



Northern California Child Development, Inc.
Community Assessment Update
2024



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AGENCY OVERVIEW

Northern California Child Development, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation focused on the mission of enriching children's lives, empowering families, and engaging the Tehama County community. Since 1965, Northern California Child Development, Inc. (NCCDI) has invested in the future of young children, particularly children experiencing disadvantages, to give them a Head Start in their education. The agency's goal is to have children enrolled in the agency's programs ready for school. NCCDI strives to not only have children academically prepared, but also socially, emotionally, and physically ready.

NCCDI is unique in the ability to provide comprehensive services to children and their families. The agency's classrooms operate under the philosophy that all children have the right to learn in the least restrictive environment. While children spend a relatively short period of time in the program, the parents / guardians are with them for a lifetime. Therefore, it is important that the programs offered by NCCDI not only prepare children for success in life, but parents as well. NCCDI believes there are many important factors to a child's success in school, but none are more important than a parent who is involved in their child's education. NCCDI staff work with parents individually to develop goals for themselves and their families that give them the best opportunity to provide their children with the best possible future.

NCCDI PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

NCCDI serves almost 400 children and their families through Head Start and other programs and initiatives. The agency offers center-based Head Start and Early Head Start programming as well as a home-based program serving infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. The agency is committed to serving the most vulnerable children and families in Tehama County, which often do not have their needs met by other programs. Innovative programming and services that staff have taken the initiative to develop include:

NCCDI Community Counseling

NCCDI's Community Counseling Program provides a safe, important and belonging environment to individuals and families throughout the entire lifespan and helps them build on their strengths and develop tools to cope with unexpected challenges, such as family conflict, divorce, substance abuse, parenting, readjusting after war, overcoming discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, or caring for an aged parent. The program offers child and adolescent counseling, couples therapy, family and adult therapy.

The Home Address Program

The Home Address program provides families in crisis assistance with housing searches and connects them to resources and information about local property management and landlords. It also provides financial support to families in need of application fees, deposit assistance and limited rental assistance. The program includes case management and moving assistance.

Stepping Stones Family Visitation Center

Through a contract with the Tehama County Department of Social Services, NCCDI provides supervised visitation services for children placed in foster care and their biological parent(s). The visits are mandated by the Tehama County Superior Court - Family Court Services Division in the hope that children can be reunified with their family. The Family Visitation Center supervises approximately 100 visits per week.



DEMOGRAPHICS

**TEHAMA COUNTY
MEDIAN INCOME**
\$52,901

United Way
**REAL COST
MEASURE**
\$78,522

11.5% = Tehama County
26.99% = NCCDI families
CalFresh recipients

28.4%
ALL 0-5 year olds living in poverty

59.7%
single female householder with
children under the age of 5 year
olds living in poverty

EHS served 39
Pregnancies over
the last 3 years

94% of
pregnancies
enrolled during
2-3 trimester

51% had a dental
exam prior to
birth

3 year olds ↑
4 year olds ↓

The number of Tehama County infants
will continue to rise over the next 5 years

Race, Ethnicity & Language

By 2028, 58% of all children under the age of 5 years old will be White and only 33% will be Hispanic/Latinx. The Hispanic/Latinx community will see a steady decrease in children under the age of 5 years old.

**25% of all
Hispanic children
living in poverty
are served in
NCCDI's Early
Learning & Care
Programs**

55.92% of
HS/EHS children
are dual
language
learners

Housing & Homelessness

Social Vulnerability Score .93/1.00

Violent Crime Rate
↑
532 > 500
Tehama County vs. State

Housing Cost
**50% or more
of income**

Los Molinos
has highest
rental cost

Median Rental Cost = \$972

Foster Care

↓ **39%**
of all child
abuse allegations
are substantiated

4% of all NCCDI
children are in
the foster care
system

Neglect is the
most common
reason for a child
abuse allegation
followed by
physical abuse

Native American
children are more
likely to enter the
foster care system in
Tehama County than
any other race besides
White

Childcare

Expansion of
UPK decreased
4 year olds for
prek services

76%
of Tehama
County 0-5
year olds
without
childcare

80.25% of NCCDI families
have at least 1 parent
participating in employment,
job training or education

89.4% of NCCDI
families have at least
1 parent working

Annual Cost of
Infant
Care is 26%
of Tehama
County
Median
Income

Annual Cost of
Preschool Care
19% of Tehama
County Median
Income

Employment

Unemployment Rate:
Tehama County 5.3%
California 4.8%
National 3.9%

**Preschool Educators
are predicted
to decrease
substantially over
the next 5 years**

Education has the slowest
occupational growth rate,
ranging from
-.1 to .1

Disabilities

156 children served by Far
Northern Regional Center
were Hispanic/Latinx

18.69%
Head Start
children had
an IEP in
22-23

22-24
47% of all TCHS IEPs
are due to Autism
VS.
22-23
4.55% of all TCHS IEPs
were due to Autism

15%
Early Head Start
children had an IFSP
in 22-23

62.29% of all
children with an
IEP or IFSP were
enrolled 2+ years

There is a decline in
IFSPs in Far Northern
Regional Center's
service area



Services

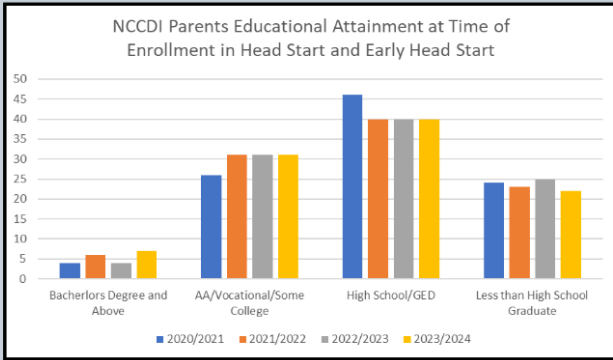


Education **93%**

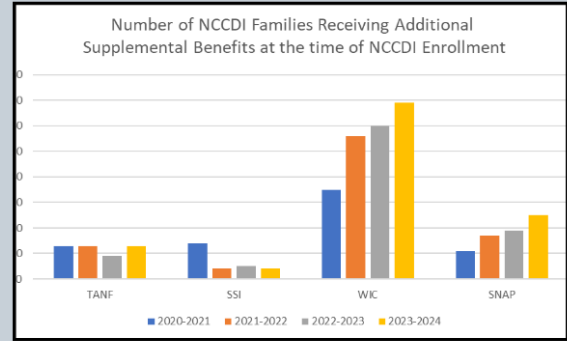
18.77 %
Tehama County
High School Graduates
met CSU/UC Unit
Requirements

County Wide
High School
Graduation
Rate
2021-22

**49.8% of Corning High School
Graduates move on to college**



Social Services



70%
NCCDI families
are receiving
WIC



**NCCDI
CalFresh
recipients
have
doubled
over the last
2 years**

Adverse Childhood Experiences

22.3% of Tehama
County children
under the age of 17
have 2+ ACEs

27% of 23-24 HS
children have 2+
ACE Like Indicators

**NCCDI families
are more likely
to have a single
parent and
experience
domestic
violence**

NCCDI ACE Like Indicators
23-24 YTD

- **20 % Domestic Violence**
- **16% Child Protective Services**
- **15% Drug or Alcohol Issues**
- **3% Mental Health**



Health & Nutrition

44 Children with

Chronic Health Conditions

34% Life Threatening Allergies

38.6% Vision Problems

25% Asthma

Immunizations

95% Head Start

vs.

