movers to a different county, same state:	3,706
Movers from abroad:	942

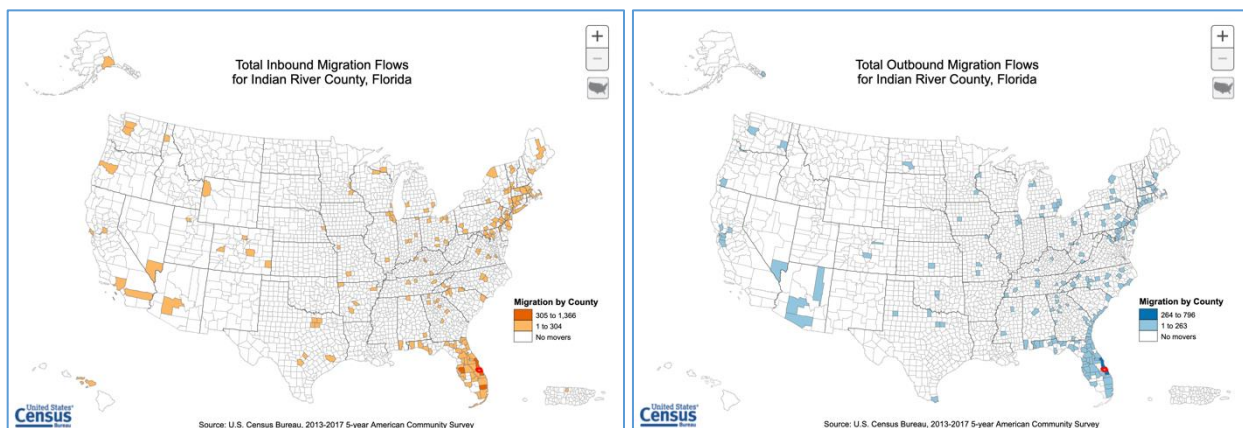


Figure 4: Inbound/Outbound Migration Flows: Indian River County (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Based on 2013-17 data, inbound migration to Okeechobee County was primarily from St. Lucie, Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties, Florida. Outbound migration from Okeechobee County was predominantly to Palm Beach, Putnam and Martin Counties, Florida.

County Statistics (2013-2017)	
Okeechobee County, Florida	
Population (1 yr and over):	39,700
Movers from a different state:	733
Movers to a different state:	452
Movers from a different county, same state:	1,188
Movers to a different county, same state:	1,310
Movers from abroad:	42

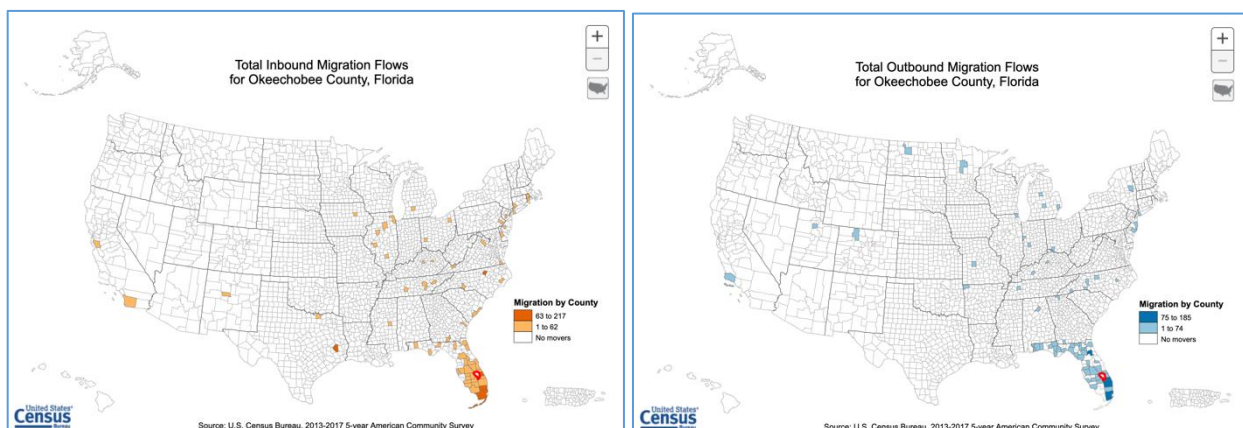


Figure 5: Inbound/Outbound Migration Flows: Okeechobee County (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics

Based on 2018 population estimates, in the United States, approximately three out of four residents are white, 76.5 percent, 13.4 percent are black/African American, 5.9 percent are Asian, and 2.7 percent identify as having two or more races.

Similarly, in Florida approximately three out of four residents are white, 77.3 percent; 16.9 percent are black/African American, 3 percent are Asian, and 2.2 percent identify as having two or more races (Fig 6). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties more than four out of five residents are white, 86.9 and 86.8, percent, respectively, and 9.5 and 9 percent, respectively, are black/African American.

In the United States, 18.3 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino; in Florida 26.1 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino (Fig 6). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 12.7 and 25.5 percent of the population, respectively, is Hispanic/Latino.

The U.S. Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts.

What is race?

The Census Bureau defines race as a person’s self-identification with one or more social groups. An individual can report as White, Black/African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or some other race. Survey respondents may report multiple races.

What is ethnicity?

Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For this reason, ethnicity is broken out in two categories, Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics may report as any race.

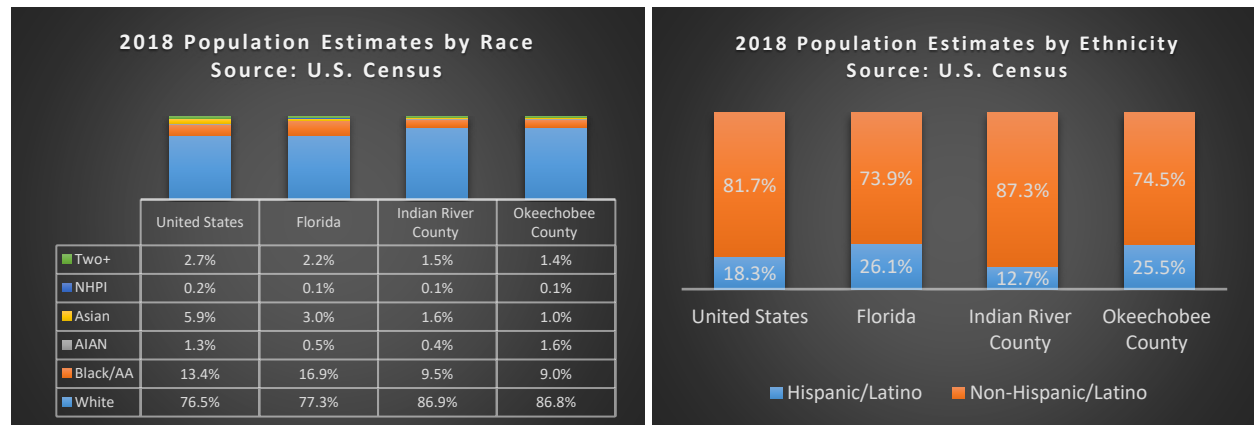


Figure 6: Population Estimates by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

“White” refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

“Black or African American” refers to a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

“American Indian or Alaska Native” refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

“Asian” refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

“Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

“Some Other Race” includes all other responses not included in the White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander race categories described above. Respondents reporting entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic or Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Spanish) in response to the race question are included in this category.

“Hispanic or Latino” refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Diversity in Hispanic/Latino Population

As mentioned before, the Hispanic/Latino population in Florida is 26.1 percent, 12.7 percent in Indian River County, and 25.5 percent in Okeechobee County. Of the Hispanic/Latino population, 62.8 percent in the United States is of Mexican origin. In Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, the Hispanic/Latino population of Mexican origin is 13.8, 43.6, and 75.8 percent, respectively.

In the United States, the Hispanic/Latino population of Cuban origin is 3.9 percent. The percentage of the Hispanic/Latino population of Cuban origin is significantly higher in Florida, at 28.7 percent. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 9.8 and 10.3 percent of the Hispanic/Latino population, respectively, is of Cuban origin.

Puerto Ricans make up 21.3 percent of the Hispanic/Latino population in Florida, while in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, they account for 14.6 and 5 percent of the Hispanic/Latino population, respectively, (Fig 7).

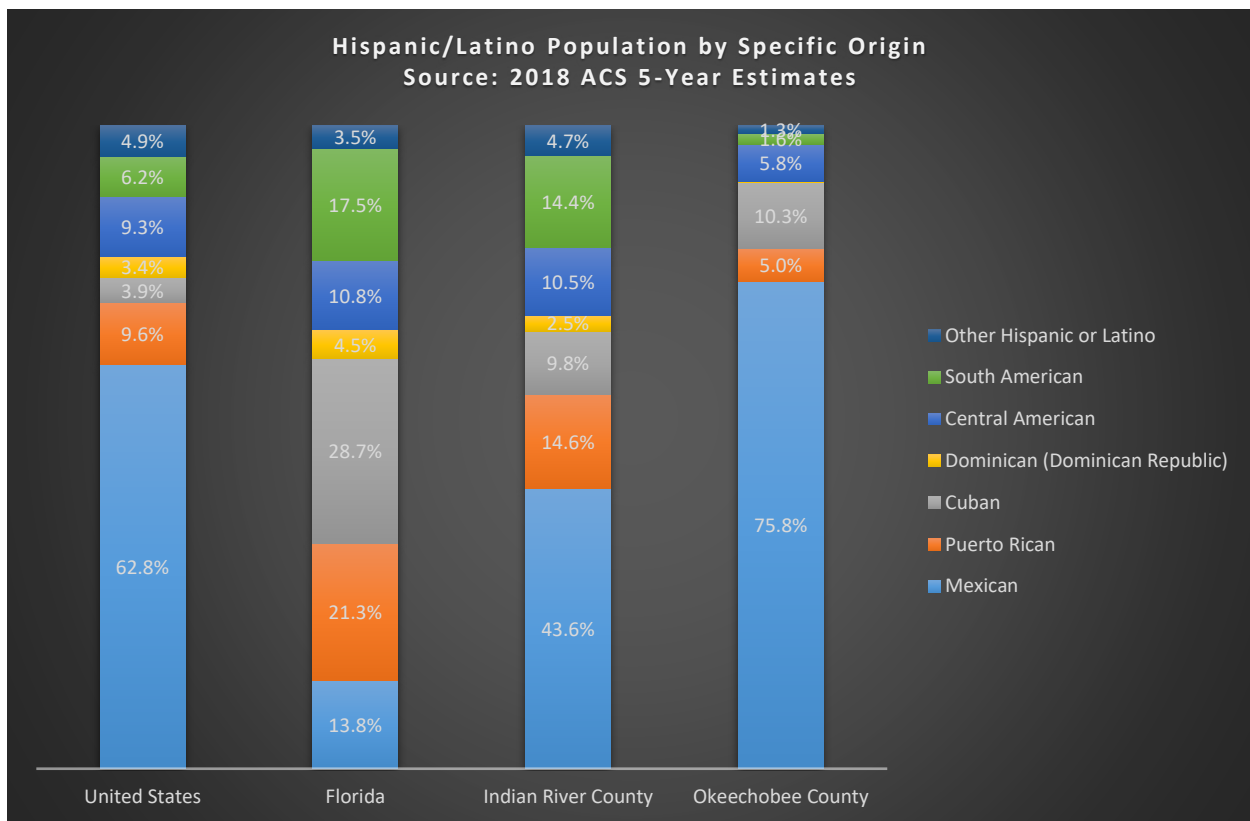


Figure 7: Hispanic/Latino Population by Specific Origin (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Immigrants and Refugees

Refugee resettlement in the U.S. recently dropped to historic lows, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of State Department data.ⁱⁱⁱ As a result, the U.S. is no longer the world's top country for refugee admissions.^{iv} It previously led the world on this measure for decades, admitting more refugees each year than all other countries combined. The decline in U.S. refugee admissions comes at a time when the number of refugees worldwide has reached the highest levels since World War II.^v



Florida is home to a growing immigrant community that includes tens of thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ([DACA](#)) recipients. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ([USCIS](#)) 27,000 active DACA recipients lived in Florida as of 2019, and an additional 79,000 Florida residents lived without DACA status. In June of 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to allow the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to continue. The Court found that the Trump administration's decision to terminate the program was "arbitrary and capricious" under the Administrative Procedures Act and failed to consider the hardship to DACA recipients. The decision restores the DACA program completely. Both initial and renewal applications should be accepted by USCIS.

The executive branch of government has called for a shift in the American immigration system. The new policy focus favors a visa system based on employability, with a preference for those who are highly skilled, like doctors, engineers or entrepreneurs.

On Feb. 24, 2020, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) implemented the "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds" final rule nationwide, rejecting applications or petitions, keeping immigrants from settling in the U.S., or keeping them from extending their stays, if their families have used any of a broad variety of local, state, or federal social services to which they are legally entitled. This includes enrolling their U.S.-born children in Head Start or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In a nation where one in four children under age 6 has a foreign-born parent (and 96 percent of those children are themselves U.S. citizens), the policy has the potential to affect a significant percentage of the nearly 1 million U.S. children enrolled in Head Start.^{vi}

The new regulation, entitled "[Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds](#)" makes it possible for the government to deny visas and green cards to immigrants who have used public services that are open to everyone regardless of immigration status.^{vii} In other words, the regulation forces them to choose between taking advantage of available social services, and their family's future ability to stay in the United States permanently. The regulation vastly expands the federal government's power to bar an immigrant from entering the United States by labeling the immigrant a likely "public charge."

Previously, the government could only consider the use of cash benefits, like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, in "public charge" determinations. Under the new rule, federal officials have the power to look at the use of other benefits as well: Some "educational benefits," including use of Head Start for children, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), use of any subsidies, or purchase of subsidized insurance, under the Affordable Care Act, food stamps, WIC assistance, housing benefits, like Section 8, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Transit vouchers.

According to the [Florida Department of Children and Families](#) (DCF), Florida historically housed the largest refugee population in the nation. During the 2019 federal fiscal year (Oct 2018-Sept 2019), 15,322 individuals arrived and/or became eligible for Refugee Services in Florida, up from FY 2017-18 (8,029), yet still significantly lower than FY 2016-17 (33,279) and FY 2015-16 (62,223).

Of the more than 15,000 new arrivals, 2.9 percent were children, ages 0-5, a total of 444 children.^{viii} Indian River County received only five new arrivals during FY 2018-19; Okeechobee County did not report receiving any new arrivals during FYI 2018-19.

Asylee. A person granted asylum in the United States and, if applicable, his/her derivative family member(s) that accompanied or followed-to-join. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States.

Immigrant. The immigration and Nationality Act defines an immigrant as any alien who is not a nonimmigrant. Generally, an immigrant intends to permanently reside in the U.S. in lawful or unlawful presence.

Refugee. Any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees are exempt from numerical limitations (though worldwide ceilings by geographic area are set annually by the President) and are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent residence after one year of continuous presence in the United States. Refugee Services (RS) and providers sometimes use the term to refer to all RS-eligible populations.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Population and Demographic Data

Language

In the United States, more than one in four persons between the ages of 5 and 17, and one in five persons, ages 18-plus, living in poverty, speak Spanish as their primary language, 26.6 and 18.7 percent, respectively. In Florida, a higher proportion of the population in poverty speaks Spanish – 30.4 percent of those ages 5 to 17, and 27.6 percent of those ages 18 and older.

In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, the proportion of those in poverty who speak Spanish is 26.2 and 42.8 percent, respectively, for those between the ages of 5 and 17 (Table 6), and 15.5 and 22.8 percent for those 18 years and older, correspondingly (Table 7).

Languages Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty							
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates							
	Income in the past 12 months < poverty level	5 to 17 years	Only English	Spanish	Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Island languages	Other languages
United States	40,063,981	9,923,016	66.8%	26.6%	2.6%	1.9%	2.0%
Florida	2,724,088	610,742	62.7%	30.4%	5.2%	0.9%	0.8%
Indian River County	17,137	3,760	69.4%	26.2%	3.8%	5.9%	0.0%
Okeechobee County	7,467	2,162	56.4%	42.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 6: Languages Spoken by Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Languages Spoken by Population Ages 18+ in Poverty							
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates							
	Income in the past 12 months < poverty level	18 years and over	Only English	Spanish	Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Island languages	Other languages
United States	40,063,981	30,140,965	72.0%	18.7%	3.7%	3.8%	1.9%
Florida	2,724,088	2,113,346	63.6%	27.6%	6.2%	1.7%	1.0%
Indian River County	17,137	13,377	77.3%	15.5%	5.0%	1.7%	0.5%
Okeechobee County	7,467	5,305	75.2%	22.8%	0.7%	1.7%	0.2%

Table 7: Languages Spoken by Population Age 18+ in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Linguistic Isolation

Based on U.S. census data, in Florida, 6.9 percent of all households (both natives and the foreign-born) were linguistically isolated, meaning that all persons, age 14 and over, in the household have limited English proficiency (LEP). Of Spanish-speaking households, however, 26.5 percent were linguistically isolated. Compared with Florida, linguistic isolation for households that speak Spanish in Indian River County was lower, 18.4 percent, and higher in Okeechobee County, 35.5 percent (Table 8).

Percent Limited English-Speaking Households					
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates					
	All households	Households speaking --			
		Spanish	Other Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Island languages	Other languages
United States	4.4%	21.9%	15.2%	25.3%	16.9%
Florida	6.9%	26.5%	17.3%	19.8%	13.1%
Indian River County	2.3%	18.4%	17.6%	24.7%	8.1%
Okeechobee County	5.8%	35.5%	9.0%	10.0%	17.8%

Table 8: Linguistic Isolation (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Religion

Mississippi, Alabama and other Southern states are among the most highly religious states in the nation, while New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine in New England are among the least devout, according to some of the key measures used to determine levels of religiosity in the Pew Research Center’s most recent **Religious Landscape Study**.

Worship attendance, prayer frequency, belief in God and the self-described importance of religion in one’s life were the four measures of religious observance used by Pew to determine the rankings. Sixty-four percent of people in Florida say they believe in God with absolute certainty, and 56 percent say they pray daily. [Florida](#) is the 22nd most religious state in the nation.^{ix} Regarding religions in Florida, the overwhelming majority are Christians (70 percent). Of the religious denominations in the state, Evangelical Protestants are the largest group (24 percent).^x

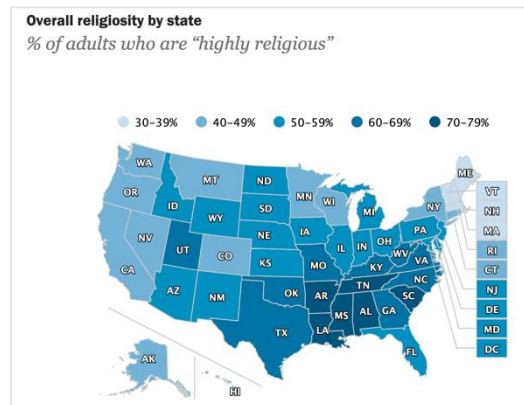


Figure 8: Overall Religiosity by State (2014)

Religious composition of adults in Florida	
Christian	70%
▶ Evangelical Protestant	24%
▶ Mainline Protestant	14%
▶ Historically Black Protestant	8%
Catholic	21%
▶ Mormon	1%
▶ Orthodox Christian	< 1%
Jehovah's Witness	1%
▶ Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	6%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	< 1%
Buddhist	< 1%
Hindu	< 1%
Other World Religions	< 1%
▶ Other Faiths	2%
Unaffiliated (religious "nones")	24%
Atheist	3%
Agnostic	4%
▶ Nothing in particular	17%
Don't know	< 1%

Figure 9: Religious Composition of Adults in Florida

According to the study, the U.S. public is becoming less religious in modest overall rates of belief and practice, but religiously affiliated Americans are as observant as in years past. There is a great deal of stability in the U.S. religious landscape. The recent decrease in religious beliefs and behaviors is attributable to the growing minority of Americans, particularly in the Millennial generation, who say they do not belong to any organized faith. Among the three-quarters of U.S. adults who claim a religion, there has been no discernible drop in most measures of religious commitment. Indeed, by some conventional measures, religiously affiliated Americans are more devout than they were a few years ago.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Population and Demographic Data

Sex and Age

U.S. Census data indicate that approximately 49.2 percent of the United States’ population is male, and 50.8 percent is female; this is not significantly different for Florida and Indian River County. In Okeechobee County, however, 53.9 percent of the population is male, and 46.1 percent is female.

The youngest residents, those below age 5, make up 6.1 percent of the United States population and 5.4 percent in Florida. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, the population of those below the age of 5 is 4.3 and 5.9 percent, respectively.

The median age in Florida is higher than for the United States, 41.9 years, compared with 37.9 years. The median age in Indian River County is higher than Florida, 52.9 years, and lower in Okeechobee County, 41.1 years.

Population by Sex and Age				
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
	Male	Female	Under 5 years	Median age (years)
United States	49.2%	50.8%	6.1%	37.9
Florida	48.9%	51.1%	5.4%	41.9
Indian River County	47.9%	52.1%	4.3%	52.9
Okeechobee County	53.9%	46.1%	5.9%	41.1

Table 9: Population by Sex and Age (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Households

A **family** is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. The number of families is equal to the number of family households. However, the count of family members differs from the count of family household members because family household members include any non-relatives living in the household.

A **family household** is a household maintained by a householder who is in a family (as defined above) and includes any unrelated people (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members; however, in that the family household members include all people living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives. See the definition of family.

A **nonfamily household** consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household), or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.

In the United States, more than 33 million family households have children under the age of 18, of which 1.8 million are in Florida. On average, approximately two out of three households in the United States and Florida are family households, 65.7 and 64.5 percent, respectively. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 62.3 and 68.8 percent, respectively, are family households (Table 10).

Total Households						
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates						
	Total households	Family households (families)		Nonfamily households		Total Family Households with Children Under Age 18
United States	119,730,128	78,697,103	65.7%	41,033,025	34.3%	33,435,099
Florida	7,621,760	4,917,841	64.5%	2,703,919	35.5%	1,820,936
Indian River County	57,403	35,755	62.3%	21,648	37.7%	8,468
Okeechobee County	13,759	9,464	68.8%	4,295	31.2%	3,684

Table 10: Total Households (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Of the total family households, in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, 15.3, 10.9, and 16.8 percent, respectively, are married-couple families with children under the age of 18; 2.1, 1.1, and 3.3 percent, correspondingly, are families with a male householder (no wife present) with children under age 18; and 6.4, 2.8, and 6.7 percent, respectively, are families with a female householder (no husband present) with children under age 18 (Fig 10).

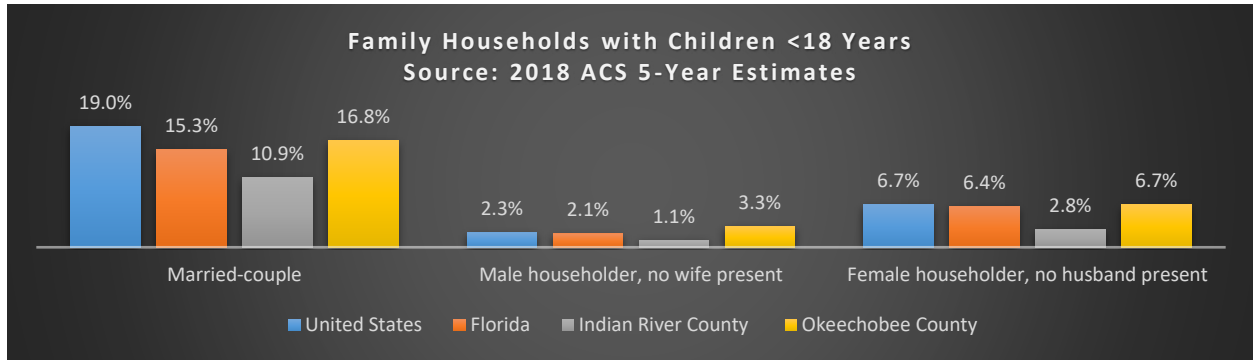


Figure 10: Households with Children Under Age 18 (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Grandparents and Grandchildren

In Florida, nearly 493,000 grandparents live with their grandchildren (under age 18), of which 30.4 percent, or nearly 150,000 grandparents, are responsible for the care of their grandchildren. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 2,944 and 850 grandparents, respectively, live with their grandchildren (under age 18), of which 1,074 (36.5 percent) and 444 (52.2 percent) of these grandparents, respectively, are responsible for the care of their grandchildren (Table 11).

An increasing number of children in the United States live in households headed by a grandparent. This trend is due to increasing numbers of single parent families, the high rate of divorce, teenage pregnancies, incarcerations of parents, substance abuse by parents, illness, disability or death of parents, parental abuse or neglect. In many of these homes, neither of the child's biological parents is present. In most cases, children taken care of by grandparents move in with them as infants or preschoolers and remain with them for five years or more. These grandparents are a diverse group, ranging in age from their 30s to their 70s. Many grandparents are ready to simplify their lives and slow down. Giving that up and taking over the responsibilities of being a primary caregiver again can stir up many feelings, including grief, anger, loss, resentment and possibly guilt. The transition can be very stressful, and the emotional and financial burdens can be significant. Culture shock at having to deal with children and adolescents of a different generation can be great. Grandparent-headed households have a significantly higher poverty rate than other kinds of family units.

--- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Own Grandchildren		
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates		
	Grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years	# responsible for grandchildren
United States	7,249,122	2,520,926 (34.8%)
Florida	492,913	149,817 (30.4%)
Indian River County	2,944	1,074 (36.5%)
Okeechobee County	850	444 (52.2%)

Table 11: Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Own Grandchildren (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

The number of grandchildren under the age of 18 living with a grandparent householder in Florida exceeds 366,000, accounting for 8.8 percent of children under 18. Approximately 43.3 percent of those children are under the age of 6; 32.9 percent are between the ages of 6 and 11, and 23.8 percent are between 12 and 17 (Table 12). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, there are 25,389 and 8,859 children under the age of 18, respectively. Of the children under 18 in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 11.5 and 12.9 percent, correspondingly, live with their grandparents; 40.4 and 33.8 percent of these children, respectively, are under age 6.

