



**Northwest
Community
Action
Partnership**

www.ncap.info

2022 **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

**Northwest Community Action Partnership
Head Start & Early Head Start**

Supplemental Data Update

Helping People. Changing Lives. Engaging Communities. Alleviating Poverty.



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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Federal Office of Head Start requires all programs to conduct an annual community assessment and a thorough one every 5 years. This information is collected from census data, online research, program and community information, and feedback from stakeholders (parents, staff, community partners, etc.). The resulting data is compiled into this formal document that includes strengths, needs, and resources around the community but, more importantly, is used to steer Northwest Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Head Start program planning as well as our short and long-term goals.

Through this process, we can address the needs of the families we serve and maximize our efforts to support the children of our community. Trends throughout our service area become apparent and we are able to use that knowledge to guide program needs and training opportunities for families and staff.

Although the formal process occurs every 5 years, NCAP Head Start is annually using surveys with parents, staff and community agencies to measure not only satisfaction levels but to monitor needs and areas of concern. This information then directly flows into our selection criteria priorities, our school readiness goal planning, our Parent Family Community Engagement planning and our overall program goals. It is not surprising that within NCAP Head Start's service area the needs of the community are directly mirrored in the needs of our Head Start families.

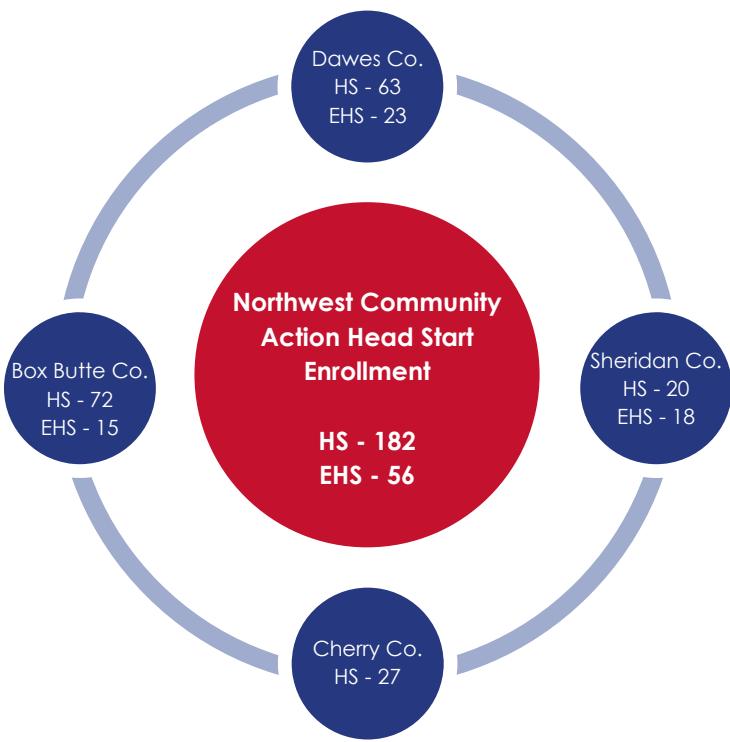
Based on the data collected from a multitude of sources, there is a continued need to focus on the following in all the communities we serve and throughout our program:

- **Safe and affordable childcare**
- **Public transportation**
- **Housing and homelessness**
- **Health & wellness**
- **Mental health needs to include trauma, domestic violence and now isolation and other issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic**

It is our hope that the efforts of our program will lead to new opportunities for children and families in the NCAP Head Start service area who can benefit from the support of our comprehensive services and strong partnerships. We have been a leader in the early childhood community for over 50 years and our focus will continue to be on doing whatever it takes to empower children and families to reach their full potential in learning and in life.

- Jennifer Sorenson, Head Start Director





INTRODUCTION

Northwest Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Head Start has provided school readiness services to eligible children and families for over 50 years in the Northern part of Nebraska. As the grantee for Cherry, Sheridan, Dawes, and Cherry County, NCAP is federally funded to provide services to 182 Head Start (HS) children and 56 Early Head Start (EHS) children. During the 21-22 school year, HS enrolled 204 children and EHS enrolled 83 children. This includes children that dropped our program during the year.

Along with the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Northwest Community Action Partnership provides a variety of programs, offering an assortment of services, including Community Services (CS), Volunteer Services (VS), and Weatherization.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PLANNING PROCESS

In accordance with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards (45CFR1302.11) and Head Start Act, NCAP Head Start conducted a Community Assessment in 2022. The following information was gathered, reviewed, and used to effectively plan five-year goals to support the growth of families and children within NCAP Head Start:

- **Demographic information about eligible infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and expectant mothers.**
- **Ineligible children and their families' education, health, nutrition, and social service needs.**
- **Employment and school schedules of parents with eligible children**
- **Child development information detailing services, child care availability, and options available to eligible families.**
- **Resources available within the community**
- **Strengths of the community and any identified gaps in available services for Head Start eligible families.**

Surveys, community partner reports, and other information were reviewed and analyzed for trends within the community, assisting the agency with its goal and program planning. Specifically, the following reports and information were used to develop a picture of the community and eligible Head Start families:

- **Program Information Reports (PIR) from the past 2 years**
- **21-22 & 20-21 NCAP Head Start Self-Assessment**
- **2022 Northwest Community Action Partnership Annual Report**
- **Census Data**



PROGRAM SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Community Services program provides services to qualifying families through Community Service Block Grant funds as well as other grant programs. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program, through FEMA provides clients with assistance in food pantries, rent assistance, and utility assistance.

NCAP partners with several area organizations, such as, the ministerial associations in Dawes and Sheridan Counties, the Salvation Army, a domestic violence shelter, Western Community Health Resources (WCHR), the American Red Cross, Native American Centers in Dawes and Box Butte Counties and local food pantries, to expand client services in our rural service areas.

Food Pantry, along with emergency services, are available to individuals on a monthly basis in all five counties through the Community Services program. Migrant funds are also available in Box Butte County to assist migrant families.



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WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The Weatherization Program serves income eligible clients that have homes in need of weatherization measures to help them decrease the ever growing energy costs of heating and air conditioning. Weatherizing homes allows for more earned dollars to go into the families' overall budget. The program follows a priority system to identify the order in which qualifying persons are served, elderly (60+) persons are given the first priority followed by persons with disabilities.



The service area for NCAP Weatherization covers 12 counties in the panhandle of Nebraska.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Dawes and Sioux County RSVP is sponsored by Northwest Community Action Partnership and funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with matching funds from the cities of Chadron and Crawford and support from local businesses and citizens.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

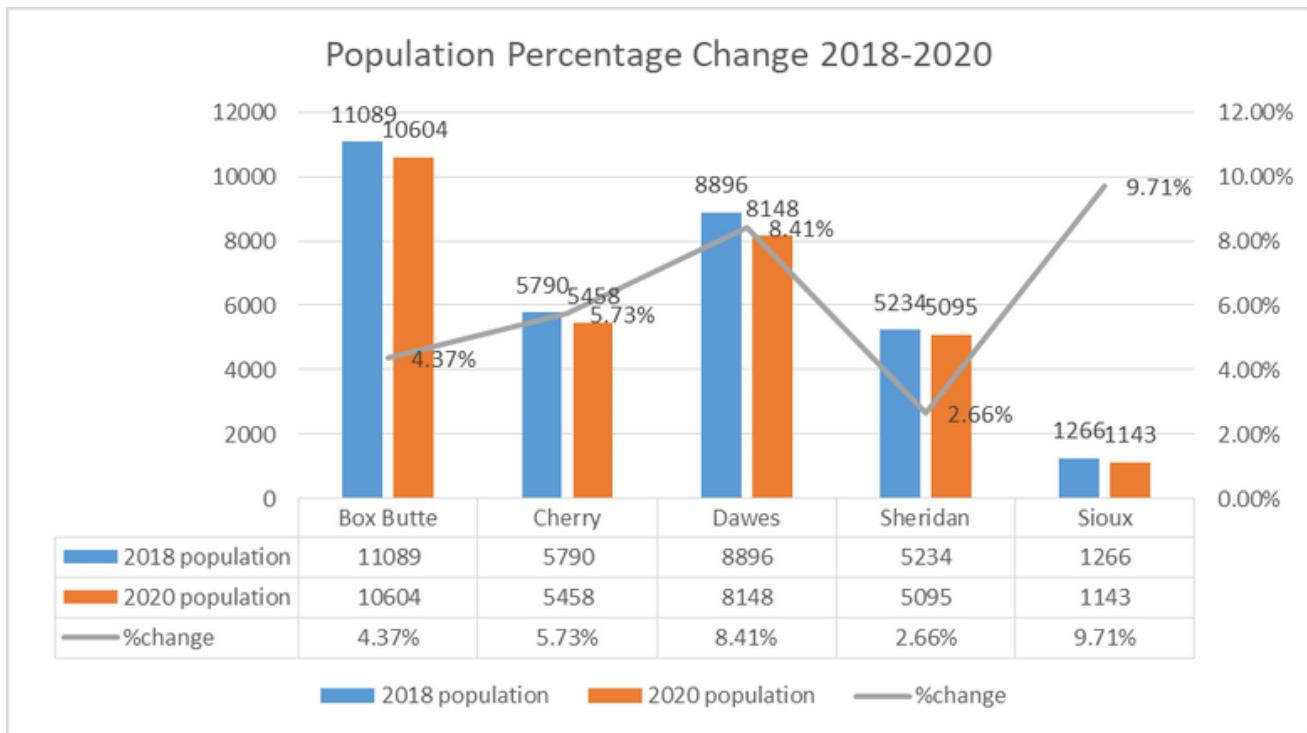
In 1965, the first Head Start program was administered by Chadron State College in Dawes County. In 1967, it came under the umbrella of Northwest Community Action Partnership and expanded to Box Butte, Cherry, and Sheridan Counties. NCAP Head Start operates nine centers in these four counties. Three sites are collaborations: Valentine Community Schools, Chadron State College (Child Development Center), and Kiddie Kampus (Alliance Public Schools). In the collaboration classrooms, the schools provide certified early childhood teachers to strengthen quality child development for children. NCAP Head Start also offers home base options for ages 3-5 and Early Head Start for prenatal to age 3 (not offered in Cherry County). Head Start provides family development services to assist families in becoming stable and self-reliant.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic data of NCAP is based on the population census dated April 1, 2020. Below is a compilation of data consisting of geographic location, racial and ethnic composition, poverty statistics, employment data and a composition of Head Start and Early Head Start demographic data.

