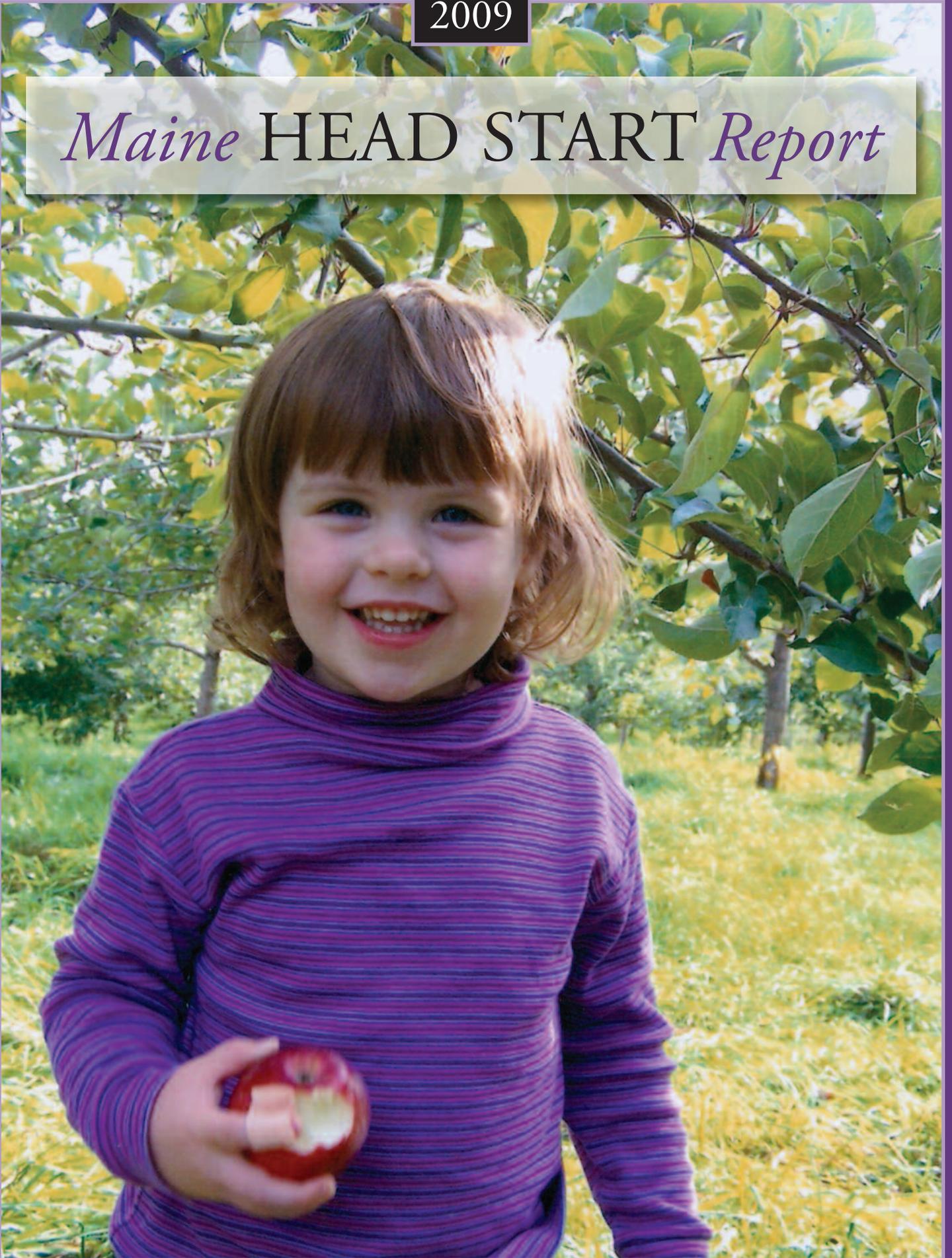


2009

*Maine* HEAD START *Report*



## FEDERAL HEAD STARTS

### ANDROSCOGGIN HEAD START & CHILD CARE

County Served: Androscoggin  
Coburn School  
269 Bates St.  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
(207) 795-4040  
Estelle Rubinstein, Director  
erubinstein@androkids.com

### AROOSTOOK COUNTY C. A. P.

County Served: Aroostook  
P.O.Box 1116  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 768-8345  
Sue Powers, Director  
spowers@acap-me.org

### CED, INC

Counties Served: Sagadahoc & Lincoln  
34 Wing Farm Pkwy.  
Bath, ME 04530  
(207) 442-7963 ext 214 or 1-800-221-2221  
Chris Rallis, Director  
Chris.m.rallis@maine.gov

### CHILD & FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES (CFO)

Counties Served: Hancock & Washington  
P.O.Box 648  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
(207) 667-2995 &  
1-800-834-4378  
Jeanie Mills, Director  
Jeaniem@childandfamilyopp.com

### COMMUNITY CONCEPTS

Counties Served: Oxford & Franklin  
P.O. Box 278  
S. Paris, ME 04281 or  
284 Main St., Suite 3  
Wilton, ME 04294  
(207) 743-7716 (S.Paris)  
(207) 645-9512 (Wilton)  
Deb Florenz, Director  
Dflorenz@community-concepts.org

### KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (KVCAP)

Counties Served: No. Kennebec & Somerset  
97 Water St.  
Waterville, ME 04901  
(207) 859-1613  
Kathy Colfer, Child & Family Services Director  
kathyc@kvcap.org

### PENQUIS CAP

Counties Served: Penobscot & Piscataquis  
P.O.Box 1162  
Bangor, ME 04402-1162  
(207) 973-3500  
Jean Bridges, Director  
jbridges@penquiscap.org

### PEOPLE'S REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

County Served: Cumberland  
510 Cumberland Ave.  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 874-1140 ext 359 & 1-800-698-4959  
Louise Marsden, Director  
lmarsden@propeople.org

### SOUTHERN KENNEBEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

County Served: So. Kennebec  
99 Western Ave., Suite 6  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 626-3410  
Michele Pino, Director  
michelep@skcdc.org

### WALDO COUNTY HEAD START

County Served: Waldo  
P.O.Box 130  
Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-3827  
Jane Adams, Director  
Jadams@waldocap.org

### YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

County Served: York  
P.O.Box 72  
Sanford, ME 04073  
(207) 324-5762 ext 2964  
Mabel Desmarais, Director  
mabeld@yccac.org

## TRIBAL HEAD STARTS

### LITTLE FEATHERS HEAD START

Aroostook Band of Micmacs  
County Served: Aroostook  
13 Northern Rd.  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 768-3217  
Rick Getchell, Director  
rgetchell@micmac-nsn.gov

### MALISEET HEAD START

1 Maliseet Dr.  
Houlton, Maine 04730  
(207) 521-2410  
Cindy Fitzpatrick, Director  
cindyfitz@maliseets.com

### PASSAMOQUODDY HEAD START

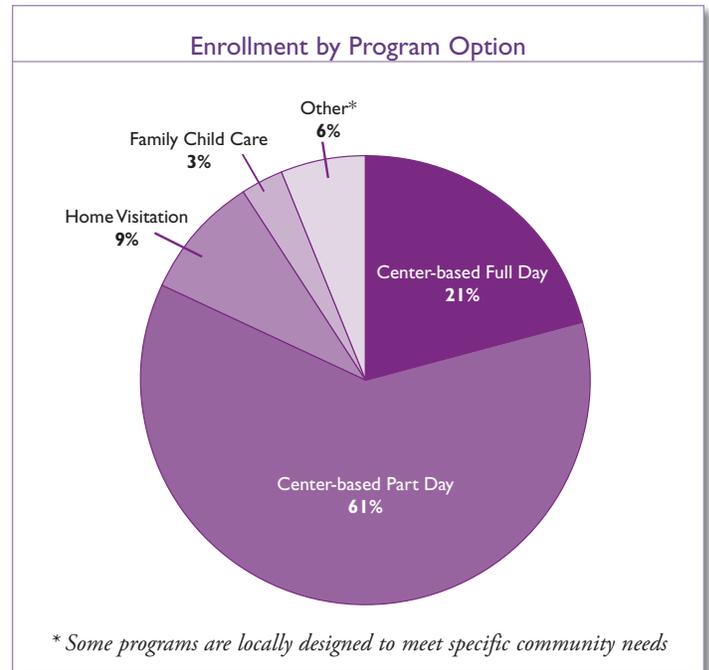
County Served: Washington  
P.O.Box 344  
Perry, ME 04667  
(207) 853-4388 &  
(207) 454-2128  
Betty Lewey, Program Director  
Cindy Pollock, Fiscal Director  
cpollock@bia.edu

## WHAT IS HEAD START?

Head Start provides early care and education, health, nutrition, mental health, social and family support to low income families with children prenatally to five years old.

