

Opportunities for Broome

2013 -2014 Community Assessment

OFB Community Assessment 2013-2014

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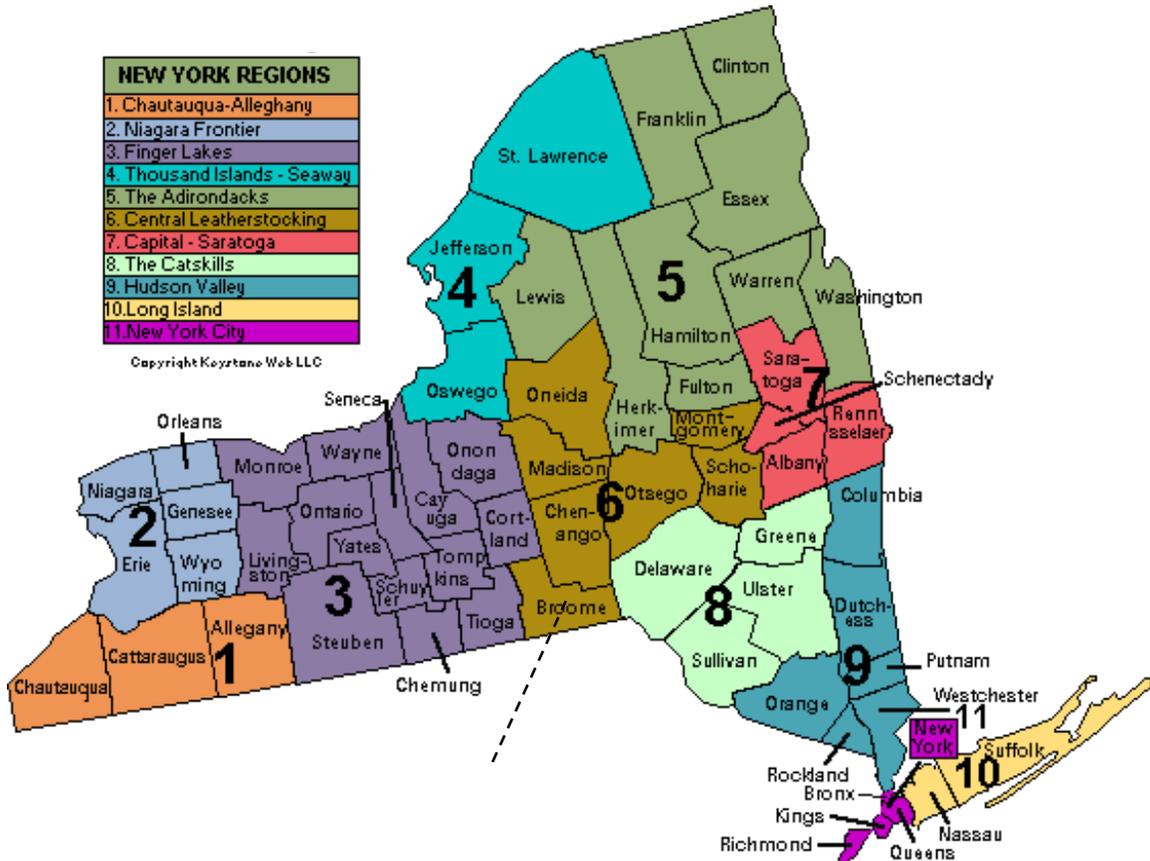
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I. GENERAL AREA DESCRIPTION:

Opportunities for Broome Head Start (OFBHS) is located in the Southern Tier of New York State and is bordered by Chenango, Tioga, Delaware, and Cortland Counties in New York State and also by Susquehanna County, which is located to our south, in Pennsylvania. Broome County consists of approximately 714 square miles. Within the county borders there are two rivers, the Susquehanna and the Chenango. The Head Start Central Office is in the City of Binghamton, which is located at the junctions of Interstate Highways 81 & 88 and State Highway 17 (soon to be I-86). By car, Binghamton is approximately one-hour southeast of Ithaca, one and one-half hours south of Syracuse, and two hours southwest of Albany.

OFBHS serves mainly the rural areas of Eastern and Western Broome County, including the Village of Endicott. The OFBHS service area includes the following school districts: Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Deposit, Harpursville, Maine-Endwell, Union-Endicott, Vestal, Whitney Point, and Windsor. The Family Enrichment Network's Head Start program serves the remainder of the county.

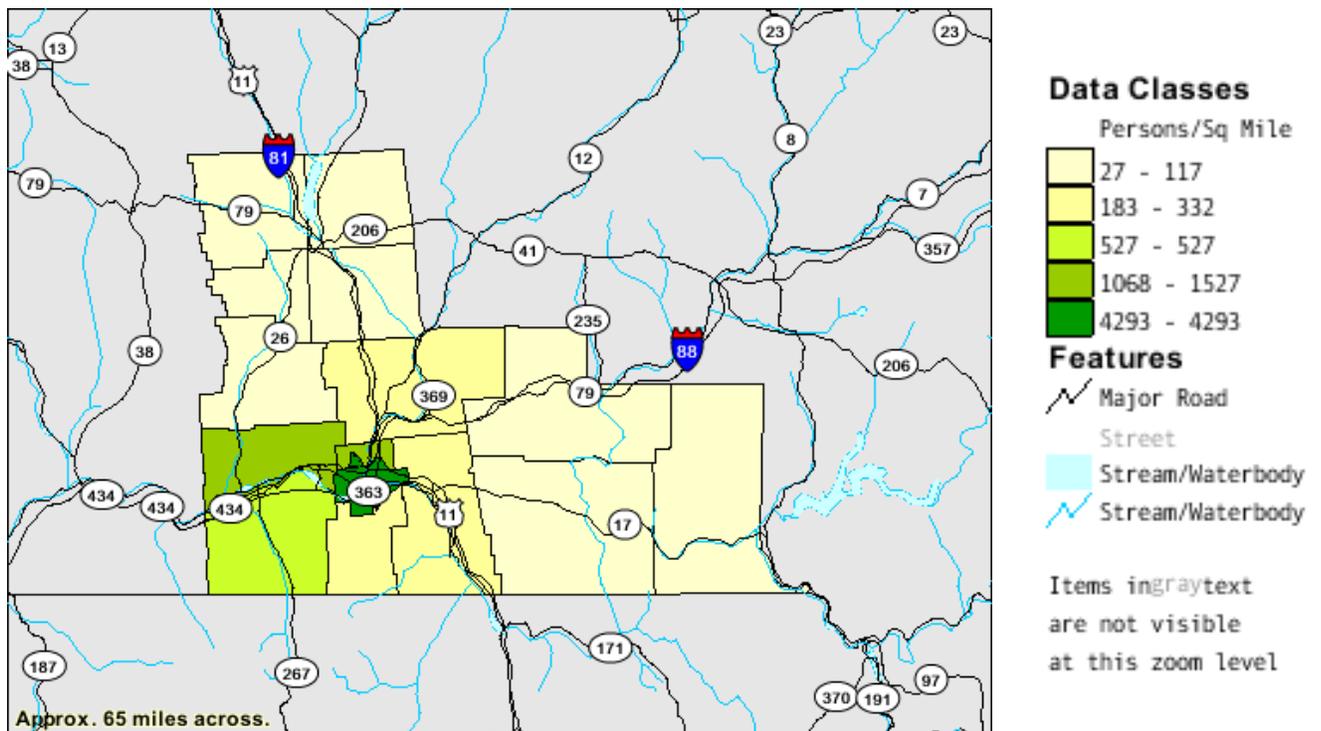
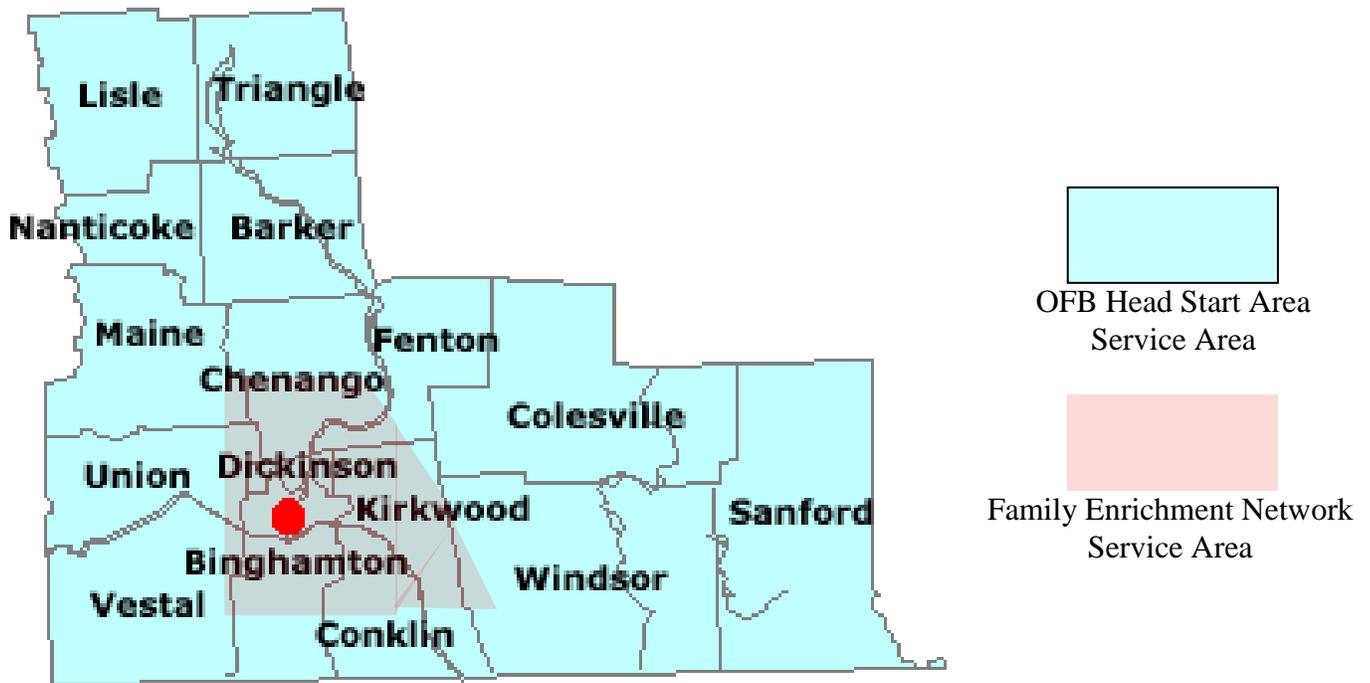
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Broome County

BROOME COUNTY



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II. POPULATION TRENDS:

Within the last 13 years there had been a decline in Broome County’s population. Data from the 2000 Census indicates that during the 1990s, the total population of Broome County decreased from 212,160 to 200,536, a decline of 5.5%. Significant changes occurred in 2006 and again in 2011, after our area was hit with two major floods contributing to families relocating around the county and out of the area. This decline in overall population since the 1990s is due to the job growth remaining very limited. Job seekers far outnumber employment opportunity in Broome County. To add to that, the skills sets of the available labor pool and available jobs appear largely mismatch (New York State Department of Labor – Christian Harris- Labor Market Analysis Southern Tier). An estimated population count taken from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates an increase in the Broome County population to 200,311 for 2013.

The chart below illustrates the decline in Broome County’s population¹:

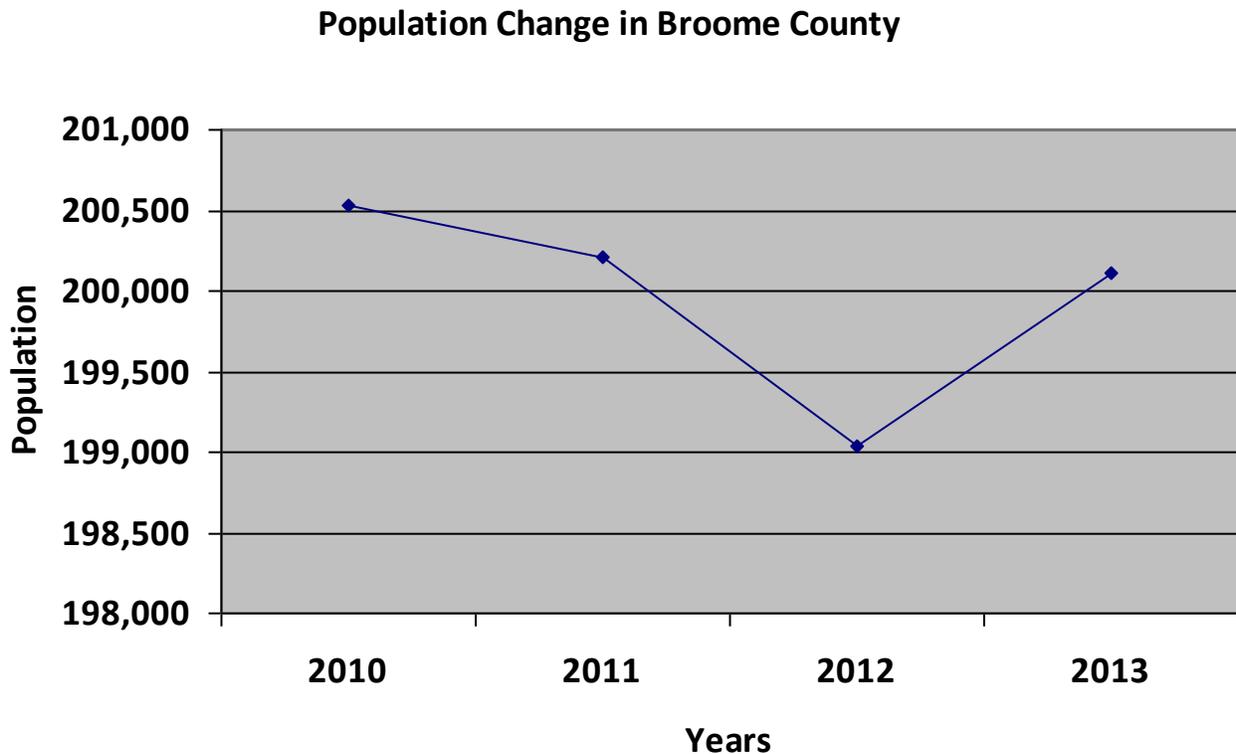


Table 1: Population Change in Broome County

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

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Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *This past year finally showed an increase in Broome County's population.*
- *Job seekers far outnumber employment opportunity.*

III. DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

Racial & Ethnic Composition of Eligible Children & Families

Over the past three years, the minority population for New York State has remained relatively stable. Data from the US Census Bureau shows that the minority population in New York has increased from 28.5 percent in 2011 to 28.7 percent in 2012. However, the minority population for Broome County has shown a slight increase from 11.4 percent in 2011 to 13.7 percent in 2012. The chart below illustrates the changes over the past three years based on data from the US Census Bureau.²

Minority Population in New York State and Broome County

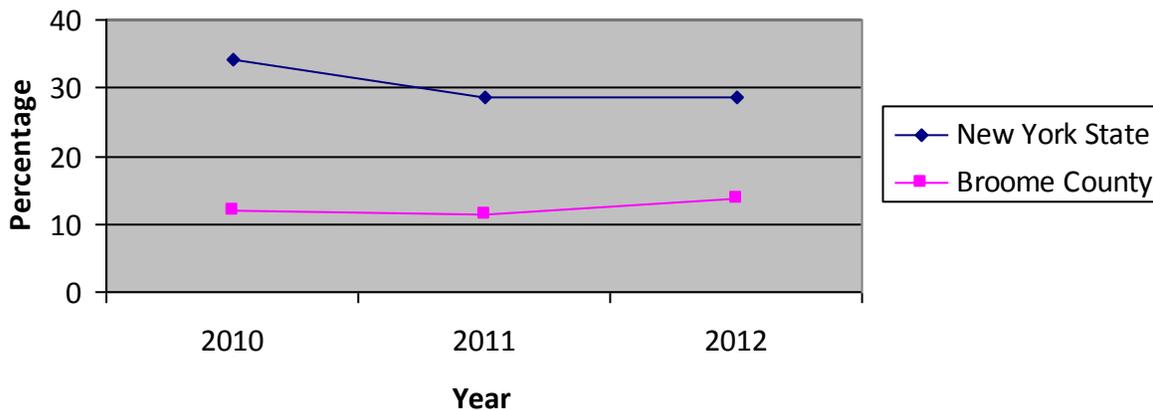


Table 2: Minority Population in New York State and Broome County

Although Broome County has seen an influx of minority populations, very few have settled in the Opportunities for Broome Head Start service area, opting rather to settle in the more urban areas of the county.

² <http://quickfacts.census.gov/>

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Percentages gathered from the 2011-2012 NYS District Report Card Comprehensive Information Report show that the majority of the OFBHS service area has a lower minority population than the 13.7 percent average throughout Broome County. The Endicott Center service area had a 13.7 percent minority population, while Palmer, Harpursville, and Whitney Point service areas showed a minority population of 6.3 percent, 5 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.

The Endicott service area is made up of three of the larger school districts in the area, Maine-Endwell, Union-Endicott, and Vestal that are less rural than the other school districts in our service area. This explains the largest percentage of diversity in the Endicott service area. The chart below shows the specific percentages for the OFBHS service area by center location for the past three school years.

OFBHS Service Area Minority Population³

Center	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Endicott	11.3%	13.0%	13.7%
Harpursville	4.3%	5.0%	6.3%
Palmer	4.0%	3.0%	5.0%
Whitney Point	3.5%	3.5%	5.0%

Table 3: OFBHS Service Area Minority Population

The OFBHS Program Information Report for 2012-2013 shows that minority enrollment for the Endicott Center was 28 percent, while the other center locations were significantly lower.⁴ The data below also shows that the minority enrollment has decreased over the past 3 school years for all centers.

OFBHS Minority Population (By Center)

Center	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Endicott	30.8%	32.2%	28.0%
Harpursville	10%	6.7%	0%
Palmer	13.3%	17.1%	6.1%
Whitney Point	0%	7.8%	3.0%

Table 4: OFBHS Minority Population (By Center)

³ <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>

⁴ Opportunities for Broome Head Start PIR

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Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *The minority population for Broome County has shown a slight increase from 11.4 percent in 2011 to 13.7 percent in 2012, while OFBHS saw a slight decrease from 2012 to 2013.*

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income

The number of recipients receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Broome County has continued to increase over the past three years. According to the Broome County Division of Social Services (BCDSS), the number of TANF (cash assistance) has been on a steady rise since June of 2008. This year, 7,070 household's received TANF assistance, which was only a small increase from the previous year. The number of households receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) has also increased over the past few years.

Number of Households in Broome County Receiving TANF/SSI

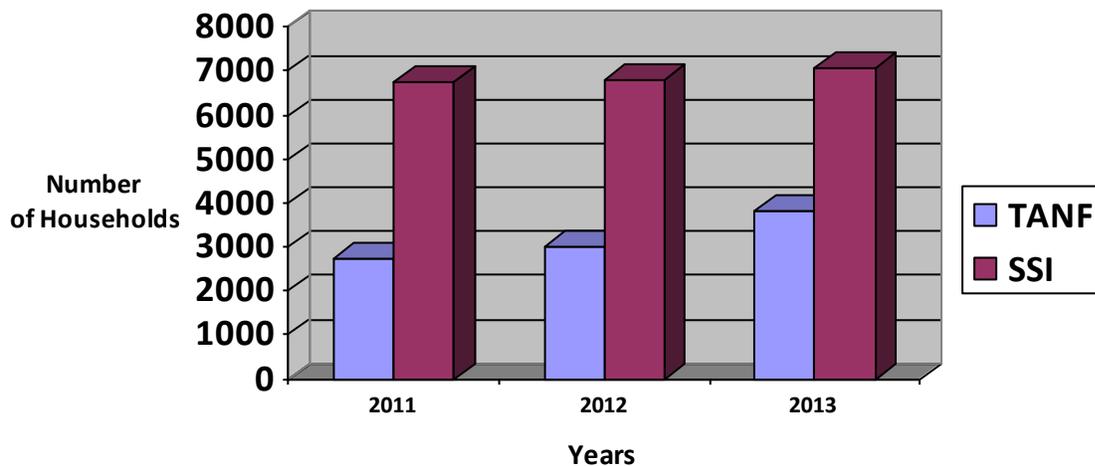


Table 5: Number of Households in Broome County Receiving TANF/SSI

Consequently, there also continues to be an increase in households applying for all types of Public Assistance. These numbers are likely higher due to a streamlined application process, relaxed eligibility process (no face to face interviews required), and extensive community outreach. No longer are face-to-face interviews required, as phone interviews are now being conducted. The level of unemployment continues to be very high in Broome County as well.

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We anticipate a continued increase in all areas due to the high cost of fuel oil, gasoline, health care costs and food.

In the 2012 – 2013 school year, 59 OFBHS households received TANF assistance⁵. This is a decrease from the past few years as shown in the chart below. The number of OFBHS households receiving SSI has also slowly decreased over the past three years.

Number of OFBHS Children From Families Receiving TANF/SSI

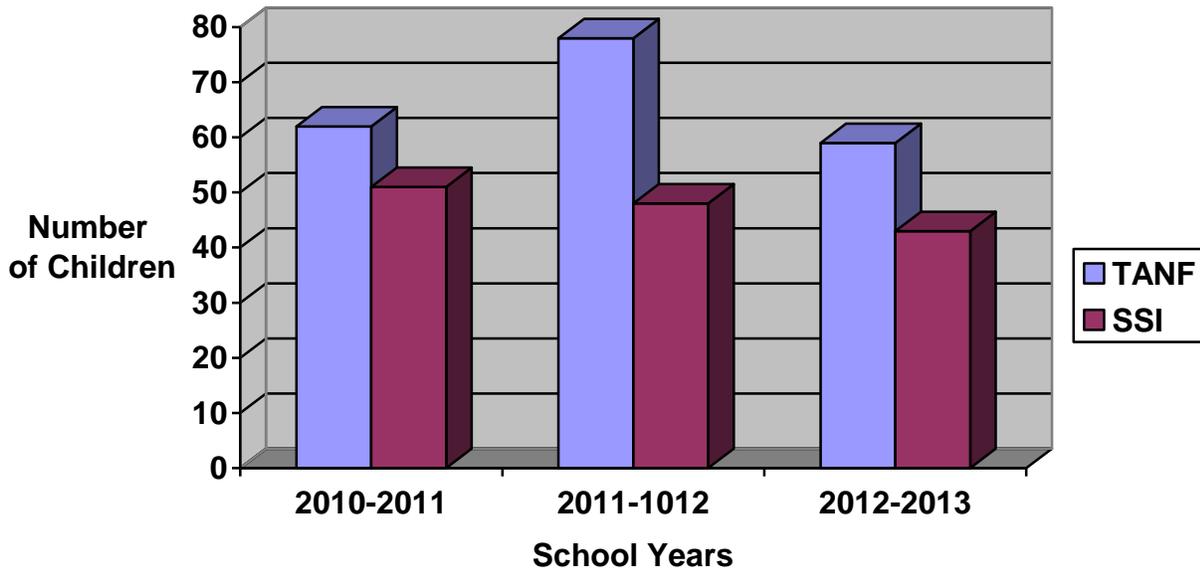


Table 6: Number of OFBHS Children from Families Receiving TANF/SSI

Many parents report being overwhelmed and confused when applying for services, and it is often very helpful to assist them through the process to allow them to get the services they need. Our Family and Community Partners (FCPs), have, when needed, accompanied parents to support them in the process of applying for assistance and/or eligible services.

Current data shows that only one third of those individuals eligible for the Food Stamp Program actually participate. The FCPs provide the parents with various food pantry locations to obtain food for now and/or after program ends.

Available Resources:

- *Broome County Department of Social Services*

⁵ Opportunities for Broome Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)

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Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Approximately one-third of those individuals eligible for the Food Stamp Program actually participate.*
- *In the 2012 – 2013 school year, 59 OFBHS households received TANF assistance. This is a decrease from the past few years as shown in the chart below.*
- *The number of households receiving TANF and SSI has increased in Broome County, while the number of households in OFBHS receiving TANF and SSI has decreased.*

Employment:

The 2012 annual unemployment rate was 8.8%, an increase from the previous year and is currently 8.1%⁶ as of March 2013. Early unemployment rate estimates are hinting at a re-engagement of these individuals as job prospects which have been improving throughout the region. Economic improvement and revitalization are among the area's goals. This county's unemployment rate remains consistently higher than the New York State average which is currently 7.3%.

More large industrial companies have left our area over the past several years, and we experienced another year of workforce reductions in 2011 in the manufacturing sector, although to a lesser extent than the prior 3 years. Small job shops have recently experienced steady work flows, but the larger production facilities in Broome County have been slow to find steady production orders. In regards to manufacturing jobs stabilizing, this has not yet been found. Broome County is still haunted by the long term manufacturing industry trend, as much of our work is rudimentary in nature and can be easily outsourced into lower cost markets. Advanced, specialized or niche production can only survive in a competitively priced global market. This specific type of business is what Broome County needs to grow and encourage, as manufacturing still pulls in the most dollars from outside of the area. The top 25 job openings require a specific level of education, usually requiring additional training.

Our local Department of Social Services reported that many people applying for assistance is due to unemployment benefits ending, limited job available and people not having the education or skills to obtain employment. DSS continues to see people needing assistance with housing, food, utilities and health care. There are very few jobs opportunities for individuals with a High School Education/GED or less. Data from our 2013 Community Survey

⁶ Poverty Report 2013 New York State Community Action Association www.nyscaaonline.org

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indicated that service providers have seen an increase in the number of individuals searching for jobs due to being laid off.

Broome County Employment by Industry 2013⁷

	Broome County	%	New York	U.S.
Civilian Employed, 16 Years and Over	91,147	100%	9,073,362	141,996,548
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	463	0.51%	0.59%	1.90%
Construction	4,924	5.40%	5.69%	6.49%
Manufacturing	10,834	11.89%	6.91%	10.62%
Wholesale Trade	2,703	2.97%	2.59%	2.83%
Retail Trade	11,288	12.38%	10.79%	11.57%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	3,575	3.92%	5.15%	5.00%
Information	1,309	1.44%	2.95%	2.21%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	4,610	5.06%	8.27%	6.74%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management Services	7,726	8.48%	10.99%	10.66%
Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	27,124	29.76%	27.29%	22.90%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	7,732	8.48%	8.81%	9.18%
Public Administration	4,284	4.70%	4.90%	4.94%
Other Services, Except Public Administration	4,575	5.02%	5.07%	4.95%

Table 7: Broome County Employment by Industry 2013

As noted above in Table 7, the largest industries in Broome County are Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance. The percentage of overall population is significantly higher in comparison to New York State and the United States.

