



# **2025 Data Book:** ***The Well-Being of Illinois Children***



**Children's Advocates**  
*for Change*

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## **Children's Advocates for Change**

**Children's Advocates for Change is an independent advocacy organization committed to the well-being of every Illinois child. We champion those policies and investments children need so that they are educated, healthy, and thriving.**

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**July 2025**

Dear Reader,

The late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once said: Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.

**Message from Children's  
Advocates for Change President  
Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat**



Today, it seems we are living in an environment where some people believe they will either invent a set of facts, or erase existing data, to serve a political goal.

Children's Advocates for Change works every day to ensure that the work we do to improve the well-being of every Illinois child is rooted in facts. We strive to maximize every resource available to our children, which means making the most efficient use of what we have and advocating for the most effective solutions to address their outstanding needs. To do this, we work to ensure that data is collected and disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and geography (when available), allowing us to fully analyze the challenges facing our children and develop policies that best address their needs. When such data is not disaggregated in this manner, we actively advocate for it to be collected and made available, so that no group of children is overlooked or underserved.

This data book is designed to provide a comprehensive set of data so that our organization, elected officials, and other policymakers across the state of Illinois can make the best decisions based on the facts and existing data. In many cases, we rely on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control, and other federal and state agencies. However, along with others, we have great concerns about the availability of such data in the future. Here are just a few examples of some of the activities occurring on the federal level since the beginning of 2025<sup>1</sup>:

- February 28: U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick disbanded two expert committees that advised the government on improving economic statistics.
- March 11: Virtually all the staff at the National Center for Education Statistics are eliminated.
- March 19: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory and Data Users Advisory Committees are disbanded.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://newsbreaks.infotoday.com/NewsBreaks/Trump-Administration-Continues-Scrubbing-Statistics-and-Disappearing-Data-169423.asp>

- April 1: All 17 employees at of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (which manages the National Survey on Drug Use and Health) are laid off.

Perhaps there will be another means of collecting the data along the lines that existed up to the beginning of the year, but the outlook isn't favorable. Removing data that may show racial and ethnic disparities, poor air quality, underperforming schools, or economic inequality doesn't make the issues go away.

We all want what is best for our children. Achieving that goal means having the data to pursue the right path forward so that every child thrives.



Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat  
President  
Children's Advocates for Change



*Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat and Children's Defense Fund President Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson at Children's Advocates for Change's Poverty Summit in East St. Louis, September 2024.*

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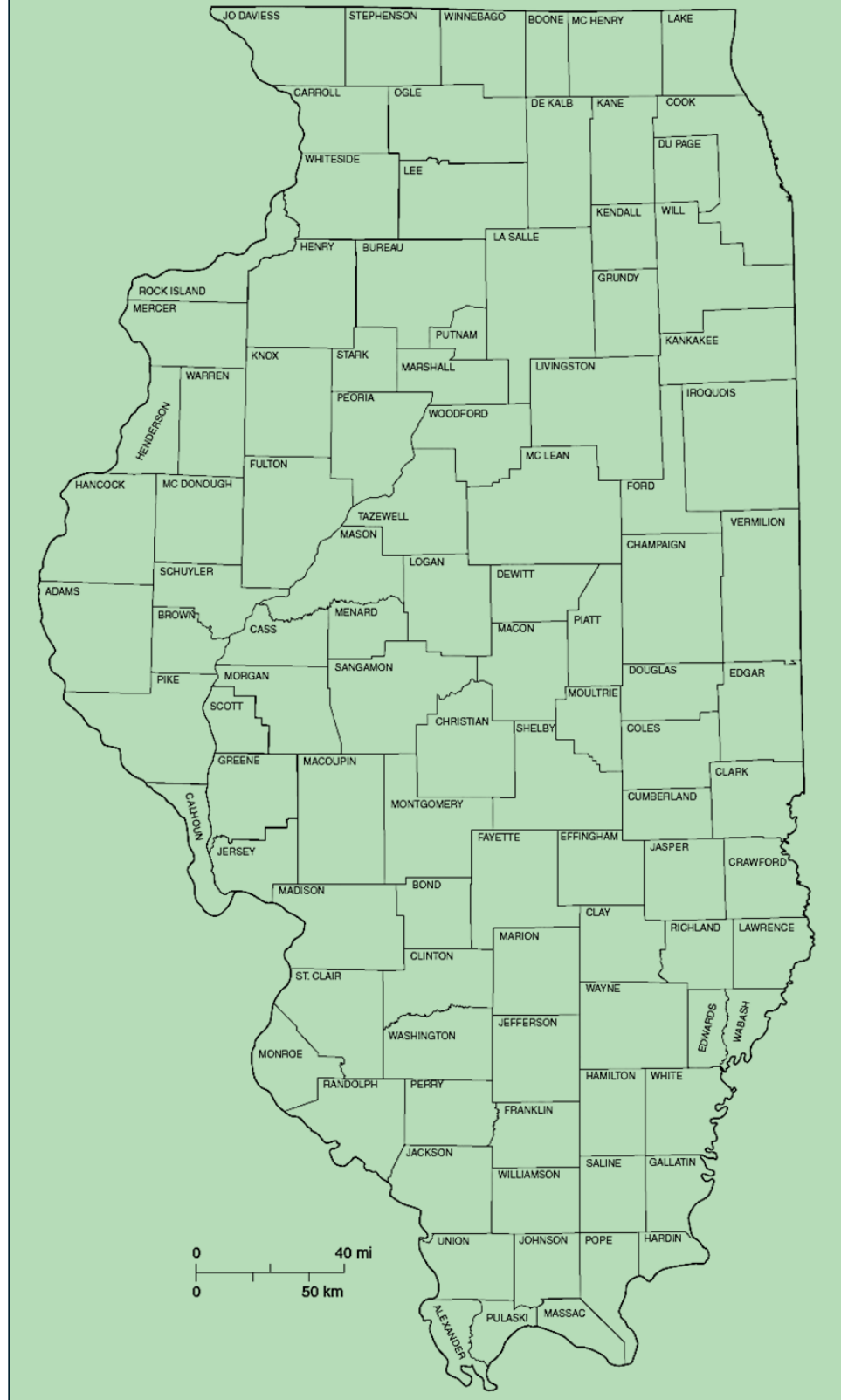
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# Illinois Counties

Source: Illinois State Geological Survey



## Changing Demographics for Illinois Children

This report makes significant use of data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In collecting its data, the Bureau faces challenges regarding survey responses and undercounts.

Factors in Census Bureau undercounts include people who are hard to locate because their homes are not currently on the Bureau's list of addresses, people who are highly mobile or homeless, people suspicious of the government and less likely to respond to a survey request, and individuals where a language or literacy barrier might hinder participation.<sup>2</sup> In reviewing the 2020 Census, the Bureau itself noted in 2022 that it had undercounted Illinois' population by 1.97%.<sup>3</sup> The Bureau estimates it may have under counted Illinois' population of children birth to age 4 by 4.42%.<sup>4</sup>

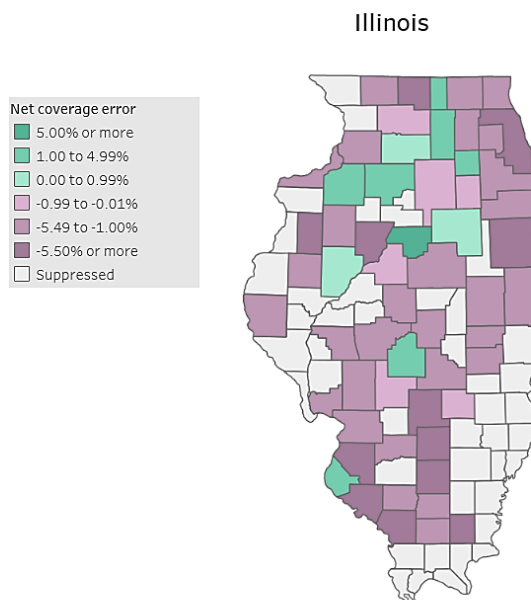
### Section Highlight

Based on American Community Survey estimates, the state's child population dropped by 9.0% from 2013-2023.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Net Coverage Error for Young Children (Aged 0–4) in the 2020 Census

The **net coverage error** is the difference between the census count of a population and an external benchmark. In this case, the external benchmark is Demographic Analysis (DA)—a U.S. Census Bureau method that uses data on births, deaths, domestic migration, and international migration to produce state and county estimates of the population aged 0 to 4 on Census Day (April 1, 2020).



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Source: 2020 Demographic Analysis (April 2024 release), 2020 Planning Database Special Release State and County Data, and 2020 Census special tabulation (CBDRB-FY24-0218)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2023/10/understanding-undercounted-populations.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/05/2020-census-undercount-overcount-rates-by-state.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/net-coverage-error-young-children.html>



We use American Community Survey (ACS) data throughout this report because it contains more detailed information. The ACS is a yearly survey sent to a sample of addresses (versus the decennial census that seeks to count every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and U.S. territories) that beyond the basic demographic questions asked in the decennial census asks about topics such as education, employment, internet access and transportation.<sup>5</sup>

The Bureau adjusts the ACS data with what is called a vintage blended base population to arrive at its estimates.<sup>6</sup> The vintage base can generally be described as starting with the last decennial census and then adjusting it by births, deaths and migrations to arrive at a population estimate. The adjustments also take into account net coverage error.<sup>7</sup>

## *Comparison of Decennial Census with ACS estimates from 2010 to 2023:*

2010 Decennial Census, Illinois population:	12,830,632
2019 ACS Illinois Population from 5-Year Estimate Data	12,770,631
2020 Decennial Census, Illinois population:	12,812,508
2020 ACS Illinois Population from 5-Year Estimate Data	12,716,164
2021 ACS Illinois Population from 5-Year Estimate Data	12,821,813
2022 ACS Illinois Population from 5-Year Estimate Data	12,757,634
2023 ACS Illinois Population from 5-Year Estimate Data	12,692,653

From 2010 to 2023:

- The Census Bureau changed its weighting methodology.
- Illinois Department of Public Health Records show a decline in the number of annual deaths from 2020 to 2022.<sup>8</sup> Yet, from January 2020 to March 2023, there were 41,496 deaths attributed to COVID-19.<sup>9</sup> In 2021, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death for all ages.<sup>10</sup>

We point out the undercount and adjustment issues because an accurate census count has implications for redistribution of congressional seats and the allocation of federal funds. These two items may affect available resources and a variety of education, health,

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/acs-and-census.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2024-02.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology/2020-2024/methods-statement-v2024.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/data-and-statistics/vital-statistics/death-statistics/deaths-by-county-2020-2022.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/illinois>

<sup>10</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/publications/idph/data-and-statistics/vital-statistics/death-statistics/Leading-causes-by-age-2021.pdf>

housing, and economic supports noted throughout the book and thus impact the condition of Illinois children.

The published ACS data shows a decline in the state’s child population during the last decade. The reason could include factors that range from migration patterns to birth rates, to economic circumstances.

Illinois Population under Age 18	2013	2018	2023	Percent Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,086,416</b>	<b>2,926,561</b>	<b>2,808,879</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>
In households:	3,080,321	2,921,509	2,805,099	
Under 3 years	479,384	456,649	412,715	-13.9%*
3 and 4 years	340,958	320,101	295,439	-13.4%*
5 years	166,975	154,077	150,615	-9.8%
6 to 8 years	510,351	481,165	458,070	-10.2%
9 to 11 years	521,224	500,942	479,725	-8.0%
12 to 14 years	523,692	501,932	499,509	-4.6%
15 to 17 years	537,737	506,643	509,026	-5.3%
In group quarters <sup>11</sup>	6,095	5,052	3,780	-38.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B09001. (A review of the demographic breakout can be seen on page 13.) \*An undercount, migration patterns, and birth rates could all be factors in the steeper decline in the child population under the age of 5 compared to other ages.

Between 2013 and 2023:

- The proportion of the state’s population under the age of 18 went from 24.0% to 21.5%.
- Average Illinois family size went from 3.28 to 3.15.
- The state’s median age went from 36.8 years old to 38.9 years old.<sup>12</sup>

Broken down by race and ethnicity, the median age of the state’s Hispanic/Latino<sup>13</sup> population in 2023 was 30, while it was 35.8 for Illinois Blacks, and 43.8 for white/non-

<sup>11</sup> The Census Bureau defines group quarters as a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. During this time period, the Bureau changed its methodology for counting children living in juvenile facilities and other institutional group quarters from the facility to the child’s usual home address.

<sup>12</sup> Source for measures: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Tables S0101, B09001, and DP05, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> The Census Bureau asks if a person is Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin. We use the terms Hispanic and Latino in tables and charts to represent this population group since that is how the category is listed in census tables. In some cases, data collected by another agency may only reference the category Hispanic.

Hispanic or Latino Illinoisans.<sup>14</sup> The median age is impacted by migration rates, birth rates and death rates.

Using national data, the National Center for Health Statistics put the life expectancy at birth (2019-2022 )for a Black individual at 72.8 years versus 77.5 years for a white individual and 80.0 for a Hispanic individual.<sup>15</sup> There are a variety of items that could impact life expectancy. For this time period, COVID-19 was a factor. Other possible factors include (but are not exclusive to) educational attainment, income status, access to health care, effects of discrimination-related stress, and health habits (that may include smoking and eating habits).<sup>16</sup>

In a review of Illinois migration patterns from 2013-2022 by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the University of Illinois' Project for Middle Class Renewal<sup>17</sup>, the authors showed that while Census data does show a loss with regards to domestic migration patterns, there were a number of people who moved into the state for a small net decline of 20,967. The authors also showed that between 2010 and 2020, the Chicago area's population increased while the area outside of Cook and the Collar Counties lost 164,000 people.<sup>18</sup>

Estimated Changes in Age Cohorts from Migration Patterns in Illinois, 2013-2022				
Estimated Changes in Illinois' Age Cohorts from 2013-2022 Migration Patterns	Left Illinois for Another State	Moved into Illinois from Another State	Moved into Illinois from Abroad	Net Domestic Migration Plus International
Children: 0-17 Years Old	390,322	265,172	110,831	-14,320
Young Adults: 18-24 Years Old	250,718	234,148	79,197	62,628
Working Age: 25-54 Years Old	859,400	640,938	215,773	-2,689
Older: 55 or More Years Old	253,268	153,265	33,417	-66,586
	1,753,708	1,293,523	439,218	-20,967

IEPI analysis of 2013-2022 March Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data from the U.S. Census Bureau (Flood et al. 2022). Note: The sample size is adjusted to match the state's population using weights provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01002, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Arias, Elizabeth, Xu, Jiaquan, Kochanek, Kenneth. *United States Life Tables, 2022*, National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 74, Number 2, April 8, 2025.

<sup>16</sup> Scommegna, Paolo. *Key Factors Underlying Racial Disparities in Health Between Black and White Older Americans, Program and Policy Implications*, PRB, Number 41, May 2021

<sup>17</sup> Manzo, Frank, Bruno. *A Decade of Illinois' Migration Patterns*, Illinois Economic Policy Institute and University of Illinois Labor and Employment Relations - Project for Middle Class Renewal, October, 10, 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

The authors reviewed census survey data from 2013-2022 of people leaving Illinois for another state and found that 38.7% left for job reasons, 22.8% left for family reasons, 22.4% left for housing reasons, 4.3% left because of college, and 11.8% left for other reasons.<sup>19</sup>



A review of domestic out-migration from Illinois for 2018-2023 (not including 2020 because of the pandemic) shows the top five states Illinois residents moved to were Indiana, Florida, California, Missouri, and Wisconsin.<sup>20</sup> Of those five, three have a higher cost of living 2024 average according to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.<sup>21</sup>

Illinois data also shows a pattern of a decline in the state's overall fertility rate:

2005 67.0 per 1,000 women aged 15-44

2014 61.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-44

2022 51.8 per 1,000 women aged 15-44

The 2022 fertility rate for Hispanic or Latino mothers was 55.9 per 1,000 women aged 15-44, 50.34 for black women and 50.88 for white/non-Hispanic or Latino Women.<sup>22</sup>

The nation's fertility rate has also been declining. Contributing factors, which may interact with each other, may be the decision to delay marriage and pregnancy, pursuit of a higher education degree, a career, cost of living and personal/family economics, and a desire to have a smaller family.<sup>23</sup>



<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.

<sup>21</sup> <https://meric.mo.gov/data/cost-living-data-series>

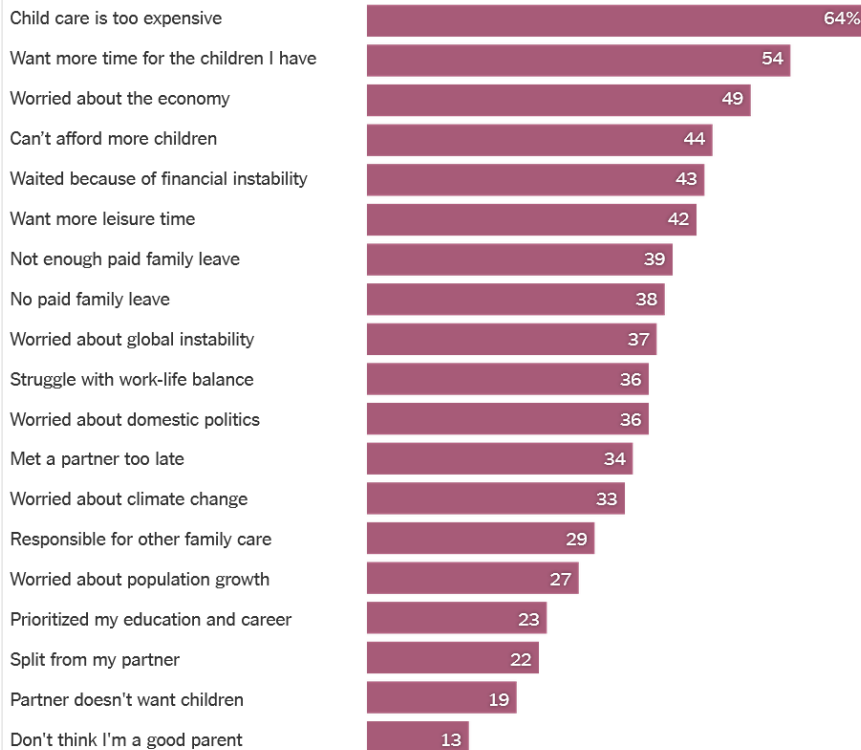
<sup>22</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, CDC Wonder Online Database.

<sup>23</sup> Whitfill Roeloffs, Mary. *America's Declining Birth Rate Has Become A Hot-Button Political Issue – Here's What To Know*, Forbes, October 3, 2024.



## Why Young Adults Are Having Fewer Children Than Their Ideal Number

For the people who said they had or expected to have fewer children than they considered ideal, here's the share that cited each of these reasons as a factor.



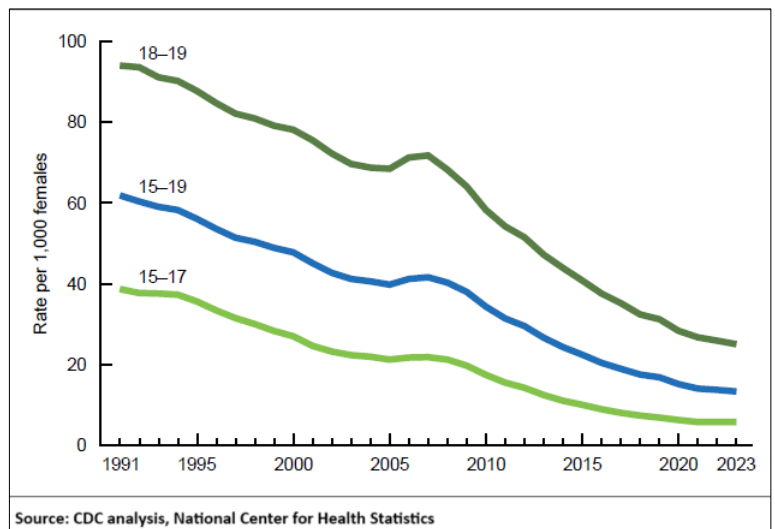
By The New York Times | Source: Morning Consult survey of 1,858 men and women ages 20 to 45

A survey published in the New York Times in 2018, showed concerns for child care costs, time spent per child, and economics among the top reasons cited by young adults having fewer children.<sup>24</sup>

Variations in state patterns may reflect differences in these factors as well as migration rates (both those leaving and entering a state). Future trends may also be impacted by access to reproductive health following the overturning of Roe v. Wade.<sup>25</sup>

## Birth Rate for Teenagers, By Age of Mother: United States, Final 1991-2022 and provisional 2023

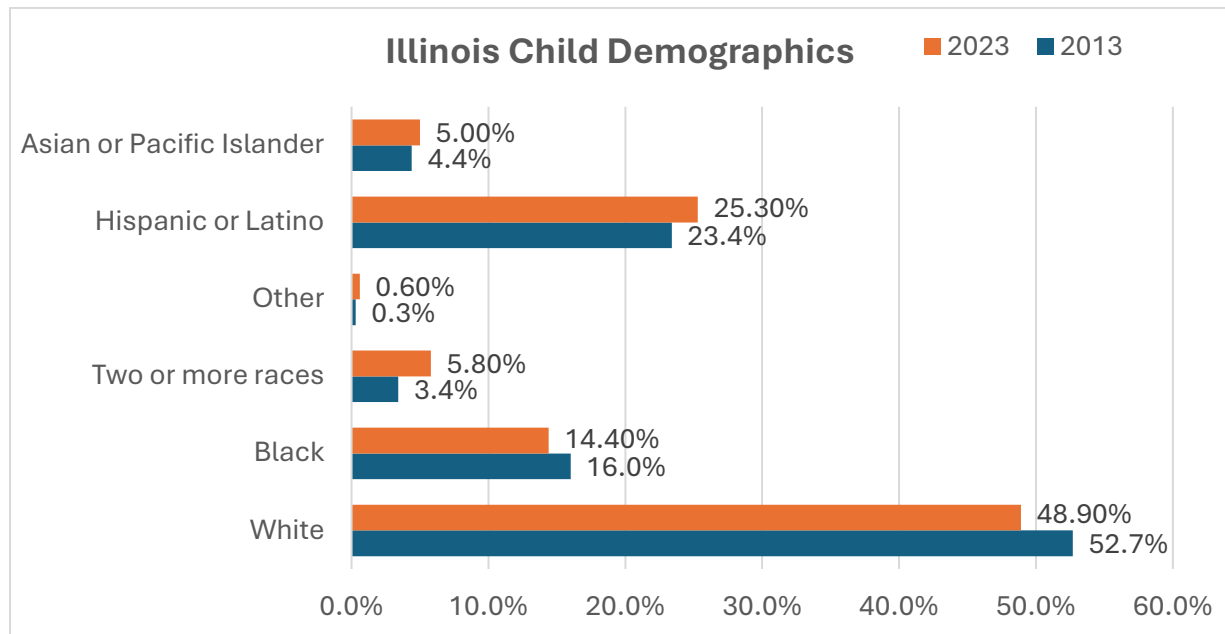
While becoming smaller, the state's child population (under age 18 unless



<sup>24</sup> Cain Miller, Claire. *Americans Are Having Fewer Babies. They Told Us Why.*, New York Times, July 5, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> Rao, Devika. *Why does the U.S. fertility rate keep dropping?* The Explainer, January 2, 2025, <https://theweek.com/science/us-fertility-rate-declining-2023>

otherwise specified) has also become slightly more diverse in the last decade:



Source [both charts]: IPUMS Analysis (University of Minnesota), 5-Year American Community Survey Data, U.S. Census Bureau

2023	Illinois Child Population by Age and Race/Ethnicity				
Age	white	Black	Hispanic or Latino	Two or more races	Other
Less than 1 year old	49.3%	13.3%	24.7%	6.8%	6.0%
1	50.0%	14.8%	23.1%	6.9%	5.2%
2	48.3%	15.3%	23.6%	6.7%	6.1%
3	48.6%	14.8%	24.5%	6.9%	5.3%
4	48.7%	14.1%	24.9%	6.9%	5.4%
5	49.0%	14.6%	24.8%	5.9%	5.7%
6	48.0%	14.4%	25.7%	5.9%	6.0%
7	50.8%	14.0%	24.8%	5.3%	5.1%
8	49.5%	13.7%	25.5%	6.0%	5.4%
9	48.3%	15.1%	24.9%	6.3%	5.4%
10	50.6%	14.0%	24.5%	5.5%	5.4%
11	46.6%	15.2%	26.3%	6.0%	5.9%
12	47.6%	14.9%	26.4%	5.7%	5.3%
13	48.7%	14.4%	25.6%	5.4%	5.7%
14	48.2%	14.5%	26.5%	5.3%	5.4%
15	49.3%	14.4%	26.3%	5.0%	5.0%
16	50.6%	13.4%	26.4%	4.5%	5.1%
17	49.3%	14.6%	25.9%	4.5%	5.7%

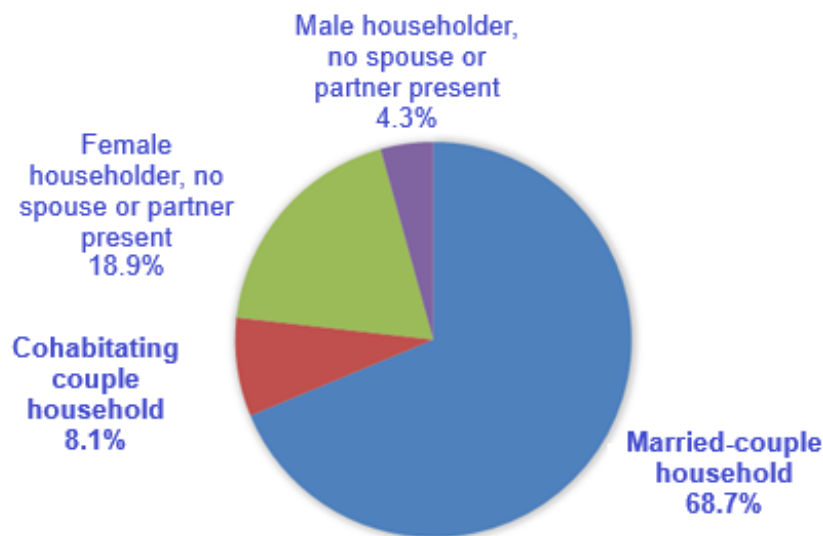
Two-thirds of all Illinois children in households in 2023, and children of the householder, lived in a married-couple household and a quarter lived in female headed households.

Illinois	Total	In married-couple family household	In male householder, no spouse present, family household	In female householder, no spouse present, family household
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
<b>Children under 18 years in households</b>	<b>2,803,939</b>	<b>1,874,601</b>	<b>219,741</b>	<b>689,765</b>
<i>Relationship to Householder</i>				
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	88.80%	93.30%	81.20%	81.60%
Grandchild	7.20%	4.90%	8.50%	13.30%
Other relatives	2.20%	1.10%	7.00%	4.00%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1.70%	0.60%	3.40%	1.10%
<i>Presence of Other Adults</i>				
Unmarried partner of householder present	8.20%	(X)	45.20%	17.60%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table S0901, 2023.

In examining Illinois households with children of the householder under age 18:

## Illinois Households with Children (Of Householder) Under Age 18



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Table B11012, 2023.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Examining Illinois households by race and ethnicity, there is a much higher percentage of female-headed households (with children of the householder) for Black women than for women in other major demographic categories:

Illinois	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	% of total households with children of householder	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	% of total households with children of householder	Black or African American alone, not Hispanic or Latino	% of total households with children of householder	Two or More Races, not Hispanic or Latino	% of total households with children of householder
	Estimate		Estimate		Estimate		Estimate	
<b>Total households:</b>	616,307		3,294,295		674,827		80,963	
Total households with children of the householder under age 18:	263,734		778,522		169,521		24,128	
Total married-couple households:	308,842		1,664,262		148,480		30,248	
With children of the householder under 18 years	173,140	65.6%	594,825	76.4%	52,838	31.2%	14,735	61.1%
With no children of the householder under 18 years	135,702		1,069,437		95,642		15,513	
Total cohabiting couple households:	55,435		207,357		35,209		8,107	
With children of the householder under 18 years	31,802	12.1%	53,137	6.8%	13,944	8.2%	2,641	10.9%
With no children of the householder under 18 years	23,633		154,220		21,265		5,466	
Total female households, no spouse or partner present:	139,877		829,760		340,750		25,709	
With children of the householder under 18 years	47,434	18.0%	99,656	12.8%	94,058	55.5%	5,596	23.2%
With relatives, no children of the householder under 18 years	36,424		132,319		87,361		4,110	
With only nonrelatives	5,721		36,476		7,473		1,636	
Living alone	50,298		561,309		151,858		14,367	
Total male households, no spouse or partner present:	112,153		592,916		150,388		16,899	
With children of the householder under 18 years	11,358	4.3%	30,904	4.0%	8,681	5.1%	1,156	4.8%
With relatives, no children of the householder under 18 years	27,546		60,414		21,550		1,744	
With only nonrelatives	9,929		44,520		8,728		1,761	
Living alone	63,320		457,078		111,429		12,238	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B11012, 2021.

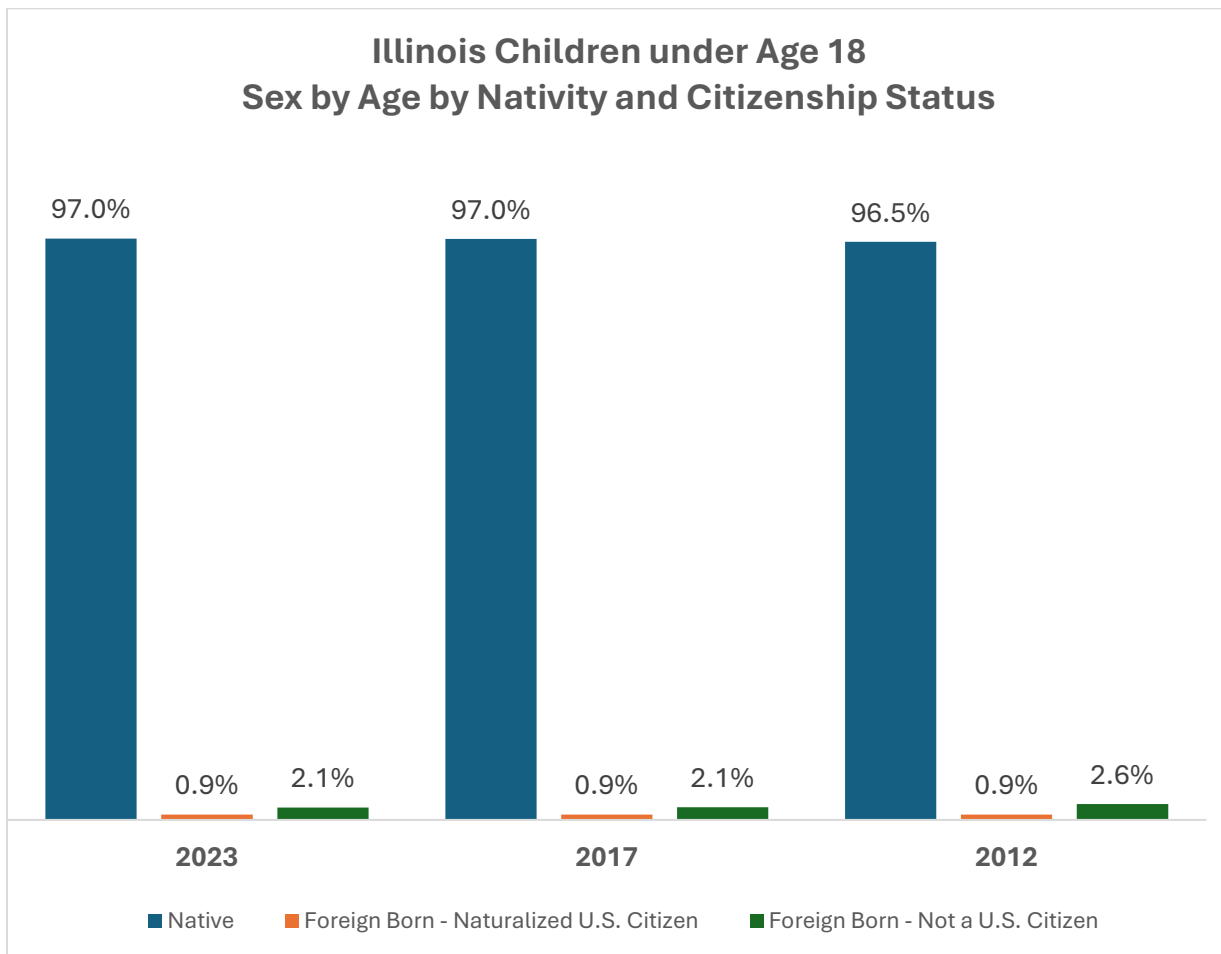
(2023 data by race and ethnicity not available as of this writing.)





Age by Language Spoken at Home	Illinois Children	Percent
5 to 17 years:	2,100,249	
Speak only English	1,598,322	76.1%
Speak Spanish	345,261	16.4%
Speak other Indo-European languages	90,157	4.3%
Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages	40,416	1.9%
Speak other languages	26,093	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B16007, 2023.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B05003, 2023.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

<b>Grandparents Living with Own Grandchildren Under 18 Years by Responsibility for Own Grandchildren</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total:	233,883	
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years	67,997	29.1%
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years	165,886	70.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B10051, 2023.

<b>Grandparents Living with Own Grandchildren Under 18 Years by Responsibility for Own Grandchildren (Black or African American Alone)</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total:	45,519	
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years	16,543	36.3%
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years	28,976	63.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B10051B, 2023.

<b>Grandparents Living with Own Grandchildren Under 18 Years by Responsibility for Own Grandchildren (Hispanic or Latino)</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total:	67,289	
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	14,620	21.7%
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	52,669	78.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B10051I, 2023.



# Illinois Geographic Distribution of the Child Population

## By number

As noted, the state's child population in 2023 was 2,808,879.

The seven counties (of the state's 102 counties) with the largest number of children account for two-thirds of the state's child population in 2023: Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, Kane, McHenry, and Winnebago.

Cook County, Illinois - 1,110,965

DuPage County, Illinois - 207,574

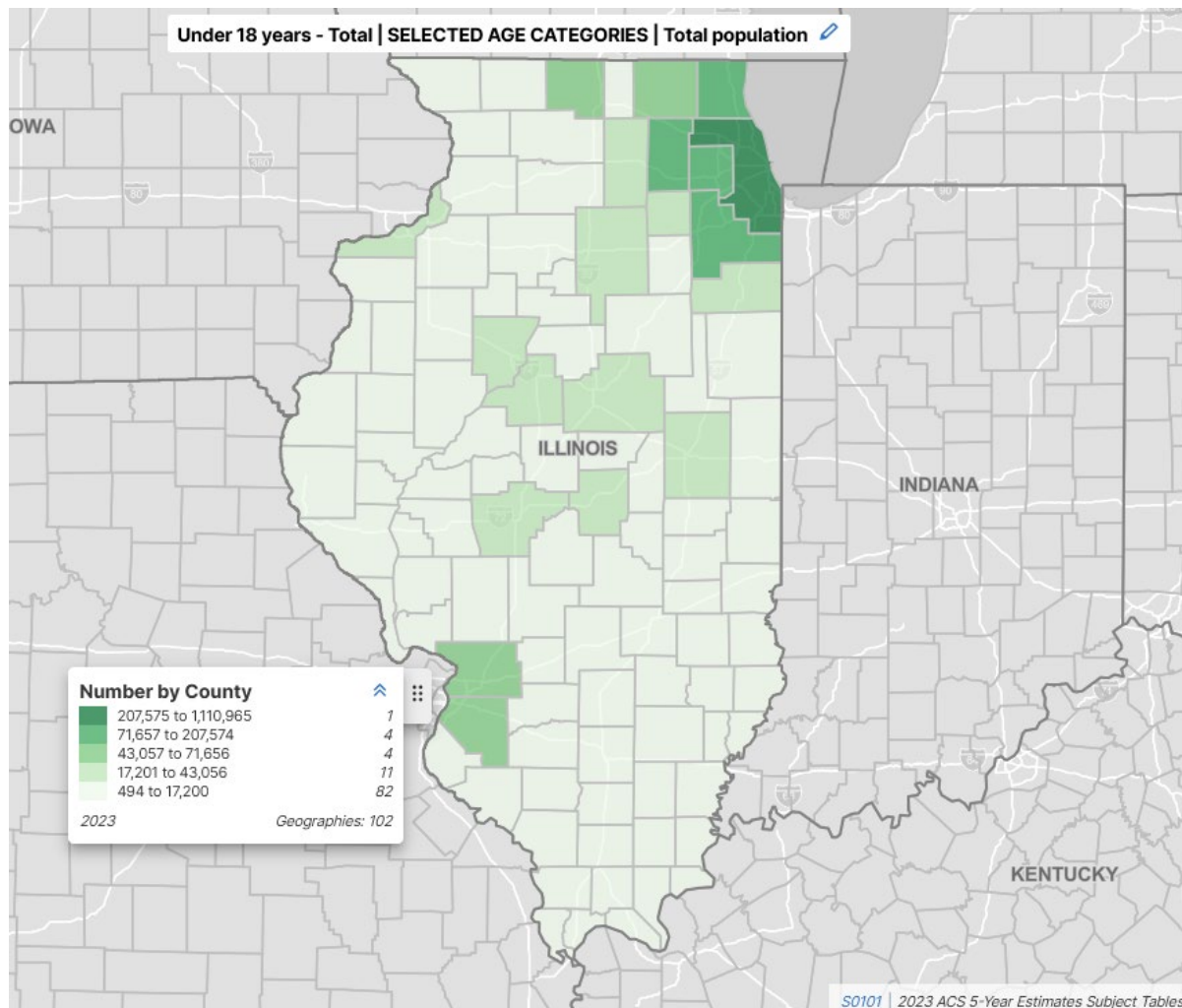
Lake County, Illinois - 168,098

Will County, Illinois - 167,605

Kane County, Illinois - 125,866

McHenry County, Illinois - 71,656

Winnebago County, Illinois - 66,750

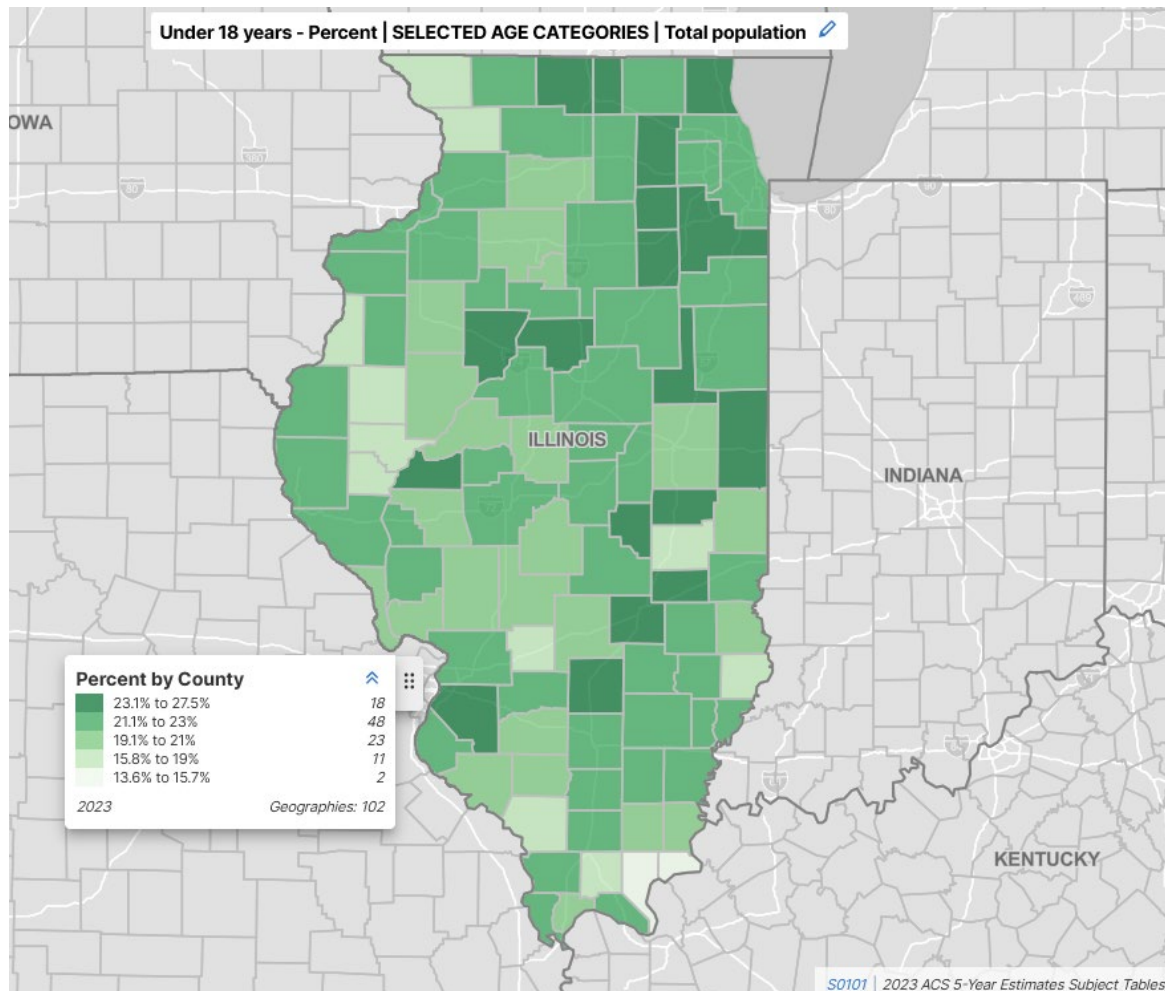
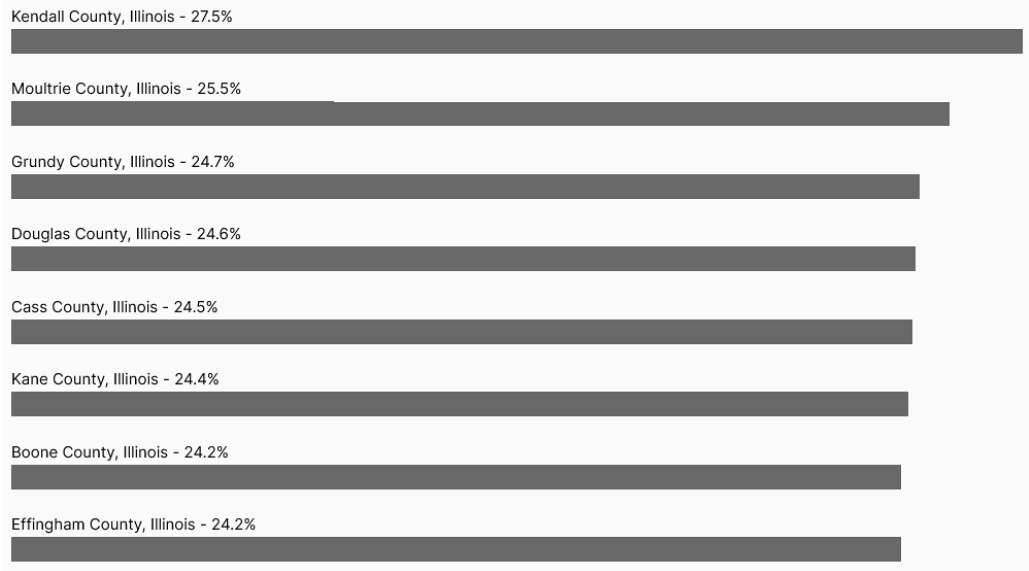


## By percentage

The percentage of Illinois' child population under the age of 18 is 22.10%.

Based on the percentage of a county's total population that are children, Kendall, Moultrie, Grundy,

Douglas, Cass, Kane, Boon and Effingham counties all have rates above 24%.





## DEMOGRAPHICS

County	Percent of Population Under 18 years
Kendall	27.50%
Moultrie	25.50%
Grundy	24.70%
Douglas	24.60%
Cass	24.50%
Kane	24.40%
Boone	24.20%
Effingham	24.20%
Will	24.00%
Woodford	24.00%
Peoria	23.90%
Cumberland	23.80%
Lake	23.60%
Marion	23.60%
Winnebago	23.60%
Vermilion	23.50%
Ford	23.30%
St. Clair	23.30%
Clay	23.00%
Kankakee	23.00%
McHenry	23.00%
Pike	23.00%
Richland	23.00%
Adams	22.70%
Hamilton	22.70%
Macon	22.60%
Wayne	22.60%
Edwards	22.50%
Rock Island	22.50%
DuPage	22.40%
Jasper	22.40%
Jefferson	22.40%
Ogle	22.40%
Clark	22.30%
Tazewell	22.30%
Franklin	22.20%
Warren	22.20%
Livingston	22.10%
Menard	22.10%
Monroe	22.10%
Henry	22.00%

County	Percent of Population Under 18 years
Sangamon	22.00%
Whiteside	22.00%
Piatt	21.90%
DeKalb	21.80%
Wabash	21.80%
White	21.80%
Alexander	21.70%
Iroquois	21.70%
Stark	21.70%
Clinton	21.60%
De Witt	21.50%
Madison	21.50%
McLean	21.50%
Union	21.50%
Williamson	21.50%
Cook	21.40%
Greene	21.40%
Scott	21.40%
Shelby	21.40%
LaSalle	21.30%
Stephenson	21.30%
Marshall	21.20%
Massac	21.20%
Hancock	21.10%
Mercer	21.10%
Bureau	21.00%
Washington	21.00%
Saline	20.90%
Macoupin	20.70%
Mason	20.60%
Fayette	20.50%
Pulaski	20.50%
Calhoun	20.40%
Randolph	20.40%
Crawford	20.20%
Knox	20.20%
Montgomery	20.10%
Christian	20.00%
Jersey	19.90%
Lee	19.90%
Gallatin	19.80%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

County	Percent of Population Under 18 years
Edgar	19.70%
Fulton	19.70%
Putnam	19.70%
Logan	19.50%
Perry	19.50%
Champaign	19.30%
Morgan	19.30%
Jackson	19.00%
Henderson	18.90%
Lawrence	18.80%
Jo Daviess	18.50%
Coles	18.30%
Bond	18.20%
Carroll	18.10%
McDonough	17.90%
Johnson	17.80%
Brown	17.40%
Schuyler	17.30%
Pope	15.70%
Hardin	13.60%



### Illinois Counties with the greatest percentage of children ages 5 and under (2023)

County	Total Population	Ages 5 and Under	Percent of Children Ages 5 and Under
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>12,692,653</b>	<b>858,769</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
Cumberland	10,378	867	8.4%
Douglas	19,686	1,640	8.3%
Cass	12,826	1,067	8.3%
Edwards	6,118	508	8.3%
Peoria	179,831	14,372	8.0%
Pike	14,625	1,146	7.8%
Marion	37,294	2,894	7.8%
Effingham	34,505	2,672	7.7%
Richland	15,675	1,198	7.6%
Winnebago	283,289	21,224	7.5%

Source: Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

## DEMOGRAPHICS

County	Total population— Under 18 years— Estimate
Cook	1,110,965
DuPage	207,574
Lake	168,098
Will	167,605
Kane	125,866
McHenry	71,656
Winnebago	66,750
St. Clair	59,327
Madison	56,984
Peoria	43,056
Sangamon	42,980
Champaign	39,730
Kendall	37,150
McLean	36,679
Rock Island	32,223
Tazewell	29,099
Kankakee	24,569
LaSalle	23,234
Macon	23,234
DeKalb	21,906
Vermilion	17,200
Adams	14,793
Williamson	14,415
Grundy	13,072
Boone	12,886
Whiteside	12,153
Ogle	11,548
Henry	10,793
Jackson	10,007
Knox	9,949
Stephenson	9,395
Macoupin	9,244
Woodford	9,208
Marion	8,800
Coles	8,521
Effingham	8,348
Franklin	8,323
Jefferson	8,263
Clinton	7,966
Livingston	7,866

County	Total population— Under 18 years— Estimate
Monroe	7,729
Bureau	6,922
Lee	6,778
Christian	6,734
Fulton	6,566
Morgan	6,303
Randolph	6,138
Iroquois	5,802
Montgomery	5,649
Logan	5,447
Saline	4,887
McDonough	4,853
Douglas	4,836
Shelby	4,458
Fayette	4,379
Jersey	4,256
Jo Daviess	4,062
Perry	4,060
Crawford	3,756
Moultrie	3,694
Warren	3,684
Hancock	3,680
Piatt	3,661
Union	3,643
Richland	3,611
Wayne	3,609
Clark	3,423
Pike	3,369
De Witt	3,323
Mercer	3,293
Edgar	3,281
Cass	3,141
Ford	3,120
Clay	3,034
Bond	3,029
White	2,992
Massac	2,956
Washington	2,872
Lawrence	2,852
Carroll	2,827

## DEMOGRAPHICS

County	Total population— Under 18 years— Estimate
Menard	2,687
Mason	2,649
Greene	2,534
Marshall	2,479
Cumberland	2,475
Wabash	2,438
Johnson	2,374
Jasper	2,070
Hamilton	1,812
Edwards	1,379
Henderson	1,188

County	Total population— Under 18 years— Estimate
Schuyler	1,180
Stark	1,153
Putnam	1,103
Brown	1,102
Alexander	1,092
Pulaski	1,040
Scott	1,038
Gallatin	962
Calhoun	897
Pope	589
Hardin	494

Source for both tables: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table S010, 2023.



### Counties with largest African American Child Population

Cook	344,024
Will	26,874
St. Clair	23,133
Lake	16,005
DuPage	15,374
Winnebago	15,168
Peoria	11,827
Champaign	10,248
Sangamon	9,898
Kane	8,320
Madison	7,733

### Counties with largest Hispanic and Latino Child Population

Cook	506,251
Lake	74,031
Kane	72,682
DuPage	59,810
Will	57,416
McHenry	22,225
Winnebago	19,767
Kendall	11,833
Rock Island	8,732
Champaign	6,612
Kankakee	6,083

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B1001B and I, 2023.

### Health and Wellness

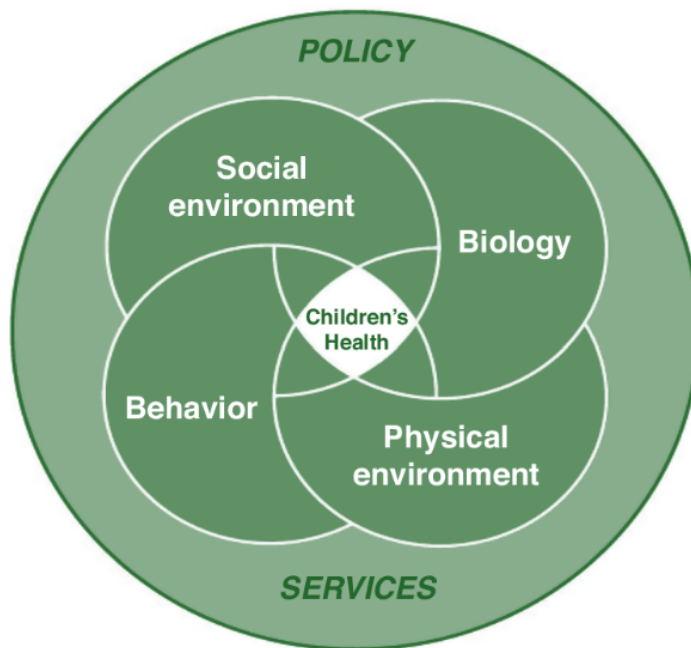
A child's health encompasses physical as well as emotional well-being. A newborn's brain is already 26% of its adult weight by age five and the brain has reached 88% of its adult weight.<sup>26</sup> Major causes of adult morbidity and mortality are rooted in childhood.<sup>27</sup>

#### Section Highlight

**The infant mortality rate for Illinois Black infants is close to three times the rate of that for Illinois white infants.**

Source: Illinois Department of Public

While the data in this section reflects infant mortality rates, low-birth weight, and reported behavioral issues, among other metrics, socioeconomic factors listed elsewhere in this report such as housing stability, food security, and economic well-being generally can impact a child's health. In attempting to define child health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, researchers developed this image to illustrate how various factors interact with children's health.<sup>28</sup>



In addition, some of the data are the result of survey responses and while the survey may have a response scale, the outlook of respondents could differ on a variety of levels.

<sup>26</sup> Dekaban, A. S., & Sadowsky, D. *Changes in brain weights during the span of human life: Relation of brain weights to body heights and body weights*, Annals of Neurology, October 1978, 4(4), 345–356.

10.1002/ana.410040410

<sup>27</sup> Simmonds M, Llewellyn A, Owen CG, Woolacott N. *Predicting adult obesity from childhood obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis*, Obesity Reviews, 2016;17(2):95–107. <https://doi.org/10.1111/obr.12334>.

<sup>28</sup> Stein, R.E.K. *Defining child health in the 21st century*, Pediatric Research, 96, 1438–1444, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-024-03423-w>



*Health care coverage*

According to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), there were 1.49 million Illinois children receiving comprehensive health benefits from the state as of the last day of state Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) via All-Kids, Medicaid, or other state funded HFS programs. The Illinois All-Kids program provides health insurance to children age 18 or younger who meet the income eligibility requirements. Given the Illinois child population up to age 19 in 2023 (2,983,991), that would mean the state provided comprehensive healthcare services to 49.8% of the state's children.

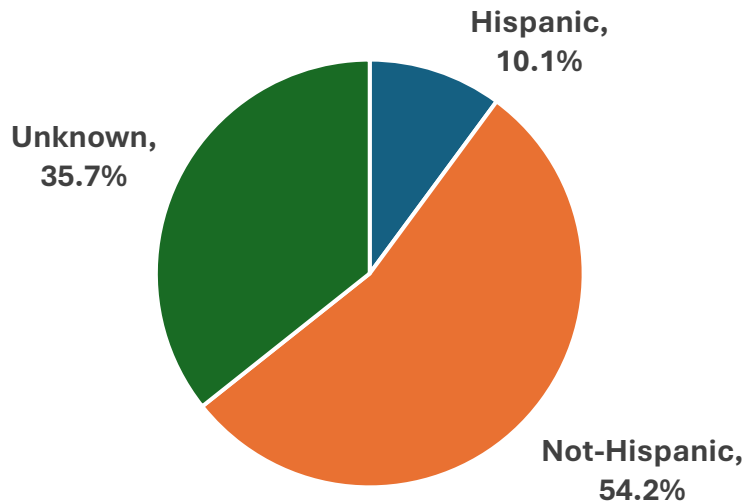
HFS defines comprehensive benefits as benefits to enrollees eligible for all services provided under Illinois' Medical Assistance Program.

Illinois Medicaid/CHIP coverage: Children enrolled as of the last day of the state fiscal year.					
Comprehensive Benefits	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Children	1,406,402	1,465,904	1,499,514	1,542,115	1,487,024

Data provided by HFS shows the following demographic breakout for children enrolled in HFS programs (including all individuals covered for comprehensive benefits) at the end of state FY24.

Ethnicity	Hispanic					
	Asian	Black	Did Not Answer/Unknown	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Hawaiian Native/Other Pacific Islander	white
	3,714	3,760	31,616	2,325	89	109,278
Ethnicity	Not Hispanic					
	Asian	Black	Did Not Answer/Unknown	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Hawaiian Native/Other Pacific Islander	white
	9,261	22,643	608,897	4,694	71	162,677
Ethnicity	Unknown					
	Asian	Black	Did Not Answer/Unknown	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Hawaiian Native/Other Pacific Islander	white
	28,364	223,947	11,277	1,977	133	266,209

### Illinois Children Enrolled in Medicaid at the End of Fiscal Year 2024



**Black (Non-Hispanic/Unknown)**  
**white (Non-Hispanic/Unknown)**

**16.5% of total enrollment**  
**28.8% of total enrollment**

On a numeric basis, the county with largest number of children enrolled with the state for comprehensive health benefits was Cook (668,427 -or 44.8% of all enrollees) followed by DuPage (78,296 [5.3%]), and then Lake (72,097 [4.8%]).