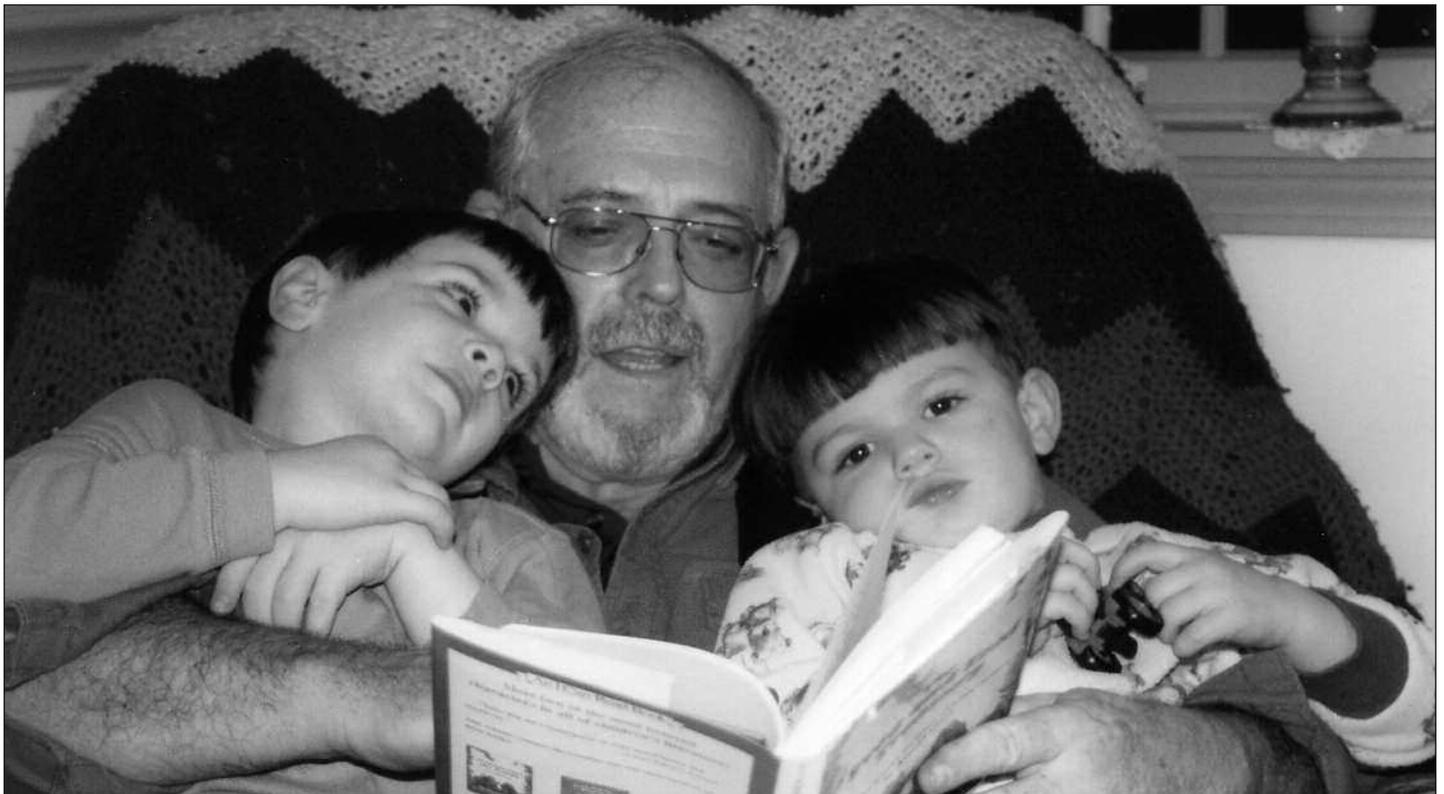
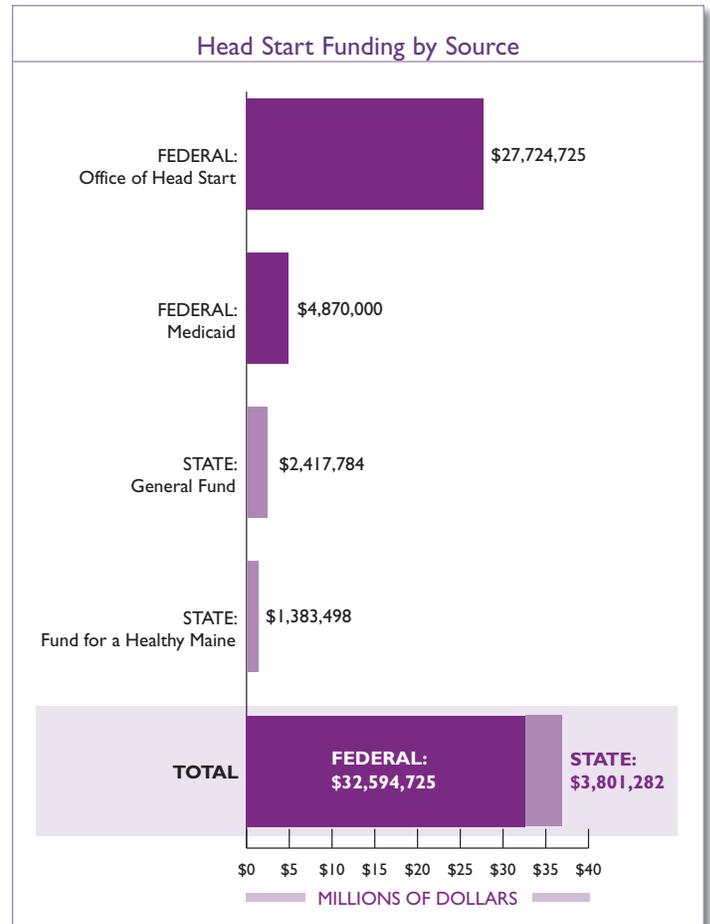
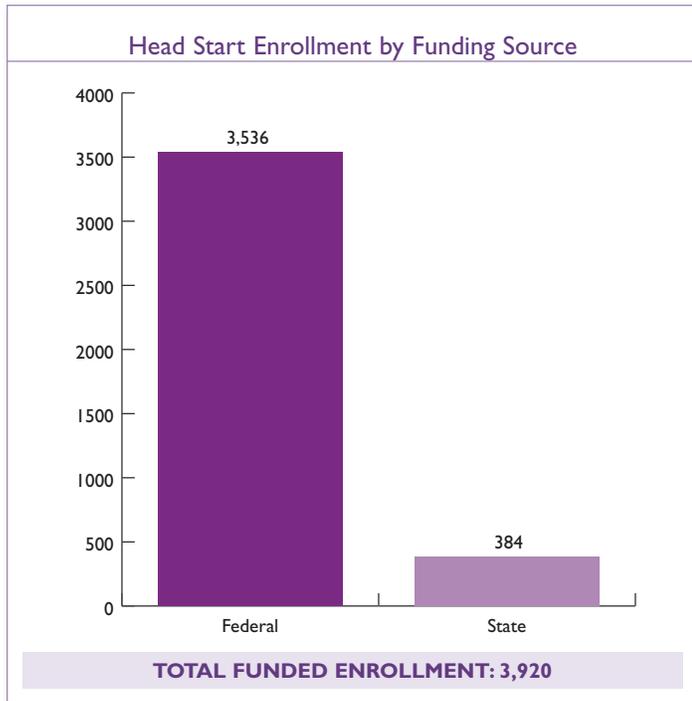
Head Start services are provided in a variety of ways – a home visitor with the child and her family for 90 minutes each week, an infant receiving Early Head Start services either at a family child care home or at an early childhood center while his parents are working, or a four year old attending a partnership program that is a collaborative between the local Head Start grantee and the public school.