More large industrial companies have left our area over the past several years and we experienced another year of workforce reductions in the manufacturing sector, although to a lesser extent than the prior 3 years. Small job shops have recently experienced steady work flows, but the larger production facilities in Broome County in 2011 have been slow to find steady production orders. In regards to manufacturing jobs stabilizing, this has not yet been found. Broome County is still haunted by the long term manufacturing industry trend, as much of our work is rudimentary in nature and can be easily outsourced into lower cost markets. Advanced, specialized or niche production can only survive in a competitively priced global

⁷ <http://www.usa.com/broome-county-ny-income-and-careers--historical-careers-data.htm>

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market. This specific type of business is what Broome County needs to grow and encourage, as manufacturing still pulls in the most dollars from outside of the area.

The tables below list OFBHS statistics regarding employment of enrolled families over the past four (4) years. These statistics show that the employment percentage for OFBHS parents and families is very low. The extremely low percentages are most evident in 2011, which is a direct result of the major flood that severely impacted Broome County. Many homes and businesses were destroyed during this time.

Single Parent Families

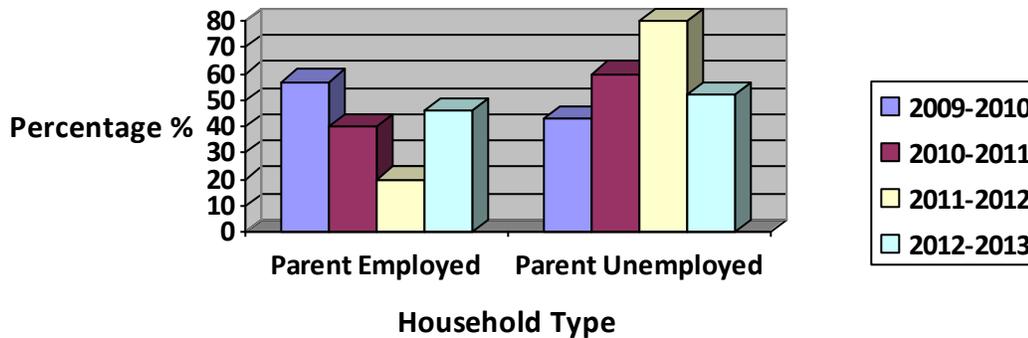
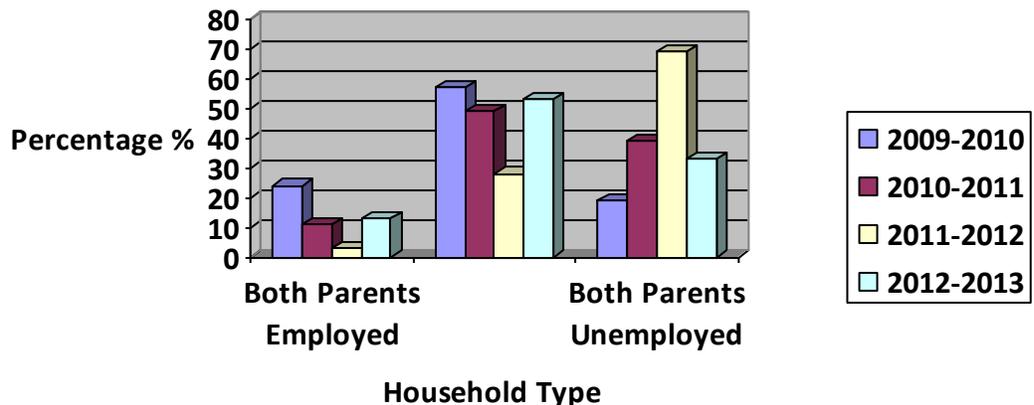


Table 8: Single Parent Families

Two Parent Families



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Table 9: Two Parent Families

The percentage of Head Start enrolled families receiving services or referrals related to job training steadily decreased from 2010 – 2012 but has shown an increase in 2013 as demonstrated in the graph below.

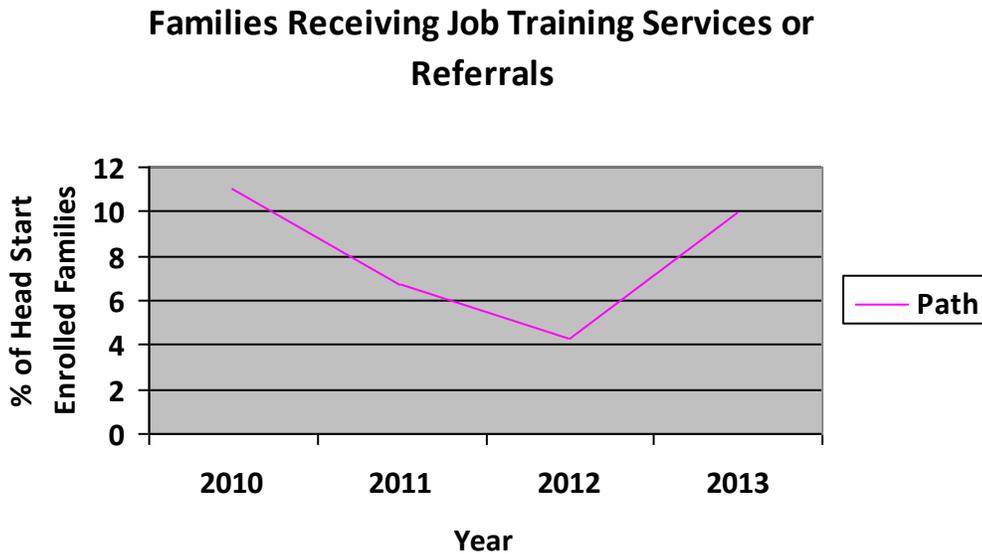


Table 10: Families Receiving Job Training Services or Referrals

Available Resources:

- *The BOCES programs provide education in many specific skilled labor areas. BOCES workshops and classes also provide Graduate Equivalent Diploma programs, English for speakers of other language classes, computer literacy programs, and a host of other classes that can enhance an individual’s employability value. BOCES is centrally located in our urban areas and also provides satellite locations in all but one of the areas we serve.*
- *Other programs available for families include the Department of Labor Job Bank, which provides monthly workshops to promote employability, resume writing, preparing for the workplace, interviewing and job hunting skills. The Employment Center in Binghamton provides many of the same services. Our FCPs make referrals to these programs, as well as individually assisting parents with resume writing, preparing for an interview and various other employability areas.*

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Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *The percentage of Head Start enrolled families receiving services or referrals related to job training has shown an increase this past year.*
- *Over the past several years, our community has lost a significant number of jobs in the manufacturing industry.*
- *There has been a steady increase in unemployed parents in our program, with a significant jump in unemployment in the past year. This rate and trajectory is much higher than in the overall county.*

Parent Involvement/Engagement

Broome County has various parenting service programs (Catholic Charities, Department of Social Services, Family & Children Society, YMCA, Lourdes PACT Program, Mothers and Babies, PAL Family Resource Centers), to assist, support and guide families with parenting skills. These programs are available to everyone in the county, however; most of the people in rural areas do not access the parenting classes due to transportation costs. Someone coming from Harpursville to a class in Binghamton or Johnson City would pay approximately \$6.50 to \$8.00 per trip to and from the program. This is a cost not seen as a necessity to their daily survival (Parent Focus Group – 2012). Over 50% of the families have indicated they would like help or guidance in parenting and helping their child learn. Approximately 15% of our families that completed the survey have indicated they have a concern regarding their child's behavior (Positive Thinking for Parents Survey).

Throughout the past few years we have been seeing an increase in the number of children with difficult behaviors and families who are under stress. In concurrence with Head Start's philosophy, staff feel that participating families often need help in identifying family oriented stress issues before they can successfully cope with other issues that can commonly cause stress, such as; employment, financial or health concerns. FCP workers see more connections to domestic violence, and drug usage, however; when asked parents are still uncomfortable in divulging this type of information in order to obtain help. At our Health and Nutrition Advisory Group in April 2013, agency workers indicated they are seeing an increase in substance abuse and mental health areas. Our staff will need additional training in these areas to identify signs and symptoms relating to substance abuse and mental health.

Our program is incorporating "primary prevention" strategies to teach parents an awareness and signs/symptoms so they can now and in the future obtain the supportive services they need to help themselves or someone in their household. Therefore, we approach these areas with an informational and preventive perspective to educate and to provide families with referrals/contacts to programs or agencies. We do this through bi-monthly "Free Informational

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Kits". Kits which contain simple, easily readable information and tips for parents to address issues or interests they have with Early Child Education, Community Recreation, Keeping Safe, Nutrition/Healthy Eating, Coping with Stress, Special Services and Disabilities, Housing, Weatherization, Energy Assistance, Financial Stability, and much more. Each kit provided to the families is conducted in mini workshop model. All the information is summarized, reviewed and talked about to determine if additional information is wanted or questions they have can be answered. Each kit is personally evaluated with 4 basic questions.

Five years ago, our program piloted a project called "Positive Thinking for Parents". This program developed by Dr. Kevin Wright with input from our administrative team, was designed for parents of pre-school children with serious behavior problems. All parents of pre-school aged children will benefit from the program since it focuses on improving parenting skills, using age-appropriate techniques, and developing children's decision making capacities. Based on classroom observations, administrators and staff report that domestic violence in homes is on the rise. Our conservative estimate is that 32%-35% of our families are experiencing some type of domestic violence in their homes. We run this program at least once a year at each site location a year. We have had to date over 65 parents participate in this program.⁸

Another program which has been implemented within the classrooms the past two years is the "Conscious Discipline"; a program that supports the parent, child and staff. Most have embraced Conscious Discipline whole heartedly, and we are seeing the results in the classrooms. Since implementing Conscious Discipline, we have happier and calmer children. Many children are able to self-regulate their emotions through use of the Safe Place and the various composure techniques. All staff has been trained to work with parents and their children that may need support whether it is self-regulating or with standing up for themselves with a peer.

Parent Involvement in OFBHS has decreased the last few years due to the increase of hours required by the Welfare Reform Act (more parents are working); rising economy with gasoline, food, etc. and that most parents are working now second and third shifts. This has made it difficult for parents to take the time to become involved in their child's Head Start experience. To increase parent involvement we have parent driven child activities at all centers and have incorporated specific male involvement activities that promote dads and significant males in the child's life to volunteer and visit our centers and participate in an activity with their child. This year 181 dads and significant males were involved with building bird houses⁹, stepping stones for their yard, participated in a fun filled work day at the center, and various other activities. We have implemented a Men's night out to the Mets game (40 Dads participate), a Mom's Day Out for a haircut, nails, or pedicure (33 people attended).¹⁰

⁸ Positive Thinking for Parents Survey

⁹ Opportunities for Broome COPA Report

¹⁰ Opportunities for Broome Attendance Sheets

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Parent Involvement is an area we are always trying to increase participation in at the centers. Trainings/events have been developed for more hands on activities while they learn at center activities with their children. Our staff and involved parents are trying to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to be involved in their child's Head Start experience. Each month at center meetings, we plan activities that reinforce the home/school partnership and build on the philosophy that "parents are the primary educators of their children".

Parent meeting/workshop participation this year is still averaging approximately 30 + parents each month. Parent fundraisers have made as much as \$10,000.00 with their fundraisers, showing parents are involved in other ways not affiliated with meetings/center activities. With this money they purchase additional equipment and materials for their program and put money towards training and workshops for the parents. We have noticed a slight decrease in parents that are volunteering at our centers and sharing their special expertise with the program. We will continue more family/hands on oriented activities to increase parent participation and to try to spark the interest of parent(s) to encourage their involvement within the classrooms and centers. Meeting times have been changed to help accommodate parent's availability as requested by parents.

Presently, over 50% of the FCP staff has their Family Development Credential (FDC) which highlights the important area of Family Service Workers and the importance of engaging with families. The FDC philosophy trains staff to focus on the strengths of families, rather than searching for what is wrong with a family. Each year we would like new FCP Workers to complete the Family Development Credential Program.

Available Resources:

- *Broome County*
- *Catholic Charities*
- *Department of Social Services*
- *Family & Children Society*
- *YMCA*
- *Lourdes PACT Program*
- *Mothers and Babies*
- *PAL Family Resource Centers*

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Families need help identifying stress issues to assist them in coping*
- *Lack of transportation and high costs in gas make it difficult for parents to attend parenting classes, especially when they reside in rural areas.*
- *Over 50% of the families have indicated they would like help or guidance in parenting and helping their child learn.*

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- Approximately 15% of our families that completed the survey have indicated they have a concern regarding their child's behavior (Positive Thinking for Parents Survey).

Domestic Abuse, Violence and Neglect

In 2008, the FCP Coordinator (from Opportunities for Broome, Inc. Head Start) joined forces with Family Violence Prevention Council where a group of 40 agency's community leaders (Sheriff, Chief of Police Endicott, Binghamton, Directors from Crime Victims Assistance Center, SOS Shelter, Hospitals, School Districts, District Attorney, Health Department, Department of Social Services, Elderly Programs, and various Social Service Programs), work together to develop ways to promote the "prevention of violence" in all forms as well as to assist, support and network together in crisis situation. This group developed a 3 year plan that has been implemented within Broome County. Three years ago a pilot project with Head Start was done to determine the parent's knowledge in relations to the effects family violence has on their children. 93% of our families participated in this survey which indicated that most parents/caregivers know the laws and what is right or wrong. What they did not realize is the affect violence has on their child whether it was direct or in-direct violence such as; T.V., movies, internet games, hearing quarrels, physical violence within the home, etc. We continually throughout the year provide caregivers and parents educational information and materials on violence prevention and awareness.

