

SCICAP Early Childhood Program Community Assessment Summary

Each year the South Central Iowa Community Action Program Early Childhood Program (SCICAP ECP) does a comprehensive assessment of our community. This information from the Community Assessment guides us in our program planning to ensure we are meeting community needs.

SCICAP ECP Challenges:

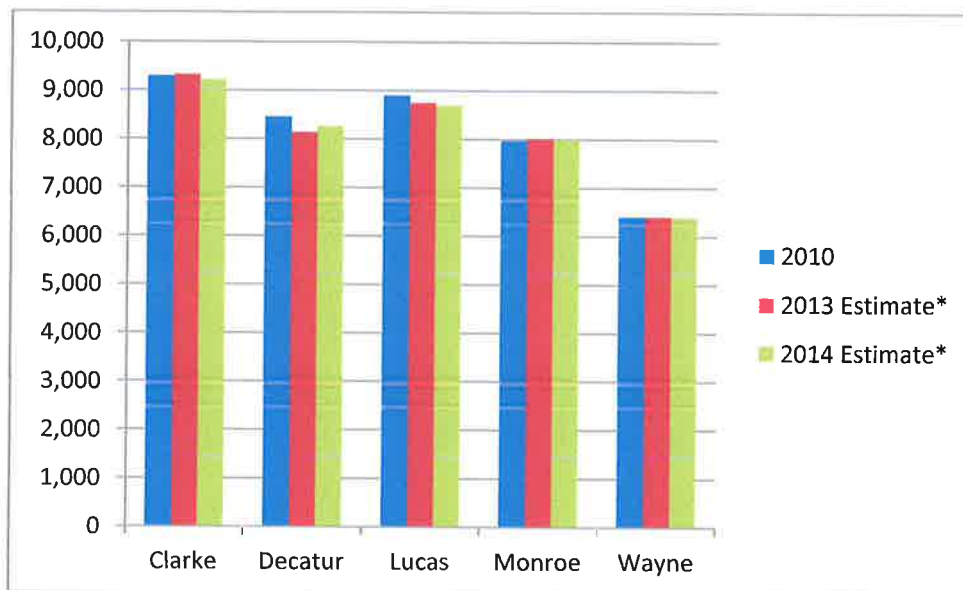
- Ability to provide transportation in our rural areas due to lack of availability which is an issue for our low-income families.
- Early Head Start is in competition with other 0-3 programs, such as NEST and PAT, which offer incentives for families to participate.
- Head Start is in competition with the 4-year-old state-funded programs in districts where we do not have collaborations.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Population continues to decline in four of the five counties we serve, with only a 1% increase in Monroe County.

POPULATION BY COUNTY

County	2010	2013 Estimate*	2014 Estimate*	Difference
Clarke	9,286	9,325	9,217	-69
Decatur	8,457	8,136	8,263	-194
Lucas	8,898	8,746	8,701	-197
Monroe	7,970	8,012	8,001	+32
Wayne	6,403	6,402	6,395	-8
Total	41,014	40,621	40,577	-437



