

# EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (EICAP)



2022 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SURVEY DISSEMINATION & STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS WERE PERFORMED BY ON THE GROUND (OTG) IN COLLABORATION WITH EICAP.

OTG IS A STRATEGIC CONSULTING FIRM COMMITTED TO POSITIONING CLIENTS TO INCREASE AND MAXIMIZE THEIR IMPACT.

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**ON THE GROUND**  
CONNECTING PEOPLE | HONORING COMMUNITIES



# ABOUT THIS REPORT

## An Old Home...and a New One

For many residents, Southeast Idaho represents simple values, family, open spaces, and a style of government intended to maximize personal independence. For these Idahoans, the current dynamics of rapid growth, the influx of newcomers, and recent memories of governmentally driven mask mandates, awaken fears that the way of life they love is threatened.

For others, particularly younger residents and recent transplants, Southeast Idaho is a land of beauty and opportunity, a region awakening to contemporary culture while still providing the safety and affordability that allow families a high quality of life.

This community needs report explores some of these dynamics.

## A Story of Contrasts

Several contrasts define the opportunities for some Southeast Idahoans and the hardships for others.

While some counties have experienced unprecedented growth since 2019, others have felt the pain of population decline.

While some homeowners have eagerly watched the value of their property climb dramatically, other residents have been priced out becoming a homeowner.

While larger population hubs offer greater diversity and more robust cultural experiences, many residents of deeply rural communities struggle to secure the resources they need to flourish.





## Sources & Focus

This report provides a lens through which to view the needs of EICAP's target population. Community Action Partnership organizations provide services to ease pain frequently associated with poverty. CAP organizations seek to provide services that meet needs on three distinct but connected levels: the individual, the family, and the community.

As a true partnership inclusive of entities such as Head Start and the Area Agency on Aging, EICAP has a particular need to understand high priority needs of children, senior citizens, and income constrained adults and families. This report is focused accordingly.

In addition to data drawn from a range of reliable sources, insights have also been drawn from stakeholder conversations, which were held in each of the coverage counties. The Clark County conversation was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Further insights have been derived from survey results. Survey topics were provided by EICAP, and the survey was then disseminated through social media and via email.



## Selecting High Priority Needs

The report concentrates on the six critical needs highlighted above. These needs were selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- *The need aligns with EICAP's mission and purpose.*
- *The level of need in the region or in a given coverage county exceeds the statewide level.*
- *The need was emphasized in one or more stakeholder conversation.*

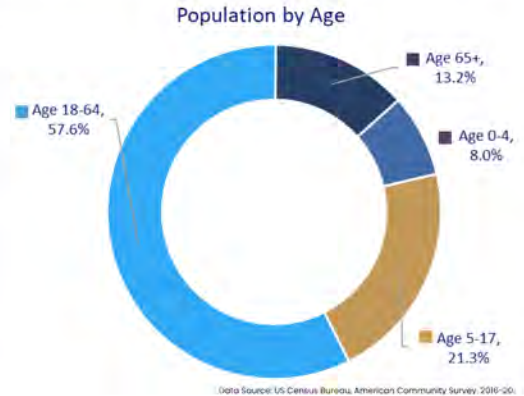
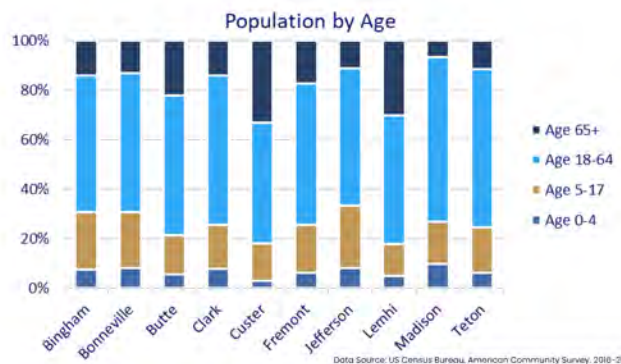




## Southeast Idahoans

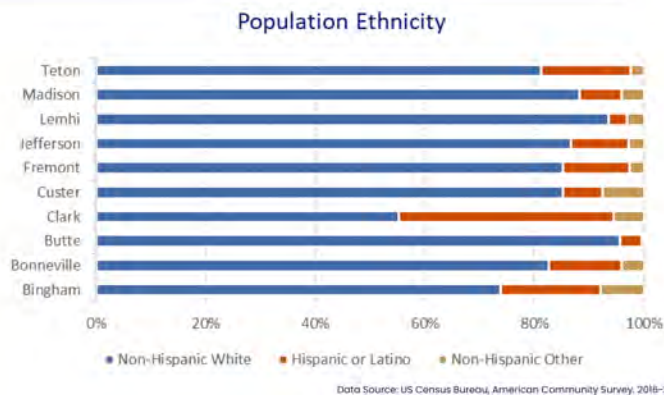
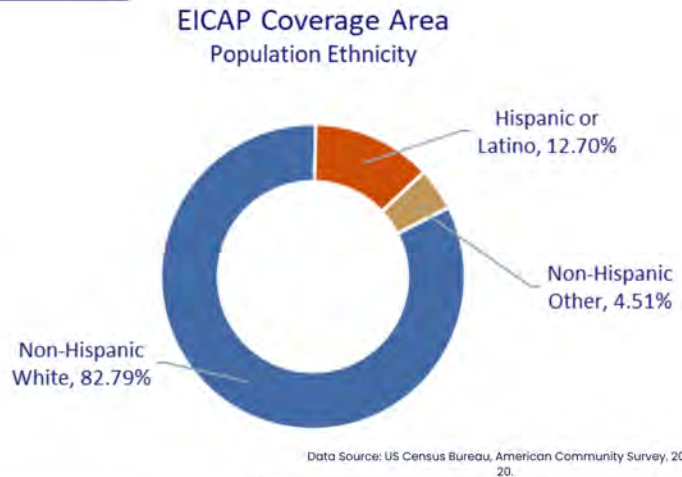
**More than 1 in 5** residents of Eastern Idaho is part of a priority population, given EICAP's inclusion of Area Agency on Aging (65+ years) and Head Start programs (0-4 years).

It is also worth noting that **Lemhi, Custer, and Butte counties**, among the least accessible, include the **greatest percentage of senior citizens**.



**EICAP'S "wrap-around" family services** provide a valuable resource for many of the **57.6% of Eastern Idahoans between the ages of 18-64**.

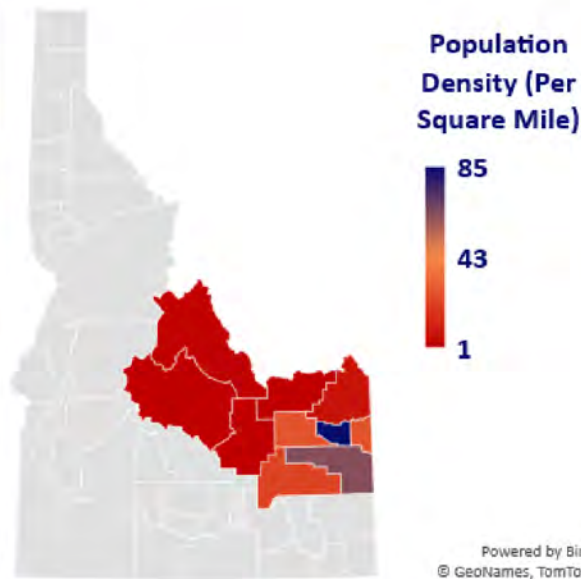
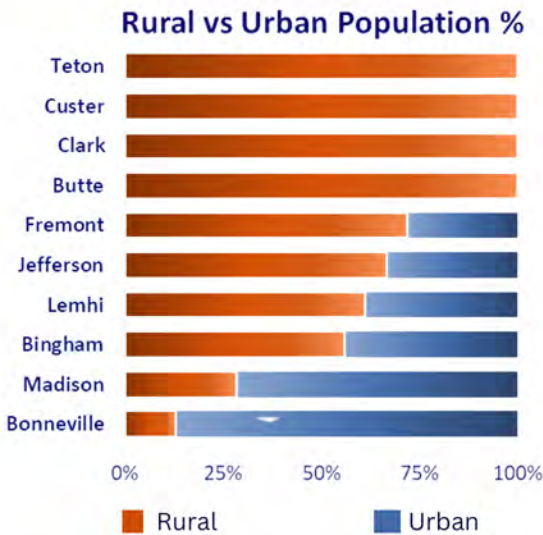
**Clark, Bingham, and Teton counties** have the highest percentage of ethnic diversity.



**More than 1 in 10 residents of Eastern Idaho is Hispanic or Latino.** Awareness of diversity and a commitment to equity are important aspects of program planning and implementation. Bridging language gaps is vital to identifying and understanding needs.



# Geography & Difficulty



## The Paradox of Open Spaces

County stakeholder conversations included stories of land, family, and

freedom, but also of change, outsiders, and isolation.



Many Eastern Idahoans love the solitude of the high country desert, the majesty of Tetons and Sawtooths, the call of the Salmon River, or the timeless landscape of Craters of the Moon.

But they also recognize the difficulty of driving 100 miles for a doctor's appointment, the challenge

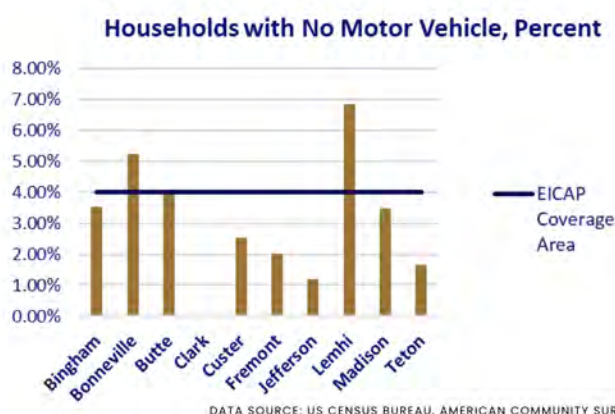
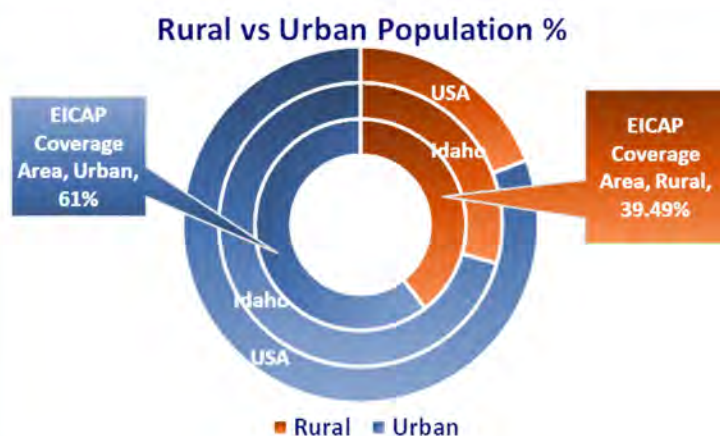
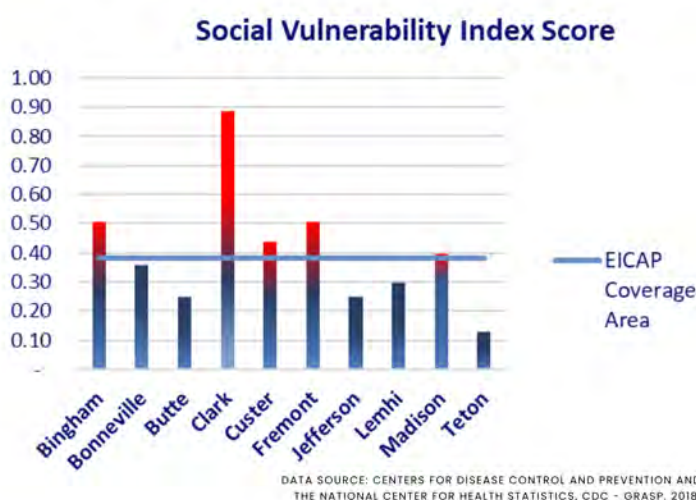
of online learning in places where Internet access is often a wish more than a reality, and mental health only beginning to gain cultural legitimacy.

