

# Region 19 Early Childhood Needs Assessment: Focus on Mental & Behavioral Health



Region 19: DuPage County



## Region 19



Regional Council Manager: Valerie Varju (she/her/ella)  
Family & Community Engagement Specialist: Claudia Langoni (she/her/ella)  
Administrative Support: Amy Soden (she/her/ella)

800 Roosevelt Rd, Building A, Ste 9  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(309) 270-5446  
vvarju@birthtofiveil.com  
www.birthtofiveil.com/region19

### Region 19 Action Council Members

- Annie Behrns
- Candace McCarthy King
- Christine Gandam
- David Sabathne
- Janice F Guider
- Jeanine Woltman
- Jennifer Vega
- Jill Garbaliuskjas
- Karina Ochoa
- Katherine Layden
- Louise Dimick
- Marianne Pokorny
- Michelle Watkins
- Ruby Rodriguez
- Tammi Karam
- Theresa Forthofer
- Vickie Trotter

### Region 19 Family Council Members

- Africa Anderson
- Grace Keller
- Kimberly Choate
- Lane Melchor
- London Ollie
- Mariam Abbas
- Marilyn Rodriguez
- Maurice Gilmore
- Nelly Nestorova
- Nia Jones
- Rachel Kay
- Rosangel Galvez
- Sandra Beiza

# Table of Contents

Focus on Mental & Behavioral Health.....	3
Methodology .....	4
Focus on Region 19 .....	4
Region 19 Strengths & Needs.....	12
Region 19 Recommendations.....	13
Next Steps .....	14
Resources.....	14



## Focus on Mental & Behavioral Health

In June 2023, Birth to Five Illinois produced our first Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments. These 39 individual reports highlight data and stories about Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs, services, and supports from caregivers, families, and ECEC providers in each Region of the State. This report is the next chapter.

Mental and Behavioral Health was a prominent and reoccurring need identified in our needs assessments across all 39 Regions. The feedback received throughout the State, along with the announcement of the Illinois Governor’s Smart Start initiative and the State’s focus on children’s Mental Health, solidified our goal to better understand these issues at the community level.

Between February and May 2024, Regional staff led discussions with their Council members about the Mental and Behavioral Health services, supports, and resources available in their communities. Caregivers across the State reported frustration with the lack of Mental and Behavioral Health services, long waitlists to access available supports, and a lack of awareness of what resources are available in their Region. ECEC providers discussed the need for training on how to better support the Mental and Behavioral Health needs of children and families. They want more resources to address and improve their own Mental Health needs as well.

In this report you will find data and stories from families about the challenges and successes they have had accessing Mental and Behavioral Health services. You will also hear from ECEC providers about their experiences providing these services to young children and their families. We invite you to use this information to understand the needs of your Region, advocate for services, secure additional funding, bring awareness to available ECEC resources, and better support the caregivers, families, and ECEC providers in your community. If you have not read the previous needs assessment report, it can be found at [www.birthtofiveil.com/region19/#report](http://www.birthtofiveil.com/region19/#report).

Thank you for supporting the work of Birth to Five Illinois!



## Methodology

Regional Council members used data from various sources to guide their discussions, including: the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM), Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services (IDHFS), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Children & Family Research Center, County Health Rankings, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Council and community members shared their experiences accessing and providing local Mental and Behavioral Health services during meetings, interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Guest speakers were invited to talk about the support they provide for young children and their families. Information and data have been summarized and included in this report.



## Focus on Region 19

### Key Takeaways

- ECEC professionals are not equipped to adequately provide trauma-informed care. As a result, the Mental Health of children and even providers are not being supported.
- Some families feel as though their concerns are ignored or dismissed when presented to their child's physician, leading to fear and mistrust of the Mental and Behavioral Health system.
- Many people lack understanding about Early Childhood Mental Health, including those in the healthcare field. They are unable to diagnose a child due to their age, or do not know where to refer children for help.
- There are very few if any providers in the Region who serve children from birth to age five. Of those that do, waitlists are extremely long or do not accept Medicaid.