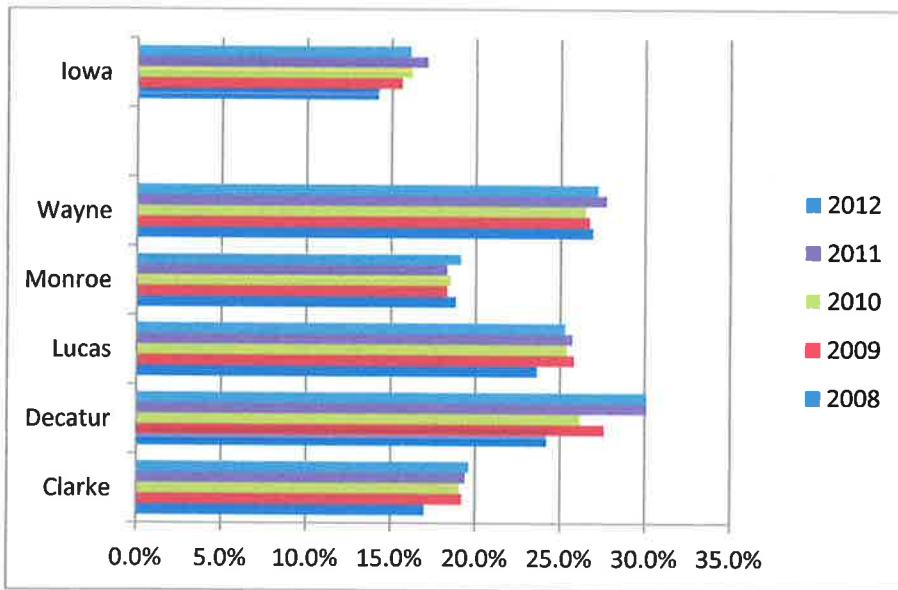
Source: US Census Bureau

The diversity of the population continues to change, with an increase of the Hispanic/Latino and Ukrainian/Russian families. In 2013-2014, our Head Start minority children were 10.19% and Early Head Start was 21.74%. In the 2015-2016 school year, our Head Start minority is 14.6% and Early Head Start decreased to 18.7% or an average of 16.6% for both programs. In the state of Iowa, the minority population is 12.9%.

CHILD POVERTY

Our service area continues to be some of the poorest in Iowa. The overall population is aging with smaller numbers of children birth-5. Although the population has decreased in our service area, there continues to be a need for Head Start and Early Head Start services. This is evident by the high number of families living in poverty. Child poverty statistics for the State of Iowa in 2008 were 14.2%, increasing to 16.1% in 2012. Whereas, the average for our five-county area in 2008 was 22.1%, increasing to 24.3% by 2012. Decatur’s average of 30.1% is twice that of Iowa’s average.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Clarke	17.0%	19.2%	19.1%	19.4%	19.6%
Decatur	24.2%	27.6%	26.2%	30.1%	30.1%
Lucas	23.6%	25.8%	25.4%	25.7%	25.3%
Monroe	18.8%	18.3%	18.5%	18.3%	19.1%
Wayne	26.9%	26.7%	26.5%	27.7%	27.2%
Iowa	14.2%	15.6%	16.2%	17.1%	16.1%



ECONOMICS:

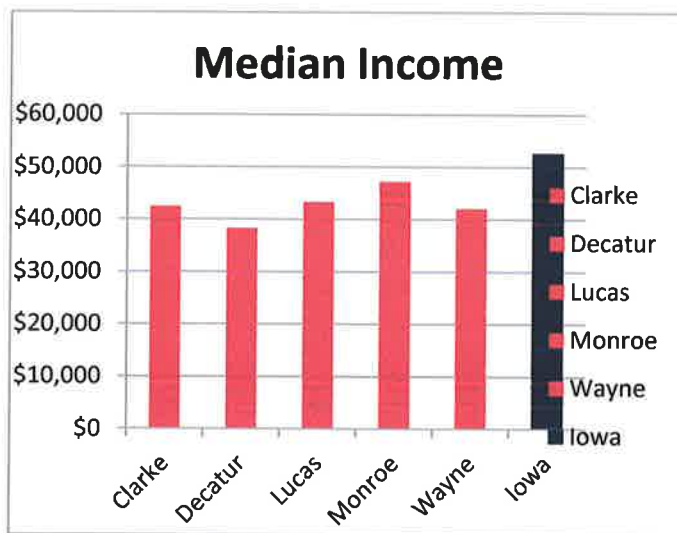
Employment remains an issue for the families we serve. The majority of jobs available in our area pay minimum wage. Families are often not able to find full-time employment so they are forced to have more than one place of employment to meet all of their financial needs. The families we serve change jobs often or have time spans with no employment. Some families find the need to relocate to find adequate employment. Many of our families are one-parent families only, which severely impacts the economics of the household.

In the 2014-2015 school year, 43% of our Head Start families and 31% of our Early Head Start families were one-parent families. Currently, in our 2015-2016 school year, those numbers have increased to 46% of our Head Start/Early Head Start families.

The median household income for the state of Iowa from 2010-2014 was \$52,716. The median for our service area is \$42,673. Decatur is the lowest at \$38,275 or 20% lower than the state median.

Unemployment has dropped significantly in the last few years. Iowa’s unemployment rate is 3.6%, but our five county area average is 4.4%. As more jobs become available, our low-income parents are more likely to find employment but will then will need to have options like Early Head Start and Head Start available for their children.