There are 11 Head Start grantees in Maine funded primarily through the Federal Office of Head Start. There are 3 Head Start programs funded by the Tribal Office of Head Start, managed by the Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet tribes within their communities. The data presented here reflects those programs funded by the Federal Office of Head Start.



## WHO PAYS FOR HEAD START?

Head Start programs receive grants directly from the Federal government. State funds supplement a small portion of Head Start programming and leverages federal Medicaid funds to provide the comprehensive child health case management that is an essential component of the comprehensive nature of Head Start.



## WHO BENEFITS FROM HEAD START?

The first priority for enrollment in Head Start are families living in poverty. Head Start programs begin the eligibility criteria by using the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Families with incomes above the federal poverty guideline may be eligible for Head Start based on additional criteria. A working family on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) would be eligible for Head Start services, for example, and have income slightly above the poverty line because they are employed.

Each Head Start program has established criteria for selection and maintains a waiting list. The criteria for selection is reviewed and revised annually by the Policy Council which includes parents of currently enrolled Head Start children.

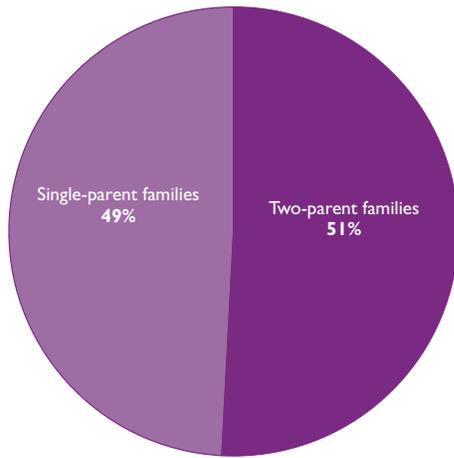
**30% of eligible children in Maine receive Head Start services.**

2008 Federal Poverty Level	
FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
 1.....	\$10,400
 2.....	\$14,000
 3.....	\$17,600
 4.....	\$21,200
 5.....	\$24,800
 6.....	\$28,400
 7.....	\$32,000
 8.....	\$34,600
Add 3,600 for each additional family member above 8	
Families with financial resources above the income guidelines can be eligible for Head Start if they are receiving public assistance such as TANF and SSI, are homeless, in foster care, or live in areas defined as medically underserved. Children with special needs may also have enrollment priority.	

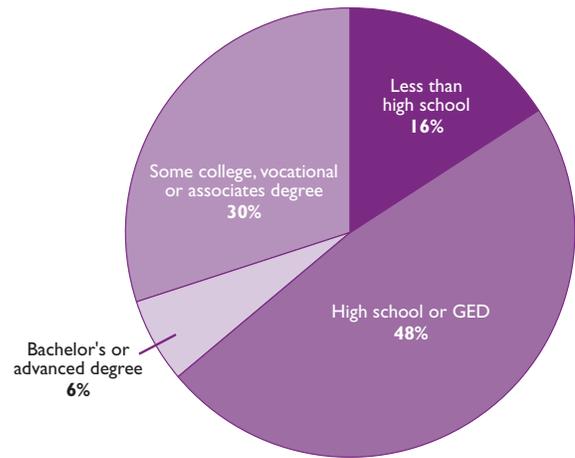


## WHO ARE MAINE'S HEAD START FAMILIES?

Composition of Head Start Families



Education Level of Head Start Parents



79% of Maine's Head Start parents are working, in job training or attending school.