	Box Butte	Cherry	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Land Area (Sq Miles)	1078	6010	1401	2470	2067
Est. Population (2020)*	10,604	5,458	8,148	5,095	1,143
% of Change from PY Est Pop	4.37%	5.73%	8.41%	2.66%	9.71%
# of persons per mile	10.5	1	6.6	2.2	0.6
Language					
-- Primary	English	English	English	English	English
-- Secondary	Spanish, Lakota Sioux	Lakota Sioux	Lakota Sioux, Spanish, Marshallese	Lakota Sioux, Spanish	
School: (in #'s)					
-- Public School Districts	2	2	2	2	1
-- Schools - Public (K-12)	2	2	2	2	1
-- Schools - Private (K-12)	1	1	2	0	0
*Estimated #'s					
-- Post Secondary	2	0	2	0	0

*2020 Census Bureau



*ACS 2017 and 2020 population estimates

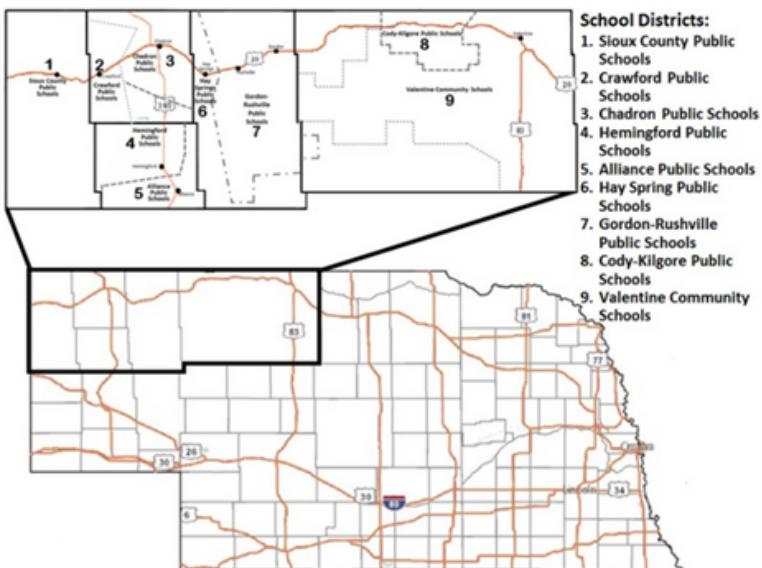
POPULATION ESTIMATES

Town/County	2018 ACE Est. Population	2020 Census DataPopulation	% Change2018-2020	Square Miles	Population Density 2020 Census Data
Alliance	8,313	8,139	-2.09%		
Hemingford	867	787	-9.23%		
BOX BUTTE	11,089	10,604	-4.47%	1,077.84	10.5
Cody	195	168	-13.85%		
Crookston	70	71	1.43%		
Kilgore	74	63	-14.86%		
Merriman	143	87	-39.16%		
Nenzel	31	17	-45.16%		
Valentine	2,777	2,633	-5.19%		
CHERRY	5,790	5,458	-5.90%	6,009.54	1.0
Chadron	5,654	5,206	-7.92%		
Crawford	1,116	840	-24.73%		
Whitney	97	62	-36.08%		
DAWES	8,896	8,148	-8.78%	1,400.86	6.6
Clinton	35	38	8.57%		
Gordon	1,726	1,504	-12.86%		
Hay Springs	602	599	-0.50%		
Rushville	978	816	-16.56%		
SHERIDAN	5,234	5,095	-2.69%	2,469.99	2.2
Harrison	301	239	-20.60%		
SIOUX	1,266	1,143	-10.21%	2,067.00	0.6
NEBRASKA	1,904,760	1,961,504	2.98%	77,353.73	23.8

*2020 census bureau

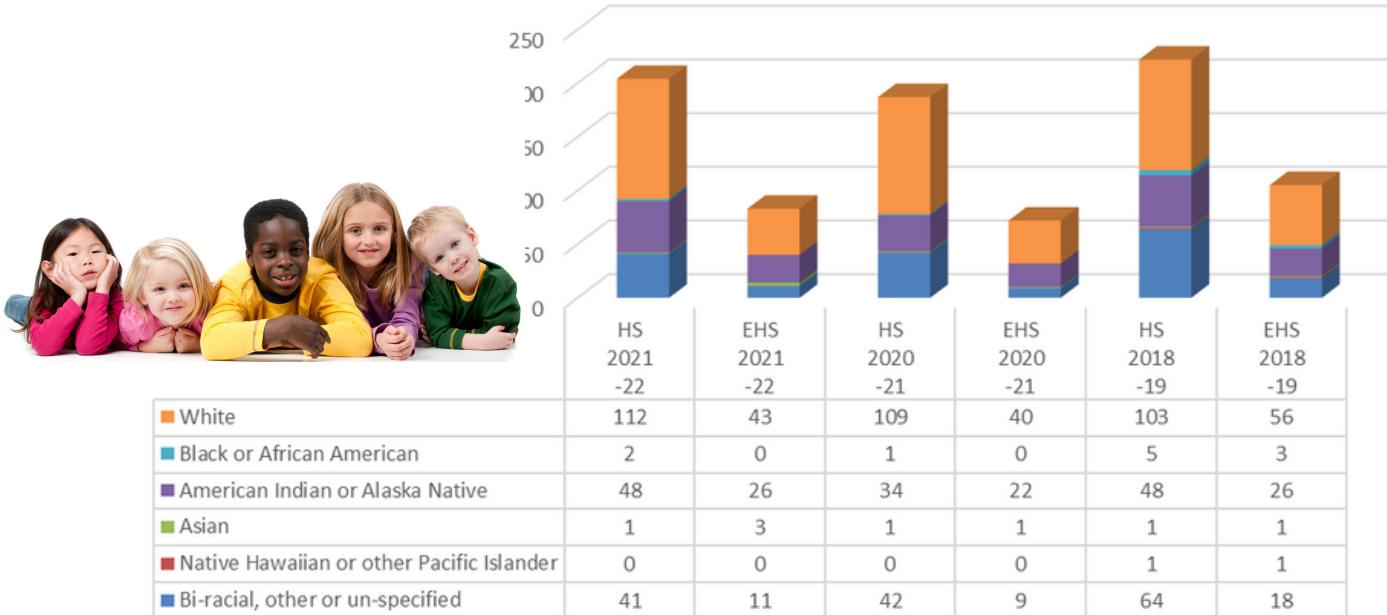
SERVICE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NCAP Head Start reaches many more lives than just our clients. It is a community-based program that is involved in serving the entire community within our service area. Each program provides services to individuals and families, assisting them in building foundations for self-sufficiency. Nebraska, studies have shown that the Panhandle's population has decreased as Nebraska's has increased. Each of the four counties NCAP Head Start serves has seen a decrease in population since the last Community Assessment. Dawes County has seen the most significant decrease at 8.78%, while Sheridan County has only seen a 2.69% population decrease; the average reduction over the four counties we serve is 5.46%.



RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION

The racial/ethnic profile of the NCAP service area is comparable to the racial/ethnic profile for the State of Nebraska, with the majority of the citizens being White. The information below shows the specific racial/ethnic compositions of the service area's Head Start and Early Head Start families. The info shows Native American families making up the following two most prominent groups. English is the primary language spoken within the NCAP service area, with Spanish being the second most prevalent language. Bi-lingual aides are employed in the areas where language services are most needed. Translation services are provided to the extent possible to all participants and families within the NCAP service area.



*Child Plus Records 2018-19 thru 2021-22

State / County	Total Pop.	Total Hispanic	One Race					Two or More Races
			Caucasian	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders	
BOX BUTTE	10,604	1,367	8,557	116	487	74	9	275
		12.90%	80.70%	1.10%	4.60%	0.70%	0%	2.60%
CHERRY	5,458	180	4,770	27	371	27	51	169
		3.30%	87.40%	0.50%	6.80%	0.50%	0%	3.10%
DAWES	8,148	472	6,942	146	317	154	24	211
		5.80%	85.20%	1.80%	3.90%	1.90%	0.30%	2.60%
SHERIDAN	5,095	310	4,111	20	565	20	15	193
		6.10%	80.70%	0.40%	11.10%	0.40%	0.30%	3.80%
SIOUX	1,143	60	1,143	3	17	3	0	24
		5.30%	91.60%	0.30%	1.50%	0.30%	0%	2.10%
Nebraska	1,961,504	223,612	1,533,897	101,999	29,423	52,961	1,962	45,115
		11.40%	78.20%	5.20%	1.50%	2.70%	0.10%	2.30%

*2020 census bureau

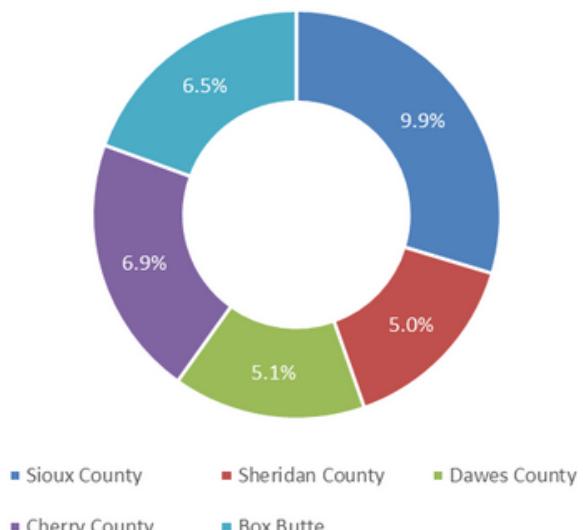
POVERTY STATISTICS

According to the 2020 Census, close to 16.30% of children in NE under the age of 5 live in poverty. Of the four counties, our HS program serves Box Butte with the highest number of children under the age of 5 in poverty, 28%, Dawes at 25%, Sheridan at 21%, and Cherry at 6%. The average number of children in poverty in the four counties is 18.6%, which is 14% higher than the state of NE.

