

Allegan County Resource Development Committee, Inc. Head
Start and Early Head Start
2014-2017 Community Needs Assessment
(Soon to be known as Community Action of Allegan County)

Methodology

The following Community Needs Assessment is the end result of primary and secondary research into the needs of Allegan County residents.

Primary research was comprised of

- The 2012/2013 edition of the Annual Head Start / Early Head Start Parent Survey. This survey was fielded (timeframe). 286 responses were received and tabulated for analysis.
- The 2013 ACRDC Community Needs Assessment Beneficiary Survey, fielded May 19 – June 18, 2014. This survey was distributed to approximately 700 beneficiaries with 338 replies* (48% Response rate).

Secondary research was conducted by obtaining and analyzing data from the following sources:

- Kids Count Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>)
- Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013, Michigan League for Public Policy
- CLASP DataFinder (<http://www.clasp.org/data#tab2>)
- Michigan Head Start by the Numbers, 2013 PIR Profile, CLASP, October, 2014
- Fact Sheet 2104, Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy
- Zehnder-Merrell, Jane. Child and Family Well-Being in Michigan and its Counties: Overview 2013. Lansing, Michigan: Michigan League for Public Policy.
- Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children, A Kids Count Policy Report of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, © 2014 The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In order to make it easier to identify patterns and potential relationships among the information obtained from these sources, the data were grouped into the following subject categories:

1. Demographics
 - A. Population Data
 - B. Risk Factors
2. Allegan County Head Start / Early Head Start Program Data
3. Family Survey Results (ACRDC HS / EHS Parent Survey)
4. Other Indicators of Need
 - A. Economic Climate
 - B. Family Support Programs
 - C. Access to Health Care

Each specific data item discussed in this assessment has been assigned a short code (e.g. GP-1) as an identifier that is carried over to source Excel Workbook files, making it easier to locate source material and graphs.

At the end of each of the four major sections, a summary table appears highlighting several characteristics of each metric reviewed in the section, including trend, normative comparison, and key implications.

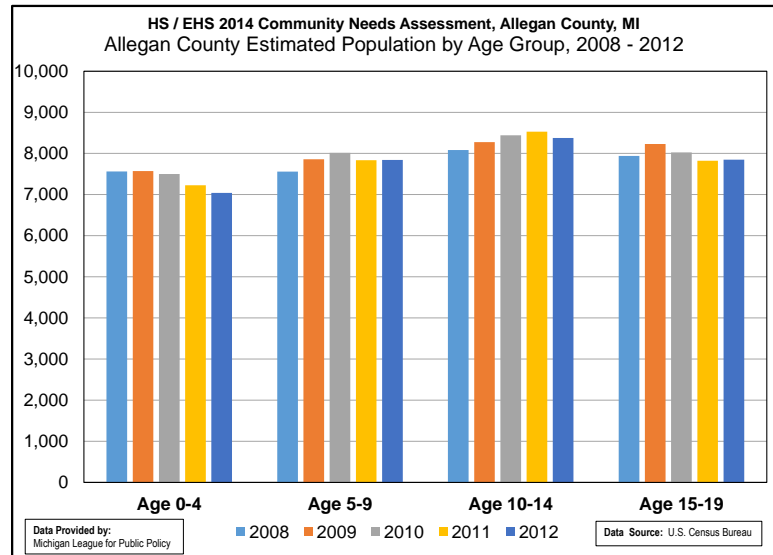
Section 1: Demographics

A. Population Data

This subsection includes relevant general demographic data and trends, including population by age group, race, and head of household type.

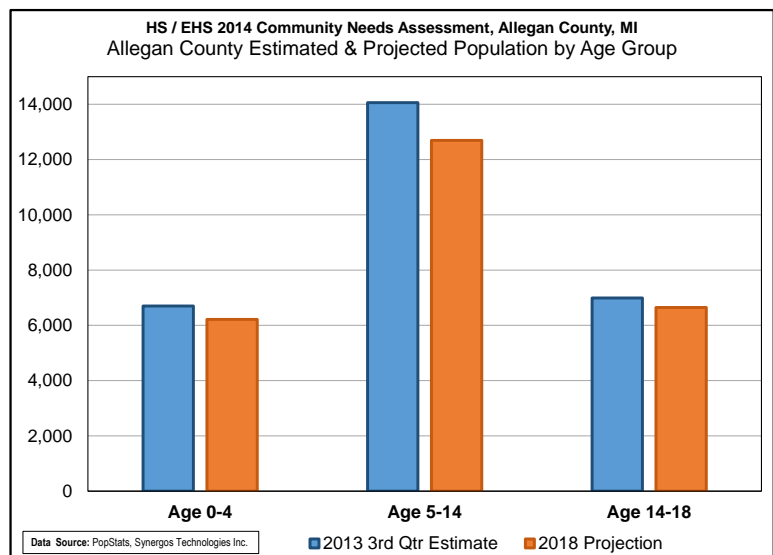
Allegan County Population

Trend by Age Group (GP-1): As indicated by the trend bar graph at the right, the population in different key child and adolescent age groups are experience different trends, though none are experiencing sustained growth from 2008 to 2012. The 0-4 Age Group has experience the largest decline in recent years down 529 (7%) from 7,570 in 2008 to 7,041 in 2012. The 5-9 Age Group has experienced a less consistent trend, declining 173 (2.2%) from a five year peak of 8,014 in 2010. Lower teen populations in recent years may contribute to fewer births to teens.



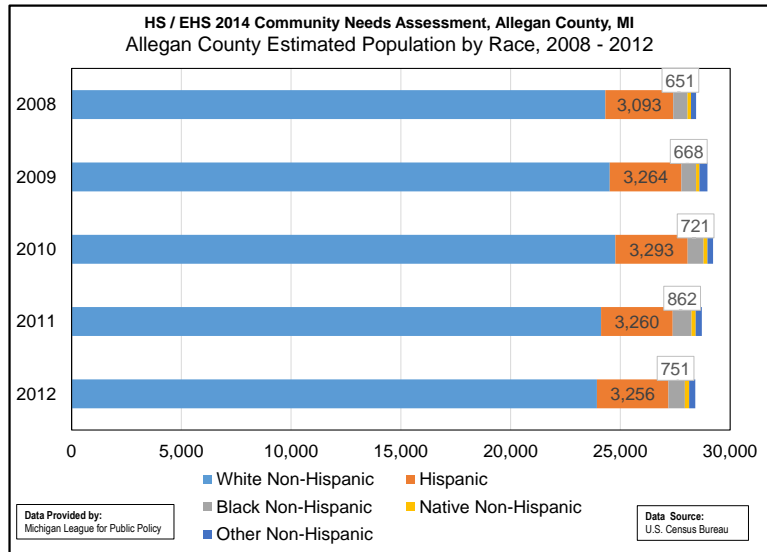
Allegan County Estimated and Projected Population by Age Group (GP-2):

The current estimated and projected populations by key Age Group indicate continued declines in the five years from 2013 to 2018 (see trend bar graph at right). While this data was obtained from a different, proprietary source (hence the different age groups), it is still Census-based information. The relatively sharper decline in the 5-14 Age Group is logical given the historical sharper decline in the 0-4 Age Group, as the same, smaller population progresses through the age continuum over time. This group is projected to decline 1,365 (9.7%) from 14,057 in late 2013 to 12,692 in 2018. A further decline in the critical 0-4 Age group is also projected.



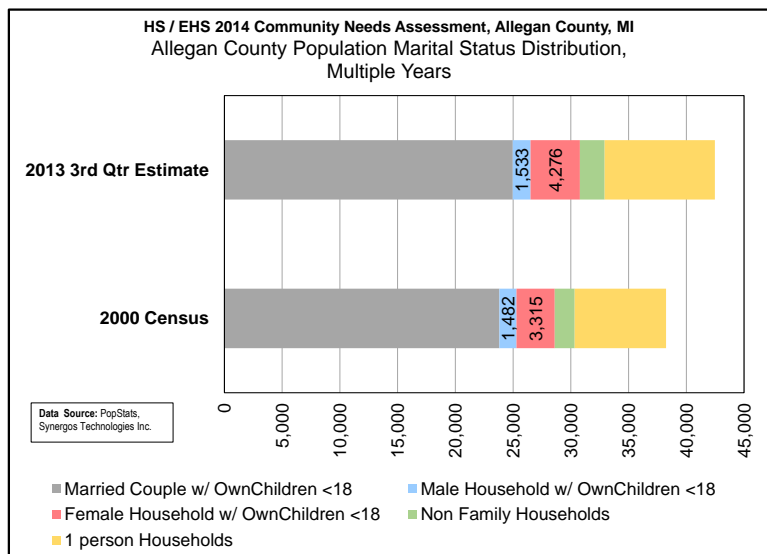
Allegan County Estimated Population by Race (GP-3):

The population of Allegan County is becoming slightly more diverse over time, as illustrated in the composite bar comparison at right. The largest race segment is White Non-Hispanic, accounting for an estimated 84.2% of the population in 2012. The next largest race is Hispanic, which has slowly increased from 10.9% of the population in 2008 to 11.5% of the population in 2012.



Allegan County Households by Marital Status Category (GP-4):

The number of households in Allegan County increased significantly from 38,245 to 42,471 (4,226, 11.0%) in the 13 years from 2000 to 2013. In that time, the number of households headed by an unmarried Female or Male with Children has also increased, but at an even faster pace from a combined 4,797 to 5,809 (1,012, 21.1%). It is estimated that in late 2013, households headed by a single parent with children comprised 13.7% of all households in Allegan County.

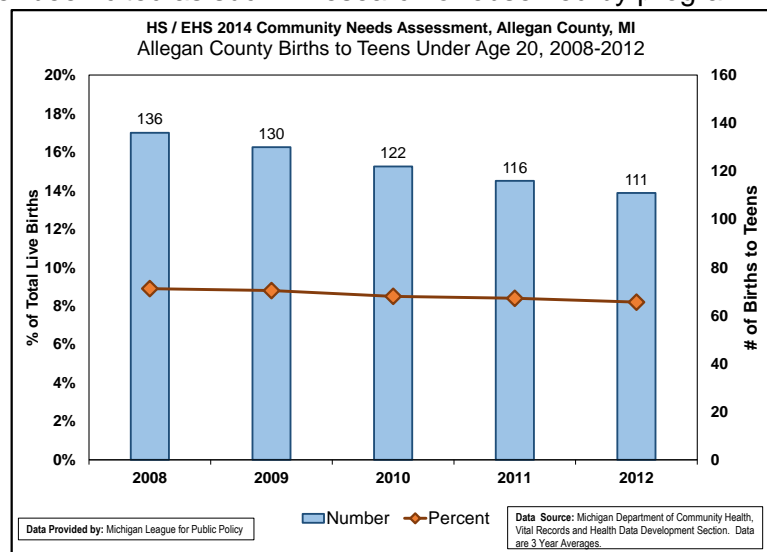


B. Risk Factors

This subsection includes a variety of measures that attempt to gauge the presence of risk factors. These risk factors have either been cited as such in research or observed by program staff as increasing the likelihood of poverty or other circumstances that correlate to the need for services such as Head Start / Early Head Start.