94% Tehama County

Kindergartners

31%
Head Start children were
overweight or obese

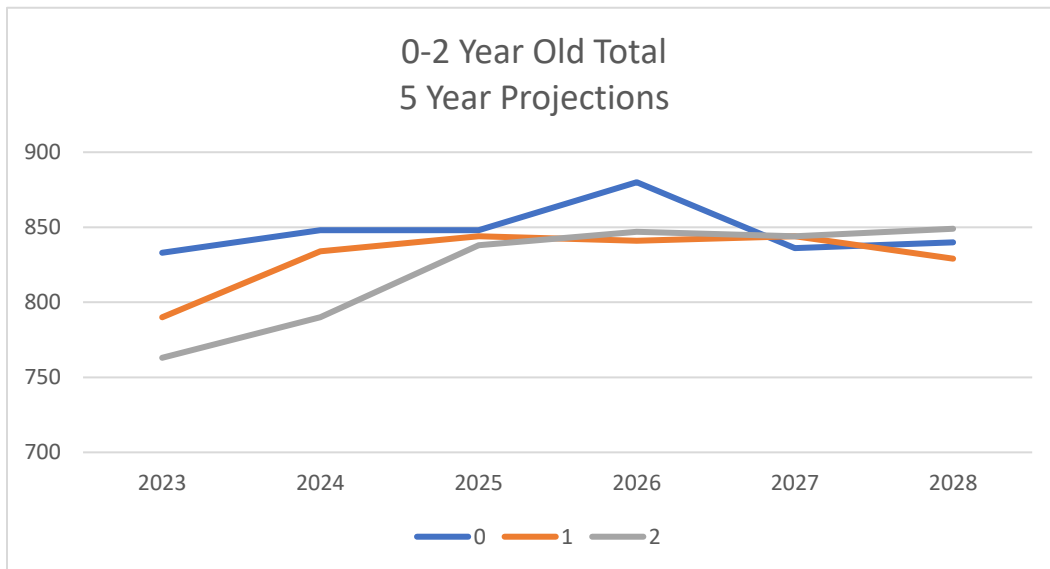
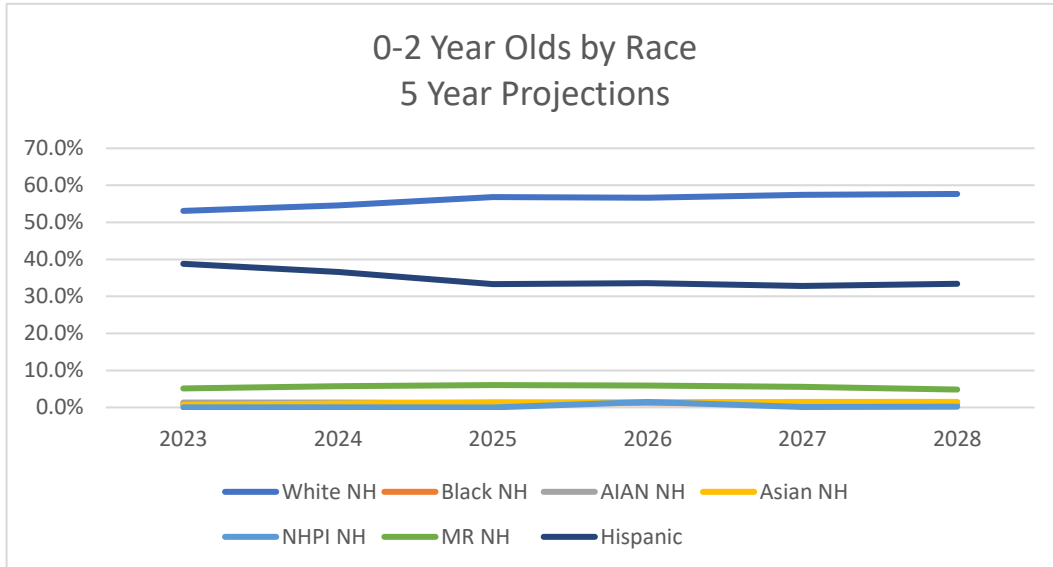
76%
Head Start
children had a
dental home



