



Geminus Head Start Community Needs Assessment

G E M I N U S
REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



naeyc[®]

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1. Introduction

Every five years, Geminus is required to complete a community assessment for its Early Head Start (EHS), Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP), and Head Start (HS) federally funded grant programs in Lake and Porter Counties. The community needs assessment assists Geminus in understanding the needs and assets in the community and how best its programming and services can align to support the community.

Geminus contracted with Transform Consulting Group (TCG) for assistance in completing the five-year community needs assessment narrative report as well as an interactive dashboard (**available here - <https://public.tableau.com/profile/transform.consulting.group#!/vizhome/GeminusDashboard/Introduction>**) and one-page fact sheets. These additional resources will help Geminus in strengthening its partnerships within the community and managing its programs and services.

The community needs assessment report is divided into three main sections:

- **“Community Needs”**- provides the most recent data available regarding targeted geographic service delivery area for population, demographics, early learning programs, disabilities, health and nutrition, and social services for children and families.
- **“Geminus Meeting the Needs”** - includes a profile of the services and activities that Geminus has provided through its HS/EHS and EHS-CCP programs to meet the community needs.
- **“Recommendations”** - identifies unmet needs in the community and areas that Geminus could strengthen to support children and family in the community.

It is our goal that the community needs assessment is used to make decisions for outreach, enrollment, selection and the most appropriate delivery of HS/EHS and EHS-CCP services in the Northwest Indiana region. The community needs assessment is a valuable resource for staff, parents and community partners to collectively think about resources and needs in the community.



2. Executive Summary

This community needs assessment report looks at the needs of the entire community that lives within the Geminus service area, HS/EHS and EHS-CCP eligible children and families, families of enrolled children, and the Geminus staff. It tells the story of what Geminus is doing now, what is needed, and what it needs to do in the future to meet the needs of its community.

Geminus' service area includes the second (Lake) and ninth (Porter) most populous counties in Indiana, which includes more than a half million people and nearly 50,000 young children between the ages of 0-5. Of those children who are living in poverty (below 100% FPL), Geminus alone serves 11 percent of that population in Lake County and seven percent in Porter County.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

While neighboring, the two counties' needs are not entirely similar. When considering the recommendations, it is important to make note of where the needs and solutions may diverge by county.

Socioeconomically, Lake County is more diverse than Porter County and the rest of the state. Both counties rank high when looking at educational attainment however median income in Lake County is lower than the state median and poverty rates are higher. Porter County on the other has a median income 39 percent higher than the state median with lower rates of poverty. Children living in poverty follows the same pattern, with higher percentages in Lake County.

The need for early childhood education programs is high in both counties; however, the reasons for and access to programs differs. Lake County has more children living in single parent households. The percent of children that need care because all parents are working is 64 percent, but only 36 percent of those children are enrolled. Many Lake County children receive a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) voucher, but there are many more on the waitlist each year, an average of over 700 in 2017. Lake County also has a need for programs serving expectant mothers as its infant mortality rate is higher than both the state and national rate.

In Porter County, 57 percent of children ages 0-5 need care because all parents are working, but only 21 percent are enrolled in a program. Lake County participates in the state preschool pilot, OMW Pre-K, but it has not yet been expanded to Porter County. No schools in Porter County report offering preschool programs. And while there are only 2,000 children living in poverty in the county, there is still an average of 80 children on the CCDF waitlist. Additional Geminus services may be of need in Porter County, which has been affected by the opioid epidemic especially hard with rates of overdoses and fatalities related to opioids above the rates for both the state and Lake County.

GEMINUS NEEDS

Three different surveys were created and sent to Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP families, Geminus staff, and Geminus referral partners. Nearly 900 responses were received on what is liked, needed, and desired from these key stakeholders. Throughout the surveys, the feedback was fairly positive. Geminus is making a difference in the community. Staff are proud to be a part of that, and families are appreciative. Many of the recommendations center around wanting more - more communication, more spots, more services. It is a testament to the quality of services currently being provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The feedback received from surveys and the information gained from the community needs assessment plus a review of what Geminus is doing currently through program information reports has led to the following recommendations:

1. Expand Early Head Start slots.
2. Modify the schedule to support working families.
3. Expand mental health support services.
4. Send more materials home with families.
5. Communicate with staff.
6. Communicate with partners.

This community needs assessment report is a resource for what Geminus can do now and what it may pursue further in the future. Geminus' service area is quite populous; it's needs numerous. Geminus' impact today is felt throughout the community as echoed by partners, families, and staff, and there are many opportunities for Geminus, identified in the recommendations as well as throughout the report, to continue to cultivate that impact in the future.

3. Data Collection Methodology

TCG collected data from multiple sources to complete the community needs assessment. TCG sought publicly sourced data for Geminus' service area, Lake and Porter Counties. Most often, this **publicly sourced data** comes from the U.S. Census Bureau and its 2016 American Community Survey. For data specific to HS/EHS and EHS-CCP, program information reports (PIRs) were reviewed at the national, state and grantee level.

In addition to the publicly sourced data, TCG developed and administered three **stakeholder surveys** in partnership with Geminus to collect the opinions of Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP families, Geminus staff and Geminus referral sources on the needs of the community, organization, and its programs. These surveys were administered online and collected both quantitative and qualitative data through multiple choice, select all that apply and open-ended questions.

All families of children enrolled in a Geminus HS/EHS or EHS-CCP program who attended the Family Picnic were invited to complete the survey on a tablet at the event. Following the picnic, site directors were asked to assist families to complete the survey. Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP families provided 674 survey responses. Statistically, such a large response from families provides a sample that is representative of all Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP families with a relatively small margin of error.

The survey of Geminus staff received an impressive 94 percent participation rate with 188 responses out of approximately 200 staff. TCG received feedback from staff at all levels of the organization including lead teachers, assistant teachers, program directors, social workers/home visitors, and administrators.

Geminus' community partners completed 9 surveys out of 25 solicited, for an estimated response rate of 36 percent. TCG received feedback from a diverse array of partners including medical, government assistance, social service, and education agencies. Two partners chose "other" and described themselves as a nonprofit and a government agency, each residing in the health sector.

The three surveys were analyzed and qualitative data was coded for any themes. The survey data as well as the publicly sourced data and Geminus program information reports informed the community needs assessment and subsequent recommendations.

4. Community Needs

GENERAL AREA DESCRIPTION

Population

Geminus EHS, HS, and EHS-CCP serves children and families in Lake and Porter Counties. Both counties are located in far northwest Indiana just across the border from Chicago. With a total service area population of 654,030, three quarters (486,592) resides in Lake County and the remaining 167,438¹ in Porter County. Seven percent (46,940) of the service area population is under the age of six with 35,912 young children in Lake County and 11,028 in Porter County.

Figure 1: Map of Counties



Figure 2: Service Area Population by County

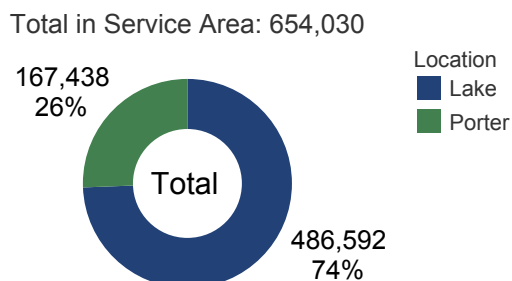
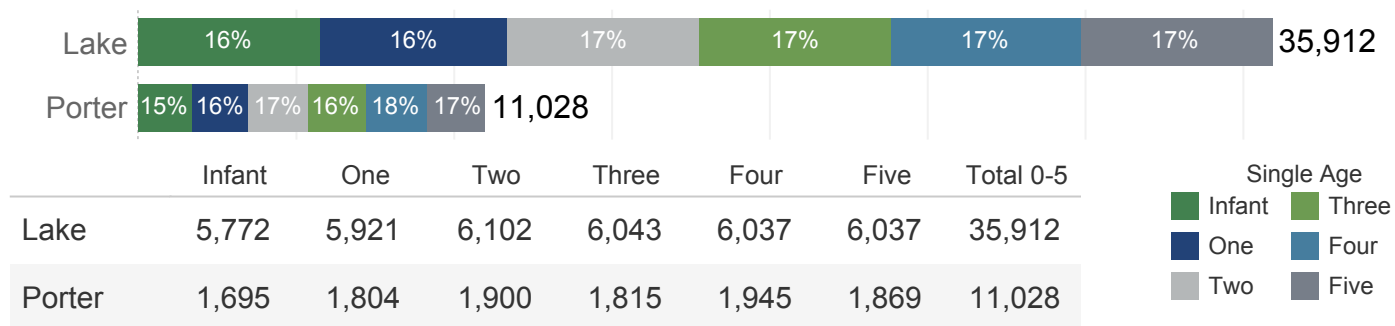


Figure 3: Ages 0-5 Population by Single Age

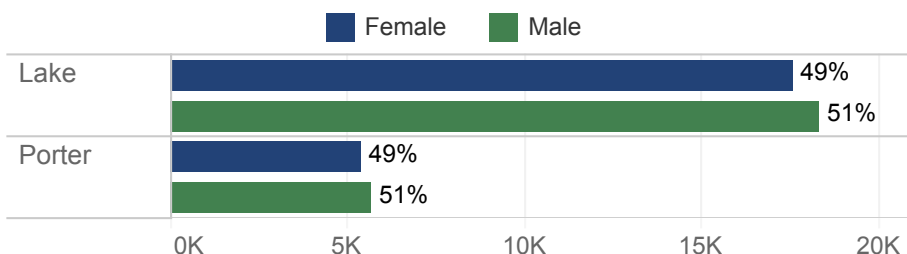


Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016. Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Online. Retrieved 2018.
Available: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.

Figure 4: Gender of Young Children

Gender

The total population distribution by gender in Indiana and across the United States is about 50/50 with just a percentage point or two deviation. Not surprisingly this near even split exists at the county level and within the 0-5 age group as well.²

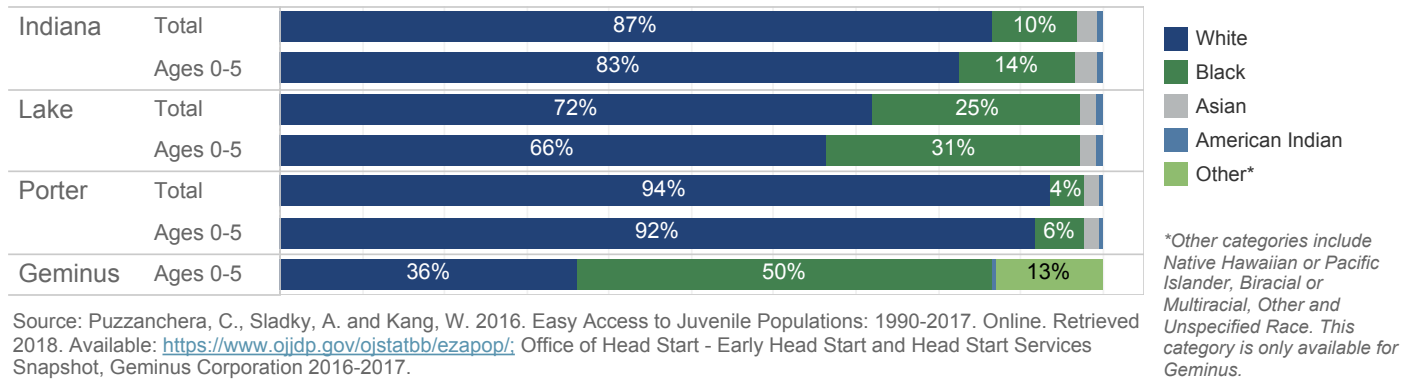


Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016. Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Online. Retrieved 2018.