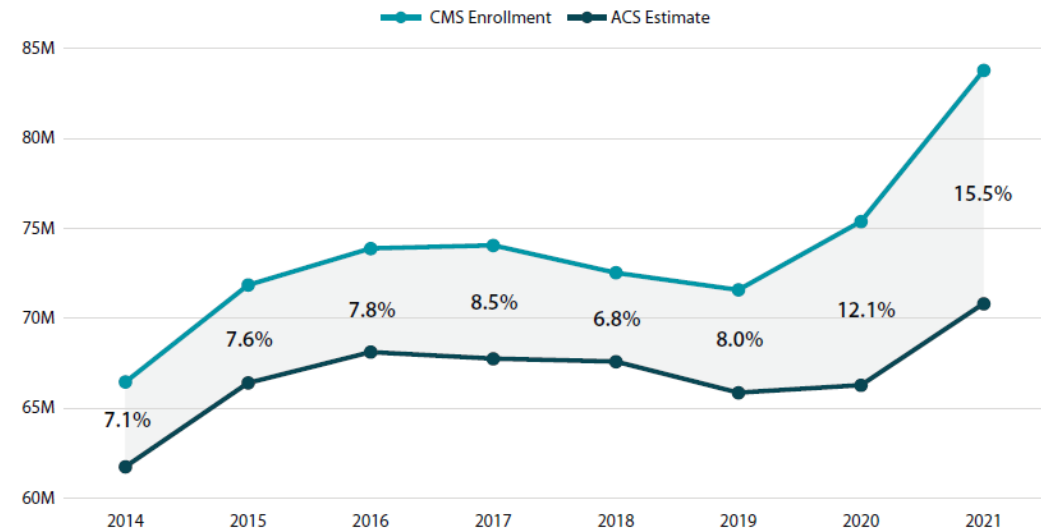
Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates in 2023, the Medicaid/means-tested coverage rate for birth-age 18 was 36.1%.<sup>29</sup> As for what may account for the discrepancy with state provided data, there have been studies describing what is called a Medicaid undercount – that is a misalignment between American Community Survey estimates of self-reported Medicaid coverage and enrollment counts based on Medicaid/Children’s Health Insurance Program data.<sup>30</sup> With regards to 2021, researchers theorize respondents may not have realized they still fell under the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement enacted during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under federal legislation signed into law in 2023, the unwinding

<sup>29</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B27007, 2023.

<sup>30</sup> Hest, Robert, Lukanen, Elizabeth, and Blewett, Lynn. *Medicaid Undercount Doubles, Likely Tied to Enrollee Misreporting of Coverage*, State Health Access Data Assistance Program, December 2022.

from the continuous enrollment provision began in the spring of 2023.<sup>31</sup> Others have speculated that since states may hire private insurers to handle the administration of benefits and claims, Medicaid recipients may believe they have commercial coverage.<sup>32</sup> It is unclear if these provisions account for most of the difference.

**The undercount of Medicaid enrollment in the American Community Survey grew to nearly 16% in 2021**  
The ACS' percent undercount of Medicaid enrollment with ACS estimates compared to CMS enrollment figures, 2014–2021



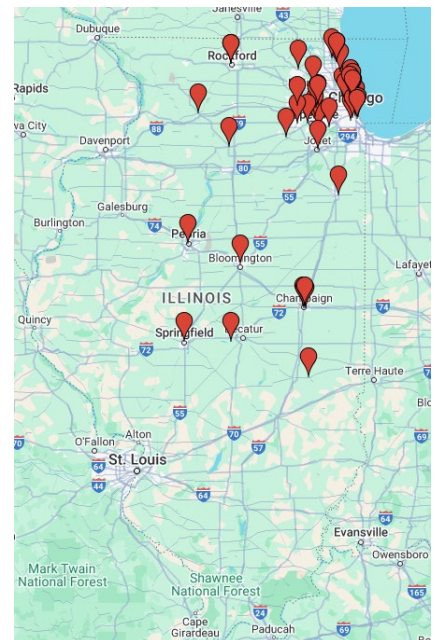
Notes: CMS Medicaid enrollment figures represent average monthly enrollment for the calendar year. ACS estimates are an annual average. The percent undercount is the percent difference between the ACS estimate and the CMS figure. 2020 ACS estimates are based on experimental ACS data and should be treated with caution.

Source: SHADAC analysis of 2014–2021 American Community Survey PUMS files and CMS Medicaid enrollment data via KFF.

The Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics lists 53 such clinics in Illinois on its website.

According to the Association<sup>33</sup>:

*Free and charitable clinics provide medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services for free or at a nominal fee to low-income individuals without health insurance. Some clinics will provide services to individuals who have insurance but cannot find a doctor or cannot afford the deductibles.*



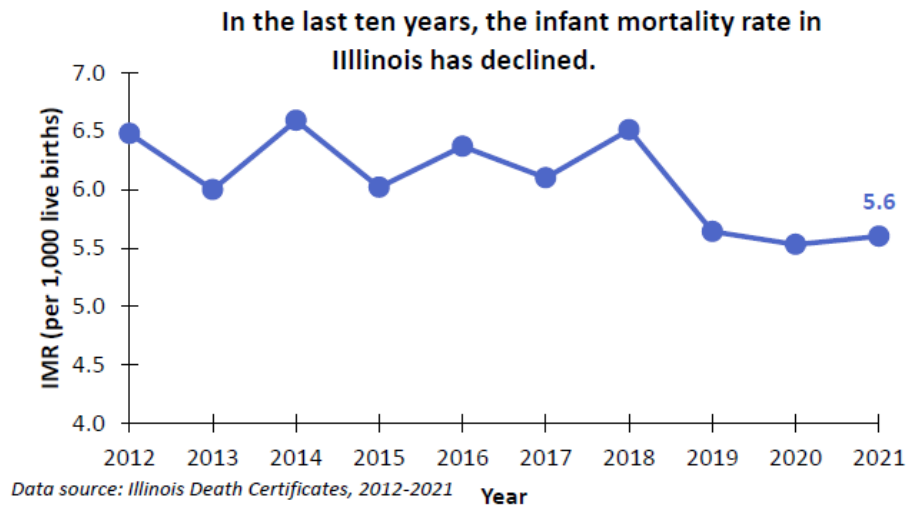
<sup>31</sup> Nelson, Peter J. *What the Medicaid Undercount reveals about the Medicaid “Unwinding”*, American Experiment, May 2024.

<sup>32</sup> Galewitz, Phil. *Why Medicaid’s ‘Undercount’ Problem Counts*, KFF Health News, May 14, 2024.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org/>

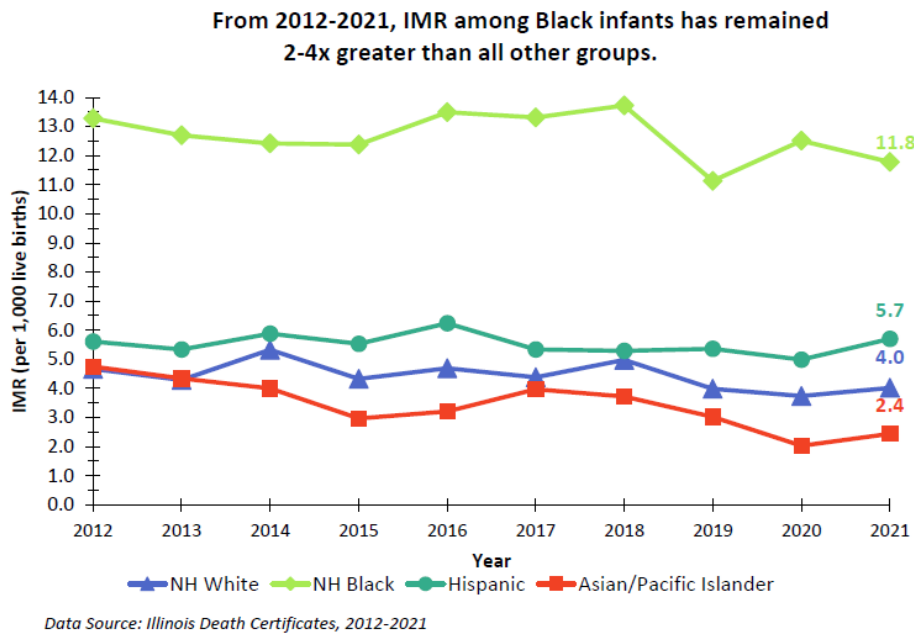
Infant Mortality

Between 2012 and 2021, the Illinois infant mortality rate declined.



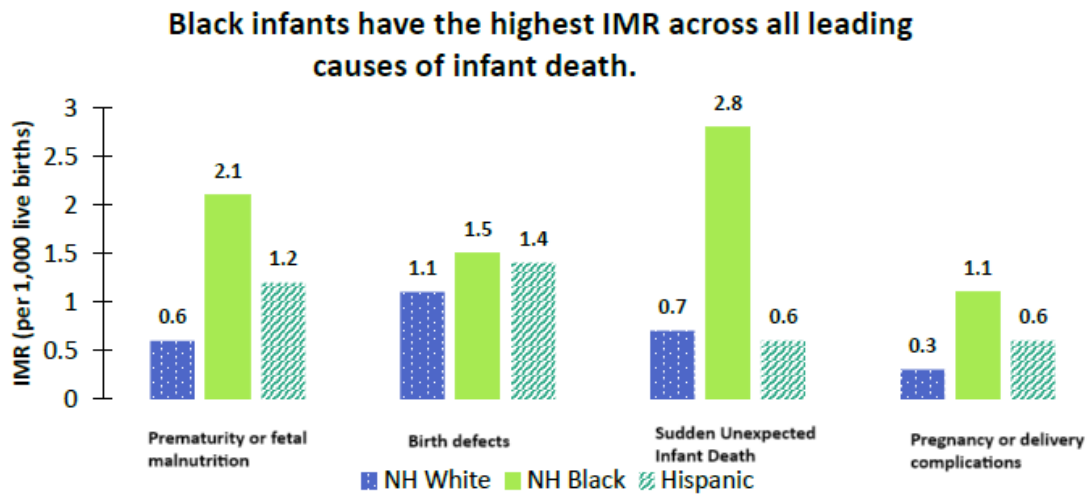
In 2021, 743 Illinois residents died before their first birthday (5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births).

Despite the decline, the infant mortality rate for Black infants is well above the rate for Hispanic or white infants.



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Fetal and Infant Mortality Data Report, September 2024.

The state trend is similar to national trends. A range of social determinants can influence mortality rates. Such factors include economic stability, education, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.<sup>34</sup> The following chart illustrates disparities among the leading causes of Infant mortality in Illinois.



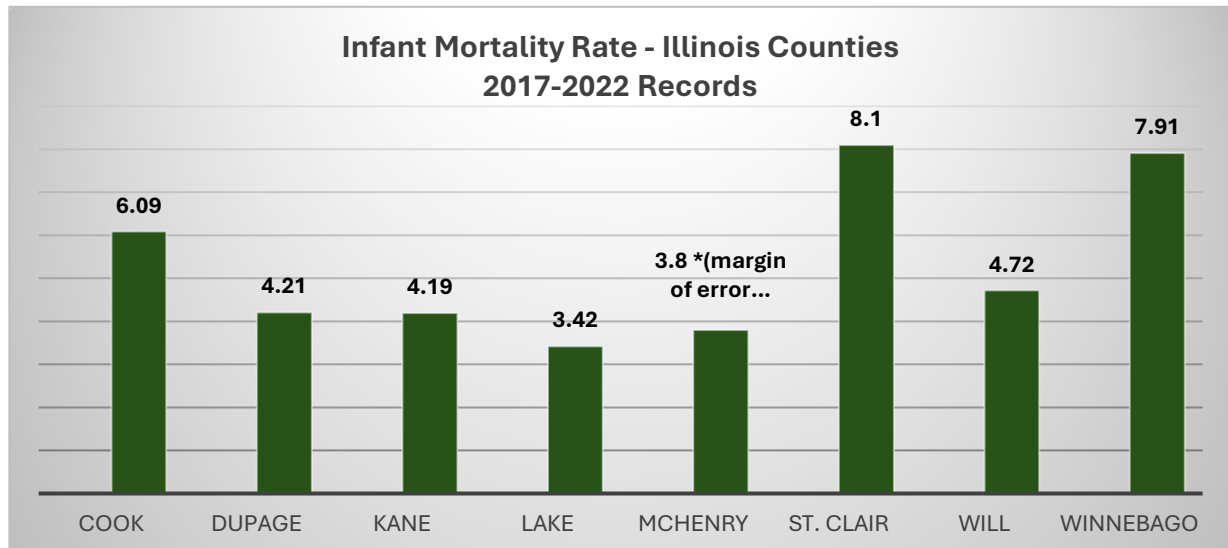
Data source: Illinois Death Certificates, 2021

Illinois Department of Public Health, Fetal and Infant Mortality Data Report, September 2024.



<sup>34</sup> Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

In many cases, the reported infant mortality rate by county is suppressed due to the number of actual cases. For those instances, where there is enough data, the Centers for Disease Control that for 2017-2022, the infant mortality rates were<sup>35</sup>:



### Low-Birth Weight

Low-birth weight cases for Illinois infants have remained relatively steady in the last seven years. However, distinct disparities remain between Black infants and other demographic groups.

Births of Low Birthweight as a Percent of All Births by Race/Ethnicity								
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	More than one race	Total
2023	0.071	0.16	0.081	0.098	0.103	N/A	0.092	0.089
2022	0.069	0.157	0.078	0.093	N/A	N/A	0.092	0.084
2021	0.068	0.149	0.077	0.096	N/A	N/A	0.091	0.085
2020	0.066	0.146	0.072	0.084	N/A	N/A	0.097	0.083
2019	0.067	0.146	0.075	0.092	N/A	N/A	0.094	0.084
2018	0.069	0.145	0.075	0.092	0.103	0	0.104	0.085
2017	0.069	0.145	0.071	0.096	N/A	N/A	0.091	0.085
2016	0.069	0.144	0.072	0.089	N/A	N/A	0.101	0.084

Source: KFF analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Low birthweight is defined as less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces).

<sup>35</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, CDC Wonder Online Database.



Children born at normal birth weight are at less risk of mental or physical delays or organ damage.<sup>36</sup>

Prenatal care is an important factor in combatting low birth weight.<sup>37</sup> According to Illinois Department of Public Health Records, 78% of women giving birth in 2022 had adequate prenatal care (percentage reflective of cases where such a determination could be made.)

While there may be numerous factors impacting a pregnancy, some of the cited factors impacting birthweight are parental smoking, alcohol and drug use, economic status (and related to that is employment status), age at birth, preterm delivery, exposure to lead or air pollution, and stress. KFF (formerly referred to as the Kaiser Family Foundation) notes that

A 2004 study concluded that reported lifelong accumulated experiences of interpersonal racial discrimination by Black women constituted an independent risk factor very low infant birth weight.<sup>38</sup> A later study from 2017 determined increasing racial inequity in unemployment was associated with a 5% increase in black infant mortality and decreasing racial inequity in education was associated with an almost 10% reduction in the black infant mortality rate.<sup>39</sup>

### 2022 Illinois Birth Characteristics by County

Geography	Total Births	Adequate Prenatal Care <sup>40</sup>	Cesarean	Low Birth Weight	Mother Unmarried	Non-HS Graduate Age 20+	Preterm	Very Low Birth Weight
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>128,493</b>	<b>98,878</b>	<b>39,771</b>	<b>11,158</b>	<b>50,565</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>13,587</b>	<b>1,799</b>
Adams	688	590	206	55	300	52	75	8
Alexander	47	37	14	7	32	0	8	2
Bond	118	104	36	8	43	10	11	0

<sup>36</sup> <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bphc/data-reporting/table-6b-table-7-prenatal-care-fact-sheet.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Committee to Study the Prevention of Low Birthweight; Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Institute of Medicine.

Washington (DC): [National Academies Press \(US\)](#); 1985 Jan 1.

<sup>38</sup> Collins JW Jr, David RJ, Handler A, Wall S, Andes S. *Very low birthweight in African American infants: the role of maternal exposure to interpersonal racial discrimination*, American Journal of Public Health. 2004 Dec;94(12):2132-8.

<sup>39</sup> Wallace M, Crear-Perry J, Richardson L, Tarver M, Theall K. *Separate and unequal: Structural racism and infant mortality in the US*. *Health Place*, 2017 May;45:140-144. doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2017.03.012. Epub 2017 Mar 28.

<sup>40</sup> The CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health use an Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization (APNCU) Index that is based on the month care began and the number of prenatal care visits, adjusting for the gestational age of the newborn. Adequate prenatal care is care begins in the first 4 months of pregnancy with at least 80%–109% of the recommended number of visits. Reference source: Kotelchuck M, *An evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index*, American Journal of Public Health 84(9):1414–20.1994.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Geography	Total Births	Adequate Prenatal Care <sup>40</sup>	Cesarean	Low Birth Weight	Mother Unmarried	Non-HS Graduate Age 20+	Preterm	Very Low Birth Weight
Boone	534	451	169	36	230	37	56	8
Brown	51	46	16	5	14	2	5	1
Bureau	299	256	97	20	124	28	27	9
Calhoun	32	27	13	1	5	1	3	0
Carroll	121	95	43	3	48	4	10	2
Cass	168	136	57	20	77	35	22	2
Champaign	1,995	1,662	681	189	855	172	206	24
Chicago	27,627	18,428	7,721	2,673	12,598	2,268	2,909	455
Christian	332	277	112	35	155	24	44	3
Clark	143	120	38	11	52	11	18	2
Clay	142	111	45	17	54	21	21	4
Clinton	396	363	117	43	117	17	49	4
Coles	462	399	127	30	218	40	39	1
Cook	24,316	18,432	7,651	2,076	8,502	1,234	2,489	362
Crawford	205	167	84	27	73	28	35	11
Cumberland	107	90	23	6	30	2	9	1
De Witt	142	112	35	17	57	7	18	2
DeKalb	1,024	874	337	97	409	57	131	22
Douglas	257	183	66	20	70	73	22	3
DuPage	9,744	8,115	3,113	681	2,061	381	941	102
Edgar	178	134	45	22	101	18	26	4
Edwards	56	44	21	5	19	3	9	1
Effingham	448	404	105	27	142	22	39	3
Fayette	224	183	64	22	105	28	28	1
Ford	140	120	38	9	53	11	12	1
Franklin	393	320	102	40	182	54	46	1
Fulton	299	243	115	24	162	20	32	3
Gallatin	47	44	11	5	16	4	9	1
Greene	127	106	41	11	59	10	16	0
Grundy	539	444	217	42	189	16	56	5
Hamilton	70	60	25	4	30	7	6	1
Hancock	169	156	47	10	62	9	12	2
Hardin	34	27	6	6	21	3	5	2
Henderson	62	52	17	3	26	5	8	0
Henry	457	375	141	29	187	25	46	5
Iroquois	258	202	65	18	102	18	21	1
Jackson	542	425	124	61	282	58	65	7
Jasper	92	83	30	4	26	7	5	1
Jefferson	397	316	120	35	189	49	48	5
Jersey	174	145	42	18	64	2	18	3

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Geography	Total Births	Adequate Prenatal Care <sup>40</sup>	Cesarean	Low Birth Weight	Mother Unmarried	Non-HS Graduate Age 20+	Preterm	Very Low Birth Weight
Jo Daviess	162	135	70	9	62	10	10	2
Johnson	111	88	28	10	35	9	14	1
Kane	5,498	4,334	1,787	445	1,971	538	603	78
Kankakee	1,150	890	349	111	606	68	128	19
Kendall	1,524	1,263	520	104	407	42	176	17
Knox	483	377	147	44	284	41	48	8
Lake	6,722	5,402	2,081	556	2,180	461	656	73
LaSalle	1,118	948	345	90	550	106	115	14
Lawrence	112	97	41	6	56	14	13	1
Lee	282	234	100	16	111	21	30	4
Livingston	365	299	122	31	144	31	37	7
Logan	222	196	71	18	115	19	25	2
Macon	1,167	900	405	161	685	92	187	27
Macoupin	406	335	121	46	178	38	58	3
Madison	2,659	2,109	772	235	1,140	135	273	35
Marion	437	356	116	30	248	55	45	3
Marshall	96	77	30	4	50	11	7	2
Mason	123	105	34	13	66	12	11	1
Massac	145	111	53	14	71	18	23	1
McDonough	274	234	91	17	111	27	34	4
McHenry	3,167	2,695	1,002	210	905	132	298	32
McLean	1,630	1,308	515	121	578	80	133	13
Menard	129	111	34	8	44	12	15	0
Mercer	137	115	40	10	61	6	9	1
Monroe	302	247	110	25	57	0	42	7
Montgomery	245	208	70	21	124	19	26	1
Morgan	344	309	100	25	175	30	36	3
Moultrie	151	105	36	11	45	43	19	1
Ogle	524	442	158	44	197	36	46	7
Peoria	2,084	1,520	751	193	1,105	164	229	28
Perry	163	127	42	10	70	12	12	1
Piatt	160	143	53	9	43	8	16	1
Pike	157	129	51	14	66	10	16	1
Pope	18	15	6	3	6	2	5	1
Pulaski	62	52	19	12	34	7	8	0
Putnam	48	39	17	1	18	2	6	0
Randolph	298	238	80	24	147	29	30	0
Richland	165	129	48	12	77	14	19	0
Rock Island	1,565	1,253	504	146	811	185	182	23
Saline	246	198	55	29	125	23	26	3

Geography	Total Births	Adequate Prenatal Care <sup>40</sup>	Cesarean	Low Birth Weight	Mother Unmarried	Non-HS Graduate Age 20+	Preterm	Very Low Birth Weight
Sangamon	1,992	1,674	664	236	948	152	271	38
Schuyler	56	46	15	4	24	1	9	0
Scott	44	41	17	7	26	2	7	1
Shelby	206	184	54	12	74	7	21	3
St. Clair	2,593	1,914	834	313	1,265	117	325	57
Stark	68	58	18	1	30	1	6	0
Stephenson	465	369	139	43	275	36	51	6
Tazewell	1,225	996	363	90	494	77	126	9
Union	162	136	38	13	67	11	19	0
Vermilion	782	611	233	75	497	77	96	13
Wabash	101	87	29	7	26	2	15	0
Warren	196	153	64	18	85	27	28	4
Washington	134	121	44	8	39	3	11	0
Wayne	170	134	54	12	57	28	20	2
White	135	114	49	12	62	16	18	2
Whiteside	559	442	191	36	262	42	52	4
Will	6,990	5,523	2,389	505	2,232	265	707	87
Williamson	613	492	180	52	263	41	62	8
Winnebago	3,289	2,617	1,114	344	1,838	359	391	65
Woodford	403	333	131	10	100	11	30	0

Timely access to quality obstetric care is also a factor in several of the noted chart categories and in other aspects of infant and maternal health. In 2024, researchers examined the changes in geographic access to Illinois birthing hospitals from 2016 to 2023 for women of reproductive age (ages 15 to 49) residing in Illinois.<sup>41</sup> During this time, the number of birthing hospitals in Illinois decreased from 118 to 86.<sup>42</sup> Driving time to the nearest birthing center increased near hospital closures, particularly in the east and southeast, near Kankakee and Carbondale.<sup>43</sup>



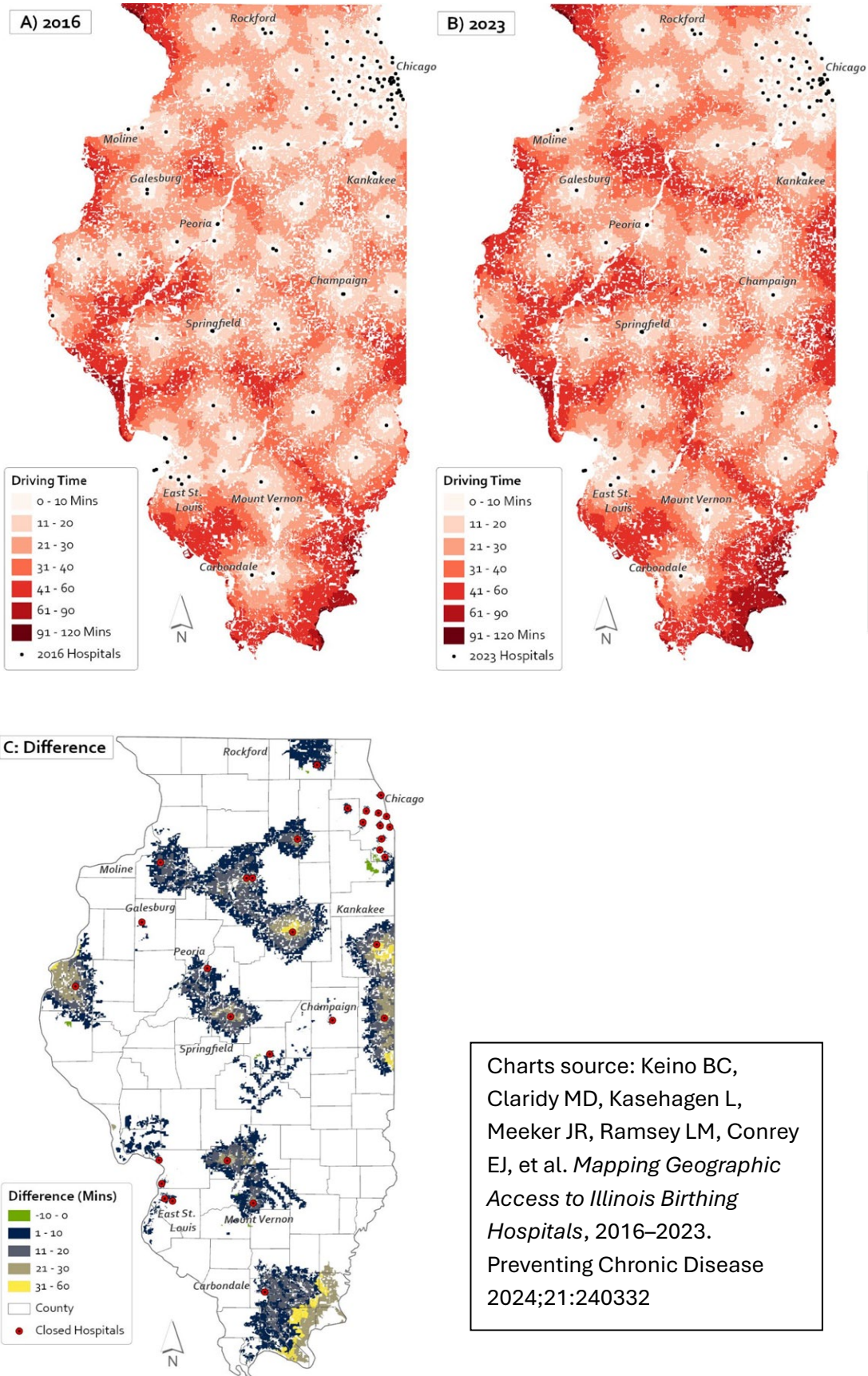
<sup>41</sup> Keino BC, Claridy MD, Kasehagen L, Meeker JR, Ramsey LM, Conrey EJ, et al. *Mapping Geographic Access to Illinois Birthing Hospitals, 2016–2023*. Preventing Chronic Disease 2024;21:240332. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd21.240332>

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

Maps A and B compare driving time to a birthing center in 2016 and 2023. Darker shades of indicate longer travel times.

Map C further illustrates the differences.



Charts source: Keino BC, Claridy MD, Kasehagen L, Meeker JR, Ramsey LM, Conrey EJ, et al. *Mapping Geographic Access to Illinois Birthing Hospitals, 2016–2023*. Preventing Chronic Disease 2024;21:240332



## Voices from the Field: The Role of Doulas

Illinois' preterm birth rate stands at 10.3%, and women of color are disproportionately impacted, with Black women facing a 52% higher risk of preterm birth.<sup>44</sup> Roughly 37% of Illinois' counties lack hospitals or birth centers offering obstetric care, designating them as maternity care deserts.<sup>45</sup>

**On average, a woman in Illinois travels 6.8 miles to a hospital providing obstetric care.**

Source: March of Dimes

Sherneron Hilliard, Senior Vice President of Programs and Impact at Family Focus, and Michelle Adeniyi, Director of Maternal and Child Health Collective Impact at Chicago's March of Dimes, shared their perspectives on programs making a difference.

Hilliard explained Family Focus' Birth Equity Initiative, funded with an Illinois Birth Equity Grant.

"We know that Black women and Black babies are dying at much higher rates than their counterparts", said Hilliard. "So, the work we're doing with the doulas is a necessity."

Doulas, trained non-medical birthing professionals, provide necessary physical, emotional, and informational support and advocacy during the birthing process. While Family Focus has run a doula program for years, the new Birth Equity Initiative is scaling the program up by training more doulas, establishing hospital partnerships, and increasing access for Illinois families. The program also focuses on engaging fathers:

"We created our 'Dads Doula Too' campaign to get dads more involved in the birthing process," she said.

Adeniyi described the March of Dimes' hospital-based program.

"We are providing doula support to moms that are giving birth on the city's far South Side of Chicago," said Adeniyi. She added, "The evidence is very clear: when birthing people have doulas, outcomes improve. Period... We've really been focused on continuing to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid benefits... Some of our biggest wins have been around having Medicaid reimbursement expanded to doula support and lactation support."

<sup>1</sup> March of Dimes. (2022). Nowhere to Go: Maternity Care Deserts Across the U.S. – Illinois. Retrieved from <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/illinois/maternity-care-deserts>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

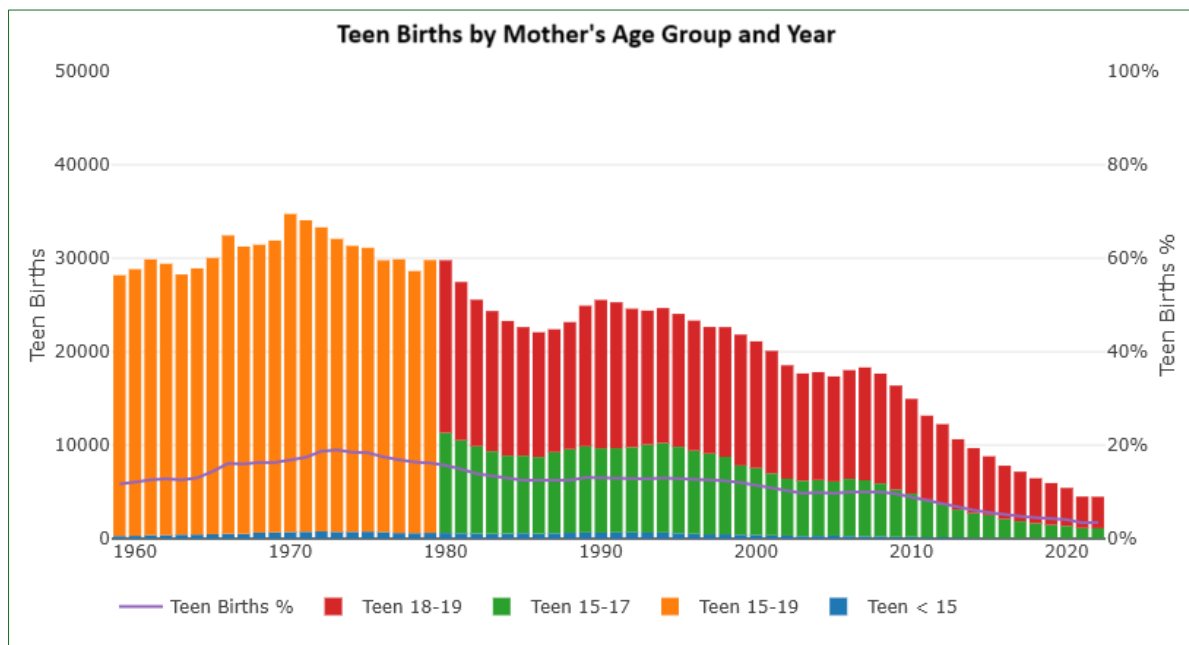


### Births to unmarried women and teens

Year	Total Illinois Births	Unmarried Mothers	Percentage of Births to Unmarried Mothers
2022	128,493	50,565	39.4
2021	132,221	52,253	39.5
2020	133,304	54,005	40.5
2019	140,145	55,320	39.5
2018	144,828	56,928	39.3
2017	149,390	59,379	39.7
2016	154,467	61,270	39.7
2015	158,101	63,923	40.4
2014	158,522	63,521	40.1
2013	156,918	63,273	40.3
2012	159,152	64,260	40.4
2011	161,234	64,472	40.0
2010	164,998	66,787	40.5
2009	171,077	69,728	40.8
2008	176,634	71,836	40.7
2007	180,530	72,385	40.1
2006	180,503	69,912	38.7
2005	178,872	66,266	37.0
2004	180,665	65,507	36.3
2003	182,393	64,358	35.3
2002	180,555	62,860	34.8
2001	184,022	63,426	34.5
2000	185,003	63,823	34.5

Of the total number of Illinois births in 2022, 39.4% were to unmarried mothers. In the last two decades, births to unmarried mothers as a percentage of all births has increased slightly but the actual number of births to unmarried mothers has decreased since 2000.

However, during that time, the percentage of teen births for women ages 15-19 (out of all births for a year) has fallen significantly from 11.4% to 3.5%.<sup>46</sup>



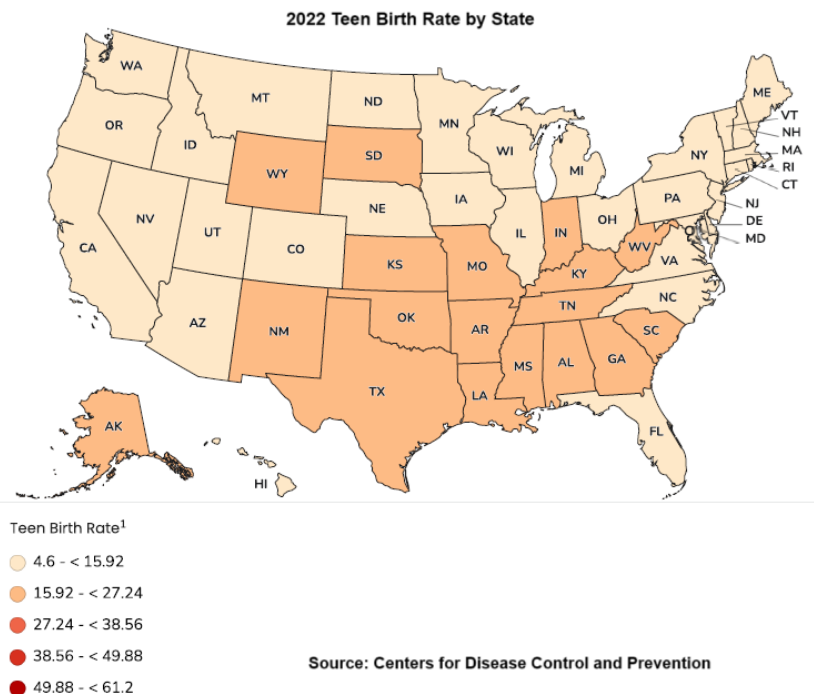
<sup>46</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/vital-statistics/birth-statistics.html>

Illinois Department of Public Health Data shows for teen births in 2002 (up to and including age 19), the top five counties (by percent of teen births) were Vermilion (11.3), Richland (10.9), Edwards (8.9), Marion (8.2), and Montgomery (8.2).

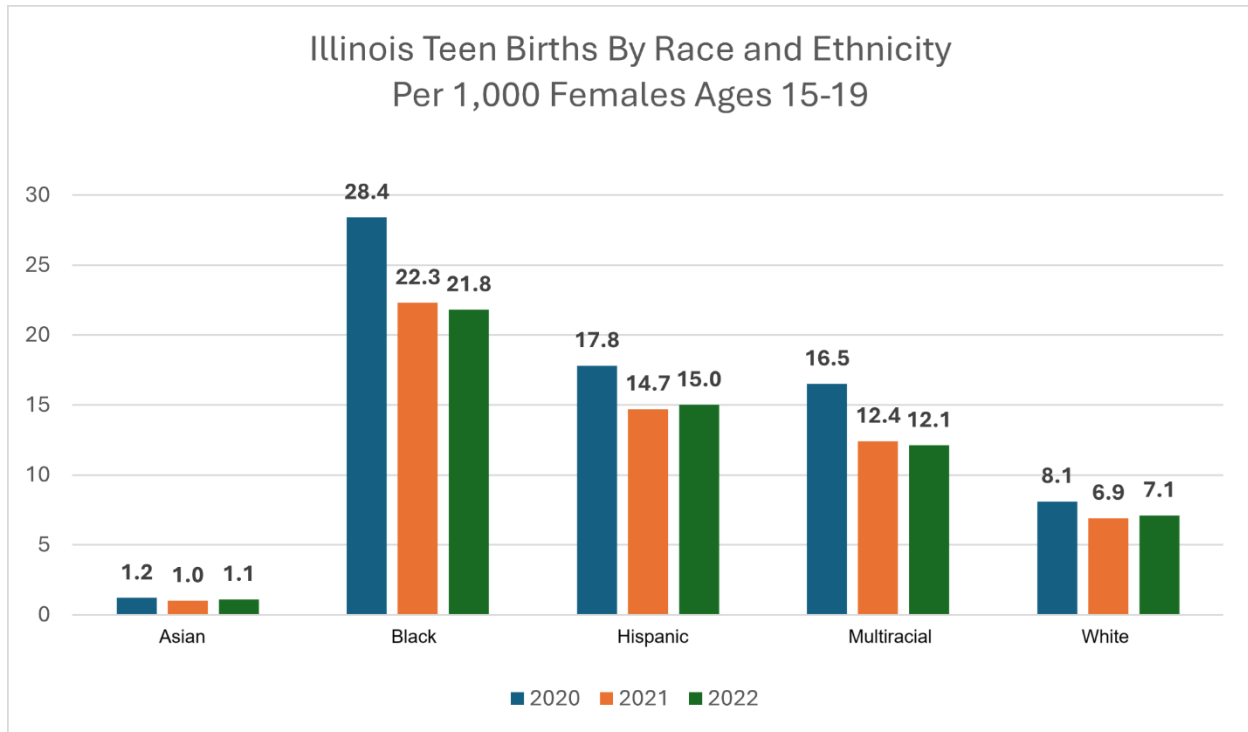
Resident County	All Ages	<18	18-19	All Teens	Percent Teen
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>128,493</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Adams	688	4	20	24	3.5
Alexander	47	0	2	2	4.3
Bond	118	0	6	6	5.1
Boone	534	6	10	16	3.0
Brown	51	0	3	3	5.9
Bureau	299	8	9	17	5.7
Calhoun	32	1	1	2	6.3
Carroll	121	0	6	6	5.0
Cass	168	3	5	8	4.8
Champaign	1,995	36	64	100	5.0
<i>Champaign-Urbana</i>	1,280	29	41	70	5.5
<i>Remainder of county</i>	715	7	23	30	4.2
Christian	332	6	14	20	6.0
Clark	143	1	3	4	2.8
Clay	142	3	4	7	4.9
Clinton	396	1	7	8	2.0
Coles	462	8	16	24	5.2
Cook	51,943	407	1,196	1,603	3.1
<i>Chicago</i>	27,627	237	755	992	3.6
<i>Suburban Cook</i>	24,316	170	441	611	2.5
<i>Evanston</i>	605	2	7	9	1.5
<i>Oak Park</i>	418	0	1	1	0.2
<i>Skokie</i>	627	1	4	5	0.8
<i>Stickney Township</i>	366	4	10	14	3.8
<i>Remainder of county</i>	22,300	163	419	582	2.6
Crawford	205	3	8	11	5.4
Cumberland	107	2	4	6	5.6
DeKalb	1,024	8	23	31	3.0
DeWitt	142	1	7	8	5.6
Douglas	257	2	6	8	3.1
DuPage	9,744	26	96	122	1.3
Edgar	178	3	11	14	7.9
Edwards	56	1	4	5	8.9
Effingham	448	5	18	23	5.1
Fayette	224	1	13	14	6.3
Ford	140	1	5	6	4.3
Franklin	393	8	18	26	6.6
Fulton	299	3	19	22	7.4
Gallatin	47	0	3	3	6.4
Greene	127	2	4	6	4.7
Grundy	539	0	8	8	1.5

Resident County	All Ages	<18	18-19	All Teens	Percent Teen
Hamilton	70	0	1	1	1.4
Hancock	169	3	5	8	4.7
Hardin	34	0	0	0	0.0
Henderson	62	0	1	1	1.6
Henry	457	2	11	13	2.8
Iroquois	258	3	5	8	3.1
Jackson	542	7	30	37	6.8
Jasper	92	1	3	4	4.3
Jefferson	397	5	14	19	4.8
Jersey	174	3	7	10	5.7
Jo Daviess	162	1	4	5	3.1
Johnson	111	1	5	6	5.4
Kane	5,498	41	149	190	3.5
Kankakee	1,150	9	42	51	4.4
Kendall	1,524	8	24	32	2.1
Knox	483	7	17	24	5.0
Lake	6,722	53	135	188	2.8
LaSalle	1,118	13	34	47	4.2
Lawrence	112	1	4	5	4.5
Lee	282	3	9	12	4.3
Livingston	365	3	12	15	4.1
Logan	222	3	9	12	5.4
McDonough	274	4	5	9	3.3
McHenry	3,167	16	46	62	2.0
McLean	1,630	16	38	54	3.3
Macon	1,167	21	65	86	7.4
Macoupin	406	3	10	13	3.2
Madison	2,659	26	71	97	3.6
Marion	437	7	29	36	8.2
Marshall	96	2	4	6	6.3
Mason	123	1	8	9	7.3
Massac	145	2	5	7	4.8
Menard	129	2	3	5	3.9
Mercer	137	2	9	11	8.0
Monroe	302	1	0	1	0.3
Montgomery	245	3	17	20	8.2
Morgan	344	3	14	17	4.9
Moultrie	151	3	7	10	6.6
Ogle	524	5	17	22	4.2
Peoria	2,084	32	108	140	6.7
Perry	163	1	8	9	5.5
Piatt	160	1	2	3	1.9
Pike	157	1	5	6	3.8
Pope	18	0	1	1	5.6
Pulaski	62	0	0	0	0.0
Putnam	48	0	1	1	2.1

Resident County	All Ages	<18	18-19	All Teens	Percent Teen
Randolph	298	5	16	21	7.0
Richland	165	6	12	18	10.9
Rock Island	1,565	20	78	98	6.3
St. Clair	2,593	23	69	92	3.5
<i>East Side HD</i>	544	10	30	40	7.4
<i>Remainder of county</i>	2,049	13	39	52	2.5
Saline	246	3	15	18	7.3
Sangamon	1,992	27	79	106	5.3
Schuyler	56	2	2	4	7.1
Scott	44	0	3	3	6.8
Shelby	206	1	9	10	4.9
Stark	68	1	2	3	4.4
Stephenson	465	8	28	36	7.7
Tazewell	1,225	8	48	56	4.6
Union	162	1	7	8	4.9
Vermilion	782	20	68	88	11.3
Wabash	101	1	6	7	6.9
Warren	196	2	5	7	3.6
Washington	134	2	4	6	4.5
Wayne	170	2	7	9	5.3
White	135	2	3	5	3.7
Whiteside	559	2	20	22	3.9
Will	6,990	42	108	150	2.1
Williamson	613	8	25	33	5.4
Winnebago	3,289	51	140	191	5.8
Woodford	403	1	13	14	3.5



An examination of teen births by race and ethnicity, shows the Illinois Black teen birth rate higher than that for Hispanic, Multiracial, or white teenage females.<sup>47</sup> The 2022 rate for Black teens (28.4%) is higher than the national 2022 rate (20.2) and the 2022 Hispanic rate (17.8%) is lower than the national 2022 rate (21.3). Demographic patterns, access to health care, poverty rates, housing patterns, and other factors can play into rate differences.



### *Vaccination rates*

The Illinois State Board of Education tracks vaccination rates for by the type of vaccination (including Chickenpox, Hepatitis, Measles, Meningococcal, Mumps, Pneumococcal, Polio, and Rubella).

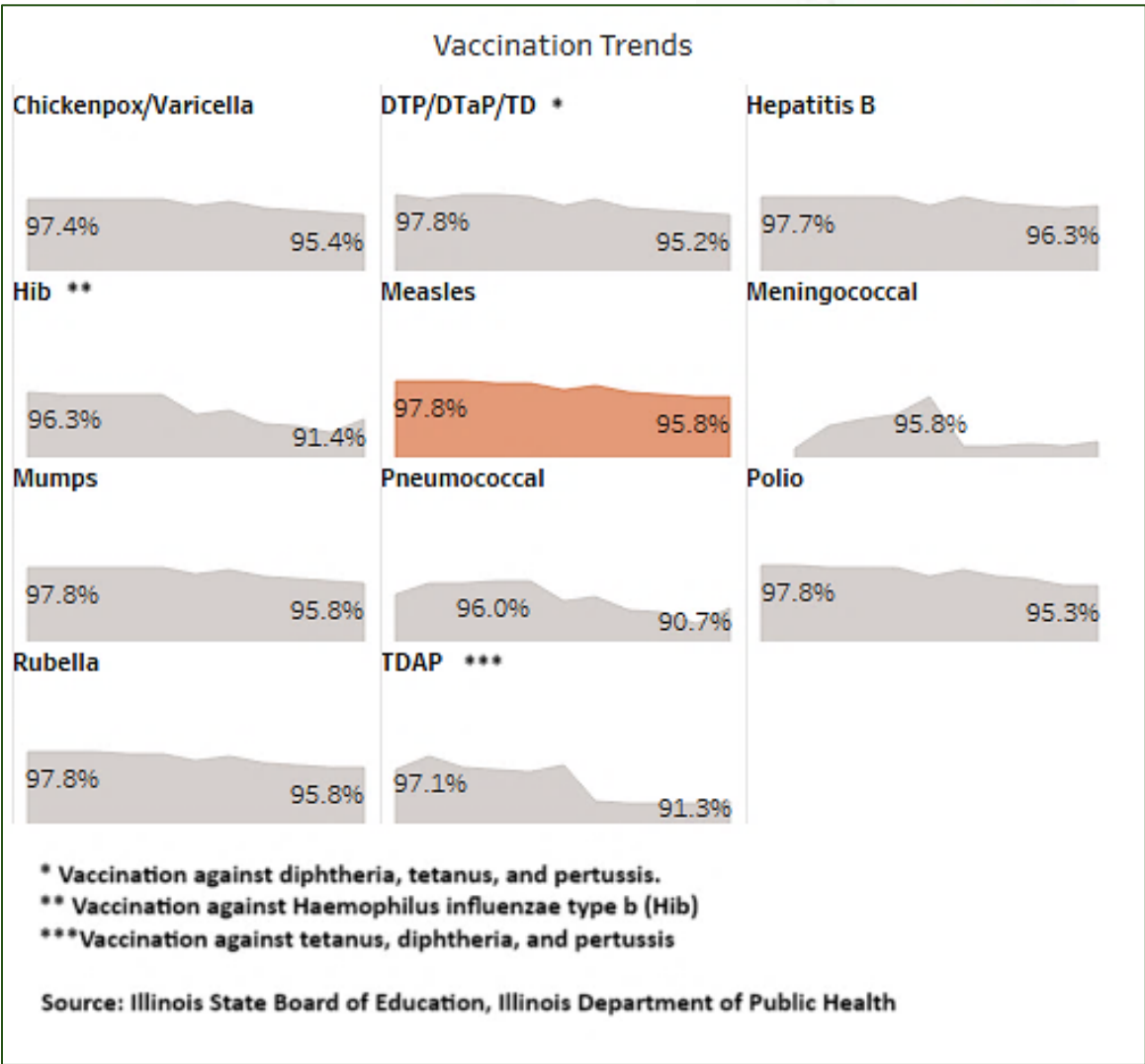
Based on schools reporting vaccination data, 95.8% of Illinois school children were protected against the measles in the 2024-2025 academic year compared to 97.8% for the 2014-2015 academic year.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Source: Data from America's Health Rankings, using data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality Public Use Files via CDC WONDER Online Database; [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/TeenBirth\\_MCH/IL](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/TeenBirth_MCH/IL)

<sup>48</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization/coverage-dashboards/school-vaccination-coverage-dashboard.html>

Vaccination rates have generally declined in all categories during this time period. University of Illinois researchers found that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, “there has been a decline in U.S. vaccine uptake, while widespread misinformation and distrust make it challenging to craft effective public health responses.”<sup>49</sup>

Illinois Student Vaccination Trends 2014-2015 vs. 2025-2025



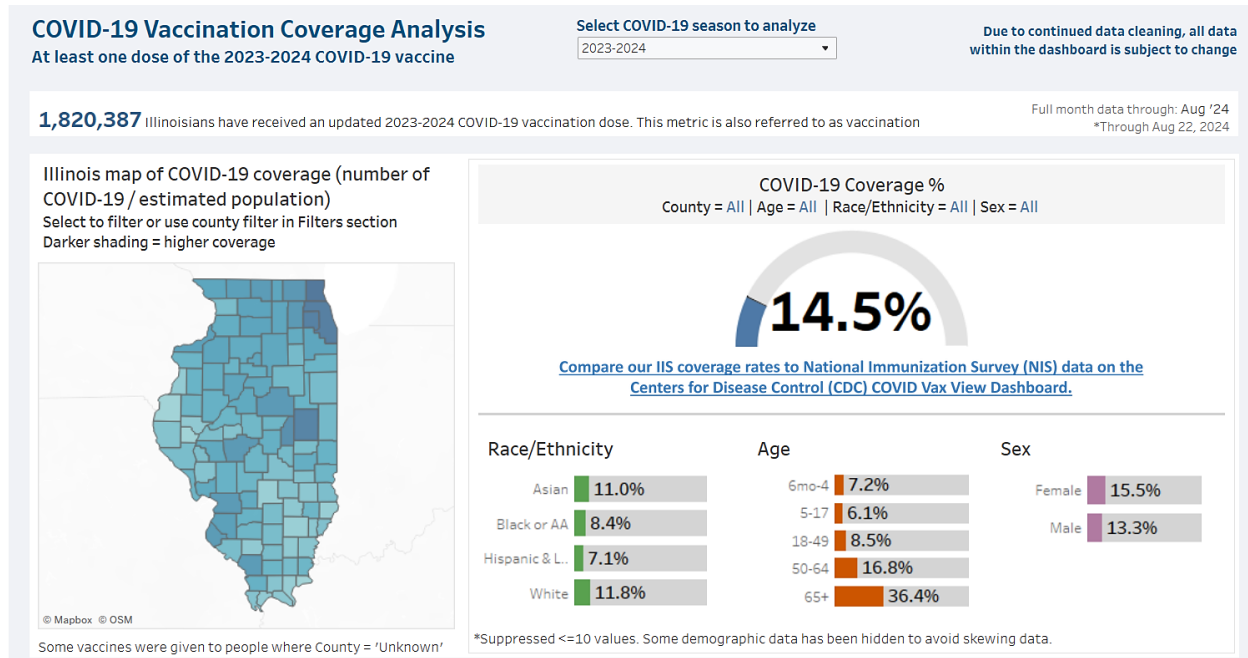
For the 2024-2025 school year, 94.1% of the state’s school districts reported on vaccination rates against the measles. Within the total reporting pool for 2024-2025, 10% of Illinois schools still have less than 91% of their students vaccinated for measles.

<sup>49</sup> Dariotis, J.K., Eldreth, D.A., Sloane, S.M. et al. *Distrust, trauma, doubt, and protective reactions to coronavirus disease 2019: cautionary tales and lessons to learn for future pandemics: a case report*, Journal of Meical Care Reports, 19, 131 (2025).



Using the home county of the school district with blue representing a student protection rate of more than 96%, yellow 91-96%, and red below 91%, the lowest vaccination rates against the measles were in southern Illinois with Pulaski County reporting an average of 85.4% student coverage, Pope County reporting an average of 86.4% student coverage and Massac County reporting an average of 88.9% student coverage.

Illinois Department of Public Health data m shows COVID-19 vaccination coverage for 2023-2024 was 7.2% for children up to age 5 and 6.1% for ages 5-17.<sup>50</sup>



<sup>50</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization/coverage-dashboards/covid19-vaccination.html>

### Obesity

The lack of healthy food options and eating large amounts of processed or fast food or drinking too many sugary drinks can lead to obesity in children. The National Children's Health Survey, completed by parents and guardians, shows that 26% of Illinois Hispanic children and 25% of Black children ages 6-17 are obese compared to 10.2% for white/non-Hispanics and 8.5% for Asians.

Weight status of child based on Body Mass Index (BMI) for ages 6-17 <sup>51</sup>				
	Underweight (less than 5th percentile)	Normal weight (5th to 84th percentile)	Overweight (85th to 94th percentile)	Obese (95th percentile or above)
Hispanic	6.3	44.3	23.2	26.1
white/non-Hispanic	9.1	67.8	12.9	10.2
Black/non-Hispanic	6.5	58.6	9.9	25.1
Asian/non-Hispanic	9.0	64.2	18.4	8.5
Other/non-Hispanic	10.7	58.9	9.7	20.6
Because of the range of the confidence interval, the National Survey of Children's Health recommends interpreting data denoted by grey cells in the chart with caution.				

### Mental Health

Many health behaviors and habits in adolescence that will carry over into adult years, impacting an individual's mental health.<sup>52</sup> Poor youth mental can result in anxiety, depression, poor academic success, poor social skills, and substance abuse among other outcomes.

For Illinois children, the 2023 National Survey of Children's Health shows 22.1% of children ages 3-17 had one or more reported mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral (MEDB) problems. Broken out by race, the results showed a higher reported rate among white, non-Hispanic children, than children in other demographic categories.

Parents or guardians living in the child's household answer the questions.



<sup>51</sup> National Survey of Children's Health, indicator 1.4

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/mental-health/index.html#:~:text=Because%20many%20health%20behaviors%20and,youth%20develop%20good%20mental%20health.>



### Current Search Criteria

Survey: 2023 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: Illinois

Topic: Emotional and Mental Health

Question: Indicator 2.10: Mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems, age 3-17 years

Sub Group: Race/ethnicity of child -- with Asian

Indicator 2.10: Does this child have a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral (MEDB) problem, age 3-17 years?

		Child has 1 or more reported MEDB problems, and/or qualifies on CSHCN Screener EBD criteria	Child does not currently have mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems	Total %
Hispanic	%	19.7	80.3	100.0
	C.I.	14.4 - 26.2	73.8 - 85.6	
	Sample Count	56	170	
	Pop. Est.	120,096	490,876	
White, non-Hispanic	%	24.5	75.5	100.0
	C.I.	21.3 - 28.1	71.9 - 78.7	
	Sample Count	210	548	
	Pop. Est.	268,779	826,350	
Black, non-Hispanic	%	24.5	75.5	100.0
	C.I.	15.7 - 36.0	64.0 - 84.3	
	Sample Count	31	77	
	Pop. Est.	81,832	252,393	
Asian, non-Hispanic	%	6.3	93.7	100.0
	C.I.	2.8 - 13.8	86.2 - 97.2	
	Sample Count	6	88	
	Pop. Est.	7,874	117,107	
Other, non-Hispanic	%	22.4	77.6	100.0
	C.I.	13.5 - 34.8	65.2 - 86.5	
	Sample Count	21	60	
	Pop. Est.	34,053	117,839	

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.

Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

Please interpret with caution: estimate has a 95% confidence interval width exceeding 20 percentage points or 1.2 times the estimate and may not be reliable. For more information about the data suppression and display criteria [click here](#).

**DATA ALERT:** Missing values for this subgroup were imputed separately in each individual year. The estimates were calculated using a single imputation.

CSHCN Screener: Children with Special Health Care Needs Screener  
EBD: Emotional Behavioural Difficulties

### Teen Suicides

According to the Illinois Youth Risk Behavior Survey (which is a survey base on the Center for Diseases Controls Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance system that monitors health-related behaviors of high school students):

- 19.2% of Illinois high school students seriously considered attempting suicide in 2023. This is a decline from 2021, but a significant increase (48.8%) from the 2007 rate of 12.9%.<sup>53</sup>
- Female high school students considered attempting suicide and more than twice the rate of male high school students.
- During this time, the percentage of high school students who actually attempted suicide has increased from 6.8% in 2007 to 9.8% in 2023 (a 44.1% increase).<sup>54</sup>



[Public Act 102-0416](#) requires school districts serving students in Grades 6-12 to include mental health resources on student ID cards. ISBE has put together the recommended text below for ID cards:

- Dial 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- Text HOME to 741741 to reach the Crisis Text Line
- Contact Safe2Help Illinois: Dial 844-4-SAFEIL, Text SAFE2 (72332), email [HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com](mailto:HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com)

AnnMarie's Law, enacted in 2015 following the death in 2013 of AnnMarie Blaha, was created to provide suicide awareness and prevention to Illinois school students and school staff. The law, [Public Act 99-0443](#), required ISBE to:

1. Develop a model suicide prevention policy, and
2. Compile, develop, and post recommended guidelines, resources, and educational materials on youth suicide prevention and awareness.

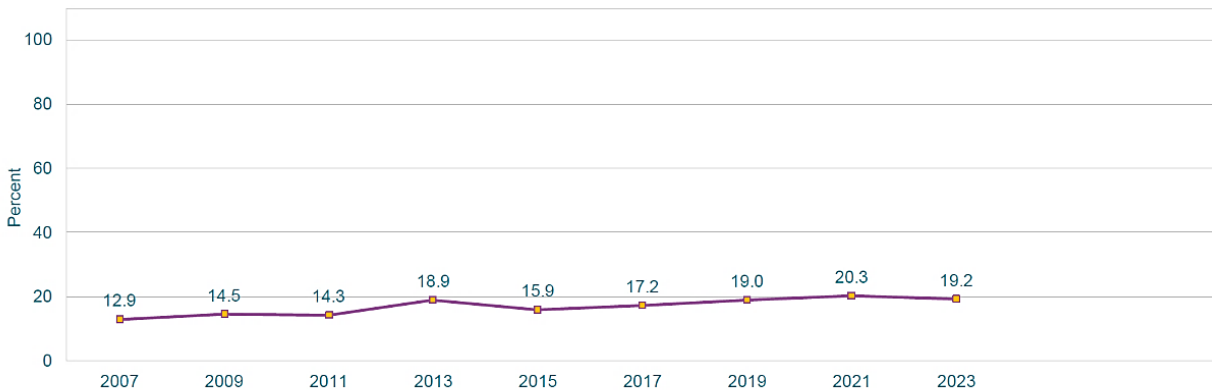
Source: Illinois State Board of Education

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2023-IL-Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey-Results.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

## Illinois Results:

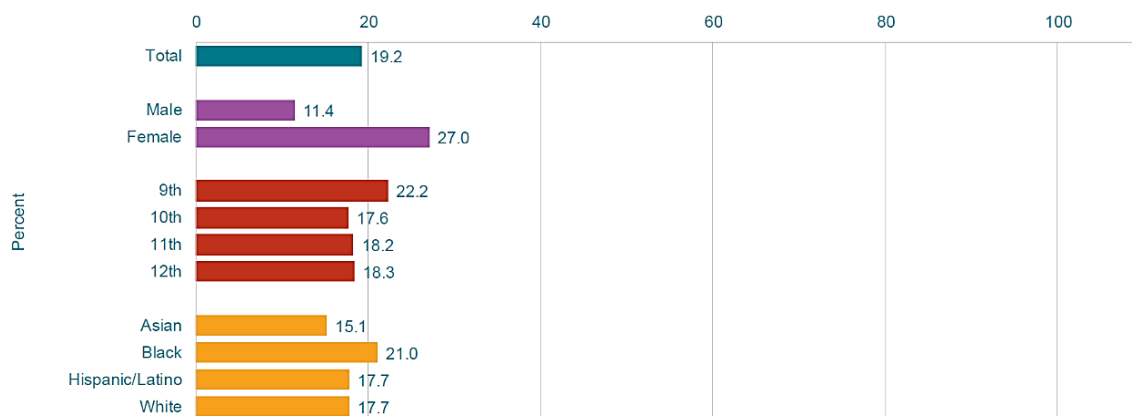
### Percentage of High School Students Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide,\* 2007-2023†



\*During the 12 months before the survey

†Increased 2007-2023 [Based on linear and quadratic trend analyses using logistic regression models controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade ( $p < 0.05$ ). Significant linear trends (if present) across all available years are described first followed by linear changes in each segment of significant quadratic trends (if present).] This graph contains weighted results.

### Percentage of High School Students Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide,\* by Sex,† Grade,† and Race/Ethnicity, 2023

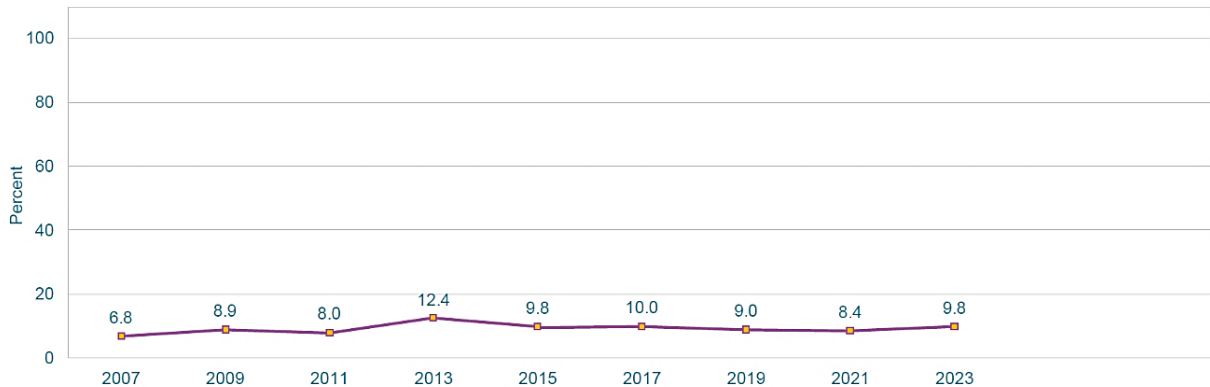


\*During the 12 months before the survey

†F > M; 9th > 10th (Based on t-test analysis,  $p < 0.05$ .)

All Hispanic students are included in the Hispanic category. All other races are non-Hispanic. This graph contains weighted results.

### Percentage of High School Students Who Attempted Suicide,\* 2007-2023<sup>†</sup>

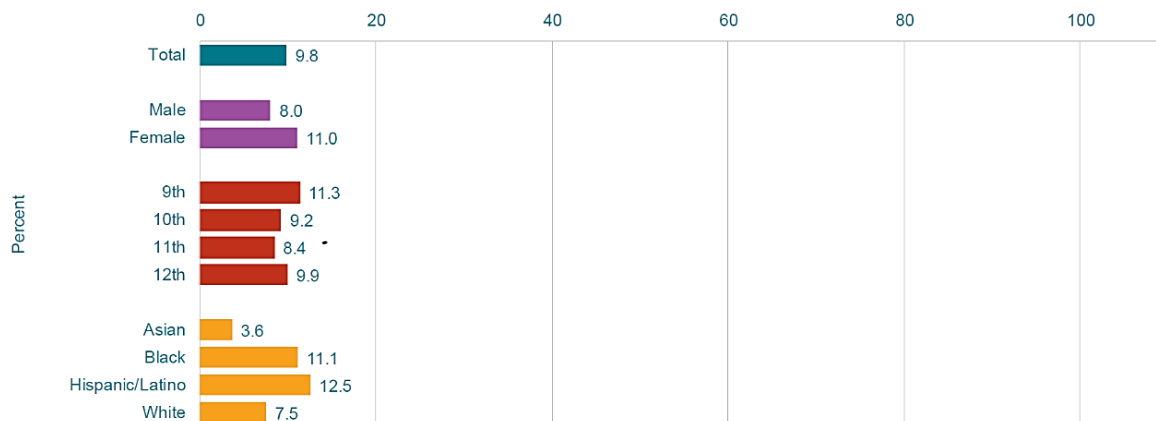


\*One or more times during the 12 months before the survey

<sup>†</sup>Increased, 2007-2013, decreased, 2013-2023 [Based on linear and quadratic trend analyses using logistic regression models controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade ( $p < 0.05$ ). Significant linear trends (if present) across all available years are described first followed by linear changes in each segment of significant quadratic trends (if present).]

This graph contains weighted results.

### Percentage of High School Students Who Attempted Suicide,\* by Sex, Grade, and Race/Ethnicity,<sup>†</sup> 2023



\*One or more times during the 12 months before the survey

<sup>†</sup>B > A, H > A, H > W (Based on t-test analysis,  $p < 0.05$ .)

All Hispanic students are included in the Hispanic category. All other races are non-Hispanic.

This graph contains weighted results.

### Cyberbullying



Cyberbullying is defined as the use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, stalk, or target another person and often persists among young people.<sup>55</sup> Studies have shown that long-term exposure to cyberbullying can lead to the development of anxiety, depression, and other stress-related disorders.<sup>56</sup>

The 2023 Illinois Youth Behavioral Risk Survey reports 16.8% of high school students were electronically bullied (down from 17.6% in 2021).<sup>57</sup> That was close to the same range in 2013 (16.9%) and higher than 2011 (16.0%).

A recent law in Illinois will require that starting with the 2024-25 school year, all Illinois school districts; charter schools; and nonpublic, nonsectarian elementary or secondary schools collect, maintain, and submit to ISBE non-identifiable data pertaining to incidents of bullying, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

In the meantime, the Cyberbullying Research Center (<https://cyberbullying.org/about-us>) has generated the following statistics:

Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Sexting <sup>58</sup> Statistics – Illinois				
Statistic	2023	2021	2019	2016
Been Bullied (lifetime)	76.3%	78.8%	72.1%	78.1%
Been Bullied (last 30 days)	23.8%	23.5%	51.5%	42.2%
Bullied Others (lifetime)		32.9%	25.0%	35.3%
Bullied Others (last 30 days)		8.3%	13.2%	11.6%
Been Cyberbullied (lifetime)	48.1%	41.2%	36.3%	37.6%
Been Cyberbullied (last 30 days)	23.8%	19.3%	17.6%	21.0%
Cyberbullied Others (lifetime)		17.9%	14.2%	12.2%
Cyberbullied Others (last 30 days)		6.0%	3.9%	5.2%
Received a Sext			24.0%	17.0%
Sent a Sext			13.7%	9.2%
Minimum Sample Size	122	83	204	224
*Caution should be exercised when interpreting results from states with a small sample size.				

Source: Cyberbullying Research Center<sup>59</sup>

<sup>55</sup> <https://childsafety.losangelescriminallawyer.pro/children-and-cyberbullying.html>

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2023-IL-Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey-Results.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children defines sexting is the sharing and receiving of sexually explicit messages and nude or partially nude images via cell phone. Sexts may be sent as regular text messages through apps, like Snapchat, and WhatsApp or through online games.

<sup>59</sup> Hinduja, S. & Patchin, J. W. *Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Sexting Statistics - Illinois*. Cyberbullying Research Center. (Retrieved May 11, 2025). <https://cyberbullying.org/bullying-cyberbullying-sexting-by-state/bullying-cyberbullying-sexting-statistics-illinois>

A 2022 national survey conducted by the Pew Research Center showed:

**Nearly half of teens have ever experienced cyberbullying, with offensive name-calling being the type most commonly reported**

*% of U.S. teens who say they have ever experienced \_\_\_ when online or on their cellphone*



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

### *Food Insecurity*

Having enough healthy food to eat is important for a child's physical development (including the brain). The organization Feeding America estimates that in 2022, 15.7% of the children in the state of Illinois were food insecure. The United States Department of Agriculture has defined food insecurity as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.<sup>60</sup> Food insecurity in children has been linked to numerous adverse outcomes that can have lasting effects, including developmental disruptions, school problems and physical and mental health issues.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>60</sup> <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/child/illinois>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.aecf.org/blog/child-food-insecurity>

Illinois county data shows the greatest food insecurity rates in Pulaski (32.0%), Alexander (28.4%), and Jackson (23.2%) counties. However, the top three counties by actual number of food insecure children are Cook, Will, and Lake counties.

This is all according to 2022 data. It is worth noting that in 2023 food prices increased by 5.8%, then 2.3% in 2024. New tariffs imposed in 2025 will also likely increase food prices.

A 2023 Illinois Department on Aging publication stated there were more than 650 food pantries in Illinois.

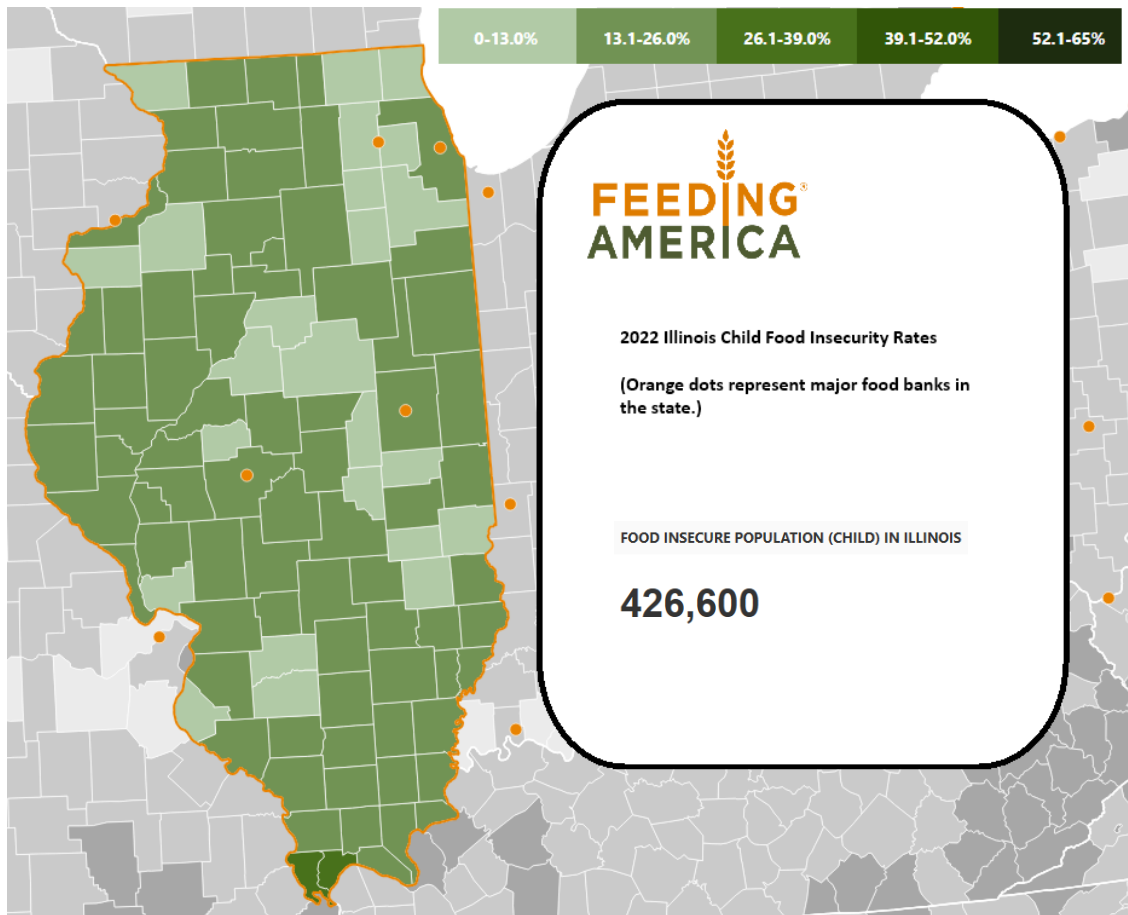


### Illinois County Food Insecurity Rates

County	Child Food Insecurity Rate	# of Food Insecure Children
Pulaski	32.0%	340
Alexander	28.4%	330
Jackson	23.2%	2,280
Vermilion	23.0%	3,980
Winnebago	22.2%	14,740
Perry	22.2%	900
Gallatin	21.7%	210
St. Clair	21.2%	12,680
Franklin	21.2%	1,770
Hardin	21.1%	110
Bond	20.9%	640
Macon	20.7%	4,810
Saline	20.7%	1,010
Union	20.5%	730
Marion	20.3%	1,790
Peoria	20.2%	8,680
Jefferson	20.2%	1,670
Lawrence	20.2%	580
Coles	20.1%	1,710
Massac	20.0%	610
Johnson	19.9%	540
Pope	19.8%	120
Rock Island	19.7%	6,320
Kankakee	19.5%	4,800
Clay	19.3%	580
Stephenson	19.0%	1,800
Knox	18.8%	1,870

County	Child Food Insecurity Rate	# of Food Insecure Children
White	18.5%	550
Greene	18.5%	480
Cook	18.0%	202,040
McDonough	18.0%	870
Hamilton	17.9%	310
Morgan	17.7%	1,110
Sangamon	17.6%	7,600
Fayette	17.6%	760
Wayne	17.6%	640
Edgar	17.6%	580
Williamson	17.5%	2,540
Mason	17.4%	470
LaSalle	17.3%	4,010
Fulton	17.3%	1,160
Warren	17.3%	640
Wabash	17.2%	430
Hancock	17.1%	630
Pike	17.0%	570
Scott	16.9%	180
Randolph	16.7%	1,020
Edwards	16.6%	240
Richland	16.5%	600
Montgomery	16.4%	930
Schuyler	16.4%	200
Macoupin	16.3%	1,520
DeKalb	16.2%	3,500
Madison	16.1%	9,140
Adams	16.1%	2,380
Marshall	16.1%	390
Henderson	16.1%	190
Christian	16.0%	1,140
Whiteside	15.9%	1,940
Champaign	15.8%	6,150
Stark	15.8%	180
Lee	15.6%	1,050
Carroll	15.6%	440
Livingston	15.5%	1,210
Bureau	15.4%	1,070
Logan	15.3%	840
Cass	15.3%	480
Ford	14.7%	450

County	Child Food Insecurity Rate	# of Food Insecure Children
Iroquois	14.5%	840
Shelby	14.3%	650
Crawford	14.2%	530
Ogle	14.1%	1,620
De Witt	14.0%	460
Boone	13.8%	1,780
Calhoun	13.6%	120
Effingham	13.4%	1,110
Brown	13.4%	150
Putnam	13.4%	150
Henry	13.0%	1,410
Jo Daviess	12.9%	530
Mercer	12.9%	420
Jasper	12.8%	270
Clark	12.6%	450
Menard	12.5%	340
Cumberland	12.5%	290
Douglas	12.4%	600
Moultrie	12.3%	450
Tazewell	12.2%	3,560
McLean	11.6%	4,230
Washington	11.5%	340
Clinton	11.2%	890
Jersey	10.8%	460
Kane	10.7%	13,630
Will	10.3%	17,300
Lake	10.2%	17,060
Piatt	10.0%	370
Grundy	9.4%	1,220
McHenry	8.9%	6,350
Woodford	8.7%	800
Kendall	8.1%	2,990
DuPage	7.8%	16,200
Monroe	7.0%	540



### Environment

Our health is also impacted by the environment we live in. Children are at a higher risk of acute respiratory infections, asthma and decreased lung function due to air pollution exposure.<sup>62</sup> Children's exposure lead (whether from paint, soil, or drinking water [via lead pipes and fixtures]) can potentially lead to hearing and speech problems, damage to the brain and nervous system, learning problems, and slowed growth and development.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Aithal SS, Sachdeva I, Kurmi OP. *Air quality and respiratory health in children*, Breathe (Sheff). 2023 Jun;19(2):230040. doi: 10.1183/20734735.0040-2023. Epub 2023 Jun 13. PMID: 37377853; PMCID: PMC10292770.

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/symptoms-complications/index.html>



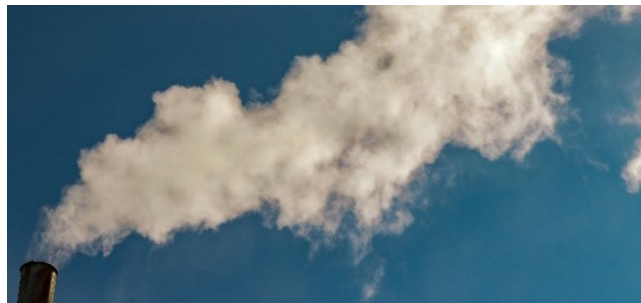
### Air pollution

The federal Clean Air Act requires states to develop a plan to attain and meet air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.<sup>64</sup> Those air quality standards are established by regular monitoring of six pollutants: particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrous dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and lead.<sup>65</sup> The measured levels are converted to an air quality scale that ranges from good to hazardous. The maximum value across all the pollutants is typically designated as the Air Quality Index (AQI) for the day.

#### AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Source : [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)

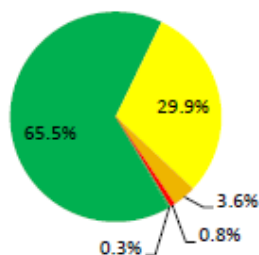


<sup>64</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/process-working-areas-attain-and-maintain-naaqs-implementation-process>

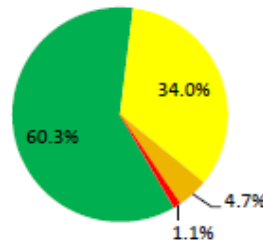
<sup>65</sup> Reif, Julian. *Air Pollution Trends in Illinois*, University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, August 27, 2024

Illinois has a set of air quality monitors across the state and issues daily air forecasts for 14 regions of the state. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s latest report on air quality in 2023 reflected the following:

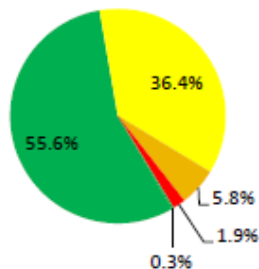
Chicago Sector - Lake County



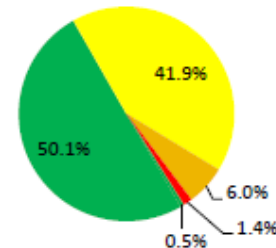
Chicago Sector - Chicago



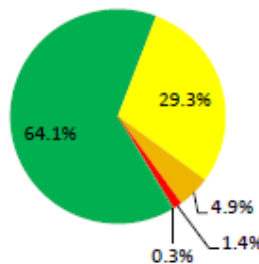
Chicago Sector - North & West Suburbs



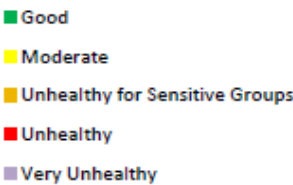
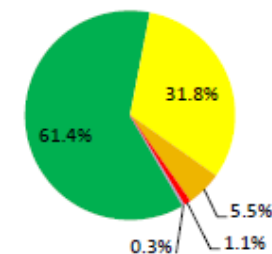
Chicago Sector - South & West Suburbs



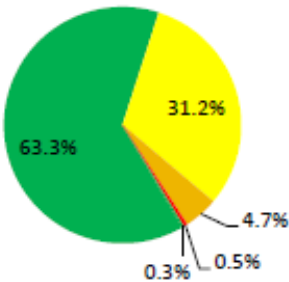
Aurora - Elgin



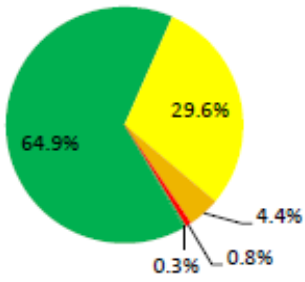
Joliet/Will County



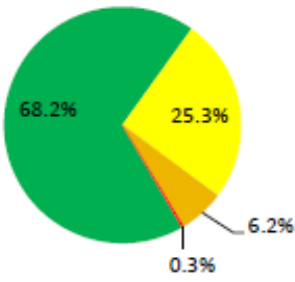
Rockford



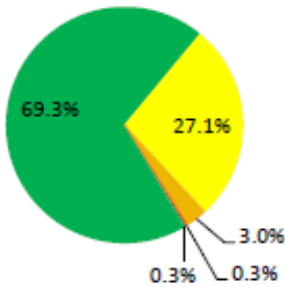
Rock Island



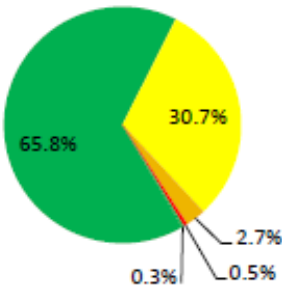
Peoria



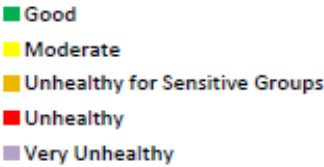
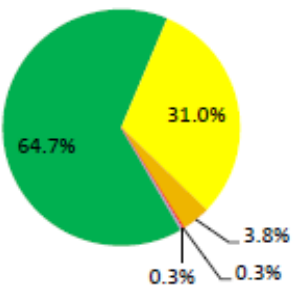
Champaign



Normal



Decatur

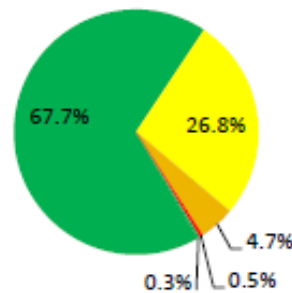


The Metro-East (St. Louis) had the fewest “good” AQI days followed by the south and west suburbs of Chicago. In general, the Chicago region has seen a significant reduction of approximately 25 percent in air pollution levels over the past two decades.<sup>66</sup> Yet a University of Illinois analysis of trends shows the Chicago region’s AQI is still significantly higher than the Champaign, Decatur, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield regions.

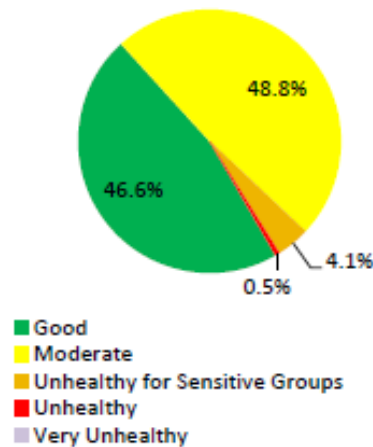
The reasons for the variation by region can depend on the transportation network and concentration of highways, population density, amount of truck traffic and diesel emissions, flow of traffic, and industry. As a major air transportation hub, Chicago experiences significant emissions from planes.<sup>67</sup> Geography and weather patterns can play a role. Chicago’s location on Lake Michigan can worsen air pollution through temperature inversions (where cool air becomes trapped by warmer layers).<sup>68</sup>

As an example of how the jet stream can impact pollution, there was a large spike in air pollution in regions of the state in 2023 due to the currents carrying particles from summer Canadian wildfires. The wildfires were the most destructive every recorded in Canada.<sup>69</sup> Though forest fires in Canada are a common and natural occurrence, drier, hotter conditions caused by climate change are leading to fires that are larger and more

Springfield



Metro-East (St. Louis)



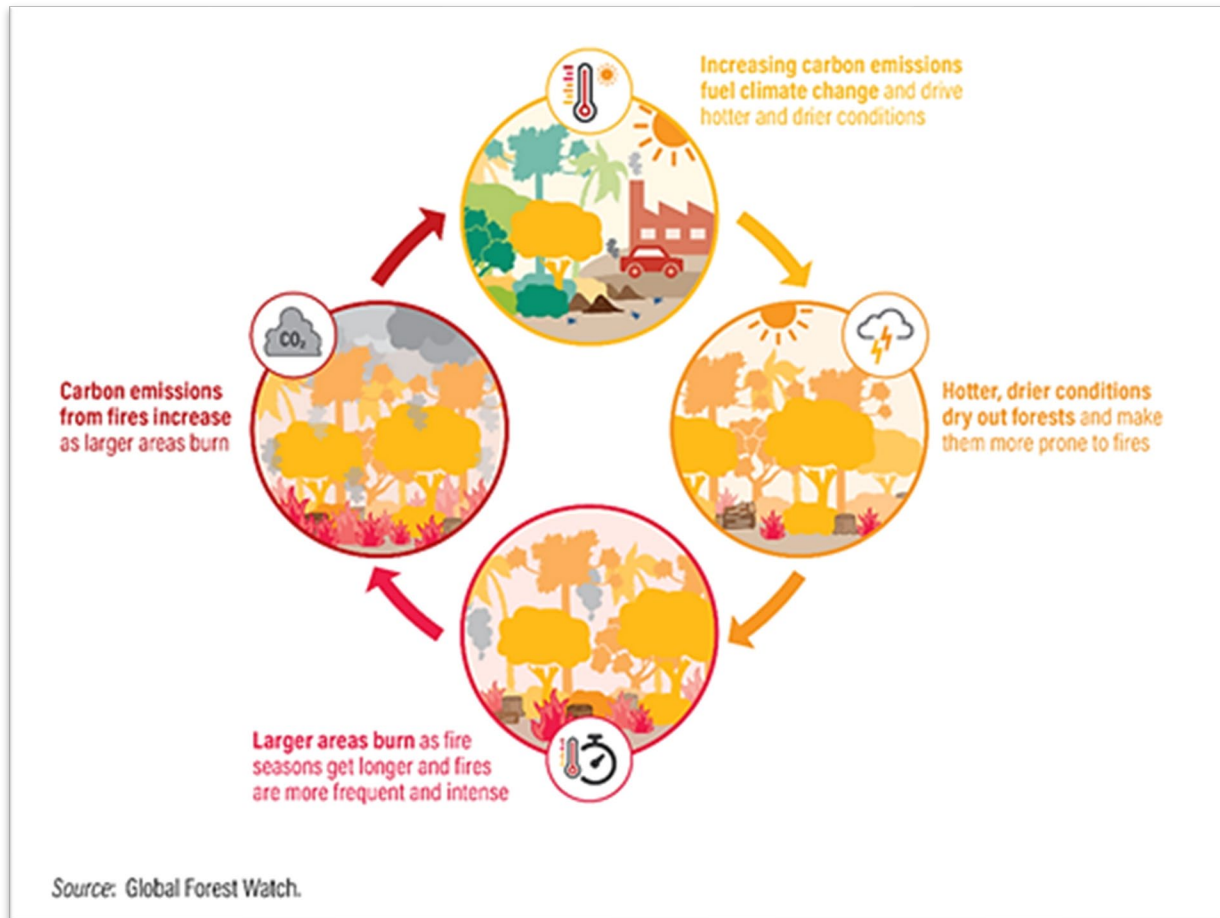
<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/stories/simply-science/canada-s-record-breaking-wildfires-2023-fiery-wake-call>

frequent than in past decades.<sup>70</sup> This is just one indicator of how global warming may influence pollution patterns in the future.



### How can wildfire smoke impact health?

Wildfire smoke is a mix of gases and fine particulate matter from burning vegetation and materials. The pollutant of most concern from wildfire smoke is fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). PM 2.5 from wildfire smoke is damaging to human health because it can deeply penetrate lung tissue and even affect the heart and circulatory system.

Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick. Breathing wildfire smoke can have immediate health impacts, including respiratory and cardiovascular effects. Particle pollution may also affect the body's ability to remove inhaled foreign materials, such as viruses and bacteria, from the lungs.



<sup>70</sup> <https://www.wri.org/insights/canada-wildfire-emissions>

### Lead Poisoning

The Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act requires that children ages six years and younger who live in areas designated by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as high risk to be tested for lead poisoning. IDPH determines high risk areas based on the proportion of pre-1978 housing units, proportion of individuals with incomes less than \$35,000 a year, and lead prevalence based on the American Healthy Homes Survey (which measures a sample of homes for levels of lead, lead hazards, and allergens).<sup>71</sup>

IDPH has designated 1,179 zip codes covering parts of 60 Illinois counties as pediatric lead poisoning hi-risk areas.<sup>72</sup> (Illinois had 1,389 zip codes in 2023.) According to IDPH, any blood test which comes back with lead levels in excess of five micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) requires a public health intervention. This includes a home inspection to determine the source of the lead contamination.<sup>73</sup>

Of 236,734 total Illinois tests in 2022 and 2021 from all age groups that IDPH analyzed, 7.4% were at BLRV (Blood Level Reference Value)  $\geq 3.5$ , and 4.7% at BLLs  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .<sup>74</sup> In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control designated a Blood Level Reference Value of 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  as a level at which a child has a high level of lead in their blood compared with levels in most children.<sup>75</sup>

**The 2022 Illinois Lead Program Annual Surveillance Report stated childhood lead exposure in Illinois remains one of the highest in the nation.**

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, *Illinois Lead Program Annual Surveillance Report*, November 2023.



<sup>71</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/success-stories-by-state/illinois.html>

<sup>72</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2024/july/release-20240702.html> Specified new zip codes added to total in 2023 Lead Program Surveillance Report.

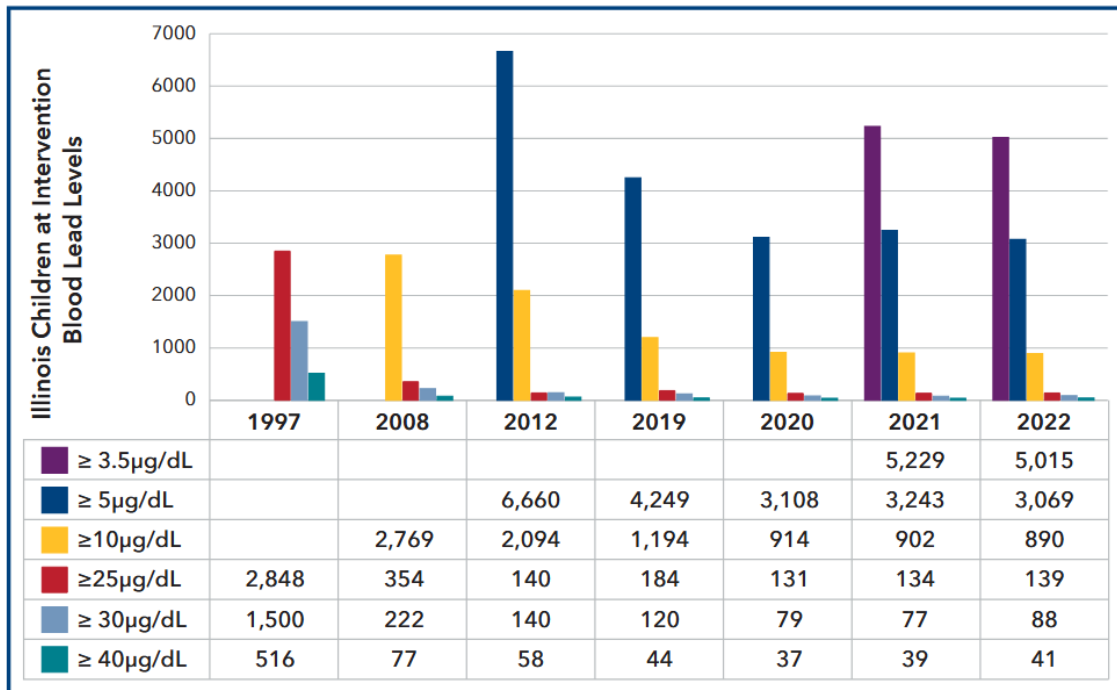
<sup>73</sup> Under current Illinois law, blood tests which come back with lead levels in excess of five micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) require a public health intervention. This includes a home inspection to determine the source of the lead contamination.

<sup>74</sup> Illinois Department of Public Health, *Illinois Lead Program Annual Surveillance Report*, November 2023.

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/news-features/updates-blood-lead-reference-value.html>



### Children Tested at Different Blood Lead Reference Values Across Time: 1997-2022



Data Source: Illinois Department of Public Health – Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Surveillance (HHLPPSS). If a child had multiple tests, the highest venous result was selected. If there was no venous test on a child, the peak capillary blood lead result was selected. Children with test results below a limit of detection were ascribed a value equal to the limit of detection.

#### Where is lead commonly found?

Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the most widespread and hazardous sources of lead exposure for young children in the United States. Homes built in the U.S. before 1978 are likely to have some lead-based paint. When the paint peels and cracks, it makes lead paint chips and dust.

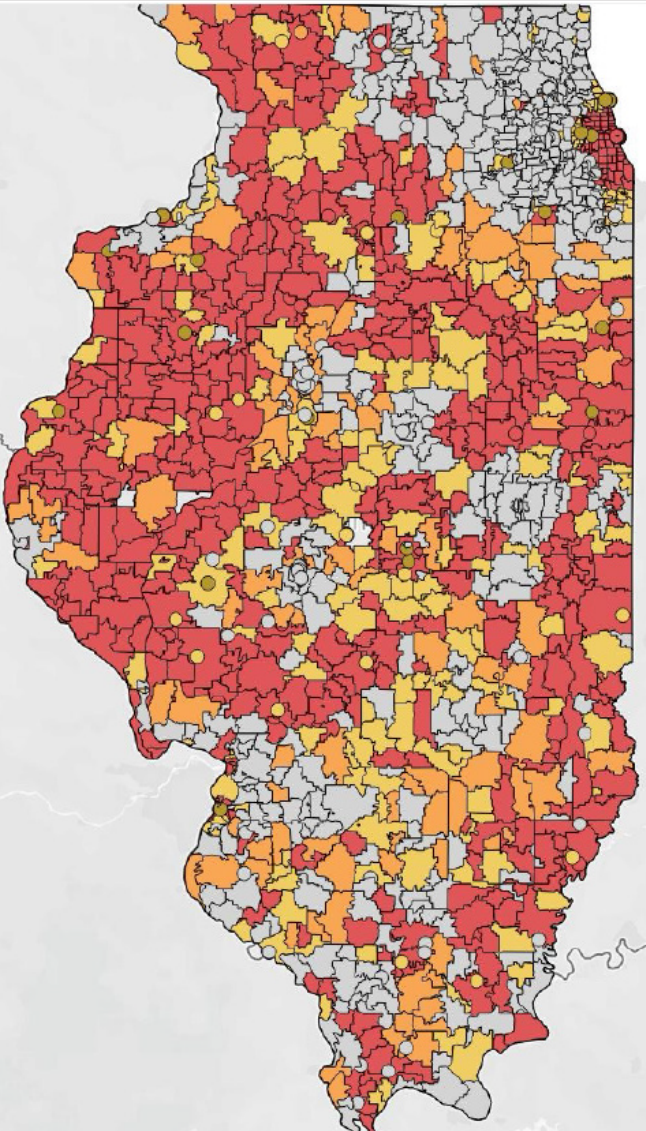
Some common surfaces covered with lead-based paint:

- Windows
- Doors
- Floors
- Porches
- Stairways
- Cabinets
- Antique furniture



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

## Illinois Department of Public Health Map of Illinois High-Risk Zip Codes for Childhood Lead Exposure<sup>76</sup>

High-Risk ZIP Codes Designation Criteria	High-Risk ZIP Codes, N	Map of 2023 Illinois High-Risk ZIP Codes for Childhood Lead Exposure
1. Current high-risk ZIP codes retained as high-risk	666	
2. Rank Model with 3-risk indicators a. Pre-1978 housing units with lead-based paint prevalence, b. Pre-1978 housing units with significant lead hazards c. Income-to-poverty index <200% ZIP Codes at median risk index score $\geq 15$ designated as high-risk	228	
3. Pediatric Lead Prevalence based on blood lead reference value $\geq 3.5$ $\mu\text{g/dL}$ a. Risk Index Score <15; and b. At least 5 children tested with lead level $\geq 3.5$ $\mu\text{g/dL}$ , and c. Lead prevalence $\geq 7.5\%$ (Illinois State Prevalence)	118	
4. ZIP Code of USPS P.O. Boxes adjacent to high-risk areas	19	
2023 High-Risk ZIP Codes	~1,031	
	~66%	

<sup>76</sup> Illinois Department of Public Health, *Illinois Lead Program Annual Surveillance Report*, November 2023.

## 2023

## Illinois Childhood Lead Exposure High Risk ZIP Codes - Revised

The \*\* indicate that any ZIP code within a county with the preceding numbers are considered high risk

Adams	62301	Christian	60430	62818	61235	60910	60099	62090	62019	61839	62243	62905	61270
	62320	62083	60438	Effingham	61238	60914	Lawrence	62095	62032	61855	62255	62906	61277
	62324	625**	60456	62414	61254	60915	624**	62281	62049	61929	62257	62920	61283
	62338	Clark	60459	62426	61258	60917	Lee	Marion	62051	61936	62258	62926	Will
	62339	62420	60466	62445	61262	60935	605**	62801	62056	Pike	62264	Vermilion	60408
	62346	62441	60469	62461	61273	60940	610**	62807	62075	623**	62289	609**	60410
	62347	62442	60472	62467	61274	60941	61310	62849	62076	Pope	Saline	61810	60421
	62348	62474	60473	Fayette	614**	60954	61318	62854	62077	62938	62917	61811	60432
	62349	62477	60475	62011	Iroquois	60958	61324	62870	62089	Pulaski	62930	61812	60433
	62351	Clay	60476	62418	609**	60961	61331	62875	62091	62956	62946	61814	60434
	62360	62434	60501	62458	Jackson	60964	61353	62882	62094	62963	62965	61831	60435
	62365	628**	60513	62471	62916	60969	61378	62893	62533	62964	Sangamon	61832	60436
	62376	Clinton	60526	62838	62927	Kendall	Livingston	Marshall	62538	62970	62515	61833	60468
Alexander	62219	60534	62880	62932	60536	604**	61369	62560	62976	62520	61841	60481	
	62914	62250	60546	62885	62940	60541	609**	61377	Morgan	62992	62530	61844	Williamson
	62957	62253	60701	Ford	62942	60650	613**	61424	62601	62996	62539	61846	62841
	62988	62266	60706	609**	62950	Knox	617**	615**	62628	Putnam	62615	61848	62921
	62990	Coles	60707	61773	Jasper	61401	Logan	Mason	62631	61326	62625	61850	62922
Bond	61912	60712	Franklin	62432	61402	617**	615**	62638	61336	62661	61857	62933	
	62086	61920	60714	62812	62448	61410	625**	626**	62650	61340	62670	61865	62948
	62246	61931	60803	62819	62459	61414	626**	Massac	62651	61363	62689	61870	62949
	62262	61938	60804	62822	62475	61430	Macon	62908	62665	Randolph	62701	61876	62951
	62273	61943	60805	62825	62480	61436	61756	62953	62692	62217	62702	61883	62959
	62284	62469	60827	62874	62481	61439	62501	McDonough	62695	62233	62703	Wabash	62974
Boone	Cook	Crawford	62884	Jefferson	61448	62513	614**	Moultrie	62242	62704	62410	Winnebago	
	61012	606**	62427	62891	62814	61458	62514	623**	619**	62261	62707	628**	61024
	61038	60018	62433	62896	62864	61467	6252**	McHenry	Ogle	62272	Schuyler	Warren	61077
Brown	60022	62449	629**	62883	61472	62532	60034	61007	62286	61452	614**	61079	
623**	60043	62451	Fulton	62898	61474	62537	60180	61030	62288	623**	Washington	61101	
Bureau	60053	62454	614**	Jersey	61485	62544	61485	61043	62292	626**	61102	61102	
613**	60076	62478	615**	62028	61488	62551	61701	61047	Richland	Scott	62263	61103	
Calhoun	60077	Cumberland	Gallatin	62030	61489	62573	61720	61049	62419	626**	62271	61104	
	62006	60091	62428	62934	62031	61572	Macoupin	61722	61054	62425	Shelby	62803	61107
	62013	60093	62447	62979	62052	La Salle	62009	61724	61061	62450	61957	62808	Woodford
	62036	60104	62468	Greene	62063	60470	62023	61725	61064	62868	62422	62848	61516
	62045	60130	Dekalb	620**	Jo Daviess	60518	62033	61726	61091	Rock Island	62431	Wayne	61545
	62053	60131	60111	Grundy	61001	60531	62069	61728	Peoria	61201	62438	62446	61561
	62070	60153	60129	60416	61028	60549	62085	61730	61451	61236	62444	62823	61738
Carroll	60154	60146	60424	61036	60557	62088	61731	61517	61237	62462	62837	61760	
	61014	60155	60520	60437	61041	61301	62093	61732	61523	61239	62534	62842	61771
	61046	60160	60550	60444	61075	61316	62626	61737	61526	61244	62553	62843	
	61051	60162	60552	60450	61085	61321	62630	61744	61529	61257	62565	62850	
	61053	60163	Dewitt	60474	61087	61325	62640	61754	61533	61259	Stark	62878	
	61074	60164	617**	60479	Johnson	61332	62649	61770	61536	61265	614**	62886	
	61078	60165	618**	Hamilton	62912	61334	62667	61772	61539	61266	Stephenson	62895	
Cass	60171	Douglas	62817	62923	61341	62672	61774	61552	61278	610**	White	62820	
626**	60173	61913	62828	62939	61342	62674	Menard	61559	61279	Tazewell	62820	62821	
Champaign	60176	61930	62829	62972	61348	62685	62642	61569	Saint Clair	61534	62821	62827	
	60949	60195	61941	62859	62985	61350	62690	62673	6160*	62059	61554	62827	
	61815	602**	61942	Hancock	62995	61354	Madison	62675	61614	62201	61555	62835	
	61816	603**	61956	61450	Kane	61358	62001	62688	61615	62202	61564	62844	
	61821	60402	Du Page	623**	60109	61360	62002	Mercer	61616	62203	61568	62861	
	61845	60406	60181	Hardin	60120	61364	62018	612**	Perry	62204	61610	62869	
	61849	60409	60519	62919	60121	61370	62024	614**	622**	62205	61611	62887	
	61851	60411	Edgar	62982	60144	61372	62040	Monroe	62832	62206	61721	Whiteside	
	61852	60419	619**	Henderson	60505	Lake	62048	62279	62997	62207	61733	610**	
	61862	60422	Edwards	614**	60506	60040	62058	62295	Piatt	62220	61734	61230	
	61863	60426	62476	Henry	60507	60041	62060	62298	61813	62223	61747	61243	
	61866	60428	62806	61234	Kankakee	60064	62084	Montgomery	61818	62232	61759	61251	
	61872	60429	62815	61233	60901	60085	62087	62015	61830	62240	Union	61261	

IDPH - Revised April 2023

1. Former high-risk ZIP codes remained high risk (666); 2. Low to high-risk ZIP codes based on model Risk Index Score  $\geq 15$  (228); 3. Low to high-risk ZIP codes based on lead prevalence  $\geq 7.5$  at Risk Index Score  $< 15$  for  $\geq 5$  children tested with lead level  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  (118); 4. P.O. Box in the middle of high-risk areas (19)

## Education

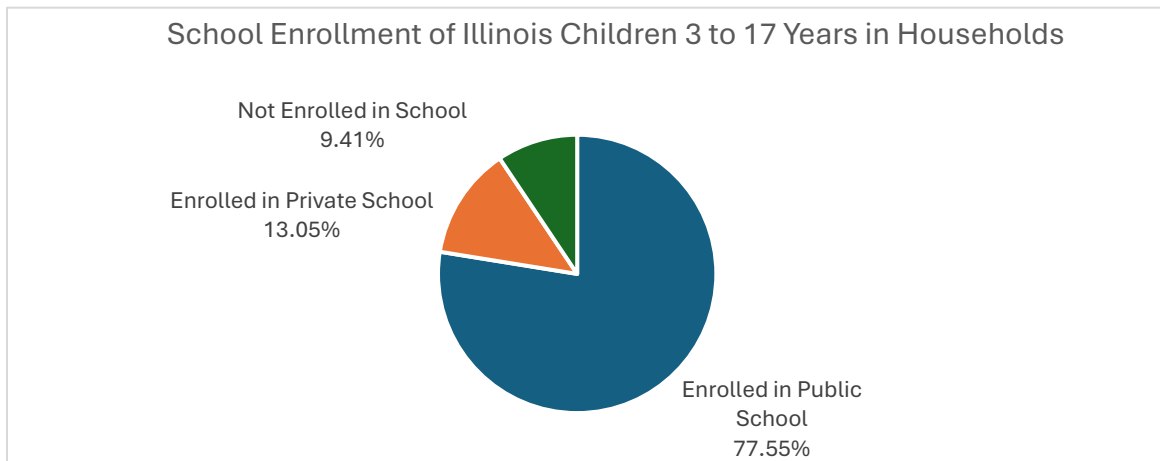
In 2021, the Texas Association of School Boards posted an article online that posed the following question: What is the Purpose of a Public Education? The Association offered up three primary reasons:

1. Develop a productive workforce
2. Create an informed citizenry
3. Provide for social mobility

It's true that youth who graduate from high school tend to have increased earning power. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the 2022 weekly median earnings of a high school graduate was \$853 versus \$682 for a non-graduate.<sup>77</sup> In a study from Tufts University, 39% of young people aged 18-29 with a high school diploma voted in 2020 versus 24% of young people with less than a high school diploma. The researchers also found that a subset of young people “often called “opportunity youth,” who are both not in college and unemployed, are also less civically engaged than their peers who are employed or have college experience”.<sup>78</sup>

## Enrollment

Just over three-quarters of Illinois children ages 3-17 are enrolled in public school.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B14003, 2023

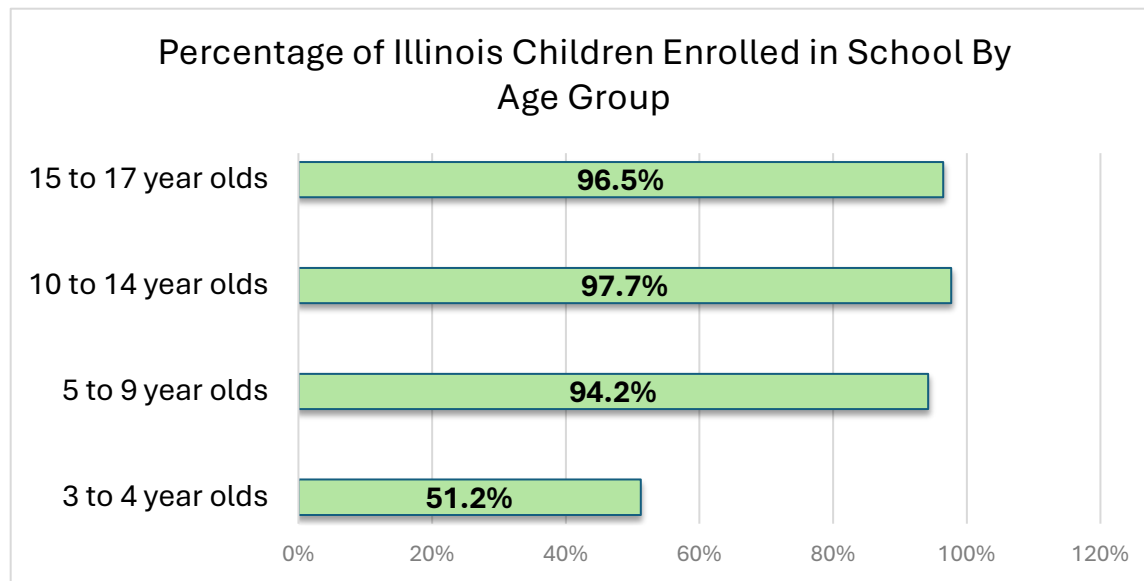
<sup>77</sup> *Education pays, 2022*, Career Outlook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2023.

<sup>78</sup> <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/non-college-youth-need-information-and-opportunities-engage-civic-life>



<b>Illinois Enrollment by Level of School by Type of School for the Population 3 Years and Over</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of total school enrollment</b>
Enrolled in school:	2,272,510	
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool:	196,996	9%
Public school	120,039	
Private school	76,957	
Enrolled in kindergarten:	150,397	7%
Public school	127,291	
Private school	23,106	
Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4:	601,889	26%
Public school	522,342	
Private school	79,547	
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8:	644,946	28%
Public school	566,982	
Private school	77,964	
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12:	678,282	30%
Public school	609,921	
Private school	68,361	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B14002, 2023.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table S1401, 2023.



The Census Bureau defines nursery school as a group or class that is organized to provide educational experiences for children during the year or years preceding kindergarten. It includes instruction as an important and integral phase of a program of child care. It includes Head Start attendees.<sup>79</sup>

Studies have shown that children enrolled in high-quality early childhood educational programs make greater improvements in cognitive, social, and behavioral development compared to children of similar backgrounds who do not have such an experience.<sup>80</sup>

There are preschool programs offered by public school systems and community-based programs. However, data shows a smaller percentage of Latino and Hispanic three- and four-year old Illinois children enrolled in school versus Black and white children.

Illinois Children Three- and Four-Year Olds Enrolled in School	
Hispanic	41.1%
Black	50.4%
White/not Hispanic	55.4%
Two or more races not Hispanic	52.7%

Source: IPUMS Analysis (University of Minnesota), 5-Year American Community Survey Data, U.S. Census Bureau

National data shows a similar trend. There could be many reasons including family support and language barriers. Availability of programs in non-traditional work hours could be another reason. A study published in 2017 by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families found among young children with working parents, 75% of Hispanic children in single-parent homes and nearly 90% of those in two-parent homes experience at least some nonstandard parental work hours.<sup>81</sup>

The state of Illinois runs several early childhood education and care programs. In addition, children in every Illinois county are served by Head Start and Early Head Start Programs that are funded directly by the federal government.

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.census.gov/topics/education/school-enrollment/about/faq.html>

<sup>80</sup> Davis Schoch, A., Simons Gerson, C., Halle, T., & Bredeson, M. *Children's learning and development benefits from high-quality early care and education: A summary of the evidence*, OPRE Report #2023-226. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2023.

<sup>81</sup> Guzman, L., Hickman, S., Turner, K., & Gennetian, L. *How well are early care and education providers who serve Hispanic children doing on access and availability?*, Bethesda, MD: National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families, 2017.



### *Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)*

Currently run by the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides low-income families with access to child care. The program services children under age 13 (in some cases children under 19 if the child is under court supervision or certain physical or mental incapacities).

Families whose monthly non-exempt income does not exceed 225% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for their family size at the time of initial program application are eligible for CCAP. Family income must not exceed 275% FPL, with all other eligibility criteria met to be approved for another 12-month period when eligibility is redetermined up to 30 days after the ending date of an eligibility period.<sup>82</sup>

CCAP attendance fluctuated between FY21 and FY23 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the factors were mandated closures and parental unemployment (or new work from home arrangements). The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies notes that :<sup>83</sup>

- 71.9% of childcare centers and 45.3% of family childcare homes closed their doors with Governor J.B. Pritzker's initial mandated closure on March 21, 2020.
- The majority of facilities were closed for just over two months, reopening on June 1, 2020.
- Enrollment dropped significantly (cut approximately in half) for centers and homes between January 2020 and July 2020, and, as of June 30, 2021, enrollment still had not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Nearly 40% of all providers needed to increase their prices to stay open.