In 2013, Crime Victims Assistance Center was chosen as a pilot for the "Enough Abuse Campaign" (one of only three sites chosen in New York State). This campaign seeks to look at child sex abuse as a public health concern and deliver the message that no child deserves to be abused, exploited or harmed in any way. The Enough Abuse Campaign which is currently being used in Massachusetts will provide information and training materials to be used in the Broome County campaign. A large component of this project will be training and education to the community. The training will focus on learning about behaviors/signs that someone may be at risk to harm a child; how to distinguish dangerous sexual behaviors by children toward other children. It will also focus on the importance of talking with children about their bodies, establishing healthy boundaries and the importance of having good communication between children and their parents.

The Healthy Families New York Program is a voluntary home visiting program and is run by the Broome County Health Department in collaboration with Lourdes. The goals is to promote positive parenting skills, positive parent-child interaction, and to prevent child abuse and neglect. They have incorporated a fatherhood component into the program. This program will make home visits in rural areas.

From 2000 to 2009 the city of Binghamton's violent crime rate rose 21% according to the Department of Criminal Justice Services report. Since 2010 there has been an increase of 7%

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in violent crimes and property crime in Broome County. Overall crime statistics are up in Broome County totaling 6,876, an increase of 233 cases. Rape, murder, robbery aggregative assault robbery (violent crimes), total 600, this is an increase of 79 violent crimes. Murders increased from 3 in 2011 to 7 in 2012, a 57% increase. Burglaries, Larceny and Motor Vehicle theft (Property Crime) totaled 6,276 an increase of 154 incidents.

At present, less than 5% of our families indicated that domestic violence/abuse has occurred within their homes however, based on information obtained by family services workers that number could be as high as 25-30% of the families have issues with child abuse/maltreatment, domestic violence, and other areas of violence within their homes. The reason they feel this is due to the receptive of information they were given, questions asked and home visit observations. Also, during home visits, families have shared with staff that domestic violence, bullying of older siblings and T.V. violence are concerns they have and/or experiencing. Information is provided to families throughout the year to keep them updated and to provide prevention and remedies to situations they are experiencing with their pre-school child and school age children.

One of our strongest assets and/or collaborations is working with our local DSS Child Protective Unit. This unit, staff and supervisors have provided training, guidance and support to our staff and families for many years. When a hot line call is made from our office, a DSS worker will contact us typically within 1-2 hours to set up a time to interview the child at a center location. This system that DSS and Head Start have developed together benefits everyone involved and is always completed in a timely and professional manner. All staff has been trained in Mandated Reporting and the local DSS endorses our present policy/procedure system. The CPS Supervisor, OFBHS Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator, and the FCP Coordinator work together annually to keep the staff trained and updated on issues relating to Child Abuse & Maltreatment.

The Department of Social Services statistics taken from the State Central Register, reports for the year 2012 indicated that there were a total of 4,046 abuse and maltreatment cases reported which included 5,734 children. There were 3,811 maltreatment and maltreatment reports, 235 sexual and physical abuse cases. The number of reports to the New York State Central Register, alleging child abuse or neglect, has steadily risen in Broome County since 2006. The highest three individual risk factors in Broome County for indicated CPS reports: domestic violence, primary caregiver lacks reasonable expectations and primary caregiver not meeting child's basic needs. The FCP Coordinator continues to work with them to support the families and staff and children of the program. In February 2013, there were 295 children placed in foster care, and there are approximately 200 foster care homes in Broome County.

Each year we see more and more grandparents taking on the responsibility of guardianship of their grandchildren. Presently we have 8 grandparents and their grandchildren enrolled into our program. The local Kinship program has been a great resource for them to obtain service/guidance to help them financially as well as emotionally in raising their grandchildren.

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We implemented specific and supportive information binders for grandparents and relatives of children in the program who have taken on the care of a child in absence of their parent(s). Our FCP workers provide this information to support caregivers in meeting their unique challenges. With possible cutbacks in the future to assist relatives and grandparents who take on the responsibility of the children we are fearful of the loss of services to support these families taking care of their grandchildren/relatives.

Available Resources:

- *Family Violence Prevention Council*
- *Crime Victims Assistance Center*
- *Broome County Dept. of Social Services*

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Child Abuse and Maltreatment has increased each year since 2006.*
- *Violent and Property Crimes have increased in Broome County for another year*
- *Parents may not be aware of the affect that violent T.V. shows, games, movies, family disruptions have on a child.*
- *Less than 5% of HS families indicate that domestic violence has occurred in their home. However, that number could be as high as 25-30% of the families have issues with child abuse/maltreatment, domestic violence, and other areas of violence within their homes.*

Literacy/Adult Education

According to Literacy Volunteers of Broome County, “one out of five adults in our community cannot read well enough to fill out a job application, follow directions on a medicine bottle, or understand a newspaper story”. Low levels of literacy are also a factor in domestic abuse and child abuse. Broome County Literacy Volunteers currently helps 100 students and this number is growing. In the rural areas it is difficult to access this service immediately due to limited volunteers and a long waiting list.

Broome-Tioga BOCES offers GED classes for students 18 year or older, as well as a home study program, GRASP (Giving Ready Adults a Study Program) for students 21 years or older to help students prepare for the GED exam. BOCES offers English as a Second Language, life skills, and citizenship education. BOCES provides daytime classes only in Endicott and does not have adult GED classes available in our areas of Whitney Point, Windsor, and Harpursville.

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BOCES programs provide education in many specific skilled labor areas. BOCES workshops and classes also provide Graduate Equivalent Diploma programs, English for speakers of other language classes, computer literacy programs, and a host of other classes that can enhance an individual's employability value. BOCES is centrally located in our urban areas and also provides satellite locations in all but one of the areas we serve. BOCES also has a GED televised program to help individuals in rural areas and those who are home bound, to obtain their High School Diploma. Other programs available for families include the Department of Labor Job Bank, which provides monthly workshops to promote employability, resume writing, preparing for the workplace, interviewing and job hunting skills. The Employment Center in Binghamton provides many of the same services. Broome Community College provides day, evening and weekend courses, The State University of New York at Binghamton, a four-year college, is centrally located within the county and Empire State College (an independent home study program for adults), has a satellite location in Binghamton. Continued collaborations will occur throughout next year in providing families with referrals and assistance in adult education.

Workforce New York and the New York State Employment Office provide monthly training class to those seeking employment. Various workshops are held monthly along with Job Fairs to assist and support the job seeker. The location of these monthly trainings is only in the Binghamton or Endicott areas. In most cases transportation becomes a problem as well, as child care. There are not evening GED classes in these rural areas.

Libraries are located in urban areas as well as some in the rural areas. There is a mobile Library available for areas that do not have a library (monthly). All libraries schedule monthly activities/reading times for families.

Information compiled on primary Head of Households for enrolled children shows 34% had their High School diploma or GED in 2011, 47% in 2012, and 35% in 2013. Nineteen (19%) did not have a High School diploma or GED in 2013, 22% in 2012, and 37% in 2011. Nineteen(19%) of the families are interested in continuing their education, but time, money, transportation and child care expenses prevent them from accomplishing their goal. Out of 162 HS families in Head Start that completed the Focus Group Survey, 62% of those families have a computer with internet connection on a regular basis. (COPA Report 1000-Family Demographics)

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OFBHS Education Statistics

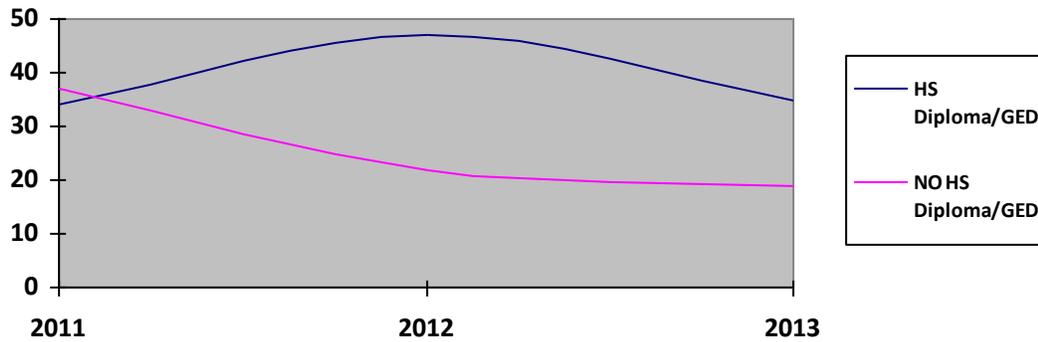


Table 11: OFBHS Education Statistics

We will continue to support the family unit with referrals to outside agencies and programs that can assist them. We will send out monthly newsletter/Job Fair notices to the FCP Workers and families from New York State Employment Office on training class available for them to attend.

Reading resources that our families rely on to obtain books are: the library, schools, stores, the Reading Is Fundamental Program (RIF), friends, family, and book orders from older siblings in elementary school. Libraries are centrally located in most of the areas we serve. There is a Bookmobile that visits correctional facilities and travels throughout the county to areas that do not have a library source immediately available. We strongly emphasize the importance of reading and encourage parents to read with their children daily. Rif (Reading is Fundamental) is a program through the federal government that assist our children in receiving 3 books throughout the year with Head Start. Library programs are encouraged for parents and their children to participate. Books are donated to the program and at various center activities and events each child will receive a book from the parent committee. These book programs are incorporated into the program's curriculum and children begin the process of starting their own libraries within their homes. Parents have seen this program as a support to them and their children.

Approximately 90% of our children are read to at home regularly, this has increased from the previous year by 10%. Fifty-four (54)% of our families have a library card and take their child to the library. Head Start Parent Committees have been a huge help in supplying the funds to continue books going home to the children by contributing funds from their fundraisers to purchase books for children entering the next year. Parents also participate in the selection of books that will be purchased. 3 + book distributions are done throughout the year. (Focus Group Survey)

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Available Resources:

- *Department of Labor Job Bank, which provides monthly workshops to promote employability, resume writing, preparing for the workplace, interviewing and job hunting skills.*
- *The Employment Center in Binghamton provides many of the same services.*
- *Broome Community College provides day, evening and weekend courses,*
- *The State University of New York at Binghamton, a four-year college, is centrally located within the county*
- *Empire State College*

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *More parents are reading to their children daily and regularly (1-2 times a day)*
- *There has been an increase in families having a computer with internet access in their home*
- *Continual follow-up and support to families have assisted families in reaching their educational/employability goals*
- *Continued Education resources are limited in the rural areas of the county*
- *Services are available for families to access (Job Bank, Employment Office, and Workforce) but are centralized in the urban areas of the county.*
- *Transportation, time, and child care hinders them to attend these services (Focus Group Survey)*

Housing and Homelessness

According to the 2013 Poverty Report issued by the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA), there are currently 32,286 individuals in Broome County currently living under the Federal Poverty Level. Of those living in poverty, 26% are children under the age of eighteen and 49% are families with children who have a female head of household. The 2007-2011 U.S Census American Community Survey Report estimates that there are a total of 90,431 occupied housing units within Broome County, of which 53,498 are owner occupied and 26,759 are renter occupied. According to the 2009 CHAS data, of those units that are renter occupied, 78% fall within the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) low-income categories. One of the greatest challenges facing the homeless at this time is affordability. Of those individuals that are employed, 30.1% are considered still living in poverty. For many, housing costs are exceeding a large percentage of their monthly income, which makes it extremely difficult to maintain permanent, safe, and affordable housing.

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Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness: a growing shortage of safe, decent, affordable housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty. Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Individuals living in poverty are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, utilities and health care. The problem is only compounded for an individual with documented disabilities, such as mental illness and/or chemical addiction, as these individuals need to further navigate a system of service providers to get their additional needs met. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of the necessities. It is determined that one aspect to ending the cycle of homelessness is providing permanent housing and support services to those in need. Permanent housing with supportive services increases client retention and self-sufficiency. Before one can understand the need for permanent housing for the homeless, one must have some insight into the area- Broome County: ^{11 12 13}

<u>General Characteristics</u>	<u>Broome County</u>
Population (2013 estimate)	200,111
Occupied Household Units	80,257
Unemployment Rate (2013)	8.1%
Median Household Income (2013)	\$44,970
Poverty Rate- Individuals (2013)	17.5%

Table 12: General Characteristics in Broome County

<u>Educational Attainment</u>	<u>Broome County</u>
Less than 9 th grade education	4,558/3.4%
9 th to 12 th grade, No diploma	10,603/7.9%
High school graduate (Includes equivalency)	44,264/33.1%
Some college, no degree	23,970/17.9%

Table 13: Educational Attainment in Broome County

<u>Household Income</u>	<u>Broome County</u>
Less than \$10,000	6,865/8.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4,996/6.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10,606/13.2%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9,093/11.3%

¹¹ U.S Census Bureau (online) 2007-2011 ACS www.factfinder.census.gov.