Race/ Ethnicity

Lake County has a more diverse population than both Porter County and the state with 72 percent being White, one quarter being Black and the remaining American Indian or Asian. Porter County has a largely White population at 94 percent followed by only four percent Black and the remaining percent American Indian and Asian. The youngest generation of each location has even more diversity by race.

Figure 5: Percentage of Population by Race



About seven percent of Indiana is Hispanic. The percentage in Lake and Porter counties is higher at 19 percent and 10 percent respectively. As seen in the chart, there is a higher percentage of Hispanic population in young children ages zero to five.³

Figure 6: Percentage of Population by Ethnicity

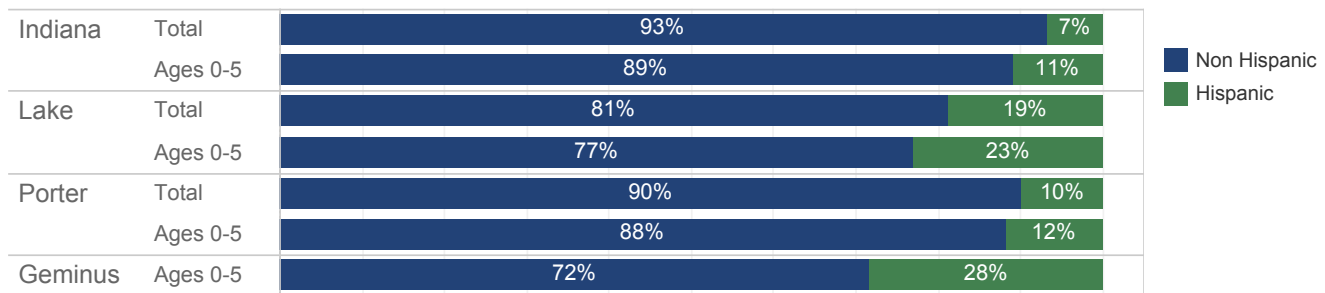
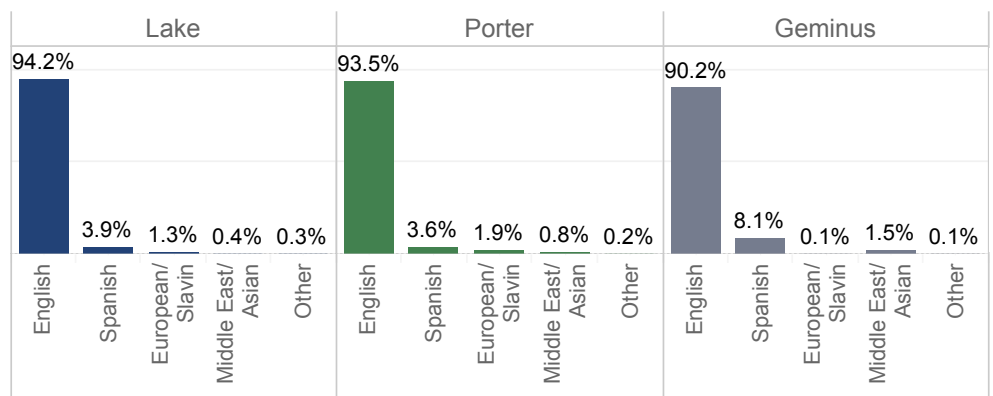


Figure 7: Percentage of Total Population by Primary Languages Spoken

Languages Spoken

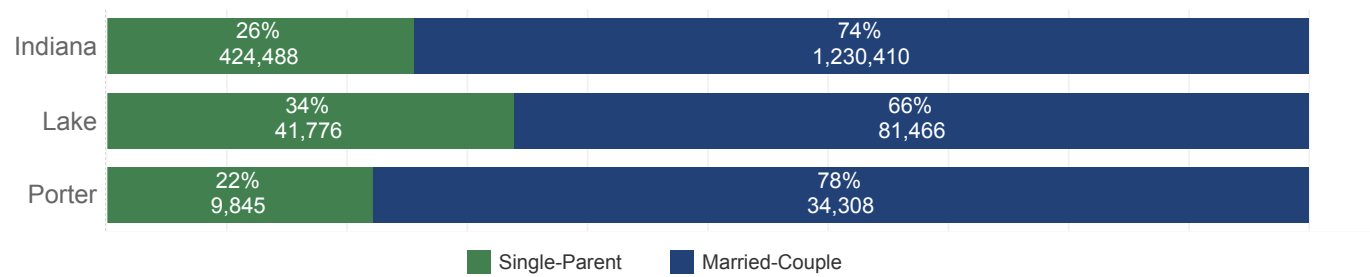
The primary language for Lake and Porter County is English, followed by Spanish. Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP serves a similar representation of families whose primary languages are English and Spanish.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP02; Office of Head Start - Early Head Start and Head Start Services Snapshot, Geminus Corporation 2016-2017.

Household Composition

Figure 8: Percentage of Family Households



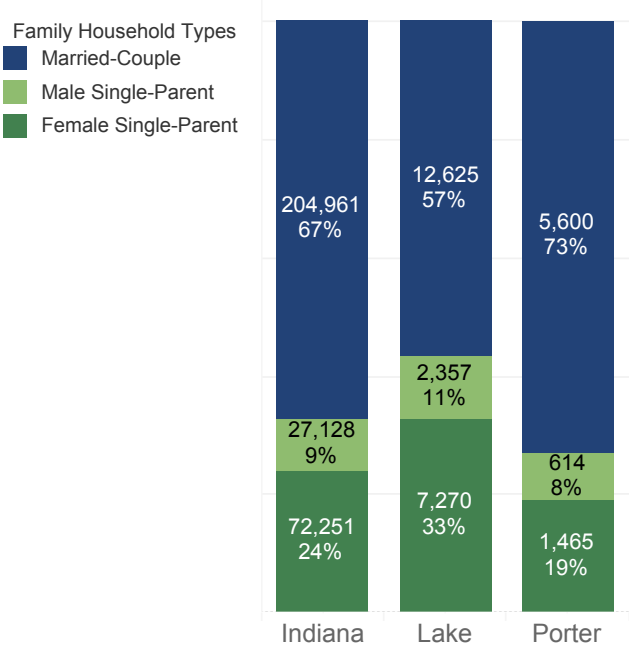
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1101.

There are over 1.6 million family households in Indiana. About three-quarters (74%) of those family households are married-couple families while the remaining quarter (26%) are single-parent households.

Lake County has a larger make-up (34%) of single-parent family households than either the state or Porter County where 22 percent of households are single-parent.

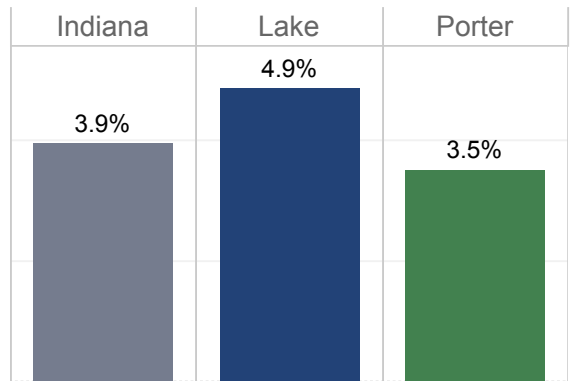
Of all the family households, 10 percent have children under six years of age. Lake and Porter Counties are below the state for families with children under six years at nine percent and eight percent, respectively.⁴

Figure 9: Percentage of Family Households with Children Under 6 Years



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1101.

Figure 10: Percentage of Children Under 18 Years in the Care of a Grandparent



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B10002.

Multi-Generational Households

Nationally, there is an increase in multi-generational households and more grandparents taking care of children.⁵ In 2016, roughly one out of every 10 children under the age of six (11%) in Lake and Porter Counties live with at least one grandparent who may or may not be responsible for their care.

In Indiana, almost four percent of children under 18 were living with and under the care of a grandparent. Lake County had a higher percentage of youth at nearly five percent, while Porter County was just under the state average at three and a half percent.⁶

Median Income

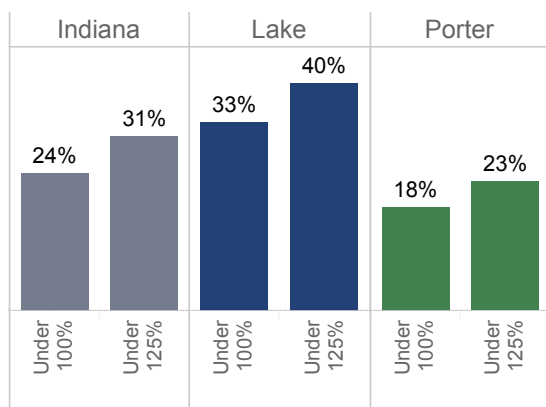
The 2016 median annual income for a family with children under 18 years in Indiana was \$60,143. Lake County was eight percent below the state at \$55,237 annually, while Porter County was significantly higher (39%) than the state at \$83,384 annually.⁷

Poverty and Eligibility Income Cut-Off

There are over 950,000 people (14%) in Indiana living in poverty. According to 2018 Federal poverty guidelines, the federal poverty level (FPL) for an individual is an annual income of less than \$12,140. For households, each additional person adds \$4,320 to that number. This means a family of three would have an income below \$20,780 annually.

Lake County has nearly 85,000 people living in poverty, which puts them at a higher percentage (17%) than the state and 13th highest out of the 92 counties. Porter County is below the state level at 10 percent of their population in poverty and ranked 70th out of 92 counties.

Figure 12: Percentage of Age 0-5 Population Under the Federal Poverty Level



Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016. Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Online. Retrieved 2018; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.