Child Care Assistance Program Enrollment					
	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20
Children Served	198,095	199,724	158,607	172,794	193,715
Families Served	116,042	117,805	59,295	96,668	108,316
Monthly Average of Children	130,872	114,274	96,829	100,424	126,070
Monthly Average of Families	77,413	66,327	55,246	55,859	71,242

Source: FY24, FY23 and FY22 Illinois Child Care Program Report, Illinois Department of Human Services.

<sup>82</sup> Illinois Department of Human Services, <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=164270>

<sup>83</sup> Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Illinois Child Care COVID Impact Report, February 2022.

## DHS FY23 Profile of Children Participating in CCAP

- 73% are in licensed care in FY23, compared to 75.9% in FY22, and 73% in FY21
- 16% are in the care of relatives
- 11% are in the care of license-exempt centers, non-relative in child's home and provider's home

Number of Children by Age Participating in CCAP in March 2023						
Child's Age	FY23 Enrolled in CCAP	%	FY22 Enrolled in CCAP	%	FY21 Enrolled in CCAP	%
0-14 Months	7,133	6.00%	5,955	5.80%	5,571	5.30%
15-23 Months	8,660	7.00%	7,047	6.90%	8,001	7.60%
2 Years	12,712	11.00%	11,711	11.40%	11,854	11.30%
3-4 Years	28,183	24.00%	25,738	25.00%	24,333	23.10%
5 Years	11,120	10.00%	10,506	10.20%	12,079	10.50%
6-12 Years	46,074	40.00%	40,051	38.90%	43,296	41.00%
13 Years +	2,547	2.00%	1,864	1.80%	1,254	1.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,429</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>102,884</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>105,339</b>	<b>100%</b>

A recent report from Chapin Hall looked at take-up rates within CCAP for 2023.

Researchers found the statewide take-up rates among eligible families were 42% for ages 0-2, 48% for ages 3-5, and 22% for ages 6-12.<sup>84</sup> They found:

- Higher rates of CCAP take-up in areas with the highest density of CCAP-eligible children, and highest density of center- and home-based providers that serve children through CCAP and
- The zip codes with a majority Black non-Hispanic population had the highest take-up rates for all age levels. (As an example, Black non-Hispanic majority zip codes had a take up rate of 91% for children ages 3-5 while white, non-Hispanic majority zip codes had a take-up rate of 32.9% for the same age range.)

### Early Intervention

The Illinois Department of Human Services also oversees the state's Early Intervention Program. This program serves infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years old with developmental delays or disabilities and their family in one or more of the following areas of development: adaptive, cognitive, communication/speech, physical and social emotional.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>84</sup> Mader, N., Kang, H., Gjertson, L., & Goerge, R. *Assessing patterns & geographies of child care subsidy take-up for Illinois*. Chapin Hall, 2025.

<sup>85</sup> Language from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## Program Statistics - Early Intervention

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>October 2024</i>	<i>SFY 2023 Average</i>	<i>SFY 2022 Average</i>
Referrals	3,553	3,358	3,226
Active IFSP's*	23,473	23,922	22,798
0-3 Participation Rate	5.50%	5.60%	7.57%
Under 1 Participation Rate	1.54%	1.38%	1.21%
% With Medicaid	47.30%	50.45%	51.84%
% With Insurance	38.60%	38.67%	40.00%
% With Fees	31.00%	30.34%	30.83%

\* Individualized Family Service Plans

The Illinois State Board of Education oversees three pre-school programs. Grants are awarded by a request for proposal system.

**Pre-School for All (PFA):** A state-funded preschool program for children ages 3 and 4 and 5-year-olds ineligible for kindergarten that focuses on providing high-quality educational programs for children considered at risk of academic failure.<sup>86</sup>

**Pre-School for All Expansion (PFAE):** Provides a full day of preschool with more comprehensive services provided to children and their families.

**Prevention Initiative (PI):** Provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to families with children ages 2 and under who are at risk of academic failure. All the program models include home/personal visits, links to community resources, group connections, screening, and individual family service planning/goal-setting processes.<sup>87</sup>

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, there were 98,785 enrolled in PFA, PFAE, and PI in state Fiscal Year 2024.

Illinois Fiscal Year 2024 Enrollment	
Preschool for All	76,180
Preschool for All Expansion	7,049
Prevention Initiative	15,556
Total	98,785
Source: Illinois State Board of Education	

Of that number, 22.1% were Black, 33.1% Hispanic or Latino, and 34.5% white.

In addition to these programs, there were 28,208 children and pregnant women served in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 by Illinois Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the

<sup>86</sup> <https://iecam.illinois.edu/data-descriptions/preschool-for-all-pfa>

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

state.<sup>88</sup>Overall, Illinois had 26,257 funded slots in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 with funding of \$475,475,061.<sup>89</sup>)These programs are funded by the federal government directly to the provider. Programs operate in all of Illinois' 102 counties.

## Illinois Head Start Program Map

The program map below shows where there are physical locations of centers in Illinois, however, all counties are served.

[Click Here to See Service Areas](#)

[Zoom in on Cook County](#)

Total Number of Head Start Grantees

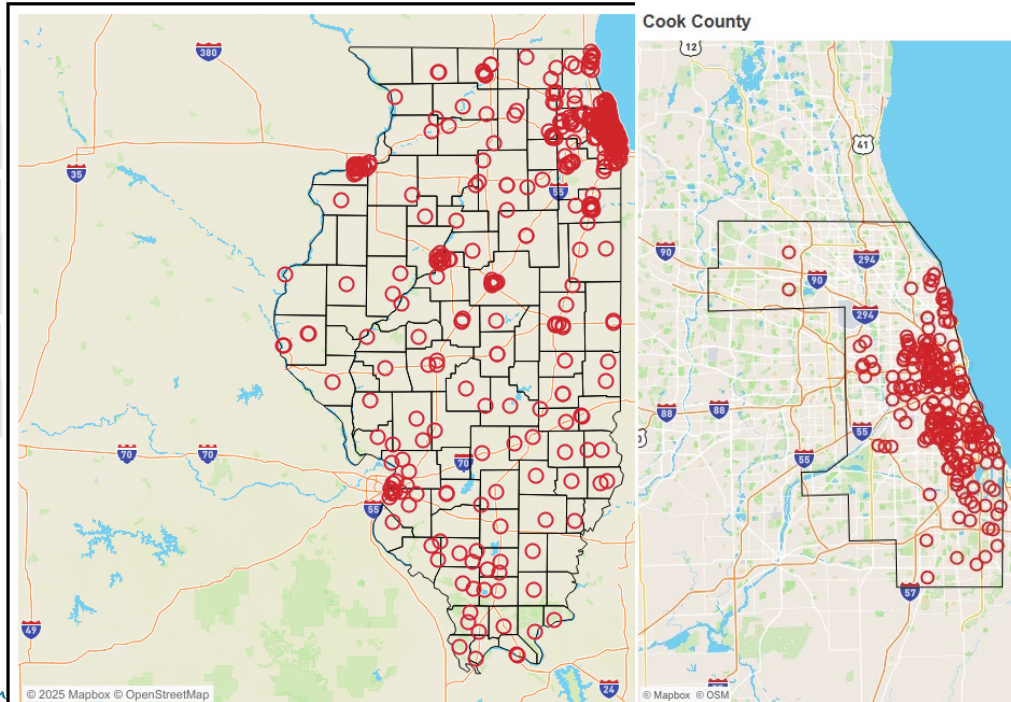
51

Total Number of Head Start Sites

513

Number of Counties Served

102

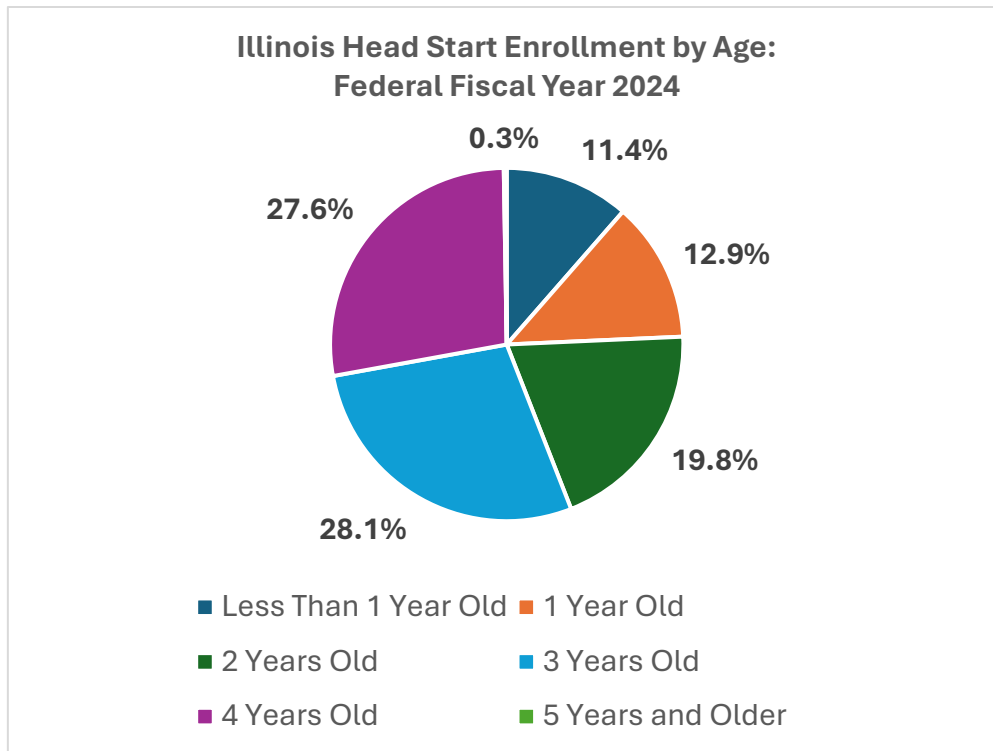


Head Start and Early Head Start Programs differ from many other early childhood education and care settings with respect to the wrap-around services provided to children and their families.



<sup>88</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; <https://headstart.gov/program-data/article/head-start-investments-state>

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

According to the Illinois Head Start Association:

- 42% of children enrolled in Head Start are white, 40.7% are Black, and 35.8% are Hispanic
- 14.3% are children with disabilities
- 7.9% are children experiencing homelessness
- 3.8% are children in foster care

List of services provided (from Illinois Head Start Association)

- 1. Education:** Users research-based curricula and assessments so each child makes preogress in language/literacy, math, science, social/emotional growth, and physical development
- 2. Health:** Services support up to date immunizations, dental, medical, mental health and wellness, nutrition, and early identification of health problems
- 3. Family Engagement:** Parents/caregivers are involved in the planing and implementation of activites, serve on policy councils and committees that make administrative decsions; participate in classes and workshops on child development; and volunteer in the program
- 4. Social Services:** Outreach to families to determine what services they need and support the attainment of these services through community based resources

## The Value of Free and Reduced-Cost Childcare to Working Illinois Families

Interviews with Head Start parents and staff reveal a consistent theme: accessible early education for children from birth to age five has a transformative impact.



Source: Family Focus

### *A Parent's Perspective: Building Parent Confidence and Support*

Carlton S., a self-employed parent and Head Start parent leader, explained how the Head Start Program run by Family Focus (which services families in northeastern Illinois) has allowed him to sustain his business while supporting his daughter's development.

"If Head Start lost funding, I'd have to redirect money to child care, which would directly affect the groceries I can buy," he said. "The program lets me do what I need to do while making sure she's cared for."

### *More Than a Classroom*

Family Focus' Head Start Programs don't just provide families with child care, they also receive comprehensive services that include meals, health screenings, and connection to resources.

"Some of our families wouldn't be able to access dental or medical care without the vans that come to our sites," noted Kiwana Walton, Head Start Education and Disabilities Coordinator at Family Focus. "We've had families who transitioned out of homelessness while their children continued attending Head Start."

### *Home Visiting*

Home visiting is a part of the Early Head Start Program. Home visitors can help parents navigate the early childhood and social service sectors and act as critical lifelines for families under pressure.

Chinetha Howard, a home visitor with Family Focus' Early Head Start Program, reflected on her role.

"Some moms don't know where to start — they need housing, food, a GED. We guide them through that", she said. "The program sets families on a better path."

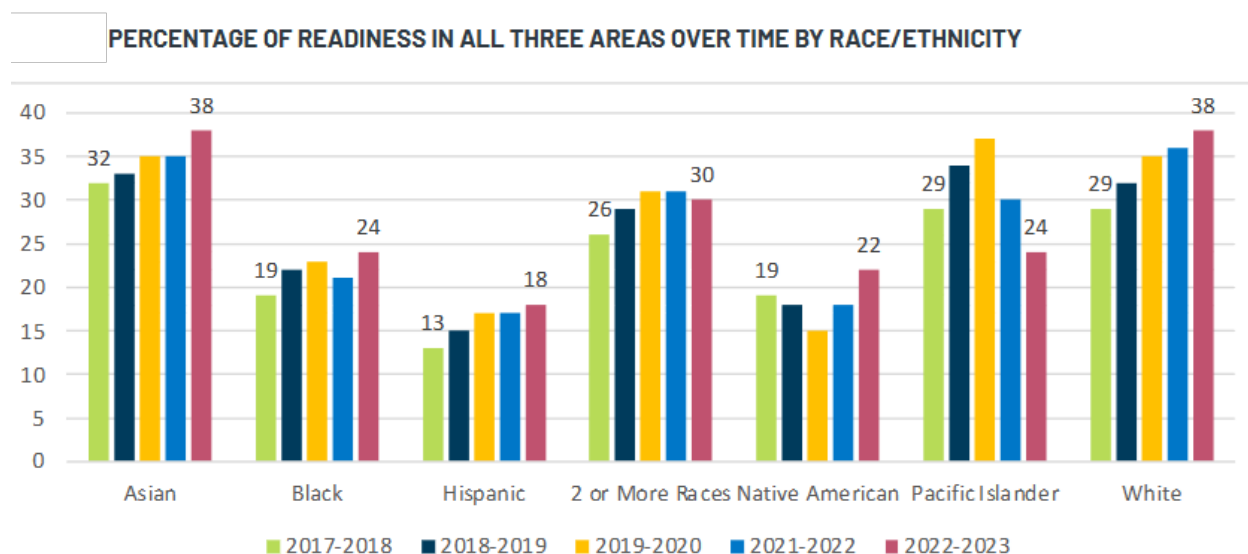


### Kindergarten Readiness

Do the pre-K programs prepare children for the K-12 school experience? One assessment tool is the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey. It is an observational survey conducted by teachers to assess student development and readiness for kindergarten. According to the Illinois State Board of Education, teachers should collect the data in the first 40 days of a student's kindergarten attendance.<sup>90</sup> Teachers assess students on 14 measurements that fall into the categories of:

- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy Development and
- Math

For the 2022-2023 school year, 30% of students showed readiness in all three areas and 36% showed readiness in no area. Over a five-year period (and this time period includes the height of the COVID-19 pandemic), Black and Hispanic/Latino Kindergartners have shown a lower level of preparation in all three areas than white students. These results should be interpreted with caution since they are observational based.



Source : Illinois State Board of Education

The next question would be if kindergartners are given the proper resources and attention, how do students perform in later years in math and reading? A 2024 report by the Illinois

<sup>90</sup> [https://www.isbe.net/Documents\\_KIDSWebsiteResources/KIDS\\_FAQ.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents_KIDSWebsiteResources/KIDS_FAQ.pdf)

Workforce and Education Research Collaborative found that kindergarten ready students are more than twice as likely to be proficient in Grade 3.<sup>91</sup>

An examination of proficiency scores for Illinois students shows 38% of Illinois fourth grade students were at or above mathematics proficiency and 30% for reading proficiency.

## Reading and Math Proficiency

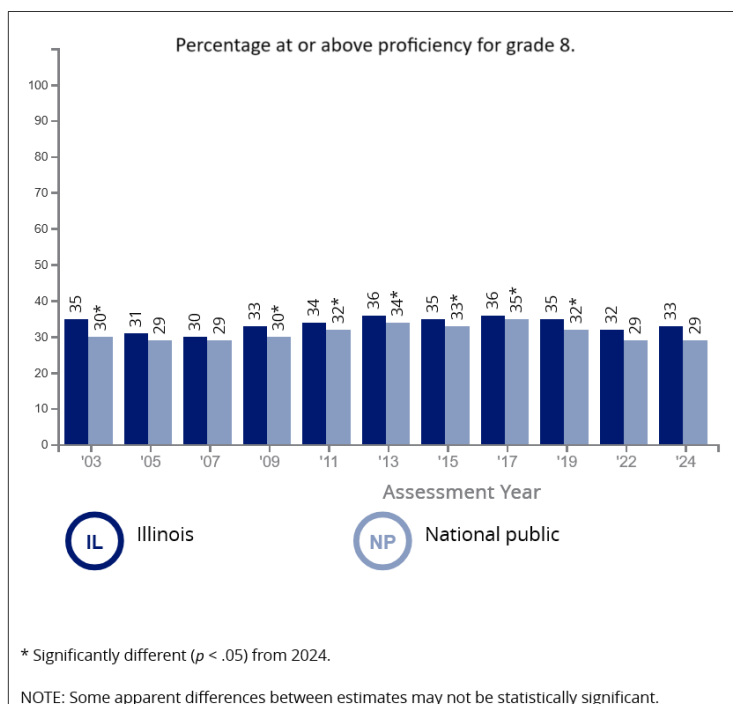
### Definitions:

**Basic**—This level denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.

**Proficient**—This level represents solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.<sup>92</sup>

(National Center for Education Statistics on the state level represents only public-school test scores.)<sup>93</sup>

2024 - Illinois Students	At or above basic	At or above proficient
4th Grade Mathematics	74%	38%
4th Grade Reading	59%	30%
8th Grade Mathematics	62%	32%
8th Grade Reading	70%	33%
Source: National Assessment for Educational Progress		



<sup>91</sup> Kiguel, S., Cashdollar, S., & Bates, M. *Inequity in the early years: Student development trajectories from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Kindergarten Readiness in Illinois Series*, Chicago, IL: Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC), Discovery Partners Institute, University of Illinois, 2024

<sup>92</sup> U.S. Department of Education, [https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ndehelp/webhelp/achievement\\_levels.htm#:~:text=Basic%E2%80%944This%20level%20denotes%20partial%20mastery%20of%20prerequisite,analytical%20skills%20appropriate%20to%20the%20subject%20matter.](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ndehelp/webhelp/achievement_levels.htm#:~:text=Basic%E2%80%944This%20level%20denotes%20partial%20mastery%20of%20prerequisite,analytical%20skills%20appropriate%20to%20the%20subject%20matter.)

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/IL?sfj=NP&chort=3&sub=MAT&sj=IL&st=M>

Data from the Illinois State Report Card, produced by the State Board of Education, shows the overall (all grades) statewide the English/Language Arts Proficiency Rate (all grades) was 39.4% and the Math Proficiency Rate (was 27.9%) for the 2023-2024 academic year. The state data is also broken out demographically and shows the following:

## ELA - All Tests

	All	Female	Male	Non Binary	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	MENA	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	Students with Disabilities
<b>State</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>
	English Learners	Students with IEPs	Low Income	Homeless	Migrant	Military	Youth In Care						
<b>State</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>						

## Mathematics - All Tests

	All	Female	Male	Non Binary	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	MENA	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	Students with Disabilities
<b>State</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>61.3%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
	English Learners	Students with IEPs	Low Income	Homeless	Migrant	Military	Youth In Care						
<b>State</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>						

Source: Illinois State Report Card ["MENA" stands for Middle Eastern and North African]

The overall rates are an improvement compared to 2022: ELA – 29.9%; Mathematics – 25.8%.

The Illinois State Board of Education is considering lowering the scores students need to be classified as proficient. According to a May 2025 article in Chalkbeat Chicago, state education officials “say the current benchmarks are too high and the results often don’t accurately reflect whether high school students are college and career ready”.<sup>94</sup> The article quotes State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders as saying the state’s current benchmarks are some of the highest in the nation.

According to a memo sent to members of the State Board of Education, “Illinois is not

N&year=2013R3&cti=PgTab\_OT&fs=Grade&ts=Single%20Year&sg=Gender:%20Male%20vs.%20Female&sgv=Difference&tss=2024R3

<sup>94</sup> Smylie, Samantha. *Illinois considers lowering scores students need to be considered proficient on state exams*, Chalkbeat Chicago, May 15, 2025.

lowering its academic standards...the goal is to provide schools – and, more importantly, students – with more reliable information about academic proficiency”.<sup>95</sup>

Even with the current rates, it does not mean that students are not graduating high school. Those results are as follows (Graduation rates are produced at a 4-, 5-, and 6-year level. We are showing the six-year level here):

## 6 Year

	All	Female	Male	Non Binary	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	MENA	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	Students with Disabilities
<b>State</b>	<b>89.6%</b> 135,907	<b>91.8%</b> 67,791	<b>87.7%</b> 68,098	<b>85.7%</b> 18	<b>83.9%</b> 281	<b>95.7%</b> 7,823	<b>83.0%</b> 19,907	<b>88.2%</b> 36,195	<b>0.0%</b> 0	<b>89.7%</b> 131	<b>87.0%</b> 4,382	<b>92.1%</b> 87,188	<b>81.9%</b> 25,777

\* Indicates non-reported data. ‡ Indicates suppressed data due to privacy concerns. Student counts reported are counts out of groups 10 or greater.

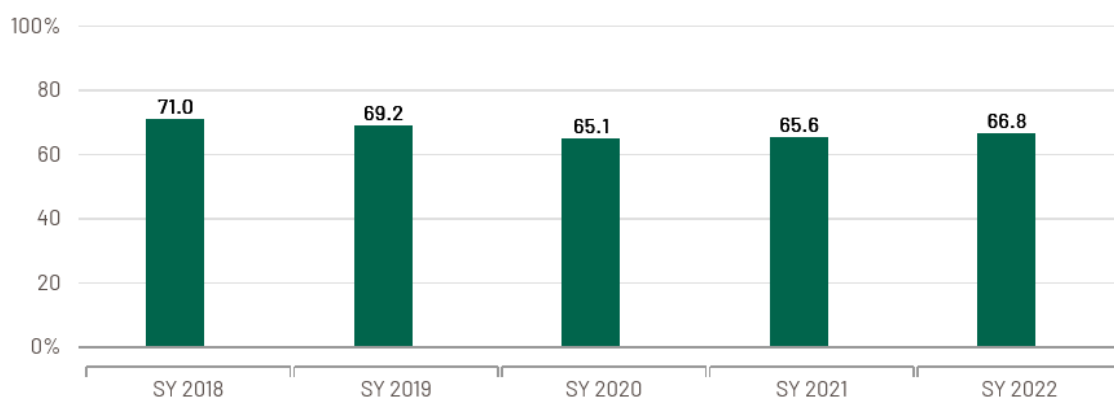
## 6 Year

	English Learners	Students with IEPs	Low Income	Homeless	Migrant	Military	Youth In Care
<b>State</b>	<b>82.0%</b> 8,812	<b>77.1%</b> 17,062	<b>83.6%</b> 53,530	<b>73.3%</b> 5,428	<b>83.3%</b> 20	<b>90.8%</b> 1,068	<b>69.6%</b> 651

Source: Illinois State Report Card

During the 2022-2023 academic year, 66.8% of Illinois public school students went on to enroll in college within 16 months. This number is lower than the 71% during the 2018-2019 academic year (which may have been influenced by -among other factors - the COVID-19 pandemic).

Percent of Students Enrolling in College Within 16 Months - By Graduating Class



Source: Illinois State Report Card

<sup>95</sup> Memo to Illinois State Board of Education, May 14, 2025, [https://go.boarddocs.com/il/isbe/Board.nsf/files/DGEJAR4C45DE/\\$file/11.C%20Approval%20of%20Unified%20Academic%20Achievement%20Standard%20Setting%20Methodology.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/il/isbe/Board.nsf/files/DGEJAR4C45DE/$file/11.C%20Approval%20of%20Unified%20Academic%20Achievement%20Standard%20Setting%20Methodology.pdf)

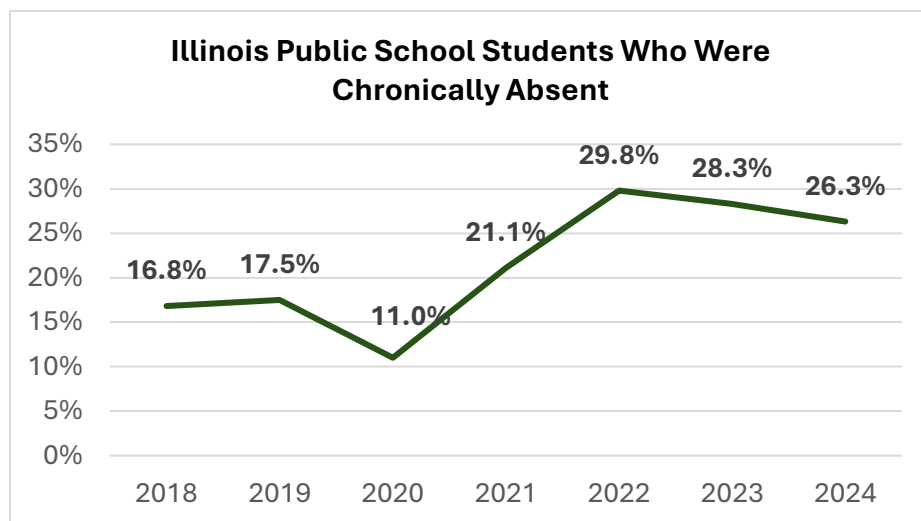
### Chronic Absenteeism

A key component to academic achievement is attendance. A study published in the Journal of Public Economics in 2021 showed<sup>96</sup>:

- Missing 10 classes in middle and high school reduces math or English Language Arts test scores by 3–4% of a standard deviation<sup>97</sup> and course grades by 17–18% of a standard deviation.
- Missing 10 total absences across all subjects in 9th grade reduce both the probability of on-time graduation and ever enrolling in college by 2%.

Illinois law defines chronic absence as a student who misses 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause...and out-of-school suspensions”.<sup>98</sup> In 2024, more than a quarter of Illinois public school students (26.3%) were chronically absent. Student chronic absenteeism levels were above 30% for students in grade 10 (33.1%), grade 11 (35.8%) and grade 12 (41.0%). Chronic absenteeism has increased significantly since the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic.<sup>99</sup>



Source: Illinois State Board of Education Report Card

(P.A. 102-0321, which became effective January 1, 2022, does allow a student to take up to five mental or behavioral health days per year. Any such days taken by a student do go into the calculation of a student being chronically absent.)

<sup>96</sup> Liu, Jing, Lee, Monia, Gershenson, Seth. *The short- and long-run impacts of secondary school absences*, Journal of Public Economics, Volume 199, 2021, 104441, ISSN 0047-2727.

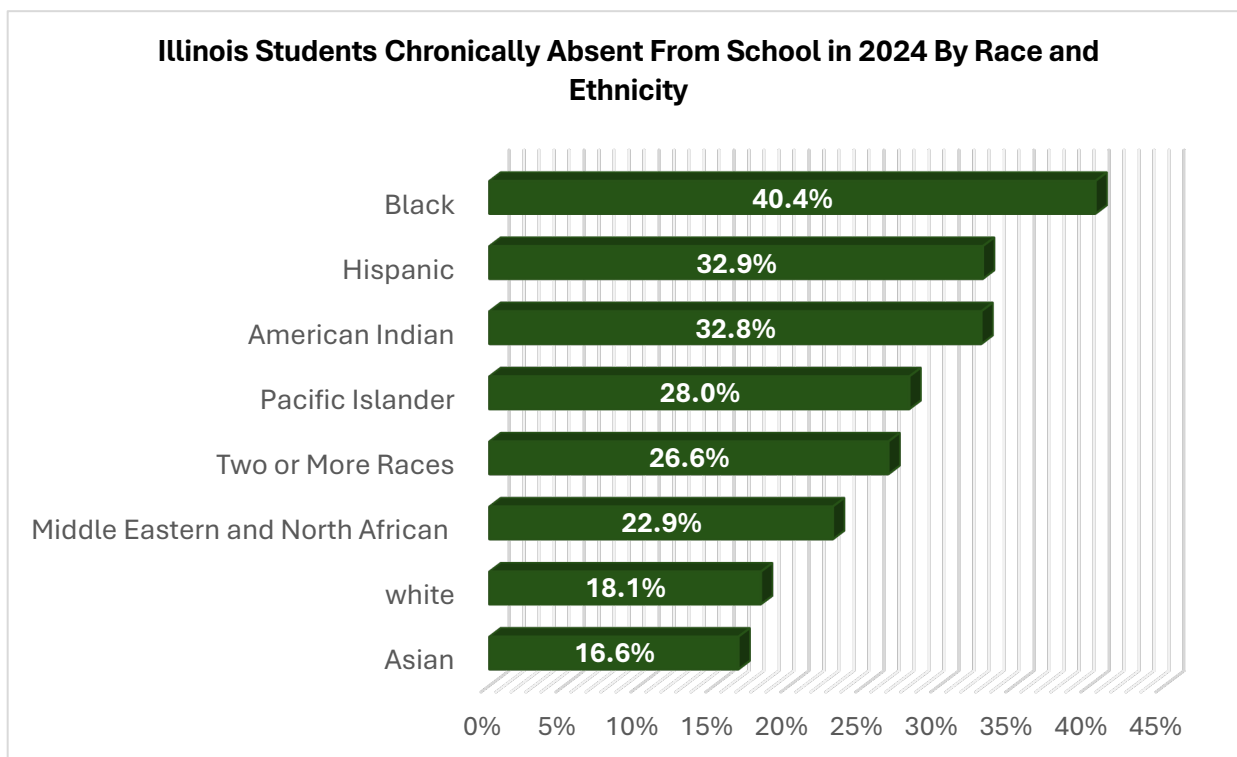
<sup>97</sup> Standard Deviation: The average deviation from the mean of the distribution.

<sup>98</sup> 105 ILCS 5/26-18

<sup>99</sup>

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/State.aspx?source=studentcharacteristics&source2=chronicabsenteeism&Stateid=IL>

Regarding the 2024 Illinois data, there are significant disparities by race and ethnicity. In 2024, the chronic absenteeism rate for Black students was 40.4%, for Hispanic/Latino students 32.9%, and for white students 18.1%, (For comparison purposes, the 2018 rates were 27.4% for Black students, 17.6% for Hispanic/Latino students, and 13.2% for white students.)<sup>100</sup>



Source: Illinois State Board of Education Report Card

The Illinois State Board of Education reports that 54.6% of homeless students were chronically absent from school.

In Brooklyn Illinois Unit District 188 in the Metro East area, the chronic absenteeism rate for all students was 81.4%. For the Chicago Public Schools, the absenteeism rate for all students was 40.8% in 2024.<sup>101</sup>

Illinois is not alone in seeing an increase in absenteeism during and before the pandemic. Nationally, the chronic absenteeism rate for the 2018-2019 academic year was 15% and 23% for the 2023-2024 year.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>100</sup>

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/State.aspx?source=studentcharacteristics&source2=chronicabsenteeism&Stateid=IL>

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> DiMarco, Bella. *Tracking State Trends in Chronic Absenteeism*, FutureEd, February 7, 2025.



Research conducted before the pandemic by Brookings documented a number of factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism<sup>103</sup>:

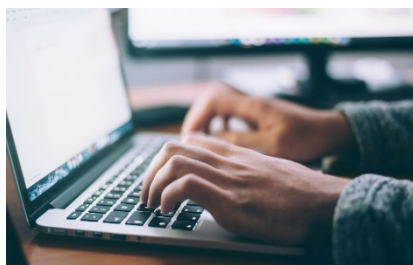
Factors related to absenteeism	
Student-specific	Teenage motherhood, low academic performance and repeating grades, lack of caring relationships with adults, negative peer influence, bullying
Family-specific	Low family income, low parent involvement, unstable housing, at-home responsibilities, stressful family events conflicting home and school priorities, language differences
School-specific	Poor conditions or lack of school facilities, low-quality teachers, teacher shortages, poor student-teacher interactions, geographic access to school, less challenging courses and student boredom
Community-specific	Availability of job opportunities that do not require formal schooling, unsafe neighborhoods, low compulsory education requirements, lack of social and education support services

As of this writing, the Illinois General Assembly has passed SB 407 that creates the Chronic Absence Task Force to study chronic absenteeism and to support the development of a state strategy to address the ongoing challenges presented by chronic absenteeism for students in early childhood education and care programs and students in grades kindergarten through 12.



<sup>103</sup> Jacob, Brian, Lovett, Kelly. *Chronic absenteeism: An old problem in search of new answers*, Brookings, July 27, 2017.

### Technology



Access to a computer, and internet service, can assist in learning. Statewide, the percentage of children with a computer and broadband internet subscription is 95.7%. Of the state's 102 counties, the percentage is below 90% in 13 counties:

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
<b>County</b>	
Alexander	51.6%
Pulaski	65.0%
Douglas	72.3%
Wayne	80.5%
Pope	84.4%
Moultrie	85.0%
Saline	85.0%
Fayette	86.1%
Marshall	87.5%
Union	88.1%
Massac	88.6%
Edwards	89.1%
Bureau	89.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B28005, 2023.

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Internet Access By Household Income (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Less than \$20,000:	576,312	
With dial-up Internet subscription alone	1,524	0.30%
With a broadband Internet subscription	413,335	71.70%
Without an Internet subscription	161,453	28.00%
\$20,000 to \$74,999:	1,741,583	
With dial-up Internet subscription alone	4,317	0.20%
With a broadband Internet subscription	1,484,189	85.20%
Without an Internet subscription	253,077	14.50%
\$75,000 or more:	2,684,009	
With dial-up Internet subscription alone	2,146	0.10%
With a broadband Internet subscription	2,574,253	95.90%
Without an Internet subscription	107,610	4.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table S2801, 2023.

Percentage of children with a computer and broadband internet subscription within Chicago.

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
<b>Chicago, Illinois</b>	<b>93.3%</b>
Regions of Chicago	
Chicago City (Southwest)--South Lawndale, Brighton Park & Gage Park	86.3%
Chicago City (West)--Belmont Cragin, Humboldt Park, Hermosa & Montclare	90.6%
Chicago City (West)--Austin, North Lawndale & East/West Garfield Park	90.7%
Chicago City (South)--Chicago Lawn, Greater Grand Crossing & West Englewood/Englewood	91.4%
Chicago City (South)--Roseland, Chatham, West Pullman, Calumet Heights & Avalon Park	91.5%
Chicago City (North)--West Ridge, Lincoln Square & North Center	91.9%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Logan Square, Irving Park & Avondale	94.1%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Albany Park, Norwood Park, Forest Glen, North Park & O'Hare	94.2%
Chicago City (South)--South Shore, South Chicago, East Side & South Deering	94.2%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Portage Park, Dunning & Jefferson Park	94.3%
Chicago City (Southwest)--Ashburn, Garfield Ridge, West Lawn, Clearing & West Elsdon	95.1%
Chicago City (West)--West Town & Near West Side	95.3%
Chicago City (South)--Hyde Park, Grand Boulevard, Woodlawn, Douglas & Kenwood	95.5%
Chicago City (Southwest)--New City, Lower West Side, Bridgeport & McKinley Park	95.6%
Chicago City (Southwest)--Auburn Gresham, Washington Heights, Morgan Park & Beverly	95.7%
Chicago City (North)--Uptown, Edgewater & Rogers Park	96.1%
Chicago City (Central)--Near North Side, Loop & Near South Side	97.4%
Chicago City (North)--Lake View & Lincoln Park	98.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B28005, 2023.

The Illinois State Board of Education defines English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Proficiency for the SAT scores as those students who perform at levels 3 and 4 (noted below) or at or above 540 for ELA and Math SAT scores.<sup>104</sup>

ELA Performance Levels for SAT		Math Performance Levels for SAT	
Level 4-Exceeds Standards	640-800	Level 4-Exceeds Standards	670-800
Level 3-Meets Standards	540-630	Level 3-Meets Standards	540-660
Level 2-Approaching Standards	430-530	Level 2-Approaching Standards	450-530
Level 1-Partially Meets Standards	200-420	Level 1-Partially Meets Standards	200-440

### Illinois High School SAT Reading (ELA: English Language Arts) and Math Proficiency Scores

Source: Illinois State Report Card

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy	Aurora	State Of Illinois	10 - 12	97.6	99
University of Illinois HS	Urbana	State Of Illinois	7 - 12	96.6	98.3
Northside College Preparatory HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	91.6	91.2
Payton College Preparatory HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	87.4	85.2
Lane Technical HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	85.9	81.9
Young Magnet HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	84.8	84.1
Jones College Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	82	79.1
New Trier Township H S Winnetka	Winnetka	Cook	10 - 12	77.2	70.4
University HS	Normal	State Of Illinois	9 - 12	72.4	65.6
Adlai E Stevenson HS	Lincolnshire	Lake	9 - 12	71.8	73.9
Hinsdale Central HS	Hinsdale	DuPage	9 - 12	71.6	67.9
Deerfield HS	Deerfield	Lake	9 - 12	70.9	70.6
Lake Forest HS	Lake Forest	Lake	9 - 12	68.3	65.6
Neuqua Valley HS	Naperville	DuPage	9 - 12	67.6	65.2
Glenbrook North HS	Northbrook	Cook	9 - 12	66.3	70
Brooks College Prep Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	66	50.5
Oak Park & River Forest High Sch	Oak Park	Cook	9 - 12	64.1	55.2
Libertyville HS	Libertyville	Lake	9 - 12	64.1	60.1
Hancock College Preparatory HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	63.5	53

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2024-RC-Glossary-Terms.pdf>

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Lindblom Math & Science Acad HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	63.2	41.6
Wm Fremd HS	Palatine	Cook	9 - 12	61.3	62.1
Naperville Central HS	Naperville	DuPage	9 - 12	60.9	56.8
John Hersey HS	Arlington Heights	Cook	9 - 12	60.2	56.3
Annawan HS	Annawan	Henry	9 - 12	60	44
Vernon Hills HS	Vernon Hills	Lake	9 - 12	59.9	61.1
Naperville North HS	Naperville	DuPage	9 - 12	58.8	55.6
Glenbrook South HS	Glenview	Cook	9 - 12	58.5	54.3
Lake Zurich HS	Lake Zurich	Lake	9 - 12	58.4	55.5
Lincoln-Way East HS	Frankfort	Will	9 - 12	58.4	60.6
Prospect HS	Mt Prospect	Cook	9 - 12	58	52.1
Maine South HS	Park Ridge	Cook	9 - 12	57	45.5
Westmont HS	Westmont	DuPage	9 - 12	56.7	44.4
Dunlap HS	Dunlap	Peoria	9 - 12	56.3	51.1
Lincoln-Way Central HS	New Lenox	Will	9 - 12	55.9	49.7
Geneva Community HS	Geneva	Kane	9 - 12	54.9	47
Barrington HS	Barrington	Lake	9 - 12	54.6	52.5
St Charles North HS	Saint Charles	Kane	9 - 12	54	55.7
Evanston Twp HS	Evanston	Cook	9 - 12	53.8	44.5
Morton HS	Morton	Tazewell	9 - 12	53.3	39.4
Batavia Sr HS	Batavia	Kane	9 - 12	53.1	47.8
Waubonsie Valley HS	Aurora	DuPage	9 - 12	52.9	49
Lyons Twp High Sch	La Grange	Cook	9 - 12	52.4	53
Comm H S Dist 99 - North H S	Downers Grove	DuPage	9 - 12	51.6	55
Metea Valley HS	Aurora	DuPage	9 - 12	51.1	52.9
York Comm HS	Elmhurst	DuPage	9 - 12	50.7	49
Highland Park HS	Highland Park	Lake	9 - 12	50.5	47.9
Eureka HS	Eureka	Woodford	9 - 12	50	44.4
Stockton Sr HS	Stockton	Jo Daviess	9 - 12	50	43.3
Mahomet-Seymour HS	Mahomet	Champaign	9 - 12	49.6	55.8
Teutopolis HS	Teutopolis	Effingham	9 - 12	49.3	37
Glenbard West HS	Glen Ellyn	DuPage	9 - 12	49.3	44.9
Tri-Valley HS	Downs	McLean	9 - 12	49.3	46.4
Williamsville HS	Williamsville	Sangamon	9 - 12	49.2	24.6
Cary-Grove Community HS	Cary	McHenry	9 - 12	48.9	37
Wheaton North HS	Wheaton	DuPage	9 - 12	48.6	44.4
St Charles East HS	Saint Charles	Kane	9 - 12	48.6	44.9
Mt Olive HS	Mount Olive	Macoupin	9 - 12	48.6	28.6
Edwardsville HS	Edwardsville	Madison	9 - 12	48.5	37.9
Wethersfield Jr/Sr HS	Kewanee	Henry	7 - 12	48.4	45.2
Lemont Twp HS	Lemont	Cook	9 - 12	48.3	52.7

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Glenbard South HS	Glen Ellyn	DuPage	9 - 12	48	40
Erie HS	Erie	Whiteside	9 - 12	47.9	29.2
El Paso-Gridley HS	El Paso	Woodford	9 - 12	47.8	39.1
Pearl City HS	Pearl City	Stephenson	9 - 12	47.7	47.7
J B Conant HS	Hoffman Estates	Cook	9 - 12	47.6	53.5
Hononegah CHD HS	Rockton	Winnebago	9 - 12	47.5	50.9
Hinsdale South HS	Darien	DuPage	9 - 12	46.7	44
Washington Comm HS	Washington	Tazewell	9 - 12	46.2	43.1
Brimfield HS	Brimfield	Peoria	9 - 12	45.8	41.7
Mascoutah HS	Mascoutah	Saint Clair	9 - 12	45.8	39.7
Lincoln Park HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	45.4	43.9
Prairie Ridge HS	Crystal Lake	McHenry	9 - 12	45.3	39.4
Niles North HS	Skokie	Cook	9 - 12	45.2	41.9
Schaumburg HS	Schaumburg	Cook	9 - 12	44.8	49.8
Plainfield North HS	Plainfield	Will	9 - 12	44.8	40.1
Okawville Jr/Sr HS	Okawville	Washington	7 - 12	44.7	34
Tremont HS	Tremont	Tazewell	9 - 12	44.3	35.7
Grayslake North HS	Grayslake	Lake	9 - 12	44.2	34
Lakes Community HS	Lake Villa	Lake	9 - 12	44	41.3
Huntley HS	Huntley	McHenry	9 - 12	43.8	34.6
Glenwood HS	Chatham	Sangamon	9 - 12	43.8	32.9
Columbia HS	Columbia	Monroe	9 - 12	43.6	41.8
Freeburg Community High Sch	Freeburg	Saint Clair	9 - 12	43.3	40.9
Waterloo HS	Waterloo	Monroe	9 - 12	43.3	39.5
Roanoke-Benson HS	Roanoke	Woodford	9 - 12	43.2	27
Watseka Comm HS	Watseka	Iroquois	9 - 12	42.9	22.2
Lake Park HS	Roselle	DuPage	9 - 12	42.9	34
Pawnee Jr/Sr High Sch	Pawnee	Sangamon	7 - 12	42.9	14.3
Central HS	Burlington	Kane	9 - 12	42.2	27.5
Bement HS	Bement	Piatt	9 - 12	42.1	10.5
Lincoln Way West	New Lenox	Will	9 - 12	41.9	39.3
Wheaton Warrenville South H S	Wheaton	DuPage	9 - 12	41.9	37.3
Rolling Meadows HS	Rolling Meadows	Cook	9 - 12	41.9	35.3
Nashville Comm HS	Nashville	Washington	9 - 12	41.9	26.7
Elmwood HS	Elmwood	Peoria	9 - 12	41.7	18.8
Niles West HS	Skokie	Cook	9 - 12	41.6	35.4
Riverside Brookfield Twp HS	Riverside	Cook	9 - 12	41.2	39.5
Triad HS	Troy	Madison	9 - 12	41	39.6
Macomb Senior HS	Macomb	McDonough	9 - 12	40.9	20.1



## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Proviso Math and Science Academy	Forest Park	Cook	9 - 12	40.7	35.7
Richmond-Burton HS	Richmond	McHenry	9 - 12	40.7	29.3
Metamora HS	Metamora	Woodford	9 - 12	40.6	37.1
Normal Community HS	Normal	McLean	9 - 12	40.4	30.1
Grayslake Central HS	Grayslake	Lake	9 - 12	40.3	33.5
Byron HS 9-12	Byron	Ogle	9 - 12	40.2	36.8
Crystal Lake South HS	Crystal Lake	McHenry	9 - 12	40.2	28.5
Carl Sandburg HS	Orland Park	Cook	9 - 12	40.1	33.4
Carterville HS	Carterville	Williamson	9 - 12	40	36.6
Valmeyer HS	Valmeyer	Monroe	9 - 12	40	16.7
Lexington HS	Lexington	McLean	9 - 12	40	20
Oswego East HS	Oswego	Kendall	9 - 12	39.4	30
O Fallon HS	O Fallon	Saint Clair	9 - 12	39.3	38.3
Dee-Mack HS	Mackinaw	Tazewell	9 - 12	39.1	17.2
Amundsen HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	39	38.8
Effingham HS	Effingham	Effingham	9 - 12	38.9	24.6
GCMS HS	Gibson City	Ford	9 - 12	38.8	40.3
Antioch Comm HS	Antioch	Lake	9 - 12	38.7	30.1
Lisle HS	Lisle	DuPage	9 - 12	38.6	47.7
Buffalo Grove HS	Buffalo Grove	Cook	9 - 12	38.4	39.4
Highland HS	Highland	Madison	9 - 12	38.3	33.5
Riverdale Sr HS	Port Byron	Rock Island	9 - 12	38.2	27.9
Illini Bluffs HS	Glasford	Peoria	9 - 12	37.9	22.4
Herrin HS	Herrin	Williamson	9 - 12	37.8	24.4
Mt Zion HS	Mount Zion	Macon	9 - 12	37.7	26.9
Yorkville HS	Yorkville	Kendall	9 - 12	37.7	25.9
Unity HS	Tolono	Champaign	9 - 12	37.5	30.8
Bond Cty Comm Unit 2 HS	Greenville	Bond	9 - 12	37.3	32.2
Hoffman Estates HS	Hoffman Estates	Cook	9 - 12	37.2	31.5
Princeville HS	Princeville	Peoria	6 - 12	37.2	34.9
Galena HS	Galena	Jo Daviess	9 - 12	37.1	30
Morris Community HS	Morris	Grundy	9 - 12	37.1	28.6
Somonauk HS	Somonauk	Dekalb	9 - 12	37	38.9
Lockport Township High Sch East	Lockport	Will	9 - 12	37	38.2
Crystal Lake Central HS	Crystal Lake	McHenry	9 - 12	37	33.2
Orion HS	Orion	Henry	9 - 12	36.9	50.8
Paxton-Buckley-Loda HS	Paxton	Ford	9 - 12	36.8	42.1
Springfield HS	Springfield	Sangamon	9 - 12	36.8	26.8
Woodstock HS	Woodstock	McHenry	9 - 12	36.7	32.7
Fisher Jr/Sr HS	Fisher	Champaign	7 - 12	36.5	36.5
Deland-Weldon HS	De Land	Piatt	9 - 12	36.4	9.1

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Pleasant Plains HS	Pleasant Plains	Sangamon	9 - 12	36.3	29.4
Comm H S Dist 99 - South High Sch	Downers Grove	DuPage	9 - 12	36.2	35.3
Ashton-Franklin Center HS	Ashton	Lee	7 - 12	36.1	27.8
Maroa-Forsyth Senior High Sch	Maroa	Macon	9 - 12	36	24.4
Victor J Andrew HS	Orland Hills	Cook	9 - 12	36	31.1
Plainfield East HS	Plainfield	Will	9 - 12	36	33.8
Mundelein Cons HS	Mundelein	Lake	9 - 12	35.7	26.9
Marshall HS	Marshall	Clark	9 - 12	35.6	21.9
Dakota Jr Sr HS	Dakota	Stephenson	7 - 12	35.5	38.7
Rockridge HS	Taylor Ridge	Rock Island	9 - 12	35.3	22.4
Donovan Sr HS	Donovan	Iroquois	9 - 12	35.3	23.5
Chadwick-Milledgeville Jr/Sr HS	Milledgeville	Carroll	6 - 12	35	10
Sycamore HS	Sycamore	Dekalb	9 - 12	35	27.5
Central HS	Camp Point	Adams	9 - 12	34.9	53.5
Bunker Hill HS	Bunker Hill	Macoupin	9 - 12	34.9	20.9
Monticello HS	Monticello	Piatt	9 - 12	34.8	22.7
Warren Township HS	Gurnee	Lake	9 - 12	34.8	24.3
Coal City HS	Coal City	Grundy	9 - 12	34.8	31.1
Maine East HS	Park Ridge	Cook	9 - 12	34.7	23.8
Glenbard North HS	Carol Stream	DuPage	9 - 12	34.5	32.7
Hampshire HS	Hampshire	Kane	9 - 12	34.4	29.2
Warsaw Sr HS	Warsaw	Hancock	9 - 12	34.4	18.8
St Joseph-Ogden HS	Saint Joseph	Champaign	9 - 12	34.3	38
Kaneland Senior HS	Maple Park	Kane	9 - 12	34.3	30.7
Warrensburg-Latham HS	Warrensburg	Macon	9 - 12	34.2	11.4
Rochester HS	Rochester	Sangamon	9 - 12	34.1	23.8
Nokomis Jr/Sr High Sch	Nokomis	Montgomery	6 - 12	34.1	22.7
Willowbrook HS	Villa Park	DuPage	9 - 12	34.1	26
Seneca HS	Seneca	La Salle	9 - 12	34.1	18.7
Von Steuben Metro Science HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	34	30.2
Geneseo HS	Geneseo	Henry	9 - 12	34	28.7
Hamilton HS	Hamilton	Hancock	9 - 12	33.3	40.7
Franklin Jr/Sr HS	Franklin	Morgan	6 - 12	33.3	14.8
Ramsey HS	Ramsey	Fayette	6 - 12	33.3	26.7
Disney II Magnet HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	33.3	6.5
Central HS	Champaign	Champaign	9 - 12	33	30.6
Central Comm HS	Breese	Clinton	9 - 12	32.9	50.3
Harry D Jacobs HS	Algonquin	Kane	9 - 12	32.9	24.5
Plainfield HS	Plainfield	Will	9 - 12	32.9	24.7
Winnebago HS	Winnebago	Winnebago	9 - 12	32.7	25

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Chicago HS for the Arts	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	32.6	11.8
Tuscola HS	Tuscola	Douglas	9 - 12	32.4	14.1
Southland College Prep Charter HS	Richton Park	Cook	9 - 12	32.4	18.2
Villa Grove HS	Villa Grove	Douglas	9 - 12	32.4	24.3
Shelbyville HS	Shelbyville	Shelby	9 - 12	31.9	40.3
Bureau Valley HS	Manlius	Bureau	9 - 12	31.9	23.2
Glenbard East HS	Lombard	DuPage	9 - 12	31.7	28.5
Amos Alonzo Stagg HS	Palos Hills	Cook	9 - 12	31.6	28.7
Minooka Community HS	Channahon	Grundy	9 - 12	31.6	27.3
Pecatonica HS	Pecatonica	Winnebago	9 - 12	31.5	37
Stillman Valley HS	Stillman Valley	Ogle	9 - 12	31.4	29.5
Westinghouse HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	31.4	19.5
Wauconda HS	Wauconda	Lake	9 - 12	31.4	21.8
Bartlett HS	Bartlett	Kane	9 - 12	31.4	23.5
Palestine HS	Palestine	Crawford	9 - 12	31.3	18.8
New Athens HS	New Athens	Saint Clair	9 - 12	31.3	15.6
Gardner-South Wilmington Twp H S	Gardner	Grundy	9 - 12	31.3	15.6
Devry Advantage Academy High Schl	Chicago	Cook	11 - 12	31.1	25.7
Athens Sr HS	Athens	Menard	9 - 12	31.1	23.6
River Ridge HS	Hanover	Jo Daviess	9 - 12	31	34.5
Charleston HS	Charleston	Coles	9 - 12	31	19.4
Carmi-White County HS	Carmi	White	9 - 12	30.9	25.8
Putnam County HS	Granville	Putnam	9 - 12	30.9	25.5
Oakland HS	Oakland	Coles	9 - 12	30.8	38.5
Lowpoint-Washburn Jr Sr High Sch	Washburn	Woodford	6 - 12	30.8	7.7
Hartsburg-Emden Jr-Sr HS	Hartsburg	Logan	6 - 12	30.8	7.7
Milford HS Campus	Milford	Iroquois	9 - 12	30.8	20.5
Sherrard HS	Sherrard	Rock Island	9 - 12	30.7	13.9
Oregon Jr/Sr HS	Oregon	Ogle	7 - 12	30.7	14.9
Blue Ridge HS	Farmer City	Dewitt	9 - 12	30.6	19.4
Plainfield South HS	Plainfield	Will	9 - 12	30.5	25.8
Salem Community HS	Salem	Marion	9 - 12	30.5	22.2
Lena-Winslow HS	Lena	Stephenson	9 - 12	30.4	32.1
Il Valley Central HS	Chillicothe	Peoria	9 - 12	30.4	24.8
Evergreen Park HS	Evergreen Park	Cook	9 - 12	30.4	25.2
Carlyle HS	Carlyle	Clinton	9 - 12	30.4	27.8
Civic Memorial HS	Bethalto	Madison	9 - 12	30.1	26.7
Triopia Jr-Sr HS	Concord	Morgan	7 - 12	30	20
Bluffs HS	Bluffs	Scott	9 - 12	30	0

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Red Bud HS	Red Bud	Randolph	9 - 12	30	21
Forreston Jr/Sr High Sch	Forreston	Ogle	6 - 12	30	35
Maine West HS	Des Plaines	Cook	9 - 12	30	23.1
Marion HS	Marion	Williamson	9 - 12	29.9	14.5
Kenwood Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	29.8	20.8
Peotone HS	Peotone	Will	9 - 12	29.8	11.5
Neoga Jr/Sr HS	Neoga	Cumberland	6 - 12	29.8	25.5
Richwoods HS	Peoria	Peoria	9 - 12	29.7	18.6
Galatia HS	Galatia	Saline	9 - 12	29.6	11.1
Palatine HS	Palatine	Cook	9 - 12	29.6	27.7
Beecher City Jr-Sr HS	Beecher City	Effingham	6 - 12	29.6	40.7
Johnsburg HS	Johnsburg	McHenry	9 - 12	29.5	24.6
Lincoln Comm HS	Lincoln	Logan	9 - 12	29.3	19.2
Herscher HS	Herscher	Kankakee	9 - 12	29.3	31.1
Oak Forest HS	Oak Forest	Cook	9 - 12	29.3	26
Polo Comm HS	Polo	Ogle	9 - 12	29.2	16.7
Heyworth Jr-Sr HS	Heyworth	McLean	7 - 12	29	23.2
Normal Community West HS	Normal	McLean	9 - 12	29	18.1
Beecher HS	Beecher	Will	9 - 12	29	17.2
Carbondale Comm H S	Carbondale	Jackson	9 - 12	29	28
Plano HS	Plano	Kendall	9 - 12	29	11.9
South Elgin HS	South Elgin	Kane	9 - 12	28.9	20.7
Belleville HS-East	Belleville	Saint Clair	9 - 12	28.9	23.2
Red Hill Jr/Sr HS	Bridgeport	Lawrence	7 - 12	28.9	5.3
New Berlin HS	New Berlin	Sangamon	9 - 12	28.8	25
North Mac HS	Viriden	Macoupin	9 - 12	28.7	14.9
Cowden-Herrick Jr/Sr HS	Cowden	Shelby	PK - 12	28.6	32.1
Fulton HS	Fulton	Whiteside	9 - 12	28.6	10.7
Porta HS	Petersburg	Menard	7 - 12	28.6	14.3
Prairie Central HS	Fairbury	Livingston	9 - 12	28.6	18.8
Vandalia Community HS	Vandalia	Fayette	9 - 12	28.4	15.9
Taylorville Sr HS	Taylorville	Christian	9 - 12	28.3	11.2
Wheeling HS	Wheeling	Cook	9 - 12	28.3	26.4
Benton Cons HS	Benton	Franklin	9 - 12	28.3	20.5
Litchfield Senior HS	Litchfield	Montgomery	9 - 12	28.3	10.9
Havana HS	Havana	Mason	9 - 12	28.3	15.1
Woodstock North HS	Woodstock	McHenry	8 - 12	28.2	23.9
Ottawa Township HS	Ottawa	La Salle	9 - 12	28.2	18.4
Elk Grove HS	Elk Grove Village	Cook	9 - 12	28.1	22.7
Ridgewood Comm HS	Norridge	Cook	9 - 12	28.1	24.8
AlWood Middle/HS	Woodhull	Henry	6 - 12	28	4
LeRoy HS	Le Roy	McLean	9 - 12	27.9	16.4
Liberty HS	Liberty	Adams	7 - 12	27.9	37.2