In deep rural communities, being an outsider can be a tough label to shed, but people are keenly aware that looking out for each other is as much a necessity as a virtue.



# Isolation & Vulnerability

The **social vulnerability index (SVI)** is a measure of the degree of social vulnerability in the event of a natural or human-caused disaster, or disease outbreak. **A higher score indicates higher vulnerability due to social conditions like poverty, low access to transportation, or crowded households.** These factors may reduce a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster.



The CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) determines the SVI scores across the United States. The EICAP coverage area has an SVI of 0.38, which is less than both the state of Idaho (0.39) and the United States (0.40), but **5 of the 10 counties EICAP serves have a higher score, the most significant being Clark County at 0.89. Bingham County and Fremont County have a score of 0.51, and Custer and Madison Counties are at 0.44 and 0.40, respectively.**

*In deeply rural communities, access to transportation is more than a matter of convenience. It is a lifeline to support and resources. The lack of public transportation alternatives presents a legitimate threat to well-being.*



# PRIORITY NEED



# POVERTY



# A QUICK LOOK AT POVERTY

"People living in poverty are at **much greater risk to experience toxic stress**, because the causes of stress in their daily lives don't go away easily — the stress of **having a roof over your head**, the stress of **food**, the stress of **having bills to pay**, the stress of **not being able to get out of that hole**," says Jack Shonkoff, a Harvard University professor of pediatrics and director of Harvard's Center on the Developing Child.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/media-coverage/harvard-research-poverty-begins-in-the-womb-but-it-doesnt-have-to/>

## Poverty is Real in Eastern Idaho

For households, families, and children under 18 in Eastern Idaho, poverty is a reality experienced at **a level that exceeds the Idaho average**. In **Butte and Madison** counties, slightly more than **one in five** families is battling poverty.

Poverty Statistics	EICAP Coverage Area	State of Idaho
% of Population Below 185% FPL	33.08%	29.02%
% of Households in Poverty	12.87%	11.80%
% of Families in Poverty	9.90%	8.10%
Children under 18 below 200% FPL	45.74%	40.54%
Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch	30.70%	31.70%
Seniors Age 65+ in Poverty	6.80%	7.90%
Low Income and Low Food Access	29.52%	22.69%

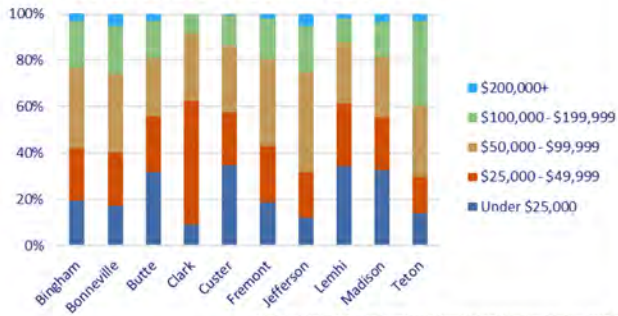
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20.



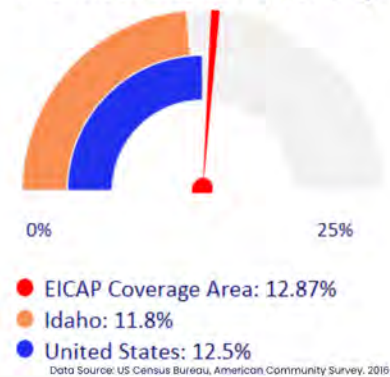


## Poverty Reaches Families, Children & Seniors

### Household Income Levels



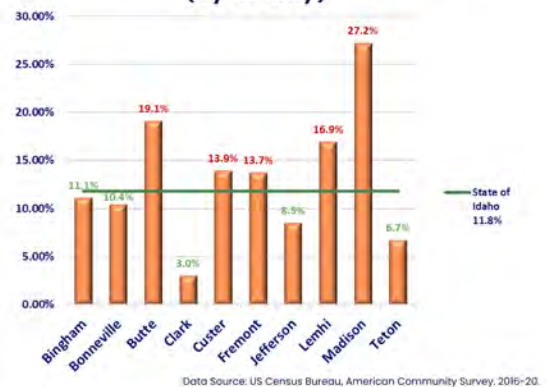
### % of Households in Poverty



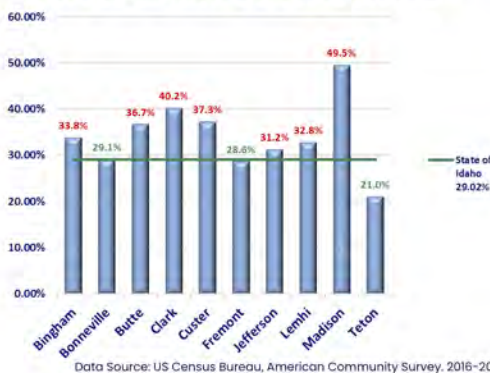
### Poverty Rate of Families of all Types



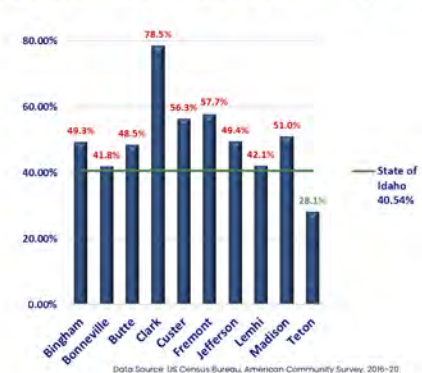
### % of Households in Poverty (by county)



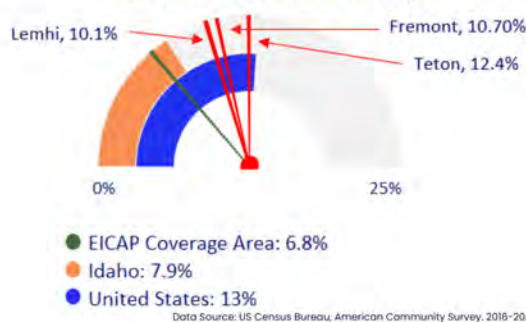
### % of Population Below 185% FPL



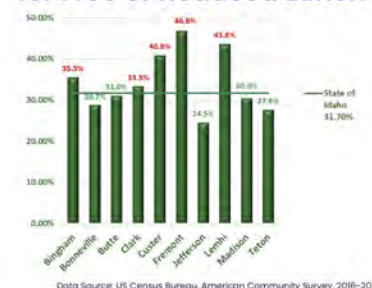
### % of Children 0-17 Below 185% FPL



### % of Seniors in Poverty



### % of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch





# PRIORITY NEED



# HUNGER



# A QUICK LOOK AT HUNGER

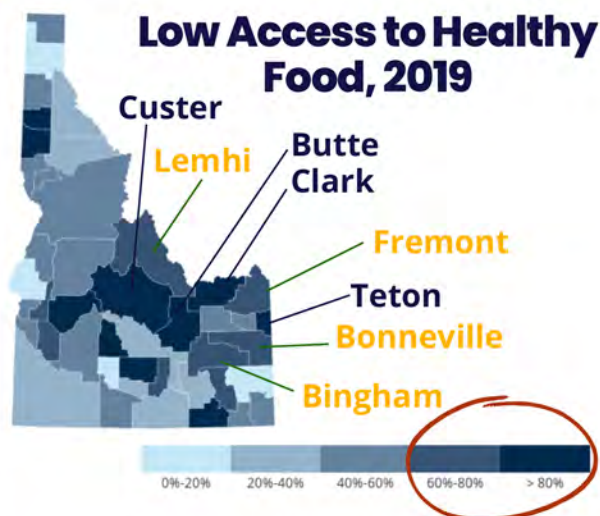
## Access to Food

Percent of Low Income Pop.  
with Low Food Access



- EICAP Coverage Area: 29.52%
- Idaho: 22.69%
- United States: 19.41%

DATA SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA - FOOD ACCESS RESEARCH ATLAS, 2019



Note: Low-access areas are Census tracts with at least 500 people, or 33 percent of the population, living more than 1 mile (urban areas) or 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket.

Source: USDA Economic Research Service, 2019.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Children facing  
hunger  
are more likely to:

Repeat a grade in  
elementary school

Experience  
developmental  
challenges in areas like  
motor skills & language

Have more social &  
behavioral problems

[HTTPS://WWW.FEEDINGAMERICA.ORG/HUNGER-IN-AMERICA/CHILD-HUNGER-FACTS](https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/child-hunger-facts)



# Food Insecurity

According to the Idaho Food Bank, in 2020 thousands of Southeast Idaho residents experienced food insecurity.

