

# KIRPC Head Start Community Assessment May 2021

## The Process & Resources:

Director and managers collect community data throughout the year from staff, community partners, and online statistical resources. Staff and parents complete an annual end of year survey online. Community partners give data and updates to KIRPC as needed. Online resources include:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/> ; <http://www.stats.indiana.edu/> ;  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IN,pulaskicountyindiana,jaspercountyindiana,newtoncountyindiana/PST045219>

Director compiles all data and submits the updated Community Assessment report to the Self-Assessment team at the Self-Assessment Data Day annually. Any suggestions for improvement are given to management who use the information to set/update long and short-range goals and objectives for the program. The Self-Assessment report and goals are approved by Policy Council and Governing Board in July of each year. The goals are included with the annual grant written by the Director and submitted November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

*Community Assessment report contains data for the current and previous year to the extent possible. If two-year data is not present then a “^” symbol will indicate an increase in numbers from the previous year. A “v” symbol will indicate a decrease.*

## Birth to 3 years old Data:

County	Enrolled/Waitlist Pregnant Moms 2020	Enrolled Families with children under 3 years 2020	Live Births 2017 STATS IN	Enrolled/Waitlist Pregnant Moms 2021	Enrolled Families with children under 3 years 2021
Newton	6	35	139 v	4	36
Jasper	8	42	374 v	9	45
Pulaski	3	28	129 v	3	32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>642 v</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>113</b>

## Racial Profile of our Communities: Children Under 18

County	White	African American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic (of any race)	Total 2017 Kids Count	English Language Learners 2017
Newton	2693	49	11	7	318	3078 ^	60
Jasper	6940	141	24	32	731	7868 v	140
Pulaski	2588	57	12	4	122	2783 v	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,221 ^</b>	<b>247 ^</b>	<b>47 ^</b>	<b>43 v</b>	<b>1171 v</b>	<b>13,729 v</b>	<b>207</b>

**Definitions:** The number of public school students who are identified as having limited English proficiency because their primary language is not English. Totals for counties include charters except for the virtual and adult schools. (Kids Count)

## Homeless and Foster Families

County	# of Foster Families 2017 Kids Count	Homeless/Housing Unstable # of Students 2016 Kids Count	CCDF Fact Sheet April 2021
Newton	51	12	IN Total = 3,383 homeless children out of 35,372 CCDF participants
Jasper	128	45	
Pulaski	62	6	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>63</b>	

**Statistical Profile of our Communities:**

Area	2018 Total Population STATS IN	2019 Total Population US Census Bureau	2020 Total Population STATS IN	Percent of persons below poverty level 2019 STATS IN	Under 5 yr old Population 2019 STATS IN	Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty 2019 STATS IN	Natural Increase Births minus deaths 2019-20 STATS IN
<b>Newton County</b>	14,011	13,984	13,907	9.5% v	757 ^	12.5% v of 757 = 95 v	-6 ^
Kentland	1,676		1,650				
Morocco	1,101		1,086				
Goodland	997		979				
Brook	957		941				
Mt Ayr	116		116				
<b>Jasper County</b>	33,370	33,562	33,440	8.8% v	1,906 v	10.9% v of 1,906 = 208 v	-6 v
1 Rensselaer	5,837		5,780				
2 Demotte	4,082		4,172				
Remington	1,155		1,140				
Wheatfield	854		880				
<b>Pulaski County</b>	12,469	12,353	12,388	11.2% v	650 v	15.6% v of 650 = 101 v	-26 v
3 Winamac	2,318		2,295				
Francesville	805		794				
Medaryville	569		567				
Monterey	205		200				
<b>3 County Total</b>	<b>59,850 US Census</b>	<b>59,899</b>	<b>59,735</b>		<b>3,313 v</b>	<b>404 v 162 3-5 year olds</b>	

# 1-3 are the 3 largest towns within the three county region in 2020.

*Numbers in red are not exact but an approximate calculation using the percent under 18 of the actual number of preschool populations. Total red number is 404 divided 5 age groups = 80.8 then multiplied by two HS eligible age groups to equal 162 3-5 year olds in the three county service area.*

**IN Early Learning Advisory Committee % of young children in poverty and enrolled in an Early Childhood Program:**

Newton	Jasper	Pulaski
23%	18%	39%

**FSSA Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning Head Start Needs Assessment Report shows the percent of children ages birth to 5 years old below poverty that were served by Head Start.**

