

Reno County Head Start & Early Head Start

2015-2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016



Mission

To provide high quality services to pregnant women and children birth to age five while promoting a community culture that respects the diversity of families.

Our Vision

To create and sustain an environment where low-income pregnant women and families with children birth to age five thrive by:

- Recruiting and selecting highly qualified, well prepared and motivated staff and volunteers;
- Developing and maintaining productive partnerships within the community;
- Providing access to comprehensive health care
- Promoting healthy lifestyle choices;
- Ensuring the development of infants, toddlers, and young children including children with disabilities;
- Developing the capacity of families to nurture their children;
- Preparing children to succeed in school and in life.

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Program Director's Message

It is with pleasure I present to you the 2015 – 2016 Annual Report, reflective of the collective dedication and support received by U.S.D. 308 Board of Education, Policy Council, staff, parents, and community partners. Sustaining dedicated support for over 50 years during constant changing regulations and program trends, Reno County Head Start continues the mission of being committed to providing high quality services to pregnant women and children birth to age five while promoting a community culture that respects the diversity of families.

Research shows evidence of gains a quality early childhood experience has on a child, family, and community. To this end, studies reveal Head Start could increase high school graduation by 7% and has an average return of \$9 dollars for every \$1 dollar invested. Reno County Head Start impacts at the local level includes employing over 70 employees and generating over \$690,000 in revenue for local and state vendors in purchased goods and services.

As a 20 year plus employee of Reno County Head Start, I am forever grateful for the positive impact the program has had on our community. We have many success stories from past parents and students who succeeded in school and life, and now have the opportunity to pay it forward. Proud of our accomplishments, we are excited about sharing our successes in this annual report. Dedicated to a comprehensive early learning agenda to promote school readiness by closing the achievement gap and preparing students to graduate with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to be college and career ready we look forward to the upcoming success stories to be told.

Cindy Keeler
Program Director



***Strength~Commitment~Support~Reliability
Education~Family~Encouragement~Courage***

Program Profile

Reno County Head Start Center-Based Sites

USD 308:

- **Shirlie J. Hutcherson Center**
330 Charles Street, Hutchinson
(620)615-5750
- **McCandless Elementary**
700 N. Baker, Hutchinson
(620)615-5150

USD 309:

- **Nickerson Elementary**
400 N. Nickerson, Nickerson
(620)422-3215
- **South Hutchinson Elementary**
405 S. Poplar, South Hutchinson
(620)665-8441

USD 313:

- **Plum Creek Elementary**
901 East 43rd, Hutchinson
(620)694-1032
- **Union Valley School**
2501 E. 30th, Hutchinson
(620)694-1023

Reno County Early Head Start

- **Office and Home-Based Site**
518 North Washington Street, Hutchinson
(620)665-8648
- **Hutchinson High School Child Care Center**
700 B East 13th, Hutchinson
(620)615-5515

Total # of Children and Families Served in 2015-2016

- Head Start
 - 239 Children
 - 229 Families
- Early Head Start
 - 172 Children
 - 22 Pregnant Women
 - 146 Families



Average Head Start Monthly Enrollment

(as a % of Funded Enrollment)

Income Eligible Children Served

(100% of poverty level or below)

- 90% Head Start
- 97% Early Head Start

July 2015	100%
August 2015	100%
September 2015	100%
October 2015	100%
November 2015	100%
December 2015	100%
January 2016	100%
February 2016	100%
March 2016	100%
April 2016	99%
May 2016	97%
June 2016	100%



Strength

Financials

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS

Reno County Head Start/Early Head Start received a total of \$3,346,431 from the following sources:

Federal Head Start/Early Head Start Grants	\$2,589,537
*In-Kind Donations	\$ 650,248
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$ 100,264
Donations/Cash	<u>\$ 6,382</u>
Total	\$3,346,431

**In-Kind donations, also known as non-federal share, are the communities' contribution to our local Head Start program. Accordingly, Head Start programs are required to generate 20% of their total budgeted amount through local contributions. In-Kind includes donated cash and goods, professional and parent volunteer services.*