**35,500**

SE Idahoans

**9%** of

SE Idahoans

**1 in 11**

SE Idahoans

**11,680**

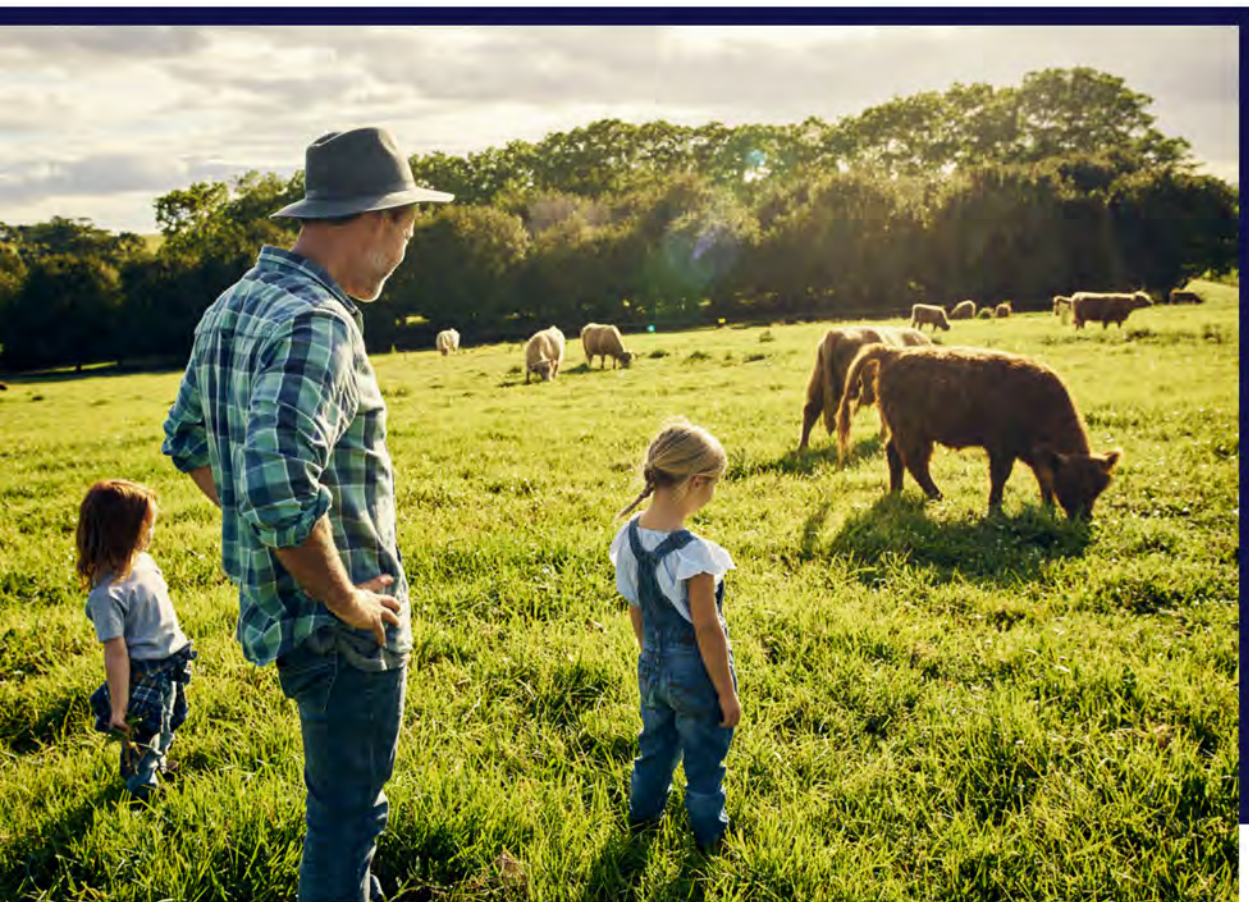
children

**11%** of

children

**1 in 10**

children



**HUNGER**

## Did you know...

"Nearly 50% of people in Idaho who are food insecure may not qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their income level," according to the Idaho Food Bank.



# PRIORITY NEED(S)



# FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS



## A QUICK LOOK AT

# FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS

## What is a *household*?

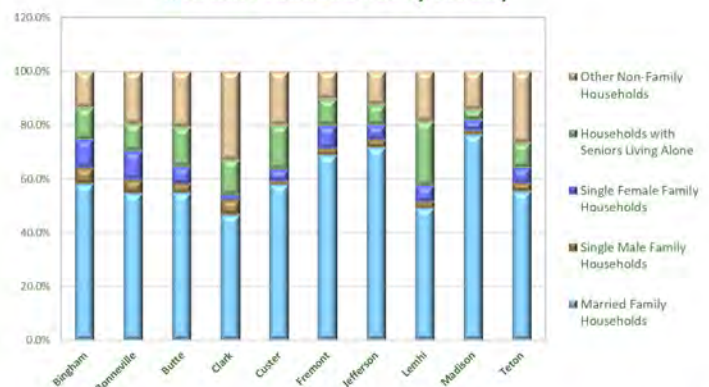
### . DESCRIPTION OF *HOUSEHOLD*

This indicator reports the total number and percentage of households by composition (married couple family, non-family, etc.). According to the American Community Survey subject definitions, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals **related to them by birth, marriage, or adoption..**

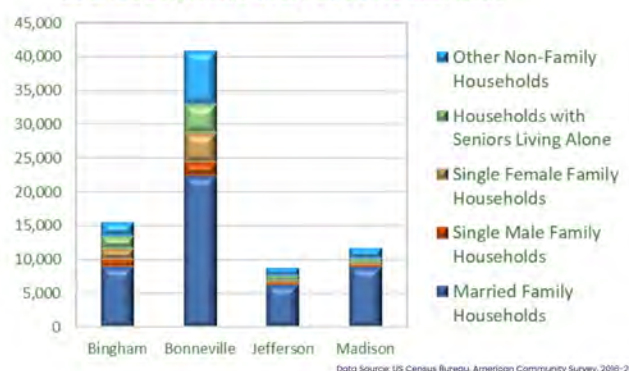
A non-family household is any household occupied by the householder alone, or by the householder and one or more unrelated individuals.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.

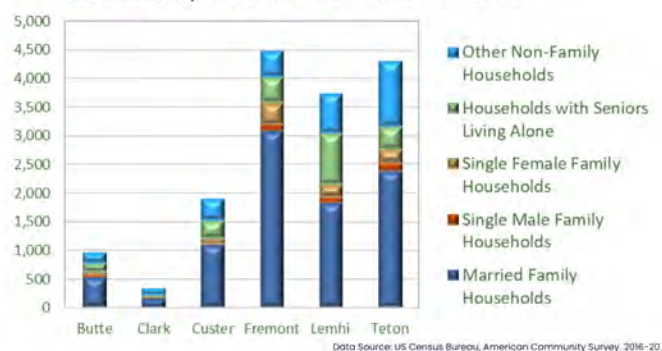
Households by Type  
% of total households by county



# of Households by Type  
counties w/more than 5000 households



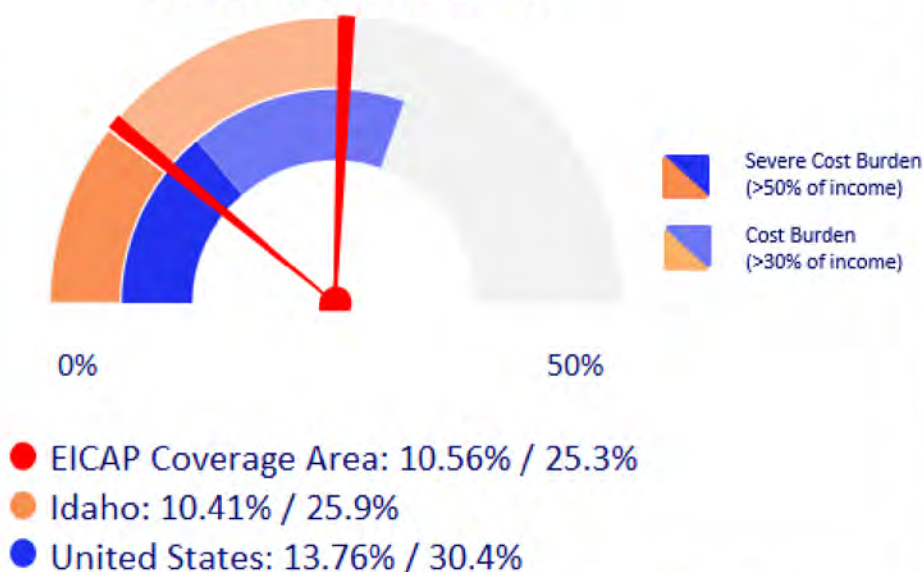
# of Households by Type  
counties w/fewer than 5000 households





## Availability & Costs

### Housing Cost Burden



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-20.

*Our housing inventory is not keeping up with demand, especially diverse housing that's affordable for young people.*

*--Idaho Falls resident.*

### Lack of Affordable Options

Stakeholder conversations in **Lemhi, Custer, Fremont, and Butte** counties all gravitated toward housing hardships.

Residents of Salmon explained that **so many people had resorted to living in RVs that RV sites were fully booked with semi-permanent inhabitants.**



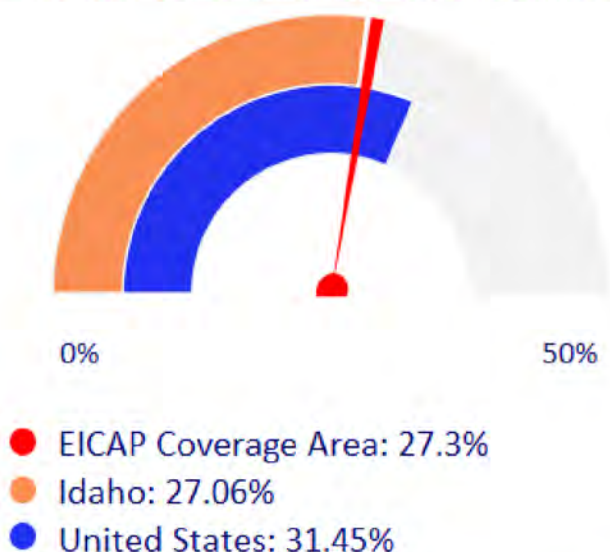
The housing challenge was echoed and re-echoed. One Fremont county conversation participant recounted instances of parents with young children living in trailers without proper heating or insulation.

The reasons for RV living were consistent from county to county: **no affordable options, and often no options at all.**



## Quality of Occupied Housing

### % of Occupied Housing Units w/One or More Substandard Conditions



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20.

According to *Law Insider*, "**Substandard housing** means any housing unit **lacking complete plumbing or sanitary facilities** for the exclusive use of the occupants; or any housing unit which has been found by an appropriate local authority to have **one or more violations of an applicable housing code** that **poses a material threat to the health or safety** of the occupant; or any housing unit that has been **declared unfit for human habitation**."