Newton 2018	Newton 2020	Jasper 2018	Jasper 2020	Pulaski 2018	Pulaski 2020
20%	34%	22%	43%	30%	31%

**Number of Children with Disabilities:**

Area	First Steps 0-3 yr old 2019 FSSA	First Steps 0-3 yr old 2020 FSSA	CSS (3-5 year olds) 2019-20	LAJSSC (3-5 year olds) 2019-20	Kids Count 2016 PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Children in Spec Ed	Kids Count 2017 PreK-12th Children in Spec Ed
<b>Newton</b>	40	43	<b>29 v</b>		365	356
<b>Jasper</b>	124	119	<b>94 ^</b>		802	787
<b>Pulaski</b>	37	37	<b>11 ^</b> West Central	<b>7 v</b> Eastern Pulaski	331	330
Dev Delay	37 children from the 3 counties moved to preschool special education.	30 children from the 3 counties moved to preschool special education	36 ^	3 v		
Autism			4 ^	0		
Speech			79 v	2 v		
Cog Disability			0	0		
Orthopedic Impairment			3 ^	0		
Deaf/Hard of Hearing			1 v	0		
Blind/Low Vision			0 v	0		
Other Health			5 v	2 ^		
Brain Injury			2	0		

**To help determine which of the population was Head Start eligible the following information was collected.**

County	2017 # of Free (F) /Reduced (R) Lunches at Public Schools Kids Count	2019-20 # of Free (F) /Reduced (R) Lunches at Public Schools STATS IN	March 2020 DFR # TANF eligible families	April 2021 DFR # TANF eligible families	April 2021 DFR # TANF child participants	March 2020 DFR # of Food Stamp recipients	April 2021 DFR # of Food Stamp recipients
Newton	985F+231R=1216	1,147	8	8	15 v	1,739	1,333
Jasper	1626F+374R=2000	2,261	14	28	44 ^	3,073	2,597
Pulaski	800F+174R=974	987	9	8	11 v	1,473	1,098
<b>3 County TOTAL</b>	<b>3411F+779R = 4,190</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>70 ^</b>	<b>6,285</b>	<b>5,028</b>

**Definitions:** FREE: Number and percentage of public school students who received free lunches. Students from families with incomes below 130% of the poverty guidelines are eligible to enroll in the free lunch program.

REDUCED: Number and percentage of public school students who received reduced priced lunches.

**Health, Nutrition, and Mental Health Needs of Children:**

	DFR # Receiving Medicaid Feb 2020	2017 WIC Child Participants (Kids Count)	WIC needs May 2020	WIC Needs June 2021	CHINS 2017 Kids Count
Newton	2,431 v	261 ^	Overall healthy and well but still picky eaters, obesity cont. to decrease	Due to COVID, children are not being seen in person so heights/ weights cannot be assessed. Children are also not going to dentists/ doctors. They are still picky eaters.	50
Jasper	5,209 v	491 v			135
Pulaski	2,145 v	238 v			47

*CHINS (Children in Need of services)*

Purdue Extension offers Nutrition Education Program: Diabetes; Eat Better for Less; Food Safety; IN ER food resource network; My Plate. Health programs: Be Heart Smart; Community Health Coalition; Community Health Engagement Program. Family Programs: IMIL; ACT=raising safe kids; Have a Healthy Baby Program; Parenting County.

Valley Oaks (formerly known as Wabash Valley Alliance) offers individual therapy, family therapy, play therapy, therapy groups, medication management, program for adolescent substance abuse, early mental health screenings for children, adolescents, and families in Newton and Jasper Counties. Skills trainers help youth develop skills in anger management, coping skills, social skills, school behaviors, and self-care.

<b>Valley Oaks Children Ages 5-17 Served by Valley Oak</b>	May 2020	2021
Newton	100	132 (2 Five-year-olds)
Jasper	152	181 (3 Five-year-olds)
Pulaski	2	0
Total of all Valley Oaks service area	285	313

*Kids Count 2019 data: Newton County has the highest population to mental health provider ratio with 14,010 to 1.*

Southlake Community Mental Health Center, Inc. also serves Newton County.

Four County Counseling Center offers child and adolescent mental health services in Pulaski County through clinical services and community based services (in home and schools).