FEDERAL FUNDS

HEAD START BUDGET

Personnel	\$1,069,520
Fringe Benefits	\$ 308,339
Travel and Training	\$ 23,740
Equipment	\$ 0
Supplies	\$ 69,386
Contractual	\$ 24,171
Other	<u>\$ 83,983</u>
Total	\$1,579,139

EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$1,031,988
Fringe Benefits	\$ 189,845
Travel and Training	\$ 23,740
Equipment	\$ 8,329
Supplies	\$ 55,085
Contractual	\$ 13,299
Other	<u>\$ 256,853</u>
Total	\$1,579,139

EARLY HEAD START BUDGET

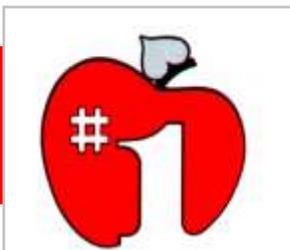
Personnel	\$551,483
Fringe Benefits	\$ 159,093
Travel and Training	\$ 24,335
Equipment	\$ 0
Supplies	\$ 52,239
Contractual	\$68,000
Other	<u>\$155,248</u>
Total	\$ 1,010,398

EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$547,429
Fringe Benefits	\$123,377
Travel and Training	\$ 24,335
Equipment	\$ 26,244
Supplies	\$ 149,952
Contractual	\$ 59,975
Other	<u>\$ 79,086</u>
Total	\$1,010,398

Financial Audit

The Reno County Head Start (RCHS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs were subject to the annual audit of financial statements of the Grantee Agency, Unified School District # 308 for the year ending June 30, 2015. There were no reported findings from the Major Federal Award Programs Audit.



Support

Monitoring Results

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted the most recent on-site Fiscal monitoring review of Reno County Head Start/Early Head Start program from November 2nd to November 5th, 2015.

Based on the information gathered during the review, it was determined RCHS and EHS programs are in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Accordingly, no corrective action was required at that time.



Through effective, research based strategies; Head Start ensures all children are prepared for their transition to kindergarten.

Maintaining the Focus

The Head Start approach to school readiness means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Readiness is children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. For parents and families, school readiness means they are engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child.

Preparation Begins Early!

EHS was created with the knowledge that school readiness doesn't begin when a child turns three or when the child turns five. Key requirements in the Program Performance Standards, such as building relationships with families and providing consistent care giving, prepare our youngest children for success. The social emotional development of young children and the nature of their relationships and attachments are critical to their development.

Cognitive Development

Our curriculum is based on the national Head Start Performance Standards, Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, Kansas Early Learning Standards and RCHS School Readiness Outcomes. In addition to the goal of fulfilling the stipulations of these standards and outcomes our program also strives to:

- Provide curriculum experiences through play, as the natural way young children learn, and as the chosen instructional approach.
- Emphasize the importance of parents teaching their children at home and in coordination with school activities.
- Ensure every child is ready for kindergarten.



The most important goal of our program is to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive learners. We provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in the following domains:

- language and literacy development, including English Language Learners;
- cognition and general knowledge;
- physical development and health;
- social and emotional development; and
- mathematical knowledge

Social/Emotional Development

Fostering healthy development and secure attachments begins prenatally and continues to influence the developmental competence of very young children throughout the early years of life. Communication, self-regulation, and problem solving, developed in the context of trusting relationships and nurturing experiences during the early years of a child's life support the developmental competence of children throughout their school years.

- Parents complete the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) a minimum of once a year to screen for concerns.
- Support from the Head Start Mental Health Specialist is available to staff and families.
- On-site therapy is available to interested and qualifying children and families who attend the Shirlie J. Hutcherson Center for Early Learning and McCandless Elementary site.



Physical Development

- Assistance is provided to families to secure health resources to keep children healthy.
- Staffs work with parents to ensure that children are on schedule for physicals, immunizations and dental care.
- A registered dental hygienist is on staff.
- A registered dietician is on staff for children and families' nutritional needs.