¹² City of Binghamton Consolidated Plan 2010-2015 (online) www.cityofbinghamton.com

¹³ Poverty Report 2013 New York State Community Action Association www.nyscaaonline.org

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Table 14: Household Income in Broome County

Households and Housing	Total	%
Occupied Housing Units	80,257	88.70%
Renter Occupied	26,759	57.50%
Vacant	10,174	11.30%

Table 15: Households and Housing in Broome County

Poverty	Total	%
Families below Poverty (Female Head)	N/A	49.00%
Individuals below Poverty	32,286	17.50%

Table 16: Poverty in Broome County

Household Income Distribution (Renter Occupied Units)		
Very Low Income	3,865	36.00%
Low Income	2,545	24.00%
Moderate Income	2,055	19.00%
Per Capita Income	\$24,766	

Table 17: Household Income Distribution in Broome County

According to HUD’s 2009 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), 12 to 14% of owner- and renter-occupied units have at least one member of the household with a disabling condition, with 63% of renter occupied units having a housing problem, which includes a cost burden over 30%, overcrowding, lack of complete kitchen facilities, and/or substandard plumbing. The CHAS report notes the significance of the disproportionate amount of extremely low income households among the disabled population is at 90%, which gives credence to the fact that the provision of affordable housing to disabled individuals should be given special attention due to physical and financial limitations.¹⁴

The Continuum of Care in Broome County (formerly known as the Broome County Homeless Coalition) conducted a Point-in-Time (PIT) count in January 2012. The findings are as follows:

Homeless Population and Subpopulations Summary (by household type reported)

¹⁴ Department of Housing and Urban Development www.hud.gov

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	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Homeless Individuals	155	105	11	271
Homeless Families w/Children	3	0	0	3
Homeless Households with Only Children	6	6	0	12
Total Homeless Households	164	111	11	286

Table 18: Homeless Population and Subpopulations Summary in Broome County

In 2011, the Point-In-Time (PIT) count noted a shortage of seasonal and overflow beds available to the homeless.¹⁵ This shortage was not noted in 2012, largely due to having a milder winter in 2012, as well as the Homeless Coalition securing additional funding to help pay for homeless individuals during the “No Freeze” period which runs from November 1st to May 1st in Broome County.

Agencies with Available Emergency Housing Units

Emergency Shelter	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds
YWCA	16	24	6
Fairview Recovery Services	N/A	N/A	18
SOS Shelter	7	20	N/A
VOA	N/A	N/A	22
Salvation Army	N/A	N/A	2
TOTAL	23	44	48

Table 19: Agencies with Available Emergency Housing Units

There are 90,431 housing units within Broome County with the average unit being built in 1955. According to the U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey (2011 Data Release), Broome County has 80,749 occupied housing units with 1.38% of the units being

¹⁵ Point in Time Survey for NY-511 Continuum of Care

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overcrowded and .56% being considered unsafe and unsanitary due to lack of plumbing. Of the over 80,000 occupied units within Broome County, 53,498 are owner-occupied and 26,759 are renter-occupied. There are 10,174 vacant housing units within Broome County.¹⁶

Housing has become increasingly scarce for those with little money. Earnings from employment and from benefits have not kept pace with the cost of housing and utilities for low-income and very low-income individuals. New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) has asked for substantial increases in recent years, which has made housing costs an even greater portion of a household budget. According to the Self-Sufficiency Standard for NYS (2010), an individual with one preschooler in Broome County must earn an average of \$35,292 a year to afford a two bedroom unit at fair market rents set by HUD at \$713 a month.

In order to afford this level of rent, assuming a 40 hour work week, 52 weeks per year, and this level of income translates into a housing wage of \$13.63 an hour. Although the New York State minimum wage is presently \$7.25 an hour, this still falls \$6.38 an hour short of the must have \$13.63 an hour to meet the Fair Market Rents. As per the Broome County Department Social Services, Public Assistance Budget for an individual is \$365.00 a month of which \$218.00 is considered the shelter allowance. With rents unaffordable and the cost of utilities increasing, many individuals/families are forced to live in substandard housing, with family and friends, or in shelters and/or streets. Traditionally, research has identified the opportunities for socioeconomic advancement in the form of employment opportunities and/or higher wages. Rents are becoming increasingly unaffordable, especially to those employed in the service or retail sectors.

The current unemployment rate in Broome County is 8.1%, which is .7 decrease from 2012.¹⁷ According to the NYSCAA 2013 Poverty Report, 32.2% of those living in poverty within Broome County have a high school level education.¹⁸ Due to the economic times, many of the manufacturing companies in Broome County had to lay off a large percentage of their workforce, leaving many unemployed or underemployed. For individuals struggling to pay the rent, a serious illness or disability can start a downward spiral into homelessness, beginning with a lost job, depletion of savings to pay for care, and eventual eviction.

A significant number of clients seen by Opportunities for Broome is for emergency and housing assistance. Based on Opportunities for Broome's 2012 Annual Program Report, of those clients seen by OFB in 2012, 4,796 were helped by emergency assistance programs. In addition, OFB provided 195 individuals/families with safe and affordable permanent housing units. Opportunities for Broome currently maintains a waiting list for all of its housing programs. In reviewing Section 8 Housing programs throughout Broome County, a 6-12 month waiting list exists for families or individuals who desire housing in the community.

¹⁶ U.S Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov

¹⁷ U.S Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov

¹⁸ Poverty Report 2013 New York State Community Action Association www.nyscaaonline.org

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Forty-six percent (46%) of Head Start families, that completed the Parent Input Survey for the 2012-2013 school year, are feeling the crunch in meeting their mortgage/rent expenses, paying high cost of home heating fuel bills, continual rising of gasoline prices, food, affordable health service and other necessities of life. Transportation costs, maintenance on their vehicles, insurance is becoming more difficult to maintain with their limited income (Focus Group Survey).

Staff has also been trained in Home Buyer Program to assist parents in obtaining their own homes (which is the dream of many parents) and at the same time support and guidance in establishing good credit. Fuel costs are being addressed by giving parents knowledge and information on weatherizing their own homes/apartments and applying for assistance with Broome/Tioga Weatherization Program. If emergencies come up our grantee agency, Opportunities for Broome, Inc. has received a program to assist families in crisis situation called "Lend-a-Hand". Parents have had the opportunity to attend workshops at Home Depot to learn how to effectively weatherize their home and what materials are needed to accomplish this. We continually encourage parents to weatherize their homes yearly to help save on fuel bill costs. In collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension we provide parents with a free training and materials to start the process of weatherizing their homes. Parents are provided service information for where they can go to get various types of help with housing, utilities and if needed shelters.

Approximately 35 families were given referrals because they needed to apply for emergency assistance or help with their rent, home repairs, etc.

Available Resources:

- YWCA
- Fairview Recovery Services
- SOS Shelter
- VOA
- Salvation Army

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *A growing shortage of safe, decent, affordable housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.*
- *Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Individuals living in poverty are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, utilities and health care.*
- *Housing has become increasingly scarce for those with little money.*
- *Earnings from employment and from benefits have not kept pace with the cost of housing and utilities for low-income and very low-income individuals.*

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- *A year or more waiting list to assist people with housing*

IV. HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

Medical

Per 2012 Broome County Health Department statistics, in Broome County the incidence of children < 72 months of age with confirmed blood lead levels ≥ 10 mcg/dL was 2.0 per 100 children tested, which was just higher than the NYS rate of 1.3. In 2012 63.9% of children under age 3 were tested for lead. The lack of preventive health care education in the rural community has attributed to the high percentage of children that have never been tested. Facilitated enrollment is offered through Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network and Rural Health Network to assist families with filling out applications for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and Family Health Plus insurances.

As of December 2012, the number of people in Broome County eligible for Medicaid Managed Care is 28,487. The total enrolled is 25,391, or 89% of those eligible.¹⁹ This reflects an increase of 4% for total enrolled. As of December 2012, the number of people in Broome County enrolled in Family Health Plus was 3,098. The number of children in Broome County without health insurance is 2,367 which is an increase of 532 over the 2011 figure of 1,835 for the population under the age of 19 years. Of the Broome County adult population between the ages of 19 and 65, 18,901 were uninsured in 2012. This number reflects a 9% increase when compared to 17,186 uninsured people in 2011.²⁰

Affording health insurance is most difficult for those that fall between the cracks of poverty level and lower middle class. For those not insured through employer sponsored health insurance, there are several government health programs available.

The cumulative 311 children enrolled at Opportunities for Broome Head Start during the 2012-2013 school year are all receiving an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. 263 children are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to NYS's EPSDT schedule for well child care.²¹ 290 children are up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their ages.³

Limited preventive services: Of the 311 cumulative enrollment at Opportunities for Broome Head Start for 2012-2013, there were 2 children that tested with high levels of lead and 22

¹⁹ Broome County Health Department

²⁰ www.mothersandbabies.org

²¹ Opportunities for Broome Head Start PIR

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children had never been tested for lead.²² During the enrollment process, parents are educated on the hazards of lead poisoning and encouraged to have their child tested. The Broome County Health Department keeps records of every child tested for lead in Broome County, and furnishes the Health Specialist at Head Start with the results of the children that have been tested. If a child has never been tested for lead, parents are notified and provided with information about the importance of being tested, the risks of lead poisoning, and where to go for testing. The Health and Nutrition Advisory Committee meets two times a year at Opportunities for Broome Head Start and shares information about community resources available to our children and families. Collaborations with The Broome County Health Department, Lourdes Oral Health and the Lourdes Dental Van, Wilson Dental and Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network have brought to our families and children health and safety trainings, dental trainings, newsletters, and preventive health and dental screenings.

Available Resources:

- Medicaid is a program that enables indigent individuals in the community to obtain necessary medical care, services and supplies by assisting them with the payment for such services. A person may qualify for Medicaid coverage if they have high medical bills, receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or meet certain financial requirements.
- Family Health Plus is a public health insurance program for adults who are aged 19 to 64 who have income too high to qualify for Medicaid. Family Health Plus is available to single adults, couples without children, and parents between the ages of 19 and 64.
- New York State has a health insurance plan for children, called Child Health Plus. Child Health Plus A (CHPA) was formerly children's Medicaid. CHPA is different from traditional Medicaid in two ways: there are more generous income guidelines; thereby allowing more eligibility and CHPA covers more medical services than adult Medicaid. Child Health Plus B (CHPB) is for children whose families are not eligible for CHPA because their income is too high for CHPA but cannot afford private insurance.

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Health insurance is very costly for individuals that fall between the cracks of poverty level and lower middle class.*
- *Lack of preventive health care for low-income individuals, especially in rural areas*
- *Children who attend OFBHS program receive preventative and ongoing health care once enrolled in the program.*

²² Opportunities for Broome Head Start PIR

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- *Lack of preventive health care for low-income individuals making it difficult for children to be tested in remote rural areas*
- *Lack of preventive health care and education regarding risks of lead exposure*
- *In Broome County children that are 72 months and older confirmed lead blood levels higher than NYS rate*

Dental

Many communities in Broome County have identified limited access to dental care for the region's most vulnerable low-income residents as a serious problem.²³ The Broome County Health Department, Broome County Department of Social Services, health care providers and several rural health networks have all identified the need for improved access to dental care. Access for low-income populations in rural communities in Broome County is compounded by low population density, limited availability of providers, and transportation challenges. Access to services by those covered by Medicaid Insurance has been identified as another barrier due to a shortage of dentists.

For the 2012-2013 school year, 280 of the 311 cumulative children enrolled at Opportunities for Broome Head Start have continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist. 252 children received preventive care and 21 are receiving or have received dental treatment.⁴

Available Resources:

- Broome County Department of Social Services manages a Dental Case Management Program and partners with over 40 private practicing dentists to improve access to dental services for the Medicaid population. The Case Manager provides client education and follow-up as well as provider support. The Lourdes Oral Health Clinic and mobile van has served 4,556 children age birth to 18 years. With the community's effort to promote the importance of early dental exams and treatment for pre-school age children, it is certain the numbers will increase.
- OFBHS has the necessary hook-ups to allow the Lourdes Mobile Dental Van access at three sites. Windsor has access through the connection at Palmer Elementary School adjacent to our center. The Lourdes Oral Health program serves Medicaid recipient children ages 18 and younger and their families. This clinic opened in February 2005 and Head Start families have accessed the services and have become established patients of the clinic. It targets children who are uninsured, on Medicaid, or enrolled in New York's Child Health Plus program, a population that is underserved for dental services in the Broome County area. All children are eligible to receive free dental

²³ Executive Summary, Regional Plan for Increasing Access to Dental Services

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education, a screening, and a parent report to bring home. Families that are established through Head Start may access services through either the van or at the onsite dental clinic. Lourdes also offers a Patient Financial Assistance Program to help patients who meet specific guidelines and are not eligible for any other available program.²⁴

- Wilson Dental Clinic in Binghamton offers another option for our Medicaid children who are having difficulty in the timely delivery of treatment services due to inaccessibility to transportation and due to long O.R. waits for children requiring anesthesia for treatment. Wilson Dental provides transportation to their facility from our more rural areas and has a part time anesthesiologist available to anesthetize the children in the office setting. This ensures timelier treatment and eliminates the need to go to the hospital for dental procedures.

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- Many communities in Broome County have identified limited access to dental care for the region's most vulnerable low-income residents as a serious problem.
- Broome County Health Department, Broome County Department of Social Services, health care providers and several rural health networks have all identified the need for improved access to dental care.
- Broome County is compounded by low population density, limited availability of providers, and transportation challenges.
- Access to services by those covered by Medicaid Insurance has been identified as another barrier due to a shortage of dentists.

Nutrition

The challenge for low-income parents in Broome County to provide adequate nutrition for their families continues to create stress and remains to be a hardship. In 2011, there were approximately 16.6 million children or 22.4% of U.S. households with children under age 6 are considered food insecure; one in five children are considered to be food insecure.²⁵ Without updated statistics OFBHS can confidently presume those figures will be even higher for the years 2012-2013, considering the economic atmosphere.