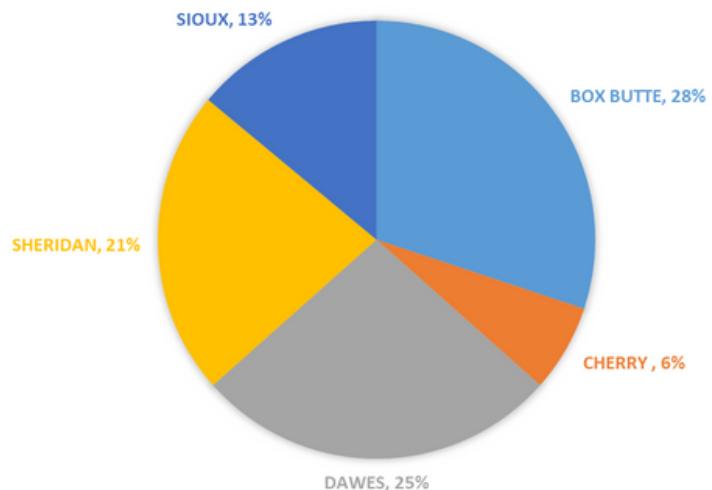
COUNTY POVERTY DATA by age group*					
County/State	County Population	All Ages Living in Poverty/ Percentage	Under age 18 in Poverty/ Percentage	Ages 0-5 in Poverty	Median Household Income
BOX BUTTE	10,970	1,546	1,667.44	316	\$54,004
		14.10%	15.20%	27.50%	
CHERRY	5,779	450	335	318	\$56,651
		7.80%	5.80%	5.50%	
DAWES	8,810	1,295	1,692	2,202	\$50,750
		14.70%	19.20%	25.00%	
SHERIDAN	5,231	895	1,690	1,072	\$45,371
		17.10%	32.30%	20.50%	
SIOUX	1,219	104	173	161	\$48,269
		8.50%	14.20%	13.20%	
Nebraska	1,914,571	212,517	266,125	312,075	\$61,439
		11.10%	13.90%	16.30%	

*UNO Public Affairs Research
*2020 Census Data

Population Under the Age of 5

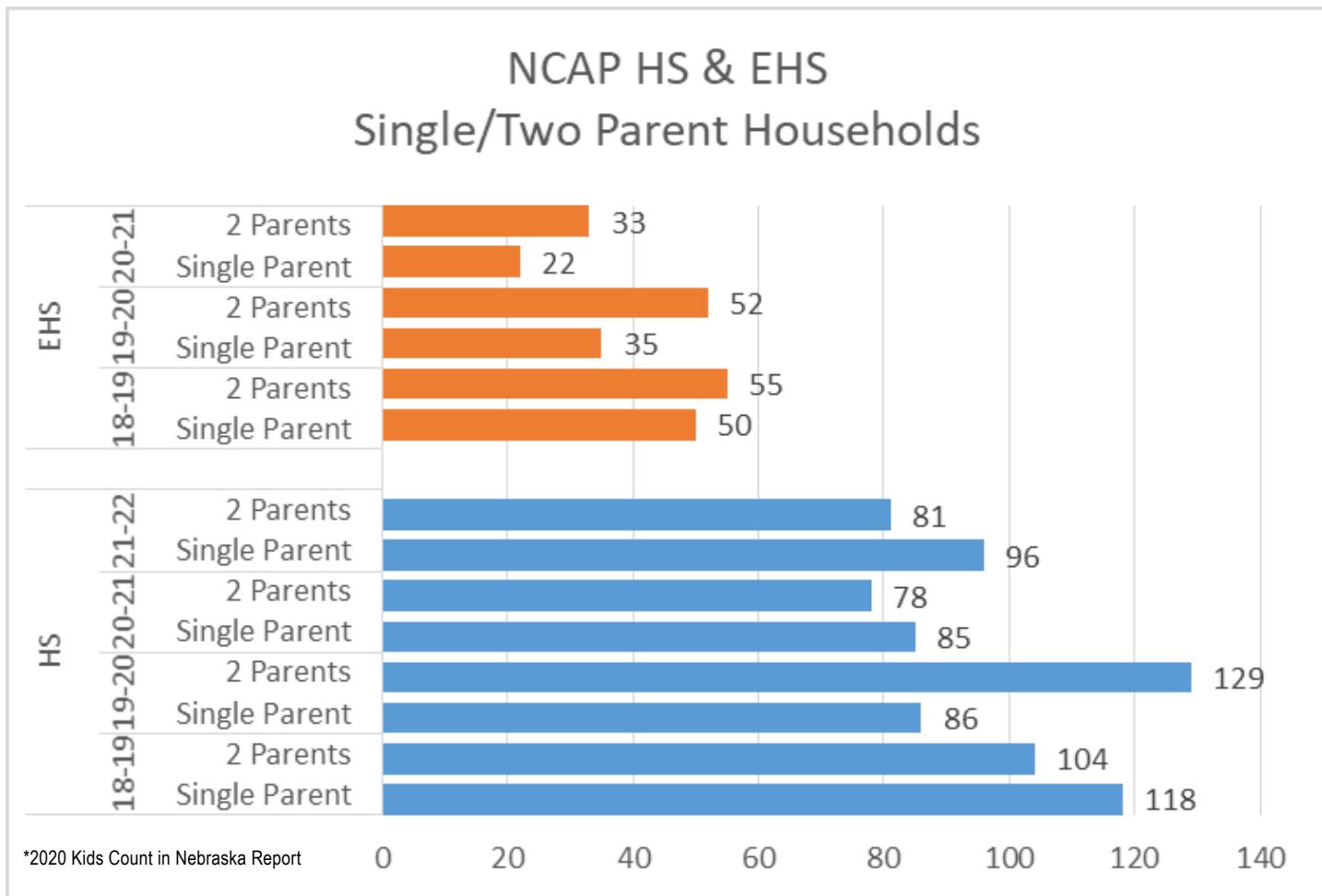


County Poverty in Children Under the Age of 5



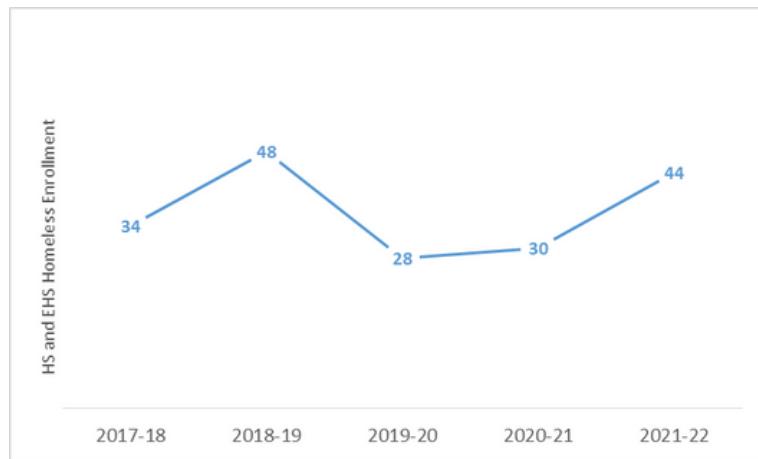
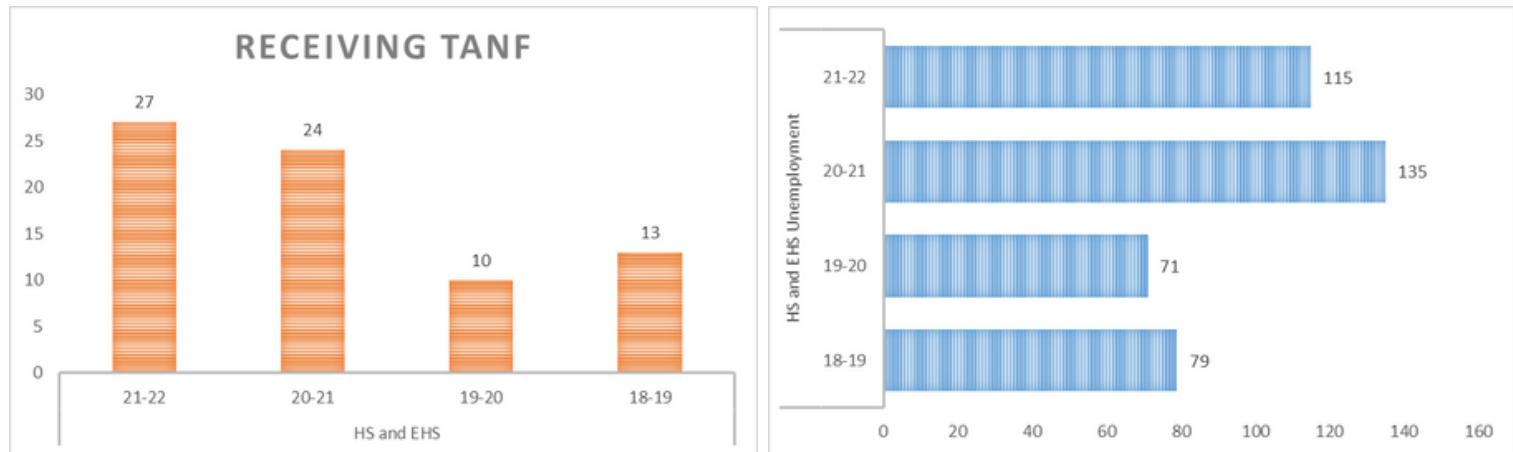
PARENTAL HOUSEHOLD STATUS

NCAP Head Start and Early Head Start families fluctuating enrollment years were more likely to be from a two-parent household than from a one-parent home. According to information from Kids Count, the State of Nebraska fluctuates each year in the number of children living with a single-parent or in non-traditional family units. Data results showed a drop in numbers from the previous year of those enrolled in the program.