Preschool On-Going Assessment

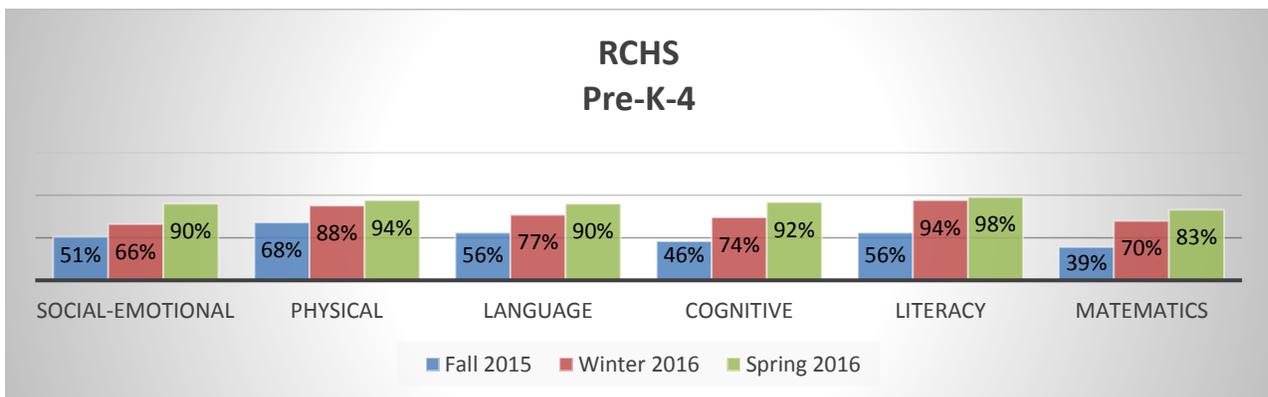
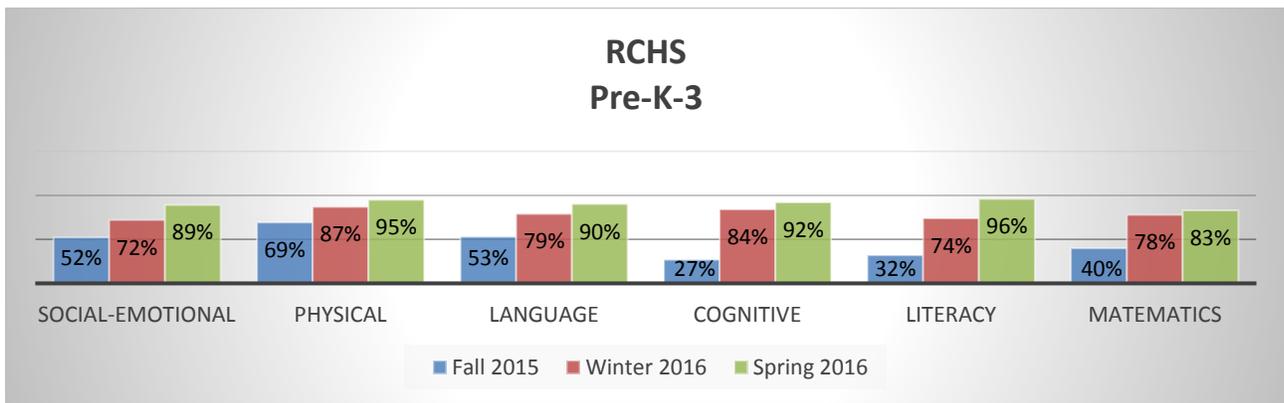
Our school readiness goals, on-going assessment, and curriculum are aligned with federal, state, and local standards.

We ensure children are ready for school through the development of individualized goals based on on-going assessment data, collected quarterly. The data is analyzed by teachers and provided

to families so together they can be full partners in helping their children be prepared for kindergarten.

Reno County Head Start’s primary assessment for preschoolers is *Teaching Strategies GOLD*. It is an observation based assessment that is aligned with our curriculum, *The Creative Curriculum*, Head Start Framework, and Kansas Early Learning Standards.