The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is an entitlement program for low-income households with a nutritional need. The SNAP program was formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. Certain guidelines must be met in order for a household to be eligible. The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYSOTDA) statistics for

²⁴ www.lourdes.com/centers-and-services/youth-services/oral-health

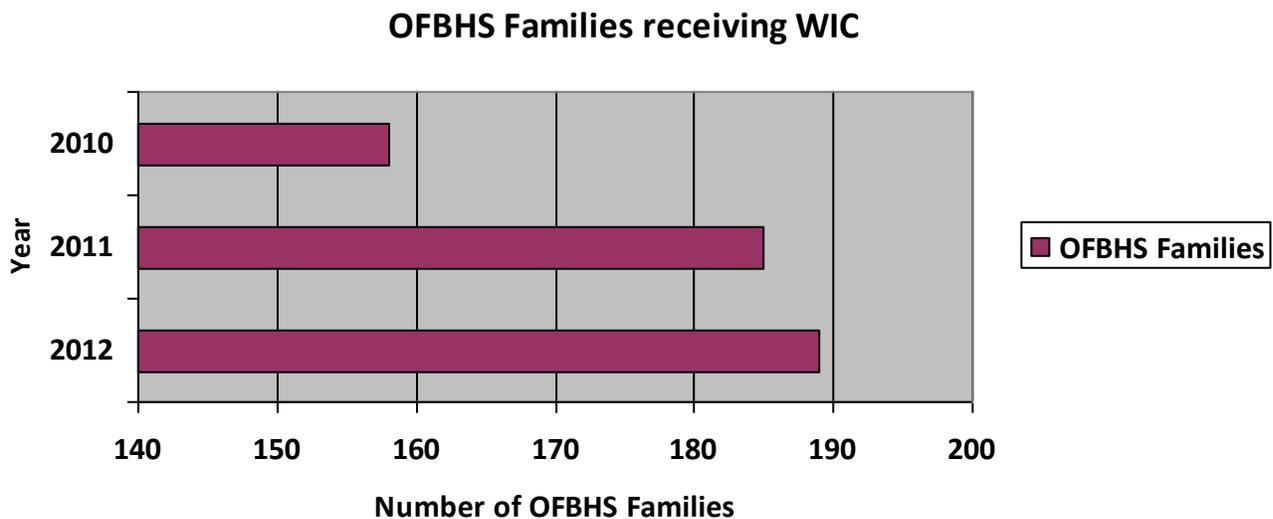
²⁵ Food Research and Action Center Report 2011

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monthly reporting of caseloads for December 2012.²⁶ 30,189 people were receiving SNAP within 16,279 Broome County households.** These figures show an increase of 1.4% individually and 2.8% in households receiving benefits from the previous year data.**

According to the NYSOTDA website, many more households applied for SNAP but did not receive due to the eligibility guidelines. This assumption leads us to believe that there are families that are without food on a daily basis. The Nutrition Consortium of New York continues to rank Broome County as a high-risk area with regard to the numbers of families needing, but not receiving, food stamp assistance. The Working Families SNAP Initiative had a goal to add 100,000 new households in New York by the end of the year 2008. That goal was exceeded. In December of 2012, a new total of 1.66 million households or 3.9 million people received benefits of SNAP. We realize that there may be more families that are receiving SNAP benefits, but due to the stigma of receiving SNAP the family may not wish to divulge that information.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is currently serving over 72% of OFBHS eligible children. This percentage has increased over the past 3 years. WIC continues to promote the value of its benefits to current and potential customers. The high enrollment may be due in part to the efforts of the OFBHS to work collaboratively with WIC staff to improve the referral, enrollment, and retention of WIC participants. Applying to the WIC program has been made easier for families; they now only recertify once a year. The WIC agency hours of operation have also been extended to enable more participants to apply. The collaboration between the agencies has provided for a better referral process. The chart below gives the number of OFBHS families over the past three years that have received WIC.²⁷



²⁶ <http://otda.ny.gov/>

²⁷ Opportunities for Broome Head Start PIR

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Table 20: OFBHS Families Receiving WIC

The Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW), the hunger relief and advocacy program for the Broome County Council of Churches, serves individuals and families in need of emergency food assistance. Currently CHOW stocks 31 pantries and distributes food to 30 shelters, soup kitchens and distribution sites.²⁸ Since 1997, after the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, meals served/distributed through these programs have steadily increased. In 2012, a staggering 690,000 meals were served through all methods of distribution. Last year the utilization of the Farmers Market Program was 52% among OFBHS families, a 15% increase in the past 3 years. OFBHS families have also used other nutrition assistance programs with 100% participation in the Free/Reduced School Lunch and Breakfast Program, an increase in the last 2 years and an additional 3% increase in the last year.

The OFBHS Parent Focus Group 2013 highlighted the following strengths of our nutrition program:

- children are encouraged to try new foods and make healthy food choices,
- children learn to set the table and serve themselves food while eating in a family style atmosphere,
- creativity with nutritious food ideas, recipes and
- referrals to Cooperative Extension EFNEP Program.

The focus group did not identify any needs or concerns in the area of Nutrition within the OFBHS program.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is very advantageous to improving the quality of child care. Having access to a nutritional meal on a daily basis and learning healthy food choices is vital to young children of low-income families. In the United States today, the epidemic of obesity, especially childhood obesity, needs to be addressed in as many positive life changing ways that programs can create. The fact that more than one-third of our children in the U.S. today are overweight or obese according to the national figures derived from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)²⁹ in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) tells us that we need to teach, train as much as possible in as many ways as possible with our families to make healthier food choices to combat this issue. All Head Start families are funded through the CACFP.

The really alarming statistics, while tracking with the nation-wide trends, are associated with the incidence of Overweight and At Risk of Overweight for Children. These statistics continue to grow nationwide. These growing trends in the nutritional needs of our preschoolers represent serious challenges to be met by our program, in collaboration with a wide network of community-

²⁸ Broome County Council of Churches

²⁹ <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>

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based programs. Within our own program we can see an increase of the overweight and obese epidemic continuing to spiral out of control as illustrated in the following chart.

OFBHS Obesity Statistics

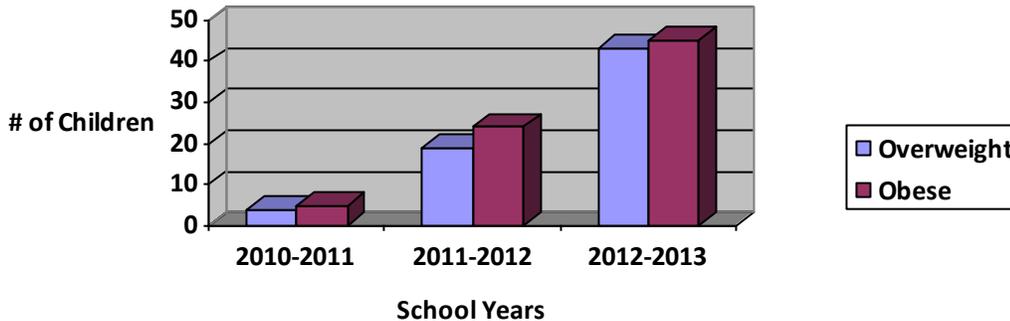


Table 21: OFBHS Obesity Statistics

Nutrition services offered in the OFBHS service area to meet nutritional needs and address the fitness of our children include: OFBHS Nutrition Component, The I am moving, I am learning Head Start initiative, Local Affiliated School Districts, Broome County Health Department, New York State Department of Health, CACFP, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP), Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC), Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW), Community Soup Kitchens and Independent Food Pantries from across our service area.

In the rural areas we serve in Broome County their food pantries more than doubled the number of people and families served for food. Mobil Food Distributions have also seen an increase in people standing in line to receive food. Additional locations are being set up in the target areas to help meet the needs of families.³⁰

In regards to Emergency Food Assistance and Holiday Food Assistance, we had 116 families³¹ that were assisted this year (this number more than doubled from last year). In the beginning of the program year, families are provided a list of food pantries and are given direction as how to access them in case they are in need of assistance. Providing families with the appropriate resources has led to a decline in the amount of Emergency Food assistance requests this year, because we have taught them how to access these services on their own.

³⁰ Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse

³¹ COPA Family Referral Report – 1008

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Resources Available:

- *Broome County Health Department,*
- *New York State Department of Health*
- *CACFP*
- *Cornell Cooperative Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)*
- *Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP)*
- *Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC)*
- *Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW), Community Soup Kitchens*

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Increased knowledge in the available programs for individuals.*
- *Applying to the programs has been made a smoother process for applicants.*
- *Changes in the WIC program processes have resulted in increased numbers of families accessing the service.*
- *Increase knowledge to families regarding serious health risks to overweight/obese children.*
- *Barrier to services: There is a stigma of receiving services.*

V. MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES:

Mental Health

The Broome County Mental Health Department reports an increasing number of people using primary care physicians for their mental health and pharmacological needs. There is a shortage in this community for child psychiatrists as well as psychologists that will provide counseling services for children under the age of five. There is an ongoing need in Broome County for children birth to age five that are in significant need of inpatient mental health services and crisis intervention services.

Broome County SPOA has seen an increase in younger age children from four to six and their families that are utilizing mental health services. Lourdes Center for Mental Health provides assessments, however it is an extremely long wait especially for children in a crisis. The greater Binghamton Health Center does offer crisis services for children five years and older however,

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they will see children under four only in extreme crisis emergency situations. There is one part time psychiatrist currently working with children at the Broome County Mental Health Clinic.³²

Mental Health services in Broome County for children and adults seem to have an increasing amount of clients seeking mental health services, however many adults and children have difficulty obtaining these services due to lack of transportation, long waiting period for an appointment, stigma behind receiving mental health services and lack of insurance to cover the care.

OFBHS provides mental health services at no cost to all Head Start parents, children, and their families. From September 2012 through June 2013 there were 17 children referred for mental health services, all of which were responded to by the Mental Health professional. Out of the 17 children referred, 14 received play therapy counseling services during the school day primarily for behavior reasons. 11 children were seen due to behavior concerns, 2 children were seen due to bereavement and 4 children were seen due to stressors related to parent incarceration. There were 7 families served via individual consultation and home visits by our Mental Health Professional. Of those children referred for mental health services through OFB Head Start, many parents indicated concerns over their inability to provide effective parenting to their child at this time due to a major life change. These major life changes included the loss of one or both parents through distance, divorce, separation, physical illness, mental illness, substance abuse or abandonment. There has been an increase in children being raised by a grandparent due to biological parent's incarceration.

There were 34 classroom observations conducted to ensure classrooms were conducting daily lessons regarding mental health awareness for children as well as skills and strategies they can use to assist with self-regulation during the school day and at home. Also, OFBHS classrooms are arranged and organized appropriately so children can take breaks to self-regulate in the designated "safe place" in the classroom when needed.

The adversity that people are facing with the struggling economy has put a huge hardship with families and their homes. Within two-parent households this year, staff has seen an increase with them experiencing relationship problems. This year some families have accessed our staff to support and guide them to services that can help them with their personal relationships/marriage concerns. We believe there is more that need the services it is that they just don't want us to know. Therefore, we are providing them the resources to access on their own. We help as much as possible, however; funds and programs are limited and there is a large waiting list for counseling services. If money does become available for any future grants to support families we will seek these additional funds.

³² Broome County and Family Enrichment Network

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Resources Available:

- *The Corner for Youth and Family at Lourdes provides counseling and play therapy. There is a 3-month waiting period for non-emergency treatment.*
- *The Mental Health Association provides mental health services at no charge to children and adults. The MHA operates the Bringing Equal Access to Residents (BEAR) program, which offers in-home counseling to people residing in rural areas.*
- *The Crime Victims Assistance Center provides counseling for both children and families. This service does not currently have a waiting list. Domestic violence was the largest area of need and child sexual abuse was the second largest area of need. Provide free counseling to survivors as well as a 24 hour crisis line and advocacy program.*
- *The Broome County Mental Health Clinic provides outpatient clinical treatment to adults. In 2010, the Broome County Mental Health children's unit closed leaving a gap in overall community for counseling and psychiatry services for children. To compensate for this gap, the Greater Binghamton Health Center and Family and Children's Society expanded their services to accommodate more children who were in need of counseling and psychiatric services.*
- *Catholic Charities-provides short term home based counseling for families with children 11-18 who are at risk of placement*
- *24 Hour Crisis Line-The CPEP team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. CPEP HOTLINE-(607) 762-2302 or 1-800-451-0560*
- *Family and Children's Society-provides family counseling, adoption services, child abuse prevention services.*
- *Gateway Center for Youth-Gateway is a free and confidential counseling program that offers short-term individual counseling and a variety of group counseling opportunities. Any Broome County youth ages 8-21 years.*
- *Lourdes Corner for Youth and Family-counseling services for adolescents age 12-21.*
- *Samaritan Counseling Center-Counseling for adults*
- *UHS Outpatient Mental Health-Counseling services are provided for individuals of all ages, couples, groups and families on a wide variety of mental health issues.*
- *Binghamton General Hospital-Services for adults and children*

Gaps / Trends / Key Findings:

- *Mental health and crisis counseling services limited to children under 4 years old.*
- *Lack of child psychiatrists and counselors for preschool aged children.*
- *Specialized services or group counseling to be more available to children whose parent have become incarcerated.*
- *Parenting classes/counseling needed for grandparents raising their grandchildren*
- *Currently there are little to none "at home" services for providers to work with children in the home with emotional disturbances and mental health issues.*

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Children with Disabilities

Children with special needs are required to appropriate assessment and programs for children ages 3-5 through the NYS Committee on Preschool Special Education. These assessments are completed by the child's appropriate school district and parents are given the options of different evaluators in the county they can choose from. Once a child has been evaluated, the CPSE process will begin. 30 days following, the child should begin receiving services. In 2012, there was an estimated 733 children with disabilities in Broome County ages 0-3 year's old receiving services and 837 children ages 3-5 receiving services. In 2011, there were estimated 653 children ages 0-3 receiving services and 652 children ages 3-5 receiving services. Providers in Broome County report that over 90% of children referred for services do qualify.³³

Broome County offers early intervention services for children birth to two years old. Early intervention services are aimed at meeting children's developmental needs and helping parents take care of their children who are at-risk for or have developmental delays/disabilities. These services are provided anywhere in Broome County.