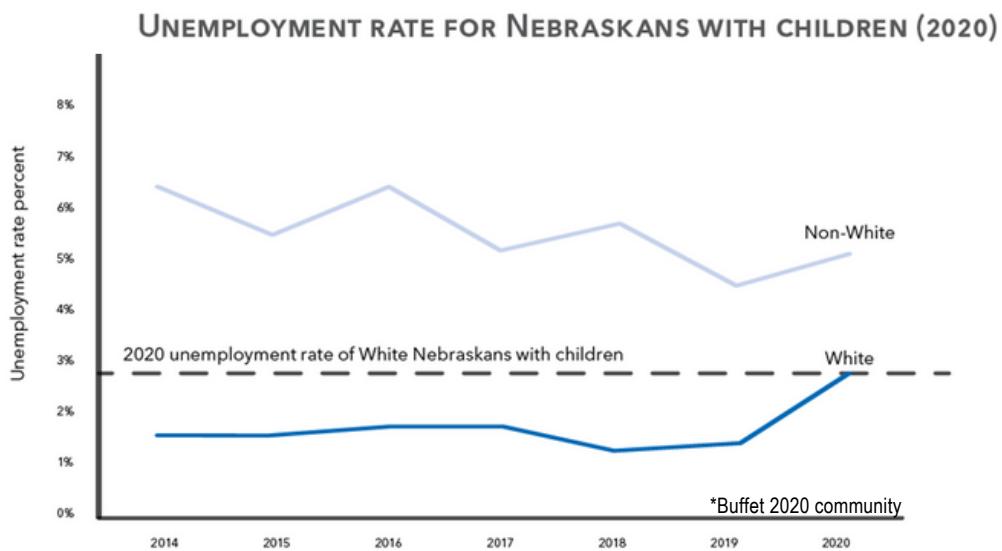
HS & EHS EMPLOYMENT and TANF Recipients

The number of NCAP HS and EHS families receiving TANF benefits has increased by 13% from the previous year. Unemployment rose 46% from 2018 to 2021-22. Although unemployment has decreased by 15% from the previous year, those receiving TANF benefits have increased 170% since 2019.



*Child Plus Records 2018-19 thru 2021-22

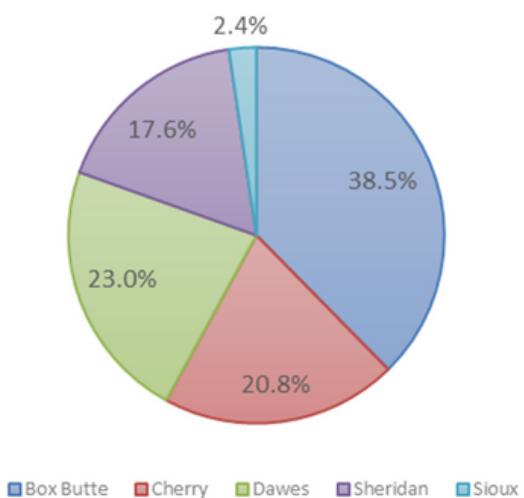
During the 2017-18 school year 34 homeless families were enrolled in the NCAP HS/EHS program. Last year, we saw an increase in the number of homeless families by 30%.



In this chart, the lines represent the average unemployment rate for workers with children each year. The 2020 average unemployment rate for white Nebraskans with children, though higher than previous years, is still lower than that of workers of color with children in the previous six years.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

% of Children Under 5 in Service Area



Child development and child care programs that are serving Head Start eligible children, including publicly funded state and local preschool programs, and the approximate number of Head Start eligible children served by each.

Northwest Community Action Partnership Head Start and Early Head Start program offerings in Northwest Nebraska service area are shown in the following table. Through collaborations between NCAP Head Start and the public schools, preschool programs operate in Chadron, Alliance and Valentine. A collaboration classroom also operates at Chadron State College, run by the CSC Child Development Center.

CHILDREN AGES 0-5 SERVED BY HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START

County	# of 0-5 Children *2020 Estimates	Children funded Slots by HS / EHS	Program Options	Location of program
Box Butte	681	87	Head Start center base and home base	Alliance
			Early Head Start home base	
Cherry	400	27	Head Start center base and home base	Valentine
Dawes	520	86	Head Start center base and home base	Chadron
			School collaborations (1)	
			Preschool collaborations (1)	
Sheridan	287	38	Head Start center base and home base	Gordon
			Early Head Start home base	
Total	1885	238		

*2020 ACS 5 yr Estimates

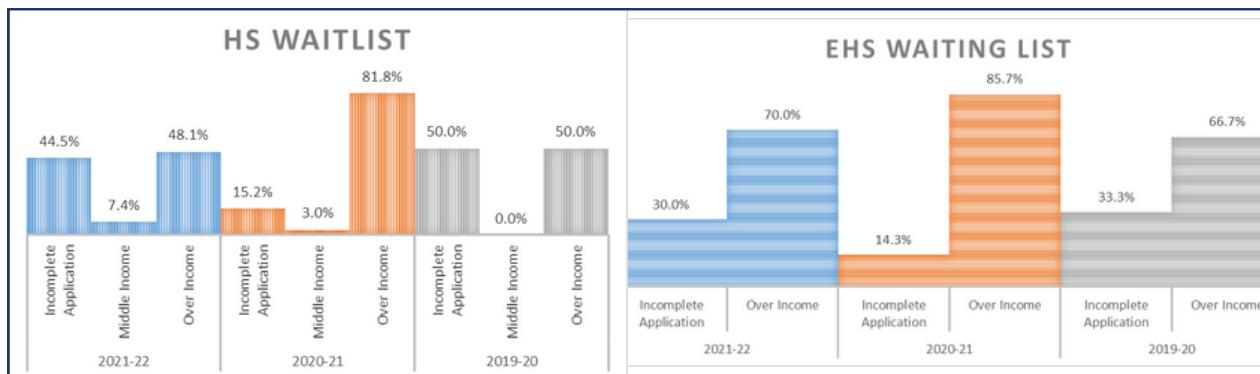
*Child Plus Records 2018-19 thru 2021-22

CENTER WAIT LIST

During the 2019-20 Program year, over half of all waitlisted applications have been for over-income children. Some of these children have high needs with disabilities or other factors. We have used our available 10% enrollment of over-income slots to enroll these children when possible.

Breakdowns of waitlists for both Head Start and Early Head Start for the 2019 up-to 2022 program years show a consistent level of eligible and over-income children and families for the area's Head Start programs. Individuals may be waitlisted due to incomplete applications. At times families struggle to connect with the families and get the needed verifications.

Recruitment efforts are constantly being re-evaluated for our service areas, including finding a way to reach our families that live so far out of town. Family, friends, and staff continue to be the main source of families learning about HS/EHS programs, along with media. Per government policy changes, families who are eligible for the SNAP program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) are now categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start programs as well. While a lot of our families are already eligible for the SNAP program, some of the middle to over-income families will possibly be eligible for HS/EHS now.



*info from WHERE?

County/City	Home Child Care	Center Child Care	Enrolled w Step Up to Quality
BOX BUTTE	10	5	5
Alliance	8	5	5
Hemingford	2	0	0
CHERRY	10	0	3
Cody	0	0	0
Merriman	0	0	0
Valentine	10	0	3
DAWES	13	3	9
Chadron	11	3	9
Crawford	2	0	0
Whitney	0	0	0
SHERIDAN	6	3	1
Gordon	5	1	1
Hay Springs	0	2	0
Rushville	1	0	0
TOTAL	39	11	18