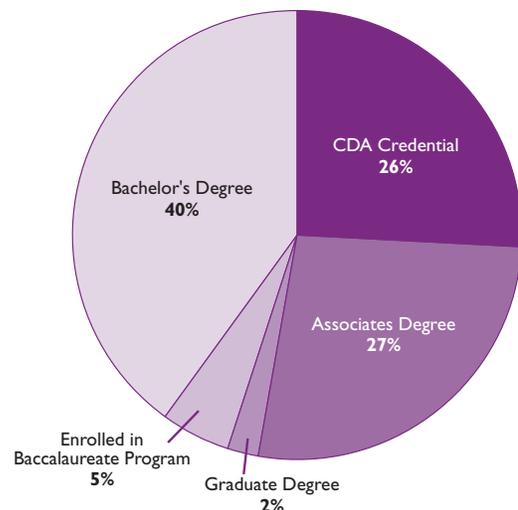
## WHO WORKS FOR HEAD START?

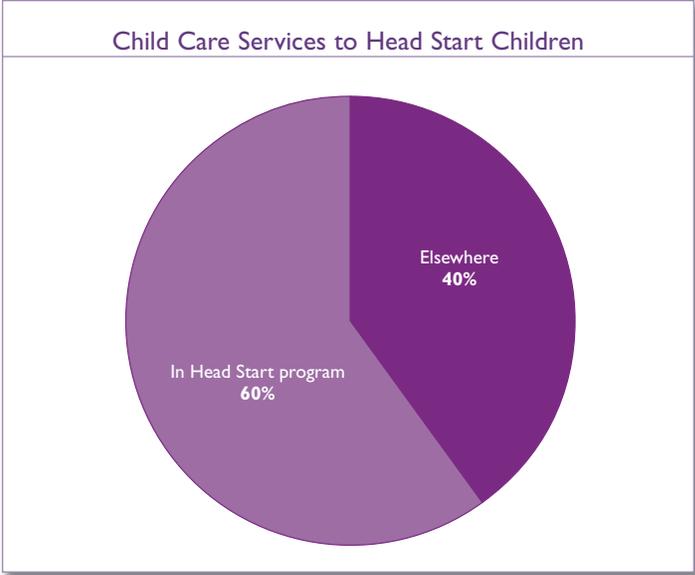
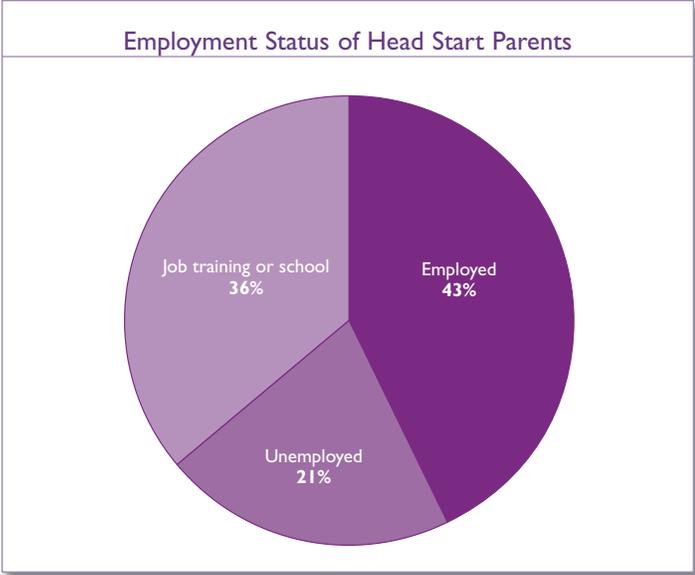
Head Start contributes to Maine's economy by employing nearly 1,300 people. Head Start is committed to supporting parents as they work towards achieving employment goals and often provides the first step toward employment by offering jobs for parents, contributing to the economic development of a community.

Head Start regulations mandate that classroom teachers must have formal training in early childhood education. Currently, Head Start programs are working towards meeting a national standard that 50% of all classroom teachers have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood by 2010.