Grandchildren <18 Living with a Grandparent Householder					
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates					
	Total Children Under 18	Grandchildren Living with Grandparent Householder	Grandchildren Living with Grandparent by Age		
			< 6 years	6 to 11 years	12 to 17 years
United States	73,553,240	5,815,473 (7.9%)	2,559,623	1,878,897	1,376,953
Florida	4,148,552	366,905 (8.8%)	158,952	120,730	87,223
Indian River County	25,389	2,925 (11.5%)	1,183	989	753
Okeechobee County	8,859	1,144 (12.9%)	387	470	287

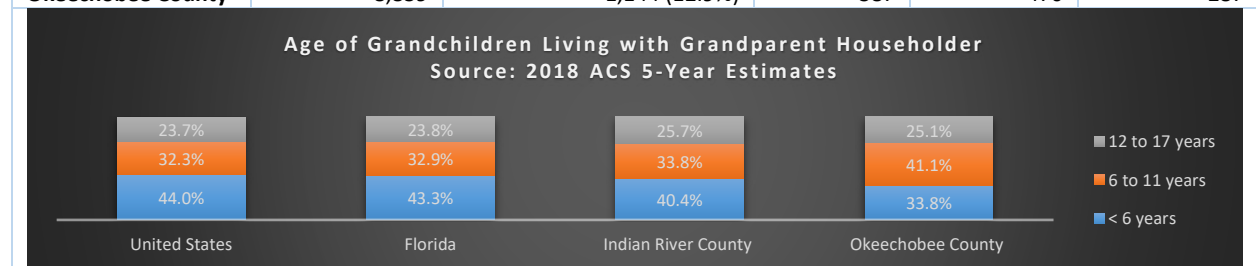


Table 12: Age of Grandchildren Living with Grandparent Householder (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Socioeconomic Status

Education

Educational Attainment (Adults)

In the United States and Florida, approximately 87.7 and 88 percent of the adult population over age 25, respectively, is at minimum a high school graduate. When compared with the state of Florida, the percentages of the adult population over age 25 with a high school degree or higher are greater in Indian River County and smaller in Okeechobee County, 88.7 and 75 percent, respectively.

The percentage of the adult population with a bachelor’s degree in the United States is 31.5 percent. In Florida and Indian River County, the percentage of the adult population with a bachelor’s degree or higher is lower, 29.2 and 28.3 percent. In Okeechobee County only one in 10 adults over the age of 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher, 11.4 percent (Table 13).

In the United States and Okeechobee County, females over the age of 25 attain a bachelor’s degree or at higher rates than their male counterparts. In Florida and Indian River County, the rate of obtaining a bachelor’s degree or higher is lower for females than their male counterparts.

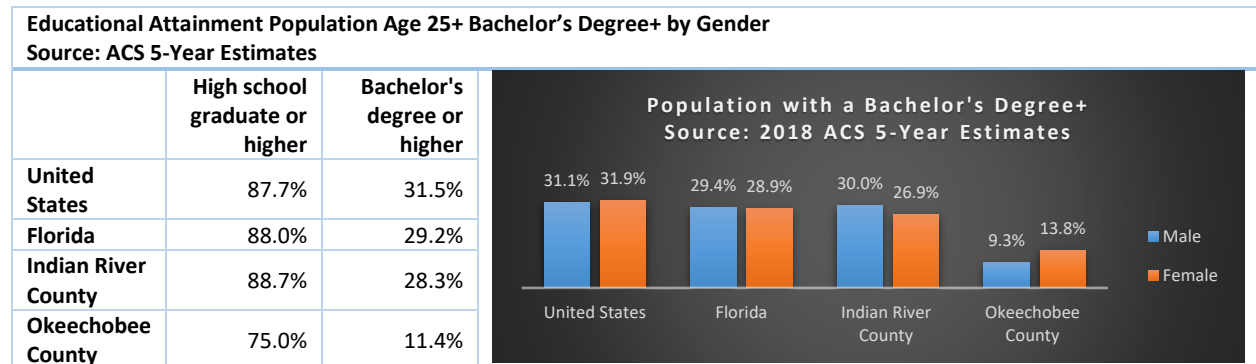


Table 13: Educational Attainment Population Age 25+ Bachelor’s Degree+ by Gender (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Educational Attainment of Mothers

Based on a study conducted using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort, a parent’s education (especially the mother’s) has a tremendous impact on the child’s future academic success.^{xi}

Based on U.S. census data, in the United States and Florida, 12.6 and 9.8 percent of women who had a birth in the past 12 months have a graduate or professional degree, respectively. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 12 and 10 percent of women who had a birth in the past 12 months, respectively, have a graduate or professional degree.

Mother’s Education Significant to Children’s Academic Success

A mother knows best—and the amount of education she attains can predict her children’s success in reading and math. In fact, that success is greater if she had her child later in life, according to a new University of Michigan study.

Sandra Tang, a U-M psychology research fellow and the study’s lead author, said children of mothers 19 and older usually enter kindergarten with higher levels of achievement. These kids continue to excel in math and reading at higher levels through eighth grade than children of mothers 18 and younger.

<https://news.umich.edu/mothers-education-significant-to-children-s-academic-success/>

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Florida School System

Florida’s reported total student membership in public schools during the 2019-20 program year reached more than 2.8 million students, of which 17,813 and 6,530 students, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee County schools (Table 14).^{xii} Approximately 36.9 percent of students enrolled in Florida’s public schools are white, 34.5 percent are Hispanic/Latino, and 21.6 percent are black/African American (Fig 11). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 54.2 and 45.2 percent of the students enrolled, respectively, are white; 22.6 and 42.4 percent, respectively, are Hispanic/Latino, and 17.5 and 8.7 percent, respectively, are black/African American.

Public School Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (2019-20)								
Source: Florida Department of Education								
	White	Black/AA	Hispanic/Latino	Two+	Asian	AIAN	NHPI	Total
Florida	1,054,650	618,792	986,891	106,463	79,522	7,769	4,862	2,858,949
Indian River County	9,662	3,122	4,023	779	227	0	0	17,813
Okeechobee County	2,949	570	2,771	213	0	27	0	6,530

Table 14: Public School Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (2019-20)

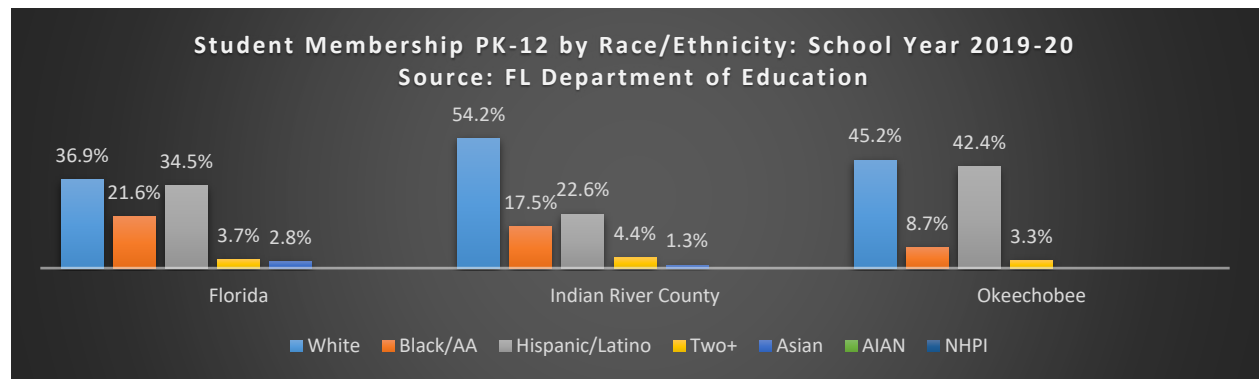


Figure 11: Public School Student Membership by Race/Ethnicity (2019-20)

English Language Learners (ELL)

In Florida’s public schools, 288,624 students enrolled during the 2019-20 school year were English Language Learners (10.1 percent of the total student body). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 961 and 757 students, respectively, were English Language Learners (5.4 and 11.6 percent of the total student body, respectively) (Table 15).

English Language Learners (2019-20)		
Source: Florida Department of Education		
	English Language Learners	Percent of Total Student Body
Florida	288,624	10.1%
Indian River County	961	5.4%
Okeechobee County	757	11.6%

Table 15: Public School ELL Student Membership (2019-20)

Florida Statutes define an English Language Learner (ELL) as "an individual who was not born in the United States and whose native language is a language other than English; an individual who comes from a home environment where a language other than English is spoken in the home; or an individual who is an American Indian or Alaskan native and who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on his or her level of English language proficiency; and who, by reason thereof, has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or listening to the English language to deny such individual the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English" (section 1003.56(2)).

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Graduation Rates

At the end of the 2018-19 school year in Florida, 86.9 percent of students entering as 9th graders graduated from high school within four years; the graduation rates for the same cohort in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties were 88.5 and 75.8 percent, respectively.^{xiii} Table 16 provides graduation rates for students based on race/ethnicity, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged status.

Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity 2018-19			
Source: Florida Department of Education			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
Total	86.9%	88.5%	75.8%
White	90.2%	91.7%	74.7%
Hispanic / Latino	85.9%	82.9%	79.0%
Black/AA	81.5%	80.6%	72.5%
Two+	88.2%	95.3%	** *
Asian	95.6%	100.0%	** *
AIAN	77.5%	** *	** *
NHPI	86.7%	** *	** *
ELL	75.0%	64.7%	62.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	86.9%	82.6%	74.7%
** * No students are reported in this category.			

Table 16: Graduation Rates (2018-19)

Employment Status and Income

Unemployment

Per the [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the unemployment rate in Florida (not seasonally adjusted) in January, 2020 was 2.8 percent. However, due to the impact of coronavirus, the rate increased to 14.3 only four months later in May, 2020. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, the unemployment rates in January 2020, were 3.7 and 3.1 percent, respectively; both rose to 13.5 and 8.3 percent, respectively, in May 2020 (Fig 12).

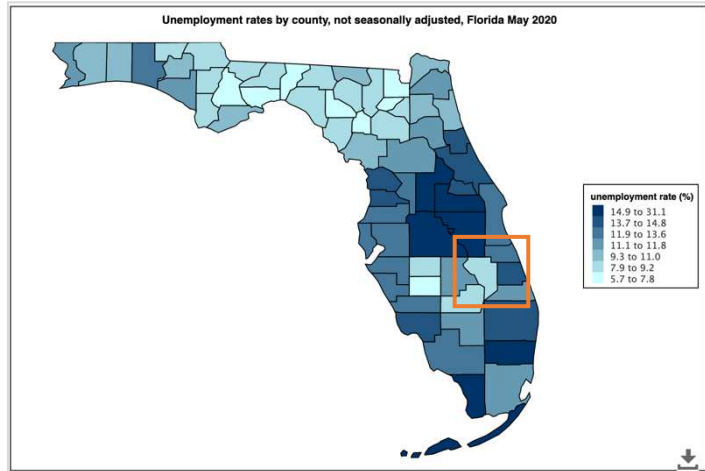


Figure 12: Unemployment Rates, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2020

Median Household Income

Florida’s median household income of \$53,267 is lower than that of the United States, which is \$60,293. Median household income is even lower in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, \$52,336 and \$40,367, respectively (Table 17). The average, or mean, per capita income in the United States is more than \$32,000, while the per capita incomes in Florida and Okeechobee County are lower, at \$30,197 and \$19,943, respectively; the per capita income in Indian River County is higher, at \$35,172.

Household, Family, and Per Capita Income					
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates					
	Median household income	Mean household income	Median family income	Mean family income	Median Per capita income
United States	\$60,293	\$84,938	\$73,965	\$99,436	\$32,621
Florida	\$53,267	\$76,652	\$64,312	\$89,399	\$30,197
Indian River County	\$52,336	\$84,405	\$67,305	\$103,943	\$35,172
Okeechobee County	\$40,367	\$54,057	\$46,329	\$58,195	\$19,943

Table 17: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Median and mean household incomes are included to ensure that comparisons are not misleading. Using the mean household income alone, for example, will ignore extreme values if the data is not symmetrically distributed. It is a fact that more people earn low salaries than high ones, because a fairly large proportion of the population works part-time, so the data will not be symmetrically distributed. Therefore, the mean is not the best “average” to use in this case when comparing income across the state.

The "mean" is the "average" (when one adds all of the values and then divides by the number of values).

The "median" is the "middle" value in a list of numbers (found after the list of numbers is sorted in order).

Per capita income measures the average income earned per person in a given area (city, region, country, etc.) in a specified year. It is calculated by dividing the area's total income by its total population.

For more information and to see a list of U.S. states by median household income, visit the following: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/median-household-income-by-state/>.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Average Salary by Sector

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (2018 data), the total average salary of all sectors combined in the United States is \$57,198, compared with \$49,475 in Florida. Statewide, with the exception of Leisure and Hospitality and Education and Health Services, annual state wages for each sector are lower than the United States (Fig 13).

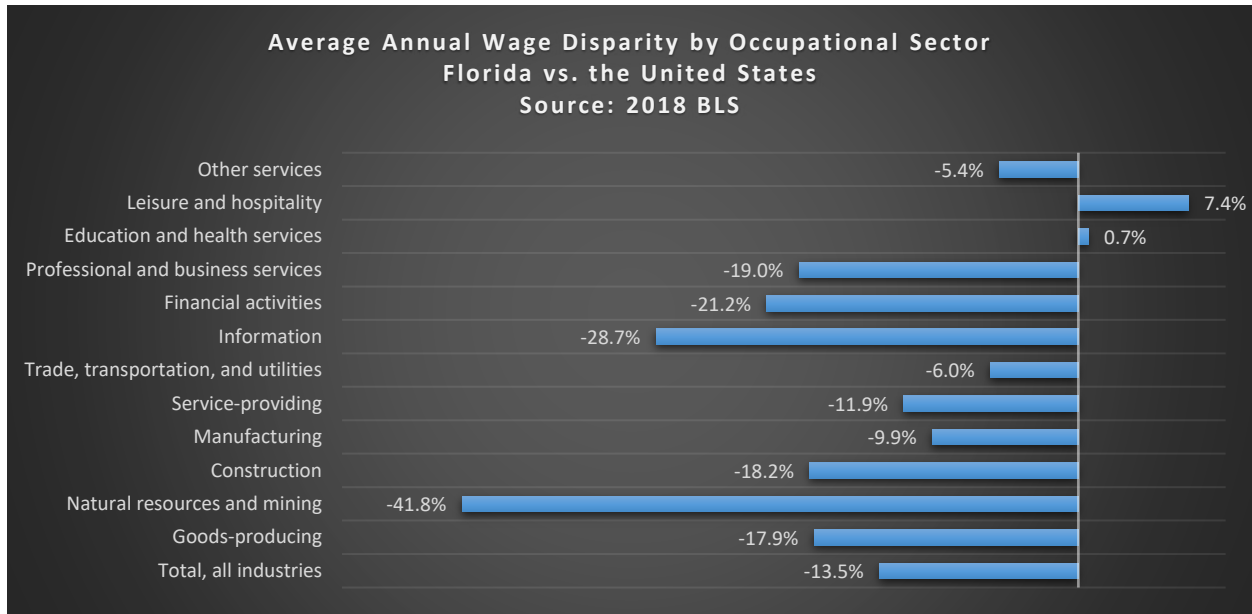


Figure 13: Average Annual Wage Disparity: Florida vs. U.S. (2018)

Table 18 provides the average annual wages for all private occupational sectors in the United States, Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties. Compared with Florida, within the EOC service area, the annual wages for all sectors are lower, except Financial Activities and Professional and Business Services in Indian River County and Natural Resources and Mining in Okeechobee County.

	United States	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
Total, all industries	\$57,198	\$49,475	\$42,132	\$35,816
Goods-producing	\$65,814	\$54,007	\$43,386	\$40,741
Natural resources and mining	\$59,628	\$34,681	\$33,938	\$36,480
Construction	\$62,727	\$51,286	\$42,967	\$42,486
Manufacturing	\$68,525	\$61,740	\$49,929	\$47,811
Service-providing	\$55,369	\$48,803	\$41,891	\$34,336
Trade, transportation, and utilities	\$47,607	\$44,766	\$34,646	\$33,808
Information	\$113,781	\$81,168	\$60,887	\$42,665
Financial activities	\$95,561	\$75,337	\$78,193	\$47,556
Professional and business services	\$75,169	\$60,914	\$49,364	\$38,566
Education and health services	\$50,444	\$50,781	\$50,818	\$41,803
Leisure and hospitality	\$24,087	\$25,881	\$24,410	\$21,118
Other services	\$38,464	\$36,402	\$32,078	\$29,777

Table 18: Average Annual Wages: All Industries & Ownerships (2018)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Living Wage

Dr. Amy K. Glasmeier from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology developed the [Living Wage Calculator](#) to determine an individual’s ability to live within a certain standard of living. The Living Wage Calculator methodology considers real cost expenses, income and payroll taxes to determine the minimum employment earnings necessary to meet basic family needs and maintain self-sufficiency. Based on this methodology and factors considered, families earning minimum wage in the service area are not able to survive without a safety net and government assistance.

In Florida the hourly living wage for a single parent with two children is \$29.80; the hourly living wage for a two-parent household (where one adult is working) with two children is \$26.55. The poverty wage for those two types of families is \$10.25 and \$12.38 per hour, respectively; the minimum wage in Florida is \$8.46 per hour. Table 19 provides information on annual expenses by state and county for needs including food, child care, medical, housing, and transportation. The annual income required to meet the basic needs of a single-parent family with two children, before taxes in Florida is \$61,979; for a two-parent family (one working) with two children, the required annual income is \$55,224. The Federal Poverty Level for a family of three is \$21,720; the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four is \$26,200.

Compared with the state average, the living wage for a single-parent family with two children is less in both Indian River and Okeechobee Counties; the same disparity applies for a two-parent family (one adult working) and two children (Table 19).

Living Wage (2019)			
Source: http://livingwage.mit.edu/			
	Florida	Indian River	Okeechobee
Hourly Wages			
1 Adult 2 Children			
Living Wage	\$29.80	\$28.40	\$27.17
Poverty Wage	\$10.25	\$10.25	\$10.25
Minimum Wage	\$8.46	\$8.46	\$8.46
Annual Expenses			
Food	\$6,682	\$6,682	\$6,682
Child Care	\$10,449	\$10,449	\$10,449
Medical	\$7,616	\$7,616	\$7,616
Housing	\$14,088	\$11,532	\$9,300
Transportation	\$10,689	\$10,689	\$10,689
Other	\$4,867	\$4,867	\$4,867
Required annual income before taxes	\$61,979	\$59,067	\$56,523
Hourly Wages			
2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children			
Living Wage	\$26.55	\$25.15	\$23.93
Poverty Wage	\$12.38	\$12.38	\$12.38
Minimum Wage	\$8.46	\$8.46	\$8.46
Annual Expenses			
Food	\$8,872	\$8,872	\$8,872
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$7,737	\$7,737	\$7,737
Housing	\$14,088	\$11,532	\$9,300
Transportation	\$11,645	\$11,645	\$11,645
Other	\$6,123	\$6,123	\$6,123
Required annual income before taxes	\$55,224	\$52,312	\$49,769

Table 19: Living Wages (2019)

The living wage for a single-parent family with two children in Florida is \$61,979, **more than 2.8 times the federal poverty level** for a family of eight, which is \$21,720!

The living wage model is an alternative measure of basic needs. It is a market-based approach that draws upon geographically specific expenditure data related to a family’s likely minimum food, child care, health insurance, housing, transportation, and other basic necessities (e.g. clothing, personal care items, etc.) costs. The living wage draws on these cost elements and the rough effects of income and payroll taxes to determine the minimum employment earnings necessary to meet a family’s basic needs, while also maintaining self-sufficiency. <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Poverty

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) issues the Federal Poverty Guidelines in the [Federal Register](#) annually. The Poverty Guideline for a family of four in 2020 is \$26,200. Research suggests that a family of four requires at least double that amount to make ends meet.^{xiv} The measurement only accounts for the family’s annual income; it does not include other aspects of economic status such as housing, debt, assets, or property. The calculation used today was originally developed in the 1960s based on the amount of money spent by families on food. The poverty level was reached by multiplying that dollar amount (money spent by families on food) times three. Nowadays, families not only spend approximately one-seventh of their annual income on food, but the cost of child care, transportation, and health care have increased drastically over the past 50 years.^{xv}

2020 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia	
Persons in Family/Household	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120
<i>For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,480 for each additional</i>	

Figure 14: Poverty Guidelines (2020)

Poverty in Florida

Per the 2018 [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\)](#), 13.7 percent of the population in Florida lives in poverty (nearly 2.9 million individuals), and 20 percent of children, ages 0-17, live in poverty (more than 830,000 children) (Table 20). More than 242,000 Head Start- and Early Head Start-eligible children, ages 0 to 4, live in poverty in Florida. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 10.7 and 21.5 percent of the overall population, respectively, live in poverty; of the children between 0 and 17 years, 17.9 and 34.4 percent, correspondingly, live in poverty.

Poverty 2018 Source: SAIPE						
	Poverty Est, All Ages	Poverty Percent, All Ages	Poverty Est, Age 0-17	Poverty Percent, Age 0-17	Poverty Est, Age 0-4	Poverty Percent, Age 0-4
United States	41,852,315	13.1	12,997,532	18.0	3,758,704	19.5
Florida	2,854,438	13.7	831,420	20.0	242,357	21.8
Indian River County	16,775	10.7	4,414	17.9	.	.
Okeechobee County	8,283	21.5	2,900	34.4	.	.

Percent of Population in Poverty
Source: SAIPE 2018

Location	Poverty %, All Ages	Poverty %, Age 0-17
United States	13.1	18.0
Florida	13.7	20.0
Indian River County	10.7	17.9
Okeechobee County	21.5	34.4

**The SAIPE does not estimate the number of children, ages 0-4, in poverty by county; 2018 ACS 5-year Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau are used in subsequent sections of this report.*

Table 20: Poverty (2018)

Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

Although the overall poverty rate (for all ages) in Florida is 13.7 percent, the poverty rate for blacks/African Americans, who make up 16.9 percent of the population in the state, is 23.5 percent. The poverty rate for Hispanic/Latino residents in the state, who make up 26.1 percent of the population, is 18.9 percent (Fig 15). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 25.7 and 38.6 percent of blacks/African Americans, correspondingly, live in poverty, and 20.8 and 35.5 percent of the Hispanic/Latino population, respectively, lives in poverty.

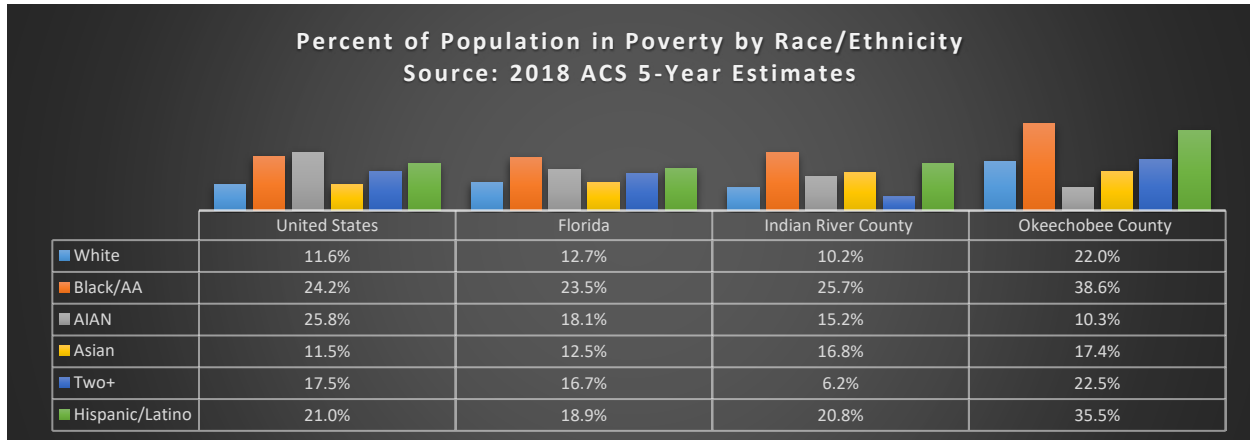


Figure 15: Poverty by Race/Ethnicity (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Poverty by Educational Attainment

Obtaining a higher level of education significantly impacts the poverty rate; in Florida 26 percent of the population with less than a high school degree lives in poverty, while 5.9 percent of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher lives in poverty. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, compared with Florida, a lower proportion of the population with less than a high school degree lives in poverty, 22 and 23.2 percent, respectively (Fig 16). Of those with a bachelor’s degree or higher, in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 5.1 and 7 percent, correspondingly, live in poverty.

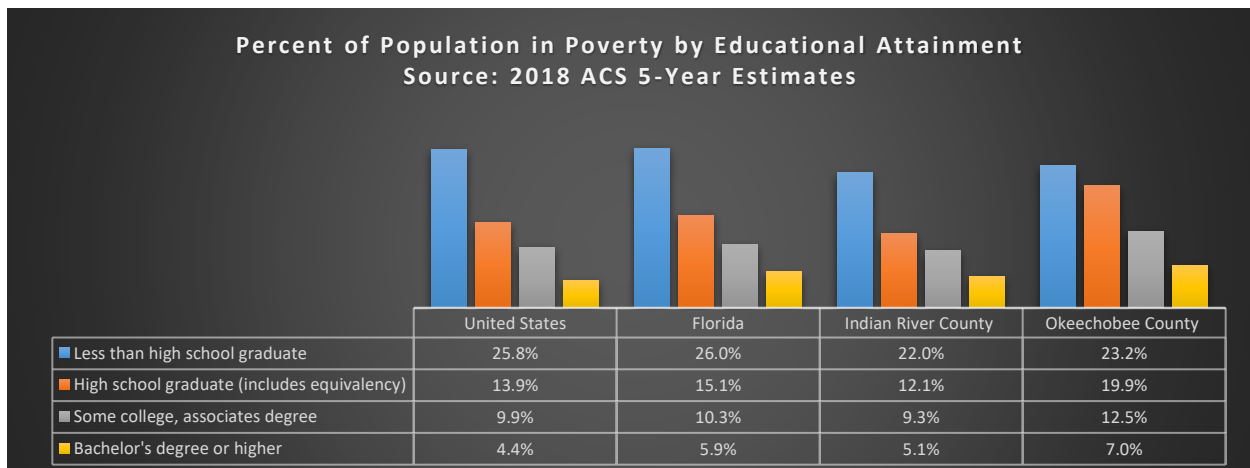


Figure 16: Poverty by Educational Attainment (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Poverty by Employment Status

Like educational attainment, a significant difference is seen in poverty rates between employed and unemployed individuals. As in the United States, in Florida, females, employed or unemployed, live in poverty at higher rates than their employed or unemployed male counterparts (Fig 17). Employed males and employed females living in poverty in Indian River County are nearly equal, 5.1 and 5 percent. In Okeechobee County unemployed males live in poverty at higher rates than unemployed females, 33.7 versus 32 percent.