Children’s progress is assessed on an on-going basis; this information is used for lesson planning for groups of children and to individualize instruction for each child. Data is aggregated and analyzed multiple times throughout the year at individual, classroom, and program levels. The information is used to plan and adapt classroom teaching strategies to increase student learning.

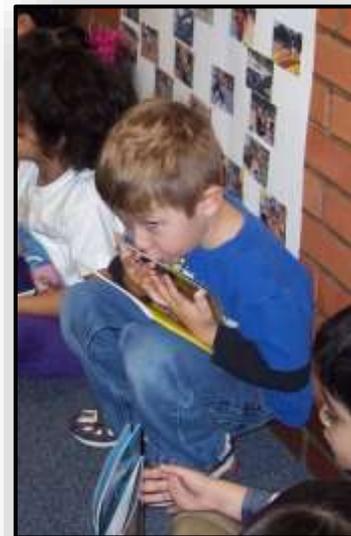


Reno County Head Start prepares children for kindergarten by nurturing their overall development. Children enrolled in EHS program services have the opportunity to learn in their home setting or in a group setting. Head Start services are provided in a preschool setting thereby helping to ensure they are socially and emotionally prepared for the kindergarten classroom. Program staff actively support families by facilitating seamless transitions and continuity from Early Head Start to Head Start to kindergarten.

A total of 120 children transitioned to kindergarten at the end of the 2015-2016 Head Start program year. To prepare children and families and schools for transition a variety of activities were provided. Activities included:

- Meet the Teacher activity for children and families transitioning from EHS to Head Start
- *Transitioning Children into Kindergarten* session was offered to families during Parent Committee meetings
- Elementary kindergarten teachers were invited to speak at Head Start Parent Committee meetings
- Teachers discussed transitions during parent/teacher conferences & home visits
- Program staff and families participated in transition conferences with the receiving elementary school staff
- Elementary schools Kindergarten Round-up events
- Teachers provided kindergarten teachers with a synopsis describing each transitioning child strengths and needs
- K-Ready Reno County meetings, led by United Way of Reno County and representation from Reno County school districts, early childhood programs, special education services, and community agencies were held to share ideas and identify school readiness goals for children
- A parent school readiness meeting, sponsored by the K-Ready Reno County, was held for parents of 4 year olds
- Kindergarten bound children were assessed by kindergarten teachers, a school readiness activity directed by the K-Ready Reno County initiative

Children's Developmental Growth in Head Start Kindergarten Eligible Children			
Area	# Children	Fall	Spring
Social Emotional	106	53%	90%
Physical Development	106	68%	94%
Communication/Language Development	106	56%	90%
Approaches to Learning	106	58%	92%
Literacy	106	66%	98%
Science	106	21%	93%
Mathematical Knowledge	106	39%	83%



Results of the 2015-2016 individual assessment scores indicated the majority of preschoolers about to enter into kindergarten either meet or exceeded developmental expectations, an indicator of School Readiness.





Did you know....

Peter Masters conceptualized the National Head Start logo in 1965. He used building blocks as a metaphor for the development and growth of children through Head Start.

The two blocks represent early childhood. The arrangement of the blocks represent stairs by which this can be accomplished. The vertical stripes represent the child and parent. The arrow pointing upward represents the direction out of poverty and on to the future. The colors, red, white, and blue represent the United States and the many opportunities it provides for its citizens.

Infant/Toddler On-Going Assessment

Developmental assessments were completed in the fall, winter, and spring for the 2015-2016 school year. Eighty-six (86) birth to three year old children enrolled in the RCHS program were assessed. This number represents 100% of the maximum funded enrollment for the year.

Early Learning Accomplishment Profile

(Given to children newborn-36 mos.)

The following table summarizes the progress infants and toddlers made in Head Start's Five Essential Domains of Child Development and Early Learning for the selected checkpoints. Each score represents the average number of milestones achieved expressed as a percentage of the total number of milestones correlated to each domain. The Early LAP (E-LAP) is aligned to the Five Essential Domains of Child Development and Early Learning. All items in the Early LAP are aligned to the Head Start Framework.

Data is collected at three points during the program year, July-October (Beginning), November-February (Mid-year), and March-June (End-Year).