**27% of Maine's Head Start employees are current or former Head Start parents.**

Education Levels of Head Start Teachers

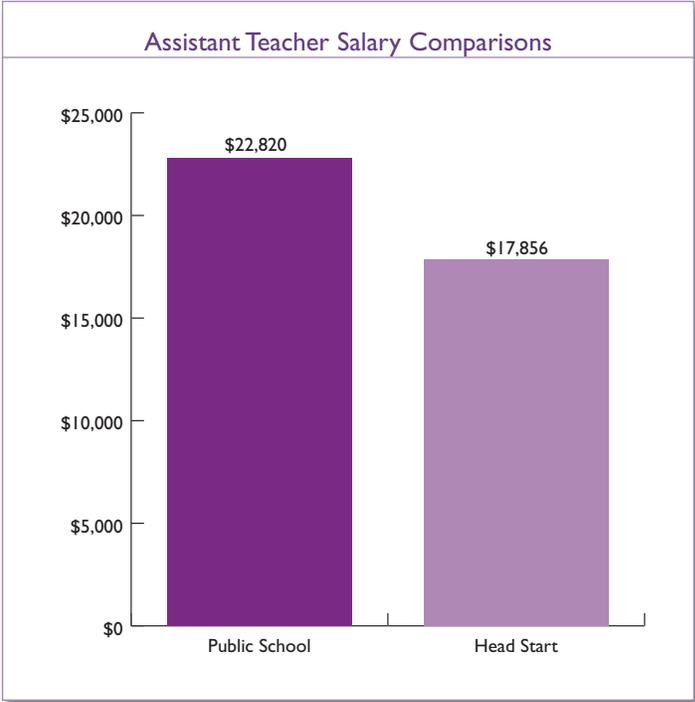
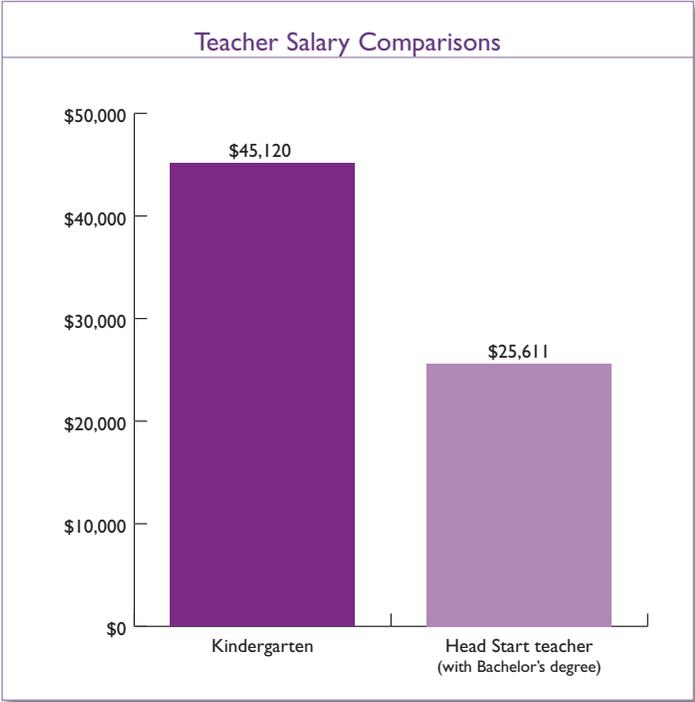




While their parents are in the workforce or accessing education, the majority of children are provided care in Head Start programs, either in center based or family childcare settings.

As Head Start regulations mandate increased credential requirements without increased funding, there is a concern that Head Start will become the “farm league” to public schools. Continuity of care is of utmost important to young children so a high turnover rate can be devastating to a program.

*Public school salary data from Maine Department of Labor, 2007.*



## WHAT ARE THE CHILD OUTCOMES?

*Early Head Start* focuses on important developmental areas of infants and toddlers, such as: meeting their basic needs, fostering social/emotional development, developing secure attachments, and supporting cognition and brain development. Evaluating children's progress is ongoing so that areas of concern are identified and appropriate supports are received.

*Head Start focuses on school readiness skills.* Parent input along with ongoing observations and assessments provide important information on the growth and progress of each child. Individual assessments assist in identifying the needs of children to determine if they are in typical preschool development range in areas such as social/emotional development, language, literacy, math and science.

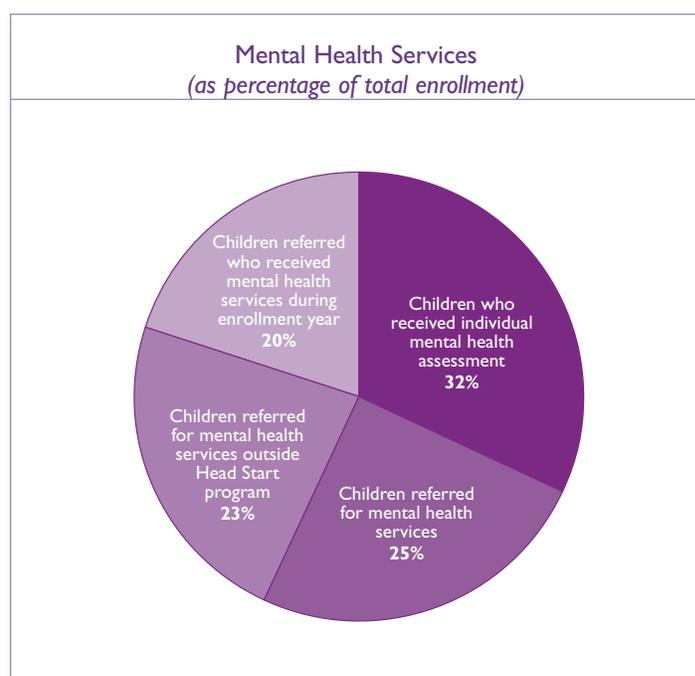
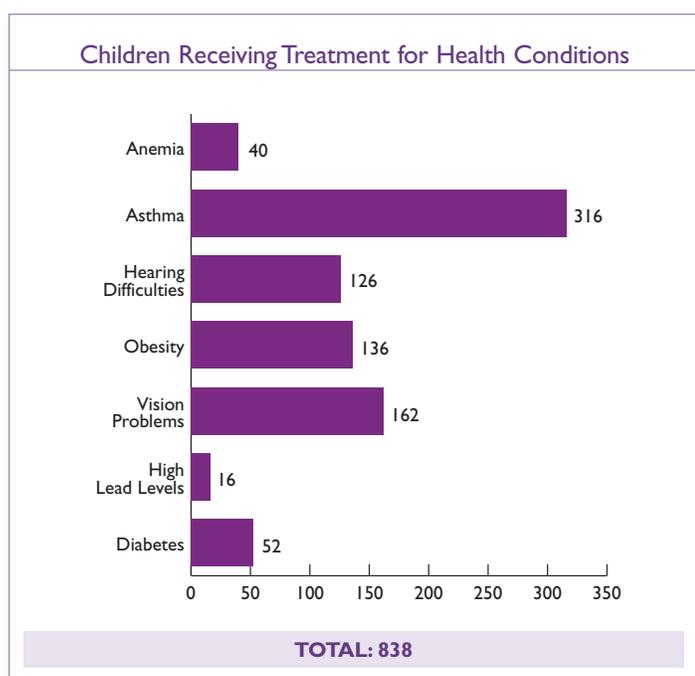
The data is used to develop individualized education plans for each child, as well as overall program self-assessment and improvement goals.