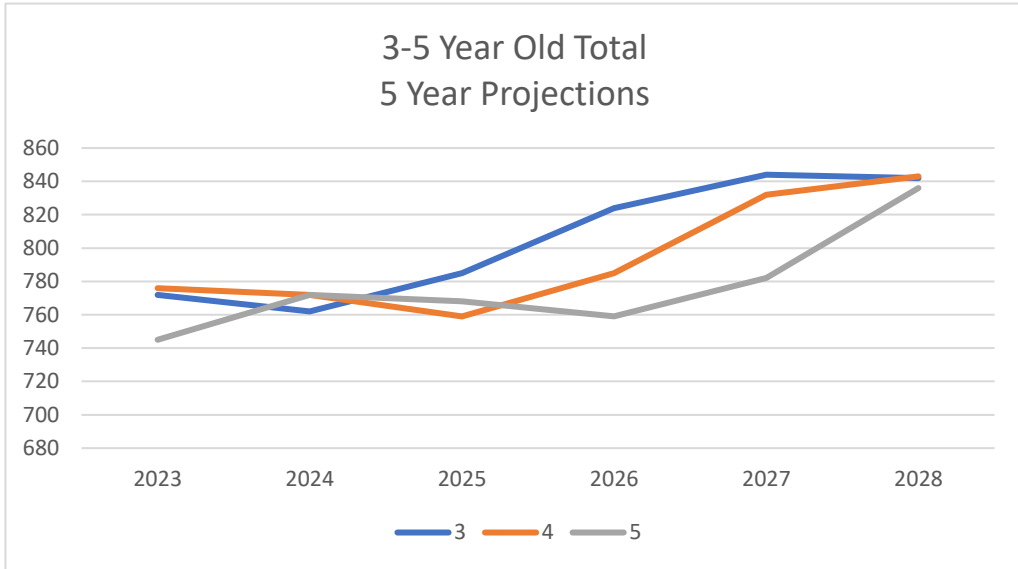
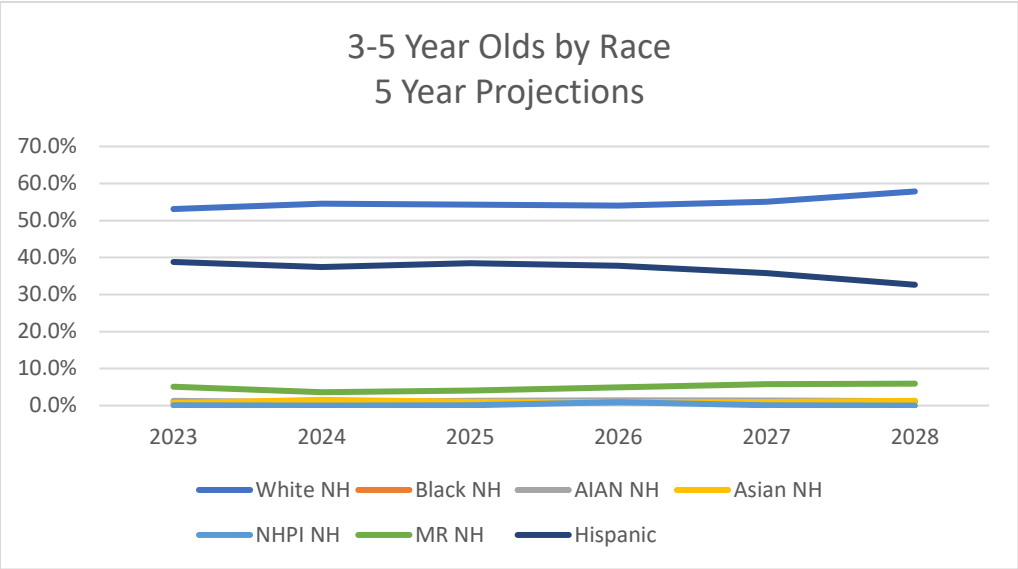
23% of all
Tehama
County
children
experience
food
insecurity

DEMOGRAPHICS

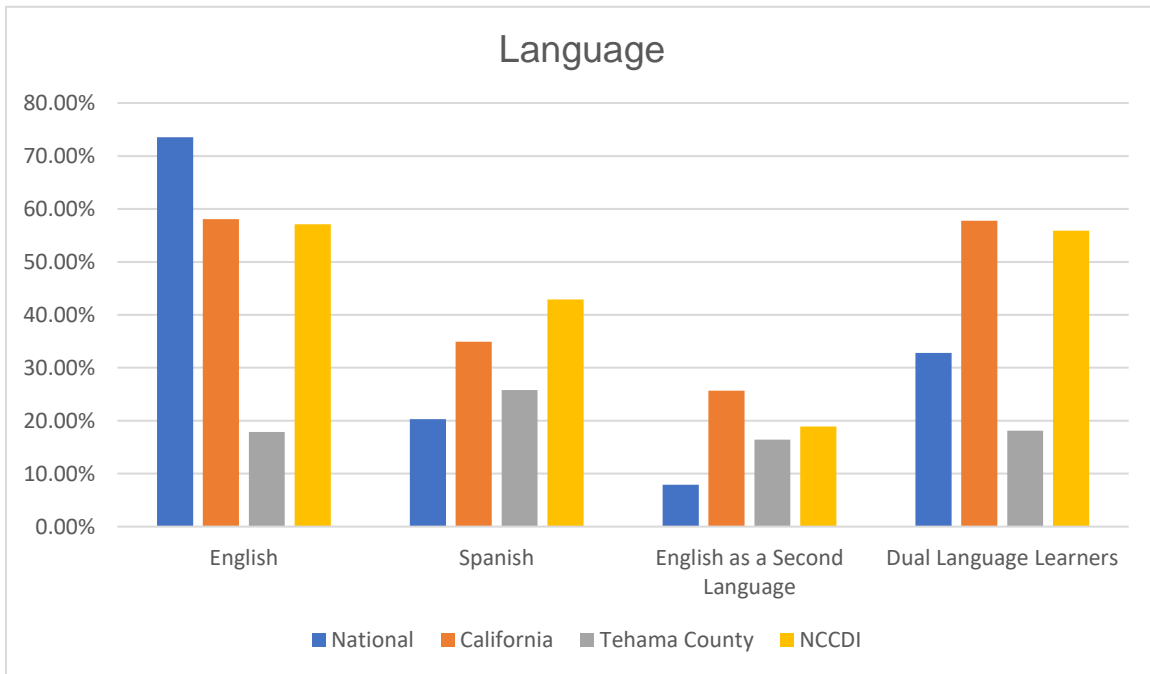
There are approximately 4,679 children ages 0-5 years old living in Tehama County. It is anticipated that there will be a modest increase of 7% for all children ages 0-5 over the next 5 years with a decrease of 5% of Hispanic/Latinx children.¹



¹ California Department of Finance, Age and Sex Projections, 50 years



NCCDI is at par with the state for English Language Learners and Dual Language Learners. NCCDI is slightly lower than the state but much higher than the national average. 42.9% of NCCDI children speak Spanish. This is slightly lower than previous years but in line with the trend downward of Hispanic/Latinx children.²



Poverty

10% of Tehama County Hispanic/Latinx children live in poverty while 30.7% of all children ages 0-5 live in poverty (1,436 children). The median income increased to \$59,029 and according to the United Way Real Cost Measure, a family of four would need to make \$78,522 (with both parents working) to make ends meet. An increased income guideline for SNAP benefits aided families who would not qualify normally qualify for this public safety net service. 42.9% of Tehama County households with children under the age of 18 receive SNAP. 26.8 % of NCCDI families in YTD 2023-24 are income eligible based on SNAP. 16.5% of Tehama County households are on TANF and 9.92% of households receive SSI.³

Children with Disabilities

From one year to the next, Far Northern Regional Center has seen a decline in children served. However, 15% of Early Head Start children, in 2022-23 program year, received an IFSP. Far Northern Regional Center also serves a smaller population of children with Hispanic/Latinx backgrounds than NCCDI. NCCDI has also seen a dramatic increase in the number of children diagnosed with Autism. In the program year 2022-23, only slightly over 4% of children had an IEP for Autism but in YTD 2023-24 program year, 47% of

² Program Information Report Enrollment 2023; California Department of Education DataQuest State Dashboard

³ American Community Survey 5-year estimates; United Way Real Cost Measure; Program Information Report Enrollment 2023