Allegan County Births to Teens (GP-5):

The combination Bar & Trend Line Graph at right shows



that the number of births to teens is steadily declining in actual number and in the percentage of total live births in Allegan County. The decrease is significant, declining from 136 in 2008 to 111 in 2012 (-25, -18.4%).

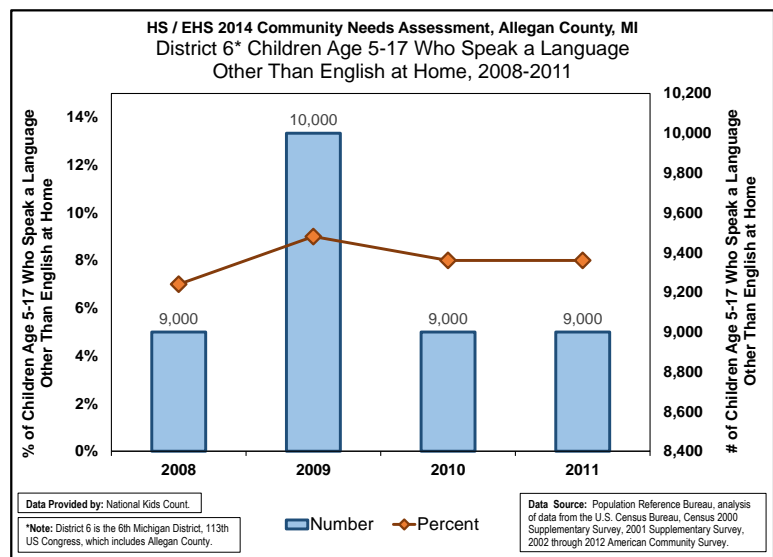
% of Children Age <18 Living in Households without a Vehicle (GP-6): It is estimated that among children under the age of 18, approximately 6% nationally and 5% in Michigan live in A household without a vehicle. While data is not available from the same sources for Allegan County, an estimated 30,782 households in Allegan County in 3rd quarter of 2013 included children < age 18. If each of these households had only one child, that would mean approximately 1,693 children live in households without a vehicle. The actual number would likely be higher as some of these households would have more than one child age < 18.

Data Provided by: National Kids Count.

Definitions: Definitions: The share of children under age 18 living in households without a vehicle at the time of the interview. Vehicles include passenger cars, vans, and trucks that are kept at home and are available for use by household members.

Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2012 American Community Survey.

Children Speaking a Language other than English at Home (GP-7): The combination Bar & Trend Line Graph at right provides the estimated number and percent of children age 5-17 who speak a language other than English at home. This may be an indication that the adults at home do not speak English or only speak it as a second language. This statistic is not available for Allegan County but for the 6th US Congressional District (113th Congress). The estimates are obviously rough. Even so, there are an estimated 9,000 to 10,000 children in the District living



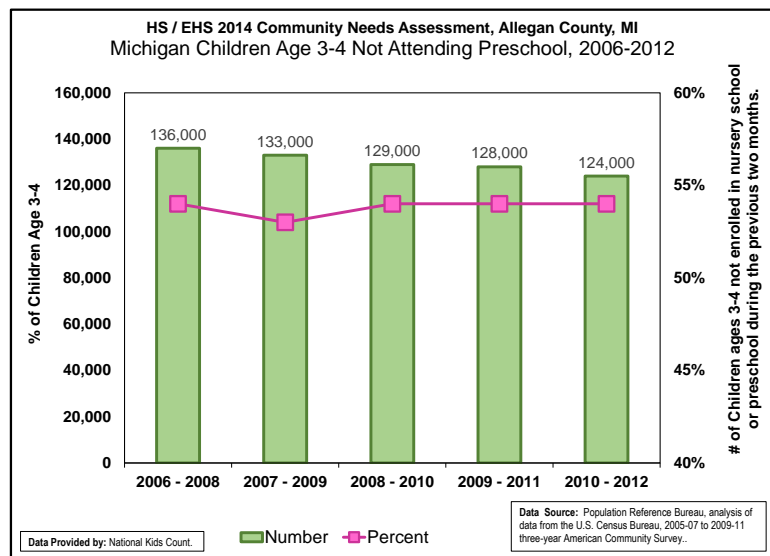
in homes where English may not be the primary language. For comparison purposes, an estimated 122,500 children in this age range were living in District 6 in 2013, meaning approximately 7% to 8% may have this language situation. If the same rare applies to Allegan County, where there is an estimated 19,650 children age 5-17, as many as 1,375 to 1,570 may live in households with a primary language other than English. Health Literacy is a term ascribed to a capability to understand and better navigate the health care system because the individual has sufficient understanding of relevant health care terms and their meaning. It would be difficult to imagine a situation where the parents of a family have sufficient health literacy without first achieving English language literacy. Other research as shown that Health Literacy is a significant risk factor for people in obtaining adequate health care, which in turn can be a risk factor for poverty.

Homes with Primary Language Other than English - Fennville (GP-8): Another way to approach data that relates to the Health Literacy challenge is to use data from the American Community Survey. Using this source, it is possible to obtain estimates of the percent of the population age 5 and over based on the language spoken at home, and for those who speak a language other than English at home, the percent that speak English less than “very well”. The table below provides the related estimates for Michigan, Allegan County, and the Fennville area, a part of Allegan County where there is a higher concentration of migrant and seasonal workers. The estimates would support that English literacy may be a bigger challenge in this part of Allegan County, where an estimated 456 people age 5 and over live who speak another language at home and speak English less than “very well”.

Language Spoken at Home	Total Estimated Population Age 5 & Over	Estimated % Who Speak a Language Other than English	Estimated # Who Speak a Language Other than English	Margin of Error	Speak English "very well"		Speak English less than "very well"		
					Estimate %	Margin of Error	Estimate %	Estimate #	Margin of Error
Michigan	9,303,488	9.0%	837,314	+/-0.1	64.1%	+/-0.4	35.9%	300,596	+/-0.4
Allegan County	104,205	5.9%	6,148	+/-0.5	64.8%	+/-4.5	35.2%	2,164	+/-4.5
Fennville (49408)	8,319	17.2%	1,431	+/-3.1	68.1%	+/-6.7	31.9%	456	+/-6.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.
 Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

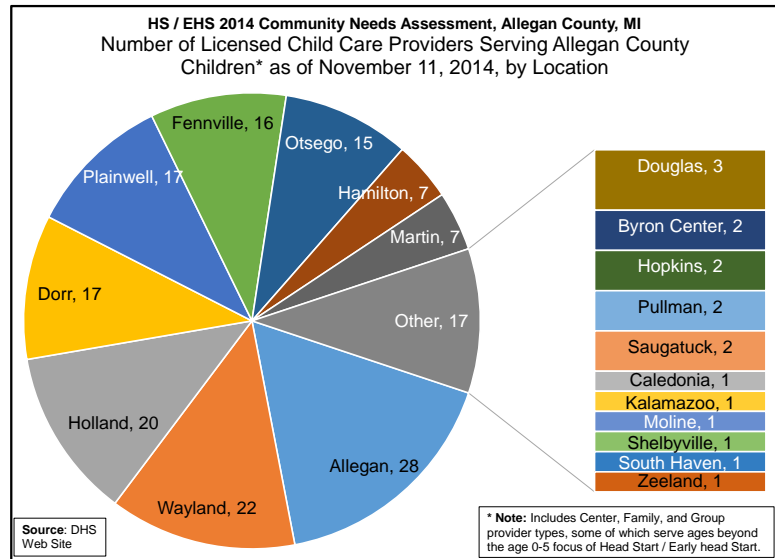
Children not Attending Pre-school (GP-9): The graph at right depicts the estimated number and percent of children age 3-4 not attending Pre-school in Michigan from 2006 through 2012. Each data point on the trend line represents an average three year rate (refer to x axis for periods). Note that the estimated rate has remained relatively flat at 53% or 54% thought this period. This information is based on data from the American Community Survey, and is based on surveys from a sample of the population. It represents children ages 3-4 not



enrolled in nursery school or preschool school during the previous two months at the time they were surveyed. If Allegan is experiencing a similar stable percentage trend while the total number of children in the age group is declining, the related number of children not attending pre-school may also be declining.

Licensed Day Care Providers

(GP-10): This Pie Chart illustrates the distribution of Licensed Child Care providers serving Allegan County, by location of the provider. The data includes all types of providers including some which serve ages beyond the 0-5 age group focus of Head Start / Early Head Start. Note the number of providers in larger communities. If capacity distribution (# of children) were displayed, the predominance of capacity might seem even more skewed to larger communities, since this is where the largest centers are located. In order to get a truer understanding of capacity, it would be important to compare the number of children that can be cared for to the population density of different areas. It would also be important to understand which providers are at capacity and which have availability.



Child Care Costs & Impact (GP-11): The following table provides information on the average cost of full-time child care in Allegan County and Michigan and what that average represents as a portion of Median income. Note that while lower than the state as a whole, full-time child care costs represent almost 40% of the median household income in Allegan County.

Indicator	Allegan County	Michigan
Median Household Income (2013)*	\$51,960	\$49,639
Average cost of Full-Time Child Care / month (2013)	\$492	\$532
Average Child Care Cost as a % of Full-Time Minimum Wage (2013)	39.5%	42.8%

Source: Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013 – Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy.
***Source:** PopStats, Synergos Technologies Inc.

Lead Poisoning in Children, Ages 1-2	Allegan Number	Allegan Rates	Michigan Rates
Tested	737	26.3%	38.2%
Poisoned (% of Tested)	33	4.4%	4.8%

Lead Poisoning in Children (GP-12): The following table lists the number of children age 1-2 tested and also the number confirmed as having Lead Poisoning in Allegan County. The table also includes the percentage of all children age 1-2 that were tested. Comparable percent tested and percent confirmed with Lead Poisoning in Michigan are also included. A lower percentage of Allegan County Children were tested, but of those tested, a lower percentage were confirmed as having Lead Poisoning.

Source: Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013 – Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy.

Children with Special Needs (GP-13): The Allegan County Kids Count Profile also includes the following information about Children with Special Needs. As of December, 2012, there were 2,085 students in special education in Allegan County. While this is a substantial number, Allegan compares favorably to Michigan for the rates of Babies with Birth Defects and Students in Special Education. Allegan compares very favorably (only 51% of the Michigan rate) for the rate of children receiving Supplemental Social Security Income.

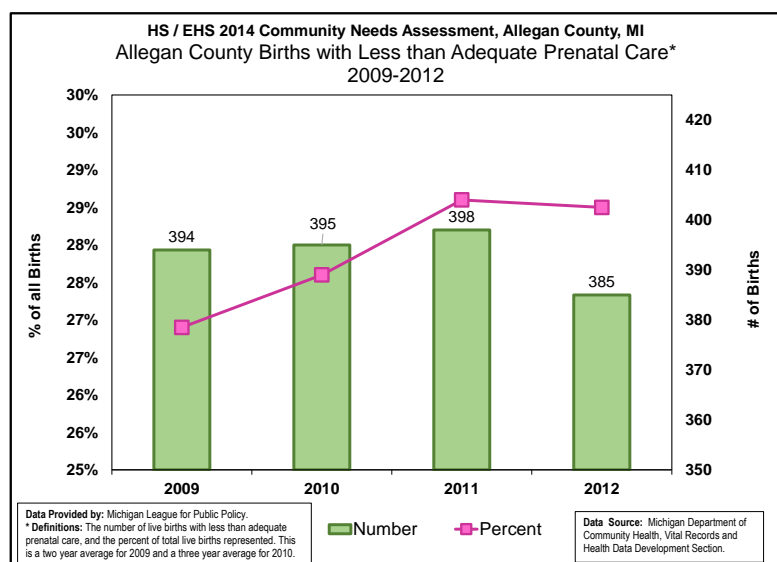
Children with Special Needs	Allegan Number	Allegan Rates	Michigan Rates
Babies with a Birth Defect ¹	66	4.7%	6.6%
Students in Special Education ²	2,085	11.6%	13.8%
Children receiving Supplemental Security Income (rate per 1,000) ²	297	10.3	20.3

¹ Based on three year period 2009-2011.