Porter-Starke Services links children, adolescents, and families with a mental health clinician to meets needs in depression, anxiety, addiction, behavioral problems, bipolar disorder, ADHD, post-traumatic stress disorder in children.

*\*All the above provide services for children with serious emotional disturbances.*

New Leaf Resources has a location in Wheatfield to serve Jasper County. Services include counseling for children and adults; consultations for businesses; counseling referrals and educational presentations for churches.

**Franciscan Health Hospital Community Health Implementation Plan 2019-21 top four health needs of Jasper County:**

1. Youth Mental Health (adolescent suicide rates/hospitalization due to mental health far above national average.
2. Substance Abuse (focusing on rise of alcohol abuse among refugee and immigrant populations).
3. Infant Mortality (rate is above the 6.5 national average at 7.2 for 1000 births).
4. Access to Health Services (poverty rates were 15.7% in the county and 26.7% among children under 18).

28.9% of the participants surveyed for the needs assessment reported high stress levels, 49% mid-stress, and 21.9% low stress.

**Pulaski Memorial Hospital Health Need Priorities 2019:**

- Participate in Pulaski Drug Free Council’s strategic plan to provide community education.
- Hold a PMH Health Fair on Know the O Facts, Bias of Addiction, Recovery coaches, and Drug take-back.
- Continue to support Four Count recovery coach program.
- Explore option of finding another physician to get Suboxine waiver.
- Enhance community outreach section of PMH’s website.
- Collaborate with Four County to develop programs to enhance mental health options.
- Provide facilities where patients can be seen that are not publicly labeled Mental Health Facility.
- Evaluate insurance coverage with local and state programs.
- Explore telemedicine opportunities for mental health.
- Publicize tobacco cessation programs.
- Work with local schools to encourage better nutrition in school foods.
- Develop a gardening program and physical activity classes.
- Explore Mentoring for Moms program to support the emotional and educational needs of new mothers.
- Work with social service organizations to develop group classes on healthy living.
- Promote a Smart Discipline parenting class to the community.

### Employment Data:

County	Median Household Income 2018 Kids Count	Median Household Income 2019 STATS	Unemployment Rate 2020/Rank in State STATS IN	Unemployment Rate 2021/Rank in State STATS IN	# Employer Establishments 2017 US Census	# Employer Establishments 2019 US Census
Newton	\$53,060	61,457	4.9/3	4.3/19	242	242
Jasper	\$66,720	65,352	4.6/7	4.2/22	773	745
Pulaski	\$49,730	52,432	3.7/25	3.4/45	310	310
Totals					1,325	1,297

**Definitions:** The annual average percent of unemployed persons in the civilian labor force. The civilian labor force includes all persons age 16 and older who are not residents of institutions or on active duty in the armed forces and are either working or looking for work.

### 2019 Early Learning Advisory Committee Annual Report Data:

	2017 Children who need care because all parents in home work	Percent of children (in the left column) enrolled in an Early Childhood program
Newton	35% of 946	23%
Jasper	64% of 2,371	18%
Pulaski	59% of 818	39%

### Housing Data:

County	Living in Same house 1+ years 2019 US Census	Households 2019 US Census	Median Rent 2019 STATS IN	Home-ownership Rate 2019 US Census	Household Types: Married with children 2019 STATS IN	House-hold Type: Single Parent 2019 STATS IN
Newton	86.6% v	5,573 ^	\$519 ^	77.9% v	927 v	498 v
Jasper	88.6% ^	12,533 v	\$612 v	76.6% ^	2,309 v	1,016 v
Pulaski	88.0% ^	5,151 v	\$468 v	75.9% v	830 v	428 ^
Totals		23,257 v			4,066 v	1,942 ^

### Education Level of Families (Adults 25+):

County	2018 US Census High School Diploma or higher	2019 US Census High School Diploma or higher	2018 US Census Bachelor's degree or higher	2019 US Census Bachelor's degree or higher
Newton	85.5%	85.7%	11.2%	11.9%
Jasper	88.2%	88.2%	14.9%	14.3%
Pulaski	88.2%	88.5%	12.5%	12.8%