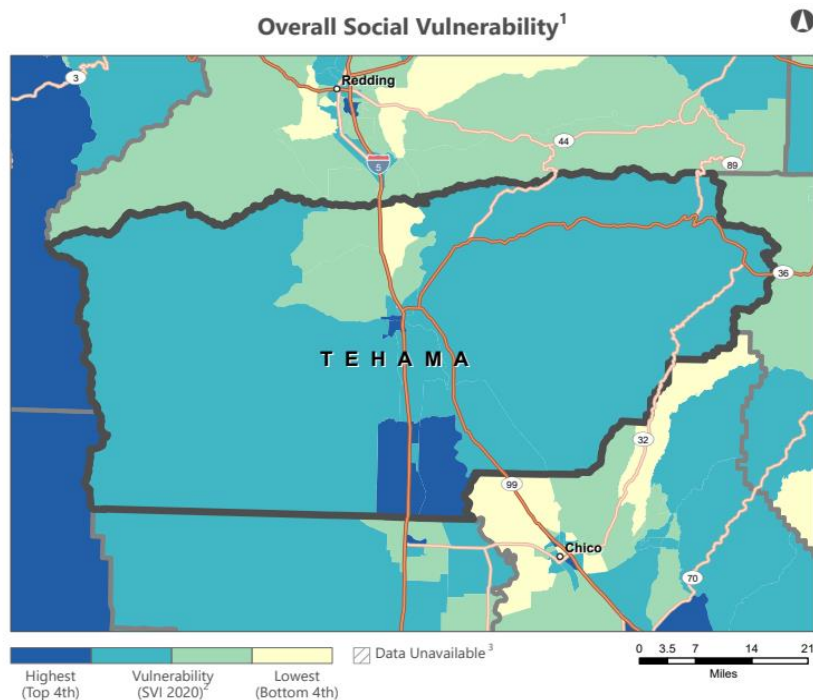
served IEPs are for children with Autism. Also, children with diagnosed disabilities who are currently enrolled in NCCDI Early Learning and Care programs are more likely to be enrolled 2 or more years (62.29%).⁴

Employment

The national unemployment rate has steadily decreased since the pandemic was officially declared over. The most recent data (October 2023) shows that nationally, only 3.9% of the work eligible adults are receiving unemployment benefits. This percentile does not account for those who are no longer receiving or not eligible to receive unemployment benefits. Tehama County’s unemployment rate hovers around 5%, higher than the state (4.8%) and much higher than the national average. An ongoing concern in Tehama County is the number of educators available. According to the State of California’s Employment Development Division, Tehama County has the slowest occupational growth in the education field (-.1 to .1) and is expected to see a decrease in early learning educators.⁵

HOUSING

Low-income families are more vulnerable to exposure to adverse experiences, family crises, and lack of security. The social vulnerability index, created by the Center for Disease Control is a measure of the degree of social vulnerability in counties and neighborhoods across the United States, where a higher score indicates higher vulnerability.



📍 Social vulnerability refers to a community’s capacity to prepare for and respond to the stress of hazardous events ranging from natural disasters, such as tornadoes or disease outbreaks, to human caused threats, such as toxic chemical spills. The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI 2020)⁴ County Map depicts the social vulnerability of communities, at census tract level, within a specified county.

CDC/ATSDR SVI 2020 groups sixteen census-derived factors into four themes that

⁴ Program Information Report Disability Services 2023

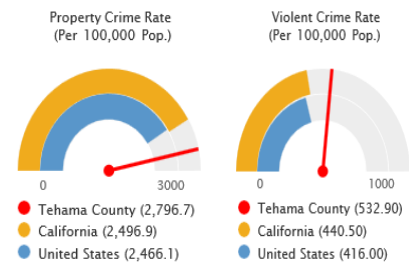
⁵ California State Employment Development Division Local Area Profile: Tehama County

summarize the extent to which the area is socially vulnerable to disaster. The factors include economic data as well as data regarding education, family characteristics, housing, language ability, ethnicity, and vehicle access. Overall Social Vulnerability combines all the variables to provide a comprehensive assessment⁶

Tehama County has a social vulnerability index score of 0.93, which dropped by 0.03 points from 2018. However, this score still indicates the high vulnerability of the County.

Crime, Neighborhood & Community Violence

Tehama County has a violent crime rate that exceeds most California Counties. The rate of crimes per population is 532 (per 100,000) compared to a rate of 500 (per 100,000) for the state. The violent crime rate is also increasing. The law enforcement agencies include the Tehama County Sheriff, Red Bluff Police Department, Corning Police Department the California Highway Patrol and Tehama County Probation.⁷



Crime data indicates that the incidence of violent crime is increasing in all parts of the county.

Housing Costs

The median rental cost for housing in Tehama County is \$1,445 for homeowners with a mortgage and \$972 per month for renters. The highest rental costs are in Red Bluff, which is the most populated area in the county.

Median Housing Costs		
Location	Median Monthly Costs Homeowners	Median Monthly Rental Costs
Corning	\$1,302	\$801
Los Molinos	\$1,179	\$1,199
Red Bluff	\$1,188	\$951
Tehama County	\$1,445	\$972

Median Monthly Housing Costs

Housing Cost Burden

In Tehama County, 66% of housing is owner-occupied and 34% is rental housing. Home ownership rates are lowest in Red Bluff, followed by Corning and Los Molinos. While homeowners may experience a cost burden, renters are at greater risk of insecure housing. Housing typically comprises the largest share of monthly household expenses. Individuals and families experiencing a housing burden often have trouble meeting basic consumption needs, may need to rely on public assistance and have limited

⁶ CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index, SVI-Fact-Sheet-H.pdf

⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer

savings/emergency funds. Financial resources which would otherwise be used for food, clothing, medical costs etc. must be allocated to housing costs. The housing burden can be examined by identifying the percentage of the population that is spending more than 30% of their income on housing. A severe housing burden exists when more than 50% of income is spent on housing. Within the service area, the greatest share of the population has a housing cost burden in Los Molinos, where almost 20% of renters pay more than 50% of their income towards housing costs. In Corning, the largest percentage of the population has a rental cost that exceeds 30% of their monthly income.⁸

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

The climate for early care and education is continuing to shift post-pandemic. The childcare and education sector has struggled to accommodate rapid changes throughout the pandemic and in the aftermath. Temporary pandemic-related relief allowed programs to remain open, parents received relief from the high care cost, and workers received temporary bonuses. However, that relief will soon run out, and the only solution to building an affordable, equitable, and sustainable early childhood continuum is a robust long-term investment. Unfortunately, Tehama County, saw a steep decline in childcare availability, mostly in licensed childcare centers. According to California Childcare Referral and Education, this may be due to the restrictions on group sizes during the pandemic.⁹

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY ¹	COUNTY			STATE		
	2019	2021	CHANGE	2019	2021	CHANGE
Children age 0-12 with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care space is available	31%	24%	-7%	25%	25%	0%

Per California’s Department of Education, California’s goal is to serve more children ages 3-to 4-years-old, statewide, in high-quality preschool programs. California intends to meet this goal through the implementation of universally available TK, as well as investments in other state-funded programs, such as funding to expand the California State Preschool Programs and other state-subsidized programs that offer a preschool learning experience. For the 2023-24 school year, a child must be 5 years old between September 2nd to April 2nd. In the 2024-25 school year, the age cut off will be extended to September 2nd to June 30th. Due to parental choice, families can enroll their children in public school before their 5th birthday. With UPK expansion, early childcare and learning programs are seeing a steady decrease in enrolled 4-year-olds.