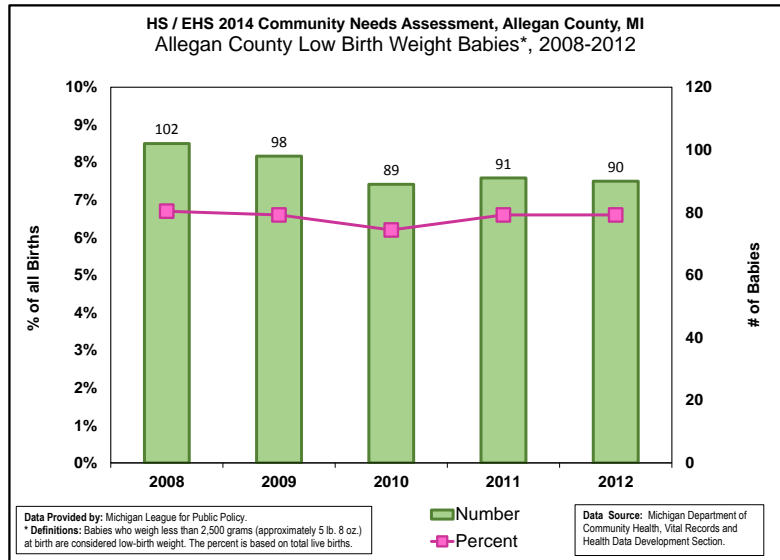
² As of December 2012.

Source: Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013 – Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy.

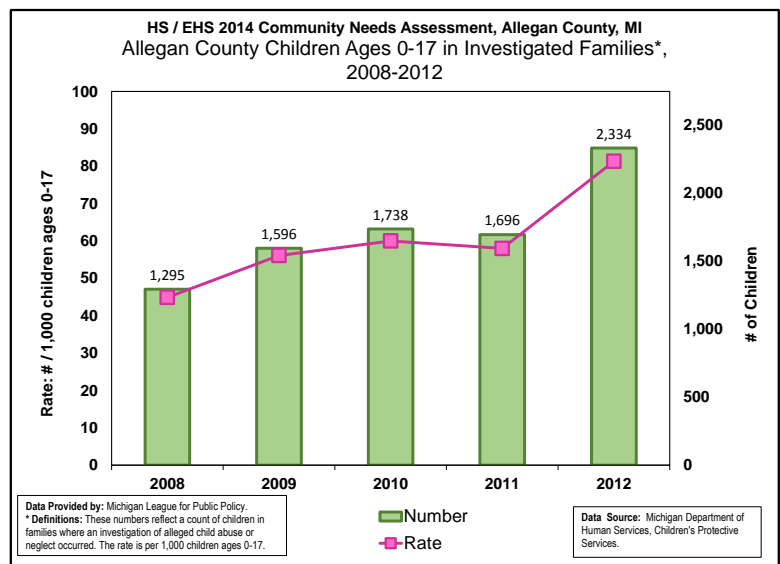
Births with Inadequate Pre-Natal Care (GP-14): During most of the period from 2009-2012, the percentage of births with less than adequate pre-natal care was increasing somewhat in Allegan County. However, due to a declining birth rate in the County, the actual number of births with less than adequate pre-natal care was only increasing slightly. This undesirable trend only abated in 2012, the most recent year for which data is available.



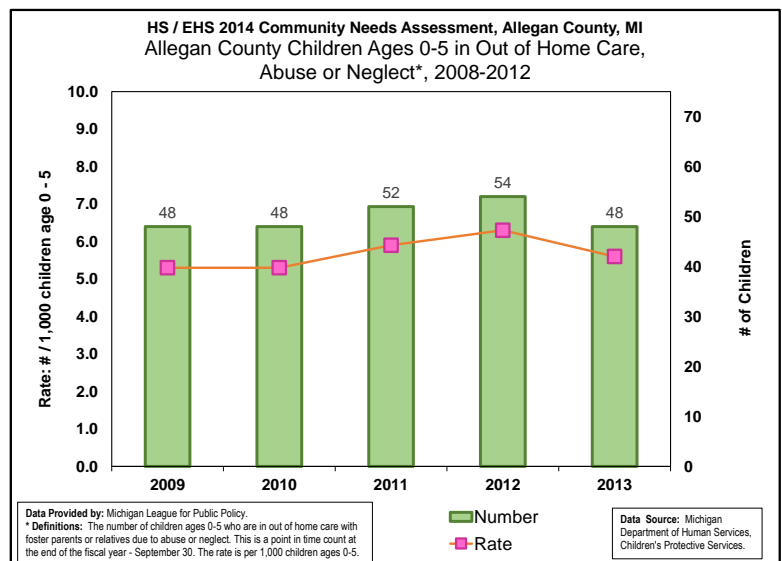
Low Birth Weight Babies (GP-15): Ironically, during the same period, the actual number and rate of Low Birth Weight Babies in Allegan County has been stable or declining.



Children in Investigated Families (GP-16): Among all the risk factor measures examined in this section, none displayed rates of change as high as Children age 0-17 in Investigated Families. In Allegan County, the number increased 1,039 (80.2%) from 1,295 in 2008 to 2,334 in 2012, and the rate increased from 44.9/1,000 children to 81.3/1,000 children during that period. While these numbers reflect investigations, the trend could reflect more households with an adverse childhood environment.



Children in Out of Home Care (GP-17): The number of children in Out of Home Care (foster care or relatives) due to abuse or neglect was increasing somewhat has increased somewhat from 2009 to 2012, though perhaps not as much as what the previous metric may have indicated. In addition, both the actual number and rate/1,000 children age 0-5 declined in 2013, the most recent year for which data was available. It should be noted that the age ranges of this and the previous metric differ.



Section 1: Demographics – Analysis Summary

Data Item	Indicators	Additional Observations [# in brackets indicates current estimate]
Key Age Group Population Trend(GP-1)	↓	2012: 0-4 (7,041), 5-14 (16,218). Largest decline in 0-4 age group.
Key Age Group Population Forecast (GP-2)	↓	2018: 0-4 (6216), 5-14 (12,692). Largest decline in 5-14 age group.
Population Age 0-17 by Race (GP-3)	↑	Slightly increasing racial diversity.
Single Parent Households (GP-4)	↑	[5,809] Increasing number of single parent households.
Births to Teens Under Age 20 (GP-5)	↓ ●	[111]
Families Without a Vehicle (GP-6)	→	[1,693]
Children / Households Non-English (GP-7)	→	[1,375 to 1,570] Mastery of English may impact Health Literacy.
Non-English – Fennville (GP-8)	● Allegan County ● Fennville	[2,164 – Allegan County, 456 – Fennville]
Children Not in Pre-school (GP-9)	↓	
Licensed Day Care (GP-10)		Providers more prevalent in higher population areas.
Cost of Child Care (GP11)	●	[\$492, 39.5% of Median Household Income]
Lead Poisoning in Children (GP-12)	●	[737 Tested, 33 Confirmed]
Children with Special Needs (GP-13)	●	[66 with Birth Defects; 2,085 in Special Education; 297 receiving SSI]
Inadequate Pre-Natal Care (GP-14)	→ ●	[385]
Low Birth Weight Babies (GP-15)	→ ●	[90]
Children in Investigated Families (GP-16)	↑ ●	[2,334] Most alarming trend.
Children in Out-of-Home Care (GP-17)	→ ●	[48]

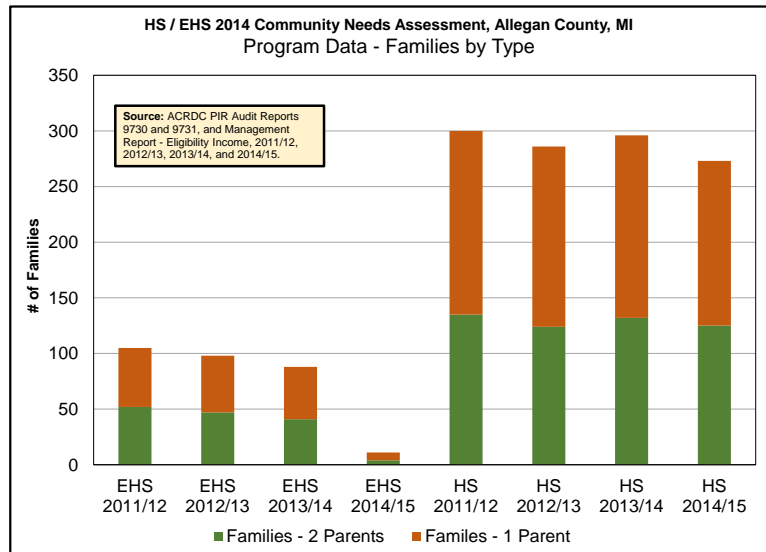
Indicators Key

- = Allegan value is favorable to comparison values (Michigan, US, etc.); may indicate *less need* for services.
- = Allegan value is unfavorable to comparison values (Michigan, US, etc.); may indicate *more need* for services.
- ↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is favorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *decreasing need* for services.
- ↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is unfavorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *increasing need* for services.
- = Allegan trend is relatively stable.

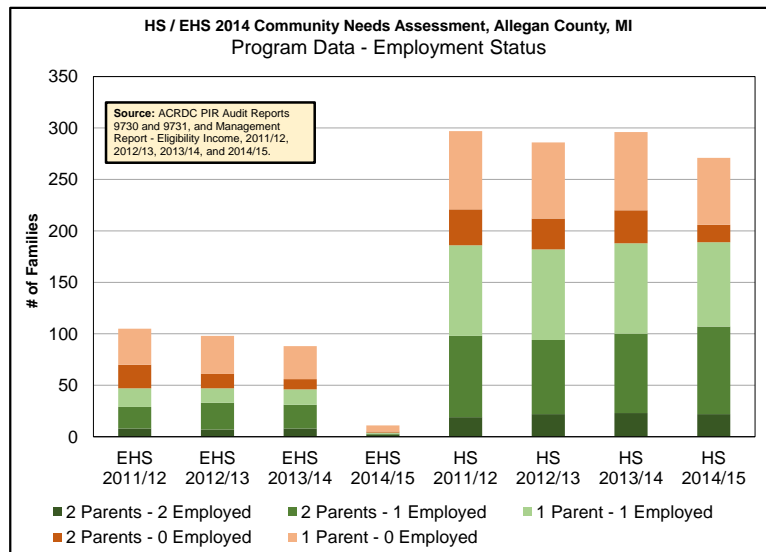
Section 2: Allegan County Head Start / Early Head Start Program Data

This section focusses on an analysis of Early Head Start and Head Start program data from a four year period. The four program years included are 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/14, and 2014/15, though limited data is available for 2014/15. CAAC PIR Audit Reports 9370 and 9371 and the Management Report – Eligibility Income were the sources for data presented in this section.