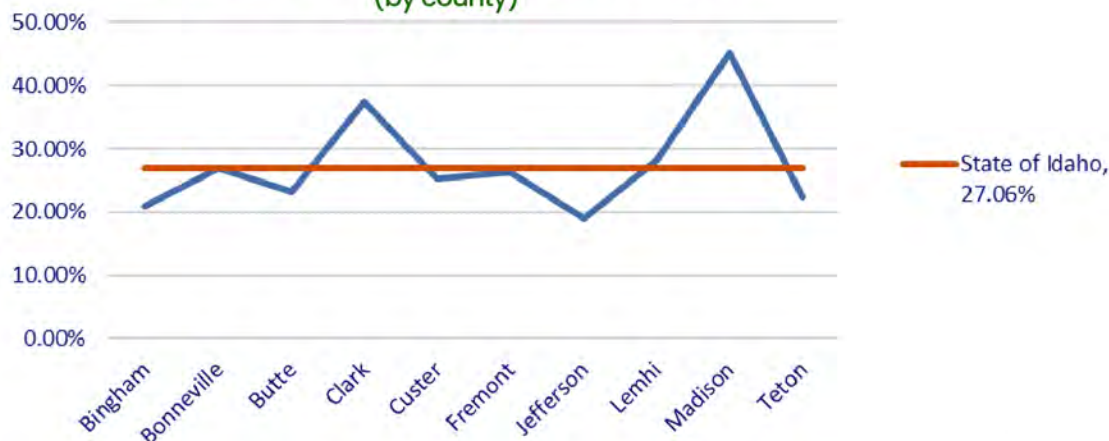
<https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/substandard-housing>

### Did you know...

According to Healthy People 2030, "The Moving to Opportunity (MTO) program provided very low-income families with rental assistance and housing counseling to **move from high-poverty to low-poverty neighborhoods**. Research on the effects of the MTO program showed that people who moved from high-poverty to low-poverty neighborhoods **before the age of 13** were **more likely to attend college, had higher incomes, were less likely to be single parents, and lived in better neighborhoods as adults.**"

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/housing-instability>

### % of Occupied Housing Units w/One or More Substandard Conditions (by county)



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20.



## Challenges faced by kids living in single-parent homes

While all families face challenges that effect the wellbeing of children, kids raised in single parent homes are likely to confront particularly daunting hardships.

In "Child Well-Being in Single-Parent Families," published in August 2022, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reminds readers that "transitioning to a single-parent household can **disrupt a child's routines, education, housing arrangement, and family income.** It can also intensify the incidence of **parental conflict** and stress. These changes can be **very difficult--and even traumatic--** for some children."

**The percentage of single-parent families in Eastern Idaho exceeds that of the state as a whole.**

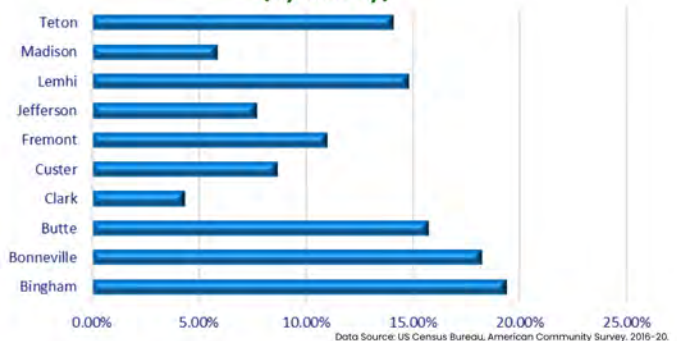
### % of Children Living in Single-Parent Households



- EICAP Coverage Area: 14.83%
- Idaho: 17.06%
- United States: 25.28%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20.

### % of Children Living in Single-Parent Households (by county)



According to the National Women's Law Center in 2020, **families headed by unwed mothers have a poverty rate of 31%.** Those headed by **single parent fathers had a poverty rate of 15%.**



# Challenges faced by kids living in single-parent homes

(continued)

## Cycles of Hardship



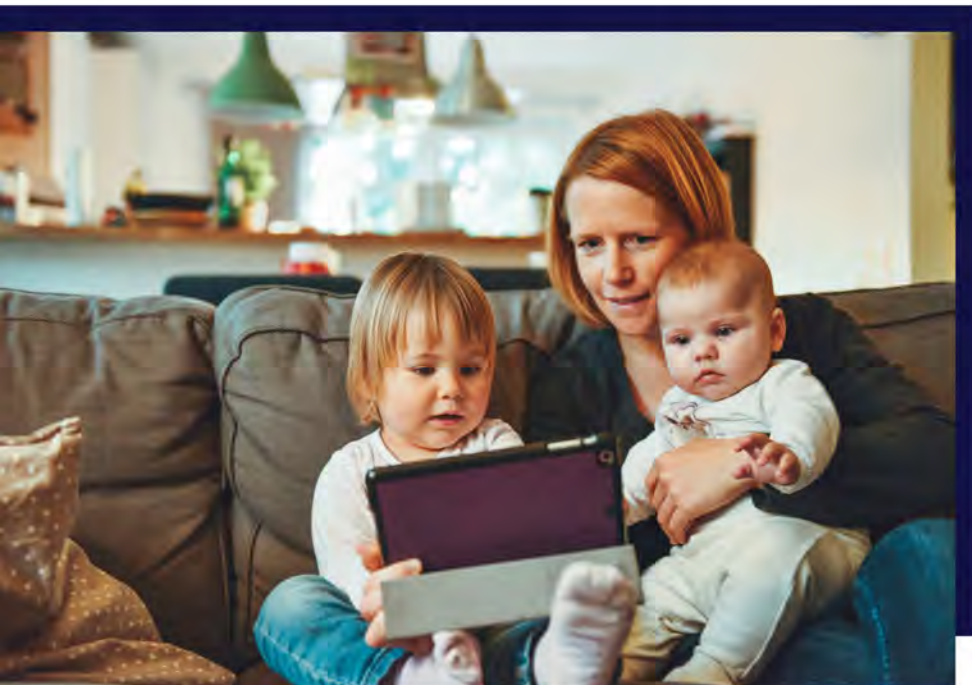
**Single parents may struggle to cover their family's basic needs, including food, utilities, housing, child care, clothing and transportation. Navigating these decisions alone — and with limited resources — can send stress levels soaring. High parental stress, in turn, can spark even more challenges and adverse outcomes among the children involved..**

---"Child Well-Being in Single-Parent Families," Annie E. Casey Foundation, August 2022

## Consider this...

% of children living in single parent households

- Bingham County: **19.37%**
- Lemhi County: **14.82%**
- Bonneville County: **18.21%**
- Teton County: **14.08%**
- Butte County: **15.74%**
- Fremont County: **11.01%**



**At least**

**1**

**out of**

**10**

**children**

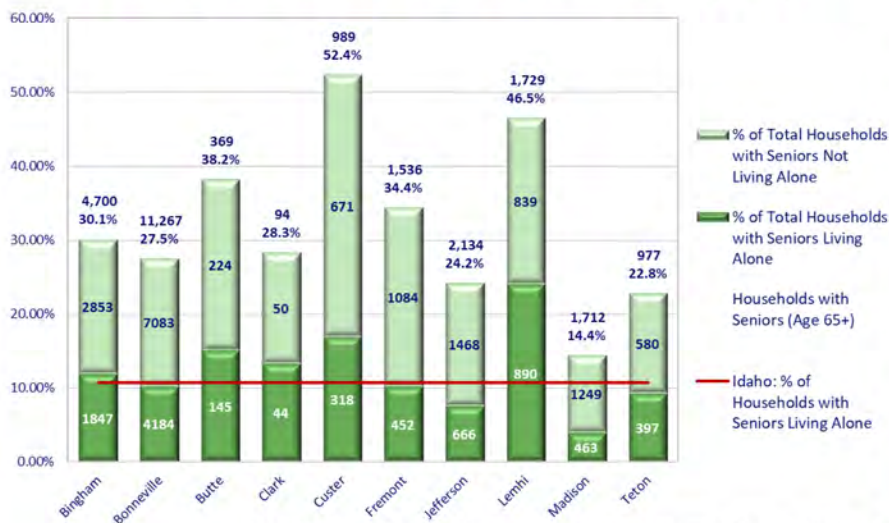
**in more than half of EICAP's coverage counties lives in a household with a single parent.**

**FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS**



## Challenges faced by senior citizens

% of Total Households w/ Seniors (65+)



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20.

*I pay rent and live alone. My son, who owns the house, lives in Oregon...[I have a limited] ability to make home repairs, maintain the yard, [and] make vehicle repairs. I would make repairs, but I can't afford it.*

--75+ year-old  
Bonneville County  
resident

In **Lemhi County**, **46.5%** of households have at least one senior residing in the household.

**23.9% of total households in the county have seniors who live alone.**

There are 1,729 households with seniors in Lemhi County, **890, more than half, of these households have seniors who live alone,**



## DID YOU KNOW...

that "research has linked social isolation and loneliness to higher risk of...high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, a weakened immune system, anxiety, depression, cognitive decline, Alzheimer's, and even death."

[HTTPS://WWW.NIA.NIH.GOV/NEWS/SOCIAL-ISOLATION-LONELINESS-OLDER-PEOPLE-POSE-HEALTH-RISKS#:~:text=YET%2C%20AS%20WE%20AGE%2C%20MANY,%2C%20DEPRESSION%2C%20AND%20HEART%20DISEASE.](https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/social-isolation-loneliness-older-people-pose-health-risks#:~:text=YET%2C%20AS%20WE%20AGE%2C%20MANY,%2C%20DEPRESSION%2C%20AND%20HEART%20DISEASE.)



# PRIORITY NEED



# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



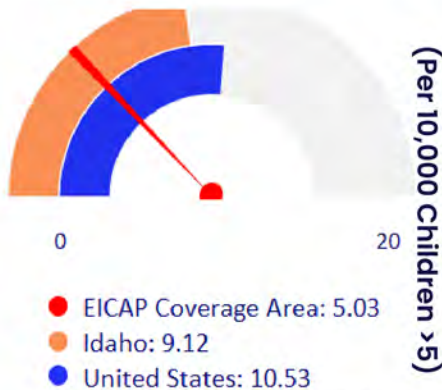
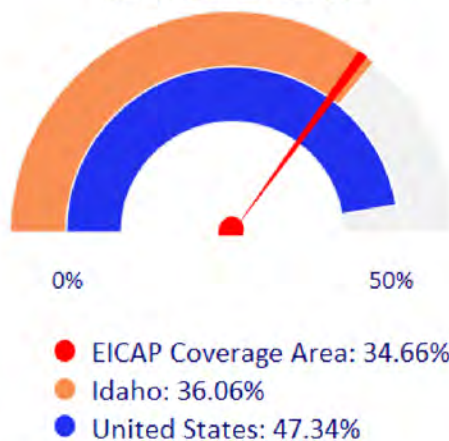
# A QUICK LOOK AT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

## Interrelated Needs

According to Healthy People 2030, "**Students from low-income families** often have **less access to resources**, and they tend to live in communities with **underperforming schools**. These factors may contribute to **lower academic achievement** and **higher dropout rates**. In 2016, the number of young people ages 16 to 24 years who **did not complete high school or were not enrolled in high school** was **3.7 times higher in low-income families compared to high-income families**."