Early Learning Accomplishment Profile

Domain	Beginning	Mid-Year	End-Year
Social and Emotional Development	58%	71%	79%
Approaches Toward Learning	59%	73%	81%
Language and Literacy	40%	52%	63%
Cognition and General Knowledge	46%	59%	70%
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	56%	72%	81%

Learning Accomplishment Profile-D

(Given to children 36 mos.-72 mos.)

The following table summarizes the progress of children enrolled at Reno County Early Head Start based on Head Start’s Child Outcomes Framework for the selected checkpoints. Each score represents the average number of milestones achieved expressed as a percentage of the total number of milestones correlated to each domain. All items on the LAP are correlated to the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework.

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Domain	Beginning	Mid-Year	End-Year
Language Development	38%	57%	64%
Literacy	9%	12%	17%
Mathematics	16%	28%	34%
Science	70%	7%	17%
Creative Arts	19%	37%	44%
Social and Emotional Development	41%	65%	78%
Approaches to Learning	100%	100%	94%
Physical Health and Development	33%	52%	65%

Teacher Outcomes

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System, or CLASS, is a research-based tool used to measure interactions between teachers and children. CLASS uses a standardized method to collect information on the quality of teacher/child interactions. Observers are trained and tested each year on their ability to use the tool. Scores are placed on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being the lowest and 7 the highest possible score.

During the 2015-2016 school year, certified reliable CLASS Observers conducted CLASS observations. Fourteen classrooms were observed. The data obtained from CLASS observations serves as a guide for professional development to improve interactions that support children’s learning and child outcomes for teaching staff.

2015-2016 CLASS Data	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
Preschool Classroom Scores	6.33	6.14	3.36
2015-2016 National Scores	6.03	5.80	2.88
National Head Start Standard of Excellence Scores	6.91	6.65	5.71
National Head Start Minimum Threshold Scores	4.96	4.69	1.59





Family Engagement

It will always be true, parents are their child's first and most important teachers; but more and more families rely on outside resources to help them care and educate their children. Evidence shows when families are engaged in their child's early school experience, children adapt more successfully to school and are more likely to do well academically.

Over the last 50 years, Reno County Head Start has strived to engage families in a true partnership by offering an ongoing, reciprocal, strengths-based partnership between families and our program. Our program has implemented the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework (PFCE). The PFCE is key when achieving the kinds of outcomes that lead to long lasting and positive changes for children and their families. It also honors diversity and integrates the beliefs, strengths, and needs of all children and families and their community.

There are also benefits for the program:

- Family members volunteering in the classroom created smaller adult-child ratios, and more children benefit from adults one-on-one attention for activities.
- Family members sit on parent boards such as Parent Committee and Policy Council to share in important decision-making processes regarding the budget and program planning.

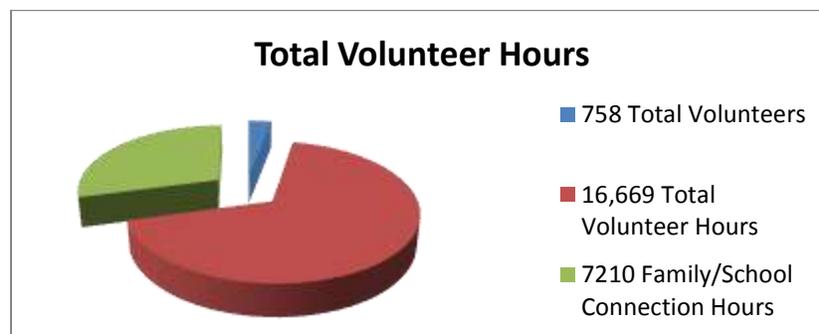
372 families received positive parenting information.

Well integrated school/family partnerships result in benefits for children such as:

- Academic achievement with increased cognitive development and increased language and problem-solving skills.
- Improved positive self-image and pro-social relationships.

The benefits for families include:

- Increased confidence in their own ability to nurture and educate their children.
- Enhanced feelings of self-worth which contribute to an increase in educational and employment opportunities.