Families by Type (PD-1): As illustrated in the composition bar chart at right, the distribution of families based on number of parents (2 or 1) is similar in both programs and in both programs throughout the four year period. 1 Parent Families consistently account for 45-50% of participating families and 2 Parent families consistently account for 50-55% of participating families. The only exception is EHS in 2014/15 (36% 1 Parent / 64% 2 Parent), however this data set may be incomplete.

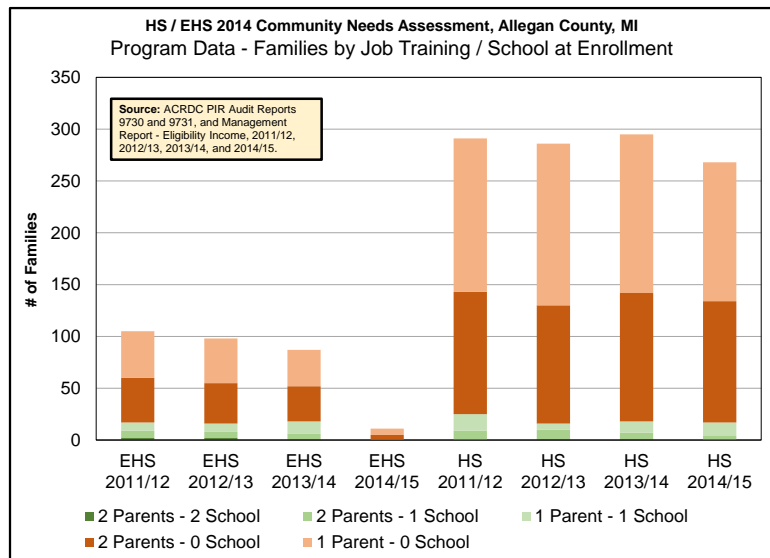


Families by Employment Status (PD-2): The portion of families served with at least one parent employed is increasing in both programs, perhaps reflecting an improving economy. However, the two programs differ in the employment status of families served. In EHS, there is almost an even split between families with no employment (represented by the orange tones in the graph at right) and families with at least one parent employed (green shade segments), with a little higher percentage of families with no employment. By contrast, just over 1/3rd of HS families served have no employment. The need to secure employment would appear to be a more prevalent issue with EHS families.



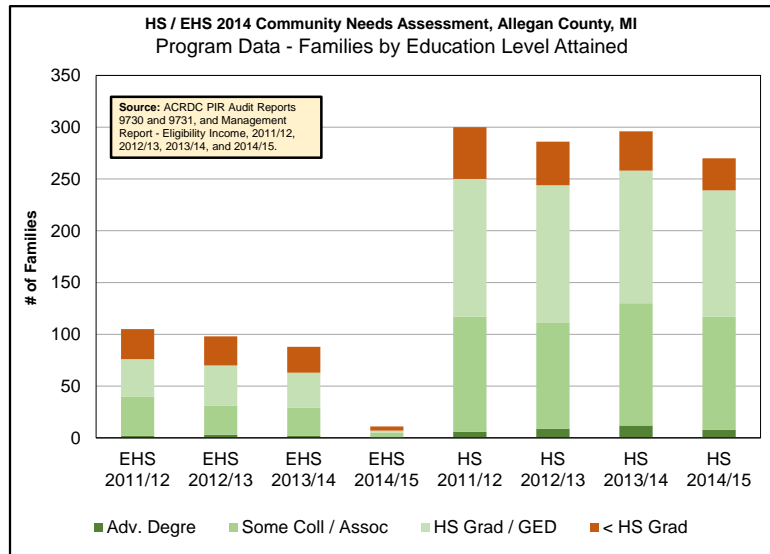
Families by Job Training / School at Enrollment (PD-3):

This graph reveals that the vast majority of families served by both programs have no parent enrolled in job training or school at the time of program enrollment. In EHS this accounts for approximately 80% or more of families served and in the HS program, it routinely represents over 90% of families served.



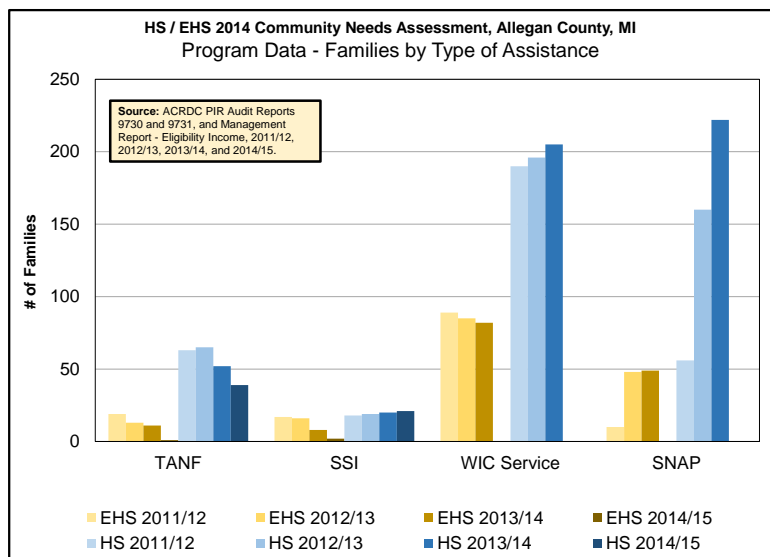
Families by Education Level Attained (PD-4):

In both programs, families with a parent who completed High School (or GED) or some college (including an Associate's Degree) comprise the vast majority of families served. Refer to the middle graph on this page. Relatively few families have parents at either end of the education level (< High School Graduation or Advanced College Degree).

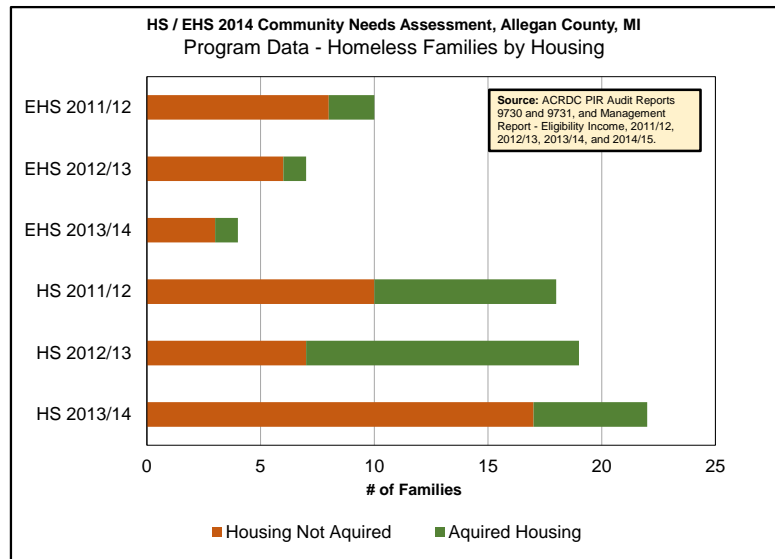


Families by Type of Assistance (PD-5):

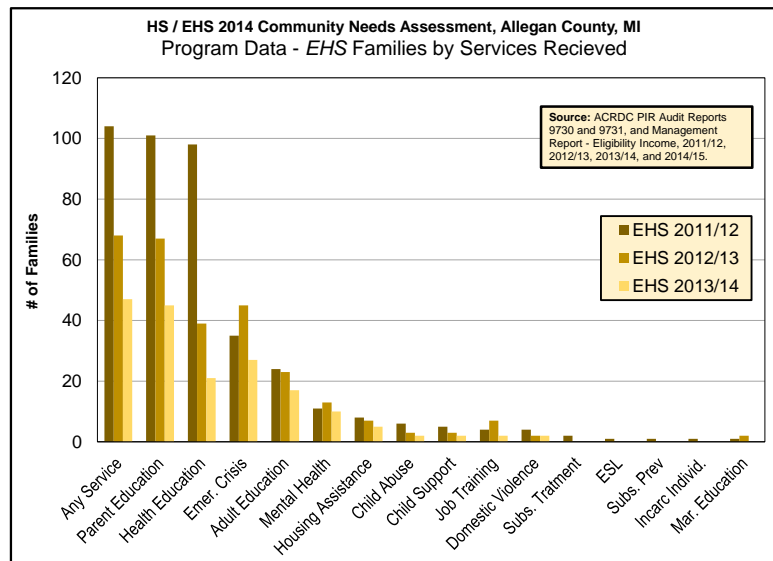
The last graph on this page illustrated family participation in four different types of assistance. Among families served by both programs, WIC is the most prevalent type of assistance received, followed by SNAP, which has increased significantly among families from the 2011/12 to 2013/14 years. TANF and SSI are less common, and TANF assistance seems to be declining in prevalence both programs.



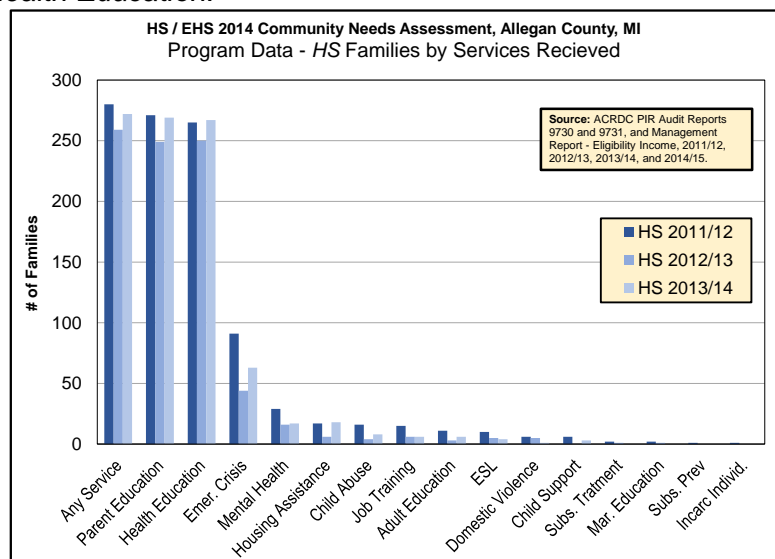
Homeless Families by Housing (PD-6): Note the horizontal scale on the graph at right. While the total number of Homeless families served by both programs is relatively low, the programs are experiencing opposite trends. The number of homeless families served by EHS is declining, while the number of homeless families served by HS is increasing. Also, in EHS, a consistently small minority of families acquire housing, while in the HS program, the percentage acquiring housing is inconsistent. In one year, 2012/13, 7 out of 12 homeless families acquired housing.



EHS Families by Services Received (PD-7): The next two graphs illustrate the frequency with which the families of each program used various services. The first graph at right provides this information for EHS Families. Among these families, *Parent Education* and *Health Education* were historically the most frequently received services, though both are declining sharply. *Emergency Crisis* service has become more prevalent and was more frequently received in the most recent data year (2013/14) than *Health Education*.