Home and Center Childcare Services

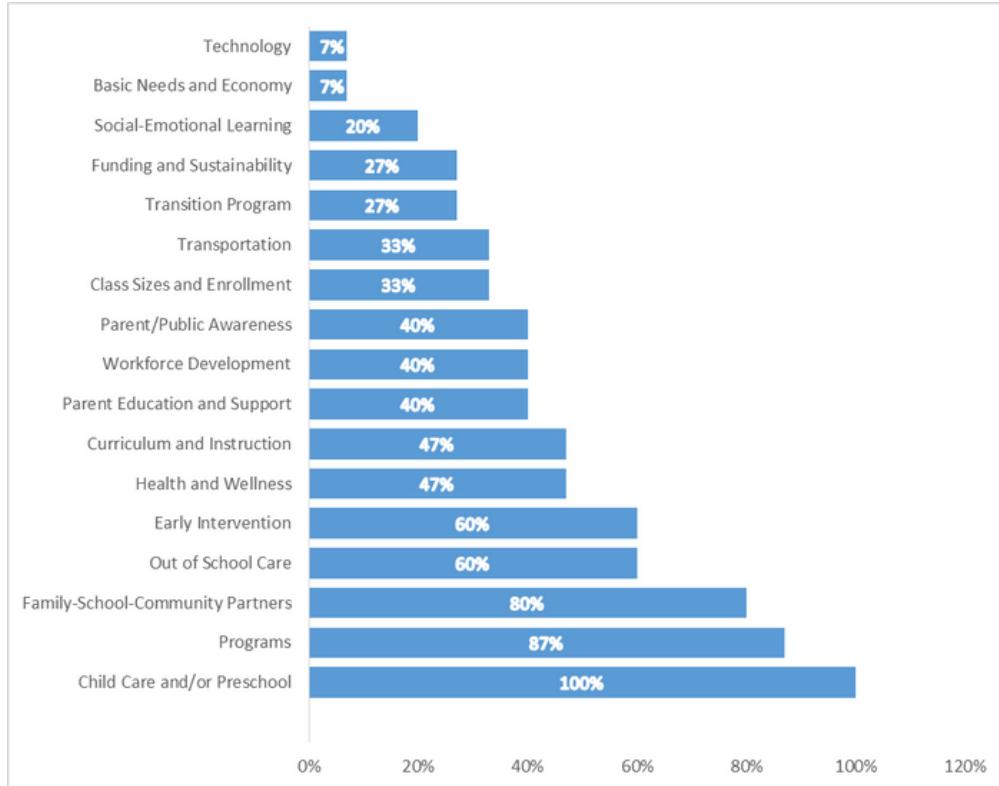
HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START ELIGIBLE BEING SERVED BY OTHER PROVIDERS

County	# of children age <5	# of children age 3-4	% of children 5 & Under in poverty	Estimated number of Head Start Eligible Children	Capacity of all licensed child care facilities	Estimated of H.S. eligible children enrolled in other childcare
Box Butte	727	****	18.90%	137	272	51
Cherry	392	157	16.30%	64	157	26
Dawes	433	****	19.20%	83	337	65
Sheridan	333	****	26.50%	88	125	33
Sioux	45	18	26.80%	12	0	0



36% of Children 5+ in Nebraska are at risk of eventually failing in school

*Buffett Institute - 2020



This chart was assembled by using numbers only from licensed day care, preschool, and childcare centers. Cherry County does not have any other alternative Child Care Centers to offer preschool services. That is why NCAP Head Start shifted 24 slots to Cherry County. Although we have seen a decrease in the amount of child care providers we have seen the quality increase as more providers are enrolling in Step Up to Quality. NCAP Head Start has worked closely with daycare providers in Dawes County and continues to offer professional development opportunities. Dawes County has the highest number of Step Up to Quality providers in all of our service areas. The Head Start Director is on the steering committee for the Valentine Children and Families Coalition group to increase support in that county. These numbers continue to fluctuate with the opening and closing of daycare centers due to COVID and other economic factors.

To the left is a chart from the Buffett Institute asking communities "What points of pride, accomplishments, and achievements have your community realized in terms of early childhood (Birth – Grade 3)"

FAMILY STRESSORS

Community members were asked to identify the challenges families with young children will likely face in the next 3-5 years.

Basic needs and the economy: affordable and adequate housing, job opportunities and poverty

87% of communities in the Panhandle listed childcare and/or preschool

73% of communities showed concern with out of school care, health and wellness services and parent education and support

100% of people felt that basic needs were a concern

We continually shift more slots to meet the 45% duration requirement from Head Start. We see a growing need for longer day preschool offered.

TOP FAMILY CHALLENGES

87%

CHILDCARE

73%

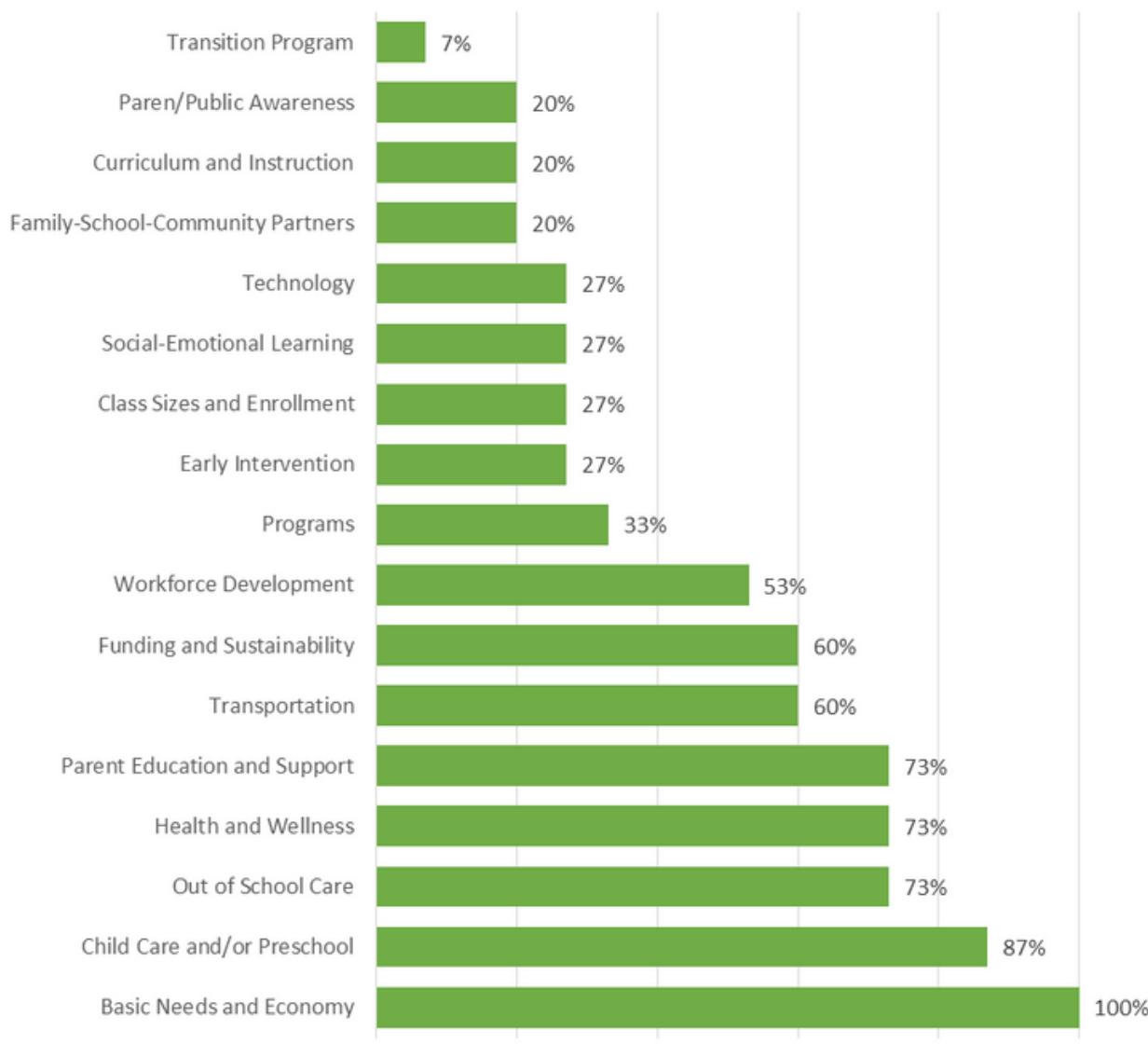
WELLNESS

100%

BASIC NEEDS

In thinking about the next 3-5 years, what challenges will families with Birth - Grade 3 children face that you feel need to be addressed in your community?

Family Stressors



DISABILITIES

CHILDREN DISABILITIES

The following chart shows the number of children diagnosed with disabilities and the type of disabilities over the last three years. As the charts show, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of disabilities and the severity of those disabilities. In our 3-5 year old center based program we have seen a 68% increase in the number of disabilities from 2018 to 2022. In our Early Head Start program we have seen a 133% increase.

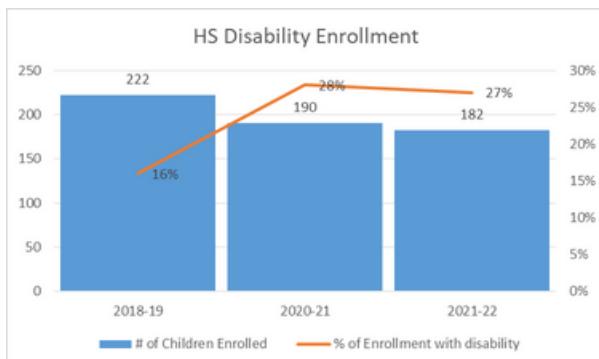
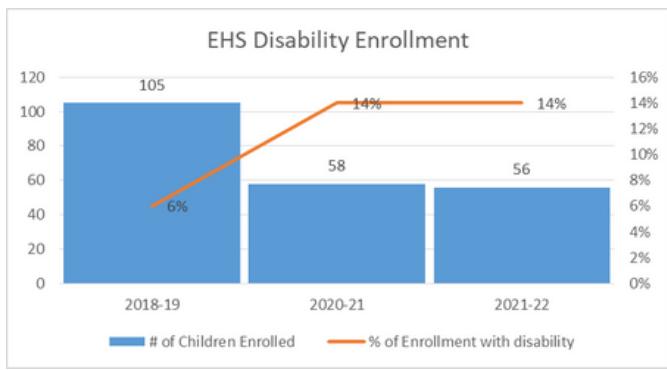
With our increase in disabilities we have also seen an increase in serious behavior concerns. Over the past several years, a number of studies have shown a rise in behavior problems among preschoolers and our program is no different. Some of these problems include prolonged tantrums, physical and verbal aggression, disruptive behaviors, property destruction and noncompliance. The Yale Child Study Center has found that U.S. preschoolers are three times more likely to be expelled from their classrooms than children in grades K-12. Challenging behaviors are one of the strongest predictors of more serious problems as children grow older, including delinquency, aggression, anti-social behavior and substance abuse.