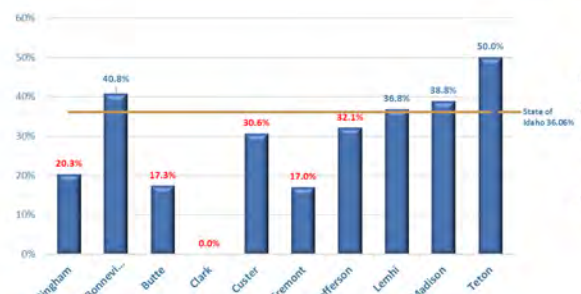
<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/high-school-graduation>

Population Age 3-4  
Enrolled in School



DATA SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, HRSA - ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, 2022

Head Start Programs, Rate  
(Per 10,000 Children >5)



DATA SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, HRSA - ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, 2022

Pre-School Enrollment  
(Age 3-4)



## Poverty, Public Schools & Performance

Low income families in Southeast Idaho rely on public schools to help their children prepare for a stable, successful, purposeful future. But schools across EICAP's coverage area vary widely in terms of meeting critical benchmarks, such as third grade reading levels (IRI), graduation rates, and graduates' readiness for college..

**PLEASE NOTE:** This data reflects 2022 findings. However, the lingering impact of COVID-19 disruptions has created data limitations.  
<https://idahoschools.org/state/ID>

*stats drawn from county seat school district(s) w/in respective counties	IRI 2022	STUDENTS FROM LOW INCOME HH	GRAD RATE	COLLEGE READINESS
BINGHAM	59.3%	51%	74.5%	41.5%
BONNEVILLE IF / BONN. DIST.	30%/30%	65.6%/71.8%	75.4%/89.6%	52.1%/54.8%
BUTTE	23%	70.8%	96.2%	60%
CLARK	71%	57.1%	100%	NOT AVAILABLE
CUSTER	41.9%	57%	65.4%	46.7%
FREMONT	38%	78.4%	90.6%	47.9%
JEFFERSON	18%	71.9%	84.5%	51.8%
LEMHI	90%	61.5%	100%	NOT AVAILABLE
MADISON	32%	77.1%	87.2%	58.7%
TETON	9%	58.8%	96.9%	54.2%
IDAHO	69.1%	30%	80.1%	53.3%



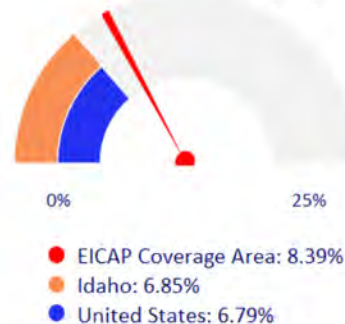
## What the Future Holds: Individual, Family, Community

### What does the research say about grade 3 reading proficiency as a predictor of future success?

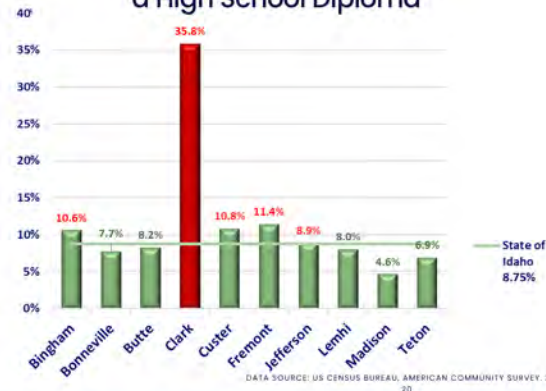
This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that children develop proficient reading skills by the end of third grade, especially those living in poverty or in impoverished communities. A follow up to 2010's Early warning: Why reading by the end of third grade matters, this report supports the **link between reading deficiencies and broader social consequences**, including...how low achievement in reading impacts an individual's future earning potential.

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/Product/Ask-A-REL/70038>

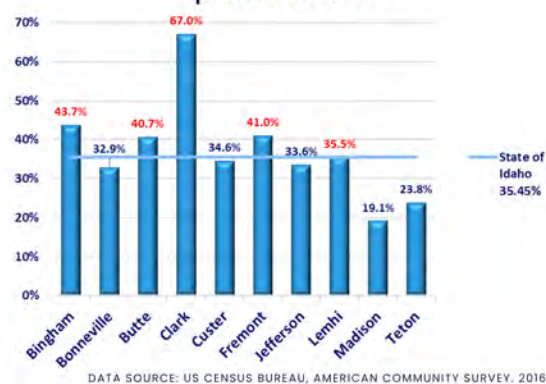
Population Age 16-19  
Not in School/Not Employed



Adults w/less than  
a High School Diploma



Adults 25+ w/High School  
Diploma or Less



### DID YOU KNOW...

*Home schooling is education directed by the parent or guardian. Since **Idaho does not regulate or monitor home school education**, it is up to the parent/guardian to select the curriculum they wish to use. There is **no registration or sign up procedure required** and the state of **Idaho does not have a set curriculum to be followed for home school education.***

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/home-school/>



# PRIORITY NEED



# HEALTH & RESOURCES



## A QUICK LOOK AT

# HEALTH & RESOURCES

## LACK OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Multiple challenges converge in rural areas to create significant barriers to health care. These barriers are evident in Southeast Idaho. Low income, limited transportation, and lack of local health care providers and entities present significant limitations for individuals and families.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS IN IDAHO

### Primary Care

98.7%

### Mental Health

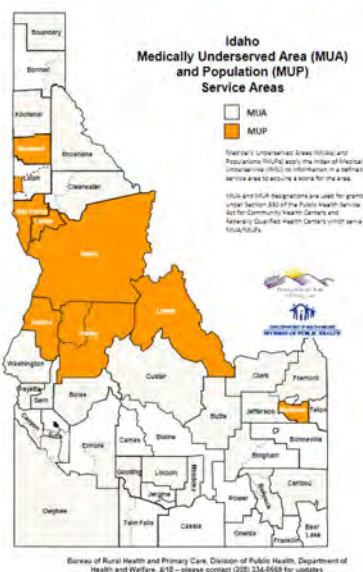
100%

### Dental Health

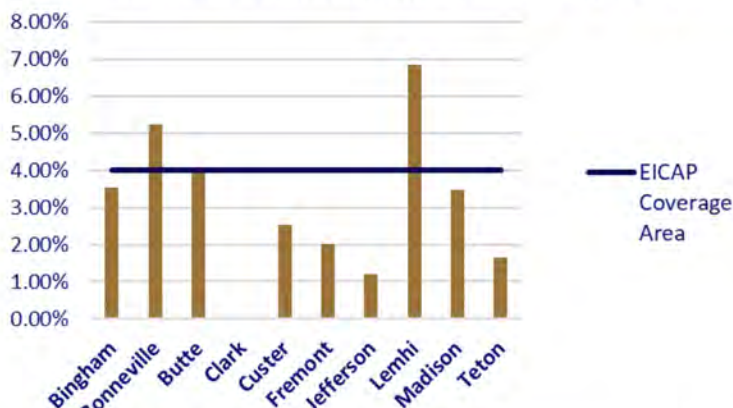
95.7%

[HTTPS://HEALTHANDWELFARE.IDAHO.GOV/PROVIDERS/RURAL-HEALTH-AND-UNDERSERVED-AREAS/RURAL-HEALTH-AND-UNDERSERVED-AREAS](https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/rural-health-and-underserved-areas/rural-health-and-underserved-areas)

## FEW LOCAL OPTIONS & NO TRANSPORTATION



### Households with No Motor Vehicle, Percent



DATA SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2016-20.



## Lack of Insurance

According to a December 2022 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, "People without insurance coverage have worse access to care than people who are insured. **One in five uninsured adults in 2021 went without needed medical care due to cost.** Studies repeatedly demonstrate that **uninsured people are less likely than those with insurance to receive preventive care and services for major health conditions and chronic diseases.**

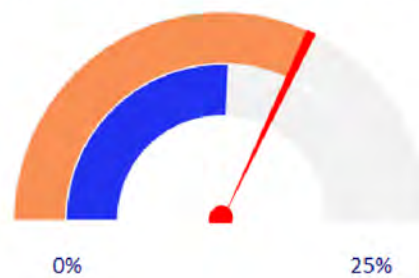
Pop. Age 10-18 w/o Insurance



- EICAP Coverage Area: 5.18%
- Idaho: 5.12%
- United States: 5.62%

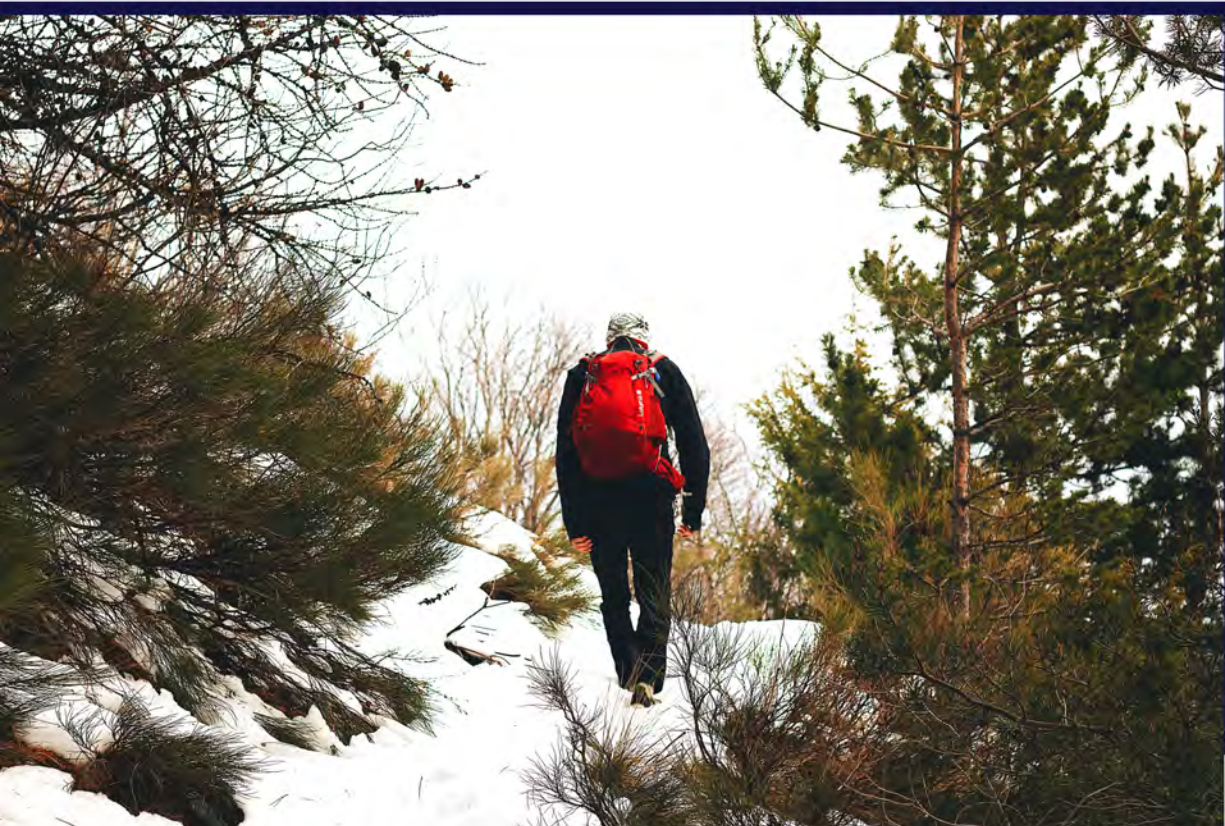
DATA SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES, 2019.