*Parent involvement* is a major component in the assessment and individualization processes for all children. Parents are encouraged to remain actively engaged and advocate for their child. Parents with children transitioning to kindergarten are encouraged to their child's information with the public school. Head Start Child Outcomes are included in Maine's Early Learning Guidelines, which are also linked to Maine's Learning Results.

## Health Outcomes

Supporting families by ensuring that their children have access to ongoing preventative medical, dental and mental health services, that they are up to date with immunizations and well-child visits and have a regular health care provider are hallmarks of the Head Start program.

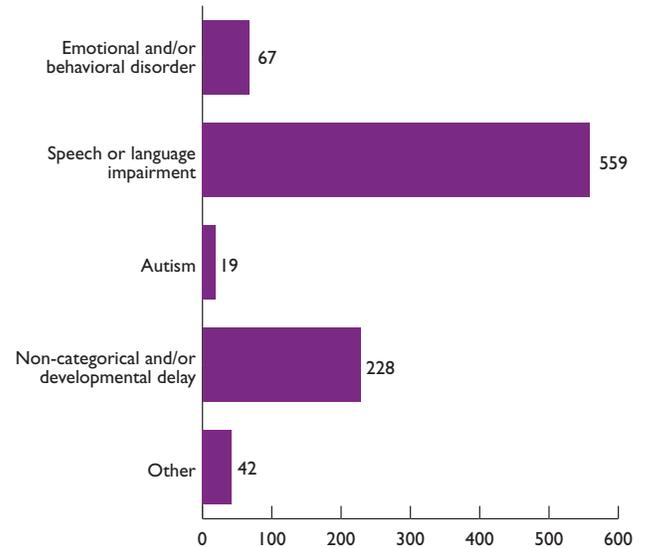
Head Start programs provide mental health services and referrals to community mental health providers, depending on the needs of the child and the family. The chart below highlights the mental health services provided.



## Children with Special Needs

Head Start programs must ensure that children with diagnosed disabilities have access to the program. The federal standards require a minimum of 10% of the total enrollment be children with special needs. In 2007-08, 25% of the children in Head Start had a diagnosed special need. Head Start programs work with the parents and local Child Development Services and public school departments as members of an Early Childhood Team (ECT).

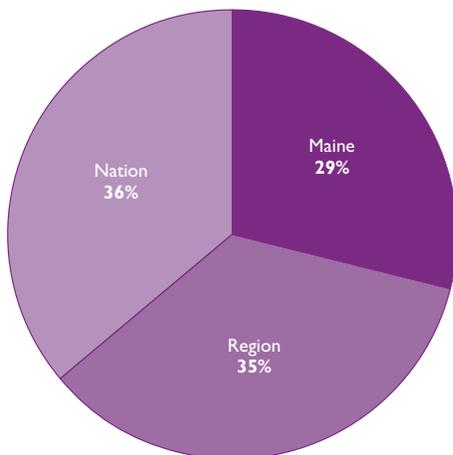
Children with Diagnosed Disabilities



**TOTAL: 915**

In Maine, there is a considerable shortage of dentists overall and in particular those who accept Medicaid. This is the one outcomes category where Maine is behind both regionally and nationally in comparison to other Head Start programs. Maine Head Start Directors are working closely with the Maine Dental Access Coalition to address this particular health concern.