NCCDI met this challenge head on by reducing their preschool slots by 57 part day and 6 extended day slots. This enabled NCCDI to add 16 full day infant and toddler slots which is high need in Tehama County.

⁸ American Community Survey Housing 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022

⁹ California Department of Education Special Programs

Other changes in the early learning and care landscape include the re-opening of Columbia State Pre-School in Corning. They are licensed to serve up to 48 children. Also, the private daycare at Sacred Heart Elementary School closed at the end of the 2022-23 school year due to lack of enrollment and is not anticipated to re-open.

EDUCATION

Tehama County's high school graduation rate has continued to rise. The latest data from the 2021-22 school year shows that 93% of high school students graduated on time. Of these graduating students, 18.77% met the CSU/UC Unit requirements. Corning Union High School graduates are more likely to move onto a 4-year college than any other Tehama County high school (49.8%).¹⁰

A popular healthcare program is the newest addition to the Shasta College Red Bluff campus. The Medical Assisting Program is now completely available in Tehama County. This program is one of the most popular certificated programs that parents in Head Start and Early Head Start tend to consistently be interested in, however now daily travel is not as much of a barrier to furthering their education and increasing their family wellbeing.

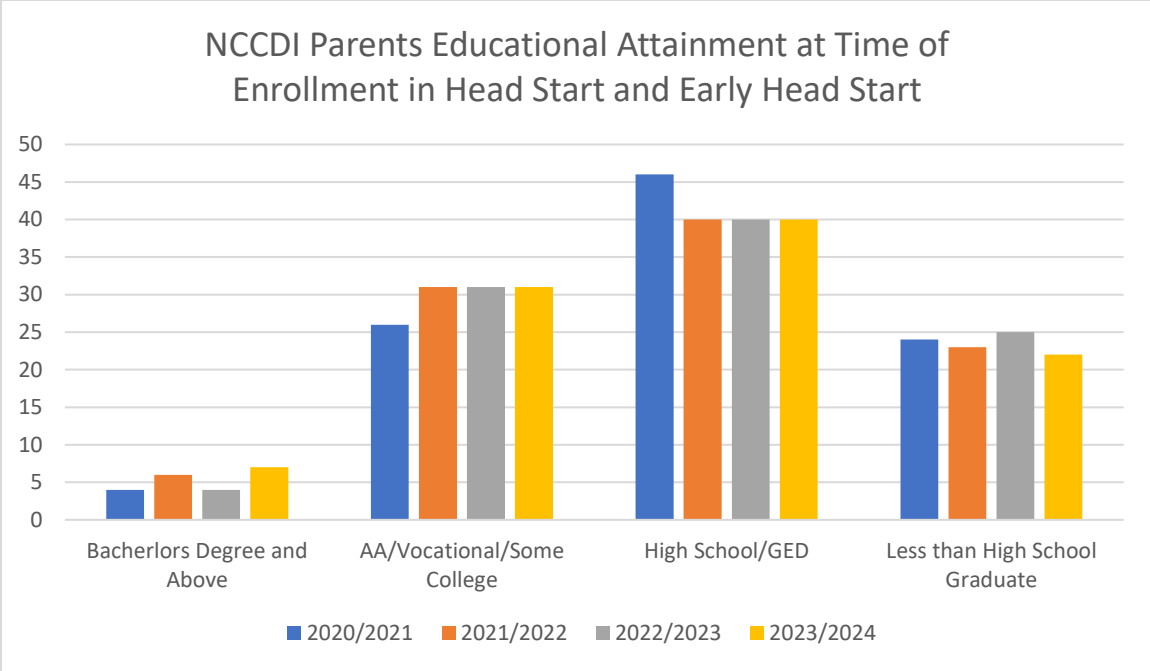
Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are exploding in popularity at our local high schools. From early childhood education, welding, a ray of agriculture and construction programs, graduating seniors from Tehama County area high schools have the potential to slip right into entry level positions, due to taking college level courses throughout their high school careers.

Educational Attainment and Financial Securities of NCCDI Families

In review of the NCCDI annual Program Information Reports for the past four years, the number of parents enrolling their children into both Head Start and Early Head Start remaining constant with their educational attainment. Annually about 40% of enrolling parents have at minimum a high school diploma or GED, 31% of parents over the span of the current and previous three years have at least some college while 4-7% have a bachelor's degree or above. Family wellbeing is connected greatly to financial stability. Children from families with at least a high school education, and even more so for children from families with college or technical trade school have higher potential educational gains in their future than children with parents with no higher education.¹¹

¹⁰ California Department of Education DataQuest, 2021-22 College Going Rate for High School Students