Parent Involvement Activities

2015-2016 Highlights

Community Collaborations and Family Activities:

Head Start Yard Sale – In collaboration with the Careyville neighborhood, Head Start parents were given the opportunity to clean house, hold a yard sale and make a little extra money. Head Start provided the space, tables and advertisements.

Mom's Day/Dad's Day – Every classroom had a Mom's Day and a Dad's Day. Parents were invited to the classroom to work on a project with their child, participate in classroom activities, and have lunch with the class. Moms came one day, dads another. Any supportive adult in a student's life was invited to attend. Each classroom chose a different project for parents and students to complete together. The idea behind Mom's Day and Dad's Day, besides to encourage interaction between parent and child, is to get parents into the classroom early in the year with the hope that they will become familiar with and comfortable in the school setting and as a result participate regularly in school functions and volunteer in the classroom for the remainder of the year.

RGHS Day of Caring Volunteers (DOCS) – DOCS provides parents an opportunity to volunteer for a variety of activities throughout the year. The Volunteer Group helps parents become familiar with area resources, build a resume, acquire job skills and references. It supports communities and gives agency and community leaders a chance to observe parent skills, abilities, and willingness to contribute. DOCS lead to an awareness of the benefits of volunteering for individuals and communities and helps build a connection between them. It has led to an increased awareness of Head Start and its services in Reno County. We are now being contacted by agencies and groups in Reno County requesting our assistance with projects.

- Adopt a Highway
- Kansas Kids Museum
- Cancer Council of Reno County
- Christian Soup Kitchen



GLOW Family Activity –Early Head Start and Head Start families came together to play math and literacy games, enjoy a healthy snack, and do crafts all with a glow in the dark theme. Parents and staff worked together to create the learning centers and activities.

Concert in the Park: Head Start and Early Head Start families, staff, community partners and friends gathered at Avenue A Park to kick – off the new program year. There was live music, food, community information and games and activities. This was a very successful event that got everyone excited to participate for the year!

Financial Literacy- An educational session for families with information about the CASH program, an asset building tool designed to enable low-income families to save towards a targeted amount, was provided by Interfaith Housing, along with a speaker from VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and a representative from First National Bank to tell about the benefits of having a local bank account. Earned Income Tax Credit information was given to session participants.

Parent Leadership - Eight parents attended the Parent Leadership Conference in Topeka. Six Head Start parents attended the parent networking Affiliate Program Member meeting in Salina.

Parenting Support:

Conscious Discipline Parent Craft Nights –Crafting classes were held throughout the year. Starting with the basics, the focus was on encouraging parents to maintain composure and to Stop, Take a deep breath And Relax!

Coach Dads Activity – An activity just for dad and the kids based on the “Dad’s Playbook Coaching Kids to Read”. Activities and information with an emphasis on simple skills to help their kids be better readers.

Transitions – Transition activities were held to support children and families going from Early Head Start to Head Start and from Head Start to kindergarten. Families had the opportunity to visit classrooms and meet their teachers. There was a family meal at the park for families with transitioning children.