### Early Childhood Mental & Behavioral Health Regional Landscape

Regional Teams and Council members discussed the overall Mental and Behavioral Health landscape to better understand what is available to families and ECEC professionals in the Region. Conversations focused on who can access services and what the referral process looks like for families. These details, along with some data gathered earlier this year from a statewide survey on Mental and Behavioral Health, are found in this section.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.birthtofiveil.com/s/Statewide\\_MBH\\_SurveyDataReport\\_English\\_R.pdf](http://www.birthtofiveil.com/s/Statewide_MBH_SurveyDataReport_English_R.pdf)

Data from online sources and community partners shows that there are some Mental and Behavioral Health services available for families in Region 19. Yet very few work with children from birth through age eight. Several community organizations use a family services approach to support families. But they have few staff to serve the large number of families who need services. A few school districts and preschools are using social-emotional learning to support young children. But it is not clear if the program is also used for elementary age students.

**In this Region**  
**3,519 Mental Health Providers**  
**246 Pediatricians**  
**9 Hospitals**  
**Serve 66,179 children birth to age five.**  
Data from IECAM, IDPH, and County Health Rankings.

While services for young children may be available in the Region, not all families can access them. Most providers are in Naperville, Wheaton, and Oak Brook. Very few services are in the northern area of the Region, and there are limited transportation options for families to get to services.

Sixty-one percent (61%) of people surveyed from across the State said that they waited two or more months to gain services after receiving a referral. Eleven percent (11%) said they were never able to get services for their child. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of those surveyed said they traveled an average of 30 or more minutes for services. This travel time feedback is the same as what we heard from community members in the Region during Council meetings, focus groups, and/or interviews.

Survey respondents across the State and Region answered that they are most often getting referrals from their child’s doctor or pediatrician, Early Intervention, a schoolteacher/staff, or a child care worker/staff. Nineteen percent (19%) of survey respondents from across the State and 70% of those surveyed from the Region said they never got a referral and only looked for help on their own. Regionally, community members said they mostly receive referrals from their child’s doctor or pediatrician. Yet even when a family has a referral, they may not be able to use the service due to long waitlists and the type of insurance that is accepted. Many providers limit the type of insurance they take, and many do not accept Medicaid.

**“ The kiddos that we have, the parents expressed interest in finding additional supports for them and schools are trying to get extra supports. We can’t find it. Finding those who can work with 0-5, local, and accepts Medicaid...it barely exists. – Home Visitor ”**



### Focus on Families & Caregivers

Parents and caregivers were asked to share their experiences in accessing Mental and Behavioral Health services, supports, and resources in the Region. Their feedback suggests that the process of receiving a referral and connecting to services is challenging to navigate for multiple reasons.

**“ When your child breaks an arm, you know where to go. You know when it is appropriate to take them to the emergency room, call a doctor, or go to convenient care because it is physical. We have less knowledge of where to go if your child has a Mental Health issue. – Community Member ”**

**“ It took one and half years to find a therapist because we were roadblocked by the foster system and they [foster children] are the ones that need it the most. – Foster Parent ”**

**“ I am in the field, so I thought I knew all these resources and where to go but the parent side of it was humbling [in reference to finding care for her own son]. – Community Member ”**

There is often some mistrust of the healthcare field and the system in general. Parents and caregivers say this is because there is a history of discrimination and providers not taking their concerns seriously. Many families feel discouraged and frustrated when looking for help.

**“ The process brought a lot of anxiety... trust is hard to find. – Community Member ”**

In Region 19, developmental screenings are easy to get. But once a child has been screened and referred, it is hard for families to get services because there are not enough providers or available slots for ECEC programs. Publicly funded ECEC programs such as Head Start and Prevention Initiative include built-in supports available to families, but it can be difficult to find services for children who are not enrolled in those programs.

Additionally, families with no insurance or who have Medicaid have difficulties accessing care. They say that many providers only accept private insurance. The lack of providers leads to long wait times and wait lists. Even parents and caregivers who want to use their private insurance to pay for Mental Health services can have a difficult time finding a provider who sees young children.

**“ Once I knew they [the pediatrician] couldn't help, I took over and made call after call. I was told there was either a waitlist or they did not take the insurance. – Caregiver ”**

Location is another barrier to accessing care in Region 19. Parents and caregivers must travel long distances to find Mental and Behavioral Health services that treat children ages five and under. One caregiver had to travel to Lurie's Children's Hospital in Chicago to access services. They shared that the pediatrician they saw there was the first doctor to take their concerns seriously.