¹¹ Program Information Report Family Services 2023



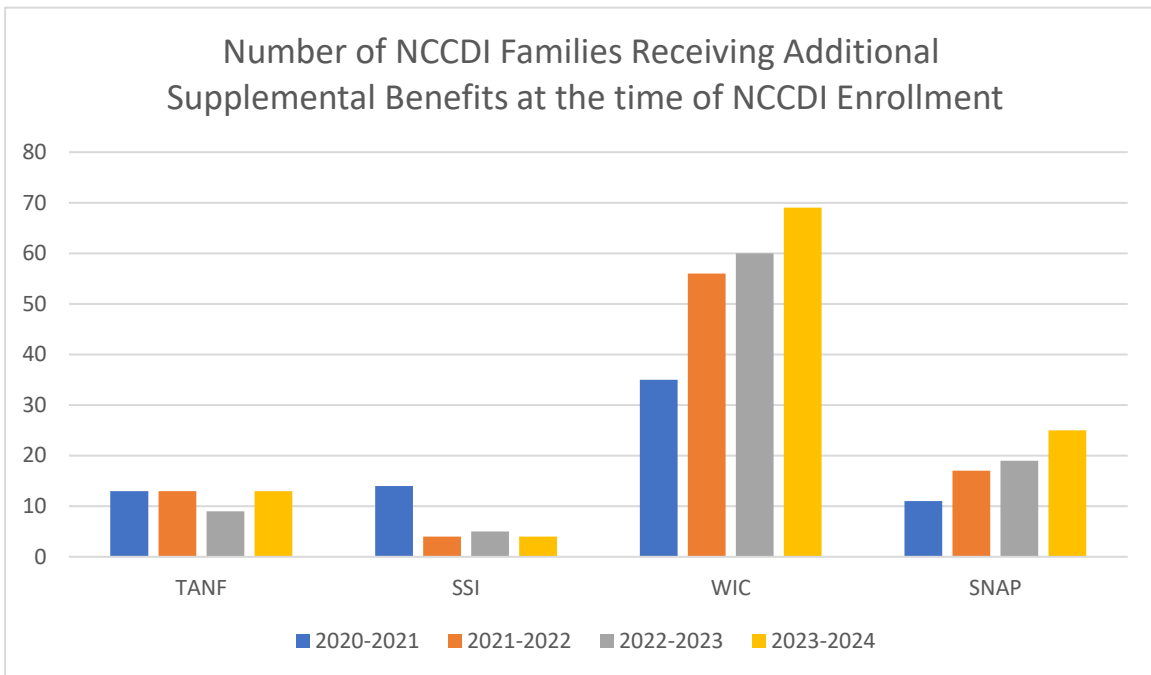
To help parents break barriers they may have when it comes to them attaining higher educational goals, NCCDI is offering parents field trips to our two local Community Colleges. While at both Shasta College in Red Bluff and Butte College in Orland, interested parents will be provided with a workshop that will encompass applying, enrolling, and beginning their desired coursework.

FAMILY SERVICES

Many NCCDI families rely on safety net benefits for their well-being. Some of these benefits are Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF), Social Security Income (SSI), and Women, Infants and Children (WIC). WIC provides supplemental nutrition for low-income families and has seen an increase in usage over the last few years. This is partly due to the countywide efforts to promote WIC services and the online options that make it easier for families to access them.

Another benefit that supports low-income families afford healthy food is the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Recently, SNAP became a categorical eligibility criterion for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. NCCDI has seen an increase of families who are on SNAP qualifying for Head Start and Early Head Start services that might not be eligible otherwise.¹²

¹² Program Information Report Family Services 2023



Pregnant Women in Early Head Start

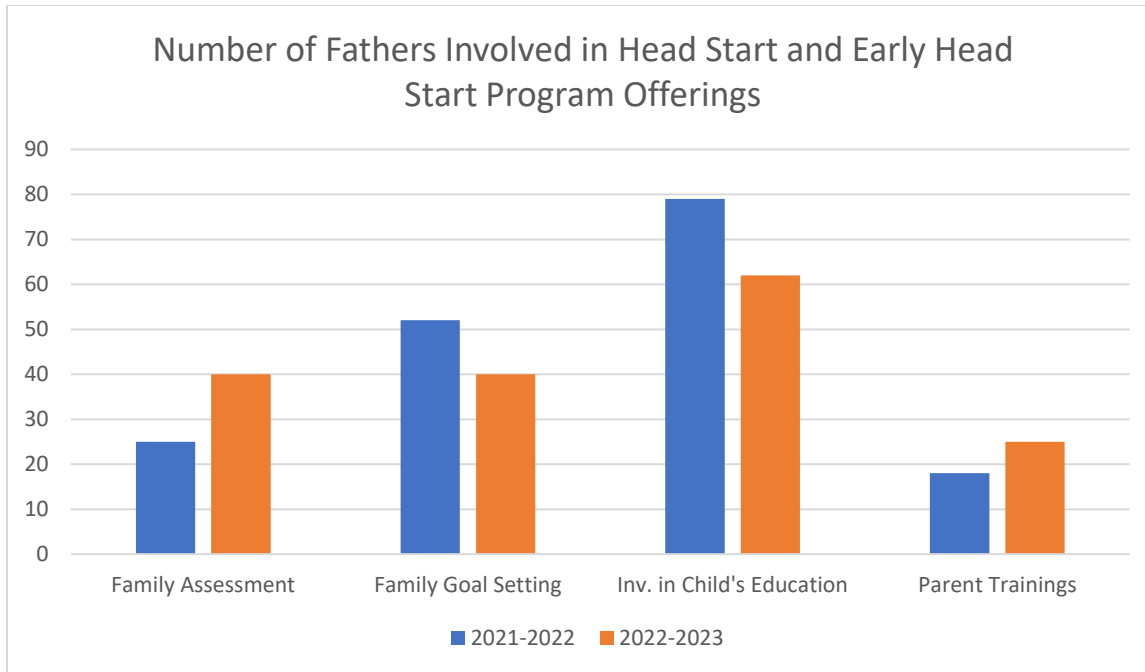
Over the past three and a half years, Early Head Start has served 39 pregnant women, averaging about 12 women and their families each year. Of the pregnant women served, 94% enrolled within their second or third trimester of pregnancy. As the expecting mothers were served, 100% had health insurance and an ongoing source of health care. NCCDI encourages expecting women to have a formal dental checkup prior to the birth of their child with an average of 51% completion rate.¹³

Father Engagement

NCCDI staff strive to encourage more involvement of fathers and father figures in enrolled children’s education, in their family goal setting process and in participation in family events and trainings. From “Dadurdays” to Super Dads to the Rescue, NCCDI thinks outside the box on how to show families the importance of having fathers, and father figures in their children’s lives. In 2021-22, the first “real” year out of COVID, families were ready to be back at NCCDI events and in classrooms. NCCDI had 79 fathers that were engaged in their child’s education, meaning they were helping in the classrooms setting educational goals for their children, and participating in parent conferences. In 2022-23, the number of fathers participating in the Family Assessment process and NCCDI Parent Trainings, such as the Parents Choice Conference and Budget Basics increased.¹⁴

¹³ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

¹⁴ Program Information Report Family Services 2023



Foster Care

Tehama County has seen a substantial decrease in child abuse allegations that were substantiated (over 50% to 39%). Native American children under the age of 5 are more likely to enter the foster care system than any other race besides White. It is interesting to note that Black children were more likely to have allegations but were less likely to have their cases substantiated. General Neglect continues to be the number one reason for child abuse allegations in Tehama County followed by physical abuse.¹⁵

Over the course of the last four years, NCCDI has served foster children and their families in all aspects of the program. Children in the foster care system are considered categorically eligible, which allows NCCDI to partner with the foster parents and birth parents to support the consistency of the child's education through the reunification. On average, 4% of NCCDI's annual enrollments are from children in the foster care system.¹⁶