Figure 11: Federal Poverty Levels by Household Size

100% FPL (Poverty) for Household of 2	\$16,460
125% FPL for Household of 2	\$20,575
130% FPL for Household of 2	\$21,398
100% FPL (Poverty) for Household of 3	\$20,780
125% FPL for Household of 3	\$25,975
130% FPL for Household of 3	\$27,014

Source: 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines, Department of Health and Human Services, January 18, 2018.

The eligibility cut-off for EHS/ HS is at 100 percent FPL and 130 percent for the EHS-CCP. Based on the population of children living under 125 percent FPL, we estimate almost half of Lake County young children and over a quarter of Porter County young children fall within the child care eligibility income guidelines.

When we look at children ages zero to five, the percentage living in poverty nearly doubles compared to the overall population. Lake County had 33 percent of young children living in poverty in 2016, which ranked 7th in the state. Porter County remains under Indiana's average (24%) at 18 percent and ranked 68th.⁸

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START - CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS - ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Demographic data for children and families that could be eligible for HS/EHS or EHS-CCP is listed alongside total population demographics in the previous section of the report. Additional data for populations that could be eligible for HS/EHS and EHS-CCP services are listed below.

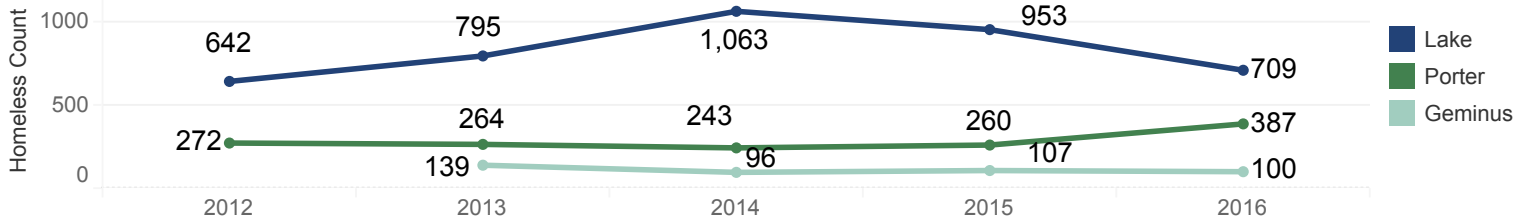
Number of Expectant Mothers

According to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), in 2016, Indiana had 83,063 live births. This calculates to a birth rate of 64 births per 1,000 women. Lake County's birth rate is slightly lower at 60 per 1,000 women, and Porter County's is lower still at 55 births per 1,000 women. There were 5,649 live births in Lake County and 1,757 live births in Porter County in 2016. If the birth rates remain steady, the two counties would have about 7,400 expectant mothers each year.

Homeless Count

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act has been in place for over 30 years, keeping track of our Nation's homeless students. Indiana was ranked 34th in the *2017 Overall National Ranking on the Identification of Homeless Students*⁹. Data from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) shows that in the 2016 school year, Lake County schools had 709 students and Porter County had 387 students who were homeless or housing unstable. Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP served 100 students experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Homeless or Housing Unstable Children

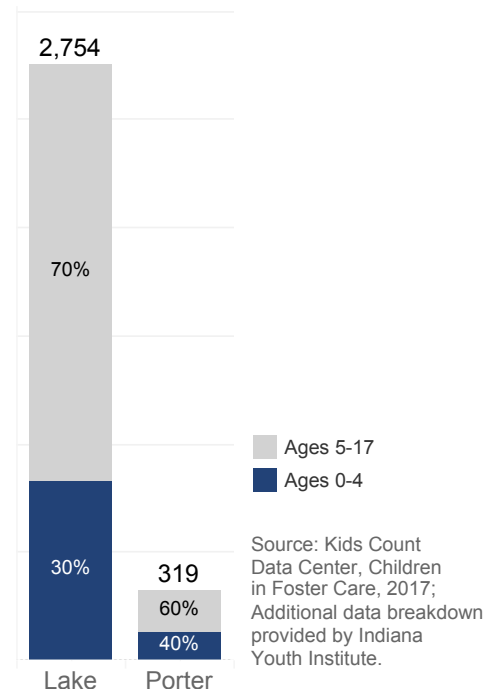


Source: Office of Head Start - Early Head Start and Head Start Services Snapshot, Geminus Corporation, Homeless children served 2013-2016; Kids Count Data Center, 2012-2016, Available Online. Number of students identified by the McKinney-Vento Act as homeless or housing unstable 2012-2016. County aggregates calculated by the Indiana Youth Institute using school corporation's respective county locations from IDOE data.

Children in Foster Care

At the end of the 2017 state fiscal year (SFY), there were 31,042 Hoosier children ages 0-17 in foster care. Over a third (37%) were ages 0-4. Lake County reported 2,754 children in foster care ages 0-17 with 30 percent being ages 0-4, and Porter County reported 319 children ages 0-17 with 40 percent being ages 0-4.¹⁰

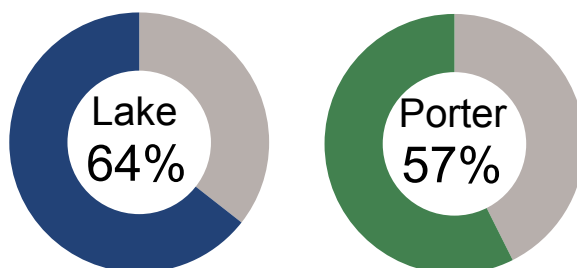
Figure 14: Children in Foster Care by Age Group



Employment

In Indiana, nearly two-thirds of parents in a household (both parents if married) of children under six years old are in the labor forceⁱ with an unemployment rate of eight percent. In Lake County, 64 percent of parents are in the labor force with an unemployment rate of 13 percent. Porter County has a lower rate of unemployment at seven percent, but the rate of participation in the labor force for all parents in a household with children under 6 years old is 59 percent which is slightly lower than Lake County at 64 percent.

Figure 15: Children Who Need Care Because All Parents Work



Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016. Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Online. Retrieved 2018; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.

i. In the labor force is considered to be individuals currently employed or actively looking for employment.

EDUCATION NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Local School District Information

In Lake County, there are 39 local education agencies (LEAs) or school districts. Nearly half (18) have 75 percent or more of students receiving free or reduced lunch with nine districts at 100 percent. Porter County has 14 LEAs, and three have 75 percent or more of students receiving free or reduced lunch.

Through local school districts, 1,979 students in Lake County are enrolled in school-based Pre-K. Two districts reported using Title I, Part A funding to support 454 Pre-K students.

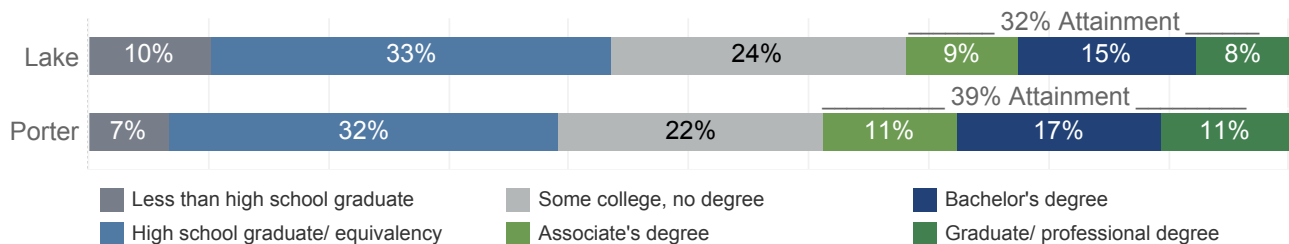
For information by local education agency, see the Appendix.

Educational Attainment

Indiana has a goal to get 60 percent of its working population (ages 25 to 64) to attain a post-secondary credential or degree by 2025. Currently, 42 percent of Indiana's working population has met that goal for educational attainment.

Lake and Porter Counties are below the state percentage at 32 percent and 39 percent respectively. Although they have not yet reached the educational attainment goal for its working population, Lake County is ranked 21st (out of 92 counties in Indiana) for the percent of its population with at least a bachelor's degree, and Porter County is ranked eighth.¹¹

Figure 16: Education Levels for Population 25 and Over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B15001.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

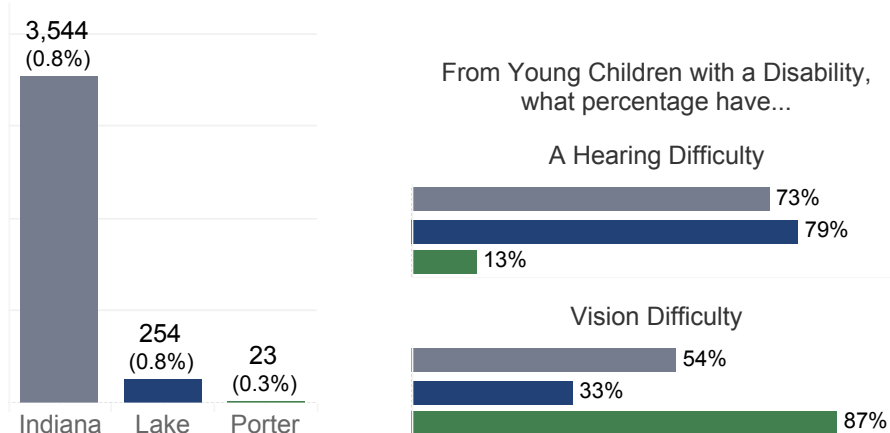
By analyzing multiple health data sets from various government agencies, the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute ranks Lake County as 74th out of 92 counties in health outcomes and 89th in health factors (factors that influence health). Porter County was rated more favorably at 21st in health outcomes and 28th in health factors.¹²

Disability

In 2016, Lake County's percentage of its total population with a disability (13.9%) was comparable to the state of Indiana's (13.6%), while Porter County shows a smaller percentage of population at 10.9 percent. Within the zero to age five population, over 275 children have disabilities.

There are two disabilities that are reported on for the population under five years of age in the American Community Survey, hearing difficulty and vision difficulty. Nearly three quarters of children with disabilities in Indiana and in Lake County have hearing difficulties. Porter County only has 13 percent of children with disabilities diagnosed with a hearing difficulty. A vision difficulty is reported for 54 percent of children with disabilities in the state. Porter County is higher at 87 percent of children with a disability have a vision difficulty, and only 33 percent of children with a disability in Lake County have a vision difficulty. (A child might be reported in both categories.)

Figure 17: Number of Young Children Ages 0-5 with Disabilities



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1810.