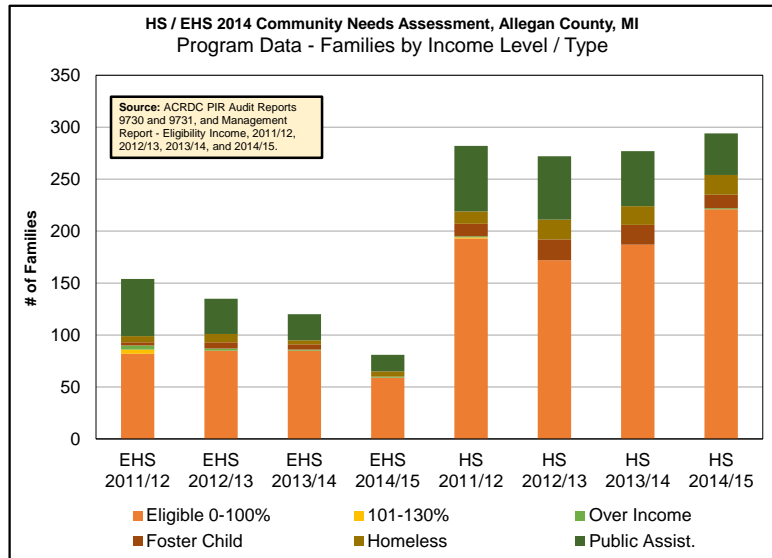


HS Families by Services Received (PD-8): At right is the graph for HS Families. Again, *Parent Education* and *Health Education* are the most commonly received services and unlike EHS, they are not declining in use. They are also much more frequently used than other services, though *Emergency Crisis* service is again the next most commonly used.



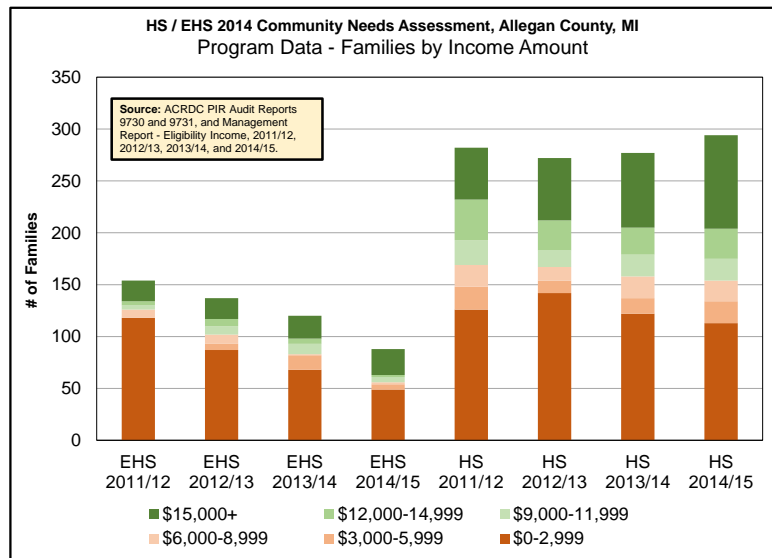
Families by Income Level / Type

(PD-9): In both programs, the *Eligible 0-100%* Income Level / Type accounts for the vast majority of families served. This is represented by the orange segment in the graph at right. Several other types, including *101-130%*, *Over Income*, *Foster Child*, and *Homeless* are very small segments by comparison. Only the *Public Assistance Income Level / Type* represents a relatively significant portion of families served, still much smaller than *Eligible 0-110%*.



Families by Income Amount (PD-10):

As illustrated by the last graph at right, family income is categorized into six ranges. Interestingly, the distribution bars of families served in both programs across these six ranges results are characterized by a predominance of results at both ends of the income spectrum. Families with income in the \$0-2,999 range consistently account for the highest number of families followed by those with incomes in the \$15,000+ range. Perhaps ironically, the programs serve mostly families at both the lowest and highest income levels among the ranges considered.



The analysis of program data can be used to identify trends as well as characteristics that typify the families served. Following on the next page is a table summarizing these kinds of observations.

Section 2: Allegan County Head Start / Early Head Start Program Data – Analysis Summary

Data Item	Trends	Predominant Characteristics
Families by Type (PD-1)	→	Consistently 45-50% 1 Parent / 50-55% 2 Parent
Employment Status (PD-2)	↑	Less employment among EHS Families
Job Training / School at Enrollment (PD-3)	→	80+% are not in Job Training School at Enrollment
Education Level Attained (PD-4)	→	Most have HS/GED or Some College/Associates Degree
Type of Assistance (PD-5)	TANF ↓, SNAP ↑	WIC and SNAP Assistance very prevalent
Homeless Families by Housing (PD-6)	EHS ↓, HS ↑	Proportionately more Homeless HS Families acquire housing
EHS Families by Services Received (PD-7)	↓	Parent Education, Health Education, Crisis Services
HS Families by Services Received (PD-8)	→	Parent Education, Health Education
Income Level / Type (PD-9)	→	Most are in the “Eligible 0-100%” Type
Income Amount (PD-10)	→	Most families are at the lowest or highest income levels

Indicators Key

↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is favorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *decreasing need* for services.

↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is unfavorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *increasing need* for services.

→ = Allegan trend is relatively stable.

Section 3: Parent Survey Results

This section of the Community Needs Assessment is focused on results from surveys of Early Head Start and Head Start parents participating in the CAAC programs. Parent surveys are fielded each year toward the end of the school year. The results from four annual surveys are included in this section. The table at right indicates the survey year and total number of complete and partially complete surveys that were received.

Survey Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
# of Respondents	261	261	265	201
# of Enrollees	398	405	384	384
Response Rate	65.6%	64.4%	69.0%	52.3%

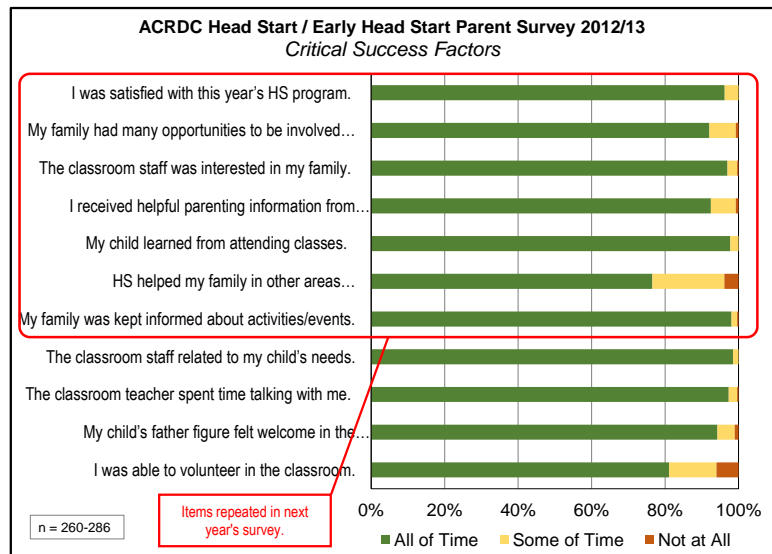
When compared to total enrollment at year end, it is

evident that each year the survey response rate was quite high.

During these four years, the survey has evolved somewhat. Not all questions were included in this analysis. Results are only compared across years for items where question wording is the same or very similar during the relevant period. Notes appear in graphs where different response categories were used and are being compared.

Program Attributes 2012/13 (PS-1):

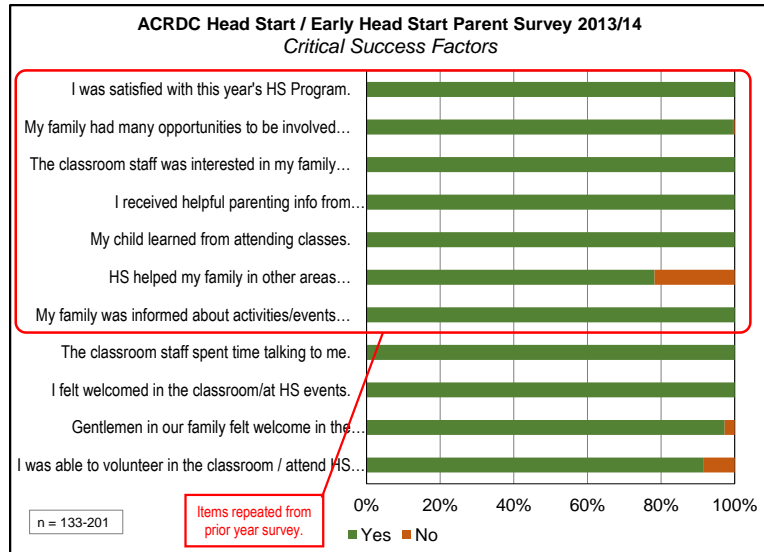
In the 2012/13 and 2013/14 surveys, a major component was a series 11 items designed to assess respondent satisfaction with key program attributes. These item consisted of one overall satisfaction item and related to specific program attributes. Seven of the ten statements, including the overall satisfaction statement, were worded the same or very similarly in both years. In the table of responses at right, these items are inside the red rectangle. Note that the response set in 2012/13 consisted of three choices: "All of the Time", "Some of the Time", and "Not at All".



Note that the response set in 2012/13 consisted of three choices: "All of the Time", "Some of the Time", and "Not at All". These are all positively phrased statements so the survey is assessing satisfaction by identifying the proportions of respondents who agree or disagree with these positive statements. As can be seen in the horizontal bar graph, responses are overwhelmingly positive (*All of the Time*) for both the seven repeating items and four others. The biggest opportunity for improvement this year was related to the statement "*Head Start helped my family in other areas, such as education, connecting me to other agencies, employment opportunities, and/or self-esteem.*" 49 of 209 (23.4%) of respondents indicate they felt this was the case only *Some of the Time* or *Not at All*.

Program Attributes 2013/14 (PS-2): In the 2013/14 Program Year survey, seven of the statements were repeated however four were changed. In addition, the response set was changed to a Yes/No format. As illustrated in the horizontal bar graph at the top of the next page, the responses to all 11 items were still very positive. In fact, 100% of respondents agreed with eight of the eleven items, including six of the seven repeating items, an amazing tribute to

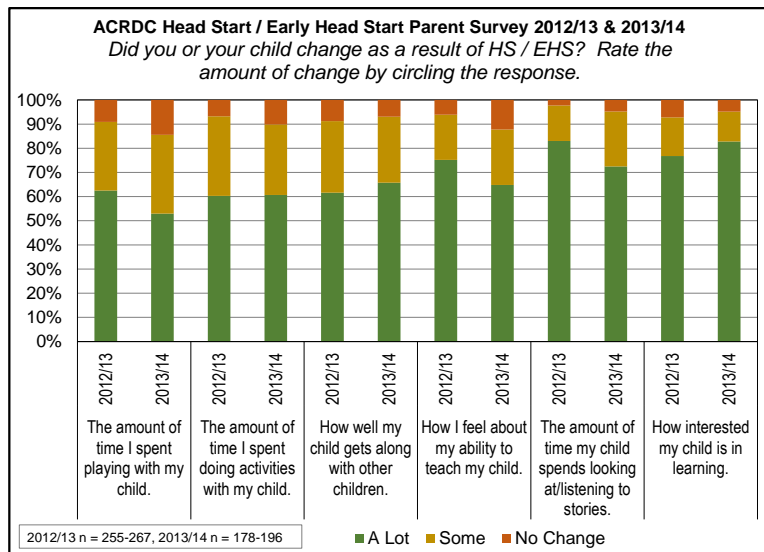
the hard work of those involved in the EHS and HS programs. Interestingly, the biggest opportunity for improvement continues to be the statement *“Head Start helped my family in other areas, such as education (GED, College), connecting me to other agencies, employment opportunities, and/or self-esteem.”* 37 of 133 (21.8%) survey participants responding to this item selected *No*, indicating they did not agree with this statement, a slightly better (smaller) percentage compared to the previous year. Another interesting survey item focused on volunteering, however the wording was different enough for it to be excluded from the group of repeating items. The following table summarizes the wording each year and the % favorable and unfavorable responses.