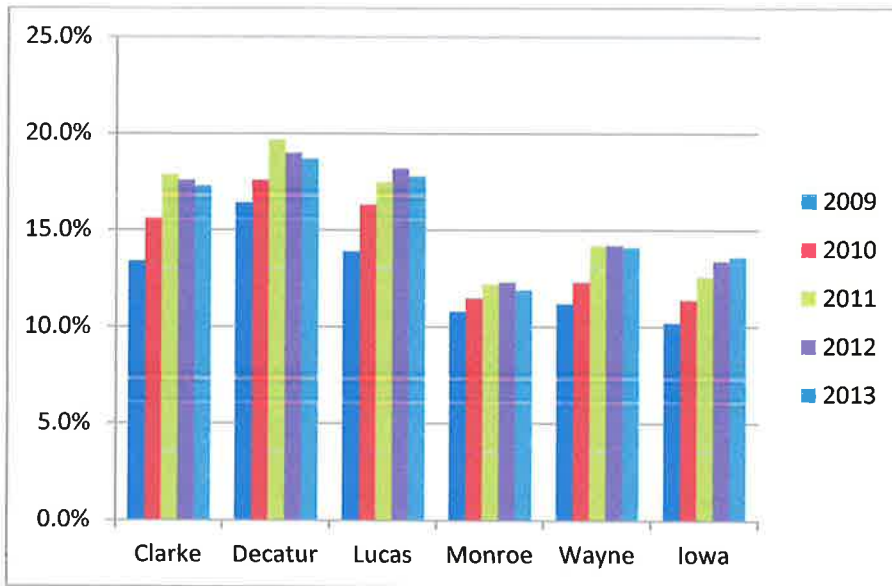
	Median Income	Unemployment Rate
Clarke	\$42,430	3.4%
Decatur	\$38,275	2.8%
Lucas	\$43,280	2.8%
Monroe	\$47,297	3.5%
Wayne	\$42,083	3.2%
Iowa	\$52,716	3.6%
Avg/5 counties: \$42,673		



One of the most notable indicators of the needs of the population we serve are the statistics for food assistance. The 2013 Iowa median is 13.4%, our area’s median is 16.3%, with all five counties increasing steadily from 2007 to 2012.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clarke	13.4%	15.6%	17.9%	17.6%	17.3%
Decatur	16.4%	17.6%	19.7%	19.0%	18.7%
Lucas	13.9%	16.3%	17.5%	18.2%	17.8%
Monroe	10.8%	11.5%	12.2%	12.3%	11.9%
Wayne	11.2%	12.3%	14.2%	14.2%	14.1%
Iowa	10.2%	11.4%	12.6%	13.4%	13.6%
Avg/5 Counties	13.1%	14.7%	16.3%	16.3%	16.3%



FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

Most, if not all, of our children receive free or reduced lunches upon entering the public schools. The Iowa average of children receiving free/reduced lunches is 41.8%. In the counties we serve, the average has increased each year and is dramatically higher at an average of 54.6%.

School District	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Albia	39.4%	40.6%	43.6%	37.6%
Central Decatur	61.9%	62.2%	61.8%	65.6%
Chariton	48.9%	48.8%	52.9%	52.5%
Clarke	41.4%	45.8%	51.1%	56.4%
Lamoni	55.3%	62.2%	53.6%	57.2%
Mormon Trail	51.7%	56.3%	56.8%	57.1%
Murray	56.9%	54.8%	53.0%	53.8%
Seymour	49.6%	57.7%	48.4%	50.8%
Wayne	50.1%	52.2%	54.2%	51.6%
State of Iowa	38.9%	40.1%	41.0%	41.1%



FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM:

The Family Investment Program (FIP) is Iowa's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. FIP provides cash assistance to needy families as they become self-supporting so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. From 2009-2013, in the five counties we serve, the percentage of families receiving FIP has consistently been higher than the state. During that five years, the state average was 1.36%. In our counties, the average was 1.48%.

