

## FAMILY PROFILE

**Christina Hutton**  
*Miami County*



“ I would love to go back to work if I could make it feasible for my family...but it’s a vicious cycle.” Christina says she’s stuck on public assistance. Given what she can earn, virtually all of her paycheck would go for health insurance and child care.



# CHRISTINA'S STORY



All three of Christina Hutton's children, ages eight, seven, and six, attended Head Start in Miami County. Each has benefited, especially the oldest and youngest, and has been more ready for kindergarten as a result, she says.

The oldest child's Head Start teacher spotted she was having a hearing problem, resulting in a diagnosis of mixed receptive language disorder, and that she also has dysgraphia, a neurological disorder characterized by writing disabilities.

"If it weren't for the health screening at Head Start, I would not have known that she was having issues hearing," says Christina. Getting ear tubes stopped the hearing loss. While her daughter still receives speech and occupational therapy, "She's in second grade and absolutely thriving," says Christina.

Christina's youngest had an eating disorder and was tube fed from six months until he was three-and-a-half. When he went to early learning at Head Start, he struggled with "being around other kids that weren't like him," Christina says. "They (the teachers) were excellent at giving him time to kind of regulate his emotions, giving him breaks when he needed it."

Christina believes that despite his high-quality early learning experience, he's still playing catch-up because he lost so much socialization and language development during the pandemic. But she loves that he's still practicing in kindergarten the coping techniques he learned in preschool to help him calm down when he's frustrated or upset.

All of Christina's children are in Scouts, and she's her middle child's Girl Scout troop leader. She also serves on the Miami County Family & Children First Council and on Head Start's Policy Council.

A single mom, Christina, 37, lives with her brother because she can't afford a place of her own. She would like to work, but can't risk losing Medicaid coverage for her children, and she can't afford afterschool child care.

"I would love to go back to work if I could make it feasible for my family," Christina says. But it's a "vicious cycle" where she's stuck on public assistance. Given what she can earn, virtually all of her paycheck would go for health insurance and child care.

"I don't know if I see an end date," Christina says.

**Watch  
Christina's Video**



-> [youtu.be/Tc-jnuAqw5Q](https://youtu.be/Tc-jnuAqw5Q)

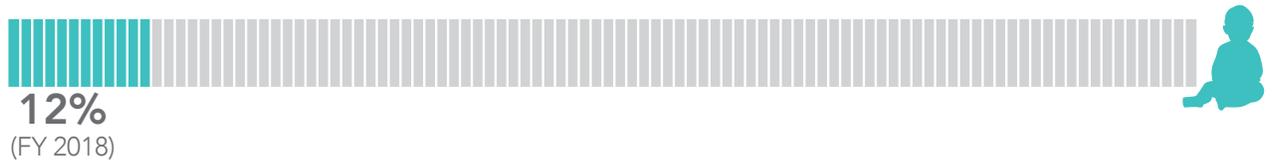


Access to quality early learning is vital to supporting and maintaining a child’s overall health and well-being. Children with access to high-quality early learning experiences within their first five years of life are more likely to be kindergarten-ready, graduate from high school, and have higher earnings and better health later in life.

**Access, cost, and affordability: What does the data tell us?**

Most of Ohio’s youngest children are **not being served by early learning programs**. Only 12% of eligible children, ages 0-2, had access to Early Head Start, and only 4.3% of low- and moderate-income children, ages 0-2, received child care subsidies.

Percent of income-eligible children, ages 0-2, who had access to Early Head Start