**Other child care programs in our Communities:**

Area	# of Centers and Children served March 2020 FSSA Licensing Unit	# of Centers and Children served April 2021 FSSA Licensing Unit	# enrolled in Paths to Quality 2020	# of Preschools in Public Schools (Developmental or other) 2018-19	# of Children served	# of other Preschools in Community Not licensed/PTQ	KIRPC Head Start # Funded Enrollment 2020-21
<b>Newton County</b>	<b>4 Serve 110</b>	<b>4 Serve 128</b>	<b>4 ^</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>
Roselawn			2 ^				20
Lake Village							
Goodland			2 ^	2	20	1	19
Brook						1	
Kentland						1	
<b>Jasper County</b>	<b>8 Serve 247</b>	<b>6 Serve 189</b>	<b>4 v</b>	<b>6 v</b>	<b>100 v</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>60</b>
Demotte/ Wheatfield			2 v	2	34	4	40
Rensselaer			1 v	2	30	1	20
Remington			1 ^	2	36		
<b>Pulaski County</b>	<b>10 Serve 215</b>	<b>9 Serve 220</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3 ^</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>
Winamac			4	2 EP	21	4	19
Francesville			1	1 WC	10		15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22 Serve 572</b>	<b>19 Serve 537</b>	<b>13 ^</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>151^</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>133</b>

**School Corporation 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Passing ISTEP 2017 Kids Count:**

<b>Newton</b> <i>*Teacher Retention Rate in 2019 was 8<sup>th</sup> worst in state at 84% (Kids Count)</i>	North Newton 46.6%	South Newton 40.6%		
<b>Jasper</b>	Kankakee Valley School Corporation 64%	Rensselaer Central School Corp 49.2%	Tri County 57.1%	
<b>Pulaski</b> <i>*Teacher Retention Rate in 2019 was 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in state at 81% (Kids Count)</i>	Eastern Pulaski 67.3%	West Central 58.1%	North Judson San-Pierre	Culver Community School Corp

*59 Head Start children will be moving on to Kindergarten in the fall of 2021.*

**2018 ELAC Dashboard Data of 0-5 year children:**

	# of Children in need of care	# of known school based ECE programs	# of known child care center	# of known ministries with ECE programs	# of known family child care ECE programs
Newton	460	1	0	0	0
Jasper	1,548	4	4	2	8
Pulaski	435	1	1	2	5

**Current Head Start Children Data:**

	<b>Newton 2019-20</b>	<b>2020- 21</b>	<b>Jasper 2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Pulaski 2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Total 19-20</b>	<b>Total 20-21</b>
# Served	60	33	68	52	36	32	164	117
3 year old's	25	9	36	19	15	11	76	39
4 year old's	35	19	32	30	21	17	88	66
Below Poverty	39	23	53	35	28	23	120	81
100-130% of Poverty	4	2	3	4	2	5	9	11
Over Income	8	4	2	2	1	3	11	9
Foster Children	3	3	5	5	2	1	10	9
TANF/SSI eligible	1	0	2	0	1	0	4	0
Homeless	5	1	3	6	2	0	10	7
2 Parent Families	28	20	18	25	19	18	65	63
1 Parent Families	26	9	42	22	14	12	82	43
High School Diploma or higher	29	13	34	24	19	20	82	57
Advanced Degree	1	4	10	12	2	2	13	18
English speaking	49	26	67	50	35	31	151	107
Spanish speaking	11	7	0	2	1	1	12	10
# Children IEP	10	8	21	15	10	5	41	28
Mental Health Referrals	2	2	1	4	7	5	8	11
TANF recipients	2	1	1	3	1	0	4	4
SSI recipients	0	1	4	1	4	6	8	8
WIC recipients	12	6	15	25	7	17	34	47
SNAP recipients	8	5	19	24	7	12	34	42

**Parent Survey Results of 74 Parents Surveyed in Spring 2021**

- 74 parents felt the KIRPC Head Start program was a benefit to the community.
- 70 parents felt that KIRPC Head Start had a positive reputation in the community. 4 Did not know.
- 61 parents are very satisfied; 7 were satisfied; and 6 were somewhat satisfied with KIRPC Head Start.