Adverse Childhood Experiences

As families apply for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, they go through an interview where they are asked questions that will give us information related to five ACE indicators. Families with higher ACE scores are given priority when it comes to acceptance into NCCDI programs, based on their need. NCCDI is specifically looking at five indicators: Domestic Violence, Mental Health Concerns/Issues, Child Protective Involvement, Drug and Alcohol issues, and Single Parenting. This program year, NCCDI has two families in Early Head Start, where the primary parent indicated having all five of the ACE like indicators.¹⁷

¹⁵ Child Welfare Indicator Project 2021-22

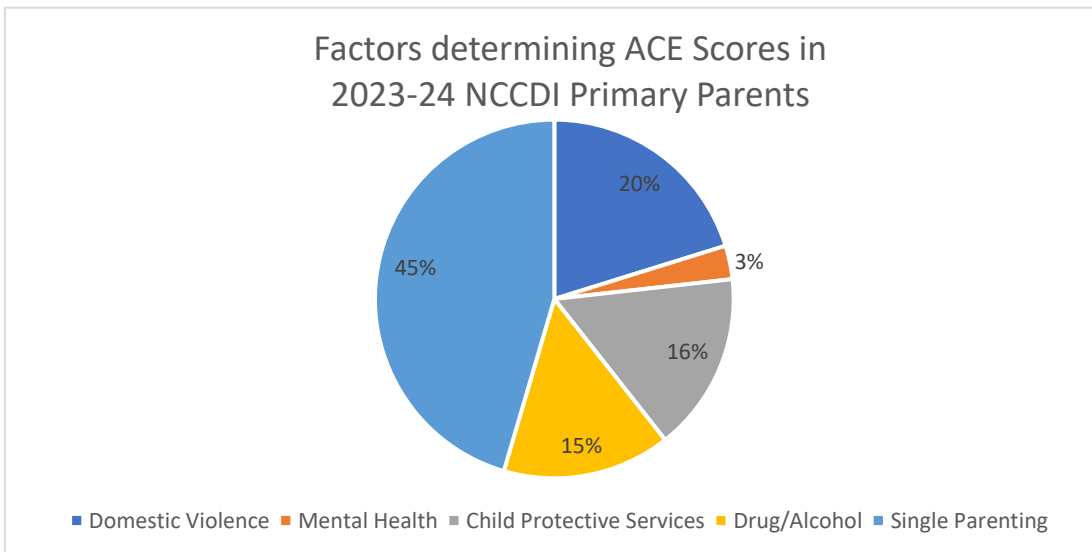
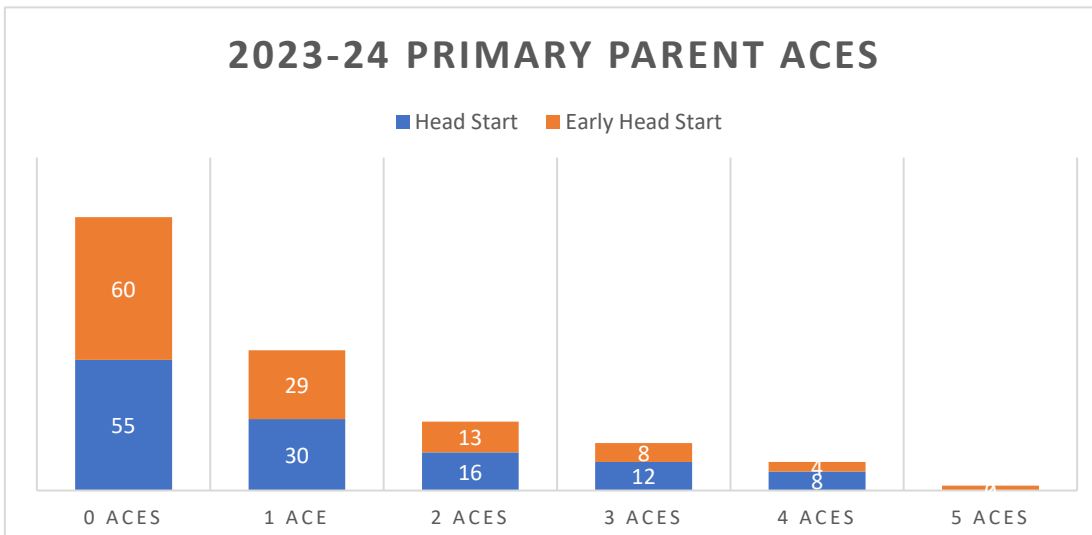
¹⁶ ChildPlus Report 2050 ACEs Criteria Live Report

¹⁷ Kidsdata.org

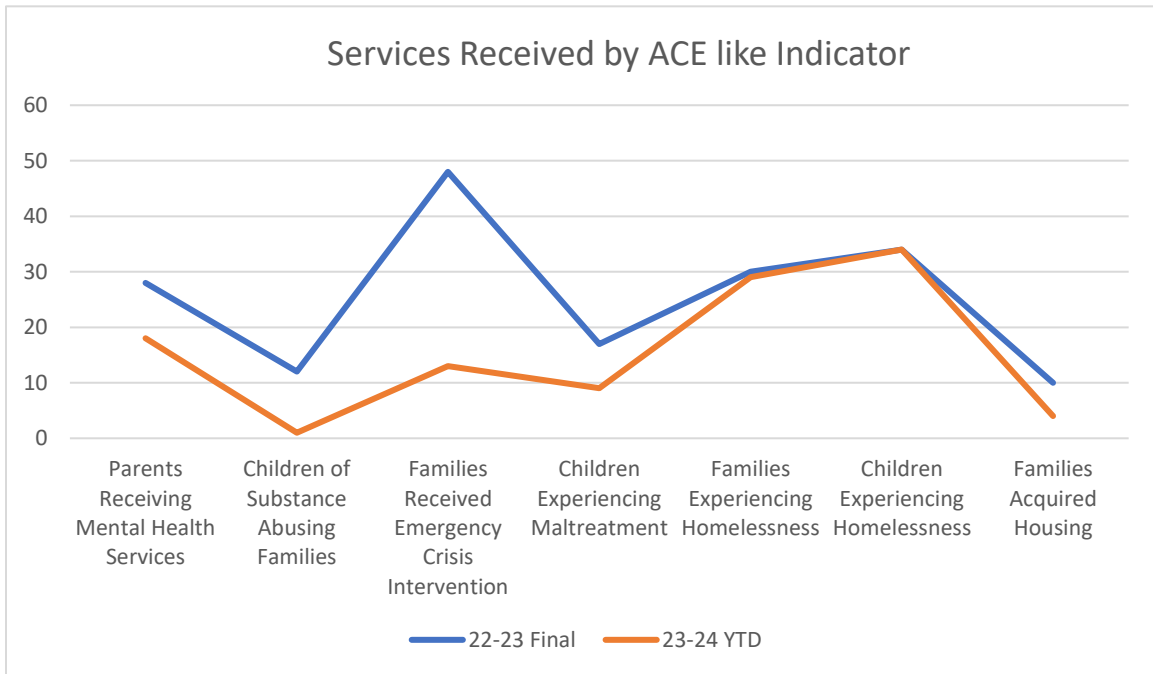
	2016-19 Kids Data Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, and Trinity Counties (Children 0-17yrs)	2023-24 NCCDI Head Start & Early Head Start (Children 0-5)
0 ACEs	48.5%	48%
1 ACE	29.2%	25%
2+ ACEs	22.3%	27%