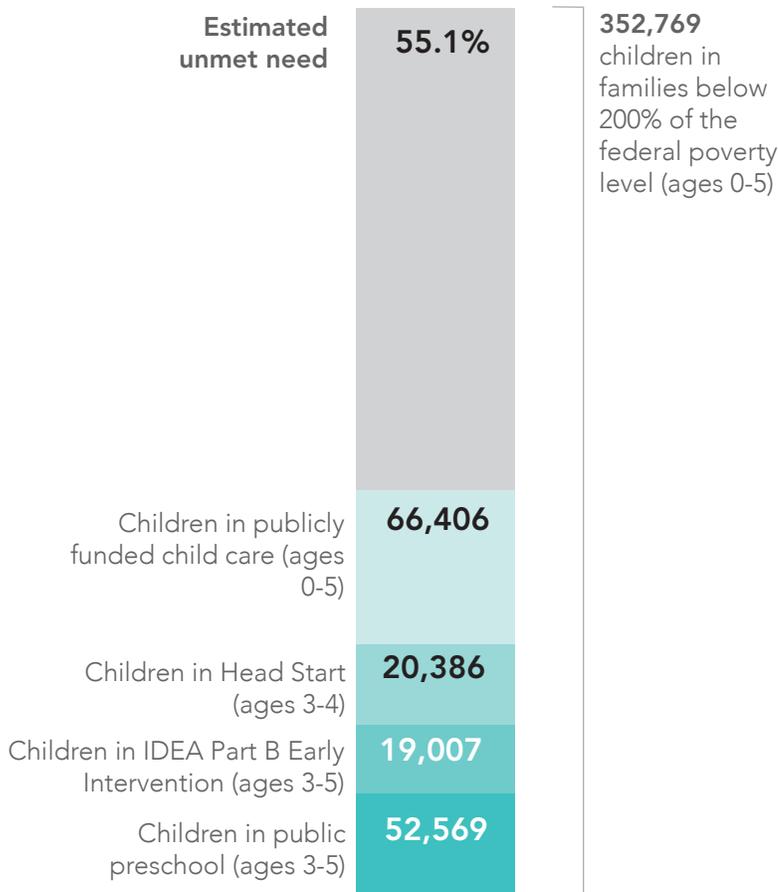


Percent of low- and moderate-income children, ages 0-2, who received child care subsidies



Early Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for children, ages 0-2, for families at or below the federal poverty level. Early Head Start programs include early learning curriculum, health and developmental screenings, and parenting supports.

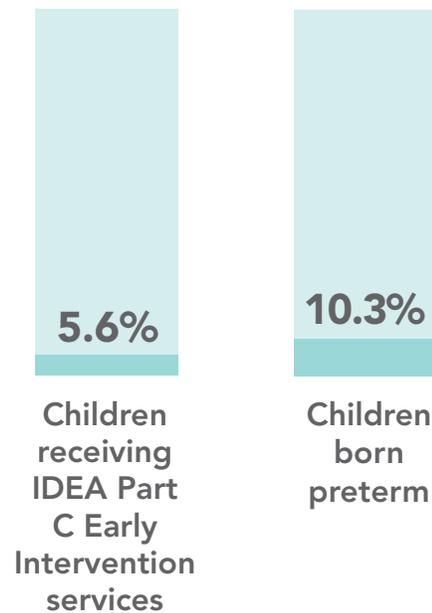
Many Ohio children from families with low incomes **did not have access to early learning opportunities** in 2020-2022.



**Note:** There is potential for overlap among children served because data for these programs come from multiple sources. This likely results in an underestimate of unmet need.

**Sources:** Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (2022); U.S. Office of Head Start data as reported by the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center (2021); U.S. Department of Education (2020-2021); Ohio Department of Education (2021); American Community Survey (2019)

Preterm birth can result in developmental delays. Data suggests that many of Ohio's babies and young children who are at higher risk for developmental delays are **not getting the early intervention services they may need.**



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education (2020-2021); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes services for young children with disabilities ages 0-5:

- **IDEA Part B:** Services for school-aged children, including children ages 3-5 years with special education needs in preschool
- **IDEA Part C:** Early intervention for babies and toddlers ages 0-36 months, including Help Me Grow home visiting

## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Early learning access and affordability, infants and toddlers</b>			
<b>Early Head Start access, income-eligible infants and toddlers.</b> Percent of income-eligible children, ages 0-2, who had access to Early Head Start (EHS)	12% (FY 2018)	N/A	Same
<b>Child care subsidies, infant and toddler.</b> Percent of low- and moderate-income children, ages 0-2, who received child care subsidies	4.3% (FY 2019)	N/A	Same
<b>Early Intervention service access, infants and toddlers.</b> Percent of children, ages 0-2, receiving IDEA Part C Early Intervention services	5.6% (2020-2021)	No change	Worse
<b>Met early intervention need.</b> Percent of children, ages 0-2, who were eligible for IDEA Part C Early Intervention services and received services	88.9% (2021)	No change	N/A

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.

= data provided by a state agency (Ohio only)

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Early learning access and affordability, young children</b>			
<b>Early learning access.</b> Percent of children, ages 0-5, with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level enrolled in early childhood education	44.9% (2020-2022)	N/A	N/A
<b>Not enrolled in preschool.</b> Percent of children, ages 3-4, with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level who are not enrolled in school	62% (2015-2019)	N/A	Same
<b>Child care affordability.</b> Average annual price of center-based child care as compared to public college tuition			
Center-based child care	\$9,181 (2020)	N/A	N/A
In-state tuition and fees at public universities	\$11,670 (2019-2020)	N/A	N/A

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.

## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Early learning quality and workforce</b>			
<b>Publicly funded child care quality.</b> Percent of publicly funded child care programs that are rated as quality or high-quality by Step Up To Quality	73.2% (2022)	N/A	N/A
<b>Positive social-emotional skills, special needs preschool.</b> Percent of preschool students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who demonstrate improved positive social-emotional skills by the time they turn 6 years old or exit the program	49.1% (FY 2021)	<b>Worsened</b>	N/A
<b>Language, communication, and literacy, special needs preschool.</b> Percent of preschool students with IEPs who demonstrate improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills including early language, communication, and literacy by the time they turn 6 years old or exit the program	47.2% (FY 2021)	<b>Worsened</b>	N/A

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.

= data provided by a state agency (Ohio only)