**Results of May 2021 Staff Survey Via Survey Monkey:**

- Positive Changes in the community:  
 Newton: Created a community drug coalition, new dollar general in Goodland.  
 Jasper: Taco Bell/bakeries in Demotte, restaurant in Wheatfield, 2 new factories, women's housing at college.  
 Pulaski: Farm to Families food distribution, splash pad, green house, Lifewise Academy.
- Negative changes: (COVID affected all counties in 2020)  
 Newton: no medical facilities in town.  
 Jasper: Franciscan in Demotte closed, movie theater closed, one factory closed, bad internet, Lending Hand closed.  
 Pulaski: Four County moved out of Winamac, Sublime closed.
- Best resources in the Community:  
 Newton: Government Center in Morocco, public schools.  
 Jasper: Head Start, library, WIC, SNAP, church community center, other daycares.  
 Pulaski: Library, Head Start, Pulaski Co Human Services, Purdue Extension, farmers market, Work One, Park.
- Biggest challenges in the community:  
 Newton: Lack of medical care.  
 Jasper: Lack of transportation/Ubbers, homeless resources, entertainment, and child care; drugs, bad internet.  
 Pulaski: Rural, lack of grocery stores, transportation, mental health resources, and jobs.

## **Summary of Findings/Changes to Program/Progress from last year:**

KIRPC served 117 children in 2020-21. In all three counties, there was an approximate total of 162 3-5 year old children in poverty in the community. Newton County has approximately 38 3 to 5-year-old children in poverty; Pulaski County has 40; Jasper County has the highest with 94. 19 community preschools, child cares, ministries are licensed facilities serving 537 children.

The program saw a decrease in the waiting lists this program year. Cumulative data shows that KIRPC served 9 children over income and 11 children between 100-130% of poverty this school year. This can be attributed to the higher household incomes. Median household income went up in Newton and Pulaski County from 2018 to 2019. Pulaski County median household income was the lowest of all three counties and was under 100% of poverty for a family of 10. Many families who apply for Head Start do not have this large of a family size so if their household income is equal to or greater than the median income data then the families would not be income eligible for the program.

KIRPC continues to have sites located in the three largest towns (Rensselaer, Demotte, and Winamac) within the service area. Jasper County is the most populated county with 33,440 (Newton and Pulaski population together only totals 26,295). Therefore, the program holds the most funded slots in Jasper County with 60. There are 39 slots in Newton and 34 slots in Pulaski County.

KIRPC is level 3 at four of six sites on Paths to Quality. The last two sites (Roselawn and West Central) will move up to level 3 when site visits resume after COVID restrictions. Level 3 marks KIRPC Head Start as a high-quality program.

KIRPC served 39 3-year-olds and 66 4-year-olds this school year. Community Assessment shows lack of quality full day pre-kindergartens in the service area therefore equal priority is given to all children 3-5 years old. Community assessment will continue to be reviewed and as community resources change, priority by age will adjust as needed.

Food Stamp recipients decreased from 6,285 to 5,028 residents within the three counties April 2021. KIRPC served 42 children receiving Food Stamps compared to the 34 children last year. KIRPC also saw an increase in children on WIC from 34 children to 47 this school year. The number of children receiving Free and Reduced lunches increased to 4,395 in 2019. Due to COVID, public schools offered free breakfast and lunch to all children this year and will continue for the 2021-22 school year.

KIRPC served 0 TANF/SSI families this year, decreased from 4 last year. DFR 2021 data reports 70 TANF child participants in the three counties. The program will prioritize providing recruitment materials to DFR offices in each county.

KIRPC referred 11 of 117 children for mental health services this year. Both hospital assessments and Kids Count data show the severe lack of mental health providers in the rural three county area. The program hired its own Mental Health Manager in the fall 2020 and continues to plan improvements to the mental health program.

There is a need for more resources in the county such as entertainment, internet access, medical care, restaurants, grocery stores, and child care. Lack of transportation was noted as challenge for the community; however, each county has public transportation to offer. KIRPC will contact the local transportation provider to get flyers to share online and with families to spread the word about their services.

Another challenge in the community is drug use. KIRPC provided training to staff on the use of Narcan in the Spring of 2021 and will continue to offer annual trainings on drug abuse. The program will assist in providing community education through Parent Ed packets distributed to enrolled families.

Newton County continues to be the county with the most need due to having the highest unemployment rate; the lowest number of employer establishments, lowest high school diploma rate; the highest population to mental health provider ratio; the lowest numbers of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders passing the ISTEP; and the least amount of preschools. KIRPC reviewed data further and found the same patterns exist in the school readiness achievement with only 87.6% versus 98.5% in Pulaski and 92% in Jasper County. All county percentages increased from last school year!