Incidence of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

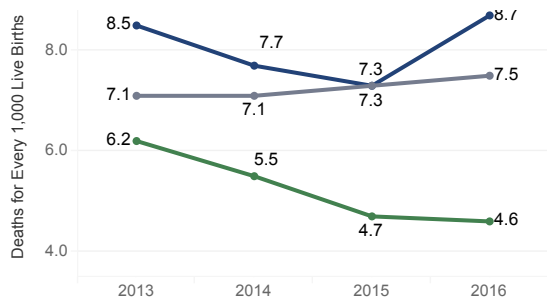
In Indiana and the United States, alcohol is the most frequently used substance and cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disability.¹³ In 2015, more than one-third of treatment admissions among Hoosiers (35%) were for alcohol dependence.¹⁴ In 2016, 21 percent of adults smoke cigarettes. Both Lake and Porter Counties fell below the state average for adults smoking cigarettes at 18 percent and 19 percent respectively.¹⁵

The opioid epidemic continues to grow across the country and in Indiana, where its impact is felt across the state. According to ISDH, in 2016, there were 36.6 non-fatal hospitalizations involving opioids for every 100,000 residents in Indiana and 11.8 deaths from opioids per 100,000 residents. Porter County had higher rates of opioid incidents than Lake County and the state. Porter County had 45.3 non-fatal hospitalizations involving opioids per 100,000 people and 14.3 deaths from opioids per 100,000 people compared to 34 and 11.1 for Lake County.¹⁶ Within Lake and Porter Counties, there appear to be 46 treatment programs available for those suffering from opioid addiction.¹⁷

Mental Health

For the year 2015-2016, one in five Indiana adults (19.5%) reported a mental illness in the past year, and five percent of Indiana adults reported a serious mental illness which resulted in serious functional impairment.^{ii, 18}

Figure 18: Trend of Infant Mortality Rate



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Indiana Infant Mortality and Birth Outcomes Fact Sheets 2012-2016, Retrieved Online: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/26292.htm> Porter county has a numerator (number of live births) less than 20, which indicates an unstable rate.

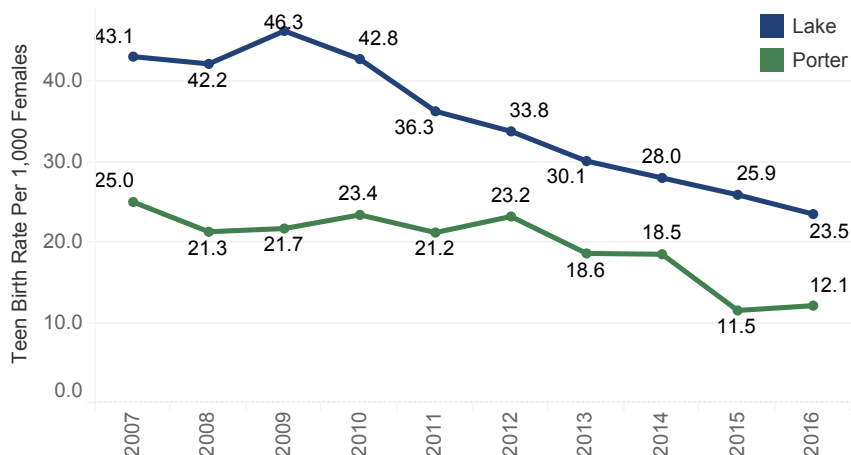
Maternal and Infant Health

ISDH released a fact sheet for Northwestern Indiana (including Lake and Porter Counties) for 2016. There were 7,406 births among the two counties.

In 2016, the infant mortality rate in Indiana was 7.5 deaths for every 1,000 live births which is up from 2012 when it was 6.7. Lake County's infant mortality rate is higher than the state at 8.7 per every 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for Porter County was lower at 4.6. Nationally the infant mortality rate has held fairly steady at 5.9.

ii. Defined as a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder, other than a developmental or substance use disorder.

Figure 19: Trend of Teen Birth Rate



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, 2016, Retrieved August 2018.

Teen Pregnancy Rates

In Indiana and Lake County alone, about 24 out of every 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 were pregnant in 2016. The rate is half that in Porter County at 12 out of 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Lake County has a lower teen pregnancy rate than 60 counties in Indiana, while Porter County is ranked 88 out of 92 counties.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care helps prevent complications and inform parents of the appropriate steps to take during pregnancy. Timely prenatal care helps with three main areas: (1) reduce the risk of pregnancy complications, (2) reduce the fetus' and infant's risk for complications, and (3) help ensure the medications women take are safe.¹⁹

With the research to support the importance of prenatal care, there

were still about one-third of pregnant women in Indiana in 2016 who received no prenatal care in the first trimester. The NW region was just below the overall state at 30 percent.

Figure 20: Percent for Every 1,000 Live Births

	Indiana	Lake	Porter
% No Early Prenatal Care (1st Trimester)	30.7%	30.1%	29.3%
% Smoking	13.5%	9.2%	11.3%
% Preterm (<37 Weeks Gestation)	10.0%	10.7%	9.7%
% Low Birth Weight (<2,500 G)	8.2%	8.5%	8.1%
% Not Breastfeeding	19.1%	23.4%	12.7%
% Mother on Medicaid	41.7%	51.5%	29.0%

Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Indiana Infant Mortality and Birth Outcomes Fact Sheet 2016, Retrieved Online: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/26292.htm>

↑ better
↓ worse

ISDH reports smoking rates among pregnant women continue to be higher in Indiana (13.5%) than the national rate; however, the average for Lake (9.6%) and Porter (11.3%) Counties is lower than Indiana as a whole.²⁰

Immunization Levels Among Young Children

ISDH reported a 63 percent completion rate for vaccinations in children ages 19-35 months in 2017. Lake County is ranked among the lowest ten counties for immunization completion rate at 53 percent while Porter County is ranked above Indiana at 65 percent. This equates to only half of toddlers are up to date on their immunizations in Lake County and just two out of every three toddlers in Porter County are up to date.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Housing

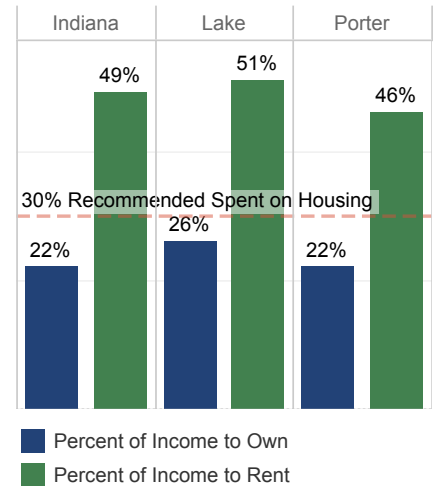
According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a family is considered “cost-burdened” if they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Households paying this amount “may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.”²¹ About a quarter of residents in Indiana (and both Porter and Lake Counties) that own their home or residence, are spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing. The situation is worse for those who rent. Nearly half (49%) of Indiana residents report paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Porter County is slightly better at 46 percent, and Lake County is slightly worse at 51 percent but still very much in line with all Indiana residents.²²

The median value of a house or other owner-occupied unit in Indiana is \$126,500. Both Lake and Porter Counties’ median value is higher than the state at \$137,500 and \$168,300 respectively.

Homeless Count

The 2018 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count found 1,682 homeless individuals in Indianapolis and 3,576 individuals in the other 91 counties of the state for a total of 5,258 homeless individuals during the one-night count. Of the 5,258 homeless individuals, 1,111 (21%) were under age 18. Besides Marion County (Indianapolis), there are currently no data available for homeless counts by county.

Figure 21: How much Income are Families Spending on Housing?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Lake County²³

- Second most populous county in Indiana.
- The income inequality between males and females is lower in Lake County than Porter County or nationally.
- Largest demographic living in poverty is females ages 25-34.
- Most common jobs: administrative (14.3%), sales (10%), production (9.4%), management (8.5%), food (7%).
- Top industries of employment: manufacturing (16.2%) and healthcare & social assistance (15.8%).
- County with highest prevalence of homicides.



Porter County²⁴

- Ninth most populated county in Indiana.
- The income inequality between males and females is lower in Porter County than nationally.
- Largest demographic living in poverty is females ages 18-24.
- Most common jobs: administrative (12.2%), management (10.4%), sales (9.4%), production (8.2%), construction & extraction (6.8%).
- Top industries of employment: manufacturing (18.3%) and healthcare & social assistance (14.6%).

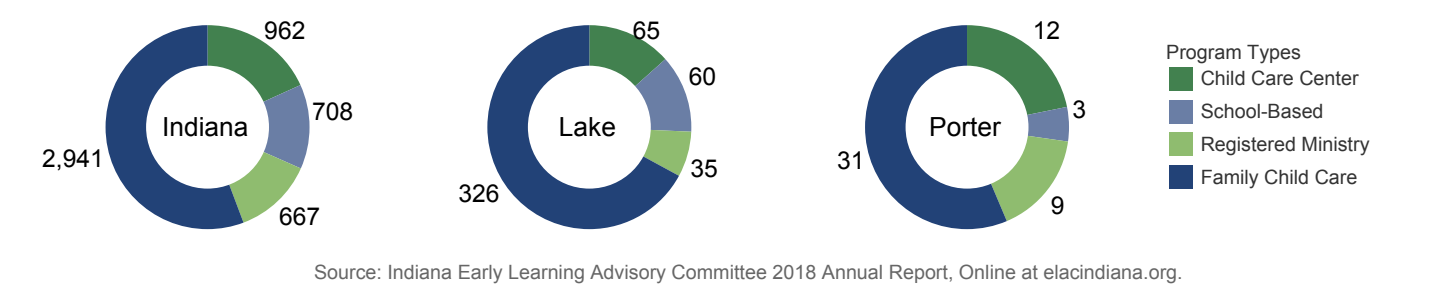
CHILDREN SERVED

Child Care Availability

In 2017, it was estimated that throughout the state 326,985 young children were likely in need of care, and only 41 percent were enrolled in one of the 5,278 known early childhood education programs across the state. The availability and quality of child care for children ages birth to five varies greatly from county to county. In Lake County, only one-third (36%) of young children were enrolled in a known program - meaning licensed or registered with the state. Porter County only had one-fifth (21%) of young children enrolled in a known program.²⁵

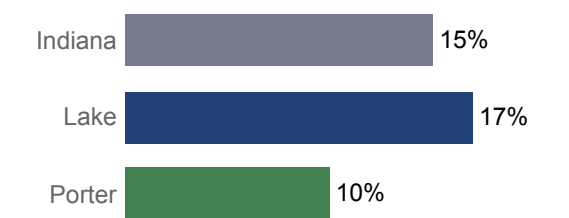
There are four main types of child care available in Indiana including child care centers, school-based programs, registered ministry and family child care. The majority of child care available in the state as well as Lake and Porter counties are family child care.