Type of Disability	HS 2021-22	EHS 2021-22	HS 2000-2021	EHS 2021-22	HS 2018-19	EHS 2018-19
Autism	3		4		3	
Health Impairment	2					1
Hearing Impairment	1		1			
Specific Learning Disability						1
Speech/Language	8		10		6	
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	1		1		
Non-Cat Dev Delay	35	7	39	7	23	5
Multiple Disorders					2	
Total Disabilities	50	8	54	8	35	6

Based on Cumulative Enroll #'s	HS 2021-22	EHS 2021-22	HS 2000-21	EHS 2021-22	HS 2018-19	EHS 2018-19
# of children enrolled	182	56	190	58	222	105
Diagnosed Prior to Enrollment	31	4	18	5	30	4
Diagnosed During Enrollment	19	4	36	3	5	2
Total Diagnosed Disability	50	8	54	8	35	6
Percent of ENR with a disability	27%	14%	28%	14%	16%	6%

*Child Plus Records 2018-19 thru 2021-22

133% INCREASE OF
DISABILITIES IN EHS
68% INCREASE
IN HEAD START
DISABILITIES
2018-20

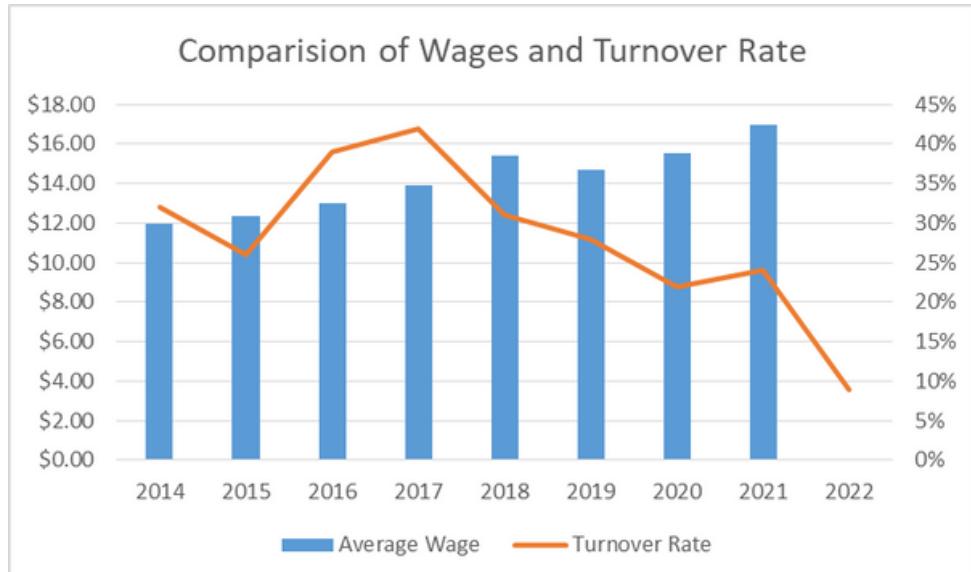


EDUCATION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of NCAP eligible children and their families and data compiled from Head Start families.

EDUCATION

Evidence shows that when children are enrolled in preschools with a low teacher turnover rate and higher pay, they engage in more positive interactions with their teachers and peers. From 2014 to 2017 we saw a turnover rate of 60% and a teacher wage that averaged \$12.82, allowing many of our teachers to qualify for public benefits. As we saw growing numbers of children with disabilities and the severity of behaviors escalating, we realized a need to increase the number of teachers in the classroom from 2 to 3 and boost wages, hoping to enhance the quality of our hiring pool, in turn our teaching staff. From 2014 to 2022, we increased wages by 142%, attracting a higher caliber of teachers with teaching degrees, while providing competition to our local school districts. This was made possible through DHHS providing Quality Improvement and COLA mini grants. This had a huge impact on our turnover rate, decreasing it by 72%.



*Child Plus Records 2014-15 thru 2021-22

SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES

School Readiness goals were developed by a committee of parents, Head Start/Early Head Start staff, Policy Council, Health Advisory and with input from NCAP Board of Directors. Goals were created based on Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Outcomes Framework, with input from parents, staff and professionals, on the needs of children in the service area. The School Readiness goals are aligned with the main curriculums (Creative Curriculum), Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines, on-going assessment tool (GOLD), and Local Education Agency's expectations. Using on-going assessment, GOLD, data is collected throughout the year, on every child. Data is aggregated and analyzed three times a year for part year programs. This analysis determines areas of strength and needed improvement. Using the aggregated data, each classroom and home base program completes an action plan to facilitate improvement in methods of instruction.

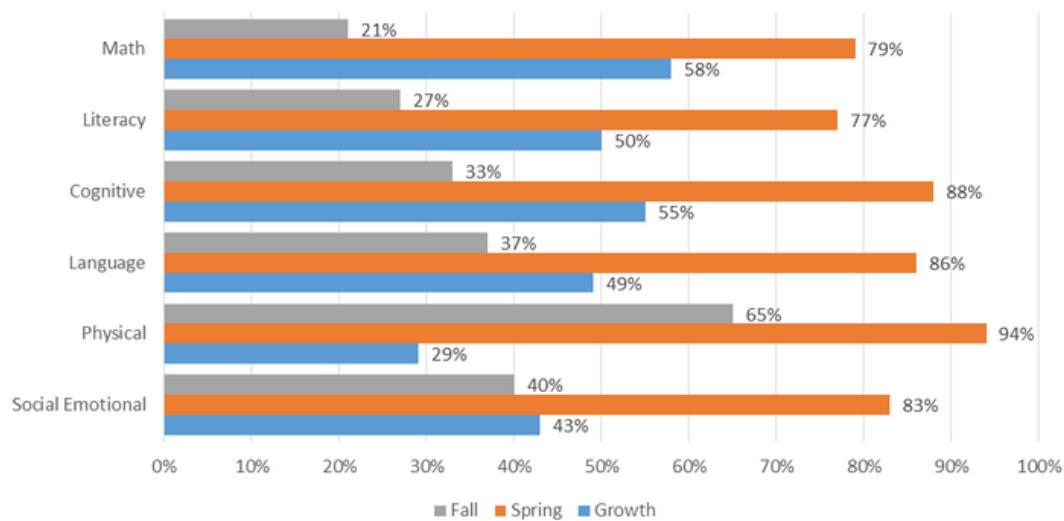
Another tool used to assess classrooms is CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System). Through rigorous reliability testing; CLASS measures adult/child interactions in each classroom and is completed monthly. Based on a 7 point scale, classrooms are scored in multiple areas, including positive and negative climate, behavior management, and concept development. After each observation, teachers' complete action plans to help improve their scores. Scores are aggregated by classrooms and program overall.

85% K-Bound
GOLD benchmarks

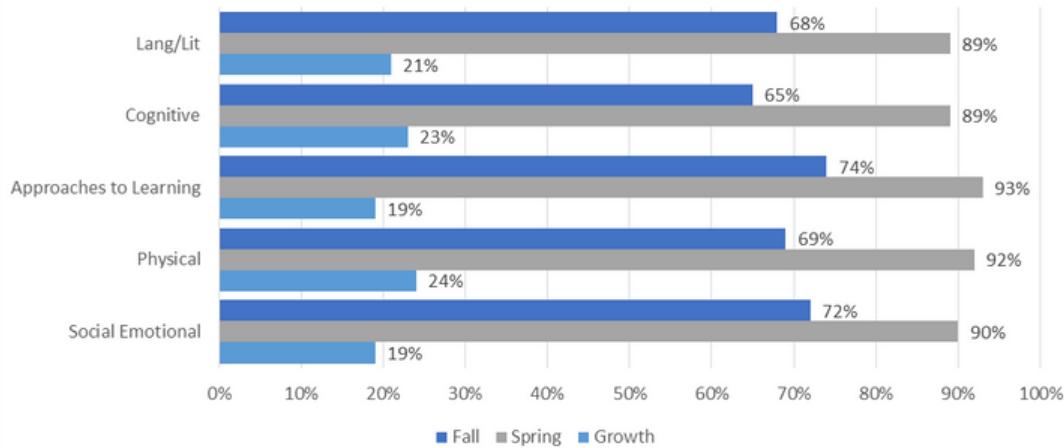
47 points of growth Fall to Spring



2021-22 Accomplished GOLD Benchmarks for Kindergarten Readiness



Meeting NCAP School Readiness Goals Winter 2021-22 Final Outcomes



HEALTH CARE

Lack of medical providers in these four counties make it difficult for individuals to receive healthcare. Often people are forced to travel extended distances to Rapid City, SD, Scottsbluff, NE, Omaha, NE (300 or more miles) and even Denver, CO to seek medical services, particularly specialists. Children and families that are on Medicaid are limited to which specialist they can see because Nebraska Medicaid doesn't contract with many providers out of the State of Nebraska. Children and families may have to travel hundreds of miles to see a specialist. This is a hardship for families as this is an added major expense with gas, food and possible hotel.

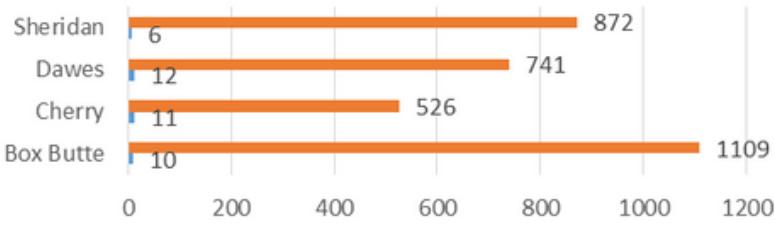
The small communities within the NCAP service area do not have an OB/GYN specialist within the same community and all pregnant mothers are forced to drive to neighboring communities for prenatal care.