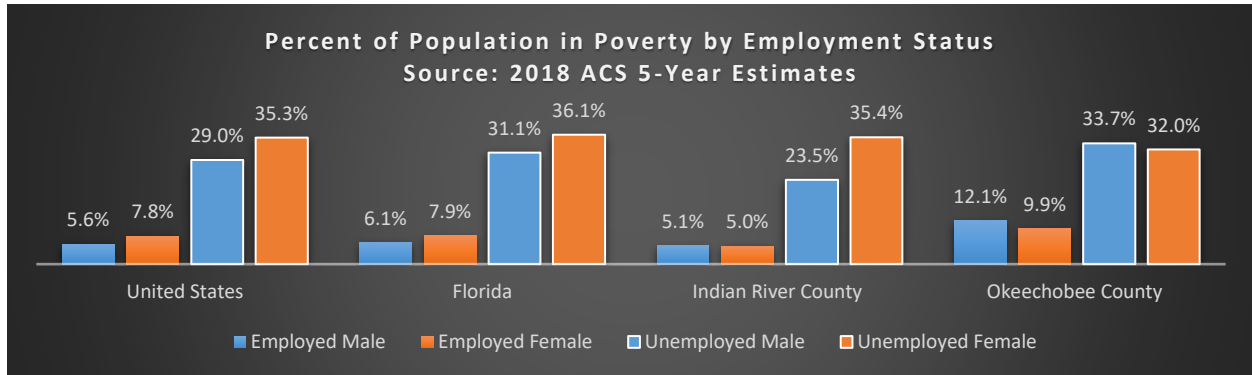


Figure 17: Population in Poverty by Employment Rates (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Births to Women in Poverty

Of the nearly 4 million women between the ages 15 and 50 who had a birth in the United States in the past 12 months (2018 ACS 5-year Estimates), nearly 1 million, or 24.1 percent, were living in poverty (Table 21). In Florida more than 57,000, or 26.2 percent, of all women who had a birth, gave birth in poverty. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, compared with Florida, the percentage of women who gave birth in poverty was higher, 28.5 and 52.6 percent, respectively.

Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates		
	Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	Women who had a birth in poverty
United States	3,983,068	961,481
Florida	220,783	57,868
Indian River County	1,026	292
Okeechobee County	551	290

Location	Percentage
United States	24.1%
Florida	26.2%
Indian River County	28.5%
Okeechobee County	52.6%

Table 21: Women Who Had a Birth in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

NOTE: Census estimates report on the number of women who gave birth in the past 12 months; the 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates report on the average of five years from 2014 to 2018.

Families in Poverty

In the United States, 10.1 percent of all families live in poverty, as does 5 percent of married-couple families, and 27.8 percent of families led by a single female. In Florida, 10.6 percent of all families, 6 percent of married-couple families, and 25.8 percent of families led by a single female live in poverty (Fig 18). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 6.5 and 17 percent of all families, respectively, live in poverty, as do 4.6 and 10.4 percent of married-couple families, correspondingly, and 17.8 and 38.4 percent of families led by a single female, respectively.

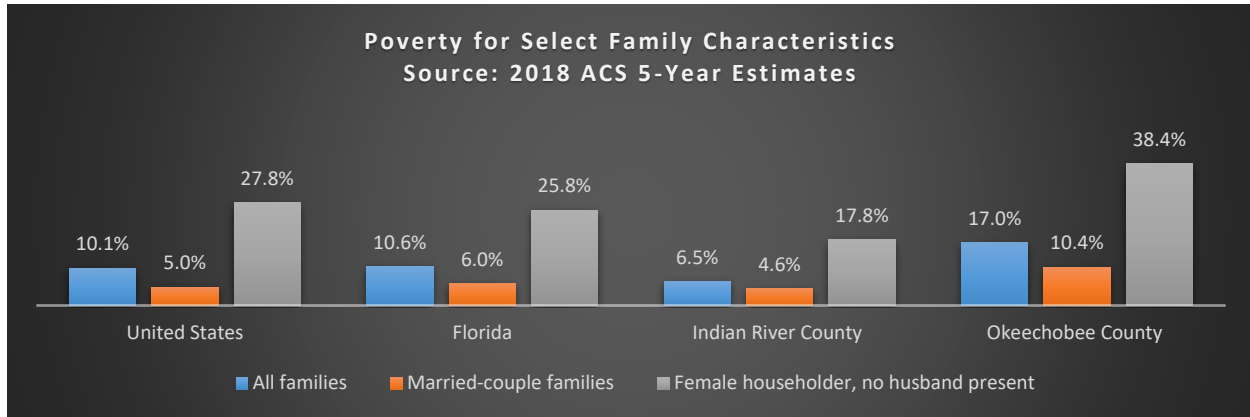


Figure 18: Poverty for Select Family Characteristics (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Families with Children Under Age 5 in Poverty

Of families with related children under the age of 5 in the United States and Florida, 15.3 and 16.1 percent live in poverty, respectively. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 11.2 and 22.5 percent families with related children under the age of 5, respectively, live in poverty. Of families led by a single female householder (with related children under the age of 5) in the United States, Florida, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 42.2, 38.1, 17.9, and 39.7 percent, in the order mentioned, live in poverty.

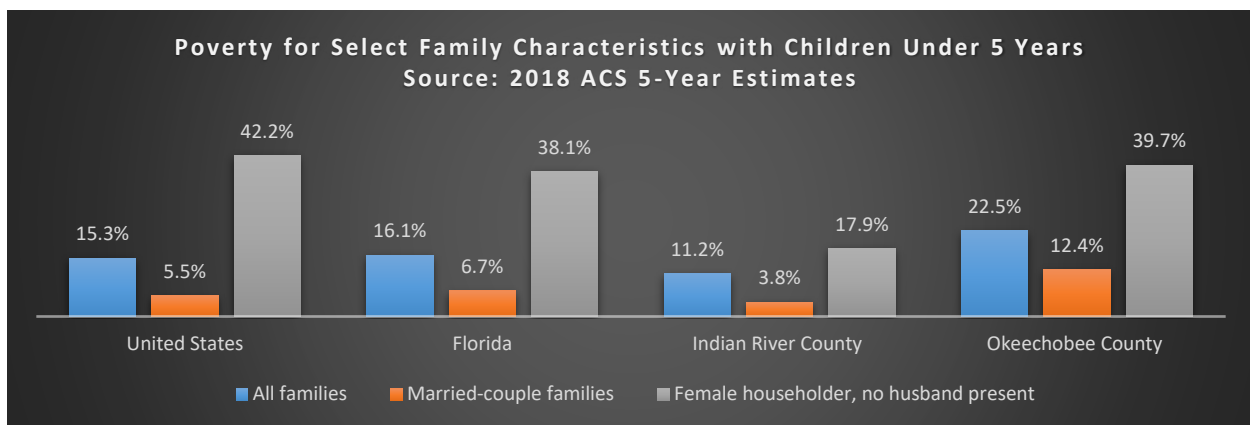


Figure 19: Poverty for Select Family Characteristics with Children Under Age 5 (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Children in Poverty

Children Ages 0-4: Percent in Poverty

As previously stated, according to 2018 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) from the U.S. Census Bureau, in Florida 21.8 percent of children, ages 0-4, live in poverty, representing 242,357 children. SAIPE estimates for children, ages 0-4, in poverty, are not provided for individual counties, townships, or census tracts.

In order to estimate children in poverty in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, poverty data from the 2018 ACS 5-year Estimates are used. These estimates use data from 2014 to 2018 and reflect a 7.2 percent greater number of children in poverty: 259,763 versus 242,357. The economy, job market, unemployment, cost of housing and health care all contribute to the increase in poverty statistics, causing an aggregate estimate of five years (2014-18) to be higher than the estimates for 2018 alone.

Based on the 5-year Estimates, 23.2 percent of children, ages 0-4, live in poverty in Florida. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 1,025 and 1,028 children, ages 0-4, live in poverty, 15.9 and 43.2 percent, respectively (Table 22).

Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty			
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates			
	Total Children Ages 0-4	Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty	Percent
United States	19,853,515	4,390,252	22.1%
Florida	1,117,420	259,763	23.2%
Indian River County	6,447	1,025	15.9%
Okeechobee County	2,382	1,028	43.2%

Table 22: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Racial/Ethnic Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 In Poverty

As previously stated, in Florida 16.9 percent of the population is black/African American; however, 33.8 percent of children in poverty, ages 0-4, are black/African American (Fig 20). In Indian River County, 9.5 percent of the population is black/African American, yet of all children in poverty, 16.7 percent are black/African American children between the ages of 0 and 4. In Okeechobee County, of all children between the ages of 0 and 4 in poverty, 93.3 percent are white.

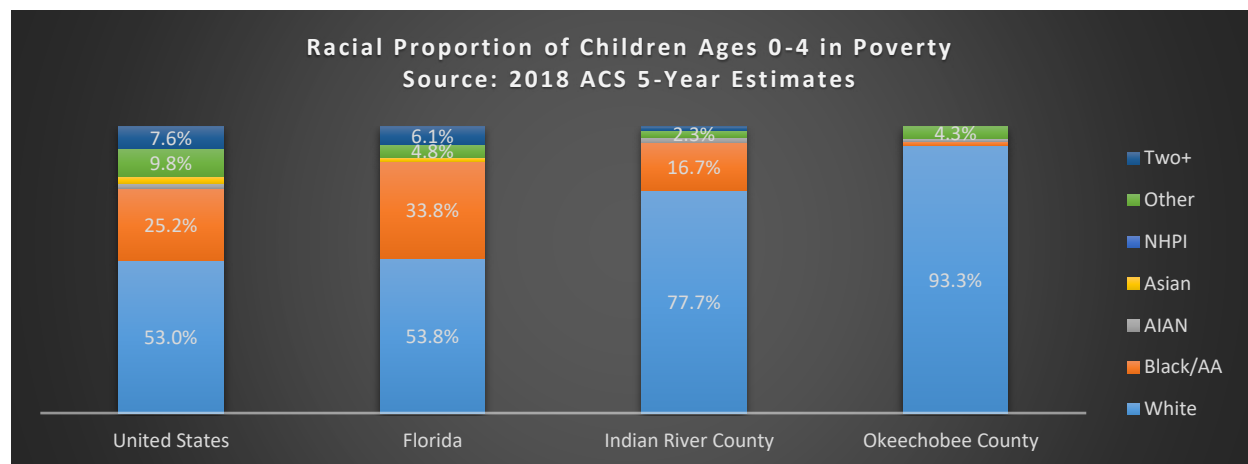


Figure 20: Racial Proportion of Children of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Table 23 provides the number of children in poverty by race in each of the studied geographic locations.

Racial Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty								
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates								
	Total	White	Black/AA	AIAN	Asian	NHPI	Other	Two+
United States	3,454,635	2,224,281	1,057,191	70,441	102,722	10,666	411,000	317,697
Florida	231,425	139,820	87,760	787	3,058	138	12,389	15,811
Indian River County	987	796	171	20	0	0	24	14
Okeechobee County	984	959	16	9	0	0	44	-

Table 23: Racial Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

In Florida 26.1 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino; yet, of the total children, ages 0-4, living in poverty, 36.9 percent are Hispanic/Latino (Table 24). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 31 and 62.5 percent of children, ages 0-4, in poverty, respectively, are Hispanic/Latino.

Ethnic Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty			
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates			
	Total	Hispanic / Latino	Non-Hispanic / Latino
United States	4,193,998	1,520,861	2,673,137
Florida	259,763	95,830	163,933
Indian River County	1,025	318	707
Okeechobee County	1,028	642	386

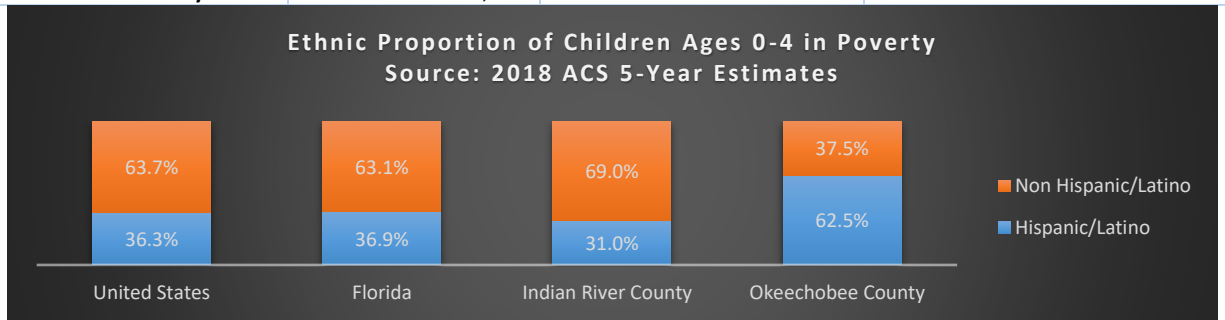


Table 24: Ethnic Proportion of Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Socioeconomic Status

Federal Assistance Benefits

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) provides temporary cash assistance and employment-related services to enable families with children to become self-supporting. In Florida to qualify for the program, one must be a resident of the state, either be pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age, a U.S. national, citizen, legal alien, or permanent resident, have low or very low income, and be either underemployed (working for very low wages), unemployed, or about to become unemployed.^{xvi} The Economic Self-Sufficiency program office in the Florida Department of Children and Families administers the TANF Temporary Cash Assistance program.

As of February 2020, 36,366 families in Florida received TANF benefits, of which 137 and 97 families, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Florida’s total number of families receiving TANF benefits reflects an 8.8 percent reduction from the 39,884 families who received the benefit during the month of February 2019.^{xvii}

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

[Supplemental Security Income, or SSI](#), provides monthly financial payments to low-income adults who are blind, disabled, or age 65 and older. Children who are disabled or blind are also eligible to receive SSI benefits. Families receiving SSI are categorically eligible for Head Start services, providing the family an additional benefit and supportive resource. In 2018, 97,871 children under age 18 received SSI benefits in Florida, of which 541 and 239 children, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties (Table 25).^{xviii}

Number of SSI Recipients by Age (December 2018) (Released June 2019) Source: www.ssa.gov			
	Under 18	18–64	65 or older
United States	1,148,038	4,714,234	2,266,380
Florida	97,871	266,487	212,017
Indian River County	541	1,500	533
Okeechobee County	239	694	196

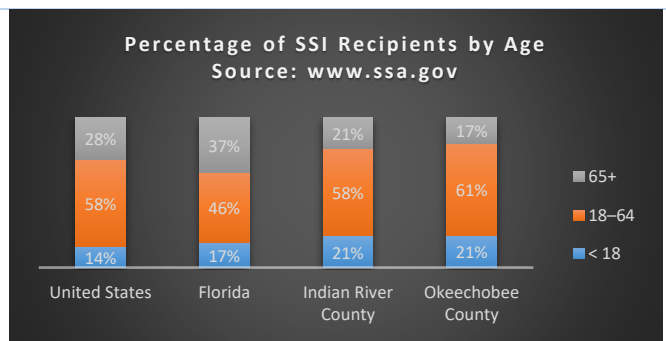


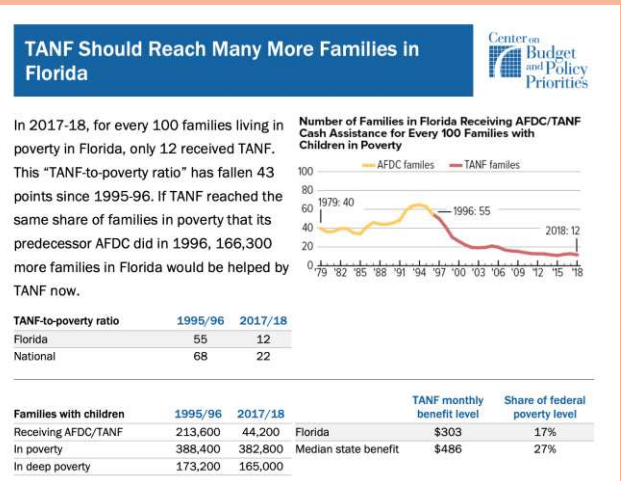
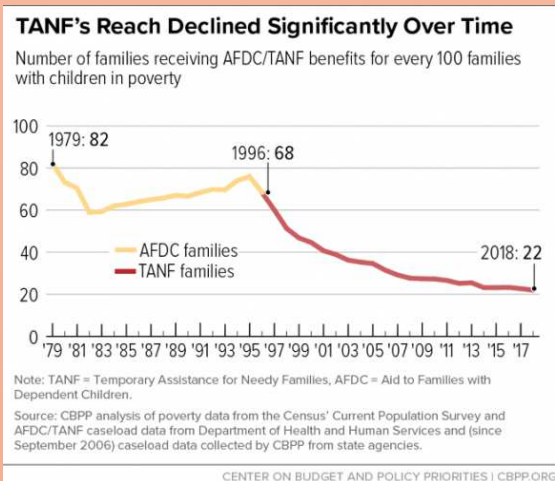
Table 25: SSI Recipients by Age (2018)

NOTE: Data regarding WIC and SNAP participation is located in the [Nutrition](#) section of this Community Assessment.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** block grant is designed to provide temporary financial assistance to poor families, primarily those with no other means to meet basic needs. But since TANF’s creation in 1996, its reach has declined dramatically. In 2018, for every 100 families in poverty, only 22 received direct financial assistance from TANF — down from 68 families in 1996. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” (TPR) reached its lowest point in 2014 and has remained there.

States’ broad flexibility in TANF has led to wide variation among state TPRs, which range from 68 in California down to just 4 in Louisiana. In a growing number of states — now up to 16 — the ratio is 10 or less, meaning that for every 100 families living in poverty, 10 or fewer receive TANF cash assistance. In 2006, the last time TANF was reauthorized, only two states had a ratio that low; in 1996, none did.



When this ratio falls, it means TANF is less responsive to need than in previous years. The TPR can fall because: (1) the number of families receiving cash assistance from TANF falls without a corresponding drop in the number of families living in poverty; or (2) the number of poor families rises without a corresponding increase in the number of families receiving TANF benefits.

The TPR has both strengths and limitations. Its strengths include: (1) it provides a measure of access to TANF benefits that is consistent over time and across states; and (2) it uses readily available data, making it transparent and relatively current. Two key limitations are: (1) it is less reliable in small states because of sample size limitations in the Current Population Survey (CPS); and (2) the underreporting of income from public benefit programs in the CPS has worsened over time, making the official poverty estimates less accurate than they once were.

The TANF participation rate, which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services produces, provides an explicit measure of the share of eligible families receiving TANF benefits; however, it generally lags two years behind the TPR and is not available at the state level. The TANF participation rate uses the Transfer Income Model’s (TRIM) microsimulations of the CPS data to adjust for underreporting and to identify eligible families more precisely. Though the TPR and the participation rates use different methodologies to measure access to TANF cash assistance, they produce quite similar results, and they have had the same downward trajectory since before welfare reform.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-reaching-few-poor-families>

Economic Features and Trends

At the moment Florida's economy is taking a significant hit from efforts needed to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Layoffs in the state's key leisure & hospitality sector have spiked, leading to a rise in the jobless rate. The state's long run of job gains has come to an end, which stood at a record low of 2.8 percent in February of this year. With the exception of the short slowdown in hiring that occurred surrounding Hurricane Irma in 2017, Florida's monthly jobs reports have been among the most impressive in the nation over much of the past decade. That run of job growth came to a sudden end in March 2020 when shutdowns and stay-at-home orders hit the heart of Florida's main industry, tourism. The leisure and hospitality sector eliminated 38,600 jobs during the month, when restaurants, bars, and amusement parks closed, and hotels reduced staff. The decline in leisure and hospitality payrolls actually exceeded the drop in overall nonfarm payrolls, with private education services and administrative services posting notable job losses as well.

Normally, there is not a one-to-one relationship between higher unemployment claims and the number of jobs lost in a given month, as some people losing a job would find a new one. But in the current environment very few have likely been so fortunate, so the high increase in jobless claims is probably a good estimate of the gross number of job losses at the start of the downturn. Several economic reports estimate that hiring in the state may grow in the summer of 2020, as shutdowns are eased, and restaurants and entertainment facilities are gradually reopened.^{xix} Net job losses for 2020 will still be massive but not nearly as large as the recent surge.

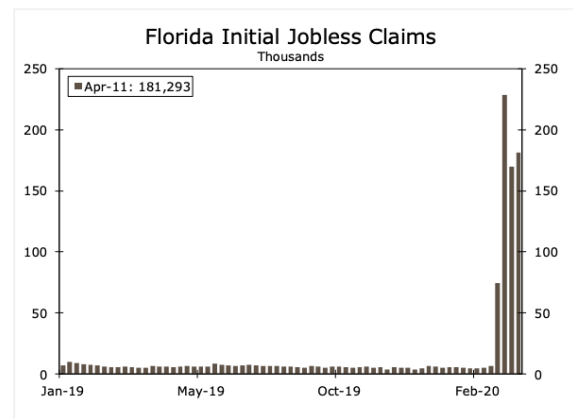


Figure 21: Florida Job Losses Claims (Jan 2019 – Feb 2020)

While the number of job losses will be similar to what was seen in the Great Recession, the composition will be substantially different. According to Mark Vitner, Senior Economist with Wells Fargo, the state of Florida has made considerable progress diversifying its economy into higher growth and less cyclical industries, for example, more aerospace and technology.^{xx} Much of Florida's aerospace is tied to defense, and both the government and private space industry, which provides comparative economic security. Employment was up an enormous 11.8 percent over the past year, enough to add 2,900 high paying jobs. Now economists suspect that job losses are going to be evident across most Florida metro areas in 2020. The unemployment rate nearly doubled this past month in South Florida to 4 percent. Orlando and Tampa also registered large monthly increases, and all of Florida's 23 metro areas and metro divisions had higher unemployment rates in March than they did one year ago.

Dr. Sean Snaith, University of Central Florida Director of the Institute for Economic Forecasting, predicts that "when things open up, we're not going to go back to 100 million visitors at an annual rate in Florida." Dr. Snaith suggested that there will be a gradual build-up due to the lower disposable income among Floridians. Florida has emerged as one of the slowest states in the nation to process an avalanche of unemployment claims since the coronavirus hit. Many people have filed for unemployment benefits hoping they can wait out the virus and get their old jobs back, and they are not looking for new jobs at this point. As Dr. Snaith points out, this recession and recovery are unlike anything in modern times.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Economic Features and Trends

Indian River County expects a sharp drop in tourism tax revenue because of COVID-19. Tourism taxes were strong in February 2020, up nearly 7.5 percent, or \$100,000, over last year, but county officials expect a significant drop later this spring.^{xxi} Revenue from the 4 percent bed tax, which is collected on hotel rooms, Airbnbs, and other short-term rentals, is used to promote tourism in the county, which has been hard-hit this spring by the coronavirus pandemic.^{xxii} According to the county budget office, the month of March usually generates the most tourism tax revenue for the county, typically more than \$400 million. It is estimated that a sharp downward trend will continue due to the safer-at-home orders, as well as the ban on short-term vacation rentals, according to the county budget director Ms. Kristin Daniels.

Indian River County

Based on [DataUSA](#), from 2016 to 2017, employment in Indian River County grew at a rate of 3.86 percent from 53,900 employees to 56,000 employees. The most common jobs held by residents of Indian River County, by number of employees, are Office & Administrative Support Occupations (7,811 people), Sales & Related Occupations (7,398 people), and Management Occupations (4,911 people).

Compared with other counties, Indian River County has an unusually high number of residents working in Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations, Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations, and Construction & Extraction Occupations. The highest paid jobs held by residents of Indian River County, by median earnings, are Legal Occupations (\$66,755), Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners & Other Technical Occupations (\$63,971), and Computer & Mathematical Occupations (\$57,177).



Figure 22: Indian River County: People in Workforce (2018)

The table below lists Indian River County's top employers:

Indian River County, Florida Top Employers (2019)		
Source: Indian River County Economic Development		
Employer	Type of Industry	Employees
School District of Indian River County	Government	2,121
Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital	Health Care	2,027
Indian River County (includes Constitutional offices)	Government	1,521
Publix Supermarkets	Retail Food/Beverage	1,380
Piper Aircraft, Inc.	Manufacturing	1,102
Wal-Mart/Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market	Retail	806
Sebastian River Medical Center	Health Care	750
John's Island	Residential/Resort	589
Indian River Estates (ACTS)	Retirement Community	486
Visiting Nurse Association	Private Health Care/Hospice	484
City of Vero Beach	Government	432
CVS Warehouse/Distribution	Warehouse/Distribution	378
St. Edward's School	Private School/College Prep	290
Disney Vero Beach Resort	Resort Hotel	279
Flight Safety International	Flight Instruction	250

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Economic Features and Trends

Indian River County, Florida Top Employers (2019)		
Source: <u>Indian River County Economic Development</u>		
B&W Quality Growers LLC	Agriculture/Arugula	230
City of Sebastian	Government	182
Capt. Hiram's Restaurant & Resort*	Restaurant/Resort Hotel	174
Vero Beach Hotel & Spa (a Kimpton Hotel)	Hotel	135
Grand Harbor Management	Housing/Developer	125

Table 26: Indian River County, FL Top Employers (2019)

Okeechobee County

Based on [DataUSA](#), from 2016 to 2017, employment in Okeechobee County grew at a rate of 4.53 percent, from 13,500 employees to 14,100 employees. The most common jobs held by residents of Okeechobee County, by the number of employees, are Office & Administrative Support Occupations (1,771 people), Sales & Related Occupations (1,319 people), and Construction & Extraction Occupations (1,148 people).

Compared with other counties, Okeechobee County has an unusually high number of residents working in Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations, Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations, and Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations. The highest paid jobs held by residents of Okeechobee County, by median earnings, are Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations (\$73,542), Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations (\$67,703), and Architecture & Engineering Occupations (\$50,609).

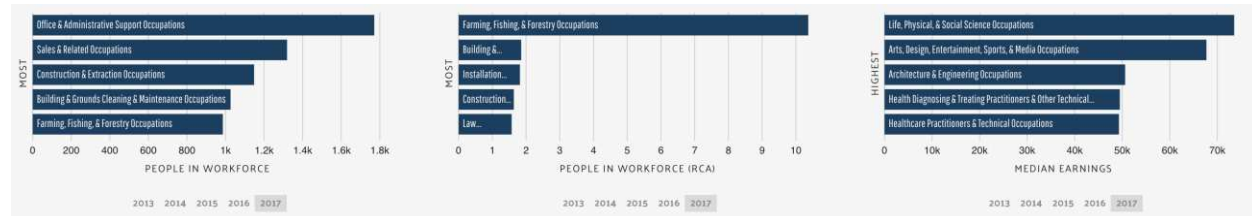


Figure 23: Okeechobee County: People in Workforce (2018)

The table below lists Okeechobee County's top employers:

Okeechobee County, FL Top Employers (2019)		
Source: <u>Okeechobee County Economic Development Corporation</u>		
Employer	Type of Industry	Employees
Entegra Roof Tile	Manufacturing	250-499
Walpole Inc	Distribution	250-499
Raulerson Hospital	Health Care	250-499
Gilbert Family of Companies	Distribution	100-249
McArthur Farms	Agriculture, Agribusiness	100-249
Larson Dairy	Food Manufacturing	100-249
Okeechobee Health Care	Health Care	100-249
Charles Industries LTD INC.	Manufacturing	50-100
TRC Investments LLC	Manufacturing	10-25
Okeechobee Livestock Market	Agribusiness	10-25

Table 27: Okeechobee County, Florida Top Employers (2019)

Housing and Homelessness

Fair Market Rent

According to the [National Low-Income Housing Coalition](#) (NLIHC) in 2019, 35 percent of Florida’s households were renters; the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom home in Florida is \$1,189/month. To be able to rent a two-bedroom home, without exceeding 30 percent of one’s income, a renter must earn \$47,452 annually, yet the median income for a renter in Florida is \$37,819.^{xxiii} With a median income of \$37,819 a renter is able to afford \$945 for a home, \$244 less than the fair market rental value of a two-bedroom home.