Pop. Age 18-64 w/o Insurance



- EICAP Coverage Area: 15.84%
- Idaho: 16.12%
- United States: 12.84%

DATA SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES, 2019.





# PRIORITY NEED



# HEALTH: MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES



# HEALTH: MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES

Bureau of Rural Health and Primary Care, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Welfare, 04/22/22 – please contact (208) 334-5993 for updates





## PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



of **adolescents** in the state of Idaho **felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months**, according to the *2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.



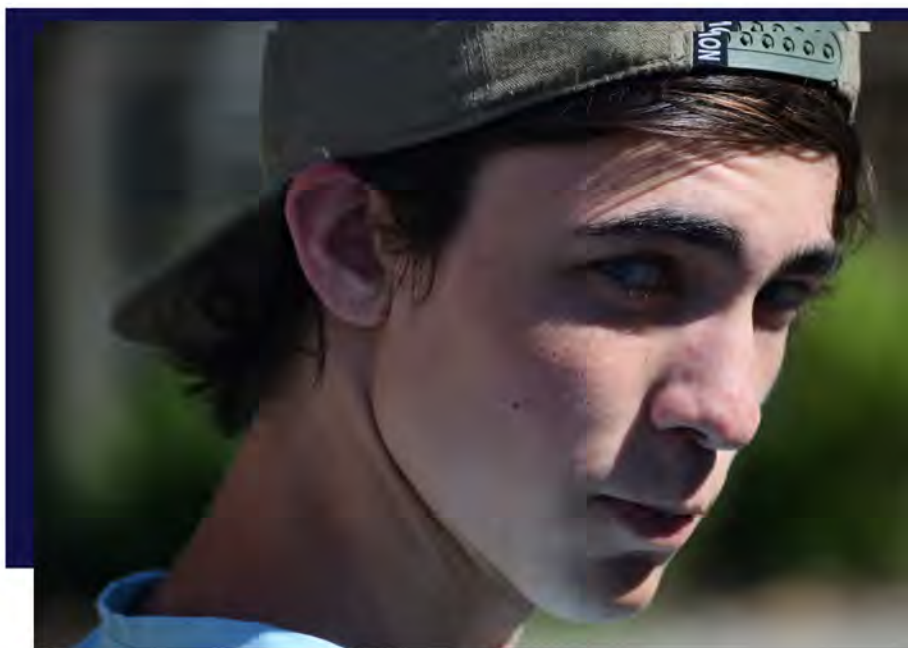
of **adolescents** were the **victim of teasing or name calling** because someone thought they were **gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months**, according to the *2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.

### DID YOU KNOW...

that **suicide**  
is the

**2<sup>ND</sup>**

leading cause of  
death for Idahoans  
**ages 10-24**  
according to  
AFSP.org 2022 statistics



individuals visited to the **Behavioral Health Crisis Center** in SFY 2021 for a **mental health crisis**, according to the *IDHW 2021-2022 Facts, Figures & Trends report*.



of the **26,000 Idahoans between ages 12-17** who struggled with **depression** in 2020 **did not receive care**, according to *NAMI.org Idaho Facts*



## SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES

3058

**visits to the Behavioral Health Crisis Center** in SFY 2021 , according to the *IDHW 2021-2022 Facts, Figures & Trends report.*

952

**unduplicated client visits to the Behavioral Health Crisis Center** in SFY 2021 , according to the *IDHW 2021-2022 Facts, Figures & Trends report.*

269

**solely substance use related visits to the Behavioral Health Crisis Center** in SFY 2021 , according to the *IDHW 2021-2022 Facts, Figures & Trends report.*

1898

**combined mental health and substance use related visits to the Behavioral Health Crisis Center** in SFY 2021, according to the *IDHW 2021-2022 Facts, Figures & Trends report.*

## DID YOU KNOW...

in 2021, **241** people in Idaho **died of opioid-related overdoses?**

in 2021, **5058 nonfatal, opioid-related visits** were made to **emergency rooms** across Idaho?



<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/behavioral-health/about-opioids#>

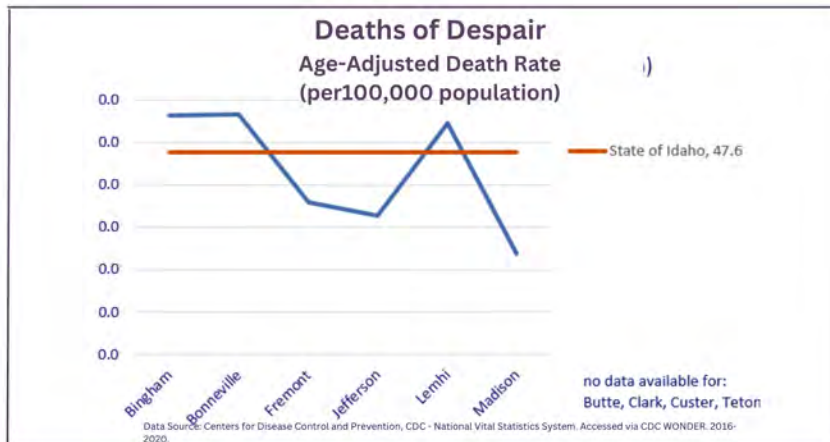
# MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



## SUICIDE RISK AND LOSS

16

teens **age 15-19** died by **suicide** in **Bonneville county** between **2018-2021**, according to the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center.



417

people in Idaho died by **suicide** in 2020, according to NAMI-Idaho.



*I had a friend complete suicide in 2018. He was an amazing, kind-hearted, brave, successful person. A week before he died, there was a big sign that I missed. I know I don't carry his decision, however, I wish I would have been more aware of his indirect signal.*

--QPR trainee from Idaho

According to the National Foundation for Suicide Prevention

### DID YOU KNOW...

- in Idaho, **suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death** for people between the **age of 10-24**?
- in Idaho **5x as many people died by suicide in 2019 as in motor vehicle accidents**?
- **86% of firearm deaths were suicides**?

21.3%

seriously considered suicide

10.9%

attempted suicide

2021 Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey



# ADDENDUM

## **SURVEY CREATION & DISSEMINATION**

**Survey creation:** Information for this community needs assessment was drawn in part from survey responses. Survey questions were developed in the following manner:

- EICAP leaders were asked to generate topics of high priority to them.
- The topics submitted were articulated as questions.
- EICAP leaders reviewed the questions and made suggestions.
- The questions were finalized and dispersed.

**Survey dissemination:** The community needs survey was disseminated in multiple ways:

- A QR code was created and shared widely via social media.
  - EICAP shared the QPR code and pushed the survey through its social media networks.
  - Eastern Idaho Public Health also pushed the survey through its broad, community outreach network.
  - VOICE Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps other local entities complete projects of value to the community, shared the survey widely through their networks. VOICE is connected to community pages specific to each coverage county, as well as other human interest pages throughout SE Idaho.
  - Center for Hope, a robust recovery center located in Bonneville County but whose coverage counties align with those of EICAP, actively pushed the survey through its Facebook page, which has a wide following within the recovery community.

## **STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS**

- An extensive outreach spreadsheet was built to ensure cross-sector awareness and participation in stakeholder conversations. Community service providers, religious leaders, educators and administrators, community leaders and elected officials, law enforcement officers, and community members were included.
- Individual targets were called and emailed. Social media was also used to target individual counties prior to each conversation.
- Despite significant outreach efforts, conversations were generally under-attended. Participants noted a more general decline in community cohesiveness and support.



## INTERVIEWS & CROSSOVER EVENTS

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**Interviews** focused on gathering insights available to individuals whose role enabled them to have a wide-ranging perspective on issues of significance. Here are five key examples:

*Monica Hampton:* The Economic Development Director of Butte County, Monica shared insights pertaining to a (relative) influx of parent struggling with substance use disorders and that child-care and resource challenge that creates in an economically limited county.

*Robin Mangan:* A nurse at Lost River Medical clinic, Robin discussed the perils of rural, small town health care during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinic's innovative approach to the lack of child care resources for employees, and the *we look out for each other because we have to* mindset that enables scattered residents of rural communities to unite in the face of daunting challenges.

*Nancy Espeseth:* The director of Center for Hope, Nancy explained the essential need members of the recovery community have for connection and support in the face of an opioid epidemic. She also emphasized the urgency of fentanyl threat, the frequency of losses to overdose and suicide, and the barriers facing children left behind. She also highlighted the vulnerability created by unaffordable housing options.

*Kate Taylor:* Chief Compliance Officer and grants manager at Challis Area Health Center, Kate discussed the dominant cultural resistance to needing help and to government funded resources. In addition to discussing the extreme need for the Challis Area Health Center, she also talked about her experience as a regular volunteer in a second grade class. She mentioned that several students have one incarcerated parent and another has lost her grandmother to suicide. Kate is very aware of the painful challenges facing kids in communities with limited opportunities and limited resources.

*Anonymous citizen:* One individual who attended the stakeholder conversation in Lemhi County stayed after for a half an hour interview. She discussed the extreme loneliness she faces as a single, aging female trying to keep her small horse ranch afloat.



## INTERVIEWS & CROSSOVER EVENTS

**Crossover events** were extremely helpful in terms of identifying community needs and contextualizing them within the framework of Southeast Idaho culture. On the Ground and VOICE Advocacy, two entities heavily involved in creating the EICAP Community Needs Assessment report, were initiated partnerships and organized multiple other relevant community events.

Here are five key examples:



*Homelessness Resource Fair & Community Conversation* (March 2022): This event brought together religious leaders, elected officials, law enforcement, government agencies, community service providers, educators, health care professionals, and individuals with lived experience to discuss causes of homelessness, needs of homeless individuals, and ramifications of homelessness both for members of the homeless population and for the communities in which they reside.