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Grant Park HS	Grant Park	Kankakee	9 - 12	27.8	30.6
Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond HS	Arthur	Douglas	9 - 12	27.8	23.6
Dwight HS	Dwight	Livingston	9 - 12	27.8	11.1
Southeastern Jr/Sr HS	Augusta	Hancock	7 - 12	27.8	22.2
Oakwood HS	Fithian	Vermilion	9 - 12	27.7	16.9
Taft HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	27.6	19.1
Lewistown Jr/Sr HS	Lewistown	Fulton	7 - 12	27.5	10
Chicago HS for Agricult Sciences	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	27.3	13.7
Meridian HS	Macon	Macon	9 - 12	27.1	20
Woodlawn HS	Woodlawn	Jefferson	9 - 12	27	21.6
Central HS	Clifton	Iroquois	9 - 12	27	22.2
Cisne HS	Cisne	Wayne	9 - 12	26.9	11.5
Pleasant Hill HS	Pleasant Hill	Pike	9 - 12	26.9	19.2
Mercer County HS	Aledo	Mercer	9 - 12	26.8	17.5
Dieterich Jr/Sr HS	Dieterich	Effingham	7 - 12	26.8	12.2
Noble St Chtr-Pritzker College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	26.7	24.4
East Dubuque HS	East Dubuque	Jo Daviess	9 - 12	26.7	22.2
Stark County HS	Toulon	Stark	9 - 12	26.7	25
Northwestern HS	Palmyra	Macoupin	9 - 12	26.7	13.3
Sandwich Community HS	Sandwich	Dekalb	9 - 12	26.6	18
Illini West HS	Carthage	Hancock	9 - 12	26.5	15.7
Alton HS	Alton	Madison	9 - 12	26.5	18.1
Hillsboro HS	Hillsboro	Montgomery	9 - 12	26.4	14.5
Virginia Jr/ Sr HS	Virginia	Cass	6 - 12	26.3	5.3
Elmwood Park HS	Elmwood Park	Cook	9 - 12	26.2	20.2
Alden-Hebron HS	Hebron	McHenry	9 - 12	26.1	39.1
Centralia HS	Centralia	Marion	9 - 12	26.1	15.2
Homewood-Flossmoor HS	Flossmoor	Cook	9 - 12	26	17.8
Reed-Custer HS	Braidwood	Will	9 - 12	26	13.5
La Salle-Peru Twp HS	La Salle	La Salle	9 - 12	26	13.2
Tri-Point HS	Cullom	Livingston	9 - 12	25.9	29.6
Romeoville HS	Romeoville	Will	9 - 12	25.8	23.1
Oswego HS	Oswego	Kendall	9 - 12	25.7	20.9
Richland County HS	Olney	Richland	9 - 12	25.7	17.9
Lebanon HS	Lebanon	Saint Clair	6 - 12	25.7	11.4
McHenry Community HS	McHenry	McHenry	9 - 12	25.7	22.7
Shiloh HS	Hume	Edgar	9 - 12	25.7	14.3
Trico Senior HS	Campbell Hill	Jackson	9 - 12	25.6	25.6
Sullivan HS	Sullivan	Moultrie	9 - 12	25.6	22.1
Roxana Sr HS	Roxana	Madison	9 - 12	25.6	18.2
Unity HS	Mendon	Adams	9 - 12	25.6	25.6

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School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Jersey Comm HS	Jerseyville	Jersey	8 - 12	25.5	23
Bushnell-Prairie City High Sch	Bushnell	McDonough	9 - 12	25.5	3.9
Midland HS	Varna	Marshall	9 - 12	25.5	23.6
Morrison HS	Morrison	Whiteside	9 - 12	25.4	20.6
Bolingbrook HS	Bolingbrook	Will	9 - 12	25.4	21.6
Cumberland HS	Toledo	Cumberland	9 - 12	25.4	12.7
Southwestern HS	Piasa	Macoupin	9 - 12	25.3	19.8
Massac County HS	Metropolis	Massac	9 - 12	25.2	22
Marengo HS	Marengo	McHenry	9 - 12	25	22.8
Martinsville Jr-Sr HS	Martinsville	Clark	7 - 12	25	17.9
Salt Fork HS	Catlin	Vermilion	9 - 12	25	14.3
Carlinville HS	Carlinville	Macoupin	9 - 12	25	28.4
Knoxville Sr HS	Knoxville	Knox	9 - 12	25	17.5
Westville HS	Westville	Vermilion	9 - 12	25	10.9
Limestone Community HS	Peoria	Peoria	9 - 12	25	16.8
Wayne City HS	Wayne City	Wayne	9 - 12	25	43.8
Pittsfield HS	Pittsfield	Pike	9 - 12	24.7	9
Bradley-Bourbonnais C HS	Bradley	Kankakee	9 - 12	24.7	19.7
East Leyden HS	Franklin Park	Cook	9 - 12	24.7	26.1
Jacksonville HS	Jacksonville	Morgan	9 - 12	24.7	14.2
South Beloit Sr HS	South Beloit	Winnebago	9 - 12	24.6	23
Wesclin Sr HS	Trenton	Clinton	9 - 12	24.5	27.6
Robinson HS	Robinson	Crawford	9 - 12	24.5	19.1
Altamont HS	Altamont	Effingham	9 - 12	24.5	24.5
Manteno HS	Manteno	Kankakee	8 - 12	24.4	23.1
Tri-City HS	Buffalo	Sangamon	9 - 12	24.4	14.6
Senn HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	24.3	14.6
Orangeville HS	Orangeville	Stephenson	9 - 12	24.1	24.1
Grant Community HS	Fox Lake	Lake	9 - 12	24.1	21.1
Indian Creek HS	Shabbona	Dekalb	9 - 12	24.1	13.8
Auburn HS	Rockford	Winnebago	9 - 12	24.1	19.7
Princeton HS	Princeton	Bureau	9 - 12	24	18.8
Tinley Park HS	Tinley Park	Cook	9 - 12	24	21.7
Addison Trail HS	Addison	DuPage	9 - 12	24	16.1
Frankfort Community HS	West Frankfort	Franklin	9 - 12	24	12
Eastland Jr/Sr HS	Lanark	Carroll	7 - 12	23.9	30.4
Hinckley-Big Rock HS	Hinckley	Dekalb	9 - 12	23.9	23.9
Bloomington HS	Bloomington	McLean	9 - 12	23.9	12.1
Grayville Jr Sr HS	Grayville	White	6 - 12	23.8	23.8
Pekin Community HS	Pekin	Tazewell	9 - 12	23.8	16.8
Rochelle Twp HS	Rochelle	Ogle	9 - 12	23.7	20.5
North Boone HS	Poplar Grove	Boone	9 - 12	23.7	21.1



## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Centennial HS	Champaign	Champaign	9 - 12	23.7	20.5
Mount Carmel HS	Mount Carmel	Wabash	9 - 12	23.6	24.7
Pontiac HS	Pontiac	Livingston	9 - 12	23.6	23
Belvidere North High Sch	Belvidere	Boone	9 - 12	23.6	12.3
A B Shepard High Sch (Campus)	Palos Heights	Cook	9 - 12	23.6	19.9
Brown County HS	Mount Sterling	Brown	9 - 12	23.5	17.6
Quincy Sr HS	Quincy	Adams	9 - 12	23.5	17.1
Galesburg Senior HS	Galesburg	Knox	9 - 12	23.5	15.1
Galva Jr-Sr HS	Galva	Henry	7 - 12	23.5	14.7
Cerro Gordo Jr and Sr HS	Cerro Gordo	Piatt	6 - 12	23.5	14.7
Staunton HS	Staunton	Macoupin	9 - 12	23.4	18.1
Du Quoin HS	Du Quoin	Perry	PK - 12	23.4	14
Paris Cooperative HS	Paris	Edgar	9 - 12	23.4	19.5
Calhoun HS	Hardin	Calhoun	9 - 12	23.3	18.6
Warren Jr/Sr HS	Warren	Jo Daviess	6 - 12	23.1	15.4
Monmouth-Roseville High Sch	Monmouth	Warren	9 - 12	23.1	17.9
Oak Lawn Comm HS	Oak Lawn	Cook	9 - 12	23	19.9
Joliet West HS	Joliet	Will	9 - 12	23	17.1
Mendota Twp HS	Mendota	La Salle	9 - 12	23	14.2
Canton HS	Canton	Fulton	9 - 12	22.9	20.7
Air Force Acad HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	22.7	13.6
Urbana HS	Urbana	Champaign	9 - 12	22.6	16.3
Clinton HS	Clinton	Dewitt	9 - 12	22.5	7.5
Fairfield Comm HS	Fairfield	Wayne	9 - 12	22.5	10
Momence HS	Momence	Kankakee	9 - 12	22.4	10.6
Cissna Park Sr HS	Cissna Park	Iroquois	9 - 12	22.2	11.1
Sangamon Valley HS	Niantic	Macon	9 - 12	22.2	28.9
Sparta HS	Sparta	Randolph	9 - 12	22.2	11.1
H L Richards High Sch(Campus)	Oak Lawn	Cook	9 - 12	22.2	21.2
Mount Pulaski HS	Mount Pulaski	Logan	9 - 12	22.2	11.1
Morrisonville HS	Morrisonville	Christian	9 - 12	22.2	0
Vienna HS	Vienna	Johnson	9 - 12	22.1	20.8
Goreville HS	Goreville	Johnson	9 - 12	22	12.5
Woodland HS	Streator	Livingston	9 - 12	22	26.8
Cobden HS	Cobden	Union	9 - 12	21.9	25
Sterling HS	Sterling	Whiteside	9 - 12	21.7	16.1
Prophetstown HS	Prophetstown	Whiteside	9 - 12	21.7	13
Pana Sr HS	Pana	Christian	9 - 12	21.6	6.8
Wilmington HS	Wilmington	Will	9 - 12	21.6	15.5
Hoopeston Area HS	Hoopeston	Vermilion	9 - 12	21.6	9.5
Delavan HS	Delavan	Tazewell	9 - 12	21.4	16.7
West Prairie Senior HS	Colchester	McDonough	9 - 12	21.4	7.1

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School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Flora HS	Flora	Clay	9 - 12	21.3	8
Moline Sr HS	Moline	Rock Island	9 - 12	21.3	13.6
Mount Vernon HS	Mount Vernon	Jefferson	9 - 12	21.3	10.3
Auburn HS	Auburn	Sangamon	9 - 12	21.1	7.8
Elverado HS	Elkville	Jackson	9 - 12	21.1	21.1
Crab Orchard HS	Marion	Williamson	9 - 12	21.1	2.6
Reavis HS	Burbank	Cook	9 - 12	20.9	16.3
Central A & M HS	Moweaqua	Shelby	9 - 12	20.8	4.2
Mulberry Grove Sr HS	Mulberry Grove	Bond	9 - 12	20.8	8.3
Streator Twp HS	Streator	La Salle	9 - 12	20.6	8.4
CICS - Northtown Campus	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	20.6	15.4
East Peoria HS	East Peoria	Tazewell	9 - 12	20.6	14.6
Harlem HS	Machesney Park	Winnebago	9 - 12	20.5	13.3
Lawrenceville HS	Lawrenceville	Lawrence	9 - 12	20.3	11.6
Riverton HS	Riverton	Sangamon	9 - 12	20.3	10.8
DeKalb HS	Dekalb	Dekalb	9 - 12	20.3	14.7
Mattoon HS	Mattoon	Coles	9 - 12	20.2	13.7
Astoria HS	Astoria	Fulton	9 - 12	20	0
Okaw Valley HS	Bethany	Moultrie	9 - 12	20	12
Dixon HS	Dixon	Lee	9 - 12	20	18.9
Hiawatha Jr/Sr HS	Kirkland	Dekalb	6 - 12	20	8
Norris City-Omaha-Enfield H S	Norris City	White	9 - 12	20	7.5
Brownstown HS	Brownstown	Fayette	9 - 12	20	12
R O W V A Jr and Sr HS	Oneida	Knox	7 - 12	20	8.2
Chrisman HS	Chrisman	Edgar	9 - 12	20	8
Amboy HS	Amboy	Lee	9 - 12	20	15
Leland HS	Leland	La Salle	9 - 12	20	5
Genoa-Kingston HS	Genoa	Dekalb	9 - 12	19.8	13.5
Rock Falls Township HS	Rock Falls	Whiteside	9 - 12	19.7	15.9
Newton Comm HS	Newton	Jasper	9 - 12	19.6	28.3
West Aurora HS	Aurora	Kane	9 - 12	19.6	16.2
Fenton HS	Bensenville	DuPage	9 - 12	19.6	18.4
Heritage HS	Broadlands	Champaign	9 - 12	19.5	4.9
Stewardson-Strasburg HS	Strasburg	Shelby	9 - 12	19.4	38.7
Belleville HS-West	Belleville	Saint Clair	9 - 12	19.4	13.8
Guilford HS	Rockford	Winnebago	9 - 12	19.4	7.9
West Chicago Community HS	West Chicago	DuPage	9 - 12	19.3	18.2
Collinsville HS	Collinsville	Madison	9 - 12	19.3	14.4
Flanagan-Cornell HS	Flanagan	Livingston	9 - 12	19.2	11.5
Dundee-Crown HS	Carpentersville	Kane	9 - 12	19.2	14.7

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School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
South Central HS	Farina	Marion	9 - 12	19.2	21.2
Sandoval Sr HS	Sandoval	Marion	9 - 12	19.2	4
Sesser-Valier HS	Sesser	Franklin	9 - 12	19.1	6.4
Olympia HS	Stanford	McLean	9 - 12	19	21.5
Hutsonville HS	Hutsonville	Crawford	9 - 12	19	4.8
Chester HS	Chester	Randolph	9 - 12	19	11.1
La Moille Jr/Sr HS	La Moille	Bureau	7 - 12	19	9.5
Ridgeview HS	Colfax	McLean	9 - 12	18.8	18.8
United Jr./Sr. HS	Monmouth	Warren	7 - 12	18.8	11.3
Greenview Jr/Sr HS	Greenview	Menard	6 - 12	18.8	6.3
East Alton-Wood River High Sch	Wood River	Madison	9 - 12	18.8	14.3
Streamwood HS	Streamwood	Kane	9 - 12	18.7	12.9
A-C Central HS	Ashland	Cass	9 - 12	18.5	11.1
West Leyden HS	Northlake	Cook	9 - 12	18.5	14.2
West Carroll HS	Savanna	Carroll	9 - 12	18.5	7.4
Edwards County HS	Albion	Edwards	9 - 12	18.4	16.3
Solorio Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	18.4	19.1
Serena HS	Serena	La Salle	9 - 12	18.2	9.1
Georgetown-Ridge Farm HS	Georgetown	Vermilion	9 - 12	18.2	12.7
Argenta-Oreana HS	Argenta	Macon	9 - 12	18.2	10.6
United Twp HS	East Moline	Rock Island	9 - 12	18.2	16
Patoka Sr HS	Patoka	Marion	9 - 12	18.2	9.1
Bismarck Henning Rossville Alvin Cooperative HS	Bismarck	Vermilion	9 - 12	18.1	11.1
Pinckneyville Comm HS	Pinckneyville	Perry	PK - 12	18.1	14.6
Murphysboro HS	Murphysboro	Jackson	9 - 12	18	10.8
Cuba Sr HS	Cuba	Fulton	9 - 12	17.9	12.8
Oblong HS	Oblong	Crawford	9 - 12	17.9	23.1
Steeleville HS	Steeleville	Randolph	9 - 12	17.6	14.7
Midwest Central HS	Manito	Mason	9 - 12	17.6	13.7
Springfield Southeast High Sch	Springfield	Sangamon	9 - 12	17.6	10.3
Rickover Naval Academy High Schl	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	17.4	7.6
Cambridge Jr/Sr HS	Cambridge	Henry	6 - 12	17.2	27.6
Argo Community HS	Summit	Cook	9 - 12	17.2	16.6
Seymour HS	Payson	Adams	7 - 12	17.1	17.1
Fieldcrest HS	Minonk	Woodford	9 - 12	16.9	15.7
Back of The Yards IB HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.9	16.9
Thornton Fractnl So HS	Lansing	Cook	9 - 12	16.9	9.7
Ogden Int HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.8	12.1
Zeigler-Royalton HS	Zeigler	Franklin	9 - 12	16.7	16.7

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School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Williamsfield HS	Williamsfield	Knox	9 - 12	16.7	0
Harrisburg HS	Harrisburg	Saline	9 - 12	16.7	6.5
Coulterville HS	Coulterville	Randolph	9 - 12	16.7	5.6
Gallatin HS	Junction	Gallatin	9 - 12	16.4	6.6
Illini Central HS	Mason City	Mason	9 - 12	16.3	7
Noble St Chtr-The Noble Academy	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.3	3.8
Noble St Chtr-Golder College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.3	10.8
Alcott College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.3	13.5
Noble St Chtr-Noble Campus	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.1	25.8
Dupo HS	Dupo	Saint Clair	9 - 12	16.1	8.9
Lake View HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	16.1	7.4
J Sterling Morton West High Sch	Berwyn	Cook	9 - 12	16	7.7
Zion-Benton Twnshp Hi Sch	Zion	Lake	9 - 12	16	7.6
Waltonville HS	Waltonville	Jefferson	9 - 12	15.8	0
Hall HS	Spring Valley	Bureau	9 - 12	15.8	15.8
Intrinsic Charter HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	15.8	13.3
Iroquois West HS	Gilman	Iroquois	9 - 12	15.8	10.5
Kewanee HS	Kewanee	Henry	9 - 12	15.6	7.4
Farmington Central High Sch	Farmington	Peoria	9 - 12	15.4	14.3
Western HS	Barry	Pike	9 - 12	15.4	3.8
Noble St Chtr-ITW Speer Acad	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	15.3	18.2
Johnston City HS	Johnston City	Williamson	9 - 12	15.3	18.8
Belvidere HS	Belvidere	Boone	9 - 12	15.1	6.7
Bremen HS	Midlothian	Cook	9 - 12	15	11.7
Chicago Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.9	10.6
Christopher High	Christopher	Franklin	9 - 12	14.8	7.5
Henry-Senachwine HS	Henry	Marshall	9 - 12	14.7	2.9
Lincolnwood HS	Raymond	Montgomery	9 - 12	14.7	2.9
Hardin County HS	Elizabethtown	Hardin	9 - 12	14.6	4.9
Noble St Chtr-UIC College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.6	10.2
Anna-Jonesboro HS	Anna	Union	9 - 12	14.6	8.7
Noble St Chtr - Mansueto	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.4	15.6
Prosser Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.4	9.9
Mather HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.4	14.6
King College Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	14.2	4.1
Pope Co HS	Golconda	Pope	9 - 12	14	4.7
Abingdon-Avon High Sch	Abingdon	Knox	9 - 12	13.8	3.1

# EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Crete-Monee HS	Crete	Will	9 - 12	13.7	5.6
DD Eisenhower High Sch (Campus)	Blue Island	Cook	9 - 12	13.7	9.1
V I T Sr HS	Table Grove	Fulton	9 - 12	13.6	27.3
North Clay Community HS	Louisville	Clay	9 - 12	13.3	11.1
Zion-Benton East HS	Zion	Lake	9 - 12	13.3	3.3
Gillespie HS	Gillespie	Macoupin	9 - 12	13.2	11.8
Noble St Chtr-Muchin College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	13.2	13.2
Peoria Heights HS	Peoria Heights	Peoria	9 - 12	13.2	3.8
Winchester HS	Winchester	Scott	9 - 12	13	11.1
Elgin HS	Elgin	Kane	9 - 12	13	8.4
Freeport HS	Freeport	Stephenson	9 - 12	12.7	4
Rock Island HS	Rock Island	Rock Island	9 - 12	12.6	5.6
Danville HS	Danville	Vermilion	9 - 12	12.6	5.4
MacArthur HS	Decatur	Macon	9 - 12	12.6	5
Shawnee HS	Wolf Lake	Union	9 - 12	12.5	0
Intrinsic 2 Charter HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	12.4	5.4
Kennedy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	12.3	6.1
Larkin HS	Elgin	Kane	PK - 12	12.3	6.6
Carrollton HS	Carrollton	Greene	9 - 12	12	14
J Sterling Morton East High Sch	Cicero	Cook	10 - 12	12	6.9
Egyptian Sr HS	Tamms	Alexander	9 - 12	12	4
Earlville Jr/Sr HS	Earlville	La Salle	9 - 12	11.8	11.8
Greenfield HS	Greenfield	Greene	9 - 12	11.5	11.5
Infinity Math Science & Tech HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	11.4	12.3
Joliet Central HS	Joliet	Will	9 - 12	11.4	7.3
Arcola HS	Arcola	Douglas	7 - 12	11.3	1.9
Thompsonville HS	Thompsonville	Franklin	9 - 12	11.1	3.7
YCCS-Olive Harvey Mid College HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	11.1	2.2
Round Lake Senior HS	Round Lake	Lake	9 - 12	11	7.6
Harvard HS	Harvard	McHenry	9 - 12	10.9	1.6
St Anne Comm HS	Saint Anne	Kankakee	9 - 12	10.9	6.5
Thornwood HS	South Holland	Cook	9 - 12	10.9	4.2
Acero Chtr Sch Network-Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz K-12	Chicago	Cook	K - 12	10.8	10.8
Eldorado HS	Eldorado	Saline	9 - 12	10.8	1.5
Phoenix Military Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	10.7	8.7
Waverly Junior/Senior HS	Waverly	Morgan	7 - 12	10.7	10.7
Granite City HS	Granite City	Madison	9 - 12	10.7	7.1

# EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Casey-Westfield Jr/Sr HS	Casey	Clark	7 - 12	10.7	14.3
Rockford East HS	Rockford	Winnebago	9 - 12	10.6	3
Waukegan HS	Waukegan	Lake	9 - 12	10.6	6.5
Newark Comm HS	Newark	Kendall	9 - 12	10.5	5.3
Bronzeville Scholastic HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	10.5	0
Armstrong HS	Armstrong	Vermilion	9 - 12	10.3	6.9
East HS	Aurora	Kane	9 - 12	10.3	6.6
Bloom HS	Chicago Heights	Cook	9 - 12	10.1	6.5
Proviso East HS	Maywood	Cook	9 - 12	10.1	3.6
Joppa Jr & Sr HS	Joppa	Massac	7 - 12	10	10
Thornton Fractnl No HS	Calumet City	Cook	9 - 12	10	5.7
West Central HS	Biggsville	Henderson	9 - 12	10	4
Rich Township HS	Olympia Fields	Cook	9 - 12	9.9	3.7
Noble St Chtr-Baker Campus	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	9.8	1.6
Durand HS	Durand	Winnebago	9 - 12	9.8	7.3
Beardstown Jr/Sr HS	Beardstown	Cass	5 - 12	9.8	2.7
Lanphier HS	Springfield	Sangamon	9 - 12	9.7	4.9
Rantoul Twp HS	Rantoul	Champaign	9 - 12	9.7	4.6
North Greene Jr/Sr High Sch	White Hall	Greene	7 - 12	9.4	4.7
Schurz HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	9.4	6.2
Curie Metropolitan HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	9.2	8.7
Thornton Township HS	Harvey	Cook	9 - 12	9.2	7.1
World Language HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	9.1	1.5
Noble St Chtr-Chicago Bulls Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	9.1	7.5
Kansas HS	Kansas	Edgar	7 - 12	9.1	0
St Elmo Sr HS	Saint Elmo	Fayette	9 - 12	8.8	2.9
Thomas Kelly College Preparatory	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8.6	5
Juarez Community Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8.5	3.9
Carrier Mills-Stonefort HS	Carrier Mills	Saline	9 - 12	8.3	8.3
Noble St Chtr-Hansberry College Prep - Silver	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8.3	2.8
Carver Military Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8.2	7.2
Hamilton County Jr/Sr HS	Mc Leansboro	Hamilton	7 - 12	8.1	4.8
Noble St Chtr Rauner College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8	7.5
Washington G HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	8	5.7
Thornridge HS	Dolton	Cook	9 - 12	8	1.4



## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
YCCS-Truman Middle College HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.9	0
South Shore Intl Col Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.8	5
EPIC Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.8	1.6
Windsor Jr & Sr HS	Windsor	Shelby	7 - 12	7.7	7.7
Rushville-Industry HS	Rushville	Schuyler	9 - 12	7.7	6.4
Spoon River Valley Sr High Sch	London Mills	Fulton	9 - 12	7.7	7.7
Urban Prep Chtr Acad Bronzeville HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.7	0
Hubbard HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.6	5.6
Goode STEM Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.6	6.3
Wells Community Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	7.6	1.3
Eisenhower HS	Decatur	Macon	9 - 12	7.3	1.6
Kankakee HS	Kankakee	Kankakee	9 - 12	7.3	2.1
Bloom Trail HS	Chicago Heights	Cook	9 - 12	7.2	3.4
Marissa Jr & Sr HS	Marissa	Saint Clair	7 - 12	7	18.6
Uplift Community HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.9	3.4
North Chicago Community High Sch	North Chicago	Lake	9 - 12	6.8	3.2
Chicago Excel Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.8	0
Acero Chtr Sch Network - Major Hector P Garcia MD H S	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.7	0.6
SIU Charter Sch of East St Louis	East Saint Louis	Saint Clair	9 - 12	6.7	0
Corliss HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.7	0
Proviso West HS	Hillside	Cook	9 - 12	6.5	2.5
IHSCA Charter HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.5	2.2
DePue HS	DePue	Bureau	9 - 12	6.3	6.3
Noble St Chtr-Rowe-Clark MS Acad	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.3	0
Clay City HS	Clay City	Clay	9 - 12	6.3	0
Tilden Career Community Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.2	1.5
YCCS-West Town Academy Alt HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6.1	0
Quest Charter School Academy	Peoria	Peoria	5 - 12	6.1	0
Sullivan HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	6	3.6

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Hillcrest HS	Country Club Hills	Cook	9 - 12	5.7	4.3
Manley Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	5.7	2.9
Edinburg HS	Edinburg	Christian	9 - 12	5.6	0
Madison Senior HS	Madison	Madison	9 - 12	5.6	0
Jefferson HS	Rockford	Winnebago	9 - 12	5.6	2.3
Noble St Chtr-Comer College Prep	Chicago	Cook	6 - 12	5.5	3.1
Noble St Chtr-Butler College Prep - Crimson	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	5.3	4.6
Richards Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	5.2	2.1
Multicultural Arts HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	5.1	0
Clemente Community Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	5	0.6
Roosevelt HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.9	3.4
North-Grand HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.8	2.2
YBMC Charter Sch	Normal	McLean	11 - 12	4.8	4.8
IJLA Charter HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.8	0
East St Louis Senior HS	East Saint Louis	Saint Clair	9 - 12	4.7	1.8
Peoria HS	Peoria	Peoria	9 - 12	4.6	1.1
Odin Attendance Center 9-12	Odin	Marion	9 - 12	4.3	0
Griggsville-Perry HS	Griggsville	Pike	9 - 12	4.3	4.3
Farragut Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.3	2.6
Webber HS	Bluford	Jefferson	9 - 12	4.2	4.2
Simeon Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.2	6.7
Urban Prep Chtr Acad Englewood HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.2	0
ASPIRA Charter - Early College Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.2	0
Bogan HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.1	2.9
Clark Acad Prep Magnet High Schl	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.1	0
Foreman HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	4.1	2
Morgan Park HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	3.9	0.9
Century Jr/Sr HS	Ullin	Pulaski	6 - 12	3.8	0
Cairo Jr/Sr HS	Cairo	Alexander	7 - 12	3.8	0
CICS - Ralph Ellison Campus	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.7	0
Manual HS	Peoria	Peoria	9 - 12	3.7	1.8
Crane Medical Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.6	0

# EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Noble St Chtr-DRW Trading College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.5	5.8
Chicago Vocational Career Acad HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.5	0.7
Phillips Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.4	0.8
YCCS Chtr - Chatham	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.4	0
Noble St Chtr-Johnson College Prep	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.3	1.1
Steinmetz College Prep HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	3.1	3.1
Meridian HS	Mounds	Pulaski	6 - 12	2.9	2.9
Acero Chtr Sch Network Victoria Soto Campus	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.9	2.2
Perspectives Chtr - Leadership Acad	Chicago	Cook	6 - 12	2.7	0
Fenger Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.6	0
Hirsch Metropolitan HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.6	2.6
Perspectives Chtr - IIT Campus	Chicago	Cook	6 - 12	2.3	2.3
North Lawndale Prep Chtr-Collins	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.3	2.3
Englewood STEM HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.3	1.1
Dunbar Vocational Career Acad HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.2	0
Walter Henri Dyett HS for the Arts	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.2	0
YCCS-CCA Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.2	0
Perspectives Chtr - HS of Technology	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	2.1	0
Cahokia HS	Cahokia	Saint Clair	9 - 12	1.8	0
Perspectives Chtr - Joslin Campus	Chicago	Cook	6 - 12	1.8	1.8
Collins Academy STEAM HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.7	0
YCCS-Progressive Leadership Academy	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.5	0
YCCS-Albizu Campos Puerto Rican HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.5	0
YCCS-ASPIRA Pantoja Alt HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.4	1.4
Aspira Charter - Business and Finance HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.3	0
Orr Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1.3	0
Kelvyn Park HS	Chicago	Cook	7 - 12	1.2	1.2
Julian HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1	0

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
YCCS-Innovations of Arts Integr HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1	0
Gage Park HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	1	0
Hyde Park Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0.7	0
South Fork Jr Sr HS	Kincaid	Christian	6 - 12	0	0
Chicago Military Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	1.9
Douglass Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
YCCS-Association House	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
School of Social Justice HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Legal Prep Academy Charter HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
YCCS-Scholastic Achievement HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Bowen HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
YCCS-Sullivan House Alt HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	1.8
YCCS-Latino Youth Alternative HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
YCCS West	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Marshall Metropolitan HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
North Lawndale Prep Chtr - Christiana	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	1.4
YCCS- McKinley-Lakeside Leadership Academy	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Harlan Community Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Chicago Technology Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Raby HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Austin College and Career Academy HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	3.8
YCCS-Youth Connection Leadership Academy	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
YCCS-Community Youth Dev Inst HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
Spry Community Links HS	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	0	0
J Sterling Morton Freshman Cntr	Cicero	Cook	9 - 9		
Eugene Field School	Normal	McLean	12 - 12		
Meredosia-Chambersburg High Sch	Meredosia	Morgan	9 - 12	*	*
Scales Mound HS	Scales Mound	Jo Daviess	9 - 12	*	*

## EDUCATION

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate -Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate -Total
Williams Medical Prep High Sch	Chicago	Cook	9 - 12	*	*
Ohio Community HS	Ohio	Bureau	9 - 12	*	*
Dongola HS	Dongola	Union	9 - 12	*	*
Brussels HS	Brussels	Calhoun	7 - 12	*	*
Lovejoy Technology Academy	Lovejoy	Saint Clair	9 - 12	*	*
New Trier Township H S Northfield	Northfield	Cook	9 - 9	*	*
Any data field containing an "*" indicates the data has been redacted due to privacy concerns.					

**Reading Proficiency: A closer examination**

To better understand the trends in ELA (English Language Arts) and math proficiency, we would need to more fully examine curriculum, access to tutorial or remedial services, exposure to adverse childhood conditions (beyond poverty), and a host of other factors. However, the data provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provides some insight.

From lowest to highest scoring high schools with regards to ELA proficiency, all but six of the first 60 schools are in Chicago. Four of the six schools are majority-Black. More than race or ethnicity, what stands out the most are the high percentages of low-income students and the high rates of chronic absenteeism.

Despite the low proficiency scores, the graduation rates are at 65% or more.

School Name	City	County	Grades Served	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate - Total	SAT Math Proficiency Rate - Total
<b>Cahokia High School</b>	Cahokia	Saint Clair	9 - 12	1.8	0.0
<b>Cairo Jr/Sr High School</b>	Cairo	Alexander	7 - 12	3.8	0.0
<b>Century Jr/Sr High School</b>	Ullin	Pulaski	6 - 12	3.8	0.0
<b>Manual High School</b>	Peoria	Peoria	9 - 12	3.7	1.8
<b>Meridian High School</b>	Mounds	Pulaski	6 - 12	2.9	2.9
<b>South Fork Jr Sr High School</b>	Kincaid	Christian	6 - 12	0.0	0.0

School Name	% Student Enrollment - White	% Student Enrollment - Black or African American	% Student Enrollment - Hispanic or Latino	% Student Enrollment - Two or More Races	% Student Enrollment - Children with Disabilities	% Student Enrollment - Low Income	Student Mobility Rate
<b>Cahokia High School</b>	2.7	90.5	2.3	4.5	20.7	82	26.3
<b>Cairo Jr/Sr High School</b>	11.9	76.3	*	9.3	26.3	97.5	11.0
<b>Century Jr/Sr High School</b>	86.8	*	*	*	13.9	47.7	11.3
<b>Manual High School</b>	8.9	68.4	18.1	4.1	20.7	86.7	32
<b>Meridian High School</b>	30.2	57.8	*	10.1	24.1	98.5	15.8
<b>South Fork Jr Sr High School</b>	88.0		*	*	24.8	45.1	9.7



## EDUCATION

School Name	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate - White	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate - Black or African American	SAT ELA Proficiency Rate - Hispanic or Latino	SAT Math Proficiency Rate - White	SAT Math Proficiency Rate - Black or African American	SAT Math Proficiency Rate - Hispanic or Latino
Cahokia High School	*	2.1	*	*	0.0	*
Cairo Jr/Sr High School	*	4.0	*	*	0.0	*
Century Jr/Sr High School	5.0	*	*	0.0	*	*
Manual High School	0.0	1.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	7.7
Meridian High School	5.6	0.0	*	0.0	7.7	*
South Fork Jr Sr High School	0.0		*	0.0		*

School Name	Chronic Truancy Rate	Truancy Rate	High School 6-Year Graduation Rate - Total	Avg Class Size - Grade 11	Avg Class Size - Grade 12	Chronic Absenteeism
Cairo Jr/Sr High School	71.7	27.6	80	7.0	9.1	61.4
Cahokia High School	73	22.2	65.4	12.6	12.2	64.4
Century Jr/Sr High School	9.8	14.6	96.8	14.8	5.0	22.6
Manual High School	63.4	22.1	72.1	9.0	8.8	53.4
Meridian High School	35.3	42.0	86.8	5.1	5.4	36.4
South Fork Jr Sr High School	24.1	24.8	86.7	10.9	6.5	39.3



ELA Performance Levels for SAT		Math Performance Levels for SAT	
Level 4-Exceeds Standards	640-800	Level 4-Exceeds Standards	670-800
Level 3-Meets Standards	540-630	Level 3-Meets Standards	540-660
Level 2-Approaching Standards	430-530	Level 2-Approaching Standards	450-530
Level 1-Partially Meets Standards	200-420	Level 1-Partially Meets Standards	200-440

School Name	% SAT Reading Total Students Level 1	% SAT Reading Total Students Level 2	% SAT Reading Total Students Level 3	% SAT Reading Total Students Level 4	% SAT Math Total Students Level 1	% SAT Math Total Students Level 2	% SAT Math Total Students Level 3	% SAT Math Total Students Level 4
<b>Cahokia High School</b>								
<b>Cairo Jr/Sr High School</b>	73.10	23.10	3.80	0.00	88.50	11.50	0.00	0.00
<b>Century Jr/Sr High School</b>	50.00	46.20	0.00	3.80	73.10	26.90	0.00	0.00
<b>Manual High School</b>	80.50	15.90	3.00	0.60	90.90	7.30	1.20	0.60
<b>Meridian High School</b>	57.10	40.00	2.90	0.00	91.40	5.70	2.90	0.00
<b>South Fork Jr Sr High School</b>	43.80	56.30	0.00	0.00	93.80	6.30	0.00	0.00

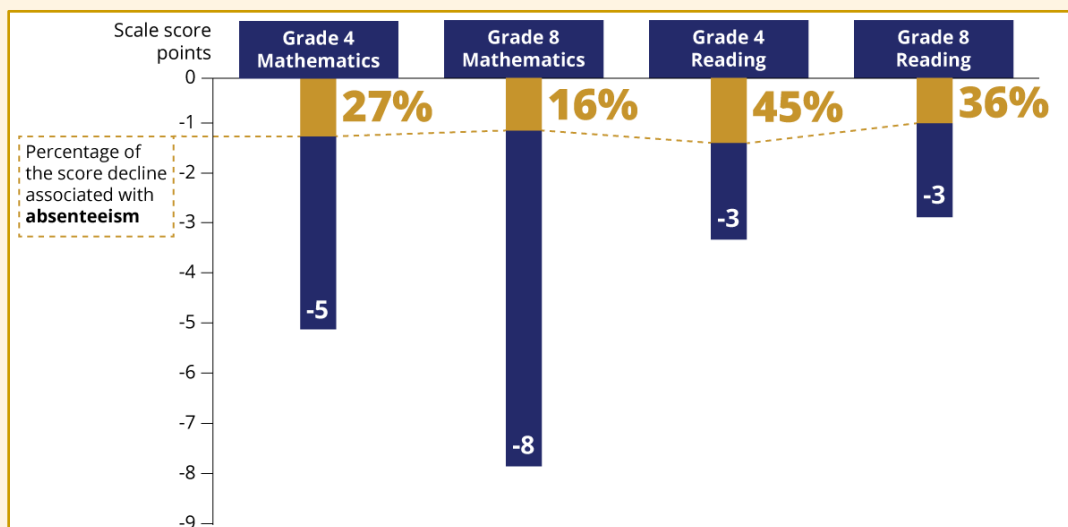
As noted in this report, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports 30% of Illinois eighth graders were below the basic reading level in 2024. This is not just a state issue. According to the National Assessment of Education Progress (an entity over seen and administered by the NCES), 33% of eighth-grade students performed below the basic reading level in 2024, a larger percentage of students compared to both 2022 and 1992, the first reading assessment year.<sup>105</sup>

NAEP notes that eighth graders who are not reading at a basic level could likely not identify basic literary elements in a text such as the order of events, character traits, and main

<sup>105</sup> National Assessment Governing Board, “Ten Takeaways from the Newly Released 2024 NAEP Results”, accessed June 24, 2025.

idea.<sup>106</sup> NCES has documented absenteeism as a contributing cause of lower reading scores in 2022<sup>107</sup>:

**Reported average score declines in 2022 from 2019 and percentage of declines associated with the rising rates of absenteeism, by subject and grade**



**NOTE:** The analysis controlled for student race/ethnicity, gender, status as an English learner, eligibility for the National School Lunch program, number of books in the home, and status as a student with a disability. NAEP subject and grade scales are independent, and numeric results should not be directly compared.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 and 2022 Mathematics and Reading Assessments.

While the student chronic absenteeism rate significantly increased during COVID-19 pandemic, and has remained high since the height of it, the issue still existed before it. As noted by Joshua Childs, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin:

*Folks have been trying to address this issue for years. It's historically mainly impacted students from disadvantaged communities and underserved populations.*<sup>108</sup>

(Compared to the 2024 Illinois student chronic absenteeism rate of 26.3%, the rate was 16.8% in 2017.)

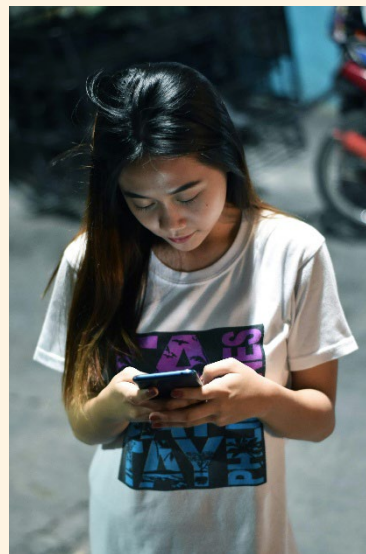
<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> National Assessment of Educational Progress. *Rising Absenteeism Since Onset of Pandemic Associated with NAEP 2022 Score Declines*, August 30, 2023.

<sup>108</sup> Cineas, Fabiola. *Why So Many Kids are Still Missing School*, Vox, January 9, 2024.

Two researchers at the University of Miami also noted that the increased prominence of social media and “mostly reading small paragraphs or small blubs on websites also affects reading.”<sup>109</sup>

In 2023 the Illinois legislature approved SB 2243, now Public Act 103-0402, that required ISBE to develop a comprehensive literacy plan. The Plan, adopted by the ISBE Board in 2024, looks at evidence-based literacy instruction and educator learning and development. It also provides links to additional information and resources. ISBE’s goals are to see that<sup>110</sup>:



- Every student receives high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
- Every educator is prepared and continuously supported to deliver high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
- Every leader is equipped to create, maintain, and sustain equitable conditions for high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.

The plan does not mandate districts to adopt new curricula or services. Rather, as noted in the plan<sup>111</sup>:

*The Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan offers a flexible approach, aligning with state standards while allowing district-specific adaptations. It avoids prescribing specific materials or assessments, while instead promoting data-informed choices by districts. This plan cannot address all district-specific contexts and challenges, and, therefore, ISBE encourages each district to carefully consider district and school-level data as it makes decisions related to literacy instruction.*

*It is imperative within the context of local control that districts design local assessment strategies and allocate resources based on their unique demographics and context supported by data and current evidence-based instructional practices*

ISBE also provided grant funding to public school districts, Regional Offices of Education, and Intermediate Service centers to support the creation and implementation of local literacy plans.<sup>112</sup> ISBE’s FY25 budget included a \$3 million line item for State Literacy and Numeracy Plan Implementation. The FY26 budget contains a \$1.5 million appropriation for

<sup>109</sup> Gutierrez, Barbara. *Test scores in math and reading fall in public schools*, News@TheU, February 24, 2025.

<sup>110</sup> Illinois State Board of Education. *2024 Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan*, January 2024.

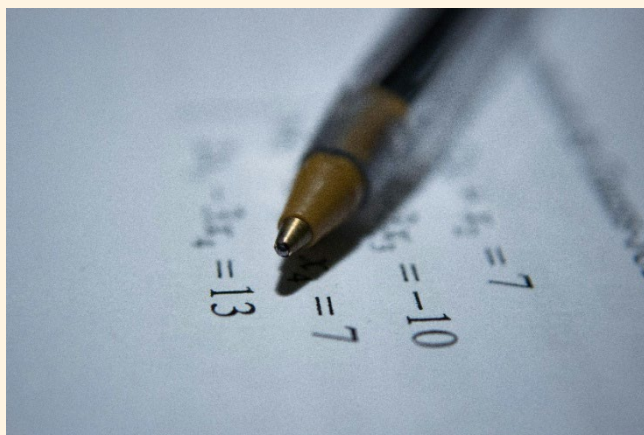
<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.isbe.net/literacyplan>

the implementation of such services. The state budget includes additional funding under the Secretary of State's Office for Literacy Programs (FY25 budget: \$5.8 million, FY26 budget: \$6.8 million).

The detailed funding is in addition to funding for after-school programs<sup>113</sup> as well as federal funds made available under the pandemic-relief Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund to address, among other items, learning losses students experienced during the pandemic.<sup>114</sup>

In April of this year, ISBE announced the launch of a planning effort to improve student learning in math. The state agency anticipates presenting a plan to the ISBE board in June of 2026.



<sup>113</sup> An additional \$50 million for after school programming, appropriated in the FY25 budget, has -as of this writing- yet to be disbursed by ISBE.

<sup>114</sup> In early 2025, Illinois received permission from the federal government to extend the deadline for drawing down remaining federal funds to March 28, 2026. The Trump Administration rescinded the extension and the issue has been the subject of a lawsuit. <https://news.wttw.com/2025/05/07/illinois-regains-access-77m-federal-education-funds-following-judge-s-order>

## Poverty

Child poverty can impact a child’s health well into adulthood. In 2015, Congress directed the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a comprehensive study of child poverty in the United States.<sup>115</sup> The group assembled by the National Academies found overwhelming evidence that a child growing up in poverty experienced worse outcomes than a child from a wealthier family with respect physical and mental health, educational attainment, labor market success, and risky behaviors.

In 2023, 425,068 Illinois children (or 15.4% of the state’s individuals under the age of 18) lived below the federal poverty level (FPL).<sup>116</sup> Of this number, 47% (or 200,853 children) were in deep poverty – or at or below 50% of the FPL.

### Section Highlight

**In 2023, 47% of Illinois renters spent 30% or more of their income on rent.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The 2023 FPLs were as follows: 2023 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$14,580
2	19,720
3	24,860
4	30,000
5	35,140
6	40,280
7	45,420
8	50,560
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person	

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

By age group, the Illinois poverty rates were<sup>117</sup>:

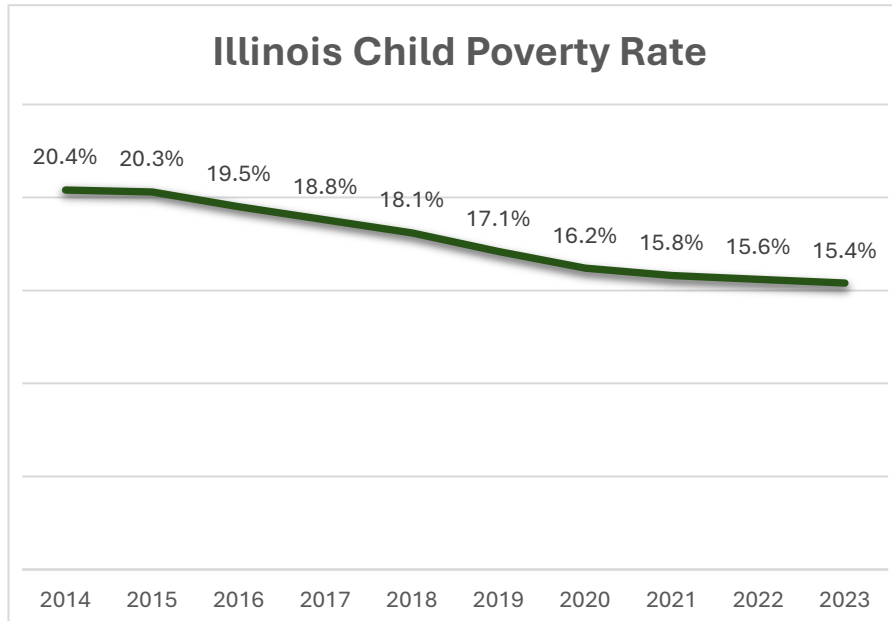
Under age 6:	16.6%
Ages 6 to 11	15.4%
Ages 12 to 17	14.1%

<sup>115</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2019.

<sup>116</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, 2023.

<sup>117</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table B17024, 2023.

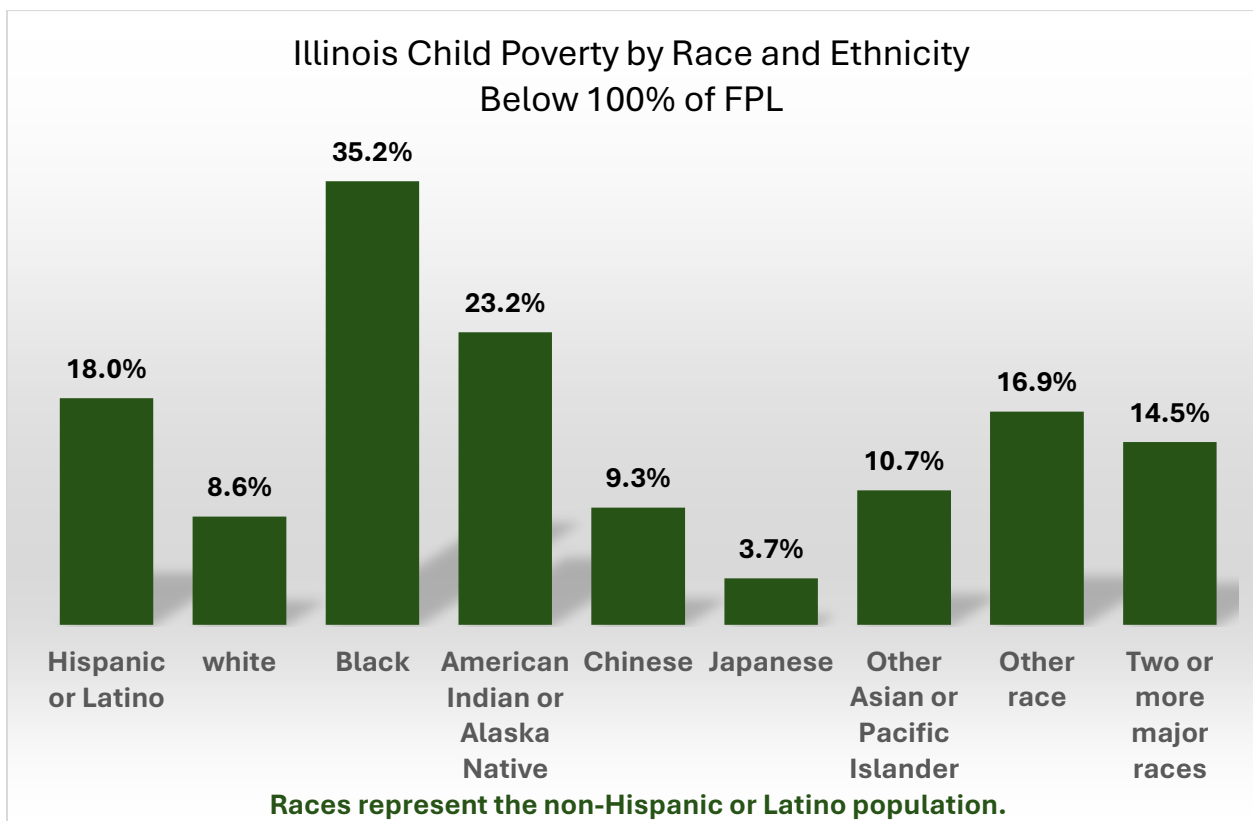




The state's child poverty rate has shown a decline in the last decade.

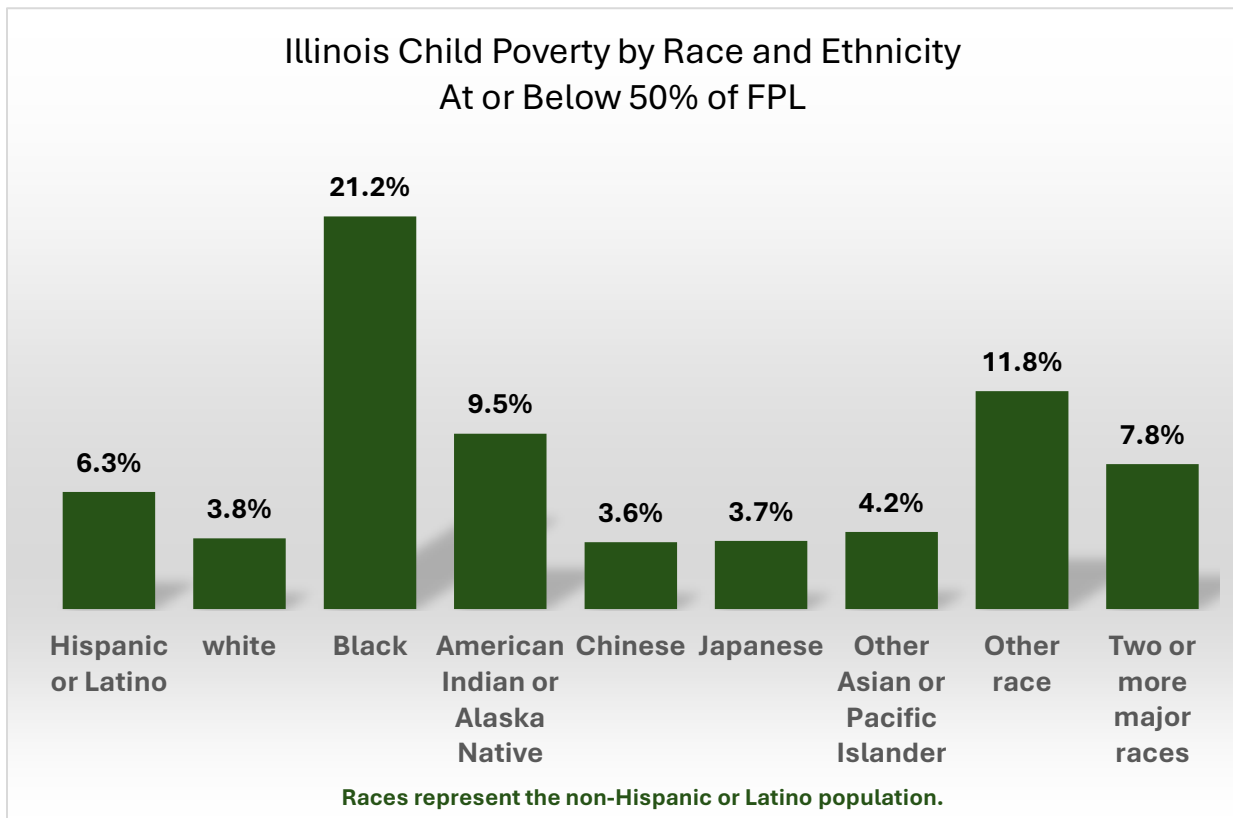
However, distinct disparities exist when the poverty rate is broken out by race and ethnicity with the Black child poverty rate exceeding the white/non-Hispanic or Latino rate by a ratio of 4.09 to 1.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, 2023

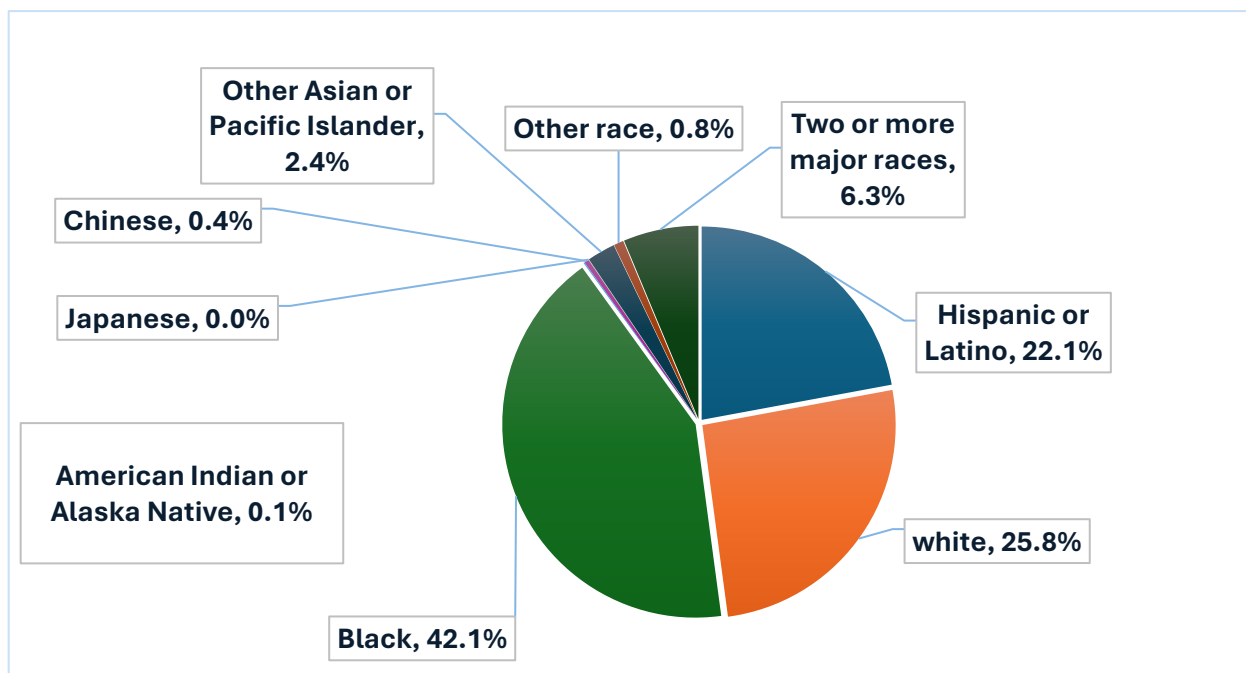


Source: Data analysis of 2003 5-Year American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau using IPUMS.

