



2019 – 2020

Annual Head Start Report

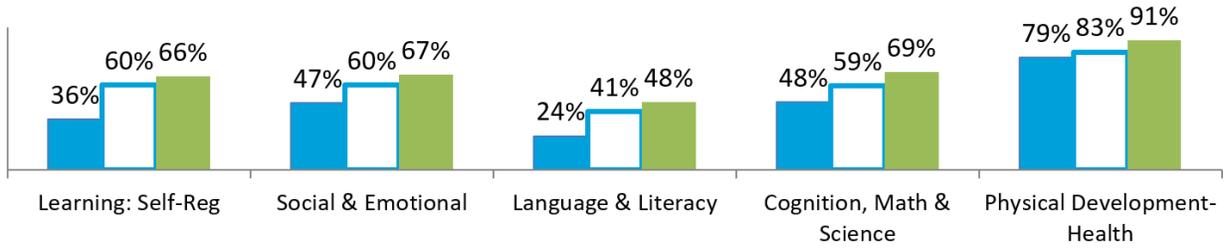
**North Coast Opportunities, Inc.
Head Start Child Development Program**

Infants and Toddlers Domain Comparison Spring 2020

Percentage of children at Age Specific Developmental Level

Domain Comparison for All Infants & Toddlers

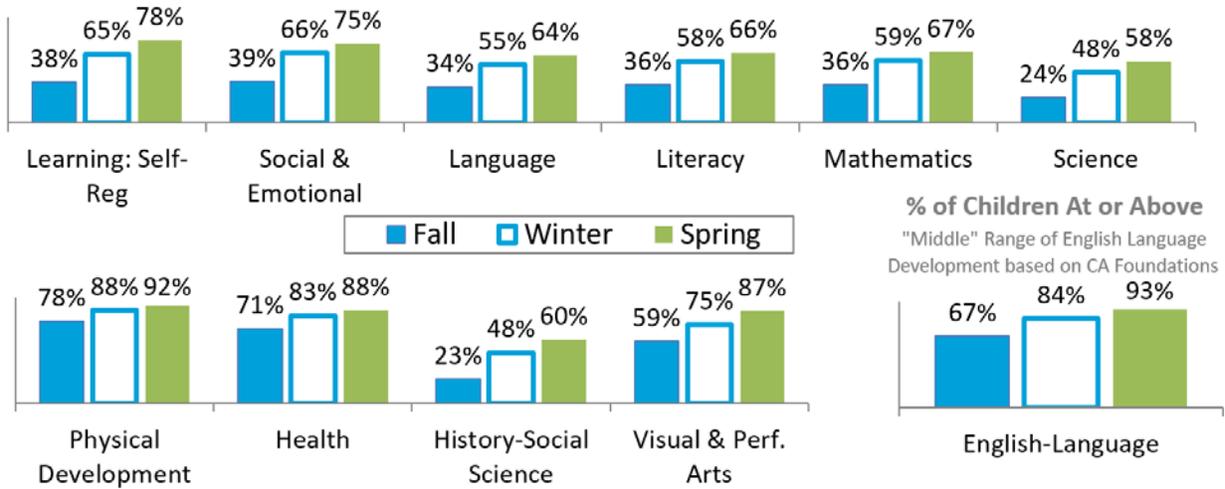
Spring 2019-2020 Percentage of Children At or Above Foundation Expectations



Preschoolers Domain Comparison Spring 2020

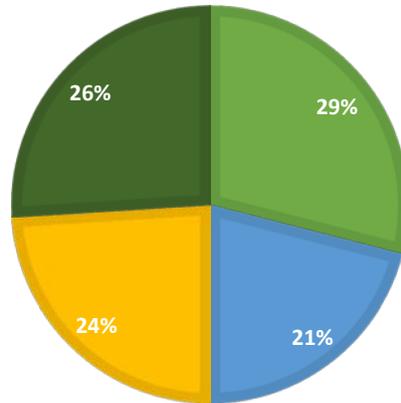
Domain Comparison for All Preschoolers

Spring 2019-2020 Percentage of Children At or Above Foundation Expectations



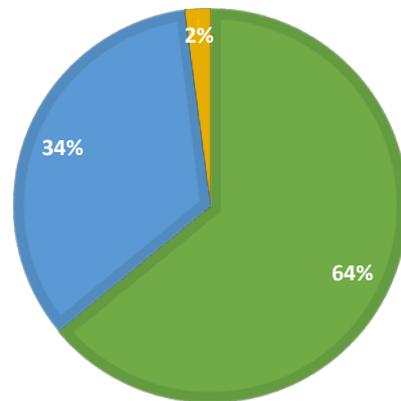
HOW HAS THE CRISIS IMPACTED YOUR JOB?

■ No Change ■ Hours Cut Completely ■ Hours Reduced ■ No Job Before COVID



HOW HELPFUL ARE THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM?

■ Very helpful ■ Somewhat helpful ■ Not helpful



Summary of The Community Needs Assessment (2019)

The estimated number of Head Start age and income eligible children decreased significantly in both counties in the past year. Eligible children 0-4 years old in Mendocino County decreased by 33%. Eligible children 3-4 years old in Lake County decreased by 41%.

The unemployment rate decreased slightly in both counties. Median household income increased by 7% in Mendocino County and 12% in Lake County.

T-K enrollment remained about the same in both counties. Based on Head Start 2018-2019 enrollment data, about 50% of the children enrolled in both counties who turned 5 on or after September 2nd transitioned to a T-K classroom and 50% remained in Head Start.

The number of licensed childcare centers and corresponding available slots dropped in both counties, while the number of licensed childcare homes and slots increased in both counties. Availability of home base services increased in both counties.

According to the Point-in-time Homeless Counts conducted in 2018, the rate of increase in homelessness in both counties leveled off and remains about the same as in 2017.

There was a 30-40% reduction in Lake and Mendocino County Health & Human Services staff causing a decrease in mental health prevention and intervention services for eligible families.

Analysis

Current major challenges faced by HSCDP are:

Remaining at full enrollment - there are a limited number of HS/EHS age and income eligible children in both counties and the program competes with other state preschool centers and T-K classrooms to fill slots. The decrease in the number of licensed childcare centers indicates that others are struggling to maintain enrollment. Due to wage increases, many families are no longer eligible for Head Start services because they exceed the federal poverty guidelines and yet are still "living in poverty" according to California poverty guidelines.

Staff recruitment and retention – The decrease in unemployment rates and the annual increase in California hourly minimum wage until it reaches \$15.00 may both be factors in recruiting and retaining employees. Fewer people seem to be entering the teaching profession, as indicated by nationwide teacher shortages. This is particularly true in early childhood education, which historically pays low wages. There are no four-year colleges or universities in either Mendocino or Lake counties and there are only two community colleges. This makes it difficult for current or potential staff to earn the bachelor degree required for higher level teaching positions.

Procuring mental health services for children and families – Both counties have limited mental health service providers for families with young children, especially for those on Medi-Cal and for Hispanic families. Research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) has shown the prevalence of ACEs is widespread and that trauma in childhood can impair or alter neural development and cause problems with learning, attention and behavior in school. Left unaddressed, health, behavioral and social problems may worsen into adulthood. (<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/95/childhood-adversity-and-resilience/summary>)