It is critical to point out that Head Start families do not earn wages typical of an average renter in the state. The NLIHC considers those who earn 30 percent of the annual median income (AMI) to have “extremely low income.” For Florida this amount is \$19,620, which is \$1,650 less than the Poverty Guidelines level for a family of three (which is \$21,270). The rent that someone with “extremely low income” can afford is only \$491 per month, \$698 less than the fair market value of a two-bedroom home (Table 28).

In Florida to afford the Fair Market Rent of a two-bedroom home, one must earn \$47,452 – \$3,332 more than the Federal Poverty Level for a family of 8, which is \$44,120!

This means that if you earn enough to place your family of eight in a two-bedroom home, you are OVER-INCOME and may not be eligible for HS/EHS services.

Out of Reach – Fair Market Rental Value vs. Income (2019)			
Source: National Low-Income Housing Coalition			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
% of total households that are renters (2013-2017)	35	24	28
Two-bedroom FMR	\$1,189	\$961	\$775
Income needed to afford two-bedroom FMR	\$47,542	\$38,440	\$31,000
Estimated median renter household income	\$37,819	\$33,785	\$28,600
Rent affordable at median renter household income	\$945	\$845	\$715
30% of AMI (“extremely low income”)	\$19,620	\$19,500	\$14,130
Rent affordable at 30% of AMI	\$491	\$488	\$353
Rent affordable with full-time job paying min. wage	\$440	\$440	\$440
Work hours per week at min. wage needed to afford 2-bdrm FMR	108	87	70

Table 28: Out of Reach – Fair Market Rental Value vs. Income (2019)

In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 24 and 28 percent of total households are renters, respectively. Rent affordable by a household classified as “extremely low income” is \$488 and \$353 per month, both less than the fair market value of a two-bedroom home. For those working a full-time job, earning minimum wage, affordable rent is not more than \$440, or \$521 and \$335 less than the fair market rental value of a two-bedroom home (Table 28, Fig 24).

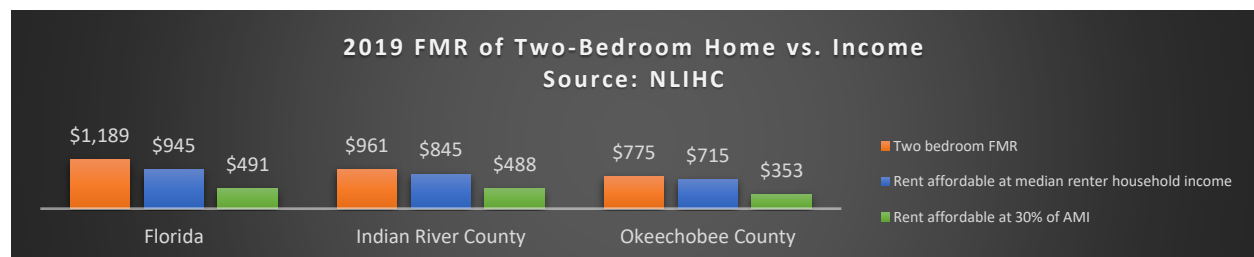


Figure 24: Out of Reach (2019)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Housing and Homelessness

The high cost of home ownership and rental units continues to make it difficult for low-income families to access affordable housing. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, those earning minimum wage (\$8.46 per hour) must work 87 and 70 hours per week, respectively, to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rental value.

Housing expenditures that exceed 30 percent of household income have historically been viewed as an indicator of a housing affordability problem. The conventional 30 percent of household income that a household can devote to housing costs before the household is said to be “burdened” evolved from the United States National Housing Act of 1937. The 30-percent rule was considered a rule of thumb for the amount of income that a family could spend and still have enough left over for other non-discretionary spending; it made its way to owner-occupied housing too. <http://www.census.gov/housing/census/publications/who-can-afford.pdf>

Public Housing

Based on data gathered from the [Office of Public Policy Development and Research \(PD&R\), under the Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#), in 2019 there were a total of 197,960 housing units available in Florida within all HUD Programs. Of those housing units, 92 percent were occupied with more than 400,000 people. Average family expenditure for rent per month was \$358, and the average HUD expenditure per month was \$777. The average household income of those living in public housing programs in Florida is \$14,181. Approximately 36 percent of householders were female heads of household with children; 82 percent of residents were minorities, of which 52 percent were black/African American, and 30 percent were Hispanic/Latino (Table 29).^{xxiv}

In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, there were 555 and 22 units, with occupancy rates of 99 and 87 percent, respectively. In Indian River County, there were more than 900 residents living in public housing, with an average family expenditure of \$350. In Okeechobee County there more than 30 residents living in public housing, with an average family expenditure of \$314 in rent. The household income for public housing residents in the Indian River and Okeechobee Counties was \$14,905 and \$12,303, correspondingly. Female heads of household with children accounted for 23 and 5 percent of residents, respectively, and 43 and 24 percent of residents were minorities, correspondingly (Table 29).

Public Housing Programs (2019)			
Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
Total Units	197,960	555	22
% Occupied	92	99	87
Total People	407,135	932	33
Average Family Expenditure/month	\$358	\$350	\$314
Average HUD Expenditure/month	\$777	\$565	\$777
Household Income	\$14,181	\$14,905	\$12,303
% Female head of household with children	36	23	5
% Minority	82	43	24
% Black/African American	52	31	10
% Hispanic/Latino	30	12	14

Table 29: HUD Programs (2019)

Note: HUD Programs reported include: Public Housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, Project Based Section 8, 202/PRAC, and 811/PRAC.

Homelessness

Point-in-Time

The Point-In-Time Count, required each year by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), is done to assist federal and state governments in determining how to allocate funding for housing, substance abuse, and mental health programs for homeless individuals and families. The 2019 count reflected that in January there were 28,328 homeless persons in Florida, of which more than four out of 10 are unsheltered (44 percent). Of the homeless counted, 7,063 were people in families with children, and 1,450 were unaccompanied youth (Fig 25).

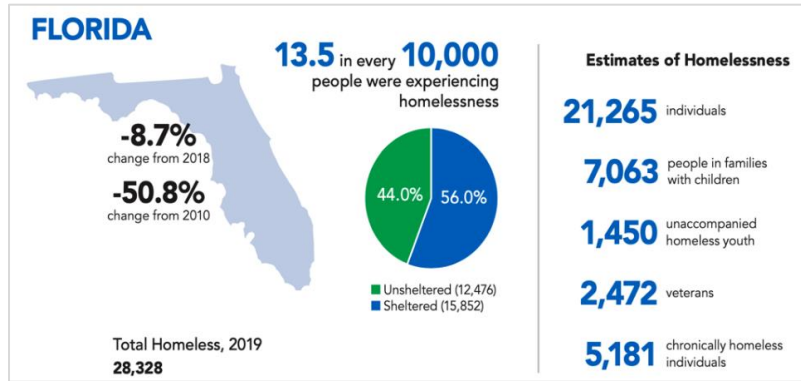


Figure 25: Point-In-Time Count (2019)

The [Point-In-Time \(PIT\)](#) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that [Continuums of Care](#) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd-numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

In 2015 HUD added a new reporting category for parenting youth: someone who is under age 25 identifying as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children, present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, and who is not in the company of someone over age 24.^{xxv} In January 2019, there were 1,450 homeless unaccompanied youth under age 25 counted in the state of Florida, a decrease of 23.4 percent from 2018. That same year, 253 homeless parenting youth under the age of 25 were counted in the state of Florida, a decrease of 15.9 percent from the previous year (Table 30).

Florida Point-In-Time Count (2018-19)			
Source: Source: HUD Exchange			
	2018	2019	Percent Change
Overall Homeless Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)	1,892	1,450	-23.4%
Overall Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Under 18	441	256	-42.0%
Overall Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Age 18-24	1,451	1,194	-17.7%
Overall Homeless Parenting Youth (Under 25)	301	253	-15.9%
Overall Homeless Parenting Youth Under 18	4	0	
Overall Homeless Parenting Youth Age 18-24	297	253	-14.8%
Overall Homeless Children of Parenting Youth	448	419	-6.5%

Table 30: Florida Homeless Point-In-Time Count (2018-19)

The HUD definition of homelessness is narrower than those used by the Departments of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, Justice, and Agriculture. HUD focuses primarily on homeless people on the streets, in shelters, in vehicles, or in other places not meant for human habitation. The PIT count offers an important snapshot of homelessness on a given night at one point in the year, with a particular focus on individuals. However, it does not adequately estimate the number of individuals and family members who experience homelessness through the course of a year— especially children.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Housing and Homelessness

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002.

The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment.¹

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes –

- Children and youth who are:
 - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - abandoned in hospitals; or
 - awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Florida Homeless Education Program

Based on data from the [National Center for Homeless Education](#), during the 2017-18 school year, 95,167 homeless students were served in Florida public schools.^{xxvi} The U.S. Department of Education provides homeless statistics for individual Local Education Agencies (LEAs) via the [ED Data Express](#). Table 31 provides data on the number of homeless students served in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. In Indian River and Okeechobee County Schools, 416 and 521 homeless students, respectively, were served during the 2017-18 school year, of which 265 and 509, respectively, were sharing the housing of another person (doubled-up).

Of the more than 400 and 500 homeless students served in Indian River and Okeechobee County Schools, 95 and 141 were diagnosed with one or more disabilities, correspondingly, and 31 and 67 were English Learners, respectively (Table 31).

Homeless Students Served (2017-18)			
Source: ED Data Express			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
All Students	95,167	416	521
Doubled-up	73,273	265	509
Hotels/motels	10,940	65	8
Shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care	8,061	74	Not Reported
Unsheltered	2,933	12	Not Reported
Children with one or more disabilities (IDEA)	17,273	95	141
English Learner	19,595	31	67
Unaccompanied Youth	7,839	6	12

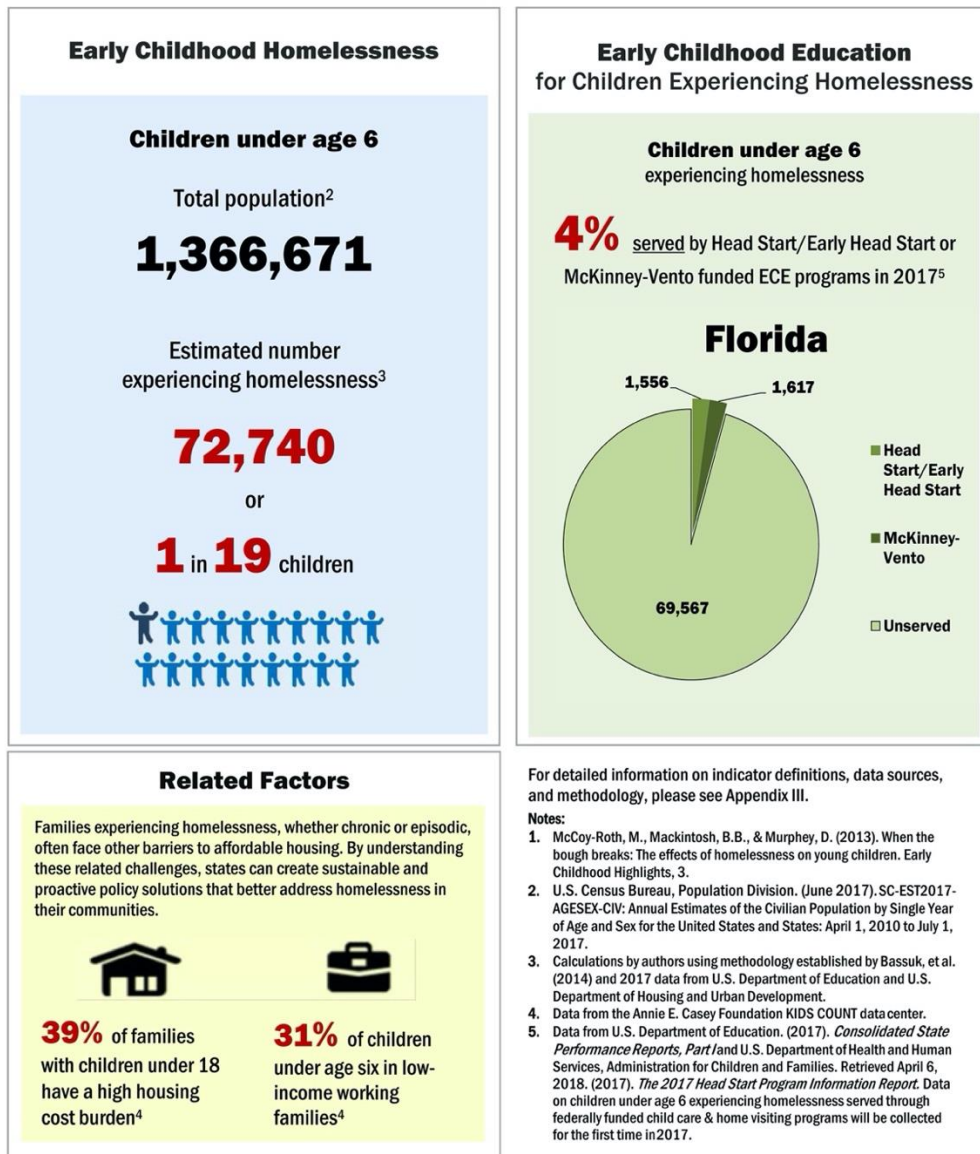
Table 31: Homeless Students Served (2017-18)

The figure below offers an infographic from the [Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile](#) report issued by the Administration of Children and Families in December 2019, using 2016-17 U.S. Department of Education Data. The report indicates that in Florida 72,740 children under the age of 6 were identified as homeless.

Early Childhood Homelessness: Florida

(2016-2017)

Early childhood experiences with homelessness have long lasting impacts on a child's well-being. Access to educational services can help mitigate some of these negative effects.¹



Communication and Transportation

Access to Internet and Computer Devices

Broadband Internet

Based on data collected from [Broadbandnow](#), there are 221 broadband providers in Florida. Florida currently has 92.4 percent terrestrial broadband coverage and 59.8 percent wired low-price plan access. Throughout the state, 464,000 people lack access to a wired connection capable of 25mbps download speeds, and more than 280,000 people statewide do not have any wired internet providers available where they live.^{xxvii} In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 97.7

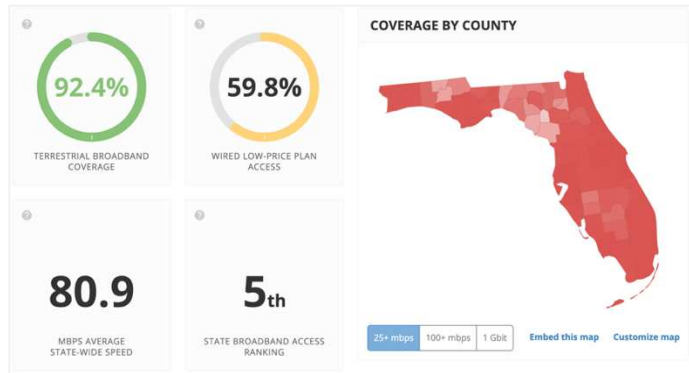


Figure 26: Broadband Coverage in Florida (2017)

and 92.4 percent of residents, respectively, have access to broadband 25mps or faster. *Note: The darker red color on the map in Fig 26 denotes counties where a higher proportion of the population has access to 25+ mbps coverage.*

Internet Subscriptions

According to census data, in Florida 7.8 percent of households have a cellular data plan, but no other internet access, and 18.8 percent of all households do not have an internet subscription (Fig 27). In Indian River and

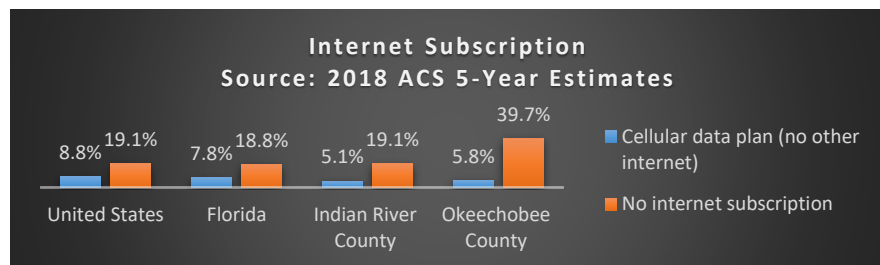


Figure 27: Household Internet Access (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Okeechobee Counties, 5.1 and 5.8 percent of households, respectively, have a cellular data plan, but no other internet access. Similar to Florida, in Indian River County, 19.1 percent of households do not have an internet subscription; this is more than double in Okeechobee County, 39.7 percent.

Computer Device Ownership

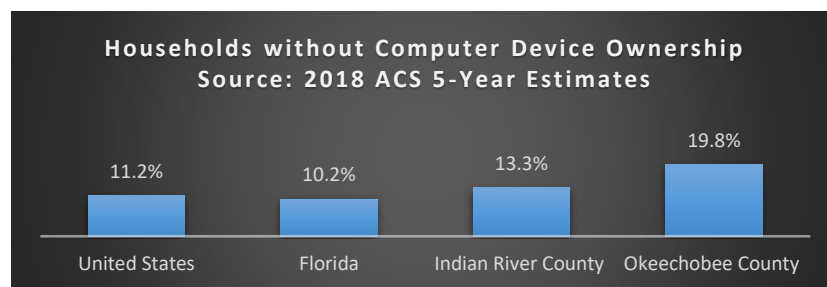


Figure 28: Household Computer Device Ownership (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Census data indicate that in the United States and Florida, 11.2 and 10.2 percent of households, respectively, do not own a computer device. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 13.3 and 19.8 percent of households do not own a computer device (Fig 28).

Vehicle Ownership

Based on census data, of the more than 7 million households in occupied housing units in Florida, 6.5 percent, do not own a vehicle (more than 493,000 households). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 5.4 and 4.1 percent of households in occupied housing units, respectively, do not own a vehicle. Table 32 shows the number of households and vehicle availability for each geographic location studied.

Households Without Vehicle Access Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates						
	Total	No vehicle available	1 vehicle available	2 vehicles available	3 vehicles available	4 or more vehicles available
United States	119,730,128	10,424,934	39,465,263	44,675,769	17,226,039	7,938,123
Florida	7,621,760	493,915	3,063,582	2,921,330	851,072	291,861
Indian River County	57,403	3,124	24,840	22,580	5,374	1,485
Okeechobee County	13,759	567	5,787	5,030	1,864	511

Table 32: Vehicle Ownership (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Public Transportation

The following are search tools for public transportation resources in the United States and EOC service area:



The search engine [US Bus Station](#) provides information about bus routes, bus stops and bus companies per state and county.



[The American Transportation Association](#) offers information on: *Larger Transit Agencies, All Transit Agencies & Local Links (by County & City), Rail, Ferry, Statewide, Intercity & Regional.*



[GoLine](#) is the Indian River County public transportation system with bus service on 15 fixed routes throughout the County.



[The Transportation Disadvantaged Program](#), coordinated by MV Transportation for Okeechobee County, provides door-to-door transportation service to those that qualify based on age, disability, and income. Call 863-357-9900 for more information.

Disabilities

Florida Department of Education

According to the Florida Department of Education, during the 2019-20 school year, more than 400,000 children were enrolled in Programs for Exceptional Students (excluding gifted students), of which 2,890 and 1,501 students, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties (Table 33).^{xxviii} In Florida, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, the most common diagnosis for exceptional students is a specific learning disability (Fig 29).

Exceptional Student Data by Exceptionality (School Year 2019-20)			
Source: Florida Department of Education			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
Total Disabilities	414,353	2,890	1,501
Specific Learning Disability	156,158	1,224	728
Speech Impaired	48,127	406	126
Autism Spectrum Disorder	47,082	242	133
Other Health Impaired	46,488	356	195
Language Impaired	42,246	322	133
Intellectual Disability	25,197	124	73
Developmentally Delayed	23,828	82	23
Emotional/Behavioral Disability	13,621	70	56
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	4,313	17	15
Hospital/Homebound	2,610	13	*
Orthopedically Impaired	2,280	22	*
Visually Impaired	1,326	*	*
Traumatic Brain Injured	475	*	*
Established Conditions	174	*	*
Dual-Sensory Impaired	99	*	*

* Data is not disclosed when number of students is less than 10.

Table 33: Special Education (2019-20)

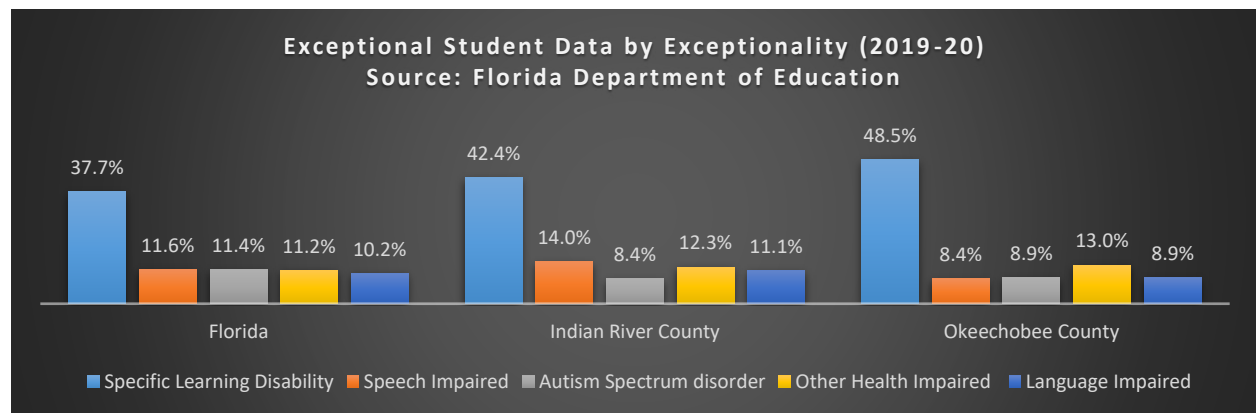


Figure 29: Leading Student Disabilities (2019-20)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The nation’s special education law is called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. IDEA defines the term “child with a disability” to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities in public schools and Head Start programs. That definition includes specific disability terms, which are also defined by IDEA.^{xxix} Based on data collected from the [IDEA Data Center](#), more than a 15,600 infants and toddlers, ages 0 to 3, were served by early intervention programs in Florida, accounting for 2.3 percent of the birth through age 2 population. In the U.S. and outlying areas, 3.3 percent of the population, ages 0 through 2, is served under IDEA, Part C programs (Table 34).^{xxx}

IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2017-18)					
Source: IDEA					
	Birth to 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	Total served birth through 2 years	Percentage of population, ¹ birth through 2 years (%)
U.S. and Outlying Areas	49,307	120,876	218,511	388,694	3.3
Florida	1,557	4,468	9,591	15,616	2.3

¹ Percentage of population = Number of infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, served under IDEA, Part C, divided by the estimated U.S. resident population, birth through age 2, multiplied by 100.

Table 34: IDEA Part C: Early Intervention, Ages 0-2 (2017-18)

As reported by the IDEA Data Center, during the 2017-2018 school year, more than 39,000 children, ages 3 to 5, received special education assistance in Florida. The majority of children received special education for developmental delay, followed by a speech or language impairment and autism (Table 35).

IDEA Part B: Assistance for All Children with Disabilities, Ages 3-5 (2017-18)		
Source: IDEA		
	U.S., Outlying Areas	Florida
All disabilities	773,595	39,862
Autism	83,307	3,737
Deaf-blindness	187	13
Developmental delay	287,486	21,100
Emotional disturbance	2,644	63
Hearing impairments	8,525	427
Intellectual disabilities	13,450	528
Multiple disabilities	7,580	-
Orthopedic impairments	5,141	208
Other health impairments	24,807	696
Specific learning disabilities	8,675	81
Speech or language impairments	328,051	12,874
Traumatic brain injury	1,114	26
Visual impairments	2,628	109

Table 35: IDEA Part B: Assistance for Children with Disabilities, Ages 3-5 (2017-18)

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** is a law that makes available a free, appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.

IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

Infants and toddlers with disabilities, birth through age 2, and their families receive early intervention services under **IDEA Part C**. Children and youth, ages 3 through 21, receive special education and related services under **IDEA Part B**.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about->

Lastly, of the more than 6.1 million children, ages 6-21, receiving special education in the United States and outlying areas, 349,764 are served in Florida’s public schools.

Health and Wellness



Many factors combined affect the health of individuals and communities. Whether a person is healthy or unhealthy is determined by his/her circumstances and environment. To a large extent, factors such as where we live, the state of our environment, genetics, our income and education level, and our relationships with friends and family all have considerable impact on health, whereas the more commonly considered factors such as access and use of health care services often have less of an impact.

The determinants of health include:

- the social and economic environment,
- the physical environment, and
- the person's individual characteristics and behaviors.

The context of people's lives determines their health, and so blaming individuals for having poor health or crediting them for good health is inappropriate. Individuals are unlikely to be able to directly control many of the determinants of health. These determinants—or things that make people healthy or not—include the above factors, and many others:

Income and social status - higher income and social status are linked to better health. The greater the gap between the richest and poorest people, the greater the differences in health.

Education – low education levels are linked with poor health, more stress and lower self-confidence.

Physical environment – safe water and clean air, healthy workplaces, safe houses, communities and roads all contribute to good health. Employment and working conditions – people in employment are healthier, particularly those who have more control over their working conditions.

Social support networks – greater support from families, friends and communities is linked to better health. Culture - customs and traditions, and the beliefs of the family and community all affect health.

Genetics - inheritance plays a part in determining lifespan, healthiness and the likelihood of developing certain illnesses. Personal behavior and coping skills – balanced eating, keeping active, smoking, drinking, and how we deal with life's stresses and challenges all affect health.

Health services - access and use of services that prevent and treat disease influence health.

Gender - Men and women suffer from different types of diseases at different ages.

Environmental Factors



Safe water and clean air are critical environmental factors that contribute to the health and well-being of a community. The [United States Environmental Protection Agency's](#) (EPA) "mission is to protect

health and the environment." EPA provides information and data on a wide range of environmental subjects, such as air and water quality. Through [MyEnvironment](#) information can be found on numerous environmental subjects per location.

Drinking Water Quality

The [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) requires states to report drinking water information periodically to the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). Data on public water systems by state, city, town, county, or water system can be found through the [Safe Drinking Water Information System \(SDWIS\) Federal Reporting Systems](#).