Finally, Council and community members noted challenges to accessing Mental and Behavioral Health resources specifically for the State's priority populations.<sup>2</sup> These are people who may face barriers to ECEC service due to their race, ethnicity, language, culture, religion, and education. There is a lack of access to services for immigrant and refugee families and their young children. Also, due to the implicit bias of ECEC professionals, Black and Latine children are often labeled as having behavior problems in need of outside interventions without first trying to understand how the classroom environment impacts their behavior.

## **Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC)**

I/ECMH Consultants provide training and support for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) professionals who work directly with young children.<sup>3</sup> I/ECMH Consultants are not therapists or counselors, they offer feedback to child care, preschool, Early Intervention, and Home Visiting professionals on their interactions with young children. This report section includes data from Council and community members, IECAM, and the Birth to Five Illinois Mental and Behavioral Health Survey.

Statewide, there is a need for more I/ECMH Consultants to support ECEC professionals. Currently, there are two I/ECMH Consultants available in Region 19 through Caregiver Connections, which offers free services to licensed ECEC programs. They serve DuPage and Kane Counties (Region 31), which includes between 1,200 and 1,300 licensed ECEC providers. Combined, the I/ECMH Consultants are only able to work with about 70 providers annually. They have a case load of around 15 at any given time. While the services are available in all parts of the Region, they may not be accessible to all providers because there are not enough I/ECMH Consultants to meet the demand. Though programs have the option of hiring fee-based I/ECMH Consultants, Council and community members noted that some ECEC providers are not able to afford the cost. Additionally, ECEC providers that are not working closely with the local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency may not know about I/ECMHC services or how they could benefit them.

There are some programs that have I/ECMH Consultants on staff. Publicly funded programs, such as Day One Impact, the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and CASE all employ an I/ECMH Consultant. They can provide resources to staff, reflective supervision, and monthly group discussions. Metropolitan Family Services has a Behavioral Health Department. Although separate from their Early Childhood Department, they utilize a family systems approach and employ two I/ECMH Consultants. These and other community service organizations wrote for a grant to provide more on-site services of Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health to young children and ECEC providers.

---

<sup>2</sup> [www.oecd.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/oecd/documents/priority-populations-recommendation-final-approved.pdf](http://www.oecd.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/oecd/documents/priority-populations-recommendation-final-approved.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.oecd.illinois.gov/illinois-infant-early-childhood-mental-health-consultation.html](http://www.oecd.illinois.gov/illinois-infant-early-childhood-mental-health-consultation.html)

In the Birth to Five Illinois statewide survey, Early Childhood Educators and Administrators were asked if they had utilized I/ECMHC services or attended a training held by an I/ECMH Consultant; 44% of the 216 respondents answered yes. Forty-five percent (45%) answered that they received all the support they needed from their Consultant; 21% answered they had not; 34% said they were still receiving support at the time of the survey.



## Focus on Early Childhood Professionals

ECEC professionals were asked to share their experiences working with I/ECMH Consultants and about their own and their students' Mental Health needs. For those who knew about and worked with I/ECMH Consultants, the overall feedback was very positive. I/ECMH Consultants have provided helpful training, outside perspectives, and suggestions for interventions that have led to progress and improvements for children.

ECEC professionals also shared about the kinds of Mental Health support they need in their classrooms. One suggestion was the addition of a “calming room” or calm space with soft lights and comfortable seating because classroom environments can be stressful or overstimulating at times for both ECEC providers and children. Other supports include:

- More classroom supplies.
- More opportunities for relationship-building with caregivers.
- Training on Mental Health topics.
- Ongoing coaching and support on Mental Health and social/emotional topics, beyond one-time training.

“ Not having experience or training in Mental Health means I don't know how to help the kids. I don't know what to look for. – Early Childhood Provider ”

“ Educators need more trauma-informed practices and more awareness of our own biases through a reflective lens. We struggle in our classrooms. We try to analyze what a child is communicating but it is hard...[we] are living it. – Early Childhood Provider ”

ECEC professionals also provided information on the steps that can be taken to better support their Mental Health. There is a need for employers to hire more staff, so it is possible to take Mental Health days. ECEC providers shared that it can be difficult or impossible to do this since there are often not enough staff to cover classrooms. ECEC providers also stressed the need for times they can spend in reflection and trauma-focused counseling services.