The County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live. All counties within the Agency's service area out of 79 counties saw changes in the rankings for Overall Health Factors, with adult smoking and teen birth rate being higher than the state average for this county. The teen birth ranking shows, three of the four counties served by NCAP Head Start/Early Head Start programs have a higher score than the State of Nebraska for this category, indicating an even greater need for Early Head Start services in the area.

	County Health Rankings								Uninsured Adults	
	State Rankings out of 79 counties			Health Behaviors						
	Overall Health Outcomes	Overall Health Factors	Overall Ranking	Adult Smoking	Adult Obesity	Excessive Drinking	Teen Births			
Box Butte	72	41	63	18%	39%	22%	27	10%		
Cherry	52	32	33	17%	32%	20%	24	16%		
Dawes	29	14	34	15%	34%	21%	7	11%		
Sheridan	75	72	74	19%	41%	20%	25	16%		
Sioux	N/A	NR	NR	16%	37%	22%	--	14%		
Nebraska	*20		*17	15%	34%	23%	18	10%		

County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2021 Rankings *NE Ranking 2021 AHR Annual Report

People per Physician or PA



■ People per Physician or PA	1109	526	741	872
■ # of Active Licenses (Physicians and Physician's Asst.)	10	11	12	6

■ People per Physician or PA ■ # of Active Licenses (Physicians and Physician's Asst.)

AVG. PEOPLE PER PROVIDER IN THE SERVICE AREA...

812 PEOPLE PER PROVIDER

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Western Community Health Resources (WCHR) collaborates with communities in the provision of quality health and human services. Their vision for the members of their communities is that they are Respected, Informed and Empowered. WCHR provides the following services: Adult & Children Immunization Clinic, Worksite Wellness Screenings, Family Reproductive Health Services, HIV Education & Counseling, Prescription Assistance, Ryan White Program, Children's Outreach, Respite, Early Development Network, Community Essentials Pantry, Behavioral Health (Community Support), Emergency Community Supports, Youth Transition Services, Commodity Supplemental Food Programs, and Circle of Security (Parenting Training).

The Nebraska Women, Infant & Children Nutrition provides healthy food at no cost and nutrition information to help keep pregnant women, infants and children under five healthy and strong.

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) provides the following essential services to communities and individuals in the Panhandle:

- Monitor health status to identify health problems
 - Investigate health problems and hazards
 - Inform and educate about health issues
 - Mobilize community partnerships
 - Develop policies and plans that support health efforts
 - Enforce laws and health regulations to ensure safety
 - Link people to needed personal health services
 - Assure competent health care workforce
 - Evaluate quality and accessibility of health services
 - Research for new solutions to health problems

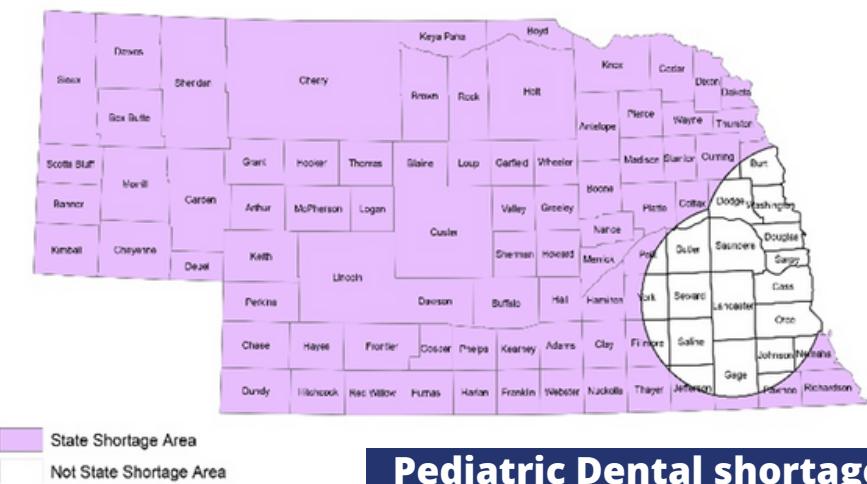
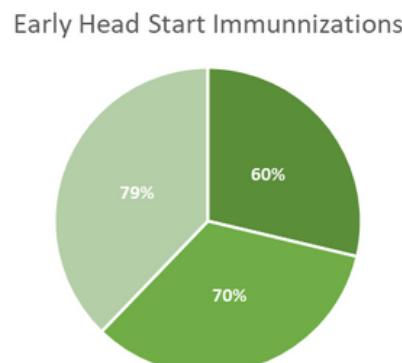
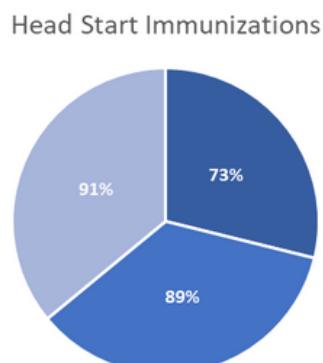
DENTAL CARE

To help address some of the issues with a shortage of dental care in the service area, NCAP teamed up with Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN) Public Dental Clinic in Gering, NE to establish a dental clinic designed specifically for the low income population. CAPWN Dental Clinic in Chadron completes dental health screenings on Head Start/Early Head Start and public school aged children in Dawes and Sheridan Counties. The program's effort is to provide dental screenings to alert the parent/guardian of the need for dental treatment and will apply fluoride treatments that are parent approved. Nebraska's DHSS

Office of Rural Health monitors information regarding health care provider practice locations and availability. Last updated April 2019, Office of Rural Health identified a shortage area in dentistry, which all 5 of NCAP's service area counties were found to be in the shortage area for Pediatric Dentists.

IMMUNIZATIONS

NCAP's Head Start Program closely monitors immunizations of enrolled children throughout the program year. Immunization counts change as children are vaccinated. Numbers for Head Start children fluctuate daily, and figures are as up to date as possible for Early Head Start children.

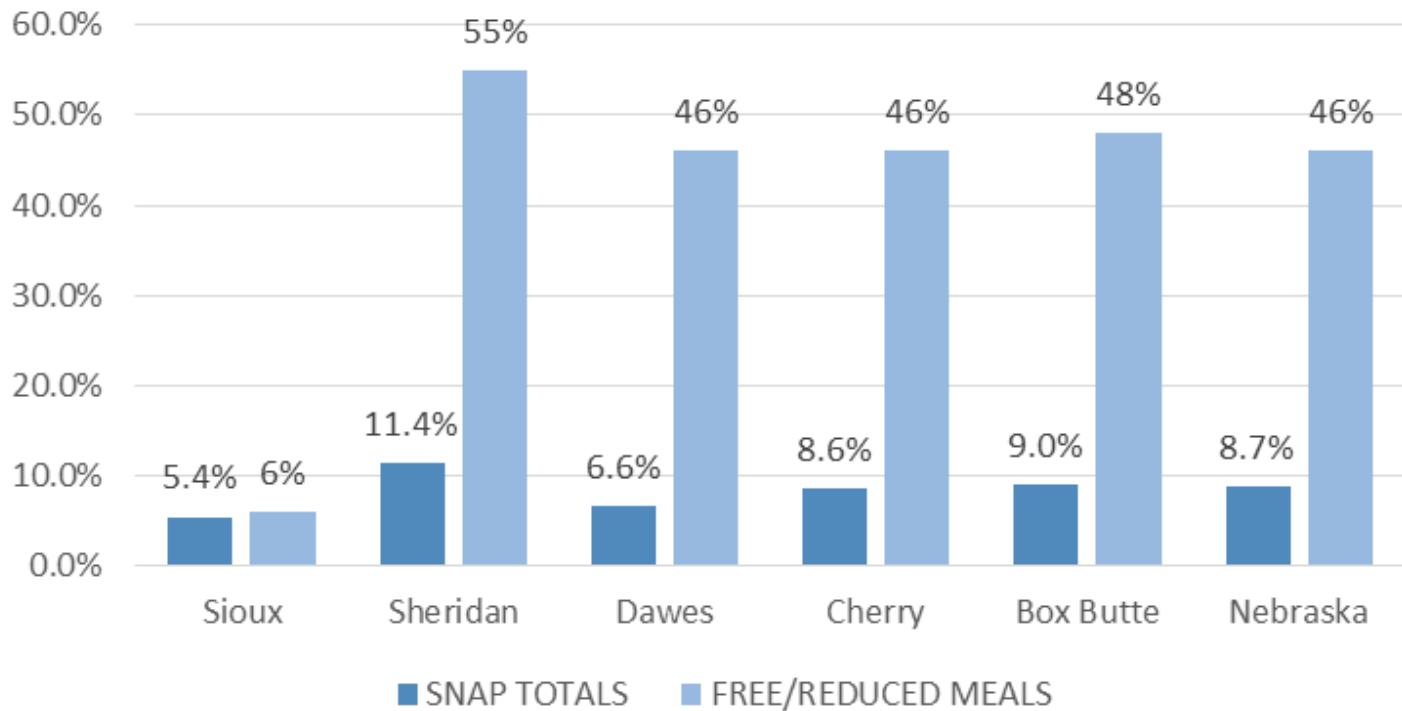


Pediatric Dental shortage all 5 counties

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Office of Head Start recently added SNAP as an eligibility plan for Head Start/Early Head Start. If a family is eligible for SNAP, they are automatically eligible for HS/EHS.. SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

SNAP TOTALS and FREE REDUCED MEALS



NUTRITION

The NCAP Head Start program designs and implements a nutrition program that meets each child's nutritional needs and feeding requirements, including those with special dietary needs and children with disabilities. Our nutrition program serves a variety of foods that consider cultural and ethnic preferences and broaden the child's food experience. The program uses USDA Food funds as the primary payment source for meal services. Early Head Start/Head Start funds may be used to cover those allowable costs not covered by the USDA.