*Start Where You Are* educational discussions at Center for Hope (weekly throughout 2022): These conversations frequently address housing, under-employment, health care, and parenting challenges faced by individuals learning to manage their substance use disorder. During these conversations, participants share challenges, opportunities, pitfalls and successes. A great deal of insight about community needs and gaps can be learned by attending in *Start Where You Are* discussions.



*Bereavement Support Facilitation Training with Joanne Harpel, founder of Coping After Suicide* (October 2022): This 2-day training brought together recovery coaches, educators, counselors, public health specialists, and university students to prepare them with best practice techniques for grief support group facilitation. Six Eastern Idaho counties were represented, and many local challenges, situations, and experiences were explored. Resource-related conversations developed in it ways illustrative of gaps and needs.



## INTERVIEWS & CROSSOVER EVENTS



*Showing Up* events with Jen Marr, founder of *Inspiring Comfort* (November 2022): This included a series of separate events. A large, community gathering with a Q&A was heavily attended by incarcerated individuals, community service providers, mental health professionals, and university students. A similar event heavily attended by students occurred the following day. Additionally, a focused discussion was held with Jen Marr and BYU-Idaho's mental health working group. The discussion focused on mental health-related processes and resources on the BYU-Idaho campus.



*Child & Adolescent Well-Being Panel Q&A* (March 2023): This event was a direct follow-up to insights shared in county stakeholder conversations. A repeated theme in the county conversations was the lack of resources for kids struggling with mental and behavioral health challenges. This panel event brought together leading local experts to address questions generated largely by residents of rural counties.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Center for Hope & Behavioral Health Crisis Center 2020–2022 Reports
- IDHW 2020 & 2021 Annual Reports
- School District Reports & Strategic Goals; School Board Meeting Minutes
- Community Facebook & Other Social Media Sites (often multiple sites per county)



**THANK YOU TO RESIDENTS WHO SHARED  
INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES!**





# EICAP HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START 2023 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

## POPULATION DATA

The following data was obtained from the US Census Bureau, the American Community Survey, years 2017-2021. The Census Bureau doesn't divide data by individual ages, so we are unable to ascertain the exact number of children ages 0-3 and 3-5 within our service areas. Data from age 0-4 is provided, which is most of the target service population for Head Start and Early Head Start.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfares (DHW) most recent annual report of live births is included to enhance population data. DHW also provides us with data of children who are eligible for their services, which in most cases overlaps with Head Start/Early Head Start program eligibility. The number of HS/EHS slots available in each county corresponds to the population of each county.

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Population 0-4</b>	<b>Population % 0-4</b>	<b>DHW Natality Annual Report 2018</b>	<b>DHW Eligible children as of February 2023</b>	<b>HS/ EHS Slots</b>
<b>Bingham</b>	47,540	3,496	7.35%	587	0-2: 813 3-5: 888	18 HS/ 16 EHS
<b>Bonneville</b>	121,771	9,869	8.10%	1,815	0-2: 2,146 3-5: 2,382	124 HS/ 49 EHS
<b>Butte</b>	2,573	128	4.97%	25	*NA	0
<b>Clark</b>	839	62	7.39%	11	*NA	0
<b>Custer</b>	4,273	152	3.56%	31	*NA	0
<b>Fremont</b>	13,370	817	6.11%	189	*NA	0
<b>Jefferson</b>	30,427	2,463	8.09%	444	*NA	0
<b>Lemhi</b>	7,948	354	4.45%	68	0-2: 78 3-5: 118	18 HS
<b>Madison</b>	50,979	4,624	9.07%	1,097	0-2: 1,447 3-5: 932	36 HS
<b>Teton</b>	11,490	712	6.2%	125	0-2: 97 3-5: 102	18 HS

\* Data Not Available

	<b>White</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Native American or Alaskan Native</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Multiple Races</b>
<b>Bingham</b>	73.33%	18.35%	.13%	.46%	4.96%	.05%	.10%	2.62%
<b>Bonneville</b>	81.82%	13.63%	.33%	.84%	.42%	.13%	.29%	2.54%
<b>Butte</b>	90.67%	6.49%	.00%	.00%	.00%	.00%	.00%	2.84%
<b>Clark</b>	48.87%	39.21%	.72%	.00%	4.77%	.00%	6.32%	.12%
<b>Custer</b>	88.11%	4.61%	.09%	.02%	.56%	.00%	.63%	5.97%
<b>Fremont</b>	84.97%	12.33%	.34%	.17%	.06%	.00%	.00%	2.12%
<b>Jefferson</b>	86.06%	10.63%	.02%	.29%	.75%	.00%	.41%	1.84%
<b>Lemhi</b>	93.19%	3.50%	.03%	.06%	.63%	.11%	.31%	2.16%
<b>Madison</b>	87.71%	7.98%	.49%	1.53%	.22%	.13%	.20%	1.74%
<b>Teton</b>	80.68%	16.46%	.00%	.00%	1.03%	.00%	.00%	1.84%

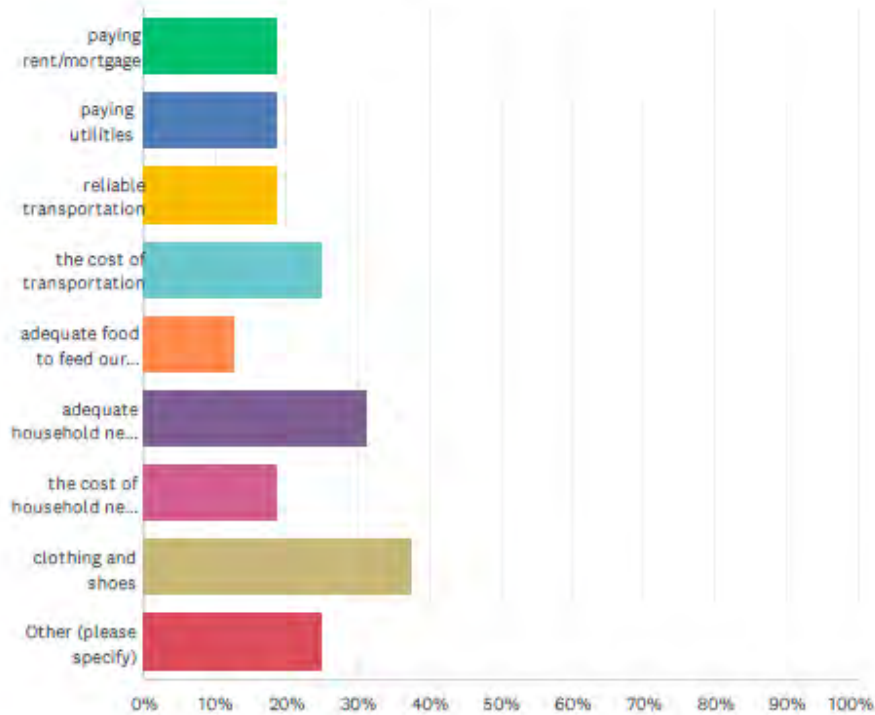


## PARTICIPANT NEEDS

A survey was provided to current Head Start/ Early Head Start program participants to assess for the needs of children and their families. The following excerpts from the survey highlights the greatest needs of program participants over the past year.

### Q18 In the past 12 months, we have struggled with the following:

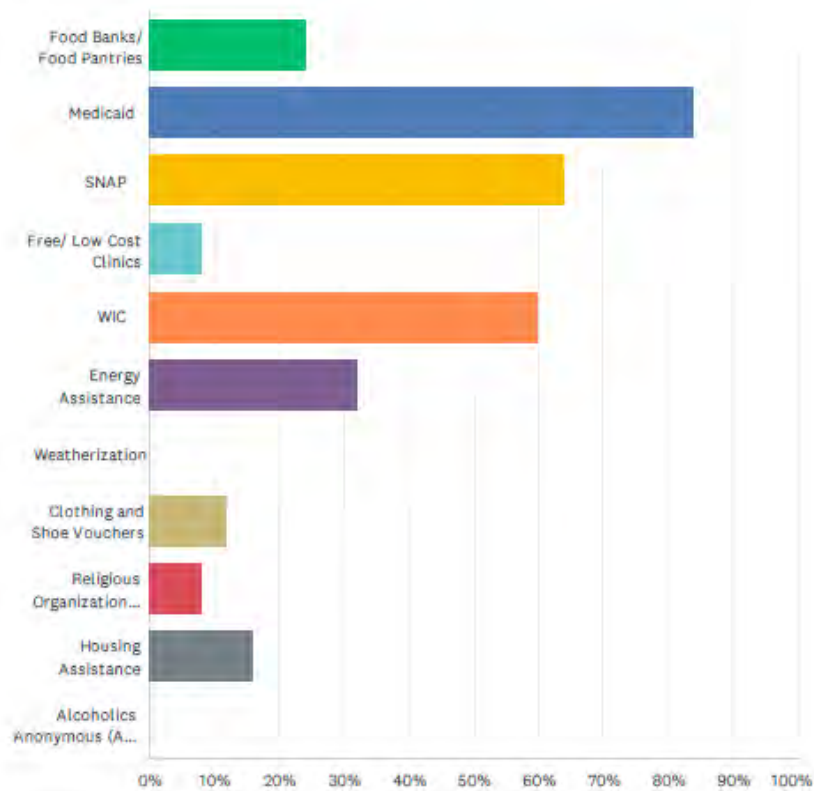
Answered: 16 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
paying rent/mortgage	18.75%	3
paying utilities	18.75%	3
reliable transportation	18.75%	3
the cost of transportation	25.00%	4
adequate food to feed our family	12.50%	2
adequate household needs and supplies	31.25%	5
the cost of household needs like food and supplies	18.75%	3
clothing and shoes	37.50%	6
Other (please specify)	25.00%	4

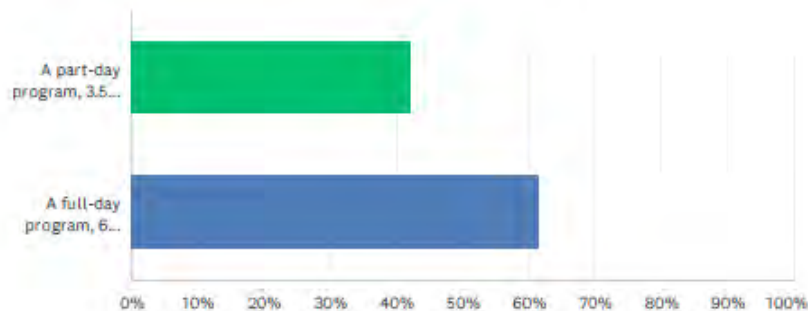
Q20 What community resources have you used in the past 12 months?  
(select all that apply)

Answered: 25 Skipped: 1



Q21 Due to work/school schedules, which would best serve your families needs?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A part-day program, 3.5 hours a day, except for summer	42.31%	11
A full-day program, 6 hours a day, year-round with a 4-week break late summer	61.54%	16



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare publishes annual "Facts, Figures, and Trends." The following data has been obtained from the 2022-2023 report, and includes the children served through the Infant Toddler and Foster Care Programs.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

The Developmental Disabilities Services programs manage and deliver services for people of all ages who have developmental disabilities. Through community partnerships, the program has service choices available for individuals and their families, allowing them to strive for self-direction and full participation in their communities.