When you are a teacher, you have a lot of stress that you hold in and need to release. You need someone to think with you and process it. It's not about telling you what to do with the kid but asking you what is upsetting you about that child's behavior. More reflective practices. It takes time, but you realize the more you have the support the more you realize [the problem] is me. – Early Childhood Provider



It would be beneficial to have counselors come through and talk with staff once in a while. We need to address our own feelings so we can address the needs of the children in our care. – Early Childhood Provider



## Pyramid Model

Pyramid Model is a national program that promotes social-emotional development and teaches relationship skills. The goal is to help ECEC professionals build positive relationships with children, families, and other staff, giving ECEC staff the tools they need to address children's challenging behaviors. The Pyramid Model is not required by the State. However, it is used by child care, Head Start, Early Intervention, Home Visiting, and state-funded preschool programs across Illinois.<sup>4</sup> There are three tiers to the Pyramid Model training.

1. Universal support is for all children. These may include daily check-ins with children about their emotions, creating classroom routines, and teaching classroom expectations.
2. Targeted social-emotional support is for fewer children. These may include teaching children self-regulation strategies, friendship skills, and how to solve problems on their own.
3. Intensive interventions are for a very small number of children. These may include using assessments to understand the root of a child's behavior, or the development of an individualized behavior support plan.

Using the Pyramid Model in ECEC programs is optional and varies across the State. There are currently 133 implementation sites in Illinois. There are four Family Child Care implementation sites in Region 19.

Metropolitan Family Services, a Pyramid Model implementation site, is currently finishing their first year with the program. They have incorporated it into all their Early Childhood programs, including classrooms and Home Visiting. As part of the program, they offered Positive Solutions training to four groups of parents. Two groups were held in English, two were held in Spanish. One ECEC professional noted that the program has been successful at getting parents involved. Others shared their experience with the first year and Tier 1 implementation.

---

<sup>4</sup> [www.pyramidmodel.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IL-How-to-Become-an-Imp-Site-Cross-Sector\\_9.13.2023.pdf](http://www.pyramidmodel.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IL-How-to-Become-an-Imp-Site-Cross-Sector_9.13.2023.pdf)

“

The classrooms who are really implementing Tier 1, the ones that are really doing it and have classroom management, are not having as many challenging behaviors. I haven't had any referrals from those classrooms.

– Early Childhood Professional

”

“

Even the resistant teacher has changed [their] ways and bought into it [Pyramid Model] because it really works. We are consistent and put them into practice.... [They said] ‘if you had asked me years ago, I would not have been up to doing it but now that I am doing it I see it is beneficial.

– Early Childhood Professional

”

## Home Visiting

There are several Home Visiting programs in Illinois that support both pregnant persons and caregivers with children under age three. These programs aim to support people who may experience conditions that can lead to harmful health, educational, and social outcomes.<sup>3</sup> Home Visiting programs do not provide direct Mental or Behavioral Health services. Instead, they support parent-child relationships by facilitating group connections, encouraging healthy growth and development, and promoting safety and family well-being. Home Visitors may also make referrals to services for Mental Health, domestic violence, substance misuse, and developmental disabilities, which can support the well-being of the entire family.

In this Region

1,304

Home Visiting Slots

Serve 66,179 children  
birth to age five.

Includes proposed capacity of Prevention Initiative, funded enrollment of Head Start, Early Head Start, Healthy Families, and Parents Too Soon, as well as slots for MIECHV from 2022.



### Focus on Families & Caregivers

In Region 19 there are well over 70 Home Visitors employed by 35 different programs, ranging from Prevention Initiative, Head Start, and Early Head Start to programs funded through local non-profit or community organizations. Most Home Visiting programs are in the center of DuPage County. However, there are only one or two in the southern portion of the Region (Willowbrook and Naperville), leaving out communities such as Woodridge and Darien. Additionally, the east side of the County lacks programs in the Villa Park, Downers Grove, and Lombard areas.

Parents and caregivers were asked to share how Home Visiting services support the well-being of their family. Several explained that receiving Home Visiting services has provided helpful resources and opportunities for them to work towards meaningful goals.