That disparity is much greater (5.58) when examining children at or below 50% FPL.



Of the total pool of children at or below 50% FPL, Black children make up 42.1% of the total pool, white children 25.6% and Hispanic or Latino children 22.1%.

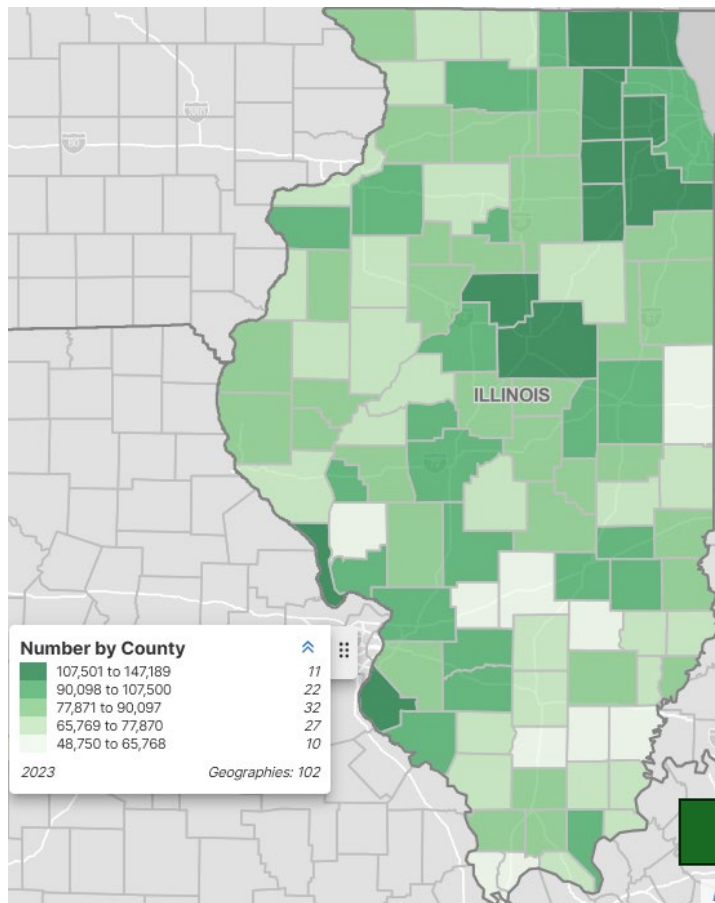


## POVERTY

Child poverty is directly correlated to median household income. The statewide median income for families with children under the age of 18 is \$102,968, but it is a very different picture when broken out by race, ethnicity, and household make-up.

2023 Median Family Income by Race/Ethnicity		2023 Statewide Median Income	
Black	\$63,850	Married-couple families with own children of householder under 18 years	\$135,916
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	\$72,063	Female householder, no spouse present, with own children under 18 years	\$39,148
Hispanic or Latino	\$80,473	Male householder, no spouse present, with own children under 18 years	\$60,331
Two or more races	\$88,685	<b>Family Income by Family Size</b>	
white alone/non-Hispanic or Latino	\$116,694	2-person families	\$89,161
Asian	\$133,979	3-person families	\$106,447
		4-person families	\$128,140

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Tables S1903 and B19113, 2023



County Median Family Income  
Where There are the Own Children  
(under age 18) of the  
Householder.

Highest:  
DuPage County (\$136,376)

Lowest:  
Alexander County (\$60,875)

Statewide number: \$103,581

## POVERTY

As reflected in the prior chart, the median income for a family with a single female householder is 28.8% that of a family with a married couple. When breaking out the household type by race and ethnicity (census tables B11001), the percentage of families with a single female householder is higher among blacks than other major demographic groups.

Illinois		Family households	Married-couple family	Male householder, no spouse present	Female householder, no spouse present
Black		382,851	150,043	40,666	192,142
	% of Family Households		39.2%	10.6%	50.2%
Hispanic or Latino		503,781	325,554	65,773	112,454
	% of Family Households		64.6%	13.1%	22.3%
white alone/non-Hispanic or Latino		1,993,651	1,612,950	119,394	261,307
	% of Family Households		80.9%	6.0%	13.1%
Two or more races		225,045	148,789	25,909	50,347
	% of Family Households		66.1%	11.5%	22.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone		1,206	652	160	394
	% of Family Households		54.1%	13.3%	32.7%
Asian		184,656	154,675	11,353	18,628
	% of Family Households		83.8%	6.1%	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table B11001, 2023



Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents		
Illinois	Estimate	Percent
Total:	2,686,939	
Under 6 years:	826,005	
Living with two parents:	553,435	
Both parents in labor force	365,611	66.1%
Father only in labor force	165,337	29.9%
Mother only in labor force	16,150	2.9%
At least one parent in labor force		98.9%
Neither parent in labor force	6,337	1.1%
Living with one parent:	272,570	
Living with father:	64,433	
In labor force	58,036	90.1%
Not in labor force	6,397	9.9%
Living with mother:	208,137	
In labor force	162,840	78.2%
Not in labor force	45,297	21.8%
6 to 17 years:	1,860,934	
Living with two parents:	1,226,579	
Both parents in labor force	853,822	69.6%
Father only in labor force	309,691	25.2%
Mother only in labor force	45,764	3.7%
At least one parent in labor force		98.6%
Neither parent in labor force	17,302	1.4%
Living with one parent:	634,355	
Living with father:	143,060	
In labor force	130,493	91.2%
Not in labor force	12,567	8.8%
Living with mother:	491,295	
In labor force	415,405	84.6%
Not in labor force	75,890	15.4%

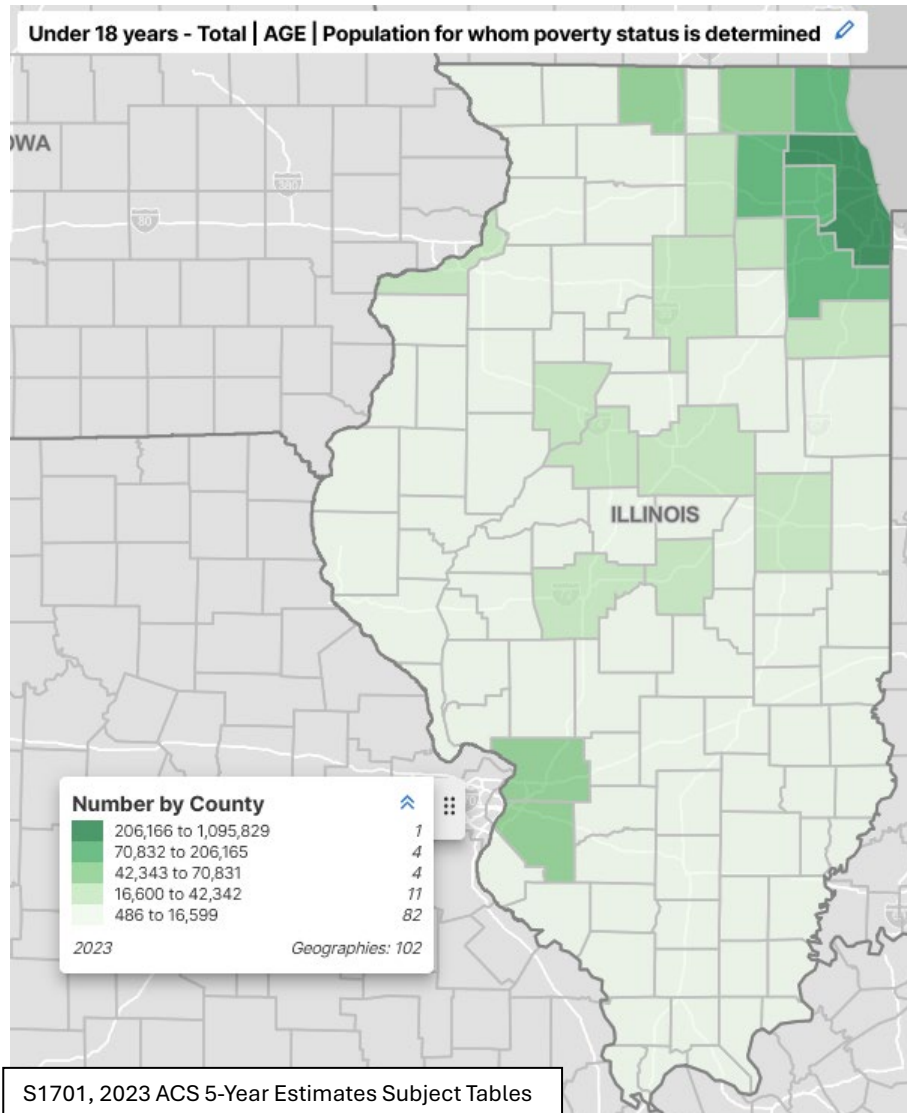
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table B23008, 2023

There are many factors that go into the data above. The Center for Economic Progress published a study in 2024 that showed nationally the majority of single mothers are in their 30s and 40s and do not have a college degree.<sup>118</sup> About half of them have never been married with others divorced or widowed.

<sup>118</sup> Salas-Betsch, Isabela. *The Economic Status of Single Mothers*, The Center for Economic Progress, August 7, 2024.

## POVERTY

Geographically, the majority of children in poverty are in northeastern Illinois with notable numbers in the Metro East area and northern Illinois (Winnebago County).



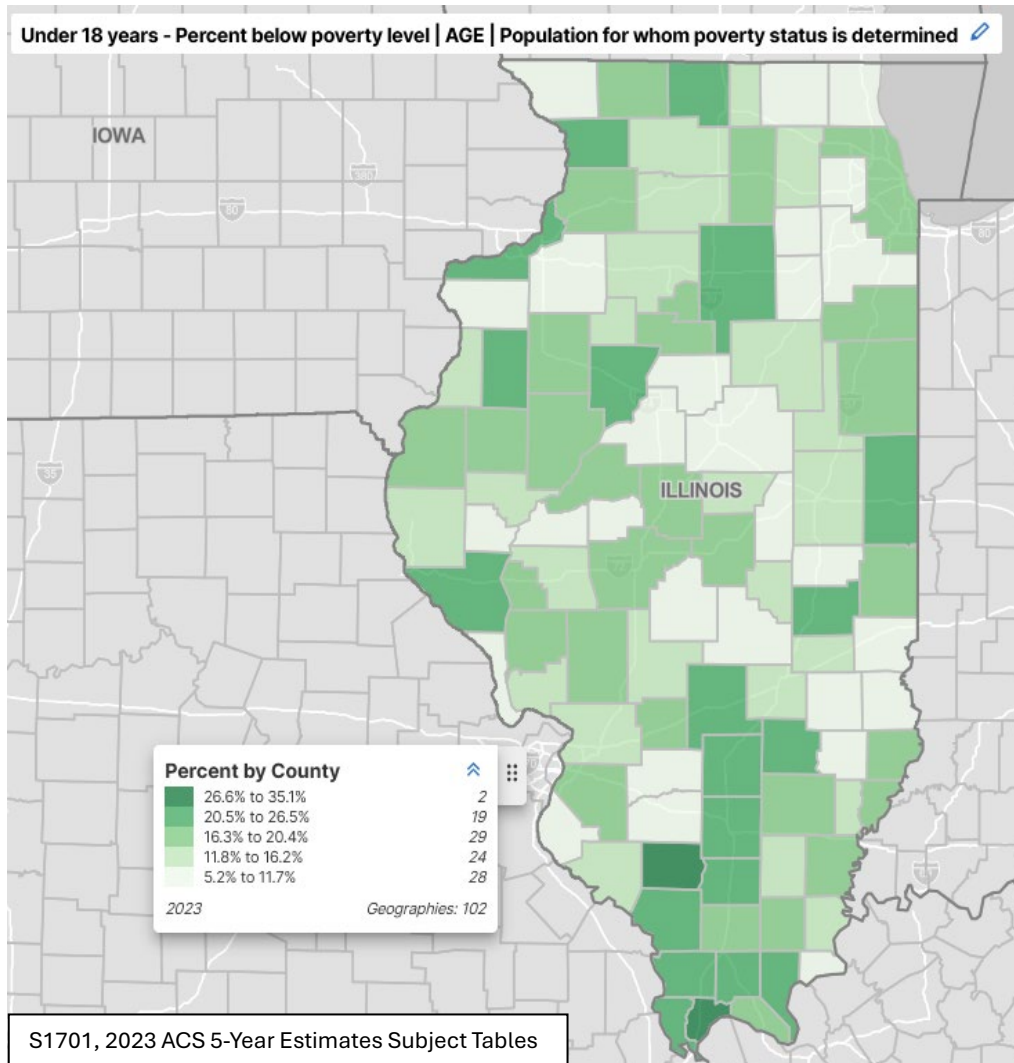
Top 10 counties with the most children in poverty:

Cook	197,099
Lake	18,697
Will	16,043
Winnebago	15,915
DuPage	15,130
Kane	15,060
St. Clair	10,873
Peoria	9,008
Madison	7,857
Sangamon	7,780



## POVERTY

However, with regards to the percentage of children in poverty, the picture is different:



Top 10 counties with the greatest percentage of children in poverty are:

Pulaski	35.10%
Perry	29.70%
Alexander	26.50%
Johnson	25.80%
Fayette	25.50%
Vermilion	24.90%
Union	24.50%
Winnebago	24.20%
Rock Island	24.00%
Jackson	23.20%

### Illinois Children in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B17001E, 2023.*

In examining child poverty by race and ethnicity, we note:

- The Census Bureau asks races and ethnicity questions separately. The statewide demographic percentages may differ slightly from those listed earlier in this report with analysis via IPUMS -which examines non-Hispanic/Latino populations by race.
- The percentage of children in poverty in a category may be high because of a low sample size. For example, Stark County lists the Black child poverty rate at 100%. There are five Black children listed in poverty in the county and a margin of error +/- 8.
- "-" indicates 0/0.
- As referenced earlier, the Census Bureau acknowledges that there was a 2020 undercount of children aged 0-4.<sup>119</sup> The 2023 ACS (estimates based on a sampling) may also reflect the impact of an undercount.

Among counties with the total number of children in poverty above 2,500:

- Cook, St. Clair, and Winnebago counties have the largest number of Black children in poverty. The counties with the highest percentage of Black children in poverty were Tazewell (77.9% of 299 children), DeKalb (58.2% of 1,321 children), Winnebago (54.5% of 6,249 children), and Sangamon (52.5% of 3,895 children).
- Cook, Lake, and Kane counties have the largest number of Hispanic and Latino children in poverty. The counties with the highest percentage of Hispanic and Latino children in poverty were LaSalle (30.5% of 1,193 children), Williamson (29.3% of 159 children), Peoria (28.6% of 1,077 children) and Rock Island (24.0% of 1,762).

County	Total number of Children in Poverty	% of All Children in Poverty	% of Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of white/non-Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of Black Children in Poverty	% of Asian Children in Poverty	% of Children of Two or More Races in Poverty
Illinois	425,068	15.4%	18.6%	8.5%	34.7%	10.3%	15.7%
Adams	2,248	15.4%	53.4%	12.0%	40.3%	0.0%	27.1%

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/undercounts-overcounts-children-2020-census.html>

## POVERTY

County	Total number of Children in Poverty	% of All Children in Poverty	% of Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of white/non-Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of Black Children in Poverty	% of Asian Children in Poverty	% of Children of Two or More Races in Poverty
Alexander	283	26.5%	0.0%	34.4%	17.9%	0.0%	7.0%
Bond	564	19.0%	8.8%	13.5%	100.0%	0.0%	41.3%
Boone	1,965	15.6%	21.8%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	20.6%
Brown	97	8.9%	14.3%	9.6%	-	-	3.0%
Bureau	1,082	15.9%	20.4%	14.7%	0.0%	0.0%	24.2%
Calhoun	49	5.5%	-	6.1%	0.0%	-	0.0%
Carroll	582	21.2%	9.6%	21.7%	0.0%	100.0%	25.8%
Cass	339	10.8%	6.6%	13.7%	14.6%	0.0%	8.6%
Champaign	5,117	13.1%	18.2%	6.1%	24.7%	6.3%	18.9%
Christian	711	10.7%	24.6%	8.0%	41.3%	0.0%	47.5%
Clark	356	10.5%	0.0%	10.9%	12.8%	-	0.0%
Clay	635	21.4%	0.0%	22.8%	-	-	0.0%
Clinton	642	8.2%	9.8%	8.1%	12.5%	0.0%	8.7%
Coles	1,796	21.9%	32.3%	15.7%	87.5%	0.0%	58.4%
Cook	197,099	18.0%	18.8%	6.7%	33.8%	14.9%	14.2%
Crawford	405	11.5%	0.0%	12.1%	0.0%	-	4.3%
Cumberland	300	12.3%	0.0%	8.3%	-	-	44.1%
DeKalb	4,228	19.5%	24.4%	11.0%	58.2%	19.4%	33.5%
De Witt	516	15.7%	28.6%	15.2%	0.0%	-	0.0%
Douglas	481	10.3%	12.9%	9.4%	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%
DuPage	15,130	7.3%	11.9%	4.1%	22.3%	6.4%	6.4%
Edgar	609	18.6%	16.7%	17.7%	-	0.0%	35.8%
Edwards	217	16.1%	33.3%	16.6%	-	-	2.3%
Effingham	1,337	16.2%	13.0%	15.3%	84.9%	0.0%	9.1%
Fayette	1,066	25.5%	30.0%	26.9%	0.0%	-	0.0%
Ford	421	14.1%	6.6%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	20.7%
Franklin	1,813	22.5%	40.7%	21.7%	13.5%	0.0%	37.0%
Fulton	1,177	18.1%	53.7%	15.8%	76.9%	0.0%	76.9%
Gallatin	149	15.8%	0.0%	17.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
Greene	494	19.9%	25.0%	19.9%	7.7%	0.0%	24.6%
Grundy	1,139	8.8%	13.1%	7.4%	9.6%	0.0%	20.0%
Hamilton	272	15.2%	0.0%	16.5%	-	0.0%	0.0%
Hancock	608	16.8%	10.1%	17.1%	0.0%	0.0%	12.9%
Hardin	50	10.3%	0.0%	9.9%	100.0%	-	100.0%
Henderson	184	16.2%	0.0%	17.4%	-	-	12.5%
Henry	957	9.0%	9.9%	9.0%	5.8%	0.0%	8.6%
Iroquois	939	17.0%	5.9%	17.4%	0.0%	0.0%	24.2%
Jackson	2,290	23.2%	30.1%	15.4%	61.8%	4.9%	5.8%
Jasper	197	9.7%	12.5%	9.7%	0.0%	100.0%	11.1%
Jefferson	1,656	20.8%	26.3%	19.0%	62.8%	0.0%	12.1%
Jersey	583	14.1%	0.0%	15.0%	-	-	0.0%
Jo Daviess	402	10.0%	29.2%	7.3%	15.4%	0.0%	35.2%

## POVERTY

County	Total number of Children in Poverty	% of All Children in Poverty	% of Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of white/non-Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of Black Children in Poverty	% of Asian Children in Poverty	% of Children of Two or More Races in Poverty
Johnson	591	25.8%	0.0%	24.5%	0.0%	100.0%	41.9%
Kane	15,060	12.1%	19.9%	4.4%	23.1%	4.9%	15.4%
Kankakee	4,211	17.8%	25.1%	9.5%	41.0%	0.0%	17.1%
Kendall	2,538	6.9%	9.7%	4.3%	16.6%	6.7%	11.1%
Knox	1,774	18.1%	36.4%	10.0%	55.1%	5.2%	25.1%
Lake	18,697	11.2%	19.7%	3.1%	31.6%	4.3%	14.4%
LaSalle	4,876	21.5%	30.5%	18.7%	31.5%	8.4%	27.1%
Lawrence	569	20.4%	0.0%	17.9%	66.0%	-	31.3%
Lee	881	13.1%	6.9%	13.5%	48.1%	0.0%	4.2%
Livingston	997	12.9%	20.7%	11.4%	75.4%	0.0%	19.2%
Logan	964	18.6%	28.8%	15.3%	87.5%	0.0%	41.0%
McDonough	846	17.6%	18.8%	16.0%	39.5%	0.0%	5.7%
McHenry	5,868	8.3%	15.4%	5.4%	7.2%	6.6%	10.8%
McLean	3,502	9.7%	12.0%	5.7%	39.3%	0.6%	10.7%
Macon	4,034	17.7%	17.5%	9.7%	33.6%	21.1%	31.7%
Macoupin	1,637	18.3%	3.9%	19.1%	18.2%	-	4.1%
Madison	7,857	14.0%	20.2%	7.9%	45.2%	1.8%	24.8%
Marion	1,822	21.7%	56.0%	18.9%	33.4%	0.0%	26.3%
Marshall	412	17.2%	14.9%	17.6%	100.0%	-	6.1%
Mason	513	19.4%	4.2%	18.0%	-	-	68.9%
Massac	563	20.0%	56.7%	18.2%	43.9%	0.0%	18.2%
Menard	284	10.7%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.6%
Mercer	331	10.1%	10.6%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	18.8%
Monroe	391	5.2%	43.4%	2.9%	100.0%	-	4.3%
Montgomery	832	15.1%	44.9%	13.0%	37.0%	-	47.7%
Morgan	851	13.8%	0.0%	9.4%	20.1%	0.0%	42.2%
Moultrie	458	12.7%	62.1%	9.8%	100.0%	0.0%	15.4%
Ogle	1,496	13.0%	19.4%	10.6%	42.5%	75.0%	8.3%
Peoria	9,008	21.3%	28.6%	9.3%	39.9%	3.8%	39.6%
Perry	1,174	29.7%	73.8%	28.6%	40.5%	0.0%	24.7%
Piatt	210	5.8%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%	-	15.8%
Pike	731	22.4%	53.8%	21.5%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%
Pope	124	22.5%	100.0%	8.3%	100.0%	-	76.0%
Pulaski	352	35.1%	-	25.7%	56.5%	-	11.5%
Putnam	181	16.6%	0.9%	19.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Randolph	907	15.1%	24.1%	13.6%	35.5%	0.0%	31.6%
Richland	407	11.7%	0.0%	12.1%	0.0%	-	10.3%
Rock Island	7,594	24.0%	26.7%	14.3%	47.4%	46.5%	25.2%
St. Clair	10,873	18.8%	21.2%	8.2%	37.6%	4.5%	18.0%
Saline	819	17.3%	37.5%	17.8%	4.6%	0.0%	5.1%
Sangamon	7,780	18.5%	18.6%	8.6%	52.2%	0.4%	28.7%
Schuyler	140	12.2%	0.0%	11.3%	0.0%	-	56.7%

## POVERTY

County	Total number of Children in Poverty	% of All Children in Poverty	% of Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of white/non-Hispanic or Latino Children in Poverty	% of Black Children in Poverty	% of Asian Children in Poverty	% of Children of Two or More Races in Poverty
Scott	184	17.9%	0.0%	19.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Shelby	495	11.3%	2.4%	11.8%	-	-	1.2%
Stark	174	15.5%	46.0%	14.5%	100.0%	0.0%	28.7%
Stephenson	1,564	16.9%	26.9%	8.4%	48.6%	0.0%	25.9%
Tazewell	3,142	11.0%	2.0%	10.4%	77.9%	1.2%	6.7%
Union	881	24.5%	62.7%	22.5%	0.0%	63.6%	33.9%
Vermilion	4,125	24.9%	17.4%	17.7%	48.9%	0.0%	23.5%
Wabash	445	19.2%	0.0%	20.9%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%
Warren	796	21.9%	47.3%	17.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.6%
Washington	265	9.5%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%
Wayne	695	19.4%	32.6%	18.4%	0.0%	0.0%	33.6%
White	531	18.6%	23.1%	18.7%	46.2%	0.0%	16.2%
Whiteside	2,017	17.2%	29.5%	12.6%	37.2%	11.5%	32.2%
Will	16,043	9.7%	14.8%	4.5%	23.9%	4.1%	13.9%
Williamson	2,768	19.9%	29.3%	18.8%	47.2%	8.3%	24.1%
Winnebago	15,915	24.2%	18.6%	12.4%	54.5%	9.0%	27.0%
Woodford	688	7.7%	53.4%	7.5%	26.7%	17.8%	2.9%

The Census Bureau calculates the official poverty level based on a formula adopted in 1965 and essentially updated for inflation since then. In the 1960s, U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity Economist Mollie Orshansky developed the Official Poverty Measure using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's standards for the amount of food needed for an economy food plan for a nutritionally adequate diet.

Orshansky, using 1950s data that families of three or more people spent about one third of their after-tax income on food, took the economy food plan value and multiplied it by three.<sup>120</sup> The National Center for Children and Poverty and others have noted the OPM is an inadequate measure of the nation's poor.<sup>121</sup> In 2009, the Center argued that food then comprised only one-seventh of a family's expenses. At the same time, since the 1960s, "the cost of housing, child care, health care, and transportation have grown disproportionately".

<sup>120</sup> Fisher, Gordon. *The Development and History of the U.S. Poverty Thresholds – A Brief Overview*, Newsletter of the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, Winter 1997.

<sup>121</sup> Fass, Sarah. *Measuring Poverty in the United States*, National Center for Children in Poverty, May 1, 2009.

The Official Poverty Level for a family of four is \$32,150. The Economic Policy Institute annually produces a Family Budget Calculator<sup>122</sup> that “measures the income a family needs in order to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living”. Using Peoria County as an example, it estimates a family of four needs \$100,891 to meet the standard outline that considers costs for food, housing, child care, and other needs. For Cook County, the number increases to \$104,306.

So, the income needed is essentially more than three times the official poverty level.

There were 425,068 children below the Federal Poverty Level in 2023.

There were an estimated 1.4 million children below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2023. That would work out to approximately half of the state’s children.

The Census Bureau did develop an alternative to measuring poverty in 2009 (and first used it with 2011 data). Called the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), it takes into account unrelated children living in a household, costs other than food, and income from tax credits, utility assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other sources.<sup>123</sup>

The Illinois child SPM in recent years has shown the impact economic supports can have on a family.<sup>124</sup>

ANNUAL COSTS		
	2 adults and 2 children Peoria County, IL	2 adults and 2 children Cook County, IL
HOUSING	\$11,862	\$20,194
FOOD	\$12,194	\$13,303
CHILD CARE	\$14,625	\$15,727
TRANSPORTATION	\$17,492	\$14,970
HEALTH CARE	\$23,145	\$14,590
OTHER NECESSITIES	\$8,094	\$11,270
TAXES	\$13,479	\$14,252
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$100,891</u></b>	<b><u>\$104,306</u></b>

The SPM starts with cash income, then...

## ADDING BENEFITS

The SPM adds benefits from the government that are not cash but help families meet their basic needs.

## SUBTRACTING EXPENSES

The SPM subtracts necessary expenses like taxes, health care, commuting costs for all workers, and child care expenses while parents work.



<sup>122</sup> <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

<sup>123</sup> [https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2021/demo/poverty\\_measure-how.html](https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2021/demo/poverty_measure-how.html)

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/supplemental-poverty-measure/ACS-SPM-State-Tables.html>



<b>Number (in thousands) and Percentage of People in Illinois in SPM Poverty by Age Groups and by State: 2009 to 2019 and 2021 to 2023</b>				
<b>2009-2019, 2021-2023</b>	<b>Under age 18</b>			
	<b>Number</b>		<b>Percent</b>	
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>M.O.E. (+/-)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>M.O.E. (+/-)<sup>1</sup></b>
2023	361	20	13.4	0.8
2022	376	18	13.9	0.7
2021	152	15	5.5	0.5
2019	357	18	12.7	0.7
2018	387	20	13.6	0.7
2017	427	18	14.8	0.6

The dramatic decline in 2021, shows the impact of the enhanced federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase, which lasted for only one year, increased the maximum credit from \$2,000 to \$3,600 per child under age 6 and to \$3,000 per child between the ages of 6 and 17. The federal government also made the credit fully refundable to low-income households. There was no income threshold to begin receiving the credit.

For Tax Year 2022, the credit reverted to \$2,000 along with the prior refundable levels. The \$2,000 CTC level was set as part of a 2017 federal tax package Congress approved. Future levels are currently under debate.

The CTC is just one of several credits available to families. There is also the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low- and moderate-income families. Qualifying taxpayers receive a credit equal to a percentage of their earnings up to a maximum credit. Both the credit rate and the maximum credit vary by family size. At a certain income level, the maximum available credit begins to fall with increased earnings.<sup>125</sup>

Illinois enacted a state EITC in 2000. It also passed a state CTC in 2024 available to taxpayers who qualify for the state EITC and have at least one child under the age of 12. For Tax Year 2024 (with taxes payable in 2025), the credit is worth 20% of the taxpayer's state EITC. For Tax Year 2025, the value increases to 40% of the state EITC.

While data on the uptake rate of the state CTC is not available as of this writing, data from the Illinois Department of Revenue shows nearly half a million tax filers claimed the state EITC and had a child under the age of 18.

<sup>125</sup> <https://taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/what-earned-income-tax-credit>

**EITC Returns with Children under age 6 and 18 by County – Tax Year 2022**

County	Number of Returns Total	Number of EITC Returns	Amount of EITC Credits (\$)	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 6	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 18
Adams	28,461	3,614	\$1,531,215	1,151	2,478
Alexander	1,627	414	\$217,119	125	302
Bond	6,240	787	\$332,709	227	504
Boone	23,715	2,830	\$1,285,403	992	2,059
Brown	2,407	189	\$73,570	52	126
Bureau	14,754	1,818	\$756,860	541	1,207
Calhoun	1,820	176	\$79,431	47	107
Carroll	6,593	686	\$289,277	199	448
Cass	5,403	850	\$372,972	343	634
Champaign	73,673	9,743	\$4,480,887	3,208	6,671
Christian	14,023	1,896	\$831,932	581	1,293
Clark	6,359	812	\$340,273	291	564
Clay	5,561	854	\$387,402	277	609
Clinton	16,331	1,396	\$576,035	408	921
Coles	18,316	2,847	\$1,183,969	864	1,872
Cook	2,137,237	303,126	\$143,233,389	84,194	195,864
Crawford	7,630	999	\$411,052	318	664
Cumberland	4,030	457	\$182,875	144	303
DeKalb	43,021	5,030	\$2,288,662	1,659	3,504
DeWitt	6,818	807	\$351,774	267	579
Douglas	8,040	889	\$361,275	269	621
DuPage	418,259	31,040	\$12,596,090	7,880	18,375
Edgar	6,967	1,013	\$425,510	336	701
Edwards	2,497	337	\$137,809	102	225
Effingham	16,218	1,704	\$664,283	520	1,126
Fayette	7,839	1,202	\$544,940	429	856
Ford	5,304	699	\$311,085	225	494
Franklin	14,380	2,664	\$1,228,761	852	1,915
Fulton	13,344	1,891	\$825,362	646	1310
Gallatin	1,776	263	\$102,324	68	174
Greene	4,719	750	\$340,354	225	528
Grundy	24,551	2,319	\$1,015,571	752	1602
Hamilton	2,975	415	\$177,573	117	288
Hancock	7,270	949	\$387,564	291	635
Hardin	1,028	212	\$108,022	64	156
Henderson	2,428	292	\$113,272	82	203

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County	Number of Returns Total	Number of EITC Returns	Amount of EITC Credits (\$)	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 6	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 18
Henry	21,396	2,341	\$1,029,253	770	1,671
Iroquois	11,417	1,591	\$690,207	490	1,097
Jackson	18,553	3,328	\$1,540,306	1,074	2199
Jasper	4,323	459	\$183,668	127	302
Jefferson	14,705	2,504	\$1,137,561	795	1,770
Jersey	9,372	1,017	\$430,403	292	666
Jo Daviess	10,264	905	\$341,830	214	549
Johnson	4,541	617	\$277,594	186	420
Kane	230,643	23,957	\$10,725,784	7,657	16,697
Kankakee	41,965	6,551	\$3,103,190	2,157	4,636
Kendall	63,303	5,928	\$2,685,097	1,906	4,178
Knox	19,640	3,127	\$1,450,184	1,095	2,235
Lake	310,774	28,268	\$12,354,694	8,408	18,888
LaSalle	49,091	6,244	\$2,726,033	1,941	4,216
Lawrence	5,242	806	\$346,616	248	565
Lee	14,787	1,808	\$764,511	528	1,191
Livingston	15,126	1,885	\$811,639	667	1,336
Logan	11,210	1,467	\$623,549	463	996
Macon	40,696	6,833	\$3,424,636	2,479	4,961
Macoupin	19,284	2,490	\$1,053,974	754	1,663
Madison	112,724	13,405	\$6,063,477	4,244	9,289
Marion	15,499	2,742	\$1,206,173	950	1903
Marshall	5,117	613	\$278,244	200	449
Mason	5,160	749	\$338,550	250	521
Massac	5,423	991	\$489,632	312	699
McDonough	10,472	1,458	\$616,971	484	983
McHenry	149,057	11,769	\$4,637,757	3,407	7,504
McLean	69,900	6,941	\$2,973,122	2,145	4657
Menard	5,453	522	\$231,385	163	378
Mercer	7,177	726	\$315,904	253	528
Monroe	16,184	855	\$306,956	199	483
Montgomery	11,310	1,579	\$698,750	513	1,089
Morgan	13,788	1,995	\$884,705	672	1414
Moultrie	6,281	689	\$272,732	222	464
Ogle	22,850	2,501	\$1,042,694	821	1,744
Peoria	74,380	11,808	\$5,780,131	4,101	8,452
Perry	7,702	1,095	\$469,040	316	727

# POVERTY

County	Number of Returns Total	Number of EITC Returns	Amount of EITC Credits (\$)	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 6	Number of EITC returns claiming child under 18
Piatt	7,425	652	\$261,213	197	445
Pike	5,971	867	\$395,447	303	625
Pope	1,302	176	\$79,599	44	111
Pulaski	1,925	375	\$184,437	128	258
Putnam	2,708	259	\$103,147	75	167
Randolph	12,002	1,439	\$624,965	436	1,001
Richland	6,766	1,009	\$410,165	309	658
Rock Island	58,638	8,570	\$4,058,769	2,982	6,259
Saline	8,854	1,604	\$767,261	500	1,119
Sangamon	87,040	11,357	\$5,302,850	3,716	7904
Schuyler	2,699	362	\$141,532	102	235
Scott	1,868	261	\$113,910	86	184
Shelby	8,734	1,047	\$423,835	355	719
St. Clair	99,688	15,836	\$7,968,311	5,187	11418
Stark	2,267	305	\$138,788	107	214
Stephenson	19,147	2,770	\$1,251,667	927	1,937
Tazewell	58,999	6,511	\$2,710,716	1,998	4,456
Union	6,735	1,055	\$452,599	289	689
Vermilion	28,083	5,619	\$2,795,532	1,953	4195
Wabash	4,457	584	\$236,583	173	376
Warren	6,245	962	\$446,232	350	671
Washington	6,419	585	\$240,022	172	397
Wayne	5,918	893	\$403,810	304	622
White	5,298	792	\$344,687	231	540
Whiteside	24,509	3,320	\$1,453,436	1,066	2,341
Will	313,826	31,087	\$14,254,770	9,358	20,957
Williamson	26,958	4,203	\$1,861,016	1,274	2,889
Winnebago	120,734	20,920	\$10,379,567	7,215	15,024
Woodford	16,492	1,263	\$547,276	442	899
Unknown IL County	235,903	41,409	\$19,578,107	12,197	26,754
Non-Illinois Totals*	634,135	38,632	\$13,124,176	12,648	24,433
<b>Total</b>					<b>499,935</b>
*Returns with Non-Illinois Zip Codes (Non-Residents) or Invalid Illinois Zip Codes					

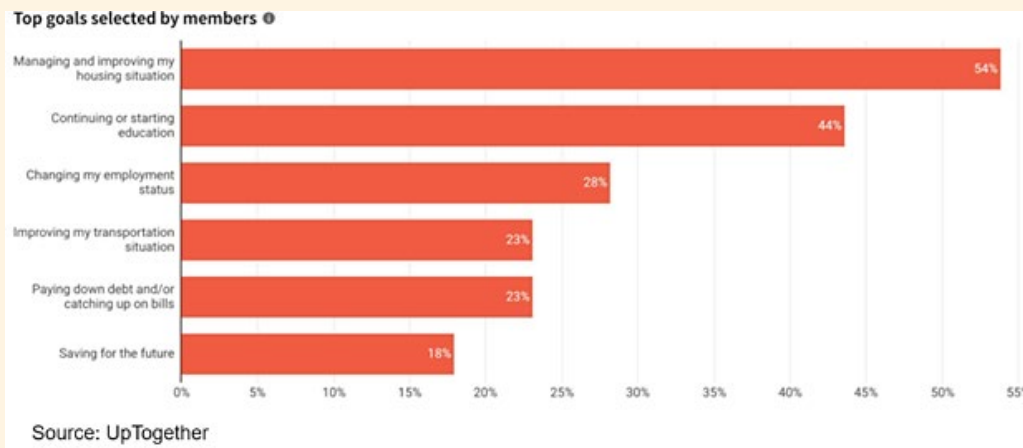
## Guaranteed Income Programs

Guaranteed Income Programs are another means of providing economic support to children and families. In short, a guaranteed income program provides a cash payment on a regular basis with no strings attached and no work requirements.<sup>126</sup>

In the last several years there have been guaranteed income programs running in Chicago, Evanston, and Cook County. The Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services established the Affording Survival Guaranteed Income Pilot in 2024 (administered with partners that include the Network [an advocacy group against domestic violence], LIFT-Chicago, WINGS Program Inc., and Family Rescue) in which 60 survivors of domestic violence receive a guaranteed income of \$1,000 a month for one year.<sup>127</sup> The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the non-profit Brightpoint are piloting a guaranteed income program for families involved in the child welfare system.<sup>128</sup>

The California-based non-profit UpTogether has run a guaranteed income program for Illinois residents since 2017. Currently, it supports 52 Illinois households in Carbondale, Springfield, Belleville, and East St. Louis. These households receive \$500 per month for 12 months.

According to UpTogether 59% of current participants surveyed indicated they worked full or part-time (including freelance work). Regarding planned use of the funds, the number one item was housing costs, followed by groceries/food, and family/caregiving expenses.<sup>129</sup> Of those indicating a goal, 54% said it was managing and improving their housing situation.



<sup>126</sup> Kline, Sean, *Guaranteed Income: A Primer for Funders*, Springboard Opportunities/University of Pennsylvania Center for High Impact Philanthropy/Asset Funders Network/Economic Security Project, May 2022.

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=164203>

<sup>128</sup> [https://www.brightpoint.org/app/uploads/EmPwR-Brightpoint-Press-RIs\\_FINAL\\_8\\_9\\_24.pdf](https://www.brightpoint.org/app/uploads/EmPwR-Brightpoint-Press-RIs_FINAL_8_9_24.pdf)

<sup>129</sup> Source: UpTogether

On the federal level two additional means of support are the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program.

SNAP, or what used to be referred to as food stamps, helps low-income people and families buy food. The funds come from the federal government, but the Illinois Department of Human Services administers the program in Illinois.

Of all households receiving SNAP benefits, households with children under age 18 represented 44.7% in 2023.



Illinois Households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	Total	Households receiving food stamps/SNAP	Percent receiving food stamps/SNAP
	Estimate	Estimate	
<b>Households</b>	5,001,904	673,465	13.5%
<b>With children under 18 years</b>	1,453,064	301,315	20.74%
<b>Married-couple family</b>	953,421	100,234	10.51%
<b>Other family:</b>	486,388	196,889	40.48%
<b>Male householder, no spouse present</b>	124,359	33,179	26.68%
<b>Female householder, no spouse present</b>	362,029	163,710	45.22%
<b>Nonfamily households</b>	13,255	4,192	31.63%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2201, 2023.*



## Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Effective October 2024 Maximum Monthly SNAP Amounts<sup>130</sup>

Number of People in Household	Maximum Gross Monthly Benefits
1	\$292
2	\$536
3	\$768
4	\$975
5	\$1,158
6	\$1,390
7	\$1,536
8	\$1,756
9	\$1,976
10	\$2,196

*For households with more than 10 people, add \$220 for each additional person.*

From the Illinois Department of Human Services 2024 report on participant demographics:

SNAP Participation by Race	Total number of Participants
American Indian/Alaska Native	9,751
Asian/Asian American	67,248
African American/Black	738,295
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	11,708
White/European American	1,025,432
Two or More Races	36,751
No Race Specified	617,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,506,303</b>

SNAP Participation by Ethnicity	Total number of Participants
Latina/Latino/Latinx/Hispanic	401,193
Non-Hispanic/Latino	1,456,822
Unknown	648,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,506,303</b>

<sup>130</sup> Illinois Department of Human Services



## TANF

Under the TANF program, the federal government provides grants to states to assist low-income families and pregnant women. Services offered by Illinois include cash assistance for basic needs, transitional services (such as GED preparation, vocational training, post-secondary education, child care, and work stipends) and screening for issues related to substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence.<sup>131</sup>

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Average Monthly Number of TANF Recipients, Adults, and Children: Oct. 2023 - Sep. 2024

State	Total Recipients	Adults	Children
Illinois	20,022	2,507	17,515

Average Monthly Number of TANF Recipients, Adults, and Children: Oct. 2017 - Dec. 2018

State	Total Recipients	Adults	Children
Illinois	23,285	2,276	21,009

Source: U.S. Department of Human Services, Office of Family Assistance,  
<https://acf.gov/ofa/resource-library?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aeasychart>

Under TANF, the federal government provides a fixed block grant to states, which use these funds to operate their own programs. In order to receive federal funds and avoid a fiscal penalty, states must also spend some of their own dollars, known as “maintenance of effort” (MOE) spending.<sup>132</sup>

2022 TANF Spending: Illinois	Share of Spending
Basic Assistance	4%
Work Activities	2%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	1%
Child Care	47%
Administration and Systems	9%
Tax Credits	7%
Pre-K	10%
Child Welfare	20%
Other Services	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Illinois families may receive other forms of assistance for housing, school lunches, and

<sup>131</sup> Illinois Department of Human Services, <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30358>

<sup>132</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *Policy Basics: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*, March 2022.

other needs.

Income is not the only measure of wealth. There are also savings and home ownership. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis took a look at Illinois household wealth by statistical areas known as PUMAs - Public Use Microdata Areas, which are non-overlapping geographic areas that contain at least 100,000 people, for 2020.<sup>133</sup> While not broken out by race and ethnicity, Children’s Advocates for Change examined the demographic data for each PUMA and placed it beside the statistical area.

The results show the following:

#### Five Wealthiest PUMAs:

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020\$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	% Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	white alone/Not-Hispanic or Latino [NHL]	% white alone NHL	Black or African American alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	Two or more races NHL	% Two or more races NHL	% non-white NHL (total minus white alone NHL)
Cook County (Northeast)--Northfield & New Trier Townships	\$1,074,000	142,769	6,326	4.4%	136,443	111,839	78.3%	2,096	1.5%	3,028	2.1%	21.7%
Lake County--Vernon, Moraine, West Deerfield & Libertyville (Southeast) Townships	\$706,000	134,701	11,146	8.3%	123,555	98,823	73.4%	2,351	1.7%	2,742	2.0%	26.6%
Lake County (Southwest)--Ela, Freemont, Wauconda & Cuba	\$498,000	117,384	12,929	11.0%	104,455	90,992	77.5%	1,471	1.3%	2,345	2.0%	22.5%
DuPage County (Central)--Milton Township	\$497,000	117,219	8,367	7.1%	108,852	88,278	75.3%	5,398	4.6%	3,674	3.1%	24.7%
DuPage County (Southeast)--Downers Grove Township	\$464,000	147,907	9,923	6.7%	137,984	113,612	76.8%	5,569	3.8%	3,372	2.3%	23.2%

#### Five Least Wealthy PUMAs:

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020\$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	% Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	white alone/Not-Hispanic or Latino [NHL]	% white alone NHL	Black or African American alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	Two or more races NHL	% Two or more races NHL	% non-white NHL (total minus white alone NHL)
Chicago City (West)--Austin, Belmont Cragin & Montclare	\$56,000	188,243	87,156	46.3%	101,087	21,503	11.4%	74,325	39.5%	2,102	1.1%	88.6%
Chicago City (South)--Chicago Lawn, Englewood/West Englewood & Greater Grand Crossing	\$24,000	128,849	32,351	25.1%	96,498	2,152	1.7%	91,511	71.0%	1,921	1.5%	98.3%
Chicago City (North)--Edgewater, Uptown & Rogers Park	\$20,000	173,789	28,771	16.6%	145,018	87,667	50.4%	33,592	19.3%	5,415	3.1%	49.6%
Chicago City (West)--North & South Lawndale, Humboldt Park, East & West Garfield Park	\$19,000	190,510	91,855	48.2%	98,655	11,816	6.2%	83,561	43.9%	1,926	1.0%	93.8%
Chicago City (South)--South Shore, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, Grand Boulevard & Douglas	\$17,000	185,604	7,203	3.9%	178,401	24,021	12.9%	138,709	74.7%	5,139	2.8%	87.1%

In the five least wealthy PUMAs, the percentage of non-white residents exceeds 85% in all except that in the Chicago North Puma of Edgewater, Uptown and Rogers Park.

Of the five wealthiest PUMAs, the white/non-Hispanic or Latino population exceeds 70% in all cases.

<sup>133</sup>Hernandez Kent, Ana, Kemeny, Tom. *The Uneven Heartland: A Look at Household Wealth in the Midwest and Southeast*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, December 04, 2024.

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PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020 \$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	% Hispanic or Latino	% white alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	% Two or more races NHL
Cook County (Northeast)--Northfield & New Trier Townships	\$1,074,000	142,769	4.4%	78.3%	1.5%	2.1%
Lake County--Vernon, Moraine, West Deerfield & Libertyville (Southeast) Townships	\$706,000	134,701	8.3%	73.4%	1.7%	2.0%
Lake County (Southwest)--Ela, Freemont, Wauconda & Cuba Townships	\$498,000	117,384	11.0%	77.5%	1.3%	2.0%
DuPage County (Central)--Milton Township	\$497,000	117,219	7.1%	75.3%	4.6%	3.1%
DuPage County (Southeast)--Downers Grove Township	\$464,000	147,907	6.7%	76.8%	3.8%	2.3%
Will County (Northeast)--Frankfort, Homer & New Lenox (North) Townships	\$450,000	126,136	6.8%	86.7%	2.5%	2.1%
Lake County (East Central)--Warren, Libertyville (North & East) & Shields Townships	\$426,000	152,301	18.4%	60.5%	6.8%	2.5%
Kane County (West)	\$417,000	125,191	8.7%	83.0%	1.9%	2.0%
Cook County (North)--Niles & Evanston Townships	\$411,000	177,777	10.2%	56.0%	10.4%	3.8%
Kane County (East)--St. Charles, Batavia (Central) & Geneva (Central) Townships	\$401,000	119,069	11.2%	80.0%	2.5%	1.7%
Cook County (North)--Maine, Norwood Park Townships & Chicago City--Edison Park	\$396,000	185,794	13.7%	68.4%	2.3%	2.1%
DuPage County (East Central)--York Township	\$363,000	125,750	10.3%	72.4%	4.3%	2.7%
DuPage County (South Central)--Lisle Township	\$354,000	119,601	8.8%	70.2%	4.9%	2.9%
Cook County (Southwest)--Orland (West & Central), Palos & Lemont Townships	\$346,000	175,277	9.9%	81.6%	3.1%	1.0%
Will County (Northwest)--DuPage & Wheatland Townships	\$340,000	173,584	17.5%	51.5%	11.0%	3.3%
McHenry County (Southeast)--Algonquin, McHenry & Nunda Townships	\$316,000	171,575	11.7%	82.5%	1.1%	2.2%
Cook County (West Central)--Lyons & Stickney Townships	\$301,000	151,318	31.5%	58.9%	5.3%	1.5%

# POVERTY

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020 \$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	% Hispanic or Latino	% white alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	% Two or more races NHL
Cook County (Northwest)--Palatine & Barrington Townships	\$292,000	125,972	16.5%	63.7%	2.5%	2.3%
McHenry County (North, West & Central)	\$292,000	135,661	15.6%	77.5%	1.8%	1.8%
Will County (South)	\$285,000	113,992	7.4%	76.3%	14.0%	1.8%
DuPage County (Northwest)--Bloomingdale (South), Wayne & Winfield (North) Townships	\$270,000	176,386	22.7%	53.5%	5.9%	1.8%
Cook County (North)--Wheeling Township (North & East)	\$269,000	126,598	18.4%	63.9%	1.9%	2.1%
DuPage County (Northeast)--Addison & Bloomingdale (North) Townships	\$257,000	117,798	28.1%	61.4%	2.3%	1.6%
Kendall & Grundy Counties	\$242,000	178,381	16.8%	73.2%	5.7%	1.6%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Portage Park, Dunning & Jefferson Park	\$230,000	134,700	35.5%	53.4%	2.0%	1.9%
Cook County (West Central)--Proviso, Riverside & River Forest Townships	\$223,000	174,028	30.1%	37.7%	27.9%	1.6%
Will County (Northwest Central)--Plainfield & Lockport Townships	\$223,000	142,086	21.3%	62.4%	10.0%	2.4%
Lake County (Northwest)--Avon, Lake Villa, Antioch & Grant Townships	\$222,000	157,592	22.6%	67.5%	3.5%	2.2%
Cook County (Northwest)--Schaumburg Township (South & Central)	\$214,000	108,785	15.1%	55.5%	4.8%	2.9%
DuPage County (Southwest)--Naperville & Winfield (South) Townships	\$214,000	121,344	14.7%	57.0%	7.2%	2.6%
Chicago City (South)--Ashburn, Washington Heights, Morgan Park & Beverly	\$212,000	129,025	17.7%	29.0%	50.2%	2.1%
Cook County (Northwest)--Elk Grove & Wheeling (Southwest) Townships	\$210,000	120,658	19.4%	65.7%	3.2%	1.9%
Madison County (East)	\$208,000	121,694	3.2%	87.1%	5.8%	2.3%
Cook County (Central)--Cicero, Berwyn & Oak Park Townships	\$186,000	188,423	59.2%	27.6%	8.6%	1.7%

# POVERTY

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020 \$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	% Hispanic or Latino	% white alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	% Two or more races NHL
St. Clair County (Central & Northeast)	\$178,000	147,469	3.9%	73.6%	16.7%	3.5%
Winnebago (Northeast) & Boone Counties	\$177,000	141,508	12.8%	80.2%	2.7%	2.5%
DeKalb County	\$173,000	104,588	11.4%	76.1%	7.2%	3.0%
Cook County (West)--Leyden, Norwood Park (South) Townships & Chicago City--OHare	\$165,000	128,710	32.2%	58.9%	2.0%	1.0%
Chicago City (Central)--Near North Side, Loop & Near South Side	\$164,000	161,108	6.6%	63.7%	9.5%	2.9%
Jo Daviess, Carroll, Whiteside & Lee Counties	\$163,000	125,614	8.1%	87.4%	2.3%	1.3%
Cook County (Northwest)--Hanover & Schaumburg (Northwest) Townships	\$162,000	120,244	35.0%	41.0%	4.3%	2.4%
Tazewell County	\$161,000	132,524	2.4%	93.7%	1.2%	1.5%
LaSalle County	\$158,000	109,007	9.9%	85.0%	2.6%	1.6%
Cook County (South)--Bloom & Rich Townships	\$157,000	165,011	12.6%	22.2%	61.4%	2.3%
Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson & Marion Counties	\$157,000	155,682	2.3%	89.7%	5.0%	1.8%
Cass, Morgan, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey & Calhoun Counties	\$154,000	136,016	3.2%	91.9%	2.6%	1.5%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Irving Park, Albany Park, Forest Glen & North Park	\$153,000	141,608	35.9%	45.2%	3.2%	2.9%
Kane County (Northeast)--Elgin (North & Central) & Dundee Townships	\$153,000	140,026	43.7%	43.8%	5.6%	1.6%
Menard, Logan, De Witt, Piatt, Moultrie, Shelby & Christian Counties	\$148,000	142,140	2.0%	93.7%	2.3%	1.3%
Kankakee County	\$146,000	109,924	10.6%	71.4%	14.8%	2.1%
Macon County--Decatur City	\$146,000	104,688	2.3%	75.7%	15.7%	4.6%
Cook County (South Central)--Bremen & Orland (East) Townships	\$144,000	107,357	16.2%	46.1%	33.3%	1.4%
Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette & Effingham Counties	\$144,000	138,236	2.5%	92.3%	3.3%	1.2%
Stephenson & Ogle Counties	\$144,000	95,476	7.5%	84.0%	5.0%	2.6%

# POVERTY

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020 \$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	% Hispanic or Latino	% white alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	% Two or more races NHL
Sangamon County--Springfield City	\$142,000	195,963	2.4%	79.9%	12.6%	2.8%
Chicago City (North)--West Ridge, Lincoln Square & North Center	\$141,000	156,255	17.4%	55.5%	7.2%	4.9%
Livingston, Ford, Iroquois & Vermilion Counties	\$140,000	153,053	5.3%	83.8%	8.2%	1.6%
Knox, Stark, Bureau, Marshall & Woodford Counties	\$139,000	144,099	5.3%	88.7%	3.4%	1.6%
McLean County	\$138,000	172,164	5.0%	79.1%	8.2%	2.2%
Chicago City (Southwest)--Gage Park, Garfield Ridge & West Lawn	\$137,000	146,416	73.4%	21.9%	3.3%	0.3%
Chicago City (North)--Lake View & Lincoln Park	\$133,000	170,996	7.9%	77.7%	4.1%	2.9%
Henry, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough & Fulton Counties	\$133,000	170,834	4.2%	90.5%	2.6%	1.6%
Lake County (Northeast)--Waukegan, Zion, Benton & Newport Townships	\$131,000	137,759	47.7%	27.1%	18.8%	2.6%
Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay & Wayne Counties	\$129,000	105,015	1.7%	93.4%	2.9%	1.6%
Cook County (South Central)--Worth & Calumet Townships	\$125,000	169,542	21.3%	56.2%	18.1%	1.9%
Rock Island County	\$124,000	142,801	13.1%	71.2%	9.8%	3.1%
Peoria County--Peoria City	\$123,000	181,111	4.9%	69.2%	17.7%	3.6%
Kane County (Southeast)--Aurora Township	\$111,000	147,470	57.3%	27.9%	9.7%	2.0%
Jackson, Williamson, Franklin & Perry Counties	\$109,000	184,226	3.1%	85.5%	7.2%	2.2%
Will County (West Central)--Joliet & Troy Townships	\$106,000	133,906	33.3%	44.5%	17.9%	2.6%
South & Southeast Illinois	\$105,000	131,155	2.4%	89.4%	5.4%	2.0%
Chicago City (Southwest)--Brighton Park, New City, Bridgeport & McKinley Park	\$104,000	156,864	54.0%	16.5%	7.5%	0.7%
Adams, Pike, Brown, Schuyler & Mason Counties	\$103,000	108,223	1.8%	91.6%	4.0%	1.7%
Douglas, Edgar, Coles & Cumberland Counties	\$103,000	98,675	3.2%	92.3%	2.3%	1.3%
Cook County (Southeast)--Thornton Township	\$100,000	165,305	13.9%	13.0%	70.2%	1.8%

# POVERTY

PUMA Name (2010 PUMA Name Files)	Median Household Wealth (2020 \$; rounded to nearest \$1,000)	Total population	% Hispanic or Latino	% white alone NHL	% Black or African American alone NHL	% Two or more races NHL
Champaign County--Champaign & Urbana Cities	\$99,000	210,006	6.1%	66.5%	13.3%	3.0%
Madison County (West)--Granite City, Alton, Wood River Cities & Godfrey Village	\$97,000	142,796	3.5%	82.3%	10.9%	2.5%
Winnebago County (Southeast & West)--Rockford City	\$94,000	195,420	15.8%	60.6%	17.3%	3.1%
St. Clair County (Northwest, Southwest & Southeast)	\$89,000	113,721	4.7%	44.7%	46.6%	2.6%
Chicago City (West)--West Town, Near West Side & Lower West Side	\$83,000	178,994	25.8%	48.8%	12.0%	3.2%
Chicago City (South)--Auburn Gresham, Roseland, Chatham, Avalon Park & Burnside	\$69,000	129,493	1.8%	1.2%	95.2%	1.2%
Chicago City (Northwest)--Logan Square, Avondale & Hermosa	\$66,000	132,828	49.2%	40.1%	3.8%	2.8%
Chicago City (South)--South Chicago, Pullman, West Pullman, East Side & South Deering	\$62,000	130,667	29.4%	7.1%	62.4%	0.8%
Chicago City (West)--Austin, Belmont Cragin & Montclare	\$56,000	188,243	46.3%	11.4%	39.5%	1.1%
Chicago City (South)--Chicago Lawn, Englewood/West Englewood & Greater Grand Crossing	\$24,000	128,849	25.1%	1.7%	71.0%	1.5%
Chicago City (North)--Edgewater, Uptown & Rogers Park	\$20,000	173,789	16.6%	50.4%	19.3%	3.1%
Chicago City (West)--North & South Lawndale, Humboldt Park, East & West Garfield Park	\$19,000	190,510	48.2%	6.2%	43.9%	1.0%
Chicago City (South)--South Shore, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, Grand Boulevard & Douglas	\$17,000	185,604	3.9%	12.9%	74.7%	2.8%



### Homelessness and Housing Burden

For households with children, 82% of white/non-Hispanic or Latino households were owned or being bought (loan), while 18% were renters. By comparison, 47.3% of Black households were owned/being bought and 52.7% rented. For Hispanic and Latino families, the percentages were 64.1% (owned/being bought) and 35.9% rented.<sup>134</sup>

In 2023, 47% of Illinois renters spent 30% or more of their income on rent (based on those households for which the Bureau could make the determination). Nearly one-quarter spends more than half of their income on rent.

Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months	Illinois	
Label	Estimate	Percent
Total:	1,658,870	
Households with computation	1,539,353	
Less than 10.0 percent	72,101	4.7%
10.0 to 14.9 percent	154,929	10.1%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	208,770	13.6%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	202,953	13.2%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	173,546	11.3%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	134,972	8.8%
35.0 to 39.9 percent	93,662	6.1%
40.0 to 49.9 percent	126,999	8.3%
50.0 percent or more	371,421	24.1%
Not computed	119,517	

47.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25070, 2023.*

Broken out by race, for all owner-occupied units, Black renters have the highest level of individuals paying more than 30% of their income for rent (69.5%) versus Hispanic/Latino (55.8%), white/non-Hispanic or Latino (46.1%) or Asian households (42.1%). This could reflect not just income but housing affordability as well as housing availability in a region.

<sup>135</sup>

<sup>134</sup> Analysis of 2023 5-Year American Community Survey Data using IPUMS.

<sup>135</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. *Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25140, 2023.*

## POVERTY

Typically, low-income earners spend a higher proportion of their income on rent than higher-income renters. For example, in 2023:

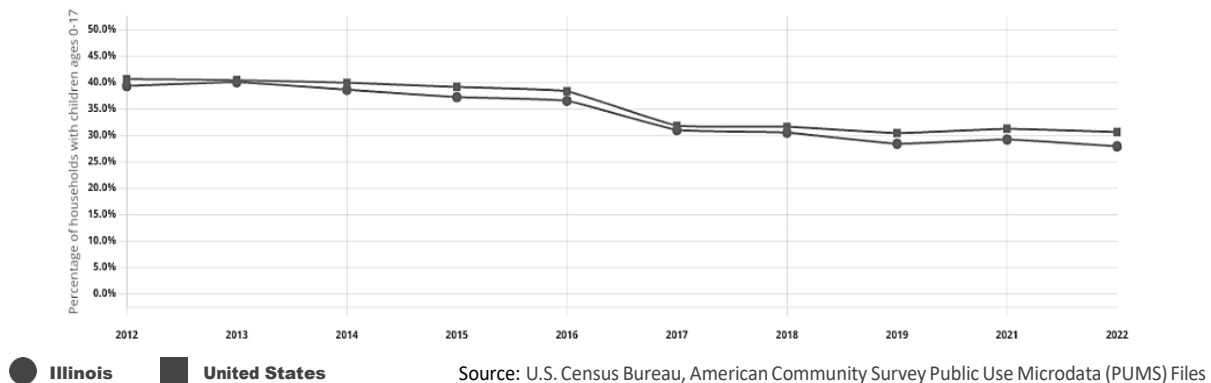
Household Income by Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months	Illinois	
	Estimate	Percent
Total:	1,654,539	
Less than \$10,000:	176,783	
Less than 30.0 percent	2,669	
30.0 percent or more	109,922	62.2%
Not computed	64,192	
\$10,000 to \$19,999:	188,599	
Less than 30.0 percent	27,511	
30.0 percent or more	153,894	81.6%
Not computed	7,194	
\$20,000 to \$34,999:	238,748	
Less than 30.0 percent	37,968	
30.0 percent or more	191,024	80.0%
Not computed	9,756	
\$35,000 to \$49,999:	221,444	
Less than 30.0 percent	83,336	
30.0 percent or more	130,326	58.9%
Not computed	7,782	
\$50,000 to \$74,999:	289,324	
Less than 30.0 percent	182,852	
30.0 percent or more	95,520	33.0%
Not computed	10,952	
\$75,000 or more:	539,641	
Less than 30.0 percent	482,793	
30.0 percent or more	40,551	7.5%
Not computed	16,297	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C25074, 2023

In 2022, 27.9% of Illinois households with one or more children younger than 18 spent more than 30% of their household income on housing.<sup>136</sup>

<sup>136</sup> America's Health rankings, United Health Foundation,  
[https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/cost\\_burden\\_children/IL](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/cost_burden_children/IL)

**Percentage of Households with One or More Children Younger than 18 Years For Which Housing Costs are more than 30% of Household Income.**



In a Household Pulse survey of Illinois households that the Census Bureau conducted in the fall of 2024, more than one-third of renter-occupied units indicated they were not caught up on last month's rent payment.

**Last Month's Payment Status for Renter-Occupied Housing Units, by Select Characteristics: Illinois**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, August 20 – September 16, 2024.

Note: These data are experimental. Users should take caution using estimates based on subpopulations of the data – sample sizes may be small and the standard errors may be large.\*\*

### Total Population 18 Years and Older in Renter-Occupied Housing Units

Select characteristics	Total <sup>1</sup>	Household currently caught up on rent payments				Occupied without rent	Did not report to tenure
		Yes	No		Did not report		
<b>Presence of children under 18 years old</b>							
Children in household	680,205	397,393	58.4%	260,018	38.2%	-	452,335
No children	1,410,404	1,068,659		252,390	8,447	80,908	645,951

<sup>†</sup>Total includes only individuals who reported living in renter-occupied housing units and excludes those living in different types of housing units, and also those who did not report their housing situation.

\* Totals may not sum to 100% as the question allowed for multiple categories to be marked.

\*\* The Census Bureau considers estimated coefficients of variation (standard error divided by the estimate times 100) over 30 percent to indicate potentially serious data quality issues related to sampling error.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimated that for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin Region and the Metro-East Region, there was a deficit of 293,767 affordable and available rental units for those individuals at or below 30% of the state's median income level.<sup>137</sup>

The Census Bureau also measures the child poverty rate by a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). Whereas the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) is based on cash income, the SPM considers government benefits such as tax credits, utility assistance, housing subsidies, food assistance (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and benefits under the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. The SPM also subtracts expenses such as cash, health care costs, childcare expenses, and commuting costs.

For persons in households with at least one adult and one child, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs listed 7,233 children as being in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered in

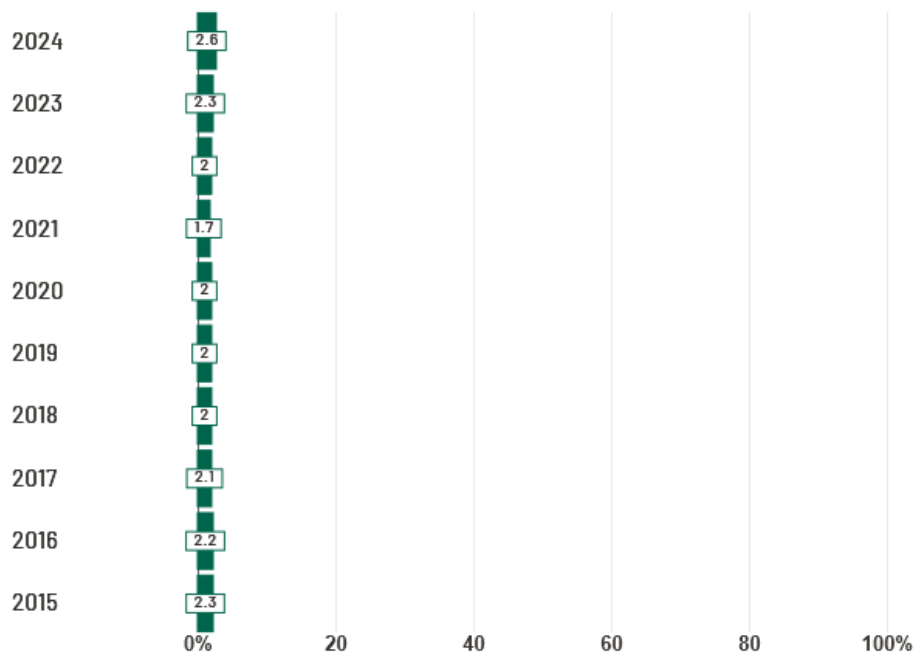
<sup>137</sup> <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/il>

2024.<sup>138</sup> However, this number may also reflect the influx of asylum seekers bused for flown from Texas to Chicago. (The City of Chicago Reports that from the fall of 2022 through December 2024 51,779 asylum seekers arrived from Texas.<sup>139</sup>) Given that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted housing arrangements and capacity, an examination of 2019 data shows the number was 2,330.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, the Illinois State Board of Education collects data on students experiencing homelessness. The Act classifies homeless children as individuals “who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”, which can include children sharing their own housing. The 2024 data lists 2.6% of Illinois public school students as homeless. With 1,851,290 students listed for 2024, that equates to 48,133 students.<sup>140</sup>

### Homeless

This graph shows the percentage of students, at this school, who do not have permanent or adequate homes.



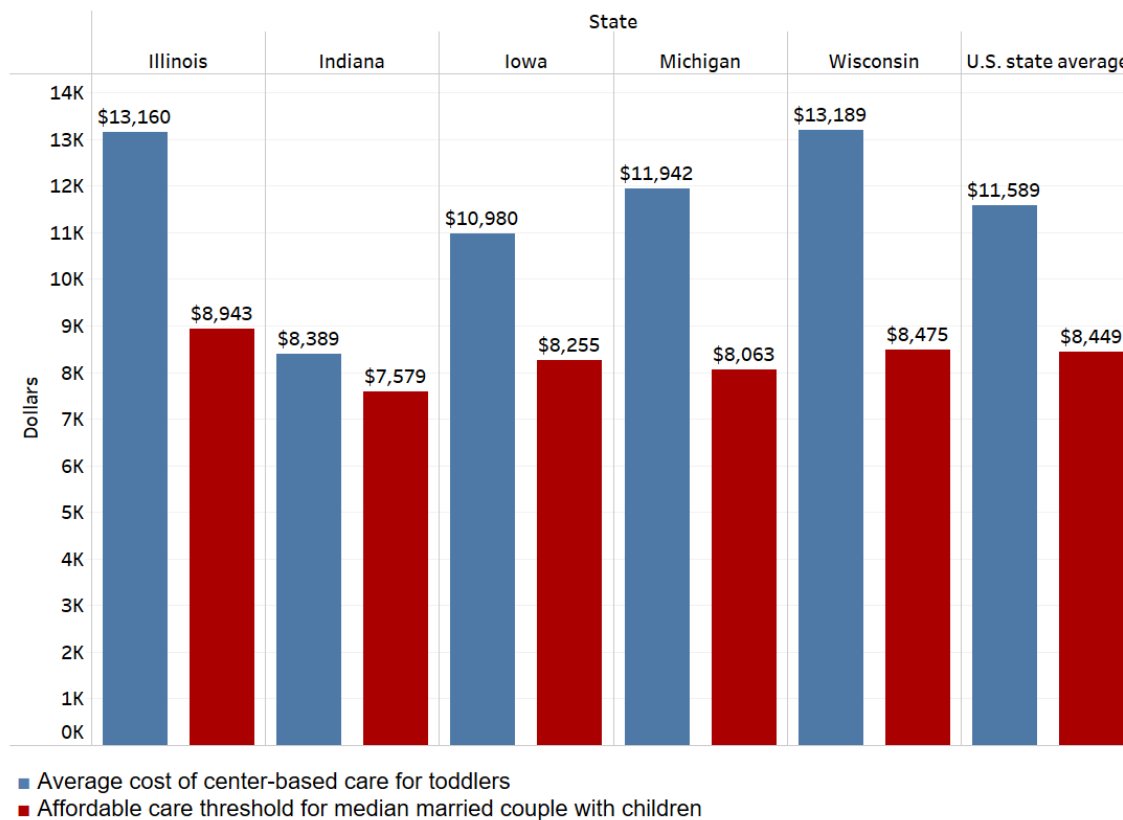
<sup>138</sup> [https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/?filter\\_Year=2022&filter\\_Scope=&filter\\_State=&filter\\_CoC=&program=CoC&group=PopSub](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/?filter_Year=2022&filter_Scope=&filter_State=&filter_CoC=&program=CoC&group=PopSub); Data represents point-in-time information.

<sup>139</sup> <https://40thward.org/city-council/new-arrivals/#new-arrivals-data>

<sup>140</sup> Data from Illinois State Report Card.

### Child Care Costs

The Education section of this report looked at child care and education data. According to an analysis of childcare access and affordability by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (using 2023 data), there is a gap of more than \$4,000 in the affordable care threshold for a median married couple with children and the average cost of center-based care for children.<sup>141</sup> (The report notes that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines childcare as affordable if it costs no more than 7% of annual household income.)



Notes: Affordable care threshold is calculated for a married two-parent family with children. Indiana numbers imputed from state reports.

Sources: National Database of Childcare Prices, American Community Survey, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation

<sup>141</sup> Anderson, Nathan, Healey, Tori, Heissel, Jenny, *Childcare Access and Affordability in the Seventh District – A Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, March 2024.

### Child Safety

Every child should grow up in a safe environment – whether that is within the home or in the community. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. If not dealt with, childhood trauma (which could be due to actual physical harm) can have a long-lasting effect on the physical and mental well-being of the individual.

#### Section Highlight

**Black children are in substitute care at a rate twice as high as the group's proportion of Illinois' total child population.**

Source: University of Illinois

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define an adverse childhood experience, or ACE, as a potentially traumatic event that occurs to children from birth to age 17.<sup>142</sup> ACEs include (but the list is not exclusive) direct abuse or violence against the child, witnessing violence in the home or community, having a family member attempt or commit suicide, as well as seeing within the home or community substance abuse issues, mental health issues, family instability (perhaps due to divorce or a family member being jailed).

Data from the 2022 National Survey of Children's Health shows 18.3% of Illinois children experienced one adverse childhood experience, and 17.1% experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences. Broken out by race and ethnicity, the data is as follows:

Select a Response Category:		One adverse childhood experience			
		Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Other, non-Hispanic
Nationwide	%	24.9	18.7	31.2	18.7
	C.I.	23.1 - 26.8	18.0 - 19.5	28.4 - 34.1	17.2 - 20.4
	Sample Count	1,931	6,235	949	1,362
	Pop. Est.	4,803,154	6,451,835	2,750,187	1,702,395
Illinois	%	14.8	17.2	26.4	21.0
	C.I.	8.8 - 23.9	13.6 - 21.6	14.2 - 43.6	12.8 - 32.4
	Sample Count	22	81	12	21
	Pop. Est.	104,378	231,839	103,129	62,877
C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval. Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US. Please interpret with caution: estimate has a 95% confidence interval width exceeding 20 percentage points or 1.2 times the estimate and may not be reliable. For more information about the data suppression and display criteria <a href="#">click here</a> .					

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html>

Select a Response Category:		Two or more adverse childhood experiences			
		Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Other, non-Hispanic
Nationwide	%	18.1	16.1	25.0	16.5
	C.I.	16.6 - 19.7	15.3 - 16.9	22.7 - 27.6	15.1 - 18.0
	Sample Count	1,603	5,184	774	1,179
	Pop. Est.	3,497,754	5,541,020	2,207,313	1,495,753
Illinois	%	18.9	14.4	24.4	15.5
	C.I.	11.4 - 29.8	10.8 - 19.0	13.2 - 40.6	6.7 - 31.6
	Sample Count	20	59	13	11
	Pop. Est.	133,467	194,325	95,454	46,380

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
 Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.  
 Please interpret with caution: estimate has a 95% confidence interval width exceeding 20 percentage points or 1.2 times the estimate and may not be reliable. For more information about the data suppression and display criteria [click here](#).

As of the end of April 2025, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) lists 17,741 Illinois children in care: 7,287 in foster care, 9,247 in relative care, 641 in institutions or group homes, 566 in other designated settings. (While children are defined as birth to age 18, there are some cases where DCFS provides services up to age 21. Residential or group home care is defined as structured living environments with 24 hours supervision for children requiring intensive support.)

Youth in Care by County	Total	Foster	Relative	I/GH	Other
Adams	197	74	109	10	4
Alexander	21	3	18	0	0
Bond	49	28	20	0	1
Boone	48	18	28	0	2
Brown	19	16	2	1	0
Bureau	38	11	27	0	0
Calhoun	14	4	9	1	0
Carroll	24	11	13	0	0
Cass	25	12	13	0	0
Champaign	435	176	189	35	35
Christian	114	43	68	0	3
Clark	49	18	30	0	1
Clay	36	11	24	0	1
Clinton	66	28	34	2	2



# CHILD SAFETY

Youth in Care by County	Total	Foster	Relative	I/GH	Other
Coles	99	44	54	0	1
Cook	2,048	928	933	149	38
Crawford	54	16	37	1	0
Cumberland	36	14	22	0	0
DeKalb	100	40	59	1	0
DeWitt	44	23	19	0	2
Douglas	52	30	22	0	0
DuPage	316	169	126	16	5
Edgar	53	25	28	0	0
Edwards	13	6	7	0	0
Effingham	76	21	55	0	0
Fayette	130	40	88	2	0
Ford	36	28	8	0	0
Franklin	145	43	93	0	9
Fulton	115	29	76	9	1
Gallatin	8	1	7	0	0
Greene	58	25	33	0	0
Grundy	45	24	20	0	1
Hamilton	9	1	8	0	0
Hancock	51	23	27	0	1
Hardin	3	3	0	0	0
Henderson	16	12	4	0	0
Henry	109	39	68	0	2
Iroquois	88	45	24	8	11
Jackson	122	47	72	0	3
Jasper	43	16	27	0	0
Jefferson	175	58	87	18	12
Jersey	62	20	41	0	1
Jo Daviess	16	1	15	0	0
Johnson	42	13	28	1	0
Kane	333	118	202	8	5
Kankakee	219	100	74	26	19
Kendall	124	50	71	1	2
Knox	176	56	110	4	6
Lake	472	225	233	3	11
LaSalle	195	63	132	0	0
Lawrence	44	4	40	0	0
Lee	55	18	37	0	0
Livingston	82	34	47	0	1
Logan	73	20	50	0	3
Macon	430	168	253	1	8
Macoupin	125	46	79	0	0
Madison	610	268	321	5	16
Marion	225	89	126	8	2
Marshall	42	15	26	1	0
Mason	52	20	31	0	1
Massac	73	15	56	0	2
McDonough	78	36	41	1	0
McHenry	202	73	127	1	1

# CHILD SAFETY

Youth in Care by County	Total	Foster	Relative	I/GH	Other
McLean	242	111	125	2	4
Menard	23	1	20	0	2
Mercer	23	12	11	0	0
Monroe	42	27	15	0	0
Montgomery	90	37	53	0	0
Morgan	77	27	47	1	2
Moultrie	42	14	27	0	1
Ogle	53	22	31	0	0
Peoria	673	231	366	35	41
Perry	69	21	46	2	0
Piatt	44	28	15	0	1
Pike	59	19	40	0	0
Pope	5	1	4	0	0
Pulaski	28	3	25	0	0
Putnam	12	1	11	0	0
Randolph	83	22	59	0	2
Richland	71	27	43	0	1
Rock Island	194	82	109	0	3
Saline	39	14	18	6	1
Sangamon	560	228	297	24	11
Schuyler	19	8	11	0	0
Scott	7	6	1	0	0
Shelby	61	36	24	1	0
St. Clair	869	403	415	18	33
Stark	28	9	19	0	0
Stephenson	79	37	40	0	2
Tazewell	405	151	254	0	0
Union	58	16	40	2	0
Vermilion	266	96	167	2	1
Wabash	23	7	16	0	0
Warren	50	23	27	0	0
Washington	58	37	21	0	0
Wayne	61	24	35	1	1
White	31	10	21	0	0
Whiteside	81	24	54	1	2
Will	634	334	276	7	17
Williamson	147	57	89	1	0
Winnebago	478	179	284	11	4
Woodford	89	44	45	0	0
IN STATE	17,222	7,079	9,048	535	560
Out of State	314	88	178	46	2
UNKNOWN	205	120	21	60	4
City of Chicago	2,428	989	1,114	107	218
Suburban Cook	2,048	928	933	149	38
Cook County Total	4,476	1,917	2,047	256	256
Out of Country	12	6	5	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,741</b>	<b>7,287</b>	<b>9,247</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>566</b>

Statewide Demographics of Children in Care					
Primary Race	Total	0-5	6-12	13-17	18+
Blank Race	1	1			
Could not be verified	17	9	2	2	4
Declined to identify	3	1	1	1	
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	9	3	2	3	1
White	9,884	4,021	3,144	2,010	709
Black / African American	7,670	2,724	2,572	1,567	807
Asian	62	23	13	14	12
Unknown	70	54	9	5	2
Native American / Alaska Native	22	5	7	8	2
Not Reported	1			1	
Unknown due to abandonment	2	2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,741</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>1,537</b>
Ethnicity	Total	00-05	06-12	13-17	18+
Blank ethnicity	6	3	2	1	
Could not be verified	57	41	9	6	1
Declined to identify	7	4		2	1
Hispanic Central American	74	21	18	21	14
Hispanic Cuban	11	2	6	1	2
Hispanic Dominican	5	1	4		
Hispanic Mexican	782	221	280	188	93
Hispanic other	881	351	310	156	64
Hispanic Puerto Rican	181	59	60	44	18
HISPANIC South American	30	12	10	7	1
HISPANIC Spanish Descent	50	21	12	10	7
Not Hispanic	14,363	5,501	4,766	2,877	1,219
Not reported	347		46	212	89
Unknown	946	605	227	86	28
Unknown due to abandonment	1	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,741</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>1,537</b>

Based on these statistics, Black children make up 33.8% of children in DCFS care but represented just 14.4% of the state's child population in 2023.

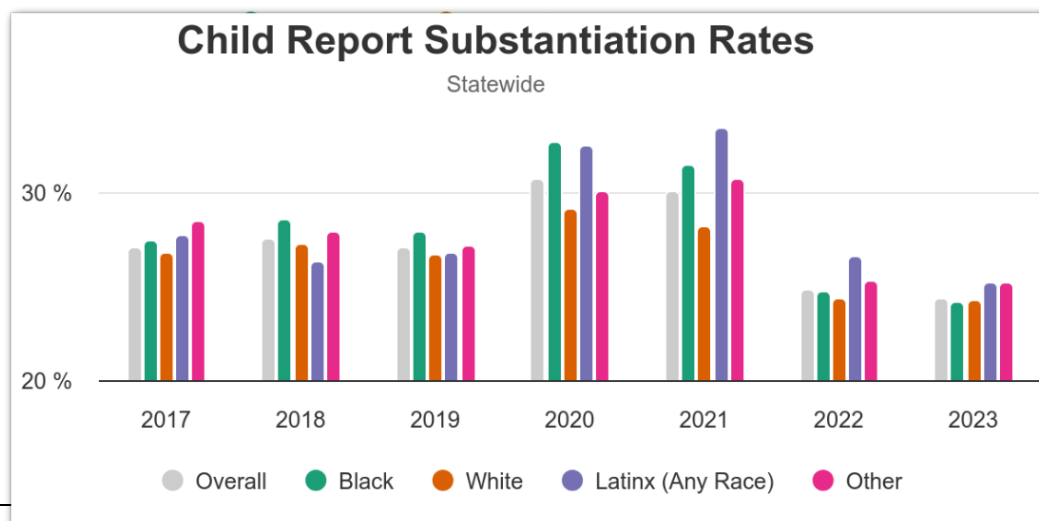
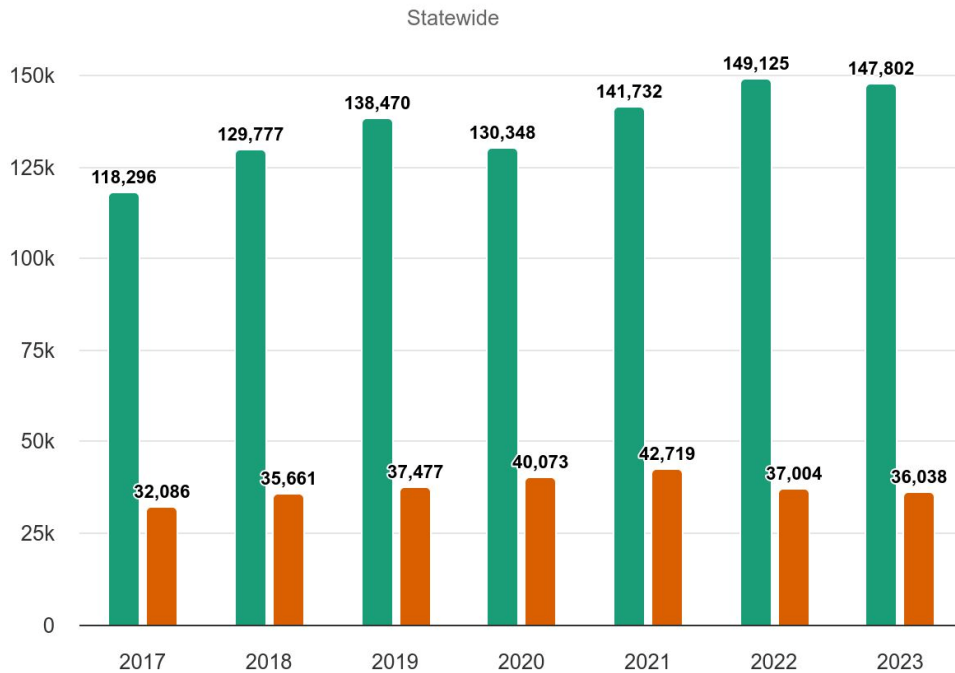
The number of cases above represent children in care. DCFS also runs an Intact Family Services Program. According to DCFS:

The Intact Family Services program is designed to work with at-risk families who have been referred for continuing assistance and monitoring following a child abuse or neglect investigation. The Intact Family Services program ensures the safety and well-being of children without the need for protective custody by providing families with needed in-

home services, including counseling, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, parenting coaching/classes or housing.<sup>143</sup>

DCFS reports that in FY24 there were a total of 35,365 child victims indicated in family reports and 582 child victims indicated in facility reports.<sup>144</sup> A significant number of reported child abuse cases are not substantiated upon investigation. The University of Illinois School of Social Work Children and Family Research Center has examined the trends.<sup>145</sup>

### Child Report Substantiated Rates (Of all child allegation reports, substantiated rates)



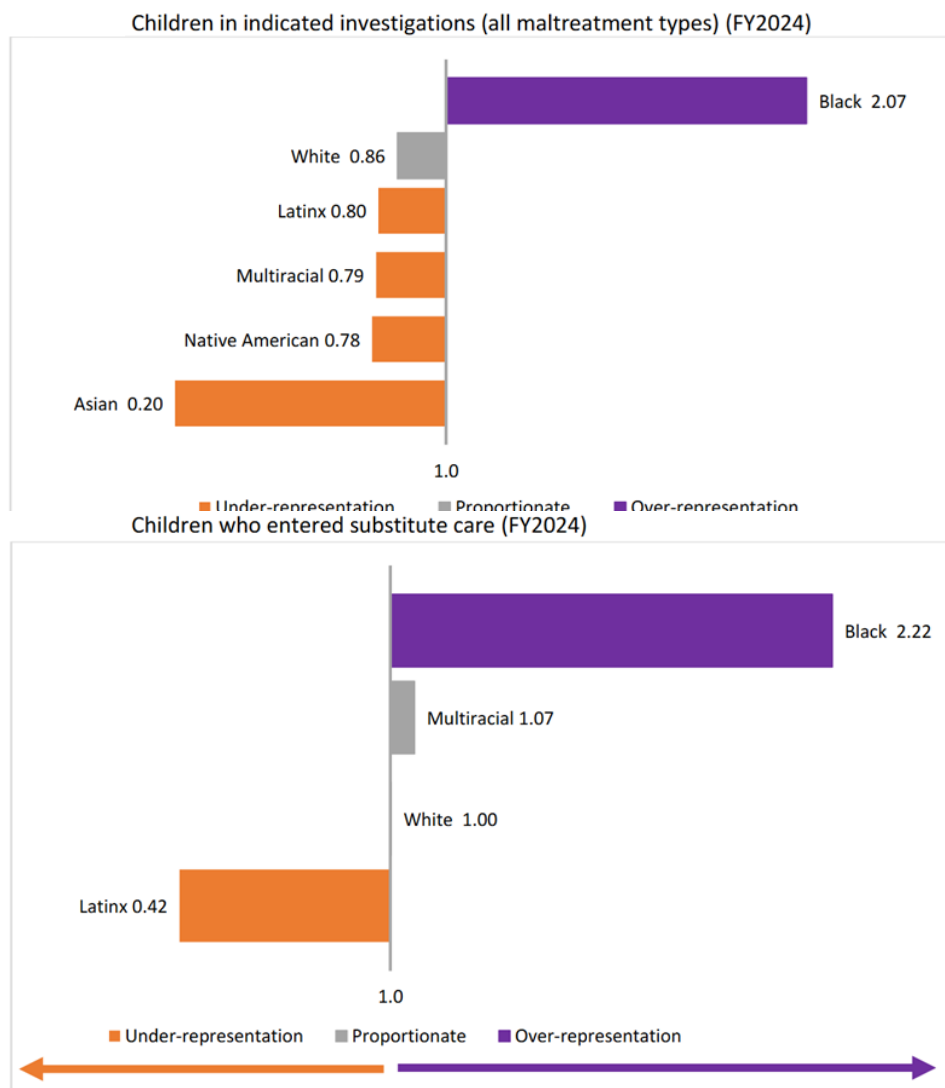
<sup>143</sup> <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/loving-homes/families/family-preservation-services.html>

<sup>144</sup> Executive Statistical Summary, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, April 30, 2025.

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.cfrc.illinois.edu/publications.php>

Illinois House Bill 2914, effective January 1, 2022 (Public Act 102-0451), required DCFS to submit an annual report regarding racial disproportionality for children involved in the state's child welfare system - that is the extent to which a demographic group is over- or under-represented in the child welfare system compared to the group's representation in a base population.

A report conducted for DCFS by the University of Illinois examining FY24 data showed Black children had a disproportionality value of greater than 2 with respect to indicated investigations and entering substitute care, that is they are represented a twice the rate they are in comparison to their proportion of Illinois' child population.<sup>146</sup>



<sup>146</sup> Fuller, Tamara, Kelley, Amanda, Nieto, Martin, Suntai, Zainab, Wakita, Satomi. *Racial Disproportionality in the Illinois Child Welfare System*, University of Illinois School of Social Work Children and Family Research Center, 2024.

Per state statute, DCFS has implemented a three-year bias-free child removal pilot program with the goals of promoting unbiased decision-making in the child removal process and decreasing the over-representation of Black children in out-of-home placements.<sup>147</sup>

**From the University of Illinois School of Social Work's Website**  
***Taking on Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System***  
***Tamara Fuller*** Director, Children and Family Research Center

Two factors are easier to identify than others.

"We can't not mention the elephant in the room, which is systemic racism in the US," Fuller says. "In every single system there's inherent anti-Black racism. I'm not saying that child welfare workers are racist; I'm saying that the policies and the history of the US as a country that has discriminated against Black people is baked into a lot of what we do."

Poverty, with its strong ties to racism, is the second factor.

"A lot of child maltreatment is neglect, so there's child abuse and child neglect, and a lot of neglect is related to poverty," Fuller says. "If you don't have enough food, if you don't have stable housing, a lot of that is related to child neglect, and Black people don't make as much money as white people. There's a higher percentage of Black people who live in poverty, so it's going to make sense that there's going to be a higher percentage of Black people who are involved in the child welfare system."

<sup>147</sup> <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dcfs/documents/about-us/impact-public-policy/documents/irb/irb-agenda-082724.pdf>

## Community Safety

### Teen Deaths

In 2022, homicides were the second leading cause of death for Illinois children. By comparison, homicides rank 16<sup>th</sup> for underlying causes of all deaths in 2022.<sup>148</sup>

Rank	Underlying Cause of Death: Ages 1-17	Deaths
	<b>All causes</b>	<b>599</b>
1	Accidents (unintentional injuries*)	127
2	Assault (homicide)	120
3	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	171
4	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	46
5	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	33
Rank	Underlying Cause of Death: All Ages	Deaths
	<b>All causes</b>	<b>122,977</b>
1	Diseases of heart (heart disease)	26,791
2	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	23,622
3	Accidents (unintentional injuries*)	7,482
4	COVID-19	7,149
5	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	6,622
6	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5,324
7	Alzheimer disease	4,238
8	Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	3,526
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (kidney disease)	2,879
10	Influenza and pneumonia	1,969
11	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,789
12	Septicemia	1,761
13	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	1,548
14	Parkinson disease	1,530
15	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease (hypertension)	1,513
16	Assault (homicide)	1,312
17	Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	957
18	Nutritional deficiencies	685
19	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior	626
20	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	418
21	Aortic aneurysm and dissection	372
22	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	328
23	Anemias	251
24	Enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile	175

<sup>148</sup> Source: Illinois Department of Public Health. For the age range 10-19, suicide was the third leading cause of death in 2022.



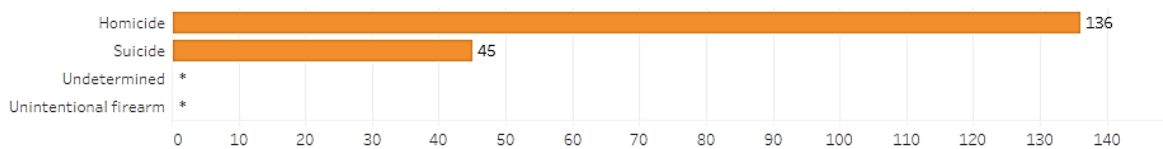
**Unintentional Injuries:** This category refers to fatal and nonfatal injuries not deliberately inflicted, including any such injury described as an "accident," regardless of whether inflicted by oneself or by another person. Injuries resulting in hospitalization subsequent to emergency department treatment or resulting in emergency department treatment only, and for which intent was not determined, are also included in this category as most such injuries were likely unintentional.

The Illinois Department of Public Health produced the following data regarding violent child deaths during 2022.<sup>149</sup> (IVDRS: Illinois Violent Death Reporting System)

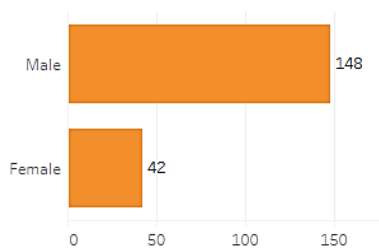
Child Deaths Recorded by IVDRS by Year



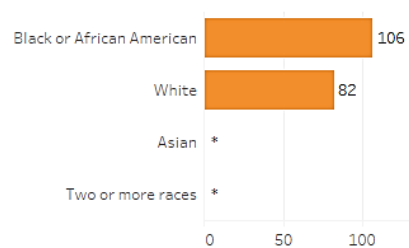
Child Deaths by Manner



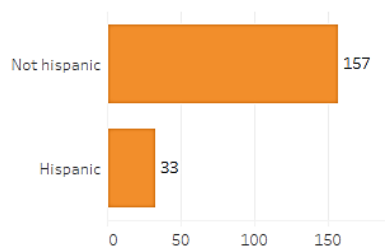
Child Deaths by Sex



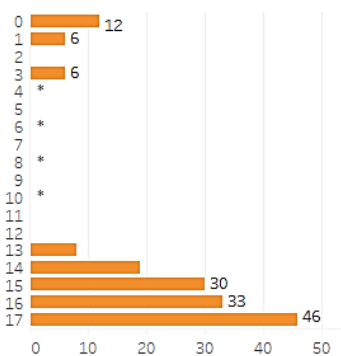
Child Deaths by Race



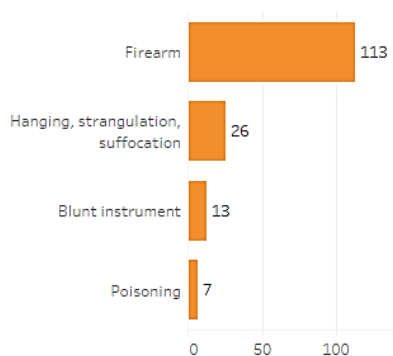
Child Deaths by Ethnicity



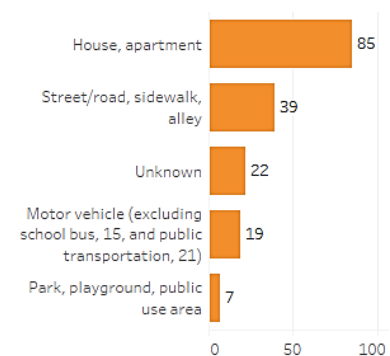
Child Deaths by Age



Child Deaths by Weapon Type\*\*\*



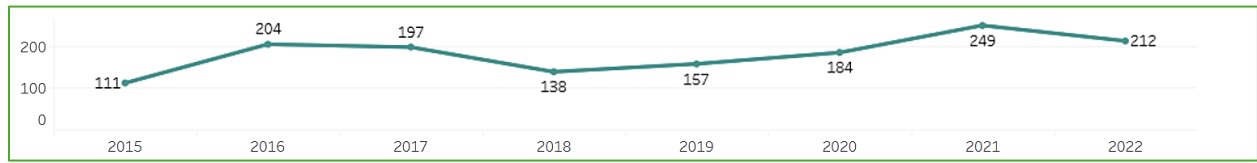
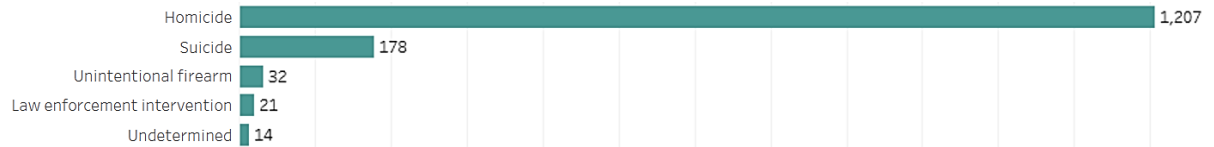
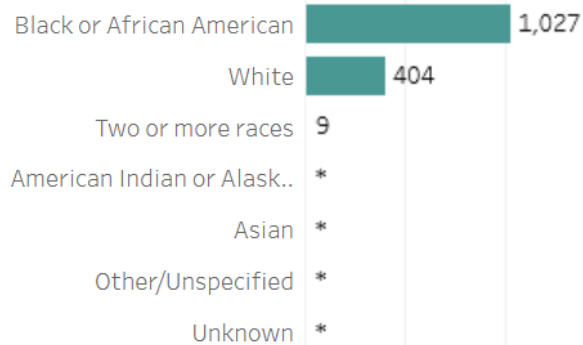
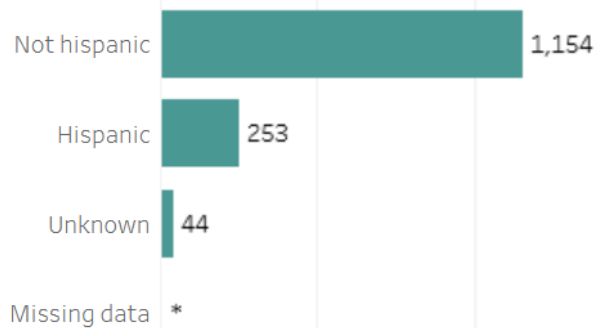
Child Deaths by Location Type\*\*\*



\*Counts of less than 6 are suppressed in order to protect the anonymity of decedents.

\*\*Child decedents are <18 years old...

<sup>149</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/gun-safety/dashboards/il-violent-deaths.html>. Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine operates the IVDRS.

**Firearm Deaths by Year for Youth 0-19<sup>150</sup>:****Firearm Deaths by Manner****Firearm Deaths by Race****Firearm Deaths by Ethnicity**

<sup>150</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/gun-safety/dashboards/il-violent-deaths.html>

## Juvenile Justice

### *Illinois Children Involved in the Juvenile Justice System*

The Illinois Juvenile Court Act, which took effect in 1899, established a separate court process for youth ages 16 and under. The focus was rehabilitation.<sup>151</sup> At that time, juvenile court judges had the power to transfer youth cases to criminal court. Since then, amendments to the Act have required automatic transfers in certain cases.

Six years after establishing the Juvenile Court Act, the state extended the court's jurisdiction to males under age 17 and females under age 18. The Illinois Supreme Court held that the unequal treatment was unconstitutional. In 1972, the state modified the law and set the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction for both males and females at 17.<sup>152</sup>

Legislation signed in law in 2009 (Public Act 095-1031) provided that 17-year-olds charged with misdemeanors would move from adult to juvenile court jurisdiction starting in 2010.<sup>153</sup>

In 2006, Illinois established the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ), which was charged with handling those responsibilities concerning services to youth that were previously handled by the Illinois Department of Corrections. IDJJ oversees the detention of youth in five state-run facilities (Chicago, Harrisburg, Pere Marquette, Warrenville, and the Adult Career and Education Center in St. Charles). IDJJ plans to open a new youth center in Lincoln (opening tentatively set for September 2025).

At the end of November 2024, there were 188 youth in IDJJ facilities, and 264 youth being monitored and supported in communities around the state.<sup>154</sup> In state Fiscal Year 2024, the average age of a youth in IDJJ facilities was 17.5 years, and the average length of stay was 5.8 months.<sup>155</sup> SB 426 (passed in 2024 and now PA 103-0875) allows 18-22 year olds in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections to be transferred to IDJJ for the purpose of receiving high school educational services and emerging adult programming.

Youth may also be housed at county juvenile detention centers (located in Adams, Champaign, Cook, Franklin, Kane, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Madison, McLean, Peoria, St. Clair, Sangamon, Will, Vermillion, and Winnebago counties). The Illinois Juvenile Justice

### Section Highlight

**After a decrease of 33% from 2018 to 2021, there was a 58% increase in juvenile arrests from 2021 to 2022.**

Source: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/News/388/Illinois-Supreme-Court-History-Juvenile-Courts/news-detail/>

<sup>152</sup> <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=64921>

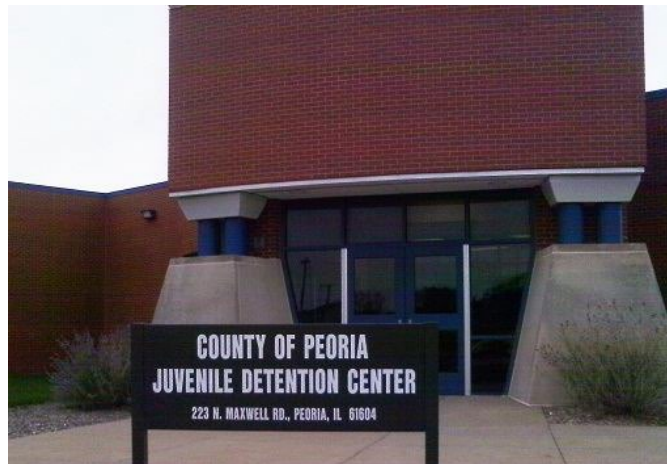
<sup>153</sup> <https://ijjc.illinois.gov/resources/publications/reports/raising-the-age-of-juvenile-court-jurisdiction/>

<sup>154</sup> IDJJ runs Aftercare, which is a range of rehabilitation and therapeutic services that support community supervision of youth committed to IDJJ.

<sup>155</sup> Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2024

Commission publishes regular reports on detentions at these facilities. In December of 2024, the average daily population was 432.<sup>156</sup>

Detention Center Average Daily Population (ADP)		
Detention Center	November 2024 ADP	December 2024 ADP
Adams County Youth Home	20.23	14.68
Champaign County Youth Home	27.33	27.52
Cook County Juvenile Detention Center	205.17	187.87
Franklin County Juvenile Detention	3.00	3.00
Kane County Detention Center	32.37	33.77
Knox County Mary Davis Detention	12.37	11.29
Lake County Detention Center	19.27	15.71
LaSalle County Detention Center	4.40	3.65
Madison County Detention Center	23.10	20.26
McLean County Juvenile Detention Center	14.03	12.97
Peoria County Detention Center	33.87	32.00
Sangamon County Detention Center	1.00	1.00
St. Clair County Detention Center	17.83	14.13
Vermilion Juvenile Detention Center	13.77	12.06
Will County Juvenile Detention Center	19.47	17.13
Winnebago County Detention Center	32.23	25.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>479.44</b>	<b>432.52</b>



Source : <https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/190/Juvenile-Detention-Center>

<sup>156</sup> Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, JMIS (Juvenile Monitoring Information System) Monthly Data Report, Calendar Year 2024 and December 2024.

For the entire year, the ages and lengths of stay were as follows:

Detention Center Admissions by Age by Calendar Year 2024 (January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024).

Detention Centers	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age >17	Total Admission
Adams County Youth Home			1	17	18	30	30	22		118
Champaign County Youth Home			2	10	19	45	37	36	3	152
Cook County Juvenile Detention Center		1	19	70	226	428	617	706	63	2,130
Kane County Detention Center		7	11	21	67	150	180	189	22	647
Knox County Mary Davis Detention	1		3	8	26	30	41	32	5	146
Lake County Detention Center				11	20	29	54	55	21	190
LaSalle County Detention Center				3	7	14	19	18		61
Madison County Detention Center		3	7	19	44	59	87	95	14	328
McLean County Juvenile Detention Center				10	28	28	30	42	7	145
Peoria County Detention Center			2	43	89	108	110	101	21	474
St. Clair County Detention Center			1	7	33	57	80	70		248
Vermilion Juvenile Detention Center		1	6	18	17	44	44	39	1	170
Will County Juvenile Detention Center			5	21	36	51	88	82	1	284
Winnebago County Detention Center			7	29	37	75	99	108	40	395
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>5,488</b>

A new Youth Center is under construction in Lincoln, Illinois.<sup>157</sup>

<sup>157</sup> <https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/monarch-iyj-lincoln.html>

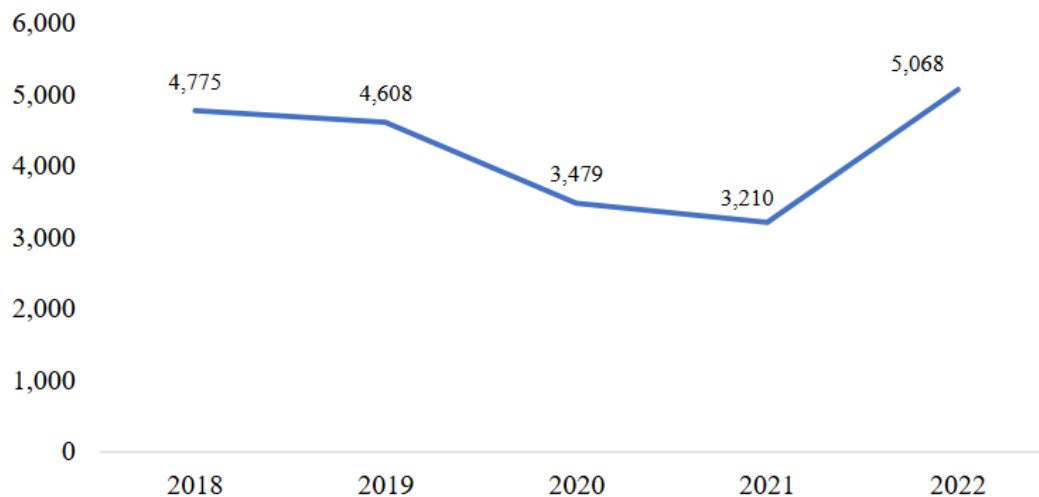
The state of Illinois also has a program called Juvenile Redeploy Illinois (JRI), that provides services to youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who are at risk of detainment in the juvenile justice system. In state FY24, Redeploy Illinois funded services that were provided to 655 young people.<sup>158</sup>

In January of 2025, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority published a review of the latest trends in the state's juvenile justice system.<sup>159</sup> It notes that nationally, in general, the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system has declined since the mid-1990s with states passing laws to reduce the number of youths entering the system as well as placed in secure confinement. The number of youths in detention during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic decreased dramatically.

ICJIA reviewed state police data but also notes that state laws automatically require or permit expungement of records. The data reviewed by ICJIA reflects non-expunged arrests.

Between 2018 and 2022, Illinois juvenile arrests increased slightly (6%). However, after a decrease of 33% from 2018 to 2021, there was a 58% increase from 2021 to 2022.

Source (for this and following two charts): ICJIA review of State Police data from its Computerized Criminal History Database.

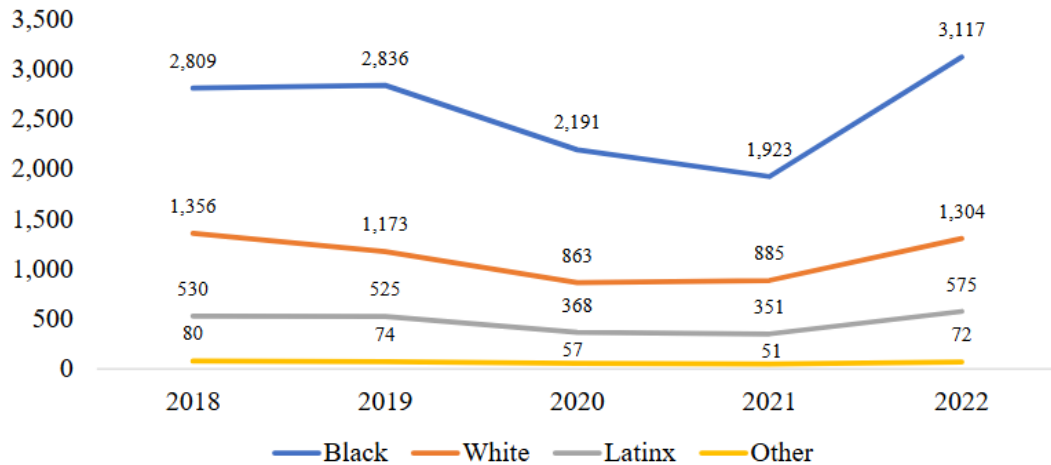


<sup>158</sup> Redeploy Illinois Annual Report 2024.

<sup>159</sup> Adams, S., Reichert, J., Ott Hill, E., & Ayala, A. *Illinois juvenile justice system trends pre- and post-COVID-19*. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2025.

Distinct differences remain in arrest rates when analyzed by race and ethnicity. While Latino and Hispanic youth saw the greatest increase in arrests from 2021 to 2022. Black youth arrests remain at a much higher level overall.

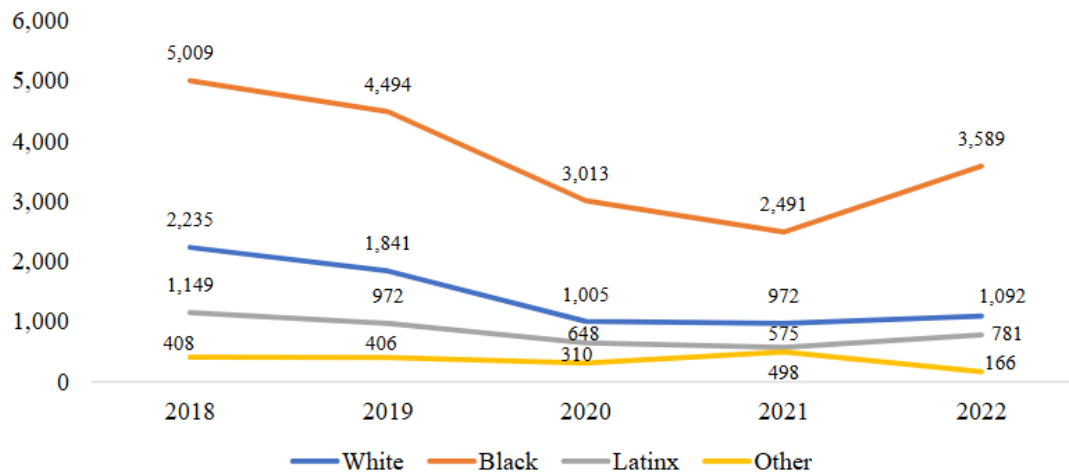
*Juvenile Arrests by Race and Ethnicity, CY 2018-2022*



The largest percentage of crimes is listed as property related (39%) followed by violent offenses (37%).<sup>160</sup> Of all arrests during this time period, 42% were for misdemeanors.

