



How Are Vermont's Young Children & Families? 2016 Report Presentation

House & Human Services Committee

February 21, 2017

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Who We Are

- Vermont's early childhood statewide public-private partnership
- Designated Early Childhood Advisory Council to the governor and legislature
- Backbone organization to the early childhood system, vehicle for collective impact
 - State Advisory Council
 - 12 Regional Councils
 - Early Childhood Action Plan
 - Vermont Insights



Our Charge

Vermont's early childhood statewide public-private partnership established through Act 104

Duties include:

- Monitoring the well-being of young children and their families
- Advising the Governor and Legislature on issues related to Vermont's young children, their families, and their communities
- Convene the early childhood stakeholders



Why It Matters

- **The early care, health & education of our children is critical**
- **Vermont's early childhood system is complex**
- **Build and align common vision and priorities**
- **Social and economic issue**



REPORT OVERVIEW



2016 Report Sections

Family & Social Relationships

Health & Development

Safety

Early Care & Education

Family Economic Well-Being

BBF Regional Profiles

Recommendations





KEY FINDINGS



Family & Social Relationships

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- A greater percent of young children in Vermont have experienced two or more ACEs than the national average.

Age group	Vermont	US
Birth – 5 years old	13.8%	12.5%
6 to 11 years old	26.3%	24.4%

Two-Generation Approaches

- Vermont’s range of whole-family support programs, including Head Start and Early Head Start, Children’s Integrated Services, and Strengthening Families™ are working to support parents and children and helping young children thrive.



Health & Development

Substance Use Disorders:

- Vermont children and families continue to be impacted by substance use disorders, particularly opioids.
 - In 2014, 33.1 infants per 1,000 born to VT residents at VT hospitals received a diagnosis code of neonatal abstinence syndrome.*

Children With Health Insurance

- Vermont tied Massachusetts in having the lowest percent of uninsured children in the country.
 - In Vermont, 97.8% of children under the age of 18 were covered by some form of health insurance in 2014.



Safety

Increased Rate of Young Children in DCF Custody:

- There has been a significant increase in the rate of young children, particularly those under 3, in DCF custody.

Age group	FFY 2012	FFY 2014
Under 3 years old	8.05 per 1,000	13.04 per 1,000
Under 9 years old	6.37 per 1,000	9.01 per 1,000

Evidenced-Based Home Visiting:

- A wide range of programs helped to provide support to hundreds of pregnant women, families, and young children in Vermont.



Early Care & Learning

Child Care Challenges

- Only 47% of infants and toddlers likely to need child care have access to regulated early care and learning programs.

Universal Pre-K

- About 7,300 age-eligible children were enrolled in publicly-funded pre-K programs during the 2015-2016 school year



Key Findings Continued

Family Economic Well-Being

- **Housing is a challenge:** In Vermont, 50.5% of families who rent spend more than 30% of their household income on housing.
- **Families living in poverty:** The percent of families living in poverty in the US and Vermont has decreased since 2013.



Regional Council Profiles

Five data indicators

- Child population
- Participation of regulated child care and early learning programs in STARS
- Immunization rates for children 19 – 35 months old
- Children in DCF custody
- Ready for Kindergarten! Survey findings

Narrative description

- Highlights the geographic boundaries, major industries or employers, and 2016-2017 priorities for each regional council.



Recommendations

- Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care
 - Short term and long term recommendations
 - BBF is poised to do this work, as the early childhood advisor to the Governor, Administration, and Legislature
 - Systems visioning to identify the opportunities and efficiencies
 - Joint birth to five systems strategy that creates a continuum of care, and a comprehensive, inclusive and high quality early childhood system for all.





Report Availability

Online: buildingbrightfutures.org/initiatives/how-are-vermonts-young-children/

Printed copies: Available at our Williston office and from BBF Regional Coordinators.



More information on the data behind the report:

Many of the data sets used to develop the 2016 report are available from Vermont Insights.

www.vermontinsights.org



Q&A