Survey Year	Item Wording	% Favorable	% Unfavorable
2012/13	I was able to volunteer in the classroom.	81.1%	18.9%
2013/14	I was able to volunteer in the classroom or attend Head Start events.	91.6%	8.4%

While the wording in 2013/14 was definitely broader, if the respondent interpretation was similar both years, this represents a notable improvement regarding opportunities for parents to become involved.

Program Impact – 2 Year Trend (PS-3): Another commonality across the two most recent program year surveys was a group of six positive statements related to different impacts of the programs. In this case, the response set was constant across both surveys. Respondents were indicating *how much* the respondent or their child changed as described in the statement during the prior year, with the choices being “A Lot”, “Some”, or “No Change”. As the composition bar graph at right indicates, there were some shifts from 2012/13 to 2013/14 for some of these items. Focusing on the most favorable response of “A Lot”, the biggest declines (undesirable) were related to...



*...The amount of time I spent playing with my child,
...How well I feel about my ability to teach my child, and
...The amount of time my child spends looking at/listening to stories...*

...all of which declined about 10 percentage points.

Conversely, there was a favorable gains related to...

*...How well my child gets along with other children, and
...How interested my child is in learning.*

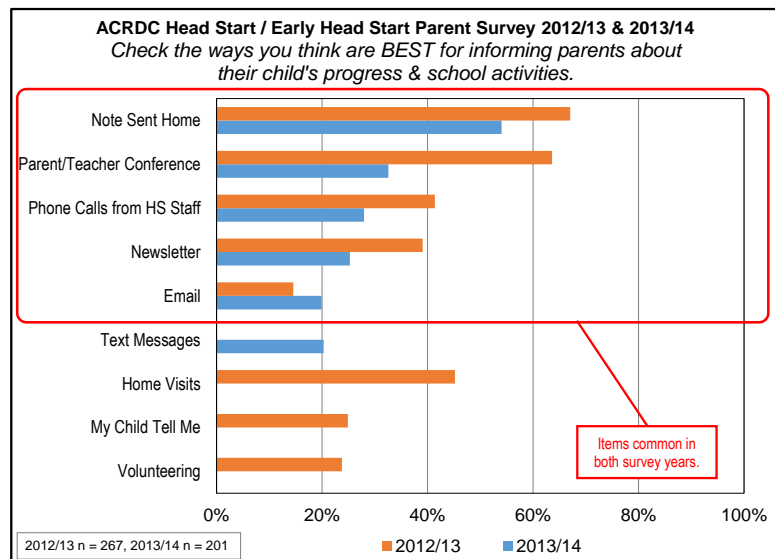
Services Use Trend (PS-4): The past four program year surveys featured lists of services, and respondents were asked to indicate any that they received during the previous year. Most of the items on the list were included in all four years, though a few items were discontinued in the 2013/14 survey. The table on the next page indicates the percent of total survey respondents each year who indicated they received each service. Note how in almost all cases, these participation percentages are relatively constant from year to year. A few exceptions are highlighted in pink (increasing) and green (decreasing).

Check the services you have used this year...				
Service	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
DHS (Cash, Food Stamps, Medicaid)	61%	50%	60%	50%
W.I.C.	44%	43%	47%	38%
Food Pantry (Any Location)	26%	20%	22%	18%
Utility Payment Assistance	20%	14%	17%	13%
Allegan County Health Department	16%	17%	12%	8%
Michigan Works	11%	10%	12%	9%
Weatherization	10%	7%	7%	5%
Family Planning	8%	10%	5%	5%
Commodity Foods	6%	11%	5%	9%
Early On/Project Find	6%	11%	12%	5%
Child Care Resources	5%	6%	6%	6%
DHS (Child Abuse & Neglect)	5%	0%	4%	3%
Other Mental Health Service Provider	5%	5%	1%	
Allegan County CMH	4%	6%	5%	6%
DHS (Foster Care, Adoption)	3%	4%	3%	6%
Other Pre-school Program	3%	3%	4%	5%
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy	2%	3%	0%	4%
Disability Services	2%	6%	2%	
Sylvia's Place (or Other DV Shelter)	2%	3%	0%	3%
Even Start	1%	5%	3%	
Adult Education Classes	0%	5%	3%	3%
GSRP (State Pre-school)	0%	3%	1%	5%
Compass Wellness Center	0%	0%	0%	7%
MI Works PATH	0%	0%	0%	4%
ESL Classes	0%	0%	0%	3%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%

Community Issues (PS-5): In a similar way, survey respondents were asked to review a list of community issues and select a limited number that they were most concerned about. The issues in the list changed somewhat over the four year period, however many remained constant. The table on the next page compares the percentage of respondents each year that selected each issue. Interestingly, a number of issues were selected less frequently over the four year period (green shading), while none of the issues exhibited significant consistent increases. Note that two items, Illegal Drug Use and Alcohol Abuse, were combined into Drug/Alcohol Abuse in the 2013/14 survey. While this may have played a role in the results, there is a significant decline in the new combined item wording compared to the combined totals of the previous two items, so this entire item group was also shaded in green.

Please select the top 3 issues in the community that you are most concerned about...				
Service	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Employment	59%	47%	48%	23%
Illegal Drug Use	27%	28%	38%	
Alcohol Abuse	22%	15%	21%	
Drug/Alcohol Abuse				19%
Health Care	31%	23%	28%	
Child Abuse/Neglect	25%	30%	29%	12%
Teen Pregnancy	23%	22%	25%	11%
Job Training	22%	16%	15%	6%
Nutrition	21%	20%	10%	
Housing (Availability, Rent, Quality, etc.)	20%	21%	33%	25%
Child Care	18%	21%	17%	15%
Domestic Violence	18%	19%	26%	6%
Dental Care	18%	16%	18%	
Parent Education	15%	20%	16%	
Mental Health Care	11%	2%	8%	
Transportation	11%	17%	13%	10%
Adult Education	11%	13%	13%	7%
Homelessness	8%	10%	12%	5%
English as 2nd Language/No English / Literacy	6%	4%	3%	4%
Senior Services	5%	3%	4%	
Delinquency	4%	4%	5%	

Preferred Communication Channels (PS-6): In the past two years, survey respondents have been asked to indicate the best ways to inform parents about their child's progress and school activities. The list of choices varied somewhat during the two years. *Home Visits, My Child Tells Me, and Volunteering*, were in the list of choices in 2012/13 but not 2013/14. In addition, *Texting* was added as a new choice in 2013/14. Even so, there are some interesting changes in preferred communication

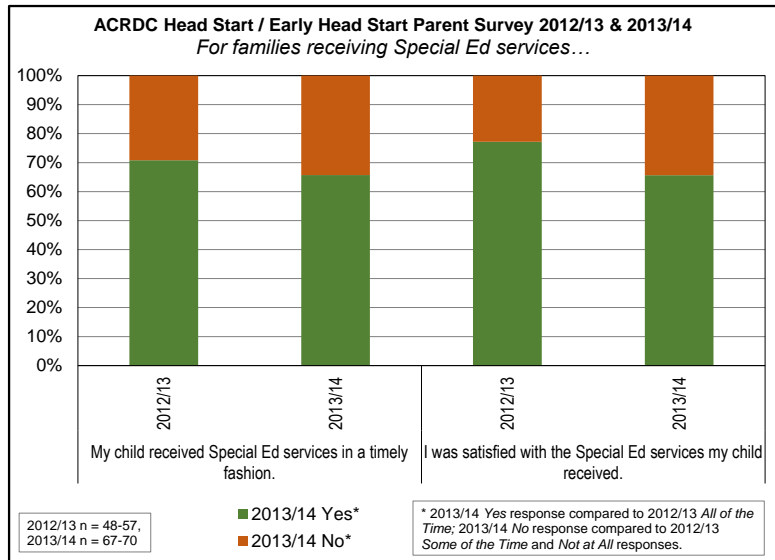


channels, as illustrated in the bar graph, including:

- A decline in the percent of respondents selecting all of the choices common in both survey years except e-mail.
- A substantial decline in preference for *Parent/Teacher Conference*
- 20 percent of respondents selecting *Text Messages* the first year it was offered as a choice.

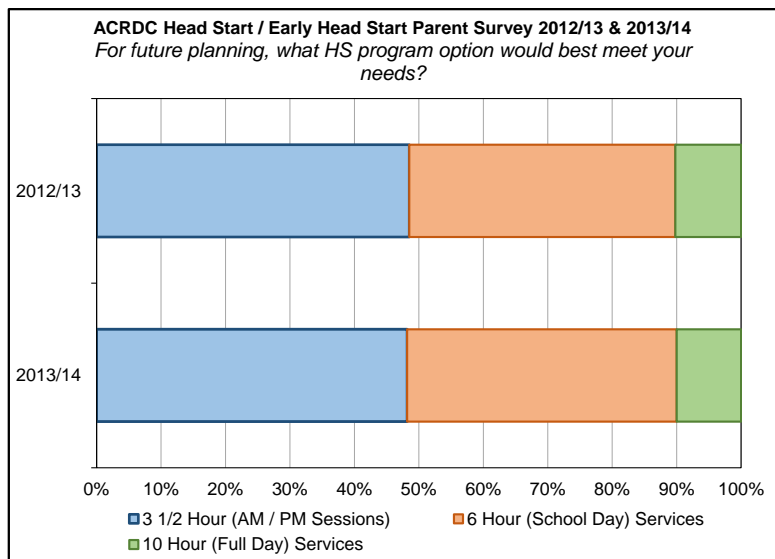
Special Education Services Satisfaction (PS-7):

The Parent Survey also includes two satisfaction questions for parents whose children received Special Education Services. The response set for these two items also changed during the last two years from a three item set of *All of the Time*, *Some of the Time*, and *Not at All* in 2012/13, to *Yes/No* in 2013/14. The table at right compares satisfaction levels for both items during the two year period. While caution should be used in comparing the results due to the different response sets, there does appear to be a decline in satisfaction for both items among parents who receive Special Education Services for their Children.



Program Option Needs (PS-8):

This last item asks respondents to express their preference among three program options 3 ½ Hour, 6 Hour, or 10 Hour. The preference distribution is almost identical in the last two years of the survey. Almost 50% of respondents indicated a preference for 3 ½ Hour sessions, followed by the 6 Hour session with a little over 40%, and 10% expressing an interest in a Full Day session.