Drinking Water Violations Include:

- Failed to follow established monitoring and reporting schedules
 - Failed to comply with mandated treatment techniques
 - Violated any Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
 - Failed to communicate required information to their customers
- [Epa.gov](#)

According to data retrieved from SDWIS, in Florida there are more than 18,000 public water facilities, of which 120 and 113 serve the Indian River and Okeechobee County populations, respectively (0.7 and 0.6 percent of the total in Florida, respectively). As of the first quarter in 2020, public water facilities in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties received 273 and 837 site visits, respectively, which recorded 266 and 773 violations, respectively (0.4 and 1.4 percent of the state total, respectively) (Table 36).^{xxxi}

Public Water Systems of the EOC FL Service Area 2020							
Source: SDWIS							
	Population Served	Number and Percent of State Total					
		Facilities		Site Visits		Violations	
Florida	20,855,176	18,349	X	130,800	X	54,697	X
Indian River County	164,905	120	0.7%	273	0.2%	226	0.4%
Okeechobee County	25,419	113	0.6%	837	0.6%	773	1.4%

Table 36: Public Water Systems (2020)

Air Quality

For the public to be informed about the air quality in the area, air agencies use a uniform reporting system and Air Quality Index (AQI). *The AQI focuses on health effects that may be experienced within hours or days after exposure to polluted air. It uses a normalized scale from 0 to 500: the higher the AQI value, the greater the level of pollution and the greater the health concern.*^{xxxii}

Numerical Value	Color	Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Meaning
0 - 50	Green	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
51 - 100	Yellow	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
101 - 150	Orange	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
151 - 200	Red	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
201 - 300	Purple	Very unhealthy	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
301 - 500	Maroon	Hazardous	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

Figure 30: Air Quality Index Levels

According to the annual summary data of 2019 by the EPA, in Indian River County there were 203 days in 2019 with an assigned air quality index value. Of those days, 192 days were rated as “good days” (95 percent) and 11 were rated “moderate days” (5 percent). There was no data reported for Okeechobee County. In context, in Los Angeles County, California, only 30.7 percent of days with an AQI were calculated as good days and 60.4 percent calculated as moderate days.

Health Insurance

Based on U.S. Census data, 9.4 percent of the United States civilian noninstitutionalized population lacks health insurance. Florida, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties report an even higher percentage of the population lacking health insurance, 13.5, 12.1, and 18.1 percent, in the order previously mentioned (Fig 31).

In Florida 5.6 percent of the children under the age of 6 and 7.6 percent of children under the age of 19 lack health insurance. Compared with Florida, in Indian River County the percentages for children under age 6 are equal, but are lower for those under 19 without health insurance, at 5.6 and 6.7 percent, respectively; in Okeechobee County the percentages for children under the age of 6 and 19 without health insurance are higher, at 9.7 and 10.7 percent, correspondingly.

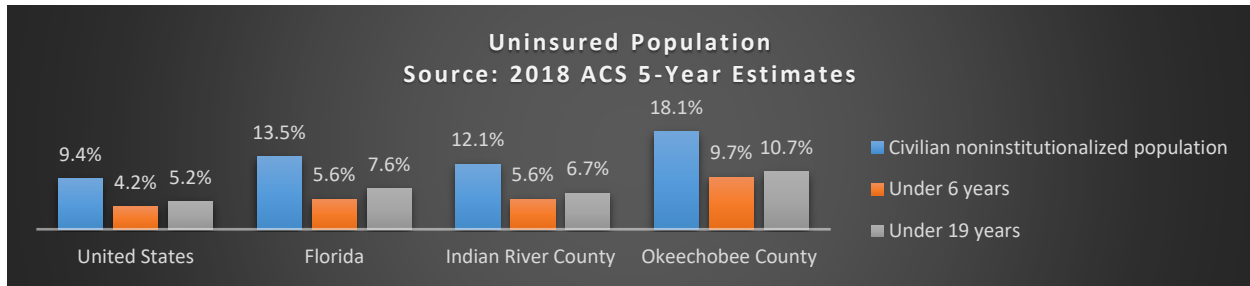


Figure 31: Health Insurance Coverage (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Health Professional Shortage Areas

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA), provides data on health care programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. One of the datasets reports on Health Professional Shortage Areas, or HPSAs. An HPSA can be a geographic location, a population group or facility experiencing a shortage of health care professionals. The three categories measured within HPSAs are dental health, mental health and primary care.

Based on data collected from the [CARES Engagement Network](#), in the United States there are more than 11,000 facilities designated as a “Health Professional Shortage Area” (HPSA), meaning the facility has a lack of health care providers to adequately serve the community. Of those 11,000 facilities, almost 4,000 are primary care providers, more than 3,600 are mental health providers, and more than 3,400 are dental providers.

In Florida 390 facilities are designated as HPSAs, of which 138 are primary care providers, 125 are mental health providers and 127 are dental providers. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, there were three HPSA’s per county, one for each type of facility.^{xxxiii}

Note: Family Mental Health data is located in the [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) (ACEs) section.

Immunizations

Based on data retrieved from [Department of Health State of Florida](#) ([Florida Health Charts](#)), more than 224,000 children were enrolled in kindergarten in Florida Schools, of which 1,298 and 522 were enrolled, respectively, in Indian River and Okeechobee County schools. Of the children enrolled in kindergarten in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, 93.8, 94.2, and 95 percent, correspondingly, received immunizations (Table 37).

Kindergarten Immunization 2019			
Source: Florida Health Charts			
	Students Enrolled in KG	Immunizations Received	
		Number	Percentage
Florida	224,641	210,607	93.8
Indian River County	1,298	1,223	94.2
Okeechobee County	522	496	95.0

Table 37: Kindergarten Immunization (2019)

Prevalent Health Problems

Asthma

Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs. It is one of the most common long-term diseases of children, but adults can have asthma, too. Asthma causes wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing at night or early in the morning. If you have asthma, you have it all the time, but you will have asthma attacks only when something bothers your lungs.

We don't know all the things that can cause asthma, but we do know that genetic, environmental, and occupational factors have been linked to developing asthma. If someone in your immediate family has asthma, you are more likely to have it. "Atopy," the genetic tendency to develop an allergic disease, can play a big part in developing allergic asthma. However, not all asthma is allergic asthma. Being exposed to things in the environment, like mold or dampness, some allergens such as dust mites, and secondhand tobacco smoke have been linked to developing asthma. Air pollution and viral lung infection may also lead to asthma. - <https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm>

According to data gathered from the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), there were 6,619 children between the ages of 1 and 5 hospitalized due to an asthma rate of 574.9 per 100,000 children. Of these children, 27 and 22, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, respectively, a rate of 424 and 924.2, correspondingly, per 100,000 children (Table 38).

Asthma Hospitalization Ages 1-5 per 100,000 Children (2018)		
Source: Florida Health Charts		
	Number	Rate
Florida	6,619	574.9
Indian River County	27	424.0
Okeechobee County	22	924.2

Table 38: Asthma Hospitalization Ages 1-5 (2018)

Obesity

According to data collected from [The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2019](#) Florida has the 27th highest adult obesity rate in the nation, 30.7 percent. Highest rates of obesity were seen for those ages 45-64 (36.2 percent), and among black/African American residents (36.3 percent). In 2017, a report from [The State of Childhood Obesity](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that 17.8 percent of children, ages 10-17, in Florida have obesity. The report also includes data from 2016 among WIC participants, ages 2-4, which indicated that 12.7 percent were identified as obese.

Diabetes and Hypertension

Among the obesity-related diseases reported are diabetes and hypertension. In Florida 12.4 percent of the adult population had diabetes (2018) and 34.6 percent had hypertension (2017), ranking Florida 13th and 16th, respectively, in the nation.

Oral Health

Dental disease is the most common chronic illness for children in the United States. Poor oral health in children and adults can lead to many health problems, ranging from tooth loss and gum disease to digestion problems and inflammation of major organs due to infection. Dental disease, decayed teeth, and/or missing teeth also affect self-esteem.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than one-quarter of children have tooth decay in baby teeth before entering kindergarten.^{xxxiv} As of 2017, 85 percent of children, ages

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Health and Wellness

2 to 17, visited the dentist in the past year, and approximately 64 percent of adults, ages 18 to 64, visited a dentist in the past year.^{xxxv}

Childhood tooth decay disproportionately affects low-income families and racial or ethnic minorities. The rate of untreated dental caries in children from families with incomes below the poverty level is double that of nonpoor children.^{xxxvi}



According to the Dental Service Profile provided by the Medicaid Data Analytics Data Science Unit of the [Agency for Health Care Administration – MyFlorida](#), during the fiscal year July 2017-June 2018, in Florida more than 1.5 million children, ages 2 to 21, who are Florida Medicaid recipients were eligible for dental services, of which 9,302 and 4,827, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. In Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, 755,818 (49 percent), 4,984 (54 percent), and 2,869 (59 percent) recipients, correspondingly, received at least one dental visit (Table 39).^{xxxvii}

Florida Medicaid Dental Services (Children Ages 2 - 21) (SFY July 2017 - June 2018)			
Source: Agency for Health Care Administration - MyFlorida			
	Eligible population	Population Receiving Dental Visits	
Florida	1,551,734	49%	755,818
Indian River County	9,302	54%	4,984
Okeechobee County	4,827	59%	2,869

Table 39: Dental Services (Children Ages 2 - 21) (2017-18)

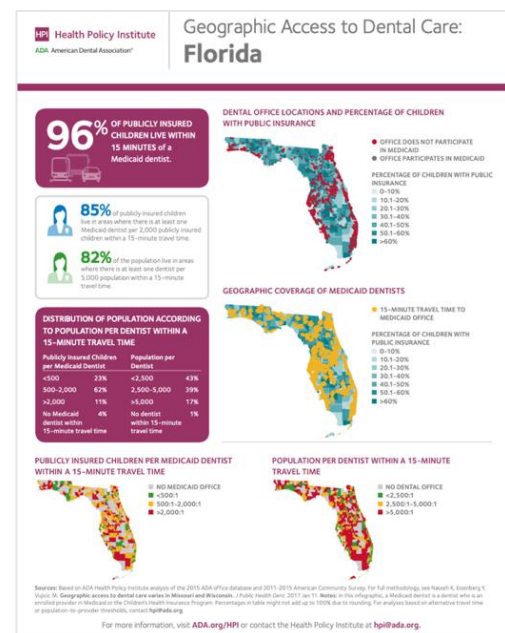
Dentist-to-Population Ratio

Per the [2020 County Health Rankings](#) (2018 data), in Florida there were 12,575 dentists, a ratio of one dentist per 1,690 residents. Indian River and Okeechobee Counties have one dentist per 1,470 and 2,310 residents, respectively.

Geographic Access to Dental Care

The Health Policy Institute has developed an approach to measure dental care access by state, available on the [American Dental Association](#) website. Each state-level analysis is illustrated in an infographic. Per 2015 data (the most recent available at the time of this report), in Florida 96 percent of publicly insured children lived within 15 minutes of a Medicaid dentist.^{xxxviii}

(Click on image to access the PDF)



Leading Causes of Death

According to data gathered from the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), Florida’s death rate for all causes in 2018 was 679.4 per 100,000 residents. In Indian River County, the death rate for all causes was lower, at 639.5; in Okeechobee County the rate was higher, at 810.3. The top two leading causes of death in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties were cardiovascular diseases and malignant neoplasms (cancer).^{xxxix} Compared with Florida, Okeechobee County had higher rates for cardiovascular diseases, and both Indian River and Okeechobee Counties had higher rates for cancer (Table 40).

Leading Causes of Death by Rate per 100,000 Residents			
Source: Florida Health Charts			
	Florida	Indian River County	Okeechobee County
Total Deaths	679.4	639.5	810.3
Cardiovascular Diseases	204.4	177.7	240.7
Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer)	146.2	160.6	153.6
External Causes	77.3	87.2	106.6
Other Causes (Residual)	75.5	55.9	58.3
Respiratory Diseases	60.7	48.8	125.7
Nervous System Diseases	28.4	36.6	16.7
Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	22.2	18.4	20.0
Infectious Diseases	15.5	12.8	15.0
Digestive Diseases	14.0	15.9	16.7
Symptoms, Signs & Abnormal Findings	10.6	5.9	32.8

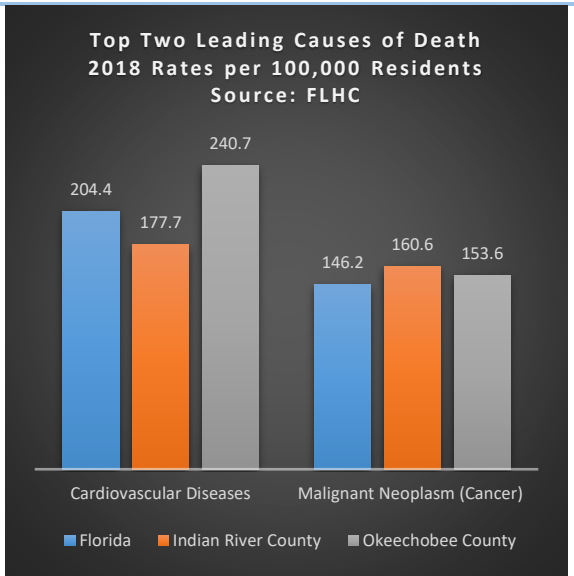


Table 40: Leading Causes of Death by Rate per 100,000 Residents (2018)

Maternal and Infant Health

Fertility/Birth Rates

According to U.S. Census data, almost 4 million women, ages 15 to 50, gave birth in the United States in the past 12 months (2018 ACS 5-year Estimates), a birth rate of 52 per 1,000 women (Table 41). In Florida and Indian River County, the reported birth rate per 1,000 women ages 15 to 50 was lower than the United States, 48 and 39, respectively; in Okeechobee County the birth rate was significantly higher, 70 per 1,000 women.

Table 41 illustrates the number of women who gave birth in the past 12 months (5-year averages) for each geographic location studied, as well as the corresponding birth rate for all women, ages 15-50, ages 15-19, ages 20-34, and ages 35-50.

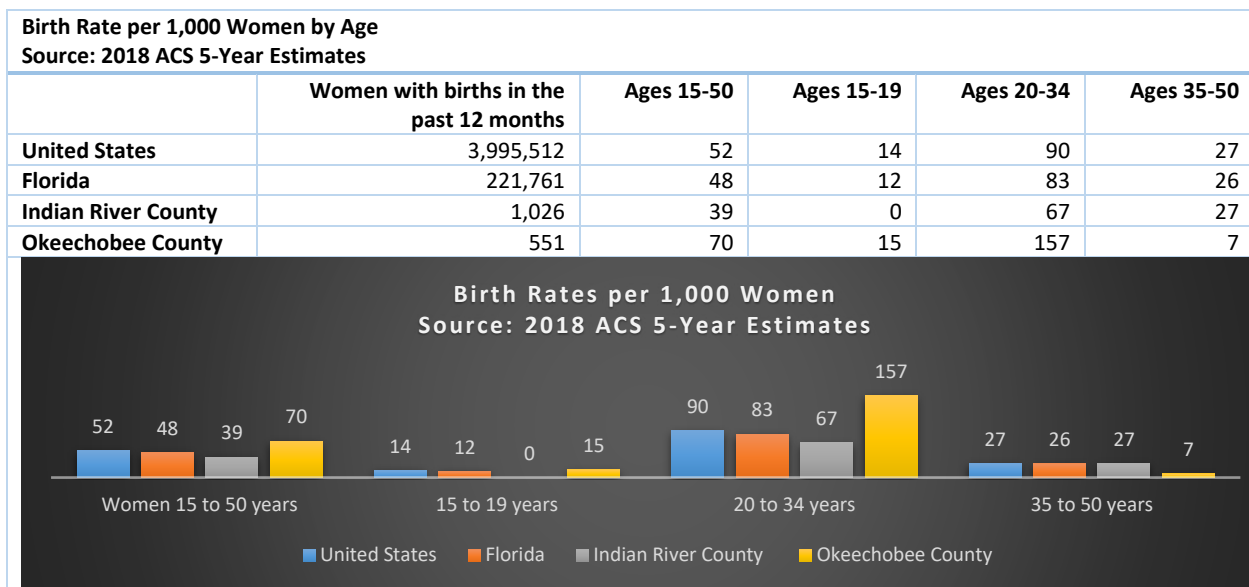


Table 41: Birth Rates per 1,000 Women (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

NOTE: Census estimates report on the number of women who gave birth in the past 12 months; the 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates report on the average of five years from 2014 to 2018.

Teen Pregnancy

According to the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), Florida's teen birth rate for girls, ages 14-19, in 2018 was 16.7 (per 1,000 teens), 9.3 in Indian River County, and 28.6 in Okeechobee County. The teen birth rates decreased in Florida and Indian River County from 2017 to 2018, but almost doubled in Okeechobee County during the same time period (Table 42).

Births by Mothers' Age, Ages 14-19 (2017-18)				
Source: FLHealthCharts.com				
	2018		2017	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Florida	9,828	16.7	10,709	18.5
Indian River County	7	9.3	8	11.3
Okeechobee County	10	28.6	7	15.2

Table 42: Teen Births (2017-18)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Health and Wellness

Prenatal Health Care

Based on data retrieved from the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, 2.3, 1.5, and 4.1 percent of women who gave birth in 2018, respectively, did not receive prenatal health care (Table 43).

Prenatal Health Care 2018 Source: FLHealthCharts.com						
		None	Unknown	First	Second	Third
Florida	Count	4,492	22,018	152,514	32,800	9,684
	Percent	2.3	9.9	76.5	16.4	4.9
Indian River County	Count	19	27	983	206	59
	Percent	1.5	2.1	77.6	16.3	4.7
Okeechobee County	Count	22	29	346	139	24
	Percent	4.1	5.2	65.2	26.2	4.5

Table 43: Prenatal Health Care (2018)

Low Birthweight Babies

According to data obtained through the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), of the 221,508 live births in 2018 in Florida, more than 19,000 were born with a low birthweight (8.7 percent), and more 3,500 with a very low birthweight (1.6 percent). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 97 and 30 infants, respectively, were born with a low birthweight, and 17 and 2 infants, respectively, were born with a very low birthweight (Table 44).

Low birthweight is defined as less than 2500 grams or 5 1/2 pounds. It is also common to classify low birthweight births into **moderately low birthweight** (1500-2499 grams) and **very low birthweight** (less than 1500 grams or 3 1/3 pounds). These classifications are useful because they often correspond to clinical characteristics - increasing morbidities or illnesses with decreasing birthweight. Babies born too small are often born too soon. While the causes of low birthweight and preterm birth may be different in some cases, there is significant overlap within these populations of infants.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/Peristats.aspx>

Live Underweight Births, 2018 (Number and Rate per 1,000 Infants) Source: FLHealthCharts.com					
	Total births	Low (- 2500 grams / 5.5 pounds)		Very low (- 1500 grams / 3.3 pounds)	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Florida	221,508	19,271	8.7	3,537	1.6
Indian River County	1,294	97	7.5	17	1.3
Okeechobee County	560	30	5.4	2	0.4

Table 44: Babies with Low Birthweight (2018)

Infant Mortality

According to data obtained from [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), in 2018 there were 1,334 infant deaths (a rate of 6 infants per 1,000 live births), of which 892 were neonatal and 442 were post-neonatal infant deaths (Table 45). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, there were two and three infant deaths, respectively.

Infant Mortality, 2018 Source: FLHealthCharts.com						
	Infant		Neonatal		Post neonatal	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Florida	1,334	6.0	892	4.0	442	2.0
Indian River County	2	1.5	0	0	2	1.5
Okeechobee County	3	5.4	1	1.8	2	3.6

Table 45: Infant Mortality Count and Rate per 1,000 Live Births (2018)

Infant death: death of an infant under age 1.

Neonatal death: death of an infant less than 28 days of age.

Fetal death: spontaneous intrauterine death of a fetus at any time during pregnancy.

Perinatal death: death of an infant between 20 weeks gestation through 27 days after birth.

Nutrition

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

As of May 2020, Florida was home to more than 2 million households (3.6 million individuals) that receive food stamps, of which 10,603 (19,025 individuals) and 4,765 (9,193 individuals) households, respectively, reside in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties (Table 46).^{xi}

Food Stamp Clients (May 2020)		
Source: Florida Department of Children and Families		
	Households	Individuals
Florida	2,061,382	3,661,460
Indian River County	10,603	19,025
Okeechobee County	4,765	9,193

Table 46: Food Stamp Clients (May 2020)

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



The special supplemental nutrition program for [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) is a federal program providing support to low-income pregnant, nursing and non-nursing postpartum women and children, ages 0 to 5. The program is designed to provide supplemental foods, nutrition education, and referrals for health care services. As of February 2020, average monthly WIC participation in Florida reached 397,545. Approximately 51 percent of WIC recipients in Florida are children (200,865), 24 percent are women (95,365) and 25 percent are infants (101,315).^{xii}

National School Lunch Program

The Florida School System's Free and Reduced Lunch program provides meals to low-income children while attending public school. During the 2019-20 school year, 39.3 percent of students in Florida were eligible for free or reduced-price meals (Table 47).^{xiii} In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 50.9 and 1.6 percent, respectively, were eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

National School Lunch Program Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (2019-20)				
Source: fldoe.org				
	Total Members	#Free	#Reduced-Price	Percent Free / Reduced
Florida	2,846,857	973,768	145,142	39.3%
Indian River County	17,872	8,508	596	50.9%
Okeechobee County	6,627	109	0	1.6%*

*Researcher note: This may be an error in data as reported by the FLDOE.

Table 47: National School Lunch Program Report (2019-20)

The [Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\)](#) is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture established in 1969. FNS works to end hunger and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs, including WIC, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and school meals. The program's mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. No American should have to go hungry.

The [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is designed to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

The special supplemental nutrition program for [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) is a federal program providing support to low-income pregnant, nursing and non-nursing postpartum women and children, ages 0 to 5. The program is designed to provide supplemental foods, nutrition education, and referrals for health care services.

The [National School Lunch Program](#) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

Food Insecurity

Food deprivation and its measure are often referred to as *Food Insecurity*. The USDA defines food insecurity as meaning “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.” In the U.S., almost one in five children live in a household in which they do not always know where they will find their next meal.



An estimated 11.2 million children under the age of 18 in the U.S. live in homes that are unable to consistently access enough and nutritious foods, a rate of 15.2 percent.^{xliii} In Florida 13 percent of the total population lives without access to enough and nutritious foods. The food insecurity rate for children is even higher, 19.4 percent, which accounts for 819,370 children (Fig 33).



Figure 32: Food Insecurity in United States (2018)

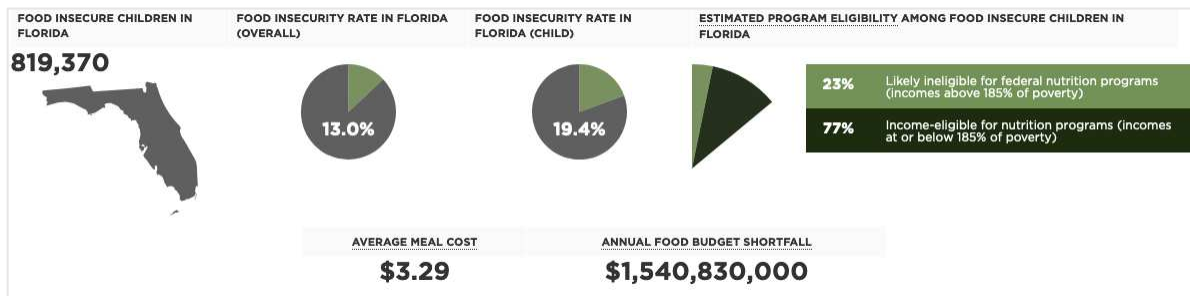


Figure 33: Food Insecurity in Florida (2018)

The overall food insecurity rate in the Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc. Head Start service area ranges from 12.6 percent in Indian River County to 14.9 percent in Okeechobee County. The overall child food insecurity rate ranges from 20.2 percent in Indian River County to 24.2 percent in Okeechobee County. A total of 7,290 children experience food insecurity in the Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc. Head Start service area (Table 48).^{xliv}

Food Insecurity (2018)			
Source: Feeding America			
	Food insecurity rate (full pop)	Child food insecurity rate	Estimated number of food insecure children
Florida	13.0%	19.4%	819,370
Indian River County	12.6%	20.2%	5,140
Okeechobee County	14.9%	24.2%	2,150

Table 48: Food Insecurity in EOCIRC, Inc. Service Area (2018)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Nutrition

Food Deserts

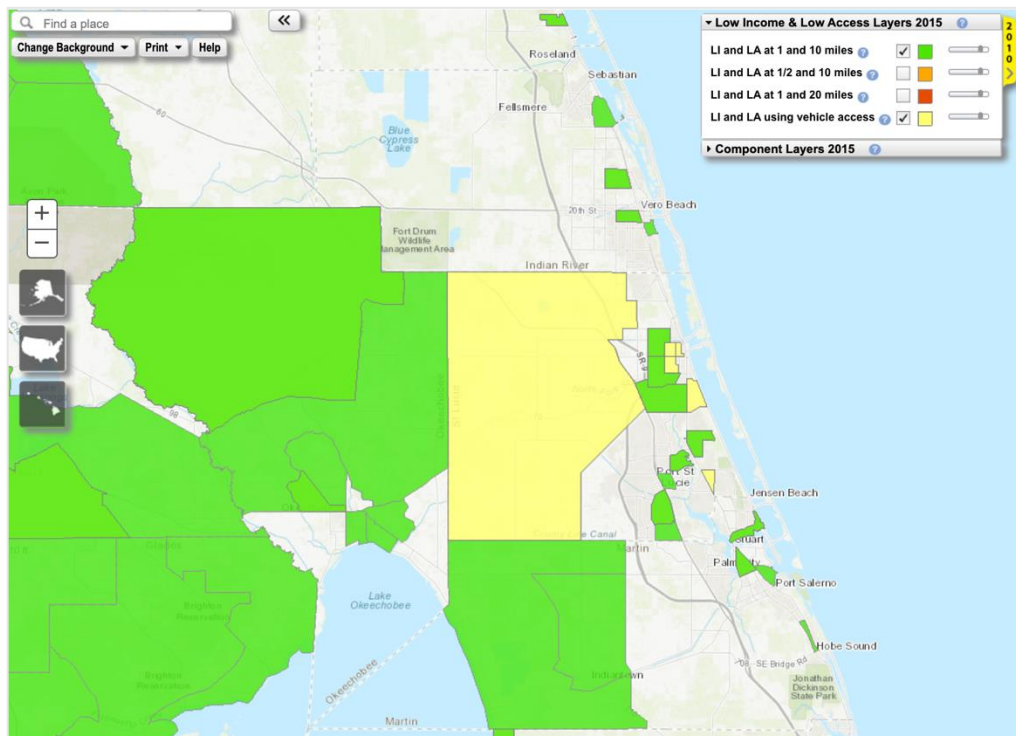
Food deserts are defined as “urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. Instead of supermarkets and grocery stores, these communities may have no food access, or are served only by fast food restaurants and convenience stores that offer few healthy, affordable food options.” A 1-mile marker is used in densely populated urban areas, while a 10-mile marker is used in more sparsely populated rural areas. In the United States, it is estimated that 23.5 million people live in food deserts, of which 13.5 million are low-income families.^{xlv}



The USDA, Treasury, and HHS have defined a food desert as a census tract with a substantial share of residents who live in low-income areas that have low levels of access to a grocery store or healthy, affordable food retail outlet. Census tracts qualify as food deserts if they meet low-income and low-access thresholds:

1. They qualify as "**low-income communities**," based on having: a) a poverty rate of 20 percent or greater, OR b) a median family income at or below 80 percent of the area median family income; AND
2. They qualify as "**low-access communities**," based on the determination that at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population live more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (10 miles, in the case of non-metropolitan census tracts).