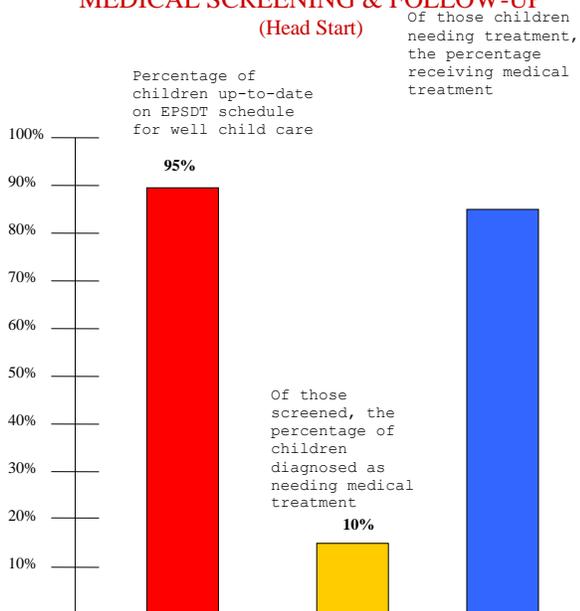
Health Services

Medical Services Health Report

RCCHS works in partnership with medical providers at the Hutchinson Clinic, Reno County Health Department, Student Health Services, and Prairie Star, a federally qualified health center, to provide medical examinations and immunizations for prenatal clients and children enrolled in the program. At the close of the program year 95% of children in Head Start were up to date on the KanBeHealthy schedule of well-child physical examinations and 85% were up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age according to Kansas State Immunization Law. It is challenging for families to stay current on the KanBeHealthy schedule of well-baby check-ups and 74% of children enrolled in Early Head Start were current, and 71% were up to date on their immunizations. 100% of our prenatal clients enrolled in Early Head Start had prenatal health care and 74% had postpartum health care.

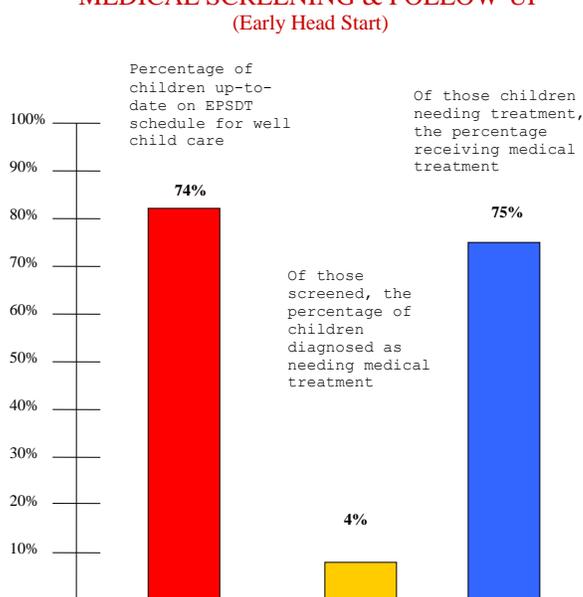
MEDICAL SCREENING & FOLLOW-UP

(Head Start)



MEDICAL SCREENING & FOLLOW-UP

(Early Head Start)

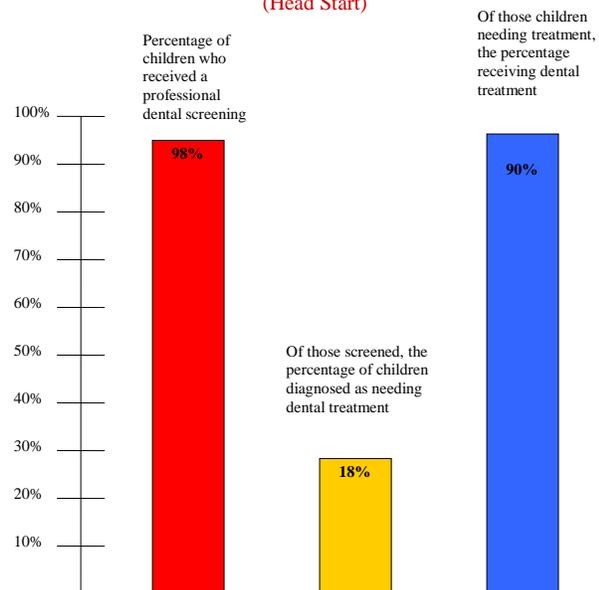


DENTAL SCREENING & FOLLOW-UP

(Head Start)

Oral Health Services

RCCHS has partnerships with fourteen dentists including a Pediatric Dentist and Prairie Star, a federally qualified health center, to provide oral health services for prenatal clients and children enrolled in the program. We also are one of the few programs in the state to employ a part time Registered Dental Hygienist who implements oral health activities including fluoride varnish, classroom educational activities, and staff and parent training. Children in Head Start complete dental examinations and the majority of children who need dental follow up complete treatment due to intensive family support services. Of the children in Head Start classrooms, 98% received fluoride varnish applications and EHS enrolled infants and toddlers were offered fluoride varnish on a schedule of every six months.



Encouragement