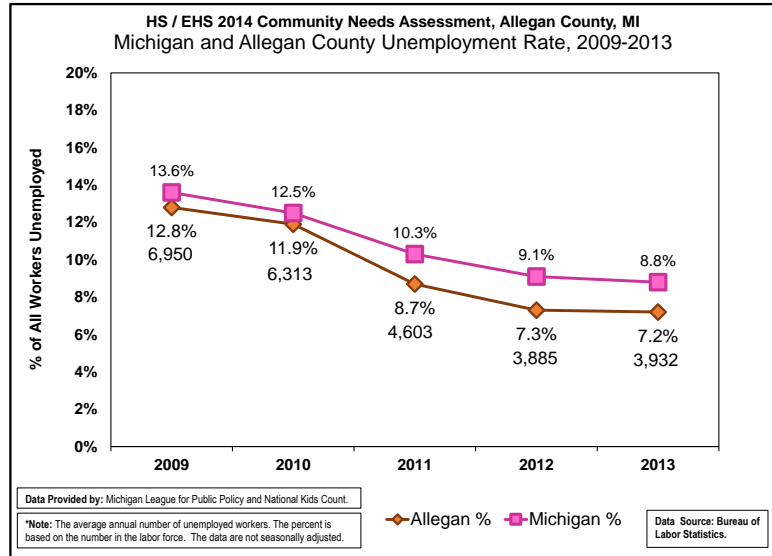
Parent Survey data can provide valuable insight into the needs of program recipients as well as opportunities for program and service improvement. Following on the next page is a table summarizing these kinds of observations.

Section 4: Other Indicators of Need

A. Economic Climate

This sub-section includes information about the economic climate of Allegan County, especially as it affects families and children.

Unemployment Rate (IN-1): As illustrated in the trend line graph at right, the unemployment rate in Allegan County has been trending steadily downward since 2009, and has been lower than the rate for Michigan each year. An estimated 3,932 Allegan County residents were unemployed in 2013, or 7.2% of the applicable population.



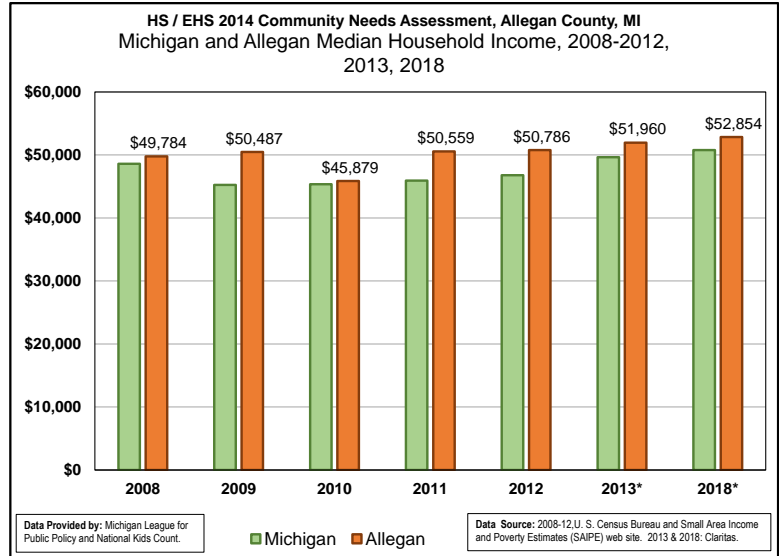
Detailed Employment / Student Estimates (IN-2): It can be helpful to take a look at the employment and school enrollment status for the population age 16 – 19. By reason, people in this age group should ideally be enrolled in school, working, or both. The following table includes these detailed estimates for Allegan County for 2010 and 2012. Note in particular the estimates for people in this age group who are not enrolled in school and unemployed or not in the labor force. Combining high school graduates and non-graduates from these segments, we come up with a total of 539 in 2010. Unfortunately, in 2012, these same categories total 606, an increase of 67 or 12.4% in just two years.

Estimated Allegan County Population Age 16 - 19	2010		2012	
	#	%	#	%
Total	6,416		6,464	
Enrolled In School:	5,349	83.4%	5,356	82.9%
Employed	1,624	30.4%	1,554	29.0%
Unemployed	593	11.1%	511	9.5%
Not In Labor Force	3,132	58.6%	3,291	61.4%
Not Enrolled In School:	1,067	16.6%	1,108	17.1%
High School Graduate:	689	64.6%	620	56.0%
Employed	429	62.3%	398	64.2%
Unemployed	171	24.8%	112	18.1%
Not In Labor Force	89	12.9%	110	17.7%
Not High School Graduate:	378	35.4%	488	44.0%
Employed	99	26.2%	104	21.3%
Unemployed	63	16.7%	60	12.3%
Not In Labor Force	216	57.1%	324	66.4%

Source: PopStats, Synergos Technologies Inc.

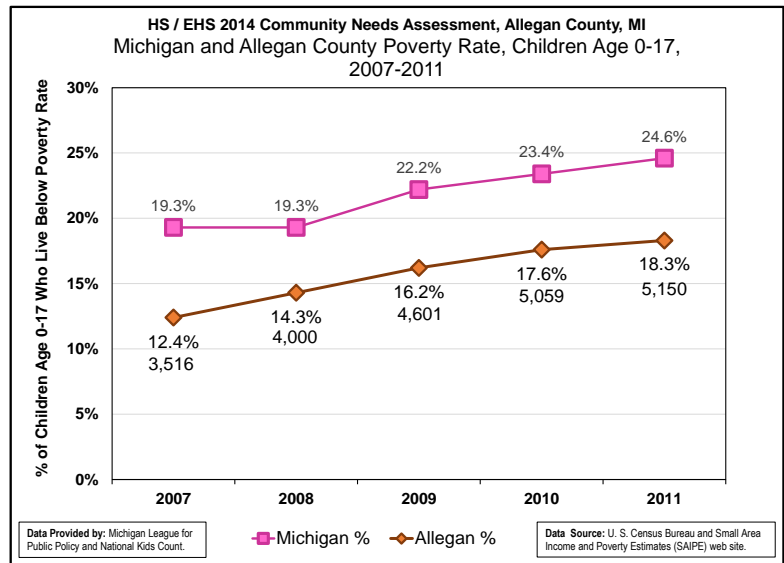
Median Household Income (IN-3):

The bar graph at right shows the Median Household Income in Allegan County and the State of Michigan from 2008 to 2012, as well as estimates for 2013 (3rd Quarter) and 2018. Note the decline for both Allegan County and Michigan around 2009-2010 during the economic recession. Since the recession, Median Household Incomes have been steadily though moderately increasing. During the five year period 2013 to 2018, Allegan County Median Household income is projected to increase only \$894 or approximately 1.7%.

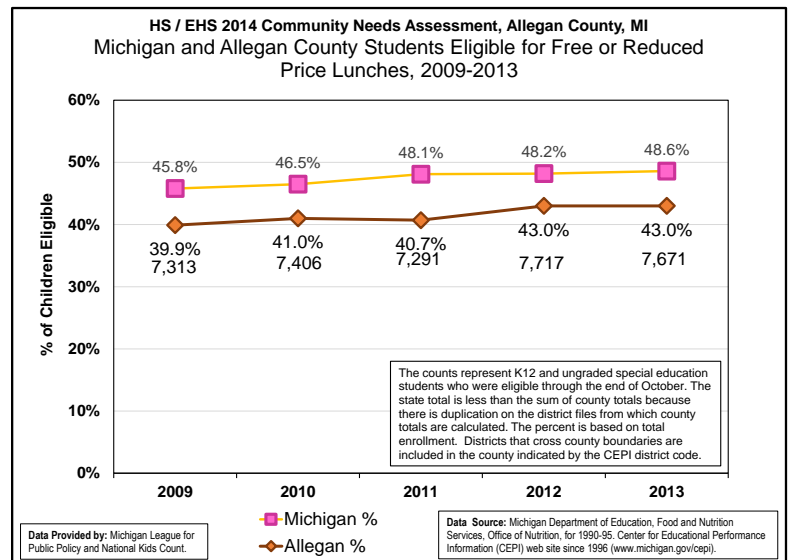


Children in Poverty 0-17 (IN-4):

The trend line graph at right illustrated the % of children age 0-17 living in poverty for both Allegan County and Michigan. Again, Allegan County rates are consistently below Michigan rates, though both have been steadily increasing during this period of 2007 through 2011. In 2011, it is estimated that 5,150 or 18.3% of all Allegan County children age 0-17 were living in environments considered to be in poverty. This represents an increase of 46.5% over the number estimated just four years earlier in 2011 (3,516).



Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Lunches (IN-5): Another indicator of need related to the EHS and HS programs is the number of students eligible for free or reduced school lunches. As seen in the graph at right, both the actual number and percentage (of all school age children) meeting this criteria in Allegan County was increasing moderately in the early part of the period from 2009-2013, and is estimated to have leveled off in 2013. The Allegan rate trend is similar to the Michigan rate, and the Allegan County Rate is again consistently below the Michigan Rate. Note that the



size of the eligible student population is significantly larger than the number of Allegan County Children living in poverty (previous graph), and the two populations are growing at very different rates.

B. Family Support Programs

This sub-section includes information about several key Family Support Programs that the staff believes may be indicators of program need in Allegan County.

Child Care Subsidies (CCDBG Participation) (IN-6): The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) helps low-income families, families receiving public assistance and those families transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care^a. The table below includes information on the percentages of Michigan children in specific age groups participating in the Child Care Development Block Grant. If these rates were applicable in Allegan County among applicable estimated children of the same age groups, an estimated 1,085 infants and toddlers (under 3 years) and 1,389 preschoolers (3-5 years) would be participating in CCDBG subsidized child care.

^a National Association for the Education of Young Children.

CLASP DataFinder: Most Recent Data	Child Care Subsidies: CCDBG Participation		TANF Caseload Data (Families)		
	Ages of Children Served		Fiscal Year data	Trends	Participation
	Infants and Toddlers (under 3 years) (2012) [1]	Pre-schoolers (3-5 years) (2012) [1]	FY Average Monthly Cash Assistance Cases (2013) [2]	Percent Change in AFDC/TANF Caseload (Aug 1996 to Dec 2013) [3]	TANF-to- Poverty Ratio (2011) [4]
Michigan	27%	34%	36,553	-82%	33.8

1: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care and Development Fund Program Data Statistics, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/>.

2: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, "Combined TANF AND SSP-MOE: Total Number of Families Preliminary Data", March 11, 2014, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2013>, accessed 5-15-14.

3: CLASP Analysis of HHS-ACF Caseload Data.

4: CBPP analysis of poverty data from CPS and TANF caseload data from HHS and (since 2006) caseload data collected by CBPP from state agencies. The ratios are calculated over two years so 2009 ratio is really for 2008-09 and so on. Accessed July 2012.