“

My Home Visitor was my biggest cheerleader and got me out of a very dark place with my son. – Caregiver

”

“ The most valuable thing my Home Visitor did was validate the concerns I had about my kid. He had [challenging] behaviors but not a diagnosis. She confirmed, yes, I had a difficult kid. They come to your home and meet you where you are. It breaks the cycle. – Caregiver ”

“ There is always an opportunity to develop a parent-child goal, parent goal, and family goal. There are little pieces of everything embedded in the [Home Visiting] program as a whole. – Community Member ”

## Community Partners

Regional staff invited community Mental and Behavioral Health providers to Council meetings to present data and information about services in the Region. Some of the information shared is included in this section.

Council members reviewed socioeconomic and health data on the 2023 Mental Health Index<sup>5</sup> created by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute. It uses data from many sources to create an index value for each zip code in DuPage County that shows how great the need for Mental Health services is in an area. According to the map, zip codes that include Burr Ridge, Oak Brook, and Willow Brook are the areas of highest need in the county.

Data from World Relief shows the need for Mental Health services will likely increase during the summer 2024 months. They estimate that there will be a 20% to 30% increase from previous years of families immigrating to DuPage County from Columbia, Cuba, Haiti, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Children from immigrant families may experience trauma from the situation they are leaving and the transition to a new country. Most immigrant services and agencies focus on connecting families with basic needs, such as housing, food, education, and jobs. Yet the support only lasts 90 days and often does not include connections to Mental Health services. Families may need additional support to help them find the Mental Health services they need.

The Region has community-based programs to help support some of the Mental and Behavioral Health needs of children and families. The Bloomingdale Township Children’s Network, working on behalf of the Bloomington Township 708 Mental Health Board, has established several goals to support children from birth to age five and students from Kindergarten through 12th grade.<sup>6</sup> Their goals include assisting with resource identification and care coordination, connecting children who have a developmental or educational delay but do not qualify for Early Intervention to supports, supporting professional development training for child care providers, and helping develop Early Childhood Collaborations.

---

<sup>5</sup> [www.impactdupage.org/indexsuite](http://www.impactdupage.org/indexsuite)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bloomingtontownship.com/services/community-mental-health-board>

Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley provide support for children who have behavior needs that other programs cannot support.<sup>7</sup> As behavior specialists, staff at Easterseals can create a comprehensive services plan incorporating the help of social-emotional and disability consultants. There is a high demand for their services, and they do not have the capacity to meet the needs of all families who need support.

DuPage County has also seen a rise in the number of children who experience abuse and neglect. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago says they saw a 26% increase in cases between 2018-2023. To create more supports for parents and caregivers, Strong Families, a program of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, offers Parent Peer Mentors, parent education, and connections to resources.<sup>8</sup> The goal is to promote protective factors within families, such as building emotional support, growing healthy relationships, and developing resilience. One caregiver shared their experience with the program.

“ What should have been a joyous occasion when finding out I was going to have a son was filled with anxiety. Without the parenting classes and Home Visiting I don't know how I would have managed. – Caregiver ”



## Region 19 Strengths & Needs

Action and Family Council members considered public data and information collected through focus groups, interviews, and surveys about the Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health landscape of the Region. From there, they identified strengths and needs.

### Regional Strengths

- DuPage County is ranked as the number one healthiest county in Illinois.
- With eight hospitals and over 150 Mental Health providers, DuPage County has the potential to provide comprehensive Mental and Behavioral Health care.
- Licensed child care providers in Region 19 can access free I/ECMH Consultant support, and many publicly funded programs employ their own I/ECMH Consultant to support their staff.
- Families are resilient and resourceful when faced with adversity, and parents and caregivers are fierce advocates for their children.
- DuPage County offers a variety of ways to access quantitative community data and reports through local community organizations and government agencies.

---

<sup>7</sup> [www.easterseals.com/dfv/](http://www.easterseals.com/dfv/)

<sup>8</sup> [www.projecthelpdupage.org/](http://www.projecthelpdupage.org/)

- Many Region 19 families report positive outcomes from, and high levels of engagement in, Early Intervention and Home Visiting programs.
- Region 19 is home to a plethora of service organizations working together to connect families to resources.