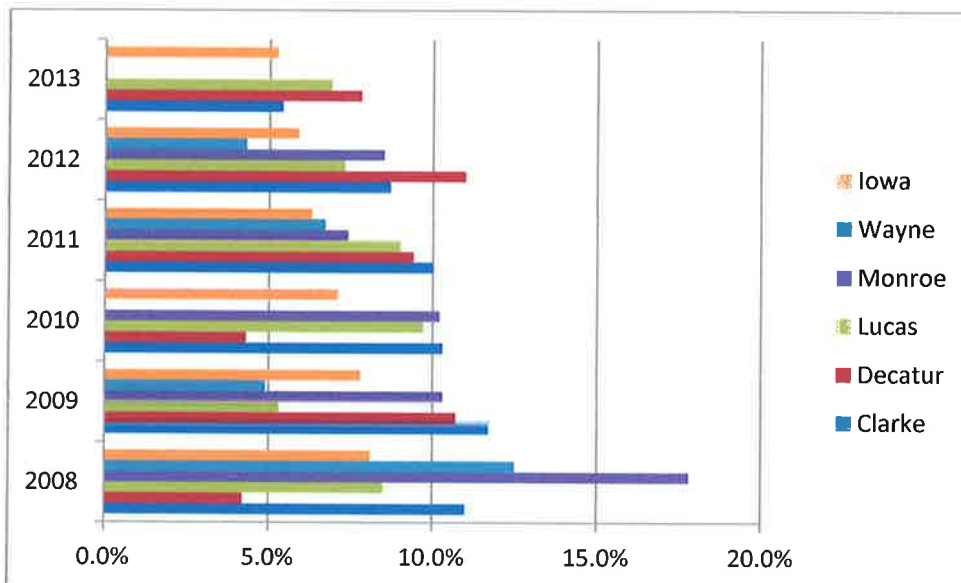
FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clarke	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.0%
Decatur	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	1.1%
Lucas	1.7%	2.3%	2.4%	1.6%	1.0%
Monroe	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%	1.4%	1.1%
Wayne	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%
Iowa	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%

HEALTH:

Teen unmarried mothers in our service area in 2013 were an average of 6.7% with the state of Iowa's rate of 5.2%.

TEEN UNMARRIED BIRTHS

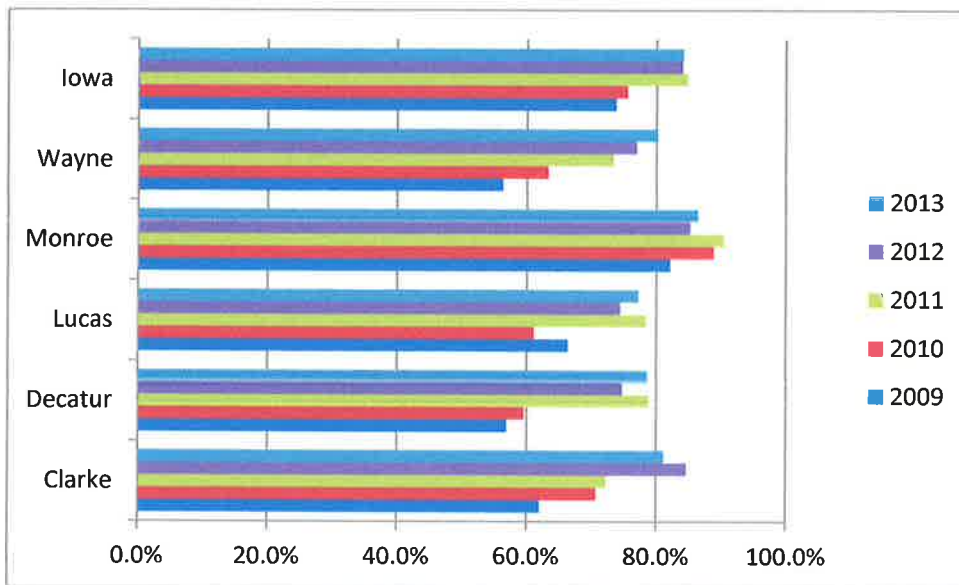
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clarke	11.0%	11.7%	10.3%	10.0%	8.7%	5.4%
Decatur	4.2%	10.7%	4.3%	9.4%	11.0%	7.8%
Lucas	8.5%	5.3%	9.7%	9.0%	7.3%	6.9%
Monroe	17.8%	10.3%	10.2%	7.4%	8.5%	
Wayne	12.5%	4.9%		6.7%	4.3%	
Iowa	8.1%	7.8%	7.1%	6.3%	5.9%	5.3%



Prenatal care is an important factor in determining the health of the new mothers and their newborns in our counties. In Iowa, the five year average of mothers receiving prenatal care was 80.4%. In the counties we serve, the average was 74.3%.