Each child enrolled in our center-based setting receives meals and snacks that provide at least half the child's daily nutritional needs. All children in morning center-based locations who have not received breakfast when arriving are served a nourishing breakfast.

1 IN 6 CHILDREN ...

13 MILLION U.S.
CHILDREN HAVE
FOOD INSECURITY

Feeding America distributed 57% more food in the third quarter of 2020 than in 2019

2022 had a 60% increase in people relying on food banks

The National School Lunch Program served 33% fewer meals in the last school year

*Stacker.com

CHILDREN - FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity hits children particularly hard. A large majority of the counties within the state of Nebraska experience food insecurities. Studies show that not having consistent access to enough food can affect cognitive abilities, overall health, moods, and attention spans—not to mention the psychological effects of living with scarcity.

County Name	# Food Insecure Children	Avg Meal Cost	Food Insecurity % Rate		% Income-eligible for nutrition programs
			Child	County	(income at or below 185% of poverty)
Box Butte	490	\$3.03	17.30%	10.70%	64%
Cherry	210	\$0.14	16.40%	11.70%	84%
Dawes	270	\$3.03	16.70%	13.40%	58%
Sheridan	250	\$3.07	21.40%	13.00%	84%
Sioux	50	\$3.03	18.90%	12.40%	62%
Nebraska	82,373	\$2.83	17.40%	11.60%	63%

According to the 2019 MAP, The Meal Gap - The Food Insecurity Report - close to 20% of children in NE under 18 are at risk for hunger. Of the four counties, our HS program serves Box Butte with the highest number of children experiencing food insecurities at 490, Dawes 270, Sheridan 250, and Cherry 210. The average number of children experiencing food insecurities in the four counties is 305.

Various resources are available to families within the NCAP service area to assist with food availability. NCAP Head Start staff works closely with the NCAP Community Services department that offers families a comprehensive array of food support through local food pantries, and mobile food pantries. Mobile food pantries arrive approximately every three months, providing fresh produce and meats to the area residents. For services that cannot be provided internally by NCAP, staff refers families to other community partners for services such as NE DHHS, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, other food pantries, churches, soup kitchens, or other community programs. Box Butte and Dawes counties have backpack food programs that are sent home weekly to children to supplement food insecurities over the weekend.

305
children
experience
food
insecurity in
our service
counties

*2019 MAP, The Meal Gap-The Food Insecurity Report

NUTRITIONAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE
FOOD PANTRIES ○ SOUP KITCHENS ○ FOOD BACKPACKS

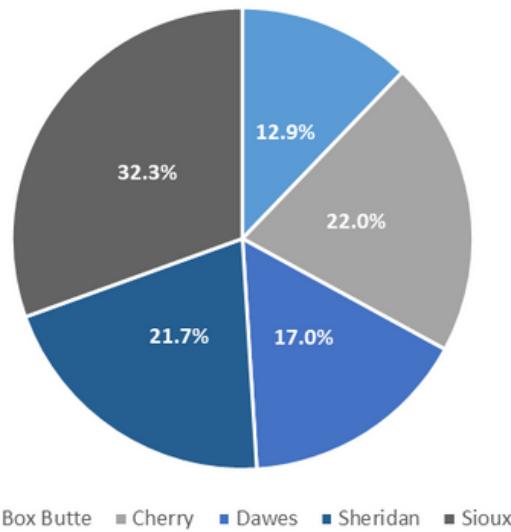


HOUSING

Across Nebraska, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.



% OF VACANT HOUSES



Box Butte County

Median Income: \$54,004 OOU Value: \$113,600

Cherry County

Median Income: \$56,651 OOU Value: \$116,000

Dawes County

Median Income: \$50,750 OOU Value: \$125,200

Sheridan County

Median Income: \$45,371 OOU Value: \$72,300

Sioux County

Median Income: \$48,269 OOU Value: \$117,700

NCAP Head Start's demographic population have a difficult time finding affordable and adequate housing. In Box Butte County the median household income is \$54,004 while the median value of owner occupied units (OOU) has a value of \$113,600. It also shows that of the 5,443 housing units available, 12.9% are vacant due to the level of poverty and the pricing of adequate housing.

Cherry County, the median household income is \$56,651 while the median value of owner occupied units (OOU) has a value of \$116,000. It also shows that of the 3,252 housing units available, 22% are vacant due to the level of poverty and the pricing of adequate housing.

Dawes County, the median household income is \$50,750 while the median value of owner occupied units (OOU) has a value of \$125,200. It also shows that of the 4,247 housing units available, 17% are vacant due to the level of poverty and the pricing of adequate housing.

Sheridan County, the median household income is \$45,371 while the median value of owner occupied units (OOU) has a value of \$72,300. It also shows that of the 2,904 housing units available, 21.7% are vacant due to the level of poverty and the pricing of adequate housing.

Sioux County, the median household income is \$48,269 while the median value of owner occupied units (OOU) has a value of \$117,700. It also shows that of the 803 housing units available, 32.3% are vacant due to the level of poverty and the pricing of adequate housing.

*University of Nebraska Omaha research - source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

*nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/nebraska

TRANSPORTATION

Northwest Community Action Partnership collaborates with the city of Alliance, which has revitalized its public transportation system to strengthen the usability of the program. They provide a free service ride for the public. There is no charge for students going to or from school, including Head Start, for this service.

The Alliance church also provides transportation six days a week for school, work, and appointments both local and out-of-town. The Panhandle Trails Intercity Public Transit bus service, based out of Alliance, connects individuals with area transportation resources and destinations throughout the Nebraska Panhandle Region. Chadron Public Transportation operates one 12-passenger bus with a wheelchair lift within the Chadron city limits. This Demand Route runs weekdays on a donation basis. In addition, Chadron Transportation also has a Fixed/Deviated bus route that includes 10 designated stops within the city limits. Airport rides within the city are by appointment only, 8 am - 4 pm.

Head Start programs are not required to provide transportation services. However, when they do provide those services, they must comply with key regulations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Grantee and delegate agencies must comply with transportation regulations if they decide to transport children. This resource may be used by Head Start staff to better understand federal requirements for program transportation services.

Head Start programs are not required to provide transportation services. However, there are key regulations in Transportation, 45 CFR § 1303.70 (2016) with which grantee and delegate agencies are required to comply:

- **Help parents arrange transportation**
- **Provide pedestrian transport and riding safety education**
- **Only release children to those who have been authorized in writing by parent/guardian**

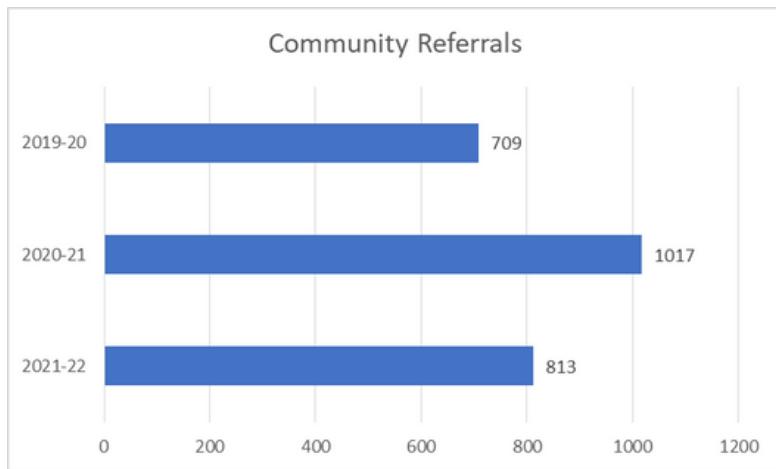


TRANSPORTATION COMPLIANCE

Arrange
Transportation
Provide Safety
Education
**Authorized
Release of
Children**

Using our Child Plus information for this last school year, we found that we had 87%-88% attendance. This information along with the great difficulty in hiring and keeping bus drivers employed, we have decided not to run our buses for HS. We have also been trying to transition our students into the public schools, who do not provide transportation for students. We feel that this is helping the families to become more self-sufficient by not providing the transportation to them.
* eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



We are continuously researching and updating our referral options to other resources in order to provide the necessary assistance.

The referrals to our partners are as follows for the past three years:

- **2021-22 - 813 referrals**
- **2020-21 - 1017 referrals**
- **2019-20 - 709 referrals**

We partner up with many local resources such as: Community Food Pantry, DHHS, NCAP, Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, OHD, The DOVES Program, United Way of Western Nebraska and WCHR; among many other partners.

Please refer to individual County Resource Directories for information concerning Community Resources available at: www.ncap.info

For a complete list of our County Resource Directory visit

www.panhandlepartnership.com/directory/



REFERENCES

CA References

2020 Census Bureau

ACS 2017 population estimates

ACS 2020 population estimates

ChildPlus Records 2018-19 thru 2021-22

University of Nebraska Omaha Public Affairs Research

2020 Kids Count in Nebraska Report

Buffet Institute 2020

2020 ACS 5 year Estimates

DHHS Child Care Roster – 2022

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2021 Rankings

NE Ranking 2021 AHR Annual Report

Stacker.com

2019 MAP, The Meal Gap – The Food Insecurity Report

University of Nebraska Omaha research - source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/nebraska

Eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Teaching Strategies Gold

ChildPlus