Head Start Children Receiving Dental Services  
(as percentage of total enrollment)



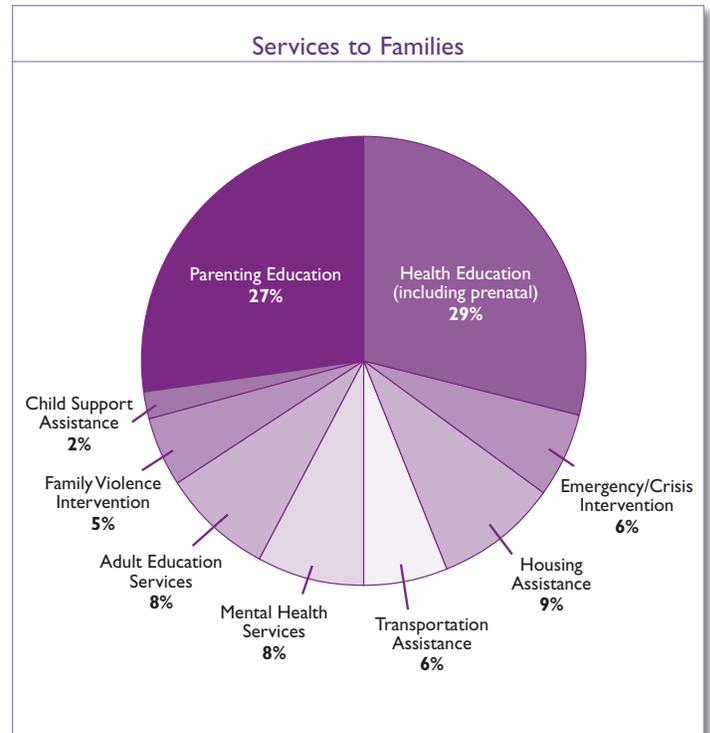
## WHAT ARE THE FAMILY OUTCOMES?

A key element to the comprehensive nature of Head Start is the Family Partnership Agreement. Family and Community Partnership staff works with parents to develop short and long range goals for family success. Ensuring that fathers have opportunities to participate in their child's Head Start experience is a key focus.

Head Start programs provide support services to families and assure connections to appropriate community referrals.

Parent Involvement is a key component of Head Start. Parents volunteer in classrooms, participate in decision making at both the center and program level, and have a strong influence over policies and procedures implemented by the Head Start program.

Understanding that parents are a child's primary and most significant teacher, Head Start programs encourage parents to help in planning classroom activities. Head Start programs provide a variety of training opportunities for parents, ranging from how to best support a child's cognitive development, to leadership development.



### SIGNIFICANT 2007 FAMILY OUTCOMES

198 Head Start families in Maine were homeless in 2007.  
Of those families, 127 acquired housing during their enrollment in Head Start

88% of all Head Start families successfully completed a Family Partnership Agreement

1,783 fathers participated in events designed for them and their children.

### POLICY COUNCIL

Every Head Start program has a Policy Council.

Policy Council is a decision-making group that is a part of a shared governance structure mandated by the Federal Head Start regulations

51% of its membership is comprised of currently enrolled Head Start families.

Community members and collaborative partners can also be involved. This is designed to ensure parent and community participation in the program's decision making.

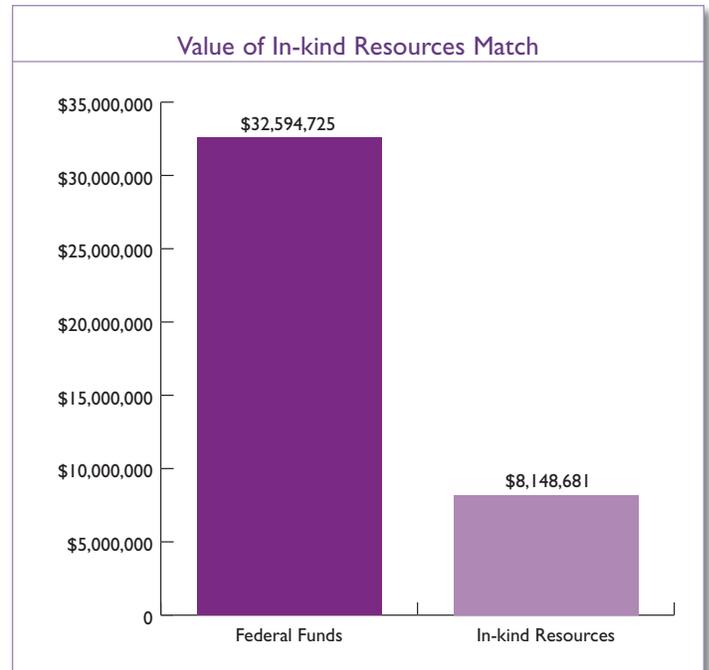
## WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES?

Head Start programs in Maine are supported in their success by community partners. Every Head Start program in Maine has a number of significant and effective partnerships within each community where services are provided.

Head Start programs have formal collaboration agreements with public schools and pre-kindergarten programs, as well as with the local Child Development Services. Community colleges offer early childhood classes that many Head Start staff access, and in some situations, Head Start and community colleges and high schools are collaborating in providing services to students who are parents of young children.

Maine Head Start Directors are currently working with the Maine Dental Access Coalition to address the lack of dentists available to serve low income children.

Every Maine Head Start program is required to match Federal funding by a minimum of 25%. This is met with a combination of state or local funding, donations of space, volunteer time and other non-financial resources in our communities.



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**



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Mainekids@mekids.org

**FUNDED BY:**



The Maine DHHS Office of Child Care and  
Head Start and the Federal Office of Head Start