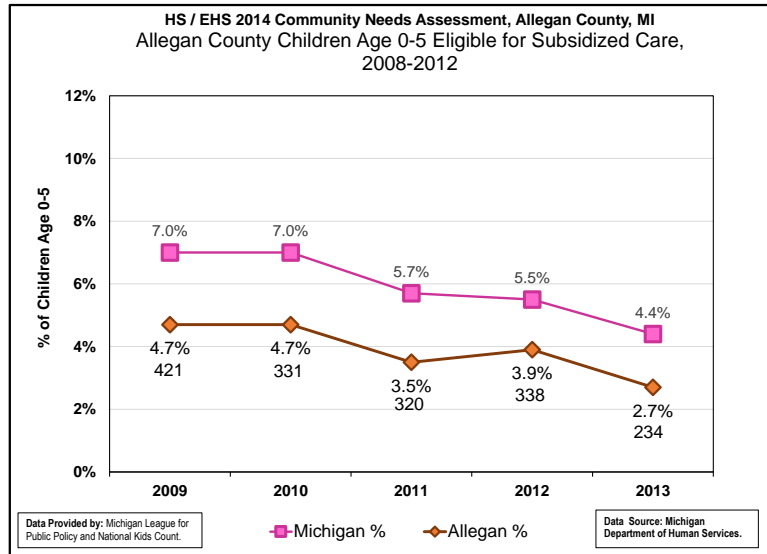
Source: CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy, Inc.) Data Page, accessed November, 2014.

TANF Caseload Data (Families) (IN-7): The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program^b. The table above also includes summary information on TANF Caseloads in Michigan. It is more difficult to estimate an applicable Allegan County number here due to varying definitions of the family unit. However one approach would be to assume that the caseload rate per household is the same in Michigan and Allegan County. Using the estimated number of households in Michigan and Allegan County, this method produces an estimate of about 402 Monthly Cash Assistance Cases in Allegan County.

^b Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Children Eligible for Child Care Subsidy (IN-8):

Access to affordable Child Care can be a key enabler to employment. Without it, many families fall into or cannot escape poverty. Tracking the number of children eligible for subsidized care can be another indicator of program need in Allegan County. The graph at right depicts the estimated number and rate of children age 0-5 eligible for subsidized care. Note that the actual number and rate were declining though most of the period examined (2009-2013), and the Allegan County rate is consistently lower than the Michigan rate.



FIP Cash Assistance (IN-9): The 2013 Kids Count Data Profile for Allegan County includes information regarding Children receiving Family Independence Program. The current number and use rates for Allegan County, as well as the comparative use rate for Michigan, appear in the table below. The Allegan County participation rate is less than half of the Michigan participation rate.

Children receiving...	Allegan Number	Allegan Rates	Michigan Rates
FIP Cash Assistance ¹	562	1.9%	4.5%
Food Assistance Program ^{1,2}	6,713	22.2%	29.1%

¹ As of December, 2012.

² Food Assistance Program is the State name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called “food stamps.”

Source: Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013 – Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy.

Food Assistance Programs (IN-10): The 2013 Data Profile also includes information on the number and percent of children in families receiving benefits from the Food Assistance Program (Michigan name for SNAP). This information is included in the above table. While still lower than the Michigan rate of participation, the Allegan County rate of participation for the Food Assistance Program is much higher than for FIP.

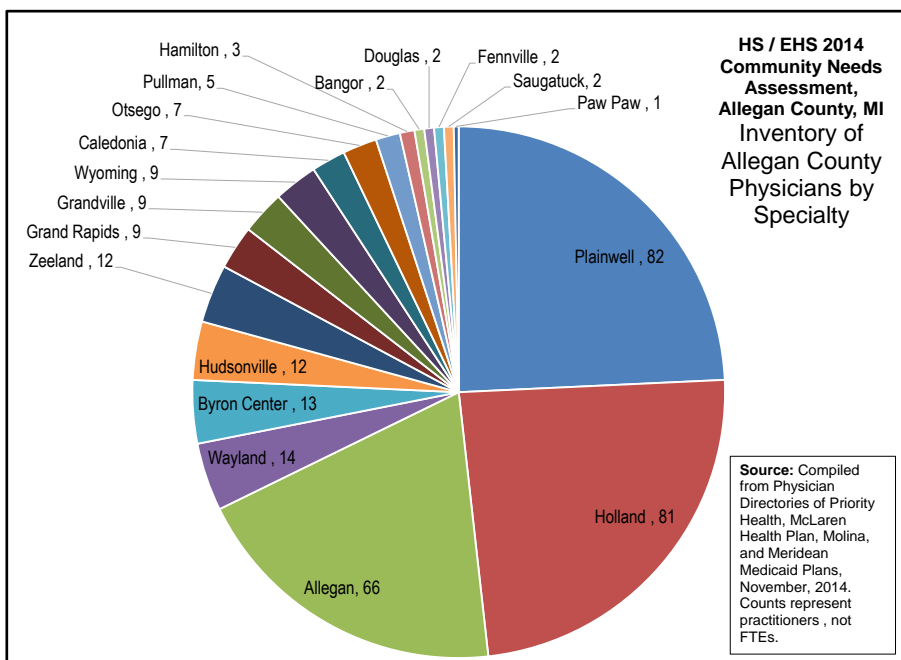
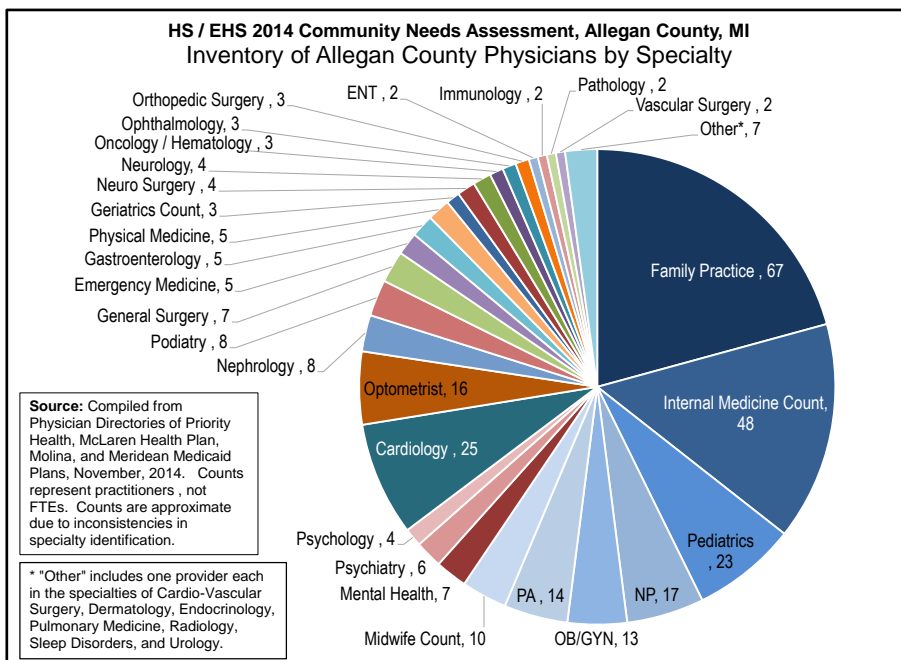
C. Access to Health Care

This last sub-section includes several indicators related to access to health care. Lack of health insurance or other means to pay for health care and/or access to health services are factors that put some families at risk for poverty.

Medicaid Participating Providers (IN-11): As a first step in understanding access, a list of providers participating in each of four of the five Medicaid Plans offered in Allegan County, Priority Health, McLaren Health Plan, Molina, and Meridean.

The pie chart at right summarizes the total number of providers available by specialty. While there are limitations associated with this initial inventory, it does demonstrate a large number of primary care specialists (refer to the blue shade slices from 12:00 o'clock to approximately 7:00 o'clock) available in Allegan County. There are also a variety of specialists available. Information regarding whether or not each practice is open to new patients and the approximate how far in advance routine appointments are being booked would provide a better idea of access.

The second pie chart on this page summarizes the total number of providers available by location. Caution must be used in interpreting this chart, since some physicians may split their time across two or more locations. This is particularly common practices among specialists. Therefore, these counts represent the number of different providers, and the corresponding FTEs is likely a smaller number. A more complex analysis would be required to determine if the geographic distribution of physicians, especially primary care providers, corresponds well with the population distribution. Still, there are physicians representing 35 specialties located through 19 communities in Allegan County.



Children with Health Insurance (IN-12): Because of the importance of health care in overall child health and development, select information regarding the number and percent of children with health insurance in Allegan County is also included in the 2013 Kids Count Data Profile for Allegan County and is included in the table below. Note that Allegan County and Michigan have very similar rates of insurance coverage. The percent with insurance can also be inverted to derive that there are an estimated 1,340 children in Allegan County without health insurance coverage.

Access to Health Care		Allegan Number	Allegan Rates	Michigan Rates
Children with health insurance		28,449	95.5%	95.6%
Children, ages 0–18, insured by...	Medicaid ¹	11,059	36.6%	41.0%
	MiChild	495	1.6%	1.5%

¹ As of December, 2012.

Source: Kids Count in Michigan Data Profile 2013 – Allegan County, Michigan League for Public Policy.

Children insured by Medicaid, MiChild (IN-13): The Kids Count Data profile also includes specific participation numbers and rates for Medicaid and MiChild. This information is included in the table above. Allegan County has a lower Medicaid participation rate, but the MiChild participation rate is again very similar.

This section included perhaps the widest variety of information. However, they are all indicators of potential need for the EHS and HS programs. By examining a wide variety of data points, some related to the economic climate in Allegan County, some related to the use of, or eligibility for, family services, and others related to health care access, there is a greater likelihood that any patterns observed are reliable indicators of program need. Again, trends, comparisons to available norms, and key observations are summarized in the table on the next page.

Section 4: Other Indicators of Need – Analysis Summary

Data Item	Indicators	Observations [# in brackets indicates current estimate]
Unemployment Rate (IN-1)	↓●	[3,932]
Detailed Employment / Student Estimates (IN-2)	↑	[606] 12.4% increase in 16-19 yr olds not working/in school in just two years.
Median Household Income (IN-3)	↑●	[\$52,854] Increasing very slowly.
Children in Poverty (IN-4)	↑●	[5,150] 46.5% over the number estimated just four years.
Free/Reduced Price School Lunches (IN-5)	→●	[7,671] Relatively stable rate and number.
Child Care Subsidies (IN-6)		[2,474] Estimated from Michigan rate.
TANF Caseloads (IN-7)	↓	[402] Estimated from Michigan Caseload, which is decreasing.
Children Eligible for Child Care Subsidy (IN-8)	↓●	[234] Allegan County-specific estimate.
FIP Cash Assistance (IN-9)	●	[562] Less than ½ Michigan participation rate.
Food Assistance Program (IN-10)	●	[6,713] Lower than Michigan participation rate.
Medicaid Participating Providers (IN-11)		[Physicians in <i>35 specialties</i> and <i>19 communities</i> accept Medicaid.]
Children with/without Health Insurance (IN-12)		[1,340] Estimate of Children without health insurance coverage
Children with Medicaid, MICHild (IN-13)	●(Medicaid)	[11,059] Medicaid, [495] MICHild

Indicators Key

● = Program results are favorable / positive.

● = Program results are unfavorable / opportunities to improve.

↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is favorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *decreasing need* for services.

↑ ↓ = Allegan trend is unfavorable (increase or decrease may be unfavorable, depending on the item); indicates *increasing need* for services.

→ = Allegan trend is relatively stable.