## Regional Needs

- Improved Mental Health outcomes for children.
- Increase the number of professionals who offer Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health services specific to children from birth to age five.
- Increase accessibility of Mental and Behavioral Health services for families from priority populations who are impacted by waitlists and the types of insurance plans accepted.
- Offer more community coordinated services that expand Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health resources without duplicating existing services.
- Develop a robust system of support to improve and maintain positive Mental Health for caregivers and ECEC professionals.
- Address community fear and mistrust of the healthcare and ECEC systems by increasing caregivers' and professionals' understanding of Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health.
- Build a system for collecting quantitative data on the root causes of children's and families' inequitable access to Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health services.
- Encourage public consideration for how nutrition, environmental pollutants, and physical environments affect children's behavior and Mental Health.
- More consistency for children and families during the transition to school district programs.



## Region 19 Recommendations

After reviewing quantitative and qualitative data, as well as identifying strengths and needs for the Region, Council members developed recommendations.

- Increase the number of professionals who offer Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health Services specific to children from birth to age five, while also addressing challenges with priority population accessibility, current waitlists, and types of insurance coverage accepted.
- Create a robust system of support to improve and maintain positive Mental Health for caregivers and ECEC professionals.
- Address community fear and mistrust of the healthcare and Early Childhood systems by increasing knowledge and understanding of Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health for both caregivers and professionals alike.

- Develop a system for collecting quantitative data that will recognize and track causality and the root causes attributed to inequitable access to Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health Services for children and families in Region 19.
- There should be a discussion among community partners about how nutrition, environmental pollutants, and physical environments affect behavior and child Mental Health.
- Build consistency for young children and families during the transition to school district programs, with special considerations for improved communication, stronger family partnerships, and an appreciation for children’s culture, diversity, and language.
- Community coordinated services that dismantle the current organizational silos, providing an expansion of Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health resources without duplicating existing services.



## Next Steps

Over the coming months, we will continue to engage the community to expand our understanding of the Mental and Behavioral Health needs of local families and ECEC providers. If you have questions about this report or would like to get involved with the work of Birth to Five Illinois in Region 19, please find our contact information on the front inside cover of this document.



## Resources

These resources were used during Council discussions and in the development of this report.

- Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2023). Board Certified Behavior Analyst Certificate Registry. [www.bacb.com/services/o.php?page=101135](http://www.bacb.com/services/o.php?page=101135).
- Birth to Five Illinois (2024). Mental and Behavioral Health Survey. [https://www.birthtofiveil.com/s/Statewide\\_MBH\\_SurveyDataReport\\_English\\_R.pdf](https://www.birthtofiveil.com/s/Statewide_MBH_SurveyDataReport_English_R.pdf).
- County Health Rankings (2023). Explore health rankings. [www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois?year=2023](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois?year=2023).
- Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services (DCFS) (2023). Provider search. [www.enrollhfs.illinois.gov/en/provider-search](http://www.enrollhfs.illinois.gov/en/provider-search).
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) (2023). Community Health Needs Assessments. [www.healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov/community\\_health\\_assessments](http://www.healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov/community_health_assessments).
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) (2023). Number of hospitals. [www.data.illinois.gov/dataset/410idph\\_hospital\\_directory](http://www.data.illinois.gov/dataset/410idph_hospital_directory).

- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) (2023). Number of Rural Health Centers. [www.data.illinois.gov/dataset/442idph\\_rural\\_health\\_center\\_directory](http://www.data.illinois.gov/dataset/442idph_rural_health_center_directory).
- Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) (2021). Regional reports. [www.rr.iecam.illinois.edu/dash-snapshot-report/landing](http://www.rr.iecam.illinois.edu/dash-snapshot-report/landing).
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) (2024). I/ECMHC database. [www.registry.ilgateways.com/component/consultantsearch](http://www.registry.ilgateways.com/component/consultantsearch).
- The American Board of Pediatrics, Research Department. (2021). Data sent on November 21, 2023, related to [www.abp.org/content/data-and-workforce](http://www.abp.org/content/data-and-workforce). Chapel Hill, NC: The American Board of Pediatrics.



[www.birthtofiveil.com](http://www.birthtofiveil.com)

---

Birth to Five Illinois is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and is a department of the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).

Photo Credit: Cover photo by shellexx from Getty Images via Canva.