[FOOD ACCESS RESEARCH ATLAS \(click on title for interactive map\)](#)



On the following map, areas shaded in **green** are low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than **1 mile (urban) and 10 miles (rural)** from the nearest supermarket.

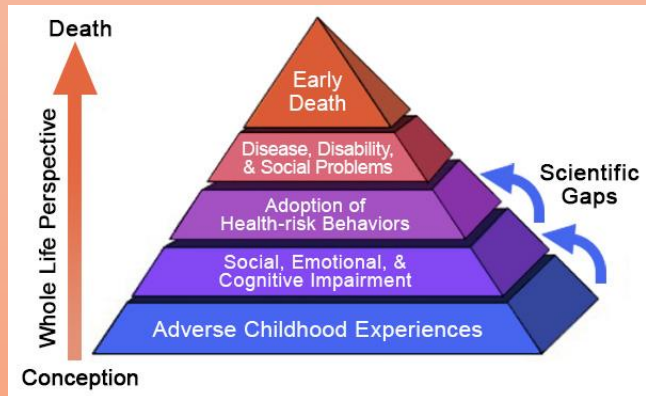
Areas shaded in **yellow** are low-income census tracts where a significant number of households have **low vehicle access** or a significant number or share of residents are **more than 20 miles** from the nearest supermarket.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are a significant risk factor for substance use disorders and can impact prevention efforts. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. They may also include household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with family members who have [substance use disorders](#). ACEs are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person’s lifespan, including those associated with substance misuse. (<https://www.samhsa.gov/>)

ACEs include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect
- Intimate partner violence
- Mother treated violently
- Substance misuse within household
- Household mental illness
- Parental separation or divorce
- Incarcerated household member



Safety and Crime

According to the [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#), in 2018 there were 567,166 crimes in Florida, of which 2,727 were in Indian River County and 1,381 were in Okeechobee County (Table 49). In Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, larceny was the most committed crime, followed by burglary (Fig 34).^{xlvi}

Reported Crimes by Type of Crime 2018								
Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement								
	Total Index Crimes	Larceny	Burglary	Aggravated Assault	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Rape	Murder
Florida	567,166	372,350	71,801	55,491	41,119	16,862	8,436	1,107
Indian River County	2,727	1,884	395	228	119	51	38	12
Okeechobee County	1,381	863	218	156	98	25	20	1

Table 49: Number of Reported Crimes by Type of Crime (2018)

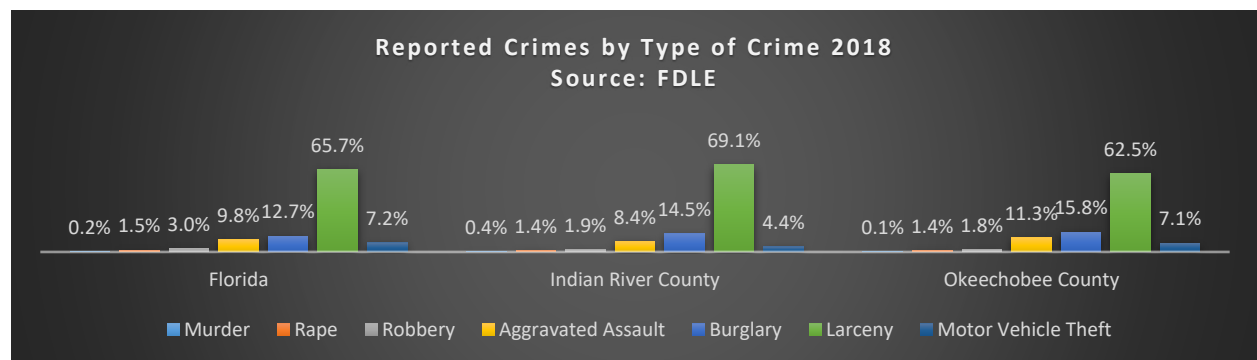


Figure 34: Percentage of Reported Crimes by Type of Crime (2018)

Prevalence of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

Drug- and Alcohol-Related Deaths

Based on data collected from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [CDC Wonder](#), a system for disseminating public health data and information, in 2018 there were 4,925 drug-induced deaths in Florida (a rate of 23.1 per 100,000 residents), of which 33 were in Indian River County (a rate of 20.9 per 100,000 residents) and 11 were in Okeechobee County (rate not reliable) (Table 50). In Florida and Indian River County, there were 2,861 and 33 alcohol-induced deaths, respectively. The rate of alcohol-induced deaths per 100,000 residents in Florida is a lower than the rate in Indian River County, 13.4 versus 20.9.^{xlvii}

Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths (2018)						
Source: CDC						
	Florida (Population Count = 21,299,325)		Indian River County (Population Count = 157,413)		Okeechobee County (Population Count = 41,537)	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total drug-induced causes	4,925	23.1	33	20.9	11	Unreliable
Total alcohol-induced causes	2,861	13.4	33	20.9	0	N/A

Table 50: Drug- and Alcohol-Induced deaths (2018)

According to [County Health Rankings 2020](#), 17 percent of the adults in Florida and Okeechobee County, and 19 percent of adults in Indian River County reported excessive drinking in 2017.^{xlviii} Excessive drinking is measured by the adult population who reports binge or heavy drinking in the past 30 days.

Binge Drinking is responsible for over half the deaths and three-quarters of the costs due to excessive alcohol use. CDC estimates that 37 million U.S. adults—or 1 in 6—binge drink about once a week, consuming an average of 7 drinks per binge. As a result, U.S. adults consume about 17 billion binge drinks annually, or about 470 binge drinks per binge drinker. Further, 9 in 10 adults who binge drink do not have an alcohol use disorder.

Chronic Health Effects
Over time, excessive alcohol use can lead to the development of chronic diseases and other serious problems, including alcohol use disorder and problems with learning, memory, and mental health. Chronic health conditions that have been linked to excessive alcohol use include:

- High Blood Pressure, Heart Disease, and Stroke
- Liver Disease
- Cancer

Immediate Health Effects
Excessive alcohol use has immediate effects that increase the risk of many harmful health conditions, including the following:

- Injuries, Violence, and Poisonings
- Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Poor Pregnancy Outcomes

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Prenatal Substance Exposure

According to [Florida Health](#), 1,375 infants were born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in 2018, a rate of 62.07 per 10,000 live births.^{xlix} In Indian River County, seven infants were born with NAS, a rate of 54.1 per 10,000 live births. Counts and rates were suppressed for Okeechobee County.

Opiod Epidemic

Opiod Prescriptions

According to data gathered from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), the rate of retail opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 persons in 2018 in Florida was 53.7; the rates in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties were higher, 81.2 and 86.3 prescriptions, respectively, per 100 persons (Fig 35).¹

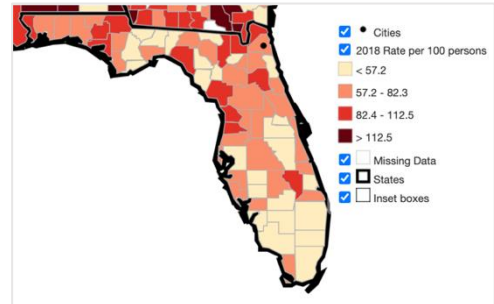
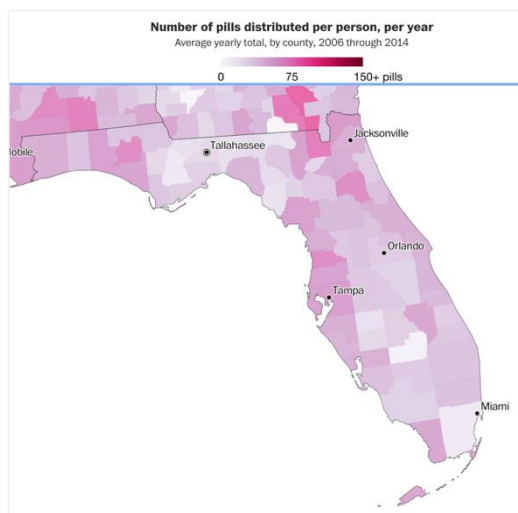


Figure 35: Opioid Prescription Rates (2018)

Pill Distribution



The [Washington Post](#) gained access to the database maintained by the Drug Enforcement Administration that tracks the path of every single pain pill sold in the United States, by manufacturers and distributors to pharmacies in every town and city.



According to the data retrieved from the *Washington Post* dashboard, from 2006 to 2014, more than 6.8 billion prescription pain pills were supplied in Florida, of which more than 54 million and 19 million, respectively, were supplied in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Figure 36 shows the 2006-14 averages of the number of pills distributed per person, per year, by county annually.

The largest distributor of pain pills in Florida and Indian River County was Walgreens, and in Okeechobee County it was Cardinal Health. The top manufacturer of pills in Florida, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties was Actavis Pharma, Inc. Figure 37 lists the top five pharmacies supplying prescribed pain pills from 2006 to 2014.

Figure 36: Number of Pills Distributed (2006-14)

Pharmacies	Pharmacies	Pharmacies
<p>Top five, from 2006 to 2014, in Florida.</p> <p>WALGREENS MAIL SERVICE, INC., ORLANDO 66,688,700 pills</p> <p>PMSI, LLC, TAMPA 26,253,800</p> <p>AETNA RX HOME DELIVERY LLC, PLANTATION 20,518,060</p> <p>OMNICARE PHARMACY OF FL, LP, TAMPA 20,083,720</p> <p>J & H STORES INC, FT LAUDERDALE 17,513,180</p>	<p>Top five, from 2006 to 2014, in Indian River County, Florida.</p> <p>WALGREEN CO., VERO BEACH 3,989,740 pills</p> <p>WALGREEN CO., VERO BEACH 3,719,870</p> <p>WALGREEN CO., SEBASTIAN 3,303,380</p> <p>D & S ENTERPRISES OF VERO BEACH LLC, ... 3,143,380</p> <p>INDIAN RIVER PHARMACY INC, VERO BEACH 3,107,490</p>	<p>Top five, from 2006 to 2014, in Okeechobee County, Florida.</p> <p>WALGREEN CO., OKEECHOBEE 5,273,120 pills</p> <p>S A S B INC DBA, OKEECHOBEE 4,519,480</p> <p>THE KINGS DRUGSTORE INC, OKEECHOBEE 2,825,860</p> <p>HOLIDAY CVS, L.L.C., OKEECHOBEE 2,550,740</p> <p>WAL-MART PHARMACY 10-0814, OKEECHOBEE 2,495,850</p>

Figure 37: Top Five Pharmacies Supplying Prescribed Pain Pills (2006-2014)

Opioid Deaths

According to the [Department of Health: Florida Health Charts](#), in 2018 (provisional data) there were 3,727 opioid overdose deaths in Florida, of which 27 and 6 deaths, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties; there were another 4,977 drug overdose deaths in Florida, of which 37 and 9 deaths, respectively, were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties (Table 51). Table 51 also shows the suspected nonfatal overdoses due to opioids and other drugs.

Opioid and Overdose Deaths and Suspected Nonfatal Overdoses 2018 (Provisional)						
Source: Florida Health Charts						
	Opioid Overdose deaths		Drug Overdose deaths		Suspected Non-fatal Overdose	
	Count	Rate per 100,000 persons	Count	Rate per 100,000 persons	Opioid	All Drugs
Florida	3,727	18.7	4,977	24.5	11820	35,102
Indian River County	27	19.8	37	27.5	92	343
Okeechobee County	6	14.6	9	22.9	17	62

The bar chart displays the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 persons for Opioid and Drug categories across three regions: Florida (blue), Indian River County (orange), and Okeechobee County (grey). For Opioid deaths, the rates are 18.7 for Florida, 19.8 for Indian River County, and 14.6 for Okeechobee County. For Drug deaths, the rates are 24.5 for Florida, 27.5 for Indian River County, and 22.9 for Okeechobee County.

Table 51: Opioid and Overdose Deaths and Suspected Nonfatal Overdoses (2018)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Child Abuse and Neglect

[Fostering Court Improvement](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the philosophy that "anything worth doing is worth measuring." The organization works with existing data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems (NCANDS) to create reports covering child maltreatment and foster care to facilitate discussions among local decision makers and organizations.

Florida is one of 11 states that make their child welfare data accessible to the general public. Based on data collected, from October 2018 to September 2019, in Florida there were more than 302,000 children who were subjects of maltreatment reports, of which 74.8 percent were subjects of maltreatment investigations. During this period, more than 29,000 victim reports were documented. In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 1,797 and 994 children, respectively, were subjects of maltreatment reports, of which 72.9 and 75.6 percent, respectively, were subjects of maltreatment investigations, resulting in 141 victim reports combined (Table 52).ⁱⁱ

Children Subjects of Maltreatment Reports (duplicated) (October 2018 - September 2019)							
Source: http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/							
	Maltreatment		Victim Reports				
	Reports	Investigations	Total	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Other Abuse
Florida	302,393	226,148 (74.8%)	29,487	15,270	1,965	2,315	9,937
Indian River County	1,797	1,310 (72.9%)	130	72	3	7	48
Okeechobee County	994	751 (75.6%)	111	62	2	10	37

Victim Reports by Type of Abuse
Source: <http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/>

Region	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Other Abuse
Florida	51.8%	6.7%	7.9%	33.7%
Indian River County	55.4%	2.3%	5.4%	36.9%
Okeechobee County	55.9%	1.8%	9.0%	33.3%

Table 52: Children Subjects of Maltreatment Reports (2018-19)

Foster Care

Children in foster care are categorically eligible for Head Start services, regardless of the foster families' incomes. Between October 2018 and September 2019, nearly 40,000 children were served in Florida, of which 224 were in Indian River County, and 206 were in Okeechobee County. The average daily number of children in foster care in Florida, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties was 24,420, 136 and 117 children, respectively (Table 53).

Children Served in Foster Care (October 2018 - September 2019)			
Source: http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/			
	Total Children Served	Average Daily Children in Care	Rank
Florida	39,987	24,420	N/A
Indian River County	224	136	49
Okeechobee County	206	117	8

Table 53: Children in Foster Care (10/2018-9/2019)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 3: What are the characteristics of the communities?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Child Removal: Victims of Maltreatment

Of the aforementioned 302,000 children who were subjects of maltreatment reports in Florida, 29,487 were classified as victims of maltreatment. Of those 29,487 victims of maltreatment, 10,581 (35.9 percent) were removed to foster care (Table 54). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, 43.8 and 42.3 percent of all victims of maltreatment, respectively, were removed to foster care.

Victim Reports in Foster Care October 2018 - September 2019			
Source: http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/			
Victims Removed to Foster Care			
	Number	Percent	Rank
Florida	10,581 (of 29,487)	35.9	N/A
Indian River County	57 (of 130)	43.8	16
Okeechobee County	4 (of 111)	42.3	20

Table 54: Victim Reports in Foster Care (10/2018-9/2019)

Out-of-Home Care

The [Florida Department of Children and Families](#) designed an interactive [Children and Young Adults in Out-of-Home Care Dashboard](#), providing an up-to-date count of children in out-of-home care, including data on the gender, race and placement type.

Based on this data, as of April 2020, there were 22,937 children in out-of-home care in Florida, of which 133 and 101 children were in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, respectively. The majority of the children in Florida, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties were white and lived with an approved relative. Discrepancies are seen for gender and age; in Florida and Okeechobee County, the majority of children in out-of-home care were males and 1-year-olds; in Indian River County, the majority of children were females and 2-year-olds.

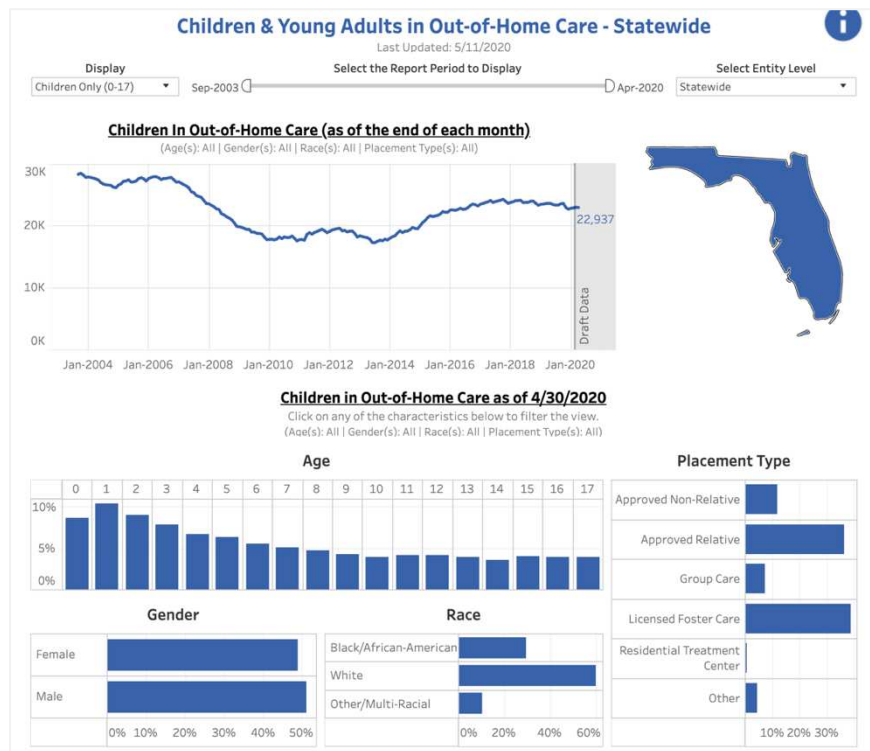


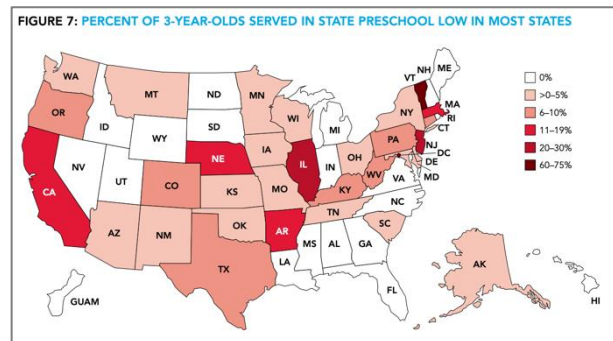
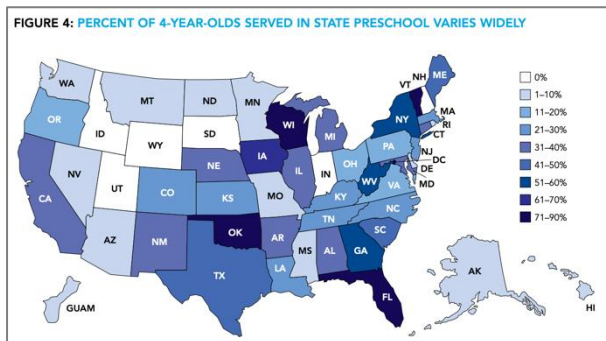
Figure 38: Children & Young Adults in Out-of-Home Care (2020)

MODULE 4: WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SERVE THESE COMMUNITIES?

Federal and/or State Funded Preschool Programs

Based on the 2019 State of Preschool report, issued by the [National Institution for Early Education Research \(NIEER\)](#), in the United States, approximately 34 percent of 4-year-olds, and 5.9 percent of 3-year-olds were served in state-funded preschool programs in 2018-19.

From the [Executive Summary](#): *State-funded preschool enrollment varies widely across states. Washington, D.C. continues to rank first in access for both 3- and 4-year-olds, serving 87 percent of 4-year-olds and 71 percent of 3-year-olds. Four other states (Vermont, Oklahoma, Florida, and Wisconsin) served more than 70 percent of 4-year-olds. And another five states served about half or more of 4-year-olds (Iowa, Georgia, West Virginia, New York, and Texas). Conversely, 11 states served less than 10 percent of 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool (Rhode Island, North Dakota, Alaska, Washington, Missouri, Nevada, Delaware, Mississippi, Arizona, Hawaii, and Montana).*



From the [Executive Summary](#): *Four states met all 10 of NIEER’s quality standards benchmarks: Alabama, Michigan, Rhode Island, and Mississippi, who joined the list for the first time this year after newly meeting the Professional Development benchmark. Seven other programs met nine benchmarks (Delaware, Louisiana NSECD, Maine, Missouri Preschool Program, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and West Virginia). Only 8 percent of children enrolled in state-funded preschool attend a program that meets nine or 10 quality standards benchmarks.*

FIGURE 5: CURRENT AND FORMER QUALITY STANDARDS BENCHMARKS

CURRENT STANDARD	CHANGE	FORMER STANDARD
Comprehensive Early Learning and Development Standards that are horizontally and vertically aligned, supported, and culturally sensitive	Enhanced	Comprehensive Early Learning Standards
Supports for Curriculum Implementation	New	None
Lead Teacher Degree (BA)	No change	Lead Teacher Degree (BA)
Lead Teacher Specialized Training in ECE/CD	No change	Lead Teacher Specialized Training in ECE/CD
Assistant Teacher Degree (CDA)	No change	Assistant Teacher Degree (CDA)
15 hours/year of professional development, annual individualized plans professional development plans, and coaching for lead and assistant teachers	Enhanced	Teacher-in-Service (15 hours/year)
Maximum Class Size (20)	No change	Maximum Class Size (20)
Staff-Child Ratio (1:10)	No change	Staff-Child Ratio (1:10)
Screenings & Referrals	Slight Change	Screenings & Referrals & 1 Support Service
None	Discontinued	Meals (At least 1)
Continuous Quality Improvement System	Enhanced	Monitoring (Site Visits at least once every five years)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Federal and/or State Funded Preschool Programs

Florida State Overview

Florida ranks 4th for access and enrollment of 4-year-olds but does not serve any 3-year-olds. During the 2018-19 school year, programs enrolled 75 percent of all 4-year-old children. The state, however, is 42nd in state spending, with per-child spending of only \$2,177 (the average state funding per child in 2018-19 was \$5,374) and has met **only two of the current 10 quality standard benchmarks**. During the 2018-19 program year, 173,633 children were enrolled in pre-K programs, 23,101 in special education programs, and 32,550 in federally funded Head Start programs. Total state funding for the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten program was \$391,215,901.

Click for full size [Florida State Profile](#)

Florida

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED

Year	3-year-olds	4-year-olds
2002	0%	0%
2005	0%	0%
2008	0%	61%
2011	0%	76%
2014	0%	80%
2017	0%	75%
2018	0%	75%
2019	0%	75%

STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)

Year	3-year-olds	4-year-olds
2002	\$0	\$0
2005	\$0	\$0
2008	\$0	\$3,178
2011	\$0	\$2,890
2014	\$0	\$2,450
2017	\$0	\$2,515
2018	\$0	\$2,319
2019	\$0	\$2,253

OVERVIEW
 Florida preschool enrolled 173,633 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 3,917 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$391,215,901, down \$2,342,412 (1%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$2,253 in 2018-2019, down \$66 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. Florida met 2 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW
 The Florida Department of Education Office of Early Learning (OEL) was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five renewal award in 2019 for \$13.4 million annually. These funds will be used to strengthen Florida's overall early childhood system, with a focus on early learning, through December 2022.

BACKGROUND
 Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program was launched in 2005 after voters in 2002 approved a constitutional amendment providing prekindergarten access for all 4-year-olds. Recently, state policy was changed so that, beginning in 2016-2017, parents may postpone enrollment of young 4-year-olds in the VPK program for a year, consequently making 5-year-olds eligible. The program is managed by OEL, which was established as an independent agency affiliated with the state Department of Education. Age-eligible children are enrolled in either a 300-hour summer program, which every school district is mandated to offer, or a school-year program totaling 540 instructional hours. Teachers in the school-year program are required to have at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) degree or equivalent credential. Teachers in the summer program are required to have a bachelor's degree. VPK is provided in a variety of settings such as public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, licensed child care centers, accredited faith-based centers, and licensed family child care homes. Most children attend VPK in nonpublic school settings. Regional early learning coalitions monitor programs for compliance and administer VPK, distributing funding based on a fixed hourly rate. Programs are required to meet the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten, which were revised in 2017. Funding is determined by state legislators after review during the annual state appropriations process. The State Board of Education is required to establish a minimum kindergarten readiness rate to assess delivery of the VPK Education Program by providers and schools. All providers are required to administer the Florida VPK assessment at the beginning and end of the school year, with results used as a pre- and post-assessment to demonstrate learning gains. Florida's School Readiness Program is a separate initiative, funded by the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The program offers financial assistance for child care to qualified parents. This report focuses solely on the VPK program.

ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
4	None Served	42	43	2

THE STATE OF FLORIDA, 2019 - STATE PRESCHOOL YEARBOOK - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH - WWW.NIEER.ORG

FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	173,633
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation	Determined locally
Operating schedule	Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	23,101
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	32,550
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

Category	3-YEAR-OLD	4-YEAR-OLD
Pre-K	6%	75%
Head Start*	3%	8%
Special Ed†	1%	17%
Other/None	91%	1%

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	FL PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process	Approval process & supports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (summer); CDA or equivalent + training (school year)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE, Elem. Ed. (summer); CDA (school year)	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	None	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	12 hours/5 years (public teachers); 10 hours/year (teachers in licensed child care); PD plans (teachers on probation)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	12 (summer); 20 (school year)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:12 (summer); 1:11 or 2:12-20 (school year)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health (public schools & licensed child care only)	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	None	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$391,215,901
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,253
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$2,253

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Category	Spending (\$ THOUSANDS)
PRE-K	\$2,253
HOIST**	\$8,994
K-12***	\$11,364

* The K-12 programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in the figure.
 ** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK)

Based on data collected from [Florida's Office of Early Learning \(OEL\)](#), as of June 2018, Florida enrolled a total of 169,206 children in its Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program during the 2017-18 program year (most recent data available as of May 2020) (Table 55). Of the more than 169,000 children enrolled, 969 children were enrolled in Indian River County and 356 were enrolled in Okeechobee County.^{lii}

VPK Eligibility and Enrollment Data - 2017-2018 Program Year as of 06/2018
 Source: Florida Office of Early Learning

	Unpaid	Paid	Total Enrollments	Eligible Not Enrolled
Florida	130	169,067	169,206	7,262
Indian River County	0	969	969	2
Okeechobee County	0	356	356	1

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Federal and/or State Funded Preschool Programs

Table 55: VPK Eligibility and Enrollment Data (2017-18)

Note: The “unpaid and paid enrollment” in Table 55 refers to whether the child care provider has received payment for the services or not. The program is free to all 4-year-olds, regardless of family income.

Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds, regardless of family income. The **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** prepares early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year to be eligible. The program helps build a strong foundation for school using educational materials that are geared to various stages in a child’s development. Parents can choose from different educational settings and various program options. Private child care centers, public schools and specialized instructional services providers offer VPK.

In Florida, the majority of children served in the VPK program are served by private centers, more than 132,000 children, followed by public schools, more than 35,000 children (Table 56). In Indian River County, 726 VPK children were served in private centers and 248 in public schools. In Okeechobee County, 300 VPK children were served in private centers and 56 in public schools.

VPK Children Served by Provider Type - 2017-2018 Program Year as of 06/2018						
Source: Florida Office of Early Learning						
	Faith-Based Providers	Family Child Care Providers	Private Centers	Private Schools	Public Schools	Total Children Served
Florida	30,109	572	132,474	1,973	35,508	169,076
Indian River County	193	0	726	0	248	969
Okeechobee County	91	0	300	0	56	356

Table 56: VPK Children Served by Provider Type (2017-18)

Florida Licensed Child Care Programs
 Data from 2019 State Factsheet, which reflects 2018 calendar year data.

2019 State Child Care Facts in the State of: Florida



CHILD CARE NEED¹

POPULATION	FLORIDA	UNITED STATES
Total residents	20,278,447	321,004,407
Children age birth to 4 years	1,104,729	19,839,997
Children age birth to 4 years living in poverty	267,394	4,390,252
Children age 5 to 11	1,587,467	28,709,244
Total families with children	1,814,365	33,469,709
Single parent families	657,775	10,802,250
Families in poverty	539,921	8,253,388

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 POTENTIALLY IN NEED OF CHILD CARE	FLORIDA	UNITED STATES
Children in two-parent families, both parents in labor force	437,223	8,708,721
Children in single-parent families, parent in the labor force	409,488	6,248,816
Total children under age 6 potentially needing child care	846,711	14,957,537

NUMBER OF WORKING MOTHERS	FLORIDA	UNITED STATES
With infants under one year	138,007	2,502,585
With children under age 6 only	301,150	5,538,989
With children age 6 to 17 only	860,968	14,854,271
With both children under age 6 AND children age 6 to 17	238,774	4,406,577
Married working mothers	808,993	15,867,548
Single working mothers	416,314	6,664,103

AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE²

SPACES IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS	FLORIDA
Total spaces/slots	929,301
Percent of spaces in child care center programs*	78%
Percent of total spaces in licensed FCC homes	3%
Percent of total spaces in school-age care programs	4%
Percent of total spaces in other programs	15%
Percentage spaces/slots of licensed programs	
Percent of licensed spaces for infants	NR
Percent of licensed spaces for toddlers	NR
Percent of licensed spaces for preschool-aged children	NR
Percent of licensed spaces for school-aged children	NR

*Does not include school-aged programs

TYPES OF AVAILABLE CHILD CARE

TYPES OF CHILD CARE	FLORIDA
Number of center-based child care programs	7,382
Percent of centers nationally accredited	21%
Do faith-based programs need to be regulated?	Yes
Number of regulated faith-based programs	1,549
Number of family child care (FCC) homes	3,707
Percent of FCC homes nationally accredited	4%
Number of school-aged care programs	9,512
Percent of licensed programs with slots for school-aged children	74%
Percent of licensed programs with slots for ONLY school-aged children	4%
Number of other regulated child care centers	1,368
Number of other regulated FCC homes	1

CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

NUMBERS, INCOME, AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE ³	FLORIDA	UNITED STATES
Child care workers (in centers)	30,070	564,630
Average annual income of child care workers	\$23,590	\$24,610
Total paid early childhood workforce ⁴	NA	2.2 million

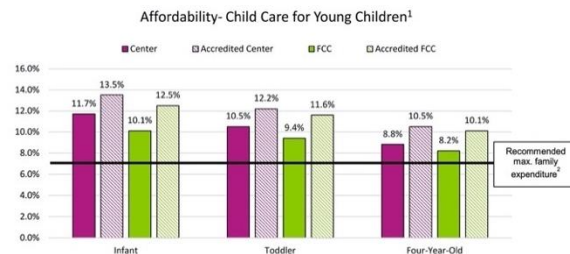
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CCR&R CONTACTS	URL
Florida CCR&R State Network	www.floridaearlylearning.com
Child Care Aware® of America	http://usa.childcareaware.org www.childcareaware.org

NOTES

- **NA:** Not Applicable
- **NR:** Data Not Reported or Not Available

2019 Child Care Affordability in the State of: Florida



Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Florida Licensed Child Care Programs

Children Potentially Needing Child Care

Based on U.S. Census data, in Florida 854,849 children under the age of 6 (66.6 percent) live in single- or dual-parent households, where one or both parent(s) are in the labor force, indicating that this group potentially needs child care. Of those 854,849 children, 5,453 are in Indian River County, and 988 are in Okeechobee County (Table 57).

Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force	
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates	
United States	14,994,766 (65.6%)
Florida	854,849 (66.6%)
Indian River County	5,453 (72.4%)
Okeechobee County	988 (39.8%)

Table 57: Children Under Age 6, Parent(s) in Labor Force (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Cost of Child Care

Based on [Child Care Aware® of America](#), the annual cost of infant child care in a center-based program is \$9,312 (compared with public college tuition, which is \$6,360). The cost of care for an infant and a 4-year-old is \$16,314 per year. Single parents earning a living wage pay 34.7 percent of their income for infant center care and married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 65 percent of their household income for center-based child care.^{liii}

Child Care Assistance: Florida’s School Readiness Program

Florida’s School Readiness Program offers financial assistance to low-income families for early childhood education. During the state’s 2017-18 fiscal year, there were 7,668 School Readiness providers in the state of Florida, of which 64 were in Indian River County and 11 were in Okeechobee County^{liv}.

During the same fiscal year, a total of 201,474 children were served by School Readiness programs in the state of Florida, of which 57,143 were EHS-eligible infants, toddlers, and 2-year-olds, and 61,703 were HS-eligible preschool-age children (not including 5-year-olds) (Table 58). In Indian River and Okeechobee Counties combined, 550 infants, toddlers and 2-year-olds, and 574 3- and 4-year-olds were served in the school readiness program.

School Readiness Enrollments - 2017-2018 Fiscal Year as of 06/2018									
Source: Florida Office of Early Learning									
	Infant	Toddler	2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	4 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	School Age	Special Needs	Total*
Florida	8,772	20,613	27,758	31,039	30,664	21,504	60,587	504	201,474
Indian River County	64	136	176	195	188	93	331	0	1,183
Okeechobee County	22	66	86	102	89	73	175	0	613

*The sum of county data does not equal the statewide total. Children may be served by more than one county.

Table 58: School Readiness Enrollments (2017-18)

Families with low incomes in Florida who are trying to work or get training to work may be eligible for school readiness help. The [School Readiness Program](#) offers financial assistance to low-income families for early childhood education and care so families can become financially self-sufficient and their young children can be successful in school in the future. Services vary based on individual need and range from extended day to extended year and school-age care in some instances. The program takes into account a child’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development; involves parents as their child’s first teacher; prepares children to be ready for school; and gives parents information about child development and other topics of interest. School readiness programs provide developmental screenings for children and referrals to health and educational specialists, and work in cooperation with other programs for young children such as Head Start, Early Head Start and the VPK program.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Florida Licensed Child Care Programs

Child Care Facilities

Based on the [Florida Department of Children and Families](#), there are 22 licensed or exempt child care facilities in Indian River County and 8 in Okeechobee County providing care to children, birth to school-ages, which as of March 2020, have an active School Readiness Status.^{lv} Tables 59 and 60 list each child care facility (excluding family daycare homes), as well as its child care capacity, and fee for care.

Indian River County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)					
Source: Florida Department of Children and Families					
Provider Name	Physical Address	Gold Seal	Capacity	Fee	Is VPK
Asbury United Methodist Church Academy	1708 43rd Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960		97	97	Yes
Bridges Early Learning Center	1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960		113	100	Yes
Busy Bee's Academy VB, LLC	1105 12th St, Vero Beach FL 32960		47	47	
Childcare Resources of Indian River, Inc.	2300 5th Ave Ste 149, Vero Beach FL, 32960	NAEYC	150	100	Yes
Cradles to Crayons	1285 6th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960	APPLE	231	100	Yes
Fellsmere Community Outreach and Preschool Inc.	1025 W Grant Ave, Fellsmere FL 32948		20	25	
First Impressions Daycare and Preschool No 2	935 9th Ct SW, Vero Beach FL 32962		24	25	Yes
For Kids Only Of Vero Beach	2044 16th St, Vero Beach FL 32960	APPLE	165	100	Yes
Hope Montessori Academy, Inc	2715 Atlantic Blvd, Vero Beach FL 32960		52	52	No
Kalyna's Child Care Center	3981 45th Pl, Vero Beach FL 32967		15	25	
La Petite Academy Inc	1418 27th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960	NECPA	135	100	Yes
Learn Play & Grow Learning Center LLC	2400 43rd St, Vero Beach FL, 32967		35	35	
Little Rising Stars, Inc.	2855 58th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32966	APPLE	60	60	Yes
Mrs. Theresa's Child Care Cntr	4895 38th Cir, Vero Beach FL 32967		72	72	Yes
Oxford Academy Preschool of Vero Beach	1728 24th St, Vero Beach FL 32960		59	59	
RCMA Children's House	7625 85th St, Vero Beach FL 32967	NAEYC	54	54	No
RCMA Indian River Robert Covill Child Development Cntr	111 N Maple St, Fellsmere FL 32948	NAEYC	75	75	
RCMA Whispering Pines Child Development Center	10076 Esperanza Cir, Fellsmere FL 32948	NACECEP	99	99	Yes
The Learning Nest	1088 Barber St, Sebastian FL 32958	NAEYC	132	100	Yes
Tiny Treasures	326 S Wimbrow Dr, Sebastian FL 32958	NAEYC	62	62	
Vero Beach Preschool Inc	890 6th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960		103	100	Yes
Williams Child Care and Preschool	2405 14th Ave, Vero Beach FL, 32960		73	73	Yes

Table 59: Indian River County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)

Okeechobee County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)					
Source: Florida Department of Children and Families					
Provider Name	Physical Address	Gold Seal	Capacity	Fee	Is VPK
A Child's World North	703 SW 6th St, Okeechobee FL 34974	APPLE	134	100	Yes
A Child's World South	4664 US Highway 441 SE, Okeechobee FL 34974	APPLE	70	70	Yes
Faith Academy Preschool	1803 SW 3rd Ave, Okeechobee FL, 34974		61	61	
Okeechobee Children's Academy	1811 SW 2nd Ave, Okeechobee FL, 34974		98	98	Yes
Rock Solid Christian Academy	401 SW 4th St, Okeechobee FL 34974		110		No
Stepping Stones Academy I Inc	400 SW 4th St, Okeechobee FL 34974	APPLE	176	100	Yes
Stepping Stones Academy II Inc	2205 US Highway 98 N, Okeechobee FL 34972	NECPA	99	99	Yes
Tender Care Daycare and Preschool, Inc.	604 SW 5th St, Okeechobee FL 34974	APPLE	105	100	Yes

Table 60: Okeechobee County: Child Care Facilities with an Active School Readiness Status (March 2020)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements and Partnerships

Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements and Partnerships

Name of Program/Partner	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone Number	Services Provided by Partner to Program
Disabilities						
Indian River County School District	6500 57th Street	Vero Beach	FL	32967	772-564-3000	Disabilities Services to children
Okeechobee School District	700 SW 2nd Avenue	Okeechobee	FL	34974	863-462-5000	Disabilities services for children
Whiting Pediatric Therapy Services, LLC	1140 7th Court	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-584-3888	Speech, Physical and OT services
Small Steps Pediatric Therapy	467 NW Prima Vista Blvd.	Port Saint Lucie	FL	34983	772-249-0341	Speech, Physical and OT services
Employment/Job Training						
Indian River State College	2229 NW 9th Avenue	Okeechobee	FL	34972	863-824-6000	Educational Services to Families
CareerSource of the Treasure Coast	1880 82nd Avenue, Ste. 103	Vero Beach	FL	32966	866-482-4473	Employment/Job Training to Families
Health						
Treasure Coast Community Health	1553 US 1	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-257-8224	Medical and Dental Services/WIC
Lions Club	800 30th Street	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-562-8450	Hearing and Vision Screening
Raulerson Outpatient Services	1926 US 441	Okeechobee	FL	34972	863-763-2663	Health Services to families
Mental Health						
Tykes and Teens	3577 SW Corporate Pkwy	Palm City	FL	34990	772-220-3439	Mental Health Services for children
Mental Health Collaborative	2345 14th Avenue, #5	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-217-3660	Mental Health Services for children
Nutrition						
Department of Children and Families	1145 18th Place	Vero Beach	FL	32960	850-487-1111	Foster Children
Our Village Okeechobee	1703 SW 2nd Avenue	Okeechobee	FL	34974	863-697-8718	Food to families
Sarah B. Starr, RD	1300 36th Street, Bldg 4	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-226-0664	Nutritionist
Other						
Gifford Community Center	4855 43rd Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32967	772-567-1435	Facilities Usage
Gifford Youth Achievement Center	4875 43rd Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32967	772-794-1005	Facilities Usage
InterGenerational Center	1590 9th Street SW	Vero Beach	FL	32962	772-226-1732	Facilities Usage
Social Services/Family Support Services						
Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative	1555 Indian River Blvd	Vero Beach	FL	32962	772-617-4350	Literacy and Kindergarten Transition
Safespace	612 SE Dixie Highway	Stuart	FL	34994	772-223-2399	Domestic Violence Services/Education
United Against Poverty Indian River County	1400 27th Street	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-564-9365	Food Bank
Martha's House	4134 US 441	Okeechobee	FL	34972	863-763-2893	Domestic Violence Services/Education
Healthy Families	1555 Indian River Blvd, Ste. B241	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-563-9118	Educational Services to Families
Hope for Families	720 4th Street	Vero Beach	FL	32962	772-562-5537	Homeless services for families
TLC Preschool	1899 Barber Street	Sebastian	FL	32958	772-589-1335	Afterschool Services to our families

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.
MODULE 4: What other organizations serve these communities?
Resources, Collaborative/Formal Agreements and Partnerships

Name of Program/Partner	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone Number	Services Provided by Partner to Program
Dasie Hope Center	8445 64th Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32967	772-589-3535	Afterschool Services to our families
Treasure Coast Homeless	2525 St. Lucie Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-567-7790	Homeless service for families
Treasure Coast Food Bank	401 Angle Road	Fort Pierce	FL	34947	772-489-3034	Food for families
United Way of Indian River County	1836 145th Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-567-8900	Financial Resources and Tax Prep for families
Samaritan Center	3650 41st Street	Vero Beach	FL	32967	772-770-2900	Homeless services for families
Early Learning Coalition of IRMO	2459 14th Avenue	Vero Beach	FL	32960	772-220-1220	Voluntary PreK and Child Care Assistance to families
Devereux Florida	121 North 2nd Street	Fort Pierce	FL	34950	800-338-3738	Foster Care Services

MODULE 5: ARE WE PROVIDING SERVICES IN THE RIGHT LOCATIONS?

Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

Based on the 2018 American Community Survey (5-year Estimates), there are approximately 260,000 children, ages 0-4, living in poverty in Florida, of which more than 2,000 are in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties combined. Of the more than 20,000 children, ages 0-4, in poverty, more than 12,000 are Early Head Start-eligible infants and toddlers, and more than 8,000 are Head Start-eligible preschool-age children. Table 61 provides the estimated number of EHS- and HS-age-eligible children living in poverty by geographic region.

Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty			
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates			
	Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty	Est 0-2	Est 3-4
United States	4,193,998	2,516,399	1,677,599
Florida	259,763	155,858	103,905
Indian River County	1,025	615	410
Okeechobee County	1,028	617	411

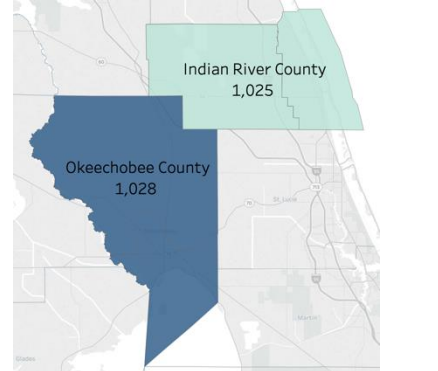


Table 61: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Census County Divisions (CCDs)

Florida is one of 20 states in which each county is divided into census county divisions (CCDs). In order to better estimate the geographic location of eligible children and families, the number of children, ages 0-4, in poverty was studied by CCDs. Okeechobee CCD, located in the southern third of Okeechobee County and Vero Beach CCD, located in the eastern third of Indian River County, each report more than 800 children, ages 0-4, in poverty (Table 62).

Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty	
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates	
County Subdivision	Total
Okeechobee CCD <i>(Okeechobee County)</i>	837
Vero Beach CCD <i>(Indian River County)</i>	836
North Okeechobee CCD <i>(Okeechobee County)</i>	191
Fellsmere CCD <i>(Indian River County)</i>	189

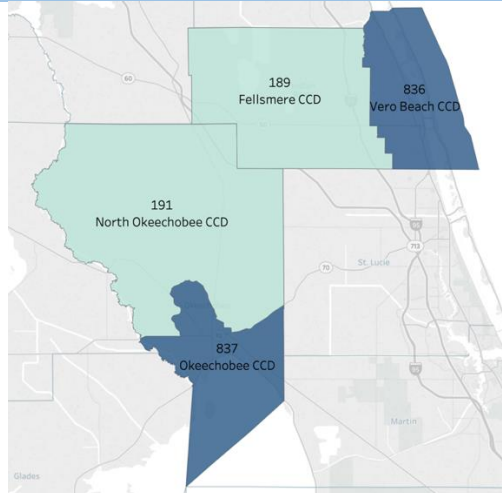


Table 62: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty by CCD (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 5: Are we providing services in the right locations?

Geographic Location of Eligible Children and Families

Children in Poverty by ZCTA

Due to the limited number of CCDs in the EOC service area, the number of children, ages 0-4, in poverty was also analyzed based on Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA).

Unfortunately, a ZCTA analysis is not particularly useful for Okeechobee County as the county is divided among only two ZCTAs, one of which crosses into Glade County (Table 63). Indian River County, however, is divided into eight ZCTAs. Three ZCTAs, all along the eastern coastal edge of the county report more than 200 children, ages 0-4, in poverty, ZCTA 32958, 32960, and 32967.

ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are generalized areal representations of United States Postal Service (U.S.PS) ZIP Code service areas. The U.S.PS ZIP Codes identify the individual post office or metropolitan area delivery station associated with mailing addresses. U.S.PS ZIP Codes are not areal features but a collection of mail delivery routes.

- <https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/zctas.html>

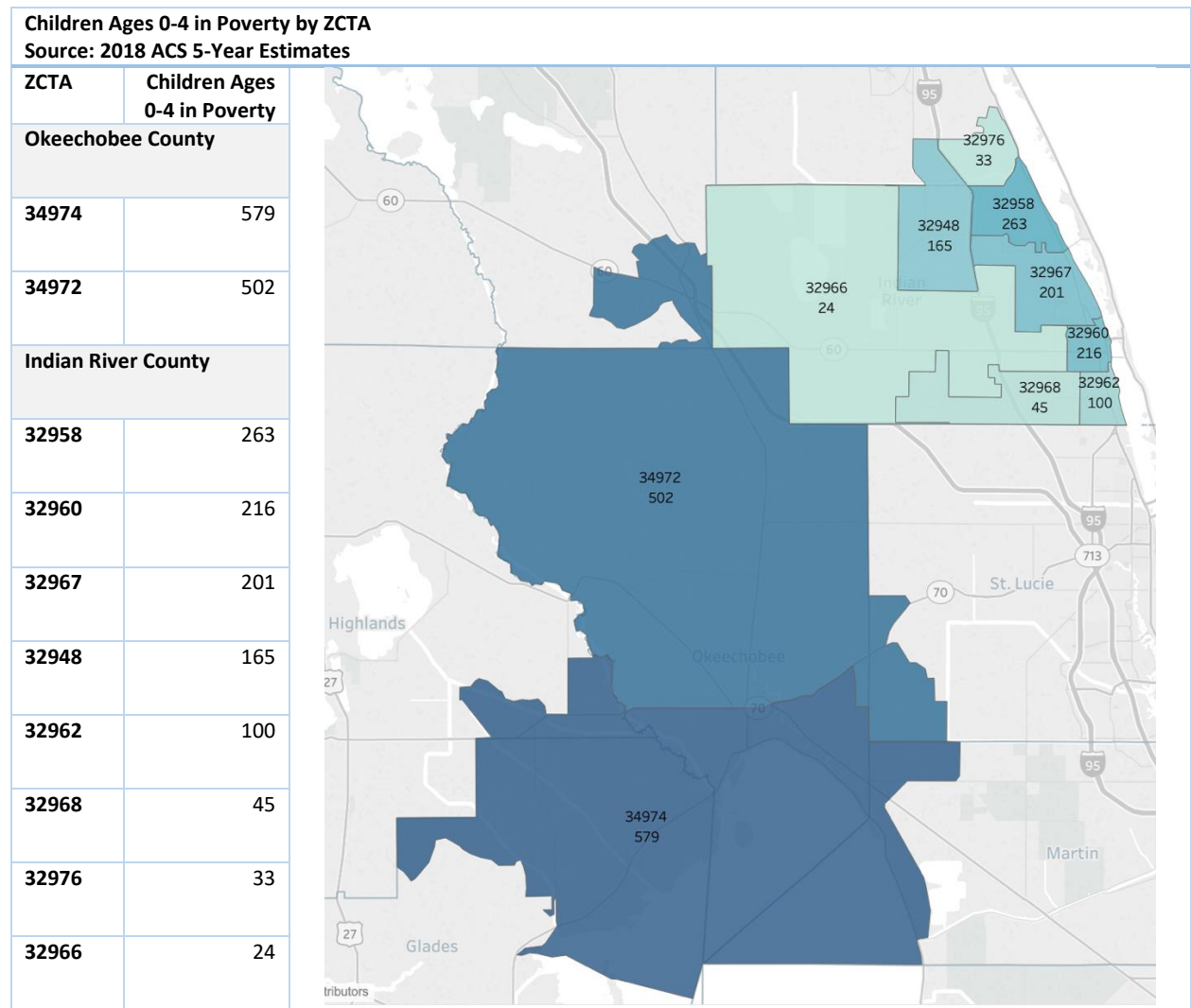


Table 63: Children Ages 0-4 in Poverty by ZCTA (2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

MODULE 6: WHAT ARE THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITIES SAYING?

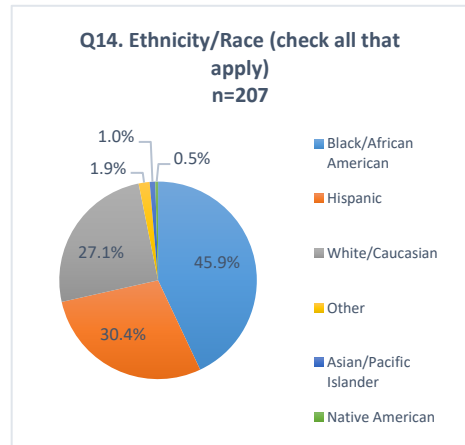
Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

Parent Survey Responses

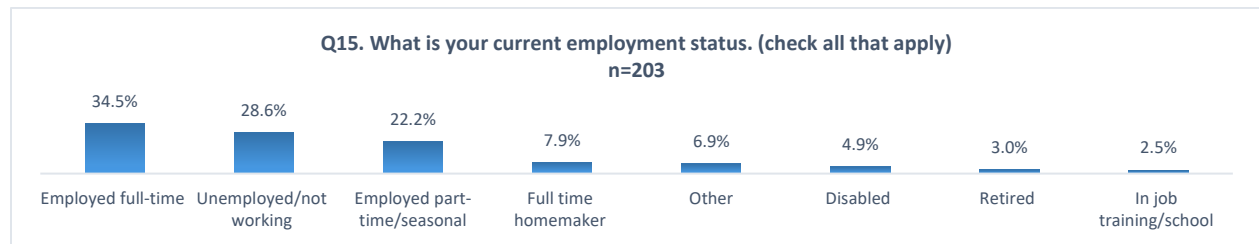
Characteristics

In order to collect primary data from Head Start and Early Head Start parents and guardians, a Family Needs Survey was distributed in English and Spanish to all families enrolled at the time of the Community Assessment (see Appendix A for a copy of the survey in English). A total of 212 surveys were completed and returned, representing 62 percent of the program’s total funded enrollment.

Of those who responded to the survey, 45.9 percent indicated their race/ethnicity to be black/African American, 30.4 percent to be Hispanic, and 27.1 percent white/Caucasian. The remaining 3.4 percent was split among those selecting “other,” Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American.

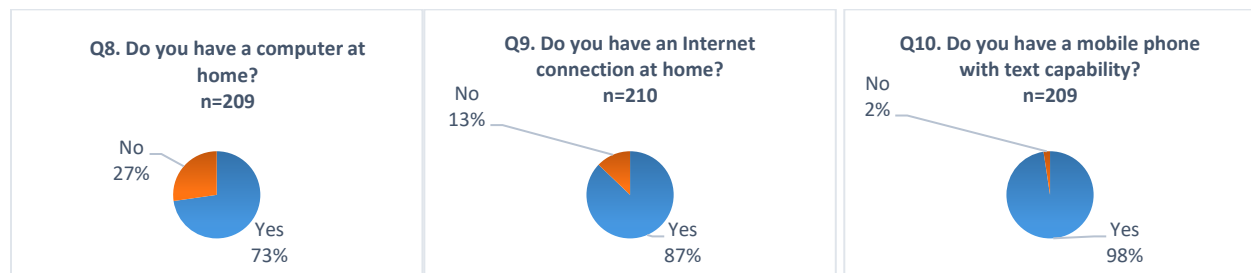


Approximately 34.5 percent of respondents were employed full-time, 28.6 percent were unemployed, 22.2 percent were employed part-time/seasonal and 7.9 percent were full-time homemakers at the time of the survey.



Although 74.2 percent of respondents indicated having a checking or savings account, one out of four parents/guardians do not have a checking or savings account, 25.8 percent.