#### Infant Toddler Program

Idaho's Infant Toddler Program (ITP) coordinates a system of early intervention services to assist families and children from birth to 3 years of age who have a developmental delay, disability, or an established medical condition. The program promotes parent coaching to build capacity and provide services and supports to enhance global development of young children's language, physical, cognitive, adaptive, and social-emotional development needs. Services are provided through private insurance, Medicaid, and federal and state funds at no direct cost to families.

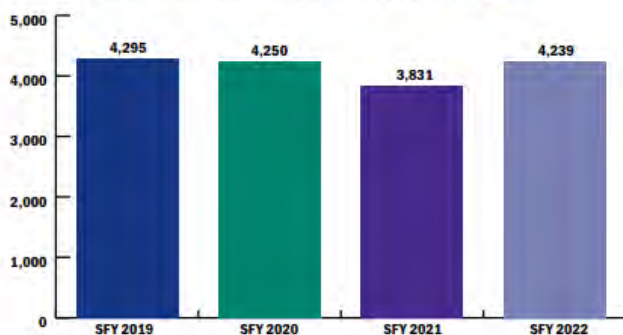
Services occur in the child's natural environment and can include service coordination, developmental therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and family education.

Children are served for a variety of reasons, including diagnosable conditions that result in delays or disabilities. Thirteen percent of children referred for evaluation have been involved in substantiated cases of neglect or abuse. Twenty-nine percent of children receiving early intervention services were born prematurely.

In SFY 2022, the program received 4,582 referrals for services and 4,239 children and their families received services.

In SFY 2022 The Infant Toddler Program received a state determination level of "Meets Requirements" from the Office of Special Education for FFY 2020. This is the highest determination level a state can receive.

**Children served in the Infant Toddler Program**



#### Crisis Prevention and Court Services Team

The Crisis Prevention and Court Services Team (CPCS) provides training and clinical consultation to families and agencies that support individuals with disabilities who are at risk of losing their community placement due to a behavioral, mental health, or medical crisis. The team's goal is to help the person remain in their current community placement. When that isn't possible, the team helps to locate another community placement option that can meet the person's needs. As a last resort, a referral may be made to Southwest Idaho Treatment Center.

CPCS also provides court-ordered services to address criminal competency, civil commitment, and guardian/conservatorship evaluations.

### Foster Care

Foster care is a critical component of the program's services. Resource families provide care for children who have experienced maltreatment and who cannot be maintained safely in their own homes.

During SFY 2022, a total of 2,756 children were served through the foster care program. In the same year, 1,293 children left foster care. Of these children, 62 percent were reunified with their parents/caregivers.

Whenever possible, relatives of foster children are considered as a placement resource and may be licensed as resource parents. Relatives can be important supports to the child, the child's parents, and the resource family.

Child and Family Services manages out-of-home placements to:

- Assure the child will be safe
- Provide services to the family and the child to promote reunion with biological parents if possible and reduce long-term negative effects of the separation
- Allow for continued connection between the child, their family, and the community

Knowledgeable and skilled resource families and other care providers are critical to providing quality services to children placed outside their family homes. Licensing processes and requirements are designed to assess the suitability of families to safely care for children. When a child's family is unable to make changes that assure a child's safety, the resource family may become a permanent placement for a child. On June 30, 2022, there were a total of 1,209 licensed resource families in Idaho and out-of-state, where children were placed through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

**Children placed in foster care**

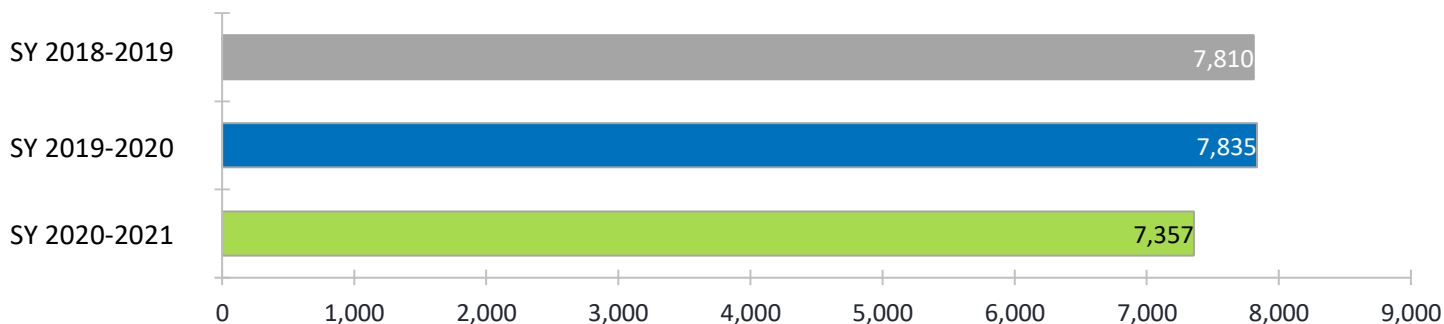


The Idaho Department of Health of Welfare were able to refine the number of children ages 0-5 in our service area who are in foster care.

County	# Placements
Bingham	2
Bonneville	125
Butte	4
Custer	2
Fremont	19
Jefferson	3
Lemhi	2
Madison	17
Teton	7
<b>Region 7 Total</b>	<b>181</b>

All data presented here are drawn from the most recently available years of the U.S. Department of Education's EDFacts Initiative unless otherwise noted. To learn more about the EDFacts Initiative, visit: [www.ED.gov/EDFacts](http://www.ED.gov/EDFacts)

Number of Homeless Children/Youth Enrolled in Public School by Year



Note: Includes all enrolled homeless children and youth in grades PK through 12. COVID-19 operations impacted the identification of eligible students. Please use the data with caution.

## Subgroups of Homeless Children/Youth

Number of homeless children/youth enrolled in public schools who are:

	SY 2018-2019	SY 2019-2020	SY 2020-2021
Migratory children/youth	296	340	393
Unaccompanied homeless youth	1,056	1,011	891
Children with disabilities (IDEA)	1,607	1,719	1,702
Limited English Proficient (LEP) students	758	754	767

Note: These subgroups are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for homeless students to be counted in more than one subgroup.

## Percentage of homeless children/youth enrolled in public schools by type of primary nighttime residence

Percent of homeless children/youth enrolled in public schools who are:

	SY 2018-2019	SY 2019-2020	SY 2020-2021
Doubled-up (e.g., living with another family)	80.19%	82.74%	79.10%
Hotels/Motels	7.39%	6.22%	8.98%
Shelters, transitional housing	6.84%	4.98%	4.95%
Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building)	5.58%	6.06%	6.97%





## State Contact

**Emily Sommer**

Coordinator, Title IX-A: Education of Homeless Children and

Idaho Department of Education

P.O. Box 83720

650 W. State Street

Boise, ID 83720-0027

Phone: (208) 332-6904

Fax: (208) 334-2228

Email: [speck@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:speck@sde.idaho.gov)

## Fast Facts

Total number of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in this state:	178
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Number of LEAs receiving McKinney-Vento subgrants:	29
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Total students enrolled in LEAs:	307,581
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Percentage of enrolled students who are homeless:	2.4%
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Percentage of all people in the state who are below the poverty level*:	9.2%
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Percentage of people under 18 years old in the state who are below the poverty level*:	10.9%
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\*Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

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### **Additional State Data Notes:**



Additional assistance available through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare:

TAFI: Temporary Assistance for Families- temporary cash benefits for eligible families to help pay for food, clothing, shelter, etc.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps)

WIC: Pregnant women, Infants, and Children nutrition program

CHIP: Children Health Insurance Plan

	Bingham	Bonneville	Butte	Clark	Custer	Fremont	Jefferson	Lemhi	Madison	Teton
Info & Referral	211	211  Bonneville County Community Resources	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211
Early Childhood Programs	16 childcare programs 5 are ICCP certified 1 is pending certification	38 childcare programs 29 are ICCP certified 5 are pending  2 Seasonal/ Migrant HS locations	1 childcare program	None found	1 childcare program	2 childcare programs 1 is ICCP certified 1 is pending certification	6 childcare programs 4 are ICCP certified	2 childcare programs 1 is pending ICCP certification	8 childcare programs 5 are ICCP certified	4 childcare programs 1 is ICCP certified  1 district preschool for children with disabilities
Food Assistance	Blackfoot Community Center  Community Council of Idaho  Community Dinner Table  Heart 2 Hand Bingham Food Pantry	Cornerstone Pentecostal Church  Bonneville County Mobile Pantry  Community Council of Idaho  St. Vincent de Paul  Community Food Basket  The Salvation Army	Butte County Mobile Pantry  Epiphany Episcopal Church The Giving Cupboard	Clark County Mobile Pantry	Custer County Mobile Pantry  EICAP Food Pantry-Challis	North Fremont Food Pantry  Upper Valley Bible Church  Fremont County Mobile Pantry	Jefferson County Mobile Pantry, Roberts  The Giving Cupboard, Menan  The Giving Cupboard, Rigby	Lemhi County Mobile Pantry  Calvary Chapel of Salmon Salmon Assembly of God  EICAP Food Pantry Salmon  Lemhi County Mobile Pantry-North Fork & Leadore	Madison County Mobile Pantry  Family Crisis Center  ECAP Food Pantry	Teton Valley Food Pantry  Teton Valley Mobile Pantry, Driggs & Victor



Public Transit		Greater Idaho Falls Transit (IF only)							Lemhi Ride	Southern Teton Area Rapid Transit
Gas Voucher	SEICCA	F.I.S.H						None found	None found	
Utility Assistance	SEICAA- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP Salvation Army	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP , WAP, LIHWA P  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP	EICAP- LIHEAP, WAP, LIHWAP  ITSAP
Emergency Housing/ Shelter	Bingham Crisis Center  Road to Recovery  Community Council of Idaho	IF Rescue Mission  The Haven  Ruth House  Club, Inc								
Rent Assistance	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing  Club, Inc  Salvation Army	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing  Jefferson County Non-Medical Assistance	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing	Idaho Housing  Community Resource Center of Teton Valley
Clothing & Shoes	SEICCA	St. Vincent de Paul								

211- Idaho Care Line, free referral to private, public, and non-profit services

EICAP- Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership

SEICAA- Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency

LIHEAP- Low Income Energy Assistance Program

WAP- Weatherization Assistance Program

LIHWAP- Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

ITSAP- Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program (through telephone providers)