Figure 22: 2017 Known Early Childhood Education Programs



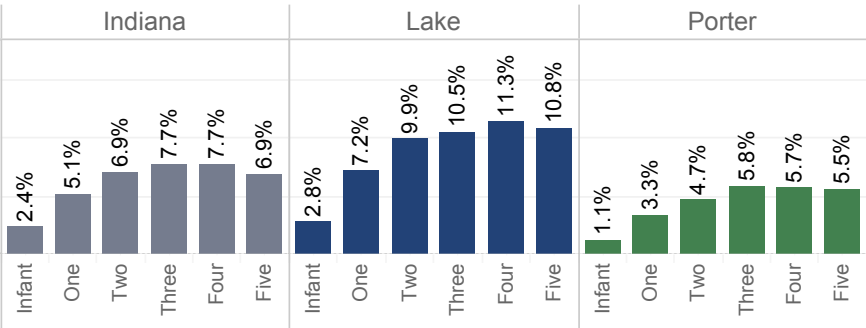
High quality child care in Indiana is defined as a program participating in Paths to QUALITY™ Levels 3 or 4 or an approved nationally accredited program. Indiana had 1,198 high quality early childhood education programs in 2017. Indiana has 15 percent of all enrollment in a high quality program. Lake County has a slightly higher percentage, while Porter County is five percentage points lower.

Figure 23: Percentage of Enrollment in a High Quality Program Out of All Known Enrollment



Source: Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee 2018 Annual Report, Online at elacindiana.org.

Figure 24: Percentage of Population by Single Age Served with CCDF Voucher



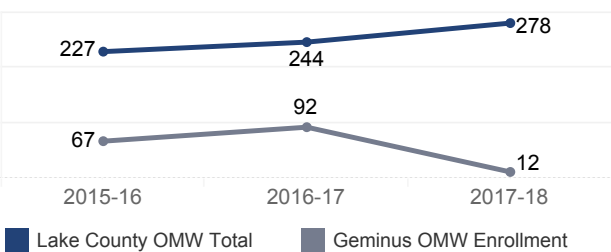
Source: Family and Social Services Administration Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, Automated Intake System (AIS) Database, 2016-17.

Lake County is also a participant in the publicly funded pre-kindergarten pilot called On My Way Pre-K, which provided an additional 244 Lake County low-income four-year olds scholarships to attend a high-quality pre-k program.

The table below highlights the number of young children in Lake and Porter counties who are eligible to be served by HS/EHS and EHS-CCP programs and the unmet need based on current publicly subsidized early childhood education programs.

Besides HS/EHS and EHS-CCP, low-income families in Lake and Porter Counties are served by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). This past year there were 30,943 children ages 0-5 who received a CCDF child care voucher including 3,158 children in Lake County and 487 in Porter County. Additionally, an average of 727 eligible children in Lake County and 81 eligible children in Porter County were on a waitlist for a CCDF voucher in 2017.²⁶

Figure 25: On My Way Pre-K Enrollment



Source: Geminus Corporation; FSSA Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, 2015-2018. Geminus had five programs with OMW enrollment in 2017-18, eight programs in 2016-17 and six in 2015-16.

What is the Need for Young Children?

	Infant	Ones	Twos	Threes	Fours	Fives	Total 0-5
Total Young Children	7,467	7,725	8,002	7,858	7,982	7,906	46,940
Lake	5,772	5,921	6,102	6,043	6,037	6,037	35,912
Porter	1,695	1,804	1,900	1,815	1,945	1,869	11,028
Young Children Living Below 125% FPL	2,712	2,797	2,891	2,848	2,875	2,858	16,982
Lake	2,327	2,387	2,460	2,436	2,433	2,433	14,476
Porter	385	410	432	412	442	425	2,506
Young Children Living In Poverty	2,241	2,310	2,389	2,353	2,375	2,361	14,029
Lake	1,932	1,981	2,042	2,022	2,020	2,020	12,018
Porter	309	329	346	331	355	341	2,011

How Many Children Are Being Served in a Subsidized Program?

	141	186	295	663	785	1	2,071
Young Children Enrolled with a CCDF Voucher 2016-17	178	484	694	740	795	754	3,645
Lake	159	424	605	634	684	652	3,158
Porter	19	60	89	106	111	102	487
Young Children Enrolled in On My Way Pre-K 2016-17 (Lake County Only)	0	0	0	0	244	0	244
Young Children Enrolled with Title I Funding 2016-17 (Lake County Only)	0	0	0	78	313	63	454
Subtotal of Children Served in a Subsidized Program	1978			4436			6414

What is the Unmet Need for Young Children?

	Ages 0-2	Ages 3-5	Total 0-5
Young Children Not Enrolled in a Subsidized Program	21,216	19,310	40,526
Young Children Living Below 125% FPL Not Enrolled in a Subsidized Program	6,422	4,146	10,568
Young Children Living In Poverty Not Enrolled in a Subsidized Program	4,962	2,653	7,615

Notes: Unmet need is calculated based on Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment groups, with Head Start being ages 3-5 and Early Head Start being ages 0-2.

Single age population estimates are calculated based on the percentage of total children 0-5 at the FPL level within the location.

Unmet need calculated by "Young Children Living in [FPL]" minus "Subtotal of Children Enrolled in a Subsidized Program". Sources: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Retrieved 2018. Online; Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee 2018 Annual Report, Interactive Dashboard; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.

Sources: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. 2016, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017. Retrieved 2018. Online; Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee 2018 Annual Report, Interactive Dashboard; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.

Approximate Number of Head Start-Eligible Children Served

Geminus EHS/HS programs currently serve 11 percent of children living below the federal poverty level in Lake County, and seven percent of children in Porter County.

Typical Work, School, or Training Schedules

Work, school, and training schedules were not readily available for Lake and Porter Counties. Parent employment status and job training/school enrollment status were sourced from Geminus PIRs.

	Employed	Job Training/ School	Total
Total Families	1,893	1,893	1,893
Two-Parent Both	63	2	437 (total two parent families)
Two-Parent One	275	24	
Neither Parent	99	411	
Single Parent	815	109	1,456 (total single parent families)
None	641	1,347	

TRANSPORTATION

According to the 2016 American Community Survey, nine percent of Lake County residents report not having access to any vehicles. For the state, that number is seven percent while Porter County has just four percent of residents reporting no vehicles available to them at their residence.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The majority of Indiana residents under age 65 have health insurance. Coverage rates are even better for the population under age 19. Lake County's uninsured population is one percent more than that of the state at 11%, but both Porter and Lake Counties have a lower uninsured rate for youth under age 19 than Indiana (5% vs. 7% respectively).

2016 Ratio of Population		
Location ²⁷	Population Under Age 65 Uninsured (2015)	Population Under Age 19 Uninsured (2015)
Indiana	11%	7%
Lake	12%	5%
Porter	9%	5%

The availability of physicians, dentists, and mental health providers varied by specialty but was overall in line with state ratios of number of people per every available provider.

2016 Ratio of Population to Health Professionals			
Location ²⁸	Primary Care Physicians	Dentists	Mental Health Providers
Indiana	1,500:1	1,850:1	700:1
Lake	1,800:1	1,690:1	630:1
Porter	1,680:1	1,930:1	660:1

Disability Services and Resources

By federal and state law, Indiana provides early intervention and special education to children with an identified delay.

Indiana First Steps provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers (children from 0 to third birthday) who are experiencing developmental delays or disabilities. During the 2017 calendar year, First Steps had 21,126 children with an individual family service plan (IFSP) and served 25,609 children (regardless of IFSP status). A total of \$42.9 million was paid for these early intervention services, averaging \$1,673 paid per child served. The most utilized services involved developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy.²⁹

Indiana First Steps provided early intervention services to 1,820 children in Lake County and 585 in Porter County between April 2017 and March 2018. The average spent per child was \$1,642 in Lake County and \$1,764 in Porter County.³⁰

In the last school year, Indiana spent \$43.6 million for 17,812 preschool-age children across every Indiana county to receive special education services. The array of special education services provided includes developmental preschool (often approximately two hours per day, a few days per week), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and other services identified in a child's individual education plan. Children do not need to meet an income eligibility requirement. Instead, they must have an identified delay.

In 2016, Lake County provided 1,088 children ages 3-5 special education services, and Porter County served 371 children.³¹

5. Stakeholder Feedback

TCG and Geminus wanted to compliment the publicly sourced data that was collected with stakeholder feedback to inform the community needs and areas of focus.

FAMILIES

Families of Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP participants were asked to complete an online survey to learn about their experiences and to provide an opportunity for feedback on how the programs could be improved. Approximately **42 percent of the surveys** were completed, representing 674 parents and guardians of children attending more than 29 different schools/programs.

More than a third of parents and guardians (39%) learned about enrolling in HS/EHS and EHS-CCP through a family member or friend. This response received more than twice the responses than the second most selected response of having an older child previously enrolled in the program (19%).

Parents and guardians were then asked what they would have done if they hadn't received a spot in HS/EHS or EHS-CCP.

47%

said they would have enrolled in a different early education program.

27%

said they would have had the child stay with a family member, friend or neighbor.

18%

said they would have not been able to find an alternative had their child or children not received a spot in HS/EHS or EHS-CCP.



said they had noticed improvements in their child since starting HS/EHS or EHS-CCP

78%

The top area of improvement respondents noticed in their child(ren) was an **increased excitement to learn.**

“ Longer hours, later times or weekends for family meetings and events. During the week is hard for working moms. ”

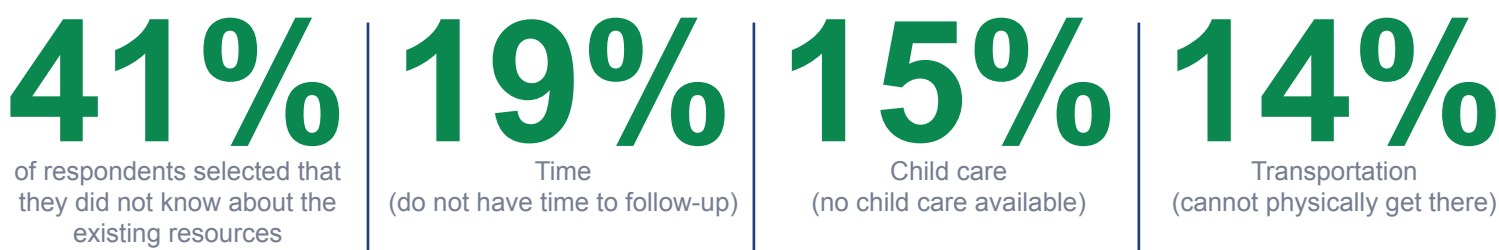
“ I love the program and the staff that I have been in contact with at corporate and at locations. I wish that there could be activities or socialization during the summer for center based kids like the home based kids. ”

Survey respondents were asked to suggest resources and/or supports that they would like but are not currently offered as well as any potential barriers that might prevent them from using available resources.

Top Suggestions to Improve:

- Transportation and bussing information and resources available
- Additional programming such as before and after care, summer programs, trainings for adults
- Housing assistance

Top Barriers:



Of the households participating in the survey, over half (56%) have not used any other Geminus resources outside of HS/EHS and EHS-CCP or skipped the question completely. Those that have used other Geminus resources mention using the following:



The final two questions of the survey asked parents and guardians how their HS/EHS or EHS-CCP program could be improved, and they were asked to offer any additional suggestions related to the survey. The most selected response by one-third (34%) of respondents for improving the programs is to provide more materials to work on with their child on their own, and closely following that (with 30% of respondents) was to offer a different schedule such as longer days.

“ I am pleased with the experience my child and myself has had with Geminis thus far. I look forward to Future interactions as she grows [sic] awesome program to our underprivileged communities. Thanks for bridging the gap and giving our children the necessary to [sic] tools to balance their chances in life as any other child of another economically stable background. ”

STAFF

A strong sample of HS/EHS and EHS-CCP staff feedback was gathered as nearly all staff (94%) that received the survey completed it. The respondents represent a variety of positions and years of employment with Geminus.

Survey Participation Demographics:

Time employed with Geminus:



Position at Geminus:



The staff were asked about Geminus programs and referral services.



More than **three-quarters** of staff (81%) refer clients to other departments within Geminus while **two-thirds** (67%) also refer clients/families to organizations outside of Geminus.

4/5

staff believe that Geminus as a whole, helps meet the community's needs, and nearly the same amount feel that their department is also meeting the needs of the community.

When asked what needs are greatest for program families, the top responses were transportation (selected by 70% of staff), parenting education (53%), child care (53%) and food assistance.

Staff were also asked about Geminus internal operations, specifically whether there could be better communication across different departments. The vast majority (85%) said yes. Respondents were then asked to provide suggestions on what could be changed to help improve communication.

Communication among staff is needed especially with other staff and family services.

Better communication. Less relocating of staff. More staff input on direction of policy and services.

Top Suggestions to Improve Internal Operations:

- More frequent and timely communication about changes and other important information, specifically email and regularly scheduled newsletters
- Less division/silos
- Greater clarity in roles/responsibilities
- More teamwork and more networking opportunities
- Regular meetings within departments, across departments, and some with all employees

The staff was then asked to provide suggestions on one way the organization could improve itself. The top recommendation was to bring back/invest in transportation for children and families, which was the greatest need identified by staff earlier in the survey.

Lastly, staff were asked to share any additional feedback related to the survey and Geminus. A few additional concerns were brought up including a lack of support for teachers, lack of support from upper management, and worries about continuity of care especially with staff being frequently relocated. Of the respondents that provided an answer though, most mentioned that they like working for Geminus, love their jobs, and believe Geminus is a great organization for children and families. A few respondents even said they appreciated the survey and believe that being able to provide feedback helps their programs.

I think there needs to be a bridge made between 3rd Floor Management and those in direct service with families. Getting to know your staff and understanding them would make Geminus better as an employer and as a community provider.



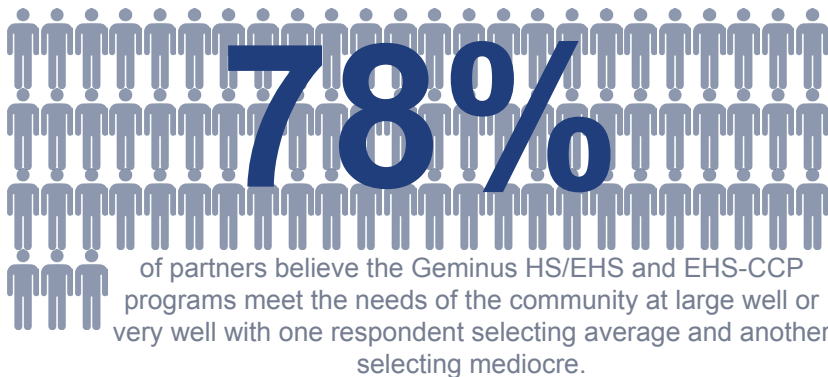
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A survey was sent to partner agencies, again to gauge knowledge of Geminus programs, impact in the community, and to solicit feedback on how to improve existing partnerships. Nine responses were received from four **education agencies**, one **medical organization** (hospital or doctor's office), one **government assistance program**, one **social service agency**, and two "other" **organizations working in healthcare**.

The frequency and manner in which the partners engage with Geminus varied among the survey respondents. Three partners report interacting with a member of Geminus team once a week or more, one once a month, three a few times a year, and one almost never. Seven of the eight partners said they make referrals to Geminus while five of eight partners receive referrals. One organization skipped this question.

As with the staff, knowledge is highest when asked about Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP programs with respondents averaging a 3.6 out of 5 (with 5 being very well versed and 1 being very little). Average knowledge dropped to 2.9 out of 5 when asked how well they know about other Geminus programs and services.

“Regular meetings with the building and district administration to keep us more current on Geminus programs and events. It would also allow us to share information with Geminus that Geminus could possibly share with their parents.”



The same number of partners believe that Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP is represented throughout the community.

Three suggestions were made for how Geminus could better impact the community:

1. Provide transportation to and from preschool program
2. Invest more into the communities served
3. More outreach

Finally, the partner agencies were asked how the partnership is between their organization and Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP. Most partners agreed that the following two areas could strengthen the partnership:

- Regular meetings together
- Increase communication

“Better communication from actual Head Start sites and working with parents. We provide education and information on Medicaid programs and services to families, and we would like more interaction with parents at local Head Start locations to be able to deliver this vital information to them.”

6. Geminus Meeting the Needs

GEMINUS EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START -CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

Profile of Geminus Head Start Programs

PROGRAMS

Geminus Corporation is made up of 34 centers with 21 Head Start (HS) programs, one Early Head Start (EHS) program, three HS/EHS programs, nine Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP), and three (HS/ EHS-CCP) programs. There is only one center located in Porter County offering both Head Start and Early Head Start programs

Figure 26: Map of Geminus Head Start and Early Head Start Centers

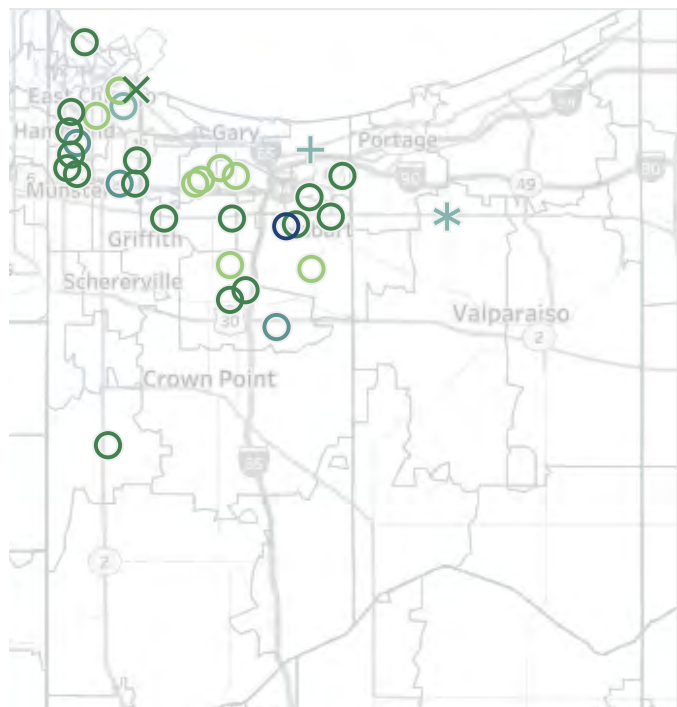
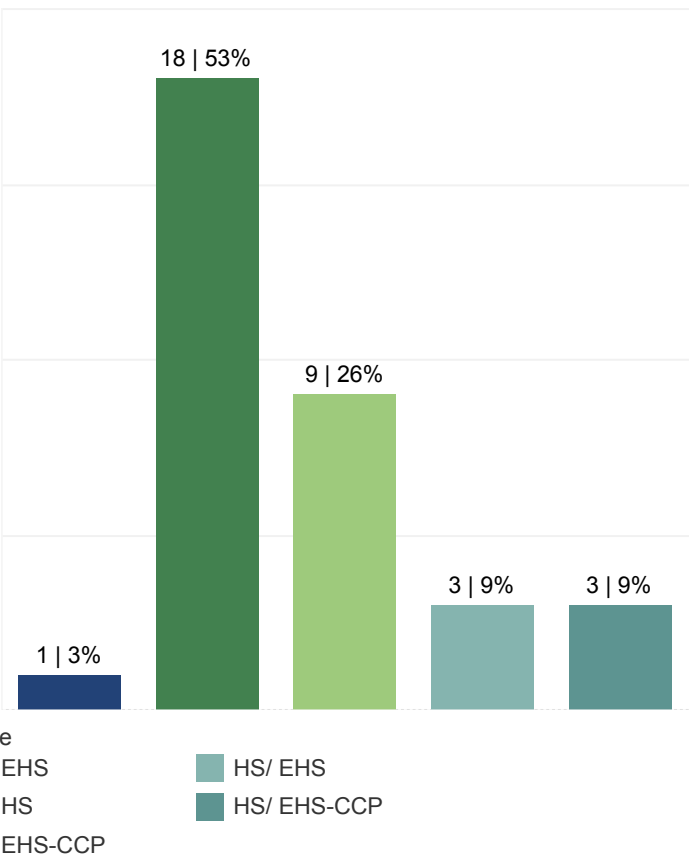


Figure 27: Number of Geminus Programs by Types



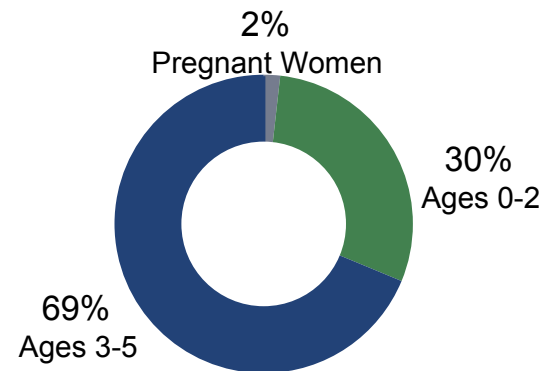
Note: Map shows Lake and Porter County borders layered by zip code boundaries along with major streets and highways.
X Child Care Partner but only serve children ages 3-5
* EHS slots are home-based only
+ EHS slots are prenatal care, home-based program

ENROLLMENT

In 2016-17, Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP programs had funded enrollment for 1,552 children including 306 at a child care partner (CCP) and 12 pregnant women. Due to attrition throughout the year, the cumulative enrollment was actually 2,071 children and 37 pregnant women (Office of Head Start – Early Head Start and Head Start Services Snapshot, Geminus Corporation 2016-2017).

Of the children and women served by Geminus, 30 percent were between the ages of zero and two, 69 percent were ages three to five and the remaining two percent were pregnant women. These percentages are comparable to the Indiana and National PIR data with Geminus serving about five percent more children under age three, five percent less between the ages of 3-5, and a similar percentage of pregnant women.

Figure 28: 2016-17 Percentage of Enrollment by Age Group



ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

The majority (89%) of enrollment is in center-based programs. The remaining enrollment is in home-based programs (7%), a family child care (3%), and programs for pregnant women (1%). Geminus' enrollment is consistent with both Indiana and Head Start rates nationally. For information by Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP Centers see the Appendix.

Figure 29: Percentage of Enrollment by Program Type



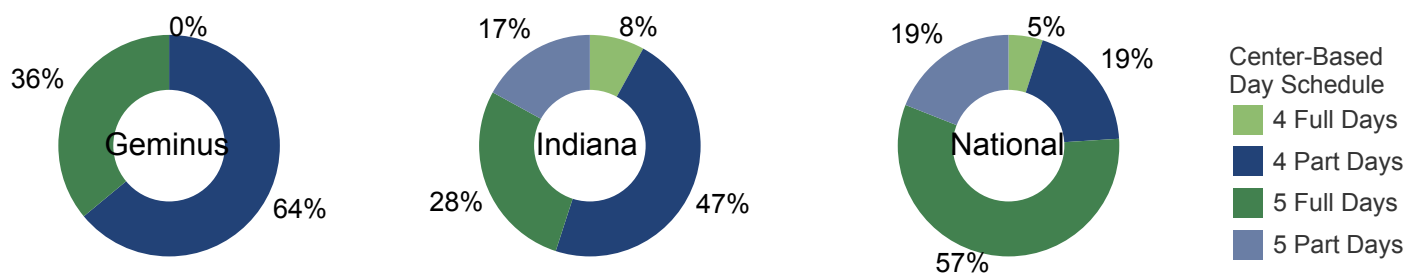
CENTER-BASED PROGRAM SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Center-based programs include a variety of schedule and program options. Of the 1,394 children enrolled in a center-based program, 64 percent enrolled in part day, four days per week programs. The remaining 36 percent were enrolled in a full-day, five days per week programs.

This differs from center-based programs across the state where 47 percent of children were enrolled in part-day programs four days a week and 28 percent were enrolled in full-day programs five days a week.

Geminus enrolls more children in part-day programs that meet four days a week than center-based programs throughout Indiana (64% vs. 47%); however it also enrolls more children in full-day programs that meet five days a week (36% vs. 28%). Both Geminus and Indiana as a whole, have fewer children attending full-day programs than Head Start nationally (57%).

Figure 30: Center-Based Enrollment by Schedule



ATTENDANCE

While parents and staff reported transportation as a top need of families, attendance among Geminus' three programs has been fairly consistent from year to year. EHS-CCP averages 88 percent student attendance, EHS averages 80 percent, and HS averages 85 percent. Attendance for EHS and HS have improved over the last three years, plus six percent for EHS and plus two percent HS. The beginning of the year (August and September) often have the highest attendance figures while winter (December-February) and the month of July trend a little lower.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES SUMMARY

Disability Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9% of HS children have an IEP and of 9% of EHS children have an IFSP	Foster Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 129 children were in foster care at any point during the program year (6% of all children)
Homelessness Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 85 families (100 children) experienced homelessness during enrollment year (5% of families and 5% of children overall)• 65% of families that were experiencing homelessness during the enrollment year acquired housing	Family Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,893 families (all programs)• 23% two-parent families (16+421)• 77% one-parent families (268+1,188)

FATHER ENGAGEMENT

Number of fathers/father figures who were engaged in the following activities during this program year	
Family assessment	96
Family goal setting	114
Involvement in child's Head Start child development experiences (e.g., home visits, parent-teacher conferences, etc.)	333
Head Start program governance, such as participation in the Policy Council or policy committees	61
Parenting education workshops	63

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

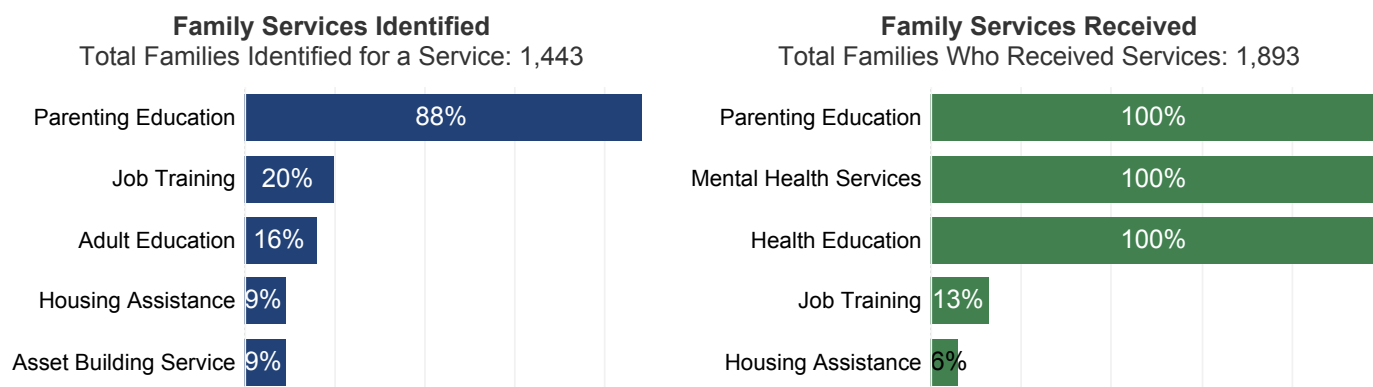
Mental Health Services	# of children at end of enrollment year	% of children at end of enrollment year
Number of children for whom the MH professional consulted with program staff about the child's behavior/ mental health	66	3%
Number of children for whom the MH professional consulted with the parent(s) / guardian(s) about their child's behavior/mental health	65	3%
Mental Health Referrals	# of children at end of enrollment year	% of children at end of enrollment year
Number of children who were referred by the program for mental health services outside of Head Start since last year's PIR was reported	24	1%
Of these, the number who received mental health services since last year's PIR was reported	7	29%

Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP served 100 homeless children last year, which is about five percent of the cumulative enrollment. As a whole, Indiana HS/EHS and EHS-CCP served 1,151 children experiencing homelessness during enrollment which was six percent of all children.

In the 2016-17 school year, Geminus HS/EHS and EHS-CCP served 189 children with disabilities, which represents nine percent of the birth to age five cumulative enrollment. This is slightly below the requirement to have 10 percent of children enrolled representing children with disabilities. Geminus has been serving more young children with disabilities within their service area. Over the last four years, there has been about a 14 percent increase in the number of children with disabilities being served.

Geminus offers 17 family service programs. The top five services families are identified for are: parenting education, job training, adult education, housing assistance and asset building services. The top five services families receive are parenting education, health education, mental health services, job training, and housing assistance.

Figure 31: Comparing the Top 5 Comprehensive Family Services



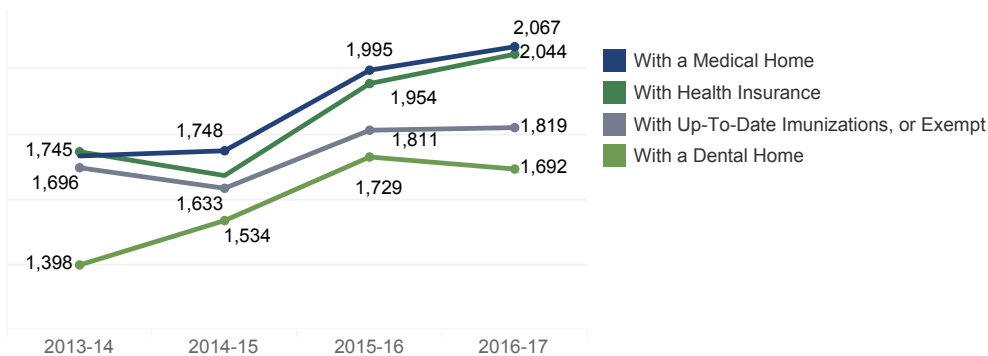
Geminus provided services to 1,893 families in 2016-17. Other than parenting education, mental health services has remained 100 percent utilized by families over the last three years. In 2016-17, only two percent of families were identified for the service.

Figure 32: Mental Health Family Services



Geminus identified 13 families for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. There were 16 families who utilized the substance abuse prevention service but zero families were recorded to use the treatment service.

Figure 33: Children at the End of the Year



Nearly all families (99.8 percent of children) reported having a medical home for their child(ren) at the end of the 2016-17 year. Although there are strong reports for families having a medical home for their child(ren), there is a significant difference in the security of a dental home.

By the end of the 2016-17 year, only 58 percent (1,692) of children had a dental home. When looking deeper at the numbers, EHS children draw the overall percentage down being at 38 percent, compared to HS children at 98 percent. This could be due to the ages represented in the EHS population. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends that children go to the dentist after the first tooth erupts or no later than a child's first birthday.

The majority of HS/EHS and EHS-CCP enrolled children have health insurance. Health insurance coverage for HS/EHS and EHS-CCP children is better than the state and uninsured child population. Both HS/EHS and EHS-CCP children are less than two percent uninsured.

Nearly all HS children are up-to-date with immunizations, while two-thirds of EHS children have up-to-date immunizations.

Figure 34: Percentage of Children Enrolled with Geminus at the End of the Year

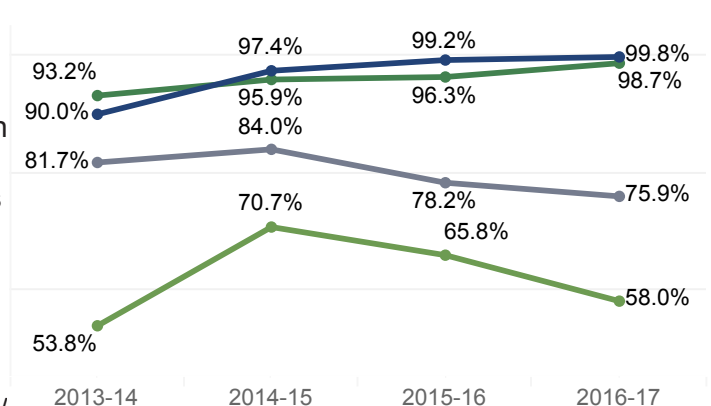


Figure 35: Children with Up-To-Date Immunizations, or Exempt



Children With Up-To-Date Immunizations, Or Exempt

	Number at Beginning of Year	Percent at Beginning of Year	Number at End of Year	Percent at the End of Year
Average EHS	398	74%	352	66%
HS	1,438	94%	1,467	96%

WHAT GEMINUS IS DOING

Geminus recently adopted a new strategic plan with five program goals and ten school readiness goals. The findings identified in this report and recommendations developed align well with Geminus' new strategic plan goals.

Geminus Strategic Plan Program Goals

Goal 1: Cultivate a **data-driven organization** characterized by ongoing data entry, collection and analysis to drive decision-making and program implementation.

Goal 2: Promote and maintain **health and wellness** for children, families and staff through enhancing collaborative relationships, services and activities.

Goal 3: Demonstrate **Continuous Quality Improvement** (CQI) in screening, assessment and coaching for intentional interactions and instruction while accommodating all abilities, ensuring children are school ready.

Goal 4: Increase **Parent Family Community Engagement** (PFCE) in all aspects of program operations by promoting comprehensive services, self-sufficiency and school readiness.

Goal 5: Ensure all **facilities** provide a safe, clean, well-maintained and welcoming environments for enrolled children, families and staff—accommodating all abilities and complying with all relevant regulations and codes.

Geminus School Readiness Goals

1. Child demonstrates initiative, curiosity and creativity during most classroom experiences
2. Child demonstrates self-regulation and independence in executing most daily routines
3. Child understands and responds to increasingly complex oral questions and directions
4. Child hears and manipulates the sounds in oral language recognizing similarities and differences
5. Child recognizes letter names and sounds
6. Child writes for a variety of purposes using increasingly sophisticated symbols
7. Child remembers and connects experiences
8. Child understands number concepts and operations
9. Child explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes
10. Child demonstrates gross and fine motor skills

7. Recommendations

As a result of the quantitative and qualitative information collected for the needs assessment, we propose the following recommendations. The recommendations are provided to help strengthen programs and services available to children and families in Lake and Porter counties.

- 1. Expand Early Head Start slots.** With the high infant mortality rate in Lake County, more outreach and support is needed for pregnant women and infants. Since Indiana has expanded state funded pre-k through On My Way Pre-K and Lake County is a participant in the program, there has been less focus on expanding access to infants and toddlers.
- 2. Modify the schedule to support working families.** Lake and Porter County have an unmet need of more full-day early childhood education programs to support parents who work. In particular in Lake County, which has a higher low-income population, there is a need for more subsidized, affordable early childhood education.
- 3. Expand mental health support services.** A high percentage of families are receiving mental health services as a top need. This might be an area that Geminus could further strengthen and determine other ways to meet the needs of families.
- 4. Send more materials home with families.** Families requested help in supporting their child's education and development through materials sent home.
- 5. Communicate with staff.** More frequent and timely internal communication with staff was requested. This could be in the form of emails, newsletters and internal meetings to keep staff informed, up-to-date and connected to the larger Geminus organization.
- 6. Communicate with partners.** Schedule regular meetings with community partners, especially those receiving and making referrals to EHS/HS. The community partners requested both in-person and electronic communication to stay current with EHS/HS and to strategize around services and needs.

8. Endnotes

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2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*
4. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1101.
5. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/11/02/why-more-grandparents-are-raising-children>
6. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B10002.
7. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19125.
8. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024.
9. <http://www.icphusa.org/national/shadows-state-state-ranking-accountability-homeless-students/>
10. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10122-children-in-foster-care?loc=16&loct=5#detailed/5/2292-2383/true/871/any/19547> with additional data breakdown provided by Indiana Youth Institute.
11. Lumina Foundation, *A Stronger Nation, Indiana's Report 2018*, Available: <http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/2018/#nation>
12. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/indiana/2018/overview>
13. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/about/osh/program-funding/pdfs/indiana-2018-508.pdf>
14. <https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/research-centers/research/2016%20Drug%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>
15. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/indiana/2013/measure/factors/9/map>
16. <https://www.in.gov/isdh/27393.htm>
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19. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care>
20. <https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Northwestern%20Region%20IMR%20Fact%20Sheet%202016.pdf>
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22. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
23. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/lake-county-in/#top>
24. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/porter-county-in/>
25. <http://www.elacindiana.org/documents/elac-2018-annual-report.pdf>
26. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/1171-monthly-average-number-of-children-on-waiting-list-for-child-care-vouchers?loc=16&loct=2#detailed/5/2336,2355/false/871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35/any/2549>
27. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/indiana/2018/overview>
28. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/indiana/2018/overview>
29. <https://www.in.gov/fssa/files/StateProfileReport01.01.17-12.31.17.pdf>
30. <https://www.in.gov/fssa/files/4.1.17-3.31.18%20County%20Profile%20Report.pdf>
31. 2018 ELAC Report data provided by IDOE

9. Appendix

List of School Districts in Lake and Porter Counties

School District	County	Percent Free/Reduced	2016-2017 Pre-K Enrollment	2015-2016 Title I Part A
Lake County				
21st Century Charter School @ Gary	Lake	100		33
Aspire Charter Academy	Lake	100		
Bishop Noll Institute	Lake	44		
Campagna Academy Inc	Lake	100		
Charter School of the Dunes	Lake	100		
City Baptist Schools, Hammond	Lake	85		
Crisis Center Inc	Lake	100		
Crown Point Christian School	Lake	0		
Crown Point Community School Corp	Lake	22	43	
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School	Lake	100		
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	Lake	99		
Gary Community School Corporation	Lake	100	544	
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	Lake	100		
Griffith Public Schools	Lake	71	30	
Hammond Baptist Schools	Lake	45		
Hammond Urban Academy	Lake	65		
Hanover Community School Corp	Lake	22		
Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)	Lake	87		
Highland Christian School	Lake	0		
Lake Central School Corporation	Lake	22	163	
Lake Ridge Schools	Lake	92		
Lake Station Community Schools	Lake	82		
Merrillville Community School Corp	Lake	65	25	
Our Lady of Grace School	Lake	59		
River Forest Community School Corp	Lake	76		
Saint Casimir School	Lake	80		
Saint Mary School	Lake	26		
Saint Thomas More School	Lake	13		
School City of East Chicago	Lake	100	324	421
School City of Hammond	Lake	83	707	
School City of Hobart	Lake	47	39	
School City of Whiting	Lake	60	56	
School Town of Highland	Lake	41		
School Town of Munster	Lake	21	48	
St John Bosco School	Lake	69		
St John the Baptist Catholic School	Lake	37		
St Stanislaus School	Lake	80		
Tri Creek School Corporation	Lake	30		
Trinity Lutheran School	Lake	25		
Lake County Subtotal		63	1,979	454
Porter County				
Discovery Charter School	Porter	21		
Duneland School Corporation	Porter	27		
East Porter County School Corp	Porter	21		
Immanuel Lutheran School	Porter	11		
Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center	Porter	0		
MSD of Boone Township	Porter	37		
Nativity of Our Savior School	Porter	36		
Neighbors' Educational Opportunities	Porter	89		
Portage Township Schools	Porter	57		
Porter Co Juvenile Detention Ctr	Porter	92		
Porter Township Schools	Porter	23		
Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services Inc	Porter	100		
Union Township Schools	Porter	24		
Valparaiso Community Schools	Porter	29		
Porter County Subtotal		41	0	0
Total in Service Area		57	1,979	454

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

Head Start (HS)		
Center Name	Address	County
Alexander Hamilton Elementary	2900 Lake Street, Lake Station, IN 46405	Lake County
Early Learning Academy	1401 E. 144th Street, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
Early Learning Center at George Earle	400 N. Wilson Street, Hobart, IN 46342	Lake County
Edison Elementary*	7025 Madison Avenue, Hammond, IN 46324	Lake County
Hess Elementary*	3640 Orchard Drive, Hammond, IN 46323	Lake County
Holy Name Early Learning School	13209 Schneider Street, Cedar Lake, IN 46303	Lake County
Iddings Elementary	7249 Van Buren Street, Merrillville, IN 46410	Lake County
Irving Elementary School*	4727 Pine Avenue, Hammond, IN 46327	Lake County
Lafayette Elementary School*	856 Sibley Street, Hammond, IN 46320	Lake County
Lake Ridge Education Center**	6111 W. Ridge Road, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
Maywood Elementary School*	1001 165th Street, Hammond, IN 46324	Lake County
Merchants of Hope Enrichment Academy***	3741 Guthrie Street, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
Merrillville High School	276 E. 68th Place, Merrillville, IN 46410	Lake County
Miller Elementary School*	6530 New Hampshire Avenue, Hammond, IN 46323	Lake County
O'Bannon Elementary School*	1317 173rd Street, Hammond, IN 46324	Lake County
Ridgewood	7783 East Ridge Road, Hobart, IN 46342	Lake County
Safe Haven Academy	5927 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320	Lake County
South Haven Early Learning School	310 W. US Hwy 6, Ste 23C, Valparaiso, IN 46385	Porter County
St. Mark Early Learning School	3880 Jackson Street, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
St. Mary of the Lake	6070 Miller Avenue, Gary, IN 46403	Lake County
Tradewinds Services	3198 E. 83rd Place, Merrillville, IN 46410	Lake County
Virgil Bailey Elementary School	2100 Union Street, Lake Station, IN 46405	Lake County
Whiting Head Start	1500 Center Street, Whiting, IN 46394	Lake County
Woodland Child Development Center	3027 J.F. Mahoney Drive, Hammond, IN 46323	Lake County

*Hammond Delegate **Lake Ridge Delegate

***Child Care Partner but only serve children ages 3-5

Early Head Start (EHS)		
Center Name	Address	County
Early Learning Academy	1401 E. 144th Street, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
Hobart Early Head Start Center	2520 W. Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN 46342	Lake County
South Haven Early Learning School*	310 W. US Hwy 6, Ste 23C, Valparaiso, IN 46385	Porter County
St. Mary of the Lake*	6070 Miller Avenue, Gary, IN 46403	Lake County

*Home-based program

Early Head Start - Child Care Partner (EHS-CCP)		
Center Name	Address	County
ABC Academy	480 W. 61st Avenue, Hobart, IN 46342	Lake County
CRC Kids World Daycare and Preschool	805 W. 57th Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410	Lake County
Faith Child Care	1476 W. 17th Avenue, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
In Between Time Academy	2273 Taney Place, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
Lisa's Safe Haven Day Care	3810 Drummond Street, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
New Beginnings Christian Child Care	3807 Drummond Street, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
Robertson Child Development Center	4860 Olcott Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312	Lake County
Safe Haven Academy	5927 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320	Lake County
Spaulding Academy	2405 Hendricks, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
Tradewinds Services	3198 E. 83rd Place, Merrillville, IN 46410	Lake County
Wiggles & Giggles	2051 Adams Street, Gary, IN 46408	Lake County
Woodland Child Development Center	3027 J.F. Mahoney Drive, Hammond, IN 46323	Lake County