Broome County Health Department and other evaluating agencies report an increase in the number of evaluations for children each year. This may be due to the increase in more children receiving early intervention services. Unfortunately, the lack of service providers as well as the increase in children qualifying for services in rural areas makes it difficult for children to get the services they need. The Director of the Broome County Health Department's Special Needs Program, Trina Cooney, reports that the areas of highest need are speech delays, and occupational therapy including sensory issues. Clients are scattered throughout the county which makes the rural areas the most difficult to serve. The county is less able to provide transportation services for the rurally located children to a program due to the increase in fuel costs and the families are unable to transport their children to a program or a service provider in another part of the county for the same reason.

Service Area School Districts & Children with Special Needs 2012

School Districts	Ages 0-3	Ages 3-5
Union-Endicott	96	31
Maine-Endwell	72	22
Vestal	10	41
Windsor	9	35
Harpurville	10	12
Chenango Valley	10	14
Chenango Forks	10	16
Whitney Point	9	9

³³ Broome County Early Intervention

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Table 22: Service Area School Districts & Children with Special Needs 2012

OFBHS Children with Special Needs Receiving Services 2012-2013

(A child may be receiving more than one related service)

Center	IEP'S	OT	PT	SEIT	Speech
Endicott	44	23	21	19	31
Harpurville	10	2	1	0	5
Palmer	9	2	1	1	7
Whitney Point	8	2	1	1	4

Table 23: OFBHS Children with Special Needs Receiving Services 2012-2013

OFBHS Children with special needs receiving services 2011-2012

(A child may be receiving more than one related service)

Center	IEP'S	OT	PT	SEIT	Speech
Endicott	59	32	19	30	42
Harpurville	11	5	1	3	9
Palmer	11	5	1	3	9
Whitney Point	13	2	5	0	6

Table 24: OFBHS Children with Special Needs Receiving Services 2011-2012

OFBHS Children with special needs receiving services 2010-2011

(A child may be receiving more than one related service)

Center	IEP'S	OT	PT	SEIT	Speech
Endicott	61	16	12	17	28
Harpurville	11	1	2	0	8
Palmer	10	1	2	1	7
Whitney Point	12	2	5	1	5

Table 25: OFBHS Children with Special Needs Receiving Services 2010-2011

Our Endicott Center collaborates with The Handicapped Children's Association, who provides integrated placement for special needs children. These classrooms give children with special needs the opportunity to learn alongside their typical peers, while receiving the services they need. Some children come to OFBHS with certified individualized education plans already in

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place from early intervention services. However, because this is the first time school experience for many of our children, they are assessed for learning difficulties and necessary services are put into place if needed.

Approximately 71 children of OFBHS enrollment in the 2012-2013 program year were children with special needs. 87 of our students were referred for special services in the 2012-2013 program year. Of the 87 children referred to the Committee on Preschool Education, 16 children did not receive services because they did not qualify once they were evaluated parents refused or service providers were unavailable.³⁴

Services Available:

Broome County has services available for children with special needs. However, a large percentage of these agencies have limited spaces available for children. Spaces that do open up are filled almost instantly, leaving it extremely difficult for eligible children to get the services they need.

- *Broome County Early Intervention Services: This program is early identification and early intervention services provided by Broome County. Services are available for infants and toddlers under the age of three who have developmental delays. Early intervention services can be provided anywhere in the community or in the child's home. Developmental delays can be in the following areas: Physical development including hearing and vision, learning or cognitive development, speech or language, social/emotional development, and self-help skills.*
- *Handicapped Children's Association Diagnostic/Treatment Services: This program performs assessments, family support services, treatment, evaluations and on and off site. HCA has a staff of physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, special educators, nurses, psychologists and social workers.*
- *Building Blocks Preschool and Early Intervention Services: This program offers evaluations, therapies and special education services through the health department and/or state education for children birth to five years old.*
- *Broome County Health Department: Contracts with several agencies and providers for children birth to five with suspected delays.*
- *The Institute for Child Development at Binghamton University: This program provides intensive educational services to children with severe disorders such as; Autism, developmental disabilities and emotional disturbances. This is a private unit that is approved by the NYS Education Department. This unit services children between the ages of 10 months to 11 years old for two years. Early intervention and intensive services are geared toward autism and related delays. The children's unit conducts early intervention assessments for children 15-35 months that include; multidisciplinary evaluations,*

³⁴ Opportunities for Broome COPA Database

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psychological evaluation and diagnostic evaluation. For children ages 3-5 they also conduct multidisciplinary evaluations, psychological evaluation and diagnostic evaluations.

- *The High Risk Birth Clinic: This is a program through Broome Developmental Services and the Office of Mental Retardation and developmental Disabilities that performs prevention, evaluations and services to children birth to six. This program has a strong component of parental involvement. Services are typically performed in the home.*
- *The Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment: This agency provides services for people from infants to elderly with a vision disability. The infant and Children's Services Department works with infants and preschoolers from school age to 14, in 9 New York counties. For infants to preschool aged children, this program works with infants, toddlers and their families to help with early skill training.*
- *The Early Childhood Direction Center: This program is located at the Southern Tier Independence Center and services a six county area. This program assists parents in obtaining information and referrals for children birth to two on the CPSE process and programs for children with disabilities.*

Gaps/Trends/Key Findings

- *There is a large need to increase the number of related service providers in the area. If there were more service providers, more children would be serviced even in the rural areas.*
- *Evaluations are not being completed in a timely matter due to lack of providers. This prevents children from getting to the CPSE process quickly and potentially not having a provider available.*
- *The number of children ages 0-3 eligible for services are increasing.*
- *Training for teachers in identifying and detecting delays earlier.*

OFBHS is helping to identify almost half of the children in our service areas. From 2010-2013 the number of children being identified for special services decreased, but that can be contributed to families moving out of the area.

VI. UNMET NEED FOR HEAD START:

Two sources are used to determine the unmet need for Head Start. The first of these comes from the New York State District Report Card Comprehensive Information Report for 2011-2012, and the second comes from Medicaid birth statistics for the years which coincide with eligible ages for the Head Start Program.

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The following chart indicates the estimated number of 3 and 4 year olds in each school district in the OFB Head Start service area. The formula for this number requires taking the total enrollment figure for Kindergarten and 1st Grade, subtracting the number of UPK slots, and multiplying by the percentage of children receiving free lunch based on the Information Report. The number is then subtracted by the number of children served by OFBHS to get the estimated number of Head Start eligible children in each district.

Head Start Eligible Children by School District³⁵

	K + 1 st Grade	District UPK	% free lunch	HS Eligible	
Chenango Forks	164	57	19	20	
Chenango Valley	210	81	22	28	
Deposit	69	21	45	22	
Harpursville	94	34	44	26	
Maine-Endwell	310	59	22	55	
Union-Endicott	458	90	38	140	
Vestal	345	99	17	42	
Whitney Point	191	57	34	46	
Windsor	194	65	30	39	
	2035	563		418	Total Eligible 3 & 4 Year Olds
				-259	Funded Enrollment
				159	Unservd 3 & 4 Year Olds

Table 26: Head Start Eligible Children by School District

The second set of numbers used to indicate unmet need for Head Start come from Medicaid births for the year's corresponding to the birth years for children currently 3 and 4 years of age. The third column is solely for future use and is not figured into the calculations. Though not exact, these figures give another indication of the approximate numbers of children who might be eligible for Head Start if the income in their homes did not change substantially between their birth and current day. The following chart indicates Medicaid births by town in the OFBHS service area.

³⁵ <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>

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2019-1012 MEDICAID BIRTHS (based on zip code)³⁶

Name of Town or Village	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Chenango Forks (13746)	10	10	9
Harpursville (13787)	18	16	16
Deposit (13754)	11	25	24
Port Crane (13833)	21	13	13
Kirkwood (13795)	10	16	15
Nineveh (13813)	3	5	5
Windsor (13865)	29	23	22
Lisle (13797)	11	14	13
Maine (13802)	0	7	6
Endicott (13760)	158	194	190
Glen Aubrey (13777)	5	4	4
Castle Creek (13744)	2	5	4
Vestal (13850)	27	37	36
Whitney Point (13862)	15	19	19
TOTALS	320	388	376

Total 3 and 4 year olds (columns 1 + 2)	708
Funded Enrollment	<u>-259</u>
Unservd 3 & 4 Year Olds	449

Table 27: 2019-1012 MEDICAID BIRTHS (based on zip code)

If all of these children remained in the same location as when born, and if the household income remained at a level allowing the family eligibility for Head Start, then there would be 708 eligible children for our program. Subtract 259 served by Head Start, and that leaves 449 un-served 3 and 4 year old, Head Start eligible children in our service area.

While each of these methods of calculating the unmet need for Head Start are estimates based solely on family income levels, they give a general perspective of the potential number of children in need of Head Start services. The calculations below give an estimate of un-served 3 and 4 year olds in the OFBHS service area based on an average of the previous calculations.

Calculations of Unservd 3 & 4 Year Olds in OFBHS Service Area

Based on Free Lunch Method	159
<u>Based on Medicaid Births Method</u>	<u>449</u>
Estimate based on average of both methods	304

Table 28: Calculations of Unservd 3 & 4 Year Olds in OFBHS Service Area

³⁶ <http://www.mothersandbabies.org/>

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The data was broken down further to determine the unmet needs based on our current location of centers. The chart below gives a breakdown of each center that includes the towns or villages that are served by each. An average of both methods of calculating the unmet need was used to come up with the number of eligible children in each area. The number of children served in each center was then subtracted to determine the estimated number of unserved children in each center location.

Unmet Need by Center

Center/Townships	Eligible (Free Lunch) (11'-12' School Yr.)	Medicaid Births (08'-09' + 09'-10')	Average (Column 1 & 2)	H.S. Served (By Center)	Unserved (Avg - Served)
<u>Endicott Center</u>					
Endicott	140	352			
Maine	55	7			
Vestal	42	64			
Totals	237	423	330	154	176
<u>Harpursville Center</u>					
Deposit	22	36			
Harpursville	26	34			
Nineveh (Harp. District)	x	8			
Port Crane (CV District)	28	34			
Totals	78	112	95	30	65
<u>Palmer Center</u>					
Windsor	39	52			
Kirkwood (Wind. District)	x	26			
Totals	39	78	59	29	30
<u>Whitney Point Center</u>					
Castle Creek (WP District)	x	7			
Chenango Forks (WP Dist.)	20	20			
Glen Aubrey (WP District)	x	9			
Lisle (WP District)	x	25			
Whitney Point	46	34			
Totals	66	95	81	46	34.5

Table 29: Unmet Need by Center

According to the calculations from Table 25, there are 2035 children, ages 3 and 4 in the OFBHS service area. The nine school districts in the OFBHS service area currently have 621 UPK slots, most of which are only half-day at this point. The school districts have a lottery system to determine which children are chosen for their UPK slots. There are currently 611 slots (Table 30) throughout the OFBHS service area in public day care that currently serve children ages 3 – 5.

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OFBHS collaborates with the Union-Endicott School District to provide UPK services to 58 children that are dually enrolled with Head Start. There are 32 OFBHS children that are attending a UPK program through collaborations with the Harpursville and Whitney Point school districts to ensure the children are receiving full day services.

The average of two different methods on Information from Tables 24 - 26 estimate that there are an estimated 563, Head Start eligible, three and four year olds in the OFBHS service area. OFBHS has a funded enrollment of 259 children, which leaves an estimated number of 304 Head Start eligible children in the OFBHS service area, ages three and four, that are not served by OFBHS.

These numbers indicate a significant number of children that are not served by a public program. While all 304 of these children would benefit from early childhood education programming, about 206 children aged 3 & 4 have all parents in the labor force (based on 67.6% rate) and therefore “need” child care. It is difficult to determine the exact number of children that remain unserved, due to relative or unlicensed care, but the capacity to fulfill demand would still be short. Among home-based child care providers, program quality tends to be inconsistent. The level of quality that exists in any given program depends largely on the provider’s educational background, and his/her chosen approach to care and educational programming.

Head Start Needs

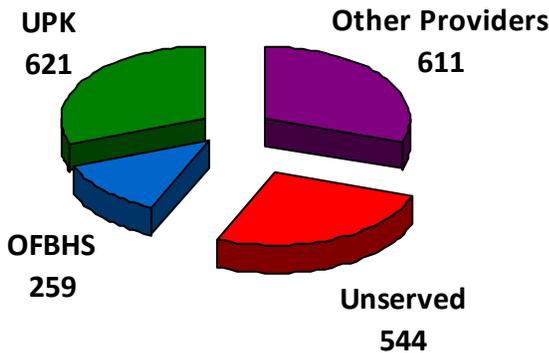


Table 30: Head Start Needs in OFBHS Service Area

Services Available

- UPK services through the 9 school districts in the OFBHS service area
- Friends or Relatives
- OFB Head Start – Head Start Only
- Family Enrichment Network – EHS Only

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- *The Whitney Point Pre-School in Whitney Point*
- *Saint Anthony's in Endicott*
- *ABC Child Care in Endwell and*
- *Tutor Time in Vestal*

Gaps/Trends/Key Findings

- *Expansion of public UPK services*
- *Lack of day care slots, especially for children under 3 years of age*
- *There are very few child care centers operating in the rural areas of Broome County*
- *With the high cost of child care, most parents turn to family members and friends to help meet their child care needs.*

VII. UNMET NEED FOR EARLY HEAD START:

According to the Medicaid Birth chart (Table 26) of this document, there were 1084 Medicaid births between 2009 and 2012, which averages out to approximately 361 Medicaid births per year in the OFBHS service area. This would mean that there are 722 children eligible for EHS. Data from the Head Start Eligible Children by School District chart (Table 25) estimates approximately 418 EHS eligible children.