PRENATAL CARE

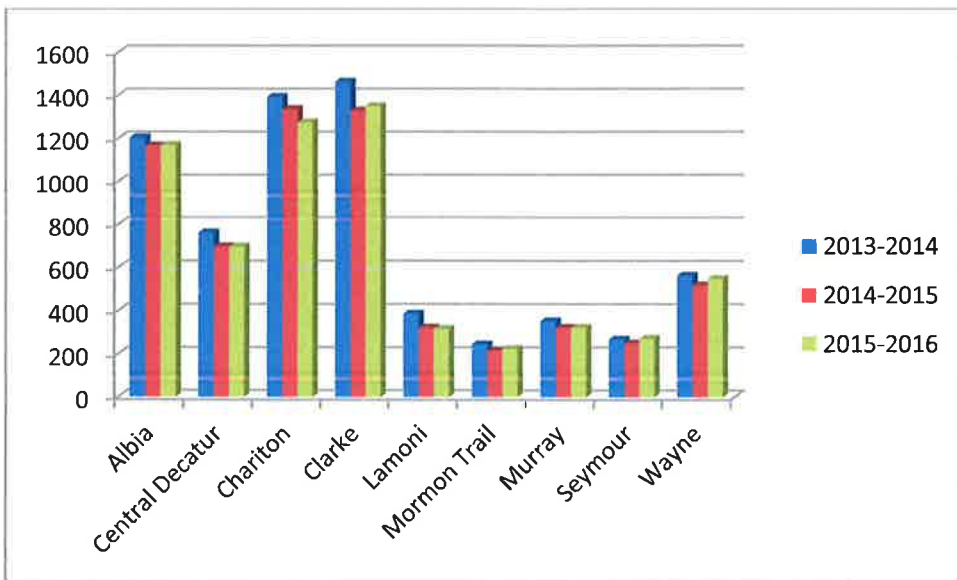
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	5 yr. Avg
Clarke	62.0%	70.7%	72.2%	84.6%	81.1%	74.1%
Decatur	56.9%	59.6%	78.8%	74.7%	78.6%	69.1%
Lucas	66.3%	61.1%	78.4%	74.4%	77.2%	71.5%
Monroe	82.1%	88.8%	90.4%	85.2%	86.4%	86.6%
Wayne	56.3%	63.3%	73.3%	76.9%	80.2%	70.0%
Iowa	73.7%	75.5%	84.8%	84.0%	84.1%	80.4%



SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

School enrollment in the last four years has dropped, with four of the five counties experiencing lower numbers. Projected enrollments by the Iowa Department of Education show continued decreases through 2017-2018.

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Albia	1204	1167	1169
Central Decatur	762	698	697
Chariton	1393	1337	1275
Clarke	1463	1330	1350
Lamoni	386	322	317
Mormon Trail	245	215	224
Murray	352	322	323
Seymour	268	250	271
Wayne	563	518	548



CHALLENGES:

Transportation continues to be a challenge for our service area. Surveys returned by our Head Start families indicate transportation is an issue when it was not available through our program. Loss of empowerment grants that previously helped pay for transportation in Clarke and Wayne Counties undoubtedly resulted in lower enrollment. We have been able to contract with the Wayne County School District to provide transportation at a significant cost. 10-15 Transit provides contracted transportation in Monroe and Lucas Counties. In 2014, 10-15 Transit increased their rate by 8.5%. The Four Counties for Kids grant that, in part, provides funds used for transportation in Lucas and Monroe Counties was also reduced by 10% in 2014.

SUMMARY:

As indicated by the earlier information, the SCICAP Early Childhood Program serves a rural area that comprises some of the poorest counties in Iowa. Population continues to decline as poverty continues to increase. Child poverty in our service area is 8% higher than the state average and 46% of our children are from one-parent families. We strive to provide an educationally-sound environment for children as they grow towards becoming school ready. The updated Community Assessment is used when determining our service areas and what services are needed to best serve the children and families in our community.