ACEs Table

115 Current program families have a primary parent that reported zero ACE like indicators. Twenty-five percent of our families mentioned one ACE indicator, 79% of those are from being a single parent. The higher a family's ACE score is, the higher the potential need for services might be. NCCDI families have a higher rate of 2+ ACES than that of Tehama County.¹⁸



¹⁸ ChildPlus Report 2050 ACEs Criteria Live Report



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Tehama County residents are less likely to receive care in a medical home. 41% of Tehama County residents have a medical home compared to 43% of California residents. As a result, they are less likely to remain in compliance with recommended treatment schedules and have poorer health. Despite these challenges, Head Start children and in general, children in Tehama County, maintain a high rate of immunization at 94% of all kindergarteners. However, this is just slightly below the state rate of kindergarteners that enter school with all their recommended immunizations which is 94.8%¹⁹.

Immunization Status of Children	
Status	Percentage
Head Start children up-to-date on all immunizations at program end	95%
Tehama County Kindergarteners with all required immunizations	94%

Immunization Status of Children

¹⁹ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

Head Start Children and Chronic Health Conditions

A total of 44 Head Start children had a chronic health condition in 2023.²⁰

Chronic Health Conditions Among Head Start Children	
Chronic Condition	Number of Children
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	1
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	1
Asthma	11
Life-threatening allergies	15
Hearing problems	1
Vision problems	17
Blood lead level test with elevated lead levels >5 g/dL	1
Total	44

Chronic Health Conditions Among Head Start Children

Dental Health

Dental care is difficult to access due to the high ratio of low-income residents to dental care providers in Tehama County. Limited access is further exacerbated by dentists that are unwilling to accept public health insurance programs as payment for dental services. According to information from the 2022 Program Information Report for NCCDI Head Start, 57 children needed dental care. Of these children, 37 did not receive it due to parents not keeping/making dental appointments, referrals, and other issues.²¹

According to the Head Start Program Information Report, NCCDI achieved the following outcomes for children's dental health:

Dental Health Services for Head Start Children	
Indicator	Number of Children
Number of children who received preventive care during the program year	132 (67%)
Number of all children, including those enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, who completed a professional dental examination during the program year	152 (77%)
Of the number of children that received a dental exam, the number of children that needed dental treatment	57 (38%)
Number of children with a dental home	151 (76%)

Head Start Dental Services

Population Receiving CalFresh/Nutrition Assistance Benefits

The rate of enrollment in SNAP (CalFresh) in Tehama County is 15.5%, which is significantly higher than for either California (10.6%) or the United States (11.7%). Among Head Start families, after enrollment, the participation rate is even higher at 19%.²²

²⁰ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

²¹ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

²² American Community Survey Economic 5-year Estimates 2018-2022

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC safeguards the health of low-income pregnant, post-partum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious food to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, including referrals to health care and breastfeeding promotion/support. To be eligible for WIC, an applicant’s gross income must fall at or below 185% of the U.S. Poverty Guidelines. Among Head Start families, the WIC participation rate is 55%. In Tehama County, 906 women and children participate in WIC.²³

Use of Supplemental Nutrition Programs by Head Start Families		
Subject	Number of families at enrollment	Number of families at end of enrollment
Total number of families receiving services under the Special Supplemental Nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	190 (56%)	187 (55%)
Total number of families receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	61 (18%)	63 (19%)

Use of Supplemental Nutrition Programs by Head Start Families

Obesity and Weight Status of Head Start Children

The table below details the weight status of Head Start children in the service area of the 2022 program year. Among children enrolled in the program, 63% were of a healthy weight at enrollment and 31% were overweight or obese at the time of enrollment, while 6% were underweight. The number of children that are overweight in the program totals 42. In the community survey, 26% of families reported they eat fast food at least once weekly.²⁴

Weight Status of Head Start Enrolled Children	
Weight Status (at enrollment according to 2000 CDC BMI-for-age growth chart)	% of HS Children
Underweight	6%
Healthy Weight	63%
Overweight	21%
Obese	10%

Weight of Head Start Children

Within Tehama County, there is a high rate of food insecurity that impacts 14% of all individuals and 23% of children. There is also an uneven distribution of food resources and although the area is rich in agricultural resources there are several food deserts. Within the program, families have a higher rate of using supplemental food programs. For

²³ California Department of Public Health

²⁴ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

example, 55% of families were enrolled in WIC at the end of the enrollment in the 2022-23 program year and 19% of families utilized SNAP. Additionally, 244 (91%) of NCCDI families received education on nutrition.²⁵

The weight status of Head Start children is concerning as 31% of children in the program are overweight or obese. Ways that NCCDI may want to continue to support improvements in child and family nutrition and increased food security include creating a culture of wellness that provides experiential ways for families and children to learn about nutrition and examples of how they can incorporate healthy habits into their daily lives. Additionally, the program can lead a policy, system and environment change process that includes conducting a strength and needs assessment of healthy eating, physical activity and related best practices that are implemented in the program based on the assessment, agencies can then prioritize changes, develop an action plan, and develop and apply a wellness policy.²⁶

²⁵ Program Information Report Family Services 2023

²⁶ Program Information Report Health Services 2023

DEFINITIONS

Dual Language Learners:

Dual language learner is a child or pregnant person who is acquiring two or more languages at the same time, or a child or pregnant person who is learning a second language while continuing to develop their first language.

IEP:

The Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a written plan stating reasonable learning goals for a child 3 years and older with a diagnosed disability and to state the services that the school district will provide to the child.

IFSP:

The Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written treatment plan that maps out the early intervention services that a child under the age of three years old and their family will receive.

United Way Real Cost Measure:

Unlike the official poverty measure which primarily accounts for the cost of food, the Real Cost Measure incorporates the costs of housing, food, health care, childcare, transportation and other basic needs to determine what it really costs to live in California.

Social Vulnerability Score:

A Social Vulnerability Score refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 16 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. The SVI ranks each tract on 16 social factors, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing, and groups them into four related themes. Every community must prepare for and respond to hazardous events, whether a natural disaster like a tornado or disease outbreak, or a human-made event such as a harmful chemical spill. Several factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing may weaken a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster.