

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM



August
2019

Educational Service District 112
Early Head Start and Early Childhood Education
and Assistance Program (ECEAP)



*Serving Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, and
Pacific Counties, Washington*

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INTRODUCTION

Educational Service District 112 (ESD 112) is a statutory regional service agency created by Washington's legislature in 1969 to ensure equitable educational opportunities for children. It is one of nine regional ESDs in the state. ESD 112 serves 30 school districts, 2 state schools, and many private schools in southwest Washington. Its service area represents six counties including Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Klickitat and Pacific.

Eligible children aged birth to 2-years-old and pregnant women may participate in ESD 112's Early Head Start (EHS) program. ESD 112 provides Early Head Start services in both center-based (84 slots) and home-based (55 slots) program options. Eligible 3 and 4-year-old children are offered services through ESD 112's Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP), state-funded preschool (385 slots). ECEAP and Early Head Start are provided in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, and Pacific Counties.

This is the first addendum year to our 2018 Comprehensive Community Assessment Report. For this year's addendum report, the following sections were reviewed for updated data:

- Population, by race & ethnicity
- Poverty rates
- Income and economic trends
- Household composition and family characteristics
- Estimated number of eligible children
- Race, ethnicity, and language of eligible children in poverty
- Children experiencing homelessness
- Children in foster care
- Children with disabilities
- Children receiving public assistance
- Education
- Health and social services including drug abuse, healthcare and clinical care, child abuse, teen pregnancy, prenatal care, low birth weight, infant mortality, mental health, and nutrition
- Social and economic factors impacting wellbeing including housing availability and affordability
- Employment
- Transportation
- Child care, home visiting, and publicly funded preschool

The following sections were noted to have significant changes:

- Population, by race & ethnicity
- Income and economic trends
- Children experiencing homelessness
- Children in foster care
- Mental Health
- Housing availability and affordability

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Population

Population has continued to rise in all counties within the service area.

Table 1. 2018 Population (and Percent of Population) by County and Race

Race	Clark County	Cowlitz County	Klickitat County	Pacific County
White	381,593 (84.6%)	93,319 (90.7%)	19,093 (91.2%)	18,523 (89.3%)
Black or African American	8,486 (1.9%)	634 (0.6%)	142 (0.7%)	62 (0.3%)
American Indian and Alaskan Native	2,841 (0.6%)	1,209 (1.2%)	560 (2.7%)	377 (1.8%)
Asian	19,282 (4.3%)	1,301 (1.3%)	143 (0.7%)	367 (1.8%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3,502 (0.8%)	294 (0.3%)	62 (0.3%)	48 (0.2%)
Some other race	14,547 (3.2%)	1,405 (1.4%)	548 (2.3%)	422 (2.0%)
Two or more races	20,642 (4.6%)	4,683 (4.6%)	382 (1.8%)	944 (4.6%)
Total	450,893 (100%)	102,854 (100%)	20,930 (100%)	20,743 (100%)

Table 2. 2019 Population (and Percent of Population) by County and Race

Race	Clark County	Cowlitz County	Klickitat County	Pacific County
White	386,488 (84.5%)	93,569 (90.3%)	19,301 (91.2%)	18,873 (90.1%)
Black or African American	8,482 (1.9%)	822 (0.8%)	59 (0.3%)	70 (0.3%)
American Indian and Alaskan Native	2,747 (0.6%)	1,285 (1.2%)	686 (3.2%)	322 (1.5%)
Asian	20,651 (4.5%)	1,355 (1.3%)	154 (0.7%)	366 (1.7%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3,248 (0.7%)	219 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	58 (0.3%)
Some other race	14,362 (3.1%)	1,417 (1.4%)	587 (2.8%)	270 (1.3%)
Two or more races	21,496 (4.7%)	4,923 (4.8%)	385 (1.8%)	981 (4.7%)
Total	457,474 (100%)	103,590 (100%)	21,172 (100%)	20,940 (100%)

The Hispanic population has also continued to rise, but residents continue to be predominantly White, Non-Hispanic or Latino.

Table 3. 2018 Population (and Percent of Population) by County and Hispanic or Latino Origin

Ethnicity	Clark County	Cowlitz County	Klickitat County	Pacific County
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	39,042 (8.7%)	7,902 (7.7%)	2,520 (12.0%)	1,855 (8.9%)
Not Hispanic or Latino	411,851 (91.3%)	94,236 (92.3%)	18,410 (88%)	18,888 (91.1%)
Total	450,893 (100%)	102,854 (100%)	20,930 (100%)	20,743 (100%)

Table 4. 2019 Population (and Percent of Population) by County and Hispanic or Latino Origin

Ethnicity	Clark County	Cowlitz County	Klickitat County	Pacific County
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	41,165 (9.0%)	8,936 (8.6%)	2,565 (12.1%)	1,927 (9.2%)
Not Hispanic or Latino	416,309 (91%)	94,654 (91.4%)	18,607 (87.9%)	19,013 (90.8%)
Total	457,474 (100%)	103,590 (100%)	21,172 (100%)	20,940 (100%)

Income and Economic Trends

The median household income in ESD 112’s Early Head Start and ECEAP service area continues to vary widely. There is nearly a \$28,000 difference between the service area county with the highest median household income (Clark County) and the lowest (Pacific County). Only one county in the service area, Clark County, maintains a median household income similar to Washington, as a whole. Median household income is further described in Table 5.

Table 5. Median Household Income by County

County	Comprehensive	Addendum
Clark County	\$62,879	\$67,832
Cowlitz County	\$49,127	\$49,804
Klickitat County	\$49,633	\$51,258
Pacific County	\$38,387	\$39,895
Washington	\$62,848	\$66,174

Child Poverty and Geographic Location

In ESD 112’s Early Head Start/ECEAP service area there are a total of 5,973 children who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services based on having a family income at or below the federal poverty level based on 2017 data, which is only slightly less than 2016 (Table 6 & 7), with the exception of Pacific County that dropped by more than 7%.

Table 6. Number of Children Under 5 Years Old Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by County (2016)

County	Total Number of Children < 5 Years Old	Number of Children < 5 Years Old Below Poverty Level	Poverty Rate of Children < 5 Years Old
Clark	28,888	3,755	13.0%
Cowlitz	6,102	1,623	26.6%
Klickitat	1,076	342	31.8%
Pacific	924	275	29.8%
Total	36,990	5,995	

Table 7. Number of Children Under 5 Years Old Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by County (2017)

County	Total Number of Children < 5 Years Old	Number of Children < 5 Years Old Below Poverty Level	Poverty Rate of Children < 5 Years Old
Clark	28,917	3,904	13.5%
Cowlitz	6,169	1,555	25.2%
Klickitat	1,055	308	29.2%
Pacific	918	206	22.4%
Total	37,059	5,973	

Children Experiencing Homelessness

Washington’s Homeless Housing and Assistance Act requires that each county in the state conduct an annual point in time count of homeless individuals, including sheltered and unsheltered. Point in time count results (2018) show increases in the homeless population from 2016 to 2018 in Cowlitz and Clark Counties and decreases in Pacific and Klickitat Counties (Table 8).

Table 8. Point in Time Count of Homeless Individuals (including households with minors and households with only minors) by County

County	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change
Clark	395	355	467	18.2%
Cowlitz	137	149	155	13.1%
Klickitat	12	7	11	-8.3%
Pacific	2	16	0	-100%

Children in Foster Care

In ESD 112's Early Head Start program, 14 children (6.7% of cumulative enrollment) were in foster care at some point during the 2017-2018 program year compared to only 3.96% in 2016-2017. Twelve children total were referred to the program by a child welfare agency in 2017-2018, compared to only seven in 2016-2017. In ECEAP during the 2018-2019 program year, 23 children, or 5.2% of cumulative enrollment, were in foster care at some point during the program year, compared to only 13 children, or 2.8% in 2016-2017.

There was no updated data below regarding the number of children receiving foster care placement services by county (Table 9).

Table 9. Number of Children (Age 0-17) Receiving Foster Care Placement Services by Geographic Area

	2015	2016	2017	Three Year Trend
Clark County	598	606	632	Increasing
Cowlitz County	191	179	203	Increasing
Klickitat County	37	41	44	Increasing
Pacific County	49	47	51	Steady
Washington	9,327	9,547	9,528	Steady

The estimated number of children under the age of 5-years-old living in foster homes in the service area is presented in Table 10 (comprehensive) and Table 11 (addendum).

Table 10. Comprehensive: Estimated Number of Children Under the Age of Five Years Old Living in Foster Care Homes by County

County	Percent of Children Under 18 Years whose Relationship to Householder is Foster Child or Other Unrelated Child	Number of Children
Clark	2.0%	37
Cowlitz	4.3%	16
Klickitat	Data unavailable	-
Pacific	Data unavailable	-
Total		>53

Table 11. Addendum: Estimated Number of Children Under the Age of Five Years Old Living in Foster Care Homes by County

County	Percent of Children Under 18 Years whose Relationship to Householder is Foster Child or Other Unrelated Child	Number of Children
Clark	2.2%	37
Cowlitz	4.9%	16
Klickitat	4.0%	-
Pacific	0.7%	-
Total		>53

In Washington in 2017, the percent of children under 18-years-old whose relationship to the householder is foster child or other unrelated child is 2.0%, higher than nationwide rate of 1.7%.

Mental Health

During the 2017-2018 program year 13.5% of families in the Early Head Start program had an expressed or identified need for mental health services, compared to only 9% in 2016-2017. ESD 112 administrators report that the need for mental health services among Head Start and ECEAP families continues to grow in recent years and continues to be significant. State and county data also reflect a substantial need for comprehensive mental health services for children, adults, and families.

Access to mental health providers continues to trend around the state rate for Clark, Cowlitz and Pacific Counties, however the number of residents per mental health providers in Klickitat County is over twice as high. Additionally, the entirety of Pacific County has been designated a Health Professionals Shortage Area for mental health providers. ESD 112 administrators report that access challenges are made more difficult by a lack of service providers who have the expertise and capacity to provide support to whole families, and families with young children in particular.

According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Pacific County ranks second worst among counties in Washington for poor mental health days (average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days), at 4.5. The other three counties in the Early Head Start and ECEAP service area trend around or slightly higher than the state rate (3.8). This data also corresponds with rising and concerning suicide rates within the county.

Suicide rates continue to rise across the United States, and particularly in rural counties. Washington has higher rates of suicide than the national average (17.5 deaths per 100,000 individuals). In Washington, suicide is the 1st leading cause of death for ages 10-14. Cowlitz and Pacific Counties are among the counties in Washington with the highest suicide rates (Table 12 & 13). All counties trend higher than the state rate.

Table 12. Comprehensive: County Suicide Rates per 100,000 People (2010-2014)

County	Suicide Rate
Clark	16
Cowlitz	15
Klickitat	17
Pacific	23
Washington	14

Table 13. Addendum: County Suicide Rates per 100,000 People (2013-2017)

County	Suicide Rate
Clark	16.4
Cowlitz	20.1
Klickitat	14.3
Pacific	19.4
Washington	15.4

House Availability, Home Value and Affordability

Median home values continue to rise in all counties as well as slight increases in owner costs and median monthly rent costs.

Table 14. Comprehensive: Median Home Value by County

County	Median Home Value
Clark	\$249,400
Cowlitz	\$180,000
Klickitat	\$197,500
Pacific	\$159,200
Washington	\$269,300

Table 15. Addendum: Median Home Value by County

County	Median Home Value
Clark	\$272,400
Cowlitz	\$186,600
Klickitat	\$219,200
Pacific	\$163,400
Washington	\$286,800

Table 16. Comprehensive: Median Monthly Owner Costs and Median Monthly Rent by County

County	Median Owner Costs (with mortgage)	Median Rent
Clark	\$1,620	\$1,022
Cowlitz	\$1,358	\$785
Klickitat	\$1,355	\$787
Pacific	\$1,091	\$703
Washington	\$1,729	\$1,056

Table 17. Addendum Median Monthly Owner Costs and Median Monthly Rent by County

County	Median Owner Costs (with mortgage)	Median Rent
Clark	\$1,650	\$1,094
Cowlitz	\$1,347	\$796
Klickitat	\$1,397	\$791
Pacific	\$1,125	\$703
Washington	\$1,763	\$1,120

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To meet community need, leverage ESD 112's successful implementation of Early Head Start and ECEAP, the agency's resources and infrastructure, and staff expertise to expand its early learning services within the existing Early Head Start/ECEAP service area.
2. Establish (or enhance) clear, documented (e.g., MOUs) relationships with community partners that provide guidance related to the recruitment and referral of children and families among programs, including children in foster care.
3. Continue to advocate for and provide support to families experiencing homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness.
4. Collaborate with mental health providers to identify strategies to address the scarcity of mental health resources available to families within the service area. Advocate for the availability of family-centered care and services that meet the needs of families with young children.
5. Continue to implement and explore strategies to support families' education goals while addressing the workforce shortage in early learning programs. Work with state partners to advocate for and develop systems for enrolled families to enter the field of early care and education.
6. Continue to support staff in their ability to serve families with significant risk factors, while also managing self-care for themselves. Further enhance training for staff on trauma-informed care and working with children with challenging behaviors and their families.
7. Develop and implement strategies to establish more robust waitlists for ESD 112's Early Head Start and ECEAP programs.
8. Engage community partners and policy makers to discuss continued challenges regarding affordability and access to quality child care.

LOOKING AHEAD

ESD 112 will leverage the data and key findings emerging from the 2019 Community Assessment Addendum to improve the ability of the Early Head Start and ECEAP programs to meet children and families' needs. The ESD 112 Board, Policy Council, staff, and parents receive an update on Community Assessment findings and will be engaged in dialogue about how to use this information to establish or modify short and long-term goals for the programs.

The HSPPS and ECEAP requirements to annually review and update the Community Assessment provides ESD 112 with an opportunity to continuously reflect and improve upon data monitoring, data use, and implementation of data-driven, outcomes-oriented goals. With Community Assessment data as a driving factor for understanding and meeting community needs, ESD 112 will continue its mission to support individuals and families to achieve self-reliance.