Calculations of EHS Eligible Unserved Children Ages 0-3 in OFBHS Service Area

Based on Free Lunch Method	418
<u>Based on Medicaid Births Method</u>	<u>722</u>
Estimate based on average of both methods	570

Table 31: Calculations of Unserved Children Under 3 Years Old in OFBHS Service Area

Based on either one of these numbers, there is a very high need for Early Head Start services in the OFBHS service area; there are approximately 570 eligible Early Head Start children in the OFBHS service area. Subtracting the number of children serves in other day care programs (298), there are at least 272 eligible, unserved infant and toddlers in the OFBHS service area. The number is most likely higher, because the infants and toddlers currently being served also includes over income children. There are currently no registered day care providers in Chenango Forks, Harpursville, and Windsor. Therefore, there are a significant number of infants and toddlers that are not served by a public program in the OFBHS service area.

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Early Head Start Needs

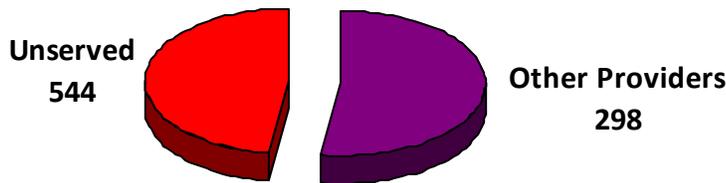


Table 32: Early Head Start Needs in OFBHS Service Area

Services Available

- Various Child Care programs
- Friends or Relatives

Gaps/Trends/Key Findings

- Lack of Early Childhood services and other types of daycare
- The data also demonstrates that the four (4) Head Start Centers are located in areas of need.

VIII. Other Child Development & Child Care Programs Serving Early Head Start and Head Start Eligible Children:

Access to child care is crucial in order for parents to go to work or to go back to school. According to US Census Data (2011), there are 10,431 children under the age of 5 and there are 22 Child Care Centers, 76 Registered/Licensed Family Child Care Homes, and 30 School Age Child Care Programs in Broome County that have 4,999 slots for child care. There are 2,885³⁷ children under the age of 5 that use relative care or in-home care. The Kid's Count Data Center states that there are 6,572³⁸ children under the age of 5 that need child care in Broome County. This leaves a shortage of 1,573 slots for child care for children under the age of 5. The chart below breaks down the locations of child care programs.

³⁷ <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

³⁸ <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

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Child Development Programs/Child Care Programs in Broome County³⁹

Location	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care	Group Family Child Care	School Age Child Care
Endicott / Endwell	3	17	4	6
Vestal	5	3	1	5
Rest of OFBHS Service Area	2	9	3	1
Out of OFBHS Service Area	12	31	8	18
Broome County Totals	22	60	16	30

Table 33: Child Development Programs/Child Care Programs in Broome County

Child Development Programs/Child Care Programs in OFBHS Service Area

School District	0-3 Day Care	3-5 Day Care	UPK
Chenango Forks	0	0	57
Chenango Valley	54	78	81
Deposit	18	15	21
Harpursville	0	0	34
Maine-Endwell	40	34	59
Union-Endicott	44	166	148
Vestal	168	264	99
Whitney Point	28	54	57
Windsor	0	0	65
TOTALS	298	611	621

Table 34: Child Development Programs/Child Care Programs in OFBHS Service Area

A total of 621 four-year olds (of all incomes) attended a public Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program in the OFBHS service area during the 2011 – 2012 school year. However, this number will most likely increase, as there is a big movement towards UPK expansion.

IX. Child Care Needs in Broome County:

The data shows that there is a lack of child care throughout Broome County. This is often a barrier for parents to find work or to go back to school. There are also the concerns of parents

³⁹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/>

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being able to afford quality child care. Often times, parents have to make the decision to stay home or place their children with relatives, unregistered, or unregulated care.

With the high cost of child care, many parents turn to family members or friends to help meet their child care needs. Thirty-nine percent (64) of the parents responding to the most recent Parent Questionnaire indicated that they use child care in addition to services provided by Head Start. Of those who indicated a need for outside child care, 10 parents use a licensed child care facility, 8 parents use a registered family care provider and 46 utilize the help of family members and friends.

There are very few child care centers operating in the rural areas of Broome County. Notable exceptions include: The Whitney Point Pre-School in Whitney Point, Saint Anthony's in Endicott, ABC Child Care in Endwell and Tutor Time in Vestal. In addition, we collaborate with three school districts that offer Universal Pre-K in our service area. At the Route 26 location in Endicott, OFBHS provides direct services for 58 Union-Endicott Pre-K children. In Harpursville and Whitney Point, UPK children are served in district run programs and OFBHS provides complementary times which allow eligible children to be served by both programs. Children can attend UPK for one part of the day and Head Start for the other. This option provides parents with a full day option at no cost to them, and is an excellent way to work effectively with school districts. Other school districts within our service area offer UPK programming and serve all or most of the Head Start eligible children in their own UPK program. These districts include Chenango Valley, Chenango Forks, and Deposit.

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X. THE 2013 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

September 2013 – Present Program-Wide Planning Process to OFB Board for approval.

Responsibility: Director

Begin Focus group planning. Responsibility: Administration

October 2013– Present overview of Community Assessment process to Head Start, Administrative staff and Policy Council, review sources of data, clarify data collection process, hand out packets and make data collection assignments, review parent questionnaire, instruct committee members to develop report on results of data collection.

Parent focus group at Officer's Training. Responsibility: FCP Coordinator

January 2014 – Recruit Community Assessment committee consisting of HS Coordinators, Director, and Policy Council Planning Committee. Responsibility: Director

Parent questionnaire distributed to parents. Responsibility: FCP Coordinator.

February 2014 – Meet with committee to review Performance Standards for CA, review CA process, and begin data collection.

March 2014– Complete data collection and compile data. Review process and goals and objectives with Admin staff. Committee meets to develop conclusions and goals and objectives. Complete draft.

April 2014 –Review and update Community Assessment draft to Policy Council and Board.

Responsibility: Head Start Director and Planning Committee Chair.

Finalize Community Assessment, including goals and objectives section. Proof read.

Responsibility: Director.

May 2014 – Present Final Community Assessment to Policy Council and Board for approval.

June 2014 - Review CA conclusions and goals and objectives with the Admin team at retreat to develop program plan.

Responsibility: Coordinators and Director

August 2014 - Share Community Assessment results on goals and objectives at Pre-service.

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XI. IDENTIFIED FINDINGS BASED ON 2013 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Population:

- This past year finally showed an increase in Broome County's population.
- Job seekers far outnumber employment opportunity.

Racial & Ethnic Composition of Eligible Children & Families:

- The minority population for Broome County has shown a slight increase from 11.4 percent in 2011 to 13.7 percent in 2012, while OFBHS saw a slight decrease from 2012 to 2013.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income:

- Approximately one-third of those individuals eligible for the Food Stamp Program actually participate.
- In the 2012 – 2013 school year, 59 OFBHS households received TANF assistance. This is a decrease from the past few years as shown in the chart below.
- The number of households receiving TANF and SSI has increased in Broome County, while the number of households in OFBHS receiving TANF and SSI has decreased.

Employment:

- The percentage of Head Start enrolled families receiving services or referrals related to job training has shown an increase this past year.
- Over the past several years, our community has lost a significant number of jobs in the manufacturing industry.
- There has been a steady increase in unemployed parents in our program, with a significant jump in unemployment in the past year. This rate and trajectory is much higher than in the overall county.

Parent Involvement/Engagement:

- Families need help identifying stress issues to assist them in coping.
- Lack of transportation and high costs in gas make it difficult for parents to attend parenting classes, especially when they reside in rural areas.
- Over 50% of the families have indicated they would like help or guidance in parenting and helping their child learn.
- Approximately 15% of our families that completed the survey have indicated they have a concern regarding their child's behavior (Positive Thinking for Parents Survey).

Domestic Abuse, Violence and Neglect:

- Child Abuse and Maltreatment has increased each year since 2006.
- Violent and Property Crimes have increased in Broome County for another year.
- Parents may not be aware of the affect that violent T.V. shows, games, movies, family disruptions have on a child.
- Less than 5% of HS families indicate that domestic violence has occurred in their home. However, that number could be as high as 25-30% of the families have issues with child abuse/maltreatment, domestic violence, and other areas of violence within their homes.

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Literacy/Adult Education:

- More parents are reading to their children daily and regularly (1-2 times a day).
- There has been an increase in families having a computer with internet access in their home.
- Continual follow-up and support to families have assisted families in reaching their educational/employability goals.
- Continued Education resources are limited in the rural areas of the county.
- Services are available for families to access (Job Bank, Employment Office, and Workforce) but are centralized in the urban areas of the county.
- Transportation, time, and child care hinders them to attend these services (Focus Group Survey).

Housing and Homelessness:

- A growing shortage of safe, decent, affordable housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.
- Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Individuals living in poverty are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, utilities and health care.
- Housing has become increasingly scarce for those with little money.
- Earnings from employment and from benefits have not kept pace with the cost of housing and utilities for low-income and very low-income individuals.
- A year or more waiting list to assist people with housing.

Health and Nutrition - Medical:

- Health insurance is very costly for individuals that fall between the cracks of poverty level and lower middle class.
- Lack of preventive health care for low-income individuals, especially in rural areas
- Children who attend OFBHS program receive preventative and ongoing health care once enrolled in the program.
- Lack of preventive health care for low-income individuals making it difficult for children to be tested in remote rural areas.
- Lack of preventive health care and education regarding risks of lead exposure
- In Broome County children that are 72 months and older confirmed lead blood levels higher than NYS rate.

Health and Nutrition - Dental:

- Many communities in Broome County have identified limited access to dental care for the region's most vulnerable low-income residents as a serious problem.
- Broome County Health Department, Broome County Department of Social Services, health care providers and several rural health networks have all identified the need for improved access to dental care.
- Broome County is compounded by low population density, limited availability of providers, and transportation challenges.
- Access to services by those covered by Medicaid Insurance has been identified as another barrier due to a shortage of dentists.

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Health and Nutrition - Nutrition:

- Increased knowledge in the available programs for individuals.
- Applying to the programs has been made a smoother process for applicants.
- Changes in the WIC program processes have resulted in increased numbers of families accessing the service.
- Increase knowledge to families regarding serious health risks to overweight/obese children.
- Barrier to services: There is a stigma of receiving services.

Mental Health & Disabilities – Mental Health:

- Mental health and crisis counseling services limited to children under 4 years old.
- Lack of child psychiatrists and counselors for preschool aged children.
- Specialized services or group counseling to be more available to children whose parent have become incarcerated.
- Parenting classes/counseling needed for grandparents raising their grandchildren.
- Currently there are little to none “at home” services for providers to work with children in the home with emotional disturbances and mental health issues.

Mental Health & Disabilities – Disabilities:

- There is a large need to increase the number of related service providers in the area. If there were more service providers, more children would be serviced even in the rural areas.
- Evaluations are not being completed in a timely matter due to lack of providers. This prevents children from getting to the CPSE process quickly and potentially not having a provider available.
- The number of children ages 0-3 eligible for services are increasing.
- Training for teachers in identifying and detecting delays earlier.

Unmet Need – Head Start:

- Expansion of public UPK services.
- Lack of day care slots, especially for children under 3 years of age.
- There are very few child care centers operating in the rural areas of Broome County.
- With the high cost of child care, most parents turn to family members and friends to help meet their child care needs.

Unmet Need – Early Head Start:

- Lack of Early Childhood services and other types of daycare.
- The data also demonstrates that the four (4) Head Start Centers are located in areas of need.

Child Care Needs in Broome County:

- There are very few child care centers operating in the rural areas of Broome County.
- Most parents turn to family members and friends to help meet their child care needs due to cost.
- Thirty-nine percent (64) of the parents responding to the most recent Parent Questionnaire indicated that they do use child care in addition to the services provided by Head Start.

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XII. PRIORITIZED NEEDS (GOALS) BASED ON 2013 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT:

Goal #1: To develop (cd backpacks) to use in the milieu to assist families in parenting

Goal #2: Provide training to staff to identify different types of abuse, and procedures for reporting.

Goal #3: To utilize the OFB website in providing links, information and activities for multiple disciplines.

Goal #4: To provide Early Head Start services and zero to three daycare services

Goal #5: Continue to collaborate with dental service providers and new providers to assist with required dental care for children.

Goal #6: Identify and provide nutritional services to children and families aimed at promoting children's health and decrease poor nutrition and childhood obesity.

Goal #7: Strengthen collaboration with local mental health service providers to assist with identification, education, counseling and support to preschool aged children with mental health needs.

Goal #8: Strengthen collaboration with evaluators and refer children with potential disabilities/delays sooner to allow them to obtain services as early as possible.

Goal #9: Continue to train the education and FCP staff in navigating the CPSE process to get children to the CPSE process and evaluated in a timely manner. Collaborate with school districts to obtain their cpse paperwork so we can assist parents in completing the paperwork.