Illinois juvenile detention admissions from 2018-2022 fell by 35%. Again, there are disparities by race and ethnicity. Black youth saw a distinct increase from 2021 to 2022.

*Juvenile Detention by Race/Ethnicity, CY 2018-2022*



*Note.* The data source was the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Center for Prevention Research and Development.

<sup>160</sup> A violent offense is generally defined in state statute as one where an individual uses force (or there is the threat of force) against a victim. This could include homicide, assault and battery, and robbery among other crimes.



In 2022, Cook County had the highest level of detention, followed by the central region of the state, the northern region (counties minus Cook), and the southern region. The central region had the highest number of juveniles on probation in 2022, followed by the northern region, Cook, and the southern region of the state.<sup>161</sup>

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the recidivism rate in FY24 (with the calculation based on as return to a IDJJ facility within three years) was 31.7%. Keeping in mind changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the prior years were<sup>162</sup>

- Fiscal Year 2020 exits- 29.8%
- Fiscal Year 2019 exits- 35.7%
- Fiscal Year 2018 exits- 36.9%
- Fiscal Year 2017 exits- 37.7%

According to a news report earlier this year, there are approximately 800 adults involved in lawsuits alleging sexual abuse as children at state and Cook County youth detention facilities between 1996 and 2023.<sup>163</sup> A September 2024 news report on the subject stated: “The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice said it’s aware of the lawsuits, and though officials declined to comment on active litigation, the agency “takes seriously the safety of youth in the care of the Department... The offices of the Cook County Board president and the chief judge of the Cook County Circuit Court declined to comment on pending litigation.”<sup>164</sup>

An amendment to SB 2418, approved by the House and sent to the Senate at the end of the spring legislative session for concurrence, would create the Child First Reform Task Force. The Task Force would be charged with reviewing and studying the condition of juvenile detention centers across the state. This review could include evaluating complaints arising out of juvenile detention centers, identifying best practices to provide detention center care, proposing community-based alternatives to juvenile detention, and advising on the creation of the Youth Advisory Agency with youth justice advisors and district youth advisory offices in each circuit court district.

<sup>161</sup> Probation requires a formal finding of delinquency and specific conditions set by the court that the youth must meet.

<sup>162</sup> Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2024

<sup>163</sup> <https://abc7chicago.com/post/new-lawsuits-alleged-sex-abuse-illinois-juvenile-facilities-include-130-people-allegations-date-back-90s/15894851/>

<sup>164</sup> Sherry, Sophie. *Illinois Juvenile Detention Centers Facing Hundreds More Sex Abuse Claims*, Chicago Sun-Times, September 25, 2024. Accessed: <https://www.nprillinois.org/illinois/2024-09-25/illinois-juvenile-detention-centers-facing-hundreds-more-sex-abuse-claims>

**Community Profiles:** Throughout the data book, we list county data. Here we take a closer look at a few Illinois communities representing the largest city in the state (Chicago), suburban communities, a central Illinois city, a majority Hispanic or Latino city, and a majority African-American city. This is just a sample of the diverse Illinois communities.

<b>Aurora, Illinois</b>	<b>Total (Estimate)</b>
Children under 18 years in households	47,802
<b>Age</b>	
Under 6 years	28.50%
6 to 11 years	33.80%
12 to 17 years	37.70%
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>	
One race	71.10%
White	35.60%
Black or African American	9.30%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.30%
Asian	11.20%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.20%
Some other race	13.50%
Two or more races	28.90%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	50.60%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	23.30%
<b>Relationship to Householder</b>	
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	88.60%
Grandchild	6.40%
Other relatives	3.80%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1.20%
<b>Nativity</b>	
Native	95.10%
Foreign born	4.90%
<b>School Enrollment</b>	
Children 3 to 17 years in households	41,453
Enrolled in school	37,312
Public	91.40%
Private	8.60%
Not enrolled in school	4,141
<b>Median Family Income in the Past 12 months (In 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Families with Own Children Under 18</b>	\$89,408
<b>Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	26.80%
<b>Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	47,336
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	13.90%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	86.10%
<b>Housing Tenure</b>	
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	47,802
In owner-occupied housing units	63.80%
In renter-occupied housing units	36.20%
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Children Characteristics." <i>American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0901, S1903, 2023</i>	

<b>Chicago, Illinois</b>	<b>Total (Estimate)</b>
Children under 18 years in households	534,817
<b>Age</b>	
Under 6 years	33.40%
6 to 11 years	32.80%
12 to 17 years	33.80%
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>	
One race	83.30%
White	29.80%
Black or African American	31.30%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.10%
Asian	5.20%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.00%
Some other race	15.80%
Two or more races	16.70%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	39.20%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	20.40%
<b>Relationship to Householder</b>	
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	83.70%
Grandchild	10.60%
Other relatives	4.00%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1.70%
<b>Nativity</b>	
Native	96.20%
Foreign born	3.80%
<b>School Enrollment</b>	
Children 3 to 17 years in households	443,630
Enrolled in school	400,070
Public	80.80%
Private	19.20%
Not enrolled in school	43,560
<b>Median Family Income in the Past 12 months (In 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Families with Own Children Under 18</b>	\$81,845
<b>Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	39.10%
<b>Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	527,654
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	23.90%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	76.10%
<b>Housing Tenure</b>	
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	534,817
In owner-occupied housing units	50.80%
In renter-occupied housing units	49.20%
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0901, S1903, 2023	

Because of the population thresholds by which the Census Bureau produces tables, this format differs slightly from the others in this report.

<b>East St. Louis, Illinois</b>		<b>Total (Estimate)</b>	
Under 18 years		3,330	
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>			
One race			
White		28	
Black or African American		3097	
American Indian and Alaska Native		0	
Asian		0	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander		0	
Some other race		13	
Two or more races		192	
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)		231	
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino		28	
		% in Public School	% in Private School
<b>School Enrollment (ages 3-17 in households)</b>	3,259	87.70%	12.30%
Nursery school, preschool	291	95.20%	4.80%
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 4	564	98.00%	2.00%
Elementary: grade 5 to grade 8	691	72.50%	27.50%
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	969	97.90%	2.10%
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native	3,330		
Foreign Born	0		
<b>Median Family Income (households with own children under 18)</b>	\$29,493		
<b>Receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance Income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the Past 12 Months by Household Type for Children Under 18 Years in Households</b>			
Total Households	3,326	% Households with Public Assistance	
Household with Public Assistance	2,152	64.7%	
Percentage of households receiving assistance that are female householder, no spouse present	89.5%		
<b>Poverty Status in the Past 12 months</b>		% Children in Poverty	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	3,326		
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	1,772	53.3%	
<b>Housing Tenure</b>		Percentage	
Owner-occupied housing units:			
With related children of the householder under 18:	503	32.3%	
Renter-occupied housing units:			
With related children of the householder under 18:	1,052	67.6%	
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Tables B1001, B05003, B09010, B25012, S1401, S1701.			

<b>Evanston, Illinois</b>	<b>Total (Estimate)</b>
Children under 18 years in households	13,980
<b>Age</b>	
Under 6 years	29.40%
6 to 11 years	35.40%
12 to 17 years	35.20%
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>	
One race	80.50%
White	51.20%
Black or African American	17.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.20%
Asian	5.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.00%
Some other race	6.10%
Two or more races	19.50%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	19.20%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	46.80%
<b>Relationship to Householder</b>	
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	91.00%
Grandchild	6.00%
Other relatives	1.50%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1.50%
<b>Nativity</b>	
Native	94.90%
Foreign born	5.10%
<b>School Enrollment</b>	
Children 3 to 17 years in households	12,063
Enrolled in school	11,302
Public	76.20%
Private	23.80%
Not enrolled in school	761
<b>Median Family Income in the Past 12 months (In 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Families with Own Children Under 18</b>	\$193,778
<b>Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	14.30%
<b>Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	13,835
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	9.80%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	90.20%
<b>Housing Tenure</b>	
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	13,980
In owner-occupied housing units	62.40%
In renter-occupied housing units	37.60%
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0901, S1903, 2023	

<b>Peoria, Illinois</b>	<b>Total (Estimate)</b>
Children under 18 years in households	26,784
<b>Age</b>	
Under 6 years	34.90%
6 to 11 years	33.90%
12 to 17 years	31.20%
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>	
One race	84.40%
White	38.20%
Black or African American	34.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.50%
Asian	7.30%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.00%
Some other race	4.20%
Two or more races	15.60%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	11.80%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	36.30%
<b>Relationship to Householder</b>	
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	91.90%
Grandchild	5.30%
Other relatives	1.50%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1.30%
<b>Nativity</b>	
Native	92.90%
Foreign born	7.10%
<b>School Enrollment</b>	
Children 3 to 17 years in households	22,150
Enrolled in school	18,948
Public	77.80%
Private	22.20%
Not enrolled in school	3,202
<b>Median Family Income in the Past 12 months (In 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Families with Own Children Under 18</b>	\$62,368
<b>Public Assistance in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	42.20%
<b>Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months</b>	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	26,501
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	27.80%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	72.20%
<b>Housing Tenure</b>	
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	26,784
In owner-occupied housing units	58.10%
In renter-occupied housing units	41.90%
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. <i>American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0901, S1903, 2023</i>	

<b>Waukegan, Illinois</b>	<b>Total (Estimate)</b>
Children under 18 years in households	21,383
AGE	
Under 6 years	29.40%
6 to 11 years	35.20%
12 to 17 years	35.30%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	
One race	77.00%
White	33.50%
Black or African American	15.20%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.00%
Asian	4.50%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.10%
Some other race	21.60%
Two or more races	23.00%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	68.80%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	7.90%
RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLDER	
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	85.50%
Grandchild	10.60%
Other relatives	3.50%
Foster child or other unrelated child	0.50%
NATIVITY	
Native	95.60%
Foreign born	4.40%
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	
Children 3 to 17 years in households	18,601
Enrolled in school	16,376
Public	86.90%
Private	13.10%
Not enrolled in school	2,225
<b>Median Family Income in the Past 12 months (In 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Families with Own Children Under 18</b>	<b>\$70,239</b>
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	38.90%
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	21,286
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	25.30%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	74.70%
HOUSING TENURE	
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	21,383
In owner-occupied housing units	47.30%
In renter-occupied housing units	52.70%
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0901, S1903, 2023	



## Recent Action by the Federal Government (July 2025)

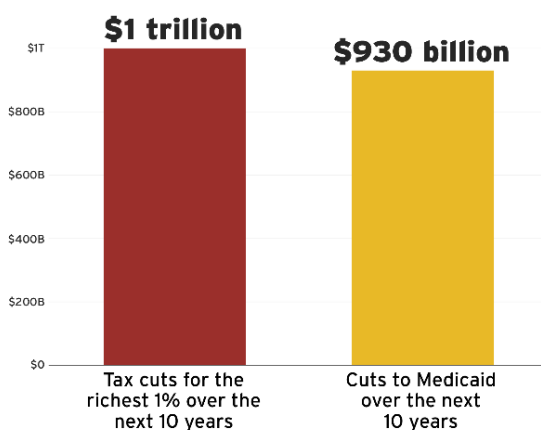
Shortly before Children’s Advocates for Change was ready to publish this data book, the public policy landscape shifted dramatically with Congressional approval of a tax and spending package called the “One Big Beautiful Bill” that President Donald Trump signed into law on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The bill, through tax cut extensions and new tax breaks, reduces revenue over the next 10 years by \$4.5 trillion, which includes a \$200 increase in the maximum available federal child tax credit that will set the amount at \$2,200 until 2028. (After 2026, it is adjusted for inflation.) However, that amount is not available to every family. In fact, a two-adult, two-child family will need to earn \$41,500 to get the full credit.<sup>165</sup>

The bill also contains additional spending on defense and border security as well as \$1.1 trillion in spending cuts over ten years. The Congressional Budget Office estimated on July 1, 2025, that the net impact would be a \$3.4 trillion increase in the deficit between 2025 and 2034.<sup>166</sup>

The bill’s impact to Medicaid accounts for more than \$1 trillion of the cuts.<sup>167</sup> The

### Trump Megabill Pays for Tax Cuts for the Top 1% With Medicaid Cuts for Moderate-Income Families



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy analysis of data from the Joint Committee on Taxation, Congressional Budget Office, and various other sources, July 2025

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy | ITEP.org

legislation requires most Medicaid beneficiaries to prove they are working or in school at least 80 hours a month to keep their health insurance starting December 31, 2026. That requirement applies to low-income parents of children older than 13, in addition to childless adults without disabilities.<sup>168</sup> There are some exemptions including students and caregivers.

The legislation permits the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to exempt states from the work requirement for an additional two years if a state

demonstrates that it is making an effort to comply with the requirement and reports on its progress to date along with any barriers it is facing.<sup>169</sup>

<sup>165</sup> Higham, Aliss., *Child Tax Credit Warning: Millions of Children Could Be Ineligible*, Newsweek, July 4, 2025.

<sup>166</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-07/61537-hr1-Senate-passed-additional-info7-1-25.pdf>

<sup>167</sup> Sanger-Katz, Margot. G.O.P. Bill Has \$1.1 Trillion in Health Cuts and 11.8 Million Losing Care, C.B.O. Says, New York Times, July 1, 2025.

<sup>168</sup> Wire, Sarah. *When Would Trump’s Tax and Spending Bill Go Into Effect?*, USA Today, July 3, 2025.

<sup>169</sup> <https://www.kff.org/tracking-the-medicaid-provisions-in-the-2025-budget-bill/>

The bill also requires more frequent program eligibility checks (every six months).<sup>170</sup> Another provision will require program participants with incomes above the poverty line to pay out-of-pocket co-pays for most Medicaid services.<sup>171</sup>

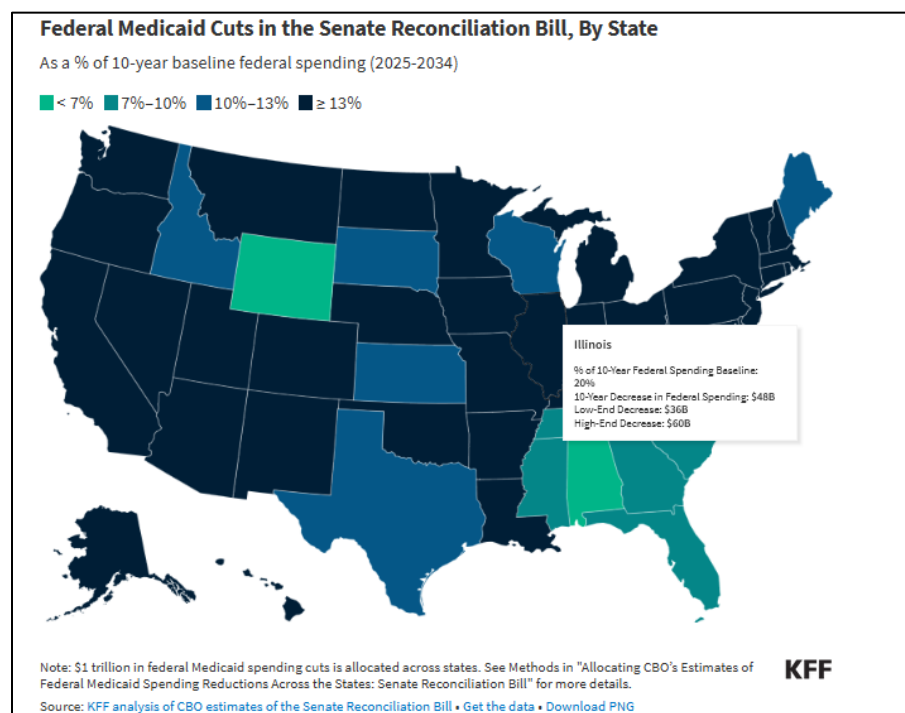
The Senate bill also lowers the Medicaid provider tax maximum rate. States have used the provider tax, whose maximum rate is now 6.0%, to tax health care providers (frequently hospitals and nursing homes) to secure matching federal funds for Medicaid services. The legislation begins lowering the rate in 2028 by 0.5% per year until it reaches a new maximum level of 3.5%.<sup>172</sup>

Overall, the bill makes \$1.1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Congressional Budget Office estimated prior to final passage of the bill that it could result in 11.8 million people losing health insurance by 2034. However, KFF

(formerly the Kaiser Family Foundation) estimates that with the ACA's enhanced premium tax credit set to expire and another recent rule change the number could be as high as 17 million.<sup>173</sup>

The changes will mean the loss of billions of dollars in Medicaid funding that flows to Illinois, which could result in

the curtailment or elimination of various health care services now covered. On July 1, KFF published an estimated loss in federal funds to Illinois of \$48 billion.<sup>174</sup>



<sup>170</sup> Folley et al. What Made the Cut in Senate's Nearly 1,000-page Policy Megabill?, The Hill, July 1, 2025.

<sup>171</sup> <https://www.wspa.com/news/top-stories/how-trumps-megabill-will-impact-health-care/>

<sup>172</sup> <https://skillednursingnews.com/2025/07/senates-passes-bill-with-staffing-provider-tax-provisions-helpful-to-nursing-homes-intact-but-worries-remain/>

<sup>173</sup> Kim Constantino, Annika. *Medicaid Cuts in Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' Will Leave Millions Uninsured, Threaten Rural Hospitals*, CNBC, July 1, 2025.

<sup>174</sup> Euhus, Rhiannon, Williams, Elizabeth, Burns, Alice, Rudowitz, Robin. *Spending Reductions Across the States: Senate Reconciliation Bill*, KFF, July 2, 2025.

In a letter to the President and Republican Leaders in mid-June, four Democratic U.S. Senators (Markey, Merkley, Schumer, and Wyden) cited work conducted by the University of North Carolina's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research listing rural hospitals at risk of closing due to proposed Medicaid changes. This was before the eventual inclusion of a fund to assist rural hospitals. The center looked at:

- Whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years,
- Whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals, and
- Whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients<sup>175</sup>

On the list were nine Illinois hospitals:

Franklin Hospital	Benton
OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center	Danville
Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital	Dixon
Harrisburg Medical Center Inc.	Harrisburg
Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital	Hoopseton
Massac Memorial Hospital	Metropolis
Richland Memorial Hospital	Olney
Crawford Memorial Hospital	Robinson
Hardin County General Hospital	Rosiclare

To address concerns about the impact of the legislation on rural hospitals nationwide, the bill includes \$50 billion for assistance to rural hospitals.

Governor J.B. Pritzker's Office published numbers following final passage of the bill that indicated 90 nursing homes could potentially close as a result of the tax and spending bill and that 300,000 Illinoisans are at risk of losing their health care coverage.<sup>176</sup>

The bill also makes changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It requires most people to remain in the workforce until age 64 (now 54) to qualify for benefits.<sup>177</sup> The federal government would continue to fully fund SNAP benefits for states



*Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic in Rosiclare.*  
Source: ilhcgh.org

<sup>175</sup> [https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_on\\_rural\\_hospitals.pdf](https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_on_rural_hospitals.pdf)

<sup>176</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1280154330134290&set=a.405528707596861>

<sup>177</sup> Moskin, Julia. What Are SNAP Benefits, and How Might They Change?, New York Times, July 1, 2025.

that have an error payment rate below 6%. Beginning in 2028, states with error rates above 6% would be responsible for a share of the costs:<sup>178</sup>

- 6 to 8%: 5% cost-share
- 8 to 10%: 10% cost-share
- 10% or greater: 15% cost-share

Data from the US. Department of Agriculture shows Illinois had a payment error rate of 11.56% in Federal Fiscal Year 2023.<sup>179</sup> Newsweek magazine estimates based on 2024 numbers; Illinois will fall into the 15% cost share category.<sup>180</sup>

A day before Senate passage of the bill, prior to some last-minute changes to it, Yale University's Budget Lab estimated the bill's provisions would result in a decline of 2.9% in income for the bottom 20% of income earners but an increase of 1.9% for the top 1% of income earners.<sup>181</sup>

However, there are potentially more cuts on the way.

In a proposal to Congress in May, the President's Office of Management and Budget also proposed cutting non-defense discretionary spending in FFY26 by \$163 billion that includes \$4 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and \$26.7 billion for State Rental Assistance Block Grants.<sup>182</sup> Among other items, the President has already stated he will stop paying out \$1 billion in federal grants contained in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that school districts across the country, including Illinois, have used to hire staff



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 2, 2025

THE DIRECTOR  
  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins:

This letter provides President Trump's recommendations on discretionary funding levels for fiscal year (FY) 2026. They are being provided in advance of the President's full fiscal plan to reach balance and restore confidence in America's fiscal management, so that your Committee may commence with debate and consideration of appropriations bills for the upcoming fiscal year.

The recommended funding levels result from a rigorous, line-by-line review of FY 2025 spending, which was found to be laden with spending contrary to the needs of ordinary working Americans and tilted toward funding niche non-governmental organizations and institutions of higher education committed to radical gender and climate ideologies antithetical to the American way of life.

We also considered, for each program, whether the governmental service provided could be provided better by State or local governments (if provided at all). Just as the Federal Government has intruded on matters best left to American families, it has intruded on matters best left to the levels of government closest to the people, who understand and respect the needs and desires of their communities far better than the Federal Government ever could.

Cutting such spending from the discretionary budget leads to significant savings: the President is proposing base non-defense discretionary budget authority \$163 billion—22.6 percent—below current-year spending, while still protecting funding for homeland security, veterans, seniors, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Over 10 years, this restraint would generate trillions in savings, necessary for balancing the budget.

At the same time, the Budget proposes unprecedented increases for defense and border security. For Defense spending, the President proposes an increase of 13 percent to \$1.01 trillion for FY 2026; for Homeland Security, the Budget commits a historic \$175 billion investment to, at long last, fully secure our border. Under the proposal, a portion of these increases—at least \$325 billion assumed in the budget resolution recently agreed to by the Congress—would be

<sup>178</sup> Higham, Aliss, *Map Shows How SNAP Bills Would Rise For States Under Trump Bill*, Newsweek, July 2, 2025.

<sup>179</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-fy24QC-PER.pdf>

<sup>180</sup> Moskin, Newsweek.

<sup>181</sup> <https://budgetlab.yale.edu/research/distributional-effects-selected-provisions-house-and-senate-reconciliation-bills>

<sup>182</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf>

to address student mental health services.<sup>183</sup> As noted in the Health and Wellness section of this data book, the percentage of Illinois high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide has risen from 12.9% in 2007 to 19.2% in 2023.

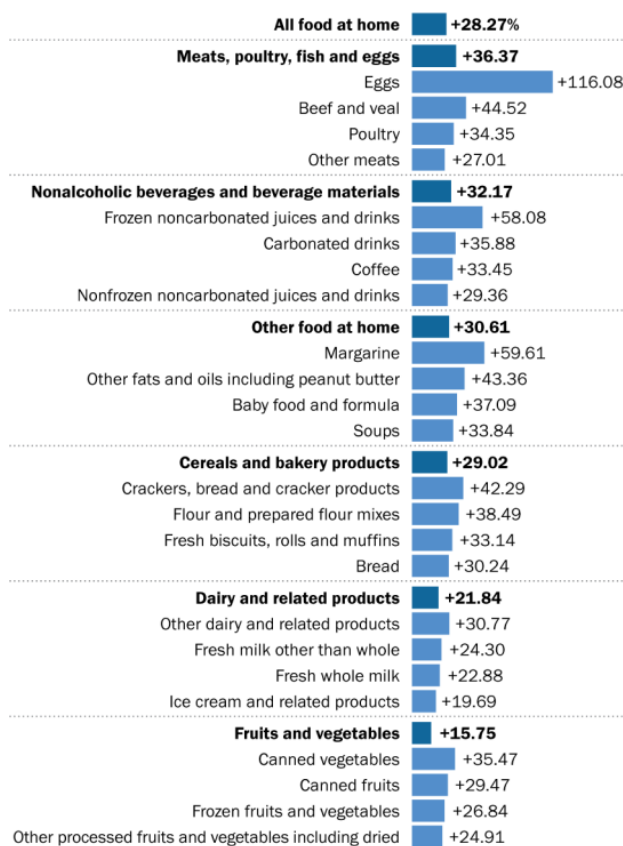
In addition, a revamped Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) has indicated to plans to review the safety of the currently recommended childhood vaccine schedule. Earlier this year, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. fired members of the committee and appointed eight new members. A number of them have expressed skepticism about the value and safety of vaccines.<sup>184</sup>

The cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and overall income reduction come at a time when prices are increasing. From January 2020 to April 2025, the cost for all food consumed at home has increased by nearly 30%.<sup>185</sup> The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the cost of shelter (year-to-date as of April 2025) increased by 4.0% during that same time frame, and worker compensation rose by 3.6% for the one-year period ending March 2025.<sup>186</sup> According to Apartment list, Chicago's year-over-year rent grown was 5% as of May.<sup>187</sup>

In testimony before Congress, Federal

### Prices have increased sharply for many types of food since before the COVID-19 pandemic

*Change in consumer price index for select food items, January 2020-April 2025*



Note: Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>183</sup> Turner, Cory. *Education Department Stops \$1 Billion in Funding For School Mental Health*, NPR, May 1, 2025.

<sup>184</sup> Bendix, Aria. *Kennedy-appointed CDC Vaccine Panel Says It Will Scrutinize the Childhood Vaccine Schedule*, NBC News, June 25, 2025.

<sup>185</sup> Leppert, Rebecca. *5 Facts About Food Costs in America*, Pew Research Center, May 15, 2025.

<sup>186</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/eci.nr0.htm>

<sup>187</sup> Kane, Lizzie. *Illinois Faces Severe Housing Shortage*, Chicago Tribune, June 24, 2025.

Reserve Chair Jerome Power said President Donald Trump's tariffs will likely push up inflation.<sup>188</sup>

The exact impact of tariffs is not clear since the Trump Administration continues to negotiate with other countries. However, the Consumer Federation of America notes that 15% of the U.S. food supply is imported, including "32% of fresh vegetables, 55% of fresh fruit, and 94% of seafood".<sup>189</sup> Yale University's Budget Lab determined that the price levels from all 2025 tariffs implemented through April 15<sup>th</sup> increases prices by 3% in the short run or the equivalent of \$4,900 for the average household consumer in 2024 dollars.<sup>190</sup>

All of this impacts Illinois families and raises the question of how, or if, the state will intervene with new revenue to address shortfalls in federal funding for the program areas detailed above as well as others. As noted, some of the provisions do not become effective until the end of 2026.

Speaking about the Senate version of the tax and spending bill prior to final Congressional approval, Governor J.B. Pritzker stated, "The state of Illinois can't cover the cost – no state in the country can cover the cost of reinstating that health insurance that is today paid for mostly by the federal government, partly by state government."<sup>191</sup>

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<sup>188</sup> Rugaber, Christopher. *Fed's Powell Repeats Warning About Tariffs as Some GOP Senators Accuse Him of Bias*, Associated Press, June 25, 2025.

<sup>189</sup> Lin-Fisher, Betty. *How will Trump's tariffs affect grocery store prices? We explain*, USA Today, May 5, 2025.

<sup>190</sup> <https://budgetlab.yale.edu/research/state-us-tariffs-april-15-2025>

<sup>191</sup> Hancock, Peter. *Pritzker Warns 330,000 Illinoisans Could Lose Medicaid Under Trump's Budget Plan*, Capitol News Service, July 4, 2025.



## Voices on Head Start Funding Uncertainty

*In April of 2025, news outlets reported that a draft budget proposal from the Trump Administration called for the elimination of Head Start.<sup>192</sup> Subsequently, when the President's Office of Management and Budget presented recommendations for cuts in discretionary funding levels for the next federal fiscal year, Head Start was not on the list.<sup>193</sup>*

**"You can't replace Head Start. There [are] not enough people. There's not enough infrastructure. There's not enough money to replace it."**

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, Executive Director of the Illinois Head Start Association

*Still, Head Start has seen changes with the closing of five regional offices, including one in Chicago, in April.<sup>194</sup> In addition, the Office of Head Start issued a directive in March stating it would not approve "the use of federal funding for any training and technical assistance (TTA) or other program expenditures that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative".<sup>195</sup>*

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"It's just a very stressful time." That's how Lauri Morrison-Frichtl, Executive Director of the Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA), described the current funding climate for Head Start and Early Head Start programs across Illinois. Speaking alongside Donna Emmons, the Associate Head Start State Collaboration Director, both leaders reflected on how even the *possibility* of federal shifts is impacting day-to-day operations.

### **"Programs have had to close temporarily"**

While funding is currently intact, administrative instability has created serious operational challenges. The abrupt closure of the Chicago federal regional office, one of many closed nationwide, has left programs without timely support or clarity. Program directors are learning about their annual funding just days before fiscal deadlines, or in rarer cases, after they've already had to temporarily shut their doors. Emmons explained, "Programs have had to close temporarily until the actual award letter came."

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<sup>192</sup> Stobbe, Mike. *Draft Budget Plan Proposes Deep Cuts Across Federal Health Programs*, Associated Press, April 17, 2025.

<sup>193</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf>

<sup>194</sup> Schneider, Allie, "Closures of Head Start Regional Offices Jeopardize Critical Services for Children and Families", Center for American Progress, April 29, 2025.

<sup>195</sup> <https://acf.gov/ohs/news/federal-funding-restrictions-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-initiatives>



### **“We’ve been told to remove it from the website”: Navigating the DEI Ban**

Regarding the federal directive prohibiting the use of Head Start funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, Emmons and Morrison-Frichtl expressed deep concern about the chilling effect this has had on programming. Morrison-Frichtl noted, “We are not allowed to use the word DEI. We’re not allowed to put DEI in our grants. We’ve been told to remove it from the website.” Emmons added, “Programs had to remove an ADA training because it had the word DEI in it.”

### **State Funding and Advocacy**

The Smart Start Illinois initiative, designed to expand access and improve early education pay, despite being an impactful investment, has only increased pressure. Head Start programs are ineligible for Smart Start grants, forcing childcare partners to choose between continuing partnerships or seeking better compensation. “It’s causing fragmentation,” Morrison-Frichtl explained. “To raise salaries for staff, some Head Start programs are cutting enrollment... serving fewer children than we were years ago.” Kiwana Walton, a Head Start Education and Disabilities Coordinator with Family Focus, explained further: “We’re not able to keep up with the pay scale... We are barely making it with staff.”

Despite these obstacles, the Illinois Head Start Association continues to advocate for solutions. They’ve joined an ACLU lawsuit challenging the DEI ban and are calling for greater integration into state funding and workforce systems. But their message is clear: Head Start isn’t just another provider; it is a core part of early childhood development in Illinois.

## **State Policy Recommendations**

Among its findings, the data in this book documents that:

- A significant number of Illinois children are in poverty.
- Based numbers from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, a very large percentage of Illinois children depend on the state for comprehensive healthcare coverage.
- Whether it is lingering impacts from the height of the pandemic or social media, a significant number of Illinois youth face mental health challenges.
- A large number of Illinois students do not meet English and math proficiency standards.

As a state, we need to provide a basic level of health, education, and economic support to provide all children with the opportunity to thrive. In the following recommendations, we call for greater investments. A section on revenue options follows.

### **● Economic Support for Working Families**

As noted in this report, and by the organization Child Trends, poverty is likely to be particularly harmful to our youngest children, who need access to certain resources during critical stages of early child development.<sup>196</sup> Childhood poverty—especially deep poverty, persistent poverty, and poverty during the earliest years of life—can impact a child’s physical and mental health, emotional development, academic outcomes, and eventual labor market success.<sup>197</sup>

In 2024, the Illinois General Assembly enacted a state Child Tax Credit. Children’s Advocates for Change helped lead this effort and we are grateful for the legislature’s action.

The refundable credit is available to taxpayers eligible for the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is 20% of the federal EITC, that has at least one child younger than age 12 in the household. For tax year 2024 (with taxes payable in 2025), the new state Child Tax Credit was worth 20% of a taxpayer’s state EITC. It increases to 40% of a taxpayer’s state EITC for tax year 2025 and beyond.

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<sup>196</sup> Jordan, E., & Bredeson, M. *Reducing child poverty for our youngest children requires that we consider their unique needs*, Child Trends, December 8, 2022.

<sup>197</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/research-topic/poverty-economic-wellbeing>

However, due to the CTC's structure (with the CTC as a percentage of the state EITC), the maximum available credit is not available to very low-income families. Before the federal changes and proposals listed in this section, Illinois faced financial challenges regarding a new state budget. However, we hope this report has also demonstrated the increasing stress facing

low-income residents. Illinois needs to expand the maximum available state Child Tax Credit to low-income families. The additional financial resources can help these families with food costs, rent, and other basic household necessities.

#### Value of Federal Earned Income Tax Credit, 2023

Filing Status:

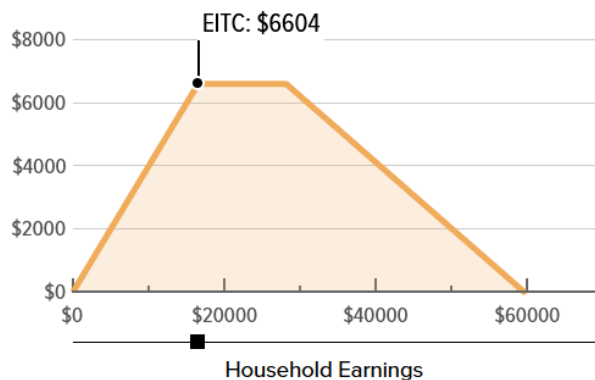
Married

Number of Children:

Two

Household Earnings:

\$16500



Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example).

Source: Internal Revenue Service

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

### ● Boost Support for County Health Departments and Community Healthcare Workers

Two of the provisions in Healthy Illinois 2028 (the state's health improvement plan issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] in 2023) include:

- Improving accessibility, availability, and quality of equitable reproductive health and well-woman/person preventative health care services across the reproductive lifespan, and
- Improving the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) system's infrastructure to support and strengthen prevention and treatment

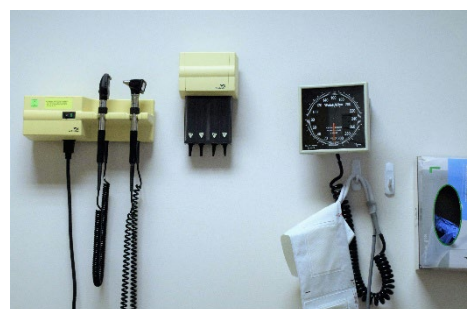
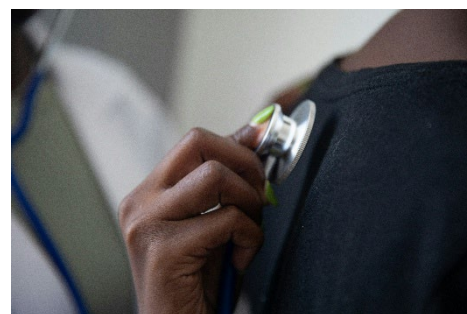
The state's county public health system provides a vehicle for these initiatives given that the health infrastructure is in place. A stronger state investment in the public health system could address a number of the issues reflected in this data book. Earlier this year, IDPH announced funding for the development of a multi-year campaign supporting and promoting the inclusion of community health workers in health teams.

What eventually happens to Medicaid, as well as the operations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the allocation of other federal public health funds, will have a

big impact on the state’s public health operation.<sup>198</sup> Medicaid coverage losses would disproportionately impact safety-net hospitals because these providers treat a higher share of Medicaid and low-income patients.<sup>199</sup> The changes could hit Illinois’ 64 rural hospitals particularly hard with a 20% loss in Medicaid revenue and a 56.5% change in uncompensated care costs.<sup>200</sup>

Yet, even before the changes, Illinois – which ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the country when comparing states by Gross Domestic Product - ranked, on a per capita basis (of state’s ranked states), 25<sup>th</sup> in 2023.<sup>201</sup>

Per Capita State Public Health Funding (2023)		
Ranking	State	Per Capita Dollars
	Nevada	N/A
	West Virginia	N/A
1	Dist. of Columbia	423.21
2	New Mexico	234.74
3	Maryland	189.95
4	Oregon	181.96
5	Massachusetts	128.98
6	New York	99.95
7	Alaska	87.85
8	California	84.17
9	Minnesota	79.87
10	Hawaii	75.56
11	Colorado	73.93
12	Tennessee	72.58
13	North Dakota	72.26
14	Washington	69.33
15	Oklahoma	66.57
16	Rhode Island	63.2
17	Vermont	61.74
18	Alabama	51.89
19	Delaware	50.51
20	Virginia	47.09
21	Arkansas	44.89
22	Nebraska	44.8



<sup>198</sup> The FY25 state budget shows appropriations of \$1.6 billion of which \$471 million (or approximately 30%) is designated federal funds.

<sup>199</sup> Haight, Randy, Coleman, Akeiisa, Dobson, Allen, Carson, Richards, McGuire, Collin. *Federal Cuts to Medicaid Could End Medicaid Expansion and Affect Hospitals in Nearly Every State*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 22, 2025.

<sup>200</sup> Ibid.

<sup>201</sup> Trust for America's Health . *Shortchanging America's Health, Investing in America's Health, The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System*; Data analysis by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center, University of Minnesota.

Per Capita State Public Health Funding (2023)		
Ranking	State	Per Capita Dollars
23	Maine	44.73
24	Idaho	44.24
<b>25</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>43.28</b>
26	New Jersey	43.06
27	Connecticut	41.02
28	South Dakota	40.63
29	Kentucky	40.13
30	Michigan	38.76
31	Iowa	37.26
32	Utah	34.92
33	Georgia	34.82
34	Wyoming	33.44
35	Kansas	31.78
36	Ohio	29.71
37	Louisiana	29.12
38	South Carolina	28.91
39	Arizona	28.15
40	New Hampshire	23.82
41	Florida	22.21
42	Wisconsin	19.23
43	Montana	18.96
44	Pennsylvania	17.77
45	Mississippi	17.12
46	Texas	16.84
47	North Carolina	16.61
48	Indiana	15.16
49	Missouri	6.67

Greater state investment in county public health systems can potentially assist school districts with the provision of behavioral health services, increase access to healthcare services for low-income populations, and improve infant and maternal health. In addition, county health departments can assist in enrollment for existing benefits, which can include assistance for housing, child care, transportation, and food.

Earlier this year, IDPH announced funding for the development of a multi-year campaign supporting and promoting the inclusion of community health workers into health teams.<sup>202</sup> To the extent these health workers tie into county public health systems,

they could potentially increase access to needed services.

### Avoidable Mortality



Preventable deaths before age 75, per 100,000 people

Source: Trust for America's Health; [https://www.tfah.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Illinois\\_RoN25.pdf](https://www.tfah.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Illinois_RoN25.pdf)

<sup>202</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2025/february/release-20250211.html>

## ● Build New “Adversity Index” into Illinois’ School Aid Formula

Illinois state law (105 ILCS 5/10-20.65) stipulates: School districts may employ a sufficient number of school social workers to address the needs of their students and schools and may maintain the nationally recommended student-to-school social worker ratio of 250 to 1.

School districts vary in their compliance to the recommended standard. According to the State Board of Education, the statewide ratio in 2024 was 432 to 1. For the Chicago Public School District the ratio was 2,919 to 1.<sup>203</sup> School districts also vary in their needs.

As directed by legislation approved by Illinois General Assembly, the State Board of Education (ISBE) is working to develop a community/district level Children’s Adversity Index to measure community childhood trauma exposure. The legislation states ISBE is to develop the index by May 31, 2025.

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.201)

The index shall be informed by research and include both adverse incident data, such as the number or rates of students and families experiencing homelessness and the number or percentages of children who have had contact with the child welfare system, and indicators of aspects of a child's environment that can undermine the child's sense of safety, stability, and bonding, including growing up in a household with caregivers struggling with substance disorders or instability due to parent or guardian separation or incarceration of a parent or guardian, sibling, or other member of the household, or exposure to community violence.

The state’s Whole Child Task Force, also established by state law, recommended in 2022 that the state consider how the Index might be incorporated into the state’s Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula for schools. As noted in the report: *Adjustments to EBF will allow under-resourced schools and districts to acquire and sustain the additional resources needed to support the work of becoming trauma responsive and healing centered.*<sup>204</sup> While the state should strive to meet the recommended level of 250 students to 1 social worker for every school district, building the Index into the EBF would help direct resources to those school districts with the highest needs. The state should also examine revising the law cited at the beginning of this section to recommend a lower student-to-school social worker ratio based on the calculated index.

Additional resources for social workers and school counselors could also potentially help address issues related to chronic absenteeism. Based on parent surveys, University of

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<sup>203</sup> Illinois State Report Card

<sup>204</sup> [https://www.isbe.net/Documents\\_WCTF/Whole-Child-Task-Force-Final-Report.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents_WCTF/Whole-Child-Task-Force-Final-Report.pdf)

Southern California researchers found students on pace to be chronically absent, as well as students with lower grades, were more likely to exhibit emotional and behavioral difficulties.<sup>205</sup> While it is not completely clear on the percentage of students who may have developed mental health issues due to absenteeism versus the percentage of students who became chronically absent due to mental health issues, researchers did note schools can be a central place for the delivery of mental health services.<sup>206</sup> A 2023 study found that student use of school-based health centers was associated with improved school attendance over time, especially when it came to students with a mental health diagnosis.<sup>207</sup>

Under a 2023 federal waiver, Illinois' Medicaid program pays for a broader range of school-based health care services (under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Program) for Medicaid-eligible students than the prior allowed coverage of services related to an Individualized Education Program/Individualized Family Service Plan. It is unclear how, if at all, current Congressional proposals to alter Medicaid might impact these services.

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<sup>205</sup> Rapaport, A., Polikoff, M., Saavedra, A., and Silver, D. *A Nation's Children at Risk: Insights on Children's Mental Health from the Understanding America Study*, University of Southern California, August 2024.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>207</sup> Lim C, Chung PJ, Biely C, Jackson NJ, Puffer M, Zepeda A, Anton P, Leifheit KM, Dudovitz R. *School Attendance Following Receipt of Care From a School-Based Health Center*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2023 Dec;73(6):1125-1131.



## Revenue: Finding the Needed Resources

The above recommendations are based on data prior to the impact of any new federal tax and spending legislation and call for greater investments by the state. These are expenditures that can save the state money in the long run and help eliminate existing inequities noted in this document.

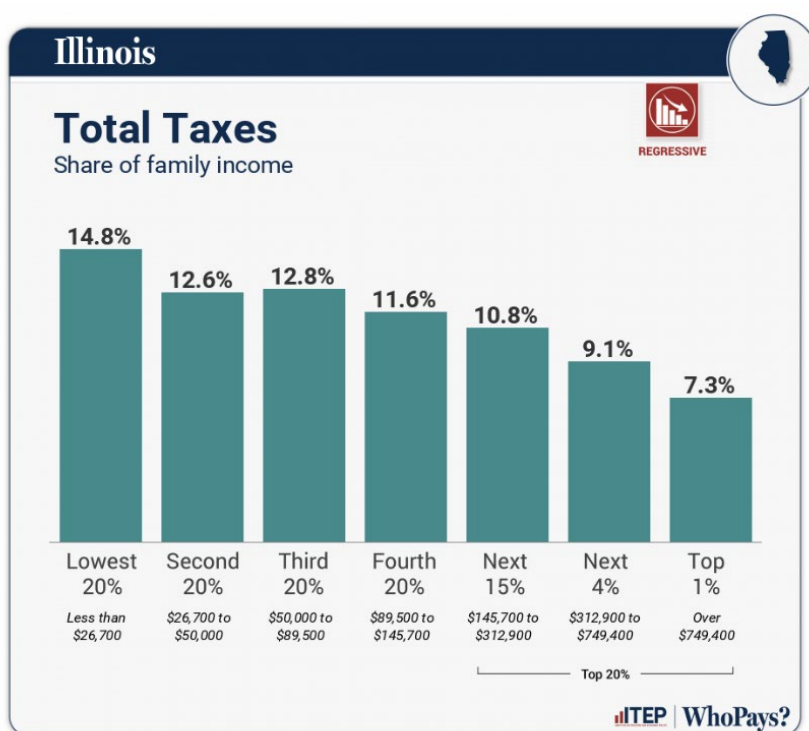
Now, Illinois – along with other states -is also faced with major reductions in federal funding for health and food security as well as other areas that Congress could reduce later this year. Further revenue reductions could occur because of federal tax code changes that could impact the income base calculated for federal tax purposes since that is the starting point for calculating state income taxes.

Unless it makes deep, and potentially significantly detrimental, cuts to other areas of state government, Illinois needs to raise new revenue if it is going to not just meet the basic needs of Illinois children and families but make further investments to improve their well-being and reduce existing inequities. Two major sources of state revenue are income taxes and sales taxes.

### *Income Tax*

Already the combination of state and local tax systems provides a highly inequitable tax system in that the lowest 20% of Illinois income households pay 14.8% of their income in taxes while the top 1% pay 7.3% of their income. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy ranked Illinois as having the 8<sup>th</sup> most regressive tax system in the country.<sup>208</sup>

Illinois needs a progressive income tax - where taxpayers at higher income



<sup>208</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? – Seventh Edition, January 2024:  
<https://sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/itep/ITEP-Who-Pays-7th-edition.pdf>

levels pay a higher tax rate - to address its own inequities as well as those inequities projected to increase under the new federal tax and spending bill.

To get a progressive income tax, voters need to amend the Illinois Constitution. Currently, the Constitution prohibits taxing income at a non-graduated rate. The current state individual income tax rate is 4.95% and the corporate income tax rate is now at 7%<sup>209</sup> There is also a Personal Property Tax Replacement Income Tax on corporations, business partnerships, trusts and subchapter S corporations. The rate is 2.5% on corporations and 1.5% on all others.

Article IX, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution:

(a) A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the rate shall not exceed the rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.

Getting to a graduated income tax requires Illinois General Assembly approval of a resolution, by a 3/5 vote in each chamber, to place the question on the ballot for voter approval in a general election. The proposed amendment is considered adopted if approved by either a 3/5 majority of those voting on the question or a simple majority of all votes cast in the election.<sup>210</sup> In 2020, voters turned down a constitutional amendment that would have permitted a progressive income tax. The final vote tally was 46.7% in favor and 53.3% against.<sup>211</sup>

A second option would be increasing the individual and corporate flat tax rates. If the legislature took this route, some of the regressive nature of the Illinois' state and local tax system could potentially be offset by an increase in the state's Child Tax Credit as well as other credits and deductions. The Illinois Constitution also specifies with respect to non-property taxes that "Exemptions, deductions, credits, refunds and other allowances shall be reasonable" (Article IX, Section 2).

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<sup>209</sup> Corporations also pay an additional 2.5% Personal Property Tax Replacement Tax.

<sup>210</sup> In Illinois, an amendment cannot be proposed by petition unless it amends a structural or procedural subject contained within the Legislature Article of the Illinois Constitution (Article IV). Source: Illinois Municipal League; <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=18229>

<sup>211</sup> <https://www.elections.il.gov/electionoperations/VoteTotalSearch.aspx?ID=prSXs26mKQc%3d>

## Service Taxes

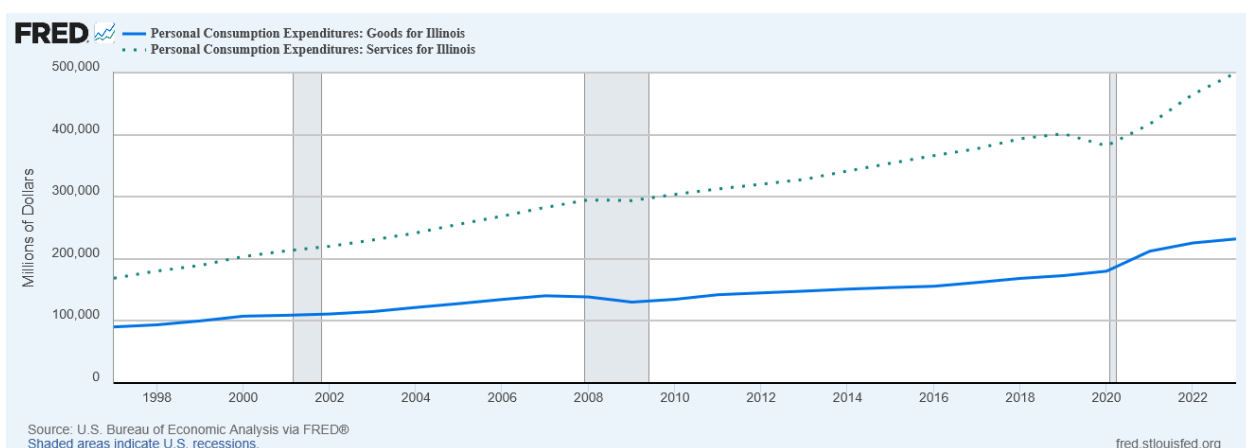
Illinois taxes a relatively low number of services compared to other states. In 2023, services made up 68% of Illinois consumers personal expenditures.<sup>212</sup> As the chart below from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis demonstrates, expenditure on services has grown at a faster rate than expenditure on goods.

It leads to fundamental inequities. For example, buy a lawnmower to cut the grass around your home and you pay sales tax on the lawnmower. Hire a company for lawncare and you pay nothing for the labor.

In 2017, legislation introduced in the Illinois Senate, SB 9, called for extending the 6.25% Illinois sales tax rate on the selling price or market value of several services. The list of services for this sales tax in Illinois included<sup>213</sup>:

- Laundry
- Personal care services such as massage, tattooing, tanning, and manicuring
- Landscaping
- Storage
- Repair and maintenance of tangible personal property
- Pest control services

A 2017 report by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability estimated that increasing the list of taxable services to the list of services in Iowa at the time would increase revenues, possibly generating between \$1.2 billion to \$2.9 billion per year (potentially more since COGFA issued the report).<sup>214</sup>



<sup>212</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis data:

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/release/tables?rid=391&eid=216435#snid=216437>

<sup>213</sup> <https://www.salestaxhelper.com/resources/blog/2022/july/services-subject-to-sales-tax-in-illinois/>

<sup>214</sup> Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, *Service Taxes, 2017 Update*, January 2017.

## **Glossary of Terms**

### **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Take-Up Rate<sup>215</sup>**

The take up rate is defined as the number of children in a geographic region enrolled in CCAP divided by the estimated number of children eligible for CCAP in that same region.

### **CCAP Non-Exempt Income<sup>216</sup>**

*Per the Illinois Department of Human Services, non-exempt income includes:*

1. Gross base wages and salary, tips and commissions earned on a regular basis, excluding inconsistent pay for overtime, incentives, bonuses, sick, vacation, travel reimbursements or other types of non-recurrent or inconsistent income.
  - a. Exempting sick, vacation or overtime pay should have no negative effect when determining eligible days.
2. Net income from farm self-employment.
3. Net income from non-farm self-employment.
4. Dividends, interest, net rental income, and royalties.
5. Pensions and annuities.
6. Veteran's pensions.
7. Unemployment compensation.
8. Worker's compensation.
9. Shift/day/zone/site differential, etc. (anything that is paid at a very low rate).
10. Earning of a household member aged 21 and older who is not the client's children.

### **Fertility Rate<sup>217</sup>**

The definition from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Total number of live births, regardless of the age of the mother, per 1,000 women of reproductive age (ages 15–44).

### **Head Start/Early Head Start<sup>218219</sup>**

Head Start programs serve families with children from birth to age 5, as well as pregnant women and expectant families. Eligible participants include children whose families are at or below the federal poverty guidelines or who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy

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<sup>215</sup> Mader, N., Kang, H., Gjertson, L., & Goerge, R. Assessing patterns & geographies of child care subsidy take-up for Illinois. Chapin Hall, 2025.

<sup>216</sup> <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=10163>

<sup>217</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/sources-definitions/rate.htm#:~:text=Fertility%20rate:%20Total%20number%20of,\(ages%2015%E2%80%9344\).census](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/sources-definitions/rate.htm#:~:text=Fertility%20rate:%20Total%20number%20of,(ages%2015%E2%80%9344).census)

<sup>218</sup> <https://acf.gov/ohs/about/head-start>

<sup>219</sup> <https://headstart.gov/programs/article/head-start-programs>

Families, Supplemental Security Income, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program public assistance services. Other eligible participants include children who are in the foster care system or experiencing homelessness. Programs may also accept a limited number of children who do not meet any of those eligibility criteria.

Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way. Head Start Preschool programs primarily serve 3- and 4-year-old children, and Early Head Start programs serve infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

### **Household Wealth<sup>220</sup>**

The U.S. Census Bureau defines wealth as the value of assets owned minus the debts owed.

#### *Value of Asset Holdings*

Assets at financial institutions  
Vehicles  
Equity in own home  
Retirement accounts  
Stocks and mutual funds  
Business assets  
Other real estate  
Bonds  
Rental property  
Other asset holdings

#### *Unsecured Debts*

All unsecured debts  
Credit card and store bills  
Student loan and education-related expenses  
Medical debts  
Other unsecured debts

### **Official Poverty Measure<sup>221</sup>**

The Official Poverty Measure compares an individual's or family's pre-tax cash income to a set of thresholds that vary by the size of the family and the ages of family members. The poverty threshold is three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963 (adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers). The same thresholds are used throughout the United States (they do not vary geographically).

### **Net Coverage Error<sup>222</sup>**

Net coverage error is the difference between the census count and the Post-Enumeration Survey estimate of the actual number of people in the U.S.

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<sup>220</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p70br-181.pdf>

<sup>221</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2024/09/difference-supplemental-and-official-poverty-measures.html>

<sup>222</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2021/12/post-enumeration-measuring-coverage-error.html>

### **Social Determinants of Health<sup>223</sup>**

Social Determinants of Health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, learn, work, and age, which are shaped by a set of forces beyond the control of the individual. They are intermediate determinants of health “down stream” from the Structural Determinants. They include material circumstances, and psychosocial and behavioral characteristics. They include the living and working conditions of people, such as their pay, access to housing, or medical care.

Structural Determinants are the “root causes” of health inequities, because they shape the quality of the Social determinants of Health experienced by people in their neighborhoods and communities. Structural Determinants include the governing process, economic and social policies that affect pay, working conditions, housing, and education.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Payment Error Rate<sup>224</sup>**

The individual state payment error rate measures the accuracy of each state’s eligibility and benefit determinations that includes both underpayments and overpayments.

### **Supplemental Poverty Measure<sup>225</sup>**

The Supplemental Poverty Measure adds the value of in-kind benefits available to buy basic goods to cash income. It subtracts necessary expenses for critical goods and services not included in the thresholds from resources (e.g. income taxes, Social Security payroll taxes, child care and other work-related expenses, child support payments to another household, and contributions toward the cost of medical care and health insurance premiums). The thresholds used in the Supplemental Poverty Measure are adjusted for geographic differences in housing costs.

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<sup>223</sup> <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/life-stages-populations/maternal-child-family-health-services/perinatal-health/infant-mortality/toolkit/understanding-sdoh.html>

<sup>224</sup>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/per#:~:text=The%20individual%20state%20payment%20error,include%20both%20underpayments%20and%20overpayments.>

<sup>225</sup> Ibid.

## **Board Members**

**Mark Payne**

***Chair***

**Todd Barnett**

***Board Member***

**Dr. Ramona Burress**

***Board Member***

**Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat**

***Board Member and President***



*The views expressed in this report are those of Children's Advocates for Change and are not necessarily those of any listed supporter or quoted individual.*