Nearly one-third of respondents indicated *not* having a computer at home (27 percent); however, 87 percent of respondents indicated they do have an internet connection at home. **Furthermore, more than nine out of 10 Head Start parents or guardians do have a mobile phone with text capability, 98 percent.**



Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

Perception of Problems in the Community

Survey takers were given a list of seven themes and asked to rank them in order of importance, from 1 (most important) to 7 (least important). Ninety-five percent of respondents answered the question and the responses were ranked as the following from most to least important:

Ranking	Indicator/Theme
1	Housing
2	Access to health care
3	Access to education
4	Cost of living
5	Public safety
6	Access to job training
7	Access to public assistance

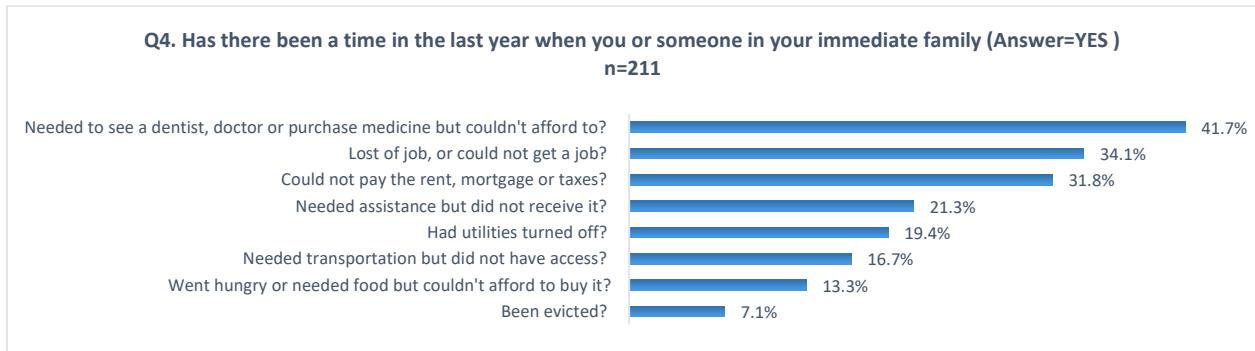
Perception of Poverty

Survey respondents were asked to answer the question: **What is/are the top causes of poverty in your community?** Eighty percent of survey respondents answered the question with a total of 338 separate responses. The top three reasons for poverty in the community were lack of employment/income (45 percent), lack of child care/education (17 percent) and cost of living/finances (17 percent).

Broad Category		Selection of Respondent Answers
Employment/Income	45%	Lack of employment Higher paying jobs Unemployment Strict job qualifications
Child Care/Education	17%	Lack of child care Affordable child care Lack of education No college degree
Cost of Living/Finances	17%	Cost of living Finances High housing costs Rent problem
Crime/Public Safety	8%	Crime Conflict Drugs Violence
Housing	7%	Expensive housing Homelessness Housing affordability Lack of housing
Health Care	5%	Corona Health care Poor health care systems Food
Transportation	1%	Bus rides No car Transportation

Family Needs

All survey takers responded to the question asking if they or someone in their immediate family experienced a time in the past year where they needed a particular service or experienced particular situations related to inadequate income (see chart below). Forty-two percent indicated that they or someone in their family had at one point within the last year **needed to see a dentist, doctor or purchase medicine but could not afford to**; 34.1 percent **lost a job or could not get a job**; 31.8 percent **could not pay the rent, mortgage or taxes**; 21.3 percent **needed assistance but did not receive it**; 19.4 percent **had utilities turned off**; 16.7 percent **needed transportation but did not have access**; 13.3 percent **went hungry or needed food but couldn't afford to buy it** and 7.1 percent had **been evicted**.



What are the 2 or 3 most important things that you believe will improve your household’s quality of life?

Four out of five respondents, 80 percent, answered the question “*What are the 2 or 3 most important things that you believe will improve your household’s quality of life?*” with 333 separate answers. Thirty-eight percent of respondents indicated a need for higher wages/income or better jobs/more working hours; 21 percent stated they needed more affordable education and child care, 15 percent of responses included personal or family goals, 11 percent indicated a need for more affordable health care or better health in general, as well as needs for better housing and lower utility costs. The balance of answers included statements such as: stability, working together, budgeting, rental assistance, safe environment, God, praying, better transportation and a new car.

Broad Category	Selection of Respondent Answers
<i>Employment/Income</i> 38%	Better paying job Job security Steady income More hours
<i>Education</i> 21%	Education Access to child care Getting my GED Better education opportunities
<i>Personal/Family Goals</i> 15%	More time More family time Respect Time management
<i>Health Care/Lifestyle</i> 11%	Affordable health care Food assistance Good health Fitness
<i>Housing/Utilities</i> 11%	Better house Better landlords Having our own place Less expensive utilities

Other Programs Used the Most. When asked which programs are used the most, survey takers indicated they use Social Services, WIC, Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), EOC and the food pantry the most. Additional agencies used include Salvation Army, United Way, Treasure Coast Community Health, Go Line and United Against Poverty.

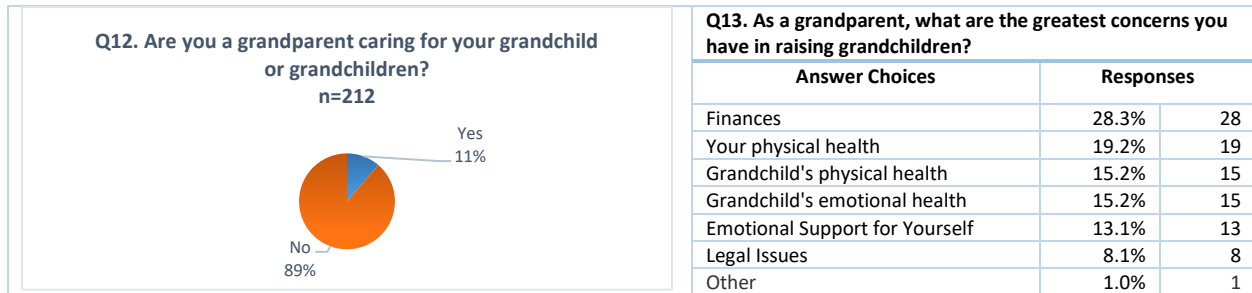
Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

Grandparent Caregivers

The majority of respondents, 89 percent, indicated “no” to the question regarding whether they were a grandparent caring for a grandchild or grandchildren. Of those who indicated they were grandparents, **finances, your physical health and grandchild’s physical/emotional health** were their top three greatest concerns raising their grandchildren.



Effects of Coronavirus

Ninety-two percent of survey respondents answered the question regarding whether the coronavirus had negatively affected their employment status. Fifty percent of respondents answered “no,” and 50 percent answered “yes” to this question. When asked to explain how this has affected their employment status, the ways in which survey respondents answered included: lost hours, laid off, lost income, my health and no child care.

Important Strategies During Difficult Times

Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents answered the following question: **What are the most important strategies you have relied on to deal with life’s challenges during difficult times?** with 124 different answers. The majority of responses identified family and faith as the main strategies that respondents relied upon during difficult times.

Broad Category		Selection of Respondent Answers
Family	32%	My family Family activities Help from family Family and community
Faith	25%	God Prayer Church
Personal Practices	19%	Never give up Breathe Stay calm Stay positive
Work	9%	Work to make ends meet Go to work Getting side jobs
Social Services	7%	Help from local agencies Food stamps Food banks Resources
Budgeting	6%	Learning to budget Savings and saving money
Communication	2%	Communication

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

Key Informant Responses

As a strategic step to supplement secondary data findings, the **Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.** staff identified a group of key informants and invited them to offer answers to questions that provide additional insight into the communities and families served by the agency in their service area. Themes and statements offered by key informant are used to validate data collected from secondary sources. Significant recommendations collected from key informants support the report conclusions.

Among the key Informants, leaders and experts who responded to the community assessment included: a Health Center Patient Service Representative, an Executive Director of School Board, an Entrepreneur, a Kindergarten Teacher with school district, Deputy Clerk, a Health Worker, a Senior Mental Health Practitioner, a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (consultant), a Mental Health Consultation Coordinator, a Quality Specialist for the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, Inc., a Mental Health Collaborative Executive Director, and a School Readiness Collaborative Executive Director.

County and community agencies invited by the program to participate in the study included: Florida Community Health Center-Our Village Okeechobee; Okeechobee County School Board; Clerk of Court; East Coast Migrant Head Start Project; New Horizons; Lorie Schultz Behavior Analysis Inc.; Tykes & Teens; Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties Inc.; Mental Health Collaborative; and, Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative.

The questions and a complete list of responses collected follow:

What do you see as the top priority issues affecting early childhood development (0-4-year-old children) during the next four years in your city and/or county?

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Parental communication with child; attentiveness to their needs.
- Create family structure routine, i.e., set times for meals, play, sleep; teaching basic learning for age group, i.e., speech, shape recognition, respect for themselves and others; reading, i.e., letters, shapes, etc.
- The lack of enrollment into Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) programs and the competencies that they need to learn for school readiness.
- The lack of "teaching" is affecting childhood development. The "learn through play" model is not the best approach. Children need to be stimulated, even at a young age.
- Lack of parent involvement.
- More low-income daycare is needed.
- One of the major early childhood education concerns that stem from a lack of funding and resources is the fact that educators are underpaid. This is a concern from 0-4 on up to primary and secondary schooling.
- Too many kids with mental health issues (ADD, ADHD, ODD, etc.) caused by in-utero substance abuse by their parents, and our county lacks the services needed or training to deal with those children.
- COVID-19 issues, how to safely have kids in school environments.

- Poverty.
- Lack of language-rich home environments.
- Young children and their caregivers are struggling with social-emotional development. Children's and their caregivers' understanding of development and expectations related especially to self-regulation, attachment and relationship needs to be supported in all early learning settings. Program and community efforts to support caregiver skills and understanding the impact of trauma would benefit the early learning process.
- Affordable child care.
- Resources such as more medical services for children. (Mothers have to go out of county to have their babies.)
- Challenging behavior assistance.
- School readiness.
- Access to healthy food and health care.
- Safe places to play in close proximity to a children's homes.
- Mental health support for parents.
- Affordable summer programs/care.
- Access – low- to middle-income eligibility requirements.
- Quality - High Quality Early Learning.
- Kindergarten readiness, access to health services.

What do you see as the top priority issues impacting education for adults during the next four years in your city and/or county?

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Continued self-improvement through education; communication with various groups. However, will need transportation or access to do educational courses online.
- Lack of skilled trade workers and college graduates in our community, along with the lack of job opportunities which afford people the ability to make a decent living wage.
- The lack of comprehension is greatly affecting employing adults as it relates to education. This is all stemming from the LACK of education and learning from age 0-4.
- Available funding or programs to help pay for the adult education.
- More night school classes for adults that work.
- I would have to say the current situation of the pandemic. The children being out of school for approximately four months without an educator to assist with difficulties in the lessons. American children are already behind academically.
- Lack of funding.
- Lack of employment.
- This pandemic has us in the unknown.
- COVID-19 issue, how to safely have adults in any school environment.
- Loss of jobs and ability to pay for school.
- High number and amounts of student loans, often given out by unscrupulous schools.
- I have little experience in this area.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

- Financial assistance for furthering their education. More career options, should they not decide on college.
- Literacy- financial.
- Health and mental health access.
- Lack of adequate and accessible mental health services.
- Lack of support and education around parenting issues: not meeting basic needs, lack of affordable housing, time offered, cost, access.
- Health services and access to workforce development.

What do you perceive to be the number one priority issue or concern for the city and/or county leaders during the next four years? (i.e. environmental, economic, health, social, and others) Please explain.

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Leaders need to address main issues regarding; economic advancement for all groups, especially minority and underprivileged; give better access to higher learning and health improvement.
- Economic issues. While we have all of the other issues, for our community leaders, the economic issues cause the greatest concern.
- Economics play a huge role. There is not enough adequate funding that is being dispersed in low economic areas. There are not enough resources targeted to those who are actually in need.
- Environmental and economic.
- Economic.
- Okeechobee is a rural area. The economy is poor. Poor resources, poor housing assistance, less jobs, etc. I think with this pandemic, our area will suffer even more.
- Economic and social, as we are still unsure of when this pandemic will end or what end results it will have in our country, much less our community.
- Affordable health care. Lack of this causes so many other problems, even though it is a national issue, it is directly linked to health issues and to poverty.
- Due do the current pandemic, the mental health status of caregivers and children will be greatly impacted. The community and a larger amount of families will need more support on how to process the multiple traumas that have taken place (separation, death, job loss, abuse).
- With COVID-19, I believe economics will be the largest priority. Many businesses have closed, some that will not open again because of the severity of their loss. In a rural area such as Okeechobee, small businesses suffer.
- Affordable housing.
- Social determinants of health (education, housing).
- Economic - ALICE population will expand as a result of COVID.
- Health services and access to affordable housing. Housing prices are too much of a burden for families to be able to live in a healthy, suitable manner.

Regarding the opioid epidemic, what is the biggest impact on young children (ages 0-4) in your community?

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- More social & physical activities, which will change instilled habits: less television and cell phone.
- Lack of parenting.
- Alternative placement with relatives of foster care.
- The lack of knowledge and proper resources.
- Hunger and parental stress.
- They have to witness their parents doing drugs and sometimes they overdose.
- Children who are impacted by this opioid epidemic will suffer possible physical, psychological, even sexual abuse. This trauma can be life altering.
- Mental health.
- I am not aware of the current impact in my community.
- Caregivers that struggle with substance misuse often are unable to support healthy attachment styles with children, 0-4. It is through the relationship with the caregiver young children are able to learn social-emotional skills.
- The breakup of families. Grandparents, and in many cases great grandparents, are raising their grandchildren due to parents' addictions or criminal records linked to drugs.
- Safety net programs for addicted parents.
- Homelessness.
- Parents in custody - dependency system.
- Educating parents and providing affordable health care services.

In your opinion, what are the top two to three strengths of your city and/or community?

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Small town.
- Low crime.
- Easy access to coast.
- We band together when someone is in need.
- Family feel.
- I can't think of any at this time. Okeechobee needs to do better.
- Our community comes together to help others in big crisis situations, and there are many organizations that help with household concerns: free books, food drives, back-to-school supply drives, etc.
- I believe as a small community we can come together for one another. I believe with strong leadership (community governing body) our community can grow. So long as we have the appropriate resources for our community.
- None.
- United, small, caring.
- Port Saint Lucie is, for the most part, a clean and safe community with nice parks and outdoor spaces.
- Head Start Program starting a Leadership Team.
- Earlier I stated that we are a rural area that does not have a lot of services that other counties do, but we are a strong community committed to helping each other. We bind together, work hard alongside of each other to meet the needs of our community and families.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

MODULE 6: What are the residents of the communities saying?

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

- Small and nimble, generous and eager to help.
- Generous with donating money.
- Needs assessments are done regularly.
- Good leadership.
- Philanthropy, nonprofit agencies that support the community.

What is the status (reputation) of the early childhood education and services in your city and/or community? Please explain.

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Not enough openings to meet increasing population demand.
- While we don't usually hear concerns, a lot of times we don't hear a lot of anything regarding the status. It would be helpful for our community to know why early childhood education is important.
- I am not sure what the representation is but is not as effective as it could be. There needs to be an evaluation as to how funds are dispersed and where. The overall curriculum needs to be evaluated.
- It is looked at as free babysitting. Parents do not take it seriously.
- They're doing an amazing job. The kids are ready for their next level of schooling, and they keep the parents informed.
- The status in the early childhood private and non-private sector seem to be working in silos. I feel we should all be working together on one common goal. Prepare children for public school. To provide the appropriate resources to children and their families.
- We have good programs, but not enough trained professionals.
- I am not sure.
- The early education is a community that is always looking to improve, and support child, teacher and caregiver needs and skills. Through collaboratively working with multiple organizations in the community, early childhood educators are impacting learning and supporting caregivers.
- Our School Board, Superintendent, Sheriff's office, Community State College and Business have worked hard to ensure that children, young adults and others have access to quality teaching and leadership.
- I hear nothing but good things about early childhood education.
- Good, but there are waiting lists and need more assistance to help support low income families.
- Below quality, there are some bright centers that stand out, but many are subpar.
- I feel it is very strong and cohesive. There is room for improvement in terms of quality, but overall there is a genuine concern and response to the 0-4 needs.

Please offer any additional advice regarding community partnership and involvement that could be beneficial to the Head Start Leadership in your city and/or community.

The following is a list of all key informants' feedback, listed in no particular order:

- Keep offering services.
- None other than what I have already stated at this time.

- I think early childhood agencies should find a way to collaborate with one another to better serve the children, the families and our community together.
- Getting everyone informed is a priority.
- I am not sure. I admire the work that Head Start does and see it as essential for many children.
- Explore doing a community-wide leadership team that supports the social-emotional development of young children.
- None.
- EOC/Head Start is an active and visible partner in the community. We are pleased with the current services and advocate strongly for more support needed to continue its vital delivery model.

CONSULTANT OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Early childhood education programs are critical as the most comprehensive initial approach to helping young families adjust to socioeconomic challenges and foster lifelong educational commitment. For many families in the program and agency partners, Head Start is the most powerful advocate for quality early care and education through its array of supportive services for young children and their families. EOC's reputation among parents and key informants is generally positive. One informant shared a testimonial about the agency's effect: *"EOC/Head Start is an active and visible partner in the community. We are pleased with the current services and advocate strongly for more support needed to continue its vital delivery model."*

The comprehensive assessment of the EOC service area counties offers a clear picture of some of the issues faced by residents and communities, including the need for better pay, low levels of educational attainment, limited access and affordability of child care, inadequate access to healthy food sources for all residents, limited options to the public transportation and challenges in housing. Parents in the program confirmed many of these challenges in the parent survey, and key informants testified that area leaders see many of these problems as high policy priorities in the counties they serve.

It is important to acknowledge that EOC operates in two very different counties. Families living in poverty face similar challenges in both counties. However, most of the indicators studied showed greater socioeconomic challenges for Okeechobee County residents. Okeechobee County attracts a higher number of immigrant families due to migration and an economy that is based on blue-collar/low-skilled industries like farming, manufacturing, agribusiness, and distribution. Both counties need early childhood education services, but Okeechobee County needs and community assessment findings reveal a clear opportunity for expansion of EOC's program services. In Okeechobee County, 22.5 percent of families with related children under the age of 5 live in poverty. In Florida 26.1 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino; of the total children, ages 0-4, living in poverty, 36.9 percent are Hispanic/Latino. In Okeechobee County 62.5 percent of children, ages 0-4, in poverty are Hispanic/Latino. Currently the program is funded to serve 25.5 percent of total children, ages 0-4, in poverty in Indian River County (261 of 1,025), yet is only funded to serve 9.1 percent of total children, ages 0-4, in poverty in Okeechobee County (94 of 1,028).

Early childhood education programs are critical as the most comprehensive initial approach to helping young families adjust to a fast-changing economy, and to foster educational and economic independence. For many families in the program and agency partners, Head Start is the most powerful advocate for quality early care and education through its array of supportive services for young children and their families.

Lastly, it is very difficult to predict the short economic future of the area due to the extreme uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the changes in population and how they affect the economy and the future of the region, many of the economic consequences of the pandemic (lost jobs, decline in the number of small businesses, the out-migration to urban areas) will have to be studied to learn about the direct implications for early childhood education and the families who depend on it.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Parent Community Needs Survey

Appendix B: Key Informant Questions

Appendix A: Family Needs Survey

(1) Center Name:



Family Needs Survey

The local Head Start/Early Head Start Program is interested in your opinion about programs and services for families in the county. Your ideas and experience help us serve families better. This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. **This survey is confidential**, all answers will be grouped together. We will use this information to understand top problems facing families serviced by the program.

(2) Please rank order the following themes in order of importance to you (from 1 to 7; 1 = most important, 7 = less important)

- _____ Access to Health Care
- _____ Housing
- _____ Cost of living
- _____ Access to education
- _____ Access to job training
- _____ Public Safety
- _____ Access to public assistance (WIC, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Work First)

(3) What is/are the top causes of poverty in your community? _____

(4) Has there been a time in the last year when you or someone in your immediate family: (Mark X to answer: Y / N)

Y	N	
		Needed to see a dentist, doctor or purchase medicine but couldn't afford to?
		Went hungry or needed food but couldn't afford to buy it?
		Could not pay the rent, mortgage or taxes?
		Had utilities turned off?
		Been evicted?
		Lost a job, or could not get a job?
		Needed transportation but did not have access?
		Needed assistance but did not receive it? If yes, what type of assistance:

(5) What is/are the 1 or 2 top service agencies that you and/or your community depend on the most at this time?
_____ / _____

(6) What are the 2 or 3 most important things that you believe will improve your household's quality of life?
_____ / _____ / _____

	Yes	No
(7) Do you have a bank/credit union account (checking or savings)?		
(8) Do you have a computer at home?		
(9) Do you have an Internet connection at home?		
(10) Do you have a mobile phone with text capability?		

(11) During difficult times, what are the most important strategies you have relied on to deal with life's challenges?

(12) Are you a grandparent caring for your grandchild or grandchildren? (Please circle) Yes / No

County of Residency:

(13) If Yes, as a grandparent, what are the greatest concerns you have in raising grandchildren?

Finances	Grandchild's physical health
Legal Issues	Grandchild's emotional health
Your physical health	Other:
Emotional Support for Yourself	

(14) Ethnicity/Race: (Check all that apply)

Asian/Pacific Islander
Black/African American
Native American
White/Caucasian
Hispanic
Other

(15) What is your current employment status? (Check all that apply)

Employed full-time	Retired
Unemployed/not working	Full time homemaker
Employed part-time/seasonal	In job training/school
Disabled	Other:

(16) Did the corona virus negatively affect your employment status? Y/N
Please explain:

Appendix B: Key Informant Questions

Key informants from the following areas/subject matter expertise are needed: education, health and nutrition, mental health, child care, social services, transportation, communication, housing and disability services.

Key Informant Interview Questionnaire

As a leader and expert in your county and state, we value your input and feedback to the following open-ended questions. Your answers are confidential and will be added to the answers of other key informants. Our objective is to study and use your input in order to design a more relevant plan that assist low income families. This survey will take you between 20-30 minutes to complete. Thank you for taking time to share your knowledge with us!

1. What do you see as the top priority issues affecting early childhood development (0-4 years old children) during the next four years in your city and/or community?
2. What do you see as the top priority issues impacting education for adults during the next four years in your city and/or community?
3. What do you perceive to be the number one priority issue or concern for the city and/or community leaders during the next four years? (i.e. environmental, economic, health, social, and others) Please explain.
4. Regarding the opioid epidemic, what is the biggest impact on young children (ages 0-4) in your community?
5. In your opinion, what are the top two to three strengths of your city and/or community?
6. What is the status (reputation) of early childhood education and services in your city and/or community? Please explain.
7. Please offer any additional advice regarding community partnership and involvement that could be beneficial to the Head Start Leadership in your city and/or community.
8. Please indicate your current position/title.
9. Please indicate your agency name.

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc.

End Notes

Strengths and Needs of Eligible Children and Families

END NOTES

- ⁱ U.S. Census. American Community Survey, www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/
- ⁱⁱ U.S. Climate Data, <https://www.usclimatedata.com/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Refugee Processing Center, <https://www.wrapsnet.org/>
- ^{iv} Canada now leads the world in refugee resettlement, surpassing the U.S., <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/19/canada-now-leads-the-world-in-refugee-resettlement-surpassing-the-u-s/>
- ^v Number of People Fleeing Conflict Is Highest Since World War II, U.N. Says. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/19/world/refugees-record-un.html>
- ^{vi} Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>
- ^{vii} Department of Homeland Security, https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_asset/file/10188201/DRAFT_NPRM_public_charge.0.pdf
- ^{viii} Florida's Refugee and Entrant Arrivals, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/refugee-services/statistics.shtml>
- ^{ix} How Religious is You State? <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/02/29/how-religious-is-your-state/?state=florida>
- ^x Religious Landscape Study, <https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/state/florida/>
- ^{xi} Mother's Education Significant to Children's Success, <https://news.umich.edu/mothers-education-significant-to-children-s-academic-success/>
- ^{xii} Student Membership PK-12, <http://www.fldoe.org>
- ^{xiii} Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, <http://www.fldoe.org/>
- ^{xiv} The National Center for Children in Poverty <http://nccp.org/>
- ^{xv} Ibid
- ^{xvi} Florida Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1657>
- ^{xvii} ACCESS Florida Food, Medical Assistance and Cash, <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/StandardDataReports.asp>
- ^{xviii} SSI Recipients by State and County, <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- ^{xix} U.S. Department of Labor and Wells Fargo Securities
- ^{xx} Florida's Economy Takes a Hit as Tourists Stay Home , <https://www08.wellsfargomedia.com/assets/pdf/commercial/insights/economics/regional-reports/fl-employment-20200417.pdf>
- ^{xxi} Indian River County expects sharp drop in tourism tax revenue because of COVID-19, <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-county/2020/04/29/coronavirus-could-cause-steep-drop-revenue-indian-river-county-tourism-tax/3046736001/>
- ^{xxii} Tourism tax brings in \$3 million for county, funding tourist programs for six organizations, <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/shaping-our-future/2019/01/03/tourist-tax-revenue-up-indian-river-county/2432265002/>
- ^{xxiii} Out of Reach 2019, <https://reports.nlihc.org/or/Delaware>
- ^{xxiv} HUD Programs datasets, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assths.html#2009-2016_data
- ^{xxv} HUD Exchange, <https://www.hudexchange.info/>
- ^{xxvi} National Center for Homeless Education, <https://nche.ed.gov/>
- ^{xxvii} Broadband Service In Florida, <http://broadbandnow.com/Florida>
- ^{xxviii} EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT DATA BY EXCEPTIONALITY SCHOOL YEAR, <http://www.fldoe.org/>
- ^{xxix} Center for Parent Information and Resources, <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/categories>
- ^{xxx} IDEA Data, <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepidea/618-data/static-tables/index.html>
- ^{xxxi} SWDIS, <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/sfdw/f?p=108:200:::>
- ^{xxxii} United State Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/>
- ^{xxxiii} CARES Engagement Network, <https://engagementnetwork.org/>
- ^{xxxiv} National Conference of State Legislators, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/childrens-oral-health-policy-issues-overview.aspx#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Centers%20for,least%20one%20untreated%20decayed%20tooth.>
- ^{xxxv} Oral and Dental Health, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/dental.htm>
- ^{xxxvi} Children's Oral Health, <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/childrens-oral-health-policy-issues-overview.aspx>
- ^{xxxviii} American Dental Association, <https://www.ada.org/en>
- ^{xxxix} Selected Causes of Death, <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.CountyHealthProfile>
- ^{xl} Food Stamp Clients, <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/StandardDataReports.asp>
- ^{xli} USDA WIC Program, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic>
- ^{xlii} National School Lunch Program Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Report, <http://www.fldoe.org>
- ^{xliii} Feeding America, <http://feedingamerica.org/>
- ^{xliv} Ibid
- ^{xlv} Food Deserts, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data/fooddesert/>
- ^{xlvi} Florida Department of Law Enforcement, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Offense-Data.aspx>
- ^{xlvii} CDC Wonder <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>
- ^{xlviii} County Health Rankings, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
- ^{xlix} Florida Health, <http://www.floridahealth.gov/index.html>
- ^l Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxrate-maps.html>
- ^{li} Fostering Court Improvement, <http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/fl/>
- ^{lii} Florida Office of Early Learning, <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/>
- ^{liiii} The US and the High Cost of Child Care: A Review of Prices and Proposed Solutions for a Broken System, <http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/research/costofcare/>
- ^{liv} OEL Resources, <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/about-us/early-learning-resources>
- ^{lv} Florida Department of Children and Families, <https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch>